

April, 2017

MEMORANDUM
for

FUTURE PARTNERS

of

STIFTUNG LIVLÄNDISCHE GEMEINNÜTZIGE
(Foundation Livonian Common Weal)

aiming at

CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

(Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and the German Eastern border regions)

for

FORTIFYING CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS (FOCUS: MIDDLE CLASS) IN THE EASTERN BALTIC
SEA COUNTRIES

(within the EU and beyond its Eastern borders)

Introduction and resume

(full text only in German language)

The basic intention of the memorandum is, to strengthen and to up-grade the civic societies in the Eastern Baltic Sea bordering countries, especially in the Baltic EU countries, by cross-border cooperation of its top performers.

For this objective, especially middle class small enterprises (all trades, also agriculture) are focused, including their personal environment; in other words: the core of the social structures in the whole Eastern Baltic Sea regions.

Solutions which have been generated in the past and which have been successfully practised in former crisis times and the collaboration with suitable partners shall help to solve a burning problem of European dimension and, hand-in-hand with this, pave the way for more cohesion between the “old” and the “new” EU.

The author is convinced that each of the Baltic Sea countries, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, is too weak to reach tangible social advancements, out of its own..

The Baltic countries still show a preference for isolation among each other, instead of acting together. For this reason, cross-border collaboration has to be stressed.

The understanding that alliances with civic societies in other EU countries rather fortify national identity than endangering it, still has to develop roots.

Of equal importance are Western European partnerships governed by the spirit of solidarity.

The traditions of joint civic activities to protect sufficient income and to influence the social structures with the help of self-help institutions went lost in these countries as a consequence of Second World War and, likewise, the formerly close relations with like-minded European partners vanished.

The memory of what existed, ahead of the war, in this context and what protected these small countries against the danger to succumb already in the crisis times of the 20s and the early 30s of the past century, has become completely erased. This, at least, is the finding of the author of this memo.

Since the changes in the East, in these regions free and exclusively profit seeking market economy dominates, without social responsibility and lacking limitations by civic bodies.

The heritage of a former culture of co-operative economic and communal self-help still rests, without being used, in well equipped archives.

In the Baltic Countries the attitude to live at the expense of the EU is wide-spread. The subsidies oppress non-profit initiatives to improve economic emancipation by common actions, using for this objective institutions of autonomous economic self-reliance.

Thus, convergence in the EU, until our days, has not yet been reached although know-how in this field exists anywhere in Europe, including the Baltic States and though reconstruction

partnerships are viable.

The path out of the isolation would be the orientation towards the urgently necessary erection of up-to-date intermediary structures, on the foundations of historic regional or local experiences; all this would be not only in the own interest of these countries but, in the end, for the benefit of all EU citizens.

Of highest importance, in this sense, would be the inclusion of the Baltic Countries in a permanent network with the bigger Eastern Baltic Sea countries. These are Poland, the German border regions with Poland, perhaps also Finland and – in a longer term – also including Russia.

In this context, the influence of the structures of self-sufficiency, during Soviet times omni-present and still practised (though losing importance) on small enterprises, family groupings and the social structures, in general, merits to be mentioned. .

Poland, Germany and Finland would be in such a cross-border alliance not only donors; they would experience valuable, unwanted developments correcting feed-back.

As far as Germany is concerned, there exist many deficits in the field of associative economy, dating from pre-war, war and post-war times which wait for corrections.

This includes the coming to terms with the destructive operations of Germany, above all in the still continuing destructive effects of racial and nations elimination obsessions..

There still misses a link between profit maximising economy and associative civic self-help, a gap which impedes the junction between public powers and capitalist activities, so necessary for social well-being.

Closing this gap enforces the economy and, thus, society. This is a platitude in Western Europe. In the East, this common conviction still waits for becoming accepted.

A civic society with a living, socially committed economic democracy, together with professionally well educated citizens who produce high quality items, safeguards stability and is the best sustainable protection against external aggression. Military measure are just complementary measures and have stable communities as pre-condition.

Such a new orientation would not be considered by neighbours beyond the EU borders as aggression. On the contrary, it would stimulate their attention and could, in the course of a medium term, prepare the way for changes, also there.

But it has to be taken into account, that initiatives of the proposed type will be without success if they remain limited to actions of small, well-intentioned citizens groups.

Academic bodies from each of the mentioned countries have to identify with the matter. They have to influence governments, citizens representations with well funded arguments and, by this, cause impact on their economies and national societies.

The countries at the Eastern rim of the Baltic Sea need not start from the scratch. They are in a position to refer to a rich pre-war heritage (i.e. archived documentations).

Referring to Latvia and Estonia, the legacy of „Livlaendische Gemeinnuetzige und Oekonomische Sozietat“ (Livonian Economic and Common Weal Society), a scholarly

body, founded at the times of Enlightenment (1792) and which operated with great success until Second World War.

The author of this memo has made effective in his own name and under that of the (2011) erected “Stiftung Livlaendische Gemeinnuetzige” (= Foundation Livonian Common Weal) a lot of preparatory work for the proposed task. This has been published under the web addresses www.livonian-common-weal.org and www.livlaendische-gemeinnuetzige.org.

Additionally, he is ready to transfer, not only the work already carried out and the produced connections, but also the foundation itself, plus its funds (which would include his personal heritage) into a cooperation in the exposed sense (= succession).

The author's professional c.v.

The author holds a doctor's degree (Cologne, Germany, University with a thesis on Chile, supported by a German State scholarship for Latin American countries and the US) and the German First (= basic) Law Professions degree.

Due to the fact that he possessed a six years commercial banking experience (Bank fuer Gemeinwirtschaft, formerly a trade unions body, an economic self-help institution of workers), he decided to choose the Senior Services career with Deutsche Bundesbank (the German Central Bank), instead of following a law profession.

He finalised the training at Bundesbank successfully, with the regular Senior Services Diploma. Immediately hereafter, he accepted a three and a half years job as cooperatives development adviser in Colombia, under the mandate of Germany's Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, licensed for this by Bundesbank..

Shortly after the return from this mission (1971) he was transferred, on his own request, to the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, for which he served until his civil servant pensioning (2001).

The job at the Bonn headquarters of the Ministry was, at several occasions, interrupted by further international missions

Following the timing: Development Secretary at the German Embassy, Lima, for three years; a second three years Colombia mission, at this time for the official German Technical Assistance body, as adviser for the – at that time – biggest rural Credit Co-operative; a one year job as National Expert for the EU Programme PHARE, the for-runner of the preparation of EU memberships of Middle and Eastern European Reform Countries; emerging from this, a one and a half year mission as adviser for the re-vitalised Estonian Central Bank (result, outside the EU mandate: design and support for the introduction, of the new Estonian currency, Kroon, which, in the mean-time has been succeed by the EURO); against the end of the civil servant career, three years Development Assistance Secretary at the German Embassy, Dhaka.

The author is economically independent. He knows the systems, referred to in the memorandum, in detail, without any commitment to specific interests. His motivation is merely general interest, civic society up-grading and prosperity for all EU citizens.

He offers to contribute to trustworthy partners “Stiftung Livlaendische Gemeinnuetzige”, including its fortune, its achievements and connections, plus his personal heritage, estimated total value above ½ million €.

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