

CLOSING ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE HON. CHRIS SAID, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC DIALOGUE AND INFORMATION DURING A SEMINAR FOR LOCAL COUNCILS: EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES 2007-2013 ORGANISED BY MEUSAC AND EUPA – FLORIANA - 1.12.2008

Lifelong Learning Programme 2007-2013 (LLP) is the successor of the previous Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci and eLearning Programmes which expired at the end of 2006. It offers and supports learning opportunities from childhood to old age, to people from all walks of life.

The decision in establishing the Lifelong Learning Programme was adopted by the European Parliament and Council on the 15 November 2006, with an estimated total budget of 961 million Euros earmarked for this call.

Lifelong Learning Programmes supports education and training across Europe. It provides funding for all stages of lifelong learning, for activities at schools, colleges, universities, workplaces and communities.

Countries applying for the LLP Programme must be one of the 27 member states of the European Union, EFTA-EEA Countries such as Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, or Turkey as a candidate country. The level of grants awarded as well as the duration of projects vary depending on factors such as the type of projects and the number of countries involved. The four sectoral programmes of LLP are:

School Education (Comenius)

Higher Education (Erasmus)

Vocational Training (Leonardo da Vinci) and

Adult Education (Grundtvig)

Lifelong Learning Programme is aimed at all types and levels of education and is accessible to:

Pupils, Students, Trainees and Adult Learners, Teachers, Trainers and other staff involved in any aspect of lifelong learning. Persons working in the labour market, institutions or organisation which provide learning opportunities within the context of LLP or within the limits of its sub-programmes. Persons or bodies responsible for systems and policies concerning any aspect of lifelong learning at local, regional and national levels. Enterprises, Social Partners and their organisations at all levels can also form part of this programme together with organisations that provide guidance, counselling and information services, research centres and bodies concerned with lifelong learning issues and non-profit organisations, voluntary bodies and NGOs.

This Programme is intended to offer support for the mobility of individuals in lifelong learning, to bilateral and multilateral projects especially those that work for the promotion of quality in education and training systems.

The Lifelong Learning Programme is completed by a transversal programme which focuses mainly on

- policy cooperation
- languages, information and communication technology and the
- dissemination and exploitation of results.

The final element of the new programme is the Jean Monnet Action, which focuses on supporting the teaching of European Integration as a subject at Universities whilst supporting certain key institutions and associations which are active in this field. The Jean Monnet actions focuses on enabling and encouraging European countries to work together more closely whilst offering support to key partners in the field.

The LLP Programme aims to

emphasising on the need of lifelong learning and the development of the Community as an advanced knowledge society with sustainable economic development, more and better jobs and a greater social cohesion

In addition this programme aims to foster interaction, cooperation and mobility between education and training systems within the Community

It is interesting to note that the objectives of this programme are linked to quantifiable targets set for each of the sectoral programmes in order to ensure significant, identifiable and measurable impacts for the programme.

Throughout it is expected that Comenius will involve at least 3 million pupils in joint education activities

Erasmus to support an overall total of 3 million individual participants in student mobility

Leonardo da Vinci to increase placements in enterprises up to 80,000 per year

Grundtvig is projected to support the mobility of 7,000 individuals involved in adult education per year

I close by encouraging EUPA and MEUSAC to collaborate in order to disseminate even further information relating to the Lifelong Learning Programme and to empower MEUSAC through its newly established Funding Unit to be able to offer its services to the Local Councils vis-à-vis submission of applications for funding.

I also urge you present here today to look into the various possibilities LLP and other similar programmes offer to us all as European Citizens.

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