Grundtvig
Thematic Networks

[GRU7]

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

Objectives and description of the action

The **aims** of **Grundtvig Thematic Networks** are to strengthen the link between the various 'actors' involved in adult education in the broadest sense, to improve the quality, European dimension and visibility of activities or issues of common interest in the field of adult education and to help make lifelong learning opportunities more widely known and available to citizens.

Grundtvig networks are large-scale networks providing a forum or a common platform for discussion and exchange of information on key issues, policy shaping and/or research in the area of adult learning.

Each Grundtvig network addresses one particular thematic area mentioned in the call for proposals, sector or set of key issues, chosen from the broad field of adult learning as a whole. Within its specific area of work, each network should seek to:

- Further debate on important aspects of policy and practice
- Provide an overview of a field (through comparative studies and analyses) within a European context
- Consider the various definitions used in different countries in terms of content and methodology, thereby contributing to the construction of a shared terminology at European level in the key areas of adult learning
- Identify present, emergent and future needs, and in particular to pinpoint aspects where European co-operation could be especially beneficial
- Promote the dissemination of findings and recommendations and their implementation in relevant fields
- Make a major contribution to the dissemination of good practice available at national or European level.

In overall terms, each Grundtvig Network should therefore perform three functions:

1. It should provide a common platform and 'reference point' for discussion and exchange of information on key issues, policy shaping and research in the specific area of adult learning addressed
2. It should actively assist in the networking of Grundtvig projects on subjects of common interest with the aim of promoting European co-operation and innovation
3. It should disseminate results, insights and best practice derived from former Grundtvig projects and other initiatives conducted at the European, national or regional level in the chosen thematic area.

Each network should therefore become a key player in the promotion of European co-operation in its specific sector of adult education.

In accordance with the type of work to be carried out by the networks, the co-ordinating institution and core partners are organisations active in policy formulation and/or research in the formal, non-formal or informal sector of adult education.

Co-ordination of a Grundtvig network should be undertaken by an organisation with a solid infrastructure and strong links with the relevant national and regional representative bodies in its country in the subject area concerned. Appropriate European organisations, including associations, working in the field concerned may also be well equipped to take on this task. Similarly, the other non co-ordinating partners should be suitable organisations for representing their respective countries actively and comprehensively in the network's development and the implementation of its activities. In cases where a

network is addressing the learning needs of a particular 'target group' in society, representatives of this section of the population should be actively involved in planning and conducting the network's activities.

A typical network consists of:

- The co-ordinating institution, selected by the partners to be responsible for the overall organisation, management and co-ordination of the activities throughout the duration of the project period
- Other core institutions, many of which are likely to have been present from the start of the network and which are particularly actively involved in carrying out the network's tasks
- A number of other organisations acting as permanent channels for relaying information
- Occasional correspondents that take part in the network's activities.

Within the priorities announced in the general call for proposals, the **activities** carried out by networks, and for which a grant may be used, typically include the following:

- Activities to facilitate and enhance European co-operation, such as exchanging information, training of project co-ordinators, promoting new projects, disseminating project results and good practice
- Activities to promote educational innovation and best practice in the thematic area concerned, such as comparative analyses, case studies, formulating recommendations and organising working groups, seminars or conferences
- Activities relating to project co-ordination and management.

As a minimum, each network will be expected to:

- Establish and maintain a good quality website to support information exchange and dissemination;
- Produce an annual report on the state of innovation in its area of activity;
- Inform the 'players' in Grundtvig fully about the network's events and activities;
- Organise at least one annual meeting of Grundtvig projects in the thematic area of the Network. This meeting can also be in the form of an open seminar or conference;
- Have a sound strategy for sustaining the Network after the co-financing by the Community has been terminated or substantially reduced;
- Set in place appropriate mechanisms for internal assessment of progress and for quality assurance and dissemination of results.

Who can benefit	
• Any organisation in the field of adult learning, whether in the formal, non-formal or informal system	

Who can apply	Co-ordinating organisation on behalf of the network

Selection Procedure	COM	**Management of selected projects**	Executive Agency

Minimal size of the consortium	Please refer to the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency website
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 the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency website
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