

**The project «Citizenship, Culture and Europe's future – as we see it» 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 350 citizens, notably 20 participants from the city of Esztár (**Hungary**), 50 participants from the city of Ižkovce (**Slovakia**), 40 participants from the city of Rákóczi falva (**Hungary**), 40 participants from the city of Hortobágy (**Hungary**), 50 participants from the Halászi Hagyományörző Egyesület (**Hungary**), 150 and participants from the city of Salacea (**Romania**).

**Location/ Dates:** The event took place in **Salacea, Romania**, from 29/07/2021 to 01/08/2021.

**Short description:**

On Thursday, after the partners arrived and were presented the programme schedule, the focus was on exchanging ideas and experiences on the subject of waste management and environmental protection. The local government presented the procedures by which it has achieved outstanding success in the field of selective waste collection. There was place for creativity as well in the form of an exhibit where objects made by children from disposable materials were shown (toys, utility objects, souvenirs). After group dinner there were casual discussions, the participating groups got to meet each other.

On Friday the participants viewed the ethnography and local history exhibition in Otomani so they could learn about the region's history and culture. This was followed by an international conversation where the partners discussed the particularities of democratic systems, focusing on the distinctness and differences among countries.

The afternoon was about participants getting to know each other better through an interactive programme consisting of discussions, music and presentations. During the evening they got to know local living heritage: the local women's choir performed, followed by folk singing, prompting the participants to partake as well.

Saturday had a diverse programme awaiting not only the participants, but the locals and people from the region as well. Children and adults could take part in a myriad of activities: handcrafts, archery, yurt building. We dedicated a forum to the future of Europe, where everyone could freely express their thoughts on the direction of the development of the EU, how they see their own countries' and their own place in the EU. The afternoon gave prominence to traditions: a live presentation was held demonstrating rare, old professions that are close to being forgotten in today's world. We paid our respects at the World War memorial, for it is because of their sacrifice that we live in enduring peace and progress for more than 70 years. In the evening participants could choose between listening to folk songs or a concert by a band that is quite popular with the youth.

Sunday morning the schoolyard was covered in children's drawings, made for the children's art contest. We also paid attention to spirituality: those interested could attend the Roman Catholic mass or Reformed worship. The afternoon gave place to the emigrant reunion where those born or connected through family to Salacea came back from where they currently live to meet. This was another great opportunity to compare living conditions and culture in diverse places. Also in the afternoon we held the much-anticipated demolition derby, much to the delight of fans of the extreme sport. The event ended with a great concert, where the band performed their well known hits and covers of famous pop songs. To truly end on a memorable note there was a fireworks show, giving a wonderful conclusion to the activities of the project.

