

November 3, 2015

(Draft program/ proposals by Europa Zentrum Baden-Württemberg und Europe Direct Stuttgart)

CITADEL –

Citizens and Democracy for European Links - Cardiff & Stuttgart

Outline of project activities

Aims of project

CITADEL is a proposal for a two-day thematic twinning conference involving citizens and business communities from two twinned cities: Cardiff and Stuttgart.

Overarching aims of the proposed conference are:

- To promote the shared history of our two cities and how the concept of reconciliation and cooperation at local level underpins the twinning relationship as well as the European Union with the view to encouraging future cultural, educational etc. engagement and cooperation on a transnational level;
- To raise awareness how the history of the European Integration is closely linked with the history and diversity of twinning links;
- To encourage participants from both cities to consider how the EU affects them in their daily lives and compare participant's views on the EU;
- To pull together common threads between the twinning relationship and the EU;
- To reflect upon the basis: post-war reconciliation – reflect shared history;
- To ask: What do EU politics really mean to the individual citizen?
- To involve civic society groups from both cities with the view to identifying ways in which volunteering and taking opportunities for societal and intercultural engagement on an international level can enhance a sense of EU citizenship as well as support the development of transnational business links.

It is expected that views on the EU might differ quite a bit between participants from Cardiff and from Stuttgart. From the results of the recent European Parliament elections one would expect delegates from Cardiff in the UK to harbour more negative attitudes towards the EU than someone attending from Stuttgart in Germany. It will also be interesting to note how a person's age and / or background might influence their views on the EU. Will the opinion of an entrepreneur differ from the views of a student, member of a civic society or a public sector employee?

Project dates of activity

The total duration of the activity will be from Wednesday, January 13, 2016 till Sunday, January 17, 2016. This period includes days of travel for the participants from Stuttgart to travel towards and from Cardiff by bus.

Wednesday, January 13, 2016/

Thursday, January 14, 2016: Days of travel for Stuttgart participants to Cardiff and official welcoming in the afternoon/evening

Friday, January 15, 2016: Conference Day 1

Saturday, January 16, 2016: Conference Day 2 (incl. field visits etc.)

Sunday, January 17, 2016: Day of departure and travel for Stuttgart participants from Cardiff back to Stuttgart

Project participants

A total of 82 participants, 41 participants from each city, equally representing age groups and gender:

- From each city 20 participants younger than 30 years of age
- From each city 18 participants between 31 and 65 years of age
- From each city 3 participants 65 years and older

Half of all participants should not be organized in NGOs or other established forms of civil society groups. It is intended to reach out to citizens in both cities who so far have not had a chance to participate in a European meeting of citizens between both twin cities.

Proposed formats and working methods

The Citadel project will offer two full days for meetings between participants from both cities. Working methods and planned events will be:

- Plenary sessions with
 - Welcome address (Political representatives from both cities)
 - introduction to EU (European Commission Office in Wales representatives)
 - Key note speech by a known personality promoting twinning with strong cultural, educational and youth links as basis for business cooperation
- Short film: AV companies from both cities will be invited to co-produce a short film that shares stories about our cities' twinning relationship from the perspective of citizens as well as interviews with event attendees about the EU (ie the case studies). The film which will be created in advance will be shown at the event. The case study interviews will then be used as a starting point for the open debate on the EU.
- Open debate: Panel discussion exploring strengths

- Workshops on selected European themes and topics using methods such as world café, fish bowl, silent writing table, etc.
- A mock European Parliament debate involving Youth Councils from Cardiff and Stuttgart
- Development of an app which encourages citizen and business engagement with EU policy-makers (graduate software developers/designers from local Cardiff universities to work alongside attendees).

Proposed themes / content of the project

The project intends to focus on thematic areas of discussion which are equally shared and of daily concern for citizens in both cities. Suggested thematic areas are:

- Creativity and entrepreneurship
- Sustainability
- Migration and integration
- European Institutions and their impact on daily life
- Intercultural learning
- EU's role in the world

In order to assist participants to discuss these thematic areas from a practical (and NOT a theoretical) approach, the project suggests to start with topics from today's daily life:

- Start-Up businesses (entrepreneurship / economic creativity)
- Urban mobility (sustainability)
- Refugees and immigration policies in Germany / UK (migration and integration)
- EU consumer rights and food safety (EU institutions and their impact)
- Participation of young people (intercultural learning)
- General perception of the EU (EU's role in the world)

Mid/long-term effects of the project

The meeting between citizens from Stuttgart and Cardiff will be documented in form of a film, photos, a written report and a collection of statements from participants. An evaluation of the meeting will be a crucial part to collect feedback and to lead pathways towards a sustainable continuation of thematically focused future meeting between citizens from both cities.

Mid- and long-term effects of the project are:

- Development of a wider and more diverse network in the framework of the twinning towards stronger international engagement in all aspects of the local community, thus enhancing democratic activities at local level, stimulating debate, reflection and development of different networks in business, youth, civic society, voluntary and education sectors to encourage the participation of all citizens at Union level;
- Provision of a good practice model for local communities to engage with democratic process at all levels and European Union affairs;

- Magnification of the impact of resources available to public sector organisations such as local authorities which have traditionally been responsible for managing town twinning relationships;
- For CITADEL it is proposed that a case study is produced outlining the event's achievements and circulated to all EURO CITIES member cities through its 'Cities in Action' case study series;
- Publication of the exchange – also on the EDIC websites etc. (photos!)
- Use of the CITADEL working methods for meetings between citizens from other twin cities of Stuttgart and Cardiff.

It is foreseen to sign a memorandum of understanding on the last day of the meeting in which future fields of activities and meetings will be agreed upon between both cities.

Preliminary agenda

Wednesday, January 13, 2016

Morning Departure of participants in Stuttgart
(by bus or combination of flight/bus)

Thursday, January 14, 2016

Morning Arrival of participants from Stuttgart in Cardiff
Check-in in hotel / accommodation

Afternoon Guided exploration tours through Cardiff
(Cardiff participants show their city to Stuttgart participants)
(4 groups)

Evening Welcome Dinner
(Official welcoming addresses, VIPs)

Friday, January 15, 2016 – Conference Day 1

9.30 am Welcoming
Introduction to program

What do participants know from each other?
How do they perceive the EU?
Is there a shared EU identity?

(Methods: Plenary session, silent writing tables with thematic tables on “What do you think about...?”; collecting statements on perception of EU from participants; two moderators per thematic table)

12.30 am Lunch

2.00 pm Introduction to the program and rotating workshops
(Every participant has the chance to participate in two workshops)

Workshops on:

- Youth participation
- EU in daily life (consumer rights, food safety, service provision; anti-discrimination, equal rights; EU education and training policies)
- Economic innovation and entrepreneurship
- Urban Mobility (incl. needs of senior citizens, demographic change)

- How to handle migration, asylum and immigration (alternative approaches such as urban gardening, intercultural cooking, knitting etc.)

3.30 pm	Break
4.00 pm	Second round of workshops (Same as above)
5.30 pm	End of first conference day Outlook to second conference day
7.30 pm	Dinner / Cultural program

Saturday, January 16, 2016 – Conference Day 2

Morning	Field visits, project visits to selected thematic fields (visits, project suggested by Cardiff team)
Midday	Lunch break
Afternoon / 3.30 pm	Plenary meeting with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reports from field visits, - evaluation, - upcoming activities for the next months, - memorandum of understanding - Development of a wider and more divers network in the framework of the twinning
Evening	Farewell dinner

Sunday, January 17, 2016

Morning	Departure of Stuttgart participants
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