



FAMILIES

08/2022

4th NEWSLETTER

Project meeting in Germany

The representatives of the project partners participated on a project meeting in the Anhalt- Bitterfeld region of Germany on the 4-5th July 2022.

The delegation first visited the district administration in Köthen and was able to get an overview of how the administration works. There were detailed reports on each individual region of the guests, examples of family-friendliness were discussed and what problems the characteristics such as rurality, demographic change, lack of skilled workers, aging and also the current situation between Ukraine, Russia and the rest of Europe leave in the regions. In the afternoon they drove across the Elbe to the town of Zerbst.



Anhalt-Bitterfeld region, Germany
4-5th July 2022

In Zerbst there was an interesting tour of the castle and the still existing east wing, which was once home to Catherine the Great, Tsarina of Russia. Guests visited interesting buildings that had been spared from World War II, the city wall and churches of Zerbst and got a little insight into their history.

The tour of the Bayer factory with its aspirin production in Bitterfeld was on the agenda for the morning of the next day. The visitors were able to get an idea of the history of the last 60 years of the town of Bitterfeld-Wolfen by making a short detour to the Kulturpalast and the Bitterfeld District Museum where the history of the town of Bitterfeld with the emergence of industry, the incredibly diverse flora and fauna, which "returned" to the region after the end of coal mining, as well as the history of the amber that is still mined in the now large Goitzschensee were presented.



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On the last evening there was an exchange with young people from the Muldestausee community in Schlaitz. There was lively discussion about a wide variety of topics that concern the region and about the problems that they all have in common: what motivates young people to stay in their villages, what leisure and work opportunities there are and what offers for families, for example housing should be available so that they want to live in the country.



The aim of the project, which is funded by the EU in cooperation with Erasmus+, is to bundle a wide variety of European experiences, to work out transferrable solutions from the partners and to develop new strategies for politics and companies in order to ensure equal participation, self-determination and equal rights for people promote in professional and social life. The project ends on the 30 th August 2022.

Cultural diversity was the basis for bringing the participants from local governments, enterprises and civil organizations together, for exchanging experiences and for creating new project ideas and possibilities regarding the improvement of family-responsible businesses in rural communities.



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Good practices in Raska

Decision-makers of the Municipality of Raska, Serbia concluded that local families with children need more help, so they introduced the following measures as good practices that can contribute to the establishment of a sustainable family-friendly environment in a rural area:



1. Free books for all children
2. Local kindergarten free of charge
3. Financial and material support for newborn children

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1

Free books for all children

From September 2022, parents who have kids going in primary school on the territory of the Municipality of Raska, does not have financial obligation any more when it comes to buying books for kids from 1st to 8th grade, as the Municipality of Raska made public procurement, and bought books for every kid.

2

Local kindergarten free of charge

Parents who have children going in kindergarten on the territory of the Municipality of Raska, does not have financial obligation any more when it comes to paying of daily care, as the Municipality decided to increase budget for child care, and they are paying for all expenses – care, food, accomodation from September 2021. Thiy way, local families exempt from paying 35 euros per month.

3

Financial and material support for newborn children

The Municipality of Raska provides one-time financial assistance for families - for first born child, family is supported with 255 EUR, for the second with 425 EUR and for 3rd, 4th and 5th child, family is supported with 850 EUR. At the same time, from the funds collected on the basis of misdemeanor fines, the Municipality finances the procurement for all newborn children during one calendar year and they are providing free car seats for these families as well.

These measures will have direct impact on further functioning and developing of local families. Saved money could be also used for additional education of children or for making life quality higher in general. This is family-friendly measure for real!



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Family-friendly companies honored in the district of Anhalt-Bitterfeld

On June 9th, the title "Family-friendly company in the district of Anhalt-Bitterfeld" was awarded for the 10th time. Last year, 28 companies from a wide variety of industries took a close look at their internal family policies. All 28 companies in the categories of up to 20 employees, 21 to 250 employees and more than 250 employees received the necessary number of points for the award, which they can now use to advertise for new specialists. Birgit Enkert from the Halle-Dessau Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Stephan Spehr from the Anhalt-Bitterfeld Development and Economic Development Agency and Sven Thiemann from the Dessau-Roßlau-Wittenberg Employment Agency praised the companies' special ideas and measures for family friendliness and the compatibility of family and work life as laudators profession. There was also a new logo for the certificate and plaque for the 10th competition, as well as a brochure in which the prizewinners were presented in detail.

The competition "Family-friendly companies in the district of Anhalt-Bitterfeld" is held every two years under the patronage of the district administrator. Volker Krüger, as deputy district administrator, emphasized in his welcoming address that this prize is an incentive for companies, especially in difficult times when it comes to finding and retaining personnel. It is not just remuneration that is important for employees today, but also working conditions that are designed to be appreciative and motivating. Reconciling family and work, childcare or the care of close relatives requires the acceptance of the economy. The pandemic has forced almost all companies and the administration to act and has produced a wide range of measures that should be maintained.



Jana Gleißner, Equal Opportunities and Disability Officer of the district, evaluated the questionnaires of the companies together with the jury, consisting of members of various committees, and went into more detail on what was written in personal discussions during company visits. 28 prizewinners were determined in this way and honored in the multi-generation house in Bitterfeld-Wolfen. The next competition will take place in 2023 and the district hopes to be able to accept numerous applications again.



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Family Friendly Workplaces in Debrecen

Several companies and institutions in Debrecen have earned the title Family Friendly Workplace this year.

With the support of the Prime Minister's Office, the Family-Friendly Hungary Center gives the certification to those workplaces where the balance of work and private life is helped to achieve a family-friendly approach for employees at the organizational level.

Every year, the government announces a tender to support the creation of family-friendly workplaces. According to their announcement, thanks to these, countless good practices have already spread in the corporate and public spheres. Such was the case, among other things, with the provision of childcare and kindergarten care at work, the creation of a playroom, the organization of holiday camps, and the introduction of paid holiday leave.

Among the award winners are several companies and institutions from Debrecen, as follows:

- Adix-Trade Trading and Service Kft.
- Agóra Közhasznú Nonprofit Kft., which operates the Agóra Science Experience Center.
- The United Nursery School Institution of the County City of Debrecen
- University of Debrecen
- Gyermekert Foundation Kindergarten
- Hajdú-Bihar County Pedagogical Service
- Juhász Péter Méliusz Library
- Teva Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

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