Pro-I3Times

Pro-I3T
Providing Information Tools on Thematic Twinning

In this issue:

The roles of the partners

The Union of Cyprus Municipalities supervises the production of the information material, in order to ensure its quality and compatibility to local processes and will organise and coordinate the events in Cyprus and in Brussels.

It also has the overall responsibility on the project and will assure the widest possible dissemination of its results and deliverables.

The Assembly of European Regions follows closely the production of all information material in English and will co-organise the training events in Nicosia and Brussels. It also provides all necessary information (contact points, specificities on certain EU programmes etc), participates to the development of the website and supplies material for the newsletters.

Finally, it will do everything possible in order to disseminate the project and its deliverables and bring its partners and members in contact with the Union of Cyprus Municipalities and its members.

Why do we need Pro-I3T?

The lack of information on the EU and its activities is common for the majority of local and regional authorities around Europe. The problem is even more intense for peripheral entities such as Cyprus, but even Local and Regional entities in the Centre of Europe do not always know how the EU can help them implement their ideas and projects.

By informing regions, local authorities and citizens on the possibilities offered by thematic town twinning and other EU grants and on the way these can be used to help develop local/regional communities, the Pro-I3T project will help local and regional officials and citizens understand that the European Union is not only the Brussels based administration, that it has programmes which can help the local and regional communities in any aspect of their daily functioning and that ordinary people can really participate and benefit from them.

Up to now, the Europe for Citizens programme has been discarded by a lot of municipalities, since it has been considered to give limited resources and only for a limited variety of projects (mainly cultural exchanges). Pro-I3T aims to demonstrate that this is not the case, and that cooperation in the framework of the Europe for Citizens programme can really extend to any aspect of the daily life of European citizens. This will trigger reflections and discussions on the local/regional impact of EU policies, their capacity to change societies and daily life. Additionally, by making the information on the Europe for Citizens and other programmes available in different ways, the Pro-I3T will make the programme accessible to all (IT literate or not, different ages etc).

The participation of the AER in the project will bring in a multicultural aspect to the events and the material produced. Trainers and trainees participating to the events will originate from various European countries, and thus provide for a pan-european dimension of the project. The participation of the AER will also bring up the questions of Multi-level governance and subsidiarity which are in the epicentre of the EU, especially after the Lisbon Treaty.

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.

A provisional website with additional information on the project is currently available at: www.proi3t.eu

Upcoming Activities and Events

• March - May 2012:
Setting up of the Proi3t.eu website (see left).

• March - October 2012:
Drafting of the 15 CD-Rom Guides.

• 11 September 2012 (tbc):
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

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

For more information concerning the Pro-I3T project, please contact:

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Education and Culture DG
'Europe for Citizens' Programme

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.