



PRESS RELEASE

INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN Prize/Certificate-Giving Ceremony The EEA and the Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2004-2009

The Maltese Focal Point of the EEA and the Norwegian Financial Mechanisms, the Planning and Priorities Coordination Department within the Office of the Prime Minister, has closed a 4-month information and publicity campaign on increasing awareness about the projects implemented in Malta and Gozo with support by a Grant from the 2004-2009 programme.

This campaign mainly consisted of general public promotion together with educational and artistic activities (lessons, project visits and a drawing competition) which involved a number of secondary schools' students in Malta and Gozo. In addition, an Exhibition was organised between the 14th March and the 11th April whereby the best twelve drawings selected from the drawing competition were exhibited at the lobby of the National Museum of Archaeology in Valletta. This exhibition was opened by the Hon. Dr. Chris Said - Parliamentary Secretary for Consumers, Fair Competition, Local Councils and Public Dialogue and was attended by Ms Inger Stoll from the Financial Mechanism Office in Brussels, the Maltese Focal Point, and by the Project Promoters (MRRA – Restoration Unit, Heritage Malta, Nature Trust Malta, Malta Police Force, MIA, MGOZ and Transport Malta).

As a closure to this campaign, the Maltese Focal Point organised a Prize/Certificate-giving Ceremony on Monday 23rd May at the Aula Magna within the Old University Buildings in Valletta. Mr Arne Gjermundsen, Minister Counsellor at the Royal Norwegian Embassy presented the 17 students whose drawings were selected to feature in the Exhibition with a book titled 'Lost in Norway'. The books were donated by the Royal Norwegian Embassy to Malta in Rome. Over 230 students and teachers, who participated in the related activities during this campaign, were presented with a Certificate of Participation each by Mr Stephen Calleja, Director (Programmes and Projects), PPCD, OPM.

During his speech, Mr Gjermundsen highly praised the results of the interventions which Malta obtained through the Grant donated by the EEA and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2004-2009. A presentation was also delivered during the ceremony to present an overview of the contribution of these schools and students in this campaign and also about the activities in which they participated.

General information:

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway participate in the European Union's internal free market despite not being members of the EU. Their access to this market is tied to annual financial contributions they make to the EU. These grants are then invested in various projects within the new EU Member States with the objective of strengthening bilateral relations, to support the social and economic development of the countries which are benefiting, as well as to ease their economic integration.

Through these Financial Mechanisms, Malta received over €3.6 million for the 2004-2009 period which were invested on the seven projects being presented in this booklet. After signing two separate agreements with these Financial Mechanisms in 2005, Malta received over €1.9 million from the EEA Financial Mechanism and over €1.7 million from the Norwegian Financial Mechanism. The grant amounts were eventually co-financed by the respective Project Promoter.

The projects fall under the three priority areas which the Government of Malta identified for these Financial Mechanisms, mainly:

- i. the implementation of the Schengen Acquis
- ii. the conservation of European Cultural Heritage
- iii. the protection of the environment and sustainable development.

More information on these Financial Mechanisms and on the funded projects is available through the following two web links:

- www.ppcd.gov.mt/eeanorwegian
- www.eeagrants.org

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