

Project proposal from the Southeast European Bulgarian Cultural and Research Institute in Ellwangen, Alliance for Environment, ASDE-Ecoregions, the Municipality of Ellwangen and the City Archive of Ellwangen and others

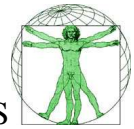


Culture and Research Net (CRN) – a Pan European network cluster for transfer and exchange of best practice in the Danube Macro-Region and Europe

Project line: Danube Strategy
Priority: Culture and tourism
Budget: will be determined according to the proposed tasks, number of participants and the duration of the project
Duration of the project: 3 stage, total 72 months (we could agree on a longer duration, depending on the partners after examining the draft project idea)
Possible partners and supporting organizations: universities, culture and other research institutes and centers, state archives, monasteries etc. from all 14 countries in the Danube area, directly involved in the implementation of the Danube strategy. For example this could be:
 The University of Tubingen, the Landesarchiv from Baden Wuerttemberg, the Diözesanarchiv Passau and other partners from Bavaria;
 The Institut für Osteuropäische Geschichte at the University of Vienna, Austria;
 Partners from the middle Danube region, and the Danube delta, for example: the Bulgarian State Agency of the Archives, the Sofia University and the Bulgarian NGO's Alliance for Environment, ASDE Ecoregions, the Foundation TangraTanNaKRa and relevant Romanian, Moldovan and Ukraine organizations and institutions.

Introduction

On the 5th session of the Permanent Commission Baden Wuerttemberg - Bulgaria was discussed possible co-operation between both countries on topics such as the Danube Strategy, the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security Programme of the EC (GMES), INTERREG IVC Programme as well as **the establishment of a Southeast European Bulgarian Cultural and Research Institute in the city of Ellwangen, Germany.**
 On the 27th and 28th of May 2011 for the 41st time were celebrated the “St. Methodius Days” in Ellwangen which were followed by various side activities including a round table and official opening of the Cultural and research institute and an documentary exhibition of the “Cyril and Methodius research centre” at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences - “The Cyril and Methodius idea in the orthodox world”.
 For the prolongation of this initiative the Danube Strategy offers a unique opportunity for enlargement and development of a cultural research cluster, based on the traditional European assets.
 In support of the cultural and research management process in the Danube area, it is important to draw attention to the fact that sources as well as impacts of cultural activities in Europe are linked to areas where the basics of Christian cultural doctrine meets with local cultural traditions and believes and not to administrative or political borders.
MAIN OBJECTIVES and TASKS : tbc.
BENEFICIARIES, RESULTS : tbc.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The traditional Bulgarian-German relationships are very good and productive in the context of United Europe as well. One of the results from this co-operation was the initiative for the creation of a Southeast European Bulgarian Cultural and Research Institute in the city of Ellwangen, Germany. The idea was initiated from the Bulgarian side and fully supported by the Joint Bulgaria-Baden Wuerttemberg Permanent Inter Ministerial Commission. This initiative was realized with the joint efforts of different institutions and organizations such as, from the Bulgarian side: the Political cabinets of the Deputy Prime Minister of Bulgaria and the Minister of Finances – Mr. Simeon Djankov, the Bulgarian State Agency “Archives”, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ochridsky”, the “Cyril and Methodius Research Centre” to the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the National History Museum, Agency for Sustainable Development and Eurointegration – Ecoregions (ASDE), Alliance for Environment, The Bulgarian Memory Foundation and Foundation Tangra TanNakRa and their German colleagues from the State Ministry of Science, research and art of Baden-Wuerttemberg, the Municipality of the city of Ellwangen, the city archive of Ellwangen and the University of Tubingen.

The first joint activity under this initiative was the organization of a Bulgarian – German scientific round table “The European Civilization and the work of St. Cyril and St. Methodius” as part of the programme for the official celebration of the 41st edition of the St. Methodius Days in the city of Ellwangen in May 2011. Also, a documentary exhibition on the topic was presented.

The main activities of the Institute will be promotion and organization of different scientific, educational and cultural events which to gather experts from Central and Southeast Europe working in the field of the archives and records, medieval studies, theology, pedagogy as well as other scientific trends related to and supporting the “Cultural-Touristic” cluster (business relations and high technologies) and also, the public at large – from all over Germany and Europe. The future programme of the Institute will include up-to-date topics and presentations, exhibitions and conferences, educational workshops and public lectures all supporting the bilateral and multilateral European cultural and business relations, trade and exchange of experience. This will not only make popular the city of Ellwangen itself as an educational and cultural center but, also will

give the opportunity of its residents for future personal development and satisfaction from the fact that they are living in a place where the Christian values of United Europe are promoted and developed.

What is a Cultural and Research Institute?

The cultural institutes are in general institutions promoting the culture of a particular country in another foreign country and supporting and promoting the intercultural exchange – such as the Goethe Institute in Sofia, the French institute in Sofia and many others. In general, such structures could serve as institutions for different cultural purposes. For example, such as the National Museum in Nurnberg, Germany or the House of Cultural Institutes in Munich, which gathers in one place seven different cultural institutions in Bavaria. The Working Group of Independent Cultural Institutes is an association created in the early 1967 on the initiative of the Minister of Interior of Germany which currently is uniting 35 popular national and international independent cultural and research institutes which are promoting Germany and its culture and science all over Europe. Therefore, such cultural centers/institutes are of high importance for the promotion and dissemination of the results and achievements in culture and science of a particular society. They also serve as a meeting point of different cultures and not least, also their important function is the support of the scientific and research field which is further to be developed.

Accent

The Cultural and research cluster (and the Southeast European Bulgarian Cultural and Research Institute in Ellwangen) will focus on the Orthodox’s Church principles and its history as well as on the history and language of Bulgaria and other Southeast European countries. The Institute will also present the Roman Catholic Church and the Evangelical Church doctrines, their history and the history and the Old Baden-Wuerttemberg language. Last but not least, the educational programme and other activities of the Institute will include also topics from the socio-economic and research & development field like business management, banking, new technologies, innovation and other activities in support of the networking idea. The different educational activities in the programme (courses, seminars, exhibitions, conferences etc.) will take place in the frame of the so called summer schools each year. Special attention

will be paid to different educational activities of the Institute on German language, old knowledge education which to be officially acknowledged in different academic structures in Europe.

The Institute will mainly focus on studying and investigating the different aspects of the Cyril and Methodius work and the various relations with the Rome Catholic Church and the work of the German priesthood. The Institute will also examine the archives of both countries – Germany and Bulgaria giving various evidences on the history of the Orthodox and Catholic Churches, the history of the German and the Old Bulgarian language as well as the languages of other Southeast European countries. Not least, the work of the Institute will focus on investigating different approaches in the business management, economics and bank management in Bulgaria, Baden-Wuerttemberg and other Southeast European countries.

To fulfill these aims the Institute will attract different experts in the field of humanitarian sciences. The idea is to form a **Scientific Council** which to define and guide the main direction of the scientific activities of the Institute and its members to be involved in different thematic tasks throughout the year. Also, the Institute will provide scholarships for young professionals and scientists (for example up to 3 to 6 months) to work in the Institute’s archive and to be involved in other thematic tasks. The Institute will also organize different lectures and courses that will be carried out by acknowledge scientists and lecturers from Germany and Bulgaria. It will support different scientist in publishing their works/papers in standing scientific journals such as the periodic issues of

the journal of the “Cyril and Methodius scientific center” in the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the journal of the University Tubingen, Germany.

The Institute will not only promote and popularize the Danube region but also, will spread knowledge on the Cyril and Methodius work and the participation of Bulgaria and the German-speaking countries in its realization.

In this respect the Institute will focus on different activities and ways to promote and conduct its work as for example:

- organization of annual celebrations of the St. Cyril and St. Methodius work throughout Southeast Europe;
- organization of concerts, lectures and thematic exhibitions for specific occasion which to gather acknowledged authors, researchers and visitors from Southeast Europe at general, Bavaria, Bulgaria and other countries;
- keeping in close contact with media partners and promoting the work and achievements of the Institute and its supporters;
- establishment of an annual awards for young researchers “Methodius – Elvangen” and also a reward for best journalist paper on relevant topics.
- Not least, the Center will initiate the “Danube culture” reward which will be given for contribution to the consolidation and support of the good multilateral relationships in the region and all over Europe.

Coordination:

Active partnerships of the Culture Danube cluster (and the Southeast European Bulgarian Cultural and Research Institute in the city of Elvangen) with other thematic linked European and word Institutions are welcome.

