



## The European Learning Network – What is next?

After a call for partners sent two months ago to evaluate the needs and the expectations of a future wider European Learning Network (LNet), the feedback has been very positive. LNet could be the European platform focusing on enterprise alongside social inclusion in deprived urban areas, and would give the European institutions a solid practical input on the enterprise gap and the positive solutions given by a wide range of practitioners to the economic potential, largely untapped, in disadvantaged neighbourhoods. The interest is widespread and covers the whole European territory, as well as a vast range of organisations, including economic development agencies, local authorities, private companies, or small agencies delivering specific projects on social enterprise, entrepreneurship or innovation in deprived urban areas. The LNet project is also very well supported by DG Regio and DG Enterprise, and fits in the next programming period priorities. Indeed, given the strong focus afforded to the Lisbon agenda, aiming to encourage enterprise and innovation, and the positive steps taken by the European Commission on urban sustainable development, the partners are now considering extending the network after the end of the current funding in February 2007.



Initial discussions have already taken place with DG Regio, and the future thematic urban framework envisaged by the European Commission in the new Objective 3, on territorial cooperation, seems to be the most appropriate. The structure of the network would comprise the core members and a wider group of associates, who would work on specific issues in a more flexible way. An associate membership will soon be put into place to prepare the next LNet phase, which would start in 2007.

Welcome to the fifth European Learning Network (LNet) newsletter. The Network partners – Amsterdam, Hamburg, London, Milan and Prague – are actively developing and implementing policies to promote enterprise in deprived urban neighbourhoods. Through LNet the cities will develop common approaches to realising the economic and social potential of deprived urban areas and practical tools to support enterprise in these areas.

LNet is now entering its second year of implementation, and the work carried out by all the partners is impressive. In their efforts to engage economic development practitioners from five different European cities to work on promoting enterprise in deprived urban areas, the seven partners have already managed to finalise two of the three final outputs they will submit to the European Commission at the end of February 2007. These are two toolkits, focusing on new activities promoting regeneration in deprived urban areas through, respectively, social enterprise and innovation. Screening the best examples in their own cities, London, Milan, Hamburg, Prague and Amsterdam partners have also managed to collect relevant case studies, which have been fully scrutinised under the spectrum of a thorough methodology, including a specific case study template and a peer-review process. LNet partners are also working on the existing EU and national policies and funding streams supporting social enterprise, innovation and entrepreneurship in deprived urban areas. The data analysed and produced is being locally disseminated in each of the cities, and at European platforms, such as NTERREG conferences or at the major Urban Futures Conference in Stockholm next May, where LNet will run a workshop.

## News from LNet Partners

Expo Capitale Umano e Innovazione  
Milan, 15-18 March 2006



Organised in cooperation with the national Research Council, Ministry of Education, University and Research and Lombardy Regional Institute, the fair sees as its primary objective to uncover this reservoir of potential by stimulating exchange between the worlds of university research and business. It is an exhibition offering a comprehensive picture of the scheme and opportunities available for innovators and foster a broader understanding of the scope, methods and foundations of innovation. The Education and Jobs Exhibition brings together for the first time, in a single trade fair all those from the worlds of school, university, vocational training, research, and employment who are professionally engaged in furthering the educational career of the individual. For more information

[www.expocapitaleumano.com](http://www.expocapitaleumano.com)

### Centre for transfer of technologies (CeTT) – a new project of the Technology Centre AS CR, Prague

CeTT is a project, financed from a grant scheme of the Single Programming Document for Objective 3. The aim of the project, initiated on March 1, 2006, is to promote introducing new technologies and realization of research outcomes, important for the development of Czech economy and competitiveness. A significant activity within the project will be the creation of an educational system for companies management, students, PhD students and young researchers in the fields of transfer of R&D outcomes into practice, intellectual property rights and innovative entrepreneurship. Apart from the Technology Centre AS CR, the project will be operated by the Centre of Common Activities AS CR, Industrial Property Office, Institute of Chemical Technology, University of Economics and the companies "CKD Nové Energo" and "Zentiva". <http://www.tc.cz>

www.thelearningnetwork.net

### Seminar on entrepreneurship for migrants in Hamburg

On the 16th February 2006, the thematic seminar "The role of entrepreneurship as element of economic integration" was held at TuTech (Hamburg), examining mechanisms of support to entrepreneurs with a migrant background. This specialist seminar – organised in the context of the INTERREG III C project City to City – gathered about 45 delegates from 7 European countries, working in the field of providing support to migrants in deprived urban areas. The Hamburg LNet team participated in this event with an LNet stand and a Case Study presentation by Metin Harmanci, Unternehmer ohne Grenzen e.V., on promoting the development of deprived urban areas by supporting migrant entrepreneurship.

During the seminar, a great diversity of interventions focused on current available systems of supporting migrant entrepreneurship and promoting social inclusion:



- **Ethnic Economy – a Concept for Sustainable Neighbourhood Development** - Metin Harmanci (Unternehmer ohne Grenzen e.V., Hamburg)
- **Migrant Workers in the East of England** - Kate McFarlane (East of England Development Agency)
- **Integration of Daugavpils Ethnic Societies into Labour Market** - Irina Gorkina (Daugavpils City Council, Daugavpils)
- **Microcredit and Immigrant Entrepreneurship in Europe** - Miriam Guzy (European Microfinance Network, Paris)
- **Business Incubators and Promotion of Enterprising Projects** - Maria Martinez Valls (Agent of Local Development of the Councilorship of Employment and Promotion of Enterprising Projects, Valencia)
- **Experiences from the London Borough of Ealing** - Marianne Downie (Southall Regeneration Partnership, London)
- **Opportunities for Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurs** - Dr. Albrecht Mullinger (EC - Enterprise and Industry DG, Brussels)

The seminar was supplemented by a small exhibition of participating organisation and relevant INTERREG projects, encouraging networking and achieving synergy between projects and organisations dealing with social issues. A documentation of the event is in preparation and can be obtained via e-mail [LNet@tutech.de](mailto:LNet@tutech.de)



**BIC La Fucina s.c.r.l** is a resource center for SMEs created in 1996 by the North Milan development Agency with the support of EU to promote local entrepreneurs, with a particular focus on the North Milan area. In order to improve the quality of its services to SMEs, an interactive online platform was created, where member companies can receive services and information from BIC La Fucina on project of innovation, internationalization, finance and business planning. BIConline is also a Virtual Business Community with more than 560 member companies. [www.bicafucina.it](http://www.bicafucina.it) / [www.biconline.it](http://www.biconline.it)

## DOM – House of Open Opportunities, Prague

The DOM Civic Association, non-profit non-governmental organization, was founded in 1997 with the aim of developing a wide offer of activities focusing on young people in need. First of all young people who happened to lose safe family as well as social background. The reasons why it happens differ: some youngsters have never lived in families – they were brought up in institutions and after reaching the age of 18 they went to nowhere. Some youngsters have lived in very dysfunctional families and suffer from limited education and lack of basic social skills. The DOM provides wide range of services, which help these youngsters to catch up with the existing gap and integrate in the society.

# DOM

One of the DOM activities, the DOM JOB Programme, is an ongoing multi-purpose activity, which on the one hand combines aspects of educational programme focussing on working skills and integration of the client to the labour community. On the other hand it is based on a real business framework: the clients – workers produce a quality original hand made (wooden and wicker) products, they sell them in shops owned by DOM and outside markets and make real money. Besides that, they gain basic computer skills and understanding of budgeting. DOM JOB also offers to its clients job search consultancy, intermediation of training programmes in common enterprises, etc. It has been functioning since 1999. <http://www.dom-os.cz>

### Creative Industries portal in Milan

The Province of Milan and the Chamber of Commerce have set up a portal for creative enterprises, aimed at creating a web-space for the most interesting focal points of Milanese creativity, to assist this type of business and to be a driving force for local development. The heart of the portal is the on-line community of creative Milanese enterprises.

imprese creative



This is a virtual space where different organisations can make themselves and their products known to others, and where the latest developments can be found, creating a cultural climate favourable to creativity. The portal acts as a means of generating profitable synergies and lively collaboration, giving added value to the ability of the organisations to “produce” creativity. It is a meeting place and point of comparison for entrepreneurs from within the community, with pages dedicated to companies, thematic blogs which allow them to express their own creative vision and to interact with others, and sections devoted to events, appointments and opportunities. Through the portal, the business community can plan and achieve dialogue with institutions, try out innovative solutions, and nurture new creativity in the Milanese area. [www.impresecreative.it](http://www.impresecreative.it)

### Enterprising Britain 2006 – Competition to find London’s most enterprising place

Part of a nationwide competition to recognise and reward enterprise activity, Mayor Ken Livingstone's London Development Agency is looking for the business or area that best demonstrates London's entrepreneurial spirit. Run by the Department for Trade and Industry's Small Business Service, in partnership with the Regional Development Agencies and Devolved Administrations, Enterprising Britain 2006 aims to identify enterprise champions: places that have created jobs, brought communities together, and made a real difference to local businesses and local people. The competition will be judged by a panel of business experts and the overall national winner will represent the UK at the European Enterprise Awards in 2006. The winner of the regional heat will go forward to compete in the national finals of Enterprising Britain 2006, where the overall UK winner will be selected. Entries for the London regional competition must be received by Friday 7 April. [www.sbs.gov.uk/enterprisingbritain](http://www.sbs.gov.uk/enterprisingbritain).

### “City of Cities” project, Milan

“La Città di Città” (“The city of cities”) is a strategic project, promoted by the Province of Milan, to improve the habitability of the whole provincial area – known at international level as Milan Metropolitan Region – and give a spur to competitiveness and territorial governance. The project represents an innovative way of strategic planning that aims at producing a shared vision on economic development, habitability and social cohesion; at networking actions and policies (existent or in definition); at promoting new ideas and projects that could be implemented by the Province itself, by Municipalities and by other economic, social and institutional players. “La Città di Città” is an opportunity to face, with a metropolitan and integrated governance approach, a mix of crucial issues: the wide-spread infrastructuring of the territories; innovation, training and research; the re-planning of productive, consumption and work spaces; the design of open-spaces; the sustainable mobility; the housing, the social and cultural services; the innovation in public administrations and the inter-institutional cooperation. The project will kick off officially with the international meeting “The city of cities: a strategic projects for the Milan Urban region”, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February in Milan. The meeting foresees interventions from OECD and from the Universities of Barcelona, Dortmund, Cambridge, Lovanio (Belgium), Leicester (UK). All information available on [www.cittadicitta.it](http://www.cittadicitta.it)

## Diary of events

### Second dissemination seminar Brussels, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2006

This one-day event will be an opportunity to disseminate and publicise the network to a wider audience, and to discuss the LNet method of exchanging information and best practice. Both Commission and INTERREG speakers will talk about the policy context and funding opportunities for the future. The afternoon will be dedicated to discussing the future of the network and the possibilities of associate membership.

### Third LNet workshop on entrepreneurship Amsterdam, June 2006

The third and final LNet thematic workshop will focus on entrepreneurship and will be developed by the Amsterdam and Prague partners. Scheduled to take place in Amsterdam at the end of June, the two-day event will consist of a public conference and presentations of case studies by the partner organisations, as well as a study visit to relevant local development project sites in the Amsterdam area.

### Closing conference London, November 2006

The final LNet event will take place in London at the end of the year. Project partners, guest academics and economic development practitioners from across Europe will have the opportunity to assess what has been accomplished by the project and the lessons drawn from the partner cities. The event will also be an opportunity to look at the next steps the network will take, together with new members and partners, in looking at regeneration issues in urban deprived areas.

Please visit our website:  
[www.thelearningnetwork.net](http://www.thelearningnetwork.net)



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