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Municipality of Škofja Loka

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

»Minority organisations in thinking and shaping the future of the EU«

16 – 18 March 2018

Škofja Loka

Friday, 16 March 2018

14.00 – 15.00 h	Welcome and Lunch
15.00 – 16.30 h	Work meeting - Presentation of Partner Organisations
16.30 – 16.45 h	Coffee break
16.45 – 18.00 h	Europe café – Good Practices for Better EU
20.00 – 21.00 h	Cultural Programme – Festival of Ethnic Music

The programme of the Day 1 of the conference will open with presentations of the municipalities involved in the project and their experiences in minority participation in social, cultural and political life in Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Hungary and Latvia. At the Europe café participants will discuss on the role of minority organisations in local communities and will discuss on how to encourage minority organisations in local communities to act as an interface for integrating different minority groups, create communication channels between local authorities and minority members, give feedback and suggestions and to contribute to practical solutions in the field.

The Day 1 will end with cultural programme and dinner, which will encourage participants to get acquainted and mingle.

Participants: Representatives of the Applicant and the Partner organisations, Representatives of Municipality of Škofja Loka, other invited guests

Location: Formal part: The Hall of the Administrative Unit, Poljanska cesta 2, Škofja Loka
Informal part: HKUD Komušina, Partizanska cesta 1, Škofja Loka

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Saturday, 17 March 2018

11.00 – 14.00 h	Sightseeing of Škofja Loka
14.00 – 15.00 h	Lunch
15.00 – 16.00 h	Plenary session
16.00 – 16.30h	Coffee break
16.30 – 17.30 h	Plenary session
17.30 – 18.00 h	Exhibition of minority hand made products
18.00 – 19.00 h	Cultural programme – Minority Folklore Festival
19.00 – 20.00 h	Dinner

The programme of the Day 2 of the conference will include plenary sessions and open discussions. The programme will include following themes: 1) What are potential obstacles for participation of minorities in local communities 2) Determining relevant stakeholders for minority participation in local communities 3) Establishing communication between minorities and local authorities 4) the importance of the minority culture for the future of EU. Participants will also discuss on the future of minorities in EU and how minority organizations can contribute to combating discrimination and prejudice.

The Day 2 will end with Exhibition of Minority Art, Folklore Minority Festival and Dinner, which will encourage participants to think about the role of intercultural dialogue and culture in breeding talent and creativity of minority members.

Participants: Members of Slovenian parliament, Representatives of Office for Cultural Diversity and Human Rights, Ministry of Culture, Representatives of Municipality of Škofja Loka, Representatives of Republic of Slovenia Public Fund for Cultural Activities, Representatives of Central State Office for Croats Abroad, Representatives of Croatian Embassy in Slovenia, Representatives of the Applicant and the Partner organisations, Representatives of Minority Organisations, other invited guests.

Location: Sokolski dom, Mestni trg 17, Škofja Loka

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Sunday, 18 March 2018

10.00 – 12.00 h Final notes of the Conference

12.00 – 13.00 h Conclusion of the Conference and Lunch

The last phase of the project will be signing the twinning initiative on how can partner organisations actively engage minorities in local communities by recognizing their needs, strengths and capacities. The aim of the initiative is to encourage minority organisations to act as an interface for integrating different minority groups, create communication channels between local authorities and minority members and start up actions for active involvement of minorities in social, cultural and political environment.

Participants: Representatives of the Applicant and the Partner organisations, Representatives of Municipality of Škofja Loka, other invited guests

Location: Sokolski dom, Mestni trg 17, Škofja Loka

**The conference is organised by the Croatian Cultural Association
Komušina Škofja Loka
in cooperation with Municipality of Škofja Loka
and
below listed project partners:**

- Municipality of Dupnitsa, Bulgaria
- Municipality of Riebini county, Latvia
- Municipality of Szödliget, Hungary
- Associations od Bosnian Croats Prsten, Croatia
- Slovenian House – Cultural and educational association Bazovica Rijeka, Croatia
- Croatian Cultural and Educational Association Matija Gubec Tavankut, Serbia

The project is supported by the European Commission – Europe for Citizens programme

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