

Local Councils' Association MALTA

NEWSLETTER | January 2008

Co-operation with CoE

The Local Councils' Association has established relations with the Centre for Local Government Reform of the Council of Europe. Mr. Jimmy Magro, Executive Secretary has met Ms. Sylvia Ivanova, Mr. Giovanni Di Stasi and Mr. Philip Blair in January 2008 and already agreed on a programme of action.

The Centre has agreed to assist the LCA in formulating its three-year strategic plan, and to formulate plans how strategic planning can be introduced to Local Councils in Malta.

CLRAE - UDITE seminar on the relationship between the elected executives and the local chief executive

Malta was highly represented in the above mentioned seminar held in Strasbourg during the 17 & 18 January 2008. The LCA delegation was led by Ms. Claudette Abela Baldacchino, Vice-President of the LCA, while the delegation from the Executive Secretaries was led by Mr. Adrian Mifsud, President of UDITE and Executive Secretary of the Zurrieq Local Council.



"Local and regional authorities must take a quantum leap in moving from administration to policy, from the management of familiar issues to the development of strategies and the shaping of the future," UDITE President Adrian Mifsud stressed at the opening of the Conference. "All this requires a professional top management, and UDITE is strongly committed to this change," he said, calling on the Congress to support a common European Code for Local and Regional Professional Management Standards as an extension to Article 6 of the European Charter of Local Self-Government.

The 18th January Session was chaired by Dr. Ian Micallef, President of the Chamber of Local Authorities, and Vice-President of the Local Councils' Association.

Events & Initiatives

The Gozo Regional Meeting for Mayors and Councilors will be held on the 2nd of February 2008. Mr. Noel Formosa, Chairman of the Gozo Region, stated that the meeting will be discussing the proposed waste reform and how NGO's and Local Councils can co-operate to deliver new initiatives to their communities.

The LCA and the National Rural Development Agency will be launching together an information campaign on the Leader+ programme and how Local Councils, the private sector and civil societies can work together to create employment opportunities through the use of Common Agricultural Policy funds that have been made available to Malta for 2007-2013.

The LCA, the Kalkara Local Council, COPPEM and the Anna Lindh Foundation has teamed together to organise an inter-cultural festival of dialogue, food, culture, dance, music, films and videos. This event is being held under the theme 1001 Actions for Dialogue. The festival will be held in Kalkara on the 18th of May 2008. "Intercultural dialogue and peaceful coexistence are major challenges confronting us at the start of the twenty-first century. In 2008 we have a unique

opportunity to raise the importance of this issue and to combat misunderstanding and discrimination through our collective action" stated Mr. Michael Cohen, President of the Local Councils' Association.



It is also planned that the LCA will be organising a week-long exhibition in Valletta in June 2008 in connection with the 15th anniversary of the setting up of Local Councils in Malta and the Local Democracy Week organised by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

The Local Councils' Association holds regular meetings with the Director of Local Government Mr. Natalino Attard. During the last meeting, both sides discussed the new regulations coming into force to empower Mayors to conduct Civil Marriages, the employment contracts of Executive Secretaries and Local Councils' staff, a proposed workshop to be held in June 2008 under the auspices of the Council of Europe and finally office security arrangements, staff and elected officials protection from public harassment. The LCA delegation was led by Mr. Michael Cohen and included the Executive Secretary Mr. Jimmy Magro. On the last item on the agenda, the Association proposed that all criminal proceedings on harassment charges must be initiated under the special provisions of the criminal code, DLG to prepare a report on security measures in all Local Councils offices and that any damage caused to personal property will be rectified through public funds.

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Local Councils Association - 153, Main Street, Balzan, Malta

Phone:  +356-21446428 ; **Fax:** +356-21446427; **email:** lca@lca.org.mt