

The project « C - Count (Countering Euroscepticism through Cultural Heritage Preservation) » was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

Applicable to the Strand 2 – Measure 2.1 "Town-Twinning"

Participation:

The project involved 143 citizens (directly):

- 56 participants from the city of Knjazevac (**Serbia**),
- 10 participants from the city of Montana (**Bulgaria**),
- 6 participants from the city of Vidin (**Bulgaria**),
- 10 participants from the city of Ruzhintsi (**Bulgaria**),
- 10 participants from the city of Kula (**Bulgaria**),
- 6 participants from the city of Sarajevo (**Bosnia and Hercegovina**),
- 5 participants from the city of Ernestinovo (**Croatia**),
- 5 participants from the city of Erdut (**Croatia**),
- 4 participants from the city of Bitola (**Macedonia**),
- 8 participants from the city of Berovo (**Macedonia**),
- 6 participants from the city of Probistip (**Macedonia**),
- 7 participants from the city of Kochani (**Macedonia**),
- 6 participants from the city of Tivat (**Montenegro**),
- 4 participants from the city of Murska Sobota (**Slovenia**)

Location/ Dates:

The event took place in Knjazevac, Serbia from 04.05.2018 to 06.05.2018

Short description:

During the first day of the Convention (afternoon of Friday, 4th of May 2018) foreign participants were welcomed and accommodated. After the gathering of all participants, official welcome event was hosted by the mayor of Knjazevac municipality, Mr Milan Djokić and the officials.

After the welcome event, the introduction to the Convention was given during the plenary session where project partners presented their work. EU experts gave introduction speeches dedicated to the issues of the EU membership and new dimensions that comes from the Euroscepticism.

In order to provide opportunity to all partners to present themselves, Lead partner prepared exhibition space where all participants had the chance to present and share their promotional materials: printed brochures, fliers etc.

On the second day (Saturday, 5th of May 2018) focus was given on exemplary and innovative initiatives from partnering countries which have contributed to one of the following areas: Heritage, Festivals, Environment and Sense of Place; Heritage, Traditional Skills, Training and Creativity; and Heritage, Education and Social Issues with presentation of best practices and examples of local heritage festivals.

Special part of the Convention was the Open Space Session (Speed dating), where participants from different countries had the opportunity to discuss with each other and draft the ideas of possible common projects. Discussions ended in the afternoon with plenary session dedicated to possibilities for exchange in

Cultural Heritage projects where moderators of open space session have presented the collected ideas.

After the discussion, participants visited Homeland Museum in Knjazevac, and heard about the history and cultural heritage of Knjazevc and Eastern Serbia: <http://www.muzejknjazevac.org.rs/en/facilities/the-homeland-museum-in-knjazevac>

The third day (Sunday, 6th of May 2018) was divided into two parts. First part of the last day of Convention was the plenary session with a goal to define final conclusions of the Convention in a form of Convention Chapter.

On the second part, participants were divided into two groups. The groups, on the basis of personal interests, have visited two events/sites:

- Festival "Prayer under Midzor", in the village of Vrtovac near Knjazevac. "Prayer under Midzor" is officially on the Serbian List of elements of the intangible cultural heritage of the Republic of Serbia and, as a part of the St. George (Đurđevdan) customs. It is included in the regional proposal for the entry to the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. For this festival, Knjazevac has won European Destination of Excellence prize within EDEN - project promoting sustainable tourism development models across the European Union in the year 2014.
- Archeo-ethno complex Ravna and Timacum Minus archaeological site. These places illustrate the ambient of the XIX century patriarchal village community with residential and commercial buildings as its parts. Participants had the possibility to learn about traditional culture of housing and folk architecture of the region. As a part of the Archeo-Ethno Park in Ravna there is a lapidarium that contains Roman stone monuments: <http://www.muzejknjazevac.org.rs/en/facilities/archaeo-ethno-park-in-ravna>

On both places, the serving of traditional ethno food was organized.