

Opening Ceremony CAP- ABC cooperation project in Varazdin

On 1st April 2014 the first informational event in context of the EU co-financed project to publicize the program "Europe for Citizens" in Varazdin started. The Europe for Citizens program stands for an improved communication between the municipalities and the citizens, not just including town twinnings, but also the networking on substantive topics. Workshops have already been carried out to assist in applications for communities and also the very specific piece of information when submitting an application could be offered to our communities as part of a project.

Vice-prefect Alen Kisić emphasized in his welcoming speech that the partnership with the Styria includes such concrete measures and looks forward to further constructive knowledge transfer. He was pleased by the big interest in this project and that the EU is apparently in Croatia is "female", due to the many female listeners.

In the opening Dr. Heidi Zikulnig emphasized as the representative of the Lead Partner, the Province of Styria, that the initiator of this cooperation, which is responsible for Europe, culture and economy Councillor Dr. Christian Buchmann, wants to recess the cooperation with partners in South Eastern Europe. Annual priorities therefore always represent a country in the center in order to build sustainable and improving partnerships. Slovenia and Croatia are now EU Member States and the other countries have or are targeting an association status.

Therefore, Styria has seized the opportunity and applied in a call, that co-finances information sessions on EU funding for municipalities. Based on contacts with Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Italy (our "trigon" experiences) this project was submitted, which contains the execution of events to the new funding in the program for citizens in these countries but also the information on cultural cooperation.

Project Manager Dr. Georg Müllner presented the priorities of the program and was very accurate on one of the application. He pointed out significant errors in submitting applications that he has seen as long-time evaluator in this program.

The presentation of the projects that were already carried out by the community of Varazdin was highly diverse. For example the community of Bednja that has taken on the theme "common issues in the border area" such as infrastructure, tourism and civil protection in cooperation with Slovenian partner cities. The smallest municipality of the team shaft Breznicki Hum, which for 40 years has a partnership with the Slovenian municipality of Krško, lays the thematic focus in the previous projects at school and youth themes.

The afternoon "belonged" to the culture. Mladen Sprehar the Ministry of Culture in Zagreb presented the program "Creative Europe 2014-2020". He also referred to the application of Varazdin for the European Capital of Culture in 2020, together with Ireland, Croatia will provide the Capital of Culture that year.

The project partners Akademie Graz was responsible for the presentation of an already functioning cultural cooperation. Elke Riedlberger presented the head of the Grazer stage workshop Ursula Gigler-Gausterer and the Croatian choreographer, producer and director of the performing arts collective VRUM, Sanja Tropp-Frühwald. Both artists presented their projects in the field of experimental dance. For them the cross-border exchange and European and international cooperation work represents normality and is determined by the interplay mutual exchange of experience and joint development of new concepts into a model for a successful European cooperation. The organizer Larisa Krizan of the team shaft Varazdin could look forward to a successful information day.

The event continued on 23 April in Slovenia