

SOCIAL AFFAIRS, EMPLOYMENT & GENDER EQUALITY

EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

PROGRESS

PROGRESS is the EU's new integrated programme for employment and social solidarity for 2007-2013. With a budget of over EUR 700 million, it will support the goals set out in the Social Agenda and contribute to the Union's wider strategy for jobs and growth.

PROGRESS will take up and develop activities already begun under four existing EU action programmes ending in 2006 – covering action against discrimination, equality between men and women, employment measures and the fight against social exclusion.

It will focus on activities with a strong European dimension, such as:

- *Europe-wide studies to improve knowledge of employment and social issues;*
- *Training of legal and policy practitioners or monitoring implementation of EU policies and laws to support coherent application;*
- *Building networks of national experts to encourage mutual learning and exchange of good practices;*
- *Supporting key EU-level networks of NGOs active in fighting discrimination or promoting gender equality*
- *Promoting people's awareness of policies and legislation in the social and employment field across the EU.*

The programme is aimed at national, regional and local authorities, public employment services, companies and employees' organisations. NGOs, universities, research institutes and specialists like statistical offices and legal practitioners will also participate. Activities will be open to the 27 EU members, EFTA and candidate as well as pre-candidate countries.

MORE INFORMATION

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=327&langId=en>

YOUTH

Youth in Action is the new EU Programme in the field of youth, which is to be implemented from 1 January 2007 until 31 December 2013 with a total budget of 885 million euros. It is the successor of the YOUTH Programme (2000-2006).

The Youth in Action Programme is a key instrument in providing young people with opportunities for non-formal and informal learning with a European dimension.

The Youth in Action Programme encourages the involvement of young people with fewer opportunities and addresses young people aged between 13 and 30.

This Programme aims to inspire a sense of European citizenship among the youth of Europe and to involve them in constructing the future of the Community.

In order to achieve its objectives, there are five operational Actions:

- **Action 1** - *Youth for Europe: supporting exchanges and youth initiatives and encouraging young people's participation in democratic life;*
- **Action 2** - *European Voluntary Service: encouraging young people to take part in a voluntary activity abroad that benefits the general public;*
- **Action 3** - *Youth in the World: encouraging cooperation with Partner Countries by building networks, promoting the exchange of information and assisting with cross-border activities;*
- **Action 4** - *Youth Support Systems: promoting the development of exchange, training and information schemes;*
- **Action 5** - *European Cooperation in the youth field contributing to the development of policy cooperation in the youth field.*

MORE INFORMATION

http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/doc74_en.htm

Youth in Action Programme 2007-2013

OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

The general objectives stated in the Decision establishing of the Youth in Action Programme are the following:

- promote young people's active citizenship in general and their European citizenship in particular,
- develop solidarity and promote tolerance among young people, in particular in order to foster social cohesion in the European Union,
- foster mutual understanding between young people in different countries,
- contribute to developing the quality of support systems for youth activities and the capabilities of civil society organisations in the youth field,
- promote European cooperation in the youth field.

These general objectives shall be implemented at project level taking into consideration the following permanent priorities:

- European citizenship,
- participation of young people,
- cultural diversity,
- inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities.

In addition to the abovementioned permanent priorities, the 2009 annual priorities are:

- European Year of Creativity and Innovation,
- young people's active participation in the European Parliament elections,
- combating violence against women,
- sport as a tool to promote active citizenship and social inclusion of young people,
- promoting healthy lifestyles through physical activities including sport,
- promoting the inclusion of young people with disabilities,

- awareness-raising to global challenges (such as sustainable development and climate change),
- young people's involvement in the revision of the European framework of cooperation in the field of youth policy,
- intercultural dialogue.

This call for proposal concerns the support to the following Actions and sub-Actions listed below:

Action 1 — Youth for Europe

- sub-Action 1.1 — Youth Exchanges (lasting up to 15 months): Youth Exchanges offer an opportunity for groups of young people from different countries to meet and learn about each other's cultures. The groups plan together their Youth Exchange around a theme of mutual interest,
- sub-Action 1.2 — Youth Initiatives (lasting from 3 to 18 months): Youth Initiatives support group projects designed at local, regional and national level. They also support the networking of similar projects between different countries, in order to strengthen their European aspect and to enhance cooperation and exchanges of experiences between young people,
- sub-Action 1.3 — Youth Democracy Projects (lasting from 3 to 18 months): Youth Democracy Projects support young people's participation in the democratic life of their local, regional or national community, and at international level.

Action 2 — European Voluntary Service

The Action supports young people's participation in various forms of voluntary activities, both within and outside the European Union. Under this Action, young people take part individually or in groups in non-profit, unpaid voluntary activities abroad (lasting up to 24 months).

Action 3 — Youth in the World

- sub-Action 3.1 — Cooperation with the Neighbouring Countries of the European Union (lasting up to 15 months): this sub-Action supports projects with Neighbouring Partner Countries, namely Youth Exchanges and Training and Networking Projects in the youth field.

Action 4 — Youth Support Systems

- sub-Action 4.3 — Training and networking of those active in youth work and youth organizations (lasting from 3 to 18 months): this sub-Action supports in particular the exchange of experiences, expertise and good practice as well as activities which may lead to long-lasting quality projects, partnerships and networks.

Action 5 — Support for European cooperation in the youth field

- sub-Action 5.1 — Meetings of young people and those responsible for youth policy (lasting from 3 to 9 months): this sub-Action supports cooperation, seminars and structured dialogue between young people, those active in youth work and those responsible for youth policy.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applications shall be submitted by:

- non-profit or non-governmental organisations,
- local, regional public bodies,
- informal groups of young people,
- bodies active at European level in the youth field,

- international non-profit organisations,
- profit-making organisations organising an event in the area of youth, sport or culture.

Applicants have to be legally established in one of the Programme or in Neighbouring Partner Countries in the Western Balkans.

Some Actions of the Programme are however targeting a more limited range of promoters. The eligibility of applicant promoters is therefore defined in the Programme Guide specifically for each Action/sub-Action.

BUDGET AND DURATION

The Programme has an overall budget of **EUR 885 million** for the period 2007-2013. The annual budget is subject to a decision of the budgetary authorities.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information may be found in the Youth in Action Programme Guide on the following websites:

<http://ec.europa.eu/youth>

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.htm