

Youth in Action

Funding to make your projects happen



Education and Culture DG

'Youth in Action' Programme

The background is a vibrant red with abstract, light-colored patterns resembling branches or leaves in the upper left and geometric shapes in the lower right. Silhouettes of musicians are visible at the bottom, including a person playing a guitar and another at a microphone.

EXPERIENCE LEARN GROW

www.britishcouncil.org/youthinaction



Youth in Action

Youth in Action offers young people like you the chance to learn new skills, experience new cultures, make new friends, bring your local community together and run exciting projects.

Youth Initiative

Youth Initiative projects form part of Youth in Action. A Youth Initiative is a project idea that you run and make happen. You should choose something that you are interested in and will have fun running.

Run your own project

You can run your own project in your own area, within the UK or in another European country.

All you need to do is form a group of at least four people, have a project idea and then apply. There is no limit to the amount of people you can have in your group.

Projects should run from 3–18 months.



Suggestions for possible projects

You might want to run the project in your local area and look at issues that affect your community. Alternatively, you may want to run a project across the UK or in another European country.

It is your chance to explore your creative side and learn new skills.

Here are some themes which you may want to focus on:

- Art and culture
- Sport and healthy lifestyles
- Environment
- Media
- Disability

Am I eligible to run a Youth Initiative project?

This opportunity is open to all young people. If you are a young person residing in the UK, aged between 15–30 years old, then you can apply for funding.

You will need a UK bank account set-up in the name of your project group.

FACT

Out of 5,000 young people who took part in a Youth in Action survey in 2010:

- Over 80% considered that they learned better how to achieve something beneficial for their community.
- Over 85% said they would recommend participation in a similar project to other young people.

These young people used a Youth in Action grant to make things better in their neighbourhood and changed their own lives.

Coaches

If you are under 18 years old you will need to find a coach.

A coach may be someone from your local community centre or a friend who is willing to support you in running your project.

You decide who your coach is going to be.

Why to get involved in Youth in Action:

- take charge, be in control of developing your ideas and then run your own project;
- learn more about other cultures and possibly visit other countries within Europe;
- work as a team to achieve your project goals;
- help tackle important issues in your community and/or across Europe;
- develop new skills which will boost your cv.

You could also spend time volunteering in another country, do a youth exchange or set up an event to discuss issues affecting you and your community with your MP or MEP. For more info see

www.britishcouncil.org/youthinaction

A group of us developed a new photography darkroom and club

“Before I started photography, I was shy but now, through being involved in this project, I have learnt to communicate with other people.

Young people in my area used to use the photography darkroom at the Youth Centre at Howardian, Cardiff. However, after the sudden closure, there was nowhere for young people like me to go to. This was very stressful. I have autistic spectrum disorder, photography was a big part of my life and I was very sad about what had happened. Supported by our coach, Emma, a group of seven of us thought up the project, ‘Click4Inclusion’. Through Youth in Action funding, we set-up our own darkroom, ran practical photography workshops, discussions, field trips and created our own exhibition.”



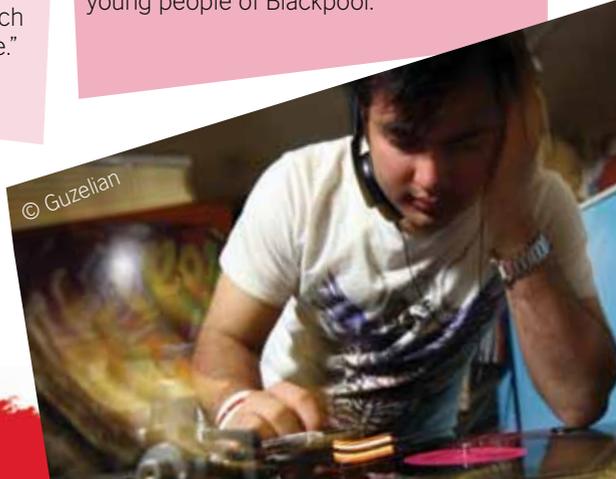


We ran musical and theatre workshops for the young people in Romania

“We are a team of European film-makers, musicians and entertainers from London who received funding to visit Romania. Our project, ‘Loop Van’, allowed us to experience a new part of the world and spend time with the local people. We ran workshops for young people on singing, clown theatre and musical instruments. We put on clown and comedy shows to the whole community which brought everyone together. The trip allowed us to learn new circus skills, be as creative as we liked, visit a new country and share experiences with new friends. On our return to the UK, we used our film skills to produce, ‘The Strangers Within’, which focused on the life of the Roma people.”

Me and my friends helped bring the people of Blackpool together

“Aunty Social began as a small group of friends who were concerned that there was nowhere in Blackpool to go to meet people of a similar age. Socialising seems to revolve around bars, pubs and nightclubs. We decided to draw up a programme of arts and cultural activities designed to bring people together and get them talking. We have set-up and run our own ‘Crafternoons’. These afternoon craft sessions have given young people the opportunity to make their own jewellery and build friendships. Through our arts activities, promoted through social media, we have connected the young people of Blackpool.”



© Guzelian

How can you get involved?

Please visit our website for more information:

www.britishcouncil.org/youthinaction

Guidelines and supporting documentation will help you complete your applications.

Advice and Support for Youth in Action

If you have any questions or would like to talk about your application then please use the following contact details:

England

National Youth Agency
Tel: +44 (0)116 242 7400
E-mail: yia@nya.org.uk

Scotland

YouthLink Scotland
Tel: +44 (0)131 313 2488
E-mail: mforrester@youthlinkscotland.org

Northern Ireland

Youth Council for Northern Ireland
Tel: +44 (0)289 064 3882
E-mail: bsweeney@ycni.org or
mcunningham@ycni.org

Wales

Connect Cymru
Ffôn / Tel: +44 (0)2920 575 705
E-bost / E-mail: info@connectcymru.org

Other Support

Eurodesk UK is a free information service on European work, study, travel and volunteering opportunities.

To learn more, please see:
www.eurodesk.org.uk



© Mat Wright

The Youth in Action programme is funded by the European Union and managed in the UK by the British Council.

