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| Europe for Citizens |  |
| **The project «Together closer to Europe» was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"** |  |
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| **Applicable to the Action 1, Measure 1.1*****"Town Twinning Citizens' Meetings”*** |
| **Participation:** The project involved 370 citizens, notably 90 participants from the city of Lendava - Ustvarjalno BONUS/BONUS Alkotó Egyesület (**Slovenia**), 40 participants from the city of Halászi - Halászi Hagyományőrző Egyesület (**Hungary**)**,** 40 participants from the city of Szarvas - SLOVENSKÁ SAMOSPRÁVA MESTA SARVAŠ, (**Hungary**)**,** 200 participants from the city of Veľké Blahovo and Dunajská Streda - Nadácia Cséfalvay/Cséfalvay Alapítvány/Cséfalvay Foundation (**Slovakia**).**Location/ Dates:** The event took place in **Veľké Blahovo, Slovakia** from 13/06/2014 to 14/06/2014.**Short description:** The program of the two-days’ meeting was implemented as follows:June 13 – The representatives of the partners already arrived in the morning, who were welcomed by the president of the Foundation Cséfalvay personally. The older partners greeted each other with great pleasure, the new partners introduced themselves to the others in an informal way. This was followed by an overview of the program and a description of the project in the frame of the opening ceremony. The visitors learned about the detailed hourly program. The Foundation's history, its activities so far and future activities were also presented, where its goals concerning the youth were described more clearly. After the common lunch a quiz show began, which was organized and carried out by Europe Direct. The participants could prove their knowledge of each member country and the European Union itself in written and oral form. The most skilled of them were rewarded by kind gifts. In the afternoon, an exhibition was opened of the drawings and fine art works, which were submitted to the competition announced earlier. School children of the region could enter this competition, the theme of which was "My favorite European country." Many colorful and imaginative works were submitted to the Foundation, proving that many talented and creative children live in the area.Then came the program block providing more extensive familiarization, where the partners participating in the project presented themselves. We could learn of their activities not only in spoken word, but through a short culture program we got impressions of their culture and of their work connected with the support of talented youth. Colorful, youthful and high-spirited program points alternated, among them the performance of the Pántlika group, stage performances of the partners from Lendava and the program of the Sköcök group from Hungary enrtained the audience. Afterwards, the Dunaág folk dance group performed authentic folk dances and wonderful traditional costumes. In the evening, further opportunities for familiarizing opened up, personal friendships were formed and relationships between the individual organizations deepened.June 14 – rich, varied program awaited the participants from early morning. The youngest ones could participate in the playful, sporty contests offered by the adventure park, which allowed them individual or collective contests, in some cases they could compete with the help of adults. The cooking competition began, in which teams of the project partners entered. The task was preparation of stew-pot goulash, the region's traditionally well-liked and popular dish. As time progressed, more and more subtle scents circulated in the yard of the country house. Meanwhile, local artists demonstrated their wares, we could get a brief glimpse into the secrets of making homemade soap, and our guests could participate in activities such as wood carving, basketry and clay pottery. These traditional crafts thus not only enjoyed great popularity, but it also drew attention to the fact that we should get to know the culture and knowledge of our ancestors. The EU info-corner again provided curiosities and important information for the participants, its activities carried out throughout the day proved to be one of the most exciting elements of the program.Final evaluation of the prepared goulashes took place around noon, a unanimous finding was that each team produced great and unique tastes with the food they cooked. We could make sure of this during the common lunch, as all goulashes had been eaten. Another evaluation took place, this time it was the children's drawings awarded by the representatives of the Foundation and partners. The afternoon program entertained the audience with a variety of program elements. Fans of traditions could admire the horseback archery demonstration, which required extraordinary skills of the riders and thorough knowledge of the horses. The Szigetköz folk dance group performed, which introduced the traditionalist activities of the organization in a lively, thrilling form. They were succeeded by the zither players, who performed popular, as well as lesser-known folk tunes. The program of the youth was lively and modern: they entertained the audience with presentation of the popular Zumba and several dances with modern choreography. Another interesting program point was the demonstration of the baranta warriors, who presented this martial art with historical roots to the visitors. Before the performance of celebrity guests the Aranymetszés music group played their own compositions. The evening brought on-stage performances of recognized artists such as the young Lola, Tibor Gyurcsik from Dunajská Streda and the popular Bebe from Hungary. After the concerts of great atmosphere, common entertainment followed, which also meant the end of the meeting as well. Then the partners held a short meeting, where they evaluated the results achieved by the project. |