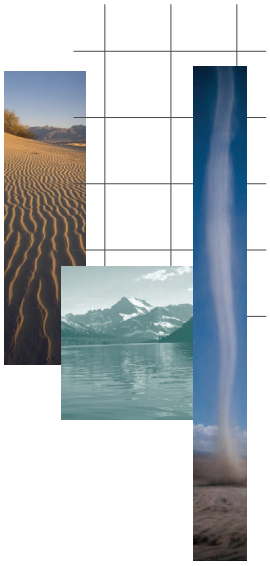

INFO Exchange

Institute of Entrepreneurship Development
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Editorial

By Joanna Leontaraki

According to UNESCO, there are approximately 6000 communities in the world and that many languages as well. The existence of so many different communities and languages leads to cultural diversity and diversity of many aspects, such as views, ways of expression, values and other such.

Image taken from UNESCO

The European Union has declared 2008 the Year of Intercultural Dialogue, so what better time for individuals and organizations to turn diversity into an opportunity? This is a time for protection and enhancement of the diversity of cultures in face of a globalized world. Many wonder what exactly cultural diversity has to offer. Different languages and cultural sensitivities provide with a start. Diversity is most often correlated with creativity and different approaches to matters at hand. Therefore, it is necessary that we all understand that difference is not a threat but an opportunity. Open-mindedness is something to be encouraged and nurtured.

For that reason, let us all increase awareness, cooperation and understanding concerning diversity. We all, individually and collectively, can play a role in shaping a future that promotes intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity and this is the time to do so!!

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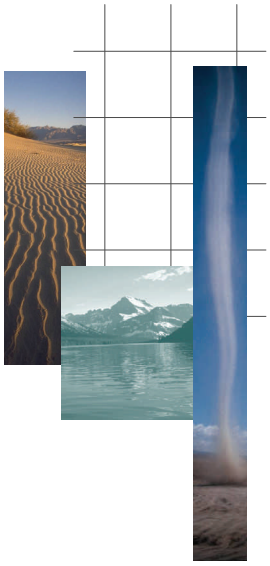
Current Developments—Youth Program

The Institute of Entrepreneurship Development participated in the Web Design Youth Project from the Provincial Education Directorate City of Manisa Turkey, where four members of the organization traveled to. The Action 4.3 project titled "Entertaining and Edificial Web Design" was carried out from December 3rd through December 7th, 2007.

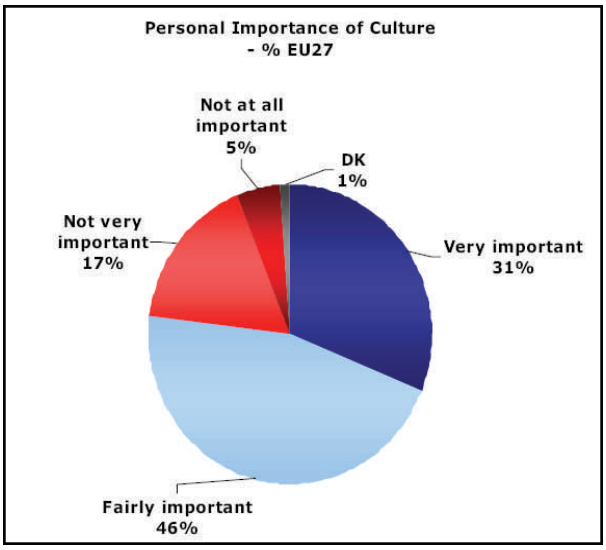
Individuals from institutions of Turkey, Greece, Latvia and Romania participated in the seminars, exchanged their views, opinions and ideas and were able to get acquainted with the different participating cultures, as well as participate in the design and configuration of a Group website.

The program included daily seminars, entertaining and interactive games, sightseeing in Turkey, a Culture night, and visits to schools and a university in Manisa. Everyone present actively contributed and showed interest. The coordinating organization openly welcomed us all, while all participating organizations showed an interest in the possibility of future cooperation in similar projects.



European Cultural Values

A Eurobarometer survey was requested by the Education and Culture Directorate-General of the European Commission and was published in September 2007 showing the opinions and behaviors that Europeans have towards culture. In light of 2008 being the European Year for Intercultural Dialogue, this survey and the results are of significance.



With the majority of Europeans saying that culture is important to them (visible on the pie chart presented to the right), great possibilities for Intercultural Dialogue exist. Over 77% of those surveyed answered that culture is important to them, while a large 89% believe that it is important for Europeans to get acquainted to the different cultures of the European Union. Cultural exchange is of great value to European citizens, which enhances the need for Intercultural Dialogue.

Finally, it is important to mention that the survey indicated the importance of the EU and institutions of the EU in promoting culture and cultural exchange. Therefore, the institutions of the EU must carve the path towards cultural diversity, allowing for individuals and other organizations to actively participate and contribute in any way they can.

You, too, can contribute in your own way! For further information on the findings of the survey visit the site provided below.

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_278_en.pdf

Current Developments—Youth In Action Program

Youth

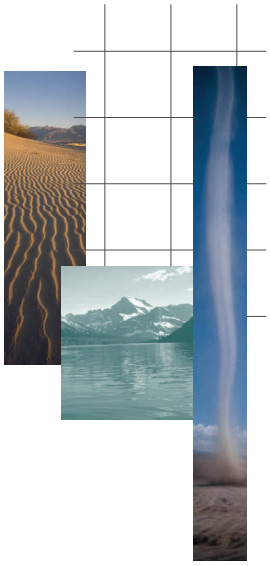
The Institute is now in the process of materializing a "Youth in Action" program concerning **Youth and Enterprises** in Greece. It is a national initiative which started in December 2007 and will be completed in one year. The objective of the Institute of Entrepreneurship Development is to develop an environmental conscience of youth, businesses and the general public. The promotion of environmental policies is significant and the level of awareness must be raised since businesses and individuals in Greece are not all aware of the harmful impact of pollution.

The promotion of "green business and operations" will be of priority and this will be achieved with the active participation of volunteers that will materialize actions of informing the public and businesses.

Our organization greatly believes in the development of a European conscience, an environmental conscience and the realization that our actions often have a negative impact on society and the environment and this can be achieved through the initiatives we are undertaking currently.

Calendar of Events:

- Conference on Crimes Against Women—11 Feb. 2008—Dallas, Texas
- International Conference on Applied Research—18 Feb. 2008—Accra, Ghana
- Women and Ambition—27 Mar. 2008—Dublin, Ireland
- Management and Leadership Development for Women—30 Mar. 2008—Windhoek, Namibia
- 2008 Faculty Student Multidiscipline Global Conference—25 Apr. 2008—Yerevan, Armenia



European Capital of Culture

Acquainting European citizens with different cultures of the European Union is one of the priorities of the Council of the European Union. Encouraging a sense of belonging to a common community of Europe is of uttermost significance and for this reason, each year, a European Capital of Culture is designate, promoting cultural diversity and mutual acquaintance between thousands of individuals and different backgrounds.

Europe's Capital of Culture for 2008 is Stavanger, located in Norway. The program for this year, as has been set, entails many activities and events, ranging from art and literature to music.

There are opportunities for all to participate, exchange their ideas and tastes and to get acquainted with the culture of Stavanger and not only. It's a time for fun and adventure for all!

For those of you who would like to read more on the subject visit the site:

http://www.stavanger2008.no/

Cooperating Institutions— Provincial Education Directorate of Manisa

The Provincial Education Directorate in the city of Manisa, Turkey has as its main goals to plan, program, execute, monitor and control education and training services targeted to teachers and students at all educational institutions that work under the Directorate. In total, there are 15 district directorates and 850 schools and 22 Educational Institutions working under the directorate.

The Directorate takes part in many European projects in order to embrace the European Dimension of education and transfer the best practices and applications to the schools of Manisa. Further, it strives to share knowledge and experiences at all levels with European schools and colleagues and to promote the learning of languages to staff.

The EU Education and Youth Projects in Manisa include the following:

- Comenius Partnerships
- Gruntvig Partnerships
- LDV Partnerships
- Youth
- Arion Study Visits

The EU Project Unit, which operates under the Directorate supports all types of education institutions in their Projects and prepares projects for the aforementioned projects.

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E-mail: info@entre.gr
newsletter@entre.gr

We're on the Web
www.entre.gr

Useful Websites

- European Culture Portal
http://ec.europa.eu/culture/portal/index_en.htm
- European Year of 2008 Intercultural Dialogue Website
http://www.interculturaldiaolgue2008.eu/
- Cordis News
http://cordis.europa.eu/news/home_en.html
- The Conference of NGOs online in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations CONGO
http://www.ngocongo.org/index.php

Cooperating Institutions

SDF

Association of the Local Democracy Agencies

UNIWERSYTET EKONOMICZNY W KRAKOWIE

İL MİLLİ EĞİTİM MÜDÜRLÜĞÜ M.E.B. MANİSA

The informative electronic newsletter is published by the Institute of Entrepreneurship Development and constitutes voluntary effort of its members, the opinions and the comments of which do not necessarily express the Institute's views.

A primary objective of this newsletter is bidirectional communication. This channel of communication will provide further help in our reaching our goal since we will be able to better understand your informing needs.

We would like your suggestions for upcoming issues. You can send information, inquiries, proposals and general comments that could be published to the following address:

newsletter@entre.gr

The newsletter is published periodically to communicate activities and plans.

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