

Sunday, 20th September 2009

EU funding seminar for local SMEs

A seminar on EU funding opportunities for SMEs, organised by the Malta EU Steering Committee - MEUSAC, was recently held at Hotel Ta' Ċenċ in Gozo.

Various representatives imparted valuable information to the entrepreneurs present about business and development opportunities available through EU funding.

SMEs are the backbone of the economy in Malta and the EU. These innovative and sustainable companies create over 100 million jobs within the Union. A number of EU funds are available for entrepreneurs in Malta to help them consolidate their position or alternatively set up their own business.

One such project is Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs, which was launched last February with the main intention of assisting new entrepreneurs set up their own business by gaining experience from established entrepreneurs within the EU.

New entrepreneurs or those who have not been in business for more than three years have the opportunity to travel to any of the 27 EU countries to spend time working and gaining entrepreneurial experience from a host entrepreneur.

New entrepreneurs will gain relevant start-up and SME management knowledge from the experienced host, enabling them to plan effectively and develop innovative products and services, while gaining successful sales and marketing practices. This experience will give them the confidence to take the plunge and follow their dream of having their own business and creating their own job opportunities.

Host entrepreneurs, on the otherhand, will have the opportunity of working with committed and motivated new entrepreneurs who contribute with new ideas and fresh views.

They will also gain knowledge about foreign markets - including business contacts - and increase the opportunities to internationalise their business. The result will be improved growth potential of the enterprise and opportunities to establish a new business partnership directly with the new entrepreneur from another country.

For more information about this EU pilot project and on participation and benefits, call Ray Cassar on 9942 4521 or Elizabeth Camilleri Fava on 9982 4987 or 2148 4835, e-mail projectscordinator@apex.coop or visit www.apex.coop.