



TOWARDS A CIVIC AND POPULAR OWNERSHIP OF EUROPE

VERS UNE APPROPRIATION CIVIQUE ET POPULAIRE DE L'EUROPE

CALL FOR PARTNERS – EUROPEAN PROJECT

“Europe for Citizens” Programme

Action 1, measure 1.6 – “Active citizens for Europe” innovative actions

Taking up a European Civic Forum’s policy recommendation¹, the European Commission’s DG Education & Culture has launched a call for proposals within its “Europe for Citizens” Programme, aiming to test and develop new forms of transnational mobility between civil society organisations.

The European Civic Forum is preparing an application to this call and is currently looking for partners in the Western Balkans to participate in a twining project between its members and civil society organisations in Croatia, Macedonia and Albania with similar goals and values.

Who are we?

The European Civic Forum (ECF) is a transnational network gathering together 91 associations and NGOs across 23 European countries actively involved in matters relating to civic education, participatory democracy and the respect of human rights. Since its creation in 2005, the ECF has been leading different activities aiming to support the structuring of associative life and the development of volunteering practices from local/national to European level.

Our objectives:

- To carry out information and awareness campaigns amongst European citizens to bring them closer to Europe;
- To strengthen the role and the capacity of associations and NGOs to act as intermediary bodies between citizens and institutions, to participate in the policy making process;
- To foster encounters and exchanges between associations and NGOs across Europe by organising high visibility events in countries holding the EU presidency.

PROJECT PROPOSAL INNOVATIVE ACTIONS

Within its “Plan C for Europe” (“C” as citizenship, civic mindedness, communication and civil dialogue), the European Civic Forum aims at developing long term relations and projects between NGOs from the European Union and accession countries. For the European Civic Forum, the vitality of a democracy can be considered in relation with the vitality of its associative sector and civil society participation in public life. Both at national and European levels, it is urgent to encourage the rise of new forms of “governance” incorporating more participatory and deliberative methods.

Overall objective - reinforce the role of civil society organisations and their participation to the democratic functioning of our societies by:

- facilitating mobility and long term cooperation between NGOs from different countries (NGO twining);
- capacity building activities (NGO mentoring).

¹ The European Civic Forum has been actively campaigning for the support of NGO twining by means of appropriate financial instruments in order to facilitate the mobility of professionals and volunteers within the third sector and encourage long term transnational synergies. See the “C Plan for Europe” campaign www.civic-forum.eu and the recommendations emerged from the “European Civic Days: Mobility, Dialogue, Participation” held by the European Civic Forum in La Rochelle (France) on 4, 5 and 6 September 2008 within the French EU Presidency and the support of the European Commission’s Europe for citizens’ Programme: http://www.civic-forum.fr/event08/documents_en/recommendations.pdf

Activities:

- **Kick-off seminar:** forming a steering group, defining the concrete needs of the partners and targeting the assignments for further exchanges of staff;
- **One month exchanges of staff** between partner organisations to work on common issues (for example, fundraising, transnational projects management, volunteering training etc.);
- **Debriefing meeting of the steering group** to evaluate the results of staff exchanges, define possible transfer of practice and long term collaboration possibilities and identify issues and topics for future training seminars (group mentoring activities);
- **Training Seminars** : 3, 4 days seminar for training of staff and/or volunteers (about **50/80 participants**) on topics of common interest defined before;
- Creation of an **educative toolkit** about the issues tackled within the project;
- Creation of an **interactive web platform** dedicated to the project and to future collaboration;
- **Closing seminar:** evaluating the project and defining the follow-up and dissemination.

Your participation in the project as a partner does not suppose financial involvement from the part of your organisation.

As the deadline for applications in Europe for Citizens programme is 30 September, an indicative answer or expression of interest (in English or French) from your part before 11 September would be highly appreciated!!!

Contact person:

Alexandrina Najmowicz, ECF coordinator
Tel. 0033 1 43 58 96 92
E-mail: anajmowicz@civic-forum.eu
www.civic-forum.eu