

European-level funding opportunities for JEF sections

Introduction

Even though many of the JEF sections primarily look for funding on the local, regional or national level, it must be said that some interesting options to obtain funding from the European level do exist. The purpose of this guide therefore is to give an overview of the European-level funding opportunities for local and national sections of JEF, and to give some information on how to move on with applying for funding from these sources.

We hope this guide helps you to find appropriate funding for your projects!

Simon Devos
Treasurer of JEF-Europe

1. Institutional funding

1.1. Erasmus+

If your JEF section is located in one of the [Erasmus+ Programme Countries](#), please do take a look at it as it has different opportunities that might be appealing to your section.

This is a short overview of the most interesting Actions and funding opportunities for JEF sections:

- [Key Action 1: Mobility of Young People and Youth Workers - Youth Exchanges](#)
Youth Exchanges allow groups of young people from different countries to meet and live together for up to 21 days to carry out a series of activities focusing on a theme that is relevant for them

E.g.: Organise a seminar on federalism or a certain EU policy together with a different JEF section

- [Key Action 1: Mobility of Young People and Youth Workers – European Voluntary Service](#)
With the European Voluntary Service (EVS), young people can travel abroad to individually participate in volunteering projects, for a minimum of 2 weeks and a maximum of 12 months.

E.g.: [Get the EVS accreditation](#) and send/host volunteers that help you with the work of your JEF section

Applications should be submitted to the [National Agency](#) in the Programme Country where your JEF section is established.

1.2. Council of Europe – European Youth Foundation

The European Youth Foundation might not be the best-known funding source for youth NGOs, but it does offer some interesting opportunities. As all JEF sections are from countries that are members of the Council of Europe, every JEF section can therefore basically look at funding opportunities from the European Youth Foundation.

One very interesting fact about the Foundation is that its [funding decisions are taken by young people!](#)

JEF Europe itself usually gets a structural grant and an annual work plan grant from the European Youth Foundation. National or local JEF sections, however, could apply to the EYF for a [pilot activity grant](#) of up to 10 000 EUR or an [international activity grant](#) of up to 20 000 EUR. Please note that you will need to bring in some co-funding from own sources to the project, and that JEF-Europe cannot be a partner in the activities as it is already applying for a work plan grant on its own. You'll have to look for other partners within our network if you want to host an international activity.

The activity you want to organise needs to fit within the [youth sector priorities](#) of the Council of Europe. An event related to the Schengen agreement is most likely not going to get funded, but an event related to e.g. democracy can have good chances to get funded.

All details on how to apply to the European Youth Foundation can be found [here](#).

1.3. Cross-border Youth Work Organisations

This might be an option that is not relevant to every JEF section, but it is definitely an option that can be explored for some of you: in some countries, cross-border youth work organizations have been put in place by the authorities. These organisations usually have the task to facilitate and improve the exchange of young people between two (or more) countries. One example: the [Franco-German Youth Office](#) supports different types of exchanges between the French and German youth.

Usually these organisations can be approached for (co-) funding an exchange between two JEF sections in the countries in which the organisation is active. It is definitely interesting to see whether similar organisations exist when you would like to organise an event/exchange with JEFers from a different country.

2. Private funding

2.1. Foundations

There are a number of foundations which basically speaking support the values and work of JEF. Here you can find an incomplete list of them:

- [Open Society Foundations](#) (*Supported the MovEurope Campaign of JEF-Europe in 2014*)
- [King Baudouin Foundation](#) (*Supports the Spinelli Group in the European Parliament*)
- [Bertelsmann Foundation](#) (*Supports the Spinelli Group in the European Parliament*)
- [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#)
- [Robert Bosch Foundation](#)

Even if JEF Europe does not have a lot of experiences with all of these foundations, you can still try to get in touch with them and apply for funding with them. If you do have some good experiences with some foundations, it would of course also be nice if you could share these experiences with JEF Europe.

Some very basic thoughts about approaching foundations:

- Explain them who you are and what you stand for
- Try to convince them that they should support you and not a different organisation, here you should bring evidence of your success, outreach, engagement, ...
- Try to establish personal contact, just sending around impersonal e-mails to a large group of foundations will not help you
- If you speak to somebody in person, give them a business card or a leaflet with some more details about your organisation so that afterwards the person will remember your discussion

2.2. Fundraising

You can always try to contact individuals that might be interested in your work. These can for example be members of the European Parliament, the Representation of the EU or an embassy of an EU Member State in your region or country.

When contacting these, please keep in mind the same hints as these mentioned under the tab 'Foundations'. One more thing: do you need to ask the person or organisation for money? Perhaps you are organising an event and getting a free coffee break, lunch or dinner is can also be a nice way of co-funding for your event. Or perhaps you can use their meeting rooms? Be creative!

3. JEF funding

3.1. Micro Grants

Every year, within the framework of its Annual Work Plan with the European Youth Foundation (see above), JEF-Europe gives the opportunity to national and local JEF sections to hold a local activity related to the topic of the Annual Work Plan. For this activity, JEF sections can apply for a micro grant.

This micro grant gives you the opportunity to organise an event with some funding being available – that is to say, you can rely on funding from JEF Europe for most – if not all – of the costs of the event.

The application for the micro grant is very unbureaucratic and gives your section the chance to gain some experiences with project management and financial reporting. With the experiences you get from applying for the micro grant, managing the local project/event and carrying out the financial reporting, you will definitely gain some valuable insights – both for your professional career and for further project applications at your local JEF section.

The Micro Grants offer is sent out by the secretariat of JEF-Europe every year before summer so that you can plan and hold your event during the summer (or autumn) of that same year.

Conclusion

Multiple funding sources for JEF sections are available on the European level. We can split these in three different categories: institutional funding, private funding and JEF funding.

For small and new sections, applying for a micro grant within the framework of the Annual Work Plan of JEF-Europe can be a very good way to collect experience regarding funding applications, project management and financial reporting.

For the more mature JEF sections, it is definitely interesting to check the possibilities to apply for institutional funding. Sections that have already developed a strong network and a strong identity can explore private funding opportunities via getting in touch with foundations and other private donors.