

Funding 4 y EU

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Seminar on Town Twinning Policy and Funding

European societies are confronted with social tensions and these are leading to fragile social relations. The European Commission supports a number of activities to reinforce European Integration and inter-cultural understanding. One of the programmes that the European Commission launched for this purpose is *Europe for Citizens 2007-2013*.

Town Twinning is a reality in today's Europe, as an important number of municipalities are linked to each other through a formal town twinning agreement. Such partnership aims at encouraging cooperation between the towns and mutual understanding between their citizens.

During an event organised by the Department of Local Councils on Friday 25th July, Osvaldo Zammit, Funding Coordinator at MEUSAC delivered a presentation on the *Europe for Citizens (2007-2013)* programme. The focus of this presentation was Action 1 of this programme, targeting Town-Twinning activities. Details with regard to the applications, deadlines and tips for a good project proposal were also included.

This action together with Citizens' projects, constitutes the 1st strand of the Programme. It builds on 'Town-Twinning actions' implemented in 2000-2006 within the Active Citizenship Programme. Eligible activities under this actions include one-off, pilot, or long term activities that involve or promote direct exchanges between European citizens through their participation in town-twinning activities: citizens' meetings, specific conferences or seminars on

subjects of common interest along with related publications

Citizens' meetings should present three features: Commitment to European integration, Friendship in Europe, as well as Active participation. Thematic networks of twinned towns should involve at least 3 towns and develop within the framework of town-twinning. These should have a defined target group for which the selected theme is particularly relevant and should address the priority themes of the programme. To this end the programme should engage participants in dialogue on these themes.

Following a number of requests received from Local Councils and NGOs on this particular programme, MEUSAC is organising an Information Day on this programme. This event is being held on the 29th October at the Victoria Hotel, Sliema. The main speaker will be Natasha Jovicic from the Education Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). The Seminar will also be addressed by Silvio Frendo (from the Department of Local Government) and by a representative of the Local Councils Association. It is being organised specifically for Local Councils and NGOs. Further details are available from our office on funding.meusac@gov.mt



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New Publications Featuring Experiences

The first four years of European Union membership have seen the co-financing of projects and initiatives taking place in a whole myriad of sectors—from tourism to agriculture, agriculture, the fishing sector, infrastructure, environment, education and employment, small and medium sized enterprises, voluntary organisations, local councils and youth.

Following the publication of the first booklet in the series *L-Unjoni Ewropea Ghalija* which focused on Gozo,

MEUSAC's Information Unit is currently working on another two publications disseminating experiences of Maltese beneficiaries.

The first, *L-Unjoni Ewropea: Edukazzjoni u Tahrig*, will feature successful EU funded projects in the education and training sector. The thrust is mainly on projects and experiences funded mainly through the European Commission's education programmes until 2006.

The second publication will feature best

practices under the Grant Scheme for Tourism Enterprises (2004-2006). It will be in English and is the fruit of collaboration between MEUSAC's Information Unit and The Tourism and Sustainable Development Unit within the Office of the Prime Minister. This Unit has taken over responsibility for the implementation of the grant scheme for tourism enterprises (2004-2006) from the MTA.

Both publications should be available in the coming weeks.

MEDIA

A programme of the European Union



MEDIA was initiated by the EU in 1991. A budget of €755 million to support the audiovisual industry in Europe from the January 2007 to 31 December 2013 was approved. The European Commission is responsible for the implementation of the MEDIA Programme and for the decision to grant individual European Community funds.

MEDIA is a support programme of the EU to strengthen the competitiveness of European film, TV and new media industries and to increase the international circulation of European audiovisual product.

Media is divided into five action lines :

- Training of professionals
- Development of production projects and companies
- Distribution of cinematographic works and audiovisual programmes
- Promotion of cinematographic works and audiovisual programmes including the support for film festivals,
- Horizontal actions/pilot projects

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency administers the MEDIA Programme on behalf of and under the control of the European Commission. The Media Desk (Malta) within the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport promotes the MEDIA programme and assists candidates who would like to apply submit proposals for funding.



The MEDIA Programme supports around 40 different training activities in Management and Financing, New Technologies, Screenwriting. All activities are conducted at industry level ranging from short-term (2-3 days) to long-term (up to 12 months) and take place across the whole of Europe.

In recent years, only projects intended for cinema and television were eligible but now things changed and even dramas for mobile phone, animation for DVD, creative documentary for on-line distribution and many other activities

are eligible.

Projects funded under this Programme can vary in their size. Single Projects are aimed at companies with limited financial capacity, registered for at least 12 months and wishing to invest in the development of just one project. Very often the main challenges faced by small companies in this sector concerned previous work. A previous work produced by a company other than the applicant company may be accepted, if the applicant company can show that its Chief Executive, one of its shareholders or one of its employees of at least twelve months standing as a producer, has a personal credit in the role of producer. Today applicants do not need a previous work that is compatible with the submitted project and sales agent agreements are accepted as a proof of distribution.

The following is a list of eligible development costs :

- The acquisition of rights,
- Research (including archive research),
- All script writing up to and including the final draft,
- Storyboards,
- Identification of the key cast and crew,
- Preparation of the production budget and schedule,
- Preparation of financing plan,
- Identification of industry partners, co-producers and financiers,
- Initial marketing and sales plans (attending markets and attracting buyers),
- For drama and creative documentary: teaser / video treatment,
- For animation: graphics research and production of a pilot.

This programme also has the facility of slate funding. In order to apply for this type of funding previous experience at international level and the necessarily financial capacity to develop several projects simultaneously are required.

The applications are assessed on the following criteria

- Quality of the Development strategy
- Consistency of the Development budget
- Quality of the Financing strategy
- Quality of the Distribution strategy
- Quality of the Project.



Mobility funded through EU Programmes

Mobility for learning can take many forms beside the normal way of students doing part of their studies abroad through the Erasmus programme. There are many other opportunities such as traineeships in a company or as a volunteer. Mobility helps circulation, the exchange of ideas and the creation of a sense of European Citizenship.

Experts suggest that by 2020 at least 50 % of all young people aged 16-29 should be offered the opportunity to engage in some form of cross-border mobility at some point. The full text of this report can be found on http://ec.europa.eu/education/doc/2008/mobilityreport_en.pdf

The EU supports mobility through a variety of programmes such as the Lifelong Learning Programme, Youth and Europe for Citizenship. However the most successful of these programmes is Erasmus. In the last twenty years this programme was exploited by nearly 20 million university students who undertook part of their studies abroad. Leonardo da Vinci within the Lifelong Learning Programme cater for vocational training;

Comenius caters for school exchanges and Grundvig caters for adult education. For further details refer to <http://llp.eupa.org/mt/content.php?id=1> and check the Open Calls section of this bulletin.



Successful project financed by the LIFE + programme

In May 2008, the German environmental organization Deutschen Umwelthilfe announced the project Optimisation of the pSCI Lippe flood plain between Hamm and Hangfort as the project of the month. Funded by the Life+ Programme, this project's objective was to restore the natural river and flood dynamics. 5,500 meters of river bank reinforcement were removed to promote natural erosion and sedimentation processes. As a result of this, the frequency of flooding increased and grasslands restored. This project also included the restoration of natural river habitats for special species such as the kingfisher and sand martin. This project will also facilitate the migration of Atlantic salmon, river lamprey and asp.



FP7 Database to help with Partner Searches

The Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) in collaboration with Malta Enterprise are currently formulating an FP7 database aimed at facilitating partner searches and collaboration between local and foreign companies interested in participating in FP7. The companies that would like to be inserted onto the database would have to fill in a document which can be downloaded from the EEN website – www.enterprise-europemalta.com.

The Enterprise Europe Network has more than 500 contact points in almost 40 countries across Europe, Armenia, Chile, Egypt and the US. Once the document is filled in, the company's profile will be sent across the EEN network in order to enhance the possibility of Maltese companies participating in

FP7 programmes. The document aims at gathering general information on the company, the company's experience in participating in EU programmes, the company's knowledge on FP7, and the FP7 programmes in which the company would be interested in participating. The information would also be uploaded on to the EEN website



Researchers Wanted!

by Karen Fiorini

Although local investment in research and innovation is relatively low, when compared to that in other EU countries, there is actually an active research community in Malta that despite the odds is determined to succeed in competing with the best in Europe and beyond.

Unfortunately, very little of this research is actually communicated, few of us hear of the breakthrough advances our scientists are achieving. Research projects such as creating better tools for key-hole surgery or that working to create interactive software to better visualise the biological processes in the human body, rarely get the deserved exposure.

The Malta Council for Science and Technology's role is to promote research in all areas of science. The big challenge for MCST is to create and sustain a generation of researchers and innovators. This is not simply a matter of having more students opt for science subjects at school but involves promoting research activities as a vital component to the development of our economy.

To this end, MCST is organising **Research EXPO**, 3rd - 7th November, Villa Bighi Kalkara. The aim is to showcase research in Malta and promote related careers. This activity focuses on scientific research rather than science in general and is open to all individuals and organisations involved in scientific research.

The event mainly targets science students in post-secondary and tertiary levels of education who need to be aware of research opportunities when taking career decisions. During the

exhibition talks will be held to explain the local grants and scholarships available, as well as the EU's research funding instrument, the Seventh Framework Programme. Case studies will be exhibited to give attendees the opportunity to see tangible examples of ongoing research projects. Researchers will be invited to share their experience and success stories.

It is hoped that this exhibition will further boost these research initiatives and help reach the ambitious targets set for R&I in Malta, i.e. an annual expenditure of around €43 million by 2010.

"This will come about through increased research investment in the private, public and educational sectors through various means," insists Dr Warrington, MCST's CEO. "Some of it will be funded by industry, some through EU research programmes, and some through the EU Structural Funds. The latter will be a major contributor towards achieving this goal, over €30 million has already been allocated to strengthening the research infrastructure at the University of Malta, contributing to PhD scholarships in science subjects and funding research in industry."

MCST through an EU Structural Fund project will contribute €600,000 towards research in manufacturing and allocate €700,000 to its annual National R&I Programme. It will also support increased participation in the EU's FP7.

For more information contact MCST on 21660 340 or visit www.mcst.gov.mt

Rural Development Plan 2007-2013

The new Rural Development Plan was submitted by the local Authorities to the EU and was approved by the end of 2007. This is the Malta's second Rural Development Plan and follows that for the period 2004-2006. The main objective of 2004-2006 was to facilitate the development of a dynamic competitive and sustainable rural economy.

The following Priorities areas were selected for the 2004-2006 plan

- Modernisation of holdings with respect to quality and competitiveness through Guidance investments and marketing measures Ad-Hoc, Meeting Standards, Producer Groups, State Aid & Training
- Promotion of environmentally friendly production methods in line with rural heritage (Increase of awareness, limit habitat degradation and soil erosion through Agri- Environmental measures and Less Favoured Area Support)
- Diversification and development of the multifunctional role of rural enterprises through Guidance and Agri-environment measures

- Successful implementation of the RDP through Technical Assistance
- The new RDP has a budget of 100 million Euros. It emphasises the need to improve the competitiveness of the agricultural sector through support for restructuring, enhancing the environment and the country side through support for land management and enhancing the quality of life in



rural areas and promoting diversification of economic activities.

The Rural Development Plan (2007-2013) is based on four axis, each having a particular objective. Various measures will be developed and launched during

this programme period. The following is a description of each axis together with the measures pertaining to it :

Axis 1 : Improving Competitiveness

- Measures aiming at improving human potential. These include vocational training , setting up of young farmers, early retirement management and advisory services
- Measures aiming at restructuring physical potential. Including investments to improve production and products
- Measures aiming to improve the quality of agricultural production and products
- Transitional measures for the new Member States (until 2008) such as setting up of Producer Groups

Axis 2 : Environment/Land Management

- Measures targeting the sustainable use of agricultural land
- Measures targeting the sustainable use of forestry land

Rural Development Plan 2007-2013 (cont.)

Axis 3 : Diversification, quality of Life

- Measures aiming at the diversification of the rural economy, diversification to non agricultural activities such as Agri-tourism, protection and management of natural heritage
- Measures aiming at the improvement of the quality of life
- Training and capacity building

Axis 4 : the Leader Approach

- Implementation of local development strategies through a leader approach to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of one or several of the

three thematic axes

- Inter-territorial and trans-national cooperation between LAGs
- Capacity building and functioning of LAGs

The RDP (2004-2006) plan had a budget of 39.6 Million Euros of which 33.6 Million Euros were financed from the RDP fund. 80 % of these funds were financed by the EU and the other 20 % were financed by the Maltese Government. The remaining 6 million Euros were financed by the Single Programming Document. The European Union contributed 35% of the budget, 15% were forked out by the Maltese Government and the, remaining 50% were private contributions.

Under the 2007-2013 Programme, the agriculture sector had been separated from mainstream Cohesion Policy. This sector is now supported by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). The National Strategic Reference Framework highlights the consistency and complementarity between the Structural Funds/Cohesion Funds and the EAFRD. The Linkage between OP 1's objectives of the Rural Development Strategy is highlighted in three main focus areas; the issue of competitiveness of the agri-business sector, sustainable environmental development and the enhancement of the quality of life. The OP's objectives of sustaining a growing knowledge-based competitive economy and improv-

Funding News

EXPLORATION AWARD FOR EU PROJECT

The Malta Enterprise Exploratory Award Scheme provides assistance, in the form of a grant, to help SMEs develop project proposals for submission to the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) and the Competitiveness Innovation Programme (CIP). The Fund is intended to stimulate the capacity of SMEs to participate in such projects. Malta Enterprise will be helping businesses overcome the barriers and challenges faced in developing proposals in order to enhance SME's participation in submitting successful proposal submissions. Through these programmes, SME's can strengthen their overall position through networking and relationship building with international partners, enjoy access to research centers of excellence, and develop research and innovation skills.

The Exploratory Award Scheme will cover 60% of the total eligible costs of the preparatory proposal up to a maximum of € 10,000 and covers costs related to Personnel, Technical Advisors and Travelling.

5th EUROPEAN FORUM ON ECO-INNOVATION

The 5th European Forum on Eco-Innovation, is to be held in Brussels Budapest (Hungary) on the 15-16 October 2008. The theme for the Forum is: Emerging Technologies for Eco-Innovation - Opportunities and Risks.

This forum is a unique chance for European professionals working in the fields of ICT, Nanotechnologies, Biotechnologies, Robotics, and Cognitive science to share their experiences and be heard by European officials and policy-makers.



EUROPEAN UNION PROGRAMMES AGENCY (EUPA) NEW PUBLICATION

The European Union Programmes Agency (EUPA) has published its first issue of EUPA News, a quarterly newsletter in print and electronic format aimed at updating the general public about the programmes and services the agency offers as well as news relative to the quarter.

Feel free to download a pdf format of the newsletter at <http://www.youthmalta.org/newsDetails.asp?newsid=211>

DOCUMENTARY FILM MAKING SEMINAR

28TH OCTOBER FROM 9.30AM- 12:30PM, ST JAMES CAVALIER

MEDIA Desk Malta is organising a seminar in collaboration with St. James Cavalier Centre for Creativity, Media Desk UK and Media Desk Cyprus. The seminar will focus on various aspects of creative documentaries: the different European traditions for creative documentaries, how filmmakers can benefit from working with the EU's MEDIA programme when producing creative documentaries and how documentaries can contribute towards intercultural dialogue.

Open calls

Restricted Call for Proposals VP/2008/018 Learning for change - setting up learning networks under the ESF 2007-2013

The European Commission has published a restricted call for proposals under the ESF Technical Assistance operational budget "Learning for change- Setting up learning networks under the ESF 2007-2013". The call is open for ESF Managing Authorities of the Member States and regions, collaborating with Intermediate Bodies and strategic stakeholders from different countries. Lead partners in these transnational projects need to be Managing Authorities whereas core group partners could also be Intermediate Bodies, key stakeholders, including governmental entities/departments in charge of ESF supported policy and Beneficiaries. In the case of the latter, eligible Beneficiaries are Public Sector organisations, Local Councils, Social Partners and Voluntary Organisations.

The next deadline for submission of complete applications is 16.00 hours on 28th November 2008 . The amount set aside by the Commission for 2008 is €4 million and the maximum amount to be granted per network will be €500,000. This amount may be increased by another €200,000 for networks developing and testing a common tool in a significant number of Member States. Applicants (lead partners and core group) need to provide at least 10% of the total cost of the operation. The request for Community grant should be of not less than €100,000 and not more than €700,000.

The call for proposals supports the purpose of transnational cooperation of contributing to employment policy and delivering reforms through learning from other countries and regions by bringing together people, knowledge and practice, activities, networks and fora in the field of employment, social inclusion and training. This transnational cooperation will help strengthen capacities to innovate, modernise and adapt institutions to new social and economic challenges, identify and assess issues and solutions for reforms in policy and delivery in order to meet the Lisbon targets and by improving the quality of public governance.

The specific objective of the call is to establish learning networks and community of practice on themes and issues relevant for delivering the Lisbon reform agenda. Given the Commission's 28th November deadline, interested participants are required to provide their feedback by Friday 14th November. Questions can be sent by email to EMPL-ESF-GRANTS-2008@ec.europa.eu or to the Transnational Contact Point within the Managing Authority: Ms Stephanie Chetcuti (Projects Manager) on stephanie.g.chetcuti@gov.mt

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROJECTS UNDER Life+

The 2008 call for proposals was published by the European Commission on 15 July 2008. For this second LIFE+ call for proposals, the deadline for the submission of proposals to the Member States is 21 November 2008. A total amount of €207,5 million is available for the 2008 call for proposals. More information on this programme is available on <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplus.htm#second>.

The deadline for the submission of proposals to the Member States is 21st November 2008



LIFE LONG LEARNING PROGRAMME

Comenius/Grundtvig, In-Service Training Courses -31 October for courses between 01.01.09 and 31.03.09. For more information visit : www.llp.europa.org

Youth in Action Programme-

All Actions:

1 November for projects between 01.02.09 and 31.07.09

Further information is available on www.yia.europa.org



Open calls

CALLS FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROJECTS UNDER EUROPE FOR CITIZENS PROGRAMME

The aim of this programme is to enhance participation in the European construction project. Eligible expenses include transnational exchanges and cooperation activities that develop European ideals and integration.

Thematic Networks of Twinned Towns: Deadline is 1 st December 2008 for activities starting between 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010

Further information is available on:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/guide/index_en.htm



CALLS FOR PROPOSALS UNDER THE CULTURE PROGRAMME 2007-2013



Strand 1: Support for cultural projects

Strand 1.1 : Multi-annual cooperation projects - **Deadline— 1 October 2008**

Strand 1.2.1 : Cooperation projects - **Deadline—1 October 2008**

Strand 1.2.2: Literary translation projects - **Deadline—1 February 2009**

Strand 1.3 : Cultural cooperation projects with third countries - **Deadline—1 May 2009**

Strand 2: Support for organisations active at European level in the field of culture

Deadline—1 November 2008

Further information can be obtained from

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/culture/guide/index_en.htm

MEDIA 2007 – DEVELOPMENT, DISTRIBUTION, PROMOTION AND TRAINING CALL FOR PROPOSALS – EACEA/20/08

SUPPORT FOR TELEVISION BROADCASTING OF EUROPEAN AUDIOVISUAL WORKS (2008/C 216/09)

One of the objectives of the programme is to promote the transnational broadcasting of European audiovisual works produced by independent production companies by encouraging cooperation between broadcasters on one hand, and independent producers and distributors on the other.

This call is aimed at European companies whose activities contribute to the attainment of the above objectives, and in particular to independent TV production companies.

The audiovisual work proposed must be an independent European television production (fiction, animation or creative documentary) involving the participation of at least three broadcasting companies from several Member States of the European Union or countries participating in the MEDIA 2007 Programme. The application must be submitted at the earliest 6 months before the first day of principal photography and at the latest on the first day of principal photography. The maximum duration of the projects is 30 or 42 (in the case of series and animation projects) months.

The total budget available is EUR 11,4 million. The financial contribution awarded is a subsidy. The maximum financial contribution which may be awarded is EUR 500 000 per work for fiction and animation projects and EUR 300 000 per work for documentary projects. The financial contribution awarded will in no event exceed 12,5 % of the eligible costs submitted by the producer for fiction and animated films and 20 % of the eligible costs for documentary films.

Applications must be submitted to the Executive Agency (EACEA) no later than **14 November 2008, 27 February 2009 and 26 June 2009**

Further information can be obtained from

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/media/producer/tv/index_en.htm

Open calls

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROJECTS UNDER THE SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME (FP7)

Programme	Theme	Deadline
Capacities	Research for the benefit of SMEs	2008-10-31
Cooperation	Security	2008-12-04
Capacities	Research for the benefit of SMEs	2008-12-18
Cooperation	Space	2008-12-04
Cooperation	Health	2008-12-03
Cooperation	Health	2008-12-03
Cooperation	Environment (including Climate Change)	2009-01-08
Cooperation	Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology	2009-01-15
Capacities	Activities of International Cooperation	2009-01-12
Capacities	Activities of International Cooperation	2009-01-12
Capacities	Activities of International Cooperation	2009-01-12
Capacities	Activities of International Cooperation	2009-01-12
Cooperation	Energy	2008-11-25
Cooperation	Energy	2009-04-29
Cooperation	Energy Environment (including Climate Change) Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies	2008-12-02
Cooperation	Energy	2008-11-25
Cooperation	Socio-economic sciences and Humanities	2009-01-13
Capacities	Science in Society	2009-01-13
Capacities	Research for the benefit of SMEs	2009-01-27
Cooperation	Socio-economic sciences and Humanities	2009-01-13
Cooperation	Socio-economic sciences and Humanities	2009-01-13
Cooperation	Energy Environment (including Climate Change) Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies	2008-12-02
Capacities	Regions of Knowledge	2009-01-27

MEDIA 2007 CALL FOR PROPOSALS — EACEA/19/08 MEASURES TO SUPPORT PROMOTION AND MARKET ACCESS

This call for proposals targets European companies whose activities contribute to the attainment of the objectives of the MEDIA programme. The maximum amount available under this call for proposals is estimated at EUR 2 500 000. The financial support from the Commission cannot exceed 50 % of the total eligible costs. The financial contribution will be awarded in the form of a grant.

Closing date for submission of proposals is **21 November 2008** for projects starting on or after 1 June 2009 and ending by 31 December 2009.

Further information is available on <http://ec.europa.eu/media>.



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