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Safeguarding Cultural and Linguistic Diversity in the Context of European Citizenship SafeCult

The general objective of the project was to raise people's awareness of the importance of language education and of each language, as well as to enhance respect for all the languages spoken by different peoples across Europe and to increase linguistic and cultural awareness.

The five SafeCult partners from Romania, Slovakia and Hungary exchanged innovative approaches between countries to share best practices.

The project is also aimed at promoting language learning and lifelong learning. Partners exchanged innovative approaches between countries to share best practices across the whole linguistic and cultural sector.

The event aimed to bring together citizens and decision makers at local and national levels to exchange and share their experiences and results on all aspects of the linguistic and cultural sector. It also provided an interdisciplinary platform for policy makers, citizens and civil society representatives to present and discuss the most recent measures and concerns as well as practical challenges encountered and solutions adopted in the field. Themes for the event revolved around the linkages between issues and policy responses in the field which support contemporary and innovative initiatives that engender experimentation and renewal in languages education, multicultural education and international education and provided opportunities for participants to actively engage in and reflect upon linguistic and cultural diversity, and to consider their own linguistic, social and cultural backgrounds and identities.

With the support of partner civil society organisations and partner local authorities, the event enabled citizens to exchange views and make proposals across borders on one of the most important topics of the EU: developing a society based upon knowledge as a key element in moving towards its objective of becoming the most competitive knowledge-based economy in the world by the end of the decade, where strengthening the vitality of languages is to be linked to the creation of prosperous economies, building a cohesive society and working towards a common destiny.

The citizen's meeting was held in Romania, Comuna Racu between 8-10th September 2023.

The major aim of the event was the active involvement of EU citizens in setting up a common response to multiple challenges and articulate a new vision of the future, and thereby restore the public faith in the European project. Event topics were designed so as to increase awareness about the EU's common policies, the values and rights of EU citizens created by it, and to develop knowledge about the opportunities offered by the EU, encouraging their citizens to participate in the democratic life of the EU. The event's program was established together by the partners, in cooperation with volunteers and NGOs from partner localities. Being the developer and the host of the event, ABMCSG had the following tasks: coordinating logistics, organizing and implementing the event in compliance with the proposed program.

Day 1 programme – 8th of September 2023:

Discussion, debate on:

- "The legal status of languages"

- "Language skills as an economic, educational and cultural driver"- debate about "multilingual citizens"
- "ICTs at the service of language learning" – debate about Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) as a powerful mechanism to ensure effective learning and teaching of languages
- "Support for the most vulnerable languages of Europe"

Cultural activities

Day 2 programme – 9th of September 2023:

Debates on:

- "Linguistic Diversity" – Europe's greatest asset, where main factors for the health of Europe's linguistic diversity were debated.
- "Cultural diversity: a strength for Europe"
- „Programmes to support culture”
- "Promote, value, support European cultural diversity”

Cultural activities

Day 3 programme – 10th of September 2023:

Workshop:

- Citizens' Rights
- Mechanisms available for EU citizens in participation on the EU decision making process

Cultural activities