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In this year of celebrations on 25 years of partnership between Belgian and Romanian municipalities, **Holsbeek** and **Vărgata** are looking back in June to their longstanding cooperation but also focus on new projects. With a Romania day in **Aalst** and an exhibition **Koningshooikt**, other municipalities equally mark the momentum. Another reference that is part of a common Belgian Romanian history is the **First World War**. In cooperation with the **Military Museum Regele Ferdinand**, the **Belgian Embassy** sets up for the summer months 2015, with an inauguration on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June, an exhibition on the Belgian story in the First World War. Active in the summer but also in the winter is **Apfelhaus**, a friendly hotel destination for everybody that crosses the road in Arad. In June a touristic component will be added to the agriculture and hospitality activities of Apfelhaus. In **agro-food**, **Euroconsultants Romania** is developing initiatives as subsidiary of Euroconsultants Belgium which will celebrate its 25th anniversary in June. After 25 months, the **Belgian Romanian Business Association** took in its dynamism the initiative to strengthen its network at a decentralized level with the inauguration of a **Transilvania chapter**. In Bucharest activities continue with on the June **power lunch** as guest speaker **Ioana Petrescu**, former Romanian Minister of Finance and currently counselor at the Prime Minister's office. Amongst the other highlights in June, the performance of the **Théâtre National de la Communauté Française de Belgique** at the **Sibiu** theater festival should be mentioned as well as the unique interpretation of work of Belgian composer **Eugène Ysaÿe** by Romanian violin virtuoso **Șerban Lupu** in *Brașov*.

**Philippe Beke**  
Ambassador of Belgium



**Holsbeek and Vărgata: 25 years of alliance, from emergency aid to a structural partnership**

In 1989, former Holsbeek council member **Jean Moens** initiated a project to support the Romanian municipality of **Vărgata** (județ Mureș). Initially, Holsbeek (province Flemish Brabant) offered mainly **emergency relief**, in particular medication and food, extending in a next phase to school supplies. Throughout the years, the relationship with Vărgata shifted into a **true alliance**, striving for improvement of quality of life of the people living in Vărgata's. Around the year 2000, a switch was made to **structural financial aid**, in cooperation with a local committee and local authorities, contributing to the construction of a sanitary facility and to the renovation, according to European standards, of the local health center and the adaptation of the sports hall to a polyvalent hall. The principle has been that responsibilities are shared and that both Holsbeek and Vărgata make substantial efforts. Stimulated by **Guido Peers**, president of the Vărgata committee, recently, two new projects, one related to the fire brigade and one to the local school were selected. In the intra-human relations, Holsbeek hopes to start an exchange programme between Vărgata and Holsbeek schools, in order for the children to learn about each other's cultures. On **12.06** at 20:00 in Holsbeek **city hall** (Kortrijk Dutsel), an exhibition, **25 years of alliance Vărgata - Holsbeek, from emergency aid to a structural approach**, will be inaugurated in presence of a Vărgata delegation. The exhibition will be *open to the public on Saturday 13 and Sunday 14.06 from 14:00 till 17:00*. From **15 till 26.06**, visiting the exhibition will be possible during the opening hours of the city hall (Monday till Friday: 8.30 – 12:00 - Thursday: 18:00 – 20:00). In **Koningshooikt** during the month of June an exhibition on *Vatre Dornei* will take place in Oud Gemeentehuis. Info: [Dimitri.casteleyn@delijn.be](mailto:Dimitri.casteleyn@delijn.be)

**National Military Museum Regele Ferdinand presents exhibition World War I in Belgium**

When in the early morning of 4<sup>th</sup> of August 1914, German troops entered Belgian territory, Belgium, nonetheless its neutrality status, was dragged into a war which would terrify 4 years the population, leave several hundred thousand soldiers on its territory unaccounted for and destroy an important part of the Belgian economic and industrial tissue. In particular, the North Western part of Belgium had suffered a lot in the exchanges of fire which had lasted till the Armistice on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 1918 along a frontline between the Belgian North Sea coast and the French city of Verdun.

The **Belgian Embassy** and the **Military Museum in Bucharest** decided to team up for organizing a summer exhibition dedicated to the Belgian military and civil environment of World War I. In cooperation with the **Museum of Passchendale**, the **History Museum in Bucharest**, the **Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs** and the **Belgian Institute of Veterans**, a collection of documents, photo's, aquarelles and objects were selected to be shown to the public. The exhibition aims to inform visitors on the chronology of the World War but also on the daily life in the trenches, the influence of weaponry which was never used in a war before as well as social aspects of the war. The inauguration of the exhibition is scheduled for **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> of June** at 11:00 in **Strada Mircea Vulcănescu 125-127, Bucharest**. The collection will remain in the museum until the **31<sup>st</sup> of August 2015** with *as opening hours for the public from Wednesday to Sunday 09:00 – 17:00*. **Fifty free tickets** and **fifty catalogues free** of charge are available on simple demand to [charlotte.vandenabeele@diplobel.fed.be](mailto:charlotte.vandenabeele@diplobel.fed.be). For guided tours contact [relatii publice@muzeulmilitar.ro](mailto:relatii publice@muzeulmilitar.ro).





### 25 years, 9 subsidiaries and counting - Euro Consultants Group

June 2015 marks the **25<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of Euro Consultants ([www.euroconsultants.be](http://www.euroconsultants.be)), a Belgian company with headquarters in **Wavre** (Prov Brabant Wallon). Euro Consultants is a key reference in **quality management** for **agro-food** industry, as well as for **hotels, restaurants** and **catering**. **Euro Consultants Romania** was established as a consultancy company in **2014**, claiming strong collaboration with international retailers present on the Romanian market, but also with producers and companies active in hotel, restaurant and pubs. Under the format of a **one-stop shop**, clients are supported in their quest for improving the efficiency of their company. At each level, the company acts as a fully integrated partner in all stages of development and optimization in quality, production, R&D, after-sales service or marketing. As external consultant, Euro Consultants provides expertise as well as operational and technical support, applying a large scope of **research methods** (audits, analyses, studies and monitoring) in order to identify the **most appropriate solutions** (advice, coaching, support). During the *Belgian Week 2015* Euro Consultants Romania organized the seminar *Clean Label*, with focus on **clean label food product**, its application, opportunities and challenges. For further info or copy of the powerpoint presented at the seminar contact: [g.jelescu@euroconsultants.be](mailto:g.jelescu@euroconsultants.be)

### Apfelhaus, Belgian fruit growers engaging in Arad in hotel and tourism



In **2006** Belgian fruit grower **Achiel Ryckaert** decided to establish just outside of Arad an agricultural activity, growing **apples** and **strawberries**. Accompanying the agricultural activities, he also invested in an hospitality facility. In this way the guesthouse **Apfelhaus** ([www.apfel-haus.ro](http://www.apfel-haus.ro)) started its activities in **2009**. With an increased number of rooms, the guesthouse turned into an hotel, but still keeping the micro character it had at the beginning with four standard rooms, called *cherry rooms*, four rooms with a matrimonial bed, called *blossom rooms* and two apartments called *pear rooms*. Apfelhaus offers international and Romanian cuisine in its 26 seats restaurant. The activities that are proposed have a large scope varying from skydiving to wine tasting, from farms tours to quad trips in the woods. The Apfelhaus formulae was appreciated with in 2014 a *quality rewarded by booking.com*. In order to further widen the range of services, Apfelhaus decided to operate from June 2015 onwards a **tourist agency**. It has the ambition to develop the potential of its activities and hospitality but also aims at promoting in a larger sense Romania as an interesting tourist destination. *BNL readers will enjoy a free glass of wine, apple palinca or beer* when booking for a night in the hotel or participating in the Apfelhaus activities. Info [andreea\\_bujdei@yahoo.com](mailto:andreea_bujdei@yahoo.com).



Next **BEROBA power lunch** will take place on **Thursday 11.06** in **Hotel Marshall Garden** with as guest speaker **Ioana Petrescu, former finance minister and current finance counsellor** of Prime Minister Victor Ponta. As usual the principle is first come, first served by e-mailing to [roxana.macovei@diplobel.fed.be](mailto:roxana.macovei@diplobel.fed.be). **BEROBA on the move!** A **BEROBA Transylvania chapter** was launched in **Cluj** on **26.05** in presence of mayor **Emile Boc**, as local antenna for Belgian-Romanian business. For further info: [bart.dobbelaere@vpk.ro](mailto:bart.dobbelaere@vpk.ro).

#### ..... Flash.....

Deputy head of mission of the Belgian Embassy **Paul Reynders** ends his long diplomatic career which included two postings in Bucharest. For reasons of reorganization no replacement is envisaged\* **Professor Rodica Pop** of the **Babeş Bolyai University** in Cluj was decorated **Commander in the order of Leopold II\*** Register following Belgians living in Romania in your cardex: **Emmanuel YOO** Deputy COO of BCR Bucarest - [Emmanuel.yoo@bcr.ro](mailto:Emmanuel.yoo@bcr.ro); **Serge Lens**, Director E&P at **OMV Petrom** - [serge.lens@petrom.com](mailto:serge.lens@petrom.com); **Bruno Nieuwenhuys** ITC specialist at **AD Swizz** joins the large group of Belgians working in Romania for international companies - [brunonieuwenhuys@gmail.com](mailto:brunonieuwenhuys@gmail.com)\* Prof. Romanian **George Tudorache** reached the **semi-finals** of the **Queen Elisabeth Competition for Violin 2015\*** *Summertime is ice cream time!* Betty Ice producer from **Suceava** offers **Betty Blue chocolate ice cream** fully stuffed with **Callebaut** chocolate

#### .....Agenda.....

**Till 01.07.15 Cluj County Library: Comic strip exhibition** with a Romanian selection of **Nero strips\* 28-29.05**  
**Bucharest: foreign affairs political bilateral consultations** with Belgian Director General **Jean-Arthur Régibeau\* 29.05 – 07.06**  
**Cluj-Napoca : International Film Festival Transilvania (TIFF)** with Belgian movie **Melody** (2015) directed by **Bernard Bellefroid** in competition - [www.tiff.ro](http://www.tiff.ro)\* **02.06 Bucharest:** Geared towards architects and designers seeking a high-quality and trend defining floor space, **modulyss®**, the *carpet tiles* division of the **Balta group**, organizes a unique event at the Residence of the Belgian Ambassador showcasing its latest as well as the basic collection\* **05.06 (20:00) and 07.06 (15 :00) Diest Begijnenhof** : Roemenië-comité Diest & De Vierde Wand perform **Een Koningsdrama** (Peter De Graef) – [devierdewand@gmail.com](mailto:devierdewand@gmail.com)\* **09.06 Aalst De Werf 19:00: Romania Day** with presentation of **Marc Verhaert** book on 25 years of Romanian revolution and exhibition of *Romania and the First World War* – [bibliotheek@aalst.be](mailto:bibliotheek@aalst.be)\* **11.06 Braşov Sala Patria 19:00:** Violin solist **Şerban Lupu** accompanied by the Braşov philharmonic orchestra plays **Eugène Ysaye\* Sibiu International Theater Festival** - [www.sibifest.ro](http://www.sibifest.ro): Belgian performances, on **12.06 (21:00)** and **13.06 (20:00)** **Octavian Goga College -Théâtre National de la Communauté Française de Belgique** with **Cendrillon**; on **18.06 (23:00) Sala Studio - Cie Mossoux-Bonte** with *L'histoire de l'Imposture*; on **15.06 (23:00) Sala Studio – Pierre Megos-Stardust** with *Vision\** **19.06 Bucarest Elvire Popesco 19:00:** pièce de théâtre **Seul à Waterloo, seul à Sainte-Helène**, de l'auteur belge *Paul Emond* et mis en scène locale par *Răzvan Popa* - [walbru.bucarest@rdsmail.ro](mailto:walbru.bucarest@rdsmail.ro)