



June 4, 2014

**ATTENTION: DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS "EUROPE FOR CITIZENS":
SEPTEMBER 1, 2014!**

"agora europa": Searching for team partners in 6 European cities

Summary: We are Europe! is a Germany-based non-governmental initiative with a membership made up of 20 different European nations. Our paramount target is the creation of a European identity, spirit and people as we consider this to be a condition sine qua non of a real European Union. Within the framework of the EU programme "Europe for Citizens", we want to set up "agora europa", actually a pagoda tent serving as a mobile debate platform which we would like to build up in 6 major European cities. We would like to team up both with municipalities and non profit organisations, including civil society organisations, educational, cultural or research institutions, that are willing to set up, in cooperation with us, an "agora europa" in their city.

Details:

- ⊕ We are Europe! (WAE) is a **non-governmental organisation in Duesseldorf / Germany**, committed, since 2012, to a fundamental rearrangement of Europe: Neither „Brussels" nor national governments are called on to decide what the final shape of Europe will look like, but the Europeans themselves are. WAE members stem from 20 different countries of Europe. Lessons we learnt: Very often, intra-European conflicts are binational. Appearing, working and debating in mixed teams of Europeans – Spaniards, Polish, Dutch, French, Greeks, Germans asf. – creates a maximum credibility and is a key factor for Europe's future.

- ⊕ Democratising Europe will depend on a **step-by-step emergence of a European society** willing to discuss transnationally European issues, to act transnationally and, thus, to assume a cross-border responsibility for Europe.
- ⊕ In order to promote actively the appearance of a European society, WAE developed "**agora europa**". Following the tracks of the ancient Greek *agora*, the project intends
 - to offer a meeting-point for European citizens on central inner-city spots,
 - to make them debate fundamental topics of common European interest, be it in writing or in speaking,
 - to let them vote on these topics and
 - to publish the results of the debates and the votes.

Please find an exemplary 3-day-scheme of a typical "agora europa" attached.

- ⊕ On May 10th, 2014, on the occasion of the "Europe Day" in Duesseldorf, WAE celebrated successfully the **premiere of "agora europa"**. The questions asked to members, guests and passers-by were
 - *Parliament in search of voters: Should we go to the EU polls?*
 - *Debt, Putin, NSA: Is the EU too weak?*
 - *Preliminaries without finale don't make any sense: Do we need an Europe-wide referendum on the future of the EU?*

More information, particularly with view to the **rules** set out for the discussion, as well as pictures are available under <http://www.we-are-europe.org/en/agora-europa-114.html>.¹



¹ Please note that all written comments of the participants are only available in the German edition of the website: <http://www.we-are-europe.org/de/schriftliche-kommentare-127.html>.

⊕ WAE intends to organize, from January 2nd, 2015 to December 18th, 2015, an “agora europa” in six European cities. Each agora is supposed to last 2 – 3 days. We are looking for

- municipalities and
- local non profit organisations, including civil society organisations, educational, cultural or research institutions

that are willing to be our partners and to organize the “agora europa” with us, in line with the regulations of the EU programme “Europe for Citizens”.

⊕ The contributions and roles of the partners are as follows:

- The **municipality** that is interested in hosting an “agora europa”, is asked to support the project, in particular by
 - embedding the “agora europa” in urban inner-city events that are scheduled for the period from January to December 2015,
 - declaring its support of the project to the EU authorities,
 - offering an appropriate site for the pagoda tent,
 - granting the necessary approvals or licences.
- The **local non-profit organisation** takes care, in cooperation with WAE, for the practical implementation of the “agora europa”, in particular by
 - elaborating the schedule of the agora,
 - inviting the guests of the agora, e.g. MEP’s, writers, intellectuals asf.,
 - assisting WAE in pitching the tent,
 - providing tables, chairs, technical equipment asf.,
 - providing a team of 6 to 8 persons who run, in partnership with WAE members, the “agora europa”,
 - taking reasonable efforts to provide cheap accommodation for foreign, notably young guests from all countries of Europe (e.g. students).
- **WAE**
 - will bear responsibility for the entire application procedure to receive funds from the EU programme “Europe for Citizens”,
 - will provide the pagoda tent and take responsibility of carrying it to the respective cities,
 - will co-develop the schedule of the agora, in partnership with the local partner,
 - will provide a team of 4 to 6 WAE members to run the “agora europa” in the respective city.

- ⊕ The “agora europa” is held in the **language** of the respective country. The working language among the local partners and WAE is English.
- ⊕ WAE decided to apply for **funding within the EU programme “Europe for Citizens”**:
 - Applicable is strand 2 “Democratic Engagement and civic participation”, measure “Civil society projects”.
 - The 2014 priority of strand 2 is “elections to the European Parliament and citizens' participation in the democratic life of the EU”. “agora europa” meets perfectly this priority.
 - All partners of “agora europa” will set up a budget of the entire project. The maximum eligible EU grant is 150.000 €. It is expected that this amount covers the costs of the project. If not, the remaining costs are borne by the partners.
 - The deadline for submissions is Sept 1st, 2014, 12:00 h CET.
 - More information on “Europe for Citizens” under http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens_en

Interested in setting up a partnership with We are Europe? Excellent! Please

☎ call: We are Europe!, Dr. Jens Baganz, chairman, tel +49 211 43831755

☎ mail: you@we-are-europe.org

☎ write: We are Europe! e.V., An der Alten Muehle 4, D-40489 Duesseldorf, Germany

Thank you!