

AVSO Newsletter — February 2007

Editorial

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We are happy to announce that we count forehand with two new colleagues. Sonia is currently finishing an MA on Culture, Communication and Globalisation at Aalborg University, Denmark. As part of the studies she is writing her Master's Thesis for AVSO. Caroline is helping us with the fundraising strategy as a volunteer.

We have already passed the first deadline for the new youth in action programme. This deadline has been just a format change for some of us, but for others a more problematic and uncertain one. You can read further in the AVSO this month. Moreover, AVSO has started already working in the preparation of the 2008 Year of Intercultural Dialogue and the Visa Campaign that will be ratified by the Board during the meeting that will be held on Manchester between the 12th and 14th March. Besides, we are more than happy that this new issue includes a Member's Corner where the AVSO's Members can post different announcement, articles, and opinions, please contribute to the next issues!! Send your proposal to helena@avso.org.

We are also of course continuing the recruitment of new members. If you are interested in finding out what are the benefits of AVSO membership, the engagement of the members and the membership fee, please write to us and we will be happy to give you all the information you want. We need more members to enhance the cooperation between voluntary service organisations, to have a stronger voice towards the decision makers and to be more effective in multiplying the results of our lobbying activities such our VISA CAMPAIGN. **So join us!**

Enjoy the newsletter!

The AVSO team



NEWS from EUROPE



The council of Europe welcomes your proposal for examples of best practice in the area of intercultural dialogue.

The select examples will be presented in the White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue. The Council of Europe welcomes your proposals for examples of best practice in the area of intercultural dialogue. Selected examples will be presented in the White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue.

Your proposal should provide information on the following aspects:

1. Title of the project;
2. Organiser(s) of the project (association, institution, public body, school etc) including name, postal address, e-mail address, web site, telephone, fax;
3. Themes addressed by the project (e.g. art, communication, new technologies, social cohesion, equality, fight against racism, development of participative citizenship, history/collective memory, education/training, standard of living, sustainable development, environment, health, rural areas, cities/urban areas, work/employment/professional integration, illiteracy, fight against exclusion, solidarity between generations, international solidarity, interreligious dialogue, cultural diversity, raising awareness of religious practices, mobility, democracy, minorities, fight against stereotypes, integration, equality between men and women, conflict prevention, cultural co-operation, freedom of expression, human rights, linguistic diversity, media);
4. Target groups (beneficiaries);
5. Intervention level (international, national, local), geographic area;
6. Objectives;
7. Start and end date;
8. Description of activities (participants, activities);
9. Outcomes (reports, publications, exhibitions, press releases etc);
10. Budget and financial sources;
11. Overall project results, evaluation;
12. Follow-up (planned or already realised);
13. Why is this project regarded as an "example of good practice"?

Nominations should reach the Council of Europe either in English or French language (preferably in both) before the end of April 2007.

Visit the [website of the Council of Europe about the Intercultural Dialogue](#).



Bulgarian, Romanian and Irish join the EU family Culture - 10-01-2007.

"United in diversity" is the motto of the European Union and this is never more evident in the languages it embraces. This year sees the number of official languages in the Union rise to 23 with the arrival of Bulgaria and Romania as well as the adoption of Irish. This reflects the cultural heritage of Europe and the principle that all EU citizens have access to documents and information in their own languages. It also means that debates in the Parliament will be heard in these languages. At start of what became the European Union in 1957 there were only 4 languages: Dutch, French, German and Italian. By 1995 there were 11 official languages of the EU. The accession of 10 new countries in 2004 brought in 9 new languages and with the latest additions the number today stands 23 with three separate alphabets.

An interesting feature is that the number of the languages is less than the number of the EU countries - that's because some languages are officially used in more than one country. Moreover, Bulgaria's accession added the Cyrillic alphabet which will now be used alongside Latin and Greek.

An essential part of democracy is the right to speak with your own language. This is why MEPs have the right to debate in any official language of their choice. Also all the official documents have to be translated in all the official languages. Otherwise the legal status can not be granted. This has to be taken into account in organizing the work of the Parliament. For example, a parliamentary committee has to calculate always the time needed to complete the necessary translations in order to allow all the members to work with understandable content.

This website reflects this policy - allowing you to choose which language they prefer.

For the EU multilingualism is a central issue, the new appointed European Commissioner from Romania Leonard Orban represents a further proof of it. Furthermore, the EU supports and promotes multilingualism with different programmes in order to improve linguistic skills of the EU citizens (the most known is the Erasmus programme that celebrates this years its 20th anniversary - 1.2 million students have thus far participated).

Language learning is a priority: according to a recent Eurobarometer survey, only half of the EU citizens say they can hold a conversation in a second language apart from their mother tongue. To promote language learning across the EU 26 September has been proclaimed "European Day of Languages" and 2001 was the European Year of Languages.

To provide this diversity and equality, an essential work allowing the right functioning of the EU is the translator's and interpreter's service - in 2005 1,324,231 pages were translated (the total cost of all the linguistic services of the EU institutions represent merely 1 % of the total EU budget).

Last September a Parliamentary report on Multilingualism and interpretation costs drafted by Finnish People's Party member Alexander Stubb highlighted areas in which savings could be made. It also underlined that multilingualism and the ability to understand other speakers in the European Parliament is crucial for European democracy.

In November, the MEPs welcomed the European Commission's proposals for a new Framework Strategy to foster the knowledge of languages and to take cultural advantage of them. An own-initiative report drafted by Bernat Joan i Mari, a Spanish Green MEP, states it is essential to improve the quality, effectiveness and accessibility of the education and training systems in the EU by promoting foreign language learning.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE WARNING! A HOAX CIRCULATED

To all our partners, to all youth organisations, and especially to all young people interested in Council of Europe training courses in the field of youth.

It has been brought to our attention that a call for application supposedly drafted by the Directorate of Youth, and bearing the Council of Europe logo has been circulated in order to swindle young people out of 135 euros.

Although such a hoax is very rare, it happens, and the Council of Europe wanted to give you a few "hints" to avoid being abused.

***NO MONEY** is asked in advance whenever training courses, study sessions or other activities are organised by the Directorate of Youth of the Council of Europe. The fee is either paid on the spot (intercultural language courses) or deduced from travel reimbursement (study sessions, training seminars...).*

***WHOEVER** works for the Council of Europe has the following address: Firstname.SURNAME@coe.int*

We would appreciate if you could pass on the information around, as it will be a way to counter such frauds.

Do not hesitate to contact us should you come across documents of the same vein as above

Thank you! youth@coe.int.

Brussels, 16 January 2007. Media pluralism: Commission stresses need for transparency, freedom and diversity in Europe's media landscape.



Responding to continuing concerns from the European Parliament and non-governmental organisations about media concentration, and its possible effects on pluralism and freedom of expression, Commissioner Viviane Reding and Vice-President Margot Wallström – presented today to fellow Commissioners three-steps on media pluralism in the European Union. "While the media face radical changes and restructuring due to new technology and global competition, maintaining media pluralism is crucial for the democratic process in the Member States and in the European Union as a whole," said Information Society and Media Commissioner Viviane Reding. "This requires a sound understanding of the economic and legal reality of today's European media landscape, which our three-step approach seeks to achieve."

Vice-President Margot Wallström added: "Communication – understood as a lively and civilised debate among citizens – is the lifeblood of democracy. The media are its veins and arteries. Information they provide should be comprehensive, diverse, critical, reliable, fair and trustworthy."

The three steps set out by Commissioner Reding and Vice-President Wallström, responsible for Institutional Relations and Communication Strategy, follows suggestions made at the Liverpool Audiovisual Conference in 2005, and indicates how this politically-sensitive issue should proceed.

In the 'Reding-Wallström' approach, the notion of media pluralism is much broader than media ownership; it covers access to varied information so citizens can form opinions without being influenced by one dominant source. Citizens also need transparent mechanisms that guarantee that the media are seen as genuinely independent.

Already the new Directive "Audiovisual Media Services without Frontiers", as proposed by the Commission in December 2005 contributes to media pluralism in this respect. In particular, it would oblige Member States to guarantee that their national regulatory authorities are independent from their national governments and audiovisual media service providers. The Commission proposal on this will be debated again during the Directive's second reading in the first semester of 2007.

The 'Reding-Wallström' approach, as presented to the Commission, has three steps:

1. A Commission Staff Working Paper on Media Pluralism (presented already today). It outlines efforts to promote pluralism by third parties and organisations, notably the essential work undertaken by the Council of Europe, and has a concise first survey of Member States' audiovisual and print media markets. This baseline analysis also includes information on national media ownership regulations and the very diverse regulatory models of the 27 Member States.
2. An independent study on media pluralism in EU Member States to define and test concrete and objective indicators for assessing media pluralism in the EU Member States (in 2007).
3. A Commission Communication on the indicators for media pluralism in the EU Member States (in 2008), on which a broad public consultation will take place. This could lead to an evaluation of the opportunity for applying the media pluralism indicators, for example through a further study.

Throughout the whole process, the Commissioners' Group on Fundamental Rights, as well as the European Parliament and Council will be kept informed about the progress made.

For more on the 'Reding-Wallström' approach and the ongoing Commission work on media pluralism, [see](#)

Launch European Year of Equal of opportunities for all 2007. Berlin, 30th January 2007. Vladimir Spidla speech:

It is with great pleasure and pride that I open the "European Year of Equal Opportunities for All" with you today. This event is an expression of our fruitful cooperation and of the great value which the Federal Government attaches to equal opportunities.

It is no coincidence that 2007 became the "European Year of Equal Opportunities for All": it marks the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Rome Treaties. Today, through the European Year, we are affirming that equality for all in the eyes of the law and the right to a life without discrimination is a fundamental European value. Our legal framework enshrining the principle of equality is one of the most comprehensive in the world, and this gives us just cause to be proud. The development of this legal framework for equality between men and women spans half a century. In other fields – ethnic origin, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief – legislation at European level has developed over the last ten years. As a historian, I am sure that this development at European and national level corresponds to two important, although not generally recognised, trends in modern societies:

Firstly, our societies have shown increasing sensitivity and solidarity towards a wide variety of minorities – "the others" as it were, whose marginalisation from mainstream society was for centuries regarded as legitimate. The second trend lies in the evolution of our understanding of equality over the last few decades. Protection against discrimination began in business, particularly in the workplace. Occupation and employment continue to be the

to be the core areas in which the principle of equality between individuals is upheld. However, as our appreciation of equality hinges on the humanist ideal of inalienable human dignity, this principle is stretching ever further beyond the labour market.

The concept of equal opportunities therefore increasingly concerns situations in which, for example, people cannot (or can no longer) be economically active on account of disability or age.

This shows that equal opportunities and human dignity are inextricably linked. Of course, equal opportunities relate first and foremost to ensuring that each person, irrespective of any individual disadvantages, participates as much as possible in working and business life. However, it is clear that the equality of individuals and their right to social participation reaches far beyond economic and material concerns. Progress is in full swing – take, for example, the care needs of the very elderly or severely disabled: a few decades ago, the aim was essentially to cover their basic needs. Today, the right of those requiring assistance to self-determination and social interaction is also recognized.

While certain differences between Member States clearly exist for cultural and historical reasons, these tendencies have developed all over Europe. Furthermore, I wish to underline that these changes have been brought about above all by civil society in the broadest sense – by human rights initiatives and other non-governmental organisations, the media and science.

Reality, admittedly, is not always in line with our noble principles. Even the legal framework here in Europe does not yet offer comprehensive protection against discrimination outside the fields of occupation and employment. We also know how long it can be before laws take full effect in real life. Take equality between men and women as an example: despite major advances over the last 50 years, we certainly still have a lot of work ahead of us.

As you will see, one thing is quite clear from the latest Eurobarometer survey: people want more to be done to combat discrimination. It is therefore our duty to take action.

This European Year must lead to real, measurable progress. I would encourage you to make specific recommendations, which will then accompany our work over the entire year. You must flesh out the Member States' national strategies on the implementation of the European Year. The Commission has not yet finished examining these strategy papers, but I can already say that we are very impressed by the efforts of the participating countries to develop solid, ambitious and often innovative plans. Let us imagine for a moment looking back on the European Year of Equal Opportunities. What do we want to have achieved before the closing ceremony in Lisbon next November? We have set ourselves three specific objectives for the year 2007:

- 1) to better inform people about their rights;
- 2) to move closer to achieving the objective of real equal opportunities for all,
- 3) to showcase the benefits of diversity.



Firstly, as shown by the Eurobarometer survey, too few people are informed about the current anti-discrimination legislation. Our European Year therefore offers an ideal opportunity to boost information and awareness among citizens.

Secondly, the European Year gives us the chance to develop incentives, ideas and initiatives with a view to firmly embedding equal opportunities in daily life.

Thirdly, we want to showcase the benefits of diversity in our societies. The 21st century will be a century of diversity in Europe. There is hardly any doubt about that. The prospects for our continent depend not least of all on how we deal with this diversity: in a number of countries, immigration from third countries already plays a central role in demographic development. We therefore need a successful integration policy; the population is ageing everywhere, but at the same time many employers still see people in their mid-forties and fifties as "old". We therefore need to give substance to the concept of "active ageing", among other things.

The diversity of Europe in the 21st century requires an integrative, active approach. It is our duty, in the name of the dignity and uniqueness of each human being. Furthermore, we cannot afford to overlook the abilities, skills and experience of each individual, for this offer the key to Europe's competitiveness in the world. Through equal opportunities, we will reap the benefits of diversity in many respects – economically, socially and culturally.

You, the equal opportunities organisations, non-governmental organisations and social partners also have an invaluable role to play. You contribute to the progress towards greater equal opportunities.

And that is precisely why I wanted this equality summit to take place: it allows decision-makers in politics and business in Europe to have a discussion at least once a year with those working "in the field" to uphold the rights of victims of discrimination; it also allows us to exchange real-life experiences and learn with and from each other, while respecting each other's cultural differences, whether it is a matter of informing citizens of their rights, providing help for victims or engaging in other exemplary initiatives and measures.

I am therefore pleased that, on both days, all participants will have the chance to speak and exchange their views on how we must use the European Year and on what is to be done afterwards. I trust that our discussions will be impartial and imaginative, we must – and I believe that we can – create a new dynamic. We can also devise tangible and novel measures and instruments to make equal opportunities a reality everywhere.

[European year of Equal opportunities for all](#)



★ **AVSO starts new research on Voluntary service: Empowering minorities through international voluntary service- A case study on intercultural competencies.**

Sonia Haapanen is one of the new colleagues in the AVSO team. Sonia is carrying our research on empowering minorities through international voluntary service- a case study on intercultural competencies. The aim of the research is to identify the level of intercultural competence required for sending/hosting organisations to facilitate the inclusion of ethnic minorities in European Voluntary Service (EVS) projects. International voluntary service projects have usually been restricted to a small number of young people who have a relatively high level of education and financial resources. Even though these projects should be accessible to all without limitations and requirements, ethnic minorities often face several formal, practical or personal barriers to involvement.

During the next months she will contact some of you in order to collect information for the research. However if you think that you can contribute please, feel free to contact her in the email address: sonia@avso.org

★ **Dear Partners:**

As you know, AVSO submitted two applications for the deadline of the 1st February. Thank you very much for replying to the call for the expression of interest on participation for the Seminars "Expert Seminar on Exchange of Information and Best Practice in working with the EU Youth Programme" and "Hand-in-hand reinforced mentorship in voluntary service projects". More than 50 different organisations have sent a partnership agreement, a lot of them non-AVSO's members. We are more than happy and we hope to meet you all there. Thanks again, we will keep you updated!!

★ **Report over the Expert Seminar on „Young people with fewer opportunities and volunteering“**

Strasbourg, 11-12 December 2006.

In the annex to the Resolution on common objectives for voluntary activities of young people the Council of the European Union identifies concrete measures for achieving the common objectives. To promote voluntary activities with a view to reinforcing young people's solidarity and engagement as responsible citizens the following line of action is proposed – at national, regional and local level: "analyse more carefully the phenomena that lead to the exclusion of certain groups of young people from voluntary activities and develop approaches focused on encouraging them to participate in voluntary activities, particularly for young people with fewer opportunities." This built the basis and the aim for organising this expert seminar in the framework of the Partnership Programme between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth. The workshop continued and intensified the discussions held in the research seminar on "Young people and voluntary activities in Europe" in July 2004 (see edited collection of outcomes in "Charting the landscape of European youth voluntary activities". The group of participants of the expert seminar consisted of researchers, policy makers and practitioners. They represent both ways of dealing with volunteering (organised service and on "every day life-related", local level). Renate Lange (AGDF) represented the good practice of the AVSO member organisations, e.g. the step-by-step project, the Roma-Gadje-Project, solidarites jeunesse. A report with recommendations to Member States how to tackle the question and how to ensure that more young people participate in voluntary activities will be published.



★ **The world Poverty Agenda: How the IMF sees it.**

AVSO attended the conference organised by the Friends of Europe at the European Parliament. The roundtable discussion was introduced by Josep Borrell, chairman of the European Parliament Committee on development and the intervention of Rodrigo Rato, President of the IMF. The EP, as Borrell pointed, has already settled a few of recommendations to the IMF and the World Bank for cooperation and facing challenges to the poverty agenda. Moreover, the recommendation goes for asking the improvement in their policy for poverty reduction. Rato gave a presentation about the recent measures to open the IMF to the whole public debate and to the IMF work in relation to developing countries. However, he started the Conference defending the IMF to any responsibility for the subject because as he said "IMF is not a development agency, we are a financial institution".

He gave a few recommendations from the point of view of the organisation such the necessity of growth; governance; fiscal expenditure and the free of trade. If we agree about the fact that this conference is a first step on the strategy openness of the institution; it would have been more interesting to hear about concrete actions.

★ FIRST DEADLINE NEW YOUTH IN ACTION PROGRAMME: FOR SOME OF OUR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES NOT LAUGHING MATTERS.

After the first deadline of the youth in action programme, all of us have been surprised or have paid more attention in order to adapt to the new forms. However for some of our colleagues it has been more complicated. The national agencies were not designated on time to be working for the first February deadline. This has been the case for Spain, Portugal and Italy where the national agencies as an independent body was not settled on time at the beginning of 2007. Well, the problem was that for those countries were not official deadlines. They have approached the situation in different ways:

Portugal: officially the State Secretary for the Youth Programme hasn't edited the law to elect the National Agency. Although, there were given indications, from the Portuguese National Agency for the Youth Programme, to the different Regional Delegations to accept the applications for the 1st February deadline. Olga Portela from Vertigem told us that "The applications were accepted using the old forms of the Youth Programme hoping that when they get to the Selection Committee the National Agency already exists officially".

Spain: the problem is that the new departments and the competencies of the new agency are not defined by the moment. As Lucia Arias Ballesteros from AFAIJ said to us "we have changed the work-program for 2007 but thanks to the strength of our network, especially within the AVSO's members, we are sure that we will have the same number of placement for volunteers. There will be only a rescheduled of the work".

Italy: the situation has been similar. The body was not constituted on time for 2007 and the first deadline passed away without any possibility to apply. However, it seems that something is changing and some organizations, AFSAI among them, will meet with the Italian Ministry of Youth in order to study the situation.

We hope that the situation becomes normal as soon as possible and they can continue working as well as was they were doing before.

★ AVSO ATTENDED THE NEW LIFE-LONG LEARNING PROGRAMME PRESENTATION.

During 3 Info-days the European Commission has presented the New Life-Long learning for stakeholders and applicants to the central level. This programme is the result of the emersion of ancient Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci and e-Learning programmes. It added as well four extra measures: policy cooperation and innovation; language learning; innovative content, services, pedagogies and practices in the field of information and communication technologies (ICT); dissemination and exploitation of results (under the Lifelong Learning Programme and previous related programmes), and exchange of good practice.

The new programme is marked by two features: the simplification of procedures and the budget cuts from the last years. Regarding the budget the Commission proposed 13.6billion and the final adoption was 7 billion. The procedure has been simplified; we will receive a lump-sum, scale of unit case and no reporting in use of funds and results. These measures let the applicant more time for valorisation, quality management and impact assessment.

For further information you can download the presentation for all the actions and the [general overview of the info days in the website](#) or we can provide you with other information if it is necessary.

★ THE UNITY MAKES US STRONGER - NEW MEMBERS Registration form from January 2007.

Welcome to AVSO! The registration campaign for new members was officially open in January. If you are working with volunteers and voluntary Service, if you are interesting on share your best practice and worst practice, if you want to advocacy and lobby at the European Level, if you want to improve your programmes and organisation, if you want to involucrate in further knowledge about voluntary activities, if you want to get first hand information and news, to sum up if you want to be stronger in Europe: You must ask for the information pack at the address info@avso.org and join us! We will be very pleasant to receive you as new member. We look forward to hearing from you soon.



MEMBER'S CORNER



ICYE SEMINAR-CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS. M³ - Management, Marketing and Money for International Youth Exchange Organisations. Thessaloniki, Greece, March 24th - 30th 2007 In this international training course, we will deal with how to ensure **quality, stability, sustainability and visibility** in our projects and programmes. Many times drawing from approaches in the sector of private economy and adapting them to the necessities and realities of NGOs, we will better know our „**product**“, our potential **clients** and how to reach them, our **supporters**, the **environment/market** we operate within, and how we can position ourselves in this market and raise the **visibility and appreciation of our work**. We will analyze our own structures, our working procedures/processes and our planning and controlling mechanisms and **introduce management tools** that can help ensure quality and sustainability and thus allow **long-term planning and strategic development**. And last but not least we will deal with some important aspects of financial management such as **fundraising, accounting and controlling**. Frontal inputs will provide the theoretical background and the introduction of practical tools, which will then be immediately tried out in the framework of exercises and simulations. Mostly, we will work with the **cases of our own organisations** and our respective activities. You can also find the call and application form on the ICYE website: www.icyeeurope.org or put you in contact with Marcus Vrečer (Mr.) Mobile: +43. (0)650.4042390 Email marcus.vrecher@grenzenlos.or.at as soon as possible!!!



BRIEFING



New European youth TV is organising a contest in honour of the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome. Europocket TV presents its first ever competition for young Europeans: EPK+50: Got something to say? Think you could present Europocket news? Think of a theme, grab a camera and let your talent do the rest! Send them a 50 second video clip and take part in Europocket TV's competition. Your video should include a short speech on a theme of your choice and three vox-pops with anyone you like: friends, politicians or even strangers on the street! Win a TRIP TO ROME to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome. In the last week of March, you and a friend will be flown to Italy's capital, put up in a hotel with all expenses paid. EPK+50 are open to all young talented Europeans. Send them your videos before the 12th of March 2007 through the 'your videos' section on their web or by email. Please consult the base of the contest at www.europocket.tv



Death penalty-MEPs set to back International moratorium. Human rights 30-01-2007. Amnesty International reports that in 2005 over 2.100 were executed in 22 countries. During the first week of February the MEPs settled their support for a UN sponsored international moratorium on executions. They will attend on Paris the "World Congress against the Death Penalty". The aim is to discuss how to persuade countries to end executions and put pressure on them to halt executions.

Brussels, 24 January 2007. Free movement of students: the Commission sends letters of formal notice to Austria and Belgium. The European Commission has decided today to send Austria and Belgium "letters of formal notice" regarding restrictions of access to their higher-education systems by holders of secondary education diplomas from other Member States. Both countries will now have two months to reply to the European Commission. The Commission recognizes the sensitivity of the issue of access to universities in various Member States. While pursuing its role as guardian of the Treaties, it remains open to continue the dialogue with both the Austrian and Belgian authorities.

Brussels, 2 February 2007. Climate change: New report from the world's leading scientists underlines the need for urgent global action. European Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas called for an urgent start to international negotiations on a comprehensive new global climate change agreement following today's publication of alarming scientific evidence by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Commissioner Dimas said: "I am deeply concerned at the accelerating pace and the increasing extent of climate change that it shows. It is now more urgent than ever that the international community gets down to serious negotiations on a comprehensive new worldwide agreement to stop global warming". Further information at www.ipcc.ch.

Brussels, 6 February 2007. Making the internet safer for children: Europe calls for determined action on "Safer Internet Day" 2007. On this day, 100 organisations in over 40 countries worldwide celebrated Safer Internet Day. In the EU, across all 27 Member States conferences and campaigns showcase already existing safer internet activities of the private and the public sector, from filtering technologies to media literacy programmes. The purpose is to raise awareness – in particular at schools, among parents and teachers – about the best ways for protecting minors in an online environment of growing importance for our daily lives. Safer Internet Day was organised under the patronage of the Information Society and Media Commissioner Viviane Reding.

International Essay Competition. The project is implemented by the World Bank and external partners. The International Essay Competition 2007 invites youth aged 18-25 to answer to the following two questions: 1) *How does corruption affect your life?* 2) *What can you do to fight the corruption that you face?*

Prizes: 5000 USD and 1000 USD. Finalists will be invited to present their essays to the Jury during the Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics (ABCDE) in Bled, Slovenia, in May 2007.

Submissions are accepted from January 16 till March 15, 2007, in English, French and Spanish, on <http://www.essaycompetition.org>.



CALL FOR PROPOSAL AND TENDERS

★ Lifelong Learning Programme general call for proposals 2007 (EAC/61/2006).

DEADLINE depending on the measures: Erasmus University Charter 28/02/2007; Jean Monnet Programme 15/03/2007; Comenius, Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Grundvig 30/03/2007; Transversal Programme and Accompanying measures 30/04/2007. Read More http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/newprog/index_en.html#call

★ European Youth Foundation. Council of Europe. Deadline 1 April 2007 for Category A and B grants. The projects must take place between 1 January and 30 June 2008.

Category A: It is an international youth meeting, which can take the form of a seminar, conference, workshop, camp, festival, etc..

Category B: is any type of youth activity other than a meeting (see Category A for the definition of a meeting). In this category the European Youth Foundation (EYF) may support, for example: specialised publications

s training manuals); newsletters or magazines produced by international youth organisations or networks; information campaigns; exhibitions and the production of audio-visual materials etc; a the development of web sites or the production of CD-Roms; the production of posters, badges and stickers; research projects on youth-related issues. In the same category, the EYF can also grant study visits enabling youth organisations and networks to make new contacts in Europe and thus extend partnerships and develop co-operation.

[Read more](#)

★ **Culture Programme (2007-2013). Support for cultural actions**

Strand 1.1 Multi-annual Co-operation Projects

Strand 1.2.1 Co-operation Measures

Strand 1.2.2 Literary Translation

Deadline 28 February 2007

The European Commission proposal relating to the Culture programme has not yet been formally adopted by the EU legislator. Nevertheless, to enable prompt implementation of this programme after the adoption of its legal basis, which should take place soon, and to enable potential beneficiaries of Community grants to prepare their proposals as soon as possible, the European Commission has decided to publish conditional calls for proposals. These calls for proposals do not legally bind the European Commission. They may be cancelled and calls for proposals with different specifications may be issued, with appropriate reply periods, if there is a substantial change in the legal basis by the European decision-making authorities.

More generally, the implementation of the calls for proposals in 2007 is subject to the following conditions which are not dependent on the European Commission: the adoption by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union of the final text of the legal basis establishing the Programme without any substantial modifications; the adoption of the annual work programme relating to the Culture programme and of the general implementation guidelines and the selection criteria and procedures, after referral to the programme committee; and the adoption of the 2007 budget for the European Union by the budgetary authority.

Conditional call for proposals EACEA 09/2006: Strands 1.1 and 1.2.1

It should be noted that the selection procedure will last several months. It guarantees the transparency of the Community action and provides the stringency needed to ensure that public funds are used appropriately.

For further information please contact the Cultural Contact Point of your country or send your questions to the following mailbox: EACEA-CULTURE-CALLS-2007@ec.europa.eu

Deadline for submission of applications: 28/02/2007, [Read More](#)

★ **EUROPEAN Culture Foundation.**

The ECF Grants Programme supports projects that promote European cultural exchange and cooperation. We fund small and medium-sized independent cultural organizations that work on cross-border and inter-regional projects. We have two annual grant rounds. The next deadline for applications is 1 March 2007, for projects starting after 1 May 2007. [Read More](#)

With the support of the European Community budget line “support for bodies actives at European Level in the field of youth”



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