

# Imaginary museum of possibly broken partnerships

by Mark E. Taylor and Marlies Pöschl



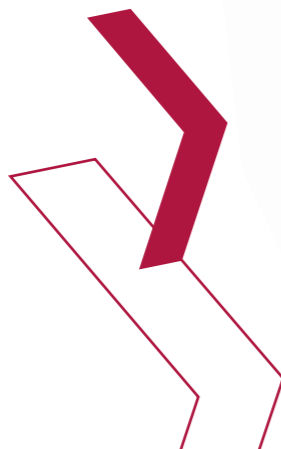
## Introductory imaginary text - Only some connection to reality is guaranteed!

*Driving with Coyote editorial team member, Davide, into Zagreb to work on the symposium, we started talking about romance in our lives. One thing led to another and we fell into a passionate embrace which would change our mutual futures forever! "My goodness," we thought, "isn't it romantic to work for the Partnership?!" And then we cast our thoughts into the next years and wondered what would life be like if the Partnership did not exist anymore? Suddenly the joy we had felt seemed to fly out of the side window of the taxi...*

*A couple of days later the remaining members of the editorial team – Matina, Marlies and I – decided to follow our instincts and make a pilgrimage to one of the remaining wonders of the modern world: The Museum of Broken Relationships.<sup>1</sup> Emotions ran high, as they do, and we decided to dedicate a couple of pages of the next Coyote to an imaginary world in which the Partnership ceased to exist. So we have asked people who, like us, have engaged passionately with this pioneering partnership in the youth field to provide us with an image, a story or a word which sums up their feelings... here we are.*



photo: Mark E. Taylor



## Peter Hofmann

TALE: I created this object at the end of Training Advanced Learners in Europe – guided by my intuition, feelings, state of being after this intense two-year journey. I do not really know what it should express but it resonated a lot with me; for a while afterwards it was a kind of personal logo. Somehow it has to do with growing, diversity, confusion ... all this and much more was present throughout TALE for me.



## Gisèle Evrard

Big. Strong. Literary.

If there are only three words to describe most of the memories I have of my co-operation with the Partnership and all the people who are linked to it, those would be the ones.

BIG in all ways possible: a big amount of work, big publications, big visions, big hearts, big projects, big hopes.

STRONG ideals, commitments, values, beliefs and people.

LITERARY... oh... that is another story... literary because of the publications, of course, and pages and pages of projects-to-be and thoughts-to-be, but also literary like poetry. And what all that co-operation brought me... but shhh...

And if you are wondering why Obelix is proudly standing on a keyboard, it is because that is the symbol I had chosen, among others, while starting the work on Coyote 20.

EXTREMELY motivating, challenging, puzzling at times, but so enjoyable.

Thank you, Partnership!





Photo: Howard Williamson

● Howard Williamson

I was a member of the original Youth Partnership protocol on youth worker training in 1998. I have been involved with the work of the Youth Partnership ever since. My trusty little travel guitar, bought five years earlier, has always come with me. It was a prop when I spoke at the start of the All Different All Equal campaign in 2006, with the words in the image projected behind me. The author of those words – Cecil Patton, youth worker, musician and personal friend – had died of a stroke the week before at the age of 41. But, before and after his death, he contributed this song to the work of the Youth Partnership and the youth agenda across Europe. The Youth Partnership lies at the core and is the bridge between the values of the Council of Europe and the objectives of the European Union. A broken Partnership, like shattered glass, will produce a fragmented Europe. Whenever I think of the Partnership, I also think of Cecil's words.



Photo: Mark E. Taylor

● Mark E. Taylor

“Balls!” we said, in answer to a question from Balazs Hidveghi (then administrator for the Partnership) about what kind of gadget would be appropriate to use at the upcoming Bridges for Training conference, held in Brugge in 2001. He was a little perplexed, so we explained that trainers often use balls in training – for energisers, problem-solving exercises, learning to juggle, name games and the like. So we had a couple of hundred balls for distribution. I can still remember the looks of astonishment as Sonja Mitter opened the box during the “training fair” and rolled what looked like hundreds of oranges across the floor! Who knows where they all went and how many course participants had them in their hands? They were very good anti-stress balls as well. I still have these three: as you can see one of them looks a bit worse for wear as it was attacked by our old dog Othello. But that's another story...

● Charles Berg

About knots and nails

In my mind, one of the most beautiful books on my shelves is related to the Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth. It is a first and numbered edition of Adriano Sofri's *Il nodo e il chiodo* [The knot and the nail] translated into German. My copy is numbered 3134.

One evening in the late 1990s, I was walking from the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg to a downtown restaurant. I was in the company of Hanjo Schild. We shared thoughts about what we were reading at the time, and he mentioned Sofri's work. I bought the book and for a long time it remained on my desk. I have never read it from the first to the last page, nor have I quoted from it. But very often I leaf through it and read a random paragraph.

Adriano Sofri was a former leader of the autonomist movement “Lotta Continua”. Arrested in 1988, he spent several years in prison (see Ginzburg 2002). But above all he is a great intellectual and a philosophical writer with an amazing cultural sensitivity.

In the course of the years, I have become convinced that the Partnership is also about knotting, weaving and knitting. It is in need of both knots and nails, of both a right hand and a left hand. Very often opposite forces are interconnected. By labouring to enhance the Partnership's yin and yang, we can ensure its success and a long life under radically altering circumstances.

Further reading

Ginzburg, C.(2002), *The judge and the historian. Marginal notes on a late-twentieth-century miscarriage of justice*, Verso, London.  
 Sofri, A. (1995), *Il nodo e il chiodo. Libro per la mano sinistra*. Sellerio (Fine secolo, 1), Palermo.  
 Sofri, A. (1998), *Der Knoten und der Nagel. Ein Buch zur linken Hand*. Eichborn (Die andere Bibliothek, 160), Frankfurt am Main.



photo: Mark E. Taylor