THE COMMUNITY YOUTH ACTION PROGRAMME

CALL FOR SUBMISSION OF LARGE SCALE COOPERATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION PROJECTS

ACTION 5 — SUPPORT MEASURES (DG EAC 56/00)

(2000/C 214/06)

The Commission invites through this call for projects project promoters to submit applications for large-scale European projects under Action 5 of the Youth action programme. The deadlines for submission of project proposals are 15 September 2000 and 1 November 2000.

1. GENERAL FRAMEWORK FOR LARGE SCALE EUROPEAN LEVEL PROJECTS UNDER ACTION 5

1.1. OBJECTIVES OF THE YOUTH PROGRAMME

Above all, the Youth programme, based on Decision No 1031/2000/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 13 April 2000 establishing the Youth Community Action programme (OJ L 117, 18.5.2000), offers young people opportunities for mobility and to take an active part in the construction of the Europe of the third millennium. It aims at contributing to the achievement of a 'Europe of knowledge' and create a European arena for cooperation in the development of youth policy, based on informal education. It encourages the concept of lifelong learning and the development of aptitudes and competencies, which promote active citizenship. The following objectives of the programme strive to achieve and maintain a balance between personal development and collective activity across all sectors of society:

— assist young people to acquire knowledge, skills and competencies, and recognise the value of these experiences;

— facilitate the integration of young people into society at large and encourage their spirit of initiative;

— open up greater access, in particular, to young people living in difficult circumstances or young people with disabilities, whilst helping to eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote equality at all levels of society;

— permit young people to give free expression to their sense of solidarity in Europe and the wider world and support the combating of racism and xenophobia;

— ensure that young people can play an active role in the construction of Europe;

— introduce a European element into projects, which will have a positive impact on youth work at local level;

— promote a better understanding of the diversity of our common European culture and shared heritage;

— maintain and develop a quality framework for informal educational activities within the scope of the Youth programme.

1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF ACTION 5 — SUPPORT MEASURES

The support measures underpin and complement the Youth programme’s actions and its objectives. They are thus aimed at consolidating and enhancing the benefits, at continuing and developing innovative actions at Community level, and at boosting quality of the youth projects.

Action 5 — Support measures of the Youth programme has two basic aims:

1. To contribute to achieving the objectives of the Youth programme and the fostering and strengthening of European youth policy, whilst encouraging and facilitating wider cooperation with third countries.

2. To assist the development of the four major actions of the Youth programme: Youth for Europe, European voluntary service, Youth initiatives and Joint actions.

In order to have appropriate tools for achieving the two main objectives of Action 5, activities can be carried out in the following fields:

— Cooperation and partnerships

— Training measures

— Youth information

Please note that a large variety of projects can be supported through the medium of Action 5. These applications should be addressed to the national agencies for the Youth programme. Please, consult the Users’ Guide for further details under the following Internet address:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/youth.html

2. OBJECTIVES OF THIS CALL

The Commission aims to support large-scale European projects on cooperation, training and information in the field of Youth and informal education in the framework of Action 5 of the Youth programme.
This call for projects addresses only large-scale projects. The projects have to follow the priorities set by the Commission in paragraph 3 of this call. The large scale European projects should have a clear European dimension and contribute to the development of European Youth policies. It is not foreseen that projects concerning job-shadowing, study visits etc. are covered by this call for tender. Please consult the Users' Guide of the Youth programme for other types of support measure projects, which are submitted for funding to the national agencies, respective national coordinators in the Mediterranean countries.

3. PRIORITIES OF THIS CALL FOR PROJECTS

Through this call for projects the Commission would like to call for large scale European projects allowing for a clearly identifiable added value for the Youth programme and Youth policy. The Commission therefore sets priorities concerning target group(s), themes and working methods or partners for this call for projects.

Priority will be given to project applications corresponding to one or several of the following items:

— projects involving and/or having impact on disadvantaged young people;

— projects aiming at boosting the value of informal education for the employability of young people;

— projects promoting active citizenship through the facilitation of a dialogue between young people and other parts of society (decision makers; intergenerational relations, etc.) and which foster European values (tolerance, antiracism, . . .)

— projects aiming at the dissemination and promotion of the results of Youth-projects;

— projects using the potential of new media and information technologies for informal education;

— projects involving local or regional authorities for European activities in the field of informal education;

— projects promoting and/or using innovative methods/tools in the field informal education;

 — projects using sports as a tool for social integration and informal education;

 — projects which involve pre-accession countries in particular related to opening up European Voluntary Service in the countries.

In addition, international European conferences involving at least 150 participants with a direct link to the above priorities can be supported. Statutory meetings of organisations are excluded.

4. FORMAL SELECTION CRITERIA

The Commission will only take into consideration projects that fulfil the following criteria:

— the project should be submitted by an organisation located in one of the Programme Countries;

— the project should involve at least four countries (including Member States countries, EEA countries, pre-accession countries, Turkey and Malta);

— if the project is with pre-accession countries the number of countries from EUR 18 and pre-accession countries should be balanced;

— the balance between countries should be reflected among the distribution of the participants taking part in the project;

— the budget should be accurate, balanced and expressed in euro,

— the project should be non-profit making;

— the project should start for the deadline 15 September 2000 between 15 of December 2000 and 31 March 2001; projects for the deadline 1 November 2000 should start between 1 March und 1 August 2001;

— clear definition of the target group.

Applications from organisations which have previously received a grant from the Commission will be considered only if proper use of this previous subsidy has been duly proven.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Commission's decision on whether to award a grant will be based on the following:

— the project must meet the priorities set up in point 3;

— the quality of the objectives and the coherence of those with the means implemented, as well as the coherence of the budget;

— the innovative aspect of the objectives and/or the methodologies;

— the European dimension of the project;

— the multiplier effect and the impact towards the target group defined;
— other efforts made for co-financing of the project.

For applications from organisations which have previously received a grant from the Commission under Youth for Europe or European Voluntary Service, the results of the projects already supported will be taken into consideration.

6. FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

6.1. GENERAL REMARKS

The total amount earmarked for this call for projects is EUR 1 500 000. Community grants are based on the principle of co-financing. The request for funding to the Commission funding may not exceed 75 % of the eligible costs. The maximum amount for funding will, in principle, not exceed EUR 100 000 per year of activity.

The requests for funding for international European conferences should not exceed 25 % of the eligible costs. The maximum amount for these conferences will, in principle, not exceed EUR 50 000.

The Vade-mecum on grant management, which introduces the general rules for European Commission grants, can be found under the following address:


The Commission reserves the right to award a lower grant amount than requested by the applicant. Grants higher than requested will not be awarded.

The budget items indicated in the form foreseen for the submission of applications include the relevant budget headings that are eligible for Community funding.

The budget must be expressed in euro. The budget must be balanced and must be detailed enough to allow the proposed activities to be identifiable, monitored and verifiable.

The following expenses are not eligible for community funding:

— costs which do not give rise to actual, effective expenditure;

— expenditure on luxuries or expenditure considered excessive;

— expenditure on the purchase of fixed equipment;

— contributions in kind;

— contingency costs.

6.2. PROJECT DURATION AND ELIGIBLE FUNDING PERIOD

Projects for the deadline 15 September 2000 should start between 15 December 2000 and 31 March 2001; projects for the deadline 1 November 2000 should start between 1 March and 1 August 2001.

Due to the nature of the call, projects should at least have a duration of one year in order to ensure that an activity is sustainable. If justified a maximum duration up to three years will be accepted.

The rules for the duration of projects do not apply for International European conferences which can also be supported within the framework of this call for projects, however, the starting dates have to be respected also for these Events.

6.3. ELIGIBILITY OF APPLICANTS

All organisations and public bodies having their seat in one of the Programme countries willing to develop activities in line with the objectives of the Youth programme are entitled to apply under Action 5.

6.4. TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL CAPACITY OF APPLICANTS

Technical capacity will be assessed on the basis of:

— the CVs of the project leaders and their experience in directing, managing, co-ordinating and organising projects;

— the annual activity report or an assessment report from the applicant organisation.

Financial capacity will be assessed on the basis of:

— the amount for funding requested in relation to the applicants provisional budget for 2000;

— the capacity to assemble co-funding;

— the applicants accounts for the previous financial year and, if appropriate, other administrative or accounting documents supplied by the applicant.

6.5. SELECTION PROCEDURE

The decision about the allocation of grants will be taken by a selection panel made up of representatives of the European Commission and the National Agencies for the Youth programme. The selection meeting is chaired by a representative of Unit D.5 of Directorate General for Education and Culture.
Applicants will be informed of the decision of the Commission as soon as possible. The Commission’s decision is final.

6.6. CONTRACTUALISATION AND PAYMENT OF THE GRANT

Should the Commission award a grant, a standard agreement setting out the conditions and the grant amount in Euro will be sent to the beneficiary.

The following payment arrangements will be made once the agreement is duly signed by the legal representative of the beneficiary organisation and the representative of the European Commission:

— projects with a duration of up to 18 months: 70 % advance payment and 30 % balance payment upon receipt and acceptance of the Final Report;

— projects with a duration of more than 18 months: 40 % first advance payment, 30 % second advance payment upon receipt and acceptance of the interim report and 30 % balance payment upon receipt and acceptance of the Final Report.

6.7. REPORTING

The beneficiary organisation is requested to present on behalf of all partner organisations the interim and/or final report of the project. These are the main tools to evaluate the achievements of the project, and must provide as complete picture of the project as possible. The report(s) should allow for a review and qualitative and quantitative assessment of:

— the results achieved in comparison to the aims (activities/products, etc.)

— the means used to achieve these results in relation to the budget realised.

The contractors will be therefore advised to read carefully the report forms and the accompanying explanatory notes, upon receipt, as to familiarise themselves with the contents and to become aware of the financial and accounting requirements.

The Commission reserves the right to withdraw its support entirely or partly, if the project is not implemented as described in the application, or if changes undertaken are not authorised by the Commission, or if the reporting is not satisfactory.

7. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications must be submitted using the form provided for that purpose. The application form for Action 5 — large scale projects, is available on the Internet at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/youth.html or they can be obtained from the European Commission, please see below.

Applications must be submitted in one of the 11 official Community languages. However, to facilitate consideration of the submissions, applicants are requested, as far as possible and without obligation, to provide a summary of the project description in another official Community language.

Only duly completed, signed and dated applications will be accepted. An application will not be considered ‘duly completed’ unless it is accompanied by:

— an official letter of application, dated and signed,

— the statutes of the applicant organisation,

— the requisite documents to substantiate point 6.4 concerning the technical and financial capacities of applicants,

— the application form, duly completed, including a full description and time table of the project as well as a detailed budget, and signed by the organisation’s representative,

— original letters of endorsement of the project partners to the applicant organisation by which they outline their motivation for participating in the project and declare their capacity to actively participate in all phases of the project.

Applications should be submitted in triplicate along with the other requisite documentation no later than 15 September 2000 and by 1 November 2000 as per postmark to:

European Commission
Directorate General for Education and Culture
Citizenship and youth
Unit D.5 ‘YOUTH — Call for projects Action 5’
(β-7 — 3/26)
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels.

Applications submitted by fax or e-mail will not be considered.