



Belgium
Poland Romania
Zemst Spermezeu Olen
Bialogard Herselt Berbesti
Hamme Opole Lubelskie
Tielt Szamotuly Maledegem
Świdnica Malle Zakrzówek
Kasterlee Murgesti/Acăṭari
Ruisselede Krasnik
Waasmunster
Schitu/Braloṣṭiṭa

LEARNING NETWORK OF TOWN TWINNING WITH POLAND & ROMANIA

Antwerp,
27 november 2009

PROGRAM •

- 9.00 Welcome with coffee
- 10.00 Introduction about the project Learning Network of Town Twinning
by Betty De Wachter, co-ordinator VVSG-International
- 10.15 Lessons Learned
by Leen Van Lindt, Projectleader for the Learning Network of Town Twinning
- 10.35 Partnership with a Polish municipality
Example Olen - Bialogard
by Marcel Bellens, mayor of Olen
- 10.55 Partnership with a Romanian municipality
Example Waasmunster- Schitu
by Patrick D'Haese, president of the support committee Waasmunster-Schitu
- 11.15 Coffee break
- 11.30 Workshops on seven themes:
The strenght of voluntary work • Engaging young people • Dialogue with mayors • Engaging young people and women • Town Twinning revisited • Learning from a strong partner • Striving towards equal partnerships • A workshop with Polish guests • A workshop with Romanian guests
- 12.30 Lunch
- 13.30 Interview of a representative of a Polish and Romanian municipality
by Marlies van Bouwel, chief editor of the VVSG magazine Lokaal
- 14.00 Speeddating
- 15.30 Andrezj Porawski, director of Polish Cities • Emil Drăghici, president of the Romanian association of municipalities (ACOR) • Gaëtan Poelman, co-ordinator team International, department Culture, Youth, Sports and Media of the Flemish Administration
- 16.00 Reception



Twinning of cities and municipalities in Flanders with cities and municipalities in other European countries or even beyond, are not new. In most cases these twinings exist since many years. Town twinning is providing a face and content to European citizenship bringing people and cultures together across national frontiers.

The Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG) is following the town twinning movement in Flanders and in Europe since many years. Starting in the fifties as a peace initiative of French and German mayors town twinning developed as a movement of citizens and municipalities throughout Europe. About 30 000 town twinning links are known at European level. The European Union is providing its support in stimulating and promoting town twinning in the 'Europe for citizens'-program.

At the beginning of 2009, the Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG) launched a learning network of town twinning within the framework of the program 'Europe for citizens'. In this project the VVSG aims to reflect jointly with the municipalities on the quality and future perspectives of town twinning.

The learning network is providing to the participating municipalities a platform of exchange and mutual learning by sharing experience, knowledge, contacts and practical tips and hints.

The group of pilot municipalities met twice in networking meetings, but each municipality received individual support and guidance in order to analyze their twinning through a twinning scan. Based on the outcomes of that exercise the municipalities and their town twinning committees are elaborating an action plan containing objectives and activities. In this way they can upgrade and strengthen their town twinning for the next five years.

At the final conference in Antwerp on 27 November 2009 the pilot municipalities are sharing the results of this learning network. Their partner municipalities of Poland and Romania are invited to participate, as well as all other interested Flemish local authorities that are involved in town twinning.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Target group

Mayors • vice-mayors • members of town twinning committees • municipal staff interested in town twinning, in particular with Poland and Romania and other countries of Eastern Europe

When

Friday 27 november 2009,
from 9.00 until 16.00 p.m

Venue

Grand Café Horta - Art Nouveau Zaal
Hopland 2
B-2000 Antwerp
www.grandcafehorta.be

Price

Participation is free, but subscription is obligatory
subscription: <http://congrescentrum.vvsg.be>

More information

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'Europe for Citizens' Programme

