



A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

# Live from Brussels - A YMCA Europe Brussels Newsletter

THIS MONTH

## Changes, changes

by Ilenia Ventroni

This month marked yet another historic change after the recent Brexit modified the European political environment for the next Future. The United States of America elected their new President after 8 years of Obama Presidency, and it is not, as many had expected, Hillary Clinton, but Donald Trump. Regardless of political opinions on the matter, this is likely to bring some changes to the world political environment, and as YMCA we continue to be committed to raise our voice to support youth and our communities on every political scene.

### Advocacy on our mind

In this very new political environment, our advocacy takes an even stronger role, building our voice in Europe and around the world. We are now at a great time for our advocacy role, since our new YPG has just been selected. You will be able to read more on them at [page 2](#) of this issue. We also participated in the Info Day organized by the

European Youth Forum on the new Erasmus+ 2017 Call and the European Youth Foundation: you will be able to read more on this at [page 2](#) of this issue. The Brussels Office was also present at the World Alliance of YMCAs meeting on the new Strategy in Litomyšl, where we were able to participate and contribute to the work to be done in Advocacy and Communications.

### Projects and Programmes

This November we have a number of good opportunities coming from different sources, but we will give special focus to an Erasmus+ opportunity regarding Apprenticeships and Vocational Training: find more on this call for proposal at [page 3](#) of this issue. Moreover, please see [page 4](#) for more information on the available calls. Some of them are not the usual Erasmus+ Call, so if you want to know how to apply, please contact us at [ilenia@ymaceurope.com](mailto:ilenia@ymaceurope.com).



### Getting to know you

The Brussels Office of YMCA Europe was invited to the General Assembly of KFUM/KFUK (YMCA/YWCA) in Denmark this November. This was a great opportunity to meet and get to know the YMCA movement in Denmark, its activities and the great work it does with its community. YMCA Denmark was able to give us its priorities in terms of advocacy and project types, making it easier for us to provide better help and support with our work.

## Our new Youth Policy Group

by Ilenia Ventroni



As a follow-up to the previous article on our new Advocacy Body, the Youth Policy Group (YPG), I have the pleasure to inform you all that it has finally been selected.

7 new members were selected to work on our Policy Papers, Policy Positions and External Representation, adding to the existing members, our Representative to the Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth, Tinna Steinsdottir and our Representative to the European Youth Forum, Heidi Silven .

The new YPG members are:

- Gerald Chifamba (UK)
- Eliza Vas (Romania)

- Janette van Kalkerem (The Netherlands)
- Phillippa Lewis (UK)
- Martina Vitezova (Serbia)
- Eglantina Lula (Albania)
- Lea Suzanne Wisseler (Germany).

You will receive more information on their profiles very soon, in the next newsletter. The YPG will have its first meeting at the start of December via Skype, and will meet in person around January 2017. Before this meeting, the YPG will be sent the drafts of 4 Policy papers on the 4 main priorities of our Strategy: Migration, Youth Unemployment, Peace and Justice, Youth Empowerment. These papers will then be sent to the Executive Committee, to a YMCA Network of Experts and to other

YMCA youth platforms, like YES and Change Agents, to have the largest possible input and feedback on these first documents. We remind you that if your YMCA has an advocacy/policy department, please contact us and we will include you in the network of experts, to make sure that you will be able to participate as well in this process.

For any question you may have, please feel free to contact us at [ilenia@ymcaeurope.com](mailto:ilenia@ymcaeurope.com)



## The 2016 Info Day on Funding

by Ilenia Ventroni

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of November, the YMCA Europe staff participated to the Info Day on European funding organized by the European Youth Forum. There we got some much needed information on grants we applied for, and some news on other grants, news that might be interesting for you. First of all, the European Commission presented the new Erasmus + 2017 Call. The new calls for the different actions at a centralized level (Brussels) are available at this page: [http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding\\_en](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding_en) .

For more information about Erasmus+ calls at a National level (your National Agency), the different type of actions and how to apply, please feel free to [contacts us](#). European Commission also mentioned a couple of novelties, which we are happy to report to you.

- 1) The Strategic EVS (European Voluntary Service).

Some of you may have already used the EVS funding to receive and send volunteers, and you may or may not be certified to do so. However, the European Commission noticed that many of our member organizations do not use the EVS, and a lot of money went unspent. Thus, they devised an experiment: a new strategic EVS where the funds would go to umbrella organizations (like YMCA Europe) who would distribute them to their members to send volunteers between them. There will only be one experimental call for proposals, unless they decide to keep the system. The call will probably be announced in April, and launched only at national level, so it might not be announced in some countries: make sure to contact us if you are interested in it, and we will work together on it!

- 2) The European Solidarity Corps.

Another new proposal coming from the EU, the Solidarity Corps will represent another way of volunteering for young Europeans. The Corps will act first in EU Member countries, then EEA, candidate and neighbor countries, helping NGOs working around crises situations. There will be probably a purely volunteering and a professional strand, where the second will become a way to organize placements in the solidarity sector. The website will be launched in December, and there will be calls for proposals in this regard. We will keep you posted on this, but for more information, please contact us at: [ilenia@ymcaeurope.com](mailto:ilenia@ymcaeurope.com) .

## KEY ACTION3

# VET-BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS ON WORK-BASED LEARNING AND APPRENTICESHIPS

by Ilenia Ventroni

### Objective

To fund VET (vocational education and training)-business partnerships to develop work-based learning, with special attention to apprenticeships. These partnerships should involve business and social partners in the design and delivery of VET. This Call also intends to improve the quality of work-based learning and apprenticeships by promoting partnerships that involve companies, VET providers, other relevant stakeholders and intermediary organisations, learning from well working best practices. Great focus on the regional and local dimension.

### Deadline

Deadline for application submissions 17/01/2017– 12:00 noon CET

### Budget

Between 250.000 euros 350.000 euros. The agency expects to fund around 5 projects under Lot 2. The EU grant is limited to a maximum co-financing rate of 80% of eligible costs.

### Type of partnership

**Lot1:** Local and regional partnerships. The call supports partnerships between i) a VET provider; ii) a small, medium or large enterprise (public or private) or Chamber or other sectoral/professional organisation; iii) and a local or regional authority. The partnership must include an employers' and a workers' organisation (social partners) as associated partners.

**Lot2:** Strategic activities between umbrella organisations at European level and their members to strengthen VET-business partnerships on

work-based learning and apprenticeships at local/regional context. The applicant (project co-ordinator) must be a European umbrella organization having members in at least 12 Erasmus+ programme countries, of which at least 6 take part in the project as partners.

### Activities

The duration of the projects is 24 months.

Eligible activities: Capacity building, knowledge transfer and exchange of experiences, or make existing engagement more systematic, targeted and sustainable to improve qualitative and quantitative provision of apprenticeships and work-based learning;

In addition, 2 of the following 3 activities:

- Design and implement curricula, courses and modules, training material on work-based learning and apprenticeships according to skills needs and European transparency instruments (e.g. EQF, EQAVET, ECVET) and using digital and innovative technologies as appropriate;
- Build cooperation structures between VET teachers and in-company trainers for the delivery of work-based learning and apprenticeships;
- Set-up and strengthen work-based learning and apprenticeships in higher VET at tertiary level by facilitating cooperation between VET providers at secondary and tertiary level and businesses, including the promotion of research links to universities or universities of applied sciences to respond to skills shortages.

If you are interested in this call, please fill in this Doodle (<http://doodle.com/poll/fk5fefc243mkmgse>) to schedule an information Skype call!



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!

## Funding Opportunities

	What is it?	Deadline	Link
<i>Open call for Visegrad Fund's Small grants</i>	The International Visegrad Fund is an international organization, founded by the governments of the Visegrad Group (V4) countries (the Czech Republic, Hungary, the Republic of Poland, and the Slovak Republic). Grant support is given to original projects in the areas of culture, science and research, youth exchanges, crossborder cooperation and tourism promotion.	December 1 2016	<a href="http://visegradfund.org/grants/standard-grants/">http://visegradfund.org/grants/standard-grants/</a>
<i>CREATIVE EUROPE Culture Sub-programme SUPPORT FOR EUROPEAN COOPERATION PROJECTS</i>	Cultural and/or audio-visual activities to support the integration of refugees by letting EU citizens and refugees work together to discover, learn from and understand the values and cultures of both populations. Projects can promote joint creation and performances of for example original theatre, music, audio-visual works and street performances. Projects should foster the identification of specific artistic skills of refugees, use the talents of the refugee population, or enhance their abilities for a better integration in the social life and labour market.	23 November 2016 - 12:00 (CET/CEST, Brussels time)	<a href="http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe/funding/support-european-cooperation-projects-2017_en">http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe/funding/support-european-cooperation-projects-2017_en</a>
<i>STEP Beyond Travel Grant</i>	STEP Beyond Travel Grants are artists and cultural workers to travel between EU and EFTA (European Free Trade Association), and countries bordering the EU. Priority is given to individuals who are under 35 years old and/or who are in the first 10 years of their career. Groups of 3 can apply	30 November 2016	<a href="http://www.culturalfoundation.eu/step-beyond">http://www.culturalfoundation.eu/step-beyond</a>  check the Guidelines at: <a href="http://ecflabs.org/sites/www.ecflabs.org/files/step-beyond-grant/guidelines/guidelines_step.pdf">http://ecflabs.org/sites/www.ecflabs.org/files/step-beyond-grant/guidelines/guidelines_step.pdf</a>
<i>KA3 – VET-Business Partnerships on Work-based learning and Apprenticeships</i>	Erasmus+ call aims at funding either: 1) a partnership between i) a vocational training provider; ii) a small, medium or large enterprise (public or private) or Chamber or other sectoral/professional organisation; iii) and a local or regional authority; or 2) Strategic activities between umbrella organisations at European level and their members to strengthen vocational training-business partnerships on work-based learning and apprenticeships at local/regional context.	17 January 2017	<a href="http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding/ka3-%E2%80%93-vet-business-partnerships-work-based-learning-and-apprenticeships_en">http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding/ka3-%E2%80%93-vet-business-partnerships-work-based-learning-and-apprenticeships_en</a>
<i>Pilot Activity- European Youth Foundation</i>	National level grassroots action aimed at solving a specific issue	Anytime	Check all the info at <a href="http://www.coe.int/en/web/european-youth-foundation/pilot-activity">http://www.coe.int/en/web/european-youth-foundation/pilot-activity</a>