

# BORMLA LOCAL COUNCIL'S experience in EU Projects



Experience and achievements

# Introduction

The Bormla Local Council has been participating in EU funded projects since 2003, when we committed ourselves to a number of 'minor projects'. Our first project was **EUMEDIS** under the MEDA strand. For this project we were allocated a budget of Euro 32 000, in exchange for a detailed archeological and touristic research (in the Maltese Islands). Our research then was amalgamated to that of other partners (coming from Spain, France, Greece and Italy) and the results served to create an ancient trade route which is currently being promoted online through a web-portal that has been built through the project's funds

# Test Partners

We then carried out two other projects in which we participated as test partners. These were :

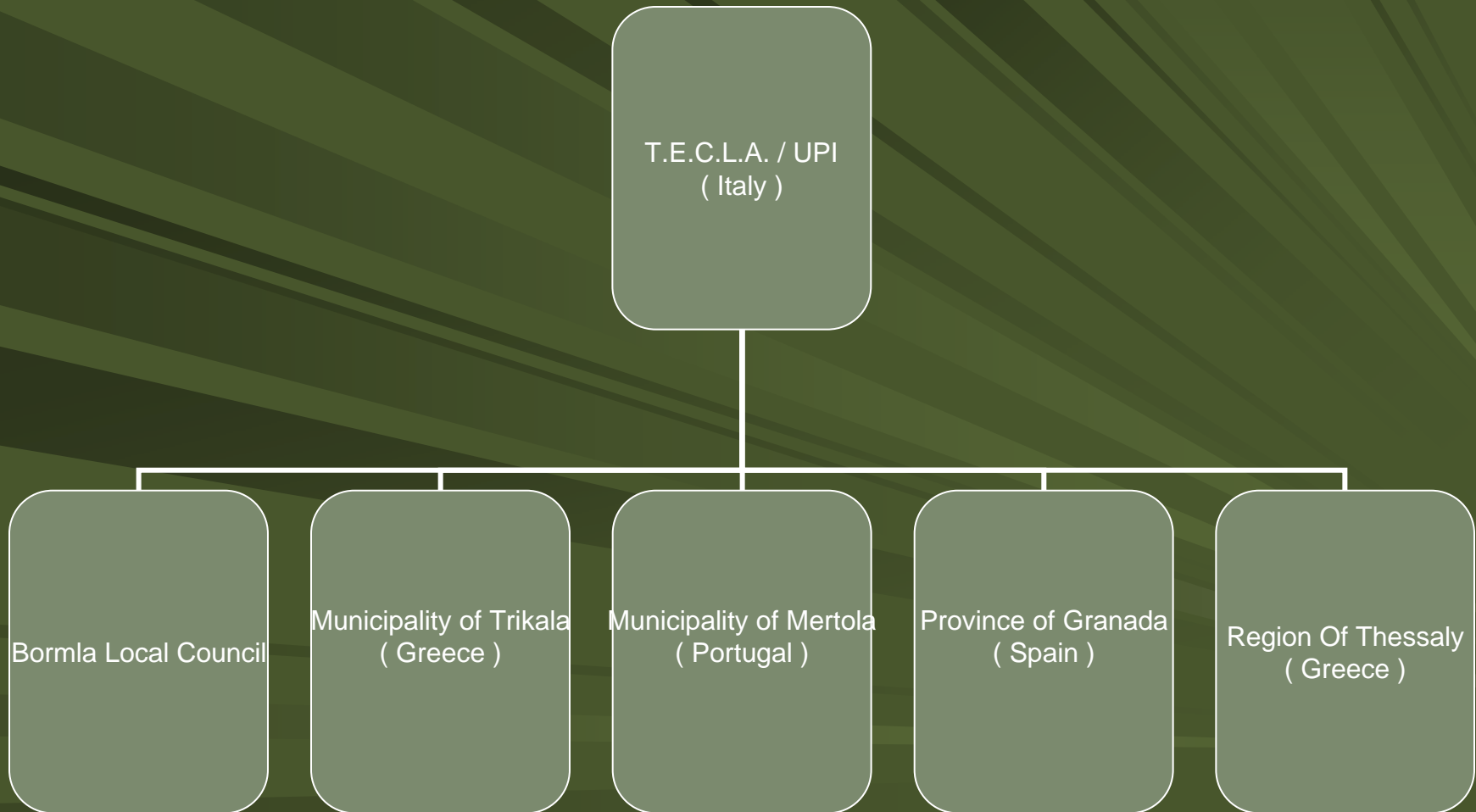
- *Interreg IIIC Qualicities* – For this project we were allocated a budget of Euro 10 000.
- *DELTA* – We were also allocated a budget of Euro 10 000.

# Interreg IIIB MEDOCC – *Reseau des Centres Historiques Mineurs*

RCSM ( this was the Project's Acronym) was the first project with a relatively big budget which included the Bormla Local Council as an official partner. Together with us carrying out the project were other 4 partners from Greece, Italy and Spain and two observing countries (Province of Oran and Tunisia). Following is a review of our evaluations at the project's termination



# RCSM - Structure



# RCSM - Evaluations

*Implimentation-* RCSM was divided into three Sectors namely heritage, Tourism and promotion. The staff appointed to work on this project mapped a number of sites within three minor historical centres (Bormla, Isla and Kalkara). These sites, once identified, were included in tourist packages which were created. These tourist packages are offered online through a bookshop and a website which have been created in relation to this project. Newsletters and other promotional material is also available. A number of other resources which the tourist might need when visiting our islands such as Restaurants, bars, cafeterias, take aways, libraries etc. were also identified. These amenities have been labelled and the tourist now have a full range of options from where to choose for the services he/she requires

# RCSM - Evaluations

*Financials-* For this project we were allocated a budget of Euro 116 635, which had to be spent over a 21 month period. Part of this budget, 75% came from the European Regional Development Fund whilst the other 25% was incurred by the Local Council ( in the form of staff costs and cash). Due to the flexibility of the Managing Authority in shifting budget lines and following planning made by the Local Council we found no problems to carry out all the duties assigned to us in the workplan by the Project's Leadership.

# RCSM- Achievements

From this project apart from a detailed study on our assets, we obtained major promotion in the four countries participating in the project. This apart from thousands of euros in promotional material and an awareness of our cultural value through the locals.

Apart from this, we are now able to compare our locality with those participating in the project. This has enabled us to exchange ideas on upgrading the well-being of our locality and exchanging good practices. Hence, we are now able to implement innovative ideas in our locality.

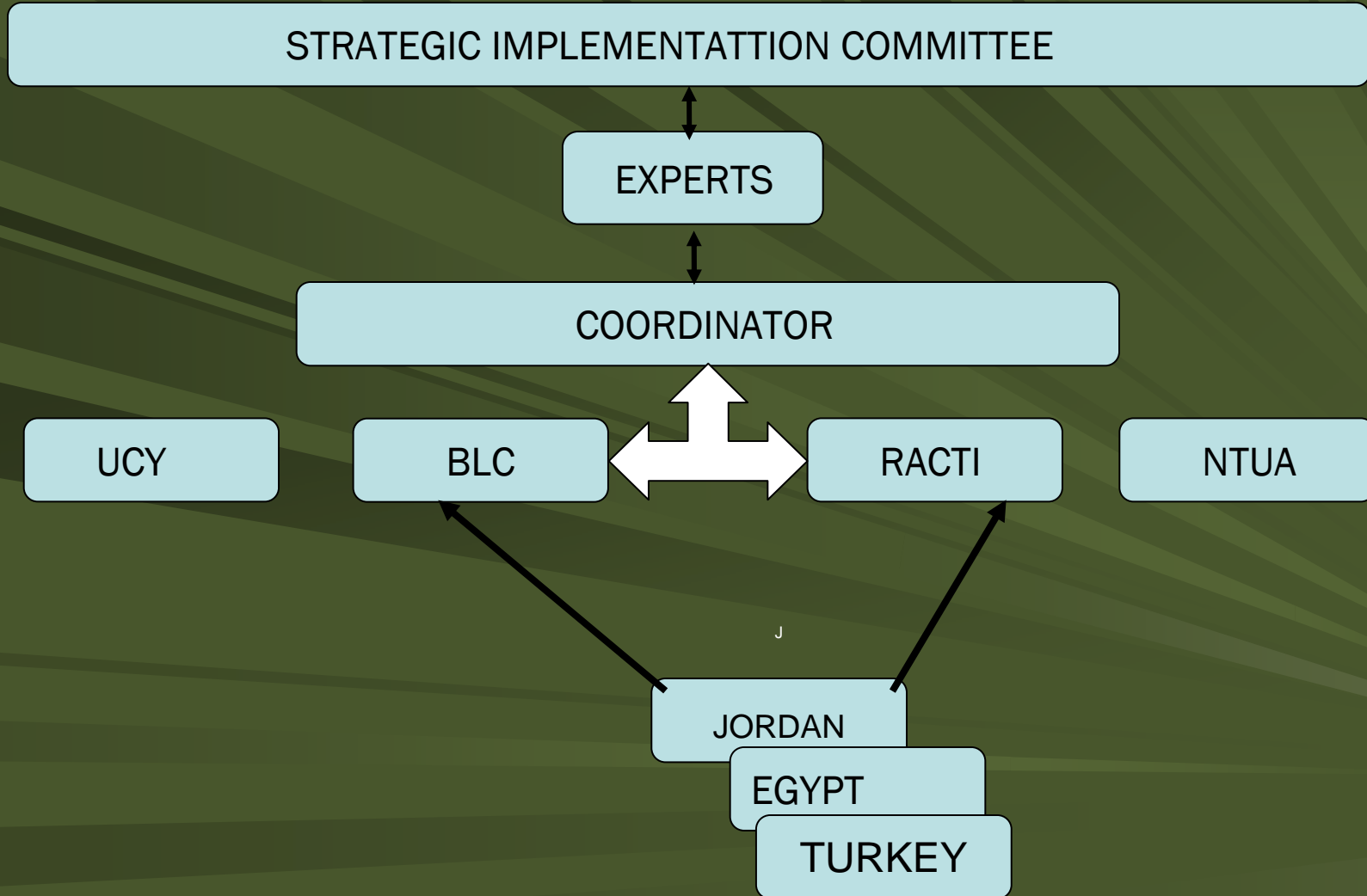
# Interreg IIIB ARCHIMED-

## *East Mediterranean Cohesion on Information and Telecommunications*

E-MedIT ( official acronym of the project) was the last project carried out by the Bormla Local Council which ended in October 2008. It was a 24-month project which for the first time saw the Bormla Local Council as Lead Partner in an EU funded project. Although it was an excellent experience, the challenge for such a commitment was difficult and we would not have done it without previous experience in such projects and good relationship within the consortium and the Managing Authority.



# E-MedIT - Structure



# Budgets

E-MedIT had a total approved budget of Euro 555 760 which are distributed among the partners as follows:

- Bormla Local Council Euro 225 354
- National Technical University of Athens Euro 249 573
- University of Cyprus Euro 67 206
- Research Academic Computer Technology Institute Euro 189 129

Budgets are not distributed equally since all partners have different tasks to carry out and each task requires a different amount of resources to be tackled

# Objectives

*EMedIT* 's main objectives focused upon:

- providing a roadmap of transnational integration into a common framework regarding ICT in the EastMed (EM) region,
- promoting support services including training to ICT regional authorities and public bodies on an equal basis,
- discussing relevant ICT issues and
- fostering the development of ICT, thus reducing the “digital divide” gap in the EastMed.

# E-Medit- Evaluations

Implimentation – The project's deliverables were divided in two:

- *Short term outcome*

Develop **cooperation** and **networking** between all East Mediterranean actors involved in ICT and provide **Support Services** and **Training Assistance** to the regulatory institutions, telecom operators and other relevant bodies in 4 East Mediterranean countries (Turkey, Jordan, Egypt and Libya).

# E-MedIT- Evaluations

- *Med and Long term outcome*

Establishment of a **unified and coherent method of acting**, thinking and policy-making on ICT in the region and thus establish concrete benefits for them as well as for the public they serve

Apart from the experience of being a Lead Partner, through this project, we obtained a detailed study of the ICT and Telecommunications in Malta and other countries involved in the project.

# Needs Adressed

This project addresses present needs of the target groups and target regions and it provides ways, tools and implementation as how these specific problems/issues will be addressed. The present needs of the target groups and target regions are:

- Participating ICT forums have different starting points concerning ITC and IS development in their countries within EastMED region. These points need to be converged into an up lined and common point, for the benefit of all EastMED region as a whole
- Studies on the current situation of each EastMed country - outlining the basic needs and weaknesses of each country - are missing or are not updated.
- Dedicated and specialised courses on ITC and IS themes in the partner countries are missing, causing gaps of knowledge between the different ICT forums.

# Needs Addressed cont...

- There is no experience in the relevant ICT and IS sectors in most target countries and, most significantly, the responsible regulatory authorities cannot find specialized sources on ICT in their countries resulting in gaps between the different ICT activities.
- transnational platform - that will allow exchange of experiences and to receive specialized support services for the re engineering of ICT sectors - is missing; therefore, exposure and transparency to other EU ICT "layers' policy is falling behind.
- Recommendations and benchmarking for the ICT's infrastructure and contents are missing. Such would strengthen each target country and introduce competitors and employment of new technological trends.

# Conclusions and recommendations

## Financially

Although these projects are funded by the EU, the latter works on a reimbursement basis. Therefore we suggest that before participating to such projects, one must ensure that he/she has the financial resources to undertake such initiative. Through our experience we can say that it is imperative that:

- Before submitting the proposal an evaluation per budget line is done to ensure that all expenses will be covered.
- Ensuring that he/she will be financially capable to enhance the project's achievements after termination

# Conclusions and recommendations

Financially cont..

- Be very bureaucratic in keeping all the data updated as this has to be available anytime.
- Follow the guidelines and the Project Leader's advices since not all projects cater for the same expenses.
- View the track record of other partners since failure to implement the project or part of its activities might result in loss of funds.

# Conclusions and recommendations

- Experience taught us that to participate to such projects it is imperative that one be sure that he/she has human resources capable of carrying out such projects
- If external expertise is requested we suggest that great care is taken in choosing the right companies/individuals.
- Each and every modification done to the implementation sheet should be reported to the Leading Partner. This is essential since failure to do so might result in loss of funds

# Conclusions and recommendations

- Consult the National Authority concerning eligibilities and duties
- Be aware of the commitment which he/she is taking. Experience has taught us to reject for example invitations to join projects from partners which approach us with last minute applications
- Before participating to such projects, train internal staff adequately

# Contacts

**Darleen Zerafa – Vice Mayor**

Tel : +356 21663030

+356 21665337

Mob: +356 99457199

E-mail : [darleen.zerafa@gov.mt](mailto:darleen.zerafa@gov.mt)