



Live from Brussels - A YMCA Europe Brussels Newsletter



CHALLENGING TIMES

THIS MONTH

Spring News

by Ilenia Ventroni

We continue our work in a very busy Brussels environment. Many projects are being launched and many policy processes are launched at this very moment. We continue to be monitor these changes for you, while participating in them and raising our voice on matters important for us.

New project possibilities

With the arrival of spring so it's time also for new project opportunities at a European level. In this issue of the newsletter you will find a number of interesting call for proposals. As you will see they will not be limited to "traditional" funding sources like Erasmus+, although we will dedicate most of our attention to an Erasmus+ call. As YMCA Europe we will try to focus our attention on **new funding sources** dedicated to youth, namely related to youth unemployment, following our strategy. Following our strategy is quite important for us, thus we invite you to seriously take into consideration these calls for proposals: even if they look intimidating and new, we invite you to **contact us** if you believe they could be interesting for you. We would be glad to support you throughout the whole application process.

New advocacy initiatives

We continue to sharpen our tools to participate in the Brussels environment. In particular, we have designed **new procedures** to consult the movements in case of European public consultations and necessary reactions to the Brussels public policy scene. For this reason, the YPG is at the center of our work, as you will read further on. Also, we have increased our coordinated efforts in terms of advocacy with the YFJ and other important NGOs in Brussels. For more info, please read **page 3**.

Eyes open on:

Erasmus+ Key Action 3: Call for Proposals for Refugee Projects

Yet another opportunity for all of you looking for funds on refugee/migrants projects: you have time until May 30 to apply for this call! Up to **500.000** euros available to design projects centered on the deployment of volunteers and on social inclusion. Please read more on **page 2**.



YPG meeting in London

The YPG met for the first time the Brussels office in London from April 1st to April 3rd. We discussed the many ways in which the YPG can help us shape our advocacy, channeling YMCA views into our daily work and response to the Brussels environment. Kie Cumming and TinnaRos Steinsdottir gave the Brussels office their input and started also a process of strengthening of te YPG itself. We look forward to continue this cooperation in the months to come!

YFJ COMEM

We supported Heidi Silven in her very important work at the YFJ Council of Members, strengthening our action and our visibility. Learn more about it on **page 3**.





Key Action3 - Social Inclusion through education, training and youth

DEADLINE: May 30 2016, 12:00 CET/CEST (Midday, Brussels time)

General Objective:

2 General Objectives:

1) Preventing radicalization and promoting democratic values, fundamental rights, intercultural understanding, active citizenship;

2) Fostering inclusion of disadvantaged learners

2 LOTS, 3 STRANDS (UNDER LOT 2)

Lot1: Education and Training (formal education)

Lot2 Youth: youth work, non-formal education:

-Strand 1 - Transnational Coop projects

-Strand 2 – large Scale Volunteering Projects

-Strand 3 – Networking National Agencies

Specific Objectives:

You have to choose at least 3

1. Improving acquisition of social and civic competences, fostering understanding and ownership of democratic values;

2. Preventing/combating discrimination/segregation in education;

3. Promoting gender equality in the learning environment;

4. Enhancing access to quality and inclusive mainstream education and training;

5. Fostering mutual understanding and respect among people with different ethnic or religious backgrounds;

6. Enhancing critical thinking, cyber and media literacy;

7. Creating inclusive and democratic learning environments;

8. Supporting teachers and educators in handling conflicts and dealing with diversity;

9. Preventing radicalization in prison and closed institutions;

10. Encouraging youth participation in social and civic life;

11. Facilitating the acquisition of the language(s) for newly arrived migrants;

12. Assessing knowledge and validating prior learning of newly arrived migrants;

13. Better non-formal learning activities, youth work practices, volunteering.

Budget

Up to **EUR 500,000**. The maximum rate of co-financing is 90% of eligible costs.

Eligibility

Nationality:

1. the 28 Member States of the EU,
2. the EFTA/EEA countries: Iceland and Norway,
3. EU candidate countries: Turkey, Albania, Serbia, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Partnership:

Strand 1: 4 organizations representing 4 eligible countries. If networks are involved in the project, the partnership must include at least 2 organizations which are not members

of the network (i.e two partners of the network plus 2 organizations not members of the network)

Strand 2: 3 organizations representing 3 eligible countries.

The remaining applicant(s) may come from other relevant sectors and be legally established in any of the eligible countries referred.

Maximum duration of the project: 24 months

For more info:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding/key-action-3-initiatives-for-policy-innovation-social-inclusion-through-education-training-and-youth_en

TO KNOW MORE

If you want to apply to any of these calls and you don't know how, please **contact:**

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Advocacy: what's up in Brussels?

by Ilenia Ventroni

Last month we mentioned our cooperation with FEANTSA, the European Federation of National Organizations working with the Homeless. We decided to join their action calling for a European Commission Plan to fight **homelessness**. Many of our members work on this field, thus we are quite motivated to join a common campaign at a European level in this direction. Part of our action will entail asking MEPs to vote positively on a European Parliament **written declaration** to make this request to the Commission. This will allow us to have a good opportunity to meet many of them, and to recruit more "YMCA friends".

Many things are happening at the moment in the realm of youth policies. PES (the European Socialist Party) has presented on April 22nd a PES Youth Plan, pushing mostly on reducing youth unemployment. This is good news in the sense that it is one of the signs of how youth comes at the forefront of



the European Parliament's agenda today. Another important sign of that is the fact that the Youth Intergroup of the European Parliament has organized with the YFJ a consultation of European NGOs on the **Multi Annual Financial Framework** of the EU (MFF). The MFF sets the priorities for EU spending over the 7 years' period of programming of the EU: if a priority is not inserted in the MFF, it does not get funding. YMCA Europe was among the NGOs consulted on May 3rd in Brussels, and we were able to give our priorities to both the Commission and the Parliament. We underlined how **funding** for youth organization **needs to be expanded**, and **more accessibility** to this funding is needed, through **simplification** and expansion of the eligibility of youth NGOs to apply to nontraditional youth programmes (like Horizon 2020 or Cohesion funds). We suggested to mainstream youth into every EU programmes, not limiting funding opportunity to a "youth reservation". This is how YMCA Europe can influence EU programming at its source.

We also met the Rapporteur of the Erasmus+ implementation report with the YFJ Funding Network: we were able to suggest what needs to be modified, reviewed or kept.

Many other interesting events happened in Brussels in April. Among them, there was the Conference at the European Parliament on 26 April on "European Muslims: **radicalization and de-radicalization**". This was an illuminating insight into the causes of radicalization, and to the plight of young Muslims struggling to integrate and to find a solid identity. The many attendants stressed the importance of services and support for youth and families, giving opportunities, hope and a space to dialogue.

"Europe and its social values must build on inter-religious dialogue, on coexistence, living together, on common progress to see the flourishing of values. The key word is dialogue."

EP Vice-President Antonio Tajani



YFJ and the Council of Members (COMEM)

The European Youth Forum (YFJ) met on April 15 and 16 in Brussels to reunite its Council of Members. In this occasion, the members voted on 4 Resolutions drafted initially by the YFG, and shape in this way the political position of the YFG on several issues, something very important to define the collective advocacy of all European Youth Organizations towards the European Institutions.

YMCA Europe presented **7 amendments** to the YFJ Policy Papers, thanks especially to our Representative **Heidi Silvén**, in cooperation with the Brussels office and the YPG. We presented 3 amendments to

the Quality Standards for Youth Policy Paper, 2 on Youth Autonomy and Inclusion, and 2 on Equality and Non-Discrimination. We managed to have 4 of these 7 amendments passing the vote of the Council of Members: the amendments focused on the importance of the role of youth organizations and their recognition by key institutions and governments in particular.

We cooperated successfully with other Value-Based Organizations, focusing on common goals and building efficient positions to influence the policy papers of the YFJ. These papers are focused on important values and positions, and it is important that YMCA Europe makes sure that these documents reflect our identity and beliefs as well, as much as possible. The **next step** will be the next COMEM in November, where the new YFJ Board will be voted upon, and the YFJ Operational Plan as well. YMCA Europe will work to ensure the Plan follows our New Strategy. Soon we will start a process of consultation on that: please contact us if you want to give some insight or opinion!



Funding Opportunities

Here you will be able to find all relevant calls for proposals open at the moment. If you have any question on them, **feel free to contact us** and we will help you out!

	What is it?	Deadline	Link
<i>Sport: Collaborative Partnerships/Small Collaborative Partnerships in the sport field and Not-for-profit European sport events NOT related to the 2016 European Week of Sport</i>	Sport related project with European partnership	12 May 2016 - 12:00 CET	http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding/sport-collaborative-partnershipsmall-collaborative-partnerships-in-sport-field-and-not-for-profit_en
<i>EACEA/14/2016 EU Aid Volunteers Deployment</i>	Support projects sending volunteers to implement prevention actions and preparation actions to ensure prevention of disasters, mitigation and preparedness towards the effects.	17 May 2016 - 12:00 CET 01 September 2016 - 12:00 CET	http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/eu-aid-volunteers/funding/eu-aid-volunteers-deployment-eacea142016_en
<i>EACEA 05/2016 Key Action 3 - Initiatives for policy innovation - Social inclusion through education, training and youth -</i>	Upscaling and disseminating innovative good practices to: 1. Prevent violent radicalization and promoting democratic values, fundamental rights, intercultural understanding and active citizenship; 2. Fostering the inclusion of disadvantaged learners, including persons with a migrant background, while preventing and combating discriminatory practices.	30 May 2016 - 12:00 CET	http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding/key-action-3-initiatives-for-policy-innovation-social-inclusion-through-education-training-and-youth_en
<i>VP/2016/008 Information sharing and outreach activities to young people about the Youth Guarantee</i>	To better inform/engage Youth Guarantee Stakeholders in implementing partnerships for Youth Guarantee delivery; To better inform young people about the Youth Guarantee, engage with and reach out to them, with the aim of bringing them into the Youth Guarantee service	30 June 2016	http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=629&langId=en&callId=481&furtherCalls=yes
<i>EUROPE FOR CITIZENS Programme - Measure Civil Society Projects</i>	Capacity Building activities and Mobility Activities: Trainings, Development of Tools, Youth Exchanges, Volunteer Programmes, etc.	1 July 2016 at 12pm (CET - midday Brussels time)	http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/actions/key-action-2-cooperation-for-innovation-and-exchange-good-practices/erasmus-plus-key-action-2-capacity-building-in-field-youth_en
<i>EU Aid Volunteers - Technical Assistance and Capacity Building</i>	strengthen the capacities of sending and hosting organizations intending to participate in the EU Aid Volunteers initiative to apply for certification	04 July 2016 - 12:00 CET	https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/guidelines_-_call_for_proposals_27-2016_o.pdf