



No Skills to Waste: Diversity Makes the Difference

Newsletter

Issue no 4, October 2007



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KMOP newsletter, published tri-monthly, contains news on a variety of issues and regions where we are active, including relevant international developments.

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KMOP News

Key Highlights

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KMOP assists victims of summer wildfires

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General News

Did you know that...

The European Development Days will be held in Lisbon on 7-9 November, titled *Climate Change and Development Cooperation?*

KMOP News

Key Highlights

Humanitarian Aid

In response to the devastating wildfires that swept the Greek countryside in the late summer, KMOP provided aid, constituting mainly clothes and food, to areas in the Peloponnese, southern Greece, that were severely affected by the disaster. The operation was undertaken in early September, enlisting the assistance of church officials in distributing the aid items.

Mental Health

The American Women's Organisation of Greece (AWOG) has invited patients of the three KMOP Group Houses for the mentally ill, and its Day Care Centre for those with less severe mental handicaps, to participate in its annual Christmas bazaar. The patients are preparing decorated handicraft items, as well as traditional sweets to be sold at the well-attended and high-profiled event. It will be the first time that KMOP is represented at this bazaar that is held on 18 November. The proceeds will be used for various activities organized for the patients, such as excursions and study visits to sites and cultural locations of their choice.

Employability

Through its wide range of projects advancing integrated interventions for vulnerable population groups, KMOP has established an *Institute for Employability*, known by its Greek acronym INAP. This will operate in connection with many KMOP activities, which also links it up with the Greek State Employment Agency (OAED). The website of INAP will

soon be online, presenting information directed at both jobseekers and employers. Apart from displaying CVs and job adverts, the site will also feature guidance on how to write a CV and perform well at interviews, as well as information about vocational training programs. What sets the Institute apart from other entities in the employment services industry, is its focus on socially disadvantaged persons. INAP seeks to find sustainable solutions for the underprivileged, who have been unable to access the job market.

Summary of Progress

Youth & Education / Culture

The mask museum that KMOP established in late 2006 has rapidly expanded, and currently features over 100 masks, representing a large number of cultures from over 30 countries and several continents. Among the most valuable items are exceptionally rare carved wooden masks from Cameroon in the heart of Africa, exquisite South Korean handmade originals decorated in incredible detail, and extremely fascinating pieces from Ecuador with a clear South American touch. While the search for further masks is ongoing with undiminished energy, the venue is currently being readied to receive visitors and to be used in various KMOP programmes for educational and cultural purposes. Photos of the varied and already impressive collection will soon be made available on the KMOP website (www.kmop.gr).

Employability / Entrepreneurship

A project targeting women in building employability and entrepreneurial skills is coming to a close after running for two intensive years. A closing conference will be held on 18-19 December where the final results will be announced. The project has had a major impact on a large majority of the over 2000 underprivileged beneficiaries selected. The women participating in the project have become significantly empowered and in substantial numbers proceeded to create their own businesses.

Social Inclusion

KMOP's nationwide counselling programme that promotes equal opportunities for disadvantaged population groups is expanding further. A number of study days will be organised in November in Korinthos, Tripoli and Kalamata, in order to inform local people of the programme and identify additional vulnerable persons to join the programme, assisting them to enter an increasingly competitive Greek labour market.

Upcoming Events

Within the framework of the *Europe for Citizens Programme: Promotion of Active European Citizenship*, KMOP is taking part in a transnational European consortium, examining the concept of citizenship. Titled "Families speak up for active European citizenship", KMOP will arrange a study day in Athens on 1 November, examining the topic of the role of men in the family. Representatives from relevant institutions will participate in expert panels, together with officials from national public institutions concerned, as well as staff of family-oriented organisations from around the country. This approach ensures coverage of the European aspects on the role of men in the family, and allow for comparisons on how the issue is tackled in Greece in relation to the EU level.