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MALTA

Local Councils' Association

MALTA

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ENESCOM - INFORMATION OFFICES ESTABLISHED

The ENESCOM project is being carried out under the Intelligent Energy Europe programme and envisages the setting up of four information offices. These have been established in Qala and Victoria (Gozo) and Mellieha and Qormi (Malta). Staff from the respective local councils have been trained to provide information to citizens on energy schemes and also on how to reduce emissions through the use of renewable energy sources.

The LCA has now also supplied these offices with an information stand to be used for publicity and information dissemination through material received from the European Commission. The LCA has also printed a leaflet on the subject. Besides the four offices mentioned above, the information stand has also been erected at the offices of the LCA in Balzan, Malta.



Policy Development - Open Markets and Hawkers

In the last two decades, Malta has seen an ever growing number of self-employed persons. These are micro-businesses that with their own capital and effort try to provide services to the Maltese consumers. A good number of these self-employed persons are engaged in retail trade, selling clothes, shoes, household goods, detergents, food, vegetables and fruits, cleaning materials, spare parts, etc.

Malta is renowned for its Valletta Open Market that now had to make way for the new bus terminus. But in the last decades have flourished like mushrooms to other localities in Malta and Gozo. Hence the Government is working on a reform plan. Besides offering good prices to the consumers, they also create some inconveniences as they block traffic, garages, and make it harder for an ambulance to pass through in case of an emergency.

As part of its commitment to build sustainable communities, the Local Councils' Association is organising two meeting for Local Councils so that they can discuss the policy reform together with the Parliamentary Secretary Dr. Jason Azzopardi. These meetings have been scheduled as follows:

Malta - Thursday 3rd October between 4.00 and 6.00pm

Gozo - Friday 18th October between 10.00 a.m. and noon.

Hosting of German Students

The Local Councils' Association has hosted for a period of five weeks two German students: **Ms. Anja Wysocki** and **Ms. Miriam Reichelt**. During their assignment in Malta they have worked for three weeks at the LCA and then one week at the St. Julains Local Council, so that they can also experience how a local council works in Malta.

During their stay at the LCA they took part in discussions held on the EGOV4U project and visited a number of e-clubs that are co-operating with the LCA, carried out research on social enterprises and worked on the newly installed Electronic Document Management System. Through the EDMS the LCA has transferred the Minutes of the Executive Committee and a large number of paper cuttings files into searchable PDF's. The LCA staff will now continue working on the EDMS.

We are very grateful for the work carried out by Anja and Miriam, who also presented us with two German dishes for lunch on their last day at our office. Thank you and good luck.

Meetings

SIBIT: The LCA and MTA met officials from the Lead Partner of the SIBIT project during their visit in Malta on 2nd September 2011. The discussions focused on the implementation plan of the project.

PHILOXENIA: The fifth Steering Committee meeting of the Philoxenia Project

has been held in Lithotopos, Greece. During the meeting the partners discussed the progress of the project and the workings for the last phase, since the project will come to an end in March 2012. On its part the LCA has selected the 18 enterprises that will benefit from a €4500 grant.

PPCD: Officials from the Territorial Co-operation Unit have carried out on-site audits on the Losamedchem, SHARP and Philoxenia projects. The LCA submitted all the required documentation and no weaknesses were found in our project management system.

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