



The A.K. Ilen Company

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Dear Sir/Madam,

The A.K. Ilen Company is an Irish non-profit organisation that has as its primary objective the refitting of the Ilen- the only surviving example of an Irish wooden-built trading vessel (launched in 1926).

We have recently commenced a series of workshops to undertake the refit; these involve a number of participants working under the instruction of experienced shipwrights.

We intend to apply for funding towards our project from the European Commission under the Leonardo da Vinci (LdV) programme, which is the element of the Commission's life Long Learning initiative concerned with vocational education and training (VET). One source of funding available under the programme is through the formation of partnerships with other institutions involved in VET and the purpose of this communication is to ascertain whether your organisation would be interested in becoming involved in such a partnership.

Benefits of participation in the proposed partnership include:

- Opportunity for exchange of best practice
- Increasing co-operation between regions and sectors
- Increasing co-operation between schools and industry
- Strengthening of mutual learning
- Exposure to working in transnational partnership

The criteria for LdV Partnerships activities are quite broad and can include workshops, multilateral exchanges of staff and learners as well as more formal activities such as integration of theory and practice.

Each EU State has a National Agency responsible for administering the Leonardo da Vinci programme and each prospective partner organisation must apply for funding from its own Agency. Match funding is not a requirement of the partners and the E.U. contribution is based simply on the number of ~~mobilities~~sq.e. visits to partners.

Other forms of co-operation, for example Transfer of Innovation, can attract more significant levels of LdV funding and we are also exploring the possibility of submitting an application to

our National Agency under this heading. In this case the AK Ilen Company would be the coordinating partner and would be responsible for the funding for all partners.

Should you feel that involvement in an LdV project as outlined would be beneficial to (*name of organisation*), I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss the matter further. Please contact the undersigned via email in the first instance and I will be glad to provide further information on the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Eugene Pratt

on behalf of the AK Ilen Company