



SERN

Newsletter

26 March 2007
Volume 1 Issue 5
English Version

SWEDEN EMILIA ROMAGNA NETWORK, Po Box 6141, 40138 Bologna, Italy - Visits: Viale A. Moro 44.
<http://www.sern.eu> info@sern.eu +39 348 3892600

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 The General Assembly 2007
- 3 SERN Executive Board Meeting in Luleå
- 3 Training Activities within the Network
- 4 News from the Working Groups

The General Assembly 2007

The third SERN General Assembly (GA) will take place in Salsomaggiore Terme (Parma Province) on the 11th of May 2007. The Executive Board and the Project Groups will meet on Thursday the 10th.

The SERN Annual Report 2006, training activities within the Network and the SERN strategic guidelines of the Network are some of issues that will be discussed during the meeting on Friday the 11th (for more detailed information about the Order of Business please visit the platform). The 2007 Assembly will elect also the new Executive Board and the Board of Auditors.

Each delegation has to fill in two forms: one for the participation in the Assembly (and the groups) and one for the accommodation.

The registration form has to be sent to the Secretariat while the form concerning the hotel booking has to be sent to ADAST in Salsomaggiore. The forms have been sent to the SERN contact persons and are available on the platform or upon request can be obtained from the Secretariat. The deadline for registration is on **Monday 16th of April**.

You will find information about the latest draft programme, the Order of Business of the General Assembly, the Project Groups, Travel options from Sweden, accommodation and booking, registration for the Assembly, participants and reports to download on the platform.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY 9th May 2007

Arrival of the delegations in Salsomaggiore Terme(PR).

18.00 Welcome drink and informal get-together at Terme Berzieri

20.30 Dinner at the hotel(s)

THURSDAY 10th May

9.30-17.30 Project Group Meetings at Palazzo dei Congressi

Wel 1- Support To Parenthood

Wel 2- Elderly Care - Training Of Personnel And Methodological Aspects

Wel 3- Elderly Care - Best Practices, Actions And Policy Making

Wel 4- Violence Against Women - Collaboration And Coordination Among Actors

Wel 5- Violence Against Women - Prevention

Wel 6- Services To People With Disabilities

Edu1- Promotion Of Local Food Through Hotels And Restaurant School Exchanges

Edu 2- Quality Of Living At School

Ent 1- Entrepreneurial Innovation In Health

Tour 1- Local Development And Wellness Industry

Env 1- Bio-Fuels

Other 1- Leadership And Strategic Development In The Public Sector

Other 2- Quality In the Public Services

10.00 - 13.00 Workshop on local/regional sectors of excellence (to be confirmed)

13.00 - 14.30 Lunch Break (Coffee Breaks at 11.00 and 16.00)

14.00-19.30 SERN Executive Board Meeting

20.30 Official Dinner

FRIDAY 11th May

9.30-13.30 III SERN GENERAL ASSEMBLY at Palazzo dei Congressi (Sala delle Cariatidi)

13.30-15.00 Lunch Break

15.00-18.30 Other meetings - Palazzo dei Congressi

- Working Group Environment - Meeting of Political Representatives (Sala delle Cariatidi)

- Project on Young Entrepreneurs

- Project on Sustainable Tourism (Follow up of the project Local Development strategies)

14.30-15.30 SERN Executive Board Meeting

14.30-15.30 Guided Tour of Salsomaggiore /Spa treatment package (not included – bookings can be made at the reception of your hotel upon arrival)

14:30-18.30 Study Visit arranged by the Parma Province and Strada del Prosciutto on the Trail of wine and flavours (visits to some companies in the food sector)

14.30-18.30 Study visit arranged by Unione Terre Verdiane and the Parma province to elderly care services and other health services of the Fidenza area.

20.00 Dinner at the hotel(s)

SATURDAY 12th May

Free time and opportunity for meetings

Departure of the delegations

Please get in touch with the SERN Secretariat for any further information you might require which you cannot find on the platform.

SERN Executive Board in Luleå

The latest Executive Board took place in Luleå (Norrbotten) on 17th February 2007. During that meeting two new Swedish members have been welcomed: Kalix Municipality and Matproducenterna I Norr.

Two key points have been discussed: (a) the organisation of training activities in the Network and; (b) the SERN Strategy 2007-2009.

(a) Training Activities:

The Executive Board gave to a group of civil servants, together with the Secretariat, the task to write and submit a proposal for the development of training activities during the General Assembly 2007. The political representatives underlined the importance to have this kind of activities inside SERN in order to improve the knowledge about each other organisation and to foster the contact-making among the members.

(b) SERN Strategy 2007-2009

The Executive Board highlighted the importance to give a strategy for SERN, setting out the main objectives of the network as a whole. The Secretariat made the proposal centred on the submission of written contributions by members or groups of members. Moreover, some guidelines have been produced in order to help the drafting of these contributions. The Board members will have the task to organise local/regional meetings in order to create common proposals. All contributions will be published on the platform in late April and during the Executive Board and General Assembly in May, they will be discussed and proposed for approval.

Training Activities in the Network

On 8th March the group of civil servants appointed by the Executive Board and the Secretariat met in order to discuss about the organisation of the training activities in the network. Some key points have been identified. Some needs to be answered have been underlined in order to develop these meetings. The main ones are:

1. to gain know-how about EU Funding
2. to know institutional systems and decision making processes
3. to foster the use of the SERN platform
4. to improve the knowledge on project development.

For the identification of the working area, it is essential to wait for the decisions coming from the discussion on the SERN Strategy which will be examined and approved during the General Assembly in May 2007.

News from the Working Groups

WG EDUCATION&CULTURE (education.and.culture@sern.eu)

PATHS OF INTEGRATION IN THE EDUCATIONAL CONTEXTS

EVALUATION MEETING

On 24th January the final meeting in the framework of the project “Paths of Integration in the educational contexts” took place in Falköping.

As results of the meetings and workshops held in Stockholm, Falköping and in Italy (Parma, Fontanellato, Reggio Emilia, Scandiano e Ravenna), the partners agreed on some main topics to be developed in the context of the new “Lifelong Learning “ Programme :

1) Multilateral project training for teachers in the field of not verbal languages as means to improve integration and motivation of foreign students ;

2) School partnerships projects focused on :

- Welcome of foreign students
- Integration and activities involving families
- Comparison and exchange between intercultural mediator and mother tongue teachers
- Integration through expressive alternative languages

3) Learning partnership project for adult : intercultural and integration at school and project addressed to parents and to schools.

As a result of the project two applications have been submitted in the context of the Comenius programme: one is about “Integration and Expressive Languages” and involves two schools from Reggio Emilia, and one from Stockholm together with partners from Ireland and Belgium, another is the “Integration and Parenthood Project” involving pre-schools of Parma Municipality, Scandiano Municipality, Stockholm City as well as partners from Portugal, Belgium and Germany.

WG ENTREPRENEURSHIP (entrepreneurship@sern.eu)

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES - Event 2

The second event of the project “Local Development Strategies” has been held in Jokkmokk (Norrbotten) from 29th January to 2nd February 2007 and it saw the participations of political representatives, local food and handicraft producers and tourist organisations from six Italian municipalities (Canossa, Felino, Montecchio Emilia, Montechiarugolo, Traversetolo and San Polo d’Enza) and the municipalities of Norra Bohuslan.

This second conference foresaw study visits and workshops and the participation of Italian producers to the Jokkmokk market, one of the oldest in Sweden.

The opening conference was focused on the description and explanation of the interaction of the elements which compose the concept of local strategies in Jokkmokk, that is to say the protection

of environment as tourist tool, the promotion of the Sami culture and tradition and the use of local natural elements as economic source.

The working groups deepened their knowledge in the field of local strategies through study visits in small companies which represented the preservation and promotion of the local traditions, above all the Sami one.

The participants could compare their experiences in informal meetings and workshops, highlighting the opportunity to develop a possible model of sustainable local development based on tourism, high quality products and handicraft.

Young Entrepreneurs

The Italian members interested in the development of a project on young entrepreneurship had a meeting in order to figure out the main topics on which focus the activity. Two themes have been pointed out: how to foster the start-up of new young entrepreneurs' activities and how to manage the generation exchange in companies.

The member organisations involved so far interested in the project are the Province of Reggio Emilia, the municipality of Reggio Emilia, the municipality of Scandiano and API Parma, Trollhättan City, Ale Municipality, Falköping Municipality and Vänersborg Municipality. The universities in Parma and Reggio Emilia have also shown their interest in participating in the project. A seminar will be organised in Ale on 14-15 June 2007.

WG WELFARE

On Friday 23rd March and Saturday 24th Imola Municipality organised the conference "The right and desire to govern: openings, careers, and the tools of politics, of the economy and the social sector" on the theme of equal opportunities for women and female leadership. The conference saw the participation of a delegation from Vänersborg municipality that had the possibility to illustrate the situation in Sweden and bring experiences from the field.

WG ENVIRONMENT (environment@sern.eu)

During the General Assembly, a meeting among political representatives of the environment sector has been scheduled (Friday 11th May, in the afternoon). In order to create a background on which is possible to develop a discussion, preliminary meetings in Emilia-Romagna region and in Sweden have been organised. On the Swedish side, the political representatives will meet on 10th and 13th April. In Emilia-Romagna, the environment councillors of the Emilia territory met in Montechiarugolo on 21st February. Three main topics have been pointed out:

1. energy understood as result of bio-masses and as tool in the bio-housing;
2. management of conflicts in the environment field;
3. sustainable mobility and protection of air quality.

A second meeting was held in Forlì on 28th February among the members of the Forlì, Ravenna and Rimini area. In that occasion, the themes that emerged were:

1. water understood as energy resource and as life environment;
2. production of alternative energy;
3. management of conflicts in the environment field.

SERN Initiatives and Calendar

10 April - Meeting in Norrbotten among political representatives
11 April - Deadline for the contributions (for the participants in the project groups only)
16 April - Deadline for General Assembly registration
30 April - Deadline for the submission of the contributions for SERN Strategy 2007-2009
10-11 May - SERN General Assembly 2007, Salsomaggiore Terme (Parma Province)
14-15 June - Seminar on Young Entrepreneurs