

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	Municipality of Mad
PIC number:	938606824
Project name and acronym:	The EU future is in our hands – Mad 2023 – MAD2023

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	101090637
Event name:	The EU future is in our hands – Mad 2023
Type:	opening ceremony, formal meeting, public discuss forum, workshop, discussion, stand of volunteers, the EU stand, social and cultural activities, final conference
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Slovakia, Mad
Date(s):	04/08/2023 – 06/08/2023
Website(s) (if any):	www.obecmad.sk
Participants	
Female:	175
Male:	157
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Slovakia]:	115
From country 2 [Hungary] :	85
From country 3 [Romania]:	64
From country 4 [Czech republic]:	18
From country 5 [Slovenia]:	16
From country 6 [Serbia]:	34
Total number of participants:	332
From total number of countries:	6
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	

Project "The EU future is in our hands – Mad 2023" represented cooperation among twinning towns and other entities to continue in cooperation based on dealing the topics of common Europe. Main goal of the project was to stimulate debates related with the social, economic and political reality of the EU; to encourage participants to think about and to express their vision for the EU future; to express the importance of participant in the European Parliament elections in 2024 as one of the way how active contribute on shaping the EU; to understand the important role of town twinning representatives in an active cooperation on international, national, regional, local level. All activities had been designed to raise the level of citizens' awareness in topics of solidarity, tolerance, multiculturalism, openness and volunteering. Our ambition was to raise the level of knowledge, by opening discussion about the EU as community of citizens and countries that guarantee the cooperation and stability; to decrease the level of Euroscepticism; to raise the level of awareness and supporting citizens in participation from local to EU level - strengthen their role in building the future of the EU. Project was in a sign of variety of European cultures, raising the level of knowledge of the culture and tolerance of other nations living in the EU as an active tool in the fight against xenophobia, intolerance and discrimination. For participants were prepared interesting, educational, inspiring and entertainment activities.

On 04/08/2023 took place :

16:00 Opening ceremony with speech of the Mayor to citizens and guests of the event, introducing the objectives of the project's partners and their role in the project, introduction the history and reasons of cooperation, pointing out the importance of cooperation and cohesion of countries and cities in Europe, cooperation between twinned towns, the common values of the EU support.

19:00 Ceremonial signing of the Declaration of mutual cooperation - Formal meeting of representatives of the partner towns in order to agree future cooperation projects, presentation of local activities, cooperation of EU projects. Through this activity we could point out on the importance of cooperation in common projects and the important role of representatives twinning towns in active cooperation on international, national, regional and local level. The partnership of twinning towns was presented as the way of active support of EU principles. Sharing of examples of good practise.

20:30 Official meeting of partners' representatives on the theme "Financial Management of European Resources" - activity for mayors and representatives of partner cities. 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 maximize efficiency. The participants gained a broader view of EU funding opportunities based on local needs (analytical approach) to the target group.

On 05/08/2023 took place:

8.00 - 9.00 Tour of the village associated with the presentation of projects supported by EU resources

9.00- 12.00 – Family and child competitions focused on the theme "Various nations living in the EU

10:00 – Public discuss forum on the theme „The EU future through our eyes“ focused on presentation of the citizens' view, opinions, suggestions what kind of Europe they want and to outline their long term vision for the future of European integration. Result is to develop a stronger sense of ownership of the European project, to build a momentum for their active democratic participation. Participants had been encouraged to actively participate in the democratic life at the EU level and foster a sense of ownership for how the Union develops, how their visions of the EU future could come true.

12.00- 15.00 - The bridge of Nations - competition in cooking the traditional dishes

14:00 Workshop 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, European Citizens Initiative, Debating Europe, Citizens Dialogue.) including the European Parliament elections in 2024. Outcome of this activity is raised awareness of active participation tools at EU level. Encourage EU citizens to become active creators of the future EU, feel and influence on its future and feel to be a co-responsible member. Citizens have a practical perspective on how to influence things, why it matters to them and why EU citizens really care about it. The activity aims to make active use of existing instruments by citizens and to be aware of the importance of active engagement in the EU.

15.00 - Cultural program for the public focused on cultural diversity, traditions, partnerships and cooperation as a way of building belonging to Europe (presentation of the cultural heritage, customs, traditions). Outcome of this activity is deepening the partnership between the municipality and its partner municipality, civil society, organizations; increasing the awareness of a European identity based on common values, history and culture, linguistic and culture diversity

16:00 - Discussion on the theme: "The importance of solidarity in time of crisis" - the participants found out the answers on questions such as What does solidarity mean for a political entity composed of nations/states like the EU, What are the legal, political, economic and even the ethical limits of European solidarity, they assessed the existing solidarity mechanisms inside the EU, considered possible channels of European solidarity like volunteering, donations, charity. Result is increasing of knowledge about the solidarity mechanism inside the EU such as volunteering. Gaining information about the "European Corps of Solidarity" as a one of the tools how to put the core EU value of solidarity into practice and contribute to reinforcing cohesion within European society.

18:00 Start of cultural evening on the theme “Cultural differences and similarities in the EU” focused on learning about cultures, traditions and customs of the people living in the EU, indicating the importance of respecting the diversity of the people living in the same Union, enhancing mutual understanding between European citizens, fostering intercultural dialogue.

All day activities:

Stand of volunteers - Introduction the idea of volunteering to the young people, the possibility of engaging in volunteering at local and European level, discussions with volunteers (local) and European (European Solidarity Corp), opportunities to engage in volunteering at local level as well as at European level - the European Solidarity Forum. There had been a list of activities within the city where young volunteers could get involved. Through this activity young participant got knowledge of positive aspects, benefits, experiences and possibilities of voluntarism, increased the interest in volunteering especially in younger generation. They got a different view on volunteering activities: the tool for raising level of competencies related to the labour market and the way of development of the communities.

The EU stand “Why we should be a part of the EU” - presentation of positive aspects of being part of the EU such as opportunities and benefits that are given to the EU citizens, the achievements of the EU, The ways of local (regional) development - the aim is to introduce the pluses of EU opportunities (projects, funds, partner cooperation) on local development; for young people - educational, work opportunities. Participants could exchange their experiences, views. Participants received more concrete information about benefits and opportunities that are given to the EU citizens, the achievements of the EU, the ways of local (regional) development, the benefits of EU policies, relationship between EU policies and national policies, influence of EU mechanism on member states. The participants got awareness what can be changed and what is the influence on local quality of citizens` lives.

On 06/08/2023 took place:

10:00 – Public forum on the theme “How the COVID-19 pandemic has affected our lives” - presentation of particular participants how this crisis influenced not only their lives but also lives of their family members, neighbours. How they have deal with it, etc. The participants got opportunity to discuss, exchange experiences, give ideas, opinions how to cope with such a crisis. Participants had opportunity to exchange experiences - how their lives have changed as a result of the pandemic, how they perceived it, what and who helped them to cope with this situation.

14:00 Workshop “How to recognize disinformation” focused on raising awareness how to cope with disinformation and online hate messages to protect our democracy from external interference. Through this activity participants could better understand how disinformation harms our society (for example: eroding trust in institutions and media, putting elections at risk, hampering citizens` ability to make informed decisions, impairing freedom of expression,).

During the whole event the survey had been run. The survey was aimed to map the opinions and feeling of the participants from different countries in the topics of “European elections 2024”. The respondents had been asked if they plan to go vote, why it is important and so on. The results was presented on the Closing ceremony.

The event had been ending by the **Final conference** associated with recovery of event, research 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.

Informations about the project are published on the websites :

<https://obecmad.sk/buducnost-eu-je-v-nasich-rukach-mad/>

<https://szabadjags.sk/2023/08/21/nagymad-nagyban-adta/>

Foto:

<https://obecmad.sk/galleries/buducnost-eu-je-v-nasich-rukach-mad-2023-4-8-2023/>

<https://obecmad.sk/galleries/buducnost-eu-je-v-nasich-rukach-mad-2023-5-8-2023/>

<https://obecmad.sk/galleries/buducnost-eu-je-v-nasich-rukach-mad-2023-6-8-2023/>

Video:

<https://youtu.be/EZMeCayyqZc>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/obecmad.nagymad/posts/pfbid0cN4cxmMkjQEBcZ2p2fKPU5hN6UBqwxT7AEeVjo7LEdDbv5167WoexJMmnYfnpEFHI>

<https://www.facebook.com/obecmad.nagymad/posts/pfbid0386vhWUk3yLecUmDR2KubT5vbEBWfyzVZCZDZMKqJ3oJoVH31WG3ySfCQt8u44iSXI>

<https://www.facebook.com/obecmad.nagymad/posts/pfbid0pK14Hvns5V3mUJYratFGKBtiZ1Hu9LWHuKK96fjnpr2TBbcsMppHm1vwE8ULK1mGI>

<https://www.facebook.com/obecmad.nagymad/posts/pfbid02qXfC4bZnTnLn9i1KbNCY52Q7JyZwbnAKrkea7ygMjiMaSVxwHNvcsU1bCBpMs3vnl>

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<https://www.facebook.com/obecmad.nagymad/posts/pfbid0uiDWBBNveGKNvmNrgeww26fREqE9pVyWxJiPmWopV7qZn3ekrMs6L2tWuJRXY4ebl>
<https://www.facebook.com/obecmad.nagymad/posts/pfbid02HNExNpwNywFwxK8brJ2ppqPmY4D6b9qvjjDb86pyL7wcBH7YPQkH5cgNHpUYgxdCl>
<https://www.facebook.com/obecmad.nagymad/posts/pfbid0T4ZmLpcCRfhKTT1Jy9LjZNV4BeEjzE1MADJeAVbW4f7Y3YJH52XjALLPYyZzKWDAI>
<https://www.facebook.com/obecmad.nagymad/posts/pfbid0aVBSJhtT9YbhUz6KRztFxFha2SQRlzvEK5erj3qM8MG2XdBtwWEfoPCZBQMLmosDI>
<https://www.facebook.com/obecmad.nagymad/posts/pfbid02x4wpYTm4guayfkwoeuaDbKwgZu4f5Vt4NNCtnGmxLyTC7ADXmyxw8Gk6oF9nH6eol>
<https://www.facebook.com/obecmad.nagymad/posts/pfbid0T9UoZwa4Cs99VemK1DrBd8NU7xhibeziFBCqsoVMcjjUtejftwbd1CBEgeMMG9g6l>

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