

## **INTRODUCTION - AIM OF THE PROJECT**

The aim of this project is the creation of a European network called **"PYTHEAS"** constituted of cities and institutions which have their roots in areas such as Asia Minor, Istanbul, Pontus and other cities and regions of Europe, which in the passage of centuries created refugee immigrant citizens flows.

The objective is, through common actions, for the eldest to remember and for the younger to learn the culture, the values and the beginnings of these Cities and institutions that represent them in the contemporary society. The terminus is to keep alive the local deliveries and the cultural heritage.

Our intention is to elect through the actions of the program the contribution of the athletic movement in the social growth, the incorporation in the local societies of new currents that come from the associations and institutions which practise athletic and cultural action and certainly the contact via culture and sports, via international organisations and meetings.

It is marked that the exchange of experiences among the participants in the program should not be restricted in the historical experience, but should move also on the creation of new collaborations that would elect the particularities of each region, that would help in the transfer of experience and innovative actions, which each institution can develop in its region, and finally, to the creation of a European Path of Cities **"PYTHEAS"**, which will have permanent presence, common reflections on the sports and the culture.

## **ORGANISATION - FUNCTION OF "PYTHEAS"**

On the occasion of the innovations that the Minor Asians transferred from the East in Europe and the Dissemination of all these new ideas in the coasts of Mediterranean, we release the subject:

ORGANISATION & OPERATION OF A COLLABORATION NETWORK OF CITIZENS FROM ALL EUROPE WITH COMMON ROOTS AND COURSE THROUGH THE PASSAGE OF YEARS.

The attendance in European Networks of cities really offers a lot of positive elements in a city. Beyond the obligations that result (economic, procedural etc]), the participating cities can come in direct contact with corresponding services of the European Committee in Brussels, can be informed, can transmit the information in the responsible local authorities and in the citizens, but also can transfer the developments of local societies in the European Committee, promoting thus practices towards the viable growth.

The municipality of Nea Smyrni pioneer in Greece therefore, with roots from Asia Minor, has decided to create a network of cities which will be constituted of Municipalities and institutions of five at least states of EU, which will have common roots the fact that over the years have created refugee migratory citizens.

The European network is proposed to be called **"Pytheas – migrant cities"** due to the fact that an ancient Greek named Pytheas was the first explorer that acted in the region of Hellenism, from India up to the western basin of Mediterranean. He was one of those who contributed in the building of cultural and political presence of Greek gender through the world.

## **AT REGIONAL - NATIONAL LEVELS**

The national-regional network will be constituted by Municipalities and Institutions of Greece, whose roots belong in the Asia Minor, Istanbul and the Pontus, (e.g. New Smyrni, New Philadelphia, Panionios, etc).

For the enhanced operation and in order to ensure the continuation of this undertaking in the future, an Administrative Council is elected, whose responsibilities as well as its duration will be described analytically in the statute of Network, which will be also ratified by the General Assembly. With this way, the diachronism and the effectiveness of the network are ensured.

The Board of Directors that will undertake the co-ordination of the network 'PYTHEAS' will be in charge of the realisation of the actions as well as for their financing. It will constitute the central pylon and the point of report of the whole undertaking, in national level.

At the same time, for the better and more effective operation of the new institution, each year a city or an Institution will be defined by the General Assembly as Coordinator for the time period of one year, which in collaboration with the B.D. will train and materialise the plan of action.

First year Coordinator at European level (Leader) will be the municipality of New Smyrni whose responsibilities will be detailed in the statutes of the Network as well as analyzing the obligations – responsibilities of each partner

## **AT EUROPEAN LEVEL**

The Regional-national network 'PYTHEAS' will be developed and will collaborate with Municipalities and Institutions from still four at least member states the EU, with common historical characteristics - which will participate autonomously and immediately or via the creation of their own regional network that will be included in Pytheas. Thus, the network 'PYTHEAS' will receive the European dimensions that we wish and will meet its objective. The final name of the network will be:

EUROPEAN PATH OF CITIES  
PYTHEAS  
COMMON ROOTS AND COURSE  
FOR HISTORY, SPORTS & CULTURE

The general objective of the network 'PYTHEAS' in European level will be the creation of a mechanism that will allow the European citizens to be informed and prepared and to spread proposals with regard to the future of sports and culture in Europe.

## **THE EUROPEAN NETWORK IN PRACTICE**

For the period 2015-2016, due to the fact that the network has not been created at this moment, the Municipality of New Smyrnis will undertake the co-ordination of the actions so that we are led to its creation as well as to election of the B.D. of the Institution.

PROGRAM OF ENERGIES FOR THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NETWORK

In September 2015, the Municipality of New Smyrni, after the record of the Cities and the Institutions partners, organises a conference-congress on the subject:

EUROPEAN PATH OF CITIES  
PYTHEAS  
COMMON ROOTS AND COURSE  
FOR HISTORY, SPORTS & CULTURE

Inviting interested cities and institutions to participate.

In the conference-congress, with the initiative of Municipality of New Smyrni is invited institutions - associations - cultural organisms of Greece, of the greek colonies but also other European Cities with common roots, priorities and claims. Our objective is to connect populations with different culture and habits in a common action of exchange of knowledge and experiences for the future of Europe.

Today that Europe is shaken by the economic crisis, its citizens through the contracting of co-operative action for culture and sports, will spread the message of unity and Solidarity. Main subjects of the congress will be the creation of the network, the election of the B.D., the planning of action for the period 2015-2016 and a first exchange of opinions on how, up to now, the cities and the institutions keep alive their traditions and their cultural heritage.

The Municipality of New Smyrni will announce the action plan for the time period 2016-2017. In the end of the congress the city or the institution that will be elected as National Coordinator is announced.

### **PERIOD 2015-2017 MUNICIPALITY OF NEW SMYRNI**

The municipality of New Smyrnis as Coordinator of the network for the period 2015-2016, have placed as basic objective for the network to explore the way with which the athletic associations and the various cultural institutions of cities of the partners will play an active and interventionist role in the local societies.

For this reason, with the initiative of Municipality of New Smyrni, the network participates in the program of EU CITIZENS FOR EUROPE, so that the attendance of associations and cities from all Europe is feasible. Through the implementation of the program the network through concrete actions will come in contact with European cities and athletic and cultural associations, exchanging opinions, theories but also the know-how.

Proposed Actions in European level:

- Conference - Congress with the attendance of Network and invited European cities - institutions.
- Organisation of meetings of common interest, in regional level for each member of the European network
- Organisation of athletic events in the 5 states of EU
- Organisation of cultural events with the attendance of participating cities and local institutions.
- Creation of athletic electronic museum with elements from the all cities that participate in the program
- Publication of an athletic and cultural album.
- Summer program of sensitization of children from the cities of partners.
- Construction of an internet site of the PYTHEAS network
- Resurgence of Panionian Games in New Smyrni.

With the occasion of completion of 122 years from the foundation of Panionios Gymnastic Association of Smyrni we aim at bringing out issues as:

- Athletic History
- International Athletic relations - Sports in Europe
- Amateur Sports
- Athletic and Cultural action
- Incorporation of refugees via Sports
- Growth of volunteerism

### **Summarizing**

The development of cities Network "**Pytheas – migrant cities**" aims to bring all the concerns surrounding the issue of migration and promote practices that will bring together indigenous with heterogeneous through sports and cultural meetings and improve integration conditions.

Moreover through the program can the possibility be organized digitized and become valuable historical record (photographic) there and put aims to create a permanent exhibitions - sports museum which will be the centre of the **Network**.

Regarding the European partners, contacts with associations and institutions have already taken place and the results are expected soon.