



EUROPOS BENDRIJŲ KOMISIJA

Briuselis, 2.4.2008
KOM(2008) 158 galutinis

**KOMISIJOS KOMUNIKATAS EUROPOS PARLAMENTUI, TARYBAI, EUROPOS
EKONOMIKOS IR SOCIALINIŲ REIKALŲ KOMITETUI BEI REGIONŲ
KOMITETUI**

**Diskutuokime apie Europą, remdamiesi D plano (demokratija, dialogas, diskusijos)
įgyvendinimo patirtimi**

TURINYS

IŽANGA.....	3
1. D PLANO VERTINIMAS – REZULTATAI IR PATIRTIS	4
2. TOLESNI VEIKSMAI – DISKUTUOKIME APIE EUROPA.....	6
2.1. Piliečių diskusijų idėjos – svarbiausioms politinėms institucijoms	7
2.2. Bendradarbiavimo su Europos Parlamentu stiprinimas	7
2.3. Komisijos programų sąveikos stiprinimas	8
2.4. Kitų D plano iniciatyvų plėtotė	9
3. KVIETIMAS TEIKTI PARAIŠKAS IR DECENTRALIZUOTI VEIKSMAI.....	10
4. IŠVADA.....	11

IŽANGA

2005 m. birželio mėn. Europos Vadovų Taryba paragino pamąstyti apie tolesnę institucinės reformos¹ įgyvendinimą. Europos Komisija, atsiliepdama į šį raginimą, 2005 m. spalio 13 d. priėmė D planą (demokratija, dialogas ir diskusijos)². Šiuo planu siekta paskatinti valstybes nares rengti ES institucijų remiamas viešąsias diskusijas Europos Sąjungos ateities klausimais, kuriose dalyvautų piliečiai, pilietinė visuomenė, socialiniai partneriai, nacionaliniai parlamentai ir politinės partijos.

D plano esmė – geriau klausytis, geriau informuoti ir bendrauti vietos lygiu, įtraukiant piliečius. Pagal D planą buvo konsultuojamasi dėl Europos ateities – šios diskusijos papildė suinteresuotųjų šalių ir plačiosios visuomenės konsultacijas dėl konkrečių politinių pasiūlymų.

D plano pradžia – šeši pilietinės visuomenės vykdomi tarptautiniai Europos piliečių projektai (žr. 1 priedą). Šių projektų tikslas buvo išbandyti naujoviškus konsultacijų metodus ir padėti įvairių šalių žmonėms ir visuomenės grupių atstovams bendrauti tarpusavyje kaip Europos piliečiams ir diskutuoti apie ES ateitį.

2006 m. birželio mėn. Europos Vadovų Taryba pripažino Komisijos indėlio svarbą svarstymo laikotarpiu ir pažymėjo, kad ES įsipareigojimas tapti demokratiškesne, skaidresne ir veiksmingesne šiuo laikotarpiu neapsiriboja. Ji taip pat pareiškė, kad „glaudesniam dialogui su piliečiais reikia pakankamų išteklių ir įsipareigojimo“³ ir rekomendavo svarstymą tęsti ir 2007 m.

Komisija į šį raginimą atsiliepė 2006 m. lapkričio mėn., parengusi pirmųjų metų patirtimi pagrįstą informacinį pranešimą „D planas. Platesni ir išsamesni debatai Europos tema“⁴. Ji atnaujino savo įsipareigojimą veikti pagal D planą. Komisija taip pat nusprendė prisidėti prie naujų pilietinės visuomenės projektų, kuriuose daugiausia dėmesio skiriama jaunimui, moterims ir bendravimo vietos lygiu principui, finansavimo.

Svarstymo laikotarpis baigėsi 2007 m. birželio mėn., tuomet Europos Vadovų Taryba susitarė dėl naujos tarpvyriausybės konferencijos Europos Sąjungos institucinei sistemai pertvarkyti. Ši konferencija įvyko spalio mėn., o 2007 m. gruodžio mėn. Lisabonoje buvo pasirašyta Reformų sutartis. Taigi prasidėjo naujas etapas – naujoji sutartis turės būti ratifikuota, o 2009 m. birželio mėn. vyks Europos Parlamento rinkimai. Europos Vadovų Taryba pabrėžė, kad labai svarbu daugiau ir geriau bendrauti su piliečiais, teikiant jiems išsamią informaciją apie Europos Sąjungą ir įtraukiant juos į nuolatinį dialogą⁵.

¹ Europos Sąjungos valstybių narių valstybių ir vyriausybės vadovų deklaracija dėl Sutarties dėl Konstitucijos Europai ratifikavimo, Europos Vadovų Taryba, 2005 m. birželio 16–17 d., 4 dalis.

² KOM(2005) 494, 2005 10 13.

³ Pirmininkaujančios valstybės narės išvados, Europos Vadovų Taryba, birželio 15–16 d., 3 dalis.

⁴ SEK(2006) 1553.

⁵ SI (2007) 500.

2007 m. spalio mėn. Komisija priėmė komunikatą „Europos komunikacinė partnerystė“⁶. Bendras šios partnerystės siekis – stiprinti skirtingų ES institucijų ir valstybių narių veiklos darną ir sąveiką, kad piliečiai turėtų daugiau galimybių geriau suprasti, kokią poveikį ES politika daro Europos, šalies ir vietos lygiu.

Komunikate analizuojama, ar reikėtų toliau vadovautis 2005–2007 m. taikytu D plano principu – geriau klausytis, geriau informuoti ir bendrauti vietos lygiu. Šiek tiek pakeistas šis principas bus taikomas ir 2008–2009 m., kol bus ratifikuojama Lisabonos sutartis ir vyks Europos Parlamento rinkimai.

Taip siekiama prisidėti prie vieno svarbiausių Komisijos komunikacijos politikos tikslų – didinti piliečių vaidmenį suteikiant jiems galimybę gauti informaciją, kad jie būtų pasirengę dalyvauti diskusijose apie ES reikalus.

1. D PLANO VERTINIMAS – REZULTATAI IR PATIRTIS

D planu siekta skatinti tiek tiesioginį, tiek virtualų ES institucijų ir Sąjungos piliečių dialogą ir taip remti Europos viešosios erdvės plėtotę. D planas ypač pravertė inicijuojant diskusijas apie Europos ateitį, kai Prancūzija ir Olandija referendumuose nepritarė Sutarčiams dėl Konstitucijos Europai.

Drauge su kitomis Komisijos ir kitų ES institucijų ir įstaigų vykdomomis programomis D planas atliko svarbų vaidmenį išbandant naujoviškus būdus, kuriuos taikydamos pilietinės visuomenės organizacijos į diskusiją apie Europos ateitį galėtų įtraukti įvairiausių socialinių sluoksnių atstovus. Štai keletas pavyzdžių:

- virtuali ir tiesioginė komunikacija,
- patariamiosios konsultacijos ir viešosios nuomonės apklaustos,
- šalies, tarptautinės ir Europos masto konsultacijos.

Debatai vyko ir internete – svetainėje „Diskutuokime apie Europą“ (*Debate Europe*)⁷. Į šią veiklą aktyviai įsitraukė Komisijos atstovybės ir „Europe Direct“ centrai. Su D planu susiję Komisijos narių vizitai į valstybes nares buvo labai reikšmingi įtraukiant į šią veiklą nacionalinius parlamentus, pilietinę visuomenę, verslo ir profesinių sąjungų lyderius, regionų ir vietos valdžios institucijas. Tai patvirtino asmeninio ryšio svarbą ir parodė, kaip svarbu „suteikti ES žmogiškąjį veidą“.

Viena iš D plano dalių – Komisijos bendrai finansuojami pilietinės visuomenės projektai. Įgyvendinant šiuos projektus, atsitiktinės atrankos būdu parinkti piliečiai susitikdavo savo ar užsienio šalyje. Jiems būdavo suteikiama reikiama informacija (pvz., Europos Parlamento narių atstovų grupės parinkti su diskusijų objektu susiję dokumentai) ir priemonės kalbos barjerui įveikti, kad vykstant konsultacijoms jie galėtų bendrauti gimtąja kalba. Taigi piliečiams buvo sudarytos sąlygos dalyvauti diskusijose su sprendimų priėmėjais ir teikti su ES ateitimi susijusius pasiūlymus. Šešiuose tarptautiniuose D plano projektuose tiesiogiai dalyvavo maždaug 40 000 žmonių, o internetu – šimtai tūkstančių žmonių. Projektams

⁶ KOM(2007) 568, 2007 10 3.

⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/wallstrom/communicating/conference/dialogue/index_en.htm.

vadovavusios pilietinės visuomenės organizacijos politiniais ir žiniasklaidos tinklais skleidė informaciją ir viešino piliečių iškeltas idėjas įvairiais projektų įgyvendinimo etapais.

D plano pilietinės visuomenės projektai parodė, kad dalyvaujamoji demokratija gali sėkmingai papildyti atstovaujamoją demokratiją. Jie patvirtino tai, kas paaiškėjo vykdant kitas piliečiams skirtas programas – konsultacijos leidžia dalyviams kaupti tiek žmogiškąją, tiek politinę patirtį. Kad ir kokia būtų piliečių nuomonė apie ES, konsultacijos gerokai praplėtė jų akiratį. Procesui pasibaigus jie nekantriai laukė sprendimų priėmėjų, visų pirma ES institucijų ir įstaigų, atsakymų.

2007 m. gruodžio mėn. Komisija surengė baigiamąją konferenciją, skirtą šešioms D plano piliečių projektams. „Europos ateitis – piliečių darbotvarkė“ – toks buvo konferencijos pavadinimas. Visos Europos piliečiams, dalyvavusiems įvairiuose tarptautiniuose dalyvaujamosios demokratijos projektuose, pirmą kartą buvo suteikta galimybė apibendrinti savo pageidavimus ir apie juos tiesiogiai pranešti sprendimų priėmėjams.

To rezultatas – ES valstybių ir vyriausybių vadovams, nacionaliniams parlamentams, ES institucijoms ir Europos politinėms partijoms skirtame atviraime laiške išdėstytos rekomendacijos, pateiktos prieš gruodžio mėn. Europos Vadovų Tarybos susitikimą (2 priedas). Artėjant 2009 m. Europos Parlamento rinkimams Europos politinės partijos paragintos atsižvelgti į šias rekomendacijas rengiant programas ir diskutuoti apie tai su piliečiais. ES valstybių ir vyriausybių vadovai pakviesti remti aktyvaus Europos pilietiškumo plėtotę visais valdymo lygmenimis.

Piliečių projektai parodė, kad būdų gali būti įvairių, kaip antai:

- diskusijoms skirta Europos svetainė, jungianti nacionalinių svetainių tinklą, taip pat vietos, nacionalinio ir Europos masto debatai;
- daugiakalbė interaktyvi svetainė, parengta atsižvelgiant į įvairių ES šalių tikslinių grupių pageidavimus ir per tikslinės auditorijos seminarus sukauptą informaciją;
- visose valstybėse narėse daugmaž tuo pačiu metu vykstančios nacionalinės konsultacijos tais pačiais klausimais, kurių rezultatas – bendra Europos pozicija;
- Europos masto patariamąsios apklausos, kai atsitiktinės imties gyventojai susirinkdavo dalyvauti tiesioginėse trijų dienų diskusijose;
- vietos masto diskusijos keliose ES valstybėse narėse, kartu su viešosios nuomonės apklausomis ir vaizdo įrašais, kuriuose piliečiai reiškia savo požiūrį.

Šie projektai parodė, kad sprendžiant su ES susijusius klausimus vietos, regioniniu, nacionaliniu ir tarptautiniu lygmeniu galima didinti dalyvaujamosios demokratijos kokybę ir tobulinti su ja susijusius logistikos procesus.

Iš esmės šie projektai parodė piliečių lūkesčių ir faktinės ES kompetencijos atotrūkį, pavyzdžiui, socialinių reikalų, švietimo, diplomatijos ar gynybos srityse. Dalyvaudami konsultacijose žmonės geriau susipažino su ES sprendimų priėmimo procesu. Konsultacijų pabaigoje jie jau geriau žinojo, kaip sulaukti sprendimų priėmėjų dėmesio ir kaip ateityje suartinti sprendimų priėmėjus ir piliečius.

Įgyvendinant projektus sukaupta vertingos patirties ir tokios srityse, kaip tinkamas laiko parinkimas, dalyvių atranka, diskusijų vadovų mokymas, tarptautinių ir daugiakalbių debatų logistika, informacija ir žinios, kurių reikia norint užtikrinti, kad visi Europos piliečiai būtų pasirengę diskutuoti Europos klausimais. Galimybė naudotis mokslinėmis konsultacijomis ir kompetencija yra būtina sąlyga, kad į šį procesą įsitrauktų specialios patirties neturinčios suinteresuotosios šalys ir politikai.

2. TOLESNI VEIKSMAI – DISKUTUOKIME APIE EUROPA

Pirmuoju D plano įgyvendinimo etapu daugiausia dėmesio buvo skiriama diskusijoms ir dialogui. Toliau vykdant šį planą bus žengtas dar vienas žingsnis ir dėmesio centre atsидurs trečioji D – demokratija. Piliečiai ir toliau galės savo pageidavimus reikšti tiesiai sprendimų priėmėjams, be to, bus siekiama geriau naudotis žiniasklaida. Todėl šis naujas etapas pavadintas „Diskutuokime apie Europą“, kaip ir Komisijos specialiai D planui skirta svetainė.

Šiuo etapu bus siekiama:

1. Susieti pilietinės visuomenės rengiamas piliečių ir politinių sprendimų priėmėjų konsultacijas. Pačių piliečių apibendrintos konsultacijų išvados bus perduodamos politikams, politinėms partijoms ir fondams. Šio proceso kulminacija – piliečių ir politikų diskusija apie piliečių pateiktus pasiūlymus. Vykstant šiam procesui, bus naudojamosi naujaja Europos politine ir institucine aplinka, įskaitant naują Reglamentą⁸, kuriuo reglamentuojama Europos politinių partijų ir fondų veikla.
2. Glaudžiai bendradarbiauti ir, jei įmanoma, imtis bendros ES institucijų ir įstaigų veiklos, kad jų pastangų skatinti aktyvų Europos pilietiškumą poveikis būtų kuo didesnis. Ši veikla – tai piliečių forumai, iki 2009 m. rinkimų vykdoma Europos Parlamento komunikacijos strategija, Agoros debatai su pilietinės visuomenės organizacijomis, Regionų komiteto ir Ekonomikos ir socialinių reikalų komiteto iniciatyvos.
3. Sustiprinti dabartines ES iniciatyvas, įskaitant aktyviam pilietiškumui skatinti skirtas Komisijos programas (kaip antai, „Europa piliečiams“, Europos trečiųjų šalių piliečių integracijos fondas, socialinės sanglaudos ir skurdo mažinimo programos, kitos pavienės Europos kultūrų dialogo metams (2008 m.) ir Europos kūrybiškumo ir naujovių metams skirtos iniciatyvos, pasirengimo e. dalyvavimui ir susiję veiksmai bei e. įtraukties iniciatyva). Šia veikla bus remiamos Komisijos pastangos paaiškinti piliečiams ES politikos teikiamą naudą, pavyzdžiui, viešinti su vidaus rinka susijusius laimėjimus, kaip antai, kalbėti apie sumažėjusius mobiliojo tarptinklinio ryšio mokesčius, nebrangius skrydžius, regioninės plėtros atotrūkio mažinimą, aplinkos apsaugą ir apie kovą su klimato kaita.
4. Tęsti kitą sėkmingą D plano veiklą (diskusijas internete, glaudų ES pareigūnų ir piliečių bendravimą, Komisijos ir Europos Parlamento informacijos biurų bendradarbiavimą, į kuri, vadovaujantis bendravimo vietos lygmeniu principu, įtraukiami valstybėse narėse veikiančys ES informaciniai centrai).

⁸ 2007 m. gruodžio 18 d. Europos Parlamento ir Tarybos reglamentas (EB) Nr. 1524/2007.

2.1. Piliečių diskusijų idėjos – svarbiausioms politinėms institucijoms

Sumažinti nacionalinės ir Europos lygmens politikos atotrūkį yra visuotinis siekis. Būtina remti Europos politines partijas, norinčias dalyvauti nacionalinėse viešosiose erdvėse vykstančiose diskusijose. Ypač svarbu, kad vykstant Europos rinkimų kampanijoms, Europos klausimai sulauktų kuo didesnio dėmesio, o piliečiai suprastų, kokį poveikį jų kasdieniam gyvenimui daro Europos lygmens politiniai sprendimai.

Iniciatyva „Diskutuokime apie Europą“ taps tęstinių Komisijos iniciatyvų, skirtų pirmiau minėtam atotrūkiui mažinti, katalizatoriumi. Pagal ją bus bendrai finansuojamas visos Europos piliečių konsultacijų projektas, kuriam drauge su ekspertų grupėmis, mokslinių tyrimų organizacijomis ir universitetais, politinėmis partijomis ir fondais vadovaus pilietinės visuomenės organizacijos. Taip pat bus remiami nacionalinio ar regioninio lygmens veiksmai: visi be išimties piliečiai bus skatinami diskutuoti, apibendrinti nuomones, aptarti jas su sprendimų priėmėjais ir į šį procesą įtraukti žiniasklaidos atstovus.

Vykdam šią veiklą bus remiamasi nauju ES reglamentu, kuriuo reglamentuojama Europos politinių partijų ir fondų veikla – tai vienas iš D plano pirmojo etapo praktinių rezultatų. Reglamentu išplečiama Europos politinių partijų veiklos sritis ir remiama Europos politinių fondų, atliekančių svarbų vaidmenį įtraukiant piliečius į nuolatinį, nuoširdų ir kompetentingą politinį dialogą, plėtra.

2007 m. šie fondai pateikė Komisijai veiklos planus, kuriuose numatė 2008 m. bandomuosius veiksmus: skleisti piliečiams informaciją apie ateinančius Europos Parlamento rinkimus, organizuojant mokymą, vykdant specialias komunikacijos iniciatyvas, kuriant interneto svetaines, leidžiant brošiūras, užmezgant ryšius su nacionaliniais fondais ir ekspertų grupėmis. Nuo 2008 m. rugsėjo mėn. politiniai fondai bus nuolat subsidijuojami.

Šias pastangas parems iniciatyva „Diskutuokime apie Europą“: politiniai fondai bus raginami dalyvauti pilietinės visuomenės rengiamose konsultacijose su piliečiais.

2.2. Bendradarbiavimo su Europos Parlamentu stiprinimas

2007 m. gruodžio mėn. vykusio D plano konferencija „Europos ateitis – piliečių darbotvarkė“ parodė, kad ES institucijų poveikis yra didesnis, jei jos *suvienija jėgas* ir *drauge* dalyvauja diskusijose su piliečiais. Tai puiki proga ES pademonstruoti visą savo demokratijos įvairovę, o piliečiams – daugiau sužinoti apie ES sprendimų priėmimo procesą. Toks institucijų bendradarbiavimas bus įtvirtintas „Diskutuokime apie Europą“ projektuose Europos ir nacionaliniu ar regioniniu lygmeniu.

Rinkimų komunikacijos strategijoje Europos Parlamentas ragina ES institucijas glaudžiau bendradarbiauti. Šį poreikį patenkinti padės iniciatyva „Diskutuokime apie Europą“. Išties, norint skatinti aktyvų Europos pilietiškumą, būtina bendradarbiauti ne tik su Europos Parlamentu, bet ir su Regionų komitetu bei Europos ekonomikos ir socialinių reikalų komitetu. Visos institucijos ar įstaigos turi nemažą piliečių forumų organizavimo patirtį.

Komisija yra pasirengusi bendradarbiauti su ateityje ES pirmininkausiančiomis valstybėmis, jei jos pageidaus surengti piliečių aukščiausiojo lygio susitikimus, kuriuose dalyvautų įvairios ES institucijos ir įstaigos ir būtų siekiama išsiaiškinti piliečių nuomonę apie konkrečią problemą ir perduoti ją Europos sprendimų priėmėjams.

2.3. Komisijos programų sąveikos stiprinimas

Iniciatyva „Diskutuokime apie Europą“ papildys kitas aktyviam Europos pilietiškumui skatinti skirtas Komisijos programas ir sustiprins jų sąveiką. Skiriamoji „Diskutuokime apie Europą“ projektų ypatybė – jų tarpinstitucinis, politinis ir žiniasklaidos matmuo. Regionų, šalies ir Europos lygmens konsultacijų rezultatas bus vaisingos viešosios piliečių ir sprendimų priėmėjų, atstovaujančių valstybėms narėms ir visoms ES institucijoms, diskusijos.

Kvietimuose teikti paraiškas projektams „Diskutuokime apie Europą“ nustatyti atrankos kriterijai padės užtikrinti, kad šiais projektais būtų stiprinamos politinės Komisijos pastangos remti aktyvų Europos pilietiškumą, visų pirma:

- programa „Europa piliečiams“, kuria skatinamas aktyvus Europos pilietiškumas remiant įvairius šio proceso dalyvius (vietos valdžios institucijas, pilietinę visuomenę, verslo ir vartotojų organizacijas, piliečius), kad jie galėtų veikti, svarstyti, diskutuoti, bendradarbiauti pačiais įvairiausiais – tiek tradiciniais (kaip antai, miestų giminiavimosi veikla, tarptautiniai pilietinės visuomenės projektai), tiek naujoviškais (piliečių komisijos) – būdais;
- Europos kultūrų dialogų metai (2008 m.), kurių veikloje dalyvauja visos Europos institucijos ir įstaigos, ir Europos kūrybiškumo ir naujovių metai (2009 m.);
- Bendrijos remiami Europos politiniai fondai ir partijos, siekiantys skleisti piliečiams informaciją, susijusią su būsimaisiais Europos Parlamento rinkimais;
- Europos trečiųjų šalių piliečių integracijos fondas. Imigrantų integracija – procesas, kuriame glaudžiai bendradarbiauja įvairūs vyriausybiniai ir nevyriausybiniai subjektai, kaip antai darbdaviai, profesinės sąjungos, religinės organizacijos, pilietinė visuomenė, migrantų asociacijos, žiniasklaida ir migrantus remiančios NVO;
- pasirengimo e. dalyvavimui veiksmai, kuriais siekiama skatinti piliečius dalyvauti ES lygmens teisėkūros ir sprendimų priėmimo procesuose naudojant naujas technologijas. Jau vyksta bandomieji projektai, susiję su naujoviškais piliečių ir Europos institucijų bendravimo formomis;
- pagal Septintąją bendrąją mokslinių tyrimų programą finansuojami moksliniai tyrimai ir su jais susijusios iniciatyvos, stiprinančios valdymą ir pilietiškumą (darbo programa „Socialiniai ir humanitariniai mokslai“) ir visuomenės dalyvavimą mokslinėje veikloje (darbo programa „Mokslas ir visuomenė“)⁹.

⁹ Europos Parlamento ir Tarybos sprendimas Nr. 1982/2006/EB, Tarybos sprendimai 2006/971/EB ir 2006/974/EB.

2.4. Kitų D plano iniciatyvų plėtotė

Iniciatyva „Diskutuokime apie Europą“ bus susieta su kitomis valstybių narių iniciatyvomis, padedančiomis stiprinti institucijų bendradarbiavimą. Štai keletas tokios veiklos pavyzdžių:

- Bandomieji informacijos tinklai (BIT) – jau pradėtas projektas. Šie tinklai padės suburti Europos, nacionalinių ir regioninių parlamentų narių, žurnalistų ir kitų Europos nuomonės formuotojų bendruomenes, kuriose bus galima dalytis žiniomis ir keistis idėjomis apie ES. Šie tinklai suaktyvins nacionalinių parlamentų diskusijas apie Europą. Naudojantis internetu ir kitomis jo priemonėmis, rengiant susitikimus bus plėtojami idėjų tinklai, o politikai ir žiniasklaidos atstovai bus informuojami apie naujoviškus pilietinės visuomenės projektus.
- Europos viešoji erdvė, kurią drauge kūrė Madrido, Talino ir Dublino Europos Komisijos atstovybės ir Europos Parlamento informacijos biurai. Tai erdvė, skirta parodoms, diskusijoms, seminarams ir mokymui ES klausimais rengti. Bandomąjį projektą numatoma įgyvendinti ir kitose Europos sostinėse: Romoje, Londone, Kopenhagoje, Berlyne.
- Piliečių forumai, kuriuos valstybėse narėse organizuoja Europos Parlamentas, Europos ekonomikos ir socialinių reikalų komitetas bei Regionų komitetas. Įgyvendinant iniciatyvą „Diskutuokime apie Europą“ įvairių ES institucijų ir įstaigų nariai bus raginami susiburti ir drauge dalyvauti tokiuose forumuose vadovaujantis D plane numatyta koncepcija „Europos apskritasis stolas demokratijai“¹⁰.
- Vizitai į valstybes nares. Su D planu susiję Komisijos narių vizitai į valstybes nares padėjo užmegzti ryšius su nacionaliniais parlamentais, regionų ir vietos valdžios institucijomis, žiniasklaidos atstovais ir pilietine visuomene. Komisijos tarnautojai buvo raginami apsilankyti savo gimtosiose mokyklose. Iniciatyva „Diskutuokime apie Europą“ padės toliau plėtoti tokius tiesioginius ryšius – tai numatyta ir Komisijos personalo įtraukimo strategijoje¹¹, kuria darbuotojai skatinami aktyviai dalyvauti komunikacijos veikloje ir atlikti institucijos ambasadoriaus vaidmenį, pavyzdžiui, dalyvauti iniciatyvoje „Atgal į mokyklą“ ar Europos įmonių tinkle. Dalyvauti šioje veikloje bus skatinami ir kitų ES institucijų bei įstaigų nariai ir tarnautojai.
- Intensyvesnė veikla vietos lygiu. Drauge su Komisijos atstovybėmis „Europe Direct“ centrai valstybių narių miestuose ir miesteliuose organizavo piliečiams skirtas diskusijas, renginius ir seminarus. Ši veikla bus plėtojama toliau, juolab kad 2009 m. pradės veikti „antrosios kartos“ „Europe Direct“ centrai.
- „Eurobarometro“ nuomonių apklausų tobulinimas. Atliekant Komisijos „Eurobarometro“ nuomonių apklausas bus atsižvelgiama į pirmuoju D plano įgyvendinimo etapu sukauptą patirtį – tuomet vykdytos Europos masto patariamąsios apklausos ES ateities klausimais.
- Diskusijos internete. Dalyvaujant Komisijos atstovybėms 2008 m. sausio mėn. buvo peržiūrėta D planui skirta svetainė „Diskutuokime apie Europą“ ir interneto naudotojams suteikta daugiau galimybių diskutuoti aktualiais ES klausimais. Neseniai pradėtos diskusijos nenutrūks – 2008 m. ir 2009 m. planuojama rengti panašių internetinių diskusijų.

¹⁰ KOM(2005) 494, 4.1.5 skyrius.

¹¹ SEK(2007) 912.

3. KVIETIMAS TEIKTI PARAIŠKAS IR DECENTRALIZUOTI VEIKSMAI

Įgyvendinant iniciatyvą „Diskutuokime apie Europą“ bus siekiama užtikrinti, kad Komisijos pastangos skatinti aktyvų Europos pilietiškumą būtų susietos su visų institucijų pastangomis ir pasiektų visų valdymo lygmenų sprendimų priėmėjus.

Siūloma dviejų lygmenų strategija, jai būtų skirtas 7,2 mln. EUR biudžetas:

- Europos lygmeniu: centralizuotas kvietimas teikti paraiškas bendrai finansuoti išsamų tarptautinį 27 valstybių narių projektą, kuriam skiriama 2 mln. EUR;
- nacionaliniu ar regioniniu lygmeniu: decentralizuoti kvietimai ir veiksmai vietos masto projektams remti, jiems skiriama 5,2 mln. EUR¹².

Europos lygmens projektų atrankos kriterijai rodo, kad, atsižvelgiant į pirmųjų tarptautinių dalyvaujamosios demokratijos projektų vykdymo patirtį, iniciatyva „Diskutuokime apie Europą“ padės:

- konsultuotis su piliečiais valstybėse narėse;
- daryti išvadas Europos lygmeniu ir perduoti jas Europos politinėms organizacijoms;
- įtraukti piliečius į dialogą su jų išrinktais atstovais ir Europos politinėmis organizacijomis, kuriame aktyviai dalyvautų Europos Parlamentas, Europos ekonomikos ir socialinių reikalų komitetas ir Regionų komitetas.

Nacionaliniu ar regioniniu lygmeniu Komisijos atstovybės:

- 2008 m. suplanavo maždaug 140 veiksmų viešosioms diskusijoms apie ES skatinti;
- skelbdamos vietos masto kvietimą teikti paraiškas, prisidės prie konkreitiems poreikiams tenkinti skirtų veiksmų (kaip antai, mokyklų ir jaunimo centrų veikla, parodos, mugės ir festivaliai, konferencijos, seminarai, NVO renginiai ir t. t.) finansavimo;
- veiks drauge su kitomis ES institucijomis ir įstaigomis per, pavyzdžiui, Europos viešąją erdvę, Europos kultūrų dialogo metų ar planuojamų Europos kūrybiškumo ir naujovių metų renginius bei nacionalinius kultūros institutus.

Priklausomai nuo šalies aplinkybių, net nedidelė finansinė parama nacionalinėms NVO galėtų padėti užmegzti vaisingą dialogą ES klausimais. Komisijos atstovybės, bendradarbiaudamos su Europos Parlamento informacijos biurais ir įtraukdamos regiono ir vietos valdžios institucijas, stiprins tokio dialogo poveikį.

Tokios iniciatyvos galėtų stiprinti jau veikiančius ir inicijuoti naujus regiono ir vietos tinklus ir padėti skleisti gerą patirtį naudojant e. dalyvavimo priemones¹³. Šios iniciatyvos turėtų dominti Europos Parlamento rinkimuose kandidatuosiančius politikus, kurie galėtų remtis šiomis diskusijomis bendraudami su savo rinkėjais.

¹² Komisijos sprendimas C(2008) 924 dėl 2008 m. metinės darbo programos, susijusios su komunikacijos dotacijomis ir sutartimis, priimtas Komisijos 2008 m. kovo 12 d. (2.6.2 lentelė).

¹³ Priemonės aprašytos e. dalyvavimo svetainėje www.epractice.eu.

4. IŠVADA

Įtraukti piliečius

Visuomenės paramą ES galima užtikrinti tik aktyviai ir atvirai diskutuojant ir skatinant piliečius dalyvauti sprendžiant ES reikalus. Komisija daug konsultuojasi su suinteresuotosiomis šalimis ir plačiąja visuomene konkrečiais politiniais klausimais, tačiau, norėdama pasiekti iškeltus tikslus ir vykdyti tinkamą politiką, ES privalo toliau plėtoti politinius debatus ir skleisti informaciją. *Stiprinti piliečių vaidmenį, remiant aktyvų Europos pilietiškumą* – vienas svarbiausių Komisijos komunikacijos politikos siekių¹⁴.

Užmegzti ryšį su politikais

Politinės partijos ir jų išrinktieji atstovai turi puikią galimybę kelti su Europa susijusius klausimus nacionalinėse diskusijose ir visoje Europoje inicijuoti tarptautinius debatus. Norint paskatinti diskusijas ir dialogą visiems aktualiais Europos klausimais, būtina plėtoti tarptautinės komunikacijos kanalus. Komisija prie šių kanalų plėtotės prisidėjo siūlydama teisės aktus, skirtus Europos politinių partijų veiklai reglamentuoti, vykdydama įvairias piliečių programas, NVO informacijos sklaidos veiklą ir D planą.

Jau įgyvendinta nemažai bandomųjų projektų, todėl dabar svarbiausias uždavinys – užtikrinti, kad į jų rezultatus būtų atsižvelgiama priimant politinius sprendimus. Pirmuoju D plano įgyvendinimo etapu paaiškėjo, kad reikia daugiau priemonių politiniam dialogui Europos klausimais stiprinti ir plėtoti ir kad dalyvaujamoji demokratija gali sėkmingai papildyti atstovaujamają demokratiją.

2008–2009 m., artėjant Europos Parlamento rinkimams, iniciatyva „Diskutuokime apie Europą“ bus siekiama sudaryti tokias sąlygas, kurios padėtų užmegzti ryšius ir bendradarbiauti. Tačiau tai – ilgalaikis uždavinys. Diskutuojant apie Europą bus siekiama pakeisti bendrąją nuomonę, esą ES klausimai yra pernelyg abstraktūs ir atsieti nuo nacionalinės viešosios erdvės, kad būtų įdomūs piliečiams. Tai suteiks galimybę įveikti neretai dirbtinę nacionalinių ir ES reikalų atskirtį.

¹⁴ COM(2007) 568, 2007 10 3.

- 1 priedas: D plano projektų aprašai
- 2 priedas: Baigiamosios konferencijos, skirtos šešioms D plano piliečių projektams, dalyvių atviras laiškas ir rekomendacijos
- 3 priedas: Centralizuoto kvietimo teikti paraiškas projektas
- 4 priedas: Decentralizuoto kvietimo teikti paraiškas projektas

ANNEX 1

Citizens' consultations projects co-funded by the Commission in the framework of Plan D in 2006-2007 projects

Speak Up Europe

- Co-ordinator: European Movement International
- Amount of the project: EUR 1,039,310.63
- Grant from the EU budget: EUR 719,375.70
- Pan-European
- An integrated approach combining virtual and face to face communication, both on a European level and on a national level.
- Virtual: each partner created a national web site. Web animation (e.g. cartoon "What has Europe ever done for us?").
- Face to face: a series of local, national and European events.
- 27 000 people had taken part physically in the project by the end of September 2007.
- Specific multimedia site targeting youth, called "European Vibes".
- Specific site launched by one of the partners, Euractiv, called "EU debates and opinions" to promote the outcome of Speak Up Europe had received 110 000 viewers by end of September 2007.

European Citizens' Consultations

- Co-ordinator: King Baudouin Foundation
- Amount of the project: EUR 2.715.376,60
- Grant from the EU budget: EUR 1.895.751,95
- Pan-European.
- Deliberative consultation of citizens on a national level, on the basis of an agenda set at European level by a sample of citizens.
- European synthesis of the outcome of the national consultations and a European web site.
- 1 800 citizens participated in the project altogether.
- Feedback from 1 000 out of the 1 800 citizens involved via an evaluation survey.

Tomorrow's Europe

- Co-ordinator: Notre Europe
- Amount of the project: EUR 1.352.500
- Grant from the EU budget: EUR 849.500
- Pan-European
- Europe-wide deliberative poll.
- 3 550 citizens polled on the future of the EU.
- 362 of them were randomly selected to deliberate for three days in Brussels, with the help of experts.

- They filled in a questionnaire at the beginning of the deliberative phase and were polled at the end to measure the evolution of their views.

Our message to Europe

- Co-ordinator: Deutsche Gesellschaft e.V.
- Amount of the project: EUR 358.000,00
- Grant from the EU budget: EUR 250.000,00
- Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland.
- 4 000 participants altogether.
- 70 intensive dialogue events (54 in Germany, 4 in Austria, 4 in Slovakia, 4 in Czech Republic, 4 in Poland) with panel discussions.
- Opinion polls carried out during those events: 2600 people polled altogether, under 21 and over 21.
- In 20 of the events people had the opportunity to have their individual "message to Europe" recorded on video - 300 audiovisual messages collected altogether.

Radio Web Europe

- Co-ordinator: CENASCA-CISL
- Amount of the project: EUR 794.475,03
- Grant from the EU budget: EUR, 556.132,50
- Italy, Lithuania, Austria, UK, Spain, Portugal, Malta.
- Creation of a multimedia and interactive website targeting 18-35 years old. Content determined by face to face meetings with target audience through focus groups (two per country). At a second stage, workshops to collect feedback.
- National reports served as a basis for a synthesis report.
- Users can view and download audiovisual products and post their own (comments, videos, interviews, games, cartoons...). At the end of the project, website hosted 200 multimedia products. Average number of monthly visits: 5 000.

Our Europe-Our Debate-Our Contribution

- Co-ordinator: European House Budapest
- Amount of the project: EUR 364.000
- Grant from the EU budget: EUR 254.500
- Hungary, Austria, Italy, Slovakia and Slovenia.
- Fostering debate at grass-root level by meeting people in the streets and public transport, asking them to reply to a questionnaire (also posted on the project's English-language website).
- A "regional events" dimension (face to face meetings).
- A European bus touring the five countries, displaying a "European labyrinth" at every stop which people were invited to enter with a "European passport". People's views were recorded on video at every stop.
- The aim was to collect 2 500 people's views on Europe either through the questionnaire or by video.

Projects co-funded by the Commission Representations in the framework of Plan D in 2007-2008

Representation	Project
Bulgaria	Regional Dialog Open Forum: Women for Social Inclusion
	The Tender Europe: targeting more marginalised social groups – meetings and debates in schools, youth organisations, municipalities, chambers of commerce etc.
	An Investment for Creating Qualified and Internationally Educated Young People Corresponding to the Requirements of the European Single Market: Advertise the possibilities provided through European funding under the ERASMUS Program.
	No to Discrimination in United Europe: Let us Talk about the Different! Civic debate on issues related to discrimination and dissemination of EU best practices in the field of anti-discrimination measures in the cross-border region Svishtov (BG) - Zimnitch (RO).
Czech Republic	Gender Studies OPS: Flexicurity/labour market/ professional-private life - survey, video, discussions, leaflets, audit of pre-school establishments.
	Klub mladých Evropanu, o.s.: Generation EU: Target group - young people 15-19years. Workshops on labour market, education, security, freedom, future, European social model, European identity/values, 1 national conference.
Denmark	Your Europe
	Food Safety in the Consumers' EU
	Gender Divided Labour Market and Violence against Women
	Global Citizen and EU
	The Model Parliament
Estonia	Federation of Estonian student unions - Estonia in the EU's higher educational system (seminars, conference, articles in student press, discussions on internet forums, publication).
	Junior Achievement Estonia - Youth Entrepreneurship Conference on gender equality Project activities.
	NGO umbrella organisation in Viljandi - promotion of equal opportunities of local level citizens in the EU (conference, seminars, youth forum, study visit to Finnish rural areas).

France Paris	Europe , the future and citizenship in the Aquitaine region.
	Brittany youth's contribution to a European strategy to limit the scale of climate change.
	Know more about Europe to understand it better.
	Young European prize.
	Les Eurois, citizens of Europe.
	Europe for and by the young.
	A silent majority: women in the EU. Awareness raising among women, a major stake for the future of Europe.
	Etats généraux de l'Europe.
	Etats généraux de l'Europe.
	Deedale – Vendée region.
Hungary	Launch of the Hungarian chapter of the European Youth Parliament (Pillar Foundation)
	National consultation of women (Partners Hungary Foundation)
	Climate Change Youth Campaign (WWF Hungary)
Ireland	Institute of European Affairs (Future of Europe including immigration; crime and terror; climate change; Reform Treaty; Citizens Europe; EU@50; What has Europe done for citizens; use of overall theme "Europe 2.0". Use of web based products to widen and deepen the debate; meetings and debates across colleges, and other centres; production and dissemination of publications; explaining the new Treaty to different groups and especially the target groups; specifically target young professionals. Virtual tools and meetings, debates, high visibility events; dedicated Europe 2.0 website; podcasts; production of "6 Pack" information items for use with the target groups; production of a book "What the Reform Treaty Means", pamphlets; Young Professional network; high profile discussions and debates.
	Irish Countrywomen's Association (ICA) : legal rights in Europe; Irish farm Families; Quality of Life in Europe; Migration; Social Reality. Regional Seminars; training of co-ordinators; use of co-ordinators for training and organisation of seminars; use of expert speakers. Focus is on 16,000 families.
Latvia	Regional debates on social reality
	Youth observers in local and district authorities on cohesion and regional policy
	Training of multipliers - schoolchildren and teachers - on corruption and transparency issues

Malta	Fondazzjoni Temi Zammit
Portugal	Porto, Coimbra, Santarém, Évora and Faro Environment protection / Energy- Youth
	National: Future of Europe; Europe in the world; Migrations; Security - Youth
	All islands of the archipelago of Azores European integration; Future of Europe; Europe in the world
	Vila Real district Prosperity; Solidarity; Security and Freedom e Liberdade; Future of Europe; Europe in the world
	Beira Interior Solidarity – European Year Equality; European Year of Intercultural Dialogue; Cohesion and Rural Development Sept.2007 to August 2008
Spain Madrid - Barcelona	Fundación Ciudadanía Euro activos. ex:talleres para jóvenes que quieren darle la vuelta a Europa
	Europa Action and Lobby Development of a multilingual forum.
	Infocentro de Zaragoza Europa Joven, 50 años de logros
	Casal d'Europa de Sabadell Euroaptive,T
The Netherlands	Communicado Foundation Le Camping: Development of a pilot episode for six broadcastings for NL school TV. EU is visualised as a campsite; Member States are tents with their habitants. EU cooperation issues (enlargement, environment etc..) are explained through interaction of the actors in a comprehensible and educational way.
	ETV NL Europe is Fun! : Production of an educational project for secondary education scholars. A competition for digital EU stories, study materials and teachers training.
	Stichting Eggietalk (io) Eggietalk. Communication translation programme: pupils can communicate in their own language with pupils in other EU languages.
	Click on Europe. "Debatainment" with website and educational material for lower secondary education. Organisation aims at stimulating hard-to-reach target group to debate Europe in a competitive way.
	Nationaal oorlogsmuseum/ CHO Consultants Freedom and Democracy: Fundamental rights in Europe. Creating awareness and stimulating debate among youth in the national war museum. Electronic info pillars will be placed in the museum (including a voting system), and a website will be launched with small clips on 4 basic rights.

	<p>Passage Christelijk-Maatschappelijke Vrouwenbeweging Living together in Europe: Project proposed by the 4 largest woman movements in NL combined. The target group is approximately 120.000 female members, including many housewives. Newsletter, symposium, study days and an EU crafts contest. spin-off through family, friends etc. Create awareness of European issues among the members and to promote woman participation (use of voting right) in the 2009 European Parliament elections.</p>
	<p>Nationale Jeugdraad All about Europe.nl: website aiming at providing youth with a complete overview of the EU, to facilitate a structured dialogue. Bundle all relevant info for youth in one website. Nationale Jeugdraad (National Youthcouncil) portal website: Allesovereuropa.nl. This portal will bundle all relevant EU information for youth and youngsters in an understandable manner. Advertising campaign.</p>
	<p>CED Groep Europe in the news: 8 special topics on the EU. Communication with pupils in other EU countries. EU section added to existing website. Website is part of "learning by discussing/debating" teaching method.</p>
<p>United Kingdom London</p>	<p>Women in Northern Ireland – Connecting to Europe. Northern Ireland Women's European Platform. The platform aims to promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of women in Northern Ireland including the advancement of their education and development.</p>
	<p>My Voice in Europe The Community Development Foundation is a leading source of intelligence, guidance and delivery on community development in England and across the UK. The overall aim of the European and International Unit of CDF is to link and feed into practice and policy within the European and International arena by acting as a bridge between the UK and relevant international mechanisms.</p>
	<p>Voicing young people's views on climate change Inspire, support and celebrate young people as agents for change in society. Their aim is to create a generation of young, active citizens, drawn from all sectors of the UK population who will be a force for change in achieving global social and environmental justice.</p>
	<p>Flexicurity: young workers' views in a cohesion region Bevan Foundation, at the forefront of new thinking about achieving a fair and just Wales by carrying out research, organising conferences and debates, and by publishing articles and reports.</p>
	<p>Fem e-U Link, FATIMA Women's Network Innovation Centre. Fatima is a socially responsible minority ethnic-led organisation supporting the social and economic empowerment of all women through inter alia personal development, education and training, networking and engagement, as well as research and consultation.</p>
	<p>Forward Ladies Limited Non-profit business support network for women -networking opportunities, inspirational speakers, training, mentoring, coaching, business support and facilitates international trade missions.</p>

People and Politics Day-Europe: promoting democracy and active citizenship. Research, conferences, reports, promotion of democratic change.

Decentralised communication actions planned by Commission Representations in 2008

Plan D decentralised actions planned for 2008					
<i>Action type</i>		<i>Member State</i>	<i>Associated communication priority</i>	<i>€</i>	
1. Local calls	Programmed	UK	Energy & CC	150 000	
		Italy	Intercultural Dialogue	150 000	
		Netherlands	None	142 000	
		Austria		203 000	
		Germany		200 000	
		Sub-total			845 000
	To be programmed	Amounts confirmed	Netherlands	None	258 000
			Malta		150 000
			Germany		100 000
			Slovakia		50 000
			Czech Rep.		50 000
			Lithuania		20 000
		Sub-total			628 000
		Amounts TBC	Latvia	None	TBC
			Slovenia	Reform Treaty	TBC
Total				1 473 000	
2. Other actions				3 429 867	
Total Plan D	Allocated			5 200 000	
	Requested			4 902 867	

ANNEX 2

Open letter / recommendations from the participants at the concluding conference of the six Plan D citizens' projects

The future of Europe-the citizens' agenda

Open letter to the EU Heads of State and Government, the National Parliaments, the European Union Institutions and European political parties

Brussels, 9 December 2007

Next week, the Heads of State and Government of the European Union will sign the Lisbon Treaty. The EU celebrated its 50th Anniversary this year. Since 1957, the European Union has progressed from economic cooperation to a political union that affects the lives of almost 500 million citizens. This evolution also brings responsibilities for the political leaders of Europe. The permissive consensus that existed at the beginning has to be turned into an actively earned consensus in dialogue with the European citizens.

Associating citizens to the European construction is more than ever a fundamental issue. If we do not want the citizens to desert once more the European elections in 2009, political leaders need to regain the citizens' trust and confidence in the European project and show they care about citizens' involvement in the decision-making machine.

Plan D launched by Commission Vice-President Margot Wallström responded to this challenge in a novel manner. It co-financed a series of projects to learn how ordinary citizens can be involved in the EU decision-making and how they view the EU's future. This exercise responds to a basic value of the EU in the 21st century: active citizenship.

The European Movement International, the King Baudouin Foundation, Notre Europe, Deutsche Gesellschaft, European House Budapest and CENASCA-CISL, with a large network of partners across Europe have engaged actively in Plan D. A series of grass roots debates, consultations, polls and events aimed at consulting citizens on their visions of Europe have been carried out in a number of Member States, while deliberative polling and consultation has taken place on a pan-European scale.

Thousands of citizens took part in those projects throughout the European Union in 2007. Over 250 of them have assembled in Brussels on 8 and 9 December to debate on the major concerns which have emerged through Plan D. There was a clear consensus among participants that more opportunities of this kind should be provided to involve citizens in the debate over Europe's future.

They have structured these concerns into three themes:

1. The human aspects of globalisation
2. Enlargement, political integration and EU citizenship
3. The EU's role on the world stage.

They have consolidated their conclusions into a single set of recommendations (annexed to this letter).

They have debated those recommendations with decision-makers representing the EU institutions as well as the present Portuguese and future Slovenian Presidencies of the EU:

- Mrs. Margot Wallström, Vice-President, European Commission.
- Mrs Jillian van Turnhout, Vice-President, European Economic and Social Committee.
- Mr. Ivo Opstelten, Mayor of Rotterdam, Member of the Committee of Regions,

- Mr. Pierre Jonckheer, Member of the European Parliament
- Mr. Valter Lemos, Portuguese Secretary of State for Education,
- Ambassador Igor Sencar, Permanent Representative of Slovenia.

They call on the European political parties to address those recommendations in their programmes and to discuss them with citizens in view of the elections to European Parliament in 2009.

They call upon the EU Heads of State and Government, both in their capacity as European but also as national leaders, to heed those recommendations and thereby encourage the development of active European citizenship, without which there cannot be a truly political Union.

They call for the dialogue with citizens on European issues to be continued and deepened in the future.

The participants to the conference on "The future of Europe-the citizens' agenda

Twenty–seven recommendations

1.

As work is considered a crucial dimension for individual emancipation, the **welfare systems** should protect citizens' life conditions during periods of transition for example by providing people with an unemployment indemnity when changing jobs.

2.

Citizens expect more action from the EU in the area of **social policy and social cohesion** in order to fight the black market, reduce salary gaps, promote gender-equality, ease unemployment and to make it attractive to work longer before retiring.

3.

The EU should promote **equal rights, comparable standard of living** in all EU member states and foster equal opportunities through harmonised social and economic policies and a welfare model for all member states.

4.

*The Member States and the EU should make sure that **migrants** enjoy equal rights and opportunities and have access to education and work if they observe the laws, rules and values of the host country and commit to learning the language.*

5.

The **European migration policy**, so far based only on restrictive measures, should adopt a more sophisticated approach aiming at the social and economic development of the involved countries. The EU needs to clarify its approach to economic refugee status.

6.

Migration needs to be acknowledged as one of today's most pressing issues, and cannot be tackled without a coherent development aid strategy.

7.

*The EU should ensure that part of each country's national curriculum, in both **schools and universities**, requires a section on Democracy and European Citizenship, to ensure a greater understanding of the EU, its history, and its opportunities.*

8.

The EU should show more commitment to educational promotion in general but also specifically regarding European issues, e.g. through the expansion of existing educational EU programmes or the establishment of new EU programmes as well as the incorporation of the European integration process as a central topic in the national school curricula.

9.

Exchange projects need further support to encourage young people to recognise the importance of their EU citizenship in the global context.

10.

The EU should help preserving, appreciating and respecting the **diversity** of peoples, knowledge, customs and languages identities - while recognising common and shared European values.

11.

Integration strategies such as the **educational policy** incorporating the EU into school curricula will favour the development of a European identity.

12.

The EU should prioritise creating and communicating a **new ‘memory’ about Europe**, to move away from the stereotypes associated with certain countries and history, so that all citizens can be valued and we can understand each other better.

13.

*The EU should increase opportunities for a more active, **direct participation of European citizens** from all walks of life in policy-making through regular citizen Plan D-type participatory projects, debates, public hearings, etc. at EU but also at regional and national levels. More transparency-more influence for European citizens!*

14.

*The EU should make sure that the **current citizen recommendations** are considered and discussed not only by the EU but also national policy-makers or become part of existing policy-making processes (e.g. impact assessments, public consultations). The EU should not only listen but also learn.*

15.

The EU should become more interactive, citizen friendly and inclusive, recognising the growing significance of regional approach and identity. New and innovative information technique should be used to improve communication with citizens especially young people. Specific attention has to be paid to the frequently neglected gender issues.

16.

***Climate change and energy security** cannot successfully be dealt with at the national level alone. The EU should be given stronger powers to develop a common energy policy and ensure that Member States live up to the commitments they have made at European level.*

17.

In a global world, it makes sense for the EU to take greater responsibility than today in the fields of **military action, foreign aid and diplomatic relations**. The EU should be able to speak with one voice on a global level to defend its values.

18.

The EU can be more efficient than national governments in **security, police and struggle against drugs traffic and cartels**.

19.

The EU should lead the world in **protecting the environment** and promoting clean energy.

20.

Europe should develop a strong voice on the global stage with **common foreign and security policies that promote peace**, security in regional conflicts democracy and the respect for human rights providing for a strong role model across the world, whilst recognizing the importance of the nation state.

21.

The EU should show **a united front in international affairs**; the current practice is influenced too much by national short-term interests and considerations.

22.

The EU should tackle the impact of Europe's energy use on both the economy and the environment and foster the transition to environmentally clean, safe and sustainable energy sources.

23.

European citizens want the EU to **take the lead when it comes to social, energy and environmental standards** on a global level.

24.

The EU should develop **specific educational and action-oriented programmes for citizens on global issues** such as trade, energy and the environment.

25.

The EU should **coordinate its aid programmes with NGOs** engaged in humanitarian work to bring timely and efficient relief to crisis regions or to promote sustainable development.

26.

The EU should **lower barriers to international trade** as, overall, freer trade benefits developed and developing countries.

27.

The EU should show **more commitment in the fields of international peacekeeping** as well as humanitarian aid during catastrophes.

ANNEX 3

CENTRAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS - DG COMM No < A2-1/2008 >

Financial support for an initiative emanating from organisations with a significant trans-national dimension as provided by the European Commission's Debate Europe Communication

1. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

On 13 October 2005 the Commission approved its Communication to the Council, to the European Parliament, to the European Economic and Social Committee and to the Committee of the Regions: Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate.

This was a listening exercise so that the European Union can act on the concerns expressed by its citizens. The Commission aimed to stimulate debate and widen recognition for the added value that the E U provides.

It was a two-way process which:

- informed the public about the EU's role, with examples of its projects and achievements,
- identified their expectations for the future in return.

On 29 November 2006 Vice President Wallström presented an information note to the College of Commissioners on Plan D – Widen & deepen the debate. The purpose of this was to take stock and further widen and deepen the debate in the period of reflection.

On 2 April 2008, the Commission adopted a Communication to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions entitled "Debate Europe-building on the experience of Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate". It noted that the first phase Plan D focused on the "debate and dialogue" part of the process. The next phase of Plan D will take this process one step further and focus on "D for democracy", further enabling citizens to articulate their wishes directly to decision-makers and making better use of the media in the process. This new phase has been named "Debate Europe".

In October 2005 the Commission launched a series of Europe-wide civil society projects for 2006, which it co-financed. In 2007, it promoted a further series of initiatives, targeting young people and women in particular.

2. OBJECTIVES

One of the key lessons from this first round of projects and the concluding conference of Plan D is that the interface between citizens and EU decision-makers needs to be strengthened to ensure that issues of interest and concern Europe-wide are debated and addressed at a European level. There is a need to communicate those Europe-wide issues and concerns which affect to a large degree all of Europe's citizens identified from consulting on a pan-

European basis and to communicate these to European political decision-makers and media especially in view of the June 2009 European elections.

As a result, the Commission wishes to strengthen the existing debate about the future of Europe and its impact on citizens' daily lives by launching one or more pan-European projects with the following objectives:

In a first phase;

- Carry out a Europe-wide dialogue between citizens, political decision-makers and other key opinion formers through a series of debates/conferences/consultations and other events, with a view to ascertaining citizens' principal issues and concerns at a European level which touch their daily lives. This dialogue will ensure a close involvement of the other EU institutions (EP, EESC, COR) and European political parties' foundations.
- The conclusions arising from these events would be synthesised and made public . At a concluding event they should be presented to European decision makers to give them the opportunity to react and take into account the concerns of the European electorate. This phase of the project should be completed ideally before the June 2009 European elections.

In a second phase, the contractor could continue with a series of meetings with newly-elected MEPs and representatives from the principal European media (television, radio, press).

In carrying out both phases, the contractor will take into account the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue and on-going Commission programmes such as Europe for Citizens and e-Participation.

The resulting projects will involve consortia of civil society organisations with a view to replying to these objectives on a Europe-wide scale. These consultations will complement those planned to be held at local level designed to address concerns focused on European issues with a more local impact.

3. TIMETABLE

3.1. Submission of applications

Publication of call beginning April 2008.

Applications must be submitted by end June 2008 at the latest.

Contracts will be signed September 2008.

Please read carefully section 10 of this call for proposals concerning the procedures for submitting applications.

3.2. Duration of projects

The project should begin between 1 September and 1 October 2008 and will be in two phases as described above.

The first phase will be completed by mid-May 2009 (before the European elections) and the second phase by 1 November 2009.

Applications must clearly state the project's starting and finishing dates (dd/mm/yy).

The maximum duration of projects is 14 months.

However, if, after the signing of the agreement and the start of the project, the beneficiary observes that, for fully justified reasons beyond his control, it becomes impossible to complete the project within the scheduled period, an extension to the eligibility period may be granted. A maximum extension of 3 months will be granted, provided that this is requested before the deadline specified in the grant agreement. The maximum duration will then be 18 months.

The period of eligibility of expenditure resulting from implementation of a project will begin on the day of signature of the grant contract by the last of the parties. If the nature of the project requires the project to start before the contract is signed, expenditure may be considered eligible before the signature of the contract. Under no circumstances can the eligibility period start before the date of submission of the grant application.

3.3. Information on the results of the selection

It is planned that applicants will be informed of the outcome of the selection procedure in July 2008.

The lists of selected projects will be published on the following website:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/communication/grants/index_en.htm

Applicants whose applications have not been selected will be informed in writing.

4. FINANCING

The budget initially available for part-financing projects is estimated at € 2 000 000.

If during the 2008 budget year, additional amounts are allocated to boost the initial budget for this call for proposals, they might be allocated to co-financing projects which were adopted at the selection phase but not given priority for co-financing in the overall budget initially available. The Commission therefore reserves the right to set up a “reserve list” of proposals evaluated positively in order to take account of the resources actually available in the 2008 budget.

The grant awarded may not exceed 70% of the total eligible project costs.

Community contributions are meant to facilitate the implementation of a project which could not otherwise be implemented easily without the support of the European Union. They are based on the co-financing principle.

Consequently, a minimum of 30% of the total estimated eligible expenditure of the project must come from sources other than the European Union budget. Applicants must include evidence that co-financing is available (secured) for the remainder of the total cost of the project.

The Commission intends to finance 1 to 2 projects for a budget of € 1 or € 2 million in total..

The European Commission reserves the right not to distribute all the funds available.

The amount allocated by the Commission may not in any circumstances exceed the amount requested. Moreover, the Commission reserves the right to award a grant lower than the amount requested by the applicant.

An organisation is not entitled to receive more than one grant from the Commission for the action covered by the selected project.

After approval by the Commission, a “grant contract”, a draft of which is reproduced at Annex VI, expressed in euros and specifying the conditions and the financing level, will be concluded between the Commission and the beneficiary. The originals of the finance contract must be signed and returned to the Commission immediately for signature. The Commission will be the last party to sign.

The payment methods are detailed in the draft contract (Article I.4), with a list of eligible and ineligible costs (Article II.14 of the general conditions and Article I.3 of the special conditions of the grant contract).

5. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applications which comply with the following criteria will be the subject of an in-depth evaluation.

5.1 Eligible countries

Grant applications are eligible if they are presented by organisations having a legal status and established in one of the 27 Member States.

Organisations established in countries other than the countries listed above are not eligible.

5.2 Types of cooperation eligible

The types of cooperation eligible include partnerships. The term partnership/partners implies full or partial active intellectual collaboration in the execution of the project. In no case will financial support alone (sponsorship) be deemed to constitute a partnership. However, any financial support accompanied by active intellectual collaboration in the execution of the project will be accepted as a partnership. In all cases, the purpose of partnership is to add value to the project.

6. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Applicants must certify on their honour, by signing the application form, that they are not in one of the situations mentioned in Articles 93 and 94 of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002), which are listed below.

Applicants will be excluded from participating in this call for proposals if they are in one of the following situations:

- a) they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- b) they have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgement which has the force of res judicata;
- c) they have committed serious professional misconduct recorded by any means that awarding authorities can justify;
- d) they have not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
- e) they have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Communities' financial interests;
- f) following another procurement procedure or grant award procedure financed by the Community budget, they have been declared to be in serious breach of contract for failure to comply with their contractual obligations.

Applicants will not receive financial support if, during the grant allocation procedure:

- a) they are subject to a conflict of interests;
- b) they are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the European Commission as a condition of participation in the grant award procedure, or fail to supply this information.

In accordance with Articles 93 to 96 of the Financial Regulation, administrative and financial penalties may be imposed on applicants who are guilty of misrepresentation or are found to have seriously failed to meet their contractual obligations under a previous contract award procedure.

To respect these provisions, the applicant and his partners must provide evidence that they are in none of the situations listed in Articles 93 and 94 of the Financial Regulation.

7. SELECTION CRITERIA

The selection criteria are designed to demonstrate the applicant's capacity to see the project through to a successful conclusion.

Applicants must provide evidence of stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain the activity throughout the period during which the project is being carried out and/or grant-aided, as well as evidence of their financial participation. The applicant must also provide evidence of professional competencies, qualifications and/or experience relevant to the proposed project.

7.1 Technical capacity

Candidates must show that they have the operational (technical and management) capacity needed to complete the proposed action and provide evidence of their capacity to direct a large-scale activity corresponding to the dimension of the project for which the grant is requested. Particular attention will be devoted to the capacity for integration in society in the Member States, to the mobilisation of the public and to the analysis of their contributions. The capacity to operate in a large number of Member States (ideally in all of them) would be an advantage.

Applicants must attach to the grant application a curriculum vitae for the project leader and for the personnel of their organisation who will actually do the work. They must also enclose a recent activity report .

7.2 Financial resources

In order to permit assessment of this criterion, applicants must submit with their application the following documents:

- annual accounts for the last complete financial year;
- the “financial identification” form (bank details) (Annex III), completed by the beneficiary and certified by the bank (with original signatures).

If, on the basis of the submitted documents, the Commission assesses that the financial capacity of the applicant is not sufficient, it may:

- reject the request for a Community grant;
- ask for further information;
- ask for the deposit of a guarantee;
- propose a grant agreement without a pre-financing payment.

7.3 Audit

Where the cost of the project to be financed exceeds €300 000, the grant application must be accompanied by an external audit report produced by an approved auditor.

This report must certify the accounts for the last year available and give an assessment of the applicant’s financial viability.

8. AWARD CRITERIA

Account will also be taken of other Commission programmes such as the European Year for Intercultural Dialogue in 2008, Europe for Citizens and INTI (Integration of Third-Country Nationals).

Eligible projects will be evaluated on the basis of:

- a) the consistency of the overall concept of the project with the objectives of Debate Europe, as described at point 2 of the call for proposals;
- b) the quality of the work programme and the *modus operandi*;
- c) the dynamics of networking and the establishment of pan-European cooperation;
- d) the capacity of the project to:
 - act in the largest number of Member States as possible, and ideally in all 27;
 - involve the largest number of citizens as possible;
 - ensure their diversity of origin and their representativeness;
 - provide for the use of the largest number of national languages possible;
 - generate transnational results;
- e) the likely multiplier effect through the media and civil society networks, as calculated on the basis of the measures proposed to give visibility to the project and its outcomes;
- f) the system of feedback to European political decision-makers and citizens involved, as recommended by Debate Europe;
- g) the mechanism for evaluation of the objectives pursued by the project.

9. PUBLICITY

Provided the successful tenderer agrees (unless the publication of information is likely to endanger the successful tenderer's safety or harm his interests), the Commission will publish the following information in whatever form and on whatever medium it wishes, including the Internet:

- the name and address of each beneficiary;
- the subject of the grant;
- amount awarded and rate of funding.

10. PROCEDURE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

10.1 Publication

The text of the call for proposals, the annexes and, for information purposes, a copy of the standard agreement can be obtained from the Europa website at the following address:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/communication/grants/index_en.htm

10.2 Application form

Applications must be presented in one of the official languages of the EU.

Since the call is addressed first of all to organisations operating in several Member States, DG Communication would, however, appreciate it if grant applications (which must be made out on the 2006 form devised for the purpose) are accompanied by a version in one of the European Commission's working languages (French, English or German).

This form can be downloaded from the above Internet address.

Only grant applications submitted on the application forms attached to this call for proposals and comprising all the necessary documents mentioned in Annex D will be considered.

Applications must be:

- typed; hand-written applications will not be accepted;
- duly dated, filled in and signed by the legal representative of the organisation;
- sent in quadruplicate (the original, which must be identified as such, plus three copies).

10.3 Submission of the application

Deadline for the submission of applications: end May/early June 2008

Applications submitted after will not be considered.

Applications may be submitted in one of the following ways:

Proposals must be submitted on paper:

- by registered post to the following address, for which purposes the relevant date is to be the date of dispatch by post, as evidenced by the postmark or the registered delivery receipt issued by the postal services:

European Commission
Directorate-General COMMUNICATION
Unit A2 (Communication: planning and priorities)
Debate EuropeOffice BERL 5/234

B-1049 Brussels

Belgium

- by hand delivery or courier service.

For security reasons, applications submitted personally or conveyed by a courier service can be presented only to the Commission's Central Mail Department (Rue de Genève 1, 1140 Evere, Belgium), and envelopes must be marked "DG COMMUNICATION, Unit A2 (Communication: planning and priorities), BERL 05/234 – Debate Europe Project". In the event of hand delivery, the submission date is the date of receipt. In the event of delivery by a courier service, the submission date is the date of receipt by the mail department.

Applications submitted by fax or e-mail will not be considered.

No modification of the application will be authorised after the submission of the application and its annexes. However, the Commission reserves the right to request any additional information needed for it to take a final decision on the award of financial support.

Applicants will be informed in writing when their application is received.

Only applications complying with the eligibility and exclusion criteria will be considered for the possible award of a grant.

Applicants whose applications are judged to be ineligible will be notified by mail, with an explanation as to why they were judged ineligible.

Tenderers will be informed, as soon as possible, of the decision taken by

the Commission on their grant application. No information will be released until the Commission's decision on project selection has been taken.

All selected applications will be subject to technical and financial analysis. In this connection the Commission may ask the applicant organisation for supplementary information, or possibly for guarantees.

Any applicant whose application for a Community grant is not accepted will be informed in writing.

10.4 Legal framework

- European commission Communication datedMarch 2008 (Comm): "Debate Europe-building on the experience of Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate".
- European Commission Communication dated 13 October 2005 (COM(2005) 494 final): The Commission's contribution to the period of reflection and beyond: Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate
- European Commission Communication dated 03 October 2007 (COM(2007) XXX final): Communicating Europe in Partnership
- OJ L 248, 16.9.2002 (Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities)

- OJ L 357, 31.12.2002 (Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities)

10.5 Contacts

The Commission department responsible for the implementation and management of call for proposals DG COMM No A2-1/2006 is Unit A2 (Communication: planning and priorities) of Directorate-General Communication (COMM).

Additional information can be obtained by electronic mail or by fax, either at the electronic address COMM-A2@cec.eu.int , or by fax number from ++ 32 2 295 24 69 , indicating clearly the reference of this call for proposals.

Annexes:

Annex A: Daily allowance scale

Annex B: Contractual obligations

Annex C: Text of the banking guarantee to be completed (only on request)

Annex D: Application checklist

Annex I: Application form (parts A and B)

Annex II: Budget form

Annex III: Financial identification form

Annex IV: Financial capacity form

Annex V: Legal entity form

Annex VI: Draft contract (for information)

Annex VII: Acknowledgement of receipt of the application

ANNEX 4

CALL FOR PROPOSALS MANAGED BY EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATIONS IN EU MEMBER STATES (LOCAL CALL)

- DG COMM No xxxxxx, EC Representation xxxxxxxx

**Grants for local and national civil society initiatives
to promote public debate about European issues
- part of the European Commission's "Debate Europe" initiative**

1. BACKGROUND

On 13 October 2005 the Commission approved its Communication to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions entitled "Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate".

This was a listening exercise to enable the European Union (EU) to act on citizens' concerns. The Commission aimed to stimulate debate and widen recognition for the added value that the EU provides.

It was to be a two-way process which:

- informed the public about the EU's role, with examples of its projects and achievements,
- identified their expectations for the future in return.

On 29 November 2006 Vice President Wallström presented a note to the Commissioners entitled, "Plan D – Widen & Deepen the Debate". Its purpose was to take stock and further widen and deepen the debate in the period of reflection. The note is publicly available and has been sent to Member States and other EU institutions.

On 2 April 2008, the Commission adopted a Communication to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions entitled "Debate Europe - Building on the Experience of Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate". It noted that the first phase of Plan D focused on the "debate and dialogue" part of the process. The next phase of Plan D will take this process one step further and focus on "D for democracy", further enabling citizens to articulate their wishes directly to decision-makers and making better use of the media in the process. This new phase has been named "Debate Europe".

In October 2005 the Commission launched a series of Europe-wide civil society projects¹⁵ for 2006, which it co-financed. In 2007, it promoted a further series of initiatives, targeting young people and women in particular.

¹⁵ "Tomorrow's Europe" introduced by the foundation "Notre Europe" (Paris)
<http://www.notre-europe.eu/>
"European Citizens' Consultations" introduced by the "King Baudouin Foundation" (Brussels)
<http://www.european-citizens-consultations.eu>
"Speak up Europe" introduced by the "European Movement International" (Brussels)
http://www.europeanmovement.org/emailing/newsletter/speakupeurope_briefing_nonote.pdf

Drawing on this experience, the Commission, through its Representations in EU Member States, will offer grants in each Member State for civil society initiatives focusing on "Debate Europe" priority issues¹⁶. These are:

- Priority issue 1: involvement of citizens with political decision-makers;
- Priority issue 2: joint action between EU institutions and bodies to promote active citizenship.

Differences in economic, social and other aspects of national life greatly affect the public's attitudes to the EU and to particular European issues. So the new round of local calls will therefore be **tailored to each Member State's needs**.

The Commission's Representations will help define the content, and manage and follow up the calls. Depending on the national context, even limited funding for country-level NGOs could result in a fruitful debate **on EU issues**.

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1. General

The Commission wishes to help fund national and regional initiatives by civil society organisations to:

- solicit citizens' views on European issues which have a direct impact, locally and nationally, on their daily lives; and
- encourage citizens to become more informed about these issues, and to discuss and debate them with local opinion-formers.

"Our message to Europe" introduced by the Deutsche Gesellschaft (Berlin)

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/communication/grants/index_fr.htm

"Radio Web Europe" introduced by CENASCA (Rome)

<http://www.cenasca.cisl.it/entra.htm>

"Our Europe – Our Debate – Our Contributions" introduced by the European House (Budapest)

<http://www.europeanhouse.hu/>

All data on the 6 Plan D projects are summarized at the following address:

http://europa.eu/debateeurope/paneurope_en.htm

¹⁶ Priorities specified in the Commission's communication entitled "Debate Europe - Building on the Experience of Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate"(2 April 2008) and in its 2008 annual work programme.

These initiatives will:

- facilitate dialogue between citizens, national and/or local political decision-makers and opinion-formers through debates, conferences, consultations and/or other events;
- closely involve local members of:
 - the European Parliament, European Economic and Social Committee, and Committee of the Regions, and
 - European political parties, and those parties' foundations
- collate and publish these events' conclusions to:
 - identify specific European issues which matter to people in their particular local/national environment;
 - raise local media and politicians' interest in the debate on Europe;
 - increase understanding of the EU's impact on citizens' everyday life;
- create networks of participatory democracy which integrate the European dimension of local/regional/national debates;
- complement:
 - Commission Representations' other initiatives to target local constituencies;
 - current EU programmes with similar goals, including:
 - the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue (EYID) 2008
 - Europe for Citizens
 - e-Participation
 - Integration of Third Country Nationals (INTI).
- be tailored to meet each Member State's specific needs.

2.2. Detailed

2.2.1. Form

Projects can:

- take many different forms – from public debates to online fora.
- be combined with events targeting the public
 - schools and youth centres,
 - exhibitions,
 - fairs and festivals,
 - conferences and seminars

2.2.2. Content

They should:

- define specific issues to be addressed around the overarching topic of debating the relevance of the EU to ordinary citizens lives;
- be accessible to the public and provoke their interest;
- link in with current issues:
 - of local/regional/national interest
 - at EU level.

- allow a variety of opinions to be expressed, without excluding any opinions
- include:
 - dialogue with local, national or EU political authorities;
 - participation by members of the European Parliament, European Economic and Social Committee and Committee of the Regions;
- use the internet to promote the project and facilitate debate.

2.2.3. Impact

As a result, projects should:

- make a lasting contribution to the debate on the EU;
- promote genuine local and national participation in debates on the EU;
- lead to the creation of regional and local networks or strengthen existing ones with a view to continuing and deepening the involvement of citizens in the debate on Europe;
- identify those issues at EU level of greatest local concern and how best they can be addressed on an ongoing basis.

2.2.4. Action plan

To allow the Commission to assess whether proposals meet these criteria, the applicant will need to present an action plan setting out:

- the issues which the project will address;
- the project's overall concept and the tools it will use;
- measures to attract the awareness and involvement of the:
 - media - through partnerships and press relations activities;
 - target audience
- actions to follow up the debate including the preparation of a structured summary of citizens' concerns and describe how these will be brought to the attention of local decision-makers including Members of the European Parliament;
- a detailed schedule which respects the deadlines in section 3.1 below.

3. TIMETABLE

3.1. Submission of applications

Applications must be submitted by end June 2008.

Please read carefully section 12 of this call for proposals concerning the procedures for submitting applications.

3.2. Duration of projects

The project should begin before 1 September 2008.

The project must finish no later than 01 November 2009.

Applications must clearly state the project's starting and finishing dates (dd/mm/yy).

The maximum duration of projects is 14 months.

The period of eligibility of expenditure resulting from implementation of a project will begin on the day of signature of the grant contract by the last of the parties. If the nature of the project requires the project to start before the contract is signed, expenditure may be considered eligible before the signature of the contract. Under no circumstances can the eligibility period start before the date of submission of the grant application.

3.3. Information on the results of the selection

It is planned that applicants will be informed of the outcome of the selection procedure [deadline needs to be no later than Jul. 2008]

The lists of selected projects will be published on the following website:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/communication/grants/index_en.htm &

<http://xxxxxxxxx>

Applicants whose applications have not been selected will be informed in writing.

4. FINANCING

The budget available for this call for proposal is € [to be filled by each Representation].

The grant awarded may not exceed 70% of the total eligible project costs.

Community contributions are meant to facilitate the implementation of a project which could not otherwise be implemented easily without the support of the European Union. They are based on the co-financing principle.

Consequently, a minimum of 30% of the total estimated eligible and final expenditure of the project must come from sources other than the European Union budget. Applicants must include evidence that co-financing is available (secured) for the remainder of the total cost of the project.

Indicatively, the amount of the grant from the EU will be between 50 000 and 100 000 EUR per project.

The European Commission reserves the right not to distribute all the funds available.

The amount allocated by the Commission may not in any circumstances exceed the amount requested. Moreover, the Commission reserves the right to award a grant lower than the amount requested by the applicant.

An organisation is not entitled to receive more than one grant from the Commission for the action covered by the selected project.

After approval by the Commission, a “grant contract”, a draft of which is reproduced at Annex VI, expressed in euros and specifying the conditions and the financing level, will be concluded between the Commission and the beneficiary. The originals of the finance contract must be signed and returned to the Commission immediately for signature. The Commission will be the last party to sign.

The payment methods are detailed in the draft contract (Article I.4), with a list of eligible and ineligible costs (Article II.14 of the general conditions and Article I.3 of the special conditions of the grant contract).

5. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applications which comply with the following criteria will be the subject of an in-depth evaluation.

5.1. Eligible organisations

Grant applications are eligible if they are presented by organisations having a legal status and established in one of the 27 Member States¹⁷.

6. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Applicants must certify on their honour, by signing the application form, that they are not in one of the situations mentioned in Articles 93 and 94 of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002), which are listed below.

Applicants will be excluded from participating in this call for proposals if they are in one of the following situations:

- a) they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- b) they have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgement which has the force of res judicata;

¹⁷ Based on the organisation's registered place of business or its place of main activity.

- c) they have committed serious professional misconduct recorded by any means that awarding authorities can justify;
- d) they have not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
- e) they have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Communities' financial interests;
- f) following another procurement procedure or grant award procedure financed by the Community budget, they have been declared to be in serious breach of contract for failure to comply with their contractual obligations.

Applicants will not receive financial support if, during the grant allocation procedure:

- a) they are subject to a conflict of interests;
- b) they are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the European Commission as a condition of participation in the grant award procedure, or fail to supply this information.

In accordance with Articles 93 to 96 of the Financial Regulation, administrative and financial penalties may be imposed on applicants who are guilty of misrepresentation or are found to have seriously failed to meet their contractual obligations under a previous contract award procedure.

To respect these provisions, the applicant and his partners must provide evidence that they are in none of the situations listed in Articles 93 and 94 of the Financial Regulation.

7. SELECTION CRITERIA

The selection criteria are designed to demonstrate the applicant's capacity to see the project through to a successful conclusion.

Applicants must provide evidence of stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain the activity throughout the period during which the project is being carried out and/or grant-aided, as well as evidence of their financial participation. The applicant must also provide evidence of professional competencies, qualifications and/or experience relevant to the proposed project.

7.1. Technical capacity

Candidates must show that they have the operational (technical and management) capacity needed to complete the proposed action and provide evidence of their capacity to direct an activity corresponding to the dimension of the project for which the grant is requested. Particular attention will be devoted to the capacity for mobilising the public and to analyse of their contributions. The capacity to involve organisations from other EU countries would be an advantage.

Applicants must attach to the grant application a curriculum vitae for the project leader and for the personnel of their organisation who will actually do the work. They must also enclose a recent activity report.

7.2. Financial resources

In order to permit assessment of this criterion, applicants must submit with their application the following documents:

- annual accounts for the last complete financial year;
- the “financial identification” form (bank details) (Annex III), completed by the beneficiary and certified by the bank (with original signatures).

If, on the basis of the submitted documents, the Commission assesses that the financial capacity of the applicant is not sufficient, it may:

- reject the request for a Community grant;
- ask for further information;
- ask for the deposit of a guarantee;
- propose a grant agreement without a pre-financing payment.

8. AWARD CRITERIA

Commission Representations will evaluate eligible projects against four criteria:

- a) consistency – is the project's overall concept consistent with the:
 - i. objectives of Plan D?
 - ii. general and detailed objectives of the call (see point 2 above)
- b) quality – are the work programme and working methods of sufficient quality?
- c) feasibility – is the project feasible, based on the action plan?
- d) visibility – what is the likely effect of the project's actions to raise awareness?

9. ELIGIBLE COSTS

For all projects, the eligibility period for expenditure relating to the implementation of a project will be stipulated in the grant agreement and will, except as described in the next point, be no earlier than the signature of the agreement by the Commission.

A grant may be awarded for a project which has already begun only where the applicant can demonstrate the need to start the project before the agreement is signed. In such cases, expenditure eligible for financing may not have been incurred before responding to the call for proposals.

The eligibility period for expenditure will not exceed the time allowed under each type of action, and **may not go beyond**.

Only the categories of expenditure listed below are eligible, provided that they are properly accounted for and evaluated in accordance with the market conditions, and that they are identifiable and verifiable. **They must be direct costs** (i.e. generated directly by the project and indispensable for its implementation, having regard to the cost/benefit principle):

- **personnel costs** incurred exclusively for the purpose of implementing the project are eligible only where the accounting systems of the applicants in question can clearly isolate and demonstrate the percentage of staff time devoted to the implementation of the project within the period of expenditure eligibility, and therefore the percentage of personnel costs which can be attributed to the project;
- **travel / accommodation / subsistence costs** associated with the project. Organisations must use their own daily scales to calculate these costs. However, these may not exceed the maximum amounts set by the Commission¹⁸;
- **the cost of organising and running conferences and seminars** (rental of rooms, welcoming and reception services, interpretation, speaker fees);
- cost of **hire or depreciation of technical equipment and services** (only the depreciable element of durable goods can be considered);
- **information dissemination** costs (production, translation, distribution and dissemination costs, etc.);
- cost of **consumables and supplies**
- costs entailed by **other contracts awarded** by the beneficiary for the purposes of the project (also see Section 10);
- costs arising from **requirements imposed by the agreement**;
- **general costs** (or "**eligible indirect costs**": office supplies, sundry consumables, depreciation of computer equipment, etc.). These costs may be eligible if incurred by the beneficiary for the purpose of implementing the project, but **may not exceed 7% of total eligible direct expenditure**.

N.B.: indirect costs will not be eligible if the applicant already receives an operating grant from the Commission during the lifetime of the project.

10. NON-ELIGIBLE COSTS

Non-eligible expenditure

The following expenditure cannot be considered eligible **under any circumstances**:

- costs of invested capital;
- general provisions (e.g. for losses, possible future liabilities);
- debts;
- interest owed;
- doubtful debts;

¹⁸ Commission Decision C(2004) 1313 of 7 April 2004: General implementing provisions adopting the Guide to missions for officials and other servants of the European Commission.

- exchange losses;
- expenditure on luxuries;
- the production of material and publications for commercial purposes; however, monographs, books, journals, discs, CDs, CD ROMs and videos will be taken into consideration if they are an integral part of the project;
- VAT, unless the beneficiary proves that he cannot recover it;
- contributions in kind.

Contributions in kind

Part of the contribution from project sponsors to the project costs may be in kind. These contributions in kind must be included in the provisional budget under the "receipts" section, expressed as a financial equivalent of the services or materials provided, and for an identical amount in the "expenditure" section, but separately from the rest of the budget. In fact, they cannot be considered as eligible costs.

Contributions in kind refer in particular to the provision of durable capital goods, raw materials and unpaid voluntary work by a private individual or corporate body.

The amount declared by the beneficiary as contributions in kind must be valued either on the basis of objective factors or on the basis of official scales laid down by an independent authority or by an outside independent professional.

The cost of private charity work must be valued in accordance with the national rules regarding the calculation of hourly, daily or weekly labour costs.

Contributions in kind will not be accounted for as eligible costs but rather as an increase in the grant in terms of value or as a percentage of the eligible costs.

The Community contribution is subject to a ceiling relating to the total eligible cost (70% maximum of the total eligible cost), excluding the value of contributions in kind.

Subcontracting and calls for tender

Where the implementation of subsidised actions requires a subcontract or the launch of a call for tender, the beneficiaries of the grant must award this contract to the tender offering the best value for money, respecting the principles of transparency and equal treatment of potential contractors and ensuring there is no conflict of interests. None of the basic activities of the project may be subcontracted, et subcontracting must account for only a limited part of the project.

For all contracts, beneficiaries must keep evidence that the selection of subcontractors was competitive, involving at least three offers, unless it can be shown that only one supplier exists in a given market. Grants may only be awarded after a project's start date (given in the application) upon prior written approval from the Commission.

11. PUBLICITY

The Commission will publish the list of successful applicants (unless the publication of information is likely to endanger the successful applicant safety or harm his interests). The Commission will publish the following information in whatever form and on whatever medium it wishes, including the Internet:

- the name and address of each beneficiary;
- the subject of the grant;
- amount awarded and rate of funding.

12. PROCEDURE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

12.1. Publication

The text of the call for proposals, the annexes and, for information purposes, a copy of the standard agreement can be obtained from the Europa website at the following address:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/communication/grants/index_en.htm &

<http://xxxxxxxxxx> (Website of the Representation)

12.2. Application form

Applications must be presented in one of the official languages of the EU.

This form can be downloaded from one of the above Internet addresses.

Only grant applications submitted on the application forms attached to this call for proposals and comprising all the necessary documents mentioned in Annex D will be considered.

Applications must be:

- typed; hand-written applications will not be accepted;
- duly dated, filled in and signed by the legal representative of the organisation;
- sent in quadruplicate (the original, which must be identified as such, plus three copies).

12.3. Submission of the application

Deadline for the submission of applications: 30 June 2007

Applications submitted after will not be considered.

Applications may be submitted in one of the following ways:

Proposals must be submitted on paper:

- by registered post to the following address, for which purposes the relevant date is to be the date of dispatch by post, as evidenced by the postmark or the registered delivery receipt issued by the postal services:

European Commission

EC Representation XXXXXXXX

- by hand delivery or courier service.

For security reasons, applications submitted personally or conveyed by a courier service can be presented only to the Commission's Representation xxxxxxx, and envelopes must be marked "DG COMMUNICATION, EC Representation xxxxxxx - Plan D Project". In the event of hand delivery, the submission date is the date of receipt. In the event of delivery by a courier service, the submission date is the date of receipt by the mail department.

Applications submitted by fax or e-mail will not be considered.

No modification of the application will be authorised after the submission of the application and its annexes. However, the Commission reserves the right to request any additional information needed for it to take a final decision on the award of financial support.

Applicants will be informed in writing when their application is received.

Only applications complying with the eligibility and exclusion criteria will be considered for the possible award of a grant.

Applicants whose applications are judged to be ineligible will be notified by mail, with an explanation as to why they were judged ineligible.

Tenderers will be informed, as soon as possible, of the decision taken by

the Commission on their grant application. No information will be released until the Commission's decision on project selection has been taken.

All selected applications will be subject to technical and financial analysis. In this connection the Commission may ask the applicant organisation for supplementary information, or possibly for guarantees.

Any applicant whose application for a Community grant is not accepted will be informed in writing.

12.4. Legal framework

- European Commission Communication dated 2 April 2008 - COM(2008) 158: "Debate Europe-building on the experience of Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate"
- European Commission Communication dated 13 October 2005 - COM(2005) 494: The Commission's contribution to the period of reflection and beyond: Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate
- **Information note from Vice President Wallström to the Commission – Plan D, Wider and deeper debate on Europe - SEC(2006) 1553, 24.11.2006.**
- OJ L 248, 16.9.2002 (Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities)

- OJ L 357, 31.12.2002 (Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities)

12.5. Contacts

The Commission department responsible for the implementation and management of the call for proposals is EC Representation XXXXXXXX

Additional information can be obtained by electronic mail or by fax, either at the electronic address xxxx@ec.europa.eu, or by fax number from ++ xx xx xx xx xx , indicating clearly the reference of this call for proposals.

Annexes:

Annex I: Application form (parts A and B)

Annex II: Budget form

Annex III: Financial identification form

Annex IV: Financial capacity form

Annex V: Legal entity form

Annex VI: Draft contract (for information)

Annex VII: Acknowledgement of receipt of the application

Annex VIII: Application checklist

Komisijos komunikatas

Diskutuokime apie Europą, remdamiesi D plano (demokratija, dialogas ir diskusijos) įgyvendinimo patirtimi

POLITIKOS SRITIS:	KOMUNIKACIJA
VEIKLA: PRINCE	SPECIALŪS VEIKSMAI PRIORITETINIAIS KLAUSIMAIS, ĮSKAITANT

DARBO PROGRAMA: 2008 M.

1. ATITINKAMA BIUDŽETO IŠLAIDŲ KATEGORIJA IR ANTRAŠTINĖ DALIS

16.0304 – Specialūs veiksmai prioritetiniais klausimais, įskaitant PRINCE

2. TEISINIS PAGRINDAS

Uždaviniai, susiję su Komisijos prerogatyvomis institucijų lygiu, kaip numatyta 2002 m. birželio 25 d. Tarybos reglamento (EB, Euratomas) Nr. 1605/2002 dėl Europos Bendrijų bendrajam biudžetui taikomo finansinio reglamento (OL L 248, 2002 9 16, p. 1) su pakeitimais, padarytais Reglamentu (EB, Euratomas) Nr. 1995/2006 (OL L 390, 2006 12 30, p. 1), 49 straipsnio 6 dalyje.

3. BENDRI FINANSINIŲ METŲ DUOMENYS (EUR)

■ 3.a – Einamieji metai

	IA
Pradinė asignavimo suma finansiniams metams (biudžetas)	12 830 000
Perkeliamos sumos	0
Papildomas asignavimas	0
Bendra asignavimo suma	12 830 000
Kitoje darbo programoje jau numatyti asignavimai	0
Turimas likutis	12 830 000
Suma siūlomam veiksmui	7 200 000 ¹⁹

■ 3.b – Perkeliamos sumos

Nėra duomenų

■ 3.c – Kiti finansiniai metai

Nėra duomenų

4. VEIKSMO APRAŠYMAS

Igyvendinant iniciatyvą „Diskutuokime apie Europą“ D planas bus toliau vykdomas 2008–2009 m. Taip bus užtikrinama, kad prie Komisijos siekio skatinti aktyvų Europos pilietiškumą prisidėtų visos institucijos, vadovaudamosi savo politiniais ir komunikaciniais prioritetais, ir būtų pasiekti visų valdymo lygmenų sprendimų priėmėjai.

Siūloma dviejų lygmenų strategija, jai būtų skirtas 7,2 mln. EUR biudžetas:

- centralizuotas kvietimas teikti paraiškas bendrai finansuoti išsamų tarptautinį projektą, kuriam skiriama 2 mln. EUR;
- decentralizuoti kvietimai ir veiksmai vietos masto projektams remti, jiems skiriama 5,2 mln. EUR.

¹⁹ Veiksmui skirta suma (7 200 000 EUR) priklauso 2008 m. asignavimams pagal biudžeto eilutę 16.0304 (Specialūs veiksmai prioritetiniais klausimais, įskaitant PRINCE). Todėl papildomų išteklių neprašoma. Tikslus šios sumos paskirstymas teikiamas Komisijos sprendime C/2008/0924 dėl 2008 m. metinės darbo programos, susijusios su komunikacijos dotacijomis ir sutartimis, Komisijos priimtame 2008 m. kovo 12 d. (žr. 2.6.2 lentelę).

Europos lygmeniu – kvietimuose teikti paraiškas nustatyti atrankos kriterijai padės užtikrinti, kad, atsižvelgiant į patirtį, sukauptą įgyvendinant pirmuosius pagal D planą bendrai finansuotus tarptautinius dalyvaujamosios demokratijos projektus, vykdant iniciatyvą „Diskutuokime apie Europą“ bus remiamos pilietinės visuomenės iniciatyvos organizuoti konsultacijas su piliečiais visose valstybėse narėse, kaupti bendras išvadas ir pasiūlymus, įtraukti piliečius į diskusijas su jų išrinktais atstovais, Europos politinėmis organizacijomis ir Europos politiniais fondais.

Nacionaliniu lygmeniu – atsižvelgiant į patirtį, sukauptą kai kuriose valstybėse narėse įgyvendinant Komisijos atstovybių bendrai finansuotus pilietinės visuomenės projektus, vykdant iniciatyvą „Diskutuokime apie Europą“ bus prisidedama prie konkrečių poreikiams tenkinti skirtų veiksmų (kaip antai, mokyklų ir jaunimo centrų veikla, parodos, mugės ir festivaliai, konferencijos, seminarai, NVO renginiai ir t. t.) finansavimo. Šie veiksmai apims vietos masto kvietimus teikti paraiškas ir kitą veiklą, numatytą pagal iniciatyvą „Diskutuokime apie Europą“ (pvz., diskusijos internete, Komisijos narių vizitai, veikla viešojoje Europos erdvėje, bandomieji informacijos tinklai, veikla vietos lygiu per „Europe Direct“ centrus ir pan.).

5. PATVIRTINTAS SKAIČIAVIMO METODAS

Iniciatyvai „Diskutuokime apie Europą“ skirtas 7,2 mln. EUR biudžetas paskirstomas taip:

- Kaip minėta, vieną kvietimą teikti paraiškas skelbs COMM GD; dideliame tarptautiniame projektui iš dalies finansuoti bus skirta maždaug 2 mln. EUR suma.

Be to, Komisijos atstovybės skelbs decentralizuotus kvietimus teikti paraiškas. Šiems projektams bus skirta maždaug 3,1 mln. EUR. Veikiausiai kiekviena valstybė narė skelbs vieną kvietimą teikti paraiškas, o vidutinis projekto biudžetas bus 100 000–200 000 EUR.

Šios sumos nustatytos remiantis ankstesne patirtimi (2007 m. pagal D planą skelbtiems kvietimams teikti paraiškas 13 valstybių narių buvo skirta 2,4 mln. EUR).

- Likusieji 2,1 mln. EUR, be jau pasirašytų sutarčių, bus paskirstyti atstovybių planuojamiems skelbti maždaug 136 konkursams (131 iš jų bus skirta iki 60 000 EUR, 5 – daugiau nei 60 000 EUR).

6. MOKĖJIMO GRAFIKAS (EUR)

Eilutė 16.0304	2008 m.	2009 m.	2010 m.	Iš viso
Asignavimai	7 200 000	0	0	7 200 000
Mokėjimai	3 600 000	1 800 000	1 800 000	7 200 000