



douzelage.org

European Town Twinning

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AGROS : ALTEA : BAD KÖTZTING : BELLAGIO : BUNDORAN : CHOJNA : GRANVILLE
HOLSTEBRO : HOUFFALIZE : JUDENBURG : KARKKILA : KÖSZEG : MARSASKALA
MEERSSEN : NIEDERANVEN : OXELÖSUND : PRIENAI : PREVEZA
SESIMBRA : SHERBORNE : SKOFIA LOKA : SIGULDA
SIRET : SUŠICE : TRYAVNA : TÜRI : ZVOLEN

DOUZELAGE - EUROPEAN TOWN TWINNING

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TRYAVNA (BG)
TÜRI (EST)
ZVOLEN (SK)

Chojna, 20th August 2012

37th Douzelage Conference

Zvolen

17th – 20th May 2012

Minutes



PARTICIPANTS

1 = GENERAL MEETING, 2 = EDUCATION MEETING, 3 = YOUTH MEETING , 4 = MARKET, 5 = VISITOR

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PRESIDENCY

Janusz Cezary Salamończyk



I. General Meeting

A. Speech of welcome

Welcome speech of Mr. Ladislav Topolsky - Selfregion Government Representant

Welcome speech of Mr. Juraj Druzbacky- Vice Mayor of Zvolen

B. Speech of welcome by the President.

Mr. J.C.Salamończyk President of Douzelage welcomed all the guests who came to the General Meeting, Meeting Education and Youth Meeting in Zvolen. He extended a special welcome to Young Delegates. President of Douzelage wished fruitful work to all participants.

He reminded also how unique Douzelage is, because there is no Town Twinning like this in whole Europe and in the whole world.

1. Business Matters

1) Approval of the Minutes of the Granville GM Minutes

The following documents were unanimously approved:

- Approval of the Minutes of the Granville GM 27th – 29th May 2011,
- Approval of the Education Committee Report,
- Approval of Youth Workshop Report.

2) Approval of the accounts 2011– 2012

The Douzelage accounts will be checked by two Honorary Auditors, Ms. Donatella Gandola from Bellagio (Italy) and Ms. Pascale Vallee from Granville (France). Douzelage accounts were approved.

3) Annual Douzelage membership

Several towns did not pay the annual membership for 2011. The invoices for 2012 annual membership were given out in Zvolen.

4) Simultaneous Translation accounts

Koszeg found out that it is not possible to buy new sets for our old equipment – they are not produced anymore. The price of a complete new equipment is too high to be covered by the funds we have on our translation equipment account. Representatives of Koszeg Douzelage Committee who are responsible for the transport and



maintenance of our translation equipment are convinced that we are able to run the conference effectively with our old equipment.

In March 2012 Mr. Istvan Matrai bought two second hand individual sets of our simultaneous translation equipment. It solved the problem for the General Meeting in Zvolen but the towns should discuss the issue to decide whether we should plan to purchase the whole new set in the near future.

It is proposed to remain at 50 EUR as the annual contribution for maintenance and transport of the equipment according to the decision taken in Oxelösund.

5) Douzelage Website

Michael Morrell and Stanisław Wołos presented the website of Douzelage and its functions. They explained the rules of use it, instructed how to log in on it and what can be found on it. They also advised where to find the contact addresses for Douzelage towns.

They also presented information which can be found on the website such as the realization EU projects. They encouraged all to actively use the website and transfer all news to Stanisław Wołos (douzelage.pl@gmail.com) which you would like to share to Douzelage towns

6) Programme for further meetings

After a short analysis of the actual situation, the following schedule of meetings was proposed:

9-12.05.2013 - Bellagio
2014 - Sigulda
2015 - Siret
2016 - Tryavna
2017 - Marsaskala

2. Douzelage 2020

1) Address to members of Douzelage by Benjamin Barber. Mr. Barber is a political theorist, Professor of Civic Society at University of Maryland, author of **“If Mayors ruled the world”**.

Mr. Benjamin Barber prepared a special address to Douzelage towns on the role the towns and their cooperation can play in the future. Mr. Barber argues for a renewed focus on civil society and engaged citizenship as tools for building effective democracy. He published many books, essays and articles: “Strong Democracy: Participatory Politics for a New Age”, “ Jihad vs McWorld: How Globalism and Tribalism are Reshaping the World”. His last book “If Mayors Ruled the World” is especially important for us in Douzelage.

2) Douzelage as NGO.

President of Douzelage informed that it will be very useful for our future projects and activities to have a formal status as NGO, it will enable Douzelage to apply to funds accessible only for NGOs.



He contacted several towns and asked many legal advisors. He would like to propose the following solution: European Town Twinning Douzelage will remain without any legal changes. Douzelage Association in Chojna which has been registered as NGO being active in Poland since 2008 will change its constitution. It is already open for members from any EU country, now its activities will take place in European Union (not only in Poland). Any individual will be able to join and the Douzelage Association as NGO will be helpful in applying for funds accessible for NGOs.

3) Douzelage exhibition in Brussels.

In Chojna we had meeting with MEP Mr. Sławomir Nitras and he offered his help to coordinate a Douzelage exhibition in Brussel in EU Parliament building. President of Douzelage asked all towns to get support from local MEP's. The exhibition could be organized in spring 2013.

4) New project proposal procedures and adult projects.

5) Cooperation with ALDA

The Douzelage received calls of proposals for new projects coordinated by ALDA. Most of them require less than a week for the answer which is too short period of time for Douzelage towns. President of Douzelage informed ALDA office about it. Douzelage towns did not participate in any projects or activities coordinated by ALDA. Town delegates decided to resign from ALDA membership.

3. Projects and activities

1) All town activities

All participating towns presented projects and activities since the GM in Granville. The President pointed out that not all towns sent their List of activities.

Bad Kötzing's Activities since the General Meeting in Granville in May 2011

- **17.9. - 21.9.2011** - A group of pupils from Holstebro's Handelsskole comes for an exchange visit to Fachoberschule Cham.
- **05.10. 2011** 50 pupils at Realschule Bad Kötzing accompanied by the teachers Mrs Jehlicka and Mr Hacker travel to Cheb / Czechia in order to explore the town together with pupils from their partner school in Sušice. Working on the theme of "Middle Ages and Early Modern Period", the young people visit the castle and the museum.



- **29.02. - 02.03.2012** Pupils from Realschule Bad Kötzting and Gymnasium Sušice have ski courses together at Spičák.
- **28.03. - 30.03.2012** 26 pupils at Realschule Bad Kötzting and pupils from their partner school in Sušice take part in a work shop in Waldmünchen. Subject: Young Explorer
- **28.3. - 1.4.2012** – Pupils at Fachoberschule Cham pay a return visit to Holstebro's Handelsskole.
- **16.04. – 16.04.2012** - 16 pupils of class 9 at Realschule Bad Kötzting and their teachers Hans-Peter Jobst and Nicole Thanner go to Gryphon-School in Sherborne/England for a 10-day study visit.
- **04.05.2012** – Bad Kötzting's Mayor Mr Ludwig speaks about the Douzelage town partnership in an interview given to the Bavarian radio station Bayern 1.
- **14.05. - 18.05. 2012** - 20 pupils at Realschule Bad Kötzting keep up friendly contacts with their Czech partners from Sušice while they go mountain biking together in Šumava (Böhmerwald).
- **23.05.2012** - Pupils at Realschule Bad Kötzting meet with their Czech partners from Sušice to visit the former concentration camp in Flossenbürg; afterwards the young people exchange ideas and hold a discussion relating to that sinister period.
- **29.06. - 05.07.2012** - Return visit of the pupils from Gryphon-School. The draft program foresees taking part in school life and enjoying sports activities together.

Activities organized by Chojna Douzelage Committee since GM in Granville.

1. European Club Douzelage from secondary school in Chojna took part in the Kőszeg project Volare*U (Youth in action programme) - July 2011.
2. A group of youngsters, voluntary workers and civic leaders participated in Sherborne VolunTEAMing project (Europe for citizens programme).
3. Leonardo da Vinci projects: 6 hotel students had work experience in Sherborne, 6 in Germany (Berlin and Angermünde), 7 catering students worked in Marsaskala, 4 in Sherborne - July and August 2011.
4. The application for Youth in action 4.3 training course "Focus on quality" was submitted to Polish National Agency. Unfortunately it was not approved (November 2011).
5. Final reports on Comenius Regio project "Learning from the differences" and Youth in action "Local window on Europe" were accepted by Polish National Agency (November, December 2011).
6. Charity actions, December 2011:
 - to help hospital in Siret,
 - to help a family with financial problems in Chojna.
7. The following project applications were submitted for year 2012 and 2013:



- "Think, dance, talk - express yourself" - Youth in action with Kőszeg and Siret (accepted by NA), project meeting in August in Chojna,
 - "A tale of two rivers: Niemen and Oder" – Polish - Lithuanian Youth Exchange with Prienai (accepted by NA), project meeting in June in Chojna,
 - "Count on women" - Youth in action with Sušice (accepted by NA), project meetings in June in Sušice and Chojna,
 - "Community school-school in community" - Comenius Regio with Marsaskala (application pending),
 - "Work experience for hotel students" - Leonardo da Vinci with Sherborne and Marsaskala (application pending).
8. A meeting with Polish MEP, Mr. Sławomir Nitras was organized in Chojna. Mr. Nitras offered his help with the Douzelage exhibition in Brussels - February 2013.
 9. A group of 35 teachers from Kőszeg visited Chojna. It is part of Comenius project "WAVE" - March 2012.
 10. A group of 9 teachers and youth workers attended a training course "Keep on chasing" in Malta - Youth in action 4.3. The project was organized by Genista Foundation (Mr. Mark Causon), March 2012.
 11. A group representing European Club Douzelage, 7 students and a teacher, went to Brussels. They were invited by Mr. Nitras, a MEP - April 2012.
 12. Participation in future projects and events prepared by other partners (projects are already accepted):
 - "FACH-Far in age, close in heart" Youth in action, prepared by Kőszeg, project meeting in Kőszeg in July 2012,
 - "Together across generations" Youth in action, prepared by Sherborne, project meetings in Sherborne and Chojna in August 2012,
 - marathon in Meerssen, September 2012.

Granville Douzelage Activities 2011-2012

1. General Meeting Granville May 2011

A lot of hard work but a lot of fun! A fitting celebration of 20 years of the Douzelage with the signing of the Charter, a large number of participants and the welcoming of the new members from Agros, Skofja Loca and Tryavna.

2. Regular Monthly Meetings

The Committee meets every month and also held an end-of-year barbecue with all the people who had helped to organize the General Meeting

3. Meeting ADEPS

Plans are being made for classes from the College Malraux in Granville and a similar class from Meerssen to meet up at ADEPS near Houffalize.



4. Christmas Market in Granville

Thanks to the towns who sent goods for sale (Meerssen, Chojna, Siret, Sherborne, Judenburg) we were able to set up an attractive stall and advertise the Douzelage to local people. The weather wasn't really one our side though!

5. Youth Rugby

Sherborne's project has been forwarded to the local Rugby Club.

6. Youth Basketball

The Granville Club planned to host a tournament for a team or teams from member towns in the Easter holidays 2012 but no-one took up the offer, though Sherborne would possibly be interested in the future.

7. Meerssen Marathon

A group from the Granville Athletic Club is hoping to take part.

8. Preparations for European Day in Granville in 2013

We hope to host folk dance and music groups in Granville over the Ascension Day long weekend to celebrate European day in style and get local people interested in the Douzelage.

Houffalize Activities since the Granville Meeting last year and the new projects.

1. April 2011

Benelux Meeting in Meerssen:

Art Meeting

Marathon Meerssen

Metaphora, Shool project exchange

Benelux Families exchange

2. Juin 2011

Welcome in Houffalize, by Luc Nollomont, of Sherborne's visitors on their way to Austria

3. 21 April 2012

Art Meeting Exchange in Meerssen

4. 03 June 2012

Organisation of the Art Meeting in Houffalize (Achouffe)

5. 09 September 2012

Participation to the Marathon 2012 in Meerssen

6. May 2013

Organisation of the Jogging in Houffalize



Activities Douzelage Holstebro, DK for 2011 – 2012

The Sherborne VolunTEAMing project

Douzelage Holstebro was so fortunate to be accepted as partner in the Sherborne project, VolunTEAMing. This gave us a rare opportunity to involve our local volunteer centre as well as council members.

In august 2011 two young people participated in the first workshop and came back very enlightened and excited about the Douzelage idea. A very good article was brought in the local paper and contributed to the knowledge of both the volunteer centre and the Douzelage organization.

In November 2011 the second workshop took place and Holstebro send a delegation of volunteers. Amongst them was the leader of our volunteer centre, who also happens to be chairman of one of the political groups at the town council.

Upon returning Douzelage had now found a new spokesperson for the Douzelage cause in Holstebro.

In May 2012 the final workshop took place. Unfortunately our mayor could not participate due to the fact, that the workshop took place the exact same weekend as Holstebro took part in hosting the great cycling race, Giro d'Italia. However, we were able to send two politicians and one of the most important department managers in the municipality administration.

This has proved to be a very important move. The participants were very excited about both the workshop and Douzelage. We have just been contacted and encouraged to seek financial support from the Municipality, so hopefully we will once again enjoy the good will of our town council.

Our sincere thanks go to Sherborne for arranging this project. It has helped us enormously in our efforts to promote Douzelage Holstebro.

Youth Exchange project “Food, fun and fire” in June 2012 Türi - Estonia

Douzelage Holstebro collaborated with local school, StruerSkolen, in order to participate as partner in this project. We applied for - and were accepted by Türi – as partner and started the local planning of the project.

Much to our surprise we never got word, whether the project had been approved by EU and when we contacted Türi to ask, we learned that we had been forgotten and therefore were not accepted as partner anyway. We had to decline being a possible partner in case anyone else could not make it anyway, as the school needed to plan ahead.

Douzelage Activities by Kőszeg, Hungary

May 2011 Douzelage-Garden Judenburg.

We contributed to the DOUZELAGE-garden of Judenburg with some flowers and we are looking forward to seeing some pictures of the garden.

**June 2011 Douzelage Enlargement – in Kőszeg.**

After Granville meeting our Douzelage committee gave a lecture about the new partners for the citizens.

July 2011 Participation in Eco-se-project.

One of our active members, Edina Drescher participated in the ECOSE - project in Athens. She found it very useful and returned with ideas for new activities and exchanges at local level.

July 2011 VOLARE*U (Voluntary are you?) 1.1 Youth in Action project.

Our – thanks God – usual Youth in Action project with partners from Chojna, Sušice, Sherborne, Marsaskala and Velletri (IT) took place in middle of July in Kőszeg, finishing in Budapest. According to the reactions and according to our opinion the project was very successful. It was especially important, that among the group leaders we had the mayor of Marsaskala, and the Secretary of the Douzelage. We got the mail about the acceptance of the final report and financial report at the beginning of May, 2012. (The last part of the money will hopefully soon arrive.)

August 2011 Volunteering Project in Sherborne I.

1 group leader and 5 youngsters took part in the meeting, which was beneficiary, although the program was very tight.

September 2011 Wave – Comenius bilateral school project with Chojna – Polish language classes in Kőszeg.

Within the project a Polish teacher came for a week to teach Polish language for our students. She also presented the city which the students were going to visit in November.

October 2011 Joining to planned Green Volunteering.

We decided to join to the planned Green Volunteering project initiated by Agros. No news about it.

November 2011 Wave – Comenius bilateral school project with Chojna.

This was the second part of the student exchange: Our group of 34 travelled to Chojna (and Kraków) for 11 days. We all had an excellent time; learned a lot, saw a lot, and felt the friendship of the Polish partners. The whole stay was extremely useful. We also had some time to discuss Douzelage-related issues.

November 2011 Voluntary Project in Sherborne II.

This was the second part of the project, 3 young participants took part in it, and returned with much experience, examples for voluntary work.

December 2011 Concordia Choir in Judenburg.

Being close to each other, the cooperation is stronger; Our choir went to participate in an Advent concert to Judenburg. They enjoyed it, and decided to build stronger ties.



January - February 2012 Preparation of new projects.

Approaching the deadlines we worked out several projects and also decided to join to projects of our partners. We announced a new Youth in Action project (this is already the 10th in a row!) with a title FACH, meaning “Far in Age – Close in Heart” and focuses the dialogue of generations. Chojna, Sušice, Marsaskala, Kőszeg and 2 non-Douzelage partners from Oulx (IT) and Lousado (PT) decided to join. The application was successful!!! We also announced a Comenius project with a title of ISOLATION. Only 2 Douzelage cities decided to join: Judenburg and Sušice. Besides them, there will be a Spanish partner (Ciudadella de Menorca) and Paphos (CY). The selection results will be known in July. We also joined to the Dance project prepared by Chojna, which was also successful, CONGRATULATIONS! Besides these, we also prepared a Comenius Regio project, and 2 Citizens project. (Selection will happen in July.)

March 2012 Wave – Comenius bilateral school project with Chojna.

This was an unplanned but very successful visit of our faculty to Chojna (and Kraków) for 15 days. We all had an excellent time again; learned a lot, saw a lot, and felt the friendship of the Polish partners again. Also those colleagues saw the benefit of these projects who did not take part in such a project so far.

April 2012 Judenburg choir in Kőszeg.

On Palm Sunday the 2 choirs gave an excellent concert to please the audience. Also Herr Hofrat Willi Schnedl (alias Vili bácsi) accompanied the choir.

May 2012 Voluntary Project in Sherborne III.

Our vice-mayor Béla Báthly represented the city and signs the memorandum.

Summary of Douzelage - activities of the Committee of Meerssen May 2011-May 2012

1. First of all we have been busy reinvigorating the activities of our Meerssen Douzelage Union. We had regular meetings with our local working group to organize new activities and restore old ties. We attracted new members and published articles in the local paper. Of course we do feel embarrassed by the opinions and activities of the Party for Freedom(PVV) of Mr. Wilders. But on the other hand it motivates us the more to devote us to the aims and ideals of our Douzelage. We found a new young webmaster, Simon à Campo who is building a new local website (www.douzelagemeerssen.nl)
2. Participation in Ecosé-project. One of our active members, Annigje Luns-Kruytbosch, participated in the ECOSE-project in Athens. She returned inspired by the meeting and with several ideas for new activities and exchanges at local level.
3. Couchsurfing.



We reacted positively to a couchsurfing-proposal from Houffalize and formulated some rules and conditions. Up till now there was no overwhelming interest, to put it mildly, but we continue to support the idea.

4. Douzelage-Garden Judenburg.

We completed our contribution to the DOUZELAGE-garden of Judenburg (tulip-bulbs!) And we are looking forward to some pictures for our website of the first growth.

5. Schoolclass-exchange.

We started the examinations, at the request of a school in Granville, of an exchange between schoolclasses from Granville and Meerssen in the ADEPS- centre in Houffalize. We hope to be able to co-organize it in 2013.

6. Visit of violinists of Oxelosund.

During the summerperiod a group of very enthusiastic and motivated violinists of Oxelosund visited Meerssen for a week and gave a number of concerts. They promised solemnly to be back next year- and we hope they will!

7. Christmas-market Granville.

We welcomed the initiative of the Granville-committee to participate in their Christmas-Market and sent in an number of specific regional (or national: chocolate letters) items. We hope to be invited again next year and then we will pray for more favourable weather.

8. Youth-in-action.

We found some very motivated and enthusiastic aspiring participants for the Youth-in- action-programme of Chojna. We sincerely hope that Chojna will find the means and the support to organize this interesting activity.

9. Otava-Cup contest.

We have been seriously looking for a possible participating team from Meerssen, but due to several complications it didn't work out for this year. We keep in touch with several Meerssen's football clubs and we hope to succeed next year.

10. Youth-rugby

Following the request of Mr. Lex Hamilton of Sherborne we got touch with the Maastricht Rugby Club, who responded enthusiastically. We hope that it will lead to an actual exchange.

11. Meerssen Marathon.

We renewed the contact with the organizers of Meerssen Marathon, which will be held for the 16th time on September the 9th. We hope that the Morris Men from Sherborne will add lustre to this event. We also invite long distance runners from our Douzelage partner towns to participate. We can help organizing board and lodging for athletes and their kin. We understood that in any case a delegation from Houffalize will attend this Marathon. And some days ago 8 athletes from Chojna applied for participation and Preveza asked for more detailed information.

12. Food, Fun & Fire.

We will participate in this project of Türi, the preparatory meeting for which is taking place as we speak.

13. Visit Music school Oxelosund.

In March a group of 12 pupils between 14 and 18 years from Oxelosund accompanied by Pia Karell as head of the delegation and 2 young conductors and an musician made a 4-day trip to Meerssen and its



region, staying with families and giving some concerts and visiting places of interest. This visit was organized by Stella Maris College. We hope to arrange a return visit next, year.

14. Benelux Art Meeting.

On Saturday 21st April we organize a workshop for (amateur)painters from Houffalize, Niederaanven and Meerssen. This activity was prepared by a small Working group consisting of Joop Hosman, Jan Willms, Annigje Luns and Marie-Thérèse Crombag, with the support of Stella Maris College. We expect about 12 to 15 participants.

15. Historical Highlights.

Our Committee-member Harry Timmermans has developed a local history project which we hope to present during the Zvolen-meeting. We plan to inform you by mail before the General Meeting, to give you an idea.

16. Metaphora.

Annigje Luns, Sophie Majoor and school headmaster Christa Schneiders have developed a proposal for a project for 6th and 7th graders of primary schools under the title METAPHORA. It is an word-image play meant for developing the knowledge of each others languages supported by children's drawings of various basic words (Dog, Flower, House etc) We will present this project in the Education meeting in Zvolen for the practical realisation, as well as in the General Meeting for obtaining organizational support.

17. 2- Day visit of 3rd age group from Niederaanven.

On 5 and 6 June we hope to welcome a group of 50 seniors of Niederaanven for a 2-day visit of Meerssen, Maastricht and the Floriade Exhibition in Venlo. We have been mediating for their hotel arrangements and for the programme of the first day in which the Meerssen seniorclubs will also play a part. Of course we are willing to offer comparable assistance if other partner towns are interested.

18. Common Douzelage Work of Art.

We have recently started brainstorming in our local committee over a possible connecting theme for a collective Work of Art to be realised by the joint Douzelage-partners in the next few years. Suggestions up till now were Environment; Tree of Life, Tower of Babel, Communication, Endurance. We are still thinking things over and welcome suggestions for a communal theme

19. And last, but not least, we designed a special New Year's Wish to underline our friendly feelings and hope for a flowering future for our common aspirations.

Niederaanven Douzelage activities 2011/2012

1. 27.07. – 02.08. 2011 Waldfestspiele Bad Kötzing

A delegation of the local association "Syndicat d'Initiative de la Commune de Niederaanven" went to the "Waldfestspiele" in Bad Kötzing. The participants enjoyed the warm welcome and the highly rated musical performances very much. It has also been a perfect occasion to meet and greet old friends from Bad Kötzing.

2. 21. 04.2012 Benelux Art Meeting

6 persons from Niederaanven went to Meerssen, who organised a special paint and art meeting for the Benelux member states of the Douzelage. For a whole day all art lovers could create, exhibit and discuss their works and the atmosphere was of course very pleasant.



Oxelösund Activities

Activities within Douzelage

In March 2012 teachers and student from Oxelösunds music school went on a trip to Meerssen. It was successful and much appreciated by both teachers and students.

Pia Karell, the principal of the music school will give more information about the trip in hers travelogue on the following pages.

In 2013 we hope to invest more in activities within Douzelage. The administration of the Municipal executive board has proposed a rise in funding to, in a greater extent, enable young people to participate in Douzelage activities around education and culture.

/Niklas Thelin

Oxelösund music school visit Meerssen, Netherlands 27 to 30 March 2012

By Pia Karell

On 27th March, we finally started our trip to Meerssen after several months of planning. We had, among others things, rehearsed, organised matching clothes and arranged some concerts in Oxelösund.

We flew to Brussels, where we were met by Erwin, Bert, Antonio and Jack who drove us the 15 kilometers to Meerssen in the Netherlands.

We (the music school's brass band) went to Stella Maris College, where dinner was served. After a while, the different host families showed up to take care of the Swedish students. Since we had young people from Stella Maris school on a visit to Oxelösund in 2010, we knew and recognized each other and now it was our turn to stay with them. Though some felt a bit, nervous.

On the morning of the 28th I was met with only happy faces of the students. Everything had worked out well in the host families. We packed ourselves into cars and drove to a nursing home where we had our first concert. It's always exciting when you do not have a clue what the performance space looks like where you are going. We borrowed a PA system, drums and keyboards from the Stella Maris school since it would have been very difficult and expensive to take our own equipment with. We were treated to Dutch pastries after the concert. In the afternoon, we were given a guided tour in the Velvet caves in Valkenburg.

Great paintings and scary stories! Then we went to the classroom for home economics where we and the Dutch youngsters cooked dinner together. We had a chef who guided us through preparing a three-course-menu. We were divided into groups and then we were ready to cook. A super great and fun idea!

On 29th March we gave two concerts, the first in a primary school. Our repertoire consisted of a lot of film music and "The Smurfmarch" was a huge success – the entire audience all sang along! I also showed some pictures from Oxelösund and talk about Sweden and Oxelösund.

In the afternoon we went to Maastricht. A church converted to bookstore was the site of the concert. It was very special. After that we ate Maastricht's famous french fries with lots of mayonnaise. Harri, a history teacher, then took us on a guided tour. Maastricht is, among other things, famous for it's shopping, so the evening ended with a shopping trip with our hosts from Meerssen.

On March 30 we went to Brussels and then on, by flight, to Sweden and Oxelösund. I am grateful for the opportunity I got to thank our host for the fantastic reception and organisation of our visit.



A special thanks to Erwin Kerstges who worked so hard to make everything work and it was nice to hear him say, "We got such a nice reception when we were in Oxelösund in 2010".

Collaborations between twin cities in this way gives a great deal. Firstly of course musically - the music has the same language all around the world, so we can play together immediately.

Secondly in a social and cultural way a collaboration like this is also unbeatable. Our students get the opportunity to meet young people in other countries, live with them, getting to know them and share experiences.

Finally, the most important thing is to broaden the students horizons. They discover that "the others" aren't so dangerous after all, and this is very important. We're actually quite similar and have very much in common and that's an important lesson for the students to take with

them in lives. Some comments from students:

- "The funniest thing I ever experienced"
- "The caves were cool"
- "This trip, I wouldn't have it undone"

/Pia Karell

PS. Please visit our Facebook page, there are movies from the trip

www.facebook.com/oxelosundsmusikskola

Preveza Douzelage Activities Since Granville Conference.

1. Four young people and one leader took part in the project under the title "Green Volunteering" in Agros Cyprus, 20-30 April 2012. It was a great experience for 5 youngsters from Preveza.
2. The Municipality of Preveza tries to create an Environmental Camp every year here in Preveza having in mind the conclusions of the seminar under the title "Youngsters control the climate change EU shows the way" that took place in Preveza 4-9 November 2009. The private non-profit organisation "Tethys Research Institute" and their office here in Vonitsa Aitolokarnania (close to Preveza) offers their help in order to register the dolphins of Amvrakikos Gulf and organizing a seminar about the Wetlands in general.
3. The Municipality of Preveza created a new Douzelage Committee. Fifteen people with several youngsters among them are studying and planning the Douzelage matters. One of the youngsters Maria Tefa was the leader of the delegation that took part in the project «Green Volunteering»



4. The Mayor of Preveza mr. Christos Bailis sent recently a letter to all the Greek MEP (members of European Parliament) in order to inform them about the Douzelage Exhibition in Brussels asking their support. We wait for their response.
5. The Municipality of Preveza participates in the project that organizes Marsascala Malta under the title "Intercultural Meal" with five youths 17 year old, one youth 18-25 years and one leader.

Sherborne – Activities List 2011 (after GM)

Date	Events
June 1-5	Nine persons from Sherborne visited Meerssen for a walking trip in The Netherlands
June 5-8	Comenius Regio – Learning from the Differences- visit to Chojna for Gryphon teachers, Dorset Education Authority and Sherborne Douzelage representatives
June 28-3 July	Sixteen students from Gryphon School return visit to Bad Kötzing
June 19	Wessex Strings Concert, Cheap St Church, Sherborne
July 2 – 31	French student stayed in Sherborne for work experience in the Town Council
July 4-31	Four Polish catering students came from Chojna for work experience in Sherborne
July 6-10	Two adults from Sherborne attended the ECOSE Art Farers meeting in Athens
July 9	Summer Garden Party
July 19-26	Ten students and a leader went to Köszeg Volunteering Project Volare*U
July 31-Aug28	Seven Hotel & Catering students visited Sherborne for work placements (Leonardo)
Aug 14-21	VolunTEAMing Youth Project in Sherborne with 35 young people from seven towns (Chojna, Holstebro, Köszeg, Marsaskala, Prienai, Siret, Tryavna) plus 20 Sherborne students and 40 voluntary organisations
Aug 25-28	7 people from Sherborne visit to Chojna for Days of European Integration
Sept 15	Lure of Polar Regions talk by Prof. Mark Tatchell
Autumn Events	Dinners with Chojna and Twinners Committees
Oct 20	Maltese Archaeology Talk – Dr David Trump
Nov 3-7	VolunTEAMing Adult Leaders project in Sherborne. 26 international delegates, plus local and voluntary groups
Nov 14	Polish film – "The Trojan Horse" shown to large audience
Nov 25	European Christmas Party. Combined with Twinners and Chojna Committee was a great success with music, dancing, competitions and entertainment
Dec 8 – 11	5 from Sherborne in Prienai for Christmas Tree Festival

2012

31 Mar – 1 Apr	Planning visit to Agros, Cyprus (Green Volunteering Planning)
April 20 – 30	Leader + 4 delegates in Cyprus for green volunteering project
May 3-7	VolunTEAMing Civic Leaders project in Sherborne (Chojna, Holstebro, Köszeg, Marsaskala, Prienai, Siret & Tryavna) for conclusion and signing memorandum of Understanding
May 17 – 20	Zvolen GM events – 12 from Sherborne taking part



May 18-20	Pre-visit to Turi for Fun, Food & Fire project
June 6-10	Walking Trip in Chojna for 10 Sherborne people
July	4 Catering Students coming from Chojna for a month
July	Youth Project Together Across Generations (TAG) volunteer activities in Sherborne
August	Polish catering students coming to Sherborne
Aug 8 – 19	8 Polish students & 2 leaders visit Sherborne 8 – 13 August for Volunteer TAG project. 13 – 19 8 Sherborne students & 2 leaders visit Poland for volunteering project
Aug 17 – 20	Oisu Band from Turi plan to visit Sherborne as guests of Wessex Morris Men
31 Aug-2 Sept	Chojna - European Days of Integration
September	Youth delegates take part in Slovenian volunteering project if it is funded
September 5 – 9	Dutch walking Group visiting Sherborne
October	October Fest -Bavarian Evening planned with Sherborne Oompah Band
Autumn	Short Mat Bowling with Holstebro being planned
Autumn	Polish film showing
November	Volunteer commemoration and award giving celebration
November	Sherborne AGM and programme

2013 (Potential Projects)

Not Defined	Participating in Comenius Project Isolation if Köszeg get funding approval
Not Defined	Beekeeping project
May	Participate in GM in Bellagio
June	Walking in Holland
Not Defined	Project in Siret
August	Gryphon students youth project, subjects and partners to be determined and sought
September	Visit by Polish walkers to Sherborne

Susice Activities from May 2011 – May 2012

1. May 2011 - Waldmünchen – students from Gymnasium Susice together with students from Realschule Bad Kötzting – 3 days of sports activities
2. June 2011 - Cyclotourism – students of Gymnasium Susice together with students from Realschule Bad Kötzting – one week of cycling and hiking activities
3. July 2011 - Köszeg – participation of students of Gymnasium Susice in the project "Volunteering" together with students from Poland, Malta, Italy and Hungary
4. July 2011 – A music teacher from Susice participated in „Art Farers“ Project in Athens
November 2011 – Two members of Susice Children Choir participated in the ECOSE Project in Spain.
5. Autumn 2011 - Sušice - visit of teachers from Realschule Bad Kötzting in Susice - visiting the watch tower of Sedlo, the mill in Hoslovice
6. February 2012 - June 2012 – participating of students of Gymnasium in the project "Count on Women" with Polish students (10 Polish and 10 Czechs)



Future Activities:

1. March 2012 - Waldmünchen – students of Gymnasium Susice together with students from Realschule Bad Kötzting – 3 days of sports activities
2. July 2012 – Kőszeg - participating in the project "Isolation"

Project for 2013

1. 1st week in July – „Travel Free Project – 1 week - Age 13 – 26. Tourism, tours in the mountains, documentaries about nature (Youth in Action)

Türi participation in Douzelage Cooperation Activities May 2011 – May 2012

1. Türi-Prienai

Our delegation (5 person) took part on the Christmas Tree Lighting Festival in Prienai on 10th -11th December 2011. They decorated Christmas Tree with national decorations and performed a short artistic programme. At the festival Prienai partner towns from Finland, Poland, Latvia, England and Estonia participated.

2. Türi- Prienai and Sigulda

Türi Municipality sent a grant application to EACEA- Citizens Meeting Programme to get support to organize a Twin-Town Citizens Meeting in Türi on August 2012. Project title is “Access to social welfare for all” and our partners are Prienai and Sigulda and our friendship towns from Sweden, Norway, Finland. We're still waiting for the results.

3. Türi- Sherborne

On May 2010 a group of Wessex Morris Men from Sherborne together with 3 members of Douzelage committee visited Türi Flower Fair and performed in town and the neighbourhood. Our Oisu Folk Band is preparing to visit Sherborne on August 2012.

4. Youth Exchange project “Food, fun and fire” in June 2012 Türi- Estonia

The preparatory meeting is taking place on May 18-20 and youth exchange June 6-13. We have 8 partners, two of them – Meerssen and Sherborne from Douzelage towns. This project got support from “Youth in Action” Fund.

Türi Youth Centre contact Sulo.Sarkinen@tyri.ee , phone +372 5308 8495

* Unfortunately Türi is not participating in 37th General Meeting of Douzelage in Zvolen. We have some difficulties at the moment in taking part in all the activities of the Douzelage. But we will try our best to solve the problems.



2) VolunTEAMing project

Mr. Kevin Waterfall and Ms. Lin Ashby presented to all GM delegates project “VolunTEAMing” Europe for Citizens Programme. The Project was coordinated and organised by Sherborne Douzelage with its UK partners of The Volunteer Centre Dorset, The Gryphon School and Sherborne Town Council. Sherborne Douzelage organised all events, speakers, transportation and accommodation in the UK as well as facilitating many of the events. In this project 8 Douzelage Towns participated : Chojna, Holstebro, Köszeg, Marsaskala, Prienai, Sherborne, Siret and Tryavna.

The main aims of project were :

- Share experiences of volunteering in different countries and learn from their best practices, including showcasing Sherborne and Dorset best practices.
- Provide towns and voluntary organisations with knowledge, ideas, techniques and access to information on how to set up or enhance Volunteering Programmes with funding from U.K. and Europe.
- Provide opportunities to network across the voluntary sector and thereby generates a greater return on resources. This includes Web Site and DVD creation also.

The programme consists of three events which includes working discussions, exhibitions and site visits involving many local organisations:

1. a youth workshop 14 – 21 August 2011 for young people aged 16 – 20 plus leaders
2. a workshop for adults and leaders of voluntary bodies 3-7 November 2011
3. a conference for Civic Leaders 3-7 May 2012.

In a conference for Civic Leaders The Memorandum of Understanding was signed.

3) Douzelage monument in Marsaskala

Vice President Mr Mario Calleja presented information to delegates about the Douzelage Monument in Marsaskala. In September 2011 in Marsaskala Malta was unveiling of the Douzelage Monument to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the organization. On the monument are all Coat of Arms of Municipalities representing every Douzelege town. The designer of the monument is the Architect of the Local Council Mr Aaron Abela. The Monument is situated on the Promenade in Mifsud Bonnici Square.

4) Projects prepared by Douzelage project office in Malta

Projects applied waiting for result:

1. **Language ball** - Marsaskala, Romania, Italy, Greece, Estonia, Slovakia - these are our partners however we asked them to give us 1 ticket for a member of Douzelage to be able to come to the AGM in view of the fact that this project is due on the same dates of AGM, for free.



2. **Comenius Regio project: Chojna and Marsaskala (prepared in cooperation with Chojna Douzelage Association).**
3. **Plan and act project** - Chojna, Sherborne, Marsaskala, Preveza, Turi, Zvolen partners.
4. **Vetro project Become European coach** - Chojna, Poland.
5. **Let it be green** - Chojna, Poland.

Approved projects:

1. **Keep on chasing-** Chojna, Poland
2. **Intercultural meal-** Marsaskala, Malta

Not approved :

1. **Become wanderer-** Chojna, Poland.
2. **Comenius Regio preparatory visit to Poland** - Malta
3. **Enhancing youth workers** - Chojna, Poland
4. **Explore England-** Poland, Malta, Romania, Czech, Greece, Slovakia
5. **SpiderNet** - Czech, Greece, Poland, Malta

Working on:

1. **Bee Keeping** working on it, waiting for the proper call

New calls:

1. **Youth in action** - May 2012

5) **Presentation of new projects.**

Meerssen presented idea of Historical Highlights in the Douzelage. The idea is to ask a students (12-18) from your town to write a story on a historic occurrence that is/was of major importance to the town. Something that, perhaps, made a name for your town. Two other pupils (same age) are invited to read the story and create a drawing to go with it.

The second idea from Meerssen is an Art project. The idea is to ask one artist or group of artists from each Douzelage town to contribute a specific piece of art to be attached or hung on The Douzelage Tree. The “tree” will be “planted” in Meerssen. This tree could contain animals, fruits or flowers or indeed, anything else.

Third idea is a Domi game made by pupils age 10-12.

Sherborne new volunteering project is “Together across generations”. Project will be in August 2012. 8 polish students with 2 leaders will visit Sherborne and after that 8 English students also with 2 leaders will visit Chojna. Sherborne also want to help with open a Café in Hospital in Siret.

Sherborne Douzelage intends to hold a young musician competition in 2014 for all towns. Details will be provided at the General Meeting 2013.



Susice have also new idea for project “Travel free” will be held at the beginning of July of the next year. The project will be implemented in Susice for students aged 14-26. More details in September.

Vice President Mr. Mike Balfour recalled the **Sherborne** idea of cooperation in a game of rugby. He encouraged those interested in the project to send notification of their interest in participating to Mary Clothier in Sherborne.

President of Douzelage announced its intention to write the draft of the course. Encouraged to participate. It should be held in the first week of February 2013 in **Chojna**.

4. Presentation on funding opportunities for Douzelage – European funds for General Meetings of Douzelage.

Mr. Mark Causon EU Affairs Consultant from Marsaskala delivered a speech on the acquisition of EU funds for projects. He presented information on where and what resources we can find and who may apply for receiving EU funds. The most important thing is to have ideas. Mark encouraged everyone to apply for funding for the implementation of EU projects, according to him it is a great opportunity which can not be missed.

5. Election of the Chairperson of the Douzelage Education Committee.

The result of the vote of the Education Committee new Chairman is Agnes Lepold from Köszege. She will be supported in this role by Mr. Bert van Doorn.

6. Douzelage structure and organization

The President informed about their activities of the previous GM in Granville. He took part in the project “VoluTEAMing”, visited also Marsaskala, Sigulda, Siret and Brussel. It is the last year of 3-year term and there will be the election of the new President of Douzelage in 2013 during our meeting in Bellagio. The procedure will be similar to the previous election.

7. Provisional agenda for the General Meeting in Bellagio

Ms. Donatella Gandola presented to all GM delegates provisional agenda for the next General Meeting in Bellagio on 9-12.05.2013.

II. Education Meeting Report

Friday May 18

Morning session 10.30 - 14.00

Visit to the local secondary school and its facilities

Afternoon: 15.00-17.00



Participation:

Bad Kötzting, Chojna, Holstebro, Judenburg, Kőszeg, Meerseen, Oxelösund, Preveza, Sherborne, Sigulda, Siret, Susice, Tryavna, Zvolen

Guest speakers:

- **Mgr. Miroslav Marcinko**

Town of Zvolen Representative of Education Committee

Zvolen's schools and educational situation

- **Cezary Salamończyk**

President of Douzelage

- Comenius and Youth of Action will be changed

- Erasmus for everyone

- Comenius regio

Presentations:

1. **Judenburg:** green energy in and around Judenburg
2. **Kőszeg:** science subjects at school, curriculum, problems with formal education; informal education: green activities
3. **Oxelösund:** NTA program for schoolchildren – practical lessons in 21 topics such as „From seed to plant”, „The life of butterflies”, „Soil”, etc.
4. **Susice:** curriculum problems, competitions, activities such as recycling, or letter to mayor
5. **Zvolen:** climate change project, video: making Earth
6. **Bad Kötzting:** until 11th grade no talk about climate change, as it can be left out; „Planning game”

Saturday 19: Presentations continued:

7. **Sherborne:** specialist or generalist problem, questions about teaching climate change at all (government)
8. **Preveza:** problems: lack of equipment, books, motivation; Douzelage cooperation
9. **Niederanven:** science = nature, hard science is lacking, idea: monitoring climate change in Douzelage towns
10. **Tryavna:** controversial: technology-dependent society <-> students reluctant to study science; lots of activities!!! -> good practices, useful for other towns too

Additional Presentation

1) **Zvolen:** Some successful projects in the past:

- exhibition of projects
- „Revealing Solidarity” in cooperation with ECOSE:
solidarity mind map, charity activity, logo, video clips

NEW PROJECTS

1) **Zvolen and Chojna:** a new Comenius project

- Topic: grandparents tell stories of the past to their grandchildren
- Primary school students – age range should be narrowed: 10-15 yrs



- Check deadlines and make your application on time
- Possible partners: Skofja Loka, Susice and ? – contact your school principal
- Activity ideas BRAINSTORMING + Advice

2) Meerseen

Metaphorá Word Game for primary schools

Aim: introduce foreign languages through key words

Deadline for interested towns: June 15th

Contact person: Annigje Kruytbosch

Discussion: teaching science and climate change

Willi (Judenburg): science in connection, integration of subjects

Stuart (Niederanven): teacher training -> curriculum change, together with them workshops -> lobbying

Science: transversal, doing things in other subjects

Val (Sherborne): schools seem to kill curiosity

Anna (Preveza): must learn things by heart at school - bad

Stewart: we need patience; time stress for teachers, competence: doing

Alenka (Zvolen): find what children are good at and not say they are bad at science

Stewart: you must believe in what you're doing

Agnes: secondary school stress of final exam

Stewart: not the same situation

Bert: educators know what should be done, outsiders' expectations limit us, teacher's are often not seen as „experts”

Willi: open-minded teachers

Anna: cant do everything at once! Step-by-step approach to improve

Stewart: pictures about science lab, free experiments in the afternoon, non-expert teachers can help

Proposal for a new chairperson of the Education meeting:

Agnes Lepold (Kőszeg) as chairperson, in cooperation with

Bert van Doorn (Meerseen) as deputy chair

„Cooperation rather than competition”

III. Youth Workshop Report

AGENDA – Zvolen Symposium Youth Section

Towns presented:

Agros, Bad Kotzing, Chojna, Granville, Judenburg, Koszeg, Marsaskala, Meerssen, Niederanven, Oxelosung, Sherborne, Sigulda, Siret, Susice, Zvolen



18 May 2012 :

Morning

Visit at Technical University of Wood industry and Furniture Design.

Meeting with university representatives and a lecture on the town and school history.

Students' designs exhibiton visit.

Visit of Zvolen university Arboretum, where there is a collection of trees and plants from the whole country.

Afternoon

Start of presenting.

Miss Janka Pavlíková from Environmental organization Slatinka introduced their research on Young people needs and requests in Zvolen. How do young people spend their free time and what they would like to be changed in the town.

This presentation was followed by information on this topic from young people representing each town.

1. **Zvolen** - Lenka Ticha, Katarina Janovska spoke about possibilities for young people in Zvolen. They listed activities organized by council for youngsters such as concerts, sport or cultural events. They briefly introduced their high school too.
2. **Sherborne** – Elizabeth - we heard a very good presentation on young people interests. We learnt that in Sherborne young people and council cooperate and there is also a youth council.
3. **Chojna** – Paweł and Tamasz from Chojna revealed a secret about themselves. Not being students anymore but teachers came to the youth section share experience and find ideas how it works in youth councils in other douzelage towns. They expressed satisfaction about young peoples' possibilities in Chojna and were happy to introduced us their work too.
4. **Marsaskala** – Raffael and Sefora two very enthusiastic young people spoke about how science is taught in Marsaskala schools and specifically at their school. They also pointed out how important it is to separate waste which is what their school does too.
5. **Meerssen** – Niky and Frederiki from Meerssen brought life and a huge dose of energy into the group. They spoke about their school theatre and although expressed very good cooperative between youth as one of them is an active member of youth council.
6. **Bad Kotzting** – Franz and Michael two friendly young boys from Germany spoke about their little village although none of them live there they both go to school there. They told the group about the school and said that young people are not afraid to address members of the local council with their ideas or suggestions as the village is very small and people live and work close together.
7. **Judenburg** – Nina and Bridget introduced their school and town. The local council listens to young peoples's ideas although there is no youth council working.
8. **Niederanven** – Carol being a primary school teacher brought an additional value to the group having the possibility to share her experience and ideas on how can young people cooperate with local council. There exists a youth house for children and young people to spend their free time for free. The approach to learning languages is a lot different from other countries as it is absolutely necessary to speak at least three languages at a very early age.
9. **Sušice** – Tereza and Diana had a very good presentation about the opportunities for students and young people. There is a school council and there used to be a town youth council but they have only some chance to make their suggestions really work and discuss it with the town council. Although there



are a lot of events organized for young people by the town such as concerts, shows, theatres, library competitions and various sport events.

10. **Granville** – Adil and Ann introduced their video about the beauty of Granville. There are many opportunities for children and young people to spend their spare time sensitively. Children can make their time by attending the happiness castle which offers free activities for them. Children play theatre, do music and sports. The local council is a great support.

Evening

Free time.

19 May 2012:

Morning : Work in section. Presentations on the main topic continued.

1. **Koszeg** – Zoltan and Fanny informed us that all the events being organized in the town are made by other organization not directly organized by the local council. The cultural and sport organizations, schools and library step in and helps the youth to spend their free time. There are festivals and dance shows and competitions.
2. **Sigulda** – Una and Agnes said there are both school councils and town youth council which has a great opportunity to hand ideas to the town council. Sigulda young people do lot of volunteering work and keep their national traditions via cultural or sport events for students and children.
3. **Oxelosund** – Sofia and Caroline made us all freeze with respect when started their talk about an absolute miracle they were able to achieve in their town. They realize somebody has to do something to make young people think and stop them dying from drug overdosing. One of them created a facebook profile called Who cares? And immediately they had more than 40 000 supporters. This all started a huge interest from media and of course and at last from the local council who till now had no intention to help young drug addicts. There is no preventing program or help centre for them if they find themselves in crises. It was an action which we all support and hope all will go better in their town to educate young people about drug danger.
4. **Agros** – Marios Agathokleous being himself a member of the youth council working in Agros showed us an admirable presentations of how young people in Agros spend their free time, how they enrich free time of elderly inhabitants and how they enjoy themselves by doing sports. We were also introduced various European programs they were involved in for example very interesting Volunteering Douzelage towns.
5. **Siret** – We met six young students from Siret who enjoyed being a part of group, got involved in discussions. One of them Tibbi spoke about their school and expressed they would be happy for more attention towards the youth in Siret from their town council.

The young people, after finishing their workshops joined the adult groups of town representatives and teachers at the castle and took part at the final evaluation of general meeting.

Visit at the old Zvolen castle with lunch and program.

Dinner at the hotel Polana.



Comments of Coordinator: I am very happy I had a chance to chair this meeting. I would like to express how impressed I was with the young people's behavior and all the information we were given. The number of 28 young delegates from 21 countries was the largest there has been since a long time. The group got on together very well and was able to cooperate and listen to each other. Thank you to all of them for their great job and attendance in Zvolen.

mgr. Zuzana Laszloova