

Call for proposals VP/2002/008 for the support to key European networks involved in the fight against poverty and social exclusion (under budget line B3-4105).

This call for proposals aims at supporting networking at EU level of organisations which are active in the fight against poverty and social exclusion.

The Amsterdam Treaty includes provisions for the Community to adopt measures designed to encourage cooperation in combating social exclusion. The Lisbon European Council concluded that "policies for combating social exclusion should be based on an Open Method of Coordination combining national action plans and a Commission initiative for cooperation in this field to be presented by June 2000". Following a proposal from the Commission the European Parliament and the Council agreed on the establishment of a programme of Community action to encourage cooperation between Member States to combat social exclusion to run for five years from 2002 through 2006.

This call for proposals for *key European networks involved in the fight against social exclusion and poverty* relates to Strand 3 of the Community action programme whose objective is to develop the capacity of actors to address social exclusion and poverty effectively and to promote innovative approaches, in particular through networking at European level.

Such networks have a key role to play in ensuring a better understanding of the most concrete forms of social exclusion, a regular monitoring of the implementation of the national action plans to combat social exclusion at a level closer to their main beneficiaries, a greater public awareness of the European strategy, as well as to ensuring that this strategy takes into account the experience of people exposed to social exclusion. They have an equally important contribution to make in influencing and/or accompanying change in policies to combat social exclusion.

The Community contribution will be towards costs inherent in carrying out the activities provided for in the European networks' strategic plans (covering a maximum period of thirty-six months starting on 1st December 2002 and ending on 1st December 2005. However, subsidy agreements will be signed for one year and be subject to an annual and conditional renewal).

Financial support for annual co-ordination activities will only be granted to European networks which fulfil the conditions and criteria set out under the eligibility and selection criteria of the detailed guidelines. Applicant organisations must be operating in at least twelve Member States and be focused on the European Union.

European networks are free to set up their own agenda and annual work programmes. However, the Community's financial support intervenes only in the context of the Community Action programme against social exclusion and the objectives which are laid down therein. Priority will therefore be given to European networks whose work programmes clearly fit the general objectives of the Community Action programme and demonstrate a capacity for relaying the experience and interests of institutions or actors they represent so as to contribute to a better formulation of European and national policies against social exclusion and poverty. The renewal each year will be subject to an

examination of a report on the previous year's activities and to an agreement on the next year's work programme.

The total budget made available under this Call is approximately € 2.500.000. Depending on the content, relevance and quality of the applications, it is envisaged that a maximum of four European networks will be selected following this Call. The core-funding is subject to an upper limit of 90% of the expenditure eligible for support. This ceiling may only be reached under exceptional circumstances. In case the 90% core-funding is envisaged, a detailed analysis of the exceptional circumstances justifying the demand must be included in the application. The appropriate matching funding should be guaranteed in cash by the applicant. Contributions in kind are not accepted.

Proposals must be submitted and postmarked **not later than 17.07.2002** in order to be accepted. The application forms must also be sent in by email before that date. The proposed activities must be scheduled to start on 1st December 2002.

More detailed guidelines and an application form can be obtained as follows:

1. By downloading them directly from the DG Employment and Social Affairs website at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/soc-prot/soc-incl/calls_en.htm

2. By writing to:

Unit E2: Call for proposals VP/2002/008 - Info
European Commission
Archives DG Employment and Social Affairs
J-37 00/26
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium.

3. By sending a fax to +32 2 295 65 61 (please include "**Call for proposals VP/2002/008 - Info**" in the title of your fax).

4. Or by sending an email to empl-e2@cec.eu.int (please include "**Call for proposals VP/2002/008 - Info**" in the subject of your email).