How is your inner weather today?

This is the question we ask each other every morning in the morning circle. Today is the day of departure, and while the other volunteers answers were very mixed, from „sunny“ to „cloudy“ to „rainbow“, I responded with the following:

„My inner weather is a beautiful, foggy sunset. It is the kind of sunset that you look at in a nostalgic evening mood, remembering the great moments of the day, while feeling grateful and a bit tired too. Good things come to an end, and maybe the fact that this project was temporary and only lasted for two months made it that special. I am also looking forward and curious about what the next few days will bring.“

And it is true: We will not share the next days with each other anymore. We won´t work together, won´t sleep together, won´t cook together, won't sing together and won't be able to enjoy each other's company anymore.

Within less than 48 hours, our lifelines continue again in the countries where we came from. Life has given us these two months in this small place Latinovac, but soon we will head to hunt for our individual visions of the future. While Latinovac has given to some people a clearer perspective about what their next months and years could look like, it also might have left some of us confused and disoriented.

Everyone will arrive soon by plane or train at the place that they called home before. But will we really feel the same after all, when we go back? Hasn´t Latinovac become a home for us as well, a place where we experienced belonging, purpose, togetherness, freedom?

How will it be to come back to our hometowns, back to the non-changing, to the usual, to the comfort zone, while this project here has caused change in us?

I wonder to whom the project „Sustainable Community Development“ actually contributed the most. Was it to the villagers, who we helped with chopping wood, working with corn, gardening? Was it Eko Centar, who we helped to maintain this place and made it more artsy and beautiful? Was it in every small conversation with a student, local, or a young scout, to whom we gave an idea of intercultural exchange, volunteering, Europe? Or was it actually to us volunteers, who have spent two memorable, maybe life-changing months in the beautiful Slavonia, while getting an idea of rural lifestyle, sustainable living, exploring our own potential and ideas? Two months of pure living in an international community, after the Covid-influenced winter has sucked out a lot of our energy and left us lonely?

These questions might not be that easy to answer, but in any way I believe that with every encounter, every dirty work, every conversation, every workshop, every willingness to contribute to a higher purpose we have planted seeds for the future, in the hearts of Slavonians and in our own. Hvala!