

# Parliamentary **Assembly** **Assemblée** parlementaire



**AS/ENA/Prix (2006) 1**

28 April 2006

**Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs**

## **Summary of applications for the Flag of Honour and the European Diploma for 2006**

Memorandum prepared by the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

In order to simplify consideration of candidatures for the Flags of Honour, the Secretariat has drawn up a table summarising the basic information supplied by municipalities. All candidates which have not renewed their application over the past four years have been provisionally excluded.

# I. GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

	AWARDED			APPLICATIONS FOR THE FLAG	
	PRIZE	PLAQUE	FLAG	Total	Applications in 2006
<b>Austria</b>	6	7	42	4	2
<b>Belgium</b>	5	6	54	1	1
<b>Bulgaria</b>	-	-	1	1	1
<b>Croatia</b>	-	-	1	-	-
<b>Denmark</b>	2	-	3	-	-
<b>France</b>	9	33	187	19	15
<b>Germany</b>	13	65	361	53	39
<b>Finland</b>	-	-	1	-	-
<b>Greece</b>	1	-	1	-	-
<b>Hungary</b>	-	6	13	3	2
<b>Ireland</b>	-	-	5	-	-
<b>Italy</b>	7	15	101	5	3
<b>Latvia</b>	-	-	1	1	1
<b>Lithuania</b>	1	1	1	7	7
<b>Luxembourg</b>	-	-	2	-	-
<b>Moldova</b>	-	1	1	-	-
<b>Netherlands</b>	3	4	45	1	1
<b>Norway</b>	1	-	-	-	-
<b>Poland</b>	2	14	35	14	11
<b>Portugal</b>	-	1	6	-	-
<b>Romania</b>	-	1	5	4	2
<b>Russia</b>	1	2	6	-	-
<b>Serbia-Montenegro</b>	-	-	-	1	-
<b>Slovakia</b>	-	-	1	-	-
<b>Slovenia</b>	-	-	2	-	-
<b>Spain</b>	1	2	19	-	-
<b>Sweden</b>	-	1	4	-	-
<b>Switzerland</b>	2	1	21	3	1
<b>Turkey</b>	2	1	8	-	-
<b>Ukraine</b>	-	-	2	1	1
<b>United Kingdom</b>	5	14	104	3	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	61	175	1033	122	91

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## II. CANDIDATES FOR FLAGS OF HONOUR 2005

### **AUSTRIA**

<b>TOWN<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED<sup>2</sup> With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>BAD SCHALLERBACH</b> (Oberösterreich) (Pop. 3 200)	2005 2006	KOKSIJDE (B)**	1955
<European Diploma in 2005>			

This is Austria's longest established twinning. Regular events include:

- the annual celebration of the twinning anniversary every year since 1955;
- a European municipalities' seminar;
- youth exchanges;
- soccer matches;
- brass band concerts;
- inter-club visits involving, for example, wind bands, folk groups and cyclists;
- sports competitions;
- youth camps.

Through the twinning with Koksijde, Bad Schallerbach has forged ties with the German municipality of Konz, and representatives of Konz are invited to all the twinning gatherings. Bad Schallerbach also has contacts with Wanze (B), Biedenkopf (D) and La Charité sur Loire (F).

While 2005 was marked mainly by the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning with Koksijde, first in Koksijde, with 84 guests from Bad Schallerbach, then in the Austrian municipality, with 120 Belgian guests, other events included a seminar on Europe that brought together mayors from Upper Austria, the Europe day celebration, participation in a youth camp organised by Konz (D) and the inauguration of a Europe Square and a friendship fountain.

In autumn 2006 Bad Schallerbach will be celebrating its 60th anniversary as a "Markt" and would like to receive the Flag of Honour on that occasion.

---

<sup>1</sup> The population is indicated if specified by the candidate.

<sup>2</sup> Official twinings with municipalities in Council of Europe member states (according to latest information provided by candidates)

\*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize  
\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour  
\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour  
● Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>FELDKIRCHEN i. K.</b> (Kärnten) (Pop. 13 000)	2005	BAMBERG (D)** AHRENSBURG (D)	1993 1998
<b>&lt;European Diploma in 2005&gt;</b>			

Bamberg and Feldkirchen have historical ties that go right back to the 12th century. In 1993, having been involved in exchanges for several decades, they signed a twinning agreement, and the tenth anniversary of the twinning was an occasion of great celebration in both towns.

The most successful exchanges involve trips by large parties of visitors, summer-holiday placements for trainees, exhibitions (including Christmas crib displays), concerts and meetings between municipal officials and sportspeople.

Feldkirchen has also developed links with the Slovenian municipality of Celje (under an INTERREG project) and with the towns of Ujazd in Poland and Görz, Lignano and Capri in Italy.

In January 2005 Feldkirchen staged a debate on European Union enlargement and hosted the eighth International Academy of Music, which was attended by more than 100 students from 13 countries.

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>WAGNA</b> (Steiermark) (Pop. 5 300)	2000 2004 2006	RONCHI DEI LEGIONARI (I)*** METLIKA (SI)	1969 1970
<b>&lt;European Diploma in 2000&gt;</b>			

Following the tragic events during the First and Second World Wars (Wagna housed a refugee camp with almost 20 000 Italians from Friuli), links were forged which led to the signing of a friendship pact by the three towns.

The many encounters over the last three decades have included:

- annual youth exchanges (for groups of around 30 children) with accommodation in families;
- sports competitions organised by local associations;
- cultural programmes (exhibitions, concerts, etc);
- official meetings between municipal councils and mayors;
- wreath-laying ceremonies at war memorials;
- exchanges of experience at farmers' meetings and visits to wine fairs in the three municipalities;
- ongoing contact among more than 100 families in the three partner towns;
- joint events for schools;
- exchanges of experience between municipal employees at Europe Day meetings;
- jointly organised musical events and traditional festivities with Austrian, Italian and Slovenian involvement.

\*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize  
 \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour  
 \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour  
 • Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## AUSTRIA (continued)

### WAGNA (continued)

In September 1999 Wagna invited representatives from both its twin towns to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the twinning. The inhabitants of all three towns met up for a series of events organised for the occasion.

In 2004, in co-operation with its twin towns, Wagna organised a major exhibition on the "Romans" which attracted over 200,000 visitors. In connection with this exhibition, Wagna and its twin towns also organised a relay race from Rome to Wagna, passing through Ronchi and Metlika, an exhibition entitled "Twin towns, from Roman times to the present day" and Italian and Slovenian weeks. These different events are all related to Slovenia's accession to the European Union.

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>WEIZ</b> (Styria) (Pop. 9 000)	2005	OFFENBURG (D)*** AIJKA (H)	1964 1990
<b>&lt;European Diploma in 2005&gt;</b>			

Talks are ongoing about a twinning with a Polish municipality.

Thanks to the many contacts between club and association members in the partner towns, all the local clubs have been involved in exchanges, with a particular focus on drama. A drama group from Weiz has performed annually at Offenburg's trade fair for more than 25 years. There are also links between local politicians and schools.

In addition, Weiz has contacts with Asti in Italy, Sexten in South Tyrol and the Italian region of Canelli.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# BELGIUM

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>EVERGEM</b>	2003		
(East Flanders)	2005		
(Pop. 31 000)	2006	GROSSENKNETEN (D)**	1974
<European Diploma in 2003>			

Evergem has also developed administrative contacts with the Dutch municipalities of GILZE et RIJEN.

Material and financial support is regularly granted to the Romanian municipality of DANES.

With Grossenkneten: every four years there is an exchange organised by Evergem for all inhabitants of Grossenkneten during which all citizens have the opportunity to meet: youth, elderly people, sportsmen, people with disabilities... Evergem will organise the next encounter in August 2003. Members of the twinning committees, but also sports associations, youth groups, musical societies will be invited. These encounters offer a good opportunity to get acquainted: the one organised in 2001 by Grossenkneten and in 1999 by Evergem offered to more than 600 inhabitants of both municipalities the opportunity to meet and exchange.

Members of both town councils and of twinnings committees also meet regularly.

Twinning anniversaries are also a good opportunity to celebrate together this event: 200 Belgian guests came to Grossenkneten for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

School exchanges, sports encounters (football), exhibitions of work by local artists, promotion of local specialities, youth camps and meetings between farmers are regularly on the programme of exchanges between the municipalities.

Worth mentioning is the next initiative taken by Grossenkneten to organise a large international meeting of scholars in May 2003 in which Evergem will also participate.

New Year receptions were staged in both Evergem and Grossenkneten in 2004, and delegations from the partner town attended in each case. Members of Grossenkneten's twinning committee took part in a working meeting in Evergem and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning was celebrated in Grossenkneten. In the coming year more than 250 Evergem residents are to make the trip to Grossenkneten for a twinning festival there.

As every year, the New Year reception was attended by visitors from Grossenkneten. But the highlights of the twinning in 2005 were a visit by 250 people from Evergem to Grossenkneten, as part of the twinning festival, and a training course completed by a trainee from Evergem in Grossenkneten. Evergem would like to receive the Flag of Honour on the occasion of the twinning festival it will be organising in 2007.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## BULGARIA

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>KAVARNA</b> (North-east Bulgaria) (Pop. 17 800)	2006	BABADAG (RO)	2004
		KORINO (GR)	2001
		BOSILEGRAD (Serbia)	2005
		DIMITOVGRAD (Serbia)	2005
		PEFKI (GR)	2004
		SCHERBINKA (RU)	2002
		MIHALOVCE (SK)	2004
		SCARJISKO (PL)	2005
		MALTEPE (TR)	2005
		VYBORG (RU)	2005

Most contacts are with Babadag in Romania. A common history links the two towns, which are part of the same region, Dobrudja. After the 1919 agreements thousands of inhabitants fled Babadag, which had become Romanian, to settle in region of Kavarna, on Bulgarian soil. At present only the Danube separates the two towns and many contacts between the families on both sides have developed since 1974. They are mainly economic, cultural and for tourism. The municipal councils of the two towns held their first joint meeting in 2005 to discuss the future accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union. A second meeting followed, in September, focusing on the need to develop cross-border co-operation.

The first contacts with Mihalovce (SK) date back to co-operation between the schools of agriculture over thirty years ago. Nowadays they tend to take the form of exchanges between young people and schoolchildren.

The twinning arrangements with Bosilegrad and Dimitrovgrad in Serbia and Montenegro stem from the fact that many inhabitants of these two municipalities have Bulgarian origins. Bulgarian musicians and artists have performed in these towns on Bulgaria's national holiday.

Activities with Scherbinka in Russia revolve around the Youth Theatre, which has performed a number of plays in Russia.

Kavarna has developed three-way co-operation between the Historical Institute of Ravenna, the Museum of Lattes (F) and its own history museum, with exchanges of groups of students and experts. French and Italian students have taken part in archaeological digs in the region.

In the main, however, cultural exchanges have taken the form of open-air events and exhibitions:

- the annual June watercolour exhibition, with a score of participants from different European countries;
- the Theatre Summer University, where teachers attend master classes;
- the "Rock in Karvana" pop-rock festival, which the twin towns also attend;
- Since March 2003 the annual meeting of young Bulgarians from all over Europe around a Music Festival. In 2005 the festival attracted 1500 Bulgarian participants and 200 from Albania, Macedonia, Serbia, Moldova and Ukraine.
- The annual amateur dramatics festival, with international participation: 24 theatre troupes performed in 2005.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## **BULGARIA (continued)**

### **KAVARNA (continued)**

Kavarna is involved in a project financed by the Leonardo programme to promote training in tourism management and the development of tourist sites. It works in co-operation with Sofia and Luton (GB) because it attaches great importance to the environment, the region having a rich culture and an exceptional natural heritage. It will soon be launching a project to develop a visitors' centre with conference facilities.

Kavarna celebrates Europe Day on 6 May, which is also the town's civic celebration day. A special programme, in which young people play an important part is organised, with singing, dancing, art and articles in the local papers.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma



<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>
-----------------------

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>ZUBŘÍ</b>		ROSDORF (D)*	1993
(Pop. 5 370)	2006	PALARIKOVO (SK)	2000
		FÜRTH/Triesting (A)	

1. The twinning with Rosdorf:

This is the most active twinning. Sporting contacts, especially between handball teams, date back more than thirty years, but the twinning was concluded a little more than ten years ago. The setting up of a twinning committee further developed exchanges: between schoolchildren, political parties, hiking groups, groups of dancers and singers, fire brigades and so on. In all between 6 and 8 events every year bring the inhabitants together.

2004 was a particularly busy year: a delegation from Rosdorf travelled to Zubří to celebrate the Czech Republic's accession to the European Union, there were exchanges of hikers and fire brigades at the exhibition fair, where they shared a stand, there was a youth camp in Zubří, a visit by senior citizens, and a joint concert was organised in Rosdorf.

Exchanges in 2005 included a concert by a pianist from Zubří in Rosdorf, a trip by 50 inhabitants of Rosdorf to Zubří, a trip by 32 young people to Rosdorf and a performance by 30 Czech dancers and singers in Rosdorf.

2. The twinning with Palarikovo:

Regular contacts between women's associations, football teams, schools and municipal officials.

3. The twinning with Furth/Triesting:

Mainly cultural contacts between folk singing and dance groups and between municipal officials.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# FRANCE

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>AHUILLE</b> (Mayenne) (Pop. 1 700)	1993 1994 1997 2004 2005 2006	GUNDREMMINGEN (D)	1983
<European diploma in 1997>			

Ahuillé is one of a group of towns that form the core of the network linking Swabia and the *Département* of Mayenne. It is among the oldest of 32 municipalities in the *département* that have set up exchanges with Swabian partners. The twinning committees in the two towns work to strengthen ties involving all sections of the population and make special efforts to promote the European ideal in schools.

While youth and especially inter-school exchanges have been the main form of activity, sizeable delegations have also travelled in both directions to celebrate anniversaries of the twinning. In 1993, for example, more than 100 German guests came to Ahuillé on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The partners are also represented at each other's municipal inauguration ceremonies and often send bands or groups of musicians to perform at these events.

Both municipalities have provided training placements for young people.

To mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning – celebrated in Ahuillé in 2003 – the partners decided to mount a joint project to support developing countries and selected Benin and Togo.

For the second stage of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations – in Gundremmingen in 2004 –another project is planned, this time to help Bukovina in Romania.

The municipality encourages its schools to take part in special Europe Day events and Ahuillé is involved in activities organised by the "Maison de l'Europe" in the county town of Laval.

As planned, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in Gundremmingen in 2004 included a joint project to help Bukovina in Romania and more than 100 residents of Ahuillé took part.

Other highpoints of the year were a Franco-German exhibition of the work of two sculptors, an inter-cultural exchange in August for which two young people from Ahuillé travelled to Bavaria, and a soccer tournament.

The main activities in 2005 were the design by primary school pupils of a flag symbolising the twinning, a visit by a delegation of senior citizens from Gundremmingen to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ahuillé Friendship Club, and participation by young people and the twinning committees in a forum organised by the Swabian Bezirk and the Mayenne General Council.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## FRANCE (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>AIXE-sur-VIENNE</b>	2005	GROSSHABERSDORF (D)*	1982
(Haute Vienne)	2006	SWIECIECHOWA (PL)	2000
<European Diploma in 2005>			

The twinning with Grosshabersdorf was the first between municipalities in Mittelfranken and Haute Vienne, following an inter-regional twinning agreement concluded in 1981. Since then 31 municipalities in the Limousin region have signed cooperation or twinning agreements.

There is currently a three-way twinning involving Aix, Grosshabersdorf and Swieciechowa, which was concluded in 2000.

Aix and Grosshabersdorf organised a joint aid project for the municipality of Titao in Burkina Faso, which enabled it to construct a school for three classes.

Both twinings have focused on young people and on language learning. Companies and the municipal administrations in each town offer summer placements for trainees.

The three municipalities have organised various events with a European orientation, including a soccer tournament, visits by youth orchestras, exhibitions that toured all three centres and a "village games" in Swieciechowa. As a member of the Limousin regional association of twinned towns, Aix takes part in all the events organised by that body.

The municipality of Aix offers financial incentives to schools to participate in European exchanges and a local primary school has thus taken part in an experimental project on language learning through video-conferencing. As a result it currently has regular on-line encounters with a school in Regensburg and "real-life" exchanges have also taken place. In addition, a cycle of tri-national meetings has begun, involving a school in each of the twinned municipalities: in 2004 they met in Würzburg to explore the theme of EU enlargement and the next meetings are planned for Cracow in 2005 and a location in France in 2006.

2005 was marked by more than a dozen exchanges, the most important of which was the 5th anniversary of the twinning, for which 100 people from Aix travelled to Grosshabersdorf and stayed with families there. A trainee from Grosshabersdorf stayed in Aix. There was also an exhibition in Grosshabersdorf of works by artists from the three twin towns, a visit to Aix by the Grosshabersdorf brass band, a debate on the draft constitutional treaty, a working meeting of representatives of the three municipalities. These were the main events that brought the three towns together.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## FRANCE (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>Aÿ-CHAMPAGNE</b>	2003	BESIGHEIM (D)*	1966
(Marne)	2005	QUAREGNON (B)	1990
(Pop. 4 300)	2006	NEWTON ABBOT (GB)	1993
<European Diploma in 2003>			

A twinning link with Italy is in the pipeline and relations with a Polish municipality are being developed. A cooperation agreement has been signed with Burkina Faso.

The twinning with Besigheim is the oldest of the existing links and also the strongest. All sections of society are involved, from trade bodies (eg wine-growers' organisations), sporting, musical and other associations, to secondary school students, families and senior citizens. The major events are those marking the anniversaries of the twinning but the two towns also take part in each other's local festivals. Aÿ-Champagne is represented by a float at the Besigheim wine festival and many people from the town travel to the traditional champagne tasting organised in Germany.

The twinned municipalities take part in the Henri IV Festival in Aÿ, and their respective brass bands travel to join in one another's parades and concerts.

Representatives of the Belgian, German, Hungarian and French municipalities compete in an annual "Friendly Games" including both cultural and sporting events, which is held in a different location each year.

Local sports associations are also very active, with exchanges between gymnasts, athletes and golfers (the latter travelling to England).

A local information bulletin with a special section for twinning news keeps the community informed on a regular basis.

In March 2004 Aÿ signed a twinning agreement with the Italian municipality of Sinalunga in Tuscany. Another major event was the traditional Henri IV Festival, which attracts as many as 25 000 visitors over its two days, and at which delegates from the new twinning partner were guests of honour.

2005 was an opportunity for the choirs of Besigheim and Aÿ to get together, for young painters from Aÿ to exhibit in Besigheim and also to develop contacts with the new Italian twin town. An evening event that brought together 5 Tuscan chefs and 5 champagnes was very successful during the Henri IV Festival and will be repeated in 2006. The Mayor of Aÿ also travelled to Italy to open the traditional extraordinary sitting of the Sinalunga municipal council.

Aÿ is preparing, with Besigheim, also a candidate for the Flag of Honour, to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their twinning. Festivities will be organised all through the year, the high point being the popular Henri IV Festival, which not only the German but also British, Belgian and Italian partners are expected to attend. The year will end with the Champagne tasting festival and the Christmas market in Besigheim.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

**France (continued)**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>BEAUMONT de PERTUIS</b>	2004		
(Vaucluse)	2005	FARNESE (I)*	1993
(Pop. 1 000)	2006		
<b>&lt;European Diploma in 2004&gt;</b>			

The two municipalities take turns to host annual visits by groups of 50 to 90 people, often focusing on particular themes such as farming or crafts. Other regular activities are:

- visits by schoolchildren to Farnese;
- trips by amateur cyclists from Beaumont to Farnese;
- sports tournaments;
- meetings between farmers to promote local produce.

Italian courses are held regularly in order to facilitate contacts.

A twinning committee with around 100 members has managed to interest almost 10% of the local population in twinning activities, and receives an annual grant from the municipality.

Activities in schools include a regular art competition involving students in Farnese, Italian classes, pen-pal links with Farnese, and courses about Italian history and culture, designed to maximise the value of encounters with the twinning partners.

Beaumont celebrated in 2004, from 20 to 24 August, the 10<sup>th</sup> twinning anniversary with Farnese. This encounter has been very well prepared, as well at school level (with special Italian courses for children, exchange of correspondence and learning of French and Italian songs) as at adult level that met twice a week for training their Italian knowledge. During the ceremony, Council of Europe European Diplomas that Farnese got in 2003 and Beaumont in 2004 were presented to the public, the mayors of the neighbouring villages were invited to the ceremony, working groups were established between scholars, farmers and craftsmen and specialists of environment in order to discuss common activities to be developed on cultural level.

As the annual get-together took place in Beaumont in 2004, it was the turn of Farnese to welcome the French delegation in 2005. And as usual the meeting was prepared in the schools with an introduction to the Italian language, written correspondence and lessons on Italy. Contacts between farmers are proceeding well and various arts and crafts exhibitions have brought the two municipalities together.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## FRANCE (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>BESANÇON</b> (Doubs)	2006	FREIBURG/Breisgau (D)	1959
		TVER (RU)	1996
		KUOPIO (FI)	1986
		PAVIA (I)	1964
		BIELSKO-BIALA (PL)	2000
		BISTRITA (RO)	1997
		HUDDERSFIELD/KIRKLEES (GB)	1955
		NEUCHÂTEL (CH)	1975

Besançon is also twinned with HADERA (Israel) and has signed co-operation twinning agreements with MAN (Côte d'Ivoire) and DOUROULA (Burkina-Faso).

On the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Besançon, a proclamation of friendship was signed with Charlottesville (USA/Virginia) with a view to a twinning. Exchanges between associations and cultural exchanges have since taken place.

Besançon launched a dual co-operation project in the Middle East in 2005, with new exchanges with Hadera in the cultural and economic field and new contacts with the Palestinian refugee camp at Aqabat Jab'r (Jericho district).

1. Twinning with Huddersfield: a twinning agreement was signed with Huddersfield in 1955 and extended to the Kirklees district in 1995. Mainly cultural exchanges and exchanges between associations, schools, universities and municipal officials.

Recent exchanges:

- Since 2001 there have been exchanges of contemporary musical groups between the two towns. In 2005 a concert was organised by the contemporary music association to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning.
- Since 2002: annual professional exchanges for training periods in the municipal services.
- Sporting and cultural exchanges: football tournament, art exhibitions.
- Celebration of the 50th anniversary of the twinning all through the year, with a British film festival, modern music concerts, the inauguration of the Kirklees roundabout, a picnic-cum-fête and a Besançon market in the centre of Huddersfield.

2. Twinning with Freiburg in Breisgau: there have been a multitude of exchanges in every field since 1959: municipal, economic, schools, universities, associations, culture and sport, as well as exchanges of trainees.

Recent exchanges:

- Since 2000: the annual "five towns, five voices" recital is now called "six towns, six voices". At the initiative of the Association for the promotion of the twin towns of Freiburg in Breisgau, five singers from five towns twinned with Freiburg, including a young singer from Besançon, toured the five European towns.
- Cultural exchanges: based on an exchange and meetings of artists, three exhibitions were organised in three places, Freiburg, Besançon and Lviv, with two artists from each town. Participation in the Bade Fair, the "Plazza culinaria" culinary event and the French week in Freiburg.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

3. Twinning with Pavia: cultural, economic, school, university, association and sporting exchanges.

Recent exchanges:

- Participation by several twin towns, including Pavia, in the 1999 "Talking about Europe" event organised in Besançon; participation as guest of honour at Pavia's "good food encounters" and also in the international Tournament of Besançon's twin towns.

4. Twinning with Neuchâtel: cultural, professional, economic, association, school and university exchanges.

Financial participation by Neuchâtel in Besançon's co-operation activities in Douroula in Burkina Faso.

Recent exchanges:

- Celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning with Neuchâtel in 2000, with a whole series of events: "good food encounters", concert with Neuchâtel's orchestra, participation by Neuchâtel in the Besançon flower show.
- Celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning: inauguration of the Neuchâtel roundabout, exhibition on Besançon, economic meeting, participation by Besançon in Neuchâtel's harvest festival, economic meeting and participation by Neuchâtel in Besançon's Christmas market, with typically Swiss products.

5. Twinning with Kuopio: cultural, economic, association, professional, medical and sporting exchanges.

Recent exchanges:

- Celebration of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning in 2001: Kuopio is guest of honour at the "good food encounters"; organisation of exhibitions and performances to familiarise people with Finland.

6. Twinning with Tver: technical, economic, association, cultural and school exchanges.

Recent exchanges:

- Celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the friendship charter in 1998, with a large-scale event (concert, folk music and dance group, exhibition).
- Participation by the Mayor of Besançon in Tver's municipal fête.
- Participation by Tver in the Foire Comtoise regional consumer goods fair, with artists, craftsmen and other guests and an official delegation from Tver.

Besançon regularly awards grants to associations and schools to develop partnerships with their counterparts in other countries:

- more than 10,000 euros per year are paid to a number of secondary schools;
- associations involved in development in certain countries, particularly in Africa;
- local associations that organise exchanges with twin towns, like the Association of Friends of Tver, the Franco-Finnish Association, etc.
- grants to support innovative international projects.

Besançon has contacts with a number of foreign municipalities, including exchanges of technical services and joint organisation of exhibitions by museums:

- co-operation with the Swiss museums of La Chaux-de-Fonds and Porrentruy on a major exhibition on Freemasonry;
- regular exchanges between the highways department in Besançon and their Swiss counterparts on the latter's experience of transport policy; regular exchanges of information with Geneva, Basel, Zurich and Lausanne;
- signature of a technical co-operation agreement with the municipality of Martigny (CH) in 1990 (street lighting, heating network, remote management, etc.); regular meetings and an annual information day;
- Besançon is involved in the "Rêve Jura Léman" Network project of towns and cities for sustainable energy in the Jurassic Arc and the Lake Geneva Basin.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## **FRANCE (continued)**

### **BESANCON (continued)**

Besançon set up a Franche-Comté Info-Europe point in 2000 which became the "Franche-Comté Eurodistrict" in 2005. It has organised:

- numerous European events on the occasion of the changeover to the euro: over 400 actions throughout 2001 in the city's various facilities to explain the currency changeover;
- Europe Day;
- support for numerous associations working on European themes, such as the Franche-Comté European Movement, the European Association of teachers, the Union for Federal Europe and the Women's Civic and Social Union;
- an annual Franco-German meeting under the OFAJ Convention: the 2005 meeting brought together 1000 people around 6 stands;
- numerous school-based activities (150 to 200 times a year).

Every year since 2001 Besançon has organised an international solidarity week to inform the inhabitants about development aid activities. It was awarded the "Child-friendly city" label by UNICEF for its efforts in the field of medium- and long-term childhood and youth policy in everyday life.

In 1997 the External Relations Department organised an event that brought together representatives of all the twin towns and the local population around stands and photographic exhibitions, as well as a round table. 8 twin towns were represented.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma



# FRANCE (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
CHATEAUBERNARD	2004		
(Charente)	2005	DURBACH (D)	1993
(Pop. 4 000)	2006	ONATI QUIPUZKOA (E)	1999
<European Diploma in 2004>			

Twinning activities include sports competitions (football, shooting and tennis), numerous inter-school exchanges and, in particular, frequent contact at wine-growers' events as the twinning partners are renowned for their respective local wines. Wine growers are involved in reciprocal fact-finding visits, and have taken part in a conference in Durbach on the environmental aspects of viticulture. The Mayor of Châteaubernard and the chair of the twinning committee travel to Durbach every year for the presentation of municipal wine awards there.

Châteaubernard also has friendly ties with the municipality of Burserberg in Austria, which is twinned with Durbach, and with Onati's other twinning partners in Argentina and Mexico.

There is a good system of training placements involving all the twinning partners. Trainees stay with the families of twinning committee members in each town.

Music groups from the twinned towns often take part in events organised by the partners – musicians from Durbach and Onati were involved, for example, in Châteaubernard's folk festival.

For Europe Day 2003 Châteaubernard made special efforts to raise local awareness about Europe, organising residents' get-togethers, talks by the European Movement and exhibitions, and distributing literature about the Council of Europe.

Highpoints in 2004 were three major get-togethers to mark anniversaries. First a 45-strong party from Châteaubernard visited Onati to help celebrate the fifth anniversary of that twinning, and a month later a group of 54 attended the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in Durbach. During their stay in Durbach the group travelled the short distance to Strasbourg to visit the Council of Europe. Towards the end of the year Châteaubernard hosted 35 visitors from Onati for further anniversary celebrations. During all three visits, the mayors of the municipalities formally reaffirmed the twinning agreements.

With active support from the twinning committee, Châteaubernard once again organised a number of European activities in 2005, including a visit by schoolchildren from Onati, a lecture-debate on the draft constitution for Europe, a visit by 22 pupils from Châteaubernard to Onati, participation by a delegation from Châteaubernard in the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning between Durbach and Burserberg, and a language-learning visit to Durbach by five families from Châteaubernard. The municipality organises linguistic exchanges and dispenses initiation courses in German and Spanish.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# **FRANCE (continued)**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>CLICHY-la-GARENNE</b> (Hauts de Seine) (Pop. 56 000)	2006	HEIDENHEIM (D)***	1959
		SANKT PÖLTEN (A)****	1969
		SANTO TIRSO (P)*	1991
		RUBI (E)	2005
		SOUTHWARK (GB)	2005

Clichy is twinned with five European towns:

- Heidenheim: exchanges of senior citizens, sports enthusiasts, teachers and schools.
- Sankt Pölten: a three-way twinning between Heidenheim, Sankt Pölten and Clichy; the three towns are also members of the "Co-operation Network of European Medium-Sized Towns". Mainly cultural exchanges.
- Santo Tirso: sporting and cultural exchanges.
- Rubi: recent twinning, with mainly cultural and sporting exchanges.
- Southwark: recent twinning, with cultural, sporting and school exchanges.

Clichy organises various events involving all the twin towns, such as the "European Youth Meeting" in 2002 and 2005, with young people from all the twin towns, and the Europe Days in May 2005, on the occasion of the signing of the twinnings with Rubi and Southwark, with delegations from all the twin towns.

Clichy also has contacts with Razsyn (PL), especially between schools, Ouakam in Senegal, in the context of decentralised co-operation, and Guelma in Algeria, Sri Lanka and Madagascar (international solidarity).

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## FRANCE (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>GRANVILLE</b>		Douzelage 12-way twinning	1991
(Manche)	2006	SHERBORNE	1983
(Pop. 15 000)		SAINT-BRELADE (GB)	2005

1. Through the "Granville European Partner" association, founded in 1991, Granville is a member of the multiple twinning called "Douzelage", which initially had 12 members, then 15 and now 20 in different EU countries. In 1993 it was awarded the twinning Gold Stars. Two meetings a year provide an opportunity for the towns to get together. Granville has organised three such meetings since the association was formed.
2. The Granville-Sherborne Twinning Association organises individual and group visits, stays for young people and family exchanges.
3. The Granville-Saint-Brelade Twinning Committee was set up in 2005 and should help to develop exchanges and linguistic, professional, socio-cultural and sporting contacts with this seaside resort in south-west Jersey.

Granville has supported a number of schools open to Europe through projects for primary and secondary pupils: European weeks, musical exchanges, youth workshops.

Several European events have marked life in Granville in recent years:

- European Gourmet Market in 1997 and 2004 during the annual Douzelage meetings, featuring local produce;
- the European Writing Festival, fostering exchanges between creative artists from all over Europe; the first edition focused on Italy and Portugal, with poems, works by Portuguese painters and songs;
- the traditional golf tournament with Sherborne;
- the annual women's European tennis championship organised alternately with Lerida;
- football training sessions with Oxelösund in Sweden;
- sailing holidays for young people.

European awareness is encouraged:

- for local residents, through the 27th edition of the Douzelage, when Granville received delegations from 20 countries;
- for young people, through the "Comenius" programmes launched in two schools, which involve visits by pupils from other countries.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## FRANCE (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
JASSANS-RIOTTIER (Ain)	2003 2004	LIMELETTE (B) subsequently part of OTTIGNIES LOUVAIN LA NEUVE	1964
<European Diploma in 2003>			

Twinned first with Limelette in 1964, Jassans-Riottier signed a twinning agreement with the municipality of OTTIGNIES LOUVAIN LA NEUVE in 1979 following Belgian local government restructuring.

The two municipalities take turns to host annual activities, which have included:

- . visits to private and public-sector companies;
- . work on protecting the environment;
- . cultural, traditional and sporting events;
- . primary school exchanges;
- . educational initiatives (discussions, lectures, etc);
- . activities relating to the local economy.

Since 1985 Jassans has had a friendship agreement with the German grammar school of Rheinstetten, and annual educational exchanges are organised.

The municipality has organised meetings of young people under EU schemes, as well as folk and cultural events and has promoted new European symbols including the "Europe" roundabout and the naming of a street in honour of Jean Monnet, one of the forefathers of European unity.

The European ideal is promoted:

- among young people through exhibitions and quizzes about Europe;
- among the general public through exhibitions, guides and brochures with information on European citizenship;
- through the twinning committee's presence at community events;
- through training days for elected representatives and twinning committee members, run by the French arm of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions.

In 2003 celebrations were held to mark the 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning between Jassans-Riottier and Ottignies. One hundred and fifty visitors from Ottignies came to a special series of anniversary events between 29 May and 2 June on the themes of local business, the structure and functioning of local authorities and European art and culture. The programme included visits to local companies, folk and sport events and a cultural evening attended by 800 people.

Two Franco-German exchanges for young secondary school pupils were organised and Europe Day was celebrated as usual, with posters in shop windows, street decorations and the launching of "European balloons" at the end of the day.

There was an ongoing programme throughout the year to raise awareness about Europe in primary and secondary schools.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

**FRANCE (continued)**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>LA CELLE SAINT-CLOUD</b> (Yvelines) (Pop. 21 000)	2006	BECKUM (D)**	1983

In addition to the private contacts between residents that have developed thanks to the twinning, there are a number of activities: exchanges between schools, sport (athletics, football, etc.), cultural activities, (with the Youth Centre, the conservatory), exchanges between elected representatives, between artists (joint exhibitions), between municipal employees, through participation in festivities, traineeships in firms and so on.

The municipality has a special partnership with the European Movement for the regular organisation of meetings and events, which has existed since 1986, the year when La Celle S.C. celebrated Europe Day with great pomp. In 1993 the European Movement and the municipality organised a Europe Day celebration that attracted 6000 people, including eminent French political personalities. This great event helped to forge the town's European identity. A public meeting on "the enlarged Europe" was held in 2003 on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> twinning anniversary.

La Celle S.C. has on-going contacts with other towns twinned with Beckum: Heringsdorff (former GDR) and Grodkow (Poland), through exchanges between elected representatives and participation in festivities and cultural events.

La Celle S.C. has also been twinned with SETTAT in Morocco since 1983, with exchanges between elected representatives and support for the municipal library there.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

**FRANCE (continued)**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>MONTFORT-SUR-MEU</b> (Ille et Vilaine) (Pop. 5 400)	2005	MARKTHEIDENFELD (D)*	1988

**<European Diploma in 2005>**

A cooperation and friendship agreement with the Polish town of Pobiedziska was signed in 1992. Contacts were also established with the town of Mopti in Mali with a view to providing administrative support and initiating inter-school links.

Twinning activities with Marktheidenfeld were initially confined to contacts between elected representatives and official delegations but, since the establishment of a twinning committee, they have diversified and developed to include:

- regular inter-school exchanges and trainee placements;
- exchanges between medical training institutes;
- German courses organised by the twinning committee;
- exchanges between sports clubs and challenging events such as the Mont St Michel Marathon;
- exchanges between choirs and joint concerts;
- exchanges between volunteer firefighters;
- exchanges between folk groups;
- participation by delegates from the respective twinning committees in both municipalities' Christmas Markets.

A Comenius-style educational project, to run over three years and involving three schools (in the UK, Italy and France), has the aim of consolidating a European dimension in education by promoting transnational inter-school cooperation.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

**FRANCE (continued)**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>RAON L'ETAPE</b>	2004		
(Vosges)	2005	KUPPENHEIM (D)*	1986
(Pop. 8 500)	2006		
<European Diploma in 2004>			

**This dossier has been submitted jointly with the application from Kuppenheim.**

Contacts between these twinning partners go back to 1984 and have been facilitated by the fact that the two towns are similar in size and only 150 km apart. Following a number of school and club exchanges the twinning was officially sealed in 1986 when more than 700 residents of Kuppenheim, representing 20 clubs and associations, travelled to Raon l'Etape for the ceremony. Three months later a 1 500-strong group from Raon made the trip in the other direction for the countersigning of the twinning agreement on what was a memorable day for both municipalities.

Since the beginning there has been a busy programme of inter-school exchanges but a further 30 or so joint activities take place every year involving sports clubs, political parties, church groups, scouts, local artists and firefighters.

Each town invites delegations from the other to important civic events which have included the inauguration of a new hall and a local museum in Kuppenheim and the opening of the Emile Gallé exhibition centre in Raon.

In 1988 large delegations from Kuppenheim again travelled to Raon l'Etape to mark the second anniversary of the twinning.

The twinning committees of the two municipalities meet at the start of each year to agree the programme of exchanges which involves mainly primary schools, cycling and art clubs, firefighters and scouts and includes joint ski trips. Each town offers training placements in local companies for young people from the partner municipality.

The partners take turns to host major twinning anniversary celebrations every two years. For the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1996, for example, more than 400 Kuppenheim people made the trip to Raon l'Etape.

Since 1999, in an effort to give the partnership a second wind, the twinning committees have met annually as have the councils of the two municipalities, who are keen to learn more about each other's administrative systems and local structures. In 1999 the twinning committees held a meeting in Kuppenheim for the chairs of all the clubs and associations in the two towns with a view to reinforcing ties.

The municipality gives grant aid to any association making a trip to Kuppenheim and the municipal news bulletin includes a calendar of events in the German town as well as feature articles about exchanges or important happenings there.

There have been links between a school in Kuppenheim and an Italian school in FILOTTRANO (Ancona) since 1994 and the contact has now extended to involve folk groups. Since 2000 a grammar school in Raon l'Etape has joined the schools' partnership and organises an annual tri-national get-together and sports day.

Raon l'Etape plans to sign a friendship agreement with Filottrano in 2004, as Kuppenheim did in 2002.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## **FRANCE (continued)**

### **RAON L'ETAPE (continued)**

Kuppenheim updated its application for the Flag of Honour in 2005 and is keen to see the twinning with Raon rewarded in 2006 on the occasion of its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The activity report for 2004 highlights:

- the effective level of contact between the two twinning committees which met jointly four times during the year;
- the many inter-school exchanges, including those involving Filtrano in joint celebrations of "Music Day";
- a programme of youth placements in local companies organised by the two municipalities;
- contacts between artists, between sportspeople – who organised a weekend get-together – and between firefighters, who staged a joint family evening.

Raon l'Etape and Kuppenheim did not ease up in 2005 in preparation for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning in 2006. Some thirty-odd activities brought together the residents of Raon with their friends from Kuppenheim and Filottrano, including:

- participation by a 50-strong delegation from Raon in the main carnival in Kuppenheim and return visit by a troupe from Kuppenheim who paraded in Raon's carnival;
- twinning prize awarded to three pupils from Raon for their commitment to projects linked to the twin town;
- exchanges between associations (scouts, hikers, shooting club);
- visit by schoolchildren from Kuppenheim and Filottrano and return visit to Filottrano by pupils from Raon, as part of the Comenius programme;
- signing of a friendship agreement with Filottrano pending the coming twinning;
- several meetings of the twinning committee.

Raon l'Etape and Kuppenheim will celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their twinning in 2006 and would like to be awarded the Flag of Honour on this occasion.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma



**FRANCE (continued)**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>ROUEN</b> (Seine Maritime) (Pop. 108 000)	2006	HANOVER (D) NORWICH NORFOLK (GB) SALERNO (I)*	1966 1959 2003

Rouen also has special relationships with towns in China, Algeria, Poland and Korea.

Regular twinning activities with the three towns include: concerts, sporting events, participation by craftsmen in markets and fairs, training periods in firms and visits by official delegations.

Several international events have been organised in Rouen: the Armada, a grand event for sailing ships from all over the world; the 24-hour race on the Seine, Christmas markets, the International Trade Fair, the Joan of Arc festivities, etc.

The city is involved, together with Norwich and Koblenz, in a north-east European Interreg III project to enhance the attractiveness and coherency of historical city centres, offering visitors theme-based walking tours.

Rouen is placing a lot of hope in the most recent twinning, with Salerno. There is a strong historical connection between Rouen and the south of Italy, Salerno being where the Norman knights disembarked in 999. A twinning committee has been formed, contacts between secondary schools are in progress, Rouen took part in the great regional fair in Salerno and Salerno and Pompei were present at the International Fair in Rouen in 2004; contacts between museums are also on the drawing board.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# FRANCE (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>SAINT-ETIENNE LES ORGUES</b> (Alpes de Haute-Provence) (Pop. 1 200)	2005 2006	-	-
<b>&lt;European Diploma in 2005&gt;</b>			

This municipality has based its application on its recently initiated "Chemin pour l'Europe" project which aims to create a network of "thinking stones" throughout the 45 Council of Europe member states, recalling the St James of Compostelo pilgrim routes. The first stone was inaugurated on Europe Day (9 May) 2004, since when seven stones have been added to the network across France from the Spanish border to Alsace. The project, which aims to reach Moscow in three to four years, is under the patronage of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

A further aim of the project is to promote the establishment of European Citizenship Centres around the "thinking stones", thus providing venues for debate and encouraging the participating municipalities to learn more about one another.

In 2005 it is planned to install a thinking stone at Compostelo as well as six smaller stones at the Council of Europe and to begin installing the stones in Germany and Italy.

Twelve municipalities in the Alpes de Haute Provence *department* have joined together to form a representative core. Eight of them make up the canton of Saint Etienne les Orgues: Cruis, Mallefougasse, Ongles, Lardiers, Montlaur, Revest Saint Martin and Fontienne. The other four are Sisteron, Entrevennes, Saint Paul sur Ubaye and Saint Vincent les Forts.

So far "thinking stones" have been laid in Saint-Etienne-les-Orgues, Cruis, Sisteron, Entrevennes and Lardiers, plus three in Alsace, at Andlau, Kaysersberg and Turckheim, and one at Ostabat in the Atlantic Pyrenees. The laying of each stone is an opportunity for a European event. Schoolchildren unfurl the European flag covering the stone. Each event is attended by a large audience as well as elected and other officials.

Laying these stones at various points all the way to Moscow is a means of raising awareness of European citizenship.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# FRANCE (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>SAVIGNY</b> (Rhône) (Pop. 1 900)	2006	BERCHING (D)** ROSIA DE SECAS (RO)	1994 2003

Savigny is a member of the French and Swiss Savigny Friendship Club.

Two priests are at the origin of the twinning with Berching and the first exchange of young people took place in Berching in 1972. An association was born of that exchange: ASLEC (the Savigny leisure, exchange and cultural association), whose purpose was to propose exchanges with Berching, first for young people, then for adults. This then became the twinning committee.

- With Berching: every year for the last 32 years exchanges have taken place between the two municipalities, the most outstanding events including participation in the 1100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Berching in 1982 and the inauguration of the Rhine-Main-Danube canal in 1992. But there have also been exchanges between firefighters, choirs and youth orchestras. The Chamber of Agriculture organises trips to Berching and German farmers visit Savigny.
- With Rosia de Secas: after the fall of the Ceaucescu regime, Savigny got together with Rosia for cultural exchanges between adults, young people and farmers on training courses; groups of adults from Savigny regularly travel to Rosia and several support efforts are under way (transport of medicines, farm equipment, computers, a minibus for school transport, etc.). From 1991, in parallel with exchanges between French and Romanian municipalities, six municipalities in the Rhône area, including Savigny, got together with the Chamber of Agriculture to offer training activities, especially for young farmers. Five young farmers have taken advantage of the scheme.

In 2005, under the Comenius programme, at the initiative of the primary school in Savigny, a teaching exchange project was set in place with Berching, Rosia de Secas and also Doetinchem (NL) and Cueno (I). This 4-year project will help to make children more aware of the notions of twinning arrangements and European construction.

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>SERVIAN</b> (Hérault)	2006	BAD-WINPFEN (D)	-

Sporting and cultural exchanges since 1967 (music school, tennis tournaments, firefighters, football teams).

New twinning with a Spanish municipality in preparation.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

**FRANCE (continued)**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>VAUX EN BUGÉY</b> (Ain)	2006	REDAVALLE (I)	1994

School exchanges, sporting events, traineeships in firms, cycle race from Vaux to Redavalle, twinning anniversary celebrations (the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary was celebrated in Vaux in 2004) and so on.

The Saint Vincent's Day Franco-Italian fair is organised every two years, where exhibitors from the two municipalities exhibit their wares and the inhabitants meet.

On Europe Day the municipality regularly organises a round table with the neighbouring twinned municipalities, a poetry and singing competition for schoolchildren and a concert in the evening.

Italian classes are organised for children and adults and local residents have made several visits to the Italian twin town.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# FRANCE (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>VILLEBON-SUR-YVETTE</b>			
(Essonne)	2005	LIEDERBACH (D)**	1986
(pop. 9,500)	2006	LAS ROZAS DE MADRID (E)*	1992
<European Diploma in 2005>		WHITNASH (GB)	1990

1. With Liederbach there have been cultural, sports and inter-school exchanges. An annual Franco-German get-together is held and representatives of the municipalities meet on official occasions (such as the swearing-in of a new mayor, the inauguration of a municipal building or the anniversary of the twinning). Other regular activities include a summer camp, a senior citizens' get-together, work placements in the municipal administrations, hosting students on language-learning trips, and German language classes.

2. With Las Rozas de Madrid the main activities have been cultural and sports exchanges, an annual Franco-Spanish gathering, inter-municipal visits for official ceremonies, hosting students on language-learning trips, and Spanish language classes run by the municipality.

3. With Whitmarsh, activities have been similar to those with Las Rozas, and a number of conferences on the theme of Europe have also been held.

Every year Villebon organises a "Twinning Towns Artists' Salon", which attracts artists from all three partner municipalities.

For several years Villebon has helped to fund infrastructure development in Chad and it has mounted various campaigns to help disaster-stricken countries.

Europe Day is celebrated every year and young people's meetings on European themes are held in the town hall.

2005 was marked by two twinning anniversary celebrations:

- 20th anniversary with Liederbach, attended by 150 people from Germany;
- 15th anniversary with Las Rozas, attended by 80 people from the Spanish town.

The 24-26 June celebrations were an opportunity to strengthen the ties between the three twin towns. The European Diploma awarded to the municipality in 2004 was presented to the residents at the official dinner.

2005 also saw the traditional visit of the mayors of the twin towns in January, foreign language lessons, French classes for students from the twin towns and the "Twin Town Art Exhibition".

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# GERMANY

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>ALLING</b> (Bavaria) <European Diploma in 2004>	2004	LANNACH (A)**	1987

The twinning was officially celebrated in both towns in 2000 and 2001. Alling also plans to twin with the Italian municipality of Nimis, already a twinning partner of Lannach.

There are regular exchanges between sports clubs, cultural associations and firefighters, and the municipal councillors meet together two or three times a year.

To mark the 1 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its foundation, Lannach organised several events in Alling.

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>AMBERG/Opf.</b> (Bavaria) (Pop. 43 000) <European Diploma in 2003>	2002 2003 2004 2005 2006	PERIGUEUX (F) BYSTRZYCA KLODZKA (PL) USTI NAD ORLICI (CZ) TRIKALA (GR)	1965 2001 2001 2001

Numerous school exchanges and visits by official and unofficial delegations have marked the twinning with Périgueux since 1965. Both towns organise exhibitions.

Following the creation of a post of European affairs officer, three new twinning agreements were concluded in 2001. Another, with the Finnish town of SILIJÄRVI, is in preparation. Cultural and tourist events are planned for 2002 and an exhibition of Czech artists took place in 2001.

A friendship pact was concluded in 1965 with KRANJ in Slovenia.

Amberg is a member of the EUREGION EGRENSIS Association and organised a large-scale international day in 1999 that brought together 16 towns from 5 different countries and led to the conclusion of two of its twinning agreements.

In 2001 Amberg took part in the European Day of Languages.

To raise Périgueux's profile among the people of Amberg, a photographic exhibition was staged in the town hall in 2002, and the Mayor of Amberg commissioned a travelling exhibition which will in turn present the municipality to all its twinning partners. Exchanges with the twin towns during the year largely took the form of cultural events (Amberg hosted a children's choir from Bystrzyca and mounted a presentation of work by craft sculptors from the twinned municipalities) and there was also a school exchange with Sokolov.

In 2003 the twinning with Périgueux was the focus of attention. Amberg hosted four trainees and 27 schoolchildren from the French partner town, and the Mayor and 13 municipal representatives travelled to Périgueux on a five-day fact-finding visit to learn more about the twinning and to attend the inauguration of a square named after their own town.

With Usti nad Orlici, the major events were a fact-finding visit by care assistants to the hospital in Amberg and a performance by a music group from Usti at a local festival.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## GERMANY (continued)

### AMBERG (continued)

Amberg also hosted visiting Polish schoolchildren, made contact with a school in Finland and staged an international symposium for sculptors. It plans to twin in the near future with the Italian town of Desenzano.

In 2004 Amberg stepped up its contacts with:

- Trikala – organising a series of "Trikala Days" which enabled local people to learn more about the Greek town through an exhibition, a visit by 35 schoolchildren, a special religious service and a "friendship night" with singing and folk dancing;
- Silinjärvi by hosting a delegation of municipal councillors and staff from that town;
- Usti nad Orlicí by hosting a delegation to plan an exhibition in Amberg's municipal museum, and a group of nurses on an information-exchange visit;
- Périgueux by promoting trainee placements and encouraging two inter-school exchanges, as well as starting preparations to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning in 2005;
- Desenzano del Garda – hosting a large delegation from the municipal council there and supporting a visit by a 50-strong choir to Desenzano. The twinning agreement with Desenzano was due to be signed in 2005.

There were five or six exchanges with each of the twin towns in 2005, mainly school exchanges, visits by delegations and participation in popular festivities, but above all the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the twinning with Périgueux at Amberg in October.

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>ANKLAM</b> (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern) (Pop. 15 700) <European Diploma in 2004>	2004	BURLÖV (S) GMINA USTKA (PL)	

In 2004 a twinning agreement was signed with the Latvian municipality of LIMBAZI.

Twinning activities have included cultural and sporting exchanges and exchanges of experience between townhall staff as well as concerts and exhibitions.

Anklam has also developed inter-school ties with POLICE (PL) and a meeting between children's choirs has been organised. The municipality also set up an exchange of experience with the Danish town of HOBRO.

Activities to raise awareness about Europe have included flying flags on local buildings, Europe Day celebrations staged by Anklam's grammar school, talks on European themes and presentations by personalities from the world of politics.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>ARNSTADT</b>		KASSEL (D)	1990
(Thuringia)	2003	LE BOUSCAT (F)	1995
(Pop. 27 000)	2004	DUBI (CZ)	1998
<European Diploma in 2003>		GURK (A)	1998

At the time of Germany's reunification Arnstadt signed a twinning agreement with Kassel. Substantial material assistance from Kassel was followed up by exchanges between local administrative bodies and associations.

Arnstadt has developed different types of links with its twinning partners:

- at official level, with contacts between mayors and group exchanges;
- between cultural groups including the Dubi music school, the Gurk traditional group and choirs in Gurk – and organ recitals have been given in Le Bouscat;
- between sports associations in Dubi and Le Bouscat.

It has also organised a number of large-scale events, many of them centred on young people.

- In 2000 an international cultural seminar was held to mark the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Johann Sebastian Bach, who held the post of organist in Arnstadt. Young people from Thuringia, Poland, Italy and the Czech Republic took part.
- The municipal festival included parades of traditional costumes from Gurk.
- Young people from Le Bouscat and Dubi were involved in sports competitions and in the town's traditional marathon.
- A number of international exhibitions have been held including, in 2001, a show of Norwegian artists' work.

Since 1994 Arnstadt has celebrated Europe Day, and events jointly organised with the Federal State of Thuringia – including the now traditional children's gathering – continue throughout the month of May. Every year the local Europe House organises participation in the "Europe at School" European Competition, involving some 100 schools from all over the State.

Following the recent flooding in Central Europe, Arnstadt helped with the recovery effort in Dubi by sending 10 technical officers for two weeks.

The **Arnstadt European Academy**, an association set up in 1993, organises seminars, lectures, youth meetings, a Europe Week and, notably, participation in the European Competition for schools (run jointly with the Europe House). It also plays a dynamic role in raising local awareness about Europe, particularly among young people.

The main focus in 2003 was on preparing for the 1 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Arnstadt's foundation which is being celebrated in May 2004 with more than 250 guests from the twinned towns in attendance. The twinning committee made a number of visits to the partner towns in connection with the preparations. Major events in 2003 included: a visit by a French sports delegation; a trip by a delegation from Arnstadt to the Austrian town of Gurk; Arnstadt's municipal festival in which delegations from all the partner towns were involved; and a trip by a delegation to Le Bouscat to take part in a wine fair.

The **Arnstadt European Academy** organised a large number of events geared mainly to young people (including a European Week and a European competition for schools).

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma



# **GERMANY (continued)**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>AUENWALD</b> (Baden-Württemberg) (Pop. approx. 7 000) <European diploma in 1998>	1998 2004	BEAUREPAIRE (F)	1987

Since signature of the twinning agreement – an occasion celebrated in style and attended by 450 guests from Beaurepaire – contacts have been developed between tennis and football clubs, farmers, firefighters and choirs. Major events over the years have included celebrations for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the French Revolution, to which a delegation from Auenwald was invited, and a trip by farmers from Auenwald to Beaurepaire's agricultural fair.

Following the introduction of French as an optional subject in primary schools – which has proved popular with the children – inter-school exchanges were organised for the first time in 1992 and have now become an annual event. In 2001 Auenwald staged a "Princes and Princesses Festival" for the 400-plus children studying French – who laid on a song and dance show with a French flavour.

Bus trips are organised regularly between the partner towns.

Auenwald also has contacts with the Hungarian municipality of TELKI.

Large-scale events – such as twinning anniversary celebrations – are organised on a regular basis by one or other of the twinning partners, and can involve as many as 500 participants, half of them young people.

# **GERMANY (continued)**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>BAD AROLSEN</b> (Hesse) (Pop. 18 000) <European Diploma in 2003>	2003 2004 2005 2006	HEUSDEN-ZOLDER (B)**	1973

Bad Arolsen places great emphasis on personal contacts and links between associations.

Regular (mostly annual) activities in one or other of the twin towns include:

- Bad Arolsen's Festival of Baroque Music, which features music from a particular European country each year and to which Heusden-Zolder is invited;
- planting a "May tree" in Bad Arolsen since 1981;
- the livestock market in Bad Arolsen, in which Heusden-Zolder is invited to take part;
- planting a Christmas tree in Heusden-Zolder since 1978;
- meetings between the twinning committees;
- marking the anniversary of the twinning every five years.

More than 20 associations in Bad Arolsen are twinned with counterparts in Heusden-Zolder and maintain regular contacts that span all sections of society, involving even local political parties. Streets and squares in the two municipalities have been named in each other's honour.

Bad Arolsen supports the district-level twinning between Waldeck-Frankenberg and Burgenland (A).

Europe Day has been marked by the planting of a May tree since 1981.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## **GERMANY (continued)**

### **BAD AROLSEN (continued)**

Bad Arolsen cooperates at district level with Europa-Union Deutschland and is represented on that body, with which it jointly organises local participation in the "Europe at School" European Competition.

Alongside the twinning committee, which has direct responsibility for twinning activities between the two towns, a German-Belgian Society has been set up to organise trips abroad.

Bad Arolsen is also twinned with:

- Hermann (Missouri, USA), since 1987, the main activity here being school exchanges financed by the municipality;
- Bad Köstritz (Thuringia, D), since 1991, with which it participates in municipal festivals;
- Klütz (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, D), since 1990, with delegations attending municipal festivals, and sporting exchanges.

The highlight of 2003 was the celebration to mark 30 years of twinning with Heusden-Zolder. More than 130 residents of Heusden-Zolder travelled to Bad Arolsen for the event, to which a large number of European political figures were also invited.

Five European-oriented activities stand out in the report for 2004: creation of an information stand to raise local awareness about the European elections; organisation of the civic festival on a European theme; participation by Heusden-Zolder in the traditional annual market; a schools competition; and the Christmas tree-planting ceremony in Heusden-Zolder.

In 2005 Bad Arolsen celebrated Franco-German Day on 20 January with a visit by 48 schoolchildren to the World War II Missing Persons Institute, held an information meeting about Europe under the patronage of the Hesse "Europa-Union", welcomed neighbours from the Netherlands at the annual May baroque music festival organised by Bad Arolsen and exchanged municipal flags, invited the twin towns to the traditional livestock market and, as it does every year, gave Christmas trees to deserving residents and institutions (fire brigade, police, etc.) in Heusden-Zolder. Ties with Heusden-Zolder were also strengthened by the visit of 30 firefighters from Bad Arolsen, to celebrate 40 years of friendship with their counterparts, and by a meeting of members of the same political party (CDU).

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

**GERMANY (continued)**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>BEELEN</b>	2002		
(North Rhine Westphalia)	2003		
(Pop. 6 000)	2004	VILLERS-ECALLES (F)	1989
<European Diploma in 2002>	2005		
	2006		

Customary exchanges between the two towns include:

- the “citizens’ gathering”, held alternately in France and Germany, which includes a cycle race between the two towns;
- sports events (football, tennis, *boules*);
- exchanges between associations, especially musical events (brass bands, male voice choirs);
- information stands at the Christmas market presenting local products;
- annual school exchanges (8 to 10 pupils spend 10 days in the twin town) and occasional trainee placements.

Various efforts aim to familiarise the local people with their twin town: square named after the twin town, permanent presentation of local products and art at the town hall, planting of a “tree of peace” in the main square, etc.

The council subsidises the Franco-German friendship club in Beelen.

The Franco-German Friendship Circle met at the start of the year and again in October to plan activities for 2002. These included the traditional visit by a 70-strong German delegation to Villers, a *boules* tournament in Beelen (where a square was specially laid out for the new sport), involvement by a group of young French visitors in designing a mural for Beelen town hall, participation in Beelen's Christmas market and the launch of a website about the twinning.

The same activities continue to provide opportunities for strengthening the twinning ties: the annual meeting of the two committees; the visit of a group from Villers-Ecalles to Beelen; a trip by young people to Villers; and the promotion of French produce at Beelen's Christmas market, which is always highly successful. To raise the profile of its twinning partner locally, Beelen plans to install a window about Villers.

Once again there was great continuity in the exchanges organised in 2004: on the occasion of the twinning committee's annual planning meeting, a visit to Villers by a group of Beelen people some of whom made the 1000 km-plus trip by bike, hosting a visiting youth group in August, and involvement by Villers in Beelen's Christmas Market.

A visit by an 80-strong group from Villers to Beelen, the *boules* tournament, a visit by young people to Villers and the presence of a Franco-German stand at the Beelen Christmas market were the high points of the twinning in 2005. The twin towns also created an Internet site about the twinning.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# **GERMANY (continued)**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>BEILNGRIES</b> (Bayern) (Pop. 9 000)	2006	Sierra de Maria nature park (E) BIBERBACH (A) GARDA (I)	1994 1980 2003

In addition to the three twinnings, Beilngries also has friendly relations with Braubach and Hirschberg in Germany, Rabac in Croatia, and Mayrhofen, Grebenzen and Grafengeschlecht der Kevenhüller in Austria.

To familiarise people with its twin towns, Beilngries organises:

- the "Italian Summer", with the participation of Italian musicians and artists (annually since 1996);
- the twinning market, with the participation of choirs and musicians from Garda and participants from other friendly towns;
- the old town international festival.

It also goes to the twin towns to visit the Sierra de Maria nature park and the Christmas market in Garda.

A dozen associations and several schools have regular contacts with Garda.

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>BELLHEIM</b> (Rheinland-Pfalz) (Pop. 8 700)	2006	LE PERRAY (F) KOZMIN (PL)	1994 2000

Contacts with Le Perray involve the mayors and municipal councils but also local associations and private exchanges between residents from all social categories. Large-scale festivities mark important occasions like the 10<sup>th</sup> twinning anniversary, which was celebrated in great pomp in 2004. The friends from Kozmin were also invited, as they often are, thereby bringing the three towns closer together and forming a sort of central axis of East-West relations, Bellheim considering itself the central point on the Paris-Warsaw axis.

The twinning with Kozmin was forged by a couple from Bellheim who did a lot of humanitarian work in Poland and were awarded Poland's highest distinction for their dedication. In September 2006 it will be the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first contacts between the two towns.

Both the twinning committees and the Catholic Church in Bellheim keep up the contacts with Kozmin. Co-operation between young people from the two towns was particularly exemplary during the 2005 World Youth Days in Cologne.

Cultural associations in Bellheim, Le Perray and Kozmin work closely together. In 2003 a major exhibition of works by artists from the three towns was held in Hamm. Bellheim also often plays host to trainees.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# GERMANY (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>BESIGHEIM</b>	2002		
(Baden-Württemberg)	2004	AY-CHAMPAGNE (F)*	1966
(Pop. 11 000)	2005	NEWTON ABBOT (GB)	1979
<European Diploma in 2002>	2006	BATASZEK (H)	1992

The following exchanges with twin towns are regular events:

- annual school exchanges between the three towns and meetings of teachers, especially with Bataszek;
- regular trips by the town and youth brass bands to the twin towns and performances by Besigheim choirs in Ay and Newton Abbot;
- sporting encounters between gymnastics and football clubs;
- exchanges between the fire brigades in Besigheim and Bataszek.

Various important events offer further opportunities for exchanges:

- the “It’s a Knockout” games organised in turns by the four towns, with the participation of Quaregnon (Belgium) and Condé (France);
- the grape harvest festival, the Henry IV festival, etc. are all popular celebrations which give the twin towns an opportunity to get together;
- exhibitions of works by local artists in connection with the major (30<sup>th</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup>) twinning anniversaries;
- the Christmas market in Besigheim, with presentation of products from the twin towns;
- the international football festival organised every two years by Besigheim.

Brochures presenting the twin towns have been published and widely distributed and a brochure about Besigheim has been distributed in the twin towns in their own languages.

In 2003 Besigheim celebrated the 850<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its foundation and invited representatives of the twinned towns to the festivities. Some 60 visitors from the partner municipalities also attended the traditional grape-picking festival. Inter-school exchanges function smoothly, particularly with a Hungarian school which organises exchanges for teachers as well as pupils. Besigheim's “It’s a Knockout” games were as popular as ever in 2002.

In 2004 Besigheim marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its twinning with Newton Abbot and celebrations took place in both municipalities. Groups from Besigheim – with a strong representation of young people – also travelled to Ay-Champagne for the traditional Henry IV festival there and to Bataszek for the regular inter-municipal games. Other towns twinned with Besigheim's twinning partners also took part in numerous activities that Besigheim organised.

Besigheim and Ay-Champagne will celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their twinning in 2006 and are keen to receive a joint award of the Flag of Honour to mark the occasion. In preparation for the celebrations a series of preparatory meetings took place in 2005. The festivities will take place first in June in Besigheim, then in October in Ay-Champagne. Once again in 2005 there were frequent contacts between families and clubs and associations (athletics, judo, cycling and golf).

With Newton Abbot the brass bands regularly hold concerts and there are also exchanges between choirs, football teams, Red Cross members and so on.

The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning with Bataszek (H) was celebrated in Bataszek in 2005 and, as with Newton Abbot, the brass bands have regular exchanges, as do the choirs and fire brigades.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## GERMANY (continued)

### BESIGHEIM (continued)

Events that brought the twin towns together include:

- the "Juxspiele" organised by Nagysallo in Slovakia, twinned with Bataszek, a sporting event for 20 young people from each twin town;
- the traditional harvest festival, when 160 guests from the twin towns stayed with families in Besigheim.

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>BOBENHEIM-ROXHEIM</b> (Rheinland-Pfalz) (Pop. 10 500) <European Diploma in 2005>	2001 2005	LE CHEVIGNY SAINT SAUVEUR (F)	1978

Bobenheim is also twinned with Jessnitz in Sachse-Anhalt.

The twinning with Chevigny dates back more than 25 years and shortly after the fall of the Berlin Wall a new twinning with Jessnitz was concluded.

Annual get-togethers to celebrate the twinning anniversary, with the presentation of local products, and meetings between associations, young people, schools, carnival-goers and choirs, as well as sporting events. A twinning committee helps to organise exchanges between families and associations.

Traineeships in the local government service and local firms are open to young people from the twin towns, in addition to exchanges between schools and au pair placements.

Young people meet at the Youth Centre. Each municipality exhibits local products at regional fairs. A major European language and cultural festival was organised in 2001.

Bobenheim intends to organise a grand European seminar with the two twin towns in 2005, to mark 60 years of peace thanks to the European Union.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# GERMANY (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>COBURG</b>		GAIS (I)	
(Bayern)	1997	NIORT (F)	
(Pop. 44 000)	2006	OUDENAARDE(B)****	
<European Diploma in 1997>		ISLE OF WIGHT (GB)	

Coburg is also twinned with Garden City (USA) and Coburg, Ontario.

1. With GAIS (South Tyrol) : mainly school exchanges and between music schools since 1971.
2. With OUDENAARDE (B) : youth exchanges, exchanges between musical and sports associations since 1972.
3. With NIORT (F) : school, cultural and sports exchanges since 1974, as well as with the Isle of Wight.

Coburg organised regularly international events and invited its twin-towns (1991 and 1994).

After several years of silence, Coburg has been applying again and would like to be awarded the Flag of honour in 2006, on the occasion of the 950<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the town.

Several cultural events have been regularly organised by the Johann Strauss Society based in Coburg, arts exhibitions, international singing competitions like the “Alexander Girardi” Contest, or the Samba that will be organised again in 2006 in the centre of the city.

It celebrated with its twin-towns several twinning anniversaries : in 2002 the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of twinning with Oudenaarde and Gais, in 2003 the 20<sup>th</sup> with the Isle of Wight and in 2004 the 30<sup>th</sup> with Niort.

Among associative exchanges, it is worth mentioning the visit of the Bach Choir of Coburg that gave the Verdi Requiem in 2005 and the annual visit of the Collegium Musicum in the twin-town of Gais.

Coburg put a special emphasis on school exchanges and encouraged travels abroad. Several trainees from twin-towns were employed in municipal departments.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# GERMANY (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>DEMMIN</b> (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern) (Pop. 13 500) <European Diploma in 2004>	2004 2005 2006	BOBOLICE (PL)	1996

Demmin has been a member of the Hanseatic League since 1992 and takes part every year in the international Hanseatic Days.

It has helped to promote the idea of European integration among young people with the establishment of a cultural and recreation centre in the town.

Demmin maintains friendly contact with the Dutch town of Deventer and there are annual exchange visits by residents and groups of performers.

It has twinned with the German towns of Lünen, Porta Westfalica and Bad Bevensen, building contacts between municipal representatives, residents and clubs and associations.

In 1996 Demmin twinned with the Polish town of BOBOLICE. Now there are annual inter-school exchanges, groups of performers and sportspeople take part in civic events and Demmin has sent three aid convoys to Boblice with school and office supplies.

In 1998 a European information centre was set up for children and young people, and several international competitions on European themes have been held in the context of a partnership between Pestalozzi School and the Demmin's Goethe Grammar School. Seminars and workshops to promote the European ideal are held in schools and associations. Demmin also organises frequent one-off events such as a release of 17 000 balloons to mark International Children's Day.

In 1999 Demmin set up a "Young Europeans" association which a year later organised a first European youth conference with participants from Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Poland and Ukraine. All these countries now cooperate with the association and it has also been joined by young people in Belarus and the Czech Republic in organising meetings with politicians and international competitions such as a European art competition on the theme "Europe is the future". In 2002 this event attracted more than 45 000 entries from 12 European countries.

The municipality of Demmin provides financial support for the "Young Europeans" association, notably for organising aid convoys (it has despatched 40 of these to date).

The 2004 and 2005 activity report highlights the numerous exchanges between young people: school exchanges and youth camps thanks to which some 500 young people have holidayed in the twin town since the twinning agreement was signed. The municipality continues to support the activities of the "Young European" association, which in 2004/2005 revolved mainly around humanitarian convoys to Lithuania and Serbia, the organisation of holidays together in Poland, meetings, exhibitions and so on.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma



# GERMANY (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>DURACH</b>			
(Bavaria)	2005	ST MICHEL D'ENTRAYGUES (F)	1981
(Pop. 6 500)	2006	FAVER (I)	1986
		PIVKA (SI)	2000
<European Diploma 2005>			

1. Twinning with St Michel d'Entraygues (F) On conclusion of the twinning agreement in 1981 a twinning committee was set up and it promotes youth and adult encounters in addition to the many inter-family contacts.

Highlights of what is Durach's longest established twinning have included contacts between brass bands; the naming of a square in St Michel in honour of the twinning partner; celebrations in Durach to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Franco-German Treaty; celebrations of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> twinning anniversaries, a European Festival in Durach in 1992; ski trips for young people from the two municipalities; a ceremony to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armistice and the celebration of a 10-year old link between two schools.

2. Twinning with Faver (I) This twinning was sealed in 1986 after contacts between schools and firefighters in the two municipalities. Links between brass bands and inter-family contacts followed; a European Festival was held in the Cembra Valley; a delegation from Faver took part in Durbach's music festival; a joint trip to Austria was organised, and there have been many other occasions of contact.

3. Twinning with Pivka (S) Contacts between youth groups were the first to be made with Pivka, as long ago as 1972. but the twinning was not concluded until 2000, following several large group visits.

Regularly held twinning activities include traditional folk-dancing events, performances by the Cembra Valley and Pivka choirs at various events in each other's areas; orchestral and male-voice choir performances; soccer tournaments organised with St Michel and Faver; walking and cycling rallies from Durach to St Michel, Faver and Pivka, tastings of produce from the twinned municipalities; craft displays; and events to mark all important European dates and anniversaries, to which regional and national personalities are invited.

The municipality of Durach decorates its public buildings for Europe Day and has dedicated a wall inside the town hall to its twinning partners. It runs French, English, Italian and Spanish classes and it keeps local people updated about the progress of the twinings on a regular basis.

After receiving the European Diploma in 2005, Durach has again submitted a very thorough account of activities in 2005, including:

- celebration with Pivka of Slovenia's entry into the E.U.;
- 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning with the Cembra upper secondary school;
- celebration of Europe Day, in great pomp, with schools from the three municipalities, in the presence of a State Minister from Bavaria;
- visit by a 60-strong delegation from Durach to St Michel, to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning;
- visit by a 35-strong delegation to Faver and by 50 people from Pivka to Durach to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning.

Sports clubs, music groups and fire brigades all keep up excellent contacts with their counterparts in the twin towns

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

**GERMANY (continued)**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>DURBACH</b> (Baden-Württemberg) (Pop. 4 000)	2005	BÜRSERBERG (A) CHATEAUBERNARD (F)*	1980 1993
<b>&lt;European Diploma in 2005&gt;</b>			

Important municipal events provide the main occasions for residents of the twinned towns to meet, and local sports clubs and cultural associations are always involved.

Regular encounters take place between sports teams, choirs, firefighters and schools, and presentations of local produce are frequently organised, as are exchanges of experience between wine growers in the two municipalities.

Durbach has friendly links with the Spanish municipality of Onati – twinned with Chateaubernard – and representatives from Onati are regularly involved in joint Durbach-Chateaubernard activities.

Recent events with a European orientation have included a sculpture symposium, involving delegates of 11 nationalities, and annual meetings between wine-growing experts from different European countries.

The municipality supports the local adult education centre by organising seminars and foreign-language classes.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# GERMANY (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>EBERBACH</b> (Baden-Württemberg) (Pop. 16 000) <European Diploma in 2002>	2001	THONON-LES-BAINS (F)	1961
	2002		
	2003		
	2005		
	2006		

Eberbach also signed a twinning contract with the American town of Ephrata in 1976. A twinning committee in each town helps organise visits by adults and school exchanges between the two towns.

During its 40 years of twinning with Thonon-les-Bains, Eberbach has established numerous contacts: meetings between officials, twinning committees, schools and especially associations (veterans, sportsmen and women, Red Cross, Rotary, fire-fighters and the police).

Over the last 20 years or more, Eberbach has taken part in Thonon's popular festival and Thonon is invited to its spring fair. The municipal administration offers traineeships for Thonon residents and organises art exhibitions. A grant for youth exchanges helps finance school and youth exchanges between the two towns.

Together with other municipalities in its district, Eberbach has concluded a friendship pact with MOSYR in Belarus. The "Odenwaldhilfe" association, amongst other things, takes in children from the Chernobyl region and organises various humanitarian actions.

For three days in 2001 Eberbach celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its twinning with Thonon-les-Bains. School exchanges, participation in celebrations in the twin town, contacts between associations and meetings of the twinning committees continued.

Eberbach also received its American friends to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their twinning, but because of the tragic events of 11 September the celebrations in the United States were cancelled.

Young people from Mosyr (Belarus) came to Eberbach and several shipments of aid were sent to Belarus.

Exchanges with Thonon-les-Bains, involving schools and associations, continued in 2002 and were supported in particular by the "Friends of Eberbach" association. Continuing support for the town of Mosyr took the form of visits by children from Mosyr and the despatch of several aid convoys.

In 2004 Eberbach worked to tighten contacts with its twinning partner of 43 years and was involved in meetings between the municipal authorities of both towns, inter-school exchanges, inter-club encounters, trainee exchanges, and its own and Thonon's civic festivals, as well as organising a major exhibition about Thonon.

Highlights of the report on activities in 2005 include exchanges between schools and associations and the setting up of a "friends of Thonon" committee, to help develop exchanges between the two municipalities. The municipality finances travel for young people and aid to Mosyr in Belarus continued in 2005 with visits by young people and humanitarian aid shipments.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# **GERMANY (continued)**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>ELLWANGEN</b> (Baden-Württemberg) (Pop. 25 000)	1994 2006	LANGRES (F) ABBIATEGRASSO (I)	1964 1991

All three towns are twinned with each other.

Exchanges have developed between families, associations, municipal councils and businesses. Certain contacts with Langres date back over 40 years, such as those between schools, fire brigades, brass bands and sports clubs. In 2004 and 2005 Langres and Ellwangen organised special events to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning.

Projects involving all three towns include: participation by schools from each town in a Comenius project, concerts by the music schools and regular participation in the "Fête de la Musique", art exhibitions and participation by artists in musical events. Sporting events were marked by the road race between Ellwangen and Langres, in which 50 athletes from the two towns took part.

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>FRIEDLAND</b> (Niedersachsen) (Pop. 10 300)	2006	PRAWDINSK (RU) FRYDLANT nad OSTRÁVICI (CZ) FRYDLANT /Nordböhmen (D) KORFANTOW (PL) MIEROSZOW (PL) FRIEDLAND in MECKLENBURG (D) FRIEDLAND/Niederlausitz (D)	

Since 1990 Friedland has contacted other towns with the same name and a twinning agreement was signed in 1995. Since then representatives of the towns get together annually and these annual meetings have been extended to include young people

Other groups or associations which take advantage of the twinning include the fire brigades, sports clubs and municipal officials.

Friedland focuses on aid to municipalities in eastern Europe: shipment of medical supplies, fire engines, etc.

Since 1972 the Gross Schleen district has been successfully twinned with the French municipality of Houdan, with activities involving all sectors of the population.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# GERMANY (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>FÜRTH</b>			
(Bavaria)	2005	PAISLEY (GB)	1969
(Pop. 112 000)	2006	LIMOGES (F)	1992
		MARMARIS (TR)	1995
<European Diploma in 2005>			

Fürth's first twinning, with the UK town of Paisley, dates back to 1969 and has focused particularly on school and youth exchanges. For the last ten years or so there have also been various inter-club contacts.

Through its twinning with the town of Marmaris, Fürth has made an important contribution to German-Turkish rapprochement and particularly to relations with the 7 000 Turkish nationals who live in the municipality.

In 2001 Fürth signed a friendship agreement with the Greek town of Xylokastro, with which it has had political, economic, cultural, sporting and tourist exchanges.

The busiest programme of contacts, however, is that with the French municipality of Limoges, which began with the conclusion of a twinning agreement in 1992. The "Limoges and Limousin House", opened in Fürth in 2003, attracts many visitors and functions as a Franco-German meeting point. It has a specialised library and mediatheque, offers language courses, sells regional specialities from Limousin and includes its own bistro.

As a means of fostering youth exchanges, Fürth opened a student accommodation centre in 2004 and offers discount rates to young people from its twinned towns.

In 1997, with a view to facilitating twinning exchanges, a twinning committee was set up with a section for each partner municipality. The three twinning partners also organise official annual visits for municipal council members.

Fürth's town hall has a policy of welcoming all the school classes that visit the town on exchange programmes. In springtime it thus has an almost daily schedule of receptions or youth meetings.

Groups from Fürth are regularly invited to the following events in the twinned towns:

- the Burns Supper in Paisley in late January;
- the 14 July celebrations in Limoges;
- the Beaujolais Nouveau Festival in November;
- the Turkish national holiday celebrations in late October.

In turn, Fürth invites its partners to set up stands and display their local produce at events such as the civic festival in May, the Fürth Festival in July and the Christmas Market.

2005 was marked by the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning with Marmaris, with a whole series of Germano-Turkish celebrations all through the year: participation by Marmaris in the Nürnberg tourism fair, exhibition of craft from Marmaris in Fürth, Turkish cuisine week with a chef from Marmaris, participation by swimmers from Fürth in the Marmaris International Maritime Festival, meeting of Turkish and German women, etc.

Contacts with Xylokastro in Greece with a view to a new twinning included a visit by a Greek delegation and the placing of a sign at the entrance to Fürth announcing the friendship pact between the towns.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## GERMANY (continued)

### FÜRTH (continued)

The opening of a "*boules*" ground in Fürth helped to further develop contacts with Limoges in France. And to promote the twin towns' specialities, since 2005 the twinning committee has organised an Easter market and an October apple market where the various specialities are presented.

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>GERBRUNN</b>		MOLSHEIM (F)	2003
(Bayern)		MATHIEU (F) and 3 other towns	
(Pop. 6 800)	2006	CERNOSICE (CZ)	2001
		LESNICA (PL)	2001

Gerbrunn is also twinned with THEMAR in Thuringen, and has friendship ties with Bergen in the Netherlands.

Contacts between local residents and associations with the four municipalities in Calvados, France, school exchanges with Lesnica, and cultural and sporting events with Cernosice.

Traineeships in local firms are open to young people from the twin towns.

In association with the sports club, the municipality and the twinning committee, football tournaments and visits by orchestras and musical groups are regularly organised with the twin towns. The Molsheim Symphony Orchestra held a grand concert in Gerbrunn, for example. Photographic and other exhibitions and about the twin towns are held at the municipal library.

And a "fixed day" has been instituted on which, every two years, councillors and associations from the twin towns meet to take stock and discuss plans for future activities.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## GERMANY (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>GROBHABERSDORF</b> (Bavaria) (Pop. 4 300)	2005	AIXE-SUR-VIENNE (F)*	1982
<European Diploma in 2005>	2006	SWIECIECHOWA (PL)	2000

Since 2000 the three municipalities have been linked in a triangular twinning, and Grosshabersdorf held a major celebration to mark the signing of this agreement.

Grosshabersdorf also has contacts with the Croatian town of Malinska (with which it has organised meetings between municipal councillors and visits by brass bands and firefighters) and with the municipality of Navis in Austria.

1. The twinning with Aixe-sur-Vienne is part of a regional twinning between Limousin and Mittelfranken. Signature of the twinning agreement in 1982 was quickly followed by initial exchanges between politicians, sports teams, school parties, musicians, firefighters and majorettes. The fifth, 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the twinning have all been celebrated. Some five to ten events, many of them organised by Grosshabersdorf, take place every year. The two municipalities offer reciprocal training placements for young people and each invites representatives of the other to trade fairs and Christmas markets, at which regional produce is showcased. The two twinning committees meet annually.
2. The twinning with Swieciechowa is based on contacts that date back to 1993 and a first partnership agreement, with a view to twinning, was signed in 1995. Polish delegations regularly take part in twinning anniversary celebrations in Grosshabersdorf and in Aixe. The twinning proper was signed in 2000 as part of the triangular agreement.

The municipality regularly organises French and Polish language classes.

Amongst the activities Grosshabersdorf organised in 2005 to strengthen its ties with its twin towns were a visit by a class from Aixe-sur-Vienne, a French and Polish art exhibition, festivities to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the twinning between Limousin and Mittelfranken and, above all, the grand twinning festival to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the three-way twinning between Aixe-sur-Vienne, Grosshabersdorf and Swieciechowa. About 20% of the population took part in the organisation and the 200 visitors were housed with families, took part in the Grosshabersdorf European market and followed the musical events organised for the occasion.

Contacts with Malinska in Croatia were further cemented when representatives of Grosshabersdorf visited Croatia.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# GERMANY (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>GUNZENHAUSEN</b>			
(Bavaria)	1994	ISLE (F)**	1985
(Pop. 17 000)	2006	WEIPERT (CZ)	1954
<European Diploma in 1994>		AUSCHOWITZ (CZ)	

The twinning agreement with Isle was concluded as part of the twinning between two regions: Mittelfranken and Limousin.

The twinning with Isle: the main meetings are sporting events (football, handball). These are followed by exchanges of folk groups and brass bands, and youth orchestras like "Avenir Musical du Limousin", which has given countless concerts in Gunzenhausen. Exchanges between twinned schools, youth camps but also traineeships in local firms and stays with families are still a great success. Two twinning committees have been set up to co-ordinate all the exchanges.

These two municipalities celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> twinning anniversary in 2005. Major festivities were organised to celebrate the event. Gunzenhausen, for example, organised a tourism conference, a book exhibition, a gala evening and an official commemoration ceremony.

Also worth noting is the solidarity shown by Mittelfranken and by Gunzenhausen in particular, when it sent six firefighters to Limousin to help in the wake of the terrible hurricane that ravaged the region in 1999.

Gunzenhausen is also twinned with Frankenmuth in the USA.

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>HACKENHEIM</b>			
(Rhineland Palatinate)	2003	TOSSIAT (F)**	1992
(Pop. 1 900)	2004		
<European Diploma in 2003>			

Following the award of the Flag of Honour to its partner municipality of Tossiat, Hackenheim is a candidate for the accolade this year.

Contact between the two small municipalities goes back to 1990, and since 1993 Hackenheim has also had ties of friendship with Elsnigk, a municipality in the Federal State of Saxon-Anhalt.

Gatherings of young people have become a tradition since 1993: every summer a 30-50-strong group, accompanied by youth leaders, gets together for a week-long event.

Other activities include traditional festivals (such as the Hackenheim wine festival), to which the twinning partners are often invited, celebrations on the anniversary of the twinning, meetings between associations (of firefighters and musicians, for example), private visits and many inter-school events.

Apart from the European Diploma presentation ceremony, when the Mayors of the two municipalities met in Strasbourg, Hackenheim organised four encounters with Tossiat during the year: a school trip to Tossiat, celebrations for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning (for which 67 guests came to Hackenheim from Tossiat and the partner municipality of Elsnigk), the ninth Tossiat-Hackenheim youth event and a major gathering of firefighters from the two municipalities in Bourg en Bresse.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma



## GERMANY (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>HAMM</b>	1988	BRADFORD (GB)	1976
(Nordrhein-West)	1989	NEUFCHATEAU (F)	1967
(Pop. 180 000)	1990	TOUL (F)	1987
<European Diploma in 1989>	2006	KALISZ (PL)***	

Hamm is also twinned with Chattanooga (USA), Mazatlan (Mexico), Oranienburg (D) and Santa Monica (USA). It has also forged friendly relations with Sautens in Austria and with Afyon in Turkey, with which it hopes to conclude a twinning agreement soon, 10% of the population of Hamm being of Turkish descent.

The municipality has set up a co-ordination office on European affairs and an Internet site to inform the local residents about all European matters. It is involved in several projects with EU support, in conjunction with other European partners, such as "Youth participation in politics" and "European citizenship and the Charter of fundamental rights".

1. The twinning with BRADFORD will be celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2006 and dates back to the friendship between a British and a German soldier, both teachers, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. The school exchanges that followed have since become an institution. The contacts through associations like the Yorkshire-Hamm friendship Circle or Hamm's International Club have developed through sporting and cultural activities. Hamm and Bradford were awarded twinning Gold Stars in 2002 for their efforts in favour of people with disabilities.
2. The twinning with KALISZ: the first contacts between youth organisations date back to 1986. They were followed by musical exchanges (choirs from Hamm), art exhibitions, summer workshops for young artists and school exchanges.
3. The twinning with NEUFCHATEAU: dates back to 1967. Regular exchanges between schoolchildren, sports clubs and associations contribute to the development of this twinning.
4. The twinning with TOUL was signed in 1987. Sports clubs regularly take part in the activities organised by the twin towns (judo, cycling, football, tennis). Each time the 30 to 60 participants stay with local families. Every year one neighbourhood in Hamm organises a popular "fête" in which retailers, craftsmen and artists from Toul take part.

Hamm has also developed contacts with Istanbul and another Turkish town, called Afyon, focusing mainly on institutions and programmes to assist people with disabilities.

Hamm also takes part in various programmes, in association with its twin towns or other European towns. In the programme on youth participation in politics, for example, Hamm co-operates with Bradford, Cisek (PL), Isla (Malta) and Innsbruck (Austria). In the cultural field it is involved in a project with Bradford on the co-ordinating power of culture, bringing together artists from the two cities through exhibitions and culminating in the 30<sup>th</sup> twinning anniversary celebrations in 2006.

Several conferences, working groups and discussions with politicians provide opportunities for the population to find out more about major European issues. For example, Hamm organised an information meeting on the question of Turkey's accession to the EU, and a week of intercultural events aimed at providing an overview of the problems faced by immigrants.

From 2000 to 2004 humanitarian aid went mainly to Bosnia. The 21<sup>st</sup> convoy left for Bihac in October 2004.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

**GERMANY (continued)**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>HAMMELBURG</b> (Bavaria) (Pop. 12 000)	2006	TURNHOUT (B)	1974

Numerous private contacts and exchanges between associations have developed. The twinning committee meets at least twice a year to co-ordinate these activities.

Every five years the twinning anniversary is celebrated, with a full programme of awards, academic gatherings and sporting and cultural activities.

Exchanges between schools, exchanges of trainees since 1986, visits by the municipal councillors and the twinning committee, musical performances, art exhibitions and sporting events have always been part of the annual exchanges.

Hammelburg signed a friendship agreement with MUSZYNA in Poland in 1999.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# GERMANY (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>HERBORN</b>			
(Hesse)		PERTUIS (F)	1968
(Pop. 21 000)	2005	GUNTERSDORF (A)	1972
	2006	SCHÖNBACH (A)	1989
		ILAWA (PL)	1998
<b>&lt;European Diploma n 2005&gt;</b>			

Herborn also has inter-schools links with LINKÖPING (S) and has signed a friendship agreement with POST FALLS (USA).

The four twinnings have been developed through visits by groups of residents, official delegations and school parties.

Some of the most frequent contacts are between choirs, tennis and football clubs, firefighters, music societies and groups of schoolchildren.

Twinning committees have been set up in Pertuis and Herborn with a view to facilitating exchanges, and societies of Friends of Herborn and Friends of Pertuis have been established.

The people who have done most to develop the twinnings have been rewarded with honorary citizenship or certificates of recognition.

The municipality provides funding for inter-school exchanges, particularly those with Pertuis which have been in place since the start of the twinning and have enabled more than 2 500 French and German pupils to take part in annual fortnight-long language learning trips.

Cultural activities have included exhibitions of work by Polish and French artists in Herborn, the design of a fountain for Herborn by artists from Pertuis and an exhibition of Provençal crib figures at the town hall.

Herborn people responded to recent flooding in Pertuis with a great show of solidarity and a group of local firefighters travelled there to help out. To support the municipality of Ilawa there is an annual collection in aid of the most disadvantaged people in the community there.

In 2005 groups of 30 to 40 people from Herborn visited the twin towns on the occasion of annual visits and to celebrate the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ilawa. School exchanges continue to work well, with partial support from the European Union.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# GERMANY (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>HUDE (Oldb.)</b>			
(Lower Saxony)	2005	ARNAGE (F)	1983
(Pop. 15 000)	2006	FIUME VENETO (I)	2002
		NOWE MASTO LUBAWSKIE (PL)	2003
<b>&lt;European Diploma in 2005&gt;</b>			

Hude is also twinned with the municipality of KRÖPELIN (in what was East Germany), and through its twinings with Fiume Veneto and Nowe Miasto it has contacts with the towns of Albeck in Austria and Salcininkai in Lithuania.

The main emphasis is on exchanges between young people. The traditional "Mini Olympics", for example, bringing together young competitors from all the partner municipalities, is held every two years and numerous inter-school exchanges take place under the Comenius project. Another event that has been highly successful for a number of years is the "Tour of the Nations" cycle rally through Germany, which is organised in cooperation with the twinning partners.

There are also many privately organised visits. For example, a 40-strong group of women from Hude travelled to Fiume Veneto and made many contacts there and in the surrounding region, and a return visit was organised in the following year.

The twinning partners also mount displays at one another's trade fairs. In 2003, for example, the three twinned municipalities were represented at Hude's Commercial Fair.

1. The twinning with Arnage has its roots in the period of rapprochement between France and Germany after the Second World War although it was not formally sealed until 1983. Many clubs and associations help to keep it functioning smoothly but it currently needs fresh impetus.
2. The twinning with Kröpelin, signed in 1991, initially tended to focus on contacts between the municipal administrations, with Hude contributing its experience in this area. Kröpelin has since become involved in the "Mini Olympics", Hude is regularly represented at Kröpelin's harvest festival and it also helped to promote the twinning between Kröpelin and Arnage.
3. The twinning with Fiume Veneto is relatively recent, dating back only to 2002, and works chiefly at the level of inter-club contacts.
4. In the case of Nowe Miasto Lubawskie, Hude was looking for a twinning partner in Eastern Europe and selected this town which was formerly German (under the name of Neumark).

In 2001 a twinning committee was set up to facilitate inter-club exchanges. It meets three or four times a year and it made a major contribution to organising the celebrations that marked 20 years of twinning with Arnage.

Hude has undertaken a number of large-scale humanitarian aid operations, first in Bosnia, then in Salcininkai, Lithuania, and most recently for a municipality in Togo.

In 2005 Hude decided to focus on young people. It attaches great importance to the "Mini Olympics" held every two years, which will take place in Hude in 2006. There have been school exchanges under the Comenius project with Ahlbeck in Austria, Kecmarok in Slovakia and Farnsum in the Netherlands.

A group of 40 women from Hude visited Fiume Veneto.

Hude has teamed up with Nowe Miasto and Torun to study a project to combat flooding in the Nowe Miasto region. It also sent several humanitarian shipments to Lithuania and invited children from Chernobyl to Hude.

A brochure presenting the twin towns has also been published.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

**GERMANY (continued)**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>KOSEL</b> (Schleswig-Holstein) (Pop. 1 300) <European Diploma in 1996>	1996 2006	LA MEZIERE (F)*	1986

Annual visits of 40 to 69 persons every year, all accommodated in families with a majority of youth exchanges. On special occasions, the friends of the twin-city are often invited. French courses are delivered in order to facilitate contacts.

Kosel will celebrate in 2006 its 20th twinning anniversary and would have liked the Flag of honour to be awarded on this occasion.

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>KRESSBRONN AM BODENSEE</b> (Baden-Württemberg) (Pop. 7 500) <European Diploma in 2003>	2003 2004 2005 2006	MAICHE (F)	1978

The twinning with Maiche began with an inter-schools link. Since signature of the twinning agreement in 1978, the following exchanges have taken place:

- numerous contacts between associations including parish choirs, sports clubs (with a link between gymnasts, and jointly organised ski trips), veterans' associations, field sports clubs and firefighters;
- joint visits organised by the twinning committees to the respective capital cities and a number of French regions, and to attend exhibitions by local artists;
- contacts under a joint project to aid the municipality of Oudougou in Mali: Kressbronn supports a development-aid programme initiated by Maiche, with activities such as the construction of wells, teacher training, and the provision of medical supplies. Money raised at Kressbronn's Christmas market pays for an annual meal at the municipal school.

Through its primary school, Kressbronn has contacts, including annual exchanges, with schools in Budapest, Burgstädt in Saxony, and Switzerland.

Since 1984 it has also maintained humanitarian contacts with a number of Polish municipalities, helping to build an orphanage and facilities for people with disabilities.

Ninety young Chinese graduates are studying German and English at a local training college, and many contacts have been established between them and local residents.

In 2003 Kressbronn marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its twinning with Maiche, and a commemorative brochure was published detailing the development of the twinning. An exhibition of African art was staged as a fund-raising event in aid of the municipality of Ondougou in Mali.

In 2004 Kressbronn organised two meetings with Maiche and pursued its fund-raising efforts for Mali. It was proud to see one of its high-school students receive a prize in a competition on the theme of well construction in Ondougou.

In 2005 Kressbronn pursued its exchanges with Maiche with the 30<sup>th</sup> school visit to Maiche and a visit by 20 delegates from Maiche to help prepare activities in 2006. There was also a trip to Hungary for 50 musicians. It also continued its humanitarian work with Ondougou in Mali, through collections in schools and a photo exhibition.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# GERMANY (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>KUPPENHEIM</b>	2004		
(Baden-Württemberg)	2005	RAON L'ETAPE (F)*	1986
(Pop. 8 500)	2006		
<European Diploma in 2004>			

**This dossier has been submitted jointly with the application from Raon l'Etape.**

Contacts between these twinning partners go back to 1984 and have been facilitated by the fact that the two towns are similar in size and only 150 km apart. Following a number of school and club exchanges the twinning was official sealed in 1986 when more than 700 residents of Kuppenheim, representing 20 clubs and associations, travelled to Raon l'Etape for the ceremony. Three months later a 1 500 strong group from Raon made the trip in the other direction for the countersigning of the twinning agreement on what was a memorable day for both municipalities.

Since the beginning there has been a busy programme of inter-school exchanges but a further 30 or so joint activities take place every year involving sports clubs, political parties, church groups, scouts, local artists and firefighters.

Each town invites delegations from the other to important civic events which have included the inauguration of a new hall and a local museum in Kuppenheim and the opening of the Emile Gallé exhibition centre in Raon.

In 1988 large delegations from Kuppenheim again travelled to Raon l'Etape to mark the second anniversary of the twinning.

The twinning committees of the two municipalities meet at the start of each year to agree the programme of exchanges which involves mainly primary schools, cycling and art clubs, firefighters and scouts and includes joint ski trips. Each town offers training placements in local companies for young people from the partner municipality.

The partners take turns to host major twinning anniversary celebrations every two years. For the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1996, for example, more than 400 Kuppenheim people made the trip to Raon l'Etape.

Since 1999, in an effort to give the partnership a second wind, the twinning committees have met annually as have the councils of the two municipalities, who are keen to learn more about each other's administrative systems and local structures. In 1999 the twinning committees held a meeting in Kuppenheim for the chairs of all the clubs and associations in the two towns with a view to reinforcing links.

The municipality gives grant aid to any association making a trip to the twinned town, and the municipal news bulletin includes a calendar of events there as well as feature articles about exchanges or important happenings.

There have been links between a school in Kuppenheim and an Italian school in FILOTTRANO (Ancona) since 1994 and the contact has now extended to involve folk groups. Since 2000 a grammar school in Raon l'Etape has joined the schools' partnership and organises an annual tri-national get-together and sports day.

Raon l'Etape planned to sign a friendship agreement with Filottrano in 2004, as Kuppenheim did in 2002.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## GERMANY (continued)

### KUPPENHEIM (continued)

Kuppenheim was as active as ever in 2005, in the lead-up to the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning with Raon l'Etape in 2006. 30-odd initiatives brought together local residents and their friends from Raon l'Etape and Filottrano. They included:

- a visit by 50 friends from Raon for the Kuppeheim parade, and a return visit to Raon;
- an exhibition by local artists and artists from Raon;
- performances by the Kuppenheim accordion band in Filottrano;
- a visit by cyclists from Kuppenheim to their friends in Raon, with whom they subsequently organised a weekend outing;
- exchanges between schools and headmasters;
- attendance by members of the Kuppenheim twinning committee at the signature of the twinning agreement between Raon and Filottrano;
- several meetings of the twinning committee.

Raon l'Etape and Kuppenheim will celebrate their 20<sup>th</sup> twinning anniversary in 2006 and would like to receive the Flag of Honour on this occasion.

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>LEINZELL</b>	2002		
(Baden-Württemberg)	2003		
<European Diploma in 2003>	2004	DANJOUTIN (F)	1989
	2005		

Exchanges take place mainly on the occasion of the New Year reception in Danjoutin, the twinning anniversaries, the inauguration of public buildings, and sporting (tennis, cycling, football) and musical events. For example, the Leinzell music association invited members of the French municipal band to its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

Thanks to an arrangement between two schools, school exchanges take place annually.

Leinzell hosted visits by two classes of schoolchildren from Danjoutin, invited a Danjoutin delegation to attend the official opening of its new sports and cultural facility and took part in Danjoutin's New Year and Carnival festivities.

School exchanges are particularly numerous as can be seen from the report on twinning activities in 2003. Leinzell celebrated in 2003 the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of school exchanges and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of contacts between schools.

In 2004 it was Danjoutin that organised most of the twinning encounters, inviting a delegation from Leinzell to its New Year reception, hosting schoolchildren from Leinzell and involving a group of municipal representatives and music society members from the German town in celebrating the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its own school of music.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# GERMANY (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>LOHMEN</b>	1998		
(Mecklenburg-Vorpommern)	2000		
(Pop. 870)	2001	NOVO VEST (CZ)	1973
<European Diploma in 1998>	2005	SOHOL VISKA (CZ)	
	2006		

1. With Novo Vest and Sokol Viska, regular visits during major municipal events (twinning anniversaries and village festivities) and sports and musical events.
2. Regular contact over the past 5 years with an Austrian region, the "Waldviertel" in Lower Austria, concentrating on exchanges of experience and economic development in rural regions, particularly in the tourist field.
3. Since 1990, twinning with a Dutch army base in ZEVEN (Lower Saxony).

Lohmen admits that it has never organised special events for the twinings, but has included its partners in the events organised by its municipality.

The Güstrow district to which Lohmen belongs has concluded a twinning agreement with the SHODINO region (Belarus), which was affected by the Chernobyl disaster. The twinning mainly involves humanitarian aid, taking in groups of young children for three-week stays in Lohmen.

In 1996 and 1997 Lohmen organised an international nature and environmental protection camp.

Lohmen organises regular sports events with young people from the Netherlands. In 1999 it hosted teams from several countries for its first wheelchair hockey Euro-Cup, and organised a summer seminar for European students.

Lohmen is also twinned with the municipality of MOABI in Gabon.

In 2000, Lohmen stepped up its contacts with Sweden, Finland and Estonia with a view to developing its economic and tourist links. An office has been opened in Karlskrona to co-ordinate its contacts with Sweden. Sports and cultural events have been held with Holland and for the first time with children from Shodino (Belarus) on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signature of the cooperation agreement between Lohmen and Sehestedt (Schleswig-Holstein). Lohmen has also organised a summer course for students from several European countries.

After several years without news from Lohmen, the municipality is again applying for the Flag of Honour in 2005. Its reports on twinning activity in 2002 and 2003 focus on activities to raise awareness about Europe among young children through photography exhibitions and quizzes, as well as business contacts with Sweden. To mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its twinning with Sokol Viska, Lohmen staged a sports festival that attracted international competitors. 2004 was a busier year with activities including a European Week in the local kindergarten, several encounters with the Swedish, Danish, Estonian and Lithuanian partners, Lohmen's 777<sup>th</sup> jubilee celebrations, a soccer tournament with Sokol Viska, and a fifth series of Cooperation Days in which the German and Swedish partners joined Lohmen in exploring options for the future of their villages.

In 2005 Lohmen prepared and organised the "Baltic Balance" conference, with the participation of Sweden, Estonia and Denmark. It also exchanged information with a view to developing economic and cultural contacts and tourism, and took part in the harvest festival in Lötorp (S) and the friendship games with Nowo Vest.

Lohmen will be organising the 16<sup>th</sup> harvest festival of the *Land* of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in October and would like to receive the Flag of Honour on that occasion.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma



# **GERMANY (continued)**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>MALLERSDORF-PFAFFENBERG</b>	1998		
(Bavaria)	2001	PADERNO DEL GRAPPA (I)	1990
(Pop. 7 000)	2005	JEDLICZE (PL)	1999
<European Diploma in 2001>	2006		

In the case of both twinings, the first contacts were initiated by schools, and inter-school pairings are now in place. There have been regular school exchanges with Paderno since 1982 and with

Jedlicze since 1991, and in preparation for these, language courses are offered to schoolchildren.

The schools in Pfaffenberg are also in regular contact with counterparts in France, the USA and Australia.

These school contacts were followed by annual visits by delegations for a long weekend, alternately in one or other town. Members of the delegation include not only the official representatives, but also a number of citizens from all sectors of society. On these occasions, there is a cultural programme, economic contacts and sports events.

Many associations (Mallersdorf gymnastic society, the Pfaffenberg choir, photo club) have taken part in joint ventures, exhibitions and sports meetings. Three classical music concerts with artists of international renown have been organised with Jedlicze.

Through the Mallersdorf Abbey, international contacts have been established with several religious communities, in particular in Romania and South Africa.

Mallersdorf gives financial support to a number of social programmes for Romania, and in particular to the municipality of Ramnicu Valcea (equipment for hospitals and orphanages).

In 2002 a twinning committee was set up and it now coordinates activities with the two twinned municipalities.

The list of activities between 2001 and 2004 highlights inter-school exchanges and the involvement of Italian guests both in Pfaffenberg's annual civic festival and a "Chestnut Festival".

School exchanges with both Paderno and Jedlicze, as well as with schools in Paris, visits by large delegations to popular celebrations such as the one in Paderno del Grappa in May and in September for the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning, and the Chestnut festival in Pfaffenberg, were the main twinning activities in 2005.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# **GERMANY (continued)**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>MARKTHEIDENFELD</b> (Bavaria) (Pop. 11 000) <European Diploma in 2004>	2004	MONTFORT-SUR-MEU (F)	1988

Marktheidenfeld also has friendly ties with a town in the USA.

The twinning committees of Marktheidenfeld and Montfort have managed to develop contacts between clubs and associations, schools, choirs, firefighters and members of the municipal councils. Among the most active groups are the local sports association, the choir – which has just organised a concert in Marktheidenfeld with the participation of Montfort's "Ensemble vocal" – local firefighters and the folk dancing troupe. A senior citizens' get-together was also organised recently.

French classes are available in primary schools and at the local adult education centre, and nursery school children are also offered an introduction to French.

Each municipality offers training and au pair placements to young people from the other.

In 2003 Marktheidenfeld celebrated the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its twinning with Montfort.

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
	1988		
	1989		
<b>MEERBUSCH</b> (North Rhine Westphalia) (Pop. 49 000) <European Diploma in 1991>	1990		
	1991		
	1992	FOUESNANT (F)	1967
	1993		
	2004		
	2005		

This twinning features annual inter-school exchanges as well as exchanges between Meerbusch's school of music and various musical groups in Fouesnant. Exchange activities between adults are not confined to annual visits but also include cultural trips organised by the two municipalities at regular intervals. Various occupation-based exchanges have also been established: post office staff in Meerbusch, for example, are twinned with their counterparts in Fouesnant.

Exchanges are also organised between sports clubs and the parish choirs in the two towns, which stage joint concerts. There is also contact between local artists, who in 2003 mounted an exhibition of work by Meerbusch artists in Fouesnant.

The two municipal councils met in 2000 to give reciprocal presentations and familiarise themselves with one another's work.

The school of music in Meerbusch also has a 20-year-old link with music groups in Kaustinen, Finland.

Under the "EUROGA 2002 plus" project, Meerbusch takes part in cross-border cooperation with the province of Limburg in the Netherlands.

In 2004 the town hosted a visiting translator of foreign novels.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# GERMANY (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>NITTENDORF</b> (Bavaria) (Pop. 9 000) <European Diploma in 2004>	2004	LANGENWANG (A)	1981

Following contacts between folklore groups and music societies in the 1970s, the two municipalities decided to twin in the early 1980s.

Activities soon included exchanges between firefighters, sports clubs and schools – in many cases with municipal funding. Each municipality invites representatives of the other to attend official events.

Europe Day was celebrated in 2003 with an exhibition on the geography, culture and speciality produce of the different European Union countries.

Nittendorf has also forged close ties with the Romanian municipality of ORSOVA.

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>NORDWALDE</b> (North Rhine Westphalia) (Pop. 9 400) <European Diploma in 2003>	2002 2003 2006	AMILLY (F)	1978

Nordwalde's 25-year-old twinning agreement with Amilly concerns every sector of the community: sports enthusiasts, senior citizens, music associations, choirs, farmers, schoolchildren and their teachers, not to mention municipal staff and council members.

Nordwalde organised great festivities on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its twinning with Amilly in October 2002 during three days. School exchanges, trainees in both towns and a meeting between choirs were the highlights of 2002.

After two years' silence, Nordwalde is applying again and has sent in a summary of its activities over the last three years: increased exchanges between schools, training placements for young people from Amilly in local firms, participation in the organisation of the Europe Festival in Amilly, contacts between musical groups and organisation of a concert in Amilly with young people from Nordwalde, contacts between groups of people with disabilities participating in a bicycle tour of Europe, twinning agreement signed with Treuenbrietzen in Brandenburg and, above all, the setting up of a committee to promote the twinning of Amilly with Treuenbrietzen, with the financial support of the municipality, to take over from the twinning committee.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# GERMANY (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>OBRIGHEIM</b>	2002		
(Baden-Württemberg)	2003		
(Pop. 5 200)	2004	CHANTEPIE (F)	1998
<European Diploma in 2002>	2005	KRSKO (SI)	1982
	2006		

1. With Chantepie: the first exchanges date back to 1981, when two schools were twinned. Other exchanges followed and the twinning was made official in 1998, with festivities in both towns to mark the event.

Youth exchanges, a visit by a delegation from Chantepie to the Obrigheim market, a visit to Chantepie by the twinning committee and above all Obrigheim's 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2000, in which 130 people from Chantepie participated, have been the highlights of this twinning. The council helps to organise as well as finance all these exchanges.

2. With Krsko: it was the plan to build an atomic power station in Krsko like the one in Obrigheim that first brought these two towns together, as Krsko wanted to find out about the ecological, social and other problems the power station might cause. The first exchanges to develop were those between the towns' choirs, which have been going on for 20 years, often involving more than 100 people. Exchanges ensued between schools, veterans, fire brigades, sports enthusiasts and also farmers, who regularly display their produce at the main market in Obrigheim (Kiliansmarkt). Several humanitarian convoys organised by the Obrigheim Red Cross in the 1990s further strengthened the ties.

For the past ten years there have also been contacts with a Hungarian school in Budapest.

The highpoint of Obrigheim's European activity in 2002 came when it celebrated 20 years of twinning with Krsko. Festivities were organised in both municipalities and there was a grand concert in Obrigheim, where local families hosted 130 Slovenian guests.

Krsko hosted visiting schoolchildren from Obrigheim, while Obrigheim welcomed some 50 young footballers from Chantepie. Other twinning activities included meetings of young table-tennis players, participation by young female farmers from Krsko in Obrigheim's traditional market, firefighters' meetings and a visit to Obrigheim by a grammar school class from a municipality near Chantepie.

In 2003 the traditional annual visit by an Obrigheim delegation to Chantepie proved an occasion for reinforcing inter-club contacts, and especially ties between local choirs and schools. A French delegation was invited to Obrigheim's traditional market, while links with Krsko were strengthened with the visit of a school party to Obrigheim.

Contacts with Krsko were strengthened in 2004: to mark the EU enlargement Obrigheim's Mayor held a conference involving many local personalities as well as the Consul General of Slovenia and a delegation from the twinned town. In September the Mayor and an official delegation visited Krsko, and the town also hosted seven reserve officers from Krsko and a women farmers' group at the traditional Kilian Market.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## GERMANY (continued)

### OBRIGHEIM (continued)

There were two important activities with Chantepie in 2004: 42 footballers from Obrigheim visited the French municipality, and Obrigheim hosted 75 French choristers who took part in a joint concert.

Several meetings with Krsko and Chantepie marked 2005, confirming the great regularity of these exchanges even if they are not exceptionally frequent:

- visit by 64 choristers from Obrigheim to give a joint concert with their counterparts in Krsko;
- visit by the tennis team from Krsko;
- meetings between reserve officers, first in Obrigheim, then in Krsko;
- visit of an official delegation from Chantepie to take part in Obrigheim's "Kilian" market;
- visit of fifteen schoolchildren from Krsko to stay in families and attend school.

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>OPPENHEIM</b>	2003	SANT AMBROGIO (I)	1982
(Rhineland Palatinate)	2004	GIVRY (F)	
(Pop. 7 000)	2005	ADNET (A)	
<European Diploma in 2003>	2006	CALPE (E)	

1. Activities with Sant Ambrogio have included annual visits by parties of 50 adults and 20 schoolchildren to the twin town, work placements and summer courses at the local university as well as involvement by Sant Ambrogio in Oppenheim's wine fair and, in 2002, celebrations – coinciding with the St Catherine's Day market – to mark 20 years of twinning .
2. The twinning with Givry is part of a regional twinning agreement between the Federal State of Rhineland Palatinate and the Region of Burgundy. The two municipalities have in common the fact that wine-growing is a key local activity. Contacts are maintained between schools, wine-growers and local associations, and members of the two twinning committees meet every year. In 2003 Oppenheim celebrates the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning.
3. Initial contacts with Adnet were made privately but the municipal orchestras and local fire brigades have since established links.
4. The twinning with Calpe is very recent and is expected to develop particularly in the field of tourism.

Through the regional twinning, Oppenheim has also developed contacts with Rwanda. Rwandan craft products are sold in Oppenheim's markets and the profits go directly back to Africa.

In 1993, as part of the fight against mounting racism and the rise of the extreme right in Germany, Oppenheim's Mayor organised a major event on the theme "Oppenheim celebrates with its foreign citizens". This large-scale community festival – with involvement from 18 countries – was such a success that it became an annual event and 2002 marked its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Celebrations were held in Oppenheim in 2003 to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning with Givry. Almost 100 Givry residents made the trip to take part.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## **GERMANY (continued)**

### **OPPENHEIM (continued)**

In 2004 Oppenheim worked to develop further contacts with:

- all the twinning partners on the occasion of its wine fair, at which each town had a stand showcasing local produce;
- Sant Ambrogio, with the presentation of an award to two residents who had worked particularly hard to develop the twinning;
- Givry and Adnet, each of which sent a large delegation of residents to visit Oppenheim;
- Adnet, while the Mayor of Adnet also visited Oppenheim for the 2004 "Rhineland Westphalia Days".

Regular annual activities included the summer cultural programme with Italian and Viennese music and the "Foreign Citizens' Day" which attracts many visitors.

Oppenheim plans to develop its contacts with the municipality of Werder in former East Germany and hopes to twin with a Slovakian town in 2005. Studies are also well under way with a view to concluding a twinning agreement with a town in Turkey – Oppenheim having a substantial Turkish community of its own.

2005 was once again saw a wealth of exchanges with the twin towns, brought together by grand festive occasions and events organised by Oppenheim.

The "Foreign Citizens" celebration, which brings together residents of Oppenheim who come from 50 countries, was a great success once again, with strong participation by Turkish residents. The Oppenheim Wine Festival also involves the twin towns, which present their own production.

Oppenheim also received schoolchildren and their teachers from Sant' Ambrogio; a group of adults from Oppenheim visited Sant' Ambrogio; a delegation from Oppenheim took part in the Moorish Festival in Calpe and all the members of the twinning committee and their partners from the twin towns met half-way, in Colmar, to prepare the twinning activities for 2006.

To mark the importance the municipality attaches to its twinning activities, a "twinning tree" was erected at the entrance to the town, displaying the twin towns' coats of arms.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

**GERMANY (continued)**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>OTTERSWEIER</b> (Baden-Württemberg) (Pop. 6 200) <European Diploma in 2003>	2002	WESTERLO (B)**	1962
	2003		
	2004		
	2005		
	2006		

Ottersweier has been twinned with the municipality of Westerlo since 1962 – one of the oldest twinning partnerships in Baden-Württemberg. There are three main focuses of activity: on official contacts, inter-club exchanges and links between schools.

In 2002 Ottersweier staged a splendid celebration to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning.

The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1987 was also an occasion of great celebration, and clubs and associations regularly travel between the two municipalities for other local festivities. In 1991 Ottersweier staged an exhibition of work by painters from Westerlo and in 2003 it held a regional costume festival in which Westerlo was also involved.

Ottersweier regularly participates in European Schools Day.

Being a border town, Ottersweier has developed contacts with municipalities in the French region of Alsace on the basis of cultural initiatives including drama performances and "culture days".

Ottersweier is also twinned with the municipality of Krauschwitz in Sachsen and through a religious community has contact with Laredo in Peru and Marienthal in Alsace.

There were a number of twinning encounters in 2004 including a visit by Belgian brass bands to Ottersweier; participation by a Westerlo delegation in Ottersweier's local festival; a young firefighters' camp at Krauschwitz, in which a Westerlo group took part for the first time; and a trip by members of Ottersweier's choir to visit their counterparts in Westerlo.

2005 was marked by five events: a school exchange with Westerlo, a music club trip to Austria, a visit by thirty young Italians, etc., and participation in the 52<sup>nd</sup> European drawing competition.

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>PFAFFENHAUSEN</b> (Bayern) (Pop. 2 500) <European Diploma in 2005>	2005	MASSIGNANO (I)	1985

Pfaffenhausen has been twinned with Massignano for more than 20 years with visits of large groups of persons, youth exchanges, sports encounters, conferences. Contacts also developed between tradesmen and businessmen in order to develop economic cooperation.

A special effort was made in order to develop the European idea among the inhabitants through conferences of political personalities, exhibition on European theme at school and through flagging of official building during the Europe Day.

Pfaffenhausen has also friendly links with the town of San Benedetto since 1982, especially on sports level.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# **GERMANY (continued)**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>PIRNA</b>		VARKAUS (FIN)	1961
(Saxony)		DECIN (CZ)	1975
(Pop. 41 000)	2005	LONGUYON (F)	1980
		BOLESŁAWIEC (PL)	1980
<b>&lt;European Diploma in 2005&gt;</b>		REMSCHIED (D)***	1990

Pirna's twinning ties have been consolidated through a series of major events:

- the renewal in 1998 of all its twinning agreements;
- a Citizens' Festival in 2000;
- celebrations in 2000 to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning with Decin and 20 years of the links with Bolesławiec and Longuyon;
- celebrations in 2001 for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning with Varkaus.

Regular festivals and other encounters include Pirna's civic festival and its Culture Market, at which all the twinning partners are represented, working visits and exchanges of experience among the municipal administrations of the twinned towns, and a visit by an official delegation to the Ceramic Festival in Bolesławiec.

With Longuyon, inter-school exchanges and a training placement scheme function well. Every year the German-Finnish Friendship Society organises a three-week trip to Finland and the municipal administration organises a visit to Bolesławiec. A youth soccer tournament is held annually in Remscheid and there are regular sports competitions involving young Germans and Czechs under the umbrella of the Elbe-Labe Euroregion Mini Olympics.

The Pirna-based community education organisation "Sächsische Schweiz" offers language classes and discussions on European political themes.

Pirna has contacts through its schools with Hefei in China.

Although Pirna itself was seriously affected by flooding in 2002 it sent aid to the people of Decin which was also hard hit.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma



# GERMANY (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>RHEINE</b>		BORNE (NL)	1983
(North Rhine Westphalia)	2002	LEIRIA (P)	1996
(Pop. 72 000)	2006	BERNBURG (former GDR)	1990
<b>&lt;European Diploma in 2002&gt;</b>		TRAKAI (LT)	1996

The twinning committee, the association for the development of twinning activities and the German-Portuguese friendship circle supervise the various twinning activities.

Regular activities include:

- Borne: exchanges between 16 primary schools, between senior citizens and between “youth ambassadors”
- Leiria: cultural exchanges, exchanges of chefs and youth ambassadors, and trainee placement
- Bernburg: exchanges between musical and sporting associations and between youth ambassadors
- Trakai: various humanitarian aid projects, like the building of a youth centre and a centre for senior citizens or the training of construction workers.

Following the signing of the twinning agreement with Trakai a cooperation network developed between the twin towns to assist Trakai. Specialists from the twin towns devised a tourism development plan and a number of social projects, including the opening of a youth centre (1994), a centre for senior citizens (1998) and a workshop for people with disabilities (2001).

Since 1997 Rheine has been organising exchanges of “youth ambassadors” with its twin towns, to train them to serve as links between the towns and familiarise them with twinning activities. Three young people participate every year.

In 1998 Rheine organised a meeting with its twin towns on the theme “War, peace and tolerance”, which won it the European Union’s Gold Star award for twin towns. Also, in cooperation with the European Union, Rheine signed a contract to facilitate the return home of 130 Bosnian refugees.

On 4 May 2001 Rheine organised a meeting of 400 schoolchildren on the theme “Life in my twin town”, and on 9 May an exchange of experience between teachers.

Noteworthy activities in 2005 include:

- the "Chance Europa" exhibition organised by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the occasion of the enlargement of the European Union, which presented the biographies of 22 Germans from different social backgrounds who took advantage of the opportunities offered by Europe to succeed in a particular field;
- the exchanges of youth ambassadors traditionally organised by Rheine since 1997, which enabled three young people from Rheine to visit Leiria and another three to visit Trakai. So far 39 people have taken advantage of these exchanges;
- participation by firms from Rheine in an exhibition in a new shopping centre in Leiria, where the Mayor of Leiria invited the twin towns to present products typical of their regions;
- participation by some 400 schoolchildren in the traditional exchanges between primary schools in Borne and Rheine. These exchanges have existed for 15 years;
- a meeting of staff from a workshop for the disabled in Trakai and from the Caritas Association in Rheine, who spent a week together to exchange and develop aid to the centre for people with disabilities in Trakai. This was the fourth meeting of its kind;
- a visit by nine young people from Borne and Rheine to Leiria as part of the JUVENTUS project initiated by Leiria, which has given 10 young people a chance to find out more about the twin town and take the exchanges of youth ambassadors a stage further.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# **GERMANY (continued)**

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>ROSDORF</b> (Lower Saxony) (Pop. 12 500) <European Diploma in 2004>	2004 2005 2006	ZUBRI (CZ)	1993

Although sporting contacts, notably between handball teams, date back more than 30 years, this twinning was formalised only 10 years ago. With the establishment of twinning committees in the two municipalities further exchanges began to develop, between school groups, political parties, walking clubs, dance and music groups and firefighters. A programme of six to eight joint events every year gives residents many opportunities to meet.

Exchanges in 2005 included a concert by a pianist from Zubri in Rosdorf, a trip by 50 Rosdorf residents to Zubri, a visit to Rosdorf by 32 young Czech people and a performance by 30 young Czech dancers and singers in Rosdorf.

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>SANDHAUSEN</b> (Baden-Württemberg) <European Diploma in 2001>	2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006	LEGE-CAP-FERRET (F)	1980

Over 20 years of visits by official delegations, almost 20 years of schools exchanges and the many exchanges organised by voluntary associations (sports, dance and singing) have contributed to the success of this twinning, which will be celebrating its 20th anniversary in the year 2000.

Since 1987 Sandhausen has also been conducting schools exchanges with Wrocław and Cracow, and has allowed 4 trainees from Poland and Lithuania to attend classes in Sandhausen secondary schools for six months.

Sports encounters are also organised with Hungarian and Swiss municipalities, as are musical events with Bulgaria, Austria, Poland and France, etc.

In 2000, the two municipalities celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their twinning, first of all in Sandhausen and then in Lège-Cap Ferret. On both occasions, over 130 people made the trip to the twin municipality. A school exchange was also on the programme and a cycle rally from one municipality to the other.

In 2001 and 2002 the twin towns took advantage of one another's traditional festivities to present their local products, and there were several exchanges between schools. 2002 was also marked by an international dance event in Sandhausen.

As they have done in previous years, local delegations travelled to Lège-Cap Ferret in 2003 to take part in local festivities there. There are also regular inter-school exchanges not only with Lège-Cap Ferret but also with schools in England, the USA and Poland.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## GERMANY (continued)

### SANDHAUSEN (continued)

Exchanges with Lège-Cap Ferret in 2004 consisted of a visit in each direction by a delegation taking part in the respective civic festivals – and in each case displaying local produce. Sandhausen hosted two visiting teams for a Franco-German football match and organised a dance festival which attracted Polish and American participants. There were inter-school exchanges not only with Lège-Cap Ferret but also with schools in other European countries.

In 2005 Sandhausen will celebrate 25 years of twinning with Lège-Cap Ferret.

The main event in 2005 was the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning with Lège-Cap Ferret. Other highlights in 2005 were several school exchanges with Lège and also with Italian and British schools, and visits by small delegations to local events, to present their regional products.

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>STAUFENBERG</b> (Lower-Saxony) (Pop. 8 500)	2006	PUSZTASZABOLCS (H)	2000

Contacts between mayors and exchanges between young people have gone well since the twinning agreement was signed.

Staufenberg organises and finances annual visits for young Hungarians as well as trips for local youngsters to Hungary. It also participates in important events in Pusztaszabolcs and finances exchanges between associations. Delegations regularly take part in economic and cultural events in the twin town.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# GERMANY (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>WADERSLOH</b>	2002		
(North Rhine Westphalia)	2004	MARCILLAT-EN-COMBRAILLE (F)	1991
(Pop. 13 000)	2005	NERIS-LES-BAINS (F)	1997
<European Diploma in 2002>	2006		

Wadersloh is also twinned with Faulungen in Thuringen, which it often invites to join in its activities with Marcillat.

The first contacts with Marcillat, a canton comprising 13 municipalities, were through schools, and Wadersloh regularly welcomes young visitors from France on study visits. More than 20 school exchanges have taken place in all, involving over 400 young people for periods of 10 to 12 days.

The twinning committee regularly organises coach trips to the twin towns. In ten years more than 36 trips for about 25 people have been organised, mainly from Wadersloh to the French towns. In view of the success of these coach trips the twinning committee now offers similar trips to young people. Every two years 30-odd youngsters from 14 to 18 years of age travel to France from Wadersloh and Faulungen.

In recent years cultural and sporting exchanges have also developed: French cookery classes, "boules" competitions.

The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning was celebrated in style in Wadersloh in October 2001, providing an opportunity to decorate several mayors and twinning organisers for their outstanding commitment over the years.

In 2003 Wadersloh pursued its programme of inter-school exchanges not only with France but also with the UK and Hungary. The traditional bus trip and *boules* tournament are still high popular but the largest twinning event held recently was a major sculpture symposium in Wadersloh which attracted sculptors from France and Germany.

In 2004 the main focus was once again on inter-school exchanges as well as the traditional residents' trips to Marcillat and N ris and the *boules* tournament. Wadersloh's outgoing Mayor took his leave of the twinning partners by visiting them and using the opportunity to re-emphasise the importance of twinning activities and of adequate funding for them.

The ten or so events that marked 2005 included: school exchanges, a trip to Paris for the mayors of the twin towns to meet the Prime Minister on Europe Day, the presentation of the new Mayor of Wadersloh in Marcillat and Neris, a "boules" tournament and the traditional annual visit by 40 residents of Marcillat.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# **GERMANY (continued)**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>WALDBRONN</b>			
(Baden-Württemberg)	1998	ESTERNAY (F)	1968
(Pop. 12 300)	2005	ST GERVAIS (F)	1986
	2006	MONMOUTH (GB)	1986
		REDA (PL)	1998
<b>&lt;European Diploma in 2005&gt;</b>			

Waldbronn also has ties with Krasnofimsk in Russia, Tiszaroll in Hungary and Malgrat in Spain, the main emphasis being on joint cultural activities and contacts between mayors and municipal councillors.

It promotes inter-school links and, among adults, inter-club contacts. Regular activities thus include soccer and hockey tournaments, joint cycle tours, contact between choirs and music schools, fact-finding visits by council representatives and contacts between municipal staff.

French-language evening classes are offered.

In 2005 Waldbronn welcomed a troupe of dancers from St Gervais while skiers from Wandbronn went to St Gervais and firefighters from Waldbronn visited Esternay.

The twinning committees met several times to organise the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinings with Monmouth and St Gervais, which will be celebrated in Waldbronn from 5 to 7 May 2006. A drawing competition on a European theme, music and sporting events will be on the programme.

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>WALDSOLMS</b>			
(Hesse)	2005	LAUDUN (F)	1987
(Pop. 5 200)	2006		
<b>&lt;European Diploma in 2005&gt;</b>			

Major gatherings are hosted alternately by the two twinned municipalities. Initially held every year and currently every two years, these also offer an occasion to celebrate twinning anniversaries. Each of the partners has set up a twinning committee, which coordinates all encounters.

Inter-school contacts take place on a regular basis, and since 1995 one school in Waldsolms has developed a relationship with the Polish town of Siedlice.

The Waldsolms and Laudun music societies have given a number of joint concerts, and youth soccer teams regularly take part in international competitions.

Foreign language classes are offered by the local adult education centre and the "FrauZeit" association.

Waldsolms sent aid to its twinning partner when Laudun was hit by flooding three times in 2002 and 2003.

Participation by Laudun in the Waldsolms Christmas market, a school visit to Siedlice in Poland and an exhibition by artists from Waldsolms at the Laudun Art Show were the only exchanges in 2005.

In 2006 Waldsolms will be celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning with Laudun and would like to be awarded the Flag of Honour on that occasion.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# GERMANY (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
	1992		
	1993		
<b>WASSERTRÜDINGEN</b>	1994		
(Bavaria)	1995		
(Pop. 5 700)	1996	BELLAC (F)	1983
<European Diploma in 1997>	1997		
	2003		
	2004		

Contacts with Bellac were initiated by the Franco-German Friendship Association and have largely taken the form of youth exchanges, links between associations, and training placements in local companies. In 1992 there were several school exchanges and 1993 saw celebrations in both municipalities to mark 10 years of twinning. A number of school exchanges also took place and a delegation from Wassertrüdingen visited the Limousin region.

The main activities in the years 1995-1998 were school exchanges. Since restructuring of the twinning committee there have been two or three exchanges every year including visits by official delegations, placement of a trainee in Limoges, and youth visits.

Exchange activity was stepped up in 2001 and 2002, centring on Wassertrüdingen's municipal festival, participation in a wine festival and a school visit.

In 2003 there were celebrations in both municipalities to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning.

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>WINDBERG</b>			
(Bavaria)	1998		
(Pop. 1 100)	2006	ABOS (F)	
<European Diploma 1998>			

Every year large delegations made up of residents from all social backgrounds, including a majority of young people, take turns to visit the twin town. These visits are celebrated with festivities that last several days.

The mayors of both municipalities are closely involved in the twinning, and they always accompany parties visiting the twin town

Windberg has also developed contacts with neighbouring Czech municipalities and with towns in Poland, focused in particular on exchanges of experience in the fields of architectural heritage protection and waste treatment.

Windberg is the site of a well-known abbey and part of the circle of the best-known Marian churches in the world. It has developed a network of contacts all over Europe.

In 2004 Windberg and Abos were awarded the Robert Bosch Foundation's 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize for civic commitment through the project "EU enlargement prospects – now and in the future".

In 2004 Windberg organised a major international youth meeting which was attended by young people from the Czech Republic, Hungary, the Netherlands and Germany.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# GERMANY (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>WISSEN</b>		CHAGNY (F)	1968
(Rheinland-Pfalz)	2006	LETCHWORTH (GB)	1983
(Pop. 9 200)		KRAPKOWICE (PL)	2000

Wissen has a three-way twinning with Chagny and Letchworth.

Its experience of twinning proved to be a great help in 2000 when Wissen decided to twin with Krapkowice in Poland and the whole population took up the banner. Since then twelve twinning arrangements between schools and associations in Wissen and Krapkowice have been set up.

The other two twinings work well, but the Polish one seems to be particularly full of warmth, friendship, generosity and enthusiasm. Projects seem to go more smoothly because both parties show real commitment. It is true that the two towns have history and the German language in common.

High points of the twinings include: the meeting in 2001 of delegations from all the twin towns to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Wissen's brass band and Poland's membership of the European Union, which was celebrated in style during the "Oder Days".

The Mayor of Wissen is also in contact with the Mayor of Lipova Lazne in the Czech Republic.

1. With Chagny: the first contacts date back to 1967 and started with exchanges between secondary schools in the two towns, which take place every Easter. The twinning was made official in 1969 and thanks to the twinning committees set up in the two towns, school, family, sporting and cultural exchanges have developed well.
2. With Letchworth: when the mayors of Chagny and Wissen decided to enlarge their twinning agreement, Wissen became twinned with Letchworth, which was already twinned with Chagny, thereby forming a three-way twinning. The agreement was signed in 1983 and relations are kept up mainly by the annual visits of delegations.
3. With Krapkowice: the first contacts came about as a result of the floods in 1997; a convoy of 15 fire engines was sent to Krapkowice. The twinning was signed in 2000. Exchange visits ensued between schools, firefighters, pigeon fanciers, choirs and large delegations to celebrate festive occasions.

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>ZEITLARN</b>	2004		
(Bavaria)	2005	FRANZENSFESTE (I)*	1994
<European Diploma in 2004>	2006		

Youth meetings take place twice a year and contacts are also encouraged between cultural and sports associations, which organise joint concerts and other events. The municipal councillors meet together year about in one or other of the two towns and on the occasion of civic festivities.

After Zeitzlarn suffered flood damage in 2002 its Italian twinning partner spontaneously came to its aid.

In 2004 the two municipalities joined in celebrations to mark 10 years of their twinning. The other highlight of the year, in June, was the presentation to both partners of the European Diploma.

After the successful youth camp organised by Franzenfeste, the two municipalities are trying to step up contacts between young people and also sports enthusiasts (footballers and gymnasts). They have also cemented economic ties through the EuroNova Congress in Innsbruck.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# HUNGARY

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>CSORNA</b>	2005	HEUMEN (NL)	1992
(Komitat Győr-Moson-Sopron)	2006	SINZING (D)**	2004
(Pop. 11 000))			
<European Diploma in 2005>			

1. The first contacts with Heumen date back well before 1992. Exchanges work best between churches, schools, football teams and young musicians; training for horticultural students is available on Dutch farms;
2. The first contacts with Sinzing date from 2003; after a visit by a delegation to Csorna, Sinzing organised a cultural week and meetings in which a group of 60 musicians and dancers took part.

Csorna keeps in touch with its twin towns through regular contacts between the mayors, councillors and representatives of churches and different sporting, cultural and musical associations. Every year there are sporting events with Heumen and an international folk dancing festival in June, with groups from France, Poland, Russia, etc.

Csorna organised a major celebration with its twin towns when Hungary joined the EU. More than 100 guests from Germany and the Netherlands attended. Contacts with Sinzing were further strengthened by a three-way meeting in May, participation in Sinzing's civic festivities and the organisation of a meeting in October to prepare the programme for 2005.

On the advice of Dr Otto von Habsburg a special committee has been set up to develop European contacts.

The 2005 activity report lists a large number of exchanges, especially with Sinzing:

- exchanges with two young Hungarians studying in Sinzing;
- ceremony to mark the signing of the twinning agreement in Sinzing – 58 Hungarians went to join in the festivities;
- participation of a delegation in the festivities marking the 10th anniversary of the twinning between Sinzing and Les Ancizes (F);
- youth camp in Csorna financed by the European Union – 11 young people from Hungary and 8 from Germany took part for a week;
- visit to Budapest by a group of residents from Sinzing and Csorna, organised by Csorna's twinning committee;
- annual working meeting in Sinzing, with the participation of 14 residents of Csorna;
- participation of a small delegation from Csorna in the four-day hike in the Heumen region.

\*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize  
 \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour  
 \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour  
 ● Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma



## HUNGARY (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>KÖSZEG</b>		VAIHINGEN-an-der-ENZ (D)	1989
(Vas County)	2005	MÖDLINGEN-bei-WIEN (A)	1989
(Pop. 12 000)	2006	SENJ (HR)	
<b>&lt;European Diploma in 2005&gt;</b>		NYITRAGERENCSE (SK)	

1. With Vaihingen there are two main annual get-togethers that promote contacts, as well as a cultural event (folk-dancing or a choral performance) and inter-club encounters (involving, for example, jazz bands or firefighters). Regular exchanges take place between two schools.
2. With Mödlingen the contacts are similar to those with Vaihingen. Most of the exchanges take place between choirs and schools.
3. Köszeg joined a multi-twinning in May 2004. Currently involving towns in 20 countries of the EU, this organisation holds two meetings every year in one of the partner municipalities and is developing cooperation in the key areas of education, culture and tourism.

Köszeg has particularly close contacts with the Austrian border region of Burgenland – which was once Hungarian – particularly through its schools. In 2004 a new initiative was launched to teach Hungarian in one of the Austrian schools and German in a school in Köszeg. In 1998 the Irottkő Natural Park was created, straddling the border in this mountainous region.

With a view to promoting international contacts, Köszeg has set up a twinning association. It has also opened a European information centre in Irottkő Natural Park and this is a venue for lectures and seminars on European themes. A few years ago an Institute of Social and European Studies was established.

Events that marked 2005 include:

- with Vaihingen: trips by large delegations to take part in festivities (Festival of St George in Köszeg and May Days and street festivals in Vaihingen);
- with Mödling: visits by small delegations to the Festival of St George in Köszeg and the summer and harvest festivals in Mödling;
- in connection with the 'Douzelage': Köszeg has taken part in several projects, including one involving infants' schools in several countries; it was represented at the General Assembly of the Douzelage in Bundoran, sent dancers and musicians to the Sherborne Festival in the UK, and also organised two events: one with the Kötzing Senior Citizens Club and a youth gathering with 60 students from Finland, Poland, Austria and Hungary.

It consolidated its rather loose ties with Senj in Croatia when a delegation came to take part in the Festival of St George, and organised a sporting event with young people from Fiume Veneto (I).

It is worth noting the efforts made by the Jurisich Miklos Gimnazium upper secondary school in Köszeg, which, thanks to the dedication of a group of teachers, has given numerous young people over the years an opportunity to travel abroad, especially under programmes financed by the European Union.

Köszeg has just opened a central Europe Academy which teaches English to thirty-odd students from all over the world.

A number of events were organised with neighbouring municipalities in Austria, especially Burgenland:

- the "Promenade" art exhibition by Austrian and German painters in Köszeg;
- the east-west folk festival;
- Savaria summer university;
- an Austro-Hungarian conference on waste water treatment;
- an international art exhibition in Köszeg;
- the official opening of the Istvan Bibó Auditorium in the "House of Europe" in Köszeg.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# **HUNGARY (continued)**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
		CHORLEY (GB)	1992
		SCHWÄBISCH GMÜND (D)**	1991
<b>SZEKESFEHERVAR</b>		KEMI (FIN)	1958
(Fejer district)	2001	CENTO (I)	1998
(Pop. 106 000)	2003	OPOLE (PL)***	1958
<b>&lt;European Diploma in 2001&gt;</b>		ZADAR (HR)**	1997
		ALBA IULIA (RO)	1989
		BLAGOEVGRAD (BG)	

Although the frequency of contacts varies from town to town, Szekesfehervar makes every attempt to maintain continuity. Cultural events, school exchanges, economic and environmental programmes, and official meetings regularly appear on the programme of exchanges.

Szekesfehervar belongs to the network of European mid-sized towns which has a membership of over 20 European towns. Its university has frequent contacts with its counterpart in Kemi (Finland). A circle of friends set up in Schwäbisch Gmünd, and a second one in Chorley (GB) strengthen contacts between the residents of the two towns.

Cultural events appear each year on the programme.

A highlight of 2001 was the sixth international folk dancing festival, which attracted groups from all over the world; and for 10 years Szekesfehervar has organised an annual international cultural seminar.

Voluntary organisations that work to maintain twinning links at community level include:

- the Schwäbisch Gmünd-Szekesfehervar Friendship Circle
- the Chorley-Szekesfehervar Friendship Circle.

Szekesfehervar is working to develop inter-school contacts, particularly through the EU-funded Socrates/Comenius and Erasmus programmes.

European-scale events are held regularly and have included an international festival of popular dance, international exhibitions, conferences on preparation for accession to the EU and events to mark World Anti-Drugs Day.

A European information point has been set up and a European Club supplies information to regional and municipal economic partners.

\*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize  
 \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour  
 \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour  
 ● Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# ITALY

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>BAGNACAVALLLO</b> (Ravenna Province) (Pop. 16 000)	2005 2006	NERESHEIM (D)**	1994

## <European Diploma in 2005>

1. Recent activities with Neresheim have included contacts and exchanges between schools and cultural and sports associations, delegation visits to discuss local administration, involvement in patron saint's day festivals and the annual carnival, painting and photography exhibitions, the publication of a journal in several languages and celebrations in 2004 of the 10th anniversary of the twinning.
2. In 2004 a friendship agreement was signed with the UK town of Stone.
3. There are regular contacts with the towns of Aix-en-Orthe (F), Strzyzow (PL) and Zinarè (in Burkina Faso) and with a number of municipalities in former Yugoslavia. Music societies collaborate, in particular, with their Polish counterparts and sports clubs with their counterparts in Stone. A joint project to promote tourism is in the pipeline with Neresheim, Stone and Strzyzow, while with Zinarè the main focus has been on projects to support development there.

In cooperation with nine other municipalities under the umbrella of a regional syndicate, Bagnacavallo has celebrated Europe Day annually for the past few years, in particular by organising meetings with MEPs. For Europe Day 2005, groups of young musicians are to be invited from the four countries with which Bagnacavallo has ties, under the aegis of the EU's "Youth for Europe" programme.

Bagnacavallo's adult education centre holds English and French language classes and the Friends of Neresheim Association offers German classes.

The activity report for 2004 shows that the various partnerships are very much alive. Bagnacavallo hosted a group of choristers from Strzyzow, celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its twinning with Neresheim, took part in a meeting of school pupils under the Comenius programme and organised a language-learning visit with Stone. It also hosted delegations from the partner municipalities at its Saint Michael's Day festival, and was involved in promoting the Champagnes-Ardenne region of France – with a view to launching a trinational tourism development project – and in sending aid convoys to Albania and Kosovo.

An international relations office has been set up to coordinate all the activities.

The 2005 activity report lists a variety of activities with the twin town of Neresheim and the other partners, including: a trip by young people to Stone in Britain, a cultural exchange with young people from Neresheim, a trip to Stone by members of Bagnacavallo's "Friends of Neresheim" Association, a visit by 160 people to Neresheim, a visit by 11 children from Chernobyl, a language-learning visit by 20 young people from Stone, a trip by 40-odd people to Strzyzow in Poland, an international conference organised by Bagnacavallo with the participation of delegations from Neresheim, Stone, Aix-en-Othe and Strzyzow, and the signing of a co-operation agreement with Ziniare in Burkina Faso.

Numerous humanitarian activities in Afghanistan, South-east Asia, Bosnia and Albania, including Sarajevo and Mostar.

Bagnacavallo intends to sign a twinning agreement with Strzyzow in Poland next year.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>FARNESE</b> (Viterbo Province) (Pop. 1 700) <European Diploma in 2003>	2003 2005 2006	BEAUMONT de PERTUIS (F)*	1993

Activities include socio-cultural contacts, inter-school exchanges, ongoing contact between schools and farming associations (with the promotion of typical local produce and presentations on sheep-breeding), multi-sport gatherings, archaeological trips (to some of the many Etruscan sites around Farnese) and environmental excursions, eg to Lamone nature reserve and Lubéron national park.

Farnese regularly organises conferences on European themes as well as visits to facilitate exchanges of experience about wine and olive growing, folk and classical music concerts and craft exhibitions.

The concept of Europe is promoted through art and poetry competitions, photography exhibitions and lectures on European themes. Farnese regularly celebrates the anniversaries of its twinning.

Two major events marked 2003: the award of the European Diploma and celebrations for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning with Beaumont. Farnese hosted a 60-strong delegation from Beaumont over four days and celebrated Bastille Day with the guests.

Receiving the European Diploma encouraged Farnese to greater efforts and extra events were laid on for the most recent Europe Day celebrations, including an inter-municipal conference on the theme of EU enlargement. A 76-strong delegation subsequently made a return visit to Beaumont for the second leg of the anniversary festivities.

In 2005 a delegation from Beaumontais visited Farnese on dates that coincided with the French national holiday, so Farnese organised a dancing evening in their honour. The local and regional craft fair held annually in Farnese for the last ten years was a great success, as was the Concert for Europe in the old town square, which drew a huge crowd.

To prove its attachment to the French language, Farnese decided, at great cost, to finance and organise a free and optional extracurricular course in French conversation for older lower secondary pupils, now that the public education reform has removed French from the primary school curriculum in favour of English.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## ITALY (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>FORTEZZA/Franzensfeste</b> (Bolzano Province)	2004 2005 2006	ZEITLARN (D)*	1994
<European Diploma in 2004>			

Regular contacts are sustained through joint meetings of the two municipal councils held every second year in one or other town.

The municipality encourages annual contacts between cultural and social organisations and sports clubs. Joint concerts by choirs from the two towns are one example.

Contacts between young people are also now well established, with regular exchange visits between the two municipalities for groups in the 8-15 age range.

Europe Day is celebrated both at the town hall and in schools.

In October 2004 a 50-strong group from Fortezza travelled to Zeitlarn for celebrations to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning. The closing ceremony was attended by more than 700 people and the highpoint was the presentation of the European Diploma to both municipalities. Awards were also made to several local people who had made a particularly important contribution.

The other highlight of 2004 was a youth camp in Fortezza in April, which included 14 young people from Poland, Germany and Belgium. The municipality met the lion's share of the costs and the occasion was also used to forge ties with students and teachers from Zakopane (PL).

Zeitlarn celebrated the achievement of a group of young local people who were successful in an international competition held in Dresden on the theme of problems of cohabitation and integration in a united Europe.

After the successful youth camp organised by Franzenfeste, the two municipalities are trying to step up contacts between young people and also between sports enthusiasts (footballers and gymnasts). Economic contacts were also made at the EuroNova Congress in Innsbruck.

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>MASSA E COZZILE</b> (Pistoia Province)	2004	JUDENBURG (A)**	1999
<European Diploma in 2004>			

Massa e Cozzile has also developed a twinning with a town in western Saraoui to which it sends aid.

Activities developed with Judenburg include:

- inter-school exchanges, with sporting events and involvement in a Comenius project coordinated by Judenburg;
- residents' "discovery" visits;
- contacts between artists: for example an artist from Massa showed work as part of Judenburg's "Tuscany Festival";
- displays of typical produce at recent "Tuscany Festivals" and at Judenburg's Beer Festival;
- participation by representatives from Massa in celebrations to mark the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Judenburg and at the Flag of Honour presentation ceremony there.

\*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize  
 \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour  
 \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour  
 • Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# ITALY (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>SALERNO</b> (Campania region) (Pop. 153 000)	2005	ROUEN (F)	2003
<b>&lt;European Diploma in 2005&gt;</b>			

Salerno has also been twinned with the Japanese municipality of Thono since 1983, and exchanges to date have mainly been by official delegations.

The twinning with Rouen is more recent and focuses on historical and cultural links.

Twinning activities in recent years have included concerts by a choir from Rouen as part of Salerno's Easter celebrations, attendance as guest of honour at an archaeological tourism exchange in Paestum in 2004, hosting craftworkers from Rouen at a religious celebration, and involvement in Rouen's international trade fair.

Through its tourism office Salerno has also promoted a number of initiatives: a cultural exchange for 35 students under the Socrates/Comenius programme and a visit by 40 students for a summer school.

A "Europe Info" point organises European-themed events including inter-school meetings and debates about Europe, and plays an active role in preparations for Europe Day.

Salerno has been involved in numerous humanitarian aid projects.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# LATVIA

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>SALDUS</b>  <European Diploma in 2005>		VILLEBON-SUR-YVETTE (F)	
	2005	LIDINGO (S)	2004
	2006	LIEDERBACH-AM-TAUNUS (D)**	2004
		STARGARD SZCECINSKI (PL)	1998

1. The first contacts with Villebon were made in 1992, and since then financial and practical assistance from the French municipality has enabled Saldus to develop its infrastructure, support the poorest members of its population and open a retirement home.
2. Cooperation with Lidingo began in 1992 with the creation of a Saldus-Lindingo Society which has promoted cultural, sports and business exchanges. The link has provided Saldus with practical help in developing its infrastructure and economy. An agreement on exchanges was signed in 1996 but the official cooperation agreement was not concluded until May 2004.
3. Following several delegation visits with Liederbach-am-Taunus, this link has brought humanitarian aid to the local hospital and schools in Saldus. An official cooperation agreement was signed in 2004.
4. There have been regular meetings with Stargard Szczecinski since 1988. A Saldus-Stargard Szczecinski Friendship Society was set up in 1998, and delegations from Saldus took part in Stargard's 750<sup>th</sup> and 760<sup>th</sup> municipal jubilee celebrations.
5. Saldus has contacts with Sergiyev Posad, in Russia, which date back to 1976 and were initially based around cultural events. Currently there is a busy programme of exchanges and a cooperation agreement is due to be signed in 2005.

Saldus is also in contact with the Austrian municipality of St Andrae and the German town of Leonburg.

Education Several schools in Saldus are involved in frequent exchanges with counterparts in the twinned towns and also take part in international projects funded by the EU. Regular activities include teacher exchanges, folk-dancing events with an emphasis on cultural traditions, and participation by teachers from Saldus in festivals and summer camps.

Culture The "Bandava" folk-dance troupe regularly performs in the twinned towns, and through its youth centre Saldus organises numerous trips for young people.

Religion The Lutheran Church in Saldus has developed cultural exchanges for young people with Nordic countries, particularly Sweden and Norway.

The Museum of Art and History in Saldus has staged several exhibitions designed to familiarise local people with the twinned towns.

Contacts with the twin towns forged ahead in 2005, with:

- the official visit of the Mayor of Saldus to Liederbach, to boost economic co-operation and also the twinning activities;
- numerous exchanges between schoolchildren and also teachers, particularly with Lidingo and Liederbach;

\*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize  
 \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour  
 \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour  
 ● Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## **LATVIA (continued)**

### **SALDUS (continued)**

- projects under the Leonardo da Vinci programme which have given 61 students and 10 teachers an opportunity to improve their skills in various areas;
- two projects between schools in Saldus and abroad under the Socrates-Comenius programme;
- a programme with Lidingo to help disadvantaged families in Saldus;
- the strengthening of ties with Sergijevo Posad in Russia, through a visit by an official delegation from Saldus during the "town days" festivities;
- the organisation of an international conference on "Development of the local business network", to develop economic co-operation with Sweden, Austria and Poland.

In 2006 Saldus will be celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary; all the twin towns will be invited and it would like to receive the Flag of Honour on this occasion.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma



# LITHUANIA

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>ALYTUS</b> (Dzukija region, Southern Lithuania) (Pop. 71 000)	2006	OPOLE (PL)***	
		SUWALKI (PL)***	
		OSTOLENKI (PL)	
		BOTKYRKA (S)	
		CESIS (Latvia)	
		MANDAL (N)	
		ROUEN (F)	
		NAESTVED (DK)	

Alytus has exchanges with all these towns in the fields of culture, sport, tourism, education, environmental protection and trade.

The primary and secondary schools have a long experience of exchanges with their counterparts abroad, so there are long-standing contacts with schools in Jonköping (S) and elsewhere in Sweden, and also in France, Germany, Austria and Italy.

Exchanges between artists are also organised, with symposia attended by painters and sculptors from Poland, Ukraine and Germany.

The Cultural Department in Alytus has organised youth camps (Svajone) since 2000 where the young people get together and put on a show. Contacts have developed with music schools in Malung in Sweden, Ginjol in Spain, Cesis in Latvia and Narva in Estonia. At the last camp, "Svajone 2005", the young participants discussed the cultural life of young people in different countries, presented their own countries, developed their musical skills and so on.

Every year Alytus organises a Puppet Festival called "Aitvaras", with participants from Poland, Latvia, Estonia, Russia and Belarus. The International Folklore Festival (Atvaziuoja zolynai) is held every year in December.

Conferences, seminars and music festivals were organised on the occasion of Lithuania's accession to the European Union. Alytus is proud that 95.24 percent of its population voted in favour.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## LITHUANIA (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>DRUSKININKAI</b> (Pop. 20 000)	2006	ELBLAG (PL)** STRZELCE OPOLSKIE (PL) YSTAD (S)	

Druskininkai is part of the "Nemunas" Euroregion, made up of local authorities in Lithuania, Poland and Belarus. It is located on the border with Poland and Belarus and, as a result, is involved in numerous cross-border co-operation schemes. It also belongs to the "Ladruva" micro-region, with Lazdijai and Varena. It has the country's largest spa complex.

For ten years Druskininkai has been co-operating with Elblag, especially in the economic field, through exchanges of experience in the preparation of investment projects, but also in the cultural, social and educational fields.

With Strzelce Opolskie the co-operation dates back to 1995, mainly in the youth and education fields. In exchanges financed by the European Union, young people from Druskininkai, Strzelce, Soest (D) and Kampen (NL) meet regularly.

Druskininkai has also worked with Voorschoten (NL) for ten years or so on a vast humanitarian aid programme.

Druskininkai is Lithuania's best known spa resort. After Lithuania's independence, however, unemployment soared. Druskininkai has developed contacts with spa resorts in other countries, especially Frantyskovy Lazne in the Czech Republic and Bad Langensalza in Germany. Numerous conferences, exchanges of experience and visits to other spas keep the contacts active. A co-operation agreement has been signed with Lazio-Fiuggi Terme in Italy, and Druskininkai also co-operates with towns in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden and Norway in an Interreg III programme.

At the initiative of its cultural centre, it advertises its spa activities in Elblag and organises a foot race during the "Elblag Days" in Druskininkai. The M.K. Ciurlioniu music school regularly organises the international "Music without borders" festival and the "Summer with M.K. Ciurlioniu" arts festival, which lasts four months and gives participants from different countries an opportunity to get to know Lithuanian art and music.

Druskininkai also organises other international events, like the "Baltica 2005" folk festival.

In 2004 Druskininkai opened an Education Centre that will help to promote the European idea through various events.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# **LITHUANIA (continued)**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>IGNALINA</b>	2006	<i>Co-operation agreements with</i> BIUREN (D) PRACHATICE (CZ) SEROCK (PL)	

Ignalina has signed economic and cultural co-operation agreements with these three towns. Representatives meet annually to discuss the programme, which includes school exchanges with Serock, youth exchanges, sporting events like the swimming marathon with Biuren, exchanges of experience and contacts between official delegations.

Ignalina has also built up good relations with OLOFSTROM in Sweden over the last five years.

It is part of the "Country of Lakes" Euroregion set up in 1997, which comprises 17 local authorities on the border of Lithuania, Latvia and Belarus. Cultural, tourism and educational projects are developed in this framework, of which the "Bicycle Race across the Country of Lakes" is one example.

The "Pool of Lakes" international music and folk dancing festival takes place every two years, with participants from several European countries. The 2005 edition drew troupes from Croatia, Hungary, Serbia, Scotland, Bulgaria and Poland.

Several other international events are regularly organised:

- the "Bilduciai" international children's theatre festival started in 1996 and went international in 1998, attracting troupes from Latvia, Belarus and Poland;
- the international poetry festival;
- the bicycle marathon, which attracted 350 participants in 2005.

Prior to and at the time of Lithuania's accession to the European Union, schools organised numerous conferences, exhibitions, games, etc. on European themes.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# **LITHUANIA (continued)**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>NERINGA</b> (Pop. 2 600)	2006	LEBA (PL) MUHU (Est) BURG AUF FEHMARN (D) BORGHOLM (S)	2000

Neringa celebrated its 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary with its twin towns in 2005, with meetings and a conference on tourism development and environmental protection in the Baltic region. The festivities culminated in a grand concert.

The oldest twinning, with Burg auf Fehmarn, was initiated in 2000. It started with a programme of English and German classes in Burg and Neringa, followed by a visit to Burg by women from Neringa to teach Lithuanian there, a visit by a folk dancing troupe from Neringa, visits by students from Neringa and sporting events between schools in the four twin towns.

Schools are very active in exchanges with Hanover (D) under the Socrates programme, but also with Freiburg (D), Gotland (S), Tallin (EST) and Leba (PL).

Two renowned artists from Neringa have exhibited in Burg.

Schoolchildren learn more about Europe through drawing competitions, cookery classes, writing newspaper articles about Europe and so on.

When Lithuania joined the European Union Neringa organised a solemn session of the Municipal Council the previous day, followed by a full programme of festivities the following day for the whole population, in the presence of local artists.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## LITHUANIA (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>PANEVEZYS</b> (North-East) (Pop. 116 000)	2006	LUNEN (D)	1990
		KALMAR (S)	1992
		GOES (NL)	1993
		LUBLIN (PL)	1999
		KOLDING (DK)	2000
		MYTISHI (RU)	2001
		KALININGRAD (RU)****	2002
		DAUGAVPILS (LT)	2004
		GABROVO (BG)	2005
		RAKVERE (EE)	2005

With Lünen, the longest-standing twin town, contacts are well developed between schools, sports enthusiasts, doctors, architects, ecologists and police forces.

With Kalmar there is a wide variety of exchanges. The towns have carried out a number of projects together and exchanges concern political parties, trade unions, journalists, social workers, doctors, students, teachers, architects, chambers of commerce, young people and cultural groups. Thanks to the Swedish-Lithuanian Society, every year a pupil from Panevezys can go to school in Kalmar and stay with a family there. Both towns organise concerts. There are frequent business contacts and the two towns have organised an environmental project with EU support.

With Goes: visits of cultural groups to Goes (theatre, folk dancing, concerts); students do training in hospitals, schools and the re-education centre in Panevezys.

With Lublin: co-operation between chambers of commerce, sports clubs, teachers, schoolchildren, cultural groups and local officials.

With Kolding: co-operation between teachers, students, businessmen, scientists and cultural groups.

With Mytishi: contacts between businessmen, young people, sports enthusiasts, etc.

With Kaliningrad: exchanges between young people, sports enthusiasts and businessmen; cultural exchanges between schools and centres for people with disabilities.

With Daugavpils, Gabrovo and Rakvere: cultural exchanges and exchanges between young people.

Major European events Panevezys has organised include:

- the 'Panevezys-Europa 2005' biennial photography show, initiated when Lithuania joined the European Union, with artists from Sweden, Poland, Russia and Belarus;
- the international youth festival "We are coming", which brings together 3000 participants every year. The first edition in 2001 was awarded the Twinning Gold Stars;
- the international wind instrument festival, with orchestras from Denmark, the Netherlands, Hungary, Poland and Spain;
- the "Lagaminas" international puppet festival organised in 2005 to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of H.C. Anderssen;
- the "green days", to enhance environmental awareness.

\*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize  
 \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour  
 \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour  
 ● Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## LITHUANIA (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>SILUTE</b> (western Lithuania) (Pop. 54 000)	2006	EMMERICH (D)	1991
		NAKSKOV (D)	1992
		LJUNBGY (S)	1992
		OSTRUDA (PL)	2001
		GDANSK PRUSZCZ (PL)	2004

Silute is part of the Baltic Euroregion established in 1998, which includes the regions of Pomerania and Masuria in Poland and Kaliningrad in Russia, the county of Klaipeda in Lithuania, the region of Kurzeme in Latvia, and the counties of Blekinge, Kalmar and Kronoberg in Sweden and Bornholm in Denmark.

Twinning associations exist for the twinnings with Emmerich and Ljungby, encouraging contacts between families and organising cultural exchanges and youth camps for children with disabilities, and charity work through organisations such as the Red Cross in Emmerich.

1. With Emmerich: co-operation agreement signed in 1991, concerning culture, sport, trade and the exchange of information between municipal officials and on the occasion of special events.
2. With Ljungby: friendship and co-operation agreement signed in 1992, concerning the exchange of information on environmental protection, culture and sport.
3. With Nakskov: co-operation agreement signed in 1992, concerning trade, environmental protection, education, culture and sport.
4. With Gdansk Pruszcz: recent co-operation agreement (2004) providing for the development of economic and cultural relations.

In 1998 Silute signed protocols of intent with Warsaw-Bielany (Poland) and the Kaliningrad regional Duma. Also in 1998 an agreement in principle on co-operation activities was signed with the municipal authorities in Slavsk (Kaliningrad region), covering the implementation of a joint scheme to protect the environment, as well as cultural and sports exchanges and mutual assistance for the Russian community living in the Silute region.

Very close contacts have existed for fifteen years between the First High School in Silute and the Halepaghen School in Buxtehude. The first joint project was the organisation of a series of concerts by the Buxtehude symphony orchestra in Silute in 1991. At present the two establishments are partners in a Comenius project on the future of regional cultures in a united Europe. This project is also a source of contacts with Turkish and Polish students.

The municipal library in Silute has numerous contacts with its counterparts in other countries. Latvian, Estonian, Lithuanian and Czech librarians have met on several occasions to exchange notes. When Lithuania joined the European Union the library organised an exhibition, a festival and various other activities to familiarise people with Europe. Since 1998 it has also organised a Nordic Libraries Week each year where a different country is presented through different cultural events.

The Rotary Club and the Soroptimist Club in Silute take part in European events, organising student exchanges, for example, with the Danish and German Rotary Clubs.

The municipal museum has worked with the East Prussia Museum in Lüneburg (D) since 1996, with exchanges between employees and joint exhibitions. It also organises lectures with the Baltic Academy in Lübeck (D).

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## LITHUANIA (continued)

### SILUTE (continued)

Silute organised major festivities throughout the region when Lithuania joined the EU, including the planting of trees, and flowerbed arrangements involving 20,000 local residents, many of whom were young people.

Various schools, particularly the Tourism and Business Institute and the Agricultural School, take part in projects financed by the European Union and offering students the opportunity to follow training courses abroad.

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>TRAKAI</b> (28 km from Vilnius) (Pop. 38 000)	2006	RHEINE (D)*	1996

Annual exchanges between school, social workers and artists with Rheine. The twinning was awarded the European Union's Gold Stars in 2001.

Trakai has also developed contacts with several Polish towns in the Jaroslav district in the fields of culture, tourism and environmental protection.

It also co-operates with several German towns, and has signed cultural co-operation agreements with Kochtla-Jarve (Estonia), Lapmezciems (Latvia) and Gizycko, Suvalkai and Nowy Sonc (Poland).

In 2003 Trakai signed an agreement with Schoenebeck (D), Jaroslav (PL) and Javoriz (UA) to organise holiday camps for young people alternately in the different towns. In 2006 Trakai will be organising it. The chamber orchestra from Schoenebeck has performed in Vilnius and twice in Trakai.

The international music festival is held every two years in Trakai, with youth orchestras from various EU countries. The third edition will take place in 2006.

Every year since 1999 Trakai has also organised a folk music festival that attracts groups from Poland, Germany, Estonia and Latvia.

Young people from Trakai are also involved in various projects financed by the European Union, through which they meet other potential partners in Europe.

Major efforts are made in Trakai's schools to interest young people in Europe.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## THE NETHERLANDS

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
HAAKSBERGEN (Pop. 24 000)	2006	AHAUS (D)	1985

This is a twinning between towns on either side of a border.

There are regular contacts between municipal councillors, senior citizens (twice a year), schools and cultural associations which organise exhibitions.

Haaksbergen has signed a friendship agreement with Nagykörös in Hungary, with which it has private, sporting and school exchanges.

Europe Day is celebrated every year as part of the armistice celebrations.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma



# POLAND

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>BĘDZIN</b>			
(Śląskie Voivodship)	2005	TATABANYA (H)	2000
(Pop. 60 000)	2006	IZHEVSK (RU)	2004
		KAISIADORYS (LT)	2004

## <European Diploma in 2005>

1. It is with Tatabanya that Będzin has most of its twinning contacts. They take the form of delegation visits, youth exchanges, commemorations of local and regional events, exchanges between music and dance groups and sports clubs, annual participation by sports teams from the two towns in soccer and volleyball tournaments, photography exhibitions, a joint English poetry competition for schoolchildren, involvement by artists from Tatabanya in Będzin's civic festival and presentations on a shared stand at Tatabanya's festival.
2. The twinning with Izhevsk was concluded as recently as 2004. Initial contacts have taken place between universities with a view to organising exchanges of students and lecturers as well as staging seminars and conferences. Several groups from Izhevsk attended Będzin's civic festival.
3. The twinning with Kaisiadorys, in Lithuania, was signed in October 2004. Young sportspeople from Kaisiadorys took part in an international soccer tournament in Będzin and visits between civic representatives have taken place in both directions, with a view to cooperating more closely in the future.

Other European towns with which Będzin has contacts include the Italian municipalities of San Bonifacio and San Benedetto del Trento, under the Socrates/Comenius programme, as well as towns in Croatia, Bulgaria, the UK, France, Norway and Ukraine.

European-oriented events include an annual Festival of Celtic Music and numerous soccer, volleyball and other sports tournaments.

The municipality of Będzin has a Youth Council representing 13 to 20-year-olds, which was set up in 2003, includes several committees and is responsible for organising cultural, sports and arts events. In May 2004 it staged a major sports competition. It is involved in municipal activities and cooperates in twinning visits.

There were special celebrations in Będzin on 5 May 2004 when the town played host to the Speaker of the Polish Parliament. A big European concert was given on the occasion of Poland's accession to the EU.

The accession was also marked by a whole series of activities including lectures, open-air meetings, an Internet "Chat" event and, of course, the distribution of information. These initiatives were supported by a specially created "Pro Europa" association in Będzin.

Events that marked 2005 include:

- the "Będzin Days" celebration and 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning with Tatabanya in Hungary. Young people organised a photographic exhibition on the two towns and a number of sporting events took place.
- Będzin received visitors from St Andrea and St Georgen in Austria who were members of the Trans-European Towns Association, to discuss future co-operation possibilities.
- Będzin organised the "3<sup>rd</sup> Jewish Culture Days", which retraced the life of residents of its Jewish quarter.
- The third Celtic music festival attracted 20 groups from Poland and the Czech Republic.
- A visit by teachers from Koenigslutter (D) and Barlad (RO) whose schools are involved in a Socrates-Comenius programme with schools in Będzin.
- An international martial arts congress with athletes from Izhevsk.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## POLAND (continued)

### BĘDZIN (continued)

- Youth workshops on culture and nature in the Polish Jura region, with young participants from Poland, Lithuania, Slovakia and the Czech Republic.
- The twin town film festival, with a selection of films screened in each twin town.

Officials from Będzin travelled to Kaisiadorys for the Folk Festival and to exchange views on education, culture and sport. In September a delegation from Będzin attended the "Mining Days" in Tatabanya.

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>BIAŁOGARD</b> (Zachodniopomorskie Voivodship) (Pop. 25 000)	2005 2006	AKNISTE (LV)	1999
		TETEROW (D)	1978
		BINZ (D)	2002
		GNOSJÖ (S)	2003
		ALBANO (I)	2004
		OLEN (B)	2004
		MARADU (EE)	2004
<European Diploma in 2005>			

- The longest established twinning is that with the German municipality of Teterow, signed in 1978. The respective local authorities have a tradition of meeting at one another's civic festivals.

- Cooperation with Binz began in 2002. In this case, too, exchanges take place on the occasion of municipal events such as Bialogard's civic festival.

- The twinning with the municipality of Gnosjö, concluded in 2003, focuses chiefly on inter-school exchanges.

- Three new twinning agreements were signed in 2004.

The main twinning activities are cultural, sports and youth exchanges and there is cooperation between schools and cultural centres, in the field of environmental protection and on inter-municipal exchanges of experience.

Since 2000 a number of events with a European orientation have been held in Bialogard, including:

- "Bialogard's International Days 2003", with the involvement of German and Latvian guests;
- a youth festival in 2001, featuring a handball tournament in which teams from the twinned towns took part;
- a sports festival in 2003;
- an event entitled "Youth as the Future of United Europe" which took the form of a bilingual camp for young people, with participation by groups from the German and Latvian twinning partners;
- a "European Integration Picnic" in May 2004 to mark Europe Day;
- a language-learning camp entitled "Young People and United Europe 2004", with participation by groups from Sweden, Germany, Latvia and Poland.

Europe Day has been celebrated since 2001. Schools, music groups and sports clubs are involved and the activities are coordinated by the mayor's office.

A European Club has the role of promoting the concept of Europe, and a Polish-Swedish Cooperation Office encourages contacts between these two countries, particularly with a view to developing tourism and links between businesspeople.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## **POLAND (continued)**

### **BIAŁOGARD (continued)**

Each of Bialogard's seven schools has a European Club, which organises competitions and disseminates all kinds of information about the EU.

In 2005 almost all Bialogard's European activities concerned young people:

- the "Baltic Cup" wrestling tournament, one of the largest in Europe, which attracts over 400 contestants every year, including young people from Germany, France, the Netherlands, Sweden, Latvia, the Czech Republic and Belarus;
- a hip-hop dance course attended by young people from Bialogard, Olen and Ostseebad Binz;
- the drawing competition for primary school children from Akniste, Maardu, Gnosjö and Bialogard;
- an open-air photography competition, with young people from Bialogard, Ostseebad and Olen, to familiarise them with the art of photography but also with Bialogard's architectural heritage;
- the youth camp organised by Ostseebad Binz on Rügen Island, which young people from Bialogard attend to improve their language skills;
- the Unesco language camp held every year in Bialogard, attended by 100 young people age 16 to 18 from Poland and Germany;
- the women's international volleyball tournament, with delegations from Olen, Maardu and Akniste;
- the European dance festival for couples, in which 120 children age 5 to 12 from different European countries took part.

Naturally Bialogard also celebrated Europe Day, when a group of young members of the European Club invited young people from Belgium, Italy, Latvia, Sweden and Germany. The other high point was the "Bialogard Days", attended by delegations from Albano Laziale and Gnosjö. The 6-day celebration, which coincided with the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of Bialogard, included numerous concerts and cultural events.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

**POLAND (continued)**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>GRODZISK WIELKOPOLSKI</b> Pop. 18 900)		BETTON (F)	2001
	2005	DELLIGSEN (D)	2001
(woj. Wielkopolskie)	2006	MERKSPLAS (B)	2000
		TORRELODONES (E)	1994
<b>&lt;European Diploma in 2005&gt;</b>			

1. Contacts with BETTON (F) date back to 1990 and began with promotion of French language learning. Delegation visits, involvement in annual events (such as Bastille Day celebrations) and inter-school and senior citizens' visits culminated in the signing of a twinning agreement in 2001. Since then the ties have been strengthened through activities including residents' get-togethers and the involvement of the Mayor of Betton in Grodzisk's 700<sup>th</sup> jubilee celebrations, at which he was made an honorary citizen of the Polish municipality.
2. With DELLIGSEN (D) the first contacts were between schoolchildren, and the twinning was signed in 2001. The following year a 50-strong group representing different trades and associations travelled to Delligsen. A Delligsen delegation was also invited to the 700<sup>th</sup> jubilee celebrations.
3. The twinning with MERKSPLAS (B) developed out of humanitarian aid efforts and was made official in 2000. Visits by municipal delegations have since concentrated on the need to develop partnership in the areas of culture and education, and Merksplas was involved in the 700<sup>th</sup> jubilee celebrations and in marking Poland's accession to the EU.
4. The twinning agreement with TORRELODONES (E) was signed in 1994 but when the Spanish initiator of the link died there was no activity for a period of years. Since 2003, following the inauguration of a new Mayor in Torrelodones the twinning has been revitalised and several official delegation visits have taken place.

An association for foreign cooperation was set up in 2002 and organises residents' visits to the twinned municipalities. In 2001 a 57-strong group from Betton, including 12 people with disabilities, came to Grodzisk to for discussions on the theme "The Place of Disabled People in Local Life". The cooperation association was involved in celebrating both Grodzisk's 700<sup>th</sup> jubilee and Poland's accession to the EU. It plans to run French, German and Spanish language classes in 2005.

Local schools have many contacts with counterparts in other countries. The secondary school, for example, regularly organises exchanges with schools in Denmark, France, Switzerland and Germany.

With a view to promoting business contacts, Grodzisk hosted a major conference for Spanish and Polish company directors in 2004.

In **2005** Grodzisk stepped up its exchanges with Torrelodones, which organised a large working meeting to review all the possibilities of co-operation between the two towns. A French delegation from Betton was invited to Grodzisk to familiarise themselves with the Polish education system. In August a delegation from Grodzisk travelled to Merksplas to take part in the summer festival there with the municipality's other twin towns, each of which presented itself during the official programme.

Grodzisk and its four twin towns held a working meeting in Brussels with the EU officials responsible for twinings to ascertain how best to continue and increase the co-operation between them. A statement of intent was adopted on this occasion.

The Mayor of Grodzisk accepted President Chirac's invitation to celebrate Europe Day in Paris with 1000 mayors from all over Europe. The European Union Days were celebrated on 13 and 14 May, especially by the town's young people, with a European march and a soccer tournament. Schools did much to promote awareness of European issues.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

**POLAND (continued)**

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
KOŁOBRZEG	2005	BERLIN-PANKOW (D)	1994
		BAD OLDESLOE (D)	1996
		BARTH (D)	2001
(woj. Zachodniopomorskie)	2006	SIMRISHAMNS (S)	2001
		NYBORG (DK)	1992
		DELFIJL (NL)****	1991
<European Diploma in 2005>		KOEKELBERG-BRUSSELS (B)	2004
		LANDSKRONA (S)	2005

1. Berlin-Pankow: mainly contacts between schools, in addition to joint cultural events, including high-level classical concerts, exchanges between municipal officials and visits by private groups. Contacts are facilitated by the "Friends of Kolobrzeg" Association, which subsidised the equipment for the hospital in Kolobrzeg. Pankow will also be subsidising a welfare centre, for which a cheque was handed over at the festivities marking Kolobrzeg's 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2005.
2. Koekelberg-Brussels: thanks to this twinning the voivodship was able to open a Brussels office in 2004. It provides young trainees with an opportunity to stay in Brussels, as well as exchanging information and participating in events to promote the two municipalities. Koekelberg was represented by artists and a thirty-strong delegation at the 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in Kolobrzeg.
3. Barth: both municipalities belong to the Pomerania Euroregion, which gives them access to funding under the Interreg programme. As Barth also celebrated its 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2005, 50 representatives from Kolobrzeg took part in the festivities.
4. Landskrona: this is the most recent twinning. It involves cultural exchanges, sporting events, youth activities and tourism.
5. Bad Oldesloe: every year 20 or 30 people meet to learn German or Polish together.

Mainly, however, it was major events like the "Kolobrzeg Days" in 2004 and the 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of Kolobrzeg, which was followed by the "Twin Towns Festival", that provided the best opportunities for the towns to meet and get to know each other better through their cultural activities.

- A. The 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of Kolobrzeg: delegations from Landskrona and Simrishamn (S), Berlin Pankow, Barth and Oldesloe (D), Koekelberg (B), Bornholm (DK), Pori (FI), Nyborg (D) and Delfzijl (NL) participated in the celebrations and also in the ensuing Kolobrzeg Festival, where each twin town was able to present itself.
- B. The classical music concert, with the participation of young people from all over Europe: in January 2005, as an introduction to the 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, Kolobrzeg organised a New Year concert at the City Hall with the International Music Academy of Berlin, in which ten young Europeans took part.

Other examples of co-operation with twin towns include:

- the refurbishment of the marina in Kolobrzeg, to develop the region's tourism potential, particularly with the German twin towns. This project, financed by the EU under the Interreg programme, has the support of Barth in Germany;
- the improvement of tourism facilities on the banks of the river Parseta, as far as the Kolobrzeg lighthouse, another project in partnership with Barth which is supported by the EU;

\*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize  
 \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour  
 \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour  
 • Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

**POLAND (continued)**

**KOLOBRZEG (continued)**

- the setting up of an economic and social development centre financed by the German-Polish Co-operation Foundation – the centre will help to solve the serious socio-economic problems facing the municipality and provide a meeting place for international conferences and seminars;
- numerous examples of co-operation between schools.

The European idea is promoted in the main by European school clubs formed by students, the Eurobus which transports students to training centres and the European Information Centres.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

**POLAND (continued)**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>LEBORK</b>		LAUENBURG (D)	2001
(Pomorskie Voivodship)	2005	DUDELANGE (L)	2001
(Pop. 37 000)	2006	MANOM (F)	2001
		KRETINGA (LT)	

In 2001 Lebork joined the existing three-way partnership that had linked Lauenburg, Dudelange and Manom for 45 years.

It has also signed cooperation agreements with Agnone (I) and Turda (RO) and has developed contacts with Sokal (UA), Gummersbach (D) and Almhult (S).

Practical achievements under the various partnerships have included a joint concert with the choirs of Lebork and Kretinga, a youth project carried out with Lauenburg, Kretinga and Agnone, a tournament involving municipal officials from Dudelange, meetings with firefighters from Dudelange, contacts between high-school teachers and their counterparts in Kretinga and Agnone, and exchanges of experience with directors from Kretinga.

Contacts were made with Ukraine in 1996 with a view to cooperation on environmental issues, culture and sport. A major conference involving officials and businesspeople from the Kaliningrad region was also organised in order to promote cooperation in business, culture, environmental management and sport.

Lebork is involved in several projects supported by the European Union:

- a project concerning the cultural responsibilities of libraries towards the citizen, in which the Lebork municipal library is involved in association with the Lauenburg library;
- an Interreg project called "Cultourest" involving the exchange of experience in the field of monument restoration, for which Lebork organised an international conference in 2005;
- the INTERREG III "SusSET" project on the sustainable development of small towns, in which towns in Sweden Scotland and Greece are also participating.

Recent twinning activities included participation in a cycle race that took 35 cyclists through the twin towns to Lebork, participation by young Germans in a vocational training course, a photographic exhibition on the German minorities in Pomerania, participation by a group of signers and dancers in the International Hanseatic Days, a visit by scouts from Bavaria and a trip by schoolchildren from Lebork to Gummersbach.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## POLAND (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>LODZ</b> (Lodz Voivodship) (Pop. 760 000)	2006	CHEMNITZ (D)	1972
		STUTTGART (D)	1988
		LYON (F)	1991
		VILNIUS (LT)	1991
		IVANOVO (BG)	1992
		KALININGRAD (RU)****	1993
		MINSK (BY)	1993
		ODESSA (UA)*	1993
		RUSTAVI (GE)	1995
		BARREIRO (P)	1996
		TAMPERE (FI)	1996
		MURCIA (E)**	1999
		ÖREBROA (S)	2001

Lodz is also twinned with Tel Aviv (since 1994), Tianjin (1994) and Puebla (1997).

A multicultural city that underwent exceptional industrial growth in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Lodz is known as the Polish cinema capital.

It is a member of various international organisations and associations, such as Eurocities and the Association of Polish Towns.

It has concluded twinning agreements with 16 towns and cities in Europe and elsewhere.

1. With CHEMNITZ: co-operation has developed in the economic field, through fairs, exhibitions and trade missions, in the cultural field, with the civic festivities in Lodz and Chemnitz, in science, through co-operation between the two universities, and through tourism.
2. With STUTTGART: co-operation began in the 1970s, with youth exchanges and sporting events. After the twinning in 1988, it spread to culture, environmental protection, health and trade. Classes for municipal employees give public servants from Lodz the benefit of German experience, and in the cultural field there are the "Stuttgart Days" and the "Lodz Days" each city has organised annually for the other for the last ten years. Exhibitions, concerts and film festivals attract residents from both cities and exchanges between schools and universities also work well.
3. With LYON: cultural and economic contacts and also exchanges between the universities. Each city regularly attends major events in the other and the "Lodz Days" in Lyon and the "Lyon Days" in Lodz are always well appreciated.

With Vilnius co-operation mainly concerns tourism, monument conservation and the universities. Twinning exchanges with Minsk include an annual visit by young people from Minsk who take part in a swimming competition for young people with disabilities. Co-operation with Odessa is more trade-oriented: Odessa takes part in the international tourism fair in Lodz and a plan to open shops in both cities to sell typical products from the other city is currently being examined.

The University of Lodz works with universities all over Europe on the basis of 88 direct co-operation agreements that have enabled 250 students to follow courses abroad. More than 700 foreign scientists have visited the university and attended conferences there.

The Technical College co-operates with universities and research institutes in 21 EU member countries and 11 other European countries and has always taken part in European Union programmes (Socrates).

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma



## **POLAND (continued)**

### **LODZ (continued)**

Europe Day is commemorated with various events, particularly through the European Clubs in primary and secondary schools.

Major events organised by Lodz include:

- the annual Four-culture Dialogue Festival (Polish, German, Russian and Jewish), which refers to the origins of the city, an exceptional place where peoples from four nations lived together in peace for many years;
- the CAMERIMAGE international film Festival, attended every year by film makers from all over the world.

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>MRAGOWO</b> (Warminsko-Mazurskie Voivodship)	2006	GRÜNBERG (D)***	1993

A twinning committee set up in 1994 oversees co-operation between the two towns, which includes official visits, youth exchanges and exchanges between choirs.

German and Polish language lessons are organised and youth "Eurocamps" have been held several times in Mragowo but also in Grünberg's other twin towns, Condom (F) and Toro (E), with which Mragowo also has contacts.

In 2005 Mragowo established contacts with Nordheim in Germany, through a country music festival, and with Remscheid.

Every year Mragowo organises an international "border culture" festival with the participation of artists from Lithuania, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Slovakia.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>OGRODZIENIEC</b>	2004	MELISSANO (I)	2000
(Slaskie Voivodship)	2005	GROSS-BIEBERAU (D)	2001
<b>&lt;European Diploma in 2004&gt;</b>	2006	BOGACS (H)	1994
		SPISSKE PODHRADIE (SK)	1998

Ogrodzieniec has concentrated on developing contacts with residents of its twinned towns by fostering exchanges between cultural and sports associations, young people, schools and businesses.

Local associations encourage folk groups and choirs to make trips to the twinned municipalities for major cultural events, and in late June each year Ogrodzieniec hosts an annual gathering of Hungarian and Slovakian painters. Ogrodzieniec is the site of a famous fortified castle and it sends representatives to chivalric tournaments in Slovakia. Local firefighters have also forged ties with counterparts in Germany and Slovakia.

The respective local authorities maintain contacts and encourage exchanges in the areas of farm tourism, heritage and environmental conservation and public safety.

Major events organised recently include:

- EUROJAM 2003 which brought together more than 9 000 Scouts and Guides from all over Europe;
- A European meeting involving mayors and delegations from Bogacs (H), Melissano (I) and Spisske Podhradie (SK), held with a view to further developing cooperation.

The latest Europe Day celebrations were assisted by the European Information Centre set up in 2003, which organised numerous events in schools to mark the occasion (these included a "Europe Week", a quiz and a test of general knowledge about Europe). Regional and national institutions with a European brief were also involved. The European Information Centre has received national recognition for its work.

In 2004 the Centre focused primarily on Poland's accession to the EU, organising conferences and events for schools, setting up a European Info Point during the civic festival, staging a major event in Ogrodzieniec's medieval castle to celebrate the accession and running a Europe Day competition for primary schools.

Contacts with the twinning partners were confined to hosting two volunteers from Melissano and sending delegations to Spisske Podhradie's folk festival and an international cultural festival in Bogacs. In late August representatives of all the twinned towns gathered in Ogrodzieniec to meet residents, municipal councillors and school principals and explore ways of strengthening cooperation.

**In 2005** most exchanges were with Bogacs in Hungary: first meeting in March to prepare the summer youth exchange that took 40 young people and 5 teachers to stay in Bogacs in July; at the same time young people from Bogacs visited Ogrodzieniec; and a delegation from Ogrodzieniec took part in the cultural days held in Bogacs.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

**POLAND (continued)**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>Cooperation agreements with:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>RADOM</b> (Mazowieckie Voivodship) (Pop. 230 000)		HOLSTEBRO (DK)	1993
		VILLEURBANNE (F)	2000
	2005	Regional Authority of VILNIUS	1996
		DAUGAVPILS (LV)	1993
	2006	GOMEL (BY)	1992
		TARNOPOL (UA)	1996
		STARA ZAGORA (BU)	2001
		BANSKA BYSTRICA (SK)	2001
<European Diploma in 2005>		OZERY (Moscow District)	2003
		PLOESTI (RO)	2003

The best-developed contacts are with the following:

- the Regional Authority of Vilnius, with which Radom has participated in teacher exchanges, training courses for social workers, "Green Weeks", youth summer camps, a student bursary scheme and musical events;
- Daugavpils, which has helped to organise a "Daugavpils Festival" in Radom and a "Radom Festival" in Daugavpils, an exchange of exhibitions between museums, visits by young artists and apprentices to Radom and contacts between businesspeople;
- Gomel, which has been involved in organising fairs and exhibitions to showcase regional produce, arranging contacts between artists, setting up a bursary scheme for teachers from Belarus and organising a children's summer visit;
- Tarnopol, which helped to stage a Ukrainian Cultural Festival in Radom and has been involved in reciprocal visits by delegations to local festivals;
- Banska Bystrica, which invited Radom representatives to an international conference, and took part in a major event in Radom.

Recent large-scale events organised by Radom include a European Gala, at which a 3 000-strong audience had a opportunity to hear the music of different European countries.

Several official visits and exchanges took place in 2005: to Ozery (RU), to Gomel for the ceremonies marking the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War Two, and to Stara Zagora. Radom celebrated Europe Day for the first time. During a one-week meeting of young Poles and Germans in Radom a full programme of visits to churches, cemeteries and historic sites was organised to combat any lingering prejudices between the two countries.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

**POLAND (continued)**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>RUDNIKI</b> (Pop. 9 000)	2006	SOLLEFTEA (S) SOBLAHOV (SK)	2002 2004
(Opolskie voivodship)			

The two twinings are recent, but co-operation has developed in culture, sport, tourism and trade.

Rudniki also has contacts with other European towns: Hof. Koditz, Arzbach and Feilitzch in Germany; Junsele in Sweden; Bellegarde in France; San Salvo in Italy and Jesienik in the Czech Republic.

Co-operation is particularly well developed with:

1. Sweden:

- competitions between fire brigades, who have in fact signed their own twinning agreement;
- loggers from Solleftea regularly take part in international competitions;
- frequent school exchanges;
- exchanges and contacts between officials and businessmen;
- groups of young people regularly visit the twin town.

2. Slovakia

- loggers from Soblahov take part in international competitions;
- official exchanges;
- school exchanges;
- exchanges between folk groups.

Several European awareness raising events were organised in 2003 prior to Poland's entry into the European Union and schoolchildren are familiarised with Europe through the European Clubs.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

**POLAND (continued)**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>SIEMIANOWICE SLASKIE</b> (Katowice) <European Diploma in 2002>	2002	WATTRELOS (F)***	1993
		KÖTHEN (D)	1993
	2005	MOHACS (H)**	1999
		JABLUNKOV (CZ)	1998
		CAMPPIA TURZII (RO)	2001
		FASTOV (UA)	2004

Siemianowice plans to conclude a twinning agreement with CAMPPIA TURZII in Romania in 2002.

Some 30 cultural and sporting events have been organised since 1992, as well as:

- school and youth exchanges;
- art exhibitions – participation of artists from Köthen in the “Pleinair” exhibition in Siemianowice Slaskie in 2000 and return event in Köthen in 2001;
- an International Environmental Seminar organised annually since 1997, with scientists and specialists from the twin towns. The 2001 edition was also an opportunity to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> twinning anniversary.

The European Commission awarded Siemianowice the “Twinning Gold Stars” in 1996.

Three years after earning the European Diploma, Siemianowice is keen to be awarded the Flag of Honour in 2005. Major activities that took place in 2003 and 2004 included:

- the regularly staged international soccer tournament, which in 2003 and 2004 attracted 16 young teams from the Czech Republic, Germany and Slovakia;
- the street race that has been an annual event in the town for the past 10 years and attracts several hundred amateur runners. In previous years more of the twinning partners have been represented but in 2003 only Jablunkov and Campia Turzii sent competitors;
- the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> annual "Siemianowice Slaskie Days";
- an international conference on measures to combat unemployment, in which all the twinning partners participated;
- the international "Pleinair" art exhibition, which was held in Siemianowice in 2003 with a return event in Grebanin in 2004 and involved artists from the twinned municipalities;
- the opening of a hockey centre with inaugural matches between teams from Poland, Austria and the Czech Republic.

\*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize  
 \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour  
 \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour  
 ● Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## POLAND (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>SUPRAŚL</b> (Podlaskie Voivodship) (Pop. 12 000) <European Diploma in 2004>	2004	BALSTHAL (CH) GROSSENKNETEN (D)** PORTHCAWL (GB)	1998 1999 2001

1. The partnership with **Balsthal** began with a number of inter-school exchanges, Suprasl took part in the MUBA fair in Bâle, and teacher exchanges were organised as well as a visit by agronomics students. As a result of all this, in 1996 a Friends of Suprasl Association was set up in Balsthal to promote contacts between the two municipalities. Reciprocal visits by official delegations followed and in 1998 a twinning agreement was signed.

In 1999, as part of celebrations for the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Suprasl, a "Swiss Day in Suprasl" was organised. Since then there have been cycle rallies, meetings between choirs and student exchanges.

2. A cooperation agreement with **Grossenkneten** was signed in 1999. Activities since then have included visits by official delegations for municipal council sessions and for Suprasl's 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations as well New Year receptions in Grossenkneten and the Flag of Honour presentation ceremony there in 2003. Training placements have been provided for young agronomics students from Suprasl and a number of inter-school exchanges have taken place.

3. Contact with **Porthcawl (Wales)** was initiated through a European Union programme and a European conference attended by experts from the two municipalities. A friendship agreement was signed in 2001, and activities since then have included art exhibitions and sports events.

Since 1996 Suprasl's "Uroczysko" association has organised a festival dedicated to nature, music, art and poetry. Internationally renowned artists are invited to the event which enjoys the patronage of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and the twinning partners are represented there.

In the run-up to Poland's accession to the EU a number of local awareness-raising initiatives have been taken: Suprasl has recruited a European affairs officer, set up a European information point, and organised a "Europe Festival".

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>ŚWIĘCIECHOWA</b> (Wielkopolska Voivodship) (Pop. 2 700)	2006	GROSSHABERSDORF (D)* AIXE-SUR-VIENNE (F)*	1995 2000

This is a three-way twinning arrangement.

The twinning with Grosshabersdorf was initiated in 1993 but signed in 1995. Co-operation has developed in municipal administration but also in the fields of culture, education, sport, business and the environment, mainly through associations, schools, youth organisations and families.

The twinning anniversaries are major festive occasions. Swieciechowa organised the celebrations for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning with Grosshabersdorf, for example.

Swieciechowa has also developed friendship bonds with Malinska in Croatia.

It regularly organises language lessons for children and adults.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

**POLAND (continued)**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>ŻYWIEC</b>		UNTERHACHING (D)**	1995
(Slaskie Voivodship)		RIOM (F)**	1995
	2005	CADCA (SK)	1997
		ADUR DISTRICT (GB)	1998
<b>&lt;European Diploma in 2005&gt;</b>		GODOLLO (H)	2002

1. With Unterhaching contacts have taken place through inter-school exchanges and visits by large groups of residents and delegations of firefighters and businesspeople, as well as on the anniversaries of the twinning. On average there are five exchanges every year.
2. With Riom there is very varied exchange programme including contacts between young people, representatives of the twinning committee, municipal officials, librarians, hospital staff and the municipal orchestras, as well as visits on the occasion of Riom's Christmas Market, twinning festivals and the Zywiec Cultural Week.
3. With Cadca (SK) there are fewer contacts and they have tended to involve sportspeople, delegations organising a "Slovakian Culture Days" event in Poland, schools and official representatives signing twinning agreements with the other partners, as well as participation in trade fairs.
4. With Adur District the main contacts have been between sportspeople, at the Adur Arts Festival and through Zywiec's involvement in the annual Beskidy Cultural Week.
5. With Gödöllő (H) there have been inter-school exchanges, reciprocal involvement in local soccer tournaments and exchanges of experience on municipal management.

Annual events that enable local people to meet residents of the partner municipalities include:

- the international soccer tournament in May;
- the "Slovakian Culture Days" event in Zywiec and the "Polish Culture Days" in Slovakia, in June and August respectively;
- an international bowling festival in July and August (Poland's first bowling club having been founded in Zywiec);
- international gatherings of folklore enthusiasts in July and August in preparation for the Beskidy Cultural Week.

In May 2005 Zywiec celebrates the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its twinings with Unterhaching and Riom and it expects to host some 150 guests from the twinned towns.

\*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize  
 \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour  
 \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour  
 ● Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# ROMANIA

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>ORADEA</b>			
(Bihor County)		DEBRECEN (H)	1992
(Pop. 206 000)	2005	LINKÖPING (S)	1996
	2006	MANTOVA (I)	2005
		COSLADA (E)	2005
<European Diploma in 2005>			

1. With Linköping (Sweden) successful projects have included the creation of a geographical information system to which Linköping contributed.
2. With Debrecen (Hungary) there are contacts in the fields of culture, education and sport. The joint EU-supported "Oradea-Debrecen Cultural Bridge" project has produced a range of achievements: theatrical performances, sports events, photographic exhibitions, displays of food from the two countries, folk dancing and a forum for the promotion of urban tourism, which led to publication of a trilingual catalogue.
3. In 2000 a friendship agreement was signed with the French municipality of Ceyrat and this was followed by exchanges of information on municipal affairs, visits, involvement in European events and conferences.
4. Oradea also pursues contacts with the following towns:
  - Coslada (E), the link here resulting from the work of an association of Romanians living in Spain. Factors behind the close relationship are the fact that Spain has a substantial Romanian population and Romanians see it as a model of a successful nation, and the analogies between the Spanish and Romanian languages;
  - Trento and Mantova (I), towns represented by a significant number of businesspeople and investors in Oradea;
  - Ingolstadt (D), with which there have been municipal council and academic visits.
5. Oradea's university (which has 30 000 students) has contacts with counterparts in Brussels, Reims and towns in Italy, the UK and the USA. The Chamber of Commerce has signed protocol agreements with Chambers in different parts of Europe, and the Tarii Crisurilor Museum has mounted several large exhibitions in various European countries.

Major cultural events with an international impact have included:

- the International Johan Strauss Festival;
- international competitions for young conductors organised by the Oradea Philharmonic Orchestra;
- the fifth Photographic Salon, held in 2004;
- the International Folklore Festival.

Oradea marked Europe Day 2004 by staging a youth forum, a conference and a competition in schools.

**In 2005** Oradea signed three new twinning agreements, with:

- COSLADA in Spain
- MANTOVA in Italy
- GIVATAYM in Israel

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma



## **ROMANIA (continued)**

### **ORADEA (continued)**

Major events included:

- with Debrecen, a multicultural event including concerts, a flower show and a presentation of Debrecen as cultural capital of Europe in 2010;
- an international conference for Europe Day;
- presentations of the European Union in schools as part of Children's Day;
- 5 training seminars for some 250 people on how European Union aid programmes work.

Oradea University has organised several major conferences with international participation, mainly to do with Romania's entry into the European Union.

Cultural events include "Museum Night", in collaboration with the French Ministry of Culture, the "Netherlands Week in Western Romania", with a classical music concert and a series of cultural events. The European Day of Languages was celebrated at Oradea with plays presented in 3 languages and Europe Day was celebrated in virtually all schools, with photographic exhibitions, symposia, a gastronomic evening and so on.

A Regional Transfrontier Co-operation Office has been opened in Oradea and the council has opened an official site where local residents can express their views and find out about all the events organised by the municipal authorities.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## ROMANIA (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
SATU MARE (Pop. 115 000)	2006	WOLFENBÜTTEL (D)	1974
		ZUTPHEN (NL)	1970
		NYIREGYHAZA (H)***	2000

The report only covers activities in 2005.

### 1. Official visits:

- during an official visit in April 2005, the Mayors of Satu Mare, Zutphen and Offenau decided to move on from a situation where Satu Mare essentially received aid from Offenau to one of exchanges between young people and professional groups such as firefighters.
- Zutphen and Tartu in Estonia have included Satu Mare in a pilot project to integrate people with disabilities in the workplace – various discussions and visits to social organisations are organised by the three partners.
- A delegation from Wolfenbüttel visited Satu Mare to discuss new twinning activities, which could include a photographic exhibition on Satu in Wolfenbüttel, school exchanges and trainee placements.
- The Mayor of Satu Mare went to Nyiregyhaza, which was presenting the EU's Phare project and wanted to step up economic co-operation by organising two conferences for businessmen from the two cities.

### 2. Events organised:

- visits by fishing specialists and firefighters from Zutphen;
- visit to an infants' school in Satu Mare which receives financial support from a Dutch foundation to modernise its sanitary facilities;
- photo exhibition on Satu Mare at the town hall in Wolfenbüttel and concert by the "Dinu Lipati" orchestra in Wolfenbüttel;
- study visit by municipal officials to Wolfenbüttel;
- Satu Mare supports the project to form an association of young Roma;
- Satu Mare launches a teacher training campaign to alert children to environmental issues;
- the "Pro-Europa League" launches a campaign to familiarise young people with Europe;
- exchange with schoolchildren from Nantes as part of a Comenius project;
- launch of a transfrontier project under the Phare programme, to develop co-operation between young people with disabilities in the neighbouring regions of Satu Mare and Szabolcs-Szatmar-Bereg, through the folk and ethnic potential available there – over 150 participants are expected to benefit;
- the Hungarian Youth Days and the German Cultural Days.

Europe Day coincides with the Satu Mare's civic festivities and events are organised all over the city over a ten-day period; for the second time the twin towns were also invited to send representatives: activities included folk events, concerts, firefighting demonstrations, art exhibitions and stands organised by schoolchildren to promote the European Union.

\*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize  
 \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour  
 \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour  
 ● Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# ROMANIA (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
UNGURENI	2002	TOSSIAT**	2000
<European Diploma in 2002>	2003	(+ 4 municipalities)	

In June 2000 Ungureni signed a twinning agreement with five municipalities in the Ain *département* (Tossiat, Montagnat, Druillat, Saint Martin du Mont, Revonnas), but the first exchanges date back to 1990.

Exchanges mainly concern:

- official delegations
- folk groups
- training for agricultural engineers and vets
- exchanges of experience between teachers
- one-month training courses for local officials.

Exchanges picked up in 1994 following the setting up of the Franco-Romanian Friendship Association in Ungureni.

School exchanges were particularly active between 1997 and 1999.

More than 1000 people took part in the events organised in Ungureni and Tossiat when the twinning agreement was signed in 2001.

A training cooperation project for Romanian teachers will continue into 2003.

In its activity report for 2002, Ungureni highlights a project carried out with its French partners to provide new premises for the mayoral offices in Ungureni. It also notes a visit by farmers to Lyon for a training course, a training placement project for assistant social workers, focusing on child protection, and a two-year training programme for teachers.

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
VAMA			
(Suceava County)			
(Pop. 6 500)	2003	LOUVECIENNES (F)	2000
<European Diploma in 2003>			

The municipality of Vama, comprising four villages, has developed close ties with Eybens (F) through the Eybens-Vama Romania Association. The emphasis has been on developing rural tourism and the French association Gîtes de France has shared its experience, helping Vama to put a tourism structure in place. Regular fund-raising in France has also supported the construction of a school and a dispensary, and Vama has greatly appreciated assistance with the development of expertise in local administration and business management. Several visits by groups of children to Louveciennes have also been organised.

Vama is proud of several recent achievements including the opening of a tourist information office and a hotel training school, the construction of a water treatment plant and the launch of an automated telephone exchange.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## **Serbia-Montenegro**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>GJILAN</b> (Kosovo) (Pop. 113,000) <European Diploma in 2005>	2005	KUKES (Albania) IPPER (B) LUTERBACH (F) YILDIRIM (TR)	2004

In February 2003, the Council of Europe opened an Agency for Local Democracy in Gjilan, which was valued as one of the most advanced cities in the integration of minorities into institutional life.

Gjilan is very active in transfrontier cooperation with the municipalities of Kumanovo (Macedonia), Preshevo (Serbia) and tries to develop interethnic pacification and local democracy in this part of the Balkans, through the Micro-region Gjilan-Kumanovo-Preshevo, the first region of this type in Kosovo.

Official contacts between municipal officers but also the exchange of experience with the twin cities is very important for Gjilan; a good example of this cooperation is given by the implementation of the project of building a park in Gjilan with the help of the Belgian city of Ipper.

Transfrontier cooperation with the towns of Preshevo, Bujanovac, Tergovishte (Serbia) and Kumanovo (Macedonia) particularly developed between young people and through schools associations. Meetings between mayors of the cities, cultural events, sports encounters, exhibitions regularly take part in the framework of this transfrontier cooperation and all these contacts have one common aim : European unity.

The Europe Day is not celebrated but through transfrontier cooperation Gjilan profits from the generosity of the town of Kumanovo that distributed a large number of booklets on Europe to youth organisations and civil society.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## SWITZERLAND

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>FROIDEVILLE</b> (Vaud) (Pop. 1 500) <European Diploma in 2004>	2004	LA PACAUDIERE (F)	1983

These two municipalities have maintained a special relationship over 20 years.

The respective twinning committees are responsible for organising annual meetings which are hosted year about by each partner. Both municipalities involve their twinning partner in major civic events such as the opening of public amenities. The partners also came together for an aid initiative when Froideville helped to fund medical treatment for a seriously ill child in La Pacaudière.

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>NEUCHÂTEL</b> (Neuchâtel Canton) <European Diploma in 1998>	1998 2006	BESANCON (F) SANSEPOLCRO (I)	1975 1997

Neuchâtel has also been twinned with AARAU in Switzerland since 1997.

Contacts with the twin towns have developed mainly through school exchanges and cultural and sporting events.

With Besançon: exchanges between universities and shopkeepers. Neuchâtel takes part in the "good food encounters" aimed at promoting local products, where Besançon was guest of honour in 1999. It is also a member of a number of cross-border institutions (Interreg, CTJ, Jurassic Arc Network).

In 2005 the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning with Besançon was celebrated.

Through the Bertelsman prize, for which it was nominated in 1993 with other towns and cities, it is in touch with the other nominees, namely Braintree (GB), Christchurch (NZ), Delft (NL), Duisbourg (D), Farum (DK), Hämeenlinna (FI), Phoenix (USA), Quebec (CA), as part of an effort to reform public management.

Annual cultural events include:

- an international choir festival;
- an international folk festival;
- an international dance festival;
- an international puppet festival;
- international poetry meetings.

In 2000 Neuchâtel welcomed the members of the world network of like-named towns, which comprises 8 towns with similar names on four continents, for a one-week symposium on tourism.

It regularly hosts a number of international sporting events, including the fencing world cup in 1998, the "full contact" world championship in 1995 and so on.

It is also involved in a number of humanitarian operations: Romanian Village operation in 1991, technical assistance to African countries, concert with Besançon, exchanges with students from Montenegro.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

SWITZERLAND (continued)

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>SALVAN</b> (Valais Canton) (Pop. 1 150)	2005	SAINT-JEANNET (F)	1979

Salvan, which lies just a few kilometres from both France and Italy, has on several occasions hosted the general meeting of the Espace Mont-Blanc Cross-Border Conference.

Every two years it organises inter-club exchanges (involving around 100 people on each occasion) with Saint-Jeannet, a municipality in the French region of Alpes Maritimes.

Salvan was the location of early experiments in telecommunications and this continues to be recognised through scientific gatherings and cultural exchanges involving the Guiglielmo Marconi Foundation and the municipality of Pontecchio Marconi.

Europe Day 2004 was celebrated with a series of special activities for primary school children.

To mark its 750<sup>th</sup> jubilee in May 2000, Salvan staged a huge international festival, attracting more than 2 000 people.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

# UKRAINE

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>IVANO-FRANKIVSK</b> (Western Ukraine) (Pop. 235 000)	2005 2006	NYIREGYHAZA (H)*** OPOLE (PL)***	2004

## <European Diploma in 2005>

Ivano-Frankivsk has signed cooperation agreements with a number of Polish municipalities: Warsaw (Ohata District), Tomaszow Mazowiecki, Zielona Gora, Dabrowa, Gornicza, Rybnik, Rzeszow, Chrzanow, Lublin, Opole and Kalisz. Under an agreement with Rybnik, Ivano is working towards opening a Ukrainian-Polish Centre in Ukraine and an equivalent in Poland.

The twinning with Nyiregyhaza is very recent, with the focus on exchanges of experience in municipal management, the development of social contacts and enhanced cooperation in tourism.

Ivano also cooperates with two municipalities in Romania – Oradea and Baia Mare – as well as two in Russia – Surgut and Serpukhovo – and the city of Brest in Belarus. The emphasis here is on exchanges for artists, reciprocal involvement in cultural and sports events, and art training placements.

Official delegations from the twinned towns take part in Ivano's civic festival and its Independence Day celebrations. In 2004 representatives from Ivano were involved in economic forums in Lublin and Baia Mare.

The local Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the universities and cultural and sports associations maintain links with their counterparts in many different countries.

Ivano has taken part in numerous international exhibitions and music festivals. Every second year it hosts the Rodoslav International Folklore Festival, which draws participants from Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Austria and Macedonia. Another major event is the International Choral Festival.

Europe Day is always an occasion of elaborate celebrations with dance competitions, a sports tournament, exhibitions about other European countries and a media campaign on the theme of Europe.

In 2005 Ivano signed a twinning agreement with OPOLE in Poland and a mutual understanding agreement with TARGOVISHTA in Romania, which was followed by several visits. A new co-operation agreement with a Polish town (Gmina Chrzanow) was signed in September 2005.

Ivano received five delegations from its partner towns for the town's festival celebration and, to celebrate Ukraine Year in Poland, took part in the "Ivano-F. Day" celebrations in Warsaw. It sent official delegations to major conferences in Lublin, and to seminars to step up co-operation between Poland and Ukraine under the EU's Tacis programme, as well as sending a large delegation to the twinning fair in Grasse.

Exchanges of young people with Polish towns have become a well-established tradition, like the trip some young people from Ivano made to Gdansk and Opole. Young footballers also took part in an international tournament with Polish, Hungarian and Ukrainian teams.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma

## UNITED KINGDOM

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
<b>BRACKNELL</b> (Southeast Berkshire)	2005 2006	LEVERKUSEN (D)	1973
<European Diploma in 2005>			

Bracknell's first twinning partner was the municipality of Opladen but following local government reorganisation in Germany it became twinned with Leverkusen.

A twinning committee meets at six-weekly intervals to plan exchanges, particularly between school students, sports teams, music societies, drama groups, choirs and firefighters. Regular bi-annual visits are organised, with large groups of residents making the trip in both directions and being hosted by local families.

Each twinning partner regularly promotes its local produce at weekend events in the other; an annual prize for schoolchildren has been established; and there are long-standing contacts between local radio stations. One current project is the development of an Internet link between two schools.

In 2005 Bracknell celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and would have liked the Flag of Honour on that occasion. It did receive the European Diploma in 2005 and the Mayor presented it to the municipal council at a council meeting.

Several meetings with Leverkusen marked 2005:

- a visit by a delegation from Bracknell to Leverkusen at the invitation of the Mayor to participate in the opening of the of the gardening show that coincided with the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Leverkusen and the signing of the twinning charter between Leverkusen and Villeneuve d'Asp (F);
- presentation of a stand at the Eurofest in Leverkusen;
- visit by a 40-strong delegation to Leverkusen to get to know the city and its environs and return visit by a large German delegation to Bracknell for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations;
- an internet site was set up by the two municipalities;
- videoconference links between schools were set up;
- traineeships in firms are open to Bavarian students.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma



# **UNITED KINGDOM (continued)**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>HATFIELD</b> (Herts)	2006	SCHOUWEN-DUIVELAND (NL)**	1955

The first exchanges date back to 1953, after the July floods that affected the Zierikzee region. This led to youth exchanges, which continue to this day, every year, alternating between the two towns.

Meetings between municipal councillors but also numerous meetings between firefighters, sports enthusiasts and rotary clubs have taken place over the years, often at the initiative of the municipal council. Hatfield also takes advantage of the official twinnings between Schouwen-Duiveland and St Hilaire (F) and Namestovo in Slovakia to maintain contacts with these two towns.

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>Reports in:</b>	<b>TWINNED With:</b>	<b>Since:</b>
<b>VERWOOD AND THREE LEGGED CROSS</b> (Dorset) (Pop. 15 000)	2005 2006	CHAMPTOCEAUX (F) LIEDERBACH AM TAUNUS (D)**	1985 1993

## **<European Diploma in 2005>**

The conclusion of the twinnings and the celebrations to mark their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversaries were occasions of great festivity. Trainee and au pair exchanges and private visits take place regularly, and the Verwood band has made several visits to Champtoceaux and Liederbach.

Since 2002 the municipal council has provided a GBP 5 000 grant to the Verwood Twinning Association. Activities that the association organised in 2003 and 2004 included starting a *pétanque* club, hosting a young teacher from Liederbach, celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning with Champtoceaux and hosting 50 French guests for the occasion.

In 2005 the bonds between the three towns were tightened mainly by visits by the twinning associations: Verwood spent a weekend in Nantes for a "convivial evening" and 45 representatives went to Liederbach in December; Verwood received visitors from Liederbach and young French people from Champtoceaux who wanted to improve their English. Verwood also organised French and German conversation groups which were a great success. To publicise the activities of the twinning associations, events are organised at regular intervals: French wine tasting, quiz evenings, etc.

- \*\*\*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Europe Prize
- \*\*\* Municipality having been awarded the Plaque of Honour
- \*\* Municipality having been awarded the Flag of Honour
- Municipality having been awarded the European Diploma