



NATIONAL AGENCY FOR YOUTH IN SERBIA

what?

how?

why?

NATIONAL AGENCY FOR YOUTH IN SERBIA WHAT, HOW AND WHY?

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Foreword

This publication is assigned to all who want to get more information on place of National Youth Agency in EU Programme „Youth in Action“ and to understand why is the process of establishing National Agency in so important for this programme and youth in Serbia. Publication is a result of the project titled „Initiative for advocacy for establishing National Youth Agency“ which had been initiated by „Hajde da...“ Group in 2010 and which had been supported by more than eighty organizations, institutions and individuals so far.

The document you're about to read is supposed to give answer to important questions: What is National Agency anyway? (What are its tasks? What is its relation with European Commission?) Why does Serbia need National Agency? (How does process of applying look like? What are the limitations regarding use of „Youth in Action“ Programme in a country without National Agency?). This publication will provide basic information on the Programme - its history, aims, organizational structure, budget, etc.

Since Serbia has no National Agency, youth in our country is not able to participate in all Actions or to use opportunities this Programme offers. Thus young Serbian people are denied many chances compared to their peers from EU countries and other neighbouring countries (such as Croatia and Macedonia). However, Ministry for Youth and Sports of the Republic of Serbia included founding of National Youth Agency into its strategic plan.

European Commission has clear procedures and conditions each country preparing to establish National Agency has to fulfil. This text will not treat that aspect of establishing National Agency. Each country can conceive work and structure of Agency (in accordance with its constitution and needs), so that each Agency has certain autonomy regarding functioning and implementation of the Programme. In different countries different models of national agencies have been created. We believe that is essential to encourage dialogue about principles of functioning of future Serbian National Agency and about important issues one should bear in mind during process of establishing National Agency in order to create model appropriate for local circumstances. In following chapters you will find recommendations of interested parties (organizations and/or individuals) that should be taken in consideration during creation of Agency. The process consisted of international conference and local consultations realized during project. Process of advocacy for establishing National Agency and consideration of presented recommendations will be continued through future work of Forum for establishing National Youth Agency which has been founded during this initiative.

**January, 2011.
Belgrade**

YOUTH IN ACTION PROGRAMME: HISTORY, AIMS, PRIORITIES, STRUCTURE AND FINANCING

Community Programmes

Community Programmes¹ are series of integral measures recognized by European Commission and aimed to strengthen cooperation between EU countries in the field of different policies and in certain time period. These programmes are financed from common budget of the EU. All member countries, as well as candidates for membership are welcome to take part in these programmes, as long as they pay annual fees. Community Programme can be developed from any Community Policy. Community decides about type of programme, its budget and duration. Every legal entity (and sometimes even individuals) can apply for financing. Directorate General of European Commission is in charge of entire administration of programmes.

¹ Source: Community Programmes <http://www.2007-2013.eu/community.php>

Here are some examples of Community Programmes for budget period 2007-2013: *Civil Protection, Financial Instrument, Customs 2007, Consumer programme, Culture Programme 2007-2013, Erasmus Mundus, Europe for Citizens, Fiscalis, Fundamental Rights and Justice, Media 2007, Youth in Action, etc.*

Development of youth programmes implemented before “Youth in Action”

The “Youth for Europe” Programme

By Resolution n° 818/95/EC of European Parliament and the Council of March 14th 1995 Based on clause 126. of the Contract (now clause 149.), third phase of “Youth for Europe” Programme has been established, for period from 1995 to 1999. This programme made possible joining of different Actions developed in previous two phases, such as priority actions in youth field and programmes *Petra* (youth initiatives) and *Tempus* (youth activities) to some extent. Total budget of “Youth for Europe” Programme for 1995 to 1999 was 126 million, and in 2000 the Programme has been included in YOUTH Community Programme.

It consisted of five Actions:

Action A: Intra-Community activities directly involving young people

Action A I: Youth exchange and mobility

Action A II: Spirit of youth initiative, creativity and solidarity

Action B: Youth workers

Action C: Cooperation between Member States' structures

Action D: Exchanges with non-member countries

Action E: Information for young people and youth research

Projects of “Youth for Europe” Programme have been first intercultural experience for majority participants.

European Volunteer Service (EVS)

Activities of European Volunteer Service have been introduced in European context for the first time 1995. Council of Ministers has previously (1994) emphasized that it is necessary to establish youth volunteer service and the budget line for this purpose has been allocated (European Parliament resolution of 22nd September 1995.). During 1996 pilot EVS Action has been realized. Consequently, in 1998 decision has been made that European Volunteer Service Community Programme should be established .²

European Volunteer Service has become part of YOUTH Programme (as so called Action 2) in May 2000. EVS was open for youth, age 18-25, willing to participate in voluntary activities in some other member country, Iceland or Norway (Lichtenstein did not participate). The budget allocated for EVS from 1996 to 1999 was € 73.98 million and the budget for cooperation with so called third countries was € 2.83 million.

During 1998 an innovation was introduced – the possibility for short term voluntary work (3 weeks to 3 months) for youth with ‘special needs’ (this term was used thereupon for youth with developmental difficulties).

From 1996 to 1999 circa 7.100 volunteers participated in European Volunteer Service, providing 170.000 weeks of voluntary work. Some 1600 organizations were included in these projects. Without funds from EU, this would probably never happen.

Evaluation indicates that EVS had great influence on youth included in these projects. Their intercultural awareness has been raised significantly and they were offered opportunity to gain new skills and improve their self-confidence, as well as capacity for innovation and creation. The greatest impact EVS had on volunteers has been related to their process of intercultural learning

² Resolution No/98/EC of European Parliament and Council of Europe of 20th July 1998 which establishes Community Programme „European Voluntary Service for Youth“

On the other hand, influence of EVS on local communities was harder to detect and measure. However, positive consequences are undeniable - small local communities hosting volunteers suddenly were taking part in important international experience. Volunteers were bringing new ideas, praxis and a lot of inspiration to local communities and their very presence helped improvement of intercultural awareness and also consciousness of European Union.

To small local communities EVS offered possibility of taking part in international projects and not without benefit for "the other" side – big international organizations have become much more open for new work methods and new partners.

59.3% of entire budget allocated for European Volunteer Service for this period (which was € 73.98 million, as mentioned above) has been invested in decentralized projects (such as bilateral projects on local level).

YOUTH Programme

Community Programme YOUTH has been established by European Parliament and Council through Resolution No 1031/2000/EC of 13th April 2000.

YOUTH Programme was dedicated to youth mobility and informal education of youth age 15 to 25. The Programme was open for youth from 31 so-called 'Programme' countries: 25 countries which are members of EU, Iceland, Lichtenstein and Norway (EFTA/EEA); Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey (which were candidates for EU membership at the moment) and Partner (Third) countries (South-East Europe and Caucasus, Mediterranean countries and Latin America).

This Programme was great opportunity for youth to take part in group exchange as well as in individual volunteer work and support activities.

YOUTH Programme commenced in spring 2000 and was based on previous projects „Youth for Europe“ and „European Voluntary Service“ (which had been incorporated into this, new project). In 31 countries included in the project National Agencies of YOUTH Programme have been established. These agencies were supposed to promote and implement this programme, which was great support to international cooperation between Partner countries such as South-East Europe, East Europe, Caucasus and Latin America. Mediterranean countries had their own separated YOUTH Programme and 10 National Coordinators.

YOUTH Programme was consisted of:

Action 1 – Youth for Europe

1.1 – youth exchange within EU

1.2 – youth exchange with third countries

Action 2 – European Voluntary Service (EVS)

2.1 – European Voluntary Service within EU

2.2 – European Voluntary Service with third countries

Action 3 – Youth initiatives

Action 4 – Joint actions

Action 5 – Support measures

5.1 – Training and cooperation of actors involved in work with youth policies

5.2 – Information for youth and studies about youth

5.3 – Measures for spreading information about the programme and visibility of the programme

5.4 – Support measures

About the „Youth in Action“ Programme

„Youth in Action“ Programme is based on preceding „Youth for Europe“ Programme (1989-1999), European Voluntary Service and YOUTH Programme (2000-2006). This programme has been introduced by Commission after comprehensive consulting with all key individuals and organizations involved in youth work.

Total budget of Youth in Action Programme (2007-2013) is € 885.000.000.

“Youth in Action” is the programme established by European Union for young people. Its basic aim is to provoke sense of European citizenship, solidarity and tolerance among Europeans and to make them take active part in shaping the European future. This programme promotes mobility of youth within EU and outside of EU borders, as well as nonformal learning, intercultural dialogue and it is focused on inclusion of all young people regardless their educational, social or cultural status.

Resolution No 1719/2006/EC of 15th November 2006³, European Parliament and Council of Europe have adopted “Youth in Action” Programme for period 2007 to 2013, thus providing legal framework to support activities on nonformal education of youth. Financial rules of the Programme are determined by Regulation of Council (EC, Euratom) No 1995/2006 of December 2006, which was supplement to Financial Regulation No 1605/2002 referring to general budget of EU.

Another regulation relevant for “Youth in Action” Programme is Commission’s Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1248/2006, August 2006, which is supplement for Regulation No 2342/2002 defining rules of application of EU Financial Regulation in details.

Aim of the programme is to respond to youth needs, on European level, from childhood to adolescence. It contributes great deal to acquiring of key competencies⁴ and therefore is key instrument in process of providing possibilities for non-formal and informal learning in European context.

System of key competencies for lifelong learning strategy includes **8 key competencies**: learning to learn; digital competence; mathematical competence and basic competence in science and technology; communication in the mother tongue; communication in foreign languages; social and civic competences, cultural awareness and expression; and sense of initiative and entrepreneurship.

The programme considerably contributes to application of Lisbon Strategy Revisited and European Youth Pact. It is important instrument for strengthening active citizenship and relevant support to Framework of European Cooperation in the youth field⁵.

³ Official Journal of European Union, Legislation 327 of 24th November 2006., pg.30-44.

⁴ More on Youthpass (mechanism for validation and recognition of non-formal learning outcomes within „Youth in Action” Programme) and Key competencies at <http://www.youthpass.eu/en/youthpass/>

⁵ Resolution of Council (2002/C 168/02) of 27th June 2002, concerning framework for European cooperation in the youth field OJ C 168 of 13/7/2002, pp. 2-5.

Comprehensive aims mentioned in legal basis of “Youth in Action” Programme are following:

- Promotion of active youth citizenship in general as well as European citizenship;
- Development of solidarity and promotion of tolerance among youth with the intention to support/foster social cohesion in European Union;
- Fostering mutual understanding among youth of different countries;
- Contribution to improvement of quality of support systems for youth activities, as well as capability of civil organizations in the youth field;
- Promotion of European cooperation in the youth field.

In realization of the Programme, European Commission is guided by permanent (general) and annual (specific) priorities.

Permanent priorities of “Youth in Action” Programme

1. European citizenship

One of the top priorities of “Youth in Action” Programme is to make young people aware that they are citizens of Europe. It is important to encourage youth to consider European topics

including European citizenship right and to take active part in discussion on construction and future of European Union.

Based on this, project financed within “Youth in Action” Programme should have strong European dimension and to stimulate maintenance and formation of European society and its values.

2. Participation of young people

Main priority of “Youth in Action” Programme is youth participation in democratic processes. Comprehensive aim is to encourage young people to become active citizens. This aim has three dimensions based on European Council Resolution on common aims, participation and information for youth⁶ :

- Increase of youth participation in civil life of community;
 - Increase of youth participation in democracy presentation system;
 - Greater support for various forms of learning about participation.
-

Projects financed within “Youth in Action” Programme should reflect these three dimensions along with use of participation principle as pedagogue principle for implementation of the project. In other words, young people must be consulted and included in decision making process within youth programmes. “Youth in Action” is also aimed to encourage youth to participate in projects which will have positive influence on development of their local communities.

⁶ Resolution of Council [2003/C 295/04] of 25th Novembra 2003, OJ C 295 of 5.12.2003, pp. 6-8.

3. Cultural diversity

Respect of cultural diversities and fight against racism and xenophobia are top priorities of “Youth in Action” Programme.

It facilitates common activities of youth with different cultural, ethnic and religious background and in that way tries to develop intercultural learning. Regarding project development and implementation it's necessary that young participants become aware of programme's intercultural value.

4. Inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities

Important priority for European Commission is to provide access to “Youth in Action” Programme to all young people including those with reduced possibilities.

Here are some obstacles observed in the process of effective approach of youth to formal and/or nonformal education, transnational mobility and participation, active citizenship, strengthening and social inclusion:

- Social obstacles (youth facing discrimination based on ethnic or religious background, race, sexual preferences or disability; (ex) users of prohibited substances, (ex) minor offenders; orphans, etc.);
 - Economic obstacles (youth with minimal salaries and low standard of living; long term unemployed and poor; homeless);
 - Disabilities;
 - Difficulties in education (young people dropping out, showing poor results in school or having learning problems, etc.);
-

- Cultural differences (young immigrants or refugees, minority members, etc.);
- Health problems (youth with chronic diseases, serious illnesses or psychiatric conditions or mental disorders);
- Geographic obstacles (youth from rural or underdeveloped areas and problematic city zones, etc.).

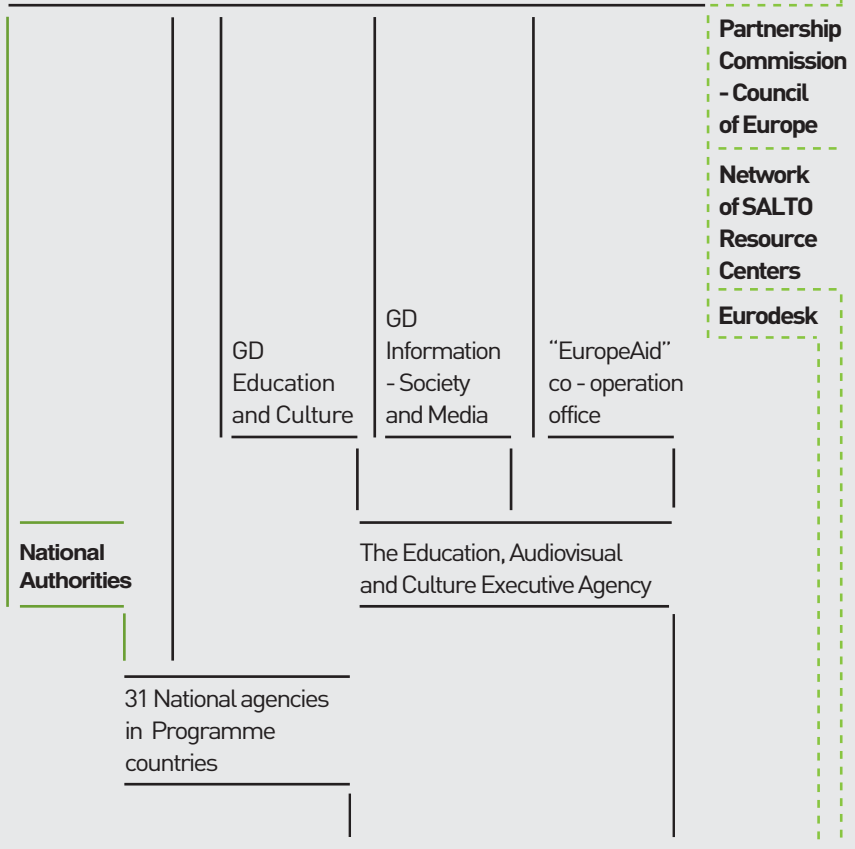
Youth groups and organizations should take measures against exclusion of certain target groups. “Youth in Action” Programme is designed for all young people and therefore is necessary to put maximum efforts in order to provide inclusion of youth with reduced possibilities.

Some of key features of this programme are:

- Non-formal education;
- *YouthPass* (certificate enabling young people who had participated in some of the projects within Programme to get recognition of skills and knowledge acquired through);
- Visibility of the Programme and dissemination of results;
- Anti discriminatory manner;
- Gender equality;
- Protection and safety of participants;
- Multilingualism;

ORGANI- ZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONING OF „YOUTH IN ACTION“ PROGRAMME

EUROPEAN COMMISSION



USERS

Fig 1. Organigram of „Youth in Action“ Programme
Source: Marija Pilipović

European Commission

European Commission (hereinafter Commission) is responsible for conducting of "Youth in Action" Programme. Commission runs the budget, set priorities, aims and criteria of the Programme during process. In surplus, it runs and supervises general implementation, continuance and evaluation on European level.

Another key task of European Commission is supervision and coordination of National Agencies. National Agencies have been established by national authorities in charge of youth issues in each Programme country. Commission has close cooperation with National Agencies and supervises their activities. National Agencies have annual agreements with the Commission (agreement is based on Work Plan) and are responsible for implementation of the Programme on national level.

Commission delegates to The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) management of centralized projects (which is the system of execution of EU programmes where responsibility stays EU Delegation in user country).

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (Executive Agency)

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency - EACEA is founded by decision of European Commission of 14th January 2005 No 2005/56/EC which became fully operational 1st January 2006.

Executive Agency is supervised by three Parent General Directorates: DG Education and Culture, DG Information Society and Media and The EuropeAid Cooperation Office.

Executive Agency is responsible for management of parts of following EU programmes in audio visual field, as well as in education and culture:

- Education and training (*Lifelong Learning Programme-Eurydice, Erasmus Mundus, External Cooperation*);
 - Youth („Young in Action“ Programme);
 - Culture („Culture 2007.-2013“.);
 - Civil Society and twinning of the municipalities and cities („Europe for Citizens“ Programme);
 - Media („Media 2007“ Programme).
-

Part of jurisdiction concerning youth Executive Agency is responsible for entire project cycle of centralized projects, starting from analysis of project proposals to monitoring on the spot. Agency is also responsible for call for specific calls, so called „*large scale*“.

Through Helpdesk, Execution Agency provides support for achieving high quality results in projects and also provides technical support for all actors in pan-European and international youth projects, especially for actors whose countries don't have National Agencies (South-East Europe, East Europe, Caucasus, Mediterranean countries, Latin America, etc). The most important tasks of Helpdesk are helping promoters, organizations and participants of various programmes with specific demands and questions, helping process of issuing visas and managing crisis situations on projects, especially for European Voluntary Service (EVS). Execution Agency is responsible for providing insurance for all volunteers and for financial management of Eurodesk, structures of ex EVS volunteers and Euro-Med Youth Platform.

National Agencies (NA)

Implementation of Programme is mostly decentralized. Each Programme Country has appointed National Agency which is supposed to promote and implement the Programme on national level. National Agencies are link between European Commission on one hand and organizations on national, regional and local level a, on the other hand.

National Agency has following tasks:

- to collect relevant information on „Youth in Action“ Programme;
 - to manage transparent and equitable process of selection of projects to be financed on decentralized level;
 - to provide effective and efficient administration;
 - to demand cooperation with external organizations in order to support implementation of the Programme;
 - to evaluate and supervise implementation of the Programme
 - to provide support for applicants and promoters during entire course of the project;
 - to build functional network with other National Agencies and Commission;
 - to elevate visibility of the Programme;
 - to promote dissemination and use of results of the Programme on national level.
-

Furthermore, National Agencies have very important role as mediator structure in development of youth work through creating the opportunities for programme users to mutually share experience. They also provide training and possibilities for experience of non formal learning. National Agencies promote important values, such as social inclusion, cultural difference and active citizenship, encourage recognition of non-formal education through adequate measures and support formal youth structures (e.g. youth councils).

Other structures (support structures for the Programme)

a. SALTO Resource Centres (Support for Advanced Learning and Training Opportunities)

SALTO Resource Centres are designed to help improvement of projects which are financed through the Programme. They provide resources, information and training in various fields for National Agencies and other actors included in youth work. One of their main aims is support of recognition of non formal education.

Work of SALTO Resource Centres includes following:

- Organization of training courses, study visits and activities for partnership building;
 - Development and assembling of methods and tools in the field of training and youth work;
 - European training calendar – internet data base of training activities in Europe;
-

- Publishing of useful publications for youth workers, trainers and other participants of th Programme;
- Providing up-to-date information on youth work on European level;
- Data base of trainers and experts active in the field of youth, in Europe;
- Coordination of „Youthpass“ – certificate for participation in Programme activities.

REGIONAL SALTO RESOURCE CENTRES (RC)

SALTO RC

Euro-Med (France). Supports cooperation between Programme Countries and Mediteranian Partner Countries (MEDA) within Programme, as well as identification and promotion of examples of good practice in this cooperation.

SALTO RC

for South East Europe (Slovenia). Supports cooperation between Programme Countries and Neighbour Partner Countries of South East Europe within Programme.

SALTO RC

for East Europe and Caucasus (Poland). Supports cooperation between Programme Countries and Neighbour Partner Countries of East Europe and Caucasus within Programme.

THEMATIC SALTO RESOURCE CENTRES (RC)

SALTO RC

for Cultural Diversity (Great Britain). Provides training, resources and support for issues of identity, religion, ethnicity and especially intercultural learning.

SALTO

Training and Cooperation **RC** (Germany). Supports improvement of quality of training strategies and training courses and cooperates with European institutions and trainers regarding issues of training and quality. Coordinates „Youthpass“ development and application.

SALTO

Inclusion RC (Belgium/Flemish National Agency). Develops training practice treating topic of inclusion, publications and resources for international work with young people from vulnerable groups in order to facilitate / improve their participation in the Programme.

SALTO

Participation RC (Belgium/French NA). Creates space for exchange of practice and ideas, which is very important for young people and youth workers, as well as for development of high quality participatory projects.

SALTO

Information RC (Sweden and Hungary). Develops and encourages communication and information exchange between National Agencies and other resource centres.

b. Eurodesk network

Eurodesk network offers general information on youth and helps dissemination of information on the Programme.

National Eurodesk partners offer broad palette of information-services on national, regional and local level, such as: free answering questions – by phone, at the office, via e-mail, via fax, etc; counselling and support for all interested individuals and groups; preparation of publications and other resources; internet approach to European information; news on events, seminars, conferences; improvement and support. Eurodesk network is directly subjected to Commission, with its antennas in some countries being part of National Agencies (having separated financial sources).

c. European Commission -Council of Europe Partnership

Partnership between European Commission and Council of Europe (hereinafter Partnership) in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work provides framework for strengthening very synergy of these two institutions and development of coherent strategy in youth field. Secretary of Partnership is allocated in Strasbourg.

Main activities of Partnership are training courses, seminars and network meetings which gather youth workers, youth leaders, trainers, researchers, decision makers and experts.

These activities are totally focused on following issues: European Citizenship and education in the field of human rights; intercultural dialogue and cooperation; quality of youth work and training; recognition and visibility of youth work; development of youth policy; promotion of apprehension and respect of cultural diversity.

The Partnership uses training modules, web site and publications (e.g. well known T-kits) to present and disseminate results of its work.

STRUCTURE OF „YOUTH IN ACTION“ PROGRAMME

YOUTH IN ACTION

<p>Action 1 Youth for Europe</p> <hr/> <p>Sub-action 1.1 Youth exchange</p> <hr/> <p>Sub-action 1.2 Youth initiatives</p> <hr/> <p>Sub-action 1.3 Youth democracy projects</p> <hr/> <p>Theme Networking Special annual contests</p> <hr/>	<p>Action 2 European voluntary service</p> <hr/>	<p>Action 3 Youth in the world</p> <hr/> <p>Sub-action 3.1 Cooperation with the neighbouring countries of the European Union</p> <hr/> <p>Sub-action 3.2 Cooperation with other countries of the world</p> <hr/>	<p>Action 4 Youth support systems</p> <hr/> <p>Sub-action 4.1 Support to bodies active at European level in the youth field</p> <hr/> <p>Sub-action 4.2 Support to the European Youth Forum</p> <hr/> <p>Sub-action 4.3 Training and networking of those active in youth work and youth organisations</p> <hr/> <p>Sub-action 4.4 Projects encouraging innovation and quality</p> <hr/> <p>Sub-action 4.5 Information activities for young people and those active in youth work and youth organisations</p> <hr/> <p>Sub-action 4.6 Partnerships</p> <hr/> <p>Sub-action 4.7 Support for the structures of the Programme</p> <hr/> <p>Sub-action 4.8 Adding to the value of the programme</p> <hr/>	<p>Action 5 Support for European cooperation in the youth field</p> <hr/> <p>Sub-action 5.1 Meetings of young people and those responsible for youth policy</p> <hr/> <p>Sub-action 5.2 Support for activities to bring about better knowledge of the youth field</p> <hr/> <p>Sub-action 5.3 Cooperation with international organizations</p> <hr/>
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Fig 2. "Youth in Action" Programme actions

NATIONAL AGENCY AS BEARER OF THE PROGRAMME ON NATIONAL LEVEL

Although the role of National Agencies within Programme has already been described in this text, establishing of such Agency is of major importance for each country. Therefore, entire following chapter will be dedicated to this topic.

Legal basis for participation of EU members, candidates for membership and potential candidates in Community Programmes in the field of Youth is Resolution of Parliament and Council. This resolution defines programme aims and its position within philosophy of Community Actions in general. It also defines types of projects and profiles of potential participants, determines main responsibilities of Programme actors (European Commission, national authorities and National Agencies) and sets duration of programme and total funds which will be available during course of the programme.

**EURO-
PEAN
COMMISSION**

**NATI-
ONAL
AUTHORITIES**

**NATI-
ONAL
AGENCY**

Operational and contractual
relationship
.....

Contractual relationship
of decentralized
funds —————

Work
relationship - - - - -

Relationship of
decision makers —————

**other
nati-
onal
agency**

Fig 3. Scheme of relationship between main Programme actors⁷

Legal Provisions which concerns responsibility of European Commission, national authorities and National Agencies set the framework for implementation of the Programme through National Agencies and define responsibility of European Commission and national authorities.

⁷ Source: Janez Škulj, director of Slovenian National Agency; seminar „Establishing and operating of National Agencies“, Ljubljana, 2006.

Cooperation between European Commission and EU members in implementation of the Programme

- is executed through Programme Committee. Programme Committee consists of representatives of countries included in the Programme and the Commission presides over it.

Positive Opinion of this Committee on issues related with implementation of the Programme (such as Guide, Commission's work schedule - priorities and activities - , terms for submission of applications, allocation of funds among Programme members), is necessary.

National authorities establish direct administrative and contractual relationship with National Agency (*vis-à-vis*) regarding all operational procedures in order to facilitate efficient and effective implementation of the Programme on National level.

European Commission concludes operational agreement with National Agency. This agreement is renewable and defines annual and long term agenda and budget for entire period of agreement validity.

Responsibilities of national authorities:

- to appoint National Agency (NA);
 - to establish contractual relations with NA;
 - to establish system of control and monitoring over operating of NA;
 - to approve proposal of agenda for NA;
 - to cover part of operational costs necessary for functioning of NA (50%) and to make them available for NA within 60 days from receiving „operational contract“ from European Commission
 - to establish NA, procedures and measures for selection of projects (including measures for prevention of conflict of interest).
-

National programme board

- advisory body with main aim to give opinion on national priorities of the Programme. It usually includes representatives of different Ministries, youth councils, youth clubs and local authorities.

Selection board

- a body which performs selection of projects, according to its powers. It's usually consisted of representatives of following institutions:

- Youth bureau / Ministry of Youth,
- National Youth Council,
- Local youth councils,
- Youth centres,
- Local community associations

National Agency is not allowed to be member of any organization nor is it allowed to be dependent from some external body.

Responsibilities of European Commission:

- to accept appointment of National Agency;
 - to set quotas for each country carrying out decentralized actions;
 - to conclude "operational agreement" with NA;
 - to conclude „agreement on decentralized actions“ with NA, concerning management of funds being allocated at specific projects;
 - to provide financial contribution to operational costs of NA (50% of approved budget);
 - to publish Programme Guide;
 - to publish conditions for applying and goals, which are to be guidelines in work of NA;
 - to define standards for selection of projects;
 - to monitor and control implementation of the Programme on th NA level and/or user level.
-

Minimum criteria for National Agency within “Youth in Action”

Programme:

National Agency is structure in charge of implementation of the Programme. It manages decentralized funds, being financial mediator between Commission and national authorities and final users (selection of projects, contractualization, monitoring and conclusion).

Autonomy of National Agency is vital for proper implementation of the Programme and so are the clear strategy for use of funds (it is particularly important to prevent conflict of interest) and realistic assessment of capacities of potential users.

Entity appointed to be National Agency has to meet certain standards:

- to be a legal entity (unless NA is a part of some Ministry);
 - to have infrastructure enabling easy communication with wide range of potential users, other NA and European Commission;
 - to have efficient administration in order to be able to execute tasks properly and without any conflict of interest (e.g. NA must not accept any financial support from Community Programmes for management of funds whose distribution very NA is responsible for);
 - to be capable of applying the rules of fund management and agreement conditions;
 - to have finance and management capacity proportional to community funds which have been allocated to it. NA should be capable of functioning with full capacity for the first six months (with no financial support from European Commission) and to have financial reserves to cover the remaining 10% of total budget in next 3-4 years;
 - to have personnel qualified for administrative work in international setting (foreign languages, management, computer skills, knowledge and competency in youth field).
-

Main tasks of NA can be divided into 2 groups:

Support during entire course of the project

- a.** organization and announcement of application for projects;
 - b.** organization of project selection process;
 - c.** administrative, financial and contractual management of decentralized actions (issuance of contracts; financial management, monitoring and contract conclusion; cost control and auditing; funds management; project data processing and filing in common information system / data base).
-

Horizontal support activities

- a.** providing information and consulting, dissemination of results;
 - b.** monitoring and evaluation;
 - c.** cooperation and connecting;
 - d.** common data base.
-

Participation of West Balkan countries in the Programme

Legal basis for participation of West Balkan countries in the Programme are following documents: Thessaloniki Declaration (2003), Association Agreement, as well as additional protocols (memorandums about understanding – as needed).

Resolution of Council on Stability and Integration provided framework for preparation measures.

Conditions for taking part in Programme:

- capability of country to establish appropriate national structure;
 - acceptance of implementation rules set by European Commission;
-

- paying so called *entry ticket*;
 - agreeing with financial contribution (quota) for general Community budget.
-

„Entry ticket“ covers part of operational costs, means for decentralized management, part of centralized funds and services of the Commission (management of “Youth in Action” Programme and coordination of centralized actions).

Preparation measures for participation in the Programme:

- Appointing / establishing the structures;
 - Equipment and communication infrastructure;
 - Recruitment and training of basic staff;
 - Establishing functioning procedures and improvement of information channels towards target groups;
 - Promotion of the Programme and training of potential users.
-

PARTICIPATION OF BALKAN COUNTRIES IN THE PROGRAMME

1995.

West Balkan countries entered these programmes for the first time

2000.

YOUTH Programme is being applied in all West Balkan countries South East European organizations take part only as partners

2001.

establishing SALTO -YOUTH Resource Centre for South East Europe

From 2002.

starting TRAININGS AND SEMINARS

2003./2004.

6 practices for Balkan youth, in Ljubljana, in SALTO for South East Europe

2004.

- seminar for development of strategy for YOUTH Programme in South East Europe

During 2004.

NATIONAL MEETINGS

November 2004.

Regional concluding meeting (with Contact Points as main result)

2005.

-selection and training 12 Contact Points in Balkans. Contact Points become functional - October 2005 (6 Contact Points at present)

June 2006.

Organizations hosting volunteers accredited

1.1. 2006.

EACEA and possibility of direct application with projects for West Balkan countries

2008.

National Agency established in Croatia (Agency for mobility and EU Programmes), expected to be fully functional for "Youth in Action" in 2011

2008.

National Agency for European Education Programmes and Mobility

DATA INDICATING UP TO WHICH LEVEL BALKAN ORGANIZATIONS HAVE USED THE PROGRAMME IS GIVEN AS FOLLOWS:

2000.-2003.

circa **300** projects with more than **7000** participants, **40%** of which from South East Europe. **60%** of projects took place in Balkan countries.

2003.

104 approved projects with **2410** participants: **43** exchanges, **32** European Voluntary Services, **29** trainings and seminars.

2004.

52 European Voluntary Services with **68** volunteers (**38** in Balkan countries and **30** in EU).

2009.

111 projects only on centralized level, project carriers being organizations from Balkan countries.

CROATIA
26750,8 €
1%

ALBANIA
183746 €
9%

**UNMIK
KOSOVO**
19350 €
1%

SERBIA
640923 € 29%

PARTICIPATION OF WEST BALKAN COUNTRIES IN 2009

MONTE-NEGRO
68313,5 €
3%

**BOSNIA
ANDHER-
ZEGOVINA**
418309,83 €
19%

MACEDONIA
839653,2 € 38%

TOTAL
2.197.046,33 €

Fig. 4. Participation of West Balkan countries in 2009

NUMBER AND TYPE OF APPROVED PROJECTS IN 2009 FOR EACH COUNTRY AND ACCORDING TO APPLICATION TERMS

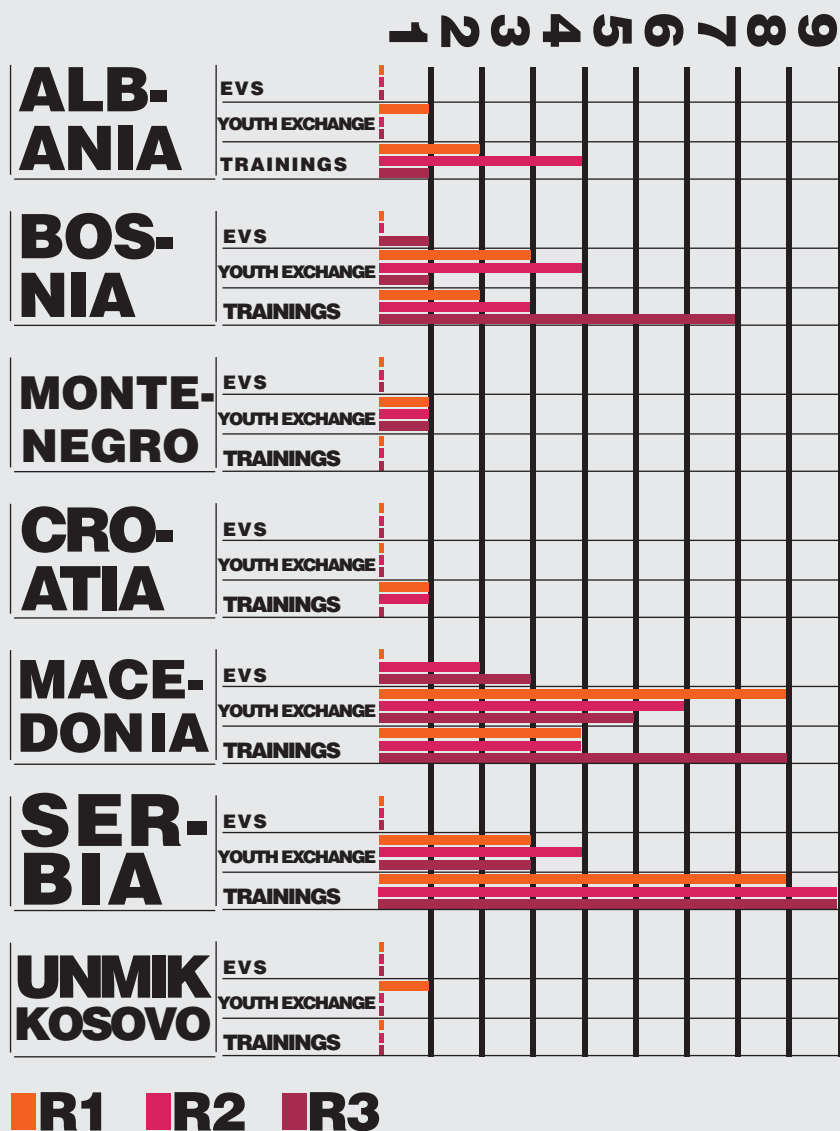


Fig. 5 Number and type of approved projects in 2009 for each country and according to application terms

APPROVED FUNDS FOR SPECIFIC ACTIONS IN 2009

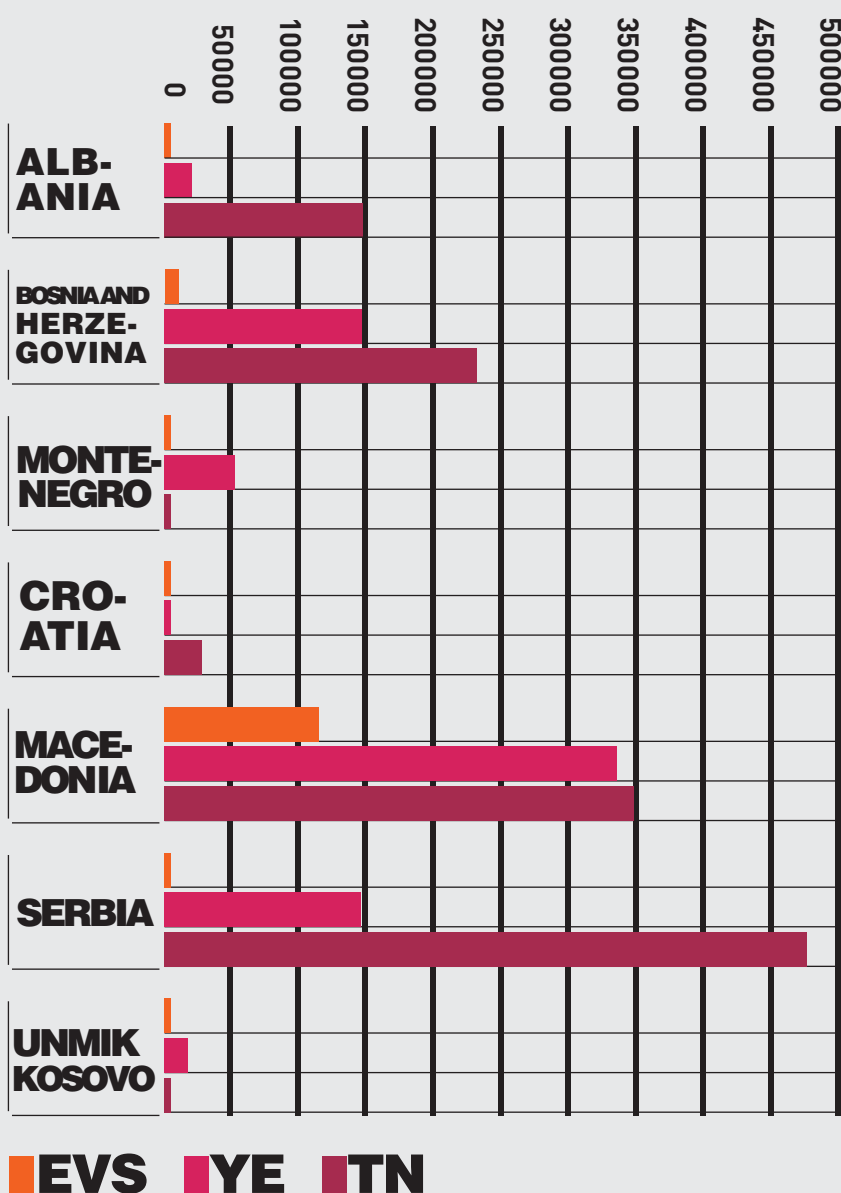


Fig. 6. Approved funds for specific actions in 2009

MACEDONIA 33 - 28%

5
4%
ALBANIA

**NUMBER
OF ORGANIZATIONS
ACCREDITED FOR
SENDING/ACCEPTING
VOLUNTEERS
AND COORDINATION
OF PROJECTS
OF EUROPEAN
VOLUNTARY
SERVICE**

27
23%
BOSNIA
AND HER-
ZEGOVINA

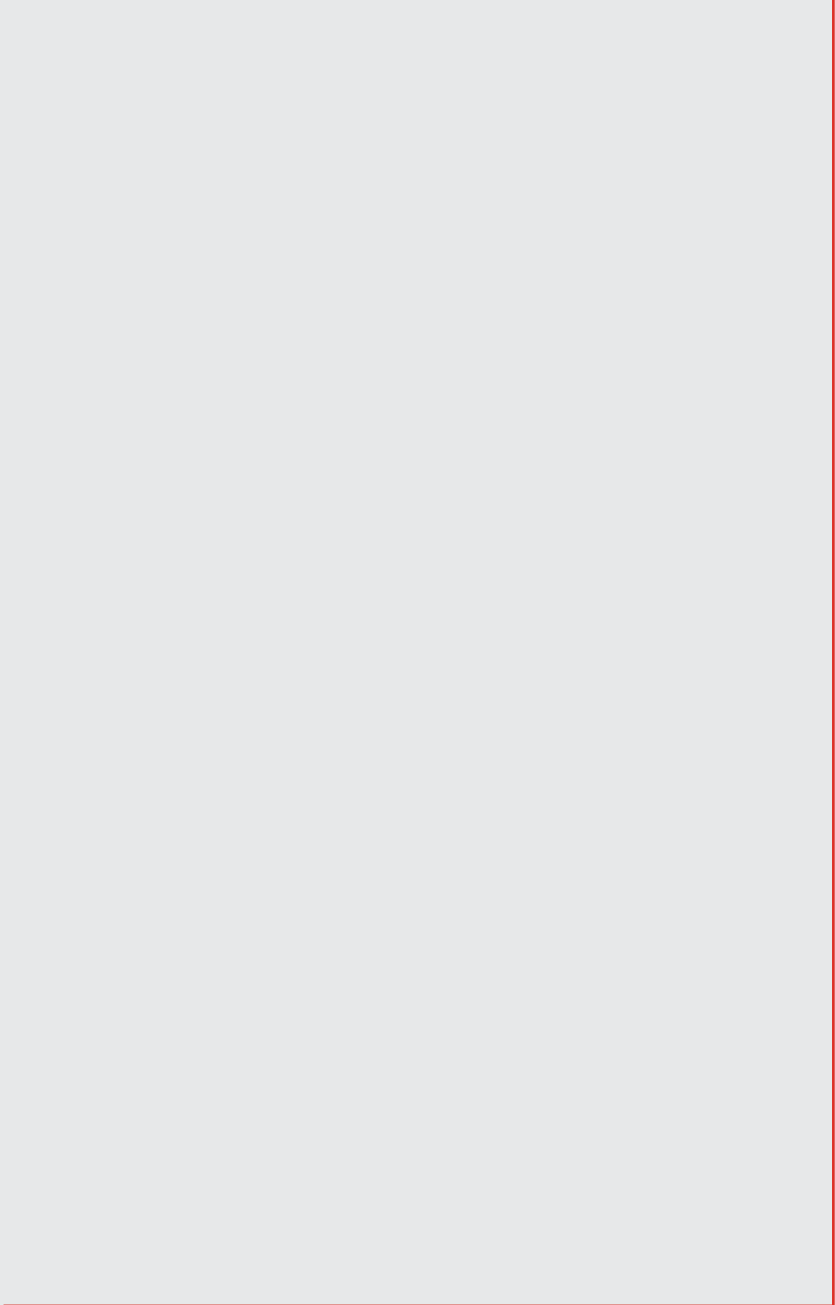
15
13%
CROATIA

5
4%
MONTE-
NEGRO

SRRBIA 34 - 28%

TOTAL 119

Fig. 7. Number of organizations accredited for sending / hosting volunteers and coordination of projects of European Voluntary Service



INITIATIVE FOR ADVOCACY FOR ESTABLISHING NATIONAL YOUTH AGENCY IN SERBIA

Why the “Youth in Action” Programme?

European Parliament and Council of Ministers have adopted Resolution No 1719/2006 /EC, 15th November 2006, which establishes “Youth in Action” Programme for period of time 2007 - 2013. “Youth in Action” is European Union programme aimed for young people age 13 to 30. It is one of official instruments for implementation of European youth policy on European level.

At present moment, Serbia is taking part in two actions of the Programme (to a limited extent): Action 2 - European Voluntary Service, and Action 3.1 - Cooperation with Partner countries (youth exchange, trainings and networking). Since 2006 project application are being sent to centralized level, to The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency based in Brussels. This agency administers projects from initial phase (receiving of applications) to final realization of approved projects, at local level.

Considerable increase of number of applications received from Serbia has been observed at centralized level. However, not only the number of applications has increased, but also the number of approved projects – success rate is 45%. This clearly indicates that organizations and youth in Serbia have recognized importance of “Youth in Action” Programme and possibilities it offers. It is also obvious that there is great need and increasing interest for use of the Programme.

As Serbia is getting close to the status of candidate for EU membership and considering visa liberalization which has been in force since December 2009, youth of Serbia has more possibilities for participation in European youth programmes than ever before. Consequently, establishing national mechanisms for full participation of Serbia in EU youth programmes is vital. Great significance of this process becomes even more obvious having in mind principals (availability, cooperation, active youth participation and interculturality) and strategic aims of National Youth Strategy⁸, as well as determination of Serbian Government to intensify activities which will contribute to process of European integrations.

Why National Agency?

Serbia does not fully use possibilities of “Youth in Action” Programme at the moment, because main precondition for that is creation of National Youth Agency. Country willing to fully participate in this Programme has to establish a National Agency, which will help it to use funds and other important resources coming with the Programme.

⁸ E.g. specific aim: to develop open, effective, efficient and just system of formal and non formal education which will be available to all young people and which will be in accordance with educational world trends and educational context in Serbia, National Youth Strategy (2008) Government of Republic of Serbia

National Agency manage the funds received from Republic of Serbia and European Union, administrates approved projects and works on increase of visibility of the Programme with the intention to include as many young people as possible.

There are National Agencies not only in EU countries, but also in all countries aware of importance of the Programme on issues of mobility, non formal education, intercultural learning and youth employment. Macedonia and Croatia, two neighbor countries recognized value and possibilities of the Programme and have started the process of establishing National Agencies back in 2008.

Why “Hajde da...” Group?

In lack of National Agency for “Youth in Action” Programme in Serbia, European Commission and SALTO Resource Centre for South East Europe have commenced process of accreditation of Balkan organizations called Contact Points, back in 2005. These organizations are supposed to provide support and build capacities of local youth organizations. There were 12 Contact Points for South East Europe at the beginning, but today only 6 of them are functioning. There are 3 Contact Points in Serbia at present: *BalkanIDEA* from Novi Sad (for Vojvodina province), “*Hajde da...” Group* from Belgrade (for Belgrade district) and *Edukativni centar* from Kruševac (for the rest of the Serbia).

From the beginning of the process, “Hajde da...” Group had full support of European Commission in each reappointment phase. Together with other Contact Points from Serbia, “Hajde da...” Group works on increase of visibility of the Programme and easier access to it, for all interested young people and youth organizations. The Group is also dedicated to work on the issue of projects coming from Serbia, trying to increase their number and improve their quality.

Main activities of “Hajde da...” Group as Contact Point, are: local trainings, specialized trainings (multiplier training, project management and mentor support), promotional activities, production of info material and web-site maintenance.

Within Contact Point activities first Serbian language web site for “Youth in Action” Programme has been made – www.mladiuakciji.rs. Since the website began (over a year ago) there had been more than 18.000 visitors who looked at more than 60.000 pages and downloaded over 2000 documents (various project statistics, Programme Guide, application forms for trainings, brochures, different guides, etc.). More than 850 organizations, local governments and individuals from Serbia have contributed their data and joined mailing lists in order to be updated and ever freshly informed about the Programme. This website is far more visited than any other website promoting “Youth in Action” in Balkan countries (apart from the countries which have their National Agencies). Being very successful, this website inspired creation of almost identical website in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Beside website as a source of information, a small info-centre has been created in “Hajde da...” Group premises back in 2009. Its purpose is to provide youth support and enable easy access to all relevant information on EU youth programmes (publications, brochures, application forms, etc.). This info-centre offers free use of internet (with the purpose of easier finding partners in EU), help with filling in application forms, free printing of important data/documents, etc. “Hajde da...” Group has been offering this type of help for all interested groups and individuals since 2005, but it has been significantly intensified in 2008 when Serbian Ministry of Youth and Sports started to support work of the Group as Contact Point. In period 2008 - 2010 Group’s info-centre has received and replied to over 900 enquiries from organizations and institutions from Serbia and European Union. Enquiries were received via e-mail or phone and were mostly concerning information from guide brochure, filling out application form, accreditation for EVS, counseling about project realization and similar matters.

In period 2008 – 2010 there were 395 direct participants (youth NGO, NGO engaged in youth work, local and regional Youth Offices) who took part in training related to “Youth in Action” Programme and organized by “Hajde da...” Group. These trainings were realized all over Serbia and they usually lasted 1-7 work days. More than 6500 indirect participants took part in public events, conferences, tournaments and other activities during which material about “Youth in Action” has been spread.

It is obvious that number of applications coming from Serbia has increased – 200 submitted projects on centralized level for period 2007-2009 and also the number of approved projects has raised (Youth exchange: 66 projects in 2007, 103 projects in 2009; EVS: 29 projects in 2007, 58 projects in 2009). Number of EVS accreditations in Serbia is constantly increasing – at the moment; approximately 50 NGOs are accredited or are being in the process of accreditation by SALTO SEE. These NGOs are being accredited as host, organization sending volunteers or coordinator-organization for EVS. This number has been considerably smaller in earlier years.

New organizations from Serbia (meaning those which have not used the Programme earlier) are using the Programme through direct application, EVS accreditation, etc. It is important to emphasize that many organizations which are not based in big regional centers take part in the Programme, thus providing more opportunities for young people from rural areas to become Programme users.

“Hajde da...” Group as Contact Point have put serious efforts in creating conditions for establishment of National Youth Agency. Many activities of the Group have been totally focused on this issue: gathering network of co-operators within “Youth in Action” Programme, providing training for organizations, forming the trainers’ team, setting up the website, getting to know the Programme in details and finally lobbying for establishing the National Agency for the Program Youth in Action in Serbia.

Why this initiative?

Serbia has no National Youth Agency at present moment. Serbian Ministry for Youth and Sports included founding of such agency into its strategic plan⁹. It is clear that there is political will for such action. However, due to economical crisis and delay of Serbian candidacy for EU membership, plan for establishing the Agency is postponed. Therefore it's necessary to put subject of establishing the National Youth Agency on the priority list of government and media once again. This initiative in form of advocacy for formation of Agency as well as common standards of Agency work is actual answer to these needs.

Main aim of this initiative is to enable communication between decision makers, youth, local youth offices and youth NGOs regarding issue of establishing and operating National Youth Agency. That process should clarify elements of future framework and composition of Agency and set the basis for mechanisms which will provide participation of youth and youth organizations in its work. Furthermore, results of this initiative are concrete actions directed towards establishing National Youth Agency in Serbia; these actions are based on positive experience of National Agencies founded in last few years. Public campaign is covering this initiative in its different phases, with the intention to promote idea of National Agency and benefits that would come out from founding of such agency for youth civil sector and relevant Serbian institutions.

What are the activities?

After preparation activities have been realized with local partners, first activity was implemented – establishing Forum for National Agency. Young individuals, youth NGOs, representatives of local youth offices, representatives of government (Ministry of Youth and Sports; The EU Integration Office)

⁹ Specific aim 4.1.5. – to establish support programmes for improvement of youth mobility
Measures: 4.1.5.1. Founding the National Youth Agency as independent body which will establish partnership with EU Youth Programme (Youth in action) and other partnerships with relevant international youth cooperation programmes; National Youth Strategy (2008) Government of Republic of Serbia

and experts of “Youth in Action” Programme (consultants, trainers, evaluation experts, etc) have all participated in constitutive meeting. Basic role of the Forum is to offer guidelines regarding following issues: how should National Youth Agency function (what are its standards and principles, how does it cooperates with civil sector), and what steps should be taken in the process of establishing the Agency in Serbia.

One of main activities in the process of founding the Forum was consultative meeting held 1st July 2010 with the aim to have proper insight into number of organizations and institutions interested in founding of National Youth Agency and to harmonize text of Declaration which will be obligatory document for Forum members during process of lobbying for National Youth Agency.

In order to continue process of advocacy for establishing National Youth Agency in Serbia International conference has been organized in Belgrade, 12th-13th October 2010. The conference was titled “Treba Nacionalna Agencija za Mlade!” (“We need NYA!”). It lasted two days and had 40 participants: representatives of National Agencies from neighbour countries and EU countries, representatives of Ministry of Youth and Sports, representatives of Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for European Integrations (Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit), Youth CSOs, representatives of local youth offices, etc. Final version of Declaration for establishing Serbian National Youth Agency was presented at the conference.

International conference consisted of two parts (days). During first day representatives of National Agencies presented the structure, organization and working experience of their agencies. During second day work was realized in small groups and it was focused on following subjects - work principles of future National Youth Agency, cooperation with civil sector and steps in further work of Forum. These work subjects came out of experience of establishing National Agencies in neighbour countries in last few years. Recommendations of this conference were presented in Document “Common Recommendations for Establishing National Youth Agency” and they were directly used in next phases of the initiative.

Next activity was the process of regional consultations. Its purpose was to present the Conference results to local communities and thus create conditions for inclusion of public and experts – to inform them and to get feedback information from them. Inclusion of local stakeholders attached additional legitimacy to entire project and this Document. This activity also ensured that youth in local community will be informed about the meaning of National Agency and its importance, as well as that there will be some feedback from them on the issue of work of National Youth Agency. Participation and responsibility of youth have been encouraged, not only for the purposes of this process, but more important for future work of National Youth Agency. Participants and organizations/institutions they represent were invited to sign Declaration and to determine their contribution to future work of the Forum after completion of the project. Roundtable discussions were organized with that purpose in four Serbian regional centres: Novi Sad, Belgrade, Kragujevac and Niš.

Feedback information from local community is included in final document “National Agency for Youth in Serbia – What, How and Why?”. This document was printed in Serbian and English and will be used in next phase of the project which is focused on media and public promotion of results. Promotion of results through media is also connected with next meeting of Forum for establishing the National Youth Agency.

What are the plans of Initiative after the project?

This initiative is recognized as additional instrument which will support establishing and work of National Youth Agency, and protection instrument from inefficiency and irregularities. Further work of Forum will be focused on providing the respect of results achieved through this Project and to make sure that future work of National Youth Agency funds will be equally distributed, that information and participation of civil sector will be respected and that Agency will respect European standards of non formal education.

Concrete tools in this process is this Document, that contains common recommendations for work of future NA (outcomes of conference and consultative meetings), review of relevant information on "Youth in Action" Programme in European and Serbian context and description of reasons for creation of this initiative and the way it functions. Containing all this information, Document will be significant instrument and support in further process of advocacy in civil sector and relevant institutions both in Serbia and on European level.

Forum is platform created with the purpose of advocacy for establishing National Youth Agency which gathers at present more than 80 organizations, institutions and individuals from Serbia, signatories of Declaration for establishing National Youth Agency. Aims of the Forum are defined through sectors of activity: coordination of work of the Forum and partnership building, advocacy and preparation of organizations and the very state for establishing National Youth Agency. Forum will founded work groups with the purpose of strengthening negotiation position for lobbying process and creation of preconditions which will provide possibility of influence to political decisions. First step in the work of Forum is gathering information and statistics related to implementation of "Youth in Action" Programme from promoters in Serbia. This process will be based on existing statistics provided by contact points, with addition of latest data.

The Forum is a platform aimed for encouragement of advocacy process until establishing of National Youth Agency in Serbia is finished. Through common activities of Forum, as well as through activities of single organizations and institutions, members will put their efforts to continuous advocacy for NYA.



COMMON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ESTABLISHING NATIONAL YOUTH AGENCY IN SERBIA

**Resulting from
International
Conference “Treba
N(acionalna)
A(gencija) za
M(lade)!”
(We Need National
Youth Agency!)” and regional
consultative meetings**

As the part of lobbying process, “Hajde da...” Group has organized International conference “Treba N(acionalna) A(gencija) za M(lade)!” (We Need National Youth Agency!)” held 12th-13th October 2010 in Belgrade. Conference work groups of the conference suggested key work principles of future National Youth Agency in Serbia, considered participation of civil sector organizations in work of future NYA and set the guidelines for further work of Forum. After the Conference, results of work groups’ efforts have been joined in common recommendations of Conference.

During November and December 2010, consultative meeting have been held in four Serbian regional centres: Niš, Kragujevac, Novi Sad and Belgrade. These regional consultations were organized in order to inform relevant actors and Serbian public about Conference recommendations, as well as to receive some feedback information from them regarding work principles of National Youth Agency and co-operation with civil sector. Feedback information received from local community can be found within this final document “National Agency for Youth in Serbia – What, How and Why?”, printed in Serbian and English.

Here are common recommendations defined at International Conference and during process of regional consultation:

PRINCIPLES FOR ESTABLISHING AND FUNCTIONING OF NATIONAL YOUTH AGENCY (NYA)

1. Announcement of public contest for body which will represent NYA was suggested. All interested actors with relevant knowledge, resources and experience are able to participate, regardless their political stand. Special care must be taken in order to provide transparency of public contest.

2. It is also suggested that possibility of partnership between actors from different sectors (CSOs, Research institutes, University, Regional networks for youth work) should be considered on the matter of establishing NYA. Complementary of resources and expertise of different actors would surely improve work of NYA considerably. It is necessary to take care of equal regional presence of different actors. It would be good to take in consideration examples of good practice from other National Agencies.

3. Political independence and unbiased work of NYA is of vital importance, especially during process of employee selection (non-partisan candidates), during process of defining national priorities and selection of projects.

4. It is necessary to clearly define general terms of employment in founding documents: to define selection criteria, terms of issuing public call, to assure anonymous selection test and diversity of selection commission, to guarantee confidentiality of the procedure before candidate interviews, etc.

5. For the process of establishing NYA it is very important to ensure understanding of highest authorities regarding fact that creation of NYA, which will operate in accordance with EU demands, is process with its own dynamics. Cross-sector approach is necessary and although it consumes some time, it strongly encourages development of procedure logic in other sectors.

6. It is necessary to provide conditions for gradual inclusion of NYA into programmes, according to its level of operational efficiency.

7. Programme being implemented by NYA must be equally available to all young people. This can be achieved through regional and local approach, good promotion of the Programme which is appropriate for the context and possibility of counseling for users before submission of very application.

8. Work of NYA should be completely decentralized and this should be visible in all aspects: organizational, program and financial (on occasion of projects selection). Regarding decentralization in bodies, it's important to take care of efficiency and good functioning, if NYA is using existing resources. It is necessary to maintain certain level of flexibility and openness regarding selection of the bodies which will be included, keeping the possibility to have actors from different sectors (CSOs, youth offices, institutions, etc).

9. It is necessary to provide transparency in the work of NYA, through giving detailed feedback information for refused projects. Selection committee name has to be public.

10. It is necessary to provide diversity of experience and knowledge of employees. Special attention should be paid on complementarity of employees competences. It is important to have equal presence of experts from different administrative areas. It is essential that employees have practical knowledge in youth work and youth CSOs at local, national and international level.

11. It is significant to provide stability of NYA personnel and related to this, to offer appropriate education of employees, possibilities for further professional improvement and transfer of knowledge through mentorship and detailed programme procedures. However, NYA must be open for adoption of new procedures.

12. Founding act should emphasize conditions for realization of following principles through functioning of NYA: division of liability, respect of internal procedures, sharing information and inner control systems (four-eye principle).

13. Rules and principles of NYA work should be in accordance with rules of European Commission and Guide for National Agencies. They should reflect values, priorities and main principles of "Youth in Action" Programme or follow up programmes.

14. It would be useful to compare principles of National Youth Strategy and other relevant political processes with principles of NYA work. Principles of NYA work should be used for development of youth policy on national level. It would be also very significant to tie NYA principles with principles of work of National Agencies from region and wider environment.

COOPERATION WITH CIVIL SECTOR

1. NYA activities should be strong support for development of civil society in Serbia. First of all it should be significant anchorage youth and youth CSO and then for other organizations involved in youth work.

2. During establishing NYA it is important to bear in mind NYA capacities for other roles beside administrative position for “Youth in Action” Programme. NYA is capable of having wider advisory role in process of youth policy development in Serbia, with serious possibilities for connecting European and national policies. NYA could also have big responsibility in promotion and lobbying for relevant ideas such as non formal youth education and employability, participation, anti-discrimination and inclusion of marginalized groups.

3. Inclusion of resources and expertise of civil sector into the process of establishing NYA would be important factor of recognition and validation of youth work in Serbia on national and European level.

4. In order to help NYA to become fully operational as soon as possible and to become highly efficient it is essential to use specific experience of civil sector in implementation of YOUTH and “Youth in Action” Programmes in Serbia. It is necessary to integrate experience gained through work of Contact Points in Serbia and also experience of direct users of Programmes implemented in Serbia.

5. Civil sector has to be included in process of defining annual national priorities of NYA work. It is the only way to offer adequate answers to youth needs in Serbia through projects implemented within “Youth in Action” Programme.

6. On local and regional level of NYA work is important to include civil society resources in the information process, promotion of the Programme and advisory process of writing projects. It is the only way to include more users and to raise quality of implemented projects.

7. Presence of civil sector representatives in selection commission for NYA projects would improve quality of selection process. It is vital to prevent conflict of interest in this matter. Presence of representatives of certain organizations in selection commission means this organization cannot apply for the Programme. It is also important to carefully consider other mechanisms for prevention of conflict of interest – e.g. entity for coordination of commission selection should include representatives of civil society; several commissions should be formed, for various areas of activity; representatives of bigger and smaller organizations should equally take part in commission's work, having shorter mandate; members of commission should be changed in certain time period, etc.

8. After establishing NYA it is necessary to set foundations for long term cooperation with civil sector, regarding programme concept; for example, CSO council could be founded. In that way specific resources of civil sector in the field of non formal youth education could be successfully integrated into whole process (experts, experience in specific work areas, work with specific target groups, etc)

9. Cooperation of civil sector and NYA is subject which should be publicly discussed at all levels, emphasizing common interest of development and implementation of high quality youth policy, which is an interest shared by different actors.

10. It is needed to include representatives of relevant European organizations and institutions from Serbia and Europe into dialogue about cooperation between civil sector and NYA. It is particularly important to use different examples of good international practice on the subject of possibilities and modalities of cooperation between civil sector and National Agencies.

FORUM FOR ESTABLISHING NATIONAL AGENCY FOR YOUTH IN ACTION PROGRAMME IN REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

One of main strategic steps of project “Advocacy initiative for establishing National Youth Agency” was networking of all key actors of „Youth in Action“ Programme, individuals and institutions ready to support establishing National Agency or take part in it. This networking has been realized through founding Forum and its work.

Founding Forum should strengthen sense of possession over entire initiative for establishing NYA. We hope this will increase contribution in the sense of energy and efforts of key actors of the Programme in Serbia.

The process is consisted of several steps:

- Informing potential Forum members and invitation to constituent meeting;
 - Constituent meeting;
 - Meeting of Forum members at International conference for establishing NYA and recommendations for future work of Forum;
 - Future work of Forum.
-

In period May-June 2010 „Hajde da...” Group has invited and informed all organizations and individuals that might be interested in establishing National Agency in Serbia. Invitations were sent to individuals, experts, organizations and institutions previously included in YOUTH and „Young in Action” Programmes, multipliers and users of the Programme, media and interested institutions (donors, Ministries, EU integration office, youth offices, etc).

Constituent meeting of the Forum for establishing National Youth Agency has been held 1st July 2010. Its aim was to perceive number of organizations and institutions interested in establishing NYA and to harmonize the text of declaration, which will be obligatory document for members of the Forum during process of lobbying for NYA.

This meeting had following aims:

- Forming of Forum of actors interested in establishing National Youth Agency (NYA) for European Union Programme „Youth in Action”;
 - Preparing the text of Declaration, which will be offered to other interested actors to sign;
 - Identifying important topics to be considered during international conference about establishing NYA in Serbia during October 2010.
-

30 representatives of youth organizations, local youth offices, „Hajde da...“ Group’s trainer team for „Youth in Action“ Programme, representatives of state administration (Ministry of Sport and Youth, and Serbian government’s EU Integration Office) and representative of Institute for Sustainable Communities were present at first constituent meeting of the Forum.

Previous course of participation of Serbia in „Youth in Action“ Programme have been presented at the meeting, as well as current position of Serbia in relation to establishing National Youth Agency.

Here is what present participant had suggested when asked what should be mandate of the Forum in initial phase of its establishing:

- To suggest how to assure independence and quality of work of National Agency during and after international conference (quality standards of work of National Agency, competences of employees and expert associates of NA, strategy of decentralized promotion of the Programme, etc);
- To delegate representative of civil society organizations to Steering board and/or programme committee of National Agency;
- To suggest platforms and declarations for related topics (e.g. recognition and evaluation of competence acquired through non-formal education).

EVALUATION OF CONSTITUENT MEETING OF THE FORUM SHOWED FOLLOWING RESULTS:

13%
Accessibility of
the Programme

13%
Recognition

**WHAT ARE
THE MOST IMPORTANT
REASONS FOR
ESTABLISHING
SERBIAN
NATIONAL AGENCY,
IN YOUR
OPINION?**

57%
State
support

17%
Capacity
building

28%
Established
NA

33%
Efficiency

**WHAT DO YOU
EXPECT FROM
THIS FORUM IN
FUTURE (REGARDING
RESULTS AND
POSSIBILITIES
OF YOUR CONTRIBUTION
TO ACTIVITIES
OF FORUM)?**

39%
Lobbying

Constituent conference of the Forum was ended in very good atmosphere full of enthusiasm. Participants were very optimistic and obviously dedicated to future work of Forum.

At International Conference “TREBA NAM” („We Need NYA“) held 12th-13th October 2010 work group brought forth series of recommendations for future role and work of Forum:

- It is necessary to establish structure and aims of the Forum and to define activities in following fields of activities: coordination of Forum work and partnership building, strengthening coalitions within Forum and forming work groups.
- Future work of Forum requires general strategy, as well as insight into current conditions, which means that it is necessary to gather statistic data on implementation of „Youth in Action“ Programme in Serbia.
- Forum has the key role in the process of negotiation and dialogue about civil sector cooperation and establishing NYA.
- Following fields should have appropriate work groups: advocacy, activities with the purpose to prepare organizations and state administration organs for establishing NYA and providing suggestions in form of recommendations.
- Exchange of information from international conference and 4 consultation meetings relevant for further work of Forum.
- Media are important for functioning of Forum and it is important to figure out how to provide interest and support of media.
- While creating strategy of work for the Forum, it is essential to consider long term perspective of process of establishing NYA. It has been emphasized that certain questions have to be answered: What would be the role of civil sector? What steps can be taken before political conditions are set? How this whole process should be organized?
- For the good of further work of Forum and lobbying process, it would be good to concretize motivation and interest regarding establishing NYA and to make interests of different actors of the process explicit.

Forum will seek to establish communication (relevant for lobbying process) with relevant institutions of Republic of Serbia, as well as with European Commission entities which might support the cause.

FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS, INSTITUTIONS AND INDIVIDUALS HAVE SUPPORTED THIS INITIATIVE, SO FAR:

1. AEGEE
 2. AIESEC
 3. BalkanIDEA
 4. Balkan Rock
 5. Bečejsko udruženje mladih
 6. BOŠ
 7. Centar „Žil Vern“
 8. Centar za mlade, Kragujevac
 9. Centar lokalne demokratije, Subotica
 10. Centar za građansko delovanje - CeGraD, Obrenovac
 11. Centar za alternativno rešavanje sukoba
 12. Crveni krst Plandište
 13. Crveni krst Kragujevac
 14. CMSS (Centar za međunarodnu saradnju studenata)
 15. CZOR (Centar za omladinski rad)
 16. Društvo za zaštitu i unapređenje mentalnog zdravlja dece i omladine
 17. Edukativni centar, Kruševac
 18. Edukacioni centar Leskovac
 19. Evropski pokret u Srbiji
 20. Ekonomska škola, Kragujevac
 21. Generator, Vranje
-

22. Glas psihologa Grada Niša
 23. Građanske inicijative
 24. Gradsko udruženje cerebralne i dečije paralize, Niš
 25. Grupa „Hajde da...“
 26. In stage organization
 27. Inženjeri zaštite životne sredine
 28. JAZAS
 29. Kabinet potpredsednika Vlade za evropske integracije,
Tim za socijalno uključivanje i smanjenje siromaštva
 30. Kancelarija za evropske integracije Vlade Republike Srbije
 31. Kancelarija za mlade Novi Beograd
 32. Kancelarija za mlade Sombor
 33. Kancelarija za mlade Prijepolje
 34. Kancelarija za mlade Plandište
 35. Klub omladina pokreće akciju
 36. Klub za Ujedinjene nacije
 37. Klub za osnaživanje mladih 018
 38. Kulturni centar REX
 39. Kulturban
 40. Ministarstvo omladine i sporta Republike Srbije
 41. Mladi istraživači Srbije - MIS
 42. NAPOR (Nacionalna asocijacija praktičara/ki
omladinskog rada)
 43. Agencija za mobilnost i EU programe, Hrvatska
 44. Nacionalna agencija za program mladi u akciji Belgije
 45. Nacionalna agencija za program mladi u akciji Austije
 46. Novosadski Ekološki Centar – NEC
 47. NVO "IUVENTA"
 48. NVO Fabrik Art
 49. NVO „MillenniuM“
 50. NVO „Stablo“
 51. NVO „Omladinski edukativni centar“
 52. NVO Protecta
 53. NVO Oko
 54. Omladinski centar „Zajedno stvaramo“
 55. Omladinski klub Novi Bečej
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56. Organizacija kreativnog okupljanja
57. Perspektive mira
58. Pokrajinski sekretarijat za sport i omladinu
59. Proaktiv
60. Res Polis
61. Regionalna kancelarija za mlade
62. Savez izviđača Srbije
63. Studentska unija Srbije
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66. The Youth Programme
67. Udruženje građana „Prvi tempo“
68. Udruženje građana „Pokret Jugoistočna Srbija“
69. Udruženje građana „Podeli osmeh“
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73. Unija srednjoškolaca Srbije
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75. Urban In
76. Volonterski centar, Niš
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