

**Project Fiche – IPA centralised programmes**  
**YOUTH Programme**

**1. Basic information**

**1.1 CRIS Number:** 2007/19333

**1.2 Title:** Youth in Action Programme - Western Balkans Window

**1.3 Sector:** 02.26 Education and Culture

**1.4 Location:** Western Balkans

**Implementing arrangements:**

**1.5 Contracting Authority:**

European Community represented by the Commission of the European Communities for and on behalf of the beneficiary countries.

**1.6 Implementing Agency:**

The programme will be implemented by the Executive Agency for Education, Audiovisual and Culture.

**1.7 Beneficiary:**

Non-profit organisations or associations, local or regional public bodies legally established in Western Balkan countries identified as Neighbouring Partner Countries of South East Europe under the Youth in Action programme<sup>1</sup>.

**1.8 Overall cost:** €1,25m

**1.9 EU contribution:** €1,0m

**1.10 Final date for contracting:** two years following the end date of conclusion of the Financing Agreements

**1.11 Final date for execution of contracts:** two years following the end date for contracting

**1.12 Final date for disbursements:** three years following the end date for contracting

**2. Overall Objective and Project Purpose**

**2.1 Overall Objective:**

To strengthen democracy and civil society in the Western Balkans by facilitating the integration and active participation of young people in society, and by developing youth organisations and the voluntary sector.

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<sup>1</sup> Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia including Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244 and under its future status).

To develop young people's solidarity, particularly in order to reinforce social cohesion in the European Union.

## **2.2 Project purpose:**

To promote the sector of non-formal education and youth in the region

- by supporting projects with the partner countries, in particular exchanges of young people and those active in Youth work and Youth organisations,
- by supporting initiatives that reinforce young people's mutual understanding, sense of solidarity and tolerance, as well as the development of cooperation in the field of Youth and civil society in these countries.

## **2.3 Link with AP/NPAA / EP/ SAA:**

The Youth is not a priority included in the Accession or European Partnerships of the Western, Balkan countries.

## **2.4 Link with the national MIPDs and the Multi-Beneficiary MIPD**

The Youth Programme appears as a priority in the Multi-Beneficiary MIPD under Section 2.2.7 "Education, Youth and Research".

# **3. Description of project**

## **3.1 Background and justification**

Since 2000, organisations and young people from countries of the Western Balkans have had the possibility to participate as partners in certain of the activities supported through the Youth programme.

In 2005, the Commission launched a pilot initiative aimed at reinforcing the level of participation of organisations from the region in the Youth programme. Through such a pilot phase, organisations from the Western Balkans were granted the opportunity to become coordinating organisations of Youth projects and to apply directly to the Commission for a programme grant.

Despite the limited resources, the results of the pilot phase were successful both in terms of number of applications received and quality of projects submitted. Such results showed that there is a demand for greater opportunities of participation in Youth projects in the region.

Although the modalities of participation of Western Balkan organisations introduced in 2005 have been confirmed under the new Youth in Action programme, covering the period 2007-2013, the EU is called to further enhance its actions and instruments in the field of non-formal education and youth in the region.

Along those lines, the Commission Communication COM (2006)27 "the Western Balkans on the road to the EU: consolidating stability and raising prosperity", reaffirms the commitment of the EU in reinforcing the cooperation with the Western Balkan countries in the area of youth and affirms that the Commission will create new opportunities in that field.

In this context, the establishment of a Western Balkans window, funded by IPA within the Youth in Action programme, will contribute to achieve the Commission's Communication by allowing for more projects submitted by organisations from the Western Balkan countries to be supported.

Furthermore, the window will contribute to prepare the ground for a further level of participation of the countries of the region in the Youth in Action programme in the long term. As a matter of fact, the Youth in Action programme foresees that the Western Balkan countries will have the possibility to participate in the programme on equal footing with the EU Member States. This will be achieved by a differentiated time schedule according to each country's preparedness and capacity to put in place the necessary administrative structures for the implementation of the programme at national level (Youth in Action National Agencies). In this context, projects supported through the proposed window will contribute to increasing opportunities for beneficiaries in the region until the cited national structures are established.

### **3.2 Assessment of project impact, catalytic effect, sustainability and cross border impact**

The Programme will be regularly monitored and the impact evaluated in cooperation between the European Commission and the Member states in order to allow the readjustments. The cross border impact of the Programme is the opportunity for Youth organisations and Young people from the Western Balkan countries and from the Member States to exchange to reinforce a mutual understanding and to enhance a strong cooperation in the area of civil society.

### **3.3 Results and measurable indicators:**

#### **Results**

- Increased opportunities for young people in the region to experience international mobility and acquire socio-educational skills which could facilitate their integration in society.
- Increased participation of young people in democratic life and active citizenship, in particular with regard to young women and young people with fewer opportunities.
- Fostered interethnic and inter-religious dialogue among young people and youth organisations.
- Development of long-lasting partnerships as well the exchange of youth work expertise and know-how in the field of youth and non-formal education.
- Improved organisational skills of organisations established in the Western Balkans, in particular with regard to management of Community funds.

#### **Measurable indicators**

ALL ACTIVITIES:

- Number of organisations (including partners) from Western Balkans participating in activities supported by the Window.
- Number of projects involving young people with fewer opportunities.
- Number of projects dealing with minorities and inter-ethnic inter-religious dialogue issues.
- Number of young women involved in the activities.
- Rating of submitted projects.

- Measures of efficiency in administrative and financial management.

ACTIVITY 1 :

- Number of youth exchanges among youngsters from different countries taking place in the Balkan region.

ACTIVITY 2:

- Number of European Voluntary Service projects in the Western Balkans.
- Number of organisations accredited as EVS host organisations under the Youth in Action programme in the Balkans.

ACTIVITY 3: Number of training and networking projects organised in the Western Balkans.

### **3.4 Activities:**

#### ACTIVITY 1: YOUTH EXCHANGES (ACTION 3.1 OF THE YOUTH IN ACTION PROGRAMME)

Youth Exchanges offer an opportunity for groups of young people from countries participating in the Youth in Action programme to meet and learn about each other's cultures. Their pedagogical value and non-formal learning element comes from the fact that the groups explore themes of common interest.

#### ACTIVITY 2: EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE (ACTION 2 OF THE YOUTH IN ACTION PROGRAMME)

Young people take part individually or in groups in non-profit, voluntary activities abroad, helping in local projects in a wide range of fields: social, ecological and environmental, arts and culture, new technologies, leisure and sports, etc.

#### ACTIVITY 3: TRAINING AND NETWORKING OF THOSE ACTIVE IN YOUTH WORK AND YOUTH ORGANISATIONS (ACTION 3.1 OF THE YOUTH IN ACTION PROGRAMME)

Activities supporting the training of those active in youth work and youth organisations, in particular the exchange of experiences, expertise and good practice between them; as well as activities which may lead to long-lasting quality projects and partnerships and networks. The action supports training courses, seminars, study and feasibility visits, evaluation meetings, job-shadowing, partnership-building and networking activities.

#### GENERAL SELECTION PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA

All activities supported through the window are based on partnerships between organisations from the region and organisations from the EU and other countries participating in the programme. Activities 1 and 3 take place in the Western Balkans and Activity 2 may consist either in volunteers from the Western Balkans sent to Youth in Action Programme countries, or, vice versa, in volunteers from Programme Countries sent to Western Balkan countries.

Project applications are selected by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency through calls for proposals on the basis of criteria defined in the Programme Guide and Addendum of the Youth in Action programme.

### 3.5 Conditionality:

As the Youth Programme is run with a demand driven approach, the good functioning of the programme will depend on the interest of the youth organisations (and other actors) in participating in youth projects, as well as the quality of the project proposals submitted.

### 3.6 Lessons learned

Past assistance has promoted intercultural dialogue among young people and supported the development of cooperation in the field of non-formal education and youth through the Youth Programme.

The pilot initiative launched in 2005 under the Youth programme has supported 50 projects involving 600 participants and 90 organisations from the Western Balkans.

The establishment of the Western Balkans window confirms the Commission's desire to foster youth mobility and mutual understanding of cultural diversity among young people in the Western Balkans, as well as to strengthen civil society and promote and European values in the region. It complements the EU existing opportunities of cooperation with the Western Balkans in the field of non-formal education and youth (Youth in Action programme).

### 4. Indicative Budget (amounts in €)

	TOTAL COST	SOURCES OF FUNDING											
		EU CONTRIBUTION				NATIONAL PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION					PRIVATE**		
		Total	% *	IB	INV	Total	% *	Central	Regional	IFIs	Total	% *	
Activities													
Activity 1	.000	350.000									90.000		
Activity 2	.000	350.000									90.000		
Activity 3	.000	300.000									70.000		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.250.000</b>	<b>1.000.000</b>	80								<b>250.000</b>	20	

\* expressed in % of the Total Cost

\*\* Youth in Action grants are founded on lump sums. Co-financing is only estimated and needs not to be checked.

#### FINANCING RULES

The Community grant is based on a mix of actual costs, fixed amounts and flat rates. The grant cannot finance the entire costs of the project. Promoters must show their commitment to the project by finding financing sources other than the Community grant. This can be done, for example, by running fund-raising activities, by adding own resources, or by requesting grants from other organisations (e.g. municipalities or other local or regional authorities). Proof of co-financing must be included in the final report.

Contributions of a flat-rate amount and scales of unit costs are not affected by this rule. Contributions in kind are considered an eligible source of co-financing.

## 5. Indicative Implementation Schedule (periods broken down per quarter)

The selection is founded on the Youth in Action Programme Guide (permanent call for proposals) which foresees 3 selection deadlines (Rounds) per year. Projects concerning one of the mentioned activities and committed over the amount available can be submitted and run according to the following scheme:

Round	Deadline for submission	Signature of contract	Project Completion
Round 3 2007	01/09/2007	01/12/2007	31/12/2008
Round 1 2008	01/02/2008	01/05/2008	30/06/2009
Round 2 2008	01/06/2008	01/09/2008	30/10/2009

All projects should in principle be ready in the 1<sup>ST</sup> Quarter following the signature of the FA

## 6. Cross cutting issues (where applicable)

**6.1 Equal Opportunity:** An important priority of the Youth in Action Programme to give all young people equal opportunities to access to the activities supported through the Programme. Youth groups and organisations should take appropriate measures to avoid exclusion of specific target groups.

**6.2 Environment:** Environment is one of the fields in which European Voluntary Service activities are carried out and is a re-occurring theme in youth exchanges.

**6.3 Minorities:** The respect for cultural diversity together with the fight against racism and xenophobia are priorities of the Youth in Action Programme. By facilitating joint activities of young people from different cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds, the Programme aims to develop the intercultural learning of young people.

## ANNEXES

- 1- Log frame in Standard Format
- 2- Amounts contracted and Disbursed per Quarter over the full duration of Programme
- 3- Reference to laws, regulations and strategic documents:

**ANNEX 1: Logical framework matrix in standard format**

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Project Fiche	<b>YOUTH in Action Programme</b>	
	Contracting period expires: <b>31/12/2010</b>	Disbursement period expires : <b>31/12/2013</b>
	Total budget :	2007 IPA budget: <b>€1.0m</b>

<b>Overall objective</b>	<b>Objectively verifiable indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To contribute to strengthening democracy and civil society in the Western Balkans by facilitating the integration and active participation of young people, and by developing youth structures and the voluntary sector.</li> <li>▪ To develop young people's solidarity, particularly in order to reinforce social cohesion in the European Union.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Active participation of young people in democratic life</li> <li>▪ Influence of civil society in policy-making process</li> <li>▪ Development of the voluntary sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Central Bureau of Statistics and other official statistics</li> <li>▪ Reports of "Think thanks" and professional organisations</li> <li>▪ National Governmental reports</li> </ul>	
<b>Project purpose</b>	<b>Objectively verifiable indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To promote the sector of non-formal education and youth in the region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public and private investment in non-formal education and youth sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reports of "Think thanks" and professional organisations</li> <li>▪ National Governmental reports</li> </ul>	
<b>Results</b>	<b>Objectively verifiable indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
1. Increased opportunities for young people in the region to experience international mobility and acquire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of intercultural youth exchanges among youngsters from different countries taking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency</li> </ul>	

<p>socio-educational skills which could facilitate their integration in society.</p> <p>2. Increased participation of young people in democratic life and active citizenship, in particular with regard to young women and people with fewer opportunities.</p> <p>3. Interethnic and inter-religious dialogue among young people and youth organisations fostered.</p> <p>4. Development of long-lasting partnerships as well the exchange of youth work expertise and know-how in the field of youth and non-formal education.</p> <p>5. Improved organisational skills of organisations established in the Western Balkans, in particular with regard to management of Community funds.</p>	<p>place in the Balkan region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of trainings. Number and diversity of trainees.</li> <li>▪ Number of EVS volunteers involved in projects</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Percentage of projects involving young people with fewer opportunities.</li> <li>▪ Percentage of young women involved in the activities</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of projects dealing with minorities and inter-ethnic inter-religious dialogue issues.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of organisations from Western Balkans participating in activities supported by the Window.</li> <li>▪ Number of organisations accredited as EVS host organisations under the Youth in Action programme in the Balkans.</li> <li>▪ Number of seminars, partnership-building and networking activities carried out</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rating of submitted projects</li> <li>▪ Measures of efficiency in administrative and financial management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Other implementing bodies of the Youth in Action programme</li> </ul>	
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Activities	Means	Costs	Assumptions
1. Youth Exchanges 2. European Voluntary Service 3. Training and networking of those active in youth work and youth organisations	Call for Proposals	€1.0m	

**ANNEX 2: amounts (in €) Contracted and disbursed by quarter for the project**

<b>Contracted</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> 2007</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> 2008</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> 2008</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> 2008</b>
Activity 1	125.000	0	125.000	100.000
Activity 2	125.000	0	125.000	100.000
Activity 3	100.000	0	100.000	100.000
<b>Cumulated</b>	<b>350.000</b>	<b>350.000</b>	<b>700.000</b>	<b>1.000.000</b>
<b>Disbursed</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> 2007</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> 2008</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> 2008</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> 2008</b>
Activity 1	0	100.000	100.000	80.000
Activity 2	0	100.000	100.000	80.000
Activity 3	0	80.000	80.000	80.000
<b>Cumulated</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>280.000</b>	<b>560.000</b>	<b>800.000</b>

**Annex 3: Reference to laws, regulations and strategic documents:**

- Multi-Beneficiary Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document (2007/2009)