

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	2 – Decs nagyközség önkormányzata (Decs)
PIC number:	938352878
Project name and acronym:	Our friendship is based on love for nature/traditions/culture — friendship

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	1
Event name:	Our friendship is based on love for nature/traditions/culture
Type:	Public event
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Slovakia, Veľká Mača
Date(s):	21-23/06/2024
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.velkamaca.sk/informacie-o-projektoch.html
Participants	
Female:	390
Male:	360
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Slovakia]:	647
From country 2 [Hungary]:	73
From country 3 [Czechia]:	30
...	
Total number of participants:	750
From total number of countries:	3
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	
<p>Within the framework of the "Friendship" project, 1 event was implemented. It was aimed at moving our partnership to a higher level. The event lasted three days, with each day focusing on one main theme. These were: friendship, culture, love of nature. These themes were intertwined with learning about the European Union.</p> <p>Within the framework of the project, we managed to develop the following elements:</p>	

- raise awareness of the need to be part of EU integration
- involve citizens of the three countries in individual activities focused on different directions
- raise awareness not only of the cultural but also of the linguistic wealth of the partnership
- educate children and youth and encourage conscious and active citizens
- support for strengthening the sense of belonging to Europe, increasing understanding of the benefits that the EU gives us
- strengthen social and political cohesion

The implemented program can be divided into 4 areas that intersected during the individual days. These areas were:

1. EU - an opportunity for all
2. Time spent together unites us
3. Exchange of previous experiences/collaborations in the field of health or environmental protection
4. Everyone has the right to find a place for a fulfilling life

Activities were implemented within these 4 areas. It was not a block of activities that followed each other, but activities that were intertwined with each other and complemented each other.

The course of the event was as follows:

The event started on Friday; a Europe Direct information point was set up in the cultural centre. The meeting was held as part of a discussion on European Union issues and joint cooperation. Those present were welcomed by Mayor Dagmar Kosnáčová and then a workshop was held on the topics: "Present and future of partner municipalities in the European Union", "Best practices, successes and experiences with EU projects in partner municipalities", "What have we achieved and where are we heading since the last meeting?". As part of the opening, an exhibition about the European Union - Associations for Common Goals was also on display. Afterwards, journalist Andrea Szomolai spoke with Neszméri Tünde, chairwoman of the Femine Fortis civic association. They talked about EU issues, equality, solidarity, tolerance, equal opportunities, differences in remuneration and the position of women in the political scene and public life. The twin towns in Hungary: Hajós, Decs and Pécsvárad and the local action group Kyjovské Slovácko v pohybu from the Czech Republic were also introduced. They emphasized that they were always welcomed with great love and hospitality in Velká Mača.

Saturday morning belonged to sports. At the same time, delicious beef stews and goulash were already being cooked in the cauldrons. Foreign delegations and invited guests entertained those present with a cultural program in the afternoon, which provided an opportunity for further fruitful discussions and exchange of experiences. On this occasion, we managed to combine fun with benefit in the form of developing partnership relations between municipalities. After dinner, a visit to the local museum began, where guests could view archaeological finds and historical documents from the 19th and 20th centuries. Peadr. Magdaléna Hrbáček PhD., a member of the municipal council and chairwoman of the cultural committee, gave a lecture about folk traditions and customs from our municipality. The visit to the museum was followed by the unveiling of the memorial plaque of Bornemissza Péter.

Our guests attended the Sunday service and the subsequent lunch, where they evaluated the event and mutual relations and shared their experiences. After lunch, they attended a wine tasting at the local winery and visited the protected area of Mačiansky háj and Vtáčia mokrad'. In line with the above, the project and the implemented events contributed to deepening mutual understanding and friendship between citizens and communities and to the revitalization of social and cultural life. Participants were able to learn about the importance of citizenship in the European Union, the values and principles of the EU, as well as their reflection in people's everyday lives.

Achievements:

- spreading volunteering regardless of age or nationality
- educating citizens
- raising aware Europeans
- strengthening cooperation between partners

- highlighting the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on each of us
- presenting cultures, customs, traditions
- developing solidarity
- discussing climate change, preserving biodiversity
- commemorating specific achievements of the EU
- integrating disadvantaged groups into society

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).
1.1	30.01.2025	Veľká Mača fill in