

**COMMISSION PROPOSAL FOR THE "CITIZENS FOR EUROPE" PROGRAMME – 2007-2013**

1. The proposed programme was adopted by the Commission on 20 April 2005. It seeks to build on the current active European citizenship programme's actions and adds a new cultural dimension into its objectives. Furthermore, it seeks to simplify the financial management of the activities by amalgamating the current eight budget lines into one. It is proposed that the replacement programme would run from 2007 to 2013.

*The programme's objectives:*

2. The overall aim of the new programme is to bring Europe closer to its citizens and to promote civic participation and cooperation between Member States' communities. Due to recent, and potential future, enlargement of the EU, as well as the low turnout at last year's European Parliament elections, the European Commission sees developing European citizenship as a priority for the EU.
3. The programme proposal consists of two tiers of objectives. Firstly, its three general objectives are set out as:
  - Giving citizens the opportunity to interact and participate in constructing an ever closer Europe, united in and enriched through its cultural diversity;
  - Forging a European identity, based on recognised common values, history and culture; and
  - Enhancing mutual understanding between European citizens respecting and celebrating cultural diversity, while contributing to intercultural dialogue.
4. Under this, the programme will consist of the following four specific objectives: incorporating bringing people from across Europe together to share and exchange views and knowledge, supporting cooperation between civil society organisations at European level, making the idea of Europe more tangible to its citizens, and encouraging balanced integration of all EU citizens through contributing to intercultural dialogue.
5. It is *not* the aim of the programme to homogenise attitudes to citizenship and identity in Europe.

*The programme's activities:*

6. In order to achieve these objectives, the programme will target citizens, both directly and through civil society organisations.
7. "Action 1" of the programme will support actions such as town twinning, both on a one-off and multi-annual basis, and provide grants to transnational and cross-sectoral citizens' projects. The latter actions could include bringing citizens together to debate common European issues or to exchange best practice and to develop new skills through training.

8. "Action 2" will provide structural support in the form of grants to think tanks and civil society organisations active at a European level, as well as to projects initiated by civil society organisations which contain a European dimension.
9. "Action 3" will provide financial support for: high-visibility events organised by or in cooperation with the Commission, for Commission studies, surveys and opinion polls on European citizenship, and for information and dissemination tools, such as an Internet portal.