

Section 2 – Public sources

Public sources

1) Funding at local, regional and national levels

By far the largest amount of funding from government comes from the local or regional level. Funds from both national governments and the European level are mostly devolved to more local level with the intention that they should be used to meet specific needs as identified by local people. In the case of the European structural funds, these needs are described and prioritised in a regional development plan.

As with all funds, public funds are provided to meet specific agendas and priorities. The challenge for the fund-raiser is to identify where those priorities match those of her/his project. For those organisations with sufficient time and other resources, there is also the potential to influence these priorities so that when funding becomes available there is more likelihood of a match. This is one more facet of the concept of relationship fund-raising.

Public funds cover a wide range of activity and so there are often several “pots” of money – usually held by different departments in local or regional government – which may be used to support a variety of work with young people. There is not always a standard application process for accessing this money and often it is the reputation of your organisation which enables you to “open the right doors”. Where there is a formal application process there is a clear need to understand the regional and/or local agenda.

Coyote’s hint #5

Ask members of the group to identify the links their organisations have with local and regional government.

- How do these links help with fund-raising?
- By generating information about available funds?
- By influencing local and regional government agendas which give access to funding?

Discuss how you would improve on the current situation.

- How would you initiate and/or develop such links?



Investment of time and energy in fund-raising is even greater at national level than at local or regional level as there are more political, economic and social influences at work. Sometimes investment at national level bears fruit at local level or (less likely) vice versa.

We have explained that local public funding is closely connected to local and regional government priorities. The same is true at national level, so an awareness of government trends and priorities is essential for tapping into any funds which might become available.



Public funds are often time-limited and strictly constrained by deadlines and spending periods. Collection of data to prove that the money was spent as agreed and has contributed to a particular social or economic objective is also a common feature. Evaluation of work done with public funds is particularly important as use of public money is subject to public scrutiny.

2) European Union funding – transnational European funds

The EU has a large number of funding “programmes” which are managed by the European Commission through its different directorates. You have to distinguish between activities which are “transnational” (involve more than one country) and activities that have no transnational element. The latter may still have a European dimension and qualify for European Union funding under another programme.

You should first consider the piece of work you wish to do in some detail and then start looking at potential funders. Prior planning will enable you to target the correct programmes and directorates. (Please refer to Part Two of the T-Kit for the financial planning and management aspects.) For example, if your project has to do with young people’s personal development then the directorate to contact will be the one with responsibility for youth work (the Directorate General of Education and Culture). If your focus is on a specific region then you will need to contact the directorate which deals with this (or one of its agencies). For example the CARDS programme is managed by the European Commission external relations directorate, responsible for south-east Europe.

European Union
funding

The 15 European Union member states:

Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom.

The European Union and the three EFTA (European Free Trade Association) countries – Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway – together form the European Economic Area (EEA).

Many of the funding programmes are applicable to European Union countries and a selection of other European countries. These are known together as “programme countries” and often include EFTA. Pre-accession countries are also often included in the list of programme countries (although special rules can apply to them for the time being). Countries that are not programme countries but which can take indirect advantage of the funding are known as “third countries”, and special rules again apply.

Enlargement of the European Union

Accession on 1 May 2004: Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Accession planned for 2007 and beyond : Bulgaria and Romania.

Funding programmes are often managed at national level by a national agency. Such national agencies sometimes operate at regional level though committees or other bodies. National agencies can be NGOs. These national agencies are particularly important for the European Union’s youth and education programmes. You can reach them through the websites of the various programmes (see below).



T-Kit on Funding
and Financial Management

Coyote's hint #6

Working with funding from an international organisation might require that you translate at least a summary of your application into English or French or another language which is not your own. Always write your application in a language which you master and in which you can really express what you want to do. If you are not sure that you are able to express yourself correctly in English or French, ask someone else to make a proper translation. Many applications have failed because they were not understood properly.



European Union programmes usually do not cover all the costs of a project. As a rule, funding covers a maximum of half the costs. Funding in the youth and education field can, however, in exceptional cases, be higher than 50%, depending on the type of activity and the activity's programme.

3) The YOUTH programme

Certainly the most relevant funding programme for informal and non-formal work with young people is the YOUTH programme. Full details are contained in a user's guide, which can be downloaded from the European Commission website. The website is updated regularly and you should consult it before you plan to work with the YOUTH programme.

The YOUTH programme**The website of the YOUTH programme**

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/youth/youthprogram.html>

The website on the YOUTH programme is mainly in English, but the user's guide and other useful documents as well as forms are available in the other languages of the European Union.

This site also contains the application forms. It is recommended that you contact your national agency before you spend too much time on an application. They can assist with the development of your ideas and advise you about any national priorities.

The YOUTH programme has several application deadlines each year for projects selected at national level (currently five times per year) and three deadlines each year for projects selected at European level.

The YOUTH programme**Action 1 – Youth for Europe (youth exchanges)**

- for groups of young people aged between 15 and 25;
- minimum 16 people per group, maximum 60;
- theme-based transnational projects;-
- can be bilateral with just two partner countries, trilateral with three partner countries or multilateral involving four or more countries

Action 2 – European Voluntary Service (EVS)

- for young people aged between 18 and 25;
- voluntary placements in local communities throughout Europe;
- short-term placements 3-week to 6-month projects;
- long-term placements 6- to 12-month projects;
- work can be in a variety of settings (heritage, culture, care sector, with children, young people, etc).



Action 3 – Youth initiatives

- Youth initiatives allow young people (15-25) to devise, manage and run projects of their own choosing within their local community;
- projects must contain a European dimension;
- successful applicants can receive up to 10,000 euros towards the cost of their projects;
- the scheme has been highly successful in motivating disaffected and disadvantaged young people and is an excellent tool in assisting their personal development and skills acquisition relevant to working life.

Action 3 – Future Capital

- This is for young people who have completed European Voluntary Service (EVS);
- it is aimed primarily at individuals, but it does allow two young people to apply for the same project as long as they demonstrate the relevant link;
- applicants must apply within two years of completing EVS.

Action 4 – Joint Actions – involving YOUTH and the Socrates or Leonardo da Vinci programmes

- these are projects aiming to enhance cooperation between the actors of the YOUTH, Socrates and Leonardo da Vinci programmes;
- separate Calls for projects are published on the Commission website, which detail the special conditions, themes and priorities.

Action 5 – Support Measures

Support measures provide the tools to help all those working in the youth field to:

- find partners, develop youth work skills and prepare for projects;
- exchange good practice, develop youth policy, build transnational partnerships and develop co-operation with countries outside the European Union;
- projects can take the form of seminars, courses, visits, etc, depending on the objectives of the activity.

4) The Leonardo da Vinci programme

This programme encourages vocational training activities and in particular transnational mobility initiatives concerned with lifelong learning, employability and social inclusion. Exchanges of good practice, development of training materials and projects linked to other programmes such as YOUTH and Socrates can also be funded.

Applications are made through national agencies, and public or private bodies involved in vocational education and training are eligible to apply.

Leonardo da Vinci

The website of the Leonardo da Vinci programme

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/leonardo.html>

The site is available in English, French and German, but the guides and other useful documents as well as forms are available in the other languages of the European Union.

5) The Socrates programme

This programme aims to strengthen the European dimension within education by supporting projects which improve knowledge and awareness of European Union languages, promote cooperation and mobility and encourage innovation. The programme consists of several large actions, the most important ones being:

Socrates

- Comenius – school education
- Erasmus – higher education
- Grundtvig – adult education and other educational pathways
- Lingua – language teaching and learning
- Minerva – information and communication technologies in education

All members (students, teachers etc) of the education community are eligible to apply. Mostly applications will need to go through their institution. There is a network of national contacts at the European level.

The website of the Socrates programme

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/socrates.html>

The site is available in eleven languages of the European Union.

Coyote's hint #7

The current youth and education programmes run until the end of 2006. Before that date the European Commission will make proposals as to the future of these programmes. There will be opportunities to comment on these proposals and to influence the new generation of programmes after 2006.

Participate in consultations about these programme. It may make funding easier for you in future. You contribute to shaping the programmes yourself.

The European Youth Forum, as the platform of youth organisations in Europe, can help you to get involved in this process – see www.youthforum.org



6) The European Union structural funds

The structural funds involve much bigger sums of money but often cover work over a long period of time. They are focused on economic and social development of regions and this can include training and personal development for young people. The term “employability” is sometimes used to describe the kind of outcomes required for this kind of funding.

There are several funds that come under the heading of structural funds but the most useful in the field of work with young people are the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). These funds deal with work carried out by colleges, NGOs, private businesses and government agencies in geographical areas defined as Objective 1, 2 or 3. The lower the number, the higher the economic need of the region or sub-region. Objective 1 and Objective 2 status is applied to specific geographical areas whereas Objective 3 covers almost all other parts of the EU.

A range of agencies in each geographical area develop a regional development plan which is approved by the European Commission and then used to prioritise grants for individual projects. Partnerships between agencies within a region are encouraged and in some regions the voluntary and youth sector is a significant beneficiary of the funds. Matching funds are usually required to make up the full cost of projects but in-kind support can also be used. Details of the structural funds can be found at http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/index_en.htm and at <http://europa.eu.int/esf>.

You should also contact your regional government offices for specific local information.



7) European Union funding for pre-accession countries and third countries

European Union external aid is given by means of either (a) contracts to provide services, supplies or works to beneficiary countries or (b) grants (generally for projects submitted by non-profit-making organisations).

This aid is usually provided under one of the European Union external aid programmes and instruments (Phare, Ispa and Sapard for the candidate countries, Tacis for the new independent states and Mongolia, Cards for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia-Montenegro, ALA for Asian and Latin American countries, MEDA for the Mediterranean partners and the EDF for the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries) or under specific budget headings, such as for South Africa.

The following table outlines the various instruments and programmes available. Many of them can be used for youth and youth-related activities though they extend well beyond that sector in their scope.

Programme/ instrument	Participation is open to natural and legal persons of
PHARE, ISPA & SAPARD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the EU member states the recipient states in the Phare programme: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia Slovenia (10 countries)
CARDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the EU member states the recipient states in the CARDS programme: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYROM, Serbia-Montenegro (5 countries) the recipient states in the Phare programme (same as above) the following countries of south-east Europe: Turkey, Cyprus and Malta (3 countries)
TACIS	<p>a) Contracts financed by budgetary commitments for 1996-99 (Council Regulation No. 1279/96 of 25 June 1996)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the EU member states the recipient states in the Tacis programme: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Mongolia (13 countries) On a case by case basis, participation of natural and legal persons of the Mediterranean partners and Phare recipient states <p>b) Contracts financed by budgetary commitments for 2000 onwards (Council Regulation No. 99/2000 of 29 December 1999)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the EU member states the recipient states in the Tacis programme (same as above) the recipient states in the Phare programme (same as above) on a case by case basis, participation of natural and legal persons of the Mediterranean partners
MEDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the EU member states the Mediterranean partners: Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, West Bank and Gaza Strip (12 countries)



ALA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the EU member states • Asian and Latin American developing countries which are not signatories of the Lomé Convention (EDF) or beneficiaries under the MEDA programme: Afghanistan, Argentina, Bangladesh, Burma, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Nepal, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam and Yemen (37 countries) • on a case by case basis, participation of natural and legal persons of other ALA neighbouring countries
EDF	<p>a) 6th and 7th EDF Fund (NB: non-profit making entities may not participate)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the EU member states excluding Austria, Finland and Sweden (EU member states prior to 1995) • the ACP states (Africa, Caribbean, Pacific) excluding South Africa: Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Kinshasa), Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, Vanuatu, Zambia and Zimbabwe (70 countries) <p>b) 8th EDF Fund (NB: non-profit-making entities may not participate)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the EU member states (15 countries) • the ACP states including South Africa (71 countries)
South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the EU member states (15 countries) • the ACP states including South Africa (71 countries)

NB: In certain cases, depending on the budget heading, special rules of eligibility may apply, which will be specified in the procurement notice.

Grants are awarded for projects submitted to the European Union by (in general, non-profit-making) external organisations. The intention is that projects will be selected for grants on the basis of calls for proposals. The publication of a call for proposals will indicate the relevant funding priorities of the European Union, eligibility criteria and any other conditions for award of a grant.

The search facility on the website

http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/tender/index_en.htm allows you to see current and expected calls for proposals (as well as those whose deadlines have now expired and information about grants which have been awarded as a result).

You should not search only for funding specifically available for youth. There are several fields in which your organisation might present a relevant proposal, such as: social reintegration and assistance, protection of the environment, culture, education and civic participation. However, before searching for European Union funding opportunities on the Web, please consider the following, as these are generally applicable rules:



Firstly, only legally registered organisations are eligible. In addition administration of projects funded by the European Union needs increased management capacity. Answer critically the following questions:

- Does my organisation meet all the legal conditions?
- Is the board of my organisation functional?
- Does my organisation have an accountant?
- Has my organisation produced annual reports (financial as well as activity reports)?
- Has my organisation run projects with a budget close to the amount requested for this project? If not, can I prove that my organisation has the ability to administer large amounts of money?
- Has my organisation relevant experience in the area the project is concerned with? If not, do any of the people involved in the project have specific expertise in that field?
- What kind of links do we have with public authorities/institutions (local and central)?

Secondly, very often, European Union funding-programmes are open to partnerships of non-governmental organisations and public authorities (local or central). Therefore it can be vital for your organisation to develop contacts with relevant public authorities, to find out their priorities in the field of your activities and to get their recognition as a reliable partner. It will then be easier to approach them about submitting a joint proposal.

8) Council of Europe funding for youth activities

The work of the Council of Europe covers all major social and political issues affecting European society (with the exception of defence) – human rights, media, legal co-operation, social and economic questions, health, education, culture, heritage, sport, environment, local and regional authorities and youth.

The Council of Europe is an intergovernmental organisation, which has three main aims:



- to protect and strengthen pluralist democracy and human rights;
- to seek solutions to the problems facing society;
- to promote the emergence of a genuine European cultural identity.

In order to support youth work at the European level, the Council of Europe has set up the European Youth Centres, the European Youth Foundation and the Solidarity Fund for Youth Mobility. They can support projects involving young people in all member states, and also in Belarus (as this country participates in cultural co-operation through the Council of Europe's European Cultural Convention).

The 45 member states of the Council of Europe (as of July 2004) are:

Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom

Council of Europe funding



T-Kit on Funding and Financial Management

In the Council of Europe it is the Directorate of Youth and Sport that is responsible for all work in those two fields. The Council of Europe's main goal in youth and sport is to work out common European youth and sports policies promoting youth participation, responsible citizenship, better educational and employment opportunities, democratisation of sport and the spirit of fair play.

Council of Europe youth website:

www.coe.int/youth

The site is available in English and French.

The Council of Europe Directorate of Youth and Sport provides three different types of support to international youth activities and organisations by working with “multipliers”, i.e. young people and youth workers who are in a position to pass on new knowledge to other young people and colleagues. The Council of Europe's youth sector does not allocate financial support to individual young people such as student grants, housing allowances or travel allowances.

The financial resources available to the Council of Europe are significantly smaller than those available to the European Union. However, most of the funding is decided jointly, on a co-management basis, by young people and member states. It is therefore important to think of the funding as a means of establishing a partnership with the Council of Europe, rather than merely as a financial tool.

Detailed information about the conditions for obtaining funding can be found on the website www.coe.int/youth (then click on Financial support).

9) The European Youth Foundation

The purpose of the European Youth Foundation (EYF) is to encourage co-operation among young people in Europe by providing financial support to European youth activities which promote peace, understanding and co-operation in a spirit of respect for fundamental Council of Europe values such as human rights, democracy, tolerance and solidarity.

Some basic rules govern distribution of EYF resources:

- applicants must be either an international non-governmental youth organisation or network, or a national youth organisation or network co-operating with at least three other national organisations or networks from different member states;
- no more than one quarter of the participants may be over the age of 30;
- as a rule, to be eligible, a project must take place in one (or more) member states of the Council of Europe;
- participants and organisers must make a significant financial contribution towards the activity themselves. The EYF cannot finance more than two thirds of the total costs of the project.

The EYF provides financial support to the following types of activity undertaken by non-governmental youth organisations or networks or by other non-governmental bodies involved in areas of youth work:

- educational, social, cultural and humanitarian activities of a European character;
- activities aimed at strengthening peace and co-operation in Europe;
- activities to promote closer co-operation and better understanding among young people in Europe, particularly by developing information exchange;
- activities to stimulate mutual aid in Europe and in the developing countries for cultural, educational and social purposes;
- studies, research and documentation on youth matters.



The EYF supports four kinds of activity:

- **Category A** – international youth meetings
- **Category B** – activities other than meetings
- **Category C** – support to help cover the administrative costs of international non-governmental youth organisations or networks
- **Category D** – pilot projects

There are two general deadlines per year for submitting applications.

- **1 April** for activities to be carried out in the first half of the following year;
- **1 October** for activities to be carried out in the second half of the following year.

In exceptional cases applications may be considered on an ad hoc basis.

10) The Solidarity Fund for Youth Mobility

The Council of Europe and the International Union of Railways (UIC) joined forces in 1995 to set up a fund to assist mobility of disadvantaged young people. For every Inter Rail Card sold, one euro is donated to the funding of projects involving Europe's young and least well off, enabling them to attend international activities and taking them on journeys of cross-cultural contact and discovery.

The fund caters solely for young people from underprivileged backgrounds or economically underdeveloped areas and is intended to cover rail travel by them to take part in international educational activities. It does not assist tourist travel.

To qualify for assistance, projects must involve at least two countries and a minimum of ten people travelling together. The Solidarity Fund for Youth Mobility supports some 30 to 40 youth projects per year.

11) Study sessions at the European Youth Centres

Study sessions are seminars organised by international non-governmental youth organisations on a subject of relevance to their organisational development and membership. They take place at one or other of the European Youth Centres. The Centres provide the infrastructure for the seminars as well as educational back-up and guidance by an educational advisor or external consultant assigned to each study session. The advisor/consultant is involved in the preparatory stage, in implementing the seminar programme and in any follow up. She/he works closely with a multicultural team and the organisation concerned. On average some 30 study sessions annually are hosted by the European Youth Centres in Strasbourg and Budapest.

Youth
Centres

