Dear friends,

the traditional gathering of European children, Joy of Europe, will be held in Belgrade between October 2 and 5, 2015.

PLAY, as a topic of this year’s 46th International Gathering of Children of Europe Joy of Europe, has been taken from the Dictionary of friendship by Dusko Radović, one of the most important Serbian literary authors. On the occasion of the first International Gathering of Children of Europe, a long time ago, in 1969, Dusko Radović composed the Dictionary of Friendship, choosing fifteen most beautiful words for children: child, Europe, bread, play, book, love, mother, peace, father, song, friend, bird, joy, freedom and sun.

The concept of play is inseparable from childhood, growing up, children’s creativity, and imagination. Through play, children express and exchange their feelings and experiences, and create new worlds, where their only limit is imagination. Whether it’s dancing, music, painting or theatre: all art stems from child-play; and every artist knows the joy of playing.

PLAY is a unique language spoken by all the children of the world.

The theme is inspirational enough for all the fields of artistic expression, while being universally comprehensible in its message of connecting people and overcoming all the differences and boundaries. Artistic groups should create a performance for Gala concert which will respond on play theme.

The guest group can have 15 child participants at the most, aged between seven and 14, and two grown up guides. The children will be accommodated by families of their peers from Belgrade schools, one child per family, since the essence of the gathering is to spend time together, establish lasting friendships and get to know other cultures. The expenses of the half-pension hotel accommodation for two adult guides are covered by the organiser.
Participants themselves will have to cover travel expenses to Belgrade and back, but if during their stay guests use their bus, the organizer will reimburse all the fuel costs for the duration of the event, as well as accommodation expenses for two drivers.

The right to participate in the Joy of Europe have art schools, cultural centres, studios, clubs, associations, but primarily groups which achieved outstanding results at national and international competitions, festivals, contests and similar.

Stage performance prepared by participants may be dance (classical, traditional, jazz and contemporary) drama, music (vocal group or choir), but also have a multimedia character.

Each country can be represented by one group and in order to have as representative a selection as possible, we implore you to propose two or, if possible, three groups of potential participants from your country.

Basic sections of the program are:
1. CARNIVAL – ceremonial march by the event’s participants in costumes through the city centre;
2. EXHIBITION OPENING AND AWARDS CEREMONY in the Gallery, XVII International drawing and painting competition “Joy of Europe”
3. FRIENDSHIP GATHERING CONCERT – concerts in the venue of the Children’s Cultural Centre Belgrade (groups have to prepare a program of up to 10 minutes; they can perform music);
4. GALA CONCERT – in the Sava Centre (groups have to prepare a program of up to three minutes, but every aspect of the vocal or instrumental performance must be pre-recorded in the studio – a full playback is mandatory).
5. SPORTS DAY – interactive fun program for participating children, at attractive locations around the city;

The big final concert will be watched by several thousand children at the venue and millions of viewers at home through live television broadcast.

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The participation applications for groups should be sent by May 10, 2015, at the latest. The applications which arrive after the deadline we won't be able to take into consideration.

The applications of potential participants should include:

- filled out application form which could be downloaded from our site - http://www.dkcb.rs/joy-of-europe-propositions/ – send specifically in electronic form to the e-mail address of the Children's Culture Centre Belgrade: ivana.tabori@dkcb.rs; info@dkcb.rs
- video recording only of the up-to-three minute performance intended for the Gala Concert in the Sava Centre (we recommend that you send your video by e-mail).

The founder and sponsor of the International Gathering of Children of Europe is City Administration of Belgrade, and the executive producer is Children's Cultural Centre Belgrade.

All the details about the event itself, propositions and application forms can be found on the Internet site of the Children's Cultural Centre Belgrade http://www.dkcb.rs/joy-of-europe-info/

Board of the manifestation

“Joy of Europe”

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