

Information sheet: Europe for Citizens

(note: this information sheet is a document produced by the European Youth Forum with an assessment of the possibilities for Youth Organisations under the Europe for Citizens Programme.)

1. Background:

Europe for Citizens (formerly Citizens for Europe) is a European Union programme designed to help bridge the gap between citizens and the European Union. The Citizens for Europe programme ended in 2006 and the European Commission on 6 April 2005 adopted a proposal for a new programme to run from 2007 to 2013. The programme will provide the Union with instruments to promote active European citizenship, put citizens in the centre and offers them the opportunity to fully assume their responsibility as European citizens. The Commission has determined that citizens should also be aware of their duties as citizen and become actively involved in the process of European integration, developing a sense of belonging and a European identity.

The global aim of the proposed programme is to contribute to:

- * Giving citizens the opportunity to interact and participate in constructing an ever closer Europe, united in and enriched through its cultural diversity;
- * Forging a European identity, based on recognised common values, history and culture;
- * Enhancing mutual understanding between European citizens respecting and celebrating cultural diversity, while contributing to intercultural dialogue.

2. The programme

The programme has a budget of 215 million euro for the period 2007-2013.

The programme has a similar structure as the Youth in Action Programme with different priorities and 4 different actions.

2.1 Actions:

* **Action 1 "Active citizens for Europe"** involves citizens directly, either through activities linked to town-twinning or through other kinds of citizens' projects.

* **Action 2 "Active civil society for Europe"** is targeted to Europe-wide civil society organisations, receiving either structural support on the basis of their work programme or support trans-national projects.

* **Action 3 "Together for Europe"** supports high visibility events, studies and information tools, addressing the widest possible audience across frontiers and making Europe more tangible for its citizens.

* **Action 4 : "Active European Remembrance"** supports the preservation of the main sites and archives associated with the deportations and the commemoration of the victims of nazism and stalinism.

2.2 Priorities:

- The future of the European Union and its basic values
- Active European Citizenship

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- Intercultural Dialogue
- People's well being in Europe: employment, social cohesion and sustainable development
- Impact of European Union policies in societies

Priorities for 2007:

- * Equal opportunities for all
- * Enlargement: get to know the new EU member states

Priority for 2008:

Year of Intercultural Dialogue

3. Evaluation of the usefulness for Youth Organisations:

The programme has potential to be useful for member organisations.

There are however some things to take into account:

- + only EU countries are eligible
- + only non-profit organisations are eligible so informal groups or private persons cannot apply.
- + no grant contract anymore but grant decision which speeds up the process
- + informal learning for active European citizenship is explicitly mentioned
- + cross fertilisation: opportunities for youth organisations to work with other actors in society
- + intergenerational solidarity as a priority

Per action: Action 1:

Not interesting for INGYO's. Young people from twinning cities could benefit from it.

Measure 2.2 is now in the phase of pilot projects and will start from 2008 on.

Action 2:

Measure 1 and 2: support for European Civil Society and Think Thanks.

Comparison between Action 4.1 of Youth in Action and Measure 1 of Action 2 of Europe for Citizens

Comparison sheet	Europe for Citizens	Youth in Action
Budget	1,9 million Euro	2,4 million Euro
number of organisations supported	15-20	80
co-financing needed	20%	20%
Eligible countries	only EU	EU + EEA +SEE
Maximum grant	progressive with max of 250,000	35.000 or 40.000
pre-financing	80% or 50% + 25%	80%
in kind co-financing	allowed	allowed
budget growth	capped at 10%	N/A

Assessment:

No youth organisations were selected in 2006.

Quite a lot of organisations seem to be certain of their support such as policy centres and trade unions. This means that there might not be much space for new organisations. Youth in Action seems appropriate for most Youth Organisations. But the Europe For Citizens grant could be a possibility for larger MO's which have aims in line with the aims of the Europe for Citizens Programme.

Measure 3: support for projects initiated by civil society organisations

The concept of the action looks interesting and can be one of the following: Action, Debate, Reflection or Networking.

The form can either be in the form of event(s) or a publication.

Financial:

Event: The whole project is financed on the basis of lump sums in the form of per diems. This makes the financial reporting a lot easier and there is also no need to prove co-financing. One drawback is that there is no money foreseen for travel costs.

For production and realisation projects: 40% co-financing needed.
Maximum grant 55.000 €, minimum 10.000 €

Support for projects in 2007:

Not many youth organisation and members of the European youth Forum have applied for funds under this programme. Organisations having experience with the Europe for Citizens programme assess that the Europe For Citizens programme is much harder to use than the Youth In Action. Despite the simpler procedures such as lump sums and grant decision there are extra requirements such as CV's, detailed meeting descriptions and in general a much longer application form.

Although a lot of supported projects mention youth and are directed at young people¹, they are not organised by young people. It seems that there is a possibility for YFJ MO's to increase their funding opportunities.

Action 3: together for Europe

This budget line is only for events organised by the European Commission itself.

Action 4:

This is a very specific topic but Youth is mentioned as a priority.

Financial info: 40% co-finance needed. Max grant 40.000, min grant 10.000.

4. More Info:

More info can be found on the website of the European Commission:

http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/index_en.html

¹ <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/ngos/index.htm>

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Or by contacting the Executive Agency:

For information related to the implementation of the programme and the possibilities for funding within "Citizenship", please consult the [Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive agency website](#).

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