

HIGHLIGHTS

PAGE 2

WHAT'S NEW IN BRUSSELS

The web site of the Zlin Region in Brussels provides a new service for the young people in the Region: free direct hyperlink to Europocket TV!

PAGE 3

FOCUS ON NEW EU PROGRAMMES

The European Commission has approved the Rural Development Programme for Czech Republic 2007-2013. A total envelope of € 3.615 million will be devoted to initiatives in the agri-food and rural development sectors.

PAGE 5

SHORTS FROM BRUSSELS

The Zlin Region in Brussels was present at the Trans European Networks workshop in Brussels.

The European Commission approves the Czech aids to the railway sector and then publishes a guide for the Structural Funds 2007-13 in the urban areas.

Don't forget to have a look at our review of the Calls for proposals published by the EC.

Editorial

Mattia Crosetto

Dear readers,

the implementation of the Structural Funds 2007-13 has not yet started in the Czech Republic and here in Brussels we are already beginning to think about what will come after 2013!

In fact, even if the negotiations for the approval of the Operational Programmes for the Structural Funds are still on the way, with some good progress by the way, the European Commission and the EU Member States are now wondering about the future of the Cohesion Policy.

We know that after 2013 the Structural Funds will be probably different from their actual version, but we still don't have any idea on what they will look like. This is the reason why we have to start working on so as to defend the possibility that our disadvantaged area can continue to be supported by the European funding.

Here in Brussels, we have taken the initiative of proposing to our partner Regions from all over Europe to create a workgroup that could prepare a first document about the future of the cohesion Policy.

The idea is to prepare a draft of a proposal that could be presented to the public on the occasion of the Open Days 2007. This document should simply identify the main sectors that will continue to require an help from the EU community also in the future: for example, the one of the basic infrastructures, that of the small and medium enterprises and the one of the innovation.

The Regions we have got in touch with are really interested in this idea and in the next weeks we will meet to see how we could work on this proposal. This is important because we have to make the European Institutions aware that our Regions are already concerned about the future of their local communities and economic operators.

We will keep you informed about the evolution of the project.

Sincerely,

Mattia Crosetto
The Head of Office
Zlin Region in Brussels



WHAT'S NEW IN BRUSSELS?

The web site of the Zlin Region in Brussels adds up a new service for the young people of the Region

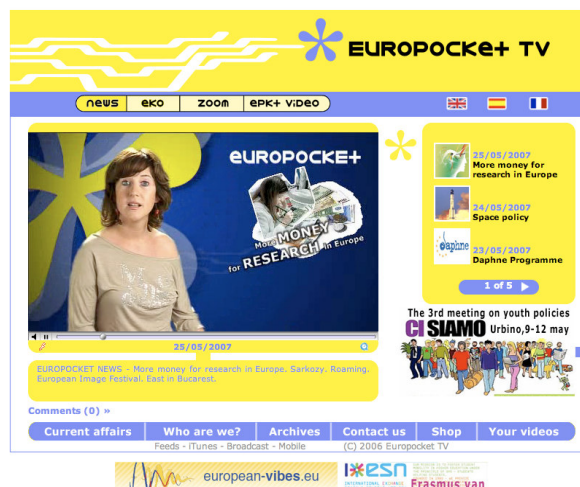
One of the tasks of the Representative Office of the Zlin Region in Brussels is to "reduce the distance" between Brussels and the EU Institutions towards the local communities in the Region.

To that end, the Office has developed a real communication strategy that includes this Newsletters, the periodic and special reports and the official web site.

The web site is continuously enriched with new services, information and links, so as to provide all the local interested parties useful information about Europe and its opportunities.

This week we present here a new service for the young people, to let them get in touch with the Union and what it represents.

www.zlinregioninbrussels.eu



Europocket TV

The new internet-based TV of the European Commission for young people is now directly accessible for free from the web site of the Zlin Region in Brussels.

Created in September 2006 with funds from the European parliament, this Valencia-based digital platform TV presents European and other issues offering young people a new way of getting information about the European Union and having their say on EU related topics.

The motivation for creating this new services for the young people in the Region is to create something that could get them closer to Europe. Internet and, in general, the new communication technologies are clearly the future of the information services, and young people make great use of them, that's why we want to exploit all the potential of www.zlinregioninbrussels.eu to provide services that are widely used in the Region.

Europocket TV is perfectly fitting the young people target, offering a programme on the internet that can be downloaded onto their I-pods or mobiles.

Breaking news is reported daily in the form of videos by three young journalists who translate it into English, French and Spanish, giving it their own personal flavour. They are not covering only EU affairs but all kinds of things that could be interesting to young people, like cinema and new technologies. Reports include interviews with young people, politicians and experts.

So, for example, on the occasion of the EU's 50th birthday, the internet programme organised a Europe-wide video competition, with the winning prize a trip to Rome to cover the celebrations taking place there. "Asking questions to Italian prime minister Romano Prodi, European commission president José Manuel Barroso, European parliament president Hans Pöttering and to Italian politicians, as well as reporting from the Youth Summit, has been a great experience", said competition winner Martina Fava.

Europocket TV can also provide opportunities to young people interested in having an experience as European journalists. The TV, now financed privately, is looking to expand the number of its reporters and can offer stages in journalism both in Brussels and within the different Member States of the EU.

If you are interested in, feel free to ask us about at: info@zlinregioninbrussels.eu

How to watch Europocket TV

Get into www.zlinregioninbrussels.eu

and in the home page select "links", then in the "links navigation menu" select "institutions"

You will find the direct link to Europocket TV in the list of our active hyperlinks.

Note: At present, Europocket TV is available only in English, French and Spanish.

Implementation of the Structural Funds 2007-2013: the European Commission has approved the Rural Development Programme for Czech Republic

On the 23rd of May 2007, the Rural Development Committee, consisting of representatives of the EU 27 Member States, gave a positive opinion to the Rural Development programmes of the Czech Republic for the next financial period 2007-2013. Financial aid of € 3.615 million has been allocated for the programme. That programme is defined to guarantee infrastructure, create new income opportunities for rural regions, promote growth and fight unemployment. The Commission still has to formally adopt the programme in the next weeks. The approval of the programmes for the other countries will follow in the next months.

Czech Republic Rural Development Plan

The Rural Development Plan of Czech Republic aims at expanding and diversifying the economic activities in the Country's rural areas so as to lead to development of business, the creation of new jobs, economic growth and reducing the level of unemployment in the countryside. It also aims at creating the conditions for the Czech Republic to be competitive in the basic agricultural and food commodities products with investments in quality labelling, increase the proportion of production that can be sold on foreign markets and increase GDP per capita and the rural population revenues.

To base the development of the Czech rural areas on upholding the principles of the sustainable development, the plan schedules a systematic improvement of the environment, care for the landscape and nature and reduction of all the negative effects of intensive agricultural and forestry management.

The Czech Rural Development Plan is structured around 3 Axis:

Axis 1 – Agrifood Industry (€630 million)

Axis 2 – Protection of the environment (€1.554 million)

Axis 3 – Creation of new job opportunities (€477 million)

The LEADER budget is of (€140 million)

Concerning the three axes, the main priorities of Axis 1 are to create a strong agri-food industry and dynamic agri-food environment, to modernise agricultural holdings and to introduce innovations. Further the EU funds should be used to increase the quality of products, to extend training and advisory services and to reduce the average age of workers in agriculture. The main focus of Axis 2 is the protection of the quality of surface and ground water sources through measures focusing on erosion control and suitable use of agricultural land and promotion of:

- environmentally friendly farming methods leading to biodiversity
- suitable farming systems to preserve rural landscape
- the protection of the environment on agricultural land and in forest areas of high nature value and
- the use of renewable energy sources through the existing forestry potential and through the possibilities of its expansion and preservation of forest's positive functions.

Referring to Axis 3, the programme aims to create employment opportunities and provide for higher incomes of rural population through the development and diversification of activities in rural areas and promotion of rural tourism, to provide for fulfilment of the Czech Republic's commitments in the area of use of renewable energy sources.

Further conditions for growth in rural development areas should be created. The aims are to improve the facilities and appearance of villages and public areas and to strengthen the population's sense of identity with local environment and rural heritage.

Axis 3 should provide for the development of rural infrastructure with the objective to encourage the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and to improve the village environment and contribute to a higher level of education and employment of rural population through the development of advisory services and training. The use of information and communication technologies should be increased.

The LEADER budget allocation of the EAFRD will be € 140 million (5%) and it will be implemented in all three axes.

The total financial budget of the Czech Republic's Rural Development Programmes for the period 2007-2013 is of €3.615 million of which € 2.815 million is EU financed (78%).



FOCUS ON EU PROGRAMMES



7th FP: Tomorrow's answer starts today

Special section on Innovation: second sheet devoted to the opportunities offered by the new EU programme for research and technological development

FP7

FP7 is the short name for the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development. This is the EU's main instrument for funding research in Europe and it will run from 2007 to 2013.

The Seventh Framework Programme is made up of four Specific programmes plus a fifth specific programme on nuclear research.

"Cooperation" (collaborative research) is the program that finances international cooperation projects across the European Union and beyond in 10 thematic areas, corresponding to major fields in science and research.

"Ideas" hosts all the activities directly proposed by the researchers to develop high-level frontier projects at a European level, building on excellence in Europe and raising its profile at the international level.

The "People" program targets the individuals who are working or who wish to work in the field of research and innovation.

The "Capacities" program aims to optimise the use and development of research infrastructures, while enhancing the innovative capacities of SMEs to benefit from research.



In this special section, we describe the main aims and content of the four specific programmes of the 7FP. The first sheet has been published in the edition on 01 of January 2007.

PEOPLE PROGRAMME

Budget: €4.7 billion (07-13)

The "People" programme offers individuals the opportunity to follow a career in research. European researchers should be encouraged to stay in Europe whilst at the same time the best researchers in the world should be attracted by European research excellence and infrastructures.

Building on the positive experiences with the "Marie Curie Actions", the "People" programme should encourage individuals to enter the profession of researcher; structure their research training by offering options; and, encourage mobility within the same sector. The mobility of researchers is not only key to the career development of researchers but also vital to the sharing and transfer of knowledge between countries and sectors.

Benefits for the citizens

In order to compete globally, Europe needs more people to follow a career in research and to provide them with the foundations for an open labour market. Therefore, Europe must be transformed into an attractive continent that supports innovation, knowledge creation and encourages researchers to stay. During FP7 a series of EU research funded actions will support the on-going training, research and mobility of highly qualified scientists within Europe and the rest of the world. By meeting the above objectives, we will encourage the proliferation of centres of excellence in the EU and their contribution in new areas of research and technology.

Benefits for the researchers

The "People" programme will improve the human potential in European research and development by covering all stages of a researcher's professional life from initial training to lifelong learning and career development.

Benefits for industry and SMEs

The participation of industry and SMEs is foreseen through all Marie Curie actions. Industry involvement will be strongly supported through actions directed at the initial training of researchers. In parallel another action will aim to build long term cooperation between academia, industry and SMEs. The objective is to stimulate mobility between sectors and increase knowledge sharing through joint research partnerships. The recruitment of experienced researchers to the partnership will be reinforced by staff secondments between sectors, and through the organisation of events.



SHORTS FROM BRUSSELS

The good governance of urban areas is one of the main priorities of the European Commission.

A new guide can provide all the information useful for the urban managers and the technicians interested in urban matters.

Available for free from the website of the European Commission, the Guide is an important instrument to understand the opportunities provided by the Structural Funds for the cities and villages in our Region.

Read about in this page and feel free to ask us for more information if you wish to obtain more details.

TEN-T Days: the Zlin Region in Brussels attended the workshop of the European Commission about the Transport Networks

On the 10th and 11th of May, the Representative Office of the Zlin Region in Brussels participated to the two-day information event organised by the European Commission to present the new Trans-European Transport Network Programme for the years 2007-2013. The so-called "TEN-T Days" hosted around 400 participants from all over Europe. It offered a unique opportunity to discuss the results achieved so far and to learn about further prospects and possibilities under the new programme.

On this first day Jacques Barrot, Vice-President of the Commission in charge of Transport, key players from the European Parliament and other European institutions presented their views on the priorities and objectives, as well as the projects and prospects for TEN-T.

On the following day, two parallel sessions allowed public officials, infrastructure managers, transport promoters and decision-makers to get the essential background on current challenges for European transport infrastructure. This covered financing opportunities and practical information on procedures, the preparation of proposals and the basics of applying, managing and evaluating projects.

The EC authorizes the Czech State Aids to support purchases on new railway stock

On the 10th of May 2007, the European Commission has decided not to raise any objections to the aid scheme proposed by the Czech Republic to support its railway activities. The measure would contribute to the development of railway transport and is compatible with the proper functioning of the EU market.

The passenger rolling stock of Czech Railways (Česke dráhy) is very outdated and needs to be replaced so as to reduce its failure rate and increase the reliability and safety of rail passenger services. The Czech authorities therefore intend to guarantee a loan of €30 million: it will be granted by the financing company EUROFIMA in order to facilitate the purchase of new passenger rolling stock.

The measure has a very limited adverse impact on trading conditions. First, Czech Railways is paying an interest rate for the loan, though more advantageous than under full market conditions, as well as the guarantee. Secondly, the guarantee only applies to rail passenger transport in the Czech Republic, a sector not yet open to competition under EU legislation. Furthermore, the Commission considers that the proposed measure contributes to the development of economic activities which are in the common interest of citizens and in line with European transport policy.

What can do the EU for your city and town? Find the answer in a new EC Guide

The European Commission has published a new guide for stakeholders, urban managers and anyone interested in urban issues. The guide, entitled "Guide to the Urban Dimension in Community Policies", aims to help all involved to make best use of the opportunities EU policies offer. It identifies initiatives with direct and indirect implications for sustainable development of urban areas and provides a clear overview of the urban dimension of all Community policies over the current funding period, 2007-2013.

The guide puts each policy in context, and specifies relevant financial resources, exchange mechanisms and information sources available.

Part One presents cohesion policy for 2007-2013, through its three financial instruments. Part Two describes the urban dimension of Community policies conducted by the different Directorates-General of the European Commission.

The electronic version of Guide – including around a hundred specific documents and hyperlinks - is now available in English, French and German at the following web address:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/guides/urban/index_en.htm



Calls for proposals

Media 2007	Promotion in countries, which are not members of the MEDIA programme Deadline: 29. 06. 2007 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2007/c_109/c_10920070515en00210021.pdf
Media 2007	Support Promotion and Market Access Dealines: 29. 06. 2007, 07. 12. 2007 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2007/c_109/c_10920070515en00220022.pdf
Media 2007	i2i Audiovisual Deadline: 06. 07. 2007 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2007/c_112/c_11220070522en00130014.pdf
Longlife Education	Award of grants for actions to develop and test the EQF, including national and sectoral qualifications frameworks Deadline: 31. 08. 2007 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2007/c_114/c_11420070524en00100010.pdf
Civil Protection Programme 2007	'Prevention, Preparedness and Consequence Management of Terrorism and other Security related risks' Deadline: 16. 07. 2007 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2007/c_108/c_10820070512en00140014.pdf
Cost Programme	European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research Deadlines: 30. 09. 2007 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2007:045:0004:0005:EN:PDF
Competit. and Innovation	Information and Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme Deadline : 23. 10. 2007 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2007/c_115/c_11520070525en00430043.pdf
TEN-T	Grants for priorities in the frame of TEN-T Deadlines: 20. 07. 2007 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2007/c_115/c_11520070525en00420042.pdf
FP7	Special Programmes Cooperation, Ideas, People, Capacities Deadline: various http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm





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CALENDAR

JUNE

5. – 7. 6. 2007

EU/US International Aviation Safety Summit

"How can open data sharing contribute to global aviation safety?"

Prague, Czech Republic

6. 6. 2007

Committee of the Regions
70th Plenary Session
Brussels, Belgium

27. 6. 2007

1st EU Roundtable on Cultural Tourism

The contribution of cultural heritage and tourism to the development of the local communities

European Commission,
Brussels, Belgium

Vacancies in Europe

Internship

- **The European Vending Association (EVA)**

Issue : EU food law (nutrition / hygiene)

Abilities: English, work autonomously

Place of work: Brussels

Duration: mid September – mid March

Info:

http://www.eurobrussels.com/eb_link_frame.php?link=http://www.eva.be/docs/EVA_is_looking_for_an_intern.pdf

Tetra Pak

- **Environment Expert**

Place of work: Brussels

Organization Unit: Commercial Operations - Environment

Deadline: 20. 06. 2007

Info:

http://www.eurobrussels.com/eb_link_frame.php?link=http://www.eurobrussels.com/ourjobs/tetrapak.htm

International Criminal Court

- **Victims Applications Manager**

Place of work: Hague

Deadline: 17. 06. 2007

Duration of the contract: at least one year

Info: http://www.eurobrussels.com/eb_link_frame.php?link=http://www.icc-cpi.int/jobs/vacancies/707.html



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Form closed:
30. 4. 2007

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