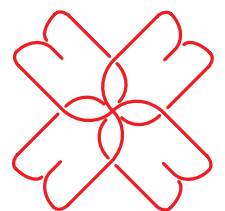




EUMENNET

Project proposal (version January 24, 2013)

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Stichting Internationaal Menno Simons Centrum

Doopsgezind Seminarium-Vrije Universiteit Faculteit der Godgeleerdheid



Summary

Purpose

The euMENNet project aims to give attention to and inform the general public about the history of migration of a distinct minority group of citizens in Europe during the past 500 years, which had been denied citizen's rights for decades and centuries in different parts of Europe: the so-called 'Anabaptist movement'. In doing so it shall highlight its importance for the ongoing process towards building a European society, that respects diversity and protects minorities, based on universal human rights and the dignity of each individual person. Aspects of the identity of today's widespread 'Anabaptism/Mennonites', their cultural, economical and ethical contributions for building a reconciled Europe will be highlighted, both local, regional and national levels.

Motivation

The Anabaptist Movement ('Täuferbewegung') started in the first half of the 16th century, the paradigm-shifting time of the Reformation, at the same time at different places: in Switzerland, Southern Germany/Alsace, and The Netherlands/North-East Germany. Due to its radical stance on changing societies (clear separation of church and state, stripping the church from political powers, introducing adult baptism based on the free will and free choice of a person, asking for freedom of conscience and creed, as well as the freedom of speech, Anabaptists were considered as enemies of the national state order and were denied citizen's rights in many parts of 16th century Europe. They suffered severe oppression and persecution (resulting in wide spread 'martyrdom') by both, political as well as religious powers of those times. As a reaction, these groups turned inward, built small but strong communities of solidarity, and connected to each other for support.

Wherever a regional sovereign tolerated their (limited) presence, they went and soon became an economic as well as a cultural 'power' of that region, living as a distinct yet loyal social entity among others (similar to some Jewish communities during the past centuries). This allowed them to spread from North-West (Friesland, The Netherlands) to South-East Europe (Ukraine).

Many of those demands of 16th century Anabaptists have become common citizen rights during 20th century in Europe. And yet, in today's European societies, social cohesion is in danger. It will be important to present examples from a common European history, which prove to be tolerant and liberal on the one hand, successful in economic relations, and deeply grounded in some ethical convictions, such as the need to care for the needy and the most vulnerable, non-violence, solidarity as well as political responsibility for the common good across the borders of one's own national state. This widely unknown European movement can be interpreted as one of the groundbreaking forces towards today's democratic citizenship of European identity.

Solution

With the help of modern, contemporary techniques some of the above mentioned aspects will be brought to attention. Preparations for this project have started in the beginning of 2012, and from August 1, 2013 till the end of 2014 the following products are planned to be implemented.

- A multilingual website: 'Welcome to Mennonite Europe'. The site will be launched in the summer of 2014 and will give an impression of the Anabaptist migrations on the European continent during the past centuries – to laypeople as well as scientists. The specific characteristics of the Anabaptist movement and its influence on shaping European societies (cultural, economic, religious) throughout the centuries will also be given ample attention.
- As a basis for the website an internet database will be assembled, provided with a Content Management System (euMENnet). It will be designed in a way that the database can also be used for other cross-media applications in the future.
- For the launch of the website in the summer of 2014, and in line with the EU-programme 'Europe for Citizens', a 'Migration Tour' of Europe will be organised. A promotion trailer will visit a selection of locations linked to the information on the website, and joint events already organised.

A European cooperation project

During the preparations for the project, since 2012, we have been working together with a number of partners in different parts of Europe. Many have declared their readiness to contribute to this project in providing resources (science centers, historical sites, information as well as personnel). We expect the European partners to assemble the necessary content for the database, and to prepare for its presentation purposes. Depending on their expertise, European partners will help individually with more specific tasks/elements.

Organisation

Approach

The project organisation is led by professor Fernando Enns, Professor of Anabaptist (Peace) Theology and Ethics, in close cooperation with Professor dr. Piet Visser, professor of the History of Anabaptism and Related Movements. both member of the Faculty of Theology of the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam/Mennonite Seminary Amsterdam. The seminary is responsible for the gathering and content-testing of the input data for the 'content management system', contributed by the European partners of the project. Formal responsible for the project is Drs. Henk Stenvers, director of the Algemene Doopsgezinde Sociëteit (Dutch Mennonite Conference) on behalf of the Doopsgezind Seminarium. The board of the Stichting Internationaal Menno Simons Centrum is responsible for the design, development and implementation of the various media outlets, such as the website 'Welcome to Mennonite Europe' and the 'Anabaptist Migration Tour'.

Steering Committee

Together the representatives of the European partner organisations form the Steering Committee of the project. Chair is Prof.dr. Fernando Enns.

European Partners

- Germany
 - Northern Germany: Universität Hamburg-Arbeitsstelle Theologie Friedenskirchen/Prof.dr. Fernando Enns
 - Russland-Deutsche: Bund Taufgesinnter Gemeinden/Johann Richert
- Austria-Southern Germany
 - Mennonitische Freikirche Österreich/Martin Podobri
- France
 - Centre Mennonite de Paris/Neil Blough
 - Association des Églises Évangéliques Mennonites/Max Wiedmer
- Switzerland
 - Theologisches Seminar Bienenberg/Frieder Boller
- Belgium
 - Centre Mennonite de Bruxelles/Peter Crossmann
- Poland
 - Stowarzyszenie Miast Partnerskich Nowego Dworu Gdańskiego/Harry Lau
 - Foundation for preservation of Joint Cultural Heritage Terpa/Jerzy Szalygin
- Lithuania
 - LCC University Klaipėda/Marlene Wall
- Ukraine
 - Dnipropetrovsk National University/Prof.dr. Svetlana Bobyleva en Prof.dr. Natalya Venger
 - Ukraine Mennonite Centre/Dima Bratchenko

Project team

The project team consists of the following people

- Antoinette Hazevoet, project leader
- Yvonne Melis, secretary project team
- Kees Knijnenberg, product development
- Janneke Leerink, cross-media development
- Johannes Dyck, IT/CMS development
- Annelies Bohlken, website development
- Nelleke Schiere, design

Executive teams

- Editing/Translating team
- Audio/Video team
- Development team CMS/Website
- Development team Migration Tour Caravan
- Design team

CMS development

Development team CMS

- Annelies Bohlken (Netherlands/briefing)
- Johannes Dyck (Germany)
- Dima Bratchenko (Ukraine)

Hosting

Hosting will take place close to Frankfurt (transatlantic cable) on a so called dedicated server.

Implementation and maintenance

Implementation and maintenance happens in Molochansk (Ukraine) led by Dema Bratchenko.

Languages used

- Swiss German
- French
- Dutch
- High German
- Plautdiets
- Polish
- Russian
- English (all core information)

Input

Input happens decentralised from all eight different European locations.

Structural cost

Hosting CMS and website and maintenance will cost us approx. € 370,- per month

Website development

Development team website

- Janneke Leerink (Netherlands)
- Annelies Bohlken (Netherlands)
- Max Wiedmer (France)
- Dima Bratchenko (Ukraine)
- Nelleke Schiere (Netherlands)

Scope

The website aims to raise worldwide awareness of the relevance of the presence of five centuries of Anabaptists in Europe, including the present.

Basic choices

- Languages
 - English as basis language for data and comments CMS and sound slides
 - Interviews in video spots in the relevant language of the country with subtitles: German, French, Dutch, Polish, Russian, English
- Basic scope (text and images)
 - eight video spots
 - Switzerland
 - France
 - Belgium/Netherlands
 - Northern Germany
 - Poland/Lithuania
 - Ukraine
 - Austria/Southern Germany
 - Germany-Russland Deutsche

twelve sound slides, with eight themes:

- just peace
- faith
- reconciliation
- compassion
- confidence
- tolerance
- non-violence
- fellowship

- and four sound slides of four to be chosen subjects
- average of 50 pages per partner country(combination)

Basic elements

- homesite
 - map of Europa
 - access to to video spots and themes with touch screen
 - timeline, linked to maps ref. the period
 - menu button for video spots etc.
 - logo's, projects and sponsors
- enrichment layers
 - migration routes
 - themes
 - partner countries/locations
 - persons
 - activities
 - tourism
 - practical information

Anabaptist Migration Tour

Goal and scope

Through the migration tour we will give as broad a publicity as possible to the five centuries of Anabaptist presence in Europe. The migration tour will also stimulate national and international press interest, and as such emphasise the special place of Anabaptism in Europe. The route of the tour can be followed via the website, which will in turn stimulate further publicity for the project.

The route (8.500 km) and itinerary

- from Switzerland/Zürich, Emmental, Liestal, Bazel - 200 km
 - June 29th to July 3rd
- to France/Montbéliard, Strassbourg, Paris - 600 km
 - July 4th to July 8th
- to Belgium-Netherlands/Brussels, Antwerp, Amsterdam, Witmarsum, Groningen - 750 km
 - July 9th to July 14th
- to Northern Germany/Krefeld, Bremen, Hamburg, Bad Oldesloe - 450 km
 - July 15th to July 20th
- to Poland-Lithuania/Gdansk, Nowy Dwór, Klaipėda, Torun, Warsaw - 2.000 km
 - July 21st to August 4th
- to Ukraine/Kiev, Dnipropetrovsk, Molochansk, Chortitza - 1.400 km
 - August 5th to August 19th
- to Austria-Southern Germany/Vienna, Linz - 1.750 km
 - August 20th to August 25th
- to Southern Germany-Eastern Germany/Augsburg, Bolanden, Berlin, Bielefeld, Detmold - 1.200 km
 - August 26 to August 31st

Combine with other events

- In the summer of 2014 Europe will commemorate the centennial of the outbreak of WW-I.
- The tour takes place during the period of remembrance for Calvin (REFO500) and Luther
- Parallel events during the tour will be collected and utilized.

At the locations we will engage local speakers to shed more light on specific subjects

The tour caravan

- promotion trailer with an exposition, two indoor screens and a large outdoor screen
- a (cooking) RV with two beds
- Three RV's with two beds each

Staff (total of 34 volunteers)

- organisation
 - teamleader (two different volunteers, one for each half of the tour)
 - co-teamleader/host-hostess (two different volunteers, one for each half of the tour)
- communications
 - press contacts (eight different volunteers, one per country/location of the tour)
 - photography/video/imagery/presentation (four different volunteers, one for each quarter of the tour)
- care team
 - cook (two different volunteers, one for each half of the tour)
 - maintenance, first aid etc. (eight different volunteers)
- technicians
 - car technicians etc. (four different volunteers, one for each quarter of the tour)
 - presentations technicians (four volunteers, one for each quarter of the tour)
- supplemented with localvolunteers at each station

Language

The volunteers are expected to speak English.

Sponsoring of local presentation

We expect that Anabaptist institutions, local Anabaptist congregations and individuals will financially support the local presentations.

Development team live presentations

- Janneke Leerink (Netherlands)
- Max Wiedmer (France)
- Nelleke Schiere (Netherlands)
- Kees Knijnenberg (Netherlands)

Presentation materials

We will use the created video material to compile the presentation material, supplemented with relevant other materials, in such a way that it will hold maximum interest and benefit for the local Anabaptist presence in that area.

Exposition

The Dutch exposition 'Doperse diaspora' will be the blueprint for the material we want to assemble.

Handouts

Simple flyers about the tour and the Anabaptists will be available as handouts during the live presentations in the following languages: German, French, Dutch, Polish, Russian and English.

App of the website

Mobile applications of the website will be made available.

Editors and design

Editing team

- Piet Visser (Netherlands)
- Fernando Enns (Germany)

and other team members still to be found.

Design team

- Nelleke Schiere
- Jelien Veenstra
- Annelies Bohlken
- Max Wiedmer
- Janneke Leerink
- Kees Knijnenberg

Planning

Subsidy request EU	February 1, 2013
Applications for funds/individuals	February 1, 2013
Formal start execution project	August 1, 2013
Presentations within the organisations	April/May 2014
Start Anabaptist Migration Tour	June 29th, 2014
Website online	June 29th, 2014

Budget

	total €
Data delivery	24.000
Editing and translating	16.000
Design	8.000
CMS/Website development	49.000
Migration Tour	43.000
Live presentation	4.000
Flyers/app	7.000
Organisation	15.900
Totaal cost	174.900 €
General funds	113.000
Anabaptist funds/individual	61.900