Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

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PRESS RELEASE

MEUSAC discusses EU initiatives for new skills and better jobs

The seventh meeting of the Core Group of the Malta-EU Steering and Action Committee (MEUSAC) was held on the 27th March 2009.

The main topic on the Agenda was the Commission's Communication on new skills and better jobs.[1]

The Commission's Communication was presented by Ms Kirsten Miller, officer within the National Commission for Higher Education (NCHE).

The EU is concerned with long term growth and productivity, jobs and capacity to adapt to change, gender equality and social cohesion. A marked gap exists between the skills required by an organisation and the current capabilities of its workforce, due to various reasons which educational institutions are not addressing.

[1] Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – New Skills for New Jobs Anticipating and matching labour market and skills needs COM(2008) 868 final.

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The Commission is forecasting approximately 100 million job openings in the EU-25 over the period 2006 – 2020. In Malta 77,500 jobs will have to be created in order to meet such target.

Discussion among members focused on, amongst other matters:

- the emergence of green jobs,
- the need for career's guidance at a younger age,
- the challenge to increase the skills of those with low qualification so as to enable them to access the middle qualification bracket in view of the fact that 41% of young people in Malta have a low level of qualification,
- the perception that the caring professions are not glamourous and the need for more incentives to motivate employment within such professions,
- the need for more investment in Malta in post-secondary and tertiary education: locally the current level of investment is at 1.7% of GDP, while the EU is proposing that this investment should reach the 3% of GDP.
- accurate projections with regard to job mobility.

Other matters

A status report on the election of three civil society representatives to the Core Group was presented. So far, Mr Benjamin Rizzo has been elected. Two other members will be elected in the coming weeks.

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A revised policy for the Civil Society Fund was also presented and members expressed their agreement with the proposals. The CSF will include, for the first time, support for civil society organisations for co-financing when applying for EU funds. The CSF will also continue to assist CSOs with their participation in European groupings, associations and federations.

Present for the meeting of the Core Group were the following members: Parliamentary Secretary Dr. Chris Said (Chairperson), Dr. Vanni Xuereb (Head), Mr. Julian Micallef (Secretary), Dr. Gabriella Pace (Head of Infromation – MEUSAC), Ms Helen D' Amato, Dr. Josette Grech, Mr. Carmel Cacopardo (Alternattiva Demokratika), Arthur Rossi (CMTU), Joe Grech (GBC), Tony Zarb (GWU), Jesmond Bonello (UĦM), Dr. Paul De Battista (MEA), Dr. Luciano Busuttil (PL), Benjamin Rizzo (civil society representative), as well as substitute members who attended as observers. Members of staff of MEUSAC were also in attendance.

The next meeting of the Core Group will be held on Friday, 24th April, 2009.

MEUSAC – 27.03.2009

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STQARRIJA GĦALL-ISTAMPA

Il-MEUSAC jiddiskuti inizjattivi tal-UE għal ħiliet ġodda u impjiegi aħjar

Illum, 27 ta' Marzu, saret is-seba' laqgħa tal-*Core Group* tal-*Malta-EU Steering and Action Committee* (MEUSAC).

Għad-diskussjoni fuq l-Aġenda tal-laqgħa kien hemm il-Komunikazzjoni mill-Kummissjoni dwar ħiliet ġodda u impjiegi aħjar.[2]

Is-Sinjorina Kirsten Miller, uffiċjal fi ħdan il-Kummissjoni Nazzjonali għall-Edukazzjoni Ogħla (NCHE), tat preżentazzjoni dwar din il-Komunikazzjoni.

L-UE hija mħassbha dwar it-tkabbir u l-produttività fit-tul, dwar l-impjiegi u l-kapaċità li dawn jaddattaw mal-bidla, l-ugwaljanza tas-sessi u l-koeżjoni soċjali. Qasma sostanzjali teżisti bejn il-kapaċitajiet li huma meħtieġa minn organizzazzjoni u dawk tan-nies impjegati mal-organizzazzjoni, minħabba raġunijiet varji li l-istituzzjonijiet edukattivi mhumiex qegħdin jindirrizzaw.

[2] Komunikazzjoni mill-Kummissjoni lill-Parlament Ewropew, lill-Kunsill, lill-Kumitat Ekonomiku u Soċjali Ewropew u lill-Kumitat tar-Reġjuni – Ħiliet Ġodda għal Impjiegi Ġodda. L-antiċipazzjoni u t-tlaqqigħ tas-suq tax-xogħol u l-ħiliet meħtieġa. KUMM (2008) 868 finali.

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Il-Kummissjoni qed tbassar madwar 100 miljun impjieg ġdid fl-UE-25 bejn l-2006 u l-2020. F' Malta jridu jinħolqu 77,500 impjieg biex tintlaħaq il-mira tal-Kummissjoni.

Fost il-punti li tqajjmu waqt id-diskussjoni kien hemm:

- l-iżvilupp ta' impjiegi favur l-ambjent,
- il-bżonn ta' gwida għall-karrieri f' eta żgħira,
- l-isfida biex jiżdiedu l-ħiliet ta' dawk li għandhom livell baxx ta' edukazzjoni biex jissieħbu ma' dawk li għandhom livell medju. F'Malta 41% tal-popolazzjoni żgħażugħa għandha livell baxx ta' edukazzjoni meta mqabbel man-numru ta' dawk li għandhom livell ta' edukazzjoni ogħla,
- l-idea li impjiegi fil-qasam vokazzjonali huma inqas attraenti u l-bżonn ta' iktar inċentivi biex jimmotivaw dawn it-tip ta' impjiegi,
- il-bżonn ta' iktar investiment f'pajjiżna fl-edukazzjoni fil-livell post-sekondarju u terzjarju: il-livell ta' investiment kurrenti huwa ta' 1.7% tal-PGD, waqt li l-UE qed tipproponi li dan għandu jitla' għal 3% tal-PGD,
- projezzjonijet preċiżi fir-rigward tal-mobilità tal-impjiegi.

Affarijiet oħra

Il-Membri tal-*Core Group* ġew ippreżentati b'rapport dwar l-elezzjoni tat-tliet rappreżentanti tas-soċjetà ċivili. S'issa ġie elett is-Sur Benjamin Rizzo. Żewġ membri oħra se jkunu eletti fil-ġimgħat li ġejjin.

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Politika aġġornata dwar il-Fond għas-Soċjetà Ċivili ġiet ippreżentati lill-membri li qablu ma dak li qed jiġi propost. Għall-ewwel darba dan il-Fond se jinkludi assistenza lill-organizzazzjonijiet tas-soċjetà ċivili għall-ko-finanzjament ta' proġetti taħt programmi ta' fondi tal-UE. Fl-istess waqt il-Fond se jibqa' jassisti lil dawn l-organizzazzjonijiet fil-parteċipazzjoni tagħhom fi ħdan gruppi, assoċjazzjonijiet u federazzjonijiet Ewropej.

Preżenti għal-laqgħa tal-*Core Group* kien hemm: is-Segretarju Parlamentari Dott. Chris Said (*Chairperson*), Dott. Vanni Xuereb (Kap tal-MEUSAC), is-Sur Julian Micallef (Segretarju), Dott. Gabriella Pace (Kap tal-Informazzjoni – MEUSAC), is-Sinjura Helen D' Amato, Dott. Josette Grech, is-Sur Carmel Cacopardo (Alternattiva Demokratika), is-Sur Arthur Rossi (CMTU), is-Sur Joe Grech (GBC), is-Sur Tony Zarb (GWU), Jesmond Bonello (UĦM), Dott. Paul De Battista (MEA), Dott. Luciano Busuttil (PL), is-Sur Benjamin Rizzo (rappreżentant tas-soċjetà ċivili), kif ukoll sostituti u membri tal-i*staff* tal-MEUSAC.

Il-laqgħa li jmiss tal-*Core Group* se ssir nhar il-Ġimgħa 24 ta' April, 2009.

MEUSAC – 27.03.2009