



*No Skills to Waste: Diversity Makes the Difference*

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## Newsletter

Issue no 9, September 2009

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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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## KMOP News

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'Paraolympics' at KMOP Group Houses

Drama therapy at KMOP Day Care Centre

## General News

New Calls for Proposals

### *Did you know that...*

*The current EU presidency, held by Sweden, promotes four overarching themes; climate change, jobs/growth/competition, a more open and secure Europe, and the EU's role as a global actor.*

## KMOP News

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### Key Highlights

#### Elderly

Starting in September, *AGNES: Ageing in a Networked Society* is a new project funded by the recently established Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme. Set within the framework of ICT-based solutions for the management of chronic conditions of elderly people, AGNES will focus on ageing in a society increasingly dependent on advanced information and communication technologies. The consortium includes partners in five countries, who will jointly develop a platform for creating and maintaining the social network of the elderly. As an end-user organisation, KMOP will contribute in user involvement activities.

#### VET

KMOP is about to begin working on a new multilateral project that goes under the name *ASK: Assessing and evaluating non-formal or informal acquired Skills in vocational training*. With the purpose to obtain a general overview of the implementation of methods and instruments for assessing non-formal skills in a variety of national contexts, the project aims to examine differences and similarities between select European countries concerning methods on evaluating such skills.

#### Disability

Under the Lifelong Learning programme, another new project is about to start. *DAEL: Disabled Adults in Experimental Learning Programme* aims to promote adult learning for marginalised and disadvantaged citizens. In this two-year initiative,

disabled adults will be empowered through the building of their professional skills, facilitating their inclusion into the labour market, and to increase and improve strategies of training, evaluation and recognition of skills.

### Summary of Progress

#### Mental Health

Our truly innovative PoD project *Professional Training of Parents of Children with Down Syndrome*, has reached its concluding stage. The two years of intensive European collaboration has resulted in a comprehensive training tool meant to assist relatives, volunteer workers and professionals alike in supporting a person with Down Syndrome through life. Constituting a DVD, a CD and an accompanying booklet, the tool has been taken through a pilot phase, testing its validity and relevance with target groups, where it scored top marks from the panels in all four participating countries (Greece, Spain, Romania and Italy). Worldwide dissemination of the tool has begun, which has included diverse countries such as South Africa, Japan and the USA. The satisfaction is such that a follow-up project will be considered.

#### Education

Our European project that seeks to develop a training programme on parental education, providing support in childrearing, is moving into its second year. *CAFÉ, Clefs d'Accompagnement des Familles en Europe*, (or 'Keys for Supporting Families in Europe'), has concluded its European-level training sessions for the national trainees, who will go on to

train those in direct contact with parents; advising and assisting on issues of parenting. Based on the French-led training, KMOP has begun the process of designing its own programme for implementation in Greece.

### Social Inclusion

With the start of the new school year in Greece, KMOP's long-running school-drop-out prevention programme in the deprived Municipality of Perama, Greater Athens, resumes its activities. It particularly targets those junior high school students who stand out by their low academic record and lack of interest in classes - at risk of becoming early school leavers. Our accompanying services, which include individual and group therapy by our expert staff (social workers and psychologists), provide vocational orientation and guidance, as well as recreational activities and cultural events. In addition, our Math and Greek Language teachers will set up the Remedial Teaching Classes, taking into account the individual needs of each student. Moreover, for the second consecutive year, our students will attend music classes by a specialized

music teacher, with the aim of presenting a musical performance at the end of the school year. Our social service unit, as a final component in our programme, will continue to function in providing services to vulnerable persons from particularly disadvantaged social groups.

### **Past Events**

The residents of the two KMOP Group Houses for the mentally ill in the Kapandriti area, Greater Athens, competed in a "Paraolympics" games during the summer. The two-dozen participants put their best efforts into basketball, dart and egg-carrying. At the conclusion of the games, all participants received medals and cups marking their achievements.

Meanwhile, at the KMOP Day Care Centre for the mentally ill in central Athens, the theatre play *The Magic Shoes* was performed. After months of practice, patients performed the play produced by Damis Aptosoglou, a graduate of the Athens Drama-Therapy Centre AION, in front of an enthusiastic audience.

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## General News

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KMOP seeks partners for potential applications responding to the below calls. All programme details can be found at our website ([www.kmop.gr](http://www.kmop.gr)).

***ENPI Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme:*** promotes socio-economic development and the territorial strengthening of the Mediterranean basin. Deadline 20 October.

***Europe for Citizens*** supports projects involving civil society organisations. Deadline 15 October.

***IPA - Women in the labour market*** aims to improve the situation of

disadvantaged women through increasing their employability. Deadline: 30 November.

***Youth in Action programme - Action 4.6*** aims to develop partnerships to enhance long-term actions in the field of non-formal learning and youth. Deadline: 1 December.

***FP7 Socio economic Sciences & Humanities*** finances Collaborative small/medium scale research projects. Deadline: 2 February.

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