



SERN Newsletter



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SERN LEADING A NEW PROJECT UNDER MEASURE 2.2 OF THE EUROPE FOR CITIZENS PROGRAMME IN 2010

In the framework of the 2009 call of the Europe for Citizens Programme – Support Measures, SERN has been awarded a grant of 86.000 € (total budget 104.000 €) from the Education Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). The project will run for the whole 2010 and will be characterised by the participation of three other partners: the Finnish association of local and regional authorities, the Association of local authorities of Norrbotten, and the Deputacion of A Coruna (SP).

The project starts-off from the results emerging from the project running in 2009

The objectives of the project are:

- 1) the improvement of the skills of EU/International relations officers;
- 2) the involvement and the active engagement within the municipalities of the managers of policy area(s) covered by the thematic networking activities
- 3) the development of monitoring and quality management tools designed for the networks of twinned towns that allow a more effective implementation of the projects and more consistency between planned objectives and results achieved in practice.

The project is structured according to three main Actions:

Action 1 – Training
Intensive training sessions of two days aimed at providing the participants with methodological tools and knowledge about thematic networking.

Action 2- Transnational Events
A partnering event aimed at developing partnerships and develop project ideas for new networks. The partnering events will be open to the participants from the countries of the associated partners. A final event in Brussels where the results of project will be presented.

Action 3 – Monitoring and Quality evaluation

With the support of specialists from several fields a set of tools, designed especially for the needs of networks of twinned towns, will be developed during the project.

Monitoring of a selected number of thematic networks approved in 2009 and in 2010. The thematic networks project approved in 2009 will be asked to undergo the quality evaluation process on the basis of results emerged from the group of specialists.



The Swedish Presidency of the European Union started on July 1st 2009 and will end on December 31st.

<http://www.se2009.eu>

Study visit in Emilia-Romagna from Goteborg Business Region

A group of 12 civil servants from Business Region Goteborg participated in a study tour in the Parma and Reggio Emilia area on September 24th and 25th in order to learn about business development at regional level and to discuss possible future project of cooperation.

Business Region Goteborg is a non-profit regional development company owned by 13 local authorities which constitutes the metropolitan region of Goteborg (Mölnadal City is one of these 13 municipalities). Its interest is focused on cooperation between public and private actors, on structures to facilitate business development, innovation and internationalisation and on industrial incubators.

SERN Secretariat together with Parma and Reggio Emilia provinces organised an intensive study tour which was opened with a conference focused on the industrial and economic background of the Parma area with presentations of some important local economic actors such as the Chamber of Commerce, Tecninnova and the Parma University. The study tour gave also the opportunity to go and visit important industrial sites such as Parmalat and Landi Renzo, where the participants could feel with their hands how innovation and strong business support structures were concretised.

Innovation was the main issues in two other meetings, at the engineering department of the Reggio Emilia University and with the department of regional development of the region Emilia-Romagna.

The study visit represented an important occasion to exchange knowledge and to put the basis for further cooperation and interaction both at public authorities level and at companies and universities level.

FIRST SEMINAR OF THE PROJECT ON INNOVATION IN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT



The Province of Reggio Emilia has hosted the first seminar of the project Twinnovate: innovation in local development. The event saw the participation of more than 8 representatives from the four partner areas: the Province of Reggio Emilia, Östergötland (Östsam, Motala and Söderköping), Albacete Province (ES) and Enzkreis(DE).

During the opening plenary session, there was the presentation of the various policies in the different countries in order to create the basis for the discussion in the different working groups. Indeed, the three groups deepened some of the issues raised during in the plenary session in particular related the interaction between private (profit and non profit) and public

sector, cooperation between different levels of government (i.e. the governance of innovation processes).

The last day was dedicated to a study tour to visit some "excellencies" of the Reggio Emilia area: Mectron laboratory of the Reggio Emilia University and the international child centre "Loris Malaguzzi".

Next event is schedule for March 2010 in Albacete, Spain, where the participants will have the chance to deepen aspects linked to role of the public administrations in fostering development and innovation at local and regional level.

What has been achieved:

- Dissemination of best practices driven by the public sector
- Centrality of cooperation among different levels of government on innovation-related issues
- Discussion on ways of collaboration between local authorities and NGOs
- Examples of approaches to subsidiarity - outsourcing of municipal tasks
- Identification of the driving themes and target groups of the next meetings Albacete (March 2010), Östergötland (June 2010), Pforzheim (September 2010)



Two new network projects submitted

In the framework of the SERN training programme on thematic networks, two new network projects have been presented under the programme "Europe for citizens".

☐ **TOWARDS 3X20: REDUCING CO2 EMISSIONS and INCREASING ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

Leading partner:
Municipality of Rimini

Partners:
SWEDEN

- Municipalities of Norrköping,
Motala and Linköping

ITALY
- Province of Reggio Emilia
and Scandiano

POLAND
- City of Bydgoszcz

GERMANY
- Kreis Offenbach

☐ **ECOLOGICAL FOOD MANAGEMENT in PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Leading partner:
Meldola Municipality

Partners:
SWEDEN

- City of Mölndal
ITALY

- Reggio Emilia Province
- Municipality of Scandiano

- Municipality of Laives

CROATIA

- Municipality of Buje

- Municipality of Verteneglio

GERMANY

- Municipality of Wolfhagen



"QUALITY IN PRE-SCHOOLS" ANNUAL DISSEMINATION AND EVALUATION SEMINAR OF THE SERN PRE-SCHOOL STAFF EXCHANGE PROJECT

After the staff exchange sessions, the participants and the member of the coordination group will meet in Mölndal for the annual dissemination and evaluation meeting of the project.

The seminar, that will take place on November 26 and 27, aims at discussing the project 2009 focus areas (documentation, outdoor pedagogic, relation with family, level of autonomy and creativity and innovation) and at giving a broad picture of the European perspective to evaluate quality in pre-school activities and to identify indicators to develop a always better pre-school.

It is important to highlight that this conference has been selected as one of the events under the patronage of the Swedish EU Presidency and it was co-financed by the European Commission under the "Europe for citizens" programme.

The deadline to send the registration form for this event is October 15th.

It is possible to find the registration form and further information on the project website at the "events" page (<http://pre-schools.sern.eu/events.htm>).



NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

On Saturday 28th November, the Executive Board will meet in Arvidsjaur (Norrbotten Region) for its ordinary Fall meeting. After the presentation of the new members after the local administrative elections in Italy, the discussion will be focused on three main issues:

1. the revision of the SERN strategy 2009-2011 and of its guidelines
2. information on the implementation and development of the SERN training programme 2009 and the result of the application for 2010
3. the preliminary income statement for the year 2009 and proposal for 2010 budget

Moreover, in order to have a long term precise activities' calendar, the Board member will be asked to define the dates for 2010 and 2011 events (Board meetings and General Assembly).

Further information on the SERN platform page dedicated to Executive Board.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE MEMBERS

14-16 OCTOBER Seminar of the European Quality Network

15 OCTOBER Regional Seminar on SERN in Östergötland

15 OCTOBER Deadline to send the registration form for the 2nd transnational event in Salsomaggiore

15 OCTOBER Deadline to send the registration form for the dissemination seminar of the pre-school staff exchange

17-18 NOVEMBER 2nd Transnational meeting of the SERN training programme in Salsomaggiore Terme.

26-28 NOVEMBER Evaluation Seminar for the pre-school staff exchange project in Molndal

28 NOVEMBER Executive Board meeting in Arvidsjaur

SERN SECRETARIAT

Visits: Viale Aldo Moro 44 (IX Fl.)
Bologna (Italy)
Mail: Po Box 6141
40138 Bologna (Italy)

Phone:
+39 051516050
+39 348 3892600
E-mail: info@sern.eu

2ND TRANSNATIONAL MEETING OF THE SERN TRAINING PROGRAMME 2009

The second transnational meeting will take place in Salsomaggiore Terme and the number of expected participants is around 40 from various European countries.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Monday, 16th November

Arrival of the delegations
20.30 Welcome and dinner at the hotel(s)

Tuesday, 17th November 2009

9.00-10.45 Introduction Europe for citizens programme with particular focus on the action of thematic networking
10.45-11.00 Coffee break
11.00-13.00 Focus on Thematic network project development and application writing
13.00-14.30 Lunch
14.30-18.30 Working Groups on Thematic Networks together with Italian and Swedish participants

Wednesday, 18th November 2009

9.00-12.30 Working Groups activities
13.00-14.00 Lunch
14.30-16.30 Working Group
16.30-16.50 Coffee Break
16.50-18.00 Conclusion plenary Session

THEMATIC NETWORK PROPOSALS TO BE DISCUSSED DURING THE MEETING

- ▶ Proposal 1 Exchange of methods to increase technical and scientific interest and competencies in order to support competitiveness
- ▶ Proposal 6 Improvement of scientific skills through the relation with nature/environment
- ▶ Proposal 7 Network on local welfare policies and active civil society
- ▶ Proposal 8 Euro Officers Group: the network for the management of EU/international relations at local level
- ▶ Proposal 9 Local authorities and civil society in supporting integration in society

The deadline to send the registration form for this event is October 15th.

Further information on the project website <http://training.sern.eu>