

International Quality Conference and Workshop, Thessaloniki, Greece

The Region of Central Macedonia organized a two-day international conference of EU Regions in Thessaloniki, from 10 to 11 June 2010, on the subject:

**“The application of Common Assessment Framework (CAF) in EU Regions:
Exchange of good practices - Creation of EU Regions’ Quality Network”**

The participants were:

- The Region of Azores (Portugal)
- The National Center of Information for the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) (Italy)
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment (Cyprus)
- The Region of Central Macedonia (Greece)
- The Region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace (Greece)
- The Region of Epirus (Greece)
- A Ministry of Interior, Decentralization & E-Government representative (administrative responsible for CAF appliance in Greece).

The aim of the meeting was the exchange and discussion of experiences and best practices within the CAF context and the creation of an EU Regions’ Quality Network.

During the open day (1st day of the meeting) participants presented to the audience their organizational work and results through CAF. The day closed with a vivid discussion on CAF perspectives and its connection with other TQM tools and methodologies.

At the 11th of June a 20-participants-Workshop (regions reps and other participants) took place with one issue under discussion: “the creation of EU Regions’ Quality Network”. All participants presented their argument upon the abovementioned subject and after a thorough dialogue the following were pinpointed:

- European regions play a seminal role on development and prosperity in the limits of their territorial jurisdiction. They can act as catalysts on social,

economic and environmental development, social justice, egalitarianism, welfare, social inclusion and progress.

- Regions will have to develop sound and coherent administrative capabilities through effective use of appropriate systems and managerial tools for, as administrative mechanisms, having the potential to plan and realize developmental programs in order to achieve societal and citizen related goals.
- The experience gained from CAF appliance confirms the direct interrelation of CAF achievements with the quality of developmental planning and development projects materialization. Hence:

It is proposed the establishment an “EU Regions Quality Network” aiming at the improvement of administrative capability of the Regions for successfully fulfilling their mission through experience exchanges, good practices in CAF appliance and other public management tools by seeking excellence and optimization.

The attending Regions’ representatives committed to inform their administrative organizations in regard to the scopes and the function of the Network in order to give a birth of an official Agreement or in other case (i.e Cyprus and Italy) to define participating regions and public organizations.

At this initial stage the Network will be informal. Networks’ objectives specialization, action plan, organizational structure and funding potential for its function and activities will be discussed thoroughly in a second meeting which is planned to take place in the Region of Epirus (Greece) within autumn 2010. Participation will be open to EU Regions that applying or willing to apply CAF.

Finally, a coordinating team has been appointed with the responsibility of preparing the second meeting and disseminating the Project. (Re: Ms Chrysa Karipidou, Region of Central Macedonia, e-mail: xkarip@rcm.gr).