

## Pilgrimage experiences in the border region

### Newsletter

Within the framework of the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Program project ID SKHU / WETA / 1901 / 1.1 / 029, Pilgrimage Experiences in the Border Region, the cooperating partners, the Municipality of Palást and Mária Út Public Benefit Association have arrived to complete the project.

As a reminder, the aim of the project is the comprehensive development of pilgrimage tourism in the region, for this purpose routes have been surveyed and a service provider cadastre has been compiled, collaborations have been established, events and professional trips have been organized over the past six months.

The activities of the previous weeks were carried out in the spirit of strengthening the co-operations, thanks to which the planned professional trips are also realized. The professional trips of Mária Út Public Benefit Association took place first, the professional group working on the implementation of the project met with the representatives of the invited organizations on 29 September in Kemence, and then on 30 September in Márianosztra and Szob.

Within a short time, two professional trips were organized within the framework of the project by the Slovak Municipality of Palást, the first of which was hosted by Kemence on 1 October, and then on 5 October Palást was visited by experts involved in the implementation and representatives of the invited organizations.

The programme of the Kemence event included professional consultation between the participants, presentation of the project goals, personal discussion of the basics of joint work and long-term cooperation, clarification of the values represented by the region and organizations, outlining work processes and viewing local cultural values such as the Church of the Assumption and the Church, Local and School History Museum, which was once the headquarters of Hont County.

On 5 October, representatives of the implementers and invited organizations maintaining the significant values of the region met in Palást. The daily programme was similar to the first event, after the professional consultation, the participants visited the Paláthy Castle, Ivánka Mansion and the local church.

In addition to the professional programmes, the event related to the Pálos70 pilgrimage tour was also organized on Sunday, 11 October. The pilgrims set out from Kemence on the more than 20-kilometer-long route to meet in Márianosztra and take part in a joint Mass with the participants of Pálos70 from Esztergom.

The series of events ended with the organization of a professional trip to Ipolyvisk, which was originally planned for 7 October and postponed to 14 October at the request of the hosts. Within the framework of the professional trips, a regular consultation took place between the

participants, the results achieved so far in the project were presented, and the basics of long-term cooperation were also discussed in person.

By organizing the events of the last weeks (professional trips, Pálos70 pilgrimage event), the cooperating partners came to the end of the physical implementation of the project. However, the planned closing event seems to have failed due to the resurgence of the coronavirus epidemic, so the partners are requesting an extension of the project from the managing authority.

Until the relevant decision of the authority, the preparation of the documents and reports necessary for the settlement will begin, and the closing and results of the project will, of course, be reported in detail on the usual surfaces.

The contents of the present newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official position of the European Union.

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