



Education and Culture DG



# Europe for citizens

The new action programme to promote  
civic participation in the EU, 2007 - 2013

# Instruments of DG EAC to encourage the active European citizenship



- Programme “Europe for citizens” (2007-2013)
- Other programmes (2007-2013)
  - LifeLong Learning } citizenship aspect integrated
  - Culture } citizenship aspect integrated
  - Youth }
- Visits section - organisation of information in the Commission
  - groups of citizens
  - information multipliers



# General objectives

## Key words

- Participation of citizens
- European identity
- Sense of belonging/ownership
- Tolerance and mutual understanding



# What are the aims of the Europe for citizens programme?



- Help citizens participate actively in building Europe
- Develop the feeling of a European identity and sense of belonging to the EU
- Improve understanding among people through intercultural dialogue

**Budget: 215 millions €**



# Specific objectives of the Europe for citizens programme



Get European citizens to **exchange experiences**, learn our  
common history and build our future together

Promote action, dialogue and reflection on  
our **common values**

Bring Europe **closer to its citizens**

**Foster the interaction** of European  
civil society organisations



# *Bringing people together...*



## **Action 1: Active citizens for Europe**

### **2 measures:**

#### 1. Town-twinning:

- citizens' meetings
- networking

#### 2. Citizens' projects and support measures

**Innovation** : multi-annual Town-twinning,  
citizens panels, accompanying measures



*Reflection on Europe...*

**Action 2: Active civil society for Europe**

*Visible Europe...*

**Action 3: Together for Europe**

*Learn a lesson from history ...*

**Action 4: Active European Remembrance**



# Implementation



## Permanent themes:

1. Future of the European Union and its basic values
2. Active European Citizenship: participation and democracy in Europe
3. Inter-cultural dialogue
4. People's well being in Europe: employment and social cohesion
5. Impact of EU policies in societies

## 2011/12 themes:

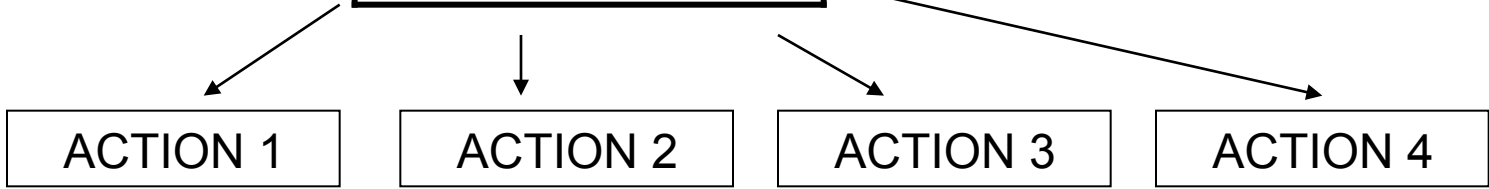
- European year of Volunteering 2011
- European year of Active Ageing and Solidarity between generations





**OBJECTIVES**

= WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE



Through which kind of activities

**PRIORITY THEMES**

PERMANENT					ANNUAL	

Focusing on most important issues

Horizontal features

- EUROPEAN VALUES
- INFORMAL LEARNING
- VOLUNTEERING
- TRANSNATIONALITY
- CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY**
- EQUAL ACCESS
- VISIBILITY, VALORISATION

Respecting certain principles



Project

# Implementation :

## Participating countries

### ➤ The Member States

### ➤ Conditionally:

- The EFTA States that are party to the EEA Agreement (likely 2008)
- The candidate countries benefiting from a pre-accession strategy) (Croatia and FYROM likely 2008)
- Countries of the western Balkans



In addition, Croatia officially became a participating country in November 2007. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is a participating country as of 19 March 2009 and Albania as of 28 April 2009. Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway have all expressed an interest in joining the programme.

The table below outlines the current state of play.

### INFORMATION ON NEW PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Countries which are candidates for accession to the European Union		
Countries	State of play	Expected to be eligible from
Croatia	Croatia is a participating country as of 5 November 2007 <a href="#">Memorandum of understanding</a>	05/11/2007
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is a participating country as of 19 March 2009 <a href="#">Memorandum of Understanding</a>	19/03/2009
Turkey	Has not specified when it intends to participate	/

Participating countries from the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) which are members of the European Economic Area (EEA)		
Countries	State of play	Expected to be eligible from
Iceland Liechtenstein Norway	Have not confirmed their interest in participating	not expected

Countries from the Western Balkans		
Countries	State of play	Expected to be eligible from
Albania	Albania is a participating country as of 28 April 2009 <a href="#">Memorandum of understanding</a>	28/04/2009
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Has not specified whether it intends to participate	/
Montenegro	Has expressed informally an interest in participating	/
Serbia	Has not specified whether it intends to participate	/

# Implementation : Valorisation

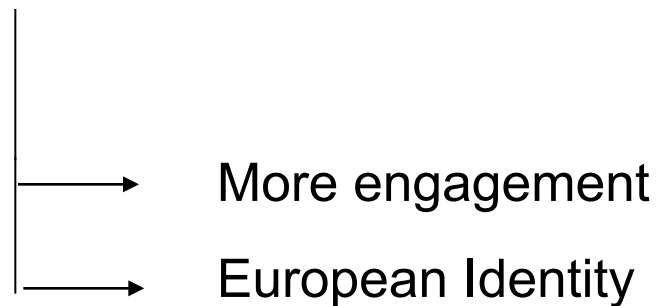
- Each project will be encouraged to disseminate its results
- Certain categories of projects will ensure visibility and sustainability. Ex. thematic networking
- Certain organisations will have a specific role to play. Ex. intermediaries, networks...
- Commission plays active role at programme level



# Expectations

Direct participation of citizens:

Mobility:  $\pm 100.000/\text{year}$



# Expectations

- New partnerships – cross-fertilisation
- New methods of civic participation
- Integration of european issues on the agenda of civil society organisations and local authorities
- Events on european level

Development of european public space

# Implementation



- **Programme Guide** published on

[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/programme/programme\\_guide\\_en.php](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/programme/programme_guide_en.php)

- Includes all procedures and conditions for applying to most actions and measures, including deadlines for applications until 2013.



# More info



➤ <http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship>

➤ [http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/index\\_en.htm](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/index_en.htm)

