

## Newsletter 56



Dear friends,

Rarely have I been more excited when writing a post than right now. Not just because it's been a while since we could bring news to you, neither just because the pandemic seems to be moving in a favourable direction and normal, familiar life is returning in part of Europe. The excitement comes because what I am about to share with you is a long cherished dream of many in our network, not least of myself.

FINALLY, I have the honour to announce that we are able to resume our activities! This means that we are going to do what we love most; very soon, People meet People again. Not just digitally, but in real life!

During the pandemic, the presidium has been closely monitoring the situation across Europe. There have been several moments when we have thought: Yes, now it's the time we can resume. But each time we were overtaken by reality and the virus itself. But this week we have made a final decision that, with reservation and certain advices, we can have meetings again. In this newsletter we will briefly explain what measures and advices the Presidium is giving and when the meetings of the LYCEUM and REFORM project will take place this year.

As President, I've emailed, zoomed and talked to friends from all member communities a lot. Besides the sometimes heart-breaking stories, I was always asked when I thought we could see each other again in real life. I must admit that I became more and more insecure about what to answer. But I am very happy that, even though we weren't able to meet in person for over two years now (the last official meeting of the Charter took place in autumn 2019!!), the Charter spirit has been alive and kicking all this time. The past two years, various digital activities have been organised by our project coordinators, the youth coordination team has kept youngsters committed to the Charter and our amazing web- and social media team has proven its worth more than ever. I know it's always dangerous to highlight certain names, but I would like to thank Zsuzsanna, Adina, Niall, Marko and Karlo in particular for their commitment, ideas and activities behind the scenes. Together with the other members of the Youth Coordination Team and the Presidium, they ensured that the Charter continued during the pandemic.

Now that the word is out and the decision has been made, we will quickly start with the preparations. You will of course be kept informed by us and the host municipalities. But before we resume the official programme again, we want to mark this special moment with a kick-off. More information for an official representation from each member to the heart of Europe will follow shortly, but I am pleased to announce that the second weekend of April (8-10) we will rekindle the fire of the Charter of European Rural Communities!

See you soon again, now for sure!

Boy Scholtze  
*President*

## Meetings in 2022

We are finally able to host meetings again! It feels a bit surreal after 2.5 years of not seeing each other. But in 2022 we are back! And we can finally host the meetings we've had in store for you for so long. Here they are:

### LYCEUM Project (youngsters)

#### IRELAND- Cashel

**Date: 28.04.-01.05.2022**

Topic: Rural Citizenship = Increasing of civic participation in public activities

Invited: 4 participants from 9 Partners (Belgium, Croatia, France, Hungary, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, UK)

#### SPAIN- Bienvenida

**Date: 14-18.07.2022**

Topic: INTERACTIVE MODERN ARTS - Creative approach in problems solving – Various aspects and visions of Future in Europe

Invited: 4 participants from all partners

#### SWEDEN - Ockelbo

**Date: 25-28.08.2022**

Topic: LOCAL STATISTICS & EUROPEAN MATHEMATICS - Assessing and evaluating the achievements at local and European level

Invited: 2 participants from all partners

### REFORM Project (adults)

#### The NETHERLANDS – Esch

**Date: (25)26-29.05.2022**

Topic: Seminar in the Netherlands

Invited: 2 participants from 10 Partners (Italy, Ireland, Romania, Austria, Cyprus, Slovenia, Denmark, Sweden, Portugal and Luxembourg)

#### SPAIN - Bienvenida

**Date: 14-18.07.2022**

Topic: Summer Academy in Spain

Invited: 4 participants from all partners

#### Hungary – Nagycenk

**Date: 22-25.09.2022**

Topic: Seminar in Hungary

Invited: 2 participants from 9 Partners (UK, Germany, Latvia, Greece, Slovakia, Hungary, Estonia, Czech Republic, Spain)

**Note: The presidium has taken into account that there could still be Covid-19 measures in place when the meetings are held. Therefore a short guideline document was drafted to make sure hosts and participants know their responsibilities and to ensure the safety of all involved in Charter meetings. This document you can find attached to this email.**

## Kick- off meeting: Restart the Charter

Before any of the official meetings are held; with participants from our member municipalities; we invite the mayors to a kick-off meeting from **Friday 8th of april until Sunday the 10th of april**. This meeting is the official restart of the Charter.

This restart is meant to reconnect with each other and remind ourselves what the Charter stands for and why we do what we do. Since our last meeting in 2019, quite a few member municipalities have new mayors who have never participated in Charter activities. For them it will be a great way to get to know the Charter.

More information on the kick-off meeting will be announced very soon; but mayors or official representatives should already mark their calendars and save the dates.

## Carnival

Many of our member municipalities celebrate Carnival. The appearance and customs of the Carnival celebrations may differ within Europe, but the tradition is the same. Maybe this year we can't enjoy the carnival season as we are used to, but that's why we would like to bring the colours and the feelings of the carnival to our Charter online community. **We invite you to participate in our Online Charter Carnival Costume Contest.**

What you need to do:

- . Form a team (1 to 5 friends)
- . Design and prepare absolutely gorgeous costumes
- . Shoot a short video presenting your team and describing your costumes (max 1 min long, shot horizontally (landscape mode) in the best possible quality. Please wear the costumes while shooting the video and describe them in English)
- . Send your video to [marko@europeancharter.eu](mailto:marko@europeancharter.eu) not later than 02.03.2022.
- . Stay tuned as we will prepare an online voting platform and share the link on both Facebook page (@CharterofEuropeanRuralCommunities) and Instagram account (@europeancharter) of the Charter of European Rural Communities
- . Share the received link on social media
- . Collect as many votes as you can

The results and winners of the contest will be announced on 06.03.2022. The three teams that collect the most votes will receive carnival prizes -Charter goodie bags filled with European little gifts and treats.

Please share this invitation in your community; we would like to reach as many friends as possible.

## **Social media accounts have merged**

The digital and social media team have decided to merge our social media pages. We previously had a Facebook page specifically for the youngsters (current Lyceum program) and a Facebook page for the adults. The same goes for Instagram. For several reasons, manageability and effectiveness being two of them, the digital and social media team have decided to merge the pages. We currently have one Facebook page and one Instagram page for the entire Charter.

You can find us online:



(@CharterofEuropeanRuralCommunities)



(@europeancharter)