



OPETUSMINISTERIÖ

Undervisningsministeriet

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Ministère de l'Éducation

YOUNG ACTIVE CITIZENSHIPS EU MEETING

Hyvinkää, Finland – 1–4 July 2006

13 April 2006

Dear Colleagues

The Finnish Ministry of Education, the Finnish Youth Research Network, the Finnish Youth Co-operation - Allianssi, and the City of Helsinki Youth Department will organise a Young Active Citizenships - EU Meeting in Hyvinkää, Finland, 1-4 July 2006. It is my pleasure, on behalf of all the organisers, to invite you to the meeting.

The aim of Young Active Citizenships - EU Meeting is to define active citizenship and to explore preconditions and opportunities for it. Apart from administrators, researchers and young people active in organisations, we invite young people with experience of new forms of active citizenship, such as independent action groups. With a view to strengthening tripartite cooperation between youth administration, organisations and research, we have integrated the traditional Presidency Youth Event into the meeting. The purpose of this is to step up dialogue between different actors and to promote young people's participation in decision-making and its preparation. The seminar will examine active citizenship in terms of the learning process towards active citizenship; civic activity; direct and representational influence; and motivation.

There are 3 strands:

- 1 - 2 July 2006: Pre-meeting for the youth participants;
- 2 July 2006: Pre-meeting for the youth researchers;
- 2 - 4 July 2006: Joint Meeting "Young Active Citizenships"

We kindly invite you to nominate four representatives of your country to attend the meeting as detailed below:

Pre-meeting for the youth participants

- two young people from each Member State of the European Union. One of the youth delegates should be nominated by a national youth organisation while the second should represent new forms of active citizenship, a group, movement or network
- two young people from each Acceding Country (Bulgaria and Romania), Candidate Country (Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey), EFTA country (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland), and the Russian Federation. One of the youth delegates should be nominated by a national youth organisation while the second should represent new forms of active citizenship, a group, movement or network

We would kindly ask you to involve your National Youth Council, or a similar organisation in your country, in recruiting one of the youth delegates for the meeting. The second youth delegate can be nominated for example through an open call for participants or through educational institutions.

Delegates should not be older than 25. Please note that under 18s will require written permission and will need to be accompanied by a responsible adult, whose costs will not be reimbursed by the Presidency.

The travel and accommodation expenses for youth delegates will be reimbursed by the Finnish Presidency.

Pre-meeting for the youth researchers

- one youth researcher from each Member State of the European Union
- one youth researcher from each Acceding Country (Bulgaria and Romania), Candidate Country (Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey), EFTA country (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland), and the Russian Federation.

Joint meeting Young Active Citizenships

The joint meeting is attended by:

- four representatives from each EU Member State (one senior official, one youth researcher and two young people as specified above)

- four representatives from each Acceding Country (Bulgaria and Romania), Candidate Country (Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey), EFTA country (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland), and the Russian Federation (one senior official, one youth researcher and two young people as specified above).

Where possible, the Ministries should try to ensure that their delegations are gender balanced.

All representatives are invited to the Opening of the Meeting on 2 July at 8:00 pm in Villa Arttu, Cultural Center for Children and Young People.

Please find enclosed the draft programme of the meeting and some practical information. They can also be found at: www.citizenships.fi.

Registration

Please register online at www.citizenships.fi. The registration form can be accessed under the heading 'Registration' with the password [hyvink44](#). We would highly appreciate your registration by 26 May 2006.

Should you have any further questions concerning the meeting, please contact Ms. Sofia Laine, EU Meeting Coordinator (e-mail: sofia.laine@citizenships.fi, tel: +358 20 755 2659, mobile: +358 50 583 0019), or Ms. Seija Astala, Counsellor for Cultural Affairs (e-mail: seija.astala@minedu.fi, tel: +358 9 1607 7396, mobile: +358 40 515 5818).

Please note that this letter has been copied to the Council Youth Working Party members, Youth attachés at the Permanent Representations to the EU, the National Youth Councils and the European Youth Forum.

We very much look forward to meeting you in Hyvinkää.

Yours sincerely,

Olli Saarela
Director, Youth Policy Division
Ministry of Education

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

P.O. Box 29, 00023 Government, Finland | Tel +358 9 160 04 | Fax +358 9 135 9335 | www.minedu.fi