

Bradford People with disabilities take the initiative

Bradford, a major industrial town in the north of England, has been twinned with the German town of Hamm, in the Ruhr Valley, since 1976. In 2002, a twinning project concerned a small-scale event focusing on the disabled with a view to developing a programme of events for 2003, the European Year of People with Disabilities.

Between 13 and 15 April 2002, 24 people from Hamm converged on Bradford for a programme of cultural, educational, sporting and recreational events. 'Sport and culture have always been central to our relationship with Hamm as its main promoter here in Bradford was responsible for the sports department of the City of Bradford and was really familiar with the sporting situation in Hamm', comments Tim Hirst, Head of Policy, Research and Development for the City of Bradford.

This twinning project is a good and concrete example of empowerment, fostering the active involvement of people with disabilities. Thanks to this event, the 2003 twinning actions are not only targeted to people with disabilities but also planned by them.

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