

1st Edition

europeanprojects@medway.gov.uk

We Have a Passion for E.U. Projects



Medway Council, a unitary authority from South East England has for over 12 years led the way in developing E.U. projects that benefit the local area.

The Council has secured over £15 million in the last decade, participating in 93 projects. Currently the Council has 11 members of staff funded through

European projects who are responsible for managing and administering our 12 existing EU projects.

Based in the Economic Development, Tourism and Social Regeneration service, the projects we deliver focus on a range of priorities, including community development (Acces and Aimer), neighbourhood improvement (Inspire), support to businesses (Ten) and skills training and employment support (Succes).



Medway Councils E.U. Project Officers

Through excellent cooperation with our current partners we are eager to develop new partnerships and projects.

We will be hosting the Medway European Project Showcase Event on June 30 - July 1 in Medway, where we hope to share our passion and drive for European collaborations with 200 key European representatives.

We hope to respond successfully to the July call for new projects from the 2Seas Programme.

If you would like more information please contact

Solène Ferreira,
Medway Council
Gun Wharf, Chatham Kent
ME4 4TR
Solène.Ferreira@medway.gov.uk
+44 1634 338144.

Aimer Project News



ESOL Program Graduates

The AIMER project, which is run by Medway Council on behalf of the E.U., is designed to help with the integration and greater cohesion of new migrants with the host communities, including ethnic minority residents. On March 23rd 2011 an awards ceremony was held with the charity METcic to celebrate the fact that 50 new migrants

have gained qualifications in the English language so they can converse with local people. In December 2010, 11 people passed the (ESOL) English for Speakers of Other Languages entry level exams. The training provided gave practical instruction on the use of everyday English.

Census 2011 was present to highlight the importance of participating in the census and to advise on the support available. KAMEN-the Kent and Medway European Network supplied information to new arrivals about everyday living local services and cultural protocols.



Social and Urban Inclusion Through Housing Final Conference ...



**SUITE Partners
Spanish Embassy in
Brussels**

Medway Council participated in the FINAL Conference of the URBACT II, SUITE Project held at the Spanish Embassy in Brussels on 16 March 2011. European Network Officer, Vincent Jasper was there to present Medway's Local Action Plan and to contribute to the broader debate on Social Housing.

SUITE – The housing Project is a knowledge exchange network about Social Inclusion Through Housing and deals with a major social challenge: the inequality of access to housing. MMedway joined this pan European Network with 8 other cities

including, Krakow, Newcastle, Rennes, Tallinn, Nantes, Iasi, Hamburg and the lead partner, Santiago de Compostela from Spain. Project SUITE gave Medway Council the opportunity to benchmark local housing strategy against those of similar sized cities. We compared different approaches to the social mix, economics and environmental sustainability in housing.

We have been able to deliver direct benefits to Medway residents through the *In Focus* project, a part of the Local Action Plan.

URBACT II is a European exchange and learning

programme promoting sustainable urban development enabling cities to work together to develop solutions to major urban challenges. URBACT II is 290 cities, 37 Projects, 29 countries, and 5,000 stakeholders.

Contact Vincent Jasper, Medway Council on 00 44 16 34 33 81 03 by email at Vincent.jasper@medway.gov.uk or through the website www.urbact.eu/suite



Connecting cities
Building successes

French. The new language of Medway Business?



The Advanced Group

Since April 2010, nineteen individuals have been learning French to prepare their businesses for trading in France and the Single European Market

On 9th March, five people from the advanced group gave a 10 minute presentation on their companies to the students from the beginners group.

The tutor is delighted at

their confidence and their ability to deliver technical and very specific information on their businesses in French after just one year!

The business owners are now working on presentation and negotiation skills, all in French, with a view to dealing directly with French clients. TEN is about to launch a brand new beginners course, the fifth new

Group to start in 12 months.

The two current beginners groups will be merging in May and this brand new course will be starting, allowing a further 10 Medway businesses to benefit from the very generous funding available from this EU funded programme.



And the Winner is



**The Winning Group
"Suitcase Museum Display"**

Artists from across Kent were invited to submit their work inspired by the Chatham historic dockyard so it could be exhibited in the new nationally recognised gallery space

No. 1 Smithery.
(Located at the dockyard)

From this open submission a panel of judges chose the works to be displayed and awarded prizes in each different category.

We are delighted that:

"Creativity without Borders" was awarded 1st prize in the Mixed Media category for the performance of:

"The Suitcase Museum".

These stories about the Dockyard were created during Project Acces collaboration with artists and participants from Maison de Quartier Soubise Dunkerque France.

This project explored the history of the Chatham and Dunkerque Dockyard

closures and their impact on both communities. We celebrated moving forward with walking artistic performances through the Historic Dockyards here in Chatham and also in France.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 10th-12th June 2011. Acces Project Cross-border Activity 3.
- 15th June 2011. TEN Project Networking Event, Lille France.
- 15th-16th Jun 2011 REPAIR Final Conference Avrig and Sibiu Romania.
- 16th June 2011 REPAIR Final Conference Web Cast.
- 30th June – 1st July 2011 Medway's European Project Showcase Event, Dickens World, Chatham Kent.
- July 2011 Tour of Canterbury Innovation Centre for business Centre managers.
- **STOP PRESS– JULY 11 Newsletter will include a full length interview with Councillor Jane Chitty Lead Medway Councillor for European Funding**

Policy Recommendations!

Medway Council led a REPAIR Project delegation to Brussels on 17 March 2011, meeting European Commission representatives and other policy organisations at the Kent Brussels Office. Our purpose was to discuss draft EU Policy Recommendations developed by the partners before finalising this important aspect of the project activities.

Realising the potential of abandoned military sites as an integral part of Sustainable Urban Community Regeneration (REPAIR) - is an important topic across Europe. Reaction to our proposals was very positive and we returned encouraged by the validation received.

Medway leads the REPAIR Project that includes Rostock, Kaunas City, Karlskrona,

Kommun, Paola, New Dutch New Dutch Waterline (Utrecht) Opava City, Avrig, Florence and Charente-Maritime.

The URBACT II Programme provides finance for the project using European Regional Development Funds. URBACT II is 300 cities, 37 Projects, 29 countries and 5,000 stakeholders.

Contact Vincent Jasper, Medway Council on + 44 16 34 33 81 03

or by email
Vincent.jasper@medway.gov.uk

or website at
Wwww.urbact.eu/repair



TEN Drives Business

Business students from the University of Kent Business School in Canterbury were joined by seven businesses from around the South East on March 1st- 4th 2011 as part of a workshop run by Medway Council's European project called (TEN) Transmanche Enterprise Network.

TEN helps local businesses that want to expand into Europe. Students worked with business owners from a diverse range of markets from graphic design to communications companies and cider retailers.

François Reynier from design company Acacia attended the workshops and said:

“When running your own business on a day-to-day basis it's always difficult to find time to take a step back and have a fresh look at the bigger picture”.

This Consultancy Week was an opportunity to do just that, by putting businesses in touch with a team of students who work for them as “business consultants” for the course of the day.

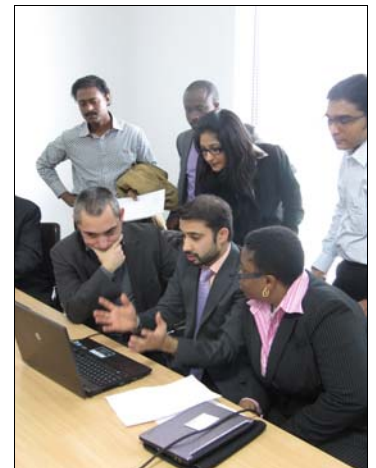
Rajendra Shirolé Director of MBA programmes at Kent University, said:

“These workshops allow students to bring their expertise to local and regional businesses in order to recommend solutions to real-world problems”.

This year, the council is expected to support more than 100 businesses through the Interreg IVA funded programme.

For more information about the TEN project email:

Estelle.timothy@medway.gov.uk
Or Wwww.tenproject.eu



Students and Business Professionals at the Workshop



Medway Welcomes Acces Annual Event!



European Participants to the Acces Event.

This year marked the 2nd Anniversary of project Acces with the annual event being held in Medway on the 5th & 6th of February 2011. The event was held at the Corn Exchange in historic Rochester. Residents welcomed 60 participants involved in the ACCES project from France. The two-day annual cross border event was an opportunity for participants to exchange and share through intergenerational activities. The big challenge was to mix up residents and participants from the 3 prime activities of "Engaging, Inclusion & Empowering of Young People", "Parents to

Parents" and "Creativity without Borders", considering the participants ranged in age from 2 to 70 years old.

Firstly, the group was split up and there was a general quiz for French and English speakers while the others created a map of the "Ideal City".

In the afternoon discussions took place to evaluate the similarities or differences in points of view. The evening provided some free time where participants visited Rochester and then gathered back together at the Corn Exchange for an Indian Meal.

Day 2 saw the younger group taking a trip to Bluewater centre for some shopping while the artists and families visited the commercial centre in Chatham before having a traditional roast dinner. Overall the event was a big success with participants and professionals enjoying the diversity regardless of their age. The next big event is our Final Conference, which is planned in September. Hopefully all the participants will be able to attend to learn what we have achieved through the Acces Project!



Successful Launch for Succes!

The newest member of Medway Council's growing family of EU projects, is SUCCES!



Succes Local and International Partners

SUCCES-Sustainable Uplifting Client Centered Employment Support, was launched on 6th October 2010 in Grande Synthe, France by the cross-border partnership. Project partners working alongside Medway Council as Lead Partner are: Maison de l'initiative (France), OCMW Kortrijk and Mentor VZW (Be) Community Connections (UK). The project runs until June 2013 and has three main cross border activities:

- 1.Strengthening Mobility (physical and social) as a pathway to employment.
- 2.Developing soft skills

and mitigating adverse personal circumstances to provide progression into employment.

3.To develop skills and qualifications so participants are better equipped to advance into employment. Locally, Medway has developed partnerships with: Employ Medway All Saints Community Project, Medway Adult Community Learning Service, North Kent Training Service Citizens Advice Bureau.

Succes beneficiaries are clients over 16 yrs old who are unemployed or economically inactive individuals or those with

low skills living in deprived urban zones who have been traditionally harder to reach by mainstream services.

Our local Neighbourhood Centres reach out to clients in innovative ways, engaging them by providing effective and timely employment support, advice and guidance, as well as informal learning "taster" sessions. We help with work placements and volunteering opportunities ultimately leading people back into employment. We look forward to bringing you more success stories from Succes!



Supporting
Medway's city bid
www.cityofmedway.org



Medway Council

Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR
Phone: +44 (0) 1634 338144 Fax: +44 (0) 1634 331184

www.medway.gov/business

Medway
Council
Serving You