



Thematic Projects 2006 - 2008

Information and Guidelines

Introduction

As part of the extended EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation, the British Council, Léargas and the Youth Council for Northern Ireland are jointly promoting Ncompass: a series of initiatives in the formal and non-formal education sectors.

Ncompass provides funding for three activities:

- A training course 'Managing Educational Exchanges' for teachers and youth workers
- Student Teacher/Youth Worker Placement Training
- Thematic Projects

Participation in Thematic Projects is open to schools and youth groups in Northern Ireland and in the border counties of Ireland, i.e. Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan and Louth, and organisations which support work with young people in those areas.

Aim

The aim of this initiative is to develop a practice of co-operation within and between these groups, with a view to promoting mutual respect and understanding between participants.

Objectives

- To promote peace and reconciliation through a programme of joint activities
- To allow schools and youth groups and organisations which support them North and South to explore areas of mutual interest in their respective work.
- To facilitate links through a variety of media.
- To break down barriers through meaningful collaboration.
- To add value to work already being done in schools in literacy, numeracy, ICT and other subject areas by giving a real focus with which young people can identify.
- To add value to youth work in areas such as personal development and peer led initiatives.
- To support initiatives in the youth sector aimed at encouraging second chance education.
- To allow young people from different jurisdictions and from different cultural backgrounds to get to know each other in a non-threatening environment.
- To raise awareness of areas of mutual concern or issues particularly relevant to young people.

Ncompass is being funded 2006-2008 through the Cross-Border Consortium under the EU Peace II Programme and is part-financed by the UK and Irish Governments

Thematic Projects

Thematic projects provide teachers/youth leaders and young people with the opportunity to work together on a common programme of activities with a specific project theme which should be integrated into the normal group activities. The over-arching theme of any project must be Peace & Reconciliation which can be explored using a variety of sub themes. Possible sub themes for a project could include:

- Cultural heritage of participants
- The environment
- Arts & Crafts education
- Music or Drama
- Science & Technology
- Literary traditions
- Local & regional identities
- School and the world of work
- Professional development
- Media
- Education through Sport
- Anti-racism

This list is by no means exhaustive and is merely illustrative of the range of areas that could form the basis of a thematic project.

Whereas the focus is on the process, projects should aim to produce outcomes such as project diaries, CDs, videos, objects/artefacts, publications, (newsletters, booklets, calendars etc.), artistic performances (drama, music etc). Projects will be encouraged to disseminate their experience to other schools/youth organisations and to the wider community.

Some examples of Projects funded by NcompasS in 2003-2005

- Two Primary Schools undertook a cross community project on the theme of Healthy Lifestyles
- Two youth groups undertook a drama project exploring identity and differences
- Youth service personnel carried out a cross border study visit.

Funding

The programme can support projects which take place within the period July –Oct 2007 up to a maximum level of €1,500/£1,000 for each partner participating, although amounts up to €2750/£1,975 will be considered for projects that are likely to have a significant impact on Peace and Reconciliation.

The funding can be used to cover the following costs:

- Joint activities with the partner organisation, including travel, insurance and subsistence for participants and leaders/teachers (no more than 70% of project grant).
- Materials (including software and small items of hardware up to a max. of €200)
- Administration costs
- Evaluation and dissemination costs
- Specialist inputs for the project (external facilitators or assistance for people with disabilities, for example)

Matched funding from applicants is not required for this programme.

Selection Criteria

Applications should fulfil the following criteria:

- Clear programme of collaborative work with partner organisation which will promote Peace and Reconciliation
- Activities based within the curriculum/programme of activities
- Achievable within project year timescale
- Potential for long term sustainability
- Management support
- Plans for evaluation and dissemination of project outcomes

Management of Projects

Organisations will be required to identify a co-ordinator to be responsible for liaison with the promoting organisations, for reporting purposes, including reconciling expenditure. Each organisation will be issued with a contract and will be required to submit financial and narrative reports. 70% of the grant will be paid on receipt of the signed contract with the remaining 30% payable once satisfactory reports have been received. All expenses must be itemised and receipts provided for all expenditure other than subsistence and administration. The project will be subject to an ongoing review of progress.

Reporting/Evaluation

A final report has to be returned within **four weeks** of the end of the project activities. This includes a narrative report which has a section on evaluation. Essentially, evaluation is the measurement of the learning arising from the project activities. This is of value not only to the participants themselves but can also be shared with others. Monitoring and evaluation should be ongoing during the project and not just carried out at the end. This helps the project to link with the needs of participants. The methods of evaluation should be appropriate to those involved and can range from formal written material to verbal inputs recorded on flipcharts or on tape. (For links to further information re evaluation see our website www.ncompass.org)

Application

Each partner organisation applies to their respective promoting organisation by the closing date shown below. Applications should be signed by the senior person legally authorised to represent the applicant's organisation. Each partner organisation must be approved by the programme promoters for the project to be funded. Applications will be put before an independent selection panel and, as funding is limited, it may not be possible to support all applications in a given year.

Application forms are available from the British Council and from Léargas, or on the Ncompass website at www.ncompass.org

Return Addresses

Please return the completed application form to one of the addresses

The deadline for projects to be undertaken July- Oct 2007 will be 15th June 2007

(Check website www.ncompass.org for further details)

For Northern Ireland :
Maire Ni Threasaigh
The Ncompass Co-ordinator
The British Council
Norwich Union House
7 Fountain Street
Belfast BT1 5EG
Northern Ireland

For the Border Counties:
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