



Charter of European Rural Communities

(News)letter for our members

Number 3

Date April 2007

Dear friends,

Congratulations!

Indeed congratulations to all of you and for all of us! 50 years ago the treaty of Rome was signed, so the European Union exists 50 years! And as everyone knows: "We ARE Europe!" Europe is not somewhere else, Europe isn't in Brussels only. No, Europe is in us. "People make Europe! We MAKE Europe!" We make a contribution to a real unification of Europe and that will help to make Europe better, not only for ourselves but for all the citizens, for our children and grandchildren; we have to do it for their future.

Our Charter is a very good network of 25 members. All of us are from small villages in the countryside. We can learn a lot of each other and Europe can help us with that. For this reason we must take together the possibilities and chances that the European Union offers.

I hope the members of the Charter will organise more and more projects with and for each other. And I also hope that a lot of Charter members will join these projects.

We will talk more about it in Lasse. I hope I will see a lot of you there, on June 6th!

Best regards,

Frans Ronnes

President of the European Charter of Rural Communities

1. CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS.

On January 24th there was a conference in Brussels about the new programme 2007-2013 "Europe for Citizens". This programme includes the possibilities for grants for twinnings. The policy makers in Brussels presented the concept programme to people who have to work with the programme and its call for proposals. The president of the Charter and his assistant (Helma van Drunen) were also invited. On behalf of the Charter several suggestions have been passed on to the policy makers, especially concerning simplifying the applications, and making the possibilities more transparent. Moreover, the programme offers more possibilities than before. It is worth it to examine if for example the small meetings of the Charter members can also qualify for financial support from Brussels. We will talk about that in Lassee. Meanwhile the programme is definitive. You can find it on: <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/index.htm> (programme Europe for Citizens).

2. SMALL MEETING IN FALSET (SPAIN).

From February 16th till 19th there was a small meeting of Charter members in Falset (Spain). Participants were: Bievre (Belgium), Samuel (Portugal), Lefkara (Cypus), Esch (the Netherlands) and of course Falset.

At the meetings, several subjects were discussed, such as: the organisation of the big summer meetings, the possibilities to get grants from Brussels, the benefit of small meetings, the importance of a good communication between Charter members etc. A more extensive report and photos you can find on: www.europeancharter.eu

3. MEETING IN NADUR.

Nadur (Malta) organised a big event from Friday March 23rd till Sunday March 25th 2007, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the treaty of Rome.

Nadur invited the Charter members to join the celebration. The following Charter members participated:

Esch (the Netherlands) 4 persons; Holmegaard (Denmark) 2 persons; Lassee (Austria) 2 persons; Troisvierges (Luxemburg) 3 persons; Kandava (Latvia) 3 persons; Medzev (Slovakia) 2 persons; Lefkara (Cyprus) 2 persons; Bucine (Italy) 3 persons.

Nadur asked the Charter communities to bring along artworks from their community and –if possible- the artist also. The artists of the Charter could arrange a beautiful exhibition in the local council of Nadur. Many of Nadur's guests visited this exhibition. The Charter participants joined the festivities of Nadur, visited beautiful places on the island Gozo, talked a lot with each other and had a presidium meeting and a mayor's meeting. You can find the minutes of the mayor's meeting and some photos of the stay in Nadur on www.europeancharter.eu.

4. PROGRAMME MEETING LASSEE.

Lassee has sent us the programme for the summer meeting.

This programme and a German version of it are also on www.europeancharter.eu.

	<p>11.00</p> <p>afterwards</p> <p>15.00</p> <p>16.00</p> <p>19.00</p> <p>21.00</p> <p>22.00</p>	<p>Reception in Vienna's town hall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sight seeing in the heart of the city - Approximately 1 hour free time - Special programme for young visitors <p>Return to Lassee.</p> <p>Guide around the sewage works, compost centre and central heating works.</p> <p>Traditional evening meal in the central heating plant.</p> <p>Entertainment with „Gerry and Sandra“ – Dance evening (with hosts and inhabitants of Lassee)</p> <p>Clubbing „Get2Gether“ (also for host families and people from Lassee – open to the public).</p>
<p><u>Saturday</u> <u>9.6.07</u></p>	<p>09.00 – 11.00</p> <p>13.00</p> <p>13.30</p> <p>14.30</p> <p>16.00</p> <p>17.00</p> <p>approx. 17.30</p> <p>afterwards</p> <p>19.00</p> <p>21.00</p>	<p>Meeting of the mayors of the Charter.</p> <p>Other visitors have this morning to their own disposal. Lunch with the host families.</p> <p>Meeting point European park. - Presentation of oldtimers by the Oldtimer club.</p> <p>Departure to Hof Palace, car-corso with host families. - Mayors are to travel in the oldtimer cars - Other guests travel with their hosts</p> <p>- Greeting and champagne reception</p> <p>Guided tours around the baroque castle and gardens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guide through the cellar labyrinth to the manor farm - carriage rides, Orangery, stables, herb garden, game <p>Group photo shooting.</p> <p>Evening meal in the former riding school.</p> <p>Concert performed by the Marchfeld Philharmonic Orchestra.</p> <p>Return to Lassee. Entertainment and dancing with the band „Night shift“ in the central heating plant. (with the host families and inhabitants of Lassee)</p>

<u>Sunday</u> <u>10.6.07</u>	09.00	Holy mass in the village church.
	afterwards	Procession to the European park with the village band.
	10.30	Inauguration of the European park with festivities.
	12.00	Lunch in the central heating plant together with the host families.
	afterwards	Official dismissal and goodbyes. Departure of guests (according to flight schedule).

5. FROM TWINNING TO NETWORK FOR SUBSTANTIVE MEETINGS AND EXCHANGES.

Several meetings of the Charter and contacts in Brussels during the past few years have made a development clear: twinnings become more and more a network. The annual meetings of the Charter provide the basis for a network that gives the Charter members the opportunity to set up all kinds of joint projects, with a few, more or all member communities.

How to organise such projects to get grants from Brussels is a special competence. Brussels always requires that there are several European partners. The Charter must exploit that advantage: the Charter members don't have to search for partners; they have already 25 potential partners. More about this in Lassee!

6. BROCHURE

To give more acquaintance to the Charter, both at the inhabitants of our villages and at official agencies, a brochure is made. The concept version has been distributed to those who were present in Malta. The others will soon receive some copies by mail. The president requested a financial contribution at an agency in the Netherlands. If this is granted, the brochure can be pressed.

7. COMMUNICATION.

The communication has to be improved. It's very important that every community has a communication officer. The communication officer has to react quickly. If someone receives a mail, the communication officer has to confirm that he or she received the mail and give an answer as soon as possible.

Improvement of the communication is important for the projects from Brussels, but also for the development from twinning to network

We hereby send you a list of the communication officers who have been passed on to us.

The Charter
Austria - Lassee
Belgium – Bievre
Cyprus - Lefkara
Czech Republic - Sary Poddvorov
Denmark – Holmegaard
Estonia – Põlva
Finland – Kannus
France – Cissé

Mrs Helma van Drunen
Mrs Sandra Hengl
Mr. Pierre Lejeune
Mr. Cosmas Cosma

h.van.drunen@haaren.nl
gemeinde@lassee.gv.at
pierrelejeune@skynet.be
c.cosma@alphabank.com.cy

Mrs Jette Johnsen
Mrs Katre Löbu

jejoh@naestved.dk
polvalinn@polvalv.ee

Germany – Hepstedt	Mr Rolf Pueschel	rpueschel@t-online.de
Great Britain – Desborough		
Greece – Kolindros	Mr Kostas Laskaridis	adviser@kolindros.gr
Hungary – Nagycenk		
Ireland – Cashel		
Italy – Bucine	Mrs Tiziana Tinozzi	t.tinozzi@comune.bucine.ar.it
Latvia – Kandava	Mrs Iveta Piese	lveta.piese@inbox.lv
Lithuania – Zagare		
Luxemburg – Troisvierges		
Malta – Nadur	Mr. Daniele Fantechi	daniele.fantechi@coopen.eu
Netherlands – Esch	Mrs Thea Heesemans	esch2005@hotmail.com
Poland – Strzyzow	Mr Marius Kawa	mariusk@strzyzow.pl
Portugal – Samuel		
Slovakia – Medzev	Mr. Gerhard Ballasch	ballasch@medzev.sk
Slovenia – Moravce	Mrs Nuska Jerman	nuska@jerman@moravce.si
Spain – Falset	Mrs Laura Jornet	laujornet@hotmail.com
Sweden - Ockelbo		

ACTION: For them who haven't done it yet: send as soon as possible the name, the e-mail address and the phone number of your communication or if the list needs changes, you can mention that to:

h.van.drunen@haaren.nl

8. YOUTH.

Reminder for the project Youth that Nadur wants to organise end 2007/early 2008 (see Newsletter 2). Those who are interested or want more information, have to react to Daniele Fantechi.

ACTION: Information and adhesion

daniele.fantechi@coopen.eu

9. REQUEST FROM FALSET SPAIN

The head of the public library of Falset has a very enthusiastic interest about exchanging information, experiences and activities with all the libraries of the communities of the Charter. So she sends this letter:

“Falset’s Public Library “Salvador Estrem i Fa”

*Carrer de Baix, 41
43730 FALSET, Catalonia, Spain.*

Dear friends,

The Public Library of Falset gives a call to all of the libraries of the Charter community members to exchange experiences and to organize activities together.

For a start, we would like very much that all the members of the Charter would be so kind to send to us all sort of information available about their community (booklets, maps, magazines, brochures, ...). The idea is to arrange a special

section, giving the opportunity to everybody to get a better information about what Europe and the Charter are and therefore to reinforce our partnership.
Best regards,

Montse Bartolomé Rey

Public Library " Salvador Estrem i Fa"
Falset, March 21st, 2007"

ACTION: send your information to:

bi bl i o t e c a @ f a l s e t . a l t a n e t . o r g

10. INTERNETSITE WWW.EUROPEANCHARTER.EU.

Did you recently look at the Internet site of the Charter? And did you sign the guestbook? For signing the guestbook you have to use the password that's added, because otherwise people can change your message. The Internet site can become more and more important as a source of information and communication for all Charter members. It's therefore very important to send all information (bi-lateral contacts, pictures, projects etc.) to the webmaster. It's also important to make a link between the own Internet site of a community and the Charter site, so all inhabitants of your community can take knowledge of the activities of the Charter.

ACTION: send all information about bi-lateral contacts, projects, meetings etc and photos to:

i n f o @ e u r o p e a n c h a r t e r . e u

11. MEMBERSHIP NEW EU COUNTRIES BULGARIA AND ROMANIA.

As agreed, the Charter follows the enlargement of the EU. Therefore Frans Ronnes (president) and Karl Grammanitsch (vice president) will, by means of their national association of communities, make efforts to approach villages in Bulgaria and Romania. It is agreed to approach several villages and then make a choice. If other Charter members have suggestions about villages in Bulgaria or Romania, please mention it to the president.

ACTION: ideas about Charter members in Bulgaria and Romania, please mention it to the president, contactable by means of

h. van. drunen@haaren. nl

12. AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM

Nadur wants to organise a meeting for those who are responsible for agriculture and tourism in rural communities. The conference will be in November 2007.

Chris Said, the mayor of Nadur will give more information during the meeting in Lassee.

13. BRIDGE

Lefkara (Cyprus) is thinking about organising a tournament for bridge players. They will put information on the Charter Internet site.

14. 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.

<i>Pays et Communes</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>
Spain <i>Falset</i>		
Greece <i>Kolindros</i>	400	
Hungary <i>Nagycevk</i>		
Ireland <i>Cashel</i>		400
Latvia <i>Kandava</i>	XX	
Malta <i>Nadur</i>	XX	
Portugal <i>Samuel</i>	400	
Sweden <i>Ockelbo</i>		400

ACTION those, to whom it concerns, can pay the annual fee at:

CHARTE DES COMMUNES D'EUROPE
MAIRIE DE CISSE, 86170 CISSE
CREDIT AGRICOLE DE TOURAINE POITOU
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,
April 17th 2007.