



RESOLUTION
on
EU funding for international youth
organisations

*Adopted by the Council of Members/Extraordinary General
Assembly 27-28 April 2007, Baku (Azerbaijan)*

The EU's new financial framework and the new Youth in Action programme 2007-2013 have seen some changes - and some continuity in the way European youth organisations and the European Youth Forum is funded. However, the legal base (DECISION No 1719/2006/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 15 November 2006 establishing the 'Youth in Action' programme for the period 2007 to 2013) does not provide international youth organisations ('bodies active at the European level in the field of youth') with stable funding.

In recent years and also with the call for the annual operational funding for 2007 the ceiling of funding has been at 35000 Euro per annum. This means that despite of real inflation, no adjustment has taken place, in fact resulting in a real decline in funding to these organisations. This ceiling for European youth organisations has been established through the call for proposals (Youth in Action, Action 4.1. Support for bodies active at European level in the field of youth, Call for proposals, No 1/2007) as defined by the Commission.

Most European youth organisations heavily rely on the Commission funding (Action 4.1 of Youth in Action) for their operational budget. Without it there would hardly be any European-level activity possible. In 2006 more than 90 European youth organisations have received funding through this source. For 2007 probably a similar number of organisations is competing for the foreseen 2.4 million Euro.

Under the procedures in place up to now European youth organisations have to go through an intransparent annual application procedure not allowing for any possibility to agree with the relevant agency on possible new measures. After submitting the application for the operational grant, European youth organisations are left with a "black-box procedure" in which not even the European Youth Forum is allowed to participate in. A few months after application, the final "verdict" is presented by the agency and no one can be held accountable for this, no appeal is possible to a decision an organisation might find unjustified. In addition to that the annual application procedure only creates unnecessary administrative burden on the side of the Commission as well as the applicant NGO. This does not need to be so because the legal base allows for multi-annual planning.

In light of the ongoing challenges for European youth organisations, whose activities and sustainability are of crucial importance in building a European civil society and public space, to stabilise their annual funding on a secure and sufficient base, we call on the Bureau of the European Youth Forum to

- invite for a meeting of all organisations concerned before the end of June 2007,
- lobby for a significant increase of the total amount available to European youth organisations for their operational grants,
- lobby for an increase of the maximum ceiling for operational grants to be raised from 35000 Euro to 50000 Euro,

- remind the Commission to have the European Youth Forum included in the screening of applicants for operational grants under action 4.1,
- encourage the Commission to give the option of multi annual partnership agreements,
- report back to all concerned member organisations until 1st September 2007 and to the next meeting of the Council of Members.
- Encourage more interaction during the evaluation of the application because of the fact that the administrative grant application requires experience that many organisations don't have,
- Demand a comprehensive answer from the Commission regarding the rejection of the grant so that a proper follow-up can be made by the international youth organisations.