

WELCOME AND PRESENTATION – LIPS FINAL CONFERENCE



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JEUNE organises at mobility. JEUNE is a and competences for the end of August the partner of this project their successful comple- final LIPS Conference. and is in charge of or- tion of work experien- This conference is the ganising the final c e s a b r o a d . , conference. The project Interactive modules in- cluding video and pod- cast all aimed at suc- cessful preparation for key situations, have been created by the pro- ject team. For more in- formation, you can view the LIPS website: <http://www.eu-lips.de/>

Linguistic and Inter-cultural Preparation of Students for the workplace (LIPS) project. This project has been funded with the support of the European Commission in the framework of Leonardo student improve students' skills

NEWS FROM BRUSSELS –JEUNE PARTICIPATES AT THE EUROPEAN YOUTH WEEK

JEUNE was invited to participate at the European Youth Week that took place in Brussels the first week of June.

Rosa Solanes represented JEUNE in the workshop : « Volunteering and Entrepreneurship ». Rosa explained JEUNE's initiatives in the field of entrepreneurship and among them mentioned the pilot project « University-Enterprise coopera- tion » . At this workshop, Rosa met representatives of the European Commission, Directorate General Education and Culture, students, young volunteers and representatives of the Portuguese Permanent Representation in Brussels.

A meeting has been organised between Elena Pellaschiari, Eduardo Royo and the person res- ponsible of Youth at the Portuguese Permanent Representation (in charge of youth policies during the Portuguese Presidency of the EU) in order to discuss JEUNE's views on Entrepreneurship. The meeting will enable JEUNE to work hand in hand with the Portuguese Presidency.

European
Youth Week

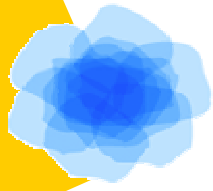


PRIORITIES OF THE PORTUGUESE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL IN SME POLICY

July - December 2007



The current President-in-Office, **José Sócrates**, Prime Minister of Portugal.



PORTUGAL 2007

On July 1st, Portugal took over the EU's rotating presidency of the Council from Germany. The Portuguese Presidency will manage the first steps of the upcoming review of the EU SME policy. The EU aims to ensure an improved compliance with the "better regulation" and simplification principles. Likewise, the promotion of independent business impact assessments and the support of a real "think small first" ap-

proach are of high importance for SMEs. Small businesses suffer from soaring energy prices since competition is low or non-existing and monopolies thrive on the supply side. A functioning internal market for energy is the key to solve this situation: however, it can only be achieved through ownership unbundling and by increasing regulatory power at EU level. Labour market reforms are an additional

concern. The Portuguese Presidency will encourage the adoption at Council level of the common principles of flexicurity recently proposed by the European Commission. The last but not least aspect for SMEs is energy saving: the ambitious targets set by the EC will never be reached without involving SMEs. Increased support services and better instruments to finance investments in this area are of the utmost importance.

"...Answering questions put to him by Portuguese Socialist Joel Hasse Ferreira and British Conservative Malcolm Harbour on the Portuguese presidency's programme on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the minister set out the priorities for action in this area: - SME financing; - "Think Small First", a principle that should guide SME-related action ; - "internationalization" of European companies in order to help them gain a foothold in international markets; - and the simplification of administrative procedures. In Portugal, it is possible to create a company in just 45 minutes thanks to the internet, Mr. Pinho was pleased to point out.

NEW WEBSITE AND LOGO

JEUNE is changing its image!

The new website is currently under construction and will be launched this Autumn. The address will be the same: www.jeune-pme.eu



A NEW FRAMEWORK ON REDUCED VAT RATES FOR LABOUR-INTENSIVE SECTORS



The European Commission considers that there is a real need for a simplification and rationalization of the current VAT rates structure, in particular the reduced VAT rates. It believes that there is a place for more flexibility which would allow Member States to apply VAT reduced rates to local supplies. However, this flexibility needs to be balanced to ensure the proper functioning of the Internal Market and to avoid disproportionate compliance costs for business. The Commission proposes to extend, until the end 2010, most of the derogations coming to an end soon.

The Communication is based on, and presents the results of, an economic study conducted by an independent think-tank, as

well as on other reflections on the possible way forward in the field of reduced rates.

The main conclusion of this study is that from an economic perspective a single uniform VAT rate (per Member State) is the best policy choice. It would slightly improve consumer welfare in comparison with the current situation, reduce distortions in the functioning of the Internal Market, simplify the rules and thus reduce compliance costs for business. However, there may be specific economic benefits from operating a reduced rate in carefully targeted sectors. According to the study, lower VAT rates could contribute to economic growth if they can induce consumers to spend more on bought-in goods and services. Such a change in consumption habits often also allows more time to be spent on leisure activities with an

associated increase in expenditure. For (certain) locally supplied services – notably those usually referred to as "do-it-yourself" – such a shift could take place. By "do-it-yourself" activities is meant activities which a person physically carries out himself but which he could buy in from the formal economy. Typical examples are ironing, gardening, small house repairs, preparing food at home (as opposed to buying it in a restaurant). There are also arguments for introducing VAT reduced rates in sectors employing many low skilled workers in order to permanently create new jobs. However, overall net gains seem to be minor. The study also stresses that other economic instruments (such as subsidies) might often be more efficient than reduced VAT rates to achieve environmental, social, cultural and economical policies.

A single uniform VAT rate would simplify the rules and reduce costs for business

JEUNE SUPPORTS THE SIMPLIFICATIONS OF VAT RATES

JEUNE welcomes the communication on reduced VAT rates and believes that the new framework suggested by the EC to rationalize and simplify the use of VAT rates in the EU is a good starting point for discussions with Member States and other stakeholders. It also agrees with the Commission's recommendation to extend a number of derogations coming to an end soon, pending the outcome of the political debate on the issue at Council level.

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The association of young entrepreneurs of France (JEF) assists young people of less than 35 years old, in particular in deprived urban areas on the necessary steps towards entrepreneurship. JEF acts on three different levels: promotion of the entrepreneurship spirit, assistance to youngsters with projects and assistance on enterprise develop-

FRANCE: JEUNE ENTREPRENEURS DE FRANCE

ment (through the creation of financial tools thanks to business angels).

JEF was created in 2002 in a sensitive urban area, Mantes la Jolie and since then has created other JEF points throughout different municipalities in the Paris region.

The JEF association aims to sensitize young people about the creation of new companies and to accompany them so that they concretize their professional projects. JEF participates

in the public debate by presenting to decision makers propositions in order to encourage entrepreneurship within the young communities and enable young entrepreneurs to develop their enterprises.



Majid El Jarroudi

JEUNE EVENTS**August**

30/08:
JEUNE Administrative Council and General Assembly, Brussels;

31/08:
Meeting of Elena Pellaschiari and Eduardo Royo with Patricia Pincarilho, Portuguese Permanent Representation in Brussels, Brussels;

September

30-31/08 - 01/09:
LIPS Final Conference, Brussels.

17/09:
Youth conference, organized by the Portuguese presidency, Lisbon (Portugal).

27/09:
NORMAPME Board Meeting, Brussels.

October

04/10:
JADE Anniversary Day, Brussels;

26-27/10:
2nd Dialogue on the Recognition of Non-Formal Education, organised by the Youth Forum Jeunesse, Brussels.

November

08/11:
UEAPME SME Day, EP, Brussels;

29/11:
NORMAPME Board Meeting, Brussels, attended by Elena.

PLEASE VISIT US AT OUR NEW WEBSITE

<http://www.jeune-pme.eu>