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Twinning and international relations

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Quimper is twinned with Remscheid (Germany), Limerick (Ireland), Ourense (Spain), Lavrio (Greece) et Foggia (Italy).

Remscheid

Surrounded by a vast forest, Remscheid is situated in North Rhine-Westphalia, in Germany's west. Former birthplace of iron and wrought metal work, Remscheid is an important German industrial centre for tools and mechanical construction, as well as a business and service centre.

Remscheid offers its visitors such curiosities as : the National Museum of Rontgen, the National Tool Museum, the old historical quarters of Lenep, the highest railway bridge in Germany, the Regional Museum etc...

The landscape is an unparalleled gift as much as for the 126,000 Remscheid people as for visitors. The far reaches of the Berg forest spread into all areas of the town whose small valleys and hillsides are covered with fields and meadows.

At 40 years old and with a hundred members, the Remscheid twinning is very active. Numerous school and cultural exchanges take place every year. During the Ascension holiday Breton and German families maintain their friendships with visits. Sporting events such as the Braden "Foulées" is the moment when the "Rederien ar Braden" and the Remscheid runners enjoy mutual interests.

- Quimper-Remscheid twinning site : <http://www.quimper-remscheid.eu/>
- Consult Remscheid's official site : <http://remscheid.de/>



Limerick

Limerick is the biggest town on the west coast of Ireland. Bishopic, port, industrial centre at the crossroads of road and rail routes, it links the southern and western provinces of the Republic.

With 75,000 residents, Limerick is a large regional capital. It is built on the east and west banks of the Shannon river, approximately 90km from the Atlantic ocean and 27km from the Shannon estuary.

Limerick enjoys a great geographic situation for visiting some of the most renowned countryside in Ireland or the historic monuments of the south and west of the country. Killarney, the Burren and the Connemara can be visited in a single day. The outskirts of the town and its county are also rich in churches, abbeys and ancient monasteries.

Direct rail links attach the town with Dublin, Rosslare, Waterford and Cork. Limerick has benefitted from the development of Shannon International Airport.

- Consult Limerick's official site : <http://www.limerick.ie/>

Ourense

With 108,000 inhabitants, Ourense is the third Galician town by population and the county town of Galicia.

Ourense is the birthplace of Galician culture. The museum contains numerous tools from the Palaeolithic age, witness of an large archaeological wealth. The Romans who built the city left behind numerous traces such as the Vella bridge which spans Mino river. It was during the Middle Ages that the town developed massively, as shown by the magnificent San Martin cathedral.

Agriculture and vineyard-based, it's also a service-industry town located in the « San Ciprian economic polygon ».

Ourense has thermal springs and open air resorts such as the famous « Burgas » springs in the town centre.

Exchanges take place between Breton and Galician secondary schools. Derived from the language apéritifs organised by the Ergué-Armel Community Centre, the « salud...y palabras » meetings proposed by the twinning committee are an opportunity to exchange in Spanish around a few tapas.

Economic exchanges have also taken place through the signature of a partnership between the Ourense and Géant-Cornouaille



shopping centres. This initiative promotes the hosting of business or business-related studies students on work experience.

- Twinning committee Quimper-Ourense : <http://ourensequimper.blogspot.com>
- Consult Ourense official town site (in Spanish) : <http://www.turismourense.com/>

Lavrio

Lavrio is located on the heel of Attica 60km from Athens and numbers around 10,500 inhabitants. Mecca of mining exploration, Lavrio has become an important port on the east coast of Greece. Surrounded by archaeological sites (such as the famous Poseidon temple at Cape Sounion), Lavrio is the departure point for the Cyclades.



Foggia

Foggia is a town in Apulia (NE of Naples), in the south of Italy, numbering nearly 170,000 inhabitants. Historically reputed for its agricultural market, Foggia has developed its food-processing sector. Rich in architectural heritage, it is also well-known for its jazz festival.

The twinning committee draws on the experience of the Italia-Brittany association : the two associations work together to encourage the discovery by the Quimper people of their country, language and rich culture.



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