

PRESS RELEASE
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Raising Awareness on Development Cooperation

Kopin (Koperazzjoni Internazzjonali – Malta) is partnering the Centre for Environmental Education and Research (University of Malta) in an international project named “Raising Awareness on Development Cooperation” and funded by EuropeAid Office. The project brings together NGOs and universities in Malta, Cyprus and Romania to strengthen the support of these countries’ citizens in the fight against global poverty and to raise awareness on the historical context and scope of the EU international development cooperation policy.

The international consortium is made up by CARDET (Centre for the Advancement of Research and Development in Educational Technology) and the University of Nicosia from Cyprus, the University of Piraeus Research Center from Greece, World Vision Romania Foundation and the Academy of Economic Studies, Faculty of International Business and Economy (Academia de Studii Economice – Bucuresti) from Romania.

The project will also offer the possibility to NGOs and universities to build their capacities to get involved in helping the developing countries and to offer opportunities to those citizens who wish to commit themselves in the fight against world poverty.

Most importantly, the NGOs and universities will develop the first specialised curriculum on international development cooperation that can be implemented in Malta’s University or used by anyone interested in furthering their knowledge on international development cooperation. They will also elaborate and distribute an information toolkit (that will include abstracts of the courses, methodological suggestions regarding their implementation, list of resources, case studies etc), and deliver workshops, seminars and conferences for students, teachers, student organisations, volunteer centres and other NGOs interested in development issues.

The curriculum will be made up of 8 modules of 4 ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) each. Each module will correspond to one of the 8 Millennium Development Goals and will present educational and informational resources for every person interested in comprehending the international development cooperation field: academia, students, civil society representatives, public and local authorities’ representatives, mass media and the general public.

The project is thus expected to bring about higher awareness of the general public regarding the values and the need of international solidarity and a higher level of involvement of the youth, civil society representatives, public and local authorities, academia and the general public in debates on development cooperation, and finally a better collaboration between universities and NGOs in the field of development cooperation.

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Background information:

Kopin is a voluntary non-governmental organisation (NGO) based in Malta which works in the field of North-South cooperation, Development and Global Citizenship Education and advocacy for development-related issues. Although Kopin is not bound to any other organisation, it has good relations with a number of Maltese and foreign organisations.

Ever since its foundation in the year 2000, a main aim of Kopin is to network with other NGOs so as to share experiences and expertise with a focus on Development Cooperation and Development Education and to build a strong position in advocating for fair North-South relations that have a focus on the Southern, rights-based perspective.

Kopin is the founding organisation of The National Platform of Maltese NGDOs, (today called SKOP), which it coordinated until May 2007. At present, a member of Kopin is the chairperson of SKOP. Kopin is also a member of the Maltese Forum for Justice and Cooperation (FJC). It actively engages in CONCORD and SKOP working groups and collaborates with networks like EUROSTEP and projects such as TRIALOG and DEEEP.

The organisation has implemented a number of projects in the fields of North-South Collaboration, such as Global Action Schools (GAS), Building Unity Through Diversity (BUTD) and a project on "Strengthening the Capacity of Civil Society in Malta, Cyprus and Slovenia to engage effectively in Dialogue with the European Institutions over Sustainable Livelihood in the Mediterranean and the Barcelona Process". Kopin's current projects are a "Global Action Schools 2 Communities" (S2C) and a policy research project on Development Issues in Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia (Presidency Fund).

Kopin is a registered voluntary organisation with the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations, Identification Number VO/0200.

For further information, visit www.kopin.org.