



## **CARDET BECOMES THE FIRST CYPRUS NGO TO LEAD A EUROPEAID PROJECT**

*'Raising Awareness on Development Cooperation' Project  
Will Mobilise European Citizens Against Poverty*

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**NICOSIA** – February 2010 – CARDET, a non-profit research and development organization and a regional leader in the drive for next generation education, innovation and social reform, today announced it has become the first Cyprus Non-Governmental Development Organization (NGDO) to lead a EuropeAid Project.

'Raising Awareness on Development Cooperation' is a EuropeAid project that aims to mobilise European citizens – especially in the New Member States – for the fight against global poverty, and to educate the people of Europe about the historical background, aims and scope of the European Union's comprehensive development cooperation policy. The Project is expected to increase collaboration among citizens, NGDOs and universities, and to inspire them to engage in the Development Cooperation debate. The project kicked off with a meeting in Cyprus on 28 and 29 January 2010.

"This is a major win for CARDET, especially since NGDOs are still in their infancy in the Republic of Cyprus", said CARDET Executive Director Dr. Charalambos Vrasidas. "We are still awaiting the development of a legal framework here in Cyprus to determine how NGDOs should operate and how the Government of Cyprus should fund them".

CARDET will coordinate a consortium comprising several other partners and associates, including the University of Piraeus Research Centre (Greece), the Koperazzjoni Internazzjonali (Malta), the University of Malta, the World Vision Romania Foundation, and the University of Nicosia. EuropeAid has charged the consortium with the development of practical opportunities for Europeans to fight poverty at national, regional and European levels by creating educational resources and tools to support the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) agenda. The consortium will design a Development Education Curriculum and an information toolkit – both will be widely disseminated and delivered during national and international workshops and advocacy events.

"We are thrilled to be leading such an outstanding consortium of international NGDOs and universities, including WorldVision, which is an international NGDO serving close to 100 million people in more than 60 countries", added Dr. Vrasidas.

A series of activities will lay the foundation for building a Pan-European Cooperation on the MDGs, as delineated by the United Nations, in order to achieve the Project's objectives. The Project's activities are expected to directly and indirectly reach more than 11,000 Europeans, including children, students,



# CARDET

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teachers (pre-service and in-service), professors and university lecturers, NGO & NGDO activists (staff and volunteers), local and national authorities, and the general public.

The consortium looks forward to its engagement in the Project, which will indubitably increase the capacity of EU NGDOs, universities, and educators to engage in development education activities. The consortium will inform other EU NGDOs and the general public regarding relevant events, seminars and workshops in due time.

The EuropeAid Project follows CARDET's October 2009 announcement regarding the findings from its large scale survey of the use of Information Communication Technologies (ICT) by primary school teachers in the Republic of Cyprus, the first-ever survey of its kind. The survey was part of the development of a framework for ICT teacher professional development in Cyprus. The project commenced on 1 December 2008 and will conclude on 30 November 2011.

CARDET is currently developing programs which will be offered by CARDET Academy, in response to gaps identified in the field of ICT-related education. CARDET will announce further details about CARDET Academy ([www.cardetacademy.eu](http://www.cardetacademy.eu)) and about recently awarded projects later in the quarter.

"We have built a significant profile, and we are fast-becoming a leader in development education", concluded Dr. Vrasidas. "After an incredible effort and years of impeccable work we are now the leading NGDO and non-profit R&D organisation in Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean. We intend to remain at the vanguard in the next generation education space while we continue to build critical mass".

## About CARDET

Founded in Nicosia, Cyprus, in 2004 by an international team of education and technology experts, the Center for the Advancement of Research and Development in Educational Technology (CARDET) is a non-profit research and development organization with strategic partners worldwide. CARDET's mission is to inspire innovation and promote education, research, and development through evidence-based practices, cutting-edge research, and empowered professionals. The organization provides evaluation, research, development and training services to governmental agency, private organizations and NGOs. CARDET has successfully completed projects in more than 20 countries, in partnership with a number of private and public institutions, including EuropeAid, the Research Promotion Foundation, the European Commission, the United Nations Development Program, the International Council for Educational Media, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and Microsoft. For more information, please visit [www.cardet.org](http://www.cardet.org).