



ASSOĊIAZZJONI KUNSILLI LOKALI  
MALTA

# Local Councils' Association

## MALTA

March 2010

### Covenant of Mayors

The Covenant of Mayors Office is organising a signing ceremony in Brussels on the 4th of May 2010. The event will also include specialised seminars and information sessions.

Through the assistance of the Supporting Structure - the Local Councils Association - Malta has 28 Local Councils registered with the CoMO. Many of these Local Councils have already engaged their expert to conduct the Sustainable Energy Action Plan.

The Local Councils' Association has urged the Government to provide EU finance in order to encourage Local Councils invest in renewable energy schemes within their communities.

The majority of the Mayors will be attending the event of the 4th May, 2010 and will be led by LCA President Mr. Michael Cohen.

### CURRENT CAMPAIGNS

#### Water Services Corporation

The LCA has been trying to negotiate the roads reinstatement agreement for more than three years. In the recent weeks some progress has been achieved, through the direct intervention of LCA President Mr. Michael Cohen. WSC has now agreed to pay the arrears to all Local Councils for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009. There is also a new draft agreement that will be discussed in the coming days.

#### Malta Environment & Planning Authority

The LCA had signed an agreement with MEPA way back in 2007 in order that Local Tribunals will offer their services for cases under environment legislation. The agreement stipulated that local tribunals had to be paid within one month. Since the agreement no payments were forthcoming from MEPA and the LCA issued a stop-operation directive so that MEPA is forced to respect the agreement of 2007. MEPA has now began to make its payments.

#### Reform of the Local Enforcement System

It is envisaged that during next week the LCA and the Government will further announce the reform of the Local Enforcement System. The goals of the reform are:

- Consolidate governance and sustainability
- Facilitate citizen compliance
- Give back to the local community
- Develop skilled and motivated wardens
- Leverage modern ICT platform

## **MED Programme - Philoxenia Project**

**The Third Steering Committee Meeting was held in Attard, Malta on the 22 and 23rd March 2010. During the meeting the partners evaluated the progress achieved so far and the next steps foreseen in the project plan. Greece and Malta partners have already issued the call for the expression of interest by entrepreneurs whom are being invited to set up shop in rural communities.**

**The meeting discussed the request for the new budget which is still pending approval by the MED Managing Authority. Some of the partners requested a final decision as this might otherwise put in peril the whole project. The External Evaluator of the project had very positive remarks and stated that partners are making good progress and with some better effort the project will return to be on schedule.**

**The LCA was represented by Mr. Jimmy Magro, Project Leader (LCA), Ms. Maureen Azzopardi, EU Projects Officer (LCA) and Mr. Saviour Baldacchino, the external consultant of the LCA.**



## **Sustainable Hydro Assessment and Groundwater Recharge Projects - SHARP**

Over 95% of the world's freshwater, excluding glaciers and ice caps, is found underground. Groundwater provides the steady, base flow of rivers and wetlands, maintaining this flow and keeping it free from pollution is vital for surface water ecosystems. Groundwater is also a crucial source of drinking water, supplying the water systems for three out of four EU citizens. In some countries groundwater extraction provides almost 100% of drinking water, therefore its protection is vital. Furthermore also European economies tap groundwater for industrial cooling and for agricultural irrigation.

In this context, SHARP focuses on the exchange of innovative technologies to protect groundwater resources for future generations by considering the climate change and the different geological and geographical conditions of regions involved.

Partners will exchange practical know-how and also determine know-how demands concerning SHARP's key contents: general groundwater management tools artificial groundwater recharge technologies, groundwater monitoring systems, strategic use of groundwater resources for drinking water, irrigation and industry, techniques to save water quality and quantity, drinking water safety plans, risk management tools and water balance models.

While some partners are well experienced in groundwater management and in techniques to save and improve the water quality and quantity, other partners are less experienced and in need of specific know-how for their current and future situation.

The kick-off meeting is being held in Graz, Austria between the 12 and 13th April, 2010. The LCA is partner in this project and work will commence in May of this year.

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