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**1.0. President’s Message:**

Welcome to the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Entente Florale Europe Newsletter. I am delighted to confirm that our competition is going ahead full steam this year with renewed vigour and interest. We know that the problems in relation to tackling the Corona Pandemic are currently the top priority in all countries across the world. However, we would still like to restart our competition in 2022 and continue to make every effort to attract even more participants to join us in the future. A total of 11 participant communities will be taking part from across 7 of our member countries.

**2.0 AEFP Spring Meeting 2022:**

Following a successful visit to Malta in November last year, it was planned that our Spring Meeting would take place in Malta in early February 2022. Unfortunately, this was not possible due to the ongoing Omicron crisis. This had nothing to do with any suggestion that Malta itself is not safe. Many people wishing to travel to Malta had to engage in longer journeys involving trains, planes and intermediate stations. This was unfortunately very difficult to organize under the current conditions. The consequence of this is that the national organizations were not in a position to provide insurance cover, for persons undertaking a journey on behalf of Entente Florale Europe. We therefore, ask for understanding that this meeting is now to be held on Zoom on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022.



**Coastal Landscape, Gozo Island, Malta**

### **3.0. New members still welcome!!**

As stated previously, during the period of the Pandemic the AEFP has taken the opportunity to amend its rules and regulations and it is now possible for individual cities towns and villages or community organisations to join our competition on an individual basis without the need for a national competition. At present we are in discussions with France, Croatia and Slovenia to come on board in 2023 and we are hoping that we can have further fruitful discussions with these countries at our Awards Ceremony planned to be held in Balatonfüred in Hungary in September.

The current member countries are **Belgium, Italy, Malta, Germany, Ireland, Czech Republic, Hungary, and Austria.**

### **4.0. Entente Florale Europe Participants 2022.**

The following participants have entered the competition this year;

**Belgium – Diksmuide.**

**Hungary – Orfű, Székesfehérvár, Veresygház**

**Germany – Bollstedt.**

**Austria – Bad Sauerbrunn.**

**Ireland – Keadue, Dalkey**

**Czech Republic – Dobrochov.**

**Italy – TBC.**

### **5.0. Important Dates for your Diary.**

**4<sup>th</sup> February 2022** – On-line AEFP Spring Meeting to agree itineraries for the 2022 Entente Florale Assessment programme.

**15<sup>th</sup> May 2022** – Precise details of Jury Visit and Programme to be forwarded to Sec. Gen. AEFP.

**1st June 2022** – A4 Portfolio on each participant to be sent to Sec. Gen. AEFP.

**September 2022** – Entente Florale Awards Ceremony, Balatonfüred, Hungary. (Exact dates TBC).

### **6.0. 2022 Entente Florale Europe Participant in the spotlight – portrait of Bad Sauerbrunn, Austria.**

**The traditional spa town of Bad Sauerbrunn is the modern health center of Northern Burgenland and a very special place full of joie de vivre, dynamism and relaxation.**



**Viewing Tower Bad Sauerbrunn**

The natural landscape, which today is part of the Rosalia-Kogelberg nature park region, forms the immediate vicinity of the historically developed spa town of Bad Sauerbrunn, the center of which exhibits a wealth of great architecture and garden art from the past and present.

The ideal center of Bad Sauerbrunn, however, is the spring house of the Heilquelle, newly built in 2009 under the name "Die Quelle", the water from which was first taken and bottled over 200 years ago.

Even before World War I, the special healing water made Bad Sauerbrunn the most important and, above all, the most glamorous health resort in what is now Burgenland. And so, in the long history of Bad Sauerbrunn there is a curious, mostly unknown detail, that in the period between 1921 and 1925 it became the first "capital" of the emerging Burgenland.

After turbulent times, today's health center was built in 1985 through a cooperation between the Province of Burgenland and a private partner. Then, since 2007, VAMED AG has been the owner of Heilbad Sauerbrunn Betriebs - GmbH. Through VAMED the modern spa and rehabilitation operations around the Bad Sauerbrunn health center, have been expanded and brought up to date with the latest scientific knowledge.

As an additional feature to the beginning of the spa and wellness movement, the physical exercise and the tourist friendly surroundings of Bad Sauerbrunn play a significant role. After his 30 years of experience Director Berhard Schuster summarizes – "Our facilities are dedicated to physical health because true wellbeing can only result from pure health".



**Main Square Bad Sauerbrunn**

### **Small area, large framework.**

With an area of less than 234 hectares within the municipal area, Bad Sauerbrunn is one of the smallest municipalities in Austria in terms of area. The convenient location also makes the modern spa town of Bad Sauerbrunn, which was recently able to book over 125,000 overnight stays per year, a particularly popular tourist destination and a popular place to live in with beautiful surroundings. The incomparable charm of Bad Sauerbrunn is

due to this day to its evolved structure, which symbiotically connects the urban spaces and villa quarters with the surrounding natural landscape of vast forest areas, old orchards and vineyards on the foothills of the Rosaliengebirge.

"For me Bad Sauerbrunn can be summed up as quality of life: It is a health resort in the country that can offer its guests and the locals a lot of enjoyment, culture and the most modern medical services and is exactly located on the border between the alpine and Pannonian landscape", says Gerhard Hutter, who has been the mayor of Bad Sauerbrunn since 2002.

It is particularly important to him to make the small health resort even more prominent in the longer term through ambitious teamwork and at the same time to enable people of all ages to enjoy life in the village itself. For this purpose, a team for tourism and project development was set up by the municipality of Bad Sauerbrunn two years ago, which also coordinates Bad Sauerbrunn's application for the "Entente Florale Europe 2022" competition. Due to its particularly small community area, a comprehensive expansion of district heating was envisioned for Bad Sauerbrunn for the future. Energy sources such as biomass and photovoltaics are already being used consistently in public buildings and health resorts.

Regional togetherness is particularly important for Bad Sauerbrunn with regard to the further development of tourism. Intelligently developed and newly built bike and hiking trails invite you to explore the surrounding area: The "Rosalia bike path" leads through the center of the health resort and allows both leisure and ambitious cyclists to get their money's worth.

Newly created paths such as the "Sonnenuhrweg" allow tourist to visit highlights such as the observation tower built in 2007 or the historic weather cross, which guarantees great panoramic views high above Bad Sauerbrunn, to be discovered on walks.



**Rosarium, Bad Sauerbrunn**

## Future Plans

In the field of tourism and project development, Bad Sauerbrunn also places an emphasis on working with the owners to preserve the historic buildings and green spaces in the town through tree planting and historically sensitive redesigns and renovations.

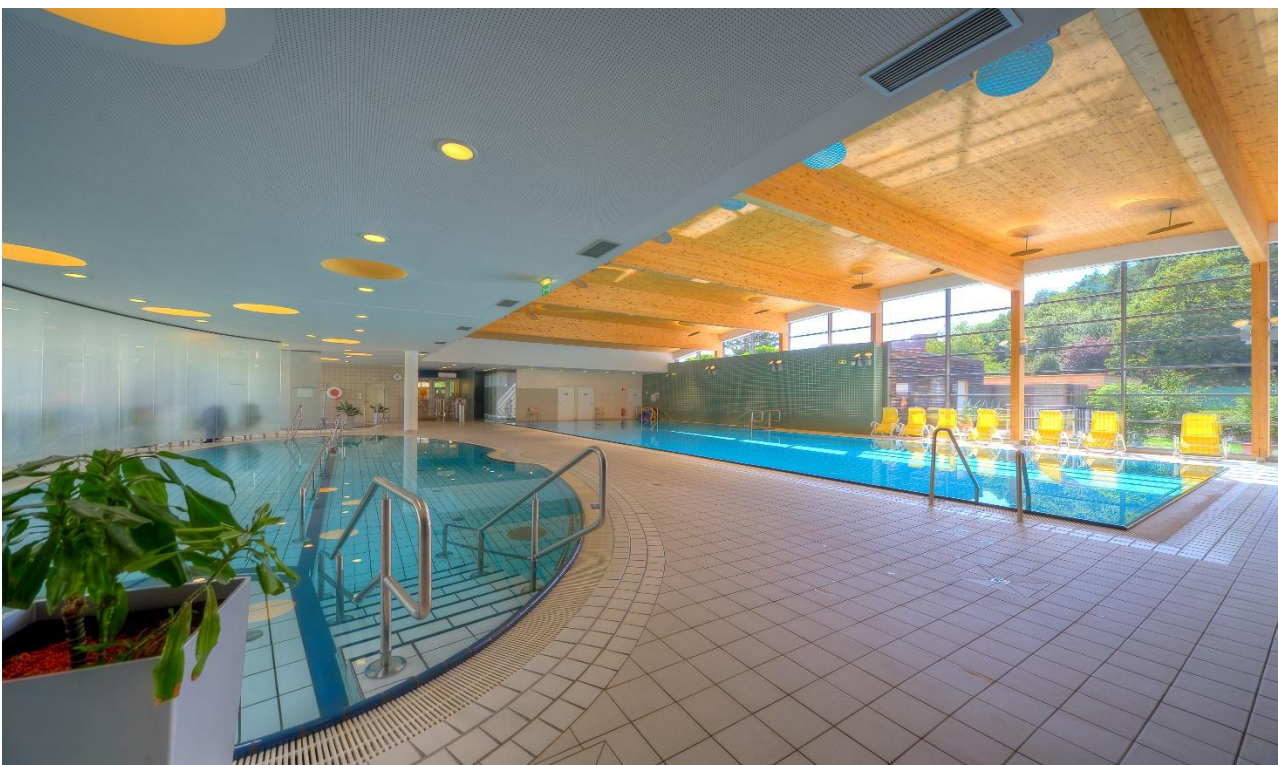
This is mainly influenced by the fact that Bad Sauerbrunn was built based on the example of the English-Cottage construction in the 19th Century.

That basic structure, which has been preserved to this day, is a loose villa development with wide avenue streets, front gardens and a lot of open green space.

The growing townscape is particularly important for the local community, and so a new development plan has been drawn up over the past two years that takes particular account of the structure that has grown.

Working on the preparation of the legal site plan, the planners were asked to not only preserve the historical view of the place but also take care of the harmonious integration into the surrounding natural countryside. The completely renovated and expanded elementary school is easily accessible for everyone in the center of the village. The newly built, modern kindergarten with a spacious outdoor area is right next to it.

With the natural playground “Hügelland” and its center piece, the large pirate ship “Wilde Gerda”, Bad Sauerbrunn has created an incredibly large children's adventure world with different areas for different generations, which was awarded an international prize in 2019.



**Swimming Pool, Health and Wellness Centre, Bad Sauerbrunn.**