

VP/2000/013

Pre-publication notice

Possibilities for funding from Budget line B5-803 and B3-4101

Call for proposals to prepare for the implementation of the proposed action programme on combating discrimination ⁽¹⁾ (B5-803)

(2000/C 55/07)

This call will focus on the exchange of information and good practice in combating discrimination in the framework of Article 13 of the Treaty establishing the European Community ⁽²⁾. In this context, the Commission wishes to subsidise initiatives which contribute to the development of policies and practice to combat discrimination on grounds of racial and ethnic origin, religion and belief, disability, age and sexual orientation. In doing so, applicants will be required to take the gender dimension into account in all their activities. However, specific action to combat gender discrimination will be encouraged separately under the fourth action programme on equal opportunities for women and men.

A horizontal approach

The Commission will give priority in its decision on funding to initiatives which are designed to increase the effectiveness of action against discrimination on a number of grounds or which tackle multiple discrimination. However, where it can be justified that particular difficulties exist which are relevant to one ground of discrimination only, the Commission will give equal weight to such applications.

Themes to be financed

In the light of the decisions taken for the draft action programme on combating discrimination, the themes to be considered in this exercise will be:

- (a) promotion of non-discrimination within and by public administrations (e.g. police, judicial systems, health, social security, education);
- (b) promotion of non-discrimination within and by the media;
- (c) the removal of discriminatory barriers to participation in decision-making and the democratic process;

⁽¹⁾ COM(1999) 567 final.

⁽²⁾ Article 13 reads: 'Without prejudice to the other provisions of this Treaty and within the limits of the powers conferred by it upon the Community, the Council, acting unanimitously on a proposal from the Commission and after consulting the European Parliament, may take appropriate action to combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.'

- (d) the removal of discriminatory barriers to access goods and services, including housing, transport, culture, leisure and sport;
- (e) the identification of tools and methodologies for the effective monitoring of discrimination;
- (f) the identification of tools and methodologies for the effective dissemination of information about rights to equal treatment and non-discrimination;
- (g) the identification of methodologies for mainstreaming anti-discriminatory policies and practices.

Structure

Initiatives will involve partners from at least four Member States and will involve a variety of organisations drawn from among, for example, national, regional and local authorities, non-governmental organisations, social partner organisations, universities and research institutes. The partnership will be based on a protocol of agreement between the partners and will be coordinated by an organisation with a proven capacity in the operation of large-scale transnational operations.

Financing

The budget made available under this call will be approximately EUR 7 000 000. The Commission will subsidise the initiatives up to a maximum of 80 % of the total eligible costs. Applicants will be required to produce letters of commitment to cofinancing of the remaining amount. At least 10 % of the total eligible cost of the initiative must be cofinanced in cash. A maximum of 10 % of the total eligible costs may be cofinanced in kind.

Timing

The Commission aims to publish this call for proposals at the end of February 2000. The call will appear in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* (Series C) and on the Website of the European Commission

(http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg05/tender_en.htm)

There will be two deadlines for the submission of applications, the first approximately 10 weeks after publication, the second approximately 20 weeks after publication. The funds available for the call will be divided in the ratio of 2/3:1/3 for the first and second deadlines respectively.