

The project “New EU priorities and the need to foster solidarity and intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding in the context of a multinational environment, including migrants and LGBTI communities in rural areas of the CEE region” 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 502 citizens, notably 40 participants from the city of Jászladány, Hungary, 40 from Boda, Hungary, 46 from the city of Brestovec, Slovakia and 50 participants from the city of Trešnjevac (Oromhegyes), Serbia. 326 participants came from Racu (Romania) and its surrounding in Romania.

Location/ Dates: The event took place in Racu, Romania, from 02/09/2021 to 05/09/2021

Short description:

The day 02/09/2021 was dedicated to the arrival of foreign participants. During the day, project participants from Hungary, Serbia and Slovakia came to the Romanian village of Racu and were instructed where to stay and what the project program would be for the next three days.

The day 03/09/2021 was primarily dedicated to the coordination meeting. The program was led by the event's main coordinator - one of the employers in Racu - and took place in Racu, Romania. The meeting was attended by volunteers and local government representatives from all five participating municipalities in Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Serbia, and the main topic of the meeting was solidarity, what has been done in this area in the current coronavirus crisis and what has been done previously at both levels; in the community and internationally, as they perceive solidarity, its expressions, and tools from their own perspective. After the coordination meeting, the mayors of the participating municipalities had a separate round table where they discussed the same topic - solidarity, especially in times of crisis, which has now been done in this area under the COVID-19 pandemic and what has happened in the municipality, national and regional at European level before. The mayors' meeting subsequently gave them the opportunity to discuss news in the areas; newly built local infrastructure, civic participation in local government, civic engagement, and minorities and to exchange best practices in these areas.

The day 03.09.2021 was also dedicated to a cultural event at which the minorities of the present project partners, such as the Hungarian minorities from Romania, Serbia and Slovakia, the cultural majority from Hungary, the Roma minority Jászladány and the German minority Boda, presented themselves. The cultural performance took place at the project venue - in the Romanian village of Racu.

The day of 04/09/2021 was dedicated to civil dialogue. The citizens of the twinned municipalities discussed their lives, needs, expectations from the EU and how an ordinary EU citizen can express his or her voice, influencing policy-making processes at EU level.

The day 05/09/2021 was dedicated to a picnic discussion. The organizer invited all villagers to come for a picnic to enjoy good food and discuss topics such as EU instruments to promote solidarity and economic development. First, there was a presentation on the EU's future priorities in these areas. Subsequently, the discussion took place.