Intercultural Dialogue — support through EU programmes

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Preface

The enlarged European Union is more than ever home for people of diverse cultures, traditions and beliefs. The impact of globalisation, the increased free movement of workers in the Single Market, old and new migration flows — all of these phenomena mean that a shift is needed from “multicultural” to “intercultural” societies if we are to make the most of the cultural diversity which characterises our Member States. With this goal in mind, the European Commission proposed to declare 2008 the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue.

The European Year has been a great opportunity to put intercultural dialogue in the spotlight and to deepen a European debate on this challenge. But cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue have, in a sense, always been at the heart of European integration, and are a strategic priority in a wide range of Community initiatives and programmes. This is true in the framework of the policies of which I am in charge (education, culture, youth, citizenship and sport) but also in many other policy fields from employment to integration policy and from external relations to audiovisual policy.

This brochure features more than twenty of these programmes and highlights inspiring project examples supported by EU funds. It should serve both as inspiration and as a practical guide to sources of EU support for the many committed organisations and individuals throughout Europe — and beyond — who are active in the field of intercultural dialogue.

Intercultural dialogue has a fundamental role in building a competitive Europe based on social cohesion, openness and respect for the other. We need to learn how to live together, not just to co-exist. The many EU programmes which support this dialogue can all contribute to our “unity in diversity”. I hope that these examples will encourage you to develop fresh project ideas, to open your minds and hearts to others and to create new shared spaces for dialogue.

Commissioner Ján Figel’, Member of the European Commission responsible for Education, Training, Culture and Youth
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Together in diversity

Throughout history, populations from different cultures have met and exchanged ideas, values and goods through art, trade and migration. In an increasingly interdependent world, people from different backgrounds and cultures are now mixing more than ever. The European Union is working towards a society respectful of cultural diversity and open to the world.

Globalisation, the enlargement of the European Union and the free movement of workers in the Single Market have increased the multicultural character of many countries, adding to the number of languages, religions and ethnic backgrounds on the continent. Cities such as London, Paris or Berlin have become real melting pots, home to people from all over the globe. Although this mixing of cultures can create vibrant, dynamic societies, it can also bring tensions.

Policies that promote inclusion, integration and participation of all citizens are therefore vital. Effective and constructive communication is necessary for any multicultural society to function. As societies become increasingly diverse, the need for people to understand each other becomes more important if dynamic communities are to develop — communities where people can live together and make the most of their diversity.

**Intercultural dialogue** promotes the sharing of ideas and explores different ways of looking at the world. It can be the ‘glue’ that binds diverse societies together. The European Union designated 2008 ‘The year of intercultural dialogue’, with a series of initiatives to promote:

- **Cultural diversity**, at a time when globalisation is often seen as a force for homogeneity;
- **Active European citizenship** based on common values, such as commitment to solidarity, social justice and stronger cohesion;
• **Culture and creativity as sources** of innovation to improve prosperity; and

• **A stronger voice for Europe in the world**, through partnerships with neighbouring countries to boost development, stability and democracy.

**On the agenda**
The promotion of intercultural dialogue is one of the main pillars of the European Agenda for Culture, agreed by EU leaders in November 2007. It recognises that Europe’s cultural diversity is one of its greatest assets and seeks to safeguard and promote it.

The promotion of culture and cultural diversity is also laid down in the Treaty establishing the EU.

This is the basis for the EU’s Culture programme (2007–2013). With a budget of 400 € million the programme supports projects and actions which focus on Europe’s cultural diversity and celebrate our continent’s common cultural heritage. The programme supports the development of cross-border cooperation between actors and institutions from the cultural sector.

But culture must also be taken into account in other EU initiatives and policy areas, among them fields as diverse as lifelong learning, external relations, research policy, and regional and rural development.

This brochure outlines some of these programmes and their related projects and aims to highlight the achievements of a very diverse range of actions in this field.
Flagship projects of the 2008 European Year of Intercultural Dialogue

A number of large-scale projects explored the rich cultures, heritage and traditions across Europe:

**Diversidad!**
Promoting intercultural dialogue through urban and hip-hop culture, high-visibility actions in 21 countries included a collaborative website, a festival, a single in several languages, workshops, seminars and exhibitions.

**Alter Ego**
With involvement from 48,000 schools in 20 countries, this project helped pupils reach beyond their normal social circles via a collaborative art competition. Supporting actions included workshops, a website, DVDs, a touring exhibition and media activities.

**Cultures from around the block**
The project brought together youngsters from different ethnic groups in seven cities to explore integration across Europe. They documented their personal experiences in common projects — a website, a documentary film and a festival.

**Intercultural dialogue radio campaign**
Over 70 radio broadcasts were produced looking at the history of migration in Europe and celebrating the new cultures it has sparked. The campaign was active in seven countries through a network of five local radio stations and two production centres.

**iyouwe SHARE THE WORLD**
Storytellers visited primary schools to recount traditional myths, legends and tales. Children then swapped stories with classes in different countries and used them as inspiration for art. The results went into an exhibition and a seminar on arts education.

**Meeting the other: borders, identity and cultures in Europe**
The project aimed to improve mutual understanding of young people from different immigrant communities in ten countries. Actions in journalism, research, design and performing arts included seminars, documentaries and a virtual festival.

**Stranger Festival**
This was a youth video project developed by communities in 18 countries. It involved video workshops, an interactive website, youth debates and a video competition. It culminated in an international festival to build links between film-makers from different backgrounds.

**More information**
Find out more about the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue and the featured projects at:

www.dialogue2008.eu
Celebrating Europe’s cultural diversity and enhancing cross-border co-operation is vital to preserving traditions and ensuring a bright future.

Rich, varied and dating back thousands of years, Europe’s cultural heritage is one to be proud of. The EU’s Culture Programme (2007–2013) allows for the implementation of practical steps to safeguard and promote European culture through the development of co-operative activities between cultural operators, with a view to encouraging the emergence of European citizenship.

The Programme aims at three specific objectives:

- Promoting cross-border mobility for those working in the cultural sector;
- Encouraging international circulation of cultural and artistic works and products;
- Fostering intercultural dialogue.

The Programme provides financial support to a wide range of activities, taking a flexible and interdisciplinary approach. It co-finances cultural projects and the operating costs of European-level cultural organisations, including analysis and dissemination activities. Co-operation is emphasised in cultural actions, with funding going to multi-annual activities as well as measures with shorter lifespans.

In addition, there is support for a number of high-profile actions, including the European Capitals of Culture and Europe-wide competitions celebrating cultural heritage, contemporary architecture, popular music and contemporary literature.

Awareness of the activities and results of the Culture Programme (2007–2013) is raised via analysis and dissemination activities.

FACTS

PROGRAMME TITLE: Culture Programme (2007–2013)
RESPONSIBLE DG: Education and Culture
BUDGET: € 400 million
GEOGRAPHIC REACH: EU Member States, with a framework for special measures with third countries. EEA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway); EU candidate countries (Croatia, Turkey and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) plus Serbia. The countries of the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia–Herzegovina and Montenegro) could become eligible in the future, subject to the conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding concerning the participation of each of those countries in the Programme.
DATES: 2007–2013
WEBSITE: http://ec.europa.eu/culture/index_en.htm doc84_en.htm
Storytelling is an ancient tradition, used for centuries to entertain and inform. The Shahrazad project brings together writers from all over the world to promote human rights, freedom of speech, diversity and solidarity through the sharing of tales.

What’s it all about?
Many writers around the world face persecution and the suppression of their work. This project seeks to acquaint audiences in Europe and further afield with the stories of refugee poets, journalists, novelists, screenwriters, essayists, cartoonists and translators. In so doing, themes of intercultural dialogue and fundamental rights are highlighted.

Background?
The International Cities of Refuge Network (ICORN) is an association of cities around the world dedicated to the importance of freedom of expression. By providing a guest writer with a safe place to stay and economic security for a standard term of two years, ICORN cities promote this ideal.

How does it work?
During the five-year project, six ICORN cities will host events showcasing the work of writers who have fled persecution. Beginning in November 2007, Barcelona, Brussels, Frankfurt, Norwich, Stockholm and Stavanger are organising events and co-operating with each other to provide opportunities for the guest writers to reach beyond the borders of their adopted nations. Readings, public lectures, school programmes, film screenings and literary debates are among the planned events.

What are its objectives?
Promoting integration and understanding within communities, countries and continents. In particular, the aim is to reach people who do not normally encounter the worlds of literature and culture, with a focus on young people. It is hoped that cooperation between the partners involved will continue after the end of the project in 2012.

How is it funded and run?
Funded under the EU Culture Programme (2007–2013), ICORN is responsible for the coordination of the project activities.

Where can I get more information?
www.icorn.org/www.shahrazadeu.org
This programme gives young people the chance to develop their skills and experience through a series of international actions. Actions with increased tolerance, solidarity and active citizenship are the objectives.

Youth hold the future of society — the Youth in Action programme seeks to maximise the potential of young Europeans and involve them in shaping the future of the European Union.

It promotes mobility within and beyond the EU, encouraging learning beyond traditional classrooms, the mixing of cultures and the inclusion of all young people, regardless of their educational, social and cultural backgrounds.

The programme is the successor of the YOUTH programme, which lasted from 2000–2006, and supports a variety of activities. There are five sets of actions:

- **Youth for Europe**: encourages active citizenship, participation and creativity through exchanges, initiatives and democracy projects.
- **European Voluntary Service**: helps young people to develop their sense of solidarity by participating, either individually or in groups, in non-profit, unpaid voluntary activities abroad.
- **Youth in the World**: promotes partnerships and exchanges among young people and youth organisations across the world.
- **Youth Support Systems**: includes various measures to support youth workers and youth organisations, and improve the quality of their activities.
- **Support for European Cooperation** in the youth field, in particular by facilitating dialogue between young people and policy-makers.

**FACTS**

**PROGRAMME TITLE:** Youth in Action  
**RESPONSIBLE DG:** Education and Culture  
**BUDGET:** € 885 million  
**GEOGRAPHIC REACH:**  
Geographic reach: EU–27, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Turkey, the EU neighbours (Eastern Europe and Caucasus, the Mediterranean region, South East Europe) and other countries  
**DATES:** 2007–2013  
Roma communities are often isolated, with little communication or understanding between them and mainstream society. The ‘Roma-Gadje Dialogue through Service’ initiative seeks to break down their marginalisation by involving non-Roma youths in projects in Roma communities and vice versa.

What’s it all about?
The project brings Roma and non-Roma (Gadje) youth together in voluntary service activities in the EU, and central and eastern Europe, to increase mutual understanding.

Background?
The current project, running from 2007 to 2009, is the successor to a previous 18-month project.

How does it work?
Youngsters from different backgrounds work together on long- and short-term projects in 11 countries — Albania, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania and Ukraine.

What are its objectives?
The project aims to involve 75 youngsters in total, half from Roma communities. The previous initiative is already reported to have had a strong impact on both communities and participants.

How is it funded and run?
The project brings together voluntary service organisations, youth organisations, and Roma cultural and social centres from all countries involved. Funding of €598,602 was granted through the European Voluntary Service action of the EU’s Youth in Action programme.
This programme supports activities and organisations that promote ‘active European citizenship’ and common European values such as tolerance, mutual understanding and solidarity.

The Europe for Citizens programme aims to increase the involvement of people in the process of European integration and contributes to intercultural dialogue. It encourages cooperation between citizens and organisations from different countries in order to meet, debate and act together to develop their own ideas on what Europe should be.

Activities come under a number of headings:

- **Active citizens for Europe:** involves citizens directly through activities such as town-twinning;
- **Active civil society in Europe:** targets civil society organisations which can receive support either to run their organisations at European level or for specific international projects;
- **Together for Europe:** the European Commission initiates and carries out high-visibility events, studies and information tools addressing the widest possible audience across frontiers and making Europe more tangible for its citizens;
- **Active European Remembrance:** supports the preservation of sites and archives concerning the victims of mass deportation and extermination under the Nazi and Stalinist regimes, and reflection on democracy, freedom, and respect for human rights.

**FACTS**

**PROGRAMME TITLE:** Europe for Citizens  
**RESPONSIBLE DG:** Education and Culture  
**BUDGET:** €215 million  
**GEOGRAPHIC REACH:** EU-27  
**DATES:** 2007–2013  
**WEBSITE:** http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/index_en.html
**Talking art**

The ‘Art: common language of European citizens’ project unites people from different countries.

**What’s it all about?**
The main objective of the project is to employ art to explore both the differences and common features of the countries involved arising from historical developments. It looks to improve communication between people in the enlarged European Union using the common language of art.

**Background?**
The project operated throughout 2008 in five countries — Lithuania, Poland, Germany, France and Sweden.

**How did it work?**
There were three main activities:

- **Raising awareness of national cultural heritage** through events such as exhibitions;

- **Presentation of contemporary and classical art**, in exhibitions, music festivals and summer schools;

- **Workshops** and other events that encouraged discussion and debate on art and culture among the wider public.

**What were its objectives?**
The project aimed to share experiences and encourage future co-operation among cultural organisations and individual members of the public from the five participant countries. The project uses art as a means to learn and to foster dialogue and communication based on common values.

**How was it funded and run?**
The project received over €22,000 through the EU’s ‘Europe for Citizens’ programme. The administration of the Trakai region in Lithuania co-ordinated the project, together with organisations active in culture in the partner countries.
Learning foreign languages can encourage greater diversity, tolerance and understanding of other cultures — as well as improve employment prospects for individuals.

The EU is rich in languages, with 23 official languages, over 60 regional ones and scores of others spoken by migrant communities. Multilingualism is vital if people are to make the most of opportunities in the EU.

The ability to understand and communicate in more than one language can encourage us to become more open to other people’s cultures and outlooks and open up new opportunities as regards working, studying or living in another Member State.

EU multilingualism actions cut across many policy areas and aim to:

- Preserve all European languages;
- Encourage all citizens to learn and speak more languages, in order to improve mutual understanding and communication;
- Underline and develop the role of multilingualism in the European economy;
- Ensure citizens have access to EU legislation, procedures and information in their own languages.

Encouraging multilingualism has been an important part of EU actions for many years, and this continues in the latest generation of programmes, such as Lifelong learning, Youth in Action and Culture 2007.

The European Commission and the Member States undertake activities to improve language teaching within the Education and Training 2010 strategy. A first step towards this is an EU-wide survey of language skills and the development of an indicator for language competences.

**FACTS**

**PROGRAMME TITLE:** Lifelong Learning  
**RESPONSIBLE DG:** all DGs. Support for multilingualism is provided specifically under the Lifelong Learning Programme, but is a priority of the sub-programmes that cover schools, higher education, adult learning and vocational training.  
**GEOGRAPHIC REACH:** EU-27  
**DATES:** 2007–2013  
**WEBSITE:** [http://ec.europa.eu/education/languages/eu-programmes/doc191_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/languages/eu-programmes/doc191_en.htm)
The ‘FEEL’ project aimed to increase awareness of the languages and cultures of the countries that joined the EU in 2004, using a full-sensory approach.

What was it about?
The project aimed to provide basic linguistic and cultural knowledge for the ten ‘new’ EU languages in a humorous, attractive and relevant way. Its objective was to challenge misconceptions and stereotypes, with a target audience ranging from students to travel agents, business people, embassy staff and politicians.

Timescale?
From 2004 to 2007.

How did it work?
A range of products and activities were developed, including:

- Souvenir calendars for each separate country and language;
- A European calendar presenting all countries;
- Language survival kits, brochures and CDs;
- A European language festival in Brussels and local events in each country. Events were organised around the senses — ‘seeing’ the language in games and puzzles, ‘tasting’ national delicacies, ‘smelling’ traditional herbs, ‘moving’ through national dances, and ‘touching’ traditional handicrafts.

What did it achieve?
The project increased awareness and contributed to increased mobility and tourism. Positive responses may lead to future commercialisation of the FEEL products and methodology.

How was it funded and run?
FEEL received funding through DG Education and Culture’s multilingualism actions. Partners included universities and NGOs from each of the ten countries, coordinated by Vytautas Magnus University (Lithuania).

Where can I get more information?
www.feel.vdu.lt
School is where young people acquire basic life skills and the competences necessary for personal development, employment and active citizenship. Through mobility and Europe-wide co-operation activities, the Comenius programme increases knowledge and understanding of the diversity of European cultures and languages, and their value in schooling.

In operation since 1995, Comenius is the EU programme that focuses on the first phase of education, from pre-school to secondary schools. Everyone involved in school education can take part — students, teachers, other education staff, associations, NGOs, universities, research organisations and teacher training organisations.

The programme supports a range of activities, including mobility and trans-European co-operation initiatives between schools. By 2013, the programme aims to have involved at least 3 million pupils in joint activities between schools in the different participating countries. Comenius School Partnerships give pupils and teachers a practical opportunity to practise foreign languages — one of the programme’s priorities.

The eTwinning initiative, part of Comenius since 2007, helps schools take advantage of digital media and the internet to promote European school co-operation, collaborative learning and other joint projects.

Comenius multilateral projects aim to spread educational best practices, develop new teacher training courses, course content and guidance. Multilateral networks support the development of school education in specific subjects, acquiring and disseminating good practice and innovation.

FACTS

PROGRAMME TITLE: Comenius
RESPONSIBLE DG: Education and Culture
BUDGET: around € 200 million per year
GEOGRAPHIC REACH: EU–27 plus Norway, Iceland, Lichtenstein and Turkey
Dates: 2007–2013
The ‘Intercultural Communications through Performing Arts’ project brought together schools from across Europe to create joint art productions which explore how cultures, nationalities and ethnic groups influence each other.

What was it about?
Schools from Finland, Germany, Spain, Italy and Belgium co-operated in this partnership, which aimed to show the unifying effect of culture and theatrical performances.

Background?
The project lasted from 2003 to 2006.

How did it work?
There were several meetings in the different countries to plan and rehearse a musical The Station, written and performed by the pupils involved. The play is a story about people living around Europe. In each school, classes studying different subjects worked together to produce music, lyrics, digital work and a contributed to a central project website.

What did it achieve?
The project culminated in a final joint performance of the musical in Finland, involving over 80 pupils and 15 teachers from the five countries. Smaller music and theatre performances were also arranged in each of the partner countries. They attracted an audience beyond staff and pupils and generated local media attention.

How was it funded and run?
The schools involved were: I.E.S. Pablo Gargallo, Zaragoza, Spain; Jacob-Grimm-Schule, Kassel, Germany; Liceo Scientifico Statale Elio Vittorini, Lentini, Italy; Sint-Lambertuscollege, Westerlo, Belgium; and the co-ordinating school, Vaskivuoren lukio, Vantaa, Finland. The project received funding from the Comenius schools partnerships programme.

Where can I get more information?
www.vantaa-vaskivuori.fi
The Erasmus programme promotes mobility of students and academic staff throughout Europe. Studying abroad helps students to develop academically and personally, building vital life skills and stimulating interest in other cultures.

Each year, around 160,000 students participate in the Erasmus scheme, which has become a rite of passage for today’s higher education generation. However, as the EU’s flagship education and training programme, Erasmus covers far more than student exchange programmes.

In addition to student mobility, this scheme facilitates teaching abroad for professors and business staff, and foreign training for university staff. It also supports co-operation between higher education institutions through intensive programmes, networks and multilateral projects. Now part of the EU’s Lifelong Learning Programme, Erasmus has expanded to cover the placements of students in businesses for training.

Erasmus is by far one of the EU’s most wide-reaching and successful programmes. Since 1987, 1.7 million students have participated and the scheme now involves more than 3,100 institutions in 31 countries. By 2012, it is hoped that around 3 million students will have participated in Erasmus, and that the number of universities involved continues to grow.

FACT

PROGRAMME TITLE: Erasmus
RESPONSIBLE DG: EDUCATION AND CULTURE
BUDGET: In excess of €400 million per year
GEOGRAPHIC REACH: EU–27, plus Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Turkey
DATES: Since 1987
WEBSITE: http://ec.europa.eu/education/erasmus
An MA in migration

Europe is more multicultural than ever. Migrants’ motivations and how they are received have changed. A consortium of European universities joined forces to develop a masters’ course looking at the subject.

What’s it all about?
Migration has an ever-increasing impact on Europe and the way that it is run, with repercussions in many areas of public policy. Therefore, a greater understanding of the phenomenon, its causes and effects is needed. The universities of Stavanger (Norway), Oldenburg (Germany), Lisbon (Portugal) and Nova Gorica (Slovenia) decided to co-operate and develop the MA in Migration and Intercultural Relations to address this need.

Background?
Preparations began in July 2003 and the first batch of students started the course in October 2006.

How did it work?
Uniting expert scholars in the fields of history, political science, sociology and other relevant disciplines, the MA course was devised to provide students with knowledge and research experience within diverse national contexts.

What did it achieve?
The collaborative MA programme, using innovative teaching methods and distance learning, offers an intercultural approach to addressing challenges presented by migration. More generally, it aims to contribute to lifelong learning and cross-cultural dialogue.

How was it funded and run?
The project was funded by the EU’s Erasmus programme, which encourages co-operation between European higher education institutions.

Where can I get more information?
www.migrationhistory.com/ma
Named after one of the founders of European unity, the Jean Monnet programme supports the study of European integration worldwide, reaching 250,000 students in 60 countries each year. It enables academics and students to deepen their knowledge of Europe in all its diversity.

Since formal European integration began in the mid-20th century, the field of European studies has developed to become a fully-fledged academic subject. The Jean Monnet programme was created in 1990 and is now part of the European Union’s Lifelong Learning Programme. It aims to promote teaching and research in the area of European integration at higher education institutions around the world.

There are four types of action:

- Establishing university-level projects on European integration, including Jean Monnet Chairs, Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence, course modules, academic associations, and research activities;
- Supporting six specific academic institutions specialising in European subjects such as the College of Europe and the European University Institute;
- Assisting European-level associations in the field of education and training;
- Organising annual high-level conferences and thematic groups bringing together Jean Monnet professors, policy-makers and civil society representatives.

**FACTS**

**PROGRAMME TITLE:** Jean Monnet  
**RESPONSIBLE DG:** Education and Culture  
**BUDGET:** € 23 million  
**GEOGRAPHIC REACH:** Global  
**DATES:** 2007–2013  
**WEBSITE:** http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc88_en.htm
This international academic project helped prepare for the Year of Intercultural Dialogue in 2008.

What’s it all about?
Bringing together research teams composed of Jean Monnet professors from four European universities as well as the European Community Studies Associations of Japan and Mexico, the project ‘The role of intercultural dialogue for the development of a new (plural, democratic) citizenship’ approaches the topic from an academic standpoint and aims to develop practical measures.

Background?
The Jean Monnet programme supports teaching and research into European integration around the world, including the creation of Jean Monnet Multilateral Research Groups, Centres of Excellence and university chairs. Beginning in December 2005, this project has been carried out by academics benefiting from the programme.

How did it work?
Four research teams have each worked on a different aspect of the role of intercultural dialogue:

- Università degli Studi di Padova (Italy) on ‘Intercultural dialogue and human rights, civil society and world order issues’;
- European Institute of Łódź (Poland) on ‘Intercultural dialogue and democracy’;
- Panteion University (Athens) and the European Community Studies Association of Greece on ‘Governing a multicultural Europe: a new republican approach’; and
- University of Malta on ‘Intercultural dialogue and EU–Med partnership’.

The results of the research were presented at a conference held in Padua in March 2007, and in an accompanying book.

What were its objectives?
On a practical level, the project aimed to involve young researchers in a joint research project. Academically, the focus was on the impact that intercultural dialogue can have on social cohesion and human security, as well as on finding ways that policies can be implemented at European, national and local levels.

How was it funded and run?
The project has been funded by the EU’s Jean Monnet programme.

Where can I get more information?
www.centrodirittiumani.unipd.it/a_attivita/convegni.asp?menu=attivita
Grundtvig aims to increase the number of adults undertaking education, thereby improving employment prospects, mobility and lifelong learning.

‘A job for life’ is a thing of the past. In today’s job market, most people will make several career changes during their working lives, meaning that access to ongoing education and vocational training is essential.

Continuing a programme dating back to 2000, the latest generation of the Grundtvig programme for 2007–2013 aims to provide more adults with ways to improve their knowledge and skills, keeping them mentally fit and potentially more employable. It not only covers learners, but also the teachers, trainers, staff and facilities that provide these services, encouraging networking across the EU and innovative practices.

The mobility of learners across the Union is a priority, with 55% of the programme’s funding earmarked for this purpose. The aim is to ensure that by 2013 at least 7,000 people each year can benefit from adult education abroad.

The programme supports:

- Mobility, including visits, placements, ‘assistantships’, adult education exchanges (i.e. staff training and professional development) and the preparations needed to plan exchanges;

- Grundtvig Learning Partnerships focusing on themes of mutual interest to participating organisations;

- Multilateral projects to improve adult education systems through the development and transfer of innovation and good practices;

- Grundtvig Networks of experts and organisations working on developing adult education, spreading good practices and supporting partnerships.

FACTS

PROGRAMME TITLE: Grundtvig
RESPONSIBLE DG: Education and Culture
BUDGET: € 40 million per year in the period 2007–2013
GEOGRAPHIC REACH: EU–27, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Turkey
DATES: 2007–2013
With immigrant populations growing in Europe, ensuring that they play a full role in society is vital to the health of democracies. The WinAct project aimed to increase the participation of immigrants in civic activities through adult education.

What’s it all about?
At the moment, immigrants are under-represented in civil society organisations such as trade unions and political parties. The project enables adult education providers to hold workshops encouraging immigrants to participate in these types of organisations which are the bedrock of democracies.

Background?
The project, which lasted from 2006–2008, applied the findings of the EU-funded research project POLITIS to develop a practical ‘train the trainer’ course.

How did it work?
The transnational team took a number of actions:

- The development of five workshop modules (basics, political process, trade unions, Ireland and Norway);
- Provision and testing of training courses for adult educators to introduce them to the workshops and enable them to customise them for their national situations;
- The development of a website to provide access to materials and information.

What has it achieved?
The course materials have been developed and can be applied in countries throughout the EU. Training events for adult education professionals continue beyond the dates of the initial project.

How was it funded and run?
The project involved seven universities and research institutes from five countries — Germany, Ireland, Norway, Romania and Portugal. Carl Von Ossietzky–Universität Oldenburg acted as project coordinator, which was granted €206,919 in EU funding through the Grundtvig programme.

Where can I get more information?
www.uni-oldenburg.de/PolitischeBildung/23289.html

Activating immigrants
Since 2000, more than 400,000 people have experienced professional life in another European country through the Leonardo da Vinci programme, enabling them to widen their cultural horizons and boost work-related skills.

The Leonardo da Vinci programme deals with vocational education, giving individuals the chance to improve their knowledge and skills through a training period spent abroad, and enhancing co-operation between training organisations in different countries.

Actions applicable for funding include cross-border mobility initiatives, co-operation projects to develop and spread innovation, or thematic networks of organisations working in the vocational education and training sectors.

Potential beneficiaries range from trainees in initial vocational training, to people already employed, as well as educational professionals and private or public organisations active in this field.

The programme enables organisations working in vocational education to work with European partners, exchange best practices, increase the expertise of their staff and respond to people’s teaching and learning needs. It therefore supports efforts to make vocational education more attractive to young people. By helping European citizens to acquire new skills, knowledge and qualifications, the programme also helps improve the competitiveness of the European labour market.

Innovation projects aim to improve the quality of training systems through the development and transfer of innovative policies, contents, methods and procedures within vocational education and training.

FACTS

PROGRAMME TITLE: Leonardo da Vinci
RESPONSIBLE DG: Education and Culture
BUDGET: € 1.7 billion for 2007–2013
GEOGRAPHIC REACH: EU–27, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Turkey
Dates: since 1994
PreQual aims to help migrant women gain access to employment in the health and care sectors through the development and implementation of practical training courses.

What’s it all about?
The project develops practical training courses to prepare migrant women for careers as healthcare professionals. In this way, it aims to help solve two problems — discrimination of migrant women in the labour market and a shortage of healthcare workers.

Background?
From 2004–2007, a curriculum was prepared and implemented in pilot projects in Italy, Germany and Austria, taking into account each country’s specific needs. In the next phase, the course is being put into practice in the Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary and Spain.

How does it work?
The project is based on a new concept of training, representing a link between regular educational programmes within healthcare, educational institutes and migrant women. The project aims to be anti-racist and inter-cultural, using self-evaluation methods and practical experiences. The guiding principles are empowerment, awareness and participation.

What are its objectives?
By 2009, the project aims to have developed the concept for nine European countries, with five PreQual courses. An interactive website and learning aids have been developed.

How is it funded and run?
The project is funded through the EU’s Leonardo Da Vinci programme. Austrian NGO Maiz coordinates the project with partner organisations in each participating country.

Where can I get more information?
www.prequalonline.org

Accessing care work
Tempus (The Trans-European mobility scheme for university studies) supports the modernisation of higher education in countries surrounding the EU. It creates an area of co-operation and increases mutual understanding and dialogue between academic institutions, people and cultures.

Founded in 1990 after the fall of the Berlin Wall, Tempus responded to the need to modernise higher education in the former Eastern bloc countries. The programme promotes international and regional co-operation in the academic worlds of the EU and partner countries.

The programme has changed with the political landscape, launching its fourth phase in 2008. It covers 27 countries in the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, North Africa and the Middle East.

There are two types of actions: 

- **Joint projects** between higher education institutions in the EU and the partner countries. These projects aim to develop, modernise and disseminate new curricula, teaching methods or materials, boost the quality of teaching, and modernise the management and governance of higher education institutions.

- **Structural measures** that contribute to the development and reform of higher education institutions and systems in partner countries, to enhance their quality and relevance, and increase their convergence with EU developments.

Partnerships for Tempus projects can include higher education institutions, businesses, ministries, NGOs, and other organisations working in higher education; both from the EU and partner countries.

**FACTS**

- **PROGRAMME TITLE:** Tempus — the Trans-European mobility scheme for university studies
- **RESPONSIBLE DG:** Education and Culture
- **BUDGET:** € 51 million for 2008, with individual projects eligible for funding of € 0.5–1.5 million
- **GEOGRAPHIC REACH:** Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, North Africa and the Middle East
- **DATES:** Tempus IV runs from 2007–2013
- **WEBSITE:** http://ec.europa.eu/tempus
Aiming to increase intercultural awareness, understanding and mediation in the Middle East, the ‘Centre Interculturel Méditerranéen Euro-Libanais de Beyrouth’ project created a centre for Euro-Mediterranean studies at the University of Joseph Saint of Beirut.

What’s it all about?
The centre was established to look at issues relating to intercultural dialogue and multiculturalism, through the creation of Master’s-level courses and the establishment of an Observatory on intercultural dialogue.

Background?
The project lasted from September 2003 to December 2006.

How did it work?
The specific objectives were:

- To develop and put in place a new cultural course, concretised in a two-year Master’s Program in Intercultural Mediation;
- To encourage exchanges between actors within the various education systems;
- To stimulate the use of new teaching and learning methods and technologies;
- To support the multicultural vocational training of young Arabs, as well as adults interested in expanding their cultural horizons.

What has it achieved?
The centre has been established and is running the Master’s programme. The Observatory has also been set up, located in the premises of the University’s CEMAM (Centre Etudes Monde Arabe Moderne), a database on interculturalism has been developed and the Observatory offers regular seminars.

How is it funded and run?
The project was coordinated by the Sacred Heart Catholic University in Milan, with project partners Saint Joseph University, Beirut (Lebanon), Fachhochschule Rheinland-Pfalz Abteilung Koblenz (Germany), Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona (Spain), Porto University (Portugal) and the Catholic Institute of Paris (France). Funding came through the EU’s Tempus programme.

Where can I get more information?
www.ciel.usj.edu.lb/
The promotion of European higher education around the world benefits students and institutions alike.

Europe is home to many of the oldest and most celebrated universities in the world. Educational standards around the world are continuing to improve as Europe needs to attract the brightest minds to ensure that its universities remain competitive.

The Erasmus Mundus programme was started in 2004 to promote Europe as a centre of excellence in learning. It supports high-quality Master’s courses and funds full scholarships for students from outside of the Union to study in Europe and short-term grants for EU citizens to attend universities around the world.

The programme aims to increase the visibility and attractiveness of European universities to students and academics from around the world. And the cross-pollination of academic talent stimulates intercultural dialogue and exchange.

Erasmus Mundus plays an important role in tackling the challenges that European higher education currently faces — in particular, the need to make European degree structures more homogeneous and to attract international talent. The programme also contributes to the EU’s aim to make Europe the most competitive, knowledge-based economy in the world.

The first phase of the programme (2004–2008) is coming to an end. However a second phase (2009–2013) will be launched next year with some changes such as the inclusion of doctoral programmes, increased participation of non-EU institutions, full scholarships for EU students, more varied mobility possibilities and increased attention paid to the development of higher education systems in less developed and developing countries.

FACTS

PROGRAMME TITLE: Erasmus Mundus
RESPONSIBLE DG: Education and Culture
BUDGET: € 230 million, plus € 66 million for scholarships to students from certain third countries
GEOGRAPHIC REACH: Global
DATES: 2007–2013
The Joint European Master’s in Comparative Local Development brings together the expertise of four universities to offer students an interdisciplinary and intercultural programme.

What’s it all about?
The course teaches students how local development can boost stability and progress at regional and wider levels. It aims to offer the best possible education for students and enhance interaction between universities.

Background?
The universities teaching the course are: the University of Trento (Italy), Corvinus University of Budapest (Hungary), the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia), and the University of Regensburg (Germany).

How does it work?
The 18-month course is interdisciplinary and comparative, with modules in economics, law, political science, sociology, and project management. Teaching is done through distance learning, workshops, internships, language courses and project discussion groups.

What are its objectives?
The project aims to build institutional bridges between ‘old’ and ‘new’ European universities, local authorities, businesses and organisations. Staff and student mobility are fundamental, with teaching taking place at the various institutions.

How is it funded and run?
Funded by the EU’s Erasmus Mundus higher education programme, the course is jointly run by the participating universities. It is taught in English, with some courses in Italian, German, Hungarian or Slovenian.

Where can I get more information?
www.unitn.it/mastercode/
This programme supports over 300 new film projects every year and ensures they reach as wide an audience as possible.

From Fellini to Four Weddings and a Funeral, European film-making has a rich and varied heritage. MEDIA 2007 aims to ensure that the tradition continues by funding a variety of projects, ranging from support for documentary festivals, to help in maintaining independent cinemas, to building networks of animators.

The programme aims to strengthen the European audio-visual sector, increasing its competitiveness through improved access to financing and new technologies. A priority is to increase the circulation of films beyond their originating countries, giving people around the world an insight into cultures and issues beyond their own lives.

Ninety percent of European feature films that are distributed in countries other than where they were made receive support through MEDIA 2007.

There are five lines of action:

- **Training**: including scriptwriting techniques; economic, financial management and digital technologies;
- **Development**: single projects, catalogues, new talent, co-productions, other financing;
- **Distribution**: distributors, sales agents, broadcasters, cinema exhibitors, digitising works;
- **Promotion**: market access, festivals, common events, heritage;
- **Horizontal actions and pilot projects**.

**FACTS**

**PROGRAMME TITLE**: Media 2007  
**RESPONSIBLE DG**: Information Society and Media  
**BUDGET**: € 755 million in the period 2007–2013  
**GEOGRAPHIC REACH**: EU–27 + Iceland, Liechstenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Croatia  
**DATES**: 2007–2013  
**WEBSITE**: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/media/
Helping European films grab the limelight

Cinema can give us insights into cultures and places beyond our personal experiences, widening horizons and challenging preconceptions. The European Film Promotion (EFP) network helps European film-makers gain a wider audience worldwide.

What’s it all about?
EFP aims to open up new international markets and enhance distribution for European film-makers and their works, especially up-and-coming talent. It brings together a network of professional organisations from around Europe experienced in marketing and promoting their national cinemas.

Background?
Since 1997, EFP has grown steadily. By 2008, it had 27 member organisations representing 28 European countries.

How does it work?
Activities take place at international film festivals:

• **Shooting Stars** promotes actors, for example at the Berlin International Film Festival and other events;

• **Producers on the Move** showcased 22 producers from 22 countries at the 2008 Cannes International Film Festival;

• **Variety Critics’ Choice:** Europe Now! presented ten new European films by young directors at the 2008 Karlovy Vary International Film Festival in the Czech Republic;

• **Picture Europe!** screens European box-office hits in three European cities (Copenhagen, Madrid and Munich in 2008) to raise awareness of films outside their home countries;

• **Spotlight on ten independent European distributors** at the San Sebastian International Film Festival;

• **EFP’s Film Sales Support** scheme promotes European films at film events around the world.

What has it achieved?
It is the first joint marketing effort for European cinema and has raised the profile of European films, ensuring they reach an international audience.

How is it funded and run?
The programme is supported by the EU’s MEDIA programme and its member organisations. France’s CNC (Centre National de la Cinématographie) and private sponsors support promotion and PR activities. The German Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Cultural Department of Hamburg support the EFP’s central offices in Hamburg.

Where can I get more information?
www.efp-online.com
The issues covered by this programme impact on us all: from how to balance work and family life to boosting Europe’s international trading clout. Research projects tackle these and other important questions to help us better understand the society of today and of tomorrow.

The world is changing and Europe needs to develop suitable policies in response. The ‘Socio-economic sciences and the humanities’ component of the EU’s funding mechanism for research, the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), aims to contribute to a greater understanding of the complex socio-economic challenges that Europe faces.

It is the fourth consecutive programme since 1994 and focuses on eight areas:

- Growth, employment and competitiveness in a knowledge society
- Combining economic, social and environmental objectives
- Major trends in society, such as ‘Tolerance and cultural diversity’ or ‘Religion and secularism across Europe’
- Europe in the world
- The citizen in the European Union, including themes such as ‘Differences and similarities in Europe’ or ‘Languages in an era of globalisation’
- Socio-economic and scientific indicators
- Foresight activities
- Supporting actions

Co-operation across borders and cultures offers the opportunity to carry out the highest level of research and encourages intercultural dialogue. The programme involves researchers from across the EU and partners from countries further afield in a range of research projects. In addition to universities and research institutes, public authorities, civil society organisations, industry and SMEs are encouraged to take part in the research process and put the knowledge gained into use.

**FACTS**

**PROGRAMME TITLE:** Seventh Framework Programme (FP7): Socio-economic sciences and the humanities  
**RESPONSIBLE DG:** Education and Culture  
**BUDGET:** € 623 million for 2007–2013  
**GEOGRAPHIC REACH:** participants from any country can participate, providing certain criteria are met  
**DATES:** 2007–2013  
**WEBSITE:** http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ssh
Boosting co-operation between Europe and South Asia in the field of human and minority rights, the EURASIA-Net project promotes peace and enhances cultural understanding between peoples.

What's it all about?
Building on European experiences of enforcing human rights, EURASIA-Net aims to improve the knowledge base for the implementation of new policies to reduce ethnic-religious conflicts and foster stability in South Asia.

Background?

How does it work?
There are four major activities:

- The Eurasia Scholar Exchange promotes mutual learning and exchange between scholars, through seminars, joint publications, study visits and exchanges;

- Summer schools in Pakistan and Italy for young researchers, stakeholders and decision-makers aim to widen co-operation;

- Information sessions for EU officials and institutions on trends in South Asian regional integration and human and minority rights issues;

- A trans-regional platform for the exchange of knowledge and best practices, and to coordinate the dissemination of results;

How is it funded and run?
EURASIA-Net is funded by the EU Seventh Framework Programme’s socio-economic sciences and the humanities agenda. The consortium consists of seven partners, with the EURAC Research Institute as the project coordinator.

Where can I get more information?
www.eurac.edu/Org/Minorities/eurasia-net/index.htm
This programme informs citizens about the work of the European Union (EU) in an unusual way, by organising cultural events to both entertain and enlighten.

The EU’s activities deal with a wide range of issues. All too often, however, Europeans are unaware of the benefits that the Union is having, or could have, on their lives. With this in mind, the EU has decided to fund profile-raising cultural events to inform people about its work and engage them in dialogue.

Such events can involve music, dance, cinema or TV. The themes addressed must include the EU’s achievements in one or more of the key priority areas of energy, climate change, migration and intercultural dialogue. Events are to take place in at least two of the Member States holding the presidency of the Council during 2009 and 2010.

Organisations involved must be non-profit making, at least for the purposes of this project. Aside from this requirement, eligibility for funding is broad and it is open to cultural operators, associations and foundations, public bodies, cultural networks and consortia, and private companies.

FACTS

PROGRAMME TITLE: EuroGlobe
RESPONSIBLE DG: Communications
BUDGET: € 1 million
GEOGRAPHIC REACH: at least two of the Member States holding the presidency of the Council during 2009 and 2010
DATE: January 2009–December 2010
WEBSITE: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/communication/grants/
‘L’Europe commence ici ou là-bas’ (Europe begins here or over there): a theatre production with partners from a number of European countries is one example of how international co-operation can highlight both cultural differences and fundamental similarities.

What’s it all about?
The project aims to promote a Europe ‘united in diversity’ by involving European actors and other artists in a theatrical production to be performed in France, the Czech Republic and Sweden. The show explores the richness of European culture and language under the theme of living side by side with ‘the other’.

Background?
French company Image Aiguë developed the idea and the performances take place during the French, Czech and Swedish EU presidencies during 2008 and 2009. The project is also supporting Lyon’s bid to be European Capital of Culture in 2013.

How does it work?
Theatre is at the heart of the project with a transnational production featuring French, Turkish, Polish and Italian actors. Other activities include multilingual publications, a website, an exhibition and discussion forums.

What are its objectives?
One objective is to facilitate dialogue on Europe between policy-makers, representatives of civil society (especially from ‘new Europe’) and cultural players. The play is based on everyday scenarios depicting universal values and demonstrates how differences can be overcome.

How is it funded and run?
The project is funded by the EU’s EuroGlobe programme. It was conceived and coordinated by the French company Image Aiguë, involving international partners.

Where can I get more information?
www.ue2008.fr/PFUE/lang/en/accueil/Saison_Culturelle_Europeenne/Programme/La_saison_des_villes/Lyon
Employment is vital to the well-being of Europe. This programme focuses on helping people into work and ensuring that they are treated in an equitable manner.

The demographics of Europe are changing; populations are ageing, meaning that workforces are shrinking, and the pressure on social protection systems is increasing. Europe’s citizens should therefore be given the best possible opportunities to play an active role in society and employment. Immigrants are particularly vulnerable to discrimination in the labour market, so efforts should be made to tackle their exclusion.

PROGRESS, the Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity, offers financial support to projects in the fields of employment, social affairs and equal opportunities. It replaces four previous programmes for actions against discrimination, promoting gender equality, employment measures, and the fight against social exclusion. The restructured programme aims to be more effective, by streamlining the funding process.

Actions target:

- Employment
- Social inclusion and protection
- Working conditions
- Non-discrimination
- Gender equality

The programme focuses on activities with a strong European dimension, working with governments, local authorities, employers, trade unions and NGOs, as well as employment services and universities.

Examples of the types of projects funded include studies on health and safety at work, tracking employment policies and labour market trends, creating networks of experts in the field, funding NGOs, fighting exclusion and discrimination, and public awareness campaigns.

**FACTS**

**PROGRAMME TITLE:** Progress

**RESPONSIBLE DG:** Employment

**BUDGET:** €743 million for 2007–2013

**GEOGRAPHIC REACH:** EU Member States, EU candidate and EFTA/EEA countries

**DATE:** 2007–2013

**WEBSITE:** [http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/progress/index_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/progress/index_en.htm)
The Roma community has suffered discrimination for centuries. The ‘Improvement of Roma People’s Social Inclusion’ project in central and south-eastern Europe tackled people’s prejudices.

What was it about?
Aiming to change public opinion and eradicate stereotypes, a communication campaign was run to fight discrimination against the Roma community. Participating countries included Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia, and Montenegro.

Background?
The project built on an awareness-raising campaign by the Hungarian Government in 2005, called ‘Building an Inclusive Society’.

How did it work?
A communication campaign ran from July 2007 to June 2008, targeting policy-makers and stakeholders, as well as society at large. Two workshops were organised with representatives of the Roma community to look at inclusion policies. The first, in October 2007, focused on housing, while the second, in March 2008, looked at anti-discrimination.

What did it achieve?
The media campaign engaged political decision-makers and improved awareness of social inclusion issues. The housing workshop enabled the sharing of best practices and led to the production of brochures on Roma housing projects in various countries. The anti-discrimination workshop led to concrete proposals for the adoption and implementation of EU legislation.

How is it funded?
The project is funded by PROGRESS, the Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity.

Where can I get more information?
www.romadecade.org
A series of programmes focus on building partnerships and networks between regions and cities across the EU, bringing closer economic and social links.

The European Territorial Co-operation objective — part of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) — funds actions to help different areas work together for their mutual benefit.

Previously grouped under the INTERREG Community Initiative, actions applicable for funding range from joint infrastructure projects, to developing new markets and services across borders, to breaking down cultural and linguistic barriers.

There are three areas for funding:

- **Cross-border activities** within the EU. Examples include encouraging entrepreneurship, especially SMEs, tourism, culture and trade; management of natural resources; linking urban and rural areas; transport and communication; infrastructure; employment and equal opportunities.

- **Trans-national co-operation** across large areas such as the Baltic Sea, the Alps or the Mediterranean, in areas such as improving communications, flood management, business, research and the development of sustainable markets. Relevant themes include innovation, environment, accessibility, and urban development.

- **Inter-regional promotion and co-operation** showcases what regions do well. There are three networking programmes (Interreg IVC Urbact II and Interact II) that provide a framework for exchanging experience between regional and local bodies in different countries.

Introduced in 2006, The European Grouping for Territorial Co-operation is the legal instrument that facilitates initiatives such as these. It enables regional and local authorities to work together and deliver joint services and projects, without the need for national level agreements.

**FACTS**

- **PROGRAMME TITLE:** The European Territorial Co-operation
- **RESPONSIBLE DG:** Regional Policy
- **BUDGET:** € 8.7 billion (2% of the total allocation for Cohesion Policy)
- **GEOGRAPHIC REACH:** EU–27
- **DATE:** 2007–2013
- **WEBSITE:** http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/index_en.htm
The eight countries around the North Sea have joined forces to create an uninterrupted cycle path along the coastline, allowing pedal-powered tourists greater opportunity to appreciate the culture and nature of diverse regions.

What’s it all about?
With strong growth in cycling holidays, the North Sea Cycling route makes it easier for cyclists to plan routes in the countries bordering the sea. Ferry routes are included in the path to ensure an uninterrupted route. The initiative creates additional employment in small-scale sustainable tourism and promotes greater cultural awareness.

Background?
The project was launched in 1998 and the path has been open since 2001. The project partners continue to work together to develop and promote the route.

How does it work?
The initiative began with a feasibility study of ferry links and existing paths in order to define where additional links were needed. Once this had been done the joint international promotion of the route began. A brochure has been published in six languages (Danish, Dutch, English, German, Norwegian and Swedish) and a website gives information and maps. Regular events are organised to raise awareness of the route.

What has it achieved?
The path is the largest cycle path in the world at over 6,000 km. Since it opened, at least 30 people have completed the entire route and thousands of others have ridden part of it.

How is it funded and run?
The project is supported by a large partnership, including local and regional authorities, tourist boards, transport carriers and other organisations from Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Norway, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Half of the funding comes from the ERDF’s Interreg IIIB North Sea Programme, and the other half from the partners.

Where can I get more information?
www.northsea-cycle.com
Europeans can largely take democracy, the rule of law and human rights for granted. However, for millions of people around the globe, this is not the case. The EIDHR provides funding for projects that facilitate and promote these principles.

Democracy and human rights are vital tools in the fight against poverty, corruption, conflict and terrorism. The EU is founded on these tenets and believes that they should be encouraged around the world to as great an extent as possible.

Since 1994, the EU has been funding projects on democracy and human rights through a financial instrument, the EIDHR. For 2007–2010, there are five objectives:

- Enhance respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in regions where they are most at risk;
- Strengthen the role of civil society in promoting human rights and democratic reform;
- Support actions on human rights and democracy issues in areas covered by EU guidelines, such as on the death penalty and torture;
- Strengthen the international and regional framework for the protection of human rights, justice, the rule of law and the promotion of democracy;
- Build confidence in and enhance the reliability and transparency of democratic electoral processes.

The funds support activities and schemes at national, regional and local level, as well as encouraging cooperation and dialogue on politically divisive issues at transnational level.

Applications are open to a wide range of groups, including research centres and universities, NGOs, private and public sector agencies and international organisations.

FACTS

PROGRAMME TITLE: European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)
RESPONSIBLE DG: External Relations and Development
BUDGET: € 130 million annually

GEOGRAPHIC REACH: Global
DATE: 2007–2013
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is home to a number of ethnic communities. The ‘Living in Multiethnic Environment’ project works to afford them equal rights, opportunities and protection, and to raise awareness of their plight.

What’s it all about?
In order for minority groups to have the same status as other citizens, awareness of their rights must be raised and respect promoted. In addition, representatives from minority groups should be encouraged to participate in policy-making and reforms.

Timescale?
The project runs from 2007 until 2009.

How does it work?
There are a number of areas for action: improving the capacity of local authorities to help minority groups; boosting co-operation between public institutions and civil society groups; and raising awareness of minority rights through media campaigns.

What are its objectives?
Increasing the capacities of NGOs and institutions working on minority rights is a key focus. Awareness must be raised at all levels, particularly on the importance of equal rights for minorities. Lobbying and advocacy activities should be used to influence decision-makers.

How is it funded and run?
Funding comes from the EU’s European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) and from the Foundation Open Society Institute – Macedonia (FOSIM). FOSIM co-ordinates the project along with the NGO Common Values and 12 NGO support centres.

Where can I get more information?
www.soros.org.mk/default.asp?lang=eng&menuid=1176

Breaking down ethnic barriers
This instrument provides funding for projects to help the EU’s southern and eastern neighbours strengthen their political and economic systems. It encourages economic, social and cultural exchanges that can boost peace and prosperity for the benefit of all partners.

EU actions to help its neighbouring countries come in response to many of the challenges facing societies — globalisation and prosperity gaps, managing migration, safe borders, organised crime, counter-terrorism and extremism, environmental damage and public health. In today’s interlinked world, these issues, which often stem from poverty, migration and use of resources, have far-reaching effects.

Introduced in 2007, the ENPI brings together and simplifies previous initiatives that focused on specific geographic areas and issues – the TACIS programme, covering eastern European countries and Russia, and MEDA for the southern Mediterranean.

The instrument provides the financial support for the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), the priorities of which are set out in a series of action plans jointly agreed with each individual partner country. The plans cover:

- Political dialogue and reform;
- Economic and social co-operation and development;
- Trade, market and regulatory reform;
- Justice, liberty and security;
- Sectoral issues such as transport, energy, information society, environment and research;
- Human dimension, including culture, public health, education and civil society.

**FACTS**

**PROGRAMME TITLE:** European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)

**RESPONSIBLE DG:** External Relations

**BUDGET:** € 12 billion (2007–2013)

**GEOGRAPHIC REACH:** Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine

**DATE:** 2007–2013

**WEBSITE:** http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/contact_en.htm
The objective of a Romanian–Ukrainian project is to explore the joint cultural heritage on both sides of the border between the regions of Chernivtsi and Suceava, celebrating a unique example of intercultural co-operation and ethnic tolerance on the edge of the EU.

What’s it all about?
The project boosts efforts by national groups in the Bukovyna territory — which is in both Romania and Ukraine — to revive their traditions and renew the culture of tolerance which has always prevailed in this multicultural area. The establishment of partnerships and regional co-operation holds considerable economic and social potential through the development of cultural activities and tourism.

Background?
The regions of Chernivtsi in Ukraine and Suceava in Romania make up the territory of Bukovyna which, throughout history, has belonged to different countries. With over 100 ethnic groups living together, the region has always been a melting pot of cultures known for its tolerant and hospitable people. The project began in 2008 and will last for 19 months.

How does it work?
The project builds on and extends the international folklore festival ‘Bukovynian Meetings’, which was founded in 1990. Activities include the promotion of traditional crafts, arts exhibitions, the production of publications, media campaigns and academic conferences.

What are its objectives?
The aim is to involve over 2,000 people directly, including folk groups, craftsmen and scientists. Activities will reach a much wider group — tourists, people living in the local area, young people and television audiences. The organisers estimate that the total audience is around 10 million people.

How is it funded and run?
The project received €265,680 funding through the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, which is 90% of its total funding. The Chernivtsi city council is the project coordinator and is working with authorities and organisations on either side of the border.
The Euro-Mediterranean partnership (EuroMed) aims to strengthen links between EU and Mediterranean countries, promoting and preserving the region’s rich culture.

The Mediterranean has a long tradition of coexistence of cultures and peoples, despite the many conflicts that have afflicted the region. The partnership, launched in 1995, brings together European Union Member States with 10 southern Mediterranean states to, “build together an area of peace, security and shared prosperity”. Actions cover political, economic, social and cultural cooperation.

EuroMed gathers people together and fosters dialogue through cultural co-operation in several areas:

• **EuroMed Heritage** supports projects to preserve and promote the region’s cultural and historic sites, working with museums, historians, archaeologists and other research institutes;

• **EuroMed Audio-visual** promotes the development of the Mediterranean film industry and ensures that documentaries and feature films from the region reach as wide an audience as possible. As well as promoting cooperation between audio-visual artists and technicians from both regions and fostering the broadcasting of cinematographic works from the Mediterranean partners and the EU, the programme seeks to encourage investment and job creation in the audio-visual sector.

• **EuroMed Youth** promotes greater understanding and dialogue between young people through mobility and exchange actions. **Exchanges** bring together groups of young people from at least four different countries for short periods; voluntary service supports individuals carrying out a full-time action for the benefit of a particular community for up to one year; and support for youth organisations.

**FACTS**

**PROGRAMME TITLE:** Euro–Mediterranean Partnership (EuroMed)  
**RESPONSIBLE DG:** External Relations/ EuropeAid Co-operation  
**BUDGET:** € 16 billion (total EC funds for all EuroMed actions since 1995)  
Geographic reach: 27 EU and 10 southern Mediterranean countries

Date: the latest budgetary phase of EuroMed was launched in January 2007, with programmes running till 2013

**WEBSITE:** http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/euromed/index_en.htm
The ‘Caravan of Euro–Arab Cinema’ project brings new visions of European and Arab film-makers to viewers in cities on both shores of the Mediterranean.

What’s it all about?
Aiming to promote cultural dialogue via cinema, the project introduces Arab and European cinema to audiences from the other side of the Mediterranean in a series of events. The target audience includes young students, intellectuals and professionals.

Background?
The project was launched in March 2006 as part of the EuroMed Audiovisual II programme.

How does it work?
Events have included the organisation of film and documentary festivals, participation in existing events, open-air screenings of mainstream films, industry workshops and support for cinemas to show less commercially viable films. Some of the events have focused on specific themes, such as films made by female Arabic directors.

What has it achieved?
It reached an audience of almost 100,000 people in the first two years. Cities involved have included Rotterdam, Paris, Cairo, Alexandria, Amman and Beirut.

How is it funded and run?
The project is coordinated by Egyptian independent film organisation SEMAT Production and Distribution, in association with a number of institutions from the southern Mediterranean and Europe. It receives funding through the EU’s EuroMed Audiovisual II programme.

Where can I get more information?
www.cinemacaravan.com
www.euromedaudiovisuel.net/
This instrument provides focused support for eight countries that are already candidates to join the EU — or which could be in the future. It helps them to develop their political institutions, economies and infrastructure.

EU enlargement is an ongoing process and offers many benefits — increasing economic competitiveness and breaking down barriers to trade and business. Countries wishing to join can benefit from greater prosperity, security and better social protection.

However, the candidate countries need support in adapting their administrative structures, economies and infrastructure in order to meet requirements to become EU Member States. The Union provides financial support for these efforts.

Since 2007, funding has been channelled through the IPA to help candidate or potential candidate countries. Each country must meet a set of priorities that are laid out in a partnership agreement. There are five components:

- Transition assistance and institution building;
- Cross-border co-operation with EU Member States and other countries eligible for IPA;
- Regional development of transport, environment and the economy;
- Human resources development — strengthening human capital and combating exclusion;
- Rural development.

While the first two components are open to all beneficiary countries, the others are restricted to candidate countries — currently Croatia, Turkey and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

**FACTS**

**PROGRAMME TITLE:** The Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)

**RESPONSIBLE DG:** Enlargement, Regional Development, Agriculture and Rural Development, and Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

**BUDGET:** € 11.5 billion for 2007–2013

**GEOGRAPHIC REACH:** Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo

**WEBSITE:** http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/how-does-it-work/financial-assistance/instrument-pre-accession_en.htm
The ‘Return, reintegration and cultural heritage in Kosovo’ project aims to help create a climate of inter-ethnic tolerance and promote human and minority rights in Kosovo — a country torn apart by conflict all too recently. Cultural heritage has an important role to play in these efforts.

What’s it all about?
The project aims to promote the restoration of cultural heritage as a way of encouraging the return and reintegration of people who were forced to leave their homes during recent conflicts in Kosovo. Of particular importance are a number of religious sites of high cultural and spiritual value that were destroyed.

Timescale?
The project started in 2008 and will continue for up to 36 months.

How does it work?
There are a number of activities:

• Assistance to the Kosovan Ministry of Communities and Returns in developing policies and frameworks;

• Building the capacity of municipalities to design and manage return and integration projects, with priority for communities with high-return potential. This includes the reconstruction of houses and infrastructure;

• Support for work by the Reconstruction Implementation Commission (RIC) — the body that is chaired by the Council of Europe to organise the rebuilding of orthodox sites destroyed in the violence of March 2004.

What are the objectives?
Recent achievements include the reconstruction of a number of key sites including the Orthodox Episcopal Residence and Seminar in Prizren.

How is it funded and run?
The initiative is implemented through an international agreement under the United Nation’s Development Programme, with partners including national and local authorities and organisations. The total EC contribution amounts to € 3.7 million, provided through the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA).

Where can I get more information?
www.delprn.ec.europa.eu/?cid=2,94
This programme supports EU Member States in their efforts to help new arrivals to integrate; funding is allocated for a wide range of projects.

The world’s population is more mobile than ever before and each year the EU receives hundreds of thousands of immigrants from countries outside of its borders. The skills and experiences that these people bring to Europe can benefit us all, but only if they are integrated into their adopted societies. Such integration is never an easy task, but with a concerted effort, much can be achieved.

Since 2003, the European Fund for the Integration of Third-country Nationals (formerly called INTI) has aimed to achieve just this. Member States receive funding to help immigrants to fulfil their conditions of residence and to better integrate into the society of their new homes. Specifically targeting recent arrivals, the fund also aims to enhance Member States’ actions through co-operation and exchange of best practices and information.

The types of project that are funded by this programme are varied, including inter-cultural training and dialogue, comparative learning programmes and awareness-raising campaigns. Third-country nationals can take part in teaching programmes on their host country’s language, history, institutions, socio-economics, and cultural life and values. They are also encouraged to participate in the formulation and implementation of integration policies. Educationalists are therefore heavily involved, as are careers advisors, non-governmental organisations and the relevant public authorities.

FACTS

PROGRAMME TITLE: European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals
RESPONSIBLE DG: Justice, Freedom and Security
BUDGET: € 825 million
GEOGRAPHIC REACH: all EU Member States, excluding Denmark
DATE: 2007–2013
Stereotypes surrounding immigrants are numerous and difficult to overcome, often due to a lack of interaction and information. A comic book of real-life stories aims at breaking down cultural barriers and making people think about the realities of life for those who have arrived in a new, often hostile, society.

What was it about?
Stories detailing the plight of immigrants were put into comic book form. They looked at the emotional side of being an immigrant — such as hopes and fears about work, accommodation and red tape — to give perceptions of immigration beyond those depicted in everyday news reports.

Background?
The stories of real-life immigrants were researched, using in-depth interviews with subjects in five European locations. These stories covered both details of the immigrants’ lives and the prejudices of the people they encountered.

How did it work?
The stories were made into comic format and compiled into a single volume, published in Italian, Spanish, Danish and Hungarian; they also appear on-line. The books were promoted and distributed in schools and elsewhere, particularly organisations dealing with inter-cultural issues and young people.

What were the objectives?
The purpose was not only to make people better informed about the realities of immigration, but also to get teachers interested in the topic so that they include it in their lessons. The overarching objective was to fight prejudices and the lack of information about immigrants, by putting the reader in someone else’s shoes.

How was it funded and run?
Funding came from the European Fund for the Integration of Third-party Nationals. Partners in Italy, Spain, Denmark and Hungary each produced one real-life story.

Where can I get more information?
www.puntosud.org/anticomic/english/index.html
On the web

For more information on the programmes and actions mentioned in this brochure, see:


**The European Union online:** [http://europa.eu](http://europa.eu)

**Culture:** [http://ec.europa.eu/culture](http://ec.europa.eu/culture)


**Europe for Citizens:** [http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship](http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship)


**Media 2007:** [http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/media](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/media)

**The Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) — Social Sciences and Humanities:** [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ssh](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ssh)

**EuroGlobe:** [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/communication/grants/index_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/communication/grants/index_en.htm)

**PROGRESS (under the European Social Fund):** [http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/progress](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/progress)

**European territorial co-operation (under the European Regional Development Fund):** [http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/feder](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/feder)


**Euromed:** [http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/euromed/index_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/euromed/index_en.htm)

**Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA):** [http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/progress](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/progress)

**European Fund for the Integration of Third-country Nationals:** [http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/integration/funding_integration_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/integration/funding_integration_en.htm)
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