

Board for the Advancement of Debate and Enlightenment Regarding Europe - 2005-2007 report

The 2005-2007 report of the Board for the Advancement of Debate and Enlightenment Regarding Europe describes the board's activities and developments in its appropriations during the period.

The board is tasked with distributing funding for enlightenment projects about the EU, as well initiatives to promote the general debate in Denmark about the EU. Political parties with representation in parliament and "movements" in the European Parliament receive a portion of the funding, while the rest is distributed in the form of grants to organisations focusing on European policy, as well as to specific projects.

The 2005 national budget set aside 20 million kroner a year for the board to distribute during the 2005-2007 period.

During this period, a total of 8 million kroner was allocated to parties represented in parliament, as well as Danish parties and movements in the European Parliament. Two-thirds of the funding was distributed based on the number of seats held (1/3 based on the number of seats held in parliament, 1/3 based on the number of seats held in the European Parliament). The remaining third was divided equally to all parties and movements, regardless of size. This new manner of distributing the money sought to reflect more closely the parties' relative electoral support.

Another 2.2 million kroner annually was set aside in Pool A for national organisations which are oriented towards distributing information and generating discussion about the EU. A total of five organisations received Pool A funding during the period.

Organisations with activities focusing on Europe, but otherwise not primarily involved in the EU debate – with the exception of large labour market and commercial organisations – could apply for funding from a newly established Pool B. Pool B's 3.4 million kroner was intended to fund consolidation of the organisations' various EU-related efforts. During the 2005-2007 funding period, the board received 22 applications for Pool B funds and issued 13 grants.

A special Pool C was established during the 2005-2007 period to fund production of local, non-commercial radio and television programmes about the EU. Pool C's 1.5 million kroner was set aside to encourage greater participation by local radio and television stations in discussions about the EU, primarily by offering funding for full-year series about the EU. During the 2005-2007 funding period, the board received 53 applications for Pool C funds and issued 41 grants.

Also established during the 2005-2007 period was a Pool D for funding EU Info Points and EU libraries. A total of 800,000 kroner was available each year from Pool D. During the period, 24 applications for funding were received, and 15 grants were issued. Due to a low number of applicants, very little money was distributed in 2006 and 2007.

Making its return in the 2005-2007 funding period was a Pool E for non-specified projects. The annual pool of 2.6 million kroner was available for individual local projects and / or major cross-organisational projects on the national or regional level. Pool E funding was available to individuals and organisations, and was subdivided into seven categories: meetings, television, radio, internet, books, other and combined. The 696 applications received for Pool E funding was the largest amount for any group during the period. A total of 292 grants were made.

In addition to its regular funding, the board received an extra 30 million kroner in 2005 ahead of a planned referendum on the EU constitution. Parties and movements with representation in parliament and the European Parliament stood to receive 14 million kroner of this amount. Another 14 million kroner in competitive grants was to be made available. However, the disbursement of funds was stopped when the referendum was cancelled. But by that point, political parties and movements with representation in parliament and the European Parliament had already received their share. These groups were required to repay any funds they could not document had been spent for informational purposes.

Following the cancelled referendum, the EU entered into a "pause for reflection". During the pause, the board received 6.4 million kroner to be made available to organised local and national initiatives aimed at increasing the level of discussion about the EU. The board received 165 applications for these funds and approved grants to 93.

During the 2005-2007 period, the board issued grants to several worthwhile projects that have helped to spread information about the EU and Europe, as well as to intensify the discussion. Many of the projects included voter participation and were clearly successful.

At the end of the period, the board held a Europe Fair, which served as a place where organisations and individuals active in the EU debate could exchange ideas. The fair itself contributed to a furthering of the discussion about the EU, and included displays of the materials paid for using board grants. Some 1,500 people attended the Europe Fair, making it a major success.