



Niš
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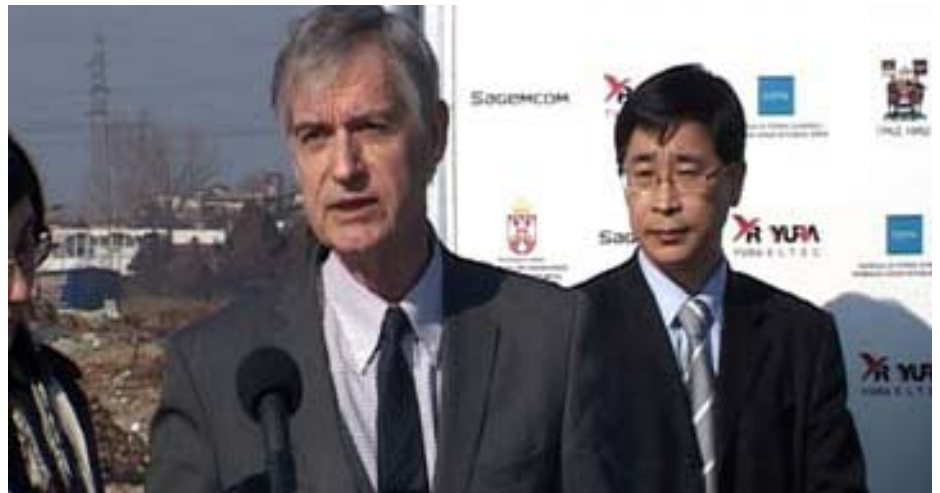
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NIŠ – THE BIGGEST CONSTRUCTION SITE IN SERBIA

MoU on state incentives allocation for the construction of factory for production of electric meters, TV decoders and other electronic devices in Niš was signed between RS Ministry of Economy and Regional Development and French Company Sagemcom.



Mr. Georges Baudain, Sagemcom General Operations Manager and Mr. Seungkilg Park, Yura Eltec Executive Manager

The total value of this investment is 3 286 000 Euros. The state will provide 8000 Euros per worker for 203 newly employed workers. 70 % of the total Sagemcom production in Niš will be intended for export onto the Russian and East European markets. Mr. Georges Baudain, Sagemcom General Operations Manager said

that Sagemcom decided to build the factory in Serbia because of its geographic position in relation to the markets they wanted to enter. "We have decided to come to Niš because of its excellent logistic infrastructure, transport capacities and university", Baudain concluded.

On the same day, the MoU for the construction of third Yura



factory in Serbia was signed by RS Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, City of Niš and Yura Eltec. This factory will be producing the cables for automobile industry and it will hire 300 new workers. The total investment is 8 million Euros. On the occasion of signing the MoU Mr. Park, Yura Eltec Executive Manager, pointed out that Yura had already become the part of Niš community. "We secured the whole product value chain locally. We will buy cooper here in Serbia and then produce the wire for our cable factory which will deliver the cables to our clients in automobile industry.

The whole production is intended for export. We hope that we could add a new value to this community", Park said.

Mayor Simonović, in his address, reminded that industrial zone of Donje Medjurovo, was just a bare land only a year ago. "Now, everything is different. This industrial zone represents the chance for all Niš citizens and for the people from the region to find a job here. Niš is presently the biggest construction site in Serbia. 6000 people will find job in these newly built factories. This is the most important task for anyone

working in public offices whether he or she is government president, minister or mayor", said Mayor Simonović

The visit to the industrial zone of Donje Medjurovo on the occasion of MoU signing, Minister Dinkić and Mayor Simonović together with Dytech General Manager Giuliano Zucco used for small ceremony of laying the foundation stone for new Dytech factory. Mr. Zucco announced the completion of construction works in July and starting of the production in September.

CITY OF NIŠ – THE CITY WITH THE MOST DIRECT INVESTMENTS

Niš City Council has adopted the Feasibility Study for Leasing Non-developed Land Property Free of Charge in the industrial zone of Donje Međurovo and in the Ex Electronic industry Complex intended for the construction of the Yura Eltec and Sagem new factories and opening of the Haj Ararat confectionery production facility.

600 citizens of Niš will find a job in these new factories. The Yura Eltec and Sagem will invest 13 million Euros in their projects in Niš. The expected income for the City of Niš is 30 million Euros for the next ten years.

„The new city development phase has started. The greatest success for us, in the public offices, is the fact that new factories are being built after 20 years of complete void of any production initiation. This is a good message to the investors that Niš

is the right place to build their new facilities and to develop their business operations. These are not just promises. We have managed to make some actual agreements and to start implementing them. The year of 2011 will be the first year of decreasing the unemployment rate. Niš will be the city with the most direct investments in 2011. This is our priority task and we are all committed to it", said Mayor Simonović on the occasion of adopting the Feasibility Study.



Niš City Council Session

NEW POSSIBLE INVESTMENTS

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović with his associates met with the representatives of SIEPA (Serbian Investment and Export Promotion Agency) and the representatives of the Italian company for insurance and banking sector software development.

The main topic of the meeting was possible investments in Niš.

Mayor Simonović presented advantages of investing in our city pointing out the tradition that our City had in the area of electronic industry,

good quality of educational system, particularly in the IT and computer sciences, cooperation possibilities with the University of Niš and a large number of good quality software developing local companies.



Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović

PURCHASE SALE CONTRACT FOR LOZNI KALEM

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović and Italniss Group doo legal representative Nebojša Stanković signed the Purchase Sale Contract for the land property at the location of Lozni Kalem.



Lozni Kalem Location Design After Completed Construction

In December last year this Serbian Italian company won the auction for this land property of total area of 15 ha on the location of Lozni Kalem situated at the right side of the exit from the road leading to spa of Niška Banja. The location is intended for the construction of Aqua Park together with the two luxurious hotels, playing grounds and other recreational facilities. 100 million Euros are expected to be invested in this complex which will create 1000 new jobs. The city owned land property was sold at the price of 780 dinars per square meter. By signing the contract the legal procedure in relation to this investment was finalized.

"The construction of Aqua Park will be the initiator for the development of Niska Banja municipality. The most important thing is that we have managed start the developing process for this particular land property which have been undeveloped for so many years" said Mayor Simonović expressing his hopes that the investors would respect the agreed construction dynamics.



Signing the contract

According to the investors this complex will be constructed in three stages. The first stage envisages the construction of Aqua Park itself, the second stage envisages the construction of the hotel and other tourist facilities while the shopping mall will be built in the last stage.

According to the investor's legal representative they are very satisfied with the efficiency showed by city administration.

80 NIŠ CITIZENS TO START UP THEIR BUSINESS

City of Niš and German Humanitarian Organization HELP signed 80 individual contracts on donation of the equipment for business start up and two contracts with cooperatives from Niš, within the second cycle of "Support to Local Sustainable Development through the Reduction of Poverty" Program.

In this way, the number of supported business increased to 354.

Individual contracts are related to donations of equipment in the amount of 2000€ per business, while the contracts with cooperatives include the equipment in the amount of 30.000€ per contract.

"Support to Local Sustainable Development through the Reduction of Poverty in Southern Serbia" was initiated in July 2010 and was aimed to support of sustainable development focused on local economy structures strengthening by creating conditions for the creation of new job positions.

With this project beneficiaries are obliged to register their activities, perform 15 hours of community service, attend business and professional training and pay back 20% of the donation when receiving equipment.

The project is financed both by German Government and target cities and municipalities while its total value is around 956.000€.

Besides Niš, this project is being implemented in Vranje, Aleksinac, Bujanovac, Pirot and Preševo. The value of the part of the Project related to Niš is 320.000€ while financial participation of the City is 130.000€.

- In this way, with the support of Niš City and Help organization, people will get the equipment that will help them to start up or improve their business. It means that 80 new job positions will be opened while a number of people will get a chance to start with the work, said Miodrag Manić, Mayor's Assistant.

BULGARIAN - SERBIAN BUSINESS FORUM IN SOFIA

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović, as a part of Serbian state official and business delegation led by RS Prime Minister Mirko Cvetković and RS Chamber of Commerce President Miloš Bugarin, participated in two-day business forum in Sofia.

This forum gathered the most important companies and businessmen from two countries with the opportunity to discuss the investment potentials.

Mayor Simonović said that the main objective of the visit to Sofia was to present favorable business climate in Niš and try to attract more investors. A lot of European countries are working in Bulgaria and there are some indications that they

are considering relocation of their production to Serbia. Some of those companies have already expressed their interest in Niš so this forum was excellent opportunity to continue the discussions.

Official delegation was followed by the business delegation comprised of the businessmen from Niš with the objective to find the partners in Bulgaria and to offer their product to Bulgarian markets.



Business forum in Sofia
Serbia - Bulgaria

NEW DIALYSIS HOSPITAL IN NIŠ

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonovic and German Ambassador Wolfram Maas opened Fresenius Medical Care Special Hospital for Dialysis.

State Secretary from the Ministry of Health, Mrs. Nevena Karanović, Company management and numerous guests attended the opening, as well.

Special Hospital for Dialysis in Niš is one of the most contemporary hospitals of this kind and the first green-field investment in the area of medical services, both in Serbia and in the Balkans. Thanks to this investment, 36 people got job.

The hospital will provide services for more than 100 patients who need dialysis treatment but at the same time it will provide medical treatment for the patients in the period before dialysis. All the treatments will be done in line with the highest European Standards.

Mayor of Niš City, Miloš Simonovic expressed his satisfaction with the fact that one of the most prominent world companies chose

the City of Niš for its newest medical institution. This fact shows that Niš City has excellent experts that can be up to all the requirements of contemporary medicine, but what is more important, this Hospital will provide top-quality medical treatment to the patients who need dialysis.

Ambassador Wolfram Maas stressed out that our country and the City of Niš were a reliable partner of Germany in economical and any other field of cooperation and that every day there were potential investors from his country interested to invest in Serbia.

Investment of German company Fresenius Medical Care is a proof that the City of Niš has good cooperation with foreign investors, but as well as that it is an important health care center with top experts. First dialysis treatment in Niš was done 40 years ago.



Opening of Fresenius Medical Care
Special Hospital for Dialysis

NIŠ CITY IS OPENING THE OFFICE IN BRUSSELS

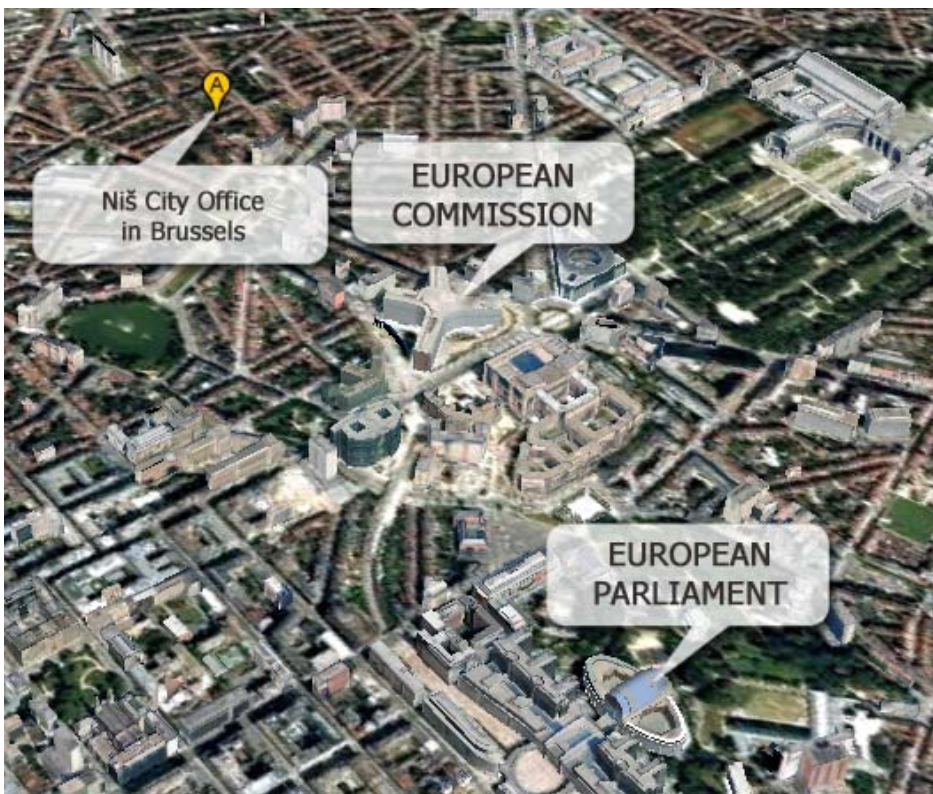
The City of Niš will get its office in Brussels. Niš City Council decided to support the implementation of the project whose main objective was to present the city potentials and the potentials of southeast Serbia to relevant institutions in Brussels.

Niš City Mayor pointed out that the Office in Brussels represented a step made by local self-government on the road to EU integration in order to be prepared for the candidacy of our country for EU accession.

This project is very important since its primary objectives will be to lobby for and represent the interests of the city and the region. The active inclusion of local self governments into European integration processes means the access to EU funds and partnerships through different cooperation programmes. However,

the success and positive results are not guaranteed by mere possibilities of participating. The proactive approach should be undertaken.

The lead partner in this project is the City of Niš joined by the Association of Local Agencies for Democracy (ALDA) and Regional Development Agency SOUTH. The realisation of the project activities will be supported by RS Ministry of Foreign Affairs, RS Mission in Brussels, RS Government Office for European Integration.



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COVENANT OF MAYORS – ENERGY EFFICIENCY PRIORITY

Niš City Council decided to support the initiative Covenant of Mayors dedicated to the local energy sustainability.

The Covenant of Mayors is an ambitious initiative of the European Commission that gives the lead to pioneering cities in Europe to mitigate climate change through the implementation of intelligent local sustainable energy policies that create stable local jobs and increase quality of life for the citizens and address crucial social issues.

The European Union (EU) is leading the global fight against climate change, and has made it a top priority. Its ambitious targets are spelt out in the EU Climate Action and Energy Package, which commits Member States to curb their CO2 emissions by at least 20% by 2020. Signatories of the Covenant of Mayors contribute to these policy objectives through a formal commitment to go beyond this target through the implementation of their Sustainable Energy Action Plan. The formal commitment of signatories is translated into concrete measures and projects. Energy efficiency measures, renewable energy projects and other energy-related actions can be introduced in various activity areas of local and regional governments.

The City of Niš has been a member of Energy Cities since 2003. Energy Cities is the European Association of local authorities inventing their energy future. The association created in 1990 represents now more than 1,000 towns and cities in 30 countries. From 2009 to 2011, Energy Cities is under the Presidency of the City of Heidelberg (DE.) Energy Cities is leading, in cooperation with Climate Alliance, CEMR, Fedarene, Eurocities and Pracsis, the Covenant of Mayors Office and is an official Supporting Structure.

CITY OF NIŠ CELEBRATED SERBIAN NATIONAL DAY

Serbia celebrates its Statehood Day and its Army Day on February 15 - Candlemas Day (Sretenje).

This is the most important date in the modern Serbian history, since on Candlemas Day in 1804 Serbs rose to arms against Ottoman rule to end 345 years of occupation by the Turks. On the same day Serbia marks the anniversary of First Serbian Constitution (1835).

On the occasion of Serbian National Day, Serbian flags from World War I were exhibited at Synagogue - Niš National Museum Gallery. This year the official state celebration of National Day was taken out of Belgrade and organised in four cities in Serbia. Besides the

exhibition in Niš, Serbian Principality and Kingdom Medals and Decorations were exhibited in Novi Sad, Serbian Principality and Kingdom Constitutions in Kragujevac and Serbian Royal Insignia in Valjevo.

The exhibition opening in Niš was attended by RS Government Vice President and Minister of Internal Affairs Ivica Dačić, representatives of diplomatic missions in Serbia and high city officials. Vice president Dačić in his address to the present guests stressed the determination of Serbian government to preserve Serbian state tradition and the tradition



Serbian flags from World War I

of the people in the area of culture, education, art and science.

On the same occasion Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović thanked RS Government for selecting Niš as the host of official state celebration and he congratulated the citizens of Niš on Serbian National Day. He also extended his congratulations to Serbian Army.

EDICT OF MILAN EVERLASTING VALUE

The International conference entitled Edict of Milan Everlasting Value and Permanent Actuality was held at Niš Eparchy Saint Sava's Hall.

The organiser of this important gathering was CIVIS - Association of Non-governmental Organisation of Southeast Europe in partnership with Austrian Foundation Pro Oriente and with the support of Swiss Peace Foundation, Serbian Orthodox Church and City of Niš.

This international conference gathered prominent historians and theorists dedicated to the study of times, role and personality of Constantine the Great with the objective to explain to the broader public the importance of the Edict of Milan, both in the past and present times. This conference aimed to provide an important introduction to the 2013 celebration of 17 centuries of Edict of Milan and to draw the attention of general public and European political elite to the importance of organizing the celebration of such a big jubilee in 2013.

His Grace Bishop Irinej of Bačka said that the importance of this event was in its international character and that it managed to gather eminent national and international expert.

On the occasion of opening the



Niš Eparchy Saint Sava's Hall

conference Belgrade Mufti Muhammad Jusufspahic said that the Edict of Milan signing was important event for all believers because that was the rare case that a ruler accepted the religion of the oppressed. "Edict of Milan and Niš represent our meeting places, the places where we have met, where we will continue with getting to know each other and thus become less hostile to each other" said Mufti Jusufspahic.

His Grace Stanislav Hočevar, Roman Catholic Church Archbishop of Belgrade and Metropolitan, expressed his pleasure about organisation of this special meeting in Niš, the birthplace of

Constantine the Great. "This conference is important because it will send the appeals to different churches and institutions and to whole society about the permanent values of each civilization and culture and about religious freedom and human rights", said Archbishop Hočevar.

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović pointed out in his address to the guests at the conference that Niš was the center of religious tolerance those days. Having in mind that there were no scientific international conferences focused on this particular topic he expressed his hopes that the conference represented the beginning of cooperation with civil society sector and direct involvement of this sector into preparations for celebrating the 17 centuries of Milan Edict. "The message which should be sent from this conference is the message of tolerance. In our society tolerance is often perceived as weakness. Tolerance, in its essence, is the strength to accept the minority and it is the strength to accept differences which exist in cultures all around the world", said Mayor Simonović.

AMBASSADOR OF NORWAY IN NIŠ

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović and Niš City Assembly President Mile Ilić met new Norwegian Ambassador in Serbia H.E. Nils Ragnar Kamsvag.

During the first official meeting with the Ambassador of Norway Mayor Simonović emphasized that the cooperation between Niš City and Norwegian partners lasted for a very long period as well as that Norway was the biggest donor to our city in the last few years.

Ambassador Kamsvag was introduced with the efforts that the City of Niš was making in order to attract new investments, as well as with the results achieved in the previous period. Also, Mayor Simonović introduced the Norwegian ambassador with the plans that the City of Niš had related to the celebration of 1700 years from Milan Edict signing.

After the meeting with the Mayor and Niš City Assembly President, Ambassador Kamsvag met the representatives of the Office for Local Economic Development and Niš City Business-Economy Council. City economic potentials and incentives that the City administration offered to

investors were presented during the meeting.

Norway has had a long tradition of cooperation with the City of Niš and so far a great number of joint projects have been realized. One of them is the reconstruction of Niš Airport. "We supported the establishment of Business Incubator Center. At the moment, the most intense aspect of our cooperation is the cooperation between Niš University and Norwegian Universities. It represents a great basis for further cooperation. Many things have been done in order to make Niš attractive for investors. I will, for sure, convey my impressions to representatives of Norwegian companies", said Ambassador Kamsvag.

After the meeting in the City Hall, Ambassador Kamsvag visited the Niš University Rectorate, Business Incubator Center and Regional Center for Professional Development of Educators.

SWISS AMBASSADOR IN NIŠ

Deputy Mayor, Nađa Marković met the Ambassador of Switzerland in Belgrade, H.E. Mr. Erwin Helmut Hofer in Niš City Hall.

Member of Serbian Parliament Dr. Dušan Milisavljević also attended the meeting.

Deputy Mayor introduced the Ambassador Hofer with the activities of the City of Niš in creation of good business environment and attracting investors, as well as with the results that the City of Niš had achieved. She especially emphasized that the advantage of Niš City laid in the fact that it was a big university center with numerous high schools educating people who would be able to respond to the requirements of new employers.

Ambassador Hofer and Deputy Mayor Nađa Marković estimated that Regional Center for

Professional Development of Educators in Niš significantly contributed to the improvement of education quality. During 2009, Regional Center for Professional Development of Educators joined the project (Professional Development Project - PDP), which was realized based on MOU signed in 2003 between SDC and Ministry of Education of the Republic of Serbia.

During the discussion special attention was paid to possibilities of cooperation between Niš City and Switzerland in the area of safety and experience of this country that could be implemented in line with Niš City Safety Strategy.

EMBASSY OF INDONESIA REPRESENTATIVES IN NIŠ

Niš City Council members Boban Mihajlović and Žarko Ranković met with the delegation from Embassy of Indonesia in Belgrade to discuss the improvement of cooperation, especially in the fields of economy, culture and education.



Embassy of Indonesia representatives in Niš

Embassy of Indonesia representatives expressed their interest in economic cooperation in order to reach positive balance on both sides. They announced the celebration of 50th anniversary of establishing of Non-Aligned Movement which would be held in Indonesia in May this year and in Belgrade in September.

Councilor Mihajlović emphasized on this occasion that all city officials are encouraged to give personal attention to new projects with foreign partners and to take initiative in providing guidance and assistance in the realisation of the common projects. Councilor Ranković presented briefly the possibilities of establishing cooperation with University of Niš as well as the potential of health care services sector.

EU CORNER EXHIBITION – HOW I SAW POLAND

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović and Ms. Agnieszka Marszałek-Gunia, Secretary for political issues, media, cultural and scientific cooperation at Embassy of Poland in Belgrade, opened the exhibition at EU Corner entitled How I Saw Poland prepared by Youth Center Together We Create.

As part of the project dedicated to the country of Poland, the young people, high-school and university students from Niš, participated in the research group that worked on discovering Polish culture and country. They had the opportunity to get acquainted with the country and general information about its history, geography, demography, religion, politics, tourism and travel, the role of the country within the EU and the life of young people in terms of education, mobility, activism, cooperation and youth policies. Moreover, the exhibition has been a result of their visit to the City of Krakow where they had the opportunity to check in the field what

they have been learning about.

Twenty-year old student from the University of Niš Faculty of Art Danica Bojanić won the first prize for the exhibit she had prepared. On the occasion of opening the exhibition Mayor Simonović invited young people to join this project and thus learn about the life in EU countries, get a chance to earn the trip to some of those countries and gain new experiences.

The Exhibition also covered the commemoration of February 12, honoring the victims of the World War II Concentration Camp in Niš and the celebration of February 22 - The Founder's Day of The World Organization of the Scout Movement.



Danica Bojanic receives the award from Mayor Simonović



Information panels prepared by project participants

NIŠ – ARHUS COMMON PROJECTS

In June 2009, the Twinning Protocol between the City of Niš and City of Aarhus was signed.

Within the scope of this cooperation the City of Aarhus became the leading partner in the Local Democracy Agency for Central and Southern Serbia (LDACSS) whose founder was the City of Niš. With the objective to intensify the mutual cooperation, the City of Niš, the City of Aarhus and LDACSS signed the Agreement for the Programme of Institutional Support by City of Aarhus to City of Niš and LDA SCC Office. This Programme envisages the involvement of Aarhus municipal officers in the activities of the Niš City Mayor's Office for European Affairs, especially in the activities related to the organizing programme in EU Corner focusing on promotion of European values and EU integration process.

Through the cooperation between Office for European Affairs and Youth Center Together We Create,

the colleagues from City of Aarhus held two workshops entitled Explore Europe - Explore Denmark. A group of high school and university students went to a series of workshops where they had the chance to learn about Denmark, its history, culture, language and the life there.

Also, the colleagues from Aarhus are preparing the exhibition entitled Days of Aarhus in Niš which is scheduled for opening on March 30 at EU Corner. Different institutions from Aarhus such as Archeological Museum, Old City Aarhus Museum, Modern Art Museum, Tourist Organisation of Aarhus, Denmark Tourist Organisation - Visit Aarhus and Visit Denmark, Aarhus Region Office in Brussels, Aarhus International Secondary School are preparing to present themselves at this exhibition.



Exploring Denmark



Presentation by colleagues from Denmark