

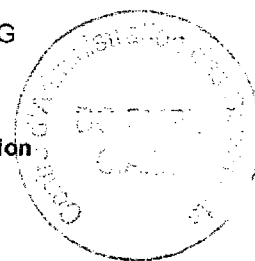


**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG

Social Protection and Social Integration

Social Protection and Social Inclusion: Policy Coordination



19-12-2005

**Operating Grant Agreement**

*Agreement title*

**CONSOLIDATING AND STRENGTHENING A CHILD SPECIFIC  
APPROACH TO COMBATTING CHILD POVERTY AND SOCIAL  
EXCLUSION OF CHILDREN IN THE EUROPEAN UNION**

*Agreement ref. No*

**VS/2005/0703**

The above title and reference No **must** be quoted in **all** correspondence with the Commission.

*Beneficiary*

**EUROCHILD AISBL**

**Other administrative information**

*Department*

**DG EMPL/E/2**

*Ex-ante publicity*

Ref. No: —

*Call for proposal*

Ref. No: VP/2005/007

*SAGA*

Record No: 2005/VP007/10006

**Other accounting information**

*Commitment No*

**SI2.424725**

This commitment No **must** be quoted in correspondence relating to **payments**.

*Type of Agreement*

**V/SB/OPG02**

The European Community ("**the Community**"),  
represented by the Commission of the European Communities ("**the Commission**"),  
itself represented for the purposes of signature of this Agreement by Adam TYSON, Head of  
Unit, EMPL/E/2, Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG,

of the one part,

AND

EUROCHILD AISBL,  
official legal form: ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE SANS BUT LUCRATIF,  
official registration No: .....,  
address: RUE DE LA CONCORDE 53, B-1050 BRUXELLES, BELGIUM,  
VAT No: BE866544946  
("**the Beneficiary**"),  
represented for the purposes of signature of this Agreement by Ms. Catriona WILLIAMS,  
President,

of the other part,

HAVE AGREED

the **Special Conditions, General Conditions and Annexes** below:

- **Annex I** Beneficiary's work programme
- **Annex II** Beneficiary's operating budget

which form an integral part of this Agreement ("**the Agreement**").

The terms set out in the Special Conditions shall take precedence over those in the other parts of the Agreement.

The terms of the General Conditions shall take precedence over those in the Annexes.

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## **I. Special conditions**

### **Article I.1 Subject**

**I.1.1.** The Commission has decided to award a grant, under the terms and conditions set out in the Special Conditions, the General Conditions and the Annexes to the agreement, which the beneficiary hereby declares that he has taken note of and accepts, for the work programme of the beneficiary, which corresponds to the activities and objectives specified in the beneficiary's articles of association.

**I.1.2.** The Beneficiary undertakes to do everything in his power to implement the work programme as described in Annex I, acting on his own responsibility.

### **Article I.2 Duration**

**I.2.1.** The Agreement shall enter into force on the date when the last of the two parties signs.

**I.2.2.** The period of eligibility for Community funding shall be 12 months from 01/12/2005 ("**the starting date**").

### **Article I.3 Financing the work programme**

**I.3.1.** The total costs eligible for Community funding are estimated at EUR 254 005.90 as shown in the Beneficiary's estimated operating budget in Annex II. The estimated operating budget shall show all the operating costs and receipts estimated by the Beneficiary for the period in question, making a distinction between costs eligible for Community funding and those not eligible, in accordance with the definition of eligible costs in Article II.12.

**I.3.2.** The Commission shall contribute a maximum of EUR 228 605.31 equivalent to 90.00% of the estimated total eligible costs indicated in paragraph 1. The final amount of the grant shall be determined as specified in Article II.15, without prejudice to Article II.17.

The Community grant may not finance the entire costs of implementing the work programme. The amounts and sources of cofinancing other than from Community funds shall be set out in the estimated budget referred to in paragraph 1.

**I.3.3.** By way of derogation from Article II.11, the Beneficiary may, when implementing the work programme, adjust the estimated budget by transfers between headings of eligible costs, provided that this adjustment of expenditure does not affect implementation of the work programme and the transfer between headings does not exceed 20% of the amount of each heading of eligible costs as shown in the estimated budget, and without exceeding the total eligible costs indicated in paragraph 1. He shall inform the Commission in writing.

### **Article I.4 Payment arrangements**

#### **I.4.1. Pre-financing**

Within 45 days of the date when the last of the two parties signs the Agreement a pre-financing payment shall be made to the Beneficiary, representing 40% of the amount specified in Article I.3.2.

#### **I.4.2. Further pre-financing payment(s)**

Pre-financing may be paid in several instalments. In that case, payment of each further instalment may not be made until at least 70% of the previous pre-financing payment has been used up.

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Every request for payment of a further pre-financing instalment must be accompanied by the documents specified in Article II.13.2 and by a progress report on the implementation of the work programme as well as an external audit report on the Beneficiary's accounts for the period in question.

Within 45 days after the Commission receives the request for payment of a further instalment, together with the documents referred to in the previous subparagraph, a pre-financing payment equivalent shall be made to the Beneficiary. In no circumstances may the cumulated further pre-financing payments exceed 40% of the amount specified in Article I.3.2.

#### **I.4.3. Interim payment(s)**

Not applicable.

#### **I.4.4. Payment of the balance**

The request for payment of the balance shall be accompanied by the final activity report and financial statement specified in Article II.13.4 and by an external audit report on the Beneficiary's accounts for the period in question.

The Commission shall have 45 days to approve or reject the activity report or to request additional supporting documents or information under the procedure laid down in Article II.13.4. In that case the Beneficiary shall have 30 days to submit the additional information or a new report.

A payment representing the balance of the grant determined in accordance with Article II.15 shall be made to the Beneficiary within 45 days following approval by the Commission of the activity report accompanying the request for payment of the balance. The Commission may suspend the period for payment in accordance with the procedure in Article II.14.2.

### **Article I.5 Submission of reports and other documents**

The technical implementation reports, financial statements and other documents referred to in Article I.4 must be submitted in 3 copies in English on the following dates:

- Progress report on implementation of the work programme and detailed statement of the costs incurred: at the request for further pre-financing payment and, at the latest, within 2 months following the date when the utilisation of pre-financing reaches the level specified in Article I.4.2;
- Final activity report and financial statement: at the request for final payment and, at the latest, within 3 months following the end of the period of eligibility for Community funding specified in Article I.2.2.

### **Article I.6 Bank account**

Payments shall be made to the Beneficiary's bank account or sub-account denominated in euro <sup>1</sup>, as indicated below <sup>2</sup>:

- name of bank:
- address of branch:
- exact designation of account holder:
- full account number including codes:
- IBAN or, if non available, BIC code:



This account or sub-account must identify the payments made by the Commission. If the funds paid to this account yield interest or equivalent benefits under the law of the State on whose territory the account is opened, such interest or benefits shall, if they are generated by pre-financing payments, be recovered by the Commission as specified in Article II.14.4.

<sup>1</sup> Except in the case of bank accounts in countries that do not accept euro transactions.

<sup>2</sup> As shown by the account identification document issued or certified by the bank concerned.

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## Article I.7 **General administrative provisions**

Any communication in connection with this Agreement shall be in writing, indicating the number of the Agreement, and shall be sent to the following addresses:

***For the Commission***

European Commission  
Directorate-General Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities  
EMPL/E/2  
B-1049 Brussels (Belgium)

Ordinary mail shall be considered to have been received by the Commission on the date on which it is formally registered by the Commission unit responsible referred to above

***For the Beneficiary***

Ms. Catriona WILLIAMS  
President  
EUROCHILD AISBL  
RUE DE LA CONCORDE 53  
B-1050 BRUXELLES  
BELGIUM

## Article I.8 **Law applicable and competent court**

This Grant is governed by the terms of the agreement, the Community rules applicable and, on a secondary level, by the law of Belgium relating to grants.

The beneficiary may bring legal proceedings regarding decisions by the Commission concerning the application of the provisions of the Agreement and the arrangements for implementing it before the Court of First Instance of the European Communities and, in the event of appeal, the Court of Justice of the European Communities.

## Article I.9 **Other special conditions**

***Additional special conditions***

No extension will be allowed to the first year's grant agreement. Beneficiaries of a first year grant agreement shall ask for the renewal of the grant agreement for a second year by 15th October 2006. For this purpose, the beneficiary shall supply an updated interim activity report, an updated interim financial statement as well as PART I, PART II and PART III of the current application form for the specific year two of the action. An update to other requested documents under the current call, if applicable, might also be requested.

A progress report must be submitted at the latest within 2 months following half of the execution period mentioned in Article I.2.2 even if no second pre-financing is requested.

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## II.

## General conditions

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### PART A Legal and administrative provisions

#### Article II.1 Liability

**II.1.1.** The beneficiary shall have sole responsibility for complying with any legal obligations incumbent on him.

**II.1.2.** The Commission shall not, in any circumstances or on any grounds, be held liable in the event of a claim under the agreement relating to any damage caused in the implementation of the work programme. Consequently, the Commission will not entertain any request for indemnity or reimbursement accompanying any such claim.

**II.1.3.** Except in cases of *force majeure*, the beneficiary shall make good any damage sustained by the Commission as a result of the implementation or faulty implementation of the work programme.

**II.1.4.** The beneficiary shall bear sole liability vis-à-vis third parties, including for damage of any kind sustained by them while the work programme is being implemented.

#### Article II.2 Conflict of Interests

The beneficiary undertakes to take all the necessary measures to prevent any risk of conflicts of interests which could affect the impartial and objective performance of the agreement. Such conflict of interests could arise in particular as a result of economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional reasons, or any other shared interest.

Any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interests during the implementation of the agreement must be brought to the attention of the Commission, in writing, without delay. The beneficiary shall undertake to take whatever steps are necessary to rectify this situation at once. The Commission reserves the right to check that the measures taken are appropriate and may demand that the beneficiary take additional measures, if necessary, within a certain time.

#### Article II.3 Confidentiality

The Commission and the beneficiary undertake to preserve the confidentiality of any document, information or other material directly related to the subject of the agreement that is duly classed as confidential, if disclosure could cause prejudice to the other party. The parties shall remain bound by this obligation beyond the period covered by Community funding.

#### Article II.4 Publicity

**II.4.1.** Unless the Commission requests otherwise, any communication or publication by the beneficiary about the implementation of the work programme, including at a conference or seminar, shall indicate that it has received funding from the Community.

Any communication or publication by the beneficiary, in any form and medium, shall indicate that sole responsibility lies with the author and that the Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

**II.4.2.** The beneficiary authorises the Commission to publish the following information in any form and medium, including via the Internet:

- the beneficiary's name and the address,
- the subject and purpose of the grant,
- the amount granted and the proportion of the beneficiary's total operating budget covered by the funding.

Upon a reasoned and duly substantiated request by the beneficiary, the Commission may agree to forgo such publicity if disclosure of the information indicated above would risk compromising the beneficiary's security or prejudicing his commercial interests.

## **Article II.5 Evaluation**

Whenever the Commission carries out an interim or final evaluation of the grant's impact measured against the objectives of the Community programme concerned, the beneficiary undertakes to make available to the Commission and/or persons authorised by it all such documents or information as will allow the evaluation to be successfully completed and to give them the rights of access specified in Article II.17.

## **Article II.6 Force Majeure**

**II.6.1.** *Force majeure* shall mean any unforeseeable exceptional situation or event beyond the parties' control which prevents either of them from fulfilling any of their obligations under the agreement, was not attributable to error or negligence on their part, and proves insurmountable in spite of all due diligence. Defects in equipment or material or delays in making them available (unless due to *force majeure*), labour disputes, strikes or financial difficulties cannot be invoked as *force majeure* by the defaulting party.

**II.6.2.** A party faced with *force majeure* shall inform the other party without delay by registered letter with advice of delivery or equivalent, stating the nature, probable duration and foreseeable effects.

**II.6.3.** Neither of the parties shall be held in breach of their obligations under the agreement if they are prevented from fulfilling them by *force majeure*. The parties shall make every effort to minimise any damage due to *force majeure*.

## **Article II.7 Award of Contracts**

**II.7.1.** If the beneficiary has to conclude contracts in order to implement the work programme and they involve eligible costs for the operating budget, he shall seek competitive tenders from potential contractors and award the contract to the bid offering best value for money; in doing so he shall observe the principles of transparency and equal treatment of potential contractors and shall take care to avoid any conflict of interests.

**II.7.2.** Contracts as referred to in paragraph 1 may be awarded only in the following cases:

- (a) they may only cover the execution of a limited part of the work programme;
- (b) recourse to the award of contracts must be justified having regard to the nature of the tasks covered by the work programme and what is necessary for its implementation;
- (c) the tasks concerned must be set out in Annex I and the corresponding estimated costs must be set out in detail in the budget in Annex II;
- (d) any recourse to the award of contracts while the work programme is being implemented shall be subject to prior written authorisation by the Commission;

- (e) the beneficiary shall retain sole responsibility for implementing the work programme and for compliance with the provisions of the agreement. The beneficiary must undertake to make the necessary arrangements to ensure that the contractor waives all rights in respect of the Commission under the agreement;
- (f) the beneficiary must undertake to ensure that the conditions applicable to him under Articles II.1, II.2, II.3, II.4, II.5, II.8 and II.17 of the agreement are also applicable to the contractor.

## **Article II.8 Assignment**

Claims against the Commission may not be transferred.

In exceptional circumstances, where the situation warrants it, the Commission may authorise the assignment to a third party of the agreement and payments flowing from it following a written request to that effect, giving reasons, from the beneficiary. If the Commission agrees, it must make its agreement known in writing before the proposed assignment takes place. In the absence of the above authorisation, or in the event of failure to observe the terms thereof, the assignment shall not be enforceable against and shall have no effect on the Commission. In no circumstances shall such an assignment release the beneficiary from his obligations to the Commission.

## **Article II.9 Termination of the Agreement**

### **II.9.1. Termination by the beneficiary**

In duly justified cases, the beneficiary may withdraw his request for a grant and terminate the agreement at any time by giving 60 days' written notice stating the reasons, without being required to furnish any indemnity on this account. If no reasons are given or if the Commission does not accept the reasons, the beneficiary shall be deemed to have cancelled this agreement improperly, with the consequences set out in the third subparagraph of paragraph 4.

### **II.9.2. Termination by the Commission**

The Commission may decide to terminate the agreement, without any indemnity on its part, in the following circumstances:

- (a) in the event of a legal, financial, technical or organisational change in the beneficiary's situation that is liable to affect the agreement substantially or to call into question the decision to award the grant;
- (b) if the beneficiary fails to fulfil a substantial obligation incumbent on him under the terms of the agreement, including its annexes;
- (c) in the event of *force majeure*, notified in accordance with Article II.6;
- (d) if the beneficiary is declared bankrupt, is being wound up or is the subject of any other similar proceedings;
- (e) if the beneficiary is found guilty of an offence involving his professional conduct by a judgment having the force of *res judicata* or if he is guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any justified means;
- (f) if the beneficiary is guilty of misrepresentation or submits reports inconsistent with reality to obtain the grant provided for in the agreement;
- (g) if the beneficiary has intentionally or by negligence committed a substantial irregularity in performing the agreement or in the event of fraud, corruption or any other illegal activity on the part of the beneficiary to the detriment of the Communities' financial interests. A substantial irregularity consists of any infringement of a provision of an agreement or regulation resulting from an act or an omission on the part of the beneficiary which causes or might cause a loss to the Community budget.

### **II.9.3. Termination procedure**

The procedure is initiated by registered letter with advice of delivery or equivalent.

In the cases referred to in points (a), (b) and (d) of paragraph 2, the beneficiary shall have 30 days to submit his observations and take any measures necessary to ensure continued fulfilment of his obligations under the agreement. If the Commission fails to confirm acceptance of these observations by giving written approval within 30 days of receiving them, the procedure shall continue to run.



Where notice is given, termination shall take effect at the end of the period of notice, which shall start to run from the date when notification of the Commission's decision to terminate the agreement is received.

If notice is not given in the cases referred to in points (c), (e), (f) and (g) of paragraph 2, termination shall take effect from the day following the date on which notification of the Commission's decision to terminate the agreement is received.

#### **II.9.4. Effects of termination**

In the event of termination, payments by the Commission shall be limited to the eligible costs actually incurred by the beneficiary up to the date when termination takes effect in accordance with the provisions of Article II.15. Costs relating to current commitments that are not due to be executed until after termination shall not be taken into account.

The beneficiary shall have 60 days from the date when termination takes effect, as notified by the Commission, to produce a request for final payment in accordance with Article II.13.4. If no request for final payment is received within this time limit, the Commission shall not reimburse the expenditure incurred by the beneficiary up to the date of termination and it shall recover any amount if its use is not substantiated by the activity reports and financial statements approved by the Commission.

By way of exception, at the end of the period of notice referred to in paragraph 3, when the Commission is terminating the agreement on the grounds that the beneficiary has failed to produce the final activity report and financial statement within the deadline stipulated in Article I.5 and the beneficiary has still not complied with this obligation within two months following the written reminder sent by the Commission by registered letter with advice of delivery or equivalent, the Commission shall not reimburse the expenditure incurred by the beneficiary up to the end of the period of eligibility for Community funding and it shall recover any amount if its use is not substantiated by the activity reports and financial statements approved by the Commission.

By way of exception, in the event of improper termination by the beneficiary or termination by the Commission on the grounds set out in points (e), (f) or (g) of paragraph 2, the Commission may require the partial or total repayment of sums already paid under the agreement on the basis of the activity reports and financial statements approved by the Commission, in proportion to the gravity of the failings in question and after allowing the beneficiary to submit his observations.

### **Article II.10 Financial Penalties**

By virtue of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities, any beneficiary declared to be in grave breach of his obligations under the agreement shall be liable to financial penalties of between 2% and 10% of the value of the grant in question, with due regard for the principle of proportionality. This rate may be increased to between 4% and 20 % in the event of a repeated breach in the five years following the first. The beneficiary shall be notified in writing of any decision by the Commission to apply such financial penalties.

### **Article II.11 Supplementary Agreements**

**II.11.1.** Any amendment to the grant must be the subject of a written supplementary agreement. No oral agreement may bind the parties to this effect.

**II.11.2.** The supplementary agreement may not have the purpose or the effect of making changes to the agreement which might call into question the decision awarding the grant or result in unequal treatment of applicants.

**II.11.3.** If the amendment is requested by the beneficiary, he must send it to the Commission in good time before it is due to take effect and at all events one month before the date on which eligibility for Community funding ends, except in cases duly substantiated by the beneficiary and accepted by the Commission.

## **PART B Financial Provisions**

### **Article II.12 Eligible Costs**

**II.12.1.** To be considered eligible for Community funding, costs must satisfy the following general criteria:

- they must be directly connected with the subject of the agreement and they must be provided for in the estimated budget annexed to it;
- they must be necessary for implementation of the work programme covered by the agreement;
- they must be reasonable and justified and they must accord with the principles of sound financial management, in particular in terms of value for money and cost-effectiveness;
- they must be generated during the period of eligibility for Community funding as specified in Article I.2.2 of the agreement;
- they must be actually incurred by the beneficiary, be recorded in his accounts in accordance with the applicable accounting principles, and be declared in accordance with the requirements of the applicable tax and social legislation;
- they must be identifiable and verifiable.

The beneficiary's internal accounting and auditing procedures must permit a direct reconciliation of the costs and revenue declared in respect of the work programme with the corresponding accounting statements and supporting documents.

**II.12.2.** In particular, the following operating costs are eligible provided that they satisfy the criteria set out in the previous paragraph:

- the cost of staff, comprising actual salaries plus social security charges and other statutory costs included in the remuneration, provided that this does not exceed the average rates corresponding to the beneficiary's usual policy on remuneration;
- travel and subsistence allowances for staff, provided that they are in line with the beneficiary's usual practices on travel costs or do not exceed the scales approved annually by the Commission;
- the purchase cost of equipment (new or second-hand), provided that it is written off in accordance with the tax and accounting rules applicable to the beneficiary and generally accepted for items of the same kind. Only the portion of the equipment's depreciation corresponding to the period of eligibility for Community funding covered by the agreement may be taken into account by the Commission, except where the nature and/or the context of its use justifies different treatment by the Commission;
- costs of consumables and supplies;
- costs entailed by other contracts awarded by the beneficiary for the purposes of implementing the work programme, provided that the conditions laid down in Article II.7 are met;
- costs arising directly from requirements imposed by the agreement (in particular, audit costs), including the costs of any financial services (especially the cost of financial guarantees);
- overheads.

**II.12.3.** The following costs shall not be considered eligible:

- capital increases and return on capital;
- debt and debt service charges;
- provisions;
- interest owed;
- doubtful debts;
- exchange losses;
- VAT, unless the beneficiary can show that he is unable to recover it;
- costs declared and covered by a specific action receiving a Community grant;
- excessive or reckless expenditure.

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**II.12.4.** Contributions in kind shall not constitute eligible costs. However, the Commission can accept, in duly substantiated exceptional cases, that the cofinancing of the work programme referred to in Article I.3.2 should be made up entirely or in part of contributions in kind. In this case, the value calculated for such contributions must not exceed:

- the costs actually borne and duly supported by accounting documents of the third parties who made these contributions to the beneficiary free of charge but bear the corresponding costs;
- the costs generally accepted on the market in question for the type of contribution concerned when no costs are borne.

Contributions involving buildings shall not be covered by this possibility.

In the case of cofinancing in kind, a financial value shall be placed on the contributions and the same amount will be included in the costs of the work programme as ineligible costs and in receipts of the work programme as cofinancing in kind. The beneficiary shall undertake to obtain these contributions as provided for in the agreement.

## **Article II.13    Requests for Payment**

Payments shall be made in accordance with Article I.4 of the Special Conditions.

### **II.13.1.   Pre-financing**

Pre-financing is intended to provide the beneficiary with a float.

Where required by the provisions of Article I.4 on pre-financing, the beneficiary shall furnish a financial guarantee from a bank or an approved financial institution established in one of the Member States of the European Union.

The guarantor shall stand as first call guarantor and shall not require the Commission to have recourse against the principal debtor (the beneficiary).

The financial guarantee shall remain in force until final payments by the Commission match the proportion of the total grant accounted for by pre-financing. The Commission undertakes to release the guarantee within 30 days following that date.

### **II.13.2.   Further pre-financing payments**

Where pre-financing is divided into several instalments, the beneficiary may request a further pre-financing payment once he has used up the percentage of the previous payment specified in the provisions of Article I.4 on further pre-financing. The request shall be accompanied by the following documents:

- a detailed statement of the eligible costs actually incurred;
- where required by the above-mentioned provisions of Article I.4, a financial guarantee in accordance with paragraph 1;
- where required by the above-mentioned provisions of Article I.4, an external audit report on the beneficiary's accounts. The external audit shall be carried out by an independent body or expert officially authorised to carry out audits of accounts. The purpose of the audit is to certify that the financial documents submitted to the Commission by the beneficiary comply with the financial provisions of the agreement, that the costs declared are the actual costs, and that all receipts have been declared;
- any other documents in support of his request that may be required by the Special Conditions in support of the request for further pre-financing payments.

The documents accompanying the request for payment shall be drawn up in accordance with the relevant provisions in Article I.5 and the annexes.

### **II.13.3.   Interim payments**

Interim payments are intended to reimburse the beneficiary for expenditure on the basis of a detailed statement of the costs incurred, once the work programme has reached a certain level of completion. It may clear all or part of any prefinancing.

By the appropriate deadline indicated in Article I.5, the beneficiary shall submit a request for interim payment accompanied by the following documents:

- an interim report on implementation of the work programme;
- an interim financial statement of the eligible costs actually incurred, following the structure of the estimated budget;
- where required by the provisions of Article I.4 on interim payment, an external audit report on the beneficiary's accounts. The external audit shall be carried out by an independent body or expert officially authorised to carry out audits of accounts. The purpose of the audit is to certify that the financial documents submitted to the Commission by the beneficiary comply with the financial provisions of the agreement, that the costs declared are the actual costs, and that all receipts have been declared.

The documents accompanying the request for payment shall be drawn up in accordance with the relevant provisions in Article I.5 and the annexes. If an external audit of the beneficiary's accounts is not required, the beneficiary himself shall certify that the financial documents submitted to the Commission comply with the financial provisions of the agreement, that the costs declared are the actual costs, and that all receipts have been declared.

On receipt of these documents, the Commission shall have the period specified in Article I.4 in order to:

- approve the interim report on implementation of the work programme;
- ask the beneficiary for supporting documents or any additional information it deems necessary to allow the approval of the report;
- reject the report and ask for the submission of a new report.

Failing a written reply from the Commission within the time limit for scrutiny indicated above, the report shall be deemed to have been approved. Approval of the report accompanying the request for payment shall not imply recognition of their regularity or of the authenticity, completeness and correctness of the declarations and information they contain.

Requests for additional information or a new report shall be notified to the beneficiary in writing. The beneficiary shall have the period laid down in Article I.4 to submit the information or new documents requested. If additional information is requested, the time limit for scrutiny shall be extended by the time it takes to obtain this information. Where a report is rejected and a new report requested, the approval procedure described in this article shall apply. In the event of renewed rejection, the Commission reserves the right to terminate the agreement by invoking Article II.9.2(b).

#### **II.13.4. Payment of the balance**

Payment of the balance, which may not be repeated, is made after the end of the period of eligibility for Community funding on the basis of the costs actually incurred by the beneficiary in carrying out the work programme. It may take the form of a recovery order where the total amount of earlier payments is greater than the amount of the final grant determined in accordance with Article II.15.

By the appropriate deadline indicated in Article I.5, the beneficiary shall submit a request for payment of the balance accompanied by the following documents:

- a final report on implementation of the work programme;
- a final financial statement of the eligible costs actually incurred, following the structure of the estimated budget;
- a full summary statement of the receipts and expenditure in the beneficiary's accounts for the period of eligibility covered by the agreement;
- where required by the provisions of Article I.4 on payment of the balance, an external audit report on the beneficiary's accounts. The external audit shall be carried out by an independent body or expert officially authorised to carry out audits of accounts. The purpose of the audit is to certify that the financial documents submitted to the Commission by the beneficiary comply with the financial provisions of the agreement, that the costs declared are the actual costs, and that all receipts have been declared.

The documents accompanying the request for payment shall be drawn up in accordance with the relevant provisions in Article I.5 and the annexes. If an external audit of the beneficiary's accounts is not required, the beneficiary himself shall certify that the financial documents submitted to the

Commission comply with the financial provisions of the agreement, that the costs declared are the actual costs, and that all receipts have been declared.

On receipt of these documents, the Commission shall have the period specified in Article I.4 in order to:

- approve the final report on implementation of the work programme;
- ask the beneficiary for supporting documents or any additional information it deems necessary to allow the approval of the report;
- reject the report and ask for the submission of a new report.

Failing a written reply from the Commission within the time limit for scrutiny indicated above, the report shall be deemed to have been approved. Approval of the report accompanying the request for payment shall not imply recognition of their regularity or of the authenticity, completeness and correctness of the declarations and information they contain.

Requests for additional information or a new report shall be notified to the beneficiary in writing. The beneficiary shall have the period laid down in Article I.4 to submit the information or new documents requested. If additional information is requested, the time limit for scrutiny shall be extended by the time it takes to obtain this information. Where a report is rejected and a new report requested, the approval procedure described in this article shall apply. In the event of renewed rejection, the Commission reserves the right to terminate the agreement by invoking Article II.9.2(b).

## **Article II.14 General Provisions on Payments**

**II.14.1.** Payments shall be made by the Commission in euro. Any conversion of actual costs into euro shall be made at the daily rate published in the Official Journal of the European Union or, failing that, at the monthly accounting rate established by the Commission and published on its website applicable on the day when the payment order is issued by the Commission, unless the Special Conditions of the agreement lay down specific provisions.

Payments by the Commission shall be deemed to be effected on the date when they are debited to the Commission's account.

**II.14.2.** The Commission may suspend the period for payment laid down in Article I.4 at any time by notifying the beneficiary that his request for payment is not admissible, either because it does not comply with the provisions of the agreement, or because the appropriate supporting documents have not been produced, or because there is a suspicion that some of the expenses in the request for payment are not eligible and additional checks are being conducted.

The Commission may also suspend its payments at any time if the beneficiary is found or presumed to have infringed the provisions of the agreement, in particular in the wake of the audits and checks provided for in Article II.17.

The Commission shall inform the beneficiary of any such suspension by registered letter with advice of delivery or equivalent. Suspension shall take effect on the date when the letter is sent by the Commission. The remaining payment period shall start to run again from the date when a properly constituted request for payment is registered, when the supporting documents requested are received, or at the end of the suspension period as notified by the Commission.

**II.14.3.** On expiry of the period for payment specified in Article I.4, and without prejudice to paragraph 2 of this Article, the beneficiary may, within two months following the date of receipt of a late payment, request payment of interest on the late payment at the rate applied by the European Central Bank for its main refinancing operations in euros, plus three and a half points; the reference rate to which the increase applies shall be the rate in force on the first day of the month of the final date for payment, as published in the C series of the Official Journal of the European Union. This provision shall not apply to recipients of a grant which are public authorities of the Member States of the European Union.

Interest on late payment shall cover the period from the final date for payment, exclusive, up to the date of payment as defined in paragraph 1, inclusive. The interest shall not be treated as a receipt for

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the purposes of determining the final grant within the meaning of Article II.15.4. The suspension of payment by the Commission may not be considered as late payment.

**II.14.4.** The beneficiary shall inform the Commission of the amount of any interest or equivalent benefits yielded by the pre-financing it has received from the Commission. Notification must be made annually if the interest in question represents a significant amount, and in any event when the request is made for interim payment or for payment of the balance that clears the pre-financing. The interest shall not be treated as a receipt within the meaning of Article II.15.4. The Commission shall issue a recovery order in respect of it in accordance with Article II.16.

**II.14.5.** The beneficiary shall have two months from the date of notification by the Commission of the final amount of the grant determining the amount of the payment of the balance or the recovery order in application of Article II.15, or failing that of the date on which the payment of the balance was received, to request information in writing on the determination of the final grant, giving reasons for any disagreement. After this time such requests will no longer be considered. The Commission undertakes to reply in writing within two months following the date on which the request for information is received, giving reasons for its reply. This procedure is without prejudice to the beneficiary's right to appeal against the Commission's decision pursuant to Article I.8. Under the terms of Community legislation in this matter, such appeals must be lodged within two months following the notification of the decision to the applicant or, failing that, following the date on which the applicant learned of the decision.

## **Article II.15 Determining the Final Grant**

**II.15.1.** Without prejudice to information obtained subsequently pursuant to Article II.17, the Commission shall adopt the amount of the final payment to be granted to the beneficiary on the basis of the documents referred to in Article II.13.4 which it has approved.

**II.15.2.** The total amount paid to the beneficiary by the Commission may not in any circumstances exceed the maximum amount of the grant laid down in Article I.3.2, even if the total actual costs eligible exceed the estimated total eligible costs specified in Article I.3.1.

**II.15.3.** If the actual eligible costs at the end of the period of eligibility are lower than the estimated total eligible costs, the Commission's contribution shall be limited to the amount obtained by applying the Community grant percentage specified in Article I.3.2 to the actual eligible costs approved by the Commission.

**II.15.4.** The beneficiary hereby agrees that the grant shall be limited to the amount necessary to balance the receipts and expenditure in the operating budget which allows the work programme to be implemented and that it may not in any circumstances produce a profit for him. Profit shall mean any surplus of the beneficiary's total actual operating receipts over his total actual operating costs. The actual costs to be taken into account shall be those which have been established, generated or confirmed on the date on which the request for payment of the balance is drawn up by the beneficiary for financing other than the Community grant, to which shall be added the amount of the grant determined by applying the principles laid down in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this article. For the purposes of this article, only operating costs shown in the beneficiary's financial statements and falling within the categories set out in the estimated budget referred to in Article I.3.1 and contained in Annex II shall be taken into account; non-eligible costs shall always be covered by non-Community resources.

Any surplus determined in this way shall result in a corresponding reduction in the amount of the grant.

**II.15.5.** Without prejudice to the right to terminate the agreement under Article II.9, and without prejudice to the right of the Commission to apply the penalties referred to in Article II.10, if the approved work programme is not implemented or is implemented poorly, partially or late, the Commission may reduce the grant initially provided for in line with the actual implementation of the work programme on the terms laid down in this agreement.

**II.15.6.** On the basis of the amount of the final payment determined in this way and of the aggregate amount of the payments already made under the terms of the agreement, the Commission shall set

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the amount of the payment of the balance as being the amount still owing to the beneficiary. Where the aggregate amount of the payments already made exceeds the amount of the final grant, the Commission shall issue a recovery order for the surplus.

## **Article II.16 Recovery**

**II.16.1.** If any amount is unduly paid to the beneficiary or if recovery is justified under the terms of the agreement, the beneficiary undertakes to repay the Commission the sum in question on whatever terms and by whatever date it may specify.

**II.16.2.** If the beneficiary fails to pay by the date set by the Commission, the sum due shall bear interest at the rate indicated in Article II.14.3. Interest on late payment shall cover the period between the date set for payment, exclusive, and the date when the Commission receives full payment of the amount owed, inclusive. This provision shall not apply to recipients of a grant which are public authorities of the Member States of the European Union.

Any partial payment shall first be entered against charges and interest on late payment and then against the principal.

**II.16.3.** If payment has not been made by the due date, sums owed to the Commission may be recovered by offsetting them against any sums owed to the beneficiary, after informing him accordingly by registered letter with advice of delivery or equivalent, or by calling in the financial guarantee provided in accordance with Article II.13.1. The beneficiary's prior consent shall not be required.

**II.16.4.** Bank charges occasioned by the recovery of the sums owed to the Commission shall be borne solely by the beneficiary.

**II.16.5.** The beneficiary understands that under Article 256 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, the Commission may adopt an enforceable decision formally establishing an amount as receivable from persons other than States. An action may be brought against such decision before the Court of First Instance of the European Communities.

## **Article II.17 Checks and Audits**

**II.17.1.** The beneficiary undertakes to provide any detailed information requested by the Commission or by any other outside body authorised by the Commission to check that the work programme and the provisions of the agreement are being properly implemented.

**II.17.2.** The beneficiary shall keep at the Commission's disposal all original documents, especially accounting and tax records, or, in exceptional and duly justified cases, certified copies of original documents relating to the agreement for a period of five years from the date of payment of the balance specified in Article I.4.

**II.17.3.** The beneficiary agrees that the Commission may have an audit of the use made of the grant carried out either directly by its own staff or by any other outside body authorised to do so on its behalf. Such audits may be carried out throughout the period of implementation of the agreement until the balance is paid and for a period of five years from the date of payment of the balance. Where appropriate, the audit findings may lead to recovery decisions by the Commission.

**II.17.4.** The beneficiary undertakes to allow Commission staff and outside persons authorised by the Commission the appropriate right of access to the beneficiary's premises and to all the information, including information in electronic format, needed in order to conduct such audits.

**II.17.5.** By virtue of Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 and Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and the Council, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) may also carry out on-the-spot checks and inspections in accordance with the procedures laid down by Community law for the protection of the financial interests of the European Communities against fraud and other

irregularities. Where appropriate, the inspection findings may lead to recovery decisions by the Commission.

The European Court of Auditors shall have the same rights as the Commission, notably right of access, as regards checks and audits.

#### Signatures

1. For the Beneficiary,  
Ms. Catriona WILLIAMS  
President  
EUROCHILD AISBL

2. For the Commission,  
Adam TYSON  
Head of Unit  
Employment, Social Affairs and Equal  
Opportunities DG

*Cat Williams*

*Adam Tyson*

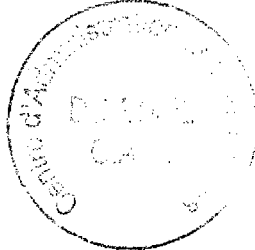
Done at *Brussels, Belgium* (place)

Done at Brussels

*14/12/05* (date)

*16.12.05* (date)

In duplicate, in English.



19-12-2005



## ANNEX I Beneficiary's work programme

### SECTION II

#### Programme description and justification

##### 2.1 Description of the activities of your organisation for which the subsidy is requested.

Please enclose a detailed programme of anticipated activities for the organisation's 2005-2006 period. This should cover all activities such as: co-ordination of actions between members, gathering of opinions and information from member association, annual meetings, information measures for members (newsletter, etc), preparation of reports, publications, etc.

Please note that you are requested to justify all activities and costs incurred in the year of operation. The renewal of the subsidy convention will depend on several conditions among which feature the submission of updated interim reports and the approval by the Commission of a work programme and a provisional budget for the period 2006-2007.

Please also indicate for each activity a description of the activity in question, its objectives and target audience, clear indication on the effective and substantial participation of people exposed to social exclusion and poverty.

Please also indicate tasks related to the activities of the organisation which the applicant intends to sub-contract to another third party organisation/company/association.

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Eurochild AISBL was formally launched in the summer of 2004 and is a legally constituted international non-profit organisation with its Secretariat in Brussels. During the past couple of years Eurochild AISBL has established itself as an international non-profit-making children's organisation, actively contributing to the fight against child poverty and social exclusion at European and national levels. Our work is underpinned by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and we are recognised as taking a children's rights approach to our child poverty work. Our network of organisations in membership has expanded to 32 organisations in membership from sixteen European countries.

In many aspects the past couple of years have been years of good progress. In particular the launch of Eurochild AISBL, (emanating from the former European Forum for Child Welfare (EFCW), the development of the Brussels office, the start of the child poverty work programme and the first annual conference have been important. But most important has been the commitment and participation of our members and their willingness to be active in our Child Poverty Work Programmes: "Combating Child Poverty in Europe – Making It A Reality" and "Fighting Child Poverty: let's include them!".

The period from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2005 till 30<sup>th</sup> November 2006 will be a period of delivery, seeking sustainability, further development of our activities and expansion of the current network of member organisations throughout the 25 EU Member States and candidate countries. We aim to grow considerably during the period which should mean an increase in co-funding available to us and thus potential capacity to seek extra funds from the Commission although we realise that this would occur during the middle of the period 2005-2007.

Figures show that in the EU, 19% of children aged between 0 and 15 are at risk of poverty in the former EU 15 MS, and 20% in the 10 new MS. Not only does poverty affect the development of the child in terms of health, education, psycho-social well-being, participation in culture, sport, recreation activities, but it also undermines its future prospects and lifetime chances. Therefore the fight against child poverty and social exclusion of children stays at the heart of our activities.

The past two years monitoring and assessment of the National Action Plans on Social Inclusion (NAPs/Inclusion), as an instrument of alleviating child poverty and social exclusion, from the

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perspective of the welfare and the rights of children formed a key element of our child poverty programme. It is our belief that a rights-based approach makes a critical connection between poverty, social exclusion and the ability to exercise rights and importantly, identifies the shared responsibility of families and the state in upholding and enforcing those rights. It presumes children to be young citizens who have a right to be heard and who can make a contribution to society.

In 2004 the NAPs/Inclusion programme focused on the context and extent to which children and young people are considered in the planning process. The findings from the assessment are accessible through our website.

Building on the work already undertaken, we are focusing on the implementation of the NAPs/Inclusion, in the current year 2005, to assess their effectiveness in addressing child poverty and social exclusion. Strategies which maximise their impact as an instrument of change will be identified and examples of transferable models of good practice will be shared.

## 2. RATIONALE

Last year's assessment showed that, in general, children and young people are not regarded as actors in the NAPs/Inclusion process. At best, if children and young people are considered at all, their views are represented by children and youth organisations. Only in a minority of countries surveyed are children and young people regarded as a group in their own right and consulted about issues which affect them. There is still a prevailing view in many countries that children's needs are best determined and met by parents and adults. Our key recommendations are the following:

Child poverty is not just about vulnerable groups of children and young people. It is a "horizontal" issue and needs to be mainstreamed in the planning process.

The UNCRC should underpin the planning process to achieve a rights-based approach to the fight against child poverty.

Children and young people should be recognised as actors in the planning process and their participation facilitated. Children and young people may have very different views than adults of what it means to grow up poor, how poverty affects them and what they need to cope.

The plans should be predicated on indicators of child poverty informed by what children and young people themselves say is important to them.

Combating poverty and social exclusion among children and young people requires in the first place that child poverty is acknowledged as a social problem and set as a political priority. In fact, research (cfr. A thematic study using trans-national comparisons to analyse and identify what combination of policy responses are most successful in preventing and reducing high levels of child poverty by Petra Hölscher) clearly shows that those countries that have the lowest child poverty rates or put effort in reducing high levels of child poverty have children and/or child poverty high on the political agenda.

Above this there are some encouraging experiences where policies to reduce child poverty and social exclusion are based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and give children the opportunity to participate in the policy making process that affect their lives. But in most EU-Member States children and young people are still invariably forgotten in relation to policy development.

The objective of EUROCHILD AISBL's annual work programmes is to contribute to the improvement of policies addressing child poverty and social exclusion of children and young persons at European and national levels and thereafter through to regional and local levels. At the European Council of 22-23 March 2005 it was concluded that social inclusion policy should be pursued by the Union and by Member States, with its multifaceted approach, focusing on target groups such as children in poverty. This conclusion ameliorated the political base for children's issues. Therefore Eurochild AISBL considers it its role to strengthen the awareness raising concerning child poverty and social exclusion of children and young persons by making all existing knowledge and expertise concerning these phenomena and most effective ways to combat it available to all actors in the fight against child poverty and social exclusion of children and young persons – civil society as well as policy-makers of the EU and the different EU Member States. This will make the transition from theory into practice easier. Within this framework the emphasis lies on the active participation and involvement of children and young people in processes that affect their lives.

The framework of our annual work programme consists of the following key areas:

- **policy influencing strategy:** monitoring the effectiveness of policies and actions to eradicate child poverty and social exclusion of children and young persons at a European level
- **developing membership & strengthening policy development** to combat child poverty and social exclusion of children and young persons and building membership capacity at a national and local level
- **communication & raising awareness** around child poverty and social exclusion of children and young persons and exchange of good practice
- **empowering young people** living in poverty to facilitate their participation in the development, implementation and monitoring of policy processes

### **3. POLICY INFLUENCING STRATEGY: MONITORING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF POLICIES AND ACTIONS TO ERADICATE CHILD POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS**

#### **A. ACTIVITIES**

##### **I. EU STRATEGY AGAINST POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION**

Since one of the primary objectives of Eurochild AISBL is to put the fight against child poverty and social exclusion of children and young people at the top of the political agenda of the EU, the context for our work is influenced by the realities of poverty and social exclusion in the EU Member States and by the key developments at EU-level.

In this context the following key events will be taken into account in our work programme:

The reality of an enlarged EU and two candidate countries

The implications of the debates and responses arising from the processes relating to the ratification of the EU Constitutional Treaty

The follow up and implementation of the revised Lisbon strategy with its focus on Jobs and Growth based on Integrated Guidelines

The follow-up and implementation of integrative strategies in EU-policy fields such as education, citizenship, health etc.

The renewed OMC on Social Protection and Social inclusion

The identification of priorities for the EU Inclusion Strategy in the Joint Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion, the Communication on the Streamlined objectives for the OMC on Social Protection and Social Inclusion and the preparation of the National Action Plans Inclusion 2006-2008

The implementation of the Social Agenda 2005-2010

The agreement and implementation of a revised EU Sustainable Development Strategy

The follow up of the European Youth Pact as one of the corner stones in the EU Lisbon and cohesion policy

Eurochild AISBL will continue to monitor and evaluate the EU strategy against poverty and social exclusion and contribute to its strengthening at European and national levels, wherever possible.

Eurochild AISBL's activities will be focused on the following themes and actions:

#### ***Round Table social inclusion:***

In view of the Round Table of 2006 which will coincide with the International Poverty Day on 17 October, we will work closely with our Finnish members to ensure that the Finnish authorities devote part of the conference to child poverty or issues directly related to child poverty.

#### ***Peer review seminars:***

The peer review has proved to be a valuable instrument during 2005. Eurochild AISBL was involved in the peer review on "Preventing the risks of exclusion of families with difficulties". The peer review allows in-depth trans-national comparisons on specific policy measures. Eurochild AISBL would be very interested to be actively involved in one or more peer reviews during 2006. Eurochild AISBL has of course no control on the selection of the policies for peer review but will make suggestions to the European Commission. If policies related to children's issues in general or child poverty in particular were selected, Eurochild AISBL, through its membership, would offer its expertise and knowledge.

#### ***5<sup>th</sup> People Experiencing Poverty meeting:***

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Eurochild AISBL was given the chance to let the voice of children and young persons heard at the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of people experiencing poverty under the Luxembourg Presidency. This however was a disappointing experience as only one child was allowed to present her views. We fully support the theme of the conference but we hope that during the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting more time will be devoted to the specific problem of child poverty and the active involvement of young persons. Therefore Eurochild AISBL will contact the responsible persons of the Austrian presidency in order to endeavour to get involved in the organisation of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting including a specific workshop on child poverty *with* children.

***Contribution to development of child-specific indicators:***

In spite of the incidence of child poverty and the increasing recognition that children are one of the most excluded groups, there is still a lack of specific statistical data and particularly of information about the multi-dimensional nature of child poverty on a national as well as a trans-national level. The scan data that is available on child poverty is not detailed and it is impossible to breakdown into age, gender, etc. Moreover, statistical data is often hard to compare as it is often based on different definitions of poverty and social exclusion.

Research on child poverty done by Petra Hölscher for the European Commission shows that in general, children are regarded as poor if they live in a poor household and they are seen as at risk of social exclusion if certain characteristics of their families or of themselves put them at a disadvantage.

Up until now the existing indicators are not only too economic in their scope – too income and employment based - but they also neglect children completely. When children became more and more recognised as a priority by the NAPs process, no effort was made to develop child specific indicators. Moreover, whole fields of the notion of social exclusion were not covered (fully enough) - thus health, housing, environment, education, access to services and they fail to address safety/fear of crime, mental health and well-being, happiness and self esteem, social relationships/capital, access/transport etc.

Therefore the development of common child-specific indicators to measure poverty on the national and European level will be encouraged by Eurochild AISBL and its member organisations who will actively contribute. Eurochild AISBL will also recommend that these indicators of child poverty and exclusion are informed by input from children and young people themselves.

The need to develop specific child-focused indicators moving outside the existing set of indicators and rather than simply rely on age breakdowns has been recognized by the authors (Atkinson, Cantillon, Marlier & Nolan) of in the Independent report commissioned by the Luxemburg Presidency of the Council of the EU: "Taking forward the EU social inclusion process".

In this, they followed in the footsteps of the Indicators Sub-Group of the Social Protection Committee, which has agreed to give children and the elderly population a "special focus" and has provided breakdowns by age wherever relevant and meaningful. This has been essential in highlighting the extent to which Europe's children are living at risk of poverty, and that "in most countries children experience levels of income poverty that are higher than those for adults".

Eurochild AISBL could contribute to this process of developing child-specific indicators by capitalizing on the information we gain on children's experience of poverty and social exclusion through our membership and creating a better understanding of the effects of poverty and social exclusion on their lives.

***NAPs/INCL:***

As outlined in priorities 1 and 2 of the call for proposals, a major element of our work programme in 2006 will be to play an active role in monitoring the new NAPs/Incl as well as to contribute to the preparation of the streamlined NAPs after 2006. Eurochild AISBL will therefore continue to contribute to the development of a child-centred approach to planning in the preparation, implementation and monitoring of the NAPs within the new streamlined Social Protection and Social Inclusion process. The programme will be supported by the Steering Group of members involved in the previous NAPs-assessments (2004 & 2005). Children and young people's involvement will be encouraged where possible.

The key elements of this will include:

Support our member organisations in continuing the assessment of the implementation of the EU10 2004-2006 NAPs/Inclusion from a child-specific perspective

Support our member organisations in continuing the assessment of the implementation of the updated EU15 2003-2005 NAPs/Inclusion from a child-specific perspective

Support our member organisations in influencing the preparation of the EU25 streamlined NAPs for 2006-2009 within their countries

In this context Eurochild AISBL will continue the present process of accumulation, analysis and dissemination of data relating to the NAPs through our network. We will continue our present capacity-building activities within the network to maximise impact on national policy development and increase the support to members on an individual basis to raise the profile of child-specific issues in their own countries.

This would involve:

- Continue to facilitate the work of a Steering Group to support the process, consisting of the members who were involved in previous assessments of the NAPS/Incl
- Identification of target members to be involved in the assessment in order to cover the EU25
- Elaboration of discussion document for Steering Group to inform drafting of framework for assessment
- Producing framework/research tool for data collection incorporating comments from steering group
- Supporting members in the application of this research tool
- Supporting the "bilateral partnering" between members of the EU15 & EU10
- Initiate model twinning activities between members of established and new EU Member States
- Maintaining contact with national experts
- Producing final report of findings and disseminating findings
- Producing an information kit for members' national campaigns on a child-centred approach in the new NAP-round 2006-2009

Therefore Eurochild AISBL will:

- Liaise with specialist advisers, national experts and members on the development of the framework/research tool.
- Establish a steering group consisting of the members who were involved in the assessment of last year. These members will help with the identification of other target members to be involved in the proposed work programme.
- Establish appropriate communication processes with and between members to support the application of the research tool. Maintain email/telephone contact with target membership to advise, support, progress process and encourage active participation at national level.
- Share information updates on relevant Member States implementation reporting/ update planning and National Experts' independent reports.
- Ensure that an appropriate "rights-based" focus on child poverty is maintained in the monitoring and development process and that the visibility and participation of children and young people is promoted.
- Disseminate the report of findings on the NAP's with recommendations for effective interventions to maximise their intended impact as an instrument of change. These will be supported by examples of transferable models of good practice.
- Present the findings at Eurochild's Annual conference which will be organised in Germany (see below).

#### **Studies:**

In the framework of the Community Action Programme several studies will be conducted on issues related to children's issue and/or social exclusion and poverty of children. If this year new studies on children's issues are put for tender, Eurochild AISBL will take action in order to ensure the provision of its expertise.

## **II. COMMUNICATION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

Eurochild AISBL's lobbying will focus on EU-policies related to social inclusion. We will work on all issues which are relevant to the fight against child poverty and social exclusion of children. Given that our objective is *'to promote the welfare and rights of children and young people'*, Eurochild AISBL and

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its members also attach great importance to the intention of the European Commission to elaborate a **Communication on the Protection of the Rights of the Child**. In this framework Eurochild AISBL has already been actively involved in the "Commission Brainstorming" on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2005.

Eurochild AISBL will continue lobbying in order to make sure that this communication: mainstreams the Rights of the Child as stated in the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child (1989) throughout all policies and activities of the European Union. Eurochild AISBL will ask the European Commission to pay special attention to the participation of children (Art. 12) in the EU political and democratic life, especially the more excluded ones in order to give the possibility to all European children to become fully-fledged European Citizens.

examines the social dimension. Eurochild AISBL considers that the "strategy on the protection of children" cannot be sustainable if it does not take into consideration child poverty and social exclusion of children in the European Union.

takes into consideration the necessity for coordination between the EU and Member States. Eurochild AISBL has carried out in the process of 2004 an evaluation of the NAPS/Incl. of Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands and UK. Although there is some evidence that Member States start to recognize the need for a full package of measures for children in areas such as education, health care, housing, culture, sport and leisure, family welfare and justice, in order to tackle child poverty, there is still a long way to go before the balance between the child's FUTURE prospects and a good childhood NOW is to be achieved. Therefore, Eurochild AISBL will emphasise that the European Union plays a greater role in the promotion of exchange of good practice, and data collection specifically oriented to children as well as in the planning and monitoring processes.

In the framework of these activities Eurochild AISBL works in close co-operation with other international organizations defending the rights of the child such as the European Federations of missing and exploited children, EURONET, EFSCW, Plan international, UNICEF, Terre des homes etc. Within this context Eurochild AISBL is the only network which specifically promotes the rights of the most excluded children and focuses on child poverty and social exclusion of children.

## **B. METHODOLOGY**

### **I. FOLLOW EU-POLICY DEVELOPMENTS**

Eurochild AISBL will keep up to date with the latest relevant policies/policy documents emanating from the European Parliament, European Commission, Council of Ministers, Council of Europe, UN etc. In this respect Eurochild AISBL will continue to represent its members through attendance at meetings with the European Commission and other relevant EU institutions in order to comment on policy documents and we will participate in relevant events.

Therefore we will also liaise with Members and other experts in relation to relevant developments especially relevant legal developments.

Eurochild AISBL will also support representational policy activity in relation to other European Networks such as EAPN and the Social Platform through Members and staff. And we will network with other European and national NGOs and maintain contact with National Experts.

### **II. POLICY WORKING GROUP & POLICY FORUM WITH ALL MEMBERS**

In order to determine the main policy activities of Eurochild AISBL a Policy Working Group has been established consisting of the Secretary General, the Policy Development Officer, the members of the Management Board and representatives of member organisations. This working group discusses the main policy developments, prepares Eurochild AISBL position statements in consultation with the wider membership etc. Therefore tele-conferences are organised on a regular basis. This working group will also meet preceding the Policy Forum where all members consider policy activities.

### **III. PARTNERSHIPS**

In order to further develop and strengthen our policy and lobbying activities, Eurochild AISBL will continue to co-operate with other European networks.

Eurochild AISBL is an active member of the European Anti Poverty Network and the Social Platform of NGO's.

At national levels, many of our members are the leaders in the anti child poverty alliances/campaigns and child policy advocacy strategies which bring together a wide range of agencies from the NGO and statutory sectors within their countries.

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Because child poverty and social exclusion of children is a "horizontal" issue Eurochild AISBL has close contacts with the other European networks such as Feantsa, European Youth Forum, ERIO etc. in order to cooperate in these specific fields. Eurochild AISBL also naturally has close links with specialist (networks of) organisations such as those regarding disability, ethnicity, bilingualism etc and plans to intensify & expand those links. Eurochild AISBL will also continue to work in partnership with other organisations active in the field of children's issues, especially in view of the Commission's activities in the field of Children's Rights. In this context Eurochild AISBL has established regular contacts with Euronet, EFSCW, etc.

In conclusion, our normal approach to working in fields such as poverty and social exclusion is to seek the appropriate partners for the task being undertaken so as to maximise the value of the exercise to all concerned.

#### IV. LINK WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL (NON)-GOVERNMENTAL BODIES

Eurochild AISBL's lobbying strategy will focus mainly on the EU. However child poverty and social exclusion of children is a global issue and the EU-initiatives happen often in a wider international and are often related to initiatives of other international governmental bodies. Therefore Eurochild AISBL will seek to interact with these other relevant actors at the Council of Europe and the United Nations level as well as with other relevant NGOs involved in the fight against child poverty and social exclusion of children in order to integrate our activities at the EU-level in a wider international context. This will also enable the exchange of experiences and knowledge on social exclusion and poverty of children between those organizations and the organisations in membership of Eurochild AISBL. Eurochild AISBL will present papers on child poverty at International events such as the International Forum for Child Welfare.

#### **C. RESOURCES REQUIRED**

Since June 2005 the full staff team that has worked in the Secretariat since January 2005 has been strengthened. The full staff team now includes a Secretary General (full time), Office Manager (3 days a week) and an Information & Policy Development Officer (2 x part-time = full time) based in Brussels. It is essential to provide sufficient resources to maintain the current staff plus office running costs. In order to fully utilise the expertise, user contact and policy knowledge of the membership to the child poverty programme – and in particular the NAPs-assessment – we also require some resources for consultancy time. In order to ensure the effective processing, recording, payment and presentation of Eurochild's accounts with the expansion of our activity, the recruitment of a part-time Finance officer (5 days per month) is requested. This will be a key post within the administrative division and will also assist with fundraising activities. Other supports for operational activities are also necessary, such as travel costs and interpretation services to facilitate meetings and seminars/conferences, translation and printing costs for information production and dissemination. Other supplementary sources of funding from within the network will also be sought, for example to support additional meetings.

#### **4. DEVELOPING MEMBERSHIP & STRENGTHENING POLICY DEVELOPMENT TO COMBAT CHILD POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS AND BUILDING MEMBERSHIP CAPACITY**

##### **A. ACTIVITIES**

Eurochild AISBL now has 32 members in 16 countries. During 2005 efforts are being made to attract new organisations to become members of Eurochild AISBL. In 2006 we will consolidate our network and will continue to expand it in order to ensure coverage of all EU member states. Also efforts will be made to approach organisations in the candidate countries.

The current members of Eurochild AISBL are well placed strategically (several of them being national umbrella organisations) to both support, influence and advise on policy development at different levels. Through networks in their own countries, they can have an input on the decision-making process and influence politicians in Member States at national, regional and local level. On the other hand, they also have the possibility to lobby the European Parliament in the fight against child poverty. Some members already have established national networks and considerable experience to draw upon in accessing policy-makers and opinion-formers (including the NAPs, National Experts) to influence policy development. Others may be at the beginning of this process and we recognise the crucial importance of continuing to help build capacity by sharing information and experience to build knowledge and

skills in these areas. This process will be supported by the facilitating ways of communication on the renewed website.

In line with priority 4 of the call for proposals, Eurochild AISBL will continue to strengthen the capacity of all the members to ensure that they can (continue to) contribute to EU developments based on their experience at the grass roots level in the fight against child poverty and social exclusion and to ensure that they can profit from the possibilities offered through EU policies and actions.

For Eurochild-members, the exchange of information and expertise is very valuable. Therefore, also within the framework of priority 4 of the call for proposals, we will also encourage them to develop trans-national exchange projects between themselves. Eurochild AISBL, without taking active part in this, will help the member organisations to prepare European projects under the EU calls for proposals. Eurochild AISBL will make its expertise available by: providing information about the calls, help with the search for partners, support with the completion of the forms and the development of a consistent budget. Furthermore Eurochild AISBL plays an important role to disseminate the results of these projects on a larger scale through our website and other communication canals such as the newsletter.

In this context, Eurochild AISBL plans the following activities:

In line with last year, Eurochild AISBL is planning meetings with all members in order to facilitate the networking between them as well as the exchange of information, expertise and experience in the field of social exclusion and child poverty. Thanks to the financial support of the European Commission, members of the EU10 in particular will be encouraged to participate. In 2006 we aim at extending the number of members in the different European countries involving the candidate member states who are preparing their accession to the EU. This year we will also put more emphasis on the development of 'bi-lateral partnering arrangements' between members of the different EU-Member States so that "weaker" members can 'shadow' those more experienced in the NAPs/Incl process. This will provide for continuing informal contact in between more formal organisational events.

Eurochild AISBL will further develop the production of Policy Papers on issues related to child poverty and social exclusion of children and young persons which will be disseminated at European level (Commission/Parliament/EAPN/...) and at national levels through our membership. To this end Eurochild AISBL's Policy Work Group consisting of the Secretary General, the Policy Development Officer and the members of the Management Board and the representatives of member organisations will be consulted to prepare these position papers. After the consultation of all members the final Policy Paper will be elaborated and send out.

We will continue to represent the membership in relation to the Council of Europe, the European Commission and other relevant EU institutions (e.g. European Parliament) to offer a specialist view on child poverty.

Following the second Policy Forum for members of May 2005 the Policy Work Group will take the initiative to organise a third Policy Forum on European and national policy developments and initiatives for all Eurochild AISBL members in order to maximise their visibility and influence in their own countries. During this Policy Forum the main policy developments on European level will be discussed with all members in order to determine the position of Eurochild AISBL concerning the issues concerned. On this occasion appropriate indicators for reviewing effectiveness in influencing the policy process will be developed with members.

Convening meetings of the Steering Group for the NAPs/Incl Work Programme and linking relevant policy issues to the wider programme agenda.

## **B. METHODOLOGY**

Through the Secretariat, Eurochild AISBL will continue its efforts to attract new members in the EU25 and candidate countries and involve them in the work programme. We will continue to work with members and specialist advisers to process the information from the NAPs/Incl monitoring exercise to produce policy papers setting out the key elements needed for eradicating child poverty and social exclusion, the fundamental principles of a 'rights-based' approach to child poverty, the importance of involving children, young people and their carers as actors in the process and the part NGO's should play in the continuing monitoring and development of policy. Eurochild AISBL will also maintain an active liaison with the European Anti Poverty Network and national anti-poverty networks that are wider than children's issues and we will maintain a dialogue with the Commission and other EU institutions, and through members, with NAPs/Incl National Experts. Following the successful Policy Forum of May 2005, we will continue to hold an Annual Policy Forum with member organisations to cover as a minimum, areas such as: Eurochild AISBL Positions, mechanisms for becoming involved in the policy process at different policy levels, promoting the participation of children and young people, discussion of information disseminated and sharing of good practice to influence the content and implementation of plans. Eurochild AISBL will continue to support and develop the 'bi-lateral

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partnering' arrangement according to members needs and agree with members appropriate indicators for reviewing their effectiveness in influencing the policy process.

### **C. RESOURCES REQUIRED**

As in the previous section, sufficient staff resources of a high calibre are essential to fully utilise the existing expertise, user contact and policy knowledge within the membership and to increase capacity, particularly in the EU10 Member States, to exert maximum influence on policy development. This includes the Secretary General (5 days a week), the Office Manager (3 days per week) and the full time Information and Policy Development Officer plus office running costs. In exceptional cases the help of an independent consultant can be asked to fulfil a specific task within the work programme. It is also proposed to strengthen the team with a Finance Officer (5 days per month)

### **5. COMMUNICATION & RAISING AWARENESS AROUND CHILD POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS AND EXCHANGE OF GOOD PRACTICE**

According to priority 3 of the call for proposals, Eurochild AISBL considers communication and information as one of the most important tasks of our network. Therefore Eurochild AISBL will continue to further develop its activity in producing and disseminating information to support the priority of ending child poverty and social exclusion of children. This comprises a two-way information flow of (a) disseminating information from the Commission and other EU institutions through the membership networks, in particular to influence the development and implementation of the NAPs/Incl in Member States and (b) offering an outside, specialist, perspective to the Commission through the membership on issues relating to child poverty. Under the current work programme (1<sup>st</sup> April 2005 – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2005) a sound communication strategy currently is worked out by the Information Officer in order to optimise the communication with and among our members and to facilitate the exchange of information. This communication strategy has the following three objectives: membership recruitment, membership support & development and political & public awareness. This year the effectiveness of this new strategy will be tested and evaluated and if necessary the communication strategy will be adapted.

Eurochild AISBL thus wants to strengthen its role as an information centre on the rights of the child in general and on child poverty and social exclusion of children in particular for its members and all interested parties. We will continue to gather all relevant information and make it easily accessible. We will also develop information material and put it at disposal of our members to facilitate the campaigning in their own country.

The overall objective will still be to increase greater visibility of children and young people in the NAPs/Incl and social inclusion agenda and to promote their recognition as "people suffering exclusion" whose voices should be heard in the policy process, within the provisions of Objective 4 of the common Objectives. The main target audiences will be:

Eurochild's own membership (to achieve greater involvement of both their organisations and the children and their carers in the development of NAPs/Incl)

European and national/regional/local politicians and policy makers

Statutory bodies providing social work, education, and health services

The justice systems

The wider public and professional audience

Children and young people will be involved in these processes wherever possible (and as resources permit) and we seek to "model" processes and share good practice through our own and through members' national activities (see below).

### **B. ACTIVITIES & METHODOLOGY**

In this context Eurochild AISBL will continue to further develop the existing communication tools:

#### ***Meetings on topics related to social exclusion of children and child poverty:***

- Eurochild AISBL will keep in touch with politicians on a regular basis to inform them about our activities as well as actions and events related to social exclusion and child poverty. In this respect Eurochild AISBL will organise a yearly meeting, which will be held in May 2006 at the European Parliament. On this occasion a representation of children and young people will be invited to come to the European Parliament. They are first going to participate in a skill

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building workshop, facilitated by experts from one or several of Eurochild AISBL's member organisations, during which they will have guidance concerning issues and their own experiences with child poverty as well as their upcoming discussion with MEPs and representatives of other EU-institutions. The Children's and young people's Manifesto will form the basis of this. In the evening, they will be given the chance to exchange ideas with officials from the different EU institutions in the framework of a *café-débat*. Although it is difficult to predict the outcome of this event, we hope that it will increase the visibility of child poverty and social exclusion of children and the recognition of it as a problem that needs to be addressed in all Member States. We also hope that it will increase the willingness to involve children in policy processes that affect their lives.

This MEP-event will be aimed at: members of the European Parliament and other European institutions, members of national and/or regional parliaments of the member states, members of Eurochild AISBL and other interested parties. At this occasion we aim to bring a representation of between 12 and 15 young persons coming from at least 6 different member states to the European Parliament. The costs of these young people and their support worker will be covered by Eurochild.

- Eurochild AISBL is also going to hold an annual membership meeting in May 2006. It is going to take place just after the meeting of children and young people with MEPs, in order to make it possible for our members to attend both meetings. The aim of this meeting is to set the direction of the organisation for the coming year. This meeting aims to bring together all member organisations of Eurochild AISBL. In the framework of this meeting we will also organise the Eurochild AISBL Policy Forum.

Eurochild AISBL will organise its annual conference in October 2006 in co-operation with and with the support of its German member organisation, AGJ (*Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Jugendhilfe*) – (the national umbrella agency for children and youth in Germany). At the occasion of this international conference, which will be held in Berlin, Germany, the result of the NAPs/Incl-assessment will be presented and discussed. The conference will be linked with a thematic seminar on the role of school and education for the social inclusion of vulnerable groups of children (disabled children, children living in extreme poverty...), will also be organised in this framework, including an exchange of good practices and information.

Our annual conference will be aimed at member organisations of Eurochild AISBL and AGJ, representatives of the European Commission, representatives of national and regional Ministries, experts and non governmental organisation active in the fight against child poverty and social exclusion, experts and non governmental organisations promoting children's rights and other relevant stakeholders. The expected number of participants will be between 100 and 120.

**Website:** [www.eurochild.org](http://www.eurochild.org):

During 2005 Eurochild AISBL continues the development of its new interactive website to better meet the demands of the member organisations and to better inform the public about activities of Eurochild, its members, the latest policy developments, events, etc. At the end of 2005 Eurochild AISBL will have a user-friendly website with information concerning children's rights, child poverty and social exclusion in general and the activities of Eurochild AISBL and its members in particular. Thus, the website will also serve as a tool for recruitment of new members. Additionally the Members' room which can only be accessed by Eurochild AISBL Members will inform them about the latest developments on European level and will enable members to share and exchange information and experiences in their fields of action. All Eurochild-position papers and policy-briefings will be put on the website and thus accessible for a wide public.

With a view to the accessibility of our website, the website has been translated into French. Eurochild AISBL will endeavour to find volunteers to translate the general information on the website concerning Eurochild, its activities and the membership in other European languages as well. This will facilitate the first contact with possible new members.

#### **Info Flashes:**

Eurochild AISBL will continue to send info flashes to alert and inform its member organisations of the latest news concerning social inclusion on the European level. The Info Flash will be sent by e-mail on

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a weekly basis together with reports on relevant policy developments, Eurochild-activities, activities of our members, conferences etc.

#### ***E-news bulletin:***

Once every month an e-news bulletin with news from Eurochild AISBL, events, European institutions, policy processes, publications, etc conferences concerning child poverty issues, children's rights, social policy etc. will be widely disseminated among members, MEPs and other relevant stakeholders. It is also going to be available on the website. This e-news bulletin reports on relevant policy developments at international level (EU, CoE, UN), national and regional level, research, publications, Eurochild AISBL positions and activities, etc. The themes dealt with in these e-news bulletins are related to children's issues and social policy in general and child poverty and social exclusion in particular. Member organisations will also be encouraged to contribute articles to the e-news bulletins.

#### ***Policy papers:***

Eurochild AISBL will continue to release policy papers emanating from and responding to actual events in the social inclusion field. It is proposed to release at least 6 policy papers in total. These policy papers will be widely disseminated among members, MEPs, European and national stakeholders and other policy makers. They also will be available on our website.

#### ***Newsletters:***

Eurochild AISBL will also this year publish 2 Newsletters (printed version). These Newsletters have besides an informative also a promotional objective and will be disseminated as widely as possible. The Newsletter will contain information concerning developments and activities of Eurochild AISBL and its members, as well as information from the European Commission and other institutions related to the social inclusion process.

#### ***Articles for publications:***

Eurochild AISBL will also continue the publication of contributions through "Children in Europe" and other relevant European and national journals.

#### ***Annual report:***

Also this year Eurochild AISBL will produce a comprehensive annual report on the activities of Eurochild AISBL and its members during the year 2005. This annual report will be widely disseminated among members, stakeholders, MEPs, etc.

### **B. RESOURCES REQUIRED**

As stated before, sufficient staff resources of a high calibre are essential to fully utilise the expertise, user contact and policy knowledge within the membership, to maximise the awareness raising process and exploit the potential for change. This includes a Secretary General (5 days a week), Office Manager (3 days per week), Information Officer and Policy Development Officer (5 days per week) and a Finance Officer (to be recruited 5 days per month) plus office running costs. Other supports for operational activities are also necessary, such as the costs of holding conferences, meetings and seminars; preparation and dissemination of reports, publications, Newsletters, Bulletins, policy papers; maintenance of the website; facilitating the involvement, wherever possible, of children and young people; encouraging active contact across the membership. Other sources of funding from within the network will also be sought, wherever possible, to supplement existing resources, particularly in relation to the involvement of children and young people.

## **6. EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY TO FACILITATE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF POLICY PROCESSES**

Throughout our activities we will continue to put the emphasis on the direct involvement and participation of children and young people in policy processes in general and the NAPs/Incl process in particular to encourage Member States to recognise children and young people in their own right as "people suffering

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exclusion" and to validate their perceptions and experiences of poverty within the provisions of Objective 4 of the Common Objectives. The current situation is still that the views and needs of children and young people are interpreted and relayed through adults and even, in some Member States that the focus on children is mainly as future adult employees as opposed to a focus on the quality of their life now. For that reason Eurochild AISBL will seek to provide opportunities to "model" processes by including children and young people, wherever resources permit, in events we organise through this programme.

In this respect Eurochild AISBL organised in March 2005 a MEP-reception, called "Can you hear me?", at the European Parliament. 12 young people aged between 13 and 15 years challenged Members of the European Parliament and representatives of the European Commission on how social exclusion is affecting their lives and made proposals for change. The day before the reception these young people met in order to share their concerns around social exclusion, to learn from one another's situations and agree on the most important issues to bring forward to MEPs and the European Commission.

Those issues were:

- Discrimination,
- Lack of money,
- Anti-social behaviours,
- Education.

They used dance and role play in order to illustrate how they felt about the different subjects and illustrate their proposals for change.

This resulted in "*A children and young people's manifesto*" reflecting the young persons' ideas and recommendations.

Also this year Eurochild AISBL will continue to give young people the chance to reflect on and discuss issues that concern them during an event at the European Parliament (see above). Preceding this MEP-event Eurochild AISBL will organise a skills building workshop/training session on Child Poverty, to equip children and young people to talk about their situation to representatives of the European institutions directly. Following this skills building workshop a meeting at the European Parliament will be organized where these young persons will confront Members of the European Parliament with their views on living in poverty and social exclusion. In this framework the *Children and young people's manifesto* will form the basis for further discussion and will be further developed.

Some of our member organisations have already a long experience in organising events with children and young persons. Eurochild AISBL will therefore call on the expertise and know how of these member organisations to organise this skills building workshop.

## **7. FUTURE STRATEGIC PLAN (2006-2007)**

In April 2004 Eurochild AISBL became totally independent developing out of the former European Forum for Child Welfare and is a legally constituted international non-profit organisation with its Secretariat in Brussels. As indicated in the introduction, with our full staff complement operating in Brussels, we aim to grow considerably by the end of November 2006 with consequential additional co-funding from membership fees which could enable us to seek extra funds from the Commission for activity in 2007 to create greater activity.

During the current work programme Eurochild AISBL's priorities are the expansion of the network throughout the Europe, the development of a communication strategy to inform and exchange expertise with & between our members and other stakeholders concerning the developments in the area of children's rights, social exclusion and child poverty and the elaboration of the child poverty work programme (NAPs-assessment).

During the coming years we are embarking on a new set of challenges. The period 2005-2007 will be a period of delivery, seeking sustainability, further development of our activities and further expansion of the current network of member organisations throughout the 25 EU Member States bringing fresh ideas and perspectives to the organisation. We will continue to base our activities within the field of social exclusion and child poverty upon the key objectives of the network which are reflected in our official statutes:

- Produce, develop and share information on policy and practice;
- Monitor policy development at the European level;
- Influence and make recommendations to European and other international institutions such as the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of Europe and the United Nations;

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- Develop interest groups and partnerships between members in European countries;
- Develop partnerships with other European associations that share common goals;
- Support and develop the capacity of members;
- Empower children and young people to make their views heard.

Because it is at the heart of all our work, we will continue to create more opportunities to increase the participation of children and young people at the European level and thus ensure that their views are taken into account on so many concerns, such as social exclusion, health, safety, racism, drugs...

The General Assembly of Eurochild AISBL entrusted at its meeting in May 2005 the Management Board with the task of elaborating a comprehensive long-term strategy for Eurochild AISBL. This strategy will outline the main focus of the organization and its priorities within the field of social policy and the rights of the child. It is clear that the above mentioned key objectives will be the basis of the development of this strategy.

At EU level the coming years will be crucial for the fight against child poverty and social exclusion of children. Therefore Eurochild AISBL will continue efforts to play an even bigger and more influential role at EU level, thus contributing to build a child-friendly social Europe for our children. Eurochild AISBL aims at contributing to the achievement and implementation of the EU social inclusion goals at a European and through its members, national levels.

Eurochild AISBL is committed to responding to these and many other challenges to make the combat against child poverty in Europe a reality. We can be confident about our future as we can count on a supportive Board, engaged members and dedicated staff at the Secretariat to make this happen and fulfill our unique, pivotal role in Europe on the support of our members.

Therefore, during the period of 2006-2007, Eurochild AISBL will continue to develop and influence the EU social policy strategy to fight child poverty and social exclusion. In this framework Eurochild AISBL, through its expanded network, will continue its activities within the NAPs/Incl-processes to emphasise a child-centred approach in the Member States. We will continue to strengthen our members' capacity (training) to influence the policymaking processes at national and regional level and to join efforts with other members in order to learn from their good practice and experience. Eurochild AISBL will also continue to encourage the involvement of its member organisations in the preparation and implementation of their NAPs/Incl. We will continuously keep in touch with our member organisations to know their needs and will set up trainings, projects, information campaigns etc. to respond to these needs.

Once the network is fully established, Eurochild AISBL will during the coming years put more and more emphasise on awareness raising and dissemination of the results of the monitoring of the EU-policies within the social field. In this respect the information exchange and communication with our members and other relevant stakeholders will continue to be at the centre of our activities. Eurochild AISBL is also committed to continue and even extend its current communication tools (weekly info-flashes, monthly e-news bulletins, website-updates, policy papers etc.). This will enable the continuous dissemination of information from the Commission and other EU institutions through the membership networks, in particular to influence the development and implementation of the NAPs/Incl in Member States and to offer an outside, specialist, perspective to the Commission through the membership on issues relating to child poverty.

## 2.2. Specify how the objectives and the activities of the organisation as identified above add value to the objectives and activities of the European networks which also address directly or indirectly the fight against social exclusion and poverty

In the framework of the fight against social exclusion and poverty, child poverty requires special attention, as it is often not taken into account at all or only through looking at the adults accompanying them. Children and young people must be involved, as they can contribute to the solutions as well as to describing the problems they face. The objectives above will add value to the existing networks fighting against poverty and social exclusion by:

**Increasing the capacity of the statutory sector** - The close working relationship of many of our members with statutory agencies as well as the extension of membership to them will enable these agencies to benefit from the results of our work. As a consequence, statutory agencies and also Europe-

wide professional networks such as child health will speed up the fight against social exclusion and child poverty.

**Strengthening the existing links with national politicians within members' countries and with MEP's** – Our member organisations have a variety of levels of relationships with politicians – local, regional, national and Europe wide. All levels can have an influence on achieving change in the area of social exclusion and child poverty. Our members are able to brief politicians with relevant examples, research etc as well as bringing them together with children and young people directly so as to improve the quality of information on the basis of which policies at all levels are made.

**Strengthening the network of existing child welfare organisations across Europe** and the children, young people and families with whom they work so they can contribute effectively to eradicating child poverty. This is mainly done by: attracting new organisations into the network; uniting them with a common purpose; increasing their capacity to take action to influence policy at European level, both alone and jointly with other national and European networks; increase the joint action between Eurochild and children, young people and their families to achieve change.

**Raising awareness amongst European networks** fighting poverty and social exclusion that this issue also concerns children, as they are invariably left out of the analysis and policy-making process. This is mainly done through contacts, co-operation and exchange of good practices with those networks and their member organisations. It makes them aware of the fact that sometimes their activities and policies are too general and should mention children more often. Those contacts and co-operation will be strengthened and widened throughout the coming year. Eurochild will build on its existing partnerships especially with EAPN and the Social Platform.

**Learning across national boundaries** through: transmitting good practice across national boundaries and due to the nature of our members' work, which is very close to national realities, it can act as a reality check for the impact of new policies; communicating information regarding child poverty - a focus on social exclusion and child poverty will raise the stakes in many countries as information is shared and good and bad policies disseminated; Eurochild can contribute to the quality of information being considered at the European level as it has strength in its depth of membership including most of the major providers of children's services. Policies need to be accurately informed by the reality on the ground and by organisations where large numbers of children are involved – Eurochild can provide quality information through its enlarged membership. The twinning scheme will be particularly supportive to new Member States.

2.3. Provide details illustrating the mechanisms of consultation and information between the members and indicate how the membership co-operation is to be reinforced and consolidated by the execution of the programme (if the co-ordination activities of your organisation were co-financed in 2002-2005, give a summary of the outcome)

Eurochild members meet on an at least bi annual basis to decide policy directions in the form of members meetings. The focus of this application will support this activity specifically addressing the way in which the members work both together at a European level and at the national level to combat child poverty and social exclusion.

Much of the regular connection through the network is via e mail policy groups which have arisen out of the work programme associated with the first two years of the Action Programme. Other means of members coming together can depend on project funding for specific pieces of work unless member agencies find resources themselves. This bid will ensure that the annual conference will take place which is focused on child poverty and social exclusion and which will be a progression of work in relation to raising awareness; monitoring and influencing the National Action Plans. It will also enable bi lateral support and co-operation.

Eurochild AISBL will further develop and update the existing web site ([www.eurochild.org](http://www.eurochild.org)) in order to have a user-friendly and interactive tool to facilitate the communication and exchange of information with and between our members. It will also have a range of information sections plus a discussion forum on Child Poverty. This application will support the depth and range of content on the web site as significantly more information regarding child poverty and social exclusion will be available from the member's work. Eurochild AISBL will also endeavour to develop a "child section" on this website which will be easily accessible for children and young people.

Members are able to access the members' room on the web site. Eurochild AISBL releases also weekly info-flashes to rapidly inform its members of (policy) developments in their working field, especially at a European level.

Eurochild AISBL also produces monthly e-news bulletins and 2 printed newsletters per year. This application will enable significantly more content to be produced on the subject of child poverty and social exclusion.

Policy papers are also a means of informing members and the more languages they are available in the better. Currently Eurochild operates in French and English. This bid will enable Eurochild to produce more accessible material in the child poverty field.

2.4. Explain how the proposed work programme fits the general objectives of the Community action programme to combat social exclusion and how it will contribute significantly to the further development and implementation of the European strategy to combat social exclusion (in particular regarding the priorities 1 and 2 pointed out in the "Guidelines" of this call)

1. Eurochild AISBL reviewed in the 2004 work programme the NAPS/Incl. Eurochild members undertook national assessments of the visibility of children and young people in the planning process. The findings of this review are contained in a synthesis report entitled "*National Action Plans on Social Inclusion: Increasing the Visibility of Children and Young People*", produced in October 2004. The current work programme (from 1<sup>st</sup> April till 30<sup>th</sup> November 2005) focuses on the implementation of the NAPS/Inclusion and assesses their effectiveness in addressing child poverty and social exclusion. A report of findings will be produced by the end of November 2005, with recommendations for effective interventions to maximise their intended impact as an instrument of change. These will be supported by examples of transferable models of good practice.

2. Throughout our activities we also emphasise the importance of involving children and young people directly in the policy process and have the skills and experience within the membership to "model" ways of doing this. A Skills Building Workshop on Child Poverty where children and young people will participate actively is planned in the proposed work programme.

3. Our proposal to encourage the development of "twinning" across Member states and candidates also has the potential to significantly increase the richness of information exchange and cross-cultural learning to pave the way for the involvement of all 25 Member States and candidate countries in the social inclusion process.

4. Our work to date on the NAPS/Incl will prove useful in the current proposal in relation to the development of indicators of child poverty based on the experiences of children and young people and their carers themselves.

5. Eurochild's members are also experienced at joint working with networks that are concerned with aspects of poverty and social exclusion beyond child poverty; working with national governments and statutory agencies on policy development as well as the European institutions.

6. By building up the information base and capacity of our members, as well as developing new alliances, the issues for children can be better understood, and responded to more effectively if they are based on the experiences of children and young people themselves. Children and young people can also help in the identification of priority areas.

2.5 Explain how people who may be exposed to social exclusion and poverty are involved in the programme's implementation and follow-up

Throughout all activities, Eurochild AISBL will put the emphasis on the direct involvement and participation of children and young people in policy processes in general and the NAPS/Incl process in particular to encourage Member States to recognise children and young people in their own right as "people suffering exclusion" and to validate their perceptions and experiences of poverty within the provisions of Objective 4 of the Common Objectives.

Children, young people and their families are directly involved with the work of our member agencies. It is our custom and practice to involve them at all stages of the process of designing, implementing and monitoring and evaluating our work.

Our members are experienced at supporting and empowering service users, both nationally and internationally, and will be keen to share this expertise and "model" activities, wherever possible, through the current programme (for example at the Skills Building Workshop on Child Poverty). In countries where our members include the national umbrella organisations, there is considerable expertise and support given to supporting national representative structures for socially excluded children and young people such as Funky Dragon – the Children and Young People's Assembly for Wales, or the Children and Young People's parliament in Cyprus as just two examples.

The previous and current members' assessments of NAPS/Incl and their effectiveness in addressing child poverty and social exclusion also actively encourages agencies to consult with and incorporate the views of service users. They will be supported by member organisations to give their views through a wide range of mediums, such as video diaries, and have the potential to be major contributors to the transmission of information regarding the impact of policies on their lives. Eurochild AISBL also aims to open up membership to a wider constituency of statutory and academic institutions.

2.6. Explain how the network will be able to raise public awareness, disseminate information and advocate policy changes as well as to act as an effective intermediary between various relevant policy levels, actors and institutions involved in the fight against social exclusion in the European Union

Eurochild is an active member in the Social Platform as well as EAPN, and is also a key player in the UNICEF NGO groups as well as having observer status in the Council of Europe and ECOSOC. We are able to field different member representatives to a wide range of forums and are collaborative by nature. During the past months Eurochild AISBL has established close contacts with other existing European networks in order to discuss possible ways of co-operation in the fight against social exclusion. Through these contacts Eurochild AISBL also succeeds in emphasising the importance to pay specific attention to the involvement of children within their activities. The coming year these contacts and co-operations will be strengthened and widened.

In addition there are some pan European networks for certain specialisms that are in membership of Eurochild such as helplines.

Obviously the link with EAPN is crucial as the particular issues for children need highlighting with substantive data. Our member's influence at national and European level is substantial and the potential for a groundswell of activity from our members providing there is sufficient support centrally is clear. During the past year our member from Cyprus assisted EAPN in setting up an EAPN group in Cyprus so the relationship with EAPN is most definitely two way.

2.7. Explain how the proposed work programme contributes to the European network's overall mission and main priorities. Explain what the strategic work plan of the network is over the two year period (2005-2007) and comment briefly on its expected developments for 2006-2007.

During the two year period (2005-2007) the primary focus of EUROCHILD AISBL's work programmes is to contribute to the improvement of policies addressing child poverty and social exclusion of children and young people at European, and national level. The proposed work programme is primarily that of the activities listed in the bid.

Eurochild AISBL considers it its role to strengthen the awareness raising concerning child poverty and social exclusion of children and young persons by making all existing knowledge and expertise concerning these phenomena and most effective ways to combat it available to all actors in the fight against child poverty and social exclusion of children and young persons – civil society as well as policy-makers of the EU and the different EU Member States. This will make the transition from theory into practice easier. Within this framework the emphasis lies on the active participation and involvement of children and young people in processes that affect their lives. It is our intention to develop a process that informs and equips members to be active at European and national levels through information dissemination, training, partnering between organisations and representative activities in key European bodies. Monitoring the NAPS/Incl and contributing to their development and implementation is a major objective of the network. The widening of our membership will also enable further influence to be brought to bear at regional and local levels as well



The framework of our annual working programme consists of the following key areas:

- 1. policy influencing strategy:** monitoring the effectiveness of policies and actions to eradicate child poverty and social exclusion of children and young persons at a European level
- 2. developing membership & strengthening policy development** to combat child poverty and social exclusion of children and young persons and building membership capacity at a national, regional and local level
- 3. communication & raising awareness** around child poverty and social exclusion of children and young persons and exchange of good practice
- 4. empowering young people** living in poverty to facilitate their participation in the development, implementation and monitoring of policy processes

It is the intention to further develop and strengthen these key action points in the work programme for 2006-2007. By the end of the proposed work programme Eurochild AISBL will have a key position within the EU to take forward the fight against child poverty and social exclusion of children.

2.8. Justify the requested percentage of the Community grant (i.e. reasons why you are asking for a particular amount of funding), bearing in mind that the 90% core-funding may only be reached under exceptional circumstances, and explain what sources will cover the remaining budget

The request for a 90% contribution is justified by the fact that we are aware that our bid is still relatively modest. The European Commission funding is the only source of core funding for Eurochild AISBL at this point in time. We have however requested a larger amount of money than the current year because the period of this application covers the first full year of a full time Secretary General and Policy/Information Officer and is required to fulfil the objectives of the enhanced proposed work programme. It is important that the Secretariat is built up incrementally and realistically in order to fully support our activities. The development of the staff in the Secretariat is still a priority in order to ensure that the work on child poverty and social exclusion is central to our activity. The increased activity will generate more financial activity and it is critical that there is dedicated financial time to carry out this work.

We would very much have liked to have requested a significantly larger amount of money as we have the potential to do considerably more work, however the co-funding requirements are important for us to be realistic about whilst we are in the process of recruiting a wider membership during the period December 2005-November 2006. Our current members have been consistently generous in relation to co funding, and we anticipate a full year of the operation of the fully staffed Secretariat would put us in a strong position for being able to provide extra co-funding which we hope could lead to an application for increased funding from the Commission to increase the activity in the work programme from December 2006-November 2007. We hope that this might be considered by the Commission.

### SECTION III

#### Implementation schedule

3.1 Expected starting date (please remember that your work programme must be limited to a one-year period starting on 1 December 2005)

Date of the start of work (DD/MM/YY)\*\*\*\*  
1<sup>st</sup> December 2005

Date of the end of work (DD/MM/YY)\*\*\*\*\*  
30<sup>th</sup> November 2006

3.2. Please provide a detailed timetable for the implementation of the work programme, as follows:

\*\*\*\* the dates of the start and end of work determine the period of eligibility of any expenditure

\*\*\*\*\* All expenditure incurred after this date will not be eligible except where express authorisation has been approved by the competent services

Month/Year	Location	Activity
<b>ONGOING ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD of 1<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2005 till 30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2006</b>		
Ongoing	All over Europe	<b>POLICY INFLUENCING STRATEGY [1]:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Representation at relevant meetings, events...</li> <li>Developments and continuation of partnerships with other organisations at EU as well as national level</li> <li>Raising the issues of child poverty and exclusion amongst other European and national NGOs</li> <li>Keep up to date &amp; monitor policy developments at EU-level</li> <li>NAPs-ASSESSMENT:</li> <li>Management, support and advise to NAPs-Steering group</li> <li>Identification of target-members</li> <li>Encouragement and support to participating members &amp; active participation at national level</li> <li>Processing data collected from NAPs/Incl</li> <li>Consultation during drafting of the report</li> </ul>
Ongoing	All over Europe	<b>DEVELOPMENT OF MEMBERSHIP &amp; STRENGTHENING POLICY DEVELOPMENT [2]</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruitment, support &amp; development of membership</li> <li>Liaise with members about policy developments</li> <li>Bi-lateral partnerships between members (twinning-activities)</li> <li>Facilitation of policy working group</li> </ul>
Ongoing	All over Europe	<b>COMMUNICATION &amp; RAISING AWARENESS [3]</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of communication strategy</li> <li>Information production via web site</li> <li>Managing and up-date members' room on website</li> <li>Continuing expansion of organisations' data-base of contacts for membership recruitment, communication, media, press, political campaigning...</li> <li>Design &amp; production of promotional and marketing materials</li> <li>Raising awareness of the issues of child poverty and exclusion amongst the European NGO sector</li> </ul>
Ongoing	All over Europe	<b>EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE IN POVERTY [4]</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emphasising the importance of involving children and young people</li> <li>Empowering young people through information sharing and skills building activities</li> </ul>
<b>DETAILED TIMETABLE FOR THE PERIOD of 1<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2005 till 30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2006</b>		
December 2005	Brussels	Preparation and publication of a Policy Paper on current relevant issue [1/3]
	Brussels	Edition of 4 weekly Info-Flashes for member organisations [3]
	EU-member states involved	Steering Group for NAPs-assessment Tele-conference [1]
	Brussels	Preparation of discussion paper for NAPs-assessment
	Brussels	Recruitment of finance officer
January 2006	Brussels	Publication of spring edition of bi-annual Newsletter [3]
	Brussels	Monthly e-news bulletin for the general public [3]
	Brussels	Edition of 4 weekly Info-Flashes for member organisations [3]
February 2006	Brussels	Preparation and publication of a Policy Paper on current relevant issue [1/3]
	Brussels	Monthly e-news bulletin for the general public [3]
	Brussels	Edition of 4 weekly Info-Flashes for member organisations [3]

<b>March 2006</b>	Brussels	Monthly e-news bulletin for the general public [3]
	Brussels	Edition of 4 weekly Info-Flashes for member organisations [3]
	EU-member states involved	Policy Working Group tele-conference [1]
<b>April 2006</b>	Brussels	Monthly e-news bulletin for the general public [3]
	Brussels	Edition of 4 weekly Info-Flashes for member organisations [3]
	Brussels	Preparation and publication of a Policy Paper on current relevant issue [1/3]
<b>May 2006</b>	Brussels	Annual report 2005 [3]
	Brussels	Skill building workshop for children and young people [3/4]
	Brussels	Children & Young People's Café Debate in the European Parliament [3/4]
<b>June 2006</b>	Brussels	Members' Meeting [2]
	Brussels	Policy Forum [2]
	Brussels	Meeting NAPs-Steering group [1]
	Brussels	Monthly e-news bulletin for the general public [3]
	Brussels	Edition of 4 weekly Info-Flashes for member organisations [3]
	Brussels/Austria	Preparation and support for members and young people in view of the 5 <sup>th</sup> People Experiencing Poverty Meeting [1/2]
	Brussels	Monthly e-news bulletin for the general public [3]
<b>July/August 2006</b>	Brussels	Edition of 4 weekly Info-Flashes for member organisations [3]
	Brussels	Preparation and publication of a Policy Paper on current relevant issue [1/3]
	Brussels	Monthly e-news bulletin for the general public [3]
<b>September 2006</b>	Brussels	Edition of 4 weekly Info-Flashes for member organisations [3]
	EU-member states involved	Steering Group for NAPs-assessment Tele-conference [1]
	Brussels	Monthly e-news bulletin for the general public [3]
<b>October 2006</b>	Brussels	Edition of 4 weekly Info-Flashes for member organisations [3]
	Brussels	Publication of autumn edition of bi-annual Newsletter [3]
	EU-member states involved	Policy Working Group tele-conference [1]
	Brussels	Preparation and publication of a Policy Paper on current relevant issue [1/3]
	Brussels/Finland	Preparation [1] and support for members [2] in view of the Round Table on Social Inclusion
<b>November 2006</b>	Brussels	Monthly e-news bulletin for the general public [3]
	Brussels	Edition of 4 weekly Info-Flashes for member organisations [3]
	Brussels	Preparation and publication of a Policy Paper on current relevant issue [1/3]
<b>December 2006</b>	Brussels	Finilisation of final report on NAPs/Incl assessment
	Brussels	Production of information kit for members' campaigning

#### **SECTION IV**

##### **Evaluation of results expected from the activities as listed under 2.1.**

Please give details of the indicators and methodology through which the monitoring of the implementation of the work programme and the evaluation of subsidy's impact and its results in relation to the defined objectives and priorities will be carried out. The aim of this evaluation is to

assess how the action developed, how the work programme has been implemented, what impact the action had and what is to be learned from the results achieved.

The target population is the membership of Eurochild (including the members of umbrella bodies in membership, from the full range of sectors where applicable), the children, young people and their families with whom our members work, and partner networks and politicians, at a European, national, regional and local levels.

**1. policy influencing strategy:** monitoring the effectiveness of policies and actions to eradicate child poverty and social exclusion of children and young persons at a European level:

- Production of synthesis report on the NAPs/Incl assessment by member organisations to establish their impact and effectiveness and influence the planning process
- Production of information kit for members' national campaigns on a child-centred approach in the new NAP-round 2006-2009

**2. developing membership & strengthening policy development** to combat child poverty and social exclusion of children and young persons and building membership capacity at a national and local level:

- Production of policy papers on eradicating child poverty and social exclusion
- An annual meeting for members (Policy Forum) on national policy development that will cover policy content, ways of establishing mechanisms for involvement at different policy levels, ensuring children and their carers have a voice

**3. communication & raising awareness** around child poverty and social exclusion of children and young persons and exchange of good practice:

- Production and dissemination of information including weekly info flashes, monthly e-news bulletins and bi-annual Newsletters
- Production of annual report 2005
- An annual Members' conference
- Children & Young People's Café Debate in the European Parliament
- Publication of short papers through "Children in Europe" and other relevant European and national

**4. empowering young people** living in poverty to facilitate their participation in the development, implementation and monitoring of policy processes:

- A Skills building Workshop for children and young people
- Children & Young People's Café Debate in the European Parliament

**Evaluation** of the expected results of the programme will be undertaken:

a) internally, via ongoing reporting to the Management Board by the Secretariat and by standing working groups (eg. the policy working group) and by the annual reporting process for the General Assembly

b) externally, via the appointment of an Independent Evaluator with appropriate expertise in the field of child poverty, who will be given a specific brief as to the expected results, as outlined above. We would also expect the Independent Evaluator to comment on process (e.g. in terms of communication and collaboration) and on the future potential of the network to contribute to the programme.

An Interim Report on progress will also be produced for the Commission.

## ANNEX II Beneficiary's operating budget

### 1. Provisional operating budget in EUR

Headings and Items		Sub-totals	Totals
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>NON-ELIGIBLE COSTS</b>			
Total Non-Eligible Costs			0.00
<b>ELIGIBLE COSTS</b>			
<b>Eligible Direct Costs (D)</b>			
Heading 1 – Staff costs		158 066.32	
Management	134 258.52		
Administration	7 000.00		
Accounting	13 937.80		
Other staff	2 870.00		
Heading 2 – Travel and subsistence allowances		31 968.98	
Travel	16 345.00		
Subsistence allowances (accommodation, meals, etc.)	15 623.98		
Heading 3 – Costs of services		22 342.00	
Information dissemination	12 607.00		
Translations			
Reports and translation costs	585.00		
Other services			
Other external services	5 900.00		
Audit and evaluation costs	3 250.00		
Heading 4 – Administration costs		41 628.60	
Depreciation for purchase of equipment	13 852.00		
Other administrative costs			
Immovable property	14 876.60		
Raw materials and running expenses	675.00		
Charges for financial services	225.00		
Certificates, deposits, guarantees costs	12 000.00		
Total Eligible Direct Costs (D)			254 005.90
Total Eligible Costs = D			254 005.90
<b>REVENUE</b>			
<b>COVER OF NON-ELIGIBLE COSTS</b>			
Beneficiary's contribution to cover the non-eligible costs			0.00
<b>INCOME</b>			
Beneficiary's contribution in cash (C)			25 400.59
Commission Grant (S)			228 605.31
Total Income = C + S			254 005.90

### 2. Calculation of amounts due under the present Agreement

#### 2.1. DSAs (Daily Subsistence Allowances)

The daily subsistence allowance (DSA) is paid as a flat-rate amount and is considered to cover breakfast and two main meals, local travel, the cost of telecommunications, including fax and Internet, and all other sundries. They will be paid for each calendar day spent on mission away from the usual place of work, provided that the corresponding assignment is of a short-term nature. The DSA will vary according to the country in which the missions are to be carried out.

Daily subsistence allowances (DSA) are to be calculated as follows according to the length of the mission:

- 6 hours or less: reimbursement of actual expenses (on production of supporting documents);
- more than 6 hours but not more than 12 hours: 0.5 DSA;
- more than 12 hours, but not more than 24 hours: 1 DSA;
- more than 24 hours but not more than 36 hours: 1.5 DSA;
- more than 36 hours but not more than 48 hours: 2 DSA;
- more than 48 hours but not more than 60 : 2.5 DSA, and so on.

The agreed rates (in EUR per calendar day) to be used for the purposes of the present Agreement are set as follows:

Destinations		DSA in EUR	Maximum hotel price in EUR	Destinations		DSA in EUR	Maximum hotel price in EUR
AT	Austria	74,47	128,58	IT	Italy	60,34	114,33
BE	Belgium	84,06	117,08	LT	Lithuania	80,00	170,00
CY	Cyprus	50,00	110,00	LU	Luxembourg	82,00	106,92
CZ	Czech Republic	55,00	175,00	LV	Latvia	85,00	165,00
DE	Germany	74,14	97,03	MT	Malta	60,00	115,00
DK	Denmark	91,70	148,07	NL	The Netherlands	78,26	131,76
EE	Estonia	70,00	120,00	PL	Poland	60,00	210,00
EL	Greece	66,04	99,63	PT	Portugal	68,91	124,89
ES	Spain	68,89	126,57	SE	Sweden	92,91	141,27
FI	Finland	92,34	140,98	SI	Slovenia	60,00	110,00
FR	France	72,58	97,27	SK	Slovakia	50,00	125,00
HU	Hungary	50,00	165,00	UK	United Kingdom	86,89	149,03
IE	Ireland	80,94	139,32				

## 2.2. Travel expenses

Travel expenses relating to journeys effected in execution of the present Agreement: these expenses will be reimbursed within the following limits:

- the journeys have to be carried out by the most direct and economic route;
- train journeys: first class;
- air travel: special fares (Apex type) will be the normal basis of reference. The "full fare economy" will be accepted only on a case-by-case basis with proper supporting evidence – in any case it constitutes a maximum (air travel allowed only for distances above 400 km, i.e. return flight above 800 km);
- car journeys: equivalent of corresponding first-class train ticket.