



**The project “East-West Európska sieť medzi mestami / EAST-WEST European Network” was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme “Europe for Citizens”**

## Applicable to the Strand 2 – Measure 2.2 "Networks of Towns"

The number of events that took place under this project is 9. In the framework of these events, delegations from so-called of the Eastern Bloc participated in events organized mainly in the western part of Europe and against, partners from Spain, Italy and Austria participated in events organized by partners from the eastern part of the Union.

### **Event no. 1**

Participation: on the event have participated 97 citizens, including participants from the city of 3 La Palma del Condado (Spain), 5 from Balestrate (Italy) 3 came from the city of Vienna (Austria), 35 came from the village of Ersekvadkert, Balassagyarmat, Órhalom and the surrounding villages (Hungary), 4 came from Slavonski Brod (Croatia), 4 from Vlachova Lhota (Czech Republic), 3 from Gdansk (Poland), 40 from Velký Krtíš, Banská Bystrica, Sliac, from the village Šávoľ, from the village of Radzovce, from the village Veľké Dravce from the village of Vrbovka and its surroundings.

The event was attended by citizens from 8 countries and participated in a total of approx. 1,000 indirectly involved citizens of the Union.

The opening event took place in the town of Veľký Krtíš /Banská Bystrica /Sliac/Banská Štiavnica and in the village Vrbovka) from 10/09/2015 to 13/09/2015

**Short Description:** The participants of the event focused attention on the roles and position of Europe in the world. They dealt mainly with the issue of the status of minorities and have led the debate on the future of Europe at the level of national and supra-national perspectives.

The guests arrived on 10/09/2017 in the afternoon to the town of Veľký Krtíš, where, with the participation of local development persons involved, the first meeting of the partners took place. The individual delegations presented their work and working groups to discuss the four priority themes of the project. The partners have agreed that **EWEN** will be named for the easiest communication between East-West and the European Urban Network.

On 11/09/2015 an introductory conference was held in the county town of Banská Bystrica, at Matej Bel University. In addition to the goals and activities of the project, the following topics were discussed at the conference:

Year 2015 European Year of Development, Discussion on the Future of Europe - Values in Development from the point of view of its Spiritual Dimension, Regional Development in Slovakia, Presentation of Activities of Banská Bystrica in the Field of Social Inclusion, RRA and its Integrated Network in Slovakia in the Context of Development New trends in public procurement in Slovakia, and innovative approaches to the sustainability of cyclical / circular economy social economy subjects. The conference ended with a press conference. During the working lunch, the participants of the event met with the Mayor and the deputies of the city Sliac for the purpose of exchanging experiences. The introduction of the region was carried out in the framework of the traditional Radvaň Fair and participation in the Salamander Tour in the historic town of Banská Štiavnica. In order to raise our awareness of the common history and values of the Union and its aim to promote peace we visited the SNP Museum, where were presented the World War II.

12/09/2015 In order to effectively address and involve a wide range of citizens, we have also realized a social activity that has also been addressed by a less active group of people, Eurosceptics and opportunists. The main benefits of the EU include free mobility of citizens. In support of this idea in the small border village of Vrbovka, which has long been an effort to renewal the bridge across the Ipeľ River, we organized a cross-border event named Crossborder Fair. As an expression of the support of this idea and the co-responsibility of citizens in the EU, our partners brought with them a clay or stones from their homeland and put them in the memorial place of project EWEN created on the Ipeľ river as part of this project. During the cultural program, opera singers performed famous aria and songs in the national languages of the partners.

Subsequently, the inhabitants of the village welcomed visitors in their own houses where they prepared an exhibition of folk traditions, costumes and tasting of traditional dishes. In order to strengthen the inter-cultural dialogue, the program continued in a cultural house where the culture of the peoples and nationalities was presented, as a manifestation of the richness of the cultural and linguistic environment in Europe, as well as an example of a good practice of the co-existence of Slovaks, Hungarians and Roma. Through artistic performances, we also supported such a serious issue as climate change – performed the Stroke drum group, which uses waste (PET bottles, waste and plastic containers, etc.), as a musical instrument. Through their appearances they target the main younger generation about the importance of protecting the environment. During the cultural event,

interested people could get to know the folk culture of the region through an ethnographic photo exhibition. In the evening, the project partners, alongside the present minority culture, dealt with the issue of the status of minorities and presented good examples of coexistence of nations.

13/09/2015 - On the closing day, the project partners specified the timetable for implementation and the themes and activities of the next events and joint activities.

## **Event no. 2**

**Participation:** on the event have participated 29 citizens, 3 member came from Balassagyarmat and its surroundings (Hungary), 3 from Slavonski Brod (Croatia) 3 from Veľký Krtíš and Banská Bystrica (Slovakia) 20 from Balestrate (Italy) and its surroundings ).

The event was attended by citizens from 4 countries and participated in a total of approx. 200 indirectly involved citizens of the Union.

**Place / date:** The event took place in Balestrate and Palermo (Italy) from 07/04/2016 to 10/04/2016

**Short Description:** The participants of the event focused on priority theme no. 3. Inclusive society and social exclusion with a major focus on youth care. The activities were mainly focused on the exchange of best practices between the East and West of Europe in order to improve the conditions for civic and democratic participation at European level.

07/04/2016 - On the opening day, organizers of the event - partner association welcomed incoming delegations, presented their activities and provided space for an immediate meeting with local members of the cooperation to join the EWEN network.

08/04/2016 Familiarity with local persons involved in the field of social inclusion continued on the second day directly at their place of responsibility. First, a foreign delegation was accepted by the city council at the Balestrate City Office. In the framework of the workshop, the participants were acquainted with the tasks and the functioning of the self-governments in partner countries with the main intention of comparing the competences and activities of the self-government in the Western and Eastern states. Consequently, as a good example of cooperation between the self-government and the non-profit sector, they visited facilities for the care of children from a disadvantaged environment. With the financial support of the EU in 2015, a center has been set up in the city to deal with youth mainly in solving their life problems and protecting them from organized crime groups. Participants in the event, with the active involvement of youth leaders, have led the debate on child-related policies at European and national level. An exchange of views and experience in this area, including expert training, continued in the evenings.

09/04/2016 The members of the delegation visited Palermo during which they became acquainted with the historical and cultural wealth of the territory. Subsequently, they actively participated in the discussion at the NGO conference. The event, with long-standing tradition, brings together non-for-profit representatives from all over Sicily (more than 100 participants participated in the conference). During the conference, participants gained valuable insights and learned examples of good practice that may be the basis for expanding EWEN activities in the future.

10/04/2017 The last day of the event participants in the work group's activities evaluated excursion activities and summarized the results of the event.

## **Event no. 3**

**Participation:** on the event have participated 30 citizens, three of which came from the town of La Palme del Condado (Spain), 3 came from the town of Veľký Krtíš and its surroundings (Slovakia), 4 villages of Vlachova Lhota (Czech Republic) and 20 from Dorolt village Cluj Napoca (Romania).

Citizens from 4 countries participated in the event and participated in a total of approx. 400 uninformed citizens of the Union.

**Place/Date:** The event took place in the village of Doroltu and in Cluj Napoca and its surroundings (Romania) from 26/05/2016 to 29/05/2016

**Short Description:** The participants of the event focused on Priority no. 3. Inclusive society and social exclusion, volunteering in target issues of social concern, particularly in the social and educational spheres. Activities focused mainly on the importance of volunteer activities in target issues of common interest as well as the contribution of volunteers in the care of marginalized populations.

26/05/2016 The organizers of the event and the delegation of local citizens welcomed the guests in the small village, Dorothy. In their mutual performances, guests have become acquainted with local cultural and historical values. During the dinner a lively discussion of activities, problems, and needs of the local community was held.

27/05/2016 The following day, in the framework of the workshop, with the participation of local and regional persons involved, took part in lectures on social exclusion and the need to integrate people from a disadvantaged environment. After a professional analysis of the situation (Prof. sociology), examples of good

practice were presented, especially in the care of children from socially disadvantaged families and the integration of the population, where the social role of the non-profit sector is ensured through the involvement of volunteers. Consequently, a press conference was held with the participation of regional media. The program also included a visit to a foster home in Jebuc, where visitors from Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Spain had the opportunity to meet not only social workers, but also to make personal contact with the children that this institution provides for the second home. During the excursion, there were introduced methods and experience focused on changing attitudes and increasing mutual tolerance and new methods of forming inclusive thinking.

28/05/2017 In order to strengthen the intercultural dialogue, the guests were acquainted with the rich cultural wealth of the city of Cluj Napoca, in addition to seeing the activities of the Babeş-Bolyai University and the Teologic Protestant Institute in addition to visiting the historical institutions. After the delegation members returned to the village of Dorolot, where citizens prepared for them experiential activities. During the visit of three families, the participants of the event were acquainted with the everyday life of the inhabitants. Citizens welcomed visitors directly to their homes where they have established family exhibitions of folk tradition. The participants immediately met a lively folk culture, with exceptional folk, crafts and traditional dishes.

29/05/2016 The last day of the program was devoted to discussing the experience gained and summarizing the results of the event with the participation of local citizens and representatives of local authorities, institutions and non-governmental organizations.

#### **Event no. 4**

**Participation:** on the event were participated 40 citizens, including 3 from Balestrate (Italy) 5 from Érsekvadkert and from Balassagyarmat and its surroundings (Hungary) 5 from the town of Velký Krtíš and its surroundings from Slovakia 27 from Slavonski Brod Croatia)

**Place / date:** The event took place in Slavonski Brod (Croatia) from 30/06/2016 to 03/07/2017

Citizens from 4 countries participated in the event and participated in a total of approx. 500 indirectly involved citizens of the Union.

**Short description:** The participants of the event focused on Priority theme no. 1 The role and position of Europe in the world. The main topic of the event was the current European themes, Peace and war issues - historical impacts, advantages and disadvantages of EU membership, policy making and the impact of EU decisions on citizens 'everyday lives, citizens' expectations of EU membership, the status of young people in Europe.

Foreign delegations were arriving on 30/06/2016. The organizers welcomed them at the fortress of Brod. Concerning the history of the territory, discussions and peace and war issues in Europe have taken place. Subsequently, guests were acquainted with the attractions of Slavonsky Brod. In the evening, a debate was held focusing on the impact of EU policies on the everyday life of Union citizens from the point of view of different nations.

On 01.07.2016, the participants of the event met in the "House of Europe", with representatives of non-profit organizations, and debates were debated on young people's expectations of EU membership. The event was also attended by media representatives through which the project information was made available to the general public. With the lives of citizens living in the countryside in small villages, guests were acquainted with the visit of the village of Brodski Stupnik, where the traditional lifestyle was preserved and the wine-making activities were presented. In the evening with the traditions of beautiful Slavonia, the members of the delegations got acquainted with the cultural and gastronomic event "Fišijada", where they had the opportunity to meet with ordinary citizens and to discuss the current topics of the Union.

The next day, the participants have visited to the "Štátneho žrebčina" in the city of Đakovo, where were presented examples of good practice in the field of well-known Lipizzaner horses. Subsequently, the delegations got acquainted with the sights and history of the beautiful city of Osijek, where the traces of the recent war are still visible in some houses.

03/07/2016 The last day of the project group work together to discuss the activities and evaluate the results of the event.

**Event no. 5**

**Participation:** on the event have participated 50 citizens, 5 member came from Veľký Krtíš and its surroundings (Slovakia), 4 from Vlachová Lhota (Czech Republic), 3 from Doroltu and Cluj Napoca (Romania) and 38 from La Palma Del Condado (Spain).

**Place / date:** The event took place in La Palma del Condado (Spain) from 01/09/2016 to 04/09/2016.

Citizens from 4 countries participated in the event and participated in a total of approx. 1,000 indirectly involved citizens of the Union.

**Short description:** The participants of the event focused on Priority theme no. 4. volunteering as an expression of an active European Community. They conducted a discussion about volunteering in target issues of common interest, basic human rights, tolerance, inter-cultural dialogue, volunteering contribution to community development, exchange of experience, joint proposals).

Foreign delegations came on 01/09/2017. The first day was devoted to meeting local volunteer organizations as part of a workshop. The aim was to present the activities of volunteers working in different associations as a manifestation of lively European citizenship and their commitment to social integration and to the protection of human rights and minority rights. Effective forms of social dialogue were also presented at the event.

02/09/2016 On the second day, was devoted institutional connection with the official reception of the Mayor at the City Council, discussing with topics by local NGOs, engaging in local development strategies and cooperation at regional and European level. The event was attended by representatives of the media, through which the project was also informed by the general public. Subsequently, the delegations took part in an event aimed at enhancing the intercultural dialogue: visit to the Red River Red Heritage and attending the "White Night" event - a White Wine Festival (the event is annually carried out to promote wine tourism and to present the cultural heritage of La Palma del Condado).

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## Event no. 6

Participation: on the event have participated 48 citizens, 3 of members came from Csehtáthaláp (Hungary), 7 from the town of Veľký Krtíš and its surroundings (Slovakia), 3 from Spytkowice (Poland) and 35 from Vlachová Lhota, from Valašské Klobouky (Czech Republic).

**Place / Date:** The event took place in the village of Vlachova Lhota (Czech Republic) from 13/10/2016 to 16 / 10/2016

Citizens from 4 countries participated in the event and participated in a total of approx. 200 indirectly involved citizens of the Union.

**Short description:** The participants of the event focused on Priority theme no. 2. Issues of the economic race and prosperity of EU citizens.

On 13/10/2016 the organizers of the event welcomed guests in the partner town of Valska Klobouka. The Town Hall, the host village, the partner city, the micro-regional association, the local action group and the non-governmental organizations took place in the Pastoral House of the City. The subsequent discussion was devoted to the issue of the causes and consequences of the financial crisis.

14/10/2016 On the second day was devoted mainly to the issues of economic growth, prosperity and competitiveness of regions in which they knew the functioning of the municipality of Vlachová Lhota. They subsequently visited ecotourism in the village of Vysoké Pole. The "Envicentre" presented examples of good practice on the efficient and sustainable operation of this facility, which can be used in other EU countries. During the next part of the excursion, the guests were introduced to new methods of diversification of agricultural activity. Among the supporting activities was the transfer of know-how about the use of folklore, traditional gastronomy (local specialties, dried fruits) and folk crafts for the development of rural tourism. By visiting a private farm in the village of Vrbetice, partners have gained valuable experience and potential business partners in the field of eco-farming, specifically in the field of sheep breeding and sheep wool processing.

On 15/10/2016, in order to raise awareness of the common history, the values of the Union and its aim to promote peace, the partners of the project together visited the Slavičín Air Museum and in the evening waged a lively discussion with the veteran World War II. In order to better understand the development potential of the region, members of the delegations visited the Luhačovice Spa, where they became acquainted with the effective use of the natural wealth and the city's cultural and historical heritage.

The last program day, i. 16/10/2016 The participants in the workshop held negotiations on the factors influencing the prosperity and the competitiveness of the individual regions. The event was attended by representatives of the media, through which the project was also informed by the general public.



**Event no. 7**

**Participation:** on the event have participated 32 citizens, 3 of the members came from Spytkowice (Poland), 4 from Balassagyarmat and its surroundings (Hungary), 3 from Veľký Krtíš and Zvolen (Slovakia) and 22 from Vienna (Austria)

**Place / date:** The event took place in Vienna (Austria) from 20/04/2017 to 23/04/2017

Citizens from 4 countries participated in the event and participated in a total of approx. 200 indirectly involved citizens of the Union.

**Short description:** The participants of the event focused on Priority theme no. 2. Issues of the economic race and prosperity of EU citizens.

On 20/04/2017, the organizers welcomed participants in the small town of Neusiedel am See, near the capital of Austria. After the introduction of the territory, the activities of the host organization, the workmeeting was held with local economic development persons involved. The main topic of the negotiations was the economic and social differences between the various countries and regions of the Union as well as the issues of social responsibility towards less developed regions.

The next day was devoted to raising awareness of the monument, common history and values of the Union, in which foreign delegations learned about the important historical and cultural wealth of Vienna. During the excursion, guests met with representatives of non-governmental organizations active in the field of culture and support for minorities living in Austria who presented their activities and their expertise. In the evening roundtable, the participants of the event saw a discussion on topical EU issues, emphasizing the different perceptions and views of the migratory crisis in the eastern and western parts of the Union.

22/04/2017 Activities aimed at making citizens more aware of the Union, its history and its diversity. Visiting Collegium Pazmaneum, participants in the event received valuable information and examples of good practice in the field of support for minorities and disadvantaged groups. For the evening cultural program, the guests had the opportunity to personally meet and conduct a discussion with local volunteers who, through the organization of various beneficial events, are getting funding sources to secure a source of funding for the activities of non-profit organizations. The know-how gained in the area of appropriate and effective involvement of economic development persons involved in social inclusion activities, project partners can benefit in the future to support their own activities.

23/04/2017 The final day of the meeting was the evaluation of the results of the implemented activities and the processing of the proposals for future cooperation.

**Event no. 8**

**Participation:** on the event have participated 38 citizens, 3 members came from the village Šávoľ and from the town of Veľký Krtíš (Slovakia), 3 from the village Cserháthaláp (Hungary) 1 from the village Vlachova Lhota, 2 from the city of Vienna (Austria) and 29 from the village Spytkowice )

**Place / date:** The event took place in Spytkowice (Poland) from 01/06/2017 to 04/06/2017

Citizens from 5 countries participated in the event and participated in a total of approx. 200 indirectly involved citizens of the Union.

**Short Description:** The participants of the event focused on priority theme no. 4. Volunteering as an expression of active European citizenship.

01/06/2017 On the opening day, the organizers of the event - the partner organization welcomed the delegations that were coming in progress. Subsequently, they presented their objectives, mission and achievements to the Foundation for their contribution to short cultural programs.

02/06/2017 The second day's activities were mainly focused on meeting local NGOs and entrepreneurs with a view to getting to know them and participating in the EWEN network and collecting ideas for further cooperation. During the workshop, local teams, association were introduced. The forum held a discussion on the role and challenges of volunteering in addressing issues of social concern. The aim of the action was to create an appropriate room for mutual learning based on experience, to jointly look for answers to questions such as fighting social and social inequalities, to contribute to strengthening tolerance and solidarity while addressing issues of EU common development. In the evening to strengthen the intercultural dialogue, the organizers prepared a creative workshop in which foreign delegations actively participated in the preparation of traditional dishes and had the opportunity to try local costumes.



On 03/06/2017, participants in the event learned about examples of good practice in working with children and youth. Through the realization of artistic activities, the association helps to process and solve the life problems of mainly children in puberty. Members of the delegations had the opportunity to personally try out the presented activities and become part of the performance. In the afternoon, foreign guests participated in the activities of the host organization in the field of nature conservation, in which they contributed their own work to enrich the environment. Subsequently, a meeting with the municipal council and representatives of non-governmental organizations in a natural environment (forest landing) took place in order to exchange experience and develop partnerships.

04/06/2017 On the closing day of the project the project partners discussed the outcome of the event and summed up the direction for the continuation of the EWEN European network.

#### **Event no. 9**

**Participation:** on the event have participated 84 citizens, 5 members came from Spytkowice (Poland), 4 from Vlachová Lhota (Czech Republic), 4 from Doroltu, from Cluj Napoca (Romania), 4 from La Palma del Condado Spain), 3 from the city of Slavonski Brod (Croatia), 4 from the city of Vienna (Austria), 30 from the town of Balassagyarmat and Érsekúdvárt and its surroundings (Hungary) and 30 from the town of Veľký Krtíš and its surroundings, from the village Šála, from the village Radzovce, From the village of Veľké Dravce (Slovakia).

**Place / date:** The event took place in Balassagyarmat, Nőtincs, Vác, Budapest (Hungary) and Modrý Kameň (Slovakia) from 15/06/2017 to 18/06/2017

Citizens from 8 countries participated in the event and participated in a total of approx. 1,000 indirectly involved citizens of the Union.

**Short Description:** The participants of the event focused on European and national policies and on the evaluation of project activities and results and the future of the EAST-WEST European Network.

Guests were gradually arriving on 15/06/2017. Delegations that arrived in the upcoming hours attended the event called Youth Juniors in Balassagyarmat, during which they established direct contact with the Maldives. Other foreign guests welcomed organizers in Nőtincs with local specialties prepared by local non-profit organizations. In order to strengthen cooperation and team-building, the East-West Cup (water sports) and then the activities of the dance house were realized, within which the project partners became familiar with the traditional dance typical for the given territory. During the evening, a lively debate was held on topical European issues and policies - especially the migration crisis, solidarity issues and the future of Europe.

16/06/2017 the final conference of the project was carried out on the territory of Slovakia in a historical location - at the castle in Modrý Kameň. The conference presented the results of the project; The participants of the event became acquainted with European and national policies (state policy of the Hungarian Diaspora, support for the least developed districts in Slovakia), focused on topical issues of regional development and presented examples of good practice that will constitute the continuation of EWEN activities. The conference ended with a press conference and exposition of the Castle Museum of Puppets and Toys. The event's activities continued on the territory of Hungary at the Balassagyarmat city, where foreign delegations met with members of the city council and the local partnership. They then became acquainted with the historical, cultural and natural richness of the territory.

17/06/2017 On the basis of the project partners' requirements, the following day, an excursion to the capital Budapest was held. The organizers have prepared a very varied program aimed at presenting a common history as a European value. In addition to visiting important monuments such as the Fisherman's Bastion - Halászbástya, the Matyas Church - Mátyás Templom, Heroes Square - Hősök tere, or the Buda Castle - Budai vár, the organizers also presented important monuments from World War II. Visiting the Jewish Quarter and the Rock Hospital - Szikla kórház (used during the war) to present a major EU objective - to promote peace. The program in the capital of Hungary ended with a cruise ship over Budapest, during which delegation members discussed the preparation of new cooperation projects.

On 18/06/2017, the last event of the EWEN project officially ended. Prior to the farewell, the project partners have specified tasks in connection with the preparation of the final report and the completion of the project.