



No Skills to Waste: Diversity Makes the Difference

Newsletter

Issue no 6, May 2008



News Items

[KMOP News](#)

[Key Highlights](#)

[Summary of Progress](#)

[General News](#)



Contact Information

Tel & Fax:

+30 210 623 45 50-2

+30 210 623 45 53

E-mail:

kmop@kmop.gr

Website:

www.kmop.gr

Postal Address:

Sourpi 4

145 62 Kifissia Greece



Subscribe/

Unsubscribe

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

To subscribe or unsubscribe [click here](#).

KMOP News

Key Highlights

Social Inclusion

Involvement in PROGRESS programme

Youth & Education

Study visit to Cyprus for Down Syndrome youth

Corporate Social Responsibility

Production and publication of CSR manual

Summary of Progress

Youth & Education/Mental Health

European project *PoD* gathers momentum

Social Inclusion/Employability

Extension to nation-wide counselling project

Citizenship

Closure of European project

General News

World Refugee Day marked on 20 June

New Call for Proposals published within PROGRESS programme

Did you know that...

The upcoming French presidency of the EU will carry a focus on European citizenship, adopting a citizens-oriented approach.

KMOP News

Key Highlights

Social Inclusion

KMOP is actively involved in the EC PROGRESS programme, through its association with the Belgian COFACE (Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union), exploring issues relating to the fight against poverty and social exclusion. Participating in several working groups, KMOP contributes to the continuous work of preparing reports, draft recommendations and position papers that address areas of key relevance to families in Europe. These include social policies, education and new information technologies, inclusive policies for the disabled, and consumer protection and public health policies.

Youth & Education

As part of a multilateral project within the EC Youth in Action programme, KMOP is arranging for a group of special needs youth to go to Cyprus for a week of diverse creative arts therapies. The Greek group of young persons with Down Syndrome will join Italian, Spanish and Cypriot counterparts in innovative therapeutic activities including music, arts, drama and yoga, under the leadership of the Cypriot Mersinia Art Centre. The educational visit will also include recreational games and excursions to local places of interest.

Corporate Social Responsibility

A project dealing with Corporate Social Responsibility, jointly financed by the Greek Ministry of Employment and the European Social Fund and carried out on the national level has

resulted in the publication of a guide. With particular references to developments on central European levels, highlighting the EC emphasis on CSR as an important element of its *Growth and Jobs Strategy*, the publication charts the advance of CSR and explores key approaches to the issue. The guide will be distributed widely to enterprises, learning institutions and public entities, with a view to sensitize the Greek environment to this subject matter of growing international importance.

Summary of Progress

Youth & Education/Mental Health

The transnational Leonardo da Vinci project titled *Professional Training of Parents of Children with Down Syndrome (PoD)* – is moving into a new phase. As the needs of families of persons with Down Syndrome have now been thoroughly analysed, taking into account the different fields of intervention, such as health, education, work and social aspects, the specialized needs experienced by these family members have become clear. The project partners are now moving to the design and validation of a training tool that will target persons with Down Syndrome at different stages in their lives and, crucially, complement the direct attention that families receive from professionals. For more information about ongoing progress of the project, please visit <http://podproject.blogspot.com/>

Citizenship

Within the *Europe for Citizens programme*, KMOP has participated in the transnational project "Families speak up for active European citizenship". The project examined citizens' involvement in public life and affairs, beyond the national arena, seen from the family perspective. At the concluding conference held in Brussels in early June, the attendance of various EU officials brought forward a dialogue between European citizens and the institutions of the EU. The trickle-down effect of this, through the project partners that all represent the grass roots, is an empowering of ordinary citizens with regard to EU policies and their impact.

Social Inclusion/Employability

The promotion of equal opportunities for disadvantaged societal groups is continuing throughout 2008, through an expansion of KMOP's nation-wide support services project. Featuring a multitude of counselling tools, the project aims at developing employability skills in order to facilitate entry into the increasingly competitive Greek labour market. The close cooperation with the state employment agency OAED on regional and local levels ensures better integration of beneficiaries in the various state-sanctioned programmes offered that are linked to the preparatory action of counselling.

General News

World Refugee Day was celebrated in Greece with many awareness-raising activities, reflected worldwide, including light shows, photography exhibitions, film festivals, lectures, panel discussions, food bazaars, concerts and sports competitions. With *protection* being this year's global theme for World Refugee Day, the events were aimed at raising money and sensitizing people on the issue of the vulnerability of uprooted people.

Long-term perspectives for better social conditions in the European Union is a new call launched by the DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities to promote better social conditions in the EU. Financed actions include the commissioning of research, experts' workshops, citizen's panels or focus groups, conferences and communication activities. KMOP is looking for project partners for this Call. The deadline for submitting proposals is 19 August 2008.