

Report Extra Youth Meeting Kannus (Finland) – 13 / 15 November 2009

Participants:

Finland	Kannus	Minna Huhtala Hanna Lehojärvi Martta Mäki-Petäjä Maisa Niemi Emmi Vähä-Ypyä	Teresa Ilola Piia Lehojärvi Ilona Niemi Marianne Peltola
Austria	Lasee	Gunther Brandstetter	
Cyprus	Lefkara	Georgia Shoshilou	
Czech Republic	Starý Poddvorov	Markéta Gertnerová	Michaela Kuchyňková
Denmark	Naestved	Ditte Strom Høgsbro	Simon Zurbrügg
Estonia	Põlva	Erik Valdmaa	
Germany	Hepstedt	Friederike Blanken	Jessica Hauschild
Greece	Kolindros	Klearhos Daskalakis	Konstantinos Kastaniotis
Hungary	Nagycenck	Ferenc Erdösi	Flora Hegedüs
Italy	Bucine	Camilla Ferrario Susana Stagnati	Sergio Formica
Latvia	Kandava	Gita Grunte	Maija Zarina
Lithuania	Žagare	Izabele Visockaite	
Luxembourg	Troisvierges	Marc Lis	
Netherlands, the	Esch (Haaren)	Barbara van de Sande	Boy Scholtze
Poland	Strzyżów	Jagoda Skowron	Magda Wojcik
Portugal	Samuel	Filipe Ribeiro	Patricia Simões
Romania	Ibanesti	Lavinia Dan	
Slovenia	Moravce	Klemen Gnidovec	Miha Kokalj

Reinhard Moring (Austria, Lasee) and Amalia Ballaschova (Slovakia, Medzev) were not able to come because of sickness.

Belgium (Bièvre), France (Cissé), Ireland (Cashell), Malta (Nadur), Spain (Bienvenida), Sweden (Ockelbo) and United Kingdom (Desborough) unfortunately were not able to send a representative to the meeting.

This extra youth meeting took place from Friday November 13th till Sunday November 15th in our Finnish member community Kannus. The meeting has been financially supported by the European Charter of Rural communities as decided at the Mayors Meeting in Starý Poddvorov (Czech Republic) during the annual meeting 2009.

During the meeting we've learned a lot about the Finnish culture and customs. We've visited a high school and an agricultural institute, a historical exposition in the town hall, the swimming pool with sauna as well as the local pubs.

We've had discussions about several themes, which will be shortly summarized.

Questionnaire

Before the meeting, the youth coordinator has sent a questionnaire to the participants. On the basis of these questionnaires, a discussion about youth involvement and interests of young people took place on Saturday morning. Below, you could find the most interesting outcomes. The original questionnaire is attached.

Youth involvement

- In most communities, the mayor is the one that decides which persons will participate in (youth) meetings, sometimes by a raffle. Only in a few communities, the youth contact person is the one who decides, possibly by a raffle. The general opinion is that the youth contact person should get more influence.
- The best composition of the youth delegation would be a mix of new youngsters and youngsters with 'charter experience', like the 'Swedish model': two new youngsters with two youngsters who've participated the year before.
- The communities encourage youngsters to participate in the charter by giving them (extra) financial help. They spread the 'charter message' by flyers or posters. The most important encouragement is mouth-to-mouth promotion by participants or the youth coordinator. The youth coordinator could inform the youngsters at schools or youth centres about the upcoming meetings.
- Once you've been taking part in a charter activity, you're willing to take part in another one as well.
- The best periods to organise a meeting are:
 - February / March
 - End of April / beginning of May
 - October
 - Beginning of December

A meeting during the summer months (July and August) could be difficult because of planned holidays.

- University students could easily get some days off, unless they have exams. For students on secondary or high school, it would be less easy to get some days off. In most cases, they have to ask the headmaster for permission.
- The overall opinion was that the current age limits the charter has are good: 16 – 26 year.
- During the discussion, several participants mentioned that age doesn't really matter: if you're feeling young and if you would like to contribute something to the charter you should be able to take part (as a youngster).
- The common problem in our communities is that youngsters leave the villages when they are going to study at a college or university. In the Southern and Eastern part of Europe, the young people often don't return to the communities, whereas they often do (or would like to) return to the communities in the Northern and Western part of Europe. It's necessary to inform and involve them before they leave the community to keep them involved in the charter's activities.

Youth interests

- The most popular sports in our communities are football / soccer, tennis, basketball and cycling.
- Besides sport clubs, dance clubs, scouting and youth centres / youth clubs are very popular too. The form of the youth centres / youth clubs depends on the country. In some communities, the youth clubs look like discos, while in other communities it is a cultural centre where many different kinds of courses and activities are organised.
- Although it's difficult to indicate a common music style, many youngsters listen to the international hit charts and rock music, but national music is popular too. Someone proposed to organise a "charter pop festival" to involve more youngsters.
- At school, we learn the European history, a bit about the European Union during geography lessons and of course the languages. The 'new European countries' get more education about Europe than the 'old European countries'. In general, we don't know a lot about each other's countries and the European Union's system. One of the major advantages of the charter is that you learn more about each other's cultures and customs.
- In many countries, studying abroad is something you have to arrange by yourself. Of course there are some European programs to promote studying abroad, Erasmus is the most well-known.
- During weekends, young people want to relax. Especially in the Northern and Western part of Europe, youngsters have a job on Saturday. In the Southern part, young people often help their families or go to (private) school. There are also sport matches during the weekends and on Saturday evening, we like to go to pubs or discos, sometimes until very late!

Newsletter

Although some participants doubted if a newsletter would involve more young people in the charter's activities, we've decided to elaborate the idea of a newsletter for youngsters at the presidium meeting in Strzyżów (Poland) in December 2009.

The newsletter could inform the youngsters about the upcoming meetings, the progressions of the multi annual project, interesting youth activities in the communities and so on. The youth contact persons could spread it at schools, sport clubs and so on.

Facebook page and Website

Gunther Brandstetter (Austria, Lasse) will improve the website and the facebook page. The participants reacted positively on the website and the facebook page. They think that facebook is a good way to communicate after meetings and to keep in touch with the charter. After each meeting you could see a lot of conversations on facebook between participants.

Next meetings

The youth coordinator asked the participants to make sure that the delegations for the annual meeting in Strzyżów (Poland) will exist of four youngsters, as stated in the multi annual project. He also drew the participants' attention on the Beerpumpfestival in Esch / Haaren (the Netherlands) and the festival "ne pas couvrir" in Bucine (Italy).

DVD

The participants agreed that Ibanesti (Romania) will edit the DVD we have to make. The youth coordinator asked Lavinia Dan if they were able to do this because of the good quality they delivered for the DVD "People meet People – Europe around the clock". The financial aspect was very important as well, since Romania is one of the cheapest countries of the European Union and the budget of the DVD is very small. If Ibanesti is not able to edit the DVD, we've got to other options: Marc Lis from Troisvierges (Luxembourg) could arrange something because he works in the film / television branch, the problem would be the costs. The other option would be to ask students from a film academy to help us. The problem would be that there's no film academy in one of the member communities, so in this case the DVD won't be edited by a charter member.

The DVD will contain the following items:

- A shot of each community (for instance the name-plate);
- A slideshow with pictures from charter meetings;
- Hotspots for young people in each member community;
- Some phrases that summarize the charter's value for young people, pronounced by youngsters from different member communities.

By this items, we try to show the charter and the European Union what interests young people and how they could involve more youngsters, and we try to show the youngsters why the charter is valuable.

The participants have been brainstorming about the phrases which should summarize the value of the charter for young people. The outcomes are attached. Gunther Brandstetter will make a good mixture of the outcomes.

At the presidium meeting in Strzyżów (Poland) in December 2009, Gunther Brandstetter (Austria, Lasse), Lasse Zurbrügg (Denmark, Naestved / Holmegaard) and Boy Scholtze (the Netherlands, Esch / Haaren) will elaborate the instruction cards which will be send to the youth contact persons in December 2009. In March 2010, the tapes should be send back and at the small meeting in Kandava (Latvia) in October 2010, the DVD should be presented.

Next 'Multi-Annual Project'

Since there will be a presidium meeting in Strzyżów (Poland) in December 2009 where the presidium of the charter will take some decisions about the charter's activities during 2011 and 2012, we've been talking about it too. The overall theme will probably be 'demographical diversity'. The participants have been brainstorming about a possible theme for the young ones. The brainstorm outcomes are attached. The most common proposals are:

- Education;
- Religion;
- Tolerance and racism.

We also agreed that youth involvement is an ongoing process.

If you want more information about one of the items, please contact the youth coordinator:
Boy Scholtze (Esch / Haaren, the Netherlands)
boyscholtze@planet.nl / 0031 – 6 533 47 406

Boy Scholtze, November 2009, the Netherlands

ATTACHMENT 1

Questionnaire Extra Youth Meeting Kannus

*To prepare the meeting in Kannus (Finland), I've made a small questionnaire. I would like to ask you to fill in the questionnaire so we could have discussions about it during the meeting. Please, send a copy of the filled in form to me (boyscholtze@planet.nl) before **November 7th**!*

EUROPEAN CHARTER OF RURAL COMMUNITIES

1. What is the European Charter of Rural Communities?
2. Did you ever take part in a Charter meeting before?
3. In what way are the delegation members selected?
4. How does your community encourage young people to take part in the charter?
5. What periods are ideal for travelling for youngsters and would your school be willing to give you some days off to participate in a Charter meeting?
6. Which ages belong to youth in your opinion? (For instance: 16 -26 y.o.)
7. If young people are going to study, do they move to another village / city? And if they do so, do they return to your community or will they 'stay away'? If they move, do they still want to be involved (and do they get the opportunity to stay involved) in the charter activities?

YOUNGSTERS IN YOUR COUNTRY

8. What kind of sports are popular for youngsters in your country?
9. Besides sport clubs, what other kind of youth clubs / organisations are popular in your country? (For instance: music clubs, dance clubs, scouting and so on.)
10. What kind of music is popular amongst young people in your country?
11. On school, what did you learn about Europe? (In other words, did you learn a lot about Europe?)
12. Do the authorities and schools encourage students to study abroad for a while and by which methods?
13. Could you describe a typical Saturday for young people in your community? (In other words: are you going to school, to work, sports club, in the evening to a pub?)

COUNTRY:

COMMUNITY:

NAMES OF THE PARTICIPANTS:

ATTACHMENT 2

DVD Proposals

1

“Fuck the system”

Future can be changed

Future can be better

We are the future

We are the new generation

We are the only one

We are the only age who can make a change

Youngsters want diversity

Youngsters want possibilities

Youngsters want a better world

2

We are the youth

27 countries

One community

One network

One future

One family

One vision

One Europe

No borders

Meet Europe for free!

We are the charter!

3

Youngsters are the future of Europe.

Do you like changes?

Do you like traveling?

Are you broke?

Do you think about the future?

We have the solution:

European Charter!

Some brainstorm outcomes:

Youngsters:

Future

Education

Energy
Entertainment / having fun
Cooperation
Experience
Enjoying
Freshness
Lifestyle
Curiosity
Chance
Traveling
Languages
Friendship
Meeting
Free
Changes
Spontaneous
Tolerance
Opportunities
Diversity
Cultures / sport / music / food / customs

Advantages of the charter:

You learn to communicate in a new environment
You learn to listen
Borrow ideas to make changes
You get to go below the cultural surface
Family
Languages
You learn to make your own country and culture
New connections and friends from different parts of Europe
Tolerance towards other cultures and people
We are the future
Learning how to represent your country

ATTACHMENT 3

Possible themes next Multi-Annual Project (2011-2012) Youth part

Austria – Luxembourg – Denmark – Germany – the Netherlands

Sharing Experience

- Back to school (computer / technology class)
- Old school (knitting, bridge club)

Religions

- Possibilities for Muslims, Buddhists, Hinduisms
- Racism

People assistance

- Helping elderly with garden-work, groceries...

Education

- International
- Scholarships
- University System

Greece – Cyprus – Italy – Portugal

Lifestyle as a consequence of age and place:

- Population
- Climate
- Age
- Area
- Nationality
- Religion
- Jobs
- Education

Slovenia – Hungary – Poland – Czech Republic

Cultural awareness

Languages in Europe

Finland – Latvia – Rumania – Lithuania

Age Structure

Currency

Tolerance

Education

Customs

Politics

Religion

Business (export, import)

Salaries