Programme	**LIFELONG LEARNING**
Subprogramme	**COMENIUS**
Action Category	**PARTNERSHIPS**
Action	**COMENIUS Regio Partnerships**
Objectives and description of the action	Comenius Regio Partnerships aim at enhancing the European dimension of education by promoting co-operation activities between local and regional authorities with a role in school education in Europe. The partnerships give educational authorities, in cooperation with schools and other actors in education, in different regions, the opportunity to work together on one or more topics of mutual interest. Comenius Regio Partnerships help the participating regions to develop and exchange best practice in school education, to develop tools for sustainable cooperation across borders, and to strengthen the European dimension in school education. Comenius Regio Partnerships consist of 2 "partner regions". Each partner region must involve: - the local or regional authority with a role in school education - at least one school - at least one other relevant local partner (e.g. youth or sport clubs, parents and pupils associations, local teacher training institutes, other learning providers, VET institutions and local employers, museums and consulting services/ advisory boards). Only local or regional authorities with a role in school education are eligible to apply for funding and must coordinate the project within their region. Comenius Regio Partnerships must include partner regions from two countries participating in the Lifelong Learning Programme; one of the participating regions must be from a EU Member State. Comenius Regio Partnerships should focus their work on clearly defined themes. These might concern the organisation of school education, cooperation between schools and other local partners (e.g. providers of formal or non-formal learning), or common problems in school education (e.g. inclusive education, violence at schools, racism and xenophobia). They should lead to a concrete result of their cooperation (e.g. publications, events such as a conference or seminar). Comenius Regio Partnerships should help regions to improve their educational offer for young people. The main purpose of Comenius Regio is not to involve pupils or students directly but to focus on school development and the structured cooperation among the partner regions. Pupils and students normally benefit from Comenius Regio Partnerships indirectly rather than as main participants. Examples of activities that can be carried out in Comenius Regio partnerships: • Project meetings between all institutions involved in the partnership • Exchanges of staff involved in school education (e.g. teacher exchanges, study visits of staff working in the local/ regional school administration) • Action research, small studies • Job shadowing • Exchanges of experience and good practice with partner regions / municipalities abroad • Peer learning activities and common training sessions • Conferences, seminars and workshops • Awareness raising, campaigns • Drafting, publishing and disseminating documentation related to the co-operation activities • Linguistic preparation of staff participating in the partnership • Co-operation with other projects in related subject areas (including Comenius Multilateral Projects and Comenius Multilateral Networks), including mobility to network events if relevant, sharing experience with other institutions in the region • Joint self-evaluation activities • Dissemination of project experiences and outcomes Already at application stage, applicants should consider in concrete terms how to ensure the sustainability of the outcomes. This could be the support of future bi- or multilateral school partnerships, the establishment of regular teacher exchanges or study visits, as well as the implementation of new methods and practices. Comenius Regio Partnerships should disseminate their results within their partner organisations and support other regions or institutions to profit from their experiences. At application stage they are asked to provide a dissemination plan as well as ideas how results could be used by themselves and others. Comenius Regio Partnerships can be combined with already existing activities in Town Twinning or other European educational programmes, but should clearly create additional cooperation activities as well as a deepening of already existing cooperation in the field of school education and show that there is no overlap between activities funded from the EU budget.
Who can benefit	Local and regional school education authorities, schools, pupils, teachers, parents and other relevant associations and stakeholders in school education/ youth work in their respective region/ municipality.
Who can apply	Applications must be submitted by local and regional authorities with a role in school education;

	a list of eligible authorities will be made available by the national authorities of each participating country and published at LLP/ Comenius website: http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/comenius_en.htm
PRIORITIES	Please verify with the relevant National Agency if national priorities apply. There are no European priorities for Comenius Regio Partnerships.
HOW TO APPLY	Decentralised action. Applications have to be sent to the applicant's National Agency.
Please consult the relevant Agency website for further information.	
Selection Procedure:	NA1
Application Deadline(s):	21 February 2013
Duration	
Minimum Duration:	2 years
Maximum Duration:	2 years
Comment on Duration:	none
FINANCIAL PROVISIONS Please consult **Part I** of this Guide, Chapter 4 Financial Provisions for more information.	
Applicable Grant Table(s):	The funding is based on a lump sum for mobility and real costs for additional project costs. The lump sum amounts are displayed in Table 4. A mobility is a trip abroad carried out in the framework of the Regio Partnership either to an approved partner institution or to an event or meeting relevant to the project activities and necessary for its success. Calculation of additional costs is explained in Chapter 4F of the LLP Guide 2013 Part I: General provisions. This chapter provides the financial and contractual rules that are to be followed by the applicants/beneficiaries.
Maximum Grant €:	Grant for additional project costs is limited to a maximum of 25.000 EUR.
Comment on Funding:	Grants shall cover costs related to mobility, the implementation of project activities and the dissemination of results. Indirect costs are not covered. Please note that only the institution which signed the grant agreement is responsible for the financial management and for all project expenses (direct payments). Please, see Chapter 4 Financial Provisions in the LLP Guide.
EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURES Please consult Part I of this Guide, chapter WHAT IS THE LIFECYCLE OF A PROJECT for further information about the evaluation and selection procedures **Eligibility Criteria** **General eligibility rules:** The general eligibility criteria for applications in the LLP Programme are outlined in Part I of this Guide, Chapter 3. Participating countries: please refer to Part I of this Guide, section "Which countries participate in the Programme?"	
Specific eligibility rules:	Applications are submitted by a local or regional authority with a role in school education.
	Both partners are eligible as defined by national authorities and specified in the list of eligible regional or local authorities (see National Agency websites). Each partner involves at least one school and one other organisation from its region. The other organisation should make a significant contribution to the aims of the project. The schools participating in the partner regions must belong to one of the types of institution specified by the relevant national authorities in their list of eligible school types. (http://ec.europa.eu/education/comenius/eligible_en.htm) Mobility can be undertaken by staff and representatives of the involved organisations or institutions. Any participation of pupils in mobilities has to be justified with regard to the aims of the partnership. School education staff in the participating regions who are not working in one of the participating schools can participate in mobility if it is linked to project activities and agreed with the National Agency in advance. Staff from organisations not directly involved in the project activities but relevant for the success of the project can participate in mobility activities with the agreement of the National Agency in advance. Please verify with the National Agency to which you will apply if any additional national requirements exist.
Minimum number of Countries:	2
Minimum number of Partners:	2
Comment on participants:	Maximum 2 applicant institutions, minimum 3 organisations per partner region.
Award criteria	**1. Quality of the work programme**
	The objectives of the partnership are clear, realistic and address a relevant subject. The project focuses on precise targets and activities. The work programme is appropriate for achieving the objectives and suitable for the partnership type in question; the tasks are defined and distributed among the partners in such a way that the results can be achieved and all partners are actively involved. The expected results are new and innovative for the participating regions.
	2. Quality of the partnership

	There is an appropriate balance between partner regions in terms of their involvement in the activities to be carried out. Appropriate measures have been planned to ensure effective communication and cooperation. The application makes clear how schools and other actors at local or regional level will be involved in the project activities and contribute to the activities and results. The project management arrangements are appropriate.
	3. Relevance
	The proposal relates to one or more of the objectives of the Comenius Programme. The Comenius Regio Partnership is relevant to the development of school education in the regions involved.
	4. European added value
	The impact and benefits of European cooperation on the participating institutions and regions are clear and well defined. The regions outlined their approach to foster European cooperation in the school education sector and described how the Comenius Regio Partnership might contribute to that.
	5. Impact
	The expected impact on both partner regions is clear and well defined. The partnership has developed an approach to assess whether the aims of the partnership have been met and the expected impact achieved. Monitoring and evaluation of the project activities are well defined.
	6. Quality of dissemination and exploitation of results
	Results are transferable and other regions can profit from the project's experiences. The activities planned for dissemination and exploitation of results are relevant and well defined. They cover the participating organisations and, if possible, the wider community.
	7. Sustainability
	The measures to ensure the sustainability of results are clear and convincing.
	8. The cost-benefit ratio
	The budget and its justification are convincing and relate well to the activities planned. The planned mobilities are eligible and fit to aims of the project.

CONTRACTING PROCEDURES	
Probable sending date of pre-information on the results of the selection process	July
Probable sending date of agreement to the beneficiaries	August
Probable starting date of the action	August