

REPORT ON EUROPEAN ACTIVITIES IN 2002, 2003 AND 2004

ŚWINOUJŚCIE, POLAND

Municipality of Świnoujście
ul. Wojska Polskiego 1/5
72-600 Świnoujście
Poland
Phone/fax: +48 91 321 37 05
E-mail: ueuropa@um.swinoujscie.pl
www.swinoujscie.pl

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INTRODUCTION

‘Poland begins here’ – town of Świnoujście is situated in the very corner of northwest Poland. It is a very popular tourism destination and health resort as well as modern harbour of strategic importance. A modern ferry terminal provides regular service to Sweden and Denmark and the German border is only 2 kilometres from the town centre.

The town is located on 44 islands of which only three: Uznam, Wolin and Karsibór are populated. The geographical location of Świnoujście favours the development of international contacts.

The European activities of Świnoujście are rich and varied. The forms of cooperation range from long-term bilateral and multilateral agreements to more or less ‘spontaneous’ activities.

Świnoujście cooperates with various partners: twin-towns, such as Ystad in Sweden, Nordenham in Germany and Swietlyj in Russia, as well as nearby Baltic regions within the Four Corners Project: Rügen Island (Germany), South-East Skane (Sweden) and Bornholm (Denmark). Also, on 29th October 1998 Świnoujście signed a framework agreement of cooperation with its immediate neighbour, the German district of Ostvorpommern.

Close links with Ystad date back to the early sixties when a ferry connection was established between the two ports. The twinning agreement was signed on 25th January 1990. The authorities of Swinoujście and Ystad decided to renew the agreement in 2004, on the occasion of Poland’s entry to European Union.

Nordenham and Świnoujście officially teamed up on 13th August 1992. In 1995, two societies were established: The Society of Friends of Świnoujście in Nordenham and the Society of Friends of Nordenham in Świnoujście.

Świnoujście’s international contacts are mainly with towns and regions of the EU, but not only. Since 1993, our town cooperates with the Russian town of Swietlyj, located in the Kaliningrad Region. Quite recently, there have been more and more contacts with the Kaliningrad Region, especially in the area of tourism.

The Four Corners of the South Baltic Sea came into being in the beginning of 1996. The four Baltic regions work jointly within several areas: culture, education, youth exchange, economic development and other.

One of the most characteristic features of Świnoujście’s international cooperation in general is the active involvement of the local citizens. It is a real people-to-people

cooperation, where the involvement of the civil servants is mostly limited to coordinating task. Without the dynamic contribution of the European clubs, schools and kindergartens, sport clubs, NGO's and other public and private entities this cooperation would be much less intense than it has been in the last several years. Nevertheless, most of the above institutions involved in international and pro-European activities receive substantial support from the local authorities in the form of financial assistance (grants) as well as technical backing and patronage.

In the year 2002, in recognition of its contribution to European integration, Świnoujście was awarded the European Diploma by the Council of Europe.

This report presents major European activities and events in the town of Świnoujście throughout 2002, 2003 and 2004.

REPORT 2002

NORDENHAM DAYS IN ŚWINOUJŚCIE

Nordenham Days in Świnoujście on 23rd – 26th May, celebrating the 10th anniversary of twinning co-operation with town of Nordenham (Germany), were one of the major European events of 2002. This special event gathered inhabitants of Nordenham and Świnoujście, sport and music groups, painters, school pupils from both towns, present and previous members of town authorities. In front of the Town Hall, a plaque commemorating 10 years of cooperation with the names of all partner towns twinned with Świnoujście – Nordenham, Region Ostvorpommern (Germany), Ystad (Sweden) and Swietlyj (Russian Federation) was unveiled by the representatives of Świnoujście, Nordenham and Ystad.

Young people from Świnoujście and Nordenham also had an opportunity to get to know each other. During the meeting they discussed the role of young people in democracy, their fears and expectations considering EU enlargement as well as the reasons for xenophobia which is still present in Polish-German contacts.

Celebrations, which were attended by 73 guests from Nordenham and hundreds of citizens of Świnoujście, were supported by the Town-Twinning Fund.



Festivity in the open air – the first spectators.

ŚWINOUJŚCIE DAYS IN NORDENHAM

In September 2002 the representatives of Świnoujście, including music and sport groups, artists, school youth and town authorities took the opportunity to present themselves in Nordenham.



Acrobats from Świnoujście performing in Nordenham



Painters from Świnoujście opening their exhibition

EUROPEAN CLUBS

European clubs are the main source of knowledge about European Union for young people. They are school-based and have the form of associations of young people who are willing to learn more about European Union, improve their knowledge about EU institutions, the process of integration and prepare themselves to deal with the EU enlargement. All clubs

are active both inside their schools and outside. In 2002 most of them prepared the celebration of Europe Day in Świnoujście.

Members of **School Association of European Integration** from Zespół Szkół organized the EUROPE DAY on 9 May. The main aim of this event was to spread the knowledge about the EU and invite young people from all schools to integrate. European Day included a presentation of European countries, their culture and traditions, but there were also culinary competitions, performances, an EU fashion show, and a Mini Top 10 Hit List. European Club 'Wiatrak' came up with a debate on the following subject: 'What Poland may win and lose in the process of EU enlargement'. Young people invited representatives of the Polish Parliament and the Head of European Carrefour Office in Świnoujście to the discussion.

Throughout the year, European Clubs organized competitions, debates and seminars on European subjects. This year their actions were supported by the European Carrefour Office and the School of Public Administration in Szczecin. The programmes usually included: quiz about EU, straw referendum on Poland's accession, integration games, information about EU institutions and other activities.

SCHOOLS – EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES AND CO-OPERATION

On the basis of agreements signed by town authorities, schools in Świnoujście cooperate with their counterparts abroad. The most regular contacts are between schools in Świnoujście and Heringsdorf, Germany.

Since 2002 Gimnazjum Nr 2 has been working with Heringsdorf Gymnasium within a **two-language class programme**. Each Tuesday pupils meet and have common lessons in the following subjects: Polish, German, mathematics, IT and PE.

In 2002 the **I Liceum** continued every month exchanges of students from Świnoujście and Heringsdorf. The young worked on small projects, such as performing everyday scenes, visiting both cities (Stadtrally) while using German and English for communication. This year a group of students stayed in the International Meeting House in Krzyżowa taking part in theatre, art and music workshops and debating on the subject 'What we know about each other'.

On 7-8 June pupils from local Gimnazja participated in a meeting '**Reconciliation over the graves – work for peace**' the goal of which was to get to know more about the history of Mecklemburg-Vorpommern, history of the old war cemetery at Golm (Germany) and in Stare Czarnowo (Poland).

Students of **I Liceum** were also successfully participating in numerous competitions at the regional and national level, such the EU Knowledge Competition, International Mathematics Competition in Anklam, Germany; ‘Physics on Stage’ in Holland.

CULTURAL AND SPORT EVENTS

II Four Corners Race, organized within the programme ‘Four Corners’, took place in July 2002. Sailors from the four Baltic regions in Poland, Germany, Sweden and Denmark competed on a distance between Świnoujście – Bornholm – Ystad – Rügen. Over 152 sailors took part in the race and hundreds of local residents joined festivities ashore. The Race received financial support from the PHARE fund.



Four Corners Race – last preparation before start

Within the framework of cross-border co-operation, the Sports and Recreation Centre ‘Wyspiarz’ in Świnoujście together with Mecklenburg Vorpommern Section of the German Athletics Association organised **Świnoujście-Wolgast International Marathon**. The Marathon, with tradition dating back to 1979, is a *must-be* in the yearly calendar of sport events in Świnoujście. The number of competitors is increasing each year, reaching 245 runners from Poland, Germany, Bielarus in 2002.

In October Świnoujście hosted one concert of ‘**Usedom Musik Festival**’ which is held in Germany. Traditionally one concert takes place in Świnoujście for lovers of classical music.

The **‘Four Corners Culture Week’** is organized once a year by the Satellite Carrefour Office, with partners from Sweden, Denmark and Germany. This year Świnoujście hosted the exhibition of two Swedish painters – Elna Margareta Bjork and Sven Ranbjer. Their works were presented at the old fortress. On the other hand, works of local Polish artists Tadeusz Zieliński and Wanda Denga were presented on Rügen (Germany) and in South-East Skane (Sweden).

‘The Sport Day of the Physically Challenged’ on 3rd December in Świnoujście was also attended by German participants from the centres for disabled people in Zinnowitz and Greifswald. The main aim of such meeting is to help integrate the disabled people from both countries as well as eliminate existing mental and physical barriers.



‘The Sport Day of the Physically Challenged’

REPORT 2003

EUROPEAN ACTIVITIES

The spring of 2003 abounded in pro-European events. On **1st May** a colorful parade led by Navy Orchestra went through the town, with students, sportsmen, artists and local authorities encouraging the inhabitants of Świnoujście to vote ‘Yes’ in the upcoming national EU referendum. The parade ended with a European Picnic: children painted a picture entitled „My Europe” and an outdoor European Info-Centre was established where everybody had the opportunity to get information about European Union.



1st of May – the Parade

Another European event was ‘European Picnic’ **on 24th May**. Participants played football, listened to folk music and gave themselves a try-out in a competition „What do you know about EU?”. Also the youngest inhabitants of Świnoujście had their own special event „Our children in Europe” on 30th May.

EUROPEAN CLUBS

In 2003 European Clubs organized a number of events at schools to celebrate the **Day of Europe 9th May**. The children from SP nr 6 prepared a presentation of European countries – their history and tradition, including customs as well as typical meals! Pupils from SP Nr 1 conducted a debate about advantages and threats concerning Poland’s entry to EU.

Pupils from Gimnazjum Nr 2 also prepared a European debate, with participants divided into two teams: supporters and opponents of integration. Discussion focused on problems of agriculture and access to EU labour market for Polish citizens. Next day the pupils of this Gimnazjum took part in a straw referendum with majority of them voting for integration.

To celebrate the Day of Europe, the European Club from Zespół Szkół organized a competition for the best presentation of a European country. The jury nominated the class which presented Greece.

EUROPEAN YEAR OF DISABLED PEOPLE

The year 2003 was announced as the **European Year of Disabled People**. On 14th May The Association of Disabled People from Świnoujście and the Special Centre for Disabled Children (SOSW) organized a conference on methods of special teaching. The conference included a presentation of the work of Special Centre for Disabled Children in Zirchow (Mecklemburg-Vorpommern, Germany) which has been cooperating with SOSW for 7 years.

Another event related to the European Year of Disabled People was a visit of Tudor Gaman, a disabled citizen of Romania, 11th June. He started his round-the-world trip on 9th May in Sibiu, Romania. His journey, called 'The World seen from a Wheelchair' is planned to finish in June 2005. During his visit in Świnoujście he had the opportunity to meet with disabled people and tell them about his life and expedition.

CULTURAL AND SPORT EVENTS

This year the **International Organ Music Festival** celebrated its fifth anniversary. During almost three months, each Saturday between 24th May and 6th September musicians from Poland, Germany, Spain, Austria, Belgium and Ukraine presented famous organ compositions to the audience made of local citizens and visitors.

Also the **International Sea Song Festival** organized within the Sea Song Festival and the Days of Sea Culture celebrated a jubilee. German bands from partner towns and regions have been taking part in this event since 1999. A joint Polish-German shanty concert was organized in the harbour of Ueckermünde, Ostvorpommern district, on 6th September.



German band Streckelsberger Musikanten during Sea Song Festival 2003

Within the **Four Corners** cooperation Świnoujście was responsible for the start of **III Four Corners Race** on 11th July. During ten days, 30 sailing boats from Poland, Germany, Sweden and Denmark sailed between the harbours of four Baltic countries, taking part in open-air events with hundreds of local residents which included presentations of artists, shanty music and prizes for the best boats in the race. Despite the official classification, the race is mainly a people-to-people event, bringing the four nations of the Baltic Sea together.



Four Corners Race in Świnoujście

‘Spring in autumn’ – the Polish history in years 1830-1832, was presented in the municipal art gallery throughout August, as a result of joint initiative of Świnoujście Culture House and Museum of European Cultures from Berlin. The aim of the exhibition was to show good relation between Poland and Germany during this historic period. The exhibition was presented in several German and Polish towns.

The **X Usedom Music Festival** was held 28th September – 11th October. It was the first time that the Festival focused on Polish music. The concerts were organized in concert halls,

churches and other venues on the entire Usedom Island on both sides of the border. In Świnoujście the concert and music workshop for young musicians took place 6th October.



Usedom Music Festival – the Quarrel Quartett

Continuing the long-time tradition, the delegation of **Lions Club** from Ystad visited children from Świnoujście with Christmas gifts and presentation of St. Lucia traditions on 10th December.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

On the basis of a framework cooperation agreement some educational institutions and other organizations from Świnoujście work with their German counterparts within several programmes. Since 1999, **Kindergarten Nr 1** has been cooperating with German Kindergarten ‘Awo-Kita’. During the year 2003 children from both kindergartens visited each other in order to implement educational programmes, such as ‘Welcome Spring’ and ‘Magic number seven’. Also, in March the Polish kindergarten hosted students of pedagogy from Frankfurt.

On 17th June pupils of the **Polish-German class** completed their first school year. It is a joint project of **Gimnazjum nr 2** from Świnoujście and **M. Gorki Gymnasium** from Heringsdorf in Germany in which 29 Polish and 26 German students learn together such subjects as: German and Polish language, art and PE. The finishing ceremony included I Polish-German Olympic Games – the students, teachers and parents had lot of fun playing football, volleyball and other games.

For nearly 5 years the students from **Liceum LOGOS** have been taking part in a Polish-German youth exchange project. This year the young inhabitants of Świnoujście learnt German and English while visiting the German town of Munster, and German students got to know Polish history while visiting Świnoujście and other Polish towns.

On 11th October the **Association of Handicrafts** from Świnoujście signed cooperation agreement with Association of Handicrafts from Koserow in the German district of

Ostvorpommern. The organizations regularly meet and change experience, as well as organize charity events.



Ceremony of signing the co-operation agreement between Associations of Handicrafts

The local authorities of Świnoujście participate in a project known as **‘Landscape of the year – the mouth of Odra river’**. It is a Polish-German project which aims at a balanced development of the Odra River delta. On the occasion of the tenth anniversary, a special conference on development was organized by Municipality of Świnoujście in cooperation with the Polish Tourist Society and Nature Association from Greiswald in Germanz.

The Municipality of Świnoujście is also engaged in the **Usedom – Wolin Tourist Forum**. This event gathers representatives of local authorities, tourist associations, hotel owners and cultural institutions. The second meeting within this Forum was held in Heringsdorf, Germany on 30th September. The participants discussed the future development of Polish-German infrastructure (e.g. bus line from Heringsdorf to Świnoujście), extension of cycling routes and joint presentations during international exhibitions and fairs. The group decided to organize joint events on the occasion of Poland’s entry to European Union under the name ‘Welcome Europe’.

REPORT 2004

WELCOME EUROPE

The date 1st of May 2004 marked one of the most outstanding events in the history of Europe. On that day Poland and nine European nations became members of the European Union.

For us in Świnoujście that event was of particular importance. Poland's entry into the European Family of Nations means the beginning of a new phase of long-term cooperation with our foreign partners. Therefore, we wished to celebrate the EU enlargement in the company of friends from our twin-towns and partner regions.

The celebration of 'Welcome Europe' started on 29th April. Two main events during this day were: **V Polish-German Mathematical Marathon** and a Joint Session of the Town Council of Świnoujście and the Council of District Ostvorpommern in Germany.

Mathematical Marathon was conducted by teachers from the Liceum and from schools in Heringsdorf and Anklam (Ostvorpommern, Germany). Each of 36 students who participated in the competition received 500 math problems to solve during 24 hours. Before the competition started, the young mathematicians planted trees – as the symbol of friendship and cooperation between schools from Świnoujście, Heringsdorf and Anklam – around the school. The winner of the marathon solved 385 exercises! The Young Masters of Mathematics were honoured during festivities on Świnoujście's beach on 1st May.



The Mathematical Maraton

The Joint Session of Świnoujście Town Council and Ostvorpommern Council gathered almost 100 persons, including councilors, local executives and regional politicians. The meeting was conducted by chairmen of both Councils. The main subject of discussion was the chances and advantages of membership in the European Union; also, the participants

took account of the local matters like the opening the Świnoujście-Ahlbeck border for cars and methods of future cooperation.

The inhabitants of Świnoujście greeted the European Union together with their German neighbours during grand festivities on the Polish-German border on 30th April. Thousands of people enjoyed listening to music performed by Polish and German bands. Just before midnight the participants performed a spectacular simultaneous hand-shaking show forming the '**Bridge of Friendship**'. At midnight, a fabulous fireworks show proclaimed Poland's entry into European Union.



Welcome Europe – 'Bridge of Friendship'

Poland's first day in the EU was also full of events. At 10 am the **Parade of Nations** started the march through the beach. This parade was organized by pupils from all schools in Świnoujście. Each school was chosen to present one European state by showing traditional clothes, customs, historical facts, music etc. Thousands of spectators gathered on the beach had a chance to meet the Vikings, Queen Elisabeth II, ancient gods and other figures symbolizing the European countries.



1st of May - festivity on the beach



The Parade of Nations – Great Britain presented by children

The 1st of May was of particular importance for the cooperation between Świnoujście and the Swedish town of Ystad. The authorities of both municipalities signed a **new twinning agreement**, which includes re-defined areas of cooperation such as economic development, local administration and European integration. On this occasion, representatives of Ystad authorities came up with an attractive offer for Świnoujście residents – family holidays for the winners of competition ‘*What do you know about Ystad?*’.

The new citizens of European Union didn’t forget about **Europe Day 9th May**. The Culture House (branch in Przytór, district of Świnoujście) prepared concerts and exhibitions ‘Poland in European Union’.

FOUR CORNERS OF THE BALTIC SEA

The year 2004 was full of events organized with partners from the Four Corners project: Rügen, South-East Skane and Bornholm.

The young inhabitants of the four regions took part in several events: a Bicycle Tour around the Four Corners (in May), exchange programmes like ‘European School’, the setting up and work of Youth Board and Youth Parliament.



The participants of Four Corners Cycle Tour

Exchange programme called ‘**European school**’ went off on 5-7 October. The main aim of this event was to present Świnoujście – its history, daily life of our young inhabitants, their schools. Polish pupils together with guests from Rügen and Scandinavia prepared a history lesson on the old Military Fortification named ‘Gerhard’s Fort’. They also participated in a maritime workshop organized by students and teachers from the Secondary Maritime School in Świnoujście.

Four Corners Youth Board is responsible for the organization of Four Corners’ Youth Parliament. Świnoujście is represented by four students in the board and one of the meetings was held here on 13th-14th September. The result of the work was the first session of **Youth Parliament** on Rügen 13-15 October, in which Świnoujście was represented by 20 students. Grouped in working groups, the young MPs discussed issues of democracy, culture, traffic problems, labour for young people, free time. The next Youth Parliament is planned for Autumn 2005.

On 17th-24th July the **IV Four Corners Race** went off. Thirty-five boats from Poland, Sweden, Germany and Denmark raced around the four South Baltic regions. During the finishing ceremony in Świnoujście the winners of the race were honoured with trophies and all sailors and several hundred local residents enjoyed a sailors’ party by shanty music.



The winners of Four Corners Race

Culture is an important platform of cooperation within the Four Corners. This autumn the inhabitants of Świnoujście and tourists could enjoy a wide range of cultural attractions. This year two major events took place in Świnoujście: **workshop for painters** called ‘Seascape’ on 23rd August – 3rd September and **Culture Week** on 20th – 26th September. During the workshop, painters from four countries had the opportunity to exchange experience and work together for two weeks, the result of their work was presented on an exhibition in a local art gallery. As in previous years, the Culture Week was an opportunity to

present artists from the neighbouring countries, this year including well-received performances by Giorgos Floros, a mime artist from Sweden who also prepared an acting workshop for school youth (24th September), and blues band ‘**Den Sprøde Duo**’ from Denmark (25th September).



Culture Week – the participants of painters’ workshop

On the other hand, artists from Świnoujście were invited to present their work on Rügen – painters participated in a symposium on sculpture and painting, while jazz band ‘Drewno’ gave a warmly received show.

Another significant event within the Four Corners was **Architects’ Workshop** organized on 17th – 18th June. Architects and local and regional planners from four regions exchanged experience and shared knowledge on the subject of renovation of old neglected parts of town and spatial planning of seaside districts.

The main political event was **Four Corners Political Forum** on 4th-5th November. Świnoujście hosted politicians from Rügen, Bornholm, South-East Skane and also from Lithuania. Participants discussed the Four Corners’ Joint Strategy of Development 2006-2013 and plans for further cooperation within culture, education and tourism.

CULTURAL AND SPORT EVENTS

The cultural summer started with **VI International Organ Music Festival** which traditionally continues from 19th June to 28th August. Concerts take place every Saturday in the Church of Christ the King. The audience, including many music-lovers from Germany,

enjoy compositions performed by famous organists from Poland, Germany, France, Ukraine, Russia and Austria.

Folk festivals are becoming a tradition in Świnoujście. From 5th to 11th July the **III Folk Festival** ‘Summer by Świna River’ gathered a dozen or so folk bands from all over Poland who performed not only in Świnoujście but also in the neighbouring German town of Ahlbeck. The concert featured a special guest star: a Polish-German orchestra from Haale, Germany.

Every year, the **Sea Song Festival** is organized in the end of August. This year was special because of Festival’s 30th anniversary. Traditionally, German bands from Landkreis Ostvorpommern participated in a ‘music race’ – concerts onboard a ship. ‘Butjadingen’, a shanty chorus from Nordenham in Germany accepted the invitation to perform their famous sea songs.



Sea Song Festival

Świnoujście-Wolgast International Marathon is a Polish-German sport event with long tradition. The marathon starts in Świnoujście and finishes at the stadium in the town of Wolgast, Germany. This event is a result of cooperation between the Sport and Recreation Centre ‘Wyspiarz’ in Świnoujście and the German Athletics Association in Mecklenburg Vorpommern. The 25th Marathon took place on 4th September with the turnout of almost 290 runners from Poland and Germany.

An unusual sport event called ‘**Welcome in the European Union**’ was organized by two 65-year old runners from Germany: Dietrich Barthel and Bodo Pfeuffer. The two sportsmen decided to celebrate Poland and Czech Republic’s entry to European Union by running along the entire Polish-German and German-Czech border. Their run started in Świnoujście on 13rd September and finished in Dreiländereck 3rd October.



Dietrich Barthel and Bodo Pfeuffer with their friends

The musical highlight of this autumn was **XI Usedom Music Festival** dedicated to Polish and German music, 25th September – 9th October. The two-week festival features several dozen concerts of classical, chamber and jazz music performed by world-class musicians, with several concerts taking place in Świnoujście, too. Students from the Świnoujście Music School participated in a music workshop led by musicians performing at the Festival.

Within the framework of co-operation with the Swedish municipality of Ystad, on 14th December a group of girls from Ystad presented the Swedish custom of **Saint Lucia Day** in Świnoujście. The Swedish group visited kindergartens, schools and hospital. Week before, the representatives of Ystad Lions Club had visited underprivileged children with thousands of gifts.

SCHOOLS AND OTHER ENTITIES

Contributing to the implementation of agreements signed by municipalities, schools in Świnoujście co-operate with their counterparts in Germany. **Gimnazjum Nr 2** and Heringsdorf Gymnasium which are cooperating within a two-language class programme, and I Liceum which also co-operates with Heringsdorf, were granted the ‘EuropaSchule’ diploma by the Minister of Education, Science and Culture in Mecklemburg-Vorpommern.

A good example of educational cooperation was a 2-week practice for two German students in a kindergarten in Świnoujście in May. Marie Griehl and Mandy Schwarz learn in Gymnasium in Heringsdorf and they participate in the two-language class.

Liceum TPP maintains very good collaboration with the E-M-A Gymnasium from Bergen on Rügen and a co-operation agreement was signed in March 2004. Both schools participated in the ‘Welcome Europe’ events, the students organized a parade of sailing boats.

Liceum Logos has close ties with the Real Schule from Nordenham. Every second year a group of German pupils spend a week in Świnoujście. Accommodation is at their Polish friends' homes which gives a good opportunity to know each other and learn together. In 2004 students from Nordenham visited Świnoujście at the end of September.

Pupils from **Liceum Logos** were among Poland's national representation at a UNESCO youth seminar in Berlin in November. The subject of this meeting was 'North – South and one World'

It is not only schools of various levels that co-operate with their German counterparts. The public **Kindergarten Nr 1** works jointly with kindergarten 'Awo-Kita' from Ahlbeck. Since 1999, there have been regular visits during which children get to know their foreign friends and learn their native language, national symbols, history and tradition.

A NEW POLISH-GERMAN BUS LINE

One of the most remarkable events in the history of the Polish-German cross-border cooperation in the region was the opening of the bus line Świnoujście – Bansin on the 1st June 2004. The German bus company **Ostseebus** and the **Świnoujście Municipal Transport Company** decided to provide transport link between Świnoujście and the German town of Bansin, located several kilometers away. The line is called 'EuropeLine' and has become immensely popular among local residents and tourists since the very beginning.



'EuropeLine' – signing the agreement

POLISH-GERMAN WOMEN FORUM

Since 1997 the **Polish-German Women Forum** in Świnoujście and its German counterpart have been actively working together on women's issues. The main events organized in 2004 by this organization included a conference on social politics in Europe in

Bansin, 18th September and a seminar on women's rights and status in the European Union which took place in Świnoujście on 19th November.

Since 1991, in the beginning of January the entire Poland focuses on one special event – a public collection of money for ill children, called **The Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity** (GOCC). The volunteers of the GOCC Foundation spend the whole day in the streets collecting money, while free public performances by popular bands and artists take place throughout Poland. This year, within the framework of cross-border co-operation the authorities and inhabitants of Landkreis Ostvorpommern joined the GOCC in Świnoujście thus increasing the amount of collected money.

One of the most unusual events took place on 22nd – 25th October. Świnoujście was visited by a group of over 20 **Russian citizens** who had been born in Świnoujście in the years 1945 – 1992, as children of the Russian families when the Soviet Army was garrisoned in the town. For most of them it was the first opportunity to visit the town of their childhood. The visit was organized in close cooperation between the Municipality and the local section of the **Poland – East Association**.

Glossary of school names

SP (*Szkola Podstawowa*) – Primary school (pupils' age range 7-13)

Gimnazjum – Secondary school (age range 13-16)

Liceum – Grammar school (age range 16-19)

ZS (Zespół Szkół) – Vocational Schools (age range 16-19)

PRESS ARTICLES

Newspapers:

1. 'Świnoujście Dzisiaj'
2. 'Nowy Wyspiarz'
3. 'Wyspiarz Niebieski'
4. 'Głos Szczeciński'