



# SEEDS FOR INTEGRATION

## **Call for Applications**

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**Initiatives tackling the participation of young migrant and refugee students to the European Parliament Elections**

*Every person in Europe has the right to education and this also means that education has to be accessible for everyone. In a global world, national education systems need to also open their doors to students with origin in a different country. Education system needs to be accessible for all.*

(OBESSU Guidelines on social inclusion in education)

Education is a key for successful integration. This is one of the main reasons why school environment and school life can have a great influence on the future of young learners with refugee and migrant background. Education, moreover, is set in a given context, policy framework and decision-making process, therefore it is key that the participation of young migrant and refugees is fostered, in order for them to be participants in the direct shape of their own education and future.

### **OBESSU believes that:**

- secondary schools in destination countries play a significant role in the integration process of refugee and migrant students
- local students have a substantial role in making refugee and migrant students feel welcome and personally connected to the school community
- participation in decision-making processes is fundamental to create an inclusive and welcoming environment, where each voice is listened to and no process is carried out without taking into account the voices of those who will be impacted by the decision making.

The project **Seeds for Integration** is based on a very simple idea. We provide funding to secondary school students who care about building an inclusive school environment or national education system for all regardless to ethnicity, nationality, country of origin or mother tongue. With this **specific edition**, we want to focus on actions that discuss democratic participation among school students - with a focus on the experience of young migrants and refugees – in the European Parliament Elections.

### **We see a problem:**

The political reality that we currently face in Europe requires a wide mobilization, responsibility and commitment to democratic participation, to fight radicalization and create inclusive societies, based on equality, solidarity and Human Rights. In this framework democratic participation is key at levels of decision-making and in all its forms (e.g. decision making in institutions, NGOs etc)

Through the Seeds for Integration programme we wish to foster participation in local and educational communities. Still, young migrant and refugee students face barriers to exercise their full democratic participation as their citizenship status impacts their right to vote in European countries, at different levels. This barrier is doubled when the right to vote is impacted both by age and citizenship.

We therefore open this call for applications that aim:

- To **build closer ties** and **create a dialogue** between the school community and the communities migrant and refugee students are coming from, with **particular regards to dialogue with policy makers on the topics of participation.**
- To foster and support initiatives that are designed and implemented to **promote informed voting, provide data on participation and advocacy actions in the field of voting rights.**

- To promote initiatives and activities that **provide opportunities which can help understand democratic and participatory processes** and can encourage young people to proactively take part in them.

By encouraging participation in elections in a non-partisan manner, OBESSU aims to reinforce the habit of informed voting among school students. Through different activities and campaigns, we seek to strengthen awareness of issues that closely concern school students, in the belief that political participation at various levels is essential for acquiring key skills associated with active citizenship. We stress our non-partisan approach and will only provide funding to activities that are **not associated to any specific party or promotion of specific party-political manifesto**.

## What can we offer you?

OBESSU provides **small** and **large-scale funding** for initiatives implemented by general and vocational secondary school students on local, regional and national levels.

There are no restrictions on the type of expenses the grant may be used for. However, expenses must be directly related to and necessary for the implementation of the submitted initiative proposal.

We also offer you a [Toolkit](#) where you can take inspiration for your initiatives. You can take a direct action, adapt it to your context, change it, mix them together. We would be happy to support you in shaping the activities you would like to propose.

## Who can participate?

### General eligibility criteria

- ✓ To apply you have to be a secondary school student studying in a European country.
- ✓ Your team has to have at least 3 members, **all secondary school students**. The person who will be communicating with OBESSU must have at least a medium level knowledge of the English language.
- ✓ You have to have a bank account that is able to do transactions in Euros (e.g. student union bank account or a bank account of another organisation that will support the team in administration)
- ✓ Your initiative has to be finished by the end of July 2019.

### Specific eligibility criteria per grant scale

#### Small scale grants

- ✓ All members of the team should attend the same secondary level school or proposed initiative has to be a collaborative activity between 2 or more schools.
- ✓ The initiative has to have a local or regional impact.

#### Large scale grants

- ✓ The application has to be submitted by an OBESSU Member, Candidate or Affiliate Organisation.
- ✓ The proposed initiative has to be implemented on a national level.

## How can you apply?

In order to apply for a small scale or large scale grant in the framework of **Seeds for Integration** programme please visit our website [www.seedsforintegration.org](http://www.seedsforintegration.org) and click on the section "Apply now".

You can apply in the online form, and save your 'work in progress' - we can then give you some comments and support before your final version is ready.

Once you are done, click 'submit' and hope for the best!

There are different application deadlines:

- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April
- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

Applicants will be informed about the results 10 days after the deadline. Given that we have limited funds we encourage you to apply as soon as possible.

## **What help can we offer you?**

If you want to

- develop your idea
- learn how to fill in the application form
- better understand the application procedure
- ...or have any other contact before applying...

Don't hesitate to contact the Programme Coordinator, Milos at [milos@obessu.org](mailto:milos@obessu.org) or the OBESSU Secretariat at [seeds@obessu.org](mailto:seeds@obessu.org)