

Minutes of the 46th General Meeting Škofja Loka, August 25th – 28th, 2022

Partner towns present:

Agros, Altea, Asikkala, Bad Kötzting, Bundoran, Chojna, Granville, Holstebro, Judenburg, Köszeg, Marsaskala, Meerssen, Niederran-ven, Oxelösund, Rokiškis, Rovinj/Rovigno, Sesimbra, Sherborne, Sigulda, Siret, Škofja Loka, Sušice, Tryavna, Türi.

Partner towns not present:

Bellagio, Houffalize, Preveza, Zvolen.

The mayor of Škofja Loka, mr. Tine Radinja, welcomes everyone in Škofja Loka and expresses his hopes that everyone present will find new friends in his town. The project “Juniors for Seniors” will reach its conclusion and hopefully brings as many opportunities for the youth and the elderly.

The president of the Douzelage, Mrs. Annigje Kruytbosch, thanks Škofja Loka for organising the General Meeting (GM). Škofja Loka has joined the organisation in 2011. Beside Douzelage, Škofja Loka has many twinnings with other towns in Europe, showing the open mind and spirit of the town. She thanks Škofja Loka for showing such a big heart, and thanks the team of people that has made the GM possible.

1. Opening of General Meeting

The president of the Douzelage, Mrs. Annigje Kruytbosch, opens the GM and welcomes all delegations on behalf of herself and the vice presidents, Mette Sørensen, Miha Ješe and Tibi Rotaru. Due to restrictions because of Covid the last meeting in Agros was a hybrid one. A challenge but very well organised. But nevertheless we are thankful that we can be together again in Škofja Loka.

The agenda is approved and two topics are added to the agenda:

- Marsaskala will add an ongoing project (11.)
- Sušice will add a future project (13.)

2. Approval of the Agros GM minutes

The minutes of the 2021 GM in Agros are unanimously approved.

3. Approval of the accounts 2021 (January 2021 - December 2021)

Mr. Harry Crombag presents the accounts of Douzelage for the year 2021.

Mrs. Donatella Gandola (Bellagio) and Mrs. Veronica Marešová (Sušice) have served as auditors for the 2021 accounts, and grant Mr. Crombag full discharge. Mrs. Gandola does this by letter, read to the GM by Mrs. Marešová.

The president thanks Mrs. Gandola who stepped in as an auditor in the 2021 GM.

Mrs. Veronica Marešová (Sušice) and Mr. Thorsten Wohleser (Judenburg) will serve as auditors for the 2022 accounts.

4. Annual Douzelage membership

As announced in 2021 the annual fee for 2022 will be € 350,-. This includes the costs of the translation equipment. The invoice will be sent within the next few weeks.

5. Translation

For the first time in the history of the GM the translators are not present. To fill this gap Škofja Loka has provided for a translator, mrs. Ksenija Mravlja.

6. Extra amendments to the constitution of Douzelage

Two amendments were suggested during the 2021 GM in Agros:

1. In addition to paragraph 4b, proposed by Maria Črnac-Rocco (Rovinj/Rovigno):
"Whenever the president is not able to attend the GM, he/she will appoint one of the Vice-presidents to chair the GM"

The proposal has been unanimously approved by the GM.

2. The need for two votes per town is questioned (Mr. Béla Básthy, Köszeg).

Köszeg expresses the opinion that representatives of a town represent their towns and should cast a vote according to the wishes of the town. When a town can only send one person to the GM there is only one vote, which is not democratic. Douzelage is an organisation of 28 members, if you can't agree within one town, how can you agree within 28?

The presidency expresses the opinion that two votes per town is more democratic and proposes to leave the constitution untouched on this point.

Sušice agrees with Köszeg. Representing a town should lead to one vote. A neutral vote can be expressed by not voting. Asikkala, Sesimbra and Oxelösund also are in favour of one town one vote.

Marsaskala prefers the two votes per town. It gives more room for disagreement. When a town is represented by one person, a second vote can be casted on paper. Meerssen agrees with the second vote on paper.

Holstebro favors the right to disagree. One should vote according to your conscience, not by the official position of a municipality. The two votes give more room for discussion.

Bad Kötzting points to the lack of structure in the Constitution. The amount of votes in relation to the amount of representatives needs to be clarified. Two votes offer more opportunities for diversity. Škofja Loka agrees with this viewpoint. Judenburg agrees, it is now not clear if one representative can cast two votes. Chojna adds the fact that the constitution is not clear: is the vote one from a delegate personally or is it a vote from a member town?

Bundoran asks the presidency to draw up a few alternative proposals for amendments to the constitution, expressing all wishes (1 vote, 2 votes, paper votes etc.). That will clarify the discussion to be held during the next GM.

All agree on this last proposal. The Constitution should be clear when voting for the next presidency in 2024. The presidency will draw up alternative texts for the next GM.

7. **New Codicil of Charter of Douzelage Partner Towns**

There is a need for a new Codicil because of the new member town Rokiškis (since 2018). For the new Codicil the following needs to be done:

- The Codicil must be signed by the mayors of the towns
- The Codicil must be stamped with the stamp of the municipality.

For this reason the presidency asks the towns to have the mayors (and stamps) present at the next GM in Rovinj/Rovigno in 2023.

8. **Guest from Ukraine**

As part of the delegation of Siret Mariana Costâc, a teacher from Ukraine, is invited by the GM to inform the GM on her life as a teacher in a country at war.

"Well, I'm Mariana and I would like to say Hello from Ukraine, Hello from Chernivtsi, a region in the north of Ukraine, known as Bucovina, the neighbor of my new friends from Romania. I think that someone among you knows about the famous university in Chernivtsi, named after Yurii Fedkovych, Residence of Bukovinian and Dalmatian Metropolitans, where I studied, at the faculty of foreign languages. I love foreign languages and I want to convey this desire to others, that is why I work as a school teacher.

So I think every one of you has heard about my country and the situation that is happening now. I'm not competent in politics, and I don't want to discuss it either. I want to tell you just one thing, more or less, but the life of all people in Ukraine has changed "before and after". Because "before" everyone was thinking about the future, a future without place to hide or where to run if the alarm sounds. No one could even think that something like this would happen in 2022. Everyone was used to the quarantine, to the coronavirus, to various prohibitions, and slowly we started to live "again", if it is correct to say so. Everyone had desires and dreams to achieve, everyone was in some kind of process, yeah. After February 24, another life began. I can't speak about those in the hot zone because they have endured even more hardships, but I can tell about the changes in my area. People now live in fear and despair, they all live with the hope of tomorrow, and the fear that tomorrow may never come. Nobody from now on has only one dream and one wish – peace, peace in the country, peace in souls, peace on earth. Each of us has gone through or is going through stress, which certainly does not lead to good. Do you think that if the tanks didn't pass through my area, we don't have any losses? Affliction and pain embitters our souls day by day. Hundreds and thousands of men are gone to defend the country, brothers, fathers, husbands, friends, even grandfathers are gone, and many of them never come back. The numbers of losses are increasing every day, and those who remain at home pray so much that no familiar name appears on the death lists. The world has divided into groups, which do not leave the phone from their hands, by checking the news, others refuse to receive this information, that is, they do not accept the thought that the war has started. Some are lost in their thoughts and do not know what is happening, others have taken matters into their own hands and are trying to live regardless of the situation.

But still day by day, with great difficulty each one of us learns to live differently from now on, because everyone has to live on, they need to feed their family, so everyone needs work, which now is quite hard to find. The world is starting to realize itself again with today's circumstances, everyone wants to support the country, to support its economy, everyone tries as much as possible to give some help, this is how work restarts, business is reborn.

Of course we also have financial changes, I think you have felt them too, people have lost work, prices have risen. In this case, The entire country and me, we are grateful for the help of the volunteers, who are very numerous in our country and outside it, as well as the

humanitarian aid we receive from other countries, who receive our citizens and give them a new start. As a citizen of Ukraine I express my gratitude to the European community for the help and support given to my country.

Today I am here thanks to our neighbors, friends from the city of Siret, who first at the border with Ukraine provided incredible aid, and I want to say that Romania helped us from the first day, with humanitarian aid, and they received and receive refugees to this day. A lot of people are in Romania now, I also have a friend from a city that was bombed during the first days, so I want to say that they received her in Bucharest and she is slowly starting another page of her life there, sadly alone, because her husband is in the sea service, and they have not seen each other since the beginning of the war. I sincerely want to thank everyone for all the help.

I am very sorry that in the contemporary world there is such a thing, a terrible thing that my grandparents told me about, a thing that I read about in history books. And I could never think that I would go through this myself, that I would also tell my grandchildren about the war. Speaking of education, we barely got used to online studying, but now, destroyed schools, lack of teachers, lessons with fear of ringing the alarm. Can you imagine the stress our children will get if they run to hide few times a day? And even wait for hours until the alarm is finished ringing, and it's good if it's only an alarm, let it not be something worse, that is, the lessons will be spent with fear, even me, as a teacher I am still afraid, no one is 100% assured that the day will pass peacefully. But we still hope to be able to give the students new knowledge, which they will use in a peaceful future.

The world has united, I can honestly tell you, I could never have thought that our people could be so united. From the first days, volunteer centers were organized, dozens of schools were equipped, and other large buildings where thousands of people from the hot zone, from the area where the rockets were flying overhead, were received, I can't even imagine what those people felt. All our people were and are involved in the work, to give help to those who suffered, who left everything just to save their lives, even my village, the village where I work, and the neighboring villages received a lot of refugees, some of whom still live with us, some only don't have somewhere to return to, and are starting to settle in with us. That's why I think that a lot of people have changed their thoughts, I mean, I think it won't be a priority, how many floors the house has, what year the car is from, or if the clothes are branded. Many understood that this is zero, when one day you wake up from the explosion of rockets somewhere nearby, and you leave everything, you are only looking to be able to run, to be able to save your life and your family's life.

I could talk even more on this topic, but even so I brought a sad note to your face. So please keep your spirits up. I come from an area in the Chernivtsi region populated by Romanians. We live on the banks of the Siret river, at the foot of the Carpathians. The fact that we are geographically in the vicinity of Romania has favored us for many years to feel and enjoy European values, to be closer to this community. Now that Ukraine is a candidate for the EU, we are even more happy. We are aware that sooner or later we will all be part of this community and we want it to happen as soon as possible despite all the events in the world.

Thank you for having me! Thank you for your welcome! And I invite you to come to us, to see the school where I teach, a school of rare beauty with good children, modernly equipped and to a good extent thanks to a whole cross-border project. I assure you of hospitality and good mood, of our esteem and friendship."

9. Social Media and PR

The president stresses the fact that the Douzelage.eu website is an important means of communication for our organisation. Therefore, if member towns have a visit/exchange or project, please send text and photo's to secretariat.presidency@douzelageemerssen.nl.

Facebook: some towns (7) do not have an editor for the facebook page of Douzelage Europe. The towns and editors are mentioned in an annex to the agenda (p. 5). Please send the names of the new editors to the above mentioned email address.

Instagram: if a town has an Instagram user and he/she wants to contribute, please send the information to the above mentioned email address.

Bundoran, mr. Shane Smyth: You can also send content for Facebook and Instagram to the email address, we will post it on the platforms.

10. Past projects and activities within our towns

Altea/Sesimbra

- Under the name “Concierto Douzelage/Concert Douzelage” Altea and Sesimbra have organised a musical exchange of bands of both towns. 35 musicians of either town have practiced together and have given a concert in both towns.
- For a continuation of this initiative in 2023 Altea and Sesimbra would like to invite more towns to participate.

Bad Kötzing

- From 21st to 24th of April 2022 Bad Kötzing hosted the 5th event of the project “Juniors for Seniors”, with a focus on housing and ways of living. Representatives from Altea, Bundoran, Judenburg, Köszeg, Meerssen, Rokiškis, Škofja Loka and Sušice were present. The end conclusions will be presented in the last session that is planned in Škofja Loka as part of the GM.

Bundoran

- Bundoran has taken the initiative to publish jobs for young people on the Douzelage website this summer. This initiative will be repeated next year, so if a town has young, qualified people who want to work in Bundoran, they can react. The main branches are catering, service, leisure, retail.
- St. Patricks Day was celebrated and Altea, Bad Kötzing, Meerssen, Sherborne, Siret and Tryavna were present and joined in the parade. The guests were taken on an excursion to an ancient castle and to a cliff.
- The project “Global Greening” 2022 was influenced by the war in Ukraine, it didn't seem appropriate to celebrate. Instead the participating towns were asked to illuminate their landmarks in the Ukrainian colors. Bundoran thanks all towns for responding.

Köszeg

- From August 26th to 28th 2021 Köszeg was the host of the 3rd meeting of the project “Juniors for seniors – active ageing”, focusing on E-Learning. 11 Douzelage partner towns participated in discussions and sharing best practices on how to connect generations to prevent the elderly from being excluded from society.
- Köszeg has also joined an Erasmus+ project called “Help Everyone Achieve Lifelong Total Health”. The main goal is spreading information and furthering the dissemination of health information from a previous project. The gymnasium from Škofja Loka has participated in this project.

Meerssen

- On September 27th Frank Metscher from Niederanven cooked “Lëtzebuergse Kniddelen” for a small company of representatives of the Douzelage and the Town Councils from Meerssen and Niederanven. The purpose of the treat was to discuss European cooperation and strengthen the bonds while eating a typical dish from Luxemburg. He had been visiting many partner towns before he landed in Meerssen.

Siret

- Siret has organised the reception and help of Ukrainian refugees, as Siret is about 1 km from the Ukrainian border. War unites and Douzelage has shown true European spirit. Siret received a lot of messages, financial support and goods. Everything is welcome. Granville has started many fundraising activities that collected € 25.000,- for Siret. Marsaskala adds that Malta as a nation has supported a lot of Ukrainian refugees.

Škofja Loka

- Škofja Loka has attended the Slaveykovi celebrations in Tryavna, a poetry festival of national proportions. The event took place from the 2nd to the 5th of June 2022. The event is named after the 19th century poets Petko and Pencho Slaveykov.

11. Ongoing projects and activities within our towns

Chojna

- The Erasmus+ project 'From training to work' is vocational mobility of students from technical and vocational school in Chojna. Students of catering, hotel management, construction and IT from technical secondary school as well as car mechanics from vocational school will have a four-week apprenticeship in companies in Koszeg, Marsaskala and Siret.
- The Erasmus+ project "Game Based Learning for Problem Solving Skills" is the largest project of Chojna. The aim is to prepare tools such as teachers' guides, game descriptions and films to encourage teachers to use traditional and online games in classroom activities. Our partners are universities, companies, NGOs and schools from Turkey, Romania, Bulgaria, Portugal and Slovenia.
- The POWER project "Focus on Climate" gives the opportunity to visit schools in the EU to learn about each others activities in preventing climate change. The project is joined by schools in Portugal, Köszeg and Skofja Loka.

Marsaskala

- Marsaskala shows a video on the realization of a modern elderly care home in Marsaskala.

Meerssen

- The project Via Douzelage has started in 2018. The aim was to make bicycle routes between the different Douzelage towns. Since then a team of cyclists has visited Niederanven, Houffalize, Judenburg, Köszeg and Zvolen. When evaluating the project the team came to a different definition, as the routes in between the towns are too difficult for biking. Now the project focusses on tours around the different Douzelage towns and meeting the people who live there. In Judenburg a visit was made to a water energy plant, in Köszeg to an elderly home. In August a team of cyclists has visited the beautiful town of Rovinj/Rovigno and has now landed in Škofja Loka. The new focus works very well and the team plans to visit more towns to explore new routes.

Škofja Loka

- The project "Juniors for Seniors – Active Ageing" consists of six different projects, organised in different Douzelage towns. The roundup will be done during this GM, all documentation has been distributed among the delegates.

12. Photo Contest Škofja Loka

Finally together again – use your camera to celebrate! Remember to bring your camera – no matter whether it is your mobile or a professional SLR camera – to Škofja Loka, because we are celebrating, that we can meet and hug again, by re-introducing the Douzelage Photo Contest.

We did have the contest in 2018 in Oxelösund, Sweden, and in 2019 in Asikkala, Finland, but after that – as you all know – Covid put a stop to all fun and getting together. In 2021 we met on a small scale in Agros, without youth and education meetings. For that reason no photo contest was organised in that year.

We are now finally able to organize the photo contest again, this time in beautiful Škofja Loka in Slovenia, and thus it is time to reintroduce the competition: The third edition of the Douzelage Photo Contest.

And yes, there is a price. In addition to the honour of being the 2022-winner, you can also win 150 euro.

There is no price for the runner up. Sorry. But the three best photos will be chosen for the next exhibition of Douzelage-photos at the GM in 2023.

The rules are:

1. The Theme is "Škofja Loka/Finally together again". That means, that the winning photo has to show both friendship and a recognizable spot in Škofja Loka.
2. Each participant can only enter one (1) photo, so that the judges do not have to look through hundreds of photos. The judges are the President and a real-life press photographer.
3. You must send your entry before 12th of September 2022 to secretariat.presidency@douzelagemeerssen.nl The winner will be announced on Friday 30th of September.
4. By entering, you agree to having your photo and name published on the Douzelage website. All photo entries will be shown on the website.
5. There are in principle no restrictions as to what you can do to the photo. You can go for the original, "clean" photo or you can use photoshop or some other enhancement program to manipulate the photo – it is your decision. Your photo needs to be of good to excellent digital quality: at least more than 2MB.

13. Future projects and activities within our towns

Bundoran

- From October 14th to 16th Bundoran will host a Festival of Bands. Meerssen, Sherborne, Škofja Loka and Sušice will send musicians. In the future Bundoran will organise more of these events.
- Bundoran has taken the initiative to redesign the Douzelage town crests that are placed at the entrance of a town. The towns who would like a new one, please mail secretariat.presidency@douzelagemeerssen.nl
- Bundoran will again offer work for young people in Bundoran. There are a lot of vacancies during summer.
- In 2023 St. Patricks Day and Global Greening will again be organised, hopefully many towns will participate.

Chojna

- Chojna will organise a project under Erasmus+ called "European Internships". The partners are Köszeg, Marsaskala and Siret. The aim is to send students to the partner towns for internships, gaining international experience.
- Another Erasmus+ project will be organized called "Career Counseling – Practical Approach". The partners are Köszeg, Siret and partners in Slovenia and Turkey. Students are supported in making career choices, the partner towns exchange best practices in organising this.

Granville/Sherborne

- Granville will celebrate its 40 year anniversary of town twinning with Sherborne in 2022. It started with a holiday of Jeremy Barker in France where the first relationships were built, ending up with a twinning in 1982.
- It was Granville that started the idea of Douzelage 10 years later.

Meerssen

- Meerssen has reacted on a call for proposals of the EU program CERV (Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values) with an application for a project called "Free Press under Pressure"(FPuP). The project is about the threats the free press experiences today, and the younger generation that has to shape the future amid unverified facts and fake news that is spread on different platforms for different reasons.
- The project will invite appr. 50 young adults to discuss cases, so they can form their own toolset for discerning verified facts and news from unverified and fake news. The discussions will be led by experts, working within the free press and the higher educational institutes on the subject.

Partners are Douzelage Meerssen, Fontys University of Applied Sciences, Studio Europa (Maastricht University), UNU MERIT (United Nations University Maastricht), Douzelage Köszeg, De Limburger (regional newspaper).

Participating towns (13): Bad Kötzting, Bundoran, Granville, Köszeg, Meerssen, Rokiškis, Sherborne, Sigulda, Siret, Škofja Loka, Sušice, Tryavna, Zvolen.

The proposal is awaiting approval by the European Commission. If granted, the project will probably start in October 2023.

Sušice

- Sušice has offered to organise Douzelage Young Musicians Contest 2023 (it was cancelled in 2020 due to Covid). The town has elections in September 2022, hopefully the new mayor will favour the idea. The event will be organised in June 2023. It will last for 5 days. All costs are covered, except for transportation.

14. Autumn Meeting Mayors of Douzelage

The Presidency asks the GM for an opinion on the mayors meetings. During last years GM it was suggested to organise one every two years. Organising one within the GM in 2023 would have the advantage that the mayors are also present for signing the new codicil.

Köszeg likes the idea of mayors being more involved, best would be within a project. During a GM the town hall of the organising town can invite the mayors present for a “mayors coffee”.

Škofja Loka states that mayors are not coming just to be a mayor. There has to be a good reason, an interesting and important topic, to join in such a meeting. An informal “mayors coffee” can help with the exchange of problems and solutions.

The mayor of Oxelösund thinks it's better to attend a GM, instead of joining a Mayor Meeting. The role of a mayor differs from country to country.

Marsaskala suggests a videomeeting every 6 months.

The mayor of Sherborne is elected by the council. There is not much money for these kind of meetings. The mayor will encourage the council to be more involved in Douzelage.

The Presidency concludes that there is no consensus to organise a mayors meeting on a regular basis. An informal “mayors coffee” will be part of the 2023 GM in Rovinj/Rovigno.

15. Program for further General Meetings

2023	Rovinj/Rovigno
2024	Sherborne! (see 17)
2025	Prevesa will discuss the hosting of the 2025 GM with the municipality.
2026	Marsaskala (dates corrected from 2027 to 2026 on the last evening in Skofja Loka by mr. Calleja, noted by mrs. Kruytbosch)
2027	Vacant (candidates please get in touch with the Presidency)

Sušice asks Marsaskala the reason for again shifting the date from 2024 onward. Marsaskala answers that is has volunteered for the GM, but oversaw the fact that that year Marsaskala organises elections and cannot combine this with a GM. Marsaskala will organise the GM, but in another year.

16. **Presentation of Rovinj/Rovigno 2023 and setting a date.**

Rovinj/Rovigno presents itself with a beautiful video. Rovinj/Rovigno is mainly a touristic destination. The main theme of the GM will be "Preserving Tradition, how to Promote Heritage".

To be able to organise fruitful discussions on this topic Rovinj/Rovigno asks all partner towns to prepare themselves on this issue. How do Douzelage partner towns preserve their heritage, dialect etc.

Rovinj/Rovigno is a beautiful coastal town where both Croatian and Italian is spoken. Rovinj/Rovigno is very proud of its heritage and will show all of this to the participants.

The aim is to organize the GM from May 4th – 7th 2023.

17. **Who will host the GM in 2024?**

Sherborne offers to organise the GM in 2024. Sherborne sees it as an opportunity to show gratitude for keeping them part of Douzelage after Brexit.

The provisional theme is "Focus on Friendships".

- Sherborne aims at setting a date early April
- There will be a focus on projects that do not need EU-funding
- The involvement of towns folks is an important goal
- It will be fun!

18. **New Chair of Education**

Joze Bogatoj (Škofja Loka) has served as acting president towards the EM in 2022. The president thanks him for stepping in the moment the elected chair from Asikkala moved to another job and left Douzelage.

Elections were held during the EM and the only candidate, Mrs. Riikka Penttilä was chosen as the new chair for the Educational Meeting. The EM has decided that the new chair will be assisted by a representative from the member town that organises the next meeting.

The GM congratulates Mrs. Penttilä with her election.

19. **New president for the Youth**

Zino Vreysen (Altea) has been elected as the successor of Ovidiu Oniciuc as the president of the Douzelage Youth. Zino presented himself to the GM and showed a video underscoring his candidacy and election.

He is joined by Ida Tornvig Madsen (Holstebro), Hannah McNulty (Bundoran), Corina Hacker (Bad Kötzting), August Whittick (Sherborne) and Michelle Held (Meerssen) as members of his board.

The GM congratulates Zino with his election.

20. Any Other Business

All towns thank Škofja Loka and the presidency for organising the GM, Rovinj/Rovigno to organise the GM in 2023 and Sherborne for stepping in for 2024.

Agros proposes to cast one vote per town regarding changes in the Constitution, two votes per town when voting for the Presidency (Agenda point 6.2)

Altea asks for the exact dates of the GM in 2023. Rovinj/Rovigno cannot give a final date because of the dependency on the availability of accommodations. The aim is 4th – 7th May of 2023.

Asikkala suggests the mayors meetings can be held via a videocall. The Presidency replies that this is possible, but there should be a good reason to do so.

Bundoran reminds all present to add content to the website/Facebook/Instagram.

Chojna stresses the fact that for a mayors meeting there should be a pressing reason, there have to be important topics to be discussed.

Judenburg points to the European Summer Festival held in Judenburg last weekend.

Marsaskala thanks Škofja Loka and the presidency for the GM. It shows we have a good family, we are looking forward to Rovinj/-Rovigno and Sherborne in the coming years.

Meerssen thanks Škofja Loka for the GM and Rovinj/Rovigno for the invitation at the townhall for participants of Via Douzelage.

Niederanven thanks Škofja Loka for the organisation of the GM. They hope that in the future the amendments to the constitution will be sent on paper in advance.

Oxelösund adds a “thank you” to Škofja Loka and the presidency and is looking forward to the outcomes of the EM and the YM.

Rokiškis agrees with Chojna on the point of the mayors meetings. They suggest to organize a meeting when there is an issue to be discussed, not yearly as an automatism.

Sherborne thanks the organisers of the GM and promises the GM to keep them informed on the GM 2024.

Sigulda announces a festival for the promotion of reading next year. If there are good practices please send them. The Presidency asks Sigulda to write down the essence of the project, it will be forwarded to all towns.

Siret thanks Škofja Loka and the presidency for the GM. The guest from Ukraine thanks all present for the invitation and the wonderful experience.

The president Mrs. Annigje Kruytbosch announces to organize a workshop in 2023 on the ins and outs of the presidency to inform possible candidates on what the tasks and responsibilities are. Everybody will be offered the opportunity to attend this workshop. She also thanks Škofja Loka for organising a great GM. She is proud of Miha Ješe who organised the high quality project “Juniors for Seniors”.

Vice President mr. Miha Ješe stresses that Bad Kötzting delegates Wolfgang and Agathe Kerscher have been absent because of a broken down motor and traffic jams in Austria. As for “Juniors for Seniors”, he thanks all participating and hosting towns. The project was delayed for 1 year and 9 months because of Covid. We made something we can all implement in our towns. Now we should work on Ukraine and Romania, a better life for everyone. He expresses his gratitude for all nice words.

21. **Closing the General Meeting 2021**

The president closes the General Meeting 2022 and praises Škofja Loka for a fantastic program and all delegations for their constructive attitude on all issues.