

## The project « United in one Union» 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 658 citizens, notably 430 participants from the city of Backi Petrovac (Serbia), 47 participants from the city of Martin (**Slovakia**), 27 participants from the city of Vukovar (**Croatia**), 45 participants from the city of Stara Lubovna (**Slovakia**), 2 participants from the city of Kirchheim unter Teck (**Germany**), 28 participants from the city of Ruzomberok (**Slovakia**), 50 participants from the city of Nitra (**Slovakia**) and 10 participants from the civic association Ceskoslovenske renome (**Czech Republic**).

**Location/ Dates:** The event took place in Backi Petrovac (**Serbia**), from 04/08/2016 to 07/08/2016.

#### Short description:

The day of 04/08/2016 was dedicated to getting in touch with the topics of the project. The goals and the program of the event was introduced in formal and non-formal way. The idea of cooperation in EU environment was presented. Young people meet to talk about the voluntarism, active participation and their role in development of communities. YMCA Serbia presented Erasmus + program (mainly EVS - non-formal education) and Fund Tempus was presented (mainly program CEEPUS - formal education).

The day of 05/08/2016 was dedicated to ways of regional and local development. Partners presented successful projects financed by EU to inspire and educate each other. It was shown, how EU projects can contribute to local and regional development, partners can ask about practical issues of the project, and support idea how to change local and regional environment together with citizens. Discussion and inspirational dialogues continued from this planned part of the program to other parts of the day and brought a lot of new ideas for partners and future cooperation as well.

Informational activities about EU run all the day – introduction of European union, European institutions, the system of decision making, EU policies and role of member states in Union.

Common European roots, cultural diversity and intercultural dialog was introduced by presentation of cultural heritage (folk dances, customs, art, national dishes) of the partners' countries.

The day of 06/08/2016 was dedicated to public discussion about contribution of local policies in regional development. Citizens can participate and ask questions about policies of EU, financial support for development on local level, agriculture and other topics dealing to EU. Afterwards actual European topic of migration was opened. The attitude of European countries was explained and the creation of own opinion of participants, in this topic, was supported. Citizens were directly involved into activities of the event by volunteering activities. They had opportunity to be volunteers. They guided visitors, prepared stands and assisted in the ceremony during all evening.

Informational activities in EU tent continues also during this day as well as survey, which was aimed on mapping opinions, attitudes about EU and its processes. This activity is base for following activities supporting EU values and citizenship on local levels.

During all day was running cultural, artistic and sport activities. The cultural diversity was presented and the values of tolerance and unity were supported by traditional market with folk presentations.

The day of 07/08/2016 was dedicated to summing up the results and outputs of the event on the level of representatives as well as local level. The discussion about EU future was opened and the ideas of future cooperation among partners were discussed. Cultural parts of national heritage and sports activities were provided. At the end of the event ending ceremony closed successful event.

Project "United in one Union" introduces the cooperation of 8 partners from 5 countries. The main aim of the project was introducing European Union as a part of life of citizens. Pointed out that European union is about citizens of each member and associated countries and for citizens is important to understand, live and support the values of European Union. The values of volunteering as a part of active citizenship and development of local level was introduced. Positive aspect of membership (good examples of local development financed by EU funds, practical issues of granting from EU, and influence on development of regions) were presented in discussion and debates. The methods used in event management reflect the process of learning and all participating target groups. Thanks to the diversity of programs` activities, we have successfully started discussion about attitudes of European citizens, actual challenges of European Union as well as topic of local development run by citizens and towns. A lot of new ideas into cooperation have been brought and we are thinking about follow up activities and projects together with partners.

During the project a plenty of ideas for future cooperation were discussed. Here is the list of already planned follow up activities: study visit in Vukovar (local development of business), local project of revitalization of cultural heritage (church) will start next year; the supporting and consultation activities will continue with city of Nitra - local development projects, investment in local level-how to attract investors, development of tourism. Tempus foundation (presenter) and YMCA(presentator)have started their cooperation in experience sharing in youth projects, EVS coordination activities and promo activities for young people in formal and non-formal education.