



Education and Culture DG

'Youth in Action' Programme

Partnerships between the European Commission and local and regional public bodies, European NGOs or private bodies active in Corporate Social Responsibility in the field of youth

Developing and/or reinforcing long-term actions, strategies and programmes in the field of non-formal learning and youth.

What is it? The Directorate General Education and Culture of the European Commission has launched - under the framework of the Youth in Action Programme - a call for proposals aiming at supporting the establishment of partnership with regions and municipalities, civil society actors and socially responsible private bodies.

The main objectives are:

- **To pool resources and practices** with a view to foster non-formal learning opportunities in favour of young people and youth workers in Europe;
- **To provide inspiration and capacity-building;** through models and practices developed under the 'Youth in Action' Programme to those bodies and organisations which aim to **increase their investment in youth** through non-formal learning activities and the development of skills and competences;
- **To add value to initiatives carried out at regional and local level** by fostering their **European dimension;**
- **To transfer lessons learned** from the implementation of successful initiatives in the area of non-formal learning and youth;
- **To encourage synergies and cooperation** between the **public and private sectors, as well as non-governmental organisations** working in the field of youth;
- **To encourage the raising of overall skills** levels among young people, giving priority to education and training of **young people with fewer opportunities;**
- **To foster the recognition of youth work** and the validation non-formal learning activities in the European Union.

Who can enter into a partnership with the Commission? Any public local or regional body, European NGO active in the youth field established in the Youth in Action Programme Countries (**27 EU Member States, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, Croatia and Turkey**) and as of this call, private bodies active in Corporate Social Responsibility in favour of youth. These partnerships are targeted towards bodies that work with young people aged 13 to 30, as well as youth workers who take part in trans-national activities fostering non-formal learning.

What activities does this program support? Interested actors can submit an **Activity Programme** for a period of **no more than 2 years** which combines several of the following activities:

- **Transnational Youth Exchanges:** offer an opportunity for groups of young people from different countries to meet and learn from their peers about different cultures, habits, lifestyles, values and interests;
- **Youth Initiatives:** give young people the chance to become inventive in their daily life, to speak out on their needs and interests and develop initiatives that benefit their local community/environment;
- **The European Voluntary Service:** enables young people to carry out voluntary service in a country other than their own, for up to six months;
- **Training and networking activities:** support for youth work and youth organisations focused on the exchange of experiences and the development of expertise and good practices, as well as activities designed to establish long-lasting quality projects, partnerships and networks.

What are the strengths of this call?

- **Strategic planning:** 2 years planning based on shared objectives, taking into account local and regional contexts;
- **Simplification:** combination of series of activities, simplification of eligibility criteria and funding rules;
- **Visibility:** opportunity for regions, municipalities, ENGOs and private bodies to give more resonance to their actions;
- **Recognition of competences:** reinforces the tools and processes needed to recognize competences and skills acquired through non-formal learning experiences;
- **Shared financial support:** partnerships will be co-financed by the Union up to 50% of the total budget, joining financial resources with a view to increase the impact of programmes in the field of youth (**maximum EU grant: 100 000 EUR**).

How can you participate? Those interested may submit their proposals to the **Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)** in Brussels. The **deadline** for submitting proposals is the **3rd of November, 2011**. More information can be found at:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/funding/2011/call_action_4_6_en.php