EUROPE FOR CITIZENS

How can we take part actively in creating Europe together?

Granted projects coordinated by Hungarian organizations

HOPPÁ
Dissemination brochure

2012
EUROPE FOR CITIZENS

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Dear Reader,

This dissemination brochure has been published in the fifth time. It includes granted projects from the Europe for Citizens programme, and every time this publication has been enlarged with other new projects. In all the measures of the programme exciting and interesting projects have been fulfilled.

The measures of the programme are the following:

- Active Citizens for Europe: Town twinning citizens meeting, Thematic networking of Twinned Towns
- Active Civil Society in Europe: Support to projects initiated by civil society organizations
- Active European Remembrance

New projects from different fields are shown in this brochure beside projects published in the previous issues.

We hope that with this publication we can you give practical help for getting an idea that what kind of activities can be granted in the different measures, and for the influence of the published projects more and more people will use the opportunity of this programme.

Thank you if you call other people’s attention to this brochure!

The Editor

The applications of the Europe for Citizens programme (except Action 3) are managed by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) located in Brussels.

Hungarian beneficiaries are helped with information and with the opportunity of consultation by the National Contact Point within Tempus Public Foundation.

http://www.tka.hu »» Pályázatok »» Európa a polgárokért
http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/activecitizenship/index_en.htm
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Active citizens for Europe:

*Town Twinning citizens meeting*

This measure consists in benefiting from the links established at local level between twinned municipalities for fostering exchanges and cooperation.
The local government of Mórahalom organised the youth camp called *Environmental Protection without Frontiers* in Mórahalom between 30 June and 10 July in order to improve twinning relations. The reason for the choice of the date was that the most significant summer festival of the town was held simultaneously with the camp. Every year we invite our partners to the festival, too, in order to celebrate our cultural diversity together and to ensure our long-term relationships.

This year again we involved the young participants in organising the camp, keeping in mind and linked to the European Year of Volunteering. The goal of the meeting was to make young people understand that the most important value of the European Union was cooperation especially in times of crisis.

We connected the idea of volunteering to another very important and current issue, environmental protection. We encouraged young people to engage in various volunteer activities in the future and assume a role in protecting their environment. Volunteering helps us make our environment and community better. By implementing the programmes we sought to enhance solidarity between generations, and to call the attention to the importance of environmental protection. The educational goal of the camp was to teach participants through experience. During the camp, students received close-to-nature education, and hopefully their experiences will make them committed to environmental protection. Children who attended had a chance to learn from playing and experience, and get to know their environment not only from books and stories.

An essential goal when socialising, teaching and educating children is to prepare them to become active members of their communities. The Hungarian educational system is not yet prepared for popularising volunteering; the meeting is also aimed at improving this situation.

We also organised a special excursion called *Pure Nature Trip* as part of the meeting. While walking along the educational trail, which runs through a conservation area, it was the task of the participating young volunteers including all invited foreign partners and local youth, to collect the litter thrown away by tourists and illegally disposed waste. The programme had a double mission, as while cleaning the environment, the children could also discover the values and socio-cultural traditions of their direct environment through experience with the help of a professional. Due to the international involvement new friendships were made and children became familiar with each other’s cultures.
Foreign children were accommodated in the Green Community House and Forrest School located in the operational area of the Kiskunság National Park Directorate. As part of a permanent exhibition visitors could also view the posters illustrating the plants, and wildlife of the 13 subareas of the planned Körös-éri Conservation Area. The institution is the central building of the educational activity with a certified forest school programme; besides it is also the starting point of guided tours.

We hope that through the knowledge that children gain during the summer, they will be more receptive to environmental protection and volunteering and become useful members of our society.
Northern-Hungary’s largest and most popular trade development and economy-boosting event was held in Putnok as part of Gömör Days, to which Putnok also invited its twin towns. Now boasting a great tradition, Gömör Expo has for the twelfth time ‘put on display’ the economic and cultural values of a region which reaches over the borders, and presented the achievements of the strengthening Hungarian-Slovakian relations.

The expo, which was started as an exhibition and trade fair, has by now grown into a colourful event with a wide range of cultural and entertaining programmes, and 4-5,000 visitors every day. Besides Hungarian enterprises year by year an increasing number of Slovakian companies present themselves at the event, and the programme offer has also become more varied. A few years ago the event was extended with a hunting exhibition. As the region gives home to a number of hunting companies, the exhibition which presents the hunting traditions and the most beautiful trophies of the area is rightly considered one of the most spectacular events of the country. Note that hunters also sought to please gourmets, as the real winners of the competition among game dishes are visitors who look for special tastes.

While entrepreneurs were exploring opportunities of cooperation at professional discussions, last year visitors were also entertained by a popular equestrian performance. Involving horse riders in the event proved to be a great idea as the organiser of Gömör Expo, Sajó-Rima Euroregion now has an equestrian department, too, which gave a several hours’, high-standard performance. Gömör Expo primarily serves the market development of the Sajó-Rima Euroregion as well as the marketing of the region; however, it also provides visitors high-quality entertainment. There wasn’t a single day during the series of events without well-known artists, popular performers and bands. The programmes also included wine tasting held in Wine Street, a fishing competition, the 5th Gömör Cup Tennis Tournament and the football matches of the Gömör-Posta Cup. The expo also allowed visitors to walk around at the exhibition of the event called the 4th Serényi Agro Days, to enjoy the programmes of Intergömör Cultural Festival or see the international art exhibition called Along the Sajó and Rima.
Between 23 and 30 September 2007, we organised an international creative camp for people with disabilities, funded by the EU. The project was implemented with the cooperation of civil society organisations from Austria, Slovakia, Romania and Hungary for people with disabilities. The camp was held at the demonstration farm of House of Harmony Association, and the finished works were displayed at a travelling exhibition in the three partner countries and Hungary.

Our Association was established in 2000; since then we have organised woodcarving camps in Hungary and the neighbouring countries every year. Our main goal is to maintain and preserve the craft of woodcarving, now a part of our cultural heritage. We always donate the finished sculptures to the host towns where they are on permanent display. We have held creative camps in Tusnad Sat in Romania, in Uzhgorod in Ukraine and in Tokaj, Hungary. This year we are heading to Slovakia and Poland.

In Budapest we operate a demonstration farm on an area of about 2 hectares for urban children and adults. We have a large number of visitors throughout the year, and therefore the project has become self-sustaining by now. In the past two years about 15 thousand children from Budapest and the surrounding towns and villages have visited us, especially as part of their biology, art or physical education.

The goal of our project was to bring healthy people and those with disabilities together to do creative work, and thus promote tolerance, responsibility and equal treatment and fight against discrimination.

Visitors could engage in woodcarving, studio pottery, painting, drawing, and they could also get a taste of enamelling and beading. Besides creative work something interesting happened every day. Children could make friends with the farm animals, Róna the puppy, Bogi the donkey and the others.

The project proved successful in other ways, too as it was invited to the international exhibition called Creativity and Innovation, which was a great honour. The exhibition presented the twenty best practices of the projects implemented as part of the Europe for Citizens programme. The best practices were selected by an independent committee of ten members. The event was held on 2–3 March 2009 in Brussels.

Another goal of ours is to establish a mutually supportive and sustainable network in cooperation with our civil society partners in order to help each other in reaching our goals that is supporting people with disabilities, and fighting against discrimination.
Citizen’s – and especially young people’s – engagement in an intercultural dialogue is essential to the development of a European identity, and a sense of belonging to a community. This idea provided the basis for the 13th district to the implementation plan of the Twin Towns’ English Language Camp programme. The plan was then turned into reality and has, by now, become a tradition.

The Children’s and Youth Camp of Velence hosted the international programme for the eighth time in summer 2008. We seek to expand successful twinning relationships and to provide a platform for the citizens of the twin towns to make personal relationships, acquaintances and friends besides official relations. The encounter between cultures is made possible by the use of the common language, English.

Delegations consist of 25 students, two English teachers and an accompanying teacher. The participants, aged between 13 and 16, are typically lower intermediate and intermediate speakers of English. The forming of groups of 10-15 with nearly the same language skills is based on a written placement test.

The programme, developed by the Cultural, Youth and Sports Department of our local government, will be implemented through the joint efforts of professionals working in the primary and secondary schools of the district – six qualified English teachers and four recreation and leisure organisers. We also rely on the work of guest teachers who take part in camp life with great pleasure.

The local government allocates funds in the budget to cover the costs of accommodation, meals and programme organisation. In order to ensure our guests high standards of reception and accommodation and in accordance with previous years’ practice, we constantly monitored funding opportunities and found the Europe for Citizens programme, managed by The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, to be the most suitable programme for us. Through the programme we can spend €7-8,000 – depending on the number of participants – on improving accommodation and the diversification of the programmes. The programme also enables us to contribute to the travel expenses of the guest towns (except Osijek).

The camp allows participants to get to know each other and the cultures of the neighbouring nations. They can experience a new way of learning and overcoming real-life situations without losses. Active participation develops their skills and abilities.
We aim to present the culture of another country each day from clothing through cuisine to customs and traditions.

The morning English classes focus on the literary, artistic, musical, historical, geographical, scientific, etc. characteristics and achievements of the guest countries. The sports and skills games in the afternoon give us an insight into the national games of the participating countries. We also use the evening programmes to present various national cultures.

The optional programmes were designed to provide everyone an opportunity to spend their leisure time the way they like. We organise handicraft workshops where children can learn new handicraft techniques. Sports competitions and obstacle races ensure active relaxation and recreation, and the excursions allow an insight into the beauties of our country and capital.

The week spent together also provides an opportunity for teachers to learn about methods of language teaching, education and assessment used in other countries. Mastering these methods can make their work more diverse and effective.

We seek to make participants more committed to European integration than they are at the beginning of the programme. At this level, the twinning relationship between the towns facilitates mutual understanding and acceptance among young people. The exchange of experiences, opinions and values help pave the way to the future, and finding common European answers to the social changes.
Active citizens for Europe:

*Thematic networking of Twinned Towns*

A variety of projects of a transnational and cross-sectoral dimension, directly involving citizens, can be supported under this measure. Those projects should gather citizens from different horizons, who will act together or debate on common European issues.
The project addressed the issue of how we can create a sustainable green world and build our common future with the cooperation of the representatives of social, scientific and political life and the active participation of the civil society.

The main goal of the project was to promote the creation of a club network which could allow a long-term cooperation of citizens living in the partner countries and their organisations in the field of environmental and nature protection.

The project consists of 12 meetings held in Budapest, in the country, in Sovata, Kosice and Warsaw.

The first venue of the project was Vienna where we visited the water treatment plant of Vienna on occasion of the Year of the Danube. Next we organised a camp in Sovata, whose participants could learn about forest life, the Bear Lake area and the caves through the romantic life of forest-dwellers. The goal was to make participants experience nature from close up, and thus develop a more intimate relationship with it. The Hungarian venues of the programme series were Verőce and Budapest. In Verőce the participants went on nature conservation tours in the region bordered by the Börzsöny hills and the Ipoly river, and the programmes of the camp were completed with skills tests. In Budapest participants also visited the caves of Szemlőhegy and Pál-völgy. Besides presenting the world of caves, the programme aimed to popularise environmental awareness seeks to explore and understand the importance of environmental protection, the impacts of environmental pollution, as well as the related geographic problems in an easy to understand and entertaining manner. The programmes at the Kosice venue addressed the environmental disasters of the past decade, and we analysed the role of human and natural factors in the occurrence of the disasters. Through a modelling technique, we demonstrated how the disasters could have been prevented or their impacts reduced.

On occasion of the International Day of People with Disability, we organised an art exhibition called *Full Life above the Walls* to support amateur artists who – due to their situation – have more difficulty in getting publicity. The works of art illustrate the beauty of nature. Through these works of art we can get an insight into the cultural life of people living across our borders, and we can also experience the diversity of European culture.
Besides, on occasion of the *International Day of Wetland Habitats*, we discussed the lakes of Budapest, and made notes and took photographs to inform the population of the condition of the waters and the expected changes in the condition of the lakes. On Earth Day there was a competition where besides theoretical questions about environmental protection, participants had to compete in various games to test their skills and speed at ten stations.

The goal of the programmes is to induce a more responsible thinking in participants; the oncoming generation should live a new and more liveable life, which we can only create together and with a consideration of our world.
At its 30 January 2008 session, the Representative Body of the Local Government of Tata adopted a resolution to join the UNICEF initiative Child Friendly Cities, and to that end, it passed an action plan for 2008, consisting of 8 programmes, and within that, altogether 18 clauses.

The organisation of the conference on children’s rights and well-being, supported by the EU’s Europe for Citizens Programme, was part of the Let’s Hear Every Voice programme of the action plan.

The objectives of the conference were as follows:

1. To gather information on children’s rights in an international context.
2. To present the best practices of the twin towns of Tata in the following areas:
   • the recognition of children’s rights in public institutions
   • to establish a better physical and infrastructural environment for children’s development
3. Regular dialogues/exchange of experiences about children’s rights and well-being among the partner cities and towns (creating a joint electronic newsletter).
4. To present new methods in the area of children’s human rights education (in accordance with the Compass and Comasito manuals of the European Council).
5. To raise awareness of children’s rights in Tata and its twin towns.

All Tata’s nine twin and partner towns were represented at the event.

Among the Hungarian presenters, on the first day of the conference, were Dr. Edit Kecskeméti, Director of the Hungarian Committee of the UNICEF, Zsuzsanna Szélényi, Deputy Executive Director at the Council of Europe, European Youth Centre Budapest, Gábor Sárközi, Deputy Head, Directorate General for Equal Opportunities, Ministry of Education and Culture, and Erika Telek from Vaszary János Primary School of Tata, expert in preventive and corrective pedagogy and psychology. The Students’ Union of Tata also presented itself at the event.
At the end of the first day of the conference the Hungarian National Committee for UNICEF and the Local Government of Tata signed a common letter of intent on creating the conditions for a child friendly city. The signatories of the document were Dr. István Takács Chairman, representing UNICEF, and József Michl, Mayor of Tata.

Also, the Deputy Mayor of Tata and the attending representatives of the twin towns signed an agreement on launching a joint, quarterly electronic newsletter, to be edited by the Mayor’s Office of Tata.

The second day of the conference addressed non-formal human rights education for children, with special regard to the Compass and Compasito manuals of the European Council. The introductory presentation and the demonstrational workshops conducted with the active participation of the attendees of the conference and secondary school students of Tata were held by the associates of Amnesty International Hungary.

The two-day conference was attended by 44 foreign guests (from twin towns) and altogether about 200 local visitors.

The existing issues of the joint electronic newsletter of Tata and its twin towns, called *For Children – With Children* can be downloaded from the official website of Tata (www.tata.hu). The next station of the cooperation between the ten towns, launched in 2008, will be an international conference to be held in Tata in October 2009, called *Partnership for Prevention*, which has also won support from the European Union.
In 2009 the local government of Mórahalom organised, as a host, the festival called *Homokháti Sokadalom* again where twin towns are always invited to participate in the programmes of the festival, to celebrate together our cultural diversity, and to reassure each other about our long-term relations. This year again the meeting and its programmes were organised with the active involvement of the youth.

The special occasion of the event series was the celebration of the 20th anniversary of our town charter this year.

During the festival two major events were held relying on funding from the EU. Between 29 June and 1 July 2009 we organised a three-day thematic conference called *Europe’s position and role in the thermal industry: the innovative use of thermal water for energy and health tourism purposes in the EU and the economic and social impacts of the developments to be implemented*. Also taking into consideration the European Year of Innovation and Creativity 2009, the conference focused on the innovative areas of use and the potentials of thermal water.

Besides the potential use of thermal water for health tourism and energy purposes, we also sought to find out about the social and economic impacts which the developments to be implemented will exert. We aimed to present a realistic situation of the European thermal industry through a summary assessment of up-to-date data and other information, covering the widest possible range of the available resources.

Hungary could be a major power in Europe – at least in terms of using geothermal energy. Our thermal water resources and the hot rocks underground have an exceptional potential, and not only because of the ‘free energy’.

If besides bathing, we increasingly used underground heat as a source of energy, we could reduce dependence from fossil fuels, a major cause of greenhouse effect.

Also the network of health hotels relying on Europe’s thermal water resources is continuously growing, not only in terms of the number of hotels but also in terms of quality. With thermal water as a focal point, a number of successful European projects were implemented using EU funding.
The thermal energy of Earth can be used, therefore, in various ways. The direct application of thermal energy is the use for heating and sanitary hot water. Due mainly to its reputed spa, Mórahalom has already experienced the potentials of using geothermal energy.

Through demonstrating the multilayered connections and impacts of the issue, we wish to emphatically call decision-makers’ attention to the fact that the reasonable use of renewable energy sources requires long-term, well-considered decisions. Europe needs to increase its innovation capacity both from a social and an economic point of view, and this also applies to the various areas of use of thermal water.

The conference allowed both participants and the twin towns invited to share their experiences and knowledge in the matter, thus contributing to the dissemination of EU policies. Throughout the presentations we laid great emphasis on comparing Hungarian and EU examples as well as on learning about EU principles and useful experiences.

On the last day of the conference we ceremonially signed a twinning agreement with Uniejów, Poland, in the presence of the other participating twin towns. Taking into account the characteristics of the two towns, the cooperation is based on the utilisation of the rich thermal water resources, the development of thermal water based industry, the utilisation of geothermal energy and increasing health tourism.

Strengthening Polish-Hungarian relations is especially significant because the Local Government of Csongrád County declared this year to be the Polish Year of Csongrád County, commemorating the restoration of the Polish-Hungarian borders 70 years ago and the admission of Polish refugees to Hungary.

The second event was held between 2 and 12 July 2009 when we organised a meeting called Be a creative European! – Creative youth camp in Mórahalom for young people. Every year the meeting allows young people to celebrate our cultural diversity together and to showcase their knowledge and common values. Also attached to the European Year of Creativity and Innovation, the fundamental goal of the meeting was to provide young people sufficient space and time to unleash their talent and creativity.

To this year’s meeting we invited young people from our Polish and Transylvanian twin towns, Uniejów and Sânmartin, respectively. Móra Ferenc ÁMK of Mórahalom and Móra Ferenc Primary School of Sânmartin concluded an agreement on cooperation on 1 June 1995. The teachers of the two schools have maintained cooperation for 13 years, exchanging teaching resources and methodological materials and organising exchange visits, joint training courses and study trips. The two towns concluded a local government and municipal level agreement in 1996, which mainly focused on education, culture and sports. The meeting is expected to bring further achievements and benefits into the lives of both schools and towns.

The meeting also provided a great opportunity to further enhance the existing twinning relationship with Uniejów in Poland, and to learn more about their values, culture, traditions and diversity. Their students were given an opportunity to present their knowledge, views, opinions about the European Union, and they could also learn about the already existing twin towns of Mórahalom.

We are confident that the meeting will also help shape the participants’ attitude. The project greatly contributed to young people’s involvement in decision-making and developing a mutual cooperation between young decision-makers. It has brought decision-makers and young people closer and provided them a platform to meet and express opinions. Also, the project generated further cooperation and partnerships among students and adults.
Active citizens for Europe: 

*Citizens’ project*

The measure *Citizen’s projects* aims at exploring innovative methodologies and approaches to encourage citizens’ active participation at European level and to stimulate the dialogue between European citizens and European institutions.
The project entitled *Grassroots Europe for Local Well-being* allows the citizens of five countries to conduct a dialogue with each other, with policy-makers and with civil society organisations at a local, national as well as EU level. At a local level the project seeks to involve civil initiatives which promote local development and local quality life by integrating culture, creativity and citizens’ ideas in the everyday work. Through gathering together citizens from various social and professional backgrounds and paying special attention to the perspectives of disadvantaged groups, the project seeks to make normally inaudible local voices audible, which can thus become part of the debates of the Europe 2020 process and therefore ensure a valuable dialogue between EU decision-makers and the citizens directly affected by EU policies.

The project will be implemented with the cooperation of a number of partner organisations in five countries – Austria, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Hungary and Romania. The project considers citizens’ community level activity and the involvement of local voices in EU level policy debates a transnational challenge within the EU in which a comparison of various national aspects could be useful. We believe that assessing professionalism and good practices behind civil initiatives aimed to improve the quality of life in local communities can help experiences to be shared all over Europe.

The main outcomes expected from the initiative are as follows:

- Through their direct involvement in political debates, the capacity of the participating civil initiatives will increase, and the participation of the community will lead to new development models for the local community.
- Close professional relationships will be established between committed citizens all over Europe, allowing continuous learning and sharing the best practices of the community, as well as expressing common views in education policy debates.
- The exceptional role played by active civil initiatives in the local community will appear in political debates.

Events planned for 2011 as part of the project:

- 4 strategic coordination meetings for the project leaders of the five partner countries.
- 22 local and national events in the five partner countries.
- International Conference, to be held in Budapest on 7–9 October 2011. The conference allows the civil initiatives from various countries to share their experiences and knowledge about participatory democracy and the enforcement of interests in the field of developing quality life.
• The views of the civil initiatives will be presented to the citizens and decision-makers of the EU at an assessment and information meeting in Brussels.

A series of studies and analyses will address the role which the civil organisations stemming in the community play in implementing the principles of participatory democracy and supporting local quality life:

• Literary review: *Grassroots and volunteer movements* in Europe
• Policy analysis with regard to the Europe 2020 process
• International publications – case studies as products of local meetings
• A common volume about the issues raised in the *Grassroots Europe for Local Well-being* project – experiences from five countries.
Active civil society in Europe:

Support to projects initiated by civil society organizations

This action supports civil society organisations, as unique links between European citizens and the European Union. Civil society organisations at European, national, regional and local levels are important elements of citizens’ active participation in society and help to invigorate all aspects of public life.
For someone in need, making an anonymous call to a helpline means they can freely talk about thoughts, bad feelings or doubts, which they might even hide from themselves. The caller can enjoy the opportunities of common thinking, empathetic acceptance and anonymity. In 1998 such thoughts led to establishing DélUtán Foundation, a helpline for middle-aged and elderly people. On the other end of the helpline – which can be called free of charge from any part of the country – 45 fully trained volunteers take the calls. Just like the management of the Foundation, they do their stressful work without any remuneration. Besides the telephone helpline, a number of new, free of charge services were added to the activity of DélUtán during the past decade: counselling on legal and medical matters and advice on patients’ rights, mediation, free computer courses and organising DélUtán Clubs, available without an age limit.

Funding from the Europe for Citizens programme enabled DélUtán Foundation to extend its services outside the country. Currently, DélUtán is the only toll-free anonymous telephone helpline service in Europe to target the age group of 45 and over. This situation, however, may now change, due to the outcomes of the project.

As a first step of the project, an agreement on long-term cooperation was concluded with the Caritas organisation in Satu Mare, Romania and the Diaconal Centre of the Christian Reformed Church of Komarno, Slovakia. The Caritas Organisation of Zrenjanin, Serbia joined the project at its own expense.

In the first phase of the work the role of the partners was to get the informational material of DélUtán to the target audience. The work method was based on extensive communication, including the distribution of leaflets and posters among members of the civil and church society, the publication of newspaper articles as well as radio and television interviews about the work of the service. At the beginning of the common work the leading members of DélUtán Foundation visited the partner organisations in order to mutually learn about each other’s work, approach, plans and to discuss the practical details of their common work.

In the second – and most important – phase of the project DélUtán had supportive conversations with clients calling from the partner countries. The project ended on 31st July 2011 but DélUtán Foundation is going to continue this service as long as its financial resources make it possible or as long as the partner organisations establish their own telephone helpline. In order to promote this the volunteer psychologist of DélUtán Foundation held a several days’ methodological training for 12 people of the Caritas Satu Mare team.
In July 2011 the partner organisations met in Budapest to discuss the experiences, to develop the methodology together, to discuss any further steps of the cooperation, and to close the project.

The partner organisations formed the unanimous opinion that in our times full of crises, a telephone helpline is extremely important not only in Hungary but in the partner countries as well. To this end the partners will make the necessary preparatory steps, and estimate the necessary financial and human resources required. They will definitely count on methodological support from DélUtán Foundation.

DélUtán Foundation is pleased with the positive feedback but even more with the project having reached its goals and objective.
PILI (Public Interest Law Institute) is an international non-governmental organisation which seeks to promote the observance of human rights worldwide, especially by encouraging public interest advocacy and supporting the institutions required to ensure public interest advocacy.

PILA (Public Interest Law Association) at the University of Washington is a non-profit, student-run organisation dedicated to promoting legal work that serves the public and improves the quality of life for individuals in our community and elsewhere.

Our organisation (PILI – Public Interest Law Institute) organised a series of conferences in cooperation with PILA (Public Interest Law Association), to which we invited the representatives of civil organisations, law court officials, law students and government officials from all over Europe. The goal of the conferences was to make pro bono legal services provided by lawyers widespread within the EU.

The first round-table talk about pro bono services was held in Paris in October 2009. Our main partner in organising the event was Orrick LLP. Besides the lawyers of Orrick, the representatives of Avocats sans Frontières and Amnesty International also participated in the discussion. Several pro bono good practices were discussed at the meeting.

In November 2009 our association hosted Pro Bono Forum, the third such forum organised by PILI. Altogether 150 participants from 32 countries attended the forum – including lawyers, company counsels, individual practising lawyers, the representatives of law firms and non-profit organisations, academics and university students – all of whom sought to establish an innovative partnership between law firms and the non-profit sector.

As part of the forum and simultaneously with it, another discussion was also held among the representatives of already existing and future pro bono clearing institutions in order to exchange their experiences, strategies and plans as well as to coordinate their activities within and outside Europe. Among the participating organisations were European clearing institutions such as Centrum Pro Bono from Poland, Pro Bono Centrum from the Czech Republic, PILI clearing institutions from Russia and Hungary, and organisations which plan to launch pro bono projects in Albania and Bulgaria.

In February 2010 our association and its local partners in Germany organised Frankfurt round-table, a usual meeting for international law firms aimed to develop pro bono service in Germany. At the event, our organisation shared its experiences in the issue, gained in Hungary and Russia, as well as our work conducted
with other European partners. For many participants it was very important information as some of them are planning to establish their own pro bono clearing institutions.

In April 2010 we provided technical help to the first pro bono conference held in the Czech Republic, organised by PILA, and attended by over 50 lawyers and representatives of non-profit organisations. The main topics of the event were the Czech practice of pro bono service and the presentation of pro bono practices.

We hope that the conferences will help bring lawyers, the representatives of non-profit organisations and government officials closer together in order to begin the institutionalisation of pro bono services as a means of supporting civil society. Pro bono activity is a new practice in most European countries, and therefore these events helped to show how to raise interest in pro bono activities in practice and how to adapt them to local conditions. Through sharing experiences and emphasising common goals and values, the participants of the events became members of a community consisting of people who think alike, thus contributing to an increasing sense of European identity.
Civil Radio is one Central-Europe’s largest community radio stations, which has worked for nearly fifteen years to convey the main message of community media to everyone – ‘Voice for the voiceless!’ –, and in accordance with this message, it uses the tool of publicity to support self-organised groups, social organisations, publicising their activities, and helping them reach their goals. One of the missions of our radio station is to address socially important topics and issues which affect the life of the individual person, but which are increasingly excluded from mass media.

Our programme called Civil Organisations in the Carpathian Basin was also a part of this effort. The utmost, long-term mission of the programme is to call people’s attention to the importance of public life and involvement in the democratic institution, as well as to point out the ways and methods which may help people shape their direct environment and represent their own interests more effectively.

The core of the extensive project – coordinated by Civil Radio and implemented with the professional support of several organisations and in cooperation with two international partners – was a several days’ training held in Budapest in December 2008. The fundamental goal of the training was to teach participants how to use a wide range of community media – from community journalism to the basics of radio production, and from designing a community website to public community actions – to represent their community, socially useful, social and civil interests more effectively. We wanted to provide participants with a tool – the tool of publicity – which can facilitate the work of self-organised groups and organisations and enhance its effectiveness. We primarily involved the associates of civil organisations operating abroad (in Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine and Serbia), and we were especially pleased to see a number of young participants who were all the activists and volunteers of civil and professional organisations.

Besides the basic training held in Hungary, we also organised partner meetings in Romania (Cluj-Napoca, May 2009) and Slovakia (Šamorín, Bratislava, July 2009), where we continued our work with the community journalist volunteers who attended the training in Hungary. Both partner meetings were practical extensions of the training – apart from learning about the local institutional culture and its operation, the participants also had an opportunity to test their freshly acquired knowledge and do on-site reports, make radio interviews and write articles.

The products of the project are the community website which the participants – and, as a matter of fact, anybody – can directly edit (www.crerdely.blogspot.com), and the radio programmes, some of which are

CIVIL ORGANISATIONS

IN THE CARPATHIAN BASIN

Term: 1 August 2008 – 30 July 2009
Participants: Foundation for Hungarian Civil Organisations in Transylvania (Cluj-Napoca, Romania), Centre for Community Organising (Banská Bystrica, Slovakia), Forum Minority Research Institute (Šamorín, Slovakia)
Project Coordinator: Ákos Cserháti
available on our website, and which were also broadcast on Civil Radio (www.civilradio.hu) and Agnus Radio in Transylvania (www.agnusradio.ro) and constantly can be downloaded.

The website and the related radio programmes and audio materials are a kind of subjective impressions of the civil society of the Carpathian Basin: they include materials about the main square of Cluj-Napoca as well as university life in Transylvania or writings about theatre life in Slovakia, Hungary and Transylvania, and an illustrated report on a village festival in Novi Sad. They are reports on the lives of individual people and local communities – and this is perhaps the greatest strength of the programme: it provides people with a community ‘knowledge pool’ which brings remote communities together – it does not address daily political issues and conflicts, but the everyday happenings and local events of small local communities.

We had formerly launched a programme in Hungary which was similar to the project called Civil Organisations in the Carpathian Basin; we mainly considered the further development of the programme because the development history and the economic and social structure of the region – that is, the East-Central European region – show several similarities, however, the institutional background and the opportunities of the civil society are different to an extent that sharing know-how and exchanging experiences can enhance the effectiveness and power of the civil organisations of the partner countries.

We wish to continue the programme in the future. We continuously popularise the website; we would also like to organise several trainings to increase, on the one hand, the number of active volunteer journalists of the website and the radio station, and, on the other hand, to help volunteers participating in the trainings to strengthen the local civil society by using and sharing their new knowledge in their own communities.

We plan to release a publication in 2010 to address the connections between the representation of civil interests and the relations between the individual person and the community media.

*The project was a major Hungarian project of the European Year of Creativity and Innovation.*
AHA Theatre is Hungary’s first and so far only regularly performing theatre working with homeless and once homeless amateur actors, operated in the homeless shelter of the Hungarian Red Cross in Madridi Street.

The theatre was founded after the Christmas of 2001. Then we only planned to put on a holiday performance for the residents of the homeless shelter. The success of the Christmas programme led us to the idea of establishing a theatre company consisting exclusively homeless actors. As one of our colleagues, Sándor Füsti Molnár has a theatrical past as an amateur actor and director, the plan seemed feasible.

AHA Theatre debuted on 24 May 2002. The first performance was followed by a number of plays, poetry performances and stage adaptations of various literary works. In 2006 in Prague we put on István Órkény’s one-minute story *Let’s learn languages!* in cooperation with the theatre company of Czech homeless actors. That gave us the idea of staging Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol* in English in 2008 with the cooperation of Dutch, Slovakian, Czech and Hungarian actors. The play was performed by homeless actors, actors with disabilities and ones living under poverty threshold and on the verge of homelessness. We consider international relations and the exchange of experiences crucial because it became obvious to us that the problems are similar in each country but the different solutions may be helpful to us if we can adapt them to our own circumstances.

International experiences as well as our own ones showed that art, and more particularly acting, has positive impacts on participants. First it helps people forget the traumas of their past, and then, during the common work it can change their lives for the better through finding new friends and a community. It greatly increases their self-respect, improves their problem-solving skills as well as their relationship with the outside world, while it also positively impacts the way others perceive them. We often also involve primary school pupils in the common work as children’s information and knowledge about homelessness is incomplete but their relationship with homeless people changes during the common artistic work. This experience is a long-term investment because these children are less prejudiced against the homeless, and this will be the attitude...
they will pass on to their own children. Also the common work helps homeless people cross the borders of exclusion set by their homeless lives.

One out of every four homeless actors has successfully returned to society. There was one particular company member who got to the shelter and then the theatre after ten years spent in prison. He pulled himself together and is now living with his partner in a small town.

The theatrical evening was followed by a day of professional programmes. Presentations were given by experienced organisers who have proved the success of artistic rehabilitation in Hungary several times.

We consider helping our actors the direct goal to be achieved through the programme. As part of that we seek to provide them help and opportunity to spend their free time usefully, to establish new social relationships and to experience or re-experience a sense of belonging and importance.

Our long-term goal is to contribute to the struggle against homelessness, to use our achievements to show those living in good family circumstances that their prejudices against homelessness are not necessarily justified, and that not even homeless people constitute a homogeneous group and therefore they cannot be judged on the basis of generalisations. We therefore consider it important to run any programme which may, on the long term, change and differentiate public opinion, and thus improve the chances of homeless people to re-integrate into society.
Besides the future and the fundamental values of the European Union, our programme addressed people’s well-being, with special emphasis on the issues of social inclusion and sustainable development.

As is well-known, 3 million people in Hungary live below the poverty threshold, out of which 1 million in so-called deep poverty. In the case of rural population living in villages far from any urban areas further problems also arise. Due to the high related costs, rural population’s access to modern energy services and technologies is rather limited. Therefore, the use of technologies related to modern renewable energy sources is also extremely low among this population, not only due to the lack of funds, but also to the lack of skills required to using and maintaining such technologies. Their choices in life are severely constrained by poverty, and one important factor in the development and persistence of poverty is the way of energy consumption. The future of the EU and the lives of people living in poor rural areas are connected as regards energy consumption and renewable energy sources. The greater use of renewable energy sources positively affects people’s well-being, and therefore it contributes to creating fundamental values.

In the area of operation of our association, the Southern Trans-Danubian Region, many people live in poverty, not only in the conventional sense of the word, but also in energy poverty. Our project has contributed to decreasing poverty by relieving energy problems which affect households.

Our target group consisted of representatives of enterprises, researchers, professionals, those working in the social sector, the representatives of local governments, civil society organisations, private persons and poor rural population.

The main focal points of the programme were present throughout the project. At the Hungarian and Romanian workshops the presentations discussed the EU’s vision, future plans, the cheaper energy production achieved through decentralised energy systems – solar collectors, solar kitchens, solar dryers and low-performance, community-owned biomass and biogas systems – as well as creating new jobs and the importance of social inclusion.
From a methodological point of view it was an essential element that the project had been preceded by preparatory field work and the installation of experimental technology, the outcomes of which were presented and further developed at the workshops, and shared with the participants during study trips.

International cooperation played an important part in the implementation of the project, as it helped us develop a pool of information which synthesises the knowledge of experts from various countries and contributes to the implementation of future practical projects.

Relying on the outcomes of the programme, our association organises workshops in the villages of Ormánság where participants can learn through practice how to create technologies which require renewable energy sources and experience the power of social inclusion manifested in collective voluntary work.

The programme helped those concerned recognise that, instead of adopting instant conventional solutions, technologies and systems specifically adapted to local problems should be developed, which, with the involvement of the local population, can alleviate and eliminate a given problem.
It is the fourth time this year that Széchenyi Race®, the competition of alternative energy driven vehicles has been organised. The reason for organising this race was the fact that fossil fuels will only be available for a few more decades, and we need to find ways to prevent a natural disaster on Earth as well as an imminent fuel crisis.

Driven by this idea, a couple of students at Széchenyi István University began to organise a unique event in April 2006. Having recognised the opportunities offered by scientific workshops, as well as the huge potentials held solely by the engineering students of our days, they wanted to set a challenge which is based on practical, comparable achievements of design and implementation, and which may inspire each student with a latent developer’s flair. The potentials of Győr and Széchenyi University, engineering as one of the most popular industries among young people and the most urgent environmental issues of our days were all considered when developing the concept of calling upon all higher education students in Hungary to design and build vehicles which rely exclusively on alternative, environmental-friendly sources of energy. And to compare the performance of various vehicles, there is no better way than a both spectacular and meaningful competition with a differentiated scoring system. As the idea which creates value from an environmental, social and professional point of view – and perhaps even value for Hungary – seemed promising already when only the basic concept was drawn up, the competition was named Széchenyi Race, in honour of the greatest Hungarian as well as the students’ alma mater.

The first seven teams lined up at the starting line of the first Széchenyi Race on 26 April 2006. The prize money was HUF 570,000, complemented with various special prizes.

While making preparations for the second race, the almost unexpected measure of success, the positive feedback and constructive comments and criticisms as well as the great interest on behalf of the profession and the press made it clear that not only is the project viable, but it has great potentials, too. It is capable of achieving all the goals it was originally meant to achieve. What’s more, through careful development, even more can be achieved, more effectively. The race of 2007 was twice as big as a year before, both in terms of the number of competitors and the amount of the prize money. The results were assessed by a professional jury of five members, who finally awarded HUF 900,000 and a number of special prizes to the most successful teams.
The rules of competition, the system of assessment and the categories of the third Széchenyi Race were compared to the rules of FIA and then further differentiated and adjusted accordingly. With the stricter rules of competition and criteria of assessment, the money prize of the competition was increased to over HUF 1.2 million, taking into consideration the technical volume of the vehicles presented. Besides encouraging continuous technical improvement, the organisers have also taken a great step toward a new goal set in the previous year: they managed to get several secondary school teams to the start line, and thus bring the younger target audience, constituting a base of future engineering students, closer to alternativity, innovation and environmental awareness.

The fourth Széchenyi Race was held in April 2009, and the competition has now also been announced outside Hungary. The call for the competition and holding conferences and workshops allowed young would-be engineers to be involved in some kind of environmentally aware exchange of experiences and sharing of knowledge. It still remains one of the main goals and tasks to address and encourage secondary school students and to widely disseminate the message of Széchenyi Race. Besides all these, this year for the first time in Hungary, the Electro Go-kart race has also been held as a support race.

The best ideas and concepts receive innovation awards, which can be great help for any further successful developing work. Also, Széchenyi Race® is now recognised – abroad as well as in professional circles – as a forum of our young engineers working for our future. We believe that every year more and more teams will join us to demonstrate what modern technology can achieve. Thus, both participants and visitors can gain more and more professional and scientific information while creating an opportunity to disseminate an environmentally aware way of thinking most effectively.

*The project was a major Hungarian project of the European Year of Creativity and Innovation.*
Active European Remembrance

The aims of this action, in line with the objectives of the Programme, are twofold: ‘fostering action, debate and reflection related to European citizenship and democracy, shared values, common history and culture’ and ‘bringing Europe closer to its citizens by promoting Europe’s values and achievements, while preserving the memory of its past’.
The Roma Press Center (RSK) applied for funding for an idea which is a part of the Press Center’s *Living Digital Archive* programme. Day by day, RSK – now celebrating its 15th anniversary – comes across stories whose documentation goes beyond the conventional boundaries of journalism and news agency activity. The agency therefore decided to make a collection of and process in various forms the stories of the Hungarian Roma community, thus providing publicity to the survivors of the events.

According to the press centre in lack of their own long-standing cultural institutions and archives, the Hungarian Roma community has still not been able to make a collection of and publish their stories, even though it is an important tool of identity and the idea of the common past. That is why RSK has undertaken to create a continuously expanding archive with a methodology which others can adopt, too, and which presents various events through personal stories. The *Living Digital Archive* programme seeks to take the stories of the Hungarian Roma community to two essential scenes of collective memory: education and publicity.

Currently, the archive comprises several thousand written documents, nearly 40 hours of audio material and thousands of photographs. The press centre does not only consider the development of the archive important from the point of view of collective memory but also due to the unfortunate phenomenon currently observable all over Europe. According to RSK, the current economic downturn has radicalised certain groups, which, along with a deepening poverty, has led to a search for scapegoats. The Roma – similarly to Jewish communities – have been made scapegoats in hard, conflict-laden times and situations for centuries. Meanwhile, a denial of the past, the values and the victims of those treated as scapegoats can be observed in Hungary as well as in other countries. RSK also wishes to struggle against this with its own tools. We believe that if we explore the stories of Roma communities and make them personal, living and creditable in education and towards the public, we can do something against this phenomenon.

The European Commission bestowed the *Golden Star Award* to the Roma Press Center, now celebrating its 15th anniversary, for this project. Every year the international jury gives the Golden Star Award to the best projects implemented as part of the Europe for Citizens programme. Through this award, the European Commission recognises twinning and civil society initiatives which encourage citizens of local communities to assume an active role in society, and which stand out with their thought-provoking, innovative nature, potentials and commitment.
In 2009, it was the 70th anniversary of concluding the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, or the Treaty of Non-Aggression, signed by Vyacheslav Molotov on behalf of the Soviet Union and Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop, representing Germany. In a secret protocol attached to the treaty, the parties agreed upon dividing the Eastern regions of Europe into spheres of interest. The agreement was concluded between two totalitarian regimes, the communist Soviet Union and the national socialist Germany, and thus the leaders of the two countries, Stalin and Hitler, sealed Europe’s fate for years to come.

The anniversary provided an opportunity to reconsider and process the events from a historical point of view. The Institute of History at Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Humanities, planned to organise an international conference on 3–5 December 2009.

The main goal of the conference was to promote scientific dialogue about the issue. This work was mainly conducted by workshops engaged in European historical research and university departments focusing on diplomacy, with special emphasis on the diplomatic background of World War II. Another goal of the conference was to use events of the past to highlight the importance of cooperation aimed at protecting the values of the European system. We also considered it important to encourage attending young intellectuals to think about Europe’s future through a thorough study of the past. The main goal of international cooperation and partnership building is to strengthen civil society and to raise awareness of active European citizenship, preferably with the involvement of as many people as possible.

The event was organised in cooperation with the Department of Modern and Recent History of ELTE. The international partners were partly thematically selected (the countries concerned), and partly based on the existing international relations of the university. Accordingly, our partners were: the Humboldt University of Berlin, the University of Vienna, the University of Warsaw and the Michel de Montaigne University of Bordeaux.

We wanted to provide students from Germany, Austria, Poland, France and Hungary – mostly history students also engaged in teacher training – an opportunity to discuss the events related to the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact in the framework of a plenary session and workshops, so they can learn about the opinions and views of students from other countries.

All partner institutions were represented so the number of international participants was 153, whereas 97 attended from Hungary. The presentations of the conference and the related publications can be found at www.secretpact.info, which is also the official website of the project.

The conference was a success, and the attendees all returned home with nice memories and new friendships. We are certain that our project has contributed to building a common, new Europe where there is no place for agreements like the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact.
Pro Philosophia Szegediensi Foundation: the Foundation was established by the teachers of the Department of Philosophy at Szeged University in order to promote the cultivation of philosophy in Hungary after the downfall of Marxist-Leninist 'philosophy', which had functioned as a state ideology. The primary mission of the Foundation is to organise and support activities related to philosophy (research, education, workshops, seminars, publications) in Szeged and the broader region of the Southern Great Plain, as well as to support such activities within the Hungarian-speaking communities living outside the country, and to build and maintain a closer relationship with them. During its 20 years of existence the Foundation has actively contributed to meeting the above goals. The Foundation invited a number of recognised guest lecturers and teachers of philosophy to Szeged, supported student activities (publications, workshops, lectures), released a number of philosophical publications, organised conferences in Hungary and abroad and made contributions to philosophy-related publications published abroad.

In accordance with the goals of the programme, the project sought to commemorate the intellectual victims of the European totalitarian (Stalinist or Nazi) regimes by exploring the methods, ways and reasons of their persecution and suppression. It paid special attention to the violation of freedom, democratic values and human rights as well as to the political, sociological and socio-psychological aspects of the spread of ideological thinking. As opposed to similar projects, we did not only seek to explore and present individual victims of the totalitarian regimes and the actual ways of suppression, but also the internal logic and theoretical mechanism of these regimes, with special emphasis on the relationship between the regimes and intellectuals. Therefore, in accordance with the philosophical approach to the topic, we examined the situation and role of intellectuals in their complexity, also discussing the fact that intellectuals could not only be victims but also servants of totalitarianism; at the same time, we called the attention to intellectuals’ responsibility in preventing the appearance of any form of totalitarian ideology today. Another major goal of the project was to examine how the anti-intellectual and anti-reason aspects of the totalitarian regimes have been preserved in collective memory, and how intellectuals were – or were not – rehabilitated after the fall of these regimes, and if not, what causes the amnesia.

We investigated our central subject matter on the broadest possible international basis involving participants from various European countries and facilitating an effective dialogue between them. Besides examining and presenting actual examples, it provided an excellent opportunity for us to grasp – through a comparison of the characteristics and similarities of various (Western and Eastern) totalitarian regimes...
– the most essential features which generally characterise the suppressive nature of such regimes toward intellectuals.

The outcomes of the project were disseminated to the public through a several days’ conference with recognised foreign lecturers from all over Europe. Our main target audience were the older and younger members of the academic world (teachers and decision-makers) as well as the younger, potentially intellectual generation (university and secondary school students). Therefore, besides the main presentations of the conference, we also organised an international PhD student workshop, mostly attracting the younger audiences. We consider it a great achievement that contact has been made between Polish, Czech and Hungarian PhD students and undergraduates, as it will promote the integration of future European intellectuals. We successfully communicated the project to the local community (a radio interview was made with the project leader and local newspapers reported the event), and through a website, to the broader public.

The events attracted a wide range of audience including lecturers and researchers whom we could reach via the internet directly before the event, from regions where we had formerly not found any partners. An unforeseen but welcome benefit of the conference was the appearance of intellectuals related to Szeged and forced to emigration before the regime change, who shared their experiences and views with the researchers and the audience. While discussing the common European past, a strong professional and human relationship developed between the partners, allowing an opportunity of further cooperation in the future.

http://totalintellect.eu
Imprint

Edited by: Katalin Horváth
Layout: Kata Vilimi
translation: Sándor Födő and Katalin Horváth

Published by Public Foundation
Responsible for publication: Péter Tordai, director
Printed by: Komáromi Nyomda és Kiadó Kft., 2012

This publication was funded by the European Commission and the Hungarian Ministry of Human Resources.
Please note that views expressed within the booklet are not necessarily those of the European Commission or the Hungarian Ministry of Human Resources.

Illustrations by the holder of the projects and from the Central Audiovisual Library of the European Commission.
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