



## EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	Obec Iža - Iža
PIC number:	948101281
Project name and acronym:	<i>In the Footsteps of the EU</i> — Footsteps of the EU

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	1		
Event name:	Strudel Festival and Town Twinning 2024		
Type:	public event		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Slovakia – the municipality of Iža		
Date(s):	23 <sup>rd</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> of August, 2024		
Website(s) (if any):	<a href="https://www.iza.sk/obec-2/town-twinnig-strudlovy-festival-2024/">https://www.iza.sk/obec-2/town-twinnig-strudlovy-festival-2024/</a>		
Participants			
Female:	129		
Male:	103		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Slovakia]:	19 from Iža (9 women, 10 men)		
From country 2 [Hungary]:	46 from Almásfüzitő (31 women, 15 men), 54 from Gyermely (27 women, 27 men), 55 from Murony (30 women, 25 men)		
From country 3 [Romania]:	55 from Sacueni (30 women, 25 men)		
From country 4 [Serbia]:	3 from Čantavir (2 women, 1 man)		
Total number of participants:	232	From total number of countries:	4
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>From the 23<sup>rd</sup> until the 25<sup>th</sup> of August, 2024 the Strudel Festival and Town Twinning 2024 event took place in the municipality of Iža (Slovakia), attended by the settlement's twin municipalities (Almásfüzitő, Gyermely, Murony, Sacueni, Čantavir) from 3 countries (Hungary, Romania, Serbia).</p> <p>On Friday, after the arrival of foreign delegation and their accommodation, the mayor of Iža had an official, celebratory welcoming speech. Afterwards, a ceremonial meeting took place discussing “<i>The present and future of the partner municipalities</i>”. The project partners have addressed their needs and</p>			



visions, shared their experience and know-how with each other. The partners were also introduced to the work of local volunteers and institutions, their contribution to the organisation of the Strudel Festival as an example of best practices. Cultural programme took place during this day as well, including concerts (e.g. ONE H, Kozsó, Josh & Betty, etc.). The project partners and the present public also had the opportunity for free, friendly discussions during a retro party at the evening.

Saturday started with a cooking competition (goulash making), as well as a running competition. A local tradition – strudel pulling and preparation – was presented, everyone had an opportunity to taste different culinary specialties from the area. Discussion forums took place, where everyone has the opportunity to address the following topics: *“The present and future of the EU”, “European values, principles and rights”, “Together against discrimination in the EU – Solidarity and Tolerance”, “Development trends of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and their impact on the lives of EU citizens”, “Mental illnesses caused by fear”, “Developing digital and green skills”*. To answer the public’s additional questions, a Europe Direct stand was available at the event as well, with experienced personnel and multiple information brochures. Moreover, in the set-up “EU tent” the following programme elements were organised as well: Falcon show, Movement changes lives, From garden to kitchen: Gastronomic adventures.

Folklore groups and performers from Iža and its partner municipalities have presented their art. Programme elements aimed at children were included as well, to offer day-long entertainment to entire families (e.g. a performance of the local kindergarten’s children, performance of the “Buborék” music group, etc.). Various further cultural and accompanying programme elements were ensured as well, including musical and dance performances, interactive archery, face painting, a bouncy castle, traditional craft workshops, a photo theatre, fair, DJ, etc.

Sunday was focused primarily on the project partners. A holy mass took place in the local church in honour of the foreign delegations and the developed partnerships. The project partners have visited the main local cultural and natural heritage sites, including the Millenium monument, where a commemorative ceremony took place. The project partners have discussed the event, evaluated its results and addressed concrete opportunities for further meet-ups and joint development initiatives based on issues discussed during the event. Afterwards, they have returned home after successful three days.

The event was attended by 232 direct (registered) participants (56% of them being women): 19 from Iža, 46 from Almásfüzitő, 54 from Gyermely, 55 from Murony (Hungary), 55 from Sacueni (Romania) and 3 from Čantavir (Serbia). The number of participants (general public) has overall exceeded approx. 3000 people. Among others, the vice president of the Nitra Self-Governing Region has visited the event as well.

The project aimed at supporting the exchange of ideas and opinions among citizens of different nationalities and languages, contributing to a more democratic European Union through its specialized programme elements, and to strengthening citizens’ sense of belonging to the EU, as well as their sense of responsibility for its further progress and development. The citizens were provided an opportunity to get acquainted with local and partner traditions, gastronomy and culture, broaden their understanding of EU values and principles, the rights of EU citizens, EP elections, 21st-century trends, and their manifestations within the EU.

Via the different programme elements the municipality of Iža also aimed to draw public attention to the diversity and richness of European culture, the importance of cohesion and respect for the shared values and fundamental rights of all of us as EU citizens, and the need to promote tolerance and acceptance. All of these elements form a stable foundation for Europe’s cultural heritage and are essential for continued, effective, joint development.

Cooperation between the involved governments was facilitated, along with the exchange of best practices, know-how, and experiences. The event provided space for citizens to share views, engage in education, participate in open discussion, and enjoy cultural and social activities during the course of three days.

The event was available to everyone for free, without any discrimination and with a barrier-free access.

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