

Project Idea Sheet

Project idea	<p>The introduction of a new concept in school buildings in the perspective of their transformation into spaces favoring social activities promoting immigrants social inclusion.</p>
Project name	<p>“COMMUNITY SCHOOL”: The contribution of a direct interventional urban planning to the promotion of social inclusion in target regions – The case of an alternative use of the school units.</p>
Priority / Measure	<p><i>Priority 1</i>: “Promoting Spatial Development Approaches and Actions for Social and Economic Cohesion” / <i>Measure 1.4</i>: “Spatial Impact of Immigration”.</p>
Project description	<p>Nowadays, school buildings operate, almost exclusively, in morning shifts in order to fulfil their principal objective, that is to provide the appropriate space and equipment for educational purposes.</p> <p>However, the perspective of school operation beyond their morning shift as an open space towards community consists an innovative direct urban planning intervention, which will contribute in the promotion of social cohesion between immigrants and the community, since educational facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) are interspersed within the urban environment hence ensuring direct access to all residents b) are the most familiar, social favoring and friendly spaces for the development of social, educational, training and cultural activities c) provide the necessary infrastructure for the development of social, educational, training and cultural activities <p>Thus, school buildings could perform an additional role, which will not affect their primary orientation. In other words, they could also operate in the afternoon acting as “cells” of social activities addressed to immigrants offering a variety of educational, training and cultural opportunities especially focused in female immigrants.</p> <p>The transformation of the “traditional” school buildings into “Community Schools” requires small scale interventions such as installations’ expansion, additional equipment, etc., in order that the new offered services will not affect or interrupt their morning operation.</p>

Central objectives:

1. The school as an interactive dialog “window” between the immigrants and the community.
2. Introduction of a new role in school buildings adjusting / extending their operation according to the immigrants’ social inclusion needs.
3. Improvement of immigrants accessibility to the social, educational, training and cultural environment with emphasis in female immigrants.
4. Contribution both in social security policies development and the bridging of gaps between immigrants and “reception” communities.
5. Trans-national co-operation and know-how and experiences exchange on social cohesion issues (instruments, methodologies, standards and concepts, networks).
6. Improvement of immigrants skills –emphasising on female immigrants- for the accommodation of their accession in the labour market.
7. Restriction of further immigration flows through the improvement of living standards as a result of the accessibility to the social, educational, training and cultural environment.

Expected outcome:

1. Recording of the existing school infrastructure within the target region – Assessment and selection of school units in the view of their feasibility to meet the required interventions for their transformation into Community Schools.
2. Meetings – seminars addressed to project partners.
3. Meetings – seminars addressed to bodies, institutions, associations, etc.
4. Promotion and dissemination activities (e.g. web site development, publications, Cd-rom creation, etc.)
5. Technical specifications studies for the transformation of existing school units into Community Schools.
6. Implementation studies for the transformation of existing school units into Community Schools.
7. Pilot interventions in selected school units which are transformed to Community Schools (appropriate space settings for immigrants educational and training purposes, Citizens Information Centre, multi-creational areas settings, within the existing school installations).
8. Monitoring - Assessment of the new function.

Project duration 2005 - 2007

Estimated total budget 3.2000.000€

Lead partner	<p>Prefecture of Piraeus</p> <hr/> <p>Country: Greece Address: 14-16 Akti Poseidonos, 185 31 Athens, Greece Tel: +30 210 4148516 / 4111407 Fax: +30 210 4134492 e-mail: nomarhis@nomarhiapeiraia.gr</p> <p>Contact person: Name: Pavlos Triantafyllou Address: 14-16 Akti Poseidonos, 185 31 Athens, Greece Tel: +30 210 4102220 / +30 6932427433 e-mail: idgrafeio2@nomarhiapeiraia.gr</p>
Project partners	<p>Open for additional partners: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Looking for partners fulfilling the following characteristics: The project "COMMUNITY SCHOOL" refers to all countries within the eligible territory of CADSES, and especially those who are willing to implement similar activities and interventions to their educational infrastructure for immigrants social inclusion purposes.</p>