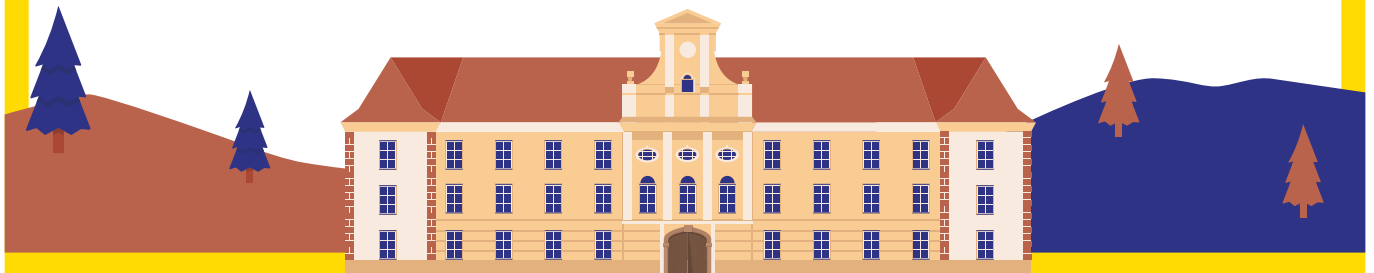




EU in my school – Slovenia, Hungary

E-publication





Introduction

How can children from different countries experience their shared heritage and the impact the European Union has on their daily lives? In the context of “EU in my school”, 105 Hungarian and Slovene primary school children discovered the history of their region, which today extends across two borders: How did their ancestors live? Where can we find traces of them in the present? And why should young people care? The shared stories of the past were explored on-site at Pomurje Museum Murska Sobota and through the EU-funded ([#InterregSIHU](#)) digital archive [e-documenta Pannonica](#), between October 2022 and April 2023.

The activities were followed by a storytelling workshop back at the pupils’ schools, together with local author Norma Bale. In Slovenia and Hungary, “EU in my school” activities have for the first time been implemented across the borders of two different EU countries. The participating schools were the Slovenian primary schools France Prešeren Črenšovci, Sveti Jurij and Kuzma and the bilingual primary schools Stevanovci/Apátistvánfalva and Gornji Senik/Felsőszölnök in Hungary. Besides introducing the project and its partners, this e-publication includes impressions, outcomes and testimonies from the activities.



“EU in my school”

In the context of the “[EU in my school](#)” initiative, pupils explore EU-supported places and actions in their region. They participate in activities such as scavenger hunts, creative workshops or athletic competitions that are both fun and educational, accompanied by inspirational local personalities. In this playful way, the pupils discover the treasures and challenges that their region offers, as well as local initiatives – supported by the EU – that make a positive difference in their daily lives. The key realisation from all this is that “Europe is closer than we think”.

The initiative is open to children and young people (ages 3 to 19) across the European Union. It forms part of “[Europe in my region](#)”, a public information campaign in which the European Commission (Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy) collaborates with regional partners. It is implemented either as an integral part of fully-fledged regional communication actions, or as individual partnerships involving managing authorities for EU funding, schools, providers of non-formal education, project beneficiaries and various other local partners, including [Europe Direct](#) centres and [Representations of the European Commission](#). When co-creating their tailored activities, local partners can count on conceptual, logistical, and financial support from the European Commission, for example regarding activity design, event management, content creation and coordination with relevant stakeholders, including local influencers. Since the launch of “EU in my school” in winter 2021, more than 20,000 pupils in 11 EU countries have participated in inspiring on-site activities.



Description of the activities and testimonials from the pupils

The pupils researched our roots in the past. The guiding principle of the Pomurje Museum Murska Sobota in the "EU in my school" initiative was for pupils from 5 elementary schools to get to know the local cultural heritage in a relaxed and playful way, albeit professionally presented. The activities were based on the e-documenta Pannonica website, which presents the cultural heritage of more than 120 places in the cross-border area that spans Slovenia and Hungary. With 2 bilingual schools from Hungary also participating, the initiative was truly cross-border.

Between the museum and the participating schools, 3 interconnected activities were designed, which took place in 3 steps. The first step was held in the classroom. The museum curator came to present the "EU in my school" initiative, and e-documenta Pannonica. On this site pupils were able to view examples of cultural heritage from their local area. As an introduction to the next step, they used the website to discover examples of castle equipment kept in the museum, such as the portrait of Count Pavel Szapary and the salon table.



"We had high expectations, good mood, interesting data."
Pupil from France Prešeren Črenšovci primary school (Slovenia)

"The session was wonderful."
Pupil from Jožef Košič Bilingual primary school Gornji Senik/Felsőszölnök (Hungary)

"The first session was interesting because we saw the sights in my village."
Pupil from Sveti Jurij primary school

"I really liked it in the first hour, because the lady was kind. I also got to know a new website that has many objects you can read about and learn a lot about. It was also interesting."
Pupil from Sveti Jurij primary school

The exchange in the classroom was followed by a visit to the Pomurje Museum Murska Sobota. Pupils took part in a museum tour involving research and interactive elements about castles in Prekmurje. They saw original objects from the castle, experienced the castle atmosphere in the baroque salon and solved fun challenges in groups. During a creative workshop, they created a personal coat of arms on canvas bags - a lasting memory of their "EU in my school" experience. The visit ended the pupils having fun walking on stilts.

"We didn't expect to see a real castle room."
Pupil from France Prešeren Črenšovci primary school (Slovenia)

"The workshop was creative, relaxing, beautiful and wonderful."
Pupil from France Prešeren Črenšovci primary school (Slovenia)



"We felt good at the workshop, it was pleasant."

Pupil from Jožef Košič Bilingual primary school Gornji Senik/Felsőszölnök (Hungary)

"Working at the workshops was nice."

Pupil from Bilingual primary school Števanovci/ Apátistvánfalva (Hungary)

"Today we visited the castle in Murska Sobota. We learned about the life of nobles in the Middle Ages and modern times. It was very interesting and educational. We staged a live picture and made our own coats of arms. It was a lot of fun!"

Pupil from Sveti Jurij primary school

"I really liked the workshop, especially making coats of arms. I hope that more workshops like this will be organised for primary schools. I will keep the coat of arms in my room."

Pupil from Sveti Jurij primary school





Europe in my region

Sometime later, to consolidate their individual experience, participating pupils were visited by writer Norma Bale and took part in a storytelling workshop. The pupils recounted their experiences and impressions in a playful and creative way in the form of a story, with their texts interwoven with photos and drawings. The individual stories were collected together to form a joint book and helped make the "EU in my school" initiative even more memorable.

"It was so great, I would go a hundred more times."

Pupil from Kuzma primary school (Slovenia)

"The workshops were GREAT. I hope that there will be many more such workshops."

Pupil from Kuzma primary school (Slovenia)

And what do the participating pupils think about the whole experience of participating in the "EU in my school" initiative?

"We really enjoyed it and had fun with the project and the activities, and we also learned a lot."

Pupil from France Prešeren Črenšovci primary school (Slovenia)

"We were very enthusiastic about the "EU in my school" initiative."

Pupil from France Prešeren Črenšovci primary school (Slovenia)

"It was interesting, we would like to continue working with the museum."

Pupil from Jožef Košič Bilingual primary school Gornji Senik/Felsőszölnök (Hungary)

"A very good campaign."

Pupil from Števanovci/ Apátistvánfalva Bilingual primary school (Hungary)



Description of the project

What is the e-documenta Pannonica project?

The e-documenta Pannonica project was implemented in the Interreg Slovenia – Hungary programme. Its main output is the website of the same name, which shows the cultural heritage of the cross-border area of Slovenia and Hungary. A map on the homepage features interactive elements spread around Prekmurje in Slovenia and Vas County in Hungary, which show the cultural heritage of individual places in the area. This takes the form of artefacts, archive material and traditional buildings and monuments, as well as intangible cultural heritage and personalities.

To prepare this digital collection, four heritage institutions, two museums and two archives joined forces across borders: Pomurje Museum from Murska Sobota, Maribor regional archives, Savaria Museum, the Hungarian National Archives and Vas County Archives. Most of the material in the digital collection exhibited on e-documenta



Europe in my region

Pannonica comes from their collections. The partnership was completed by the Beltinci Institute for Tourism, Culture and Sport, which established an e-documenta Pannonica info point in Beltinci Castle, to host all the descriptive material about the project in one place.



About the Interreg Slovenia-Hungary programme

Interreg supports cooperation projects between border regions in different EU countries. The Interreg V-A Slovenia-Hungary cooperation programme is the continuation of a cooperation process which started in the mid-90s under trilateral and bilateral compositions.

During the 2014–20 programming period, the programme supported a total of 24 projects with nearly EUR 13.3 million in funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), to transform the region into a shared socially and environmentally sustainable “green tourism” region and encourage cross-sectoral social, economic and institutional cooperation.

It is always a pleasure to see and experience when a project, a partnership, remain alive and continue to function even after the implementation period, as is the case with the e-documenta Pannonica project.

