

## 2nd Newsletter

### 42nd General Meeting Bad Kötzing, 11<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> May 2017

EUROPEAN TOWN TWINNING

Dear Douzelage friends,

We are working hard for the preparations of the GM in May and we had a very busy meeting with Annigie and Irene about the program. As we get funding from the EU we have to plan according to the draft program we enclosed in the application. We know that it seems ambitious, but we are quite hopeful and confident that you will find it interesting, informative and advantageous.

Now some further information:

#### 1. Preparation

There will be some homework for you to do, although most of you don't attend school anymore. To give the discussions more content we would like the delegations to prepare some concise information about the situation regarding refugees and migrants in their individual Douzelage town/region and send the results to Bad Kötzing by April, 15th. (See more details in the annexes 1.1 – 1.3.)

#### 2. Tasting Tables

Tasting tables have been a very successful way to introduce Douzelage to the public. Thus we would like to ask you to bring some of your local specialties so that they can be displayed and served on the welcome party on that Thursday evening.

Some of you will travel to Bad Kötzing by car, others might fly. We are aware that this has influence on your opportunities to bring samples of your local specialties. However, the real idea of community is based on what every single one can offer while trying the best. For organising that "pot-luck" we ask you to tell us in advance what you will bring to Bad Kötzing (presumably). We then can decide which amount of Bavarian specialties we have to provide (there will be enough Bavarian beer of course). Please do also tell us if you need anything special (e.g. cutlery or dishes) for your goodies.

Please remember to bring some flyers or posters from your town or region with you.

#### 3. Dresscode

Dresscode is informal. Even for the farewell party you may dress as you like. Local costumes are welcome. Please note that the weather in May could be cool and rainy. Of course we planned a wonderful spring weekend and we will light candles in church at St. Peter's altar – but, well, well, as you know: you never know.

YM delegates who want to attend a sport workshop or go swimming should pack sportswear and sports shoes (preferably gym and football shoes/indoor and outdoor shoes) and/or swimwear.

#### 4. Non-delegates

Non-delegates are welcome. The fee for those who stay in hotels or guesthouses is € 260,00 per person. The fee for non-delegates participating at the YM (hostel accommodation) is € 175,00 per person.

#### 5. Art Exhibition

The annual art exhibition in Bad Kötzing takes place from May 27th till June 17th. Last year we started to incorporate paintings and photographs from artists of several Douzelage towns. This year we want to continue this. It would save transport costs and risks if those of you who travel by car could take the exhibits with them. We will send them back (unless they have been sold) at our own expense.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us. See You in May!

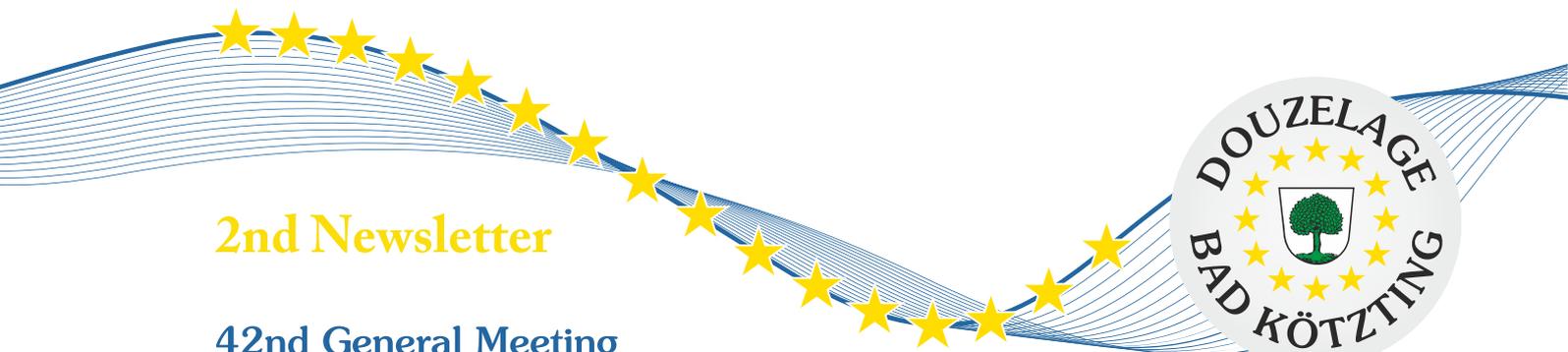
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and the whole team



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#### Annex 1.1

As you know the main topic of the conference is the situation of refugees and migrants in Douzelage towns. Therefore **GM delegations** are asked to do some enquiries so that they can give a report or poster presentation about the situation in their individual town or region. To give an example, the following questions are of interest:

How many refugees/migrants are in your town (if any)?

Where do they come from?

What is their legal status? Are they illegal, acknowledged or tolerated?

How do they live (types of accommodation)?

Do they get money or subsidies from the state or welfare organisations?

Who cares for them? Is there professional staff or have you got volunteers, or both?

Are they allowed to work and earn money? Which kind of work? How much do they get paid for that?

Are there problems? Which problems?

What is the attitude of the local people?

Is there rejection, racism or even violence?

Are some of the refugees or migrants integrated in the local community? Can you give some examples? How has this been accomplished?

#### Annex 1.2.

**EM delegates** are asked to prepare a report (poster presentation) about the situation of refugees and migrants in their town especially with respect to schools.

It should contain the information about the number of refugees in your schools and the way they are taught. Are there any special classes or courses? Are there any language courses? Are there any professional teachers or volunteers? What are the main problems? Can you give us examples of successful integration? Of course you can add all the information which you think is advantageous for the discussion.

It would also be useful to take learning aids with you, e.g. books or aids for learning the language, which you use for teaching migrants or refugees. It would be interesting to share your experiences with these learning aids.

#### Annex 1.3.

For **YM delegates** our delegates prepared questions for interviews with refugees or migrants.

##### Interview:

Refugees or migrants should be interviewed to get a picture of their lives.

The following questions might come into consideration:

(You do not have to answer all of them but enough to be able to take part in a discussion)

- Where do the refugees/migrants in your town/country come from?
- How did they get there?
- Why are they here?
- What do they expect from the European Union?
- Do they want to stay here?
- Are they allowed to stay here?
- How do they live in your town/country? (Maybe you can take some pictures?)

Now it is up to you how many people you interview.

We are really looking forward to starting a discussion with you.

All the best,

the youth delegates from Bad Kötzing

Simona und Caterina