



EUROPE FOR CITIZENS

Democratic engagement and civic participation sub-programme

FINAL REPORT form

Programme	EUROPE FOR CITIZENS
Sub-Programme	Democratic engagement and civic participation
Action	Town Twinning
Sub-Action	N/A
Call for Proposal	Programme Guide 2018
Project number	606576-CITIZ-1-2018-2-HU-CITIZ-TT
Agreement/decision number	20183306
Project Title	Celebration of the 30th anniversary of town twinning and its contribution to a better understanding of the EU perspective
Language used to complete the form	English

Contractual Data

Dates and Beneficiaries

Dates

Project Start: 01/02/2019	Project End: 20/10/2019
Activities Start: 11/09/2019	Activities End: 15/09/2019
Project Duration(months): 0	

Beneficiary Data

Role	PIC	Name	Country
Coordinating Organization / Beneficiary	938807323	DIOSD VAROS ONKORMANYZAT	Hungary
Management Contact Person	938807323	DIOSD VAROS ONKORMANYZAT	Hungary

Legal Representative

Organisation Legal Address

Name: DIOSD VAROS ONKORMANYZAT	
Street: SZT ISTVAN TER 1	
Post Code: 2049	City: DIOSD
Country: Hungary	

Department

Name:	
Street: Szent István tér 1	
Post Code: H-2049	City: Diósd
Country: Hungary	
Local Address:	
Internet site: www.diosd.hu	

Contact

Title: Mr	Function: Mayor
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Contact

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Implemented Activities

Short description of the project's results in English, French or German

English - 1	<p>The town twinning program took place in the Hungarian city Diósd on 11-15 September 2019, with the participation of 105 invited persons from five partner cities, namely Alsbach-Haehnlein (Germany), Marosvécs/Brincovenesti (Romania), Lubaczow and Cieszanów (Poland), and Érsekkéty/Ket (Slovakia). The network, which now covers five countries, provides significant territorial coverage at the Central and Eastern European level, providing an opportunity for sound analysis, reflection, exchange of experience and, finally, a shared European presence. The central event of the project was the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the twin-city relationship of Diósd (HU) and Alsbach-Haehnlein (DE), which took place in a cultural context with choir, band and dance groups. The high-profile program of the meeting was the conference "Contribution of town-twinning to a better understanding of the EU perspective", during which present and past leaders of the participating six municipalities expressed their views. As far as the youth program is concerned, the students of the local schools of the cities Diósd and Alsbach-Haehnlein conducted discussions on selected themes of twinning connections and EU-related topics. The history and results of the bilateral school cooperation have been summarized in two documents. A summary document (Memorandum) was prepared by the Municipality of Diósd to illustrate the activities, experiences and results of the 30-year-old German-Hungarian twinning co-operation, and concluded the followings: the twin-town relationships have greatly contributed i) to the convergence of the two cities, ii) to strengthening mutual trust between populations, and iii) the partnership helped to raise EU-awareness and understanding the EU perspective. The visibility of the project meeting was achieved by using the social media channels (website, facebook, youtube), video presentation, and newspaper article.</p>
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Description

Impact and Citizen Involvement

The central theme of the project meeting was the 30th anniversary of the German-Hungarian town twinning. The stable relationship, which has been in existence for 30 years, is remarkable in itself, and is particularly valuable in the continuous development of cooperation, which is manifested in the increasing number of partner visits, both in number and frequency, and in the multidimensional nature of cooperation: it also operates at official, non-governmental, national, school and family levels.

The town-twinning relationship has survived despite the fact that there have been several exchanges of leadership between both municipalities in the meantime, which also confirms that the basis for cooperation is a broader base and operated in a sustainable manner. Networking with the other four settlements is further reinforcing the partnership approach and expanding the scope for partnership and thematic cooperation. The network, which now covers five countries, provides significant territorial coverage at the Central and Eastern European level, providing an opportunity for sound analysis, reflection, exchange of experience and, finally, a shared European presence. - The chosen theme of the project corresponds to one of the priorities of the program: 'Debating the future of Europe and challenging Euroscepticism', which was the subject of a conference at the meeting. Preparatory discussions with school students and a workshop during the meeting also addressed this priority theme, of course at the level and aspect of young people. The forum for both adults and young people allowed for an intensive exchange of views. The twin anniversary programs of the thirtieth year underlined the overall aim of the program: 'To contribute to the understanding of the Union, its history and diversity'. Some of the content of the meeting, in particular the broad involvement of participants in the festive programs, supported the specific objectives of the program: 'Raise awareness of remembrance, common history and values, and the Union's aim, which topics are the central discussions themes of the twinning programs, together with the general desire of people for a peaceful, precious, well-being life, one of the tools of which is the twin-city cooperation by stimulating debate, reflection and development of networks. - The meeting reinforced the useful and valuable nature of the town-twinning partnership, thus providing support for local policy-making, which should develop similar partnerships. - The leaders of the towns of Alsbach-Haehnlein and Diósd reaffirmed their willingness to continue the cooperation and the participants expressed their delight at the success of the contacts and made clear their willingness to continue. The experience of recent years has shown that besides bilateral cooperation, it is also possible to operate a multilateral partnership, since each partner is interested in a broader territorial cooperation. Three of the partners have already participated in a joint 'network of towns' project and are planning to launch another network projects in the near future. The planned projects focus on European solidarity and the involvement of young people in shaping EU policies in the light of the changing socio-economic conditions.

Direct testimonies/stories from participants collected during the events.

a) In November 1988, László Zoltán, the headmaster of the Diósd Primary School, approached the headmaster of the Melibokus school in Alsbach-Haehnlein, requesting that the students of the two settlements travel to each other once a year. This intention may have seemed fabulous at the time, but today, this tale has become a reality. As time passed, our tale became more and more colourful. We set our goals, jointly develop our programs and keep the established tradition. A tradition based on knowledge and friendship between the two schools. The school visit was supplemented by separate lessons, which meant that certain lessons were set up for German and, on the other hand, for Hungarian students. It provided a great opportunity for Hungarian students to learn German, and at the same time, they learned about another educational system and coloured it with outdoor programs. German students also had interesting programs and a new unknown language was a challenge. Thanks to the student exchange program, our students have the opportunity to expand their world and their knowledge. It meant a lot of headaches and tiredness for the teachers, but everything they did was in the interest of their students. This is what the great interest suggests, which was further enhanced by the thirty years of commemoration. We celebrated the anniversary with high-quality performances. Our students made dance and music. We teachers, both German and Hungarian, have summed up the last thirty years in the form of pictures and words. The fact that László Zoltán was able to tell us the beginning of the beginnings personally raised the mood in a special way. Our Mayor László Bogó is also honoured us with his presence. (B.C.S. teacher, Diósd).

b) What did the years of the relationship give us?

Language training in the mother tongue environment and beyond, both as a student and as a teacher.

We were able to mutually participate in each other's school life - we also hosted each other during classes - , the differences can be very important experiences.

The teachers had an opportunity to exchange experiences and to get to know each other's working conditions, education system and school conditions.

The host families acquired a great deal of planning and logistical skills, they were very pleased to do so, and the joy of the children was a success.

Traveling played an important role in understanding and feeling European.

Participating in joint projects (designing obstacles, t-shirts, badges, memorabilia) has resulted in very serious skill development.

The German connection facilitates German nationality education and, together with the city's Swabian past, provides opportunities and live actuality for recognizing its roots and for preserving the memories of the past.

Traveling, participating in programs with German families definitely enhances the students' personality, behaviour, self-discipline, social group activities and independence.

(L.F. teacher, Diósd)

c) We are optimistic that the partnership - one of many fruitful in the EU - will continue to be successful and broad-based in the population. We should not forget our annual mutual encounters during the two popular feasts, which allow for the greatest possible contact between our citizens.

Our partnership is based on 5 pillars:

the political committees of the municipalities,

our associations,

regular joint summer camps of the municipal youth organizations,

exchanges of schools

but above all: private and personal friendships.

We look forward to the further development!

(RM chairman Alsbach-Haehnlein)

Key message(s) of citizens involved in the project

The theme defined in the project title, 'Celebration of the 30th anniversary of town twinning and its contribution to a better understanding of the EU perspective', determined the discussion topics of the meeting. The responsible leaders of the municipalities (mayors, presidents) have looked back over the past 30 years on the relationship between their communities and compared the developments with the overall development of the European system of relations, recognizing the spectacular progress in both the local and EU dimensions. The bilateral German-Hungarian cooperation was further strengthened by a similarly long-standing relationship between Diósd and its partners from Poland and Romania, complemented by cooperation with the Slovak settlement. The Hungarian-German relationship is characterized by the fact that there is a significant German population living in the town of Diósd, who maintain the German Minority Self-Government, which makes the connection even more natural. Similarly, the relationship of the city of Diósd with the Romanian town of Marosvécs/Brincovenesti and the Slovakian town of Ersekkéty/Ket, is based on common Hungarian nationality roots, but the connections with the two neighbouring settlements in Poland (Lubaczow and Cieszanów), besides the traditional friendship between the Hungarians and Polish people, have more direct family ties. There is a close link between the historical past and the current socio-economic life of the partner countries, and town-twinning offers a concrete local expression of cooperation between citizens. This base allows for mutual information on European processes, projecting them in the context of each country or municipality. Many changes have taken place in the EU in recent years, and socio-economic changes are affecting the citizens too. People are eager to listen to their friends from other countries and get to know their experiences. Following the 2019 EU Parliamentary elections, EU bodies and societies will have to answer important and challenging questions. The message of the citizens involved in the project is that we need to get to know each other at the human level, give young people the opportunity to look out for, and build effective relationships between NGOs and municipalities. Inter-municipal relations provide the basis for interregional relations, which help to live in Europe and to understand the perspective of the EU.

Description of implemented activities

The meeting was attended by a large number (105) guests from foreign cities, and the trip from remote locations was already an active part of the event. During the trip, the participants tuned in to the meeting, reviving their previous experiences. This is especially true for the group member from Alsbach-Haehnlein (A-H), who were mostly older people who had made the trip many times and who had established personal-family-civil organization-office relationships over the past decades. One of the strengths of the twin-city relationship is the relationship between students from two German and Hungarian settlements, which is realized through repeated visits every year. Preparations for the current 30th anniversary were attended by several large groups: specifically, German student groups travelled to Diósd in November 2018 and June 2019, and Hungarian student groups travelled to A-H in April and July 2019, during which visits the importance of twinning relations as a specific form of EU co-operation were discussed, together with certain European issues affecting young people. The summary of this cooperation is presented by the reports of the German and Hungarian authors, resp., which are attached to this report. As part of the meeting, the student programs took place in a workshop, and the Hungarian and German partners contacted each other by telephone (due to technical reasons, the planned interactive visual connection could not be established at this time, but occurred successfully in advance.). Students conducted discussions with their teachers on selected twinning and EU-related topics. Communication between the partners was in German.- The high-profile program of the meeting was the conference "Contribution of town-twinning to a better understanding of the EU perspective", during which present and past leaders of the participating municipalities expressed their views. Speakers: A-H: Reinhard Meyer Chairman of the Parliament (ChoP), Hans Hermann former ChoP, Mayor Sebastian Bubenzer, former Mayor George Rausch; Lubaczów: Mayor Wiesław Kapel; Cieszanów: Andrzej Szymanowski City Clerk; Marosvécs/Brincovenesti: Edit Portik, Officer; Diósd: Mayor László Bogó, Deputy Mayor Anna Szücs, Géza Spéth Chairman of the Partnership and External Relations Coordination Committee, former Mayor, Lászlóné Paszternák, President of the German Minority Council. - Another important event of the meeting was the Celebration Program, celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Diósd and A-H twin-city relationship, which took place in a cultural context with choir, band and dance groups. Speakers of the festive forum were Ex Council President István Nagy, who signed the documents establishing the German-Hungarian partnership 30 years ago on behalf of Diósd, and former mayors Ferenc Hermann and Géza Spéth, who recalled the memorable moments of their common past. On behalf of partner city A-H, Reinhard Wennrich, the signatory of the agreement as mayor that time, then Reinhard Meyer CHoP, and the current mayor Sebastian Bubenzer, said welcome speech. Georg Rausch, who retired this year after being in function for 10 years as mayor of A-H, was awarded the 'Honorary Citizen of Diósd Award' by the Municipality of Diósd, in recognition of his dedication to maintaining the partnership. During the ceremony, 21 German and Hungarian people received diplomas of recognition from the leadership of the Municipality of Diósd.- The participants of the meeting attended the diverse programs of the Diósd Búcsú (Festival) held on 14-15 September in the city squares. Complementary programs: participants took part in visiting tours to look at the developments of the settlement, and took part in family programs as well as in meetings of civil organizations.

Changes in relation of the original application

The program was basically implemented according to the original work plan. The specific time schedules of the main program days of 12-13-14 September have been partially modified to effectively move and actively involve a large number of participants, but all planned program elements have been achieved. While the number of invited foreign guests reached the planned number (105), the number of groups from the single settlements changed in two cases: 5 persons arrived from Marosvécs / Brincovenesti instead of 35 planned, but this was compensated by the 40 participants arriving from Lubaczow, instead of the planned 11. The number of domestic participants directly involved in the indoor program was 70, instead of the planned 100, but the local population was present in much higher number at the outdoor events and was also informed about the town twinning activities.

Dissemination and visibility of your project

During the project meeting 105 foreign guests arrived from 5 settlements (4 countries). City Diósd has a population of about 10,000, which means that the guests took 1% of its population. The guests met their partners in person through family, non-governmental, church, nationality and official contacts, which resulted in their presence being directly felt in the village. This was made even more visible by the fact that on September 14-15, there was a central city celebration called Diósd Búcsú (Festival), which attracted the inhabitants to the central squares of the settlement, where they mingled with foreigners. Accordingly, the visibility of the project was very high, and it can be said that the whole community was aware of the meeting. The city leadership also provided information about the event through local media. The mayor of the city, in a video message of September 10, informed the public about the town-twinning meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFpBKP3u6js&feature=youtu.be>. A preview of Alsbach-Haehnlein's and Diósd's celebratory meeting was also published on the city's website on September 10: <https://diosd.hu/?p=6992>. On September 16, a detailed text and picture of the 30th anniversary twin-city program was published on the city website: <https://diosd.hu/?p=6999>. Detailed pictures of the town's festive program (Diósd Búcsú) were published on September 16: <https://diosd.hu/?p=7000>. The meeting will also be posted on the Diósd City municipality Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Di%C3%B3sd-V%C3%A1ros-%C3%96nkorm%C3%A1nyzata-154952394675481>. The Municipality of Diósd publishes a monthly newspaper, called 'Diósd Héjban', and in its issue published in September 2019, a text and picture report of a 30th anniversary twin-town meeting was published on pages 12-13. This newspaper is distributed by the municipality free of charge to all flats of the city, so the coverage of the population is complete. - The affected population of the five foreign twin settlements were also informed about the meeting, since the organization of the traveling delegations needed preparatory actions. Travelling of the delegations/groups between the partner towns is a common occurrence, carrying out several visits each year. In this way, the news of the forthcoming meeting on September 11-15, 2019 had already become well known in the partner settlements. - Particular emphasis is placed on involving schools in joint programs, in this case the students from the A-H and Diósd schools participated in the preparatory and final festive meetings. A report on school relationships was prepared by the teacher of the Diósd school, Csaba Bibliok, who gave an overview of the 30-year relationship, and a related photo compilation of the school programs. Ferenc Leszák, a teacher at the Diósd school, summarized the usefulness and effectiveness of the cooperation between German and Hungarian schools. The two documents will be published on the Diósd website in Hungarian. - A 2.25-minute video compilation of the central events of the meeting, namely the EU-themed conference and the 30-year celebration program, was posted on the youtube channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ur_0r4JG-bM&feature=youtu.be. - A summary document (Memorandum) was prepared by the Municipality of Diósd to illustrate the activities, experiences and results of the 30-year-old German-Hungarian twinning co-operation, entitled 'Contribution of the 30-year-twinning co-operation to the mutual development of citizens of the two EU settlements', which will be made public on the website of Diósd www.diosd.hu. Similarly, the chairman of the Municipality A-H, Reinhard Meyer, has prepared a short summary (Memorandum) of cooperation in German (www.diosd.hu).

Visibility of the Europe for Citizens Programme

At the public events of the town-twinning meeting, the EU flag was displayed each time, along with the flag of the partner municipalities. The EU flag was also featured at outdoor events in the city. Media coverage of the event also featured the EU flag, which can be seen in the footage, and in the text there is a reference to the meeting being sponsored by the Europe for Citizen Program. The summary documents produced by the municipality and the schools in connection with the meeting include a reference to the EU flag and program support.

The following products bear the EU flag or flag. program support:

website information:

<https://diosd.hu/?p=6999>

<https://diosd.hu/?p=7000>

<https://www.facebook.com/Di%C3%B3sd-V%C3%A1ros-%C3%96nkorm%C3%A1nyzata-154952394675481>

video uploaded to youtube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ur_0r4JG-bM&feature=youtu.be

Newspaper Diósd Héjban, September 2019, pp. 12-13 (published in paper form)

Documents prepared:

- two reports summarizing the school relations of Diósd and Alsbach-Haehnlein
- summary document (Memorandum) prepared by the Municipality of Diósd

Additional information

The project was managed without any special difficulties. No further comments is made.

Statistics

Direct Participants

Name of Organisation/municipality	Country	Participants by target group			Disadvantaged participants	Women	Men	Total
		below 30	30-65	above 65				
DIOSD VAROS ONKORMANYZAT	Hungary	25	35	10	10	36	34	70
Gemeinde Alsbach-Haehnlein	Germany	8	19	15	2	22	20	42
COMUNA BRINCOVENESTI	Romania	0	5	0	0	2	3	5
URZAD MIASTA I GMINY CIESZANOW	Poland	2	10	0	0	6	6	12
Gmina Lubaczów	Poland	20	18	2	0	22	18	40
OBEC KET	Slovakia	2	4	0	0	3	3	6
		57	91	27	12	91	84	175

Indirect Participants

Indirect Participants

Number of indirect participants	<input type="text" value="4 000"/>
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Other information

Activities of the project

Project start date	<input type="text" value="11/09/2019"/>
Project end date	<input type="text" value="15/09/2019"/>

Venues of the activities

Venues of the activities	
Country	City
Hungary	Diósd

Information template

<p>Direct link to the webpage of the municipality where the duly filled out information template is located/published. Reminder: acceptance of the Final Report is conditioned upon the publication of the information template with project-related</p>	<p>www.diosd.hu www.alsbach-haehnlein.de www.primariabrincovenesti.ro www.cieszanow.eu www.lubaczow.com.pl www.ket.ocu.sk</p>
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information.

Citizens' understanding of the EU

To which extent have the project's activities increased citizens' understanding of the EU?

Good

Please give an example

The 30th anniversary celebration meeting provided an opportunity to review the events of a longer period and brought together all the people who have made a significant contribution to establishing and developing a twin city relationship. Here we are thinking primarily of the top leaders of the German and Hungarian settlements, board presidents, mayors, competent committee leaders, leaders of German minority self-governments of Diósd, and NGO leaders. Memoirs and evaluation summaries of the event deepened the knowledge about twinning and highlighted the importance of co-operation between municipalities in EU countries. Behind the co-operation, led by municipal leaders, there is a diverse civilian background, whereby citizens of the municipalities can be actively involved in the system of inter-city relations. This connection is multifaceted, in which case two specific areas can be highlighted. One is the connection of people of German nationality living in the Hungarian settlement with the citizens of a German city, which affects the adult population in view of historical events. Another important moment is finding the young generation together through school actions. This issue was thoroughly reviewed by the two summaries prepared by two teachers at Diósd Elementary School in connection with this meeting. Municipality of Diósd has concluded a Memorandum in which the results of the twinning co-operation is summarized. This is complemented by a summary of the head of the German settlement, which is also attached to this report. From these materials the following references are highlighted:

Official delegations exchanged views on different topics, such as urban development issues, opportunities to eliminate and reduce the adverse effects of climate change,

municipal measures to alleviate the damage of civilization in the 21st century.

We succeeded in arousing and reinforcing interest in Diósd towards the German culture and history and, vice versa, in Alsbach-Hähnlein to the Hungarian history and culture.

The German connection facilitates German nationality education and, together with the city's Swabian past, provides opportunities and live actuality for recognizing the roots and nurturing the memories of the past.

Every trip, participating in programs with German families, definitely improves the students' personality, behaviour, self-discipline, social group activities and independence.

Partners announced that they agree in the following:

the twin-town relationships have greatly contributed to the convergence of the two cities,

to strengthening mutual trust between populations,

the partnership helped to raise EU-awareness and understanding the EU perspective.

Short description check

- I hereby confirm that the information provided under the "Short description of the project's results" is written in EN, DE or FR and clearly indicates the main results/achievements of the project, topics covered, countries involved; number of direct/indirect participants.

I am aware that this information can be used for publication purposes.

Duty to keep documents/obligation to provide information check

- I hereby confirm that I'm aware about contractual obligations set out in the Articles n° 27.2 & n° 27.3 of General Conditions to keep all original documents for a period of 3 years starting from the date of payment of the balance. Therefore, the evidences of the project implementation (e.g. participants lists and/or photos and/or catering & travelling invoices and/or boarding passes and/or any other proves) have been kept and will be provided upon request in the context of checks and audits.

Financial Sheet

Final Grant Requested

Item	Contractual	Declared
Executive Agency - EACEA	16 630,00	16 630,00
Total:	16 630,00	16 630,00

Attachments

Type of File	Name of the File
Declaration on Honour	DIOSD_annex1_declaration_en.pdf
Financial Final Report - Grant calculation sheet	DIOSD_final_budget_calculation_sheet_tt_en_2018.xlsx
Project's pictures (if you could summarize the project in 3 pictures what those would be?). Please note that these pictures might be used for publication purposes - picture 1	photo 1_Conference on EU themes_TWIN30.pdf
picture 2	photo 2_Festive program of 30rd Anniversary_TWIN30.pdf
picture 3	photo 3_Student activity_TWIN30.pdf