

SLAVONIC EUROPE THE TIMELESS TOGETHERNESS OF MIND & EMOTION

“The idea of HUMANITY and BROTHERHOOD is a gift from the Slavs to the entire world civilization.”

Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk (1850-1937)

SLAVONIC EUROPE (SE) is a European project aiming at establishing a Slavonic cultural movement at an international level. It started in autumn 2015 in Brussels and intends to give subsequently back to the world civilization what seems to have disappeared in our time: The contemporaneity of Mind and Emotion which are the basic pillars of what the Czech Slavonic philosopher, sociologist and politician Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, whose 80th anniversary of death is commemorated this year, called Humanity and Brotherhood – mutual respect and mutual solidarity between human beings on Earth.

These features represent one of the specific characteristics of the Slavs and the Slavonic culture all over the world. It is equally close to arts as it is to science and is the driving force of the SLAVONIC EUROPE movement.

It breaks the first ground in Europe, the continent where the Slavs have their historico-cultural roots. The name of the movement covers both the spirit and the place of origin. At the same time its ambition is to reach out far beyond: the movement intends to establish an international network for cultural cooperation amongst Slavs on global level – the INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR SLAVONIC COOPERATION.

Being addressed at around 360 million Slavs around the world, SLAVONIC EUROPE is – culturally and historically speaking – a unique initiative. On the European continent it covers 13 Slavonic nations with approximately 312 million inhabitants reaching all over Central and Eastern Europe: Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, FYR of Macedonia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Belarus and Russia.

By highlighting this extraordinarily rich culture and the cultural identity of the Slavonic peoples this initiative

constitutes in itself an autonomous value. In times of rising disintegration and apparent political and social decomposition within the European Union this project strives for making its contribution to strengthen European cohesiveness via the integration of the Slavs – the biggest ethnic and cultural group in Europe.

Concretely, SLAVONIC EUROPE is focusing on three main objectives:

1. REINFORCE the links between the 13 Slavonic countries on a cultural basis in Europe but as well with the many people of Slavonic origin living in other parts of the world
2. MAKING the richness of the Slavonic culture MORE VISIBLE. Showing its abundance and diversity by visualizing the underlying common roots at the same time
3. Contribute to the construction of a BRIDGE between East and West by means of communication and mediation in our difficult and troubled times.

The SLAVONIC EUROPE movement has explicitly chosen a bottom-up approach that puts the European citizens again in the centre and revives by this the old Slavonic idea of HUMANITY and BROTHERHOOD. It is an alternative plan to the top-down approach of the Schuman Plan of the 1950es, focused on states and governments, that still applies in the European Union.

SLAVONIC HOUSE

SLAVONIC EUROPE will be based on one solid pillar that will form its basis of action and create multiple synergies: The SLAVONIC HOUSE. It will be the core and at the same time ‘the face’ of the SLAVONIC EUROPE movement, the central spot of its implementation open to all citizens. As the nucleus merging the different aspects of

the project the SLAVONIC HOUSE will form the beating hearth of the SE movement. As the place where the three main objectives mentioned above will be implemented and where the project will unfold its varied activities the SLAVONIC HOUSE will provide a home to all Slavs – in a physical form in a fully integrated architectural structure in Brussels but also by means of virtual 3D visits on the SE website.

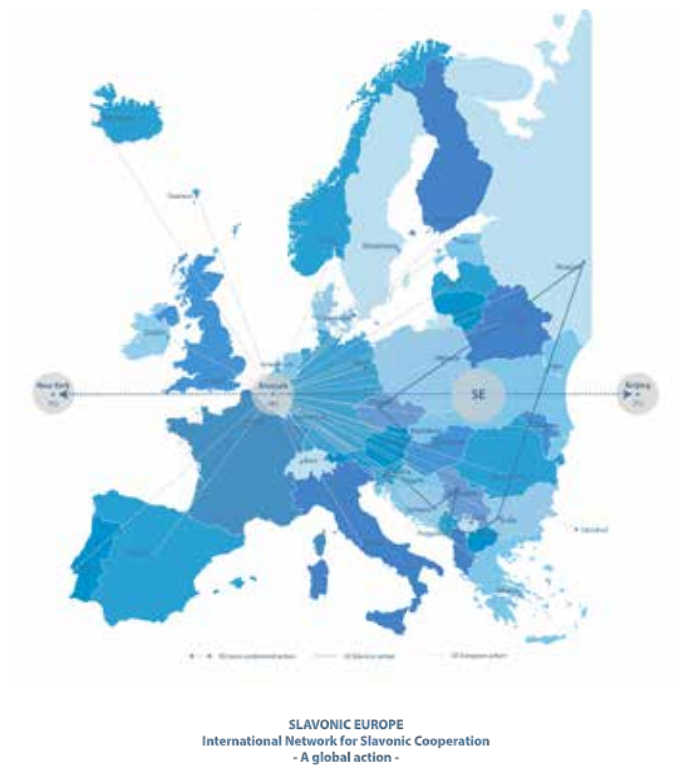
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR SLAVONIC COOPERATION

This parent house will be established and developed in Brussels being the headquarters of the SE movement which will have its branches founded successively around the world: The SLAVONIC HOUSES all over the globe will form the backbone of the INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR SLAVONIC COOPERATION.

The map shows the scale and geostrategic dimension of the future International Network for Slavonic Cooperation.

CONCLUSION

The idea of Slavonic identity and togetherness will only persist and be a legitimate one, if the Slavs have something new to give to the world – something which is enriching



and contributes to the world’s progressive positive evolution towards HUMANITY and BROTHERHOOD. It is in this broad international context that SLAVONIC EUROPE as a worldwide cultural movement strives for giving home and shelter to all Slavs around the world – and adding to the inner driving force of a better and finer civilization over the globe.

and around the world on cultural grounds and, at the same time, as a contribution to an alternative European unification attempt based on culture as the connecting power – a new Slavonic bottom-up approach to societal integration.

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David CHMELIK is the founder and president of the SLAVONIC EUROPE Association.

Born in 1968 in Kladno/Czechoslovakia, he studied classical (Latin & ancient Greek) and German philology and at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany and mathematical economics at the universities of Berlin (FU) and Bonn (RFWU), Germany. From 2005 to 2016 he served as a permanent official at the European Commission in the Directorate General of Budget being seconded in the framework of the Czech EU Presidency in 2008-2009 to the Vice Prime Minister of the Czech Republic.

Being founder and president of the Belgian-German Club in Brussels (BGC) in 2011 and of the European Club Prague (ECP) in 2012, David Chmelik initiated the SLAVONIC EUROPE movement in Brussels in autumn 2015 with the explicit objective of fostering and strengthening the Slavonic togetherness in Europe

