



Tryavna Symposium 41st General Meeting of Douzelage 13th May – 14th May 2016

Altea

Vicenta Peres Barber GM
Beatriz Gonzalez Almas GM
Andres Cortes Coello YM
Juan Francisco Mulet MartinezYM
Antonio Manchon Guillen YM
Vicente Ripoll Orozco ND
Angeles Berenguer Morales ND

Agros

Nikolas Christofi GM

Asikkala

Anniina, Potka EM
Mira, Nieminen GM
Johann, Müller YM

Bad Kotzting

Wolfgang Kerscher GM
Agathe Kerscher ND
Caterina Gogeissl YM
Simona YM





Isolde Emberger GM

Hans-Peter Jobst EM

Alois Dachs ND

Bellagio

Paola Rossi GM

Donatella Gandola GM

Gino Vaccani EM

Bundoran

Shane Smyth GM

Denise Connolly GM

Megan McGee YM

Joe Mc Nulty GM

Chojna

Janusz Cezary Salamończyk GM

Anna Rydzewska GM

Rafał Czubik EM

Sylvia Łózińska GM

Zigniew Stachnik GM

Piotr Mróz GM

Jerzy Kołaczyk ND





Patrycja Tyczyńska YM

Granville

VALLEE Pascale GM

PRIZE Denis EM

GUERRY Fay GM

GUERRY Jean-Claude GM

Holstebro

Ms Jette Hingbjerg GM

Ms Mette Grith Soerensen GM

Søren Elo Hinrichsen EM

Houffalize

Luc Nollomont GM

Judenburg

Helfried Kreiter GM

Erwin Miesbacher GM

Koszeg

Hajnalka Rezner GM

Péter Rege GM

Marietta Nagy EM

Anikó Horváth YM





Bernadett Honvéd YM

Kitti Mércz_Rege ND

Marsaskala

Mr Mario Calleja GM

Ms Marygrace Debono (OBSERVER) ND

Mr Charlot Mifsud EM

Mr Sandro Gatt GM

Mr Ryan Portelli YM

Meerssen

Annijje Luns-Kruytbosch GM

Irene Raedts GM

Bert van Doorn EM

Siri Zomerplaag YM

Rozanne van Marle YM

Wil Schrijnemaekers ND

Herman Langenveld ND

Niederanven

Jos Mouton GM

Liliane Mouton EM

Paul Greis GM





Romaine Greis

Oxelosund

Catharina Fredriksson GM

Niklas Thelin GM

Patrik Edström EM

Monica Höglin EM

Louise Rodén Andersson YM

Felicia Ubbesen YM

Preveza

Gerasimos Ntitsos GM

Sofia Konstantinidi GM

Ioanna Triantafillopoulou EM

Sherborne

Jeremy Barker (ex gratia) GM

Mike Balfour (ex gratia) GM

Clifton Jelbert GM

Elizabeth Does YM

Kevin Waterfall GM ND

Michael Morrell GM ND

Michael Whittick EM ND





Moira Western GM ND

Christopher MacAdie GM ND

Scilla Copper ND

Lin Ashby EM

Alan Ashby ND

Sarah Whittick EM

John Whittick ND

Tully Butler YM

Richard Jenkins YM

Linda Bygrave ND

Rob Bygrave ND

Sigulda

Guntars Zvejnieks GM

Iveta Ārgale GM

Rūdolfš Kalvāns EM

Sabīne Birzniece YM

Edīte Kuzmina YM

Siret

Tiberiu Rotaru Anghelescu GM

Tiberiu Tcaciuc GM





Liliana Mocrei EM

Antonia Ilovan YM

Ovidiu Oniciuc YM

Remus Capitanu YM

Skofja Loka

Miha Ješe GM

Jernej Tavčar GM

Luka Nunar YM

Jakob Zarnik YM

Sisice

Věra Svobodová GM

Kristina Volná EM

Eva Beníšková GM

Věra Marešová ND

Jaromír Kolář ND

Richard Smola ND

Zuzana Šperlová YM

Martin Bath YM





Tryavna

Doncho Zahariev – GM

Kalina Toteva – GM

Maria Peneva – GM

Greta Gospodinova – GM

Branimira Terziiska – GM

Silvia Krasteva – GM

Daniela Petkova

Veronika Dimieva

Ivelina Todorova

Teodora Kuseva

Veselin Mihov

Tihol Zahariev – YM

Evelin Koev – YM

Zornitsa Tuneva – YM

Tsetsa Ninova – EM

Stiliyana Petkova – YM

Viktoria Ivanova – YM

Yanek Gerganov – YM

Borislava Dimitrova – YM





Martina Ilieva – YM

Nikola Anastasov – YM

Violeta Tacheva – EM

Stanimira Gencheva – EM

Rositsa Lukanova – EM

Boryana Dimitrova - EM

Turi

Mr. Raivo Pink GM

Mr. Sulo Särkinen GM

Ms. Anu Puulmann EM

Ms. Liisa Tamm YM

Zvolen

Zuzana Lászlóvá GM

Michal Almaši EM





I. General Meeting

- Welcome speeches by Mayor of Tryavna and President of Douzelage.

The General Meeting started with welcome speeches by the Mayor of Tryavna and the President of Douzelage.

Mayor of Tryavna greeted all delegates and wished them a good conference.

President of Douzelage described the most significant events and projects done during his presidency: Douzelage enlargement, Douzelage exhibition in Brussels, Douzelage newsletter and many projects organized by partner towns. He thanked vice presidents, secretary, heads of education, translators, towns which hosted GMs during his presidency, former Douzelage presidents, Mr. Wołos (website administrator) and all Douzelage members who were participating in Douzelage activities.

- Douzelage enlargement. Formal decision about accepting Rovnj (Croatia) as a new, 28th member of Douzelage.

A candidate town Rovnj from Croatia showed a short presentation. The Douzelage towns voted to accept Rovnj as 28th member of European Town Twinning Association Douzelage. Rovnj was accepted unanimously.

1. Business Matters.

1) Approval of the Siret GM Minutes:

- Approval of the minutes of the Siret GM 17th - 18th April 2015,
- Approval of the Education Committee Report,
- Approval of the Youth Workshop Report.

The minutes of 40th General Meeting of Douzelage in Siret in 2015 were accepted by general assembly. The minutes of Education Meeting were accepted and the minutes of Youth Workshop were accepted as well.

2) Approval of the accounts will be checked by two Honorary Auditors.

President of Douzelage informed General Assembly about the Douzelage accounts. At the moment there is one problem with the payment with annual fee by Greek partner town Preveza. They have not paid it for the last six years. It means that they should pay 2100 EUR. The Presidency was trying to





contact the mayor of Preveza several times. They promised that the fee would be paid but unfortunately it was not.

The fee for 2016 was paid by Bad Kotzting. The rest of the towns will receive invoices for 2016, they will be sent to towns by the new Presidency. The President of Douzelage informed that on the president account there is 10,271 EUR and 12 Cents. Siret paid annual fee for previous year during the meeting in Tryavna in cash. So the President informed the delegates that the amount of 10271 EUR 12 Cents plus 350 EUR (Siret fee) minus bank fees and one invoice of 100 EUR which will be deducted from the account at the end of the month will be transferred to the new President as soon as the account number will be sent to Chojna.

The President account was checked by two Honorary Auditors. One of them from Siret, the other one from Bellagio and they informed the President that the financial documentation is very good. The General Assembly did not have any comments and accepted the presidential account.

3) Annual Douzelage Membership:

- It is proposed to remain at 350 EUR for the annual fee according to the decision taken in Sesimbra,
- The contribution of 50 EUR for maintenance and transport of the simultaneous translation equipment is part of the annual fee according to the decision taken in GM in Siret.

The delegates decided that the annual Douzelage membership will remain at 350 EUR according to the decision taken in Sesimbra. And the contribution for the maintenance and transport of the simultaneous equipment will still be part of the annual fee according to the decision taken during the GM in Siret.

4) Programme for further meetings.

President of Douzelage remained the delegates of the programme of further meetings:

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





2. Projects and activities.

1) Projects and activities since the meeting in Siret:

President of Douzelage presented the activities organised and coordinated by the Douzelage Association in Chojna. There were: 'Health Education For Life' Erasmus Plus Strategic Partnership Project (Power point presentation), a film of Erasmus plus Youth Project 'More Active More Healthy', a film from Erasmus plus Youth Project 'Focus on Youth and the Power point presentation of Leonardo da Vinci and Erasmus plus vocational mobility Projects organised by Chojna.

All materials and projects' presentations are on Douzelage website.

Workbooks (intellectual output of HEFL project) were distributed among GM participants.

Other activities:

Meerssen:

✓ **May 2015**

Irene Raedts and Wil Schrijnemaekers visited Anna Rydzewska, Cezary Salamończyk and many more in Chojna and Trzcińsko Zdrój in Poland.

✓ **June 2015**

Jan Daems and his pupils aged 14 went for an amazing and sporty trip to Houffalize.

✓ **June 2015**

Shane joyfully visited Meerssen and Maastricht for a couple of days.

✓ **July 2015**

Irene Raedts and Annigje Kruytbosch visit Sherborne.

✓ **September 2015**

Marathon Meerssen 28 runners from Granville and 3 from Sherborne

✓ **September 2015**

Jeremy Barker, Clifton Jilbert, Mike Balfour and Margareth, Chris MacAdie, John, Sarah and





Mr. Whittick visited Meerssen during a sunny long weekend in September.

✓ February 2016

Meeting in Meerssen.

Sušice:

May 2015 to May 2016

- 1) In May 2015 during The Days of Sušice the Polish delegation was given a basket of Czech roses to be planted in the European Garden in Chojna.
- 2) On May 7 2015 teachers from Realschule Bad Kötzting and Gymnazium Sušice had a common day in Sušice. They visited the town of Klatovy including the new catacombs and had a short tourist trip around Klatovy.
- 3) In June 2015 children from schools in Sušice participated in ADEPS Project in Houffalize
- 4) In July 2015 our students participated in Chojna projects Focus on Youth and More active, more healthy.
- 5) 20th September 10 sportsmen from Sušice participated in the 3rd year of Kaitersberg Mountain Run in Bad Kötzting. Sušice was very successful, three of the sportsmen achieved the 2nd place.
- 6) In October 2015 a group of students from Gymnazium took part in a „Theatre Project“ in Bad Kötzting. Together with students from the Realschule they spent a week in families and learnt a lot of new games and activities. Finally they made a common project to be performed both in Sušice and Bad Kötzting.
- 7) 17-18 October 2015 were dedicated to the 20th anniversary of partnership between Sušice and Bad Kötzting. More than 200 people from Sušice and Bad Kötzting took part in the celebration. The event was made possible thanks to the financial support of the "German-Czech Future Fund".





- 8) Primary school in Sušice takes part in St Nicolaus Project of Meerssen. Texts and pictures have been sent to Meerssen.
- 9) The town of Sušice has become the partner of Siret in the Project Interreg Danube
- 10) Sušice sent a few works for the exhibition in Bad Kötzing which took place 7.5.- 4.6.2016. Our delegation took part in the opening ceremony.
- 11) 5th May 2016 the part of the Sušice Children Choir called "Včelky" participated in Musikparty in Bad Kötzing.

Bellagio:

Bellagio on the occasion of the 25 anniversary of "Douzelage" placed at the entrance of the village with new tourist panels indicating our twinning, to welcome tourists from the 27 States represented in the Douzelage.

Bad Kötzing:

- ✓ May 2015

Teenager without borders – art brings us closer

- ✓ September 2015

Folkband "Trikom Brudrs" from Douzelage town Susice had a concert in Bad Kötzing spa gardens.

- ✓ September 2015

4 runners from 4 Judenburg and 15 from Susice participated in the mountain run "Da Kine vom Kaitersberg"

- ✓ October 2015

Students from Realschule Bad Kötzing and Gymnasium Susice had a common theater workshop "Where Is My Home?". They have shown that a different language is not a barrier for good cooperation.

- ✓ October 2015





Bad Kötzting and Susice celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the partnership. About 80 people from Bad Kötzting were hosted by the town of Susice.

✓ March 2016

Children's Choir from primary school Susice opened the annual music party at Gymnasium Bad Kötzting

✓ April 2016

Student exchange - Realschule Bad Kötzting visited Gryphon School in Sherborne.

✓ April 2016

Mayor Markus Hofmann brought the Metaphora word games to our local kindergardens and primary school.

✓ April 2016

Runners from Sportsclub Bad Kötzting took part in Susice mountain run.

✓ May 2016

To mark the 25th anniversary of the Douzelage Bad Kötzting invited artists from partner towns to participate in the Bad Kötzting art exhibition. Artists from Köszek, Meerssen, Niederanven, Preveza, Sherborne, Susice and Türi take part with their Works.

2) Presentation of new project and activities:

Chojna

President of Douzelage introduced two new Projects which already received suport from European Commission. They are: Erasmus plus Youth ExchangeProject 'Be Different Be Tolerant' and Erasmus plus Youth Strategic Partnership Project 'Women in Society'. The first of those Projects would be done with partners from Susice, Koszeg and Konya (Turkey) Women in Society Project will be organised in partnership with Koszeg (Hungary) and Konya (Turkey).

Susice

Future activities





- 1) Look around“project will take place in Sušice 25.-29/7/2016.
- 2) Our musicians will participate in the project Young musician of the Year 2016 in Zvolen
- 3) In August 2016 Sušice will participate in the Festival of Music and Dance in Sherborne

Bellagio

Bellagio will arrange 23 October the "Bellagio Skyrace 2016" – 3rd Edition, in collaboration with the NSC Bellagio SKY Team S.D

3. Workshops:

1. Douzelage Youth Committee
Leader: Ryan Portelli (Marsaskala)
2. Douzelage website
Leader: Peter Rege (Koszeg)
3. GM organisation. Applying for Europe for citizens funds.
Leader: Tiberio Rotaru (Siret)
4. Diversity in Douzelage – involvement of local communities in Douzelage activities.
Leader: Lin Ashby (Sherborne)
5. Walk and cycle Tracks through/connecting Douzelage towns.
Leader: Herman Langenveld (Meerssen).

4. Workshops reports and recommendations.

1. A Douzyouth committee has long been dreamed. Giving youths responsibility for their own work is the new way forward. Having a structure which is recognised by all the general delegates is vital. On the other hand, there is an ideal which may be difficult to reach. Youth mobility is one of the main problems. For this reason, a lot of municipalities find it hard to find youths who are well engaged in





the Douzelage. The aim of the General Meeting is for youths to meet new people. But this is not the main reason.

It is healthy to do crafts and have a couple of beers together but youths need to understand that they have to be part of the real Douzelage. Europe is not only about illegal immigrants or demonstrations about austerity. Europe is about talking to people who do not even understand English. Europe is about work, the environment the economy and education.

The general delegates need to trust the structure of youths. Helping them is important. Although we cannot mix helping with imposing. We cannot impose and we cannot intervene, although youths need to be contacted regularly and in an effective manner. This even means that the youths may be represented in the General Meeting and they assume full responsibility for their work, whether it is in the right direction or not. Youths need to be given a chance to work, even if a bit sceptic.

Communication is the first step. While youth mobility is promoted, it is also a problem to have dedicated youths. For this reason, an interactive website is needed. Facebook is an easy way to link so many youths together, not only through group chats but also through an informative official facebook page.

Continuity is the second step. Engaged youths need to introduce new youths to the system. It is getting more difficult for continuity since every general Meeting is totally different from the previous ones. To have continuity, regional meetings are needed to involve more municipalities. Having a theme at the beginning of the year could lead to cooperation between municipalities to organise smaller conferences in preparation to the General Meeting.

Every locality has different structures, different needs and different problems to tackle. The youth committee needs to be pro-active in working towards better communities. We cannot expect the youths to change Europe, because they won't and no one will. Whether the committee functions or not, we need to give time for the committee to develop. The majority of delegates may look at the youth committee as an important milestone, but how it will turn out is not up to the delegates. We will support them when needed and let's hope the DouzYouth Committee is the real fresh air we need.

2. MEMO

Douzelage General Meeting, Tryavna 2016.

Subject: Workshop about the new Douzelage website

Date: 13.05.2016.

Participants: Clifton Jelbert, Michael Morrell, Miha Jese, Mira Nieminen, Niklas Telin, Paola Elastica, Peter Rege, Raivo Pink





Introduction:

The purpose of the workshop was to talk about the Douzelage website.

Int he last GM it was also a topic, that Douzelage needs an up-to-date and well structured website.

The current image and content is out of date. The update is not soled yet. If there is not somebody who is responsible for it, it will not work.

Workshop purpose:

Define new guidelines. There must be an overview of the form and content of the current website. And of course the members have to specify the formulation of expectations for the new website.

Results:

There was no question, Douzelage needs a new website. Ont he website only the most important events will appear. There is no need to have subpages for all the member towns, it is much more prefered, that Douzelage needs an international website, so every country can upload informations there.

It is recommended, to have 2 persons, who are responsible for the website. One of them should be the current secretary, who keeps contact with each member town, so he/she can ask for the news and programmes going on in different countries. The other one would be responsible for uploading the substance to the website.

For the new website, it would be enough to have an easy manageable and free framework, such as Joomla, because several additional modules and templates are available.

Knowing all these the new website preparation would take maily 1-2 month.

3. EU for Citizens workshop

Moderator – Tiberiu Rotaru

Secretary – Kevin Waterfall

Starting point - Siret was succesful

You need to be proactive and plan ahead

1. What is most difficult to get organized or to get the money?
 - a. Who is going to write the project
 - b. The town council/ administration has lots of experience in Siret to write projects
 - c. If you have a god relationship with the town council then use them





- d. Started with a professional project writing firm, but the issue is they do not understand Douzelage and they copy EU themes, to have preparatory activities and past approach can get things wrong
 - e. After the first application failed they went to the national Agency to get advice for correcting errors
 - i. They had to focus more on EU themes and also to involve other partners and lots of preparatory meetings.
 - ii. Then to build EU focused subjects
 - f. Need to get the themes from EU in time to write project
 - i. Always have a plan B in case you do not get funding
 - ii. Engage local and regional officials MEPs and MPs to participate and help promote the image of the town and Douzelage. Make them feel personally involved
 - iii. Human rights nearly always works
 - g. With implementation you need to build specific items and methods to engage all parties, e.g. young people and teachers
 - h. This was photographic competition and writing a legislative proposition
 - i. Need to have defined people to manage each type of workshop
 - j. Need lots of people to help organize a GM, Siret used a lot of young people. They were rewarded by giving them a day off school and a day trip to the mountains after the event.
 - k. Need good relations with local organizations and institutions (Schools, Culture House, etc)
 - l. Need a dedicated team for organizing, 6 in Siret
 - m. Be clear of your strengths and weaknesses
 - n. Work on a voluntary basis only no fees for organizers and if possible no expenses but build a volunteer community
 - o. Use single rooms wherever possible
2. Do young people stay in the hotel or to families?
 - a. Logistics issues are a problem with family stay
 - b. Youth staying together in one location is best as they can
 - c. Younger than 18 is a problem for UK and also if homestay in some countries
 - d. Socializing and sharing experiences is an essential element, but you can't say it in EU funding application
 - e. Also with social events you need to phrase things in a way that it looks meaningful
 3. You need to be able to demonstrate numbers of people attending by signatures and lists. The template is done by EU and should always be respected





4. You need to account properly and mixtures, number of men, women, and ages
5. General recommendation - Capture the recommendations of these minutes on the Douzelage web site
6. What is the most difficult this to arrange in getting funding?
 - a. You need to register your town with the PIC number as a non-profit NGO
 - b. With EU for citizens there are different classifications
 - i. Town twinning is only international people
 - ii. Groups of towns you can count own nationality also
 - iii. The guidelines are very comprehensive and useful
7. List all events, conference, workshops etc as well as exhibitions, competitions etc.
8. Do not count all people but plan to guarantee the numbers, if more people come then you do not get more money, but you can be sure of your grant.
9. The EU audits applications sometimes on its venues, so follow the rules.
10. Creative people to generate the ideas but you need a structured thinker, e.g. engineer to complete the application and stay with the rules and routine and boredom of application
11. Publicity is important, there is a requirement to show how you are going to publicize the event and give recognition to the EU for funding.
12. Use EU for Citizens 2.2 and emphasizes Douzelage as a group of towns, do not use town twinning
13. This kind of workshops should be continued at the future GM where other towns could share their experience about writing projects and organizing GM

4. Diversity in Douzelage

Douzelage is not about a person's:

Colour

Gender

Educational level

Age

It's about inclusion and equality for all – but does our Douzelage reflect this?

Sometimes we do things that are easy to get involved with and give the same opportunities to the same type of people/young people. Sometimes we only do things that keep us looking the same – we miss





the young people that don't go to university and the families/people that we need to get involved to make a bigger difference.

We are a diverse organisation but we can do better.

We need continuity and stability to make sure we progress, but maintain our knowledge and experience, whilst more people get involved. That means not letting the results of workshops be forgotten and finding roles for those who have great skills and experience to support and be mentors to others.

Actions:

- Look around and see who is missing from our Douzelage – ask yourself the question in your group and look at the activities you do.
- Use and involve our elected representatives, such local councillors, MEPs etc., to help us.
- Make sure we involve the young people of our towns who do not go to University or leave for jobs elsewhere – include those who have ‘special needs’ and disabilities.
- Give young people more space to make decisions – especially in the activities and projects we do.
- Use websites, Facebook and social media to market and raise awareness of Douzelage.
- Continuity – keep things going and growing

Give the organisation back to the Community

5. Via Douzelage. Roads and routes.

Via Douzelage is a network of roads and routes of which nodes are created by the European Douzelage municipalities.

In Europe there are many connections and routes to hike, to bike, to drive and to fly.





Many of them with a special theme: pilgrim, trade, culture, food and drink. To create a Via Douzelage contributes to the image and mutual contacts between different nations and regions in Europe. A network like this invited ordinary people to find their way in Europe, create knowledge about other European people and build sustainable relationships with them.

Every village and its environment has its own selling points and is worthy to be visited. For example Meerssen, Douzelage village in the Netherlands. It has a rich history in Roman times when the name was Marsana. Old Roman frontier towns are nearby, for example Trier, which used to be one of the Roman Capital Towns of the R.E. There is Aachen, the place where Charlemagne had his residence and where every year the Karl prize is granted to a person who has merits for best to Europe. In 870 A.D. the Agreement of Meerssen separated Europe and Maastricht, place of birth of the Euro.

A European Character.

There are different ways to make the Via Douzelage a real European route. It could, for example, be done by making visible old routes of trade and pilgrimage. They demonstrate the connectedness of European regions and cities.

Making visible the nature with unique or similar flora and fauna, especially the European wildlife and nature parks.

Historical events that took place and their meaning to the development of Europe.

Cities and landscapes with a special planning structure or architectural design.

Expressions of cultures in local events and activities.

Producing and processing of agricultural products and animal husbandry.

Baking, cooking local food and comparing this with food from elsewhere.

Local food and dining culture and the way it compares with local customs and events.

Meanings a Via Douzelage could have.

Several meanings.

- Creating a name and image for the Douzelage Association.
- Create identity for an abstract Europe.
- Connecting people, citizens of Europe.
- Generate economic activities.
- Unlocking and making accessible.
- Tickle fantasy.
- Creating chances.
- Uncovering old connections.





- Creating unity.
- Strengthening identity.

An existing Via Douzelage connects people, citizens of Europe.

When there are roads and routes, and people know that, they will make their way, just as we were hunters in former days looking for good luck and a good booty. Via Douzelage is an instrument for human contact and a human community and finding opportunities.

- Discovering identity of other European people.
- Showing individuality.
- Appreciate individuality of others.
- Showing diversity and discover agreements and connections.
- Feeling stimulation of being different and the challenge to know about others.
- Meeting each other and the pleasure to offer and receive hospitality.
- Learning by linking and sharing about such things as local sustainability, local social policy, environment, nature and wild management.

Creating a network.

Communities, members of the Douzelage Association are the nodes in the network. The routes are between nodes, from community to community. Around and in the communities routes can be added. Routes to hike, to bike and to drive. In the communities there should be facilities for wining and dining and spending the night.

To build and develop the network, the users can be involved. A tool for that could be a website like Wikipedia. Users can post their routes and experiences. Route planners which use GPS are actually the maps where routes are “ready to use”, and descriptions and travel guides can contribute. The website could be the place where all this could be made accessible.

Developing a European Nodes Route.

An example could be the nodes routes in border areas, between The Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. For the Via Douzelage the Douzelage communities, deliver the framework. Other nodes can be added going on. The framework gives possibilities to discover. That structure gives the traveller a handhold. He can make predictions about distance, times and speed and gives possibilities for planning. Departure, arrival, stops, dining and finding lodgings.

Routes which are mapped can make accessible interesting cities, villages and places in the area.

Websites.





These are in Dutch. We can presume every country and organisation has its own websites.

Fietsersbond. <http://routeplanner.fietsersbond.nl>

Nederland Fietsland: <http://www.nederlandfietsland.nl/fietsroutes>

Koninklijke Wandelbond: <http://www.wandel.nl>.

ANWB: <http://www.anwb.nl>.

Europa autorijden: <http://www.reisaddict.nl/mooiste-autoroutes-europa/>

Europa fietsen: <https://www.europafietsers.nl>

Europa wandelen: <http://www.europesewandelingen.nl/lange-afstand-wandelpaden>

Europa autorijden: <http://www.autoblog.nl/nieuws/twaalf-europese-autoroutes-die-je-gereden-moet-hebben-62011>

Conclusions.

In the workshop, Tryavna 5-5-2016, the participants were enthusiastic. In particular there were some villages that wanted to be in this project. Resuming we concluded that it was a good idea and we decided to start this project.

In Meerssen we set up a project group. This group will take initiatives. For all it should be a project that should be created bottom up. Every village that wants to be a member has ownership. It has to take initiatives for the networks between their village and the villages in the countries around. By exchanging information, helping and stimulating each other, the network should grow.

Project Via Douzelage. Steps.

The project group will make a business plan and submit this to all the Douzelage villages. They can decide to be part of it. These villages can make suggestions for improvement. After that the business plan will be finalised. So there is a mission statement, strategic, operational plan and agreement between the participating communities.

The next step is inventorying local persons, tourist organisations and organisations for hiking, biking, and driving who/ which can contribute.

After that we should build a website. Starting perhaps with a page on the European Douzelage website, and open a Facebook page about Via Douzelage.

Build the first routes between the participating communities. Meerssen made the proposal to Niederaanven and Houffalize to make a pilot that could be an example and for all to learn. Between these villages there are existing routes that can be part of this network, for example an old railway trail



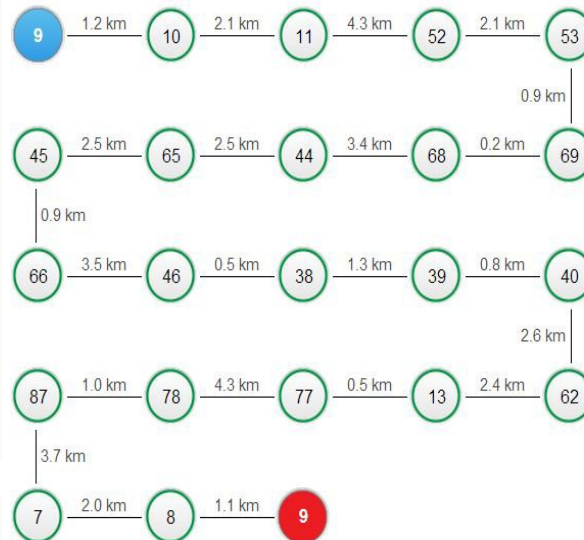
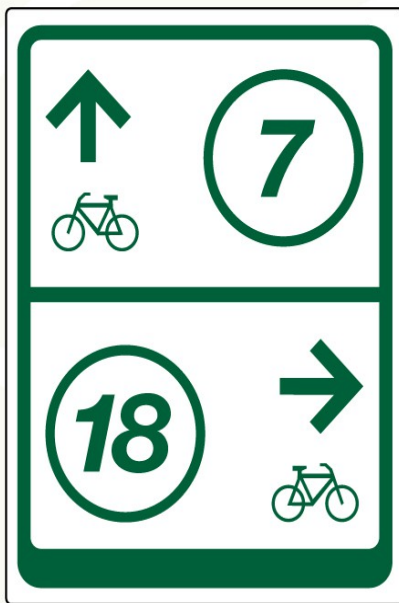


between Aachen and Trois Vierges in Luxemburg and a trail along the border river between Luxemburg and Germany.

Meerssen, 05-28-2016.
Herman Langenveld.

Maps.





5.Provisional agenda for the General Meeting in Bad Kotzting .

Wolfgang Kerscher from Bad Kotzting informed members of the General Assembly of provisional agenda for the 42nd GM in Bad Kotzting which will be organised from 12 – 14 May 2017.

6.Date for 2018 GM in Oxelosund.

Oxelosund informed the delegates of the dates of GM in 2018 in Oxelosund – 10-13 May 2018

7.Election of the President of Douzelage and Vce Presidents.

President of Douzelage informed the delegates of the procedure of the election of new President and Vce Presidents. General Assembly decided that each town should have two votes. It means Agros and Houffalize which are represented by one delegate each will have two votes as well.

President of Douzelage informed that new President and new Vce Presidentst to be elected need 50% plus 1 of valid votes.

General Assembly confirmed the election procedure and the President informed the delegates that the new President of Douzelage will be elected first and after that there will be election of Vce Presidents.





If the candidates will not receive 50% plus 1 valid votes in the first ballot there will be the second ballot. For the second ballot the last candidate will drop out.

Lin Ashby from Sherborne, Joe Mc Nulty from Bondoran and Daniela Petkova from Tryavna were appointed to count the votes.

The results of the election of the President of Douzelage:

Annijje Luns-Kruytbosch - 30 votes,

Mario Calleja -16 votes,

Peter Rege – 4 votes.

There were 50 valid votes. The absolute majoraty was 26 votes.

Annijje Luns-Kruytbosch was elected as the President of Douzelage.

Results of the election for Vce Presidents of Douzelage:

Mette Gritch Soerensen 40 votes,

Miha Jese 36 votes,

Tiberiu Rotaru 38 votes,

Eva Beniskova 29 votes.

Mette Gritch Soerensen, Miha Jese and Tiberiu Rotaru were elected by Absolute Majority as Vce Presidents of Douzelage.

Mr. Salamóńczyk congratulated newly elected President and Vce Presidents of Douzelage.

II. EDUCATION MEETING REPORT.

Education meeting report, Tryavna, 2016.

The education meeting, some 30 strong, convened on Friday at the culture centre, where our esteemed Bulgarian colleagues received us and had prepared the meeting.

Several new participants/ representatives of the towns introduced themselves and their backgrounds to the group. Preparation had been made in the form of a poster presentation on informal learning, which gave the towns the chance to see at a glance what others had been and were doing, and to speak directly to the people whom they might or wanted to enter into a project with. Animated conversation on schools' projects and possibilities for cooperation ensued.

We asked those present to provide contact details, so that the report could be sent to all and for future reference. Then Sherborne proposed a project for primary or junior secondary schools, which was well received and had several towns interested (Sarah, would you inform all of us when this project is going to take place?).

Two others came up as ideas, which we will be happy to hear more about at a later stage.

In the afternoon, AnuPuulmann (Türi) and Hans-Peter Jobst (Bad Kötzing) kindly agreed to join me in preparing next year's meeting, which will comprise several different subjects and will need more than one chair to run and to provide reports. We agreed on the draft of a programme, which is now being





considered by Bad Kötzting for feasibility and which we plan to send out to you as soon as our hosts have received word on funding.

On Saturday, members of the EM visited the National Arts and Crafts School, where they were duly impressed by an extremely high level of skills and workmanship. Workshops later on folk dancing and ivy painting were also enjoyed by all. Someone expressed that ‘folks back home would never believe that he had been involved in such work’, enjoying a new experience thoroughly.

It was well-attended meeting, which offers some interesting prospects and brings together many dedicated educators, either active in teaching, retired and/ or implementing educational policy. It is a good group, whose members I hope to welcome in Bad Kötzting again. Thank you all, wishing you good cooperation in all manner of projects,
Bert van Doorn

Education Meeting contact list, May 2016.

Türi, Estonia: anu.puulmann@tyri.ee

Preveza, Greece: triantafyllopoulouanny@yahoo.com

Tryavna, Bulgaria: rositsaivanova70@gmail.com; rosinik_l@abv.bg

“ ” : rti@div.bg; vtstacheva@yahoo.com

SkofjaLoka, Slovenia: jerneytavcar@skofjaloka.si

Zvolen, Slovakia: malmasi84@gmail.com

Bellagio, Italia: groszilla59@hotmail.com

Siret, Romania: ekamocrei@yahoo.com

Chojna, Polska: zsp2chojna@wp.pl

Holstebro, Denmark: soren.elo.hinrichsen@holstebro.dk

Granville, France: denis.prize@wanadoo.fr

Bad Kötzting, Germany: hape_jobst@yahoo.de

Meerssen, Netherlands: b.vandoorn@lvo-heuvelland.nl

Susice, Czech Republic: volnakristina@seznam.cz

Köszeg, Hungary: managy@indamail.hu

Oxelösund, Sweden: niklas.thelin@oxelosund.se

Asikkala, Finland: anniina.potka@gmail.com

Sherborne, UK: whittick445@btinternet.com





III. YOUTH MEETING REPORT.

DOUZELAGE 41ST GENERAL MEETING, TRYAVNA, BULGARIA 12TH-15TH MAY 2016 YOUTH REPORT

This year the general meeting was held in Tryavna, Bulgaria. There were three youth delegates from Sherborne that attended. Two of which, Elizabeth Dores, and Tully Butler are general committee members of Sherborne Douzelage, and the third a local boy, Richard Jenkins.

We arrived in the capital, Sofia the day before and spent our time on a cultural walking tour, visiting local monuments, the cathedral, an art gallery filled with hand painted icons, public baths, the basilica, various beautiful churches, and the ancient Roman ruins of Serdica. We ate in local restaurants and took in the culture and beautiful weather that Bulgaria had to offer.

The next day we headed to the airport to meet the first lot of delegates from the other Douzelage towns. The coach to Tryavna took just under 4 hours, but the views were breathtaking. The forests and landscape was so lush and plentiful, with layers of variety, colour and beauty. It gave me joy and comfort to think that even if man starting cutting them down now, it would take them generations, and then sadness that they may sometime be gone.

Thursday evening we arrived at Kalina Palace hotel, in Tryavna, there was a dinner and opening speech and a wonderful performance from the dance formation 'Zornitsa'.

Friday, after breakfast official speeches were given by the Mayor of Tryavna, Mr Doncho Zahariev and President of Douzelage Mr Cezary Salamonczyk.

All Douzelage towns formally voted without any contestation, and warmly and gladly accepted Rovinj, Croatia to be our 28th member town.

Later we had an exhibition in the square themed 'traditions of my region' where youth from each country had bought homemade crafts from their towns.

After lunch we had workshops in groups together with teachers and students from the national arts and crafts school (associated member of the global school network of UNESCO), we toured around the beautiful school and workshops, where we participated in woodcarving and icon painting.

After a walk around the local shops and pebbled streets we gathered in the square to view stalls of handmade folk instruments, and then attended a magnificent concert of folklore dancing by the group 'Trakia'.





After dinner we gathered in the square to watch the 'dancing on fire of coals' demonstration, where as the title suggests dancers, barefoot, performed on burning hot coals. It was a community affair with the young and old; Tryavna locals and members of all the Douzelage countries joint hands in unity, and danced together around the burning coals.

When we thought that was the end, we were told to gather together in the square, where a movie of florescent lights mounted on the church tower became a story of how Tryavna was born! The finale; a beautiful display of fireworks above us. A great end to a lovely day.

On Saturday the vote was cast for the new president and vice presidents of Douzelage, and the new Douzyouth Committee, Chairman, and Vice Chairman.

Mr Cezary Salamonczyk stepped down as president, and Mr Mario Calleja and Mr Mike Balfour stepped down as vice presidents after a fantastic and commendable 6 year term (extended from three year).

Annigje Kruytbosch (Netherlands) was elected as the new President, and Mette Grith Sorensen (Denmark), Tibi Rotaru (Romania) and Miha Jase (Slovenia) were elected as the vice presidents.

The first ever youth committee was elected of 7 members; Elizabeth Does, United Kingdom (Chairman), Ryan Portelli, Malta (Vice Chairman), Sabine Birzniece, Latvia (Vice chairman), Luka Nunar (Slovenia), Megan Mcgee (Ireland), Patrycja Tyczynska (Poland), and Kitti Mercz (Hungary).

After the elections we participated in role play games, a committee discussion, folk dance lessons and ivy painting, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

During the youth workshop discussion on the running of the committee we concluded that we would like the following from next year:

1. To write up our own programme with the hosting country; including less games and social activity and more structure, work and discussion
2. Increase our project participation and apply for funding from the European Commission, Youth in Action, local and international organisations.
3. Organise youth committees in each town with regular meetings and fundraising (especially ones that have a Douzyouth committee member to represent them)





4. Organise regional meetings and meetings of the Douzyouth committee every 3 months in a different country

5. Increase our work on social media, online campaigns, videos, Facebook, Twitter and expand on our website

6. Have two seats in the general meeting for the Chairman and a Deputy Chairman

Douzyouth would like to thank everyone who played a part in making this General Meeting in Bulgaria a huge success.

We look forward to what the Douzyouth Committee will bring to Douzelage and aim to supersede expectations creating a successful and effective youth presence and energy within Douzelage.

By Elizabeth Dores (DouzYouth Chairman)

Jeremy Barker from Sherborne on behalf of members of the General Assembly of Douzelage expressed thanks to departing President Mr Cezary Salamończyk.

Anna Rydzewska,
Douzelage Association in Chojna

