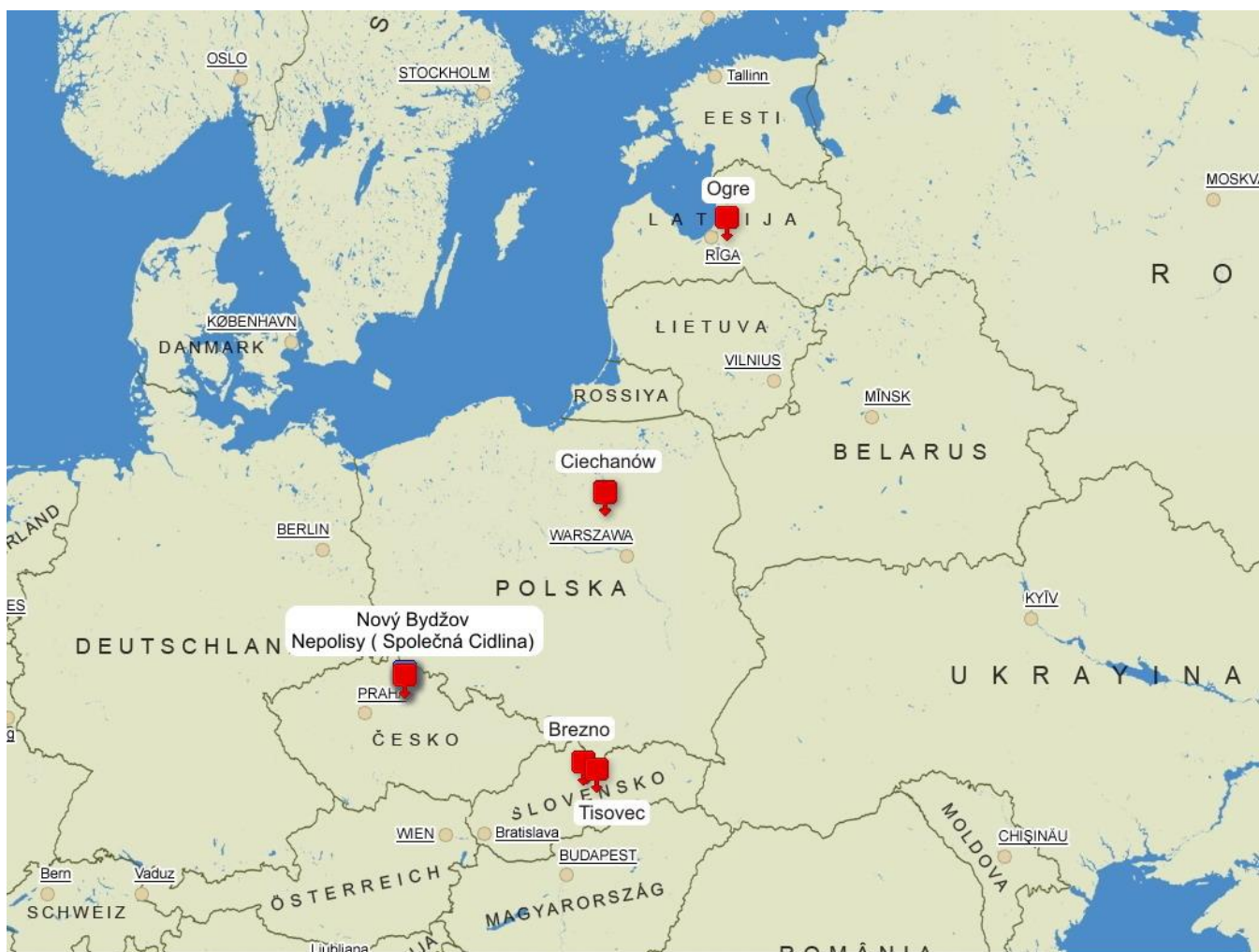


Report

following the international conference, funded by the European Commission from the Europe for Citizens programme

Development of a network of partner towns from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Latvia and their related regions.

Project number: 08/0080



Brief summary of the main project activities and results

There was an international conference carried out in Novy Bydzov from 8th to 10th of May 2008. The conference was carried out under the aegis of Mr. Oldrich Vlasak, member of the EU Parliament, chairman of the Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic and executive president of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions.

Participating on the project, there were 5 partners and the applicant:

- applicant – Town of Novy Bydzov (Czech Republic) – 66 participants
- partner 1 - Spolecna Cidlina (Czech Republic) – 8 participants
- partner 2 - Brezno (Slovakia) – 32 participants
- partner 3 - Muranska Planina (Slovakia) – 8 participants
- partner 4 - Ciechanow (Poland) – 8 participants
- partner 5 - Ogre (Latvia) – 8 participants

There were 130 participants from various EU countries meeting in Novy Bydzov. The three-day-meeting was officially started as well as ended by the EU anthem – Beethoven's Ode to Joy. Invitation to the conference was accepted also by some important people – mayor of the Kralovehradecky region Mr. Pavel Bradik and member of the CR Parliament Mr. David Kafka. In order to remember the Europe Day, there was also Mr. Oldrich Vlasak under whose aegis the whole conference took place.

Participants worked in 5 work-groups, thematically focused on various areas of public life. Leadership of individual delegations was represented by mayors, city-mayors, town-presidents and chairmen of regions. This leadership discussed mainly aims of the conference and possibilities for further cooperation. Other participants were in advance divided into areas, they represented themselves:

- state administration, self-administration, public investments
- public services, education, waste management
- social services, health services and seniors
- sport, culture, hunting, non-profit organizations

Each delegation had a prepared presentation focusing on specifics of their region within the participating country. Therefore, each work-group had an ideal occasion to discuss problems and differences within individual participating countries.

Within the area of meeting the European culture heritage, delegates visited a castle Karlova koruna in Chlumec nad Cidlinou. Afterwards in Kosice, trees of partnership were planted, in the Alley of region, by delegates of each participating country. Absolutely spontaneously then, each nation celebrated each newly-planted tree by means of singing their national song.

Outcome of the conference is firstly the collective volume of all presentations – there are altogether 21 of them – characterizing specific features of participating countries in individual areas of public life. Second outcome is the contact database of involved partners, where contacts from each country are being divided according to a structure proposed by the participants. The collective volume, as well as the contacts are being published on the web-pages of all partners, and so it is available for broad public. Conference outcomes were also discussed within self-government bodies of each partner. Conference, in that way, directly supports future twinning projects that will allow absolutely concrete

opinion and experience exchange related to actual topics, that will allow learning about people and culture variety and establishment of personal friendships within EU countries.

Conference entirely fulfilled its aim. Besides prepared activities, all work-groups focused on their tasks in a very active way. Contact database has been formed, presentations are prepared to be published, concrete suggestions for following projects were proposed. As a bonus, participants were in the Novy Bydzov region welcomed by gorgeous spring weather.

Note: There were 4 other participants from the partner-town of Novy Bydzov - from Cascinette d'Ivrea in Italy, involved in this conference. However, they were not taken as a part of the project, and their presence was funded by means of sponsorship. Due to its completeness their names and works are included in outcome materials.

Further information and photo-documentation has been published on the following web-pages:

- www.novybydzov.cz/konference
- www.spolecnacidlina.cz
- www.brezno.sk
- www.muranskaplanina.com
- www.ciechanow.pl
- www.ogre.lv
- www.comune.cascinette.to.it

Future plans arising from the project

By the creation of contact-database, encompassing a really broad spectrum of activities and areas of public life, there is a great basis for preparation of others follow-up twinning projects. There will be even wider and better, already existing, partnership between Novy Bydzov and Brezno. A great impact for the partnership-development within the European territory has also the involvement of regions. All the towns have their attraction zone, which together with the town constitutes a compact region of mutually related local partnership.

Novy Bydzov has, in its strategic document Integrate plan for development of the town of Novy Bydzov, included a project of International cooperation, which will concur on this project. The partner-town of Brezno within the conference already presented a project, sourcing from the international conference, which is going to focus on the area of primary school education, and effort towards increasing the literacy skills and knowledge of the European territory. Another project, being in the stage of preparation, is an educational project from the area LEADER, focusing on usage and exchange of experiences in the area of waste management. In this project were involved mayors of individual towns. Other ideas aim on the exchange of experiences in the area of social-care, prevention of criminality and usage of EU funds in the area of investments. The participants were sure that other ideas will also appear afterwards after the conference, in the course of everyday occupational, communal as well as personal life. Usage of the contact-database, which will be kept updated on the web-pages of all the partners, is then very simple and it helps to contact a potential partner, discussion as well as setting twinning project-aims in various areas of public life.

Involvement of local private companies

Great thanks for their help in the area of implementation of the project, belongs also to several local private companies, that ensured – by means of sponsorship - some parts of the programme and partly also presence of 4 conference participants from Cascinette d'Ivrea in Italy, whose participation was not a object of the project (costs not covered by this sponsorship – travel expenses were paid by the Italians themselves). Sponsorship also covered expenses for planting the trees of friendship in the Alley of regions in Kosice on 9th May 2008, as well as the afternoon refreshment for all 130 conference participants.

Thanks to all the following companies:

- Stavoka Kosice, a.s.
- M-Silnice, a.s.
- Veolia, Královéhradecká provozní, a.s.
- Vodovody a kanalizace, a.s.
- Břemus, Nový Bydžov

In Novy Bydzov, 4.7.2008

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