



## **Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland awarded to Krakow's friends from Innsbruck**

2013-03-01

**On 22 February 2013, in the 15th year of Krakow and Innsbruck's partnership, Eugen Sprenger - Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in Tyrol and Hilde Zach - former Mayor of Innsbruck (posthumously) were awarded with Knight's Crosses of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland.**

Tadeusz Trzemieli, Deputy Mayor of the City of Krakow, participated in the ceremony in Innsbruck. This high state decoration was awarded to our Innsbruck friends by President of the Republic of Poland at the motion forwarded by Mayor of the City of Krakow Jacek Majchrowski in appreciation of their achievements and outstanding merits for the benefit of our city and its cooperation with the capital of the Federal State of Tyrol. *Mr. Eugen Sprenger, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in the Federal State of Tyrol present in the political life of Innsbruck for over 30 years, long-serving deputy mayor of Innsbruck and president of the Innsbruck Social Fund has greatly contributed to the beginning and development of partnership between Innsbruck and Krakow. From the very beginning Consul Sprenger proved to be a devoted spokesman and friend of Krakow.* – said Tadeusz Trzemieli in his eulogy for Eugen Sprenger. His and his Polish wife's Maryla's charity work for Krakow social welfare centers and other institutions was appreciated by the Krakow City Council which awarded them with the title of Philanthropist of Krakow in 2006. It was the only case by then of this title being awarded to donors from outside Poland.

Official relations between Krakow and Innsbruck were initiated in 1998. In the past 15 years of partnership the cooperation developed mainly in the field of education, culture, promotion and welfare. Thanks to the kind support from former Mayor of Innsbruck Hilde Zach – a creditable European expert in the field of culture and an avid advocate for the idea of city partnership – many attractive projects were organized, such as “Krakow Days” in Innsbruck and “Innsbruck Days” in Krakow. Exchanges of cultural presentations were organized on two occasions: in 2002 and 2009 and their programs included art exhibitions, concerts of symphonic orchestras as well as concerts of early music, jazz, Jewish or organ music. Some of the important elements of cooperation between cities are: exchange of experience in organizing mass events, convention center management, social welfare institutions and residential home system which functions perfectly in Innsbruck. Villa Blanka, a reputable culinary school, offers year-long scholarships to students of Krakow cooking schools, during which our students improve their culinary and language skills.