Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

280 Republic Street
Valletta VLT 1112
Malta

Svetlana R. Curmi
Media Officer
2590 9318
svetlana-rose.curmi@gov.mt

PRESS RELEASE

EUROPE FOR CITIZENS 2007-2013: SEMINAR FOR LOCAL COUNCILS AND NGOs

The *Malta-EU Steering and Action Committee* (MEUSAC) is organising a half-day seminar which will focus entirely on the European Union's funding programme *Europe for Citizens 2007-2013*.

This Seminar is one in a series of funding-related initiatives being undertaken by MEUSAC and will be held on **Wednesday 29th October 2008** at the **Victoria Hotel, Sliema** at **8.45am.**

The *Europe for Citizens* programme is an important tool intended to support the European Commission's Plan D project to strengthen dialogue, debate and democracy in Europe. In this context, the programme seeks to give the citizen a key role in the development of the European Union, by promoting Europe's common values and history, fostering a sense of ownership of the EU project among citizens.. In more concrete terms, the programme's priority areas are: the promotion of participation and democracy at EU level; the future of the Union and its basic values; intercultural dialogue; employment, social cohesion and sustainable development; and boosting awareness of the societal impact of EU policies. It focuses on four action areas namely *Active citizens for Europe*, *Active civil society in Europe*, *Together for Europe and Active European remembrance..*

The programme will run for a period of seven years (2007–2013) and the overall budget allocated for this period is of €215 million. Action 1, to which approximately 45% of the programme's budget – equivalent to around €96 million – is allocated, targets town-twinning initiatives and citizens' projects.

…/…2

Tel. 2590 9101 Fax 2122 7580 Email: info.meusac@gov.mt

Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

280 Republic Street
Valletta VLT 1112
Malta

Svetlana R. Curmi
Media Officer
2590 9318
svetlana-rose.curmi@gov.mt

The Seminar will focus mainly on Action 1 which seeks to encourage citizens to play a more active role both locally and at EU level. This Action seeks to bring together people from local communities across Europe through town-twinning, in order to promote mutual understanding, learning about other cultures in Europe and the emergence of a European identity to complement local and regional ones.

The main speaker will be Natasha Jovicic, from the Citizenship Unit P7 at the Education Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency. She will review the calls for proposals under Action 1, focusing on Action 1.1 (Town twinning citizens' meetings) and Action 1.2 (The thematic networking of twinned towns), and will also provide participants with guidance on the Programme's application and selection process.

Silvio Frendo (Assistant Director – Policy & Planning, Department for Local Government) will outline the role of the Department for Local Government in this process. San Lawrenz Local Council Mayor Noel Formosa will be sharing his experience on a project funded through the Active European Citizenship 2004-2006 programme, the predecessor of the *Europe for Citizens* programme.

The seminar targets mainly **local councils** and **non-government organisations.**

Dr Gabriella Pace, MEUSAC's Head of Information, will be chairing this Seminar. The Hon. Chris Said, Parliamentary Secretary for Public Dialogue and Information, will be delivering the opening address, while the closing address will be delivered by Dr Vanni Xuereb, Head of MEUSAC.

Participation is free of charge, but prior registration is required in view of seating restrictions. Registrations should reach Brian Pace at MEUSAC by not later than noon of Monday 27th October on funding.meusac@gov.mt.

MEUSAC - 20.10.2008

Tel. 2590 9101 Fax 2122 7580 Email: info.meusac@gov.mt

Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

280 Republic Street
Valletta VLT 1112
Malta

Svetlana R. Curmi
Media Officer
2590 9318
svetlana-rose.curmi@gov.mt

STQARRIJA GĦALL-ISTAMPA

EUROPE FOR CITIZENS 2007-2013:
SEMINAR GĦALL-KUNSILLI LOKALI U GĦAQDIET MHUX GOVERNATTIVI

Il-*Malta-EU Steering and Action Committee* (MEUSAC) se jkun qed jorganizza Seminar ta' nofs ta' nhar li se jiffoka fuq il-programm ta' fondi tal-Unjoni Ewropea li jġib l-isem ta' *Europe for Citizens 2007-2013.*

Is-Seminar huwa wieħed minn sensiela ta' attivitajiet dwar programmi u fondi mill-Unjoni Ewropea li se jkun qed jorganizza l-MEUSAC u se jsir nhar l-Erbgħa 29 ta' Ottubru 2008 fil-Lukanda Victoria, tas-Sliema, fid-8.45am.

Il-programm *Europe for Citizens* huwa għodda importanti għat-tisħiħ tal-'Pjan D', proġett tal-Kummissjoni Ewropea biex jissaħħu d-djalogu, id-dibattitu u d-demokrazija fl-Unjoni Ewropea. F'dan il-kuntest, dan il-programm ta' fondi jagħti rwol importanti liċ-ċittadin fl-iżvilupp tal-Unjoni Ewropea, għaliex jgħin liċ-ċittadini u lill-għaqdiet mhux governattivi jħossuhom parti minn dan il-proġett ambizzjuż tal-Kummissjoni Ewropea billi jappoġġja proġetti li jinvolvu liċ-ċittadini u għaqdiet mhux governattivi fil-proċess tal-integrazzjoni Ewropea, permezz ta' attivitajiet bħal ġemellaġġi u dibattiti. Dan il-programm jinqasam f'erba' azzjonijiet: 'Ċittadini Attivi għall-Ewropa', 'Soċjetà Ċivili Attiva fl-Ewropa', 'Flimkien għall-Ewropa', u 'Ċelebrazzjoni Ewropea Attiva'.

…/…2

Tel. 2590 9101 Fax 2122 7580 Email: info.meusac@gov.mt

Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

280 Republic Street
Valletta VLT 1112
Malta

Svetlana R. Curmi
Media Officer
2590 9318
svetlana-rose.curmi@gov.mt

Dan il-programm ġie allokat baġit ta' €215 miljun għall-perjodu 2007-2013. Madwar €96 miljun, jiġifieri 45% tat-total allokat għall-programm, se jintefqu fuq l-ewwel azzjoni.

Is-Seminar se jkun qed jindrizza l-ewwel azzjoni ta' dan il-programm: 'Ċittadini Attivi għall-Ewropa'. Din l-azzjoni tindirizza b'mod speċifiku attivitajiet li jinvolvu liċ-ċittadini, fosthom il-parteċipazzjoni tagħhom f'ġemellaġġi ta' bliet, kif ukoll it-tkattir ta' proġetti fejn iċ-ċittadini jipparteċipaw f'dibattitu li jsaħħaħ id-diversità kulturali.

Il-kelliem ewlieni se tkun Natasha Jovicic, uffiċjal mis-*Citizenship Unit P7*, fi ħdan l-*Education Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency*. Hija se tispjega l-firxa ta' opportunitajiet li joffri dan il-programm, b'mod partikolari l-ewwel azzjoni, u toffri spjega ta' kif jistgħu jsiru proposti tajbin u gwida għat-tmexxija tal-proġetti.

Silvio Frendo, Assistent Direttur fi ħdan id-Dipartiment tal-Gvern Lokali, se jispjega r-rwol tad-Dipartiment tiegħu f'dan il-proċess. Is-Sindku ta' San Lawrenz, Noel Formosa, se jkun qed jaqsam l-esperjenza tiegħu mal-parteċipanti peress li l-Kunsill tiegħu wettaq proġett iffinanzjat mill-programm ta' fondi Ċittadinanza Ewropea Attiva 2004-2006, il-predeċessur tal-Programm. *Europe for Citizens.*

Is-Seminar huwa ntiż primarjament għall-kunsilli lokali u għall-għaqdiet mhux governattivi.

Dr Gabriella Pace, il-Kap tat-Taqsima tal-Informazzjoni fi ħdan il-MEUSAC, se tkun qiegħda tmexxi dan is-Seminar. Id-diskorsi tal-ftuħ u tal-għeluq se jsiru mis-Segretarju Parlamentari għall-Konsultazzjoni Pubblika u Informazzjoni, l-Onor. Dr Chris Said u Dr Vanni Xuereb, Kap tal-MEUSAC.

Id-dħul għal din l-attività huwa b'xejn, iżda dawk li jixtiequ jattendu huma mitluba jgħaddu r-reġistrazzjoni tagħhom lil Brian Pace sa mhux aktar tard minn nofs in-nhar ta' nhar it-Tnejn 27 ta' Ottubru fuq l-indirizz tal-*email*: funding.meusac@gov.mt.

MEUSAC - 20.10.2008