

## Triple meeting in Vienna on 21st and 22nd January 2010 Groningen – Magdeburg – Vienna

The VECU triple meeting in Vienna was really a success. We had very good discussions and presentations.

**Apart from the discussions and presentations regarding the books chosen by the triple partners, it was a matter of concern for the participants to emphasize the importance of common European values.**

Olaf Freymark who leads the Magdeburg team, gave us a Power Point presentation regarding such values and rules. Values and rules are necessary for the functioning of a society.

Olaf Freymark said that perhaps today there are other or new values necessary than in former times because the lifestyle of today is different from that of previous generations.

The Magdeburg group showed the changing of values from the books chosen by them. It very much depends from the year of publication of the book since the German society changed very much in the course of the past century.

The colleagues from Groningen presented the value of tolerance towards people of other race, religion, sexual orientation or other at the example of the book by Harry Mulisch “Two Women” (1975). This book was written when tolerance and acceptance of homosexuality in Europe was not yet given for granted.

The Viennese team chose a book by Erich Hackl “Abschied von Sidonie” which shows the fate of a gipsy girl in the time of National Socialism in Austria. At that time not only Jews but also gypsies and handicapped people were persecuted.

Our aim to present a part of our national literature to our VECU partners was thus fulfilled and we had an extended discussion regarding European values and the fear of many Europeans that radicalism will increase in various European countries.

Another item of our tandem was **the cooperation between generations**. Vienna and also Groningen made questionnaires which were presented to school classes regarding the reading habits of children and young people. Vienna made a Power Point Presentation regarding the outcome of this questionnaire.

**For all the participants of the project good contacts to the young generation are very important. Not only good contacts to other generations but also the transmission of values necessary for the living together of mankind must be an aim of us older people.**

**Till the Meeting in Wroclaw in June we will not have any more a meeting of the three partners but the Viennese group will have another meeting where we will make a list of values important for Europe. This list will then be sent to Magdeburg and Groningen who will make the necessary addition of their values. We will then present this list in Wroclaw.**