

07/05/2010

ANNA COZZOLI's SPEECH

The workshop started with short up-date about what's new in "Europe for Citizens" programme by Ms A.Cozzoli.

Ms Cozzoli informed, that ECPs will receive in the end of May the results of the selection process from the February 2010 - one day before publishing on EACEAs website (there was 1 500 applications for Action 2 Measure 3; 700 applicants for Town-twinning - 9% of those were not eligible). We will also receive the list of partner organisations of selected applicants and the list of rejected projects (those two won't be published on the EACEA website). Ms Cozzoli said that the recent expectations of the EACEA to ECPs are to promote and disseminate as much as it is possible the information about Action 1, Measure 2.1 (Citizens Panels) and Measure 2.2 (support measure) within big, national NGOs and associations of the local authorities.

Question from Romania concerning final payment of the ECPs grant.

Ms Cozzoli: We cannot increase a rate of any item in the budget, if it exceeds 20% of the total grant (beneficiaries - 10%) without requesting EACEA (request must be made by the legal representative).

Question from Austria concerning the change of the legal representative

Ms Cozzoli: there should be legal notice made to EACEA with some official document attached (e.g. nomination)

Ms Cozzoli informed then that from now on all rejected organisations will receive the official letter from EACEA with the reasons of rejection of their project.

REFORM of the Action 1

Ms Cozzoli mentioned that EACEA would like to reform Action 1, Measure 1.1 - the weakness of the town-twinning is bilateral cooperation (more then 80% of applicants). Thus, from now on EACEA will favor more interesting projects (valuable content!) which include multilateral partnership /e.g. Madrid can not do bilateral projects - we should move on!/. Moreover, EACEA will try to give better support applicants from countries which traditionally had a small amount of nominations.

Ms Cozzoli informed also that EACEA will introduce new calculation method within the Town-Twinning (no more flat rates!). EACEA is going to introduce fix amount of money depending on the number of the participants which should cover all costs, e.g. for meeting of max. 40 participants the applicant will get 500 euro, for meeting of 40-80 participants the applicant will get 700-800 euro.

The amount of the grant will be fixed for all countries according to the average number of participants engaged in town twinning till this time. This reform will be implemented in 2011 so the Programme Guide will be changed by the end of this year.

CHANGES - Action 2

EACEA favors those applicants who will concentrate on the European Policy discussion/debate - unfortunately, it seems that max. grant of 55 000 euro is a limitation for participants.

Question from Spain: Can you specify what kind of projects should be realize within Action 2 Measure 3?

Ms Cozzoli:

1. Applicants must be civil society organisations.
2. The content of the projects should include the debate about European policy.

3. Broad dissemination of the results is highly appreciated.
4. It is important for EACEA that project reaches as much citizens as it is possible - making them aware about European policy and collecting information about their needs.
5. The best examples of projects are those where participants work during the conferences in small groups but then multiply the results of the project broadly.

The future reform of Action 2, Measure 3 is:

- to allow production of other, more innovative communication tools (now it is limited to publication, website, CD/DVD-ROM)
- to increase the amount of the grant covered by Commission within "production and realisation" projects from 60% to 70%

REMARK from ECPs - also timing should be expanded from 12 to 8 months

SOPHIE BEERNAERTS's Speech

Ms Beernaerts started with introduction of herself. Then she underlined that the Unit 2 of Citizens Policy (DG Communication) is focusing now on developing "Europe for Citizens" Programme. Ms Beernaerts invited all participants to the training for the Europe for Citizens National Contact Points which will take place on 21-22 June in Brussels. The main aim of the meeting is to discuss the strategic objectives and possible actions, which can be introduced to the new Citizens Programme 2014-2020. During the training, ECPs will have one afternoon to meet and discuss their own strategy. Then ECPs will meet with representatives of the Commission.

Ms Beernaerts informed participants about the new call for proposals within Action 3 which will take place in autumn 2010. National NGOs can apply for organizing multi-partnership projects which aims in organizing big national events referring to the European Year of Volunteering 2011. Maximum 2 projects will be assigned for 1 country. Selected projects should have long-lasting effects, good visibility and good media coverage. Moreover, DG Communication has just signed contract with pan-European company which will be responsible for promotion and dissemination information about all events, which will be held during the European Year of Volunteering 2011 across European Union.

Ms Beernaerts informed that EACEA will also launch in autumn 2010 annual grants for Action 2, Measure 1 and 2.

Next, Ms Beernaerts presented the new leaflet about "Europe for Citizens" Programme prepared by the DG Communication which is published in 6 languages and available on the Citizenship website. There is a request from the Commission to send to Stephanie Demart (stephanie.demart@ec.europa.eu) national leaflets in PDF format which can be published then on the Citizenship website.

Finally, Ms Beernaerts informed all participants that from now on ECPs should use only European Commission and the Citizenship logos.

WORKSHOP moderated by Ms Marie Renier

Ms Marie Renier started informing ECPs, that the next ECPs Informal Meeting will take place in November 2010 in Brussels and will be linked to the Golden Stars Award Ceremony.

The suggested timetable of the meeting is:

15-16th November - ECPs informal meeting

17th November - Golden Stars Award Ceremony.

Ms Renier suggested that during this meeting Contact Points can present their national communication tools (publications, websites, leaflets, gadgets). There will be also possibility for eager ECPs to present in the forum their national strategy of informing possible beneficiaries about the "Europe for Citizens" Programme.

Slovenian remark: Each ECP should present their own good practices in promotion.

Lithuanian remark: The common desk should be provided where all ECPs will lay out their communication products.

Austrian remark: ECPs could present in the forum also their presentation used during workshops/seminars organized on the national level (it could be shown in national language because all knows the content).

Spanish remark: In Spain they do not use PowerPoint presentation but give a spontaneous speech.

Finnish remark: It is a good idea to share our publications and presentations from national seminars.

Ms Renier asked if there are any other suggestions what should be included during the next ECPs informal meeting?

Ms Beernaerts remark: The workshop concerning filling in the e-Form should be included in the agenda

Ms Cozzoli remark: This can be done also during the training in the end of June.

Swedish question: Is it possible that EACEA prepares a model e-Form and share it with ECPs?

Ms Cozzoli answer: It is better to discuss in a joint forum a content of the e-Form while it gives an opportunity to ask specific questions for everyone.

Moreover, if any ECP has any specific question concerning the content of the e-Form till the time of the training in June, just ask via e-mail or phone EACEA.

Finnish remark: During the next ECPs informal meeting we should discuss also what kinds of seminars/workshops are organized on the national level.

Ms Renier passed then to the next point written in Agenda: Template for "Questions and answers".

ECP should introduce to their work the Excell sheet where they will put all questions concerning implementation of the "Europe for Citizens" programme which will be sent to the EACEA and when EACEA answers, Excell sheet will be sent then by EACEA to all ECPs (Culture programme has already introduced this tool to their work) via common mailing list. The questions will be continually added to the one template. The Excell sheet will contain columns as following: question, key word, answer.

Spanish remark: ECPs should also run a blog like CCPs have, where they publish not only the newest version of the Excell sheet but also information about the national beneficiaries, announcements of partner search, examples of good practices, final reports from the informal meetings, etc. Spanish ECP asked Slovenian ECP to adapt existing CCP's blog for ECPs needs.

Slovenian answer: We will contact with the Slovenian CCP's team and then inform ECPs about the possibilities of converting their blog for the purpose of ECPs.

Ms Cozzoli: The request to all ECPs - please do not send us questions for which answers can be easily found in the Programme Guide. First check in the Programme Guide if it contains an answer for your question and then if not - send the question via email to the Agency.

Austrian remark: The aim of the Excell sheet is to do not load EACEA with the same questions of each ECP.

Slovenian remark: First we should collect all frequently asked questions from all ECPs, put it into the Excell sheet and then forward to the EACEA.

Austrian remark: Austrian ECP will prepare the basic sheet, then share it among all ECPs and next send it to the EACEA with the request of answering the questions. The basic template will be done by the end of the month.

Ms Cozzoli: EACEA cannot agree to cooperate with ECPs in filling in the Excell sheet. It seems that this template causes too many problems and work for EACEA. Thus, EACEA won't answer questions within Excell sheet.

Ms Renier concludes workshop with following remarks:

1. Slovenian ECP will check is it possible to introduce an ECP blog based on the CCP's blog.
2. Austrian ECP will prepare an empty template for "Questions and answers" and then send it to all ECPs. Each national Contact Points coordinator will fill in the Excell sheet with specific questions and send it back to Ms Meena Lang. The deadline is the end of summer. Ms Lang will collect all questions and forward the completed sheet to EACEA.
3. The report of the Spanish informal meeting will be published within next 2 weeks on the Spanish website of the meeting.

Done by: Anna Samel (ECP Poland)