

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURE

ASSESSMENT OF FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

Context

Purpose of this document: This document must be established for all interim and ex-post evaluations in the Directorate-General for Education and Culture (DG EAC) to provide an objective overall assessment of the evaluation and the validity of its results, as well as a general description of how the evaluation results will be used by DG EAC.

The document shall be published together with the Evaluation Report on Europa:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/evalreports/index_en.htm

Definitions: Evaluation in the Commission is defined as a “judgement of interventions according to their results, impacts and the needs they aim to satisfy”. It is an information tool that supports the preparation and implementation of public interventions, and reports on the corresponding results to the public and stakeholders. Information about the evaluation framework of the European Commission can be obtained at:

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/sound_fin_mgt/evaluation_en.htm

Organisation of the evaluation process: In DG EAC evaluations must be independent and shall be led and carried out by external resources. The operational management of the EAC policy areas is responsible for the identification of evaluation subjects, the organisation of evaluations, and the follow-up of evaluation results. A central Evaluation Sector, detached from the operational activities evaluated, has as a major role in ensuring quality, objectivity and an element of independence to the process, by having a close involvement in all steps of the evaluation. An evaluation Steering Group is appointed to prepare the evaluation, supervise the execution, and support the evaluator on the basis of the members' specific knowledge and expertise of the evaluation subject.

Basic data about the specific evaluation

Evaluation: Evaluation of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008 (EYID 2008)

Purpose of the evaluation: The evaluation was launched according to Art. 14 of Decision 1983/2006/EC establishing the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008.

Evaluator: ECOTEC Research and Consulting Ltd

Budget of the evaluation: EUR 186.000

Time period of execution: 07.04.2008- 31.07.2009

Assessment

Carried out by: The Evaluation Sector of DG EAC (Unit R2)

Date: 25.09.2009

1. Evaluation subject

The European Parliament and Council adopted the Decision to implement the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008 (EYID 2008) in December 2006, as a component of the EU's response to protecting and promoting cultural diversity in Europe. A total budget from the EU of about €10 million was used to co-fund seven flagship projects on a European level, as well as EU support for a national project in each Member State, and a Partner programme aimed at mobilising civil society. EYID 2008 aimed to raise the awareness of all those living in the EU, especially young people, of the importance of engaging in intercultural dialogue in their daily lives and of becoming active European citizens.

2. Scope of evaluation

The evaluation provides an assessment of the preparation, implementation and impact of EYID 2008. It reviews the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, external coherence and sustainability of the EU intervention.

3. Methodology applied for the evaluation

The evaluators carried out an extensive review of relevant documents and reports, four surveys, fifty interviews and four country case studies. Although the surveys received very few responses, and quantitative data on national activities was generally scarce, the combination of the different types of research carried out –supplemented by publically available information- allowed the evaluators to obtain sufficient evidence for their assessment.

4. Results of the evaluation

- EYID 2008 was relevant to the needs of a wide range of stakeholders, and especially appealing to actors in the fields of culture, arts and education. It showed strong coherence with the relevant international players, including the UN and the Council of Europe.
- The approach of concentrating limited resources on a relatively small number of co-funded projects, while relying on Member States to develop and support their own activities proved to be efficient.
- The Year was effective in raising awareness of the importance and potential of Intercultural Dialogue (ICD), identifying and disseminating best practice, and fostering the role of education and the media in ICD. It was harder to assess the extent to which the Year impacted the views and attitudes of policy-makers and the public in general.

5. Follow-up of the evaluation results

The Commission will elaborate and implement an Action Plan addressing the recommendations delivered by the evaluation. Those evaluation results which are relevant to the Member States will be discussed in the Open Method of Coordination working groups.

6. Conclusions of the assessment of the Evaluation Report

The evaluation provides a proper assessment of the activities carried out during the European Year. Conclusions regarding the most important evaluation issues are properly supported by the collected evidence, and the recommendations are practical. The weakest assessments are in the areas of cost-effectiveness and sustainability of impacts, due to limited financial data and the short time elapsed between the end of the Year and the evaluation.