



ASSOĊJAZZJONI KUNSILLI LOKALI
MALTA

Local Councils' Association

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April 2010

Covenant of Mayors

The Local Councils' Association has encouraged local councils to attend the signing ceremony of the Covenant of Mayors being held in Brussels on the 4th May 2010. In fact no less than twenty Mayors will be attending this important event.

Many Local Councils have already begun working on the Sustainable Energy Action Plan that will delineate the actions to be taken at the local level to reduce emissions by 20% by 2020.

Over the past months, Local Councils have invested in Renewable Energy Sources to generate energy for their offices and there are several other

LCA Agenda:

12th May: Press conference together with Bank of Valletta plc to launch the Philoxenia BOV Package for micro-business. This is a break through for our relations with BOV through which the bank will make a special package of assistance for enterprises approved under the Philoxenia Project.

14 and 15th May: Mayors Meeting in Gozo that will discuss new initiatives between the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and the reform in Legal Notice 119 relating to fees and permits that may be issued by Local Councils.

19th May: One day conference together with European Consulting under the Leonardo Programme on the theme of the cycle of recycling. The conference will host local and foreign delegates.

May: a date is being set to sign the agreement between the LCA and the Water Services Corporation. The agreement covers the methodology and payments regarding the reinstatement of roads when works on the WSC's infrastructure are carried out in areas under the governance of Local Councils. This agreement will be of great benefit to all Local Councils in Malta and Gozo.

initiatives that have contributed to the reduction of emissions at the local level.

MED Programme - Philoxenia Project

Following the publication of the first call for the expression of interest to setup new micro-enterprises under the Philoxenia Project, the Local Councils' Association has received six applications that will be reviewed in the coming days. A meeting will be held with the applicants in order to move to the next step whereby the interested parties would be assisted to fill in their formal application form.

The Philoxenia Project offers a financial package of 4500euros to each approved project. This assistance has also been approved by the State Aid Monitoring Board in line with European Union laws on state aid.

Furthermore the approved projects will receive technical aid by the external consultant appointed for the project, and a special package from Bank of Valletta plc.

The Local Councils' Association has also prepared all the documents required to submit the half-yearly report to the Med Programme Managing Authority, always through the Lead Partner.

more.....EU Projects

ENESCOM

Intelligent Energy  **Europe**

ENESCOM intends to promote widespread information and dissemination activities targeting 14 different EU countries aiming at achieving the following main objectives:

- to increase the number of EU local communities engaged in the mitigation of climate change through the promotion and adhesion of the Covenant of Mayors' initiative;
- to develop capacity building in energy sustainability and the adoption of intelligent local sustainable energy policies (creation and implementation of SEAPs);
- to promote the integration and institutionalization of energy efficiency, saving and use of renewable energy sources (energy-efficient behaviours and lifestyles) within EU local communities, targeting all relevant stakeholders (public administration, businesses, citizens...)

SHARP



The first Steering Committee Meeting was held in Graz, Austria, on the 12th and 13th April 2010. During this meeting all the partners had the opportunity to further discuss the aims and objectives of the SHARP project.

During this meeting we also had the opportunity to visit two research centres found in Graz. During these two visits we had the opportunity to see their facilities as regards the ground water recharge system.

The LCA was represented by Mr. Jimmy Magro, Executive Secretary, and Ms. Maureen Azzopardi, EU Officer. The LCA has held a meeting with the PPCD (Malta Managing Authority) to discuss the work on this project.

EGOV4U is in the finalisation stage of having the agreement signed between the Lead Partner and the EU. This project deals with the diffusion of information on egov services as setting up new platforms for citizens to get online to interact with government agencies. Research has established that the use of egov services is a win-win situation for the service provider and the citizen and the LCA is supporting all measures to increase the use of egov services in Malta.

The Local Councils' Association encourages all Local Councils and other agencies to participate in these projects since there is a lot of knowhow transfer/exchange as well as Malta has its own good practices that can be shared with the foreign partners.

Local Councils' Association,
153, Main Street,
Balzan,
MALTA.

P: +356-21446428: F: +356-21446427

E-mail: lca@lca.org.mt
<http://www.lca.org.mt>

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Local Councils Association - 153, Main Street, Balzan, BZN06, Malta