

## **Bringing the People of Europe Together**

Language courses for adults

Your Municipality and Heilbronn (Germany) wish to undertake an ambitious project, combining English classes with learning about different European cultures. The idea is that participants to the project will write up stories about their areas of origin, in collaboration with language professors. All the stories will be shared with the other groups, thus creating an exchange of the participants' different customs and ways of life. The different groups and their professors will meet in Cyprus to share their stories and practice the language in which they worked. This project and the stories will also be presented at an international reading festival.

## **Art and culture**

Cultural exchange through art

Your Municipality and Sovata (Romania) organise an arts camp. The camp, gathers in Cyprus over 20 youth from the two cities. With a new theme every day, participants work on different artistic techniques, exchanging their views and methods. On the last day, a public exhibition will allow the budding artists to present their work to the inhabitants of the region. This arts camp strengthens the sense of European belonging for the participants and provides them with a chance to learn more about their common cultural heritage.

## **Youth**

Schools for solidarity

Your Municipality and Kuusankoski (Finland) organise student exchanges. In one of these exchanges Finnish Students come to Cyprus to renovate an old school building. The mornings will be devoted to construction work, and the afternoons left for visits to other schools or cultural activities. During the exchange, the Finnish students will be placed in Cypriot host families. Thanks to this project, the school's playing fields will be completely renovated and new sports equipment installed. Living with their host families, the Finnish students will learn about Cypriot culture.

## **Citizenship**

A local youth parliament

Your Municipality and Alsómcsolád (Hungary) decide to develop their partnership. For several years, a local youth government had already existed in Alsómcsolád. You decide to adopt this system. Young people from Alsómcsolád will travel your Municipality to present the workings of their local government. For one week, young people from the two cities will work together on how to set up a similar structure in your city.

## **Social inclusion**

Getting to know better migrant workers

Your Municipality and Carhaix-Plouguer (France) regularly organise cultural exchanges. This year you decide to involve migrant workers in your festivities. The participants will perform dances and songs from their countries. A small bookshop and photo exhibition will be dedicated to the partners during the four day visit of the French partners to your Municipality. Several meetings will be organised where the participants can express their views and experiences on life in their new community.

## **Sustainable development**

Raising youth awareness on sustainable development

Your Municipality and Duras (France) organise student exchanges. French students will visit Cyprus to learn about sustainable development. The students from the two cities will hold debates on the environment, development cooperation, fair trade, organic farming, and employment of persons with disabilities. Several members of the European Parliament will participate in the debates. The young people will visit different sites by bicycle, such as organic farms, waste treatment plants, and a technical high school where industrial packaging and organic production is taught. They will also carry out surveys on sustainable development and create a game around these issues. Older members of the community will participate as well, and exchange views on issues of sustainable development.

## **Improving the provision of local services**

Building an ambitious social policy together

Your Municipality and Tartu (Estonia) develop a policy to address the social and health needs of the older population. This project will bring together civil servants from the two cities and the meetings will include visits to institutes, as well as presentations and debates. Training sessions will also be proposed for Estonian health care professionals.

## **Local economic development**

Annual visits to stimulate innovation in agriculture

Your Municipality and Chrudim (Czech Republic) set up a common working group on agriculture. 8 farmers from Chrudim will come in Cyprus. The visit will allow them to learn about the new methods being used in Cyprus. A wide range of themes are covered: the organisation of farms and agricultural cooperatives, community policy, education in the area of agriculture. The participants will meet their counterparts and other regional actors, and visit the Ministry of Agriculture to provide a broader view of the sector.

## **Solidarity**

### Renovating a new centre for older people

Vlist (Netherlands) participates in a project of reconstruction in your Municipality. The aim is to fix up what was once an old school building in order to create a new retirement community for older people. Civil servants of Vlist will have to travel to Cyprus to lend their technical expertise to this project to support and improve the quality of life for older people, particularly in the struggle against poverty, improving conditions, and providing adequate access to employment and/or volunteering possibilities. Volunteers play a key role in the project. A media campaign, by radio, website and leaflets, will help recruit many volunteers. The project will also have the goal of allowing young unemployed people to get involved in an activity that will help them gain new skills and feel more involved in their own community.

*Based on CEMR's "Twinning for tomorrow's world": [http://www.ucm.org.cy/Depository/Document/599/Document\\_599\\_File.pdf](http://www.ucm.org.cy/Depository/Document/599/Document_599_File.pdf)*