

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Civil society platform

Who can participate in the platform?

The platform is open to non-governmental organisations from the cultural, media, non formal and informal education and learning organisations and other civil society sectors (e.g. networks, foundations, professional organisations, etc.) with a trans-national or European-wide dimension. These non-governmental organisations must be representative of European organisations within their respective sectors. Consultancies and law offices are not invited to join.

How will the organisations be selected to participate in the platforms?

A call for expressions of interest will be published on the website of the Commission in June 2009. In order to participate, organisations will be invited to fill in a form available on line. The replies to the questions will allow the Commission to verify if the profile of the organisation applying corresponds to the criteria presented in the call. If this is not the case, organisations will receive a reply explaining why their participation is not possible. If the profile matches the criteria of the call, organisations will be contacted by the Commission and invited to the constitutive meeting of the platform.

What are the criteria to be invited to participate in the 1st meeting of the platform?

All interested organisations must comply with both criteria defined in the call.

Cultural, media and other civil society organisations (e.g. networks, foundations, professional organisations, etc.) must:

- have a trans-national or European-wide dimension.
- be non-governmental. Public authorities, whether national, regional or local, can already contribute to multilingualism policy through other channels, in particular the open method of coordination in education.

If my organisation will not be invited to participate in the 1st meeting of the platform, how can we contribute to the multilingualism policy?

Membership of a platform is not the only way to contribute to the multilingualism policy. The Commission regularly organises wide consultation exercises on these subject. For instance, it, consulted interested stakeholders prior to the adoption of the Communication "Multilingualism: an asset for Europe and a shared commitment" through a public online consultation in 2007 and by organising a public hearing in Brussels in 2008. The outcomes of the discussions as well as those of the online consultation are reflected in the Communication adopted in September 2008.

Moreover, the interest demonstrated by your organisation in the work of the Civil Society Platform will be transmitted to the members of the platform during their first meeting. You could therefore be contacted by the Platform representatives as a "resource" organisation in order to present your experiences to the Platform and thereby contribute to its deliberations.

MORE INFORMATION

- Communication "Multilingualism: an asset for Europe and a shared commitment"
- Inventory of Community actions in the field of multilingualism