



NEWSLETTER

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JANUARY'S ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Dear members and friends of JEUNE,
First of all, let me wish you a happy and successful 2009! May this year be full of new initiatives and opportunities for young entrepreneurs!

Following the previous meeting of the Administrative Council (AC) in Bucharest last October, JEUNE members of the Administrative Council met in Brussels on 14th January. This was a good occasion to open the new JEUNE year and agree on our priorities for 2009.

I reported on my activities for JEUNE during the last months of 2008. A highlight was the participation in UEAPME's General Assembly and Administrative Council that took place in Tours (France) in October 2008. As from 2009 onwards, JEUNE will also be represented at the various NORMAPME board meetings. I was very delighted to establish contacts with the Czech and the Polish associations of young crafts entrepreneurs during my JEUNE missions.

Our meeting was also a good opportunity for the members of the AC to present the foreseen activities and priorities of their national organizations for 2009.

Rosa Solanes presented the "2008 JEUNE Activity Report" with a specific emphasis on the projects in which JEUNE takes part: OPEN-EYE, EU-NET, Q-PlaNet and UEAPME SME FIT II (see page 2 for more information). She also focused on the policy work carried out by the Secretariat as well as JEUNE's marketing initiatives throughout 2008.

Last but not least, each member of the Administrative Council was given a specific mission with the aim to support the work of the President and Secretariat.

Please contact [Iris Marlovits](#) at the Secretariat for more info.



Q-PLANET: A NEW PROJECT FOR JEUNE

Person in charge:

Francesca Ungaro,

Member of JEUNE Administrative Council

Q-Planet is an Erasmus project based on the cooperation between higher education institutions and enterprises.

The project started in October 2008 and will last until October 2010. The objective is to establish quality standards for placements of students in enterprises. As a positive side effect it fosters youth mobility and aims for achieving a high output regarding the learning experience.

Hochschule Karlsruhe (University of Applied Sciences Karlsruhe) is project leader.

JEUNE will contribute to the development of quality standards and provide input on the dissemination activities due to its wide network of entrepreneurs throughout the EU. Moreover, JEUNE will also contribute to a survey gathering information where an employer's perspective is needed and play an important role in the dissemination of the results using the communication infrastructure of its network.

The Kick-off meeting took place in Brussels on 19-20th January 2009.

ERASMUS FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS: OPEN-EYE

“Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs” is a pilot project financed by the European Commission. It aims at helping new entrepreneurs to acquire relevant skills for managing and growing a small or medium-size enterprise by working with an experienced entrepreneur in another EU country for a minimum of 1 month up to 6 months as a maximum.

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs is intended for New Entrepreneurs (NE) and Host Entrepreneurs (HE). NE is someone who is firmly planning to set up his/her own business or has already started a business within the last three years. HE

should be an experienced entrepreneur in the EU. NEs' and HEs' business can be in any sector of activity.

NEs will gain experience through shadowing the senior host entrepreneur, while at the same time contributing to his/her business through their work, new ideas and fresh views.

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs is financed by the European Union and operated across EU Member States by more than 100 intermediary organisations competent in business support.

JEUNE is partner of the OPEN-EYE platform with “inter.research—Institute of Interdisciplinary

Research e.V.” acting as lead partner in co-operation with the University of Applied Sciences Fulda, Germany.

More information on the monthly funding and how to apply as an NE or HE in the framework of the OPEN-EYE project can be obtained under: www.open-eye.net

Further information about the EU Programme is available at the EU-Website: www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu



Erasmus for Young
Entrepreneurs

PRIORITIES OF THE CZECH PRESIDENCY FOR SMES



The Czech Presidency pursues the creation of “A Europe without barriers”, putting an emphasis on the 3 E’s: Economy, Energy and External Relations.

Economy - obviously the most important aspect for SMEs - stands for strengthening Europe’s competitiveness through promoting research and development. In particular, the Czech Presidency is focusing on:

- **Developing human capital** through supporting education, as well as research and development.
- **Introducing reduced VAT rates** for certain labor intensive services: The ECOFIN Council adopted the proposed directive on 10 March 2009. Every Member State can introduce reduced VAT rates on a permanent basis for the following services: • repair of bicycles, shoes and leather goods, clothing and household linen; • window-cleaning and cleaning in private households; • domestic care services of young, elderly, sick or disabled; • hairdressing; • renovation and repairing of private dwellings excluding materials

which account for a significant part of the value of the service applied; • restaurant services; • books. *Click [here](#) for the Press Release of the ECOFIN Council.*

- Removing restrictions on the **free movement of workers and services**.
- Implementing measures arising from the **Small Business Act**.
- **Reducing administrative burden** and improving access to EU programmes by applying the “Think Small First” principle.
- **Reviewing the Late Payments Directive**, which ensures that SMEs are paid in time for all business transactions.
- **Promoting** the proposal for a Council regulation on the **European Private Company Statute**, that would make cross-border activities easier for SMEs.
- Last but not least, the Czech Presidency aims at implementing the **integrated guidelines for Growth and Jobs**, the two major principles of the Lisbon strategy and acknowledges that due to the current economic crisis, especially SMEs require easier access to finance, lower interest rates and a more effective use of the new state aid regulation.

2009: EUROPEAN YEAR OF INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY

The European Year of Innovation and Creativity was launched in January in Prague with the slogan:

“imagine, create, innovate”

With the financial crisis, the topic of innovation and creativity becomes very important since the challenges that Europe is facing are very big. The aim of the year is to pro-

mote creative and innovative thinking of all sectors of society. More Info under: www.create2009.europa.eu



NEW GERMAN DELEGATE OF JUNIOREN DES HANDWERKS



Mike Sternkopf

Mike Sternkopf is the new delegate to JEUNE of our German member Junio- ren des Handwerks (JDH) .

Born on 27th June 1973 in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, he comple- ted his secondary education with the Higher Education Entrance Qualifica- tion in 1992. Afterwards he underwent roofing apprenticeship and obtained his professional certificate in 1994. Working three years for Rolf Lutz GmbH as a roofer, he then became shareholder and managing director of this company. Between 1996 and 2000, he took a correspondence course in business studies at the Uni- versity of Applied Sciences in Stutt- gart and became a certified auditor

for Quality Management. In addition, he followed evening classes with the school for master craftsmen at HWK Münster for two years, culminating in the award of the Master Crafts- man Certification in March 2001.

Since November 2006, Mike has been chairman of the NRW Regional Asso- ciation of Junior Tradesmen and since 2008, he has been serving as a member of the committee oversee- ing Master Craftsman Certification at HWK Münster.

JEUNE warmly welcomes Mike Sternkopf as JDH-delegate to the team.

EVENTS

JEUNE EVENTS

- 13th February 2009: NORMAPME Board Meeting, Brussels
- 18th February 2009: « SME FIT II » JEUNE Seminar, Zagreb
- 19th February 2009: « SME FIT II » JEUNE Seminar, Ankara
- 6-7th March 2009: General Assembly of Young Entrepreneurs of Confartigianato, Florence
- 11-17th March 2009: International Fair for Crafts, Munich, <http://www.ihm.de>
- 26-27th March 2009: European Business Summit, Brussels
- 16th April 2009: European Elections and Young Entrepreneurs Event: JEUNE, YES, JADE, ETUC, Brussels
- 22nd April 2009: Jury Meeting for European Youth Capital 2011, Brussels
- 28th April 2009: JEUNE Administrative Council, Brussels
- 22nd May 2009: Confcommercio Giovani, European Day in Milan
- 25-26th May 2009: NORMAPME Board Meeting, Milan
- 2-3rd June 2009: UEAPME Administrative Council, Stockholm

OTHER EVENTS

- 9-13th February 2009: European Sustainable Energy Week, Brussels, <http://www.eusew.eu/>
- 27th April 2009: UEAPME SME Convention, Brussels
- 6-14th May 2009: First European SME Week, organised by the European Commission, DG Enterprise

Please visit us at www.jeune-pme.eu