

How has the enlargement of the EU in 2004 influenced citizens in small rural communities in Europe?

Lassee-Austria:

The municipality of Lassee is situated in the eastern part of Austria, near the Slovakian border, exactly in the middle between Vienna and Bratislava. Due to this fact, the enlargement of the EU in 2004 influenced the citizens of Lassee and its surroundings in many different ways. The most important aspects are economy and culture.

Economy:

More and more people from Slovakia, as well as from Czech Republic or from Hungary, are coming to work, or even to live here. That means that this people are spending money in the village by buying food, clothes, etc.

Also there are many geriatric nurses who take care of old people in the town. This allows people to live longer in their own houses with their families. So there is less need for expensive medical treatment or even stays in hospital.

Another important point, is that everybody is free now to move, so it has become very easy to go abroad either for doing some sightseeing or for shopping in the Eastern European Countries.

Culture:

Children from Slovakia or other Eastern European Countries are going to the Kindergarden or to School in Austria. So children are learning from each other, not only languages, but also behavior, and so boarders and fears have been combated.

So we can say, that the enlargement of the EU influenced citizens of Lassee in a positive way. People are don't live just next to each other anymore, but in a good neighborhood with all the positive and negative aspects.

Concerning the country of Austria, the enlargement also had positive aspects for the economy and for the intercultural exchange of people from Eastern Europe and Austria. So, we can say that Europe is growing together again.