

Workplan for the Malmö/Mediterranean network in the tusenet project

1.0 Overall project description.

Overall objectives:

- To strengthen the continued process of democratisation and respect for human rights, and to promote closer links with European cooperation structures and common values.
- To inspire reform of the municipal sector, and development of UMT.

Project aims:

- To strengthen the local politicians and staff in knowledge and information regarding good management practice, to meet new demands.
- To clarify the division of responsibilities and powers between local politicians and staff.
- To strengthen the participation of citizens and civic organisations in local decision making and activities.
- To strengthen the municipalities and UMT in the safe-guarding of municipal interests and having adequate resources for their tasks.
- Enhanced knowledge in the municipalities about EU practices and about how to access EU funding.
- The Parties will develop cooperation within the areas
 1. Youth participation in decision making processes
 2. The use of renewable energy in order to fight climate change
- Taking into account the following horizontal themes in all project activities:
 - (1) gender equality,
 - (2) sustainable development,
 - (3) transparency, accountability, ethics and public participation in local administration,
 - (4) efficient service production, and
 - (5) know-how about EU practices and funding.

Other municipal issues that come up on the agenda during the project implementation, if the partners agree about such issues and the tasks in question can be financed in a manner acceptable to all parties.

1.1 Objectives in the project (project benefits), background and analysis/interests behind the chosen input and activities.

Project partners in the Malmö-Mediterranean network are the City of Malmö in Sweden and the three Turkish cities Antalya, Tarsus and Mugla. The focus areas are 1. Youth participation in decision making processes and 2. The use of renewable energy in the effort to fight climate change. These areas have been identified through a joint dialogue between all partners. Furthermore, work plan activities were selected because of their potential to impact on the overall aims and objectives of tusenet.

Youth participation

Youth participation is an important factor when it comes to making decisions for the future. Looking at the demography of Turkey, 35 % of the population is 16-35 years of age. This is a large group that must be involved in the decision making process. Otherwise there is a great risk of getting a large number of people that feels alienated from the society, not motivated to take part in the changes towards a sustainable society; necessary changes in Turkey, in Sweden and all over the globe. It is therefore important not only to listen to the youth, but also to be prepared to use the input from young people when making important decisions. That means that the transition is not only about educating and motivating young people to take active part in decision making. It is also about making adult decision makers understand the importance of letting young people in.

The aim of the youth part of the project is therefore:

1. to advocate the importance of involving young people in the decision making processes and to familiarise decision makers in the four cities with the tools to put this into practice
2. to make it possible for young people in Sweden and Turkey to meet and exchange knowledge and experience on how to effectively engage in decision making processes

All the four cities have already youth councils which can be a good platform to work from. This can lead to common activities like arranging meetings, seminars and training courses where young people from both countries can participate. It will also give the different partner municipalities a good opportunity to make comparisons about their respective experiences with regard to creating forums for youth participation; and eventually documenting their collective 'best practices'. There is also the possibility of arranging longer youth exchanging programmes between the two countries. (however, fund-raising will be an important task). These exchanges will primarily result in capacity and knowledge development on an individual level. However, it will also be a good opportunity to increase the know-how about EU practices and funding, which is a horizontal theme in the project. To start with, two young persons from Tarsus and Antalya will participate in a youth conference in Malmö in December 2008, and young people from all the four cities will participate in a youth conference in Nürnberg, Germany, in May 2009. Individual and collective goals should be set prior to participation in these events.

Renewable energy

Climate change is one of the biggest threats to mankind today. It is necessary to make big efforts in order to decrease the emissions of greenhouse gases. The big question is how to solve the world's demand for energy without jeopardising the future of our planet. Using renewable energy is crucial, since the use of fossil fuels is going to increase the problems with global warming. Fossil fuels are also the cause of many health problems caused by air pollution. In addition, fossil fuels are limited resources that will not last forever. It is also clear that the use of green house gases will in the long run have a major economical impact on our society. The Stern report clearly states that it will be more costly not to do anything about global warming.

All four cities have, to some extent, worked with renewable energy. In Turkey it is mostly about solar energy since the conditions for solar are excellent. Solar collectors are used on many buildings to heat household water and PV panels has been put up by the universities to generate electricity. There has also been some pilot projects on biogas generation from for example waste from vegetable plantations. Wind power could also be an option for the Turkish cities. In Malmö there have been a lot of projects on renewable energy, for example solar, wind, biogas and hydrogen. However, all the cities feel that there much more to do in order to decrease the use of fossil fuels and combat climate change.

The aim of the energy part of the project is therefore:

1. to make decision makers in the four cities more interested in renewable energy, in order to, in the long run, increase the use of renewable energy

2. to make it possible for researchers and civil servants to meet and exchange knowledge and experiences about renewable energy and its utilisation in municipalities

The target groups are decision makers and officials in high places in the four cities. The mandate of the local decision makers to make decisions about energy use must be investigated. Even if the local decision makers have no mandate to make decisions in this area, there might be possibilities for them to influence decisions on a higher level. It is crucial to motivate them to make or influence decisions, or create an incentives system for individuals or businesses, that will result in an increase in the use of renewable energy sources in the four cities. Participating in this work are not only the municipalities but also the universities and other relevant actors like for instance NGOs. Local enterprises are also an important group, like for instance clean tech companies that can help with technical solutions. The partners of the network also intend to investigate different possibilities to start common projects which include the issue of fund raising. This needs a closer look at legislation issues and more knowledge about EU-practice, which will be an important task in the tusetnet-project.

Looking at the work with energy planning and renewable energy today, it is clear that on the Turkish side this work is done by the universities. The municipalities have no ongoing work in the area and no department responsible for energy planning on a wider scale and with a longer perspective. It is likely however that in the near future, local energy departments will be started in the municipalities, initiated by the Ministry of Energy on the national level. A positive effect from the tusetnet project is that there is now an exchange of knowledge and a discussion between the municipalities and the universities about renewable energy. Based on the lessons from the energy dialogue, the tusetnet partnership will develop a handbook on how to work with energy planning and the use of renewable energy in municipalities. If deemed appropriate (after UMT-led dialogue with the Ministry of Energy), the handbook may also be used to propose a possible organisational structure, competence requirements and policy guidelines for the new local energy departments.

Out of a list of possible subjects, four focus areas for cooperation in the tusetnet partnership have been chosen. The four areas are:

1. Solar roofs – putting PV-panels on roofs to produce electricity.
2. Stirling engine motors – using the old Stirling engine technique in combination with solar power. Possible cooperation with the Swedish company Kockums Stirling engine which the group visited in Malmö in May 2008.
3. Climate tourism – using climate smart technique in the tourism business, for example using solar power to cool hotels. Swedish hotels like Scandic are role models and possible cooperation partners.
4. Formula G – putting together a tusetnet-team to compete in the solar cell car race for students in the spring of 2010. Could be possible through some kind of student exchange that enables the students in the four cities to meet and build a car together. This makes it possible for the two main areas of the project, renewable energy and youth democracy, to meet in one common task.

Workshops

To increase the knowledge and interest for renewable energy there will be four workshops arranged during 2008 and 2009, one workshop in each city. The focus of the workshops will be solar energy, since all four cities have identified solar energy as an interesting area for the future and have already had some activities in the area. The aim of the workshops is to increase the interest for solar energy and the primary target groups are decision makers and managing officials in both the municipality and the university. Local enterprises and NGOs will also be invited. The first workshop will be held in Mugla in December 2008, the second in Malmö in February 2009, the third in Tarsus in May 2009 and the last one in Antalya in October 2009. The workshops will be combined with an exhibition about solar energy where different actors can participate, such as the municipality, the university, local enterprises and NGOs. A working group will be established to develop the handbook in parallel with the workshops.

New project

The network has applied for funding from the EU-program "Promotion of the Civil Society Dialogue Between the EU and Turkey" for a project named FUSE (FUTURE Sustainable Education). The application was based on the LFA-analysis carried out by the Turkish partners. The issue of the application is environmental education and awareness rising. In the TUSENET-project there will be an exchange of knowledge and ideas in the area, and the new EU-project will give the opportunity to deepen the cooperation and be more specific and concrete. One of the measures is to physically establish an environmental class, both on the Turkish and the Swedish side. In this class students can learn more about energy and how it can be used. They will get the opportunity to make experiments with energy to see and learn where energy comes from and how energy works in real life. This will not only give the students more knowledge about energy but also make them understand how energy can be used in a way that will not jeopardise our common future. The city of Malmö has a long experience in this area and can therefore contribute with both knowledge and material. One example is the Climate-X-project, that has been successfully carried out in Malmö, where students from all over the city could come and do energy experiments and learn more about energy and climate change. FUSE was approved and will start in the autumn of 2008.

2.0 Identified problems that will be taken care of in the project (Justification)

Youth participation has been chosen as a theme because both Sweden and Turkey need to strengthen and vitalise the democratic processes and make young people a part of it. Sweden has a long democratic background but up to now the youth has not been involved as much as they could and should. Turkey has a great number of young people that also need to be involved in the decision making, in order to feel as a part of the society. There are many youth councils that are active in both countries but they are often not a part of the decision making when it comes to important decisions with a huge impact on our common future. It will therefore be important, not only to engage young people, but also to advocate the importance of this engagement to municipal decision makers.

Renewable energy has been chosen because this is a key issue when it comes to fighting climate change. Turkey has a lot of potential for solar, especially the southern regions have a great deal of sun that can be used for these purposes. Sweden has not at all that amount of sun, but can still use it for power generation and there is a lot of potential for wind. All the four cities have an ongoing work in the municipalities and/or in the universities with renewable energy. The partners of the network are very interested to explore the possibilities to use solar and wind in an even more efficient way and there is also a great interest to work with for example biogas and hydrogen power.

An important task for the project is also to educate and motivate decision makers to increase the share of renewable energy in the four cities. Another aspect could be to give technical training and support to the people that are going to make the technical installations and run and support the equipment. The handbook will summarise the 'best practices' of the partners and make recommendations on how to work with energy planning and the use of renewable energy in municipalities. This may result in the development of a possible organisational structure, competence requirements and policy guidelines (including incentivisation of renewable energy) for new local energy departments.

The result of the project will be a) increased participation among youth in the decision making process and b) increased knowledge about renewable energy and how it can be used. This can lead to a) young people feeling more involved in society and more hopeful about their own future and b) increased use of renewable energy which also leads to decreased emissions of green house gases.

4.0 Foreseen obstacles and difficulties in reaching results and suggestions on how these obstacles/possible weaknesses can be handled.

I. Problems with political support for the project.

The political support for the project has been very good, at least in the beginning of the project, but there will be elections in Turkey in spring 2009 and if the present Mayors are not re-elected the new Mayors might give less priority to the project.

The overall objective for this project is to increase the capacity of the Turkish Municipalities. There might be a political interest to show the public more concrete results and this might decrease the political support for the project.

How these obstacles/possible weaknesses can be handled

It is important that the project is deeply anchored in the administrative organisation in the participating Municipalities, but also in both the political majority and minority. It is also important that the project can show concrete results. The main objectives in the project have to be discussed in the regular follow-up meetings each quarter.

II. Problems in communication

There is a lack of knowledge in English, mainly in the Turkish municipalities. This sometimes leads to misunderstandings and frustration. Another problem is the lack of professional translators in the meetings. There is often an English teacher or another person with English skills hired as a translator. The fact that a person can speak good English does not mean that he or she can translate business meetings or technical presentations all day long for several days. A task like that takes professional training during a long period of time. A bad translation means that a well prepared meeting with a lot of people involved turns out to be almost meaningless or at least very frustrating for all people involved.

How these obstacles/possible weaknesses can be handled

To be integrated in the EU family it is important that Turkish Municipalities have knowledge of the English language. This could be one of the important demands when recruiting new staff members. It is also important that those who are working with development projects get the possibility to have English-studies during working hours. But this takes time. To run this project it is important that the Turkish Municipalities take good care of the staff members who are English speaking and give them time and responsibility to work in the project. It is important to have one person in each municipality who is involved in the project that is "almost" fluent in English and responsible for the contact with the partners in Sweden. It is also very important to always use professional translators during the meetings, even if it costs more. It is also important to translate important document to Turkish to make sure that everybody understands.

III. Problems with continuation

If the persons in charge of the project or responsible for the communication with the partners are replaced it might harm the project badly.

How these obstacles/possible weaknesses can be handled

No-one is employed in the Municipality a lifetime, but it is important that those who are working operationally in the project have the prerequisites to perform well and do a good job in the project, and to be proud of the work done. This is a question that has to be discussed on a regular basis during the follow-up each quarter.

IV. Dependent upon other organisations

A lot of the activities are dependent on decisions taken by other authorities or actors. The work with youth issues can involve schools which is not a municipal responsibility in Turkey. Schools can be involved for instance if there is an exchange between schools or activities during school

hours to raise knowledge about climate change. This is the case with for example the FUSE project. Schools in Turkey are run by the state. Other parties that might get involved are different NGOs.

When it comes to renewable energy there is a similar situation. To be able to carry out activities on renewable energy in the Turkish cities it is absolutely necessary to involve the universities because the universities is where the work is done today and also where the competence lies on these issues. To be able to do anything more than just talking, external funding is also needed.

How these obstacles/possible weaknesses can be handled

Different arenas will be created in the project for information, communication, cooperation and project participation between the Turkish Municipalities and institutions and organisations in the surrounding society such as NGOs, companies/business-associations and Universities (Triple-Helix cooperation). Such formal or informal cooperation already exists but will be even more developed during the project period. It is important that the organisations the project is dependent on are invited to such cooperation and are well informed about the development of the Tusenet project. Funding shortfalls may be covered, in the case of youth participation, by seeking support from international development donors, such as the EU or SIDA. For renewable energy, it is anticipated that the Triple-Helix arena itself will result in new forms of engagement between different actors, and this will in turn generate possible new funding opportunities from, for example, the private sector.

5.0 Follow-up, proposals/plans on how to measure the results.

The success of this partnership will ultimately be measured by how well the specific activities have contributed to the achievement of the project aims, namely:

- Enhance the knowledge of local politicians/staff on good management practice.
- Enhance civic participation in local decision making.
- Strengthen the municipalities and UMT in the safe-guarding of municipal interests.
- Enhanced knowledge in the municipalities about EU practices.'

In the Malmö/Mediterranean network these issues will be addressed through the work with youth participation and renewable energy as described in this work plan.

Indicators to measure partnership contribution to the overall Tusenet aims will include:

- No. participants in study tours and workshops
- No. examples of communication, participatory planning, etc. (including triple-helix dialogue)
- Handbook on renewable energy produced and disseminated and used by other Municipalities
- National policy dialogue informed by renewable energy partnership
- No. of (successful) EC funding proposals
- Youth exchange exposure to EU project knowledge
- Female participation in Tusenet/Triple-Helix dialogue/decision-making
- Stakeholder perceptions of 'Most Significant Change' regarding individual and organizational knowledge increase

Important targets for the tusenet project are also the general themes. One of them is sustainable development which will be addressed throughout the project considering renewable energy is one of the focus areas. Of the other general themes especially EU-know how and public participation will be addressed. One aim is also a raise of knowledge about cultural conditions, municipal organisation and the division of responsibilities between local politicians and staff members. The raise of knowledge on these issues will be evaluated by either questionnaires or interviews. The workshops will be evaluated by questionnaires to the participants.

The different projects and activities will be reviewed against the indicators outlined below during the joint work meeting held each quarter of a year. Reports on the project progress will be written every quarter of a year and distributed to the partners and to SALA IDA. An annual report will be written where the results is presented.

Result	Follow-up/Measures	When	Responsible
Define actual figures for renewable energy use in each participating municipality	Percentage of renewable (as opposed to other) energy sources	Dec 2008	The individual participating Municipalities
Solar workshop in Mugla Solar power exhibition	Number of participants, raise of knowledge and interest	Dec - 08	Mugla
Solar workshop in Malmö Solar power exhibition	Number of participants, raise of knowledge and interest	Feb - 09	Malmö
Solar workshop in Tarsus Solar power exhibition	Number of participants, raise of knowledge and interest	May - 09	Tarsus
Solar workshop in Antalya Solar power exhibition	Number of participants, raise of knowledge and interest	Feb - 10	Antalya
TUSENET-car in Formula G	Solar car built, participation in the contest	Jul -10	All
Search for external funding	Number of written applications, number of approvals	The whole project	All
A handbook in how to work with energy planning in municipalities	Handbook produced	June 2010	Malmö
Handbook used as national policy advocacy tool	Dissemination and promotion by UMT	June 2010	Project group
Follow-up on utilisation of handbook	No. of cases of adoption/utilisation	Dec 2010	UMT
Increased knowledge about renewable energy, municipal utilisation, EU practice and funding, gender issues, national and cultural conditions and context, civic dialogue, etc.	Evaluation by interviews and/or questionnaire	June 2010	Malmö
Increased participation of different parties in the work with renewable energy eg. universities, local enterprises, NGOs, the public.	Participation of different actors in the workshops	June 2010	Malmö

6.0 Documentation and reporting – instructions on regular reporting.

On the regular project meetings the plans and activities will be followed-up and a report will be sent to all partners and to UMT and SALA IDA.

All the Turkish partners will write a log book every quarter and this will be sent to Malmö, UMT and SALA IDA for information.

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