

KEYtoEU



Co-funded by the  
Europe for Citizens Programme  
of the European Union



**Solidarity - key to solving social problems and supporting the  
evolution of Europe in future  
(KEYtoEU)**

**4th Project Meeting  
24-27 March 2022  
Prague-9 (Czech Republic)**

**Presentation of Partner LG City DIÓSD, Hungary**



# **The life of the German minority in Diósd today**

# Changes in the number of Germans in Hungary

- In the **middle of the 18th century**, a large number of **German families were resettled throughout Hungary** (including Diósd) to replace the Hungarian population that perished during the Turkish occupation and wars.
- **After the Second World War, a part of the Swabian population in Hungary was forcibly relocated to Germany.**
- According to the 2011 census, German is the second largest minority in Hungary.
- Based on census data \*:
  - 30,824 people in 1990,
  - 62,105 people in 2001,
  - and **at the 2011 census, 131,951 people declared himself to be of German nationality.** \*\*
- Based on the above data, it can be clearly seen that members of the German nationality have become more and more aware of their membership of the German minority in recent years, and at the same time **the willingness to account for their German identity in censuses has increased.** .

\* Source: [https://www.ksh.hu/docs/eng/xftp/idoszaki/nepsz2011/nepsz\\_09\\_2011.pdf](https://www.ksh.hu/docs/eng/xftp/idoszaki/nepsz2011/nepsz_09_2011.pdf)

\*\* Data for 2021 are not available due to the postponement of the census to 2022.

# Diósd settlement



Diósd is a garden-town settlement with a **population of 12,000**, in the immediate vicinity of Budapest. Part of the population has German ancestry, so Diósd's name can also be read in Swabian - **Orasch**. (origin of the name: German walnut word)



# The 3 main pillars of Swabian tradition in Diósd

- Municipality of Diósd
- German Nationality Local Government of Diósd
- German Association for the Preservation of Traditions







# Local Government of Diósd

- Organization of German traditional and cultural events
- Support for ethnic self-government and non-governmental organizations
- **German twinning town Alsbach-Hähnlein since 1989:** close contact, minimum 1-1 program per year in both towns



# German National Government of Diósd (DNNÖ)

- The first 5-member German self-government was formed in Diósd in January 2007 after the 2006 elections.

The **main objectives** of the DNNÖ from the very beginning are the followings:

- preserving and nurturing the German 'mother tongue' and, to that end, supporting the teaching of the German language in local kindergartens and local schools,
- preservation and promotion of intellectual heritage, local traditions, German culture (music and dance), German identity in Hungary,
- and in the field of international relations, fostering exchanges in Germany through partnerships and programs.



# German Association for the Preservation of Traditions

**The primary goal of the Association is to search for, preserve and pass on German national (Swabian) traditions to young generations; maintaining national consciousness and belonging, preserving identity.**

## **Activities:**

- collection and archiving of material memories to be preserved,
- cultivating old Swabian customs
- presentation of the traditions to the new residents of Diósd, to the inhabitants of the city,
- for children, schoolchildren - presentation of traditions to German classes,
- club life based on the needs of association members



# The German minority in Diósd today

- **According to the latest 2011 census data, 266 people in Diósd declared themselves to be of German nationality.** Unfortunately, we do not have more recent data due to the lack of the 2021 census, but we assume that due to the sharp increase in the population of the settlement belonging to the Budapest agglomeration in the last 10 years, this number has not decreased despite the deaths in the meantime.
- Today, the community of German nationality in Diósd is **no longer as homogeneous a community** as it once was. Its members include not only the descendants of the old Diósdians, but also Swabians who have moved here from different parts of the country (surrounding Swabian settlements: Nagytétény, Törökbálint, Budaörs, etc., and from other parts of the country, e.g. Baranya county).

# The German minority in Diósd today

## The use of the German language in Diósd

- Although some of the Swabian languages used by the old Swabians in Diósd are still known and used by the descendants of the Swabians in Diósd, it can be said that the Swabians of the younger generation who speak German **no longer in the old Swabian dialect** but in the 1980s and, thanks to the German language teaching in schools in the 1990s, literary German studied at the school is spoken.
- Thanks to the teaching of German in kindergartens in the settlement and the teaching of German in the local German national primary school, which has been operating since 2014, **the number of children and schoolchildren learning and speaking German has increased significantly in recent years.**

# Preschool German education

- *"The nation lives in its language," said Count István Széchenyi, and this is at least as true for the minority. As a few elderly Swabians spoke almost no German at the time of the establishment of the German self-government, the protection of the German language has been a priority for the German self-government since its inception.*
- *To this end, one of the first tasks of the German Nationality of Diósd, with the support of the kindergarten management, was to start teaching German in the kindergarten. **Since October 2007, he has provided 21 children with the opportunity to learn German in kindergarten.***
- *Kindergarten German language teaching continues to be funded by DNNÖ. In kindergarten, 1 kindergarten group currently learns German for 1 hour a week.*

# German Nationality School in Diósd

- When enrolling in German ethnic classes, **the child's German nationality, which is declared in writing by the parents, takes precedence.**
- The 8-grade local German national primary school currently has a total of **312 students studying German in elevated hours.**
- In addition to learning the German language, **German national knowledge** is also part of the national curriculum.
- Children attending German nationality classes learn German ethnic dance in the lower grades as part of 1 physical education class per week.

# German Nationality School in Diósd

- Schoolchildren in the **German Nationality Class** have been **regular performers at city events** since the establishment of the German Nationality School. On the occasion of their performance, they perform in a dress sewn by the German national self-government. On the stage, mainly German songs and dances are performed on the stage, but they have also performed with longer prose performances.





# German Nationality School in Diósd

- Upper secondary school children have the opportunity to receive a German student for a few days during a school year or to travel to the host family for a few days during a school year as part of a student **exchange program with the school in Alsbach-Hähnlein, Germany's sister city.**





# Preservation of local traditions

- Due to the meanwhile urbanization of the settlement, unfortunately not all old traditions have been preserved for posterity. With the cessation of backyard farming and animal husbandry, customs such as feather plucking and corn stripping have become obsolete.
- However, the settlement has managed **to maintain such important traditions as:**
  - the swabian pig killing feast
  - the Lord's Day procession (local Swabians belong to the Catholic denomination)
  - the pilgrimage of Diósd (St. Gellért Days)
  - New event: Swabian Days in Diósd

# Pilgrimage of Diósd

- As part of the St. Gellért Days, the German Nationality Council of Diósd has the opportunity to compile a **two-hour Swabian program** for the public every year at the request of the city government.
- In addition to the traditional groups, DNNÖ places great emphasis on introducing as many students of the school's German education to the city as possible, in order to involve them with their parents in public life, thus strengthening our ethnic community and its future.





# Swabian days in Diósd



# Community building gatherings for local Swabians





# Preservation of Swabian identity and local traditions

- From the very beginning, DNNÖ considered it an important task to nurture, revive and pass on the Swabian customs and traditions that still exist in the settlement to the younger generations, thus preserving what is still left of the cultural heritage of the Swabian ancestors of Diósd.
- One of the very important means of this was to support **family tree research** and to process **old pictures**, as well as to organize **exhibitions** on the subject for the residents of the settlement and other interested parties.



# Our Swabian built heritage

- There were many wine cellars in the settlement due to viticulture. Today's **Country House** was built from the most beautiful of them.
- Today, the Country House functions as a charming local history museum, where visitors can get acquainted with the furnishing and use of our Swabian predecessors.
- In addition to this traditional task, the Country House is often the venue for various city and family events.

