

In this issue

Editorial	1
Mo.d.a.v.i. Onlus	2
Global Financial Crisis	2
Useful Websites	3
Did you know that..	3
Long Night Cologne Museums	4
MEPs support eradication of poverty	4
EU symbols adopted by Parliament	4
Current Developments: LDV Programme	5
2009 European Year	5
Seventh Framework Programme	5
Calendar of Events	6
Cooperating Institutions	6

Editorial

By Joanna Leontaraki



When we think about living in the 21st Century, about globalization, about the minimization of barriers and other such, we do not dwell on to issues that belong to the past. Our minds look to the future, a future in which all individuals will have equal rights, and a future in which all individuals will have equal opportunities. We can not often comprehend the fact that capital punishment is still in existence in certain parts of the world and that such punishment is still in effect until today.

The death penalty violates the primary and most fundamental right of all human-beings, irrespective of the crimes they have committed. Capital punishment violates the individual's right to life. The European Union holds a firm position in terms of the death penalty. The abolition of the death penalty constitutes one of the main objectives of the European Union, while EU institutions and organizations cooperate towards the fight against capital punishment and the death penalty worldwide.

Facts available about the death penalty show the urgency for action and the need to abolish it. Did you know the extent of the problem?

- In 2007 more than 1,252 people were known to have been executed in more than 20 countries, according to Amnesty International
- The majority of executions that took place in 2007 (88%) took place in 5 countries, including, China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and the USA.
- 137 countries have abolished the death penalty, while 60 countries still use it.

In light of the **World and European day against the death penalty**, which was on October 10, 2008, the European Union signed a joint declaration to confirm the commitment of the Presidents of the European Parliament, towards the global abolition of this capital punishment. Vice President, Jacques Barrot, stated "Europe has created a "de facto" death penalty-free zone stretching from Iceland in the west to Vladivostok in the east and from Norway in the north to the south-east of Turkey – this is one of Europe's greatest achievements."

However, even though such great accomplishments have been made in Europe effort does not end here. Organizations, institutions and individuals must strive and join forces to abolish the death penalty worldwide, through programmes, such as the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights and other events.

Just remember: "An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind." *Mahatma Gandhi*

Source: <http://ec.europa.eu>

GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS: The Eurozone takes action

The current financial turmoil, with the Dow Jones industrial average falling by more than 18%, and markets worldwide behaving in the same manner, has created reactions of people, organizations and institutions throughout the world. Worries of another Great Depression have surfaced. Experts, however, seem to believe that no such thing would transpire since policymakers today have great experience, they know their history and will not fail to act, as happened in the past.

It is common belief, though, that urgent action needs to be taken. Finance ministers from the top economies of the world agreed to work in unison towards the stabilization of the economy and global financial markets. European leaders from 16 EU countries agreed to a common, coordinated action to confront the financial crisis, while actions have already been taken against the turmoil. All financial and economic tools available will be used so as to ensure for the tackling of the crisis and restoring of confidence.

Source: CNNMoney.com

Mo.d.a.v.i. Onlus The Movement of Voluntary Apprenticeship Italian Associations



The Movement of Voluntary apprenticeship Italian Associations is a social promoting association spontaneously created in February 1996 by psychologists, nurses, sociologists, social operators and volunteers who have gathered in an association to promote spontaneous meeting and the growth of the educational, social and political role of voluntary apprenticeship and of social promotion.

Since its creation Mo.d.a.v.i.'s main aim is to improve society and man's conditions inside the community he lives in and the elimination of social discomfort in all its forms and aspects. In the so-called "global village" it is so evident that discomfort marks all aspects of human experience. It shows itself both at the borders and at the heart of our communities. Nowadays lo-

cal problems and world ones almost melt one into another: they say the world is as a "global village" and towns are as microcosms where precarious and unstable general conflicts and co-existence are repeated. Moreover, with this new millennium we have found out discomfort in our heart, that is in that western civilization we considered as powerful and rich, not only economically and technologically, but also as lifestyle. Loneliness, new poverty, discriminations, drug addictions, marginalization, misery selfishness are only some of the illnesses that affect our times and that threaten their integrity.

Anyway, it is possible and extremely necessary to answer to this challenge by means of actions aiming at the removal of the social discomfort and of its cause to get a better society. Mo.d.a.v.i., inspired by the saying that it's better to light a candle than curse darkness has been working for years in this way, also thanks to the precious and important contribu-

tion of its operators and volunteers.

At the beginning Mo.d.a.v.i. was present only in the Region of Latium. Nowadays, after ten years from its foundation, it counts hundreds of affiliated associations spread all over the country. By means of a detailed and widespread action of cooperations, Mo.d.a.v.i. has created, during the years, a network of collaborations with local Bodies, Ministries, Universities, Schools, Banks and International Organizations which make it one of the most efficient and lively no-profit organizations in the vast Italian services sector.

The association faces different themes, from civil defence to the prevention of social discomfort and pathological addictions, from cooperation to development to the support to young couples and unmarried mothers, from family promotion to the management of meeting centres for adolescents. Moreover: support to the civil service, promotion of international voluntary apprenticeship,

fight to early school leaving, training courses, activities of integration for immigrants and support to disabled young people.

Mo.d.a.v.i. manages and coordinates many national and local projects: hearing centres in schools, actions of prevention and information about addictions, assistance to old people, support to associations and voluntary apprenticeship, training courses for social operators, organization of civil defence drills.

Also, on an international level, Mo.d.a.v.i. coordinates many activities in different countries: in Argentina it manages a canteen for poor children, in Afghanistan a dental centre, in western Sahara it has sent a desalinator for the Saharawi people, in Romania it has collaborated to the creation of a Centre for orphans, in Israel every month Italian volunteers are sent to the structures of the Ministry for the Social Problems and to kibbutzim.

The interventions and the services offered by the Association come out of a careful knowledge of the

territorial situations they are destined to, acquired in ten years of activity by means of a cross-disciplinary methodology of research and it is also based on the excellent professional skills of its partners, collaborators and volunteers.

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Useful Websites

- Cordis: Community Research & Development Information Services
<http://cordis.europa.eu>
- The Global Development Research Centre
<http://www.grdc.org>
- Services for Businesses: Useful Addresses
http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/nar/en/business/services/linksaddresses/funding/index_en.html
- Eurodesk
<http://www.eurodesk.org/edesk/Welcome.do>
- EU Online Bookshop
http://bookshop.europa.eu/eGetRecords?Template=en_index.htm

Did you know that...

•Europe has many large cities including London but Paris is the largest with over 10 million population?

•France is the most visited country of the world? France has more than 75 million annual visitors, followed by the US with more than 51 million annual visitors.

•The European champions of production of cheese are the Dutch? The Dutch produce more than 500 million kilos each year.

•Football, unlike most popular view, was not invented in the UK? It was actually the Chinese who played football over 4,000 years ago. Interestingly, it was probably the Romans who brought the sport to Britain.

MEPs support in the eradication of poverty and target minimum wage

The European Parliament is supporting a complete approach to eliminating poverty, through the ensuring of income to households, offering better quality jobs and access to social services, which many do not presently have. The Members of the European Parliament called upon the Council to support an increase in the minimum wages provided, and to agree to a timetable for all Member States to realize the target.

It is inconceivable that eight percent of workers of the European Union are at a risk of poverty and that even though they have a job this does not guarantee that they will not reach this fine line.

The fact that not all Member States have a minimum income plan led to the proposal that all member states should implement such systems to guarantee a minimum income to promote social inclusion and to provide additional benefits for disadvantaged groups of the population since they often have extra expenses in the form of medical care and other such.

Further, the approach also tackled the issue of child poverty. Approximately one-third of the population is comprised of children and young individuals and approximately 19 million children are at risk of poverty. The Members of the European parliament, therefore, have set a target to decrease this figure by 50% by the year of 2012.

One final issue that was brought up was that of homelessness. It is unacceptable that individuals in the European Union do not have a place to sleep and live. For this reason, the MEPs suggested to the Council that all EU

Member States be fully committed to put an end to homelessness by the year 2015. All member states must implement policies that will guarantee access for all individuals to affordable and quality housing.

For further information and the text that was adopted by Parliament visit the following site: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2008-0467+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

EU Symbols adopted by Parliament



The European Parliament has officially recognized the European Union flag, anthem and motto, a proposal that was approved by the Chamber by a great majority. The flag of the European Union is a circle of twelve gold stars with a blue background, as one can see above.

This flag will, from now on, be exhibited in all European Parliament meetings and at all events, as was agreed.

It was further agreed that the anthem of the European Union, which is based on Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, "Ode to Joy" will be played at each ceremony of European elections, while the motto, **"United in diversity"** will be repeated and present on all of the official documents and papers of the Parliament.

Following the majority vote in favor of the recognition of the symbols of the European Union, United Kingdom and Irish speakers contested against the use of these symbols and the loss of national sovereignty. However, Andrew Duff (ALDE, UK) spoke out as well, presenting the view of the majority by stating, among other things, that "...The symbols represent our dignified values of peace and solidarity."

Long night of Cologne

Museums

"Long Night" events have been started by many German cities. Through these events, museums are open till late hours, allowing individuals and visitors to visit the museums in the afternoon, attracting more visitors. Shuttle buses are also active, making it easy to reach a number of interesting museums in the north, south and west of Germany, such as the Museum of 19602-1970s Design, museums for non-European art and even the Stollwerck Chocolate Museum.

The event was initiated in 2000 and has been a great success. November 1, 2008, is marked as this year's Annual Long Night of Cologne Museums.

European Certification for Consultants of Social Economy

The Institute of Entrepreneurship Development will be materializing, lead partner, a Leonardo da Vinci Programme with the title **"European Certification for Consultants of Social Economy"** in collaboration with partners from Poland and Italy, including the Academy of Humanities and Economics in Lodz, the University of Economics in Krakow and Mo.D.A.V.I. – Onlus (the Movement of Voluntary Associations Italian).

The programme has a total duration of 24 months, while it is based on life-long learning and the certification and validation of informal learning. More specifically, it refers to the validation of qualifications that were acquired informally by executives of consulting institutions in

the sector of social economy with the creation of a certificate of European scope. The aim of this programme is the promotion of the transparency of qualifications of employed individuals in consulting institutions in the sector of social economy. The individual objectives of the plan are the facilitation of the mobility of workers, the individualization of learning and the wider application of methodologies and procedures of certification that were developed in previous programmes.

Moreover, the project aims towards the certification of informal qualifications and in the establishment of a European certification of qualification with the title "Consultant of Social

Economy" and the establishment of a European standard certification, so as to facilitate the comparison of abilities and also promote the development of social enterprises, a sector that is relatively new and unknown.

The project activities will be starting soon and we will keep posting announcements and relevant information on our website and the newsletter issues to come for those of you that may be interested in possibly receiving such a certificate in the future or are simply interested in the field of Social Economy.



7th Framework Programme



The Seventh framework programme has been designed so as to allow a wide range of organizations, institutions and individual researchers to take

part and develop activities in the field of research and innovation. Different calls for proposals have been opened under a number of themes and areas, including People, Cooperation, Capacities and Ideas.

The Community Research and & Development Research Service, also known as

CORDIS, website (<http://cordis.europa.eu>) is available and provides with a wide range of information concerning such funding, the open calls, partner search, electronic submission of proposals and other such.

The Institute of Entrepreneurship Development, which has experience in both national and European programmes is open to possible partnerships in the Social Science and Humanities area in fields including: entrepreneurship, education, human rights and democracy, employment. Please feel free to contact us for a possible cooperation.

2009 designated European year of creativity and Innovation

The institutionalisation of a "European Year" began in 1983, with the *European Year of SMEs and the Craft Industry*. Many of these years, and especially those that are most recent, have been dedicated to educational and social fields. These activities and events are run by the European Union and the member states, while others, such as the *European Year of Languages of 2001*, are run by the European Council.

The themes that are chosen by the European Union each year and the campaigns that are undertaken aim to raise public awareness concerning main issues and to increase participation of the public and governments in issues of primary significance and urgency. The Commission has suggested that the year 2009 emphasize **creativity and innovation** and the role that these play in promoting and enhancing economic and social affluence. The Commission presented with the view that greater effort must be placed in this sphere, while emphasis should be given to **lifelong learning**.

Source:

www.europarl.europa.eu

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **October 24, 2008:** Global Entrepreneurship Conference 2008, Belgrade Yugoslavia
- **October 27, 2008:** Corporate Social Responsibility and environment, Montreal Canada
- **October 30, 2008:** 13th International Anti-Corruption Conference, Athens Greece
- **November 3, 2008:** European Conference: "EU funding for Environmental Projects", Frankfurt am Main Germany
- **November 6, 2008:** International Conference on Business and Economy, Constanza Romania
- **November 12, 2008:** SAICON 2008—Globalization and change: Issues, Concerns and Impact, Islamabad Pakistan
- **November 14, 2008:** The First International Conference on Survivors of Rape—A multi disciplinary approach, Aarhus Denmark
- **December 1, 2008:** European Conference for Academic Disciplines, Gottenheim Germany
- **December 5, 2008:** WOMEN, AGEING, MEDIA, Cheltenham United Kingdom
- **December 20, 2008:** Faculty Student Multidiscipline Global Conference, Roorkee India (electronic submission only, no traveling)
- **December 28, 2008:** Global Academy of Business and Economic Research, Bangkok Thailand

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

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

Cooperating Institutions

The newsletter is published periodically to communicate activities and plans.

Publisher:

The Institute of Entrepreneurship Development

Newsletter Editor:

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The electronic newsletter is sent free of charge.

If you do not wish to receive the newsletter please send us an e-mail at the following addresses:

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If you would like to promote the work of your institution please send us a profile of your organization and we will ensure that it is included in the forthcoming issues of the bimonthly newsletter.



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