

SOCRATES II

General guidelines

Cooperation in the field of education (2000-2006)

Official title

"SOCRATES Community action programme in the field of education"

Legal references

Decision 253/2000/EC of the European Parliament and Council of 24 January 2000 establishing the second phase of the Community programme in the field of education, "SOCRATES" (OJ L 28 of 3 February 2000).

Calls for proposals:

- for 2001: (2000/C 275/11) (OJ C 275/10 of 27 September 2000)
- for 2002: (2001/C 191/10) (OJ C 191/10 of 7 July 2001)

Context

This second phase of the SOCRATES programme covers the period between 1 January 2000 and 31 December 2006. SOCRATES II is based on the experiences of the first phase of the SOCRATES programme (1995-1999) and has retained the positive elements of SOCRATES I. Some of the actions of the earlier programme have been improved and combined. Several innovations have also been introduced.

Objectives

Promoting lifelong learning and developing a Europe of knowledge are the two central ideas of the SOCRATES II programme, and for this four main objectives have been set:

- strengthen the European dimension at all levels and facilitate access to educational resources in Europe, giving special attention to equal opportunity;
- improve the knowledge of EU languages, particularly those less widely used and less taught;

- promote cooperation and mobility in the field of education by encouraging exchanges between educational institutions, the development of open and distance education and a better recognition of diplomas and periods of study;
- stimulate innovations in the elaboration of teaching practices and material, using new technologies in particular.
- promote equal opportunities in all sectors of education.

These objectives are supported by the European Union, which provides funding for the following main activities:

- the transnational mobility of people in the field of education in Europe;
- the carrying out of pilot projects based on transnational partnerships set up to achieve innovation in education and quality education;
- the promotion of language skills and the understanding of different cultures;
- the use of information and communication technology (ICT) in the field of education;
- the setting up of transnational cooperation networks facilitating the exchange of experiences and good practices;
- the observation and comparative analysis of education systems and policies;
- activities involving the exchange of information and the dissemination of good practice and innovations.

Actions

SOCRATES consists of five targeted actions:

- **COMENIUS** (see factsheet P.4.2.2) concerns school education (pre-school and primary and secondary school). Here the quality of education has to be improved, with a stronger European dimension and more emphasis on learning languages.



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- **ERASMUS** (see factsheet P.4.2.3) is for higher, university and post-graduate education and aims to encourage mobility and language learning.
- **GRUNDTVIG** (see factsheet P.4.2.4) is complementary to COMENIUS and ERASMUS and covers adult education and other forms of education, facilitating the integration of adults excluded from the school system.
- **LINGUA** (see factsheet P.4.2.5) specifically supports the learning and teaching of languages.
- **MINERVA** (see factsheet P.4.2.6) seeks to promote the use of information and communication, multimedia and open distance education technologies.

Three other actions are cross-sector and aim to facilitate coordination within the SOCRATES programme:

- **Observation and innovation of educational systems** – The objective is to observe the educational contexts of other Member States in order to make each national educational system innovative. The action is for the entire educational community and civil society in the broad sense (local authorities, associations, non-governmental organisations, etc.) and seeks to develop projects aimed at: developing comparative analyses of educational policies and systems (**EURYDICE** network), organising study visits (**ARION** programme), coordinating a network of institutes (**NARIC** programme), encouraging the recognition of diplomas and launching pilot projects.
- **Joint actions** are implemented to maximise cooperation in policies relating to education (**SOCRATES** programme), vocational training (**LEONARDO DA VINCI** programme) and youth (**YOUTH** programme). These actions are the subject of calls for proposals on themes common to the three above-mentioned programmes. Each call for proposals specifies the themes to be covered, the kind of projects planned, available aid, eligibility and selection criteria and the procedure to be followed and the closing date for the submission of applications.
- Provision has also been made for **accompanying measures** in order to make SOCRATES more flexible. Their aim is to promote cooperation in the field of education, to disseminate the results of projects, to improve the implementation of projects and to ensure optimal collaboration between the different actions of the programme.

The accompanying measures support various activities, which, although not part of the main actions, clearly help achieve the programme's objectives. Projects benefiting from financial aid will aim to:

- **make target** groups or public opinion more aware of the SOCRATES programme or, more generally speaking, of the importance of European cooperation in the sector of education (conferences, seminars);
- **improve the implementation** of the SOCRATES programme, particularly by providing training in project management or by tackling existing obstacles;
- maximise the **results** of European cooperation in the field of education by **disseminating** the products and processes of this cooperation;
- stimulate **cross-sector cooperation** between the actions of the SOCRATES programme, for example around activities involving the projects co-funded by COMENIUS, ERASMUS, GRUNDTVIG, LINGUA, MINERVA, etc.;
- target the **horizontal priorities** of the SOCRATES programme, in particular the promotion of equal opportunity, intercultural education or the fight against racism.



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Target group

SOCRATES II concerns all types and levels of education. It is particularly for:

- pupils, students and other learners;
- teachers and staff directly participating in education;
- all types of educational institutions specified by each of the Member States;
- those people and institutions responsible for educational systems and policies at the local, regional and national levels.

Other public or private bodies can also participate in appropriate actions of the programme, and in particular:

- local and regional bodies and organisations;
- voluntary organisations working in the field of education, including student, public, teacher and parent associations;
- social partners (meaning the representatives of employers and trade unions);
- research centres specialised in the analysis of education;
- enterprises, business groups, trade organisations and chambers of commerce and industry.

Eligible areas

SOCRATES II is open to 31 countries:

- the fifteen Member States of the European Union;
- three EFTA/EEA countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway;
- ten Central and Eastern European countries: Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.
- Cyprus, Malta and Turkey.

Budget

The total budget allocated to the SOCRATES programme for the period 2000-2006 amounts to EUR 1 850 million.

Implementation

The SOCRATES programme operates with calls for applications published in the Official Journal of the European Communities (OJ EC). Depending on the actions, the selection is made either at the European level or at the national level.

The SOCRATES projects follow one of the two following procedures:

- "Centralised actions" are managed by the European Commission, with the help of the SOCRATES, LEONARDO and YOUTH Technical Assistance Office;
- "Decentralised actions" are managed by National Agencies set up by the countries concerned. It is estimated that about 75% of the annual appropriations allocated to the SOCRATES II programme will be directly administered by the National Agencies.

The procedures for filing an application for one type of action or another are explained in detail in the **"Guidelines for Applicants"** brochure.

Application forms can be obtained either from the SOCRATES, LEONARDO and YOUTH Technical Assistance Office (Centralised actions) or from the National Agencies.

The annual calls for proposals specify the priority themes for the year in question and the deadlines for filing applications.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The European Commission Internet site: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/socrates.html>

"Guidelines for Applicants", 2000, European Commission, 55 p., free of charge, available on the Internet: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/socrates/download/guidefr.pdf>



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ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

At the Community level:

SOCRATES, LEONARDO and YOUTH Technical
Assistance Office
59-61 rue de Trèves, B-1000 Brussels
Tel: +32 2 233 01 11 - Fax: +32 2 233 01 50
E-mail: socrates@socleoyouth.be
Web: <http://www.socrates-youth.be/>

In each country concerned:

SOCRATES National Agencies (list available on
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/socrates/
nat-est.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/socrates/nat-est.html))