



Activity Report

on the „Stronger Europe through solidarity” event

Date: September 9-11, 2016

Place: Cherechiu, Bihor County, Romania

No. of participants: 280 persons

	Institution	Participant distribution						Total no. of participants
		Distribution by age			Dis-advantaged participants	Women	Men	
		<30	30-65	>65				
P1	Cherechiu Commune	25	30	15	5	35	35	70
P2	Dlha Ves Commune	14	14	2	0	15	15	30
P3	Kereki Commune	10	25	5	2	20	20	40
P4	Kokad Commune	20	20	10	5	25	25	50
P5	Újfehértó Town	20	15	15	6	25	25	50
P6	Motvarjevci Commune	15	15	10	2	20	20	40
Total		104	119	57	20	140	140	280

The „Stronger Europe through solidarity” event took place in Cherechiu between September 9-11. The event allowed the town-twinning meeting of the four communes which entered the partnership in recent years: Kokad Commune (2013) – Hungary, Kereki (2014) – Hungary, Újfehértó (July 2015) – Hungary and Dlha Ves (Gömörhosszúsó) Commune (2013) – Slovakia. The formal cooperation agreement between Cherechiu and Motvarjevci (Szécsiszentlászló) was signed also at the event.

A total number of 280 participants from the above-mentioned communes attended the three-day event, 210 of which were foreign guests.

The three-day event took place from Friday to Sunday, each day being centred around a different theme.

- **Friday**, September 9, 2016 – „The cost of no Europe”
- **Saturday**, September 10, 2016 – „Unity through diversity and solidarity”
- **Sunday**, September 11, 2016 – „Building together the Europe future”

The project contributed to the facilitation of the collaboration of the citizens from the five European communes through the organization of numerous meetings and programmes. During the three-day event, the participants took part in interesting conferences and programmes that explored themes, challenges and opportunities related to the European Union. A representative of the local government’s co-applicant organization, Nagy Tímea – Zita, helped orchestrate the meetings and programmes.



The following programmes took place on Friday:

The programmes held on Friday were concentrated on the theme of „**The cost of no Europe**”. Sándor Nyíri, the mayor of Cherechiu greeted the participants and officially opened



the event. In his speech, he highlighted the theme of the event, i.e. challenges and opportunities in Europe – issues that affect the residents of Cherechiu also, such as: declining population, families having less children, all of which are slowly leading to a demographic crisis where there are too few people to support the pensioners. Following the mayor’s speech,

the representatives of the five partner-communes presented their respective communes and the results achieved since the last town-twinning meeting.

Next, university lecturer Tünde Kinter gave a presentation on the importance of the European Union, highlighting the history of the EU, its values and opportunities. The presentations were built on each other, thus, next, county manager József Szabó launched a brainstorming session on the subject of “Euroscepticism and its consequences”, which brought into attention the advantages and disadvantages of the EU mechanisms, since being in the EU brings many benefits to some, but for others it doesn’t have the same effect. The much-used term “Brexit” came up, which could lead to severe economic losses for the EU because wealthy countries have become sceptical about the EU. The scepticism is caused by strict rules and regulations, common legislation and strong national identities.



At the end of the first day of the event, participants watched traditional cultural live



music shows and dance shows. Among the entertainers were the choir from Cheşereu and many folk dance groups. The evening’s other performers included pop-rock bands, such as No Cable, Wrong Way and SuperStereo.

We can conclude that the objectives of the day were met, since the partners’ results to date have been presented, the participants got more familiar with the EU and gained a better understanding of the “Euroscepticism” term.



The following programmes took place on Saturday:

„Unity through diversity and solidarity” was Saturday’s central theme. The first presentation was given by Dóra Aczél, the founder of the Yuppi Camp. The title of the presentation was “Solidarity and citizenship” and it provided the occasion for discussing the ways of solidarity, such as donation and volunteering, through certain human roles. The presentation outlined certain human roles and it showed how today’s citizens relate to volunteering and donation. With the aim of promoting diversity



and strengthening solidarity, the participants took part in an outdoor cooking contest, each team preparing their own local dish. In addition, the Hortobágy riders presented their show which was followed by the carriage-driving competition of Cheşereu. Throughout the day, a mobile urn was available and it served as a collector of the participants’ ideas and opinions on the subject of “Tolerance and mutual acceptance”. Many ideas were collected this way, among them: “No matter our nationality, we are all similar people, and we have to accept each other”, “We have seen the common problems of the regions, and these are the ones that we have to find a solution to, but I believe that this project provides an answer”, “The atmosphere of the programme was marked by tolerance and acceptance, this is why we got to know each other and will keep the town-twinning relationship alive”.



The evening’s programme included the Szigligeti Theatre Company’s high-quality performance of the play with the title “Stereotyping leads to stigmatization”. This was followed by performances by many dance groups and music bands, such as: Cheşereu folk song choir, Stihl Timbersports Show, Bábota folk dance group, Silver Wings dance group, Sunshine Show Dance, Tini Dance group, SteelCross music band. They were followed by the live concerts of Elisa Bliess, Tabáni István and Két Zsivány. The

highlight of the evening was a 20-minute fireworks show.



Sunday's programme:

Sunday's theme was future-orientated as it addressed issues relating to the future: „**Building together the Europe future**”. Accordingly, the presentations, discussions and brainstorming sessions were concentrated on this subject in order to raise the participants' awareness and to help them understand their responsibility in taking part in Europe's future because citizenship, in this respect, can have an effect on the EU on the long term. The first presentation was given by Dulau Diana, who works as an Erasmus programme leader. The title of her presentation was “The future of Europe depends on me” and she presented a programme that offers many experiences for the young. The European Voluntary Service is a programme that focuses on the EU and living abroad by addressing people aged 18-30 and mobilising them to volunteer in various fields. The presentations were followed by a performance by the Cheşereu choir. In order to support the preservation of traditions, and on



the occasion of the open day of wine cellars, Dr. Prof .Kántor Anita presented the history and culture of the Ier Valley wineries. Prior to the conclusion of the town-twinning agreement, the participants were invited to another brainstorming session by Szabó Ödön, Deputy in the Parliament of Romania. The title of this brainstorming session was “Democratic Engagement and Civic Participation in Europe” and it aimed to encourage people to assume an active role in their commune and its future. The day, as well as the weekend, was brought to a close with the ceremony of conclusion of the town-twinning agreement between Cherechiu Commune and Motvarjevci Commune. The ceremony started with a solemn liturgy that was followed by laying wreaths at the WWII memorial in Cherechiu. The representatives then went to the tent set up for this event on the Cherechiu football field, where Sándor Nyiri, the mayor of Cherechiu, and Livia Dóra, the chairperson of Motvarjevci Commune Council signed the cooperation agreement.



Accommodations:

The foreign guests were provided with 2 nights' accommodations in the period between September 9-11, 2016.

- 2 nights * 210 persons



Catering service:

The participants received meals during the entire duration of the event.

- Breakfast: 2 days * 280 persons
- Lunch: 3 days * 280 persons
- Dinner: 2 days * 280 persons

Travel services:

The company providing travel services transported all the foreign participants to their accommodations.

- 2 days x 210 persons