

**The project «A bennünk élő történelem – a személyestől az európai szintig» 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 421 citizens, notably 53 participants from the city of Berg (Austria), 57 participants from the city of Tomasov (Slovakia), 69 participants from the city of Cristuru Secuiesc (Romania), 19 participants from the city of Sracinec (Croatia), and 223 participants from the city of Halászi (Hungary).

**Location/ Dates:** The event took place in **Halászi, Hungary**, from 03/03/2023 to 05/03/2023.

**Short description:**

On Friday morning, the Mayor of the municipality opened the event with a ceremony. It was attended by the foreign guests present, and a detailed presentation of the program was given. This was followed by the presentation of each partner, which took the form of short presentations. From 11 a.m. onwards, a historical program was held on the subject of the emigration and displacement of German-speaking communities after the second World War. This was attended by local affected persons as well. The afternoon was spent in the spirit of pacifism and non-violence. First there was a discussion on Albert Schweitzer and then a film screening on his work. This was followed by a presentation on the phenomenon of multiculturalism, presented by Lajos Winter, who came from a Jewish family, spoke Hungarian and worked in a Slovakian environment. In the evening, the teams had a dinner together, followed by a joint entertainment.

On Saturday morning, there were several thematic activities, so everyone could choose the one they liked. There was an opportunity to discover the sights of the host municipality. Young people could participate in creative small group activities. There were also thematic discussions on the EU: the six-monthly rotating presidency of a Member State and the future of the Union.

Sports enthusiasts could also take part in a running race.

In the afternoon, dishes typical of several regions were prepared for everyone to taste. Then, participants were brought closer to the culture through the revival of late winter/early spring traditions (winter celebrations, "busó" processions, masquerades, etc.). Folk costumes also demonstrated cultural diversity.

Meanwhile, on the stage, there was an entertaining programme of music, which created a good atmosphere (the Halászi Traditional Association, among others, performed).

The rest of the evening was all about good vibes and friendship.

The third day of the event was dedicated to nature conservation and responsibility for the environment. With the help of a local activist, the participants learned about the activities that have already been carried out, as well as about the local wildlife. Before lunch, the partnership took part in an informal meeting to focus on joint plans for the coming period. In the afternoon, the Europe Direct office was also represented, providing accurate information on the programs offered by the EU. These were mainly targeted at young people, and participants also learned about the tools the EU offers its citizens to express their views peacefully: citizens' initiatives, civil dialogues, petitions. Later the programme returned to history, with Ulrich G. Bergmann telling the story of how his family was torn apart by political and historical events. The moving and informative discussion was followed by a joint evaluation and assessment of the programme. This was the last activity of the project, followed by farewell and departure for home.