

CRITERIA AND CONDITIONS FOR SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION UNDER CALL FOR PROPOSALS VP/1999/002

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT FOR TRANSNATIONAL ACTIONS AIMED AT COMBATING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ELDERLY AND/OR DISABLED PEOPLE

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Budget line B3-4111 enables the European Commission to implement measures to provide support for actions carried out by non-profit associations, organisations or networks involved in combating discrimination against the elderly and/or people with disabilities. The objective of this budget line is to anticipate the new Community approach with regard to the fight against discrimination which the Commission intends to pursue in the future.

This new horizontal approach aims at tackling both the root causes and the processes which might lead to discrimination against different vulnerable groups in society. However, for the purposes of this call for proposals, and in line with the remarks for this line made by the Budgetary Authority, only projects relating to the fight against discrimination of the elderly and/or disabled people will be considered.

Projects should help prepare these disadvantaged groups for the new Community approach through actions aimed at encouraging wider partnerships, improving knowledge, exchanging information and good practices, promoting innovative approaches, and improving the understanding and measurement of problems related to discrimination based on disability and/or age. Projects concerning just one of these groups, or both, will be eligible.

Financial assistance under this Call may be provided for transnational activities which are of Community interest and which contribute significantly to the further development and implementation of Community policy relating to the fight against discrimination of elderly and/or disabled people.

The maximum budget made available under this Call is EURO 2.300.000. On the basis of an average Community subsidy of around 80.000 EURO (this is in line with average grants provided under previous budget lines in favour of people with disabilities and older people) roughly 30 projects are likely to be supported. The total cost of any proposed action should not be less than 50.000 EURO and the Community financial contribution will not exceed 70% of the total costs including the counter value of contributions in kind, if any.

Beneficiaries will be selected on the basis of the criteria set out in this Call for the submission of proposals and the availability of funds. The decisions taken will concern 1999 and in no way represent a commitment for subsequent years.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Consideration will be given only to proposals from organisations:

- Which have their own legal status;
- Which are non-profit organisations, associations or networks aimed at promoting the rights, the equality of opportunities and the integration of elderly and/or disabled people;
- Which have partners from at least two other Member States of the European Union (partners can be other non-profit organisations, research institutes, social partners, local, regional or national authorities, etc.);
- Which have their own administrative and financial management structure;
- Whose financial resources are not exclusively made up of subsidies and grants from the European institutions. Applications from organisations which fail to indicate in the budget form all other sources of revenue secured at the time the application is submitted will automatically be rejected;
- Whose application will be sent to the Commission before the deadline indicated below;
- Whose application will be presented as required (with a cover letter dated and signed quoting the reference VP/1999/002 with completed, dated and signed application form, with completed and signed bank ID form; with a provisional budget expressed in EURO and properly balanced; with all supporting documents as required in the 'Application form guide').

Actions eligible under other Community Programmes such as the Structural Funds or Initiatives will not be considered.

Proposals already covered by an outstanding conditional contract under budget lines B3-4103 (social exclusion) and B3-4104 (older people) are not eligible for resubmission under this call.

Community financing can only be used for transnational activities to improve knowledge, exchange good practice, promote innovative approaches and evaluate experiences. Activities which consist of direct action to combat discrimination at national, regional or local level are NOT eligible.

Organisations may submit applications under other Commission calls for proposals, for example those combating social exclusion and promoting civil dialogue and co-operation between charitable associations, which are managed by DG V. However, these applications must be for clearly different activities and organisations MUST state any other applications which they have made for funding under the Community budget.

SELECTION CRITERIA

When the proposals are examined, the beneficiaries will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:

- the degree to which the activities foreseen contribute to an improvement in the understanding and measurement of problems related to discrimination of elderly and/or disabled people;
- the degree to which the proposal favours an innovative horizontal approach to discrimination issues (e.g. actions which could generate useful lessons on issues,

processes and/or strategies potentially applicable to combating discrimination based on other grounds which promote co-operation between actors working in different areas of anti-discrimination);

- the degree to which the activities foreseen promote full citizenship, participation and equal opportunities for older people and/or people with disabilities;
- the involvement of elderly and/or disabled people in the planning, execution and follow-up of the work programme;
- the quality of the partnership and degree of co-operation with regard to: planning and management of activities, carrying out of activities, regular exchange of information and financial participation;
- the degree to which the proposal demonstrates clear added-value at European level;
- a sound cost-efficiency ratio;
- the degree of financial feasibility of the proposed activities assessed through the provision of a realistic, reasonable and balanced budget;
- the degree to which the proposal includes arrangements for broad dissemination of results and the promotion of Community visibility.

In addition, with regard to proposals concerning combating discrimination based on age, preference will be given to proposals which:

- develop the theme of the U.N. International Year "Towards a society for all ages", including the promotion of inter-generational solidarity, the situation of older people on the labour market and their role in society.

FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

Grants are awarded on a strictly annual basis. The one year period is to start on 1 October 1999 at the earliest, and by 31 December 1999 at the latest.

All general financial conditions are listed in the 'Application form guide'. Please ensure that you have read the information supplied carefully and ensure that you have fulfilled all of the necessary requirements.

However, the applicant's attention is drawn, in particular, to the following provisions:

Only contributions in kind not exceeding 10% of the total expenditure will be accepted. Proof of their occurrence is required.

The partial or total withholding by an applicant of any kind of information that may have an impact on the final decision of the Commission will lead to the automatic disqualification of the application or, if discovered at a later stage, will entitle the Commission to unilaterally terminate the grant agreement in addition to demanding the full repayment of all sums received by the beneficiary under the said grant agreement.

PRESENTATION OF AN APPLICATION

The request must be accompanied by an official letter explicitly requesting the subsidy. It should include **5 copies** of Annex A to this document, duly completed by machine (not hand-written), as well as 'bank ID form' duly completed (with full details of the applicant's bank account) and signed.

PROCEDURE FOR THE SUBMISSION AND APPRAISAL OF REQUESTS

Only applications submitted on the prescribed form will be considered.

Five copies of the form (Annex A) duly completed and signed, and all documents forming part of the application must be mailed to the following address **by 28 May 1999 at the latest** (the postmark serving as proof). Complementary documents sent by fax will not be considered for evaluation. Any document sent after the above deadline will NOT be accepted.

European Commission
Archives - Courrier DG V
VP/1999/002
Rue de la Loi 200, J 37 00/026
B-1049 BRUSSELS

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that incomplete or unsigned forms, hand-written forms, those sent by fax, Internet, or hand-delivered will **NOT** be taken into consideration.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that, in addition to the obligatory application posted by 28 May 1999 at the latest, where feasible, the European Commission would welcome, an e-mail copy of Annex A to the following e-mail address ensuring that the name of the applicant organisation and title of the project are clearly stated:

Dayarani.Schumacher@bxl.dg5.cec.be

Material (video-tapes, photos, books etc) other than the form and documents forming part of your application will be neither considered nor returned.

Applications will be processed in the following manner:

- The Commission receives and records the application;
- The Commission examines the applications;
- A final decision is taken; applicants are informed in writing of the outcome.

The decision of the Commission is final. The entire procedure is strictly confidential. Organisations to which the Commission awards a grant will be sent an agreement specifying figures in EURO, the terms and level of funding. It must be signed and returned to the Commission without delay. Any change made to the running of the work programme and in the terms of the agreement must be notified in advance to the Commission for approval.

Please read the information supplied carefully and ensure that you have fulfilled all of the necessary requirements.

The timetable will be scheduled as follows:

- 28 May 1999: final date for mailing applications to the European Commission;
- 30 July 1999: pre-selection of projects by the Commission;
- 30 September 1999: final decision by the Commission.

ANNEXES

- A. 1999 application form for a grant
- B. Application form guide