

The experience of the lead partner

The Union of Cyprus Municipalities (UCM) actively works as a promoter of Town Twinning in Cyprus. One of its officers is the national twinning coordinator for Cyprus and actively participates to the relevant CEMR and EC meetings.

The UCM also owns and operates a website with a section dedicated to town twinning and publishes 2 newsletters (in Greek and in English) with regular articles on town twinning.

The UCM has already organised several events on town twinning in Cyprus and abroad.

Its Brussels Office actively facilitates partnership creation as well as its discussions with EU bodies and other institutions based in Brussels.

The UCM has taken specific actions for the promotion of twinning links with countries in the Eastern Balkans and especially Serbia.

It has also already participated in three Support Measures Projects (two as lead partner): The SKILLS project (where the UCM participated as a partner) aimed at promoting Town Twinning between Cypriot and Italian Municipalities. The DECISIVE project (lead partner) aimed at training volunteers and municipal personnel for the realisation of twinning projects. Finally, the SUSTAIN project (lead partner) aimed at combining the comparative advantages of the two partners of the project, thus creating profitable synergies for their members and offering better access to European networks of towns and better projects to the citizens of two peripheral insular areas of the European south.



Pro-I3T: In close cooperation with the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU

Since the launch of the Pro-I3T project, we have been working in close cooperation with the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU. Thus, the Brussels Office of the Union of Cyprus Municipalities (UCM), in collaboration with the Assembly of European Regions (AER), have decided to organize on June 19, 2012 an event presenting to the local and regional representations based in Brussels, both the Pro-I3T project and the priorities of the Cyprus Presidency.

Speakers at the event will be Mr. Fanourios Pantelogiannis (Head of the UCM Brussels Office), Mr. Pascal Goergen (Secretary General of the AER), Mr. Nikos Christodoulides, presidency spokesperson for the COREPER II issues at the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Cyprus to the EU and Mr. Adonis Constantinides, Minister Counselor, Coordinator MFF and Cohesion Policy, also at the Permanent Representation of Cyprus.

The event, which will take place in the premises of the Brussels Office of the Union of Cyprus

Municipalities, will not be the only one that will be organised in cooperation with the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU.

Three more events will be organised under the auspices of the Cyprus Presidency. The first one will take place on 6 and 7 September 2012 in Nicosia. The seminar on "The role of local authorities in the area of social inclusion with particular reference to the integration of immigrants" and the Bureau meeting of Committee of the Regions (CoR) of the European Union will be an excellent opportunity to present the Pro-I3T event in front of a large international public.

The second one will again take place in Nicosia (on 11 September 2012) and will be the first training event in the framework of the Pro-I3T project. Finally, the third event under the auspices of the Cyprus Presidency will take place on 23 October 2012 in Brussels.

For more information on the latter two events, please refer to the "Upcoming Activities and Events" section, on page 2.

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Proi3t.eu

A website is being set-up in the framework of the project.

The website will comprise the content of the 15 thematic guides (on education and youth, culture and media, employment and social affairs, research and development, industry and enterprises, external relations and development, commerce, energy, environment, transport, public health and consumer protection, justice and home affairs, information technology, agriculture and fisheries) in Greek and in English, so as to make it available to the totality of the local authorities of the European Union.

The website which for the time being contains basic information on the project, is available at: www.proi3t.eu

Upcoming Activities and Events

• May 2012:

Setting up of the Proi3t.eu website (see left).

• May - October 2012:

Drafting of the 15 CD-Rom Guides.

• 11 September 2012:

First training session in Nicosia (Cyprus). Participants will be trained upon the use of the information tools of Pro-I3T as well as online partner search tools and the application procedures for the Europe for Citizens programme.

• 23 October 2012 (tbc):

Second training session in Brussels (Belgium). Participants will be taught how to work with European programmes (especially the Europe for Citizens programme), will explore the possibilities for twinnings among their members and with Municipalities from the rest of the EU, as well as discuss challenges and potentials of the future programming period.

Project Partners:

Union of Cyprus Municipalities

The Union of Cyprus Municipalities is the main association of Local Authorities in Cyprus. Its core functions are to contribute to the development of local government autonomy, as well as to act as spokesman of local government interests vis-a-vis the central government and other national institutions. It also takes an active stand in the relations between Cyprus and the European Union.

www.ucm.org.cy

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Assembly of European Regions

With more than 250 regions from 35 countries as members, the AER is the largest interregional organisation in Europe. It promotes the role that regions play vis-à-vis the citizens, the nation state and the EU, and supports regions in their role in connecting citizens with the EU. AER's overall aims are to: Organise dialogue, consultation & cooperation between all regions of Europe and promote regionalisation in Europe, encourage subsidiarity and regions' involvement in constructing Europe.

www.aer.eu

The "Europe for Citizens" programme

The aim of the "Europe for Citizens" programme is to bring Europe closer to its citizens and to enable them to participate fully in the European construction. Through this programme, citizens have the opportunity to be involved in transnational exchanges and cooperation activities, contributing to developing a sense of belonging to common European ideals and encouraging the process of European integration.

The programme supports a wide range of activities and organisations promoting "active European citizenship", especially the involvement of citizens and civil society organisations in the process of European integration. It has a total budget of EUR 215 millions starts on 1 January 2007 and ends on 31 December 2013. More information can be found at:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/index_en.php.