

**The project « Freedom of Expression and the Right to development »
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 the meeting of 1076 citizens, of which 900 came from the local municipality of Holic (Slovakia), 88 participants from the city of Abda (Hungary), 88 participants from the city of Ratíškovice (Czech Republic)

Location/ Dates: The event took place in **Holic (Slovakia)** from 31/07/2015 to 01/08/2015

Short description:

The day of **31/ 07/2015** was dedicated to... the participants of the meeting focused attention on mutual welcome and drew attention to folk traditions and customs, not least to the themes of the EU, which were supplemented by a beautiful cultural program in the form of performances of individual art groups from the partner municipalities. The morning focused on the ceremonial welcome of partners by the performance of local children. At the joint sitting of representatives not only cooperation so far was discussed, but also their perception of the EU as a whole. Under the guidance of instructors their knowledge and views on the EU from the past through the present were uncovered. Through debates space was created for proposals in the frame of more active involvement in the activities of European character and building a better future.

The afternoon was dedicated to folk traditions and singing songs, drawing attention to the importance of passing on traditions from generation to generation and to EU issues as well. In the form of a child activity aimed at getting to know the EU in a playful way, and educating about volunteering through presentations of NGOs from the partner municipalities attention was drawn to citizens getting involved in voluntary organizations, ways how to become active citizens of society.

The sports activities and musical evening created a friendly relaxed atmosphere.

Through music and dance three different nationalities presented themselves. Space was created for free discussions among the participants of the partner municipalities that followed the spirit of traditions and European issues. Ties were strengthened not only between self- governments but also among the civil society of the various partner municipalities.

The day of **01/08/2015** was dedicated to... the participants of the meeting focused attention on two main workshops:

Workshop of freedom of expression (strengthening of democratic participation and citizen engagement on a higher level) and the workshop of the right for development (addressing the importance of development and development cooperation, proposing concrete measures to help less developed countries)

The second day started with a solemn Holy Mass connected with laying commemorative wreaths at the monument to fallen soldiers. For the smallest ones a language corner was prepared which has supported removing language barriers among the smallest participants of the event. The language corner was followed by a creative play area in the form of skills development, creativity and playfulness. For the adults a workshop was prepared under the guidance of experienced lecturers, which was dedicated to strengthening democratic participation and engagement of citizens, to promote their scope of competence from local to a higher level. The afternoon was dedicated not only to sports but also cultural performances. Importance was drawn to the second block of the workshop dedicated to the theme of development cooperation, which should be disseminated not only among the participants of the event but also spread further in their regions. This activity motivates citizens towards a more active way of life within society, broadens horizons within the scope of aid to less developed countries thanks to the presentation of concrete measures. Let's build a better society through the right of freedom of expression and the right for development.