Comenius
Partnerships
School Partnerships

[COM 6]

Within the priorities set in the general call for proposals, the following information can be used

Objectives and description of the action

Comenius School partnerships aim at enhancing the European dimension of education by promoting **joint co-operation activities** between schools in Europe. The projects give pupils and teachers in different countries an opportunity to work together on one or more topics of mutual interest. School partnerships help pupils and teachers to acquire and improve skills not only in the topic or subject area on which the project is focussed, but also in terms of teamwork, social relations, planning and undertaking project activities and using information and communication technologies (ICT). Participating in a partnership with schools from different countries also gives pupils and teachers the opportunity to practice foreign languages and increases their motivation towards language learning.

Examples of activities that can be carried out in Comenius School partnerships:

- Project meetings between all institutions involved in the partnership
- Exchanges of staff and pupils involved in project activities (e.g. teacher exchanges, study visits, pupil exchanges)
- Exchanges of experience and good practice with partner schools abroad
- Fieldwork, project research
- Drafting, publishing and disseminating documentation related to the co-operation activities
- Producing technical objects, drawings, arts objects
- Performances (e.g. theatre plays, musicals)
- Organisation of exhibitions, production and dissemination of information material
- Linguistic preparation of teachers and pupils to ensure they possess the necessary competence in the working language(s) of the partnership
- Co-operation with other projects in related subject areas (including Comenius Networks), including mobility to network events if relevant, sharing experience with other institutions in the region
- Self-evaluation activities
- Dissemination of project experience and outcomes

'Associated partners' such as local or regional authorities, parents' and pupils' organisations and teacher training institutions may also participate in these activities.

When choosing the theme of a School partnership, schools are strongly encouraged to choose any topic of interest and importance to the participating institutions, as it will be the motivating force for co-operation and learning within the project. School partnerships focusing on **pupil participation** could deal with thematic areas such as arts, sciences, languages, environmental education, cultural heritage, European citizenship, use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) or fight against racism. Project activities should ideally be integrated into the regular activities of the schools and be included in the curriculum of participating pupils. Pupils should be able to be involved in all phases of the project, including the planning, organisation and evaluation of activities.

Some School partnerships focus on **pedagogical or management issues.** They provide teachers and school managers with the opportunity to exchange experience and information with colleagues in other countries, to develop together methods and approaches which meet their needs, and to test and put into practice new organisational and pedagogical approaches. In these cases, projects will often involve co-operation with bodies from the local community of the schools, such as local authorities, social services,

associations and businesses.

Most partnerships are **multilateral**; i.e. they must include schools from at least 3 participating countries. **Bilateral** partnerships are only possible in the case of language-oriented projects which include two reciprocal class exchanges lasting minimum 10 days each and involving pupils aged 12 or older.

Language oriented bilateral school partnerships seek to encourage the use of all the official languages of the European Union by giving pupils the possibility to practice their foreign language skills and acquaint themselves with the language of a partner country. Pupils involved in a bilateral partnership are expected to learn at least basics of the language used in the partner institution. Usually pupils use a third language as their working and communication language. During the project, pupils and teachers in both countries work together on a common theme and produce a joint end product. During the class exchanges, pupils attend school together and are hosted in each others' families. The cooperation should not only be limited to the exchanges but activities should cover the whole project period.

Who can benefit

- Schools (institutions providing general, vocational, technical education - from pre-school education to upper secondary and, exceptionally in the case of bilateral projects including class exchanges, non-school institutions providing apprenticeship training)

Who can apply	Each institution involved in the Partnership

Selection Procedure	NA1	**Management of selected projects**	National Agency

Minimal size of the consortium	Multilateral partnerships: 3 schools in 3 participating countries Bilateral partnerships: 2 schools in 2 participating countries
Participating countries	Please refer to Part II – section 3.1 of the Lifelong Learning 2008-2010 General Call for Proposals
Duration , methods of funding, level of funding	Please refer to National Agency web site
Funded activities	Please refer to Part II – section 7 of the Lifelong Learning 2008-2010 General Call for Proposals
Political priorities for this action	Please refer to Part I of the Lifelong Learning 2008-2010 General Call for Proposals

Application Form