



Contribution from Kilingi Nõmme



Development of new initiatives of Charter of the Villages.

As we all are from the small places I hope that You agree with me when I say that small is beautiful. But I think that short is beautiful too, therefore my speech today is rather short and concrete. Still, before our new ideas I want to thank Wijk aan Zee for their organizing work, Mellionec for hospitality and financial help of past year and ofcourse Bystré - Cultural Village of Europe 2001.

Now about our ideas for future. During the Caravan we shall visit many villages and I am sure that many of them wish to join with our project. It is very inviting to increase the number and grow but we think that it is reasonable not to do it. Otherwise we are not able to administer it. Ofcourse, our voice is much more audible when we have hundreds of members but for that we need another project. But we think that to increase the number by one or two is possible, may be we meet some villages who are very eager to join, for example in Northern Europe.

As we live very far from each another we cannot to meet very often, therefore we need to find activity at home. We could to organize the referendum in our villages using the same questions for all villages concerning the local and global problems. Later we can to analyze and compare them and find how and what think the village people from the different countries. Here we need the help of specialists too, I think. It is important to keep the same rules for all villages. We hope that media is interested of it too.

It is very important to have more personal contacts between the people of our villages. During the annual visits they have no time for closer contacts. May be to try to organize the special service for the people who wish to travel. For example, I wish to live and work one week in the wine-cellar in Palkonya for food and bed, then one week in Paxos picking the olives. I know that it is very popular among young people, the problem is to find the place. We could to have in each village the person to whom the people could send their wishes and offers, Internet is very suitable for it.

Very good idea of Mellionec was the organizing of youth camps, we are glad that Bystre wants to continue it. We hope that next villages continue it too.

One of our ideas is to produce the CD of our villages. We think it so that each village finds one local song or singer and we write on one CD eleven songs and may be some sentences in different languages, we hope that it is nice souvenir and not expensive.

Now some words about very actual problem everywhere and in Eastern Europe specially - money problem. We cannot to count on the budget of village only. Tere are many foundations who prefer to support not municipalites but the non-governmental or non-profit organisations. We in Kilingi-Nõmme established the non-profit organisation and wrote some projects too and even received some money from Baltic-American Partnership Program. We heard about new Phare Access project but we need at least three non-profit partners from Europe. We do not know the situation in Your villages, but we think that it is very useful to have in each village such organisation.

These were some of our ideas for further discussion.

Thank You.

Kilingi-Nõmme Kalle Kiipus

