



EUCIS-LLL

## Last chance to save administrative support for European civil society organisations in Erasmus for all/YES Europe!

May 2013

*As the triologue negotiations on the future Erasmus for all/YES Europe funding programme 2014-2020 are soon coming to an end, the European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL) wishes to bring a modest contribution in order to find a solution for the maintaining of an administrative support to European civil society organisations in the field of education and training. Mentioning this support in the legal basis is essential to ensure the survival of those organisations and sustain what was achieved by the Lifelong Learning Programme.*

### Proposal for a consensus

**EUCIS-LLL strongly supports the amendments tabled in the Parliament's report** on the need to give an administrative support to European civil society organisations. Yet we realised that the mention of **"operating grants"** has led to much confusion on the type of funding that European organisations receive under the Lifelong Learning Programme, and that keeping the current **competitive and highly selective process** to allocate those grants was essential to triologue players. We are therefore willing to make the two following proposals of **consensus for negotiations**.

Under "Support for policy reform" (article 9.1) – inspired from EP **amendment 134-135**

*"Support for policy reform action shall include the activities initiated at Union level related to:  
(...) the specific and sustainable administrative support via competitive calls for proposals to European civil society organisations active in the field of education and training"*

Under "Financial provisions" (article 13.4) – inspired from EP **amendment 213**

*"The financial allocation for the Programme shall also cover a specific and sustainable administrative support via competitive calls for proposals to European civil society organisations active in the field of education and training"*

### Reminder

#### What administrative support for civil society organisations is

- Cost effective, sustainable **grants** given to European civil society organisations under the LLP - Jean Monnet [Key activity 3](#), ensuring the quality of their work.
- A funding scheme allocated via a **highly selective call for proposals** (contrary to the direct grants allocated to the six Jean Monnet institutions under [Key Activity 2](#)) to [17 organisations](#) in 2012 and representing only **0.1% of the total LLP budget** for last year.
- A type of funding that demands to fulfil policy objectives, **requires systematic reporting** to DG EAC Executive Agency and which implementation report is evaluated by external experts.

- A support that **has been kept in most of the 2014-2020 programmes** ([Europe for citizens](#), the [Programme for Social Change and Innovation](#), [LIFE](#) and the [Health for Growth Programme](#)) as other Commission DGs have estimated that those funding schemes are the most suitable for European organisations' capacity-building and contributions to EU policies.

### What consequences if this administrative support disappears

- The Commission proposes to finance only civil society organisations' **projects**, turning them into **service providers**: their mission (policy monitoring, advocacy, expertise...) cannot be reduced to project running on very specific actions. This shift would seriously **jeopardise EU civil dialogue**.
- **Platforms like EUCIS-LLL would simply disappear** as its role is political and not project management.
- Project-base funding would have a **very negative impact on their staff** (precarious contracts) and on the quality and sustainability of outputs (no indirect costs financed i.e. premises).

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*The European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL) gathers 31 European organisations working in education and training. Together, they cover all sectors of education and training including networks for secondary and higher education, vocational education and training, adult education and popular education; networks for students, school heads, parents, HRD professionals, teachers and trainers.*

*For further information on EUCIS-LLL advocacy on the future Erasmus for all/YES Europe funding programme, see our [website](#) and different advocacy documents:*

- EUCIS-LLL briefing note: "[Preserve civil society participation in Erasmus for all/YES Europe](#)" (Dec 2012)
- EUCIS-LLL letter: "[European organisations are in danger in Erasmus for all](#) " (Jan 2013)
- EUCIS-LLL/European Youth Forum [joint letter](#) summarising our main advocacy points (Feb 2013)
- EUCIS-LLL press release: "[Civil society: service providers for DG Education and Culture?](#)" (March 2013)
- EUCIS-LLL communiqué "[Operating grants for European CSOs in Erasmus for all/YES Europe in 5 points](#)" (March 2013)