EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	Municipality of Trstená – Trstená
PIC number:	938954278
Project name and acronym:	United in Diversity - Connecting People, Building Bridges - Trstená 2024, TRSTENA2023

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	**101155919**		
Event name:	United in Diversity - Connecting People, Building Bridges - Trstená 2024		
Type:	Opening ceremony, lectures, discussions, storytellings, showcase, workshops, presentations, gastro festival, information stand, social and cultural activities, survey, final conference		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Slovakia, Trstená		
Date(s):	07/11/2024 – 09/11/2024		
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.trstena.sk/zjednoteni-v-rozmanitosti-spajame-ludi--staviame-mosty-trstena-2024/ll/1/sm/116254/.html		
Participants			
Female:	786		
Male:	639		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Hungary]:	20		
From country 2 [Czech Republic]:	59		
From country 3 [Poland]:	129		
From country 4 [France]:	7		
From country 5 [Slovakia]	1210		
Total number of participants:	1425	From total number of countries:	5
Description *Provide a short description of the event and its activities.*			
Project “United in Diversity - Connecting People, Building Bridges - Trstená 2024” represented cooperation among twinning towns and other entities to continue in cooperation based on dealing the			

topics of common Europe. The main goal of the project was to encourage citizens of the European Union in active participation on EU affairs by strengthening the principles of democracy, openness and active cooperation with the local authorities and to promote solidarity, cohesiveness, respect based on different cultural principles. The active participation, civic engagement and volunteering had been supported by the activities aimed to pointing out on possibilities of effective managing of local public policy tools (including the European tools: e.g. the Conference on the Future of Europe, European Citizens Initiative, The Citizens Dialogue, the European Parliament elections in 2024) for rising quality of life. Activities (workshops, presentations, discussions) had been designed to inspire participants to become more actively engaged in European politics or participating in EU-related initiatives as well as to foster a sense of belonging and positive perceptions of the EU. Our project also included activities dedicated topic such as solidarity and volunteering as one of the solidarity mechanism inside the EU. We took account of equal opportunities
principle's application, representation of all ages, the disadvantaged and the elderly. For participants were prepared interesting, educational, inspiring and entertainment activities.

On 07/11/2024 was prepared below mentioned programme:

14:00 Opening Ceremony with welcome speech by the mayor of municipality of Trstená, introducing the project partners, the project activities and objectives, the values followed by cooperation with emphasis in European dimension.

16:00 Lecture for youth on the theme " The EU - a journey through the time" focused on increasing awareness of the history, development, and significance of the EU; on inspiring to become more actively engaged in European politics, such as voting in European elections or participating in EU-related initiatives; on fostering a sense of belonging; on positive perceptions of the EU. Activity started with a presentation and brief talk about the history of the EU, highlighting its origins and major milestones, including discussion the post-World War II period, the Treaty of Rome, and the evolution of the EU into what it is today. There had been Interactive Timeline displaying where participants could explore key events in the history of the EU The presentation continued with discussion – participants had been encouraged to express their views on the EU´s history, its impact on the member states and its future prospects. The participants shared their personal stories or experiences related to the EU (such as stories of travel within the EU, cross-border friendships or how EU policies have impacted their lives).

19:00 Activity for municipalities representatives - Strategic planning of partners on the theme "Together for Europe" - the aim of the activity was to present the goals of municipalities in future international cooperation (the topic for common projects, priority areas of municipalities according the strategic documents, EU documents), to identify the partners for cooperation, setting up strategic goals for cooperation, the building of cooperation and strategic partnerships, set up the common goals and timetable of future cooperation, forming up the working groups for the future cooperation.

20:00 Cultural evening on the theme: „ The Diversity or Proximity of Participating Guest´s Culture" - focused on learning about cultures, traditions and customs of the peoples living in the EU, indicating the importance of respecting the diversity of the peoples living in the same Union, enhancing mutual understanding between European citizens, fostering intercultural dialogue

All day activity:
Exhibition of children/pupils´ art works "Through the eyes of the young generation" - on the topics: Environment, Let go know my city, Europe as the place where I want to live.

On 08/11/2024 could participants join:

9:00 – 12:00 Morning series of activities focused on the theme "Solidarity" which will include:
- *Discussion session* that explores the concept of solidarity. Participants discussed what solidarity means at the individual, community, and European levels. The participants shared their thoughts and experiences related to solidarity.
- *Cross-Cultural Storytelling* - the participants from different European countries shared stories of solidarity from their own cultures or personal experiences. These stories highlighted acts of kindness, cooperation, and support.
- *Solidarity Projects Showcase* - presentation projects and initiatives that have undertaken to promote solidarity, such as community service projects, charity work, support of marginalized groups.
- *Workshop „Volunteering"* as one of the solidarity mechanism inside the EU - presentation of an active form of volunteering at local level, community development, discussion of positive aspects of volunteering (skills, experiences, including language skills, opportunities to engage in volunteering at local level as well as at European level. Presentation of the "European Corps of Solidarity" as a one of the tools how to put the core EU value of solidarity into practice. Activity included a list of actions (such as cleaning public areas, delivering lunches to the disabled, homeless, etc.) for new volunteers.

19:00 „Formal meeting of the partner´s representatives“ – related to presentation of the good practices such as the municipalities developing, investing in municipal infrastructure, improving the quality of the citizens´ life - with the EU financial support. Presentation of methodological approaches to the EU revenue management - defining needs, types of projects, financing options, timing, personal security. Gaining financial resources, sharing good practice examples such as managing finances and EU resources so that the financial stability of municipalities was preserved and resources was used to maximum efficiency.

All day activity: Cultural and social activities
a) Creative workshop - working with natural materials such as making an Advent wreath from pine, needles, candlesticks, Christmas balls, decorating honey jars, making candles from wax
b) Gastro festival - presentation of traditions and customs of national specialities of Slovakia as well as partners from the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary.
c) Tour of the cultural heritage of the city of Trstená - tour of the city museum Wlczek Manor, the Jewish synagogue, the Traditional pottery manufactory, the Crypt under the church)
d) Presentation of the skills of folk craftsman, craft market, presentation of cultural heritage of partner cities (traditional food, crafts such as pottery, carving, honey production, songs, dances).

All day activity:
Information stand on the theme: "Active Citizens" – focused on introduction of civic participation tools in terms of their possible use by citizens (the Conference on the Future of Europe, Debating Europe, The Citizens Dialogue) including the European Parliament elections in 2024 as one of the possible way actively participate in the EU decision-making process and active participation of European citizens in public life. Introduction of the EU citizens´ rights and their role in civil society.

On 09/11/2024 took place:

09:30 Cultural program – presentation of traditional folk culture in the square
09:00 European partner skittle tournament - learning about cultures, traditions and customs of the peoples living in the EU, indicating the importance of respecting the diversity of the peoples living in the same Union, enhancing mutual understanding between European citizens, fostering intercultural dialogue, value of cultural heritage for society, its economic contribution (to the quality of life, social cohesion and intercultural dialogue), its role in European cultural diplomacy, the importance of its preservation for next generation

14:30 Final conference associated with recovery of event, survey results‘, presentation and understanding of addressed issues - understanding the importance of active participation of EU citizens on EU affairs, EU democratic values, European citizen´s rights, EU policy-making and opportunities how to increase knowledge in ordinary people with space for public debate, the importance of strengthen solidarity, cohesiveness and respect based on different cultural principles.

Throughout the event, a survey was conducted aimed at finding out the attitudes of the participants on how they would like the future of the EU to looks like. Through the survey citizens thought about what the European Union means to them today and what it will looks like in the future. Citizens of participating cities through surveys responded to what they would like to see in the future European Union from the areas such as self-sufficiency, security, cultural diversity, citizenship and the common currency.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).