

CALL FOR PROPOSALS — EAC/01/11

European Policy Network on the Education of Children and Young People with a Migrant Background (2011/C 183/08)

1. OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this call is to strengthen cross-European collaboration between high level decision makers, academics and practitioners for raising the educational attainment of children and young people from a migrant background.

The call aims to support the establishment of a European network to analyse, develop and exchange policy and practice in the area.

It should address the issues raised by the November 2009 Council conclusions on the education of children from a migrant background and stimulate high-level cooperation between Member State policy makers responsible for social inclusion through education, including cooperation between authorities in the countries of origin and host countries.

The network should actively stimulate transnational cooperation primarily at governmental level, but also at the level of experts and practitioners, in detail the network should:

IDENTIFY good policy practices in the education of children and young people with a migrant background;

ANALYSE the main challenges in the implementation and coordination of national and regional policies addressing this target group across the participating countries;

PROVIDE a clearing house for relevant policy designs, programmes and initiatives in this area which is easily accessible to national and regional policymakers;

STIMULATE AND DISSEMINATE innovative policies and practical programmes in this area;

PROVIDE innovative ideas for trans-national cooperation in the area, including among host and origin countries;

INFLUENCE policy development in participating countries, including by actively engaging national and regional stakeholders in its activities and by fostering ownership of the initiatives developed within the network in the participating countries

2. ACTIVITIES

The network will define annual works to:

DEVELOPING AND MANAGING A PLATFORM to facilitate transnational exchange and contacts between national and regional policy makers, practitioners, researchers and other stakeholders (e.g. through study visits, peer learning exchanges, or thematic groups working on issues of common interest);

EXPLORING INNOVATIVE FORMS OF COOPERATION between authorities in the countries or regions of origin and host countries or regions and identifying areas for joint projects;

ANALYSING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF POLICIES AND PRACTICES in the education of children and young people with a migrant background, anticipating future challenges both at national/regional and European level, including issues linked to possible "implicit" racial and ethnic discrimination; identifying and disseminating innovative policy, practice and programmes in the countries covered; supporting the transfer of successful models;

ANALYSING AND REPORTING on participating countries' progress in the implementation of relevant Council conclusions and identifying gaps in implementation or coverage of national policies addressing the target group;

DISSEMINATING a wide range of relevant information in a timely, accessible and useable form to policymakers, practitioners and relevant stakeholders, at European, national and regional level; making

inputs to European policy developments in education and training and organizing collaboration with relevant European networks

3. OUTPUT EXPECTED

By the end of its **first year** of operation, the European Policy Network would be expected to have:

- established the network infrastructure, roles and responsibilities;
- identified a limited number of priority policies through which national developments can best be aided by means of European policy co-operation;
- identified and trialed mechanisms of co-operation and dissemination;
- established a work programme for the next year.

By the end of its **second year** of operation, the Network would be expected to have:

- established a mechanism linking a relevant number of policy makers, researchers and stakeholders across the EU working on those areas;
- begun to gather and disseminate policy analysis and research on the effectiveness of policies for increasing educational achievements for children and young people with a migrant background;
- brought forward a preliminary framework of evidence-based recommendations on policy development, coordination and implementation;
- reported on policy developments in the participating countries;
- established a work programme for the next year.

By the end of its **third year** of operation the Network would be expected to have:

- undertaken policy analysis and research on the preliminary policy recommendations, and gathered evidence and information on the implementation and impact of such policies;
- revised and updated the framework of evidence-based recommendations on policy developments and implementation, using the evidence gathered;
- disseminated a wide range of information in a timely, accessible and useable form to policymakers and relevant stakeholders, at European, national and regional level;
- provided support for the transfer of relevant policy approaches from countries with a long experience in the education of children and young people with a migrant background to countries which have only recently started to register significant numbers of migrant students in their education systems;
- assisted the establishment and development of national networks and policy coordination mechanisms on the education of children and young people with a migrant background;
- contributed to a European initiative to improve educational achievements for migrants across all sectors of education and training.

In order to reach the overall objectives of the call, the Network should

Organize seminars, workshops or conferences with international participation;

Elaborate a concise report on the progress of the countries represented in the network in implementing the agenda set out in the 2009 Council Conclusions and in improving the educational achievement of children with a migrant background at the start of the work of the network;

Elaborate a concise report on the progress achieved in the countries covered by the network during the period of the framework agreement;

Elaborate guides for practitioners on the thematic areas chosen by the network in the annual working plans;

Implement policy relevant recommendations at regional, national and European level for improving the education of children and young people with a migrant background. The report could discuss the potential for innovative future cooperation between host and origin countries or regions or between traditional and new immigration countries and could propose ways for furthering collaboration at European level, including ways of stimulating the strategic use of existing European programmes and of the structural funds in the area.

Adopt suitable means for disseminating information to national and regional policymakers and stakeholders, in order to reach a high number of relevant policymakers and practitioners in the participating countries;

involve top level policy-makers from participating countries in transnational exchanges on topics chosen by the network.

4. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

This call for proposals is open to:

- ministries of education,
- other public bodies,
- research centres and universities,
- foundations,
- associations.

Applications must be submitted by a legal person. Applicants must submit a copy of the applicant organisation's articles of association and official certificate of legal registration.

Applications from legal entities established in one of the following countries are eligible:

- EU Member States,
- EFTA countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland,
- candidate countries: Turkey, Croatia.

The network should include organisations from at least 12 countries participating in the Lifelong Learning Programme, particularly those which have large numbers of migrant students or have experienced recent increases in the numbers of children and young people with a migrant background. In order to ensure an effective policy focus, the network should include **Education Ministries from EU Member States**.

5. BUDGET AND DURATION

The framework agreement will last from 2012 until 2014.

The total budget earmarked for the co-financing of this network amounts to **EUR 500 000 for 2012**.

For years 2 and 3, the Commission will invite the network with whom the framework partnership agreement has been signed, to provide annually a detailed work programme for the next year of operation and a corresponding budget in order to conclude specific agreements for a grant for an action for each year of operation.

Financial assistance from the Commission cannot exceed 75 % of the total eligible costs.

The maximum duration of projects is 36 months.

6. DEADLINE

Applications must be sent to the Commission no later than **14 October 2011**.