

Youth in Action Programme

Call for proposals 2013

EACEA/06/2013

Action 4.6 - Partnerships

HOW TO DEVELOP A GOOD PROJECT

INTRODUCTION AND TABLE OF CONTENTS

Disclaimer:

The following is intended as useful information for applicants. It does not replace or overrule the criteria or any other conditions contained in the call for proposals EACEA/06/2013 and the accompanying specifications.

This document provides some general information and practical guidance to the applicants of this call for proposals in order to support them in the planning and implementation of activity programmes in line with the qualitative standards of the Youth in Action Programme.

Before submitting an application, applicants are advised to read carefully this document as it will offer important information regarding the following:

PART A Important features of the Youth in Action Programme relevant for this call for proposals

- ▶ Targets of the Programme
- ▶ Youthpass
- ▶ Protection and safety of participants
- ▶ Anti-discrimination
- ▶ Equality between women and men

PART B Activities supported through this call for proposals

- ▶ Activities ensuring the coordination of the project and the visibility of the partnership
- ▶ Youth Exchanges
- ▶ Youth Initiatives
- ▶ European Voluntary Service
- ▶ Training and Networking

PART C Permanent priorities of the Youth in Action Programme

- ▶ European citizenship
- ▶ Participation of young people
- ▶ Cultural diversity
- ▶ Inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities

PART A - Important features of the Youth in Action Programme relevant for this call for proposals

► Targets of the Programme

Young people and youth workers naturally constitute the main target group of the Youth in Action Programme and of this call for proposals. However, the Programme reaches these individuals through project partners. Conditions for participation in the Programme therefore relate to these two actors: the 'participants' (individuals participating in the Programme) and the project partners (in most cases, legally established organisations/bodies).

► Youthpass

Every person who has taken part in Youth Exchanges, Youth Initiatives, European Voluntary Service, Training Courses within the framework of this call for proposals is entitled to receive a Youthpass certificate, which describes and validates the non-formal and informal learning experience acquired during the project.

All Youthpass certificates have a common structure, a coherent layout, and contain the following information:

- personal details about the participant;
- general description of the relevant action of the Programme;
- key information concerning the project and the activities realized by the participant;
- description and assessment of the participant's learning outcome during the project.

Through the Youthpass, the European Commission ensures that participation in the Programme is recognized as an educational experience and a period of non-formal learning and informal learning. This document can be of great benefit for the future educational or professional pathway of the participant.

NOTE

Each beneficiary under this call is responsible for:

- informing all participants involved in the project that they are entitled to receive a Youthpass certificate
- issuing such certificates to all participants who request it

These obligations are specified in the model of the grant agreement between the beneficiary and the Executive Agency.

Beneficiaries can issue Youthpass certificates by accessing www.youthpass.eu which is an integral part of the Commission's website on the recognition of non-formal learning in the youth field (www.youthandrecognition.eu).

► Protection and safety of participants

The protection and safety of young people involved in Youth in Action projects are important principles of the Programme. All young persons participating in the Youth in Action Programme should have the opportunity to achieve their full potential in terms of social, emotional and spiritual development. This could only be assured in a safe environment which respects and protects the rights of young persons and safeguards and promotes their welfare.

In its simplest form, protection and safety concern every young person's right not to be the subject of any harm. In that perspective, most issues could in one way or the other potentially be related to the safety and protection of young people. Protection in this context is related to all kinds of inappropriate behavior, including sexual and moral harassment, but also intercultural problems, insurance, accidents, fire, alcohol and substance abuse, neglect, bullying, degrading treatment or punishment, etc.

The fundamental objective is to ensure that all those who work together with young people acknowledge the duty to safeguard the protection of young people and are able to fulfill this duty. To this end each organisation/body participating in the Youth in Action Programme should have in place effective procedures and arrangements to promote and guarantee the welfare and protection of young people. This will help to enhance the young people's experience as a safe, effective and enjoyable learning experience.

NOTE

With this regard, all participants directly involved in Youth in Action projects must be insured against the risks linked to their participation in these projects. The Youth in Action Programme does not define a unique format of insurance, nor does it recommend specific insurance companies, **except for the EVS activity (see below)**. The Programme leaves it up to project partners to seek the most suitable insurance policy according to the type of project carried out and to the insurance formats available at national level. Furthermore, it is not necessary to stipulate a project-specific insurance, if the participants are already covered by insurance policies previously stipulated by the project partners.

In any circumstances, the following areas must be covered:

- wherever relevant, travel insurance (including damage or loss of luggage);
- third party liability (including, wherever appropriate, professional indemnity or insurance for responsibility);
- medical assistance, including after care;
- accident and serious illness (including permanent or temporary incapacity);
- death (including repatriation in case of projects carried out abroad);
- legal assistance fees;
- wherever relevant, special insurance for particular circumstances such as outdoor activities.

Finally, if projects involve young people under 18, project partners are requested to ask the parents or those acting on their behalf, the authorization of participation.

With regards to the European Voluntary Service, the coordinator of the selected project will register the volunteer(s) to the "Group Insurance Plan for EVS volunteers" foreseen by the Youth in Action Programme: An insurance Guide including all the information on the coverage and support provided, as well as instructions on the online enrolment process, is available at www.europeanbenefits.com.

► Anti-discrimination

Anti-discrimination is a core element of the Youth in Action Programme. The Programme should be accessible to all young people without any form of discrimination on grounds of gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability or sexual orientation.

► Equality between women and men

Equality between women and men was strengthened in the Treaty of Amsterdam and is one of the priorities for developing employment in the European Union. All Member States have decided to include the principle of equality between women and men (or 'gender equality') in all policies and actions at European level, particularly in the fields of education and culture. The Youth in Action Programme aims at reaching an equal number of male and female participants, not only globally, but also within each sub-Action. Furthermore, the Youth in Action Programme aims at stimulating the thematic coverage of gender equality in projects. Project partners may either set up projects focusing on a theme directly linked to gender equality (for instance: stereotypes, reproductive health, gender-based violence, etc.) or adopt a mainstreaming approach by including a gender equality dimension in all the projects they organize, whatever the main theme may be.

► Activities ensuring the coordination of the project and the visibility of the partnership

Coordination

Beneficiaries of this call will have to implement, monitor and evaluate well-structured projects with clearly identified objectives connected to activities, targets and methods applied. With this regard, independently from the implementation procedure they have opted for (see section 2.4 of the Applicants' Guidelines), they will be involved in carrying out tasks related to the coordination of the project. In particular, the following might be envisaged:

- administrative tasks linked to the management of the EU grant;
- measures aimed at disseminating and exploiting the results of the projects;
- partner-finding for specific activities planned for in the activity programme;
- selection of participants;
- contacts and relations with other project partners;
- contacts and support to participants (in particular, ensuring insurance coverage, safety and protection, crisis management, special needs, etc.).

Visibility

Furthermore beneficiaries should also reflect on measures aimed at enhancing the visibility of the partnership and the visibility of the Youth in Action Programme in general. Visibility consists in spreading information about the project, its objectives and attended results, as well as in promoting the contribution of the EU Youth in Action Programme to the realization of the project. Such measures can vary in terms of scope and nature; they can be for example:

- Organizing public events (presentations, conferences, workshops...);
- creating audio-visual products (CD-Rom, DVD...);
- setting up long-term collaborations with media (radio/TV/press contributions, interviews, participation in different radio/TV programmes);
- developing information material (newsletters, brochures, booklets, best practice manuals...); using new media tools (e-groups, web spaces, photo-galleries Internet blogs, portals etc.).

► Youth Exchanges

Within the context of this call, Youth Exchanges offer an opportunity for groups of young people from different countries to meet and learn about each other's cultures. Each of these groups is composed of at least 4 young persons per national group between 13 and 30 and it is led by an adult (group leader) who ensures their effective learning, protection and safety.

These projects involve the active participation of young people and are designed to allow them to discover and become aware of different social and cultural realities, to learn from each other and reinforce their feeling of being European citizens. A Youth Exchange is based on a trans-national partnership between two or more project partners and participants from different countries. According to the number of countries involved, a Youth Exchange can be bilateral, trilateral or multilateral.

The following activities in particular are NOT eligible for co-funding under Youth Exchanges:

- academic study trips
- exchange activities which aim to make financial profit
- exchange activities which can be classed as tourism
- festivals
- holiday travel
- language courses
- performance tours
- school class exchanges
- sports competitions
- statutory meetings of organisations
- political gatherings
- work camps.

Example of a Youth Exchange:

Since more than 25 years, the "International Order of Malta Summer Camp" takes place in a different European country. In 2009, a total of 350 young people (half of them with a kind of disability, especially physically binding them to a wheelchair) from 15 European countries met together during 8 days in Segovia, declared as an UNESCO World Heritage city.

The motto of the 2009 summer camp was "You are everything" and tried to reflect the aims and hope of equality of every camp. The main objective of the project was to provide physically disabled young people a place to share personal experiences, trying to overcome the barriers they find in their daily life, in a global European perspective of integration. The event was intended to promote solidarity and an exchange of information between participants regarding problems of young European people with different kinds of disabilities. Also, it provided transnational links of friendship between young people and a real conscience of the European Union as a human and cultural common place of citizens for solidarity, integration, innovation and peace. During the week, participants had the opportunity to exchange experiences through integration games and sports, to learn skills, to take part to organized cultural visits, workshops and outdoor activities. Finally, they had the chance to learn about national cultures, traditions, folks and gastronomy of other European countries, especially of the hosting country: Spain. Personal interaction and a human integration between all participants, everlasting after the camp through the use of new technologies, was the main challenge of the project.

► Youth Initiatives

Within the context of this call, a Youth Initiative is a project initiated, set up and carried out by young people themselves. It gives young people the chance to try out ideas through activities which give them an opportunity to be directly and actively involved in planning and carrying out projects. A Youth Initiative can be a) national: designed at local, regional or national level and developed by a single group of at least 4 young persons in its country of residence; or b) trans-national: a networking of youth initiatives jointly carried out by two or more groups from different countries each composed of at least 4 young persons aged between 18 and 30.

Young people carrying out a Youth Initiative are often supported by a coach. A coach is a resource person who has youth work and/or Youth Initiatives experience to accompany groups of young people and support their participation. S/he plays different roles depending on the needs of a given group of young people. The coach remains outside the Youth Initiative but supports the group of young people in the implementation of their project. S/he works with the young people from time to time performing specific tasks based on the needs of the group. Coaches can be volunteers or professionals, youth leaders or leaders of youth organizations, workers of youth clubs or youth services, etc.

Example of a Youth Initiative:

12 Young people from Turkey developed a project aimed at giving basic computer skills to children who are obliged to work in the streets. The group cooperated with a local NGO that works regularly with these children. Based on discussions with the children, the group learned about their situation and asked them what they would like to do; the idea of the computer training was born there. The training in computers lasted three months and the project reached some 70 children.

"Well, the most important thing at personal level was that the project enabled me to do what I wanted! You know, I felt moved by the situation of these street children. I wanted to do something! You can approach them and get to have an idea of their reality, but you need a frame to really work with them, and this is what the Youth Initiative project allowed us to achieve! The contact with the Youth Centre in the local area and the NGO cooperating with us were very helpful and important for the project. We organized different social activities, which gave the children the chance to feel less excluded. We had the impression that we succeeded in helping them that they learnt something useful and enjoyed the experience too". (Turkish member of the group)

► European Voluntary Service

Within the context of this call, the European Voluntary Service enables young people aged between 18 and 30 to carry out voluntary work lasting between 13 and 26 weeks in a country other than their country of residence. Beyond benefiting local communities, volunteers learn new skills and languages, and discover other cultures. An EVS project can focus on a variety of themes and areas of intervention, such as culture, youth, sports, social care, cultural heritage, arts, civil protection, environment, development cooperation.

Besides the young volunteer(s) involved, an EVS activity involves project partners from different countries acting as:

- Coordinating Organisation
- Sending Organisation
- Host Organisation

The EVS Charter available at http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/library/documents/evs/EVS_Charter.pdf describes the role of EVS project partners acting as Sending, Host or Coordinating Organisation. Furthermore, the Charter defines the main principles of EVS and the minimum quality standards that must be respected within an EVS project.

EVS principles to be ensured

- The non-formal learning and intercultural dimension, through a clear definition of a learning plan for the volunteer
- The service dimension through a clear definition of the non-profit-making character of the project and the volunteer tasks. Full-time service and active role of the volunteer in implementing the activities have to be ensured. EVS volunteer activities must not replace any employment
- The benefit to and the contact with the local community
- EVS is free of charge for the volunteers
- Accessibility and Inclusion: when recruiting EVS volunteers, the organizations maintain the overall accessibility of EVS for all young people, without prejudice related to ethnic group, religion, sexual orientation, political opinion, etc. If the project targets volunteers with fewer opportunities, facilities and capacity in providing tailor-made preparation, and support have to be in place

Under Action 2 of the Youth in Action Programme, EVS project partners must undergo an accreditation procedure in order to gain access to the European Voluntary Service. Such procedure is put in place in view to ensure that the minimum quality standards of EVS are met.

NOTE

Although the accreditation **is not compulsory** for the applicant and other partners involved in projects supported through this call for proposals, it is however recommended. More information on how to obtain the accreditation can be found on the Programme Guide of the Youth in Action Programme available at http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/programme/programme_guide_en.php

Furthermore, in order to facilitate the search for partners, the list of all accredited organizations is published in an on-line database available (<http://ec.europa.eu/youth/evs/aod/>), in the framework of the Youth in Action Programme. Project partners included in this database are used to host or send EVS volunteers and to deal with international mobility of young people.

The following activities in particular are NOT eligible for grants under EVS:

- occasional, unstructured, part-time volunteering
- an internship in an enterprise
- a paid job; it must not replace paid jobs
- a recreation or tourist activity
- a language course
- exploitation of a cheap workforce
- a period of study or vocational training abroad

Role of project partners in an EVS

According to the EVS Charter, project partners jointly decide how to share tasks and responsibilities and the EVS grant. The section below suggests how such roles and tasks can be shared.

Coordinating Organisation

- bears the financial and administrative responsibility for the entire project towards the Executive Agency
- coordinates the project in cooperation with all Sending and Hosting Organisations
- distributes the EVS grant between all Sending and Host Organisations
- ensures that the volunteer(s) attend(s) the full EVS Training and Evaluation Cycle
- provides support to the volunteer(s) it places in the Host Organisation(s)
- carries out all or some of the administrative tasks of the Sending or Host Organisation(s) involved in the project
- ensures, with the Sending and Host Organisations, that each volunteer is covered by insurance
- arranges with the Sending and Host Organisations a visa for the volunteer(s) who need it
- completes - together with the Sending, Host Organisation and the volunteer - and issues a Youthpass certificate to those volunteers who want to receive it at the end of their EVS

Sending Organisation

- helps the volunteer(s) to find and contact a Host Organisation
- provides adequate preparation for the volunteer(s) before departure, according to the individual needs of the volunteer(s)
- keeps in contact with the volunteer(s) and with the Host Organisation(s) during the project
- carries out, together with the volunteer(s) an evaluation of the activity upon their return
- provides support to volunteer(s) to help them reintegrate into their home community
- gives volunteers the opportunity to exchange and share experiences
- encourages the involvement of the volunteer(s) in dissemination and exploitation of results
- provides guidance regarding further education, training or employment opportunities

Host Organisation

- identifies a mentor who is responsible for providing personal support to the volunteer(s)
- offers supervision and guidance to the volunteer(s) through experienced staff
- provides personal support to volunteer(s)
- gives the volunteer(s) the opportunity to integrate into the local community, to meet other young people, to socialise, to participate in leisure activities, etc.
- encourages contact with other EVS volunteers, whenever possible
- ensures the participation of the volunteer(s) in the on-arrival training and mid-term evaluation
- arranges language learning opportunities

NOTE

Applicants under this call for proposals can either act as:

- Coordinating Organisation and Sending Organisation (Procedure A as described in section 2.4 of the "Applicants' Guidelines")
- Coordinating Organisation and Host Organisation (Procedure A as described in section 2.4 of the "Applicants' Guidelines")
- Coordinating Organisation only (Procedure B as described in section 2.4 of the "Applicants' Guidelines")

EVS Training and Evaluation Cycle

The applicant and the partners must provide that each EVS volunteer benefits of a Training and Evaluation Cycle consisting of the following:

- *Pre-departure training*

Pre-departure training gives volunteers an opportunity to talk about their expectations, develop their motivation, and obtain information on their host country and on the Youth in Action Programme. It can also be an opportunity for volunteers to meet and speak to former EVS volunteers. Duration is on average 3 days.

On-arrival training

On-arrival training takes place upon arrival in the host country. It introduces volunteers to their host country and their host environment, and helps them to get to know each other. Duration is on average 7 days.

Mid-term evaluation (for a Service lasting more than 17 weeks)

Mid-term evaluation provides volunteers with an opportunity to evaluate their experience so far, as well as to meet other volunteers from different projects throughout the host country. Duration is on average 2 and a half days.

Evaluation of the Activity

The evaluation of the Activity addresses the realisation of the EVS Activity: aims, objectives, motivation, expectations, and tasks performed during the Service. It brings together the volunteers and their Sending Organisations with the aim of reflecting on what happened during the EVS Activity and assessing the support and communication provided by the Sending Organisations. It also aims to facilitate reintegration of the volunteers into their home country. Duration is on average 3 days.

Example of a European Voluntary Service:

The multilateral EVS project at hand is a reciprocal exchange between EU and other eligible Countries. It enables 10 young people from different EU countries to engage in voluntary service projects in 8 different eligible countries, and 5 young people from these countries to-acquire experience by living and working in an EU country. The main aim of the project is to enhance young people's participation, their leadership skills and their engagement in civil society by involving them in local development activities and non-formal learning programmes that are run with and for young people, targeting particularly young people in rural areas or young people from vulnerable groups. The young volunteers will engage in a variety of local hosting projects, ranging from indigenous community projects, youth clubs and youth initiated networks to community development, cultural heritage protection and social work projects. The involvement of international volunteers in these projects will stimulate increased interest, discussion and practice of volunteerism in the host communities.

► Training and Networking

Training and Networking activities can have two main purposes:

- promoting exchanges, cooperation and training in the field of youth work. It will be developed with a view to support capacity-building and innovation among project partners, as well as the exchange of experience, expertise and good practice among those who are involved in youth work;
- fostering the development of further projects under the Youth in Action Programme. It will be developed with a view to help all potential beneficiaries to prepare and develop new projects under the Youth in Action Programme, notably by ensuring support and know-how for the development of the projects; support for partner-finding; tools and means to improve the quality of the projects.

These activities all have a trans-national character and they involve project partners and participants from different countries; within the context of this call for proposals, Training and Networking supports the following types of activities:

Job Shadowing (Practical learning experience) - A short stay with a partner organisation in another country with the aim of exchanging good practice, acquiring skills and knowledge and/or building long-term partnerships through participative observation.

Feasibility Visit - A short meeting with potential partners to explore and/or prepare for a potential trans-national project. Feasibility meetings aim to improve and develop existing cooperation and/or to prepare a future project within the Youth in Action Programme.

Evaluation Meeting - A meeting planned with partners, aiming to evaluate past meetings, seminars, training courses. These meetings help partners to evaluate and discuss potential follow-up after undertaking a common project.

Study Visit - An organised study programme, for a short period that offers a view of youth work and/or youth policy provisions in one host country. Study visits focus on a theme and consist of visits and meetings to different projects and organisations in a chosen country. A Study Visit involves up to 50 participants from different countries for a period lasting not more than 10 days.

Partnership-building Activity - An event organised with a view to allowing participants to find partners for trans-national cooperation and/or for project development. A Partnership-building Activity brings together potential partners and facilitates the development of new projects around a chosen topic and/or an Action of the Youth in Action Programme. A Partnership-building Activity involves up to 50 participants from different countries for a period lasting not more than 10 days.

Seminar - An event organised to provide a platform for discussion and exchange of good practice, based on theoretical inputs around a chosen theme or themes which are relevant to the field of youth work. A Seminar involves up to 50 participants from different countries for a period lasting not more than 10 days.

Training Course - An educational learning programme on specific topics, aiming to improve participants' competences, knowledge, skills and attitudes. Training courses lead to higher quality practice in youth work in general and/or, specifically, Youth in Action projects. A Training Course involves up to 50 participants from different countries for a period lasting not more than 10 days.

Example of a Training and Networking activity:

The feasibility visit which took place in Leuven, Belgium, brought together youth workers and volunteers in charge of EVS projects in order to discuss common rules and procedures for running the EVS programme and plan for the common engagement related to the European Year of Volunteering 2011 (EYV). The project involved 16 participants from 9 European countries who used methods of non-formal learning, sharing and open space discussions to achieve the immediate objectives set. In the course of the activity participants were able to get a sound understanding of the EVS programme and the possible themes for joint projects. They visited also a local EVS project where they met the volunteers and got an insight into what the service means for them. The variety of working sessions and points of view equipped the youth workers with skills to together run more EVS projects with better quality.

► European citizenship

Making young people aware that they are European citizens is a priority of the Youth in Action Programme. The objective is to encourage young people to reflect on European topics and to involve them in the discussion on the construction and the future of the European Union. On this basis, projects should have a strong 'European dimension' and stimulate reflection on the emerging European society and its values.

European dimension is a broad conceptual term. To reflect this, a Youth in Action project should offer young people the opportunity to identify common values with other young people from different countries in spite of their cultural differences.

Projects should also stimulate young people to reflect on the essential characteristics of European society and, above all, encourage them to play an active role in their communities. To feel European, young people must become aware of the fact that they play a role in the construction of the current and future Europe. Therefore, a project with a European dimension should not only 'discover' Europe, but also - and most importantly - aim to build it.

► Participation of young people

A main priority of the Youth in Action Programme is the active participation of young people in their daily life. The overall aim is to encourage young people to be active citizens. Participation takes the following dimensions, as laid down in the Council Resolution on the common objectives for participation by and information for young people¹:

- to increase the participation by young people in the civic life of their community;
- to increase participation by young people in the system of representative democracy;
- to provide greater support for various forms of learning to participate.

Projects funded under the Youth in Action Programme should reflect these three dimensions by using participatory approaches as a pedagogical principle for project implementation.

The following points highlight key principles of participatory approaches in Youth in Action projects:

- offering space for inter-action of participants, avoid passive listening;
- respect for individual knowledge and skills;
- ensuring influence over project decisions, not simply involvement;
- participation is a learning process as much as an outcome;
- an approach and attitude rather than a specific set of technical skills.

Participatory approaches emphasise behavioral principles. These include:

- reversing the traditional roles of outside 'experts' (a reversal of learning - from extracting to empowering);
- facilitating young people to undertake their own analysis (handing over the stick);
- self-critical awareness by facilitators;
- the sharing of ideas and information.

Participatory techniques are not just tools. The participatory approach is also a state of mind, an attitude.

In a broad sense, this priority should be seen as a key method which will enable young people to take an active part in any Youth in Action project at all stages of its development. In other words, young people should be consulted and be part of the decision making process that may affect their projects.

Moreover, the Youth in Action Programme encourages young people to get involved in projects that have a positive impact for the community in general.

1

Council Resolution (2003/C 295/04) of 25 November 2003, OJ C 295 of 5.12.2003, pp. 6-8.

► Cultural diversity

The respect for cultural diversity together with the fight against racism and xenophobia are priorities of the Youth in Action Programme. By facilitating joint activities of young people from different cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds, the Programme aims to develop the intercultural learning of young people.

As far as the development and implementation of projects are concerned, this means that young people participating in a project should become aware of its intercultural dimension. The project should stimulate awareness and reflection on the differences in values. Young people should be supported to respectfully and sensitively challenge viewpoints that perpetuate inequality or discrimination. Furthermore, intercultural working methods should be used to enable project participants to participate on an equal basis.

► Inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities

An important priority for the European Union is to give access to all young people, including young people with fewer opportunities, to the Youth in Action Programme.

Young people with fewer opportunities are young people that are at a disadvantage compared to their peers because they face one or more of the situations and obstacles mentioned in the non-exhaustive list below. In certain contexts, these situations or obstacles prevent young people from having effective access to formal and non-formal education, trans-national mobility and participation, active citizenship, empowerment and inclusion in society at large.

- **Social obstacles:** young people facing discrimination because of gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, disability, etc.; young people with limited social skills or anti-social or risky sexual behaviors; young people in a precarious situation; (ex-)offenders, (ex-)drug or alcohol abusers; young and/or single parents; orphans; young people from broken families.
- **Economic obstacles:** young people with a low standard of living, low income, dependence on social welfare system; in long-term unemployment or poverty; young people who are homeless, young people in debt or with financial problems.
- **Disability:** young people with mental (intellectual, cognitive, learning), physical, sensory or other disabilities.
- **Educational difficulties:** young people with learning difficulties; early school-leavers and school dropouts; lower qualified persons; young people with poor school performance.
- **Cultural differences:** young immigrants or refugees or descendants from immigrant or refugee families; young people belonging to a national or ethnic minority; young people with linguistic adaptation and cultural inclusion problems.
- **Health problems:** young people with chronic health problems, severe illnesses or psychiatric conditions; young people with mental health problems.
- **Geographical obstacles:** young people from remote or rural areas; young people living on small islands or peripheral regions; young people from urban problem zones; young people from less serviced areas (limited public transport, poor facilities, abandoned villages).

Youth groups and organisations should take appropriate measures to avoid exclusion of specific target groups. However, it is possible that young people confronted by one specific situation or obstacle face a disadvantage compared to their peers in one country or region, but not in another one.

The Youth in Action Programme is a Programme for all, and efforts should be made to include young people with special needs.

Beyond accessibility to all, the Youth in Action Programme also aims at being a tool to enhance the social inclusion, active citizenship and employability of young people with fewer opportunities and to contribute to social cohesion at large.