

Unit D.4. Civil Society : partnerships and visits

Programme “Citizens for Europe” (2007-2013)



European Commission

Education and culture



CONTEXT

1. A vast area of activity
2. Priority for Barroso Commission
3. New generation of programmes 2007-2013 : succession to the existing programme for 2004-2006 (Active European Citizenship)

1. Citizenship : a vast area of activity

Traditional Dimensions :

- Legal Status
- National level Citizenship

Recent developments of citizenship :

- Participation in the decision-making process
- European level Citizenship

Therefore « Active European Citizenship »

2. Priority for the Barroso Commission

Major challenge : create a participatory link between the European citizens and the EU institutions

No miracles but a set of actions :

- Better information (Communication, PRESS)
- Citizens aware of their rights (Fundamental rights, JLS)
- Active citizens/civil society (« Citizens for Europe », EAC)

3. Current Situation

Programme 2004-2006

- Principal objective : Basic Act
- Legal base : art. 308 TEC
- Activities :
 - Support to the organisations acting in the general European interest (core/institutional funding)
 - Support to the civil society projects
 - Town Twinning
- Budget : 72 millions € (24 million €/year)

Preparation of the Proposal for the new Programme

- Ex ante evaluation
- Bilateral meetings with key stakeholders
On-line consultation (*Dec. 04 – February 05*)
more than 1,000 responses
- Consultation Forum (*3-4 February 05*)
350 participants

Main Intentions

1. Balance between different aspects
2. New synergies
3. Simplification

Why “Culture” ?

Firm belief = active citizenship:

- Feeling of belonging
- is nourished by shared values and history
- Relates to culture in broad sense

Consequences :

- double legal base art. 151 et 308 TCE
- Target group = general = all the citizens

Balance

-> to find balance between:

- Continuity and innovation
- Activities directly involving citizens as well as civil society
- Citizens of the « old » and the «new» Member States (horizontal objective)
- Clear and precise strategy+ flexibility

New synergies

Within the programme :

- Between the actors : encouraging new partnerships and creation of networks
- Between different activities : « cross-fertilization »

Vis-à-vis other initiatives of the Commission :

- Other programmes of DG EAC with citizenship dimension: education, Life Long Learning, Youth, Culture
- Initiative « Fundamental Rights and Citizenship » (JLS)
- New communication strategy (PRESS)

Last but not least : Simplification

Simplification of the procedures :

- Beneficiaries unanimously demand simplification, has to be accommodated within the limits of Financial Regulations
- Introduction of the partnership with multi-annual grant agreements
- For the smaller-scale funding :
 - Co-financing in-kind
 - Less information required
 - No need to prove financial capacity

Budgetary simplification:

1 budget line instead of 11.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

Contribute to:

- **Providing citizens with an opportunity to interact and to participate in the construction of Europe always closer to them and to unite them in diversity.**
- **Fostering European identity based on recognised common values, history and culture.**
- **Improving mutual understanding of the European Citizens respecting and celebrating cultural diversity and contribute towards intercultural dialogue.**

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. Approach local communities all over European Union,...

to share and to exchange their experiences, opinions and values, reflect on the past and to construct common future ;

1. Support actions, debates and reflections on the issue of the European citizenship,...

through cooperation of the civil society organisations on the European level ;



SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

3. Make the idea of Europe more tangible for its citizens,...

promoting and celebrating the European values and achievements while preserving the memory of its past;

3. Encourage balanced integration of citizens and civil society organisations of all the Member States,

by contributing to the inter-cultural dialogue and by promoting Europe's diversity as well as unity. Special attention will be paid to the activities by citizens and organisations of the recently joined Member States.

ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAMME

1. Active citizens for Europe
2. Active civil society for Europe
3. All together for Europe

1. Active Citizens for Europe

- Direct participation of the citizens
- Through : town twinning, citizens projects
- Innovations : multi-annual town twinning projects, citizens panels.

2. Active Civil Society in Europe

European civil society organisations including the think tanks

2 types of support :

- Contribution to operational costs ;
innovation : smaller-scale funding
- Support to trans-national projects

3. All Together for Europe

New action to ensure:

- Mobilisation of the citizens on the European level
- Visibility of the programme and its objectives
- Dissemination of the results

Specifically :

- High visibility events
- Studies and opinion polls
- Information tools, internet portal « citizenship »

BUDGET

- Reasonable increase $><$ ambition of the programme
- **235 millions €** for 7 years (*33,5 mio/year on average*)
- Continuous increase (*21mio in 2007 -> 43mio in 2013*)

Indicative breakdown of funding :

- Active Citizens... : 40 %
- Civil Society... : 30 %
- All Together ...: 15 %

BUT : Financial Perspective ????

ADOPTION PROCEDURE

Proposal adopted by the Commission on April 6, 2005

Co-decision :

- **Council** : discussion in Cultural Affairs Council (CAC) ; positive reception by the Member States
- **Parliament** : on the basis of the report of the Culture Committee

Opinion by :

- Social and Economic Committee : adoption by the section Employment, Social Affaires and Citizenship on October 5, 2005 ; by plenary session November 2005?
- Committee of the Regions : adoption envisaged by the plenary session November 16-17, 2005