

## The project « Partnership Embracement » 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 640 citizens, notably 500 participants from the city of Veľký Grob (**Slovakia**), 60 participants from the city of Kostelec (**Czechia**), 40 participants from the city of Tulghes (**Romania**), 40 from the city of Kysac (**Serbia**).

**Location/ Dates:** The event took place in Veľký Grob (**Slovakia**), from 25/11/2017 to 26/11/2017

#### Short description:

The day of 25/11/2017 was dedicated to the traditions of the partner municipalities. This comprised traditions of art, gastronomy and culture. In addition, the project brought EU-related topics among citizens, and, above all, knowledge about the EU. The day began with the arrival of guests from the partner municipalities from Bohemia, Romania and Serbia. For the start, the program of the event and the project support of the EU were presented. The EU Information Desk was also opened, which aimed at disseminating information about the EU. Municipal workers here distributed printed EU promotional materials from the EuropeDirect Center. The activity called the European Union in a Nutshell was also devoted to the EU. In its framework an interactive lecture presented the EU in terms of functioning, history and politics to the participants. In addition, citizens have learned about European Citizenship (when it was created, what it means) and about the so-called European initiative (what it is, how people can get involved, what the European Solidarity Forum is). Within the activities a joint negotiation of representatives of the partner municipalities and active citizens took place. Together they addressed not only self-government needs but also the potentials for future partnership development. Other activities were dedicated to traditions. Citizens had the opportunity to learn about art traditions and craftsmanship. The work of the home artist, Katarina Brindzová, who painted the houses of people, was presented. Also, production of traditional clothing and adornments and other craftsmanship elements were presented, which are connected with the past of the present peoples. Old and traditional meals were also presented as part of the activities. Within traditions, a great role was played by culture. The folklore of four nations was presented - musical, dance and singing elements of the culture of nations. This was a unique demonstration of the diversity of nations. The evening included a tour of the village and folk entertainment that helped connect participants from four countries.

The day of 26/11/2017 was dedicated to learning about the EU's principles. The day began with the Holy Mass, which was a spiritual element in the project. This was followed by EU activities. In the first place, projects of the partner municipalities and organizations operating in the partner municipalities, co-financed by the EU, were presented. It was a demonstration of real EU assistance to municipalities and their citizens. The purpose was to show citizens what the EU supports and how it helps them to develop. It was the element that helped set up the wall against Euro-scepticism. The activity called Solidarity in times of crisis was also devoted to the values of the EU. Within it, participants were discussing volunteering and voluntary activities. Local volunteer associations were introduced. At the same time, the present participants made a commitment to do a good deed when they return home from the event. This way life in the four villages will improve, people will be more solidary and at the number of volunteers will grow. Within the program, social and competitive activities were also carried out, bringing together the participants. Seniors from the twin towns came to the forefront thanks to a common sitting. Seniors from each country exchanged their life experiences. An interesting achievement was the creation of a partnership pillar. This is a memorial object placed at the municipal office in Veľký Grob. It is a symbol of the partnership and an interesting way of informing the public about the diversity of the partnership. The project ended with activities that brought together the participants and helped establish mutual partnership and friendship.