

## NEW PROGRAMME – YOUTH IN ACTION

The new »Youth in Action« programme will start with the beginning of 2007 and will cover the period until 2013. It builds on the experiences of the previous programme “Youth for Europe” (1989 – 1999), the European Voluntary Service and the YOUTH programme (2000 – 2006).

The Youth in Action programme contributes to the acquisition of competences and is therefore a key instrument in providing young people with opportunities for non-formal and informal learning with a European dimension. The Programme contributes to the fulfilment of the aims set out in the revised Lisbon Strategy, the European Youth Pact, the framework of European Cooperation in the youth field and the Commission’s Plan D for democracy, dialogue and debate.

The new Programme has not yet been fully adopted and information currently available might still be subject to change. But we are only two months away from the expected start of Youth in Action, so we want to give you an indication of what to expect, in particular with regard to the co-operation with partner countries.

### New Actions

Youth in Action will contain some new Actions and regulations in comparison with the former YOUTH programme. The Programme will give financial support to projects under 5 Actions.

Action 1 – Youth for Europe - should include youth exchanges, youth initiatives and other mobility projects reinforcing the active civic participation of young people (youth democracy projects).

Action 2 – European Voluntary Service

Action 3 – Youth of the world – contains the co-operation with partner countries.

Action 4 – Youth workers and support systems - should support the development of exchange, training and information projects for youth workers and projects to promote innovation and quality.

Action 5 – Support for policy cooperation in the field of youth – aims to promote cooperation among decision makers on youth policy and at preparing the participation of young people in democratic life by supporting policy-focused events and structured dialogue with policy makers.

### New age limits

Youth in Action will be accessible for young people aged between 13 and 30, the main target group being youth aged between 15 and 28. The age limits will differ from Action to Action.

### New possibilities for cooperation with partner countries within the European Neighbourhood Policy

Action 3 focuses on the co-operation with the neighbouring regions of the EU (South East Europe, Eastern Europe and Caucasus and Euro-Med countries) within the European Neighbourhood Policy. It also opens up possibilities for co-operation with other countries of the world. Action 3 should support youth exchanges and training and networking projects in the field of youth. While focussing on promoting the co-operation between countries of the EU and one region of partner countries within one project, it also foresees the possibility for co-operation between different regions of partner countries.

### New European Voluntary Service (EVS)

The new European Voluntary Service programme is planned to be accessible for young people from Programme countries as well as from partner countries. General EVS activities should cover a period of 2 to 12 months, meaning that the foreseen minimum period for an EVS has been reduced, compared to the

current YOUTH programme. Furthermore, accreditation of all organisations involved in EVS projects is planned (host, sending and coordinating organisations).

Possibility for Applicants from South East Europe to submit applications to the European Commission

The possibility for organisations from the partner countries in South East Europe to apply directly for project grants to the European Commission should continue under the new Programme. Since the Programme foresees that one organisation submits the application on behalf of all the partners involved in one project, partners from SEE will be able to initiate, coordinate and manage European projects.

Recognition of key learning competences

To promote better recognition and validation of key learning competences acquired through participation in projects implemented within the Programme, Youth in Action will introduce a new instrument, called "Youthpass".

Further information

A press release regarding Youth in Action has just been released by the European Commission and is available under ...

SALTO SEE will provide updated information as soon as the new Programme Guide is fully adopted and available for the public. If you are interested in applying for a grant at the deadline of 1 February, make sure to check the websites of the European Commission and of SALTO SEE regularly for new information and application forms.