



**URGENT RESOLUTION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE
YOUTH IN ACTION PROGRAMME AND ESPECIALLY THE
ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDING**

ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF MEMBERS/ EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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We, the members of the European Youth Forum (YFJ), draw attention on the importance of the Youth in Action (YiA) programme and especially the administrative funding. These programmes aim at responding to the evolution and needs of young people on the European level, at inspiring a sense of active citizenship, solidarity and tolerance among young Europeans and at involving them in shaping the Union's future. With these aims in mind, the YiA programme and especially the administrative funding allow many Youth NGOs (YNGOs) to exist.

Such an important source of financing needs to take into account the situation, needs and context of its beneficiaries in order to fully complete its objectives. Youth organisations work mainly with volunteers and therefore with very different structures than those organisations which are solely or mainly based on employed staff; methodology in the work plan is also different as more often than not, non formal education predominates.

Hence it is utmost important that these main characteristics of youth organisations are taken into account by the programme managers and evaluators. Year after year, the European Youth Forum has been liaising with the European Commission and working on how this programme can be improved to serve effectively and efficiently youth organisations and young people across Europe. Some aspects have been improved, but more is yet to be accomplished. We believe in the need for the weak points to be addressed in coherence with the needs of YNGOs.

We, the members organisations of the YFJ, strongly ask the Education, Audiovisual and Cultural Executive Agency to address urgently the following aspects of implementation of the YiA programme:

Timeline: In reference to the timeline of the call for proposals, deadlines for applications, for the results published, and also for funding payments, urgently need revising. It is not operational for youth organisations to be applying for funding in December for the following year to then not be informed until one quarter of the way through the next year whether funding has been granted or not. Even if funding is granted, payments are often received in the second half of the year, which leaves YNGOs with no liquidity for a long period of time. For this reason, we the members would very much like to see the deadline for applications set well in advance in order to be informed of the results for funding relevant to the following year before December. In reference to the call for proposals, this should be published at least two months before the deadline for applications due to the amount of YNGOs working on a voluntarily basis.

Criteria: Criteria that will be taken into account for the evaluation are not clearly stated in the call for proposals, which makes it very difficult for YNGOs to prepare their

applications and also guarantee a transparent and fair evaluation. We, the member organisations of the YFJ, would like to see much clearer criteria of what is expected from the applications and clear priority given to YFJ members who are by definition recognised by their peers as genuine and valuable representatives and providers of youth work and non-formal education opportunities.

Evaluation: We welcome an objective evaluation of the applications. However, external experts must have experience in non-formal education methods as well as in the youth sector in order to be able to evaluate such applications. Second, we believe it is essential for YNGOs to receive the experts' evaluation report in order to have the much-needed feedback and guarantee the applicants the possibility to learn and improve.

The members of the YFJ would like to see these aspects taken up by the Youth Forum with the Executive Agency.