

The project «Cross-border education, Professionally oriented education, Hobby education as supplement to General education» was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

**Applicable to the Action 1, Measure 1.1
"Town Twinning Citizens' Meetings"**

Participation: The project involved **68 citizens**, notably 7 participants from the municipality of Östhammar (Sweden), 4 participants from the city of Durbuy (Belgium), 6 participants from the city of Orimattila (Finland), 3 participants from the city of Uusikaupunki (Finland), 10 participants from the city of Valga (Estonia), 6 participants from the municipality of Weissenburg – Gunzenhausen (Germany), 7 participants from the city of Tvrdošín (Slovakia), 7 participants from the municipality of Kościelisko (Poland), 8 participants from the municipality of Kobylnica (Poland), 10 participants from the municipality of Valka (Latvia).

Location/ Dates: The event took place in **Valka (Latvia)**, from 05/06/2014 to 09/06/2014.

Short description:

The day of **05/06/2014** was dedicated to meet the delegations in Riga and introduce them with Latvian capital Riga. The participants visited centre of Riga, Old Riga, University of Latvia, National Library, Monument of Freedom, etc. It was great opportunity to look at the unique architecture of the city and got acquainted with Latvian history and culture. Afterwards there took place official welcome and accommodation of the representatives of partner municipalities and cities – an evening of integration in Valka town.

The day of **06/06.2014** was dedicated to visit the local educational institution – Valga County Vocational Training Centre where on the basis of primary and / or secondary education youngsters from Valka municipality (Latvia) and Valga county (Estonia) could get qualifications of different vocational educational directions. Afterwards delegations had sightseeing trip to Tartu – Estonian Educational Capital just 80 km from Valka. During the trip they visited Tartu University, where heard the presentation “Good is to study in Tartu”, and Science Centre AHHA. The aim of Science Centre AHHA is to introduce science to everyone and encourage studying through the joy of discovery. After visiting Tartu officials of delegations participated in the Opening ceremony of Valga-Valka Twin Town Festival “Sound of Livonia” – formal reception hosted by mayors of Valga town and Valka municipality. The youngsters of delegations had possibility to participate in outdoor orientation game “Be acquainted with Twin-Town Valga-Valka”.

The day of **07/06.2014** was dedicated to the seminar, during which there were presentations of youth. Before seminars all delegations visited the professionally oriented education school in Valka town – Art School “Walk” where children and youngsters from Valka (Latvia) and Valga

(Estonia) can study the art and art-related subjects and get accredited professional art education diploma. The youngsters in their presentations expressed their opinion and shared experience in cross-border education possibilities, pluses and minuses of it. They also described the professionally oriented education and hobby education possibilities and its role in choosing future professional activity. The following discussions were about possibilities to have more EU-funded student- and teacher exchanges between delegations, municipalities and schools in order to learn more from each other and ensure many-sided general education. After seminars and discussions, participants had the possibility to visit different events from Valga-Valka Twin Town Festival "Sound of Livonia", such as Livonian Fair, Concert and fair "Different nations, different cultures", Folklore Concert, etc., and see various performances of local hobby education groups. End of the day culminated in a Rock Concert "Rock Night", which took place in Valka Open Air Stage and where performed not only students from hobby education group "Rock School", but also professional and famous bands from Latvia, Estonia, Sweden and Finland.

The day of **08/06.2014** was dedicated to the seminars, during which there were presentations of adults. The adult members of delegations in their presentations shared knowledge and experience about success factors in general education of their region / country, gave examples and pedagogical methods that work well. They described also what kind of professionally oriented education supplement to general education is used in their region / country and what are the visible results of it (both positive and negative). The discussion touched on issues about key factors behind a well-functioning educational system, needs and requirements of educational level of EU inhabitants to compete in globalized market which is based on knowledge to ensure future success of EU economy. Last evening ended with official dinners in Valka Culture House where official speeches and Twin Town Meeting 2014 conclusions were performed.

The day of **09/06.2014** was dedicated to farewell by the organizers of this year's participants in the Twin Town meeting. Delegations who travelled by plane were transported to the Riga airport.