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MALTA

Local Councils' Association

MALTA

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PPCD SHOOTS DOWN LCA'S ERDF PROJECTS

The Managing Authority (PPCD) has shoot down three ERDF projects presented by the LCA and the Local Councils of Zebbug, St. Paul's Bay and San Lawrenz.

One of the projects related to the introduction of environment friendly transport systems in St. Paul's Bay and Zebbug, two localities that for different reasons require such a circular transport service. The project was based on CISCO's connected bus model and included wireless communications in order to give citizens about the arrival of the bus. The project would have also been a sustainable initiative to reduce emissions in conformity with the EU's objective to reduce emissions by 20% by 2020.

The second project related to the introduction of the bicycle hire service in Gozo as part of the Eco-Gozo strategy being driven by the Government. The

PERSEVERANCE

The LCA is in the process of finalising an agreement with the Parliamentary Secretary Dr. Chris Said on the part finance of a regular TV slot on TVM as from January 2010. The LCA had to refer to the Government following PBS's rejection to carry the programme through the funds available for community based programmes.

The TV slot will be carried out through co-operation with a private production house that has won a public procurement contract issued by the LCA in 2009.

The programme will serve as a communications platform for all Local Councils and the LCA and to mobilise public support in connection with initiatives being made by Local Councils in the interests of their community.

LCA's communications strategy approved in the end of 2008 envisaged this TV programme and now we know that perseverance pays. LCA hopes that Local Councils will come forward to participate in the slot in order to have another channel of mass communications.

The slot will be aired on PBS in the afternoon programme called "1205" and will run for about 15 minutes. The programme will include features on Government and public entities initiatives, work done by Local Councils, reports from the Congress and the Committee of the Regions, and the various issues dealt with by the LCA.

The LCA will be informing the Local Councils with details of this initiative and how it will be worked

project is based on the technology available in Europe where bicycles are hired by credit card services and are tracked by GPS technology.

out in detail. Co-operation with international bodies will also be sought in order to obtain TV material dealing with local governance.

COVENANT OF MAYORS

The LCA has organised a national seminar for the 18 Local Councils that have expressed written interest in becoming subscribers to the Covenant of Mayors, an EU initiative to reduce emissions by 20% by 2020. The LCA is a recognised Supporting Structure of the Commission through the Covenant of Mayors Office (CoMO). The seminar was held on Saturday 28th November 2009 at the Corinthia Palace Hotel.

Participants were addressed by Ing. Jonathan Scerri, Mr. Jimmy Magro and Dr. Karl Vella.

The seminar was opened by the President of the Association Mr. Michael Cohen who stated that now is the time to take the next steps in order to begin the process for the preparation of the Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) through the engagement of experts.

Mr. Jimmy Magro explained the role of the Supporting Structure and stated that Government must allocate funds to Local Councils in order to provide the required resources to be able to implement the obligations of the Covenant of Mayors. The EU Commission has directed member states to allocate 4% of the regional funds for this purpose. He also invited government to work with Local Councils in the implementation of the national strategy.

Ing. Jonathan Scerri made two presentations. The former explained the objectives of the Covenant of Mayors and also why Local Councils should be actively involved in local actions to reduce emissions. In the final presentation Mr. Scerri explained the SEAP and how Local Councils should make the way forward.

Dr. Karl Vella, Legal Advisor at the Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs spoke about the Government's efforts to support climate change initiatives and the National Strategy. He also claimed that Local Councils have an important role in the strategy and there is room for everyone to co-operate.

MAYORS' MEETING - 6 & 7 TH NOVEMBER 2009

The last Mayors' Meeting for 2009 was held on 6 & 7 th November 2009 at the Palace Hotel Sliema. Besides the speech by the President Mr. Michael Cohen, the meeting discussed modern waste management. The speakers represented GreenPak, Green MT

and WasteServe.

The Executive Secretary informed the participants about the Philoxenia Project and how Local Councils can identify local entrepreneurs to join the project.

The meeting discussed the setting up of the five regional committees through discussions based on the regional distribution of all Local Councils. The Presidents of each region made a report to the Plenary. These reports have been submitted to the Government.

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