



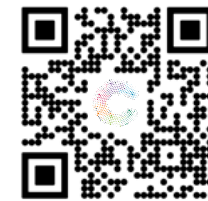
CULTURAL
CITYCOMMUNITY
BROXTOWE
CHÂTEAUROUX
FALUN
GRUDZIĄDZ
GÜTERSLOH

C-City – Europe is next door

A summary of the launch event
from may 12th to 15th 2022 in Gütersloh.



An initiative of the
City of Gütersloh



www.c-city.eu

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REVIEW

The C-City kick-off event in Gütersloh: workshops, excursions and a lot of social interaction.

4

KEYNOTES

How are we doing in Europe? What brings us closer together? What challenges do we face? Can culture overcome borders? High-profile speakers shared thought-provoking and inspiring ideas alongside presentations to kick off the event.

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WORKSHOPS

The C-City project took shape as ideas were exchanged in workshops. Over two days, creative ideas were developed, formulated, discarded, reconceptualised. The results show what can be accomplished in 2025.



Creatively networked

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At first, „C-City - Europe is next door“ was just a working title. The essence of an idea. But after our big kick-off conference, at the latest, it has become clear that Gütersloh and its partner cities have formed a large cultural network that brings the European idea to life and allows it to grow. However, it wasn't easy to get the project off the ground. The pandemic prevented people from meeting in person, and Zoom and WhatsApp became the means of communication. And last but not least, the war in the Ukraine gave cause for readjustments. But perhaps all this has made C-City and its idea of creating a peaceful and humane Europe even more important.

In May 2022, the first conference took place in Gütersloh with participants from Gütersloh, Châteauroux, Grudziądz, Falun and Broxtowe - with workshops, excursions, cultural events, interactions and opportunities to learn from each other. The highlight was the signing of a charter by all the cities, creating a framework that forms the heart of the project. In this brochure, we present what we have achieved and what we hope to accomplish in the future. We hope you enjoy browsing through it and find it inspiring.

Andreas Kimpel

Director of Culture and Continuing Education

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THE CHARTER

When all participating cities signed the charter, they established a project framework as the centre-piece for a European network and cooperation.

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OUTLOOK

How does an idea become a long-term cooperation with projects that will be rolled out from 2025 onwards? How are creative projects not only developed - but also expanded? What can participants expect in the coming years?

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ARTISTS & ANTHEM

Gütersloh artists enriched the event - and the C-City anthem is already a catchy tune!

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PRESS REVIEW

This is how the C-City project and the kick-off event have been reported so far.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Without support, the idea for C-City would never have become the project it is now. We would like to thank everyone for their assistance!



WORDS OF WELCOME & KEYNOTE SPEECHES

Norbert Morkes, Mayor of the City of Gütersloh
Dr. Stephan Holthoff-Pförtner, Minister for Europe
Irmgard Maria Fellner, Federal Foreign Office
Dr. Malte Tim Zabel, Bertelsmann Foundation
Lotte Footh, Head of Europe Direct
Max Oestersötebier, „The Sazerac Swingers”
from page 4

The kick-off

Gütersloh City Hall
12 to 15 May 2022

HOST OF THE DAY

Brigitte Büscher

MUSICAL INTERMEZZO

Nils Rabente (piano), Eckard Vincke (trumpet)
and Chihiro Masaki (piano)



REPRESENTATIVES COMMUNICATING

Zulfiqar Darr (Broxtowe)
Jean-Yves Hugon (Châteauroux)
Sara Hedström (Falun)
Michał Czeppek (Grudziądz)
Andreas Kimpel (Gütersloh)
from page 4



WORKSHOPS

Visual Arts and Exhibitions, Theatre and Literature, Classical Music, Jazz and Rock, History and Customs, Sports (Running and Cycling), Food and Lifestyle
from page 6



SIGNING OF THE CHARTER

Teresa Cullen & Zulfiqar Darr (Broxtowe)
Gil Avérous & Jean-Yves Hugon (Châteauroux)
Jan E. Fors & Sara Hedström (Falun)
Maciej Glamowski & Róża Lewandowska (Grudziądz)
Norbert Morkes & Andreas Kimpel (Gütersloh)
from page 8



CULTURAL PROGRAMME

Excursions to cultural sites in Gütersloh, Gütersloh City Museum, „Stolpersteine“ (stumbling blocks) and new Jewish cemetery, historical city tours, „Cultural Kaleidoscope“.
from page 12

In it together with heart and soul

What is essential to establish such a large creative network as C-City? Five keynote speakers on important values for culture, solidarity and Europe.



**DR. STEPHAN
HOLTHOFF-
PFÖRTNER**
Minister for Federal and
European Affairs and
International Matters

Diversity is enriching – Gütersloh as an „Active European Municipality“ sets an example for many others



Europe is next door when people meet regardless of language barriers. Cultures connect even without words. Europe is next door and diversity is enriching when people share their passion for music, their interest in history, or their enthusiasm for theatre and literature. Europe is next door when this exchange takes place across generations and social groups. All of this is happening here and now in Gütersloh.

For you, Europe has always been next door. That is why your city was one of the first in North Rhine-Westphalia to be awarded the title of „Active European Municipality“ in 2013, and rightly so. You are a role model for many others.



**IRMGARD MARIA
FELLNER**
Commissioner for
Foreign Cultural Policy,
Federal Foreign Office

Urban diplomacy – Strengthening overall social networking through culture



Exchanges within civil societies are a powerful defence against enemies of democracy. For this reason we want to involve associations and organisations more in foreign policy considerations. For us, town twinning is a central part of a „foreign policy of civil societies“.

For the first time, urban diplomacy has found its way into a coalition agreement of the federal government. (...) The C-City project is part of this approach of using municipal connections to create stronger links between societies as a whole through the language of culture.



**DR. MALTE
ZABEL**

Co-Director, Bertelsmann Foundation

Unifying elements – amidst our diversity, we have more that unites us than divides us



The fact that we can meet across national borders and experience our cultures together is a very important key to European solidarity. And that is why C-City is so important.

It is a network that enables cross-border exchanges, that overcomes barriers through the language of culture, that builds bridges and promotes community spirit among the people of Europe - and does so in a very practical way. Initiatives such as C-City show: Europe really is next door; amidst our diversity, we have much more that unites us than divides us. Your joint project, ladies and gentlemen, is making a very significant contribution to this realisation.



**LOTTE
FOOTH**

Head of Europe Direct District of Gütersloh

A tangible Europe – Culture brings people together and can build bridges



I think that the C-City project is making a terrific contribution to making the European idea tangible and accessible. Culture brings people from different countries together and can build bridges, so that we in Europe will be even more united in the future. I hope that this project will help everyone in Gütersloh, Châteauroux, Grudziądz, Broxtowe and Falun to regard themselves proudly as Europeans. Europe must be experienced first-hand in every single community; communities are the foundation of the European Union. The town twinning partnerships, which you all promote with your heart and soul, are undeniably essential to the European idea.



**MAX OESTER-
SÖTEBIER**

Musician and cultural manager

Structures – Financial and structural support are important for those working in the cultural sector



Besides the importance of having good artists, there are two other key factors for a vibrant cultural life in a city: financial and structural support, in order for culture to reach people. For me as a musician and cultural manager, those providing this support are above all Gütersloh Marketing and the Department of Culture of the City of Gütersloh. By initiating a cultural development plan and a cultural forum, the city offers a lively platform for dialogue and networking between people involved in the cultural sector, event organisers and the city's community. This spirit has given rise to a wonderful project such as C-City, which my band and I wholeheartedly support!

Working together

At the first C-City conference in Gütersloh in May 2022, a two-day workshop was held to work out how the project can take shape and move forward. These are the results:

FOOD & LIFESTYLE



What is it about?

Culinary traditions in a joint cookery book for wonderful unifying moments.

What was achieved?

The book project will not only present exemplary dishes from the regions, but also explain the background and portray people.

The next steps:

Finding dishes, stories and cultural backgrounds as well as interesting people who can recount atmospheric stories. First concept presentation in November 2022 for the 24th „Salon de la Gastronomie et des Vins“ in Châteauroux.

HISTORY & CUSTOMS



What is it about?

A joint digital exhibition of all C-City towns.

What has been achieved?

Choosing a topic that is relevant to all partner cities and offers enough material for a presentation in which the characteristics as well as the commonalities of the cities can be shown.

The next steps:

Selecting topics and developing a concept followed by local research.

CLASSICAL MUSIC



What is it about?

Discussing the joint realisation of the children's opera „Pollicino“ by H. W. Henze

What was achieved?

Bringing it to life was deemed to be too complex. The initial impetus developed into the idea of a joint concert project.

The next steps:

Planning a joint performance by partner city ensembles. As a run-up: a joint concert during the C-City conference in 2023. Developing the design and production of a concert for 2025.

JAZZ & ROCK

**What is it about?**

Identifying ideas, potentials and protagonists.

What was achieved?

Translating the C-City song into the languages of the partner cities, also as a basis for local interpretations. Creating compositions for a classical interpretation. Forming a band with video documentation.

The next steps:

Compiling concepts, raising funds, enabling artists to implement them. „The Sazerac Swingers“ have had a first joint European session in Grudziądz. Planning a joint C-City Festival 2025 in Gütersloh.

SPORTS

**What is it about?**

Exchanging ideas by planning/ participating in existing and new sporting events in the twin cities - especially cycling and running.

What was achieved?

Developing ideas for possible events and marketing strategies that will be implemented together with organisers and partner cities.

The next steps:

Listing and justifying sporting events: Why come to the respective city for this? Developing information brochures. Promoting C-City at events, planning a joint sports event by 2025.

THEATRE & LITERATURE

**What is it about?**

Bringing together laymen actors from the cities on stage instead of professional theatre groups.

What was achieved?

A joint play for the theatre with a focus on inclusion and young people. They also have parts in the play.

The next steps:

For literature and dance, sourcing interested authors as well as dance groups from individual cities that would like to participate. Over the next few months, developing concepts and identifying funding opportunities.

VISUAL ARTS

**What is it about?**

Art and artist exchanges between the C-City cities.

What was achieved?

A grant allowing one artist from each city to live and work in his or her field of interest in a partner city for three months.

The next steps:

Forming a committee that will decide which artist will work in which city. During the stay, a workshop for the public will take place and artworks will be created for a C-City touring exhibition. A joint exhibition is planned for the city's anniversary in Gütersloh in 2025.

Excerpt from the C-City Charter

... for citizens, representatives of municipalities, associations and institutions participating in the C-City project.

I participate in the development of the „C-City - Europe is next door“ intercommunal European project together with citizens from different backgrounds, from all walks of life and from all over the EU..

As a participant in the project I commit to

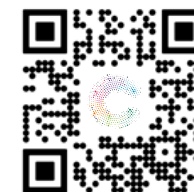
- respecting our European values according to Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union: Human Dignity, Liberty, Democracy, Equality, Rule of Law and Respect for Human Rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities [...].
- contributing to the C-City project with constructive and concrete proposals, respecting the views of others and jointly shaping the future of Europe through the C-City intermunicipal project.
- not expressing, disseminating or sharing any content that is illegal, hateful or intentionally false or misleading. [...]

As a C-City project participant who organises programme content, I commit to

- putting citizens at the centre of each event and allow them to freely express their opinions.
- promoting inclusive and accessible content for all citizens*, [...]
- promoting diversity in debates by actively supporting the participation of citizens from all walks of life, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic background, religion, and/or level of education.
- upholding freedom of speech, [...].
- [...] ensuring transparency. [...]



The **entire text** of the Charter can be read here:





Having a guideline is a great way to keep everything on track when developing a large-scale project such as C-City.

From the idea to project

If you want to build a ship, don't summon people to buy wood, prepare tools, distribute jobs, and organise the work; teach people the yearning for the wide, boundless ocean. „This quote from Antoine de Saint-Exupéry should be the driving force for all of us when taking the next steps, even if a storm comes or the compass starts spinning“ - that's how Gütersloh's Director of Culture Andreas Kimpel sums up the path from idea to project for C-City.

1. Project development

Common interests connect people and motivate them to commit themselves to a cause. But every idea must first be given substance: How can a goal be achieved, what is needed to realise it, and how can it work?

2. Concept phase

- Who do we want to reach with this project?

- What is special about it?
- What opportunities does the project offer?
- What are the technical and spatial requirements?
- Is it possible to go on tour with the project through the C-Cities?
- Who will take the lead - who could be the project sponsor?
- How should the project be communicated and how can people find out about it?
- What is the estimated total cost? Who can support the project financially?

When should it take place, how long should it be planned?

After carefully exploring these points, a funding plan can be drawn up, funding programmes approached and applications submitted. Important: Concepts must be presented convincingly and coherently.



2019

First idea



2020

Concretisation



2021

Idea for conference



2022

1. C-City Conference
in Gütersloh

3. Project organisation

Teams of interested and committed people from the C-Cities are formed. Each project team has a head and a management. The project head coordinates and leads meetings, ensures agreements and results, and drives the content forward. The project management supports the team and the head of the project. In an agreement, everyone commits to cooperating and driving the project forward. Results are documented. The open-source programme MeisterTask is the recommended platform (meistertask.com).

4. Preview

Communicating on an international level in different languages and with different ways of working is fun, enriching, but also time-consuming and must be well prepared.

- The year 2022 will be used by project teams to outline a concept.
- At the beginning of 2023, concepts will be evaluated, including checking it with other participants. Ideally, everything can be presented and adapted in May 2023 at the 2nd conference in Châteauroux. Then it can be decided which projects will be realised and by when. They will receive the C-City label.
- By winter 2023, sources of funding for these C-City projects should be identified, explored, assessed, and applications submitted.
- If funding is available, implementation of the respective project can begin in 2024 and 2025.
- At the 3rd C-City conference in 2024 in Grudziądz, a preview of all projects will be presented and determined.
- The goal: to ensure that 2025 will be the first major presentation year of C-City - if possible

within the framework of a C-City Week for the 200th city anniversary in Gütersloh. It will then move on to the other C-City partner cities. Meanwhile smaller projects or those that are realised more quickly can be showcased in the cities. Subject to political decisions in 2023, the city of Gütersloh would like to set up a funding programme to promote performances and exchanges of artists in the C-City project. For international cultural work performed locally, this means that the initiative for „urban diplomacy“, which has been reinforced by the federal government, is now becoming reality.



2023

2. C-City- Conference
in Châteauroux



2024

3. C-City Conference
in Grudziądz



2025

Start of the project presentations for
the city anniversary in Gütersloh



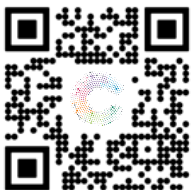
from 2026

further joint
cultural projects

Cultural diversity

Before the opening event reached its climax with the C-City anthem by singer/songwriter Mickey Meinert, Gütersloh's cultural artists delighted the audience with excerpts of their skills.

Here you can hear
the song in full length
(German version):



C-CITY SONG *excerpt*

1st verse

We have much to offer | Are rich in culture | Hold secret treasures | Have minor and major encounters | We let springs gush forth | Take you by the hand | Unfold our diversity | Europe is right next door and this is how it starts

Chorus

C-Cities no boundaries | C-Cities together strong
C-Cities with one soul | We are we, yes, rock and roll

2nd verse

We belong together | Will build bridges | [...]





1 World premiere: Singer/songwriter Mickey Meinert has composed the C-City anthem. **2 Historic:** The Folklore Circle Gütersloh e.V. maintains traditions - with dances and hand-made traditional costumes. **3 Modern:** The Gütersloh Theatre showed a video production made during the lock-down period. „Artists have to work,“ says Art Director Christian Schäfer. **4 Upbeat:** The Session Sax Duo. **5 Portraits:** Franziska Jäger, visual artist, including a self-portrait (centre). **6 Powerful words:** Poetry slammer Niko Sioulis. **7 Energetic:** The Avenwedde Youth Music Corps.



„Has much more to offer than Abba and Ikea“

(...) „Broxtowe continues to see itself as part of the EU even after Brexit, says Andreas Kimpel, Director of Culture, happily. (...) According to the Director of Culture, Falun in Sweden is a particularly innovative city which is also a world heritage city with its mining tradition. „Many associate Sweden with Abba and Ikea. We want to show that Falun has much more to offer.“ (...) Grudziądz is culturally an open-minded city that combines tradition in a new way,“ says Andreas Kimpel.(...)

Twin towns come together in the town hall

(...) State and federal government are also observing Gütersloh's initiative. This can be seen, for example, in the fact that the Foreign Office and the European Ministry are represented by keynote speakers at the first C-City conference. (...)

„My English is a little bit rusty“

(...) „Geo- and power politics have returned to Europe with force. Since the war in the Ukraine, we have been living in a different world,“ said Dr. Malte Tim Zabel of the Bertelsmann Stiftung (...). Europe is well advised to become independent in the future, not only in terms of economic and security policies. (...)

C-City in in the press

Everyone agrees on one thing: C-City is a project that will help Europe grow even closer together. Openness and the will to cooperate are the building blocks, and the charter is the centrepiece.



Project ideas are taking shape in Gütersloh

(...) Jean-Yves Hugon, Vice Mayor of Gütersloh's oldest twin town Châteauroux adds: „We are embarking on a great and wonderful adventure.“ (...) The C-City conference in Châteauroux is scheduled for 2023. For 2024, Grudziądz has extended an invitation. (...)



Gütersloh brings Europe together - von unten

„I am a committed European,“ emphasises Andreas Kimpel. That is why he wants to set an example as the Director of Culture of the City of Gütersloh - „against the rife anti-European right-wing populism, against Euroscepticism and growing Europhobia, and for a united Europe, which is becoming more important than ever, as the Russian war against the Ukraine shows.“ (...) „I am thrilled by the great openness for the project in the participating cities and how many people participate.“ (...)

Start of a European adventure

This is how Europe works: five partner cities, one programme, one network and the will to cooperate in the fields of music, theatre, art, sports and lifestyle. This is C-City, which was consolidated with the signing of the charter in five languages on Saturday in the Gütersloh town hall. (...) It is a framework at the „heart“ of this special network, to which not only the twin cities are invited: „We have created a foundation on which we can build,“ Mayor Norbert Morkes summed up. (...)

A heartfelt thank you

Many thanks for the support of the C-City kick-off conference go to the Ministry for Federal and European Affairs and International Affairs of the State of NRW, Bertelsmann SE & Co. KGaA, Gütersloh Marketing GmbH and the entire Department of Culture and Continuing Education, especially the Department of Culture and the

VHS Adult Education Centre, especially Christina Gößling-Arnold for organizing the workshops and her contribution to the conference's supporting programme, as well as the Department of Representation and Partner Cities at the city's Central Public Relations Office.

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NOTE: The Municipality of Gütersloh's administration would like 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.



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