

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 will be translated 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 will be 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 will be produced in Greek and in English.



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Study visit to Brussels and evaluation

The study visit of the Pro-I3T project to Brussels took place from the 22nd to the 24th of October. It involved 18 participants: 15 newly elected Mayors of Cypriot Municipalities, 2 Municipal Secretaries of Cypriot Municipalities and the Twinning officer of the Municipality of Idalion.

The group arrived in Brussels on the 22nd of October. The next day, the participants followed the final conference of the Pro-I3T project, which took place in the Committee of the Regions (CoR), and addressed the question of how local and regional authorities can make best use of EU funding programmes.

In the afternoon of the same day, the participants visited the Brussels Office of the Union of Cyprus Municipalities, discussed on how the Office can help them find partners and ideas for Thematic Networks and attended presentations about project management.

On the 24th of October, the participants attended the Symposium "Regions in a Globalising World: Challenges and Opportunities" and visited the European Parliament in order to be updated on the negotiations concerning the New MFF post-2013.

After the visit, the participants completed questionnaires in order to measure their degree of satisfaction for the study visit. The questionnaire asked participants to indicate how satisfied they were, based on ten criteria, related to their expectations before the visit, the structure of the program of the visit, the degree to which the visit served the purpose of the Pro-I3T project, as well as the knowledge gained from the visit.



According to the responses, the overwhelming majority of the participants were very or extremely satisfied with 9 of the 10 abovementioned criteria. Many, however, said that they had not understood the purpose of the visit before their participation (which is partly explained by the fact that many of them participated for the first time in such a visit to Brussels).

Proi3t.eu

The proi3t.eu website is now up and running, giving 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. Soon, the texts will also be available in English, so as to make them available to the totality of the local and regional authorities of the European Union.

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

Upcoming Activities and Events

• December 2012:

Reviewing and Translation of the Thematic Guides.

• December 2012:

Evaluation of the project and dissemination of the Thematic Guides. A qualitative evaluation of the project and the thematic guides will take 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. One month after the end of the project an overall evaluation control will take place 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