# **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Directorate-General for Education and Culture

YOUTH, SPORT AND CITIZENSHIP

# OPERATING GRANT AGREEMENT

AGREEMENT NUMBER - 2008 - 0727 / 001 - 001

# YOU-YOUFEJ

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 Ms/Mr of the one part,

and

# EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM AISBL\*YFJ

Official legal form: Official registration number N° VAT number:

RUE JOSEPH 2 120, 000 B-1000 BRUXELLES

("the beneficiary"), represented for the purposes of signature of this agreement by of the other part,

# HAVE AGREED

the Special Conditions, General Conditions and Annexes below:

Annex I

Beneficiary's work programme Beneficiary's operating budget

Annex II

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.

# 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.
- 1.1.2 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.
- 1.2.2 The period of eligibility for Community funding shall begin on 01-01-2008 and shall end on 31-12-2008.

#### ARTICLE 1.3 - FINANCING THE WORK PROGRAMME

- I.3.1 The total costs eligible for Community funding are estimated at 2.856.250,00 EUR 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 2.285.000,00 EUR, equivalent to 80,00% 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 items of eligible costs, provided that this adjustment of expenditure does not affect implementation of the work programme and the transfer between items does not exceed 20% of the amount of each item 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 representing 50% of the amount specified in Article I.3.2 shall be made to the beneficiary.

I.4.2 Further pre-financing payments:

Not applicable

# I.4.3 Interim payment:

Any request for interim payment shall be accompanied by the interim activity report and financial statement specified in Article II.13.3 and by an external audit certificate on the beneficiary's financial statements and underlying accounts for the period in question.

The amount of the interim payment shall be determined on the basis of the eligible costs actually incurred, as shown in the interim statement and validated by the Commission. In no circumstances may the interim payment exceed 40% of the maximum amount of the grant specified in Article 1.3.2.

The Commission shall have 45 days to approve or reject the report and to pay the interim payment, or to request additional supporting documents or information under the procedure laid down in Article II.13.3. The beneficiary shall have 30 days in which to submit additional information or a new report.

The Commission may suspend the period for payment in accordance with the procedure in Article II.14.2.

# 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 certificate on the beneficiary's financial statements and underlying 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 activity reports, financial statements and other documents referred to in Article 1.4 must be submitted in three copies in *English or French* on the following dates:

- progress report on implementation of the work programme and detailed statement of the costs incurred: before 15 September 2008, covering the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008;
- final activity report and financial statement: 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, as indicated below:

ING BELGIUM NV/SA (FORMERLY BANK BRUSSELS LAMBERT SA), BRUSS 24, AVENUE MARNIX.

B - BRUSSELS

Account holder: EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM

Account number: IBA-N ONLY

IBAN account CODE: BE55375100915344

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.

#### 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 for Education and Culture
Mr/Mt.
Unit Youth policy
Office: MADO, 18/019
B - 1049 Brussels

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:

Mr/ Mrs EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM AISBL\*YFJ RUE JOSEPH 2 120, 000 B - 1000 BRUXELLES

#### ARTICLE 1.8 - 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 - DATA PROTECTION

All personal data contained in the agreement shall be processed in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. Such data shall be processed solely in connection with the implementation and follow-up of the agreement by without prejudice to the possibility of passing the data to the bodies responsible for inspection and audit in accordance with Community legislation.

Beneficiaries may, on written request, gain access to their personal data and correct any information that is inaccurate or incomplete. Beneficiaries may lodge a complaint against the processing of their personal data with the European Data Protection Supervisor at any time.

# **II-GENERAL CONDITIONS**

# 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.
- 11.1.2 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 award the contract to the bid offering best value for money; in doing so he 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;

Where the value of the contract exceeds EUR 60 000, departments may include provision in the Special Conditions for specific rules of procedure to apply based on those contained in the Financial Regulation with due regard to the estimated value of the contract, the relative size of the Community contribution and the management risk.

- (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. It 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 change to the beneficiary's legal, financial, technical, organisational or ownership 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.

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# 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 Eligible costs of the work programme are costs actually incurred by the beneficiary, which meet the following criteria:
  - they are incurred during the duration of the work programme as specified in Article 1.2.2 of the agreement, with the exception of costs relating to final reports and certificates on the financial statements and underlying accounts;
  - they are connected with the subject of the agreement and they are indicated in the estimated overall budget of the work programme;
  - they are necessary for the implementation of the work programme which is the subject of the grant;
  - they are identifiable and verifiable, in particular being recorded in the accounting records of the beneficiary and determined according to the applicable accounting standards of the country where the beneficiary is established and according to the usual cost-accounting practices of the beneficiary;
  - they comply with the requirements of applicable tax and social legislation;
  - they are reasonable, justified, and comply with the requirements of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency.

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.

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

- capital increases and return on capital;
- debt and debt service charges;
- provisions for losses or potential future liabilites;
- interest owed;
- doubtful debts:
- exchange losses;
- VAT, unless the beneficiary can show that he is unable to recover it according to the applicable national legislation;
- costs declared and covered by a specific action receiving a Community grant;
- excessive or reckless expenditure.
- II.12.4 Contributions in kind shall not constitute eligible costs. However, the Commission can accept, if eonsidered necessary and appropriate, that the co-tinancing 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 co-financing 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 co-financing 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.

When the beneficiary is established in a third country, the authorising officer responsible may agree that a bank or a financial institution established in that third country may provide the guarantee if he considers that the bank or financial institution offers equivalent security and characteristics as those offered by a bank or a financial institution established in a Member State. In exceptional cases, the guarantee may be replaced by a personal joint security provided by a third party (where appropriate, provision for this should be included in the article 'Special Conditions' in part I (Special Conditions) of the agreement).

# 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, a certificate on the beneficiary's financial statements and underlying accounts, produced by an approved auditor or in case of public bodies, by a competent and independent public officer. 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 pre-financing.

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, a certificate on the beneficiary's financial statements and underlying accounts, produced by an approved auditor or in case of public bodies, by a competent and independent public officer. The certificate shall certify, in accordance with a methodology approved by the Commission, that the costs declared by the beneficiary in the financial statements on which the request of payment is based are real, accurately recorded and eligible and that all receipts have been declared, in accordance with the agreement.

The documents accompanying the request for payment shall be drawn up in accordance with the relevant provisions in Article I.5 and the annexes. The beneficiary shall certify that the information provided in his request for payment is full, reliable and true. He shall also certify that the costs incurred can be considered eligible in accordance with the agreement, that all receipts have been declared, and that his request for payment is substantiated by adequate supporting documents that can be checked.

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.

If additional information or a new report is requested, the time limit for scrutiny shall be extended by the time it takes to obtain this information. The beneficiary shall be informed of that request and the extension of the delay for scrutiny by means of a formal document. The beneficiary shall have the period laid down in Article I.4 to submit the information or new documents requested.

Extension of the delay for approval of the report may delay the payment by the equivalent time.

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, a certificate on the beneficiary's financial statements and underlying accounts, produced by an approved auditor, or in case of public bodies by a competent and independent public officer. The certificate shall certify, in accordance with a methodology approved by the Commission, that the costs declared by the beneficiary in the financial statements on which the request of payment is based are real, accurately recorded and eligible and that all receipts have been declared, in accordance with the agreement.

The documents accompanying the request for payment shall be drawn up in accordance with the relevant provisions in Article I.5 and the annexes. The beneficiary shall certify that the information provided in his request for payment is full, reliable and true. He shall also certify that the costs incurred can be considered eligible in accordance with the agreement, that all receipts have been declared, and that his request for payment is substantiated by adequate supporting documents that can be checked.

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.

If additional information or a new report is requested, the time limit for scrutiny shall be extended by the time it takes to obtain this information. The beneficiary shall be informed of that request and the extension of the delay for scrutiny by means of a formal document. The beneficiary shall have the period laid down in Article I.4 to submit the information or new documents requested.

Extension of the delay for approval of the report may delay the payment by the equivalent time.

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 as soon as possible of any such suspension by registered letter with advice of delivery or equivalent, setting out the reasons for suspension. 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 is entitled to 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. [However, where payment is due before 1 January 2008, the beneficiary may claim interest only within two months of receipt of a late payment.] 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 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.

By way of exception, when the interest calculated in accordance with the provisions of the first and second subparagraphs is lower than or equal to EUR 200, it shall be paid to the beneficiary only upon demand submitted within two months of receiving late payment.

II.14.4 The Commission shall deduct the interest yielded by pre-financing which exceeds EUR 50 000<sup>3</sup> as provided for in Article I.4 from the payment of the balance of the amount due to the beneficiary. The interest shall not be treated as a receipt within the meaning of Article II.15.4.

Where the pre-financing payments exceed EUR 750 000 per agreement at the end of each financial year, the interest shall be recovered for each reporting period. Taking account of the risks associated with the management environment and the nature of actions financed, the Commission may recover the interest generated by pre-financing lower than EUR 750 000 at least once a year.

Where the interest yielded exceeds the balance of the amount due to the beneficiary as indicated in Article II.13.4, or is generated by pre-financing referred to in the previous subparagraph, the Commission shall recover it in accordance with Article II.16.

Interest yielded by pre-financing paid to Member States is not due to the Commission.

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 receipts 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

For external actions, the corresponding ceiling is set at EUR 250 000. For crisis management and humanitarian aid operations, the interest shall be recovered if it exceeds per agreement EUR 750 000 at the end of each financial year and is for a duration of more than 12 months.

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 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
  - 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. In exceptional circumstances, justified by the necessity to safeguard the financial interests of the Communities, the Commission may recover by offsetting before the due date of the payment. 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.

By virtue of Article 165 § 3 IR, in the case of bodies that pursue an aim of general European interest, the Commission is entitled to recover the percentage of the annual profit corresponding to the Community contribution to the operating budget of the bodies concerned where these bodies are also funded by public authorities which are themselves required to recover the percentage of the annual profit corresponding to their contribution. For the purpose of calculating the amount to be recovered, the percentage corresponding to the contributions in kind to the operating budget shall not be taken into account.

#### 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.
- II.17.6 The European Court of Auditors shall have the same rights as the Commission, notably right of access, as regards checks and audits.

**SIGNATURES** 

For the Beneficiary

For the Commission,

Function:

Director

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Signature.

Done at Symmy on 29/04/2008

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Done at Brussels on 3 / 04 / 2008

In duplicate in English



# DG Education and Culture

# Youth in Action 2008

Action 4.2 "Support to the European Youth Forum"

ANNEX 2

Work Plan 2007-2008

Work Plan of the European Youth Forum 2007 - 2008

#### **EDUCATION**

#### Aim:

 Non-Formal Education (NFE) will be valued as a dynamic and inclusive educational method

#### Objectives:

1.1. The inclusion of NFE in the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the support of Member Organisations in their efforts to include NFE in national qualifications frameworks

#### Actions:

- To promote the use and implementation of the common European principles on identification and validation of non-formal and informal learning
- To advocate for the NFE dimension as stated in the EQF to be further taken into account in an effective and concrete manner
- To support MOs in their efforts to include NFE in national QF that will enhance the transfer, transparency and recognition of qualifications as learning outcomes, and to advocate for a consultation process with NYCs during processes to assess the qualifications and learning outcomes at national level
- To promote broader definitions of learning outcomes in the development and implementation of national qualification systems
- 1.2. The recognition of Youth NGOs as key stakeholders and main providers of NFE

## Actions:

- To promote the recognition of YNGOs as main providers of NFE by social and institutional partners as well as by employers
- To advocate for on-going consultation mechanisms involving YNGOs and for their inclusion in decision making processes on issues related to education, job opportunities, social responsibility and intercultural understanding

#### Activities:

- To follow up on the inaugural dialogue meeting on non-formal education
- To publish a report collecting experiences and best practice from MOs, for further work on the impact and the recognition of NFE
- 1.3. The development of quality guidelines in the provision of NFE

- To ensure the follow-up and contribution to the development and evaluation of the European Portfolio for Youth Workers and Youth Leaders as well as to the YOUTHPASS. To promote the use of both initiatives among Member Organisations
- To contribute to the implementation of the Council resolution on the values of nonformal and informal learning, especially regarding the aspect of complementarities with the formal education system
- To uphold cooperation and contribute to analysis and research processes on the impact and the visibility of NFE within all relevant institutional spaces
- To develop a policy paper on NFE quality indicators
- 1.4. The widespread recognition of the value of NFE in promoting active youth citizenship

#### Action:

To promote citizenship education and volunteering towards social and institutional

To promote "self recognition" of non-formal education - the recognition of the competences gained through non-formal education by young people themselves

The enhancement of knowledge regarding the impact of NFE for the individual and 1.5. society

#### Action:

To contribute to the on-going processes of the EU-CoE Partnership

#### Aim:

2. Equal access to quality, Life Long Learning (LLL) opportunities

#### Objectives:

Ensure the provision of quality NFE as an integral part of LLL 2.1.

#### Actions:

- Advocate for the integration of a youth dimension within the Europass
- Advocate for the added value of NFE in vocational training
- Lobby for the NFE dimension as stated in the LLL programme to be further taken into account in an effective and concrete manner
- Lobby for non-formal education related activities to be taken into account in a broader learning context (lifelong and life-wide)
- Be a key stakeholder in the recognition of the real competencies of the young 2.2. person

#### Actions:

- Promote the recognition of real competences, including their integration in the definitions of learning outcomes, to institutions and key stakeholders
- Use existing dialogue spaces to focus on the integration of real competences in the definition of further learning outcomes
- Contribute to the elimination of all barriers limiting the educational opportunities, 2.3. as well as the discrimination, within the formal learning structures

#### Actions:

- Advocate for the recognition of the competences of disadvantaged young people in education activities
- Advocate for the democratisation of student mobility programmes, the standardisation of their quality and of certificates
  - Advocate for multiple entry and exit points in formal education systems that recognise prior learning experiences

#### Activities:

- Develop the framework for a consultation system on the specific question of school students' mobility, to be established with key stakeholders and, where relevant, develop joint actions in this regard
- Encourage greater support for marginalised groups of young people 2.4.

# Actions:

Promote the development of adequate support mechanisms for young people with special needs to access education spaces

- Advocate for the greater consideration of, and accessibility to quality education for young people with special needs
- Produce a policy paper on drop-outs and early school-/university-leavers in Europe, including an action plan on how to address this problem

#### Activity:

- Organise an Information and Networking Day with MOs on how to better support young people with special needs in regards to equal access to quality and life long learning opportunities

#### Aim:

3. Youth mobility and exchanges as an integral step for developing intercultural awareness and understanding

#### Objectives:

3.1. The widespread use of global education to foster the understanding of global a interdependence and to contribute to a culture of peace

#### Actions:

- To develop a Policy Paper on Global Education
- To increase recognition by other civil society actors of the role of youth organisations in work on Global Education
- To advocate for Global Education to become part of educational programmes and curricula
- To contribute and engage actively in the educational dimension (or programme) of the University on Youth and Development, and, where relevant, with the University on Citizenship, together with the Latin-American Youth Forum, and other similar spaces
- To pursue efforts towards the greater mobility of young people worldwide as one of the main contributions to Global Education processes
- To coordinate the development of a Global Education Policy Paper, and activities, with the work carried out in the framework of Global Youth Work Development

#### Activities:

- Organise a seminar on Global Education with different regional partners, institutions, civil society actors and other stakeholders in the field of Global Education
- To organise sub-group meetings of the Pool of Trainers focusing on Global Education
- 3.2. Provide spaces for intercultural and inter-faith dialogue, and learning through interaction

#### Actions:

- To develop the capacity and promote the work done by the Faith based Expert Group
- Support and assist initiatives of MO's in the field of intercultural and inter-religious dialogue
- To ensure, where relevant, the full contribution of the YFJ to institutional processes on intercultural and inter-religious dialogue
- To ensure the full participation of the YFJ and its MOs in the 2008 European Year of Intercultural Dialogue
- Contribute to the development of the Council of Europe White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue

#### Activities:

- Organise a seminar on the role of youth exchanges in intercultural learning and inter-religious dialogue, during the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue
- Facilitate the work of YFJ Faith Based Expert Group

3.3. Promote learning through engagement in mobility and exchange programmes

#### Actions:

- Lobby for vocational school students' accessibility to exchange programmes
- Lobby for better accessibility for marginalised young people to long term exchange programmes
- 3.4. Promote mobility in education as a learning method and tool for developing better understanding, cultural interaction and open minded society

#### Actions:

To advocate for initiation and introduction of national educational mobility programmes

#### Aim:

4. A holistic approach to education in Europe

# Objectives:

4.1. The opening up of the formal education system to other learning providers such as YNGOs and to NFE methodologies

#### Actions:

- Advocate for competence tests in educational systems that take a holistic approach to education, contesting narrow tests such as the PISA study
- Advocate for the introduction of methods of, and approaches to, learning from the non-formal sector into the formal education system
- Promote the development of educational systems that take due regard of the complex and comprehensive nature of and needs for learning and development
- Contribute to the greater recognition of social, cultural, artistic and ethical competences in wider learning frameworks
- 4.2. Advocate for the integration of education for sustainable development into formal education at all levels

#### Action:

Use the UN decade for education for sustainable development as leverage to advocate for the inclusion of environmental awareness in school curricula

# YOUTH WORK DEVELOPMENT

#### Aim:

1. The continuous development of civil society, in particular of Youth NGOs

#### Objectives:

1.1. Facilitate the creation of peer support networks

- Support the development of knowledge resources in different regions of Europe
- Raise awareness on the benefits of solidarity in peer support
- Facilitate cooperation and support networks within the membership of the European Youth Forum

#### Activity:

- Facilitate the organisation and establishment of regional knowledge and capacity building pools for YFJ MOs
- 1.2. The active promotion of democratic youth initiatives and structures

#### Actions:

- Lobby governments and institutions to provide framework support for YNGO development
- Organise meeting spaces for different stakeholders and institutions aimed at increasing the institutional recognition and support of our partners in other regions of the World
- Support initiatives aimed at strengthening democracy and the role of civil society in Europe and other regions of the World

#### Activities:

- Conduct study visits and meetings to build knowledge on the situation of youth work in different countries in Europe
- 1.3. Encourage recognition of the value and role of YNGOs

#### Actions:

- Organise a consultation process on the value and role of youth work among YFJ MOs Advocate for the recognition of YNGOs as key actors in society
- 1.4. Increased solidarity among YNGOs and mutual support for their development

#### Action:

- Collect and disseminate good examples of mutual support work
- Encourage bilateral and multilateral partnerships among YFJ MOs
- 1.5. The integration of a strong youth dimension in EU Neighbourhood policies

#### Action:

- Advocate for a strong youth dimension in the neighbourhood policy, bilateral agreements and Northern dimension policy of the EU and look for possible links with EU programmes
- 1.6. Promote systems of good governance that involve young people

#### Aim:

2. Membership development of the European Youth Forum

#### Objectives:

2.1. Strengthen the Member Organisations (MOs) and the structure of the YFJ

#### Actions:

- Develop an annual membership survey, as a tool aimed at facilitating access to information on Member Organisations
- Monitor changes within the YFJ membership and initiate the start of a full membership review
- 2.2. Strengthen MOs through the provision of training and spaces for the exchange of knowledge and good practice

#### Actions:

Establish a Working Group on Youth Work Development

Build expertise on youth work development and national youth policy in different countries and regions of Europe

Disseminate information on a regular basis to MOs, on resources and training

related to youth work

Support MOs in developing their Training Policies and their Training capacity, inter alia their Pools of Trainers

Facilitate networking and the exchange of good practice amongst MOs regarding training, youth work, and national youth policy

#### Activities:

Organise thematic trainings for MOs on strengthening youth work

Adopt a Policy Paper on Training

- Organise, over a mandate of two years, three meetings of the Pool of Trainers, and sub-group meetings of the Pool of Trainers on different policy areas
- Provide effective tools for communication and information sharing 2.3.

#### Actions:"

- Set up necessary communication and information sharing mechanisms
- Increase cross-pillar and cross-sectoral cooperation 2.4.

#### Action:

Encourage the development and improvement of cooperation and mutual support tools among YFJ MOs

#### Aim:

3. Youth NGOs to become even more representative of the needs of young people

#### Objectives:

Advocate for appropriate financial and political support tools that provide 3.1. opportunities for youth organisations to reach and engage more young people

#### Action:

- Develop and implement information strategies to encourage greater youth involvement and participation
- Promote volunteering as a crucial value of youth work
- Promote the development of open, inclusive, membership-based, independent, 3.2. democratic, representative and accountable Youth NGOs

#### Actions:

- Encourage Member Organisations to reflect on their internal structures in order to better involve young people from different backgrounds in their activities and organisation
- Support the development of Regional Youth Platforms and International coordination initiatives that follow these principles

#### Activity:

- Organise a consultation activity on addressing challenges to the openness and inclusiveness of YNGOs
- Implement mechanisms for more diverse representation within and greater 3.3 accessibility to the YFJ by all young people in Europe

#### Actions:

Advocate institutional support to strengthen the capacity of YNGOs to be as representative as possible of youth at large

- Explore and consider the possibility of using other languages, in particular for the translation of policy papers and other documents of the YFJ. If member organisations are willing to provide the translation of activities into other European languages, this in particular should be welcomed and supported by the YFJ.

#### Aim:

4. Greater means for the sustainability of youth organisations and youth councils

#### Objectives:

4.1. Work towards achieving clear and effective legal structures which facilitate youth organisations to function at all levels

#### Actions:

- Support the development of adequate legal frameworks
- Lobby the EU for the adoption of a Statute for a European Association
- . Monitor and influence change in legislation hindering the work of youth NGOs

#### 4.2. Fair multi-annual funding

#### Actions:

- In the framework of the Youth in Action programme, ensure the accessibility of multi-year framework agreements for INGYO operating grants, as well as the transparency, fairness and user-friendliness of procedures for both annual and multi-year agreements
- Advocate for the introduction of multi-year youth sector funding packages at all levels
- Advocate for clear political and financial commitments from governments to YNGOs and Youth Policy through multi-year administrative funding mechanisms
- Broaden information on the possibilities for different sources of funding

#### Activities:

- Establish a database for Member Organisations on funding possibilities through projects, programmes or foundations
- Organise an Information and Networking Day on funding for INGYOs
- 4.3. Provide tailored organisational support to MOs

#### Actions:

- Provide constant support to new Member Organisations
- Provide ad-hoc expertise upon request
- Offer capacity building expertise on specific needs related to youth work or NYP development
- Analyse needs and offer tailored lobby or action strategies to MOs
- Promote cooperation, networking, and the exchange of good practice and expertise amongst NYCs and new regional platforms

#### Activities:

- Conduct support visits to Member Organisations, upon identification of needs and/or upon request
- 4.4. Provide support and advocate for greater resources to ensure the full independence of young NGO's to counter-act external interference in their autonomy and work

- Develop support tools to prevent and react to possible violations of YNGO independence
- Develop a policy on support and response to violations and infringements of YNGO independence

Support the continuous partnership of YNGOs with governments, institutions and 4.5. other stakeholders in the youth field

#### Actions:

- Lobby national governments and institutional partners for the development of strategic partnerships between states and YNGOs
- Advocate for the strengthening of a research pillar in NYP development
- Lobby for the recognition of the value, experience and impact of YNGOs in policy making at national and local levels
- Advocate for an increase in state accountability to youth and YNGOs in the provision of services
- Advocate for the establishment of co-management systems between YNGOs and states at all levels
- Advocate for political and financial commitments from governmental and inter-4.6. governmental authorities at all levels to YNGOs

#### Aim:

5. The consolidation of Youth NGOs, especially in South East Europe, Central Europe, Eastern Europe and the Caucasus

# Objectives:

Contribute to the creation of National Youth Councils (NYCs) in all member states of the Council of Europe (CoE)

#### Actions:

- Support national initiatives and coalitions aimed at the consolidation of national
  - Advocate for the recognition and support of national coordination structures by
- Provide policy and knowledge transfer to NYC initiatives on all aspects of organisational and political sustainability
- Promote the development and recognition of youth work in Central Europe (CE), 5.2. Eastern Europe (EEC) and South East Europe (SEE)
- Facilitate networking and joint actions in response to the common needs of young people in South East Europe, Central Europe, Eastern Europe and the Caucasus 5.3.

#### Actions:

- Support and promote National Youth Councils and youth work development in the
- Advocate state and other stakeholders to recognise and partner NYCs and national structures in the field of youth
- Support the development of adequate legal frameworks that allow for inclusive coordination structures
- Identify needs and lobby for training opportunities for YNGO development in these
- Facilitate MOs YWD networking in these regions

# Activity:

- Organise an Information and Networking Day, with a regional focus, on developing capacity and ensuring continuity in youth work
- Lobby for support mechanisms responding to the specific needs of young people in South East Europe, Central Europe, Eastern Europe and the Caucasus 5.4.

#### Actions:

- Advocate institutional partners to prioritise youth on the political agenda, especially in bilateral and regional policy approaches
- Lobby for the increase in the role of YFJ MOs and other YNGOs in the framework of intergovernmental regional cooperation processes
- Lobby for the establishment of fostering mechanisms, and legal and financial provisions, as well as widening spaces for YNGO exchange in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy and other relevant programmes or instruments, primarily in EEC and SEE
- Participate as a key stakeholder in youth policy initiatives
- Develop coordination with other civil society actors working to strengthen NGOs in CEEC and SEE
- Strengthen coherence in the involvement of YFJ institutional partners in CEEC and SEE

#### Aim:

6. Strong regional and global youth co-ordination structures, initiatives and partnerships as fundamental for global cooperation

#### Objectives:

6.1. Promote greater democracy, human rights, solidarity and global cooperation

#### Actions:

- Lobby the EU and support Member Organisations lobby work with their own governments for the full implementation of the World Programme for Action for Youth (WPAY), the Millennium Development Goals, the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, and the plan of implementation adopted at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development
- Develop and share methods and information for the member organisations to work actively towards the implementation of MDG's
- Support coordination among Member Organisations and partners working in the field of democracy building and sustainable development.
- Support coordination among Member Organisations and partners promoting the implementation of the WPAY
- Establish a Working Unit on Global Affairs for Development and Cooperation, aimed at contributing to the global work of the European Youth Forum and making it more relevant for MOs
- Actively explore the possibilities for engagement in global cooperation initiatives together with our global partners, such as the World Youth Festival and other events with a genuine global outreach especially those promoting democracy and human rights

#### Activities:

- Organise training and networking day to exchange experiences on how youth organisations can work on Sustainable Development both through advocacy work and awareness raising
- Actively contribute to the University on Youth and Development partnership development, joint programme, and educational, training and networking dimensions.
- 6.2. Contribute to strengthening the role, institutional recognition and the development of democratic structures within other regional platforms, through the Global Cooperation Co-ordination Committee (GCCC) and International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO)

#### Actions:

Support, through the 1% Solidarity Fund, concrete development and solidarity projects

Contribute to the development of ICMYO

Support the development of regional platforms as partners in global processes

Facilitate the involvement of MOs, as well as their regional partners, in the development and activities of regional youth platforms

Facilitate information flow and support relations between MOs, the members of regional platforms, and ICMYO

#### Activities:

Contribute to the organisation of an ICMYO meeting in the 2007-2008 period

- Convene annual meetings of the GCCC, linked to the ICMYO annual meetings, and maintain an ongoing dialogue within the GCCC
- Participate in partnerships for the full realisation of the Millennium Development 6.3. Goals (MDGs) and the implementation of the World Program of Action for Youth

#### Action:

Cooperate with the Global Call for Action Against Poverty, the Millennium Campaign, Concord and other civil society actors working on development policy, environmental sustainability, the MDGs, and the WPAY

#### Activity:

- Organise a training for MOs on the Millennium Development Goals and WPAY
- Sustain and facilitate political co-operation processes at the regional and sub-6.4. regional levels, with the involvement of relevant actors and stakeholders at the civil society and institutional levels

The YFJ will consider Africa and the Euro-med as priority regions for cooperation in 2007-08.

#### Activities:

#### Europe:

follow the work of governmental and non-governmental initiatives (i.e. Central European Initiative, GUAM, etc) and advocate for the better inclusion of youth on their agenda

#### Africa:

- Support the development of African youth organisations and promote dialogue between European and African youth organisations
- Engage and cooperate with the ICMYO members and YFJ MOs active in the region

Further develop partnerships with African regional youth platforms

Follow-up the engagement of the African regional youth platforms with the African Union in order to strengthen youth work on the continent

Engage in the possible organisation of a Euro-African Youth Summit

- Develop a policy paper on the European policy of development co-operation in
- Advocate for more respect for the needs of young people in the ACP-policy of the

#### Latin-America:

Continue the organisation of the Euro-Latin American Youth Forum (FEULAT), together with FLAJ

Support the physical extension of the FEULAT process to the Latin-American region

Contribute, together with FLAJ, to the University on Youth and Citizenship and Participation

Support dialogue with relevant institutions in the region, such as the OIJ and OEA, in order to provide input into Euro-Latin American youth cooperation processes

Engage, together with FLAJ, in the Associative Platforms Gathering and similar events, organised by the OIJ and its Member States

#### Asia:

- Engage in the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the European Youth Forum and the Asia-Europe Foundation
- Engage in the implementation and promotion of the Tianjin Declaration Actively participate in the revitalization of the Asia-Europe Youth Forum
- Follow-up the Asia-Europe Meeting and provide input to the process in coordination with our regional and global partners
- Support the interaction of regional Asian youth platforms with ASEF and other relevant international institutions
- Actively contribute to the organisation of the young political leaders' summit and ASEF events with a relevant Euro-Asian youth dimension

#### Euro-Med and Middle-East:

- Monitor and contribute to the implementation of the new phase of the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Programme
- Support the development of a strategy on youth policies in the Mediterranean region, based on the outcomes of the Euro-Med Seminar on Youth Policies and Youth Participation
- Support, together with MOs, the development of youth coordination structures in the region, based on the principles for global cooperation
- Follow-up the results of the Steering Group and continue work on the Middle-East Youth initiative, in order to develop strategies to support youth work and a culture of peace in the MEDA region
- Engage, together with the relevant actors working in the Euro-Med context, in the promotion of dialogue initiatives
- Participate in the Steering Committee of the Euro-Med Youth platform, in order to promote the development of truly representative youth structures and networks in
  - Foment and promote the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean Youth Forum for youth organisations from both regions
- Promote the creation of the Euro Mediterranean Youth Forum and assure the active involvement of YFJ MOs
- To continuously engage in building partnerships with youth organisations in the
- To promote the consolidation of national youth structures in the region

#### Aim:

# 7. To facilitate greater youth mobility

# Objectives:

An end to visa requirements for young people participating in youth activities within 7.1. CoE member states

#### Actions:

- Lobby for the development of a EU-CoE common agenda on mobility
- Continue implementing the GET VISAble campaign, highlighting the necessity to remove obstacles to youth mobility within visa procedures

#### Activities:

- Organise an Information and Networking Day on the removal of visa obstacles
- The development of a globally recognised visa for young people participating in all 7.2. mobility exercises in Europe, such as youth exchange programmes, internships, seminars, trainings and conferences

#### Action:

Raise debate at the European level on the visa problems facing young people

Advocate for the recognition of youth work in EU visa policy, especially in the Community Code on Visas and different visa agreements between the EU and non-EU states, and support MOs in their work in this regard

Advocate for a Volunteer visa status, that facilitates mobility

Lobby the UN system and its member states to facilitate and support the development of a youth work visa

Inform the European public about human rights violations in connection with visa

applications

Target embassies, and in partnership, develop programs to improve visa procedures Advocate to end human rights violations and allow for visa application procedures

which respect individual dignity

Recognition of the benefits of youth mobility and of periods spent abroad in the wider European area, with regards to personal development, civil society 7.3 development and educational development

#### Actions:

- Advocate obstacle free youth mobility to the wider public and EU decision makers
- Lobby for decreasing the costs of visas for young people involved in youth work
- Support the development of quality mobility programmes for all groups of young 7.4. people

#### Actions:

Advocate and monitor the development and implementation of Individual Pupil Mobility Scheme under the new Life Long Learning programme (Comenius sub programme)

#### Aim:

To support youth organisations to empower and address the needs of marginalised and disadvantaged young people

#### Objectives:

Development and consolidation of tools to assist MOs in effectively increasing 8.1. outreach work

#### Actions:

- Ensure the full internal implementation of a Code of Conduct on inclusive youth organisations
- Encourage the activities of organisations representing marginalised and 8.2. disadvantaged youth

#### Actions:

Monitor the work done by YFJ MOs working for and with young people with fewer opportunities

Develop relevant partnerships with other civil society organisations working for and with marginalised and disadvantaged people, in order to strengthen and support the

Advocate for the integration of a strong youth dimension in the social inclusion policies of institutional and civil society partners

#### PARTICIPATION AND YOUTH POLICY MAINSTREAMING

#### Aim:

## 1. To promote cross-sectoral youth policy

#### Objectives:

1.1. Strive for a cross-sectoral, cross-institutional and multi level approach to youth policy

#### Actions:

- Advocate the mainstreaming of youth issues within institutional partners as well as within public authorities at all levels
- Encourage Member Organisations to use different tools and processes in order to strengthen youth policy, at all levels
- Facilitate the development of participatory structures, allowing youth organisations and young people to be actively involved on policies affecting them
- Lobby for the recognition of the role of youth organisations in development cooperation and advocate for more support for their activities
- Review how national and EU development cooperation targets and includes youth
- Advocate for the development and implementation of measurable National Youth Policy indicators
- Use the WPAY as a framework to develop national youth policies
- Follow the development of the UN Youth Development Indicators and promote them in Europe

#### Activities:

- A seminar on the implementation of youth mainstreaming at all levels
- Produce a report on how young people are integrated in development cooperation and policies
- 1.2. The continuous development, monitoring and evaluation of youth policy in Europe

#### Actions:

- Evaluate and influence the implementation of the Common Objectives at all levels and support MOs in their activities related to EU cooperation in the youth field
- Develop partnerships with organisations of local and regional authorities to strengthen implementation of European youth policy frameworks at local and regional level
- Advocate and lobby for the full implementation of the commitments arising from the Open Method of Coordination in the youth field and the EU White Paper process
- Use the European Youth Pact as a basis for youth mainstreaming and an important tool in the development of youth policy
- Contribute to and advocate for the development of a framework Convention on youth policy within the Council of Europe and contribute to other CoE youth policy related relevant processes
- Promote and monitor the World Programme for Action for Youth as a useful tool to develop youth policy at the national level

#### Activities:

- Organise activities, e.g. Information and Networking Days, for Member Organisations, on relevant topics on youth policy development
- 1.3. Develop and enhance partnerships with other civil society actors

> Build up and reinforce YFJ contributions to European Platforms such as the Social Platform and the Civil Society Contact Group in order to promote mainstreaming of youth issues in their policies

Seek for strategic partnerships with the European Youth Card Association, the European Youth Information and Counselling Agency, the European Youth

Researchers Networks, and the European Centre on Volunteering

Provide policy responses to the needs of youth, which lead to their greater 1.4. autonomy

#### Actions:

Defining the transition periods which characterise youth, namely the transition between childhood and youth and youth and adulthood in order to better define what is understood by youth

Develop a YFJ approach to child policy, ensuring greater coherence in the

framework of policies on youth

Propose a YFJ approach on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the emerging Convention on the Rights of Youth in order to ensure its implementation

#### Aim:

To promote participation and active citizenship

#### Objectives:

Promote and advocate for 'a culture of youth participation' in Europe 2.1.

#### Actions:

Promote the use of different existing tools and processes, such as the CoE Charter on Youth Participation in local and regional life, and the EU Common Objectives in the field of youth participation, by decision-makers as part of our work to promote and enhance youth participation

Promote the participation of young people to our institutional partners

Support the capacity and institutional recognition of YFJ regional and global partners

#### Activities:

- Organise follow up to the participation seminar Participation works!!! enhancing the opportunities to strengthen different aspects of youth participation
- Ensure the availability of and access to Youth Information enabling greater youth 2.2. participation
- Work with relevant partners for the realisation of the active participation of young 2.3. people

#### Actions:

- Initiate strong collaboration with the EU Committee of the Regions and the Congress of local and regional authorities, as well as organisations of local and regional authorities, in order to establish the full and active participation of young people at the local and regional levels, and to improve youth policy at these levels Encourage and support Member Organisations to initiate similar partnerships at the local and regional levels
- Advocate for greater youth participation in formal decision-making 2.4.

#### Actions:

Lobby on lowering the electoral age to 16 as a key element in the active participation of young people

- Lobby for structured dialogue with the EU as a participative tool and as a means to implement youth mainstreaming
- Build up partnerships at the regional and local levels to develop participative structures for young people
- Offer training on lobbying and influencing decision-making processes in youth related policy fields
- Lobby for a European wide campaign encouraging young people to participate in the 2009 European Parliament Elections, with a specific focus on lowering the electoral age to 16
- Promote good governance in the management of formal education institutions

#### Activities:

- Provide information, support and facilitate Member Organisations in their efforts to lobby for the lowering of the electoral age to 16
- Provide opportunities for MOs to exchange expertise on participation issues
- 2.5. Advocate for co-management structures -

#### Actions:

- In the framework of the development of national youth policy, support National Youth Councils which want to set up co-management structures at the national and/or local level
- Ensure the co-management system within Directorate of Youth and Sports of the Council of Europe reflects the core principle of representativity
- Promote co-management at all levels of governance of the EU-CoE Partnership
- Gather and share knowledge about co-management structures, in the perspective of the better participation of young people
- Make available to Member Organisations examples of good practice on the establishment of co-management systems
- 2.6. Develop lobby strategies and co-ordinate actions of MO's for lowering of the electoral age to 16

#### Actions:

- Lobby for the development of Europe wide research on lowering the voting age
- Promote lowering the electoral age in all contributions to youth and participation policies of institutional partners
- Facilitate co-operation of MO's that will examine the possibilities of working with lowering the electoral to 16

#### Activities:

- Prepare and co-ordinate a visibility-media action on lowering the electoral age

# <u>Aim:</u>

3. To be the leading voice of young people in debates on the Future of Europe

#### Objectives:

3.1. Communicate the Future of Europe debate to young people

- Monitor debates on the Future of Europe and the EU Constitution and provide regular information for Member Organisations
- Stimulate and facilitate debate on the Future of Europe and the EU Constitution amongst Member Organisations

Follow up the results of the European Youth Convention, while initiating discussion on the Future of Europe on the European and national level

Provide a virtual space for MOs and other young people to exchange views on the Future of Europe

#### Activities:

- Engage in the possible realisation of European Youth Convention follow up events
- Facilitate the co-operation of Member Organisations actively engaging in the debate on the Future of Europe, as a follow up to the work done by the contact group established for the European Youth Convention
- Engage in activities related to the celebrations of the Treaty of Rome anniversary
- Facilitate debate on European integration among young people 3.2.

#### Actions:

- Develop a YFJ position and contribute to the debate on the Future of Europe, based on a broad consultation of Member Organisations and ensure the active participation of youth organisations in the debate at EU and Member State Level
- Develop a YFJ position highlighting the youth vision on the future of the European Social Model with the extensive involvement of the MOs
- Promote a Europe without dividing lines and with equal opportunities for all young 3.3. people

#### Action:

Promote greater partnership between different international institutions (i.e. follow up to the Juncker report)

#### Aim:

Promote volunteering

#### Objectives:

The adoption and implementation of policies and measures to support, promote and 41. facilitate volunteering by young people as part of Life Long Learning

#### Actions:

- Initiate a process to compile information on the status of volunteering/volunteers
- Engage a dialogue at the European level with other NGOs/platforms working on the recognition of and status for volunteers
- Promote special contribution to society and the development of young people, of volunteering in a participatory organisation

#### Activities:

- Advocate and contribute to the development of a European campaign to promote volunteering
- Contribute to the work of the informal inter-group on volunteering within the European Parliament
- Develop a contribution to the adoption and implementation of the European Quality Charter for Mobility
- Advocate for the recognition and valuing of the benefits of volunteering, both to the individual and to society, as well as of the skills, competences and attitudes 4.2. gained through volunteering

- Promote the value of youth volunteering
- Raise the profile of volunteering towards institutions and the private sector
- Promote the non-formal educational dimension of volunteering

Promote the recognition of the personal and societal benefits of volunteering

#### **HUMAN RIGHTS**

#### Aim:

1. To promote greater equality, gender equality and tackle discrimination

#### Objectives:

To promote the development of diversity plans by public authorities and public 1.1. administrations

#### Actions:

- In the framework of the All different, All equal campaign, advocate for the development and full implementation of diversity plans in close collaboration with civil society - including youth organisations. Diversity plans should allow an equal representation of all groups present in society within all public bodies
- 1.2. Develop YFJ responses to address multiple-discrimination

#### Actions:

- In 2007, develop a Position Paper on 'multiple discrimination as it affects young
- Facilitate and coordinate the participation of the YFJ and its Member Organisations in the 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All
- Advocate for the inclusion of multiple discrimination in the 2007 European year of Equal Opportunities for All and the Council of Europe Campaign All different - All equal
- Develop a policy paper on the effects of migration on young people

# Activities:

- Organise a seminar on multiple discrimination in 2007
- Convene an Expert Group on Migration
- Advocate for more gender sensitive youth policies aiming at equal opportunities and 1.3. to support MO's in their work developing programmes and activities that are more gender sensitive

- Lobby the European Union for the full implementation of the EU roadmap for gender equality 2006-2010
- In the framework of the Lisbon Strategy, monitor the follow-up of the European Pact for Gender Equality and promote concrete actions
- Monitor and contribute to the UN Beijing Platform for Action on gender equality
- Establish a working group on gender that will:
  - a) develop guidelines for how the YFJ should internally ensure gender equality in all fields and levels;
  - b) develop a policy paper on gender;
  - c) ensure and control that the YFJ includes gender aspects in all policies and implements methods ensuring gender equality
- Disseminate briefings on non-discriminatory language use in English and French
- Engage in the CoE campaign to combat violence against women
- Regard gender equality as a mainstream issue whose aspects are included into every activity and policy of the YFJ
- A Europe valuing the abilities of the individual and celebrating diversity 1.4.

#### Actions:

Take a full role in the Council of Europe Campaign All different-All equal and the European Union Campaign For diversity - against discrimination

Monitor European Institution developments when working on issues related to young

refugees and asylum-seekers

Follow up the joint declaration with the European Disability Forum and work with AGE on intergenerational dialogue

Compile a report on 'Young People and Racism Today'

Develop an YFJ Action Plan on equality

#### Aim:

To increase participation of marginalised and disadvantaged young people in EU programmes

#### Action:

Provide the MOs with information about EU programmes that are accessible for YMGOs such as the progress programme, the research framework programme, the European Social Funds and the Integrated Life Long learning Programme

# EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

More and better employment for young people

#### Objectives:

An increase in employment opportunities and decent working conditions for all 1.1.

#### Actions:

Lobby for the full implementation of the ILO concept of "decent work" and the revised European Social Charter

Lobby and follow up the materialisation of the National Reform Programmes for the

implementation of the European Youth Pact

Engage in actions aimed at the reduction of youth unemployment and against the prevalence of precarious work, particularly the lobby of the EU institutions especially DG Employment

Contribute to UN initiatives related to youth employment such as the Youth

Employment Network and the Alliance of Civilisations

Lobby for a more favourable legislation for those in precarious working conditions.

Develop a Policy Paper on youth employment

#### Activities:

Convene a Working Group on youth employment who will organise a symposium on youth employment as a visibility event to lobby EU institutions and Member States

Develop and publish a periodical checklist on the implementation of National Reform Programmes and the European Youth Pact

Advocate for more favourable conditions for entrepreneurship and self-employment 1.2.

#### Actions:

Lobby for the promotion of funding resources at the European and national level to assure adequate standards for self-employment.

Establish contacts with young employers' organisations at the European level

Examine the obstacles/problems that young entrepreneurs and young people who want to employ themselves face.

Advocate for simplification of legal frameworks for entrepreneurial activities of young people, while ensuring equal access to social security

1.3. Guide the emergence of a climate where the competences of young people are recognised and valued

# Actions:

- Lobby for the full implementation of the EU 'Employment Equality' directive and fight against all forms of discrimination borne by young people in the labour market, notably age discrimination
- Promote the recognition by the labour market, of the competences acquired through NFE systems and related activities, and other previously acquired learning outcomes
- 1.4. Ensure that Youth NGOs are recognised as partners in the dialogue between civil society and governmental actors at a local and national level and the YFJ is recognised at a European level

### Actions:

Promote the active participation of youth NGOs in different spaces and arenas for social partnership

# Aim:

2. To increase the health, safety and well being of young people

# Objectives:

2.1. Promote healthy lifestyles through non-formal education and within policies affecting the lives of young people (i.e. drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse, sexual health, mental illness, HIV/AIDS)

# Actions:

- Highlight the World Program of Action for Youth and the importance of involving youth organisations when working on healthier lifestyles and HIV/AIDS, drugs and other health-related issues
- Promote youth organisations as key partners in combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic
   Linked to the work done on social inclusion, continue the partnership with Eurocare to promote a youth response to alcohol-related harm

# Activity:

- Organise a seminar on the role of youth NGOs in combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic
- 2.2. Advocate for a better work/life balance and the eradication of poverty as key factors in improved mental and physical health

# Actions:

- Support initiatives by MOs and other relevant actors to address health, mental illness, and lifestyle issues
- Develop a policy paper on the health and well-being of young people
- Explore the impact of the social environment on the health situation of young people

# Activity:

- Linked to the work on social inclusion, organise a Networking day on best practice when working on the health and well being of young people, that will also feed into the policy paper on the topic
- 2.3. Advocate for the inclusion of young people in the determination and implementation of health policies affecting young people

# Actions:

Promote the greater access of young people to high quality health systems

- Promote the participation of youth NGOs in the development of health policies
- 2.4. Promote sustainable development

### Action:

Promote the role of youth in sustainable development.

### Aim:

# 3. To promote Youth Autonomy

# Objectives:

3.1. Promote policies that respond to demographic changes while encouraging greater youth autonomy

### Actions:

- Closely monitor and take positions on the ongoing work of the European Union concerning demographic change issues as well as the future of the European Social Model
- Advocate for a proper follow-up of the Youth Autonomy chapter of the EU White Paper on Youth and promote a reinforced follow-up process
- Develop links between policy responses to demographic changes, policies promoting sustainable development, and young peoples' priorities for youth autonomy
- 3.2. Advocate for housing, transport and infrastructure that respond to the real needs of young people

# Actions:

- Promote greater use of the concept of youth autonomy in other processes such as the European Youth Pact and the OMC on Social Inclusion and Social Protection
- Youth autonomy being the responsibility of local and national policy makers above all, allow MOs to exchange experiences and best practice on youth autonomy
- Facilitate the exchange of information and best practice on youth autonomy issues between MOs

# Activities:

- Organise Information and Networking Days on policies and best practice for youth autonomy

# Aim

# 4. Environmental Protection

### Objective:

- Promote policies that put an end to the destruction of environment and to climate change

- Lobby the European Union to develop environmental policies, try to be an active actor in environmental debates
- Support initiatives from Member organisations and other relevant actions dealing with environment and climate change
- Incorporate environment mainstreaming in all aspects of the work of the YFJ
- Promote the role of youth in sustainable development.

### **TOOLS**

### 1. INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

### European Union (EU)

 Follow up to the White Paper on youth policy of the European Union, while aiming to further consolidate the efforts of the EU to ensure greater progress and co-ordination of youth policy matters

### Actions:

- Monitor, progress and influence the OMC in the youth field
- Advocate for the European Commission and the Member States to begin to implement the horizontal aspects pillar of the 2002 Council Resolution, as well as of the youth autonomy chapter of the White Paper on Youth
- Establishing a continuous structured dialogue between the European Youth Forum and the EU

### Actions:

- Ensure, support and coordinate a system of structured dialogue between youth organisations and public authorities at the European, national and local level
- Strengthening the European Youth Forum's engagement with the EU institutions

### Actions:

- Strengthen YFJ advocacy capacity and presence vis-à-vis EU institutions
- Consolidate the position of the YFJ as the main interlocutor of the EU Institutions in the Youth field and ensure recognition of the YFJ as the representative stakeholder and key interlocutor on all EU policies affecting youth
- Maintain regular contact with relevant institutions and bodies of the EU, primarily the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions
- Maintain regular contact with the consecutive EU Presidencies, in close cooperation with the Member NYCs in the countries holding the Presidency
- Involve Member Organisations in the work with the EU institutions and EU member states, improving their capacity to contribute to EU policy processes and programmes
- Ensuring the European Youth Forum's involvement in the main EU policy processes affecting youth, including the Lisbon Strategy, the European Youth Pact and any subsequent initiatives

- Ensure that a broadened Treaty Basis for EU action in the field of youth, as formulated in the draft EU Constitution, is retained in any future changes to the Treaty Establishing the European Community
- In the framework of the Lisbon Strategy, monitor the follow-up of the Strategy and continue advocacy work for the consistent follow-up of the European Youth Pact that includes concrete measures to reach the Pact's objectives, with clear reporting on progress
- Making use of the framework provided by the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, prepare dialogues between youth organisations and governments to provide input on sustainable development issues of interest for young people, in cooperation with the EU Presidencies
- Follow-up the implications of the Bologna Process for youth organisations

# Activities:

Organise annual hearings on youth issues at the European Parliament

Support the establishment of a youth affairs inter-group in the European Parliament for the legislative period 2009 - 2013

Organise activities on a regular basis to raise the overall visibility of the YFJ in EU institutions

- Monitoring and contributing to bilateral agreements between the EU and Third Countries, which cover the youth field
- Ensuring the necessary support for the implementation of the Youth in Action programme and other programmes relevant to youth

# Actions:

- Contribute to the work of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency in designing the call for proposals
- Follow the revision of the Youth in Action Programme Guide

Ensure regular contact with the National Agencies

Advocate for the participation of National Youth Councils in the National Agency management board and in particular, in the committee selecting the projects

Ensure the participation of the YFJ in the programme committee

regularly update Member Organisations on the evolution of the Youth in Action

Follow-up the development and implementation of the Youthpass

- Monitor and influence the implementation of the individual pupil mobility scheme under the new Lifelong learning programme.
- Promoting youth mainstreaming within EU institutions and policies

# Actions:

Develop relationships with relevant services of the European Commission, Committees of the European Parliament and EU Council compositions to promote the mainstreaming of youth issues in EU policies

Define an agenda for the structured dialogue between youth organisations and the

EU, which encompasses all policy fields affecting youth

Monitor and influence EU legislation and policies affecting youth activities and the work of youth NGOs

# Council of Europe (CoE)

Continuously supporting the co-management system and the structures of the Council of Europe Directorate for Youth and Sports

# Actions:

Participate in meetings of the statutory bodies of the Directorate of Youth and Sports (DYS)

Promote the European Youth Foundation as a key instrument to support the development and sustainability of YNGOS

Promote the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to the Member States on the role of NYCs in youth policy development

Promote existing instruments of the Council of Europe on youth participation and

Promote Council of Europe policies and manuals on Human Rights Education

Promote the European Youth Campaign for Diversity, Human Rights and Participation

### Activities:

- In cooperation with the DYS of the Council of Europe, organise a Youth Event parallel to the 8th Conference of European Ministers responsible for Youth, to be held in Ukraine in 2008
- Compile a report on alternative ways and sources to increase the funds of the European Youth Foundation
- Actively contributing to the development, monitoring and evaluation of priorities, programmes and policies of the DYS and promote existing CoE tools, programmes and methodologies relevant for youth work and youth policy

### Actions:

- Participate in the meeting of experts in the youth field
- Participate in meetings aimed at preparing key seminars, training courses and other events of the Directorate of Youth and Sport
- Contribute to the follow up of the Europe youth and globalization event

### Activities:

- In the framework of the European Youth Campaign All Different All Equal, organise a closing Round Table involving Member Organisations that were active in the Campaign, to celebrate, evaluate and plan the follow-up to the Campaign
- In the framework of the European Youth Campaign All Different All Equal, develop and publish a YFJ report on the Campaign;
- Evaluate the last two DYS triennial programmes and develop proposals for the 2009-2011 programme
- Sustaining good and structured co-operation with relevant bodies of the Council of Europe

### Actions:

- Organise annual coordination meetings with the DYS Secretariat, on the fields of training, research, publications, field activities and the work of the European Youth Foundation
- Cooperate with the Directorate of Education and Culture, in particular in the field of Citizenship through Education;
- Follow-up the work of the Committee of Ministers' Rapporteur Group on Education, Culture, Sports, Youth and the Environment
- Promote the development of a Council of Europe youth strategy on sustainable development
- Organise an annual meeting with representatives of the PACE Sub-Committee on Youth and Sports and of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE)
- Supporting the greater implementation of the Revised Charter on Youth Participation in Local and Regional Life

# Actions:

- Strengthen cooperation with the CLRAE
- Support the organisation of trainings with local authority representatives at national level through the NYCs
- Contributing to the development of the youth programmes of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe (NSC)

# Action:

 Participate in meetings of the statutory bodies of the North South Centre and support youth programme development and the mainstreaming of youth in NSC programmes and activities

# European Union and Council of Europe Partnership

 Actively participating in the definition, development and evaluation of the Partnership projects and activities

### Actions:

- Produce a yearly contribution from the European Youth Forum to the Partnership activities and contribute to the working units and governing structure of the Partnership
- Advocate for better governance and greater transparency within the Partnership Management
- Disseminate information from the Partnership to YFJ MOs and ensure their involvement in Partnership activities

### Activities:

- Ensure the regular participation of YFJ representatives in all Covenant meetings
- Promote European Youth Forum policies in the European Knowledge Centre database
- Supporting innovative initiatives, notably on European Citizenship ensuring the impact and necessary outreach to Youth Organisations

### Actions:

- Advocate and contribute to a curriculum of European Citizenship Education reaching out to as many youth organisations as possible
- Support innovative initiatives, notably in the field of European Citizenship Education
- Aiming to further enhance synergies between the EU and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy and youth work development.

### Actions:

- Advocate for the strengthening of the youth policy aspects shared by the European Union and the Council of Europe, such as participation, the autonomy of young people, and education
- Lobby for the creation of a 'Youth policy' pillar in the Covenant to develop a common approach on youth policy, taking into account the actors of youth policy: young people, youth researchers, decision-makers and, where relevant, social partners

### United Nations (UN) System

- Contributing to the achievement of the MDGs and promoting global partnership to combat poverty
- Encouraging greater implementation of the WPAY and further exploring its links to the realisation of the MDGs
- Facilitating and coordinating the representation of youth organisations at the UNGA and other relevant events
- Contributing to UN and UN Agencies' (ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank) initiatives involving youth and advocating for greater co-ordination among those UN agencies dealing with youth issues
- Advocating for the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

- Maintain regular contact with the relevant institutions and bodies of the UN system
- Involve Member Organisations in the work with the UN agencies, improving their capacity to contribute to UN policy processes and programmes

- Advocate for the implementation of the WPAY and the MDG's by EU and COE Member States
- Advocate for better coordination on youth issues by UN agencies, funds and programmes
- Promote the GCCC and the ICMYO to UN member states and UN agencies, funds and programmes
- Advocate for the Western Sahara cause based in the resolutions previously approved by the YFJ

### Activities:

- Organise annual coordination meetings between the YFJ and European youth representatives to the UN
- Attend the meetings of the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development
- Attend the UNGA and, if appropriate, organise side events on topics relating to the WPAY

External Communication and partnerships

The European Youth Forum will increase the outreach and visibility of youth organisations and youth work by adapting its external communication tools and elaborating new ones to reach out to a greater number of stakeholders and young people. It will also build alliances with other NGO platforms that will contribute to achieving the YFJ's strategic aims and objectives.

### Actions:

- Create and update annually the YFJ Communication Strategy based on the Strategic Priorities and Work Plan
- Elaborate on establishing communication services that would be more attractive to young people in general and other stakeholders
- Create a Partnerships System with other NGOs and civil society organisations, research institutes, and actors in the field of youth
- Develop a set of aims for each specific document type in order to define them position papers, resolutions, declarations, etc.
- Manage and develop work with European media to ensure a clear YFJ image in the eyes of the institutions and other partners, and to communicate YFJ messages efficiently
- Continue production of the e-Youth Opinion newsletter every two months
- Publish the Youth Opinion magazine twice a year
- Publish the Annual Report
- Maintain and upgrade the European Youth Forum website
- Collaborate with the Youth Portal of the European Commission: monitor its discussion forum and have an advisory role on its Steering Committee
- Attend and organise PR events with stakeholders
- Engage in campaigns that affect young people

# Activity:

- Organise an annual Open Doors day

# 2. RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT

The European Youth Forum is a knowledge-based organisation which will continue to ground its competences in the field of youth policy development on existing data and policy evidence gathered through the engagement and diversity of its members.

The development of research should be based on direct correspondence with the organisation's priorities and should be of the highest quality, thus enhancing the credibility of the YFJ and emphasising its role as a credible partner in youth policy and youth work development in Europe and beyond.

 Gather and systematise information from the membership on the issues that need to be addressed through specific policy

Strengthen existing tools for the monitoring of youth policy

Establish permanent procedures for the monitoring of youth policy development in European countries

 Ensure that YFJ publications and external communication are organised so as to reflect existing knowledge within the platform

 Actively participate in relevant research networks and promote the implementation of such networks at the national level in cooperation with NYCs

 Support and contribute to the development of the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy

# 3. INTERNAL COMMUNICATION AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The European Youth Forum is an organisation that continues to grow and learn, and as it enters its adolescence, some structural enhancements are needed. Organisational structures and communication channels have to be permanently adapted so as to best support the work of the membership. The knowledge developed, information gained and results achieved through the organisation's lobby and advocacy work, have to be accessible to MOs and to the current and on-going working structures of the Forum - with the aim to smoothen knowledge exchange and management.

The European Youth Forum has already developed a set of valuable tools for communication with its MOs. All represent a huge potential for information flow within and to the Member Organisations. The international and complex dimension of the European Youth Forum demands highly effective and transparent communication within its structure. Member Organisations should furthermore be provided with clear and sustainable channels through which they can provide input to the different policy positions of the organisation, ensuring greater consultation and accountability.

Diversified funds for the daily work of the European Youth Forum are essential for independent and unbiased work. Therefore it is fundamental to strive for the diversification of the Forum's income using a clear strategy, guided by ethical and environmentally sustainable considerations.

### Actions:

- Set up a YFJ alumni database

- Create a well-structured online archive of Bureau updates and reports, briefing notes for policy areas or explaining the context of policy documents

 Keep the Internal Communication Plan up to date, based on the annual communication survey, and adapt it to the needs of the MOs and working structures

Set up a content management system to enable MOs to update independently their contact details and organisational information on the YFJ website

Elaborate options to create spaces for the interaction of MOs' members that would take place outside the formal agenda of the YFJ (Festival, Summer Camp, Summer University etc.)

 Continue issuing the weekly European Youth Forum Courier, communicating all current YFJ information for MOs

- Maintain and update the intranet

- Have an analytical reflection on the landscape of youth organisations in Europe, while further promoting our values of democratic representation, membership-based organisations, and outreach to as many young people as possible

Organise an assessment of the capacity of the YFJ to respond to and work in the

best interests of MOs, as the membership continues to grow

Develop a clear strategic guideline on how the membership of the YFJ can be developed in the future

 Develop a clear and transparent process for deciding and selecting the location of YFJ events, meetings and activities. This would include all statutory meetings such

- as GAs, COMEMs, Bureau meetings and others such as EUACOM, COEACOM, training courses and seminars.
- Develop clear aims, objectives, responsibilities and working methods for all permanent and non-permanent YFJ working structures, in easy and straightforward language and make them accessible to all MO's via the YFJ intranet
- Organise a strategic assessment of the size of the working structures of the YFJ and envisage smaller and more flexible structures allowing Member Organisations to nominate experts in the different working fields
- Assess the need for policy development seminars based on the work priorities
- Renew the Pool of Trainers, and initiate a partial annual refreshment to engage new trainers
- Ensure the development of the Pool of Trainers, and facilitate its use by MOs
- Develop a clear concept and define distinct target groups for the Information and Networking Days
- To raise awareness on the mobility obstacles that young people face, as well as on the promotion of a visa for young people in all relevant activities of the YFJ

# Activities:

- Hold a Press and Communications Meeting gathering those responsible for press relations within MOs, to enable the creation of a network for cooperation and the exchange of relevant information and best practice



# DG Education and Culture

# Youth in Action 2008

Action 4.2 "Support to the European Youth Forum"

**ANNEX 2** 

Work Plan 2007-2008

# Work Plan of the European Youth Forum 2007 - 2008

# **EDUCATION**

# Aim:

 Non-Formal Education (NFE) will be valued as a dynamic and inclusive educational method

# Objectives:

1.1. The inclusion of NFE in the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the support of Member Organisations in their efforts to include NFE in national qualifications frameworks

### Actions:

- To promote the use and implementation of the common European principles on identification and validation of non-formal and informal learning
- To advocate for the NFE dimension as stated in the EQF to be further taken into account in an effective and concrete manner
- To support MOs in their efforts to include NFE in national QF that will enhance the transfer, transparency and recognition of qualifications as learning outcomes, and to advocate for a consultation process with NYCs during processes to assess the qualifications and learning outcomes at national level
- To promote broader definitions of learning outcomes in the development and implementation of national qualification systems
- 1.2. The recognition of Youth NGOs as key stakeholders and main providers of NFE

# Actions:

- To promote the recognition of YNGOs as main providers of NFE by social and institutional partners as well as by employers
- To advocate for on-going consultation mechanisms involving YNGOs and for their inclusion in decision making processes on issues related to education, job opportunities, social responsibility and intercultural understanding

# Activities:

- To follow up on the inaugural dialogue meeting on non-formal education
- To publish a report collecting experiences and best practice from MOs, for further work on the impact and the recognition of NFE
- 1.3. The development of quality guidelines in the provision of NFE

- To ensure the follow-up and contribution to the development and evaluation of the European Portfolio for Youth Workers and Youth Leaders as well as to the YOUTHPASS. To promote the use of both initiatives among Member Organisations
- To contribute to the implementation of the Council resolution on the values of nonformal and informal learning, especially regarding the aspect of complementarities with the formal education system
- To uphold cooperation and contribute to analysis and research processes on the impact and the visibility of NFE within all relevant institutional spaces
- To develop a policy paper on NFE quality indicators
- The widespread recognition of the value of NFE in promoting active youth citizenship

### Action:

- To promote citizenship education and volunteering towards social and institutional partners

To promote "self recognition" of non-formal education - the recognition of the competences gained through non-formal education by young people themselves

1.5. The enhancement of knowledge regarding the impact of NFE for the individual and society

# Action:

To contribute to the on-going processes of the EU-CoE Partnership

# Aim:

2. Equal access to quality, Life Long Learning (LLL) opportunities

# Objectives:

2.1. Ensure the provision of quality NFE as an integral part of LLL

### Actions:

- Advocate for the integration of a youth dimension within the Europass
- Advocate for the added value of NFE in vocational training
- Lobby for the NFE dimension as stated in the LLL programme to be further taken into account in an effective and concrete manner
- Lobby for non-formal education related activities to be taken into account in a broader learning context (lifelong and life-wide)
- 2.2. Be a key stakeholder in the recognition of the real competencies of the young person

# Actions:

- Promote the recognition of real competences, including their integration in the definitions of learning outcomes, to institutions and key stakeholders
- Use existing dialogue spaces to focus on the integration of real competences in the definition of further learning outcomes
- 2.3. Contribute to the elimination of all barriers limiting the educational opportunities, as well as the discrimination, within the formal learning structures

# Actions:

- Advocate for the recognition of the competences of disadvantaged young people in education activities
- Advocate for the democratisation of student mobility programmes, the standardisation of their quality and of certificates
- Advocate for multiple entry and exit points in formal education systems that recognise prior learning experiences

# Activities:

- Develop the framework for a consultation system on the specific question of school students' mobility, to be established with key stakeholders and, where relevant, develop joint actions in this regard
- 2.4. Encourage greater support for marginalised groups of young people

# Actions:

 Promote the development of adequate support mechanisms for young people with special needs to access education spaces

- Advocate for the greater consideration of, and accessibility to quality education for young people with special needs
- Produce a policy paper on drop-outs and early school-/university-leavers in Europe, including an action plan on how to address this problem

# Activity:

Organise an Information and Networking Day with MOs on how to better support young people with special needs in regards to equal access to quality and life long learning opportunities

# Aim:

3. Youth mobility and exchanges as an integral step for developing intercultural awareness and understanding

# Objectives:

3.1. The widespread use of global education to foster the understanding of global interdependence and to contribute to a culture of peace

### Actions:

- To develop a Policy Paper on Global Education
- To increase recognition by other civil society actors of the role of youth organisations in work on Global Education
- To advocate for Global Education to become part of educational programmes and curricula
- To contribute and engage actively in the educational dimension (or programme) of the University on Youth and Development, and, where relevant, with the University on Citizenship, together with the Latin-American Youth Forum, and other similar spaces
- To pursue efforts towards the greater mobility of young people worldwide as one of the main contributions to Global Education processes
- To coordinate the development of a Global Education Policy Paper, and activities, with the work carried out in the framework of Global Youth Work Development

# Activities:

- Organise a seminar on Global Education with different regional partners, institutions, civil society actors and other stakeholders in the field of Global Education
- To organise sub-group meetings of the Pool of Trainers focusing on Global Education
- 3.2. Provide spaces for intercultural and inter-faith dialogue, and learning through interaction

# Actions:

- To develop the capacity and promote the work done by the Faith based Expert Group
- Support and assist initiatives of MO's in the field of intercultural and inter-religious dialogue
- To ensure, where relevant, the full contribution of the YFJ to institutional processes on intercultural and inter-religious dialogue
- To ensure the full participation of the YFJ and its MOs in the 2008 European Year of Intercultural Dialogue
- Contribute to the development of the Council of Europe White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue

### Activities:

- Organise a seminar on the role of youth exchanges in intercultural learning and inter-religious dialogue, during the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue
- Facilitate the work of YFJ Faith Based Expert Group

3.3. Promote learning through engagement in mobility and exchange programmes

# Actions:

- Lobby for vocational school students' accessibility to exchange programmes
- Lobby for better accessibility for marginalised young people to long term exchange programmes
- 3.4. Promote mobility in education as a learning method and tool for developing better understanding, cultural interaction and open minded society

# Actions:

To advocate for initiation and introduction of national educational mobility programmes

# Aim:

4. A holistic approach to education in Europe

# Objectives:

4.1. The opening up of the formal education system to other learning providers such as YNGOs and to NFE methodologies

### Actions:

- Advocate for competence tests in educational systems that take a holistic approach to education, contesting narrow tests such as the PISA study
- Advocate for the introduction of methods of, and approaches to, learning from the non-formal sector into the formal education system
- Promote the development of educational systems that take due regard of the complex and comprehensive nature of and needs for learning and development
- Contribute to the greater recognition of social, cultural, artistic and ethical competences in wider learning frameworks
- 4.2. Advocate for the integration of education for sustainable development into formal education at all levels

### Action:

Use the UN decade for education for sustainable development as leverage to advocate for the inclusion of environmental awareness in school curricula

# YOUTH WORK DEVELOPMENT

# Aim:

1. The continuous development of civil society, in particular of Youth NGOs

# Objectives:

1.1. Facilitate the creation of peer support networks

- Support the development of knowledge resources in different regions of Europe
- Raise awareness on the benefits of solidarity in peer support
- Facilitate cooperation and support networks within the membership of the European Youth Forum

### Activity:

- Facilitate the organisation and establishment of regional knowledge and capacity building pools for YFJ MOs
- 1.2. The active promotion of democratic youth initiatives and structures

### Actions:

- Lobby governments and institutions to provide framework support for YNGO development
- Organise meeting spaces for different stakeholders and institutions aimed at increasing the institutional recognition and support of our partners in other regions of the World
- Support initiatives aimed at strengthening democracy and the role of civil society in Europe and other regions of the World

### Activities:

- Conduct study visits and meetings to build knowledge on the situation of youth work in different countries in Europe
- 1.3. Encourage recognition of the value and role of YNGOs

### Actions:

- Organise a consultation process on the value and role of youth work among YFJ MOs
- Advocate for the recognition of YNGOs as key actors in society
- 1.4. Increased solidarity among YNGOs and mutual support for their development

### Action:

- Collect and disseminate good examples of mutual support work
- Encourage bilateral and multilateral partnerships among YFJ MOs
- 1.5. The integration of a strong youth dimension in EU Neighbourhood policies

# Action:

- Advocate for a strong youth dimension in the neighbourhood policy, bilateral agreements and Northern dimension policy of the EU and look for possible links with EU programmes
- 1.6. Promote systems of good governance that involve young people

# Aim:

2. Membership development of the European Youth Forum

# Objectives:

2.1. Strengthen the Member Organisations (MOs) and the structure of the YFJ

### Actions:

- Develop an annual membership survey, as a tool aimed at facilitating access to information on Member Organisations
- Monitor changes within the YFJ membership and initiate the start of a full membership review
- 2.2. Strengthen MOs through the provision of training and spaces for the exchange of knowledge and good practice

# Actions:

Establish a Working Group on Youth Work Development

- Build expertise on youth work development and national youth policy in different countries and regions of Europe
- Disseminate information on a regular basis to MOs, on resources and training related to youth work
- Support MOs in developing their Training Policies and their Training capacity, *interalia* their Pools of Trainers
- Facilitate networking and the exchange of good practice amongst MOs regarding training, youth work, and national youth policy

### Activities:

- Organise thematic trainings for MOs on strengthening youth work
- Adopt a Policy Paper on Training
- Organise, over a mandate of two years, three meetings of the Pool of Trainers, and sub-group meetings of the Pool of Trainers on different policy areas
- 2.3. Provide effective tools for communication and information sharing

# Actions:

- Set up necessary communication and information sharing mechanisms
- 2.4. Increase cross-pillar and cross-sectoral cooperation

### Action:

 Encourage the development and improvement of cooperation and mutual support tools among YFJ MOs

### Aim:

3. Youth NGOs to become even more representative of the needs of young people

# Objectives:

3.1. Advocate for appropriate financial and political support tools that provide opportunities for youth organisations to reach and engage more young people

# Action:

- Develop and implement information strategies to encourage greater youth involvement and participation
- Promote volunteering as a crucial value of youth work
- 3.2. Promote the development of open, inclusive, membership-based, independent, democratic, representative and accountable Youth NGOs

### Actions:

- Encourage Member Organisations to reflect on their internal structures in order to better involve young people from different backgrounds in their activities and organisation
- Support the development of Regional Youth Platforms and International coordination initiatives that follow these principles

### Activity:

- Organise a consultation activity on addressing challenges to the openness and inclusiveness of YNGOs
- 3.3 Implement mechanisms for more diverse representation within and greater accessibility to the YFJ by all young people in Europe

### Actions:

Advocate institutional support to strengthen the capacity of YNGOs to be as representative as possible of youth at large

- Explore and consider the possibility of using other languages, in particular for the translation of policy papers and other documents of the YFJ. If member organisations are willing to provide the translation of activities into other European languages, this in particular should be welcomed and supported by the YFJ.

# Aim:

4. Greater means for the sustainability of youth organisations and youth councils

# Objectives:

4.1. Work towards achieving clear and effective legal structures which facilitate youth organisations to function at all levels

### Actions:

- Support the development of adequate legal frameworks
- Lobby the EU for the adoption of a Statute for a European Association
- Monitor and influence change in legislation hindering the work of youth NGOs
- 4.2. Fair multi-annual funding

### Actions:

- In the framework of the Youth in Action programme, ensure the accessibility of multi-year framework agreements for INGYO operating grants, as well as the transparency, fairness and user-friendliness of procedures for both annual and multi-year agreements
- Advocate for the introduction of multi-year youth sector funding packages at all levels
- Advocate for clear political and financial commitments from governments to YNGOs and Youth Policy through multi-year administrative funding mechanisms
- Broaden information on the possibilities for different sources of funding

### Activities:

- Establish a database for Member Organisations on funding possibilities through projects, programmes or foundations
- Organise an Information and Networking Day on funding for INGYOs
- 4.3. Provide tailored organisational support to MOs

# Actions:

- Provide constant support to new Member Organisations
- Provide ad-hoc expertise upon request
- Offer capacity building expertise on specific needs related to youth work or NYP development
- Analyse needs and offer tailored lobby or action strategies to MOs
- Promote cooperation, networking, and the exchange of good practice and expertise amongst NYCs and new regional platforms

### Activities:

- Conduct support visits to Member Organisations, upon identification of needs and/or upon request
- 4.4. Provide support and advocate for greater resources to ensure the full independence of young NGO's to counter-act external interference in their autonomy and work

- Develop support tools to prevent and react to possible violations of YNGO independence
- Develop a policy on support and response to violations and infringements of YNGO independence

4.5. Support the continuous partnership of YNGOs with governments, institutions and other stakeholders in the youth field

### Actions:

- Lobby national governments and institutional partners for the development of strategic partnerships between states and YNGOs
- Advocate for the strengthening of a research pillar in NYP development
- Lobby for the recognition of the value, experience and impact of YNGOs in policy making at national and local levels
- Advocate for an increase in state accountability to youth and YNGOs in the provision of services
- Advocate for the establishment of co-management systems between YNGOs and states at all levels
- 4.6. Advocate for political and financial commitments from governmental and intergovernmental authorities at all levels to YNGOs

# Aim:

5. The consolidation of Youth NGOs, especially in South East Europe, Central Europe, Eastern Europe and the Caucasus

# Objectives:

5.1. Contribute to the creation of National Youth Councils (NYCs) in all member states of the Council of Europe (CoE)

# Actions:

- Support national initiatives and coalitions aimed at the consolidation of national youth work
- Advocate for the recognition and support of national coordination structures by governments
- Provide policy and knowledge transfer to NYC initiatives on all aspects of organisational and political sustainability
- 5.2. Promote the development and recognition of youth work in Central Europe (CE), Eastern Europe (EEC) and South East Europe (SEE)
- 5.3. Facilitate networking and joint actions in response to the common needs of young people in South East Europe, Central Europe, Eastern Europe and the Caucasus

# Actions:

- Support and promote National Youth Councils and youth work development in the three regions
- Advocate state and other stakeholders to recognise and partner NYCs and national structures in the field of youth
- Support the development of adequate legal frameworks that allow for inclusive coordination structures
- Identify needs and lobby for training opportunities for YNGO development in these regions
- Facilitate MOs YWD networking in these regions

# Activity:

- Organise an Information and Networking Day, with a regional focus, on developing capacity and ensuring continuity in youth work
- 5.4. Lobby for support mechanisms responding to the specific needs of young people in South East Europe, Central Europe, Eastern Europe and the Caucasus

### Actions:

- Advocate institutional partners to prioritise youth on the political agenda, especially in bilateral and regional policy approaches
- Lobby for the increase in the role of YFJ MOs and other YNGOs in the framework of intergovernmental regional cooperation processes
- Lobby for the establishment of fostering mechanisms, and legal and financial provisions, as well as widening spaces for YNGO exchange in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy and other relevant programmes or instruments, primarily in EEC and SEE
- Participate as a key stakeholder in youth policy initiatives
- Develop coordination with other civil society actors working to strengthen NGOs in CEEC and SEE
- Strengthen coherence in the involvement of YFJ institutional partners in CEEC and SFF

### Aim:

6. Strong regional and global youth co-ordination structures, initiatives and partnerships as fundamental for global cooperation

# Objectives:

6.1. Promote greater democracy, human rights, solidarity and global cooperation

### Actions:

- Lobby the EU and support Member Organisations lobby work with their own governments for the full implementation of the World Programme for Action for Youth (WPAY), the Millennium Development Goals, the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, and the plan of implementation adopted at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development
- Develop and share methods and information for the member organisations to work actively towards the implementation of MDG's
- Support coordination among Member Organisations and partners working in the field of democracy building and sustainable development.
- Support coordination among Member Organisations and partners promoting the implementation of the WPAY
- Establish a Working Unit on Global Affairs for Development and Cooperation, aimed at contributing to the global work of the European Youth Forum and making it more relevant for MOs
- Actively explore the possibilities for engagement in global cooperation initiatives together with our global partners, such as the World Youth Festival and other events with a genuine global outreach especially those promoting democracy and human rights

# Activities:

- Organise training and networking day to exchange experiences on how youth organisations can work on Sustainable Development both through advocacy work and awareness raising
- Actively contribute to the University on Youth and Development partnership development, joint programme, and educational, training and networking dimensions.
- 6.2. Contribute to strengthening the role, institutional recognition and the development of democratic structures within other regional platforms, through the Global Cooperation Co-ordination Committee (GCCC) and International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO)

### Actions:

- Support, through the 1% Solidarity Fund, concrete development and solidarity projects
- Contribute to the development of ICMYO
- Support the development of regional platforms as partners in global processes
- Facilitate the involvement of MOs, as well as their regional partners, in the development and activities of regional youth platforms
- Facilitate information flow and support relations between MOs, the members of regional platforms, and ICMYO

### Activities:

- Contribute to the organisation of an ICMYO meeting in the 2007-2008 period
- Convene annual meetings of the GCCC, linked to the ICMYO annual meetings, and maintain an ongoing dialogue within the GCCC
- 6.3. Participate in partnerships for the full realisation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the implementation of the World Program of Action for Youth

### Action:

 Cooperate with the Global Call for Action Against Poverty, the Millennium Campaign, Concord and other civil society actors working on development policy, environmental sustainability, the MDGs, and the WPAY

# Activity:

- Organise a training for MOs on the Millennium Development Goals and WPAY
- 6.4. Sustain and facilitate political co-operation processes at the regional and subregional levels, with the involvement of relevant actors and stakeholders at the civil society and institutional levels

The YFJ will consider Africa and the Euro-med as priority regions for cooperation in 2007-08.

# Activities:

# Furope:

- follow the work of governmental and non-governmental initiatives (i.e. Central European Initiative, GUAM, etc) and advocate for the better inclusion of youth on their agenda

# Africa:

- Support the development of African youth organisations and promote dialogue between European and African youth organisations
- Engage and cooperate with the ICMYO members and YFJ MOs active in the region
- Further develop partnerships with African regional youth platforms
- Follow-up the engagement of the African regional youth platforms with the African Union in order to strengthen youth work on the continent
- Engage in the possible organisation of a Euro-African Youth Summit
- Develop a policy paper on the European policy of development co-operation in Africa
- Advocate for more respect for the needs of young people in the ACP-policy of the

# Latin-America:

- Continue the organisation of the Euro-Latin American Youth Forum (FEULAT), together with FLAJ
- Support the physical extension of the FEULAT process to the Latin-American region
- Contribute, together with FLAJ, to the University on Youth and Citizenship and Participation
- Support dialogue with relevant institutions in the region, such as the OIJ and OEA, in order to provide input into Euro-Latin American youth cooperation processes

- Engage, together with FLAJ, in the Associative Platforms Gathering and similar events, organised by the OIJ and its Member States

### Asia:

- Engage in the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the European Youth Forum and the Asia-Europe Foundation
- Engage in the implementation and promotion of the Tianjin Declaration
- Actively participate in the revitalization of the Asia-Europe Youth Forum
- Follow-up the Asia-Europe Meeting and provide input to the process in coordination with our regional and global partners
- Support the interaction of regional Asian youth platforms with ASEF and other relevant international institutions
- Actively contribute to the organisation of the young political leaders' summit and ASEF events with a relevant Euro-Asian youth dimension

# Euro-Med and Middle-East:

- Monitor and contribute to the implementation of the new phase of the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Programme
- Support the development of a strategy on youth policies in the Mediterranean region, based on the outcomes of the Euro-Med Seminar on Youth Policies and Youth Participation
- Support, together with MOs, the development of youth coordination structures in the region, based on the principles for global cooperation
- Follow-up the results of the Steering Group and continue work on the Middle-East Youth Initiative, in order to develop strategies to support youth work and a culture of peace in the MEDA region
- Engage, together with the relevant actors working in the Euro-Med context, in the promotion of dialogue initiatives
- Participate in the Steering Committee of the Euro-Med Youth platform, in order to promote the development of truly representative youth structures and networks in the region
- Foment and promote the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean Youth Forum for youth organisations from both regions
- Promote the creation of the Euro Mediterranean Youth Forum and assure the active involvement of YFJ MOs
- To continuously engage in building partnerships with youth organisations in the region
- To promote the consolidation of national youth structures in the region

# Aim:

# 7. To facilitate greater youth mobility

# Objectives:

7.1. An end to visa requirements for young people participating in youth activities within CoE member states

# Actions:

- Lobby for the development of a EU-CoE common agenda on mobility
- Continue implementing the GET VISAble campaign, highlighting the necessity to remove obstacles to youth mobility within visa procedures

# Activities:

- Organise an Information and Networking Day on the removal of visa obstacles
- 7.2. The development of a globally recognised visa for young people participating in all mobility exercises in Europe, such as youth exchange programmes, internships, seminars, trainings and conferences

### Action:

- Raise debate at the European level on the visa problems facing young people

- Advocate for the recognition of youth work in EU visa policy, especially in the Community Code on Visas and different visa agreements between the EU and non-EU states, and support MOs in their work in this regard

- Advocate for a Volunteer visa status, that facilitates mobility

- Lobby the UN system and its member states to facilitate and support the development of a youth work visa
- Inform the European public about human rights violations in connection with visa applications
- Target embassies, and in partnership, develop programs to improve visa procedures
- Advocate to end human rights violations and allow for visa application procedures which respect individual dignity
- 7.3 Recognition of the benefits of youth mobility and of periods spent abroad in the wider European area, with regards to personal development, civil society development and educational development

### Actions:

- Advocate obstacle free youth mobility to the wider public and EU decision makers
- Lobby for decreasing the costs of visas for young people involved in youth work
- 7.4. Support the development of quality mobility programmes for all groups of young people

# Actions:

- Advocate and monitor the development and implementation of Individual Pupil Mobility Scheme under the new Life Long Learning programme (Comenius sub programme)

### Aim:

8. To support youth organisations to empower and address the needs of marginalised and disadvantaged young people

# Objectives:

8.1. Development and consolidation of tools to assist MOs in effectively increasing outreach work

# Actions:

- Ensure the full internal implementation of a Code of Conduct on inclusive youth organisations
- 8.2. Encourage the activities of organisations representing marginalised and disadvantaged youth

### Actions:

- Monitor the work done by YFJ MOs working for and with young people with fewer opportunities

 Develop relevant partnerships with other civil society organisations working for and with marginalised and disadvantaged people, in order to strengthen and support the work of MOs

Advocate for the integration of a strong youth dimension in the social inclusion policies of institutional and civil society partners

# PARTICIPATION AND YOUTH POLICY MAINSTREAMING

# Aim:

# 1. To promote cross-sectoral youth policy

# Objectives:

1.1. Strive for a cross-sectoral, cross-institutional and multi level approach to youth policy

# Actions:

- Advocate the mainstreaming of youth issues within institutional partners as well as within public authorities at all levels
- Encourage Member Organisations to use different tools and processes in order to strengthen youth policy, at all levels
- Facilitate the development of participatory structures, allowing youth organisations and young people to be actively involved on policies affecting them
- Lobby for the recognition of the role of youth organisations in development cooperation and advocate for more support for their activities
- Review how national and EU development cooperation targets and includes youth
- Advocate for the development and implementation of measurable National Youth Policy indicators
- Use the WPAY as a framework to develop national youth policies
- Follow the development of the UN Youth Development Indicators and promote them in Europe

# Activities:

- A seminar on the implementation of youth mainstreaming at all levels
- Produce a report on how young people are integrated in development cooperation and policies
- 1.2. The continuous development, monitoring and evaluation of youth policy in Europe

### Actions:

- Evaluate and influence the implementation of the Common Objectives at all levels and support MOs in their activities related to EU cooperation in the youth field
- Develop partnerships with organisations of local and regional authorities to strengthen implementation of European youth policy frameworks at local and regional level
- Advocate and lobby for the full implementation of the commitments arising from the Open Method of Coordination in the youth field and the EU White Paper process
- Use the European Youth Pact as a basis for youth mainstreaming and an important tool in the development of youth policy
- Contribute to and advocate for the development of a framework Convention on youth policy within the Council of Europe and contribute to other CoE youth policy related relevant processes
- Promote and monitor the World Programme for Action for Youth as a useful tool to develop youth policy at the national level

# Activities:

- Organise activities, e.g. Information and Networking Days, for Member Organisations, on relevant topics on youth policy development
- 1.3. Develop and enhance partnerships with other civil society actors

- Build up and reinforce YFJ contributions to European Platforms such as the Social Platform and the Civil Society Contact Group in order to promote mainstreaming of youth issues in their policies

Seek for strategic partnerships with the European Youth Card Association, the European Youth Information and Counselling Agency, the European Youth

Researchers Networks, and the European Centre on Volunteering

1.4. Provide policy responses to the needs of youth, which lead to their greater autonomy

### Actions:

Defining the transition periods which characterise youth, namely the transition between childhood and youth and youth and adulthood in order to better define what is understood by youth

Develop a YFJ approach to child policy, ensuring greater coherence in the

framework of policies on youth

- Propose a YFJ approach on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the emerging Convention on the Rights of Youth in order to ensure its implementation

# Aim:

2. To promote participation and active citizenship

# Objectives:

2.1. Promote and advocate for 'a culture of youth participation' in Europe

# Actions:

- Promote the use of different existing tools and processes, such as the CoE Charter on Youth Participation in local and regional life, and the EU Common Objectives in the field of youth participation, by decision-makers as part of our work to promote and enhance youth participation

Promote the participation of young people to our institutional partners

Support the capacity and institutional recognition of YFJ regional and global partners

# Activities:

- Organise follow up to the participation seminar *Participation works!!!* enhancing the opportunities to strengthen different aspects of youth participation
- 2.2. Ensure the availability of and access to Youth Information enabling greater youth participation
- 2.3. Work with relevant partners for the realisation of the active participation of young people

# Actions:

 Initiate strong collaboration with the EU Committee of the Regions and the Congress of local and regional authorities, as well as organisations of local and regional authorities, in order to establish the full and active participation of young people at the local and regional levels, and to improve youth policy at these levels

Encourage and support Member Organisations to initiate similar partnerships at the

local and regional levels

2.4. Advocate for greater youth participation in formal decision-making

# Actions:

Lobby on lowering the electoral age to 16 as a key element in the active participation of young people

- Lobby for structured dialogue with the EU as a participative tool and as a means to implement youth mainstreaming
- Build up partnerships at the regional and local levels to develop participative structures for young people
- Offer training on lobbying and influencing decision-making processes in youth related policy fields
- Lobby for a European wide campaign encouraging young people to participate in the 2009 European Parliament Elections, with a specific focus on lowering the electoral age to 16
- Promote good governance in the management of formal education institutions

### Activities:

- Provide information, support and facilitate Member Organisations in their efforts to lobby for the lowering of the electoral age to 16
- Provide opportunities for MOs to exchange expertise on participation issues

# 2.5. Advocate for co-management structures

### Actions:

- In the framework of the development of national youth policy, support National Youth Councils which want to set up co-management structures at the national and/or local level
- Ensure the co-management system within Directorate of Youth and Sports of the Council of Europe reflects the core principle of representativity
- Promote co-management at all levels of governance of the EU-CoE Partnership
- Gather and share knowledge about co-management structures, in the perspective of the better participation of young people
- Make available to Member Organisations examples of good practice on the establishment of co-management systems
- 2.6. Develop lobby strategies and co-ordinate actions of MO's for lowering of the electoral age to 16

# Actions:

- Lobby for the development of Europe wide research on lowering the voting age
- Promote lowering the electoral age in all contributions to youth and participation policies of institutional partners
- Facilitate co-operation of MO's that will examine the possibilities of working with lowering the electoral to 16

# Activities:

Prepare and co-ordinate a visibility-media action on lowering the electoral age

# Aim:

# 3. To be the leading voice of young people in debates on the Future of Europe

# Objectives:

3.1. Communicate the Future of Europe debate to young people

- Monitor debates on the Future of Europe and the EU Constitution and provide regular information for Member Organisations
- Stimulate and facilitate debate on the Future of Europe and the EU Constitution amongst Member Organisations

- Follow up the results of the European Youth Convention, while initiating discussion on the Future of Europe on the European and national level
- Provide a virtual space for MOs and other young people to exchange views on the Future of Europe

# Activities:

- Engage in the possible realisation of European Youth Convention follow up events
- Facilitate the co-operation of Member Organisations actively engaging in the debate on the Future of Europe, as a follow up to the work done by the contact group established for the European Youth Convention
- Engage in activities related to the celebrations of the Treaty of Rome anniversary
- Facilitate debate on European integration among young people 3.2.

### Actions:

- Develop a YFJ position and contribute to the debate on the Future of Europe, based on a broad consultation of Member Organisations and ensure the active participation of youth organisations in the debate at EU and Member State level
- Develop a YFJ position highlighting the youth vision on the future of the European Social Model with the extensive involvement of the MOs
- Promote a Europe without dividing lines and with equal opportunities for all young 3.3. people

### Action:

Promote greater partnership between different international institutions (i.e. follow up to the Juncker report)

# Aim:

# 4. Promote volunteering

# Objectives:

The adoption and implementation of policies and measures to support, promote and 4.1. facilitate volunteering by young people as part of Life Long Learning

# Actions:

- Initiate a process to compile information on the status of volunteering/volunteers
- Engage a dialogue at the European level with other NGOs/platforms working on the recognition of and status for volunteers
- Promote special contribution to society and the development of young people , of volunteering in a participatory organisation

# Activities:

- Advocate and contribute to the development of a European campaign to promote volunteering
- Contribute to the work of the informal inter-group on volunteering within the European Parliament
- Develop a contribution to the adoption and implementation of the European Quality Charter for Mobility
- Advocate for the recognition and valuing of the benefits of volunteering, both to 4.2. the individual and to society, as well as of the skills, competences and attitudes gained through volunteering

- Promote the value of youth volunteering
- Raise the profile of volunteering towards institutions and the private sector
- Promote the non-formal educational dimension of volunteering

Promote the recognition of the personal and societal benefits of volunteering

# **HUMAN RIGHTS**

# Aim:

1. To promote greater equality, gender equality and tackle discrimination

# Objectives:

To promote the development of diversity plans by public authorities and public 1.1.

### Actions:

- In the framework of the All different, All equal campaign, advocate for the development and full implementation of diversity plans in close collaboration with civil society - including youth organisations. Diversity plans should allow an equal representation of all groups present in society within all public bodies
- Develop YFJ responses to address multiple-discrimination 1.2.

# Actions:

- In 2007, develop a Position Paper on 'multiple discrimination as it affects young
- Facilitate and coordinate the participation of the YFJ and its Member Organisations in the 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All
- Advocate for the inclusion of multiple discrimination in the 2007 European year of Equal Opportunities for All and the Council of Europe Campaign All different - All
- Develop a policy paper on the effects of migration on young people

# Activities:

- Organise a seminar on multiple discrimination in 2007
- Convene an Expert Group on Migration
- Advocate for more gender sensitive youth policies aiming at equal opportunities and 1.3. to support MO's in their work developing programmes and activities that are more

- Lobby the European Union for the full implementation of the EU roadmap for gender equality 2006-2010
- In the framework of the Lisbon Strategy, monitor the follow-up of the European Pact for Gender Equality and promote concrete actions
- Monitor and contribute to the UN Beijing Platform for Action on gender equality
- Establish a working group on gender that will:
  - a) develop guidelines for how the YFJ should internally ensure gender equality in all fields and levels;
  - b) develop a policy paper on gender;
  - c) ensure and control that the YFJ includes gender aspects in all policies and implements methods ensuring gender equality
- Disseminate briefings on non-discriminatory language use in English and French
- Engage in the CoE campaign to combat violence against women
- Regard gender equality as a mainstream issue whose aspects are included into every activity and policy of the YFJ
- A Europe valuing the abilities of the individual and celebrating diversity 1.4.

### Actions:

- Take a full role in the Council of Europe Campaign All different-All equal and the European Union Campaign For diversity - against discrimination

Monitor European Institution developments when working on issues related to young

refugees and asylum-seekers

- Follow up the joint declaration with the European Disability Forum and work with AGE on intergenerational dialogue

Compile a report on 'Young People and Racism Today'

- Develop an YFJ Action Plan on equality

# Aim:

1.5. To increase participation of marginalised and disadvantaged young people in EU programmes

### Action:

 Provide the MOs with information about EU programmes that are accessible for YNGOs such as the progress programme, the research framework programme, the European Social Funds and the Integrated Life Long learning Programme

# EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

More and better employment for young people

# Objectives:

1.1. An increase in employment opportunities and decent working conditions for all

# Actions:

 Lobby for the full implementation of the ILO concept of "decent work" and the revised European Social Charter

Lobby and follow up the materialisation of the National Reform Programmes for the

implementation of the European Youth Pact

- Engage in actions aimed at the reduction of youth unemployment and against the prevalence of precarious work, particularly the lobby of the EU institutions especially DG Employment

Contribute to UN initiatives related to youth employment such as the Youth

Employment Network and the Alliance of Civilisations

Lobby for a more favourable legislation for those in precarious working conditions.

- Develop a Policy Paper on youth employment

# Activities:

- Convene a Working Group on youth employment who will organise a symposium on youth employment as a visibility event to lobby EU institutions and Member States

- Develop and publish a periodical checklist on the implementation of National Reform Programmes and the European Youth Pact

1.2. Advocate for more favourable conditions for entrepreneurship and self-employment

# Actions:

- Lobby for the promotion of funding resources at the European and national level to assure adequate standards for self-employment.

- Establish contacts with young employers' organisations at the European level

- Examine the obstacles/problems that young entrepreneurs and young people who want to employ themselves face.

- Advocate for simplification of legal frameworks for entrepreneurial activities of young people, while ensuring equal access to social security

1.3. Guide the emergence of a climate where the competences of young people are recognised and valued

### Actions:

- Lobby for the full implementation of the EU 'Employment Equality' directive and fight against all forms of discrimination borne by young people in the labour market, notably age discrimination
- Promote the recognition by the labour market, of the competences acquired through NFE systems and related activities, and other previously acquired learning outcomes
- 1.4. Ensure that Youth NGOs are recognised as partners in the dialogue between civil society and governmental actors at a local and national level and the YFJ is recognised at a European level

### Actions:

 Promote the active participation of youth NGOs in different spaces and arenas for social partnership

### Aim:

2. To increase the health, safety and well being of young people

# Objectives:

2.1. Promote healthy lifestyles through non-formal education and within policies affecting the lives of young people (i.e. drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse, sexual health, mental illness, HIV/AIDS)

# Actions:

- Highlight the World Program of Action for Youth and the importance of involving youth organisations when working on healthier lifestyles and HIV/AIDS, drugs and other health-related issues
- Promote youth organisations as key partners in combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic
- Linked to the work done on social inclusion, continue the partnership with *Eurocare* to promote a youth response to alcohol-related harm

# Activity:

- Organise a seminar on the role of youth NGOs in combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic
- 2.2. Advocate for a better work/life balance and the eradication of poverty as key factors in improved mental and physical health

### Actions:

- Support initiatives by MOs and other relevant actors to address health, mental illness, and lifestyle issues
- Develop a policy paper on the health and well-being of young people
- Explore the impact of the social environment on the health situation of young people

# Activity:

- Linked to the work on social inclusion, organise a Networking day on best practice when working on the health and well being of young people, that will also feed into the policy paper on the topic
- 2.3. Advocate for the inclusion of young people in the determination and implementation of health policies affecting young people

# Actions:

- Promote the greater access of young people to high quality health systems

- Promote the participation of youth NGOs in the development of health policies
- Promote sustainable development 2.4.

# Action:

Promote the role of youth in sustainable development.

# Aim:

# 3. To promote Youth Autonomy

# Objectives:

Promote policies that respond to demographic changes while encouraging greater 3.1. youth autonomy

# Actions:

- Closely monitor and take positions on the ongoing work of the European Union concerning demographic change issues as well as the future of the European Social
- Advocate for a proper follow-up of the Youth Autonomy chapter of the EU White Paper on Youth and promote a reinforced follow-up process
- Develop links between policy responses to demographic changes, policies promoting sustainable development, and young peoples' priorities for youth autonomy
- Advocate for housing, transport and infrastructure that respond to the real needs of 3.2. young people

# Actions:

- Promote greater use of the concept of youth autonomy in other processes such as the European Youth Pact and the OMC on Social Inclusion and Social Protection
- Youth autonomy being the responsibility of local and national policy makers above all, allow MOs to exchange experiences and best practice on youth autonomy
- Facilitate the exchange of information and best practice on youth autonomy issues between MOs

# Activities:

Organise Information and Networking Days on policies and best practice for youth autonomy

# Aim

# 4. Environmental Protection

# Objective:

Promote policies that put an end to the destruction of environment and to climate change

- Lobby the European Union to develop environmental policies, try to be an active actor in environmental debates
- Support initiatives from Member organisations and other relevant actions dealing with environment and climate change
- Incorporate environment mainstreaming in all aspects of the work of the YFJ
- Promote the role of youth in sustainable development.

### **TOOLS**

### 1. INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

# European Union (EU)

 Follow up to the White Paper on youth policy of the European Union, while aiming to further consolidate the efforts of the EU to ensure greater progress and co-ordination of youth policy matters

### Actions:

- Monitor, progress and influence the OMC in the youth field
- Advocate for the European Commission and the Member States to begin to implement the horizontal aspects pillar of the 2002 Council Resolution, as well as of the youth autonomy chapter of the White Paper on Youth
- Establishing a continuous structured dialogue between the European Youth Forum and the EU

### Actions:

- Ensure, support and coordinate a system of structured dialogue between youth organisations and public authorities at the European, national and local level
- Strengthening the European Youth Forum's engagement with the EU institutions

### Actions:

- Strengthen YFJ advocacy capacity and presence vis-à-vis EU institutions
- Consolidate the position of the YFJ as the main interlocutor of the EU Institutions in the Youth field and ensure recognition of the YFJ as the representative stakeholder and key interlocutor on all EU policies affecting youth
- Maintain regular contact with relevant institutions and bodies of the EU, primarily the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions
- Maintain regular contact with the consecutive EU Presidencies, in close cooperation with the Member NYCs in the countries holding the Presidency
- Involve Member Organisations in the work with the EU institutions and EU member states, improving their capacity to contribute to EU policy processes and programmes
- Ensuring the European Youth Forum's involvement in the main EU policy processes affecting youth, including the Lisbon Strategy, the European Youth Pact and any subsequent initiatives

- Ensure that a broadened Treaty Basis for EU action in the field of youth, as formulated in the draft EU Constitution, is retained in any future changes to the Treaty Establishing the European Community
- In the framework of the Lisbon Strategy, monitor the follow-up of the Strategy and continue advocacy work for the consistent follow-up of the European Youth Pact that includes concrete measures to reach the Pact's objectives, with clear reporting on progress
- Making use of the framework provided by the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, prepare dialogues between youth organisations and governments to provide input on sustainable development issues of interest for young people, in cooperation with the EU Presidencies
- Follow-up the implications of the Bologna Process for youth organisations

### Activities:

- Organise annual hearings on youth issues at the European Parliament
- Support the establishment of a youth affairs inter-group in the European Parliament for the legislative period 2009 2013
- Organise activities on a regular basis to raise the overall visibility of the YFJ in EU institutions
- Monitoring and contributing to bilateral agreements between the EU and Third Countries, which cover the youth field
- Ensuring the necessary support for the implementation of the Youth in Action programme and other programmes relevant to youth

### Actions:

- Contribute to the work of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency in designing the call for proposals
- Follow the revision of the Youth in Action Programme Guide
- Ensure regular contact with the National Agencies
- Advocate for the participation of National Youth Councils in the National Agency management board and in particular, in the committee selecting the projects
- Ensure the participation of the YFJ in the programme committee
- regularly update Member Organisations on the evolution of the Youth in Action programme
- Follow-up the development and implementation of the Youthpass
- Monitor and influence the implementation of the individual pupil mobility scheme under the new Lifelong learning programme.
- Promoting youth mainstreaming within EU institutions and policies

# Actions:

- Develop relationships with relevant services of the European Commission, Committees of the European Parliament and EU Council compositions to promote the mainstreaming of youth issues in EU policies
- Define an agenda for the structured dialogue between youth organisations and the EU, which encompasses all policy fields affecting youth
- Monitor and influence EU legislation and policies affecting youth activities and the work of youth NGOs

# Council of Europe (CoE)

 Continuously supporting the co-management system and the structures of the Council of Europe Directorate for Youth and Sports

- Participate in meetings of the statutory bodies of the Directorate of Youth and Sports (DYS)
- Promote the European Youth Foundation as a key instrument to support the development and sustainability of YNGOS
- Promote the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to the Member States on the role of NYCs in youth policy development
- Promote existing instruments of the Council of Europe on youth participation and youth policy
- Promote Council of Europe policies and manuals on Human Rights Education
- Promote the European Youth Campaign for Diversity, Human Rights and Participation

### Activities:

- In cooperation with the DYS of the Council of Europe, organise a Youth Event parallel to the 8th Conference of European Ministers responsible for Youth, to be held in Ukraine in 2008
- Compile a report on alternative ways and sources to increase the funds of the European Youth Foundation
- Actively contributing to the development, monitoring and evaluation of priorities, programmes and policies of the DYS and promote existing CoE tools, programmes and methodologies relevant for youth work and youth policy

### Actions:

- Participate in the meeting of experts in the youth field
- Participate in meetings aimed at preparing key seminars, training courses and other events of the Directorate of Youth and Sport
- Contribute to the follow up of the Europe youth and globalization event

### Activities:

- In the framework of the European Youth Campaign All Different All Equal, organise a closing Round Table involving Member Organisations that were active in the Campaign, to celebrate, evaluate and plan the follow-up to the Campaign
- In the framework of the European Youth Campaign All Different All Equal, develop and publish a YFJ report on the Campaign;
- Evaluate the last two DYS triennial programmes and develop proposals for the 2009-2011 programme
- Sustaining good and structured co-operation with relevant bodies of the Council of Europe

# Actions:

- Organise annual coordination meetings with the DYS Secretariat, on the fields of training, research, publications, field activities and the work of the European Youth Foundation
- Cooperate with the Directorate of Education and Culture, in particular in the field of Citizenship through Education;
- Follow-up the work of the Committee of Ministers' Rapporteur Group on Education, Culture, Sports, Youth and the Environment
- Promote the development of a Council of Europe youth strategy on sustainable development
- Organise an annual meeting with representatives of the PACE Sub-Committee on Youth and Sports and of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE)
- Supporting the greater implementation of the Revised Charter on Youth Participation in Local and Regional Life

### Actions:

- Strengthen cooperation with the CLRAE
- Support the organisation of trainings with local authority representatives at national level through the NYCs
- Contributing to the development of the youth programmes of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe (NSC)

# Action:

 Participate in meetings of the statutory bodies of the North South Centre and support youth programme development and the mainstreaming of youth in NSC programmes and activities

# European Union and Council of Europe Partnership

 Actively participating in the definition, development and evaluation of the Partnership projects and activities

# Actions:

- Produce a yearly contribution from the European Youth Forum to the Partnership activities and contribute to the working units and governing structure of the Partnership
- Advocate for better governance and greater transparency within the Partnership Management
- Disseminate information from the Partnership to YFJ MOs and ensure their involvement in Partnership activities

### Activities:

- Ensure the regular participation of YFJ representatives in all Covenant meetings
- Promote European Youth Forum policies in the European Knowledge Centre database
- Supporting innovative initiatives, notably on European Citizenship ensuring the impact and necessary outreach to Youth Organisations

### Actions:

- Advocate and contribute to a curriculum of European Citizenship Education reaching out to as many youth organisations as possible
- Support innovative initiatives, notably in the field of European Citizenship Education
- Aiming to further enhance synergies between the EU and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy and youth work development.

# Actions:

- Advocate for the strengthening of the youth policy aspects shared by the European Union and the Council of Europe, such as participation, the autonomy of young people, and education
- Lobby for the creation of a 'Youth policy' pillar in the Covenant to develop a common approach on youth policy, taking into account the actors of youth policy: young people, youth researchers, decision-makers and, where relevant, social partners

# United Nations (UN) System

- Contributing to the achievement of the MDGs and promoting global partnership to combat poverty
- Encouraging greater implementation of the WPAY and further exploring its links to the realisation of the MDGs
- Facilitating and coordinating the representation of youth organisations at the UNGA and other relevant events
- Contributing to UN and UN Agencies' (ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank)
  initiatives involving youth and advocating for greater co-ordination among those UN
  agencies dealing with youth issues
- Advocating for the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

- Maintain regular contact with the relevant institutions and bodies of the UN system
- Involve Member Organisations in the work with the UN agencies, improving their capacity to contribute to UN policy processes and programmes

- Advocate for the implementation of the WPAY and the MDG's by EU and COE Member States
- Advocate for better coordination on youth issues by UN agencies, funds and programmes
- Promote the GCCC and the ICMYO to UN member states and UN agencies, funds and programmes
- Advocate for the Western Sahara cause based in the resolutions previously approved by the YFJ

### Activities:

- Organise annual coordination meetings between the YFJ and European youth representatives to the UN
- Attend the meetings of the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development
- Attend the UNGA and, if appropriate, organise side events on topics relating to the WPAY

# External Communication and partnerships

The European Youth Forum will increase the outreach and visibility of youth organisations and youth work by adapting its external communication tools and elaborating new ones to reach out to a greater number of stakeholders and young people. It will also build alliances with other NGO platforms that will contribute to achieving the YFJ's strategic aims and objectives.

### Actions:

- Create and update annually the YFJ Communication Strategy based on the Strategic Priorities and Work Plan
- Elaborate on establishing communication services that would be more attractive to young people in general and other stakeholders
- Create a Partnerships System with other NGOs and civil society organisations, research institutes, and actors in the field of youth
- Develop a set of aims for each specific document type in order to define them position papers, resolutions, declarations, etc.
- Manage and develop work with European media to ensure a clear YFJ image in the eyes of the institutions and other partners, and to communicate YFJ messages efficiently
- Continue production of the e-Youth Opinion newsletter every two months
- Publish the Youth Opinion magazine twice a year
- Publish the Annual Report
- Maintain and upgrade the European Youth Forum website
- Collaborate with the Youth Portal of the European Commission: monitor its discussion forum and have an advisory role on its Steering Committee
- Attend and organise PR events with stakeholders
- Engage in campaigns that affect young people

# Activity:

- Organise an annual Open Doors day

# 2. RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT

The European Youth Forum is a knowledge-based organisation which will continue to ground its competences in the field of youth policy development on existing data and policy evidence gathered through the engagement and diversity of its members.

The development of research should be based on direct correspondence with the organisation's priorities and should be of the highest quality, thus enhancing the credibility of the YFJ and emphasising its role as a credible partner in youth policy and youth work development in Europe and beyond.

 Gather and systematise information from the membership on the issues that need to be addressed through specific policy

Strengthen existing tools for the monitoring of youth policy

- Establish permanent procedures for the monitoring of youth policy development in European countries
- Ensure that YFJ publications and external communication are organised so as to reflect existing knowledge within the platform
- Actively participate in relevant research networks and promote the implementation of such networks at the national level in cooperation with NYCs
- Support and contribute to the development of the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy

# 3. INTERNAL COMMUNICATION AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The European Youth Forum is an organisation that continues to grow and learn, and as it enters its adolescence, some structural enhancements are needed. Organisational structures and communication channels have to be permanently adapted so as to best support the work of the membership. The knowledge developed, information gained and results achieved through the organisation's lobby and advocacy work, have to be accessible to MOs and to the current and on-going working structures of the Forum - with the aim to smoothen knowledge exchange and management.

The European Youth Forum has already developed a set of valuable tools for communication with its MOs. All represent a huge potential for information flow within and to the Member Organisations. The international and complex dimension of the European Youth Forum demands highly effective and transparent communication within its structure. Member Organisations should furthermore be provided with clear and sustainable channels through which they can provide input to the different policy positions of the organisation, ensuring greater consultation and accountability.

Diversified funds for the daily work of the European Youth Forum are essential for independent and unbiased work. Therefore it is fundamental to strive for the diversification of the Forum's income using a clear strategy, guided by ethical and environmentally sustainable considerations.

# Actions:

- Set up a YFJ alumni database

- Create a well-structured online archive of Bureau updates and reports, briefing notes for policy areas or explaining the context of policy documents
- Keep the Internal Communication Plan up to date, based on the annual communication survey, and adapt it to the needs of the MOs and working structures
- Set up a content management system to enable MOs to update independently their contact details and organisational information on the YFJ website
- Elaborate options to create spaces for the interaction of MOs' members that would take place outside the formal agenda of the YFJ (Festival, Summer Camp, Summer University etc.)
- Continue issuing the weekly European Youth Forum Courier, communicating all current YFJ information for MOs

- Maintain and update the intranet

- Have an analytical reflection on the landscape of youth organisations in Europe, while further promoting our values of democratic representation, membershipbased organisations, and outreach to as many young people as possible
- Organise an assessment of the capacity of the YFJ to respond to and work in the best interests of MOs, as the membership continues to grow
- Develop a clear strategic guideline on how the membership of the YFJ can be developed in the future
- Develop a clear and transparent process for deciding and selecting the location of YFJ events, meetings and activities. This would include all statutory meetings such

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- as GAs, COMEMs, Bureau meetings and others such as EUACOM, COEACOM, training courses and seminars.
- Develop clear aims, objectives, responsibilities and working methods for all permanent and non-permanent YFJ working structures, in easy and straightforward language and make them accessible to all MO's via the YFJ intranet
- Organise a strategic assessment of the size of the working structures of the YFJ and envisage smaller and more flexible structures allowing Member Organisations to nominate experts in the different working fields
- Assess the need for policy development seminars based on the work priorities
- Renew the Pool of Trainers, and initiate a partial annual refreshment to engage new trainers
- Ensure the development of the Pool of Trainers, and facilitate its use by MOs
- Develop a clear concept and define distinct target groups for the Information and Networking Days
- To raise awareness on the mobility obstacles that young people face, as well as on the promotion of a visa for young people in all relevant activities of the YFJ

### Activities:

- Hold a Press and Communications Meeting gathering those responsible for press relations within MOs, to enable the creation of a network for cooperation and the exchange of relevant information and best practice



### DG Education and Culture

### Youth in Action 2008

Action 4.2 "Support to the European Youth Forum"

### **ANNEX 1**

Summary of the 2008 Budget
Income allocation for the 2008 budget
Overview of Co-Funding
Explanatory Notes Budget 2008

### European Youth Forum Budget 2008

YOUTH FORUM JEUNESSE	BUDGET 2008 Youth in Action	BUDGET 2008 Not included for Youth in Action 4.2	TOTAL BUDGET 2008
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2.856.250	47.000	2.903.250
A. Statutory Bodies	544.350	0	544.350
General Assembly     Council of Members	256.530	0	256.530
3. Bureau	136.400 113.810	0	136.400 113.810
4. Support to President	8.000	0	8.000
5. FCC 6. CBMA	10.310	0	10.310
B. Operational & Legal Costs	19.300	0	19.300
1. Office premises	296.000 106.000	40.000	336.000 106.000
2. Equipment	15.500	0	15.500
3. Depreciations	12.000	0	12.000
Communications     Office supplies	42.500 20.000	0	42.500 20.000
6. External audit and legal advice	10.500		10.500
7. Social reserves	75.000	0	75.000
8. Financial Charges & Other Costs	14.500	40.000	54.500
C. Employment Costs	1.264.500	0	1.264.500
1. Gross salaries	903.000	0	903.000
Social Security contributions     Vaccation accrual	290.500 12.000	0	290.500
4. Staff travel costs	14.500		12.000 14.500
5. Staff training	18.500	ő	18.500
6. Recruitment and other expenses	26.000	0	26.000
D. Youth Policy Development	204.860	2.500	207.360
Youth Policies     Education	19.630	1.000	20.630
3. Mobility of young people	43,800 24,700	0	43.800 24.700
4. Youth Participation	19.650	500	20.150
5. Equality & Human rights	26.800	0	26.800
Employment and social inclusion     Health	41.400	0	41.400
8. Sustainable development	18.680 2.200	1.000	19.680
9. EU Youth programme	8.000	0	2.200 8.000
E. Youth Work Development	195.860	0	195.860
Youth work development in Europe	56.620	0	56.620
2. Global and Regional YWD	81.390	0	81.390
3. 1% Solidarity Fund     4. Training capacity building	22.850 35.000	0	22.850
		0	35.000
F. External Relations and Organisational Devel.  1. EU advocacy work	350.680	4.500	355.180
Council of Europe advocacy work	131.510 74.470	4.500	136.010 74.470
EU-CoE Partnership advocacy work	6.260	0	6.260
4. UN advocacy work	10.600	Ö	10.600
Media and Public relations     Gen. Representation	71.090	0	71.090
o. den. nepresenation	56.750	0	56.750
***			
YOUTH	BUDGET 2008	BUDGET 2008 Not included for	TOTAL
JEUNESSE	Youth in Action	Youth in Action 4.2	BUDGET 2008
TOTAL INCOME	0.000.000		
TOTAL INCOME	2.856.250	47.000	2.903.250
A. European Commission funding	2.285.000	•	2.285.000
1. Youth in Action - Action 4.2	2 <b>.2</b> 85.00 <b>0</b>	-	2.285.000
B. Other funding	571.250	47.000	618.250
1. Council of Europe	103.000		103.000
2. Membership fees	100.000	40.000	140.000
3. Partnerships & Other Incomes	368.250	7.000	375.250



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# European Youth Forum Income Allocation for the 2008 Budget

***			General Funds				Fund-raising	Buls		TOTAL	TOTAL		Income NIG		TOTAL
YOUTH FORUM FUNESSE	DG EAC OG	CoE AA	SE C	Memb. Fees	SUBTOTAL	Part. Fees	Part. Projects	Other	SUBTOTAL	(w/out VTC)	For		Memb. Fees	Other	BUDGET
TOTAL EVERNATIRE	2.285.000	85.000	18.000	100.000	2.488.000	23.500	181.600	14.650	219.750	2.707.750	148.500	2.856.250	40.000	7.000	2.903.250
П	334 400	1	1	32 400	353 500	73.500	70.000	o	93.500		97.350	544.350	0	0	544,350
A. Statutory bodies	177 750	7		000 8	135,750	14,250	90.000		74.250		46.530	256,530	0	0	256.530
1. General Assembly	94.750	0	0	000.9	100.750	9.250	9	0	9.250		26.400	136,400	6	0	136.400
2. Contact of managers	77.000	0	0	8.000	85.000	ю	10.000		10.000		18,810	113.810	5 0	5 0	8 000
4, Support to President	0	ъ	0	8.000	8.000	0				8,000	0 0	00000	0	0	10.310
5. FCC	7.200	ò	0	908	8.000	5	0	<b>S</b>			3.300	19,300	0	o	19,300
6. CBWA	14.400	8	ਣ	1.600	16.000	5						10 SEC. 10 SEC			
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DG EAC OG: Operating Grant from Youth in Action - Action 4.2

GGE AA. Administrative Arrangement with the COE (EYF)

CoE C. Category C grant from the COE (EYF)

Armb. Fees: Charges applies to extra-participants

Part. Projects: Partnership Projects

Armb. Fees: Charges applies to extra-participants

Part. Projects: Partnership Projects

Armbership Fees

VTC: Volunteer Time Contribution in Action Operating Grant (YM 4.2.) Income MIG: income not included for Youth in Action Operating Grant (YM 4.2.)



### EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Education and Culture

YOUTH, SPORT AND CITIZENSHIP

### AMENDMENT

N° 2008 - 0727 / 001 - 002 YOU-YOUFEJ

TO

GRANT AGREEMENT 2008 - 0727 / 001 - 001

The European Community ("the Community"), represented by the Commission of the European Communities ("the Commission"), itself represented by itself represented by its Director, Directorate-General for Education and Culture

of the one part,

and

EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM No7/CH/15.202/S dans l'arrête royal du 18 octobre 2005 Rue Josef II, 120 BE-1000 Brussels Belgium

("the beneficiary"),

represented for the purpose of signature of this agreement by

Secretary General,

of the other part,

HAVE AGREED

Having regard to Agreement n° 2008-0727/001-001 YOU-YOUFEJ (« the Agreement ») concluded between the Commission and the Beneficiary,

Whereas the Beneficiary has requested the Commission to modify the above Agreement,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Agreement is amended as follows:

The beneficiary's budget and activities under the Agreement 2008-0727/001-001 YOU-YOUFEJ will be adapted in accordance with Annex I of this Amendment.

- 2. All the other provisions and annex of the Agreement and any previous amendments, which are not changed by this amendment shall remain unchanged and shall continue to apply.
- 3. This amendment shall enter into force on the date when the last of the two parties to the amendment signs it.

Done in duplicate, in the English language

For the Beneficiary

For the Commission

Secretary General

Director

Date: 22 /12 / 2008



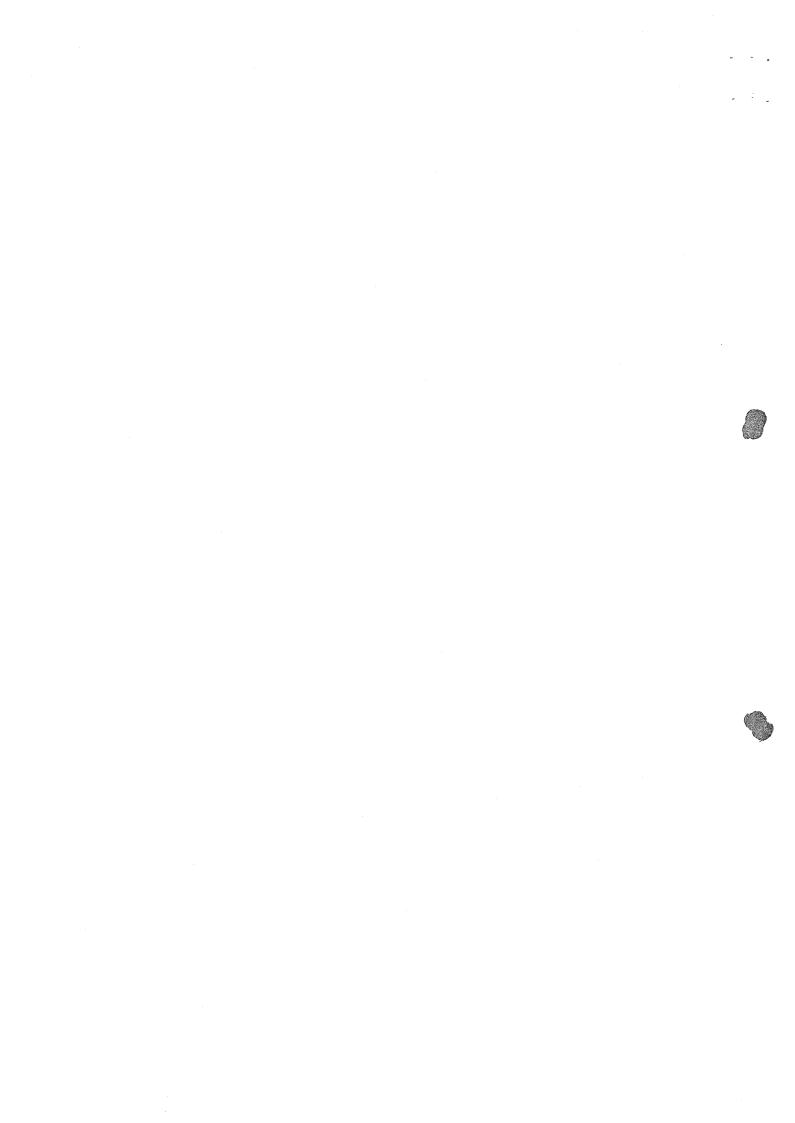
### **Amendment**European Youth Forum

Operating Grant 2008-0727/001-001

### Youth in Action Action 4.2 – "Support to the European Youth Forum"

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### A. INTRODUCTORY NOTES

Based on Article II.11 – "Supplementary Agreements" of the Operating Grant Agreement no. 2008-0727/001-001, signed between the European Commission and the European Youth Forum, we would like to take the opportunity to submit a proposal for revision of the budget included in the aforementioned convention.

This will constitute the only budget revision requested for 2008 and reflects the budget review undertaken by the Bureau of the European Youth Forum at its last meeting, held on 4-5 October 2008.

This budget revision is needed in order to better reflect the budget execution expected until the end of the year; as well as the reallocation of funds between budget headings and budget lines that had to be considered by the Youth Forum Bureau in order that the budget execution could follow as closely as possible the accomplishment of the actions foreseen in the Work Plan and the requirements for the good management of the Youth Forum.

We therefore wish to draw your attention to the fact that the total budget remains unchanged and that this revision focuses on the reallocation of the budgeted amounts. The changes refer to all the budget headings ("items of eligible costs") and most of the budget lines, aiming for a better employment of the grant, and allowing the execution of activities that were not fully budgeted for. Although there were still some points for clarification at the time this budget revision was prepared, it was undertaken with consideration that there must be a margin to allow the execution of the planned actions/activities, without exceeding the budgeted amounts, primarily avoiding a resulting loss, while trying to execute as much as possible of the Work Plan.

Another relevant point refers to co-funding. Several activities were undertaken with co-funding from partners, Member Organisations, or even national/regional public authorities from different countries, and this proposal already includes a revision of the support received from these partners. The total amount for the volunteer time contributions also remains unchanged, though there was the need to a reallocation between budget headings.

The proposed changes, namely those highlighted, will be explained in further detail in the following points.

The reference document with the proposed budget changes is attached:

- "0919-08 Budget 2008- revised"

### B. GENERAL NOTES

### 1. Budget Outline

The budget outline is equivalent to that in the initial contract, to facilitate comparisons between the initial budget and the new proposal. In turn, the budget as approved in the previous supplementary agreement, the new budget proposal and the variations between the initial and the new proposed budget are included in the reference document (0919-08).

### 2. Allocation of the Operating Grant

The proposal is to reallocate funds between the six budget headings ("items of eligible costs") as follows:

- A. Statutory Bodies: + € 25.200
- B. Operational & Legal Costs: + € 5.000
- C. Employment Costs: + € 33.250
- D. Youth Policy Development: € 26.410
- E. Youth Work Development: € 10.480
- F. External Relations and Organisational Development: € 26.560

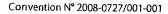
### 3. Co-funding

The new proposal also reallocates the values for co-funding according to the updated prospects. The variations more significant are the Increases for the items 'A. Statutory meetings' and 'E. Youth Work Development' and the decreases for budget headings 'D. Youth Policy Development' and 'F. External Relations and Organisational Development'.

- A. Statutory Bodies: + € 21.400
- B. Operational & Legal Costs: € 0
- C. Employment Costs: € 0
- D. Youth Policy Development: € 29.250
- E. Youth Work Development: + € 32.000
- F. External Relations and Organisational Development: € 24.150

### 4. Non-eligible costs

The revised budget presented only makes reference to the contractual agreement. Therefore, the costs aside from those covered by the agreement (namely the non-eligible costs according to EU regulations) though a part of the total European Youth Forum budget, are not included in the agreement nor in this proposal for revision. All the same, those costs did not change in reference to the initial budget.



### C. REVISED BUDGET

### A. Statutory Bodies Increase of €79.600

### A.1. General Assembly: Increase of €35.120.

The General Assembly will take place the 12-16 November 2008. It has been budgeted on the basis of an attendance of 160 official delegates; plus around 50 additional delegates; 12-16 guests; 12 Bureau members; around 24 staff members; and also volunteers and contact people from the hosting organisation (if held outside Brussels, as expected).

The level of co-funding foreseen in the initial budget for this meeting was €82.250, coming from the hosting organisation and the charges for extra-delegates. At the time of the revision of the budget the prospects for the total amount of local support were not yet clear and therefore revised, hence the reduction in the total co-funding expected and a higher allocation of funds from DG EAC grant. The amount for the volunteer time contribution was also revised, increasing by €27.720.

### A.2. Council of Members: Increase of €59.400.

The 2008 COMEM took place in Casteldefels, Catalonia, Spain, on 2-3 May in Barcelona, hosted by the Catalan National Youth Council, gathering 160 participants.

The budget is updated based on the fact that this COMEM's total costs were well above the foreseen amount. The main reason was the co-funding contribution from CNJC - National Youth Council of Catalonia, which had not been foreseen initially. In consequence, there was a decrease of the amount allocated from DG EAC grant. The total for the volunteering time contribution was also slightly above the initial forecast.

### **A.3.** Bureau: Reduction of €7.140.

This item includes all the costs (travel, accommodation etc.) for six Bureau Meetings during 2008, out of which 4 taking place outside of Brussels and co-funded.

Though the total costs per meeting were well below the forecast, mainly due to lower local costs, meaning that the co-funding was below the expectations. These lower costs did not affect the allocation of funds from DG EAC as this budget line now incorporates the costs for meeting with the members as part of the Work Plan 2009-2010 consultation process.

### **A.5.** FCC - Financial Control Commission: Reduction of €5.460.

The two planned meetings were organised and had costs under the initial estimation, therefore prompting the reduction.

### A.6. CBMA - Consultative Body on Memb. Applications: Reduction of €2.320.

The costs for the CBMA meetings organised were below the initial value foreseen, as well as those for study visits.

### B. Operational & Legal Costs Increase of €5,000.

### **B.1. Offices Premises:** <u>Increase of €6.000</u>.

The costs under this budget line had to be updated, mostly due to higher inflation (updates on the rent of the office), besides incorporating some costs for renovations in the office.

### **B.2. Equipment:** <u>Increase of €2.000</u>.

This item includes maintenance of all equipment (mostly by contract, the most relevant being the maintenance contract for the copying machines. IT support includes services and Ilcenses connected to IT (hardware and software).

1031-08 Request for Supplementary Agreement

### **B.3. Depreciations:** <u>Increase of €4.800.</u>

The variation is mainly due to expected costs setting up the new website of the Youth Forum, including intra and extranet. Being a considerable investment, it will be depreciated as applicable to software costs.

### **B.4. Communications:** Reduction of €6.000.

This budget line execution is well below the foreseen amount, hence the reduction.

### **B.5. Office supplies:** <u>Increase of €3.500.</u>

This budget line includes stationary (paper, envelopes, toner, and office material), the cost of the copies done internally, beverages used for meetings held in the YFJ office and the staff (water, coffee, etc), IT supplies and other general supplies.

The higher costs with stationary are a result of the need to produce different items (letter headed paper, envelopes, folders) with the new corporate image causing an increase of the initial budget.

### **B.6.** External audit and legal advice: Increase of €1.700.

The execution is slightly over the initially foreseen amount, mainly due to costs with legal advice.

### **B.8.** Financial Charges & Other Costs: Reduction of €7.000.

The line is under spending considerably due to three main reasons: lower financial costs (spread use of IBAN, less costs for bank transfers in EU countries); thus prompting a reallocation of these funds.

### C. Employment Costs

*Increase of €33.250.* 

### C.1. Gross salaries: Increase of €20.500.

The high level of inflation led to legal salary updates in February and June, with another update foreseen for the last quarter. As these several and consecutive increases where not foreseen in the initial budget, the total amount allocated for salaries will have to be updated, meaning a reallocation of funds into this budget line.

### **C.2. Social security contributions:** Increase of €10.500.

The total amount in this budget line needs to be increased, as a consequence of the salary costs increase explained above.

### **C.4. Staff travel costs:** Increase of €2,250.

This item includes daily staff travel costs and the 'Living Abroad Compensation' as regulated by the YFJ Work Rules. The total amount is expected to need a small reinforcement.

### D. Youth Policy Development Reduction of €55.660.

### D.1. Youth Policies: Reduction of €6.330.

The execution on this area will be lower than initially foreseen. The main reduction of the total amount for the area is mostly coming from a reduction on the expected co-funding (€4.350).

### D.2. Education: Reduction of €13.650.

The activities foreseen in this budget line have been carried out; though well below the initial expected amounts, including the co-funding contribution.

### **D.3. Mobility of Young People:** Reduction of €15.200.

The actions foreseen within this budget line, namely the "Get VISAble" campaign, have been revised. The expectation is that it will focus mostly on lobbying for specific issues and a network of national mobility coordinators. As a consequence, the costs will be lower.

### **D.4. Youth Participation:** Reduction of €2.000.

An important part of the work carried out within this area did not imply relevant costs. This is the case of one of the main focuses, the contribution and advocacy towards the European Commission Initiative on Mobility and Youth Volunteering. The half of the reduction is coming only from the reduction of the expected co-funding.

### **D.5. Equality & Human Rights:** Reduction of €300.

Though the total costs are similar, there was the need to reduce the expected co-funding by €6.000.

### **D.6. Employment and social inclusion:** Reduction of €12.000.

The expected co-funding to be gathered for the Employment Symposium organised in Paris in co-operation with CNAJEP, in the framework of the French Presidency is lower by €5.000. Besides, some of the costs in this area that were linked to the work on the Intergenerational Solidarity during the Slovene Presidency (such as travel costs) were booked has non-eligible, contributing to the overall reduction in this line.

### **D.7.** Health: Reduction of €10.180.

The execution so far in this area refers mostly to costs with advocacy work and general representation and the activities under spent (Info & Networking Days HIV/AIDS and the right of young people to sexual and reproductive health). The co-funding contribution (finally coming from UNFPA) as also lower than foreseen (-€6.000).

### **D.8. Sustainable Development:** <u>Increase of €4,000.</u>

Taking into account that 2008 is a very hectic year on what concerns the international negotiations on the climate changes, this budget line had to be reinforced in order to cover the YFJ involvement in this topic.

### E. Youth Work Development Increase of €21.520.

### **E.1. Youth work development in Europe:** Increase of €7.700.

The increase of the total costs is mainly due to extra co-funding gathered in this area, namely for a networking activity taking place in the Balkans, that has an agreed co-funding contribution estimated at €12.500.

### E.2.Global and Regional Youth Work Development: Increase of €24.270.

The increase in this budget line comes mainly from additional co-funding gathered. Most of this amount is due to the support agreed to the first Euro-Arab Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations.

### E.4. Training capacity building: Decrease of €10.450.

The activities have been carried out (apart from a Pool of Trainers Sub-Group meeting) though below the initial cost estimation.

### F. External Relations & Organisational Development Reduction of €83.710.

### **F.1. EU Advocacy Work:** Reduction of €23.060.

The reduction in this budget line, affecting also the volunteer time contribution, is mainly due to the decision of the YFJ Member Organisations to revising the permanent working structures of the Youth Forum. As a consequence, the EUACOM - European Union Affairs Commission was terminated and only one meeting took place in 2008.

### F.2. Council of Europe Advocacy Work: Reduction of €22.060.

The reason for the reduction is also the revision of the working structures of YFJ, in this case affecting the COEACOM - Council of Europe Affairs Commission. In this case it also had a stronger impact on the expected co-funding.

### F.3. EU-CoE Partnership Advocacy Work: Reduction of €4.260.

This area does not have any concrete activities planned; therefore the budget is allocated to representation in meetings and advocacy work. As some of the costs are reimbursed and could constitute double EU funding, these were registered as non-eligible costs. So, the funds in this budget line can be drastically reduced.

### F.4. UN Advocacy Work: Increase of €2.760.

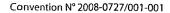
The costs under this budget line refer to the work done with regards to the UN System: the Commission on Social Development; the UN Commission on Sustainable-Development; and the different institutions, like the World Bank and UNESCO. Though the level of commitment has not decreased, the costs for 2008 are expected to be lower than budgeted.

### **F.5. Media and Public relations:** Reduction of €14.890.

The main reason for this decrease was the reallocation of the costs with the development of the new YFJ website, intra and extranet. This is to be considered as a relevant investment to be depreciated, therefore being incorporated into B.3 – Depreciations.

### F.6. General Representation: Reduction of €22.200.

The reductions of the foreseen costs in this budget line are coming mainly from a reduction on the co-funding support and the expected volunteer time contribution. Though the representation costs are therefore lower, others like membership of different organisations as increased.



### D. CONCLUSION

These explanatory notes aimed to be as clear as possible in order to facilitate the best understanding of the proposed changes. Nevertheless, in case the European Commission considers that something should be further clarified, please do not hesitate to contact:

Diogo Pinto Secretary General Tel 02 230 64 90 Fax 02 230 21 23

e-m

Brussels, 10th November 2008

SECRETARY GENERAL

# European Youth Forum Budget 2008 (revision October 2008)

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9,700 7,950 17,650 26,500 26,500 6,200 8,500 0 6,200 0		20,920	2 6	24 200	-11300	000,5		15.200
16,550   9,550   26,500   26,500   26,500   26,500   26,500   26,500   26,500   26,500   26,500   26,200   26		10.700	0.50	19,650	-1,000	-1.000		-2.000
106,530   5,000   29,400   29,400   29,400   29,400   29,400   29,400   29,400   29,400   29,400   29,500   29,500   29,500   29,500   29,500   29,500   20,500   2		10.850	20	26,800	5,700	-6,000		-300
10,000   1			00	41,400	-7,000	2,000		-12,000
106,320   0   6,200   110,850   11			000'9	18,680	4,180	000'9-		-10,180
8,000   0    8,000   110,850   0    8,000   110,850   110,850   110,850   110,850   110,850   110,850   110,850   120,850		2,200	o	2,200	4,000			4,000
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105,600   105,				26.620	4 800	12 500		7 700
22,850   0   22,850     20,900     22,850	<del></del>	56,540	24,850	81,390	1,670	22,600		24,270
rganisational Devel.         184,770         64,050         18,150         2,265,970         2           cywork         16,150         3,000         2,640         108,450         108,450         1           cywork         16,150         32,300         3,960         52,410         1           acywork         2,000         0         5,2410         1           3,960         3,960         52,410         1           4,350         7,300         6,2400         1           3,4300         7,900         6,200         5,200		22,850	a	22,850				
184,770   64,050   18,150   -7.0   12,64,970   10,2810		11,000 24,000	000	35,000	-7,350	-3,100		-10,450
184,7/0   54,050   18,150   226,570   2,000   10,8450				200 000	A04 05	0.1.00	440 55	27.00
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2,000 2,200 2,200 3,200 3,200 3,300 3,300 2,1900 56,200 3,30	2,640	114,310	4,000 13,200	74.470	005,11-	-1,000	0,550	090,52-
13,360 0 13,360 34,300 21,900 56,200	2000	6.260		6,260	-4.260	0		4,260
34.300 21.900 56.200		10,250	350	10,600	3,110	-350		2,760
				71,090	-14,890	0		-14,890
6. Gen. Representation 15.50 34.550 13.	11,550	13,150	24,750	26,730	3,000	-12,000	007'51-	107'77-



## 0919-08-Budget\_2008+VT (revision\_Oct.).xls

## European Youth Forum Budget 2008 (revision October 2008)

Proposal

		NEW BUDGET	DGET			PREVIOU	PREVIOUS BUDGET		VARIATION	
**************************************		<b>EXPENDITURE ITEMS</b>	REITEMS			EXPENDIT	EXPENDITURE ITEMS			
FORUM FORUM	DGERC	Co-funding W	Volunteer Time	TOTAL	DGEAC	Co-funding	Volunteer Time	TOTAL	DGEC Complish	TOTAL
		BUDGET OCTOBER 08	TOBER 08			INITIAL BUDGI	INITIAL BUDGET (EU contract)		WARIATION	
		INCOME ITEMS	ITEMS			INCOM	INCOMEITEMS			
A SOUNDS	Ď <u>©</u> EAC	Co-funding	Volunteer Time	TOTAL	PGEAC	Co-funding	Volunteer Time	Total to be Considered for DG EAC Grant	DG EAC Volunteer Time	Total to be Considered for DG EAC Grant
TOTALINCOME	2,285,000	422,750	148,500	2,856,250	2,285,000	422,750	148,500	48,500 10 2,856,250	0	
A. European Commission funding	2,285,000	0	0	2,285,000	2,285,000	0	0	2,285,000	0	0
DG EAC	2,285,000	0	0	2,285,000	2,285,000	o	0	2,285,000	[0	0
8 Other funding	0	750	148 COOL	105C 1173	•	027 550	148 500	0501250	0	ē
1 Council of Europe		000 601	200		, 6	103 600		100		
2. Membership fees	0	100,000		100,000	0	100,000		100,000	0	
4. Partnerships & Other Incomes	0	219,750	148,500	368,250	0	219,750	148,500	368,250	0	0

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	T		(UKENERS)				11 CT (E1) E1/24					
	O. Eve	Cadinding	School Tree	1074	<b>GCC</b>	Controlling	Substant Bras	701%	EGENC	Co-Andeg	Salutane Time	TOTAL
(GIAL EATENLISUIE	228300	422,750	48.56	2294224	2,284,000	422.T90	/48.40	7334721	distance da	solution and the	<b>かえ</b> れまでは、	ingleting and a
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, General Assembly	1 300 0 000	9 F A000	74.250	72) 550	127793	32.250	48.590	250 550	52,250	44250	27,720	¥3.120
Council of Members	19 500	36.000	98,900	120.300	54.75B	19 ZEG	28,400	1 360 ± 000	-2:250	ra.ra.a	81500	59 A00
l Surma L Support la Premient	11 11 11 11	12.500 2.000	מיי. מי	078.801 000.6	77 5 000 0	13.000	13.210	01561		<b>4300</b>	-2.840	-7,140
1.00	2 + 00	300	1,250	4,350	/ 200	300	2.270	10 210	<b>≠20</b> 0		-8150	-3,480
J.CPAIX	179 + 190	1,200	1 220	(5.930)	14. 4.003	1,500	9.300	19 500	-1200	<u> </u>	-0.528	-2.520
J. Openebonel & Legal Costs	252,541	42,440	j u	Section 20.000	5424-00	42,441		79600	4010		u	STORE TOTAL
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. Fartamoni Charges & Other Costs	7 5 00	<u> </u>	L	f 500	14 500	0	1	14 500	000.1-	L	L	-f <u>.000</u> )
. Employment Code	1,2827,90	(2,34)	U	7.2x1.150	1,243,341	10.50	1 4	12413111	33.230	l u	u	91.291
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), Youth PetryDavelopnent	. 04.450	42,330	u	- 41 XOH	, xanen	77.300	1 0	204200	-24.₹1	-24.540	u	dion
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