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Promotion of Integration
in the planning and provision of Social Services
within local authorities through Municipal staff vocational training

Athens, 21/12/2012

Dear Sir / Madam

Social services represent an important part of welfare provision in Europe. The development processes in the EU have influenced the public welfare systems of each member state; even more so, the latter have been asked to explore and improve quality, efficiency and effectiveness of their social service systems.

Therefore, these services have been subject to widespread reform and modernisation over the past few decades, setting the policy focus on: costs, more coordinated provision, and responsiveness to users' needs.

In this perspective special attention has been given to the prospect of integrating these services based on the recognition that separate services are not always in the best interest of their users.

Knowing your interest / professional involvement in Local Administration/ Social Policy issues we would like to inform you that a transnational project entitled **"Promotion of Integration in the Planning and Provision of Social Services within Local Authorities through municipal staff vocational training- A Lever for Local Development"** within the framework of the Lifelong Learning Programme **Leonardo Da Vinci-** Subprogramme Transfer of Innovation, has been launched with a two years implementation period.

Coordinator of this project is the **Hellenic Agency for Local Development and Local Government (EETAA)**, the established scientific and technical consultant of Local Authorities in Greece, and partners are: the **University of Reims** in France, **the Northern Health and Social Care Trust** in the UK, the **Municipality of Alytus** in Lithuania, the **Municipality of Agia Varvara**, the **E-Trikala** and the **European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation "Amphictyony"**, all based in Greece.

The main goal of this project is the accomplishment of an **integrated** functional system in various social services which are under the responsibility and the auspices of Local Authorities.

Based on the results of the CARMEN project which stressed the lack of training in integration issues, the target of this project is to design a programme of professional training (training of trainers, production of educational material, training per se) for employees of municipal authorities who work in Departments or Sections or even legal entities responsible for the planning and implementation of social care services.

The training offered is envisaged as standard, conventional training for some employees of the partner municipalities and distant-learning for employees in local authorities throughout Europe.

The e-course will be running through EETAA's training platform from October 2013 to June 2014.

The actual aim is to create a model training program in this field, which, following necessary adjustments, could be potentially used by other local authorities.

It is evident that the more widespread it becomes, the more successful the project will be. The notion of integration can only be applied in wider entities and in large scale: In a time when a deep crisis threatens Europe, when the social welfare state recedes constantly, the need for an affirmative answer as to how the social welfare state should function through local administration and local societies' organizations is more pressing than ever. Therefore we are asking for active participation and constructive feedback on behalf of your authority.

If you are interested in the project's activities and wish to receive more information about it you can contact us through our contact persons:

▪ Mrs Bellou Valentina, EETAA, Coordinator Project Manager, vbel@eetaa.gr

▪ Mrs Kamara Aphrodite, EGTC Amphictyony, Responsible for Dissemination Activities, amfiktio@otenet.gr

Very shortly the project's website will be at your disposal.

We are looking forward to your response and therefore thank you very much in advance.

Best Regards

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