

**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

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HOLSTEBRO (DK)  
HOUFFALIZE (B)  
JUDENBURG (A)  
KARKKILA (FIN)  
KÖSZEG (H)  
MARSASKALA (MT)  
MEERSSEN (NL)  
NIEDERANVEN (L)  
OXELÖSUND (S)  
PREVEZA (GR)  
PRIENAI (LT)  
SESIMBRA (P)  
SHERBORNE (GB)  
SIGULDA (LV)  
SIRET (RO)  
SKOFIALOKA (SI)  
SUŠICE (CZ)  
TRYAVNA (BG)  
TÜRI (EST)  
ZVOLEN (SK)

Chojna, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2011

# 36<sup>th</sup> Douzelage Conference

## Granville

26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2011

Draft Minutes



### PARTICIPANTS

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

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Janusz Cezary Salamończyk

Mr. Jacques Barrot

**A. Speech of welcome by Mayor of Granville.**

Welcome speeches by Mayor of Granville Mr. Daniel Caruhel.

It's been 20 years since 12 towns formed a partnership Douzelage Association. Douzelage is an extremely dynamic association, which currently brings together 24 European towns. It contributes to European integration through the exchange of young people, artists, athletes and officials. It is worth recalling that in 1993 the European Parliament in Strasbourg, awarded the Association the Golden Star. Douzelage participates in numerous European projects. Meetings, exchanges and sharing of best ideas helps build a strong and lasting Europe in this unbalanced and unstable world. The Granville Mayor stated that we are building a common Europe for future generations and he also wished success and fruitful deliberations to the delegates.

Speech of Mr. Jacques Barrot – Guest of Honour, formal vice president of the European Commission

Mr. Jacques Barrot gave his appreciation to all those who helped Douzelage work so well. He thanked the founders and a former Douzelage Presidents Mr. Jeremy Baker and Mr. Ed Weber and current president Mr. Cezary Salamończyk for their hard work. His speech concerned the current crisis that has hit Europe, such as a threat to the European currency, the Euro, or risk to the system of Schengen abolishing the border between European states. However, he believes that despite all these threats, a strong Europe is needed. He believed that Europe has become an industrial and technological power. Mr. Jacques Barrot also believes that we must work together to build a Europe of nations, which perfectly fits the idea of Douzelage.

**B. Speech of welcome by the President.**

Welcome speeches by President of Douzelage Mr. J.C. Salamończyk.

Dear Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen, Douzelage Friends

Today is a very special day for many of us. It is the opening of the General Meeting in the year of the 20th anniversary of Douzelage. Douzelage is a big part of life for a lot of people sitting here. In our projects and events, in every Douzelage activity, we have been trying to build a European house using our common values: tolerance, friendship and respect for different cultures and customs.

We are aware of all of the old and new problems around us. Immigration, environmental problems, economy, energy, volcano eruptions, even misunderstandings and conflicts between some EU countries - they influence us.

But we also try to show that only a strong united Europe can be successful and prosperous.

Douzelage, - organizing events for youngsters, bringing ordinary people together, is evidence that Europe exists, that it is not an artificial project created in Brussels.



I am very happy to see today many old Douzelage friends. A 20th anniversary is a good occasion to stop for a moment and look back . We are very proud to have with us Presidents of Douzelage Karl Majoor, Jeremy Barker and Ed Weber - we will do our best to keep you busy for many more years. Could we please stand up and think in silence for a minute about Honorary Initiator of Douzelage Andre Poirier and all our Douzelage members who have passed away. Thank you.

But we also have today many new delegates - our association is alive and looking for new ideas. I would like to welcome delegations of candidate towns: Agros, Skofja Loka and Tryavna. Every enlargement of Douzelage brings energy and enthusiasm into our activities. I hope the General Assembly will accept you today as members of Douzelage.

On behalf of the new presidency I would like to apology for the mistakes we will make during this General Meeting.

I wish all delegates a fruitful conference.

## **1. Business Matters**

### **1) Approval of the Minutes of the Susice Minutes**

The following documents were unanimously approved:

- Approval of the Minutes of the Susice GM 29<sup>th</sup> April – 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2010,
- Approval of the Education Committee Report,
- Approval of Youth Workshop Report.

The President recommends to send a list of activities by e-mail and not to print them. This will be facilitated by posting them on the website and adding to the final report.

### **2) Approval of the accounts 2010– 2011**

The additional fee of 200 EURO for the translation equipment will be paid by the new member towns of the Douzelage only once.

There is an amount of 3671.10 EURO on the translation equipment account which is enough to cover the maintenance and transport cost.

Some of the costs associated with meetings in Sherborne, Koszeg, Bad Kotzing or Marsaskala were from the projects, Douzelage did not spend a lot of money for that.

Most of duties of secretary are done by Mrs. Salamończyk and the President, who did it for free as volunteer work.

Houffalize - have send the money twice in 2010.

### **3) Annual Douzelage membership**

It is proposed the annual fee remains at 300 EUR according to the decision taken in Sesimbra.

### **4) Simultaneous Translation accounts**

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



It is proposed that the additional fee of 200 EUR paid by new member towns will be collected only once.

### **5) Change in Douzelage constitution**

It is proposed to add to point 4.c of our Constitution;

The term of President of the Douzelage shall last for three years from the date of election. A President shall serve for a maximum of two terms. A former or retiring President shall be eligible for election as a Vice-President, but may not stand as President.

The change was approved unanimously.

### **6) Douzelage Website**

Vice President Mr. Mike Balfour encouraged us to visit and log on to the Douzelage website [www.douzelage.org](http://www.douzelage.org). He presented information about the website and informed us where on the page you can find important information such as a list of contacts to the towns. He also thanked to Mr. Ed Weber for his help in creating the current page. He also presented the new webmaster Mr. Stanisław Wołos from Chojna.

### **7) Programme for further meetings**

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

17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2012 – Zvolen  
 2013 - Bellagio  
 2014 – Sigulda  
 2015 – Siret  
 2016 – Marsaskala

## **2. Douzelage enlargement**

The aim of Douzelage is to have one member town in each of the European Union country.

Agros (Cyprus), Skofja Loka (Slovenia) and Tryavna (Bulgaria) are the towns from countries which do not have members in our organization. All of them meet the main requirements of Douzelage: they are quite easy to access – Tryavna is two and a half hours by car from the airport in Sofia, Agros – one hour and a half, Skofja Loka – half an hour from the airport.

The number of inhabitants is similar to other Douzelage towns. In each of them there is at least one kindergarten, primary and secondary school.

Local authorities of Agros, Tryavna and Skofja Loka have formally requested to join Douzelage. They are aware of the main aims of our organization.

Each candidate town was visited by Vice –Presidents and President of Douzelage. They had opportunities to meet Mayors, members of town councils, headteachers, owners of local businesses and ordinary inhabitants.

Power point presentations of candidate towns were sent to Douzelage members (Tryavna) or were on the Douzelage website (Agros, Skofja Loka). Members of our organization were encouraged to ask questions



### 3. Projects and activities

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

Realschule Bad Kötzing took part in the project "Studentenmachen Schule", which is sponsored by Deutsches Kulturforum. Four Czech students (Dorothee Ahlers, Uta Pavlicek, Jacob Venuß, Lisa Höhenleitner) came to Bad Kötzing to study Germany's and Czechia's changeful history together with class 9 pupils.

1. Comenius Regio project with Dorset County Council and Sherborne. There were visits to Chojna and Sherborne of teachers , Douzelage members and administration staff.
2. Leonardo da Vinci project. Students from Chojna had work experience in the hotels in Sherborne, Berlin and Angermunde. (August 2010).
3. Youth in action project "Focus on future". We hosted a youth exchange project with participants from Koszeg, Sigulda and Susice.(July 2010).
4. Preparatory visit of a new Leonardo da Vinci project in Malta (January 2011).
5. Comenius school partnership project "Wave". A teacher from Koszeg spent one week in Chojna (March



- 2011), group of 25 students and 4 teachers from Chojna visited Koszeg and Budapest ( 9-19 May 2011).
6. Students from Chojna took part in a youth exchange project in Judenburg (August 2010).
  7. A group from Sherborne visited Chojna for the Days of European Integration (August 2010).
  8. A teacher from secondary school in Chojna participated in a Youth in action action 4.3 seminar in Warsaw (March 2011).
  9. Students from European Club "Douzelage" in Chojna organized Youth in action project, action 1.2 "Local window on Europe".
  10. Exhibition of Douzelage was organized in the Centre of Culture in Chojna.

### **Future projects and activities**

1. Youth in action , action 4.3 project "Focus on quality", January 2012.
2. Youth in action , action 1.2 project " Women in modern world", 2012.
3. Youth in action , action 1.3 project "Youth local council", 2012.
4. Leonardo da Vinci project, work experience in restaurants in Sherborne and Marsaskala, August 2011, August 2012.
5. We would like Douzelage walkers to visit our area.

### **Holstebro Douzelage Activites**

1. We have had a very postive meeting with our new mayor. So far he has promised us, that if we need help (though not financially!) the townhall will be happy to give a hand with for example: information-seeking, photos or maybe participants for Douzelage-workshops, if the workshops apply to any of the townhall-employees.
2. In Denmark there is a long tradition of participating in society as a volunteer in many different areas. Therefore the Douzelage committee of Holstebro have joined in with the Volunteer Centre of Holstebro and will be participating in the Sherborne Volunteer project. There has been a great interest in participating in all three workshops, young people, adults and politicians, so we hope it all will run according to plan.
3. We have had the pleasure of having a group of four people from Granville visiting us for a project concerning the upcoming Douzelage-meeting in Granville. The three men and a woman have been filming in Holstebro, and we are very anxious to see the result It was great fun having them here - and we got on very well in a mix of french, english, danish and miming

### **Houffalize Douzelage Activites**

#### **General meeting**

Présence d'une délégation de Houffalize à chaque meeting général.

Houffalize takes part in each General Meeting

2010: Général Meeting in Susice

Voir liste des différents meetings.

#### **Benelux meeting**

Présence d'une délégation de Houffalize à chaque benelux meeting.



Houffalize takes part in each Benelux Meeting before the general meeting, to prepare it.

Meeting organisé en préparation au meeting général.

2010 : Benelux meeting in Meerssen

### Judenburg's Douzelage Activities

**July 2010** - Outside of the Douzelage there is a rather close connection with the Italian town of Massa e Cozzile. We took part at the annual "Festadella Toscana" and "Festadella Birra" in Judenburg and Massa e Cozzile, Tuscany, a market with local products and music.

**10<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> July 2010** "Youth in Action" project "Climate change in front of our house"

Participants from: Chojna, Granville, Houffalize, Kőszeg, Marsascala, Oxelösund, Sherborne, Susice, Zvolen.

Workshops:

- Renewable Energy
- The environmental development of forest and hunt in the context of global warming
- The consequences of greenhouse effect on the sensitive ecological system of mountain streams at the example of Granitzen Stream in the area of Judenburg.
- Visits to the energy agency and the wood innovation centre, excursions to Europe's highest wind and solar park on 1900 m
- A day's trip to and up the Dachstein glacier by cable car. Information was given concerning the glacier and the extreme melting in recent years.
- Visit of a star show at the planetarium Judenburg.

**September 2011** - Late night shopping in Judenburg with a folk dance group from Kőszeg

**October 2011** - A Judenburg delegation and the folk band "Ziach-Streich-Blos-Zupfmusi" visited Kőszeg's "Tastes of Naturpark", an Ursula-day-Fair.

**April 2011** Malta's Parliamentary Secretariat of Local Council in collaboration with the local councils organised a town twinning conference. This conference was held between 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April 2011 and Judenburg took part with Willi and Gudrun Schnedl and Andrea Kober.

The aim of this conference was "cultural sustainability and creative communities".

A sightseeing programme to important archaeological sites on Gozo and Malta has been prepared.

**May 2011** - Andrea Kober visited Siret and attended a conference organised by Siret community. The aim of this project to the subject of "sustainable development" was an exchange of experience in the field of local development (economic, tourism, social services, infrastructure etc.)

For all guests a visit to the famous monasteries' of Bukovina was organised.

**May 2011** - Preparations were made for the conference in Granville. Participants from Judenburg: 5 (2 youngsters)

### Niederanven Douzelage Activities

#### **We changed the statutes of our local committee**

At the meeting of the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2010, the board of the local Douzelage committee has changed, as well as the statutes of the association. These new rules had been worked out together with the municipal board of Niederanven and the members of the Douzelage committee.

#### **Benelux Meeting in Meerssen on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April**



A delegation of 4 members of the local committee went to the Douzelage Benelux Meeting 2011 in Meerssen, to represent Niederanven.

#### **Survey of a Scottish student about the Douzelage**

A Scottish student asked Niederanven to fill out a special survey about the Douzelage, in the frame of her bachelor thesis.

#### **We sent our coats of arms to Marsaskala for the Douzelage Monument**

### **Prienai Douzelage Activities**

**Projects which are in preparation stage or are already being implemented:**

**During the year of 2010 all activities were connected to culture.**

#### **Implemented activities:**

- Tūri brass band (40 members) participated in Prienai town festival on 1-4 July.
- Prienai folk dance group "Trapukas" participated in a Kabala Song and Dance festival on 30<sup>th</sup> July – 1<sup>st</sup> August in Tūri.
- An international Christmas Tree Lighting festival took place on 10<sup>th</sup> December, in Prienai. Partners from the United Kingdom (Sherborne), Latvia (Talsi), and Finland (Asikkala) took part in it. (Partners from Tūri were also invited but due to very snowy weather couldn't arrive to Prienai.) During the festival the square of Prienai town was decorated of 7 Christmas trees. Each partner town decorated one the tree in their own tradition way. Hand-made decorations were brought from partner towns. Partners also had prepared artistic programmes and had shown it during the Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

#### **Projects in preparation stage:**

- Prienai have agreed to participate in Sherborne Douzelage Volunteering Project 2011/12.

### **Sesimbra Douzelage Activities**

- A group from Rotary Club of Sherborne Castles visited Sesimbra Rotary and presented the benefits of Douzelage exchanges.
- Sherborne Douzelage Committee member visited Sesimbra

### **Sherborne Douzelage Activities**

Past Events – 2010

**28 Feb – 3 Mar** - Comenius Project – Chojna delegation in Sherborne

**8 – 11 April** - Bellagio Mini Parliament



**Jul – Aug** - Granville student worked two months in Sherborne

**15 April** \*Travel Talk – Bellagio. Speaker Lin Ashby

**29 April – 2 May** - Susice Douzelage Conference

**9 May** - Europe Day at Leweston School. Girls at the school had a great day cooking European dishes

**20-23 May** - Wessex Morris Men visited Turi and received a tremendous welcome

**1 Jul – 31 Aug** - Two Italian students came to Sherborne and worked at Cafe Baglioni

**8 – 13 July** - A Photographic Project brought students from Chojna to exchange with local school

**10 -16 July** - Judenburg – A Global Warming Project was very successful and led by Kevin Waterfall

**16 July** - Some committee members of Sherborne Douzelage visited Malta

**1-29 August** - Several Chojna Students worked on Catering Courses (Leonardo da Vinci Project) in Sherborne

**8 – 12 August** - Great Walks around Sherborne, shared with Meerssen Walking Group

**16 September** - \*Travel Talk “Turi” Speaker Kevin Waterfall and Morris Men

**30 September** - The Polish Film “Vinci” was shown in Sherborne and very well attended

**17 October** - Visit to Chojna

**21 October** - \*Travel Talk “Chojna” Speaker Jeremy Barker

**18 November** - \*Travel Talk “Bad Kötzing” Speaker Michael Morrell

**10 December** - Prienai Christmas Tree Visit. This was a successful visit to Prienai and several committee members and children from Sherborne took part

**January 7<sup>th</sup>** - A Christmas Dinner was held at the Mitre Inn, attended by Sherborne Douzelage and the Granville Twinning Group from Sherborne

#### Future Events -2011

**Feb 17** - \*Euro Travel Talk“ Town Twinning Together” Held in Sherborne. Jeremy Barker and Penny Stewart were the speakers

**March 17** - \*Anna Pavord, a local author gave a talk on the French impressionist painters and gardens, Gardens of the French Impressionists

**March 4/8** - Granville, France Carnival time – Jeremy Barker visited and represented Sherborne Douzelage

**April 7<sup>th</sup>** - \*Travel Talk “Prague and Mozart’s travels” Speaker Janet Parsons Digby Road, Sherborne

**May 26/29** - Granville, France General Meeting

**June 1/5** - Walking trip around Meerssen, The Netherlands

**June 19** - \*Wessex Strings Concert 3pm at Cheap Street Church, Sherborne

**July 9** - \*Summer Garden Party 12.30pm 3 Miz Maze, Leigh There are plans for the Volunteering Project 2011/2012 – details to be finalise.

The starred (\*) events are social gatherings to raise money for Douzelage purposes

### Sherborne Douzelage – 2010/11 Events and Participation

(Additionally Leonardo students in Sherborne do work experience, typically 6 at any one time from different EU countries, arranged through the town council area partnership)

#### Programmes with Partner towns

##### **Bad Kötzing**

1 – 4 April 2011

16 students and two teachers visited Sherborne for student exchanges, staying in the Prep school but spending days out with student’s families. Sherborne Douzelage paid £500 towards the accommodation costs.

##### **Bellagio**

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### Sherborne Events

<b>Travel Talks</b>	A series of talks on partner towns have been held to show people interesting things about the towns and countries. This year we have covered: Bellagio, Turi, Bad Kötzing, Granville, Chojna, Prague and Mozart's Travels. A lot of effort was put in and excellent presentations given. However it has not attracted the numbers of people that it hoped to.
<b>Europe Day</b>	Leweston School students cooked dishes from across Europe
<b>Polish Film</b>	The film Vinci was shown and raised funds for the Polish committee. It was a good turn out and an excellent buffet for people taking part.
<b>Walking Trip</b>	4 Dutch men from Meerssen came on a walking holiday to Sherborne 8 – 12 September. They did three Dorset walks and there was participation by Sherborne Douzelage Members.
<b>Social Events</b>	Summer BBQ & Christmas dinners involved Committee and other friends of Douzelage, as well as visiting people from Bellagio and the Douzelage President.
<b>Anna Pavord Talk</b>	An immensely popular talk by a local author of gardening books to raise funds. The room was at capacity with 110 people and raised £1,100 for the volunteering project.

### Sušice Douzelage Activities

1. We have finished activities connected with Douzelage General Meeting held in Susice in April 2010.
2. June 2010 – **water-sports one-week course** - one class of gymnasium students together with five students from Realschule Bad Kötzing
3. June 2010 – **educational one-day stay in Germany** - gymnasium teachers were hosted by their colleagues from Realschule Bad Kötzing
4. July 2010 - 4 students from Sušice took part in the project Mission: Global **Warming - continuation of the global warming project** in Judenburg
5. July 2010 – 10 students from gymnasium took part in **Focus on Future in Poland** - one-week stay.
6. September 2010 – members of the Sušice Douzelage committee took part in the ceremony in Bad Kötzing - the town was given **the European Union Award**
7. April 2011 - Children Choir of Sušice took part in **Muzik party in Bad Kötzing**
8. We have published information from Anne Redotté from Houffalize about creating website for Coach Surfing within the Douzelage towns in the local newspaper and Sušice Douzelage website
9. **Exchanging letters** in Spanish has been started between students from Altea and Susice

### **Planned activities**

1. July 2011 - 10 students and 2 teachers are going to take part in **VOLARE-U project** held in Kőszeg
2. July 2012 - One artist from Susice will participate in "**Art Farers**" project in Athens
3. January 2012 – we are going to send 2 representatives to **Chojna** for the seminar about projects Youth in action 4.3 project "Focus on Quality".
4. In 2012 we would like to participate on **Young Musician Competition** held by Sherborne Douzelage

- ## Türi Douzelage Activities

Our Türi Chamber choir took part in the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of Karkkila Choir in September 2010. Representatives of **Karkkila choir** came to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> birthday of Türi Chamber Choir in 20<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

\* Our Brass Band TÜRI, conductor Ants Oidekivi, which involves 30-40 musicians and has been awarded with the highest category participated in Prienai Town Festival from 1 - 4 July 2010.

\* Prienai was a partner in Swedish organization SIDA project "Water- a resource for local development" with Türi (Estonia) and Åmål (Sweden). Workshops took place in Türi (May 2010), Åmål (November 2010) and Prienai (December 2010).

On May 20-23, 2010 a group of Wessex Morris Men from Sherborne together with 3 members of Douzelage committee is visiting Türi Flower Fair and giving performances in town and the neighbourhood.

\* Youth Exchange project in June 2012 Türi- Estonia.

Türi Youth Centre is planning a youth exchange project in June 2012. The topic is about food, wood, recycling, art, innovation, free will, creativity. In our youth exchange we invite youth aged between 15-20 years (5 youngsters and one group leader). We look forward to finding up to 10 different countries to participate.

The youth exchange will take place in the middle of June 2012, when in Türi the biggest Food Festival in Estonia is held called „GRILLFEST“. During the exchange youngsters will participate in barbeque competition-grilling big ribs, chicken filet and something which introduces your country. For a better understanding please look: [www.grillium.ee](http://www.grillium.ee) and video : <http://www.grillfest.ee/portal/video/173-tyrile-grillfestile.html>

Before participation all groups will make, with recycling material, a barbeque grill.

After participating in grilling competition, we all will make a cookery book that includes a grilled meal+ picture, dessert+ picture and national meal + picture. So you will have a intercultural cook book when you go home.

Other themes we are planning are- art, innovation, free will, creativity. We will make street art, street music and street dance. Different workshops and discussions. Street art- we will use plastic to make shiny notes, we will do environmental work, fire sculpture etc.

If you are interested, please contact [Sulo.Sarkinen@tyri.ee](mailto:Sulo.Sarkinen@tyri.ee) , phone +372 5308 8495





\* We invite all member towns to participate in the Türi running race from Paide to Türi on October 2, 2011. Total distance is about 14 kilometres, but there is an option to cover just half the distance, too. You can also walk the distance and dress up for that. You could come as a team from a school or any other team. We wish to make new friends for our schools and grades. There is free accommodation at homes or at a school, food and a lot of fun. The running race takes place yearly on the first Sunday in October. If you are interested, please contact [Katrin.Soomets@tyri.ee](mailto:Katrin.Soomets@tyri.ee)

## 2) Presentation of new projects

Three towns: Chojna, Kőszeg and Sherborne presented their new projects.

Kevin Waterfall from Sherborne presented a "VolunTEAMing DVD project". Application for funding is being prepared under the Europe for Citizens Programme.

Main aim is to share experiences of volunteering in different countries and learn from their best practices and those of Sherborne and Dorset's volunteering services and activities.

In partnership with Volunteer Centre Dorset and Dorset Youth Association the programme would consist of three events: a youth workshop in early August 2011 of approx 7 days duration for 4 young people aged 16 – 20 plus a group leader; second is a workshop for adults and voluntary bodies in autumn 2011 of 4 days duration for 3 delegates per town; and third is a conference for Civic Leaders in May 2012 of 3 days duration for 3 delegates per town.

Kőszeg Representative from Kőszeg presented new project, "Volare\*U. The main aim of the project is to encourage young people to volunteer and learn from their best practices. The project will be implemented in July 2011. Participating in the project are the towns of: Chojna, Velletri, Marsaskala, Susice, Sherborne, Marsaskala and Kőszeg.

Douzelage Association in Chojna would like to organize a Youth in action 4.3 project "Focus on Quality".

Why: to improve the abilities and knowledge on how to prepare and run a good youth exchange project.

Who is it for: - two representatives of 8-9 Douzelage towns. They could be youth workers, youth leaders, teachers, aged 18+. Where and when: 6 days in the second part of January 2012, in Chojna ( Poland).

Funds: the project will be organized only if the application to Youth in action is successful. If we apply on 1<sup>st</sup> September, we will know the results after 8 weeks. The only cost for participants will be 30% of travelling costs.

Chojna's new projects are also Youth in action , action 1.2 project " Women in modern world", 2012. Youth in action, action 1.3 project "Youth local council", 2012. Leonardo da Vinci project, work experience in restaurants in Sherborne and Marsaskala, August 2011, August 2012.

## 3) Douzelage monument in Marsaskala

In September 2011 in Marsaskala Malta will be unveiling of the Douzelage Monument to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization. On the monument will be 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 will be situated on the Promenade in Mifsud Bonnici Square.



#### **4) Cooperation with ECAD**

Vice President of Douzelage Mr. Mario Calleja presented the organization European Cities Against Drugs (ECAD). Mr. Mario Calleja pointed the successes of this organization, discussed the main tasks that the organization takes. Vice President encouraged all partners of Douzelage to work with the ECAD because together we are stronger in the fight against drug dealers.

#### **5) Project “Art Farers” with ECOSE in Athens**

Art-Farers is a 24-month multinational project aimed at supporting transnational mobility initiatives in the field of culture and among artists. The general project objectives are:

- To motivate artists to participate in mobility activities.
- To motivate local authorities to develop their artistic programmes, projects, policies.
- To design a procedure (protocol) that will enhance the transnational exchanges of volunteer artists.
- To bring in contact schools (teachers, students), educational and social welfare institutions/organisations (and people) with artists and different forms of artistic expression (theatre; dance; music-songs; fine arts, design, handmade artistic creations).
- To contribute to the artistic and cultural development of local communities in Europe.

#### **6) Cooperation with ALDA**

The President has encouraged further cooperation with Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA). He also informed the conference organized by ALDA “Volunteering for Democracy” in July in Poland (Bydgoszcz). The President also encouraged to participation in the conference. A report on its agenda will be sent to the website.

### **10. Presentation on funding opportunities for Douzelage and involvement of adults in Douzelage projects and activities**

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 encourages everyone to apply for funding for the implementation of EU projects, according to him it is a great opportunity which can not be missed.

Mr. Michael Morrell had a speech about Funding opportunities for Douzelage and involvement of adults in Douzelage projects and activities. He presented his experience in raising funds from the EU.

It was agreed that Sherborne Douzelage should develop a format to encourage Adult Exchanges, taking into account the interests of member towns and also European funding opportunities. A draft of this format should be circulated to member towns for comment, before it is approved at the Zvolen GM.



## 11. Future Douzelage structure and organization

The President of Douzelage received a few proposals concerning possible changes in the Douzelage structure and organization. The Sherborne Douzelage would like to have a meeting of one representative from each town to discuss changes. He personally believes that such important issues should be discussed during the General Meeting of Douzelage.

The future of Douzelage is included as an agenda point in Granville GM. In his opinion it should be treated as a beginning of the discussion to identify the most important areas and problems.. The next step could be a debate in towns and local committees.

The proposals of possible changes could be a topic of a separate workshop during GM in Zvolen, where the delegates will be able to finally take decisions.

He does not want to influence future discussion on Douzelage changes. One of the most important areas of our activities are local Douzelage committees. In some towns they are based on groups of individuals having support from town council, in other they are closer linked to local municipality office. We do not need the same structure of our local bodies, what we need is wider knowledge of Douzelage in our towns and in some towns a little more involvement in Douzelage activities.

Most of the Douzelage towns have experienced how difficult it is to organize GM not talking only about voluntary work but also about financial side of the event. It is crucial for a host town to prepare a few applications for different EU projects. The Presidency should help and organize experts. Thanks to our Vice President Mario Calleja, Mr. Mark Causon, EU Affairs Consultant from Malta has already started doing it regarding our next GM. Mr. Balfour and Mr. Calleja were very helpful and active as Vice-Presidents. We divided responsibilities according to current needs and in my opinion it worked very well. The number of vice-presidents and their responsibilities depend on the future structure of our organization. If, at some point in the future, we decide that Douzelage should apply for European funds as an international organization, we will have to enlarge the presidency.

## 12. 20 years of Douzelage – chosen from memories

A speech about the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Douzelage was presented by Mr. Jeremy Baker and Mr. Gunter Pecher. They told us about the most important moments, according to a 20-year history of Douzelage. They recalled many interesting people who they know and who are their friends to this day. They enjoy that they are part of the family Douzelage. Over the past 20 years they have seen numerous changes that have taken place in Europe, which have strengthened Europe. They also mentioned that the story Douzelage is also an important part of their own history.

## 13. Signing the Codicil to the Douzelage Charter

Representatives of each of the member towns of Douzelage have signed the codicil. In view of the fact that seven new towns have become partners in the Douzelage, and desiring to affirm their pledge to continue to work together in a common spirit to create a united, strong and dynamic Europe through all means at their disposal, the representatives of the twenty-seven towns (one in every member country of the European Union) have signed this Codicil to the original Charter in the town of Granville in Spring 2011, as the Douzelage celebrates twenty years of fostering opportunity and friendship across Europe.



## 14. Nomination for the Honorary President of Douzelage

President of Douzelage said that they have agreed with Ed recently that the position of former President of Douzelage seems to be the most attractive in our organization. Unfortunately it is not possible to be elected for it.

Mr. Ed Weber became the President of Douzelage in 2003 . The following 7 years was the time during which he transformed our town twinning to efficient, effective, well known in Europe organisation. The number of events, projects and meetings has grown rapidly, our website has improved thanks to his professional skills, many towns were encouraged to apply for European funds. All those changes were done step by step so for many of us they were not easy to notice.

We all know Ed from that side. There is also Mr. Ed Weber who, as it was said in Susice, has always been there - ready to help as much as he could - answering every email, phoning, trying to find solutions to many smaller and bigger problems. So here he is - a very professional person and a good man.

Being a President means sometimes to do things only for the Douzelage. I will never forget Ed dancing with Polish village ladies during a harvest festival party- it is just an example how difficult would be to follow him.

I am very proud today to announce that Mr. Ed Weber is an Honorary President of Douzelage.

## 15. Provisional agenda for the General Meeting in Zvolen

There is supposed to be 2 young delegates per each town in GM in Zvolen. All towns of Douzelage must remember about the 3 official adults and 2 young delegates per town. Young delegates can not be exchanged by adults.

The Mayor of Zvolen in his speech said that for him it is a great honor and pleasure to hold next general meeting in Zvolen in May 2012. He expressed the hope that this event may also help to keep and deepen the interest that the council and the town feel for the Douzelage.

Zvolen is a town placed right in the heart of Slovakia surrounded by beautiful mountain range. It is a town living modern times through history. The town is proud about how much its citizens, students and pupils are determined about the importance of keeping traditions. The old time is still alive not only in its two castles but also rich folklore and music.

The mayor expressed his message for all the young people from Douzelage town to come and join in. We would like to see more of you coming to share the ideas of twinning the Europe through living friendship and cooperation of our towns.

We are happy to inform you that the preparation of GM 2012 has already started and the organization team will do its best to prepare it the way it deserves.

The topic of the Youth meeting will probably be YOUTH COUNCILS taking in consideration the suggestion coming from the youth workshop report in Granville.

The EU topic for next year is The Active Aging so we suppose this is very probably the topic for the Education meeting. We are in contact with Mr. Atkinson who is in charge of education and we are open to adapt according to his suggestions.

We plan to start on Thursday evening with the International dinner – a piece of home traditional taste to be shared to open our event.

The trips planned will take you to old times to admire our new and old castle, to look at our countryside and to enjoy our folklore traditions.

A short film, a welcome message, from Zvolen had been shown to invite all the delegation to GM 2012.



## II. Education Meeting Report

Report of Mr. Stuart Atkinson, the chairman of the education committee of the Douzelage about „Reducing early school leaving, improving the learning of students with migrant background and promoting gender equality and inclusive approaches to learning”

### Tasks

- strategies and methods
- ways to support and motivate students with migrant backgrounds
- strategies to tackle gender stereotypes in teaching, learning and career choice;

### Question

- In how far do you or your school support the development of inclusive approaches to teaching and learning that cater for the needs of all students, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds?

### Early school leaving as a problem

- Spoiled children
- Gifted children
- Expectation of parents
- Criticising teachers
- Bullying
- Repeating classes
- Lack of confidence and demotivation
- Budget cuts for special programs
- Criminality
- Children with migrant backgrounds
- Lack of motivation of certain parents
- Apathy of certain pupils

### Possible solutions

- Involvement of all actors
- Mediators and Tutoring
- Flexibility
- Fullfillment of the pupil's expectations
- Respect pupil's rights
- Prevention methods and supervision (laws)
- Organizations for psychological and pedagogical problems
- Offer a variety in learning
- Offer well equipped schools (favourable learning environment)
- Avoid repeating classes
- Engaged and devoted teachers



### III. Youth Workshop Report

Youth group leaders presented the report of the workshop. Theme of the workshop was Young people's involvement in the life of their community. Main conclusions below.

#### YOUNG PEOPLE'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE LIFE OF THEIR COMMUNITY

- Generally speaking, young people take part in social, sports or cultural activities
- Volunteering belongs to the cultural tradition of many countries, but among young people it is mostly expressed through punctual events
- Few young people really become in charge of the activities they practice

#### THE OBSTACLES

- Problem of transport
- Size of towns (for further studies, activities and to find a job)
- Daily school time heavy in some countries
- Too few countries give young people the opportunity to express themselves (through a youth council or any other structure) to have their say in the fields they are interested in

#### CONCLUSION

- Despite the obstacles mentioned above and the difficulty to finance local projects, it neither prevents youth workers setting them up, nor young people getting involved