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European Cooperation to Strengthen Cultural Heritage and Democratic Participation

TANDEM Project Launched under the Leadership of Balatonfűzfő

Balatonfűzfő City Municipality, as the lead partner, is implementing the international project “TANDEM – Towns and Democracy - Reactivate local heritage through participatory democracy”, which has received EUR 50,730 in direct European Union funding under the Town Twinning call of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme.

The project will be implemented between 1 October 2026 and 30 September 2027 and is based on cooperation between five European countries. The partnership consists of Balatonfűzfő (Hungary), Panagyurishte (Bulgaria), Śmigiel (Poland), Veľký Cetín (Slovakia), and Asociația Pro Mișca (Romania).

The aim of the TANDEM project is to make cultural heritage a tool for strengthening democratic participation, social dialogue and community cooperation. The initiative encourages municipalities, civil society organisations, cultural institutions and citizens to jointly shape the future of their communities while preserving their local cultural values and giving them new meaning and relevance.

The project places particular emphasis on the active involvement of young people, older people, women and other underrepresented social groups, as well as on promoting equal opportunities, inclusion and accessibility. International cooperation will provide an opportunity for the partner municipalities to exchange good practices and jointly develop innovative participatory methods.

Three international events will be organised during the project:

- **Panagyurishte, Bulgaria** – 9–11 October 2026: strengthening dialogue and cooperation between local governments, institutions and civil society organisations;
- **Balatonfűzfő, Hungary** – 4–6 June 2027: promoting intergenerational cooperation and community co-creation, and testing innovative participatory methods;
- **Śmigiel, Poland** – 27–29 August 2027: summarising the project results, strengthening long-term cooperation and developing the Heritage Participation Charter.

The tangible results of the project will include a **Collection of Good Practices**, a **Heritage Participation Toolkit**, and a **Heritage Participation Charter**, which will provide long-term

support for participatory approaches to cultural heritage management and the sustainability of international cooperation.

The TANDEM project contributes to strengthening the fundamental values of the European Union – democracy, active citizenship, social inclusion and cultural diversity – while promoting lasting relationships and cooperation between the partner municipalities.

Project information:

Project ID: 101290333
Programme: CERV-2025-CITIZENS-TOWN-TT
Duration: 1 October 2026 – 30 September 2027
EU funding: EUR 50,730
Lead partner: Balatonfűzfő City Municipality
Partners: Micske, Romania (Association for Micske)
Veľký Cetín, Slovakia (Municipality of Veľký Cetín)
Śmigiel, Poland (Municipality of Śmigiel)
Panagyurishte, Bulgaria (Municipality of Panagyurishte)

Further information:

Nóti Attila, Project Manager
Mobile: +36 20 478 3889
E-mail: noti.attila@balatonfuzfo.hu
Web: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61591322260421>

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