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# **FOUR COUNTRIES ONE EUROPE**

## **TWIN TOWNS CONFERENCE**



With the support of the "Europe for citizens 2007-2013"  
Programme of the European Union

**Rabka-Zdrój 2009**

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**FOUR COUNTRIES ONE EUROPE**

We are pleased to inform You that the following four European cities signed a partnership agreement in July 2009 in Rabka-Zdrój: Château-Gontier, department Mayenne, Pays de la Loire (France), Frome, Sommerset county (Great Britain), Murrhardt, Rems-Murr district, Baden-Württemberg (Germany) and Rabka-Zdrój, małopolskie voivodship, nowotarski district.

The history of these towns' twinning dates back to 1966, when Château-Gontier and Murrhardt signed a cooperation agreement. Later, in 1975 Frome and Château-Gontier became partners. The cooperation triangle was closed in 1983, when Frome signed an agreement with Murrhardt. In 2009, Rabka-Zdrój joined the partnership.

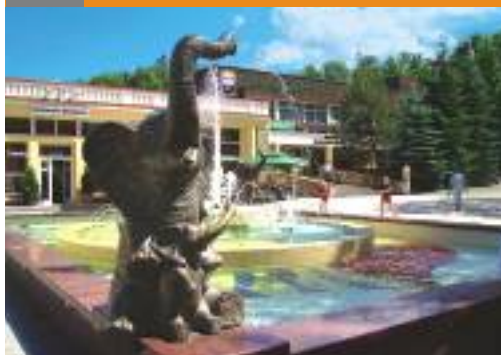
**19<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

We have decided for the fact of signing of the partnership contract to become a prestigious public event so that this happening could be witnessed by many.



# RABKA-ZDRÓJ

[www.rabka.pl](http://www.rabka.pl)



Contemporary Rabka-Zdrój is a modern health resort designed for the recovery of both children and adults. Moreover, it is a popular resort, which attracts holidaymakers and tourists from all over Poland, both in the summer and in the winter. The advantages of Rabka-Zdrój include its climate, mineral water resources as well as landscape and tourist values, which create excellent opportunities for active leisure. Town's mineral springs are constituted by the chloride, sodium, iodide and bromine salines. Applied in bath, mineral water and inhalation related treatments, it can cure rhinitis, anaemia, allergic diseases, bronchial asthma, exudate diathesis, rickets, metabolism related diseases, as well as circulatory system diseases and arteriosclerosis.

Next to the health care – the main function of Rabka-Zdrój – is constituted by the development of the tourist function, which takes advantage of the attractive location of the city. In the summer, the town constitutes a mountaineering base. It also hosts the Pump Room and the Saline Pillar complex. From June 2009 the Health Resort Park hosts the Mineral Water Complex along with the Saline Centre. The rotunda shaped objects within its premises offer a vast medical hall where various types of mineral waters are available for patients. The second part homes a saline centre (the only in the region of the Lesser Poland) also of the cylindrical shape. Right in the middle of the aforementioned room there is a column which housed within a wooden grill, is decorated with blackthorn branches. From the underneath located reservoir the saline is transported to the top of the column. It is there that via the specially prepared installation the saline flows down through blackthorn branches thus creating saline aerosol around the column.

Within the area of the park, there is located the statue of Pope John Paul II – the tourist, by which the Pope's Path in Beskid Wyspowy begins. The path goes through the Karol Wojtyła's favorite places, the ones that he wandered to. In summer, the town constitutes Gorce and Beskid Wyspowy mountaineering base. It is precisely in

our town, where many tourist paths begin. The health resort provides a rich tourist and cultural offer; catering facility and broad accommodation base. Apart from the sanatoriums, it disposes of the numerous rest houses, pensions and guest rooms. Tourist paths, bike paths and walk paths, horse riding center, sport stadium, skate park, children's playground, a slope for skies and roller skates riding – they all encourage to spend holiday time right in Rabka-Zdrój.

## Day One

17<sup>th</sup> July 2009



The official session during the first day of the conference was an excellent occasion to present the partner cities, prior the acceptance of Rabka-Zdrój into the partnership. The session has been divided into two parts, the first one entitled „**Let's get to know each other!**” whereas the second part „**What have we achieved together?**”.

During the first part the Mayor of the city Rabka-Zdrój M.A. engineer Ewa Przybyło greeted all of the invited guests the fact which has been followed by multimedia presentations presented by the Mayors of Château-Gontier, Frome and Murrhardt. The aforementioned multimedia presentations consisted of slide shows and short films, which by promoting the cities at the same time constituted the valuable source of main information on the profile employment, developed economy sectors as well as education, cultural institutions as well as tourist attractions of the presented cities.

The second part of the session entitled „What have we achieved together?” made it possible for the three partner cities to convey presentation, the aim of which was to summarise the results as well as the achievements from all of the years of the partnership.

The city of Château-Gontier made the first presentation, which was presented by the president of the Twinning Committee. The main aim of this presentation was to allow all of the conference participants travel back in time to the 1960s when the official Twinning Card was signed by the cities of Chateau-Gontier and Murrhardt, the presentation also aimed to present the general assumptions of the idea of partnership. The presentation was followed by the short presentations of the representatives of the Frome Twinning Association which also included the suggestions of the representative of Murrhardt Twinning Office, in the aspect of the future partnership with the city of Rabka-Zdrój. To sum up – the first day of the conference allowed all local guests to get to now the environments of the three cities and presented the chances which stem from the multi-year co-operation.



# MURRHARDT

[www.murrhardt.de](http://www.murrhardt.de)

**Murrhardt** lies in Baden-Württemberg, in the geographic land of Schwäbisch-Fränkischer Wald Forest. The town occupies the area of former Roman camp, Limes part, which was a defensive line boarder of the Roman Empire. Limes was acknowledged by UNESCO as a world heritage monument. It is a very attractive small town in the valley of Murr river.

In the early years of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, abbot Walterich established a Benedictine monastery within the aforementioned location, around which the town gradually developed. Even today, the old Walterichkirche church, which provides a magnificent view on the city, can be still found there. The church hosts various treasures inside which date back to the 8<sup>th</sup> century. Moreover, the adjacent



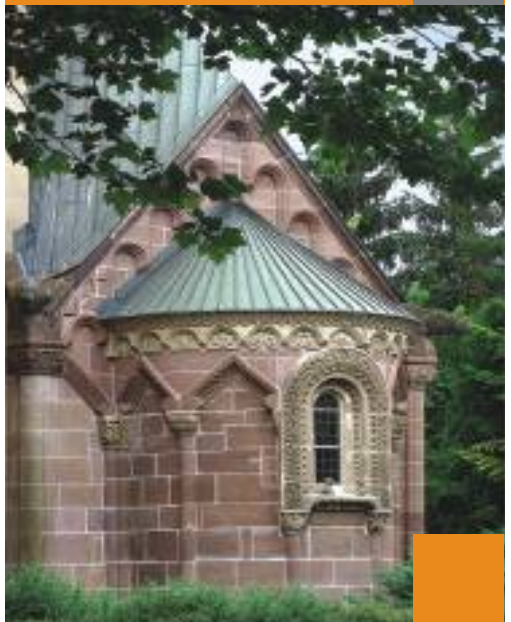
hill homes a worth sightseeing cemetery.

Murrhardt is surrounded by forest which creates a natural barrier, the fact that helps to preserve the form of its old town. It is situated in the valley of the river Murr. Both, hilly river banks are overgrown with low woods and topped with beautiful houses. The town is characterized by a typical for Schwarzwald style architecture – partly wooden houses with steep, sloping roofs. Moreover, one can find the town hall (Rathaus) in its majesty-like manner situated at the market place.

Although small (about 14 000 citizens), the town is full of shops, banks, restaurants, inns (Gasthaus) and cafés run by small, independent merchants. Most of these places can be found near the town passage, which makes shopping “easy and pleasant”. Many buildings possess interesting gilded signboards (forged with iron), hanging on the facades. All year round, Murrhardt sees the organization of numerous concerts, exhibitions and cultural parties. It is possible due to the abundance of proper facilities – Festhalle, Stadthalle and a conference room located within town library. The town also possess a big park with a concert bowl, where outdoor concerts take place.



Murrhardt makes it possible to actively spend leisure time and practice sports (forest health path, bike paths, swimming pool, tourist paths and gyms).



# FROME

[www.frome-tc.gov.uk](http://www.frome-tc.gov.uk)  
[www.frome.towntalk.co.uk](http://www.frome.towntalk.co.uk)

**Frome**, with 25 000 citizens, is the fourth biggest Somerset county town. It is a picturesque place built on steep hills, with cobbled streets and buildings of well-preserved, interesting architecture referring to the Middle Ages. The beginnings of the permanent colonization date back to 685, when Saint Aldhelm, abbot from Malmesbury, established a mission on the coast of Frome river. The church built in that place was consecrated to saint John the Baptist. With the passage of time, the number of population increased, and Frome became an important location, the fact which was mirrored by the inscription within the Domesday Book (1086), with the reference to the market, which took place there.



Weaving industry, the beginnings of which date back to the 14th century, became important by the end of the 17th century, when Frome was already a well prospering town. It was regarded as a big and significant center until the Bath city began to focus the attention. Rivalry with the Northern textile cities in the 19th century and unwillingness towards the modernization contributed to the failure of the weaving industry. However, the last traits of textile industry survived until 1960s. Other industry branches – especially printing – developed, nevertheless with insignificant further increase. Although since the 1960s the population of Frome doubled in comparison with the number that the town has sustained for the previous 100 years, fortunately, new buildings did not disturb the old ones in the center and the town preserved its charm. Today, in Frome, there are many galleries and craft houses and the town is known as the centre of art. Many professional craftsmen, possessing their workshops, offer a wide range of goods and services from jewelry and clothes design to musical instruments' production and artistic blacksmith.

Frome is surrounded by a marvelous country landscape. Mendip hillocks gently rise in the direction of Cheddar hills (this is the place of Cheddar cheese origins). One can walk them around beginning and ending the wandering in Frome. A nearby possession Longleat encourages to take a walk through the forest and along the lake.





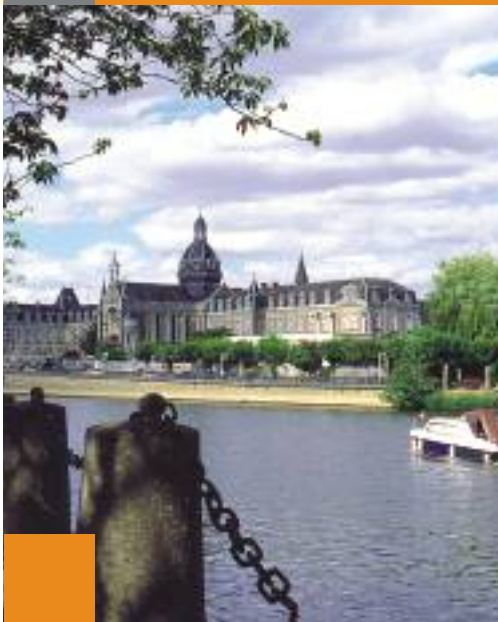
# CHATEAU-GONTIER

[www.ville-chateau-gontier.fr](http://www.ville-chateau-gontier.fr)

[www.jumelage-chateau-gontier.fr](http://www.jumelage-chateau-gontier.fr)

The town's origins are connected to the fact of erection of the defensive fortifications within the area and creating a place of a religious cult, so typical for the medieval times.

Strategic location in the place where historical lands – Anjou and Maine – converge with the Brittany's border, contributed to the city's localization. The only inhabited place on the right bank of the Mayenne river in those times, was Domaine de Bazouges (name comes from the term „basilica”), the place of religious cult, probably set up by the end of IV century by Saint Martin, the bishop of Tours. By the end of IX century, the place was destroyed by the Norman Conquest and about the 10<sup>th</sup> century a local count gave it to the Benedictine abbey Saint-Aubin. Later, with the Benedictines' permission, the count built a small fort and a fortified tower within the aforementioned location. An officer named Gontier was appointed for the administrator of that place. A bustling town gradually developed. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century, it was surrounded by city walls 2400 m long and accessible via four fortified gates. Soon, the Saint-Aubin's monks established a monastery next to the fortress. Spinning, canvass weaving, tanning and intensive transport between Laval and Agers cities contributed to the economic development of the town.



Today, having existed for almost 1000 years, Château-Gontier town, with about 11 000 citizens, is divided into two parts by the Mayenne river, the right bank of which borders the Northern side of the city (Haute Ville), and the left one – the outskirts (Faubourg). These two parts are connected by the Saint-Julien bridge and the so-called European Bridge. In 1990, the Château-Gontier-Bazouges municipality was established. Its name refers to the aforementioned Domaine de Bazouges.

## Day Two

During the official session of Day One foreign guests have been presented, whereas Day Two was devoted to the presentation of local institutions. Two meetings under the common title „**What do we want to achieve the next year?**” have been held; the first one was open to all conference participants whereas the second one took place within the closed group of twin city representatives.

The first meeting was the series of short presentations and speeches of representatives of various institutions from the city of Rabka-Zdrój, such as schools, associations and cultural and educational institutions, which are interested in undertaking of co-operation with similar institutions from the cities of Château-Gontier, Frome as well as Murrhardt. Each of the institutions presented its main aims as well as undertaken suggestions connected to the future co-operation with the potential partners from the Twin Cities. The second meeting was held in the closed group of 4 representatives of all of the cities, the aim of which was to plan and discuss twinning issues for the upcoming year. The main results of the aforementioned meeting was the undertaking of decisions connected to the: rules, management as well as creation of the common internet website for all of the Twin Cities ([www.fourforeurope.eu](http://www.fourforeurope.eu)); discussion of rules and the tasks of sending and accepting of the so-called „**youth ambassadors**” – young people from each of the Twin Cities sent to the other one in order to present his city and to fulfil certain assigned tasks (ex. obtaining of new contacts within the specified institutions);



18<sup>th</sup> July 2009



the determination of the principles of four-side meetings of the official delegations from Château-Gontier, Frome, Murrhardt and Rabki-Zdroju in June 2010 in the city of Château-Gontier.

In parallel to the closed meeting, there lecture entitled „**What will we gain thanks to Lisbon?**” was being conveyed, which was open to all conference participants. This was a lecture on the topic of Lisbon Treaty in the context of its practical meaning to the citizens of all of the four twin cities. It included not only the explanations connected to the general principles of the European Union operation, but also suggestions connected to projects have also been presented, the projects which the four twin cities should mutually undertake and realise.

**Schools from the villages of Rabka-Zdrój, Chabówka, Rdzawka and Ponice presented the potential co-operation areas:**

### **I Fun and Education with Tradition**

1. Learning Traditional Dances
2. Local dish preparation
3. Learning about each others' local crafts
4. Local dress exhibition

### **II Fun and Education with Art**

1. School Theatre Performance
2. School Music Group Festivals
3. Twin City Picture Galleries

### **III Co-operation in the Field of Sport and Leisure**

1. Twin City Guide
2. Twin City Sports Competitions
3. Track and Field Competition for the Disabled

#### **Expexted results:**

1. Publishing of the Twin City Guide
2. Organizing of Track and Field Meetings for the Disabled
3. Twin City Sports Competitions
4. Twin City Partnership Days
5. Music Group School Festivals
6. School Theatre Festivals
7. Twin City Picture Exhibitions
8. Regional Craft Picture Albums
9. Regional Dish Cookery Book
10. Publication of the compilation of legends of the four Twin Cities
11. Creation of short films about regional dishes.



The official session during the third day of the conference was fully devoted to the one of the main principles of the European Citizen Program „**The role of sport as the participation within the society and the expression of role of the active citizen**”. The first part of the session entitled „**Breaking the barriers**” was constituted by the multimedia presentation connected to the taking part of the disable children within sports competitions, which are annually organised in Rabka-Zdrój.

This presentation gave all conference participants the chance to get to know the character of this event and constituted an open invitation for the undertaking of co-operation within the scope of mutual future organisation of this event with the idea of promotion of sport amongst the disabled as well as the integration of disabled children from the four twin cities.

The second part entitled “**Every one has got their own Kilimanjaro!**”, was the chance to met the double gold 2006 Turin Para Olympics medallist in the person of Katarzyna Rogowiec. The presentation was based upon the idea of its own experiences: the obtainment of success despite disability, motivation within the process of battling own weakness as well as about her trip to Kilimanjaro and about other life challenges.

### Plans for the future which stem from the conference include:

- 1 Joint website [www](http://www.fourforeurope.eu).** Creation of the website which shall be used by all twin cities ([www.fourforeurope.eu](http://www.fourforeurope.eu)) as well as using it as a tool for the exchange of ideas and information in the process of planning of the future undertakings.
- 2 „Youth ambassadors”.** The idea of this task is to send young people from all of the twin cities to the remaining cities in order to represent them and to realise tasks set by their home cities. The general tasks and principles with regard to the sending of „the youth ambassadors” have been already discussed. It has been agreed that the Ambassadors will meet during annual conferences.
- 3 Twin City Meetings.** On the 25th to 27th June 2010 in Château-Gontier, a four side conference will be held between the representatives of Château-Gontier, Frome, Murrhardt and Rabka-Zdrój.
- 4 Putting schools in touch with each other.** Schools from Rabka-Zdrój, middle schools as well as high schools will contact their counterparts from Château-Gontier, Frome, Murrhardt, which are interested in the realisation of mutual projects.
- 5 Disabled children.** Institutions for the disabled children from the cities of Château-Gontier, Frome and Murrhardt interested in the initiation of co-operation with institutions of similar character from Rabka-Zdrój shall contact each other in order to co-ordinate the trip of children from Rabka-Zdrój to the „Spartakiada”, which will take place in May 2010.

**6 Probation.** Public schools from the city of Rabka-Zdrój as well as the private The European Language Centre „Summit“ from Rabka-Zdrój are ready to accept students from Château-Gontier, Frome and Murrhardt onto foreign language teaching probation programs which encompass languages English, French and German.

**7 Polish Language Courses.** The European Language Centre „Summit“ from Rabka-Zdrój is ready to organise Polish Language courses in attractive form. The course shall not only encompass teaching of the basic elements of the Polish language but shall also present to course participants all of the issues connected to the Polish culture, traditions, geography, etc.

**8 Starting of co-operation between artists** from Château-Gontier, Frome as well as Murrhardt who are interested in exchange of experiences.

#### **Institutions interested in the cooperation with twinning towns, which presented their activity during the Conference:**

- 1. Secondary School No. 1**, Jana Pawła II 40 Street, 34-700 Rabka-Zdrój, tel. +48 18 26 76 721, [www.gimnazjum.rabka.pl](http://www.gimnazjum.rabka.pl), e-mail: [gimnazjum.rabka@wp.pl](mailto:gimnazjum.rabka@wp.pl)
- 2. Saint Family High School and Secondary School**, Jana Pawła II 48 Street, 34-700 Rabka-Zdrój, tel. +48 18 26 77 467, [www.szkola-katolicka.region-rabka.pl](http://www.szkola-katolicka.region-rabka.pl), e-mail: [szkolakatolicka@interia.pl](mailto:szkolakatolicka@interia.pl)
- 3. E. Romer I High School**, Jana Pawła II 41 Street, 34-700 Rabka-Zdrój, tel. +48 18 26 77 030, [www.romer.region-rabka.pl](http://www.romer.region-rabka.pl), e-mail: [lo1rabka@romer.region-rabka.pl](mailto:lo1rabka@romer.region-rabka.pl)
- 4. Priest J. Tischner School Complex**, Kościuszki 9 Street, 34-700 Rabka-Zdrój, tel. +48 18 26 77 029, [www.lo2rabka.edu.pl](http://www.lo2rabka.edu.pl), e-mail: [lo2r@wp.pl](mailto:lo2r@wp.pl)
- 5. Władysław Orkan Primary School No. 2**, Sąddecka 2 Street, 34-700 Rabka-Zdrój, tel. +48 18 26 76 677, [www.sp2rabka.republika.pl](http://www.sp2rabka.republika.pl), e-mail: [sp2rabka@poczta.onet.pl](mailto:sp2rabka@poczta.onet.pl)
- 6. Kindergarten in Chabówka**, 34-720 Chabówka 274a, tel. +48 18 26 76 838, e-mail: [przedszkolechabowka@o2.pl](mailto:przedszkolechabowka@o2.pl)
- 7. Higher School of Health Education**, Kamińskiego 21 Street, 90-229 Łódź, Suburban Didactic Center in Rabka-Zdrój, tel. +48 42 678 78 25, [www.wsez.pl](http://www.wsez.pl), e-mail: [info@wsez.pl](mailto:info@wsez.pl)
- 8. European Language Center Summit**, Sąddecka 16 Street, 34-700 Rabka-Zdrój, tel. +48 18 26 80 523, [www.summit.edu.pl](http://www.summit.edu.pl), e-mail: [summit@summit.edu.pl](mailto:summit@summit.edu.pl)
- 9. Rabczański University of Third Generation**, Parkowa 2 Street, 34-700 Rabka-Zdrój, tel. +48 18 26 80 485, [www.u3w.region-rabka.pl](http://www.u3w.region-rabka.pl), e-mail: [biuro@u3w.region-rabka.pl](mailto:biuro@u3w.region-rabka.pl)
- 10. Locomotive Association**, Accommodation Address: 32-434 Skomielna Biała 21, mobile tel. +48 606 143 948, [www.lokomotywa.free.art.pl](http://www.lokomotywa.free.art.pl), e-mail: [lokomotywa.rabka@gmail.com](mailto:lokomotywa.rabka@gmail.com)
- 11. Special School Complex by GORD**, Dietla 5 Street, 34-700 Rabka-Zdrój, tel. +48 18 26 80 347, [www.zssgord2006.republika.pl](http://www.zssgord2006.republika.pl), e-mail: [zssgord@poczta.onet.pl](mailto:zssgord@poczta.onet.pl)

More information can be found at [www.rabka.pl](http://www.rabka.pl)



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