



## Local Councils' Association MALTA

NEWSLETTER | July 2008

### REPRESENTATION

The Local Councils' Association is still making representations to be a full member of the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development (MCESD) and the Malta - EU Steering Committee (MUESAC).

It is not enough to have local government enshrined in the Constitution of Malta and then, due to the interpretation of certain words, such as social partners, the LCA is excluded from such relevant and important bodies. It only entails a policy decision to include Local Councils.

The LCA represents not only the 68 Local Councils in Malta and Gozo but also represents the citizens that with their vote have elected the Mayors, Vice-Mayors and councilors to deliver initiatives in the interest of their communities.

### OPEN DAYS 2008



The Local Councils' Association is participating in the Open Days 2008, an annual event organised by the Committee of the Regions in October. The LCA will participate in the Investors' Cafe and a stand will be constructed under the theme: "Malta: The Smart Island". The stand will focus on information technology, the pharmaceutical cluster, foreign direct investment, cruise liners, tourism, heritage and local councils.

It is planned that a business meeting will be held on the 8th October 2008 whereby two leading IT companies from Malta will make a presentation of their products and services. The meeting will also be addressed by the Parliamentary Secretary Dr. Chris Said. The internationally renowned singer La Barokka will take part in the event.

This is the first time that the LCA is embarking on such an ambitious project. The LCA will be co-ordinating this initiative with the OPM, the Local Government Department and the Head of Malta Representation Office in Brussels. The LCA is also seeking the assistance of various entities in Malta for the supply of information and merchandising items.

### Participants in the OPEN DAYS 2008



Participation in the OPEN DAYS seminars and events is free of charge. Interested participants have to introduce their request(s) for participation online once the final programme will be made available on this page.

The OPEN DAYS 2008 are open to:

- | National, regional and local politicians
- | Members of the Committee of the Regions, the European Parliament and of the European Economic & Social Committee
- | Officials of European, national, regional and local administrations and experts in the field of managing and evaluating Cohesion Policy programmes
- | Business and banking sector managers and representatives of European and national business federations
- | Public and private business and banking representatives
- | Representatives of NGOs and civil society organisations
- | Representatives of European and national association of local and regional authorities
- | Journalists from European, national, regional and local media

#### Cohesion Instruments 2007 - 2013



The OPEN DAYS is aimed at EU and regional policy-makers, experts and representatives of banking, business and civil society groups. The seminars and workshops will focus on first experiences of implementing the 345 cohesion policy programmes running from 2007-2013, worth a total investment of about EUR 500 billion in EU and national funds.

The OPEN DAYS seminars and debates will focus on four themes:

- | Innovating regions: Promoting research, technological development and innovation;
- | Sustainable development: Regional responses to climate change;
- | Cooperation and networking: Exchange of best practice in regional development;
- | Looking forward: A European cohesion policy for tomorrow.

The European Investment Bank, BusinessEurope, the European employers' organisation, Siemens, General Electric, Philips, Veolia and the European Citizen Action Service will be among organisations represented at the OPEN DAYS "Investors Café", the event's exhibition and meeting area, hosted at the Committee of the Regions headquarters.

The French Prime Minister, François Fillon, will address the Opening Session at the Charlemagne Building on 6 October, alongside CoR President Luc Van den Brande and Regional Policy Commissioner Danuta Hübner. European Commission President José Manuel Barroso is also expected to participate in the ceremony. The Closing Session, which takes place in the European Parliament on 9 October, will include contributions from President Hans-Gert Pötering, French Secretary of State for European Affairs Jean-Pierre Jouyet, and CoR First Vice-President Michel Delebarre. Commission Vice-President Gunter Verheugen has also been invited.

A record 216 regions and cities from 32 countries have signed up as partners for the sixth annual OPEN DAYS, organised by the Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the European Commission's Regional Policy Directorate-General, with the support of the French Presidency of the EU and the European Parliament.

In addition to the events planned in Brussels, 32 countries will host 235 local OPEN DAYS events throughout the month of October, under the banner of "Europe in my region". In total, 26 Member States are represented among the OPEN

#### TRIM DELEGATION IN MALTA

The National Rural Development Agency, the foundation set up to assume the role of the Local Action Group in Malta is participating in an EU funded programme called TRIM. The partners are from Sardinia, Malta and Cyprus. The main objective of the project is to define a marketing plan in order to increase inland tourism, such as agro-tourism and the encouragement of artisans and crafts.



A 17-person delegation will be visiting Malta during the end of August in order to meet local operators in agro-tourism, crafts, agro-industry, wine industry, artisans and senior government officials.

The delegation will then visit Cyprus to do the same program as in Malta. The NRDA has already prepared all the appointments for the three day visit and we would like to thank all the operators, also members of the NRDA, who have

DAYS partners, along with Turkey, Croatia, Norway, Switzerland and – for the first time – Bosnia-Herzegovina and Iceland. France has registered the highest number of partners, 22, followed by Italy and Spain (19), the United Kingdom (18), and Poland (17). In addition, representatives from other countries, including China, Russia, Brazil and Serbia are expected to contribute to the event, along with international organisations.

accepted to meet the Sardenian delegation. The delegation in Malta will be led by Mr. Enrico Orru, the Project Manager from GAL Monte Linas in Guspini.

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