

## Expected impact

Knowledge is power. Pro-I3T is expected to resolve a problem faced by the majority of local and regional authorities in the European Union. Knowing what opportunities exist for financing in the framework of the European Union is important, not only in order to get financing but in order to get municipalities and regions to adopt the mentality of setting their needs, programming their future actions, and executing them in a structured and sustainable way. 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 is expected to boost thematic Town Twinning actions, not only among members of the UCM the AER but hopefully among members of the two partners and municipalities of the rest of the European countries.



Education and Culture DG

## 'Europe for Citizens' Programme

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## Launch of the Pro-I3T project

Following a proposal submitted by the Union of Cyprus Municipalities within the "[Europe for Citizens](#)" Programme, the European Commission decided to co-finance the cooperation between the [Union of Cyprus Municipalities](#) and the [Assembly of European Regions](#), in order to develop information tools for the promotion and development of thematic Twinning between their members, but also with Towns from the rest of the European Union.

The Pro-I3T project (Providing Information Tools on Thematic Twinning) has been launched on the 9<sup>th</sup> of January and has a duration of 12 months. Throughout this time, local and regional authorities around Europe will be trained to set thematic priorities for projects, formulate their ideas, find partners and target their actions. To do that, detailed information and training on the Europe for Citizens Programme, as well as a detailed listing of all other EU Grants and programmes capable to finance their actions will be offered to participants: 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) will be produced in English and in Greek. Each guide will comprise:

- 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 this thematic area (e.g. education and youth),
- a detailed methodology on how to prepare and submit a project.

Two training sessions (one in Cyprus and one in Brussels) will teach local and regional practitioners how to use the provided material and how to better finance their actions.

## 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](http://www.proi3t.eu)

## Upcoming Activities and Events

### • February - May 2012:

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

### • February - 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](http://www.ucm.org.cy)

### Assembly of European Regions

With more than 250 regions from 35 countries as members, the AER is the largest inter-regional 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](http://www.aer.eu)

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



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## 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](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/index_en.php).