

Have a nice afternoon everyone,

my name is Slavka Dupláková and I represent the Slovak organization entitled **Zvieratá a ľudia navzájom**, translated as Animals and People to Each Other .

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to give the *opening speech* at today's *online conference* marking the end of the Erasmus+ Small Partnerships in Adult Education project.

First of all, allow me to thank **SAAIC** – the **Slovak Academic Association for International Cooperation**, which has been supporting and coordinating Erasmus+ international cooperation programmes for 30 years, as well as the **European Commission**, which manages the Erasmus+ Programme and is responsible for its implementation...

**I thank them** ... for this opportunity to implement and coordinate **for the very first time** a project within the Erasmus+ Programme, namely a project entitled "Care Farms - for a Sustainable and Inclusive Future"...

I also want to share with you my gratitude to all our partners... I would like to mention Dyrebar Omsorg (Precious (Animal) Care) from Norway, specifically Dr. Christine Olsen and Line Sandsted, our Polish partner Stowarzyszenie Zwierzęta Ludziom (Animals for People Association), namely to Magdalena Nawarecka-Piątek and Sabina Zlotowicz, our Czech participant/partner Česká hiporehabilitační společnost – (Czech Equine Facilitated Therapy Association), and also our Slovak partners: Doc. PhDr. Denisa Šoltésová, PhD. from Trojlístok n.o. (Shamrock), PhDr. Mgr. Martina Čontofalská Michalková from Zmysel života n.o (Meaning of Life) and many other people from Slovakia and abroad. Thank you! Thank you for making this happen, for the good mutual cooperation! I am glad that we are not yet finished with the project. Together we shall continue to learn, grow and make progress in order to gain problem-solving skills to thrive in this rapidly changing society and to provide professional, effective and most importantly safe animal-assisted interventions.

At the same time, I am glad we have a professional translator and interpreter Mgr. Martina Kurtyová Jadlovská, who is going to interpret this conference simultaneously, so that all of you can join in!

I know you're all looking forward to the lectures so I'm passing the word over to Dr.Christine Olsen