

Press Release

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EU programme “Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs”: first 100 exchanges under way

While many people are starting to plan their summer holidays, hundreds of European entrepreneurs are getting ready for a different kind of journey.

Since the launch of the new European mobility scheme “Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs” in February 2009, around 700 entrepreneurs have submitted their application and some 100 exchanges between new and experienced entrepreneurs from different EU countries are currently being prepared, of which around 20 will take place this summer.

These business exchanges, which last between 1 and 6 months, cover a wide variety of sectors ranging from the jewellery design to ICT services and take place all across the EU. They give new entrepreneurs – those planning to start their own business or who have recently done so – the chance to spend time with an experienced entrepreneur in another EU country and learn from him valuable management skills in order to increase the chances of success of their own company.

Günter Verheugen, Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of Enterprise and Industry, said: *“I am glad to see that the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme is taking off. Its objectives to help unlock business potential, reveal new opportunities and make a better use of the internal market are more relevant than ever in the context of the current economic crisis.”*

“Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs” is a golden opportunity for both new entrepreneurs and experienced entrepreneurs who are willing to share their experience and to benefit from the input and ideas of a new entrepreneur from another country.

The first exchange – the story of Jean Pierre and Jordi

On Europe Day (i.e. 9 May 2009), Jean Pierre Galea, a Maltese new entrepreneur, travelled to Spain to spend 6 weeks working with Jordi Bufi Caballero, his Spanish host entrepreneur. This is the first exchange of “Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs”.

Jean Pierre is 25 years old. Having worked with various companies in different ICT sectors, he has decided to set up his own business. He is convinced that by participating in “Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs”, he will acquire new skills and increase his chances of success. *“Through this experience I will have the opportunity to learn more about managing a business and also how to deal with the daily challenges of a web development company. My aim is to return to Malta*

equipped with more knowledge and experience on how to run my business successfully,” said Jean Pierre.

Jordi, the host entrepreneur, runs a small web development business in Barcelona which started 10 years ago. Jordi is keen to learn from and help new entrepreneurs like Jean Pierre because, in his own words, *“I would really have appreciated a similar initiative when I had begun as an entrepreneur. I think that Jean Pierre can learn many things from us and we will also learn a lot from him.”*

New and experienced entrepreneurs who wish to follow the example of Jean Pierre and Jordi should apply for the programme via the web page www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu

More stories of entrepreneurs having participated in the programme can be downloaded from www.eurochambres.eu/content/default.asp?PageID=1&DocID=1872

For further information:

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs Support Office

c/o EUROCHAMBRES

Avenue des Arts, 19 A/D • B-1000 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32 2 282 08 73 • Fax: +32 2 280 01 91

support@erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu

www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu