



EACEA
Education, Audiovisual & Culture
Executive Agency

TOWN TWINNING

**Education, Audiovisual & Culture
Executive Agency
Europe for Citizens**

The final report of the Local Government of Mórahalom

Intercultural dialogue:

“Respect for cultural diversity, ensuring the principle of equality in the frames of democratic cultural policy”

Thematic conference

3rd-5th October, 2007.



2007.



2007 — European Year of Equal Opportunities for All

The European Union gives excellent frame for the co-operation between the nations. In order to all these different peoples, nations can preserve their identity, civilization. Only in this way able to cooperate the inhabitant for the Europe with the Union, or rather with their own country. Only in this way have got possibility to the Europe's inhabitant build together their home without estrangement feeling and on through this the Union too.

The twin-city's relation shape, maintain and further relation building can help this process.

I. The first ideas about our conference:

The local government of Mórahalom city - as a host - organised the thematic conference with the following title: „Intercultural dialogue: for the veneration of the cultural variegation, and chance equality cover within the confines of the democratic policy between 3-5 October, 2007.

The conference was organised within the frameworks of the European Commission's guide-lines which was named as „Europe for the citizens 2007-2013”

Our city has been emphasizing the twin-city's relationships attendance for a long while. Accordingly one of the excellent way was organised this conference because it can help to deepen and firm the twin-city's relationships. That is why we invited the twin-city's delegations too, that is to say in this three-day cultural dialogue the domestic, primarily inside of this the South Great Hungarian Plain Region's deputies and enquirers were there, and also some guest were in the thematic conference from Mórahalom's twin-cities:

- from Csíkszentmárton (Romania) 26 persons
- from Pievepelago 3 person, from Fiumalbo 8 persons (Italy)
- from Chamerau 3 persons (Germany)

The local government of Mórahalom city was not able to shape efficient twin-city's relationship with other cities for a long time, because was not able to determine and identify his own cultural setpoints or rather was not unaware of establish determinative cultural value, hence identify, spread and deepen essential cultural value

Recognize and fight back this problem, determine their own cultural value or rather establish a novel value can help to Mórahalom like the heart of the Small Region and the vital power was able to shape a fruitful, long-term and full of meet twin-city relationship mostly with the invited cities onto the conference.

In the inchoative stage to get in touch with the other settlements our town tried to find those settlements according to some link than the language because they can develop, thorough, long-

term and build useful and instructive relation on either side with it. Based on these facts first we shaped up a twin-city relationship with Csíkszentmárton and Temerin.

After Mórahalom determined own (cultural) identity, then could open to trend towards get to know other settlements' culture, and their habits.

Of course the configuration of the twin-city relationship was not only good to peep in each other culture, and acquaint each other culture, habits and identity, but it was an excellent ground for form fruitful collaboration at the economic level with our twin-cities.

Principally our city make an effort to create commercial relation with **Chamerau**. Our relationship with the Italian twin-cities based on to interlocking the economy or rather the service sector.

Mainly the aim of the co-operation with **Csíkszentmárton** is based on the tourism. One of the practical fulfilment for this collaboration was to built a guest house in Csíkszentmárton. The aim was to spur the transborder's Hungarian people to return to the mother country by the help of Csíkszentmárton unless the target is for the tourism. But must not neglect this function or rather this section of the twin-city relationship because we know our history.

Furthermore Mórahalom city able to retain the own leader function in the region that also belongs to that fact to accept the cultural variegation, moreover admit the cultural diversity or rather have to be an active propagandist it to must not eliminate the cultural differences and must not give the cultural assimilation plenty of rope. That is why we can read as a practicable manifestation when the foreign investors move in the Industrial Village of Mórahalom. They not only bring the technology, the expertise, the know-how and the proficiency, but they convey a slice of their own cultural identity. Mórahalom city is fully aware of this case and take into these cultures and habits too because it is obvious to aside from the useful and profit-making relation need an informal relationship where respect the others culture and what is perhaps more important to know and admit the others culture.

With this end in view Mórahalom city organised this Thematic Conference to aside from the deepen of the twin-city relations to attract attention for the necessity of the cultural variegation and for this essential existence. Only in this way able to retain the European Union their diversity, and what is more, hereby the functional efficiency too.

II. Induction:

When Mórahalom city presented the tender then the capital aim was to keep this conference to reveal to that fact that the culture is take place better and better in the process of the European integration and development. After new countries joined to the European Union the differences grew considerably. Our aim was with this conference to actuate with the twin-cities such as point out those common values which are accepted equally by the expanding community's countries, societies and which these ones help to abel to use such national and European culturalpolicy which advance to steady the European identity sense and deepen the integration process.

The custody of the national and ethnic cultural traditions, attendance, the maintainace of the communal and individual civilization institutions, and support the citizen's quality of life corrective activities is the common target for the society.

One of the most important target for the twin-city's campaign to bring up together those countries which have got different culture, tradition, hereby steady the bond between the European people and cultures. Have to create the possibility to the inhabitants of the countries get in touch with each other. Thank to Mórahalom and the South Great Hungarian Plain Region's geographical and historical situation as well as the affluent cultural heredity it was appropriate place to give home for this program. Such like this programs attract attention not only to the twin-cities but for the given country's cultural values, traditions, and for the European Union cultural variegation too. The continouos attendance of the cultural relationships steady the relationships of the twin-cities and act on the European integration as a catalyst.

III. A brief summary of the main project activities and results:

During to the project preparation (August, September, 2007) the main activities were to make contact on the one hand with the twin-cities on the other hand with the expert performers, with the attendances and with the concert parties.. The completion of the invitation cards, dispatch and the completion of the informant stuffs were also very important preparatory activity to execute the successful conference.

During the conference's organization was a very important task to choose expert performers. Unfortunately we had to changed more time the invited performer because someone had an other activity or rather someone could not join in because of his illness but finally the performers were of high standard and they presented very well.

Make contact with everybody, several negotiations with the enterprises who helped to transact the conference, in particular view of the journey, accommodation, supply, rental of the room, interpreters, performers etc..were also very important tasks for this stage.

Also very important activity was that stage when the location of the conference was selected:

Mórahalom city convened the Thematic Conference in the „Aranyszöm” Programhouse.

The Programhouse gives places to the different programs, conferences since 2003. The procession of the Thematic Conference ran in two main line. On the one hand in the Assembly room of the Programhouse or rather in the Conference room were constantly the performances on the other hand the capability of the Programhouse permit to the conference's share the experiences and the impressions from the performances attendances in a smaller informal groups or rather discuss the occurrent questions with each other.

So most of the formal performances were kept in the Assembly Room of the Programhouse and principally all of the performer made an effort for the interactive presentation that is why the attendance had a change to continually comment it or ask questions. So the necessary technologic tools and the technologic staffs were ensured by the „Aranyszöm” Programhouse.

The performances were ran in Hungarian, German and Italian therefore to avoid the linguistic difficulties were translator machines and interpreter cubicles all the time. The performances and all the events were fixed by the technologic staffs of the Programhouse. They work on a professional level and with the newest technologic tools. In addition they helped to set up the technologic preparation in the Assembly room for this important program (like set up and provide the voice and light technology, provide the public-address system all the time, handling and setting the computers continuously according to the performers unique request), and the technologic staffs were there all the time to beat off the occurrent technologic problems.

Based on these facts the Programhouse was excellent choice for this Conference, not only because of the above mentioned technologic opportunities but the imposing inside conformation, the shape and the equipment of the building and last but not least because of the Programhouse's solid style.

The Programhouse gave place not only for our Conference but gave place for some other program in the past for example for the new year's day concert, for the „Homokháti” festival vocational, cultural, tourism, gastronomy, folk music, junior programs during one and a half weeks, for the meeting of the grape harvest, choir-, wind instrument, folk dance, social dance, and for the art camps..etc.

Some professional conferences were organised in that Programhouse.

For example: International Balneological Conference, Turistical Conference: The South Plan's role in the tourism, Agrico Partnermeeting: Conference of National Potatoes Council, Transport Conference of Csongrád County, Librarians meeting of Csongrád County, National Catastrophe-Defence day... etc.

We recon that the Thematic Conference match with the other programs and we would like to set in the organisation of the Thematic Conference among our conferences.

That also important to mention to the conference aim was not only to actuate the professional communication but was a ground of the informal colloquy which is go on with the everyday social communication. Therefore we thought to one of the important thing to invite the enquirer students from the Móra Ferenc Public Community Center in the Conference. They mean a new generation who learn to respect or at least know the other cultures identity, habits in due time than the society will be more tolerant in our country or in the European Union in the future and it support the edification of the humanity in a wider sence.

By the help of this idea our city applied for the competition of the Citizens meeting in 2007 with the following title: „Cultural Appointment – meeting of the young European citizens”. Particularly the young people’s attention would have been call to the importance of the cultural variegation, curiosity of the differences in the culture or rather the respect of the other culture. Unfortunately our city could not organize this Conference in 2007, but we think we can organise the Cultural Appointment Conference next to the Thematic conference during next year if the Agency live up to support our Conference.

In the final stage of the project (3-5. October, 2007) the main activities were the followings:

- welcome and accomodate the delegation of the twin-cities,
- transact the registration,
- congratulatory,
- professional performances with the following workmethod: interactive performances, forum, professional discussion and complementary programs (a taste of the twin-cities’own culture: programme of the Csíkszentmárton’s dance group, topping of the Italian opera literature, and visitation of the Hungarian history and culture exhibition in the Historical Memorial Park in Ópusztaszer, call the attention to the local attraction, recourse of the Erzsébet Termal Bath’s wellness-fitness services in Mórahalom, etc..)

After the conference had some occurent activities (October, November, 2007) for example the liquidation with the participant and helper contractors. Also had to make the abstract of the performances theme and selected the 60minutes DVD film from the professional performances in this period.

Actuation, freshen and expansion of the homepage with the conference’s themes, give opportunity to use the homepage and finish all the tasks about the conference’s liquidation were important task too.

The impact of the project upon the participants:

- recognition of the culture importance ,
- get to know each other culture,
- recognition the usefulness of the cultural variegation, rejection of the exaggerated uniformization,
- respect of the ethnic cultural, rejection of the assimilation policy
- get to know the European cultural policy and apprehend for this point
- raise the attendance for the different culture's people
- steady the human relations

Very important part to get in touch with the affected people in this stage. Excellent example to our Local Government presented his next year tender which were announced within the „Europe for Citizens 2007-2013 Programme Development of thematic network of twinned towns”.

IV. The total number of local and international participants:

<i>First day (03/10/2007)</i>		
Number of the participants	International participants	Local participants
	Chamerau: 3 persons	99 persons
	Pievepelago: 3 persons	
	Fiumalbo: 8 persons	
	Csíkszentmárton: 26 persons	
Total number of the participants:	40 persons	99 persons
<i>Second day (04/10/2007)</i>		
Number of the participants	International participants	Local participants
	Chamerau: 3 persons	100 persons
	Pievepelago: 3 persons	
	Fiumalbo: 8 persons	
	Csíkszentmárton: 26 persons	
Total number of the participants:	40 persons	100 persons

<i>Third day (05/10/2007)</i>		
Number of the participants	International participants	Local participants
	Chamerau: 3 persons	100 persons
	Pievepelago: 3 persons	
	Fiumalbo: 8 persons	
	Csíkszentmárton: 26 persons	
Total number of the participants:	40 persons	100 persons

V. The main objectives of the conference were the followings:

The basic aim of our tender was to start an intercultural dialog between the participants and to encourage mutual awareness of the culture and history of people of Europe. It was a relevant aim of our thematic conference to promotion creativity and the transnational dissemination of culture and the movement of artists, creators and other cultural operators and professionals and their works with a strong emphasis on cultural diversity of twin towns and highlighting if cultural diversity and development of new forms of cultural expressions.

It was an important objective to share and highlighting, at the European level, the common cultural heritage of European significance, and to disseminate know-how, and to promote good practices concerning its conversation and safeguarding.

In such a supranationalist establishment, like the European Union there is a very important rule for the priority of tradition keeping, as in Europe there are varied and colorful nations and folks that keeping the traditions of them has element rule for a long time past. So we thought that all nation could represent it's own cultural speciality in the lectures and during the all conference and in this way the cultural differences revealed emphatically and it is a basic principle in the European Union.

We don't have to forget the rule of the culture in the socioeconomic development as well and the culture has to be explicitly recognized as an economic factor and as a factor in social integration and citizenship.

The year 2007. is the European year, equal opportunities for all, so we thought that it would be an important objective for our conference to improve access to and participation in culture in the European Union for as many citizens as possible.

Besides all of it the fostering of intercultural dialogue and mutual exchange between European and non-European cultures is such an important objective in the European Union.

We can assess that these objectives are very important parts of the cultural policy of the European Union and for express materialization of objectives mentioned above isn't enough to keep a three-day conference but these objectives means canons in the conversations and relationships between the participants in the future.

VI. The results of the project as compared to the initial objectives:

• The results preparing for the conference:

- goad the participants's curiosity of the theme of the tender,
- positive feedbacks,
- made the connection successfully with the twin towns and the experts,
- successfully cooperation with the partners to achieve our project.

• The results during the conference:

- active participation in the conference by the invited people, grand attention for the lectures,
- information and experience changing between the participants,
- recognize and express the importance of the cultural identity,
- express the European identity,
- get to know the cultural policy of the European nations with the help of the experts from Hungary and from our twin towns,
- get to know the values and acquisitions of the cultural policy of the European Union,
- investigate the possibilities of the cooperations in the cultural policy,
- display and recognize the cultural specialities and the social and economical specialities,
- hunt up and expose the cultural policy and the social and economical policies's coherency
- put questions connected the lectures and the theme of the conference and answer them with the help of the interactive execution,
- adjudge the following principle „to preserve the European cultural diversity”.

• The results after the conference:

- increase and deepen the earlier relationships,
- increase the respect for the cultural values,
- respect the cultural diversity of the European nations,
- respect the cultural dissimilarity,
- tighten the cooperation and to activate the relations between the participants,
- utilize the experiences of the conference for the problems of the twin towns,
- make visible the cultural policy of the European Union and propagandize it,

- intensify the earlier cooperation between the twin towns especially the theme of the cultural policy,
- the participants adjudge that they can tighten the cooperation if they get to know and respect their culture.

VII. These are the following impacts of our conference:

- add to (assist) highlighting of cultural values
- positive feedback apropos of making an effort to support the cultural diversity
- successful making contact with new partners
- successful co-operation to formulate common future aims
- basic of future agreements, engagements
- active participation in the course of the experience and information changing on the part of stakeholders
- preserving European identity, observant of cultural differences
- familiarization and promotion of EU cultural policy
- expression of consensus in reference to democratic cultural policy
- mutual recognition of cultural and social distinctiveness
- actual points, raising and answer problems
- point out to the varied European culture, improved access to and participation in culture in the European Union
- stronger evolved relationships, tighten to the extant co-operation, increase of activity
- appropriation to the acquired knowledge for solving problems in the stakeholder countries
- making long term co-operation, be associated with partners

At the sight of results, the participants resolved to tighten the integration in the future and, they could efficiently solve together under the conference determinate aims and problems.

VIII. Visibility of the results:

The conference hit the mark by means of that we made extensive publicity for the programs, for example the lectures could be visited and heard by anyone.

Toward to popularize the results of the conference, by means of proposed communication tools, we passed the main conference's message to the local and regional governments, trade occas, partners, stakeholder experts. We invitationed the local and regional press together with the twin town's delegate. Their participation was guaranteed a wide range of presentation of the results and the conference.

IX. Free-time programmes for the participants:

It was important for the local government of Mórahalom that the invited experts and the guest delegation from our twin towns should listen to the presentations, as well as they got to learn the culture of Mórahalom, the local government this way demonstrated the cultural specialities of this region in practice.

Mórahalom prepared varied freetime programs for the guests so they could learn the local sights and they could try out the wellness and fitness services of the four-stared Erzsébet spa of Mórahalom.

On the closing day of the conference they could visit the National Historical Memorial Park of Ópusztaszer, which demonstrated them, what was the ancient hungarian home like, where is the origin of our nation, where does the culture of our common from.

The Park represents the historical and cultural source of the hungarian nation by constant and variable exhibitions, memorial places and horse-showes.

X. Summary:

The attendance on the conference helped the togetherness sense of the twin towns and the participants to make deeper.

Both of the presenters and the representatives of the twin towns highlighted the importance of the supporting activity of the EU about the cultural diversity of the smaller commons and nations, and the possibility of the culture preservation.

They attracted attention that cognition the others culture could be helpful in understanding the relationships between the nations, people, towns and in creating tolerance for the other nations.

The representatives of the twin towns tried to demonstrate the specialities of their own cultural policy. It has been mentioned that making a distinction between the cultures is forbidden and the principle of equality is a very important on this area as well.

The direct aim of the conference was to attract the attention on the importance of cultural principle of equality as well as everybody to live such a society which is rightful and has got cohesion forces.

The conference has given perfect opportunity to make contact with twin towns and to draw up the importance of ensuring the cultural principle of equality in the EU as well as to cover its long-term sustainability.

The participants came to an understanding that the conference gave helping hand to pique and maintain the attendance for the cultural values, as well as to make contracts in the future.

The participants drew up that they will narrow the contacts in the future, as well as they will try to use the experiences of the conference to solve their problems and where it is possible they will try to solve their problems in efficient cooperation with twin towns.

It has been declared that the culture became an even more important part of the integration and development process of Europe. The culture can be helpful to improve the operation of the European Union.

It was an important effect of the conference that a cultural dialogue has been started between the participant towns and it was also a great occasion to start an economic cooperation.

Mórahalom got into the focus for a short time by organizing the conference and by this way we could manage the attention of the whole South Great Plain Region, not only the attention of the city of Mórahalom and its twin towns, to the importance of cultural principle of equality and to preserve the cultural identity.

XI. The most important message of the Conference:

Nowadays, when a subculture has to fight in the media to gather ground, it is very important to organize such a conference, which leads the attention to the real cultural values, their importancy and their essential components. Moreover it does this activity in a wide environment, not in a tight one.

The thematic conference organized by us showed some region of the EU -with the help of the twin towns- not only for the city of Mórahalom and the South Great Plain Region, that the culture does not live alone, it has to be held up, the cultural diversity has to be recognized and has to be respected.

Only this way each nation can operate on an efficient and varied method, and also in a larger context the EU itselfes.

The conference absolutely hit the aim that the participants have spoken about the culture and its signifocance a few.

The participants could hear a lot of keynote speeches during the three days long organization.

Our aim was not only to start a conversation about culture with the involvement of the experts and the twin towns, as well as the participants would use the experiences of the conference in their daily conversations and behavior.

For the further discussion about these themes we created a forum on our website: www.morahalom.eu.