

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	1 - Sopronkövesd Községi Önkormányzat
PIC number:	907040211
Project name and acronym:	Feast of Culture

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	1		
Event name:	Feast of Culture		
Type:	Conference		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Hungary, Sopronkövesd		
Date(s):	19-21.08.2023		
Website(s) (if any):			
Participants			
Female:	148		
Male:	100		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Hungary]:	55		
From country 2 [Slovakia]:	106		
From country 3 [Slovenia]:	87		
Total number of participants:	248	From total number of countries:	3
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>The partners arrived on Saturday, 19. August and registered for the conference. The reception was held at Franciska Major. The Mayor of Sopronkövesd, Zoltán Fülöp, greeted all the participants and wished them a pleasant stay in Sopronkövesd.</p> <p>The participants took part in a Fabulous Aurora Fashion Show, which was a complex performance showcasing redesigned clothing and jewellery inspired by Hungarian costumes and folk art, old Hungarian ballads, folk tales, legends, music inspired by Hungarian folk songs, and reimagined movements and dances from authentic Hungarian folk dances, all presented simultaneously. This activity served as a perfect introduction and allowed the participants to immerse themselves in the upcoming "Folk Traditions and European Identity"</p>			

segment of the conference. The afternoon continued with a performance by the local traditional dancing team, Cífraszúr Néptánc Egyesület, and the zither group, Kövirózsa Kulturális Egyesület, presenting beautiful Hungarian traditional dances and songs.

Later, an official video of Sopronkövesd was played, providing the participants with insights into the active life of the village. The delegation from Novo Mesto and Dolné Obdokovce greeted the group and introduced themselves. The event continued with an icebreaking game in which the facilitator used the Danish video "All That We Share" to demonstrate that although we are all very different, coming from various countries and speaking different languages, we share many commonalities as Europeans, rural citizens, and human beings. Interacting and talking with each other helps us realize these shared bonds. The participants then shared dinner together.

Throughout the project, we aimed to be cost-effective, with some participants accommodated in a hotel, some in the local cultural house, and others stayed with host families. This approach not only saved costs but also allowed locals and participants to get to know each other on a deeper level, breaking the ice and building cohesion within the team immediately.

On Sunday, 20. August, which is Hungary's State Foundation Day, the conference was opened by the Mayor and deputy Mayor of Sopronkövesd. All delegations and participants were greeted and introduced to the conference program.

The initial phase of the conference was led by Dr. Fehér Sándor, a university professor who emphasized the importance of European values and shared heritage. His lecture was titled "Local Protection of Cultural Heritage Based on European Values." Participants learned about basic European values and the significance of our cultural diversity. Mr. Máté Deák then presented the developments and European projects realized in Sopronkövesd in recent decades, providing participants with a better understanding of EU projects and their benefits.

The next workshop focused on gender equality, led by Mrs. Zsuzsanna Lukács, project coordinator, who presented statistics and a video on gender equality. Participants learned about the Gender Equality Index, and the current rankings of the three represented countries (HU, SK, SLO) were introduced. This led to a debate and short group work where ideas were collected on how local communities and individuals can promote gender equality. The main supported ideas included:

- Supporting and voting for women.
- Empowering women to participate in local politics.
- Challenging chauvinistic and racist attitudes.
- Ensuring equal wages everywhere.

Following the workshop activities, the creative chef at Franciska Major conducted an interactive lecture on "European Cuisines" and presented highlights of Hungarian cuisine. Participants had the opportunity to taste Hungarian-Gipsy and Jewish specialties through degustation. After the conference, the Gastropicnic local event took place, gathering representatives from different cultures and communities on the folk music stage, featuring folk dances and costumes. "Folk Traditions and European Identity" served as a perfect tool to present and emphasize our rich cultural heritage, differences, and common values. In addition to several Hungarian performances, the choir from Dolné Obdokovce and the traditional dance team from Novo Mesto- Folklorno društvo Kres also performed.

The gastro experience continued in the afternoon, with each country having a stand and offering tastings of their respective delicacies and drinks. This action brought together the three countries and provided an international experience for all Gastropicnic participants, celebrating our cultural heritage.

On Monday, 21. August, a round table discussion titled "COVID-19: Past and Future" was held, where people could share their experiences and discuss their mental health during and after the pandemic. An interactive debate on the future of the EU took place, with smaller groups envisioning their European future.

Official representatives of the partners signed a Memorandum of Cooperation as a framework for future collaborations.

The conference concluded with great enthusiasm and motivation to meet again and work jointly on common issues, problems, and the promotion of EU values. The most important outcome was the unanimous agreement among partners to continue cooperating and further promote EU solidarity among countries and citizens. Through different types of interactive activities all participants gained a better understanding of the European Union.

Afterward, an optional sightseeing tour was organized in Sopron to explore the medieval city centre of the nearest city.

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