



SERN

Newsletter

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The decisions of the SERN Executive Board in Forlì



At the SERN Executive Board meeting in the late February in Forlì the main discussion of the board was concerning the Budget 2007 and how to deal with late payments of the members together with possibilities to build up a financial buffer and complementary sources of funding for the network. The Board decided that the president and vice-president would prepare a letter as a reminder of the unpaid fees to the members and identify alternative sources of funding. The Board approved the balance sheet 2007 and the Budget proposal over 2008 that will be presented in Norrköping during the General Assembly in May. The General Assembly programme for 21st-24th of May was presented by Johan Cöster from the Municipality of Norrköping who explained where the events and the Emilia-Romagna market will take place. The presentations about the General Assembly was followed by a short presentation about the activities carried out in the field of tourism.

The General Assembly 2008



The planning of the IV SERN General Assembly on May 21st-24th continues and the programme includes several seminars in different areas and a study visit to Norrköping industrial eco park. During the General Assembly both new and old project groups will have the opportunity to meet and discuss further ideas and cooperation. The General Assembly programme that can be found on the platform under the mark General Assembly that also contains information on how to get to Norrköping and other information.

Project Groups

The proposed project groups that reached the sufficient number of participants and will go forward to phase 3 and meet in Norrköping during the General Assembly days are:

- The groups on youth policies(sharing youth policy practices and youth health)
- Sustainable mobility in city centres
- Rural landscape development through culture and tourism

The groups will meet on the 22nd-23rd of May in the mornings and afternoons for sessions.

If a proposal is not given priority and has the sufficient number of participants the members can still meet in Norrköping and discuss the project, in that case the Secretariat and Norrköping Municipality will be supporting only with the identification of a meeting room.

Emilia- Romagna Days

The Emilia-Romagna days that will be arranged in Norrköping at the same time as the General Assembly will be divided in two parts, one part with a market and the other one on tourism and promoting of the Emilia-Romagna area in a tourism perspective. The tourism promoting of Emilia-Romagna will be at Louis De Geer Center with short presentations about the different areas in the

region and meetings among with Italian and Swedish travel agencies will take place. The Market will be held on Knäppingsborg, on the market local producers will be participating and offer sale and testing of products and cooked food.

Meetings among members

Piteå- sport and culture cooperation

From the 11th-14th of February an Italian delegation from the Municipalities of Scandiano, Bertinoro, Forli and the province of Reggio Emilia visited the Municipality of Piteå for meetings in the field on use of sports and culture. The objectives of the meeting where to:

- Deepened knowledge within the sector, forming a action plan for youth democracy locally based on the experience of the Italian twinned town
- Sort out the most interesting collaboration areas
- Exchange best practices
- Find out the basis for continued Town Twinning
- Raise awareness among the citizens of Piteå about the experiences done in Italy in the field of culture and sport, involvement of the disabled in the local community.

During the days in Piteå the Swedish and Italian delegation had seminars with presentations of each area of activities, workshops about youth and school democracy, culture and leisure for disabled persons and sports and culture events. The delegation also had time with study visits around the Municipality of Piteå, library, sports centres, disability activities etc. A lot of ideas on how to go further were created and the next step will be for the Swedish delegation to visit Italy for further exchange of experiences in best practice.

Pre-School Staff Exchange



The programme Pre-School staff exchange started off in January and the first round of exchange of 2008 involved 10 teachers (five Italian pre-school teacher from the Municipalities of Scandiano, Imola and Meldola and five Swedish teachers from Norrköping, Mölndal, Vänersborg and Rinkeby-Kista in Stockholm. The Italians stayed in Sweden for two weeks in the beginning of March while the Swedish teachers were hosted in Italy in the beginning of April.

During the exchange both Italian and Swedish teacher focused on pedagogic differences and different ways to teach and entertain children through leisure time. After the exchange the participants had learn new pedagogic ways of teaching and had new experiences of childcare to share with their colleagues at their home pre-school. The project will have another round exchange between pre-schools in October 2008 that will be followed by an evaluation seminar to be held in Italy in late November.

Jokkmokk – Sustainable Development through protection and promotion of local intangible heritage



The meeting among the municipalities of the Val d'Enza area and the municipality of Jokkmokk represents the second step of the project held in 2006-2007 with the aim of proceeding in the analysis of the concept of local sustainable development in territories characterised by ancient tradition and culture. The meeting was held in Jokkmokk with the occasion of the traditional winter market from 6th to 10th February.

The objective was reached thanks to various activities: seminars, study visits, workshops and participation of the Italian delegation in the traditional Jokkmokk Winter Market. One important exchange moment has been the opening conference during which the participants tried to define the concept of local intangible heritage, to analyse its components, to introduce Italian and Swedish experiences, to understand if these elements can be seen as European values and as a mean of spreading European local peculiarities and to continue in the exchange of good practices.

There were three main discussion areas: the meaning of tradition and culture nowadays, ecotourism and promotion of typical food production.

Projects Approved by the European Commission

Quality on public services



The working group Quality on public services has been awarded an EU grant for arranging seminars on the issue of quality in public services with special attention to elderly care services and pre-school educational services. The project aims at development a long-term process of cooperation aimed at granting centrality to the issue of quality. The first seminar will take place in Scandiano in the early June and the participants are the municipalities of Trollhättan and Scandiano and Unione Terre Verdiane. Other municipalities will be Almansa (Spain) hosting the second seminar in February 2009. Contact person Gianluca Manelli (g.manelli@comune.scandiano.re.it)

Support to parenthood



The submitted application from the municipality of Vänersborg has been approved. The project will consist of seminars on the issue of support to parenthood with special attention to parents networks and actions focusing on prevention will take place during the spring. The project groups aims to exchange best practices and find common solutions for improvement of services towards families from a social and an educational perspective. Organizations members from SERN are Vänersborg, Ravenna, Imola, Forlì, Unione Terre Verdiane and Scandiano. The first seminar will take place in Vänersborg from June 11th to June 15th. Contact Person anders.friden@vanersborg.se

The same group of municipalities submitted also a project proposal concerning the training of the personnel dealing with support to parenthood in the framework of the EU programme Grundtvig.

Services to persons with disabilities



The County Council of Norrbotten has been awarded a grant from the European Union in order to host a seminar on the issue of local policies towards disabled citizens. The seminar, scheduled for September 2008, will focus on discussions and exchange good practices related to an improved access to quality support and care services, fostering access to goods and services through innovative ICT solutions for independent living of people with disabilities. The seminar is planned to be held in September in Luleå and will include participants among others from Ravenna Municipality and the Parma Province. The delegation will also include representatives of NGOs working with disabled, representatives of educational institutions and business organizations. Contact Person Kenneth.Sjaunja Kenneth.Sjaunja@nll.se .

Local development strategies

The municipality of Traversetolo has been awarded a grant from the European Commission to continue the exchange on sustainable development strategies. The new project round will involve three European countries: Italy with the Val d'Enza municipalities, Sweden with Jokkmokk municipality and the association of Norra Bohuslan municipalities and France. There will be two meetings: the first one in Val d'Enza in September and the second one in Norra Bohuslan in March 2009.

SERN General Assembly 2008

The municipality of Norrköping has been awarded a grant from the European Commission for arranging the IV SERN General Assembly in May 21st-24th .