



Charter of European Rural Communities

(News)letter for our members

Number 1

Date October 2006

Dear friends,

Because we try to organise a good information-circuit between our members, we will make (news) letters and send them to you. You hereby receive the first one, with news from Brussels and other Charter affairs.

You have to answer the questions we ask and you should react on the actions that are required in this letter. So please pay attention for that.

If you have something you want every Charter member to know, please send it to us (h.van.drunen@haaren.nl) and we will put your text in the newsletter.

In Brussels we combined the Forum "Europe for Citizens" (on Thursday 28th and Friday 29th September 2006) with a meeting with the mayors of the participants of our Charter and a meeting with our friends from Bievre – Belgium (on Wednesday September 27th)

Present in Brussels were: Frantisek Strycek (Stary Poddvorov – Czech Republic), Jette Johnson (Holmegaard – Denmark), Lucien Majerus (Troisvierges – Luxemburg), Annette Savin (Cissé – France), Daniele Fantechi (on behalf of Nadur – Malta) Karl Grammanitsch (Lasseo – Austria), Frans Ronnes (president of the Charter) and Helma van Drunen.

The Charter is developing to a new level. And as you can read in this newsletter, there are a lot of new activities. I'm glad with this new developments and I highly recommend them to you.

*Frans Ronnes,
president of the Charter.*

1. FORUM "EUROPE FOR CITIZENS"

The forum was organised by the department of education and culture of the European Union and was about the new programmes 2007 2013 of the European Committee concerning the town twinnings.

There were about 300 people at the forum, all involved with other villages/towns all over Europe and all very interested. It appears that the

"old Twinning thought" slowly makes room for activities that have a bit more draught than exchanges only. That doesn't mean the ideas of the Charter aren't up to date anymore, on the contrary, it just has to get a bit more draught. "People meet people" is in fact a topic for the European Committee. Brussels want to stimulate the development of partnerships. The Charter needs to be alert and active to get money from Europe and to be able to organise all kinds of activities.

Besides the "Europe for Citizens" program, there is Plan D: a European program for democracy, debate and dialogue. May be the Charter can get money out of this program. We will discuss that with the experts.

2. THE CHARTER INTERNET SITE.

Bièvre (Belgium) has got money from their region to set up a European internet site. Pierre en Dominique Lejeune of the Belgium "Friends of Europe" are going to make the internet site. The president of the Charter and Helma van Drunen has talked with them about the structure and content of the site. On short notice there will be contact between Dominique and Pierre and an IT consultant from Esch. The intention is that the site will be on air on November 24th. The name of the site will be: www.europeancharter.eu

ACTION: All charter members should appoint a communication officer who keeps contact about the content of the site, who answers or forwards the e-mails etc. Every charter member needs to announce its communication officer on short notice, before October 27th 2006.

TO ANSWER: click here: h.van.drunen@haaren.nl

3. PROJECT: ELDERLY ON THE MOVE.

Nadur (Malta) took the initiative on a project that contains a research on the way elderly people spend their time in the communities of the Charter. Nadur will ask for grants for this project at the European Committee. Meanwhile all Charter members have received information about the project from Daniele Fantechi. He coordinates the project. Austria, the Netherlands, Denmark, Italy, Malta and Sweden have signed in on the project. The president will keep all Charter members informed.

4. MEETING OF SMALL GROUPS OF CHARTER MEMBERS.

Frans Ronnes, the president of the Charter thinks it's a good idea if small groups of members of the Charter of European Rural Communities meet each other to talk together about the Charter: what can the Charter mean to you? What can we mean to one another? What is possible en what isn't? Which projects can we do together? How and for what can we approach the European Union in Brussels? Etc.

The first meeting of this kind will take place in Kandava (Latvia) **from December 8th till December 10th 2006.** Ockelbo, Kannus, Polva,

Strzyzow, Medzev and Lassev are invited. Later on there will be more meetings of this kind.

ACTION: The communities which are invited to this first meeting have to announce before October 20th 2006 if they will participate.

TO ANSWER, click here: h.van.drunen@haaren.nl

5. EUROPEAN FUNDING SYSTEM, MEETING IN NADUR.

We have experienced that on the preparation of a project to get grants from the European Union, there's an amount of work to do, the time for doing it is often very short and technical implications are quite complex. We believe that, besides the normal activities of partnership and twinning, the Charter can organise more multilateral activities on various fields profiting the opportunities given by the EU funding system. In the framework of the increasing of activities of the Charter, Nadur Local Council will host therefore a technical/operational meeting in our Community from the **1st to the 4th of December 2006**. Nadur Local Council has an expert on the EU funding system (Daniele Fantechi). Nadur will provide the preparation of all material for the meeting. This meeting is meant to officers, volunteers, administrators etc, who are dealing with EU affairs. The meeting will have a very deep technical profile. After the meeting, we expect we can create a team that within the Charter will be able to set up international projects in various fields. During two days there will be a presentation to introduce funds and possible projects. Moreover there will be a specific session on administrative requirements the EC normally needs in order to accept applications. Delegation shall be composed by one person per Country; no plane ticket will be refunded. Accommodation as well as meals and local transports are granted by Nadur Local Council.

Do not hesitate to contact us for any further information you require. We expect to receive answers on participation by the 15th of November 2006 by completing the attached participation form.

Best Regards
Dr. Christopher Said, mayor

ACTION: If you want to participate in the technical/operational meeting in Nadur, please fill in the form attached with this newsletter before November 15th 2006

FOR QUESTIONS OF REMARKS: click here:
daniele.fantechi@coopen.eu

6. ANNUAL MEETING LASSEE – AUSTRIA

The next meeting will be in Lasseë (Austria) from **6th – 10th June 2007**. Karl Grammanitsch at the farewell dinner in Cissé told that Lasseë requires from each Charter member 10 to 15 drawings or paintings, made by children between the age of 9 and 13, to the theme "Greeting to Lasseë from the youth of Europe" The works of art should be in simple, clear and strong colours or in black and white. Ideally the works show traditional symbols representing the community or region, but it can also be a picture of people, flowers, animals etc. One of the pictures of each community will be transferred on to a glass window and will be situated in an open air gallery in a new park in Lasseë.



7. STUDENT EXCHANGE AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

Kannus (Finland) has sent a letter to a number of Charter members about student exchange and international activities. Every Charter member can react on the proposal of Kannus. On the next page you see the complete letter of Mrs. Teija Tuunila from Kannus

ACTION:

If you want more information or you want to participate in the student project, please contact yourself mrs Teija Tuunila.

TO ANSWER, click here: teija.tuunila@kpedu.fi

I was asked by City of Kannus in Finland, the new Mayor Mrs. Terttu Korte and Mrs. Anna-Maria Isohanni to contact some members of your Charter Network of European towns. There has been discussion in your Network about international activities. City of Kannus would like to coordinate student exchange projects between the towns of Charter Network.

I work as an International Project Manager for the Federation of Education in Central Ostrobothnia. Our Federation is a group of 11 vocational schools in this region and our main office is situated in Kokkola, 40 km from Kannus. The objective of my work is to teach our students to be international, tolerant and language skilled in work life after graduation.

One of our schools, The Rural Institute, is situated in Kannus. That's why our organisation and I was asked to be with this planning project. We appreciate the international aims of your Network and Kannus being a member of it.

According to my experience about student exchange and international activities Charter Network could organise for example following:

- One weeks/few days visits to other Charter-towns. Students from each country could work together with a certain theme (nature and environment, languages, travelling, jobs, music, etc).
- Companies and schools in Charter Network could co-operate by arranging foreign vocational level students work practise places (On-the-Job –learning).

Our Kannus school has experience and know-how about international co-operation as well as On-the-Job –learning abroad, practical arrangements and funding of student exchange.

Every year 70 students from our schools work 3-6 weeks abroad. We also receive annually 50 students from other countries to work in companies in our region. Funding for this comes from EU or national organisations. This is an excellent way to give students valuable and high quality experience of work life and foreign cultures.

Could you suggest how to continue from here. Should we build a group of people from some of the towns to plan student activities and regularly inform the rest of the Charter Network? I would appreciate a list of contact persons + other contact information from

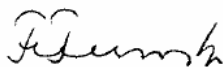
each town. I could contact these listed persons in order to start negotiations between towns and schools.

If necessary, someone of you could inform the rest of Charter Network about these plans. At the moment I don't have contact information of all towns.

Our Federation and Kannus school are happy for this opportunity to work with Charter Network of European towns. I'm sure this will be an interesting project for students in all towns within the Network.

Best regards

The Federation of Education in Central Ostrobothnia



Teija Tuunila

Mrs. Teija Tuunila
International Project Manager
The Federation of Education in Central Ostrobothnia
Närvilänkatu 8
FI-67100 Kokkola
Finland

Tel. +358 6 825 2055
Mobile +358 44 725 0055
Fax. +358 6 825 2009
teija.tuunila@kpedu.fi
www.kpedu.fi

8. PAYMENT OF THE ANNUAL FEE OF € 400,--.

A number of Charter members still have to pay the annual fee 2006 of € 400, -- for membership of the Charter, some of them also have to pay the fee for 2005. Mrs Savin, the cashier of the Charter hereby sends you an overview and the information about the bank account of the Charter.

COTISATIONS DES COMMUNES RURALES D'EUROPE

Pays et Communes	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<i>Allemagne</i> Hepstedt	400	400								
<i>Autriche</i> Lassee	400	400								
<i>Belgique</i> Bièvre	400	400								
<i>Chypre</i> Lefkara										
<i>Danemark</i> Holmegaard	400	400								
<i>Espagne</i> Falsett										
<i>Estonie</i> Polva	400	400								
<i>Finlande</i> Kannus	400	400								
<i>France</i> Cissé	400	400								
<i>Grande Bretagne</i> Desborough	400	400								
<i>Grèce</i> Kolindros	400									
<i>Hongrie</i> Nagycekk										
<i>Irlande</i> Cashel		400								
<i>Italie</i> Bucine	400	400								
<i>Latvia</i> Kandavas	XX									
<i>Luxembourg</i> Troisvièrges	400	400								
<i>Malte</i> Nadur										
<i>Pays-Bas</i> Esch-Haaren	400	400								
<i>Pologne</i> Stryzow	400	400								
<i>Portugal</i> Samuel	400									
<i>Slovaquie</i> Mezdev	400	400								
<i>Slovénie</i> Moravce										
<i>Suède</i> Ockelbo		400								
<i>Tchéquie</i> Stary Poddorov	400									

**CHARTE DES COMMUNES
D'EUROPE
MAIRIE DE CISSE**

86170 CISSE

CREDIT AGRICOLE DE TOURAINE POITOU

PAYABLE A NEUVILLE DE POITOU

CODE ETABLISSEMENT

CODE GUICHET

NUMERO COMPTE

CLE R.I.B.

19406

00030

90049462111

20

INTERNATIONAL BANKING ACCOUNT NUMBER

FR76 1940 6000 3090 0494 6211 120

BANK IDENTIFICATION CODE (SWIFT)

AGRIFRPP894

Helma van Drunen,
October 13th 2006.