

## PROJECT PRESENTATION

<b>Project Name</b> SMALL PLACES, NEW SCHOOLS, GREAT FUTURES!
<b>Programme</b> Comenius Regio
<b>Deadline for proposals' submission</b> 31/10/2010 – the partnership will run from 2011 to 2013.
<b>Project Promoter:</b> <p>Torres Novas Municipality is a local authority with competences in different administrative areas. It's territory has 270 km<sup>2</sup> and it's inhabited by more or less 37.000 habitants, between urban areas widely populated and rural areas in demographic regression.</p> <p>The understanding of this reality leads to the definition and execution of a development plan for new educational centers, focused in the first learning process (pre-primary and primary school), that will replace the numerous small schools that remain, some with constructions older than 50 years old.</p> <p>The city of Torres Novas it's located in the center of the country, less than 100 km north of Lisbon, the capital city. The municipality has great accesses that empower the city position as a regional center, considering the main cultural and economic activities.</p>
<b>Project Presentation:</b> <p>The goal of the partnership it's to debate the relations between territory and education, and in particular the transformations that occurred over the last decades in locations/spaces with reduced populated densities.</p>
<b>Brief Description of the project:</b> <p>The depopulation of the European rural areas is leading small schools to shut down, therefore the students of this territories, mainly in first levels of education, are transferred to new schools, with bigger dimensions, more equipments and better conditions to the learning process and socialization.</p> <p>Therefore we can debate these questions: which are the specifications of these new schools? Which examples of solutions we can find? How do these learning centers work and how they are organized? What opportunities can be created for the European rural space?</p> <p>These topics will be discussed between partners who, having responsibilities in the planning process of the local education system, share common problems and adopted solutions, referring to this actual and European issue.</p>
<b>Work Plan:</b> <p>Share different ways of local intervention in the educational area; debate the rural depopulation in the European territory and the consequences related to the educational infrastructures; compare solutions founded for the new schools designed for low density territories; discuss development opportunities offered by the implemented solutions; empower the intervention of the local communities in the projects related to the daily life of the new schools; promote the construction of an European dimension in education, particularly in these territories.</p> <p>Meetings with partners; exchanges with staff working for the partners and the local entities included in the partnership, school directors and coordinators, teachers, support staff, parents and students; conferences; expositions; and organizing a bilingual publication with the project's results.</p>

**Partner Profile:**

Local authorities and governments, regional governments and organisms, with educational skills/responsibilities, in particular, in charge of the infrastructural organization, planning and educational tools.

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