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NEWSLETTER # 1

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FIRST DAY

The kick-off meeting for our Erasmus+ project took place in Eisenstadt in Burgenland at the beginning of March. On the first day there was a short guided tour through the premises of the Adult Education Center's main office, where we were able to observe students with migration background learning German, for example and the consortium discussed the next steps to achieve the project goals.



SECOND DAY

We held a round table with a number of stakeholders and policy makers, including representatives from the Burgenland provincial government, the Green Party and the Neos party, as well as Caritas, the University of Vienna, and members of the Ukrainian community. Each organization presented not only their fields of activity, but also their visions and ideas of a pluralistic society with all its influences. All participants agreed on the importance of tolerance, cultural diversity, inclusion and interculturality across national borders.





IT'S ALL ABOUT INCLUSION

Madeira, an archipelago in the Atlantic, presents a diverse cultural heritage shaped by various influences. Discovered by the Portuguese in the early 15th century, the uninhabited islands quickly became a cultural crossroads. The team of My Madeira Island that is researching the intercultural influences on the archipelago has collected curious cases of Spanish, Venezuelan, Brazilian, British and Ukrainian traces in food, music, dances, language and architecture. From the toponyms borrowed from Indigenous inhabitants of the Canary Islands to sugarcane from Cyprus, to Venezuelan corn flour in the traditional Madeiran side dish milho frito, the archipelago has enriched its life with foreign influence. The team is putting together digital stories to demonstrate the importance of embracing cultures in creating a unique and dynamic cultural environment.

In recent months, we have been researching the influence of other nationalities, especially minorities, living in **Slovenia**. After an initial brainstorming session and writing down ideas about which nationalities and people we think should influence Slovenian culture, research followed. It turned out to be not so easy to find historical records and facts to support our assumptions, and some of the evidence we found also disproved some of our ideas, so we took a slightly different approach to the research. Throughout history, the area of Slovenia was often a crossroads for the migration of peoples, and the area itself was divided into several countries and was under the rule of Austria, Austria-Hungary, Italy, and later Yugoslavia. We have therefore more or less focused our research on the minorities or their representatives who have shaped Slovenian culture over the last century. Who are (were) these minorities and their representatives? To find out, you will have to be patient and listen to the stories and their contribution to the development of Slovenian culture in the stories we will create in the coming months.

Burgenland has always been known for its rich cultural diversity, which is characterized by its eventful history and different ethnic groups. This region is a melting pot of cultures, which is reflected in its architecture, language, cuisine and traditions. Today, significant minority groups such as Croats, Hungarians and Roma live here, all of whom maintain their unique traditions and customs: The Burgenland Croats, have preserved their language, festivals and dances to this day. The Hungarian minority also contributes to cultural diversity, particularly through its culinary and musical traditions. The Roma community in Burgenland is also active and contributes to the cultural landscape with its unique music. Burgenland, with its ethnic population, is also home to numerous migrants and refugees from all parts of the world, making it a living example of cultural diversity, tolerance and inclusion.



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