Ref. Ares(2023)7011732 - 16/10/2023

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.

Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)

PROJECT	
Participant:	PhDr. František Klinovský, Krakovany
PIC Number:	880595877
Project name and acronym:	This is just the beginning, our dear ones! - meeting of EU friends, Project acronym: EU friends

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	1		
Event name:	This is just the beginning, our dear ones! - meeting of EU friends		
Type:	A three-day international event		
In situ/online:	*In situ*		
Location:	Country: Slovakia, City: Krakovany		
Date(s):	13.09.2024-15.09.2024		
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.krakovany.sk/?cat=397		
Participants			
Female:	415		
Male:	405		
Non-binary:	0		
From country Slovakia Krakovany :	645 participants		
From country Czech Republic Krakovany v Čechách :	70 participants		
From country Poland Popielow :	49 participants		
From country Croatia, Tučepi :	35 participants		
From country Hungary, Bakonycsernye :	21 participants		
Total number of participants:	820 participants	From total number of countries:	5

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

This project was based on a whole range of needs, which mainly concerned the need to direct citizens to adopt their own identity and build a relationship with the EU. The benefit of the project was cultural cooperation in the cross-border area, having a positive impact on the newly formed partnership. By getting to know each other's citizens, getting to know the cross-border culture and the close cooperation of partners, the residents came together as a whole and understood the sense of cohesion, which is so necessary. The partners also needed to build mutual solidarity. Solidarity = better future. We presented the impact of volunteering on the volunteers themselves and their personality development and the effects of volunteering on the community, especially providing aid in times of crisis, war, spread of the virus, poverty or as positive impacts for the development of young people in life. The need was to motivate volunteers to work on projects. We compiled activities in the programme based on these projects as well.

The needs of the target groups were also related to the need to respond to the environment. Our project and its goals were not only in accordance with Slovak strategic documents, but also with the New European Bauhaus and the European Green Deal. Program activities were dedicated to the environment in order to meet the need to improve the quality of the environment.

Another main need of the project was the need to address gender equality. The project was built on the culture, traditions, history of the EU and common values of tolerance, democracy, children's rights, volunteerism and anti-discrimination.

The goal was to prevent gender injustice, violence, reduce it and provide support to those suffering. The need was to reflect on our behaviour and thoughts. This includes discrimination and unsuccessful integration of people into society, and rejection based on an unjustified reason. Therefore, all participants at the event were able to express their opinion to the competent persons, and we thereby fulfilled the purpose that contributed to a democratic and future-oriented EU.

The aim of the project was to unite the Polish, Czech, Slovak, Hungarian and Croatian nations into one partnership and to bring citizens closer to European awareness. The partner countries presented their culture, established new contacts, and thus their mutual connection and mutual cooperation in the EU became the basis for successful future cooperation. The goal was also to build new relationships between citizens from European countries.

Our goal was to involve the largest possible number of citizens in the programme because we wanted to present the EU and its projects to all age groups, from children to seniors.

Main project goal:

Discover the culture of five nations. Awareness of the essence of cultural heritage protection for the next generations. The citizens got to know various customs, traditions, songs, dances and stories from the history of the municipalities. The task of fulfilling the main goal of the project was to expand and strengthen the cross-border cooperation of municipalities and their citizens within the framework of supporting cultural and educational activities for target groups. One of the main goals was to minimize persistent Euroscepticism, highlight the values of traditions, history, and strengthen intercultural dialogue and belonging.

Another of the main goals of the project was to strengthen solidarity and create a more inclusive society, support vulnerable people and respond to social challenges. The goal was to encourage and involve young people in organizations in interesting projects based on the principle of solidarity. We presented to the citizens why it is important to intensively change the course of society towards the environment and we presented the New European Bauhaus as a project of the European Commission. Among the sub-goals of the project, we included the

transfer of information between nations about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on local communities. A discussion was held on the impact of the pandemic on local communities, including the exchange of experiences on managing the corona crisis. We supported the development of volunteerism and efforts to integrate Roma into society. Through project activities, we contributed to a very social topic, which is the issue of gender equality. The project was intended for everyone, regardless of any differences. The event promoted interpersonal relations, provided an opportunity to exchange opinions and increased the education of citizens.

The event was dedicated to the residents, which means that the project's outputs primarily affected the citizens. The outputs represented the dissemination of solidarity, peace, tolerance, multiculturalism, belonging and EU values. Together with our partners, we contributed to a better future. In order to ensure a better future, it was necessary to achieve the sustainability of the project. At the moment when the partnership became strong, the sustainability of the partnership and project outputs was sufficiently ensured.

It was our goal to build a strong partnership, based on friendship and peace among the EU countries, in which we succeeded.

Citizens were given the opportunity to participate in public discussions, lectures, workshops, and artistic performances. We offered free expression of opinions and expectations on how to improve the future. Impacts of the project:

- change in approach towards citizens, municipalities, the EU

- changes in the scope of perceiving the project

- changes in knowledge and understanding

- changes in attitudes and beliefs

- changes in behaviour and thinking

Short-term influences:

- Involvement of citizens, volunteers and experienced lecturers into discussions and policy making

- Increased awareness on benefits from the perspective of migration, involving the Roma into society, engaging young people into volunteering activities

- Strengthened cooperation between partners

- Increased understanding, solidarity

- High-quality consulting related to societal problems

- Plenty of information about opportunities in European, local, and regional institutions, especially for younger generation.

Long-term impacts:

- stronger awareness about what the EU is responsible for, about EU projects

- building cultural identity

- solving the problem of reckless, disinterred people, about ignorance of problems such as discrimination, gender equality, environmental quality, failed integration...

Citizens also got information about EU projects, how it tries to solve the most serious problems. Solidarity was presented as one of the forms of volunteering or providing know-how in solving various problems. The development of volunteering and solidarity was one of the most important impacts. The incorporation of basic European values during the project was an

important "building block" to create a strong partnership. This is an impact with a long-term effect. The EU was in the spotlight for three days. During those days, relations between citizens were also secured through intercultural dialogue.

Friday: First European Day of Languages and Learning
- A speech by the mayors of all partner municipalities as the start of the event
- International partnerships of towns and municipalities - a discussion on the importance of partnership and belonging
- Sightseeing trip - let's get to know the beauties of the region around Krakovany
- Lectures + discussions in the field of the environment:
- Environmental burdens caused by human activity
- Environmental Impact Assessment – EIA
- How to compost in the village of Krakovany - an activity for children and adolescents New European Bauhaus, European Green Deal
- Transfer of information about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on local communities - discussion about the impact of the pandemic, including the exchange of experience on managing the corona crisis - Marking the whole world
- Lecture on the EU's goals so that disabilities do not create obstacles in Europe
- Presentation of the Strategy in the field of the rights of persons with disabilities for the years 2021-2030
- All children, including those of Roma origin, deserve to be children in the true sense of the word - lecture + presentation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Interactively with the European Union – playful and interactive teaching of children about the EU with experts
- Evening sitting, familiarisation, dancing, music
- Performances of local and foreign folklore ensembles
- Mutual learning of folk dances - Folklore LUSK, Children's Folklore Ensemble Krakovanček, Folklore Ensemble Zespól Pieśni I Tańca Żywczanie from Żywca
- Activities for children – games, dance workshops, joint trips, creative workshops
- Exhibition in the premises of the local cultural center – them traditional culture “What do we have in common?”

Saturday: Second European Day of Culture and Equality
- A joint breakfast linked to a discussion about discrimination in education: "How can we defend ourselves?"
- Workshop on the International Conference "On the Road to Gender Equality in Europe" in Bratislava on September 3, 2023
- Problems of gender equality in Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland according to the Gender Equality Index – lecture
- Sightseeing trip - let's get to know the beauties of the region around Krakovany
- A visit to the local museum “Behind the Krakovany Gate” an authentic view of the life of the inhabitants of western Slovakia at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries
- Activities for children - games, dance workshops, joint trips, creative workshops
- Exhibition in the premises of the local cultural center - theme traditional culture "What do we have in common?"
- Searching for common roots, intercultural dialogue
- International sports competitions - ball games, football
- Human rights, documents, institutions - Charter of Fundamental Human Rights, European Action Plan for Democracy
- Concerts of musical groups

Sunday: Third European Day of Citizens and Partners
- The Holy Mass in the Church of St. Nicholas in Krakovany in folklore costume
- A visit to the local museum "Behind the Krakovany Gate", an authentic view of the life of the inhabitants of western Slovakia at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries

- Solidarity = a better future - a lecture for citizens
- Joint lunch with partners
- Artistic musical performances
- We advise young people how to get involved in organizations - an example is the European Solidarity Corps and the EU Solidarity Fund – discussion
- Presentation of the local voluntary Red Cross organization - its goals, experiences and advice
- Presentation of the EU, national strategies, projects and the EIGE institute - discussion, questions and answers
- Stereotypes and problems with the inclusion of marginalized communities in society – lecture
- Discussion of all statutory bodies on stronger cooperation
- Discussion with participants about their feelings about the event

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