



The Eurodesk Malta Updates | Issue 2014

Dear friends!

Welcome to the 7th issue of our Eurodesk newsletter for 2014.

**eurodesk**



EUROPEAN YOUTH PORTAL

The past months have brought with them a number of challenges, and as an Agency we had opportunity to meet a number of people to discuss the Erasmus + programme. The communications team has already started meeting a number of beneficiaries who would like to know more about the new programme, and to find out more about the key actions which fall under Erasmus +. The communications team is also preparing for the official Launch of Erasmus + Malta which is going to take place on the 20th May 2014. Any beneficiary who would like to display any information with regards to past projects may contact us in order to do so at our event. This is on a first come first serve basis.

EUPA News  
Training Courses  
Partner Requests  
Scholarships  
EuroParlYouth  
Competitions and  
Miscellaneous Calls  
News from the  
Continent  
What's on the Rock

My role as the Eurodesk officer is to keep you updated once again with various interesting information the Agency would like to offer. I have created a number of newsletters for Eurodesk now, and I would like to keep you abreast with news from the Island too.

**Since the beginning of the year a number of activities and information meetings for all sectors of the public and for all young people, people who work in the youth field, such as Youth Workers, teachers Educational staff and others who are interested. To register for any one-to-one information meetings, kindly send an email to [Karl.engerer@gov.mt](mailto:Karl.engerer@gov.mt) or call on 25586120.**



SAVE THE DATE



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Due to the global environmental challenges and climate change issues, the newsletter will also be providing you with an environmental friendly tips to help us use our water more efficiently.

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## Birds on the Wing



Birds may be the most welcome harbingers of spring. Colorful to see, a delight to

hear, birds lend grace and beauty to our surroundings and provide natural insect control. To make your residence or neighborhood an inviting sanctuary for birds, create places for them to nest, feed, drink, and wash. Here's some advice on birdhouses, feeders, and birdbaths:

- **Birdhouses.** If suitable natural nesting habitats such as old trees are in short supply, build or buy a birdhouse and install it out of reach of cats, squirrels, and other predators.
- **Feeders.** Commercial bird feeders are available in most hardware stores, but you can also make feeders out of plastic bottles or milk cartons that can be hung from safe places such as a clothesline. If you prefer to grow bird food, consider planting native wildflowers, shrubs, and sunflowers.
- **Cultivated flowers** also are especially attractive to some birds, particularly goldfinches, house finches, juncos, white-throated sparrows, and hummingbirds.
- **Bird Baths.** Birds are most comfortable with a rough-surfaced source of water about 2 feet wide, no more than 2 inches deep. A shallow dish or gently-sloping bowl placed right on the ground will do, as will a plastic or terra cotta plant dish or inverted metal trash lid. Put the bath out in the open, not close to shrubs or places where cats can hide. A thorny bush or protective brush pile may make the birds feel more secure.

Best

Karl Engerer

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## EUPA News

### **Erasmus+ The new EU programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport**

#### **The next deadline for sport has been extended to 26th June 2014**

The Erasmus+ programme is intended to support activities in education, training, youth and sport in all sectors of lifelong learning (Higher Education, Further Education, adult education, schools, youth activities etc). Erasmus+ will be an *integrated* programme which means that it will be based around Key Actions rather than sectors of education.

The deadline for submission of applications for the actions 'Collaborative partnerships in the sport field' and 'Not-for-profit

European sport events' of 15 May 2014 (point 6 of the Call) has been prolonged until **26th June 2014 at 12.00PM (Noon)**.

- Helps young people gain more and better skills by studying & training abroad.
  - Enhances teaching quality in the EU and beyond
  - Supports Member States and partner countries in modernising their education and vocational
  - Training systems
  - Promotes youth participation in society
  - Supports teaching and research on European integration
  - Supports European grass-roots sport
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- More opportunities for higher education and vocational students to study and train abroad to improve their skills and job prospects
  - More opportunities for teachers, trainers and youth workers to study and train in another country
  - More opportunities for young people to learn through youth exchanges, volunteering and participation in democratic life
  - More opportunities for education and training institutions to exchange good practice
  - Increased cooperation between educational institutions, businesses or regional authorities and other bodies such as youth organisations
  - Launch of new 'Knowledge Alliances' between higher education institutions and businesses.
  - Expanding the eTwinning initiative that connects schools via the internet
  - Better cooperation in education policy, with an emphasis on practical outcomes such as the Europass CV, which is used by more than 10 million Europeans.
  - A new loan guarantee scheme making it easier for students at Masters level to finance their studies in another country.
  - More support for higher education in other parts of the world, particularly in neighbourhood countries.

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Information on the European Union Programmes Agency can be found at the agency website [www.eupa.org.mt](http://www.eupa.org.mt).

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## Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs

### About the programme

Malta Enterprise in collaboration with Stiftelsen Europa Institutet in Sweden are working together to facilitate exchanges for entrepreneurs between Malta, Sweden and all the other EU countries, within the framework of the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme ([www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu](http://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu)).

Partly funded by the European Commission, this exchange programme offers new entrepreneurs the possibility to work with an experienced entrepreneur in another EU country. The exchange programme is particularly beneficial for those individuals who are thinking of starting or have just set up their own business, who are given the opportunity to acquire relevant skills whilst working with experienced owners of small and medium enterprises across Europe. On their part, the experienced entrepreneurs participating in the programme and hosting the budding entrepreneurs would benefit from fresh perspectives on their own business whilst also getting the opportunity to cooperate with foreign partners or learn about new markets.

The programme acknowledges the fact that many founders of SMEs lack management, experience and other key skills required to succeed in today's highly competitive markets, as well as the fact that the vast majority of SMEs operate only in one country with limited possibilities for growth. Recognizing the importance of entrepreneurship for economic growth and job creation, it thus seeks to help new entrepreneurs acquire the relevant skills, whilst both new and experienced entrepreneurs would be expanding their European outreach.

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs is a win-win collaboration, whereby both new and experienced entrepreneurs can discover new European markets or business partners, different ways of doing business, as well as opportunities for networking. The entrepreneurs may also decide to pursue their collaboration on a longer term by becoming business partners after the end of the exchange period. In this manner, the programme stimulates entrepreneurship, competitiveness, internationalisation and growth of start-ups and established SMEs in the EU. It also contributes to the transfer of know-how and building of management skills essential for the running of an SME.

### Who can participate?

**New entrepreneurs** eligible to participate in the programme are those who firmly plan to start a business or otherwise have an existing business that is not older than three years, irrespective of their personal age or the sector in which they operate.

**Host entrepreneurs** can participate in the programme if he or she is the owner or manager of an SME or directly involved in entrepreneurship at SME board level; has experience running a company for several years; and is willing to act as a mentor by sharing knowledge and experience with a new entrepreneur from a different European state.

**Your intermediate organisation: Malta Enterprise**

As a local contact point in Malta, Malta Enterprise can guide interested entrepreneurs throughout the exchange programme: helping with the application process, helping with finding and establishing a successful relationship with a suitable entrepreneur, as well as answering any questions.

Malta Enterprise will also provide financial support to new entrepreneurs participating in the programme, covering (part of) the travel costs to and from the country of the stay and subsistence costs during the visit, which may last between one and six months. The grant is given as a monthly flat rate, depending on the country you will be travelling to (depending on their cost of living). The grant would not cover all the costs but would be covering a substantial part of your expenses.

**Benefits**

In a nutshell, what are the benefits of participating in this programme?

**Benefits for new or aspiring entrepreneurs:**

Active participation in the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme offers aspiring entrepreneurs access to a wide range of benefits to help successfully run or start a new business:

Up to six months stay with an experienced entrepreneur in another European Union country to gain first-hand knowledge about business start-up in a wide range of areas such as: marketing/sales, financial accounting, customer relations, business finance etc. You will also have the opportunity to improve your business plan;

- Building self-confidence and skills: sector-specific knowledge or know-how, technical and management skills;
- Opportunities for collaboration with other entrepreneurs and the development of cross-border business co-operation;
- Networking and building of strong relationships, which can be useful for mutual consulting, business referrals, and for finding business partners abroad;
- Insights into different cultural and organisational settings and how companies function in another European Union country;
- Insights into the business environment of another European

Union country

- Improved language skills;

### **Benefits for host entrepreneurs:**

As a host entrepreneur participating in the programme, you will benefit from the exchange by having the opportunity to:

- Work with an energetic and motivated new entrepreneur who can contribute to your business with innovative views, new skills and knowledge;
- Benefit from a "fresh eye" on your business, and specialised knowledge that the new entrepreneur may have and that you do not master;
- Act as a coach or mentor;
- Learn about foreign markets, expand your business opportunities and engage in cross-border activities;
- Interact with entrepreneurs from other EU countries and get opportunities to collaborate with them;
- Network and build strong relationships, which can be useful for mutual consulting, business referrals, and for finding business partners abroad;
- Improve your language skills;
- The large majority of most entrepreneurs enjoyed the experience so much that they decided to host other new entrepreneurs afterwards!

### **Interested?**

#### **What do you need as an New Entrepreneur to participate?**

Interested persons just need to fill out a short online application form, upload a CV and a business plan. At Malta Enterprise we can help you with all this, including the business plan.

In the online form, participants can choose which country they would want their counterpart to be from, what kind of entrepreneur/business they are looking for, how long they would like the exchange to take and when. Established entrepreneurs that would like to host new entrepreneurs, can choose from which country they would We will try to find you the best match according to your requirements and/or give you possible other options. There is absolute no additional cost for participants.

### **More information**

More information may be viewed on [www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu](http://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu)

and the programme information guide can be downloaded from here [http://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu/upload/ERASMUS-GUIDE\\_EN.pdf](http://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu/upload/ERASMUS-GUIDE_EN.pdf)

To see how the programme works in practice, one can see some success stories here: <http://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu/page.php?cid=9>.

For any questions or more information on how to apply kindly contact Brigitte Tanti at Malta Enterprise on tel. 2542 3443 or on [Brigitte.tanti@maltaenterprise.com](mailto:Brigitte.tanti@maltaenterprise.com)

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## Training Courses

### **Be enterprising: Promoting Transnational Youth Initiatives Through Youth Entrepreneurship Training Course** **8-13 June 2014 | Viimsi, Estonia**

"Be enterprising" aims to promote entrepreneurial attitude by creating transnational youth initiatives in the frame of Erasmus+: Youth in Action programme.

"Be enterprising: Promoting Transnational Youth Initiatives Through Youth Entrepreneurship" is a 6 day training course for youth workers and youth leaders. The main aim of the project is to promote entrepreneurial attitude that can be applied and developed by creating transnational youth initiatives. During the training course participants who work directly with young people will learn how to foster entrepreneurial attitude in young people, how to motivate them and help to create and execute transnational youth initiatives by supporting and monitoring them.

Promoting transnational youth initiatives and entrepreneurial attitude also helps young people to become active citizens in their communities and on the European level as well. The training course helps to foster mutual understanding of issues that not only young people face in Europe and how these issues can be tackled by taking responsibilities and using the opportunity of creating transnational youth initiatives. Entrepreneurial attitude and enterprising is about being active, creative, seeing opportunities and executing ideas to develop the world that we live in.

#### **Objectives of the training course:**

- Raise the awareness of entrepreneurial attitude that helps young



people to be active;

- Introduce tools of promoting entrepreneurial attitude among youngsters;
- Raise motivation of youth workers to promote entrepreneurial attitude among youth to get involved in transnational initiatives;
- Promote cooperation within the ERASMUS+ programme with specific attention to transnational initiatives;
- Get an overview of cooperation opportunities in different European countries;
- Understand the attitudes of young people towards entrepreneurial attitude and initiative;
- Create ideas of transnational youth initiatives and facilitate cooperation among participants.

Participants are expected to return from the training with bigger motivation and knowledge to promote entrepreneurial attitude among youth under the slogan “Be Enterprising”. This way the direct and largest impact of the training will be on its participants and the young people they work with. Therefore, during the training programme it is foreseen to have several sessions dedicated to promoting cooperation within the frame of transnational youth initiatives and planning future projects between the participating countries.

By the end of the training course participants should be able to:

- help a young person to identify it's interests and present skills that could be used as a starting point of the transnational youth initiative;
- coach a young person during the process of defining needs of further learning/development;
- be able to use a variety of tools to foster creative and enterprising thinking;
- be able to use a variety of tools to raise the level of initiative that a young person is willing to take up;
- have enough information to support and mentor a young person interested in creating and cooperating under transnational youth initiative sub-action;
- understand how Erasmus+ programme tools can be used for further exploration of youth initiative and enterprising attitude.

The target groups of this training course are mainly youth workers and youth leaders. The participants should be:

- willing to support their youth in carrying out transnational projects,
- looking for European partners for future youth projects,
- speaking and working freely in English.

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## EMPOWERING WOMEN IV

**EMPOWERING WOMEN IV: Youth work for young women entrepreneurship**

Seminar / Conference

26-31 October 2014 | Turkey

Youth Work can thus play a fundamental role in the empowerment of women, especially in terms of providing opportunities for self-assessment, development of skills and competences and by giving practical support in the attainment of self-realization.

After the great success of the previous editions in France – in 2010 with a very general approach on the role of women in society, in 2012 with a more specific analysis on women in the field of social economy, in 2013 with an emphasis on the promotion of young women employability through non-formal education – we are now moving to Turkey for dealing more specifically on the topic of entrepreneurship and the role youth work can have in its support and encouragement.

In this partnership building seminar we will focus on the concept of entrepreneurship, the competences needed both for the target groups and youth workers and above all we intend to set an inter-sectorial partnership among participants for future cooperation.

**Application deadline: 31st July, 2014**

Date of Selection: 1st September, 2014

Check out the SALTO Training Website

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If interested in going on a Training Course to enhance your youthwork skills and project implementation, check out [www.salto-youth.net/find-a-training/](http://www.salto-youth.net/find-a-training/) .  
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## Partner Requests

**[Looking for Partners around Europe for EVS](#)**

**[For more partner requests click on : Eurodesk Malta - Partner Search.](#)**

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## Scholarships

**[Official Ministry of Foreign Affairs Application Form for Scholarships\(pdf\)](#)**

It is now possible to enroll in the 2014 – 2015 edition of the scholarships programme. The objective of these scholarships is to

provide participants with the skills to successfully work in the field of European cooperation, through the use of funding made available by the European Commission. You may also wish to subscribe to the emailing list for scholarships, press the link below!

<http://www.gov.mt/en/Life%20Events/Scholarships/Pages/Scholarships.aspx>

### **[Subscribe to the Scholarships Mailing List](#)**

For information about studying in Malta and abroad click [here](#)

**EuroParlYouth**

#### **EYP SESSIONS AND EVENTS**

	<p><b>19. August 2014 - 23. August 2014, Other EYP event</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>International Academic Summerforum of EYP Germany</b></p>
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*location:* Marburg, Germany

*description:*

The International Academic Summerforum will take place from August 19 – 23 2014 in the beautiful city of Marburg. The session will invite around 100 young students to Germany for discussions and debates around the topic of research and innovation in Europe.

Eligible participants are youngsters that are above the usual age of participants in EYP. We will therefore launch different communication measures that will promote the event among young students around Europe that are not necessarily EYP alumni yet.

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## From the Continent

### **MVC – Malta Vocational Centre is a Maltese based association.**

It dedicates itself to train young people through national and international projects managed on a European scale. MVC is specialised in increasing and improving the professional qualifications of young people, in improving their aptitudes, and in aiding them to acquire new profiles and linguistic competence, improving individual authority, acquiring an enterprising spirit, in improving the adaptation to a new culture, bettering the possibilities of entering and of assimilation in the professional sector, the continuation of professional education and training, in increasing the beneficiary's interest and completing their learning cycle.

In the framework of the European Mobility projects, MVC acts as intermediary and coordinating organisation. One of its objectives is to build up relations with sending organisations (training bodies, vocational schools, universities, social partners, NGOs, non-profit organisations, professional associations, business companies, SME, chambers of commerce, etc.) from several European countries.

The role of MVC Association within the European mobility projects consists in: organizing accommodation for the participants during their stay; organizing the language course and culture tuition; organizing and

monitoring the work placement; organizing weekly and monthly evaluation of the work activities carried out by the participants; supervising and tutoring the participants; cooperating in the completion of the final certification for each participant (Europass Mobility); cooperating in the organisation of the evaluation of the project; disseminating project results.

Also, for your kind perusal, the website: [www.maltavocationalcentre.org](http://www.maltavocationalcentre.org) and our presentation in attachment.

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## **Study on Policy Measures to improve the Attractiveness of the Teaching Profession in Europe**

The study focuses on teachers in primary and secondary education (ISCED 1, 2 and 3) in the 28 EU Member States plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Turkey. It is based upon a survey of more than 80,000 student teachers, teachers and school leaders, interviews with national decision-makers, and a review of the research in the field.

- Key findings:
  - - - In most European countries, the teaching profession has lost much of its attraction for the best candidates because of a decline in prestige, poorer working conditions and relatively low salaries.
    - - - Few countries have specific, long-term strategies to make the profession more attractive to the best candidates, or even to evaluate the effectiveness of their current policies
      - - - In many countries, the teacher shortage is addressed by longer working hours for teachers, higher pupil-teacher ratios or an

increase in the retirement age.

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Feel free to contact us for further information!

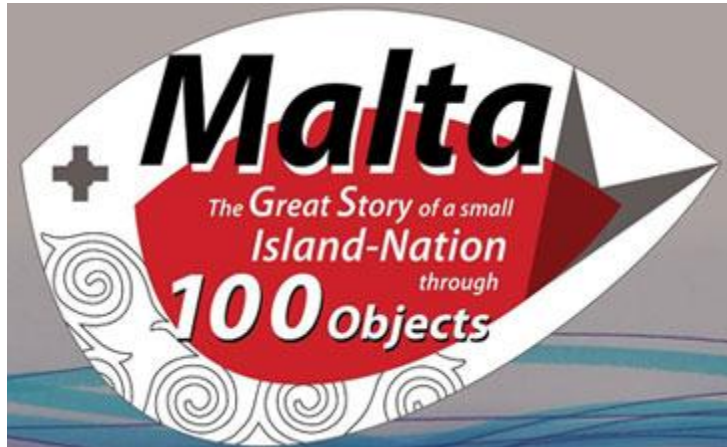
- At a time when several countries are faced with shortages of qualified teachers, a new study undertaken by the European Commission looks at what Member States could do to attract the best people into the profession.
- - The study looks in detail at what makes the teaching profession attractive (or not), maps the different policy measures that countries use (or could use) to attract high-quality recruits, to make careers more attractive, and to enhance the social status and prestige of teaching, and assesses their effectiveness. It also makes recommendations for improvements.
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What ' s on the Rock

## **MALTA - THE GREAT STORY OF A SMALL ISLAND-NATION THROUGH 100 OBJECTS**

18/03/2014 - 31/01/2015 08:00 - 19:00



Explore the history of Malta from its geological formation, 35million years ago, to the more recent EU accession through 100 objects displayed at the National Museum of Archaeology. This exhibition allows one to step back in time when Malta was still being formed underwater and to then follow in the steps of the humans who colonised and took possession of the islands. The story is told almost exclusively through objects, artefacts - things that humans have made, and ecofacts - things found in nature. These 100 objects were meticulously and carefully chosen by a team of experts for their ability to tell a story. They act as a medium through which the past can be explored.

Supplementing this exhibition will be four smaller exhibitions celebrating the anniversaries of Freedom Day, EU Accession, Independence Day and Republic Day.

Venue  
National Museum of Archaeology

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- **Website:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/100ObjectsExhibition>

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