



## Town Partnerships

Friendship across the frontiers is of great importance for Schopfheim. Schopfheim has four twin cities in all directions.

The oldest of these partnerships is also the most political one, it is the partnership with Poligny in France. It was founded more than fifty years ago in the spirit of reconciliation after the Second World War. Besides official contacts on the political level between the town halls, a great number of associations and clubs and individuals give life to the friendly relationship with our beautiful little French twin city in the Jura, famous for its Comté cheese.

Since the eighties, Schopfheim has also been attracted by the North, Ronneby in Sweden. In spite of the great distance, there are intense contacts with the town in Blekinge. Delegations of city councillors as well as clubs travel there, or to Schopfheim.

The third partnership goes back to the period of the two German states. It was the Protestant Church of Schopfheim that, in spite of the Iron Curtain, established relations with Kleinmachnow, a town close to Berlin. After the fall of the wall, it was a matter of honor for Schopfheim to assist the partners in the East on their way towards the German unity.

The fourth partnership grew equally on the ground of the Church. In the seventies, the church district of Schopfheim forged links with Dikome in Cameroon, in order to give humanitarian help. Supported by the city of Schopfheim, the „Freundeskreis“ Partnerschaft Übersee“ realized several aid projects (water pipes, ward) in the West African partner region and finally started direct marketing of the Cameroon coffee. In 2000, both partners sealed their friendship by signing the Charter of partnership.