

Strasbourg 29 May 1975

FJ/CC (75) 4

NOTE FROM THE WORKING PARTY

COE105463

OPERATIONAL REGULATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN YOUTH
FOUNDATION

The last meeting of the Working Party, held at Strasbourg on the 28 May 1975, went through the Operational Regulations of the European Youth Foundation with a view to suggesting eventual amendments in the light of experience gained during the initial period of the Foundation.

I

1. It can generally be said that the Operational Regulations of the European Youth Foundation have served their purpose in an excellent way. They have given guidelines to the executive director as well as to youth organisations requesting funds. As regards the organisations, it should be underlined that they should read the Operational Regulations in close connection with the Statute. This is not always done and it might be advisable to print, in the future, the Operational Regulations and the Statute of the Foundation in one booklet.

2. The Guidelines on how to apply for funds from the European Youth Foundation are a summary of both the Statute and Operational Regulations seen in relation to each other. This document might be a basic element for information to the organisations and might be rewritten and published in a more comprehensive form. Without amending the Operational Regulations it might be possible to include within these Guidelines more comprehensive ideas about what is meant by category B - activities other than meetings - and to give detailed information on how to apply and how the Governing Board looks at the applications etc.

3. The Working Party suggests that instead of attempting the rather complicated procedure of amending the Operational Regulations, one should look at the Guidelines and revise them accordingly. These Guidelines could then, at the December meeting of the Governing Board, be adopted as a Governing Board document.

II

A few remarks might, however, be made concerning the Operational Regulations themselves.

1. In paragraph 8 it is stated as follows:

"The executive director shall evaluate the applications received, verify that the information supplied is correct and sufficient, and make a report to the Governing Board on their relative merits. He shall make a particular effort to unveil cases of inflated costs or unnecessary expenses in the budgets submitted and, through direct contact, stimulate the organisers to adjust their budgets to real needs."

This provision could not be implemented in full as the funds available for official journeys put at the disposal of the European Youth Foundation by the General Budget of the Council of Europe are too limited. It ought to be underlined that it is only through direct contact with the organisations that real firm negotiations can take place. It should also be noted that in the long run, it is indispensable for the secretariat to follow a number of such projects supported, in order to evaluate the projects in the spirit of Article 9 of the Operational Regulations, particularly part (e) of that paragraph.

2. Paragraph 29 of the Operational Regulations allows for the executive director to pay an instalment of up to 80% of the contribution at the beneficiary's request. The procedure followed so far has been to do so automatically one or two months prior to an event. In order to maintain better financial supervision, it might be useful to enforce, with more strength than at present, paragraph 23 of the Operational Regulations combined with the provisions of paragraph 29 stating that the executive director may, prior to a meeting, distribute 40% of the contribution, and after having received further information on the planning of the meeting, exact lists of participation, etc., make a second instalment of another 40%. In cases such as the Community Education Foundation, this would have reduced the loss felt by the European Youth Foundation considerably.

3. During the initial period of the Foundation one has, from one year to another, experienced a considerable increase in the number of requests received together with a rise in funds available. In 1973 a total of 1,615,900 FF was distributed. In 1974, a total of 3,564,629 FF was distributed and so far in 1975 an amount of 5,450,710 FF has been distributed. In 1976 an increase of requests can be foreseen while there most probably will be a drastic decrease in funds available. In order to avoid a situation where no funds are available throughout the middle of 1976 the December meeting of the Governing Board in 1975 should not distribute all the available funds for 1976, and one may foresee a situation whereby the last meeting in the year of the Governing Board can only distribute one-third of the Foundation's funds for the following year. The first meeting of that following year can again distribute a certain proportion and the second meeting a certain proportion.

4. Following the difficulties experienced with requests arriving with the Governing Board too late, it may also be foreseen that instead of a general rule of four months in advance, fixed dates for the submission of applications are requested.