

**The project « The first step to the future » 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 more than 200 citizens, notably 44 participants from the city of Biržai (Lithuania), 8 participants from the city of Tczew (Poland), 11 participants from the city of Kiskunhalas (Hungary) and 42 participants from the city of Eppstein (Germany).

**Location/ Dates:** The event took place in Aizkraukle, Latvia, from 02/07/2013 to 14/07/2013.

**Short description:**

**The day of 02/07/2013:** The group of 42 German friends from Eppstein arrived in Aizkraukle, meeting of representatives of Aizkraukle municipality.

**The day of 03/07/2013:** Start of the project part under the name "Joy for motion". Arrival of the group (37 people) from Biržai, Lithuania. In Aizkraukle Museum – Information stand about EU and European Parliament, partner town representatives tell about experience with EU supported projects, cultural evening with dances, songs and discussions. Departure of the group from Biržai.

**The day of 04/07/2013:** Departure of the group from Eppstein.

**The day of 06/07/2013:** In Aizkraukle arrived 3 groups: 8 people from Tczew (Poland), 7 people from Biržai (Lithuania) and 11 people from Kiskunhalas (Hungary).

**The day of 07/07/2013:** A trip to Riga, participating in events of XXV Nationwide Latvian Song and XV Dance Festival: festive parade, a handicraft market, exhibitions and performances. Returning to Aizkraukle.

**The day of 08/07/2013:** Starts the second and third part of project "First step to the future": a youth meeting "I am... You are...?" and a meeting of partnership coordinators and representatives of municipalities. Meeting of all involved people in Aizkraukle Gymnasium. Exploring institutions which will be played during the week. In the evening - Lithuanian culture evening.

**The day of 09/07/2013:** The first day of simulation role game. All youth teams were divided in 5 teams: local municipality, culture centre, Educational institution, Local newspaper and Local inhabitants. The main job was to create a budget for all roles, which is near the real life situation. In afternoon – non-traditional sports activities. In the evening – Hungarian culture evening.

**The day of 10/07/2013:** A trip to Jurmala. For coordinators – brainstorming and planning of future activities.

**The day of 11/07/2013:** The second day of simulation role game. All teams of the same roles were continuing making budget, but the main job was to add new extra money, plan extra activities and deal with other teams. Coordinators continued to work for future cooperation ideas. In the evening – Polish culture evening.

**The day of 12/07/2013:** The third day of simulation role game. All teams of the same roles were continuing making budget, but the main job was to cut expenditures and deal with other teams. Coordinators continued to work for future cooperation ideas. In the afternoon there was a discussion with a Deputy of Latvian Parliament Mr. Andris Bērziņš, deputies of Aizkraukle local council and representatives of invited partner-town municipalities about the involvement of young people in decision making process in local and national level and the experience of all partnertowns. Participation in Singing Families Festival in Aizkraukle.

**The day of 13/07/2013:** A trip to the main tourism objects in Aizkraukle region: Koknese medieval castle ruins, Plavinas. After return– local young people organized an orientation game "Explore Aizkraukle!" In the evening – meeting of all people involved in the project and representatives of all municipalities. Evaluation of project, exchange of gained experience and future planning.

**The day of 14/07/2013:** Departure of the groups from Kiskunhalas, Biržai and Tczew.