



No Skills to Waste: Diversity Makes the Difference

Newsletter

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Upcoming Event

World Down Syndrome Day conference in Athens

General News

New Calls for Proposals published within several key programmes; DAPHNE III, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship, Health, and AAL



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

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Did you know that...

2009 is the *European Year of Creativity and Innovation*, with its key message of creativity and innovation contributing to economic prosperity as well as to social and individual wellbeing

KMOP News

Key Highlights

Elderly

HOPE - Smart Home for Elderly People is a new project under the recently established European *Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme*, which KMOP will implement as part of a Mediterranean consortium. Set within the framework of ICT based solutions for the management of chronic conditions of elderly people, the project will focus on those with Alzheimer's Disease. HOPE aims to develop an innovative intelligent system that will collect and analyse data drawn from various resources in order to operate a totally controlled digital environment for homes with people suffering from AD. The end product will be a self-operated, self-adjusted system that will increase safety, provide increased convenience to the users, and create better economies of scale. As an end-user organisation, KMOP will contribute in user involvement activities.

Youth & Education / Culture

The first visit of primary school children to KMOP Mask Museum took place in February 2009. The expanding museum, featuring masks from nearly 40 countries, through its passionate staff, tell stories about divergent cultures in far away lands and ancient times, and the children's enthusiasm was palpable. While still in small numbers and by invitation only, KMOP expects to increase the amount and frequency of visitors to the museum, in line with its intention to use the venue for educational and cultural purposes in its various ongoing projects and programmes. Select photos from the collection are

available on the KMOP website (www.kmop.gr).

Summary of Progress

Mental Health/Social Inclusion

The *Professional Training of Parents of Children with Down Syndrome project, PoD*, has now reached its pilot phase. At this point in the project cycle, the training tool has been developed, constituting a DVD and accompanying booklet, outlining how relatives, volunteers, as well as professionals should approach the various stages persons with Down Syndrome go through. The next phase of the project is to test the tool before it goes to the production phase. Participating countries in the partnership will carry out an experimental application of this learning tool, involving 40 professionals and 40 relatives of persons with Down Syndrome, in order to test its validity and relevance, providing opportunities for constructive feedback before the final tool is produced.

Public Health

The ongoing project under the 7th Framework Programme related to public health and the nutritional information available to consumers on products sold within wider Europe is progressing. KMOP compiled research on a variety of products sold on the Greek market, and examined how nutritional information on food labels affect dietary choices among Greek people and how their food-related habits are the target of public health awareness campaigns. Similar information has been gathered in EU-27, with the aim to develop guidelines

for the use of nutrition information on food labels for EU policy, as well as the food industry.

Education

Adult education is in the spotlight in a 5-country European collaboration that focuses on developing a training programme on parental education for volunteers who provide support to parents during the upbringing of their children. Partners in the *CAFÉ* project currently put the final touch to the training course, which will be targeting those who advise and assist parents on issues of parenting. The training course will include issues such as the political and social environment of the family; family trends in Europe (EU 27) and intergenerational issues; expectations of parents; relations between parents and children concerning rights;

intercultural approaches. The preparatory booklet describing the themes and bibliography used will be developed into a book towards the end of the project.

Upcoming Event

The Greek Down Syndrome Association Iliaxtida will hold a conference on the 21 March to mark the World Down Syndrome Day 2009. Titled “Building the Future with Optimism”, the one-day conference will focus on the need to inform and educate parents of children with DS, as well as professionals. The two main themes of the conference are early intervention and management of behaviour and emotional growth.

General News

European Institutions

The *DAPHNE III* programme to prevent and combat violence against children, young people and women, and to protect victims and groups at risk, has issued a new call for proposals for specific transnational projects, with a deadline 22 April. The same deadline has been set for the new call for proposals within the *Fundamental Rights and Citizenship*. Moreover, *Programme of Community action in the field of Health* also features an open call for proposals,

with last day of submission of proposals set for 20 May. The final call for proposals that currently interests KMOP is the *Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme*, AAL, which focuses on ICT based solutions for the advancement of social interaction for elderly people. The closure date for the AAL Call is 5 May. KMOP seeks partners for potential applications responding to the above calls. All programme details can be found at our website (www.kmop.gr).