

Funding 4 y EU

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MEUSAC Funding Information Seminar on Territorial Cooperation and Opportunities for Local Councils

Authorities and stakeholders at local and regional level have an important role to play in the achievement of the EU's strategies for growth, jobs and sustainable development. The exchange, sharing and transfer of policy experience, knowledge and good practices will contribute to the success of this objective.

The European Territorial Cooperation Objective of the Structural Fund policies for the period 2007-2013 seeks to improve the effectiveness of regional development policies and contribute to economic modernisation and increased competitiveness of Europe through interregional cooperation.

The 16th February will see the launch of the 2nd call for project proposals under the Med Programme which will remain open until 13th March 2009. With a budget of more than 250 billion euros, the Programme covers the coastal and Mediterranean regions of nine EU Member States. The partnership is enlarged by the participation of Mediterranean countries which are candidates or potential candidate members of the European Union.

In this context, MEUSAC is organising a half-day seminar on Territorial Cooperation Opportunities, specifically for the benefit of Local Councils. This event is being organized in collaboration with the Planning and Priorities Coordination Division (PPCD) within the Office of the Prime Minister and will be held at The Hotel Intercontinental, St. Julians on 13th February 2009.

The items on the agenda include the Italia-Malta Programme (2007-2013), the MED Programme (2007-2013), Interreg IVC and the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI). Experiences of local councils which have benefitted in the past will also be presented. Participants will be addressed by various PPCD officials including Celia Mintoff (Senior Manager - Territorial Cooperation Unit), as well as Projects Managers Aldo Formosa, Henri Caruana and Caroline Borg.

For further details and a registration form kindly send an email on info.meusac@gov.mt

Are you gearing up for a project proposal?

Do you want to know whether there are any EU programmes you can benefit from?

Need assistance?

Contact our offices and we will do our best to assist you.
All requests will be treated with strictest confidence



Europe for Citizens

by Lavinia Cassar

The EU seeks to bridge the gap between its institutions and its citizens – its aims to achieve this by instilling the principle of “active European citizenship”. An instrument developed in this regard is the Europe for Citizens projects 2007 – 2013. Below two measures of the Europe for Citizens programme are explored: Support for projects initiated by civil society and Town twinning citizens’ meetings.

A. Support for Projects Initiated by Civil Society

Civil Society Organisations are identified by the EU as an important link between its citizens and its institutions. The Union therefore offers support to projects with a strong European dimension initiated by such organizations. This measure under the Europe for Citizens’ programme encourages cooperation amongst these organizations established in different member states, thereby contributing to the exchange of good practice and identification of commonalities between various cultures.

Projects that may receive funding may take the following forms: “**Event projects**” – such as conferences, seminars, focus groups, debates, discussions, training activities and socio-cultural activities

“**Production and realization projects**” – including publications, websites, opinion polls, studies, application of new information technologies, production of training material and audio-visual material.

Eligibility criteria

When submitting an application the following criteria need to be met:

Eligible Applicants and Partners

- Non governmental organizations and civil society organisations with a legal status developing their activities at local, regional national or European level are eligible.
- Organisations must be established in one of the countries participating in the Programme (that is, all 27 EU member-states and Croatia).

Number of Partners

Any event of the project must involve at least 2 participating countries, of which at least one is an EU Member State.

Venue of the activities

The activities must take place in any of the countries participating in the Programme.

Duration

Maximum project duration is 12 months.

Eligible funding

- Grants for “event projects” are based on a flat rate – calculated based on the number of participants and number of days. An additional lump sum may be eligible if communication tools will also be produced.
- Grants for “production and realization projects” are based on actual costs – consisting of not more than 60% of eligible costs calculated in a provisional detailed budget. Payment requires a final statement and supporting documentation.

Next deadline: 15 March 2009 for projects commencing 1 August 2009 – 31 December 2009

B. Town Twinning Citizens’ Meetings

Town twinning citizens’ meetings seek to bring together a number of citizens from twinned towns.

Twinned towns have entered into a partnership aiming for greater cooperation and understanding between the two localities’ authorities, and their citizens. It therefore follows, that a joint commitment is required from local authorities and the people they represent. These partnerships and the resulting meetings offer an opportunity to enhance active citizenship, as well as to encourage inter-cultural dialogue. Town twinning citizens’ meetings should also show a commitment to European integration; this may be achieved through discussion on related topics, sharing experiences, and experiencing cultural diversity in Europe.

Eligibility criteria

The following considerations must be strictly adhered to when applying under this measure:

Applicants

The applicant must be the locality in which the meeting takes place, a non profit organization, or a twinning committee with a legal status representing local authorities

The applicant must be established in a participating country (EU member states and Croatia).

A town can host a citizens’ meeting only once a year.

Partnerships

Project partners may be other localities, a non profit organization, or a twinning committee with a legal status established in a participating country.

The partners are either linked by twinning agreements or they are engaged to prepare such agreements.

Only one bilateral project with the same partners can be granted in the same calendar year.

Number of partners

A project must involve local authorities from at least 2 participating countries, of which at least one is an EU Member State.

Participants

A project must involve a minimum of 25 participants that are not from the host country, with at least 5 from each invited locality.

At least half of the participants should not be elected local government representatives or municipal officials.

Duration

Maximum duration of the meeting is 21 days.

Eligible funding

- A co-financing principle is applied to organizational costs of the host town, including accommodation, meals, local transport, venue and traveling expenses.
- Grants are based on flat rates, thus do not have to be accounted. Nonetheless proof needs to be shown, example photos and sample of material produced.
- A maximum grant of €22,000 and minimum of €2,500 per project is allocated.

Next deadline: 1 March 2009 for projects commencing 1 June 2009 – 28 February 2010.

Europe for Citizens (cont.)

Town Twinning Citizen's Meeting - St. Paul's Bay, Malta and Agos Pavlos, Greece

The Local Council of St. Paul's Bay has signed a twinning agreement with a municipality in Greece, Agos Pavlos. The twinning agreement's main objective is to build relations based on enhancing democratic and citizenship principles and following the main doctrines outlined in the European Charter of Local Self-Government, and the European Convention of Cross-border Collaboration of the Council of Europe. The two localities have designed a project, based on the principles identified in twinning agreement which has been approved and is to take place during the first week of February.

The activities that have been planned are various and include a cultural dimension. These are:

- Visits to cultural and heritage sites such as St Paul's Bay hamlets, Ghajn Razul, Xemxija Heritage Trail, Burmarrad, Bugibba, Qawra, site-seeing of St Paul's Islands and St Martin's Cave.
- Meeting with Sports Organisations and Youth Organisations operating in St Paul's Bay, namely 'Klabb tal-Bocci', Island Car Club, Military Vehicles Collectors Club, Sirens F.C., Tao Natural Health Centre (Martial Arts), Malta Young Sailors Club and Barracudas Sports Club.
- Participation in the national feast of St Paul.

Other priorities of the EU were addressed in the activities set up. These involved:

- Art exhibition and visit to Ta'Qali Crafts Village emphasizing a creative dimension to the project. This aspect is being given priority during 2009, the European Year for Creativity and Innovation.
- Encouraging debate, reflection, and learning.
- Fostering mutual understanding between the two cultures through the inter-cultural dialogue taking place during the week-long activities.

Other important activities of the project emphasising follow-up of the project and a long-term commitment from both partners included:

- Discussion and preparation of new twinning agreements and
- Seeking potential avenues of cooperation between the two towns.

Objectives of the Europe for Citizens' Programme

- To provide the opportunity to interact and participate in constructing an ever closer Europe
- Bringing the gap between Europe and its citizens by promoting Europe's values and achievements
- Enhancing tolerance and mutual understanding by promoting cultural and linguistic diversity
- Fostering action, debate and reflection related to European citizenship and democracy, shared values, common history and culture
- Encouraging interaction between citizens and civil society organisations

Important Features of the Europe for Citizens' Programme

The two measures discussed here seek to achieve the objectives of the Europe for Citizens' programme. Projects submitted under this programme should aim to focus on some of the following elements.

European values

Democracy, human rights, gender equality

Informal learning

Citizens acquire skills in a European context - developing a positive attitude towards different cultures

Volunteering

An expression of active European citizenship

Trans-nationality and local dimension

This feature could be expressed in terms of issue/s being tackled, exploring the European perspective, or cooperation between trans-national promoters and disseminating results across borders.

Culture and linguistic diversity

Cross-fertilisation

Achieving a multiplier effect through cooperation between different types of organizations.

Equal access

Anti-discrimination as an important principle not to be explored through debate but also applied in the implementation of the project.

Gender balance

Intergenerational solidarity

Including senior citizens, reflecting demographic changes

Visibility and dissemination

This aspect should be an integral part of the project's planning. The projects needs clearly show it has been funded by the EU, emphasising that the Union funds quality projects that are of interest to its citizens.

For further details please refer to the full Europe for Citizens' programme, available at:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/guide/documents/programme_guide_2009_en.pdf



Education and Culture DG

'Europe for Citizens' Programme

The MED Programme

The MED Programme, which is managed by the PACA Region, Marseille, has a budgetary allocation of approximately €250 billion, and it focuses on the following themes: innovation, environment, accessibility and sustainable urban development. The Programme covers the coastal and Mediterranean regions of nine EU Member States.

The following are some activities that can be implemented by the MED programme:

- Setting up and development of transnational strategies for institutional networks
- Coordination of actors and elaboration of common strategies
- Setting up and development of common systems and common operational tools
- Setting up of transnational networks ensuring Promoting coherence and coordination of public policies
- Dissemination of technologies, processes, know-how, innovative management systems at transnational level
- Elaboration of pilot projects and experimental equipments tools with a transnational dimension

The following countries and regions can participate in the MED programme:

- Cyprus: the entire country
- France: 4 regions - Corse, Languedoc-Roussillon, Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur, Rhône-Alpes
- Greece: the entire country
- Italy: 18 regions—Abruzzo, Apulia, Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Emilia-Romagna, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Lazio, Liguria, Lombardy, Marche, Molise, Umbria, Piedmonte, Sardinia, Sicily, Tuscany, Veneto.
- Malta: the entire country
- Portugal: 2 regions - Algarve, Alentejo
- Slovenia: the entire country
- Spain: 6 autonomous regions - Andalusia, Aragon, Catalonia, Balearic islands, Murcia, Valencia - and the two autonomous cities - Ceuta and Melilla
- United-Kingdom : 1 region of economic programming - Gibraltar

Beyond these regions, the participation of non-eligible Med areas is possible, albeit limited. Furthermore, participation in the MED programme is extended to Mediterranean countries that are candidates or potential candidates for membership of the European Union. With the starting of the programme, its cooperation area includes Croatia and Montenegro.

Both public and private organisations can participate in the MED programme. Furthermore, public-private partnerships are strongly encouraged. or as associated partner, working for the project implementation without receiving ERDF funds.

The MED Monitoring Committee launches two types of calls for proposal - the traditional calls and the target calls. **Traditional calls for projects** concern all the axes and objectives developed in the Operational Programme; **Targeted calls for strategic projects** are based on terms of reference which will direct lead partners towards specific themes, intervention fields or certain types of projects. The calls for projects are defined by the Monitoring Committee on the basis of specific preparatory initiatives and previous studies carried out under INTER-REG IIIB or other EC programmes. Call for projects with special conditions can also allow the formation of specific partnerships depending on the field of intervention or on the scope of the determined objectives. Conditions will be determined by the Monitoring Committee.

The selection procedure comprises two steps: **pre-application**, open to all typologies of beneficiaries described in the implementation guide, and **the full proposal** which is reserved for selected pre candidates.

Selected pre-candidates will then have three months to submit a full application form. These forms will then be assessed to select the projects which will be financed by the MED Programme. Each candidate will receive the official communication from the Managing Authority concerning its pre-selection result.

On the 16th February the 2nd Call for project proposals of the Med Programme shall be launched and will remain open until 13th March 2009. Potential Maltese participants are advised to consult the MED Operational Programme and Implementation Guide in order to familiarise themselves with the objectives of the programme as well the technical aspects concerning the implementation of projects. Both documents are available on www.programmemed.eu. In addition, a number of project ideas submitted by foreign partners are already available.

Moreover, MEUSAC and PPCD will be organising a half-day seminar on European Territorial Cooperation opportunities, specifically for the benefit of Local Councils. This event will be held at The Hotel Intercontinental, St Julians on Friday 13th February 2009.

Conference on ICT, clustering and other networking frameworks: exploiting their potential to boost competitiveness, innovation and sustainable growth

Malta, like the entire Europe, is facing today the need to reshape its economy and society to meet the challenges brought about by the globalisation of markets and ever faster pace of technological change. Economic growth must be accelerated through higher productivity, innovation and competitiveness, but in a manner that ensures a sustainable and rational use of resources. ICT is today becoming more and more pervasive and an integral part of everything we do, leading to a paradigm shift in how today's economy and society function.

In this context, the CIP Malta National Contact Point within Malta Investment Management Ltd. and the Enterprise Europe Network within Malta Enterprise are organising an international conference entitled *ICT, clustering and other networking frameworks: exploiting their potential to boost competitiveness, innovation and sustainable growth* that will be held at the Westin Dragonara Resort, St Julians on 18th February 2009. The aim of the event is to provide a forum for debate and experience sharing, outline various avenues that could be considered to pursue and produce a "Malta Declaration on the importance and necessity of ICT and clustering as tools to enhance competitiveness, sustainable growth and jobs". The event shall also introduce to the local scene the European Network of Living Labs and the two recently certified Maltese Living Labs (EuroMedITI and the Malta Living Lab hosted by SmartCity Malta). It will also serve as a meeting place for entrepreneurs, innovators, business, academia, public administration and civil society representatives, giving them the occasion to establish direct

communication channels and set the base for further collaborations and joint projects.

This event should be of particular interest to all information officers of public sector entities, to representatives of companies involved in ICT but also of businesses in other sectors (e.g. energy, sustainable urban development, pharmaceuticals, health-care, etc.)

In order to ensure that this event will provide the wide-ranging audience with highly relevant and valuable information, the organisers are planning to resort to a holistic and integrated approach in addressing ICT, clustering and networking topics. The themes to be addressed include the various EU funding programmes that together and complementarily aim to stimulate innovation and competitiveness and accelerate the development of a sustainable, competitive and inclusive information society.

Participation is free of charge, but prior registration is required in view of seating restrictions. Registrations will be accepted on a first come first served basis, subject to a maximum of 3 persons from the same organization.

Registrations should reach Ms Liza Tabone at Enterprise Europe Network on info@enterprise-europemalta.com by not later than **noon of 13th February**.

APPLICATIONS FOR TOURISM GRANT SCHEME FOR PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AVAILABLE ONLINE

Following the launch of a €10 million Grant Scheme for Sustainable Tourism Projects by Enterprises financed through the European Regional Development Fund which forms part of the EU's Structural Funds 2007-2013 for Malta, the Parliamentary Secretariat for Tourism announced that details of the scheme, which include the application form and guidance notes, are now available online on www.tourismschemes.gov.mt.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Tourism, the Hon. Mario de Marco said that the information available online is yet another tool for enterprises to learn more about the Scheme and about how these EU funds can be availed of. Projects should aim at making our tourism industry become a more sustainable one.

The Scheme, managed by the Tourism and Sustainable Development Unit within the Office of the Prime Minister, directs funding towards the economic development of the tourism sector. The projects to be submitted must be sustainable tourism projects and have to strengthen Malta's

competitive advantage in tourism; increase the use of ICT for tourism; increase good environmental practice by tourism enterprises; and increase innovation in tourism. The information available online includes the Application Form and Guidance Notes on how this can be filled in and submitted. Other information made available also includes the Tourism Policy, SME definition and EU regulations of relevance to the scheme.

The Tourism and Sustainable Development Unit within the Office of the Prime Minister also organised two seminars on *Applying for the EU Grant Scheme for Sustainable Tourism Projects by Enterprises* which provided interested applicants with further details on filling in the application form. The Application Form and the Guidance Notes to the application form will also be made available at the seminar.

The Seminars were held in Malta at the Mediterranean Conference Centre on the 22nd of January and in Gozo at the Kempinski Hotel San Lawrenz on the 30th of January 2009.

ICT Policy Support Programme: 2009 Call for Proposals

The draft ICT PSP Work Programme 2009 was agreed upon by the Programme Management Committee on 21 November 2008. The third Call for Proposals should open from 29 January till 2 June 2009.

Its main themes and objectives are:

Theme 1 : ICT for health, ageing and inclusion

- 1.1: ICT for patient-centred health service
- 1.2: Innovative eHealth tools and services in real life – learning together
- 1.3: ICT for ageing well / independent living
- 1.4: e-Accessibility thematic network

Theme 2 : Digital Libraries

- 2.1: European Digital Library - services
- 2.2: European Digital Library – aggregating digital content in Europeana
- 2.3: European Digital Library – Digitising content for Europeana
- 2.4: Open access to scientific information
- 2.5: Use of cultural heritage material for education

Theme 3: ICT for government and governance

- 3.1: Enlargement of the e-Procurement Pilot PEPPOL
- 3.2: Enlargement of the e-IDM Pilot STORK
- 3.3: Inclusive eGovernance: flexible, personalised and multi-channel based service delivery targeted at the socially disadvantaged.
- 3.4: User Centricity for e-Governance

Theme 4: ICT for energy efficiency, environment and smart mobility

- 4.1: ICT for energy efficiency in social housing
- 4.2: ICT for prevention, alert and rescue to minimise impacts of climate change

Theme 5: Multilingual Web

- 5.1: Machine translation for the multilingual web
- 5.2: Multilingual Web content management: standards and best practices
- 5.3: Multilingual Web content management: methods, tools and processes

Theme 6: Public Sector information

- 6.1: Legal aspects of Public Sector Information
- 6.2: Geographic Information

Theme 7: Internet evolution and security (including Radio Frequency Identification - RFID)

- 7.1: A European infrastructure for secure information management
- 7.2: Strengthening SME competitive advantage through RFID implementation

Theme 8: Open innovation, user experience and living labs

- 8.1: Sharing of best practice across European Living Labs involving SMEs as key user- and provider-participants

Many organisations which submitted proposals under the first and second ICTPSP calls will be trying their luck again under this 3rd call. They should be alerted to some changes made in

the funding arrangements for ICT PSP projects and in the evaluation scoring scale, as explained below.

A. New Funding Arrangements:

In previous calls, to work out the grant for Pilot A and Pilot B projects, proposers calculated the sum of his direct costs (comprising personnel costs, any subcontracting costs and any other direct costs) plus his indirect costs or overheads. The funding he could claim was up to 50% of this sum. However he had two options with regard to the calculation of the indirect cost. If his accounting system was sufficiently sophisticated he could show his actual indirect costs or, if he preferred, he could use a figure equal to 30% of his personnel cost. **Under the third Call, only the second of these options is possible.**

Pilot A and Pilot B participants will show their direct costs, and add as overhead 30% of the personnel costs which are within them. The available grant is then up to 50% of this sum.

Furthermore, in Call 3 there is a new instrument, the Best Practice Network - even more simple, only direct costs being eligible. The participant calculates the sum of his personnel costs, any subcontracting costs and any other direct costs, and is funded at up to 80% of that figure. Overhead costs are not considered.

Only Thematic Networks remain unchanged from the last call. Here the EC offers lump sum payments, calculated as described in the Guide for applicants, only as a stimulus to the activities of the network.

B. Evaluation Scoring Scale:

Another change consists of the 1-5 point scale used in scoring the evaluation criteria. Previously this was defined merely as Very Poor / Not satisfactory / Good / Very Good / Excellent. The evaluation criteria will now be scored against the following expanded definitions:

- (i) Very poor: The criterion is addressed in an inadequate manner, or there are serious inherent weaknesses
- (ii) Not satisfactory: While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses.
- (iii) Good: The proposal addresses the criterion well, although improvements would be necessary.
- (iv) Very Good: The proposal addresses the criterion very well, although certain improvements are still possible.
- (v) Excellent: The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor.

For more information on the EU Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP) or specific support in respect to participating in project proposals under any of its operational programmes, please visit the website www.cipmalta.com or email info@cipmalta.com



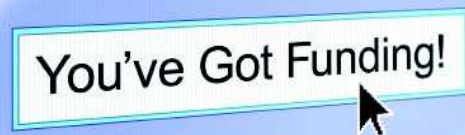
Training Seminar on EU Funding

On 15 January 2009, Bank of Valletta's EU and SME desk team organised a training session on EU funding for the Bank's staff, mainly hailing from the branches. Invited to address this session were officials from the Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee (MEUSAC) Information Unit and from the Tourism and Sustainable Development Unit within the Office of the Prime Minister.

Dr Gabriella Pace, MEUSAC's Head of Information provided participants with an overview of EU funding and the difference between centralized and decentralized funds. Various grant schemes that are currently available as well as others which will be launched during the current programming period, as well as the co-financing requirements, were also given particular importance. Osvaldo Zammit, Funding Coordinator within MEUSAC's Information Unit, delivered a presentation focusing on tips and traps relating to project management tools. Cora Vella Laurenti from the Tourism and Sustainable Development Unit within the Office of the Prime Minister, gave a very comprehensive presentation on the Grant Scheme for Sustainable Tourism Pro-

jects by Enterprises (2007-2013), calls for which will be issued in the coming days.

The session was concluded by Peter James Sant, Bank of Valletta's Senior Manager (EU and SMEs Affairs) who delivered a detailed presentation on the financing and co-



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financing packages already available to assist both the tour-

Information Meeting on ERASMUS Student Mobility Measures

The University of Malta shall be holding an information meeting on the ERASMUS Student Mobility for Studies (SMS) and the ERASMUS Student Mobility for Placement (SMP), during which guidance shall be provided with regard to the application forms for the academic year 2009/2010. This session is being held on 11 February 2009 in the Common Room at the University of Malta at 09:30hrs.

Applications for ERASMUS Student Mobility can be submitted at the International & EU Office, Room 106 Administration Building, University of Malta, Msida between the 2 February and the 27 February 2009.

Further information is available on <http://www.um.edu.mt/int-eu/erasmus>.



ERASMUS / Leonardo da Vinci Contact Seminar

An Erasmus/Leonardo da Vinci Contact Seminar shall be organised in Malta by the European Union Programmes Agency, the Maltese National Agency.

The title of this contact seminar is "*Mobility – an Educational Tool for Vocational/Higher Education Institutions and Enterprises*" and the event will be held between the 20 and the 23 May 2009.

Further information is available on the website <http://www.llp.eupa.org.mt/content.php?id=66>. Documents available for download include the invitation to this event, a copy

of the draft programme, further details as well as a registration form.

This contact seminar is also open to Maltese participants who can also apply for Preparatory Visits funds. The relevant application form can be found in the Preparatory Visits section of under each sectoral programme. The deadline to apply is **25th February 2009**.

Launch of 090509 by UHM

UHM has recently embarked upon a new project entitled 090509, which is co-financed by the European Commission. The project supports priority issues of the European Commission's "Debate Europe" initiative by promoting public debate about European issues.



The project, which will cost €65,000, will bring together nine persons representing civil society, who will present their views on nine issues of local and European interest. 090509.org will become a forum for these issues, and will invite reactions from the general public. Nine issues have been chosen to be debated by the public in fora on the website: immigration, social

inclusion, employment, environment, education, standard of living, economy, health and young people. These issues were identified because they are likely to be important for the way people will vote in the European Parliament Elections.

The outreach activities will take the form of public debates and online fora involving citizens of different age groups and walks of life. The project aims to pass on a message for people to become active citizens and to vote at the upcoming European Parliament elections, taking a bigger role in the democratic life of the country. Citizens are invited to come up with proposals which will then be presented to the candidates contesting the European elections. To this end the UHM will use the different media to send the message to as many as possible. Nine personalities shall voice their opinion on different topics and every one of them shall have a five minute video clip on each subject, which shall be produced and broadcast on the different media for citizens to vote on and react to.

The themes for the messages as well as the personalities have been chosen after consultation with the project partners. The partners are NGOs representing a wide variety of issues—MCWO, MGRM, ZHN, Kopin, Retinitis Pigmentosa Organisation, OPHR, KNA, SOS Malta and FTZ. The topics for discussion range from social to environmental issues, health and immigration among others.

Gozo Centre for Arts & Crafts Participates in LdV Project

The Wistin Camilleri Gozo Centre for Art and Crafts is currently participating in a Leonardo da Vinci Multilateral Transfer of Innovation project. The project, entitled *Blended Learning Environmental Studies (BLES)*, focuses on the development and testing of new biodegradable materials. The project, spread over a two-year period, should be finalised by the end of September 2009. The school in Gozo has been allocated around €10,000; the other nine members of the project consortium hail from Germany, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Bulgaria and Poland.

Through its participation, the Wistin Camilleri Gozo Centre for Arts and Crafts developed a biodegradable packaging material made from shredded newspapers and popcorn. This could be used for the manufacture of artisan products, as well as for packaging, instead of the usual packaging materials made from expandable chemical foam which, unlike the former, cannot be absorbed naturally.

Through the BLES project, Gozitan students attending art and craft courses will also become aware of new techniques and other information regarding better use of materials and eco-friendly systems in the manufacture of their products. Their knowledge can then be shared with that of other students from the participating countries, also making it an experience through which new ideas may emerge.

The second phase of the BLES project will develop and provide an online learning course for workers in the field of waste management. 'It is estimated that around 150 million tonnes of organic waste are generated throughout the whole European Community annually.

The Gozo Centre for Art and Crafts has received response from 33 students who attend secondary school classes, to participate in *The Eco-Recycler – Treatment of Biodegradable Waste* course. Through online tuition and relative teaching support at the Gozo Centre for Art and Crafts, these participants are being given the opportunity to get a certificate which will eventually also help them when they apply for related jobs. This is an added service which maximises the potential of the role of the Gozo Centre for Art and Crafts as a promoter of eco-friendly practices. It also ties in well with the eco-Gozo concept, which is being considered as an ambitious, but realisable target, to be achieved over the coming years.



The Project Team

Partner Searches

The Information Unit is in receipt of the following partner search requests. For further details, kindly contact Dr Gabriella Pace by e-mail on gabriella.pace@gov.mt or else by phone on 2590 9101.

CALL	ORGANISATION	PROJECT	DETAILS
FP7-ICT-2009-4 (deadline 1/4/2009)	Etruria Innovazione SCpA	BEB Project - Building and space Energy Benchmarking	The project is proposed as a Collaborative Project in the form of a Small and Medium Scale Focused Research Action (STREP). Looking for research and industrial partners
Lifelong Learning Programme Grundtvig Multilateral Projects (deadline 27/2/2009)	Fontys University of Applied Sciences (The Netherlands)	VPL Centre for Migrants	This project aims at developing a VPL (Validation of Prior Learning) procedure for (higher educated) migrants with the objective to offer migrants the possibility to apply their knowledge and skills in a proper way and to acquire a formal recognition of their competencies. They can go to a “virtual counter” and after that, under supervision, get a 360-degree view of their competencies. It is expected that, as a result of VPL-certification, more migrants will participate on the labour market on their level of education and employers will have a larger pool of well-educated employees they can source from.
Lifelong Learning Programme Leonardo (deadline 27/2/2009)	Knowentia (Denmark)	Free Circulation of Competence	The overall aim of the project is to support the free movement of labour – or the free circulation of competences – and ensure patient safety and quality within the European Health Sector by creating a system being able to assess, validate and recognise “real competences” of employees with health related educational background and / or employees working in the health sector. The lead partner is particularly interested in partners which provide education and training to hospital staff.
No specific call, but Collaborative Research Projects and Co-ordination/ Support Actions in ICT, Health or SME Actions in FP7 (or others)	UWIC (Cardiff)	The digital design & fabrication of patient-specific medical devices & further applications in telemedicine.	The Medical Applications Group is keen to explore with suitable partners, opportunities in telemedicine. Digital technologies are a facilitator of international collaboration and can therefore provide access for anybody to a vast pool of expertise. For example, the MAG have already collaborated with a team in Japan and remotely designed a soft tissue prosthesis based upon a patient’s CT scan data. Using similar techniques, methodologies could be developed to allow any medical centre in the world to collaborate and benefit from the application of digital technologies.

Some Open Calls

LIFE LONG LEARNING PROGRAMME

Comenius and Grundtvig: In-Service training Next deadlines	30th April 2009 15th September 2009
Leonardo da Vinci: Mobility	6th February 2009
Erasmus Intensive Language Course (EILC) Jean Monnet Programme	13th February 2009
Comenius, Leonardo da Vinci, Grundtvig: Partnerships Comenius: Comenius Regio Partnerships Grundtvig: Workshops	20th February 2009
Comenius, Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Grundtvig: (At Executive Agency Level) Multilateral projects, Networks and Accompanying Measures	27th February 2009
Leonardo da Vinci: Transfer of Innovation multilateral Projects	27th February 2009
Erasmus: Intensive programme (IP), Students mobility for studies and placements (including the Erasmus consortium placement certificate) and Staff mobility (Teaching assignments and staff training)	13th March 2009
Grundtvig: Assistantships, Senior Volunteering Projects	31st March 2009
Transversal Programme (At Executive Agency Level)	31st March 2009
Transversal Programme: Key Activity 1- Study Visits	9th April 2009



For further information please contact EUPA on 25586130

CIP 1— ENTREPRENEURIAL CULTURE OF YOUNG PEOPLE & ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION

This call seeks to support the implementation of the Small Business Act, in particular its Principle 1, and of the Oslo Agenda for Entrepreneurship Education in Europe by promoting winning ideas in the field of education for entrepreneurship and in improving the entrepreneurial mindsets of the European youth. The maximum budget allocated for the operation is approximately of EUR 2 750 000. The priority areas are as follows:

Lot 1:

— establishing a cross-European workshop programme for entrepreneurship professors in higher education to share knowledge and learn from practitioners (Entrepreneurship Summer Academy).

Lot 2:

— creating a common on-line platform for entrepreneurship educators and related practitioners,
 — creating a European Entrepreneurship Educators Network,
 — fostering entrepreneurship among female university graduates,
 — fostering the entrepreneurial mindsets of young people outside the educational environment,
 — developing innovative and practice-based teaching material on entrepreneurship for higher (university) education, in particular by using real cases and experiential learning.

Only projects requiring a minimum EU funding of EUR 200 000 are eligible, but only up to EUR 500 000 will be supported.

Community co-financing rate of eligible costs:

- For Lot 1, up to 60 %.
- For Lot 2, up to 50 %.

Scheduled starting date of projects: 1 November 2009.

Maximum duration of projects: (a) Lot 1: 36 months; (b) Lot 2: 15 months.

Deadline for applications - 20 April 2009. The full text of the call for proposals and the application forms are available on <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/funding/index.htm>

Some Open Calls

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROJECTS UNDER THE SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FP7

Programme	Theme	Deadline
Capacities	Research Infrastructures	2009-03-17
People	PEOPLE	2009-03-27
Cooperation	Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies	2009-02-17
Cooperation	Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies	2009-02-17
Cooperation	Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies	2009-02-17
Cooperation	Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies	2009-03-31
Cooperation	Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies	2009-03-31
Cooperation	Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies	2009-03-31
Cooperation	Environment (including Climate Change) Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies	2009-03-31
Euratom	Nuclear Fission and Radiation Protection	2009-04-21
Cooperation	Environment (including Climate Change) Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology Health Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies Socio-economic sciences and Humanities	2009-04-21
Ideas	ERC	2009-03-25
Cooperation	Information and Communication Technologies	2009-04-01
Cooperation	Energy Information and Communication Technologies	2009-03-31
Ideas	ERC	2009-04-15
Ideas	ERC	2009-05-06
Cooperation	Information and Communication Technologies	2011-05-24
People	PEOPLE	2009-02-19

Source <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7CallsPage&rs>



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