

III

(Notices)

COMMISSION

Youth in Action

Action 4.1

CALL FOR PROPOSALS No 1/2007

Call for proposals regarding support for bodies active at European level in the field of youth

(2006/C 262/07)

1. INTRODUCTION

The European Commission's proposal regarding the 'Youth in Action' programme for the 2007-2013 period has not yet been formally adopted by the EU legislature. Nonetheless, the Commission and the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency ('the Agency') have decided to publish this call for proposals now to enable prompt implementation of this programme after the adoption of its legal basis by the EU legislature, which should take place soon, and to enable potential beneficiaries of Community grants to prepare their proposals as soon as possible.

This call for proposals concerns programme action 4.1 whereby bodies active at European level in the field of youth will receive support. Neither the Commission nor the Agency are legally bound by this call for proposals which refers to grants to be awarded for 2007. It may be cancelled and calls for proposals with different specifications may be issued, with appropriate time limits for response, should the legal basis be substantially altered by the EU legislature.

Furthermore, implementation of the 2007 call for proposals is subject to the following conditions being met, over which the Commission and the Agency have no control:

- adoption by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union of the final text of the legal basis establishing the programme;
- adoption of the annual work programme for the 'Youth in Action' programme, after its referral to the programme committee;
- adoption of the 2007 budget of the European Union by the budgetary authority.

2. OBJECTIVES

The 'Youth in Action' programme aims to promote active citizenship in young people, encourage solidarity and tolerance, foster mutual understanding between young people from different countries and develop European cooperation on youth matters. In addition the programme will contribute to improvements in the quality of support systems for youth activities and further develop the capabilities of civil society organisations working with young people.

The programme's objectives are stated in the proposal for a Decision creating the 'Youth in Action' programme and set out in the programme guide.

The programme provides bodies pursuing an aim of general European interest in the field of youth with support for their regular activities in this field. These activities must help encourage young people to participate as citizens in public life, in society and in the development and implementation of EU cooperation actions in the broadly defined field of youth.

Tendering bodies are particularly encouraged to develop initiatives linked to active citizenship amongst young people, the involvement of young people in democratic life, recognition of cultural diversity and the inclusion of young people who have fewer opportunities.

An annual operating grant may be awarded to help such bodies meet their operating costs.

3. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applications that meet the following criteria will be considered in detail.

3.1. Eligible bodies

To be eligible for an operating grant, a body must:

- be non-governmental;
- have been legally established for at least one year;
- be non-profit-making;
- be a youth organisation, or one having a broader scope but gearing part of its activities towards young people;
- involve young people in managing activities developed with them in mind;
- have at least one (salaried or non-salaried) permanent member of staff.

3.2. Eligible countries

Bodies established in any one of the following countries are eligible to apply:

- Member States of the European Union on 1 January 2007;
- European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries in the European Economic Area (EEA): Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway;
- Countries applying for membership of the European Union and benefiting from a pre-accession strategy: Turkey;
- Countries of the Western Balkans, in accordance with arrangements to be decided on with these countries following the framework agreements allowing them to take part in EU programmes: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia;
- Certain eastern European countries: Belarus, Moldova, Russian Federation, Ukraine;

- The Swiss Confederation, subject to a bilateral agreement being concluded with this country.

Those bodies applying must have active member organisations in at least **eight** of the aforementioned countries.

4. BUDGET

The total budget earmarked for the cofinancing of the operation of bodies active at European level in the field of youth is estimated at EUR **2 400 000** for 2007. Financial assistance from the Commission cannot exceed **80 % of the total operating costs approved by the Commission**. The maximum Community grant for each body will be EUR **35 000**.

5. DEADLINE

Applications must be sent to the Commission no later than **22 December 2006**.

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

Applications must comply with the provisions contained in the full text and be submitted on the form provided for this purpose. Said documents can be found on the Internet at the following addresses:

- the European Commission's Europa website (full text of the call for proposals):
http://ec.europa.eu/youth/program/ingyo_en.html
- the Agency's website (full text of the call for proposals and application form):
http://eacea.cec.eu.int/static/en/overview/Youth_overview.htm