



## **THE ESTABLISHING CONFERENCE**

From 19th June to 21st June 2008 an international conference AMATEO – the founding conference of the European Network for Active Participation in Cultural Activities – took place in Ljubljana. Representatives of socio-cultural or amateur cultural organisations from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Czech Republic, Estonia, Croatia, Italy, Great Britain, Hungary, the Netherlands, Sweden and Slovenia participated in the conference. The conference was organised by the Public Fund of Cultural Activities of the Republic of Slovenia, and sponsored by the Information Office of the European Parliament for Slovenia.

The conference was opened by Ljudmila Novak - a member of the European Parliament and a member of the Committee of Culture and Education - and there were additional introductory addresses from the Director of the Information Office of the Council of Europe in Ljubljana, Kristina Plavšak Krajnc, and the Director of the Public Fund for Cultural Activities, mag. Igor Teršar.

After the introductory conference papers by dr. Vesna Čopič (Faculty of Social Sciences in Ljubljana – Inter-cultural Dialog and socio-cultural activities in Europe), Nataša Goršek Menic (Information Office of the European Parliament in Slovenia – European Institutions and Culture), dr Janko Malle (Arge Regionskultur, Austria – Ethnic Minorities and Inter-cultural Dialog) and Mateja Lazar (Culture Contact Point in Slovenia – European Cultural Programs for Active Participation in Cultural Activities) the conference adopted the proposed statutes and elected a 7-member Board of Directors which, in turn, elected the president, vice-president and secretary general of the AMATEO network.

Formal registration of AMATEO as an international organisation under Belgian law was carried out by the Board on October 2, 2008, at the notary's office in Ghent, Belgium.