

Call for proposals VP/2002/010 for transnational co-operation and exchange projects to combat social exclusion (under budget line B3-4105).

This call is for proposals which will promote transnational co-operation and exchange and encourage mutual learning between Member States with a view to enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of policies and programmes to combat poverty and social exclusion under budget line B3-4105.

The Amsterdam Treaty includes provisions for the Community to adopt measures designed to encourage co-operation in combating social exclusion. The Lisbon European Council concluded that "policies for combating social exclusion should be based on an Open Method of Co-ordination combining national action plans and a Commission initiative for co-operation 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 co-operation between Member States to combat social exclusion to run for five years from 2002 through 2006.

This call for proposals for a *Transnational Exchange Programme* relates to Strand 2 of the Community action programme whose objective is to promote and support the organisation of exchanges and promote mutual learning between Member States.

The *Transnational Exchange Programme* will be implemented on a phased basis. Phase I, the subject of this call for proposals, will be an initial preparatory phase lasting up to 9 months. Actions under Phase I will concentrate on three things: first, taking stock of existing knowledge and policy developments in relation to poverty and social exclusion; secondly, fostering the development of transnational and multisectoral partnerships which will provide the basis for longer term co-operation and exchange; and, thirdly, defining objectives and developing proposals for a clear programme of further work for up to two years under Phase II of the programme. A restricted call for proposals will be issued in Spring 2003 inviting all organisations participating in Phase I to apply for funding under Phase II.

Proposals may be submitted covering any aspect of poverty and social exclusion that is covered under the Common Objectives on poverty and social exclusion agreed at the Nice European Council. However, priority will be given to proposals which focus on issues identified in the National Action Plans against poverty and social exclusion drawn up by all Member States and in the *Joint Report on Social Inclusion* agreed between the Commission and the Council.

Proposals may come from all public and/or private bodies and institutions involved in the fight against social exclusion such as national, local and regional authorities, bodies responsible for combating social exclusion, social partners, social service providers, non governmental organisations, universities and research institutes, national statistical offices and the media. However, as the aim of Community action is to foster co-operation between Member States priority will be given to proposals which have the active involvement of Member States' national, regional or local administrations. Applications must involve partners based in at least three (3) Member States.

In the region of € 3.6 – 4.0 million will be available through this call and it is envisaged that funding in the region of € 60,000 will be available for each successful proposal. The Community's financial contribution will not exceed 80% of the eligible costs. The partnership must guarantee co-financing in cash of the remaining 20%. Contributions in kind are not accepted.

Proposals must be submitted and postmarked **not later than 05/07/2002** in order to be accepted. The application forms must also be sent in by email before that date. The proposed duration of the actions must not exceed 9 months. They must be scheduled to start on a specified date in November or December 2002 at the applicant's own risk in the absence of a Commission decision.

More detailed guidelines, instructions on how to apply 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 sending an email to empl-e2@cec.eu.int (please include "Call for proposals VP/2002/010 - Info" in the subject of your email).

3. by writing to:

Unit E2: Call for proposals VP/2002/010 - Info
European Commission
DG Employment and Social Affairs
J27 1/33
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

4. or by sending a fax to +32 2 295 65 61 (please include "Call for proposals VP/2002/010 - Info" in the title of your fax).