



КОМИСИЯ НА ЕВРОПЕЙСКИТЕ ОБЩНОСТИ

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**СЪОБЩЕНИЕ НА КОМИСИЯТА ДО ЕВРОПЕЙСКИЯ ПАРЛАМЕНТ, СЪВЕТА,
ЕВРОПЕЙСКИЯ ИКОНОМИЧЕСКИ И СОЦИАЛЕН КОМИТЕТ И КОМИТЕТА
НА РЕГИОНИТЕ**

**Дебат Европа — използване на натрупания опит от План Д за
Демокрация, Диалог и Дебати**

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ВЪВЕДЕНИЕ

През юни 2005 г. Европейският съвет призова за период на размисъл за начина, по който да бъде продължена институционалната реформа¹. В отговор на този призив Европейската комисия прие „План Д за Демокрация, Диалог и Дебати“ на 13 октомври 2005 г.². Целта на този план беше страните-членки да бъдат насърчени да организират, с подкрепата на институциите на ЕС, широка обществена дискусия за бъдещето на Европейския съюз, в която да участват граждани, представители на гражданското общество, социални партньори, национални парламенти и политически партии.

Основните ръководни принципи на План Д бяха за „по-добро вслушване“, „по-ясно обясняване“ и „работа на местно ниво“, за да бъдат ангажирани гражданите. Този план породил консултация за бъдещето на Европа от вид, който допълни консултациите със заинтересовани страни и с широката общественост по специфични политически предложения.

План Д започнал с шест транснационални проекта на европейски граждани, ръководени от организации на гражданското общество (Приложение 1). Целта на тези проекти беше да бъдат изпробвани новаторски методи за консултация и да бъде дадена възможност на хора от различни обществени сфери да се свържат помежду си като европейски граждани и да обсъждат бъдещето на ЕС.

През юни 2006 г. Европейският съвет отчете приноса на Комисията към периода за размисъл и отбелязал, че ангажиментът на ЕС да стане по-демократичен, по-прозрачен и ефективен продължава и след периода за размисъл. Също така отбелязал, че „засиленият диалог с гражданите изисква подходящи средства и всеотдайни усилия“³ и препоръчал периодът за размисъл да бъде продължен и през 2007 г.

През ноември 2006 г. Комисията отговори на този призив с информационна бележка, озаглавена „План Д — Разширяване и задълбочаване на дебата за Европа“, в която използва наученото през първата година⁴. Комисията потвърди своя ангажимент за предприемане на действия по план Д. Тя също така реши да съфинансира нова поредица от проекти на гражданското общество със специален акцент върху младежта, жените и върху „работата на място“.

¹ Декларация на държавните и правителствени ръководители на държавите-членки на Европейския съюз относно ратифицирането на Договора за създаване на Конституция за Европа, Европейски съвет, 16-17 юни, 2005, параграф 4.

² COM(2005) 494, 13.10.2005.

³ Заключение на Председателството на Европейския съвет, 15-16 юни, параграф 3.

⁴ SEC(2006) 1553.

Периодът на размисъл приключи през юни 2007 г., когато Европейският съвет постигна съгласие за мандат за нова Междуправителствена конференция (МПК), която да реформира институционалната рамка на Съюза. МПК приключи през октомври и „Договорът за реформа“ беше подписан през декември 2007 г. в Лисабон. Тези събития отбелязаха нов етап на развитие, като ратификацията на новия договор ще бъде последвана от европейските избори през юни 2009 г. Европейският съвет подчерта изключителната важност на по-честото и по-добро общуване с гражданите чрез предоставянето на изчерпателна информация за Европейския съюз и чрез тяхното включване в постоянен диалог.⁵

През октомври 2007 г. Комисията прие съобщение „Да общуваме на тема Европа в партньорство“⁶. Неговата главна цел е да се засили последователността и взаимодействието между дейностите, предприемани от различните институции на ЕС и от държавите-членки, с оглед на това да се предостави на гражданите по-добър достъп и по-добро разбиране за въздействието на политиките на ЕС на европейско, национално и местно равнище.

Настоящото Съобщение разглежда въпроса за бъдещето на подхода, „за по-добро вслушване, по-ясни обяснения и работа на местно ниво“, изложен в План Д и прилаган от 2005 г. до 2007 г. С известни изменения този подход ще бъде продължен през 2008 г. и през 2009 г. докато се провежда процесът на ратификация на Договора от Лисабон и предвид следващите европейски избори.

Неговата задача е да допринесе за една от основите цели на комуникационната политика на Комисията – приобщаването на гражданите чрез достъп до информация, за да бъдат в състояние да провеждат аргументирано обсъждане на европейски въпроси.

1. ОЦЕНКА НА ПЛАН Д—РЕЗУЛТАТИ И НАТРУПАН ОПИТ

План Д се стремеше да подпомага двустранния диалог — провеждан както в лични така и във виртуални срещи — между европейските институции и гражданите на Съюза, с цел да се насърчи създаването на европейско обществено пространство. Този подход се оказва особено полезен за отварянето на дискусия за бъдещето на Европа след като Франция и Холандия отхвърлиха Договора за създаване на Конституция за Европа.

Наред с други програми, управлявани от Комисията и от останалите институции и органи на ЕС, План Д изигра важна роля в изпробването на новаторски подходи, чрез които организации на гражданското общество биха могли да включват граждани от всички слоеве на обществото в дискусии относно бъдещето на Европа, като се комбинират:

- виртуално общуване и лични срещи,
- съвещателни консултации и изследване на общественото мнение,
- консултации на национално, презгранично и общоевропейско ниво.

⁵ SI (2007) 500.

⁶ COM(2007) 568, 3.10.2007.

Обсъжданията в Интернет бяха проведени на страницата „Дебат Европа“⁷. Представителствата на Комисията и центровете „Europa Direct“ дадоха голям принос. Посещенията в рамките на „План Д“, извършени от членове на Комисията, изиграха важна роля за установяването на връзка с националните парламенти, с гражданското общество, с лидери от средите на бизнеса и профсъюзни ръководители, с регионалните и местните власти на страните-членки. Това потвърди важността на личните контакти и представянето на ЕС с „човешко лице“.

По-конкретно, като част от План Д Комисията съфинансира проекти на гражданското общество. На случаен принцип бяха избрани граждани, които се срещнаха помежду си, както на национално, така и на международно ниво. Беше им предоставена необходимата информация (напр. документацията относно въпросите за обсъждане, след проверка от представителна група от членове на Европейския парламент), както и средства, с които да преодолеят езиковата бариера, така че да могат да използват майчиния си език по време на целия процес на консултации. В резултат на това, те бяха в състояние да навлязат в сериозни дискусии с лицата, отговорни за взимането на решения, и да отправят препоръки за бъдещето на ЕС. Приблизително 40 000 души взеха участие с шестте транснационални проекта по План Д и се оценяват на стотици хиляди виртуалните участници чрез Интернет. В различни етапи на тези проекти организациите на гражданското общество, които ги ръководеха, предаваха и разпространяваха изразените от гражданите възгледи чрез своите политически и медийни мрежи от контакти.

Проектите на гражданското общество по План Д показаха, че демокрацията на участието може успешно да допълва представителната демокрация. Те потвърдиха резултатите, получени от други видове граждански програми, а именно че съвещателните прояви предлагат на участващите в тях едновременно човешки и политически опит. Без значение какво е мнението им за ЕС, по време на консултациите възгледите на гражданите претърпяха значително развитие. В края на процеса, те имаха силно желание да получават обратна връзка с лицата, отговорни за взимането на решения и по-специално с институциите и органите на ЕС.

По тази причина през декември 2007 г. Комисията организира заключителна конференция за шестте граждански проекта по План Д. Тя беше под надслов „Бъдещето на Европа—програма на гражданите“. За първи път на общоевропейско ниво гражданите, които бяха взели участие в различни транснационални проекти за демокрация на участието, имаха възможността да обобщят своите желания и да ги изразят пряко пред лицата, отговорни за взимането на решения.

Последвалите препоръки бяха отправени във формата на отворено писмо към държавните и правителствени ръководители на ЕС, към националните парламенти, институциите на ЕС и европейските политически партии, изпратено преди провеждането на Европейския съвет през месец декември (Приложение 2). Това писмо призова европейските политически партии да вземат под внимание тези препоръки в своите програми и да ги обсъждат с гражданите в надпреварата за изборите за Европейски парламент през 2009 г. Също така прикани правителствените и държавни

⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/wallstrom/communicating/conference/dialogue/index_en.htm.
[index_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/wallstrom/communicating/conference/dialogue/index_en.htm).

ръководители на ЕС да насърчават развитието на активно европейско гражданство на всички нива на управление.

Гражданските проекти показаха няколко начина, по които това може да бъде постигнато, като изпробваха:

- Интернет страница за европейски обсъждания, свързана с мрежа от национални под-страници за обсъждания, в съчетание с местни, национални и европейски дискуссионни прояви;
- многоезикова, интерактивна Интернет страница, чието съдържание беше определено от работни групи от различните държави на ЕС и беше приспособено според резултатите, получени от работни срещи на целевите групи;
- национални консултации върху същите въпроси, които се проведеха приблизително по същото време, и доведоха до обобщения на европейско равнище;
- общоевропейска съвещателна анкета, в която произволно избрана част от анкетираното население се събра за три дни и проведе разисквания „лице в лице“;
- местни дискуссионни прояви в няколко страни-членки на ЕС, съчетани с проучване на общественото мнение и видеозапис на възгледите на гражданите.

Тези проекти показаха, че развитието на демокрацията на участието по въпроси, свързани с ЕС, може да бъде осъществено на местно, регионално, национално и трансгранично ниво, както от гледна точка на качеството, така и на логистиката.

Що се отнася до съдържанието, проектите показаха, че понякога има разминаване между очакванията на гражданите и действителните компетенции на ЕС, например в областта на социалните въпроси, образованието и дипломацията/отбраната. След своето участие в консултациите, хората опознаха по-добре процеса за взимане на решения в ЕС. В края на този процес те имаха по-ясна представа как да поставят въпроси пред лицата, отговорни за взимането на решения, и как в бъдеще да намаляват разстоянието между лицата, които разработват политики, и гражданите.

От проектите могат да бъдат научени интересни уроци и относно избора на подходящ момент, на участници, обучението на модератори, техническото обезпечение на презгранични и многоезикови дискусии, също така относно вида информация и уменията, необходими, за да се гарантира, че граждани от различни слоеве на обществото са в състояние да провеждат аргументирана дискусия по европейски въпроси. Лесният достъп до научни становища и опит е изключително необходим в процеси с участие на обществото, които включват заинтересовани неспециалисти и лицата, които разработват политики.

2. „ДЕБАТ ЕВРОПА“—БЪДЕЩО РАЗВИТИЕ

В първия си етап, План Д се съсредоточи върху „дебати и диалог“. Последващите действия на План Д ще доразвият този процес и ще се съсредоточат върху „Д като демокрация“, предоставяйки още по-голяма възможност на гражданите пряко да формулират своите желания пред лицата, отговорни за взимане на решения, и използвайки по-ефективно медиите в този процес. По тази причина новият етап ще бъде наречен „Дебат Европа“ — на името на Интернет страницата на Комисията, посветена на План Д.

Дебат Европа ще действа, както следва:

1. Като дава израз на консултациите, проведени между гражданското общество и лицата, отговорни за взимането на решения. Заключениета, направени от гражданите, ще бъдат обобщавани от самите граждани и ще изпратени на избраните политици, политически партии и фондации. Централен момент ще бъдат дебатите между граждани и политици по предложенията, които се съдържат в гражданските програми. В този процес, „Дебат Европа“ ще се възползва от новия политически и институционален контекст в Европа, включително и от новия Регламент⁸ относно статута на политическите партии и фондации на европейско равнище.
2. Като включва близко сътрудничество и, където е възможно, общи действия между европейските институции и органи, за да се постигне възможно най-голям ефект от техните опити да насърчават активното европейско гражданство (граждански форуми; комуникационните стратегии на Европейския парламент преди изборите през 2009 г. и обсъжданията „Агора“ с организации на гражданското общество; както и инициативите на Комитета на регионите и Европейския икономически и социален комитет).
3. Като използва по-активно вече съществуващите инициативи на ЕС, включително програмите на Комисията, които насърчават активното гражданство — напр. програмата „Европа за гражданите“, Европейският фонд за интеграция на граждани на трети страни, програмите за социално сближаване и борба с бедността, други еднократни инициативи за отбелязване на Европейската година на межкултурния диалог (2008 г.) и Европейската година на творчеството и иновациите, както и Подготвителното действие за електронно участие и свързаните с него дейности, както и инициативата за „електронно включване“. По този начин „Дебат Европа“ ще подкрепи усилията на Комисията да обясни допълнителната стойност на политиките на ЕС за гражданите (напр. успехите на вътрешния пазар—таксите за роуминг на мобилните телефони, нискобюджетните полети, опазването на околната среда и борбата срещу изменението на климата).
4. Като проведе други успешни действия по План Д (дискусии по Интернет, които да сближат служители на ЕС и гражданите; сътрудничество между информационните служби на Комисията и Европейския парламент, като използват предаването на информация за ЕС за „работа на местно ниво“).

2.1. Свързване на гражданските дебати с представителни политически органи

Съществува общо желание да се преодолее пропастта, разделяща политиката на национално и европейско ниво. Европейските политически партии се нуждаят от подкрепа в усилията си да се ангажират в дебатите, които се провеждат във всяка една национална обществена сфера. Особено по време на европейски предизборни кампании европейските въпроси трябва да излязат на преден план и е необходимо гражданите да разберат въздействието върху тяхното ежедневие на политическия избор, които те правят на европейско ниво.

⁸ Регламент (ЕО) № 1524/2007 на Европейския парламент и на Съвета от 18 декември 2007 г.

„Дебат Европа“ ще действа като катализатор за укрепване на настоящите инициативи на Комисията за преодоляване на тази пропаст. „Дебат Европа“ ще съфинансира общевропейски проект за консултиране с гражданите, управляван от граждански обществени организации в партньорство с експертни центрове (think-tanks), научноизследователски организации и университети, политически партии и фондации. Дебатът също така ще насърчи действия на национално и регионално ниво, позволяващи на граждани от всички слоеве на обществото да дискутират, да обобщават своите възгледи, да ги обсъждат с лицата, отговорни за вземането на решения, като привлекат медиите.

Благоприятно въздействие върху „Дебат Европа“ ще има новият регламент на ЕС относно политическите партии и фондации, който е една от практическите мерки, произтичащи от първия етап на План Д. Регламентът разширява обхвата на дейност на европейските политически партии и подкрепя развитието на европейски политически фондации, които ще изиграят важна роля за включването на гражданите в постоянен, откровен и аргументиран политически диалог.

През 2007 г. тези фондации предадоха планове за действие на Комисията, чиято цел бе да развият редица пилотни дейности през 2008 г.: обучения за повишаване на осведомеността на гражданите за предстоящите европейски избори, целенасочени комуникационни инициативи, интернет сайтове, брошури и създаване на мрежи с национални фондации и експертни центрове (think-tanks). От септември 2008 г. политическите фондации ще получават постоянни субсидии.

„Дебат Европа“ ще подкрепи тези усилия, като покани политическите фондации да съдействат при консултациите с гражданите, провеждани от гражданско общество.

2.2. Засилване на сътрудничеството с Европейския парламент

Конференцията „Бъдещето на Европа - програма за гражданите“, проведена през декември 2007 г. в рамките на План Д показва, че европейските институции имат повече въздействие, когато обединят усилия и участват заедно в прояви за диалог с гражданите. Това за тях е възможност да демонстрират целия спектър на европейска демокрация. Това от своя страна позволява на гражданите да разберат по-добре процеса на вземане на решения в ЕС. Тази форма на междуинституционално сътрудничество ще бъде заложена в проектите на „Дебат Европа“ на европейско, национално и регионално равнище.

В своята комуникационна стратегия за изборите Европейският парламент призовава за по-тясно сътрудничество между европейските институции. „Дебат Европа“ ще допринесе да се отговори на тази необходимост. Наистина, сътрудничество не само с Европейския парламент, но и с Комитета на регионите и Европейския икономически и социален комитет е решаващ за насърчаване на активно европейското гражданство. Всяка институция/ орган придоби значителен опит в организирането на граждански форуми.

Комисията е готова да работи със следващите европейски председателства, които желаят да организират граждански срещи, включващи различните институции и органи на ЕС, като по този начин се предоставя платформа, която да изрази пред европейските ръководители, отговорни за вземането на решения, перспективата на гражданите по конкретни въпроси.

2.3. Създаване на взаимно допълване между програмите на Комисията

„Дебат Европа“ ще допълни и действа съвместно с други програми на Комисията, които насърчават активно европейското гражданство. Отличителна черта на проектите „Дебат Европа“ ще бъде тяхното междуинституционално, политическо и медийно измерение — резултатът от консултациите, организирани на регионално, национално и общоевропейско ниво, ще представлява аргументиран обществен дебат между граждани и политици от държавите-членки и от всички европейски институции.

Общите условия на поканите за предложения „Дебат Европа“ ще гарантират, че избраните проекти вземат под внимание общите политически усилия на Комисията да насърчава активно европейско гражданство, и по-специално:

- Програмата „Европа за гражданите“, която насърчава активно европейско гражданство, като осигурява подкрепа на редица участници (местни органи, гражданско общество, бизнес и потребителски организации, граждани), така че те да могат да действат, да дискутират, обсъждат и да се създават контакти помежду си по различни начини — както традиционни (дейности за побратимяване на градове, транснационални проекти на гражданското общество), така и новаторски (например граждански дискуссионни групи);
- Европейската година на Межкултурния диалог през 2008 г., в която са включени всички европейски институции и органи, и Европейска година на иновациите и творчеството през 2009 г.;
- Европейските политически фондации и партии, които се стремят да повишат гражданската осведоменост за предстоящите европейски избори с подкрепата на Общността;
- Европейския фонд за интеграция на граждани на трети страни. Интеграцията на имигранти е процес, в който съществува тясно партньорство между различните нива на правителствени и неправителствени участници като работодатели, съюзи, религиозни организации, гражданско общество, имигрантски асоциации, медии и неправителствени организации, подпомагащи мигранти;
- Подготвителното действие за „електронно включване“, което цели, използвайки нови технологии повишаване на ангажираността на гражданите в законодателните процеси и в процесите за взимане на решения на ниво ЕС. Вече са предприети редица опити за нови форми на взаимодействие между граждани и европейски институции;
- изследвания и придружаващи инициативи, финансирани от Седмата рамкова програма за изследвания в областта на управлението и гражданството (Работна програмата за социални и хуманитарни науки) и обществена ангажираност в полза на науката (Работна програма за науката в обществото)⁹.

⁹ Решение №1982/2006/ЕО на Европейския парламент и на Съвета; Решение 2006/971/ЕО и 2006/974/ЕО на Съвета.

2.4. По-нататъшно разработване на други инициативи по План Д

„Дебат Европа“ ще действа заедно с текущи инициативи в държавите-членки, много от които имат ценен потенциал за междуинституционно сътрудничество. Тези инициативи включват:

- Пилотни информационни мрежи (PINs) – мрежите вече са договорени. Те ще съберат заедно европейски, народни и регионални парламентаристи, журналисти и други европейски общественици, за да обменят информация, знания и идеи за Европейския съюз. PINs ще доближат европейския дебат до националните парламенти. Те ще използват интернет, други онлайн средства и срещи за развитието на „идейни мрежи“ и ще помогнат за връзка между политиците и медиите с иновационни граждански обществени проекти.
- Европейски обществени пространства — представителства на Комисията и информационните бюра на Европейския парламент в Мадрид, Талин и Дъблин работиха заедно за създаване на европейски обществени пространства, в които се организират изложби, дебати, семинари и обучения по въпроси на ЕС. Предвидено е разширяването на този пилотен проект към други столици, като се започне с Рим, Лондон, Копенхаген и Берлин.
- Граждански форуми — Европейският парламент, Европейският икономически и социален комитет и Комитетът на регионите организират граждански форуми в държавите-членки. „Дебат Европа“ ще насърчава членове на различни институции и органи на ЕС да се срещат и да участват заедно в тези форуми на основата на идеята на План Д за „Европейска кръгла маса за демокрация“¹⁰.
- Посещения в държавите-членки — посещенията на комисари в рамките на „План Д“ в държавите – членки позволиха установяването на връзка с националните парламенти, регионални и местни органи, медиите и гражданското общество. Служители от Комисията са насърчавани да посещават своите стари училища. „Дебат Европа“ ще продължи да развива тези преки контакти, в съответствие със стратегията за ангажираност¹¹ на персонала на Комисията, която окуражава служителите да играят активна роля в областта на комуникацията като посланици на институцията, като например операцията „Обратно в училище“ и мрежата „Enterprise Europe“. „Дебат Европа“ ще насърчава включването и на членове и служители от другите европейски институции и органи в инициативата.
- Работа на местно ниво — заедно с представителствата на Комисията центровете Europe Direct организираха дебати, прояви и семинари с граждани в градове извън столиците на държавите-членки. „Дебат Европа“ ще продължи развитието на тези дейности, като се възползва от факта, че второ поколение от центрове „Europe Direct“ ще стартира през 2009 г.
- Оптимизиране на проучванията на общественото мнение на Евробарометър — проучванията на общественото мнение на Евробарометър ще вземат под внимание опита от първия етап на проектите по План Д, които експериментираха в паневропейски мащаб с техники за дискуссионно изследване на общественото мнение относно бъдещето на ЕС.

¹⁰ COM(2005) 494, раздел 4.1.5.

¹¹ SEC(2007) 912.

- Интернет дебати — интернет страницата „Дебат Европа“, посветена на План Д, бе преработена през януари 2008 г., за да се увеличи потенциала ѝ за интерактивен дебат с Интернет потребителите по важни въпроси на ЕС с участието на представителствата на Комисията. Неотдавна подновените на Интернет дискусиите ще бъдат последвани по-късно от подобни онлайн дискусии през 2008 г. и 2009 г.

3. ПОКАНА ЗА ПРЕДСТАВЯНЕ НА ПРЕДЛОЖЕНИЯ И ДЕЦЕНТРАЛИЗИРАНИ ДЕЙСТВИЯ

„Дебат Европа“ ще гарантира, че общите усилия на Комисията за подпомагане на активно европейско гражданство ще станат част от интегрирани междуинституционални усилия, които да достигнат до лицата, които вземат решения на всички нива на управление.

Предложена е двойна стратегия, обезпечена с бюджет от 7,2 млн. EUR:

- на общоевропейско равнище: централизирана покана за представяне на предложения за съфинансиране на обширен транснационален проект на 27 държави-членки с бюджет от 2 млн. EUR.
- национално и регионално ниво: децентрализирани покани и действия за подпомагане на местни проекти с бюджет от 5,2 млн. EUR ¹².

На общоевропейско ниво, общите условия за представяне на предложения ще определят, че — като се има предвид опита от първата поредица от транснационални проекти за демокрация на участието — „Дебат Европа“ ще:

- провежда консултации с граждани във всяка държава-членка;
- установи общ набор от заключения на европейско ниво и ще ги изпрати до европейски политически организации;
- ангажира гражданите в диалог с избраните представители и с европейски политически организации, включвайки тясно Европейския парламент, Европейския икономически и социален комитет и Комитета на регионите.

На национално и местно ниво, представителствата на комисията:

- са планирали през 2008 приблизително 140 действия за стимулиране на обществен дебат относно ЕС;
- ще съфинансират действия, които отговарят на специфични нужди (например действия, насочени към училища и младежки центрове, изложби, панаири и фестивали, конференции, семинари, прояви с неправителствени организации и др.) посредством местни покани за представяне на предложения;

¹²

Решение на Комисията C(2008) 924 относно годишната работна програма за безвъзмездни помощи и договори в областта на комуникацията за 2008 г., прието от Комисията на 12 март 2008 г. (таблица 2.6.2).

- ще провеждат такива действия с други институции и органи на ЕС посредством, например, Европейските обществени пространства, Европейската година на Межкултурния диалог, заплануваната Европейска година на Творчеството и Иновациите и национални институти на ЕС за култура.

В зависимост от националния контекст дори ограничено финансиране на неправителствени организации на национално ниво би могло да доведе до плодотворен диалог по въпроси на ЕС. Представителствата на Комисията, в сътрудничество с информационните служби на Европейския парламент ще увеличат значимостта на такива прояви за диалог, като включват регионални и местни органи.

Тези инициативи биха могли да поощрят съществуващи и нови регионални и местни мрежи и да помогнат за разпространяването на най-добри практики, използвайки електронните средства за участие¹³. Те биха могли също така да представляват интерес за политици, които участват в европейските избори, които могат да използват тези дискусии като основа за диалог с избирателите си.

4. ЗАКЛЮЧЕНИЕ

Включване на граждани

Обществена подкрепа за ЕС може да се изгради само чрез жив и открит дебат и ангажирайки гражданите активно в европейските въпроси. Като допълнение към многото консултации със заинтересовани страни и общи публични консултации, провеждани от Комисията по специфични въпроси на политиката, ЕС се нуждае от по-интензивен политически дебат и осведоменост, ако иска да постигне целите си и да разработи правилните политики. Това е една от централните цели на комуникационната политика на Комисията¹⁴: *да даде възможност на гражданите, като насърчава активно европейско гражданство.*

Връзка с политици

Политическите партии и техните избрани представители са в привилегирована позиция да повдигнат европейски въпроси в националния дебат и да стимулират обществен, трансграничен дебат в Европа. Необходими са трансгранични канали на комуникация за насърчаване на дебата и диалога по въпроси от общ интерес на дневен ред в ЕС. Комисията допринася за развитието на тези канали чрез законодателни предложения, които целят да улеснят развитието на европейски политически партии чрез редица граждански програми и действия за контакт с неправителствени организации и чрез План Д.

След поредицата от осъществени пилотни проекти, предизвикателство е да се гарантира, че резултатите им да се използват в процеса на вземане на политически решения. Първият етап на План Д потвърди, че съществува ясна нужда от мерки за укрепване и разширяване на политическия диалог по европейски въпроси и че демокрацията с участие на гражданите успешно може да допълва представителната демокрация.

¹³ Като тези, описани от Общността на електронно участие на www.epractice.eu.

¹⁴ COM(2007) 568, 3.10.2007 г.

В следващия етап, обхващащ 2008 г. и 2009 г., и в навечерието на европейските избори, „Дебат Европа“ ще осигури оперативна рамка за достигане, свързване и действие в партньорство. Но дебатът трябва да се разглежда в дългосрочен план: „Дебат Европа“ се стреми да промени схващането, че европейските въпроси са прекалено абстрактни и без връзка с националната публична сфера, за да бъдат от интерес за гражданите, и дава възможност да премахне често изкуственото деление на национални и европейски въпроси.

- Приложение 1: Описание на проектите по План Д
- Приложение 2: Отворено писмо / препоръки от участниците на Заключителната конференция на шестте граждански проекта по План Д
- Приложение 3: Проект на централизирана покана за представяне на предложения
- Приложение 4: Проект на децентрализирана покана за представяне на предложения

ПРИЛОЖЕНИЕ 1

Citizens' consultations projects co-funded by the Commission in the framework of Plan D in 2006-2007 projects

Speak Up Europe

- Co-ordinator: European Movement International
- Amount of the project: EUR 1,039,310.63
- Grant from the EU budget: EUR 719,375.70
- Pan-European
- An integrated approach combining virtual and face to face communication, both on a European level and on a national level.
- Virtual: each partner created a national web site. Web animation (e.g. cartoon "What has Europe ever done for us?").
- Face to face: a series of local, national and European events.
- 27 000 people had taken part physically in the project by the end of September 2007.
- Specific multimedia site targeting youth, called "European Vibes".
- Specific site launched by one of the partners, Euractiv, called "EU debates and opinions" to promote the outcome of Speak Up Europe had received 110 000 viewers by end of September 2007.

European Citizens' Consultations

- Co-ordinator: King Baudouin Foundation
- Amount of the project: EUR 2.715.376,60
- Grant from the EU budget: EUR 1.895.751,95
- Pan-European.
- Deliberative consultation of citizens on a national level, on the basis of an agenda set at European level by a sample of citizens.
- European synthesis of the outcome of the national consultations and a European web site.
- 1 800 citizens participated in the project altogether.
- Feedback from 1 000 out of the 1 800 citizens involved via an evaluation survey.

Tomorrow's Europe

- Co-ordinator: Notre Europe
- Amount of the project: EUR 1.352.500
- Grant from the EU budget: EUR 849.500
- Pan-European
- Europe-wide deliberative poll.
- 3 550 citizens polled on the future of the EU.
- 362 of them were randomly selected to deliberate for three days in Brussels, with the help of experts.

- They filled in a questionnaire at the beginning of the deliberative phase and were polled at the end to measure the evolution of their views.

Our message to Europe

- Co-ordinator: Deutsche Gesellschaft e.V.
- Amount of the project: EUR 358.000,00
- Grant from the EU budget: EUR 250.000,00
- Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland.
- 4 000 participants altogether.
- 70 intensive dialogue events (54 in Germany, 4 in Austria, 4 in Slovakia, 4 in Czech Republic, 4 in Poland) with panel discussions.
- Opinion polls carried out during those events: 2600 people polled altogether, under 21 and over 21.
- In 20 of the events people had the opportunity to have their individual "message to Europe" recorded on video - 300 audiovisual messages collected altogether.

Radio Web Europe

- Co-ordinator: CENASCA-CISL
- Amount of the project: EUR 794.475,03
- Grant from the EU budget: EUR, 556.132,50
- Italy, Lithuania, Austria, UK, Spain, Portugal, Malta.
- Creation of a multimedia and interactive website targeting 18-35 years old. Content determined by face to face meetings with target audience through focus groups (two per country). At a second stage, workshops to collect feedback.
- National reports served as a basis for a synthesis report.
- Users can view and download audiovisual products and post their own (comments, videos, interviews, games, cartoons...). At the end of the project, website hosted 200 multimedia products. Average number of monthly visits: 5 000.

Our Europe-Our Debate-Our Contribution

- Co-ordinator: European House Budapest
- Amount of the project: EUR 364.000
- Grant from the EU budget: EUR 254.500
- Hungary, Austria, Italy, Slovakia and Slovenia.
- Fostering debate at grass-root level by meeting people in the streets and public transport, asking them to reply to a questionnaire (also posted on the project's English-language website).
- A "regional events" dimension (face to face meetings).
- A European bus touring the five countries, displaying a "European labyrinth" at every stop which people were invited to enter with a "European passport". People's views were recorded on video at every stop.
- The aim was to collect 2 500 people's views on Europe either through the questionnaire or by video.

Projects co-funded by the Commission Representations in the framework of Plan D in 2007-2008

Representation	Project
Bulgaria	Regional Dialog Open Forum: Women for Social Inclusion
	The Tender Europe: targeting more marginalised social groups – meetings and debates in schools, youth organisations, municipalities, chambers of commerce etc.
	An Investment for Creating Qualified and Internationally Educated Young People Corresponding to the Requirements of the European Single Market: Advertise the possibilities provided through European funding under the ERASMUS Program.
	No to Discrimination in United Europe: Let us Talk about the Different! Civic debate on issues related to discrimination and dissemination of EU best practices in the field of anti-discrimination measures in the cross-border region Svishtov (BG) - Zimnitch (RO).
Czech Republic	Gender Studies OPS: Flexicurity/labour market/ professional-private life - survey, video, discussions, leaflets, audit of pre-school establishments.
	Klub mladých Evropanu, o.s.: Generation EU: Target group - young people 15-19years. Workshops on labour market, education, security, freedom, future, European social model, European identity/values, 1 national conference.
Denmark	Your Europe
	Food Safety in the Consumers' EU
	Gender Divided Labour Market and Violence against Women
	Global Citizen and EU
	The Model Parliament
Estonia	Federation of Estonian student unions - Estonia in the EU's higher educational system (seminars, conference, articles in student press, discussions on internet forums, publication).
	Junior Achievement Estonia - Youth Entrepreneurship Conference on gender equality Project activities.
	NGO umbrella organisation in Viljandi - promotion of equal opportunities of local level citizens in the EU (conference, seminars, youth forum, study visit to Finnish rural areas).

France Paris	Europe, the future and citizenship in the Aquitaine region.
	Brittany youth's contribution to a European strategy to limit the scale of climate change.
	Know more about Europe to understand it better.
	Young European prize.
	Les Eurois, citizens of Europe.
	Europe for and by the young.
	A silent majority: women in the EU. Awareness raising among women, a major stake for the future of Europe.
	Etats généraux de l'Europe.
	Etats généraux de l'Europe.
	Deedale – Vendée region.
Hungary	Launch of the Hungarian chapter of the European Youth Parliament (Pillar Foundation)
	National consultation of women (Partners Hungary Foundation)
	Climate Change Youth Campaign (WWF Hungary)
Ireland	Institute of European Affairs (Future of Europe including immigration; crime and terror; climate change; Reform Treaty; Citizens Europe; EU@50; What has Europe done for citizens; use of overall theme "Europe 2.0". Use of web based products to widen and deepen the debate; meetings and debates across colleges, and other centres; production and dissemination of publications; explaining the new Treaty to different groups and especially the target groups; specifically target young professionals. Virtual tools and meetings, debates, high visibility events; dedicated Europe 2.0 website; podcasts; production of "6 Pack" information items for use with the target groups; production of a book "What the Reform Treaty Means", pamphlets; Young Professional network; high profile discussions and debates.
	Irish Countrywomen's Association (ICA) : legal rights in Europe; Irish farm Families; Quality of Life in Europe; Migration; Social Reality. Regional Seminars; training of co-ordinators; use of co-ordinators for training and organisation of seminars; use of expert speakers. Focus is on 16,000 families.
Latvia	Regional debates on social reality
	Youth observers in local and district authorities on cohesion and regional policy
	Training of multipliers - schoolchildren and teachers - on corruption and transparency issues

Malta	Fondazzjoni Temi Zammit
Portugal	Porto, Coimbra, Santarém, Évora and Faro Environment protection / Energy- Youth
	National: Future of Europe; Europe in the world; Migrations; Security - Youth
	All islands of the archipelago of Azores European integration; Future of Europe; Europe in the world
	Vila Real district Prosperity; Solidarity; Security and Freedom e Liberdade; Future of Europe; Europe in the world
	Beira Interior Solidarity – European Year Equality; European Year of Intercultural Dialogue; Cohesion and Rural Development Sept.2007 to August 2008
Spain <i>Madrid - Barcelona</i>	Fundación Ciudadanía Euro activos. ex:talleres para jóvenes que quieren darle la vuelta a Europa
	Europa Action and Lobby Development of a multilingual forum.
	Infocentro de Zaragoza Europa Joven, 50 años de logros
	Casal d'Europa de Sabadell Euroactive,T
The Netherlands	Communicado Foundation Le Camping: Development of a pilot episode for six broadcastings for NL school TV. EU is visualised as a campsite; Member States are tents with their habitants. EU cooperation issues (enlargement, environment etc..) are explained through interaction of the actors in a comprehensible and educational way.
	ETV NL <i>Europe is Fun!</i> : Production of an educational project for secondary education scholars. A competition for digital EU stories, study materials and teachers training.
	Stichting Eggietalk (io) Eggietalk. Communication translation programme: pupils can communicate in their own language with pupils in other EU languages.
	<i>Click on Europe.</i> "Debataintment" with website and educational material for lower secondary education. Organisation aims at stimulating hard-to-reach target group to debate Europe in a competitive way.
	Nationaal oorlogsmuseum/ CHO Consultants Freedom and Democracy: Fundamental rights in Europe. Creating awareness and stimulating debate among youth in the national war museum. Electronic info pillars will be placed in the museum (including a voting system), and a website will be launched with small clips on 4 basic rights.

	<p>Passage Christelijk-Maatschappelijke Vrouwenbeweging <i>Living together in Europe</i>: Project proposed by the 4 largest woman movements in NL combined. The target group is approximately 120.000 female members, including many housewives. Newsletter, symposium, study days and an EU crafts contest. spin-off through family, friends etc. Create awareness of European issues among the members and to promote woman participation (use of voting right) in the 2009 European Parliament elections.</p>
	<p>Nationale Jeugdraad All about Europe.nl: website aiming at providing youth with a complete overview of the EU, to facilitate a structured dialogue. Bundle all relevant info for youth in one website. Nationale Jeugdraad (National Youthcouncil) portal website: Allesovereuropa.nl. This portal will bundle all relevant EU information for youth and youngsters in an understandable manner. Advertising campaign.</p>
	<p><i>CED Groep</i> <i>Europe in the news</i>: 8 special topics on the EU. Communication with pupils in other EU countries. EU section added to existing website. Website is part of "learning by discussing/debating" teaching method.</p>
United Kingdom London	<p>Women in Northern Ireland – Connecting to Europe. Northern Ireland Women's European Platform. The platform aims to promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of women in Northern Ireland including the advancement of their education and development.</p>
	<p>My Voice in Europe The Community Development Foundation is a leading source of intelligence, guidance and delivery on community development in England and across the UK. The overall aim of the European and International Unit of CDF is to link and feed into practice and policy within the European and International arena by acting as a bridge between the UK and relevant international mechanisms.</p>
	<p>Voicing young people's views on climate change Inspire, support and celebrate young people as agents for change in society. Their aim is to create a generation of young, active citizens, drawn from all sectors of the UK population who will be a force for change in achieving global social and environmental justice.</p>
	<p>Flexicurity: young workers' views in a cohesion region Bevan Foundation, at the forefront of new thinking about achieving a fair and just Wales by carrying out research, organising conferences and debates, and by publishing articles and reports.</p>
	<p>Fem e-U Link, FATIMA Women's Network Innovation Centre. Fatima is a socially responsible minority ethnic-led organisation supporting the social and economic empowerment of all women through inter alia personal development, education and training, networking and engagement, as well as research and consultation.</p>
	<p>Forward Ladies Limited Non-profit business support network for women -networking opportunities, inspirational speakers, training, mentoring, coaching, business support and facilitates international trade missions.</p>

People and Politics Day-Europe: promoting democracy and active citizenship. Research, conferences, reports, promotion of democratic change.

Decentralised communication actions planned by Commission Representations in 2008

Plan D decentralised actions planned for 2008						
Action type			Member State	Associated communication priority	€	
1. Local calls	Programmed		UK	Energy & CC	150 000	
			Italy	Intercultural Dialogue	150 000	
			Netherlands	None	142 000	
			Austria		203 000	
			Germany		200 000	
			Sub-total			
	To be programmed	Amounts confirmed	Netherlands	None	258 000	
			Malta		150 000	
			Germany		100 000	
			Slovakia		50 000	
			Czech Rep.		50 000	
			Lithuania		20 000	
		Sub-total				628 000
			Amounts TBC	Latvia	None	TBC
				Slovenia	Reform Treaty	TBC
	Total				1 473 000	
	2. Other actions					3 429 867
	Total Plan D	Allocated				5 200 000
Requested				4 902 867		

ПРИЛОЖЕНИЕ 2

Open letter / recommendations from the participants at the concluding conference of the six Plan D citizens' projects

The future of Europe-the citizens' agenda

Open letter to the EU Heads of State and Government, the National Parliaments, the European Union Institutions and European political parties

Brussels, 9 December 2007

Next week, the Heads of State and Government of the European Union will sign the Lisbon Treaty. The EU celebrated its 50th Anniversary this year. Since 1957, the European Union has progressed from economic cooperation to a political union that affects the lives of almost 500 million citizens. This evolution also brings responsibilities for the political leaders of Europe. The permissive consensus that existed at the beginning has to be turned into an actively earned consensus in dialogue with the European citizens.

Associating citizens to the European construction is more than ever a fundamental issue. If we do not want the citizens to desert once more the European elections in 2009, political leaders need to regain the citizens' trust and confidence in the European project and show they care about citizens' involvement in the decision-making machine.

Plan D launched by Commission Vice-President Margot Wallström responded to this challenge in a novel manner. It co-financed a series of projects to learn how ordinary citizens can be involved in the EU decision-making and how they view the EU's future. This exercise responds to a basic value of the EU in the 21st century: active citizenship.

The European Movement International, the King Baudouin Foundation, Notre Europe, Deutsche Gesellschaft, European House Budapest and CENASCA-CISL, with a large network of partners across Europe have engaged actively in Plan D. A series of grass roots debates, consultations, polls and events aimed at consulting citizens on their visions of Europe have been carried out in a number of Member States, while deliberative polling and consultation has taken place on a pan-European scale.

Thousands of citizens took part in those projects throughout the European Union in 2007. Over 250 of them have assembled in Brussels on 8 and 9 December to debate on the major concerns which have emerged through Plan D. There was a clear consensus among participants that more opportunities of this kind should be provided to involve citizens in the debate over Europe's future.

They have structured these concerns into three themes:

1. The human aspects of globalisation
2. Enlargement, political integration and EU citizenship
3. The EU's role on the world stage.

They have consolidated their conclusions into a single set of recommendations (annexed to this letter).

They have debated those recommendations with decision-makers representing the EU institutions as well as the present Portuguese and future Slovenian Presidencies of the EU:

- Mrs. Margot Wallström, Vice-President, European Commission.
- Mrs Jillian van Turnhout, Vice-President, European Economic and Social Committee.
- Mr. Ivo Opstelten, Mayor of Rotterdam, Member of the Committee of Regions,

- Mr. Pierre Jonckheer, Member of the European Parliament
- Mr. Valter Lemos, Portuguese Secretary of State for Education,
- Ambassador Igor Sencar, Permanent Representative of Slovenia.

They call on the European political parties to address those recommendations in their programmes and to discuss them with citizens in view of the elections to European Parliament in 2009.

They call upon the EU Heads of State and Government, both in their capacity as European but also as national leaders, to heed those recommendations and thereby encourage the development of active European citizenship, without which there cannot be a truly political Union.

They call for the dialogue with citizens on European issues to be continued and deepened in the future.

The participants to the conference on "The future of Europe-the citizens' agenda"

Twenty-seven recommendations

1.

As work is considered a crucial dimension for individual emancipation, the **welfare systems** should protect citizens' life conditions during periods of transition for example by providing people with an unemployment indemnity when changing jobs.

2.

Citizens expect more action from the EU in the area of **social policy and social cohesion** in order to fight the black market, reduce salary gaps, promote gender-equality, ease unemployment and to make it attractive to work longer before retiring.

3.

The EU should promote **equal rights, comparable standard of living** in all EU member states and foster equal opportunities through harmonised social and economic policies and a welfare model for all member states.

4.

The Member States and the EU should make sure that **migrants** enjoy equal rights and opportunities and have access to education and work if they observe the laws, rules and values of the host country and commit to learning the language.

5.

The **European migration policy**, so far based only on restrictive measures, should adopt a more sophisticated approach aiming at the social and economic development of the involved countries. The EU needs to clarify its approach to economic refugee status.

6.

Migration needs to be acknowledged as one of today's most pressing issues, and cannot be tackled without a coherent development aid strategy.

7.

The EU should ensure that part of each country's national curriculum, in both **schools and universities**, requires a section on Democracy and European Citizenship, to ensure a greater understanding of the EU, its history, and its opportunities.

8.

The EU should show more commitment to **educational promotion** in general but also specifically regarding European issues, e.g. through the expansion of existing educational EU programmes or the establishment of new EU programmes as well as the incorporation of the European integration process as a central topic in the national school curricula.

9.

Exchange projects need further support to encourage young people to recognise the importance of their EU citizenship in the global context.

10.

The EU should help preserving, appreciating and respecting the **diversity** of peoples, knowledge, customs and languages identities - while recognising common and shared European values.

11.

Integration strategies such as the **educational policy** incorporating the EU into school curricula will favour the development of a European identity.

12.

The EU should prioritise creating and communicating a **new ‘memory’ about Europe**, to move away from the stereotypes associated with certain countries and history, so that all citizens can be valued and we can understand each other better.

13.

The EU should increase opportunities for a more active, **direct participation of European citizens** from all walks of life in policy-making through regular citizen Plan D-type participatory projects, debates, public hearings, etc. at EU but also at regional and national levels. More transparency-more influence for European citizens!

14.

The EU should make sure that the **current citizen recommendations** are considered and discussed not only by the EU but also national policy-makers or become part of existing policy-making processes (e.g. impact assessments, public consultations). The EU should not only listen but also learn.

15.

The EU should become more interactive, citizen friendly and inclusive, recognising the growing significance of **regional approach and identity**. New and innovative information technique should be used to improve communication with citizens especially young people. Specific attention has to be paid to the frequently neglected gender issues.

16.

Climate change and energy security cannot successfully be dealt with at the national level alone. The EU should be given stronger powers to develop a common energy policy and ensure that Member States live up to the commitments they have made at European level.

17.

In a global world, it makes sense for the EU to take greater responsibility than today in the fields of **military action, foreign aid and diplomatic relations**. The EU should be able to speak with one voice on a global level to defend its values.

18.

The EU can be more efficient than national governments in **security, police and struggle against drugs traffic and cartels**.

19.

The EU should lead the world in **protecting the environment** and promoting clean energy.

20.

Europe should develop a strong voice on the global stage with **common foreign and security policies that promote peace**, security in regional conflicts democracy and the respect for human rights providing for a strong role model across the world, whilst recognizing the importance of the nation state.

21.

The EU should show **a united front in international affairs**; the current practice is influenced too much by national short-term interests and considerations.

22.

The EU should tackle the impact of Europe's energy use on both the economy and the energy and foster the transition to environmentally clean, safe and sustainable energy sources.

23.

European citizens want the EU to **take the lead when it comes to social, energy and environmental standards** on a global level.

24.

The EU should develop **specific educational and action-oriented programmes for citizens on global issues** such as trade, energy and the environment.

25.

The EU should **coordinate its aid programmes with NGOs** engaged in humanitarian work to bring timely and efficient relief to crisis regions or to promote sustainable development.

26.

The EU should **lower barriers to international trade** as, overall, freer trade benefits developed and developing countries.

27.

The EU should show **more commitment in the fields of international peacekeeping** as well as humanitarian aid during catastrophes.

ПРИЛОЖЕНИЕ 3

CENTRAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS - DG COMM No < A2-1/2008 >

Financial support for an initiative emanating from organisations with a significant trans-national dimension as provided by the European Commission's Debate Europe Communication

1. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

On 13 October 2005 the Commission approved its Communication to the Council, to the European Parliament, to the European Economic and Social Committee and to the Committee of the Regions: Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate.

This was a listening exercise so that the European Union can act on the concerns expressed by its citizens. The Commission aimed to stimulate debate and widen recognition for the added value that the E U provides.

It was a two-way process which:

- informed the public about the EU's role, with examples of its projects and achievements,
- identified their expectations for the future in return.

On 29 November 2006 Vice President Wallström presented an information note to the College of Commissioners on Plan D – Widen & deepen the debate. The purpose of this was to take stock and further widen and deepen the debate in the period of reflection.

On 2 April 2008, the Commission adopted a Communication to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions entitled "Debate Europe-building on the experience of Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate". It noted that the first phase Plan D focused on the "debate and dialogue" part of the process. The next phase of Plan D will take this process one step further and focus on "D for democracy", further enabling citizens to articulate their wishes directly to decision-makers and making better use of the media in the process. This new phase has been named "Debate Europe".

In October 2005 the Commission launched a series of Europe-wide civil society projects for 2006, which it co-financed. In 2007, it promoted a further series of initiatives, targeting young people and women in particular.

2. OBJECTIVES

One of the key lessons from this first round of projects and the concluding conference of Plan D is that the interface between citizens and EU decision-makers needs to be strengthened to ensure that issues of interest and concern Europe-wide are debated and addressed at a European level. There is a need to communicate those Europe-wide issues and concerns which affect to a large degree all of Europe's citizens identified from consulting on a pan-

European basis and to communicate these to European political decision-makers and media especially in view of the June 2009 European elections.

As a result, the Commission wishes to strengthen the existing debate about the future of Europe and its impact on citizens' daily lives by launching one or more pan-European projects with the following objectives:

In a first phase;

- Carry out a Europe-wide dialogue between citizens, political decision-makers and other key opinion formers through a series of debates/conferences/consultations and other events, with a view to ascertaining citizens' principal issues and concerns at a European level which touch their daily lives. This dialogue will ensure a close involvement of the other EU institutions (EP, EESC, COR) and European political parties' foundations.
- The conclusions arising from these events would be synthesised and made public . At a concluding event they should be presented to European decision makers to give them the opportunity to react and take into account the concerns of the European electorate. This phase of the project should be completed ideally before the June 2009 European elections.

In a second phase, the contractor could continue with a series of meetings with newly-elected MEPs and representatives from the principal European media (television, radio, press).

In carrying out both phases, the contractor will take into account the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue and on-going Commission programmes such as Europe for Citizens and e-Participation.

The resulting projects will involve consortia of civil society organisations with a view to replying to these objectives on a Europe-wide scale. These consultations will complement those planned to be held at local level designed to address concerns focused on European issues with a more local impact.

3. TIMETABLE

3.1. Submission of applications

Publication of call beginning April 2008.

Applications must be submitted by end June 2008 at the latest.

Contracts will be signed September 2008.

Please read carefully section 10 of this call for proposals concerning the procedures for submitting applications.

3.2. Duration of projects

The project should begin between 1 September and 1 October 2008 and will be in two phases as described above.

The first phase will be completed by mid-May 2009 (before the European elections) and the second phase by 1 November 2009.

Applications must clearly state the project's starting and finishing dates (dd/mm/yy).

The maximum duration of projects is 14 months.

However, if, after the signing of the agreement and the start of the project, the beneficiary observes that, for fully justified reasons beyond his control, it becomes impossible to complete the project within the scheduled period, an extension to the eligibility period may be granted. A maximum extension of 3 months will be granted, provided that this is requested before the deadline specified in the grant agreement. The maximum duration will then be 18 months.

The period of eligibility of expenditure resulting from implementation of a project will begin on the day of signature of the grant contract by the last of the parties. If the nature of the project requires the project to start before the contract is signed, expenditure may be considered eligible before the signature of the contract. Under no circumstances can the eligibility period start before the date of submission of the grant application.

3.3. Information on the results of the selection

It is planned that applicants will be informed of the outcome of the selection procedure in July 2008.

The lists of selected projects will be published on the following website:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/communication/grants/index_en.htm

Applicants whose applications have not been selected will be informed in writing.

4. FINANCING

The budget initially available for part-financing projects is estimated at € 2 000 000.

If during the 2008 budget year, additional amounts are allocated to boost the initial budget for this call for proposals, they might be allocated to co-financing projects which were adopted at the selection phase but not given priority for co-financing in the overall budget initially available. The Commission therefore reserves the right to set up a “reserve list” of proposals evaluated positively in order to take account of the resources actually available in the 2008 budget.

The grant awarded may not exceed 70% of the total eligible project costs.

Community contributions are meant to facilitate the implementation of a project which could not otherwise be implemented easily without the support of the European Union. They are based on the co-financing principle.

Consequently, a minimum of 30% of the total estimated eligible expenditure of the project must come from sources other than the European Union budget. Applicants must include evidence that co-financing is available (secured) for the remainder of the total cost of the project.

The Commission intends to finance 1 to 2 projects for a budget of € 1 or € 2 million in total..

The European Commission reserves the right not to distribute all the funds available.

The amount allocated by the Commission may not in any circumstances exceed the amount requested. Moreover, the Commission reserves the right to award a grant lower than the amount requested by the applicant.

An organisation is not entitled to receive more than one grant from the Commission for the action covered by the selected project.

After approval by the Commission, a “grant contract”, a draft of which is reproduced at Annex VI, expressed in euros and specifying the conditions and the financing level, will be concluded between the Commission and the beneficiary. The originals of the finance contract must be signed and returned to the Commission immediately for signature. The Commission will be the last party to sign.

The payment methods are detailed in the draft contract (Article I.4), with a list of eligible and ineligible costs (Article II.14 of the general conditions and Article I.3 of the special conditions of the grant contract).

5. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applications which comply with the following criteria will be the subject of an in-depth evaluation.

5.1. Eligible countries

Grant applications are eligible if they are presented by organisations having a legal status and established in one of the 27 Member States.

Organisations established in countries other than the countries listed above are not eligible.

5.2. Types of cooperation eligible

The types of cooperation eligible include partnerships. The term partnership/partners implies full or partial active intellectual collaboration in the execution of the project. In no case will financial support alone (sponsorship) be deemed to constitute a partnership. However, any financial support accompanied by active intellectual collaboration in the execution of the project will be accepted as a partnership. In all cases, the purpose of partnership is to add value to the project.

6. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Applicants must certify on their honour, by signing the application form, that they are not in one of the situations mentioned in Articles 93 and 94 of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002), which are listed below.

Applicants will be excluded from participating in this call for proposals if they are in one of the following situations:

- a) they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- b) they have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgement which has the force of res judicata;
- c) they have committed serious professional misconduct recorded by any means that awarding authorities can justify;
- d) they have not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
- e) they have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Communities' financial interests;
- f) following another procurement procedure or grant award procedure financed by the Community budget, they have been declared to be in serious breach of contract for failure to comply with their contractual obligations.

Applicants will not receive financial support if, during the grant allocation procedure:

- a) they are subject to a conflict of interests;
- b) they are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the European Commission as a condition of participation in the grant award procedure, or fail to supply this information.

In accordance with Articles 93 to 96 of the Financial Regulation, administrative and financial penalties may be imposed on applicants who are guilty of misrepresentation or are found to have seriously failed to meet their contractual obligations under a previous contract award procedure.

To respect these provisions, the applicant and his partners must provide evidence that they are in none of the situations listed in Articles 93 and 94 of the Financial Regulation.

7. SELECTION CRITERIA

The selection criteria are designed to demonstrate the applicant's capacity to see the project through to a successful conclusion.

Applicants must provide evidence of stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain the activity throughout the period during which the project is being carried out and/or grant-aided, as well as evidence of their financial participation. The applicant must also provide evidence of professional competencies, qualifications and/or experience relevant to the proposed project.

7.1. Technical capacity

Candidates must show that they have the operational (technical and management) capacity needed to complete the proposed action and provide evidence of their capacity to direct a large-scale activity corresponding to the dimension of the project for which the grant is requested. Particular attention will be devoted to the capacity for integration in society in the Member States, to the mobilisation of the public and to the analysis of their contributions. The capacity to operate in a large number of Member States (ideally in all of them) would be an advantage.

Applicants must attach to the grant application a curriculum vitae for the project leader and for the personnel of their organisation who will actually do the work. They must also enclose a recent activity report .

7.2. Financial resources

In order to permit assessment of this criterion, applicants must submit with their application the following documents:

- annual accounts for the last complete financial year;
- the “financial identification” form (bank details) (Annex III), completed by the beneficiary and certified by the bank (with original signatures).

If, on the basis of the submitted documents, the Commission assesses that the financial capacity of the applicant is not sufficient, it may:

- reject the request for a Community grant;
- ask for further information;
- ask for the deposit of a guarantee;
- propose a grant agreement without a pre-financing payment.

7.3. Audit

Where the cost of the project to be financed exceeds €300 000, the grant application must be accompanied by an external audit report produced by an approved auditor.

This report must certify the accounts for the last year available and give an assessment of the applicant’s financial viability.

8. AWARD CRITERIA

Account will also be taken of other Commission programmes such as the European Year for Intercultural Dialogue in 2008, Europe for Citizens and INTI (Integration of Third-Country Nationals).

Eligible projects will be evaluated on the basis of:

- a) the consistency of the overall concept of the project with the objectives of Debate Europe, as described at point 2 of the call for proposals;
- b) the quality of the work programme and the *modus operandi*;
- c) the dynamics of networking and the establishment of pan-European cooperation;
- d) the capacity of the project to:
 - act in the largest number of Member States as possible, and ideally in all 27;
 - involve the largest number of citizens as possible;
 - ensure their diversity of origin and their representativeness;
 - provide for the use of the largest number of national languages possible;
 - generate transnational results;
- e) the likely multiplier effect through the media and civil society networks, as calculated on the basis of the measures proposed to give visibility to the project and its outcomes;
- f) the system of feedback to European political decision-makers and citizens involved, as recommended by Debate Europe;
- g) the mechanism for evaluation of the objectives pursued by the project.

9. PUBLICITY

Provided the successful tenderer agrees (unless the publication of information is likely to endanger the successful tenderer's safety or harm his interests), the Commission will publish the following information in whatever form and on whatever medium it wishes, including the Internet:

- the name and address of each beneficiary;
- the subject of the grant;
- amount awarded and rate of funding.

10. PROCEDURE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

10.1. Publication

The text of the call for proposals, the annexes and, for information purposes, a copy of the standard agreement can be obtained from the Europa website at the following address:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/communication/grants/index_en.htm

10.2. Application form

Applications must be presented in one of the official languages of the EU.

Since the call is addressed first of all to organisations operating in several Member States, DG Communication would, however, appreciate it if grant applications (which must be made out on the 2006 form devised for the purpose) are accompanied by a version in one of the European Commission's working languages (French, English or German).

This form can be downloaded from the above Internet address.

Only grant applications submitted on the application forms attached to this call for proposals and comprising all the necessary documents mentioned in Annex D will be considered.

Applications must be:

- typed; hand-written applications will not be accepted;
- duly dated, filled in and signed by the legal representative of the organisation;
- sent in quadruplicate (the original, which must be identified as such, plus three copies).

10.3. Submission of the application

Deadline for the submission of applications: end May/early June 2008

Applications submitted after will not be considered.

Applications may be submitted in one of the following ways:

Proposals must be submitted on paper:

- by registered post to the following address, for which purposes the relevant date is to be the date of dispatch by post, as evidenced by the postmark or the registered delivery receipt issued by the postal services:

<p style="text-align: center;">European Commission Directorate-General COMMUNICATION Unit A2 (Communication: planning and priorities) Debate EuropeOffice BERL 5/234</p>
--

B-1049 Brussels

Belgium

- by hand delivery or courier service.

For security reasons, applications submitted personally or conveyed by a courier service can be presented only to the Commission's Central Mail Department (Rue de Genève 1, 1140 Evere, Belgium), and envelopes must be marked "DG COMMUNICATION, Unit A2 (Communication: planning and priorities), BERL 05/234 – Debate Europe Project". In the event of hand delivery, the submission date is the date of receipt. In the event of delivery by a courier service, the submission date is the date of receipt by the mail department.

Applications submitted by fax or e-mail will not be considered.

No modification of the application will be authorised after the submission of the application and its annexes. However, the Commission reserves the right to request any additional information needed for it to take a final decision on the award of financial support.

Applicants will be informed in writing when their application is received.

Only applications complying with the eligibility and exclusion criteria will be considered for the possible award of a grant.

Applicants whose applications are judged to be ineligible will be notified by mail, with an explanation as to why they were judged ineligible.

Tenderers will be informed, as soon as possible, of the decision taken by

the Commission on their grant application. No information will be released until the Commission's decision on project selection has been taken.

All selected applications will be subject to technical and financial analysis. In this connection the Commission may ask the applicant organisation for supplementary information, or possibly for guarantees.

Any applicant whose application for a Community grant is not accepted will be informed in writing.

10.4. Legal framework

- European commission Communication datedMarch 2008 (Comm): "Debate Europe-building on the experience of Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate".
- European Commission Communication dated 13 October 2005 (COM(2005) 494 final): The Commission's contribution to the period of reflection and beyond: Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate
- European Commission Communication dated 03 October 2007 (COM(2007) XXX final): Communicating Europe in Partnership
- OJ L 248, 16.9.2002 (Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities)

- OJ L 357, 31.12.2002 (Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities)

10.5. Contacts

The Commission department responsible for the implementation and management of call for proposals DG COMM No A2-1/2006 is Unit A2 (Communication: planning and priorities) of Directorate-General Communication (COMM).

Additional information can be obtained by electronic mail or by fax, either at the electronic address COMM-A2@cec.eu.int , or by fax number from ++ 32 2 295 24 69 , indicating clearly the reference of this call for proposals.

Annexes:

Annex A: Daily allowance scale

Annex B: Contractual obligations

Annex C: Text of the banking guarantee to be completed (only on request)

Annex D: Application checklist

Annex I: Application form (parts A and B)

Annex II: Budget form

Annex III: Financial identification form

Annex IV: Financial capacity form

Annex V: Legal entity form

Annex VI: Draft contract (for information)

Annex VII: Acknowledgement of receipt of the application

ПРИЛОЖЕНИЕ 4

CALL FOR PROPOSALS MANAGED BY EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATIONS IN EU MEMBER STATES (LOCAL CALL)

- DG COMM No xxxxxx, EC Representation xxxxxxxx

**Grants for local and national civil society initiatives
to promote public debate about European issues
- part of the European Commission's "Debate Europe" initiative**

1. BACKGROUND

On 13 October 2005 the Commission approved its Communication to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions entitled "Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate".

This was a listening exercise to enable the European Union (EU) to act on citizens' concerns. The Commission aimed to stimulate debate and widen recognition for the added value that the EU provides.

It was to be a two-way process which:

- informed the public about the EU's role, with examples of its projects and achievements,
- identified their expectations for the future in return.

On 29 November 2006 Vice President Wallström presented a note to the Commissioners entitled, "Plan D – Widen & Deepen the Debate". Its purpose was to take stock and further widen and deepen the debate in the period of reflection. The note is publicly available and has been sent to Member States and other EU institutions.

On 2 April 2008, the Commission adopted a Communication to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions entitled "Debate Europe - Building on the Experience of Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate". It noted that the first phase of Plan D focused on the "debate and dialogue" part of the process. The next phase of Plan D will take this process one step further and focus on "D for democracy", further enabling citizens to articulate their wishes directly to decision-makers and making better use of the media in the process. This new phase has been named "Debate Europe".

In October 2005 the Commission launched a series of Europe-wide civil society projects¹⁵ for 2006, which it co-financed. In 2007, it promoted a further series of initiatives, targeting young people and women in particular.

¹⁵ "Tomorrow's Europe" introduced by the foundation "Notre Europe" (Paris)
<http://www.notre-europe.eu/>
"European Citizens' Consultations" introduced by the "King Baudouin Foundation" (Brussels)
<http://www.european-citizens-consultations.eu>
"Speak up Europe" introduced by the "European Movement International" (Brussels)
http://www.europeanmovement.org/emailing/newsletter/speakupeurope_briefing_nonote.pdf

Drawing on this experience, the Commission, through its Representations in EU Member States, will offer grants in each Member State for civil society initiatives focusing on "Debate Europe" priority issues¹⁶. These are:

- Priority issue 1: involvement of citizens with political decision-makers;
- Priority issue 2: joint action between EU institutions and bodies to promote active citizenship.

Differences in economic, social and other aspects of national life greatly affect the public's attitudes to the EU and to particular European issues. So the new round of local calls will therefore be **tailored to each Member State's needs**.

The Commission's Representations will help define the content, and manage and follow up the calls. Depending on the national context, even limited funding for country-level NGOs could result in a fruitful debate **on EU issues**.

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1. General

The Commission wishes to help fund national and regional initiatives by civil society organisations to:

- solicit citizens' views on European issues which have a direct impact, locally and nationally, on their daily lives; and
- encourage citizens to become more informed about these issues, and to discuss and debate them with local opinion-formers.

"Our message to Europe" introduced by the Deutsche Gesellschaft (Berlin)

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/communication/grants/index_fr.htm

"Radio Web Europe" introduced by CENASCA (Rome)

<http://www.cenasca.cisl.it/entra.htm>

"Our Europe – Our Debate – Our Contributions" introduced by the European House (Budapest)

<http://www.europeanhouse.hu/>

All data on the 6 Plan D projects are summarized at the following address:

http://europa.eu/debateeurope/paneurope_en.htm.

¹⁶ Priorities specified in the Commission's communication entitled "Debate Europe - Building on the Experience of Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate"(2 April 2008) and in its 2008 annual work programme.

These initiatives will:

- facilitate dialogue between citizens, national and/or local political decision-makers and opinion-formers through debates, conferences, consultations and/or other events;
- closely involve local members of:
 - the European Parliament, European Economic and Social Committee, and Committee of the Regions, and
 - European political parties, and those parties' foundations
- collate and publish these events' conclusions to:
 - identify specific European issues which matter to people in their particular local/national environment;
 - raise local media and politicians' interest in the debate on Europe;
 - increase understanding of the EU's impact on citizens' everyday life;
- create networks of participatory democracy which integrate the European dimension of local/regional/national debates;
- complement:
 - Commission Representations' other initiatives to target local constituencies;
 - current EU programmes with similar goals, including:
 - the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue (EYID) 2008
 - Europe for Citizens
 - e-Participation
 - Integration of Third Country Nationals (INTI).
- be tailored to meet each Member State's specific needs.

2.2. Detailed

2.2.1. Form

Projects can:

- take many different forms – from public debates to online fora.
- be combined with events targeting the public
 - schools and youth centres,
 - exhibitions,
 - fairs and festivals,
 - conferences and seminars

2.2.2. Content

They should:

- define specific issues to be addressed around the overarching topic of debating the relevance of the EU to ordinary citizens lives;
- be accessible to the public and provoke their interest;
- link in with current issues:
 - of local/regional/national interest
 - at EU level.

- allow a variety of opinions to be expressed, without excluding any opinions
- include:
 - dialogue with local, national or EU political authorities;
 - participation by members of the European Parliament, European Economic and Social Committee and Committee of the Regions;
- use the internet to promote the project and facilitate debate.

2.2.3. *Impact*

As a result, projects should:

- make a lasting contribution to the debate on the EU;
- promote genuine local and national participation in debates on the EU;
- lead to the creation of regional and local networks or strengthen existing ones with a view to continuing and deepening the involvement of citizens in the debate on Europe;
- identify those issues at EU level of greatest local concern and how best they can be addressed on an ongoing basis.

2.2.4. *Action plan*

To allow the Commission to assess whether proposals meet these criteria, the applicant will need to present an action plan setting out:

- the issues which the project will address;
- the project's overall concept and the tools it will use;
- measures to attract the awareness and involvement of the:
- media - through partnerships and press relations activities;
- target audience
- actions to follow up the debate including the preparation of a structured summary of citizens' concerns and describe how these will be brought to the attention of local decision-makers including Members of the European Parliament;
- a detailed schedule which respects the deadlines in section 3.1 below.

3. TIMETABLE

3.1. Submission of applications

Applications must be submitted by end June 2008.

Please read carefully section 12 of this call for proposals concerning the procedures for submitting applications.

3.2. Duration of projects

The project should begin before 1 September 2008.

The project must finish no later than 01 November 2009.

Applications must clearly state the project's starting and finishing dates (dd/mm/yy).

The maximum duration of projects is 14 months.

The period of eligibility of expenditure resulting from implementation of a project will begin on the day of signature of the grant contract by the last of the parties. If the nature of the project requires the project to start before the contract is signed, expenditure may be considered eligible before the signature of the contract. Under no circumstances can the eligibility period start before the date of submission of the grant application.

3.3. Information on the results of the selection

It is planned that applicants will be informed of the outcome of the selection procedure [deadline needs to be no later than Jul. 2008]

The lists of selected projects will be published on the following website:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/communication/grants/index_en.htm &

<http://xxxxxxxxx>

Applicants whose applications have not been selected will be informed in writing.

4. FINANCING

The budget available for this call for proposal is € [to be filled by each Representation].

The grant awarded may not exceed 70% of the total eligible project costs.

Community contributions are meant to facilitate the implementation of a project which could not otherwise be implemented easily without the support of the European Union. They are based on the co-financing principle.

Consequently, a minimum of 30% of the total estimated eligible and final expenditure of the project must come from sources other than the European Union budget. Applicants must include evidence that co-financing is available (secured) for the remainder of the total cost of the project.

Indicatively, the amount of the grant from the EU will be between 50 000 and 100 000 EUR per project.

The European Commission reserves the right not to distribute all the funds available.

The amount allocated by the Commission may not in any circumstances exceed the amount requested. Moreover, the Commission reserves the right to award a grant lower than the amount requested by the applicant.

An organisation is not entitled to receive more than one grant from the Commission for the action covered by the selected project.

After approval by the Commission, a “grant contract”, a draft of which is reproduced at Annex VI, expressed in euros and specifying the conditions and the financing level, will be concluded between the Commission and the beneficiary. The originals of the finance contract must be signed and returned to the Commission immediately for signature. The Commission will be the last party to sign.

The payment methods are detailed in the draft contract (Article I.4), with a list of eligible and ineligible costs (Article II.14 of the general conditions and Article I.3 of the special conditions of the grant contract).

5. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applications which comply with the following criteria will be the subject of an in-depth evaluation.

5.1. Eligible organisations

Grant applications are eligible if they are presented by organisations having a legal status and established in one of the 27 Member States¹⁷.

6. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Applicants must certify on their honour, by signing the application form, that they are not in one of the situations mentioned in Articles 93 and 94 of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002), which are listed below.

Applicants will be excluded from participating in this call for proposals if they are in one of the following situations:

- a) they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- b) they have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgement which has the force of res judicata;

¹⁷ Based on the organisation's registered place of business or its place of main activity.

- c) they have committed serious professional misconduct recorded by any means that awarding authorities can justify;
- d) they have not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
- e) they have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Communities' financial interests;
- f) following another procurement procedure or grant award procedure financed by the Community budget, they have been declared to be in serious breach of contract for failure to comply with their contractual obligations.

Applicants will not receive financial support if, during the grant allocation procedure:

- a) they are subject to a conflict of interests;
- b) they are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the European Commission as a condition of participation in the grant award procedure, or fail to supply this information.

In accordance with Articles 93 to 96 of the Financial Regulation, administrative and financial penalties may be imposed on applicants who are guilty of misrepresentation or are found to have seriously failed to meet their contractual obligations under a previous contract award procedure.

To respect these provisions, the applicant and his partners must provide evidence that they are in none of the situations listed in Articles 93 and 94 of the Financial Regulation.

7. SELECTION CRITERIA

The selection criteria are designed to demonstrate the applicant's capacity to see the project through to a successful conclusion.

Applicants must provide evidence of stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain the activity throughout the period during which the project is being carried out and/or grant-aided, as well as evidence of their financial participation. The applicant must also provide evidence of professional competencies, qualifications and/or experience relevant to the proposed project.

7.1. Technical capacity

Candidates must show that they have the operational (technical and management) capacity needed to complete the proposed action and provide evidence of their capacity to direct an activity corresponding to the dimension of the project for which the grant is requested. Particular attention will be devoted to the capacity for mobilising the public and to analyse of their contributions. The capacity to involve organisations from other EU countries would be an advantage.

Applicants must attach to the grant application a curriculum vitae for the project leader and for the personnel of their organisation who will actually do the work. They must also enclose a recent activity report.

7.2. Financial resources

In order to permit assessment of this criterion, applicants must submit with their application the following documents:

- annual accounts for the last complete financial year;
- the “financial identification” form (bank details) (Annex III), completed by the beneficiary and certified by the bank (with original signatures).

If, on the basis of the submitted documents, the Commission assesses that the financial capacity of the applicant is not sufficient, it may:

- reject the request for a Community grant;
- ask for further information;
- ask for the deposit of a guarantee;
- propose a grant agreement without a pre-financing payment.

8. AWARD CRITERIA

Commission Representations will evaluate eligible projects against four criteria:

- a) consistency – is the project's overall concept consistent with the:
 - i. objectives of Plan D?
 - ii. general and detailed objectives of the call (see point 2 above)
- b) quality – are the work programme and working methods of sufficient quality?
- c) feasibility – is the project feasible, based on the action plan?
- d) visibility – what is the likely effect of the project's actions to raise awareness?

9. ELIGIBLE COSTS

For all projects, the eligibility period for expenditure relating to the implementation of a project will be stipulated in the grant agreement and will, except as described in the next point, be no earlier than the signature of the agreement by the Commission.

A grant may be awarded for a project which has already begun only where the applicant can demonstrate the need to start the project before the agreement is signed. In such cases, expenditure eligible for financing may not have been incurred before responding to the call for proposals.

The eligibility period for expenditure will not exceed the time allowed under each type of action, and **may not go beyond**.

Only the categories of expenditure listed below are eligible, provided that they are properly accounted for and evaluated in accordance with the market conditions, and that they are identifiable and verifiable. **They must be direct costs** (i.e. generated directly by the project and indispensable for its implementation, having regard to the cost/benefit principle):

- **personnel costs** incurred exclusively for the purpose of implementing the project are eligible only where the accounting systems of the applicants in question can clearly isolate and demonstrate the percentage of staff time devoted to the implementation of the project within the period of expenditure eligibility, and therefore the percentage of personnel costs which can be attributed to the project;
- **travel / accommodation / subsistence costs** associated with the project. Organisations must use their own daily scales to calculate these costs. However, these may not exceed the maximum amounts set by the Commission¹⁸;
- **the cost of organising and running conferences and seminars** (rental of rooms, welcoming and reception services, interpretation, speaker fees);
- cost of **hire or depreciation of technical equipment and services** (only the depreciable element of durable goods can be considered);
- **information dissemination** costs (production, translation, distribution and dissemination costs, etc.);
- cost of **consumables and supplies**
- costs entailed by **other contracts awarded** by the beneficiary for the purposes of the project (also see Section 10);
- costs arising from **requirements imposed by the agreement**;
- **general costs** (or "**eligible indirect costs**": office supplies, sundry consumables, depreciation of computer equipment, etc.). These costs may be eligible if incurred by the beneficiary for the purpose of implementing the project, but **may not exceed 7% of total eligible direct expenditure**.

N.B.: indirect costs will not be eligible if the applicant already receives an operating grant from the Commission during the lifetime of the project.

10. NON-ELIGIBLE COSTS

Non-eligible expenditure

The following expenditure cannot be considered eligible **under any circumstances**:

- costs of invested capital;
- general provisions (e.g. for losses, possible future liabilities);
- debts;
- interest owed;
- doubtful debts;

¹⁸ Commission Decision C(2004) 1313 of 7 April 2004: General implementing provisions adopting the Guide to missions for officials and other servants of the European Commission.

- exchange losses;
- expenditure on luxuries;
- the production of material and publications for commercial purposes; however, monographs, books, journals, discs, CDs, CD ROMs and videos will be taken into consideration if they are an integral part of the project;
- VAT, unless the beneficiary proves that he cannot recover it;
- contributions in kind.

Contributions in kind

Part of the contribution from project sponsors to the project costs may be in kind. These contributions in kind must be included in the provisional budget under the "receipts" section, expressed as a financial equivalent of the services or materials provided, and for an identical amount in the "expenditure" section, but separately from the rest of the budget. In fact, they cannot be considered as eligible costs.

Contributions in kind refer in particular to the provision of durable capital goods, raw materials and unpaid voluntary work by a private individual or corporate body.

The amount declared by the beneficiary as contributions in kind must be valued either on the basis of objective factors or on the basis of official scales laid down by an independent authority or by an outside independent professional.

The cost of private charity work must be valued in accordance with the national rules regarding the calculation of hourly, daily or weekly labour costs.

Contributions in kind will not be accounted for as eligible costs but rather as an increase in the grant in terms of value or as a percentage of the eligible costs.

The Community contribution is subject to a ceiling relating to the total eligible cost (70% maximum of the total eligible cost), excluding the value of contributions in kind.

Subcontracting and calls for tender

Where the implementation of subsidised actions requires a subcontract or the launch of a call for tender, the beneficiaries of the grant must award this contract to the tender offering the best value for money, respecting the principles of transparency and equal treatment of potential contractors and ensuring there is no conflict of interests. None of the basic activities of the project may be subcontracted, et subcontracting must account for only a limited part of the project.

For all contracts, beneficiaries must keep evidence that the selection of subcontractors was competitive, involving at least three offers, unless it can be shown that only one supplier exists in a given market. Grants may only be awarded after a project's start date (given in the application) upon prior written approval from the Commission.

11. PUBLICITY

The Commission will publish the list of successful applicants (unless the publication of information is likely to endanger the successful applicant safety or harm his interests). The Commission will publish the following information in whatever form and on whatever medium it wishes, including the Internet:

- the name and address of each beneficiary;
- the subject of the grant;
- amount awarded and rate of funding.

12. PROCEDURE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

12.1. Publication

The text of the call for proposals, the annexes and, for information purposes, a copy of the standard agreement can be obtained from the Europa website at the following address:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/communication/grants/index_en.htm &

<http://xxxxxxxxxx> (Website of the Representation)

12.2. Application form

Applications must be presented in one of the official languages of the EU.

This form can be downloaded from one of the above Internet addresses.

Only grant applications submitted on the application forms attached to this call for proposals and comprising all the necessary documents mentioned in Annex D will be considered.

Applications must be:

- typed; hand-written applications will not be accepted;
- duly dated, filled in and signed by the legal representative of the organisation;
- sent in quadruplicate (the original, which must be identified as such, plus three copies).

12.3. Submission of the application

Deadline for the submission of applications: 30 June 2007

Applications submitted after will not be considered.

Applications may be submitted in one of the following ways:

Proposals must be submitted on paper:

- by registered post to the following address, for which purposes the relevant date is to be the date of dispatch by post, as evidenced by the postmark or the registered delivery receipt issued by the postal services:

European Commission

EC Representation XXXXXXXX

- by hand delivery or courier service.

For security reasons, applications submitted personally or conveyed by a courier service can be presented only to the Commission's Representation xxxxxx, and envelopes must be marked "DG COMMUNICATION, EC Representation xxxxxxxx - Plan D Project". In the event of hand delivery, the submission date is the date of receipt. In the event of delivery by a courier service, the submission date is the date of receipt by the mail department.

Applications submitted by fax or e-mail will not be considered.

No modification of the application will be authorised after the submission of the application and its annexes. However, the Commission reserves the right to request any additional information needed for it to take a final decision on the award of financial support.

Applicants will be informed in writing when their application is received.

Only applications complying with the eligibility and exclusion criteria will be considered for the possible award of a grant.

Applicants whose applications are judged to be ineligible will be notified by mail, with an explanation as to why they were judged ineligible.

Tenderers will be informed, as soon as possible, of the decision taken by

the Commission on their grant application. No information will be released until the Commission's decision on project selection has been taken.

All selected applications will be subject to technical and financial analysis. In this connection the Commission may ask the applicant organisation for supplementary information, or possibly for guarantees.

Any applicant whose application for a Community grant is not accepted will be informed in writing.

12.4. Legal framework

- European Commission Communication dated 2 April 2008 - COM(2008) 158: "Debate Europe-building on the experience of Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate"
- European Commission Communication dated 13 October 2005 - COM(2005) 494: The Commission's contribution to the period of reflection and beyond: Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate
- Information note from Vice President Wallström to the Commission – Plan D, Wider and deeper debate on Europe - SEC(2006) 1553, 24.11.2006.
- OJ L 248, 16.9.2002 (Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities)

- OJ L 357, 31.12.2002 (Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities)

12.5. Contacts

The Commission department responsible for the implementation and management of the call for proposals Is EC Representation XXXXXXXX

Additional information can be obtained by electronic mail or by fax, either at the electronic address xxxx@ec.europa.eu, or by fax number from ++ xx xx xx xx xx , indicating clearly the reference of this call for proposals.

Annexes:

Annex I: Application form (parts A and B)

Annex II: Budget form

Annex III: Financial identification form

Annex IV: Financial capacity form

Annex V: Legal entity form

Annex VI: Draft contract (for information)

Annex VII: Acknowledgement of receipt of the application

Annex VIII: Application checklist

ОЦЕНКА НА ВЪЗДЕЙСТВИЕТО ВЪРХУ БЮДЖЕТА

Съобщение на Комисията: Дебат Европа — използване на натрупания опит от План Д за демокрация, диалог и дебати

ОБЛАСТ НА ПОЛИТИКАТА: СЪОБЩЕНИЕ

ДЕЙНОСТ: СПЕЦИФИЧНИ ДЕЙСТВИЯ ПО ПРИОРИТЕТНИ ТЕМИ, ОТ КОИТО - PRINCE

РАБОТНА ПРОГРАМА ЗА: 2008

1. СЪОТВЕТЕН БЮДЖЕТЕН РЕД И ДЯЛ

16.0304 - Специфични действия по приоритетни теми, от които - PRINCE

2. ПРАВНО ОСНОВАНИЕ

Задачи, които произтичат от прерогативите на Комисията на институционално равнище, както е предвидено в член 49, параграф 6 от Регламент (ЕО, Евратом) № 1605/2002 на Съвета от 25 юни 2002 г. относно Финансовия регламент, приложим за общия бюджет на Европейските общности (ОВ L 248, 16.9.2002 г., стр. 1), изменен с Регламент (ЕО) № 1995/2006 (ОВ L 390, 30.12.2006 г., стр. 1).

3. ОБЩИ ЦИФРИ ЗА ФИНАНСОВАТА ГОДИНА (В EUR)

■ 3.а – Текуща година

	Бюджетни кредити за поети задължения (БКПЗ)
Начални бюджетни кредити за финансовата година (бюджет)	12 830 000
Трансфери	0
Допълнителни бюджетни кредити	0
Общо бюджетни кредити:	12 830 000
Бюджетни кредити, вече заделени от друга работна програма	0
Налично салдо	12 830 000
Сума за предложеното действие	7 200 000 ¹⁹

■ 3.б – Преноси

N/A

■ 3.в – Следваща финансова година

N/A

4. ОПИСАНИЕ НА ДЕЙНОСТТА

„Дебат Европа“ ще продължи План Д през 2008 г. и 2009 г. Той ще гарантира, че общото усилие на Комисията за насърчаване на активно европейско гражданство е споделено от всички институции, свързано с политическите и комуникационни приоритети на Европейските институции, и ще достигне до отговорниците за взимането на решения на всички управленски равнища.

Предложена е двойна стратегия, подкрепена с бюджет от 7,2 млн. EUR:

- централизирана покана за предоставяне на предложения за съфинансиране на общ транснационален проект с бюджет от 2 млн. EUR;

¹⁹ Сумата за действието (7 200 000 EUR) спада към бюджетните кредити на бюджета за 2008 г. за бюджетния ред 16.0304 (Специфични действия по приоритетни теми, от които — PRINCE). Следователно не се изискват допълнителни средства. Подробна разбивка на тази сума е описана в Решението на Комисията за годишната работна програма за безвъзмездни помощи и договори в областта на комуникацията за 2008 г., C/2008/0924, приета от Комисията на 12 март 2008 г. (виж таблица 2.6.2.).

- децентрализирани покани и действия за подпомагане на местни проекти с бюджет от 5,2 млн. EUR.

На общоевропейско равнище – Общите условия за поканата за представяне на предложения ще определят, че — като се има предвид опита от първата поредица от транснационални проекти за демокрация на участието, съфинансирани по План Д, — „Дебат Европа“ ще подкрепи инициатива на гражданското общество, която организира консултации с гражданите във всяка държава-членка, установява общ набор от заключения/предложения на европейско равнище и въз основа на тази обща платформа започва диалог на гражданите с избраните представители и европейски политически организации, в сътрудничество с европейските политически фондации.

На национално равнище – Като отчита придобития опит от проектите на гражданското общество, финансирани съвместно с представителствата на Комисията в някои държави-членки, „Дебат Европа“ ще съфинансира децентрализирани действия, които отговарят на специфични нужди (например действия, насочени към училища и младежки центрове, изложби, панаири и фестивали, конференции, семинари, прояви с неправителствени организации...). Тези действия ще обхващат местни покани за представяне на предложения, съгласно посоченото в рамката на „Дебат Европа“ (например дебати по интернет, посещения от членове на Комисията, дейности в рамките на европейските обществени пространства и мрежи за пилотна информация, отиване на място чрез центровете Europe Direct...).

5. ВЪЗПРИЕТ МЕТОД НА ИЗЧИСЛЕНИЕ

Бюджетът от 7,2 млн. EUR, отделен за „Дебат Европа“ се разпределя както следва:

- Както вече бе посочено, централата на ГД „Комуникация“ ще направи покана за представяне на предложения за приблизителна сума от 2 млн. EUR, с цел съвместно финансиране на общ транснационален проект.

Допълнително, представителствата на Комисията ще обявят децентрализирани покани за представяне на предложения за приблизителна сума от 3,1 млн. EUR. Вероятно ще има по една покана за всяка отделна държава-членка, със среден бюджет между 100 000 и 200 000 EUR.

Тези цифри са изчислени въз основа на предишен опит (поканите за представяне на предложения по План Д за 2007 г. възлизаха на 2,4 млн. EUR за 13 държави-членки).

- Относно оставащите 2,1 млн. EUR, в допълнение към текущите договори, представителствата предвиждат да стартират около 136 покани за представяне на предложения (131 от тях \leq 60 000 EUR и 5 от тях $>$ 60 000 EUR).

6. ГРАФИК НА ПЛАЩАНИЯТА (В EUR)

Бюджетен ред 16.0304	2008 г.	2009	2010	Общо
Постигнати задължения	7 200 000	0	0	7 200 000
Плащания	3 600 000	1 800 000	1 800 000	7 200 000