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:	146
Male:	129
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Slovakia]:	100
From country 2 [Hungary] :	60
From country 3 [Romania]:	40
From country 4 [Croatia]:	15
From country 5 [Slovenia]:	10
From country 6 [Serbia]:	20
From country 7 [Czech republic]:	15
From country 8 [Ukraine]:	15
Total number of participants:	275	From total number of countries:	8

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

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 thing 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.
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.

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.
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.
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)
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.
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.
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 will exchange their experiences, views.

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 crise 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 crise.
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.

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.

HISTORY OF CHANGES

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