

Call for proposals VP/2004/05 for National awareness raising actions on social inclusion (under budget line 04040202).

This call is for proposals which aim to increase information and awareness within Member States, candidate countries and EFTA/EEA countries of the Union's social inclusion process so as to mobilise support for and participation of all relevant actors in the preparation, implementation and monitoring of National Action Plans against poverty and social exclusion (NAPs/inclusion) and Joint Memoranda on Social Inclusion (JIMs).

The NAPs/inclusion are a key element of the Union's social inclusion process, the Open Method of Co-ordination on poverty and social exclusion, which was adopted at the Lisbon European Council of 2000 with a view to making a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty and social exclusion by 2010. They are prepared on a two yearly basis by all Member States.

This call for proposal is funded under the Community action programme to encourage cooperation between Member States to combat social exclusion. This programme supports and underpins the social inclusion process and its objectives include promoting the participation of the various actors and developing their capacity to address social exclusion and poverty effectively.

The Commission is keen to receive applications which adopt a strategic and planned approach to raising awareness and mobilising actors. Thus proposals are likely to involve a mix of actions which are tailored to meet the needs of different audiences. These should include both the general public and relevant stakeholders such as the media, national, regional and local authorities, non-governmental organisations, trade unions, businesses, specialised bodies and those directly experiencing poverty and social exclusion. There should be a programme of work covering a period of up to 18 months rather than once off actions.

Applications will be particularly welcome which make a clear link to the implementation of the 2003 NAPs/inclusion or to the development and implementation of the NAPs/inclusion that will be adopted by the new Member States in 2004 or to the development and follow up of the Joint Inclusion Memoranda to be agreed by the Commission and Candidate Countries in 2004.

Proposals may come from all public and/or private bodies and institutions involved in the fight against social exclusion. The Commission will be particularly interested in proposals from those organisations with an active interest in promoting the development of National Action Plans such as national, regional or local authorities, social partners or non-governmental organisations. Applications may come from either single organisations or from a number of organisations involving several different sectors working together in partnership. A specific co-operation with the media will also be of great interest. Applicants must be from organisations registered in either one of the Member States or one of the acceding or candidate countries or an EFTA/EEA country.

In the region of € 800 000 will be available through this call and it is envisaged that between 10 and 20 projects will be selected. The Community's financial contribution will not exceed 80% of the eligible costs. The promoter 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 04/06/2004** in order to be accepted. The application forms must also be sent in by email by that date. The proposed duration of the actions must not exceed 18 months. They must be scheduled to start before 31st December 2004.

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

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

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

2. By sending an email to empl-e2@cec.eu.int (please include "**Call for proposals VP/2004/05 - Info**" in the subject of your email).

3. By writing to:

Unit E2: Call for proposals VP/2004/05 - Info
European Commission
DG Employment and Social Affairs
J27 1/33
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

4. Or by sending a fax to +32 2 295 65 61 (please include "**Call for proposals VP/2004/05 - Info**" in the title of your fax).