**61st Annual Meeting of SIESC at Cluj (Romania): July 22nd – 28th, 2016**

At this year’s annual meeting 55 participants from 10 European countries met. Using the overall topic “**Identity and Living together: Educating to Diversity”** we wanted to reflect together how in subjects such as History, Religious Education, History of Arts, and in foreign language teaching a contribution to the preparation of students for a society more and more characterized by diversity and plurality can be achieved. By means of the contents of the lectures and discussions it was also shown very clearly why this topic is a particularly important concern of our Romanian colleagues.

At the beginning **Dan Ruscu** showed us “Reflections on a manifold sphere” by presenting “**Romanian church architecture between East and West”,** very impressively illustrated by a lot of pictures. In Romania several cultural regions and denominations met and three principalities belonged to different spheres of power before they grew together to the state of Romania in the 20th century. Next day **Father Marius Taloş** offered us profound reflections on “**Education in times of crisis”** and dealt with religious education, not only, but primarily at schools, in their various forms and with their various justifications in the European countries. On the third day **Liana Pop** presented suggestions how one could answer to “**Multilinguism between globalisation and tolerance”,** on the one hand by means of modern methods of foreign language acquisition (promoted by the Council of Europe), on the other hand by efforts to preserve “minority” languages (compared with English) and their cultural contribution. Finally **Ciprian Ghişa** described “**The historical development of the Romanian Greek-Catholic Church”** in a very lively way, appealing for a balanced historical presentation of a living together rich in conflicts. The folder was enriched by a statement by **Sandra Chistolini** from University 3 in Rome on **“Education to tolerance”.**

In four language groups personal experiences and reactions were brought up and questions to the speakers were prepared, which were then presented and answered in three languages.

A special highlight was, besides the “Latin” masses in three languages on other days, Sunday mass in the Byzantine rite of John Chrysostomos in Romanian in the Greek-Catholic cathedral.

On two afternoons we could get to know the sights of the town of Cluj, primarily churches of various denominations and the trilingual university. At the end there were given two concerts by a local church choir and a classical quartet, followed by dinner in pleasant restaurants. On the last day we experienced a trip to the northern region of Maramureş, the visit to an impressive monastery, and to the moving memorial at Szigeth, in which in the former prison the horrible methods and effects of the Communist dictatorship particularly in Romania, but also in other European countries have been illustrated in the cells.

The Manresa Centre of the Romanian Jesuits offered us an excellently suitable surrounding for our activities. The fathers, the brothers, the sisters caring for the house and the personnel have made our stay very pleasant and they have impressed us by their friendliness.

SIESC sincerely thanks all Romanian colleagues, the chaplain of AGRU, Fr. Cristian, and particularly the three colleagues who did the main work of preparation and organisation: Alin Tat, Irina Marginean und Marius Boldor. They didn’t only do everything that was necessary, but they also entered very patiently on all special demands.

Our colleagues and Romania have shown at the first time that they can organize a meeting full of experiences excellently in the best SIESC tradition.

Wolfgang RANK, President of SIESC