

Call for proposals VP/2004/004 for transnational co-operation and exchange projects to combat social exclusion (under Budget line 04.040202)

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

Following the introduction under Articles 136 and 137 of the Amsterdam Treaty of the fight against social exclusion among the social policy provisions, the European Parliament and the Council agreed on the establishment of a programme of Community action to encourage co-operation between Member States to combat social exclusion to run for five years from 2002 through 2006.

The purpose of promoting transnational exchanges as part of the Community Action Programme is to support the implementation of the Open Method of Co-ordination on Poverty and Social Exclusion and in particular the development and implementation of the National Action Plans on Social Inclusion (NAPs/incl.).

In 2002, a *First Transnational Exchange Programme* (TEP) was launched under Strand 2 of the Action Programme. It was developed in two phases with Phase I being a 9 months preparatory phase with the aim of supporting the creation of solid partnerships and the development of projects, for which some 65 projects were selected. For Phase II of the TEP 31 projects were selected and are receiving support for a two year period.

This call for proposals for a *Second Transnational Exchange Programme* will be the first call for transnational exchange projects to take place in the context of an enlarged Union. This second TEP is part of a wider package aiming at accompanying and supporting more strongly the NAPs' process. To complement this call the Commission intends to launch in early 2005 a specific call for proposals focused on encouraging transnational analysis and debate about policy measures that have emerged as of key importance in the NAPs/inclusion of Member States.

Applications for this second TEP may be submitted proposing policy co-operation and exchange on any aspect of poverty and social exclusion that is covered under the Common Objectives on poverty and social exclusion agreed at Nice. However, special priority will be given to proposals addressing issues emerging from the second round of NAPs by the EU-15 and identified in the *Second Joint Report on Social Inclusion* and the first round of NAPs by the EU-10 countries.

Proposals may come from all public and/or private bodies and institutions involved in the fight against social exclusion such as national, local and regional authorities, bodies responsible for combating social exclusion, social partners, social service providers, non governmental organisations, universities and research institutes, national statistical offices and the media. Applications must involve partners based in at least three (3) Member States. Exchanges shall involve, as far as possible, a good mix of EU-15 and EU-10 Member States as well as candidate and EFTA/EEA countries.

In the region of € 4.5 million per year will be available through this call and it is envisaged that funding in the region between € 200,000 and 300,000 per project per

annum will be available. The Community's financial contribution to any partnership will not exceed 80% of the total eligible costs. The partnership must guarantee co-financing in cash of the remaining 20%. Contributions in kind are not accepted.

Proposals must be submitted and postmarked **not later than 28/01/2005** in order to be accepted. The application forms must also be sent in by email before that date. The proposed duration of the actions must not exceed 24 months. They must be scheduled to start on a specified date between 15th July and 15th September 2005.

More detailed guidelines, instructions on how to apply and an application form can be obtained as follows:

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

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

2. by sending an email to empl-e2@cec.eu.int (please include "Call for proposals VP/2004/004 - Info" in the subject of your email).

3. by writing to:

Unit E2: Call for proposals VP/2004/004 - Info
European Commission
DG Employment and Social Affairs
J27 1/33
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

4. or by sending a fax to +32 2 299 80 76 (please include "Call for proposals VP/2004/004 - Info" in the title of your fax).