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Education and culture

With the support of European Commission:
Support for bodies active at European Level
in the field of active European citizenship.

Editorial Team:
Lorenzo Gabrini Bellincampi (Editor in Chief)
Alexander Elliott (Assistant Editor)

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Foreword



The **European Movement International**, with its National Councils across Europe and its International Member organisation, the Young European

Federalists (JEF), celebrated the 9th of May - Europe Day 2006 with around 119 events and festivities across Europe.

The festivities took place with the objective of celebrating and giving visibility to the **common values of the European Union** by enhancing awareness of a common identity and citizenship. This was done from different perspectives, extending the celebrations to Bulgaria and Romania and also beyond the borders of the EU to neighbouring countries, many of whom are aspiring candidate countries. A special focus was given to the involvement of young people as the future of the EU belongs to them.

20 partners organised a variety of events in **23 countries**: simulation games, information

stands, 'European Weeks', debates, concerts, seminars and workshops. All events took place in a public context and attracted hundreds, and often thousands of people. Extensive media coverage at the national level ensured that the **actions extended to an audience of more than 10 million people**.

The 9 May celebrations have once again highlighted the extraordinary capacity of the European Movement to localize debates, adapting them to local and national needs. The '**European Contribution of the Year Award**' helped to increase support and attendance at the events.

We would like to thank our partners for their engagement and enthusiasm in promoting the European ideals to which the project aspires.

Henrik H. Kröner
Secretary General

Brussels, September 2006

the 9th of May

What is the 9th of 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.

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 Union. As one of the four official symbols of the European Union (as outlined in the draft Constitutional Treaty), Europe Day is a key reminder of the European Community heritage.

Europe-wide celebration for the 9th May - Europe Day by the EM

Building on the long experience at the international and national level,

the European Movement started to launch in 2002 a **Europe-wide campaign** with a common structure, message and tools. Since then, the range of activities included 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.

Project Management Team

- > Lorenzo Gabrini Bellincampi (*Project Director*)
- > Alec Elliott (*Project Manager*)
- > Hannah Newcomb (*Trainee*)
- > Ewelina Daniel (*Trainee*)
- > Laura Hayes (*Trainee*)
- > Mette Anita Larsen (*Trainee*)

“
*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 of May 1950

European Contribution of the Year Award



Belgium

The European Movement decided to nominate all of the Belgium Members of the European Parliament for their annual Contribution of the Year Award. During the Europe day activities the public decided to nominate the MEP **Ivo Belet** (EVP-PPE).

Bulgaria

Lothar Jaschke, Deputy Head of Mission of the Austrian Embassy received the prize for his contribution to the Austrian Presidency at the Debate on the Future of Europe.

Croatia

This year the “European Circle” award, as the prize is titled in Croatia, was presented to the President of the Republic, Mr. **Stjepan Mesić**, for his speech on the Conference of Ministers of the Adriatic charter and Baltic States, addressed on April 25, 2006 in National Park “Brijuni”.

Czech Republic

Dr **Zuzana Roithova** was awarded for her long-term commitment to the cause of European integration in her various capacities as Senator, MEP and in various NGOs. Her contribution in the campaign for ratification of the accession document was second to none, as was her endeavour to disseminate information on the Union to all strata of Czech society.

Denmark

The European Contribution of the Year Award was presented to Mr. **Uffe Ellemann-Jensen**, former Minister for Foreign Affairs and former chairman of the liberal party, for his long, very passionate interest in European affairs.



Estonia

The Estonian European Movement decided to award their prize to the famous writer **Jaan Kross** due to his great contribution in introducing European values to Estonian society and also mediating Estonian history and cultural heritage to Europe.

Italy

Tommaso Padoa Schioppa, former Member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank, received the prize for his pro-European engagement in the discussions on the role of the Euro in Italy and for his role in bringing Italy back to its financial and economic commitments in Europe.

Latvia

This year the prize for the European of the Year was awarded by the public in Latvia (through written and electronic vote) to the Member of the European Parliament Mr. **Valdis Dombrovskis** (EPP-ED).

FYROM

Annual Award for European Achievement for 2005 was dedicated to Maestro **Boris Trajanov**, a famous opera singer, for extraordinary contribution in promoting the FYROM culture in Europe and promoting European ideas and values through his statements in public.

Malta

The European Movement Malta awarded its first European Contribution of the Year prize to **Lawrence Grech**, editor of The Sunday Times. The European Youth Contribution of the year was given to **Daniela Grech**, President of JEF-Malta.

European Contribution of the Year Award



Romania

Ovidiu Popescu, Director of the Radio Targu-Jiu, received the European Contribution of the Year Award for his promotion of European ideas through different radio programs and articles.

Serbia

The President of the European Movement in Serbia, Mr. Zivorad Kovacevic, handed over the European Contribution of the Year Award to **Tanja Miscevic**, Director of the Serbian Office for EU integration. The prize was a specially produced Plaque of honour.

Spain

The EM Spain awarded Baron **Philippe de Schoutheete de Tervarent** with the European Contribution of the Year Award.

Switzerland

This year the European of the Year Award was given to Mr. **Hans-Jörg Fehr** (MP), President of the Swiss Social Democrats for his contribution to a debate on Europe and Swiss membership of the EU.



In Austria the European Movement celebrated Europe Day by organizing a number of activities in different regions of the country. The events were held from the 5th-9th of May.

Public events throughout Austria

The European Movement Austria organized, in collaboration with its partners (the Austrian Information office of the European Commission, Europe Direct Austria, and Young European Federalists Austria amongst others) information stands, sports competitions and a “EuropaQuiz” in different cities.

In partnership with the City of Graz, a festival was organized in the City Centre.

JEF of the Styria region organised a big stage with different features such as musical and cultural events (folklore dancers and musicals groups). Various information stalls organised by pro European organizations were set up around the stage. The Mayor of Graz, Mr. Siegfried Nagl attended the event.

The “EuropaQuiz” was aimed at increasing people’s awareness of Europe and the European Union. Citizens were interviewed about their views and visions of Europe and at the same time were asked to define the future of the EU for its citizens.

In other regions of Austria, several cultural events were held and information stands were organised in Vienna, Innsbruck, Bornbirn and Salzburg.

Contact: Daniel Gerer

E-mail: daniel.gerer@jef.at



The European Movement in Belgium organized in collaboration with the European Movement International, the European Commission, JEF-Belgium and Mini-Europe a series of activities in the framework of Europe Day.

Information stands and quizzes

Information stands were set up in two different places in Brussels (in the European Parliament and in Park Leopold). In the European Parliament, it was possible for the public to write down their opinions on Europe. The visitors participated in this activity in a very enthusiastic way and a total of 70 different opinions were received.



The other stand was in Park Leopold, where a quiz and a game were played. The aim of the game was to test people's knowledge about the 25 European member states and also to increase their awareness about the EU. Around 100 people participated in this event. People also joined in on a quiz at the stand in the Leopold Park. The quiz, which was organised together with Mini-Europe, contained five questions about the European Constitution, the European Movement and Mini-Europe. The winners were invited to go to Mini-Europe.

At both of the information stands, volunteers from the EM Belgium handed out flyers to the public throughout the entire day and made conversation with people on many areas relating to the EU.



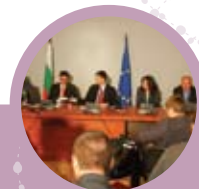
In order to get young people involved in the 9th of May activities, the children had the possibility to choose their favourite flag of the European Member States and have it painted onto their faces with make-up. Around 50 children, and a few adults, were involved in this game.

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

Contact: Maite Abram

E-mail: m.abram@skynet.be

Web: <http://www.mouvement-europeen.be>



On the occasion of Europe Day 2006 the European Movement Bulgaria organized a public debate with the theme “Bulgaria on the Threshold of the EU”. At the same event information stands with different kinds of EU material were set up.

“Bulgaria on the Threshold of the EU”

The public debate was held at the Information Centre of the Ministry of Defence, Sofia, and dealt with three main topics: the challenges and opportunities for the Bulgarian economy, the European values and Bulgarian reality and the reforms in Justice and Home Affairs. Some 100 people attended the debate. Thanks to the wide range of people participating with different professional

backgrounds, a high number of different opinions were pointed out.

The panel consisted of different personalities such as, Mr. Svetoslav Spassov (MP), President of UEF – Bulgaria, Mr. Bojidar Danev, President of the Bulgarian Chamber of Industry and Mr. Vladimir Shopov, Sofia University. Patron of the event was the Mayor of Sofia, Mr. Boyko Borisov. The 9th of May festivities ended with a reception.

At the entrance to the conference hall an info stall was arranged. The message of the President of EMI, Pat Cox, was handed out to the participants along with information on the EU.

The event received widespread media coverage with national radio stations,

national newspapers and TV stations reporting from the celebration.

Contact: Velko Ivanov

E-mail: asea@scas.acad.bg



The European Movement in Croatia organized a “European week” in order to celebrate Europe Day. The celebration aimed to familiarize the Croatian public, especially young people, with the meaning of EU integration and to raise their awareness about European issues.

Europe Week 2006

The “Europe week” activities were carried out in different parts of Croatia for the period 2nd to 9th of May and included lectures, a workshop, a Euro quiz and a Euro-tram amongst others. As young people were one of the most important target group, many of the events were organized in high schools and in close collaboration with the District of Zagreb and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration. 60 students from

each of the five high schools participated in these different events.

One of the lectures entitled “Croatian’s journey to the EU”, focused on giving young people a sound knowledge of the most important elements of European history from the 1950s onwards and included a debate concerning Croatia’s possibilities for entering the EU in the future. The following workshop touched upon the subject of protection of culture and traditions following accession to the EU. One of the main objectives of this workshop was to encourage the students to think, develop and present their own ideas.

One of the more informal events, the Euro quiz, contained general culture questions about the EU and Croatia and a game

labeled “European Union celebrities”. The winners were awarded with a trip to Rijeka-Opatija, which included an expert guide. Other prizes such as brochures on the EU, pencils and T-shirts were handed out to the rest of the participants.

A Euro-tram completed the list of events on Europe Day. Many activities were organized on this occasion including a reception with food and drink for all the participants.

Contact: Renata Bacic

E-mail: renata.bacic@zg.htnet.hr

Web: <http://www.europe.hr>



The European Movement in the Czech Republic celebrated Europe Day 2006 in different parts of the country and with many activities. The main aims of the project were the exchange of experiences and opinions on the occasion of the Czech Republic's second year in the EU.

Increasing awareness of the EU

A preparatory workshop was organised concerning the 9th of May celebrations for students of the juridical association ELSA. The main topic of the debate dealt with the legal aspects of entering the EU. Another discussion was organized with the same theme, this time for American law students. 28 students took part at this event. Three further seminars were held, all focusing on important aspects for the

Czech Republic, such as the seminar on "Information about European affairs."

Between April 26th and May 11th an exhibition called "Graz-Urbant 11" took place in Brno. On the 8th of May a major conference was held in Prague entitled "The Czech Republic and the future of Europe". The main aim of this was to attract public attention to the role of the EU.

The main event took place on May 9th and was held in Prague. Many personalities participated, including the Mayor of Prague, Senator Skaloud and Mrs. Pavlina Petrickova (from the Government) and they all addressed the issue of European integration. A traditional jazz band entertained on the day. A singing competition targeted children and proved

to be very successful. Interest for this was huge and it was necessary to repeat the competition many times. The winners received Europe-Day t-shirts, books and postcards.

In other parts of the country, different activities were organised. A student discussion program was held in Hradec Kralove called "The Europe in the Czech, production of the 20th century." In Litomysl, a concert was organised to celebrate the second anniversary of the Czech Republic membership in the EU. This was very popular among guests and about 140 people took part.

Contact: Ladislav Riha

E-mail: ladislav.riha@mfcz.cz

Web: <http://www.europeanmovement.cz>



On the occasion of Europe Day 2006 the European Movement in Denmark celebrated the 9th May 2006 in five strategically selected parts of the country and held a nation wide flag campaign. These different activities contributed to raising awareness of the EU throughout the country.

EU-bazaar, cake and flag campaign

One of the main events of the festivities was an EU-bazaar in which ordinary people and prominent politicians debated different EU topics. The events were held in the central squares of five of the largest cities in Denmark (Copenhagen, Aarhus, Odense, Aalborg and Sønderborg) and on the island Bornholm. The

venues and the activities provided information about the EU and European related issues. Pieces of cake decorated with an illustration of the European flag were offered to the participating people. A quiz with different questions also took place and small prizes were given to the many winners.

Furthermore, 46 town halls around the country raised the European flag on the 9th May, and were supported by the President of the Danish European Movement. This result is very satisfying, especially as Denmark is in a reform process where new municipalities are to be formed.

The activities received widespread media coverage in national radio stations, local and regional newspapers and several

regional TV stations reporting from the celebrations.

Contact: Rina Valeur

E-mail: rvr@eubev.dk

Web: <http://www.eubev.dk>



The European Movement Estonia, in cooperation with many partners and sponsors, celebrated Europe Day with a number of activities in five of the largest cities in the country (Paide, Pärnu, Kuressaare, Tartu and Tallinn).

Awareness of the European Union

In Estonia all of the events took place on the 9th of May 2006 in a public forum. The activities were carried out in the main square or in a park in the middle of the city. In all of the cities there was a stage with an entertainment programme, music and presentations of pupils from local schools, and speeches by politicians and opinion leaders regarding European awareness and tolerance in the European Union. The activities were announced using large

posters that were put up everywhere and an interactive web page about Europe was also established.

The Tammsaare Park in Tallinn formed the perfect setting for Europe Day in the capital of Estonia. The atmosphere was further improved as the park was decorated with balloons and the Estonian winner of the Eurovision Song Competition performed. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Urmas Paet, Mayor of Tallinn, Mr. Jüri Ratas and Mr. Riivo Sinijärv, President of the European Movement Estonia presented speeches and followed it with a debate.

A simulation game at the University of Tallinn offered young people the possibility to gain wider knowledge of the work conducted by the European Parliament and the European Constitution.

In the four other cities a number of personalities were invited to hold speeches about European awareness and tolerance in a united Europe. Another important event was a prize-giving game that was carried out in all of the cities with the purpose of drawing people's attention to the themes and objectives of Europe Day. The game took the form of a quiz about Europe and consisted of simple questions.

Overall, the celebration of Europe Day helped considerably to increase the awareness of EU issues amongst the participants.

Contact: Ulrika Hurt

E-mail: ulrika@euroopalikumine.ee

Web: <http://www.euroopalikumine.ee>



Europe Day in Ireland was celebrated with different public events in Dublin. The European Movement Ireland organised two activities and promoted the spirit of Europe through music, information sharing and engagement.

Europe Day bus and balloons

To mark the anniversary of the Schuman Declaration it was decided to organize an activity with the theme “56 Years of Europe – 56 Years of Peace” whose primary purpose was to create the best possible environment for positive messages about Europe. A number of activities were undertaken in order to accomplish this objective, for example: interviews with different personalities such as the Minister for European Affairs, Noel

Tracy and the Chairman of the British Irish Inter-parliamentary Body, Pat Carery.

On street speeches were also arranged and an open top bus drove around in the streets promoting Europe Day. These events taken together with the launch of 256 balloons made the message seemed humorous and interesting for ordinary people as well as the media. In fact, the EM Ireland collaborated with City Channel to produce a news documentary. The balloon launch was mentioned in several different national forms of media.

The second event arranged was entitled “Connecting Europe to the People” and took place at the same time as the previous event. Many volunteers handed out leaflets, “The EU in the time it takes to make a cup of tea”, and other marketing

materials, such as lollipops. The Dublin Gospel Choir entertained the crowd that gathered in the streets before and after the speeches and during the balloon launch.

Contact: Brendan Kiely

E-mail: info@europeanmovement.ie

Web: <http://www.europeanmovement.ie>



Once again the Italian Council of the European Movement celebrated Europe Day with many different activities. The preparations for the four events were highly influenced by internal political debates as April and May were characterised by national elections.

Future of the Union: Who fears Europe?

One of the key objectives in relation to the Europe Day in Italy was to get people with different social backgrounds involved in the activities. In order to accomplish this, a conference, television debate, cultural/party event and university conference were arranged and all turned out to be very successful.

On the afternoon of the 9th of May, the conference “Celebration of Europe Day” took place. The possible future scenarios for the EU were discussed and received inputs from high profile personalities from Italian political and civil society, such as the Director of the Representation in Italy for the European Commission, Mr. Pier Virgilio Dastoli and Mr. Emilio De Capitani, Director of the Italian Office of the European Parliament.

The same evening in Rome, a television debate took place, focusing on citizens’ common fears concerning Europe. The event was structured as a public debate, where the main contributors were students, journalists and politicians.

Europe Day in Italy ended with a big cultural/party event in which 300 people

were directly involved. There was music from different countries as well as dancing. At the same time information stands on EU matters were organised.

The university conference in Salerno also proved to be a great day, in which many people participated. The subject matter of the conference concerned the issue of the future for the EU following the pause for reflection related to the Constitutional Treaty. Yet again this discussion seemed relevant, as the following debate was very lively.

*Contact: Elena Montani
E-mail: elenay3@yahoo.com*



This year the main issues JEF dealt with were the fostering of the concept of a European citizenship, concentrating on uniting young people across Europe, diffusion of the European Constitution and the Referenda process across the continent.

Young people for Europe

JEF Bulgaria ran a project entitled “Europe here I come”, targeting young people, especially those in school with the intention of raising awareness of European issues.

In Catalunya, JEF got many people in Barcelona to participate in constructing a giant puzzle in Plaza de Sants to celebrate Europe Day.

JEF Croatia ran a campaign in order to increase young people’s knowledge of

the EU and issues affecting Croatia. A free euro tram traveled round Zagreb which ran on the 9th of May.

In France, information stalls were set up in different cities around the country with the intention of informing people by interacting with them on the street.

In Latvia, the final of Erudition competition “Next Stop-Europe” took place on the 3rd of May and focused on bringing Europe closer to young people.

JEF Malta organized a European puzzle with the European map on it for MEP’s and Head of the Commission Representation in Malta to build.

JEF Portugal ran a project with the theme “European Diversity – Cultural Richness”, bringing together young people from Portugal, member states and also those descendants of immigrants.

A panel discussion was held in Serbia with

two main themes. The first concerned federalism as a political system and the second focusing on the integration process in Serbia.

JEF Slovenia organized an all day event on May 6th involving a debate in the morning and a simulation of pro and contra debate in the afternoon.

In the UK the Café Europe held an afternoon of speeches and debates, organized by the Young European Movement UK.

Contact: Vassilis Stamogiannis

E-mail: info@jef-europe.net

Web: <http://www.jef-europe.net/>



The European Movement in Latvia organised a number of activities in different regions of the country. The events first and foremost aimed at raising people's awareness of the European Union and encouraging people to participate in decision making from the local to European level.

The two first years in the EU - possibilities and challenges

The celebration of the 9th of May included an essay contest ("Latvia in the EU – plusses and minuses"), and various discussions on the positive effects of Latvia's first two years within the EU, the possibilities offered and the upcoming challenges. A visual event was also

organised. This public event took place in the old town of Riga and attracted many people as there were drawing contests, live music of new groups, presentation of the EU countries presented by volunteers from different countries living in Latvia.

One of the central events of the celebration of Europe Day was a double round table discussion with a wide range of personalities participating. The opening speeches were given by the Prime Minister, Mr. Aigars Kalvītis, Mr. Artis Pabriks, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Andris Gobins, President of the European Movement in Latvia. The following debate and open discussion had many prominent people in attendance, representing a variety of areas of interests.

All of the events received extensive media coverage, such as radio programmes, press releases and press articles amongst others, and on a national level.

Contact: Liga Logina

E-mail: info@eiropaskustiba.lv

Web: <http://www.eiropaskustiba.lv>



Three main events were held in different areas throughout the country: an essay contest, a debate/discussion and a competition for youngsters on the creation of comical posters.

Funny posters: “Lithuania – in EU”

The topic for the debate was EU enlargement and the EU Constitution, and was part of the overall theme for Europe Day: “Me – Lithuania – Europe”. The main objective of these events was to get the ‘normal citizens’ involved in EU issues. In order to accomplish this, prominent personalities were invited to share their knowledge and to point out the main advantages and difficulties for the EU in the future. The speakers were



the Members of the European Parliament, L. Andrikiene, and E. Vareikis.

European Movement Lithuania also wished to get the children participating and thus, various competitions were organised. One of the side effects was that the parents were also involved and learnt more about the EU, as they had to relate to different questions posed by their children. The competitions were structured as an essay contest (“Me – Lithuania – Europe”) and a drawing contest (funny posters with the theme “Lithuania – in EU”).

The final event of the project was the celebration of Europe Day in Panevezys. The event consisted of two main initiatives: the European fair and evening concert held in the Freedom square in Panevezys.



The Europe fair included events such as the presentation of EU countries, art activities and dissemination of information about the EU amongst others.

Special thanks to: The Forum of European Union Future in Lithuania, the Lithuanian Parliament, The European Information Centre of the Lithuanian Parliament, the Institute of Policy and International Intercourses of Vilnius University, the Alma Adamkiene Foundation, the Panevezys municipality, the radio station “Extra FM” and EMI.

Contact: Edmondas Babenskas
E-mail: edmond@lithill.lt



On the occasion of the 9th of May the European Movement FYROM organized different activities under the title “Europe my Home”. The events took place in many cities throughout the country in order to promote European values and ideals.

European events and panel discussions

The celebration of Europe Day began on the 3rd of May with a public event and a panel discussion in the city of Veles. In the following days further discussions were held in Kocani, Stip, Bitola and Ohrid. The overall theme of the discussions concerned the European integration processes. Among the speakers were H.E. Erwan Fouere, Chief of the Delegation of the European Commission, Mr. Ulrich

Kleppmann, Official Representative of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and Mrs. Sandra Prilepcanska from the Council of Europe and the President for the European Movement FYROM.

Another successful event was the so-called “European Happening”, which included activities such as a music festival with famous national singers, a regatta with canoes and gliders and different information stands. 50 000 visitors took part in the events.

Other activities were arranged especially for the youth and included a European movies day, a football match and a huge European party. Moreover, a student seminar with students from all five universities in the country was arranged as well as an international conference

that focused on the absorption capacity of the EU and the enlargement.

Special thanks: The Delegation of the European commission in Skopje, the Foundation Konrad Adenauer, the Secretary for European Integration within the Government of FYROM and the EMI.

Contact: Ilija Psaltirov

E-mail: sec-gen@europeanmovement.org.mk

Web: <http://www.europeanmovement.org.mk>



The European Movement in Malta organised activities under the title “Festival of Europe – 9th of May 2006”. Three events were held at the Osbourne Hotel in partnership with various organizations, such as JEF-Malta, AEGEE, the Malta and the Union of Teachers.

Malta and its European heritage

As in previous years a Europe Day Reception under the patronage of the President of the Republic Malta, Dr. Fenech Adami and the acting Prime Minister, Dr. Tonio Borg was organized. Other prominent guests were also invited to take part in the celebration. These included Members of the Parliament from both sides of the house, Members of the

European Parliament and members of the diplomatic corps amongst others. Speeches were given and the public were offered an opportunity to interact, which they did in what was viewed as a successful event.

One of the key objectives of this event was the participation of the public in order to incite debate amongst the participants and to discuss the role Malta has to play in Europe, two years after its accession to the EU.

The European Movement Malta also located a piece of work by Abbe de Saint-Pierre, written in 1716. They translated the document in order to make it available to the Maltese public in the hope to increase awareness of the cultural and philosophical heritage which the idea of

Europe enjoys. This document is a vital bridge to Europe for Maltese people as it highlights the roots of European awareness in Malta.

Contact: Steve Attard

E-mail: steven.attard@gmail.com

Web: <http://www.euro-movement.org.mt>



The European Movement Poland in partnership with the City Hall of Siennica organized a series of activities dedicated to Europe Day 2006.

European breakfast and involvement of the youngsters

All of the activities took place in the city of Siennica, 65 km from Warsaw, as this city celebrated 480 years of city enfranchisement. The fusion of these two big events created a good atmosphere and attracted many people also from the nearby cities.

A European breakfast for teachers from the local schools and representatives from the authorities started a day of different

festivities. The idea was to present and taste typical food from different countries within the EU. Speeches were provided by representatives from the Ministry of national education and the European Movement Poland.

In order to involve young people, pupils from the local and regional schools were invited to take part in a wide range of sports activities, such as basketball, volleyball and soccer. Different awards, such as European t-shirts were given to the participants. A quiz testing young people's knowledge of the history of the EU and the different Member States was also arranged. The aim of the quiz was to raise awareness and provide information on the EU.

Small groups of students had to present different countries in the EU, their history and inform people of their customs and culture. This event was very successful as the students were capable of presenting the countries in an informative manner and at the same time make it funny for the audience. The events received widespread media coverage as many journalists visited the city during the day.

Contact: Maciej Paciorek

E-mail: maciej.paciorek@analizeuropejske.pl



The European Movement in Romania organized a series of activities dedicated to the Europe Day including school competitions, exhibitions, debates, an ethnic festival, a cross-country race for youth and many other public events.

Multi-ethnic Festival and European Integration Cross

A multiethnic festival was arranged in the Constanta region, which is known for the numerous ethnic groups living there. The event was organized in partnership with the local mayoralty and the European Association of Teachers. In his opening speech, Mr. Corneliu Zeana, President of the European Movement Romania, mentioned the significance of Europe

Day, the importance of the European integration for Romania and stressed the role of the young people for the future of Europe and the EU.

The features included traditional dance and music performances, a culinary exhibition that took the form of a cooking competition where the participants were dressed in their national & traditional costumes. In the period from 6-12th of May, schools in three different cities celebrated Europe Day in the framework of a pilot project entitled "The week of European culture". The pupils and their teachers prepared information stands which displayed material about the European Union and Europe Day.

The European Integration Cross-country race held on the 9th of May with the

former Olympic winner in athletics, Ms Maricica Puica gathered hundreds of people. More than 300 participated in the race, the youngest competitor was 5 years old and the eldest was 81 years.

On the 11th of May in Dales Hall, Bucharest, a conference took place concerning the significance of Romania's accession into the European family with the former Minister of Culture, Mr. Ion Caramitru speaking.

Contact: Corneliu Zeana

E-mail: corneliu_zeana@yahoo.com

Web: <http://www.miscareaeuropeana.ro>



The European Movement Serbia organised four main activities, targeting different social groups celebrating Europe Day. The project, “HELLO Europe” attempted to increase the citizens’ support towards the EU and to provide better information on EU related issues.

HELLO Europe

The celebration, in the framework of the 9th of May included a series of activities, such as a TV quiz, a literary contest, different debates and tribune, which were held in Belgrade as well as in 30 cities all over Serbia.

Public debates took place in 10 cities throughout Serbia on the 8th & 9th May. The subjects under discussion were very relevant and covered a wide range of

European issues. Among the speakers were Members of the Parliament representing the Committees for European Integration, representatives of the local communities, NGO’s, students and public figures.

A literary and art contest was also arranged in the framework of Europe Day and the event was undertaken in 1300 elementary and high schools. The theme dealt with was “Europe at school”. At the end of the contest the best art assignment was exhibited in the art gallery OZON in Belgrade. The TV quiz was a helpful tool in the dissemination of awareness of European issues relevant for the Serbian citizens’.

Special thanks to: The Republic Office for EU integrations, Ministry for Education

and Sport of Republic of Serbia, Belgrade City Assembly, Foundation Konrad Adenauer, Delegation of European Commission in SiCG, European Forum Alpbach Belgrade, OZON Gallery, and all EU member states Embassies in SiCG.

Contact: Nebojsa Milenkovic

E-mail: nebojsa.milenkovic@emins.org

Web: <http://www.emins.org>



In the framework of Europe Day 2006 the European Movement Spain and its partners and sponsors organised three different activities that addressed a variety of people. Due to the extensive media coverage that these events managed to obtain, the celebration of the 9th of May was very successful.

Tribute to the Spanish Representatives of the Munich Conference

As in previous years, the solemn and traditional hoisting of the European Flag was one of the main events and took place throughout Spain. The Mayor of Madrid, the European Affairs Secretary of State and the President of the European Movement chaired the ceremony.



The Spanish Navy Orchestra played the Spanish as well as the European Anthem.

The second event that took place on the 9th of May was a tribute to the Spanish Representatives of the Munich Conference and their families. At the European Movement Council in Munich in June 1962, 118 Spanish delegates, democrats from inside Spain and from the exile, provoked by Franco's dictatorship, stated the claim for democracy in Spain, as well as the basic requirement of democracy as a precondition for becoming a candidate country of the European Communities. The European Movement Spain wanted to recognise their suffering and that of their families, celebrating a reception at the European Parliament Office and giving them a Commemorative Diploma.



In order to reach a younger generation, a European party was arranged on the 11th of May. 1000 children dressed in European flag t-shirts celebrated the day, and had a lot of fun with the many different activities such as the opening of a "European Space" in the school and various conferences.

Special thanks to: Ayuntamiento de Madrid, Comunidad de Madrid, European Parliament Office, Ayuntamiento de Fuenlabrada, Spanish Navy Orchestra, Francisco Javier Ayala.

Contact: Nicolas Enriquez

E-mail: nico@movimientoeuropeo.org

Web: <http://www.movimientoeuropeo.org>



On the occasion of Europe Day 2006 two activities were organised: one that was directed at the members of EM Switzerland and another event was aimed at the younger generation.

Ceremony and social events

One of the highlights of the celebration was the “Europe Day 2006” Ceremony, which took place after the annual general assembly of the EM Switzerland. Many journalists attended this event as the new president was being elected. Christa Markwalder Bär (MP) will now take the seat and replace Yves Christen as president.

The ceremony started with a speech given by the Ambassador of Austria

to Switzerland, Mr. H.E. Aurel Saupe. The speech dealt with the Austria’s integration into the EU and the challenges of the Austrian Presidency. Afterwards, Yves Christen pointed out the historical importance of the European integration for the development and stability of Switzerland in the past 50 years. The last event of the night concerned the presentation of the winner of the “European of the Year 2006” award.

The other main activity organised in the framework of the 9th of May was less formal than the ceremony. The event that was arranged by the youth organisation ‘YES – Young European Swiss’ had two purposes: first of all to have a social event for its members and secondly, to attract new members. This social event acted as a means to attract young people to

European oriented activities, which is not always easy.

Both of the events reached many people from different age groups and 2.5 million were indirectly reached using the media and the internet.

Contact: Ron Abegglen

E-mail: abegglen@europa.ch

Web: <http://www.europa.ch>



Europe Day EU Seminars

To celebrate Europe Day this year, a two day seminar was organised in two cities in Turkey. Both were entitled “Europe Day EU Seminars” and were held in the cities of Usak and Kutahya. Dr. Haluk Gunugur, president of the Turkish European Movement gave an introductory speech at these seminars and spoke about the importance of 9th of May and the Schuman declaration as well as Turkey-EU related issues.

Different lecturers also spoke about important topics that related to the place the seminar was being held, such as agriculture and commerce. All the participants received notes on the power point presentations and the notes of the lecturers.

The European Movement in Turkey printed a publication in relation to the 9th of May celebrations entitled “Turkey-EU: Negotiations Process”. The people who attended also received one of the brochures and read it with great interest.

A pre/post voting system was put in place at both seminars. Additionally, participants were asked to give their opinion on the European Union before the seminar and later to report on how much their attitude had changed. These polls noted that 45% of people had a negative attitude in the pre voting due to a lack of knowledge about EU related issues. However, after the seminar, 70% of these attitudes had changed.

This change of attitude proves the success of the event.

Contact: Burcak Cullu

E-mail: burcak.cullu@tubitak.gov.tr

Current European-Movement activities

NORTH-SOUTH MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUE
الحوار بين شمال وجنوب المتوسط
DIALOGUE NORD - SUD SUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE

The “North-South Mediterranean Dialogue” has as its objective, to define a vision for the future of our part of this world and to foster cooperation between civil society on both sides of the Mediterranean.



A large information and debating campaign whose main objectives is the stimulation and facilitation of debates concerning the current work of the EU and its future challenges.



To Promote the full integration in European Citizenship of equal and active participation of men and women in all spheres of life.



High-quality courses for professionals, civil servants, businessmen, post-graduates, etc. Transmitting EMI experience and knowledge in European public affairs.



Is this not a reasonable question? Europe's contribution to our daily lives is not always obvious, but decisions taken on a European level have fundamentally improved the lives of Europeans for the better.

www.european-movement.org

The **European Movement** is an international pan-European organisation, represented in 41 European Countries, 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.



European Movement
Mouvement Européen

European Movement
International secretariat
Square de Meeûs, 25
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium