



## 40<sup>th</sup> DOUZELAGE CONFERENCE

### SIRET

17<sup>th</sup> April – 18<sup>th</sup> April 2015

### MINUTES





## PARTICIPANTS

GM = GENERAL MEETING, EM = EDUCATION MEETING, YM = YOUTH MEETING

### ASIKKALA

JURI NIEMINEN GM  
ANNIINA POTKA EM  
IRJA KOPPANEN YM

### BAD KOTZTING

WOLFGANG KERSCHER GM  
ISOLDE EMBERGER GM  
ELISABETH ANTHOFER EM  
AGATHE KERSCHER EM  
FRANZISKA STEINLECHNER YM  
CATERINA GOGESSL YM  
ALOIS DACHS ND

### BELLAGIO

DONATELLA GANDOLA GM GM  
ARIANNA SANCASSANI GM  
PAOLA MARIA ROSSI GM

### BUNDORAN

SHANE SMYTH GM  
JOHN CAMPBELL EM  
JOE MC NULTY GM  
MARC GEAGAN EM

### CHOJNA

JANUSZ CEZARY SALAMONCZYK (PRESIDENT) GM  
ANNA RYDZEWSKA GM  
ZBIGNIEW STACHNIK GM  
TADEUSZ WÓJCIK GM GM  
STANISŁAW WAŁOS GM





JANUSZ BABIARZ GM  
SYLWIA ŁOZIŃSKA EM  
JERZY KOŁACZYK ND

## GRANVILLE

PASCALE VALLÉE GM  
MICHEL LEMONNIER GM  
FAY GUERRY GM  
JEAN-CLAUDE GUERRY GM  
MAURICE GUINDÉ EM  
DENIS PRIZÉ EM  
SOLÈNE LEMONNIER YM  
PIERRE LEMIERE

## HOUFFALIZE

LUC NOLLOMONT

## JUDENBURG

HELFRIED KREITER  
DR. FRA  
NZ BACHMANN - a optat pt GM/EM

## KOSZEG

ISTVAN MATRAI GM  
BÉLA BÁSTHY GM  
PÉTER REGE(TECHNICIAN)  
ILONA TÁLOS EM  
PATRIK MÉRCZ YM  
LEVENTE MARTON YM

## MARSASKALA

MARIO CALLEJA (VICE-PRESIDENT) GM  
SANDRO GATT GM  
JOE MAGRI GM





RITA MAGRI GM  
MARY GRACE DEBONO GM  
CARMEL MIFSUD EM  
RYAN PORTELLI YM

## MEERSSEN

ANNIGJE LUNS-KRUYTBOSCH, chair GM  
IRENE RAEDTS-SCHREUDER GM  
WIL SCHRIJNEMAEKERS GM  
BERT VAN DOORN EM  
FREDERIKE LUNS EM  
RAMON SCHOLL YM  
INGO NETTERSHEIM YM

## NIEDERANVEN

JOS MOUTON GM  
PAUL GREIS GM  
JEANNOT POIRE GM

## OXELOSUND

CATHARINA FREDRIKSSON GM  
NIKLAS THELIN GM  
PATRIK EDSTRÖM EM  
MONICA HÖGLIN GM  
MELINA FRIBERG YM  
ALVA BERGSTRÖM YM

## PREVEZA

GERASIMOS NTITSOS GM  
KLEOPATRA GIANNOULI GM  
KONSTANTINOS KALENTZIS – EXPOZITIE GM

## SHERBORNE

SCILLA COPPER GM





CHRISTOPHER MACADIE GM  
MICHAEL MORRELL GM  
KEVIN WATERFALL GM  
**JEREMY BARKER (HON.PRESIDENT) GM**  
**MICHAEL BALFOUR (VICE-PRESIDENT) GM**  
MARCUS AINLEY GM  
CLIFTON JELBERT GM  
AMANDA CASSON EM  
LINDA ASHBY EM  
ELIZABETH DORES YM  
ALISTAIR DOLBEAR YM  
JANET JELBERT ND  
MARGARET BALFOUR ND  
ALAN ASHBY ND  
TONY COPPER ND

## SIGULDA

GUNTARS ZVEJNIEKS GM  
ILZE ŠULTE EM  
VALTERS MAČS EM  
SABĪNE BIRZNIECE YM  
MEGIJA VAINORJUS YM  
AIVARS KIRKELIS ND

## SKOFJA LOKA

MIHA JEŠE GM  
TINA BLATNIK EM  
LUKA NUNAR YM

## SUSICE

VĚRA SVOBODOVÁ GM  
EVA BENÍŠKOVÁ GM  
ZDENA URBÁNKOVÁ EM  
VERONIKA MAREŠOVÁ YM  
JAN SKÁLA YM  
VĚRA MAREŠOVÁ ND  
MIROSLAV KOLÁŘ ND  
RICHARD SMOLA ND





## TRYAVNA

DRAGOMIR NIKOLOV GM  
STANIMIRA GENCHEVA GM  
VIOLETA TACHEVA EM  
INA VELEVA YM  
NIKOLAY NEDELICHEV YM  
IVAILO BELCHEV ND

## TURI

TRIIN PÄRNA GM  
ANU PUULMANN EM  
SULO SÄRKINEN YM

## ZVOLEN

ZUZANA LÁSZLÓVÁ GM  
LENKA STANČÍKOVÁ GM  
LUCAS KANUŠČÁK YM  
LENKA KOTRUCHOVA YM





## I.GENERAL MEETING

- Welcome speeches by Mayor of Siret, The Guest of Honour invited by the host town, President of Douzelage.

The delegates were welcomed by the Mayor of Siret, Mr Adrian Popoiu, and by Tibi Rotaru.

- Discussion.

### 1.Business Matters

The delegates approved:

- 1) The Sigulda GM minutes.
  - the minutes of the Sigulda GM 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2014
  - the Education Committee Report,
  - the Youth Workshop Report.
- 2) Approval of the accounts 2014.
  - the Douzelage accounts were checked by two Honorary Auditors.

The delegates approved the 2014 Douzelage accounts.

Minutes, Accounts and Fees

The 2014 General Meeting minutes and accounts were approved.

- 3) Annual Douzelage membership.

The delegates decided that annual Douzelage membership will remain at





300 R.

#### 4) Translation equipment and annual contribution.

- The actual annual contribution of each partner town is 300 € plus 50 € for the translation equipment
- Proposal of Douzelage President J. Cezary Salomonczyk: an annual fee of 350 € without distributing it
- The maintenance of the translation equipment can be covered with the money in stock
- In some cases borrowing or renting the translation equipment is cheaper
- The presidency has more flexibility

The participants of the workshop agreed to suggest to the GM an annual fee of 350 € in total (and without commitment to a specific purpose).

#### 5) Delegates updated the program for further meetings:

- a) Spring 2016 Tryavna,
- b) Spring 2017 Bad Koetzting,
- c) Spring 2018 Oxelosund.
- d) Spring 2019 Asikkala
- e) Spring 2020 Skofja Loka.
- f) Spring 2021 Marsaskala.

Douzelage President J. Cezary Salamończyk thanked Oxelosund for being the only town to respond to a request earlier in the year to host in 2018. Asikkala were thanked for stepping in to offer to host in 2019, after Marsaskala had postponed their hosting again.

The 2016 GM in Tryavna will be 12 – 15 May.







## 6) The search of a new Croatian town .

Rovinj, Croatia

VP Mike Balfour reported on the selection of Rovinj; no town had objected to the choice. Our nearest towns, Skofja Loka and Koszeg, spoke in support. Rovinj has shown great enthusiasm to be the representative of Croatia. Their councillors will hold the final meeting about their decision before the end of the month.

## 2. Projects and activities

- 1) Projects and activities since the meeting in Sigulda.
- 2) Presentation of new projects and activities.
- 3) Douzelage website.

### Projects and activities

Partner towns' reports included a large variety of projects and activities as usual.

Douzelage President J. Cezary Salamończyk presented Erasmus+ KA2 “Health education for life” project. Partners are Koszeg and Konya (Turkey).

Another Erasmus + project done by Chojna was “From work experience do work”. In this project students from Chojna have work experience in hotels and restaurants in Sherborne and Marsaskala.

Meerssen reported that the sets of their Metaphora game were ready for delegations to take home according to the orders they had placed, and that the Book of Historical Highlights would be produced soon at a cost of about 16 Euros each. There will be a marathon in Meerssen in September and Annigje Luns Kruytbosch invited towns to take part in it. Meerssen asked towns to participate in Santa Claus project.

Clifton Jelbert from Sherborne talked about the project “Road to Romania”. He also presented “Young musician” project and encouraged towns to take part in the second edition of it.





Following the great success of the 1<sup>st</sup> Douzelage Young Musician event in Sherborne, the 2<sup>nd</sup> one was announced by Zuzanna Laszlova : 6 – 11 July 2016 in Zvolen. Up to 10 towns can take part and delegates were urged to start planning their towns’ participation.

Douzelage President J. Cezary Salamończyk thanked all towns for their involvement in Douzelage activities.

### Douzelage website

Since the website was last upgraded in 2009, there has been an increase in member towns as well as considerable advances in technology. We need to create a system whereby members can easily with appropriate security checks make entries themselves. This requires a thorough review of the existing website with a view to making it primarily an information source for future plans and also a showcase of past achievements. The website should be the first point of call for members, the general public and official bodies.

To that end we propose that a working party of up to five computer specialists from different member towns should be formed to work with John Petterson and Stanisław Wołos, who would meet mainly online, to agree on the requirements and parameters of the new system. They would appoint an individual or an organisation to set it up. The layout of the new system together with its benefits and costing would be presented to the General Meeting in Tryavna, so that following agreement by the member towns, it could be up and running by the summer of 2016.

Michael Morrell, Sherborne

- The delegates were informed about John Petersen’s proposal concerning the changes of the website software.

Mr Jelbert and Mrs Annigle Kruytbosch expressed their opinions that the website is not modern enough and there are too many old articles. Douzelage President J. Cezary Salamończyk said that there is need of sending more materials from the events organised by Douzelage towns.

It was agreed that a review of the web site should be undertaken by Peter Rege of Koszeg, Cliff Jelbert of Sherborne, and others. We look forward to a report before the 2016 GM.





### 3. Workshops:

- 1) Douzelage in your town – 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Douzelage.

Leaders: Vera Svobodowa, Clifton Jelbert .

#### Conclusions of the Discussion Workshop

- Issue 1 -Celebration of Silver (25 years) Anniversary

The workshop started with a very interesting presentation of the founding of Douzelage and past Presidents by Jeremy Barker.

- discussion of type of local events in each town and how to raise awareness of Douzelage,
- how can these ideas be developed to celebrate our “silver”?
  - a) A special silver anniversary logo could be produced which all D. towns would use with all next years activities, such as:
  - b) celebration concerts, concerts of young musicians, Douzelage nights, annual town festivals under the logo of Silver Anniversary.
  - c) Notice Boards or Posters dedicated to the anniversary should be installed in all schools
  - d) various types of contests for pupils should be organized.
- Issue 2 - Funding in the Douzelage towns. Discussion of the situation in each town, the problems encountered and solutions to them. Can we learn from each other?
  - a) Sherborne is an exception being fully independent.
  - b) The majority of towns are fully dependent on town councils.





c) A few towns are not supported so they pay their own costs.

d) In some cases the schools can help with funding.

e) Online fund raising sites such as "Just giving" (in the UK) and lottery schemes can be used but may not be possible for every town.

- Issue 3 - What past problems, if any, have restricted the development of the Douzelage in member towns?

The personality of the Mayor and town councillors and their relationship to Douzelage are the most significant factors.

- Issue 4 - How is your Douzelage committee chosen? Does it consist of teachers, town officials, local interested people or others? Is it difficult to recruit new members with new ideas? How do you deal with this?

a) In most towns there are officials + teachers, sometimes club representatives or employees are given Douzelage duties. The committees mostly have 4-8 members, but sometimes just 2.

- Issue 5 - How does each town publicise its activities and what are the problems encountered? To what extent do other local organisations co-operate with each town Douzelage and how does this work?

The means of publicizing are various: websites, local press, Facebook, radio, notice boards, banners, newsletter. However, do people really read the news?

- Issue 6 - Most towns are able to involve students aged 14 to 19. How do we engage with young people aged 9 to 14 and adults?

a) Most projects are for pupils aged 14-19, not so many for pupils aged 10-14. The reason may be language difficulties, but good projects using pictures etc. can be prepared.

b) There are language difficulties with adults in eastern countries.





## 2. How future General Meetings of Douzelage can be organized?

Leaders : Niklas Thelin, Miha Jese.

How can future GMs of Douzelage be organized?

Suggestions from the workshop

- The time of the year GM is organized

We suggest that the host town of a meeting propose time/season for the upcoming meeting to the GM two (2) years before the meeting.

At least 80 % of the towns should be able to participate with a complete delegation.

We don't believe in more than one (1) GM (including EM and YW) per year. An alternative way to work is to arrange meetings on regional basis (for example the Benelux region or the Nordic region).

- Involvement of local people in GM activities

Local projects can be arranged to promote Douzelage. Those projects should be arranged on a practical level rather than a political level, for example by teachers.

Older/retired people may be a target group for such activities.

- The balance between agenda prepared by the Presidency and by a host town,

We suggest that a part of the GM shall consist of workshops, since it gives more delegates the opportunity to speak and participate in discussions.

To enable this we suggest that towns which plan for current or present projects arrange a workshop during the GM. This gives the opportunity for the participants to get ideas, knowledge and inspiration as well as it gives valuable inputs for the arranging town.

We also suggest that the host town should have a unique opportunity to arrange a workshop.

The topics for the workshops should be sent to the presidency in a first step and then be sent to the towns before the GM.





Niklas Thelin

### 3) What could your Douzelage town offer to other Douzelage towns?

Leaders: Annigje Kruytbosch, Istvan Matrai.

- What is your town very good at/famous for?
- In which field do you think your town needs help?
- Does your town have an example of an useful cooperation with one or more Douzelage towns?  
Could it be adopted for the Douzelage?
- What are the expactations of your Douzelage town towards other Douzelage towns?
- What is the biggest problem that could hinder the successful cooperation in your case?
- Do you think it's possible to bring industries and/or companies for our district together to exchange experience and knowledge? Would it be possible taking internships into account?

Workshop 4: Structure of the Douzelage Presidency

Leader: Wolfgang Kerscher

#### 1. Standards and Demands for a President

- ability to integrate, stimulate and motivate people
- ability to delegate
- being a tolerant and balanced person





- assisting towns in projects, funding possibilities and applications
- contacting the EU
- supervising homepage and newsletter
- preparation, management and charing of meetings
- representation of the Douzelage
- speaking English (or be multilingual)
- travelling and visiting partner towns

## 2. Problems

- great distances
- heterogeneity of the Douzelage (different structures, different motivation, different cultures, different organisation, different engagement and different financial means)
- funding (EU-funding, voluntary contributions from the towns)
- time consuming job (and sometimes frustrating; e.g. unanswered e-mails)

## 3. Organisation

### Vice-presidents

- number of vice-presidents: 3 vice-presidents are preferred
- tasks of vice-presidents: no vice-presidents exclusive for different regions, languages, genders
- vice-presidents with a concentration on different tasks: e.g. education or youth, contacts with the EU, different projects





- close contact to the head of the Education Committee and the Youth Committee
- The participants of the workshop agreed to suggest to the GM a number of 3 vice- the concentration on different tasks, and to encourage women to be a candidate.

#### 4. Douzelage as NGO?

- Advantages: easier funding by the EU (different programs)
- If a town is member of the Douzelage it should be possible to become a member of a NGO (e.g. local Douzelage association)

The participants of the workshop strongly recommend the founding of NGOs in those partner towns that have not yet done so.

Wolfgang Kerscher

#### 4. Year of sustainable development in Douzelage

Chojna, Koszeg, Marsaskala, Meerssen and Sherborne made short but impressive presentations about their international meetings on the ‘Year of Sustainable Development in Douzelage’, a project prepared by Siret which was funding the GM.

Participation of Niederanven at the project “Sustainable development” organised by Meerssen. Niederanven presented the “bee project”, initiated in the frame of educational projects.

Marc Geagan from Bundoran showed a presentation on the role of music in promoting European Integration. The title of the presentation - 'A Common Language: Music and European Integration'

#### 5. Procedure of the election of a new Douzelage President and Vce Presidents.







According to Douzelage regulations there will be elections of the President of Douzelage and three Vice Presidents. The elections will be held during 41<sup>st</sup> General Meeting of Douzelage in Tryavna.

1. Nominations for President of Douzelage – a letter of support from the Mayor and/or Town Council should be sent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 to the host of GM ([obtryavna@unicsbeg.net](mailto:obtryavna@unicsbeg.net)).

2. Nominations for Vice Presidents of Douzelage from the Mayor and/or Town Council and/or local Douzelage Committee should be sent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 to the host of GM ([obtryavna@unicsbeg.net](mailto:obtryavna@unicsbeg.net)).

The delegates decided that in the next election of Douzelage Presidency the president and three vice presidents will be elected.

The delegates decided that there will be one Douzelage account. Each town will pay 350 EUR of annual fee – presidential expenses and repair and transport of equipment for translation will also be covered out of it.

## 6. Provisional agenda for the General Meeting in Tryavna.

The delegates agreed with a workshop proposal that the dates of GMs should be announced two years ahead. Bad Kotzting will let us know the dates for 2017 soon. Delegations agreed that they could organise it in the autumn if they wished, but that Spring will remain the normal GM season for the moment.

Tryavna is preparing project application for Europe for citizens program. It will be submitted on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015, after that delegates will be informed about the details by Tryavna.

General Meeting in Tryavna will be 12-15 May 2015.

## GM Decisions on Workshops' Recommendations

Following the reports from Workshops and discussions about their recommendations, four decisions were made:-





- 1) GM Dates: Host towns should announce the proposed dates of General Meetings two years in advance.
- 2) GM Workshops: Workshops should be included in GM agendas to provide delegates with an opportunity for greater participation.
- 3) Vice Presidents: The number of Vice Presidents will increase from two to three starting from the elections at the GM in May 2016.
- 4) Towns' Annual Fee: Each town will pay one fee of 350 EUR to cover all presidential expenses including the repair and transport of the translation equipment.

## II. EDUCATION MEETING REPORT.

### Education Meeting report, Douzelage 2015

Over 30 delegates were first addressed by Mrs. Gabriela Nicolau, from the Europe for Citizens point at the Romanian ministry of culture. She presented a clear overview of programmes for 2014 to 2020 and new rules for funding. She reminded us that 2015 will be the European year of citizenship.

Then the meeting was treated to presentations on efforts in the field of sustainable development in communities and schools, offering best practices to all other delegations. Presentations will be made available online, towns are invited to contact each other for more details and cooperation.

1. Siret: divided efforts on sustainable development into five categories, concerning 1: ecological sustainability, 2: economic sustainability, 3: social sustainability, 4: cultural sustainability, 5: political sustainability.





2. Sherborne: would add a sixth to that list, i.e. emotional sustainability. The Sherborne representative also stated that not enough attention is paid to sustainability in education (notably secondary education).

3. Oxelösund: told us about (primary) school drives to promote children keeping the environment clean and stimulating separate waste disposal in a programme called ‘Håll Sverige Rent’.

4. Tryavna: makes its students aware of the environment, sustainable development in many different programmes on public health and the quality of life, access to clean water and energy, biosphere reserves, World heritage, sustainable learning in academic circles. Also, it promotes responsibility in its students by making them take over the (running of) the school from their teachers and management one day a year, which opportunity they use very well, we were told.

5. Bundoran: connecting people and bridging gaps through music works, as the case of Ireland proved. It is a universal language that can be used/ spoken by people of many nations at the same time. Examples abound in the presentation.

6. Granville: presented the development of an ‘eco-quartier’ voted by the council in 2002. It comprises 750 houses, a music school and other buildings, giving priority to walkways and planning in the existing landscape.

7. Niederanven: presented a local project on awareness and protection of the environment called Meet the Bees. It tries to get people to become beekeepers and extend the number of bees and hives which has been dwindling for a while. There is also a social aspect to it: people from different nationalities and different strata in life work together on keeping the bees.

#### MEP visit.

After these, the meeting was joined by Mrs. Norica Nicolai, member of the European Parliament for Romania. She opened by saying ‘I’m a friend of the Douzelage’, then gave us a concise history of the concept of sustainable development since the 1950s. It is defined as the concept of need, having increased since the 1950s, and the concept of the limitation of resources.

She believes that education is mostly real education, extended from one person to the other. She stressed the importance of the development of local communities or counties for sustainable growth.

1. Asikkala: showed the renovation of a primary school, Aurin Kuovori, based on the principle of sustainability. Designers have tried to create a stress-free environment, with spacious and flexible rooms/





hallways. The building should help make the kids feel good/ happy/ relaxed: school should support both well-being and learning.

2. Köszeg: stated that ‘Education is the motor of change’. The meeting was made aware of many different projects in the framework of sustainable development over the past ten years at least.

3. Susice: all schools, we were told, have an environmental programme.

4. Bad Kötzting: has and had many projects in three major fields. 1: social – to train self-competence and social skills via cross-generational learning. 2: environmental – ecoschool, beekeeping, nature adventure days. 3: culture: guarding traditions.

5. Türi: the meeting learned Estonia is a small country, with lots of water and forest; people are much aware of their natural surroundings. Many projects on the preservation of traditions and products, also planting, were shown.

6. Judenburg: presented to the meeting lots of ecological projects in and around the local ‘gymnasium’. Also we saw actions in primary schools on dealing with refuse and climate awareness.

7. Sigulda: Has a policy of trying to make children aware of their natural surroundings by appealing to all five senses, and a sixth: emotion, or the heart.

All towns and their school are invited to use any or all of these ideas in the future. Any information on projects and their execution can be acquired from the towns that presented them. Contacts details are on the list of attending towns that was made during the meeting. Please check the international Douzelage website for all info.

After this the meeting heard and read a contribution from Susice for a possible project on the different shapes and meanings of Sinterklaas, or any other name a similar character might have in different countries. To be consulted through [www.tradice.info](http://www.tradice.info), both in Czech and in English. Note for purists: translations were done by the students partaking in the project, who that way improved their skills.

MEP for a day contest.





Six proposals were put before the education meeting, on varying subjects (consult website for titles and details, please). They were presented by Siret, Sherborne, Köszeg, Judenburg, Tryavna and Oxelösund. After critical appraisal and vote by secret ballot, Siret’s proposal won the day.

Other themes that teachers wished to bring up and exchange information and opinions on were then called. The meeting split up into two groups to have a first exchange on the varying practice of inclusive education and teaching through music. It was considered helpful and interesting, and led to lively exchanges of practices and, of course, beliefs. After having been cut short by the imminence of the educators’ required presence in the General Meeting, all delegations present were given a certificate of attendance for participating in the MEP for a day competition.

We had a good meeting, which presented ample opportunity for future cooperation. Its members would have liked to have more time to explore various points of interest for teachers and schools all across Europe – next year’s meeting in Tryavna may provide just that. Many thanks to our hosts from Siret, who organised all that was necessary to have this meeting and who, inevitably, did most of the work. They have done a wonderful job and we thank them for it.

For the education meeting,

Bert van Doorn

### III. YOUTH WORKSHOP REPORT.

#### DOUZELAGE YOUTH REPORT

SIRET, ROMANIA 15<sup>TH</sup>-19<sup>H</sup> APRIL 2015

The Bucovina study tour let the DouzYouth discover the beautiful painted monasteries of Sucevita, Moldova and Voronet; all of them UNESCO monasteries. The weather and group enthusiasm made for a lovely day, before returning to a traditional Romanian dinner party consisting of traditional food, music and dancing.

During the first day of the conferences themed ‘European Policies in the Field of Sustainable Development’, youth from each participating country gave a presentation they had put together, specific to their town.





DouzYouth learnt about projects that each country was implementing such as recycling and transport. Sustainable and accessible transport varied widely in each country and gave youth interest and ideas, which many felt they could question their town councils about on return.

While it was interesting and beneficial, we felt that shorter presentations from each country, along with more interaction and discussion would be a positive advance for next year. We also felt that we could have used the extra time at the end to think about continuation projects, or participate in discussion, subsequently writing up spider diagrams and action plans.

The “Road to Romania” bus was presented to Siret, which will be used by the local hospital and youth groups. We also visited a painted egg museum and had free time in Sucevita.

The same day we were given the opportunity to enjoy bowling and table tennis at the hotel complex, with the option of swimming at the hotel too.

On the second day of the conference diplomas were presented, followed by discussions regarding the conferences and future projects to be initiated within the Douzelage association. After splitting into small groups for discussion, we then divided into two groups and discussed our findings, and appointed two Youth Members to write down the verbal Youth report to be presented at the General Meeting.

The findings are as follows:

1. DouzYouth came to the conclusion that the workshops would be more beneficial if more discussion and interaction was implemented. Time management, and shorter, but more frequent breaks were also believed to be a possible way of increased productivity.
2. DouzYouth would also like to organize follow on projects in each country. Continuation of funded projects would allow youth to present their ideas to their committee and apply for funding. An example of this for the present project would be to create something beneficial in our community in the field of Sustainable development; ideas consisted of building a Greenhouse, community allotment or pond.
3. The DouzYouth would like a website to connect the youth in the Douzelage towns. The creating of the website will be managed by the DouzYouth, and we would require funding for the Domain and upkeep. On





the website, there will be an opportunity for local projects to be completed and for international projects to be planned. It will be an informal forum where everyone can share ideas and stay in touch.

4. The organization of Youth exchanges was also a new and concept.

They would consist of informal postings on the website or facebook page inviting Youth Members from other Douzelage countries to come and stay with others. Whether it's a cultural, music, art or language trip, we felt it would be a fun and beneficial approach.

Another point made was that the youth would like a youth leader or president to represent their ideas to the Douzelage Committee.

DouzYouth would like to thank everyone within Douzelage for organizing such a great General Meeting. We have all been very pleased with our trip to Siret. The hospitality and broadening experience has exceeded expectations with wonderful food, accommodation, atmosphere and cultural dancing. Youth Members have subsequently been enriched with positive and lasting memories of Siret and of Romania.

Elizabeth Does, Sherborne Douzelage.

