



CULTURAL
CITYCOMMUNITY
BROXTOWE
CHÂTEAUROUX
FALUN
GRUDZIĄDZ
GÜTERSLOH

C-City – Europe is next door

Five cities, one common goal: bringing people together.
The way to achieve this: creating culture together,
overcoming borders – and thinking creativity as Europeans.



A Initiative of the
City of Gütersloh

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THE IDEA

Many countries, one Europe. Breaking down barriers with C-City and establishing a common identity to create an understanding through culture.

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BROXTOWE

H. D. Lawrence and Robin Hood - the region around Broxtowe offers famous names. The invention of the mechanical stocking frame however, is rather unknown. But it was precisely this that laid the foundation for Broxtowe's rise.

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CHÂTEAURoux

The city on the Indre is situated almost in the middle of the country. This makes it the perfect stopover for the Tour de France, among other things. Culture lovers, however, get their money's worth in other ways - for example at the renowned dance festival.

Editorial



Open your heart

Ladies and gentlemen, what holds Europe together? A question that is gaining importance again, particularly at present, as the C-City project is taking shape. For it is not only the current Corona pandemic that poses a threat to Europe, but also political developments that are trying to undermine our European democracy. So why C-City? Because it contributes to shaping a common European idea. Because it is a project that, from its grassroots to its realisation, is being created with all those involved on an equal footing. With the people of Europe at its heart. C-City is meant to unite, to open hearts and broaden minds. It should stimulate discourse and help to safeguard peace and our Europe - through an international language of culture.

Andreas Kimpel

Director of Culture of the City of Gütersloh

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FALUN

The beginnings of the city lies hidden deep below the ground. Since the 1970s, however, it has been aiming high with two world-class ski jumps. Falun is a city of contrasts - including the Swedish idyll of Bullerby as featured in Astrid Lindgren's children's books.

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GRUDZIĄDZ

The historic, well-preserved granaries on the Vistula are impressive landmarks. Grudziądz is rich in tradition with proud inhabitants – a city on the river with a very eventful history.

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GÜTERSLOH

Gütersloh embraces an international outlook – and not just because of the global players who are based there. People from numerous countries around the world have found a home there, and together they live a multi-faceted culture.

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FIGURES & FACTS

Bigger, older, longer friendships: Which of the twin cities is ahead in the race for facts?

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BEHIND THE SCENES

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IMPRINT



” People want to be involved, they want to build something together and they want to succeed. There is no better way to achieve this than through culture and music.

MILAN RADULOVIC

Parish Council Chairman, Broxtowe

Building cultural bridges

C-City is for now „only“ an idea that is hoped to spread throughout Europe. However, it is the people who believe in it who bring it to life.



” The project is there to create a cultural network. We are all different and from different cities. But culture is the key that connects us.

MICHAŁ CZEPEK

Director of Culture and Sport, Grudziądz



” We are a cosmopolitan town and we see this project as a great challenge. We hope that it will pave the way for other European cities to do the same.

JEAN-YVES HUGON

Deputy Mayor, Châteauroux



” I am sure that by working with international partners and among different participants, we will have a lot of exchanges within our local community.

CATHARINA ENHÖRNING

Head of International Affairs Committee, Falun



” Europe is growing together. Cities are the bedrock of Europe - and above all, the people who live there. They are the ones who build cultural bridges.

ANDREAS KIMPEL

Director of Culture, Gütersloh

Learning from each other and growing together

**Exchanging creative ideas,
developing them and
establishing a large network:
That is the impetus of the city of
Gütersloh for this transnational
European cultural project.**



Watch the
project movie

Establishing connections

No matter how great the distance between two countries, how much their geographical location shapes their cultural identity. No matter the differences between communities – or between genders, the rich and poor, the old and young – the language of culture connects all people.

Promoting discourse

Culture touches the heart and mind. It affects us directly. Culture does not ask questions - but it questions everything. And that is precisely why it offers reasons for debate and discussion. It is particularly this discourse that enables people to approach each other and creates connections, friendships and trust.

Thinking big – thinking bigger

These bridge-building elements inspired the Gütersloh initiators of the C-City project: Why wait for an internationally sensational event to occur somewhere where people just happen to meet and engage with each other? Why not actively create something that brings people together and communicate? Why not open the whole thing up to all the citizens of the city, and further, beyond the borders of the city, and still further - beyond the borders of the country? This way, we can also promote – or perhaps challenge - the European idea of community through cultural policy.

Opening borders

That's exactly what C-City is. A big, European festival that breaks down borders and draws everyone in. People from all walks of life who have their home in Europe.

Awakening creativity

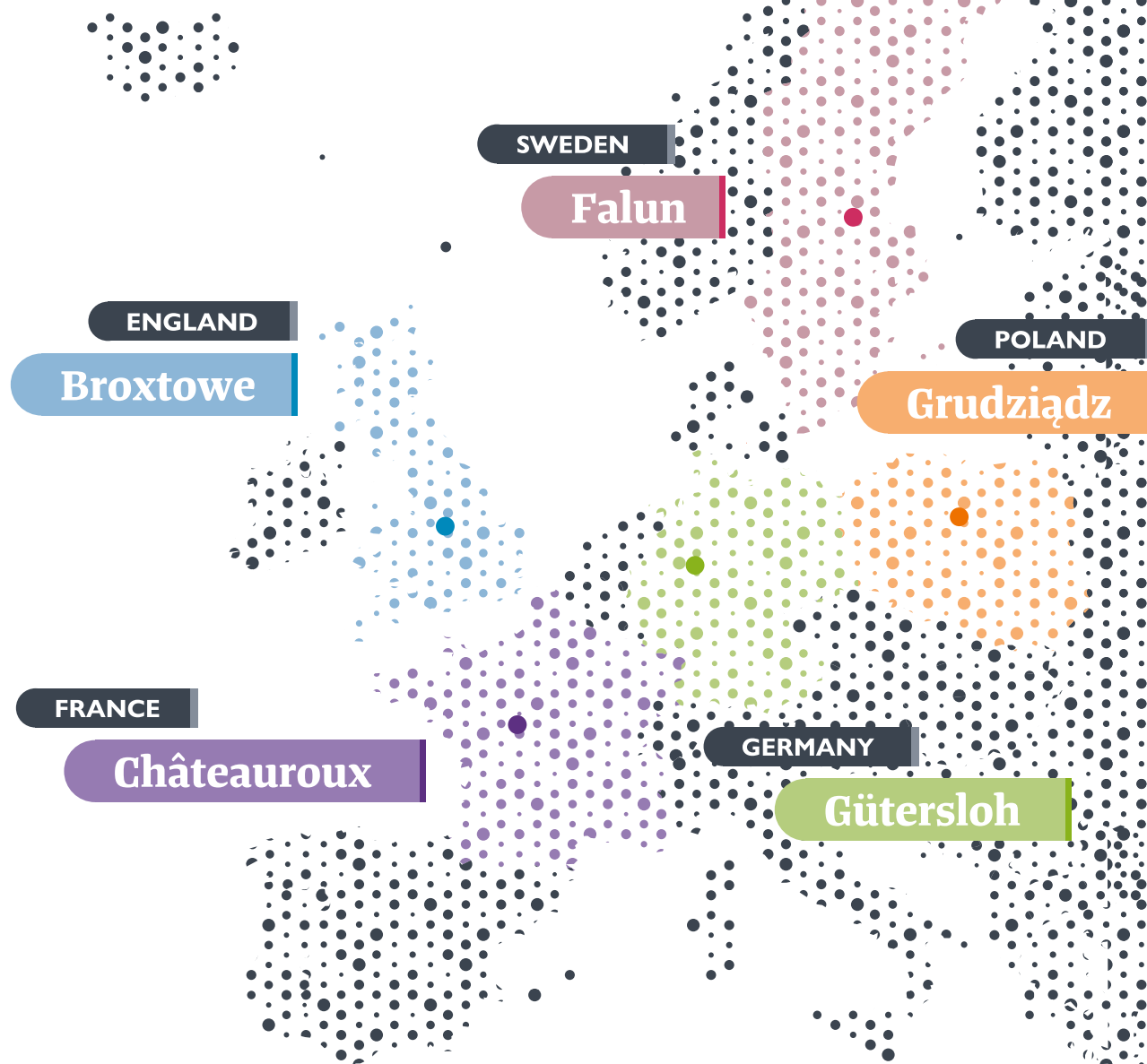
For the C-City project, twin towns Broxtowe in the UK, Châteauroux in France, Falun in Sweden, Grudziądz in Poland and Gütersloh in Germany have joined forces to live without borders and make the principle of „thinking outside the box“ the order of the day. The aim is to build up a network in which, starting in 2025, projects are realised annually across all fields, in individual projects but also simultaneously in different cities.

Including everyone

Making music together, reading, writing, dancing, crafting, working together. Developing, painting, photographing and discussing plays until they are ready for the stage. Everyone is in action, thinking and talking with each other. Children from different countries can sing together in a choir - a European rather than a national attitude to life comes to the fore. And everyone has the opportunity to be there, whether actively or in the audience. Analogue and digitally. Through mutual visits or through the internet.

Overcoming (language) barriers

In the end, everyone has learned from each other. Because Châteauroux finds a place in the hearts of the people of Broxtowe or because the rhythms of the medieval town of Grudziądz can flow through the blood of mid-summer-night-blessed Falunians. This is how the Gütersloh idea of „Cultural-City - Europe is next door“ will not only create culture that overcomes (language) barriers. C-City is also an active contribution to peace work, because each person becomes aware of his or her identity and responsibility as a European.





A groundbreaking invention, creative writers and a feel for the good around them are the ingredients for a diverse portrait of the town.

Industry, nature and imagination

Broxtowe, the industrial region. Broxtowe, the region of nature reserves. Broxtowe, the region for inspiring novels. Woven together, this makes a wonderfully harmonious triad – with a long history. Centuries before the administrative district in the county of Nottinghamshire was created in 1974 from other merged districts, Broxtowe had already produced something groundbreaking: the mechanical stocking frame.

A man named William Lee had invented this stocking-knitting machine in 1589, and it intensively influenced the industrial development of the region. It was, so to speak, what washing machines would later become for Gütersloh: the beginning of a success story. For the hosiery trade

that prevailed from then on brought prosperity. Despite the early start of industrialisation, which also boosted the transport sector, the region retained much of its unspoilt landscape.

There are 13 nature reserves in the immediate vicinity of Broxtowe, including the Attenborough Nature Reserve, named after the British wildlife filmmaker and naturalist David Attenborough. Not far away is the spiritual home of three other famous personalities: The writer H. D. Lawrence let a woman named Lady Chatterley find her sexual liberation there in the 1920s – and grow in spirit and mind as a result. Another is the initially shy veterinarian James Harriot, who matured into a grown man only ten years later in the „All

Creatures Great and Small“ tales. And Robin Hood, too, became what legend tells about him to this day in the immediate vicinity of Broxtowe.

In the Broxtowe region, creative imagination has always been very important. Coupled with the centuries-old urge to explore and the determination to make something out of it. What could be more natural than to embrace this in the C-City project and build on it?



1 The 13th century Cossall Village Church - rebuilt in 1842

2 Popular cultural event: Beeston Proms in the Park

3 The Attenborough Nature Reserve



**C-CITY
CHÂTEAURoux**

New and old - this is probably the best way to sum up the flair of Châteauroux with its far-reaching history and modern events.

Racing cyclists and Napoleon

Situated pretty much in the middle of the country, the city of just under 44,000 inhabitants combines almost everything that defines the typical French approach to life for non-French people: idyllic countryside, international flair, historic walls between modern buildings - and a lot of history in general - plus the famous *savoir vivre*, a lot of culture and, last but not least, the beautiful and natural fragrant of the region.

This is the way to live, you may think, whilst looking out of your window many kilometres away - and secretly dreaming of good wine and tempting regional delicacies, the melody of the French language and the sound of the accordion in your ears. Nevertheless, the town is anything

but tranquil. Châteauroux vibrates. There is the Equinoxe, a theatre, housed in a modern building, where, among other things, the international dance festival „Festival Darc“ takes place every year. In the former convent Les Cordeliers, modern art meets medieval walls - and the Musée Bertrand museum exhibits a collection from Napoleonic times.

Incidentally, it was named after Napoleon's closest confidant, General Bertrand, a son of the city. But Châteauroux also scores points in sporting terms: the town has already provided a stage for the Tour de France four times. At the height of the race, the cyclists race past the onlookers. Anyone in Gütersloh who wants to learn more about

the capital of the province of Indre on the river of the same name can simply ask former pupils from Gütersloh schools.

Many know Châteauroux from school exchanges, and the German-French Society of Gütersloh is in regular contact. But the exchange between the two cities is also consolidated on another level: The partnership, initiated by former wartime participants, stands for a special kind of reconciliation. As a sign of this, there have already been two joint exhibitions covering the First and Second World Wars. The cooperation hoped for in the C-City project has already been tried and tested.



1 Dance performances are very important in Châteauroux
2 Château-Raoul, the origin of the town, which developed from a settlement at the foot of the château **3** Skate park



Falun rose, was about to fall, came back. This eventful history is also symbolised by the former mine and the ski jumps.

First deep down, then high up

Non-Swedes run the risk of seeing Falun simply from a Bullerby perspective and sighing in delight: so many beautiful wooden houses and historic walls, this air, the art, the culture, and furthermore, it is a breathtaking paradise for winter sports.

In reality, it may not really be Bullerby - after all, which reality could stand up to this ideal? But Falun does fulfil the image of the Swedish idyll in a fantastic number of ways. Above all, it is beautiful. Yet everything used to be quite different. Falun owes its first early heyday to mining, which shaped the region from the 11th century onwards. In the 16th century, the mines accounted for almost two-thirds of the world's

copper production - until 1687, when the first of a series of mining disasters cast a shadow over the up-and-coming town. When two devastating fires destroyed most of old Falun in 1761, its fate seemed sealed by doom.

But: people got down to work. The city was rebuilt - this time the most important buildings were made of stone. It took about 120 years until the railway was built before the city really flourished again. But it grew steadily. Today, mining has not played a role for more than 30 years. What remains of it, however, has been designated a World Heritage Site as a reminder of its early rise. The old workers' quarters that survived the great fire unscathed, and some of the new build-

ings that were built to represent the area after the fire: all this is now one of Falun's most exciting sights.

If you look up, you will also find the Lugnet sports centre, including the Lugnet ski jumps, which regularly host World Cup competitions and were the venue for the Nordic World Ski Championships in 2014. Falun was thus grounded by mining, but through the ski jumps it also knows how to reach for the stars. Qualities that give the C-City project a foundation and foresight.



1



2



3

1 Open-air festival **2** A bit of Bullerby in Falun **3** The two Lugnet ski jumps are the venue for sporting competitions



C-CITY
GRUDZIĄDZ

Canoe tours on the Vistula or a visit to the historic fortress: Grudziądz is attractive by land and by water.

Upheaval for development

Two seemingly contradictory adjectives merge when describing the city of Grudziądz: turbulent and consistent.

Its history is turbulent, shaped by wars, different rulers and the cultural influences they brought with them. But their friendship with their twin town Gütersloh is consistent. Mutual visits through school exchanges and a trip by the Gütersloh Seniors' Advisory Council to Poland in 2019 consolidate the friendship founded in 1989, as does, for example, an exhibition of Gütersloh cityscapes in the Grudziądz City Museum or sculptures by the Grudziądz artist Cezary Kopik in Gütersloh. In other words, the foundation stone for a mutually mature relationship in

C-City has been in place for a long time. Historically, Grudziądz is the oldest of Gütersloh's five twin towns: it was first mentioned in a document in 166 as Creutungi in Gothic times.

However, it did not receive its town charter until a good 1100 years later in 1291. The centuries that followed have shaped the townscape to this day, among other things with impressively well-preserved granaries from the Gothic period. They are the landmark and one of the most exciting sights of the city on the Vistula.

History can be experienced in them: ancient ceiling beams from the time of construction exude their woody smell, remains of channels through

which cannonballs were transported in many wars allow the past to be touched. Grudziądz has suffered and always risen again.

Today it is a town that cultivates its medieval culture and proudly displays its fortress and medieval festivals, for example - but at the same time looks to the future: Shaped by its prominent location on the Vistula, which already drove European trade in goods in the Middle Ages, Grudziądz today is also an economic centre between Gdansk and Kaliningrad.



1 Wall painting for creative children **2** The Middle Ages come alive again at the fair **3** The historic granaries on the Vistula



The people of Gütersloh love their homeland - but they also like to put out feelers beyond their borders. This interest in the world shapes local businesses and industry, among other fields.

From village to global player

Those who don't know the people of Gütersloh say that they are stubborn East Westphalians. That they tend to be tight-lipped and prefer to mind their own business. So much for the prejudices of all those who have never dealt with the people here.

Everyone else, however, can talk about how much the people of Gütersloh come alive when it comes to making a difference. Building networks. Developing and promoting ideas. This is apparent not least in Gütersloh as a business location. Global players like Miele and Bertelsmann are at home here and run their businesses out of what used to be an agricultural village. This village has grown so much since it was first

mentioned in a document in 1184 that it bears the stamp „metropolis“ since 2018. People are proud of this - but they don't broadcast it. Because in reality, this is also what distinguishes the supposedly stubborn people here: They are modest, but self-confident. They are creative and cosmopolitan far beyond the boundaries of economic interests.

International exchange is encouraged at an early stage. There are regular visits between the schools of Gütersloh and those of its twin towns, and musical institutions such as the music school or the Bach Choir organise trips as well. Whether at school, at university or later in a job: many leave their home country to gain

experience for a while - but the majority are happy to return. Perhaps this is due to the great cultural opportunities offered by such locations as the theatre, the „Weberei“ (weaving mill), the „Dreiecksplatz“ or the open-air stage in Mohns Park, where creativity is at your fingertips. People meet, enjoy and exchange ideas.

Or at the many sporting opportunities: Jogging in the parks, sports clubs, several swimming pools. Lifelong learning is also promoted in Gütersloh. Whether it is to learn new languages, to educate oneself politically or to engage with religions other than one's own. The people here are many things - but not stubborn.

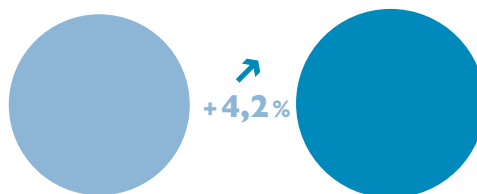


1 Socialising on the Dreiecksplatz at the “Friday 18” summer event
2 The theatre **3** The pedestrian zone **4** The botanical garden

Did you know that . . .

. . . Falun is Gütersloh's smallest twin town and Châteauroux was the first? Or that Falun and Graudenz are not only twinned with Gütersloh, but also with each other?

BROXTOWE



According to the Office for National Statistics, Broxtowe had **113,272 inhabitants** in 2018, compared to 108,730 ten years earlier, i.e. a decrease of 4.2%.

. . .

1974

The Greater Broxtowe Municipality was created after a territorial reform in 1974. Early mentions of the name Broxtowe date back to the 11th century.

. . .

Since 1978

Sealed: In April 1978, Gütersloh's mayor Heinz Kollmeyer and his colleague from Broxtowe, Katherine Archer, signed the deed.

CHÂTEAURoux



According to the Institut National de la Statistique et des Études Économiques (National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies), Châteauroux had **43,732 inhabitants** in 2015. In 2006, the number was 49,659, an increase of 11.9%.

. . .

1230

The town was founded with the construction of the Château-Raoul castle by Raoul I le Large, Prince of Déols around 950. It received its town charter in 1230.

. . .

Since 1977

The first: Châteauroux became Gütersloh's first twin town in 1977. The driving idea from the beginning was cultural and economic exchange.

FALUN



Falun had **59,660 inhabitants** at the end of 2020, according to the Statistiska Centralbyrån. At the end of 2010, there were 37,291, so today there are 35% more.

...

1641

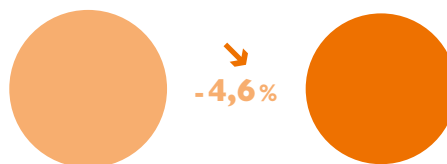
The first references to the town date back to the 11th century in connection with the copper mine at Tirkesjöberg. Falun received its town charter in 1641.

...

Since 1994

Good contacts: Gütersloh and Falun became twinned in 1994. The contact came about because both Gütersloh and Falun are twin towns of Grudziądz.

GRUDZIĄDZ



According to the Główny Urząd Statystyczny, Grudziądz had **94,406 inhabitants** at the end of 2020, up 4.6% from 98,987 ten years earlier.

...

1291

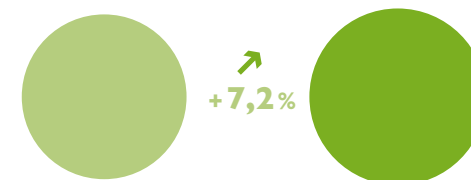
Grudziądz was mentioned for the first time in 166, the time of the Goths. At that time it was called Creutungi. It received its town charter in 1291.

...

Since 1991

Common ground: Grudziądz has been Gütersloh's twin town since 1989 – it has been twinned with Falun since 1991. It is about 1300 kilometres from both cities.

GÜTERSLOH



According to the municipal population register, the city of Gütersloh had **103,134 inhabitants** in 2020, compared to 96,189 in 2010, a decrease of 7.2%.

...

1825

Gütersloh was first mentioned in a document in 1184, it has had municipal law since 1825 - and since 2018 the city of Gütersloh has officially been classified as a large city.

...

Since 2017

Sign: Since 2017, a steel stele on Gütersloh's "Büscherplatz" square has been pointing in the directions of Gütersloh's twin towns – with information on the distances to them.

The project C-City – Europe is next door is intended to show that even medium-sized cities can radiate culture throughout Europe.



5 Questions for Daniela Daus

Project coordinator
C-City – Europe is next door

Ms. Daus, Gütersloh is the initiator of the C-City project. What is the project all about?

It is intended to connect Europe even more. You can think of it as a network that is being spun. Initially in Gütersloh. From there, we connect with the partner cities - and from there, the network is further spun among ourselves. In this way, we all become firmly interwoven. It is a give and take.

Which larger goal is Gütersloh pursuing?

The project offers Gütersloh a platform to promote itself as a city of culture. We are not an A or B city, but a medium-sized C-City. But we are a city that exudes culture. Gütersloh hopes to take this to a European level and show that medium-sized cities are also attractive. It is also hopes to encourage other cities to realise something similar.

In which areas do you want all this to happen?

We are, of course, addressing the classic art sectors. But in the end, anyone and everyone can participate. Culture is, after all, everything made by people. Whether it's in the field of sport or something that citizens might want from Europe. All of this has a place in C-City.

What has been planned in Gütersloh so far?

We are still collecting ideas at the moment. We have around 40, now we have to see which ones can be implemented. For example, we want to include the topic of inclusion. The Adult Education Centre is already very active and creates micro-projects in adult education. We want to see how we can get together in the business sector. There is the idea of hiring town clerks in the twin towns and then arranging exchanges between them. As a concrete project, we have already planned the realisation of the children's opera Pollicino by the Gütersloh composer Hans Werner Henze as an international production.

What is your greatest wish for C-City?

That our colleagues in the partner cities will be as passionate about it as we are. That they see the opportunity this presents, not just to go along with something already organised, but to play a part in shaping it. Of course, this requires resources, work and courage. I hope that they will find that and that we will then bring the project to fruition together.

Interested in getting involved?

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Watch the **project movie**:



Imprint

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NOTE: The administration of the City of Gütersloh wants to address all people and not exclude anyone; women and men and those people who feel they belong to neither the female nor the male gender. Even where the gender-neutral formulation has not been used in individual cases, everyone should feel addressed.

THE LOGO

The logo is based on the outline of an ancient Greek theatre. Rotated accordingly, the shape visualises a “C” and thus creates the reference to the “Cultural City Community”. The colours and dots stand for the participating partner cities. They symbolise the cultural diversity as well as the people coming together.



