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**Task: European Identity - European historical events**

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### Town twinning in Europe

Whenever there is a discussion about the history of the European Union, we talk about politicians. But there is also a profound interest for an exchange of culture, arts, economic and social environment in the European population in general. The overwhelming majority of the EU citizens appreciates a peaceful coexistence with each other.

The first authentic mention about a town twinning was written in 836 AD (Le Mans – Paderborn) but the first official one was sealed in 1925 AD (Kiel – Sonderburg).

The idea of a Europe *from bottom up* was worded 1943 AD by the Swiss Constitution Historian **Adolf Gasser**. He was one of the founders of the RGE (Council of the Communities of Europe – now RGRE). The main reason for founding this organization was the education of the European citizens to be more democratic and peaceful. Gassers main target was the peaceful cohabitation of the former arch-rivals France and Germany.

Meanwhile a few thousands of town twinning exist in whole Europe. Actually even Olching is involved in three partnerships:



- Feurs (France) since 1963 AD
- Yaloya (Kongo) since 1978 AD
- Tuchola (Poland) since 1994 AD

Especially the partnership with Tuchola is very exciting as there are still huge problems between Poland and Germany. The common interest of both cities in arts and sports (i.e. Speedway) is very helpful for this relation.

