

Lucky Four Leaf Clover



A project for the citizens of regions and cities of Austria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Hungary and Slovenia. Supported by the European Union.

September 2010 – November 2011



Introduction to the Project “Lucky Four Leaf Clover”

After the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty there is further progress in the EU enlargement process. It is expected that as next the candidate country Croatia will join the European Union.

On the enlargement agenda are the Western Balkan countries and Turkey, whereas some have candidate status and some are Potential Candidates. As the latest progress reports of the European Commission show (October 2009), all these countries to some extent still require substantial measurements for preparation for the actual entry to EU, and foremost require public support as much in the candidate, potential candidates but also in the EU member states.

The “Lucky Four Leaf Clover” project stems from the conviction that the enlargement of the European Union is not to be endorsed from above but must be supported from the base. That means the citizens and their representatives from the local and regional levels need to be convinced of the additional value of the enlargement.

For this purpose, intensive discourse with the citizens, with the opinion leaders, the media and the NGO’s, the political institutions and the representatives of the local and regional levels is required. The “Lucky Four Leaf Clover” project concentrates itself therefore on the implementation of the enlargement agenda on the regional and local levels in three of the EU member states, one candidate country and one potential

candidate country (Bosnia and Herzegovina). We see in the enlargement of the cloverleaf Austria, Hungary and Slovenia when adding Croatia, a development into a lucky-shamrock in the sense of an advanced European Union. Europe must above all grow together from the border regions so that the prosperity, further development of a comprehensive Europe can be secured.

Moreover, we want to lay a bridge to a small region of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which has an especially sensitive status. After our regional cloverleaf also comprises partly the Slovenian-Croatian border dispute, we are hoping to be able to contribute to a resolution of this conflict. Tolerance, understanding and mutual respect of all levels are important for the further development of the inimitable peace project EUROPE.

For these reasons, the “Lucky Four Leaf Clover” attempts to transfer the EU enlargement process to the local and regional levels. It runs from 1. September 2010 till 30. November 2011 (15 months). The European Commission decided to give financial support to the project “Lucky Four Leaf Clover”.

Involved are regions from three EU member states (Austria, Hungary and Slovenia), of these two have already introduced the Euro (Austria and Slovenia), all three are already acceded in the Schengen area. In addition are three regions of an EU candidate country (Croatia) as well as a city of a country with Potential Candidate Status (Bosnia and Herzegovina).



PROJECT AREA	TOTAL POPULATION
Austria	
Oberwart	53.500
Güssing	26.500
Jennersdorf	17.500
Hungary	
Komitat Vas	267.000
Komitat Zala	298.000
Slovenia	
Pomurska	120.000
Podravska	320.000
Croatia	
Međimurje	118.000
Varaždin	185.000
Krapina – Zagorje	142.000
Koprivnica – Križevci	124.500
Bosnia and Herzegovina	
Brčko District	80.000
Citizens total	1.752.000

The project carries the name „Lucky four-leaf clover“. The normal clover has three leaves, when it exceptionally has four leaves it means „luck“. That is to say, the four-leaf clover is a symbol of luck. The context with the present project means that the accession of Croatia into the European Union expresses luck for Europe and the bordering member states Austria, Hungary and Slovenia. The task is to bring this to mind through the project. The stem of the leaf ultimately leads to a region of Bosnia-Herzegovina, a country of the Western Balkans with a special status, which has a special significance for peace in Europe and is additionally seeking accession into the European Union.

The focus points of the project are according the PRINCE EU-27 programme:

- The mutual recognition of citizens of the regions and cities within the project area;
- The passing on of experiences and perceptions of the three EU member states (Austrian entry 1995, Hungarian and Slovenian entry in 2004) on the regional and local levels;
- The formulation of expectations and apprehensions of the regions and communities of the (pre-) candidate countries Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina on the EU entry;
- The formulation of expectations and worries of the regions and communities of the three EU member states toward the EU entry of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Project Logo "Lucky four-leaf clover"



The actions of the project

The project consists of the following six independent awareness rising events spread over the time frame of the project. All actions will have a clear indication about European Commission's funding:

- 1) **Six Cafés d'Europe Régional:** "The Emotional and Cultural Diversity of Europe";
- 2) **School project:** "My homeland - Your homeland";
- 3) **Europe Day, 9 May 2011:** "Regional Identity in Common Europe";
- 4) **Preparation of a touring exhibition:** "Regional Culture = European Culture" with paintings from the participating project regions;
- 5) **Two Expert Conferences:** „Experiences within the European Union" and „Expectations toward the European Union";
- 6) **Ecumenical European Peace Pilgrimage**

The intensive inclusion of the citizen living in the affected regions and communities has priority for the implementation of the planned key aspects of activity. All together there are 1.752.000 people living in the project area.



The **conference languages** are Bosnian, German, Croatian, Slovenian and Hungarian. For all events representatives from all participating project regions will be represented.

During the project time frame, the IRE offers **work experiences** at the IRE Head Office in Salzburg, for young people from Slovenia, Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Austria.

The Institute of the Regions of Europe will esta-

lish a **website www.lucky-four-leaf-clover.eu** in English to ensure communication with all the participants. Every project region will be introduced and presented in detail. All media reports, events and project plans will be shown therein. Publicity will be guaranteed at all meetings, conferences and actions.

The IRE endeavours to **dismantle the borders in people's minds**. In order to do so a lot of patience and time is required but by the end of the project





understanding for the neighbour and for the unified Europe will have increased. Europe must grow from the basis and set every single citizen at the focus of attention.

Special publications will be produced and translated in the several project region languages. The IRE will cooperate with all **local and regional MEDIA**. Official working language of the project will be English - for the Expert Conferences we will provide simultaneous translation into Bosnian, Croatian, German, English, Hungarian and Slovenian. The IRE supports the idea of a Europe built by strong regions and cities. The IRE therefore operates very close to the individual citizen. We are convinced that the borders in the mind of the people are easily reduced at national boundaries. We all live within the free and open Europe. The European way of life will also help to develop the future of the countries of the Western Balkans in order to come closer to the European Union. All IRE actions are open to the public and everyone who is interested can participate. The IRE does not charge any fee for the individual

action within the project realisation. IRE will try to find interested sponsors for the project to partly finance the activities.

The geographical space between Austria, Hungary, Slovenia and Croatia is symbolic for all border regions and areas of the European Union. Especially important is however the historical context.

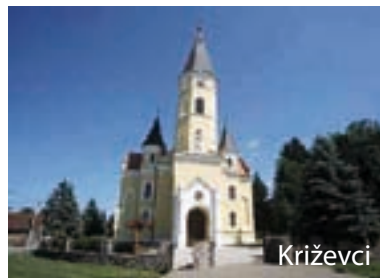
With the "Lucky Four Leaf Clover" project the IRE wants to supply a contribution for the positive advancement of the overall plan of the European Union, and is convinced that the concrete outcomes of those intentions will indeed end up in a lucky-shamrock for all the parties concerned. Dissemination of information from the European Commission regarding the EU enlargement process are one of the core objectives of the "Lucky Four Leaf Clover Project". The action will be evaluated and special audits will be undertaken in order to guarantee the success of the action.



1) Six Cafés d'Europe Régional Communicating Europe - the emotional and cultural diversity of Europe

The Café is a public meeting place for all kind of initiatives, for intellectual debates, for gossip and overall to enjoy. The six "Café d'Europe Régional" in the different regions stimulate the public debate about the current EU enlargement agenda and familiarize people with the European idea. The European countries have to discover their European identity. Only if this happens an emotional link towards the European Union will be built up among the people.

The chosen point of connection is a café, the "Café d'Europe Régional" to communicate Europe's emotional and cultural diversity. Cafés are both examples of local cultures and symbols of our common Europe heritage.



Križevci



Zalaegerszeg



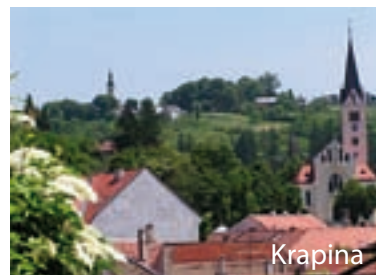
Jennersdorf



Maribor



Brčko



Krapina



DISCUSSION ABOUT EUROPE IN A TRADITIONAL CAFÉ IN

HUNGARY (Zalaegerszeg)	22.10.2010
AUSTRIA (Jennersdorf)	03.12.2010
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (Brčko)	18.03.2011
SLOVENIA (Maribor)	15.04.2011
CROATIA (Križevci)	28.11.2011
CROATIA (Krapina)	29.11.2011



The elements of the Café:

- ▷ open dialogue with the public and especially as a discussion with young people
- ▷ Newspapers
- ▷ Literature/Culture
- ▷ Contribution by a local artist / musician
- ▷ Coffee, local, regional and European sweets

Guests:

- ▷ Politicians of each project region
- ▷ Representatives of the Representation / Delegation of the European Commission in the 5 countries
- ▷ the citizens and especially students / young people
- ▷ Representatives of Chambers of Commerce, companies etc.
- ▷ Representatives of several Foundations in the regions

will debate about the European Union, the advantages and challenges of the accession process.

Venue:

Typical Café with nice atmosphere and nice setting.



2) School project: “My homeland – Your homeland”

The European integration springs quite essentially from mutual understanding and from the knowledge of other countries. This knowledge and understanding must be ignited in the youth from school onwards. It is about the understanding of for the time being foreign culture, about the way of thinking, the geographical, economical and political relations towards the foreign region. The project intends to have single regions depicted by the children and youth. Own homeland will be presented in a youth appropriate way for the youth of other regions. Through the language of youth and the perceptions of young people, the interest and understanding of the young people towards other countries will be roused and strengthened. In this way, the youth appropriate communication between the youth from the five nations will be reached, which speaks of the goal of the Community grant program.

Detailed description:

From each of the project countries a school will be chosen, its pupils will be encouraged to depict their immediate homeland for the youth of the other countries. The age group is between 14 and 18 years. The texts to be composed in an electronic format (Word, Times New Roman, 12) with maximum length of 3 to 5 pages. It is not anymore as much about the presentation of facts and data as it is about the display of youth specific identity of their homeland and its people, its way of thinking, its culture, its advantages and disadvantages.

So depictions from five “homelands” from the viewpoint of all together 150 (per country 30 contributions in original language) young people. The presented works will be translated into English and will be placed to disposition in other countries, participating school and spoken of in classes. A jury, composed of representatives from all the project countries, the best five works of a country will be ascertained, so that in the end the best 25 works will be presented. These will be published in a brochure in all five languages and in English.

Organisation:

October 2010: selection of the schools throughout the project regions

November 2010: treatment of the project in class time at the chosen schools

December 2010 till March 2011: time for composing the contributions of depictions of homeland

April 2011: translations of the contributions into English and sending to other schools

May/June 2011: handling of the contributions at the chosen schools

From May 2011: commission of the jury for choosing the best works

30 November 2011: presentation of the winners and the brochure within the frames of project closure presentation in Međimurje, Croatia.



3) Europe Day, 9 May 2011: “Regional Identity in Common Europe”, Szentgotthárd, Hungary

The day should make the common Europe closer for the citizens. On this day, within the frames of the project, we wish to show the citizens that in common Europe the regional identity can be retained and is especially hoped for. The Europe of future lives from the national and regional identities. The Lisbon Treaty emphasises especially the cultural identity of the member states and their regions. Delegation of tradition groups in their traditional outfits should take part in a common event. Around 250 people are expected to participate.

With a grand festival procession going through the city, the participants will demonstrate for the population the cultural diversity of the collective Europe. In an open event a high representative of the European Union will hold a celebratory speech.

Szentgotthárd (Hungary)

The city has around 9000 inhabitants and is located at the boundary point of the Hungarian-Austria-Slovenia tri-nations border. The inhabitants preserve subsequently the culture and traditions of the three nations. Szentgotthárd brought together with the neighbouring Heiligenkreuz, with the use of the EU funding, a border transcending Austria-Hungarian industrial estate where currently about 3000 people work at. After the opening of the borders in 1989, foremost though after Hungary's entry to the European Union, the city underwent a boost including also itself into border transcending projects. Szentgotthárd is an initial point for the recreational area of the tri-country's national park Raab-Örség-Goricko, which comprises the protected areas of Austria, Hungary and Slovenia.

The participants from the project regions will be brought in part with private cars, in part with public transport, in part with buses to the place of the event. The detail organisation is within the project regions. The organisation of the procession and the celebratory event will be realised by the IRE in cooperation with the event communes. The event is realised in cooperation with the regional TV stations and medias. At the end of the ceremonial act there will be a regional buffet for all participants.



4) Touring exhibition: “Regional Culture = European Culture” with paintings from the participating project regions

Collection of paintings from regional painters from the project regions. Also over regional art the mutual understanding of various European regions will be strengthened. To get to know the expressive power of the regional artists, a exhibition of paintings from regional artists from all project regions will be compiled, which will be presented at all project regions. Thereby shall be expressed how also regional artists are embedded in the European art.

Every region is presented by three paintings from contemporary artists whom are chosen by the regions themselves. This means that the exhibition is compiled of 36 paintings. This compilation will be presented to the interested public in each project region in the form of a touring exhibition for two months. The exhibition takes place in cooperation with the regional galleries, especially museums. That means that the whole exhibition lasts 10 months in total. Exhibition period: February 1, 2011 until November 30, 2011 (10 months)



Castle of Cakovec in the Region of Međimurje with museum



5) Two Expert Conferences: „Experiences within the European Union“ and „Expectations toward the European Union“

Both subject conferences aim to connect the representatives of the project regions and to offer a possibility to exchange experiences within the frames of an event. Experts from the European Union (EU commission, EU parliament and regional committees) take part in both of these subject events and discuss at an open forum with the guests. Moreover the wor-

king groups take part in the actual EU themes in the connection to the EU enlargement process. At the event in Austria the focus point lies at every experience of the EU member states about the positive and negative effects about the entering to EU to be debated and to hand down experience on the Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Conference N°1:

IRE-Expert Conference “Our experiences within the European Union”

Date: February 11, 2011, Güssing (Burgenland/Austria)

Participants: from all the project regions the members of the European parliaments, national, regional and local political representatives, representatives of the regional interest-associations, representatives of NGO's, entrepreneurs, pedagogues, opinion leaders, students etc.

Referents:

Moderation: Journalist

Representative of the European Commission (DG Regional politics)

Representative of Austrian ministry of economics

Representative of the state government Burgenland (Austrian)

Mayor of the municipality Güssing (Austria)

President of the region of Vas (Hungary)

President of the region Zala (Hungary)

Mayor of the city Ptuj (Slovenia)

Representative of the Slovenian government



Güssing





Conference N°2: IRE Expert Conference: “Our expectations on the European Union”

Date: June 17, 2011, Varaždin (Croatia)

Participants: From all the project regions members of the European parliament, national, regional and local political representatives, representatives of regional interest-associations, representatives of NGO's, entrepreneurs, pedagogues, opinion leaders, students

Referents:

Moderation: Journalist

Representative of the European Commission

President of the region Međimurje

President of the region Varaždin

President of the region Krapina – Zagorje

President of the region Koprivnica – Križevci

Mayor of the city Brčko

Representative of the Slovenian Federal Economic Chamber

Representative of the High Representative in BiH.



6) Ecumenical European Peace Pilgrimage

Date: October 9, 2011, Maria Bild, Weichselbaum (Austria)

During the enlargement process, all churches of different confessions have the great task to ensure a highly ecumenical process, of spirit of mutual understanding, tolerance and a peaceful coexistence. It is absolutely necessary that EU enlargement is not only dictated by the laws of the market but also that social fairness obtains necessary importance. Churches of different confessions can contribute to this by intensifying their transboundary cooperation as they can therefore contribute to the European process of integration. As long as they do not see their own importance as absolute and their identity as severing borders, confessions, nations and regions can be both places for establishing and founding of one's own identity. Confessionalization and religious fundamentalism withhold themselves from the encounter and obstruct the process of integration.

The churches have a special responsibility that the human rights, especially the freedom of religion and conscience and the protection of minorities, are rightfully and effectively realised in all European countries. That also means end to persecution on religious and ethnic grounds, as well as the execution of human rights for asylums.

A chance for a convincing peace doctrine in Europe depends on the power of the impulse of those who conform the Christian testimony of peace and the Christian experiences with the reconciliation work. These experiences help to overcome the mental oppositions between the West and East, to convey appreciation, to maintain bilateral relations and to keep alive the great visions of peace and reconciliation. The churches should not withdraw to them-



elves but should open up and capably take part on the public European discourse.

Therefore for this project the realisation of a so-called "European Ecumenical Peace Pilgrimage" is scheduled in the Pilgrimage Church of Maria Bild/ Weichselbaum in Burgenland (Austria). At this pilgrimage representatives from different confessions (Catholics, Protestants, Orthodox and others) of the participating regions shall be present. Priests from different confessions celebrating the ecumenical mass shall be the symbol for the collective European Peace Process. The Pilgrimage shall end with a collective party.

Expected are about 300 participants.



Dates

Coordination Meeting in AUSTRIA (Salzburg)	01. 09. 2010
Café d'Europe Régional in HUNGARY (Zalaegerszeg)	22. 10. 2010
Café d'Europe Régional in AUSTRIA (Jennersdorf)	03. 12. 2010
Coordination Meeting in SLOVENIA (Ptuj)	18. 01. 2011
IRE Expert Conference in AUSTRIA (Güssing)	11. 02. 2011
Café d'Europe Régional in BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (Brčko)	18. 03. 2011
Café d'Europe Régional in SLOVENIA (Maribor)	15. 04. 2011
EUROPEDAY in HUNGARY (Szentgotthard)	09. 05. 2011
Coordination Meeting in HUNGARY (Körmend)	27. 05. 2011
IRE Expert Conference in CROATIA (Varaždin)	17. 06. 2011
Coordination Meeting in BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (Brčko)	02. 09. 2011
International Peace Pilgrimage in AUSTRIA (Maria Bild/Weichselbaum)	09. 10. 2011
Café d'Europe Régional in CROATIA (Križevci)	28. 11. 2011
Café d'Europe Régional in CROATIA (Krapina)	29. 11. 2011
Final Coordination Meeting in CROATIA (Međimurje)	30. 11. 2011



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