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Laps and Raps 2: workshop nr. 3

ESIP is preparing for the next workshop of the Laps and Raps 2 project, in which it is a partner. The workshop will be the third in a series of four workshops which aim to provide training in making use of the framework methodology developed under the [Laps and Raps I project](#).

Each of the project partners have appointed local action groups that consist of key actors who are responsible for service planning, delivery and review in relation to the four chosen themes.

Following the transnational training and planning workshop, members



Laps and Raps 2 workshop on homelessness, 02-10-2008, Prague.

of the action learning group will participate in an online coaching and peer learning programme which will support them in the development of local action plans relating to their specific theme and eventually assist them with the elaboration of specific project proposals on their chosen theme. The

upcoming workshop will be organized by the project's lead partner Celje (Slovenia), and will take place in Lisbon (Portugal) from 11 to 13 March. The theme this time will be Active Aging.

For more information please contact [Janneke Draaisma](#) or visit the [ESIP Website](#) or the [Laps and Raps 2 Website](#)

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ESIP MEMBER PROFILE

Regional Development Agency Senec-Pezinok

Think globally - act locally! That is the Motto of the Regional Development Agency Senec-Pezinok. The RDA



Senec-Pezinok is a non-profit public association of legal entities, founded on the principle of partnership. It is active in the field of social issues and regional development within the territory of Bratislava Region (Slovakia), and belongs to the Slovak integrated network of regional development agencies established by the Ministry of

Building and Regional Development. It has implemented more than 50 projects in the area of socio-economic development, structural funds, education and training, infrastructure, environment and sustainable regional development. During last three years, the RDA Senec-Pezinok was awarded the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development Prize as the best agency in Slovakia.

The RDA's main activities are as follows:

- Being the Regional Info Point for the Ministry of Building and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic for the operational programmes under the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) of the Slovak Republic for the period 2007 – 2013 and, as such, providing consultancy and support services in relation to project elaboration and financing for all target groups in the region
- Developing and maintaining a "project pipeline" for all developing areas in the region
- Implementing and maintaining social and economic action plans and analyses
- Creating and maintaining fruitful contacts and cooperation between

institutions in order to implement cross-border projects.

- Providing tailor made training and education activities for various target groups, mainly for the public sector, aimed at improving their abilities to prepare and implement projects for themselves
- Promotion activities making project results available within Slovakia, as well as abroad
- Providing an information service - handling information, building and updating relevant databases in a "friendly user" way, for various target groups and end users
- Acting as contact and info point for the Office of the Self-Governing Region of Bratislava in Brussels.
- Providing tailor made advice on project management and implementation to various municipalities and public institutions



*Ms Luba Pavlovova,
Director*

Within ESIP, the RDA Senec-Pezinok is represented by its Director and legal representative Luba Pavlovova. Ms Pavlovova is also a member of the ESIP

Steering Board and has been so kind to share with us some of her

ideas about ESIP.

LP: *The European Social Inclusion Platform is a unique organisation involved in socio-economic development. It brings together those who are involved in the social sphere and who would like to put into practice (locally and regionally) the EU policies. ESIP is the place where you can exchange experience, methods, good practice but also where you can find contacts and commonly work towards common goals based on real needs. It would be very good if ESIP could also develop an expert database that can provide the tailor-made expertise to relevant stakeholders European wide.*

You will be able to read about one of the projects that the RDA is currently implementing in the next section.



Contact Details

RDA Senec-Pezinok

Office of establishment: Kysucká ul. 14 903
01, Senec

Regional office: M.R.Štefánika 1
902 01 Pezinok

Tel. +421 (0)33 6414026/6414028

Website: www.rrasenec-pezinok.sk

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MEMBER NEWS

Workshop: "Monitoring the Urban Dimension in EU Cohesion Policy: EU 12 Perspectives" Prague, 18-19 March 2009

ESIP member QeC-ERAN is hosting a workshop in Prague on 18 and 19 March 2009.



The workshop forms part of a series of events that QeC-ERAN is organising on the theme of the "Urban Dimension in EU Cohesion Policy".

The Prague workshop is an appropriate occasion to see how some of the EU12 member states have addressed the "urban dimension in their NSRF's and Operational Programmes". Representatives from the Ministries responsible for EU Structural Funds from Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Romania will present their respective Operational Plans. In addition a great number of interesting EU 27 city/region case studies will be presented, which will be of great interest in terms of exchange of experience, networking and learning opportunities for professional development.

The timing of the conference is also important in that the first results of the consultation on the EC Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion will be available and also Dg Regio and the EP have started the process of discussion about the urban dimension in the next programming period.

Amongst the key speakers will be: **Dirk Ahner**, Director General of DG Regio, European Commission, **Jean-Marie Beaupuy**, President of the European Parliament Intergroup on Urban Policy and Housing, **Oldrich Vlasak**, MEP, Rapporteur on the Urban Dimension in cohesion policy, **Jan Olbrycht**, Vice President of the EP Regional Policy Committee, **Brian Field**, Director of the European Investment Bank and the five Directors responsible for EU Structural funds.

Participation is free for ESIP members. For more information, the detailed conference agenda and the registration form, please visit the [QeC-ERAN Website](#)

Project: Regional and Local Labour Market Support



ESIP member RDA Senec-Pezinok, in cooperation with the Association of local units of Macedonia (ZELS), City of Ohrid and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of the Republic of Macedonia, is currently implementing RELLMAS: a project concerned with the transfer of know-how from the Slovak Republic to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the areas of employment and social inclusion policy.

The project's overall goal is to prepare the two selected pilot regions of Skopje and Ohrid, both coping with high unemployment rates, for the implementation of EU employment policy and the introduction of the *acquis*

communautaire. At the same time it means to ensure that local labour market stakeholders better benefit from cross border and territorial cooperation and from EU financial mechanisms, in particular:

- IPA (Instrument for Pre-accession for Macedonia)
- The structural funds, mainly the European Social Fund (ESF)
- EU Life Long Learning Programme (LLP)

In order to achieve this main goal the Slovak-Macedonian partnership are working towards the following specific objectives:

- Establishing partnerships at regional and local level
- Elaborating regional and local labour market and employment analysis
- Training app. 50 key stakeholders representing regional and local labour markets
- Stabilization and strengthening of regional and local structures, which can be used as active employment policy tools during the pre-accession process and after joining the EU
- Elaborating local employment action plans at regional and local level and creating a long-term "project pipeline" based on the real needs of regions
- Organizing internships to Slovakia for selected participants in order to encourage best practice sharing.

In the course of the project, several training workshops have been conducted in both pilot regions. After the successful completion of all training workshops participants will elaborate their own project proposals, solving one of the workshop topic problems for the region they represent. The project proposals will be

included into the regional Employment Action Plans and will have a long-term economic impact in the area.

The project started in January 2008 and it is expected to end in October 2009.



RELLMAS training, Skopje 12 December 2008

For more information please visit the [RELLMAS Website](#)

If your organisation is currently involved in an interesting project or event that you would like to inform other ESIP members about, please get in touch with ESIP coordinator Janneke Draaisma sending an e-mail to info@esip-platform.net



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SOCIAL INCLUSION NEWS

Commission adopts Lisbon Strategy recommendations

The European Commission finally adopted last week the ["country chapters" and recommendations](#) under the Lisbon Growth and Jobs Strategy, following the delays occasioned by the replacement of the normal "Lisbon" procedure of the analysis of the National Reform Programmes and the Annual Progress Report, as a result of the financial and economic crisis.

According to the Commission, these will also help ensure the European economic recovery plan is implemented in a way that builds for the future as well as responding to the economic crisis. However, The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) is concerned that the proposals represent just more "business as usual", and do not reflect any willingness to take on board the lessons of the current crisis - to challenge how far growth alone can deliver on poverty and inclusion, and the limits of the market-only approach.

The country chapters analyse progress in each Member State in implementing the Growth and Jobs Strategy, taking account of the crisis. They include proposals for formal

recommendations for endorsement by the Spring European Council. The Commission has also adopted reports on the overall implementation of the Lisbon Strategy in the macro and micro-economic and employment fields.

[Read more](#)

European Year 2010: guidelines for Member States now available in all languages

Following the adoption of the Decision Establishing the European Year 2010 for combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, a Strategic Framework Document setting up guidelines for Member States' preparation (financial envelope, timing, priorities, dialogue with civil society...) was published by the European Commission in November 2008.

The Strategic Framework Document has now been translated in all EU languages and can be downloaded from the EAPN website: [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [ET](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [MT](#), [NL](#), [PL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SK](#), [SL](#), [SV](#).

Homelessness and housing exclusion to be theme of EU "light year" 2009

The social affairs ministries from 27 countries, which are represented in the intergovernmental body called the Social Protection Committee, have decided that "homelessness and housing exclusion" are to be a priority theme in the EU social inclusion strategy in 2009. This means that all countries will carry out stocktaking exercise to collate information on their homeless policies, homeless data, and governance issues in tackling homelessness.

The results of this stocktaking exercise will be available at the end of the year and will feed into a Joint Report on social inclusion to be published by the European Commission and the Council of Ministers early 2010. In addition, there will be small research seminars organised on this theme during the course of 2009 as there is currently research underway: one study is focusing on the relation between housing exclusion and the labour market, while the MPHASIS project is focusing on developing methodologies to build capacity of EU countries to measure homelessness.

FEANTSA releases recommendations on access to employment for people experiencing homelessness

Existing employability initiatives usually fail to reach out to the most excluded groups, such as people experiencing homelessness. In a [recent policy statement](#), FEANTSA sets out recommendations for Member States and the European Union to make employment policies for people experiencing homelessness more effective in the future.

The recommendations are based on the findings of FEANTSA's European Report 2007 "Multiple Barriers, Multiple Solutions".

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PUBLICATIONS

FEANTSA's access to housing anti-discrimination toolkit online



Exclusion may take the form of discrimination along a number of dimensions and discrimination can contribute to housing exclusion. FEANTSA's new toolkit, which is aimed at organisations providing services to people who are homeless or faced with

housing and social exclusion, gives an overview of available international tools to tackle housing discrimination.

[Download the toolkit](#)

EPC report on the impact of the global financial crisis on the world's poorest

The European Policy Centre (EPC) has published the report of its Policy Dialogue on 'The impact of the global financial crisis on the world's poorest' which took place on 16 December 2008.

[Download the report](#)

Thematic report from the European Network of Legal Experts on indirect discrimination



The latest thematic report from the European Network of Legal Experts, entitled "Limits and potential of the concept of indirect discrimination" has been published.

[Download the report](#)

CONFERENCES

CINEFOGO Conference: "Social Rights, Active Citizenship and Governance in the EU" - 16-18 March 2009, Brussels

After almost four years of joint research, the network will stage a top-level conference where European researchers will meet EP members, EU officials, NGO representatives (EU, national), and the media. The goal of the conference would be spreading the outcomes of research conducted by the CINEFOGO project at the European and national levels of policy making.

[Read more](#)

FEANTSA: "The impact of the economic crisis on tackling homelessness at local level" - 28 May 2009, Brussels



The theme of the seminar, which will be hosted by the Committee of the Regions, is bridging the gap between EU ambitions on homelessness and local realities, with a focus on the impact of the economic crisis on tackling homelessness at local level. This seminar will bring together 80-100 participants from across Europe, and namely local practitioners working on homelessness

who wish to gather information and benefit from transnational exchanges on this theme.

[Read more](#)

Czech Presidency Conference: "Flexicurity: Lifelong learning & social protection" - 25-26 March 2009, Prague

This conference, organised by the [Czech EU Presidency](#) looks at the concept of Flexicurity in Times of Economic Crisis

European Social Services Conference: "Quality and Performance in Social Services in Europe" - 22-24 June 2009, Prague

The annual **European Social Services Conference** is intended for all those concerned with planning and delivering European social care and health. Through top-quality plenary presentations and a highly topical workshop programme, the conference offers strategic and practical learning and networking opportunities to all those responsible for planning and implementing services in different European regions: planners, politicians, managers and professionals.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

**European Social
Inclusion Platform
Office**

**Hontianska 12
821 08 Bratislava
SLOVAKIA**

Website: www.esip-platform.net

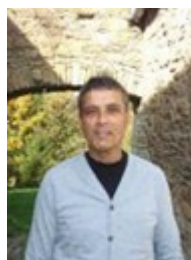


Janneke Draaisma
ESIP coordinator
Tel: 0034 934580927
info@esip-platform.net

ESIP MANAGEMENT SUPPORT



Luba Pavlovova, Director,
Regional Development Agency
Senec-Pezinok (Slovakia)
Tel. +421 2 355 00 11 20
(21)
**E-mail: [lpavlovova@region-
bsk.sk](mailto:lpavlovova@region-
bsk.sk)**



Haroon Saad, Director, QeC-
European Areas Regeneration
Network (QeC-ERAN)
Tel: +32 2 524 45 45
Fax: 32 (0)2 524 44 31,
**E-mail: [h.saad@qec-
eran.org](mailto:h.saad@qec-
eran.org)**



Isabella Haaf,
Communications and
Information Manager,
QeC-ERAN
Tel: +34 606 849 937
**E-mail: [isabellahaaf@qec-
eran.org](mailto:isabellahaaf@qec-
eran.org)**