



Europe Day
May 2004



**European Movement
Mouvement Européen**

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Cover page: Logo of the 9th of May - Europe Day project in Serbia with the special thanks to the EM Serbia and the designer Igor Sergej Sandić

Foreword



The European Movement International, with its members across Europe and its partner, the Young European Federalists (JEF), celebrated the 9th of May – Europe Day with around 200 pan-European events and festivities.

21 partners organised a variety of events: student competitions, political meetings, concerts, public seminars and debates on specific EU-related subjects, which were **held in 25 countries across Europe**. All events took place in a public context and attracted hundreds, and often, thousands of people. Extensive media coverage at national level ensured that the **actions extended to an audience of around 30 million people**.

In addition to last year's participants, we welcomed Iceland and the Ukraine to this year's programme. The festivities took place with the Enlarged Union in mind and this was reflected in the general response to the events which took place in countries that recently joined the Union.

The Annual "European Contribution of the Year Award" reflecting engagement towards European integration process was organised in participating countries. This Europe-wide public awarding **proved to be an effective tool** to strengthen and highlight both the trans-national nature and the symbolic meaning of the project.

We would like to thank our partners for their engagement and enthusiasm in promoting the European ideals, which are central to the 9th May vision. We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to the European Commission for their financial support and sponsors at both the national and local level in all countries.

Brussels, 23 September 2004

What is the 9th May?

On the 9th May 1950 the first move was made towards the creation of what is now known as the European Union. In Paris that day, the French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman called on France and Germany to pool together their coal and steel production as "the first concrete foundation of a European federation" and at the same time invited other European countries to join.

“ World peace cannot be safeguarded without the making of creative efforts proportionate to the dangers which threaten it. The contribution which an organised and living Europe can bring to civilisation is indispensable to the maintenance of peaceful relations. ”

Robert Schuman, Paris, 9th May 1950

Europe-wide celebration of the 9th May - EM Europe Day

The European Movement has celebrated this historic day every year since 1950 as a symbol of Europe's ambition to create a unified and peaceful European Union. As one of the four official symbols of the European Union (as outlined in the Constitutional Treaty), Europe Day is a very important reminder of the European Community heritage.

Building on the long experience at international and national level, the European Movement launched a Europe-wide campaign in 2002 with a common structure, message and tools. The range of activities includes school training seminars, cultural exhibitions, school competitions, information exchanges, public events and concerts aiming at raising awareness and underlining the meaning of "Europe Day". An important part of the campaign is the "European Contribution of the Year Award", which is carried out by each National Council.

In 2004, 25 countries participated in celebrating Europe Day.

Project Management Team

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European Contribution of the Year Award

The “European Contribution of the Year Award” is a traditional Europe-wide public award of the EMI and is given to organisations or persons for their work in the promotion of European integration.

Belgium

Mr. Jean-Luc Dehaene, vice-president of the European Convention was awarded after public online voting. The award reflected his remarkable engagement in the work of the European Convention. The celebration took place during a public debate gathering 800 people in the European Parliament and was introduced by Mr. Willy De Clercq, The award was presented by Charles Ferdinand Nothomb, President of the EMB.

Bulgaria

Ms. Elena Kouteva, leader of the Bulgarian ensemble for folk songs and dances “Philp Koutev”, won the Contribution of the Year Award for 2004. The prize reflected her contribution to the promotion of Bulgarian culture in 12 European countries.

Croatia

The Award was presented for the European Speech of the Year to Prime Minister of Croatia, **Mr. Ivo Sanader** for his outstanding work affirming European values and supporting the European integration process in Croatia.

Czech Republic

Microsoft Czech Republic was awarded with the prize for its substantial contribution towards the preparation for entry of the Czech Republic to the European Union. Its engagement at local and regional level in providing information and supporting education and small businesses was considered as crucial and important. The award was presented to Mr. Jiri Devat, general manger of Microsoft Czech Republic by the President of the EM Czech Republic, Mr. Eduard Outrata.



Denmark

Ms. Dorthe Schmidt-Brown, who worked as an official at Eurostat and discovered fraud, was awarded the prize by the Danish European Movement for her determination and engagement in encouraging greater transparency and accountability within the European institutions.

Estonia

The EM Estonia decided to award this prize to Estonian citizens in general, as the majority of them, (67%) voted “Yes” in the accession referendum on Estonian membership of the EU. The Award was given to **Ms. Merike Kull**, nominee for the “Mother of the Year” title. The award ceremony took place during the joint reception of the Prime Minister Mr. Juhan Parts and was presented by the President of the EM Estonia, Mr. Riivo Sinijärv.

Germany

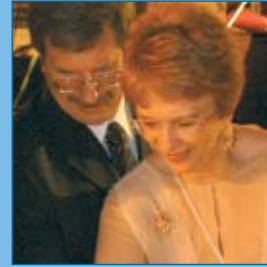
The European Youth Parliament Germany (EYPD) was awarded for its work in promoting and developing strategies for real experiences in the parliamentary decision making process among young people. The Chairman of EYPD, **Philipp Scharff** received the award from the Anchorwoman of the ARD Tagesthemen, German news programme, Ms. Anne Will and was congratulated by Ms. Monika Wulf-Mathies, the President of EM Germany.

Hungary

Mr. Péter Balázs, a member of the European Convention, EU Commissioner in the Commission of Romano Prodi, a former Chairman of the Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU and vice-president of the EM Hungary was awarded the prize for his remarkable work during the negotiations process with the EC and also for his contribution in promoting Hungary as the new member of the EU.

Iceland

The European Movement in Iceland selected **Mr. Einar Benediktsson**, a former Ambassador to the European Union as the European of the Year in Iceland. He was awarded the prize for his extensive work and contribution to the development of relations between the EU and Iceland.



Italy

Mr. **Romano Prodi**, President of the European Commission was awarded with the prize for his work during his tenure as president of the European Commission in Brussels.

JEF Europe

As a result of an online voting, the Contribution of the Year Award was given to **Ms. Vaira Vike-Freiberga**, the President of Latvia. Her vision of Europe, an image of dedication to democracy, wisdom, intelligence, care and political and economic development were considered as important and remarkable examples of living European ideas for young people.

Latvia

The EM Latvia decided to award this prize to **different organisations**, NGOs and representatives of business, media and culture who contributed substantially to the promotion of the Latvian integration in the EU. A special “thank you party” was organised by the EM Latvia.

Lithuania

The “Contribution of the Year” Award was given to the winners of an essay competition in high schools on the subject, “My-Lithuania-Europe”. More than 60 schools took part in the competition. **Liutauras Gudzinskas**, a student was awarded the prize for his essay entitled “EU Constitutional Treaty: towards the European State”. The official award ceremony took place in the Lithuanian Parliament “Seimas” during its plenary session.

FYR Macedonia

The Macedonian President **Boris Trajkovski** was awarded posthumously for his speech delivered at the meeting of the presidents of the SAP (Stabilization and Accession Process) countries in Ohrid in 2003. The award was presented to his wife, **Ms. Vilma Trajkovska** and a special publication, “European Speech of the Year” was produced by the EM Macedonia for the occasion.



Romania

EM Romania decided to award two persons with the prize. **Mr. Mihai Prepelita**, was awarded for his series of articles explaining and promoting European integration among Romanian citizens. "**Asociatia Elevilor Europeanisti**" was also awarded for its activities at schools by organising events promoting European subjects among pupils and students.

Serbia

Ms. Jasmina Seferovic, host and editor of the TV show "Truth, responsibility, reconciliation" was awarded in Serbia this year. The award considered her remarkable journalistic work. The awarding ceremony took place before the concert "The bigger Europe, the more friends", and was presented by the President of the EM Serbia, Zivorad Kovacevic.

Spain

The award was given to **D. Alberto Ruíz-Gallardón**, Mayor of Madrid, for his speech at the Europe Day, and to **Mr. Andrea Riccardi**, the founder of the Community of San Egidio, for his speech at the "Together for Europe" meeting in Stuttgart (Germany).

Switzerland

Professor **Alois Riklin**, received the "Contribution of the Year" award for his remarkable work and engagement in promoting the integration of Switzerland in Europe. The award took into account his publications and his collaboration with the German Andrassy University in Budapest.

Ukraine

The jury consisting of top journalists, academics and NGO representatives decided to award the singer **Ruslana**, the recent winner of the Eurovision Song Contest, and the Ukrainian conductor **Roman Kofman**, artistic director of the Beethoven Orchestra in Bonn with the prize. The prize reflected their contribution in promoting Ukrainian culture in Europe.



Exhibition in Dornbirn



Event in Graz



Discussion in Linz

The European Movement Austria organised, in partnership with its member organisations, the Young European Federalists, the Union of European Federalists and local Europe Houses, public information days in eight Austrian cities to celebrate Europe Day just a few weeks before the European elections of June 2004

Inform yourself on the European Union!

The information stands were run by European information distributors, who handed out information material on the European Elections, the Convention on the Future of Europe and the Draft Constitutional Treaty, as well as general information on the institutions of the European Union, its policies and funding programs. Many representatives of local governments, MEPs and other important personalities joined in the activities, engaging in discussions with citizens. Where available, a mobile exhibition on the new member states, displayed general country information, landscape photos and important scenic places.

The main objective of the activities was to raise awareness on European affairs and to motivate citizens to vote at the European Elections. Citizens were also eager to express their general ideas on Europe, European integration and European identity. In some ways tragic, history, people were told, was a basis for further desirable integration.

Special thanks: Volunteers involved in the project; UEF and JEF Austria, Info Point Europe Vienna, Europazentrum Wien.

The European Movement Belgium organised several activities in order to celebrate Europe Day for the first time in the enlarged European Union of 25 Member States.

Celebrate enlarged Europe!

Three information stands were organised in different places in Brussels (European Parliament, Parc Leopold and Mini Europe) and aimed at informing Belgian citizens about the enlargement of the EU and its new Member States. Furthermore, their objective was to raise also the awareness about the objectives and future developments of the enlarged European Union. Interactive activities such as a quiz on Europe, European Puzzle or opinion's banners animated to opinion exchanges attracted a high number of people.

The debate on enlargement and the future of Europe was organised in the European Parliament in collaboration with the newspaper "De Standaard" and led by its chief editor Mr. Peter Vandermeersch. Around 700 participants attended the debate with such speakers as Mr. Jean-Luc Dehaene (Former Prime Minister and Vice-President of the European Convention), Mr. Willy De Clercq (Minister of State), Ms. Mia Devits (Head of the Socialist Labor Union) and Mr. Karel de Gucht (President of the Flemish Liberal Party). Participants sent their questions, remarks and suggestions for the discussion prior to the debate.

The activities received very good media coverage, thanks to the special partnership with the newspapers "De Standaard" and "La Capitale".

Special thanks: volunteers involved in the project; JEF-Europe, European Movement International, Mini Europe, Brussels Office of the European Parliament.

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Debate in the EP



Young participant in Brussels



Information stand in Brussels



Public debate in Sofia



Speakers in the debate



Participants of the debate

The EM Bulgaria organised a series of actions aimed at informing Bulgarian citizens about recent developments in the EU, with particular emphasis on enlargement and Europe's role in the world.

Bulgaria in Europe

A public debate on European integration and Bulgaria was organised in Sofia. More than 100 participants followed the discussion with speakers such as Mr. Plamen Panayotov (Deputy Prime Ministry), H.E. Dimitris Kourkoulas (Head of the Delegation of the EC to Bulgaria) and Ms. Gergana Grancharova (Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs). It was stressed that the majority of Bulgarians support EU membership for Bulgaria, but there is still a need to undergo hard reforms with many challenges in the way.

The winners of the essay and drawing competition "Young Bulgarians in Europe" were announced in the beginning. Ms. Petya Alexandrova, a young student was awarded a prize for her knowledge of the EU and her vision of the challenges facing Bulgarian youth.

Additionally, several activities took place in different Bulgarian regions. A public concert was organised in Plovdiv, which was opened by Ms. Meglena Rouseva (Regional Governor) and broadcast by local media. Trees from different European regions were planted in Veliko Turnovo.

The actions received wide media coverage at local, regional and national level.

Special thanks: Mr. Plamen Panayotov (Deputy Prime Minister), H.E. Dimitris Kourkoulas (Head of the Delegation of the EC to Bulgaria), Mr. Lothar Jaschke (Austrian Embassy), Ms. Carmen Gonsalves (Royal Dutch Embassy), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Defence.

The European Movement Croatia organised a number of activities in the framework of the “European Week” in order to celebrate Europe Day. Their objectives were to familiarise Croatian citizens with EU integration topics and to raise awareness on the EU in general. The special target group were young people.

Raising awareness among young people

Information and education activities including quizzes on Europe and lectures on EU enlargement were organised in 11 locations across Croatia. Their main objective was to inform young people about Europe in a non-formal way.

The public round table discussion entitled, “EU enlargement and European elections” was organised in Jastrebarsko in co-operation with Institute for international relations. Furthermore, the book “Ce sera una autre Europe” by Alain Lamassoure was presented in Zagreb.

In the final ceremony of the “Europe at school” project, awards were given to the winners by Mr. Dragan Primorac (Minister of Education and Sport) and Ms. Morana Paliković Grude (President of the City Council Zagreb). A sample of the award winning paintings was exhibited.

One of the highlights of the European Week was the traditional “Euro-Tram” in Zagreb, in which various materials on EU, its institutions, enlargement, the multicultural face of Europe and the role of young people were distributed. This event attracted more than 500 people, who joined the tram.



Young participants of Europe Day



“Euro-Tram” in Zagreb



European Contribution of the Year



"Czech Republic in the EU" conference



Symbolic ship sailing



Public event in Prague

The European Movement in the Czech Republic organised many different kinds of activities to celebrate Europe Day for the first time as the new EU Member State. The main objectives were to provide information and raise awareness about the European Union and also the consequences and benefits of EU membership for the Czech Republic.

Welcome Europe!

A series of public conferences, seminars, exhibitions, and open discussions were organised in Prague, Usti nad Labem, Hradec Kralove, Brno and Plzen reaching a high number of participants.

Festivals and cultural activities aimed at involving children and parents and provide information in the most effective way were organised.

In a symbolic act, the ship "Sumava" sailed from Decin in the Czech Republic to Misen in Germany, where German citizens gave a warm welcome to the EU new Member State.

Furthermore, a series of articles were published in regional and local newspapers and radio and TV programmes were broadcast. Live discussions and interviews delivered an insight into public opinion about enlargement and the European Union, and also into the work of the European Movement in the Czech Republic.

Special thanks: Mr. Milan Jancik, Mayor of Prague 5, Senate of the Czech Republic, Cesky rozhlas 2 - Praha

Traditionally the EM Denmark organises the party “Europe Night 2004” including concerts of different Danish music bands and performances from Danish artists. The main objective was to celebrate the enlarged European Union with dynamic and attractive music programme and attract young people to get involved in this subject.

Europe Night 2004

The party took place on the 8th of May in the Pumpehuset Concert Hall in the centre of Copenhagen. More than 400 young people joined the party with live concerts from two upcoming Danish bands. The highlight of the party was the welcoming of the ten new Member States in their national languages by the youth organisation of the EM Denmark. At midnight the New Europe Day was officially welcomed. They party was attended by young candidates for the European Parliament from all Danish political parties and was closed with “Euro Disco”.

The EM Denmark also invited Danish City Halls to raise the European flag on the 9th of May. 19 City Halls accepted the invitation, including big towns like Copenhagen, Esbjerg, Odense and Aarhus.

The activities received very good media coverage by regional and national newspapers and further radio and TV stations.



Maya Albana at Europe Night



Europe Night Poster



Europe sceptic "Jean-Peter-Bonde"



Awarding Ceremony

The aim of EM Estonia for the Europe Day celebrations was to raise and foster awareness regarding European cultural diversity, European values and the work of European institutions among Estonian citizens.

European diversity and values

Estonian radio station KUKU, in cooperation with EM Estonia broadcast 10 radio shows on regional identity and culture within the EU, including comments from people of other EU countries on the topics related to European identity in the enlarged EU.



European Contribution of the Year

30 students from Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia and Lithuania participated in TEUS (Tallinn European Union Simulation), the simulation of a conference of the European Council with participation of ten new Member States.

A series of lectures took place in Voru, Johvi and Tallinn in the framework of “European Talks”. Their special focus was increasing knowledge about European Parliament Elections and presenting views of Estonian candidates to the EP.



Reception in Tallinn

Thanks to wide information campaign and the extensive media coverage, the events also reached a wide audience in rural areas and small towns.

This year the Europe Day was celebrated in 17 cities across Finland and additional activities took place in several schools and workplaces. The main event was organised in Jyväskylä.

Celebrate Europe Day across Finland !

The main objectives were enlargement of the EU and democracy, with a special emphasis on the European Parliamentary elections. The wide range of activities included festivals, open air events, cultural programme and seminars gathering a large audience. The events also received good media coverage. EU information material was handed out in streets, market places and schools. A Europe quiz was organised nation-wide. The embassies of all the new EU Member States and the applicant countries presented their countries during the celebrations in Helsinki.

Furthermore, special educational packages were compiled and distributed widely to teachers and pupils reaching more than 40 000 people all over the country.



Europe Day in Jyväskylä



Public event in Helsinki



Celebrate Europe in Helsinki

* These activities were national events, which were not part of the EMI transnational campaign.



Europe Day poster

The European Movement France organised several activities in order to celebrate Europe Day for the first time in the enlarged European Union of 25 Member States.

Europe day in France

The European Movement in France has traditionally celebrated Europe Day in France, and now encompasses an entire week of festivities across the country. The European Movement France celebrated this year with a strengthened network of partner associations including schools and municipalities among others.

As in other years, the EMF created a poster for their campaign celebrating Europe Day. Distributed in their thousands, the posters addressed those whom the European Movement have helped for 10 years now including primary and secondary schools.

A night of activities and festivities was organised in the Europe House on the 9th May providing guests with an opportunity to discover some important works by European authors and musical works from the recent accession countries. These cultural works were played out by actors on the night. The night began with an aperitif and was followed by speeches from Catherine Lalumière, Vice-President of the European Parliament and Anne-Marie Idrac, President of the European Movement in France.

* These activities were national events, which were not part of the EMI transnational campaign.

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A series of activities were organised in different places across Germany in collaboration with JEF sections and aimed at involving young people in the debate on Europe through an innovative and attractive approach.

Get involved!

The project activities had special focus on the European Parliament elections in the enlarged European Union. A common campaign, "Vote-Catcher" was launched in Zittau (Saxony) and was attended by a number of political leaders. The highlight of the day was a photo-session with the German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder.

Furthermore, a series of information activities were organised across Germany such as an information desk on European issues in Kiel, discussion with four EP-candidates (e.g. Angelika Beer) in Bad Segeberg, an "Awakening Party" in Frankfurt am Main, "Afternoon of EP-information" in Heidelberg and discussion with representatives of the new Member States in Baden-Württemberg.

On the 9th of May special events were organised in Berlin and Hamburg attracting a high number of people. The Information Desk, Europe-Puzzle and street action "Do you EU" led to animated discussions and an exchange of views. "Vote-Catcher" in Hamburg distributed more than 5 000 brochures and leaflets.



"Vote-Catcher" at German-Czech-Polish border



Young participants of the campaign in Berlin



Gerhard Schröder with JEF-youngsters in Zittau

Greece
-gr



Children activity in Komotini



Information stand in Athens

The EM Greece, in co-operation with JEF Greece celebrated Europe Day in 2004 with a series of events across the country. The mix of information and discussion activities aimed to reach a wide audience and animate people to inform themselves about European topics.

Information, raising awareness about the EU

The main objective of Europe Day in Greece was to inform Greek citizens about current developments in the EU, implications of enlargement for Greece and the constitutional proceedings that will be necessary.

Therefore, a series of street actions and information activities were organised in Athens, Piraeus, Thessaloniki and Komotini and a number of information handouts were distributed. In Komotini for example, children were invited to paint the enlarged European Union on a large banner placed in the central square of the town.

Furthermore, the conference “Why a constitution for Europe?” took place in the University of Athens. Invited speakers were Mr. Nikolaos Baltas (President of the Economics Faculty, Jean Monnet chair) and Michalis Papayannakis (MEP, President of the EM Greece). A press conference was organised which was attended by representatives of local media in Komotini.

A series of activities took place in 9 locations across Hungary and reached a general representative cross-section of Hungarian society from young to old.

Connecting Europe

A number of public conferences and debates were organised in the framework of the Europe Day celebrations. They aimed to provide information on European subjects, particularly regarding future developments in the EU and promoting active citizenship and participatory democracy.

The participants of the international seminar in Sopron discussed different perceptions of cultural heritage in the enlarged EU.

Opportunities and challenges for Hungary as the new Member States of the EU were discussed during the forum on enlarged Europe and the European Constitution, which took place in Budapest.

“Civil Yes for Europe” conference in the Hungarian Parliament gathered a high number of personalities such as Mr. Péter Medgyesy (Prime Minister) and Mr. Pál Vastagh (Hungarian Member of European Convention).

Finally, the Photo competition “All Equal” was launched in the framework of the Europe Day Celebration and the winner was Veronika Szász, a student from Budapest.

Special thanks: Mr. Péter Balázs, EU Commissioner in the Commission of Romano Prodi and Mr. Milkós Barabás



“Civil Yes for Europe!” conference in Budapest



Young participants of the conference



Information stand



Conference on enlargement in Reykjavik

For the first time the EM Iceland participated in the Europe-wide celebration of Europe Day. Two events were organised in co-operation with the Icelandic Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Icelandic Industries.

Iceland and the European Union

A public conference on the consequences of EU enlargement for Iceland gathered more than 80 delegates and was opened by Mrs. Valgerdur Sverrisdottir (Minister for Trade and Industry) and attended by Mr. Gunnar Snorri Gunnarsson (Permanent Secretary of State).



Speakers of the conference

Ms. Heidi Hautala, a former Finnish MEP presented a lecture at the University of Iceland in the framework of "Schuman Lecture Day". The main topics were the relations of Nordic countries to the new Member States and the implications of enlargement for them.

Both activities received extensive media coverage in all major media in Iceland and raised awareness about European topics among Icelandic citizens.

Special thanks: Mr. Thor Sigfusson (Director of the Icelandic Chamber of Commerce)



Participants of the conference

The European Movement Italy focused on the enlarged European Union and promoted active involvement of young people in the debate on the future of the EU on this Europe Day.

Enlarged EU and young people

Two debates with young people were organised in Pozzuoli and Gaeta. The debate in Pozzuoli gathered about 200 students and teachers, and was opened by Mr. Paolo Barbi and attended by Mr. Alfonso Andria, President of the Province of Salerno. Mr Andria underlined the importance of involvement of young people in the discussion on the future of the EU.

More than 150 students followed the debate in Gaeta which focused on the implications of enlargement for the European Union and Italy in particular. The Mayor of Gaeta, Mr. Massimo Magliozzi highlighted the need to understand the implications and opportunities of enlargement for Italy. The debate was well covered by local press.



Public debate in Pozzuoli



Info stand at Europe Day



Conference in Gaeta

Europe .jef



Event at Slovenian/Austrian border



Our Europe!



European Days in Zagreb/Croatia

JEF Europe, in co-operation with its national sections organised more than 25 events in 8 countries; Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Slovenia, United Kingdom and the Ukraine, targeting young people in particular. The main objective of these different actions was to celebrate the enlarged European Union and to welcome citizens of the new Member States.

“New Europe: the bigger the better – 15+10”

In order to reach the widest possible audience, a wide range of activities such as border actions, information campaigns, Euro Puzzle, conferences, round table discussions and meetings with local politicians were organised in co-operation with national partners in 16 locations across Europe.

The most important achievement of the campaign was the direct involvement and contact with young people on European topics.

A number of personalities attended some of events such as Mr. Plamen Panayotov (Deputy Prime Minister of Bulgaria), Mr. Daniel Valtchev (Representative of Bulgarian Parliament in the European Convention), Mr. Dimitris Kourkoulas (Head of the Delegation of the EC to Bulgaria), Ms. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović (Ministry of European Integration of Croatia) and Mr. Neil Brennan (Deputy Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova)

Almost all of the projects were advertised in different media (websites, press releases, TV, radio, youth magazines, and brochures) as well as being covered in the main news on national television and radio.

Special thanks: JEF sections involved; Institute of Research Banease Bucharest, University of Edinburgh and Glasgow, Community of Sentilj, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Mission of OSCE in Moldova, Embassies of Hungary, Romania, Turkey and Bulgaria in Moldova

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The European Movement Latvia was the official head organiser of Europe week activities throughout Latvia. The EML organised a far-reaching culture and information programme across Latvia, adapted to the needs of different target groups. The main objective was to welcome Latvia as a new Member State in the enlarged EU and to thank all who contributed to this success.

Welcome to the big European family!

The highlight of the celebrations was the “Thank you party” in Riga, gathering more than 1000 representatives from institutions, organisations, NGOs and personalities in the areas of culture, politics and business. Mr. Indulis Emsis (Prime Minister of Latvia) opened the party and expressed his gratitude for the substantial contribution of all towards the Latvian membership of the EU. Ms. Sandra Kalniete (EU Commissioner) also welcomed Latvia’s membership of the EU. Several ministers participated, among them Ms. Vineta Muizniece (Minister for Justice), Mr. Raimonds Vejonis, (Minister of environment) and Mr. Nils Muiznieks (Minister of Integration). A “memory wall” containing copies of newspaper headlines, articles and photos from the last 15 years gave a historic background and lent a feeling of importance to the event.

In order to reach people in the regions, international Europe Days were organised in 6 different cities: Daugavpils, Ludza, Liepaja, Kuldiga, Jelgava and Limbazi. A European tent city with country presentations was constructed in co-operation with the 12 Embassies of the EU Member States, the Delegation of the EC, Information Office of the European Parliament and partner NGOs. An informative and cultural programme was designed in co-operation with the local authorities, consisting of speeches, folk dance and other performances. Many personalities such as Mr. Rihards Piks (Foreign Minister), Mr. Philippe Kamaris (Head of the EP Information Office) and ambassadors of Germany, The United Kingdom, Estonia, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Poland, Italy and Denmark attended the celebrations.

Special thanks: Information Office of the European Parliament, European Commission Information Centre, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, VAS “Latvijas Dzelzceļš”, Siemens, Volkswagen Centre Riga, and SIA Moora.



Exhibition in Riga



Ms. Kalniete at the “Thank you party”



Europe Day stickers

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European cake



Young participants



Outdoor debate

This year the celebrations of Europe Day in Lithuania took on a special character as they took place for the first time in Lithuania as a Member State of the EU. EM Lithuania welcomed Europe with different kinds of activities targeting young people in particular.

My country in Europe

In order to reach young people, three competitions; essay, “My-Lithuania-Europe”, photo competition “Us – it is the EU” and a poster competition were organised across Lithuania. More than 1000 students participated in the contests, which were considered a big success and showed the interest of young people on European issues. The winners of the essay competition were invited to speak in the Lithuanian Parliament “Seimas”.

Additionally, a series of debates on EU enlargement took place in 28 schools in Kaunas. Information on the enlarged EU was provided and implications of the EU membership for Lithuania and the chances for young people were discussed.

To mark the end of the celebrations, a Europe Day concert was organised in Kaunas. More than 6000 people attended it and it was broadcast live to all the regions on television.

Special thanks: The Lithuanian Parliament “Seimas”, European Integration Centre, “Extra FM” Radio, Alma Adamkiene Charity and The Support Foundation.

The celebrations for Europe Day in FYR Macedonia were organised in Skopje and included different activities organised in co-operation with the Council of Europe in FYR Macedonia, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the European Integration Sector of the Macedonian Government.

Towards Europe together

The main manifestation took place on 8th and 9th of May and gathered a number of personalities such as Ms. Ljubica Ruben (Vice-Chairwomen of the EM FYR Macedonia), Ms. Radmila Sekerinska (Deputy Prime Minister), Mr. Donato Chiarini (Head of the EC Delegation to FYR Macedonia), Mr. Andreas Klein (Head of the Konrad-Adenauer Foundation), Mr. Gjorgji Jovanovski (Director, Information Office of European Council in FYR Macedonia), Ms. Lidija Nedelkovska (Leader of the Europe Day Project in FYR Macedonia) and Mr. Nikola Todorovski (Member of the EM FYR Macedonia Bord).

“EU Enlargement, European Convention and the “rest” of Europe” and the perspectives of FYR Macedonia towards EU membership were discussed and the need for continuation in the European integration process was stressed by a number of speakers.

The main public event “Europe at glance” was held in Skopje City Park. Hundreds of people followed an attractive artistic programme with popular artists, which was broadcast by national TV stations.

Special thanks: Ms. Radmila Sekerinska (Deputy Prime Minister), Information Office of the Council of Europe in Skopje, Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation in Skopje, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), Southeastern European University in Tetovo, Youth European Federalists, Youth Education Forum, Balkan Idea, KOSMOFON AD Skopje, OKTA AD Skopje, MRTV (Macedonian Radio-Television).



Happening in Skopje



Public debate in Skopje



European Contribution of the Year

Contact: Ms. Lidija Nedelkovska, Secretary General of the EM FYR Macedonia - E-mail: contactperson@europeanmovement.org
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Leon Gutu, young painter

The main objective of the activities organised by the EM Romania in the framework of Europe Day 2004 was to positively influence the Romanian public regarding membership of the EU. The principle aim was to get people involved in the discussion on the future of Europe.

Inform people across the country

The EM Romania organised a series of debates and conferences in Bucharest, Constanta, Ramnicu-Valcea, Jassy and Timisoara, addressed to different target groups and dealing with questions on European integration. The conference in Constanta was particularly successful, with more than 600 students participating. The conference focused on the role of young people in the future of the EU.



Public conference

The Europe Day celebrations encompassed a wide range of cultural exhibitions and concerts which took place mainly in schools in 5 locations across Romania.

The most important part of the project was dedicated to the media who were involved in the coverage of the events organised at local and regional level. Furthermore, a special talk show “Romania de Maine” with the participation of representatives from the EM Romania, Mr. Corneliu Zeana (President of the EM Romania) and Mr. Tudor Andrei Rautu was produced.



Winners of the Contribution of the Year

Celebrating its 12th anniversary, the EM Serbia organised a wide range of activities covering 30 regions across the country. The project objective was to raise awareness regarding European integration, with an emphasis on the new EU Member States and the impact of enlargement on Serbia's potential EU membership.

Bigger Europe, more friends

Around 30000 pupils from 1300 elementary and high schools participated in the traditional literary and art contest "Europe at school". The exhibition of the best art projects was opened by Mr. Geoffrey Barrett (Head of the Delegation of EC), and the awards were handed out by Mr. Ricardo Passos de Gouveia (Portuguese Ambassador to Serbia Montenegro) and Mr. Hannes Porias (Austrian Ambassador to Serbia Montenegro).

A series of cultural events; exhibitions of young Serbian artists, a play "To Europe from...", a photo exhibition, "Between the lines" and a concert by the Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra were organised in Honor of Europe Day. The concert gathered more than 600 people including representatives of embassies from EU Member States, the delegation of the EC in Serbia Montenegro, the Serbian government and international organisations were also present.

All the events were covered by local, regional and national media. Additionally, a video clip was produced and distributed to national television channels.

Special thanks: Ministry for Education and Sport of Republic of Serbia, European Integration Office, Government of the Republic of Serbia, Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation Belgrade, Youth House Belgrade, Ms. Borka Bozovic (Gallery HAOS) and Students Cultural Centre Belgrade.



Information stand in Belgrade



Concert by the Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra



Young participants

Spain.es



Celebration in Madrid



Activities for children in Fuenlabrada



Polish guests in Fuenlabrada

Celebrations of Europe Day 2004 took place at three locations in Spain, continuing the successful, traditional concept of the last two years. The main objective was to spread information on European topics among Spanish citizens.

“United in diversity”

The traditional ceremony of hosting the European and Spanish flags took place at Plaza del Descubrimiento in Madrid. Mr. Alberto Ruíz-Gallardón (Mayor of Madrid), Mr. José María Gil-Robles (President of EMI), Ms. Concepción Dancausa (President of the Madrid Assembly), members of the Spanish Parliament and Senate, Ambassadors and Members of the EP and European Commission were present. The ceremony was performed in front of more than more than 1000 people.

A similar ceremony was organised in Fuenlabrada and gathered a number of representatives of the main civil society associations, neighbourhood councils and some representatives from the new Member States, such as the Polish cultural association.

In the framework of the Salvador de Madariaga Journalism Awards, three journalists who contributed in the most substantial way to the promotion of European integration through their work were awarded in Valencia. Mr. Gallego and Mr. Rey (cartoonists from EL Mundo), Mrs. Griselda Pastor (radio correspondent in Brussels) and Mr. Juan Pedro Valentín (TV Tele 5) were awarded.

The Europe Day activities received very good media coverage by national media.

Special thanks: Mayor of Madrid, Mayor of Fuenlabrada, Marina Española, WEU Assembly, City of Fuenlabrada Band.

Contact: Mr. Nicolás Enríquez González, Director of the EM Spain - E-mail: nico@movimientoeuropeo.org
Web: www.movimientoeuropeo.org

On the occasion of the book exhibition “BuchBasel 2004”, which had special focus on East European countries, the EM Switzerland organised a variety of different activities. The main objective was to familiarise Swiss citizens with the new members of the EU and raise awareness about the consequences of EU enlargement for Switzerland.

Making the 10 new EU Member States understood

The EM Switzerland was present with its own stand during the book exhibition. Publications on European subjects were distributed and the DVD “Coming home to Europe” produced by the EMI, introducing the new Member States was presented.

In order to attract young people, the “TransEuropaExpress” party with special focus on Eastern Europe was organised. Around 400 people were present for the “Superhiks” concert.

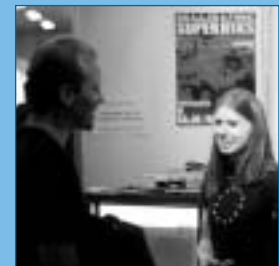
On the 9th of May, a debate entitled “European Identity?” was organised and chaired by Mr. Hanspeter Spörri, editor of the newspaper “Der Bund”. Guest speakers such as Ms. Katrin Hünemörder (Chairwomen of the Young Journalists Association in Germany) and Mr. Robert Mosters (University of Fribourg), Mr. Thomas Cottier (University of Bern) and Mr. Georg Kreis (University of Bale) discussed the definition of European identity and agreed that this is based on human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, constitutional state and respect for human rights.



"TransEuropaExpress" Poster



Debate on "European Identity" in Basel



Information stand

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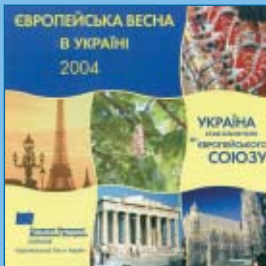


Press conference in Zhytomyr

The Europe Day celebrations in Ukraine took place on 6 locations across the country and reached a very wide audience thanks to extensive media coverage. The activities were organised in co-operation with a number of partners such as Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Delegation of the EC in Ukraine and various media partners.

European Spring in Ukraine 2004

The main objective of the activities in Ukraine was to provide information about enlargement and the future developments of the EU, but also to raise awareness among Ukrainian citizens about the implications of this process for the country.



Poster of Europe Day

A number of activities were organised across the country. Press conferences with the participation of Ms. Laura Reinila (Ambassador of Finland in Ukraine), Mr. Pierre Colot (Ambassador of Belgium in Ukraine) and Mr. Ake Peterson (Ambassador of Sweden in Ukraine) took place in Lutsk, Rivne, Cherkasy and Kiev.

Furthermore, lectures for students on European questions and meetings with representatives of local administrations and business in regions were organised.



Information stand in Kiev

The main activities took place in Kiev where the EM Ukraine had its own stand during the central Europe Day celebration. Hundreds of flyers, posters, magazines and flags were distributed to the visitors and the artistic performance was offered by children's folk ensembles.

The actions received very good media coverage at the local, regional and national level and reached millions of people in Ukraine.

Special thanks: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Delegation of the EC in the Ukraine, Embassy of Belgium, Finland and Sweden in the Ukraine and media partners

Contact: Mr. Oleksandr Biletskyi, President of the EM Ukraine - E-mail: euromovement@ukr.net

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The European Movement, an international pan European organisation, represented in 41 European Countries, was founded in the wake of the Hague Congress in 1948. Its objective is to contribute to the establishment of a united, federal Europe, founded on the respect of basic human rights and democratic principles, solidarity and citizen's participation by influencing decision makers and informing and mobilising citizens at all levels of European society.

Le Mouvement Européen, une organisation internationale paneuropéenne représentée dans 41 pays européens, a été fondé à suite du Congrès de La Haye en 1948. Elle a pour objectif de contribuer à la réalisation d'une Europe unie à caractère fédéral, fondée sur le respect des droits de l'homme et sur des principes démocratiques, de solidarité et sur la participation des citoyens en informant et en mobilisant les citoyens et en influençant les décideurs à tous les niveaux de la société Européenne.

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