



## EU Town Twinning project

**UNITED IN VARIETY - ZDRUŽENI V RAZLIČNOSTI**

**VEREINT IN VIELFALT – UJEDINJENI U RAZNOLIKOSTI**

*EU Town Twinning project »United in Variety«with participating partners:  
SPES GMBH, Schlierbach - Austria,LAG PRIZAG Novi Marof – Croatia, Triglav Banja Luka – BiH,  
Kula Vrsac – Serbia, Opstina Ruma – Serbia, Zdravica Nis – Serbia, DRPD – Novo mesto, Slovenia  
Project manager/ Martin Dusic, President of the Leader partner: Society for the Protection of Mother  
Language, Natural and Cultural Heritage Maks Pletersnik Pisece, Pisece 4, 8255 Pisece, Slovenia  
Contact:[martin.dusic@siol.net](mailto:martin.dusic@siol.net)  
++38641739143*

Project will gather 1000 citizens from 3 EU countries and 2 accession countries to the EU (Slovenia, Austria, Croatia, Serbia, BiH). The citizens will participate in 3-day event taking place in Slovenia. The event will honour the European year of cultural heritage through presentations and practical applications of diverse aspects of intangible cultural heritage (folk songs, traditional dances, preparation of traditional cuisine, arts&crafts, customs). Event will also explore the language diversity and love for the written word through workshops of German (gothic) and Serbian(Cyrillic) language exploring a part of our common history and at the same time reviving the remembrance of Slovenian linguist which on his road to knowledge travelled throughout Europe. One of the goals of the project is to bring EU closer to its citizens specially the youth, therefore a special activity has been put in place to make this happen. A wide spread contest, disseminated in over 40 schools in participating countries where the youth will explore their creativity on the chosen topic “My home is also a part of Europe”. Having in mind the coming EU elections in the Parliament the project wishes to bring the EU policies and its institutions closer to its citizens. Therefore, the Slovenian MEP will hold an open dialogue on the main day of the event and thus first handed present the work of EU parliament.

**The project contributes to citizens' understanding of the Union, its history and diversity** by commemoration of prominent 19 century Slovenian linguist remembering his work (German/Slovene dictionary) and lifelong path of knowledge which lead him through different European countries. Project is honouring diversity of written language by encouraging participants to learn Gothic and Cyrillic scriptures.

**The project fosters European citizenship & Improves conditions for civic and democratic participation at Union level:** by development of EU identity and citizenship gathering together citizens from different backgrounds and countries with common interests and 1 common denominator that they are already experiencing

Europe or they want to be a part of it. The project offers the opportunities for citizens with otherwise limited possibilities for direct interaction with other EU citizens. The project brings closer to the citizens the work of EU Politicians and thus encourages the democratic participation on EU parliament elections 2019.

**Encourage democratic and civic participation of citizens at Union level, by developing citizens' understanding of the Union policy making-process and promoting opportunities for societal and intercultural engagement and volunteering at Union level:** This specific goal we achieved through the informational measure devised for the citizens with on the spot Info centre of the EU house - a provisional info stand tended by the personnel placed at the event for informing citizens on EU matters of their interest. Special focus will be on the rights and duties of EU citizenship and opportunities for youth (volunteering, study, practice, EVS, European solidarity corps). Project with all the activities is incorporating and encouraging volunteering by including NGOs which are organizations that are based on the volunteering and in order for the program to be executed there will be a fair amount of citizens which will voluntarily input their time and energy.

**Fostering intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding and combatting the stigmatisation of migrants and minority groups: All the activities are fostering intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding by gathering citizens from different backgrounds and nationalities.** A special activity was put in place in order to achieve this goal.” **Living dictionary event**” where participants and passer-by’s are expressing their thoughts and reflections on minority’s and migrants. Some of the project participants are also a part of minority’s living in different countries and will give their insights for the wider public to understand better their position through FB event devised prior to the main event.

Project is promoting **European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018** through presentations of cultural heritage of partnering countries Slovenia, Macedonia, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Austria. Through the speech by Slovenian MEP on social media and at the events importance and meaning of European year of cultural heritage will be stressed.

International youth contest “My home is also a part of Europe” disseminated through more than 50 elementary & high schools (some of them are denominated UNESCO schools) will have a wide outreach and will contribute to the stronger sense of EU identity among the youth.

Each partner organization will create a detailed communication plan thus creating multiplier effect by identifying and using all possible channels where the project outputs can be disseminated.

## Implementation of main event

**1. Day.** Methods: exposition, PP presentations, speeches, audio and video clips, cultural expressions (dance, songs, presentation of intangible cultural heritage), award ceremony. The exhibition where the all communities will be presented and the work of the young authors displayed will be put in place. After official opening of the exposition the all org. will present themselves, their community and their culture through rich cultural programme. The highlight of the event will be the award ceremony, where the best youth work will be rewarded.

**2.day.** Methods: workshops, open dialogue, lectures, literally expression: The participants will implement language workshops in cooperation with pupils (content: Macedonian and Serbian language with a Cyrillic script; German language with the presentation of the gothic). Music and folklore workshop where the participants and local public will learn songs and dances from Macedonia, BIH, Serbia, Austria. A culinary workshop where the dishes from the participating country's will be presented to the wider public. MEP Franc Bogovic will held an open dialogue event - presentation of the rights and obligations of EU citizens, emphasis on the election year 2019, the work in EU parliament, presentation of EU project in the field of sustainability Smart villages. Literary evening: A lecture on European paths of renown Slovenian linguist Maks Pleteršnik with honorary quest Slovenian ambassador in Skopje. Live dictionary event on the Square of the exiles in Brežice: the writing of words and thoughts related to minorities and migrants in the languages and scripts of participants and passers-by with yellow colour on blue chairs (in collaboration with local UNESCO schools). Conclusion of the event with the presentation of all activities in the atrium of the Administrative Unit Brežice. Guests of honour (European House in LJ, MEP, Milan Jazbec Slovenian Ambassay in Macedonia, Mayor, Chief of the UE, Youth Center, Border police, railway authorities from border station) and partner org. will be awarded the blue chairs .Afternoon closing meeting of participants in Economical School in Brezice.

**3.day** - guided tour and presentation of the Pisece sights - the host's main partner (Pleteršnik Homestead, Castle, Mill, Raccoon Hill). After that a lunch at the Elementary School in Pisece , followed by the end of even: handing over memorial papers or arrangements for further cooperation and departure of the participants.

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