



living europe

**Call for Participation
in the project
*'New Perspectives – Young People with Fewer Opportunities use
the European Youth Programme'*
within the framework of the
European Voluntary Service**

1. The Project 'New Perspectives'

'New Perspectives – Young People with Fewer Opportunities use the European Youth Programme' is a project of the working group 'Young People with Fewer Opportunities in the Youth in Action programme' within the Advisory Board of the German Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, for the EU programme Youth in Action (the National Advisory Board).

1.1 Project Idea

The inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities is one of the priorities of the Youth in Action programme. Therewith, the inclusion strategy of the EU Commission pursues two complementary objectives:

- Access to the Youth in Action programme ought to be allowed for both organised young people (in youth associations, youth councils, etc.) as well as for young people who are not associated with a formal group.
- The Youth in Action programme ought increasingly to be applied as an instrument which supports the inclusion, active citizenship and employability of young people with fewer opportunities and thus contributes to social cohesion in general.

The project '**New Perspectives**' of the National Advisory Board mainly aims to contribute to the implementation of the second objective. For that purpose, the combination of measures of vocational orientation, assistance, training and qualification together with the European Voluntary Service – EVS (Action 2 of the Youth in Action programme) ought to be exemplarily tested in a small number of individual projects. Youth in Action projects complement measures of vocational assistance to young people in transition from school to work with diverse non-formal learning experiences and thus support personal development and mobility as well as the integration of the young people in adult life. Concluding from individual projects, common requirements as a possible module for a sustainable anchoring of EVS in the range of activities of socio-educational provision for young people ought to be developed.

1.2 Initial Position

Some of the reasons for the low presence of young people with fewer opportunities particularly in EVS are that many young people do not have the necessary information for participating in stays abroad, have low self-confidence regarding their command of language and can hardly rely on necessary support systems which are essential to successfully complete a longer stay abroad. Besides, many young people react with great reservations to the offers of leaving the familiar environment and engaging in something new and unknown.

At the same time, participating in European Voluntary Service can give an important impetus for personal development, open perspectives and help improving career opportunities especially for young people with fewer opportunities.

Hence, the project **New Perspectives** addresses socially disadvantaged and individually impaired¹ young people with difficulties at the transition from school to the labour market.

¹ e.g. including young people with learning disabilities, behavioural disorders etc.

For this particular target group, access to the programme can be provided through their participation in organisations responsible for socio-educational provision which want to use activities e.g. the EVS as a meaningful addition to their offers for social and vocational integration.

1.3 Project Objectives

The project **New Perspectives** aims at

- testing the combination of measures of assistance to young people with fewer opportunities (e.g. vocational orientation or preparation, training, transition management) with measures of the Youth in Action programme and formulating common standards and requirements for the implementation of such combination;
- promoting the personal development of the participating young people, supporting the acquirement and recognition of key competences, contributing to the enhancement of vocational and cross-border mobility and sustainably improving the social and vocational integration opportunities in general;
- promoting intercultural learning of the target group and contributing to the development of a 'European identity' through peer learning experiences.

All in all, more sustainable involvement of young people with fewer opportunities in the structure of the Youth in Action programme ought to be achieved.

1.4 Non-formal and Informal Learning in Youth in Action

Non-formal and informal learning are basic characteristics of the Youth in Action programme. Its projects pursue a participative and participant-oriented approach, take place on a voluntary basis and are geared to the needs and interests of the young people. Peer-learning and an inspiring, supportive learning environment are key factors of these learning processes.

Therewith, individual projects proposed in the frame of **New Perspectives** clearly differ from measures of the Lifelong Learning programme (Leonardo) as well as from training and occupational measures. Unlike academic and occupational learning they put to the fore the acquisition of key competences in terms of promoting personal development. Non-formal and informal learning is a necessary addition of the more cognitive direction of formal academic and vocational learning as it emphasises social, emotional, and practical levels of learning.

1.5 European Dimension

The project is implemented in close co-operation with the project partners in other EU Member States and Youth in Action programme countries, the network of National Agencies of the Youth in Action programme as well as the SALTO Inclusion Resource Centre. As a result of the project the setup of a reliable European partner network of bodies responsible for working with young people with fewer opportunities is expected. In future, this network ought to permanently provide young people with targeted opportunities of the Youth in Action programme, in particular of the European Voluntary Service and thereby promote their social integration, mobility and the development of a European civic awareness.

2 Framework

2.1 Application Requirements

Applicants can be bodies responsible for socio-educational provision of young people and educational institutions respectively which implement activities for socially disadvantaged young people in transitions of school – training – career. Applications can also be made together with organisations already active in the European Voluntary Service. Participating young people have to be involved in projects or measures of occupational orientation, of transition management or of vocational preparation or training.

The concrete project ideas ought to concern individual young people or small groups; the applicant/body responsible for the project should justify the selection of the activities, methods and the potential participants according to the aims and nature of the project.

The young people ought to be able to contribute creatively to the project in order to gain experiences and to assimilate these constructively. Individual learning experiences and the development of competences ought to be reflected on and documented with the aid of Youthpass. Therewith, 'Youthpass' serves for the recognition of individual learning experiences and for improving integration opportunities in the labour market.

In the individual projects, a sound individual preparation and follow-up, as well as socio-educational monitoring of the young people during the whole process, and intervention in the case of crisis have to be ensured in the form of clear reliable support structures and a network providing security. The concept also has to explore further integration perspectives of the young person after completing the voluntary service.

2.2 European Voluntary Service (EVS)

The project **New Perspectives** is implemented in the framework of Action 2 – European Voluntary Service – of the Youth in Action programme. When developing concrete projects, the following basic conditions are to be considered:

- All bodies involved have to be accredited as sending and hosting organisations respectively before applying.
- The usual application procedures and application deadlines of Youth in Action apply: <http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/>. The interested bodies have to apply by the common deadlines for an individual or a group voluntary service project which is to be fulfilled within 24 months in the case of being granted.
- In view of the objective and the target group of the project, participation in the European Voluntary Service ought to be carried out according to a comprehensive individual integration plan. EVS ought to be used for promoting personal development as well as social and vocational integration.
- As the voluntary services in the frame of the project **New Perspectives** address young people with fewer opportunities, applications will receive high priority – provided that they are of sound quality and the formal conditions are kept.
- The funding scheme of the European Voluntary Service is to be followed; only when sending young people with fewer opportunities additional funds for supporting the young people are available.
- The young people participate in the regular preparation and follow-up seminars of Youth in Action. Organisations involved can organise seminars on their own, only in case an adequate number of young people with fewer opportunities is sent or hosted at the same time. The applicants in the project **New Perspectives** have to present how interested young people are prepared for participating in the Youth in Action seminars as a step to EVS and what they expect of these seminars regarding target group specific requirements, if applicable.
- Additional activities which consider the characteristics of the target groups (intensive preparation, monitoring, and follow-up), as well as measures which emphasise the pilot character of the project **New Perspectives** (concept and project development, project monitoring and evaluation, exchange of experiences and evaluation, final report and recommendations) can be partly financed from other programme strands of Youth in Action.

3 Schedule

- July 2009: Call for expression of interest
- Autumn 2009: Information day for potential German beneficiaries
- 23 - 26 November 2009: International contact making seminar (partnership-building) in Bonn, Germany
- November/December 2009: Acquisition and selection of participants by applicant organisations
- January/February 2010: Application
- From May 2010: Pre-departure training for the young people
- In May 2010: Advance Planning Visits to the venues of the projects
- From June 2010: Start of the voluntary services (recommended duration ca. 3-6 months, less or more possible according to the frames of the programme)
- November/December 2010: Partner seminar for interim evaluation of the course of the project
- June 2011: Completion of the voluntary services; therewith, it is possible that an organisation implements two services consecutively or deferred
- Parallel: Project monitoring und documentation of results
- July 2011: Evaluation by the participating organisations
- August 2011: Experts meeting on project conclusions and recommendations

4 Coordinating Structures

For implementing the project **New Perspectives** the coordinating structures will monitor projects in the preparation and implementation phases, organise the exchange of experiences and public relations as well as guarantee the evaluation and documentation of results.

JUGEND für Europa – the German Agency for the EU programme Youth in Action – will counsel interested organisations in the application as well as implementation processes of the project. If applicable, JUGEND für Europa will support further seminars and events for facilitating the networking of the organisations involved as well as for implementing and evaluating the project.

The *BBJ Servis gGmbH Zentrale Beratungsstelle für Träger der Jugendhilfe* (Information Centre for Organisations of Youth Services), cooperating with the German National Agency

within the National Advisory Board of the Youth in Action programme will offer interested organisations of socio-educational provision for young people support in concept and project development. Together with JUGEND für Europa, it will also be involved in the implementation of seminars and events, in the project monitoring and evaluation, and in the development of recommendations.

The working group 'Young People with Fewer Opportunities in the Youth in Action programme' within the National Advisory Board of the EU programme Youth in Action of the Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women, and Youth will accompany and advise the co-ordinating partners JUGEND für Europa and BBJ Zentrale Beratungsstelle continuously on the implementation of the project **New Perspectives**. The working group will report regularly to the National Advisory Board on the state of the implementation.

5 Evaluation of results

The implementation of the project **New Perspectives** will need to be evaluated regarding its effectiveness to improve the integration opportunities of the participating young people.

- Concerning the **participating young people**: the evaluation ought to provide information about the implementation of the project objectives, about capacity-building, follow-up perspectives and advancement of the young people.
- Concerning **structural requirements**: based on the project experiences, the evaluation should draw the long-term and sustainable integration of the target group, also in view of the future programme design.

6 Funding of the Projects and Consultancy by JUGEND für Europa

For funding EVS projects the rules for Youth in Action, Action 2: European Voluntary Service set by the Programme Guide 2009 or 2010, apply. The Programme Guide can be found on the website http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/doc126_en.htm.

Contact persons at JUGEND für Europa: Karin Schulz, (49-228) 95 06-226, schulz@ifemail.de and Manfred von Hebel, (49-228) 95 06-211, vonhebel@ifemail.de. Contact person at BBJ: Hans Brandtner, (49-331) 721 29 49, brandtner@bbj.de.

7 International Partnership-Building Contact Making Seminar from 23 to 26 November 2009 in Bonn

JUGEND für Europa offers an international partner contact making seminar from 23 to 26 November 2009 in Bonn for organisations interested in participating in the project **New Perspectives**. This seminar will provide the possibility to establish new partnerships between organisations that work with socially disadvantaged young people in transition of school – training – career in their respective countries. There will be an opportunity to exchange experiences, to develop ideas for common projects, and to obtain information about the Youth in Action programme.

8 Expression of Interest and Further Information

It is foremost the socio-educational organisations for young people and educational institutions working with socially disadvantaged young people in their transitions that are invited to take part in the project **New Perspectives**. Educational organisations can also prepare applications in cooperation with organisations experiences or specialised in the European Voluntary Service. The participating young people have to be involved in after-school occupational orientation, vocational preparation, or vocational training.

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JUGEND für Europa

German Agency for the EU Programme 'Youth in Action'

Karin Schulz

Godesberger Allee 142-148

D-53175 Bonn

E-mail: schulz@ifemail.de

Tel.: (49-228) 95 06-226