



## NEWSLETTER

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### JEUNE in BUCHAREST

The members of the JEUNE Administrative Council participated at an institution building workshop in Bucharest on the 9th October. This workshop was organised in the framework of the EU-funded project, SME FIT II in which JEUNE is a partner. The aim of this workshop was to establish a strong relationship between JEUNE and PTIR/YEAR (the Romanian Association of Young Entrepreneurs). The workshop was divided in two parts:

At the first part, the Romanian association presented the services provided to its members and at the second part, the participants analyzed the methods that can be used in order to improve the support for young entrepreneurs within the PTIR/YEAR.

According to JEUNE members, the Romanian entrepreneurs were very interested in understanding how the work within JEUNE is carried out. With regards to the information

seminar of 10th October, Mr. Florin Jianu, President of PTIR/YEAR welcomed the participants and Mr. Nicolae, Project manager at the Council of Small and Medium-Sized Private Enterprises in Romania made a presentation on the *Phare Business Programme III*. His intervention was followed by the one of Mr. Kovács - President of the National Youth Authority in Romania- who explained the participants "*How to get access to European funds*". Two representatives of JEUNE had an active role in the seminar. On the one hand, Ms. Pellaschiar presented the work of JEUNE as well as her experience as an Italian entrepreneur. On the other, Mr. El Jarroudi presented the activities of the French organisation of young entrepreneurs, JEF and its initiatives in mentoring young entrepreneurs. All the participants were very pleased with the two events in Bucharest and above all with the rich exchange of views.



## THE EUROPEAN YOUTH CAPITAL: 2010

JEUNE's President was invited to be a member of the Jury to select the European Youth Capital for 2010.

The '*European Youth Capital*' title gives European cities the opportunity to present a multi-faceted programme lasting one year, which highlights the wealth, diversity and common characteristics of Europe's intergenerational approach, and the empowerment of young people throughout the continent. Over this period, the city showcases its youth-related cultural, social, political and economic

activities.

The meeting of the Jury took place in Brussels on 20th October. Several European cities had presented their candidacies to the European Youth Forum (EYF), who was in charge of managing the selection procedure.

The selected city was the north-Italian city of Turin. The European Youth Capital for 2009 will be Rotterdam. JEUNE will participate in the events related to the youth capital. JEUNE also plans to get a closer cooperation with the EYF.

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## JEUNE SPEAKS AT A SYMPOSIUM ON YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Majid El Jarroudi, Vice-President of JEUNE participated at the *Symposium on Youth Employment* organised by the European Youth Forum (EYF) in Paris on 17th-19th October.

The plenary session of the symposium addressed "Youth employment and the Lisbon Strategy" and the representatives of the European Commission presented the current actions of the Commission in youth policies in the framework of the Lisbon Strategy.

One of the workshops fo-

cused on the existence of the many precarious jobs and endless internships that the young people have to go through. This has negative consequences on the reconciliation of the private and professional life since young people do not have a stable contract until a rather advanced age.

Majid EL Jarroudi was one of the two keynote speakers in *Workshop IV: Entrepreneurship, a way to foster employability of young people*. He presented the actions of his French organisation in mentoring young people who

want to become entrepreneurs. The best ways to promote entrepreneurship among young people are:

- facilitate access to finance, Young entrepreneurs talk to young people,
- local action,
- mentorship,
- good business training

The next Symposium on Youth Employment organised by the EYF will take place on the 20-21st January 2009 in the Zlin Region of the Czech Republic. JEUNE will try to be present at this Symposium. More information will follow shortly.

## PUBLIC AID FOR SMEs

In July 2008, the European Commission presented its **Regulation on State aid (GBER)** as a part of the Small Business Act (see Newsletter n°8). The new Regulation allows small companies to benefit from public support for investments in training, innovation, energy efficiency. UEAPME welcomed these provisions but asked for their proper implementation by the Member States.

The different types of aid to SMEs are:

- Aid up to 1 million Euro or event 2 million Euro depending on the region, for newly created enterprises;
- Aid up to 1 million Euro for enterprises **newly created by female entrepreneurs**;
- Aid for early adaptation **to future Community standards in the field of environmental protection**;
- Aid up to 1.5 million Euro over a period of **1 year in the form of risk capital**;
- Aid for **industrial property rights costs**;
- Aid up to 1 million Euro for **young innovative companies** going up to 1.5 million depending on the assisted region;
- Aid up to 200.000 Euro **for innovation advisory services** and innovation support services

- Aid up to 50% of the eligible costs for loan of highly qualified personnel.

These measures are specifically designed for SMEs, but the Regulations provides aid for all companies, including SMEs:

- **Aid for research and development**: up to 20 million Euro for fundamental research, up to 10 million for industrial research and up to 7.5 million for other research and development projects;
- **Training aid**;
- Aid for the **recruitment of disadvantaged workers**;
- Aid for the **employment of disabled workers**;

In the field of environment, there is aid available which covers the acquisition of “cleaner” transport vehicles, early adaptation to future Community standards and the promotion of the use of renewable sources. In the case of business transfers, aid is now allowed not only for successions within the owner’s family but also when a company’s former employee takes over.

The important part of the new EU Regulation is that Member States make full use of these provisions.

## ACCESS TO FINANCE FOR SMEs CAN STILL BE IMPROVED

In view of the Competitiveness Council last September, UEAPME asked for an easier access to finance for SMEs. The current financial crisis poses a threat for SMEs and therefore more efforts are needed in order to avoid SMEs being greatly affected by the higher interest rates and the tight credit conditions of the last months. The good first step was the announcement by the European

Investment Bank (EIB) of its intention to increase its lending capacity to SMEs. However, UEAPME stressed that it is important to renew some counter-guarantee schemes run by the European Investment Fund (EIF). Moreover, the guidelines of the Small Business Act on Public Procurement for SMEs need to be implemented and the increased aid for SMEs -State Aid- must be used by the Member States.

## NEW DELEGATE OF CONFARTIGIANATO



Francesca Ungaro

Francesca Ungaro has been nominated as new delegate of Confartigianato to JEUNE.

Francesca participated at the events in Romania as well as in the Administrative Council on 9th October where she was officially presented by her predecessor, Elena Pellaschiar.

**On behalf of all JEUNE's team, we would like to warmly thank Elena for her greater contribution to the organisation and her constant availability and enthusiasm during the past three years as JEUNE president.**

Francesca takes over the role of Confartigianato's delegate as a member of the Board. Francesca knows JEUNE pretty well since she has participated in several JEUNE meetings in Brussels in the previous

years. Likewise, Francesca was selected for a pilot "entrepreneur placement" in the University of Brasov (Romania) at the end of 2006 in the framework of the EUE-Net project. Nowadays, her enterprise is a partner of this project.

Since 2004, she is member of the Youth Group of Confartigianato in Brescia and since 2007, she is member of the executive group of Confartigianato Giovani in Brescia. Due to her knowledge of the EUE-Network, she will be in charge of monitoring the EUE-Net as well as the Q-PlaNet projects, represent JEUNE at the project meetings as well as to report to JEUNE the development of both projects and the actions to be implemented.

Welcome on board!

## EVENTS

### JEUNE EVENTS

14th January 2009: JEUNE Administrative Council, Brussels

19th January 2009: Kick-off Meeting of the Q-PlaNet Erasmus project, Brussels

11-12th February 2009: « SME FIT II » JEUNE Seminar in Zagreb (Croatia)

17th February 2009: NORMAPME's Board Meeting, Brussels

19th February 2009: « SME FIT II » JEUNE Seminar in Ankara (Turkey)

Spring 2009: EUE-Net General Assembly, San Sebastián (Spain)

26th May 2009: NORMAPME's Board Meeting, Brussels

29th September 2009: NORMAPME's Board Meeting, Brussels

### OTHER EVENTS

20-21st January 2009: Youth Employment: fostering the dialogue between the Council of EU and young Europeans", the Zlin Region (Czech Republic)

9-13 February 2009 European Sustainable Energy Week, Brussels// <http://www.eusew.eu/>

6-14 May 2009: First European SME Week, organised by the European Commission.

6-7 March 2009: General Assembly of Young entrepreneurs of Confartigianato, Florence (Italy)

Please visit us at [www.jeune-pme.eu](http://www.jeune-pme.eu)