



FUNDING ADVICE NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the Funding Advice Newsletter. First of all, a big thank you to all of you who responded with feedback to the first edition. We welcome all comments and suggestions and will try to address your requests in forthcoming issues.

In this second issue, we attempt to unveil some of the mystery surrounding the funding possibilities from the European Commission. Love it or loathe it, the fact is that the European Commission is the world's largest donor.

As European funding increases, so too has the multiplication of budgets, programmes and procedures across the various Commission departments and National Agencies managing these programmes locally. For almost every Budget Line, there is a different procedure with forms that have to be filled in. However, in a bid to be more user-friendly, information on EU funding opportunities has improved greatly, even if there is a lack of a single entry point. Most information is available on the Europa website and if you have any questions, there is usually a Contact Person for that programme/budget line to clarify things.

The main thing is NOT to be daunted by the labyrinthine qualities of funding from the EU in general but to **focus** on the relevant Funds that are available for youth activities and identify sources of funding that fits your project or activity.

Once you have found the ONE fund, or even a few, take a close look at the Action Plan (in Issue #1) and follow the steps to get an idea of how you might go about applying for the grants. Get the most up-to-date application forms, the application guidelines and all the necessary documents from the Europa website - and proceed, STEP BY STEP with the confidence that you will not get lost if you stay focussed and follow the steps.

The demands for Commission grants are so exacting that if you can meet the Eligibility Criteria and fill out the Application Checklist, you are sure to have fulfilled the criteria for almost any kind of funding request. So it is a process well worth exploring.

Quite simply, in order to make the most of this funding source, we have to get more experience in how to use the different Programmes/Budget Lines and how to make WAGGGS National Associations (you!) known to the National Agencies that manage these Funds. This is especially important in the 10 Applicant Countries which will be subject to decentralised funding when they join next year. Do make contact with your National Agency!



So let's begin...

Some tips to make EU Fundseeking much easier.

1. Don't see the Commission as a "milk cow" - it is not a funding organisation and the programme budget is not there for its own sake. It is there to advance the cause of European integration. So, DON'T just ask for money - sell your ideas and persuade the Commission that your project will further the priorities of the Commission. Some of its political priorities include:
 - a) Tackling unemployment and creating jobs - training and education, adaptation of work and market
 - b) Fighting against all types of discrimination and promoting equal opportunities between women and men
 - c) Fighting against all types of social exclusion
 - d) Enlargement issues - promoting more balance between the "poorer" and "richer" geographical regions across Europe as well as in "poorer" areas within each individual country.
2. Adopt a Strategic Approach and examine ALL funding possibilities - applying to the most popular budget lines/funds is very competitive. Some funds are underused and so may be a better alternative.
3. Distinguish clearly the different geographical levels of decisions about EU funds. Only a small proportion - typically those involving projects in 3 or more countries - of the budgets relevant to NGOs are handled directly in Brussels. **A large number of EU Programmes require your funding application to be sent to the National Agency locally.** These Agencies in your own country may also provide you with advice or technical support. This is especially the case for youth, educational and training programmes.
4. Also at the local level, you should find out from your local National Agency, what programmes are run locally under the Structural Funds and where you can find the calls for proposals. In many local administrations, there is a department dealing with EU funding for the region. If your project meets the criteria for regional funding (Structural Funds), then this would be an opportunity for your Association to participate in European funding without any need for partners in other countries.

Which areas of the EU are most relevant to WAGGGS Member Associations?

Before providing an Overview of the YOUTH Programme (that most WAGGGS Associations are interested in) I would like you to consider some other types of EU funding available.



There are 3 types of EU funding as follows:

1. Structural Funds

These are a kind of "catch up" fund for social and economic development to bring more equality between the more and less developed regions across Europe as well as for "poorer" areas in the "rich" countries. In some countries these funds are underused (perhaps because of lack of knowledge of their existence) so chances of a successful application are higher.

These funds have to be **applied for locally and do not need partners** in other countries.

The priorities for the Programme for 2000-2006 are:

Objective 1 Regions lagging behind economically (note that some countries do not have any Objective 1 Regions - check if your area is eligible on the map on the Europa website).

Objective 2 Economic and social conversion for target areas (note: these could be as specific as 2 or 3 streets in a town, etc - check if your area is eligible on the map on the Europa website).

Objective 3 Human resource development, training and employment for target groups eg. disadvantaged young women, etc.

2. Community Initiatives

These are part of the structural funds (5%), but for projects that have a transnational dimension. Applications for these funds **require at least one partner in another country**. It deals with regional / national problems identified at EU level but the funds are given nationally. Some of these initiatives include:

- **EQUAL** - new jobs, training for employment, social integration, equal opportunities
- **URBAN** - inner city regeneration to help areas with difficulties
- **INTERREG** - cross-border regional development (include. Applicant states)

3. European Action Programmes

These are the projects that have a truly European dimension and are applied for in Brussels and the funds are given from the Commission directly. They **require partners in at least 3 Member States** (in practice, it is usually more as priority is usually given to projects that have a larger geographical reach). Large multi-annual programmes are also in this category and include the following:

- **Education, Training and Youth**
YOUTH Programme (2000-2004), Socrates II, Leonardo II
- **Applicant Countries, ex-USSR**
PHARE, TACIS



The YOUTH Programme - An Overview

The most obvious and relevant to WAGGGS as we are a youth organisation! Associations can apply to the Youth Programme to enable their members to take part in exchanges, a European Voluntary Service (EVS) programme or organise projects or workshops with a European dimension.

It is open to young people from 30 European countries and gives young people from age 15 upwards the chance to broaden their horizons and develop their sense of initiative through projects at home or abroad. It provides structured European co-operation between youth organisations, youth workers, project organisers and all other actors involved in the youth field.

Implementation of the YOUTH Programme is decentralised. Your Association can find out more information about the YOUTH Programme by contacting the local National Agency in your country. The Agencies assist with the promotion and implementation of the Programme at local level.

A special programme exists for countries in the Mediterranean. The **Euro-Med Youth Programme** gives 12 Mediterranean partner countries a privileged position in third-country co-operation in the youth field. Its aim is to facilitate the integration of young people into social and working life as well as to stimulate the democratisation of society in the Mediterranean partner countries. National Co-ordinators based in the 12 partner countries facilitate implementation of this Programme.

The YOUTH Programme also supports co-operation activities with youth organisations in South East Europe and the former CIS countries.

*For full details of the YOUTH Programme, go to http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/youth/program/index_en.html. You can download A User's Guide (in several different languages) as well as find details of the *Priorities 2003, calls for proposals and examples of past projects that received grants*.*

Briefly, the YOUTH Programme is divided into five main Actions:

Action 1 - Youth for Europe

Youth Exchanges and Youth Encounters for groups (aged 15-25) from different countries to meet with a non-formal learning aim, in that groups explore common themes and learn from each other's cultures.

Action 2 - European Voluntary Service (EVS)

Young people (aged 18-25) are able to spend up to 12 months abroad as European volunteers helping in local projects in a wide range of fields.

Action 3 - Youth Initiatives

Young people (aged 15-25) can obtain support to carry out a project at local level to express their creativity and spirit of initiative.

**Action 4 - Joint Actions**

Brings together the SOCRATES (education), LEONARDO DA VINCI (vocational training) and YOUTH (non-formal education) programmes, supporting initiatives that build on the complementary nature of these three and other programmes, such as CULTURE 2000.

Action 5 - Support Measures

Supports other Actions to consolidate and enhance their benefits, for instance, through the exchange of good practices or training of project organisers.

Some Tips

Finally, if you decide to make an application for EU funding, here are some tips on:

Building a European Project

- Draft your project out (see Issue # 1 on methodology) in about 2-4 pages.
- Think of potential partners (other Associations, public bodies, foundations, companies, etc)
- Check for EU funding possibilities and check calls for proposals for deadlines.
- Review your draft project - it must be innovative, sustainable, in line with EU priorities and Programme objectives! - and send it to your partners.
- Visit the desk office responsible for the Programme with your project on paper.
- Write your application.

Some Useful Websites**Structural Funds...**

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/intro/regions2_en.htm

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/funds/prord/prords/prdsb_en.htm

...and enlargement

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/themes/enlarge_en.htm

...and information society

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/themes/infotech_en.htm

...and environment

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/themes/environ_en.htm

Central and Eastern Europe

PHARE

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/phare/foreword_en.htm

TACIS

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/tacis/foreword_en.htm