

## The project « We Are All Equal » 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 890 citizens, notably 700 participants from the town of Spišský Štiavnik (**Slovakia**), 50 participants from the town of Předklášteří (**Czech Republic**), 50 participants from the town of Sloupnice (**Czech Republic**), 30 participants from the town of Pilis (**Hungary**), 20 participants from the town of Gordes (**France**), 40 participants from the town of Wachock (**Poland**).

**Location/ Dates:** The event took place in Spišský Štiavnik (**Slovakia**), from 13/09/2019 to 15/09/2019

#### Short description:

The day of 13/09/2019 was dedicated to topics related to the history and coexistence of the majority with the Roma minority. The project began with a ceremonial opening. The idea and goals of the project, the support from the EU and individual partners were presented to the participants. The participants then moved together to the premises of the local elementary school, where pupils from the Roma population as well as children from the majority prepared an exhibition of drawings on the theme of coexistence. Subsequently, the participants moved to the cultural centre, where a presentation on 15 years of EU membership was prepared. Answered were questions like: What has been achieved over the last 15 years, what projects supported by EU have been implemented by partners and the host municipality, how the EU has helped ordinary citizens. Enriched with new information, participants moved in the program further on to the theme of partnership and the issue of co-existence of citizens of partner municipalities with minorities. Activity pointed out common meetings, common sporting events, involvement of minorities in life in communities and sport. Workshop was followed by tasting of gastronomy from partner countries. This way the participants had the opportunity to get to know each other and come closer together. After gastronomy tasting the participants had the opportunity to get to know Roma culture and cultural identity.

The day of 14/09/2019 was dedicated to European themes and developing of solidarity. Spreading more knowledge about the EU was the subject of the European House. Information brochures about the EU were distributed to the participants at the community centre. This has contributed to the development of European awareness. Morning activities continued with the presentation of the importance of participating in the EP elections. Low participation in Central European countries is a problem highlighted by the activity. The solution is to educate citizens about the EU, as the activity did. In creative workshops, young people created various objects and learned traditions. In sport, they overcome barriers. The cohesion market was an example of volunteering. By introducing non-profit organizations dedicated to helping marginalized communities, especially Caritas, it has helped to raise interest in helping others. The topic covered young people as well as older citizens. Thanks to it, the citizens understood what solidarity means. The evening belonged to cultural activities such as choirs and dance groups presentation. It served to reintegrate people and create friendships. This was an important element in demolishing barriers and promoting dialogue between them.

The day of 15/09/2019 was dedicated to creating bonds. Morning Holy Mass was a spiritual connection between nations. An important activity was the screening of a film about national minorities in Slovakia and the Czech Republic. This was an important aspect in the fight against prejudice. In this way the project became involved in current topics. The participants also commemorated the 30th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia. It was a lecture with a historian and a discussion of memorials. Children were involved in the creation of a common poster. The poster was a wonderful demonstration of the creativity of children from all over Europe. The project was concluded by a summary and a farewell in five languages of the partnership. The project as a whole has helped ordinary citizens to connect more closely with each other and to connect them with the EU.