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Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs

Summary of applications for the Europe Prize and the Plaque of Honour for 2006

Memorandum prepared by the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION					
	AWARDED			APPLICATIONS	
	PRIZE	PLAQUE	FLAG	renewed in 2006	
				PRIZE	PLAQUE
Autriche	6	7	42	-	4
Belgique	5	6	54	-	2
Bulgarie	-	-	1	-	-
Croatie	-	-	1	-	-
Danemark	2	-	3	-	-
France	9	33	187	1	5
Allemagne	13	65	361	16	31
Finlande	-	-	1	-	-
Grèce	1	-	1	-	-
Hongrie	-	6	13	4	3
Irlande	-	-	5	-	-
Italie	7	15	101	-	3
Liechtenstein	-	-	-	-	-
Lituanie	1	1	1	-	-
Luxembourg	-	-	2	-	-
Moldova	-	1	1	-	-
Pays-Bas	3	4	45	-	-
Norvège	1	-	-	-	-
Pologne	2	14	35	6	10
Portugal	-	1	6	-	-
Roumanie	-	1	5	1	1
Russie	1	2	6	-	1
Slovaquie	-	-	1	-	-
Slovénie	-	-	2	-	1
Espagne	1	2	19	-	-
Suède	-	1	4	-	1
Suisse	2	1	21	-	-
Turquie	2	1	8	-	-
Ukraine	-	-	2	-	-
Royaume-Uni	5	14	104	-	2

TOTAL	61	175	1033	28	65

A U S T R I A

JUDENBURG (Steiermark) (Pop. 10 000)	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
	2001	MASSA E COZZILE (I)	1999
	2002	Multi-twinning with 15	
	2003	European municipalities	2000
	2004		
	2005		
	2006		

<European Diploma in 2001>

<Flag of Honour in 2003>

1. The twinning with Massa e Cozzile comprises primarily exchanges between private individuals, cultural and sports associations, schools and a few economic exchanges. A twinning committee has been set up and an initial meeting in the year 2000 between officials from the towns should lead to closer links. Language courses are also organised.

2. The multi-twinning which Judenburg joined in the year 2000 involved the following European municipalities – Altea (E), Bellagio (I), Bundoran (Irl), Granville (F), Holstebro (DK), Houffalize (B), Karkkila (Fin), Kötzing (D), Meersen (NL), Öxelösung (S), Preveza (GR), Sesimbra (P) and Sherborne (UK). There were plans to set up a network of information and addresses to facilitate school and cultural contacts. Two annual meetings between delegations from the member towns provide an opportunity to initiate new inter-municipal projects. Judenburg has taken part in several events: “Kötzing gourmet market” and the “Street festival” in Bellagio where all the partner towns exhibited their regional products.

An organisation to provide aid to refugees was set up back in 1989 to help Romania. Currently, this organisation is attempting to integrate Kosovar, Albanian and Iranian refugees.

In 2001, Judenburg fostered youth exchanges by organising a language week at Massa e Cozzile, sending young people from Judenburg to a seminar organised by Granville and contributing to the European Year of Languages by organising a Language Festival, which was well attended. Other noteworthy exchanges included: a trip by 25 people to Helsinki and Karkkila under the multi-twinning arrangement, a visit by veterans from a club in Kötzing, a trip by 30 inhabitants of Judenburg to Massa e Cozzile for the traditional beer festival, with presentation of local products. Economic meetings between local leaders should lead to more exchanges.

In 2002 Judenburg took part in a number of activities run jointly by the municipalities involved in the multi-twinning. These included student exchanges under the Comenius programme, a language-learning week in Tuscany, participation by teachers and students in an international seminar on twinning in Brussels, a sports week and working session in Houffalize and a youth placement in Ireland.

Under its twinning programme with Massa e Cozzile, Judenburg hosted 40 visitors and organised a whole series of outings for them; it also sent a drama group to a festival in Massa and took part in the traditional beer festival, as well as organising a Tuscan festival showcasing typical produce from the Italian region.

Asterisks appearing after the name of a twin town indicate the level of distinction held by that town:

- * = European Diploma
- ** = Flag of Honour
- *** = Plaque of Honour
- **** = Europe Prize

AUSTRIA (continued)

JUDENBURG

In 2003 Judenburg concentrated on developing its contacts with Kötzing – hosting visiting students, taking part in Kötzing's Cultural Week and arranging meetings between political groups. The highlight of activities with Massa e Cozzile was Judenburg's "Tuscan Festival" which continues to attract thousands of visitors. The most important event of the year, however, was the presentation of the Flag of Honour.

In 2004 Judenburg elected a new mayor who pledged to continue the efforts of his predecessor in developing the municipality's European activities. That he has fulfilled his pledge is clear from the long list of activities which Judenburg organised in 2004.

It was Judenburg's turn that year to host the main meeting of the multi-twinning, the 26th such gathering. Delegations from 19 countries visited and spent several days in the municipality. During the official ceremony to mark the event, five new partners joined the twinning: Chojna (PL), Köszeg (H), Sigulda (LV), Susice (CZ) and Turi (EE). Judenburg also organised two workshops, one on language learning and the other on renewable energy, as well as a European festival and a gourmet market at which the 20 partner municipalities showcased their culinary specialities.

Judenburg participated in a number of events organised by its twinning partners: two groups visited Sigulda, a party of farmers took part in the Massa e Cozzile beer festival, a group of young people stayed in Granville, and Judenburg was represented at the Autumn Conference there.

In 2005, a municipal Twinning Committee was set up as a token of Judenburg's interest in European activities. The main contacts have been:

- with Massa e Cozzile, as part of the annual Tuscany festival in Judenburg, showcasing typical Tuscan produce and culinary specialities; the counterpart to this event in Massa e Cozzile is the annual Beer Festival there;
- with Sherborne, which hosted the international Twelve-Way Twinning Weekend on the occasion of the 1300th anniversary of its Abbey; Judenburg was represented at the event, where it invited locals to discover its Styrian specialities;
- with Granville, which took in five young people from Judenburg for sailing competitions;
- with Meerssen, which hosted the annual Twelve-Way Twinning encounter attended by 16 of the 20 member towns, with five guests from each town;
- choirs and a brass band from Judenburg visited Kötzing.

However, Judenburg's pride and joy is the 1st Twinning Prize which it won in 2005 for its transfrontier co-operation projects. It was awarded in recognition of the encounter organised in 2004 on the theme of "Europe meets in Judenburg – contacts between citizens", at which 20 countries had been represented.

Small, active town, but the Flag of Honour was only awarded fairly recently.

AUSTRIA (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with :	Since:
REISSECK	1999	KÖNIGSBRONN (D)**	1978
(Kärnten)	2000		
(pop. 2.500)	2002		
	2004		
	2005		
	2006		

<European Diploma in 1999>

<Flag of Honour in 2002>

The first contacts between the two municipalities date from 1958 when they involved mainly musical associations and folk groups.

Since 1978 each municipality participates through delegations in anniversaries and other main events of the twin town and the local newspaper gives an account of what happened in the twin town. Among the main twinning events : the week of Königsbronn in Reisseck in 1996 and the celebration in 1998 of the 20th twinning anniversary in Königsbronn.

Contacts at associative level are well developed, in particular :

- between municipal bands, folk groups, fire fighters and sportsmen (annual organisation of a great football meeting for young people). Many sports associations, theatre groups meet regularly, as well as farmers and hunters of both municipalities.

Reisseck also developed contacts between families and is proud of its four weddings concluded between inhabitants of the two municipalities.

All these activities are financially supported by the municipality.

Reisseck provided a home for up to 90 refugees during the war between Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina (1992-1997).

In 1999 the two twin municipalities of Königsbronn and Reisseck submitted a joint application for the Flag of Honour.

The presentation of the European Diploma in 1998 was celebrated in style in Königsbronn. A wide variety of meetings were organised between associations: drama groups, choirs, fire brigades, and hunting and tennis clubs. Youth exchanges subsidised by the European Union involved 100 young people in 1998 and 1999. There were also professional exchanges between banks and water boards. One citizen of Königsbronn celebrated his 70th birthday by setting up a fund to support young people during their meetings with the twin town.

Less traditional events that marked 2000 and 2001 included the “open day” organised by the municipality of Königsbronn, to which a delegation from Reisseck was invited; a visit to Reisseck by the Königsbronn Rural Heritage Conservation Committee; the creation of a Königsbronn web site which also presents the twin town of Reisseck; participation by both towns in the Friendship Festival organised in Freisach, which traditionally brings together all the twin towns of Carinthia, Slovenia and northern Italy.

Having been awarded the Flag of Honour in 2002, Reisseck and its twinned municipality of Königsbronn are both applying this year for the Plaque of Honour. Reisseck organised the presentation ceremony in 2002 and 280 people travelled from Königsbronn for the occasion.

Austria (continued)

REISSECK (continued)

The 25th anniversary of the twinning was celebrated in 2003 and friendship between the two municipalities continued to develop with the usual round of inter-association contacts, delegation visits for special events (celebrations to mark the 700th anniversary of Königsbronn's Cistercian foundation as well as its annual street festival).

In 2004 Reisseck concentrated on the need to forge new contacts, and with this in mind the Königsbronn handball club visited Reisseck for a training session for the first time. Other highlights included the annual trip to take part in Königsbronn's street festival and a visit by guests from Königsbronn to help celebrate the 60th birthday of Reisseck's former mayor, as well as contacts between municipal councillors. Reisseck also strengthened its ties with the German municipality of Thalmässing and this relationship is expected to develop into a twinning within the next few years.

In 2005, a wide variety of contacts were once again organised between Reisseck and Königsbronn: mutual visits by the mayors, a training week held in Reisseck for a handball team from Königsbronn, participation by a delegation from Reisseck in the traditional Street Festival, participation by choirs from each municipality in events organised by the other, joint events organised by hunting associations and fire brigades and an exchange of experience by municipal employees.

Reisseck took in a large number of refugees from former Yugoslavia; the municipality attaches great importance to integrating these individuals, whom it is endeavouring to house as quickly as possible.

Has just received the Flag of Honour (in 2002) and may be considered for the Plaque of Honour in two to three years' time, along with Königsbronn.

AUSTRIA (continued)

	Report in :	Twinned with :	Since:
ST GEORGEN AM WALDE (Upper Austria)	1993	LINDEN/Lubbeek (B)	1974
	1994	"/Holstein (D)*** "	
	1997	"/Lalinde (F)	"
	2006	"/Beers (NL)	"
		LALIN (E)	2004
<European Diploma, 1993>			
<Flag of Honour, 1997>			

From 1974 onwards, a wide variety of exchanges developed involving all the twin towns under the "Linden grüsst Linden" operation. The operation concerns all municipal sectors, viz schools, musical associations and fire brigades, and individual families always offer to accommodate visitors from the twin towns, even for the bigger events.

An annual twinning conference tours the twin towns, accompanied by a youth encounter. The 2005 event was held in St Georgen in July, attended by 49 young people from the five twin municipalities.

Europe Days are held every two years, as is an agricultural event in each of the five towns.

Ever since 1995 teachers' encounters have also been organised to provide information on the various national education systems.

The other major events have included the International Folk Costume Festival in 1981, the International Music Days on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the St Georgen am Walde orchestra in 1986, the celebrations for the 25th anniversary of the twinning agreements among the various municipalities in 1986, and the 850th anniversary of the foundation of the municipality and presentation of the Flag of Honour in 1997.

Several humanitarian actions have been conducted to assist Romania, Hungary and Croatia over the last two decades.

In 2006 St Georgen will be hosting the twinning "European Days" to be attended by delegations from the 5 twin towns. St Georgen has applied for the Plaque of Honour to be presented on this occasion.

Well presented application, but the municipality had previously not been in contact for almost ten years.

AUSTRIA (continued)

VOITSBERG	2003	LESNICA (PL)	2000
(Steiermark)	2004	SAN MARTINO BUON ALBERGHO (I)	1997
(Pop. 10 000)	2005		
	2006		

<European Diploma in 2003>

<Flag of Honour in 2004>

Voitsberg has friendly ties with HERSBRUCK in Germany and intends to conclude a further twinning agreement with that municipality in the near future. Since the 1970s there have also been regular school exchanges with the town of Kőszeg in Hungary.

1. The twinning programme with Lesnica has included musical exchanges, visits to Voitsberg by children and young people from Lesnica (the latter for youth camps), exchanges of experience between fire fighters, support following floods in Lesnica, and fact-finding visits by Polish mayors with a view to strengthening economic cooperation.

2. Activities with San Martino Buon Albergho have taken the form of meetings between choristers and musicians; commercial contacts at trade fairs and business meetings; multicultural schools projects including inter-school meetings; involvement in festivities in the twin town; organisation, since 1999, of the Voitsberg Italian Night and the San Martino Styrian Night, with visiting groups of as many as 100 people; and exhibitions of the work of Italian artists.

In 1995 Voitsberg held an international folklore festival to mark the 20th anniversary of the link between schools in Kőszeg and Voitsberg. In 1997 a multicultural schools project brought together almost 160 young people from San Martino, Kőszeg, Lesnica and Voitsberg.

Every year since 1999 a major Italian Night event has been staged on 14 August. The aim is to strengthen the twinning ties by hosting a large delegation from San Martino. The Styrian Night organised in San Martino in 2000 was also a great success.

Economic cooperation has developed too: in 1997, 20 mayors and municipal representatives from Central Silesia came on a fact-finding visit to forge business links. A second visit took place the following year. Business ties with San Martino were also developed through a presentation by 50 companies from that region.

The pace of exchanges was maintained in 2003 as Voitsberg invited its twinning partners to a range of events:

- a delegation from San Martino took part in an exhibition on the theme of horses and riders;
- delegations from the twinned towns were hosted during the civic festival;
- the traditional twinning festival took place as usual, with the involvement of San Martino;
- all the twinning partners participated in an international festival for shooting clubs;
- a project (part financed by the EU) on the theme of "old crafts" attracted a great number of craftspeople from different European countries and the twinned towns were also involved.

Voitsberg also organised a summer school and arranged for two young Polish guests from Lesnica to take part; a summer concert was staged with participation by choirs from Hersbruck; and Voitsberg sent a delegation of 45 musicians to take part in Lesnica's harvest festival.

In 2004 Voitsberg had opportunities to develop contact with its partners at the traditional municipal festival and annual twinning get-togethers but the high point of the year was the Flag of Honour presentation ceremony. Coinciding with the occasion Voitsberg hosted a symposium involving 75 young people from San Martino, Kőszeg and Lesnica.

Ten or so events and encounters in 2005, with two school exchanges, the International Summer Academy attended by Polish, Hungarian and Slovene participants, a study visit to Brussels and a joint performance by the Voitsberg and San Martino choirs.

BELGIUM

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
HALLE (Flemish Brabant) (Pop. 34 000)	2003	MOUVAUX (F)	1958
	2004	WERL (D)	1973
	2005		
	2006		

<European Diploma in 2003>

<Flag of honour in 2004>

Halle's firefighters have a twinning arrangement with their counterparts in Bad Kreuznach, which dates back to 1958. The municipality also has good relations with the towns of Buckingham (GB) and Neukirchen-Vluyn (D). In 1965 Halle "adopted" a French battalion stationed in Leopoldsburg.

The twinning programmes reach all sections of the population:

- . representatives of the twinned municipalities are hosted every year for a social weekend around 5 May;
- . a group from Halle attends the annual pilgrimage in Mouvaux and a Mouvaux group visits Halle for the carnival each year;
- . there are twinning arrangements with the police in Mouvaux and Werl;
- . since 1998, exchanges between school parties have reinforced the twinning links and there is also an inter-schools pen-pal scheme for younger children. Projects completed include planting a "peace tree", unveiling a friendship plaque in Halle and participation in the Werl "Schulfeste", and outward-bound classes are planned on the Belgian coast in 2003;
- . there are sporting exchanges (between cycle clubs), business exchanges to tie in with the Mouvaux Christmas fair, which is attended by a 10-strong group from Halle, and cultural exchanges including numerous art exhibitions.

The twinning committees meet annually to plan future activities.

One quite unique experiment is the installation of a "Sofa-TV" link to bring people in Werl and Halle closer together. The two municipalities can keep in touch via a system based on a web cam, a computer with Internet access, and a metallic open-air sofa.

In 1990 Halle signed a charter linking it with a Romanian municipality.

In 2003 Halle marked the 45th anniversary of its twinning with Mouvaux and the twinning committees of the two towns met several times to plan the celebrations. There was a busy programme of activities with the twinning partners during the year, including inter-school twinings, inter-family visits, participation by schoolchildren in an international art competition held to mark Europe Day, a friendly volleyball tournament in Halle, participation by a Halle delegation in a regional produce market in Mouvaux, provision of aid for a primary school in Macedonia, and participation by two choirs from Halle in an international concert in Mouvaux.

Halle is preparing to twin with the Czech municipality of Kadan.

BELGIUM (continued)

HALLE (continued)

The presentation of the Flag of honour in 2004 was the most important event for this little town. But there were also sports tournaments (volleyball, basketball), large festivities to mark different twinning anniversations, exhibitions among them the one that took place in the historic Town Hall of Halle devoted to Halle and its European friends.

Halle's application for the Plaque of Honour is backed up with plentiful documentation. The numerous activities include:

- monthly meetings of the twinning committee geared to preparing exchanges;
- participation by Kadan, a new Czech twin town, in the Brabant darts championship, and participation by Halle in the Czech national championship;
- participation by 55 people from Mouvaux in the Easter procession;
- primary school exchange between Halle and Werl;
- Europe Day, with a military march by the 18th Battalion, an exhibition, concert and a academic session with residents of Halle and the twin towns;
- concert tour of Werl and Kadan by the Halle "Kreato" music society (70 participants);
- annual joint session of the two twinning committees (Halle and Mouvaux) in Mouvaux;
- participation by Halle in the Werl Christmas Market.

Thanks to the enthusiasm of the members of the Twinning Committee, Halle is forging more and more new contacts, but it must wait a while longer as the Flag of Honour was only awarded recently.

BELGIUM (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
HEUSDEN-ZOLDER (Limburg Province) (Pop. 30 000)	2000	BAD AROlsen (D)*	1973
	2001	BRILON (D)	1971
	2002	HESDIN (F)	1978
	2003	ERDEK (TR)	1989
	2004		
	2005		
	2006		

<Flag of Honour in 2001>

The twin towns organise various annual activities:

- tree-planting in May in Bad Arolsen (a tradition since 1981)
- the Baroque music festival in Bad Arolsen
- flea market in Bad Arolsen
- Historical festival in Hesdin
- Christmas tree ceremony in Heusden-Zolder (a tradition since 1978)
- the Brilon parade, attracting the whole population of the town.

Occasional joint activities by the twin towns include:

- conference held in one of the towns every two years since 1988 on a specific theme. The 1995 conference dealt with "Migration and European Integration", and in 1997 Heusden organised the event on the theme of "Industry".
- the twinning anniversaries (20 and 25 years). 1993 saw the 20th anniversary of the twinning with Bad Arolsen, attended by almost 400 people from Heusden. In 1998 Heusden hosted the 25th anniversary celebrations, taking the opportunity to pay tribute to all those who had been working on the twinning for over 15 years.

Heusden-Zolder also maintains contacts with the Italian town of ERBE and the Scottish town of THURSO. The main activities with Erbe are visits by delegations, and in 1999 Heusden hosted the celebrations for the 25th anniversary of the contacts between the two municipalities.

In order to increase the population's European awareness, the Committee on European Affairs, set up in 1996, organises a wide variety of events and runs stands distributing information on the European institutions, accompanied by materials specially written for young people. In 1993, for instance, a sticker distribution campaign was conducted, in 1996 a ceremony was held for the 50th anniversary of the bilateral agreements concluded with Italy, followed in 1997 by a similar event for relations with Poland, and there is a special day every year for persons with disabilities, etc. Special games were organised in schools for Europe Day 1999.

The municipality has conducted several solidarity campaigns for Kosovo and for Turkey following the earthquake, events which attracted a great deal of public support.

In 2000, Heusden celebrated the International Day of the Rights of the Child, organised on 1 May a "Euro-café", to familiarise young people with the euro, and took part in information meetings to set up a youth exchange programme. Contacts have been made to set up a programme of exchanges between three schools in different countries, due to be implemented in 2002. A large multicultural event was held to mark the 10th anniversary of the opening of an information bureau for foreign residents who make up over 12% of Heusden's population.

BELGIUM (continued)

HEUSDEN-ZOLDER (continued)

Occasionally, Heusden organises competitions for its citizens on their knowledge of Europe, and in particular the Euro, and the European Affairs office is launching a major information campaign on the euro in 2001. It regularly distributes educational documentation to schools, especially around Europe Day.

In the year 2000, there were fifteen or so events bringing together the twin towns. These included:

- an exhibition to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the town's twinning with Arolsen
- a delegation from Bad Arolsen to prepare the year's programme;
- delegations to Bad Arolsen and Brilon to attend their traditional celebrations (the Bad Arolsen shooters festival, the Brilon town parade, and the Brilon old town festival)
- sports events, exhibitions by Brilon artists in Heusden and the traditional Christmas tree planting which since 1978 has been attended by delegations from all the twin towns.

Heusden also has contacts with other towns/cities in Europe. A project involving the elderly was begun in 199 with Martina Franca (I) and Paris (F).

Once again, there were a number of encounters with twin towns in 2001, culminating in the award of the Flag of Honour in December.

In 2002 Heusden-Zolder made a special effort, through its twinning and international relations office, to inform young people about Europe and raise their awareness of European programmes. It also promoted meetings with senior citizens from Brilon and Hesdin as part of its "Actively ageing well" programme, staged an athletics tournament for people with disabilities, celebrated Europe Day, distributed a newsletter about the municipality's European activities to every household and organised several new established activities with its partner towns:

- a meeting of the twinning committees of Heusden and Bad Arolsen;
- an exhibition about the twinning between these two towns;
- participation by delegates in Bad Arolsen's Festival of Baroque Music and Brilon's street parade;
- the traditional Christmas tree planting in Heusden.

Heusden-Zolder's twinning activities in 2003 were similar to those organised in previous years. Delegations visited the twinned towns to take part in traditional local festivities there (the "Hessentag" and "Kram und Viehmarkt" in Bad Arolsen and the "Fête du Cochon Hose" in Hesdin). The 30th anniversary of the twinning with Bad Arolsen was celebrated there. Contacts with Thurso in Scotland (with which Heusden-Zolder has a youth exchange programme) and with Erbe in Italy were pursued. The twinning office encourages youth exchanges as part of programmes supported in many cases by the European Union.

In 2004 and 2005 Heusden-Zolder once again organised its regular activities with its twinning partners, focusing particularly on youth programmes in Europe, mainly through the European Commission's European Voluntary Service.

Similar activities tend to recur from year to year.

FRANCE

AUZANCES (Creuse) (pop. 1.500)	Reports in: 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006	Twinned with: Markt ROSSTAL (D)**	Since: 1997
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<European Diploma in 2000>

<Flag of Honour in 2002>

Many associations have already met up under this recent twinning, involving hikers, painters, sports enthusiasts and scouts; the encounters will be renewed annually. German courses are run to facilitate contacts, and each municipality's twinning committee regularly sends over one-hundred-strong delegations to visit the other twin town.

Events in the year 2000 included: the Auzances Agricultural Fair attended by inhabitants from Rosstal who displayed their culinary specialities. On the sporting front there was the Rosstal to Auzances cycle race. A delegation from Auzances also took part in the Rosstal Christmas market.

Auzances also concluded an informal twinning arrangement with Ste Cécile-Les-Vignes (Vaucluse, France) twenty-odd years ago which took on a more concrete form in 2001 when a twinning committee was set up, and should lead to three-way exchanges.

The Auzances-Rosstal twinning committee organised a number of meetings and events in 2001: German classes, all Europeans residing in the canton were invited to celebrate Europe Day, meeting of fire brigades, choral exchanges, German student from Rosstal invited to give evening conversation classes in German, etc.

The fifth anniversary of this twinning was celebrated in 2002 and marked by the award of the Flag of Honour. The twinning committee organised most of the events in a busy programme that included an art exhibition in Auzances town hall; the visit of a Scout troop from Rosstal; a ping-pong tournament; visits by a Bavarian cycling team, to take part in the "Tour de la Creuse" race, and a folklore group for the Saint's Day festivities in July; a celebration to mark Europe Day, when EU citizens living in the area were invited to meet for a buffet meal featuring specialities from all the countries represented; a meeting of ramblers from the two municipalities, on the bank of the Rhine; and the annual visit to Rosstal for the "Martinimarkt" and the Christmas market in Nuremberg.

The programme of events in 2003 resembled that of previous years, with an exhibition of work by painters from Rosstal in Auzances town hall, a traditional German evening, Europe Day celebrations, a women's cycling rally, a school trip to Poland and a Scout camp there, and an autumn walking day along the Rhine, as well as involvement in Auzance's municipal festival and an Auzances presence at Rosstal's "Martinimarkt".

While the 2004 programme was again very similar to that of previous years, there is a clear sense that the twinning committee members are committed to making the various activities work and to involving larger numbers of young people.

FRANCE (continued)

AUZANCES (continued)

This small municipality was involved in a wide variety of events in 2005: an exhibition by four women painters (two from each municipality), the traditional sauerkraut evening which is always attended by one hundred or so locals with a German guest delegation, decoration by the Twinning Committee of the municipal fountain with Easter eggs, the 5th Europe and European Friendship Festival attended by Auzances inhabitants from other European countries, attendance by a delegation from Rosstal at the 2005 meeting of the Auzances Agricultural Committee, an encounter of ramblers from both municipalities for an autumn hike in the Black Forest, and a visit by some twenty inhabitants of Auzances to Germany to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the twinning of Mid-Franconia and Limousin regions; a total of over 250 individuals from the twinned municipalities in Limousin (craft workers, musicians and gourmet chefs) travelled to Germany for the occasion.

A small municipality whose high rate of activity is chiefly to the credit of its twinning committee.

FRANCE (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
CHARNAY-LES-MACON	2003	BRACKENHEIM (D)**	1978
(Saône-et-Loire)	2004	CASTAGNOLE-Delle-Lanze(I)	1997
(Pop. 7 000)	2005		
	2006		

<European Diploma in 2003>

<Flag of Honour in 2004>

Friendship agreements were signed in 2002 with **Tarnalelesz (H), Zbrosławice (PL) and Tudor Vladimirescu (RO)**.

An international relations office is in charge of coordinating international activities locally and abroad, in cooperation with the partner municipalities. It works closely with the twinning committee and the deputy mayor responsible for international relations.

The twinning committee has set up the following:

- an annual Franco-German school exchange;
- a European Youth Week every three years – the fifth such event was held in Charnay in July 2002 and involved young people from Germany and Italy;
- business meetings – involving Brackenheim wine growers at annual festivals.

The major event of 2002, however – which was well covered by the media – was the Europe Festival, involving some 350 people from different countries over several days. Young people got involved in the festival in various ways: compiling a European recipe book, taking part in an international youth parade through the town, participating in a show for primary school children and creating a massed display of flowers. The 2003 festival will focus on Ireland, a country with which Charnay hopes to develop a twinning.

Charnay has set up an extensive support network for the Romanian partner town of Tudor Vladimirescu.

To publicise its international dimension, the municipality plans to launch a twice-yearly newspaper.

In 2003 there were almost 20 European or international activities – all well supported and encouraged by Charnay-les-Mâcon's international relations office. They included:

- the Saint-Vincent festival which this year had a particularly European flavour with the involvement, for the first time, of Brackenheim and Castagnole;
- a French-German inter-school exchange which brought 20 German grammar school students to the town in April;
- a Europe Festival on the theme "Welcome Outre-Manche", putting the spotlight on the UK and Ireland and providing an occasion for talks on a future Irish twinning;
- a visit by 21 Italian schoolchildren;
- the "Musik O'Pluriel" world music festival;
- a trip by 20 young people to Brackenheim;
- participation in Castagnole's "European Youth Week".

Encouraged by the award of the Flag of Honour in 2004, Charnay has submitted an impressive dossier on the wide range of European activities which it staged in that year. They included: a number of inter-school exchanges; cultural exhibitions on Poland, Germany and Hungary; participation in the Castagnole wine-growers' festival and a walking event in Brackenheim; the hosting of a Polish trainee; exchanges with Japan; international awareness raising through the Youth Information Point; and, most notably, events to mark Europe Day and the 25th anniversary of the twinning between Charnay and Brackenheim (eg a Franco-German cookery course, a concert by the music schools of the two municipalities and a street parade).

FRANCE (continued)

CHARNAY-LES-MACON (continued)

2005 was “Japanese culture year” in Charnay, as the European Union had declared 2005 the official year of exchange between the European nations and Japan. A whole week of events, to which the twin towns had also been invited, attracted a large audience to discover such creative techniques used in Japanese art as calligraphy and origami; during the event various Mâcon and Japanese wines were served, in parallel to an exhibition entitled “Japanese moods”.

However, 2005 also saw several school and trainee exchanges, a visit by wine-growers from Brackenheim and Castagnole to the St Vincent festivities, a wine fair attended by Italian wine-growers, the Barbera wine festival in Italy, the Brackenheim Castle wine festival and the 700th anniversary of the foundation of the town of Zbrosławice, Poland.

An attractive dossier submitted by a very active twinning committee which is concerned to ensure variety in the exchanges that it organises.

FRANCE (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
MULHOUSE (Haut-Rhin)	1967	ANTWERP (B)	1957
	1971	WALSALL (GB)	1962
	2003	KASSEL (D)**	1965
	2006	BERGAMO (I)	1989
		CHEMNITZ (D)	1990
		TIMISOARA (RO)**	1991

<Flag of honour in 1970>

<Plaque of Honour in 2003>

Regular exchanges take place between sports clubs, music groups and schools, and in recent years exchanges of experience have also been developed. In this context, representatives of Mulhouse, Chemnitz and Antwerp have held a series of meetings to explore achievements under the EU's "Urban" initiative with a view to improving access to employment and enhancing urban life. There has been a similar exchange with Walsall involving social workers.

As a follow-up to charitable aid for the city of TIMISOARA, Mulhouse has provided training support and there has been direct contact between social services in the two municipalities since 1995. In 2002 cooperation focused on social initiatives, assistance for elderly people and the organisation of fire and ambulance services. This work is funded by the municipality of Mulhouse and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mulhouse has friendly links with the municipality of Freiburg im Breisgau (D) and the municipal councils regularly sit together to discuss joint projects (in the fields of transport and social and cultural policy). A municipal staff exchange scheme begun in 2001 is ongoing. Mulhouse also has contacts with Basle (CH), Lörrach and Weil am Rhein (D).

Mulhouse organises various events with participants from a range of countries:

- **a twinned towns tournament**, bringing together sportspeople from Mulhouse and all its twinning partners to compete in two disciplines;
- **a volleyball tournament**, involving French and European youth teams;
- **the world children's festival** – every two years the city hosts part of this festival which brings together children from all over the world;
- **"Mulhouse 002"** a contemporary visual arts event in 2002, which involved artists from Bergamo;
- **the annual "Bal de Feu"** – a sound-and-light spectacular staged on 13 July, which had a special European theme in 2002;
- **a grand parade of vintage cars** held annually since 1998 and bringing together thousands of enthusiasts from all over Europe.

Europe Day is always celebrated in Mulhouse with a special event for the public: in 2002 a brass band competition attracted bands from a number of European countries.

FRANCE (continued)

MULHOUSE (continued)

After a three-year silence, Mulhouse is now applying for the Europe Prize, and has forwarded a highly detailed report to the Secretariat on the activities implemented over the last three years.

1. With Timișoara: continued co-operation in the field of social affairs and civil protection, which was extended to cover participatory democracy in 2004 and earned the municipality of Mulhouse the Decentralised Co-operation Prize for the technical exchanges conducted from 1996 to 1999 and the title of Honorary Citizen of Timișoara for the Mayor of Mulhouse. The exchanges included:

- exchanges of experience in the social affairs field, followed by a traineeship period organised by the Mulhouse social services for a delegation of Timișoara social workers;
- first-aid training for twelve firemen and further training course in the field of rescue work in hostile environments;
- a visit by the official responsible for neighbourhood councils in Timișoara to gain practical experience on the ground in Mulhouse;
- performance by a music and dance troupe from Timișoara during the 10th World Festival in Mulhouse, and return visit by a group from Mulhouse in the Timișoara music festival.

2. With Chemnitz: contacts were first made in the 1980s, and the twinning agreement was concluded in 1991. In addition to various sports and club encounters, both towns have conducted numerous exchanges of experience:

- in the field of town planning and transport;
- in the field of medical emergency services: in 2003 a system was established for annual exchanges with the Mulhouse fire service and the medical staff working with the SAMU (medical accident unit);
- sports encounters: swimming, boxing, volleyball and pétanque;
- cultural exchanges: participation in the Chemnitz tourism, technology and wine fairs and the exhibition of prominent figures in Chemnitz who helped bring the two towns together;
- school exchanges: for the eighth consecutive year, exchanges between secondary schools in both towns, and traineeships in Mulhouse and Chemnitz.

3. With Kassel: on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of this twinning, discussions were held on how to diversify exchanges between the two towns, and initial contact between their respective chambers of commerce is scheduled for 2006:

- exchanges of experience in local administration and public transport, with several visits to discover the approaches adopted by the two towns;
- visits by trainees;
- visits by delegations, including athletes participating in the annual tournament of twin towns, a 40-strong male voice choir and members of the Mulhouse-Kassel Friendship Committee.

4. With Bergamo and Udine: co-operation was initiated in the fields of tourism and the economy on the occasion of a visit to both towns by a delegation from Mulhouse.

FRANCE (continued)

MULHOUSE (continued)

5. With Walsall: mainly exchanges of experience in the field of urban policy, with a visit to Mulhouse by a Walsall urban planner and a return visit to Walsall by a delegation of specialists from Mulhouse to learn about the town's active approach to urban rehabilitation and unemployment.

However, Mulhouse is also a leading light in the field of transfrontier co-operation, eg:

a) co-operation with neighbouring Swiss and German towns:

. with Freiburg: annual meeting of the municipal councils of both towns to discuss joint projects in the fields of transport, environment and social and cultural policy, which have led to such practical results as the award of an annual environmental prize, the construction of a cycle track between the two towns, a new Local Energy Control Agency and exchanges of civil servants;

. with Basle: contacts between Basle University and the *Université de Haute Alsace*, and joint cultural activities such as the annual contemporary art event "Mulhouse 00", which is also run in parallel at *Art Basel*.

A triangular co-operation process is gradually emerging, with councillors from Basle and Freiburg being systematically invited to the major events in Mulhouse;

b) such transfrontier co-operation bodies as the *RegioTriRhena* Council and the Rhine Council;

c) the new EURODISTRICT "Freiburg/Central and Southern Alsace Region": a co-operation agreement was signed at the beginning of 2006 as the first step towards setting up a transfrontier co-operation body;

d) construction of a tri-national metropolitan network, viz the Rhine-Rhone Metropolitan Network embracing the towns of Dijon, Besançon, Belfort, Montbéliard, Mulhouse and the Basle conurbation.

Sound application from a town which should soon be a strong runner for the Europe Prize.

FRANCE (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
QUIMPER	2002	REMSCHIED (D)**	1971
(Finistère)	2003	LIMERICK (Irl)	1981
(Pop. 63 000)	2004		
	2005		
	2006		

<European Diploma in 2002>

<Flag of Honour in 2003>

In 2001 Quimper received delegations from its two twin towns to celebrate the 30th anniversary of its twinning with Remscheid and the 20th with Limerick.

It is planning to conclude a twinning agreement with Orense in Spain.

Exchanges between schools, choirs and sports clubs work particularly well.

To promote public awareness of Europe Quimper has opened a European information desk and created a post of delegate for Europe on the municipal council. The council also organised the “Euro days”, in which over 1800 people participated.

In 2002, Quimper:

- . renewed contacts with the Spanish municipality of Orense (with a view to twinning) by attending Orense's Tourism Salon (at which the Quimper delegation mounted an exhibition of regional produce) and pursuing the links established two years ago between two schools;

- . hosted five Romanians on a visit organised by the Santamaria-Orléa Association, mounted a major exhibition of Romanian art and made plans to expand its programme of exchanges with Romania through a socio-educational scheme for children from 10 Romanian villages, in cooperation with the local Amitié Partage association;

- . stepped up contacts with Remscheid: activities included a visit to Remscheid by a group of 34 children, an inter-choir meeting and a joint concert by the two choirs to mark the 30th anniversary of the twinning, a cycle trek between the two towns, summer work placements for seven Germans, a visit by 80 Germans under the auspices of the Quimper-Remscheid Association, a study visit by teachers from Remscheid to Quimper, and the involvement of Remscheid in Quimper's Christmas celebrations;

- . hosted a delegation of Japanese industrialists;

- . welcomed the involvement of three local grammar schools in the Comenius project;

- . celebrated Europe Day and organised a forum on the theme of Europe;

- . organised a meeting between the twinning committees of Quimper and Limerick to relaunch a programme of exchanges.

In 2003 Quimper marked the award of the Flag of Honour by organising an inter-schools competition and it also stepped up its exchanges with Remscheid. Events included youth and school gatherings, a football tournament, language classes and a visit to the European Parliament in the company of a delegation from Remscheid. The link with Romania was not overlooked and a group of young Romanians visited Quimper. Many schools in Quimper have contacts with counterparts in other countries.

FRANCE (continued)

QUIMPER (continued)

The year 2004 was a busy one in terms of European events and exchanges. Among the most important activities were:

- Europe Week, with the distribution of a European map puzzle in local schools, an exhibition in junior high schools, a European dictation competition and a project to write lyrics for the European anthem;
- efforts to strengthen ties with Poland as members of the French-Polish Friendship Association organised a number of events to mark Poland's accession to the EU, including an exhibition of Polish artists' work in Quimper, lectures, concerts, Polish meals and language courses;
- signature of a letter of intent with a view to a twinning between Quimper and the Chinese town of Yantai;
- the many events organised by the Quimper-Remscheid Association, including exchanges for young people, schoolchildren, cyclists, footballers and runners, as well as exhibitions and choral and instrumental concerts, involving contacts between more than 400 people from the two towns;
- projects undertaken by the Quimper-Santamaria Orléa Association which helped to open a centre for street children, offering games and courses in circus skills; to send an agricultural engineer and three students to a disadvantaged region of Romania; and to supply a bus and school equipment.

Some of the main projects planned for 2005 are:

- the establishment in May of a Europe Associations Forum;
- the organisation of EUROPEADE 2005, the biggest arts and folk traditions event of its kind, which in 2004 was held in Riga. The Quimper event is expected to attract around 4000 people from 31 countries;
- completion of the partnership with Orense;
- a major debate on the European Constitution.

The main event was the 10-day Cornouaille Festival and *Européade* in July, featuring 4 500 dancers and musicians from 31 countries. This gives Quimper the status of a European capital of traditional culture alongside the other towns hosting the *Européade*, ie Antwerp and Munich.

On 2 December Quimper co-operated with educational, economic and institutional players from Slovakia and the Brittany and Loire regions in organising a European seminar on “Co-operation among schools, enterprises and the territorial authorities, and employability in Europe”.

The twinning with Orense is still at the validation stage.

2006 will see a range of events to mark the 35th anniversary of the Quimper-Remscheid twinning and the 25th anniversary of the Quimper-Limerick twinning.

Quimper was presented with the Flag of Honour only recently and so cannot receive any higher award in the immediate future. Exchanges in 2005 were confined to organising the Européade.

FRANCE (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
TOSSIAT	1994	HACKENHEIM (D)*	1992
(Ain)	1995	UNGURENI (RO)*	1991
(Pop. 1 150)	1996		
	1998		
	1999		
	2000		
	2001		
<European Diploma in 1998>	2003		
<Flag of Honour in 2001>	2004		
	2005		
	2006		

The first contacts with Hackenheim go back to 1989, followed by delegation visits, youth visits, etc (three school exchanges in 1995 and two in 1997), exchanges between sports clubs and associations (including local fire fighters and municipal wind bands) and in connection with festivities (on the 10th anniversary of the twinning agreement, for Hackenheim's wine festival and for Elsnigk's 650th jubilee).

In 1989, the Tossiat town council sponsored the Romanian village of Ungureni. Training courses for Romanian technicians and teachers are organised in Tossiat and the municipality supports a number of projects: supplying medicines, water conveyance project, etc. In 1997 a draft agreement on requisite future action was signed, covering renovation of the Ungureni hospital and organisation of school exchanges. "Training courses" were even provided with a view to the setting up of a cheese-making unit in Ungureni, which is hoping to become a pilot village in terms of food processing industry.

As a result of its twinning with Hackenheim, Tossiat has also been maintaining relations with ELSNIGK (former GDR), primarily involving youth exchanges.

The 5th anniversary of the signing of the Twinning Charter with Hackenheim and the exchanges of children with both Hackenheim and Ungureni were the highlights of 1998.

1999 saw three exchanges with Hackenheim. Tossiat will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of its links with Ungureni in the year 2000, and would like to seal this friendship with a twinning agreement.

The year 2000 saw a consolidation of links with Hackenheim with some 40 people from Tossiat travelling to Hackenheim for their Wine Festival, also attended by a number of people from Elsnigk. Twenty-nine schoolchildren from Hackenheim also visited Tossiat. A twinning charter was also signed between the Romanian municipality of UNGURENI (Moldavia) and the group of municipalities responsible for such relationships (OVR Revermont) of which Tossiat is a member.

The award of the Flag of Honour in 2001 was an opportunity to further promote the concept of Europe in the municipality of Tossiat and more widely in the Département of Ain, which is itself a candidate for the Flag this year (2003). In fact, the chair of Tossiat's twinning committee has been elected to head the committee of twinned municipalities at département level, with a brief to promote the European ideal in all the towns and villages concerned. Tossiat's twinning committee publishes a bulletin entitled *L'écho des étoiles* to keep members of the public up to date with twinning activities and European news. The major event in 2002 was the celebration to mark 10 years of twinning; it was held in Tossiat and 50 German guests made the trip to take part.

FRANCE (continued)

TOSSIAT (continued)

The programme for 2003 also included many exchanges: primary schools in Hackenheim and Tossiat staged exchange visits; the 10th anniversary of the twinning with Hackenheim was celebrated and a group of German fire fighters attended the 110th Fire fighters' Congress in Bourg-en-Bresse; Tossiat's Christmas market also featured a display of German produce.

In the context of its links with Romania, Tossiat concentrated on support for training. Twelve social workers and social assistants from Ungureni took part in a training placement in Tossiat; a number of working meetings were held in Ungureni in connection with a water supply project; a teacher-training placement was organised; and a group of Romanian vets came on a visit to learn more about European water standards.

In order to raise awareness of twinning activities, Tossiat devoted two issues of its local newspaper to the subject and the Chair of the twinning committee was invited to give a presentation on twinning to councillors for the Département of Ain. Awareness-raising efforts also included radio interviews and the creation of a "twinning page" on Tossiat's website.

Tossiat kept up its contacts with Romania in 2004, focusing this time on agriculture: a group of farmers was hosted for a comprehensive training course, and the Chair of the Operation Romanian Villages project was briefed on the breeding of Montbéliard sheep with a view to promoting the breed in Romania. Trade exchanges were organised for the first time with Tossiat's German twinning partners: German specialist wines and liqueurs went on sale in France, while French regional cheeses were promoted in Germany. German language courses continue to be offered both in local primary schools and for adults.

In 2005, sixteen years after the campaign to assist a number of villages in Romania, Tossiat was extremely pleased to have been able to provide the village of Ungureni with water supplies thanks to its major water conveyance project (installation of thirty street fountain in the village).

The commercial exchanges with Hackenheim via sales of traditional produce, school exchanges, annual participation in the Christmas Market and the German courses for primary schoolchildren and adults have all remained highly successful.

The municipality's active commitment is regularly highlighted in the Ain Département, and the Chair of the Tossiat Twinning Committee in fact also chairs the Ain Département Committee on Twinned Municipalities, which embraces 74 twinned municipalities to date.

The award of the Flag of Honour was a real boost to exchange activities. May be considered for the Plaque of Honour in 1-2 years' time.

FRANCE (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
VOIRON	2004	KREIS HERFORD (D)	1966
(Isère)	2005	SIBENIK (HR)	1971
(Pop. 20 000)	2006	BASSANO DEL GRAPPA (I)***	1984

<Flag of Honour in 2004>

Thanks to its particularly active twinning committee, on which 22 associations are represented, Voiron has succeeded since 1966 in sustaining a high level of exchange activity.

The first contacts established were with a group of young Germans from Herford and a twinning agreement with that town was signed within a year. In 1971 Sibenik was officially recognised as Voiron's second partner municipality and in 1984 it was the turn of Bassano del Grappa.

The number of exchanges (20 to 30 each year) has continued to grow and the programme includes contacts between schools (each school in Voiron has a partner in Westphalia), sports clubs and cultural organisations as well as training placements in local companies, international youth meetings and "environmental weeks".

Youth meetings: the twinning partners host annual youth meetings on a turn-about basis. It was Voiron's turn in 1999.

Cultural encounters: The Voiron-Bassano Friendship Association has been organising Italian cinema events for 17 years.

Business events: Bassano holds an annual fair in October while Voiron mounts its *Foire de la Saint Martin* in November. At each of these events products from the partner municipality are promoted.

Placements are organised in local companies for trainees from the four partner towns and young people also come to work as au pairs with local families.

Numerous clubs and organisations in Voiron – including the Red Cross, local fire fighters, blood donors, bee keepers and choirs – have established ties with their counterparts in the partner towns.

Since 1964, 30 000 Voiron people have travelled to the partner municipalities and Voiron has welcomed more than 50 000 foreign guests. Several hundred local families are involved in hosting the visitors.

For a number of years biennial twinning meetings have been held on a rotation basis in the four towns. Specific projects are discussed and implemented, and subjects covered in depth over several days of talks have included the environment, disability, sport and the arts. A large number of young people are involved in these meetings.

Voiron, Herford and Bassano acted together to help Sibenik during the conflict in former Yugoslavia. There was a great wave of sympathy and generosity and, thanks to donations from many businesses and industries as well as the work of several dozen volunteers, five aid convoys were dispatched to the Croatian town.

Having received the Flag of Honour in November 2004, Voiron applied just two months later to be considered for the Plaque of Honour.

FRANCE (continued)

VOIRON (continued)

The activity report for 2004 highlights Voiron's commitment to the European idea: events included Europe Day celebrations, a four-way meeting in Sibenik, the hosting of trainees, participation in an environment week in Herford and a fair in Bassano, a twinned towns' soccer tournament, the Saint Martin's Day Fair and, most notably, the celebrations held to mark the award of the Flag of Honour.

Thanks to the hard work of the Voiron Twinning Committee, 2005 once again saw a series of very high-quality European activities:

- 12 cultural exchanges: an exhibition in each twin town on “the Grand Silk Route”, photographic encounters in Voiron featuring one German and two Italian photographers, the “Voiron-Herford Friendship” association invited its partners for a visit, 10 young people from Voiron took part in a project organised by Bassano on the theme of “Sport, Europe and the Environment”, four secondary schools participated in the ecological week organised by *Kreis* Herford, the Voiron choir visited Bassano, giving joint concerts with the Italian and German choirs, Voiron ran a stand at the Bassano Fair and delegations from the twin towns visited the St Martin’s Fair in Voiron.
- 14 school exchanges, with visits to the European Parliament, participation in the “Euroscola Days” and the launch of a COMENIUS Project with Finland.
- A project conducted with primary schools to heighten young people’s European awareness culminated in Europe Day on 9 May; organised by the Voiron Twinning Committee the previous year, Europe Day this year included an exhibition organised by several classes for both pupils and parents featuring various European countries; a competition was held, and winners were taken to visit the European Parliament in Strasbourg.
- Young people from Voiron and also *Kreis* Herford were involved in several practical further training courses.

The Twinning Committee has already prepared a new project for 2006 under which 50 young people from the twin towns will take part in a week’s residential encounter on the theme of “Sport, Europe and the Environment”.

A good submission: will soon be a candidate for higher honours.

GERMANY

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
AALEN (Baden-Württemberg) (Pop. approx. 40 000)	1989	SAINT LO (F)**	1978
	1992	TATABANYA (H)	1987
	1995	CHRISTCHURCH (GB)	1981
	1996	ANTAKYA (TR)	1995
	1997		
	1998		
	1999		
	2000		
	2001		
	2002		
	2003		
2004			
<Flag of Honour in 1992>	2005		
<Plaque of Honour in 1998>	2006		

Aalen has developed very regular contacts in many fields with its first three twin towns. It encourages school exchanges, vocational training courses, contacts between tradespeople (farmers, electricians, etc), elderly people, representatives of the different religions, municipal employees, young musicians, etc. The Aalen twinning committee co-ordinates all the exchanges. The "Reichsstädter Tage" (Imperial City Days), a traditional festival organised in Aalen, attracts several thousand people and representatives from all the twin towns are always invited. It was on this occasion that the Flag of Honour was officially awarded to Aalen in 1992.

Links between the twin towns are further consolidated through regional fairs in Aalen and Christchurch, folk festivals, sports events (the Friendship Games held every two years in each of the towns in turn, and which in Aalen brought together more than 500 sports men and women), and musical events (Euro-Treff).

1995 was marked by twinning with the Turkish town of Antakya. Through this arrangement with a town more than 3 500 km away, it wished to mark its attachment to a country 3 000 of whose nationals have settled in Aalen.

1997 was very rich in meetings of an associative nature with the four twin towns, and Aalen celebrated its 20th Anniversary of twinning with Saint Lô in 1998...The highlight of the anniversary celebrations was the presentation of the Plaque of Honour.

In 1999 and 2000 the pace of exchanges did not let up. There were exchanges with all the twin towns and traditional celebrations like the "Reichsstädter Tage" provide opportunities to bring together representatives of all five twin towns.

As always, there were numerous cultural, sports and educational exchanges as well as exchanges between associations, but the highlight of 2001 was the 20th anniversary of twinning with Christchurch, which was celebrated as part of the traditional "Reichsstädter Tage" festival. Over 100 people from the twin towns travelled to Aalen to mark the occasion.

GERMANY (continued)

AALLEN (continued)

Once again, Aalen is submitting a full report on its twinning activities over the year (2002).

- Local festivals are always an occasion for bringing the twinning partners together: Aalen's "Imperial City Days" this year included celebrations to mark 15 years of twinning with Tatabanya, and the municipality also took part in Tatabanya's "Friendly Games" as well as Antakya's Liberation Day festival and celebrations in Christchurch to mark the 21st anniversary of that twinning.
- Aalen regularly hosts sporting events: this year they included an international soccer tournament, a visit by Saint-Lô's tennis club and a race through the town.
- Cultural activities included a visit by Tatabanya's school of music, with a concert in Aalen, participation by Aalen's choir in a major concert in Saint-Lô, and an exhibition of Turkish paintings.
- Inter-school exchanges and au pair and trainee placements continued.
- Various projects received financial support: these included a day nursery in Tatabanya, a humanitarian aid convoy to Tatabanya organised by the Order of Malta in Aalen, a visit by a group of children from the Chernobyl region and the purchase of equipment for an orphanage in Antakya.

The year 2003 marked the 25th anniversary of the twinning with Saint-Lô and Aalen would have liked to crown the occasion by winning the Europe Prize. The anniversary celebrations, to which representatives of Aalen's other twin towns were also invited, were held as part of the traditional "Reichsstädter Tage" festival. The whole town was involved in the three days of festivities.

The 2003 programme also included traditional sporting and cultural activities, however, as well as school exchanges with the twinned towns. Aalen also signed a friendship agreement with the Hungarian municipality of GÖDRE.

Three major events in 2004 provided opportunities for all the twinning partners to get together:

- the 12th "Friendly Games", held in Aalen, which attracted 120 young people;
- celebrations in Saint-Lô to mark the 25th anniversary of that twinning;
- the traditional civic festival in September.

Once again the emphasis was on inter-school exchanges, particularly with Saint-Lô and Tatabanya, but also with Antakya which, despite the 3000 km separating the two towns, signed a partnership agreement with a senior high school in Aalen.

Three major events took place in 2005: firstly, the ceremonies for the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II, attended by inhabitants of Saint-Lô and Christchurch; secondly, a retirement party for the Mayor of Aalen attended by the Mayors of all four twin towns (shortly beforehand the outgoing Mayor had travelled to Antakya to take part in the celebrations for the 10th anniversary of the twinning with Antakya); and lastly, the traditional Aalen town festival in September, known as the "Reichsstädter Tage", during which further events were organised to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the twinning with Antakya.

The school exchanges with Saint-Lô and Tatabanya are still operating successfully.

Good report but the town cannot compete this year for the Europe Prize.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
ADENAU (Rheinland-Pfalz) (Pop. 3 000)	1999	SILLERY (F)	1985
	2000	MELLIEHA (Malta)	1996
	2001	Castione della Pesolana (I)	2002
	2002		
	2003		
	2004		
	2005		
	2006		

<European Diploma in 2000>

Many contacts between cultural and sporting associations and between schools. Visits by artists (musicians, sculptors, painters) in the twin towns, placement of trainees. While the twinning with Mellieha is relatively recent (1996), relations were established between associations as early as 1989.

On average there are three big events with each twin town every year, and numerous private meetings between families.

Adenau regularly organises conferences on European themes, provides language courses and participates in the European Schools Day competitions.

Contact with Mellieha in 1999 was mainly of a cultural nature: Maltese art exhibitions in Adenau and Valletta. Young people are the main beneficiaries of the twinning with Sillery, via the school exchanges.

In 2000 Adenau and Sillery celebrated the 15th anniversary of their twinning, first of all in Adenau and then in Sillery in October. Adenau is making arrangements for a third twinning, with an Italian town.

2001 was marked mainly by exchanges with schools in France (Florange), America, Scotland and Poland (Lodz). The twinning with an Italian town is taking shape: the agreement with Castione della Presolana (Lombardy) should be signed in May 2002.

The highlight of 2002 was the signing of a twinning agreement with the Italian town of Castione della Presolana.

In 2003 the twinning ties were reinforced when Adenau joined Castione and its French twinning partner in a joint operation to send aid to Bangladesh. Adenau hosted guests from Sillery and Mellieha on a weekend visit and the Mayor of Adenau travelled to Malta as a guest of Alliance française for an event to mark the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Franco-German Treaty.

The activity programme in 2004 was dominated by inter-school exchanges but also, of course, by the Flag of honour award celebrations, to which all the twinning partners were invited.

In 2005 several meetings with the French and Italian towns.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
ALTÖTTING	2000	LORETO (I)	1991
(Bavaria)	2001		
(Pop. 12 500)	2002		
	2003		
	2004		
	2005		
	2006		

<European Diploma in 2000>
<Flag of Honour in 2001>
<Plaque of Honour in 2003>

In 1996 Altötting signed a cooperation agreement with the towns of LORETO (I), OUREM/FATIMA (P), LOURDES (F) and CZĘSTOCHOWA (PL).

This “Shrines of Europe” cooperation agreement has led to:

- the organisation of biennial conferences rotating around the shrine towns
- preparation of tourist-oriented projects
- establishment of a youth exchange programme “We are building one Europe”
- participation in choral competitions, concerts and art exhibitions
- participation in sports competitions.

A Twinning Committee manages contacts with Loreto, which consist mainly of school exchanges, youth traineeships and trips by professional groups (farmers, doctors, municipal officers and craftsmen).

Altötting has taken part in several humanitarian actions in favour of Ukraine and Bosnia, and has developed a twinning arrangement between its cantonal hospital and that of Pecs in Hungary.

In 2000, Altötting organised several school exchanges and meetings between farming and forestry representatives. It sent representatives to regional fairs and was thus able to publicise the “Shrines of Europe” network of which it is a member. It initiated and organised a project bringing together Swiss, Austrian and German tourist associations along the river Inn, called “ANGENEHM INN”.

It organised several major cultural events in 2000. These included:

- an international exchange of young people from the member towns of the “Shrines of Europe” network;
- an international forum attended by 2000 participants from 20 countries;
- a major musical event under the banner of “Music unites people”.

The award of the Flag of Honour in 2001 helped boost exchanges:

- with Czestochowa which organised a major encounter for young people within the framework of the “Sanctuary Towns of Europe” association
- with the staging in Altötting of an international forum attended by over 2 000 young people from 20 different nations
- with the Bavarian arts festival which comprised over 50 events and attracted artists from various European countries
- with the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the twinning with Loreto, first in Altötting and then in Loreto

In 2002, Fatima organised a major international youth meeting in which young people from Altötting took part. Among other encounters, Altötting organised an international music event as part of its municipal festival and a group from Altötting participated in a folk festival organised by Czestochowa.

GERMANY (continued)

ALTÖTTING (continued)

The presentation of the Plaque of Honour was the most important event organised by Altötting in 2003 and all the twinned towns sent representatives to the ceremony. Altötting also sent a delegation to Loreto to celebrate 10 years of twinning with that municipality and the anniversary was also marked by a special event at home. A meeting of the "sanctuary towns" was held in Lourdes in November and the representatives of the different towns signed a cooperation agreement pledging to work together more closely.

Altötting is very keen to win the Europe Prize. Its twinning programme in 2004 included inter-school exchanges, meetings between representatives of the "sanctuary towns" in Czestochowa, a visit by sportspeople from Czestochowa, the traditional youth exchange with Loreto and a visit by 50 residents from that town, a concert given by 30 young people from Lourdes as part of Altötting's municipal festival, and the staging of the ninth International Youth Forum.

In addition to the traditional youth exchanges, Altötting took part in two major projects:

- one funded by the EU under the SOCRATES Programme involving Altötting schoolchildren and various European schools;
- the INTERREG-funded COESIMA Project involving the mayors of pilgrimage towns in a drive to promote the development, particularly in terms of tourism, of the various pilgrimage towns with which Altötting is co-operating under the auspices of the "Shrines of Europe" Association. The mayors of the towns in question have already met up on several occasions.

The Altötting to Loreto relay race run by twelve athletes from Altötting, an educational visit to the Czech Republic by Altötting youngsters, the meetings of mayors of Shrine Towns in Mariazell, the international monastery market showcasing the produce of 27 monasteries in different countries, the 10th international youth encounter in Altötting following on from the Cologne World Youth Days, the Altötting international semi-marathon, and the participation of a delegation in the Loreto Bavarian beer festival were the main encounters in 2005.

Received the Plaque of Honour in 2003 and is keen to receive the Europe Prize. The 2005 activity report was much better.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
ALZEY (Pop. 18 300) (Rhineland-Palatinate)	1980	HARPENDEN (GB)**	1963
	1982 to 1983	JOSELIN (F)	1973
	2001	LEMBEYE (F)	1980
	2002	RECHNITZ (A)	1981
	2003	KOSCIN(PL)	1990
	2004	KAMENZ (former GDR)	1990
	2005		
	2006		

<Flag of Honour in 1983>

After a long silence, Alzey is re-applying for the Europe Prize, which it hopes will be awarded in 2003, the anniversary of its twinning agreements with Harpenden (40 years) and Josselin (30 years).

The vast majority of exchanges carried out since the very first twinning agreements have been with Harpenden (186 encounters) and Josselin (140 joint events). The Alzey and Harpenden associations have instigated these activities, but the twinning anniversaries and local festivities have also provided opportunities for encounters and exchanges.

It should also be noted that families in the various towns have organised many, indeed countless exchanges over the years.

Secondary school twinings with Josselin and Koscian have facilitated annual schools exchanges.

Alzey has also developed numerous cultural exchanges with the Austrian town of PÖCHLARN.

A review of the twinning activities in 2001 shows that on average, there were 3 exchanges with each of the twin towns, the main event being the celebrations to mark the 20th anniversary of the twinning with Rechnitz, which were held first in Alzey and later in Rechnitz. Around 40 people made the trip to the twin town on each occasion. The “Friends of Alzey” Association in Harpenden also celebrated its 20th anniversary. To mark the occasion, 40 people from Harpenden visited Alzey.

The report on exchanges in 2002 shows that two or three meetings took place with each of the twinned municipalities apart from Lembeye and Rechnitz.

The year 2003 featured celebrations to mark 40 years of twinning with Harpenden and 30 years of the link with Josselin – Alzey hosting both events. Participants in a relay race with its starting point in Josselin arrived in Alzey in time for the festivities. The 2003 exchange programme also included school exchanges and visits to events in the twinned town.

Twinning activities in 2004 focused mainly on young people, with a number of inter-school exchanges. An official delegation from Alzey visited Harpenden, and runners from Josselin and Alzey took part together in the Mainz marathon.

A dozen or so encounters in 2005 and the same number scheduled for 2006, concentrating on youth exchanges, the traditional Josselin-Alzey marathon race and a visit by the Friends of Harpenden. Cultural contacts expanded again with cultural exhibitions in Alzey in 2005 and an exhibition scheduled for 2006 in Kamenz. The 25th anniversary of the twinning with Lembeye was celebrated in 2005, with over 40 inhabitants of Lembeye travelling to Alzey for the occasion. The 25th anniversary of the twinning with Rechnitz will be celebrated in 2006.

Too few encounters with the twin towns for the moment, even though Alzey has been applying for the award for a long time.

GERMANY (continued)

	Report in :	Twinned with :	Since:
ABLAR (Hessen) (pop. 14,700)	1997	SAINT-AMBROIX (F)**	1966
	1998	JÜTERBOG (former GDR)	1991
	2000		
	2001		
	2006		

<European Diploma in 1998>

<Flag of honour in 2001>

Asslar has been concentrating on its twinning with Saint-Ambroix (near Arles) for 30 years now. The links have been strengthened for the past 20 years by junior school twinings and gymnastics and fire-brigade associations. Both the local authorities and private companies in the two towns regularly take in trainees.

Asslar takes in large numbers of asylum-seekers, particularly Bosnian refugees (over 200 are currently resident, of a population of 14 700). The twinning anniversaries (5th, 10th, 20th and 25th) are regularly celebrated in each town.

In 1997 Asslar endeavoured to extend its European contacts by concluding a schools twinning agreement with Borlänge in Sweden.

In 1998 and 1999 Asslar continued its school exchanges with Saint-Ambroix and Borlänge and encouraged visits by Asslar delegations to St Ambroix. It also organised sports events and was visited by politicians from Borlänge.

In 2000, the emphasis was placed on developing contacts with Saint-Ambroix: there were two school exchanges, 1 sports meeting and a delegation from Asslar visited Saint-Ambroix for its Christmas market.

In 2006 Asslar is applying for the Plaque of Honour, forwarding a summary of its European activities over the last five years. In 2006 it will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of its twinning with St Ambroix and would like to be awarded the Plaque of Honour for the occasion.

The reports on activities in recent years highlight the continued exchanges prioritising school exchanges, and visits by large delegations for specific events in the twin towns, organised by the very active Franco-German friendship society in Asslar.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
BAMBERG	1976	BEDFORD (GB)	1977
(Bavaria)	1977	ESZTERGOM (H)	1992
(Pop. 71 000)	1984	FELDKIRCHEN in Kärnten (A)	1993
	1985	PRAG (CZ)	1992
	1986	RODEZ (F)	1970
	1987	VILLACH IN KÄRNTEN (A)	1973
	1988		
	1989		
	2005		
	2006		

<Flag of Honour in 1977>

Bamberg has also developed friendly ties with the towns of Kirchdorf an der Krems (A), Wolfsberg (A), Malborghetto (I), Montelabbate (I), Tarvisio (I), Nagaoka (Japan) and Posen (PL).

After a long silence Bamberg is applying to be considered for the Plaque of Honour and has submitted a list of its twinning activities in 2004. These included:

- publication of a joint message from the Mayor of Bamberg and the Mayors of all the twinned municipalities calling on people to vote in the European elections, and a lecture in the town hall on the subject of the European Constitution, attended by the Mayors of the Czech and Hungarian partner towns; a workshop involving representatives from all six twinning partners was also set up to explore the further development of exchanges within the twinning network;
- a campaign of support by the six partner towns for Bamberg's bid to become a European City of Culture in 2010;
- visits by official delegations to Feldkirchen for celebrations to mark the 10th anniversary of that twinning, to Esztergom for a photographic exhibition and to Bedford for the River Festival there;
- various inter-association contacts, notably visits by the rowing club to Villach, by the Music School to Rodez as part of a regular programme of exchanges with its counterpart there, and by the Bamberg Air Club to Rodez, as well as contacts between the disability officers of Bamberg and Bedford with a view to organising regular exchanges.

Exchanges with the partner towns fell into various categories.

Inter-school exchanges: These involve all the schools in the town, with a total of 300-400 children taking part each year. There is also an annual programme of trainee exchanges with the twinning partners under which Bamberg's municipal administration hosts two trainees. With the support of the local Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bamberg has also hosted young craftspeople, bank staff and even trainee lawyers from Rodez, and it offers bursaries to young students of German in the twinned towns to enable them to participate in its annual Summer School.

Cultural exchanges: The Music School regularly organises joint concerts with the twinning partners, and Bamberg's museums frequently stage international exhibitions, many of which travel to the twinned towns. In 2004 Bamberg hosted for the second time an international festival of wind instruments attracting 200 ensembles and 8 000 musicians from all over the world. There are plans to set up a network of music schools involving all the twinning partners, and artists from the seven towns have been invited to submit works for display in a travelling exhibition that would visit them all.

GERMANY (continued)

Bamberg (continued)

Sports exchanges: Among the many sporting encounters between the twinning partners a highlight is the major Sports Festival organised jointly with Bedford every four years and involving some 700 young people competing in a variety of events. Walking races to the twinned towns are held regularly.

Administrative and other exchanges: There are regular meetings not only between municipal employees of the twinned towns but also between hospital staff (notably in Rodez and Villach) and senior doctors (in Prague).

Nineteen clubs and association in Bamberg work to develop contacts with counterparts in other countries. They include the German-English, German-French and German-Czech Clubs, and all receive financial support from the municipality.

The report on Bamberg's European activities in **2005** lists a huge number of contacts:

- with Bedford: the most important event was the traditional Sports Festival in Bedford in which 140 athletes from Bamberg took part. In August Bamberg was visited by a group of 30 members of the Bedford Bamberg Association.
- with Esztergom: under the triangular twinning arrangement linking up secondary schools in Esztergom (H), Sturovo (Slovakia) and Bamberg, a number of schoolchildren took part in a photographic competition, with the winning photos put on display at the town hall; four Hungarian artists visited Bamberg as part of the first exchange of artists from both towns; a sports festival for Bamberg and Esztergom children with disabilities and a visit to Bamberg by a delegation of teachers from Esztergom for an exchange of experience were the main exchanges with this town.
- with Feldkirchen: contacts mainly involved the exhibition of the famous Bamberg Christmas cribs.
- with Prague: in connection with a project initiated by Prague, Bamberg invited town planning experts from all the twin towns to attend a working group meeting showcasing Bamberg as a World City of Culture.
- with Rodez: a major seminar in Rodez was attended by the mayors of all the town's twin municipalities; the new Rodez Music School was inaugurated on this occasion and a photographic exhibition organised; cooks from Bamberg also visited the French town to join the over 100 guests from five different countries.
- with Villach: contacts between Rotary Club branches, football teams and the mayors.

Bamberg organised a major running race as part of a cultural heritage conservation campaign, inviting all its twin and partner towns to compete; over 100 athletes from the twin towns took part.

The school exchanges continued as usual. 300 secondary students and accompanying adults from Bamberg's twin towns and 450 more from other towns visited Bamberg. Visitors are systematically accommodated in families, and the municipal cultural office provides financial support for these exchanges, to which the town attaches great importance. Furthermore, over 300 participants attended the international summer courses at Bamberg University, including grant-holders from the twin towns. Bamberg also took on 20 young people for work experience in the municipal administrative services.

*A good submission reflecting many original initiatives to reaffirm ties with the twinned towns.
A strong candidate for the Plaque of Honour.*

GERMANY (continued)

	Report in :	Twinned with :	Since:
BECKUM	2003	LA CELLE SAINT-CLOUD (F)	1983
(Nordrhein-Westfalen)	2004	GRODKOW (PL)	1997
(pop. 39,000)	2005	SEEBAD HERINGSDORF (ex-GDR)	1990
	2006		

<European Diploma in 2003>

<Flag of honour in 2005>

Beckum developed three twinings :

1. The link with La Celle St Cloud began with contacts between the swimming clubs of the two municipalities. The 20th anniversary of this twinning will be celebrated in 2003 and events are planned throughout the year.

Annual activities that serve to strengthen the ties include participation in the La Celle children's carnival and the Christmas market, an annual bus trip to La Celle, swimming competitions and various school exchanges.

2. The twinning with Grodkow, near Opole, is more recent and reflects the movement towards German-Polish reconciliation. Contacts have included participation in a ceremony to mark the fifth anniversary of the twinning, sending a delegation to the Grodkow harvest festival, and a summer "camp" on a sailing ship.
3. Initially, contact with Seebad Heringsdorf (Federal State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, formerly in the GDR) took place mostly at administrative level (with training courses for public employees) but links between young people began to be developed after Germany's reunification. Now children from Heringsdorf regularly visit Beckum for the municipal "Summer Days", and other joint activities include regattas and trips by groups of residents to the Usedom music festival and Heringsdorf's "Emperor Days".

The following activities have involved all three twinning partners:

- delegation visits to the Beckum carnival;
- visits by a delegation from each town to the others' municipal festivals (ie the Pütt-Tage in Beckum, the Summer Festival in La Celle and the Grodkow Harvest Festival);
- Beckum's major 775th jubilee celebrations.

In recent years Beckum has organised a number of humanitarian campaigns to aid Grodkow following flooding.

The major event of 2003 was the celebration in La Celle St Cloud to mark the 20th anniversary of the twinning with that town: delegations from Grodkow and Heringsdorf also took part. A month later, as part of the anniversary programme, Beckum hosted a trilateral seminar with input from a number of political figures and a high level of local involvement.

Exchanges with a grammar school in Poznan have been taking place for some 15 years as have exchanges with a school in Fareham in the south of England.

GERMANY (continued)

BECKUM (continued)

Delegations from the twinned towns regularly attend Beckum's annual carnival and Pütt-Tage festival. Beckum has participated in a children's carnival in La Celle St Cloud and in races there and organises regular bus trips giving local people a chance to explore both La Celle and Heringsdorf. These are always a great success.

The continuing vitality of the twinings is clear from the activity report for 2004.

- Exchanges with Grodkow focused on the mounting of an exhibition about the history of Grodkow, a visit by Beckum women to Grodkow (the fourth in a series of visits hosted alternately by the two towns), and provision of medical equipment for a hospital in Grodkow.
- Exchanges with La Celle Saint-Cloud included a visit to La Celle by a Beckum delegation, with a ceremony to commemorate Charles de Gaulle's call to France to resist the German occupation on 18 June 1940, a visit to Beckum by a French delegation for the traditional Pütt Tage, and the hosting by Beckum families of 20 schoolchildren.
- Seebad Heringsdorf invited not only Beckum but also Beckum's other twinning partners to its 125th jubilee celebrations, and a 40-strong group from Beckum took part in the traditional Usedom Music Festival.

Beckum also promoted a number of projects involving schools. A group of high-school students from Poznan visited the town and a local school paired with a school in Lodz (PL) under the Socrates programme. Three races were organised as a means of raising funds for a high school in Tanzania, an orphanage in Brazil and an aid project in Nepal.

Boosted by the presentation of the Flag of Honour in 2005, Beckum is now applying for the Plaque of Honour, and has forwarded a detailed report on its numerous exchanges with:

- Grodkow: reception of a delegation for Beckum carnival, visit by delegations from all the twin towns to Grodkow at the invitation of the Polish town, exhibition by German artists in Grodkow, reception in Beckum of 20 young people from Grodkow as part of the "Encounter Days", 5th meeting of women's groups from both municipalities and visit to Grodkow by a group of residents.
- La Celle Saint-Cloud: Beckum athletes took part in the traditional 10-km race in La Celle, and a group of Beckum residents and officials participated in the La Celle municipal festival.
- Seebad Heringsdorf: 100 persons from Beckum took part in the Heringsdorf "Emperor Days", and a delegation attended the "Usedom" Music Festival; the 15th anniversary of the inauguration of the Twinning Committee was commemorated in Heringsdorf in the presence of a delegation from Beckum.

Received the Flag of Honour in 2005.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
BONN-HARDTBERG (Urban district)	1989	VILLEMOMBLE (F)*	1967
	1990		
	1991		
	1992		
	1994		
	1997		
	1998 to 2002		
	2003		
	2004		
	2005		
	2006		

<European Diploma in 1990>

<Flag of Honour in 1992>

This twinning arrangement dates back to 1967 and involves essentially young people. Traineeships are organised as is a major annual meeting between the two twin towns involving more than 200 participants. A symposium on modern languages was held in 1988 and 1989 and was attended by teachers from European towns. Annual trips involving large groups of people to celebrate the twinning anniversaries also help to strengthen links.

In 1990 and 1991 more than 500 people took part in exchanges, mainly young people through school exchanges and sports meetings. In 1997, Bonn-Hardtberg celebrated the 30th anniversary of its twinning with Villemomble: Villemomble first hosted over 100 people from Bonn, then the celebration moved to Bonn-Hardtberg where an exhibition tracing the history of the twinning was set up. There were some fifteen other meetings in 1997, among them the school exchanges and sports events which always occupy pride of place.

As every year, a delegation of citizens from each twin town visited the other, and 400 individuals met up for sports, schools and musical events.

Bonn has totalled more than 500 meetings, with almost 10 000 participants, since the twinning was concluded 32 years ago. The 1999 report mentions school exchanges, sporting events, initial contacts between fire fighters and the traditional annual exchange of visits. In all, 450 people took part in the exchanges.

As usual, in 2000 the well-established programme of exchanges with Villemomble comprised sports, schools and fire brigade exchanges and the traditional visits by large delegations of inhabitants. In all, almost 400 inhabitants of Bonn-Hardtberg were involved.

The number of people who participated in exchanges in 2001 was slightly down. Two school exchanges, three sports events and the traditional visit by residents of Villemomble to Bonn made up the bulk of activity, and involved 269 people in total.

In 2002, the twinning celebrations in Hardtberg coincided with Carnival and almost 30 French visitors made the trip for the occasion. The return visit took place in September and included a gesture of thanks to the residents of both municipalities who have shown commitment to the twinning. Two school exchanges, a number of sports meetings (gymnastics, judo, tennis and *boules*) and a concert involved a total of 373 Hardtberg people.

In 2002 Bonn-Hardtberg notched up a total of 560 twinning meetings, which have involved some 11 000 people since the link was established.

GERMANY (continued)

BONN-HARDTBERG (continued)

The year 2003 again saw the traditional Twinning Festival organised by both towns but the flagship event was Hardtberg's first Youth Week, held in early May to coincide with Europe Day and featuring a visit by the Mayor of Villemomble. A whole series of events was organised with the involvement of schools, associations and churches.

Several school exchanges and musical and sporting visits were also held during 2003. A total of 400 people from Hardtberg were involved in exchanges.

There were two particularly special events in 2004. The first was Hardtberg's traditional Twinning Festival, which this year included a joint concert given by the choirs of Hardtberg and Villemomble at a religious service. A similar celebration was held a few weeks later in Villemomble. The second major event was the town's second Youth Week, this year on the of the environment, which was launched by the Mayor of Villemomble. A range of sporting encounters, including a *boules* tournament, and a number of inter-school exchanges provided opportunities for more than 300 people to meet up.

The major events of 2005 were once again a visit by a large group of Hardtberg residents to Villemomble accompanied by the Hardtberg Choir, and a return visit to Hardtberg by the partners from Villemomble. The other highlight was the 3rd Hardtberg Youth Week, which concentrated on the theme of active leisure pursuits. Moreover, the President of Hardtberg District visited Verdun to attend the ceremonies for the 60th anniversary of the end of World War Two, at which he delivered a speech. For the first time Hardtberg sent three secondary schoolgirls to Villemomble for practical training. The school and sports exchanges (tennis, pétanque, judo and gymnastics) are also operating successfully.

In 2007 Bonn-Hardtberg and Villemomble will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of their twinning agreement.

Sound application from a town which organises regular exchanges and is heading for a fresh award in the near future. The Flag of Honour was presented in 1992.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
BORKEN	1997	ALBERTSLUND (DK)	1987
(North Rhine-Westphalia)	1998	Twining Assoc. of Whitstable (GB)	1987
	2000	BOLKOW (PL)	1997
	2001	GRABOW (former GDR)	1997
	2005	MÖLNDAL (S)	1997
	2006		

<European Diploma in 1997>

<Flag of Honour in 1998>

The twinnings with Albertslund and the Twining Association of Whitstable date back to 1987 and as Albertslund was twinned with the Swedish town of Mölndal and with Grabow in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Borken started contacts with these two towns.

The contacts with the Polish town of Bolkow were established thanks to the former inhabitants of this region who had settled in Borken after 1945.

In 1997, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the twinning with Albertslund and Whitstable Borken decided to conclude twinning agreements with Bolkow and Mölndal. A friendship agreement was signed with Grabow.

To coordinate all encounters and boosted by the dynamism of the Twining Association of Whitstable, Borken decided to create a twinning association in 2003 to which more than one hundred people are affiliated.

Since links began, Borken has totalled over 350 meetings, during which some 9 500 people have visited the town. There have also been large numbers of private visits. In addition to school exchanges, meeting of young people are organised every three years and schoolteachers from the twin towns also meet every other year.

1997 was marked by three major events:

- the 10th anniversary of Borken's twinnings with Albertslund and Whitstable, which was celebrated during a twinning weekend when three new twinning agreements were concluded with Mölndal, Bolkow and Grabow. Over 500 people, most of whom stayed with families, travelled from the twin towns to attend;
- the international get-together of young people from Sweden, Italy, the Netherlands and Germany;
- 34 exchanges involving schools and associations, in which more than 780 people took part.

Borken hosted one of the first conferences on transfrontier cooperation held by the Council of Europe, and EUREGIO has its base there.

Events which marked 1998 and 1999 include:

- "Europa-Artline": a major exhibition by 50 artists from all over Europe; in connection with the exhibition the "Artline-Online" project was developed, with the participation of the twin towns for the first time. It was an opportunity for young people from the twin towns to chat and exchange messages and photographs of their home towns on the Internet.
- The international teachers' conference, which took place in Grabow in 1998 and was attended by representatives from schools and public authorities in Albertslund, Grabow, Bolkow, Borken, Mölndal and Whitstable.
- The third international youth camp, in Mölndal, which brought together 300 young people from seven different countries. (The first camp was held in Borken in 1992.)
- A seminar for Swedish and German teachers held in Mölndal, which eight teachers from Borken attended.

GERMANY (continued)

BORKEN (continued)

- Placement of eight trainees from Bolkow in Borken.
- A very large number of exchanges between schools and associations with financial support from the municipality (34 meetings with 840 participants in 1999).
- Meetings between public servants and associations from Bolkow and Borken.
- Visit to Borken by delegations from all the twin towns for the local elections (43 people).

Contacts with the twin towns were stepped up in 2000 with:

- the Borken-Bolkow days in May, when 70 people from Borken visited Poland to engage in sports competitions, perform plays, etc;
- traineeships for Bolkow students, especially in agricultural schools;
- the Borken International Olympics, organised for the first time in partnership with the Borken schools. All the twin towns were invited, and a total of 200 children attended;
- participation in the International Teachers' Conference held in Mölndal;
- school exchanges involved over 1000 students this year.

Having received the Flag of Honour in 1998, Borken is now keen to compete for fresh honours and has submitted a comprehensive dossier on its twinning activities over the past three years. More than 65 exchanges took place during that period, enabling 1 900 people from the twinned and other partner towns to meet up.

Major encounters included:

- an international youth camp in Whitstable in 2001. Borken organised the first of these events in 1992 and the twinning partners now take turns to host the camp every three years;
- the Twinned Towns Festival in Mölndal in 2001, in which 40 young musicians from Borken took part;
- Borken's 775th Jubilee celebrations in 2001, to which 300 guests from the twinned towns were invited;
- the Twinned Towns Conference in Borken in 2002;
- celebrations to mark the 20th anniversary of Whitstable's Twinning Association which currently has more than 1 000 members and has enabled more than 20 000 people to take part in inter-town exchange activities over the years;
- Borken's Civic Festival in 2003, attended by more than 100 guests from the twinned towns.

The busiest year, however, proved to be 2004, with a total of 32 twinning events involving more than 750 people and making it necessary for the municipality to allocate additional funding mid-year. Highlights were:

- the Mayor of Borken's New Year reception, attended by 30 representatives of the twinned towns;
- a visit by 60 women from Borken to Whitstable for International Women's Day;
- a tour of Bolkow to plan a book on Bolkow and Borken;
- a visit by English Scouts from Whitstable;
- a visit by Borken's Twinning Committee to Whitstable;
- the annual get-together with Whitstable fire fighters;
- an international teachers' conference in Whitstable at which representatives of all the twinned towns compared their respective education systems;
- Polish language evening classes involving nine German students.

GERMANY (continued)

BORKEN (continued)

The 2005 report mentions 30 encounters involving a total of 930 persons from the twin towns.

The main events during the year were the many contacts with the Polish town of Bolkow: 50 students from Borken visited Bolkow to discuss Germano-Polish relations with Polish young people, a group of Borken residents paid a study visit to Bolkow, one of them being made an honorary citizen of the Polish town, and 12 Bolkow residents attended a German language course in Borken.

Nine encounters were organised with Whitstable involving 180 persons, pointing to the continuing success of this twinning arrangement. The Conference of Twin Towns was organised by Whitstable this year, bringing together representatives of all the twin towns, who afterwards visited the Whitstable Christmas Market showcasing local produce from each of the twin towns.

In 2005, as every year, Borken organised its Municipal Festival and invited all its twin towns for three days of festivities. 130 foreign guests made the trip, attending the inauguration ceremony for a fountain comprising a statue of an angel, a replica of which had been inaugurated the previous year in the twin town of Bolkow. A large 60-member delegation travelled from Bolkow for the occasion.

A good submission, to be considered for the Plaque of Honour. Was awarded the Flag of Honour in 1998.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
BORKEN (Hessen)	1999	MERU (F)**	1964
(Hessen)	2000	NOAILLES (F)	1969
(Pop. 15 000)	2001	HAUCOURT-MOULAINÉ-St CHARLES (F)	66
	2005	HÜTTSCHLAG (A)	1989
		IZABELIN (PL)	2001

<European Diploma in 1999>

<Flag of Honour in 2001>

1. The twinning with Méru is more than 35 years. The exchanges are mainly based on meetings between schools (four weeks a year), visits by delegations from each municipality (twice a year), sports events and meetings between fire services, the Red Cross, music schools, contacts between families and the participation of groups from the twin town in cultural events. There have been several significant joint activities, including the presentation of products from each municipality on a joint stand for a week at an international fair in Paris.

To give a new orientation to its twinning, Borken is focusing its contacts on the exchange of information and experience: Méru benefited from Borken's experience in the construction of a waste water treatment plant and the refurbishing of a day-nursery. To combat unemployment, Borken offered training courses to 5 young French people and to facilitate contacts between residents the twinning committee has been organising very popular French courses since 1998.

2. The district of Grossenenglis in Borken has had exchanges with Noailles for almost 30 years.

3. The district of Kleinenglis has many associative exchanges with Harcourt.

4. There have been twinning arrangements since 1991 with TEUCHERN in the former GDR.

After it had been awarded the European Diploma in 1999, Borken submitted a very full report on its numerous activities in the year 2000.

School exchanges with Méru are still continuing satisfactorily and are the mainstay of the twinning arrangement. For 15 years, the fire fighters in both towns have had close contacts with each other and met up on three occasions in the year 2000. Delegations from Borken travelled to Méru to attend the town's traditional festivities (flea market, cavalcade) and Borken played host to its French guests for a typical French evening and for the Christmas market.

However, the most striking event was the celebration of the 1225th anniversary of Borken and its districts of Grossenenglis and Kleinenglis which had invited their French twin municipalities, Noailles and Haucourt. The Austrian municipality of Hüttschlag had also been invited.

Contacts were made with the municipality of IZABELIN in Poland and an initial agreement was signed, with a view to twinning in 2001.

In 2000, Borken decided to officialise its several years-long relationship with the children's village in Köszeg, Hungary, close to the border with Austria (SOS Kinderdorf), with the signature of a friendship pact.

GERMANY (continued)

BORKEN (Hessen) (continued)

Having been awarded the Flag of Honour in 2001, Borken has now made a fresh submission covering its European activities over the last four years.

1. With Méru (F): This is the most firmly established twinning, with inter-school exchanges dating back to 1964. Youth placements in business and industry and annual exchange visits by municipal delegations continue successfully, and since 2002 have also involved the Polish town of Izabelin. In 2004 the visits also included celebrations in both Méru and Borken to mark the 40th anniversary of the twinning. Other annual highlights include the fire fighters' get-togethers which have taken place regularly for 15 years, the Borken-Méru Twinning Committee's "French Night", the committee's participation in Borken's Christmas Market and a walking event. The flea market organised by the twinning committee in Méru is another ongoing success. In 2004, for the first time, Borken hosted a European Summer Workshop involving 28 young artists from its twinned towns.

2. With Noailles (F): The emphasis in this twinning is on inter-school exchanges between Noailles and the district of Borken-Grossenenglis. There is also an annual "Beaujolais Night", and municipal delegations make reciprocal visits.

3. With Hüttschlag (A): The focus here is on cultural exchanges. Traditional song and dance troupes and bands from Hüttschlag often taken part in festivals in Borken.

4. With Izabelin (PL): Conclusion of this twinning in 2001 was an occasion for celebration, and delegations from Izabelin took part in the traditional meetings between Borken and Méru in 2002 and 2003 as well as the special 40th anniversary events in 2004. An exhibition of work by Polish painters and an initial visit by Polish sportspeople were the first exchanges with this new twinning partner.

5. A friendship agreement was signed with Köszeg children's village in 2001. Collections are frequently taken up in Borken to send aid to the Hungarian village and groups of young Hungarians visit the town regularly.

Since 2001 the Mayor's office in Borken has organised annual visits by joint German-French groups of young people to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. Groups of young Poles from Izabelin have also now become involved in this activity.

In 2005, most exchanges were once again organised with Méru: visit by Méru residents in May, visit by a 50-member delegation to Méru to attend the presentation ceremony of the Flag of Honour to the French town, a joint hike, a "*soirée française*", participation in the Méru Fair and the Christmas Market in Borken, two fire brigade encounters and, of course, the school exchanges which have been proceeding for the past 42 years. All these events brought together many partners from both municipalities who are interested in the twinning activities.

The Grossenenglis district invited partners from Noailles to the traditional pétanque tournament and Beaujolais-tasting evening. However, the festivities for the 35th anniversary of the twinning attracted a record number of French partners, with 60 Noailles residents travelling to Borken for the occasion.

Contacts with Izabelin were intensified with a visit by a delegation from Borken to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the twinning. Partners from Méru also travelled to Izabelin for the occasion. A delegation from Izabelin subsequently took part in the Borken Municipal Festival in September.

A very well thought out submission: will soon deserve the Plaque of Honour.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
BRACKENHEIM	1998	MARSAN (F)	1962
(Baden-Württemberg)	2000	CHARNAY-LES-MACON (F)**	1978
	2001	CASTAGNOLE DELLE LANZE (I)	1996
	2002		
	2003		
	2005		
<European Diploma in 2000>	2006		
<Flag of Honour in 2003>			

- The most successful activities conducted with Charnay are the school exchanges, but there are also cultural and sporting exchanges, regular get-togethers at festivals, events in both twin towns, and holiday camps. The municipalities are hoping to expand the youth exchanges in the coming years.

- Brackenheim has also developed friendly ties with PORT TALBOT (UK) based mainly on sports events, and contacts with LE LUDE (F) involving the respective fire brigades.

The populations get together for a variety of events: the international youth week organised by Brackenheim in 1997, the congress of vintners, the senior citizen encounters with Charnay and the information visit to the new Länder organised by Brackenheim and Charnay in 1990.

- A twinning committee co-ordinates the joint events, and in 1998 Brackenstein celebrated the 20th anniversary of its twinning with Charnay. Over 200 guests from Charnay and Castagnole travelled to Brackenheim for the occasion.

- Brackenheim is particularly proud of the success of its youth exchanges, which celebrated their 20th anniversary in 1997, and its Youth Weeks, which are attended by young people from all three twin towns; the 2000 Youth Week is to be held in Castagnole.

- Since Brackenheim, Charnay and Castagnole are all wine-producing areas, there have been increasing contacts between wine-growers over the last three years.

In the year 2000, the emphasis was placed on youth exchanges as part of the three-way twinning between Brackenheim, Charnay-lès-Mâcon and Castagnole. For the first time, pupils from Charnay primary school visited Brackenheim. As every year, the traditional Charnay wine festival was attended by delegations from Brackenheim and Castagnole.

Contacts with municipalities in eastern Europe were strengthened with the Polish town of Zbrosławice, from which two representatives visited the town hall for an exchange of experiences in municipal affairs, and with a Czech town which had sent teachers to Brackenheim to make an initial contact.

A **friendship pact** was signed with the Polish town **Zbrosławice** in 2001. The most important event organised by Brackenheim in 2001, however, was the international youth week involving 40 young people from the partner towns. Exchanges between vine growers, participation by the twin towns in Brackenheim's annual fair and the traditional walk were other high points. The new pact with the Polish town got off to a good start when Brackenheim's fire brigade gave their Polish counterparts a fire engine.

GERMANY (continued)

BRACKENHEIM (continued)

Alongside regular activities – such as participation in the St Vincent's Day Fair in January and the "Fête des Conscrits" in Charnay in April, a trip to Castagnole for the Festival of St Barbara and visits by representatives from the twinned towns to Brackenheim's traditional wine fair and a community market in October – special efforts were devoted to:

- celebrating 40 years of twinning between Marsan and Brackenheim-Neipperg;
- promoting meetings between young people;
- developing closer ties with Zbrosławice.

Around 40 people travelled to Marsan for the 40th anniversary celebrations, the Brackenheim municipal band took part in Charnay's first Franco-German concert, the municipalities pursued their programme of training placement exchanges, and Brackenheim for the first time hosted a group of 27 singers from Zbrosławice, who performed at a number of music festivals. As part of the Heilbronn regional programme of European cultural activities, Brackenheim staged a major event, involving more than 600 people, on the theme "Youth making music for Europe" with participation by choirs from Charnay and Zbrosławice.

The municipality provides substantial grant aid for these activities, in particular to finance visits by delegations from Zbrosławice. It encouraged its twinning partner Charnay to join it as a candidate for the Flag of Honour.

Having received that award in 2003, it is competing in 2005 for the Plaque of Honour. Since 2003 – when it joined Charnay in celebrating 25 years of twinning and 170 Brackenheim people visited Charnay for the occasion – Brackenheim has concentrated particularly on promoting inter-school exchanges, notably with Zbrosławice. Delegations from Charnay and Brackenheim travelled together to Zbrosławice to take part in the major religious festival organised there by groups of different denominations.

After encouraging its partner town of Charnay to compete in the Council of Europe scheme, Brackenheim was more than a little gratified to learn that it too had received the Flag of Honour and a small delegation from Brackenheim travelled to Charnay for the presentation of the award.

Youth activities were very much to the fore in 2005. Brackenheim took in young people from France, Poland and Germany for a week of joint projects on the theme of "Europe forging ahead".

The twinning agreement with Charnay was signed 25 years ago. Brackenheim sent a delegation to Charnay for the St Vincent festivities and took part in the Europe Festival, which this year centred on Japan (see description in the Charnay application). For the 20th time the traditional joint hike by residents of both municipalities took place in the Mâcon area.

In order to strengthen the relatively young twinning links with the Polish Municipality of Zbrosławice, a delegation from Brackenheim took part in the Jadwiga Festival and the 700th anniversary of the municipality of Zbrosławice in the context of the harvest festival. As always, Brackenheim was also represented at the St Barbara's Festival in Castagnole delle Lanze.

All the twin towns met up in Brackenheim at the end of July for the Castle Festival.

In 2006 Brackenheim will be organising a weekend extravaganza to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the twinning agreement with Castagnole and the 5th anniversary of that with Zbrosławice.

An attractive twinning programme, particularly with Charnay, but Brackenheim received the Flag of Honour too recently to be considered at this stage for a further award.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
CELLE	1962	CELLE FIGURE (I)	2001
(Lower Saxony)	2003	HOLBAEK (DK)	1980
(Pop. 72 000)	2004	HÄMEENLINNA (FIN)	1972
	2005	KWIDZYN (PL)	1993
	2006	MEUDON (F)	1953
		SUMY (UA)	1990
		TAVISTOCK (GB)	1952
		TJUMEN (RU)	1994

<Flag of Honour in 1963>

Celle has also been twinned with the US municipality of TULSA since 2000.

Celle staged a European Week from 4-11 May 2003 to mark a number of anniversaries:

- the award of the Flag of Honour four years previously; (Celle was the first town of Lower Saxony to get this award)
- the twinning with Meudon (F) signed in 1953;
- 50 years of youth exchanges between Celle and Tavistock (GB);
- a decade of twinning with Kwidzyn (Poland).

During Expo 2000 in Hanover, Celle invited representatives of all its twinned towns to take part in an exchange of views, and in the same year it organised a seminar for young people from the partner towns.

There follows a summary of twinning activities:

- with Celle Ligure: initial sporting contacts in this new twinning;
- with Holbaek: schools have been in contact since 1985, and the creation of a German-Danish friendship society has strengthened the ties;
- with Hämeenlinna: emphasis on contact between artists and, in recent years, between schools. Hämeenlinna is part of the "Towns of tomorrow" network set up to improve quality of life in the member municipalities.
- with Kwidzyn: former German inhabitants established links which have led to a busy programme of cultural, sporting and business exchanges as well as inter-administrative exchanges. The twinning also supports hospitals and retirement homes, and Celle takes part in Kwidzyn's annual municipal festival;
- with Meudon there are regular exchanges between schools and choirs in the two towns;
- with Sumy there have been exchanges between schools and sports clubs, as well as art exhibitions;
- with Tavistock, young people and artists have been involved in exchanges.

"European Week", from 5-11 May 2003, was the major event of the year. More than 400 representatives of all the twinned towns met in Celle to celebrate several twinning anniversaries, notably 50 years of links with Meudon. Each town gave a presentation, showcasing regional song, dance and produce, on a specially installed stage in Celle's main square. There was a talk each evening by a prominent personality, and the week also included a conference of mayors of all the twinned towns as well as a photographic exhibition.

GERMANY (continued)

Celle (continued)

Encounters and activities in 2004 included:

- a first visit to the Italian town of Celle;
- a trip by the Friends of Tavistock to Tavistock;
- an exchange of experience among primary school staff from Kwidzyn, Hämeenlinna and Celle;
- several sports exchanges with the Danish town of Holbaek;
- financial support for the renovation of an old Russian house in Tjumen which is to become a twinning centre.

Celle continued its contacts with all its twin towns in 2005:

- Meudon (F): sports contacts and visit by a delegation from Celle to the Meudon Christmas Market;
- Tavistock (GB): visit by a delegation from the United Kingdom to intensify contacts;
- Holbaek (DK): the 25th anniversary of the twinning of the two towns was celebrated during a cultural week organised in Celle, with conferences, plays and a concert;
- Kwidzyn: visit by athletes from Celle to take part in competitions organised as part of the “Kwidzyn Days”, encounters of women’s groups from both towns geared to exchanging experience, and visits to Kwidzyn by a Celle municipal council delegation;
- Under a teacher exchange programme which is to continue over the next few years, representatives of Kwidzyn and Celle attended a seminar in Hämeenlinna.

Celle was awarded the Flag of Honour in 1963 and can now be considered for the Plaque of honour.

GERMANY (continued)

	Report in :	Twinned with :	Since:
DRANSFELD (Lower Saxony)	2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006	RACALMAS (H)	1991
	<European Diploma in 2002>		
	<Flag of honour in 2005>		

Every year, Dransfeld organises and finances visits by young Hungarians to Dransfeld and young Germans to Hungary, encourages contacts between associations and families and organises humanitarian aid and collections to improve municipal facilities in Racalmas (for example financing a crèche).

In 2001 the two towns celebrated the 10th anniversary of their twinning in Dransfeld. Thirty people from Racalmas attended. Dransfeld also welcomed 25 young visitors during the holidays, a delegation from Dransfeld travelled to Racalmas for the Hungarian national holiday and there were numerous exchanges between associations: folk groups, Red Cross, fire brigades and choirs. In all about 10 exchanges in 2001.

Contacts were sustained and intensified in 2002 and 2003. Clothing was collected for sending to Racalmas, Hungarian families were hosted on holiday visits, and meetings were held between youth groups and senior citizens. Municipal staff in the two towns were involved in an exchange of experience, and a group of Dransfeld people with physical disabilities travelled to Racalmas.

Again in 2004 there were more than 10 occasions of joint activity between the partner municipalities. Three collections and deliveries of clothes and toys were made to Racalmas; a large Hungarian delegation visited Dransfeld in May and an exhibition on Hungarian culture was staged there; Dransfeld hosted a visiting youth group, and two German groups – one of senior citizens and one of people with disabilities – spent time in Racalmas. Toward the end of the year municipal staff from the two towns took part in a training course.

The main event of the year 2005 in Dransfeld was the presentation of the Flag of Honour. There were also official exchanges with Racalmas, youth and family exchanges and a campaign to collect toys and send them to underprivileged families in the twin town.

Dransfeld has just been awarded the Flag of Honour.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	
DRESDEN (Saxony) (Pop. 470 000)	2004	COVENTRY (GB)****	1959
	2005	ST PETERSBURG (RU)	1961
	2006	WROCLAV (PL)	1963
		SKOPJE (FYRM)	1967
		OSTRAVA (CZ)	1971
		FLORENCE (I)	1978
		HAMBOURG (D)	1987
		ROTTERDAM (NL)	1988
		STRASBOURG (F)****	1990
		SALZBOURG (A)	1991

<Flag of Honour in 2004>

Dresden is twinned with 12 towns throughout the world: 10 in Europe, one in Africa (Brazzaville in Congo) and one in the USA (Columbus, Ohio).

1. Initial contacts with **Coventry** date back to the mid-1950s when churches made the first moves in an effort to reconcile the people of two cities profoundly affected by the war. A friendship agreement was renewed in 1964 and again in 1995 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Dresden's destruction.

The focus of cooperation is on exchanges between young people and students, and on numerous activities designed to promote peace and understanding. Special links have been forged through the Dresden Trust which has been responsible for fund-raising in the UK for the restoration of Dresden's Frauenkirche.

2. The first agreement with **Wroclav** – a city that has much in common with Dresden – was signed in 1959 and it was renewed in 1963 and 1994. Prior to the collapse of the Iron Curtain twinning activities could take place only with the approval of the Communist Party and were limited to fact-finding visits involving party members. After the reunification of Germany various contacts were negotiated directly with the institutions concerned and the municipality's functions are now confined to initiation, coordination and funding.

Cooperation focuses on inter-school and youth exchanges, as well as culture, the arts, environmental issues, and administration and business, with exchanges of experience organised for municipal staff.

3. The twinning with **Florence** was signed in 1978 but all the activities in this connection have been organised by the League for Friendship between Peoples. Since 1990 ties have been strengthened through official visits, sporting contacts, exhibitions about Dresden, mounted as part of a "German Week" in Florence, and a busy programme of inter-school exchanges.
4. The first twinning agreement with **Hamburg** was signed in 1987 when the initial focus was on political contacts as well as cultural and sports exchanges and initiatives to clean up the highly polluted River Elbe. The agreement was updated in 1994 since when direct contacts have been forged between residents of the two cities and cooperation has been initiated between companies and institutions in the fields of business, youth provision, education, culture and sport.

GERMANY (continued)

DRESDEN (continued)

Among the first cultural events to be organised under the twinning were two major concerts, by the Dresdener Staatskapelle in Hamburg and the Hamburg Philharmonic Orchestra in Dresden, in 1998. It was only after the fall of the Iron Curtain, however, that the twinning really took off. In late November 1989 a special train took 920 Dresden people to Hamburg and a month later 850 Hamburg residents travelled to Dresden.

All sectors of society are involved in cooperative activities that link schools, colleges and hospitals.

Training seminars are arranged for municipal staff from Dresden; "Hamburg-Saxony evenings" have been held regularly since 1991; there are meetings between orchestras and choirs; and other events organised include exhibitions and sports competitions.

Following severe flooding in Dresden in 2002 the people of Hamburg responded generously, organising numerous aid operations.

5. The twinning with **Ostrava** dates back to 1971 although it was renewed in 1995. Joint sporting events, youth encounters and meetings between municipal staff take place regularly. Dresden also organises an annual series of "Czech Cultural Days".
6. The first twinning agreement with **Rotterdam** (a city like Dresden hard hit by the war) was signed in 1988 and it was renewed in 1993. Priority areas for cooperation are: environmental policy; regional transport; and social issues such as combating racism, and alcohol and drug abuse. All sections of the population are involved in exchanges between the two cities.
7. **Salzburg** shares with Dresden a powerful cultural tradition and the two cities organise major musical gatherings every year. Other important events include annual IT days, numerous joint concerts and exhibitions by artists from both cities.
8. Links with **Skopje** date back to the earthquake of 1963 which completely destroyed that city. Dresden offered its help and four years later a twinning agreement was signed, which was renewed in 1995. There have been numerous joint cultural projects as well as aid efforts for Kosovo, notably in 1999.
9. Contacts with **Strasbourg** began in the mid-1980s although the twinning agreement was not signed until 1990. This is one of the most active twinings with a particular emphasis on youth, inter-school and student exchanges as well as sporting and cultural contacts and exchanges in the fields of municipal policy and business. The twinning report for 2003 listed almost 30 events jointly organised by the two municipalities during the year.
10. Following an initial agreement with **St Petersburg**, in 1989, the twinning was sealed in 1995. Priority is given to exchanges between residents of the two cities, with an emphasis on culture, sport and exchanges of experience and information in all areas of municipal life.

GERMANY (continued)

DRESDEN (continued)

European events organised by Dresden have included:

- an annual international summer school which attracts artists from the twinned towns;
- the Anne Frank Project involving young grammar school pupils in Dresden and Rotterdam in an exploration of Jewish history in the two cities;
- a European chess tournament in which 24 teams from all over the continent competed;
- an international gathering of young people from the twinned towns based around the Frauenkirche and the theme "Europe – our heritage".

While Dresden was on the receiving end of much support after it suffered from flooding in 2001, it has also been a contributing partner to aid efforts for Arles (following floods there in 2003), Ukraine and Georgia (in 2003), Hungary (after the 2001 floods), Skopje and Ostrava.

Having received the Flag of Honour in 2004, Dresden is keen to be awarded the higher honour, ideally to coincide with the city's 800th jubilee celebrations in 2006. Links with the twinning partners have been strengthened at club and association level with support from the city's international relations office. Dresden is involved with other European cities in various EU projects, most importantly a cross-border cooperation programme among municipalities and the regions of Saxony, Lower Saxony and Northern Bohemia, with an emphasis on developing social and health provision.

Twinning activities with the twelve twin towns are still operating efficiently, and the exchanges are also being extended to other towns in Europe and the world. The salient events organised with the twin towns in 2005 included:

- participation by Dresden's Mayor and Choir in the celebrations in Rotterdam for the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II;
- a Dresden Weekend in Strasbourg marking the 15th anniversary of the twinning of the two towns, with an exhibition on the *Frauenkirche*, a conference and a concert;
- participation by representatives of all the twin towns in the concert for the inauguration of the *Frauenkirche* on 12 November.

Dresden is continuing its exchanges in the field of transfrontier co-operation, and is a member of the EUROCITIES Network representing the whole Dresden region. The city is also a very active member of the German section of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions and the POLIS town network, and received the CIVITAS Award in 2005 for its efforts in the urban traffic field.

It is set to organise a major international event, namely the "St Petersburg Dialogue", which was a joint initiative by President Putin and the former Chancellor Gerhard Schröder. The event will coincide with the 45th anniversary of the twinning with St Petersburg and the 800th anniversary of the city's foundation. Dresden would warmly welcome the presentation of the Plaque of Honour on this occasion.

Dresden has just received the Flag of Honour and is aware that it needs to make regular submissions with a view to earning the Plaque in 2006 on the occasion of the city's 800th jubilee.

GERMANY (continued)

	Report in :	Twinned with :	Since:
EGGENFELDEN	1975	CARCASSONNE (F)	1973
(Bavaria)	1976	BALATONALMAKI (H)	2001
(Pop. 14 000)	1984		
	1986		
	1987		
	1988		
	1989		
	1990		
	1993, 1994, 2006		

<Flag of Honour 1976>

After a long silence, Eggenfelden, which received the Flag of Honour in 1976, is now applying for the Plaque of Honour.

1. The twinning arrangement with Carcassonne is supported by the Circle of Friends of Carcassonne-Eggenfelden. The very many school, trainee nurse and other trainee exchanges, and visits by delegations, especially for twinning anniversaries, form the mainstay of the process. In 2004, the 30th anniversary of the twinning was celebrated with four days of events in Eggenfelden. A special train was reserved to bring participants from Carcassonne to take part in the twinning anniversary events. Sports, musical and disabled associations have been maintaining mutual contact for many years.

2. The twinning with Balatonalmadi is more recent. It is supported by the 280-strong Committee of Friends of Balatonalmadi. Activities include exchanges between choirs, sports and cultural associations, municipal employees and schoolchildren, with six-month stays in the Hungarian town.

Economic contacts have also developed, eg during the "Tri-National Week" when French, Hungarian and Bavarian specialities were showcased for the Eggenfelden residents.

It should be noted that Eggenfelden has facilitated contacts between Balatonalmadi and Carcassonne, and a troupe of 60 dancers from Carcassonne has visited the Hungarian town.

Eggenfelden has also developed contacts with:

- TABOR and BUDWEIS (CZ), in the field of school exchanges;
- NITRAGERENCSEK (SK), through the intermediary of Balatonalmadi;
- NARBONNE (F), near Carcassonne.

Eggenfelden also occasionally organises major events for Europe Day: in 2003 and 2006 large-scale public festivals took place for the occasion.

Good example of a twinning which has withstood the test of time and which has even expanded eastwards, to take in a town in Hungary. To be considered for the Plaque of Honour in the not too distant future.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
ETTLINGEN (Pop. 38 000) (Baden-Württemberg)	1962	EPERNAY (F)	1953
	1976	MIDDELKERKE (B)	1971
	1985	CLEVEDON (GB)	1980
	1987	LÖBAU (former GDR)	1990
	1988	GACHINA (RU)	1992
	1991		
	1992		
	1993		
	1998		
	1999		
	2000		
	2001		
	2002		
	2003		
	2004		
2006			

<Flag of Honour in 1977>

<Plaque of Honour in 1993>

This university town in Baden-Württemberg was one of the first German towns to conclude a twinning agreement with a French town by pairing with EPERNAY in 1953.

School exchanges and meetings between the associations of the two towns quickly became established and this earned Ettlingen the France-Germany Prize in 1975 and the Flag of Honour in 1977.

From the report submitted to the Secretariat by Ettlingen at the end of 1997, after five years of silence, it can be seen that the school exchanges are still as numerous, both with Epernay and with the surrounding municipalities. There are also meetings of a cultural and sporting nature (a total of some twenty events in 1997).

In 1972, Ettlingen concluded a second official twinning arrangement with the Belgian town of Middelkerke.

The twinning with Clevedon did not come about until 1980, but the number and variety of contacts bear witness to the soundness of the arrangement and the events organised in 1990 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of twinning provided an opportunity to further strengthen the links between the twin towns when Epernay and Clevedon also signed a twinning agreement.

There are thus twinning charters linking Ettlingen, Epernay, Middelkerke and Clevedon with one another.

In 1990 Ettlingen concluded an additional twinning agreement with Löbau (Saxony). Here again, the exchanges involve all strata of the population, as indicated by the report on Ettlingen's activities in 1997.

In 1992 Ettlingen also twinned with the Russian town of Gachina. There have been many contacts between associations, school exchanges and humanitarian aid programmes.

1993 marked the celebration of the 40th anniversary of twinning with Epernay. As the Mayor of Ettlingen pointed out in his application, the award of the Plaque was the finest anniversary gift the town could receive.

GERMANY (continued)

ETTLINGEN (continued)

In 1998 Ettlingen endeavoured to intensify its economic contacts with Epernay, celebrated the 45th anniversary of the twinning agreement and decided to concentrate even more on cooperation between young people from the twin towns.

As in 1998, Ettlingen and Epernay endeavoured to intensify their economic contacts in 1999 and regularly attended regional fairs. The contacts between schools, sports enthusiasts and associations, traineeships in local firms and language courses organised by the twinning committee continued to function as well as ever.

With Middelkerke and Clevedon contacts were less frequent (two or three per year).

The setting up of a contact group for Löbau and Gachina helped to boost contacts with these towns, particularly Gachina (inauguration of a cultural centre in Gachina built with the help of Ettlingen), training for young Russians in the Ettlingen local administration, study visit by 10 female municipal councillors, etc.

In September 2000 Ettlingen celebrated the 10th anniversary of its twinning with Löbau. However, as in previous years Ettlingen actively maintained its contacts with all its twin towns, especially Löbau and Epernay. In 2001 it celebrated the 30th anniversary of its twinning with Middelkerke, a future highlight being the 50th anniversary in 2003 of the twinning with Epernay. The municipal council still provided financial support for the twinning activities.

In order to prevent exchanges between associations from “flagging” owing to lack of time and money, Ettlingen launched the “Franco-German round table” which is held on the first Wednesday of every month.

In preparation for the 50th anniversary of the twinning with Epernay in 2003, in which a large section of the population will be involved, a number of encounters have taken place.

A delegation from Ettlingen travelled to Middelkerke to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the twinning. At the same time, a group of runners competed in a 600 km relay race between the two towns.

The focus of activity in 2002 was on preparing for ceremonies to mark 50 years of twinning with Epernay and a decade of twinning with the Russian town of Gatschina.

Although inter-school exchanges with Epernay function well, school principals from the two towns met to chart a new course for these activities which in future will focus more on joint projects and less on tourism. French language classes for municipal employees are still running very successfully, and the two mayors gave a joint press conference to announce the year-long programme of commemorative events in both towns. This includes concerts, tree planting, youth camps, a Franco-German film week and joint publication of a cookery book.

Ettlingen also celebrated the 10th anniversary of its twinning with Gatschina and the occasion was marked by the planting of more than 20 birch trees as a symbol of growing and lasting friendship. Several collections were organised in aid of invalids in Gatschina.

GERMANY (continued)

ETTLINGEN (continued)

Twinning activities with Epernay were the most extensive and diverse in **2003**. A student from Epernay was awarded a three-year bursary; grant aid was given for French language classes for municipal employees (attended by 40 people); school exchanges took place; Ettlingen's School of Music staged concerts during the annual music festival in Epernay; and two internationally acclaimed pianists gave a recital. But the highlight was two days of celebrations, first in Epernay and then in Ettlingen, to mark the 50th anniversary of the twinning.

The Ettlingen and Clevedon twinning committees met to mark their 20th anniversary, while in connection with the Gatschina twinning an Ettlingen-based association sent further medical aid to patients in Gatschina.

In November 2004 Ettlingen concluded a fresh twinning agreement with the Sicilian town of MENFI, which has since been acting as a catalyst and promoting exchanges with the other twin towns.

In 2005, for the first time, Ettlingen reserved a whole street during the municipal festival for a stand showcasing traditional produce from all the twin towns. In the wake of this event, all the mayors of the twin towns held a meeting to take stock of the current and future twinning activities, concluding with a joint declaration in favour of peace. A further top-level meeting was held in Epernay in December 2005.

The other events in 2005 included school exchanges with Epernay, which have maintained their high quality, and activities with Middelkerke involving sports fixtures (handball and volleyball). Ettlingen has also launched plans to reactivate the twinning with Clevedon, highly satisfactory contacts are continuing between associations in Ettlingen and Löbau, which has celebrated the 15th anniversary of the twinning, and the twinning with Gachina is still successful, with exchanges involving schoolchildren, music schools, dance troupes, choirs and young sports enthusiasts.

Exchanges have developed above all with Epernay, but the report on activities in 1999 and 2000 is very positive, and Ettlingen has made an effort to diversify its contacts with all its twin towns. There was a slight slowdown in activities in 2001 and 2002. Activities in 2003 mainly concerned the twinning with Epernay. Activities in 2004 show a progress in twinning exchanges, especially with the Italian town.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
EUSKIRCHEN (North Rhine-Westphalia) (Pop. 47 000)	1987	CHARLEVILLE MEZIERES (F)	1961
	1988	BASINGSTOKE (GB)	1986
	1989		
	1990		
	1997 to 2002		
	2003		
	2004		
	2005		
	2006		

<European Diploma in 1989>

<Flag of Honour in 1990>

With Charleville, the exchanges are mainly school exchanges and traineeships in companies, and delegations from the town council participate in the Charleville trade fair.

With Basingstoke the activities are more varied and involve clubs and associations (sports events, musical meetings). There was a certain progression to be seen in exchanges in 1997 and Euskirchen is proud of having been able to re-establish contact with a school in Basingstoke, leading to a school exchange and to contacts with other schools. In addition, many associations from Euskirchen and Basingstoke's twin towns took part in a very big cultural event held in this town, "Arts Cordiale".

In 1998 exchanges with Charleville still mainly concerned schools. With Basingstoke, the main event in 1998 was the annual sports encounter which alternates between Basingstoke and Euskirchen. 145 athletes from the two towns took part.

As in previous years, the twinning between Euskirchen and Charleville relies essentially on school exchanges and the placement of trainees in the twin town, while contacts with Basingstoke hinge on the annual sporting event, which was held in Basingstoke in 1999 and in which schools in both towns took part with a view to stepping up exchanges between them.

In 2000 school exchanges were again the mainstay of the encounters with Charleville-Mézières, while more contacts were developed between Euskirchen and Basingstoke associations. As in the past, the major sports encounter organised in Euskirchen this year was attended by over 130 athletes.

In the case of Charleville, the focus in 2001 was mainly on school exchanges, although Charleville was also the scene of celebrations to mark the 40th anniversary of the twinning arrangement between Euskirchen and Charleville-Mézières.

Links with associations in Basingstoke, the sports festival organised by Basingstoke (140 participants) and, in particular, the first school exchange between Euskirchen and Basingstoke, were the highlights of this twinning arrangement in 2001.

In 2002 Euskirchen marked the 40th anniversary of its twinning with Charleville and 15 years of twinning with Basingstoke, as well as the municipality's 700th jubilee. At an official ceremony two fresh twinning agreements were signed with a view to further strengthening existing ties. Exchanges with Charleville mainly took the form of inter-school visits and trainee placements, and there was an exhibition by 16 French artists in Euskirchen town hall. Euskirchen invited Basingstoke athletes to take part in its 10th sports festival, which brought together more than 140 competitors from schools and clubs in the municipality.

GERMANY (continued)

EUSKIRCHEN (continued)

School exchanges with Charleville-Mézières are still functioning well but Euskirchen has also hosted trainees from Basingstoke for the first time, on work placements in local companies. Some 120 young sportspeople from Euskirchen attended the traditional sports festival in Basingstoke. Another notable event was a cultural project organised by Basingstoke, giving 10 young people from Euskirchen an opportunity to show their work at a summer festival. Young people from Belgium and France also took part in the project which was funded by the European Union.

While the only activities with Charleville-Mézières in 2004 were inter-school exchanges, a wider range of events was organised with Basingstoke, the highpoint being the traditional Sports Festival in Euskirchen which attracted 130 participants in various disciplines. Euskirchen also presented its first "honorary citizen" award – to the Basingstoke woman whose efforts were responsible for the twinning with that town.

The Mayor of Euskirchen was proud of its reactivated school exchanges with Basingstoke in 2005. The 13th international encounter between the two towns took place in Basingstoke and was attended by 177 participants from associations and schools in Euskirchen, as well as a number of officials. Contacts between senior citizens, police officers and scouts are to be intensified in 2006.

School exchanges, of which there were five in 2005, have always been the linchpin of the twinning with Charleville-Mézières.

This German town had not submitted any application since being awarded the Flag of Honour in 1990. It re-established contact in 1996. It can be seen that while exchanges with Charleville are mainly limited to schools, those with Basingstoke are rather more varied.

GERMANY (continued)

	Report in:	Twinned with :	Since:
FRANKENTHAL (Palatinate)	1981	COLOMBES (F)	1958
(Rhineland-Palatinate)	2006	SOPOT (PL)	1991
(Pop. 48 000)		STRAUSBERG (former GDR)	1990

<Flag of Honour 1981>

Frankenthal has a longstanding tradition of taking in refugees and aliens.

1. The twinning agreement with COLOMBES was one of the first to be concluded after the war. After almost 50 years of contacts, activities have remained as lively as ever, covering associations such as nature clubs, naval associations, fire brigades, the Red Cross, music schools, hospitals and even churches. The schools conduct exchanges, bands take part in the Colombes Music Festival, traders come to Frankenthal every two years for “Frankenthal Week”, and young trainees visit local government departments. Every year groups of citizens from one town visit the other. Young people take part in summer camps, particularly the international encounter organised by Frankenthal in 2000 attended by youngsters from Colombes, Sopot and Strausberg and a bicycle trip through the twin towns organised by Frankenthal.

Official contacts are also very intensive; official delegations attend the main events organised by the twin towns.

2. The twinning agreement with SOPOT (Poland) was concluded in 1991, but the first cultural contacts between artists from both towns date back to the 1970s, when artists from Gdansk organised exhibitions and Polish choirs staged concerts in Frankenthal. Despite the great distance between the two towns, the highlight of the twinning arrangements have been cultural contacts, with exhibitions by Sopot artists and exchanges of experience in the technical (road-building) and educational fields. Frankenthal contributed financially to equipping Sopot hospital.

3. The twinning agreement with Strausberg in Brandenburg *Land* was concluded in 1990. It involves all strata of society.

4. In 1983, following the twinning of the Rhineland-Palatinate *Land* with Rwanda, Frankenthal decided to twin with the municipality of Butamwa, near Kigali. The main activities under this twinning arrangement have involved digging a well, providing water supplies to the municipality and building schools. Five schools in Frankenthal have twinned with schools in Butamwa.

The municipality provides financial support for the exchanges with twin towns up to a total of € 25 per person for Colombes and Strausberg and € 50 for Sopot.

In 2004, Frankenthal organised a series of conferences entitled “Town hall talks about the European Constitution”. The municipality secured the services of the former Chancellor Helmut Kohl and President Lech Wałęsa for one of these conferences.

At the suggestion of Berlin-Neukölln, one of its partner towns, Frankenthal conducted several campaigns in the 1990s to assist the Russian city of Pushkin.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
FRANKFURT an der ODER	1993	HEILBRONN (D)**	
	1994	VANTAA (FIN)	
	1997	SCANDICCI (I)	
	1998	SLUBICE (PL)**	
	1999	GORZOW Wlkp.(PL)*	
	2000	NIMES(F)	
	2001		
	2002		
	2004		
	2005		
	2006		

<European Diploma in 1993>

<Flag of Honour in 1994>

<Plaque of Honour in 1999>

Application submitted jointly with Slubice and concerning solely relations with that town and with Gorzow (Poland).

Recent twinning with Slubice involving school exchanges, participation in Frankfurt trade exhibitions, setting up of a co-ordination office to create a Euroregion, participation in cultural and sports events organised mainly by Frankfurt (Oderfest), youth camps, concerts (setting up in 1973 of a German and Polish youth symphony orchestra which holds regular concerts). Opening of a university (Viadrina) in Frankfurt open to both German and Polish students.

The recent reports on relations between the two towns in the last three years refer mainly to:

- the development of sporting and school exchanges;
- numerous meetings between the mayors of the two towns (five in 1997) and annual meetings between municipal councils whose recent debates have focused mainly on environmental protection and which have set up a German/Polish committee responsible for environmental issues;
- the annual Oderfest ("Oder Festival") meeting which is a three-day event of cultural and sporting activities in which Frankfurt's other twin towns also take part. It should be noted that the concert hall in Frankfurt gives a 50% reduction to all Polish residents;
- the strengthening of contacts between students through the EUROPA VIADRINA University and the Collegium Polonicum;
- the development of links between the social and economic services of the two local councils and between saving banks, fire services and employment agencies in the two towns.

In 1996 Frankfurt organised the second Conference of Twinned Towns attended by representatives of all the twin towns and decided on a whole series of measures to enhance cooperation.

In 1997 transfrontier cooperation came about naturally. The floods which hit the two towns on either side of the Oder further strengthened contacts in this difficult period, of course, and the German Red Cross had even planned to set up a field hospital for 500 people in the Slubice stadium, but fortunately the water level fell, making this major operation unnecessary.

Frankfurt and Slubice are hoping that their work will be rewarded in 2003 with the Europe Prize, as this year will also mark the 750th anniversary of the foundation of the city of Frankfurt. In order to prepare for this event it has been decided that the 8th "Oderfest" will take place during the European elections in June 1999 with a view to stressing the European nature of this event.

One of the highlights of 1998 was the 10th anniversary of twinning between Frankfurt and Heilbronn. Furthermore, at the prompting of the Mayor of Slubice, a twinning agreement was concluded between Heilbronn and Slubice.

GERMANY (continued)

FRANKFURT (Oder) (continued)

The mayors of both cities met regularly in 1998, particularly at meetings of the Association "Pro Europe Viadrina". There were also encounters and exchanges of experience between officials, and the two fire brigades conduct regular joint exercises. Schools have been making use of a new Germano-Polish library club.

However, the highlight once again was the "Oderfest", which was being held for the seventh time this year. Cultural and sports events were held for three days in both cities, with the participation of cultural groups from Vitebsk and Gorzow.

There are close contacts between museums and musical associations: the Slubice Choir performed a number of times in Frankfurt and the Frankfurt Youth Choir gave a concert in Slubice. During the 33rd Frankfurt Musical Days, concerts were organised on both sides of the Oder, attracting an audience of over 8 000 people.

A photo exhibition was held in Frankfurt Town Hall, with photographs of all the twin towns. Frankfurt and Slubice organised joint exhibitions in Berlin and Brussels as partners in "Pro Europa Viadrina", attended a conference on the theme "Twinning agreements in Central European border regions" and took part in the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the "Pro Europa Viadrina" Euroregion.

It should also be noted that the Slubice Collegium Polonicum was officially approved as a training centre, in conjunction with Frankfurt University and Poznań University. This makes Slubice the smallest university town in Poland.

Several sports events were held in Frankfurt, attended by Polish sports enthusiasts.

The outstanding events of 1999 were the award of the Plaque of Honour and, as usual, the "Oderfest". At present Frankfurt wishes to apply, with Slubice, for the Europe Prize in 2003, Frankfurt's 750th anniversary year, when the "Europa-Garten 2003" flower show will also be held.

The main event of 2000 was the celebration of the 5th "Brandenburg Day" in September, which was attended by over 200 000 visitors. Concurrently, on the other side of the Oder in Slubice, the harvest festival attracted a crowd of over 50 000. The mayors of the twin towns of Gorzow, Heilbronn and Nîmes were invited to both these major events.

Slubice signed a twinning agreement with the American town of YUMA, with which Frankfurt has already been twinned since 1997. Slubice and Frankfurt also intensified their links with their other twin towns: participation in a youth camp in Nîmes, The Hanseatic Day in Zwolle (NL), the Vitebsk cultural festival and a presentation of products from both towns at a fair in Heilbronn.

There were many youth exchanges: youth camp organised by Frankfurt and attended by young people from the twin towns; children and teachers from both towns, created a "friendship chain" stretching across the bridge between the two towns, a feat which has gone into the Guinness Book of Records; a youth expo is organised in Frankfurt and attracts many young people from the neighbouring Polish voivodship

GERMANY (continued)

FRANKFURT (Oder) (continued)

Both towns are still organising many joint cultural events: the Cultural Summer, with delegations from each town supported by the Frankfurt Cultural Office, performances by Slubice choirs, literary soirées and encounters between Polish and German writers, a Polish Film Night and, above all, frequent exhibitions by Slubice painters in Frankfurt.

Sports associations maintain numerous contacts, and Slubice organised the seventh senior citizens' sports festival in 2000.

The first Germano-Polish Senior Citizens' Academy was set up in 2000, and the Frankfurt and Gorzow Chambers of Commerce concluded a cooperation agreement.

Among the activities which took place in 2001 were the following:

1) a conference and contacts with the twin towns:

- representatives of all the twin towns met to discuss their role in the 2003 celebrations
- a youth camp organised by the city of Nîmes and a camp in Vantaa gave several young people from Frankfurt the opportunity to travel abroad
- a fortnight-long youth camp organised by Frankfurt attracted 90 young people from all the twin towns
- an educational exchange with a school in Vitebsk
- the 7th sports event for senior citizens from Slubice and Frankfurt

2) Cooperation between institutions

- numerous links between Frankfurt Hospital (Frankfurter Klinikum) and hospitals in Slubice, Gorzow and Zielona Gora with opportunities to share experience and attend lectures.
- contacts between students: Viadrina University celebrated its 10th anniversary.
- regular working contacts between employment agencies in Frankfurt, Slubice and Zielona Gora, between savings banks, with Slubice fire brigade and the Gorzow police department (which was presented with five vehicles donated by the Brandenburg police) as well as contacts between customs authorities
- cooperation between craftsmen's guilds, the Frankfurt guild having celebrated the 20th anniversary of its twinning with the Gorzow guild. Since 1993, some 400 Polish craftsmen have taken part in German training schemes.

3) Major public gatherings

- The Oder Music Festival
- The traditional "Brückenfest" which always attracts thousands of visitors from both sides of the Oder
- The 10th German-Polish festival of the Oder, comprising numerous cultural events
- The 10th German-Polish festival of children's dance in which 200 young dancers from Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic took part.
- An arts festival for member regions of Pro Europa Viadrina.

GERMANY (continued)

FRANKFURT (Oder) (continued)

For 2002, Frankfurt once again submitted, in conjunction with its twin town of Slubice, a report on its numerous cross-border links as well as its contacts with other twin towns. It hopes to win the Europe Prize in 2003, which promises to be a special year for both towns. Not only will Frankfurt be celebrating with its twin towns the 750th anniversary of its foundation but also, for the first time ever, the 23rd Hanseatic Day is to be held in two towns and two states, namely Frankfurt and Slubice. Numerous events are planned for the occasion, including the inauguration of the "Garden of Europe 2003".

Events to mark the 750th anniversary of Frankfurt's foundation were held throughout 2003. Highlights included:

- the jubilee day itself, with all the twinning partners invited to join in the celebratory parade and in a "Twinning Towns Market". Various groups of performers from the twinned towns took to the stage over two days and residents' and students' meetings were also organised as well as a summer camp;
- the "Garden of Europe" on both banks of the Oder was open from May to October – and a series of 100 events involving around 1 000 performers was staged over several months;
- "Hanseatic Day" was staged in the two towns for the first time, and a whole range of events including a "Hanseatic Market" attracted around 100 000 visitors;
- the first International Music Festival jointly organised by the Frankfurt municipal band and Slubice cultural centre brought together more than 1 000 musicians from Germany, Poland, Italy, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Moldova and Croatia.

Regular annual events held once again included:

- the twinned towns' traditional summer camp – this year a highlight of the 750th anniversary celebrations;
- a joint meeting of Frankfurt and Slubice municipal councils (for the ninth consecutive year): the Polish Ambassador attended and presented an award to the Mayor of Frankfurt in recognition of the two towns' exemplary twinning activities;
- the open-air European art exhibition (now in its 14th year), featuring in particular the work of artists from the twinned towns;
- the traditional "Oderfest" and the "Brückenfest".

Under the twinning with Gorzow, cooperation continued between public hospitals, sporting clubs – who organised a circuit linking the two towns – and photographic clubs. Fairs in each town were attended by representatives from the other.

Cooperation with Vitebsk was developed as Frankfurt took part in a "Slav Market" there and Vitebsk was involved in both the "Hanseatic Day" in Frankfurt and the "Belarus Days" which formed part of the "Garden of Europe" programme.

GERMANY (continued)

FRANKFURT/Oder (continued)

Frankfurt concentrated on cross-border cooperation in 2004, prioritising exchanges with Slubice. Projects included:

- a busy series of events and talks in the run-up to Poland's accession to the EU, culminating on 30 April in a meeting of the national foreign ministers on the bridge that links the two municipalities;
- involvement by Frankfurt and Slubice in a joint EU-supported project that also involved the Finnish town of Imatra, exploring ways to improve public transport between the two towns (and notably comparing bus and tram);
- inauguration of a joint German-Polish training centre for trades and crafts associated with restoration;
- participation for the first time by Polish artists in Frankfurt's Hanseatic Festival and by Polish craftspeople in the Christmas Market;
- involvement by representatives of Gorzow and Slubice in five major regional fairs in Frankfurt;
- strengthening of ties between two kindergartens where efforts are being made to teach the children the language of the neighbouring country;
- exchanges of experience between senior citizens and the organisation, for the first time in a decade, of a senior citizens' sports festival;
- participation by more than 100 people from both sides of the Oder in Mobility Day;
- numerous joint cultural events including the Goetzen Art Project on the theme "Myself and Others", which brought together 21 artists from nine different countries, the "Subfurt City" project with a "Music on the Oder" event, the "transVocale Festival" and a series of "Autumn Music" gatherings;
- frequent contacts between fire fighters who staged many joint exercises.

Contacts with the other twinning partners were confined to youth exchanges, including:

- a summer camp at Vantaa in which young people from the other twinned towns also took part;
- a first exchange of trainees with Nîmes.

The application submitted by Frankfurt-an-der-Oder in 2005 again highlights transfrontier co-operation with the neighbouring Polish town of Slubice, which has embraced several projects:

- the Interreg IIC “city twins” project co-ordinated by the Finnish town of Imatra, involves the twin towns of Narva/Ivangorod (Estonia/Russia), Tornio/Haparanda (Finland/Sweden), Görlitz/Zgoteslec and Frankfurt/Slubice (Germany/Poland) and is based on exchange of experience between towns separated by a border with a view to discussing common problems such as urban transport, housing policy, etc. A grand gala in Slubice and Frankfurt was attended by over 100 young people from all the towns involved in the project, backed by a whole series of cultural events.
- material assistance from Slubice and Frankfurt for a tsunami-stricken town in Sri Lanka, with which a partnership agreement was concluded;
- joint commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the foundation of Slubice, with events taking place in both towns and on the bridge between them;
- Music Days on the Oder, with a première performance by an orchestra made up of musicians from Frankfurt and Zielona Gora;

GERMANY (continued)

FRANKFURT/Oder (continued)

- several other large-scale cultural events: the Germano-Polish Drama Festival, the “transVOCALE” Festival, the Polish literature autumn fair, the “Fotofetisch” photographic competition involving 50 amateur photographers from both towns, and the International Music Festival organised by the Frankfurt brass band, with a parade through both towns by 28 music ensembles;
- sports encounters: Border Town Youth Games, attended for the first time by young people not only from the two towns but also from other municipalities in the region;
- opening of the EU-Info Centre *Europ Direct* in Frankfurt under the authority of the Euroregion “Pro Europa Viadrina”;
- joint representation of both towns at the five Frankfurt regional fairs.

Exchanges with the other twin towns included:

- a performance in Nîmes by the *Frankfurter Singakademie* Children’s Choir;
- youth camp organised by the town of Vantaa, with young people from Frankfurt taking part;
- two-week Eurocamp organised by Frankfurt, involving young people from all of Frankfurt’s twin towns;
- visit by a Frankfurt fire brigade delegation to Witebsk, led by the Mayor, for the annual major cultural event “Slav March”.

Co-operation among schools in Frankfurt and Slubice remains highly effective, and fresh agreements have been signed between nursery schools. Teachers from both towns are taking Polish and German language courses, and the Germano-Polish Senior Academy celebrated the 5th anniversary of the co-operation between senior citizens in the two towns in 2005, with six separate events involving 850 persons.

Contacts are constantly intensifying, particularly between Frankfurt and Slubice. Frankfurt has been awarded the Plaque of Honour with its twin border town of Slubice, and was hoping for the Europe Prize for 2003, but omitted to renew its application that year. The report on activities in 2005 again highlights the excellent transfrontier co-operation with Slubice, but contacts with the other twin towns are very limited.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
GAU-ALGESHEIM (Rhineland-Palatinate) (Pop. 6 900)	1994	SAULIEU (F)	1972
	1995	CAPRINO VERONESE (I)	1984
	2005		
	2006		

<European Diploma in 1994>

<Flag of Honour in 1995>

With the support of Gau-Algesheim the municipalities of Saulieu and Caprino signed their own twinning agreement in 2003, so there is now a three-way twinning partnership.

Gau has also been twinned with the German municipalities of Neudientendorf and Stotternheim in Thuringia since 1990 and with the American town of Redford since 1990.

Gau's twinning activities are supported and coordinated by its International Relations Association, which has just celebrated its 35th jubilee and works in close cooperation with the municipality. Regular annual activities include:

- the Franco-German day started in 2002;
- continuing development of a French reading corner in the municipal library;
- encounters as part of the regional twinning of Mainz-Bingen and Verona;
- cookery weeks showcasing European specialities;
- Europe Day celebrations;
- involvement in the "Burgundy Days" in Mainz;
- meetings between young people from the Mainz-Bingen district and the region of Verona, with regular participation by young people from Gau;
- the Rhineland-Palatinate and Burgundy Friendship Days;
- trips by delegations to festivals in the twinned towns, notably the Monte-Baldo Festival in Caprino, and the Charolais and Beaujolais Nouveau Festivals in Saulieu;
- exchanges between two schools (in Gau and Saulieu respectively) which have been twinned for 30 years.

Major get-togethers are also organised to mark the twinning anniversaries. For the 10th anniversary of the twinning with Caprino, for example, 203 Gau residents travelled to the Italian town in April and an 83-strong Italian delegation visited Gau in September.

Particular attention is also paid to Europe Day celebrations which always involve local schools in projects on a special theme. In 2004 the focus was on the accession of the 10 new EU Member States.

Both the municipality of Gau and the International Relations Association work to:

- involve young people and adults in European-themed events;
- offer young people training placements in the twinned towns;
- encourage neighbouring municipalities to conclude twinning agreements.

GERMANY (continued)

GAU-ALGESHEIM (continued)

The town has submitted another very full and well-documented report which highlights the dynamic twinning processes, which have featured:

- encounter of the towns of Caprino V. and Gau-Al. at the conference on the regional twinning Mainz-Bingen/Verona;
- Saulieu Sports Festival involving a display by an acrobatic cycling team from Gau-Algesheim;
- “Fauna-Flora” project in the Monte-Baldo region;
- study visit to Burgundy by a group of teachers from Gau-Algesheim;
- series of concerts in Burgundy by choirs from Gau-Algesheim;
- participation in the Festival of Monte-Baldo de Caprino and the Spring and Charolais Festivals in Saulieu;
- visit by municipal officials to Caprino Veronese;
- several school exchanges;
- above all, participation by the twin towns in the town’s 650th anniversary festival, showcasing European culinary specialities.

It should be noted that Saulieu and Caprino Veronese concluded a twinning agreement in 2003/2004, which means that there is now a triangular twinning with Gau-Algesheim.

Links have also been forged with the Belgian town of Philippville, which is twinned with Saulieu. Representatives of Philippville attended the first ever conference of twin towns in Saulieu.

Following a long silence, Gau-Algesheim is back on the scene again, with a report on its twinning activities over 10 years. Will soon deserve the Plaque of honour.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with: :	Since:
GEILENKIRCHEN	1991	QUIMPERLE (F)***	1966
(North Rhine-Westphalia)	1992	SITTARD (NL)	
(Pop. 23 000)	1993		
	1995		
	1996		
	1997		
	1998		
	1999		
	2000		
	2004		
	2005		
<European Diploma in 1992>	2006		
<Flag of Honour in 1993>			
<Plaque of Honour in 1998>			

The 25th anniversary of the twinning was celebrated with due pomp and ceremony in Quimperlé in 1991 and in Geilenkirchen in 1992. Exchanges have developed at all levels, above all between associations, and upwards of 300 people thus meet every year. There are also exchanges with Dutch and German schools. Geilenkirchen has given financial support to Breton municipalities afflicted by disasters.

Geilenkirchen and its twin town received the Franco-German Medal of Honour for the exemplary nature of their twinning in 1978, and the European Union Medal in 1991.

In 1992 over 170 people from Brittany came to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the twinning, and major festivities marked the 30th anniversary in 1996. At that event it was noted that, since the twinning began, 6 600 people had met up, not to mention the numerous private visits. There were over 20 meetings in 1997, with the original idea of presenting each town in a day of meetings, visits and exchanges of views organised by their respective twinings.

Geilenkirchen also has friendship links with the Dutch town of Sittard: in 1996 there were visits by municipal delegations and sports and musical events organised in Geilenkirchen and 1997 was devoted to the Netherlands, with 24 events spread over the year..

In 1996 Geilenkirchen received over 200 people from Quimperlé to celebrate the 30th anniversary of twinning, and the return visit to Quimperlé in 1997 was just as big a success. The Geilenkirchen twinning committee was awarded a distinction by the Institute for European Twinning and International Cooperation in Bonn in 1997 for the exemplary nature of the twinning between the two towns.

In 1998 Geilenkirchen and Quimperlé, organised spectacular celebrations for the presentation of the Plaque of Honour, and are now applying for the Europe Prize.

In 1999 more than 200 people met in activities organised with Quimperlé, and friendship activities with Sittard consisted mainly of school exchanges. Geilenkirchen pursued its contacts with an Estonian school in TABIVERE and set up a twinning committee to facilitate exchanges. From June to December, as in the past, Geilenkirchen organised several events to present Sweden to its population, including photographic exhibitions, concerts, plays, etc. These operations, which began in 1996 with the presentation of Ireland, have been very successful. In 2000 the focus was on France.

After a three-year gap, Geilenkirchen has again applied to be considered for the Europe Prize.

GERMANY (continued)

GEILENKIRCHEN (continued)

The pace of exchanges has been sustained with both Quimperlé and Sittard. One particularly popular event is the annual showcasing of a different European country and this year it was the turn of Belgium. School exchanges with the Estonian town of Tabivere continue to function smoothly.

A very comprehensive dossier was again submitted for 2004 with evidence of a busy exchange programme particularly with Quimperlé and Sittard. During the year Geilenkirchen also organised a series of local events showcasing Austria.

Exchanges with Quimperlé in **2005** were as diversified as ever; several school exchanges were organised, as well as exchanges between fire brigades, farmers, members of twinning associations, brass bands and sports clubs. A total of ten or so events were held, together with celebrations for the 40th anniversary of the twinning between both towns in Quimperlé.

The main twinning activities with Sittard involved school exchanges. With Tabivere contact was confined to a two-week stay in Estonia by members of the Geilenkirchen Twinning Committee.

As always, Geilenkirchen has forwarded abundant documentation to the effect that Geilenkirchen has also, in particular through the intermediary of “Europa-Union”, developed numerous contacts with other European countries, including Poland, which country feature prominently in events in Geilenkirchen this year.

A well presented and extensive application that details the progress of the annual events.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
GÖRLITZ (Saxony) (Pop. 68 000)	2003	WIESBADEN (D)	1990
	2004	MOLFETTA (I)	1991
	2005	NOVY JICIN (CS)	1991
	2006	AMIENS (F)	1992
		ZGORZELEC (PL)	1991

<European Diploma in 2003>

<Flag of Honour in 2004>

APPLICATION SUBMITTED JOINTLY WITH POLISH TWINNING PARTNER, ZGORZELEC

1. The twinning with Wiesbaden, signed in 1990, initially focused on assistance for Görlitz in the field of local administration. Activities subsequently developed included exchanges between young people and students, major youth events in Wiesbaden, Görlitz and Zgorzelec in 1995 and a whole series of exchanges for events to mark the 10th anniversary of the twinning in 2000. Exchanges between local administrative officers from the two municipalities are ongoing.
2. Contact with Molfetta is less intense. Links have been forged between company directors and there have been several exhibitions about the two towns, as well as a number of seminars.
3. Cooperation with Novy Jicin has focused on training and exchanges of experience for municipal employees (in areas such as environmental protection, town planning and conservation of historic monuments). Other activities that have strengthened the ties include participation by Novy Jicin in Görlitz's "Culture Days", a relay race between the two towns and exchanges between senior citizens.
4. The twinning with Amiens has been particularly successful with regard to exchanges between senior citizens but has also featured school exchanges, training placements, exchanges of experience between local administrative officers, and youth camps.

The busiest twinning programme, however, is with the neighbouring town of ZGORZELEC (Poland).

5. The importance of cross-border cooperation with Zgorzelec, just across the River Neisse, was recognised soon after the historic division of the city in 1945 and initial contacts took the form of youth exchanges. It was not until 1989, however, that the two municipalities established real ties. All sections of society are now involved, including nursery school children and primary and secondary schools which have developed partnerships. Joint activities include the establishment of German-Polish orchestras, bus links across the river, agreements between municipal institutions (such as libraries and churches), and collaboration on environmental projects through joint urban planning and development of a green belt along both banks of the Neisse. The municipal councils meet regularly to review the cooperation and set targets. At a European seminar held in Görlitz in 1998 the municipal councillors of the two towns proclaimed Görlitz/Zgorzelec a "City of Europe".

GERMANY (continued)

GÖRLITZ (continued)

Practical activities in the area of youth cooperation include:

- Polish language weekends;
- German-Polish youth camps with a focus on language learning;
- courses for young people in German and Polish;
- joint seminars on the theme of Poland's accession to the EU;
- training placement schemes in the tourism industry;
- a series of days on the theme "What do you know about Europe?";
- school festivals;
- twinning between grammar schools.

Events with a European focus include the municipal music festivals, the "Via Thea" street theatre festival, a children's festival on the theme "Children of the Neisse" and a series of German-Polish symphony concerts.

Europe Day is regularly celebrated and marked by a joint sitting of the municipal councils of Görlitz and Zgorzelec.

Next year Görlitz plans to apply jointly with Zgorzelec for special recognition from the European Union and to compete for the title "European Capital of Culture" in 2010.

If both towns got nearer in the years 90, their aim is to form one single town in a not too far future and the entry of Poland into the European Union should accelerate this process.

After the signature of a cooperation treaty between both towns in 1993, an additional treaty was signed in 1996 and a new organisation of the different working committees took place in 2001 after the territorial reform in Poland and to adapt both towns to the project "Town 2030" with the objective of a reunification of both towns.

The beginning of the construction of a bridge on the Neisse River in 2003 that will link both towns was one of the most important events in 2003. But this bridge also constitutes a symbol as Görlitz was until end of the Second World War a German town. The frontier line dividing Germany from Poland along the Oder-Neisse frontier in 1945 divided the town into two parts that had very little contacts between each other

Among recent joint events that helped to bring the two towns together were:

- a celebration to mark the 100th anniversary of Görlitz's Kaiser-Friedrich Museum;
- the performance, once a month, of a play of Jelena Gora in Görlitz;
- official celebrations on 5 May to mark the 5th anniversary of the Görlitz/Zgorzelec "City of Europe", with a joint formal meeting of both municipal councils;
- inauguration of the construction of the bridge by the Minister President of Saxony;
- joint preparatory work for festivities to mark Poland's accession to the EU;
- the "City of Europe" festival in Zgorzelec as part of the "City of Culture 2010" project;
- festivities in the Old City in September 2003 with the erection of a provisional wooden bridge allowing residents of the two towns to celebrate together;
- the "Görlitz Wednesdays" events, bringing together politicians and economists in the framework of German-Polish conferences on themes common to both countries;
- a "Media-camp" in Görlitz involving 21 young journalists from Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic;
- presentation of the Görlitz-Zgorzelec "City of Europe" in Wroclaw;

GERMANY (continued)

GÖRLITZ (continued)

- extension of the “Brückenpark” project on the Polish side of Zgorzelec;
- a joint Remembrance Day commemoration on 1 September;
- a fact-finding visit to the town by 40 journalists from different European countries;
- presentation of the joint “Brückenpreis” award, which in 2003 honoured the former President of the Land of Saxony;
- organisation of meetings with authors in schools in both towns (each school in Görlitz has a twinning partner in Zgorzelec and there are joint activities every month);
- preparation for the Wroclaw Economic Fair in 2004 where both towns will present themselves at a joint stand.

Following on from its receipt of the Flag of Honour, Görlitz is already competing for the Plaque of Honour. It is also focusing its efforts on the joint Görlitz-Zgorzelec bid to become a European City of Culture in 2010.

Activities organised by the twinning committee – which met on some 10 occasions during the year – included:

- a German-Polish piano competition;
- involvement by Görlitz-Zgorzelec in a cooperation project among twinned towns;
- festivities to mark the enlargement of the EU;
- participation in the sixth German-Polish cooperation event in Breslau;
- the first Görlitz-Zgorzelec European marathon;
- organisation of a youth forum for the two towns;
- inauguration of the old city bridge and the presentation of the Flag of Honour as well as a silver European Merit medal.

The “European town of Görlitz/Zgorzelec” mainly conducted cultural activities in 2005: celebration of Musical Europe for German, Polish and Czech youngsters, organisation of the 31st Music Festival, a street theatre festival, summer arts classes and late-night museum opening. Both municipal councils held a joint session to present their mayors with a European medal, and also organised the second European marathon attracting 900 participants, and the third Economy Days.

Where the other twin towns are concerned, Görlitz invited senior citizens from Novy Jicin and young people from Molfetta and organised an international youth basketball tournament.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
GROSS-GERAU (Hesse) (Pop. 25 000)	1967	BRIGNOLES (F)**	1959
	1968	BRUNECK (I)**	1959
	1969	TIELT (B)***	1959
	1985	SZAMOTULY (PL)	2000
	1986 to 1990		
	1993 to 1996		
	1997 to 2001		
	2002		
	2003		
	2004		
	2005		
<Flag of Honour in 1969>	2006		
<Plaque of Honour in 1991>			

Gross-Gerau has a quadrilateral twinning relationship with Brignoles, Bruneck and Tielt, all these towns being twinned with one another. But in May 1989 it signed a further twinning arrangement with the town of Szamotuly in Poland, reinforcing cooperation in culture, sport and tourism, and also in agriculture and industry.

Links of friendship have also long existed with the Italian town of Campofiorito, mainly due to the fact that there are some 500 Italian workers in Gross-Gerau.

But undoubtedly the "European Days", initially organised every two years as from 1961, did much for the development of Gross-Gerau's European activities. In all schools, public gatherings and events, emphasis is laid on European history, European unity. These European Days have helped bring together all strata of the local population. They were held in Bruneck in 1997: some 80 young people from each of the twin towns participated.

Among the many meetings, some take place annually: participation of all the twin towns for 15 years in the annual Brignoles wine fare; participation each year in the Tielt Festival, which was dedicated to Gross-Gerau in 1997; annual youth gathering of 20 young people from each twinned town (in Gross-Gerau in 1997); annual conference of the mayors of the twin towns. In 1995 an effort was made to revive a tradition: the annual participation of all the twinned towns in the Tielt Fair, with the presentation of local products. In 1998 Gross-Gerau organised a major festival on the occasion of its 600th anniversary. Its Christmas Market is also a great success with the twin towns, which are frequently represented at it.

In the context of its twinning with the Polish town of Szamotuly, Gross-Gerau carried out three humanitarian aid operations in 1997.

As each year, the traditional events took place, mainly in the twin towns. Gross-Gerau only organised a meeting of the mayors of the twin towns and a meeting of their fire brigades.

GERMANY (continued)

GROSS-GERAU (continued)

In 2000 Gross-Gerau organised the European Days. Over 300 guests travelled from the twin towns for the event, including sports, musical and artistic groups. On this occasion the official Twinning Agreement was signed with the Polish town of Szamotuly, contacts between the two towns having begun in 1989.

Very close contact is maintained among the twin towns through annual events: Gross-Gerau has organised a visit by a Szamotuly folk group, invited all the twin towns to present their local products at the Christmas Market and organised several solidarity initiatives for Szamotuly.

In 2001, the usual events involving twin towns were organised chiefly by Bruneck, Tielt, Brignoles and Szamotuly, Gross-Gerau having focused mainly on humanitarian aid, which the Polish town of Szamotuly has been receiving for several years now.

From the report on twinning activity in 2002, it is clear that the emphasis has been on trips by groups from Gross-Gerau to the twinned towns:

- to Brignoles for its traditional wine festival, for a day-long workshop on civil defence and for a conference of mayors from the twinned towns, held to review exchange activities;
- to Tielt for an international gathering of young fire fighters and, most importantly, for the "European Days", held this year in Tielt and attended by more than 300 people from the twinned municipalities;
- to Bruneck – funding from the municipality of Gross-Gerau gave a group of residents the opportunity of exploring the twinned town and surrounding area.

As it does every year, however, Gross-Gerau hosted the mayors and accompanying delegates from the twinned towns at its trade fair, organised a camp for groups of 15 young people from each of the partner municipalities, hosted a visit by journalists from Tielt and staged its traditional Christmas market, at which the twinning partners always have an opportunity to showcase regional produce.

Twinning committees in each municipality work to facilitate contacts.

As in 2002 the trend in 2003 was for groups from Gross-Gerau to visit the twinned towns for traditional festivities there. Gross-Gerau hosted visiting delegations only for its traditional Christmas Market.

In 2004 Gross-Gerau was involved in various events organised by its twinning partners, and itself organised the annual Mayors' Conference of the twinned towns, which the partners take turns to host. In 2005 Gross-Gerau will host the annual "European Days" to which more than 300 visitors from the twinned towns will be invited.

The highlight of 2005 was "European Days 2005", which took place in Gross-Gerau on the theme of "the Europe of Cultures in Gross-Gerau". Over 200 guests from the twin towns met in Gross-Gerau from 28 April to 8 May 2005. The other traditional exchanges took place, eg participation in Tielt Carnival, the Brignoles wine fair and the Gross-Gerau Advent Market, as well as several school exchanges and innumerable family exchanges, thanks in particular to the contacts among associations and the support of the twinning committees for all the twin towns.

Good example of five-way twinning which works well with meetings every year in one of the twinned towns. The five towns were in fact distinguished in Dublin in 1995 by the award of the Gold Stars of twinning. Gross-Gerau would have liked the Prize for the year 2005 in the context of their "European Days", but it would be difficult to award it only to Gross-Gerau since all the twin towns are active.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:	
GRÜNBERG (Hesse)	1982	CONDOM (F) **	1972	
	1983	MRAGOWO (PL)	1993	
	1984			
	1987 to 1996			
	1997			
	1998			
	1999			
	2000			
	2001			
	2003			
	2004			
	<Flag of Honour in 1985>	2005		
	<Plaque of Honour in 1997>	2006		

The first twinning, with Condom, has developed over the years and is a fine example of successful twinning between two small municipalities over 1500 km apart. Condom also received the Flag of Honour in 1988.

Schools are at the base of the twinning: there are 2 or 3 school exchanges and company traineeships every year.

The creation of a twinning committee in Grünberg in 1992 permitted a revival of exchange activities and above all the organisation in 1993 of a new twinning with the Polish town of Mragowo.

The twinning committee attaches great importance to learning French. There are French courses which are attended by all the members of the twinning committee and the Mayor of Grünberg. Since 1993 Grünberg people have also had the possibility of attending Polish courses.

To enable people to get to know more about the new Polish twin town, a German-Polish cultural week was organised in 1995.

The two twin towns are regularly invited to take part in the events organised each year by Grünberg: the "Diebsturmfest" and the "Gallusmarkt".

In 1996, the three towns stepped up their exchanges and Grünberg increasingly involves its Polish twin town of Mragowo, mainly through school and cultural exchanges.

The Plaque of Honour was awarded to Grünberg in 1997 in the context of the celebration of the 25th anniversary of twinning with Condom and the 5th anniversary with Mragowo. The traditional meetings also took place with the two twin towns: "Diebsturmfest" and Gallusmarkt".

Some twenty events (schools, sports and musical encounters, youth camp, commercial campaign to promote products from Condom in Grünberg and participation by members of the Twinning Committee in training seminars) were organised in 1998 and are extensively documented by the municipality, which always submits a very detailed report.

In 1999 Grünberg only clocked up about 15 exchanges with its twin towns.

There were more encounters in 2000, particularly with the town of Mragowo, involving increasing contacts among associations over the last few years.

GERMANY (continued)

GRÜNBERG (continued)

Through the work of the local twinning committee and its tireless Chair, Grünberg again stepped up its exchange activity in 2002.

- Exchanges with Condom included inter-school visits, the visit of a theatre company that performs every year in Grünberg, a trip to the "Fête des Bandas" in Condom, participation by a French group in the "Diebstrum" festival (held this year in honour of Condom), a youth camp and celebrations in Grünberg to mark the 30th anniversary of the twinning.
- With Mragowo, Grünberg organised inter-school exchanges and a meeting between police representatives, and young people took part in a summer camp.

In conjunction with Condom and its Spanish twinning partner, the municipality of Toros, Grünberg was awarded the "Etoiles d'Or" twinning prize at a ceremony in Antwerp.

Links with both Condom and Mragowo were reinforced in 2003 with some 20 joint activities. Once again the most successful events were inter-school exchanges but there was also contact between drama groups and police officers and visits were organised to celebrate twinning anniversaries (the link with Condom was 30 years old and that with Mragowo 10 years old).

It is clear from the 2004 activity report that the twinings with Condom and Mragowo continue to function well and the new twinning committee is keeping up the good work done by its predecessor.

Some thirty events were held in 2005, proving once again that active twinning committees can ensure the enduring vitality of certain twinning processes.

Grünberg submits detailed reports, even though they are much the same from one year to the next because the exchanges are mainly traditional meetings.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
KÖNIGSBRONN	1998	REIßBECK (A)**	1978
(Baden-Württemberg)	2000		
(pop. 7,000)	2002		
	2004		
	2005		
<European Diploma in 1998>	2006		
<Flag of Honour in 2002>			

The respective music societies initiated this twinning. Encounters between fire brigades, sports associations, farmers and individuals have been operating for over 20 years, and representatives of each municipality are always invited to official events. The local newspaper provides extensive coverage of the twinning activities.

Most of the activities are supported (and funded) by the municipality.

In 1996 the Königsbronn Week was organised jointly in Reisseck by both municipalities, with 4 days of events.

A school twinning agreement has been concluded with the French town of Vertou.

In 1999 the two twin municipalities of Königsbronn and Reisseck submitted a joint application for the Flag of Honour.

The presentation of the European Diploma in 1998 was suitably celebrated in Königsbronn. A wide variety of associations organised encounters: drama groups, choirs, fire brigades, hunters and tennis clubs. Youth exchanges subsidised by the European Union involved 100 young people in 1998 and 1999. Professional exchanges also took place between banks and water boards. One citizen of Königsbronn celebrated his 70th birthday by setting up a fund to support young people in encounters with the twin town.

Less traditional events that marked 2000 and 2001 included the open day at Königsbronn town hall, to which a delegation from Reisseck was invited; the visit to Reisseck by the Königsbronn rural heritage conservation committee; the creation of a web site which also presents the twin town; and participation by both towns in the “Friendship Festival” organised by Freisach, which traditionally brings together all the twin towns of Carinthia, Slovenia and northern Italy.

Following the joint award of the Flag of Honour to Königsbronn and Reisseck in 2002 – for which 300 Königsbronn people made the trip to Reisseck – even more exchanges have been organised. The year 2003 marked the 25th anniversary of the twinning, but Königsbronn also invited the people of Reisseck to join in celebrating the 700th anniversary of the Cistercian foundation in Königsbronn. The youth exchange programme, which also involves the French municipality of Vertou, took place as usual.

In 2004 Königsbronn focused on the need to forge new contacts and with this in mind the local handball club visited Reisseck for a training session for the first time. Other highlights included involvement by Reisseck in Königsbronn's street festival and a visit to Reisseck by a Königsbronn delegation to help celebrate the 60th birthday of Reisseck's former mayor, as well as contacts between municipal councillors.

GERMANY (continued)

KÖNIGSBRONN (continued)

Contacts with the Austrian town of Reisseck intensified in 2005 with exchanges between fire brigades, the participation of numerous Carinthian partners in Königsbronn Street Festival and St Nicholas' Market, school exchanges, and even church encounters. Königsbronn invited all its foreign residents to organise a joint festival as part of the "International Partners' Festival" attended by citizens from eight different European countries.

Sound application highlighting regular exchanges. To be considered shortly for the Plaque of Honour, jointly with Reisseck.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
KÖNIGSWINTER	1990	N.-E. LINCOLNSHIRE (GB)**	1974
(North Rhine-Westphalia)	1991	COGNAC (F)	1989
(Pop. 37 000)	1993		
	1994		
	1995		
	1996 to 2001		
	2002		
	2003		
	2004		
	2005		
<European Diploma in 1991>	2006		
<Flag of Honour in 1993>			
<Plaque of Honour in 1999>			

During the past 15 years over 3 000 children have benefited from the annual school exchanges with Cleethorpes. Study grants for two pupils of the two towns are also financed by the town every year. While these exchanges are above all based on school contacts, local festivals are the occasion for visits by large delegations; thus over 150 Cognac people went to Königswinter in 1991.

As shown by recent reports, there are quite a number of meetings between the twin towns, mainly with Cognac. In 1995 Königswinter organised a seminar for municipal officers which attracted participants not only from the two twin towns but also from the entire Rhine region.

After the local government reorganisation in 1996, the whole area of North-East Lincolnshire took over the original twinning with Cleethorpes and decided to set up a Committee to further develop the Königswinter-North-East Lincolnshire twinning. The 30-member Committee organised several school exchanges in 1998 and is preparing the festivities for the 25th anniversary of the twinning in 1999.

The twinning with Cognac is still operating well: 2 school exchanges, a "soirée française" organised by the Königswinter-Cognac Twinning Committee, a training course in Königswinter, and above all the traditional participation of Cognac in Königswinter's Wine Festival.

Having been awarded the Plaque of Honour in 1999, Königswinter is now applying for the Europe Prize. Events that marked 1999 include:

- award of the Plaque of Honour
- celebration in Königswinter of the 25th anniversary of the twinning with North-East Lincolnshire
- celebration in Cognac of the 10th anniversary of the twinning with that town
- the two traditional school exchanges with its twin towns. And, true to tradition, Königswinter drew up an excellent programme for schoolchildren visiting the town and its surrounding area.

In 2000 contact continued with Cognac with school exchanges and an appeal for solidarity after the December 2000 storm in Cognac, which prompted a great surge of generosity from the population of Königswinter. Contacts with North-East Lincolnshire were centred on culture: concerts, exhibitions of paintings and sculptures, wine-tasting, etc.

GERMANY (continued)

KÖNIGSWINTER (continued)

Spurred by its success in winning the Plaque of Honour in 1999, Königswinter has now set its sights on the Europe Prize. The twinning with North-East-Lincolnshire celebrated its 27th anniversary in 2001. Pupils, teachers, members of the twinning committees, official delegations, musicians and hoteliers took part. The pianist, Leo Solomon, paid his third visit to Königswinter for a major concert to celebrate Europe Day and the town also played host to a delegation of young musicians, who gave several concerts. At the invitation of the town of Königswinter, head teachers and teachers from North East Lincolnshire met with their German counterparts to explore ways of stepping up school exchanges.

. The twinning with Cognac celebrated its 12th anniversary. Königswinter played host to a number of schoolchildren from Cognac as well as members of the fire brigade, who covered the distance between the two towns on bicycle. The main event, however, was the visit to Cognac by a delegation from Königswinter to present the proceeds of a collection in aid of Cognac residents hit by the storm of December 1999.

Most progress in 2002 was achieved in the area of inter-school exchanges. Since the meeting of school principals organised by Königswinter in 2001, the number of senior secondary schools involved in exchanges has doubled and all the schools in the town have participated.

Links were further strengthened through a visit to Königswinter by a Cognac delegation to study the municipality's achievements in the field of environmental policy, and through the participation of delegates in each town's traditional festivals – a music festival, a festival of flowers and the Christmas market.

In 2003 there was once again a busy programme of school exchanges. The museums of Cognac and Königswinter cooperated for the first time to mount an exhibition about the Rhine in Cognac. A large number of people travelled to take part in exchanges with North East Lincolnshire involving students, official delegations, musicians, hoteliers and trainees.

In 2004 Königswinter celebrated 30 years of twinning with North East Lincolnshire and the 15th anniversary of its link with Cognac. It was keen that the occasion should be crowned by the award of the Europe Prize.

The anniversary celebrations dominated the entire year and involved a great many local people.

The twinning with Cognac once again operated well in 2005, mainly involving school exchanges. However, Königswinter also organised a tri-national meeting of ramblers from Cognac and Perth, its orchestra played in the Cognac Music Festival, a female student visited Cognac for practical work experience, and the Twinning Committee took part in the Cognac Christmas Market.

However, there were several visits by Germans to Scotland and Scots to Germany, mainly involving schoolchildren, teachers, Twinning Committee members and official delegations.

Awarded the Plaque of Honour in 1999 and not yet in a position to compete for the higher award.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:	
KÖTZTING (Bavaria) (Pop. 7 100)	1994	12-way twinning	1991	
	1995	SUSICE (CZ)	1995	
	1996			
	1997			
	1998			
	1999			
	2000			
	2001			
	<European Diploma 1995>	2004		
	<Flag of Honour in 2001>	2005		
		2006		

Since 1991, Kötzing has been part of a twelve-way twinning involving 12 towns from different EC member countries. Since 1992: school trips for pupils from the twin towns, exhibition of work by artists from the twelve twin towns, annual youth meeting in Kötzing for all 12 towns. Twice-yearly meetings of all twelve twin towns (held in Bellagio (I) and Meerssen (NL) in 1998).

Highlights of 1996 and 1997 included school exchanges and sporting events involving the twelve towns, and closer links with the twin town of Susice (between sports and music associations). In 1997 Kötzing held a European youth week attended by 27 young people from the twelve twinned towns.

In 1998 there were three school exchanges, two with France and one with the town of Susice, meetings between senior citizens with France and participation Tourism Fair of Altea (E).

Some twenty exchanges in 1999: the Mayor of Kötzing and a number of head teachers launched a project to collect funds with the twin towns in order to finance a school bus in Cabo Verde. Visit by schoolchildren to the twin towns of Sherborne and Waldmünchen, concerts with the Holstebro orchestra from Denmark, and above all, the annual encounter in Kötzing of the towns in the twelve-way twinning, which attracted enormous participation.

In the year 2000, Kötzing took part in meetings organised by its twin towns, and itself organised a number of events: it played host to 30 schoolchildren from Holstebro (DK) and a football team from Niederanven. Also in the year 2000 were some fifteen meetings between the different towns which are members of the 12-way twinning.

Kötzing takes part in numerous events organised by other members of the twinning network but in July 2003 it took its turn as host of a major cultural weekend which attracted 70 participants from the partner municipalities.

In 2004 Kötzing again had opportunities to participate in many events organised by members of the twinning network, and young people in particular benefited from the exchange programme. Groups of school pupils visited Susice and Bellagio, 40 young people spent a summer holiday in Sherborne and one school class travelled to Holstebro. Despite a difficult economic climate the municipality organised and funded virtually all the activities.

In 2005 Kötzing joined in the events organised by its twin towns: visit by schoolchildren to Sherborne, visit by a small delegation to Bundoran, and trip to Kőszeg by senior citizen athletes, etc. In all some twenty encounters were organised, one of them by Kötzing, strengthening the links among the various municipalities in the "twelve-way twinning".

Kötzing has been submitting reports for several years, but it does not organise many twinning encounters.

GERMANY (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
KRANENBURG (North Rhine Westphalia) <European Diploma in 2003> <Flag of honour in 2005>	2002		
	2003		
	2004	KÖRMEND (H)	2001
	2005		
	2006		

Together with the neighbouring towns of Groesbeek and Ubbergen in the Netherlands, Kranenburg has just concluded a twinning agreement with the Hungarian town of Körmend. Thus far only visits by official municipal delegations have taken place. Exchanges of public officials and policemen are planned in 2002.

Kranenburg has regular contacts with the neighbouring Dutch towns of Groesbeek and Ubbergen, with a joint meeting of the municipal councils once a year. There are regular exchanges between associations on the occasion of popular festivities, and also between sports clubs. Joint fire-fighting exercises are organised every year.

This cross-border cooperation has also included a number of practical initiatives, including the annual planting of trees by the towns' forestry offices, the installation of a bench for walkers on a path crossing the border, the joint organisation of festivities, the routing of the annual bicycle race organised by Groesbeek through a checkpoint in Kranenburg, and participation by a delegation from Kranenburg in the "four-day walk" organised by Nimwegen and Groesbeek.

Steps taken by Kranenburg to strengthen cross-border ties include organising a meeting between local elected representatives, extending bus services to Ubbergen, participating in the "Europe at School" European Competition, co-organising an annual cycle race and jointly hosting a 47-strong Hungarian delegation from Körmend.

In 2003 the most successful contacts were once again those with the Dutch border towns. Events included a musical encounter, meetings between firefighters, sportspeople (a major walking race was organised), municipal representatives – who took part in a joint wreath laying ceremony and a meeting of the two local councils – and senior citizens.

There was further contact with Körmend during a joint German-Dutch trip to celebrate Hungary's national day, and through an exchange between municipal employees.

2004 saw another busy programme of cross-border events involving the Dutch municipalities. More than 500 German and Dutch competitors took part in Kranenburg's 11th walking race, and other activities included a table tennis tournament, a horse-drawn carriage rally that attracted 80 vehicles from Groesbeek and Kranenburg, a music festival, the inauguration of a column in Kranenburg on the St James of Compostela pilgrim route, and the 21st Dutch-German senior citizens' get-together.

Four exchanges took place under the twinning between the Groesbeek-Kranenburg-Ubbergen trio and the Hungarian municipality of Körmend: two were inter-school visits; Kranenburg's music society was invited to the Hungarian national day celebrations in Körmend, and a group of seven municipal officials from Groesbeek-Kranenburg-Ubbergen also visited Körmend for an exchange of information.

Kranenburg continued its transfrontier co-operation ventures with its neighbouring municipalities in 2005, organising a number of events: a running race, a meeting of horse-drawn carriage enthusiasts bringing together 80 calashes, a religious service to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II, a plan for a new bilingual school in Kranenburg, a joint meeting of Kranenburg and Ubbergen municipal councils, meetings of firemen and pensioners, etc. Meetings of musicians and officials were organised with the municipality of Körmend in Hungary. The Flag of Honour will be officially presented to Kranenburg on 8 January 2006.

Has just received the Flag of Honour.

GERMANY (continued)

	Report in :	Twinned with :	Since :
LIEDERBACH a.Ts.	2003	VILLEBON-SUR-YVETTE (F)	1985
(Hessen)	2004	VERWOOD (GB)	1992
(Pop. 6 800)	2006	FRAUENWALD am Rennsteig (ex-GDR)	1990
<European Diploma in 2003>		SALDUS (Lett.)*	
<Flag of honour in 2004>			

Since the inception of twinning activities, a European Friendship Circle has proved an effective tool for organising exchanges. Regular activities include annual exchanges by pupils in the early years of primary school and by young people, as well as visits by senior citizens and members of local associations. Exchanges between municipal employees have also been initiated in recent years.

There is particularly active contact between local associations (notably football, tennis, volleyball and shooting clubs) and meetings are organised regularly. Local firefighters run youth camps, and jazz clubs and choirs hold concerts in the partner municipalities. Association representatives from the twinned towns have been meeting regularly every two to three years since 1989 to plan future activities. These meetings are attended by 25-30 people and expenses are covered by the municipalities.

Since 1993 Liederbach has also been involved in three-way cooperation with Villebon and the Latvian town of Saldus.

Between 1991 and 2001 the three towns supported a development aid project in Chad.

On average 250-300 people in Liederbach and its partner municipalities are involved in the twinings.

There were some 15 European events in 2003, including:

- organising more aid convoys to the Latvian town of SALDUS with which Liederbach is to twin in 2004;
- an international clubs and associations festival;
- intensive exchanges with staff of the municipal library in Villebon;
- active support for language teaching with classes even for the youngest children;
- meetings between twinning committee officers;
- a trip to Verwood to celebrate the 10th anniversary of that twinning;
- an international soccer tournament involving teams from the twinned towns;
- an awareness-raising campaign with a view to involving more people in twinning activities.

Spurred on by the presentation of the Flag of Honour in 2004, Liederbach is now applying for the Plaque of Honour. Its report lists the European activities over the last two years, demonstrating the exceptional energy of this small town (population 8 600). The salient events included:

- continuation of the humanitarian convoys to Saldus, conducting 20 journeys to the Latvian town between 1991 and 2005 and forwarding goods to a total value of € 2 million;
- the twinning agreement with Saldus was celebrated in 2004, coinciding with the presentation of the Flag of Honour on the occasion of the 14th Liederbach Street Festival;
- preliminary contacts with the Polish town of Pietrowice Wielkie with an eye to a twinning arrangement;
- major festivities on the occasion of the 15th international Street Festival, with a visit by a 50-strong Polish delegation, all accommodated by local families;
- celebrations in Villebon for the 20th anniversary of the twinning with this French town;
- exhibition by artists from Las Rozas, Villebon and Liederbach;
- visits of the twin towns and official visit by a delegation to Pietrowice;
- inauguration of a new Youth Information and Encounter Centre;
- new German language-learning facilities for the many foreigners living in Liederbach.

Very detailed report, but the Flag of Honour was presented too recently (2004).

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since
MARKTREDWITZ (Bavaria) (Pop. 19 000)	1993	LA MURE (F)	1983
	1994	VILS (A)	1992
	1995	CASTELFRANCO EMILIA (I)	1997
	1996	SCHWALMEN (NL)	2004
	1997,1998, 1999, 2000		
	2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005,2006		

<European Diploma in 1993>

<Flag of Honour in 1995>

<Plaque of Honour in 2000>

1) With La Mure: participation in official events in the twin town, school exchanges, organisation of concerts and sports meetings, exchanges of trainees. A delegation from Marktredwitz visited La Mure for the 10th anniversary celebrations of the twinning and a run along the German-Czech border was organised to commemorate the fall of the iron curtain. A strong delegation from La Mure participated at the ceremonies marking the twinning with Castelfranco Emilia (I) held in Marktredwitz.

2) With Vils, in the Tyrol, the twinning is still recent and involves above all contacts between fire fighters and the first school exchanges took place in 1997.

3) Friendship pact with Bassano del Grappa (I).

4) Friendship pact with Eger (Czech Republic) with meetings between working groups on topics concerned with local administration.

5) With Chichester (GB) organisation since 1986 of school exchanges and major campaign to raise awareness of the European idea through organising seminars, etc.

As a frontier region, Marktredwitz was very active in the setting up of EUREGIO EGRENSIS as part of the INTERREG programme and organises quarterly meetings between the three working communities of Bohemia, Saxony and Thüringia.

Main activities in 1995 were celebration of the award of the Flag of Honour and many school exchanges with twin towns and friendship towns.

In 1997, Marktredwitz twinned with the Italian town of CASTELFRANCO EMILIA. Over 200 people from the twin towns came to take part in the ceremonies. In addition to its regular meetings with its twin towns, Marktredwitz also organised and participated in the first European Cultural Days in the district; it also staged a EUREGIO-EGRENSIS relay race across the frontier between Germany and the Czech Republic, in which over 200 runners took part, an exhibition by an artist from the town in Chichester cathedral, etc.

In 1998 Marktredwitz further intensified its school exchanges, particularly with La Mure and Castelfranco, but also with its sister towns of Swalmen in the Netherlands, Bassano del Grappa in Italy and Eger in the Czech Republic. Members of each town's Twinning Committee attend the Marktredwitz Old Town Festival every year. And in addition to the encounters with its twin and sister towns, Marktredwitz received 72 apprentice farmers from Russia for a training period in Germany and France, and organised a trip to the Netherlands for its adult education centre and an international youth camp.

GERMANY (continued)

MARKTREDWITZ (continued)

In 1999 the main focus was on school exchanges, especially with La Mure and Castelfranco, but also with Bassano del Grappa and Eger. Since the beginning of the school exchanges with La Mure 37 years ago over 2 000 pupils have participated. A visit to Castelfranco by 40 inhabitants of Marktredwitz, an exhibition of photographs of the two towns, and the participation of the twin towns in the annual Old Town Festival were among the highlights of 1999.

While school exchanges again accounted for the bulk of the contact with the twin towns, the presentation of the Plaque of Honour in July 2000 was the highlight of the year.

In 2001, Marktredwitz concentrated mainly on school exchanges with each of its twin towns, although there were also a number of visits by delegations of local inhabitants to the twin towns (visit by a 30-member group from the People's University to Castelfranco) as well as contacts between associations: the Marktredwitz wind ensemble undertook a four-day visit to La Mure, while the town of Marktredwitz itself played host to an 80-member choir from Swalmen. The international football tournament brought together young people from all the twin towns (85 in total).

Marktredwitz made a special effort in its relations with the Czech Republic, and the town of Eger in particular. Events included a race spanning the German-Czech border, various encounters between young people from the two towns and cross-border cooperation in preparation for a major horticultural exhibition in 2006.

In 2002, Marktredwitz celebrated the 10th anniversary of its twinning with Vils (A) and five years of twinning with Castelfranco Emilia (I). Shortly after these festivities, delegations from Marktredwitz, led by the Mayor, visited both twinned towns and took part in numerous events, helping to reinforce the links. Business contacts with the Italian municipality were strengthened through involvement in a major exhibition in Marktredwitz.

Forty years of busy inter-schools activity with La Mure was also celebrated. The inter-school exchanges are funded by the municipality which calculates that more than 2000 pupils have participated.

Marktredwitz attaches particular importance to developing its ties with EGER/Cheb in the Czech Republic and activities in this connection have included a race between the two towns, participation by young people from Marktredwitz in various events in the Czech Republic and collaboration between the two municipalities, including a number of working meetings to plan the major horticultural exhibition due to take place in Marktredwitz in 2006.

Highlights of 2003 were the celebrations to mark 20 years of twinning with La Mure and the 40th anniversary of the link between the grammar schools in the two towns. Festivities were held in both Marktredwitz and La Mure and around 100 people from each town made the trip to the other for the occasion. Delegations from Vils and Castelfranco Emilia also came to the celebrations in Marktredwitz. School exchanges between the twinned and partner towns are still the most successful form of contact.

The focus was also on cross-border links with a number of working meetings to prepare for a major horticultural exhibition to be staged jointly by Marktredwitz and Eger in 2006.

In 2004 Marktredwitz concluded a new twinning agreement with the Netherlands town of SWALMEN. More than 50 Marktredwitz people travelled to Swalmen for the occasion. The main focus of twinning activity, however, was on inter-school exchanges and participation by delegations from the partner municipalities in the Noba Fair and Exhibition. Marktredwitz also invited the former Mayor of Vils and the Mayor of Castelfranco Emilia to an award ceremony to thank them both for their services to the twinning programme.

GERMANY (continued)

MARKTREDWITZ (continued)

In the context of the EU's eastward enlargement, Marktredwitz organised a number of meetings with young Germans and Czechs who stayed in the local youth hostel, and it is busily preparing for a joint Horticultural Exhibition with Eger in 2006.

The main event in 2005 was the signing of the twinning agreement with Swalmen (NL) in Marktredwitz. The mayors and delegations from all the twin towns were present from 15 to 17 July to celebrate the event, giving a total of 223 foreign guests, half of them young people, some of whom took part in the football tournament and others attended a special concert. A twinning agreement was also concluded between a school in Swalmen and one in Marktredwitz.

The municipality provided financial support for school exchanges with La Mure. Almost 2 000 schoolchildren have been involved in such exchanges over the past 43 years. However, Marktredwitz also invited a delegation of officials from Vils municipality, headed by its Mayor. A delegation of 32 Marktredwitz residents visited Castelfranco.

As part of its transfrontier co-operation programme, Marktredwitz is preparing a major cross-border horticultural exhibition with Eger; the preparations began five years ago and involved a number of encounters in 2005. The exhibition will begin in 2006, constituting one of the biggest joint events ever organised by Czech and German municipalities.

Good dossier. Marktredwitz received the Flag of Honour in 1995 and the Plaque of Honour in 2000.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
MARL	2002	CREIL (F)	1975
(North Rhine-Westphalia)	2003	PENDLE (GB)	1995
(Pop. 93 000)	2004	ZALAEGERSZEG (H)	1999
	2005	KUSADASI (TR)	1999
	2006	BITTERFELD (former GDR)	1989

<European Diploma in 2002>

<Flag of Honour in 2003>

Marl also concluded a twinning agreement with HERZLIA in Israel in 1981 and a cooperation agreement with CHANGZHI (China) in 1993.

Five twinning committees oversee the smooth running of exchanges.

1. CREIL: this is the oldest and most active twinning. Every year school exchanges, youth activities during the summer holidays, training periods in firms, contacts between music schools and other activities benefit some 250 young people, making a total of 5 000 young people in the 26 years since the twinning was signed. There are also exchanges between adults, albeit fewer ; they mainly involve the fire brigades, veterans and sports clubs, ie about 120 people per year (or 2 000 people over 26 years).

In 2000 the two towns celebrated their 25th twinning anniversary. 350 people from Marl travelled to Creil, including choirs and a whole orchestra, which performed Haydn's "The Creation".

2. PENDLE: as Pendle was already twinned with Creil, Marl decided to conclude a twinning agreement with Pendle in 1994. Contacts between schools and associations have been developed under this three-way twinning arrangement.
3. ZALAEGERSZEG: following the organisation of youth camps around Lake Balaton, contacts have developed between kindergartens, basketball clubs, scouts, brass bands and philatelists. Although the twinning is very recent, numerous exchanges have already taken place thanks in particular to the very active twinning committee, whose members number 120.
4. KUSADASI: another recent twinning (2000) which has already given rise to numerous contacts between residents of the two towns. To mark the signature of the twinning agreement, Marl staged the opera Carmina Burana in the ruins of the theatre of Ephesus. School exchanges, an exhibition of work by Turkish artists in Marl. Marl even fitted out a children's playroom at the cultural centre in Kusadasi, installed a work of art and planted 250 trees there, as well as supporting the building of a village for the disabled in Kusadasi.
5. BITTERFELD: the first contacts date back to 1989. Youth exchanges followed and local officials from Marl went to Bitterfeld to help train local officials there. Several assistance programmes in favour of the municipal hospital, fire station and kindergarten. In May 2000 more than 400 people celebrated the 10th anniversary of the twinning.

Cooperation with Changzhi (China) is not restricted to visits to local firms and official contacts but includes numerous youth exchanges.

GERMANY (continued)

MARL (continued)

Marl has been involved in a number of humanitarian actions in recent years in favour of:

- an orphanage in Kobrin (Belarus)
- a home for the poor in Minsk
- the German Institute at the University of Minsk
- a dental care programme in Romania
- the Turkish town of Adapazari, which was ravaged by an earthquake in 1999.

A dozen schools have contacts abroad, often with schools in the twin towns but also in Croatia, Russia and Hungary.

After German reunification Marl decided to make 3 October, the national holiday, “European Friendship Day”. Since 1991 Marl has celebrated 3 October to mark the fact that German reunification can work only in the context of Europe. A great celebration called the “VolksParkFest” attracts several thousand visitors and the twin towns also participate with presentation stands when the celebration falls on a weekend.

To finance youth exchanges the twinning committee, with the help of two wine growers, has launched two types of sparkling wine, part of the profit from the sale of which is paid to the twinning committee.

To combat racism an “Anti-racism Day” is organised every year in the schools in Marl. Activities at the town hall and posters all over the town spread the message that racism has no place in Marl.

The crowning event of 2003 was the presentation of the Flag of Honour, which took place during a major civic festival attended by around 60 000 people. Marl managed to organise exchanges with all its twinning partners. The biggest gathering was held in Zalaegerszeg where 10 young people from each of the twinned towns came together for a summer school.

The report for 2004 records a busy programme of twinning activities but many other events, ranging across a spectrum of interest, were also organised with other European towns.

The Marl-Creil-Pendle twinning committee held eight coordinating meetings as well as its annual meeting in Creil in June, when a 20-strong delegation from Marl attended. Other activities included: exchange visits between music schools and a joint concert in Creil; an international youth encounter in Bitterfeld and Berlin, financed by the Hüls Foundation and involving young people from all the twinned towns; several youth exchanges; a cycle tour in Alsace in which teams from all three towns took part, several concerts in Marl featuring choirs from Pendle; and participation in Creil's Christmas Market.

With Bitterfeld, which hosted the international youth encounter, Marl was also involved in an exhibition of work by local artists, the unveiling of a major exhibition about the floods of 2002 and a trip by senior citizens from Marl to Bitterfeld.

The focus of the twinning programme with Zalaegerszeg was Hungary's accession to the EU, and a small delegation from Marl accepted an invitation to join in the celebrations. Marl also hosted a visit by choirs and an orchestra (a total of 77 visitors) from Zalaegerszeg over several days, the highlight being a joint performance with the local orchestra of Handel's *Messiah*.

Ties were strengthened through several inter-school exchanges, a joint concert in Münster and Marl and a visit by six trainees to Kusadasi.

GERMANY (continued)

MARL (continued)

The main events in 2005 were the 30th anniversary of the twinning with Creil in France and the 15th anniversary with Bitterfeld in Saxony-Anhalt *Land*. As usual, young people were the main beneficiaries of the exchanges with all the twin towns.

Marl received the Flag of Honour in 2003, but this very active town deserves another award in the not too distant future. The 2005/2006 report was once again of a high standard.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
MELSUNGEN (Hesse) (Pop. 15 000)	1989	DREUX (F)**	1966
	1990	EVESHAM (GB)**	1982
	1993	TODI (I)**	1985
	1994	BAD LIEBENSTEIN (former GDR)	1995
	1995 to 1998		
	2001		
	2002		
	2003		
	2004		
	2005		
2006			

<Flag of Honour in 1990>

<Plaque of Honour in 1996>

Melsungen is also twinned with KOUDOUGOU in Burkina Faso.

Melsungen has developed a four-way twinning with Dreux, Evesham and Todi, supported by an active twinning committee with no less than 360 members. Melsungen has further developed its contacts with the twin towns since the award of the Flag of Honour in 1990. First with Dreux, which last year received the Council of Europe Flag of Honour. This is also the town with which twinning is the longest established and most developed. Thus over 1 000 people participated in the celebration of the 10th anniversary of twinning in 1976 and preparations for the 30th anniversary celebrations in 1996 already led to many meetings between organisers from the two towns in 1995.

In 1997 the accent was placed above all on school exchanges, and Melsungen also sent a delegation for the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Evesham-Dreux twinning and the presentation of the Flag of Honour to Dreux.

With Evesham the contacts have been less numerous in recent years. It was mainly a matter of direct contacts between families in 1997, but Melsungen sent a small delegation to Evesham to celebrate the 15th anniversary of this twinning.

The twinning with Todi will reach a high point with the celebration in Melsungen in May 1996 of its 10th anniversary. There are also contacts between families and visits by young Germans to this very beautiful town of Umbria which help to cement the links. Many contacts have developed between families.

The proximity of the twin town of Bad Liebenstein in Thüringen facilitates contacts. Information days and meetings between associations are regularly organised in each town.

The sponsoring of 175 children of KOUDOUGOU in Burkina Faso has been the main factor in developing this twinning. Melsungen has also been involved in specific projects in Burkina Faso, such as the provision of school books, and the planting of trees.

In 2000 the exchanges were most intense with Dreux and Bad Liebenstein. The programme included school encounters with Dreux, celebration of the 10th twinning anniversary with Bad Liebenstein, and relay race between the two towns.

As in 2000, it was the encounters with Dreux and Bad Liebenstein which proved most successful in 2001. The 35th anniversary of the twinning with Dreux was celebrated in style in Dreux and each town held a photography competition, on the theme of the twin town. With Bad Liebenstein, the most active exchanges in 2001 were those which took place between the various associations (choirs, fire fighters, senior citizens).

The main event in 2002 was the celebration to mark 20 years of twinning with Evesham. Contacts with Bad Liebenstein continue to flourish, and inter-club activities included the relay race between the two towns.

GERMANY (continued)

MELSUNGEN (continued)

In 2003 Melsungen's ever-busy twinning committee decided to engage in a public relations exercise and mounted a stand in the town square. Activities to which it contributed during the year included:

- organising two school exchanges with Dreux and hosting a delegation from Dreux for the Christmas Market;
- organising a school trip to Todi and hosting a group of 40 young people and adults from Todi who came to showcase their produce at the Christmas Market in Melsungen;
- setting up a number of encounters with Bad Liebenstein: a walk by members of the respective twinning committees, a relay race between the two towns; a celebration in Melsungen as part of the "Thüringer Tag" festival; and contacts between fire fighters;
- organising various fund-raising events in support of the municipality of Koudougou in Burkina Faso.

Although the committee experienced a dip in the level of interest in twinning activities in 2003, it worked hard in 2004 to promote encounters with:

- Dreux, notable events being an inter-school exchange, the visit of a delegation to Dreux for the 60th anniversary of the Normandy Landings and participation by Dreux in Melsungen's Christmas Market;
- Bad Liebenstein, while joint activities tend to be repetitive, this twinning works well and this year it involved a meeting of the twinning committees, a walkers' get-together, a fire fighters' gathering and a relay race between the two municipalities;
- Koudougou, which was the focus of various aid efforts and a child sponsorship scheme in partnership with Dreux.

The 2005 programme included some twenty exchanges, foremost among which was the 20th anniversary of the twinning with Todi, which was celebrated in the latter town. Contacts are still most intensive with Bad Liebenstein, involving the Twinning Committees, fire brigades and sports enthusiasts, etc. While no exchanges took place with Evesham, the sponsorship of the village of Koudougou is still running very successfully. In 2006 Melsungen will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of its twinning with Dreux. The town organises large-scale festivities to mark the occasion every May.

Good contacts, but as the Chair of Melsungen's Twinning Committee pointed out in a newspaper article, young people have not yet taken over the task of organising contacts, and the twinning schemes are beginning to run out of steam.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
MOSBACH	2001	CHATEAU-THIERRY (F)	1974
(Baden-Württemberg)	2003	LYMINGTON (GB)	1996
(Pop. 23 000)	2004	FINIKE (TR)	1994
	2006	PESTHIDEGKUT (H)	1998

<European Diploma in 2001>

<Flag of honour in 2004>

1. With Château-Thierry: annual meetings between officials, sportsmen and women and residents of both towns, visit by the Mosbach youth municipal council and a school twinning, training placements and celebrations to mark the 25th anniversary of the twinning in 1999.
2. With Lymington: the twinning is a thriving one, school twinning.
3. With Finike: annual meetings with the possibility of establishing economic contacts.
4. With Pesthidegkut: cooperation agreement in 1990, followed by a twinning in 1998; annual visits, opening of a museum, economic contacts, school twinning.
5. Mosbach also signed a friendship pact with PÖSSNECK in Thuringia in 1989, and there are very close contacts between the residents of both towns.

However, Mosbach is proud most of all of the major multi-cultural festival it organised in July 2000 attended by all the twin towns, and it would like to be given the Flag of Honour for the flawless organisation of this European event.

In September 2002 Mosbach organised a major gathering of representatives from all the twinned towns and a special conference to mark Baden-Württemberg's "Heritage Days". Almost 120 people from the twinned towns visited Mosbach from 6 to 9 September and took part in the Federal State "Heritage and Peace Day".

Twinning activities in 2003 included:

- with Château-Thierry: celebrations to mark 20 years of friendly inter-parish contacts; hosting a group of senior citizens from Château-Thierry; participation by nine young people from Mosbach in a three-way youth encounter organised by Château-Thierry;
- with Lymington (GB): hosting a 20-strong delegation from Lymington on a four-day visit to Mosbach;
- with Finike (TR): an aid project (providing a wheelchair for a person injured in a road accident); the visit to Finike of a Mosbach delegation headed by the Mayor to take part in Finike's 15th civic festival; two inter-school exchanges;
- with Pesthidegkut (H): two visits by large delegations to Mosbach for a football match and the presentation of a fire tender to the Hungarian municipality.

Mosbach used Europe Day as an occasion to showcase all its twinning partners.

GERMANY (continued)

MOSBACH (continued)

Having been presented with the Flag of Honour in 2004, Mosbach is now applying for the Plaque of Honour. With its population of 25 000, Mosbach is proud of the major events which it organises every two or three years, eg the Grand Horticultural Exhibition of Baden-Württemberg in 1997, which attracted 500 visitors from the twin towns, the public festival in July 2000, with visitors from all over Europe, and the *Heimattage Baden-Württemberg* in 2002, which was also attended by over 300 visitors.

In 2005 Mosbach organised the first International Youth Encounter entitled “Young Faces of the Future” for 36 young people and six accompanying adults from its twin towns, offering a very varied 12-day programme of activities. Other events included a visit by a Mosbach delegation to Château-Thierry for the 45th Jean de La Fontaine Festival and Christmas Market, a visit by a delegation from Lymington, and a ceremony to name a street in Mosbach after the twin town.

The system of providing traineeships in Mosbach and the twin towns is operating as smoothly as ever, and involved ten or so young trainees in 2005.

Received the Flag of Honour only recently, and the number of exchanges is nothing special.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
NEUBURG an der Donau (Bavaria) (Pop. 27 000)	1999	SETE (F)	1985
	2000	JESENIX (CZ)	2000
	2001		
	2002		
	2004		
	2005		
	2006		

<European Diploma in 2000>

<Flag of Honour in 2002>

School exchanges, traineeships in enterprises, sports meetings, cultural exchanges with the organisation of art exhibitions, performances by music groups on the occasion of local festivals, meetings between municipal councillors in Strasbourg to discuss European themes and organisation of a symposium on waste management.

Neuburg has contacts with a town in the Czech Republic (youth exchanges) and friendly ties with Wachenheim and Hamburg.

In 1999 Neuburg provided further details on its exchanges, which had been fairly intensive: several school exchanges and trainee placements in local firms, encounters between sports and musical associations during folk festivals: the Feast of St Louis and the Beer Festival in Sète, and the Neuburg Castle Festival.

The year 2000 saw a large number of meetings with Sète: between members of the twinning committees, school classes, at an "It's a Knockout/Jeux Sans Frontières" event organised in Neuburg and then Sète, during traineeships offered to four young people from Sète to Neuburg and at the local Sète festival. Also in 2000, a new twinning arrangement was sealed with the Czech town of JESENIK.

Neuburg organised a number of events and exchanges in 2001: a French cuisine week in the restaurants, an international football tournament in which the three towns took part, a stay in Sète for two school classes, a visit by 60 musicians from the music school in Sète, celebration of the 15th twinning anniversary with Sète, in which 100 musicians from Jesenik also took part.

The report on twinning activities in 2002 and 2003 shows that the links are very actively maintained and, indeed, Neuburg has decided to twin with another town, the Italian municipality of Malcesine.

There was no shortage of encounters with Sète in 2004, notably at civic festivals including Sète's Wine Festival and Anglers' Festival in July, and a beer festival held there in September for the first time. Athletes got together for an indoor football tournament involving all three twinning partners and for an "It's a Knockout" contest.

A delegation from Neuburg also travelled to Jesenik for celebrations to mark the accession of the Czech Republic to the EU.

Most of the exchanges once again involved Sète, with representatives of Neuburg visiting the French town on several occasions, starting with the St Louis festival, then the beer festival and lastly the 11 November ceremonies. During the latter visit both towns discussed preparations for the 20th twinning anniversary in 2006.

Neuburg has developed its twinning contacts particularly with Sète and the presentation of the Flag of honour dates back only to 2002.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
NEUFAHRN i. NB	1994	BROONS (F)	1971
(Bavaria)	1995		
Pop. 4 000)	1996		
	1997		
	1999		
	2000		
	2004		
	2005		
<European Diploma in 1995>	2006		
<Flag of Honour in 1999>			

Neufahrn has developed friendship relations for more than 20 years with the city of FOZA (Bavarian enclave situated in Italy)

School exchanges form the basis of the twinning, but the municipality also organises company traineeships and visits by delegations of 80-100 people to the twin town every two years. Over 250 people are involved in private meetings, covering all levels of society. The number is increasing because of music and sports clubs. The secondary school in Neufahrn puts great emphasis on the teaching of French.

In 1994, there were school exchanges between the two municipalities, a visit by a large delegation from Broons to Neufahrn and exchanges between choirs.

In 1995 the award of the European Diploma was celebrated, and the 25th anniversary of the twinning was marked in 1996, 70 visitors from Neufahrn taking part in the celebrations in Broons.

School exchanges (3), performances by the Neufahrn band in Broons, meeting of the members of the Broons twinning committee in Neufahrn (10 people) and the visit of 40 Broons people to Bavaria were the highlights of 1998. Both municipalities also helped place trainees in local enterprises.

At the end of August 1999 Neufahrn celebrated the 28th anniversary of its twinning with Broons and was awarded the Flag of Honour on this occasion.

After several years' silence, Neufahrn has again applied for the Plaque of Honour and has submitted a list of exchanges organised over the last five years. For the most part these are school visits, annual youth trips and official visits on the occasion of twinning anniversaries, with three or four such events each year.

Two major events in 2004 – both organised by Broons – reinforced the twinning links: one was a "Bavarian Festival", which attracted more than 700 people and the other a trip by a 48-strong German party to Broons to celebrate the 33rd anniversary of the twinning.

Twinning activities in 2005 were fairly few and far between, with no official ceremonies being held. The only events were three visits by schoolchildren to Neufahrn and a number of private visits. Neufahrn is preparing to celebrate the 35th anniversary of its twinning with Broons in 2006.

While the annual exchanges have been steadily maintained there are not enough of them to justify awarding the Plaque of Honour.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with	Since:
NUREMBERG (Bavaria) (Pop. approx. 500 000)	1999	NICE (F)	1954
	2001	CRACOW (P)	1979
	2002	SKOPJE (FYRM)	1982
	2003	GLASGOW (GB)	1985
	2004	GERA (former GDR)	1988
	2005	PRAGUE (CZ)	1990
	2006	KHARKIV (UA)**	1990
		ANTALYA (TR)*	1997
		KAVALA (GR)	1998

<Flag of Honour in 1999>

<Plaque of Honour in 2002>

Nuremberg has also concluded twinnings agreements with:

- San Carlos in Nicaragua in 1985
- Hadera in Israel in 1995
- Shenzhen in China in 1997
- Atlanta in the USA in 1998

It is difficult to summarise all the contacts for which for the year 1998 alone the enumeration filled over 30 pages and which in 1997 totalled over 400 projects, events and meetings.

Among the traditional exchanges that take place regularly we may cite: the many contacts between schools and universities, sports meetings, exchanges between artists and cultural activities (Jazz Festival in Nuremberg, direct broadcasting of concerts in Nuremberg and Prague thanks to the "Euro-Radio-Brücke"). Trips by delegations to the twin towns, meetings between senior citizens and handicapped people, which are also strongly encouraged between the towns.

Among the recent projects:

- in summer 1996 the opening of two twinning centres, "Nuremberg House" in Cracow and "Cracow House" in Nuremberg, used for meetings in the cultural, commercial and training fields (lectures, films, language courses, seminars, meetings of young people, economic debates, etc.).
- many school exchanges, especially with British and French schools. The University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, the Higher Institute of Technology and the Music College of Nuremberg participate in joint exchange events and projects with the twin towns. Exchanges of trainees are organised and work particularly well with Glasgow.
- a model cooperation project between high schools in Nuremberg and Prague, subsidised by the European Community, has been extended to all Bavarian towns and the Czech towns close to the German frontier.
- with Skopje, a cooperation protocol has been signed between two kindergartens.
- in the context of the ECO-EAST project, financed by the European Community, a project involving several twin towns, has favoured the exchange of experiences and relations with Glasgow, Cracow, Prague, Kharkiv and Rostov.
- the excavation project on the "Aelia Flavia" site in Skopje was most successful
- the Cracow project on the "tourist information system" was initiated by Nuremberg and aims to set up an efficient tourism infrastructure in both Cracow and Nuremberg.

GERMANY (continued)

NUREMBERG (continued)

- many meetings between local government officers to exchange their experiences and take advantage of training programmes.
- the Nuremberg “Consumenta 98” Fair, in which all the twin towns participated, with information stands, lectures, cultural events, etc.
- “The Market of the twin towns”, held in parallel with the famous “Christmas Market” in Nuremberg.
- The Chamber of Commerce and Industry cooperates with many chambers of commerce in different European countries, and Nuremberg’s belonging to the EUROCITIES network of towns.
- The annual visit organised by the town of former Jewish inhabitants of Nuremberg.

Among the European events:

- the annual European Youth Week
- international football and handball competitions
- Twin towns Festival (with cultural and culinary contributions from each twin town)
- Twin towns Market
- International Jazz Festival

In order to facilitate and maintain international contacts, Nuremberg has created an International Relations Bureau which reports direct to the Mayor and is also responsible for all exchanges with the twin towns.

In 2000 Nuremberg again organised a total of 500 encounters, which were initiated and often financed by the International Relations Office. One of the main projects was indubitably the award of a “Hermann-Kesten” grant to twelve journalists and writers from the 12 twin towns, who were invited to live and work for a month in Nuremberg. The other important event was the Conference of Twin Towns, which was held in Nuremberg Town Hall and dealt with the possible means of intensifying cooperation among the twin towns.

On the cultural front, a group of 10 writers from Kharkiv visited the city, there was an exchange of art students, the youth orchestra visited Kavala for a series of concerts, numerous cultural events were organised by the “Nuremberg House” in Cracow, concerts were broadcast live in Cracow and Nuremberg, the Prague jazz group “Jazz No Problem” performed at the opening of the “Meistersinger” festival, and a series of art exhibitions were co-organised with Skopje.

In the economic field the main events were the “Nuremberg Days” in Kharkiv and Kavala, publicising Nuremberg’s economic and tourist potential in these regions. Nuremberg is also proud to have been able to open an office for relations with Shenzhen in order to develop its contacts with China.

In connection with social affairs, youth and sports, the exchanges organised with Antalya concentrated on young people. Nuremberg also took in three trainees from Kharkiv for a training programme in a clinic, and 25 children paid a two-week visit to Nuremberg. There are many school contacts with Cracow, and a whole series of study visits and seminars have been organised in the latter city. With Nice the emphasis has been on sports encounters: football match and cycle ride from Nuremberg to Nice. The “Nuremberg - Prague” Friendly Association, which cooperates closely with the Prague Senior Citizens Association, has organised a great many concerts and trips by groups of inhabitants. With Skopje the work has concentrated on the medical field, with a plan to improve psychiatric care and medical equipment.

Germany (continued)

NUREMBERG (continued)

Group travel by inhabitants is still very popular. A large delegation visited Kharkiv for the 10th twinning anniversary, when the “Kharkiv Days” were held. A similar trip was organised for the 10th anniversary of the twinning agreement with Prague.

Among the highlights of Nuremberg’s twinning activities in 2001 were:

- EU funding for the twinning scheme with the Ukrainian town of Kharkiv in the field of waste management
- the award, for the second year in a row, of a “Hermann-Kesten” grant for journalists and writers from the twin towns
- the “China Days” festival held in the summer to promote Shenzhen liaison office
- the celebration in Nuremberg and Krakow of the 5th anniversary of the foundation of the “Houses of Friendship”, with street festivals and exhibitions
- a “Venetian Market”.

In total, over 500 events helped to foster closer ties between the twin towns. The Bureau of International Relations, whose role has been recognised and will shortly be bolstered by the setting up of “Nuremberg International House”, organised numerous art and photography exhibitions, lectures and trips for local residents to the twin towns.

Nuremberg was the proud winner of the UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education in 2001.

The activity reports for 2002 and 2003 once again record many exchanges with the twinned towns, but the office coordinating these activities (with a staff of about 10) is under threat of reorganisation which is very likely to entail job cuts. This would be unfortunate as the report for 2003 indicates the real efforts that Nuremberg is making to sustain its twinning contacts.

- With ANTALYA the emphasis has been on the arts, and contacts have been stepped up in connection with art exhibitions, film launches and screenings as well as youth exchanges. Many groups of young people have had the chance to come and learn more about the cultural life of their twinned town. Nuremberg also hosted ten law students from Antalya who were studying the German legal system.
- With KHARKIV, cultural contacts received a boost when Kiev organised a series of "German Cultural Days in Ukraine", which took place in several Ukrainian towns between October and December. In Kharkiv the days were organised in late October in conjunction with the "Nuremberg Cultural Days". Events included a concert, the launch of an exhibition of posters by a Nuremberg artist, a workshop for Ukrainian journalists, and a seminar and literary evening. Contacts between the music schools were developed and culminated in a concert by youth choirs from Kharkiv shortly before Christmas. Exchanges of experience include regular police visits between the two towns. Nuremberg also hosts summer holidays for young people with disabilities and financially supports Kharkiv 's psychiatric hospital.
- The twinning with GERRA was 15 years old this year and, while contacts have been less intense since the reunification of Germany, links have been sustained between fire fighters and schools, two of which recently received an award from the Bavarian Ministry of Culture for their exemplary level of cooperation.

GERMANY (continued)

NUREMBERG (continued)

- Activities with GLASGOW mainly take the form of youth and school exchanges, although interest in learning German has declined sharply in the UK. Nuremberg was involved in a Youth Camp, organised by Glasgow with EU funding, which focused on the themes of combating drug abuse and racism. For the first time, Nuremberg hosted a group of Glasgow families including children with disabilities, as part of a project entitled "Building Bridges".
- Cooperation with KAVALA (GR) was focused in the areas of culture, tourism and residents' exchanges.
- With CRACOW, and under the aegis of the "Cracow House", Nuremberg organised numerous exhibitions by Polish artists, as well as concerts, film screenings, a series of lectures on Poland's accession to the EU and a visit to Cracow by Nuremberg residents. In Cracow the "Nuremberg House" is regarded as one of the city's most fashionable cultural venues: activities there include screenings of German films and literary evenings. Youth exchanges form the core of this twinning and two new inter-school twinning agreements were concluded in 2003.
- Activities with NICE included continuing contact between music schools and the conservatory, and around 100 Nuremberg students gave a concert as part of the Festival of Sacred Music in Nice. Other significant events in 2003 were a visit by Nuremberg residents to Nice and involvement in a sporting event for people with disabilities. Several meetings were also held between municipal officials from the two towns to prepare for the 50th anniversary of the twinning in 2004.
- With PRAGUE the emphasis was on exchanges between young people, school students and municipal staff.

At the end of the year Nuremberg staged the now traditional "Twinning Towns Market" (for the 19th time). Thirteen twinned towns took part as well as the Region of Limousin which is twinned with the District of Mittelfranken. Profits from the sale of traditional local produce were used to fund projects in Kharkiv, San Carlos and Skopje.

2004 was a year of anniversary celebrations, marking 50 years of the twinings with Nice and Venice and 25 years of the link with Cracow.

- With Antalya, cultural contacts were stepped up: art exhibitions were held in both cities, Antalya staged a "Nuremberg Film Festival" and invited a Nuremberg writer to its Prose Festival for the first time. A German architect took part in an architectural symposium in Antalya and the cooperation agreement between the universities of Antalya and Nuremberg was extended.
- With Kharkiv there are plans for closer business contacts, and an official delegation from Nuremberg attended the 350th anniversary celebrations of the Ukrainian town, during which Kharkiv was presented with the Council of Europe's Flag of Honour. An official delegation from Kharkiv took part in the fourth European Human Rights Conference and at the same time a group of four Ukrainian doctors carried out a fact-finding visit on the German medical system.

GERMANY (continued)

NUREMBERG (continued)

- With Glasgow, Nuremberg has one of its busiest twinings and 2005 marks the 50th anniversary of the link. Large numbers of visitors come to Nuremberg every January for three major events that are organised in cooperation with Glasgow: the Burns Supper, a Scottish Ceilidh Night and a "Culinary Tour of the Highlands". In 2004 a declaration of intent was signed with a view to stepping up cooperation between the museums in the two cities; the now traditional exchanges took place between schools (and, indeed, kindergartens) and a decision was taken to re-launch a trainee exchange scheme at university level. A series of events will be held in 2005 to mark the 50th anniversary of the twinning.
- With Kavala, the two main activities of the year were Nuremberg's participation in the "Ethnic Cosmopolis" festival there and the staging of a photo exhibition about Kavala in Nuremberg.
- With Cracow, the 25th anniversary of the twinning was celebrated lavishly in both cities. In June it was Cracow's turn and a 120-strong delegation travelled there from Nuremberg. A wide-ranging exhibition of work by the group of artists known as "Der Kreis", a formal sitting of the municipal council, a street festival and a religious service in St Mary's Church were the major events. A month later, Cracow was showcased in Nuremberg through an exhibition of photographs of the city, a concert and a civic festival in the "Cracow House" there.
- With Nice, Nuremberg has also just recently celebrated a twinning anniversary (50 years in this case). In 2003 the German city was represented in Nice's "Christmas Village", 30 Nuremberg residents attended the carnival in Nice, 40 French students took part in Nuremberg's Festival of Sacred Music, and Molière's *Le Malade Imaginaire* was staged there, to great success. A number of trainees from Nice also carried out work placements in Nuremberg. The major celebratory events, however, were a performance by the Ensemble Baroque de Nice in Nuremberg, the second International Twinned Towns Festival and an exhibition in Nice of Albrecht Dürer's engravings.

In an original initiative, Nuremberg offers bursaries every two years to six journalists and writers from the municipalities with which it is twinned, thus enabling the winners to get to know the city better.

The beginning of 2005 saw the emergency operation launched by the International Relations Department to assist populations affected by the tsunami in southern Asia. Kalkudah, a fishing village which had been completely destroyed, was singled out for the aid. One year after the disaster, the aid drive had ensured the rebuilding of 120 houses, the purchase of two large lorries for supplying water, and the construction of a 100-bed hospital. In fact, the areas where activities expanded most were the Middle and Far East, with intensified cultural, and especially economic relations with the Chinese city of Shenzhen, reinforced links with Hadera in Israel after several years of *intifada*, and initial contacts with Nablus and Bethlehem.

The scheduled opening of a "Nuremberg centre" in the Turkish town of Antalya is looking increasingly imminent, a project which will even further diversify the contacts with Antalya, which are currently primarily cultural.

Twinning anniversaries were celebrated, viz the 20th with Glasgow and San Carlos in Nicaragua. The famous Burns Supper attracted enormous crowds to the Town Hall to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the twinning with Glasgow. Nuremberg celebrated 15 years of co-operation with Charkiv and Prague; it is thanks to the effective work of the Charkiv Twinning Committee that a wide range of projects is being implemented with this the second largest city in Ukraine.

In order to keep the Nuremberg population informed and encourage them to become involved in the twinning activities, the local paper (*Nürnberger Zeitung*) has for almost a year now been publishing a special monthly section on the twin towns.

GERMANY (continued)

NÜRNBERG (continued)

Nuremberg is proud to have finally replaced the old signs at the main routes into the city with illuminated panels listing all 14 twin towns. As every year, the traditional “Twin Towns Market”, which is organised as part of the Christmas Market for the twin towns to present their regional specialities, was a great success.

So Nuremberg once again managed to involve several thousand residents in the twinning activities in one way or another: over 300 dancers took part in the traditional Scottish evening at the Town Hall, over 8 000 residents turned up for the “Sans Frontière” twinning festival held at the Tucher Castle, which concentrated on Scottish traditions, the concerts and lectures at the “Cracow Centre” attracted several hundred Germans and Poles, and the municipal trips to Cracow and Nice were booked out, etc.

Excellent, well-documented and detailed dossier comprising over 60 pages of information on all past, present and future encounters. May be considered for the Europe Prize.

GERMANY (continued)

PFORZHEIM

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
PFORZHEIM	1995	GUERNICA (E)	1989
(Baden-Württemberg)	1999	SAINT-MAUR-DES-FOSSES (F)	1990
(Pop. 100 000)	2000	VICENZA (I)**	1991
	2001		
	2002		
	2003		
	2004		
<European Diploma in 1999>	2005		
<Flag of Honour in 2000>	2006		
<Plaque of Honour in 2004>			

- With Guernica: meetings between officials on the occasion of ceremonies to commemorate of the victims of the second world war and also to prepare the future programme of exchanges. Thus in 1998 Pforzheim organised an international youth seminar attended by 30 young people from its twin towns and other town which it has friendly ties, the "Drama Days" on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the creation of its amateur theatre, with the participation of its three twin towns who each presented a play.
- With Saint-Maur-des-Fossés it is above all school exchanges and the placement of trainees in local enterprises that work well. On the occasion of sports meetings pupils from each municipality have the chance to compete in various disciplines.
- With Vicenza: above all school exchanges, meetings of associations, visits of professional groups (four educators from Vicenza), sports clubs (karate), cultural meetings on the occasion of the Italian week in Pforzheim municipal theatre, with the Choir and Orchestra of Vicenza and a play by Goldoni.

But Pforzheim also has contacts with:

- Osijek: commercial contacts through the participation of Pforzheim in a big exhibition, and also school exchanges.
- With Częstochowa: school exchanges, development of joint projects between pre-schools, participation of delegation from Pforzheim in a road race in Częstochowa.
- With Irkutsk: with the support of the European Commission (TACIS project), development of a project concerning adoptive families presented to the Russian Parliament with a view to extension to all countries. Meetings between officials with a view to strengthening contacts at all levels and visit of an Irkutsk journalist for a training course of some weeks in Pforzheim.

In 1999, relations with Irkutsk were consolidated with the signing of a friendship pact, and Pforzheim is also considering signing a friendship pact with the town of Częstochowa in the year 2000.

From the long list of exchanges in 1999, we might mention the projects conducted jointly with the various twin and partner towns, eg:

- . the International Youth Seminar on tourism, "Travel and Tourism in Europe"
- . the International Festival of Amateur Drama.

Pforzheim celebrated the 10th anniversary of its twinning with Guernica, conducted intensive school exchanges with Saint-Maur, organised sports competitions and an exhibition of valuable objects, and decided to intensify contacts between nursery schools in both towns through a project entitled "Me and my European home town".

With Vicenza, sports, school and blood donor exchanges were very intense in 1999.

GERMANY (continued)

PFORZHEIM (continued)

The presentation of the Flag of Honour in 2000 was taken as an encouragement to intensify the exchanges even further, as witness the many encounters with the twin towns: commemorative ceremonies in Guernica, school and sports exchanges with Saint-Maur, exhibitions by Pforzheim artists in Saint-Maur, and also in Vicenza, where very many schools encounters were also organised in 2000.

In order to increase its inhabitants' awareness of the twinnings, Pforzheim has published a special page with letters from schoolchildren in all the twin and partner towns, and every fortnight publishes all the major events in its twin towns in its section on twinnings.

It should be noted that in 2000 Pforzheim signed a friendship agreement with the town of Czestochowa (PL) and is planning to sign another one with the Komitat of Győr-Moson-Sopron (Hungary).

As in 2000, there were numerous European activities in 2001:

- with Guernica: school exchanges, visits by official delegations to commemorate the bombing of Guernica and the inauguration of the new mayor of Pforzheim
- with Saint-Maur: school exchanges, cultural exchanges, participation by young people in Pforzheim's International Youth Seminar, encounters between senior citizens, etc.
- with Vicenza: participation in Vicenza tourism fair, school exchanges, exhibition of work by an artist from Vicenza, participation by a delegation from Pforzheim in the celebrations to mark the 10th anniversary of the twinning arrangement in Vicenza, coupled with a sports event, participation by a theatre group from Vicenza in Pforzheim's International Music Festival and the celebration in Pforzheim of the 10th anniversary of the twinning with Vicenza.
- with Osijek: cultural exchanges (theatre group), visit by an official delegation to attend the ceremony commemorating the destruction of Pforzheim, participation by a group of lecturers from Osijek University in a symposium held by the University of Pforzheim
- With Irkutsk: fund-raising, school exchanges, visit by a delegation to celebrate the 340th anniversary of the foundation of Irkutsk, encounter for young people and, most importantly, a six-month training course for 10 tradesmen from Irkutsk (heating engineers and joiners). This project is backed by the Eberhard Schöck Foundation.
- With Czestochowa: cultural exchanges (involving a dance company), participation by 17 athletes from Czestochowa in the Pforzheim city race, participation by representatives from Pforzheim in the second encounter for nursery school teachers in Czestochowa, participation by Pforzheim musicians in Czestochowa's festival, etc.
- With Nevsehir: cultural visits and a school exchange.

Pforzheim has also signed a friendship pact with the Komitat of Győr-Moson-Sopron (Hungary).

GERMANY (continued)

PFORZHEIM (continued)

Pforzheim is proud to have organised several major events involving its twin towns:

- Vicenza, Osijek and Czestochowa, for example, took part in the International Music and Theatre Festival
- representatives from Guernica and Osijek attended the ceremony to commemorate the destruction of Pforzheim
- Vicenza, Irkutsk, St Maur, Czestochowa and Osijek took part in the International Youth Seminar
- representatives from Guernica, Vicenza and St Maur attended the ceremony to mark the inauguration of the new mayor of Pforzheim
- Representatives from Guernica, Vicenza, Nancy, Prague and Győr attended the celebrations to mark the 25th anniversary of Euro-Club, which brings together young people from Pforzheim's Franco-German Friendship Society.

The emphasis in 2002 was again on exchanges of experience with Eastern Europe, and the third in a series of meetings between nursery school teachers from Pforzheim and Czestochowa was held in Vicenza.

For Europe Day, Pforzheim joined with the Enzkreis district to organise an information campaign for young people on the theme of Europe opening eastward. More than 600 school pupils visited 26 stands in a display designed to extend their knowledge about Europe. Local newspapers continued to provide regular coverage of twinning activities and a competition on the theme of twinning – with a prize of € 4000 euros – was held once again. As always, special importance was attached to inter-school exchanges with the twinned municipalities.

In 2003 Pforzheim maintained a busy programme of interaction – especially school exchanges – not only with its twinning partners of Gernika, Saint-Maur-des-Fossés and Vicenza but also with towns to which it is linked by friendship agreements: Irkutsk (Russia), Osijek (Croatia), Czestochowa (PL), Nevsehir (TR) and Győr-Moson-Sopron (H).

High profile activities included:

- receipt of the German-Russian Forum's top prize for civic participation in twinning activities and regional cooperation with Russia, in recognition of a training programme in Germany for Irkutsk craftspeople;
- a study and recreational visit to Pforzheim by eight German teachers from Czestochowa;
- twinning of the nursery schools in Pforzheim and Osijek;
- a series of "Russian Cultural Days" in Pforzheim;
- a visit by a delegation from Irkutsk to discuss drug-related problems.

Encouraged by having received the Plaque of Honour, Pforzheim continued in 2004 to develop contacts with its twinned and other partner towns and has now applied to be considered for the Europe Prize.

GERMANY (continued)

PFORZHEIM (continued)

Pforzheim's very many encounters with twin towns in 2005 included:

- with Guernica, a 2 000-km Peace March between the two towns, largely along the Santiago de Compostela pilgrim routes; the Mayor of Pforzheim started the March on 23 February in Pforzheim, sending the marchers off with a message of peace which was borne along on a nine-week relay walk along the over 2 000 km to Guernica;
- involving schoolchildren and their teachers in Pforzheim and Czestochowa in a joint video project on the theme of "How relevant is the Second World War to us today?";
- inviting German teachers from Poland and Hungary to Pforzheim to improve their knowledge of German and familiarise them with the culture and lifestyle of Pforzheim;
- inviting the former Prime Minister of the *Land* of Baden-Württemberg, Mr Erwin Teufel, to give a talk on Europe.

Sound application, but the town must wait a little longer for the highest award.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
RECKLINGHAUSEN	1990	DORDRECHT (NL)	1974
(North Rhine-Westphalia)	1993	DOUAI (F)**	1965
(Pop.120 000)	2005	PRESTON (GB)	1956
		BYTOM (PL)**	2000
		SCHMALKALDEN (former GDR)	1989

<Flag of Honour in 1993>

Recklinghausen is also twinned with the Israeli municipality of Akko and with the town of El Progreso in Honduras.

The many twinning contacts between clubs, and indeed at all levels, are supported and encouraged by the "Die Brücke" Foundation and the municipal Youth and Sport Committee. A Franco-German Friendship Association and a library of foreign books were set up in 1989.

The major annual cultural happening known as the "Ruhrfestspiele" is now recognised as a European festival, attracting performers from all over Europe and involving a whole range of international events and gatherings. The twinning partners are all invited each year.

The twinning with the town of Schmalkalden in the former GDR was concluded in 1989 and has focused on technical training exchanges.

Important events in recent years have included:

- the twinning with the Polish municipality of Bytom in 2000, which resulted from an initiative by former residents of Bytom (once a German town) who came to Recklinghausen as refugees after the Second World War. Exchanges tend to involve young people and events in connection with the "Ruhrfestspiele";
- cooperative projects with the twinning partners as part of the "Ruhrfestspiele", with a different theme each year: in 2001, for example, young people from Dordrecht, Brandenburg and Recklinghausen came together for a drama project, and in 2004 an event involving 120 young people from all 25 EU countries focused on the enlargement of the Union;
- numerous youth exchanges, among them:
 - a) annual exchanges between high schools in Douai and Recklinghausen, which have taken place since 1989 and have played a big part in reinforcing the ties between the two towns;
 - b) the establishment of firm contacts with a high school in Dordrecht in 2001;
 - c) links forged between young people with disabilities from Recklinghausen's "Haus Regenbogen" ["Rainbow House"] and their counterparts at a centre in Bytom;
- contacts between mayors and municipal councillors: in 1993, for example, the municipal councils of Recklinghausen and Dordrecht held a joint meeting to discuss racism;
- exchanges of social welfare and kindergarten staff between Bytom and Recklinghausen;

Germany (continued)

RECKLINGHAUSEN (continued)

- traditional inter-club exchanges, including annual get-togethers of pigeon fanciers, stamp collectors, chess players and footballers. There is a special focus on cultural exchanges: choirs have visited Douai and Bytom, drama groups have staged joint productions and an exchange programme between the Methodist churches of Recklinghausen and Preston has been operating for 20 years.
- training places in companies in the twinned towns, with six young people going to Preston each year and six to eight coming from Douai to Recklinghausen.

The salient events of 2005 were:

- the 40th anniversary of the twinning with DOUAI, with an exhibition in Douai of a unique collection of icons on loan from Recklinghausen; Douai reciprocated by lending its twin town a series of ancient manuscripts from its municipal library;
- a visit to Recklinghausen by 190 young people from different countries for the “Encounter Days” organised as part of the World Youth Days;
- a symposium entitled “60 years after the war: the future of Europe”, attended by representatives of all six twin towns;
- school exchanges with Dordrecht and Douai;
- teacher exchanges with Dordrecht and Bytom;
- cultural exchanges between drama groups and an exhibition and opera organised by Bytom.

In 2006 Recklinghausen will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of its twinning with Preston, and is applying for the Plaque of Honour for the occasion.

After a long silence, Recklinghausen is on the scene again with a very comprehensive submission covering a range of original twinning activities. It ought to be in line for the Plaque of Honour before long.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
SCHÖFFENGRUND	1994	CHAURAY(F)*	1991
(Hesse)	1995	LANGENWIESEN (former GDR)	1991
(Pop. 6 000)	1996		
	1997 to 1999		
	2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004		
<European Diploma in 1996>	2005		
<Flag of Honour in 2000>	2006		

With Chauray (F), there is an annual visit, on an alternating basis, of large delegations of citizens (100-200 people) in each town, with choirs, fire fighters, etc. taking part. The first school exchange took place in 1993.

With Langenwiesen, there have been several sports meetings and contacts with senior citizens. In 1990, a twinning committee was formed, supported financially by the municipality.

1994 saw many sports and music events, school exchanges with Chauray and an information visit by parliamentarians and members of the Langewiesen town council to Schöffengrund.

In 1995, 1996 and 1997 contacts with Chauray in particular developed through visits by delegations from Chauray and Schöffengrund and several other sporting and musical events.

In 1998 Schöffengrund hosted some 30 young people from Chauray, received sports clubs and organised a French evening. The major event however was the visit of 300 Schöffengrund people to Langenwiesen for the 800th anniversary of the founding of the municipality.

The 1999 twinning activities were very similar to those in 1998, but Schöffengrund and Chauray and Schöffengrund celebrated the 10th anniversary of their twinning in the year 2000. The other main event of the year was the presentation of the Flag of Honour.

It was Schöffengrund which, in 2001, hosted the celebrations to mark the 10th anniversary of the twinning with Chauray and Langenwiesen. More than 80 inhabitants from the two towns made the trip.

In 2002, Schöffengrund hosted 40 young people from Chauray, laying on a week of activities including a highly successful French evening and taste-in. Meetings with Langewiesen during the year took place there, and included the visit of a Schöffengrund delegation to celebrate 10 years of twinning, a visit by 55 senior citizens and participation in the Christmas market.

In 2003 Schöffengrund hosted visiting students from Chauray, organised a "French Week", provided a work placement for a young person from Chauray and received a senior citizens' delegation from Langewiesen, while other activities including walks were held in the twinned towns.

In 2004, encounters again took place on what have become regular occasions: a visit by Chauray's new Twinning Committee Chair to Schöffengrund, a French evening and Chauray's Christmas Market. A totem pole made in Langewiesen was presented to Chauray as a symbol of friendship. There were also four get-togethers with the Langewiesen partners.

The three twin towns of Schöffengrund, Chauray and Langewiesen held two joint events:

- highly successful performances by choirs from the three towns in Schöffengrund;
- encounter by shooting clubs from all three towns.

While exchanges are regular they would have to be more numerous to merit the Plaque of Honour, although reports are submitted very regularly.

GERMANY (continued)

	Report in :	Twinned with :	Since:
SCHWÄBISCH GMÜND	1995	BARNSLEY (GB)	1971
(Baden Württemberg)	1996	ANTIBES (F)	1976
(Pop. 63 000)	1998	SZEKESFEHERVAR (H)	1991
	1999	FAENZA (I)	2001
	2000		
	2001		
European Diploma in 1995	2006		
Flag of Honour in 1996			
Plaque of Honour in 2001			

Exchanges at all levels among the twin towns, particularly where schools are concerned, but also with Bethlehem (USA), with which Schwäbisch Gmünd has been twinned since 1991.

Schwäbisch Gmünd takes part in fairs and tourist events in its twin towns.

Information visits are organised for Hungarian doctors and farmers and a major event was held on the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the opening of the Hungarian border for the inhabitants of the former GDR.

Twining between Schwäbisch Gmünd University and several universities in major European cities. Organisation of many European cultural events: "Soirées musicales" devoted to church music, "Eurotreff" (encounters of young musicians from all over Europe), International Festival of shadow puppet theatres, etc.

Schwäbisch Gmünd received the Flag of Honour in 1996 on the occasion of various twinning anniversaries (25, 20 and 2x5) with its twin towns.

In 1997 and 1998 Schwäbisch Gmünd endeavoured to increase the number of exchanges and add some original experiments: information exchanges on waste management, conference on action against drugs and crime, exchange of experience among primary school teachers, comparison of different education systems, etc.

In 2000, as in previous years, the emphasis was on school exchanges and trainee placements.

In 2001 Schwäbisch Gmünd will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of its twinning with Barnsley, the 25th with Antibes and the 10th with Szekesfehervar. It received the Plaque of Honour for the occasion.

No further news was heard from Schwäbisch Gmünd following the award of the Plaque of Honour in 2001, but now, in 2006, it has again submitted a full application for the Europe Prize. Presentation of the Prize this year would coincide with the 100th anniversary of its twinning agreements (35 years with Barnsley, 30 with Antibes, 15 with Szekesfehervar and 5 with Faenza).

The reports on the last four years indicate that the pace of the exchanges has not slackened. Every month, three or four encounters are organised with the twin towns, primarily involving school exchanges, concerts staged by the music schools, encounters between members of the Twining Committees and visits by official delegation, etc.

Schwäbisch Gmünd would like to receive the Europe Prize in recognition of its numerous activities, but it ought to have made contact earlier, and above all it should have further diversified its exchanges, as they mainly concern schools.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
SEEHEIM-JUGENHEIM	1997	VILLENAVE D'ORNON (F)	1982
(Hesse)	1998		
(Pop. 15 000)	1999 to 2003		
	2004		
<European Diploma in 1997>	2005		
<Flag of Honour in 1999>	2006		

Youth exchanges, sports events, cultural get-togethers and visits of groups of elderly persons have all taken place since 1977. The town also has contacts with Villenave's twin towns, namely Bridgend, in the United Kingdom, and Torres Vedras, Portugal, and plans to twin with them.

Seeheim has been highly committed to several humanitarian projects for the past 7 years: "Assistance to children in difficulty" in Minsk (Belarus) and projects in Africa (Togo and Burkina Faso).

In order to strengthen its bonds of friendship with its twin town, Seeheim has carried out an original project over six years, with a group of walkers linking one town to the other, a distance of over 1 000 km.

In 1997, Seeheim signed a friendship agreement with Kosmonosy (Czech Republic) during a major European Week, to which it invited a large delegation from Villenave. It has also organised several get-togethers for schools, senior citizens and political parties, and above all a large-scale tri-national youth encounter attended not only by participants from Villenave but also from the Portuguese town of Torres Vedras and the Welsh town of Bridgend.

In 1998, there were more meetings than ever: several school exchanges, 4 associative exchanges, a tri-national youth meeting, the organisation of a European market with the participation of Villenave d'Ornon and its twin towns and a visit of the twinning committee.

With Kosmonosy, the friendship pact was confirmed with a visit to Seeheim.

As in previous years, there were numerous exchanges involving voluntary associations in 1999, but the major event to which the twin and sister towns were invited was the Council of Europe Flag of Honour award ceremony.

There were around ten encounters with the twin town of Villenave d'Ornon in 2001: sports events, participation in the town festival, tri-national encounter for young people (with Torres Vedras, Villenave's twin town in Portugal), a youth camp in France and an encounter for senior citizens. Exchanges with Kosmonosy tend to be less frequent, but Seeheim is financing German language classes for adults in Kosmonosy in an effort to facilitate such contacts.

Seeheim continued to provide humanitarian aid for Belarus. It played host to a number of children from Chernobyl and arranged for equipment to be shipped to the region.

Seeheim also developed contacts with a secondary school in Cracow: two school exchanges took place.

GERMANY (continued)

SEEHEIM-JUGENHEIM (continued)

In 2002, Seeheim marked two anniversaries: 20 years of twinning with Villenave and five years of ties with Kosmonosy. More than 1000 people took part in the celebrations. The main activities with Villenave were exchanges between schools, groups of senior citizens and members of the twinning committees, the organisation of an exhibition to showcase Seeheim in both partner towns, and participation by young people in a traditional gathering held in Villenave. Ongoing contacts with Kosmonosy have included meetings between young people from the two towns, an exhibition of the work of Czech artists in Seeheim, celebrations in both towns to mark the fifth anniversary of the link, meetings between residents of both municipalities and reciprocal cultural evenings.

Campaigns to help children from the Chernobyl region and to support a hospital in Belarus continued.

In 2003, as in the previous year, there was a busy and wide-ranging programme of exchanges with Villenave d'Ornon, which included two school exchanges, meetings between the twinning committees, exchanges for municipal employees, a youth camp and get-togethers for residents, senior citizens and young sportspeople.

Links with Kosmonosy were strengthened through residents' visits in both directions and meetings between the twinning committees.

For the 13th time, Seeheim again hosted a group of children (20 this year) from the Chernobyl region.

While most of the exchange activity with Villenave d'Ornon in 2004 again focused on young people – with inter-school exchanges and a tri-national youth gathering (including a contingent from Torres Vedras) – there were also meetings between groups of senior citizens and twinning committee members.

The number of exchanges under the twinning with Kosmonosy is growing: meetings took place in 2004 between members of the respective twinning committees, a delegation participated in Kosmonosy's Cultural Heritage Festival and an exhibition of photographs from Seeheim was mounted in Kosmonosy.

There were two inter-school exchanges with the city of Krakow and the municipality also supported inter-school exchanges with the Italian town of Adria – as a result of which new ties were forged with Ceregano (I). An "Italian Evening" was organised to showcase this Italian municipality in Seeheim.

Seeheim has once again submitted a very full report on its numerous exchanges with Villenave d'Ornon and Kosmonosy. It is planning to conclude a twinning agreement with the Italian town of Ceregnano, and the first school exchanges and official visits have taken place. Ceregnano was involved in the Seeheim municipal festival, which was also attended by Villenave and Kosmonosy.

A sound twinning arrangement with Villenave d'Ornon and good contacts with Kosmonosy. To be considered in a near future for the Plaque of Honour.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
SINZING	1998	LES ANCIZES-COMPS (F)	1995
(Bavaria)	1999	SAINT GEORGES DE MONTS (F)	1995
(Pop. 6 900)	2000	CSORNA (H) *	2004
	2001		
	2002		
	2004		
<European Diploma in 2000>	2005		
<Flag of Honour in 2002>	2006		

Sinzing and its twin towns organise regular contacts between mayors, municipal councillors, church representatives and various associations (sports, culture and music).

For 10 years now there have been regular exchanges of 30 young people and annual visits by some 120 people alternating among the towns.

Every three years the municipality of Sinzing organises cultural weeks and encounters, with art exhibitions. Delegations from the twin towns are always invited to these events. A large-scale event is scheduled for the year 2000.

With support from the Twinning Committee, Sinzing arranges traineeships for young students in local firms in order to improve their language skills.

One of the high spots of the year 2000 was the large get-together in Sinzing with the French friends from Ancizes and St Georges. Over 70 people made the trip to Sinzing.

In addition, the ever active Sinzing twinning committee organised a youth event in Ancizes and then Sinzing, took part in a seminar on twinning held at Bad Abbach, and organised, together with its twin towns, a visit to Strasbourg and the European institutions in December.

In 2001 the twinning committee proposed a programme similar to 2000, marked mainly by a two-week youth exchange. 13 young French people stayed in Sinzing and their German hosts went to Auvergne on a return visit. These exchanges have been going on since 1989.

Contacts with the partner municipality of Les Ancizes were sustained in **2003** through a number of working meetings but Sinzing also decided to extend its twinning efforts by forging a link with the Hungarian municipality of CSORNA – with which it is to sign an agreement shortly – and with a municipality in Spain. A 60-strong Hungarian delegation attended a series of cultural events in November.

In 2004 the twinning committee again organised a series of meetings, and it has plans to set up French and Hungarian language classes. Highpoints of the year were the signing of a new twinning agreement with the Hungarian town of Csorna, which was visited by a 60-strong delegation from Sinzing; a tri-national gathering in Sinzing in May; and Sinzing's civic festival in June, in which a group of 42 Hungarian dancers took part.

Fifteen or so encounters and events were held in **2005**, the highlight being the signature in Sinzing of the twinning agreement with Csorna, to which representatives of the French municipality Les Ancizes and a Polish delegation were also invited. In July, a delegation from Sinzing visited Les Ancizes to celebrate their 10th twinning anniversary. Further joint events included a number of school exchanges and youth encounters, as well as a watercolour exhibition in Csorna and a charity concert for Csorna hospital. New contacts were made with the municipality of San Mateo de Gallego, the twin town of Les Ancizes, and the Dutch municipality of Heumen.

A small municipality, which was recently awarded the Flag of Honour. The twinning committee is the driving force. Sinzing will have to wait before it can be considered for the Plaque of Honour.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
SOLINGEN	1981-1985	GOUDA (NL)	1957
(North Rhine-Westphalia)	1988-1996	CHALON-SUR-SAÔNE (F)	1960
(Pop. 170 000)	1997	AUE (former GDR)	1990
	1998	BLYTH VALLEY (GB)	
	1999		
	2000		
	2001		
	2002		
	2003		
	2004		
<Flag of Honour in 1985>	2005		
<Plaque of Honour in 1995>	2006		

Solingen is also twinned with the town of Ness-Ziona in Israel.

What is striking from these reports is the regular nature of the official, school, sporting and voluntary association exchanges.

Since the twinning arrangements started, job placements have been organised for young working people, school pupils and students in both Solingen and its sister towns, in such settings as municipal savings banks, town information offices, hotels and tourist offices.

In some circumstances, visits to twin towns are subsidised by the town of Solingen.

The town's adult education centre offers a wide range of language courses, thus helping to improve communications between European citizens.

In 1994, the town launched a project entitled "Peace for young people in the future", with which all the twin towns are associated.

In 1996, the award ceremony for the Plaque of Honour provided an opportunity for a meeting in Solingen with all the mayors of the twin towns.

The 1998 and 1999 activity reports show that official encounters, but above all exchanges between associations, particularly sports clubs, continue to be successful, especially with Aue in Saxony, Chalon-sur-Saône and Gouda.

As in past years, exchanges in 2000 were mainly centred on encounters between associations and their counterparts in Chalon-sur-Saône, Aue and Gouda.

In 2001, contacts between associations, visits by local residents to the twin towns and school exchanges with Chalon once again provided the main form of interaction, with around ten exchanges with each town.

From the report on activities in 2002 it is clear that the twinning with Chalon-sur-Saône is the most dynamic: during the year it involved visits by official delegations to municipal festivals, inter-school exchanges, inter-association meetings (between sports clubs, fire fighters and musicians) and two-way visits by groups of residents. With Aue, in Saxony, the emphasis tends to be on official exchanges, while in the cases of Blyth Valley and Gouda the most active contacts are between clubs.

GERMANY (continued)

SOLINGEN (continued)

In 2003 Solingen again had many contacts with its four twinning partners. It is a pity that it never submits a more detailed dossier about its exchange programme, accompanied by press cuttings.

Although there must be a degree of impatience in Solingen, which has applied to be considered for the top award for the past 10 years, it nonetheless submitted a very detailed report (albeit again without press cuttings) on its twinning activities in 2004. The busiest programme was under the twinning with Chalon, with which there were inter-school exchanges, residents' visits in both directions and exchanges between fire fighters, and Solingen was also involved in Chalon's municipal fair.

The most important events in 2005 were, as usual, the official and interclub contacts with Châlon, Blyth Valley and Gouda. Unfortunately, despite repeated requests the application was not backed up with press cuttings.

A good submission from a town which maintains regular contacts with its twinning partners, although, with the exception of the Chalon link, the twinning activities are unremarkable.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
ÜBSTADT-WEIHER (Baden-Württemberg) (Pop. 11 000)	1997	MONTBARD (F)	1991
	1998	SZOLNOK (H)	1998
	1999		
	2000		
	2001		
	2002		
	2003		
	2004		
	2005		
	<European Diploma in 2000>	2006	

<Flag of Honour in 2003>

1. With Montbard (Burgundy): regular meetings between members of the Twinning Committees, school and youth exchanges, concerts, exhibitions, trade fairs, the major events in both municipalities, and sports encounters.
2. In 1998 Übstadt concluded a further twinning agreement with the municipality of SZOLNOK in Hungary, thanks to an initiative by the many inhabitants of Übstadt who had been expelled from Hungary after the Second World War.
3. In 1990 Übstadt also twinned with the municipality of NÜNCHRITZ in Saxony. Major festivities took place in September 2000.

Übstadt also has cultural contacts with Holland (encounters between music schools and choirs), and conducts exchanges with sports clubs in Italy, a school in France and a choir in Austria. All encounters are supported by the municipality.

In order to reinforce these links, Übstadt organises language courses and lectures on the Euro, involves schools in art competitions, subsidises trips to the twin municipalities, organises conferences to present the twin towns and organises and takes part in art exhibitions.

1999 saw a huge variety of encounters:

- with Montbard: school exchanges, visit by a 90-strong delegation from Montbard and participation in the Montbard regional trade fair;
- with Szolnok: Übstadt received a delegation of 130 Hungarians to celebrate the first anniversary of the twinning.

In 2000 the emphasis was on music: Übstadt played host to 43 young musicians from the Montbard music school and Übstadt musicians travelled to Szolnok to take part in the town's festival. In addition, 150 Übstadt residents travelled to Nünchritz to celebrate the 10th anniversary of their twinning. French languages courses are given free of charge in certain classes and traineeships are regularly offered to young people from Montbard and Übstadt.

Übstadt-Weiher celebrated its 10th twinning anniversary with Montbard in 2001, receiving a score of schoolchildren and organising an exhibition of work by an artist from Montbard, taking in trainees and participating in the traditional regional fair in Montbard. The Übstadt choir celebrated its 125th anniversary and welcomed singers from all over Europe and in particular from Szolnok.

In 2002, the people of Übstadt joined in a major campaign to aid residents of Nünchritz affected by flooding along the River Elbe. Contacts with Szolnok were strengthened in August 2002 when almost 100 Übstadt people made the trip there. The municipality also organised a concert at which Montbard was represented by its "Chorale de l'Aubespain". School links were highlighted during the year when Stettfeld Primary School was awarded a prize by the Stuttgart-based Robert Koch Foundation for its commitment to Europe, and a further award for its "Learn your neighbour's language" project. Übstadt's schools were also involved in marking the golden jubilee of the Federal State of Baden-Württemberg, with 1200 pupils taking part in an art competition.

GERMANY (continued)

UBSTADT-WEIHER (continued)

Übstadt is pursuing its policy of offering training placements and next year plans to host a trainee from Szolnok.

If the presentation of the Flag of Honour in 2003 was to be considered as the most important event of the year, the municipality pursued its twinning activities : invitation extended to delegations of all twin cities for the ceremony of presentation of the Flag of Honour, participation of 13 young people from Montbard in the carnival of Übstadt, French courses given free of charge to 20 young people, traineeship and for the first time visit of a school class to the municipality of Szolnok.

Contacts with the twinning partners varied widely in 2004. Under the link with **Montbard** a delegation visited the regional fair there, a tennis squad from Montbard was hosted in Übstadt, the work of painters from Übstadt was exhibited in Montbard, Übstadt provided two placements for French trainees and there was a joint grape-picking event with a Montbard school which had received a gift of vines from Übstadt a few years previously. Activities with Szolnok included inter-school exchanges and a trip by a soccer team to Szolnok.

The year 2005 saw more or less the same types of events as the previous year: participation in the Montbard regional fair, visit by members of the tennis club to Montbard, participation by 20 young people in the project "Learn your neighbour's language", and participation by a Montbard delegation in the Übstadt street festival. However, the highlight of the year was the visit to Montbard by an Übstadt delegation made up of officials and representatives of associations and schools. Schoolchildren from Übstadt visited Szolnok under the twinning arrangement with that town, and Übstadt celebrated its oldest twinning, with Nünchritz in Saxony, in the latter town.

It should be noted that the municipality organised a marathon with neighbouring towns and villages, with the participation of over 1 100 athletes from 17 countries.

Übstadt-Weiher was presented with the Flag of Honour in 2003; there are not enough exchanges to warrant any higher award.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
VERDEN/Aller (Lower Saxony) (Pop. 25 000)	1982	SAUMUR (F)**	1967
	1983	WARWICK (GB)**	1990
	1987	HAVELBERG (former GDR)	1990
	1988 to 1996	ZIELONA GORA (PL)	1993
	1997	GOROWO ILAWECKIE (PL)	1996
	1998	BAGRATIONOWSK (RU)	1996
	1999		
	2000		
	2001		
	2002		
	2003		
	2005		
	<Flag of Honour in 1985>	2006	
<Plaque of Honour in 1993>			

While the initial contacts between Saumur and Verden were aimed at improving Franco-German relations, the prime motivation was their mutual interest in horses, each town rating as the equestrian capital of its country.

School exchanges between Saumur and Verden have of course always been a major feature of relations between the towns, and have benefited several thousand pupils, but at a very early stage sports exchanges also developed, with athletes from the two towns meeting annually for competitions. In the cultural field, music has always been Verden's emissary and the twinning has produced several choirs. Furthermore, various professions including police officers, fire fighters, railway staff, and Red Cross workers have taken advantage of the opportunity to meet their foreign counterparts. Since 1990 each of the two municipalities makes five jobs available to young people from the other town for a period of one month. The annual exchange of municipal officials of the two towns also very successful.

To strengthen their links, in 1987, the two towns produced a twin town passport which gives citizens from each town free entry to several of the towns' facilities. A twinning committee set up in 1992 facilitates contacts, organises language lessons and study visits. Every week Saumur and Verden exchange their weekly newspapers.

Among the most significant events of the twinning are the relay race run in 1985 between the two towns, Verden's thousandth anniversary celebrations the same year, to which many Saumur people were invited, the ceremonies for the presentation of the Flag of Honour to Verden in 1985 and to Saumur in 1987, and the lavishly celebrated 25th anniversary of the twinning in 1992.

In 1976 Saumur undertook to twin with the English town of Warwick. In 1990 Verden followed suit and completed the triangle by signing the twinning agreement with Warwick. A twinning committee was immediately set up and the first school exchanges and trainee placements followed.

In September 1991 Saumur for its part signed a friendship agreement with Havelberg, Verden's German sister town, and contacts quickly grew up between residents, associations, etc.

After several years of close contacts, mainly through youth exchanges, sports meetings and cultural events, Verden has just been twinned with the Polish town of Gorowo Ilaweckie and the Russian town of Bagrationowsk (1996) in the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad. In fact, not only the municipality of Verden but also the Verden District and the "Kreisgemeinschaft" of.

GERMANY (continued)

VERDEN (continued)

Preussisch Eylau, which has its administrative centre in Verden, are twinned with these two towns.

The official visits which strengthen the links with the twin towns are a regular feature, with an annual meeting of representatives of Saumur, Warwick and Havelberg.

In 1997, Verden celebrated the 30th anniversary of its twinning with Saumur and it also attended the ceremony of the 20th anniversary of twinning between Warwick and Saumur and the signature of a friendship pact between Warwick and Havelberg, whose first contacts had been initiated by Verden.

In the context of the seminars organised in turn by each twin town, it was in Warwick that the representatives of the four twinning committees met in 1997 to discuss joint projects. The provision of municipal summer jobs in Saumur and Verden again permitted a number of young people to have the benefit of practical training in the municipal services, but it is above all school exchanges that led to the greatest number of contacts between all the towns.

In 1998 Verden sent several of its official representatives to Gorowo and Bagrationowsk for the Town Festival and the meeting of twin towns, the celebrations for the 30th anniversary of twinning with Saumur held in Saumur and the festivities for the 1050th anniversary of the foundation of the twin town of Havelberg.

Farming seminars were organised with Gorowo, general seminars were held with representatives of the Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce, and the town of Verden took part in the Twin Towns Forum in Zielona Gora.

The most operational projects include the municipal summer jobs provided alternately by Saumur and Verden and exchanges of municipal employees between the two towns.

Under the Comenius project, two youth workers from each of Saumur, Warwick and Verden met up to exchange experience.

18 school exchanges were held and several practical courses were provided in Verden and Saumur.

The youth encounters included the football tournament in Verden involving teams from Havelberg, Zielona Gora and Gorowo. However, there were also many other encounters such as delegation visits to Saumur, art exhibitions and concerts by Verden choirs and singers in Saumur, etc.

The list of exchanges in 1999 bears witness to the vitality of the twinings. As always, numerous meetings of official delegations, especially with the two Polish twin towns, seminars some of which involved all the twin towns, exchanges of municipal officials between Saumur and Verdun, numerous school exchanges, etc were all on the programme.

In 2000 the exchange programme was equally impressive. The numerous encounters included the simultaneous celebration of the 10th anniversaries of the twinings with Havelberg and Warwick, for which all the twin towns sent delegations to Verden.

GERMANY (continued)

VERDEN (continued)

As in previous years, Verden also invited officials from the town of Saumur. Its other activities include accommodating schoolchildren, including a group of 120 from Saumur, in families, provided work experience in local firms, organised an encounter with Polish and Russian young people, organised an exhibition of artists from Havelberg, Saumur, Zielona Gora and Bagrationowsk and organised 11 convoys supplying equipment to Zielona Gora.

Judging by the report on activities conducted in 2001, Verden appears to have maintained a steady flow of school exchanges, youth exchanges and exchanges between local government officials, doctors, etc. as well as humanitarian convoys (12 in total) to the Polish town of Zielona Gora.

Verden's file on twinning activities in 2002 is well presented, as always, and includes many press cuttings, highlighting:

- numerous delegation visits – by representatives of the four twinned towns to an environmental seminar in Warwick; to Gorowo's municipal festival; to sign a cooperation agreement with the new district of Bartoszyce, of which Gorowo town is a part; and to attend a forum in Zielona Gora;
- organisation of (or involvement in) numerous seminars, including one in Verden for police officers and fire fighters from Gorowo and Bartoszyce;
- traditional inter-school exchanges, notably with Saumur, Zielona Gora and Lorca (E);
- a scheme to place trainees with companies in Verden;
- youth encounters, including one held in Verden in July which involved 30 young people from Gorowo and Bagrationowsk.
- many international events, including an exhibition by painters from Zielona Gora and Saumur; contacts between the Saumur and Verden riding schools; a visit by 70 young Poles to take part in sports events in Verden; organisation of the world dressage championships in August; a performance by a choir from Saumur as part of Verden's series of summer concerts; and the appearance of a jazz group from Verden at Zielona Gora's traditional wine festival; celebrations to mark 10 years of twinning with Saumur; and the ceremony for the award of the Europe Prize in recognition of a village restoration scheme organised by Verden..

Verden continues to provide financial support for students of German in Zielona Gora. Since 1995 its efforts have enabled 32 students to spend a semester abroad. In February the 150th aid convoy reached Zielona Gora bringing supplies to the poorest sections of the population. Verden also mounted a major campaign, which raised € 10 000, to help its twinned town of Havelberg with recovery operations after flooding. Exchanges of information between Verden and Saumur through the local newspapers are ongoing and the two towns continue to offer one another's residents a "friendship passport" entitling them to reductions at municipal facilities.

GERMANY (continued)

VERDEN (continued)

The report for 2004 highlights various twinning activities.

- a) Visits by official delegations: A delegation from Verden attended Gorowo's 13th municipal festival in the company of representatives from the police and fire service, both of which work closely with their Polish counterparts. A Russian delegation from Bagrationowsk was also involved in the meetings. Verden participated in Zielona Gora's annual wine festival, and delegations from Gorowo and Bagrationowsk attended the traditional Preussisch-Eylau encounter.
- b) Seminars, lectures and meetings on special themes: The German-Polish Friendship Society organised a number of lectures on the theme of Poland's accession to the European Union. An exhibition of photographs by eight amateur photographers from Verden was staged in Saumur. Evening classes in German and basic skills were provided for foreign women with a view to helping them find work.
- c) Inter-school exchanges: Exchange programmes for schools have been developed with all the twinning partners, and a number of students were enabled to spend an entire school year in Verden, which also hosted several trainees in local companies.
- d) Youth encounters: Verden welcomed handball players from Gorowo and a group of young people from Belarus, and also hosted a large gathering of young Poles, Russians and Germans.
- e) Other meetings: Verden has a well regarded riding school which is attended each year by riders from all over Europe and as far afield as Japan, Canada and South Africa. A delegation from Verden attended the opening of Zielona Gora's concert hall, and Verden's wind band took part in a festival in Saumur. A 40-strong delegation travelled to Havelberg to celebrate German Reunification Day. Groups of walkers from Verden and Saumur came together for a walk across the Vosges. A delegation including farmers and police officers from Gorowo and the surrounding district of Bartoszyce visited the Verden district.

As happens every year, aid convoys were sent to Zielona Gora and the Voivodship of Lubusk. Since 1989, 175 such convoys have contributed to social provision in the twinned region. Two Verden residents also organise convoys to Bulgaria: in 2004 they despatched their 10th such mission.

A wide variety of events were again held in 2005:

1. an encounter of official delegations for the municipal festivals, often attended by the Mayor and a large delegation; in October Saumur invited Warwick, Havelberg and Verden to a “four-way encounter” to discuss the voluntary association sector. The next encounter of this type will be in 2007 in Verden, which will be simultaneously celebrating the 40th anniversary of its twinning with Saumur;
2. joint projects which are often implemented with EU support and attract partners from other European countries;
3. frequent school exchanges with Saumur (contacts have been going on for 30 years now with a secondary school in Saumur, and have involved a total of almost 1 700 Verden students over the years) and Zielona Gora;
4. traineeship periods in enterprises in Verden and Saumur, and such youth visits as the 15th Verden International Youth Encounter, the Preussisch-Eylau *Kreisgemeinschaft* involving young people from Gorowo and Bagrationowsk, and the youth camp attended by almost 30 young people of 7 nationalities as part of the “military cemetery upkeep” operation;

GERMANY (continued)

VERDEN (continued)

5. cultural events: photographic exhibitions of the first running race by 38 athletes from Verden who visited Saumur in 1985, concerts by a Verden music group at the Zielona Gora wine festival, and a concert by the Verden Cathedral Choir in Saumur;

6. professional exchanges, eg those that have been going on for 16 years among doctors, dentists and pharmacists from Verden, Saumur and Warwick, who meet twice a year, or the contacts between the Verden, Bartoszyce and Gorowo Ilaweckie fire brigades;

7. such major events as German Unity Day, when Verden takes in groups of visitors from a selected twin town; in 2005 50 persons from Havelberg travelled to Verden. On the latter occasion the 15th anniversary of the Verden-Havelberg twinning was celebrated with members of the Saumur Twinning Committee.

The town of Verden provides financial support for students from the town of Zielona Gora studying German language and culture at the University of Vechta. This system was introduced in 1995, and has so far enabled 36 students to take courses aboard.

As always, the Verden Germano-Polish Society organised several humanitarian convoys to the Zielona Gora region and the Lubusk voivodship.

Very sound report. Example of a successful twinning with Saumur, mainly comprising youth and school exchanges. To be considered for the Europe Prize.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
WALTENHOFEN	1995	PLABENNEC (F)	1976
(Bavaria)	1997		
(Pop. 8 000)	1998		
	1999		
	2000		
	2001		
	2002		
<European Diploma 1995>	2003		
<Flag of Honour in 2000>	2004, 2005, 2006		

The first youth exchanges with Plabennec date back to 1966 and have continued uninterrupted. These were followed by visits by large delegations approximately every five years, and exchanges between adults and school exchanges. The municipality puts an emphasis on contacts between associations (choirs, sports associations) and professional exchanges (between craft workers, farmers, engineers) and trainee placements in the hotel trade. For the first time, thanks to its twinning committee, it took part in an aid and cooperation programme between two schools for disabled children in Plabennec and Kempten (close to Waltenhofen).

In order to publicise their twin towns, both Waltenhofen and Plabennec have organised folk evenings which have proved very popular (attended by over 600 people in Plabennec), sports meetings, concerts, presentations in schools, promotions of local produce and relay races between the two municipalities.

Four or five meetings (schools, fire fighters and delegations) enable contact to be maintained. 1997 saw the festivities for the 20th anniversary of the twinning agreement. Over 180 inhabitants of Waltenhofen visited Plabennec for the celebrations.

In 1998 the music associations had many contacts with other countries (Austria, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Poland).

In 1999 Waltenhofen placed the emphasis on training courses, sending a group of schoolchildren to Plabennec. It continued its contacts with other European countries through its sports clubs, fire brigades and brass bands.

Two significant events in 2000: a week's visit by a 150-strong delegation from Plabennec, for which a very busy programme had been prepared, and presentation of the Flag of Honour, attended by some thirty inhabitants of Plabennec.

School exchanges, private visits and, in particular, a major one-week trip by local residents from Waltenhofen to Plabennec made up the bulk of exchanges in 2001.

=The emphasis in 2002 was on inter-family exchanges between Waltenhofen and Plabennec. However Waltenhofen also hosted the week-long visit of a 70-strong delegation from Plabennec, laying on a busy programme of festivities.

In 2003 two visits were arranged – for school students and an adult group – the visitors staying with local families in each case, and the 37-year-old twinning link was also reinforced by a number of privately organised visits.

In 2004 Waltenhofen again welcomed a large Breton delegation (103 visitors) for winter sports. Other exchanges were mostly private but Waltenhofen's choir also paid a visit to the Tyrol.

The 2005 exchanges included a visit by schoolchildren from Plabennec to Waltenhofen, a visit to Plabennec by a group of adults, a visit by a group of Breton dancers to Waltenhofen, traineeships for four French youngsters in Waltenhofen enterprises, and several private visits.

A very full file gives an excellent account of the twinning right from the beginning.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
WEINSTADT	1999	PARTHENAY (F)	1980
(Baden-Württemberg)	2002	MIEDZYCHOD (PL)	1990
(Pop. 21 000)	2005		
	2006		

<European Diploma in 1999>

<Flag of Honour in 2002>

- In 1996 Weinstadt signed a friendship pact to extend its contacts with the towns twinned with Parthenay: ABRANTES (P), ARNEDO (E) and TIPPERARY (Irl).
- With its twin towns, Weinstadt has developed school exchanges, meetings between members of the twinning committee, cultural events (concerts, exhibitions), sports meetings (relay race between the two towns), placement of trainees in enterprises and of au pair girls.
- The “Youth for Europe” project organised in 1998 by Weinstadt brought together 42 young people from the twin and other towns for two weeks and was a great success.
- The twinning anniversaries are the occasion for bringing together people from all the twin and friendly towns (over 450 people for the 10th anniversary).
- The two twin towns also participate every two years in the big Bacchus Festival organised in Weinstadt.
- In 1994 Weinstadt received, with its twin and friend towns, the “Twinning gold stars” awarded by the European Union.
- While 2000 was marked above all by twinning anniversary celebrations (20 years with Parthenay and 10 years with Miedzychod), 2001 was a year of exchanges: the music festival for young people at Weinstadt, a jazz concert, school exchanges, participation in the 10th anniversary celebration of the twinning between Arnedo and Parthenay and celebration of the 10th anniversary of the twinning with Miedzychod. Exchanges between senior citizens and fire brigades and au pair placements also strengthened the ties. Two twinning committees watch over the exchanges.

Since the celebrations to mark receipt of the Flag of Honour in 2002, Weinstadt's twinning activities have focused on young people: local companies have provided training placements and the municipality has taken part in or organised youth visits, particularly inter-school exchanges.

Twinning anniversaries were celebrated in 2005:

- 25th anniversary of the twinning with Parthenay in the latter town, coinciding with the trade fair, to which Weinstadt had invited craft workers, musicians and dancers;
- 15th anniversary with Miedzychod during the Agricultural Fair in that town.

However, Weinstadt is also preparing to host celebrations for the 25th anniversary with Parthenay in May 2006, to which it has invited over 100 foreign visitors.

Sound twinning processes, but nothing really outstanding, and the Flag of Honour was presented fairly recently.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with :	Since:
WETTENBERG	1994	SORGUES (F)	1972
(Hesse)	1996	TÖK/ZSAMBEK (H)	1988
	2004		
	2005		
	2006		

<European diploma in 1994>

<Flag of Honour in 1997>

1. With Zsambek there have been exchanges for young people, school students and senior citizens, celebrations to mark twinning anniversaries (the 10th in 1998 and the 15th in 2003), and a number of aid convoys have been sent to Hungary. A special project in 2003 was the staging in Zsambek of a seminar on the European Union, the first such event to have been organised jointly by a German and a Hungarian municipality.

Over the last three years Wettenberg has subsidised the renovation of a nursery school and a cultural centre in Tök, and a welfare office in Zsambek as well as the reconstruction of Zsambek's Catholic church following a fire.

2. The twinning with Sorgues goes back to 1972. Activities have included school exchanges, exhibitions by artists from the two municipalities, participation in local fairs and senior citizens' gatherings as well as large-scale events to mark anniversaries of the twinning. The 30th anniversary was celebrated in 2002/2003. The successful "Ghost train" project in 2003 provided an opportunity for dialogue between people who had witnessed the Second World War and members of the younger generation.

The report on twinning activity in 2004 highlights a variety of exchanges.

- a) A delegation from Wettenberg attended a ceremony held in Sorgues to commemorate people deported to concentration camps, and there were also various cultural contacts between clubs in the two municipalities. Thirty-five dancers from Sorgues attended a rock festival in Wettenberg, while the 17th senior citizens' gathering was held in Sorgues. The two municipalities are supporting an EU-funded project to help the town of Lamphun in Thailand under the auspices of the "Integrated Urban Environment Management Plan".
- b) After the destruction of Zsambek's teacher training college in a fire, Wettenberg supported the reconstruction effort with a financial contribution and also sent practical help and took part in fund-raising.
- c) In Tök, Wettenberg is supporting the construction of a cultural centre and supplying equipment for it.

Delegations from the three twinning partners again attended Wettenberg's Krämermarkt festival, and a contingent of more than 100 Wettenberg residents travelled to Zsambek to celebrate the 15th anniversary of that twinning.

GERMANY (continued)

WETTENBERG (continued)

In 2005, Wettenberg's twinning activities included:

- celebration of Franco-German Day with Sorgues in the presence of the Hesse *Land* Minister for Foreign Affairs, and signature of a secondary school co-operation agreement to support the teaching of French;
- visit by members of the Sorgues Twinning Committee and delegations from two Hungarian twin towns to take part in the traditional municipal market (*Krämermarkt*) and the ceremony to commemorate the end of World War II;
- sending of a 150-strong delegation to take part in the events to commemorate the end of World War II in Sorgues;
- encounter of senior citizens from Wettenberg and Sorgues
- continuation of the co-operation programme in the environmental field with the town of Lamphun in Thailand;
- Seminar in Wettenberg for the Hungarian twin towns, attended by mayors and municipal employees from both municipalities.

After a long silence, Wettenberg applied again in 2004 to be considered for the higher award. It will have to wait a little longer.

GERMANY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
WETZLAR (Hesse) (Pop. 50 000)	1965	BERLIN-NEUKÖLLN (D)****	1959
	1975	AVIGNON (F)****	1960
	1986 to 1999	COLCHESTER (GB)	1969
	2000	SCHLADMING (A)***	1974
	2001	REITH/Kitzbühel (A)	1976
	2002	SIENA (I)	1987
	2003	ILLMENAU (former GDR)	1990
	2004		
	2005		
	2006		

<Flag of Honour in 1964>

<Plaque of Honour in 1990>

This picturesque town in Hesse, once an imperial city and home to Goethe, underwent major industrial development at the end of the last century. It now has a population of some 50 000.

Although the reports for 1986 and 1987 were still rather disappointing for a town with so many twinning arrangements, more recent reports indicate a great variety of exchanges with all its twin towns involving all layers of society. These exchanges are sustained and developed by the different associations based in Wetzlar, which cover each country concerned (e.g. Deutsch-Englische Gesellschaft Wetzlar). They act in the stead of the twinning committee, directly fostering cultural, economic and political exchanges between Wetzlar and its twin towns. To promote the language and culture of each twin town, these associations hold lectures, debates, concerts, exhibitions and trips to the twin town concerned.

School twinning arrangements have also been concluded between Wetzlar and certain twin towns, and also in Hungary, the USA and Russia.

In addition to school exchanges, there are also guest delegations at local festivals (carnival and wine festival in Wetzlar), music events, some featuring orchestras from several twin towns, sports events and above all the participation of sizeable delegations from each twin town in twinning anniversaries, which strengthen bonds of friendship. To encourage exchanges, the municipality of Wetzlar subsidises trips to the various twin towns.

Wetzlar has also developed several twinings with the Third World:

- Dori (Burkina Faso) in 1975, with the construction of a school and the equipment of a hospital
- Cardenas in Nicaragua
- Sumatra, with financial support for a hospital
- Burkina Faso with the Tikato project.

1995 provided an occasion to celebrate the 35th anniversary of twinning between Wetzlar and Avignon in both towns, and the 5th anniversary of twinning with Illmenau was also celebrated in Illmenau.

School exchanges were once again on the programme for Wetzlar's exchanges with its twin towns in 1996. But this year was also an opportunity to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the twinning with Garbenheim, at present attached to Wetzlar, and the Austrian town of Reith. More than 400 people celebrated this event in October. Other international meetings were held in 1996: the celebration of 5 May, a meeting of young people from all of Wetzlar's twin towns to take part in the study days for young people devoted this year to the environment, and the Europe Festival organised every year by the Wetzlar Cultural Institute.

GERMANY (continued)

WETZLAR (continued)

In 1997, the accent was on celebrating the 10th anniversary of twinning with Sienna. Delegations from all the twin towns and the Cultural Office of Wetzlar and the Europa Union took part in the associated events, with art exhibitions, concerts etc. Ceremonies were also held in Sienna in November 1997 and over 450 Wetzlar people were present.

Among the highlights of the meetings were:

- the celebration of Europe Day, which coincided with the Wetzlar-Sienna twinning ceremonies;
 - the traditional "Ox Festival" in Wetzlar in July and the participation of Wetzlar in Avignon's Spring Fair;
 - the traditional annual meeting of young people from all the twin towns in Wetzlar
- and, of course, the many school exchanges which favour the establishment of close links between families.

In 1998 Wetzlar took part in many events organised by its twin towns, primarily Colchester, Illmenau and Avignon, and received several school and sports groups.

The more salient exchanges in the very active 1999 programme were:

- celebration of the 40th anniversary of twinning with Berlin-Neukölln
- inauguration of an exhibition in Wetzlar by artists from Colchester, on the occasion of the 30th twinning anniversary
- three-day celebration of three twinning anniversaries (40 years with Berlin-Neukölln, 30 years with Colchester and 25 years with Schladming)
- organisation of a 10-day international youth workshop to which young people from all the twin towns were invited. Organisation and accommodation were laid on by the town of Wetzlar
- 500 Wetzlar people went to Schladming on the occasion of the 25th twinning anniversary
- 150 Wetzlar people went to Colchester for the 30th twinning anniversary.

As in previous years, exchanges in 2000 mainly concerned the towns of Avignon and Colchester. All strata of the populations were involved, and the twinning anniversaries (40 years with Avignon and 10 with Illmenau) again attracted large delegations, with, for instance, 100 inhabitants of Wetzlar travelling to Avignon.

The twinning committees meet once a year to prepare the major forthcoming events; a large co-ordinating meeting was held in Avignon to prepare the 40th twinning anniversary and the conference attended by senior citizens from all the twin towns on the theme of "the senior citizens' contribution to twinning activities".

Twinning activities were less numerous in 2001 than in previous years and were centred mainly on young people. A scheme entitled "Young Ambassadors" is currently being considered. The idea is to send young people from Wetzlar to the seven twin towns over the next two to three years, so that they can find out more about the various organisations and institutions concerned with youth.

The 5 May festival was also devoted to young people and Wetzlar celebrated the 25th anniversary of its twinning with Reith in style.

In 2002 the emphasis was on visits by Wetzlar delegations to the twinned towns:

- to Avignon for a spring fair involving all the twinning partners, a concert given by the choirs of Nauborn, Avignon and Wetzlar, the Whitsun festival and the 30th anniversary of the Colchester-Avignon twinning;

GERMANY (continued)

WETZLAR (continued)

- to Colchester for a European youth games involving all the twinned towns and for events to mark the 30th anniversary of the Colchester-Avignon twinning;
- to Kitzbühel for the traditional ski trip and to take part in a music festival and musical evening;
- to Siena to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Wetzlar-Siena twinning.

For its part, Wetzlar hosted an Avignon delegation at its carnival; took part in a conference on Anglo-German twinning, held in Brussels; staged an exhibition of photographs of its twinned town of Siena; organised celebrations for the 15th anniversary of the link with Siena; and invited all its twinning partners to a "summer wine night".

In 2003 Wetzlar again organised several large-scale encounters with its twin towns:

- a seminar and exhibition to mark the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Franco-German Treaty;
- Wetzlar's traditional "Culture Days", which were part of a major summer festival, attended by delegations from all the twinned towns;
- the agricultural fair.

Wetzlar also hosted a large group of elderly people from Avignon for a three-day programme, financed the visit of a choir to Colchester and organised an exhibition of artists from Illmenau and Wetzlar.

Initial contacts were made with the Czech town of Pisek as Wetzlar is keen to twin with a municipality in Eastern Europe.

In 2004 Wetzlar celebrated three twinning anniversaries. To mark 30 years of its link with Schladming it hosted a major evening event for several hundred people. The other two anniversaries were celebrated as part of the town's European Civic Festival which lasted for three days and to which representatives of all the twinning partners were invited. Events included a joint conference, youth workshops, sports and many open-air activities. As in previous years, the twinning associations got together for the traditional cultural festival, and representatives of Avignon, Colchester and Siena attended Wetzlar's summer festival. A fact-finding visit was made to the Czech municipality of Pisek to develop contacts there.

The highlights of the 2005 twinning activities in Wetzlar included:

- celebration in Avignon of the 45th anniversary of the twinning of Wetzlar and this French town;
- the traditional international cultural festival attended by all the bodies responsible for twinings in all the towns involved;
- double twinning anniversary in Wetzlar: 45 years with Avignon and 15 with Ilmenau, to which Wetzlar invited 150 guests for 5 days of events;
- participation by the towns of Avignon, Colchester and Sienna in the traditional summer festival, which coincided with the 40th anniversary of the Germano-British Society;
- the European youth camp attended by 140 young people from all over Europe;
- joint concert in the Cathedral by the Witebsk and Wetzlar choirs.

A total of some forty exchanges took place with the twin and partner towns (Pisek).

Highly commendable twinning activities, especially as the town has been sending in very regular reports since the presentation of the Plaque of Honour in 1990. Eligible for the Europe Prize.

HUNGARY

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
JASZBERENY	1999	CONSELVE (I)	1991
(90 km from Budapest)	2000	VECHTA (D)	1994
(Jasz-Nagykun-Szolnok District)	2001	SUCHA BESKIDZKA (PL)	2004
(Pop. 30 000)	2002		
	2003		
	2004		
<Flag of Honour in 1999>	2005		
<Plaque of Honour in 2003>	2006		

Jaszbereny is also twinned with SEDALIA (USA) and YAZD in Iran.

1. With Conselve contacts have developed between local government officers and between the schools of the two towns. Each year delegations from Jaszbereny participate in the St Agostio Cultural Festival in Conselve, while Conselve is represented in the events held in Jaszbereny: “Summer in Jaszbereny” and Folk Festival of European Minorities, as well as “Jasz Expo”.

The most important contacts however are made through the Chambers of Commerce, with exchanges of experience, participation in trade fairs and even the creation of a joint venture.

2. With Vechta the contacts are extremely diversified. On the occasion of the twinning a foundation was created to finance exchange programmes and foreign language study. A very dense network of contacts has developed between the different schools, with exchanges virtually every month. The contacts between Chambers of Commerce are also flourishing, as are economic and cultural contacts.

3. With Sedalia (USA): despite the distance between the two towns, contacts are becoming increasingly diversified.

4. With Yazd exchanges are mainly commercial and industrial.

- Since 1991 the Teacher Training Institute and the primary schools attached to it have had contacts with their counterparts in Linz (A), in the form of regular exchanges of both students and teachers.

- There are also exchanges of teachers and students of the Training Institute with VECHTA (D) and ANGERS (F); thus students and teachers from the three towns meet annually for three days to compare the education systems of the three countries.

- For the past five years the Institute has also been training Hungarian teachers in the Romanian town of Csikszereda and awarding a Diploma valid in both Hungary and Romania, which permits them to preserve the Hungarian language in regions of Romania that were formerly Hungarian.

- 5 primary schools are twinned with Romanian and Ukrainian schools.

- International relations are not limited to the twinned towns, however, but also extend to other towns and regions inhabited by Hungarian minorities.

-The Folk Festival held jointly with the Conference of European Minorities since 1991 is most successful; over 10 000 people, above all young people, have participated.

-The “Jasz Expo” international exhibition and fair is an occasion to present both local and foreign products.

- Among the sporting events, “Summer in Jaszbereny” brings together youth football teams from several countries. Jaszbereny also participates in the big “Challenge” sports event organised by the Comitát.

HUNGARY (continued)

JASZBERENY (continued)

In 1999 school and university exchanges continued. To date, the town calculates that upwards of 2 000 young people and 150 teachers have visited the twin towns. But the two most important events, as every year, were "Summer in Jaszbereny" and the "Conference and Folk

Festival of European Minorities". It was on this occasion that the Council of Europe Flag of Honour was awarded. These events attracted more than 40 000 visitors.

As in the past, several schools used their school twinnings in 2000 to send young people to Vechta, Conselve and Lohne. Jas. Also took in two school groups from Vechta.

The "Jaszbereny Summer" festival attracts a large number of folk groups, and this year was attended by artists from 10 different countries and guests from all the twin towns. Jas. is proud of the successes of its young people in various sports events abroad.

A European Club was opened in Jasz. at the end of 1999. Politicians and renowned scientists are invited once a month to present statements on Europe.

As the 2001 activity report shows, Jaszbereny has managed to maintain close contacts with its two twin towns through:

- exchanges between primary and secondary schools and even nursery schools, but mainly with Vechta
- exchanges between music schools: 32 music college students and 14 teachers travelled to Vechta to celebrate the 30th anniversary of their twinning
- exchanges between choirs
- the major public festivals in which delegations from the twin towns always take part, such as "The Town Festival", "Jaszbereny Summer Festival" and the Folk Festival which attracted nearly 65 000 visitors.

There was a particularly rich programme of exchanges in 2002 especially with the German town of VECHTA .

- Inter-school exchanges between Jaszbereny and Vechta function particularly well: they involve a number of schools, and several joint projects that also include Polish and Portuguese schools have been initiated under the EU's Socrates/Comenius programme. The cooperation – dating back in some cases more than a decade – takes the form of trips by young people to the twinned towns, and meetings between teachers.
- Three-way cooperation has been established between Vechta, Angers (F) and Jaszbereny, and a seminar involving teachers and pupils from the three towns was held in Jaszbereny.
- The choirs of the two municipalities are in contact – and Jaszbereny's choir also has links with Greek and Portuguese counterparts.
- Contacts between fire fighters were strengthened with celebrations to mark the 125th jubilee of the fire brigade in Jaszbereny.
- Farmers from Jaszbereny and Vechta have held a further meeting and a joint seminar.

Jaszbereny is preparing the local community for Hungary's forthcoming accession to the EU and, through its Europe Clubs, has organised a whole series of talks on European themes. With the local European Integration Office it organised an international seminar on twinning, in which its partner towns were involved.

HUNGARY (continued)

JASZBERENY (continued)

Regular annual events – the "Jaszbereny Summer", a trade fair, the Csango festival and a festival of European minority folklore – continue to attract visitors from Hungary and neighbouring countries.

There were two particularly notable events in 2003:

- presentation of the Plaque of Honour during the 13th "Jaszbereny Summer" festival, which lasted over a fortnight and attracted more than 100 000 visitors.
- the 10th anniversary of the twinning with the German town of Vechta, which was marked by four days of festivities in Jaszbereny.

Major events in 2004 included:

- celebrations in Vechta in May, attended by a group of more than 100 Hungarians, to mark the 10th anniversary of the twinning – with a walking race between the two towns;
- the twinning with Sucha Beskidzka in Poland;
- the "Jaszbereny Summer" festival, held at the same time as the Jasz Expo fair, which attracted thousands of visitors;
- participation by Jaszbereny in a "Folk Olympics" launched in Pecs and involving more than 2 500 dancers from 85 countries in a tour of 13 Hungarian towns including Jaszbereny;
- contacts with the French town of Vernouillet with a view to twinning in 2005.

In 2005 Jaszbereny maintained contacts with its twin towns, including the following activities:

- a 7-strong official delegation and a dance troupe visited Sucha Beskidzka (PL) for the town's 600th anniversary;
- ten schoolchildren took part in an international summer camp in Vernouillet (F);
- all the twin towns were once again represented at the annual Jaszbereny Summer Days event;
- an official delegation attended the St Augustine Festival in Conselve (I), with a concurrent conference on disability attended by experts from Jaszbereny;
- the new Mayor of Vechta paid a three-day visit to Jaszbereny to discuss the possibilities for further intensifying the twinning activities;
- a Ukrainian delegation from Lviv and Donyec visited Jaszbereny to discuss possible co-operation;
- many schools have contacts and organise exchanges with their opposite numbers in the twin and partner towns;
- the respective schools of music conducted teacher exchanges;
- the Vechta fire brigade and the Conselve police department visited their opposite numbers in Jaszbereny.

An active municipality which was awarded the Flag of Honour in 1999 and the Plaque of Honour recently.

HUNGARY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
KISKUNFELEGYHAZA	1999	BRAUNFELS (D)****	1992
(Bacs-Kiskun District)	2000	KJELLERUP (DK)	1998
(100 km south of Budapest)	2001	KOROND (RO)	1993
(Pop. 35 000)	2004	DIE (F)	2000
	2005	SEGESVAR (RO)	2001
	2006		

<European Diploma in 1999>

<Flag of Honour in 2001>

1. With Braunfels, school exchanges since 1994, organisation of an annual international youth camp in Kiskunfelegyhaza since 1994, art exhibitions in the two towns, concerts, conferences including that held each year in Kiskunfelegyhaza as well as the conference on contacts between twin towns held in Kiskunfelegyhaza in 1998. Participation of delegations from Kiskunfelegyhaza in the festivals of the twin towns and study visits to Germany.
2. With Kjellerup, the twinning is very recent (1998); it was followed by the creation of a Danish-Hungarian Friendship Society. Organisation of school exchanges, meetings between professionals (music teachers, social workers), organisation of an international youth camp, contacts with the Cultural Institute of Kecskemet.
3. With Korond (Romania) annual participation in the Korond craft fair, annual visits of delegations from each town, organisation of the Kiskunfelegyhaza football cup competition.
4. Twinning contacts with Die (F) really took off only in 1993. Delegations of 40-50 residents of the two towns now make annual visits in each direction. In 2003 a 30-strong group from Die took part in Kiskunfelegyhaza's civic festival.

Kiskunfelegyhaza also has regular contacts:

- in the field of the education with Romania and Ukraine (contacts between kindergartens, between teachers, loan of books, exchanges of correspondence between schools) but also with France, the United Kingdom, Denmark, the Netherlands, Japan, Austria and Germany.
- in the cultural field, Kiskunfelegyhaza has organised several art exhibitions in Braunfels, a municipal delegation participates annually in the Korond Pottery Fair, concerts are regularly organised with foreign orchestras.

Several local bodies facilitate contacts with other countries:

- the Hungarian pan-European Committee contributes financially to events and helps with their organisation
- the European Information Centre created in 1998, which provides a link with the European Commission
- "Youth for Europe": this body pays organisation and travel costs for young people
- the new Cultural Centre which serves as a meeting place for international events
- the Scientific Society for the Advancement of Knowledge (?) which regularly organises conferences (literature, music)...

HUNGARY (continued)

KISKUNFELEGYHAZA (continued)

Kiskunfelegyhaza has taken part in several initiatives to support disaster-stricken areas: Poland in 1998 during the floods, and also areas in Hungary and Ukraine.

Kiskunfelegyhaza and its twin towns were awarded the “Twinning Gold Stars” in 1996.

In 1999 Kiskunfelegyhaza signed a twinning agreement with Kjellerup, took part in several events organised by its twin towns (twinning between Braunfels and Feltre, “Fête de l'Europe” in Bagnols-sur-Cèze and 40th anniversary of the twinning between Braunfels and Bagnols), but the highlight was the Twin Towns Festival, attended by over 200 foreign guests.

As in 1999, Kiskunfelegyhaza attended several events organised by its twin towns: participation in the “Kiscun cup” in Carcaixent, performance of a play at Bagnols-sur-Cèze, attendance by 4 young people at a conference in Eeklo, visit by a delegation to Braunfels for the celebration to mark the 25th anniversary of the twinning between Braunfels and Eeklo. Kiskunfelegyhaza also played host to delegations from its twin towns: it welcomed a French delegation from DIE, hosted an exhibition organised by the Danish Cultural Institute, welcomed a delegation from Kjellerup and, in particular, organised a major wine festival attended by all its twin towns. In addition, it signed a twinning pact with the French town of DIE.

Having been awarded the Flag of Honour in 2001, Kiskunfelegyhaza is now applying for the Plaque of Honour and has submitted an overview of exchange activities with its twinned and associated towns over the last three years.

a) Activities with the twinning partners have included:

- with Braunfels – a town that takes the lead in sustaining what is a very successful twinning – an annual youth conference, hosted year about by each town;
- with Kjellerup, successful social cooperation;
- with Die, annual trips by groups of 40-50 residents in both directions;
- with Korond, inter-family and sporting contacts for the most part. In 2003 the two towns celebrated the 10th anniversary of their twinning;
- with Segesvar, mainly inter-family contacts.

b) Activities with other associate towns have included:

- excellent and varied contacts with Feltre, especially for sporting encounters. The two towns plan to twin in 2005;
- with Bagnols-sur-Cèze, an exhibition of work by Hungarian painters, and soccer tournaments;
- invitations to many events in Carcaixent. Because of the distance involved, Kiskunfelegyhaza cannot accept them all;
- a declining level of contact with Newbury;
- recent contacts with Rhormoos (A) – a town twinned with Braunfels. An exhibition about Rhormoos has been held in Kiskunfelegyhaza.

HUNGARY (continued)

KISKUNFELEGYHAZA (continued)

While Kiskunfelegyhaza worked to strengthen the ties with its twinning partners in 2004 it also attached importance to developing links in countries that are not yet part of the enlarged EU and informing municipalities there about the benefits, rights and duties that accession entails. Thus it organised meetings with the following towns: Mezövari and Beregszasz in Ukraine, Torda and Mezömadaras in Romania, Korond and Segesvar (with which it is already twinned), Kikinda in Serbia and Montenegro, and Krapina in Croatia. The contacts were facilitated by members of the minority Hungarian communities who live in the areas concerned.

Events held in Kiskunfelegyhaza in 2004 included:

- celebrations to mark Hungary's accession to the EU, attended by the Mayors of Newbury, Braunfels, Rohrmoos, Kjellerup, Carcaixent and Segesvar;
- a Civic Founders' Festival during which information meetings were organised with representatives of Mezövari, Uhroved and Kikinda;
- an "11 September 2001 Marathon" involving, among others, Bacs-Kiskun County fire fighters and representatives of more than 20 municipalities;
- the Gastronomic Festival which brought together representatives of the farming and food processing sectors in the local area and from the twinned towns, and focused on awareness raising about the changes that Hungary's membership of the EU will bring.

Kiskunfelegyhaza also took part in some 15 major gatherings in its twinned and partner towns, including:

- trade fairs in Feltre and Korond;
- sports events in Korond and the Dracula Marathon in Segesvar;
- an international youth conference in Bagnols-sur-Cèze
- meetings of the twinning partners of Eeklo and Feltre

Several major events organised by Kiskunfelegyhaza were attended by representatives of the twin towns:

- 1 to 5 May: the "citizens encounter", which was organised jointly with the town of Tiszaalpar, as attended by delegations from Kjellerup (DK), Tiszaalpar (H), Torda (Ro), Segesvar (Ro) and Kikinda (Serbia and Montenegro), with visits to farms, and exchanges of views on territorial reform and the situation of minorities in the different countries;
- 19 to 23 May: "Kiskunfelegyhaza Founders Day" attended by over 60 participants from Rohrmoos (A), Feltre (I), Braunfels (D), Uhrovec (Sk), Prievidza (Sk), Korond (Ro) Torda (Ro), Sighişoara (Ro), Mezövari (Ukr), Beregszasz (Ukr) and Kikinda (Serbia and Montenegro), together with cultural and educational specialists;
- 7 to 12 September: international conference on the theme of "Preventing and tackling human disasters" attended by representatives from many of the twin towns, followed by a marathon in memory of the firemen who died on 11 September 2001 in New York. Over 500 runners from 13 countries took part in the marathon;
- 4 to 6 November: the meeting of twin towns attended by the mayors of all the twin towns to discuss activities in 2005 and planned activities for 2006.

Kiskunfelegyhaza sent representatives abroad to attend the Youth Camp in Slovakia, the Crafts Fair in Feltre, and the Mediaeval Festival and Youth Camp in Sighişoara.

...

Sound report mentioning several encounters organised by the Town Hall with all the twin towns. Should soon be considered for the Plaque of Honour.

HUNGARY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
KISKUNHALAS	1999	KRONACH (D)**	1995
(Bacs-Kiskun District)	2000	KANJIZA (YU)	1981
(Southern Hungary)	2001	NOWY SACZ (PL)	1994
(Pop. 32 000)	2002	SEPSISZENTGYÖRGY (RO)	1997
	2003	HODMEZÖVASARHELY(H)**	1998
	2004		
	2005		
<European Diploma in 1999>	2006		
<Flag of Honour in 2001>			
<Plaque of honour in 2005>			

Since 1995 Kiskunhalas has developed school exchanges with Kronach, international meetings between students, cycle tours between the two towns and colloquies, exhibitions with its twin towns and since 1998 school exchanges with Nowy Sacz and sports competitions between schools.

Kiskunhalas has cultural, commercial and sporting contacts with towns in Yugoslavia, Ukraine, Latvia, France and Italy.

International events are held annually in Kiskunhalas:

- the wine festival and the folk festival
- international riding competition
- gymnastics competition
- running race.

Among other European events, we would mention:

- international youth meeting in 1996
- trade fairs in 1997 and 1998.

During the town festival that coincides with Europe Day, the twin towns are always present and take the opportunity to present their towns to the people of Kiskunhalas. Thus the town of Kronach organised a "Franconia evening" in 1996 and the town of Nowy Sacz a "Polish evening".

In 1995, the "Free University" was created. This enables citizens to attend many lectures given by leading personalities in Hungarian economic life.

Thanks to the town's financial support, many school contacts have been developed with 5 Hungarian towns, 2 Yugoslav, 5 German, 1 Polish, etc.

Several solidarity actions have helped relieve afflicted populations in Ukraine, Poland and Yugoslavia.

In 1999, as in the past, Kiskunhalas organised events attended by participants from all the twin towns, such as the international youth football tournament, the Municipal Festival, Europe Day, the traditional Grape Harvest Festival and the sports competitions in September.

It also attempted to find new avenues for international cooperation, with encounters between young people from Kiskunhalas and Belgium and an exchange of officials working in the social field with the town of Kronach.

HUNGARY (continued)

KISKUNHALAS (continued)

The many twinning activities of the year 2000 included the celebrations of the two twinning anniversaries (five years): first of all with the German town of Kronach, providing the opportunity for Kiskunhalas to organise a Hungarian week in Kronach (cultural and sporting events), and then with the Polish town of Nowy Sacz to which 60 representatives from Kiskunhalas travelled to present their town at the many cultural and gastronomic events.

There is also a joint operation carried out by three towns: Kiskunhalas is proud to have been involved in the humanitarian action conducted by Kronach for its Yugoslav twin town of Kanjiza.

The twinning activities showed no signs of flagging in 2001 and after winning the Flag of Honour in September, the town has now set its sights on the next prize. Every month, five or six exchanges help to maintain a high level of contact. Kiskunhalas has also signed a cultural cooperation agreement with the town of SUBOTICA (Yugoslavia).

Among the most notable activities were: the events held as part of the “Polish Festival – Introducing Nowy Sacz”, the international football tournament which brought together teams from the twin towns, the numerous school exchanges and the Flag of Honour award ceremony.

As in 2001, Kiskunhalas maintained the pace of exchange activity. While contacts with Kronach focused mainly on the major horticultural exhibition in which Kiskunhalas participated, activities with the other twinned towns ranged widely and included some six to seven exchanges every month.

Schools were particularly active in 2003, stepping up exchange programmes with their counterparts not only in the twinned towns but also elsewhere, notably Szekelyudvarhely (Romania), Neszvady (Slovakia) and Forchheim (Germany), as well as taking part in European activities under the Socrates and Comenius programmes.

A whole series of events was organised for Kiskunhalas' civic day in May and the town was also represented at Kronach's European Music Festival, where its dance troupe and popular music group were very well received. A youth camp on Lake Balaton attracted 40 young people from the twinned towns, and more than 100 young gymnasts from 15 countries took part in a gymnastics tournament. Kiskunhalas was involved in celebrating the 25th anniversary of its twinning with Magyarkanisza and presented that town with a statue to mark the occasion. Once again all the twinned towns took part in a busy programme of events in connection with the traditional grape harvest festival in Kiskunhalas.

Highlights of 2004 were Hungary's accession to the EU and celebrations for two tenth twinning anniversaries (with Kronach and Nowy Sacz). To mark the accession, Kiskunhalas invited delegations from all its twinned municipalities and with them officially opened its "Twinning Park". All the twinning partners were also represented at Kiskunhalas' wine festival in May. Over the last two years special efforts have been made to develop inter-school exchanges.

The presentation of the Plaque of Honour to Kiskunhalas was the main event in **2005**, although many other encounters, at a rate of four or five per month, were aimed at young people, and included school exchanges, school trips, traineeships, and sports competitions such as the International Gymnastics Tournament in May. Official delegations visited the twin town for the major celebrations, and delegations from all the twin towns attended the “Kiskunhalas Municipal Day” in May and the Wine Festival.

Kiskunhalas also signed a cultural co-operation agreement with the Latvian town of Aizkraukle.

Sound, well-documented application. Received the Plaque of Honour in 2005 jointly with its twin town of Kronach.

HUNGARY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
MAKÓ	2002	MIERCUREA CIUC (RO)	1992
(Csongrad County)	2003	ZSELIZ (SK)	1997
(Pop. 52 000)	2004	RADOMSKO (PL)	
	2005	ADA (Serbia and Montenegro)	
<European Diploma in 2002>	2006	JASLO (PL)	
<Flag of Honour in 2003>		LÖBAU (D)	2005
		MARTINSICURO (I)	2005

Located on the border with Romania, Mako has developed its cross-border cooperation with Sannicolau Mare and its environs through a joint cross-border cooperation committee. Several conferences highlighting the extent and scope of the cooperation have been held.

Mako is an essentially agricultural region, well known for its onions, and as such is preparing its farmers for entry into the European Union by organising conferences over a two-year period in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture. Similar initiatives have been taken by the “Maros Business Club” to prepare local firms but also those in neighbouring Romania and Yugoslavia for EU membership. Mako is thus a key player in relations between Romania and Hungary.

1. Contacts with MIERCUREA CIUC: the first contacts, between schools, date back to 1974. Since 1992 a delegation from Mako has participated every year in the other town’s saint’s day festivities and receives visitors for its own International Onion Festival. Contacts have also developed between two schools, with the supply of textbooks in Hungarian, training courses for teachers and exchanges between business schools. But cultural activities make up the bulk of the exchanges (folk dancing, choirs).
2. Contacts with ZSELIZ: the cooperation agreement was signed in 1997 and mainly involves sporting and cultural events.
3. Contacts with ADA (Serb Rep.): a twinning agreement was signed in 1996. Mainly student exchanges and participation in each other’s popular festivities. Mako gave substantial humanitarian aid during the Balkan war.

Mako also has contacts with:

- JASLO (PL): mainly between local authority officials on the occasion of city celebrations like the “Days of Yasto” in order to promote tourism, folkloric traditions ; exchange of experience between municipal officers and firemen
- KIRYAT YAM (Israel): the agreement was signed in 2000 and should lead to cultural and artistic exchanges
- XINYANG (China)
- SANNICOLAU MARE (RO): contacts initiated in 1980 were strengthened by the cross-border cooperation agreement signed in 1999. Mainly exchanges on festive occasions.
- RADOMSKO (PL): a cooperation agreement has been signed in 2003 with meetings between mayors, participation in major events of the city and cooperation in the social field in preparation.

Mako wishes to step up its contacts with Martinsicuro in Italy.

Several associations help to promote Mako’s image abroad:

- the Majorettes Group, which has performed in several European countries
- the Maros dance ensemble
- the Irisz Dance Club, whose members are Hungarian dance troupes
- the Mako mixed choir.

HUNGARY (continued)

MAKO (continued)

All the schools have contacts with foreign schools, especially in Romania and Slovakia.

The main international event is the three-day Mako Onion Festival. Hundreds of farmers, agronomists and researchers participate together with representatives of the twin towns.

For Europe Day in 1999 Mako organised a series of events with the participation of numerous ambassadors from European Union countries.

Mako pursued its cross-border cooperation with Romania in 2002 through an international conference on tourism, links between police representatives and contacts on the occasion of Mako's EXPO fair and, especially, the 12th International Onion Festival.

Links with the twinned towns, in the form of visits in both directions for major municipal events, continued to function smoothly:

- a delegation from Zseliz (Slovakia) took part in Hungarian National Day ceremonies in Mako;
- activities with Ada (Serbia) included student exchanges, joint cultural and aid projects and participation in the Onion Festival;
- in Jaslo (Poland) a "Hungarian Day" was organised to raise Mako's profile in the community there;
- the main contacts with Sannicolau Mare (Romania) were exchange visits by local officials and visits for major festivals and conferences;
- economic ties with Saxony (Germany) have been particularly important, with mayoral visits on the occasion of fairs and exhibitions.

Local schools and music schools are working to strengthen their foreign contacts. Mako was associated with Switzerland's Expo 2002 on the occasion of the European Youth Music Festival when an orchestra of 50 young people from Mako performed in various Swiss towns.

Mako also hosted the Danube Euroregion's folk festival and organised an art camp involving artists from Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine and Serbia.

To celebrate receiving the European diploma, Mako staged a major event entitled "Happy school-start, heading to Europe" with a whole series of games on a European theme, designed especially for young people.

Other highlights of 2002 included a "National Danish Day" on 15 April, coinciding with the international tourism conference, opening of an EU information point at the municipal library, the traditional International Onion Festival and Mako's EXPO fair.

Mako was awarded the Council of Europe's Flag of Honour in 2003. In the same year it signed a twinning agreement with the Italian town of MARTINSICURO in the Val Vibrata, with which it is particularly keen to develop business and commercial contacts.

With its twinning partner Miercurea Ciuc it took steps to strengthen social, educational and cultural contacts by organising youth visits and contact between the municipal libraries in the two towns, and a delegation from Mako took part in Miercurea Ciuc's civic festival. Another delegation staged a presentation about Mako to the townspeople of Jaslo (PL) during civic festivities there.

The idea of European integration has been promoted in particular by a local television station with a 12-week series entitled *European Time*. A number of talks and campaigns have been organised on the theme of Hungary's accession to the EU.

HUNGARY (continued)

MAKO (continued)

In 2004 Mako focused on developing its cross-border cooperation with Romania, notably by organising an environmental protection programme involving Hungarian and Romanian consultants in a joint training programme for businesspeople in the micro-region. A series of talks was organised in this connection.

With a view to strengthening its twinning ties the municipality of Mako invited three official delegations in turn to attend major civic events – the town festival, the St Etienne celebrations and the International Onion Festival.

Representatives of Jaslo and Zselic thus took part in Mako's festival and Europe Day celebrations, a group from Ada attended the St Etienne celebrations, and Csikszereda was represented at the Onion Festival. Delegates from Mako similarly attended festivals in the twinned municipalities.

Mako has forged new contacts with:

- Löbau (D), which was represented at the Expo Mako exhibition and the Onion Festival. An office to promote Mako has been established in the centre of Löbau;
- Bergheim (D), with which there was already an inter-orchestra link and which is likely to become a twinning partner;
- Martinsicuro (I) – after a fact-finding visit by a Mako delegation to Martinsicuro its mayor was invited to attend the Onion Festival. One aim of the cooperation effort is to promote Italian investment in the Mako region.

Inter-school links were further developed: one school in Mako invited representatives of its twinning partners to attend its annual fête, and an international youth camp was organised bringing together students from Germany, Poland and Hungary.

The Europe Day celebrations in 2004 coincided with Mako's civic festival, and a special three-day programme of events was organised, culminating in an international youth soccer tournament.

Mako concluded two new twinning agreements in 2005, one with LÖBAU (D) and the other with MARTINSICURO (I). A centre was set up in each town to promote its twin.

Contacts with the twin towns included:

- exchange of experience between nursery school teachers from Mako and Miercurea Ciuc and the Schools of Music;
- signature of a co-operation agreement with Zeliezovce nursery school in 2005;
- inauguration of the Löbau Centre following the signature of the twinning agreement in April 2005; preliminary contacts between both towns involving company directors, artists and students;
- signature of a twinning agreement with Martinsicuro, which also opened an information centre in Mako; a Mako Centre was opened in Martinsicuro to promote Mako's cultural and economic productions.

Mako municipality regularly invites official delegations to attend one of the town's three major annual events on a rota basis, viz the "Mako Days", the St Stephen's celebrations and the International Onion Festival. This year the two new twin towns of Löbau and Martinsicuro also sent representatives.

Mako has maintained its excellent friendly links with towns whose populations include persons originating from Mako, including BODOFALVA (Romania), KISOROSZ/RUSKO SELO (Serbia and Montenegro), IGAZFALVA (Romania) and LUGOS (Romania).

Very active town which organises regular official visits, but received the Flag of Honour in 2003.

HUNGARY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
SZEGED	2000	NICE (F)	1966
(Csongrad District)	2002	CAMBRIDGE (UK)**	1987
(Pop. 180 000)	2006	TURKU (FIN)	1971
		ODESSA (UA)**	1956
		TIMISOARA (RO)**	1998
		SUBOTICA (YU)	1966
		DARMSTADT (D)****	1989
		TIRGU MURES (RO)**	
		RAHO (UA)	
		PARMA (I)	
		PULA (Croatia)	2003

<Flag of Honour in 2000>

<Plaque of Honour in 2002>

Szeged is a member of the Association of Towns and Cities with Department Status set up by the main Hungarian towns and cities to develop and disseminate European achievements in the field of local self-government throughout the country.

The Hungarian Pan-European Union was set up in Szeged in 1995 in order to improve understanding among the different peoples.

Szeged is also a member of the Hungarian United Nations Association, the Helsinki Committee and the Association of Women for World Peace.

Furthermore, local authority representatives attend a wide variety of international conferences, including those organised by EURO CITIES, the UTO and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe.

Szeged maintains twinning or partnership relations with eleven European towns:

1. the twinning with NICE (F) is now thirty years old. Many encounters have been held in the cultural, scientific and educational fields.
2. with CAMBRIDGE (GB), official relations date back to 1987. Several cultural and schools exchanges have taken place in recent years, and a Szeged-Cambridge friendship association was set up in 1998 to forge fresh links.
3. the twinning with TURKU (Fin) was signed in 1971. Visits by official delegations, young people and sports enthusiasts are regularly organised, as are cultural, scientific and artistic encounters. Artists regularly take part in the festivals organised by both towns.
4. the twinning with ODESSA (UA) dates back to 1956. The two towns regularly meet up for festivals, the Odessa Day celebrations and the Szeged Marathon.
5. the twinning with TIMISOARA (RO) was signed in 1998, though cooperation began in 1990 in the fields of culture, the arts and the universities. Delegations attend the municipal festivals (Szeged's 750th anniversary), and a cooperation agreement has been signed between the two chambers of commerce.
6. the twinning with SUBOTICA (Yugoslavia) dates back to 1966. However, it was suspended during the war and was confined to humanitarian aid. Since then the most successful ventures have been the cultural links, between theatres, choirs and folk ensembles.

HUNGARY (continued)

SZEGED (continued)

7. relations with DARMSTADT (D) date back to 1989, involving the educational and cultural fields. The German city has also developed humanitarian aid, and has notably provided financial support for the Szeged paediatric clinic.

Furthermore, Szeged has official relations with Tirgu Mures (Romania), Raho (Ukraine) and Parma (Italy). Outside Europe it has links with Toledo (USA) and Weinan (China).

The nine national and ethnic minorities living in Szeged have set up their own cultural associations, and the town assists them in organising their cultural events.

The "Szeged National Summer Days" festival is the most important event for the minorities in the town, involving cultural and scientific programmes covering several days. However, the minorities also organise other events throughout the year: in 1999 the Szeged German minority organised several scientific conferences and concerts, the Slovak minority an exhibition, the Rom minority a cultural and artistic festival, and the Serb minority a Serbian Culture Day, etc.

Major emphasis is placed on exchanges of individuals.

- First of all, schools exchanges: Szeged is proud of the fact that every single school in the town has extensive relations with schools abroad.

- Exchanges between international friendship associations constitute the second most important type. For instance, the Finno-Hungarian Friendship Association set up in 1983 has a membership of over 150; it celebrates national festivals and organises "Finnish evenings". The Cambridge-Szeged association has concentrated on cultural and educational activities, organising recitals, exhibitions and university teacher exchanges. The over 100-strong Hungaro-Israeli association organises regular concerts. Lastly, the Franco-Hungarian association cooperates with the Alliance Française in organising a range of cultural events.

- International scientific exchanges are the third category of activity. They are organised by the University, familiarising Hungarian researchers with the partner institutions abroad.

Youth encounters are also important in this town, which has 40 000 young students. The biggest youth encounter is the "Liget Festival", which covers all artistic fields. There is also a noteworthy "Szeged Folk Dance Festival", which has been attracting thousands of visitors since 1966; the "Szeged Youth Days" are devoted to modern music.

Szeged, which is known in Hungary as the "Champions' Town"; organises regular sports tournaments such as the 1998 World Canoe-Kayak Championship, which attracted 40 000 spectators. Many foreign teams take part in the volley-ball tournaments.

The "Szeged Summer" open-air festival is one of the highlights of the cultural year in Szeged, embracing an enormous variety of theatrical genres, operas, musicals, rock operas and folk dances. The twin and partner towns are regularly invited to join in the cultural programme.

"Szeged International Trade Fair" provides an opportunity for Hungarian, Romanian and Yugoslav enterprises to exhibit their products.

HUNGARY (continued)

SZEGED (continued)

As a border town Szeged has taken part in many solidarity campaigns, including assisting its partner town Timisoara in 1989, Yugoslavia, especially its partner town of Subotica, and Raho in Ukraine following the floods in 1999, through such humanitarian associations as the Order of Malta and the Red Cross, which are very active in Szeged.

Winning the Flag of Honour in 2000 has helped boost Szeged's activities over the past two years.

Representatives of Szeged played an active part in the 7th Economic Forum of Cities and Regions of South-East Europe held in Skopje (Macedonia) in November 2000 by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, and Szeged hosted a seminar on the role of twinning in the European integration process, emphasising the importance of twinning, especially in the field of cultural cooperation.

Szeged has hosted a series of diplomatic conferences, known as the "Szeged Process". The first, held in 1999, on the role of municipalities in the implementation of the Stability Pact, was aimed at making a direct contribution to the democratisation of Yugoslavia and lasting stability in South-East Europe.

A second conference was held in March 2000, focusing on the "The role of the media and local governments in the implementation of the Stability Pact". The participants underlined the importance of supporting a free, independent media, given its key role in democratic reform.

The third conference took place in March 2001.

In an effort to foster links and dialogue between the Balkan states and the Euroregion countries, the Szeged Centre for Security Policy was established under a joint initiative by the Municipality, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the University of Szeged. As a result of the "Szeged Process", the "Chance for Stability" Foundation was set up, its primary task being to promote the Euroregion's economic ties, in particular the restructuring of economic activity.

Twinning activities proper have taken place:

- with Turku, where the 30th anniversary of the twinning with Szeged was celebrated in May 2001. New forms of economic and scientific cooperation between universities are being considered and representatives of the two towns have met to prepare for the setting up of a Finno-Hungarian research institute.

- with Darmstadt, where Szeged was represented at the European Weekend traditionally held in June. A Hungarian artist was present and there was also a display of Hungarian specialities. A working meeting between mayors and a study visit by transport specialists helped to create closer ties.

- with the neighbouring town of Subotica, with which Szeged has numerous exchanges, particularly in connection with festivals or major diplomatic events (Stability Pact conferences, Szeged town festival or the European Festival). Szeged is proud to have acted as intermediary in the signing of a twinning agreement between Turku and Subotica

HUNGARY (continued)

SZEGED (continued)

- with Timisoara which is part of the same Euroregion. Here too, specialists regularly take part in programmes organised by the municipalities: seminar on the role of twin towns, conference on security problems in the city. The most important factor in developing relations between the two cities, however, was the signing of a cooperation agreement to finance the construction of a canal link between Szeged and Timisoara.
- with Nice, cooperation is mainly in the fields of sport and culture: athletes from Nice participate in Szeged town festivals and folk dance groups come to Szeged to take part in the open-air Theatre Festival and the International Festival of Folk Dance.
- With Cambridge, which received a delegation from Szeged to mark its 800th anniversary.
- With Parma: the opening of the Italian Cultural Institute in Szeged should help to strengthen existing ties.
- With Odessa, contacts are mainly in the field of sport, eg participation in Szeged international marathon.
- With Tirgu Mures, cooperation is particularly active, delegations from the two towns take part in the major events: the Tirgu Mures Festival in June, and Szeged's European Festival in September.

Szeged is home to nine national and ethnic minorities, who receive funding for their activities from the local authorities. Through its Institute for National Minorities, the only one of its kind in Hungary, the town runs a wide range of programmes (Slovak Cinema Week, Slovak-Hungarian poetry day, exhibition on "the Hungarian Germans").

Szeged has developed international cooperation in the fields of art and culture through:

- its symphony orchestra, which has welcomed international conductors and been on several tours in Europe
- its Association of Folk Art of the Southern Region of the Great Hungarian Plain, which brings together folk artists from the region and organises exhibitions of their work abroad
- the Open-Air International Art Festival, which attracted artists from the twin towns
- Szeged's "Maison des Enfants" (kindergarten), which organises educational activities for children, with international programmes
- the Köver Bela Puppet Theatre, which held an international puppet festival to celebrate its 55th anniversary
- Szeged's Youth Drop-In Centre, which runs numerous cultural programmes for young people
- Bartok Bela Cultural Centre

After several years' silence, Szeged is now applying for the Europe Prize and has sent in a report on its European activities over the last three years.

In 2003, in order to reinforce its regional co-operation, Szeged joined the Duna-Körös-Maros-Tisza Euroregion and is now taking part in the corresponding transfrontier co-operation programmes.

The town is also hoping to capitalise on its University, the second largest in Hungary, and has accordingly set up a "Szeged Council 2015" to promote debate in the University, the Biological Research Centre and other research institutes on new research projects in the pharmaceutical field and a new health centre.

HUNGARY (continued)

SZEGED (continued)

The major events in Szeged community life included:

- Hungarian Week in Turku;
- the Twin Town Festival organised during the “Szeged Days”;
- the new twinning agreement concluded in 2003 with the town of PULA in Croatia;
- renewal of the partnership concluded in 1939 with RAHO in Ukraine and Subotica in Serbia and Montenegro;
- the opening of the European campaign “Szeged: the Gateway to Europe” – a “Euro-village” was built on the main square and three days of celebrations organised in Szeged for Hungary’s accession to the European Union;
- the commemoration of the 125th anniversary of the Great Flood that destroyed the town; it was thanks to support and contributions from all the European capitals that Szeged was rebuilt “more resplendent than ever”. The Mayors of the cities that helped rebuild it, viz Vienna, Brussels, Berlin, London, Paris and Rome, travelled to Szeged to attend the memorial ceremonies;
- the annual 21 May celebrations of the bestowal of the title of Royal Town, attended by visitors from all over Hungary and all the twin towns; festivities include a market on Szeged’s main bridge and a solemn sitting of the Municipal Council to present deserving persons from Szeged with “Honorary Citizen” awards;
- several exhibitions were organised, including one of works by Marc Chagall, on the occasion of the 13th International Encounter of Free Theatres, in co-operation with the *Alliance Française*;
- a series of “Education and Culture” co-operation projects were implemented by several Szeged schools and university departments under the co-operation agreement signed by Hungary and Wallonia (including Brussels) for the period 2002-2003;
- the Duna-Körös-Maros-Tisza Euroregion Cultural Festival in 2004 was entitled “The Thousand Faces of Europe” and was geared to bringing together the populations of this part of Europe, which embraces three countries, eight regions and 6 million citizens;
- the regional and national youth choir festival was organised in 2004 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the birth of the “Singing Youth” movement;
- conference organised by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, particularly the annual “Three-Border Economic and Business Conference” geared to promoting cross-border economic relations among Hungary, Romania and Serbia;
- commercial encounters in 2002 and 2003 at the “Szeged Expo” trade fair organised in co-operation with the Subotica Regional Economic Chamber, with which relations have intensified over the last three years;
- co-operation with Timișoara Chamber of Commerce in EU-backed projects under the PHARE Programme, designed to intensify cross-border business relations based on computer networks;

HUNGARY (continued)

SZEGED (continued)

- intensification of relations with Chambers of Commerce and Industry in the Slovak town of Zilina, the Polish town of Bielsko Biela and the Czech town of Prerov, by means of a series of conferences, including one in 2003 on transport organised in Szeged;
- close relations between Szeged Chamber of Commerce and a number of towns in Serbia.

Szeged has won two major prizes:

- the “Climate Star 2004” Prize for towns taking part in an environmental conservation project - Szeged was awarded the Prize for its project “energy reconstruction of the municipal hospital”.
- the “Europa Nostra” Prize for the historic town restoration programme; the historic district had survived both world wars, but urban development in the 1960s had obscured the town’s European dimension. The town now once again warrants the title of the “town with several palaces”.

Most schools in Szeged have exchange programmes with other schools in Europe, some of them operating under the SOCRATES or Comenius Programmes. The School of Music is a regular participant in international competitions and performs joint concerts with the twin towns of Subotica, Timișoara and Turku.

Co-operation with colleges of higher education in the twin towns is an ongoing process, taking the form of teacher and student exchanges. The European Study Centre helps spread the European idea and has led to co-operation with other European establishments and the organisation of events, courses and traineeships to familiarise Hungarian students with other parts of Europe.

Well presented application from a town which could be considered for the Europe Prize.

HUNGARY (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
SZENTES (Csongrad county) (Pop. 33 000) <European Diploma in 2004> <Flag of honour in 2005>		BACSKATOPOLYA (former YU)	1969
		BUNOL (E)	1988
	2004	MARKGRÖNINGEN (D)	1988
	2005	DUMBRAVITA (RO)	1991
	2006	SANKT AUGUSTIN (D)	
		KAARINA (FIN)	2001
		SKIERNIEWICE (PL)	

Szentes has also been twinned with the Israeli town of Holf Ashqelon since 1991.

Szentes is a founder member of both the National Association of Municipal Councils and the National Association of Regional Councils.

1. Contacts with Bacskatopolya (former Yugoslavia) go back to 1969 and cover many spheres: culture, sport, public health and business. Szentes regularly organises conferences on health issues, to which doctors from Bacskatopolya are invited. During the war in Yugoslavia, the people of Szentes sent aid to their twinning partners. There is a high level of cooperation between primary and secondary schools, teachers, libraries and music schools.
2. Because of the distance involved, contacts with Bunol (E) are less frequent and mainly take the form of sporting encounters and inter-family visits.
3. Contacts with Markgröningen (D) are particularly well developed in the field of medicine: the hospital in Ludwigsburg has ties with its counterpart in Szentes and welcomes Hungarian doctors for training placements of several weeks' duration. Youth exchanges are organised to tie in with civic festivities such as the traditional "Shepherds' Festival" in Markgröningen.
4. Activities with Sankt Augustin mainly take the form of sporting contacts and cooperation between music schools and students. Pupils of Sankt Augustin's music school make an annual visit to Szentes to take part in concerts there. There are also contacts between schools and Protestant churches, which have led to the creation of German-Hungarian Friendship Associations in both Szentes and Sankt Augustin.
5. Similarly, contacts with Kaarina led to the formation of a Hungarian-Finnish Friendship Circle in 1992 and ultimately to the signing of a twinning agreement in 2001. Cultural, sporting and business links have since developed.
6. The twinning agreement with Dumbravita dates from 1991 and involves schools and colleges (with exchanges of schoolchildren, dancers and press representatives), scientific establishments, sports clubs, church congregations and Red Cross groups. Folkdance groups from Dumbravita regularly take part in festivities in Szentes.

Associations and institutions that maintain contact with counterparts abroad include:

- the Szentes Music Lovers Association which has particular ties with Germany;
- the Bardos Alajos mixed choir;
- Janos Horticultural College which regularly sends trainees to Munich and has contacts with the Vienna School of Horticulture;
- a number of schools in Szentes.

HUNGARY (continued)
SZENTES (continued)

The first Europe Day celebrations were held in 1997 and the second in 2001 when representatives of four embassies were involved.

An annual twinned towns sports festival has been held in Szentes since 1996. It offers schoolchildren aged 14-18 a chance to meet sportspeople from different European countries.

A twinned towns cultural festival has been held every second year since 1998.

Szentes is to stage a major "Europe Festival" in April 2004, involving nursery schools, primary schools and older students who will represent Europe in an event involving music, dance and art.

In 2004 contacts with Sankt Augustin were particularly strengthened: municipal officials were involved in exchanges, a soccer match and several inter-school visits were organised, the music societies of Sankt Augustin and Szentes met and especially strong ties were developed through the German-Hungarian Friendship Society.

Forty representatives of the Finnish town of Kaarina were invited to join in celebrating Hungary's accession to the EU and, as every year, an inter-school exchange was organised.

In May 2004 Szentes signed a cooperation agreement with the Polish municipality of Skierniewice. A number of delegation visits subsequently took place with a view to cooperation in the fields of tourism and health care.

An existing cooperation agreement with Bacskatopolya was renewed in 2004. Visiting artists were involved in the opening of the art season in Szentes and particularly in its European festival.

Szentes also organised a conference on sport and was represented at Bacskatopolya's trade fair.

In the twinning with the Romanian town of Dumbravita the emphasis was on economic cooperation, with plans to open a joint folk art centre. A 33-strong delegation also came to Szentes to help celebrate Hungary's accession to the EU and a Szentes delegation travelled to Dumbravita in September for festivities to mark the anniversary of the town's founding.

The highpoint of 2004 for Szentes was its major "Europe Festival" in April, which involved kindergarten children, school pupils and students representing the different countries of Europe through music, dance and drawing.

The presentation of the Flag of Honour in **2005** boosted exchanges, and Szentes is now applying for the Plaque of Honour. The main twinning activities have included:

- the signature of a co-operation agreement to place relations with Sankt Augustin on an official basis;
- a visit by an official delegation from Skierniewice, comprising a number of Polish doctors, to gather information on the medicinal waters of Szentes;
- a cookery competition involving the towns of Kaarina and Ujszentes (Ro);
- a visit to a trade fair in Skierniewice by a delegation from Szentes;
- signature of a co-operation agreement with German towns in the presence of a 40-strong delegation from Szentes.

Sound, very well documented application, but the town has just received the Flag of Honour.

HUNGARY (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
TATA	1999	ALKMAAR(NL)***	1985
(Komaron District)	2000	GERLINGEN (D)***	1987
(Pop. 25 000)	2001	DAMMARIE-LES-LYS (F)**	1993
	2002	ARENZANO (I)	1994
	2003	SVODIN (SK)	1997
	2004	MONTEBELLUNA(I)**	2000
<European Diploma in 1999>	2005	SOVOTA (RO)	2002
<Flag of Honour in 2000>	2006	PINCZOW (PL)	2004
<Plaque of Honour in 2004>			

Although contracted under the socialist regime, the first two twinings survived the political upheavals and have developed:

1. with ALKMAAR: exchanges in the fields of culture, sport, health, education, public safety and public administration
2. with GERLINGEN: culture, sport, health, education, youth programmes, minorities, commercial exchanges
3. with DAMMARIE: culture, education, tourism
4. with ARENZANO: culture, sport, education, youth programmes
5. with SVODIN: culture, sport, education, programme for young people and social affairs.

Attention should be drawn to a particular project implemented in the town of Tata: each twin town has contributed to the creation of part of a park in the town centre, thus symbolising European unity.

The municipality of Tata encourages and subsidises school visits, training courses for local government officers and study visits by municipal councillors to learn about election procedures in other countries, and training courses for students.

Among the most important events was the celebration in 1998 of the 5th anniversary of twinning with Dammarie and the 10th with Gerlingen.

But Tata also has regular contacts with other towns: Marburg and Bremen, and through its different parishes. Thus the Reformed Church has contacts with Germany, the Netherlands, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine.

In 1999, over 44 encounters were organised by Tata and its 5 twin towns, including:

- a visit in March by horticulturalists from each twin town to help with Tata's entry for the "Towns in Bloom" Competition;
- organisation of a children's art competition on the theme of Europe. The winners were invited to Dammarie-les-Lys, where they took part in the Europe Day celebrations;
- participation by a delegation from Tata in the Plaque of Honour presentation ceremonies in Gerlingen;
- signing by the mayors of Tata and Alkmaar of an agreement on Alkmaar's financial and technical contribution to the bid to save the environment of the Old Lake in Tata;
- visit to Tata by 10 librarians from the five twin towns to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of the public library;
- organisation of the Tata "Mini Marathon", which attracted 800 runners of several nationalities.

In order to intensify encounters yet further, the Municipal Council met to examine all the twinning activities from 1993 to 1999, and decided to set up a network of host families and a fund to finance twinning activities by associations and families.

HUNGARY (continued)

TATA (continued)

Europe Day was sumptuously celebrated, with participation by schools (including kindergartens), an official sitting of the Municipal Council and a charity gala organised by the schools. Furthermore, the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs selected Tata as one of the 6 Hungarian towns that will receive a subsidy for their celebrations in the year 2000.

There was no let-up in the pace of twinning activities in 2000, with 35 events organised with the 6 twin towns, including:

- participation by a Tata delegation in the presentation of the Flag of Honour to Dammarie-les-Lys;
- exchanges with schoolchildren and teachers from Gerlingen;
- visit by a group of children with disabilities for the third consecutive year, accommodated by the town of Alkmaar;
- the new twinning agreement signed with Montebelluna, which was already twinned with Dammarie; the new twinning will initially concentrate on youth and sports exchanges;
- two art exhibitions in Gerlingen and Tata;
- exhibition organised for the Tata-Tatabanya Europe Day presenting both towns

A cooperation project in the field of environmental conservation was signed in 1999 with the municipality of Alkmaar, dealing with redevelopment of the Old Tata Lake.

Europe Day was celebrated twice in 2000: first of all in May by the schools and then in September by the Tata municipality together with the neighbouring town of Tatabanya. Tata had been chosen from six Hungarian towns for the official Europe Day celebrations, and had to fulfil a number of criteria: an official opening ceremony, organising a political conference, official visits to enterprises and schools and a gala luncheon. Ambassadors, diplomats and other persons had been invited to the ceremony, which also included the presentation of the Flag of Honour to the town of Tata.

Contacts with the twin towns continued apace in 2001. Tata was involved in 43 exchanges, 21 of which took place in Tata itself. They included: visits by schoolchildren from Alkmaar, members of Gerlingen Town Council and artists from Alkmaar and Gerlingen to celebrate Tata's Baroque Festival, visits by members of the Alkmaar fire brigade, teachers and senior citizens from Svodin, etc.

In 2002 Tata was involved in a total of 30 activities with its twinning partners, 17 of which it organised, ranging from inter-school exchanges to technical cooperation in the field of environmental protection. Tata concluded a twinning agreement in 2002 with the municipality of **Sovota** in Romania. Representatives of all the twinning partners met in Tata in September for an international seminar on the role of twinning links in preparing municipalities in Central and Eastern Europe for accession to the EU. The seminar marks a new stage in Tata's activities at international level.

Important events during the year included the celebrations in Tata to mark 15 years of twinning with Gerlingen, an arts camp for which Tata hosted young people from Arenzano, Svodin and Sovota, the concert given in the municipality by the Alkmaar Conservatory choir, twinning ceremonies in the Romanian town of Sovota, in which representatives of all the twinned towns participated, and the involvement of two schools in the Socrates programme.

HUNGARY (continued)

TATA (continued)

The number of exchanges was up again in 2003. Links with all the twinning partners were strengthened as more than 50 joint events were organised. Highlights included:

- with Alkmaar: a working meeting to plan conservation of Tata's Old Lake and renovation of a retirement home there with the help of 17 young volunteers from Alkmaar;
- with Gerlingen: the visit of a large delegation from Tata for celebrations to mark the 15th anniversary of the twinning between the two towns;
- with Dammarie-Lès-Lys: 130 foreign guests came to Tata for a major twinning meeting as part of celebrations in May to mark the 10th anniversary of the link with Dammarie. Representatives of the Slovakian town of Svodin also attended. The weekend of events, attended mainly by young people, included a conference on the theme "Roads to Europe", looking at Hungary's impending accession to the EU, a drawing competition and a round-table discussion;
- with Arenzano: a folk-dance troupe from Tata took part for the fourth time in festivities around annual Arenzano's "Mare et Monti" walk;
- with Sovota: interest in this new twinning was clear from the fact that three large groups from Tata (municipal employees, senior citizens and footballers) travelled to the Romanian town;

Tata plans to twin with the Polish town of PINCZOW in 2004.

Primary and secondary schools play a very important part in developing Tata's international exchanges. They have links with schools not only in the twinned towns but also in other parts of Europe, notably through the European Union's Comenius, Leonardo da Vinci and Socrates programmes. The most active exchanges are with schools in Ghent, Lisbon, Dordrecht and Lemington;

Since receiving the European Diploma in 1998, Tata has celebrated Europe Day every year with awareness-raising activities for both schoolchildren and adults. In 2003 the local television station gave the 10 April event particularly good coverage as it fell a few days before the referendum on EU membership. One of the Europe Day activities is a competition for secondary schools and the theme this year was Tata's twinning links.

Having been awarded the Plaque of Honour in 2004 – an achievement celebrated in style in the company of official guest delegations from all the twinned towns – Tata is now competing for the Europe Prize. Exchanges in 2004 with the towns of Alkmaar, Gerlingen, Svodin and Sovota involved between 110 and 250 people in each case. A new twinning was concluded with the Polish town of Pinczow and several exchanges have already taken place.

Another very detailed report on Tata's numerous exchanges in 2005 mentions 39 events organised by Tata and 25 in which it took part abroad, involving a total of almost 800 individuals. The main contact is still with Alkmaar, with which it celebrated the 20th twinning anniversary in 2005, Gerlingen, Svodin, Sovata and Pinczow. Exchanges concern schoolchildren, sports enthusiasts and musical associations, etc.

The main events in 2005 were:

- a twinning agreement concluded by a school in Tata and another in Svodin; a 45-strong delegation from Svodin travelled to Tata to attend the event, in which all the students and teachers from the Tata school took part;
- a competition run in all the Tata secondary schools to test their knowledge of the twin town of Alkmaar and the Netherlands in general – over 100 children took part, the first prize being a three-day trip to the Netherlands;

HUNGARY (continued)

TATA (continued)

- the week-long Youth Camp organised by Tata on the theme of the arts, and attended by young people from Svodin, Sovata and Tata;
- the 20th anniversary of the twinning of Tata and Alkmaar; this is Tata's oldest twinning and certainly the first between Hungarian and Dutch towns; for the occasion Tata organised an exhibition highlighting the activities of its clubs and associations attracting delegations from the twin towns, as part of the Council of Europe's campaign, "European Year of Education for Citizenship"; a photographic exhibition, a tree-planting ceremony, the "lakes race" and a concert were the other highlights of this twinning anniversary;
- initial contact with the Czech town of BYSTRICE, one of Pinczow's twin towns, with an eye to a twinning agreement within the next two years;
- the Conference on economic co-operation entitled "Visegrad Four", which was designed to intensify contacts among the four neighbouring countries of Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic and Poland and had been organised by Tata at the request of Svodin and Pinczow. The event was supported by the Chamber of Commerce and the County, and is mainly geared to developing trade contacts;
- a youth awareness programme entitled "Learning and living democracy" involving Round Table discussions and electing a youth municipal council, etc, with contributions from young people from the twin towns.

An enormous variety of contacts with the twin towns. Very well presented application clearly expressing the Mayor's enthusiasm for intensifying the exchanges. Excellent report on activities in 2005.

ITALY

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
CORCIANO (Perugia Province) (Pop. 14 000)	2000	PENTLING (D)** CIVRIEUX D'AZERGUES (F)	1997
	2001		2000
	2002		
	2003		
	2004		
	2005		
<European Diploma in 2000>	2006		
<Flag of Honour in 2002>			

The twinning with Pentling is very recent: 300 people from each municipality travelled to attend the twinning ceremonies, first in Pentling and then in Corciano.

The populations have become acquainted through school exchanges, musical and sports events and art exhibitions. Commercial contacts have been made with the Chamber of Commerce in Regensburg, which is not far from Pentling.

Corciano has also forged links with the French municipality of Civrieux d'Azergues (Rhône). Two delegations have conducted visits and over 100 Civrieux inhabitants are expected in Corciano in 2000.

There are several European awareness campaigns directed at young people, including the "Progetto Arte Europa 2000", funded by the European Community.

In 2000 Corciano signed a new twinning pact with the French municipality of CIVRIEUX D'AZERGUES (Rhônes-Alpes). The festivities first of all took place in Civrieux, attended by 130 Corciano residents, and then continued in Corciano, which played host to 125 Civrieux residents. The two municipalities are keen above all to develop economic and trade exchanges, thanks to the support of the Lyon Chamber of Commerce. A first school exchange took place prior to the twinning: in January 100 pupils and 12 teachers from Civrieux visited Corciano.

A highlight of the twinning with Pentling was a working visit by 34 Corciano pupils to Pentling, the visit of a Pentling delegation accompanied by the mayor with the aim of developing trading relations, and a visit by 3 members of the Pentling municipal council to strengthen links between the two municipalities and organise the end of year festival in Corciano.

Since 1998, Corciano has played host every year to twenty or so students from the University of Washington for autumn sessions. It is also involved in a socio-economic development programme for the province of Pinar del Río in Cuba and has drawn up a project to aid immigrants in the region ("Progetto Arcobaleno") aimed at improving immigrants' integration into society and their standard of living.

In 2001 Corciano further developed ties with its twin towns by:

- playing host to 65 people from Pentling at the end of 2000
- welcoming 34 schoolchildren and 9 adults from Civrieux d'Azergues
- receiving 90 young people from Pentling and neighbouring municipalities
- sending 90 residents to a popular celebration in Pentling also attended by Civrieux residents
- organising a meeting with four representatives of the Civrieux twinning committee and ten representatives of schools in Corciano.

ITALY (continued)

CORCIANO (continued)

An estimated 400 people in Corciano were directly involved in celebrating the European Year of Languages 2001 through information seminars, theatrical productions, an English language competition, etc. As it does every year, Corciano welcomed 19 students from the University of Washington DC.

Corciano also strengthened its friendship ties with Palestine and hopes to build a school in Bethlehem in the near future. It continued its cooperation with Pinar del Rio province in Cuba and initiated contacts with Ribadeo in Spain, with a view to a twinning arrangement.

Having been awarded the Flag of Honour in 2002, Corciano is now applying to be considered for the Plaque. The report on activities in 2002 lists a large number of meetings: inter-school exchanges; a three-way meeting between teachers from the twinned towns to put together a submission for a Comenius project which has since received approval; Europe Day celebrations with Civrieux; and large-scale festivities, attended by almost a thousand people, to mark the award of the Flag of Honour.

Encouraged by having received the Flag of Honour in 2002, Corciano stepped up the pace of its exchange activities in 2003, organising:

- school exchanges with Pentling;
- meetings with delegations from Pentling to promote the impending twinning of that town with Civrieux in France, already a twinning partner of Corciano;
- a school exchange with Civrieux - around 150 residents of the French municipality hosted the 45-strong group from Corciano;
- a trip to Civrieux to take part in the Lyon "Festival of Lights";
- a joint project with Civrieux to assist the village of Klina in Kosovo.

The only exchanges organised in 2004 were two major events which brought together people from Corciano, Pentling and Civrieux:

- a large exhibition of work by the Perugian painter "Perugino", staged in a number of venues close to Corciano;
- a special aid mission to the town of Klina in Kosovo. Delegations from the three twinned towns were received by the President of Kosovo.

The Mayor of Corciano received recognition from UNICEF for her work in aid of children.

Corciano pursued its involvement in a number of EU projects:

- the Simplecs project which aims to foster a culture of waste recycling;
- the Marconi project to conserve a number of industrial heritage sites;
- a three-way partnership between primary schools in Corciano, Civrieux and Pentling, now in its third year and involving more than 900 pupils as well as 50 teachers, who have been represented at a series of meetings;
- action under Agenda 21, with the launch of a "Corciano 21" initiative which will be presented to the public at an environmental forum;
- the Arcobaleno project to foster integration and improve quality of life for the 80 or so immigrants living in the municipality.

ITALY (continued)

CORCIANO (continued)

2005 saw the celebration in Pentling and Civrieux d'Azergues of the signature of the tinning agreement between these two municipalities, both of which are already twinned with Corciano and have now created a triangular twinning. Corciano sent a 50-strong delegation to each municipality to participate in the festivities. Delegations from all three municipalities were subsequently received by the Pope, who blessed the twinning!

The plan for a school partnership involving all three municipalities (under the Comenius Programme) which had been launched three years previously was completed in 2005, covering over 900 three- to eleven-year-olds and 50 teachers.

Corciano is still taking part in several Community projects, presides the Slow Food Foundation for Biodiversity, is supporting a town in Kosovo (Klina) with its twin towns by building an orphanage and providing assistance to the most deprived groups, and organises art study sessions for American students every autumn, etc.

Highly enthusiastic municipality which should be awarded the Plaque of Honour in the near future if it keeps up the same pace of activities.

ITALY (continud)

	Report in :	Twinned with :	Since :
CREMA	2003	MELUN (F)**	2001
(Cremona)	2004		
	2006		

<European Diploma in 2003>

<Flag of honour in 2004>

Associative contacts are numerous, especially between photo clubs and sports clubs (rugby) and between local artists. The municipality supports school exchanges and will participate, through its schools in the European Week organised by Melun.

Crema has plans to twin with a Bulgarian municipality.

Through the twinning with Melun, Crema also has ties with other municipalities abroad and delegations frequently travel to Melun to take part in European events organised there. Crema hosts students from Melun at its "Franco Agostino Drama Festival". Other opportunities for contact have included the local carnival regularly attended by around 50 guests; a joint exhibition by artists from the two towns; participation by French students in the "Mediaexpo" event; a visit by specialist bread makers from Melun for an exhibition in the town square and a return trip; a series of "Local Cheese Days" in the two towns; a visit by the Rhône Municipal Councillors' Association; and an exhibition and visit by students from a school in Bulgaria.

Other European events organised by Crema in 2003 included a weekend "European Market" in the town square with an array of stalls representing different European countries and offering typical produce from each, and a visit by a group from Crema to the European institutions in Strasbourg as part of the Euroscola project.

Crema has launched a project on the theme "Human rights belong to you and me" which aims to promote education for democratic citizenship.

The municipality has also developed links with a number of towns in other countries through the "ConTempo" project, in which it is a partner, under the European Union's EQUAL initiative.

The main event in 2005 was the presentation of the Flag of Honour on 26 November in the Municipal Council Room. Several campaigns were conducted to promote awareness of European citizenship, mainly targeting schoolchildren:

- the "European Cinema" project involving over 2000 schoolchildren and 130 teachers;
- the encounter "Europe at School";
- the project "discovering the European Union through fables";
- a conference cycle on the European Union;
- a new Europe Club in the Crema *liceo scientifico*;
- a "European Market" organised by schoolchildren, selling produce from various European countries.

ITALY (continued)

	Report in :	Twinned with :	Since :
NOCETO	2000	NOYERS SUR SEREIN	1990
(Parma Province)	2002	CRICOVA (Moldova)	2001
(pop. 10,000)	2006		

<European Diploma in 2000>

<Flag of honour in 2002>

Noceto has also been twinned with WALNUT CREEK in California since 1987.

Exchanges are organised between officials, university students, schoolchildren and choirs. For instance, through the local choir “Cantori del Mattino”, Noceto has forged many links with choirs worldwide.

Noceto is taking part in the “Via Francigena” project, which was awarded the CE “Cultural Route” label. It heightens young people's awareness of Europe by holding conferences on Europe and publishing information booklets on the Euro, etc.

In 2001 Noceto was twinned with CRICOVA in Moldova.

Contacts between associations were developed:

- through the Noceto rugby club, which made several visits abroad and received a number of foreign teams at home
- through the “Cantori del Mattino” choir, which worked with foreign orchestras and cultural associations.

Various events, especially for young people, were organised in connection with Europe Day, including the opening of an information desk for anyone interested in finding out more about Europe.

After several years’ silence, Noceto is now (2006) applying for the Plaque of Honour, and has forwarded to the Secretariat a summary of the European activities conducted since the presentation of the Flag in 2002. In 2002, for instance, Noceto organised a *soirée musicale* with the Moldovan town of Cricova to collect funds for hospital treatment for a young girl from Moldova. However, the most intensive exchanges have been in the sports field, specifically rugby, with Noceto paying frequent visits abroad and inviting many French, Spanish British and other teams. In the cultural field, the *Cantori del mattino* choir has taken part in many concerts and conducted tours in Peru, Germany, Turkey and Poland, etc.

The municipality is still taking part in European awareness campaigns for young people, organising competitions, exhibitions and visits to European institutions. It has set up a “Europe info point” in the municipal library. It has launched a project to improve the integration of foreign students with a poor command of the Italian language. Ever since 1999, Italian courses have been run for foreigners living in the municipality.

Noceto has conducted many original activities, but few of them involve either of the two twinings.

P O L A N D

	Reports in:	Cooperation agreement with :	Since :
BYTOM	2002		
(Woj. Slaskie)	2003	RECKLINGHAUSEN (D)**	2000
(Pop. 204 000)	2004	VSETIN (CZ)	2004
	2005		
	2006		

<European Diploma in 2002>

<Flag of Honour in 2003>

Bytom also signed a cooperation agreement with the American town of BUTTE, Montana, in 2001.

The cooperation agreement with Recklinghausen is recent, but contacts date back to the period between the wars, when both towns were bustling mining towns of the Ruhr and Silesia. Contacts resumed only after the political changes of the 1990s, and reached a high point with the signature in 2000/2001 of the cooperation agreement.

Private contacts are particularly well developed largely because many former residents of Bytom now live in Recklinghausen.

Projects and events of the last two years have included:

- participation by artists from Recklinghausen in the "Musical Bridge" festival in Bytom
- participation of young basketball players in the Recklinghausen basketball festival
- organisation of Polish Culture Day in Recklinghausen
- visit to Bytom by social workers from Recklinghausen
- contacts between the Women's Office in Recklinghausen with women's organisations in Bytom
- school exchanges
- initial cooperation between hospitals
- publication of a joint calendar with photos of the two towns, etc.

Bytom has been in contact with the following towns with a view to twinning agreements:

- Dordrecht (NL)
- Douai (F)
- Preston (GB)
- Schmalkalden (D)

Schools in Bytom have also developed contacts with other European towns through visits, sporting events, vocational training and exchanges of teachers (France, Italy, Sweden, Hungary).

The European Youth Education Centre founded in 1998 is developing a number of projects:

- Euroexam: a competition about the European Union in schools
- Euroacademy: a series of lectures on Europe
- Euroinfo: articles about Europe in the newspapers
- Europarade: schools present the different countries of Europe during the Bytom Days (June)
- Euromal: drawing competition.

POLAND (continued)

BYTOM (continued)

In September 2001 Bytom took part in the launch of European Year of Languages 2001.

Other local institutions (Opera, Museum, Theatre, Cultural Centre) have developed contacts with other countries.

In 2002, cooperation with **Recklinghausen** led to:

- performance by a Bytom company of one of Verdi's operas in Recklinghausen;
- a meeting between staff of the employment offices in the two towns;
- a jointly organised international conference;
- participation by young people in cultural workshops organised by Recklinghausen;
- participation by performers from Recklinghausen in a municipal festival in Bytom;
- visits by, and exchanges of experience between, nursery school teachers;
- an exchange-of-experience event for physiotherapists;
- the traditional "Musical Bridges" event for schoolchildren;
- participation by a Bytom delegation in celebrations to mark 50 years of contact between the two towns.

Bytom has also made contact with LIMOGES (F) with a view to future cooperation.

As part of the "MASURIN" and "RESCUE" projects, Bytom is cooperating with a number of partner towns on the revitalisation of former industrial sites.

Exchanges by schools and colleges with partner establishments abroad include the annual programme of training placements for hotel and catering students from Bytom in Germany and the contacts developed through the Socrates/Comenius programme with schools in Jaca (E), Tata (H) and Cloppenburg (D). Bytom's two children's homes have also forged links with Denmark and Ukraine.

During 2002 the European Youth Education Centre stepped up its programme of exhibitions about the euro, lectures and events devoted to particular European countries. The number of "European clubs", set up in schools to inform young people about Europe, grew to 28.

Having received the Flag of Honour in **2003**, Bytom is now applying for the Plaque and has submitted eight copious dossiers in support of its candidacy.

In 2004 Bytom celebrates the 750th anniversary of its foundation and, of course, Poland's entry to the EU, 89% of the municipal population having voted in favour of membership at the most recent referendum.

The most active contacts are still those with Recklinghausen: members of the Silesian Opera Company performed *La Traviata* in Recklinghausen; a group of Bytom people took part in Recklinghausen's European Youth Festival; a staff exchange was organised between two centres for the care of disabled children; an exhibition of work by Recklinghausen artists was staged in Bytom's cultural centre; and the nursery schools in the two municipalities cooperate on a regular basis.

Bytom is seeking new partner towns and is looking:

- to Sweden, with a view to stepping up exchanges with Ronneby;
- to the Czech Republic and specifically the municipality of Vsetin;
- to Portugal and France (the Nord-Pas de Calais region).

POLAND (continued)

BYTOM (continued)

Under the MASURIN and RESCUE projects launched in 2002, Bytom has developed cooperation with a number of partner towns with a view to revitalising old industrial sites. Meetings have been held in Utrecht (NL), Katowice (PL), Paris and Lille (F) and Cardiff (UK).

Local schools cooperate with many partner establishments abroad, as do the following organisations:

- Bytom Dance Theatre which has particular ties with the Rotterdam Academy of Dance and the French National Centre of Choreography in Montpellier;
- the Bytom section of the Polish Association for People with Mental Disabilities which cooperates with its counterpart in Una (D) organising exchanges of experience, and with the "Marianum" organisation in the Czech municipality of Opava, as well as UNAPEI in France;
- children's homes which have partners in the Netherlands, Denmark and France.

Bytom has organised a range of activities designed to raise local awareness about Europe.

- The EU-supported Bytom EUROMARATHON project involved regular meetings with local people to explore European issues, placing publications in local magazines, a "pre-referendum" for schoolchildren in the municipality, celebrations to mark International Earth Day, a European Picnic in the municipal park and art exhibitions. The Flag of Honour presentation ceremony was staged at the end of the Euromarathon project as part of a parade involving thousands of schoolchildren.
- Events to mark the European Year of People with Disabilities included lectures, exhibitions of work, a picnic and the publication of a book.
- Bytom's 5th European meeting, attended mainly by teachers, was held in the Dolomite Valley sports complex.
- Schools in Bytom joined more than 6 000 of their counterparts in 36 countries to celebrate "Spring Day in Europe".
- A European centre was opened in the municipality with a brief to disseminate information about the European Union and facilitate contacts between businesspeople.
- Numerous events were organised by local schools and through the European Clubs network.
- The 10th international conference on contemporary dance, held in Bytom by the Dance Theatre of Silesia, attracted performers from all over Europe.

The extensive dossier submitted on twinning activities in 2004 indicates that Bytom is serious in its bid for the Plaque of Honour. Two events stand out as highlights of the year – the town's 750th jubilee festivities and the celebration to mark Poland's accession to the EU. Bytom continued its European cooperation drive by twinning with the Czech town of Vsetin and concluding an agreement with the Russian municipality of Dmitrov with a view to twinning in the near future.

POLAND (continued)

BYTOM (continued)

- With Recklinghausen there were some 15 twinning exchanges including a visit by Polish photographers to the German town, a concert involving performers from both towns, a meeting between representatives of the two municipal employment offices with a view to initiating cooperation, participation by a Recklinghausen delegation in Bytom's 750th jubilee festivities and the visit of a 45-strong group of people with hearing impairment to take part in the International Day of Deafness and Hearing Impairment in Bytom;
- With Vsetin – the Czech town with which Bytom signed a twinning agreement in November 2004 – initial exchanges included the visit of an official Vsetin delegation in March, contacts between nursery school teachers and inter-class sports competitions in Vsetin.
- With Dmitrov, a town in the Moscow district, Bytom hopes to sign a twinning agreement in the coming year.

Bytom also made contacts with the Swedish municipality of Ronneby with a view to cooperating on exchanges of experience and training placements for young people.

The Bytom Polish Circle organised a number of initiatives to help people with mental disabilities in Germany, the Czech Republic, France and England.

Bytom's Silesian Opera Company embarked on a cooperation programme with the German "Most Kempen" Trust, under which performers from Bytom will have a chance to travel to Germany.

European-oriented events held in Bytom in 2004 included:

- the Borderland World Congress, for people born in (or descended from natives of) the regions along Poland's borders with Ukraine, Latvia and Belarus that were part of Poland before the Second World War;
- the fourth Bytom European Meeting, involving local students and teachers, and particularly representatives of the municipality's 41 European Clubs;
- the 11th International Modern Dance Conference;
- a multi-cultural festival in Bytom's main square in July.

During the year Bytom also opened a European Information Point.

POLAND (continued)

BYTOM (continued)

In 2005 Bytom concluded a new twinning agreement with the Russian town of DMITROV. This year also saw official visits, contacts between sports centres and a visit by Bytom representatives to Dmitrov to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the end of the 2nd World War.

Co-operation continued with RECKLINGHAUSEN, embracing exchanges among nursery school representatives, therapists visiting the Bytom Association for Children with Disabilities, schoolchildren and municipal library employees.

The recent twinning with the Czech town of VSETIN led to the signing of a co-operation agreement between representatives of both towns' nursery schools and several sports events and school exchanges.

However, Bytom is also maintaining contacts with the town of Wolfsburg in Germany via its "Kronika" art gallery, which staged an exhibition of works by Polish and German artists for the "Germano-Polish Year", its Youth Cultural Centre, its specialised Hospital which co-operates with its opposite numbers in Brussels and Antwerp, and its Association for People with Mental Disabilities.

And as ever, a long list of schools co-operated with their opposite numbers abroad, bearing witness to the European commitment of Bytom's young people.

We might note that the 7th Bytom European Encounters took place from 14 to 28 November, when the Mayor of Bytom received a European award for his personal commitment to the European cause.

Having won the Flag of Honour in 2003, Bytom would like to receive the higher award straight away and would intend to stage the presentation ceremony as part of festivities to mark the 750th anniversary of its foundation, but this would be premature as there would be no time to assess how its twinning activities are progressing. The substantial file submitted in support of the application emphasises that there is a high level of interest in local schools in everything European.

POLAND (continued)

	Reports in:	Cooperation partners:	Since:
GIZALKI	2002		
(Pleszew District)	2003	MOMIGNIES (B)	1995
(Wielkopolskie Province)	2004	APEN (D)	1997
(Pop. 4 600)	2005	MORL (D)	1999
	2006	SCHONAU (A)	2001
		KUKLJICA (HR)	2000
		SZKLO (UA)	2001
		SPISSKE VLACHY (SK)	2001

<European Diploma in 2002>

<Flag of Honour in 2004>

Initial official exchanges were followed by exchange visits between local residents, with more than 10 delegations from Momignies travelling to Poland in their six years of cooperation. Contacts with Apen are particularly cordial: more than 24 meetings in four years. But the contacts work both ways and several official delegations and groups of schoolchildren visited the other towns.

Two popular events organised by Gizalki encourage exchanges: the Feast of Saint John in June, with cultural events, lectures and seminars, and the Harvest Festival in September.

Every visit by a delegation is an opportunity to organise talks and meetings with municipal representatives, teachers, etc.

At the initiative of the mayor of Gizalki a cooperation agreement was signed with Pleszew District and Saal District (D – Saalkreis) and cooperation between hospitals in Pleszew, Ammerland (D) and Chimay (B) has been stepped up.

Gizalki had a busy programme of European activities in 2002, including:

- a joint event with Morl on an environmental theme: some 30 participants from each town discussed municipal practice on waste management, environmental education and nature conservation;
- a visit by a local delegation to Brussels in preparation for Europe Day and to explore possible investment funding for environmental projects;
- a visit by a 40-strong group from Gizalki to the twinned municipality of Kukljica with a view to strengthening exchanges between schools and sports, cultural and tourism bodies;
- organisation of a European schools week;
- organisation of "European Days", involving delegations from all the partner towns, as part of the municipal midsummer festivities;
- a visit by a Gizalki group to the Ukrainian municipality of Starosilya;
- a visit by a Gizalki group to the Austrian town of Schonau for its harvest festival;
- participation in the annual "Europe at School" European Competition.

Gizalki encourages schools and nursery schools to forge links with counterparts in the twinned municipalities and helps other Polish communities to find partner municipalities abroad

In 2003 there was a special focus on the environment, and a delegation from Gizalki met representatives of the German municipality of Apen to discuss problems of water treatment and waste disposal.

POLAND (continued)

GIZALKI (continued)

For the St John's Day festival in June Gizalki organised an environmental meeting with representatives from all its twinning partners. The occasion was also used to conclude two new twinings – with BACSALMAS in Hungary and STAWIGUDA in Poland.

Schools also play an active role and one recently organised a referendum on the European Union and a European Week.

Gizalki delegations travelled to Spisske Vlachy for its 760th jubilee celebrations; to BACSALMAS for a seminar on the European Union, which was also the occasion for signing the twinning agreement with Bacsalmas; and to STAROSILJA in Ukraine to take part in civic festivities.

A total of 13 joint events in 2003 provided opportunities to strengthen ties with all the twinning partners.

In 2004 Gizalki was involved in 14 European-oriented events or activities, including:

- the signing of a twinning agreement between locals schools and counterparts in Bacsalmas;
- a fact-finding visit by a Gizalki delegation, led by the Mayor, to a waste treatment plant in Apen;
- hosting young people from Morl under the Comenius strand of the Socrates programme;
- a second European environmental gathering – entitled "United Europe Days" – from 23 to 27 June, including a St John's Day gala night. This now annual event is designed not only to showcase Poland's culture and traditions for foreign visitors but also to raise local awareness about the environment by means of seminars and discussions. Gizalki's twinned and partner towns all sent delegations of between 10 and 40 people and the event attracted a total of more than 10 000 visitors;
- trips by Gizalki delegations to Momignies, to take part in the Belgian national festival there, and to Apen's Autumn Fair in October.

In 2005 this small municipality once again expended strenuous efforts in the area of European co-operation:

- as part of “Germano-Polish Year” 2005, Gizalki organised four seminars with its two German twin towns, Apen and Morl;
- it organised the 3rd Ecology Days to coincide with the 10th anniversary of its twinning with the Belgian town of Momignies, attended by 40 Belgian representatives. The Ecology Days were the usual success, attracting almost 200 visitors from various Polish municipalities, but especially from Apen, Morl, Spisske Vlachy and Bacsalmas; after these working days, Gizalki organised the annual Summer Day, concluding with a long parade of representatives of all the municipalities dressed in traditional folk costumes;
- a two-week visit to Bacsalmas was organised for schoolchildren from Gizalki and neighbouring municipalities;
- thanks to its good relations with Bacsalmas, a delegation from Gizalki visited the municipality of Velky Meder in Slovakia for initial contact with an eye to a new co-operation agreement;
- a large delegation of Gizalki representatives attended the European Culture Week organised by Momignies and the German Culture Days in Apen.

The town of Gizalki has recently received the Flag of Honour, but considering its size it really is striving hard to maintain its contacts with its twin towns.

POLAND (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
GLOGOW	1999	EISENHÜTTENSTADT (D)	1970
(Lower-Silesia)	2000	LANGENHAGEN (D)	1993
(Pop. 74 000)	2001	MIDDELBURG (NL)	1990
(Woj. Dolnoslaskie)	2002	LAHOLM (S)	1993
	2003	AMBER VALLEY (GB)	1999
	2005	RIESA (D)	2005
	2006	KAMIENIEC PODOLSKI (PL)	2004

<European Diploma in 1999>

<Flag of Honour in 2000>

<Plaque of Honour in 2003>

1. With EISENHÜTTENSTADT: regular contacts between pupils, musicians, athletes, businesspeople and municipal councillors for exchanges of experience.

2. With LANGENHAGEN: exchanges between schools, musicians (Beati Cantores choir) and sportspersons, and visits by politicians.

3. With MIDDELBURG: exchanges between six Glogow schools, between doctors, and in the cultural field, and financing by the Dutch government of an awareness-raising programme for environmental problems.

4. With LAHOLM: exchanges between schools and artists (musicians and sculptors), and the organisation of a Polish week in Laholm.

Among the events and activities which regularly bring residents of the twinned towns together are:

- the "Glogow Days" held in 1997 and 1998 which involved representatives of all the twinning partners;
- the "Polish days in Sweden" held in 1998 to promote Polish culture in the Swedish twin town.
- an international meeting of artists and politicians on the occasion of the presentation of the "Andreas Gryphius" literary prize;
- annual football matches in Eisenhüttenstadt between representatives of the administration of the two towns and many swimming competitions with Langenhagen;
- programmes to combat unemployment subsidised by the European Commission, with workshops and conferences to permit exchanges of experience between twin towns, in particular with Eisenhüttenstadt.

1999 saw a large number of encounters:

- many school exchanges with the various twin towns;
- sports encounters (especially with the Laholm swimming club);
- major events in the town, eg the International Jazz Festival and "Glogow May", which brings together representatives of all the twinned towns; this time a twinning agreement was signed with Amber Valley in the United Kingdom;
- visits by official delegations, including one by the Mayor of Glogow to Laholm for an exchange of experience and discussions with a view to intensifying cultural and economic cooperation. Laholm undertook to support the idea of setting up a European Youth Centre in Glogow;
- economic contacts, eg between shipping companies in Glogow and Eisenhüttenstadt with a view to developing river tourism on the Oder, and contacts between company directors and traders in Laholm and Glogow.

The Festival of Twin Towns held in Glogow in May 2000 was the outstanding event of the year. Artists from the twin towns also took part in this event, attended by several thousand people. School exchanges functioned smoothly, and many young people from Glogow took part in sports competitions and cultural events organised by the twin towns (Glogow school of music and choirs in Langenhagen, folk dance group in Eisenhüttenstadt, summer camp and amateur

POLAND (continued)

GLOGOW (continued)

artists in Eisenhüttenstadt. The opening of a new sewage works built by a Swedish firm provided Glogow with an opportunity to organise an exhibition in order to publicise Sweden among its inhabitants.

Having won the European Diploma and the Flag of Honour, Glogow is endeavouring to keep up the good work. Activities included: a New Year concert in which representatives of the twin towns took part, various student exchanges, the Festival of Twin Towns as part of the traditional Glogow Festival during which the 10th anniversary of the twinning with Laholm was also celebrated, a visit by Glogow artists to Amber Valley, international conference on the “Life and Work of Andreas Gryphius”, etc.

Some 30 events held during 2002 helped to foster contacts between the twinned towns. A number of the events, including the following, were organised by Glogow:

- the traditional New Year concert at which the mayors of the twinned municipalities meet to discuss future projects;
- a town hall reopening ceremony as part of the "Glogow Days": following restoration work over several years, the town hall was re-inaugurated at a ceremony attended by representatives of Laholm and Eisenhüttenstadt. An exhibition of work by Swedish artists was held to coincide with the event;
- Glogow's "Mini Olympics", involving young people from Amber Valley and Laholm – a project conceived by the Mayor of Glogow in 2001;
- youth workshops on the theme of human rights and a number of youth activities in this field;
- the 18th international jazz event, which attracted musicians from all over Europe and was attended by the mayors of Laholm and Eisenhüttenstadt;
- a visit by some 50 young people from Middelburg under an exchange programme involving five secondary schools in Glogow. There are plans for a return visit within the year.

But Glogow also sent representatives abroad, for example:

- the Mayor visited his counterpart in Langenhagen to discuss joint projects between the two towns;
- secondary school pupils from Glogow were hosted by a school in Langenhagen;
- footballers from Glogow took part in a tournament in the Czech Republic and local Scouts were involved in a major Scouting event in Bruchsal;
- a delegation from Glogow visited Eisenhüttenstadt for ceremonies to mark the 30th anniversary of the twinning;
- dancers and singers from Glogow took part in the annual Oder Festival in Eisenhüttenstadt.

A number of European Clubs were established in schools in 2002 and many of them collaborate with counterparts in Germany and the Netherlands.

Having earned the Plaque of Honour in 2003, Glogow is now applying to be considered for the highest award and for 2004 has once again submitted a very comprehensive report on its European activities. Highlights of the year included:

POLAND (continued)

GLOGOW (continued)

- a European carnival for nursery school children (involving a total of 350 children);
- a busy programme of inter-school and youth exchanges, notably with Bargeteheide, Langenhagen and Middelburg;
- a visit by young people from the Eisenhüttenstadt School of Music who gave a concert in Glogow;
- conclusion of a twinning agreement with Kamieniec Podolski in Ukraine;
- the traditional "Glogow Days" celebrations, involving people from the twinned towns of Laholm and Kamieniec Podolski;
- participation by young people in the "Mini Olympics" organised by Amber Valley;
- the international "Wratislavia Cantans" festival held in Glogow to mark Poland's accession to the EU;
- the annual international jazz event, attended by musicians from Laholm, Langenhagen and Amber Valley.

The 2005 activity report once again mentions:

- many school exchanges;
- co-operation in the educational field with a nursery school in Orkley (UK) and a secondary school in Switzerland;
- youth exchanges with Bargeteheide and Langenhagen;
- co-operation among the twin towns of Langenhagen, Laholm and Amber Valley on the occasion of the "Glogow Days";
- the signing of a new co-operation agreement with a Ukrainian secondary school;
- the traditional sports competitions between municipal employees from Glogow and Eisenhüttenstadt;
- the 10th Glogow Transfrontier Festival;
- Germano-Polish co-operation on an artistic project organised by Glogow and Eisenhüttenstadt schools;
- the signing of a seventh twinning agreement, this time with the German town of RIESA near Dresden, to centre on youth exchanges and participation in European programmes.

An active town which was awarded the Flag of Honour in 2000 and the Plaque of Honour in 2003.

POLAND (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
GNIEZNO (Woj. Wielkopolskie)	2000	VEENDAM (NL)	1990
	2001	SPEYER (D)****	1992
	2004	ROSKILDE (DK)	1991
	2005	FALKENBERG (S)	1990
	2006	ANAGNI (I)	1995
		SAINT-MALO (F)	1992
	ESZTERGOM (H)	1994	
		UMAN (Ukr)	2005

<Flag of Honour in 2001>

Gniezno is considered the first Polish capital.

1. With VEENDAM: exchanges between several schools and sports clubs, cultural exchanges between choirs and folk groups, socio-economic exchanges, with exchanges between craftsmen and officials from both towns and contacts among enterprises. In 1995 a 40-strong delegation from Gniezno took part in the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Veendam.
2. With SPEYER, the first contact dates back to the 1970s, between two cathedral cities. There are scientific exchanges with visits by students, social encounters with Gniezno doctors doing stints in Speyer hospitals, exchanges of footballers and cultural events, with tours by Gniezno choirs. Speyer has been organising annual "Polish Days" since 1996, which has facilitated mutual contacts, particularly thanks to the Society of Friends of the City of Gniezno which has been set up in Speyer.
3. With ROSKILDE the exchanges concentrate on young people: youth exchanges, training for Polish teachers and in-house traineeships. More and more exchanges of experience are being organised in the fields of managing small and medium-sized enterprises, the environment and tourism.
4. With FALKENBERG cooperation concentrates on the environment, consisting mainly of exchange of experience between environmental conservation specialists.
5. With SAINT-MALO contacts have mainly developed with Brittany Region. The emphasis is on cultural exchanges, with the organisation in Saint-Malo of an exhibition on "Christmas in Poland".
6. With ANAGNI, mainly youth and tourist exchanges.
7. With ESZTERGOM, contacts between music schools, medical faculties, fire brigades and the towns' cultural centres.

Gniezno also has cultural and economic contacts with Nottinghamshire, United Kingdom.

From June to September every year, Gniezno familiarises its inhabitants with their twin towns by organising a major exhibition on these towns, which can send in cultural and economic contributions.

Gniezno is an active member on the Polish Committee of Towns for Peace. Through its contacts with the World Association of Martyr Cities and Cities for Peace, this committee has established links with numerous towns and cities in Europe.

Gniezno celebrated the new millennium in style, with the presence of 5 heads of state from central Europe (Poland, Hungary, Lithuania, Germany and Slovakia). A message of friendship was sent on that occasion. In April, Gniezno played host to the heads of government of these same countries and the following day, members of parliament travelled to Gniezno for a meeting, the first of its kind in the history of the Polish parliament. An official declaration was adopted, followed by the inauguration of a European college for young people in Europe.

POLAND (continued)

GNIEZNO (continued)

Since it received the Flag of Honour in 2001 Gniezno has focused its efforts on Poland's impending entry to the EU. Events organised by schools have included debates, European weeks devoted to particular EU Member States, and quizzes. The municipality has also hosted discussions – attended by distinguished personalities including in one case the Prime Minister – on the theme of Poland's integration into Europe, as well as picnics in the main town square to raise local awareness of the referendum on EU membership.

Cooperation with Gniezno's twinning partners has been pursued.

- With Speyer, Gniezno celebrated the 10th anniversary of its twinning between March and December 2002 and a whole series of events took place in both municipalities. Gniezno people are involved each year in festivities in Speyer including the Christmas Market and the Bretzel Festival. In both 2001 and 2002 school soccer teams participated in a tournament, and a group from Speyer was invited to Gniezno for a "Millennium Race" on the theme "Running into the European Union". Artists from the twinned towns of Speyer and Roskilde were represented at an exhibition of visual arts and photography in Gniezno.
- Veendam – as well as participating in inter-school and sporting exchanges – offered in 2002 to set up a business cooperation scheme with a view to building public housing. Discussions on the plan are ongoing.
- A joint project with Roskilde (DK) focused on improving the quality of school meals and the results have been appreciated by the young people of Gniezno.
- With Falkenberg, Gniezno organised exchanges on an environmental theme and between the two towns' medical schools.
- With Esztergom there are regular contacts between fire fighters;
- With Saint-Malo and Anagni the main activities are exchanges between two schools.

Inter-school exchanges with a number of European towns – Tuxford (GB), Stade and Speyer (D) and Ikast (DK) – function particularly well. Gniezno's School No 1, for example, has taken part in more than 30 exchanges over the past five years and 600 students have had the opportunity to travel.

To mark Europe Day in 2003 Gniezno invited representatives of its twinning partners and politicians for a discussion about Poland's accession to the EU.

The 2004/2005 activity report mentions several major events in the life of the town:

- the new twinning agreement with the Ukrainian town of UMAN;
- the 7th Gniezno Encounters in 2004; every year this event is attended by public figures from the political and religious worlds. The 6th Encounters in 2005 addressed the theme of "The Europe of Dialogue: being a Christian in a Pluralist Europe"; over 1 000 representatives of various associations and movements from eastern and western Europe met up in Gniezno;
- the 2004 Gniezno Days were attended by representatives of the six twin towns for over a week (with a total of over 150 participants); the Days included such events as a solemn sitting of the Municipal Council, a twin town tournament, a Hungarian Day with concerts and performances by folk groups on Gniezno main square and a late-night relay race;
- the 2005 Gniezno Days, which comprised similar events to those staged the previous year plus the 10th anniversary of the twinning agreement with Anagni, when a Grand Italian Day was organised;
- the many conferences and other events organised by Gniezno European College, which had been set up in 2003/2004 and is supported by Gniezno municipality;

POLAND (continued)

GNIEZNO (continued)

- support from the German Club for contacts with the town of Speyer, with the municipality providing premises free of charge;
- numerous events as part of the Gniezno Days in Esztergom to celebrate the 10th twinning anniversary; in order to highlight the good relations between the two towns, Gniezno decided to provide the Hungaro-Polish Friendship Club with premises free of charge, and the Polish President presented the Chairman of this Club with an award for his commitment to developing friendly relations between the two countries.

Well presented application from a town which should receive the Plaque of Honour in the near future.

POLAND (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
GOLENIÓW (Province of Western Pomerania) (Pop. 22 500)	2001	GREIFSWALD (D)	1986
	2002	SVEDALA (S)	1993
	2003		
	2004		
	2005		
	2006		

<European Diploma in 2001>

<Flag of Honour in 2003>

Goleniow is part of the "Pomerania" association which groups together Polish, German and Swedish towns, all members since 1995 of the "Pomerania" Euro-region. Its international activities focus on cooperation with the towns belonging to the Euroregion.

1. With Greifswald the initially very frequent contacts slowed down in the 80s and early 90s but cooperation took off again in 1993 and focuses mainly on:
 - sports exchanges;
 - participation in the main cultural and sporting events organised in both towns;
 - attendance by local elected representatives at official events and celebrations.
2. The twinning contract signed in 1993 with the Swedish town of Svedala involves:
 - ongoing contacts between 4 primary schools in the two towns;
 - cooperation in the cultural and sporting fields, particularly during the annual festivals which began in 1996 (in all, 4 festivals have been held attended by over 600 young people);
 - cooperation between nursery schools via an exchange of experience;
 - meetings between businessmen;
 - Swedish gifts to Goleniow schools and contacts with an orphanage;
 - joint participation in international projects.
3. The twinning agreement signed with MÖNSTERAS (S) in 1992 has not produced many results. Other than a few contacts between the authorities, contacts are at a standstill.
4. There is also cooperation with the Dutch town of OPMEER. Contacts are established through associations in each town. These have been followed up by visits from Goleniow farmers, students to attend courses in Opmeer, teachers, doctors and businessmen.

The majority of contacts with the twin and friendship towns take place via a number of bodies:

- the Youth Cultural and Sports Centre which organises sporting events such as the international volleyball tournament for girls, the Goleniow-Svedala Music and Sports Festival, etc;
- the Goleniow Cultural Centre which cooperates with its counterpart in Greifswald. One or two concerts have been organised each year since 1995;
- the Goleniow fire-brigade which established contact for the first time with its opposite number in Greifswald in 1975;
- primary schools which have organised school and teacher exchanges.

Goleniow has added up the exchanges over the last ten years: almost 2 000 people in Goleniow have taken part and Goleniow has played host to almost 1 000 foreign visitors.

In 2001 one of the highlights of the twinning with GREIFSWALD was Goleniow's participation in cultural and sporting events during the "Europe Week", and more specifically the "Scandinavian Days", organised by Greifswald.

POLAND (continued)

GOLENIOW (continued)

Exchanges with SVEDALA included a visit by representatives of that town to Goleniow and the latter's participation in the Baltic Youth Festival in Svedala. Over 70 people made the journey.

Goleniow has been in contact with the authorities in Bergen with a view to cooperation.

The Cultural Centre in Goleniow organised trips by folk song and dance groups to Germany and Lithuania. About a dozen such trips were organised in 2001.

Throughout 2002, Goleniow has worked to enhance contacts with its three twinning partners of Greifswald, Svedala and Opmeer.

1. Activities with Greifswald (D) included a visit by a Greifswald delegation to plan exchanges during the year, and the signing of an agreement between local dance clubs.
2. A delegation from Svedala also visited Goleniow to help prepare for the Festival of Music and Sport held there in May 2002.
3. Contacts with Opmeer (NL) were reinforced by the setting up of Goleniow-Opmeer friendship associations in both municipalities. A delegation from Opmeer also visited to help with preparations for the Festival of Music and Sport. Other activities included an inter-schools exchange and celebrations to mark 10 years of cooperation between Goleniow and Opmeer, held during the Festival of Music and Sport. There are many contacts between associations in the two towns and these have led to the provision of 15 computers in municipal buildings in Goleniow.
4. Although Bergen (D) is not twinned with Goleniow, there are friendly ties between the two municipalities and a delegation from Bergen also took part in Goleniow's Festival of Music and Sport.
5. Goleniow also has contacts with Ukraine and hosted a Ukrainian delegation exploring possibilities for cooperation between young people, cultural associations and sports clubs.

Through its **Cultural Centre**, Goleniow helped to send a number of traditional dance groups, including the "Ina" children's group, to Germany, Slovakia and the Czech Republic; organised a trip by a 60-strong group to Croatia for a music festival; and staged the 12th International Festival of Children's Art, an international folk dancing event involving 120 dancers from other countries, and its fourth international theatre festival.

The local **School of Culture and Sport** hosted basketball players from Greifswald and sent its own folk dancing troupe to a number of events in the German municipality.

Meanwhile the programme of school exchanges was stepped up, involving the local school of music and, in particular, primary and secondary-level schools, including some in outlying villages.

In all its exchange activities in 2002, Goleniow hosted around 650 people (up from 250 in 2001) and more than 550 Goleniow residents (mostly young people) travelled abroad. This upsurge of interest was a boost to tourism and, indeed, to inward investment (with a Danish company setting up a factory in the municipality).

The Festival of Music and Sport, Goleniow's biggest event of 2002, involved young people from Bergen, Opmeer and Svedala.

POLAND (continued)

GOLENIOW (continued)

Goleniow and its surrounding villages also hosted a return trip by former German residents keen to renew old ties.

There was a busy programme of meetings in 2003 including a gathering of senior citizens from Goleniow and Greifswald and meetings between groups of young dancers and fire fighters. Goleniow celebrated the 10th anniversary of its twinning with Svedala, linking the event with the presentation of the Flag of Honour. Youth exchanges were mainly with Opmeer and a partnership agreement was signed with the German municipality of Bergen.

Goleniow's Cultural Centre remained as busy as ever with activities including the 13th International Festival of Creative Art for Children, which was attended by around 50 German guests.

Goleniow is proud of the way its exchange programme has developed. In 2002 it hosted 650 people on international exchanges while the corresponding figure for 2003 was more than 1 000. At the same time, more than 900 people from Goleniow had the opportunity of travelling abroad (compared with 550 in 2002).

The report on twinning activities in 2004 is very impressive for a town with a population of just 32 000.

1. In the twinning with Greifswald, which dates back to 1986, there has been no slackening in the pace of exchanges. On the contrary, the many links were strengthened as official visits were organised for Greifswald's Europe Day celebrations, fire fighters in the two towns maintained close contact, a summer youth camp was held, senior citizens got together and gifts were presented to a school for children with disabilities, teachers took part in a seminar organised by Greifswald and a number of inter-school exchanges took place.

2. The twinning with Svedala, concluded in 1993, is also very much alive but the focus here was on the business sector, with several meetings between company directors and discussions on the creation of an air link between the two towns.

3. Cooperation with Opmeer (NL) is organised through residents associations and has focused on facilitating youth exchanges.

4. Cooperation with Bergen (D) has developed mainly at municipal administrative level, but Goleniow also sent a 120-strong contingent to take part in Bergen's Music and Sport Festival and was involved in the "Rügana 2004" trade fair.

Goleniow's Cultural Centre has been as busy as ever. It organised a festival of Ukrainian culture in Goleniow, youth workshops, concerts, and performances by the "Ina" folk-dance troupe in several European countries. The town's Youth Sport Centre was also very active, organising a number of international sporting encounters including a volleyball tournament and cycle rallies taking in a number of European countries.

POLAND (continued)

GOLENIOW (continued)

Contacts in 2005 were once again most intensive with the German town of Greifswald:

- visit to Greifswald by sports and cultural officials from the town of Goleniow as part of a project jointly funded by the EU, “the Meanders of the River Ina”;
- reception in Goleniow for the young winners of a competition on Goleniow and the twin towns;
- several encounters between the fire brigades of both towns;
- participation by young sports enthusiasts in canoe-kayak competitions in Greifswald;
- encounter of officials from both towns;
- visit by war veterans and registered disabled ex-servicemen;
- the highlight: attendance by a 30-strong delegation from Greifswald in the First Goleniow Hanseatic Festival.

Under the twinning agreement with Svedala: participation in the project jointly financed by the EU, visit by a group of young persons with disabilities, participation of a group of 55 athletes and officials in Svedala Music and Sports Festival, and an official delegation to the First Goleniow Hanseatic Festival.

With Opmeer: visit by a group of 40 young people to Opmeer and participation by a group of 20 young people in a summer camp.

With Bergen auf Rügen: the main exchanges involve the towns’ fire brigades, with several visits in both directions, inter alia for the 100th anniversary of the Bergen Fire Brigade; Goleniow representatives also attended the 10th anniversary of the RUGANA Fair, organising an exhibition of works by Polish artists.

A very well documented and well presented submission. For a town of its size (population 32 000) it has many contacts. To be soon considered for the Plaque of honour.

POLAND (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
KATOWICE (Woj. Slaskie) (Pop. 351 000)	1998	SAINTE-ETIENNE (F)**	1994
	1999	COLOGNE (D)***	1991
	2000	GRONINGEN (NL)	
	2002	DUBLIN (IRL)	
	2003	ODENSE (DK)	
	2004	LINZ (A)****	
	2005	GRAZ (A)****	
	2006	OSTRAVA (CZ.)	
		MISKOLC (H)	2005
		KYIV (UA)	
	PERNIK (BG)		
	KEDAINIAI (LT)		

<Flag of Honour in 1998>

<Plaque of Honour in 2000>

Since 1989 Katowice has been developing a very dense network of international contacts with municipalities in central, western and eastern Europe, the United States of America (town of Mobile), and even with Asia (Huaipei, China). Katowice is the capital of Upper Silesia and is part of an urban area with a population of 3 million in one of the most important economic and industrial centres in Poland.

Its relations with its twin towns are highly diversified, ranging from official visits to personal exchanges at all levels.

1. With Saint-Etienne, the association set up in 1991 has strengthened links, facilitated the organisation of cultural exhibitions and commercial encounters (Katowice has taken part in the Saint-Etienne Economic Fair), organised a series of training courses in Saint-Etienne for municipal officers from Katowice as well as a seminar on local and regional self-government, and facilitated sporting events (international wrestling competition in Saint-Etienne) and musical get-togethers.
2. With Cologne, exchanges also started in 1991, involving young people, sports, medical research, municipal employees, music and culture with exchanges between cultural centres, and exhibitions by Katowice artists in Cologne.
3. With Groningen and Dublin, the main contacts have related to the revitalisation of a district in Katowice called ZALEZE 2000, a project in which both these municipalities were actively involved.
4. With Odense (DK), relations have built up between the town halls, with Katowice municipal employees attending a training seminar in Odense.
5. With Linz and Graz (A), economic contacts have developed with the Styrian Chamber of Commerce, and exhibitions on Silesia are organised alternately by the Polish and Czech partners.

Katowice is the seat of several institutes of higher education (University of Silesia, Academies of Medicine, Physical Education, Art and Economic Sciences, and they all cooperate with their opposite numbers in the twin towns. For instance, in 1992 the Katowice Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry began organising economic missions, in cooperation with the Rhône-Alpes region, in Chambéry, Saint-Etienne and Katowice. The Katowice Municipal Social Assistance Centre cooperates with twinned municipalities in training social workers, and the Katowice Youth Centre organises a whole range of activities for young people in Katowice, including European and international events, and informs them about European issues in working sessions and seminars.

POLAND (continued)

KATOWICE (continued)

The most important event in 1998 was the award of the Flag of Honour to Katowice, attended by delegations from all the twin towns. This ceremony coincided with the inauguration of the St Stephen's Centre in Katowice and the "European Cultural Heritage Days" organised jointly by the Council of Europe and the European Commission.

The numerous activities organised with the twin towns in 1999 included:

- with Saint-Etienne, the celebration in May of the 5th twinning anniversary during the "Saint-Etienne in Katowice" days. Numerous events took place in the space of five days, including exhibitions, concerts, plays, sports competitions and the presentation of local products. The events were given extensive coverage in the local press. There were also exchanges in the economic sphere: fact-finding trips by Polish architects with a view to renovating an old part of the town, cooperation with the building of an underground car park and design of a square called "Council of Europe Square" in Katowice, cooperation between chambers of commerce, municipal employees, etc.
- With Cologne Katowice was involved in several conferences and events organised by Cologne. It also organised two youth exchanges.
- With South Dublin (Ireland) cooperation was limited to two school exchanges.
- With Ostrava, several cultural exchanges (folk group performances), exhibitions on Ostrava at the historical museum in Katowice, contacts between administrative staff, concerts on the occasion of the Czech National Holiday.
- With Groningen, numerous contacts to arrange participation by Dutch firms in the rebuilding of a square in Katowice and the renovation of a group of buildings.

Katowice also had contacts with:

- MOBILE (USA) to prepare for the celebration in 2000 of the 10th anniversary of cooperation between the two.
- HUAIBEI (China) in the economic sphere.
- PERNIK (BG) to fit out a hospital.
- DNIETROPETROVSK (UA).
- VIENNA (A).

In 1999 Katowice decided to join in celebrating the Council of Europe's 50th anniversary and organised a series of events (solemn session of the municipal council, lectures on the Council, drawing and essay competitions, Council of Europe quiz, foot race), with extensive participation by its primary and secondary schools.

In 2001, the emphasis was on institutional contacts:

- The Institute of Management of Silesia developed contacts with the Universities of Perugia and Pavia (I), under the Phare-Tempus programmes, with teacher and student exchanges
- The University of Silesia has more than 96 bilateral contracts in the field of scientific cooperation and research with universities in 31 countries worldwide

POLAND (continued)

KATOWICE (continued)

- the Higher Institute of Marketing and Foreign Languages is stepping up its student exchanges, especially with German universities
- Various schools have cooperation agreements with their counterparts in France (Bischwiller), Germany (Zweibrücken) and Finland (Espoo)
- The Chamber of Commerce has ties with the Chamber of Commerce in Lesbos (GR) and, together with its counterpart in France, held a conference on promoting Polish products on the French market. Representatives of 60 firms attended.
- The Academy of Music arranged for a group of young students to attend classes at the academy in Kecskemet (H).

Katowice made a special effort in 2002 to develop its twinning activities, especially with:

Saint-Etienne (F) - with a view to intensifying cultural and business cooperation, Katowice appointed a full time member of staff to work in the "Saint-Etienne House in Katowice". The main types of exchange activity between the two towns were sporting contacts, student exchanges, conclusion of a cooperation agreement between the respective schools of fine art, and a student placement scheme in Katowice;

Cologne (D) - the municipal Chamber of Commerce in Cologne provided training placements for students of economics, contacts took place between writers' associations in the two towns, there were a number of exhibitions by Katowice artists, as well as inter-school exchanges, and a bilateral cooperation agreement was signed between the institutes of language in Cologne and Katowice;

Ostrava (CZ) – activities here included competitions in schools designed to boost knowledge about the twinned town and, in particular, the organisation of "Polish-Czech" days in both Katowice and Ostrava with a view to promoting contacts at community level. Events held in the two towns included sports competitions, concerts and other cultural encounters and a youth talent festival as well as a number of business seminars. Regular contact is maintained between institutions including the Transport Department of the Polytechnic University of Silesia, the Katowice Academy of Music and the Higher Institute of Administration.

Katowice has also developed contacts with **DONIECK (UA)** through municipal staff exchanges; **DELFT (NL)** through a programme of hosting Dutch students; **KOSICE (Sk)**; **Lille (F)** through student links; **Berlin (D)** through the respective Chambers of Trade; and **Opava (CZ)** through the involvement of young people from Opava in arts events.

Student exchanges take place regularly under the European Union's Socrates programme.

Activities with a European dimension have included an exhibition about Slovakia in Katowice's main library, an international theatre festival which attracted performers from France and Germany, a whole series of lectures in the University of Silesia, Katowice, an international folklore festival for students and various events for young people organised by Katowice's youth centre.

The European documentation centre attached to Katowice's main library has helped to promote the concept of Europe through various exhibitions, a series of talks and drawing competitions for schoolchildren.

POLAND (continued)

KATOWICE (continued)

In **2003** Katowice concentrated on pursuing its contacts with:

OSTRAVA, with events including an exhibition in Ostrava's Arts Centre; contacts between the music schools in the two municipalities; the signing of a research cooperation agreement between universities (in connection with which 60 representatives of the University of Silesia in Katowice travelled to Ostrava and Katowice hosted 14 guests in return); and exchanges for schoolchildren and teachers;

COLOGNE, where representatives from Katowice took part on a seminar on how municipalities can use European funding; contacts between art galleries were also sustained and several groups of young Germans came to Katowice as part of regular inter-school exchanges which also saw pupils from Katowice travelling to Cologne;

SAINT-ETIENNE, focusing on contact between the School of Engineering in Katowice and the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Mines in Saint-Etienne, which organised joint conferences, student exchanges and shared projects. Katowice's Academy of Art has embarked on a five-year cooperation programme with the Ecole Régionale des Beaux-Arts in Saint-Etienne featuring not only student exchanges, with support from the EU Socrates and Erasmus programmes, but also planning meetings for a major biennial design event in France. The University of Silesia has carried out several research projects with the University of Saint-Etienne in connection with which it has provided places for two French students. As usual there were also a number of inter-school exchanges.

Exchanges with establishments or organisations in other European towns included:

- a visit to Katowice by students and teaching staff from the School of Music in Titisee-Neustadt (D);
- trips by students and lecturers from Katowice's Academy of Art to Rhineland Westphalia and to a summer school in the Italian town of Urbino, an arts event in Göteborg (S) and the Festival of Animation in Kiskakas (H).

All the schools in the municipality mounted projects to mark Poland's impending entry to the EU and several of them also took part in Europe Day celebrations.

In 2004 the municipality of Katowice was involved in the Integra-Sites project, which receives support from the EU's INTERREG programme and aims to regenerate land formerly used by industry. The project was organised under the auspices of the Weimar Regional Triangle and provided an opportunity to further develop existing links between the Nord Pas-de-Calais Region in France, the State of North Rhine Westphalia in northern Germany and the Polish Voivodship of Silesia.

Contacts with the twinning partners were furthered through a whole range of activities.

- With Ostrava, Katowice was involved in a series of "Czech-Polish Days", an annual event started in 2001 which offers opportunities for valuable cultural and business exchanges and this year included exhibitions of graphic art, paintings and photographs as well as an exchange between music schools; groups from Katowice took part in a four-way gathering of Ostrava's twinning partners and a soccer competition was held at the same time; cooperation between the University of Silesia and the University of Ostrava was stepped up as four representatives of Ostrava came to the Polish university and a 15-strong group made a reciprocal visit.

POLAND (continued)

KATOWICE (continued)

- With St Etienne – which helped to celebrate Poland's accession to the EU – Katowice marked 10 years of twinning by organising a festival for youth music and dance groups from all its twinned municipalities, while St Etienne marked the anniversary by hosting a book fair involving Polish writers and readers and mounting an exhibition of photographs of Katowice, presenting an outsider's view of the city, in the "St Etienne House" there.
- With Cologne there was a greater variety of exchanges – a fire fighters' delegation from the German city visited Katowice, the Katowice Academy of Fine Arts organised a series of multimedia workshops in partnership with Cologne artists, and two young students from Katowice completed work placements in Cologne.

During 2004 the University of Silesia carried out 441 joint research projects with partners in 44 other countries. Most of the research agreements were concluded with Germany (95 projects), the Czech Republic (51), France (35) and the UK (30).

Many primary, secondary and specialised schools in Katowice are involved in regular cooperation with counterparts abroad.

The report on twinning activities in 2005 highlights the effective co-operation with the following twin towns:

1. **ODENSE (DK):** in May, on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Hans Christian Andersen, in an endeavour to boost the town's image, Odense organised a "Press Weekend" attended by journalists from all of Odense's twin towns. The Mayor of Katowice represented his town at the 200th anniversary ceremonies in August, taking the opportunity to reactivate the co-operation process with Odense.
2. **COLOGNE (D):** on the occasion of the inauguration of Germano-Polish Year 2005, the Mayor of Katowice attended the ceremonies in Cologne to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II, Katowice Cultural Centre organised an exchange between young Germans and Poles, a Cologne theatre took part in the Katowice International Puppet Theatre Festival, members of Katowice Fire Brigade visited Cologne and subsequently invited their opposite numbers to Katowice for an International Football Tournament, Katowice Chamber of Trade and SMEs participated in a programme known as DESIRE (Developing the Entrepreneurial Spirit in Europe) under the EU LEONARDO Project, in co-operation with 18 other bodies from 10 different EU countries.
3. **SAINT-ETIENNE:** Katowice invited a group of secondary school students to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, an official delegation from Katowice took part in the first Saint-Etienne Biennial Festival on culture and urban management, and the Saint-Etienne Centre in Katowice organised a series of events: European youth encounters with school exchanges, French-Speaking Day in co-operation with the School of Political Sciences, French market Day organised with the French Chamber of Trade and Industry in Poland, and a photographic exhibition on Albert Camus.
4. **OSTRAVA (CZ):** the Mayor of Katowice was awarded the Peace Medal for his commitment to co-operation between Poland and the Czech Republic, the Cultural Centre organised a visit by young Poles to join with Czech youngsters in implementing a programme on the shared history of both countries in the Silesia Euroregion, several youth exchanges and participation by a team in the sports tournament of the twin towns of Katowice and Ostrava, organised by Katowice.
5. **MISKLOC (Hungary):** Katowice and Miskolc signed a twinning agreement in 2005 after many years of contacts and sports and cultural exchanges.

POLAND (continued)

KATOWICE (continued)

Katowice works with the Strasbourg Club, which endeavours to promote co-operation among several European towns. One project known as URBACT deals with public transport in nine European towns and cities. In May 2005 mayors from eastern Europe met for the third time to discuss cultural activities.

The main European event was the celebration of the 140th anniversary of the granting of municipal rights to the town of Katowice; major events were organised for the occasion, attended by large sections of the population and guests from the twin towns. Other events were a solemn sitting of the Municipal Council, a series of concerts, exhibitions and an international conference on the acquisition and management of European funds.

A series of events were held to celebrate Polish Year in Germany and German Year in Poland, geared to bringing the inhabitants of both countries closer together: several classical concerts were staged by the Katowice cultural centres, seminars and conferences were organised by the Silesian Library, and an exhibition was mounted of works by a German artist.

In October Katowice hosted the international event NORDALIA 2005 showcasing Scandinavian culture and art by means of exhibitions, presentations of Scandinavian literature, concerts and films.

A good dossier but twinning events are limited only to some of the twin-towns.

POLAND (continued)

	Report in :	Twinned with :	Since:
KONIN (pop. 83,500) (woj. Wielkopolskie)	2000	HENIN-BEAUMONT (F)	1989
	2001	HERNE (D)	1991
	2002	WAKEFIELD (GB)	1996
	2006	BRYANSK (Russia)	1995
		CZERNIOWCE (Ukr)	1994
		KARLOWO (Bul)	1997
		SUNDSVALL (Sweden)	1999
		AADMENA (Lithuania)	1999
		DOBELE (Latvia)	2000
		<UNGHENI (Mol)>	2003
		SANTA SUSANNA (E)	2003

<European Diploma in 2000>

<Flag of honour in 2002>

After signing an initial co-operation agreement in 1989 with the French town of Henin-Beaumont, Konin twinned with Herne and Wakefield to form a triangular twinning.

Konin is endeavouring to diversify its exchanges : cultural events with accordionists from Herne and performances by folk groups during the “International Song and Dance Festival”. In the economic sector, the Konin Chamber of Commerce is striving to intensify contacts among small and medium-sized enterprises and encouraging encounters between municipal employees, particularly with the town of Herne.

The town of Konin initiated the first school and youth exchanges with its twin towns.

International events include :

- the International Song and Dance Festival, which has been held annually for 20 years now and became international in 1998. It attracts several thousand spectators and participants;
- the seminar organised in co-operation with the twin town of Sundsvall, which may be considered as the first step towards a co-operation process between the two towns. The theme was “Swedish experience in the environment protection field and ways of tailoring this experience to conditions in Poland”
- conference in April 2000 on ecology, attended by young people from 14 different countries.

In order to disseminate the European idea Konin organises :

- training seminars for teachers (preparing Polish society for EU membership)
- selection of foreign language teachers
- school competitions, etc.

In 2000, Konin expanded its contacts with its twin towns. Primarily, these were exchanges of experience in the field of municipal administration, and youth and cultural exchanges.

- The Konin Cultural Club has ongoing contacts with its counterparts in Herne (D), Karlovo (Bul) and Chernivtsi (Ukr);
- representatives of these towns took part in the annual international children’s festival organised by the Konin Cultural Club;
- there were contacts with the Herne fire-brigade on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the Konin club;
- there were contacts with the Osnabrück women’s football team;
- there are regular contacts with Herne young people;
- there are annual exchanges with a school in Herne. Each year some 30 children are involved;
- there have been youth exchanges for the last 20 years with the town of Karlowo in Bulgaria. These are due to be extended to include adults from 2001.

POLAND (continued)

KONIN (continued)

Konin has organised several large-scale meetings:

- the mayors of 8 twin towns met up at an anniversary ceremony in Konin in May 2000;
- Konin organised a youth conference on ecology to which young people from the twin towns were also invited;
- a youth camp was held in Giewartowo and young Poles travelled to Herne for a youth camp attended by young people from the twin towns;
- seminars for primary and secondary school teachers looked at European issues.

Two organisations make a significant contribution to propagating the European idea, particularly in schools:

- the European Club, which has over 100 members;
- Konin's provincial methodological centre which organises numerous competitions in schools.

In September 1998, the Konin local administration signed a co-operation agreement with USAID (United States Agency for International Development).

Through the European Information Centre Konin is preparing residents for Poland's future membership of the European Union.

12 European Clubs work with young people, fostering contacts with other countries. Meetings, working groups and inter-school competitions are organised every year.

Major events organised by Konin in 2001 include:

- the annual meeting of mayors of twin towns, with the participation of representatives from Herne, Sundsvall, Chernivtsi, Bryansk, Akmeine and Karlova. A new twinning agreement was signed with DOBELE (Latvia) on this occasion;
- the traditional international childrens' song and dance Festival, which attracts 2,000 to 2,500 young artists from Poland and abroad every year. Children from five twin towns took part on this occasion;
- a youth camp which brought together young people from five twin towns to discuss environmental issues
- a delegation of 20 people from Konin who travelled to Herne for the 10th twinning anniversary
- the Wielkopolski region "Europe Days", for which some activities took place in Konin
- plans for co-operation with Moldovan towns were discussed at a seminar in Konin
- the twinning agreement with Henin-Beaumont was renewed when a delegation from the twin town visited Konin, with a view to reactivating co-operation.

POLAND (continued)

KONIN (continued)

After several years of silence, Konin has sent to the Secretariat a file about its European activities of the three last years.

Coordination of Konin's cooperation with its twin-towns is ensured by a special office created on that occasion. Konin organised twice the Economic Forum of twin towns that gave the opportunity to businessmen of the twin towns to meet, exchange their experience and discuss about adhesion to European Union.

Thanks to its good contacts with Herne and Henin-Beaumont in particular, Konin could also benefit of programmes financed by the European Union, in particular the ECOS-OUVERTURE programme devoted to environment protection.

Youth exchanges have always had a large place: numerous schools have contacts with their counterparts in the twin towns and Konin organised for the fourth time an ecologic camp for young people called EUROCAMP.

Cultural cooperation with twin towns is ensured by the Cultural House of Konin and the Music School is in permanent contact with that of Herne.

Konin organised twice the European Days, a great event at which artistic groups of the twin towns are invited.

Among the many events devoted to propagation of European idea: debates, conferences, radio programmes, competitions in schools, teachers seminars ...

After a long silence, Konin is on the scene again after presentation of the Flag of honour in 2002 but the number of exchanges is a little bit disappointing compared to the number of twinnings.

POLAND (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
KOSZALIN	1998	NEUMÜNSTER (D)	1990
(Pomerania)	1999	BERLIN-SCHÖNEBERG (D)	1995
(Woj. Koszalin)	2001	NEUBRANDENBURG (D)	1990
(Pop. 112 000)	2004	GLADSAXE (DK)	1990
	2005	SEINÄJOKI (FIN)	1988
	2006	BOURGES (F)	1999
		ROERMOND (NL)**	1995
		SCHWEDT an der Oder (D)	2004
		KRISTIANSTAD (S)	2004
		LIDA (BY)	1993

<European Diploma in 1998>**<Flag of Honour in 1999>****<Plaque of Honour in 2001>**

- In 1998 Koszalin joined the Association of Baltic Towns, which has 92 member towns
- In 1994 Koszalin joined the Union of Polish Towns, which promotes exchanges among Polish and European towns (particularly in the fields of economic cooperation and environment). It concentrates on exchanges with Finnish towns. It has also joined the Union of Hanseatic Towns
- In 1994 Koszalin was a founder member of the Association of Central Pomeranian Towns, which includes 7 municipalities in the Koszalin region and is aimed particularly at environmental conservation.
- After the initial exchanges in the 1960s, a three-way cooperation agreement was signed in 1990 with the towns of Neubrandenburg and Gladsaxe. This produced annual sports and artistic meets, alternating among the three towns.
- In 1997 Gladsaxe hosted an economic seminar attended by the two other twin towns, and in May 1997 the town of Koszalin was presented to the inhabitants of Berlin-Schöneberg during a seminar entitled "Koszalin Day in Berlin"
- Koszalin is also considering twinning with the French town of Poitiers and the Swedish towns of Örebro and Nyköping.
- Cultural exchanges have recently been conducted under the twinning with Lida (Belarus).
- Contacts have developed with Swiss municipalities of Herisau, Rapperswil and Winterthur, especially through their engineering and architecture colleges.
- On the cultural front, the Koszalin Philharmonic has given concerts in Berlin and Sora (DK).
- School exchanges have been conducted with Gladsaxe (DK), Vöhringen (D), Neumünster (D) and Bourges (F).
- The University of Technology, the Koszalin Higher Education Institute and the French Language College have developed cooperation with their opposite numbers in many European countries.
- In connection with training courses for municipal staff, Koszalin has been training municipal employees in Roermond and Gladsaxe.
- Koszalin provides funding for two secondary schools specialising in foreign languages and raises secondary pupils' awareness of Europe through competitions, etc.
- In 1998 Koszalin invited sportspersons from the twin towns to an international race during the "Koszalin Days", a football competition and an international handball competition. In their turn, sportspersons from Koszalin participated in sports events organised by Neubrandenburg.
- In the field of cultural events, the Koszalin Philharmonic performed in Neubrandenburg and several other German towns. The BALTYSK song and dance ensemble performed in several Italian towns and Polish artists participated in exhibitions in Neubrandenburg.
- Among the youth exchanges mention should be made of the stay of 40 Koszalin scouts in Nîmes and of 30 children in Neubrandenburg.

POLAND (continued)

KOSZALIN (continued)

- The Chamber of Commerce and Industry cooperates with those of Kiel, Tallin and Nograd in Hungary.
- Contacts have been made with trade unions in Gladsaxe and Belgium.
- Among the international events organised in Koszalin to which the twin towns are invited: the Koszalin Days held annually in the presence of many other Polish towns, the international organ concerts and the Polish emigrant choirs that perform every three years.

...

Cooperation with the towns of Neubrandenburg and Gladsaxe, which dates back to the 1960s, is still functioning smoothly, and encounters between sports enthusiasts and artists from all three towns have become an annual tradition. They also met up in July 2000 to exchange experience in the anti-drug field. Koszalin also has very close contacts with the town of LIDA (Belarus) and ZYTOMIERZ (Ukraine).

All schools in Koszalin have contacts with their counterparts in the twin towns, and the universities have developed a network of exchanges throughout Europe, particularly with the Rapperswill (CH) University of Technology. Exchanges of municipal staff responsible for social services have intensified with Gladsaxe.

A European information centre was opened in 2000, inaugurated by a former member of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, Mr Antretter.

Since receiving the Plaque of Honour in 2001, Koszalin has done its best to sustain contact with all its twinning partners and particularly Neubrandenburg, Gladsaxe and Bourges. Events which it organised in 2003 included an exhibition of work by artists from the twinned towns, and it also hosted visiting teachers from Bourges and dancers from Neumünster as well as giving a number of concerts in Bourges.

Cooperation between schools functions well and numerous inter-school agreements have been concluded. Similarly there is good contact between municipal administrative staff who are frequently invited to conferences, seminars and training courses in the twinned towns.

European events which are consistently well attended include the Osieki international open-air painting event, the International Festival of Organ Music, an international festival of percussion music and the Festival of Polish Choirs Abroad.

Two new twinning agreements were concluded in 2004, one with the German town of **Schwerdt an der Oder** and the other with the town of **Kristianstad** in Sweden. Koszalin invited representatives of all its twinning partners to join in a five-day "European Encounters" event, and the annual programme of European activities (including art exhibitions and choral festivals) continued to provide opportunities for sportspeople, artists and others to get together.

All the twin towns were represented in Koszalin from 25 to 29 May 2005 for large-scale events attended by over 1 300 persons, including 100 foreign guests. The events included a classical concert, a painting competition and water shows. On this occasion, Koszalin also invited residents of the Italian town of Albano Laziale, with which it is hoping to conclude a twinning agreement in the near future.

Athletes and artists from the twin towns attended such annual events as the open-air photographic exhibitions and the choir festival, etc. Contacts with the town of Lida in Belarus are confined to cultural exchanges.

This is always a very detailed submission but exchanges with the twinned towns are not sufficiently well developed to merit the highest award.

POLAND (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
LEGNICA	1999	WUPPERTAL (D)	1993
(Woj. Dolnoslaskie)	2000	ORENBURG (RU)	1996
(Pop. 108 000)	2001	DROHOBYCZ (UA)	1999
	2002	BLANSK (CZ)	2000
	2003		
	2004		
<European Diploma in 1999>	2005		
<Flag of Honour in 2001>	2006		
<Plaque of Honour in 2004>			

Unfortunately, because of the distance the contacts with Orenburg are few and far between. There have nevertheless been two visits at municipal level to develop cultural relations.

Relations with Wuppertal on the other hand are very intense:

- in the cultural field: exhibitions, the organisation of “Polish Culture in Wuppertal Month”, the organisation of concerts and plays;
- in the field of sport: many contacts in several disciplines (handball, table tennis, football, volley ball) and Legnica hosted the 12th indoor football competition in December 1998.

Many public bodies maintain contacts with other countries:

- the Chamber of Commerce and Industry with Germany, France, Israel and Lithuania
- the social service body with its counterpart in Denmark (Varde)
- the Higher Technical Institute of Legnica with that of Roanne
- the Veterinary College of Legnica with those of Wuppertal and Munich.

The exchanges included training courses for local government officers in fields as diverse as waste water treatment, housing and finance.

Several schools participate in youth exchanges and Legnica is able to take advantage of the fact that the town of Wuppertal has 8 twinnings with which the young people of Legnica are associated for cultural and sporting events.

Among the events marking the 5th anniversary of twinning, Legnica organised German-Polish forum on twinnings between the two countries and on 8 May 1998 a peace race was organised from Berlin to Kosice via Legnica.

The report on 1999 activities highlights the many contacts between schools and colleges in Legnica and Roanne (F), Wuppertal (D), Oerlinghausen (D), Brühl (D) and Tampere (Fin). Brühl, for instance, provided courses for several students.

Youth exchanges have been developed, especially with the town of Wuppertal, and for the first time a secondary school in Legnica took in some French youngsters. Preliminary contact has been made with a Welsh school (Merthyr Tydfil).

However, above and beyond the school contacts, municipal officials have been taking part in projects conducted by the twin towns, eg. the “Youth for Europe” project developed by the towns of Remscheid, Solingen and Wuppertal.

A cooperation agreement was signed in 1999 with the Ukrainian town of DROHOBYCZ, with which Legnica also has historical links, as has Wuppertal. Many residents fled Drobobycz during the second world war, which at the time was in Poland, to settle in Legnica.

POLAND (continued)

LEGNICA (continued)

In the year 2000, Legnica signed another cooperation agreement with the Czech town of BLANSK, which is the closest twin town to Legnica (290 km).

1. The contacts which took place in 1999 and 2000 with Wuppertal included: a conference organised by the University of Legnica on the future of German-Polish cooperation; the town played host to two groups of young people; Wuppertal took part in a meeting of twin towns; a project was successfully completed enabling 20 cyclists to ride between the two towns; two meetings between police officers and the attendance by the mayor of Legnica at the 10th anniversary of German reunification.

1. With the town of DROHOBYCZ: signature of several twinning agreements between universities and schools; the town played host to representatives of Drohobycz to attend Legnica's annual festival, and this visit was reciprocated; accommodation was also found for 10 Ukrainian children and for students of Polish families in Drohobycz whose studies are subsidised by Legnica.

3. With BLANSK, the first contacts between schools have been made and there were two visits by the headmistresses of nursery schools. Legnica also organised a "Blansk Festival" enabling its residents to familiarise themselves with Czech culture.

The many European events organised by Legnica and attracting European artists included the "Legnica Organ Evenings", an organ music festival, in which both composers and musicians took part; the summer special film effects academy, the international exhibition of the satirical newspaper "Satyrykon", which has been held for the past 25 years, the international silversmith competition, the international popular art festival, organised since 1977, and the European young writers' meeting "Port Legnica".

On the town's initiative and for the first time, there were a number of events to mark "Europe Day".

But it has mainly been in schools that awareness of the European idea has been developed through radio broadcasts, newspaper publications, the setting up of friendship circles, and joint programmes with other schools such as with the town of Melun (F), in which schoolchildren from other countries also take part. Legnica subsidises numerous exchanges with schools in Germany (Aachen, Jülich, Reutlingen, Bautzen, Oerlinghausen) and France (Dammarie Les Lys, Nangis, Saint Denis, Gap) and in Wales, which played host to a group of 30 pupils from Legnica in 1999.

Encounters organised in Legnica in 2002 included:

- a visit by pupils from Ireland and the Czech Republic who are cooperating with a school in Legnica under the Socrates programme;
- a visit to Legnica's further education centre by staff working in the same field in Blansk;
- an academic conference attended by representatives of Drohobycz and Wuppertal;
- a summer visit by a group of 10 children from Drohobycz and a separate visit by a group of sick children;
- contact between representatives of Wuppertal's vocational training college and their counterparts in Legnica;
- participation by teams from Blansk and Drohobycz in an international football tournament.

POLAND (continued)

LEGNICA (continued)

Legnica also took part in a range of activities in the twinned towns:

- a meeting in Drohobycz, involving municipal representatives, sports clubs, cultural associations and schools from Legnica, to schedule future activities;
- an Easter visit by a group of Legnica residents to their Ukrainian neighbours;
- participation by athletes from Legnica in a half-marathon in Blansk;
- participation by Legnica's Mayor in the traditional meeting with former residents of the town who settled in Wuppertal after the Second World War;
- participation by footballers from Legnica in a tournament in Blansk;
- a journey by 10 cyclists from Legnica to Wuppertal;
- a study trip to Blansk by a school party under the Socrates programme.

There are many contacts between the regional development agency in Legnica and its counterpart in Drohobycz, between the chambers of commerce and industry of the two towns and between their universities.

The adult education centre in Legnica has very strong links with Wuppertal, and there are also ties between the respective schools of music and police services.

The many European events organised by Legnica included the "Europe without frontiers" series of encounters involving national and ethnic minorities, held in the municipality since 1997; the "Legnica Organ Evenings", a festival of organ music involving both composers and organists; a summer academy of special effects in film-making; the international exhibition of the satirical newspaper *Satyrykon*, which has been held for the past 25 years; an international silversmiths' competition; an international festival of popular art, first held in 1997; the "Port Legnica" European young writers' meeting; and an indoor football tournament involving teams from the twinned municipalities.

In 2003, as every year, Legnica took part in various events organised by its twinning partners, including:

- soccer tournaments in Drohobycz and Blansk;
- a ceremonial meeting of Wuppertal Municipal Council to mark the 10th anniversary of the twinning;
- a cycle rally staged by Wuppertal and its twinned towns in response to the war in Iraq;
- youth exchanges with Drohobycz and Wuppertal.

Legnica also initiated or hosted a number of events including:

- a visit by students and teachers from a twinned grammar school in Wuppertal;
- the visit of a youth group and choir from Drohobycz for Legnica's cultural festival;
- a visit by disabled children from Drohobycz;
- traditional harvest celebrations for senior citizens in the municipality, with a reception in the town
- celebrations to mark the 10th anniversary of the twinning with Wuppertal, featuring an international conference on the theme "Towards a united Europe through twinning" as well as a whole range of activities designed particularly for schoolchildren. Fifty visitors from Wuppertal took part;
- the traditional St Nicolas Day soccer tournament with teams from Blansk and Drohobycz.

Legnica is keen to extend its contacts abroad and has made initial overtures to the Russian town of RYBINSK and the Italian municipality of GALLARATE. It has already developed cooperation with Alsace, which is twinned with Lower Silesia, and this has resulted in several exchanges of experience.

POLAND (continued)
LEGNICA (continued)

Last May Legnica staged a series of "Alsace Days" with events including an economic forum and a photographic exhibition showcasing Alsace.

More and more efforts are being made to raise local awareness about Europe.

- A street festival was held in the town centre in May and associated events included not only a schools parade but also a series of seminars on a wide range of themes such as women in the EU, the unemployed in the EU and small and medium-sized businesses in the EU.
- The European Clubs organised various encounters, exhibitions and games in schools.
- A European gathering of national and ethnic minorities on the theme "Europe without frontiers" included a whole series of events over 10 days.

Other notable initiatives included the programme of more than 40 events organised by Legnica in connection with the European Year of People with Disabilities, in which various groups of people with disabilities took part.

Highlights of 2004 were Poland's accession to the EU and the presentation to Legnica of the Plaque of Honour.

In 2005 Legnica organised a number of encounters for its twin towns:

- an EU-funded project for schoolchildren from Legnica and Wuppertal enable 15 German secondary school students to spend a week in Legnica;
- traineeships for young people from Blansk in restaurants in Legnica;
- visit by the Wuppertal Police Department Choir to the Town Hall, followed by a concert at Legnica Cathedral;
- contacts with Wuppertal Roman Catholic Parish, which donated a valuable painting of the Virgin Mary;
- encounter in Legnica of former inhabitants of Legnica, who had travelled with a group of Germans;
- organisation of the 19th International Football Tournament, with players from Blansk and Drohobycz;
- visit by two school groups from Wuppertal.

However, Legnica also visited its twin towns:

- ten young footballers participated in the Drohobycz mini-Olympics;
- an official delegation from Legnica took part in the celebrations for the 100th anniversary of Blansk;
- town hall employees took part in an information exchange in Wuppertal;
- 130 athletes from Poland, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria Austria and Legnica participated in a semi-marathon in Blansk;
- a group of young people was invited to the 20th World Youth Days in Cologne;
- an exhibition of Polish gold work was organised in Wuppertal by a Legnica art gallery;
- several school exchanges were arranged with Blansk.*

Legnica is also hoping to forge economic links with other countries, and has contacted the town of NIKOPOL in Ukraine which should lead to a new twinning. Negotiations are also under way with a Chinese town, Maanshan, and the French town of ROANNE.

Of course, there were also many exchanges between schools and such educational institutes as the Modern Languages College, the French section of which has long been co-operating with the Melun Primary School Teacher Training College. This section organised the French-Speaking Days to popularise French language and culture in Legnica.

Solid, very full application, but the town has only recently received the Plaque of Honour.

POLAND (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
LESZNO	2002	SUHL (D)	1984
(Woj. Wielkopolskie)	2003	DEURNE (NL)	1989
(Pop. 62 000)	2004		
	2005		
	2006		

<European Diploma in 2002>

<Flag of Honour in 2003>

In 1999 the three towns initiated a three-way twinning cooperation scheme with BATOURI in Cameroon.

1. **With Suhl:** the first contacts between the voivodship of Leszno and the District of Suhl date back to the 1970s, since when exchanges have developed in a number of directions:
 - cultural exchanges: music groups, art exhibitions, stands displaying local produce at traditional festive events, poetry evenings
 - youth exchanges: music workshops, youth camps
 - exchanges of experience in local administration
 - traineeships
 - participation in tourism fairs
 - exchanges on traditional festive occasions, such as important anniversaries
 - participation in seminars and conferences like the one on twinning and racism organised by Leszno in 1999.
2. **With Deurne:** contacts have been encouraged by the setting up of Leszno-Deurne friendship circles in both towns. Areas of cooperation include:
 - cultural exchanges: orchestra, theatre, dance, exhibitions, presentation of the town
 - exchanges of experience in local administration
 - traineeships
 - building a children's' playground and cycle paths in Leszno
 - exchanges on major festive occasions and for anniversaries
 - participation by firms at trade fairs.

The twinning-cooperation scheme with Batouri is the first contact between a Polish municipality and a town in Cameroon. At present it mainly involves training in farming techniques for young people from Cameroon in Leszno.

Contacts have been initiated with MONTLUCON (F), between firms at present, but with a view to twinning in the future.

Leszno also wishes to join the medium sized European town cooperation network based in St PÖLTEN (A). Several meetings between mayors have already taken place.

Leszno has organised several major conferences in recent years:

- congress of German-Polish firms, with over 350 participants
- discussion forum on Poland's membership of the European Union (150 participants)
- international conference on twinning against racism, in which all the twin and partner towns participated.

POLAND (continued)

LESZNO (continued)

The European idea is widely disseminated through school clubs, teacher training and competitions for young people, working groups and lectures.

Leszno was awarded the European Union's Twinning Gold Stars in 2000 for its European activities.

A major conference held in Leszno in **2002** – on the theme of sustainable urban development in a united Europe – provided an opportunity for representatives of Deurne, Suhl, St Pölten, Montluçon, Batouri (Cameroon) and Sisak (Croatia) to come together.

Activities with Deurne included a visit by an official delegation from Leszno, signature of a cooperation programme for the period 2003-2006 and participation by a Leszno representative in a conference to consider the prospects for further cooperation between Poland and the Netherlands.

Exchanges with Suhl included participation in a tourism fair and a photographic exhibition there, visits by police officers, involvement by artists from Suhl in a local exhibition and offers of training placements in both towns.

With St Pölten, Leszno signed a declaration of intent to develop further links.

Contact with Montluçon centred on Leszno's participation in the Montluçon fair and exhibition, where Poland was the featured country.

With Batouri the municipality was involved in exchanges of information and experience between nursery schools.

Schools in Leszno have had opportunities to organise exchanges with other countries and, in particular, to take part in various competitions and projects focusing on Europe. Many schools have also been invited to take part in Europe Day celebrations.

The Leszno-Deurne Polish-Dutch Association has promoted visits by craftworkers, facilitated a meeting in Berlin between entrepreneurs from Leszno and directors of German companies, set up an officers' exchange and an agricultural cooperation programme, and organised a visit by a group of musicians to Leszno's municipal festival.

It was during Leszno's civic festival that the Flag of Honour was presented in 2003. All the twinned towns, as well as many local associations, were represented.

Contacts have been pursued with:

- DEURNE, with activities including the hosting of an official delegation from that town, the provision of training placements for municipal staff, an exhibition of photographs of Leszno, and the handing over of a gift of medical equipment;
- SUHL, with a mayoral visit to plan the programme of joint activities, provision of a training placement, a fact-finding visit by an official delegation from Leszno and another visit by representatives of Leszno's School of Music.

Leszno also sustained its contacts with St Pölten (A), Montluçon (F), Batouri (Cameroon), Stryi (Ukraine), Sisak (Croatia), Kaluga (Russia) and Puchov (Slovakia).

POLAND (continued)

LESZNO (continued)

Local schools, which are very dynamic in this regard, took part in several activities under the Comenius programme, celebrated Europe Day and participated in European competitions.

A new association entitled "Leszno Region in Europe" was set up in 2003 to promote the concept of European twinning.

There were two big events in 2004: the celebration to mark 20 years of Leszno's twinning with Suhl in May and the signing of a new twinning agreement with the French town of Montluçon.

Twinning with Deurne (NL): An official delegation visited Deurne for a Polish Festival there, an exchange of experience took place between businesspeople and plans were made for a programme of training placements in both towns, particularly in the local administrations;

Twinning with Suhl (D): The highlight in 2004 was the celebration of 20 years' twinning. The twinning agreement was renewed and a forum was organised to discuss the links between the two towns. Leszno signed a declaration of intent to twin with the Russian town of Kaluga (which has been twinned with Suhl for the past 35 years), thus creating a three-way partnership.

In addition, Leszno took part in an international twinned towns conference in Suhl, hosted a German trainee on placement in the town hall, took part in Suhl's tourism fair and was represented at the opening of a new municipal library there, presenting a sculpture which will be displayed in the entrance hall. Leszno also invited Suhl to participate in a new "Historic Monuments Open Day" initiative, funded a trip by local-authority staff to the German town and an information meeting, and was represented at Suhl's Christmas Market.

Twinning with Montluçon (F): This twinning agreement was signed in 2004 and in that year 40 French students visited Leszno, a Montluçon delegation took part in Leszno's civic festival, contact was made between the chambers of commerce in the two towns and the work of Leszno artists was exhibited in Montluçon.

Leszno also developed its contacts with:

- the Austrian town of St Pölten, with which it cooperates under the umbrella of the Association of Medium-Sized Towns;
- the town of Batouri in Cameroon;
- the town of Stryi in Ukraine (groups from Stryi attended the civic festival, and training placements were provided for young people in a number of Leszno companies);
- with Sisak in Croatia (represented by a guest delegation at Leszno's civic festival);
- with Zweibrücken in Germany (a delegation visited with a view to reinforcing existing links).

Many schools were also involved in exchanges with other countries, and various organisations and bodies including the "Leszno Region in Europe" association and the municipal library held meetings or discussion forums on European themes in the run-up to Poland's accession to the EU.

POLAND (continued)

LESZNO (continued)

The main event of 2005 was an encounter with the inhabitants of the twin towns on the theme of “the importance of a united Europe for municipal development”. The municipalities of Deurne, Montluçon and Stryj were represented at the encounter, and also took part in the “Leszno Days”, the traditional municipal festival. The EU subsidised this event.

Leszno continued its programme of traineeships in the municipal administrative departments, received a delegation from Suhl to discuss future co-operation, attended a conference organised by the Network of Medium-Sized Towns co-ordinated by St Pölten, stepped up its co-operation with the town of Stryj in Ukraine with visits by economic delegations and an official delegation for the municipal festival, received a delegation from Zweibrücken to intensify co-operation, took part in the Berlin-Neukölln Christmas Market and considered a possible twinning with the latter.

However, the school contacts and exchanges have gone from strength to strength. Europe Day was celebrated with a solemn sitting of the Municipal Council and events in many schools, and the Association “Leszno Region in Europe” organised an event attended by 600 participants.

The town has sent in a huge amount of information in support of its application, but it received the Flag of Honour in 2003 and cannot expect a further award just yet.

POLAND (continued)

TOWN	Reports in:	TWINNED With:	Since:
PŁOCK (Pop. 130 000) (Mazowieckie Voivodship) <European Diploma in 2004> <Flag of honour in 2005>		DARMSTADT (D)****	1988
		FORLI (I) **	1998
	2004	MAZEIKIAI (LT)	1994
	2005	AUXERRE (F)	2000
	2006	BELTSY (MD)	2000
		NOVOPOLOTSK (BY)	1996
		LOZNICA (Serbia&Montenegro)	1972
	THURROCK Boro. (GB)	2004	

Płock is also twinned with the US municipality of Fort Wayne.

1. The twinning with Darmstadt has led chiefly to exchanges of experience in the fields of municipal administration, protection of the environment, public health, public transport, culture, education and sport. Cooperation has developed between museums, orchestras, music schools, photographic associations and sports clubs and those involved tend largely to be young people.

Exchanges of experience and cooperation have been developed between firefighters, police officers and the respective Red Cross groups. Płock also works to sustain and develop business links. The Institute of Polish Culture, based in Mathildenhöhe, plays a very active role in fostering friendship between the two peoples. Płock also has a "Darmstadt House", established in 1996, which functions as a centre for education, culture and research. It promotes German culture through events including concerts and exhibitions.

Practical initiatives undertaken include a visit by Polish nurses and two doctors to Darmstadt for training.

In 2003, on the occasion of its fifth "European Picnic", Płock celebrated the 15th anniversary of the twinning between the two towns. Numerous painters and musicians from Darmstadt attended.

2. The main forms of contact with Forli are in the fields of education (ie between grammar schools), culture (with links between folk groups) and sport (with a busy programme of competitions). Young people from Płock take part every year in an international art event organised by Forli on the theme of education for peace.

In 2003 representatives from Płock were involved in a judo tournament and a conference in Forli.

3. With Mazeikiai there is cooperation in the areas of culture (with a photography exhibition and contacts between libraries and museums as well as involvement in folk music festivals) and sport, and between police officers and firefighters.

In 2003 Mazeikiai sent representatives to Płock 's fifth "European Picnic" and Płock sent a delegation of singers and dancers to the folk arts festival in Mazeikiai.

4. With Auxerre the main forms of contact are between schools and on the occasion of trade fairs, music festivals and art exhibitions organised by Auxerre.

5. Activities with Beltsy (Bielce) focus on sport, public health and business. Płock was the first Polish town to establish contact with a Moldovan counterpart.

6. With Novopolotsk there is cooperation in the areas of culture, sport and public health.

POLAND (continued)

Płock (continued)

7. Contacts with Loznica date back to 1972 although they were interrupted by the conflict in the Balkans only to be reactivated in 2001. Loznica has received substantial aid from the people of Płock . Contacts have now developed in the areas of culture, sport and public health.

As well as its twinning with FORT WAYNE, which dates from 1990, Płock has friendly ties with CHERNIVTSI in Ukraine, MITISZCZI in Russia, PAVLOGRAD in Ukraine and SARAGOSSA in Spain.

The most successful exchanges are those between schools, particularly with a group of schools in Darmstadt, a grammar school in Auxerre and another in Forli.

Activities to raise awareness about Europe have included:

- a project entitled "Yes to the referendum" organised by a grammar school in Płock , which involved numerous personalities supporting Poland's accession to the EU;
- the launch of a local campaign in support of Polish accession;
- the town's fifth "European Picnic", held to coincide with Europe Day. All Płock 's twinning partners were invited to this open-air event which aimed to inform local people both about the concept of Europe and about the twinned towns. In 2002 the picnic attracted more than 15 000 participants.

In 2004 Płock signed a twinning agreement with the UK municipality of Thurrock. Cooperation here will focus mainly on culture, education, sport, public health, business and municipal management. Of the other twinings, the most active have been those with Darmstadt, Forli and Beltsy.

1. Darmstadt has invited representatives of Płock to its tourism fair and involved several Płock high schools in a poetry competition. Two teachers from Darmstadt were invited to a violin competition organised by Płock and two soccer teams from Płock took part in an international tournament in Darmstadt. A delegation from Płock was involved in Darmstadt's European Week, at which all its twinning partners were represented, a group of young people attended a summer camp and young musicians from Płock were invited to play with the Darmstadt youth orchestra. The "Darmstadt House" in Płock has also organised numerous cultural events.
2. With Forli young people from Płock have been involved in a judo tournament and student exchanges.
3. With Beltsy there have been contacts between manufacturers and flying clubs, and a group of producers, journalists and students from Beltsy visited Płock to take part in a project entitled "Poland and Moldova in a United Europe".

All the twinning partners were invited to take part in the sixth European Picnic, a major open-air event aimed at promoting the idea of European integration. Two days of festivities included concerts, tastings of regional dishes, competitions and conferences.

Płock also pursued cooperation with the Ukrainian municipality of PAVLOGRAD, chiefly through inter-school contacts, and with the Spanish city of SARAGOSSA, following its participation in a Polish-Spanish economic forum in Madrid.

POLAND (continued)

Plock (continued)

Other major events organised by Plock included:

- the Mazowie Region's "Spanish Days", promoting Spanish culture, business and tourism;
- an international festival of electronic music which attracted musicians from all over Europe;
- a big celebration along the Vistula to mark Poland's accession to the EU;
- a Twinning Forum.

Having received the Flag of Honour in September 2005, Plock is now applying for the Plaque of Honour, and has sent in a very detailed report on its many European activities:

- with Darmstadt: the main contacts were a series of student exchanges and frequent school exchanges, youth camps, participation by Plock representatives in the Darmstadt Tourism Fair (a major event), exhibitions of works by Polish artists and visit by a delegation from Darmstadt for the 7th Plock European Picnic. An interesting experiment will be carried out for one month in 2006: the two towns will be linked up via cameras set up in the streets of each town in order to improve the inhabitants' mutual acquaintance. The Darmstadt Centre in Plock also plays a frontline role, and in 2005 organised a poetry evening, a German poetry and prose competition and an exhibition by three Darmstadt photographers, etc;
- cultural co-operation was expanded with Thurrock Borough, Plock's youngest partner, by staging several concerts and plays and fostering school exchanges;
- three or four annual encounters have strengthened links with the other twin towns, all of which took part in the Plock European Picnic;
- with Novopolotsk (Belarus), the Mayor of Plock decided to suspend twinning activities because of the current political situation in Belarus.

Plock also initiated contacts with the town of Mytishi in Russia and the town of Kaiserslautern in Germany.

The whole population of Plock and representatives of the twin towns were invited to the 7th European Picnic, which the municipality organised for 8 May in order to heighten public awareness of Europe. Other events included the Spanish Days in the Mazowie Region, the International Roma Picnic, the Electronic Music Festival, the Hip Hop Music Festival and the European Heritage Days.

Very solid, well-documented application, but the town has just received the Flag of Honour. To be considered soon for the Plaque.

POLAND (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
POZNAŃ (Woj. Wielkopolskie) (600.000)	2000	HANOVER (D)*	1979
	2001	RENNES (F)** *	1998
	2002	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE (UK)**	1994
	2005	ASSEN (NL)	1992
	2006	JYVÄSKYLÄ (FIN)	1979
		POZUELO DE ALARCON (E)***	1993
		CHARKOV (UA)	1998
<Flag of the Honour in 2000>		BRNO (CZ)	1998
<Plaque of Honour in 2002>			

Poznań was a founding member of the Association of Polish Towns, which comprises some 250 municipalities and is based in Poznań. It takes part in the work of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe.

Poznań has signed partnership agreements with several municipalities and maintains less formal contact with other associate towns.

It also cooperates with Shenzhen (China), Toledo (USA) and Nablus (Palestine).

Activities with its other partner municipalities are outlined below.

HANOVER (D)

The partnership contract was signed in 1979, and is renewed annually. It covers the following sectors: culture, sport, communications and transport, environment, school exchanges and public health. Examples of successful cooperation in recent years have included:

- a new air service between the two towns launched in 1998
- a tour of Hanover and the surrounding region by the Poznań Symphony Orchestra
- participation by each town in the other's major conferences and exhibitions; for instance, the exhibition organised by Hanover in 1995 on "European Nature Protection Year" and the Conference on traffic control information systems for public transport, in partnership with the two universities of Hanover and Poznań.

In 1999 both towns organised ceremonies for the 20th anniversary of their twinning.

RENNES (F)

Cooperation between the two towns developed thanks to the installation of the "Maison de Bretagne" (Brittany Centre) in Poznań in 1993. Poznań organises annual "Brittany Days", a Celtic Music Festival and French Culture Days. Direct cooperation has also grown up between schools, universities and chambers of commerce in both towns. Particularly close contacts were established eight years ago between the Villejean district in Rennes and the "Pod Lipami" cultural centre in Poznań.

The University of Rennes runs regular French courses for municipal employees and teachers from the Wielkopolskie region, the Franco-Polish Business Centre facilitates trade contacts between enterprises, and in 1997 artistic events involving Polish artists were held as part of the Breton Polish Festival, in almost 70 towns in the Ille-et-Vilaine department.

POLAND (continued)

POZNAŃ (continued)

A twinning agreement was signed in 1998 following these extremely rewarding exchanges, which have been described as one example of very successful cooperation between the two countries involved. Both towns spent several months of 1999 preparing "Children's Rights Week", which led to a Declaration on intensification of contacts between municipal libraries, social services specialising in child care, and children attending two schools.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE (UK)

The twinning agreement concluded in 1991 between Poznań Province and Nottinghamshire County Council was signed in 1994 by the town of Poznań. Cooperation covers the following activities: organising contacts between schools and training centres, promoting tourism, developing economic contacts, assisting persons with disabilities, improving transport, and maintaining contacts between municipal officials.

Cultural links were highlighted during "Poznań Province Week in Nottinghamshire" (1994 and 1997) and "Nottinghamshire Week in Poznań Province" (1992 and 1995).

Exchanges also took place between teachers and health department officials from both towns in 1999.

ASSEN (NL)

In 1992 the two towns signed a Declaration of Intent to cooperate in the fields of education, science, sports, public health, culture and business. Training programmes have been run to help Poznań restructure its economic system, school exchanges have developed, and both regions' chambers of commerce are intensifying their cooperation. There are also many official visits, eg for art exhibitions and for the inauguration of the new town hall in Assen.

JYVÄSKYLÄ (Fin)

In 1979 a cooperation agreement was signed covering the fields of construction, urban development and architecture, culture, sport, tourism and education. After a break of several years, contacts were renewed in 1996, and it was agreed that they should concentrate on schools and the economic sector. In 1999 representatives of Poznań attended the 4th Conference of Polish and Finnish Towns.

POZUELO DE ALARCON (E)

The twinning agreement was concluded in 1993, and mainly concerns culture, education and schools. The Poznań Cathedral Choir has been invited to several cultural events in Pozuelo.

POLAND (continued)

POZNAŃ (continued)

KHARKIV (Ukraine)

The twinning agreement was signed in 1998, and Kharkiv has put forward proposals for future cooperation in 2000. This cooperation should involve both towns' universities, concentrating on the cultural field with exchanges of art exhibitions between museums and theatrical encounters.

Cooperation agreements have also been signed with NABLUS (Palestine), SHENZHEN (China) and TOLEDO (USA).

Many organisations, voluntary associations and institutes, etc, have developed contacts with foreign countries:

- the many honorary consulates in Poznań
- the Poznań Section of the Association of Polish Choirs and Orchestras
- the Poznań Economic Research Institute, which has been working on a new Socrates-Erasmus programme since 1999
- the Poznań Academy of Music
- the Adama Mickiewicz University, which is cooperating with the Europa Viadrina University in Frankfurt
- the Poznań Chamber of Craft Trades, which is cooperating with its opposite numbers in Kassel, Chemnitz and Rennes
- the Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- etc.

The most intensive contacts involve young people:

- through schools, which cooperate with their opposite numbers in Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, Norway, France and the United Kingdom, etc;
- through the Wielkopolskie Centre for European youth cooperation based in Poznań, which mainly runs exchanges between scout groups. In 1995, for instance, more than 500 young people from Poznań visited the United Kingdom, 50 British youngsters visited Poznań and almost 5000 young people from the region took part in international youth exchanges.

Poznań organises a multitude of conferences and sports and cultural events every year. Furthermore, it hosted the 7th European Cultural Heritage Days in September 1999, and has also organised German Culture Days and British Days.

A wide variety of events were held for Europe Day in 1999, including a European race in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Council of Europe.

The most notable European event organised in 2000 was undeniably the "Poznań-Europe 2000" meeting of twin towns, which took place as part of the annual St John's Day Fair. Over 120 persons from the six twin towns took part. It was also on this occasion that Poznań received the Council of Europe Flag of Honour. This meeting enabled the twin towns to exchange experiences and ideas, and above all to become better acquainted. It was also highly popular with the local inhabitants, who had been invited to meet the guests from the twin towns and attend the performances given by the various towns on Poznań's main square. The event was extensively covered by the local press.

POLAND (continued)

POZNAŃ (continued)

Some examples of other actions pursuing cooperation with the twin towns are:

- with Hanover, contacts concentrating on Expo' 2000: visit by the Mayor of Poznań, celebration of Poland Day during the exposition;
- with Rennes; the 2000 activities mainly comprised school exchanges, encounters between chamber of commerce, attendance by 14 head teachers from Poznań in training programmes organised by Rennes, sustained contact between municipal librarians, traineeships, and exchanges of experience among municipal officials in the environmental field;
- With Nottinghamshire, cooperation was cultural in nature (visit by 60 English musicians) and comprised several training programmes and visits to social institutions;
- with Jyväskylä economic contacts were made (timber industries) with a view to investments in Poznań, which also received a delegation from Jyväskylä with a view to future cooperation under the European integration process;
- with Pozuelo de Alarcon (E) the main exchanges are between schools of music and choirs;
- with Charkhov (Ukraine), participation by an official delegation from Poznań in the ceremonies for the 55th anniversary of the end of the Second World War; cooperation project between the universities, with placement of students for practical training courses.

The following stand out from the innumerable encounters, exchanges and official visits listed by the town:

- special train trip from Poznań to Berlin on 8 May 2000 for 250 passengers, and celebration of the "Wielkopolska Days". This event, organised by the Chamber of Commerce of the Poznań Region in cooperation with the Polish Embassy in Germany, was aimed at promoting Poznań and its Region in Germany;
- work experience provided in Germany for students from Polish agricultural colleges thanks to cooperation between German and Polish Chambers of Agriculture;
- over 70 children of Polish origin from Kazakhstan were accommodated in Poznań for one-and-a-half months;
- intense cooperation between the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań and the Viadrina University in Frankfurt / Oder, with the latter teaching classes in which at least one-third of the students are Polish;
- under the cooperation between the Poznań University of Economic Sciences and its counterparts in Rennes and Berlin and the Socrates-Erasmus programmes, scholarships have been awarded to 42 Poznań students;
- the study visit organised by the Poznań Region Chamber of Commerce enable 30 company directors to visit Hanover, Brussels, Luxembourg, Strasbourg and Wiesbaden;
- the very frequent school exchanges by Poznań primary and secondary schools;

POLAND (continued)

POZNAŃ (continued)

- the cultural days on the cultures of various countries: exhibitions, concerts, culinary events, films, etc are organised during the Danish, Jewish, French, Italian, Japanese and Irish Cultural Days in order to acquaint Poznań inhabitants with the specific features of each country;
- the many seminars, and working group meetings organised by the Poznań Centre for European Studies and Education, preparing for Polish accession to the European Union;

The focus in 2001 was more specifically on cooperation with the County of Nottinghamshire and the town of Jyvaskyla in Finland. The highlight of the year was the multilateral twinning meeting entitled "Europe without barriers", which was attended by young people, some of them disabled, from Jyvaskyla, Nottinghamshire and Hanover.

Poznań is also proud of its numerous school and student exchanges.

After a three-year gap, Poznań is back in contention, this time applying to be considered for the Europe Prize. It has sent the secretariat a very detailed report on all its European exchanges and activities in the three years since it won the Plaque of Honour in 2002.

Undoubtedly the highpoints during this period were the 13th General Assembly of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, which took place in Poznań in May 2003 and brought together local authority representatives from 23 member countries, and Poland's accession to the EU.

a) With Hanover (D), there were numerous technical and fact-finding visits as well as celebrations for the 25th anniversary of the link between the two cities. Several events were held to mark the occasion, among them International Youth Games in Hanover with a 50-strong team from Poznań competing, a relay race between the two cities, a joint concert by the Poznań Philharmonic Orchestra and choirs from Hanover, and several photographic exhibitions.

b) With Nottinghamshire (GB) several delegation visits took place in connection with cooperative programmes aimed at preventing domestic violence and revitalising urban centres. Teams of young people took part in sports tournaments, Nottinghamshire delegations attended conferences in Poznań (on the themes of new technology in education, sexual violence against children, and people with disabilities in the labour market), and there were numerous contacts between police officers, teacher training experts and educational psychologists, exchanging experience in the area of preventing drug abuse.

c) With Assen (NL) several fact-finding visits were arranged on the themes of social problems, urban management and employment. Other activities included exhibitions of photographs and paintings, soccer tournaments, contacts between museums and galleries and cooperation between the two municipalities on various EU-funded projects under the Leonardo da Vinci programme.

d) With Jyväskylä (FIN) exhibitions of the work of Finnish artist Alvaro Alto were staged, the Jyväskylä Symphonic Orchestra performed in Poznań, competitors from Poznań took part in the third "Europe sans frontières" games in Jyväskylä and a Jyväskylä delegation made a fact-finding visit to Poznań to learn more about how its municipal administration works.

POLAND (continued)

POZNAN (continued)

e) With Rennes (FR) official visits and fact-finding trips included a visit by 19 municipal councillors from Poznań to Rennes, Assen and Hanover to learn more about municipal housing management. Inter-school exchanges and trainee placements were also organised and a "French-Polish Week" was staged involving representatives of the Wielkopolska Region and the Département of Ille et Vilaine.

f) With Brno (CZ) groups from Poznań took part in various study visits, officers from the respective municipal police forces were involved in an exchange of experience and a number of art exhibitions were staged.

g) With Kharkiv (UA), official visits were organised to mark anniversaries and other important events and there was reciprocal participation in conferences, trade fairs and sports competitions.

Schools in Poznań cooperate closely with many schools in other European countries, either under twinning agreements or in the context of EU-supported programmes.

In the academic field the University of Poznań is particularly involved in cooperation with a number of its European counterparts. Under a series of bilateral agreements it has supported the placement of some 2000 students abroad and has hosted more than 1000 students and visiting lecturers.

Poznań continued its co-operation with its twin towns in 2005:

1. With Nottinghamshire: inter-school co-operation, with school exchanges, co-operation in the social field via an EU programme on violence against children, sports co-operation with the twin towns of Hanover, Brno, Jyväskylä and Debrecen in preparation for the 5th "Olympic Games without Frontiers" for athletes with disabilities, co-operation between municipal officials via two programmes on urban security, and organisation of a conference on waste processing attended by Hanover, Assen and Nottinghamshire.

2. With Hanover: co-operation between the choirs of the academies of Hanover and Poznań, with a joint concert to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the co-operation process between the two towns, school exchanges, participation by Polish scouts in an ecological camp organised by a Hanover youth association, participation by 40 runners from Poznań in the Hanover marathon, and traineeships for several young people from both towns.

3. With Assen: a series of EU-funded seminars on crime prevention and action against drugs, and a visit by a group of Poznań municipal councillors and employees to Brussels and Assen.

4. With Rennes: in April, Poznań organised the 15th French Cultural Days with the help of the Breton Centre, the *Alliance Française* and the French Embassy, with films, conferences, exhibitions and concerts; an inter-regional co-operation agreement between Brittany and Wielkopolska Province, of which Poznań is the capital, was signed during the 23rd Breton Days in Poznań, which concluded with a concert given by Breton musicians.

5. With Jyväskylä: co-operation between Poznań University and Jyväskylä School of Science and Technology, organising annual summer courses, and the preparations for the major event "Olympic Games without Frontiers".

6. With Brno: several encounters to prepare for the 40th anniversary of the co-operation between both towns scheduled for 2006.

7. With Pozuelo de Alarcon: mainly cultural: participation by choirs in the cartoon film festival "Animadrid", visit by a Pozuelo delegation to discuss future cultural co-operation, and a planned new training programme for company heads geared to assessing possibilities for investments in both towns.

POLAND (continued)

POZNAN (continued)

8. With Kharkhov: visits by delegations for the 9 May celebrations in Kharkhov, with an eye to joint formulation of a project under the EU Tacis Programme in preparation for the 2006 Olympic Games without Frontiers in Poznań, producing a cultural co-operation strategy for both towns.

The Poznań Universities have maintained their close contacts with many European universities under various co-operation agreements. For instance, the University of Economic Science is involved in five projects under EU programmes, the Adam Mickiewicz University has concluded 202 agreements under the SOCRATES-ERASMUS Programme and the Academy of Music has continued to co-operate with nine universities in Austria, Germany, Norway, Sweden and Turkey, signing four new agreements in 2005.

The detailed list of exchanges conducted by primary and secondary schools with their opposite numbers abroad, often under EU Comenius programmes, demonstrates the vitality of the school contacts maintained.

The major European events included:

- “Poznań Days in Berlin”, sub-titled “Posen come!”, showcasing Poznań’s economic, tourist and cultural potential in the German capital;
- the International Youth Encounters “Dance – an idea for life”, attended by young people from Poland, the Czech Republic, Belarus and Ukraine under the EU’s “Youth” Programme;
- the Encounter organised by the AEGEE (European Students’ Forum), attended by 150 students from all over Europe;
- the Graphic Art Conference “IMPACT 4 – KONTAKT”, which was held simultaneously in Berlin and Poznań and attracted 300 graphic artists;
- the 9th International Ecology Congress;
- the 15th French Cultural Days;
- the International Festival of University Choirs “Universitas Cantat”, with Polish, British, Lithuanian, Hungarian, Russian and Serbian and Montenegrin participants;
- the 15th International Drama Festival MALTA;
- the Breton Days.

Very good, well-documented dossier. A possible contender for the Europe Prize.

POLAND (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
RAKONIEWICE	1996	DIESEN (NL) renamed Hilvarenbeek	1986
(Woj. Wielkopolskie)	2004	STOVING (DK)	1999
(Pop. 3 500)	2005	FLOTWEDEL (D)	1998
	2006	MONINO (Rus)	2003
		SIRVINTOS (Lit)	2003
		PISOCIN (Ukr)	2004

<Flag of Honour in 1998>

1. With Diessen the emphasis has been on official visits: the two mayors visit one another regularly but there has also been contact between choirs.
2. With Flotwedel, Rakoniewice has set up youth exchanges.
3. The twinning with Stovring is more recent and delegations travel in both directions to attend important events in the two towns. Diessen and Stovring were both represented at Rakoniewice's traditional civic festival.
4. A cooperation agreement has been signed with the municipality of MONINO near Moscow.
5. A cooperation agreement was signed with the Lithuanian municipality of SIRVINTOS in 2003 when a Sirvintos delegation visited Rakoniewice for its "Europe Days". Inter-school exchanges are to be at the core of the cooperation programme.

The "Heart" association, which exists to help sick and disabled children, has many contacts abroad.

The entire town joins in celebrating Europe Day and Rakoniewice has opened a European Information Centre.

Rakoniewice recently submitted a summary report on its twinning contacts in the period since it received the Flag of Honour.

1. Contacts with Hilvarenbeek took place on the occasions of Rakoniewice's "European Days" in 2003, at the Rakoniewice civic festival and at an international event in 2004 on the theme of fire prevention.
2. Delegations from Stovring and Flotwedel took part in Rakoniewice's traditional civic festival in 2003, a Rakoniewice delegation attended the inauguration of Flotwedel's new Mayor, and group of 20 young people made a holiday visit to the German town. The main contacts in 2004 were the visits of delegations to Rakoniewice's civic festival.
3. Rakoniewice hosted a visiting group from Monino in 2004, for discussions about future business links and inter-school contacts.
4. Contacts were also made with the Lithuanian town of Sirvintos. A delegation from Sirvintos attended the Europe Day celebrations in Rakoniewice in 2004 and a Rakoniewice delegation travelled to Lithuania to meet company directors, school principals and teachers and farmers.
5. Following initial contacts with the region of Charnowski in Ukraine in 2003, a 13-strong Ukrainian delegation visited Rakoniewice and a cooperation agreement was signed. A return visit was organised in 2004 to promote Rakoniewice and build contacts with local companies.

POLAND (continued)

RAKONIEWICE (continued)

Despite being a small town, Rakoniewice retained its contacts with all its twin towns in 2005:

- with Sirvintos (Lithuania), with which it signed a twinning agreement in 2003: a one-week visit by 60 young Lithuanians; a 40-strong delegation from Rakoniewice visited Sirvintos to take part in the festivities for the 530th anniversary of the foundation of the town of Sirvintos and to meet with the Ukrainian, Belarusian and Norwegian delegation which had also been invited; a delegation from Sirvintos took part in the “Rakoniewice Days”, also attended by representatives from Ukraine, Germany and Russia, totalling over 100 guests; and a visit by a delegation from Rakoniewice for the Choir Festival in Sirvintos;
- with Monino (Russia), with which it signed a twinning agreement in 2003: an official visit by Monino representatives and participation by a delegation in the “Rakoniewice Days”; participation by a Rakoniewice delegation in the 80th anniversary of the town of Monino;
- with Picosin (Ukraine) and Stovring (Denmark): participation by delegations in the “Rakoniewice Days”;
- with Flotwedel (Germany): visit by a delegation of firemen, farmers and municipal officials to Flotwedel; official visit by the Mayor of Rakoniewice for the inauguration of the new Town Hall in Eicklingen.

A small municipality that is developing a growing network of contacts.

POLAND (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
RYBNIK	2003	SAINT VALLIER (F)	1961
(Woj. Śląskie)	2004	MAZAMET (F)	1993
(Pop. 143 000)	2005	DORSTEN (D) ***	1994
	2006	LIEVIN (F)	2000
		EURASBURG (D)	
		VILNIUS REGION (LT)	2000
		IWANO-FRANKIWSK(UA)	2001
		LARISSA (GR)	2003
		NEWTOWNABBEY (N. Irl.)	2003
		KARVINA (CZ)	2004

<European Diploma in 2003>

<Flag of Honour in 2004>

Rybnik also cooperates with:

1. BEDBURG-HAU (D) on an inter-hospitals programme initiated in the 1990s;
2. NEWTOWNABBEY (Northern Ireland) under the EU's Leonardo da Vinci programme;

For some ten years Rybnik has maintained contacts with French, German and East European municipalities, pursuing activities in a number of fields.

- Education The longest-standing links with other countries are those between schools. Several secondary-level schools in Rybnik work together with schools in Italy, Spain, Portugal, Germany and France under the EU's Socrates/Comenius programme, especially on projects concerned with protecting the environment.
- Culture Various associations, such as the "Przygoda" folk-dancing group, which takes part in and runs folk-dancing competitions, the Rybnik Municipal Wind Orchestra and the Rybnik-Europe International Cooperation Association maintain relations with their counterparts in the twinned municipalities. The last named, set up in 1999, has been particularly active. It organises French and German culture days, talks, exhibitions and opportunities for people from Rybnik to meet residents of the partner municipalities.
- Sport Football, chess and shooting tournaments have been staged.
- Economy Activities with Mazamet in this field include cooperation between the local chambers of commerce, trade fairs and visits by business delegations. With Dorsten there has also been cooperation between chambers of commerce, as well as the municipal employment offices and local companies, notably on the "Schaufenster Europa" project – literally a shop-window for Rybnik companies keen to sell to the German market.

Exchanges have tended mainly to involve young people and children, members of sports clubs and representatives of the local community, and have been organised with:

- EURASBURG, which hosts children from poor families in Rybnik for a fortnight every year;

POLAND (continued)

RYBNIK (continued)

- DORSTEN, with which Rybnik takes turns, year about, to host special days featuring the twinned municipality and including performances and sports competitions. In May 2002, its 800th jubilee year, Rybnik hosted nine foreign delegations.

- BEDBURG-HAU, with which an agreement has been signed between local psychiatric hospitals and regular contacts take place;

- SAINT VALLIER – with contacts between secondary-level students and visits by official delegations;

- MAZAMET – with activities including visits by school parties and delegations, and in particular Rybnik's "French Days", which include performances, an exhibition of paintings and a regional produce tasting; in return Mazamet organises Polish Culture Weeks.

Rybnik also has other contacts with France: an office of Alliance Française has opened there, and events have included an exhibition on French literature, a general knowledge competition about France, a series of information technology days with presentations by French IT companies, and work on a project to create a third-level education campus in Rybnik;

- LIEVIN – following a series of meetings, a cooperation agreement was signed in 2000;

- NEWTOWNABBEY, with which Rybnik has particular contact through exchanges of experience between SMEs under the EU's Leonardo da Vinci programme;

- IWANO-FRANKIWK – Rybnik hosts an annual holiday camp for children from Iwano, and a cooperation agreement was signed in 2001;

- VILNIUS Region – the municipality has hosted groups of children and representatives of Vilnius with a view to implementing educational projects;

- HADERSLEV, with which Rybnik has a project to build an activity centre for people with disabilities; exchanges of experience also take place;

- SZOLNOK, with which teacher exchanges are organised;

Many of the exchange activities are subsidised by the EU, notably the "Rybnik Days", which are a showcase for the municipality, and the exchanges between children.

The European ideal is promoted through schools, cultural centres, municipal libraries and European clubs. Competitions on themes such "Closer to France" and "What do you know about France?" are held regularly and schools organise European Days at which students can learn more about the different European regions. An information point has been set up in the municipal library. In December 2000 Rybnik staged a "European Integration Day", and its "Comenius Week" in 2001 involved 19 schools presenting projects under the Socrates programme.

Rybnik has supported a number of initiatives to help people in its twinned towns facing crises or hardship (examples of such activities include the annual visit by children from Iwano-Frankiwnsk and a practical aid campaign for families in the Vilnius Region).

POLAND (continued)

RYBNIK (continued)

In 2003 Rybnik again widened its circle of twinning partners by signing agreements with:

- Larissa in Greece - the signing taking place on the occasion of 10th anniversary celebrations for the twinning between Rybnik and Mazamet. A large French delegation travelled to Rybnik and a programme of "French Days" included tasting sessions with French produce and open-air concerts. Many distinguished guests attended the event.
- Newtownabbey in Northern Ireland - contacts with this municipality were developed chiefly under an EU programme and date back two years. The twinning was instigated by the town of Dorsten in Germany. A number of cultural and economic projects are now in the pipeline.

However Rybnik has also managed to step up contact with its existing partners.

- Activities with DORSTEN (D) included a delegation visit to Dorsten's "Construction Fair" and a trip by Rybnik representatives to the "Rybnik Days" held in Dorsten every two years. Administrative trainees and grammar school students from Dorsten and Hainichen also visited Rybnik and a working meeting was organised to prepare a project under the auspices of the EU.
- Most of the activities organised with LIEVIN (F) are instigated by the "House of Youth Culture" and the "Rybnik-Europe Association for International Cooperation". The House of Culture facilitated a staff exchange with Spain, a new information technologies training programme and an international painting competition.

Rybnik organised a major European information drive and staged a large-scale "European Picnic" in the main town square. The event attracted more than 5 000 local people and featured a "pre-referendum", competitions on European themes and a number of concerts.

Following the tradition that foreign visitors are received at the town hall, the Mayor hosted school groups from Szolnok, Mazamet and Dorsten who were on educational visits to Rybnik, as well as representatives of Bulgarian and Spanish schools involved in a joint EU programme and representatives of an Italian school.

The town hall provides generous funding for associations which mount European projects, and the budget allocation for this purpose doubled in 2004.

In **2004** Rybnik twinned with the town of **Karvina** in the Czech Republic. As part of the "Dorsten Days in Rybnik" it celebrated 10 years of twinning with the German municipality, and this was also the occasion on which it received the Council of Europe Flag of Honour. More than 120 foreign visitors travelled to Rybnik for the ceremony and celebrations. Links with the twinning partners were further reinforced through visits by official delegations from Rybnik, and contacts made by the local Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the "Rybnik-Europe International Cooperation Association" and local parishes. Most exchange visits, however, involved school students: one school party spent two weeks in Eurasbourg, several work placements were organised and Rybnik's Youth and Culture Centre organised a number of international encounters.

To mark Poland's accession to the EU, Rybnik staged a concert on the theme "Let's have fun with Europe" in the main town square. It also hosted an international wind band festival, an Italian cultural event entitled "Europe-Europe" and a series of events with a focus on Ukraine.

POLAND (continued)

RYBNIK (continued)

In 2005 Rybnik's contacts with its twin towns were reinforced mainly by means of visits conducted by official delegations:

- a) to Dorsten for the "Dorsten Days", with a view to intensifying co-operation in the cultural, sports and educational fields; on this occasion two co-operation agreements were signed, one between the Rybnik Museum and the Association of Friends of Rybnik, and the other between members of the "Third Age Universities" in both towns;
- b) to Karvina for the "Karvina Days";
- c) to Liévin, with which it has a partnership for an Interreg project concerning the revitalisation of post-mining areas;
- d) to Mazamet, to discuss a prospective partnership;
- e) to Larissa to develop economic contacts;
- f) to Eurasburg for the inauguration of an exhibition of works by Rybnik artists.

In May, however, Rubnik also invited representatives of Larissa for an exchange of experience in the field of projects jointly financed by the EU; on this occasion the Larissa choir gave a series of concerts in order to provide the Rybnik population with some insight into Greek culture. Representatives of Eurasburg, a town with which Rybnik has had frequent contact for almost twenty years, visited Rubnik to discuss cultural and school exchanges.

Over the last few years young people have been intensively involved in international contacts: visit by forty or so young people from Ivano-Frankivsk (Ukraine), visit by schoolchildren from Modena, Clermont-Ferrand, Rodez, Opava, Slovakia, Mazamet, Bad Tölz, Marl, etc, all from schools which run exchange programmes with their opposite numbers abroad.

The events organised in Rybnik in 2005 included:

- events to showcase French culture, with concerts, films and French gastronomic evenings, etc;
- the European song festival organised by the Rybnik-Chwalowice Cultural Centre;
- the "Golden Lyre" Wind Orchestra Festival featuring eleven wind orchestras;
- the "Rybnik 2005" International Folk Gala;
- a concert given by groups from the Czech Republic, Hungary ad Slovakia as part of the 20th Silesian Jazz Festival;
- international folk encounters with dance troupes from France and Slovakia.

Highly detailed and well-presented application, but slightly premature.

POLAND (continued)

SLUBICE (see application from FRANKFURT an der ODER, page 64)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
SLUPSK	1993	FLENSBURG (D)	1988
(Northern Poland)	1994	CARLISLE (GB)	1987
(Pop. 101 000)	1995	ARCHANGIELSK (RU)	1989
	1996	BUCHARA (UZ)	1994
	1997	VORDINGBORG (DK)	1994
	1998	VANTAA (FIN)	1987
	1999	BARI (I)	1989
	2000		
	2001		
	2002		
	2003		
	2004		
<European Diploma in 1993>	2005		
<Flag of Honour in 1994>	2006		
<Plaque of Honour in 1997>			

This northern Polish town, lying about 20 kilometres from the Baltic Sea and with origins going back to the 12th century, has over 100 000 inhabitants. Hit by economic recession, it is seeking to open up to the world and develop international contacts.

It is member of the Association of Polish towns, the International Hanseatic League, the Euroregio Baltica. It is also member of the European Centre for Environment protection.

In the late 1980s it signed twinning agreements with the towns of FLENSBURG (D) and CARLISLE (GB), and cooperation agreements with VANTA (FIN) and VORDINGBORG (DK), with a view to developing contacts and exchanges, especially in the fields of culture, education, tourism and municipal staff training. The three towns of Slupsk, Flensburg and Carlisle have a three-way twinning.

In 1996 and 1997 a three-way meeting (Slupsk, Flensburg and Carlisle) decided on the type of exchanges that should be developed : youth exchanges, sporting events and cooperation among museums and chambers of commerce. In 1997 the meeting between the three towns was the occasion to celebrate with great pomp the 10th anniversary of the twinning between Slupsk and Carlisle, and a "Friends of Slupsk and Carlisle Society" was also created at that time.

The organisation in Slupsk in 1996 of "Business Days" led to the conclusion of several agreements in the fields of tourism and business between Carlisle and Slupsk.

With Vordingborg (DK) several agreements were also signed to strengthen cultural cooperation and develop contacts between clubs and associations (sports, chess).

Slupsk has also developed links with BONN-Beuel and the France-Poland Foundation in order to foster exchanges between young people and school pupils.

The Slupsk authorities encourage all kinds of contact between associations, schools and companies, particularly with those in other countries. In 1996 and 1967 several schools welcomed young people from Vantaa, Flensburg, Bornholm, Neubrandenburg and Pau (F). There have been annual youth exchanges under an inter-class cooperation scheme with Flensburg and between music students from

POLAND (continued)

SLUPSK (continued)

Slupsk, Carlisle, Flensburg and Cavaillon (F). Slupsk organises a major competition based on the environment, with pupils from all the twin towns taking part.

Europe is promoted through language teaching, exhibitions, drawing competitions in schools and attendance at international conferences (conference of twin towns in Poland and Germany organised by the Council of European Municipalities and Regions).

Aware of environmental problems, Slupsk has organised a symposium with Norwegian companies in conjunction with the Norwegian Environment Ministry on the problems of water supply and waste water treatment, as part of a 3-year programme of cooperation between Slupsk and the Norwegian Ministry. Several other programmes in the health field have been run with Carlisle and Flensburg.

Mention should also be made of the humanitarian action developed in favour of the most disadvantaged people of Slupsk thanks to the "Knights of St John", a German charitable society which has been present in Slupsk for three years.

Representatives of the three towns (Slupsk, Carlisle and Flensburg) have prepared the programme of activities for 1999, and representatives of Slupsk attended the second Conference on Cooperation between Polish and German Towns.

Friendly links have developed with Vantaa thanks to the setting up of the Polish-Finnish Friendly Society, several hundred persons from Slupsk have visited Vantaa and vice-versa; and many young people have attended international youth camps in Finland. Trade relations, particularly through the Farmers' Associations, have intensified with the town of Pau (F). A joint French and Polish stock-breeding project is to be launched shortly.

All the schools are continuing to cooperate actively with their opposite numbers abroad, and in the cultural field, Slupsk has taken part in many theatrical events.

In spite of the vast amount of work required to implement social reforms following the public administration reform, Slupsk maintained a good level of contacts with its twin towns in 1999:

- with CARLISLE, a large-scale drug and alcohol abuse prevention project was set up with the participation of several schools in Slupsk
- with FLENSBURG, school exchanges continued and the annual tripartite meeting of young people from Flensburg, Carlisle and Slupsk took place, in Flensburg this year
- with VANTAA, contacts between two schools continued thanks to the SOCRATES programme, which made it possible to hold a symposium and an exhibition; artists from Vantaa exhibited in Slupsk and a group of members of the Polish-Finnish Friendly Society travelled to Finland to learn more about the country's history and culture.

A three-way meeting was held in Slupsk to decide on activities for 2000.

To celebrate Europe Day and the 50th anniversary of the Council of Europe, Slupsk organised a grand foot race through the streets of the town, which proved immensely popular.

POLAND (continued)

SLUPSK (continued)

In 2000 the contacts continued:

- with Carlisle: a tripartite meeting including officials from Flensburg, drew up the future programme of activities (continued youth exchanges, installation of twinning signposts on the roads into each town, continued cooperation in combating drug abuse, and setting up a legal advice office for underprivileged groups in Slupsk;
- With Flensburg: contacts were made between the two police forces with an eye to cooperation; German businessmen made contact with the Slupsk Chamber of Commerce, and young people visited Flensburg as part of a school exchange;
- With Vantaa: an international youth camp was held in Finland, and young people from Vantaa were accommodated in Slupsk, which also took in members of the Finno-Polish Association.

However, the bulk of the contact still involves school exchanges. There is permanent cooperation with a school in Neubrandenburg and another in Vantaa. Slupsk took in 20 students from Neubrandenburg for a week's visit. A return trip was conducted to Neubrandenburg. 44 children from a secondary school in Vantaa visited Slupsk and gave two concerts. However, the year 2000 saw many more such school exchanges.

As in previous years, the Youth Cultural Centre organised an international chess tournament in which young people from Lithuania, Kaliningrad and Armenia competed. The Slupsk Cultural Centre has for some years been cooperating with its opposite numbers in Lithuania, Denmark, Norway, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Austria, etc, and had also organised theatrical performances. The Baltic Museum of Modern Art organised exhibitions of paintings and drawings by artists from all over Europe.

In 2003, the three twinning partners, Slupsk, Carlisle and Flensburg, met to plan future cooperation. Youth encounters were organised in Slupsk, Magdeburg and Havirov (CZ), and a number of schools in Slupsk are cooperating with foreign counterparts.

The year 2003 was marked by celebration, attended by the Polish President, for the 15th anniversary of the three-way twinning between Slupsk, Carlisle and Flensburg. The authorities of the three municipalities are still actively cooperating and meet on a regular basis to lay guidelines for future activities. There are also meetings between specialists in various fields such as the conservation of historic monuments, and between school students who have the opportunity to meet at youth camps. The main cooperative activities with other towns were study visits organised in conjunction with Vordingborg in Denmark and cultural activities jointly organised with Vantaa in Finland.

Fourteen schools – ranging from the local nursery school to grammar schools – have contacts with counterparts in other countries. There is a particularly high level of cooperation with the teacher training centre in Berlin which provides training courses for teachers from Slupsk and is involved in organising visits by schoolchildren.

In 2004 Slupsk decided to join the Lübeck-based International League of Hanseatic Towns. The main meeting of the three twinning partners (Carlisle, Flensburg and Slupsk) was held in August in Slupsk and provided an opportunity to discuss new types of cooperation in education (through youth exchanges), business (marketing distinctive products from each town) and electronic communications (with the creation of trilingual web pages). Slupsk also took part in the fourth British and Polish Twinned Towns' Conference in Nottingham.

POLAND (continued)

SLUPSK (continued)

Cooperation with the Russian town of Archangielsk was reactivated and a number of delegations made visits with a view to developing further joint activities, particularly in the field of tourism.

Exchanges with Vantaa focus particularly on culture and education and a youth camp was held in 2004.

Once again there was a busy programme of exchanges between schools and colleges in Slupsk and counterparts all over Europe. All the schools in the town were involved in organising Europe Day 2004 and a local vocational education college has set up a number of projects under the Leonardo da Vinci programme.

An interesting initiative was undertaken to help raise local awareness about Poland's accession to the EU on 1 May 2004. A group of young people from all over Poland sailed on four yachts from Slupsk to Brussels where, at a ceremony in the Royal Yacht Club, they were presented with a special key – representing a united Europe – by Poland's European Commissioner. The key is currently on display in Slupsk town hall.

Slupsk has sent the Secretariat a highly detailed and carefully presented report on its European activities in 2005, which included:

- publication of a photo album on 1 May 2005 entitled “An hour in the life of the twin towns”, presenting photographs of ordinary people going about their everyday business in each of the twin towns;
- a five-day tripartite meeting (Carlisle, Flensburg and Slupsk) in Carlisle to discuss new aspects of co-operation, including the joint project to set up sculptures in each town as symbols of friendship, a planned exchange of students mandated to observe life in each of the towns, take photos and note any changes, and several cultural events (plays and puppet shows);
- alongside the tripartite meeting in Carlisle, organisation of the Festival of Nations 2005 attended by a group of young dancers from Slupsk;
- the youth camp in Flensburg attended by 15 youngsters from each town;
- a visit by a group of Flensburg first-aid workers to Slupsk for a programme of exchanges and training in sea rescue operations;
- a visit by a group of Flensburg senior citizens for a conference on the theme of “The Baltic Sea Unites Us”;
- reactivation of contacts with Archangielsk in 2004, with a youth camp in Slupsk and a visit by several officials to intensify economic co-operation and sign an inter-university co-operation contract for both towns;
- development of cultural and educational relations with Vantaa, which decided to renew the twinning agreement in 2005; the Mayor of Slupsk visited Vantaa to take part in the celebrations for the 20th anniversary of the Polish-Finnish Friendship Association;
- prospective contacts with Greenland discussed during an official visit by a delegation from Qaanaaq.

POLAND (continued)

SLUPSK (continued)

The *Johanniter* Social Aid Centre, which assists sick and underprivileged people in Slupsk, is working with its counterparts in Berlin and Hamburg. It has helped over 200 families in Slupsk.

The “Europe Direct” Information Centre opened on 1 May 2005 at the Slupsk municipal Office for the Promotion of European Integration. It co-operates with its opposite numbers in most European countries and elsewhere in Poland, especially the Centres in Helsinki and Porvo (Finland) and Tallin and Paide (Estonia).

The Slupsk Third Age University is co-operating with similar institutions in Vilnius, Flensburg, Frankfurt and Bari.

As usual, Slupsk schools and universities conducted exchange programmes with their European partners at all levels, often with support from European Union programmes (Comenius and Leonardo da Vinci). Inter-school co-operation agreements have been signed, eg the agreement signed in 2001 by the Slupsk Hanseatic Management College and the Flensburg Technical Institute.

The big European events organised by Slupsk in 2005 included:

- the first anniversary of Poland’s accession to the EU, which was celebrated by almost 30 000 Slupsk residents for one week and also involved young people from all the town’s schools;
- the Baltic Science Festival, which was organised by the Pomerania Region for the second time in co-operation with the Slupsk Office for the Promotion of European Integration, and was geared to promoting the town’s scientific achievements and international co-operation efforts;
- the 5th International Academic Conference, which dealt with east-west linguistic and cultural dialogue: the event was attended by some thirty secondary students from Russia, Lithuania, Ukraine, Belarus, Germany and the United Kingdom;
- European Regions Day, taking stock of three years of co-operation among young people from Carlisle, Flensburg and Slupsk.

A series of public debates on European themes and school competitions are continuing to raise youth awareness of European issues.

A very well-documented application, but the activities involving the twin towns are not yet intensive enough to warrant the Europe Prize.

P O R T U G A L

	Report in:	Twinned with:	since
VILA REAL (pop. 50 000) (N. Portugal)	1985	GRASSE (F)	1985
	2006	MENDE (F)	2004
		OURENSE (E)	1982
		OSNABRÜCK (D)	2005

<Flag of Honour 1985>

1. Ourense: Vila Real concluded its first twinning agreement with the Spanish town of Ourense. Schools and musical groups engage in regular exchanges, eg a group of singers performed at the International Gastronomic Encounter attended by all the twin and partner towns in Vila Real in November 2005.
2. Grasse: this twinning agreement was concluded in 1985, and embraces official exchanges for such events as the anniversary of Vila Real in July 2005, participation by Vila Real citizens in the Grasse Christmas Market, presenting and selling regional produce, and such professional exchanges as the participation of Vila Real lawyers in a European conference organised by Grasse.
3. Mende: this twinning arrangement only dates back to 2004.
4. Osnabrück: a friendship pact was signed with Osnabrück in 1989, but the twinning itself was not concluded until 2005. The exchanges in 2005 included a visit by an official delegation from Vila Real for the Osnabrück municipal festival, during which the twinning agreement was signed, assistance by the Osnabrück fire brigade during the terrible forest fires in Portugal in August, a performance by a clarinet quartet at Osnabrück Intercultural Week, a school exchange and participation by Osnabrück in the International Gastronomic Encounter.

Vila Real also has contacts with Spain, Cape Verde and China:

- it has developed economic and cultural exchanges with Spain via the towns of BENAVENTE and ZAMORA: participation in trade fairs, youth camps and visits by music groups;
- Cape Verde: a prospective twinning with the town of PRAIA is currently being considered for 2006;
- China: economic co-operation with the district of LUCHENG (Whenzou) is under consideration.

The European events organised by Vila Real in 2005 include the International Folk Festival, the Conference on Computer Applications in Agriculture, the International Congress on Children's Literature, and especially the First International Gastronomic Encounter, jointly organised with Vila Real's twin and partner towns, reinforcing links among all the said towns.

The European Clubs, which are supported by the municipality, conduct European awareness campaigns in the town's schools.

ROMANIA

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
ORASTIE	2002	FENOUILLET (F)	1999
(Hunedoara County)	2003	CRIULENI (Moldova)	1998
	2004	SLIEDRECHT (NL)	2003
<European Diploma in 2002>	2005	HELMSTEDT (D)	2002
<Flag of Honour in 2003>	2006	LERMONTOV (Rus)	2004

1. With Fenouillet: participation by pupils from Orastie in the school Olympics, folk events, official exchanges, performances by the Orastie children's choir; Fenouillet has financed a park for the children of Orastie.
2. With Criuleni: official visits and exchanges between cultural centres.

Orastie has also been twinned with Rahat in Israel since 1997, and has plans for twinning arrangements with towns in the Netherlands, Spain and Germany.

People from Orastie have participated in several European events and seminars; Orastie organised the "Sarmisegetusa" international folk festival, pupils from Orastie organised a Christmas carol concert in Germany and the karate club took part in several international competitions.

There was a particularly full programme of events and meetings in 2002.

- A twinning agreement was signed with Helmstedt, Germany, building on contacts initiated by local evangelical churches in 1985. Events including delegates' visits were organised in both municipalities.
- Orastie helped make up a national delegation to attend the "Romania Day" organised by the municipality of Fenouillet.
- Fenouillet concluded a partnership arrangement with the "Patrons of Orastie" association and Alba-Iulia entered into a similar agreement with a children's aid organisation – which has already led to the practical step of purchasing an apartment for use by young people who have just left state children's homes.
- Exchange visits took place between Orastie and the municipality of Sliedrecht in the Netherlands with a view to twinning, and administrative cooperation was initiated.
- Orastie hosted 25 children from Fenouillet.
- Representatives of the Orastie municipal administration took part in a number of European activities (including a public administration course in The Hague, an environmental seminar in Budapest and a conference on water management in Chicago).
- Sporting and cultural activities included participation in a karate event in Italy and a festival of sacred music in Romania, as well as performances by the Orastie children's choir at Christmas concerts in Germany.

In 2003 Orastie signed a twinning agreement with the Dutch municipality of **Sliedrecht**.

Delegations from Orastie visited the twinned towns – first Helmstedt to take part in the Europe Day festival there and in exchanges of experience on the subjects of environmental protection and Orastie's drinking water supply, then Fenouillet for a youth exchange with EU support.

Europe Day was celebrated in the town's "Europe Square" and a number of environmental awareness-raising projects were carried out. Orastie competed for the "Sustainable City" prize and set up an environmental education project.

ROMANIA (continued)

ORASTIE (continued)

The presentation of the Flag of Honour in December was one of the highlights of 2003.

In 2004 Orastie laid on a lavish three-day programme of events around Europe Day and invited delegations from Fenouillet, Sliedrecht and Helmstedt. It also:

- hosted a delegation from Sliedrecht at the beginning of the year to complete the drafting of a public-service code of conduct in line with European standards;
- cooperated with the mayor's office in Sliedrecht on construction of homes for Orastie's Rromani community;
- attended the opening of an exhibition of work by a Romanian painter in Helmstedt;
- sent karate teams to take part in European competitions in Pecs, Ljubljana and Milan;
- took part in a "Choral Olympics" in Bremen (D) and an international folklore festival in Italy.

In addition, the municipality hosted a visiting delegation from Raahat, in Israel, with a view to the development of economic relations.

In 2005 Orastie received delegations from the twin towns on the following occasions:

- in April, a delegation of young karatekas from Fenouillet (F) visited the town in order to promote relations in the sports field;
- also in April, a business delegation from Sliedrecht visited Orastie with an eye to economic contacts, returning in October to Hunedoara County for exchanges with Romanian enterprises;
- representatives of Sliedrecht Town Hall held two working meetings in Orastie to finalise the plan for building homes for the Roma community in Orastie;
- a German delegation from Helmstedt (D) paid a visit in order to develop humanitarian activities through the intermediary of the "Samaritenii Orastieni" association;
- a group of musicians from Helmstedt gave two concerts in Orastie;
- a visit by young people from Fenouillet (F) during the spring holidays.

However, delegations from Orastie also visited the twin towns:

- one delegation attended the "Orastie Days" in Sliedrecht;
- a 15-strong delegation (comprising students and teachers) attended cultural events in Helmstedt;
- a delegation visited Crauleni (Moldova) for the local Folk Festival.

Sports teams took part in international competitions abroad (karate). Europe Day was celebrated in great pomp on the Europe Square, with a balloon and dove release.

Received the Flag of Honour three years ago but is making real efforts and has submitted a very impressivedossier.

ROMANIA (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
SIGHISOARA	1998	BLOIS (F)	1995
(Mures County)	1999	KISKUNFELEGYHAZA (H)**	2001
(Pop. 38 000)	2000		
	2001		
	2002		
<European Diploma in 1998>	2003		
<Flag of Honour in 1999>	2006		
<Plaque of Honour in 2003>			

The first contact with Blois was in 1989, when Blois decided to adopt Sighisoara under the “Romanian villages” operation.

This was followed by humanitarian visits and then the twinning agreement in 1995.

The friendly ties are being strengthened by school visits, mainly by Romanian children to Blois, private visits, cultural exchanges and training courses for Romanian teachers in Blois.

Three main thrusts for cooperation have been selected for 1998: tourism, youth and medical assistance. Thus 16 young people from Sighisoara took part in a tourism programme and a Europe Forum in Blois, to which young people from the other twin towns were also invited.

Sighisoara also has regular contact with Baden, Schaffhausen, Thun (Switzerland) and Heilbronn (Germany), and initial contacts have been made with Castello (I) and Komaron (H).

As an historic town, Sighisoara organises meetings and conferences on restoration of historic monuments and hosts large-scale cultural events such as the “Youth Mediaeval Art Festival”. In 1998 this Festival attracted almost 25 000 spectators. Music lessons are also given to many young foreigners in the context of this festival. In October the Ancient Music Festival attracted groups from all over the country and from Hungary.

In 1999 the Mediaeval Art Festival again attracted 20 000 tourists and the Classical Music Festival was also very successful. Sighisoara is proud to have been able to open an information centre for all its citizens in September 1999. It celebrated Europe Day and even named a main street in the city centre after the Council of Europe. A school exchange with an Austrian high school, a trip to Italy by a football team, the organisation of a scientific symposium in collaboration with ICOMOS and, above all, the award of the Council of Europe Flag of Honour in October were the salient European events of 1999 in Sighisoara.

In 2000 Sighisoara confirmed its links with CASTELLO (I) by signing a twinning agreement, took in a group of young people from Blois and a delegation from Kiskunfelegyhaza, and was visited by a delegation from the town of Baden (CH) which partly funded the work of modernising the water supply services, and a delegation from Heimenkirch aimed at laying the foundations for partnership between the two towns.

It organised several large-scale events:

- the traditional Mediaeval Art Festival (the 7th), attended by many Romanian and foreign artists;
- the International Classical Music Festival (the 7th), organised in cooperation with a Romanian-Swiss foundation;
- the international colloquy on “Romania’s World Heritage”, presenting the main UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

ROMANIA (continued)

SIGHISOARA (continued)

In 2001, Sighisoara established links with the Italian town of Castel Viscardo, the town of Dinkelsbühl in Germany and the Ambassador of the Czech Republic in Bucharest with a view to establishing cooperation with three new foreign towns. It also signed a twinning arrangement with the Hungarian town of Kiskunfelegyhaza.

Sighisoara celebrated the Francophonia Festival in schools and also Europe Day, when it held a colloquy on European themes to mark the event.

The traditional medieval art festival and the international festival of classical music brought together artists from various European countries. The “Romanian Minorities Festival” attracted representatives from 14 minorities in Romania, and served as an introduction to their respective traditions and cultures.

In 2002 Sighisoara stepped up its contacts with:

- Schaffhausen (CH), with a delegation visit and an inter-school exchange;
- Baden (CH) – a delegation led by the Mayor of Baden opened an emergency unit as part of a social programme linking the two municipalities;
- Kiskunfelegyhaza (H) – the twinning agreement was signed in Kiskunfelegyhaza, having already been signed in Sighisoara in 2001;
- Blois (F), where a representative of Sighisoara took part in a promotional event organised by the Département of Loir-et-Cher, and a team participated in a handball tournament;
- Dinkelsbühl, which hosted 18 young people from Sighisoara and plans to twin with it;
- Tabor (Czech Republic), which invited the Mayor of Sighisoara to its municipal festival and was involved in the medieval art festival;
- Sibiu (Romania) which held an international seminar on restoration of historic town centres in eastern and western Europe, under the auspices of UNESCO.

The Medieval Art Festival once again attracted both Romanian and foreign artists and the International Classical Music Festival drew well-known performers from Switzerland, the Netherlands and Romania.

After several years’ silence, Sighisoara has once again sent in a detailed report on its contacts in 2005:

- several official visits by Sighisoara delegations: to Benidorm, Spain, to develop tourist and economic contacts, Dinkelsbühl for the “Fatherland Festival” organised by the Association of German inhabitants of Transylvania, Uetze for the “Romanians Day”, Kiskunfelegyhaza (H) for the “Town Founders’ Day”, and Tabor (Czech Republic) for the “Tabor days” festival;
- events organised by Sighisoara, eg the festival “Mediaeval Sighisoara 2005”, the International Academic music festival and summer music courses, with participation by artists from Germany, Switzerland and Spain, and the “Pro Etnica National Minorities Festival” attended by over ten minorities represented by various artistic groups;
- celebration of “International Children’s Day” on 1 June, with drawing and sports competitions, “Environment Day” and Europe Day, with a major seminar on the European idea in the Town Hall auditorium;
- 25 young people from the twin towns met in Sighisoara in July for a major encounter.

Attractive historic town, which has just been included in the UNESCO heritage list. Good future prospects in terms of an award.

RUSSIA

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
BRYANSK	2003	KONIN (PL) **	2003
(380 km southwest of Moscow)	2004	KARLOVO (BG)	2001
(Pop. 500 000)	2005	CHERNIGOV (UA)	1998
	2006	GOMEL (BY)	1998

<European Diploma in 2003>

<Flag of Honour in 2004>

In 1998 a "Slav brotherhood" friendship and cooperation agreement was signed between Bryansk and the municipalities of Gomel and Chernigov. In 2003 this was followed by an agreement establishing the Dnepr Euroregion, with a view to developing cross-border cooperation.

Since 2002 Bryansk has developed friendly links with the towns of DOBELE (Latvia), NEW AKMYANE (Lithuania) and PITESHT (Romania).

In 2002 a protocol agreement on economic and social cooperation was concluded with the municipality of GYOR in Hungary, and a similar protocol has been signed with KHAN SHUI (China). Negotiations about further such agreements, with the province of QUANG NAM (Vietnam) and the city of COCHIN (India), are ongoing.

Activities with Konin included summer visits by young people to holiday camps in Poland and contact between businesspeople at trade fairs and industrial exhibitions. The creation of a "Varta-Desna" Polish trade centre is under discussion.

Students in Bryansk are encouraged to study the Polish language.

Through its chamber of commerce and particularly its university, Bryansk has developed many foreign contacts. Lecturers and students have taken part in various international conferences, notably in Hameln (D), Grenoble (F) and Thorby (GB).

Cultural exchanges (involving choirs from Bryansk) and sporting encounters have given many groups the opportunity to perform or compete abroad.

International events organised by Bryansk have included:

- the international "Jazz Province" festival which attracted groups not only from different countries in Europe but also from the USA and Japan;
- an international festival of drawing for children, with the involvement of artists from Germany and Ukraine;
- the "Slav Unity" festival which is held every year in Bryansk;
- the annual "Noisy Show" miniature theatre festival;
- an international women's judo competition.

In 2003 official delegations from Bryansk visited the twinned towns for anniversary celebrations, economic forums (in Konin and Moscow) and Europe Day festivities (in Konin).

RUSSIA (continued)

BRYANSK (continued)

Popular events that never fail to attract young people include:

- International Students' Day - which has involved teams from 12 CIS countries;
- an International School Museums Festival;
- a Modern Arts Festival;
- International Child Protection Day (1 June)

Bryansk laid on special celebrations for 5 May 2003, which was also the 60th anniversary of its liberation. The Mayor highlighted the importance of the day in a public address which was televised and carried in the press. Representatives of the twinned towns joined local people in a "cross-generation" parade in the main square.

Special emphasis was placed on commemorating the 60th anniversary of Bryansk's liberation from fascist occupation and the municipality received delegations from Belarus, Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, China, Latvia and Bulgaria.

A very recent visit to Bryansk by the US Ambassador to Russia, who came to open an American section in the municipal library, provided the opportunity for an in-depth exchange of views on relations between the two countries.

In 2004 Bryansk's annual civic festival was the occasion for the Flag of Honour presentation ceremony attended by delegations from all the twinned and partner towns. In the course of official visits during the year the Mayor signed or ratified four cooperation agreements: with **Gyor**, on the further development of inter-university links, and with **Dobele** in Latvia, **Naujoji Akmene** in Lithuania and **Dupnitsa** in Bulgaria. The town also hosted three young people from Hameln in Germany.

Bryansk took part in a European twinned towns' conference in Konin and in the World Cultural Forum in Barcelona, where it made contact with the town of Santa Susanna with a view to developing a link and signing a partnership agreement. The municipal social services department took part in a TACIS project and the town hosted an international forum under the auspices of UNESCO, which was attended by 300 delegates from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Ukraine and Russia.

Folk groups and choirs from Bryansk and the local youth dance and song ensemble frequently represent the town at performances abroad.

However, Bryansk also developed contacts with its twin and partner towns:

- with Konin: a delegation from Bryansk took part in the Bryansk Municipal Days, which also coincided with the 10th anniversary of the twinning between both towns; two dance troupes from Bryansk participated in the Bryansk International Song and Dance Festival; exchanges between professional institutes and business circle strengthened the existing links;
- with Győr, Hungary: university teacher exchanges;
- with Naujoji Akmyuane, Lithuania: signature of a co-operation agreement in 2004 followed by the participation of Bryansk youngsters in an international youth camp organised by Akmyuane;
- with the German towns of Kvedlinburg and Hamlin: student exchanges.

RUSSIA (continued)

BRYANSK (continued)

The major events organised by Bryansk in 2005 included:

- the 4th International Festival “Your Spiritual Treasure”;
- the 13th International Festival “Slav Theatrical Encounters”, attended by actors from Belarus, Russia and Ukraine;
- the Festival of Slav Youth;
- the International Museum Festival, comprising exchanges of experience between museum management experts from Belarus and Russia;
- the International Student Festival “We Together”, reinforcing links among universities in Russia, Belarus and Ukraine.

As every year, many schools and universities conducted exchanges with their opposite numbers abroad.

The Mayor is very active and proud of Bryansk's two distinctions to date, but the town will have to wait a while for the Plaque of Honour.

SLOVENIA

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
KAMNIK (Pop. 9 000) <European Diploma in 2002> <Flag of Honour in 2003>	2002	GENDRINGEN (NL)	1999
	2003	TROFAIACH (A)	
	2005	ENNIGERLOH (D)	
	2006	KERNS (CH)	
		ANDECHS (D)	
	KOCANI (Macedonia)		

Contacts in connection with sporting, economic and cultural events. School exchanges and training courses for municipal employees. Kamnik organises musical performances and sporting events every year on the occasion of its traditional festivities.

The very detailed activity report for 2002 highlights, in particular, the many contacts with **Trofaiach**, namely:

- participation by a choir from Trofaiach in the traditional choral concert held in Kamnik to mark Slovenian Culture Day;
- a visit by a class from Kamnik to Trofaiach;
- meetings between representatives of the two municipalities and businesspeople with a view to promoting contacts in the fields of tourism and commerce;
- a visit by 45 climbers from Trofaiach – hosted by the Kamnik climbing club – who made several ascents in the area in connection with Kamnik's "Mountain Day" and the International Year of Mountains;
- an exhibition of paintings with the participation of an artist from Trofaiach;
- various sporting events including a women's volleyball competition, a golf tournament, a cycle race between the two municipalities and a veterans' soccer tournament;
- two meetings between local fire fighters;
- participation by a large contingent from Trofaiach in Kamnik's 32nd national costume festival, which drew thousands of visitors from all over Slovenia;
- a trip by businesspeople to Trofaiach's trade fair.

Kamnik cooperated with the twinned municipality of Ennigerloh (D) to mount an exhibition by a German artist in Kamnik.

Through the Palovce museum, near Kamnik, the municipality also has contacts with Klagenfurt and joint exhibitions are organised regularly. The Bavarian-Slovenian Society has hosted a visit by a choir from Munich and organised a concert by young Bavarian musicians.

International events have included:

- participation by Kamnik in July 2001 in the "Entente Florale" European best-kept towns competition, where it won a gold medal for its cleanliness and quality of life;
- the European Cultural Heritage Days in September 2001, marked by a number of activities in Kamnik;
- an international exhibition of work by young photographers in December 2001;
- exhibitions by artists from Kamnik in Andechs and Freising (D);
- the Women's Seated Volleyball World Championship in which eight teams competed.

SLOVENIA (continued)

KAMNIK (continued)

It is clear from the summary of Kamnik's European-oriented activities in 2003 and 2004 that the busiest programme of contacts is that for the twinning with Trofaiach. Groups of school students and walkers from the two towns meet regularly, and Trofaiach is represented every year at Kamnik's national costume festival (which started 33 years ago). Trofaiach Golf Club takes part in Kamnik's annual international golf tournament, and the municipalities cooperate to stage art exhibitions and attend each other's trade fairs.

There are fewer contacts with Andechs (D) but a number of official visits have taken place and the two towns have signed a cooperation memorandum and participated jointly in a trade fair in Ljubljana.

Following the presentation of the Plaque of Honour to Trofaiach, Kamnik is also applying for this award. Among the European events organised in 2005, mainly in co-operation with Trofaiach, were:

- a concert given by the Kamnik Choirs in Trofaiach;
- a visit to the Kamnik Ramblers' Club by members of the Trofaiach Nature Lovers Association, and return visit;
- attendance by the Mayor of Trofaiach at a meeting of the Kamnik Municipal Council;
- a chess tournament organised by the two municipalities' chess clubs;
- a visit by Trofaiach schoolchildren to Kamnik;
- the 35th National Costume Days in Kamnik;
- participation by members of the Trofaiach Golf Club in the Kamnik golf tournament
- the traditional encounters by the fire brigades of both municipalities.

Under the twinning between Andechs and Kamnik, major events were organised to mark the 10th anniversary of the Bavaria-Slovenia Association in Kamnik in June and in Munich in July. The Mayors of both towns signed a mutual co-operation agreement in October 2005.

A highly detailed dossier, focusing particularly on the numerous and varied contacts with the Austrian twinning partner. Should merit the Plaque of Honour within a year or two if the pace of exchanges is maintained. A very well presented submission.

S W E D E N

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since
VARA (Västergötland Province) (Pop. 16 000)	2003	RAMSÖ (DK)	1977
	2004	MÄRJAMAA (EE)	1991
	2005	VESTBY (N)	1991
	2006	CATARROJA (E)	2001
		CHERWELL DISTRICT (GB)	2001
		MÄNTSÄLÄ (FIN)	2002

<Flag of Honour in 2003>

The longest established twinning is that with Ramsö which dates back to 1977 and has focused on cooperation in the fields of democracy and education. In 1991 two further twinning agreements were signed – with Märjamaa, in Estonia, and Vestby, in Norway – which have led to cultural and educational cooperation.

When Sweden joined the European Union, Vara decided to extend its industrial and commercial contacts and entered into three more twinings: with Catarroja (E), the district of Cherwell (GB) and Mäntsälä (F). Efforts here have been concentrated in the fields of education, youth activities and industry and commerce. One of Vara's aims is to twin with municipalities in France and Germany in the next few years.

The list of activities in 2002 highlights a number of key areas.

- School exchanges, involving both pupils and teachers, are functioning well. All the schools in Vara have foreign contacts, ranging across 14 different countries. These contacts take the form of:
 - . meetings between teachers from Vara and their counterparts in Mäntsälä to plan joint projects under the Socrates programme and to exchange experience;
 - . meetings with teachers from Catarroja to set up student exchanges, one of which involves 180 students in Vara and 210 in Catarroja in on-line correspondence;
 - . inter-school twinings – since 1990 all the schools in Vara have had twinning partners in Cherwell, and seven of them have taken part in Comenius projects.

- Official exchanges with Cherwell, Catarroja and Mäntsälä have been developed and several visits have taken place for the purpose of planning future exchange programmes.

- The twinned municipalities are involved in one another's major events: since 1998, for example, Märjamaa has held an annual civic festival to which representatives from Vara are invited.

- Conferences are also held regularly in the twinned towns: Vara, for example, hosted a cultural conference for young people, attended by five participants from each of the six twinned municipalities.

Inter-school links have also been established with schools in other areas. Teacher exchanges with Estonia, Poland and Norway function well.

In 2002 Vara celebrated Europe Day for the first time, organising a week-long programme of events. Schools prepared meals typical of different EU countries.

Vara's activity report for 2003, the year in which it won the Flag of Honour, again emphasises the busy programme of inter-school exchanges, some of which are organised under the Comenius programme. Vara also invited representatives from all its twinned towns to attend the opening of its new concert hall. It organised an exchange involving groups of 10 young people from each of the twinned towns, under the international youth cultural exchange programme and it celebrated Europe Day for a second time. All the schools in the town got involved and prepared dishes typical of different European countries.

SWEDEN (continued)

VARA (continued)

The 2004 activity report again highlights the many inter-school visits which constitute the backbone of the exchange programme. In May 2004 Vara hosted a twinning conference on the theme of local and regional administration, at which three of its six partner municipalities were represented.

In 2005, as every year, school exchanges were the main events, with Vara schools remaining in contact with their opposite numbers in fourteen European countries. However, there were also exchanges between retirement home staff from Vara and Ramsö, a campaign by Vara students to collect medical supplies and equipment for an aid programme in Estonia, a traineeship for two Mäntsälä nurses in Vara and a visit by the Mayor of Vara to Märjamaa in Estonia for the Märjamaa Days.

Vara is taking part in several EU-funded projects, such as the Urb-AI project on road safety, involving municipalities in Brazil, Chile and Italy.

For the fourth time Vara celebrated Europe Day, this time over a whole week, organising several events involving schools.

The Flag of Honour was presented fairly recently, and Vara concentrates mainly on school exchanges.

UKRAINE

	Reports in:	Twinned with	Since:
KHARKOV (Pop. 1.5 million)	2003	BOLOGNA (I)****	1966
	2004	BIEGOROD (Russia)	2001
	2006	VARNA (Bulgaria)	1995
		LILLE (F)**	1978
		NUREMBERG (D)***	1990
		POZNAN (PL) ***	1998
	ST PETERSBURG (RU)	2003	

<European Diploma in 2003>

<Flag of honour in 2004>

Kharkov has also been twinned with Cincinnati (USA) since 1989 and with Tianjin (China) since 1993.

As a city whose population represents more than 111 different nations, Kharkov is proud of its twinning agreements with 12 municipalities in nine countries.

Cooperation has developed particularly well in the following areas:

- contact between the local administrations, with numerous exchanges between official delegations and involvement in international seminars;
- the economy and business, with the establishment of direct inter-company contacts, cooperation between the chambers of commerce and industry and participation in international trade fairs. Meetings take place regularly between businesspeople from Kharkov and their counterparts in the twinned municipalities, especially in Germany. Seventeen Kharkov companies took part in a trade fair in Varna;
- education, with contacts in the form of school and university links, joint art exhibitions and summer camps, for example;
- culture and sport, notably through the organisation of special days showcasing the culture and traditions of the partner municipalities (in the last five years there have been "Lille Days" in Kharkov in 1997, "Kharkov Days" in Cincinnati in 1998, "Bavarian Culture Days" in Kharkov in 1998 and "Kharkov Days" in Nuremberg in 1999). Art exhibitions are also exchanged and groups of artists make exchange visits on a regular basis. Such activities have included:
 - . an exhibition of Ukrainian art in Nuremberg;
 - . participation by Kharkov photographers in Lille's international festival;
 - . participation by a Kharkov cultural delegation in Poznan's Christmas festival;
- EU- funded participation in European programmes with the partner municipalities.

Kharkov has signed cooperation agreements in relation to commercial, economic and scientific activities with **KAUNAS (Lithuania)**, **MOSCOW (Russia)** and **NIZHNY NOVGOROD (Russia)**. It also cooperates with the municipality of PATRAS (Greece) and with Nottinghamshire (GB).

Regular contact is maintained between the following bodies:

- the University of Kharkov and the universities of Poznan and Cincinnati;
- Kharkov's Technical University and its counterpart in Varna;
- the Ukrainian People's Academy and the University of Lille;
- local football clubs and their counterparts in Poznan;
- Kharkov's Chamber of Commerce and the Chambers of Commerce of Varna, Lille, Nuremberg and Poznan, with which cooperation agreements have been signed;
- the Union of Poets and Writers in Kharkov and writers in Nuremberg.

UKRAINE (continued)

KHARKOV (continued)

Kharkov regularly organises film festivals (showcasing, for example, Dutch or European films), classical music festivals (an international event is held annually) and art exhibitions (including an exhibition of children's entries for a drawing competition).

Each country with which Kharkov has contacts is represented in the municipality by a centre which organises meetings (these establishments include the Alliance Française, a Nuremberg House and the British Council).

To promote local awareness about Europe, Kharkov encourages competitions in schools and organises press visits to the twinned municipalities with a view to obtaining coverage in the local newspapers (a group of journalists visited Nuremberg in 2000, for example), and there have also been television programmes about the partner cities.

In 2004 Kharkov hopes to further intensify its international contacts, signing new twinning agreements with Maribor (Slovenia), Brno or Ostrava (CZ) and the Chinese municipality of Tzian.

In 2003 events on which Kharkov cooperated with its twinning partners included:

- in the area of municipal management – participation in seminars with Varna, Nuremberg and Cincinnati, and a total of 12 visits by official delegations (comprising 43 people in all) to twinned or partner municipalities;
- in the area of the economy and business – participation in international trade fairs (in Switzerland and Nuremberg, Germany) and hosting groups of visiting businesspeople;
- in the field of education (where schools have their own direct international links) – exchanges with Poznan and Lille;
- in the areas of culture and sport – a highly successful "Nuremberg Cultural Day in Kharkov", organised as part of a series of "German Culture in Ukraine" days. A photography exhibition, formal concert and festival of German films all gave local people a chance to learn more about Nuremberg. A 42-strong Nuremberg delegation came to Kharkov for the event;
- participation in EU-funded programmes.

The municipality recorded that 62 foreign delegations – a total of 450 people – visited Kharkov in 2003 (compared with just 50 in 2002) and that 35 local delegations (a total of 252 people) travelled abroad for study programmes, training placements, inter-delegation exchanges and cultural, sports and youth exchanges.

In 2004 Kharkiv was presented with the Flag of Honour during the celebrations for the town's 350th anniversary. A series of events were organised for the occasion, including:

- an international conference on sustainable urban development;
- the first Ukrainian youth forum;
- the first festival of national cultures "Kharkiv - Our Home";
- an international twin town youth tournament.

31 international delegations attended these events, coming from 16 different countries and embracing a total of 130 individuals, including the official delegations of the 10 twin towns, the twinned regions and partner towns.

Kharkiv also intensified its overall twinning activities by signing a co-operation agreement with the town of Tsinan in China, Brno in the Czech Republic and Kutaisi in Georgia. This brings the total number of twinning and partnership agreements to 15 towns in 11 countries worldwide.

UKRAINE (continued)

KHARKOV (continued)

Developments have been most intense in the field of cultural relations:

- the Georgian State Ballet and Choral Ensemble, based in Kutaisi, visited Kharkiv during “Georgian Year in Ukraine”;
- the Nuremberg Days in Kharkiv were organised to celebrate the 15th twinning anniversary and the 10th anniversary of the Nuremberg Cultural Centre, including concerts, a photographic exhibition, seminars, etc;
- the “Le Printemps Français” cultural festival;
- Cultural Heritage Days.

The sports events organised by Kharkiv in 2004 and 2005 attracted 5 000 athletes from all over Europe to take part in 78 competitions in 26 different disciplines. Kharkiv organised several races and sports competitions to celebrate Europe Day.

Hundreds of students visit various European countries every year with the support of a youth organisation known as “AEGEE-Kharkiv”.

The town demonstrates an obvious enthusiasm, but the Flag of Honour was presented too recently for the Plaque of Honour to be considered just now.

UNITED KINGDOM

POOLE (Dorset)	Report in : 1987 2006	Twinned with : CHERBOURG GIBRALTAR	Since : 1987
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<Flag of Honour 1987>

Poole also signed a Friendship Charter with Newfoundland, the Port of Poole concluded an informal twinning arrangement with Liège, and Poole is developing contacts with Bremerhaven (D).

The Poole-Cherbourg Twinning Association co-ordinates the cultural, sports and education exchanges:

- a) cultural associations: performances by the Dorset Police Choirs and exchanges with the Cherbourg choirs, giving several joint concerts; contacts between dancing schools;
- b) sports associations: contacts between judo, swimming and pétanque clubs; “mini-Olympics” were held in Poole for young sports enthusiasts from Poole and Cherbourg;
- c) professional associations: contacts between police and fire services and organisation of competitions; hospital delegations conduct regular mutual visits, as do members of the judiciary, teachers and both towns’ branches of the Lions Club; in 2005 three primary school teachers attended classes in English schools.

Poole joined with the Bournemouth University Media Department in developing contacts with the Cherbourg School of Cinematography, which organises annual Anglo-Irish Film Festival showing films produced by students.

Poole Chamber of Commerce and Industry organises Christmas trips to enable people from Pool and Cherbourg to do their Christmas shopping in the twin town; it also organises a highly successful annual French market in the streets of the town.

Major festivities were organised for the 21st anniversary of the twinning between Cherbourg and Poole, attracting over 10 000 visitors.

After a long silence, Poole is now applying for the Plaque of Honour.

UNITED KINGDOM (continued)

	Reports in:	Twinned with:	Since:
STOCKPORT	2003	BEZIERS (F)**	1972
(North-West of England)	2004	HEILBRONN (D)***	1982
(Pop. 293 000)	2005		
	2006		

<Flag of Honour in 2003>

Stockport's decision to establish ties with a French town goes back to the 1970s and it was during celebrations to mark ten years of twinning with Béziers that the further step was taken of twinning with Heilbronn in a three-way link. An international relations office was set up in 1975 to foster contacts and it has played an important role in developing Stockport's ties not only within Europe but with countries around the world.

Exchanges take place between groups of individuals (young people, senior citizens and people with disabilities, for example), as well as special interest groups (involved in music or sport), councillors and municipal employees.

A biannual sports competition and meetings between young people with disabilities are organised regularly with Béziers. The three municipalities have also developed a programme to exchange experience, which includes student placements for periods of two weeks to six months.

Stockport signed a friendship agreement with DODGE CITY in Kansas in 2002 and is already in the process of forging links with schools there.

As part of an initiative linked to the staging of the Commonwealth Games in Manchester in 2002, Stockport "adopted" Malaysia and has since developed business contacts and, in particular, inter-school contacts with that country.

Stockport's international relations office encourages visits by private individuals and groups, senior citizens, people with disabilities and students. A number of Stockport people have also settled in the twinned municipalities and some natives of Béziers have set up home in Stockport.

Among the many activities organised over the last 20 years the most recent have been the twinned towns' Games held in Stockport in 2002; an international evening in December last, bringing together school groups for an event that featured music, dancing and art; and involvement in mounting an international art exhibition in Heilbronn. An exhibition about Heilbronn and Béziers toured all Stockport's libraries in 2002 and in the same year the municipality held a major celebration to mark the anniversaries of both twinings.

Visitors can avail of free translation and interpreting services and local people are offered language classes. The international relations office also organises discussions and debates on themes concerning the twinned towns. A growing number of local schools stage European weeks with organisational support from the municipality. A brochure about international relations for Stockport schools has been published and circulated to all the schools in the municipality with a view to facilitating contacts.

Study visits for teachers are organised regularly: in the last 18 months, for example, teachers from Stockport have visited South Africa, Canada and Malaysia.

UNITED KINGDOM (continued)

STOCKPORT (continued)

In 2003 the main activities were placements for students from the twinned towns who came to work as language assistants; work placements for other visiting students in the municipal administration and local businesses; and teachers' visits. Stockport also signed twinning agreements with the Hungarian municipalities of Poynton and Erd and hosted visitors from Urumqu in China with a view to developing contacts there.

Stockport's contacts with its twinning partners in 2004 included:

- a trip by 44 young people to Heilbronn to take part in the biannual Twinned Towns' Games;
- a visit by 17 senior citizens to Heilbronn (Stockport will host a reciprocal visit in 2005);
- a return visit by Bruntwood archers to Béziers;
- a performance by the All Stars Steel Band in Béziers;
- hosting a delegation from Béziers who came to discuss the development of exchanges among rugby clubs.

The international relations office arranged placements in the municipality for 11 students from the towns twinned with Stockport and supported the placement of Stockport trainees there. It also launched a project on the theme "Explore the world in Stockport", with a whole series of events over several months ranging from *boules* and archery competitions to foreign language sessions for beginners.

Stockport's report for 2005 places the emphasis on school exchanges; such exchanges have been reactivated with Béziers and Heilbronn under Stockport's ten-year project to allow 10 young women from Stockport and 4 women from deprived areas of Heilbronn to visit the European institutions in Brussels, the London Parliament and Stockport Town Hall. The industrial traineeship scheme run by Stockport for young people from Béziers is still a great success, as was the visit to Stockport by 28 senior citizens from Heilbronn.

Stockport has only very recently received the Flag of Honour, and the report for 2004 and 2005 are not sufficiently rich to warrant awarding the Plaque just yet.