

The thematic guides

15 comprehensive 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) have been drafted in Greek and in English.

Each guide comprises:

- information on the structure and functioning of the EU,
- presentation of the Europe for Citizens programme and how a project idea could be formulated and financed from the programme
- a complete listing of all other European programmes that could finance a project within the thematic area in question (e.g. education and youth),
- a detailed methodology on how to prepare and submit a project.

With this methodology, when a project idea comes up concerning e.g. youth activities, the interested party will be able with the help of the thematic guide "Education and youth" to find out all possible solutions for submitting a proposal either through the Europe for Citizens programme if this is possible, or through other EU programmes.

All information guides are in a form of a CD Rom, in order for them to be able to be used in any PC, even without an internet connection. A total of 1500 CD Roms of the comprehensive guides have been produced in Greek and in English.

The Guides are also available online at: www.proi3t.eu.



In this issue:

Results and Conclusions **P.1**

The thematic guides **P.1**

Proi3t.eu **P.2**

Upcoming Activities **P.2**

Project partners **P.2**

"Europe for Citizens" **P.2**

Results and Conclusions of the project

The 31st of December marks the end of the Pro-I3T project, which has been co-funded in the framework of the "Europe for Citizens" programme and aimed at promoting the cooperation between the Union of Cyprus Municipalities and the Assembly of European Regions, in order for them to commonly develop information tools for the promotion of thematic Twinning between their members, but also with Towns from the rest of Europe.

Fifteen thematic guides have been produced in English and in Greek. Thus, local and regional authorities around Europe are now able to find out all possible solutions for financing their project ideas, either through the "Europe for Citizens" programme, or through other EU programmes.

Two training sessions (one in Cyprus and one in Brussels) taught local and regional practitioners how to use the provided information material (CD-Roms, websites etc) and therefore how to improve the quality and the implementation procedures of their activities. A study visit to Brussels gave to newly elected Mayors of Cyprus the possibility to share their experiences in working with European programmes and the

"Europe for Citizens" programme and to explore the possibilities to develop twinings with Towns from the rest of the EU.

The benefits from the Pro-I3T project were multiple for all the involved stakeholders:

Union of Cyprus Municipalities: Building upon the interest of Municipalities and the knowledge that the DECISIVE and SUSTAIN projects had created in 2010 and 2011, the UCM obtained through the Pro-I3T project, a series of practical tools and Guides (see left), through which it can now effectively support the efforts of its members to participate in Town Twinning.

Assembly of European Regions: Just like the UCM, the AER gained through the Pro-I3T project, access to the practical tools of the project, through which it can effectively support the efforts of its members to participate in Twinning actions and other European programmes.

European Union: The Pro-I3T project reached hundreds of Municipalities in several European countries and has given to hundreds of officials, elected people and citizens, the chance to take part in a European action.

Proi3t.eu

The proi3t.eu website gives you access to all our news and documents.

The website also comprises 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 and regional authorities of the European Union.

For more information, please visit: www.proi3t.eu

Upcoming Activities

• January 2013:

Evaluation of the project. A qualitative evaluation of the project and the thematic guides has taken place, with the help of questionnaires that have been filled-in by the participants at the end of every training session and people who received the information material. We will now proceed to an overall evaluation control, in order to evaluate the dissemination of the project results and eventually propose corrective actions.

• February 2013:

Submission of the final report.

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