



Education and Culture DG

'Europe for Citizens' Programme

Europe for Citizens 2007-2013

International Conference

***Strengthening the triangle CSOs – National Government-EC, Zadar,
19 – 20 October, 2009***

**Tatjana Čorlija,
Office for Cooperation with NGOs,
Government of the Republic of Croatia**



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'Europe for Citizens' Programme

General information about the Programme

- Europe for Citizens - one of the Community Programmes (centralised programme);
- Education, Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) seated in Brussels;
- 2007 – 2013 Overall budget 215 mil €;
- Open for all EU Member States;
- Since October 2007 open for Croatia;
- Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs appointed as 'Europe for Citizens Contact Point.



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Who can participate in the Programme?

- local authorities and organisations
- European public policy research organisations (think-tanks)
- citizens' groups
- civil society organisations
- non-governmental organisations
- trade unions
- educational institutions (schools, faculties...)
- organisations active in the field of voluntary work
- organisations active in the field of amateur sport, etc.



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General Objectives

- constructing an ever closer Europe,
- developing a sense of European identity (common values, history & culture);
- fostering a sense of ownership of the European Union among its citizens;
- enhancing tolerance and mutual understanding between European citizens

Specific Objectives

- bringing together people from local communities across Europe;
- fostering action, debate and reflection related to European citizenship and democracy (cooperation within CSOs at European level);
- bringing Europe closer to its citizens by promoting Europe's values and achievements, while preserving the memory of its past;
- encouraging interaction between citizens and civil society organisations from all participating countries.

Priority themes (permanent)

- Future of the EU and its basic values
- Inter-cultural dialogue
- People's well being in Europe: employment, social cohesion and sustainable development
- Active European citizenship
- Impact of the EU policies

Horizontal features

- European values
- Informal learning for active European citizenship
- Volunteering – expression of active European citizenship
- Transparency and local dimension
- Cultural and linguistic diversity
- Cross fertilization
- Equal access to the Programme (gender equality, intergenerational solidarity)
- Visibility, valorisation and dissemination



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Structure of the Programme

- Action 1: Active Citizens for Europe
- Action 2: Active civil society in Europe
- Action 3: Together for Europe
- Action 4: Active European Remembrance

ACTION 1: Active Citizens for Europe



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Measure 1: Town Twinning

Measure 1.1: Town twinning citizens meetings

- twinned towns gathering citizens and citizens' groups
- applicants: municipalities, towns (CSOs as partners)
- principle: 2 states participants to the programme (min 1 EU MS)
- activities: meetings, conferences, workshops, seminars, sport and cultural events....
- duration: 21 days; grant: 2,500 – 22,000 EUR.

Measure 1.2: Networks of twinned towns

- long-lasting and thematic town/municipality partnerships (networks) targeting dialogue and exchange of good practice;
- applicants: municipality, town, twinning committee, local organisations representing local authorities (CSOs as partners);
- activities: citizens' meetings, conferences, workshops etc.; at least 30 participants from minimum 4 municipality/town (4 different states, at least 1 EU MS, at least 2 are twinned);
- duration: up to 24 months; grant: 10,000 – 150,000 EUR

ACTION 1: Active Citizens for Europe

Measure 2: Citizens' projects and support measures

Measure 2.1: Citizens' projects

- aim: getting closer citizens and the EU, supporting participation and fostering dialogue among citizens and EU institutions
- applicants: municipality/town or other non-profit organisation
- activities: citizens' panel discussions
- project should include at least 5 MS, at least one EU MS
- grant: 100,000 – 250,000 EUR (max 60% of total value of the project)

Measure 2.2: Support measures

- aim: promoting twinning ideas and initiating/revitalisation/developing twinings, applying innovative methods enabling citizens' participation.
- eligibility: national and European associations, federations and similar organisations of local authorities whose activities include a number of municipalities and/or towns in the national or European context.
- grants: 30,000 – 100,000 EUR (up to 80% of the total project expenses)

ACTION 2: Active civil society in Europe



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Measure 1: Structural support to the think-tanks

- aim: providing ideas and reflections on European issues, on active European citizenship or on European values and in feeding the debate at European level
- applicants: think-tanks, CSOs at European, national, regional and local levels
- tender: once a year, no fixed dates
- duration: annual or multiannual

Measure 2: Structural support to the CSOs at European level

- aim: supporting CSOs, as unique links between European citizens and the European Union as important elements of citizens' active participation in society and help to invigorate all aspects of public life.
- applicants: CSOs at European, national, regional and local levels
- tender once a year

ACTION 2: Active civil society in Europe



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Measure 3: Support to projects initiated by CSOs

- aim: supporting projects which should raise awareness on issues of European interest and on concrete solutions that can be found through cooperation or coordination at European level.
- applicant: a variety of organisations, established at local, regional, national or European level, can be involved with legal personality (at least 1 partner organisation from other state)
- 2 types: projects events and/or production and realisation projects
- tender: once a year (February 15) for projects starting between August 01 and December 31
- duration: up to 12 months (end of project by the July 31 next year)
- grant: 10,000 – 55,000 EUR (request may not exceed 60% of the eligible costs)

ACTION 3: Together for Europe

- aims at deepening the concept of “active European citizenship” and at promoting its understanding all over Europe, therefore contributing to “bringing Europe closer to its citizens”, through three sets of measures:
 - high visibility events,
 - studies,
 - Information and dissemination tools.

ACTION 4: Active European Remembrance

- aim: to remember the breaches of fundamental values of the EU such as freedom, democracy and respect for human rights caused by Nazism and Stalinism in Europe by commemorating the victims (preserving the sites and archives associated with deportations)
- applicants: non-profit organisation with legal personality of nongovernmental organisation, association of victims and their families, museums, local and regional bodies, federations, research organisations, educational institutions, religious organisations, organisations active in the field of voluntary work etc.)
- duration: up to 12 months
- grant: 10,000 – 55,000 EUR (may not exceed 60% of the eligible costs of the action concerned)

Office for Cooperation with NGOs - Europe for Citizens Contact Point

- responsible for absorption capacity of the Programme,
- task: informing the potential beneficiaries on all aspects of the Programme
- Technical Support Service: e – mail, phone line, sub-page under GOfNGO web page (activities, tenders, examples of good practice, partner search tool, exchange information on partner search tool with other Contact Points), Info days, workshops, ..., brochures



compatibility with other EU policies, programmes, sub-programmes and initiatives:

- EU Communication Policy;
- Civil Society Facility;
- People 2 People.



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Croatia & 'Europe for Citizens Programme'

2008

- fee 85,000 EUR

- absorption – over 300,000 EUR:

Activity 1 : Active citizens for Europe – 7 projects

Activity 2: Active civil society for Europe – 3 projects

Activity 4: Active European Remembrance – 1 project

2009

- fee 85,000 EUR

- absorption – over 200,000 EUR

Activity 1: 5 projects

Activity 2: 5 projects (1 reserve)

Activity 4: 2 projects

Info & useful links



Office for Cooperation with NGOs, Government of the Republic of Croatia

[http: www.uzuvrh.hr](http://www.uzuvrh.hr)

(e-mail.: europazagradane@uzuvrh.hr; phone.: +385 1 4599 816/7)

Education, Audiovisual & culture Executive Agency (EACEA)

<http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/index.htm>

Data-base of *twinning* partners

<http://www.twinning.org/en/page/enter-our-universe-of-twinning.html>

Data-base of projects financed by the European programmes in the area of education, training, culture, youth and citizens (EVE)

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/eve/alfresco/faces/jsp/browse/bro