



SERN

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Newsletter

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The decisions of the SERN Executive Board in Falköping



Two questions have been at the core of the discussion of the Board members in the meeting that took place last November in Falköping:

1. The approval of the guidelines for the implementation of the SERN strategy
2. The preparations for the General Assembly 2008 and the initiative Emilia-Romagna days

An important aspect that has been recalled in the context of the guidelines is the importance of an active participation in the activities of the network, both at political and at administrative level, in order to grant continuity to the work and efforts done and in order to make more and more productive and constant the relations among the members.

As far as the implementation of the SERN strategy through the guidelines, two important innovations have been introduced:

- The creation of Rapporteurs for each area of activity of the Network (entrepreneurship, tourism, education, welfare and environment) with the task of monitoring the progress made in each policy are with the support of the Secretariat and the project group's contact persons.

The rapporteurs are

Entrepreneurship: Gabriele Ferrari e Alex Bergström

Education: Susanna Tassinari and Ulf Eriksson

Welfare Karen Visani and Lisbeth Årgårdh

Tourism Gianluigi Castellari and Jerry Johansson

Environment: Luciano Gobbi and Li Teske

The definition of the tasks and the responsibilities in the development and management of the project groups. In particular the role of project group coordinators (one from Sweden and one from Italy) has been defined. The coordinators will have the responsibility of leading forward the process of cooperation and provide information about the progress and the activities carried out to the Secretariat and to the Rapporteurs.

From May 21st to May 25th 2008 the city of Norrköping will be hosting the General Assembly. At the same time the Emilia Romagna days initiative will also be arranged. The initiative will be centred on seminars related to the best practices for which Emilia Romagna is known in Europe, cultural events (concerts and exhibitions) and actions aimed at marketing from a tourism perspective the areas of Emilia Romagna.

The next Executive Board Meeting is set for February 23rd 2008 in Forlì.

The minutes and the materials of the meeting are available on the platform in the Executive Board pages or they can be obtained through the Secretariat.

The General Assembly 2008

The General Assembly in Norrköping will take place between 21st- 25th of May 2008.



A number of new project groups will be created. In order to make the collection of proposals for the creation of groups more easy, it is essential to follow this schedule:

Step 1: Deadline January 26, 2008. The proposed theme for a project group will be sent to Nicola Catellani.

Step 2: Deadline February 23, 2008. The received proposals will be circulated among the members for the collection of possible participants. Only if the proposal collects a sufficient number of participants, it will go further to stage 3..

Priority will be given:

1. Issues related to the two SERN priority themes set out in the strategy (local / regional development and social inclusion).
2. Proposals made by members that submit ideas for project groups for the first time
3. Themes on which there has been interaction among members.

Emilia- Romagna Days

The organization of the Emilia-Romagna days meets the need, always present in the network, to broaden the mutual knowledge on member areas and to give greater visibility to the territories of SERN in order both to let our priorities to advance and to promote the territories' excellences.

Three issues on which activities will be carried out are:

- Deepening of good practices on public policy and presentation of some excellences of the Emilia-Romagna economic system;
- Cultural promotion;
- Promoting tourism and gastronomy.

The days will be held in Norrköping concurrently with the General Assembly.

Projects Approved by the European Commission



Kalix-Brisighella

The municipality of Kalix, in collaboration with Arvidsjaur and Pitea, has hosted in late October 2007 the representatives of the municipalities of Brisighella, Rimini, Salsomaggiore and the Strada del Prosciutto of Parma in the framework of an EU project financed in the context of the Europe for citizens programme. The participants were students from Hotels and restaurant Schools, teachers, entrepreneurs and political representatives from the areas involved. The objective of the exchange was to let the Italian participants understand the origins and the use of the high quality food products from Norrbotten. The project represents the first part of the activities planned by

the project group on Hotel and restaurant schools exchanges, the second part will take place in Brisighella in April 2008.

Piteå-Forlì-Salsomaggiore-Scandiano-Bertinoro

The municipality of Pitea has been awarded a grant from the European Union in order to host meetings among representatives of the municipality and their counterparts from Forli, Scandiano, Bertinoro and Salsomaggiore working in the field of culture and sport. The delegations will also include representatives from NGOs and the discussion will also focus on the opportunities offered by the municipalities in the field of leisure to citizens with disabilities.

Jokkmokk-Traversetolo, Felino, Montechiarugolo, San Polo d'Enza, Montecchio Emilia

From 6th to 10th February, a delegation of politicians and officials, and especially local producers, representatives from tourism organizations and artisans will participate with their typical products in the Jokkmokk winter market, one of the most important cultural events of Sweden linked to the promotion of Sami culture.

This event will be another opportunity to compare the best practices of the participants for the promotion of the typicality of the different area without forgetting the important link between local traditions, culture, nature and typical products.

Pre- school staff exchange



The first meeting of the joint coordination group of the pre-school staff Exchange took place in Castelnovo di sotto on January 14th and 15th.

The group took note of the requests of participation of the teachers from the municipalities that signed the agreement and confirmed the participation of 10 teachers (5 from Italy and 5 from Sweden) in the first session (March) of exchange in 2008.

As for the Autumn session of the exchange have been set as follow: the participants from Sweden will arrive to Italy on Saturday 4th October 2008 and depart on Saturday 18th October 2008; the participants from Italy will arrive to Sweden on Saturday 25th October 2008 and depart on Saturday November 8th 2008.

In order to participate in the Autumn session 2008 a request has to be submitted to the coordination group (see platform or contact the secretariat for details) before 15th March 2008 to a member of the coordination group through the Participation form available on the platform or on a request from the members of the group. Only municipalities that have signed the letter of commitment will be eligible for the participation in the exchange.

The deadline for submitting individual applications for Comenius Mobility In-service training to the National Agency is set for 30th June 2008.

As from 2009 the deadlines for the participation in the sessions will therefore

15th September 2008 for the exchanges taking place in the Spring 2009

15th March 2009 for the exchanges taking place in the Autumn 2009

As far as the Evaluation/Dissemination seminar to be held in Italy in 2008 is concerned the preliminary dates are:

27 November - Arrival Day

28 November – Seminar, full day

29 November – Seminar, half a day

The venue and a preliminary programme will be communicated in the coming weeks.

Projects Submitted

In the context of the Call for Applications concerning the creation of Thematic Networks of Twinned Towns several members of SERN have been submitted project proposals falling in the activities of some Project Groups:

Regional Policies for the support of citizens with disabilities: Norrbotten County Council – Parma Province.

Support to Parenthood: Vänersborg Municipality- Ravenna Municipality

Quality in public services: Scandiano Municipality – Trollhättan Municipality.

The above mentioned organizations are those directly involved in the applications as partners, other members will be involved in the events.

Heritage as a source of territorial development: The Municipality of Traversetolo has proposed a project to get a co-financing with the measure thematic network of twinned towns to the European Commission. The partners in this network will be the Italian municipalities of Enza Valley area, the Swedish partner in Jokkmokk and Norra Bohuslan and French twinned municipalities of Oraison and Cumières.

Meetings among members

Violence against Women: meetings

The municipality of Ravenna have met some representatives of the Trollhattan municipality on the theme of violence against women. After two meetings in Trollhattan and Brussels, a Swedish delegation held a study visit in Ravenna where it has been discussed and decided to develop a new exchange of good practices on this subject.

Ostgota Coop in Parma

A delegation of Ostgota Coop visited Legacoop in Parma with the aim of discussing the opportunity to create a project on the managing of the social cooperatives.

Support to Parenthood

The project group has decided to apply for a European grant with the programme Grundvig in order to create a training programme for the target operators working in the framework of support to parenthood.