

**Project title:** Twin Towns' English Language Camp at Lake Velence

**Promoter:** the 13th district of Budapest

**Partner countries:** Osijek (Croatia), Floridsdorf (Austria), Sovata (Romania), Warsaw (Poland), Southern Kosice (Slovakia)

**Date:** May 26–30 2012

**Funding form Europe for Citizens Programme:** 18653 euro

Citizen's – and especially young people's – engagement in an intercultural dialogue is essential to the development of a European identity, and a sense of belonging to a community. This idea provided the basis for the 13th district to the implementation plan of the *Twin Towns' English Language Camp* programme. The plan was then turned into reality and has, by now, become a tradition. The Children's and Youth Camp of Velence hosted the international programme for the eighth time in summer 2008. We seek to expand successful twinning relationships and to provide a platform for the citizens of the twin towns to make personal relationships, acquaintances and friends besides official relations. The encounter between cultures is made possible by the use of the common language, English.

Delegations consist of 25 students, two English teachers and an accompanying teacher. The participants, aged between 13 and 16, are typically lower intermediate and intermediate speakers of English. The forming of groups of 10-15 with nearly the same language skills is based on a written placement test. The programme, developed by the Cultural, Youth and Sports Department of our local government, will be implemented through the joint efforts of professionals working in the primary and secondary schools of the district – six qualified English teachers and four recreation and leisure organisers. We also rely on the work of guest teachers who take part in camp life with great pleasure. We aim to present the culture of another country each day from clothing through cuisine to customs and traditions. The morning English classes focus on the literary, artistic, musical, historical, geographical, scientific, etc. characteristics and achievements of the guest countries. The sports and skills games in the afternoon give us an insight into the national games of the participating countries. We also use the evening programmes to present various national cultures.

**Impact:** The camp allows participants to get to know each other and the cultures of the neighbouring nations. They can experience a new way of learning and overcoming real-life situations without losses. Active participation develops their skills and abilities. We aim to present the culture of another country each day from clothing through cuisine to customs and traditions. The week spent together also provides an opportunity for teachers to learn about methods of language teaching, education and assessment used in other countries. Mastering these methods can make their work more diverse and effective. We seek to make participants more committed to European integration than they are at the beginning of the programme. At this level, the twinning relationship between the towns facilitates mutual understanding and acceptance among young people. The exchange of experiences, opinions and values help pave the way to the future, and finding common European answers to the social changes.

**Testimonials:** The local government allocates funds in the budget to cover the costs of accommodation, meals and programme organisation. In order to ensure our guests high standards of reception and accommodation and in accordance with previous years' practice, we constantly monitored funding opportunities and found the Europe for Citizens programme, to be the most suitable programme for us. Through the programme we can spend €7-8,000 – depending on the number of participants – on improving accommodation and the diversification of the programmes. The programme also enables us to contribute to the travel expenses of the guest towns (except Osijek).