

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	Promotion of the Active Citizenship – Želiezovce 2023
Participant:	Municipality of Želiezovce
PIC number:	938767941

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	101086877
Event name:	Promotion of the Active Citizenship – Želiezovce 2023
Type:	opening ceremony, formal meeting, interactive workshop, public discussion/forum, presentation, discussion, survey, Information stand, question & answer session , social and cultural activities
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Slovakia, Želiezovce
Date(s):	16/06/2023 – 18/06/2023
Website(s) (if any):	https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.zeliezovce.sk%2Fdownload.php%3Ffile%3Ddata%2Feditor%2F292sk_1.docx%26original%3Devent-description-sheet_cerv-rem-civ-netw_en%2520-%2520zverejnene.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK
Participants	
Female:	745
Male:	589
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Slovakia]:	1085
From country 2 [Hungary]:	167
From country 4 [Poland]:	82
Total number of participants:	1334
From total number of countries:	3
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	
Project "Promotion of the Active Citizenship – Želiezovce 2023", was in a sign of cooperation between municipalities in order to give the EU citizens opportunity to discuss topics that are important to them in their daily lives; in a sign of promotion exchanges between people of different countries, to reinforce mutual understanding and tolerance, to give opportunity for developing a sense of European belonging and identify as Europeans. The main goal of the project was to encourage the EU citizens	

to become active creators of the EU future, feel and influence on its future and feel to be a co-responsible member as well as to help them to understand how important is solidarity, reciprocity and cohesiveness.

For participants had been prepared reach and interesting program. Project activities had been designed so that the participants get opportunity to interact and participate in constructing a tighter-knit Europe, which is united and enriched by its cultural diversity. Activities had been focused on promoting solidarity, cohesiveness, respect based on different cultural principles. Presentation of local producers, gastronomy, cultural heritage and arts together with expert explanative commentaries and a personal experience had been tools for initiating a multicultural dialogue and a way of building the sense of belonging to Europe while respecting cultural diversity.

Project's activities:

16/06/2023

9:00 - Opening ceremony with speech of the Mayor to citizens and guests of the event, introducing the objectives of the project, partners and their role in the project, introduction the history and reasons of cooperation, pointing out the importance of cooperation and cohesion of countries and cities in Europe, cooperation between twinned towns, the common values of the EU support.

10:00 – 15:00 – information stand - presentation of the priorities of the European Parliament and the European Commission. Through this activity, the participants received more concrete information about benefits and opportunities that are given to the EU citizens, achievements, ways of local (regional) development, benefits of EU policies, relationship between EU policies and national policies, The participants got awareness what can be changed and what is the influence on local quality of citizens' lives. This activity also brought increasing of citizens' knowledge about EU institutions and policies, better understanding the EU's achievements and benefits, as well as to understand the cost of not being part of the EU.

10:00 - The European Parliament elections in 2024 presentation including introduction of the European Parliament (how many parliamentarian are there, how many years are they voted, what are they responsible for, etc.), the European Parliament elections in 2024 as one of the way of further enhancing the European dimension and the democratic legitimacy of the EU decision-making, explanation why it is important for citizens to go vote. etc. The aim was to develop a stronger sense of ownership of the European project, to build a momentum for their active democratic participation Participants had been encouraged to actively participate in the democratic life at EU level and foster a sense of ownership for how the Union develops, how can their visions of the EU future come true.

11:00 - Public discussion on the theme „The Europe we want“ with participation of a Member of the European Parliament focused on encouraging participants to express what kind of Europe they want. Participants got the opportunity to present their ideas, compare their views.

12:00 - Interactive workshop on the theme „How to create the EU future“ focused on raising awareness about the possibilities for active participation on the EU policy making process (presentation with practical demonstration concrete tools such as The Conference on the Future of Europe as one of the opportunities for active citizenship, possibilities for sharing ideas and helping shape our common Europe. European Citizens' Initiative, Public consultations, platform Fit for Future, European elections – your chance to have your say. Through these activities the participants had been encouraged to become active creators of the future EU, feel and influence on its future and feel to be a co-responsible member. Citizens received a practical perspective on how to influence things, why it matters to them and why EU citizens really care about it.

13:00 - Networking - strengthening relationships between participants through dialogues. Representatives of twinned towns, local associations, representatives of students from local schools and youth parliaments had been invited.

16:00 – question & answer session on the theme "What does solidarity mean within the EU" - citizens had been given the opportunity to discuss the topic of solidarity and to assess existing solidary mechanisms inside the EU. They reflected on policy areas where such common mechanisms could be useful and developed while considering other possible channels of European solidarity like volunteering, donations, foundations, civil society organ., charity. This activity was important for raising awareness of importance of solidarity between its citizens, solidarity across borders between its Member States, and solidarity through support actions inside and outside the Union as a shared value which creates cohesion and responds to societal challenges.

17:00 - Presentation „Volunteering as one of the way of solidarity“ focused on how to practice solidarity and to devote a period of life to helping others. Presentation about positive aspects of voluntarism, given examples how to join not only in the local but also in the international level, presentation the European Solidarity Corps as a one of the tools how to put the core EU value of solidarity into practice and contribute to reinforcing cohesion within European society. Volunteer day at

16:00 the next day. Through this activity, the participants got information about possibilities how to use the European Solidarity Corps to recruit young people to volunteer, how local volunteering initiatives can contribute to the development of the community and participation on local level, how to join and active participate on voluntarism at local, regional and EU level.

18:00 - 20:00 - Demonstration of minority cultures and cultural heritage of partners including Gastro presentation - presentation of typical dishes of partner countries designed to promote cohesion and support minorities, building relationship. The outcome of this activity is deepening the partnership between the municipality and its partner municipality, civil society, organizations; increasing of the awareness of a European identity based on common values, history and culture, linguistic and culture diversity.

18:00 - 19:10 - concert of the Hungarian modern band

20:00 - Official meeting of the partners' cities representatives devoted to share good practise of the projects financed from the EU funds implementation, local activities aimed to develop local standard of living, etc. The representatives of partner's cities got aware of all the issues connected to the projects implementation. They got awareness and understand the background of the project phases, could see the added value of the projects and initiatives financed by the EU. The good practice sharing inspired in positive way-what can be change and what is the influence on local quality of citizens' lives.

20:00 – 22:30 – Cultural evening - value and thoughts convergence of participants, presentation of customs, traditions, formal and informal discussions involving all age groups to active participation on the program, presentation of cultural heritage, folk traditions as a tool of intercultural dialogue, promoting partnership values, common European roots, cooperation as a tool for building common Europe, entertainment.

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09:00 - 17:00 – Sport activities – running (8 km), football match

10:00 - 14:00 - Social and cultural activities - European partner competition in small caliber shooting, Gastro delicacies, live music

11:00 - Discussion on the theme: „How the COVID 19 pandemic influenced our lives“ - focused on exchanging experiences, feelings, ideas how to help each other to deal with problems.

13:00 – Activities for children - focused on games, competitions, quizzes and activities to help children and youth discover the EU in a fun way. The outcome of this activity is raising knowledge about the various people living in the EU, their habits, values, culture, language, the way of living.

16:00 - Public forum "Disinformation as a threat for the democracy" focused on help the citizens how to recognize false news, how conspiracy theories work, what computer techniques are used for propaganda, how disinformation affects democracy. Through this activity, the participants had opportunity to gain information about how to distinguish disinformation, how disinformation harms our society (for example: eroding trust in institutions and media, putting elections at risk, hampering citizens' ability to make informed decisions, impairing freedom of expression). They received information about the EU code of Practice on Disinformation.

16:00 Volunteer activity - students from the local primary and high school had been cleaning the area which is situated near the river Hron, They collected garbage, cleaned or painted bench, put bins, etc.

20:00 – 22:30 – Cultural evening - value and thoughts convergence of participants, presentation of customs, traditions, formal and informal discussions involving all age groups to active participation on the program, presentation of cultural heritage, folk traditions as a tool of intercultural dialogue, promoting partnership values, common European roots, cooperation as a tool for building common Europe, entertainment.

All day activity:

Public survey in the form of a questionnaire on "Benefits of EU membership" in order to find out the opinions and attitudes of citizens towards EU membership - positive / negative. The results had been published at the final conference.

The questionnaires result: The EU citizens who filled in the questionnaires have a mostly positive attitude towards the direction of the EU. Their knowledge about the functioning of the European Parliament, the Commission and the European monetary system is average. Questionnaires had been filled out by 409 participants (167 from Hungary, 82 from Poland, 160 from Slovakia).

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07:00 - 9:00 Common breakfast of representatives of partner cities, finalization of evaluation of the project results, agreement on ways of disseminating project results in twinning towns.

09:30 - Final conference connected with the evaluation of the event, presentation of the results of the survey, various activities and understanding of approaches of the EU to current issues, understanding the importance of active participation of EU citizens on EU affairs, the importance of strengthen solidarity, cohesiveness and respect based on different cultural principles. The aim was to summarize the achieved outcomes of the event, their compliance with EU priorities and the impact on the lives of citizens from participant countries. The participants of the project, invited guests from local government, public life, associations, entrepreneurs, pensioners and other citizens had been acquainted about the results of the project.

Event "Promotion of the Active Citizenship – Želiezovce 2023" had been attended by 167 visitors from Hungary, 82 from Poland. Together with locals, 1334 European citizens had been directly involved in project.

Information about the project has been published on the partners' official websites:

<https://www.zeliezovce.sk/mesto-1/projekty/eu-pre-obcanov-propagacia-aktivneho-obciansstva-zeliezovce-2023/>

https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.zeliezovce.sk%2F%2F_download.php%3Ffile%3Ddata%2Feditor%2F292sk_1.docx%26original%3Devent-description-sheet_cerv-rem-civ-netw_en%2520-%2520zverejnene.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK

<https://www.trstena.sk/oznamy/-europa-pre-obcanov-propagacia-aktivneho-obciansstva-2023-.html>

<https://isaszeg.asp.lgov.hu/europa-polgarokert-az-aktiv-polgarsag-nepszerusitese-2023-rendezveny-zaro-beszamolaja>

<http://barcs.hu/index.php/news/hirek/7208-20230711>

<https://www.jablonka.pl/index.php/dotacje-i-projekty/7040-promotion-of-the-active-citizenship-zeliezovce-2023>

Publicity of the project in local media:

https://www.zeliezovce.sk/e_download.php?file=data/editor/139sk_201.pdf&original=JULAUG23.pdf

All information about the project can be seen on the below links:

<https://www.zeliezovce.sk/mestske-dni-2023/>

<https://www.zeliezovce.sk/hlavne-menu/aktuality/mestske-dni-2023-spropagaciou-aktivneho-obciansstva-1229sk.html>

[https://www.facebook.com/events/752541626566278/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A\[%7B%22mechanism%22%3A%22surface%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22groups_highlight_unit_s%22%7D\]%2C%22ref_notif_type%22%3Anull%7D](https://www.facebook.com/events/752541626566278/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A[%7B%22mechanism%22%3A%22surface%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22groups_highlight_unit_s%22%7D]%2C%22ref_notif_type%22%3Anull%7D)

https://www.facebook.com/events/752541626566278/?active_tab=discussion

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mestskyuradzeliezovcezelizivarosihivatal/permalink/62239482651713>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mestskyuradzeliezovcezelizivarosihivatal>

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set?set=oa.1228765204505790&type=3>

Testimonies from participants:

Artúr (Gmina Jablonka, Poland): I rate the whole event positively. In addition to entertainment, we had the opportunity to exchange experiences, opinions, views on various topics related to European citizenship as well as deepen the partnership.

Hanna (Barcs, Hungary): We spent a pleasant weekend with friends from other partner cities. The hosts took good care of us, these days in Slovakia were a very quality time spent. I also liked the cultural program because, in addition to the Hungarian group I knew, I also got to know Slovak and Czech performers.

Katalin (Isaszeg, Hungary): It's a shame that the project will end soon, although I'm looking forward to going home, but at the same time I'd like to stay a day or two. I especially appreciate the well-managed organization of the entire weekend, it was inspiring for us.

Adriana (Trstená, Slovakia): We are establishing new friendships here and also meeting old acquaintances, as the project cooperation between our cities has been successful for several years. I consider resources from European funds for our cooperation, whether in Želiezovce, or in Trstena, or in our Polish or Hungarian partners, necessary and beneficial, because in addition to focusing on increasing awareness of the EU, they provide space for

deceptive cooperation between our cities. I felt very good.

Alexander (Želiezovce): Great mood, good program not only for adults, but also for children. I hesitated whether to come or not, in the end I'm glad I made this decision. I had a good goulash, I'll wait for the evening concert, but I can't stay any longer, I have to go to work tomorrow, even though it's the weekend.

Testimonies from participants in original language can be found:

<https://www.zeliezovce.sk/hlavne-menu/aktuality/mestske-dni-2023-spropagaciou-aktivneho-obciansstva-1229sk.html>

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).