



Press release n.7 – August 31, 2012

## Let's bridge! Zero hour to Genfest 2012

**On this afternoon, in the “bridge city”, theater and ideal frames of the event start.**

The 12000 participants have already arrived in Budapest. In a few hours they will start the Genfest 2012, connected with many people in other countries who will follow the event through a world direct satellite television, shot by 4 national and regional television, one live streaming in 8 languages (<http://www.genfest.org/live>), one web TV, 7 official channels on Facebook in 7 languages and other social networks.

There is a festive air in Budapest streets, friends finally meet personally and not just through internet.

The Genfest numbers – 104 countries: almost 8500 from Europe (3700 from Eastern Europe), 850 from Asia, 1300 from Americas, about a hundred from Africa and a small group from Oceania, 250 from the Middle East. Two thirds are Christians from different churches, about a hundred are from other religions, and a significant participation of people from other cultures. Genfest will be translated into 27 languages.

The program which begins this afternoon was preceded by some other events in Budapest. On this morning, at Hungarian Parliament, an international delegation of Focolare Movement, half of whom were youths, with the president Maria Voce, were welcomed. Katalin Bogyay, president of the General Conference of UNESCO; the nuncio; the Lutheran Bishop; the Italian ambassador in Hungarian were also present there.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Martonyi János, have said a welcome message: “The challenges are global, he said, the answers are universal, linked to universal values. (...) We noticed the culture of suspicion and hatred at all levels. It is necessary to answer with the culture of love. (...) Thanks for the 12000 who brought here this extraordinary initiative. Through their love, we rediscover ours”.

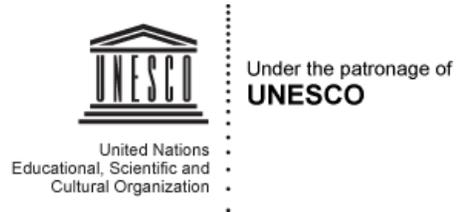
Yesterday afternoon, it was inaugurated the Universal Brotherhood Site, a place in a public garden in the heart of the capital that was build by the youths themselves, with the collaboration of Budapest City Hall. The aim: to leave a mark in the city of the message that will go from Genfest 2012 to the world. “We want to give hope to our city”, said Rita, Hungarian, 25 years old, in front of authorities and crowds of youths.

At night, more than 4000 people watched “Streetlight” musical by International group Gen Rosso. On the stage with the artists, 120 Hungarian teenagers have performed; it was the conclusion of a 2 days workshop.

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