

DECISIVE 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.

VVSG

As representative organisation of all Flemish local authorities, the VVSG has been involved in town twinning for many years. The association organised enquiries on the state of the art of town twinning, as well as workshops and training seminars for the municipalities and has produced a number of publications. The VVSG is an active member of the town twinning network of the CEMR.

TEDK CHIOS

The Local Union of Municipalities and Communities of Prefecture Chios (TEDK CHIOS) is the main association of Local Authorities in Prefecture Chios. Its core function is to act as spokesman of local government interests. It also takes an active stand in the relations between the province of Chios, Greek Government and the European Union.

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. More information can be found at: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/index_en.php.



Education and Culture DG

'Europe for Citizens' Programme

Contact us

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Development of Cypriot twinning capacities through active volunteering



The DECISIVE project
is co-financed by the
European Union through the
Europe for Citizens
Programme



Education and Culture DG

'Europe for Citizens' Programme

DECISIVE - DEVELOPMENT OF CYPRIOT TWINNING CAPACITIES THROUGH ACTIVE VOLUNTEERING

The project

After a proposal submitted by the Union of Cyprus Municipalities (UCM) in the framework of the "Europe for Citizens" programme (Action 1: Measure 2.2 Support measures), the European Commission decided through the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) to finance the training of volunteers in the Municipalities of Cyprus, in order to support the development of Twinning with other European countries. The project has a duration of 12 months, starting from the 4th January 2010 and the partners are: the Union of Cyprus Municipalities (UCM), the Vereniging van Vlaamse Steden en Gemeenten (VVSG) – Belgium and the Local Union of Municipalities and Communities of Prefecture Chios (TEDK CHIOS) – Greece.

Aim

Cypriot municipalities currently under-exploit the possibilities offered by Town Twinning. According to the results of a survey conducted by the UCM, the main reasons for that are: a) geographical distance, b) lack of information on town twinning and most importantly c) lack of qualified municipal personnel (to fill in applications and run the projects). The main aim of the DECISIVE project is to try and solve these three problems.



Methodology

DECISIVE, focuses on developing voluntarism and transferring knowhow from Flanders to Cyprus and Chios, through training sessions in Cyprus and Belgium. After discussing with different associations of local authorities around Europe, we have decided to exploit and develop in Cyprus and Chios the methodology used in Flanders: it is the citizens themselves that voluntarily prepare and run twinings. This method not only alleviates the administrative burden from municipalities but also strengthens the citizens' feeling of ownership over the projects. This way the project will foster the sense of ownership of the European Union among citizens: not only will they have the chance to participate in a European project, they will also have the opportunity to shape it and create something useful out of it.

Eligibility

Potentially interested citizens from each municipality are: students or graduates who want to work on EU affairs or Public Administration / Finance, retired Municipal or Public Administration officers, unemployed who want to develop new skills or any other active citizen who wants to get to know closely the functioning of his/her Municipality or of the European Union. Officers and elected municipal officials are also eligible.

Activities

The volunteers and officers will be trained in Cyprus and Belgium during three training events. The first one will take place in Cyprus with the participation of 250 volunteers. After this first training session, a group of 39 Cypriot municipal officers and volunteers, along with a representative of TEDK Chios, will travel to Brussels for a series of practical training sessions. A final conference will take place again in Cyprus with the participation of 250 volunteers who will form teams, which will then be in cooperation with their municipalities, in order to implement twinning projects. Their work will be facilitated by the Union of Cyprus Municipalities, through the creation of a matching webpage, that will be created within the website: <http://www.ucm.org.cy>.