

The project « Connecting to the Future of Europe » was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

Applicable to the Strand 2 – Measure 2.1 "Town-Twinning"

Participation: The project involved 1200 citizens, notably 70 participants from the city of Benatky nad Jizernou (**Czech Republic**), 70 participants from the city of Hustopece (**Czech Republic**), 45 participants from the city of Jois (**Austria**), 15 participants from the city of Overijse (**Belgium**) and 1000 participants from the host city of Modra (**Slovakia**).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Modra (**Slovakia**), from 25/09/2015 to 26/09/2015

Short description:

The day of 25/09/2015 was dedicated to three themes: EU, culture and wine. The first day began with the arrival of foreign participants and their welcome. The first activities were focusing on familiarization. It was mainly about getting to know among participants from the different countries. The issue of the EU was highlighted in the form of an information booth which was open during the two days. The EU, therefore, along with music and wine became symbol of the project. Cultural performances by artists from the town of Modra, from the partner towns or regions were occasions for learning about various cultures and cultural identities, even nations. Therefore, their importance has been far-reaching. After all, the opportunity to get to know closely the culture of towns in Western Europe or of neighboring countries is not an everyday occurrence. The third determinant of the event - wine - provided room for both acquaintance between participants from different countries, but also a place for learning about the partner towns, each of which surprisingly has something to do with wine, respectively grapes. They were present within the day of traditions at the market of crafts.

The day of 26/09/2015 was dedicated to building friendships. On the second day three determinants were at the forefront: the EU, culture and wine. The topic of EU focused on presenting the future, especially the future of European nations and the functioning of the EU. During the discussion with an MEP the current crises (Greece, Ukraine, migration) and their influence on further developments in the EU were taken into account. The theme of the EU was of course also treated from its easier side, too, that is the work of MEPs and their salaries. Culture and cultural traditions dominated in different art and folklore shows, theater, singing, as well as the presentation of traditions, crafts or preparation of wine. The cultural part of the program was a link between nations, focusing on overcoming barriers and highlighting unity between Western and Eastern Europe. The topic of wines dominated the informal part of the program. It was about learning about wine-making traditions, tasting different wines from different parts of Europe (from the twinned towns) and casual discussions about wine. Children from the twinned towns prepared fun activities that not only got them into the project, but also involved them in the partnership.