

## Youth in Action Programme 2007-2013 — Publication of the Programme Guide valid as of 1 January 2008

(2007/C 304/09)

### Introduction

On 15 November 2006, the European Parliament and the Council adopted Decision No 1719/2006/EC <sup>(1)</sup> establishing the Youth in Action programme for the period 2007 to 2013. Guidelines for the implementation of the Programme and for potential beneficiaries to apply for Community grants are included in the Youth in Action Programme Guide.

### I. Precautionary clause

The Programme Guide does not legally bind the Commission.

The implementation of the Youth in Action Programme in 2008 as envisaged in the Programme Guide is subject to the adoption of the 2008 budget for the European Union by the budgetary authority.

### II. Objectives and priorities

The general objectives stated in the legal basis of the Youth in Action Programme are the following:

- promote young people's active citizenship in general and their European citizenship in particular,
- develop solidarity and promote tolerance among young people, in particular in order to foster social cohesion in the European Union,
- foster mutual understanding between young people in different countries,
- contribute to developing the quality of support systems for youth activities and the capabilities of civil society organisations in the youth field,
- promote European cooperation in the youth field.

These general objectives shall be implemented at project level taking into consideration the following permanent priorities:

- European citizenship,
- participation of young people,
- cultural diversity,
- inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities.

### III. Structure of the Youth in Action Programme

In order to achieve its objectives, the Youth in Action Programme foresees five operational Actions.

#### *Action 1 — Youth for Europe*

The Programme Guide formulates the support to the following sub-Actions:

- Sub-Action 1.1 — Youth Exchanges: Youth Exchanges offer an opportunity for groups of young people from different countries to meet and learn about each other's cultures. The groups plan together their Youth Exchange around a theme of mutual interest.
- Sub-Action 1.2 — Youth Initiatives: Youth Initiatives support group projects designed at local, regional and national level. They also support the networking of similar projects between different countries, in order to strengthen their European aspect and to enhance cooperation and exchanges of experiences between young people.
- Sub-Action 1.3 — Youth Democracy Projects: Youth Democracy Projects support young people's participation in the democratic life of their local, regional or national community, and at international level.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJL 327, 24.11.2006, p. 6.

*Action 2 — European Voluntary Service*

The Action supports young people's participation in various forms of voluntary activities, both within and outside the European Union. Under this Action, young people take part individually or in groups in non-profit, unpaid voluntary activities abroad.

*Action 3 — Youth in the World*

The Programme Guide formulates the support to the following sub-Action:

- Sub-Action 3.1 — Cooperation with the Neighbouring Countries of the European Union: this sub-Action supports projects with Neighbouring Partner Countries, namely Youth Exchanges and Training and Networking Projects in the youth field.

*Action 4 — Youth Support Systems*

The Programme Guide formulates the support to the following sub-Action:

- Sub-Action 4.3 — Training and networking of those active in youth work and youth organisations: this sub-Action supports in particular the exchange of experiences, expertise and good practice as well as activities which may lead to long-lasting quality projects, partnerships and networks.

*Action 5 — Support for European cooperation in the youth field*

The Programme Guide formulates the support to the following sub-Action:

- Sub-Action 5.1 — Meetings of young people and those responsible for youth policy: this sub-Action supports cooperation, seminars and structured dialogue between young people, those active in youth work and those responsible for youth policy.

**IV. Eligible applicants**

Applications shall be submitted by:

- non-profit or non-governmental organisations,
- local, regional public bodies,
- informal groups of young people,
- bodies active at European level in the youth field,
- international non-profit organisations,
- profit-making organisations organising an event in the area of youth, sport or culture.

Applicants have to be legally established in one of the Programme or in Neighbouring Partner Countries in the western Balkans.

Some Actions of the Programme are however targeting a more limited range of promoters. The eligibility of applicant promoters is therefore defined in the Programme Guide specifically for each Action/sub-Action.

**V. Eligible countries**

The Programme is open to the following countries:

- (a) the EU Member States;
- (b) the EFTA States that are party to the EEA Agreement, in accordance with the provisions of that Agreement (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway);
- (c) the candidate countries benefiting from a pre-accession strategy, pursuant to the general principles and the general conditions and arrangements laid down in the framework agreements concluded with these countries for their participation in Community programmes;
- (d) third countries that have signed agreements with the Community relevant to the youth field.

Some Actions of the Programme are however targeting a more limited range of countries. The eligibility of countries is therefore defined in the Programme Guide specifically for each Action/sub-Action.

**VI. Budget and duration**

The Programme has an overall budget of EUR 885 million for the period 2007-2013. The annual budget is subject to decision of the budgetary authorities.

**VII. Further information**

Further information, including the details of deadlines for grant applications, may be found in the Youth in Action Programme Guide on the following websites:

<http://ec.europa.eu/youth>

[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/index\\_en.htm](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.htm)

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