



## YOUTH IN ACTION PROGRAMME

### E-FORMS

The UK National Agency has postponed the introduction of new e-form applications until the 1 November 2011 deadline (Round 5). Please use the usual 2011 Word application forms for all applications for the 1 September 2011 deadline (Round 4).

Clear e-form guidance notes will be available well in advance of the 1 November deadline.

\* \* \*

### DEADLINES

In 2012 deadlines for the YiA programme are being reduced from 5 per year to 3 per year. New deadline dates will be published asap.

[www.britishcouncil.org/youthinaction](http://www.britishcouncil.org/youthinaction)

\* \* \*

### FREQUENTLY RECURRING APPLICATION ERRORS

- An applicant was advised that if they were the bank account holder then they have to be the legal representative. However this is not the case, the legal representative needs to be someone who will take legal responsibility for the project, it does not matter if they are the account holder or not.

#### Youth Initiatives:

- Please note the legal representative and the coach cannot be the same person.
- In case of informal groups involving young people aged 15-17, at least one member of the group must be aged between 18 and 30; s/he will assume the role of legal representative on behalf of the group. Coaches cannot assume the role of legal representatives, due to their role of support persons. The proof of legal status for an informal group of young people must be a photocopy of the legal representative's passport.
- Bank accounts cannot be in an individual's name. If they are a group of informal young people than they must open an account in the groups name.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Aneta Kubala on [aneta.kubala@britishcouncil.org](mailto:aneta.kubala@britishcouncil.org).



## BECOME A CULTURAL COACH

Are you interested in representing, encouraging and coaching young people from a minority group in the UK to become involved in a variety of youth projects within the UK and EU?

If you are, you might like to become a **Cultural Coach** for the **Youth in Action programme**.

### What is the Youth in Action Programme?

- Youth in Action is an inclusive programme for young people Funded by the European Union.
- It promotes mobility within the EU's borders (and beyond) through exchanges and voluntary work in the EU.
- It encourages young people to initiate their own projects.
- It promotes non-formal learning and end encourages intercultural dialogue.

For more information please see:

[www.britishcouncil.org/youthinaction](http://www.britishcouncil.org/youthinaction)

### What funding is available?

- Youth in Action funding is available for community and international projects.
- Cultural coaches work on a voluntary basis, but expenses such as travel and the attendance or delivery of specific trainings can be covered by the Youth in Action programme.

### What will young people get out of Youth in Action?

Young people will have a chance to focus on the following areas:

- Youth employment issues
- Global environment and climate change
- Creativity and entrepreneurship
- Intercultural dialogue

### What will a Cultural Coach do?

- Raise awareness of the Youth in Action programme
- Give potential skills to applicants
- Develop projects
- Develop own knowledge of the Youth in Action programme

### What are the benefits of being one?

- Personal satisfaction
- The opportunity to develop new skills
- The possibility of attending Cultural Coach events at a European level

### I want to become a Cultural Coach! What do I do?

Contact your nearest Youth in Action Information Provider

Bernice Sweeney  
European/International Officer  
Youth Council for NI  
Forestview, Purdys Lane  
Belfast BT8 7AR

T: 02890.643882  
E: [bsweeney@ycni.org](mailto:bsweeney@ycni.org)



## **YOUTH IN ACTION - RESULTS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON FUTURE OF THE PROGRAMME**

The European Commission has published the results of public consultations on the future generation of EU programmes for education and youth from 2014. Between September and November 2010, anyone interested was invited to give their opinions on the design of the funding programmes under the next multiannual budget of the European Union. The consultations on future programmes in education and training, youth and international co-operation in higher education together received more than 8,700 responses via online questionnaires and written contributions. Most of the respondents were from Europe and active in the fields of education and youth policy.

The results of these consultations will feed into the Commission's preparations for the next generation of education and youth programmes. The Commission will propose an outline of the post-2013 budget and present a proposal for new education and youth programmes in the autumn 2011.

To see the results of the consultation on the Youth in Action Programme go to: [http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/news2948\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/news2948_en.htm)

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF MAIN FINDINGS**

This report presents the findings of the online public consultation which was launched by the European Commission to gather views on the future European youth programme, which will succeed to the current Youth in Action programme (2007-2013). The main findings of this consultation are summarized:

#### **Scope of the future programme**

Respondents to the public consultation were very positive about the added value of a European youth programme. Even in countries where there are already non-formal learning opportunities for young people there is a demand for more non-formal learning opportunities. Respondents were very positive on whether a European youth programme could contribute to addressing this demand by providing more and better non-formal learning opportunities for young people. Besides providing non-formal learning opportunities, the respondents were of the opinion that a future European youth programme should:

- contribute to developing, recognising and supporting youth work;
- continue to improve the capacities, quality and sustainability of the activities of youth organisations;
- provide more and better opportunities for young people to make their voices heard.

According to respondents, the most important issues to be addressed by the future European

youth programme include: social changes, youth unemployment and changing needs of the labour market, discriminatory, racist or xenophobic behaviours among young people and social exclusion of disadvantaged young people. Respondents indicated as less important issues to address directly the increasing rate of school drop-outs and youth health disorders. Most respondents also indicated that young people facing difficulties should remain a primary target group of the future programme without excluding other young people.

#### **Programme activities**

Generally speaking, the activities of the current Youth in Action programme as a whole were considered to be relevant also for a future European youth programme. More specifically, transnational youth exchanges and youth volunteering in another country were considered as the most relevant types of activities. Additionally, according to the respondents, projects implemented in co-operation with partner countries outside the EU should remain a prominent feature of a future European youth programme.

#### **Programme implementation**

Respondents were of the opinion that the future programme should continue being implemented separately, although, according to some, this should be while developing a more integrated approach. For a majority of respondents, this integrated approach could

consist of a common management system or common National Agencies for the different programmes.

Most respondents were of the opinion that the information on the current programme is easy to find, supporting documents are easy to understand and application forms are user-friendly and 'proportionate'. However, further simplification was frequently requested, in particular to facilitate access to the programme to young people with fewer opportunities. The majority of respondents indicated that the future European youth programme should continue to be called Youth in Action.

When comparing the reach of the programme with the number of young people living in Europe, most respondents considered that the level of supported projects and participants is insufficiently adequate. Among the possible approaches to increase this level, respondents were of the opinion that more focus should also be given to activities addressing intermediaries with a strong multiplier effect (youth workers/youth organisations) and/or developing partnerships with local or regional public bodies with a view to co-financing the project grant with them.

[Source for articles below, the official website of the European Union: [http://europa.eu/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/index_en.htm) ]

## TACKLING DISCRIMINATION

The EU acts on behalf of EU citizens to prevent them being discriminated against on grounds of racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

### EU fight against discrimination

The European Commission takes action to:

- **improve knowledge of discrimination** by [raising awareness](#) among the population of their [rights and obligations](#) and also of the benefits of diversity;
- **support intermediary actors** such as [NGOs](#), [social partners](#) and [equality bodies](#) to improve their capacity to combat discrimination;
- **support the development of equality policies** at national level and encourage the [exchange of good practices](#) between EU countries;
- **achieve real change** in the area of anti-discrimination through [anti-discrimination training activities](#);
- **push for [business-oriented diversity management](#)** as part of a strategic response to a more diversified society, customer base, market structure and workforce.

In addition to the two Directives ([Racial Equality Directive and Employment Framework Directive](#)), the European Commission adopted in July 2008 a [Communication](#) which presents a comprehensive approach to stepping up action against discrimination and to promoting equal opportunities and a Commission Decision creating a [non-discrimination governmental experts group](#).

The European Commission supports equal treatment of the Roma, the EU largest ethnic minority. See recent [Roma policy developments](#).

## PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

As full citizens, people with disabilities have equal rights and are entitled to dignity, equal treatment, independent living and full participation in society. Enabling people with disabilities to enjoy these rights is the main purpose of the EU's long-term strategy for their active inclusion.

### It's all about access to equal rights

The EU promotes the active inclusion and full participation of disabled people in society, in line with the EU human rights approach to disability issues. Disability is a rights issue and not a matter of discretion. This approach is also at the core of the [UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities \(UNCRPD\)](#), to which the EU is a signatory.

In 2010 the European Commission adopted the [European Disability Strategy 2010-2020](#). The Strategy builds on the UNCRPD and takes into account the experience of the [Disability Action Plan \(2004-2010\)](#). The European principle is: 'Nothing about disabled people without disabled people '.

## **Finding and keeping jobs**

People with disabilities represent around one-sixth of the EU's overall working-age population, but their employment rate is comparatively low. Disabled people are almost twice as likely to be inactive as non-disabled people. Yet with a little more help millions of disabled Europeans could enter or re-enter the jobs market.

The EU Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs aims in particular to improve the comparatively low work participation rates of Europe's disabled people.

EU countries set their own employment policies on the basis of the [European Employment Strategy](#) (EES). They report back yearly to the European Commission on national employment initiatives, including those for disability.

The EU's policy efforts on Social Protection and Social Inclusion support EU countries in developing policy for social inclusion, health care and social services. This will improve the chances for disabled people to find and keep work.

## **Education for all**

Equal access to quality education and lifelong learning enable disabled people to participate fully in society and improve their quality of life. The European Commission supports the inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream education. It has launched several educational initiatives for disabled people. These include the [European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education](#) as well as a specific study group on disability and lifelong learning. EU programmes like the [Lifelong Learning programme](#) are bringing the education and training of disabled people into the mainstream.

## **Living independently**

The aim is to provide disabled people with the same individual choices and control over their daily lives as non-disabled people. Care and support services are to be tailored more to the specific needs of people with disabilities. The European Commission promotes:

- affordable, accessible and quality social services;
- support through consolidated social and inclusion provisions.

The EU also supports the case for the de-institutionalisation of disabled people. The European Commission funds studies on the delivery of community-based services needed by disabled people to attain the right levels of security, freedom and independence for community living.

Please find here all the [documents related to people with disabilities](#).



## **EU LEADERS ENDORSE COMMISSION'S PLAN FOR ROMA INTEGRATION**

The European Commission's EU framework for national Roma integration strategies ([IP11/400](#), [MEMO/11/216](#)) was endorsed at the highest political level. European leaders backed a plan to end the centuries-old exclusion of the continent's Roma minority. Under the EU Framework for national Roma integration strategies, each of the EU's 27 countries will set out how they intend to improve the situation of the most vulnerable Roma communities living on their territory. Member States will have to address four key areas for better social and economic integration – education, employment, healthcare and housing – and set out measures proportionate to their Roma population. EU funding and a strong legal framework to combat discrimination are available to support national efforts. Governments have until the end of 2011 to submit their national strategies. The European Commission will then assess the plans and report back next spring.

European Commission Vice-President Viviane Reding, EU Justice Commissioner, said: *"Today's agreement is a huge step forward for millions of Roma around Europe. The EU is sending a strong signal: the exclusion of the Roma is not compatible with our societal values and our economic model. European leaders have made an unprecedented commitment to improving Roma integration and I would like to thank the Hungarian Presidency in particular for its determination in obtaining this commitment. I also welcome the co-operation from other experienced international bodies such as the Council of Europe, which is working closely with local and regional authorities across Europe for better Roma integration."*

*Now is the time to translate words into action. The EU Framework cannot succeed without the strong and sustained support of all Member States. I look forward to seeing how each national government intends to achieve a better integration of Roma people in their country."*

László Andor EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion stressed the importance of immediate action to integrate the Roma saying "*The situation for Roma people across Europe has worsened which is why we need to move urgently from hopes and aspirations to practical action that actually makes a difference on the ground. Support from EU leaders for an EU framework is an important step that shows Europe does not accept the social and economic exclusion of millions of Roma people. The national strategies, which I hope will be ambitious and realistic, can now get off the ground"*.

He added: "*Roma representatives can play a decisive role in ensuring that Roma integration strategies are both appropriate and implemented effectively. Monitoring will be crucial ensuring that national strategies are effectively implemented and that money intended for Roma integration really reaches the final beneficiary"*.

### **Background**

Europe's 10-12 million Roma continue to face discrimination, exclusion and the denial of their rights, while governments lose out on increased revenue and productivity because potential talent could go to waste. Better economic and social integration is an imperative – but to be effective, concerted action is needed at all levels to address the multiple causes of exclusion. Many of the areas for improving Roma integration – such as education, employment, health and housing – are primarily national or regional responsibilities. However, the EU has an important role in co-ordinating action by Member States and helping with financial instruments, including the Social and Structural Funds; and supports such efforts being carried out in other bodies such as the Council of Europe.

On 5 April 2011, the Commission put forward an EU Framework for national Roma integration strategies (IP11/400, MEMO/11/216). The Framework will help guide national Roma policies and mobilise funds available at EU level to support integration efforts. It focuses on four pillars: access to education, jobs, healthcare and housing. Member States should set individual national Roma integration goals that reflect each of their population sizes and the current status of their integration policies.

As set out in the EU Framework, Member States will have to submit national Roma strategies by the end of 2011. They will have to specify how they will contribute to achieving the overall EU level goals for Roma integration. The Commission will then assess the national strategies and report back to the Council and the European Parliament in spring 2012. This exercise will be repeated on an annual basis, thus launching a regular review of progress made at national level within the EU framework.

In the summer of 2010, the European Commission publicly defended the position that Roma are EU citizens and should benefit fully from their rights and comply with their obligations under EU law (SPEECH/10/428 and MEMO/10/502).

For more information: The EU & Roma: <http://ec.europa.eu/roma>