

Twinning together

project publication

Satu Mare, Rzeszów, Nyíregyháza



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**Twinning Together
Project Publication
Satu Mare – Rzeszów
– Nyíregyháza**

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Welcome Message

When I look back on this project, honestly, not only a professional process comes to mind, but also many faces, laughter, spontaneous conversations, and moments that truly make youth work worthwhile. For me – and I hope for many of you as well – Twinning Together was not simply a project, but a community experience in which we learned together, made mistakes, developed, and inspired one another.

As the director of Mustárház and the person responsible for the project, this entire process was especially close to me. When we started planning, we only had ideas, concepts, and hopes ahead of us. What we wanted was for young people from different places to meet, talk, get to know each other, and realise that there is much more that connects us than separates us.

In the end, the reality turned out even better than we expected. I saw how the participants, from the slightly uncertain atmosphere of the first days, became a real team within just a few days. I saw new friendships being formed, common ideas taking shape, and many young people realising that their own voice matters. These are the moments that make me know that we are on the right path.

For me, it has always been most important that Mustárház be a place where young people can feel at home. A place where it is possible to ask questions, debate, create, and sometimes simply be together. This project carried exactly this atmosphere to the international level as well. It brought an energy that we can still feel even now.

We often say that the results of projects appear in reports, publications, or numbers. But in my opinion, the real result is when a young person says: “This experience changed something in me.” When someone speaks up more confidently, when someone returns to their community with new ideas, or when someone simply becomes more open to the world.

I would like to thank every partner, organiser, and participant for being part of this journey. Without the energy, curiosity, and humour of the young people, this project certainly would not have been the same. Many times, you inspired us, not the other way around.

I would also like to especially thank those who believed that it was worth investing time, work, and enthusiasm into this initiative. There is always a great deal of background work behind a project like this, but when we see the results – the connections, the experiences, the development – every minute is worth it.

I sincerely hope that this is not the end of the story, but rather the beginning of a new chapter. I hope that we will meet many more times in different projects, events, or even just for a conversation. Because ultimately this is what it is all about: people, community, and the idea that together we are capable of more.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Gábor Dombóvári,

Mustárház

Foreword

The Twinning Together Erasmus+ participation project was created as a joint initiative focusing on the active involvement of young people, the strengthening of twin-town cooperation, and the development of international dialogue. The fundamental idea of the project was born from the recognition that the opinions, experiences, and creativity of young people play a key role in shaping the future of local communities. However, for this potential to truly unfold, platforms and collaborations are needed that provide young people with opportunities to make their voices heard, build connections, and think together about the future.

The project was based on the cooperation of three twin cities – Nyíregyháza, Rzeszów, and Satu Mare. These cities had already been connected before, but the Twinning Together project gave a new dimension to this cooperation by placing a specific emphasis on youth participation, mutual learning, and the exchange of experiences. The aim of the initiative was not only to organize various

programmes and mobility events, but also to create a long-term, sustainable partnership based on shared values among the young people and organizations of the cities.

During the project, the participants worked together to map the situation of young people in the three municipalities, share good youth practices with one another, and create new opportunities for cooperation. Mobility events, workshops, consultation meetings, and joint research all served the purpose of ensuring that young people were not merely participants but also shapers of the processes. The project placed particular emphasis on ensuring that young people from different backgrounds – including participants with fewer opportunities – could also take part in the programmes and actively contribute to the joint work.

During the cooperation, not only professional experiences were exchanged, but genuine human relationships were also formed. The joint work, the exploration of cultural differences, and the activities carried out for common goals strengthened trust and a sense of belonging among the participants. In this way, the project produced results not only at a professional level, but also fulfilled a community-building role.

An important element of the project was also the systematic collection and analysis of young people's opinions. The questionnaire survey conducted in the three cities made it possible for young people to express, based

on their own experiences, the challenges they encounter, the opportunities they see, and the changes they consider important for the future. These results contributed to the development of proposals and recommendations by the end of the project that can provide a real basis for dialogue with local decision-makers.

One of the greatest values of the Twinning Together project lies in the fact that it built a bridge between young people, youth organizations, and local communities. The collaborations and professional relationships established during the programme extend beyond the duration of the project and create opportunities for even broader international partnerships in the future.

We trust that the experiences gained during the project, the collected good practices, and the jointly developed proposals will serve as inspiration for other cities, organizations, and young people as well. At the same time, we hope that the initiative will contribute to making the participating municipalities places where young people are increasingly present in public life and where they have real opportunities to shape the future of their own communities.

This publication – and the project itself – is the imprint of a shared story: the presentation of a process during which young people and professionals from different countries thought together, learned from one another, and worked

jointly for a more open, cooperative, and youth-friendly future.

The Project Launched on August 1, 2024

Our Erasmus+ participation project officially started on August 1, 2024, with the aim of elevating youth cooperation between Nyíregyháza, Rzeszów, and Satu Mare to a new level. The initiative is built on a special foundation, as all three cities maintain sister-city relationships with one another. Therefore, the project does not rely on a newly established partnership but rather on an existing network of historical and institutional connections. Through this project, we aim to strengthen this cooperation with meaningful content, concrete professional programs, and processes that directly involve young people.

During the 14-month project, relevant youth organizations, professionals, and young people from the three cities will work together to map the strengths, challenges, and development opportunities of local youth work. The objective is not only the exchange of experiences but also the creation of a long-term, sustainable, and structured cooperation in which young people participate as active actors, opinion leaders, and initiators.

Within the framework of the project, at least four international mobility events will be organized. The opening kick-off meeting will take place in Nyíregyháza, where partners will jointly establish the foundations of the professional work and clarify the goals, methods, and timeline. This will be followed by a professional workshop in Rzeszów, where participants will learn about local youth policy practices, successful methods, and participation models. Another workshop will take place in Satu Mare, during which young people and professionals will jointly develop proposals for local decision-makers. In the final phase of the project, a large youth forum will be organized in Nyíregyháza, providing an opportunity to present the experiences, research findings, and recommendations gathered during the project directly to municipal and institutional decision-makers.

One of the key pillars of the professional work is the preparation of a comprehensive SWOT analysis examining the youth situation in all three cities along the dimensions of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. This will be complemented by a survey conducted using a unified questionnaire to explore the opinions, needs, and future perspectives of local young people. Following the analysis of the research results, we will compile a set of concrete and feasible recommendations, which will be delivered to decision-makers through a structured dialogue process. In this way, we ensure that the

voices of young people are not only heard but are also genuinely integrated into local youth policy processes.

Another important component of the project is the collection and systematization of good practices. In each of the three cities, we will identify innovative, effective, and inspiring youth initiatives that can serve as examples for other municipalities as well. These will be published on a shared, publicly accessible collection website, thereby supporting knowledge sharing and the expansion of international cooperation.

The most important long-term outcome of the project will be the establishment of a Youth Consultation Council, which will involve additional municipalities beyond the three sister cities. The aim of the Council is to provide a permanent platform for dialogue between youth stakeholders, young people, and decision-makers. This new cooperation structure will create opportunities for even more joint programs, professional initiatives, and international projects in the future.

We believe that the project will contribute to making our cities more attractive, livable, and opportunity-rich communities for young people. Strengthening the conditions for young people to remain in their hometowns, involving them in decision-making, and deepening the substantive content of sister-city relations all serve the goal of ensuring that future generations become active,

responsible, and committed members of their own communities.

September 1, 2024

On September 1, 2024, our twin-city participation project reached another important milestone: the project's official website was formally registered. With the reservation of the www.twinningtogether.eu domain and the launch of the online platform, we established a digital space that will serve as one of the central tools of the entire professional process. The website is designed to ensure the long-term visibility, transparency, and sustainability of the project's results.

The creation of the website was not merely an administrative or communication step, but a conscious strategic decision. Our goal is that the cooperation between Nyíregyháza, Rzeszów, and Satu Mare should not only be accessible to the participating organizations and young people, but also to a wider professional and social audience. In this way, the website functions simultaneously as an information platform, a documentation tool, and a knowledge-sharing hub.

One of the most important functions of the website will be the detailed presentation of the project's events. During the 14-month project period, all meetings, workshops, forums, and professional consultations will be uploaded to

the website in the form of reports, photo documentation, summaries, and—where relevant—professional materials. This ensures that the entire project process remains transparent and traceable, while also providing an opportunity for young people and professionals who are not directly participating in the mobility events to gain insight into the work.

Another, perhaps even more significant element of the website is the creation of a database of youth good practices. One of the key objectives of the project is to identify and collect innovative, effective, and inspiring youth methods, programs, and initiatives that are already operating in Nyíregyháza, Rzeszów, and Satu Mare. Many of these good practices are well known locally but do not necessarily reach the international stage or professionals in other cities. The www.twinningtogether.eu platform aims to fill exactly this gap.

The database of good practices will be structured and easily searchable. For each initiative presented, we aim to provide a detailed description of the target group, the methods used, the steps of implementation, the achieved results, and sustainability aspects. In this way, the website will not only serve as a source of inspiration but will also function as a practical professional resource for youth workers, municipal decision-makers, civil society organizations, and institutions.

It is also important for us that the website operates with multilingual content, as the project is based on cooperation between three different countries—Hungary, Poland, and Romania. Multilingualism ensures that all partners can access the content equally and supports genuine international knowledge sharing. In the longer term, our goal is for the platform to reach not only professionals from the three twin cities but also to become an open and inspiring resource for other European municipalities.

The role of the website extends beyond the duration of the project itself. From the very beginning of the planning phase, we paid special attention to ensuring that www.twinningtogether.eu remains active and sustainable even after the project concludes. We are creating a structure that allows the continuous upload of new content, the expansion of the good practice database, and the online support of the future work of the Youth Consultation Council. In this way, the website may become one of the most important long-term outputs of the project.

A strong digital presence is also particularly important for the involvement of young people. For today's generation, the online environment is a natural space for communication and information, which makes it essential that the project's results are accessible in this format as well. The website will not function merely as a static information platform, but also as a dynamic communication channel that can be connected to social

media platforms, events, and online campaigns. This will strengthen the active participation of young people and help ensure that the project's message reaches as wide an audience as possible.

The registration of the domain was therefore both a symbolic and practical step: symbolic because it reflects our commitment to long-term cooperation and transparent professional work, and practical because it provides a concrete tool for organizing, sharing, and further developing knowledge. As the project progresses, new content, reports, research results, and good practices will continuously be uploaded to www.twinningtogether.eu.

We are convinced that the creation of the website will significantly contribute to strengthening cooperation between the three twin cities, increasing the visibility of youth work, and ensuring that the results of the project remain not merely a temporary initiative but a form of knowledge that can be used in the long term. In this sense, www.twinningtogether.eu is not just a web address, but a shared space for thinking and collaboration that connects cities, professionals, and above all, young people.

10–11 October 2024 – Kick-off Meeting, Nyíregyháza

On 10–11 October 2024, the first international mobility event of our Erasmus+ participation project took place in Nyíregyháza. The two-day kick-off meeting marked not only the official professional launch of the project, but also served as a foundational gathering that shaped the atmosphere, structure, and future directions of the cooperation. Participants – youth professionals, organizational representatives, and young delegates from Nyíregyháza, Rzeszów, and Satu Mare – had the opportunity to meet in person, further strengthening the partnership between the three twin cities.

Review of the Project's Objectives and Framework

The primary aim of the meeting was to jointly and thoroughly review the full professional concept of the 14-month project. In the opening session, the overall objectives were presented: strengthening the active participation of young people, deepening the substantive cooperation between the twin cities, and establishing a long-term, sustainable platform for youth dialogue.

Participants were introduced in detail to the main components of the project:

- the planned mobility events,
- the joint research and survey process,
- the methodology of preparing the SWOT analysis,
- the process of collecting and systematizing good practices,
- and the establishment of the Youth Consultation Council.

The professional discussions went beyond simple presentations. Through interactive methods – small group work, moderated debates, and joint planning sessions – expectations and responsibilities were clarified and refined. It was essential that each partner play an active role in shaping the process, participating not merely as implementers but as strategic thinkers contributing to the project's development.

Organizational Introductions and Exchange of Experiences

One of the most important elements of the kick-off meeting was getting to know one another. Although the three cities share twin-city relationships, youth organizations and professionals had not always worked directly together before. Therefore, special attention was

given to ensuring that each partner could present their organization's activities, target groups, program structure, and local challenges in detail.

During the introductory sessions, participants gained a comprehensive overview of:

- the youth services operating in Nyíregyháza,
- the structure of the youth policy system in Rzeszów,
- and the community-based and participatory initiatives implemented in Satu Mare.

The exchange of experiences revealed several shared challenges, such as retaining young people locally, ensuring the sustainability of youth community spaces, and addressing methodological difficulties in involving young people in decision-making processes. At the same time, numerous inspiring practices were presented, laying the foundation for the subsequent good practice collection process.

Reception at the City Hall of Nyíregyháza

One of the highlights of the program was the official reception held at the City Hall of Nyíregyháza. The participating delegations were welcomed by the Deputy Mayor of the city, who provided a detailed overview of Nyíregyháza's youth policy initiatives, recent developments, and the municipality's strategic objectives.

During the presentation, several key topics were discussed:

- the city's youth strategy and policy framework,
- the development of community spaces,
- scholarship and grant opportunities available for young people,
- and the cooperation between the municipality and the civil sector.

An important message of the meeting was that local decision-making is open to international cooperation and to the active involvement of young people. Participants had the opportunity to ask questions, which led to a direct dialogue between the city leadership and the international delegations. This moment reinforced one of the project's core principles: the importance of structured dialogue and partnership.

Planning the Next Events

During the kick-off meeting, concrete timelines and responsibilities were also defined. The partners agreed on the planned dates of the upcoming mobility events – the workshops in Rzeszów and Satu Mare, as well as the youth forum to be held in Nyíregyháza – and identified the professional focus areas of each event.

A detailed schedule was prepared for:

- the development of the survey questionnaire,
- the implementation of data collection,
- the preparation of the SWOT analysis,
- and the system for uploading and managing content on the project website.

This ensured that the project would not simply consist of a series of events, but would function as a well-structured and interconnected professional process.

Establishment of Working Groups

To ensure effective implementation, thematic working groups were established to coordinate the various tasks throughout the entire duration of the project. The groups were formed with a mixed international composition, ensuring genuine cross-border cooperation.

The collaboration was organized around the following main areas:

1. **Research and Analysis Working Group** – responsible for coordinating the survey and the SWOT analysis.
2. **Good Practices Collection Group** – responsible for identifying and documenting local youth initiatives.

3. **Communication and Dissemination Working Group** – responsible for managing the website and social media content.
4. **Youth Consultation Council Preparation Group** – responsible for laying the foundations for the project’s long-term sustainability.

Each working group received a clear task list, deadlines, and a communication structure. Participants committed to maintaining regular online meetings to ensure continuous progress and coordination throughout the project.

Community Building and Partnership Trust

In addition to the professional program elements, community building also played an important role during the meeting. Informal activities – such as a city tour, casual conversations, and a joint dinner – provided opportunities to strengthen personal connections among participants. Building trust is an essential foundation for a project that aims to establish long-term cooperation.

Based on participants’ feedback, the kick-off meeting proved to be an inspiring and motivating start to the joint work. It became clear that the relationship between the three twin cities – Nyíregyháza, Rzeszów, and Satu Mare – has the potential to grow beyond a formal partnership into a genuine professional collaboration.

Summary

The kick-off meeting held on 10–11 October 2024 in Nyíregyháza successfully laid the foundations for the professional and partnership structure of our Erasmus+ participation project. During the event, we defined our shared objectives, clarified responsibilities, established working groups, and strengthened our connection with local decision-makers. The meeting was not only a project launch event but also a strategic starting point upon which the professional work of the coming months will be built.

By the end of the two-day event, it became clear that cooperation between the three twin cities had entered a new phase. A shared process of thinking and collaboration had begun—one that can contribute in the long term to strengthening the active participation of young people and supporting the development of local communities.

October 31, 2024 – Experiences from the First Quarter

The first three months of the *Twinning Together* Erasmus+ participation project – from August 1 to October 31, 2024 – proved to be an intensive, structured, and productive period. This initial quarter was not only about administrative preparation but also served as a consciously designed foundational phase that set the professional quality and dynamics for the entire 14-month collaboration. During this period, the partnership of the three sister cities – Nyíregyháza, Rzeszów, and Satu Mare – moved from the planning phase into the actual, active implementation phase.

1. Establishing the Internal Communication System

One of the most important tasks in the first days following the project launch was to establish an effective internal communication structure. Since organizations and professionals from three different countries were working together, special attention was paid to ensuring that the flow of information was fast, transparent, and equally accessible to all partners.

To achieve this:

- we created the official online communication channels for the project (shared email list, cloud-based document sharing system, regular online meeting platform),
- designated contact persons for each organization,
- defined communication protocols (response deadlines, document versioning, meeting minutes),
- scheduled regular online coordination meetings.

Structured communication was particularly important in the early phase of the project, as this was when the kick-off meeting was organized, tasks were specified, and the technical and content-related preparations for the website launch took place.

Experiences have shown that well-established internal communication significantly contributed to the efficiency of the partnership and the smooth execution of tasks. Within the first few weeks, a collaborative culture emerged based on mutual respect, transparency, and shared responsibility.

2. Preparation and Implementation of the First Mobility Event

The most significant professional event of the first quarter was the Nyíregyháza kick-off meeting, held on October 10–11, 2024. Preparation for the meeting began in September and required intensive coordination among the partners.

During the preparation:

- we developed a detailed professional program,
- defined the methodological toolkit (interactive workshops, facilitated group work, plenary discussions),
- finalized the number of participants and the composition of delegations,
- coordinated with the Nyíregyháza municipality regarding the official reception,
- ensured all logistical arrangements.

During the kick-off meeting, the project's objectives, expected short- and long-term impacts, and the framework for collaboration were clarified. Participants – professionals and youth delegates from Rzeszów, Satu Mare, and Nyíregyháza – jointly defined priorities and concrete tasks for the coming months.

A particularly important element of the meeting was strengthening the partnership. Personal presence provided the opportunity for partners to connect not only as institutional representatives but also as a professional community.

3. A Strategic Foundation for External Communication

In the first quarter, special emphasis was placed on launching and deliberately structuring external communication. Already in the first month, it was decided that the project would operate not only as an internal professional collaboration but also be visible and trackable for a wider audience.

3.1 Launch of the Project Website

In line with this, we launched the project's official website, which serves a dual purpose:

1. **Information and presentation function** – The website provides a comprehensive overview of the project, its objectives, events, participants, and current news. This is particularly important for external stakeholders, decision-makers, professionals, and potential future partners.
2. **Database of good practices in youth work** – The long-term goal of the website is to create a professional knowledge base showcasing the

youth programs, methodologies, and innovative initiatives of the three cities in a structured format. The database offers adaptable, transferable, and expandable solutions for youth professionals.

During the first quarter, the basic structure of the site was completed, the first introductory content was uploaded, and a report on the kick-off meeting was published. The website launch was a symbolically significant step, signaling the project's transparent operation and long-term vision.

4. Media Appearances and Dissemination

In the first months of the project, the initial media coverage appeared, contributing to increased local and regional visibility. Press releases highlighted the significance of the sister-city collaboration, the aim of actively involving young people, and the support of the Erasmus+ program.

The participating organizations developed a coordinated communication strategy, which included:

- regular posting on social media platforms,
- pre- and post-event communication,
- consistent use of visual identity elements,

- sharing and reinforcing each other's content among the partners.

This coordinated dissemination ensured that the project's message was presented not in isolation but in a mutually reinforcing way across Hungary, Poland, and Romania.

5. Professional Preparatory Work

The first quarter was not only about event organization and communication but also about laying the groundwork for content-related work. Activities initiated included:

- developing the methodological framework for SWOT analysis,
- preparing the questionnaire for the joint survey,
- establishing criteria and an evaluation system for collecting good practices.

Partners worked together to ensure that later data collection would be comparable and professionally sound. This is particularly important so that the recommendations formulated at the end of the project are based on real data and analysis.

6. Summary of the First Quarter

Summarizing the results of the first three months, it can be stated that the project has been placed on a solid foundation. Achievements include:

- establishing an effective internal communication system,
- successfully organizing the first international mobility event,
- launching the project's public image and website,
- achieving initial media coverage and dissemination steps,
- beginning professional research and methodological preparation.

By the end of the quarter, the partnership had developed into a functional, structured, and motivated professional community. The initial period reinforced our conviction that collaboration between the three sister cities creates real added value for young people.

The first quarter was not merely a start-up phase but a strategic foundation ensuring that the professional work in the coming months would be implemented consciously, thoughtfully, and with long-term impacts in mind. The project began dynamically, and based on the experiences of the first three months, all conditions are in place for the

Twinning Together initiative to become a sustainable and exemplary collaboration in the region.

November 30, 2024 – Website Development and Strengthening of the Working Group Structure

By the end of the second month of the *Twinning Together* Erasmus+ participation project, it became clear that one of the initiative's most important strategic pillars would be establishing a professional, transparent, and multilingual online presence. By November 30, 2024, significant progress had been made in both the content and technical development of the project website, www.twinningtogether.eu, and the working group structures ensuring the site's ongoing operation and high-quality updates were finalized.

1. Initiating Content Upload on the Website

Following the website registration and the setup of its technical foundations, we began structured content upload in November. Our goal was for the website to function not merely as a formal project interface but as a true information and professional knowledge hub.

During the first upload phase, we focused on the following content units:

1.1 Introduction of the Participating Cities

Detailed descriptions were prepared for the three sister cities:

- Nyíregyháza
- Rzeszów
- Satu Mare

The introductions included not only general information about each city but also emphasized:

- the local youth infrastructure,
- local youth policy strategies,
- community and professional opportunities available to young people,
- as well as the challenges that justify the need for international cooperation.

These descriptions help external visitors contextualize the project's objectives and understand the significance of collaboration between the three cities.

1.2 Introduction of the Participating Organizations

The website includes a dedicated subpage with detailed presentations of the organizations participating in the project. For each partner, we provided information on:

- the organization's history,
- its main areas of activity,
- target groups,
- previous international experience,
- and the role it plays in the *Twinning Together* project.

This transparent presentation not only strengthens professional credibility but also contributes to the development of future partnerships.

1.3 Project Objectives and Expected Impacts

One of the most important sections of the website summarized the professional framework of the project. In a clear yet professionally grounded manner, we presented:

- the overarching goal of the project (strengthening youth participation),
- the specific objectives (SWOT analysis, survey, collection of good practices, establishment of a Youth Advisory Council),

- the planned mobility events,
- and the expected short- and long-term impacts.

Special attention was paid to ensuring that the project's professional content is understandable not only for youth professionals but also for general audiences.

1.4 Milestones and Timeline

For transparency, a separate section outlines the project's milestones:

- dates of mobility events,
- research and survey phases,
- website development stages,
- the final youth forum,
- and the planned date for establishing the Youth Advisory Council.

This structured presentation ensures that the project's progress is trackable and understandable for all interested parties.

2. Four-Language Operation: Establishment of the Communication Working Group

Since the project is based on cooperation between three countries, ensuring multilingualism was a fundamental

goal. All website content is available in four languages – Hungarian, Polish, Romanian, and English.

To achieve this, we created the communication working group, composed of young participants from the three partner countries. The group's responsibilities include:

- drafting and editing content,
- preparing translations,
- ensuring terminological consistency,
- language proofreading,
- preparing content for social media.

The working group was not only a technical necessity but also a conscious participatory element. Young people actively engaged in the project's communication, fostering a genuine sense of ownership.

During the translation process, special attention was paid to creating culturally adapted content rather than literal translations. This ensured that each language version is natural and authentic for its target audience.

3. Establishment of the Web Working Group

To ensure the quality operation of the website, we also created a web working group, consisting of two distinct but closely collaborating sub-units.

3.1 Technical-Administrative Unit

This group is responsible for:

- implementing the multilingual structure technically,
- uploading content into the system,
- continuously monitoring website functionality,
- data security and maintenance tasks.

A stable IT infrastructure is essential for ensuring that the four-language content is smoothly accessible to all visitors.

3.2 Design and Visual Presentation

The other sub-unit of the web working group focuses on visual identity. Its tasks include:

- creating a unified graphic identity,
- defining color schemes and typography,
- editing visual elements,
- designing a user-friendly structure.

Design is not merely an aesthetic matter: the goal was to create a clear, easily navigable, youthful, and modern interface that reflects the project's dynamism.

4. Strengthening International Youth Collaboration

The establishment of the working group structure significantly contributed to intensive collaboration among young people from different countries. Through joint online meetings, translation coordination, technical discussions, and creative planning processes:

- international team spirit was strengthened,
- digital competencies improved,
- intercultural communication advanced,
- responsibility increased.

Young people became not passive participants but active shapers of the project's online presence. This participatory approach represents one of the project's most significant added values.

5. Strategic Significance

Website development and the creation of working groups go beyond the current project period. The website, www.twinningtogether.eu, establishes a digital foundation that:

- is sustainable in the long term,
- can be expanded with new content and cities,

- supports the future operation of the Youth Advisory Council,
- and can serve as a professional reference for other European municipalities.

The structure established by the end of November provides a stable basis for further development and the expansion of the database of good practices.

Summary

By November 30, 2024, the *Twinning Together* project website was no longer just a registered domain but an actively operating, content-rich, multilingual professional platform. The establishment of the communication and web working groups created a well-organized structure based on international collaboration.

Cooperation among young people from different countries became more intensive and structured, which was reflected not only in the quality of the website but also in the strengthening of the partnership. This period clearly demonstrated that the project's digital dimension is not a supplementary element but a central pillar of its professional implementation.

December 31, 2024 – Coordination Meetings in the Participating Cities

The first five months of the *Twinning Together* Erasmus+ participation project were not only a period of formal events and official mobilities but also a phase of intensive, behind-the-scenes professional preparation. Between August and December 2024, the staff of the lead applicant organizations – Mustárház and the Cultural Life Public Benefit Association – participated in several informal yet strategically significant coordination meetings in Satu Mare and Rzeszów.

These occasions were not high-profile public events but targeted professional consultations that fundamentally shaped the project's quality, coherence, and sustainability. Personal presence, on-site experience, and direct dialogue created added value that could not have been achieved online.

1. Strategic Significance of the Meetings

Following the project launch, it quickly became clear that the key to success lay in genuine, content-driven collaboration between the three sister cities. To this end, the lead applicant did not rely solely on online consultations but ensured personal presence in the partner cities.

The coordination meetings served two main purposes:

- 1. Mapping local conditions and capacities**
- 2. Detailed alignment of the project's work phases**

This dual purpose ensured that the project would not be a centrally directed, formal collaboration but a true partnership-based joint effort.

2. Assessment of Local Conditions and Capacities

During the visits to Satu Mare and Rzeszów, the staff of Mustárház and the Cultural Life Public Benefit Association gained a detailed understanding of the local youth ecosystem.

2.1 Infrastructural Background

During the meetings, we examined:

- what youth community spaces are available,

- what technical and logistical conditions are in place for organizing a mobility event,
- which local institutional partners (municipalities, educational institutions, civil organizations) could be involved in the project.

On-site observations helped ensure that program planning would be realistic and tailored to the local environment.

2.2 Organizational Capacities

The personal consultations also allowed us to assess the partner organizations’

- human resource capacities,
- professional experience,
- international cooperation practices,
- communication and administrative preparedness.

This was particularly important for the later distribution of working group tasks. A clear understanding of capacities allowed tasks to be assigned proportionally and fairly among partners.

2.3 Local Youth Challenges

During the meetings, discussions extended beyond organizational operations to current issues affecting young people. Topics included:

- youth migration,
- strengthening conditions for staying locally,
- limitations of participation opportunities,
- challenges in involving youth in decision-making processes.

These discussions helped ensure that the project responds to real needs.

3. Alignment of Work Phases

Another key objective of the coordination meetings was the detailed planning and alignment of the project's individual phases.

3.1 Fine-Tuning Internal Communication

Although online communication channels had already been established at the start of the project, the in-person meetings provided an opportunity to evaluate and further improve their effectiveness.

Together, we defined:

- the format of regular status reports,
- document management protocols,
- steps in the translation and approval processes,

- a system for monitoring deadlines.

Personal consultation significantly improved workflow transparency and efficiency.

3.2 External Communication and Dissemination

Special attention was also given to the project's external communication. Partners jointly developed:

- the schedule for press communication,
- coordination of social media content,
- consistent application of the visual identity,
- the website content upload strategy.

This ensured that the project is presented in a consistent and professional manner in all partner countries.

3.3 Preparation of Mobility Events

During the meetings in Satu Mare and Rzeszów, the professional and logistical frameworks for upcoming mobility events were discussed in detail.

We clarified:

- the program structure,
- participant selection criteria,
- methodological tools,
- facilitation roles,

- and budgetary frameworks.

Personal planning allowed for avoiding misunderstandings and clearly defining responsibilities.

4. Partnership Trust and Team Building

One of the most important—but difficult to measure—outcomes of the informal coordination meetings was the strengthening of partnership trust.

Through joint professional discussions, institutional visits, and more informal program elements:

- deeper professional and personal relationships were formed,
- willingness to collaborate increased,
- misunderstandings arising from cultural or communication differences decreased.

Partner organizations gained a fuller understanding of each other's operations, motivations, and professional strengths. This mutual understanding provides a stable foundation for later stages of the project.

5. Shared Understanding of the Project

During the coordination meetings, each partner had the opportunity to interpret the project's objectives and expected impacts from their own perspective. As a result of this collective reflection, a unified vision emerged:

- strengthening active participation among young people,
- institutionalizing structured dialogue,
- and establishing a long-term sustainable international youth cooperation.

This shared understanding ensures that the project progresses in a coordinated, rather than parallel, manner.

6. Quality Assurance Perspective

The informal meetings of the first five months also served a quality assurance function. They provided opportunities to:

- evaluate the work completed so far,
- correct any gaps or shortcomings,
- clarify priorities for the upcoming period.

Regular in-person consultations contributed to maintaining the project's momentum and ensured a continuously reflective approach to progress.

7. Summary

By December 31, 2024, the coordination meetings conducted during the first five months of the *Twinning Together* project played a key role in strengthening the partnership and laying the foundation for professional work.

The presence of Mustárház and the Cultural Life Public Benefit Association staff in Satu Mare and Rzeszów enabled:

- a realistic assessment of local conditions and capacities,
- alignment of work processes,
- fine-tuning of communication systems,
- precise preparation of mobility events,
- and reinforcement of partnership trust.

These informal yet professionally significant meetings were essential for transforming the project into an active, high-quality initiative based on genuine collaboration. The experiences of the first five months confirmed that

personal presence, continuous dialogue, and mutual understanding are fundamental prerequisites for successful international project implementation.

January 15, 2025 – Detailed Preparation of the Rzeszów Workshop

The next major milestone of the *Twinning Together* Erasmus+ participation project is the first international workshop, scheduled to take place in Rzeszów in early 2025. By January 15, 2025, the preparation process had progressed through intensive, multi-level, and highly detailed professional consultations among the Hungarian, Polish, and Romanian partners.

This four-day mobility event is not merely another project meeting but a strategically significant professional occasion that will lay the groundwork for subsequent research, recommendation development, and structured dialogue processes. Therefore, the preparation focused heavily on professional content, logistical precision, partnership coordination, and ensuring inclusive participation.

1. Continuous International Consultation

The workshop preparation was the result of several weeks of online and in-person consultations. Representatives from the three partner countries participated in regular coordination meetings, where we reviewed in detail:

- the professional objectives of the workshop,
- the program structure,
- participant composition,
- the methodological toolkit,
- and budgetary and logistical matters.

During these consultations, we ensured that all partners contributed equally to the program design. The workshop was shaped not as an event dictated by a single organization but as a jointly planned mobility based on partnership.

2. Venue and Infrastructure Selection

The city of Rzeszów was chosen as the workshop venue, as it is one of the project's key partner locations. The Polish partner organization presented several potential venues, from which we collectively selected a space suitable for conferences and workshops that:

- is equipped with appropriate technical facilities,

- allows for both plenary and small group work,
- is accessible,
- and easily reachable for participants.

Special attention was given to ensuring the venue supported interactive, participatory methods and provided a safe and inspiring environment for young people.

3. Accommodation and Catering Arrangements

A key element of the mobility event was providing appropriate accommodation and catering. Partners jointly decided on the lodging, considering:

- cost-effectiveness,
- safety,
- availability of community spaces,
- and participant comfort.

It was important that the accommodation fostered community building, allowing for informal conversations and evening reflective sessions.

When organizing catering, we considered:

- potential special dietary requirements (vegetarian, vegan, allergies),

- cultural specificities,
- and health-conscious and sustainable food options.

4. Structure of the Four-Day Professional Program

The workshop program was designed to foster active participation, collective reflection, and the creation of concrete professional outputs.

4.1 Day One – Arrival and Shared Foundations

The objectives of the first day are:

- participant arrival and registration,
- ice-breaking and team-building activities,
- clarifying the workshop’s goals and expectations.

Interactive methods—such as icebreaker exercises and facilitated discussions—ensure that young people actively engage from the very first day.

4.2 Day Two – Professional Workshop Sessions

The second day focuses on laying the professional foundations of the project. Participants will work in small groups on:

- mapping local youth challenges,
- developing elements of the SWOT analysis,

- identifying good practices.

The goal is for young people to contribute to defining the professional direction of the project based on their own experiences and insights.

4.3 Day Three – Structured Dialogue and Decision-Maker Meeting

One of the most important elements of participatory projects is engagement with local decision-makers. In Rzeszów, participants will be hosted at the city hall, where they will have the opportunity to:

- present their observations,
- ask questions,
- listen to responses from decision-makers,
- and explore future collaboration opportunities.

This meeting provides a concrete example of structured dialogue in practice.

4.4 Day Four – Summary and Future Planning

On the final day, participants will:

- evaluate the workshop,
- summarize the achieved results,
- define the next steps,

- and record subsequent working group tasks.

5. Logistical Coordination

During the preparation of the workshop, we thoroughly discussed:

- travel routes and schedules,
- insurance matters,
- roles of accompanying persons and facilitators,
- and budget settlement details.

Each partner took responsibility for coordinating the travel of their own delegation, while common templates and guidelines were developed to ensure standardized administration.

6. Role of Working Groups

The previously established working groups play a central role during the workshop. Over the four days:

- the research working group will develop concrete data collection frameworks,
- the communication group will document the event,

- and the Youth Advisory Council preparatory group will define strategic directions.

This ensures that the workshop is not an isolated event but an integrated professional step within the broader project.

7. Inclusion of Young People with Fewer Opportunities

A key priority was to ensure that as many young people with fewer opportunities as possible could participate in the workshop. This includes:

- youth from disadvantaged economic backgrounds,
- participants from rural areas,
- young people from minority backgrounds,
- and those with limited access to international opportunities.

During the selection process, partners consciously focused on inclusivity. Additionally, we ensured:

- full coverage of travel costs,
- accompaniment for participants if needed,
- accessible venues,
- and a supportive, welcoming working environment.

Our goal is that young people with fewer opportunities are not merely present but actively shape the project's content. Their observations and suggestions will be given special attention in the project's subsequent phases, particularly in recommendations presented to decision-makers.

8. Strategic Significance of the Workshop

The Rzeszów workshop is not just a mobility event but one of the project's most important foundational milestones. Over the four days:

- research directions will be concretized,
- international cooperation will be strengthened,
- and direct connections with local decision-makers will be established.

This event ensures that subsequent phases of the project—survey implementation, development of recommendation packages, and the establishment of the Youth Advisory Council—are built on a solid professional foundation.

Summary

By January 15, 2025, the preparation of the Rzeszów workshop had been carried out through a detailed, thoughtful, and partnership-based process. From venue

selection to logistical arrangements and the development of the professional program, every element was shaped through joint consultation.

The four-day event promises not only active and intensive professional work but also a genuine participatory experience for young people—particularly those with fewer opportunities. Through this workshop, the *Twinning Together* project takes a new step forward, reinforcing its core objective: making the voices of young people visible and heard in both local and international decision-making processes.

February 17–20, 2025 – International Workshop in Rzeszów

From February 17 to 20, 2025, the *Twinning Together* Erasmus+ participation project held its first large-scale, in-person international workshop in Rzeszów, Poland. The four-day professional event was not merely a scheduled milestone in the project timeline but a true turning point: here, the previous preparatory and coordination work became tangible, structured, and collectively actionable.

The workshop had three main objectives:

1. To jointly review and realign the project's progress to date.
2. To finalize the working groups and assign specific tasks.
3. To plan in detail the activities for the coming months in a time-structured manner.

Every element of the program was deliberately designed, pedagogically grounded, and participation-centered.

Day One – Reconnection, Shared Foundations, and Professional Framing

The first day of the workshop began with arrivals, registration, and informal meetings. For young people and professionals from different countries, it was especially important to start the collaborative work in a safe and open atmosphere.

Icebreaking and Trust-Building

The program opened with a structured icebreaking session that went beyond simple introductions. Interactive exercises were used to:

- facilitate personal connections,
- raise awareness of individual motivations,
- surface participants' expectations,
- and establish a trusting atmosphere.

The aim of the icebreaker was not only to get to know one another but also to ensure that every participant understood they are an active contributor in the project, not a passive attendee.

Comprehensive Project Overview

In the following session, participants jointly reviewed the results of the past months:

- experiences from previous coordination meetings,
- the project's objectives and framework,
- the scheduling of upcoming events,
- partners' responsibilities,
- and the communication channels already launched, with special attention to the project website.

This session was not a mere presentation but an interactive feedback loop: participants reflected on what they considered successful, where they saw gaps, and what adjustments were needed.

Learning Processes and Youthpass

The afternoon program focused on the learning dimension. Discussions addressed:

- the meaning of non-formal learning,
- how to recognize personal development,
- and how competencies can be documented.

A key focus was the Youthpass, understood not as an administrative obligation but as a pedagogical framework. Participants learned about the key competences framework and began consciously reflecting on their own learning pathways during the workshop.

Gantt Chart and Time Planning

The overall project timeline was examined using a detailed Gantt chart. Participants collectively analyzed:

- the timing of individual activities,
- interdependent processes,
- the feasibility of deadlines,
- and potential risk factors.

This exercise helped raise awareness of responsibility and strengthened participants' project management mindset.

Youth Participation – the “Youth Ladder”

At the end of the first day, participants were introduced to one of the most well-known models of youth participation, the so-called *Youth Ladder*. Together, they analyzed:

- the levels of manipulation and tokenism,
- the characteristics of genuine, partnership-based participation,
- and where their own project sits on this scale.

This reflective exercise helped ensure that the project consciously strives for higher levels of authentic youth involvement.

City Tour and Community-Building

In the evening, participants took part in a guided city tour of Rzeszów's historic center. This informal gathering:

- strengthened international friendships,
- provided an opportunity for cultural exchange,
- and offered a relaxed, communal experience after a day of professional activities.

Day Two – Inclusion, Working Groups, and Strategic Analysis

The second day focused on inclusivity and structured professional work organization.

Involving Young People with Fewer Opportunities

In the morning, participants explored in detail what “youth with fewer opportunities” means in the context of the project. Through small-group work, the following questions were discussed:

- What barriers do these young people face?

- How can structural and psychological obstacles be removed?
- What tools ensure meaningful participation?

The goal was to ensure that all subsequent project steps are deliberately built on the principle of inclusion.

Establishing Working Groups

In the afternoon, the following working groups were formally established within a structured framework:

1. Website Development Group
2. Content Creation Group
3. Questionnaire Development Group
4. Translation Group
5. Good Practices Collection Group

Participants chose groups based on their interests, competencies, and motivation.

SWOT Analysis

Later in the day, a detailed SWOT analysis was conducted. Participants identified:

- the project's strengths,

- weaknesses,
- opportunities,
- and threats.

This analysis served not only as a strategic document but also provided a realistic understanding of the project's current status.

Evening Cultural Program

The day concluded with a joint concert visit, which further strengthened the sense of community and intercultural connection among participants.

Day Three – Intensive Working Group Activities and Decision-Maker Meeting

The third day was entirely focused on practical work.

Working Group Activities

Each group worked separately on:

- the website structure,
- the first draft of the questionnaire,
- the foundations of the content strategy,
- translation guidelines,

- and the good practice collection template.

This was followed by a plenary session to harmonize and consolidate the results across all groups.

Meeting with a Decision-Maker

In the afternoon, participants had the opportunity to meet with a local decision-maker, who presented Rzeszów's youth policy development priorities. In their talk, they emphasized the importance of cooperation and acknowledged the value of international partnerships. The young participants were able to ask questions and make suggestions, resulting in a genuine, structured dialogue between youth and local authorities.

Day Four – Planning, Bonus Workshop, and Evaluation

The last day focused on the future.

Planning Upcoming Activities

Participants worked in detail to plan:

- the next mobility events,
- local activities,
- and points of online coordination.

Incorporation of a Bonus Workshop

The participants collectively decided to organize an additional “bonus workshop” in March, due to the complexity of tasks. This decision reflects both the project’s flexibility and the youth participants’ sense of responsibility.

Evaluation and Task Finalization

The workshop concluded with a thorough evaluation process, including:

- oral feedback,
- written reflections,
- individual learning summaries.

Following this, tasks, deadlines, and responsible persons were concretely assigned.

Summary

The workshop held in Rzeszów from 17–20 February 2025 was not merely a professional meeting, but an intensive, participation-focused learning and collaboration process. Over the four days:

- international partnerships were strengthened,
- working groups took on structured form,
- the learning process became more conscious,
- and concrete, measurable tasks were established.

The workshop provided a stable foundation for the next phases of the project and offered a genuine sense of community for all participants.

2025.03.15 – Preparation for the Bonus Workshop

The experiences of the first international workshop clearly indicated that the project's professional content, complexity, and the number of tasks undertaken by the participating youth significantly exceeded the time initially allocated for the May workshop. During the joint evaluation by young participants and organizational representatives from Hungary, Poland, and Romania, it became evident that the planned activities—including research, development, communication, and dissemination—required deeper professional coordination, more structured joint planning, and more intensive work processes.

As a result, a decision was made to insert a three-day, professionally focused “bonus workshop” into the project schedule, to be held in Rzeszów, Poland. Several factors were considered when selecting the location: geographical accessibility for all three countries, the partner organization's infrastructural capacity, and the

professional environment needed for concentrated, collaborative work.

Professional Justification for the Workshop

During the first workshop, participants developed a multifaceted set of tasks requiring parallel functioning of multiple working groups. Each group is responsible for interconnected outputs, including:

- methodological materials,
- community action plans,
- communication toolkits,
- online and offline dissemination content,
- recommendation packages for local decision-makers.

Evaluation showed that the project's success could not be guaranteed with just the originally planned two international meetings. Coordinating between work phases, ensuring consistent quality, and achieving the expected professional depth required additional in-person collaboration.

Thus, the bonus workshop is not merely an extension of time but a strategic reinforcement: it allows the project's logical framework to be realigned, output indicators to be refined, and task allocation among working groups to be optimized. Importantly, the event's structure is informed

by the feedback and needs of the youth participants, further strengthening participation-based project management.

Expanding and Integrating Participants

Another key value of the three-day workshop is the opportunity to expand the participant group. The program is open to new young people from all three countries who were not involved in earlier stages but are motivated to join and contribute actively. This expansion is important for:

1. **Sustainability** – Ensuring the project’s long-term impact by broadening the base.
2. **Knowledge Transfer** – Previous workshop participants can mentor newcomers and share experience.
3. **Workload Distribution** – Increasingly concrete tasks require additional capacity.

Integrating new participants requires preparatory work by partner organizations. A structured onboarding process will introduce the project background, goals, results so far, and methodological framework. This includes preparatory online briefings, background materials, and concise summary documents to help newcomers quickly catch up.

Professional Focus of the Workshop

The three-day Rzeszów workshop will focus exclusively on collaborative work. The program deliberately omits fieldwork, external visits, or decision-maker meetings, as the primary aim is to deepen the project's professional content and advance output development. Planned methods include:

- facilitated working group sessions,
- structured brainstorming and design thinking processes,
- plenary feedback rounds,
- internal quality assurance checkpoints,
- joint indicator development.

Special attention will ensure youth from all three countries work in mixed international groups, strengthening intercultural learning and transnational collaboration skills. By the end of the workshop, each working group will have specific, measurable, time-bound commitments.

Logistical and Safety Preparations

Alongside professional planning, significant organizational and administrative work has been carried out to ensure safe and smooth implementation. Partners have planned:

- **Travel:** Coordinated international travel routes with cost-effectiveness and time optimization in mind; participants will receive detailed travel guides with schedules, meeting points, and emergency contacts.
- **Accommodation:** Selected to allow communal interaction and informal evening discussions while ensuring rest and comfort.
- **Meals:** Consideration for special dietary needs (vegetarian, vegan, allergies) and cultural preferences.

A risk assessment covering health, travel, and organizational risks has been conducted. Responsibilities, points of contact, and protocols for extraordinary situations have been established.

Organizational Tasks and Capacity Expansion

Introducing the bonus workshop generates extra responsibilities for partner organizations. Preparing new participants, elaborating the program content, and organizing logistics for a larger group require intensive coordination. Regular online meetings are held with project management and professional coordinators to ensure alignment.

Facilitators play a crucial role in ensuring that the three-day intensive work remains structured, goal-oriented, and

results-driven. Detailed schedules, time-blocked agendas, and predefined output templates have been prepared to guide the sessions.

Expected Outcomes

By the end of the Rzeszów workshop, the project aims to achieve:

- a clarified and consensus-approved output structure,
- strengthened and expanded working groups,
- full integration of newly joining participants as active contributors,
- clearly defined, measurable next steps.

Overall, the preparatory work that began on March 15, 2025, serves a strategically important decision: to reinforce the project's quality, impact, and sustainability. The three-day Rzeszów workshop is not merely an additional event but a key element in deepening international collaboration and laying the foundation for the project's professional outputs.

2025.03.22–24 – Bonus Workshop, Rzeszów

The three-day bonus workshop held from March 22–24, 2025, directly followed the first international meeting in February, where young participants and professional coordinators from Hungary, Poland, and Romania jointly assessed the project's current status. During the February evaluation phase, it became clear that the professional outputs—especially the shared online platform, communication branding, and the structured questionnaire—required such extensive personal coordination and iterative development that the originally planned meetings would not have been sufficient.

At the initiative of the youth participants and with unanimous support from the partner organizations, this supplementary intensive workshop was scheduled at the end of March. This decision was professionally justified: the project at this stage moved from conceptual planning into concrete implementation and content development, which required precise coordination, collaborative editing, and real-time feedback.

Workshop Objectives and Professional Focus

The primary objectives of the Rzeszów meeting were to:

1. continue the work initiated in February within a structured framework,
2. produce concrete, tangible outputs,
3. integrate newly joining participants into the ongoing work processes,
4. strengthen professional and intercultural collaboration among young participants from the three countries.

The workshop did not include external decision-maker meetings or fieldwork; the emphasis was clearly on internal professional work, content development, and quality assurance of project outputs. The organizational concept was based on the premise that in-person presence enables faster decision-making, minimizes misunderstandings, and fosters more intensive creative collaboration.

Day 1 – Introduction, Icebreaking, and Community Context

The first day of the workshop was deliberately built to strengthen community foundations and deepen interpersonal relationships. Although several participants

already knew each other from the February session, the group composition expanded: young people who had not previously participated in the project also joined. Therefore, the first program element was a structured introduction and icebreaking phase.

The facilitators applied interactive methods: thematic introduction rounds, joint value mapping, and short cooperative exercises that simultaneously supported group dynamics and awareness of project goals. The emphasis was on ensuring that every participant—especially the newcomers—engaged as active, equal members in the work.

In the afternoon, we participated in a city tour organized and led by local Polish youth. The walk was not merely touristic but also served to present the local community and cultural context. Participants gained insight into Rzeszów's history, youth life, and community spaces, contributing to intercultural learning and mutual understanding.

The city tour also had a strategic role: it provided opportunities for informal conversations, relationship building, and strengthening the trust-based atmosphere, which is essential for intensive collaborative work.

Day 2 – Intensive Professional Work and Content Development

The second day was entirely built around the structured, parallel operation of the working groups. The thematic groups established in February—augmented with the new participants—proceeded according to specific, measurable task lists.

1. Website Development and Refinement

The working group responsible for the online presence focused on the structural and content development of the project website. Tasks included:

- clarifying the information architecture,
- structuring the menu and subpages logically,
- fine-tuning for user experience (UX),
- creating a multilingual structure.

Participants collectively analyzed which types of content would be relevant for the target audience—primarily young people and youth professionals. Accordingly, they decided on the placement of news, blog posts, project descriptions, and downloadable materials. The in-person setting enabled real-time testing and immediate feedback.

2. Content Creation and Translation

The communications working group worked on producing textual and visual content. Completed items included:

- project presentation texts,
- brief partner profiles,
- target audience-specific messages,
- social media post templates.

Since the project involves collaboration across three countries, special attention was given to translation and linguistic harmonization. Participants not only performed literal translation but also cultural adaptation, considering the communication characteristics of each country. This process brought new professional perspectives to light, particularly from the newcomers, who reviewed the existing texts with a fresh perspective.

3. Branding Elements Design and Development

The group responsible for branding worked on refining the visual identity. Tasks included:

- finalizing the color palette,
- defining typographic guidelines,
- specifying logo usage rules,
- creating standardized graphic templates.

The goal was to create a coherent visual system that could be easily applied across all three countries while consistently representing the project's values. During the workshop, multiple alternatives were discussed, and a consensus decision determined the final direction.

4. Questionnaire Refinement and Finalization

The group responsible for research and professional content worked on further refining the previously developed questionnaire. The goals were to:

- ensure questions were clear and measurable,
- avoid ambiguous or overly general formulations,
- ensure interpretability across cultural contexts.

Participants collectively reviewed the relevance, sequence, and logical flow of the questions. Feedback from newcomers helped identify redundancies and improve clarity. By the end of the day, a structured, finalized questionnaire was available, suitable for further data collection and professional purposes.

Added Value of New Participant Involvement

One of the greatest professional strengths of the March workshop was that young people who had not attended in February brought new perspectives into the process. Their questions and observations often highlighted implicit

assumptions that had seemed self-evident to the previous group.

This “external perspective” proved particularly useful in:

- simplifying the website structure,
- making communication messages clearer,
- logically refining the questionnaire.

Positive effects on group dynamics were also observed: previous participants took on mentoring roles, which strengthened their sense of responsibility and leadership skills.

Day 3 – Summary, Planning, and Forward-Looking

The goal of the third day was to close the collaborative work in a structured manner and record tasks for the next period. The working groups presented their results in a plenary session and jointly determined:

- remaining elements,
- responsible persons,
- deadlines,
- dates for the next online meetings.

By the end of the workshop, the project had made tangible progress: the website development reached an advanced

stage, most content was completed and translated, branding guidelines were finalized, and the questionnaire assumed its final form.

Summary

The bonus workshop in Rzeszów, held on March 22–24, 2025, proved to be a strategically significant milestone. It not only allowed the continuation of the work initiated in February but also enabled its deepening, structuring, and concretization. The in-person collaboration accelerated decision-making, improved quality, and strengthened the partnership among youth from the three countries.

By the end of the workshop, the project advanced on a stable professional foundation, with clear task allocation and concrete outputs. The event clearly confirmed that the participant-initiated bonus session was justified and effective, significantly contributing to the project's high-quality implementation.

31 March 2025 – Professional Summary of the First Quarter

The first three months of 2025 proved to be an exceptionally intensive and productive period for the project. During this quarter, we moved from the strategic planning phase to the implementation and output production phase, which required not only conceptual discussions but also measurable professional progress, structured workflows, and continuous international coordination. The youth and professional coordinators from the three partner countries—Hungary, Poland, and Romania—established a stable collaboration system during this period, which will also provide a long-term foundation for the project’s sustainability.

Implementation of Two International Workshops in Rzeszów

One of the most significant achievements of the first quarter was the successful organization of two international workshops at the Polish partner’s site. The

original project plan anticipated only a single professional meeting in spring; however, at the February workshop, participants jointly assessed that the complexity of the professional outputs justified the inclusion of an additional “bonus” workshop.

The February workshop primarily focused on defining conceptual frameworks, the working group structure, and output objectives. The main thematic units were designated, and initial responsibilities were assigned. In contrast, the March bonus workshop concentrated on deepening the concrete development and content production tasks. The structured sequence of the two events enabled the project to make significant practical progress in a short period.

In-person presence was key to accelerating decision-making, minimizing misunderstandings, and enhancing creative collaboration. Participants developed not only professionally but also in intercultural competencies, as youth from the three countries worked together in mixed groups.

Continuous, Structured Collaboration of Working Groups

Following the workshops, the project did not slow down but entered a continuous collaboration phase in an online environment. The established working groups coordinate

their activities through regular digital meetings. The work organization is based on a predefined timeline, a task breakdown structure, and a responsibility matrix with deadlines.

The main work areas include:

- development of the online platform and content uploading,
- creation of communication and dissemination materials,
- finalization and preparation of the research questionnaire,
- standardization of branding and visual elements.

One of the key outcomes of continuous collaboration is that the project is not solely based on event-driven activities but on sustainable, regular professional work. The youth's independent task ownership and sense of responsibility were significantly strengthened during this period.

Website Functionality and Content Development

By the end of the first quarter, the project website became fully functional. The online platform is not only an information tool but also a central project output, ensuring transparency, clarity, and broader community engagement.

During website development, special attention was given to:

- user-friendly navigation,
- multilingual content management,
- consistency of visual identity,
- principles of accessible design.

Content production is ongoing: the first project reports, introductory materials, and reflection posts written by participants have been completed. The translation process ensures that information is accessible to the target audiences of all three countries.

Preparation for Questionnaire Deployment in Three Cities

One of the most professionally complex tasks of the quarter was the finalization of a structured questionnaire consisting of 40–50 questions. This questionnaire is a key element of the project, serving as a data collection tool in the three participating cities.

During question development, the youth performed in-depth professional work: each question had to consider relevance, clarity, cultural interpretability, and measurability.

Compiling a questionnaire of this size requires substantial methodological awareness. Participants had to consider:

- the logical order of questions,
- elimination of potential redundancies,
- respondent workload,
- the balance of qualitative and quantitative elements.

The survey will soon be launched in the three involved cities, including Satu Mare in Romania. The responses received will provide highly important feedback for the project, as they will support further professional decisions with objective data. The results of data collection will contribute to a more precise identification of local needs and the planning of targeted interventions.

Professional Development and Competence Growth of the Youth

One of the greatest added values of the first quarter was the professional development of the participating youth. During the creation of a questionnaire consisting of 40–50 questions, participants had to consider not only content but also ethical and methodological aspects. They needed to learn:

- how to formulate neutral, non-leading questions,

- how to avoid suggestive or guided phrasing,
- how to ensure anonymity and data protection,
- how to structure response options for easier processing.

This process required significant critical thinking and collaboration skills. The youth were not merely implementers of the project but active contributors, which strengthened their sense of responsibility and professional identity.

Strategic Decisions and Defining Next Steps

The February workshop decision to include the bonus event clearly contributed to smoother project progress. The March meeting provided the opportunity to clarify emerging questions and fine-tune workflows.

During the same session, the date and location of the next international meeting were also determined. The next workshop will take place in Satu Mare, Romania, with a central focus on the SWOT analysis. The Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats methodology allows for a structured review of the project's experiences to date and strategic evaluation of further directions.

The SWOT analysis will be particularly relevant in light of the questionnaire data collection results, as empirical

feedback will enable more realistic and well-founded strategic decisions.

Summary

The first quarter of 2025 laid a solid foundation for the subsequent phases of the project. This period is characterized by two successful international workshops, a functioning website, advanced content development, a finalized questionnaire, and a prepared data collection process. The continuous collaboration of the working groups ensures both dynamism and professional quality.

By the end of the quarter, the project was strengthened not only organizationally but also in terms of content. The active involvement of the youth, thorough preparation, and structured planning together guarantee that the next period—particularly the SWOT-focused workshop in Satu Mare—will be implemented within a stable, data-driven, and strategically conscious framework.

2025.04.01 – Launch of the Questionnaire Survey in the Three Participating Cities

On April 1, 2025, the project reached one of its key milestones: the official launch of the structured questionnaire survey, consisting of 40 questions, which had been jointly developed during the two international workshops. The preparation of the questionnaire required several weeks of intensive professional work, in which the youth and professional coordinators from the partner cities in Hungary, Poland, and Romania all actively participated.

The survey is being conducted simultaneously in all three participating cities, including Satu Mare in Romania and Rzeszów in Poland. The third participating city is linked to the Hungarian partner, where data collection follows the same structure and methodology. The parallel implementation ensures comparability and uniform data processing.

Professional Foundation of the Questionnaire

The 40-question survey is not merely the result of spontaneous opinion collection but a consciously designed, methodologically structured research instrument. During the compilation of the questions, the following principles were applied:

- clear and comprehensible wording,
- culturally adaptable language,
- non-suggestive question structure,
- logical thematic organization,
- consideration of respondent workload.

The questionnaire is divided into several major thematic blocks, covering young people's perceptions of their city, their satisfaction levels, community participation, future plans, and experiences with local opportunities and challenges. The questions include closed, scaled response options (Likert-type evaluations), multiple-choice items, and ranking tasks. Alongside the structured questions, special attention was given to ensuring that respondents are not limited solely to pre-defined categories.

Role of the Open-Ended Text Section

At the end of the questionnaire, an open-ended text block was included. Its strategic significance is reflected on multiple levels:

1. **Ensuring qualitative feedback:** in addition to quantitative data, qualitative information can be collected, providing a more nuanced understanding of youth perspectives.
2. **Uncovering new perspectives:** it allows raising topics not addressed by the closed questions.
3. **Capturing emotional and personal reflections:** young people can express their experiences, problems, or suggestions in their own words.

This combined (quantitative and qualitative) data collection structure enables the project to obtain not only statistical averages but also real, contextually grounded opinions.

Planned Sample Size and Representativeness

The survey aims to collect a minimum of 250 responses per city, resulting in a total of 750–800 respondents across the three cities. This sample size provides a sufficient statistical basis to identify relevant trends and patterns.

Although the research does not constitute a full, representative sociological survey, the targeted sample size is sufficient to:

- reveal reliable trends,
- provide comparable data across the three cities,
- support future strategic decisions,
- allow professionally interpretable conclusions.

To maximize response rates, the youth are disseminating the questionnaire through multiple channels: social media platforms, schools and youth communities, and by involving partner institutions. The communication emphasizes anonymity and data protection, increasing respondents' willingness to participate and to provide honest feedback.

The Significance of the Survey for the Overall Project

The questionnaire survey represents one of the project's most important feedback mechanisms. In the previous workshops, the youth worked based on their own experiences and insights; however, the current survey opens a broader community perspective.

The results will be key in several respects:

- they may confirm or refine the hypotheses formulated during the workshops,
- they can highlight similarities and differences between the cities,
- they provide a basis for conducting a SWOT analysis at the next meeting,
- they contribute to the preparation of recommendation packages for local decision-makers.

It is particularly important that the data collection is not conducted by external experts but through the active involvement of the youth participating in the project. This process is not only a methodological learning experience for them but also strengthens their sense of social responsibility.

Professional and Competence Development Dimension

The launch of the questionnaire also represents a learning milestone. Throughout the process, the participating youth gained insight into:

- the ethical principles of data collection,
- the logic of question construction,
- the importance of sample size and sampling,

- the differences between quantitative and qualitative data,
- the foundations for subsequent data processing and interpretation.

Following this phase, the next step will be to organize, clean, and analyze the collected data. The aim is not merely to gather numerical information but to create structured knowledge that identifies concrete development directions.

Expectations and Next Steps

The coming weeks will be decisive in terms of response rates. The partner organizations will regularly monitor the number of completed questionnaires and, if necessary, launch additional communication campaigns to increase participation.

If the targeted 750–800 responses are achieved, the project will have a database suitable for in-depth analyses. These analyses will feed directly into the professional program of the next international meeting, where they will be processed using a structured SWOT methodology.

Summary

Therefore, April 1, 2025, is not merely an administrative date but marks the beginning of the project's data-driven

phase. The launch of the 40-question survey represents a strategically significant step, enabling the opinions of youth from the three cities to be captured widely and systematically.

Achieving the intended sample size will allow the project to obtain a realistic, empirically grounded understanding of how young people perceive their city's present, opportunities, and future. This knowledge contributes not only to the successful implementation of the project but also provides long-term guidance for local communities and decision-makers.

May 1, 2025 – Current Status of the Survey and Preparation for the Next Workshop

At the beginning of the second quarter of 2025, the *Twinning Together* project clearly entered the data collection and strategic preparation phase. The questionnaire survey launched in early April continued in all three participating cities, while the detailed professional and logistical preparation for the next international workshop also began in parallel. During this period, the project operated simultaneously on operational and strategic levels: active data collection was ongoing, and the program for the next in-person meeting was being shaped, building on the results received so far.

The three partner cities in Hungary, Poland, and Romania are conducting the questionnaire survey according to a coordinated schedule. The aim of the survey remains to obtain a nuanced, data-driven understanding of how young people evaluate their city's current situation, opportunities, challenges, and future outlook.

Current Status of the Survey

The questionnaire is being distributed through multiple channels: social media sharing, outreach via schools and youth communities, involvement of partner institutions, and personal recommendations. Throughout the campaign, emphasis is placed on anonymity, data protection, and voluntary participation, as these factors significantly influence completion rates and the honesty of responses.

Based on current data, Nyíregyháza in Hungary leads in the number of submissions. It is important to stress, however, that this is not a competition between cities. The term “imaginary competition” is used primarily as a motivational and community-building tool rather than for ranking purposes. From a professional standpoint, the project prioritizes absolute numbers and the diversity of respondents rather than relative positions.

The more responses received—from as wide a range of social, educational, and community backgrounds as possible—the more accurate and reliable the picture of youth perceptions regarding their cities will be. The goal remains at least 250 responses per city, totaling 750–800 across all three locations. This sample size allows for:

- identifying relevant trends,
- performing comparative analyses between cities,

- mapping key problem areas and strengths,
- drawing well-founded strategic conclusions.

The questionnaire consists of 40 structured questions organized into thematic blocks, covering youth participation in local communities, satisfaction levels, opportunities, mobility intentions, and future plans. The open-ended text section at the end of the survey continues to hold special significance, providing qualitative feedback alongside quantitative data. These individual reflections often reveal aspects not captured within the closed questions.

The Importance of Respondent Diversity

At this stage of data collection, special attention is paid to ensuring that not only active, community-engaged youth complete the questionnaire but also those less involved in youth programs. The objective is for the sample to be as heterogeneous as possible in terms of age, educational background, residential neighborhoods, and interests.

This diversity is crucial because the project's long-term goal is not merely to collect opinions from a narrow, active youth segment but to create a broader understanding of how young people think about the developmental directions of their city. The data collected will support not only the internal professional work of the project but may

also serve as a basis for municipal and community development recommendations in the future.

Preparation for the Next Workshop

Another key task in May is the preparation for the next international workshop, which will take place in Satu Mare, Romania. This meeting is particularly significant, as it will be the first event in the project to build on preliminary results from the data collection.

The thematic focus of the workshop will be strategic analysis, particularly the application of the SWOT methodology. The Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats framework will allow young people to evaluate their city's situation in a structured way, based not only on personal impressions but also on empirical data.

The program plan includes the following professional elements:

- presentation of preliminary results from the questionnaire survey,
- thematic small-group SWOT work,
- city-specific and comparative analyses,
- drawing joint conclusions and formulating recommendations.

Logistical and Organizational Preparation

For the Satu Mare workshop, a deliberate decision was made to organize accommodation, meals, and the professional program within a single venue. This organizational model is efficient in several respects:

1. **Time optimization:** It minimizes travel time between program locations.
2. **Focused work environment:** It allows for continuous professional concentration.
3. **Community building:** Evening informal discussions and joint reflections become part of the learning process.
4. **Cost efficiency:** It provides a simpler organizational structure and more transparent budget planning.

During the preparation process, detailed consultations were conducted regarding the venue, technical equipment, meal requirements, and travel coordination. Special attention is given to ensuring that the workshop environment supports group work, visual presentation tools (flipcharts, projectors, interactive devices), and structured facilitation.

Preparation for Meetings with Decision-Makers

A key element of the Satu Mare program will be engagement with local decision-makers. City leaders and relevant professionals will host project participants, providing an opportunity for direct dialogue. This relationship-building dimension is particularly important because the long-term goal of the project is to ensure that young people's opinions are not only theoretical but are also integrated into concrete policy and community processes.

In preparation for these meetings, young participants are developing structured presentation materials, which include:

- the main findings from the data collection,
- preliminary results of the SWOT analysis,
- recommendations formulated by the youth.

This process provides not only professional practice but also develops their skills in reasoning, presentation, and advocacy.

Summary

As of May 1, 2025, the *Twinning Together* project is advancing simultaneously in data collection and strategic planning. The survey continues in all three cities, with Nyíregyháza currently leading in the number of responses.

However, the true success of the project is measured not by ranking but by the diversity and volume of respondents.

At the same time, preparation for the Satu Mare workshop is progressing in a structured and deliberate manner. A single-venue professional program, meetings with decision-makers, and a data-driven SWOT analysis all contribute to ensuring that the project moves into the next phase based on solid, empirical knowledge.

The results so far indicate that the participating youth are not merely passive respondents or program attendees but active contributors to the vision for their own cities. A key challenge for the upcoming period will be transforming the incoming data into structured analysis and, subsequently, into concrete, actionable recommendations.

2025.05.15 – Coordination Meetings with Local Youth Stakeholders

By mid-May 2025, the *Twinning Together* project entered another strategically significant phase: alongside structured data collection and international workshops, local-level consultations and partnership network-building gained greater prominence. The project management organized targeted meetings to obtain a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the youth ecosystems, operational mechanisms, challenges, and development opportunities in the participating cities.

The purpose of these consultations was not merely information gathering but the creation of a dialogue-based collaboration in which project participants—especially youth—could engage directly with local civil society and institutional actors. This approach ensures that the observations and recommendations formulated at the end of the project are supported not only by internal experience and survey data but also by concrete institutional and professional feedback.

Rationale for Expanding Local Insight

The project fundamentally relies on young people's opinions and active involvement. The survey launched in April provides substantial data on how youth evaluate their own municipalities. However, developing sustainable and professionally grounded recommendations also requires in-depth understanding of the institutional context, civil initiatives, and existing programs.

To this end, project management conducted in-person coordination visits to several participant cities, particularly Satu Mare in Romania and Rzeszów in Poland. During these visits, structured discussions were held with representatives of civil organizations, youth communities, and local professional actors.

Satu Mare – Local Youth Structures and Challenges

During the Satu Mare visit, project management met with several civil organizations actively engaged in the city's youth life. Discussions focused on the following topics:

- Opportunities for youth community participation,
- Current state of volunteering and project-based activities,
- Youth mobility willingness and migration trends,

- Degree of involvement in local decision-making processes,
- Infrastructural and funding challenges.

It became clear that while an active, motivated youth segment exists, several structural constraints hinder long-term sustainability. These include uncertainties in project-based funding, limited availability of permanent community spaces, and the lack of formalized institutional cooperation.

From a project perspective, the practical experiences shared by local organizations regarding motivating, engaging, and retaining youth were particularly valuable. This information helps refine the picture emerging from survey data and contributes to the foundation for the upcoming SWOT analysis.

Rzeszów – Institutional Context and Innovative Practices

During the visit to Rzeszów, project management engaged with civil and youth organizations that already have significant experience in implementing international collaborations and youth projects.

Key discussion topics included:

- Institutionalized forms of youth participation,

- Existence and practical application of city-level youth strategies,
- International partnerships and mobility programs,
- Use of digital tools to reach young people.

In Rzeszów, a notable focus is ensuring that youth voices are represented in local decision-making through structured forums and advisory bodies. For the project, it was particularly instructive to examine how young people can be involved not only on a project basis but also systematically in city development processes.

Integration of Findings into the Project

Information gathered during the consultations will be incorporated into the project at multiple levels:

1. **Foundation for SWOT analysis:** Strengths and weaknesses identified by local organizations can be directly integrated into the strategic work of the next workshop.
2. **Development of recommendation packages:** Final project recommendations will be based not only on youth perceptions but also on civil and institutional experiences.

3. **Expansion of partnership networks:** Personal meetings open long-term collaboration opportunities.
4. **Validation function:** Survey results can be cross-referenced with civil organization experiences, increasing the project's professional credibility.

During the consultations, efforts were made not only to collect information but also to provide feedback on project goals and outcomes, reinforcing transparency and mutual trust.

Professional Added Value

Meetings with local stakeholders revealed that youth perceptions of their city often align with institutional experiences, while certain discrepancies also exist. These differences are especially valuable, as they provide opportunities for dialogue and strengthen mutual understanding.

For project management, the consultations confirmed that the project's direction is relevant and responsive to real local needs. Additionally, new perspectives emerged, such as:

- Greater attention to youth mental well-being,
- The role of digital skills development,

- Differences between rural and urban youth.

These topics are expected to feature more prominently in the project's final phase.

Summary

By May 15, 2025, the *Twinning Together* project had clearly moved beyond internal workflows and initiated active dialogue with local youth stakeholders. Consultations in Satu Mare and Rzeszów provided project management with a deeper, context-embedded understanding of local youth life, challenges, and opportunities.

The insights gained will feed into the project's final observations and recommendations, ensuring that proposed solutions are not merely theoretical but reflect local realities and offer practically relevant guidance. A key task for the upcoming period will be to integrate the results of data collection, workshops, and local consultations into a coherent, professional document.

2025. May 26–29 – Workshop, Satu Mare

The second official international workshop of the *Twinning Together* project—overall the third due to the March “bonus” session—took place in Satu Mare from May 26–29, 2025. The meeting held high significance in the project timeline: on one hand, approaching the halfway point, it provided an opportunity for a structured review of results achieved so far; on the other hand, certain operational processes required acceleration and fine-tuning.

The workshop had three main objectives:

1. Detailed evaluation of the project’s current status and repositioning of tasks.
2. Intensive, in-person collaboration of working groups to advance their activities.
3. Direct dialogue with local decision-makers and reinforcement of the international learning process.

Day 1 – Arrival, Group Formation, Project Status Overview

Following participant arrivals, the first morning focused on introductions and rebuilding group dynamics. This was especially necessary due to changes in participant composition since the previous workshop, particularly within the Polish delegation. Integrating new members, building trust, and establishing openness for collaborative work were essential for effective teamwork.

Icebreakers and team-building exercises were not merely formal introductions but part of a consciously structured and facilitated process. Participants:

- Presented their personal motivations,
- Articulated individual learning goals,
- Reflected on what they had gained from the project so far,
- Identified competencies they wished to develop.

Subsequently, a detailed project status review took place. The review covered:

- Current progress of the questionnaire survey in the three cities,
- Technical and content status of the website development,

- Scheduling of translation tasks,
- Functioning of communication channels,
- Progress in collecting good practices.

During the task overview, it became clear that content development and translation processes had slowed slightly in recent weeks, due in part to the limitations of online collaboration and competing parallel commitments. The in-person workshop provided an opportunity to correct these delays.

A dedicated session addressed learning objectives. Each participant individually recorded:

- Skills they wished to develop (e.g., project management, communication, survey analysis, presentation skills),
- The role they wanted to play in the remaining project phases,
- Specific outputs to which they wished to contribute.

This conscious reflection strengthened personal responsibility and clarified roles within the project.

Day 2 – Intensive Working Group Activities and Urban Context

The second day focused entirely on operational work. Participants continued in previously established working groups, particularly in the following areas:

1. Website Development and Structural Refinement

The web team:

- Clarified the structure of subpages,
- Improved navigation logic,
- Optimized multilingual presentation,
- Standardized visual identity elements.

An important task was also preparation for future visual presentation of the survey results (graphs, infographics, downloadable summaries).

2. Content Creation and Editing

The content development team:

- Updated event reports,
- Prepared documentation for the workshops,
- Standardized style and terminology.

Special attention was given to ensure that the project's professional messages were clear, while remaining accessible and engaging for the young target audience.

3. Translation and Linguistic Harmonization

Due to the multilingual nature of the project, the translation team carried out intensive work. This was not limited to literal translation, but included:

- Terminology alignment,
- Adaptation to cultural context,
- Stylistic harmonization.

This was especially important for the questionnaire and the collection of good practices, where conceptual precision was essential.

4. Collection of Good Practices – The Greatest Challenge

One of the workshop's most complex tasks was defining the concept of "good practice." Initially, participants faced difficulties in determining:

- What qualifies as a good practice?
- How does a good practice differ from a simple program description?
- Which criteria must it meet (sustainability, adaptability, measurability, innovation)?

During a facilitated methodological session:

- Participants jointly defined a criteria framework for good practices,
- Analyzed examples,
- Developed a comparative assessment system.

This work fundamentally shaped participants' approach to project and program evaluation.

Urban Experience and Intercultural Learning

Alongside professional tasks, cultural and urban programs played an important role. For several participants, it was their first visit to Satu Mare, so the organizers introduced:

- The historic city center,
- Cultural institutions,
- Local youth community spaces.

These informal activities contributed to team cohesion and deepened intercultural learning processes.

Day 3 – Meeting with Decision-Makers and Evaluation Process

On the morning of the third day, an official visit was held at Satu Mare City Hall, where participants met the mayor and local decision-makers.

During the meeting:

- Project objectives were presented,
- Results achieved so far were summarized,
- The progress of the questionnaire survey was reported,
- Planned professional outputs were outlined.

Decision-makers responded openly and supportively, particularly valuing that the project was based on structured data collection and incorporated the voices of young people.

In the afternoon, the group returned to evaluation and closing tasks. Working groups aimed to finalize ongoing activities and set concrete deadlines for continued online work.

Day 4 – Reflection and Looking Ahead

The final day focused on reflective learning. Participants:

- Reviewed their personal development,
- Evaluated professional and organizational aspects of the workshop,
- Articulated upcoming challenges.

Key highlights included:

- The importance of time management,
- Clear definition of responsibilities,
- The need for regular online coordination.

A strategic decision was also made to hold the project's final meeting in September in Nyíregyháza. This session will focus on summarizing results, presenting data analysis, and finalizing the recommendation package.

Summary

The Satu Mare workshop can be considered a milestone in the project. It not only represented operational progress, but also:

- strengthened the international partnership,
- enhanced the professional competencies of the young participants,
- clarified the methodological framework,

- and laid the groundwork for the successful implementation of the project's final phase.

The in-person meeting once again demonstrated that collective thinking, structured discussion, and facilitated collaboration generate a qualitative added value that is difficult to replicate online. The participants became not only implementers of the project but active shapers of a process that can contribute, in the long term, to a more conscious, data-driven development of youth life in the three cities.

July 2025 – Summer Data Collection in Three Partner Municipalities

During the summer period of the project, one of our most important professional activities continued: collecting the opinions and experiences of young people in the three participating partner municipalities. The research process played a key role in the Twinning Together project, as one of the fundamental objectives of the initiative was to ensure that the voice of young people appears in a real and tangible way in local decision-making and in the development of twin-town cooperation.

The data collection was carried out on the basis of a questionnaire developed during the earlier phase of the project, which had been jointly compiled by the participants during workshops and working group consultations. The aim of the questionnaire was to map the opinions of young people on several topics, including:

- local youth opportunities and programmes,
- the level of community participation among young people,

- the importance of twin-town relationships,
- the issue of staying in the local area or migration,
- and the development needs of youth infrastructure and services.

The questionnaire research was conducted using a combination of several methods. Some young people completed the questionnaire online, while others participated through personal meetings, community events, youth programmes, and discussions organised in schools or community spaces. This combined approach helped ensure that responses were collected from the widest possible range of participants and that young people from different backgrounds could also express their views.

At the same time, the summer period presented several challenges from the perspective of data collection. Holidays, summer jobs, travel, and the academic break meant that many young people were less available, which naturally had an impact on response rates. Despite this, the project teams in all three cities actively worked to involve as many young people as possible in the process.

The organisations used a variety of tools to encourage participation in the survey:

- launching social media campaigns,
- personally inviting young people to participate,

- promoting the questionnaire at youth events and meetings,
- and involving the networks of partner organisations in the dissemination.

Although the original project plans included higher response numbers, the final results can still be considered significant and valuable. By the end of the survey, the opinions of several hundred young people had been collected from the three partner municipalities.

The number of respondents by city was as follows:

- Satu Mare – approximately 100 respondents
- Nyíregyháza – approximately 300 respondents
- Rzeszów – approximately 350 respondents

Összességében tehát közel 750 fiatal véleménye és tapasztalata került be a projekt adatbázisába, ami a projekt léptékét figyelembe véve már egy olyan mennyiségű visszajelzést jelent, amely alapján releváns következtetéseket lehet levonni.

Az adatok előzetes áttekintése során már világossá vált, hogy számos területen egyértelmű mintázatok rajzolódnak ki. Több kérdés esetében a különböző városokból érkező válaszok meglepően hasonló képet mutattak, ami arra utal, hogy a fiatalok által érzékelt kihívások és igények sokszor közősek, függetlenül attól, hogy melyik országban élnek.

Különösen erős visszajelzések érkeztek az alábbi területeken:

During the preliminary review of the data, it already became clear that clear patterns are emerging in several areas. In many questions, the responses coming from the different cities showed surprisingly similar trends, suggesting that the challenges and needs perceived by young people are often shared regardless of the country in which they live.

Particularly strong feedback was received in the following areas:

- the need for greater involvement of young people in local decision-making,
- the necessity of organising more international and twin-town programmes,
- the support of community spaces and youth initiatives,
- and increasing the visibility of information and opportunities available to young people.

The results of the questionnaire are important not only as statistical data, but also because they reflect stories and experiences that help to better understand the everyday realities of young people. Among the responses, several suggestions and remarks also appeared that point towards concrete development directions for the future.

In the next phase of the project, these data will be analysed in detail. The task of the working groups will be to:

- systematise the incoming responses,
- compare the results from the three cities,
- identify the most important problems and opportunities,
- and develop a structured package of recommendations based on these findings.

This package of recommendations will be specifically prepared for local and regional decision-makers, with the aim of ensuring that the opinions of young people are reflected in a concrete way in future developments and programmes.

It is important to emphasise that the research was not merely a one-time data collection activity, but one of the key elements of the project: a process that creates a bridge between young people and decision-makers. For the participants, this also meant the experience that their opinions matter and can contribute to shaping the future of their own city.

Therefore, the summer phase of data collection produced not only measurable results in numbers, but also reinforced one of the fundamental objectives of the

project: strengthening the active participation of young people and deepening cooperation between the twin cities. The collected feedback provides a professional foundation on which the further steps of the project—particularly the development of recommendations and the dialogue with decision-makers—can confidently be built.

22–25 September 2025 – The Final Mobility Event of the Twinning Together Project

Between 22 and 25 September 2025, the final mobility event of our Twinning Together Erasmus+ participation project took place, which proved to be one of the most important milestones of the entire programme. This meeting did not only mark the conclusion of the project, but also represented a strategic point where participating organisations and young people jointly reflected on the results of the past period, evaluated the experiences of the cooperation, and laid the foundations for future joint work.

The special significance of the mobility event lay in the fact that, in addition to the three twin cities already actively cooperating within the project – Nyíregyháza, Satu Mare, and Rzeszów – representatives of two new partner municipalities also joined as observers: Uzhhorod and Velyki Kapušany. The involvement of the new partners was a conscious and previously planned step, as one of the long-term objectives of the project was to establish a broader and stable youth cooperation network connecting several cities in Central and Eastern Europe.

During the four days of the meeting, participants were part of an intensive professional and community process in which reflection, learning, strategic thinking, and future planning all played important roles.

First Day – Connection, Introductions, and Review of the Project Results

The first day of the mobility event primarily focused on connection and strengthening the shared foundations. Although the partners had already met several times during the project – for example during earlier workshops and consultations – the final mobility created a special opportunity for all participants to look at the joint work from a new perspective.

The programme began with a structured introduction and networking session, which was particularly important for the representatives of the newly joining observer cities. The facilitators applied interactive methods that allowed participants not only to introduce themselves at an organisational level, but also to share their personal motivations, experiences, and youth work backgrounds.

This was followed by a detailed project overview session, during which the following aspects were presented:

- the circumstances of the project's launch,
- the initial objectives,

- the experiences of the earlier mobility events,
- the activities of the working groups established during the workshops,
- the results of the questionnaire research,
- as well as the outcomes published on the project website and other communication channels.

During the presentations, particular emphasis was placed on the process through which the project gradually developed: from the initial consultations and relationship-building to a structured international cooperation actively shaped by young people.

For the representatives of the new partner municipalities, this section proved particularly useful, as they gained a detailed understanding of how the project had been structured, which methods had been applied by the participants, and what results had been achieved during the previous months. Following the presentations, an open question-and-answer session also took place, during which the new partners actively inquired about the functioning of the project, the system of working groups, and the methods of involving young people.

By the end of the day, a shared understanding had been established that laid the foundation for the professional work of the following days.

Second Day – Young People’s Opinions and Recommendations for Decision-Makers

The second day of the mobility event focused on the structured collection and organisation of young people’s opinions. One of the most important elements of the project was to ensure that the experiences, ideas, and suggestions of young people from the participating cities would reach local and regional decision-makers in a concrete form.

The working process was based on the questionnaire previously developed during the project and conducted in the three cities. The research brought several important topics into focus, such as:

- opportunities for young people to remain in their local communities,
- the development of twin-town relationships,
- the role of community spaces,
- the involvement of young people in local decision-making,
- as well as the accessibility and impact of youth programmes.

During the day, participants worked in several international groups so that different perspectives could meet. The purpose of the group work was to interpret the

results of the questionnaire research and, based on these findings, formulate concrete recommendations.

During the discussions, a lively professional debate developed in which young people also shared their personal experiences. A particularly important realisation was that although the participating cities are located in different countries, many of the challenges are similar:

- the migration of young people,
- limited opportunities for participation,
- the lack of support for community initiatives.

The groups ultimately developed a joint package of recommendations, which included:

- measures to strengthen the involvement of young people,
- new forms of twin-town cooperation,
- as well as opportunities for expanding international youth projects.

This document can be considered one of the key professional outcomes of the project.

Third Day – Establishment of the Twin Cities Youth Coordination Council

The third day of the mobility event proved to be of historical significance for the project, as this was when the organisational and operational framework of the Twin Cities Youth Coordination Council was developed.

During a facilitated process, the participants jointly defined:

- the purpose of the council,
- its long-term mission,
- its operational principles,
- as well as the rules of membership and decision-making.

During the joint discussions, it became clear that the council would not merely be a formal structure, but a platform that provides young people with the opportunity to consult regularly, initiate joint projects, and represent their interests.

Participants placed strong emphasis on democratic operation; therefore, during the development of the regulations, particular attention was given to:

- transparency,
- ensuring equal participation,

- and maintaining international partnership.

One of the most important moments of the day was the election of the leadership. Through a democratic vote, the participants decided who would lead the organisation during the first period. The community ultimately decided that the council should be led by two co-chairs, which reflects well the fundamental philosophy of the project: cooperation, partnership, and equality.

This decision also had symbolic significance, as the entire project was characterised by shared leadership and shared responsibility.

Learning Processes and Youthpass Reflection

An important element of the programme was the joint reflection on the learning processes. During reflective exercises, participants looked back on the skills and experiences they had gained during the project.

During the discussions, several learning outcomes emerged, including:

- the development of international cooperation skills,
- the strengthening of communication competences,
- project management experience,

- increased intercultural sensitivity,
- as well as a practical understanding of democratic participation.

A separate session focused on the role of Youthpass, which supports the recognition and documentation of competences acquired through non-formal learning. Participants jointly reviewed their individual learning journeys and identified the skills that had developed the most during the project.

Fourth Day – Evaluation, Future Planning, and Strengthening the Partnership

The final day of the mobility event focused on the evaluation of the project and the planning of future cooperation. Participants provided feedback at several levels:

- individual reflections,
- group evaluations,
- and facilitated discussions.

Based on the evaluations, it became clear that the project had a significant impact on the participating young people and organisations. The young participants not only built new connections, but also experienced the real functioning of joint thinking and democratic decision-making.

Feedback particularly highlighted that the project:

- strengthened the substance of twin-town relationships,
- initiated new international collaborations,
- and established the foundations of a network that can operate in the long term.

During the closing phase, participants also focused on the future. With the involvement of the newly joining cities, a cooperation model began to take shape that connects the young people of five municipalities.

Summary

The final mobility event held between 22 and 25 September 2025 was a fitting conclusion to the Twinning Together project. The meeting simultaneously served:

- to summarise the joint results,
- to strengthen the partnership,
- and to lay the foundations for future cooperation.

During the project, the participants demonstrated that international youth cooperation can initiate real change. The voice of young people became stronger, the relationships between the cities deepened, and a structure was created—the Twin Cities Youth Coordination

Council—that can maintain and further develop this cooperation in the long term.

By the end of the mobility event, it became clear that the project had not truly ended, but rather marked the beginning of a new phase: that of an expanding international youth network in which the young people of five cities now work together to shape their common future.

Closing Remarks

The conclusion of the Twinning Together project does not merely represent the end of a process, but also a milestone in a shared journey during which our participants, partner organisations, and the involved young people learned together, developed, and shaped each other's perspectives. The events, meetings, and joint work of the past period have demonstrated that the real value of international cooperation lies in the connections between people, in shared experiences, and in openness towards one another.

During the project, numerous moments emerged that went beyond the official framework of the programme. Joint discussions, workshops, cultural programmes, and informal meetings all contributed to ensuring that participants not only gained professional experience but also developed a deeper understanding of each other's cultures, communities, and everyday realities. These

experiences strengthened the sense of European belonging and contributed to participants approaching the challenges of the future with greater confidence and openness.

One of the most important results of Twinning Together is the partnership network that was strengthened during the project and which, we hope, will continue to serve as the basis for active and inspiring cooperation in the future. Organisations and young people from different countries worked together towards common goals, shared their experiences, and generated new ideas. This process was significant not only at a professional level but also created valuable human connections that may outlive the official duration of the project.

The activities implemented during the project contributed to young people taking a more active role in the life of their own communities. For many participants, this experience represented a turning point: they were given the opportunity to voice their opinions, acquire new skills, and recognise that they are capable of initiating positive changes in their environment. The learning process did not take place only within formal frameworks, but also through shared experiences and the exchange of knowledge, which is one of the greatest strengths of non-formal learning.

It is particularly important to highlight the creativity and commitment demonstrated by the participants throughout every stage of the project. The ideas, energy, and openness

of the young people made the programme truly dynamic and meaningful. Their active participation proves that when they are given the appropriate space and support, they are capable of thinking responsibly about community and European issues and of seeking new solutions to challenges.

The results of the Twinning Together project will not remain only in the form of meetings, events, or documents. The real impact can be measured in the changes that have appeared in the participants' thinking, perspectives, and visions for the future. The experiences gained here may have a long-term influence on how young people relate to international cooperation, community participation, and social responsibility.

The conclusion of the project also represents a new beginning. The relationships established here, the knowledge acquired, and the jointly formulated goals create a foundation for further cooperation and new projects. We trust that the initiatives and ideas born during Twinning Together will continue to provide inspiration in the future and contribute to the continued development of the communities of the participants.

It is important for us that the lessons and results of the project become accessible to a wider audience as well. Therefore, we place special emphasis on sharing these experiences with other organisations, young people, and professionals. We believe that the sharing of good

practices and jointly experienced moments can contribute to enabling even more young people to engage in international programmes and allowing even more communities to benefit from cooperation.

Looking back at the entire process of the project, it is clear that Twinning Together was not only a programme, but also a shared space for learning and development. It was a platform where people from different backgrounds met, shared their stories, and searched together for common ground. This experience strengthened our belief that dialogue, cooperation, and openness are key elements in building a stronger and more inclusive European community.

Our gratitude goes to everyone who contributed to the success of the project: the staff members of the partner organisations, the facilitators, the organisers, and all the participating young people who brought the programme to life with their energy and enthusiasm. Without their work, ideas, and commitment, none of this would have been possible.

The story of Twinning Together concludes with this volume, but its impact continues to live on in the communities that were part of this journey. We hope that the relationships formed during the project, the experiences gained together, and the moments shared will continue to provide inspiration for a long time and will serve as the foundation for new collaborations in the

future. This project has demonstrated that when people from different places come together around shared goals, genuine and lasting values can be created.



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