



# SERN

# Newsletter

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## IN THIS ISSUE:

### 1. SERN EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING IN TRAVERSETOLO

### 2. PROJECTS OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2008

- PRESCHOOL STAFF EXCHANGE PROJECT: EVALUATION AND DISSEMINATION SEMINAR
- PROJECT ON QUALITY OF LIFE FOR SENIORS
- PROJECT ON RESTAURANT SCHOOLS EXCHANGE
- STUDY VISIT OF SCHOOL MANAGERS FROM MÖLNDAL

### 3. NEXT ACTIVITIES INSIDE THE NETWORK

- TRAINING PROGRAMME ON THEMATIC NETWORKING



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!  
GOD JUL OCH GOTT NYTT ÅR!  
BUON NATALE E FELICE ANNO NUOVO!



## SERN Executive Board meeting in Traversetolo



The Executive Board meeting has been held in Traversetolo (Parma Province) on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

Firstly, the network welcomed two new Italian members, the municipalities of Collecchio and Sala Baganza located in the Parma Province; afterwards, there was the presentation of the memorandum of understanding with the Region Emilia-Romagna through which it will participate formally in the Network activities.

After the presentation of the projects developed in the framework of the welfare policies held by Li Teske, three main points have been discussed:

1. Changes to the Statute. Given the participation of various partners from different European countries in projects proposed and implemented by SERN members, the need to formalise their relations with the network emerged.

The Executive Board agreed on the importance to collaborate of new European partners but before it is necessary to understand: 1. the possible consequences for the amount of the work for the Secretariat; 2. the format of the formal agreement; 3. the amount of the fees they have to pay.

2. Approval of the budget proposal for the year 2009.

3. Presentation of the EU project submitted for supporting project development within the network.

The main aim of the approved project is to create thematic networks among twinned towns on specific issues, in particular in the welfare, environment and local development ones.

The project, that has been approved by the European Commission with a grant of € 45.000, foresees a training course for those people working in these fields and in the international relations sector.



The participants in the Executive Board meeting

## Pre-School Staff Exchange Project: Evaluation and Dissemination seminar



On 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November the evaluation and dissemination seminar concerning the pre school staff exchange took place in Bertinoro. The participants, more than 70 people from Sweden and Emilia Romagna had the opportunity to exchange and deepen their experiences related to the 2008 staff exchange. The meeting was attended also by a representative of the Italian National Agency of the EU's Life-long Learning Programme who underlined the good work done through the project.

Particular attention was paid to the documentation of the good practises emerged and to four main themes which saw particular differences between the two education systems:

1. the relation children-teachers-families
2. the relation children-outdoor activities
3. the education activities
4. the daily routine

For the year 2009, the project will continue with two other sessions according this schedule:

-- Spring Session: 3-16 May in Italy  
24 May-6 June in Sweden

-- Fall Session: 4-12 October in Sweden  
25 October-7 November in Italy.

Further information and all the materials of the seminar at <http://pre-schools.sern.eu>.



Coordination Group at work



Some participants

## **Project on Quality of life for Seniors in Europe**

A seminar on the issue of quality of life for seniors took place in Parma from November 11 to November 14 and it involved the Parma municipality and University and the Social agency "Azienda Consortile Pedemontana Sociale" and the SME agency APIndustria Parma from the Italian side, the municipalities of Skovde, Norrkoping and Trollhattan and the two twinned towns of Parma, the city of Tours (France) and the city of Worms (Germany).

After three days of intense discussion and exchanges, the participants agreed on a framework project which consists firstly, in the analysis of the target group that creates the basis for further developments ; secondly, in the beginning of the research and implementation of activities, in particular pilot intervention at local level and finally, in the creation of an innovation system leading to products and services responding to the needs of the target group.

The plan of the participants is to apply for several European grants in order to finance this complex project.

## **Project on restaurant schools exchange**

The exchange took place from November 10<sup>th</sup> and November 17<sup>th</sup> in Brisighella. The participants came from the municipality of Kalix (Norrbotten region) and from its restaurant school and from the Italian side the students involved came from the municipality of Brisighella (lead partner) and that of Salsomaggiore Terme.

This meeting represented the second step of the exchange among students of restaurant schools that saw the participation of Italian students in the Swedish hotel school in Kalix in October 2007.

The event gave the opportunity to the participants to exchange their knowledge through the participation in the school activities in Brisighella-Riolo Terme and in Salsomaggiore and through various study visits in order to approach typical products of the area (olive oil, fruits, typical charcuterie) and their use in the cooking system.

## **Study visits of school manager from Molndal**

A delegation of 7 school managers from Molndal has visited Reggio Emilia and Imola Municipality. The visit has focused both on issues pertaining pedagogic approaches and school management. The delegation has visited pre-schools, primary schools as well as upper secondary schools.

## Training Programme on Thematic Networking

SERN was awarded (highest score in the call) an EU grant for support measures concerning town twinning activities and the creation of thematic networks.

The proposal foresees a training programme aimed to equip the participants with the skills needed in order to be able to deal more effectively with transnational networking.

The chosen focus themes are environment, local development, welfare policies and indeed civil servants working in these areas are the target group of the training course together with EU/international officers.

The programme foresees three phases:

1. a regional training module of two days.
2. a transnational event with the chance to invite one of the twinned town from any EU country
3. tutoring and project development

The full programme of the training has this schedule:

### ***Regional training module***

For Emilia-Romagna members  
5-6 February 2009 in Parma  
9-10 February 2009 in Forli

For Swedish members  
2-3 March 2009 in Trollhattan (Vastra Gotaland area members)  
4-5 March 2009 in Linkoping (Ostsam area members)  
10-11 March 2009 in Lulea (Norrbotten area members)

### ***Transnational Event***

16-17 April 2009 in Rimini  
or  
5-6 November 2009 in Salsomaggiore (Parma Province)