

QUICK GUIDE TO EU FUNDS

COMPLETE CONCISE COMPREHENSIVE



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CONTENT

Introduction	5	LIFE +	24
The Special Case of EEA EFTA States: Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway	7	Lifelong Learning Programme	25
Funding Opportunities and the Connections between Instruments	8	Marco Polo II	26
COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES	9	Media 2007	27
Civil Protection Financial Instrument	9	Pericles Programme	28
Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP)	10	Progress	29
Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme	10	Public Health Programme	30
Information and Communication Technology Policy Support Programme	11	Safer Internet Plus Programme	31
Intelligent Energy Europe	11	Security and Safeguarding Liberties Framework Programme	32
Consumer Programme	12	Prevention, Preparedness and Consequence Management of Terrorism and Other Security Related Risks	32
Culture 2007 Programme (2007-2013)	13	Prevention and Fight Against Crime	33
Customs 2013	14	Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows Framework Programme	34
Europe for Citizens	15	European Refugee Fund	34
Fiscalis 2013	16	External Border Fund	35
FP7	17	European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals	36
Fundamental Rights and Justice	19	European Return Fund	37
Fight Against Violence (Daphne)	19	Trans-European Energy Network (TEN-E)	38
Drugs Prevention and Information	19	Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T)	39
Fundamental Rights and Citizenship	20	Youth in Action	40
Criminal Justice	20	AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT	41
Civil Justice	20	European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF)	41
Galileo	21	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)	42
HERCULE II	22	European Fisheries Fund (EFF)	43
IDABC	23		

QUICK GUIDE TO EU FUNDS

EU REGIONAL POLICY	44	EXTERNAL SUPPORT	52
Cohesion Fund	46	Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)	52
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	47	European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument (ENPI)	53
European Social Fund	48	European Development Fund (EDF)	55
COMMUNITY INITIATIVES	49	Humanitarian Aid	56
JASPERS	49	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)	57
JEREMIE	49	Instrument for Stability	58
JESSICA	50	Acronyms	60
Regions for Economic Change	51	Programme Links	62

QUICK GUIDE TO EU FUNDS

QUICK GUIDE TO EU FUNDS

The Quick Guide to EU Funds is a shorter version of the Handbook on EU Funds 2007-2013 published by Europa Media. While the Handbook is available solely for Europa Media training participants, the Quick Guide is freely available electronically for potential proposers and all other stakeholders interested in EU Funding.

The Quick Guide presents selected programmes while the Handbook on EU Funds is a complete guide to EU Funds containing all EU Funding schemes as well as extensive chapters on project development and management with step-by-step instructions and practical tips to successfully implement and manage EU projects, provided by leading EU project managers.

The main aim with the Handbook and the Quick Guide is to respond to the huge demand for practical and comprehensive information in an easily accessible format on all the new Community priorities, programmes and other funding opportunities available since 1 January 2007. The new Community programmes and other Funds for the period 2007-2013 need to be thoroughly investigated in order to discover all the new funding opportunities offered by the EU covering nearly every field of interest.

Most of the programmes are new, although they build on experience from the previous period; some of the old programmes continue to run and a few have not yet been adopted.

The preparation period for the new programming period has been long; the Commission already started to publish proposals for new and renewed funding instruments in 2004 and they have successively gone through the EU decision-making system and finally most of the programmes are in place with calls for proposals and tenders.

The Quick Guide builds on the same structure as the Handbook on EU Funds, and provides information regarding the different types of funding possibilities, starting with the Community programmes, followed by regional and agricultural support, and concluding with external support comprising both pre-accession support and development aid.

EU FUNDING STRUCTURE IN SHORT

EU Funds fully correspond with the main priorities of the EU, with most of the money allocated to Community programmes earmarked for Research, Innovation and Education.

The main Community programmes are the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Development (FP7), the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP) and the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP).

Regional support has been restructured and funding is now available through two Structural Funds (European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF)) and the Cohesion Fund. New initiatives have been created in order to try new solutions to solve common problems at EU level while some of the old ones have been incorporated under different funding mechanisms (e.g. Equal, Interreg).

Agricultural support continues to receive a large amount of the EC budget but changes have been introduced progressively and new funds have been created aiming to place more focus on rural development and competitiveness.

Support for third countries has been highly simplified with the creation of one single instrument for pre-accession, the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) for Candidate and Potential Candidate Countries.

DIRECT VS. INDIRECT SUPPORT

In total, several million euros are available for projects at various levels.

How is all the EC money handled? It all depends on the scope.

Programmes covering the whole EU or seeking the common interest of the Community are typically managed by the Commission or by an implementing authority appointed by the EC. 22% of the budget is allocated to direct support managed at European level. In these cases, competition is at EU-level. Interested potential applicants should refer to the website of the relevant programme.

If money is allocated to a country, a national authority is responsible for implementation, from issuing the calls, to evaluation, grant agreement negotiation, payment and audits. This is the case for the Structural Funds, agricultural support and some parts of the IPA.

Indirect support accounts for more than 76% of the budget. In case of indirect support, competition is on a national level and interested proposers should contact the implementing authority to get information on application procedures and priorities.

The image on page 8 shows how the different funds are managed.

There are many basic differences between the two forms of implementation, (direct and indirect) but common for both is that the profound reading of all supporting documents is indispensable for a successful application. Make sure that you have the latest version at your disposal!

QUICK GUIDE TO EU FUNDS

TWO TYPES OF FINANCING

For most of the programmes, two types of financing is possible:

GRANTS - Projects are selected through call for proposals and correspond to the objectives set out by the EC. This is the common procedure for trans-national projects under Community programmes. The expected results are outlined in the call for proposal and the proposer puts together an international consortium and describes the project concept and impacts in a proposal.

TENDERS /PUBLIC PROCUREMENT - Calls for tender are published for purchase of services, goods or work. For a tender, the description of work is given and the proposer gives a bid on the price for undertaking this specific work and outlines its qualifications for this specific task.

Neighbouring countries to the EU such as Countries of the South and Eastern Mediterranean, the Western Commonwealth of Independent States and countries from the Southern Caucasus benefit from the European Neighbourhood Policy and can receive funding from the ENPI. They can also participate in several other programmes such as Erasmus Mundus, TEN-E, etc., and also in specific calls under certain programmes (e.g. FP7).

Several external action programmes exist for the support of development in third countries. These programmes can be of thematic or country specific character. Support can also be provided on a bilateral basis. Funding is also allocated to areas in crisis through the Instrument for Stability.

Countries can become associated countries to a programme if they contribute to the budget of the programme and sign a Memorandum of Understanding. Entities based in an associated country can participate in the specific programme on equal basis as entities based in Member States.

THEMATIC COVERAGE

EU funding is available for almost every thematic area from agriculture and environment, to human rights and democratic reforms, to high technological space and security matters. Typically, there is one Community programme for each thematic area but do not limit your search for funding to the most obvious programme or area. The main Community programme for environment is the LIFE + programme, but environmental funding can be obtained from so many more sources, from Structural Funds to FP7 or CIP. It will all depend on the scope of the project.

In conclusion, EU funding covers basically the whole world and every type of organisation. Do not wait; start today and discover what type of funding you can receive!

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Basically the whole world is open to EU funding. Entities based in any EU Member States can participate and receive funding from all Community Programmes (exceptions can be found in some of the Justice programmes) while the same is applicable for specified third countries signing a Memorandum of Understanding and contributing to the particular programme's budget. Regarding the Structural Funds, and Agricultural and Fisheries Support, only EU Member States are eligible to receive funding according to their National Strategic Reference Document. Moreover, within regional support, only the New Member States, Greece, Portugal and Spain can benefit from the Cohesion Fund.

A special instrument has been created for the Candidate Countries and Potential Candidate Countries, IPA, but they can also participate in Community programmes in accordance with general principles, terms and conditions for the participation in Community Programmes established in respective Framework Agreements and Association Council Decisions.

EEA countries (Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland) signed an agreement for participation in Community programmes on a per programme basis and they contribute to the budget of the agreed-to programmes. Read more about their participation in Community programmes on the next page.

THE SPECIAL CASE OF EEA EFTA STATES: ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN AND NORWAY

The EU comprises today most European countries, however there are a few states that are not members, but still reap some of the benefits. The non-EU Member States based in Western Europe are organized in other economic and cooperation agreements. The European Free Trade Agreement (EFTA) consists today of four states: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland whereof the first three are referred to as EEA EFTA states as they have signed the Agreement on European Economic Area together with the EU Member States. The EEA establishes a single market covering the four freedoms: the free movement of goods, capital, services and persons. The agreement also includes competition rules and other horizontal measures related to the realization of the internal market. The three EEA EFTA countries negotiate jointly their condition for participation in certain EU Community programmes, while Switzerland negotiates its agreements separately.

In addition to the four freedoms, the EEA Agreement allows for cooperation in the following areas:

- ◆ Research and Technological Development
- ◆ ICT
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Social Policy
- ◆ Consumer Policy
- ◆ Enterprise and entrepreneurship
- ◆ Tourism
- ◆ Audiovisual sector
- ◆ Civil protection
- ◆ Trade facilitation
- ◆ Transport and mobility
- ◆ Culture
- ◆ Energy and environmental -related energy activities
- ◆ Employment
- ◆ Public Health
- ◆ Telemetric interchange of data
- ◆ Exchange between administrations of national officials
- ◆ Reduction of economic and social disparities

Any new Community programme (in general) in the above-mentioned fields allows for possible participation of EEA EFTA countries. The EEA Joint Committee takes a formal decision to enable EEA EFTA countries to participate in the given Community programme once it has been adopted. This procedure can take up to six months, but there are often flexible solutions to enable those countries to participate in the programme from the very beginning. EEA EFTA countries can participate in the selected programmes on the same basis as EU Member States once the legal procedure has been completed.

The EEA EFTA states contribute financially to the EU's budget in order to be able to participate in Community programmes. The financial contribution is estimated to be 1.5 billion euro for the seven-year period, 2007-2013.

At present EEA EFTA countries can participate in the following programmes:

- ◆ Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)
- ◆ Lifelong Learning Programme
- ◆ Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP)
- ◆ PROGRESS
- ◆ Daphne
- ◆ Public Health Programme
- ◆ Drugs Prevention and Information Programme 2007-2013
- ◆ Consumer Programme
- ◆ Civil Protection Financial Instrument 2007-2013
- ◆ Youth in Action Programme
- ◆ Culture 2007
- ◆ Media 2007
- ◆ Safer Internet Plus
- ◆ IDABC
- ◆ Marco Polo

EEA Countries: Iceland, Lichtenstein and Norway

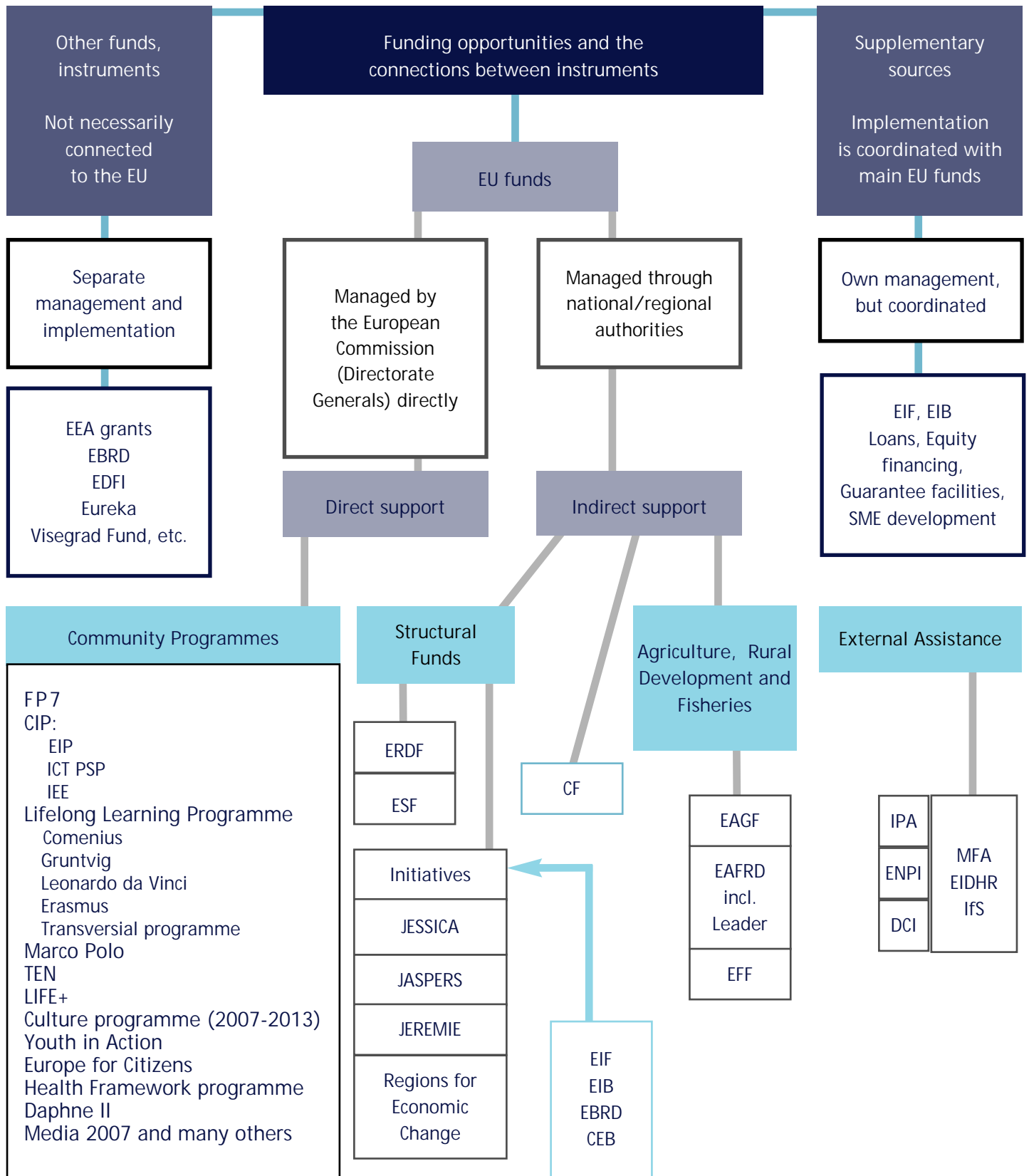


Switzerland is a special case, being an EFTA country but not an EEA country. EU and Switzerland have several bilateral agreement and Switzerland can participate in several programmes such as Media 2007, LIFE +, Lifelong Learning, FP7 etc.

MORE INFORMATION

EFTA
<http://www.efta.int>
 EEA Financial Grants
<http://www.eeagrants.org>

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COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES

The EU has established Community programmes in almost every field in order to promote cooperation between Member States in the fields related to the different EU policies. Community programmes are multi-annual programmes with well-identified objectives. They are implemented via call for proposals or public procurement. Each programme establishes its own rules for participation; financial and reporting rules are outlined in the supporting documents. All Member States are eligible to participate in the Community programmes, except in the rare case when they opt out, one example being Denmark and UK in justice related programmes. Third countries can become associated to a specific programme via signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Commission and contributing financially to the programmes' budget. Associated Countries can thereafter participate in the programme at the same level as Member States.

CIVIL PROTECTION FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 189,8 million

The Civil Protection Financial Instrument serve to support and complement Member States' efforts related to civil protection including protection of people against disasters, environment and property. The instrument also support reinforced cooperation between Member States in the field of civil protection.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the Civil Protection Instrument are to:

- ◆ Help to make protection more effective
- ◆ Enhance prevention, preparedness and effective response to emergency situations
- ◆ Provide logistical support
- ◆ Establish and maintain secure common emergency communication and information system

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

The Civil Protection Financial Instrument covers three main aspects of civil protection activities: prevention, preparedness and response and finances actions such as:

- ◆ Studies, trainings, awareness raising activities related to response and preparedness
- ◆ Sharing of best practises to enhance prevention, preparedness and effective response
- ◆ Measures to develop warning systems and to improve coordination
- ◆ Provision of logistical support

IMPLEMENTATION

Different types of support are available under the Civil Protection Instrument such as grants or provision of a transport service.

ELIGIBILITY

The Civil Protection Financial Instrument is open to Member States, Candidate Countries (Turkey, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Croatia) and to EEA countries. Other third countries may co-operate in activities when agreements so allow.

LEGAL BASIS

Council Decision of 5 March 2007 establishing a Civil Protection Financial Instrument (2007/162/EC, Euroatom)

MORE INFORMATION

Civil Protection Instrument

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/civil/prote/finance.htm>

COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME (CIP)

Period: 2007-2013
Budget: EUR 3 621.3 million

The Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) works to increase the competitiveness of European enterprises. The main target group of CIP is small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), and it offers better access to finance, supports innovative activities, including eco-innovation, and provides business support services.

CIP is divided into three operational programmes, each managed by a different Directorate General (DG): Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme, ICT Policy Support Programme and Intelligent Energy Europe

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION PROGRAMME (EIP)

Period: 2007-2013
Budget: EUR 2 172.78 million

Managed by the DG Enterprise and Industry, the main objectives of EIP are to facilitate access to finance for SMEs, from start-up to business transfer, to create a favourable environment to SME cooperation, promote innovation, support eco-innovation, promote entrepreneurship, innovation, and enterprise and innovation-related economic and management reforms.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the EIP programme are to:

- ◆ Facilitate access to finance for SMEs
- ◆ Support creation of favourable environment for SME cooperation
- ◆ Promote innovation including eco innovation
- ◆ Promote entrepreneurship

IMPLEMENTATION

EIP is implemented through call for proposals and for tenders that can be found in the annual workprogramme.

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

EIP operates in five main areas of activity in order to achieve its objectives.

- 1) Access to Finance for SMEs - EU instruments that target SMEs in various stages of their lifecycles and encourage innovation. The European Investment Fund (EIF) manages these activities.
- 2) Network of Business and innovation Service Centres - regional services providing integrated services to make businesses more competitive will form a European network, building on the experiences of Euro Info Centres and Innovation Relay Centres.

3) Initiative for Entrepreneurship and Innovation - transnational networking of innovative companies and all actors in order to exchange best practices.

4) Ecoinnovation - has a separate budget of 430 million euro specifically to support products, processes and services that will reduce environmental impacts, such as pollution and better use of natural resources.

5) Support for Policymaking - conferences and other such events can be organised in order to assemble and publicise sectoral knowledge, which in turn will assist in policymaking.

MORE INFORMATION

Competitiveness and Innovation Programme
http://ec.europa.eu/cip/index_en.htm

6TH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON EC PROJECT FINANCING

Energy & Environment

23-24 SEPTEMBER 2010, ST. JULIANS, MALTA

2-day exclusive training on the current and upcoming energy and environment project financing schemes complemented with excellent networking opportunities and practical assistance of a panel of experts.

Contact info@eutrainingsite.com

Further information www.eutrainingsite.com

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES POLICY SUPPORT PROGRAMME (ICT PSP)

Period: 2007-2013
Budget: EUR 730 million

ICT PSP builds on the previous e-Ten, Modinis and e-Content, and supports the aims of the i2010 initiative, namely, to encourage the uptake and effective use of ICT by citizens, governments and businesses. ICT PSP is managed by DG Information Society and Media.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the ICT PSP programme are to:

- ◆ Encourage the uptake and best use of ICT by citizens, governments and business
- ◆ Develop an inclusive information society
- ◆ Reinforce the European internal ICT market

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

For 2007 the ICT PSP will focus on three themes:

- ◆ Efficient and interoperable eGovernment services
- ◆ ICT for accessibility, ageing and social integration
- ◆ ICT for sustainable and interoperable health services

The Horizontal Actions include:

- ◆ Sharing experiences
- ◆ Sustainable growth
- ◆ Intelligent cars
- ◆ Privacy protection

IMPLEMENTATION

The programme is implemented through calls for proposals and calls for tenders, which in turn are implemented through three types of actions:

- ◆ Pilot A Actions will work to ensure the EU-wide interoperability of ICT-based solutions
- ◆ Pilot B Actions will support implementation of ICT-based solutions
- ◆ Thematic Networks will support sharing experiences and consensus building on ICT policy implementation

ELIGIBILITY -CIP

Member States and associated countries can participate in CIP. At present, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein are associated countries to CIP. CIP is open to Candidate Countries, Western Balkan countries and other third countries with signed agreements to participate in Community programmes. Israel can participate in EIP.

INTELLIGENT ENERGY EUROPE (IEE)

Period: 2007-2013
Budget: EUR 730 million

Intelligent Energy for Europe is the EU's tool to fund actions that will make Europe more energy intelligent through energy saving measures and promoting the uptake of renewable energy sources and technologies. It is managed by the DG-Energy and Transport.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the IEE programme are to:

- ◆ Encourage energy efficiency and rational use of energy sources
- ◆ Promote new and renewable energy sources and energy diversification
- ◆ Promote energy efficiency and new energy sources in transport

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

Projects are supported in the following areas:

- ◆ Renewable Energy
- ◆ Energy Efficiency
- ◆ Transport
- ◆ Developing Countries
- ◆ Horizontal/cross-cutting projects

IEE replaces the previous SAVE II and ALTENER II programmes. IEE does not fund technical research and development projects!

IMPLEMENTATION

IEE is implemented through an annual call for proposals. For the 2007-2013 period, funding rates are up to 75% EC contribution on direct costs for projects, with a flat rate of 60% on direct staff costs to calculate indirect costs.

LEGAL BASIS -CIP

Decision No 1639/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 establishing a Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (2007 to 2013).

MORE INFORMATION - CIP

CIP
http://ec.europa.eu/cip/index_en.htm

CONSUMER PROGRAMME

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 156.8 million

The Consumer programme aims to contribute to the protection of health, safety, and the economic and legal interests of European citizens. The programme intends to integrate consumer interests in all Community policies, and places a special focus on consumer protection and consumer awareness in the New Member States (countries that have acceded after 1 May 2004).

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the programme are to:

- ◆ Ensure a high level of consumer protection (through better representation of consumer interests)
- ◆ Ensure the effective application of consumer policy rules (through enforcement, cooperation, information, redress and education)

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

The following actions are supported under the Community programme in the field of consumer policy:

- ◆ Collection, exchange and analysis of data and information that provide indication for the development of consumer policy
- ◆ Development of assessment tools that provide a scientific support on the safety of consumer goods and services
- ◆ Support for scientific advice and risk evaluation
- ◆ Preparation of legislative and other regulatory initiatives
- ◆ Financial support for European consumer organisations
- ◆ Capacity building for regional, national and European consumer organisations through training of staff members
- ◆ Actions to improve the effective applications of the Community
- ◆ Consumer policy legislation
- ◆ Legal and technical expertise (including studies for the assessment of the implementation and enforcement of consumer protection legislation)
- ◆ Actions on information, advice and redress
- ◆ Actions on consumer education

IMPLEMENTATION

The Commission is in charge of the implementation of the programme. The annual work programme sets out priorities and actions to be undertaken, including the allocation of financial resources, the selection and award criteria, and the criteria for the ratio of Community financial support, the scheduled timing of calls for tenders, joint actions and calls for proposals. The two forms of financial contribution are scholarship grants for individuals and travel and subsistence allowances.

Co-financing

- ◆ 50% of the costs of actions jointly financed by the Community and one or more Member States
- ◆ 85% of the costs of actions intended to develop master degree courses in consumer issues
- ◆ 50% of expenditure for the functioning of European consumer organisations

ELIGIBILITY

The following countries are eligible for support:

- ◆ Member States
- ◆ EEA countries
- ◆ Candidate Countries
- ◆ Western Balkan countries
- ◆ Third countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy

The following organisations are eligible for funding:

- ◆ Public bodies
- ◆ Not-for-profit organisations
- ◆ Non-governmental and non-profit making European consumer organisations
- ◆ Consumer protection officials

LEGAL BASIS

Decision No 1926/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 establishing a programme of Community action in the field of consumer policy (2007-2013)

MORE INFORMATION

Consumer Programme

http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/strategy/index_en.htm#programmes

DG Health and Consumer Protection

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/index_en.htm

QUICK GUIDE TO EU FUNDS

CULTURE 2007 PROGRAMME (2007-2013)

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 400 million

The overall objective of the Culture 2007 programme is to enhance the cultural area common to Europeans through the development of cultural cooperation between the creators, cultural players and cultural institutions of the countries taking part in the programme, with aim of encouraging the emergence of European citizenship.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the Culture 2007 programme are to:

- ◆ Promote the transnational mobility of people working in the cultural sector
- ◆ Support the transnational circulation of works and cultural and artistic products
- ◆ Promote intercultural dialogue

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

Three different strands are used in the pursuit of the above mentioned objectives:

1. Support for Cultural Actions

- ◆ Multi annual cooperation projects- assisting cooperation projects in their start up, structuring or geographical extension phase, involving at least six partners from six different countries. Community co-financing can be up to 50% of the project budget and may not exceed 500 000 euro per year during a period of three to five years.
- ◆ Cooperation measures - promoting sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation between European operators prioritised creativity and innovation where Community contribution can be between 50 000 and 200 000 euro per year but may not exceed 50% of the project budget during a maximum 24 months.
- ◆ Special actions - contributing to intercultural and international dialogue, and also helping to raise the profile of Community cultural actions and increase the cultural influences of Europe. Projects financed must meet at least two of the three specific objectives. Community co-financing may not exceed 60% of the project budget.

2. Support for European Bodies active at European level in the Field of Culture

This support finances costs associated with a continuous work programme of an organization, which pursue goals of general European interest in the field of culture.

3. Support for Analyses and for the Collection and Dissemination of Information in the Field of Cultural Cooperation

Funding there supports cultural contact points; support for analyses in the field of cultural co-operation; support for collection and dissemination of information in the field of cultural cooperation.

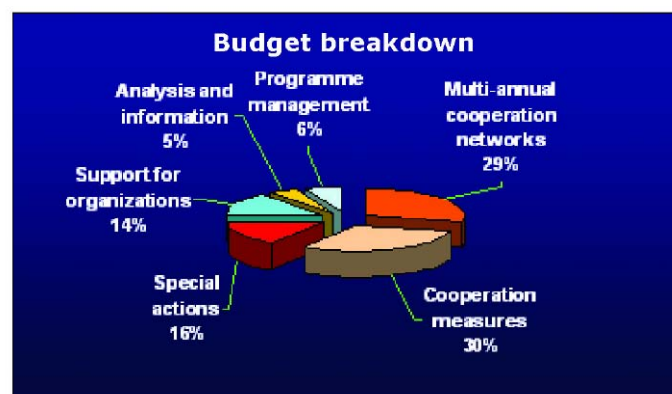
IMPLEMENTATION

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) manages the implementation of the Culture 2007 programme. Calls for proposals are launched annually. Submission is in two phases, where only selected applicants are invited to the second phase. The Guide for Applicants is available on the programme's website (see more information).

ELIGIBILITY

Culture 2007 programme is open to participation for EU Member States and EEA countries.

The programme is also open for participation for the Candidate and Potential Candidate Countries, upon signing agreement with the EU.



LEGAL BASIS

Decision No 1903/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 establishing the Culture Programme (2007-2013)

MORE INFORMATION:

Culture 2007 Programme

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/index_en.html

DG Education and Culture

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/index_en.html

CUSTOMS 2013

Period: 2008-2013

Budget: EUR 323.8 million

The general aim of Customs 2013 is to ensure that national customs administrations operate as efficiently, effectively and economically as possible, and enabling them to react to any requirement arising from a changing customs environment. It also intends to strengthen both national and EU level control and anti-fraud measurements, and improve the security of EU citizens.

Custom 2013 strives to standardize customs systems and to identify and develop best practices in the field of audit controls and risk analyses. It also seeks to support improvement of customs administrations and actions to prevent irregularities as well as improve communication systems and help improve the quality of customs administration systems in third countries.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the Customs 2013 programme are to:

- ◆ Match the needs of the internal market, including supply chain security
- ◆ Harmonise customs administrations' interaction and performance as if they were one administrative unit, ensuring equivalence of controls at every point of the Community's borders
- ◆ Ensure the protection of the financial interests of the Community
- ◆ Reinforce the security and safety of citizens
- ◆ Facilitate and prepare for enlargement, including the sharing of experiences and knowledge with the customs administrations of the countries concerned
- ◆ Ensure a high level of consumer protection (through better representation of consumer interests)
- ◆ Ensure the effective application of consumer policy rules (through enforcement, cooperation, information, redress and education)

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

The Customs 2013 programme finances the following types of activities:

1. Communication and information-exchange systems
2. Benchmarking
3. Seminars and workshops
4. Project groups and steering groups
5. Working visits
6. Training activities
7. Monitoring actions
8. Any other activities required for the realisation of the objectives of the programme

IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of the programme is coordinated and organised by the Commission and the Member States in accordance with the common policy set up by the Customs Policy Group. Calls for tenders are published on an annual basis in connection with the activities defined by the programme.

ELIGIBILITY

Customs 2013 is open for participation for entities based in Member States. The following countries may participate upon signing an agreement with the EC:

- ◆ Candidate Countries
- ◆ Potential Candidate Countries

LEGAL BASIS

Decision No 624/2007/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 May 2007 establishing an action programme for customs in the Community (Customs 2013)

MORE INFORMATION

Customs 2013

http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/common/legislation/customs/index_en.htm

Taxation and Customs Union

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/taxation_customs/index_en.htm

EUROPE FOR CITIZENS

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 215 million

Europe for Citizens aims to promote active European citizenship with the main scope of bridging the gap between citizens and the European Union through financial instruments that promote active European citizenship. It intends to encourage cooperation between citizens and organisations from different countries and facilitate the development of a sense of belonging to common European ideals and to promote the process of European integration.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of Europe for Citizens are to:

- ◆ Give citizens the opportunity to interact and participate in constructing an ever closer Europe
- ◆ Strengthen European identity based on common values
- ◆ Enhance mutual understanding and tolerance between European citizens while contributing to intercultural dialogue

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

The programme is implemented via four types of actions:

Active Citizens for Europe - with actions such as Town Twinning and transnational and cross-sectoral projects directly involving citizens

Together for Europe - supports projects that help increase the sense of one community, finances studies, surveys and opinion polls in order to better understand active citizenship, and projects disseminating comprehensive information on European actions related to citizenship

Active Civil Society for Europe - providing structural support for think-tanks, for civil society organisations at European level, and support projects initiated by civil society organisations

Active European Remembrance - support actions in fields such as preservation, commemoration, reflection and networking in projects related to Nazism or Stalinism

IMPLEMENTATION

The Citizenship team of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) manages the implementation of Europe for Citizens. The programme is implemented through two types of grants: grants for projects and grants for the operating budget for NGOs promoting active European Citizenship.



ELIGIBILITY

The following countries are eligible for support:

- ◆ Member States
- ◆ EEA countries
- ◆ Candidate Countries
- ◆ Western Balkan countries with signed agreements: Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Serbia including Kosovo (under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244)

LEGAL BASIS

Decision No 1904/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 establishing for the period 2007 to 2013 the programme 'Europe for Citizens' to promote active European citizenship

MORE INFORMATION

Europe for Citizens

http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/index_en.html

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

<http://eacea.ec.europa.eu>

FISCALIS 2013

Period: 2008-2013

Budget: EUR 175.3 million

Fiscalis 2013 running from 2008 and, as a continuation of the Fiscalis 2007 programme, seeks to develop a more reliable and better functioning taxation system in the internal market by encouraging cooperation in the field of taxation. While encouraging better application and understanding of Community taxation law, the programme also seeks to provide information and exchange good practices with Candidate, Potential Candidate and European Neighbourhood Policy Countries.

OBJECTIVES

Fiscalis 2013 sets out the following objectives in the pursuit of taxation cooperation and harmonization:

- ◆ Allow for efficient and effective information exchange and administrative cooperation in the field of value added tax, excise duties and taxes on income and capital
- ◆ Improve officials' understanding of Community law and its implementation in Member States
- ◆ Develop and share good practices to improve administrative procedures
- ◆ Encourage cooperation regarding taxes on insurance premiums and implementation of existing rules
- ◆ Assist Candidate and Potential Candidate Countries in the field of tax legislation and their administrative capacity
- ◆ Increase cooperation with the tax administrations of European Neighbourhood Policy Countries

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

Fiscalis 2013 supports actions in the field of taxation policy such as:

- ◆ Developing a communication and information exchange systems Interface
- ◆ Establishing multilateral controls regarding tax liability in different participating countries
- ◆ Organisation of seminars and training activities
- ◆ Coordination of working visits

IMPLEMENTATION

Fiscalis 2013 is implemented through calls for proposals and for tenders that are published in the annual work-programme.

ELIGIBILITY

Fiscalis 2013 is open to:

- ◆ Member States
- ◆ Candidate Countries
- ◆ Potential Candidate Countries
- ◆ Certain countries participating in the European Neighbourhood Policy, based on their level of approximation to EU legislation.

Within these participating countries, international organisations, third countries' administrations and taxable persons may take part in the programme. Only Turkey, Bulgaria and Romania signed a Memorandum of Understanding for participation in the previous programme Fiscalis 2007.

LEGAL BASIS

Under legislation: Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Community programme to improve the operation of taxation systems in the internal market (Fiscalis 2013) COM(2006) 202 final

MORE INFORMATION

Fiscalis 2013

http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/taxation/index_en.htm

SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT (FP7)

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 50 521 million

The Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development is the main Community instrument for financing transnational research and technological development actions in almost all scientific disciplines, in particular by encouraging undertakings by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), research centres and universities in their research and technological development activities.

FP7 not only finances research projects, but also actions aiming to support or coordinate research, as well as building and maintaining networks. Support is also available for actions aimed at enhancing research capacities for frontier research and for the mobility of researchers.

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective is to strengthen the scientific and technological basis of Community industry, thereby ensuring a high level of competitiveness at international level in order to create synergies in European research.

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

FP7 is divided into specific programmes corresponding to the main areas of EU research policy: Cooperation, Ideas, People and Capacities. In addition, the non-nuclear research activities of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) are grouped under a specific programme with individual budget allocation, and Euratom research activities are carried out under a separate treaty with a separate budget.

Cooperation - transnational collaborative research strengthening European industries' competitiveness

Ideas - supports frontier research by financing investigator-driven research projects carried out across all fields by individual teams

People - training, mobility and career development of researchers

Capacities - enhancement and optimal use of research and innovation capacities throughout Europe

Euratom has its own Framework Research Programme and budget - 2 751 million euro for five years, 2007-2011.

In FP7 Euratom there are two related specific programmes: one covers indirect actions in the fields of fusion energy research and nuclear fission and radiation protection, while the other targets direct actions in the field of nuclear power carried out by the Joint Research Centre (JRC). The JRC was originally established by the Euratom Treaty which is today the leading institute of nuclear research in Europe.

IMPLEMENTATION

FP7 is implemented through different types of actions:

Collaborative Projects: Research projects undertaken by an international consortium

Coordination and Support Action: Coordination and support of research activities and policies by projects facilitating exchange of experiences, organisation of conferences, network construction, studies and international access to research infrastructure

Network of Excellence: Long term research cooperation in order to help research entities pool and coordinate their resources and efforts in a given field

Support for Frontier Research: Managed by the European Research Council, support is given to individual researchers on the sole criteria of excellence

Marie Curie Fellowships: Mobility of researchers

Research Activities for the Benefit of a Specific Group: example SMEs

Article 169: Implementation of national research policies

Joint Technology Initiatives: JTI projects supported through various types of funding (individual, European and National)

Individuals and organisations that intend to participate in FP7 through submitting project proposals do so in response to "call for proposals" announced on the official web site of FP7 CORDIS (<http://cordis.europa.eu>)

Work programmes, Guides for Applicants and other supporting documents are available on the FP7 homepage of CORDIS.

QUICK GUIDE TO EU FUNDS

ELIGIBILITY

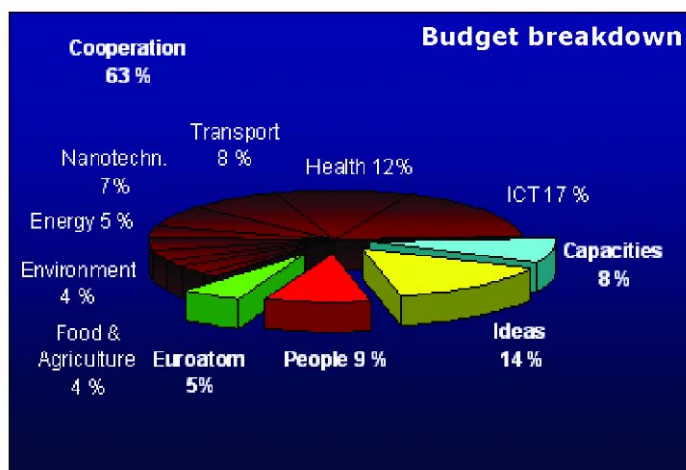
- Basically every country in the world can participate in FP7, but the level of funding will differ depending on the country.
- Associated Countries to FP7 who sign a Memorandum of Understanding and contribute to the FP7 budget can participate and receive funding just as Member States can. At present following countries are Associated to the FP7: EEA countries, Switzerland, Israel, Turkey, Croatia, Serbia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Specific calls are published for International Cooperation Partner Countries (ICPC), which are Low- and Middle-income non-EU countries. The ICPC countries receive funding as Member States when participating in basically any call under Cooperation and Capacities.

More than half of the total budget of FP7 is allocated to 10 thematic areas under the Cooperation specific programme. (Health, Food Agriculture Fisheries and Biotechnology, ICT, Nanosciences and Nanotechnologies Materials and New Production Technologies, Energy, Environment, Transport, Socio-Economic Sciences and the Humanities, Space, and Security).

The co-financing by the European Commission will depend on the funding scheme, the type of activity, the type of entity and geographical location of the partner, and can be up to 100% of eligible costs.

LEGAL BASIS

Decision No 1982/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007-2013)



MORE INFORMATION

- FP7
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html
 Network of NCPs
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ncp_en.html



EC insight

Learn the guidelines and future directions of FP7 through the experiences and advices from project managers, former EC project officers and evaluators.

3-4 December 2009
 Budapest Hungary

QUICK GUIDE TO EU FUNDS

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND JUSTICE

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 542.9 million

The Framework Programme Fundamental Rights and Justice supports the development of a European society respecting fundamental rights, fighting antisemitism, racism and xenophobia, and strengthening civil society. Furthermore it promotes judicial cooperation in civil, commercial and criminal justice matters.

Coherent support to the establishment of an area of Freedom, Security and Justice being one of the main priorities of the European Commission, the Framework Programme Fundamental Rights and Justice brings together five Community programmes:

- ◆ Fight against Violence (Daphne)
- ◆ Drugs Prevention and Information
- ◆ Fundamental Rights and Citizenship
- ◆ Criminal Justice
- ◆ Civil Justice

FIGHT AGAINST VIOLENCE (DAPHNE)

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 114.4 million

Fight Against Violence seeks to combat violence and thereby strengthen the area of Freedom, Justice and Security in the EU. It strives to protect EU citizens, in particular children, young people and women, against all forms of violence, and thus improve the overall level of well being in the EU.

OBJECTIVES

Fight Against Violence programme supports actions aiming to:

- ◆ Protect EU citizens against violence
- ◆ Protect children, young people and women against all forms of violence

LEGAL BASIS

Decision No 779/2007/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2007 establishing for the period 2007-2013 a specific programme to prevent and combat violence against children, young people and women and to protect victims and groups at risk (Daphne III programme) as part of the General Programme 'Fundamental Rights and Justice'

MORE INFORMATION

Daphne III

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/daphne3/funding_daphne3_en.htm

DRUGS PREVENTION AND INFORMATION

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 21.35 million

The Drug Prevention and Information specific programme supports the Member States in pooling their resources and working together to reduce the demand for and supply of drugs, ensuring that drug trafficking in the EU is brought to a halt.

OBJECTIVES

Drugs Prevention and Information aims to:

- ◆ Establish a network among Member States and authorities
- ◆ Facilitate the exchange information
- ◆ Create mutual understanding
- ◆ Encourage civil society to design and implement effective prevention and information plans

LEGAL BASIS

Decision No 1150/2007/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 September 2007 establishing for the period 2007-2013 the Specific Programme 'Drug prevention and information' as part of the General Programme 'Fundamental Rights and Justice'

MORE INFORMATION

Drugs Prevention

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/drugs/funding_drugs_en.htm

QUICK GUIDE TO EU FUNDS

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND CITIZENSHIP

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 93.8 million

The main aim of the Fundamental Rights and Citizenship specific programme is to ensure that EU citizens are provided with the rights they are afforded under the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and allow for an open dialogue regarding these rights. Support is also provided for actions to combat racism and thus ensure that EU citizens can live freely and openly without fear of persecution or danger.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the programme are to:

- ◆ Ensure that EU citizens are provided the rights they are afforded under the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union
- ◆ Combat racism

LEGAL BASIS

Council Decision of 19 April 2007 establishing for the period 2007-2013 the specific programme 'Fundamental rights and citizenship' as part of the General programme 'Fundamental Rights and Justice'

MORE INFORMATION

Fundamental Rights and Citizenship

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/rights/funding_rights_en.htm

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 196.2 million

The Criminal Justice programme strives to promote judicial cooperation and the adjustment of existing judicial systems, in order to improve the daily life and general well-being of EU citizens and businesses, providing easy access to the judicial system. The programme also aims to enhance contact and the exchange of information and good practices between legal, judicial and administrative authorities.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the programme are to:

- ◆ Promote judicial cooperation
- ◆ Provide easy access to the judicial system for EU citizens
- ◆ Enhance contact and exchange of information between legal, judicial and administrative authorities

LEGAL BASIS

Council Decision of 12 February 2007 establishing for the period 2007 to 2013, as part of the General Programme on Fundamental Rights and Justice, the Specific Programme 'Criminal Justice'

MORE INFORMATION

Criminal Justice

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/jpen/funding_jpen_en.htm

Criminal Justice and Civil Justice specific programmes have different legal bases in the Treaty and are implemented under two different specific programmes, even though they have similar objectives and both strive to reinforce judicial cooperation and contribute to an area of justice.

CIVIL JUSTICE

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 109.3 million

The Civil Justice specific programme aims to promote judicial cooperation in civil matters and the adjustment of Member States' existing judicial systems to the EU system, thereby improving the lives of EU citizens through easier access to justice. By requiring that the relevant authorities work together in the area of Civil Justice, the programme seeks to enhance the contact and the exchange of information and good practices between legal, judicial and administrative authorities.

OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Promote judicial cooperation in civil matters
- ◆ Support adjustment of Member States existing judicial system to EU system
- ◆ Facilitate exchange of information

LEGAL BASIS

Decision No 1150/2007/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 September 2007 establishing for the period 2007-2013 the Specific Programme 'Drug prevention and information' as part of the General Programme 'Fundamental Rights and Justice'

MORE INFORMATION

Civil Justice

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/civil/funding_civil_en.htm

QUICK GUIDE TO EU FUNDS

GALILEO

Period: 1. Development phase 2002-2005
2. Deployment phase 2006-2008
3. Operational phase 2009

Budget: EUR 3 400 million in total (whereof EUR 1 100 million for the development phase)

Galileo has been designed to establish the first satellite and positioning navigation system for civilian purposes. It will consist of 30 satellites, the associated ground infrastructure and local augmentations.

OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of Galileo are to:

- ◆ Establish an independent satellite navigation system for Europe that competes as well as complements the American GPS system
- ◆ Contribute to the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS)
- ◆ Spread its beneficial applications to many areas of everyday life such as transport, security, leisure, etc.
- ◆ Facilitate economic development in Europe (e.g. through creation of 100 000 new jobs)
- ◆ Generate new markets

To meet all demands, Galileo will offer services at two levels:

- ◆ A basic level free of direct charge for the end user in terms of consumer applications and general-interest services
- ◆ Restricted-access service levels for commercial and professional applications that require superior performance

IMPLEMENTATION

The Galileo system will be supervised and operated in the form of a concession as a part of a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) that ensures best operation and value for money by minimising the costs and maximising the benefits and revenues. The European GNSS Supervisory Authority (GSA) is the authority formed by the EU to fulfil the management of the European GNSS programmes within the mandate defined by the European Council. Decisions that go beyond that mandate are the responsibility of the European Council and the European Parliament. Private sector participation is realised through calls for tenders connected to the different services of Galileo.

A recent agreement between the US and the EU will ensure the interoperability of Galileo with GPS.

ELIGIBILITY

Galileo is open to participation for:

- ◆ EU and ESA Member States
- ◆ Third countries after approval by the European Council

LEGAL BASIS

Council Regulation (EC) No 1321/2004 of 12 July 2004 on the establishment of structures for the management of the European satellite radio-navigation programmes

Council Regulation (EC) No 1942/2006 of 12 December 2006 amending Regulation (EC) No 1321/2004 on the establishment of structures for the management of the European satellite radio-navigation programmes

MORE INFORMATION

Galileo

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy_transport/galileo/index.htm

HERCULE II

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 98.525 million

Hercule II is a Community action programme providing support to actions aiming to protect the Community's financial interests. The main aims are to enhance transnational and multidisciplinary cooperation between Member States' authorities, the European Commission and European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), to build networks and to support law enforcement authorities technically and operationally. This programme targets specifically national and regional authorities, research and educational institutes and non-profit bodies with legal statuses.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of Hercule II are to:

- ◆ Enhance transnational and multidisciplinary cooperation between Member States' authorities, the European Commission and European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)
- ◆ Build networks between law enforcement authorities

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

The following actions are supported:

- ◆ Improved transnational and multidisciplinary cooperation between authorities in the Member States, the Commission and OLAF
- ◆ Creation of networks in Member States, Acceding and Candidate Countries to facilitate exchanges of information, experiences and best practices
- ◆ Technical operations supporting national law enforcement agencies in Member States
- ◆ Preparation of legislative and other regulatory initiatives
- ◆ Extension of geographical coverage, without weakening operational capacity, to include, if required, all Member States, Acceding and Candidate Countries, as set out in the Memoranda of Understanding, in all activities financed under the programme
- ◆ Increase and strengthen measures in areas identified as particularly sensitive, especially cigarette smuggling and counterfeiting

IMPLEMENTATION

Community funding under this programme can take two legal forms, grants and public procurement contracts.

The programme is open for all national and regional administrations, research and education institutes and all non-profit bodies. Those bodies that receive a grant for an activity are selected through a call for proposals, according to the priorities set out in the annual grants programme.

Grants may not exceed 50% of the total eligible costs except in the case of the organisation of seminars, where the maximum is 80% of total eligible costs for national and regional administrations and 90% of total eligible costs for research and education institutes and all non-profit bodies.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants can be based in any Member State or third country but a common requirement is that they should work to promote the strengthening of the Community's actions in the field of protection of the Community's financial interest.

LEGAL BASIS

Decision No 804/2004/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 establishing a Community action programme to promote activities in the field of the protection of the Community's financial interests (Hercule programme)

Decision No 878/2007/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2007 amending and extending Decision No 804/2004/EC establishing a Community action programme to promote activities in the field of the protection of the Community's financial interests (Hercule II programme)

MORE INFORMATION

Hercule II
http://ec.europa.eu/anti_fraud/programmes/index_en.html

INTEROPERABLE DELIVERY OF EUROPEAN EGOVERNMENT SERVICES TO PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS, BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS (IDABC)

Period: 2005-2009

Budget: EUR 148.7 million

IDABC provides support to national administrations to improve their networks by providing expertise, as well as offering common services, generic tools and guidelines. IDABC strives to promote the establishment of pan-European eGovernment services and the development of the underlying interoperable telematic networks. IDABC supports the introduction and implementation of ICT to policy domains by the implementation of Projects of Common Interest (PCI) and helps to build common infrastructure for cross border cooperation between public authorities through horizontal measures.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the IDABC are to:

- ◆ Improve transnational and multidisciplinary cooperation between the authorities in the Member States, the Commission and OLAF
- ◆ Create of networks in the Member States, Acceding and Candidate Countries, to facilitate exchanges of information, experience and best practices
- ◆ Provide Technical operations support to national law enforcement agencies in Member States
- ◆ Extension of geographical coverage, without weakening operational capacity, to include, if required, all Member States, Acceding and Candidate Countries, as set out in the Memoranda of Understanding, in all activities financed under the programme
- ◆ Increase and strengthen measures in areas identified as particularly sensitive, especially cigarette smuggling and counterfeiting
- ◆ Promote pan European eGovernment services
- ◆ Develop interoperable telematic networks
- ◆ Build common infrastructure for cross border co-operation

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

- ◆ Introduction and implementation of information technologies to policy domains
- ◆ Building a common infrastructure for cross-border information and communication
- ◆ Extending the benefits of the first two means above by encouraging
- ◆ Development and establishment of operational pan European eGovernment services for business and citizens

IDABC is implemented via two actions; the projects of common interest and horizontal measures.

Projects of Common Interest supports actions which encourage the take-up of IT in various fields such as health and consumer protection, employment and education, or transport and agriculture.

Horizontal Projects develop the components of the infrastructure for cross-border service delivery while the specifications for the overarching structure are being prepared.

IMPLEMENTATION

IDABC is implemented through Projects of Common Interest (PCIs) in the field of IT solutions for specific sectors and through Horizontal Actions and Measures (HAMs) with regard to cross sector networks, services and tools.

Unlike other Community Programmes (e.g. eTEN, eContent, etc.) IDABC is implemented exclusively through a public tendering procedure managed by the Commission (no call for proposals) and direct participation to the IDABC programme is limited to public administrations.

ELIGIBILITY

The primary beneficiaries of the IDABC programme are public administrations in Member States and EEA Countries, in particular national authorities and European institutions. By providing expertise - a forum for information exchange and funding for IT solutions - IDABC helps the administrations improve the efficiency of their existing networks.

LEGAL BASIS

Decision 2004/387/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on interoperable delivery of pan-European eGovernment services to public administrations, businesses and citizens (IDABC)

Corrigendum to Commission Decision 2004/387/EC of 28 April 2004 - Decision 2004/387/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on the interoperable delivery of pan-European eGovernment services to public administrations, businesses and citizens (IDABC)

MORE INFORMATION

IDABC
<http://europa.eu.int/idabc>

LIFE +

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 2 143 million

EC financial assistance has supported European environmental policy-making and institution building since the 1970s. Today, Community co-financing for the environment is mainly through the EU's horizontal funds: European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF), Cohesion Fund (CF), European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EARDF), European Fisheries Fund (EFF), Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP), Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)

Nevertheless, these financial instruments do not cover all environmental priorities of the EU, and LIFE+ has been established on this basis in order to provide specific support for developing and implementing Community environmental policies and legislation, in particular the objectives of the Sixth Community Environment Action Programme (6th EAP). LIFE+ is the only separate financial instrument dedicated to funding actions of a uniquely environmental nature.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of LIFE + are to:

- ◆ Contribute to the achievement of objectives of the 6th Environmental Action Programme (EAP)
- ◆ Contribute to the implementation of Community policies on nature and biodiversity
- ◆ Disseminate information and raise awareness on environmental issues

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

LIFE+ consists of 3 components:

LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity

The objective of LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity is to contribute to the implementation of the EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) and the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), and to support the further development and implementation of the Natura 2000 network including marine habitats and species.

LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance

This component supports projects that contribute to the implementation of Community environmental policy, the development of innovative policy approaches, technologies, methods and instruments, the knowledge base as regards environment policy and legislation, and the monitoring of environmental pressures.

LIFE+ Information and Communication

This component co-finances projects that implement

communication and awareness raising campaigns on environmental, nature protection and/or biodiversity conservation issues, as well as projects related to forest fire prevention.

IMPLEMENTATION

LIFE+ is implemented through two multi-annual strategic programmes (2007-10 and 2011-13), drawn up at EU level. These programmes shall define the principal objectives, priority areas of action, types of measures and expected results for Community funding. In addition, Member States may also submit national annual priorities to the Commission. The Commission announces an annual call for proposals and selects the projects with the help of external experts.

Community funding may be in the form of:

- ◆ Grant Agreements
- ◆ Public procurement contracts (tenders)

Action grants are co-financed with 50% of eligible costs except for the LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity pillar for which the rate can be up to 75% in the case of projects concerning priority habitats or species for the implementation of the Birds and the Habitats directives.

ELIGIBILITY

Public and/or private bodies, actors and institutions may receive financing through LIFE+.

LIFE+ is open to the participation of the EU Member States and the following countries provided that supplementary appropriations are received:

- ◆ EFTA States which have become members of the European Environment Agency: Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein
- ◆ Candidate Countries
- ◆ Western Balkan countries included in the Stabilisation and Association Process: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia including Kosovo (under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244)

LEGAL BASIS

Regulation (EC) No 614/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 May 2007 concerning the Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE+)

MORE INFORMATION

LIFE +

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplus.htm>

DG Environment

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/environment/index_en.htm

LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMME (LLP)

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 6 970 million

The Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) is comprised of four sectoral programmes, a transversal programme, and the Jean Monnet Programme for European integration. LLP works towards contributing, through lifelong learning, to the development of the EU as an 'advanced knowledge society, with sustainable economic development, more and better jobs, and greater social cohesion.' The four sectoral programmes have their own specific target groups as well as quantified goals: Comenius, Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Grundtvig, Jean Monnet and Transversal programme.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of LLP are to:

- ◆ Develop a quality European life long learning
- ◆ Promote creativity competitiveness, employability and entrepreneurial spirit
- ◆ Promote language learning and linguistic diversity
- ◆ Support the development of innovative ICT-based content, services, pedagogies and practices for Lifelong Learning
- ◆ Create a sense of European citizenship with tolerance and respect for peoples and cultures
- ◆ Encourage the best use of results, innovative products and processes and to exchange good practice in the educational field

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

LLP is implemented through five programmes:

Comenius - primary/secondary school education - to involve at least three million pupils in joint education activities - supports mobility of individuals, development of partnerships, multilateral projects and networks

Erasmus - university education - to achieve the participation of at least three million students in student mobility by the year 2012 - supports mobility of individuals, multilateral projects focusing on innovation, experimentation and the exchange of best practices, networks of higher education institutions

Leonardo da Vinci - vocational training - to increase placements in enterprises to 80 000 per year - supports mobility of individuals, theme focused partnerships, multilateral projects that aim to improve training systems, thematic networks, study and preparatory visits for mobility.

Grundtvig - adult education - to support the mobility of 7 000 individuals in adult education per year - supports

mobility of individuals, theme focused partnerships, multilateral projects that aim to improve adult education and preparatory visits

The Transversal Programme covers horizontal measures in the following activities:

- ◆ Policy cooperation and innovation - to support policy development and cooperation at the EU level
- ◆ Languages - to promote language learning
- ◆ ICT - to support the development and innovation of ICT-based content and solutions
- ◆ Dissemination and exploitation of results - to ensure results are appropriately recognized

The specific objectives of the transversal programme are to support cooperation across sub-programmes and to promote quality and transparency in Member States' education systems.

The Jean Monnet Programme continues from the previous funding period and works to support efforts in European integration through university programs. The specific objectives of the programme are to stimulate teaching, research and reflection activities in the field of European integration, and to support the existence of an appropriate range of institutions and associations focusing on European integration. The programme is unique in LLP as third countries with institutes of higher education with European integration programmes are invited to participate. The Jean Monnet Programme supports unilateral and multilateral projects.

IMPLEMENTATION

The programme is implemented through calls for proposals. The evaluation of proposals is undertaken by experts according to a number of criteria (established within each call for proposals) which will take into account both formal and quality elements. Applicants who have been successful in the selection process will receive a grant agreement (contract) from the Executive Agency or the appropriate National Agency, depending on the action concerned. The contract indicates the grant awarded and sets out the financial rules to be applied.

Payments are usually made in instalments. National Agencies and the European Commission Executive Agency will monitor project implementation throughout the project lifetime.

ELIGIBILITY

Participation in LLP is open to:

- ◆ Member States
- ◆ EEA countries
- ◆ Switzerland
- ◆ Turkey

QUICK GUIDE TO EU FUNDS

The Jean Monnet Programme also allows participation of institutes of higher education in third countries who run programs dealing with European integration.

LEGAL BASIS

Decision No 1720/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 November 2006 establishing an action programme in the field of lifelong learning

MORE INFORMATION

Lifelong Learning Programme

http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/lip/general/index_en.html

DG Education

http://ec.europa.eu/education/index_en.html

MARCO POLO II

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 400 million

Marco Polo II is a Transport Community programme supporting actions aiming to reduce congestion, improve the environmental performance of the transport system, and enhance intermodal transport, i.e. to facilitate the efficiency and sustainability of transport systems throughout Europe. The programme supports public private partnerships (PPPs) by providing risk-reducing subsidies to market driven services.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of Marco Polo are to:

- ♦ Reduce congestion
- ♦ Improve environmental performance of transport systems
- ♦ Enhance intermodal transport systems
- ♦ Encourage public private partnerships

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

Marco Polo II programme is implemented through five types of actions:

- ♦ Modal Shift Actions
- ♦ Catalyst Actions
- ♦ Common Learning Actions
- ♦ Motorways of the Sea
- ♦ Traffic Avoidance

General conditions for any kind of action:

- ♦ Must be innovative on a European level

- ♦ Aims at a modal shift that must be actual, measurable and sustainable
- ♦ Will not lead to any distortions in the competition of the relevant markets
- ♦ Prove transparent objectives and non-discriminatory procedures for selection of the relevant services
- ♦ Involve at least two eligible countries

Activities related to services are the only eligible types of actions under Marco Polo II which means that Research, studies and core infrastructure cannot be funded.

IMPLEMENTATION

Calls for proposals are published annually. Community financial assistance is based on contracts to be negotiated by the Commission and the beneficiary and there is a minimum indicative subsidy threshold per action to be funded (varies per action).

Community financial assistance can be based on tonne kilometres shifted from road to short sea shipping, rail or inland waterways, or based on the avoidance of tonne kilometres or vehicle kilometres of road freight. Financial assistance is limited to 35-50% of the total expenditure during the action.

ELIGIBILITY

Commercial undertakings from the current 27 EU Member States and close third countries such as all Candidate Countries, EFTA Countries as well as others due to their geographic proximity can fully participate in Marco Polo II upon signing bilateral agreements.

LEGAL BASIS

Regulation (EC) No 1692/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 establishing the second 'Marco Polo' programme for the granting of Community financial assistance to improve the environmental performance of the freight transport system (Marco Polo II) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1382/2003

MORE INFORMATION

Marco Polo

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/marcopolo/2/index_en.htm

List of National Contact Points

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/marcopolo/national_contacts/index_en.htm

DG Energy and Transport

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy_transport/index_en.html

QUICK GUIDE TO EU FUNDS

MEDIA 2007

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 754.95 million

Media 2007 is an acronym for "Mesures pour Encourager le Développement de l'Industrie Audiovisuelle" and is the Community programme for the audiovisual industry striving at translating European cultural values into a competitive worldwide industry and creating a favourable socio-economic environment for the European audiovisual sector. The aims are to reserve and enhance European cultural and linguistic diversity as well as its cinematographic and audiovisual heritage, to promote cooperation within the sector and to stimulate private financing for the sector (particularly to SMEs) in order to enable companies active in the audiovisual sector to improve their competitiveness.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of Media 2007 are to:

- ◆ Preserve and enhance European cultural and linguistic diversity
- ◆ Strengthen European audiovisual sector
- ◆ Help dissemination of European audiovisual works within EU and beyond
- ◆ Support the competitiveness of the European audiovisual sector by stimulating private financing for the sector and promoting the use of digital technologies

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

Media 2007's objectives are to be achieved through activities such as:

- ◆ Acquisition and improvement of skills in the audiovisual field and the development of European audiovisual works
- ◆ Distribution and promotion of European audiovisual works
- ◆ Pilot projects to ensure that the programme adjusts to market developments
- ◆ Training of professionals
- ◆ Developing production projects
- ◆ Distributing and promoting films and audiovisual programmes
- ◆ Supporting film festivals

IMPLEMENTATION

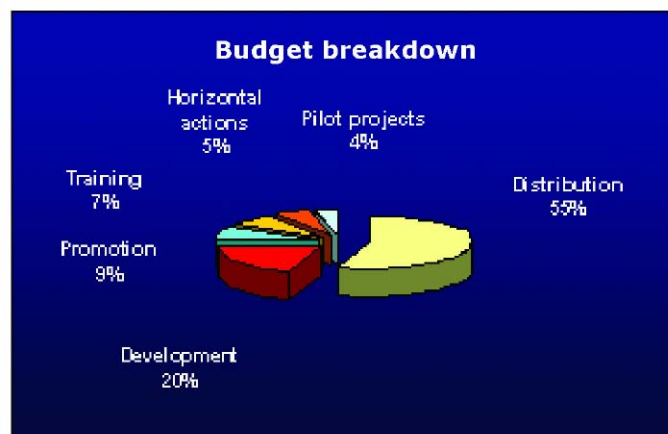
Media 2007 is implemented through the new agency "Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency" (EACEA), which is also managing Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci, Youth, Culture 2000, Erasmus Mundus, e-Learning and Community Action Programmes.

Calls for proposals are launched at least once per year depending on the type of support. National Media Desks provide information for potential applicants.

Co-financing

In general, the Community co-financing contribution cannot exceed 50% of eligible project costs. However, in case of Member States with limited own production and linguistic coverage the maximum amount can be 60% of eligible costs.

The budget of 754,95 million euro is to be divided among the different activities as shown in the chart:



ELIGIBILITY

- ◆ Member States
- ◆ EEA countries
- ◆ Switzerland: under negotiation
- ◆ Candidate Countries
- ◆ Western Balkan countries, on the basis of framework agreements to be signed between the Community and these countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia including Kosovo, Albania, Montenegro
- ◆ Other European countries that are parties to the Council of Europe Convention on Transfrontier Television
- ◆ Cooperation with non-European third countries developed on the basis of mutual and balanced interests; such cooperation should be developed on the basis of supplementary appropriations and specific arrangements to be agreed upon with the parties concerned

LEGAL BASIS

Decision No 1718/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 November 2006 concerning the implementation of a programme of support for the European audiovisual sector (MEDIA 2007)

MORE INFORMATION

Media 2007

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/media/index_en.htm

EACEA

<http://eacea.ec.europa.eu>

PERICLES PROGRAMME

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 7 million

Pericles is a community action programme establishing a stable framework to support and supplement the measures undertaken by the Member States and programmes established in order to protect the euro against counterfeiting. The Pericles programme was established in 2001 and has been amended several times and now also comprises Member States whose currency is not the euro.

With the overall aim to protect the euro against counterfeiting, Pericles works to raise awareness and to act as a catalyst for closer cooperation between relevant structures and staff as well as improve the general understanding of relevant Community and international laws and instruments.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of Pericles is to protect the against counterfeiting

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

The following actions are supported:

- ◆ Awareness raising actions on the need for close co-operation between competent authorities
- ◆ Awareness raising actions on legislation related to the protection of the euro
- ◆ Training related to legislation, cooperation, investigation and security features of the euro
- ◆ Develop and strengthen mechanisms and exchange of best practises

IMPLEMENTATION

Pericles is implemented and coordinated by the Commission/OLAF in close cooperation with the Member States. Coordination covers initiatives taken by other bodies, in particular the ECB and Europol. Calls for proposals are published annually. Member States' competent national authorities or the Commission can present proposals. A Member State may present one or maximum two projects per year related to workshops, meetings and seminars. Projects related to placements and exchanges of staff or assistance can be presented additionally.

Co-financing

Community co-financing is 80% of eligible costs except in some special cases where it may reach 100%.

ELIGIBILITY

Pericles is open for participation for national authorities in Member States and countries with the euro as the official currency. Candidate and other third countries can participate in accordance with agreements.

LEGAL BASIS

Council Decision of 20 November 2006 amending and extending Decision 2001/923/EC establishing an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting (the Pericles programme)

Council Decision of 20 November 2006 extending to the non-participating Member States the application of Decision 2006/849/EC amending and extending Decision 2001/923/EC establishing an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting (the Pericles programme)

MORE INFORMATION

Pericles

http://ec.europa.eu/anti_fraud/index_en.html

QUICK GUIDE TO EU FUNDS

PROGRESS

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 657.59 million

PROGRESS programme complements the European Social Fund (ESF) and works to fight poverty and unemployment, combat discrimination, promote gender equality, and integrate disabled people into society and other similar actions. The main difference between Progress and ESF is that Progress focuses on activities with a strong European dimension while ESF is focusing on implementing labour policies and social integration at national level.

OBJECTIVES

Progress is supporting the Member States in order to make sure that they implement the EU law in a proper way and help governments, local governments, employers, labour unions and civil society to cooperate in this field.

The main objectives of Progress are to:

- ◆ Ensure a high level of consumer protection (through better representation of consumer interests)
- ◆ Ensure the effective application of consumer policy rules (through enforcement, cooperation, information, redress and education)

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

Progress supports following actions:

- ◆ Improve knowledge and support and monitor the implementation of Community law and Policy initiatives in Member States by finance relevant observatories to monitor and evaluate, create networks of specialised bodies and national experts and to promote cooperation with Member States and other stakeholders
- ◆ Develop statistic tools necessary for EU Policy development by fund studies and disseminate results, develop common methodologies and promote cooperation with international organisation and third country
- ◆ Promote networking and mutual learning and exchange of best practises
- ◆ Strengthen the capacity of key EU networks related to social inclusion, non discrimination, disability and gender equality

MORE INFORMATION

Progress

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/progress/index_en.htm

DG EMPL

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/employment_social/index_en.htm

IMPLEMENTATION

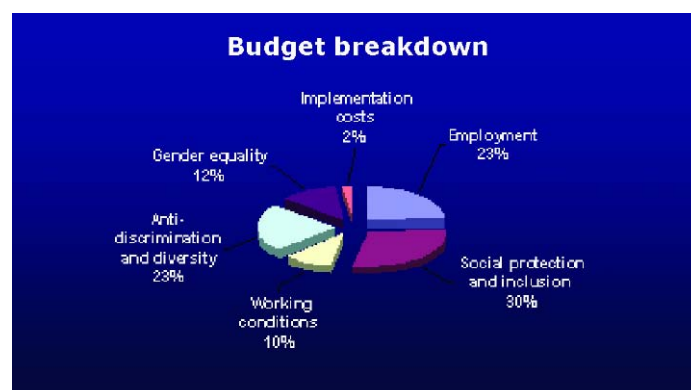
Progress is implemented through five policy sectors: employment (European Employment Strategy), social inclusion and social protection (open method of coordination), working conditions (health and safety and reconciling work and family) and anti-discrimination and gender equality (mainstreaming into all EU policies) via three types of actions:

- ◆ Analysis
- ◆ Mutual learning, awareness raising and dissemination
- ◆ Support to central actors

Progress is managed by DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and implemented via calls for public procurement and calls for proposals. Actions must be carried out on the territory of an EU Member State or an EEA country.

Co-financing

The maximum rate of co-financing for an action is 75% of eligible costs.



ELIGIBILITY

PROGRESS is open for participation for:

- ◆ EU Member States
- ◆ EEA countries

Public and private bodies can participate, in particular public employment services, local and regional authorities, universities and research institutes, experts in evaluation, national statistic offices and the media.

LEGAL BASIS

Decision No 1672/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 establishing a Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity - Progress

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMME

Period: 2008-2013

Budget: EUR 321.5 million

The Public Health programme strives to complement Member States' activities and efforts in the field of health and works to protect and promote human health as well as improve public health.

The Public Health programme will work in cooperation with other Community programmes and funds such as the Structural Funds, Community Statistical Programme and FP7.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the Public Health programme are to:

- ◆ Improve citizens' health security
- ◆ Promote health for prosperity and solidarity
- ◆ Generate and disseminate health knowledge

LEGAL BASIS

Decision No 1350/2007/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 establishing a second programme of Community action in the field of health (2008-13)

IMPLEMENTATION

The Executive Agency for the Public Health Programme (PHEA) manages the implementation. Calls for proposals and tenders are published annually.

Co-financing

The maximum co-financing rate is 60% except in cases where projects have a significant European Added Value; maximum Community contribution will be 80%.

ELIGIBILITY

In addition to Member States, this programme is open for participation for entities based in EEA countries. Candidate Countries and Potential Candidate Countries will be able to participate once agreements are signed.

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

The following actions are supported under the Health Programme:

- ◆ Protect citizens against health threats and improve Member States' capacity to respond to threats
- ◆ Facilitate healthy active ageing and bridge inequalities, with a particular emphasis on the New Member States
- ◆ Promote cooperation between health systems on cross-border issues such as patient mobility and health professionals
- ◆ Decrease alcohol, tobacco and drug consumption
- ◆ Exchange knowledge and best practice by bringing together expertise from different countries

MORE INFORMATION

Public Health Programme

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/pgm2008_2013_en.htm

Executive Agency for the Public Health Programme

http://ec.europa.eu/phea/index_en.html

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SAFER INTERNET PLUS PROGRAMME

Period: 2005-2008

Budget: EUR 45 million

Safer Internet Plus works to ensure safer Internet use across Europe by fighting illegal and harmful content distributed through the Internet with a particular focus on protection of children and adolescents. The programme strives to limit flows of unwanted and harmful content, to encourage industry to establish a self-regulatory body and to help end-users to protect themselves against unsolicited content.

The current Safer Internet Plus Programme is bringing together a variety of stakeholders, from law enforcement agencies and policy makers to mobile operators and child welfare NGOs. Three project types are supported: integrated networks, targeted projects and thematic networks. One awareness node and one hotline are selected for funding within each geographical area.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the Safer Internet Plus programme are to:

- ◆ Promote safer use of the Internet and new online technologies with a special focus on children
- ◆ Fight against illegal content
- ◆ Raise awareness

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

The objectives of the programme focus on four lines of action:

- ◆ Fighting Against Illegal Content: support to improved efficiency of Hotlines allowing people to report illegal content
- ◆ Tackling Unwanted and Harmful Content: promote technical tools enabling users to take informed decisions on how to handle unwanted and harmful content
- ◆ Promoting a Safer Environment: encourage the establishment of self-regulation and codes of conduct
- ◆ Awareness Raising: addressing illegal, harmful and unwanted content spread via Internet

IMPLEMENTATION

Calls for proposals are launched annually. Potential applicants can use the optional pre-proposal service and submit a brief description of the project to the helpdesk. Specific forms are available on the website. The Guide for Applicants and other supporting documents can be downloaded from the website. Proposals must be submitted in paper format, in one original and five copies.

Size of Consortium

The size of the consortium will depend on the type of project. For Integrated networks, each hotline, each awareness node and each help line should preferably consist of a single organization while the recommended maximum size for a combined node (awareness node and hotline) is 3 partners, or 4 partners for a combined node which includes a help line. A targeted project consortium should be of a manageable size, 4-8 applicants covering at least three Member States, while the thematic networks should cover at least 10 EU Members States and be open and proactive in attracting new partners.

Co-financing

The Community co-financing varies depending on the type of project and can be 50-80% of eligible costs except for Thematic networks where the maximum co-financing rate is 100% for coordinators.

ELIGIBILITY

In addition to Member States, the programme is also open to EEA countries according to signed agreements. Candidate Countries can participate in projects but cannot receive funding at present (only after signature of a bilateral agreement and there are no signed agreements at present). Entities based in third countries or international organizations may participate in the programme without receiving funding.

LEGAL BASIS

Decision No 854/2005/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2005 establishing a multi-annual Community Programme on promoting safer use of the Internet and new online technologies

MORE INFORMATION

Safer Internet Plus

<http://ec.europa.eu/saferinternet>

SECURITY AND SAFEGUARDING LIBERTIES FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 745 million

The Security and Safeguarding Liberties Framework Programme encourages cooperation among European authorities in the fight against crime and terrorism, so that European citizens may live safely and freely. The main objectives of the programme are to increase cooperation among law enforcement, national authorities and the EU, to develop public-private partnerships and strategies on crime prevention, criminology, statistics and the protection of victims and witnesses, to promote prevention and preparedness using common security standards and exchanging information and good practices, and to develop effective EU crisis management systems to exchange information.

The Framework programme is operating through two specific programs:

- ◆ Prevention, Preparedness and Consequence Management of Terrorism and other Security related risks
- ◆ Prevention and Fight Against Crime

PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS AND CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT OF TERRORISM AND OTHER SECURITY RELATED RISKS

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 137.4 million

The specific programme Prevention, Preparedness and Consequence Management of Terrorism and other Security related risks provides support to actions reinforcing Member States efforts to prevention, preparedness and protection of people and critical infrastructures against security incidents including terrorism.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the programme are to:

- ◆ Foster risk and threat analysis on critical infrastructure
- ◆ Develop common security standards
- ◆ Promote exchange of information and best practices
- ◆ Support coordination on the protection of the EU's critical infrastructure

It also supports Consequence management, more specifically the improvement of exchange of information experience and technology, development of new methods and plans for handling crises and to ensure the exchange and use of crisis management expertise.

LEGAL BASIS

Council Decision of 12 February 2007 establishing for the period 2007 to 2013, as part of General Programme on Security and Safeguarding Liberties, the Specific Programme 'Prevention, Preparedness and Consequence Management of Terrorism and other Security related risks'

IMPLEMENTATION

Calls for tenders and proposals are published annually. Three types of projects are financed: Projects initiated by the European Commission; transnational projects involving partners from at least two Member States or One Member State and a Candidate Country; national projects where minimum requirement is one entity from one Member State.

Co-financing

Funding rate is 65% - 70% of eligible costs for a minimum 50 000 euro and maximum 750 000 euro, for a maximum of three years.

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

Financial support may be provided for:

- ◆ Actions on operational cooperation and coordination
- ◆ Analytical, monitoring, evaluation and audit activities
- ◆ Development and transfer of technology and methodology, particularly regarding information sharing and inter-operability
- ◆ Training, exchange of staff and experts
- ◆ Awareness and dissemination activities

ELIGIBILITY

This programme is open for non-profit entities based in Member States. Profit oriented organisations may participate only in conjunction with not-for-profit or state organizations. Entities based in other countries may participate and receive funding but cannot submit proposals.

MORE INFORMATION

Website

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/cips/funding_cips_en.htm

QUICK GUIDE TO EU FUNDS

PREVENTION AND FIGHT AGAINST CRIME

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 597.6 million

The goal of Prevention and Fight Against Crime specific programme is to fight all forms of crime, in particular terrorism, trafficking in persons and offences against children, illicit drug and arms trafficking, corruption and fraud, and thereby increase the security and well being of EU citizens. While the programme directly promotes coordination and cooperation among law enforcement agencies, national authorities and Union bodies, it also encourages the development of new methods of fighting crime and encourages effective protection of victims and witnesses.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the programme are to:

- ◆ Fight all forms of crime in particular terrorism, trafficking, offences against children and illicit drug and arms trafficking
- ◆ Promote coordination and cooperation among law enforcement agencies, national authorities and Community bodies
- ◆ Develop new methods for fighting crime and effective of victims and witnesses

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

The programme brings together law enforcement agencies and local, regional and national authorities, public and private organizations, NGOs and social partners, universities and statistical offices for efficient cooperation to work towards reinforced cooperation and development of best practices.

Actions financed under this programme are related to:

- ◆ Increasing mutual understanding
- ◆ Development of contingency plans
- ◆ Exchange of information
- ◆ Analysis
- ◆ Monitoring
- ◆ Evaluation
- ◆ Education and training
- ◆ Dissemination of information to relevant actors and the public, etc.

IMPLEMENTATION

Prevention of and Fight against Crime is implemented via three types of grants: action grants, operational grants and framework partnerships. It is managed directly by the DG Security and Justice who is publishing calls for proposals and tenders annually.

Co-financing

The maximum Community contribution is 70% of total eligible costs. Minimum Community contribution is 50 000 euro. Maximum funding period is three years.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility criteria depend on the type of action:

Action Grant: Transnational projects require the involvement of at least two Member States or one Member State and one Candidate Country while National projects' minimum requirement is one entity.

Operating Grants: Entities based in a Member State which is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organisation active in the field of education (in particular of youth), in the field of counter-radicalism, or training and/or competence building of professionals/spokespersons/spiritual leaders/political leaders/youth organisations.

Framework Partnership: Conclusion of agreements with public bodies or organisations including EU agencies with legal status established in Member States.

LEGAL BASIS

Council Decision of 12 February 2007 establishing for the period 2007 to 2013, as part of General Programme on Security and Safeguarding Liberties, the Specific Programme 'Prevention of and Fight against Crime' (2007/125/JHA)

MORE INFORMATION

Prevention and Fight Against Crime

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/isec/funding_isec_en.htm

SOLIDARITY AND MANAGEMENT OF MIGRATION FLOWS

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 156.8 million

The Framework programme Solidarity and Migration Flows seeks to manage the flow of migration in the European Union by fostering common objectives, cooperation and legislation among the Member States. It supports the development of a common return policy and an "integrated return management", including analysing the returnees and the situation in the country of origin and the development of a common immigration policy and a common approach concerning the rights and obligations of immigrants.

Four programmes fall under this Framework Programme, namely:

- ◆ European Refugee Fund
- ◆ External Borders Fund
- ◆ The Integration of Third- Country Nationals (INTI)
- ◆ The Return Fund

EUROPEAN REFUGEE FUND

Period: 2008-2013

Budget: EUR 699.37 million

The European Refugee Fund seeks to support solidarity and improve Member States reception of refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons through improved reception conditions, fair asylum procedures and efficient integration programmes to ensure the protection of human rights.

OBJECTIVES

The European Refugee Fund supports action aiming to:

- ◆ Improve reception conditions
- ◆ Support fair asylum procedures

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

In order to ensure the protection of human rights and a harmonization in the treatment of refugees, the Member States may undertake the following actions in the six areas that constitute the Refugee Fund:

- ◆ Reception conditions and asylum procedures
- ◆ Integration of persons whose stay in a particular Member State is of a lasting and stable nature
- ◆ Enhancement of Member States' capacity to develop, monitor and evaluate their asylum policies
- ◆ Resettlement of those persons who are in one of the official statuses of a refugee defined by the EC and UNHCR
- ◆ Transfer of persons from the Member State which granted them international protection to another Member State where they will be granted similar protection

IMPLEMENTATION

European Refugee Fund is implemented in both a decentralized and centralized manner.

Decentralised Actions: Benefiting countries adopt a multi-annual strategy with annual programmes on the use of resources that are distributed annually. The Commission approves the annual programme of each Member State and allocates 50% pre-financing while the remaining payment will depend on progress in implementation.

Centralized Actions: The Commission publishes annual work programmes for each sub programme with call for proposals and tenders.

ELIGIBILITY

All Member States excluding the UK and Denmark, whom have opted out of the programme.

LEGAL BASIS

Decision No 573/2007/EC of the European Parliament of the Council of 23 May 2007 establishing the European Refugee Fund for the period 2008 to 2013 as part of the General programme 'Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows' and repealing Council Decision 2004/904/EC

MORE INFORMATION

European Refugee Fund
http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/refugee/funding_refugee_en.htm

QUICK GUIDE TO EU FUNDS

EXTERNAL BORDER FUND

Period: 2008-2013

Budget: EUR 1 820 million

The External Borders Fund dedicates resources and actions towards securing the external borders of the EU and Schengen Member States to ensure security for all citizens within the Schengen borders.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective is to provide financial support to states bearing a durable and important financial burden of implementing common standards on control and surveillance of external borders and visa policy.

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

Implementation of Common Integrated Border Management System – utilizing the available resources to control and monitor the external borders of the EU

External Border Movement Management – ensuring efficient management of all the people crossing the external borders

Application of EU Law - promotion of harmonization of education of Member States' border guards and technology and facilitating exchange of border guards between states

Improve Member States Consular Services – support actions and education.

IMPLEMENTATION

The External Border Fund is implemented in both a decentralized and centralized manner.

Decentralised Actions: Benefiting countries adopt a multi-annual strategy with annual programmes on the use of resources that are distributed annually. The Commission approves the annual programme of each Member State and allocates 50% pre-financing while the remaining payment will depend on progress in implementation.

Centralised Actions: The Commission publishes annual work programmes for each sub programme with call for proposals and tenders.

ELIGIBILITY

In addition to Member States (except Denmark, the United Kingdom and Ireland), the External Borders Fund is open to all Schengen countries.

LEGAL BASIS

Decision No 574/2007/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 May 2007 establishing the External Borders Fund for the period 2007 to 2013 as part of the General programme 'Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows'

MORE INFORMATION

External Border Fund
http://ec.europa.eu/justie_home/funding/borders/funding_borders_en.htm

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EUROPEAN FUND FOR THE INTEGRATION OF THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 825 million

European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals strives to integrate third country nationals into European societies. It supports and complements Member States' efforts in this field by offering funding to actions aiming to facilitate the development and implementation of admission procedures with regard to the integration process of third country nationals. This concerns the integration process of newly arrived third country nationals in Member States and their capacity to implement, monitor, and evaluate integration policies. This fund is complementary to the European Social Fund and its specific actions for migrant employment actions.

OBJECTIVES

The European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals' objective are to help to:

- ◆ Improved integration of third countries nationals into European Societies
- ◆ Facilitation of admission procedure

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

European Fund for the Integration of Third Country National supports actions aiming to:

- ◆ Strengthen the capacity of Member States to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate in general all integration strategies, policies and measures for third country nationals
- ◆ Improve the exchange of information, best practice and co-operation in and between Member States

IMPLEMENTATION

Each Member State receives a fixed amount of 500 000 euro from the Fund's annual allocation while the remaining budget is distributed according to the number of third country nationals residing in the Member States.

ELIGIBILITY

All Member States excluding the UK and Denmark, whom have opted out of the programme.

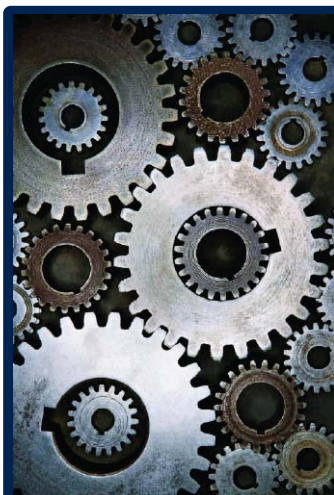
LEGAL BASIS

Decision No 1926/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 establishing a programme of Community action in the field of consumer policy (2007-2013)

MORE INFORMATION

European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals

http://europa.eu/justice_home/funding/integration/funding_integration_en.htm

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EUROPEAN RETURN FUND

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 676 million

The European Return Fund strives to improve the management of third country nationals' return to their home country.

OBJECTIVES

European Return Fund aims to:

- Promote cooperation between Member States related to immigration
- Develop effective working relations between Member States and third countries authorities
- Empower and train authorities to take appropriate decisions

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

The European Return Fund is implemented through three objectives:

Institute Integrated Return Management - by establishing cooperation between Member States and immigration services to ensure quick and efficient action, to promote voluntary return of third countries residing illegally in the EU as well as simplify their enforced returns

Cooperation in Integrated Return Management - via developing effective working relations between Member States authorities and third countries relevant immigration services, and via studies, exchange of best practices and awareness raising actions among authorities

Equal Standards of Return - by empowering and training authorities to take appropriate return decisions

IMPLEMENTATION

Countries that were Member States before 2004 receive a fixed amount of 300 000 euro per year, while the corresponding amount for other Member States is 500 000 euro annually. The remaining budget is divided among the Member States according to the number of third country nationals currently residing illegally or who were returned to their country of origin during the past 3 years.

ELIGIBILITY

All Member States excluding the UK and Denmark, whom have opted out of the programme.

LEGAL BASIS

Decision No 575/2007/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 May 2007 establishing the European Return Fund for the period 2008 to 2013 as part of the General Programme 'Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows'

MORE INFORMATION

European Return Fund
http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/return/funding_return_en.htm



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TRANS-EUROPEAN ENERGY NETWORK (TEN-E)

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 155 million

With the aim to promote the interconnection, interoperability and development of trans-European energy networks, the overall objective of Trans-European Energy Network is to create a more open and competitive internal energy market in electricity and natural gas as well as to promote the security of energy supply and the use of renewable energy sources as a contribution to further sustainable development policy. However, the construction and maintenance of energy infrastructure remains subject to market principles. The budget allocated to Trans-European Energy Network is mainly intended to finance feasibility studies.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the TEN-E are to:

- ◆ Promote interconnection, interoperability and development of Trans European energy networks
- ◆ Support development of open competitive internal energy market
- ◆ Promote use of renewable energy source

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

The two lines of action are the identification of projects of common interest and priority projects, including those of European interest and the creation of a more favourable context for development and adaptation of those networks.

The projects of common interest are listed in the Guidelines for TEN Energy that has been revised three times (1997, 1999, 2003) since its adoption in 1996. Under this programme, proposals under TEN-E must relate to one or more of the "projects of common interest" identified in the TEN-E Guidelines and must obtain the agreement of the Member State concerned.

IMPLEMENTATION

Call for proposals are published annually. After passing the internal Evaluation Committee composed of internal experts of the concerned Directorates of DG TREN or of other Directorates-General, successful proposals are passed on to the Committee on Financial Assistance to the Trans-European networks - Energy.

Co-financing

Awarded projects are co-financed to a maximum of:

- ◆ Studies: 50% of the eligible cost of studies
- ◆ Work: 10% of the eligible cost of the works

ELIGIBILITY

- ◆ One or (jointly) several Member States
- ◆ One or (jointly) public or private undertakings or bodies or international organisations with the agreement of all Member States directly concerned by the project

LEGAL BASIS

TEN Regulation: Regulation (EC) No 680/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2007 laying down general rules for the granting of Community financial aid in the field of the trans-European transport and energy networks

Guidelines for trans-European energy networks: Decision No 1364/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 September 2006 laying down guidelines for trans-European energy networks and repealing Decision 96/391/EC and Decision No 1229/2003/EC

MORE INFORMATION

TEN-E

http://ec.europa.eu/ten/energy/index_en.htm

DG Energy and Transport

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy_transport/index_en.html

QUICK GUIDE TO EU FUNDS

TRANS-EUROPEAN TRANSPORT NETWORK (TEN-T)

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 8 013 million

The general aim of Trans-European Transport Network is the development of roads, railways, inland waterways, airports, seaports, inland ports and traffic management systems serving the facilitation of long distance traffic and bringing the geographical and economic areas of the Union closer together in order to develop the Internal Market as well as reinforce economic and social cohesion.

OBJECTIVES

TEN-T's large-scale objectives:

1. By 2020 TEN-T will include 89 500 km roads and 94 000 km of railways from which 20 000 km high-speed railways
2. Reducing journey time for passengers and goods through identifying and building 30 priority axes throughout Europe.

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

The two "Horizontal priority projects" are:

1. "Motorways of the Sea"
2. "Co-operation with Galileo programme"

Projects of common interest relating to the seaport network:

1. Promotion of short-distance sea shipping
2. Access to ports
3. Port infrastructure within the port area

Actions:

- ♦ European rail traffic management - to facilitate the deployment of a compatible European control command and signalling system
- ♦ Air traffic management - to implement Single European Sky and ATM modernisation objectives based on two pillars; restructuring and reorganization of European airspace; the modernisation of the technical systems to provide the necessary capacity that ensures the continuous problem of traffic management
- ♦ River information services - to foster the deployment of "RIS Intelligent Infrastructure" that defines binding rules for data communication and RIS equipment as well as the minimum level of RIS Services for the future RIS implementation

- ♦ Intelligent transport system for roads - the optimisation of the capacity and efficiency of existing and new infrastructures and improvement of traffic management, the safety and reliability of the network

IMPLEMENTATION

The multi-annual work programme for the period 2007-2013 sets out the general objectives and priorities addressed with the grants, expected results, eligibility, selection and award criteria, specific objectives for the different programme components, a schedule for calls for proposals and the indicative amounts available under the respective calls. Grants are subject to an annual programme to be published at the start of the year.

The draft multi-annual work programme includes the detailed rules concerning the procedure for submission and selection of projects

ELIGIBILITY

Between Member States, or between Member States and third countries (Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya (as observer), Morocco, Moldova, Montenegro, Palestinian Authority, Russia, Serbia, Kosovo (under UNMIK administration in accordance with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244), Switzerland, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.) if there is a written agreement between the Member States concerned or between the Member States and third countries concerned relating to the completion of a cross-border section.

LEGAL BASIS

Decision No 1346/2001/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council 22 May 2001 amending Decision No 1692/96/EC as regards seaports, inland ports and inter-modal terminals

TEN Regulation: Regulation (EC) No 680/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2007 laying down general rules for the granting of Community financial aid in the field of the trans-European transport and energy networks

Commission Decision C(2007)2158 of 23 May 2007 establishing a draft of the multi-annual work programme for grants in the field of trans-European Transport network (TEN-T) for the period 2007-2013

MORE INFORMATION

TEN-T

http://ec.europa.eu/ten/transport/index_en.htm

QUICK GUIDE TO EU FUNDS

YOUTH IN ACTION

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 885 million

The Youth in Action programme strives to encourage young people's active citizenship and to develop solidarity, promote tolerance, foster mutual understanding between young people in different countries and support European cooperation. The main target group is young people between 15 and 28 years of age. The age limit for each action is indicated in the guide for proposers.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the Youth in Action programme are to:

- ◆ Promote active citizenship amongst young people
- ◆ Develop young people's solidarity and promote tolerance
- ◆ Encourage mutual understanding between young in different countries
- ◆ Encourage European youth cooperation, redress and education

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

The programme is implemented through 5 actions:

Youth for Europe - aiming to increase mobility of young people by supporting youth exchange, initiatives and democracy projects

European Voluntary Service - supporting young people's participation in voluntary activities both within and outside the EU

Youth in the World - promoting cross border activities and network building with partner countries, and supporting the exchange of youth active in youth work and youth organisations

Youth Support System - providing support to European NGOs in the field of youth, to the European Youth Forum, to training of people active in youth organizations, and support projects encouraging innovative approaches

Support for European Cooperation in the Youth Field - supporting the development of youth policy by organizing structured dialogue between young people and those responsible for youth policy and facilitating cooperation between the EU and international organizations

IMPLEMENTATION

Youth in Action is implemented by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, who is responsible for each stage of the lifecycle of the programme. Implementation of the programme is mainly decentralised and a National Agency for the Youth in Action programme implements the programmes and acts as an intermediary between young people and the programme. The deadlines for application depend on if the project is implemented at European or national level and also on the starting date of the project. Two types of grants are awarded; grants for projects and grants for the operating budget active in the field of youth.

Co-financing

The community co-financing varies between the different actions and can be up to 100%.

ELIGIBILITY

The following countries are eligible for support:

- ◆ Member States
- ◆ EEA Countries
- ◆ Candidate and Potential Candidate Countries
- ◆ Eastern Europe and Caucasus and Mediterranean Partner Countries

LEGAL BASIS

Decision No 1719/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 November 2006 establishing the Youth in Action programme for the period 2007-2013

MORE INFORMATION

Youth in Action Programme

http://ec.europa.eu/youth/yia/index_en.html

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

<http://eacea.ec.europa.eu>

European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy

<http://www.youth-knowledge.net>

AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT

Two financial instruments have been established to finance the Common Agricultural Policy during the period 2007-2013; European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). The agricultural support is much debated in Europe and accounts for a big part of the Communities expenditures. For the programming period 2007-2013, 320 055 million euro have been allocated to EAGF which mostly finance market related expenditure and direct payments to farmers. Additionally 10 030 million have been allocated to finance rural development via the EAFRD. Although EAGF finances some activities in a centralised manner, both funds are implemented via shared management between Member States and the Commission.

In this section, the financial instrument for the Common Fisheries Policy is included; the European Fisheries Fund which has an allocated budget of almost 4 billion euro for the programming period 2007-2013.

EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL GUARANTEE FUND (EAGF)

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 320 055 million

EAGF - supports sustainable agriculture and provides direct support to farmers in accordance with regulations for the Common Agricultural Policy.

OBJECTIVES

The aims of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) are to:

- ◆ Support economical, environmental and societal sustainable agriculture
- ◆ Ensure high quality and safety food production
- ◆ Ensure animal health

EXPENSES

Expenses under EAGF include:

- ◆ Direct payments to farmers under the CAP
- ◆ Refunds for export to third countries granted under the Common Organisation of Markets (CMO)
- ◆ Intervention payments to regularise agricultural markets
- ◆ Certain informational and promotional measures

It also finances measures not strictly related to the management of agricultural markets such as specific veterinary and plant health measures, control programmes, farm survey systems, evaluation actions and measures to conserve, characterize, collect and use genetic resources in farming. The Commission manages these expenditures centrally.

LEGAL BASIS

Commission Decision of 24 May 2006 setting the amounts which, pursuant to Articles 10(2), 143d and 143e of Council Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003, are made available to the EAFRD and the amounts available for EAGF expenditure (2006/410/EC)

IMPLEMENTATION

The main part of EAGF is managed at a national level with a specific amount of money allocated to each country; only a very limited part is implemented via call for proposals on EU level. The EAGF finances expenditures originating from application of market and price policies. The Commission and the Member States manage these expenditures jointly.

SINGLE PAYMENT

The reform of agricultural support in 2003 introduced the Single Payment Scheme, which is an annual payment based on entitlements from the 2000-2002 period and granted to farmers with eligible land holdings. The major advantage is that funding is decoupled from production and thus gives greater freedom to farmers to choose what to produce. In order to receive full payment, farmers must comply with certain cross compliance standards such as good land conditions, public, animal and plant health standards as well as environmental requirements. This type of support has been applied since 2006 to most products in the old Member States.

NEW MEMBER STATES

Specific rules apply to the 12 New Member States who could upon accession choose to use a Single Area Payment Scheme that is a simplified version of the Single Payment with less administrative burden. The Single Area Payment Scheme is a payment per eligible hectare of agricultural land, and the national ceilings are laid down in the Accession Treaty. The New Member States can at anytime choose to introduce the Single Payment Scheme.

ELIGIBILITY

EAGF is mainly managed at a national level and interested applicants must contact their national ministry of agriculture for instructions on application for direct support.

MORE INFORMATION

DG Agriculture and Rural Development

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/index_en.htm

EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL FUND FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (EAFRD)

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 10 030 million

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) is one of the two instruments financing the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the other one being the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund. It will finance actions in the field of rural development in the Member States in line with rural development plans submitted by each country.

OBJECTIVES

EAFRD supports actions aiming to improve:

- The competitiveness of agriculture and forestry by supporting reconstruction, development and innovation
- The environment and the countryside via better land management
- Quality of life in rural areas and the diversification of economic activities

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

EAFRD is implemented via four axes:

Axis 1: Competitiveness supports measures promoting knowledge and improving human potential as well as restructuring and developing physical potential and promoting innovation.

Axis 2: Land management finances actions aimed to improve the environment and the countryside including measures targeting the sustainable use of agricultural and forestry lands. Payment for Natura 2000 is included in this axis.

Axis 3: Wider rural development supports actions aiming to enhance the quality of life in rural areas and the diversification of rural economy.

Axis 4: Leader axis is a bottom-up approach aiming to build local capacity for employment and diversification of the rural economy. It has a multi-sector design and the implementation of the strategy is based on the interaction between actors from different sectors of the local economy. Local action groups (LAGs) implement the local development strategy.

The Leader axis contributes to the achievement of the priorities of the other axes and also plays an important role in improving governance and mobilising the endogenous development potential of rural areas.

IMPLEMENTATION

Each country has submitted a National Strategy Plan to the EC, which is a guidance document for the implementation of Community priorities taking national and regional needs into account. The National Strategy Plan is implemented through Rural Development Programmes.

EU strategic guidelines (Council Decision of 20 February 2006 on Community strategic guidelines for rural development (programming period 2007 to 2013)) serve as reference documents during the preparation of the National Strategy Plan and the Rural Development Programmes setting out Community programmes and a range of options for implementation.

ELIGIBILITY

Interested applicants should contact their responsible ministry. Contact details and information on National Rural Development Programmes for respective country can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/countires/index_en.htm

LEGAL BASIS

Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 of 20 September 2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

MORE INFORMATION

DG Agriculture and Rural Development

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/index_en.htm

Leader +

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rur/leaderplus/index_en.htm

EUROPEAN FISHERIES FUND (EFF)

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 3 849 million

The European Fisheries Fund (EFF) aims to strengthen the competitiveness and the viability of the operators in the sector, to promote environmentally friendly fishing and production methods and to foster sustainable development of fisheries areas.

OBJECTIVES

The European Fisheries Fund supports actions aiming to:

- ◆ Strengthen competitiveness
- ◆ Reinforce viability of the operators in the fishery sector
- ◆ Promote environmentally friendly fishing and production methods
- ◆ Foster sustainable development in fisheries areas

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

The European Fisheries Fund supports actions which strive to achieve the following five priorities:

- ◆ Adapting fishing capacity and efforts to available fish resources
- ◆ Supporting the various industry branches
- ◆ Aid for organizations, which represent the collective interest of the sector
- ◆ Sustainable development of fisheries-dependent areas
- ◆ Technical assistance to Member States to facilitate the delivery of aid

IMPLEMENTATION

Each Member State creates a National Strategic Plan regarding the implementation of the EFF, presenting an overall strategic vision and the medium term development policy of the fisheries and aquaculture sector. This plan covers all areas of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and forms the background for actions selected to be financed by the EFF. Measures to be financed are identified in the National Operational Programmes, developed to implement the National Strategic Plan.

The Member States decide how to allocate the financial support between the priorities of the fund.

ELIGIBILITY

Entities based in Member States can apply for funding from the European Fisheries Fund

LEGAL BASIS

Council Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006 of 27 July 2006 on the European Fisheries Fund

MORE INFORMATION

Common Fisheries Policy

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/structural_measures/arrangements_2007_2013_en.htm

EU REGIONAL POLICY

The EU's regional policy has been allocated an amount of 308 billion euro for the period 2007-2013 and is implemented via three funds, the two structural funds, the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund, and the Cohesion Fund.

The terms regional policy, cohesion policy and structural policy are interrelated and can, in most cases, be used as synonyms as they support the common goal to achieve economic and social cohesion by reducing socio-economic disparities in development between regions. Regional policy plays an important role in the efforts deployed to achieve the Lisbon goal to make the EU the most competitive knowledge based economy in the world by promoting the development of the EU's regions, and strives to make the regions more attractive, innovative and competitive places to live and work. It focuses on growth and jobs for all regions and cities of the European Union and promotes a harmonious, balanced and sustainable environment for the Community.

OBJECTIVES

Three objectives highlight the priorities for regional policy and funding: Convergence, Regional Competitiveness and Employment and Territorial Co-operation. 82% of resources are allocated to the least developed regions (Convergence objective), 16% to the Regional Competitiveness and Employment objective and the remaining 2% finances the Territorial Co-operation objective.

Convergence: This objective covers Member States with a per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) below 75% of Community average and supported actions should strive to improve economic development and employment, increase investment, help the development of a knowledge based society, support environmental protection and make public administration more effective in managing the structural funds and the Cohesion Fund. This objective is financed via the ERDF, ESF and the Cohesion Fund.

Regional Competitiveness and Employment: The Regional Competitiveness and Employment objective covers basically those regions that are not addressed by the Convergence objective, i.e. the EU's wealthier regions, and is financed by the ERDF and the ESF.

Employment and Territorial Co-operation: This objective seeks to strengthen cross border cooperation by supporting inter regional cooperation and transfer of experience and best practises. The European Regional Development Fund finances this objective.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund are implemented via national and regional programmes, managed at a national level via a system of shared responsibility between the European Commission and the Member States.

The Community Strategic Guidelines set out the priorities for the EU and serves as the reference document for the Member States when they design their own national strategy for cohesion policy.

Each Member State prepares a National Strategic Reference Document, in line with the Community Strategic Guidelines, which also outline the operational programmes the Member States plan to implement during the period 2007-2013. One operational programme covers only one objective and the operational programme can receive funding from only one source (except in cases of transport infrastructure and environmental projects in Member States eligible for the Cohesion Fund where joint financing via ERDF and the Cohesion Fund is possible).

The operational programmes are, after approval by the Commission, implemented at a national level via projects. The responsible national authority implements, monitors and assesses the projects and is in charge of payment. The Commission monitors the implementation of the operational programmes in conjunction with the Member States.

The Commission makes annual budgetary commitments for each fund and each objective, individually, for each Member State. If the financial resources committed have not been used within two years the Commission will reclaim the unused contribution. Until 2010 the corresponding time limit is three years for the 12 New Member States.

QUICK GUIDE TO EU FUNDS

Co-financing

The maximum co-financing rate is set for each objective to be:

Convergence: 75-80%

- ◆ Competitiveness and Employment: 50-85%
- ◆ European Territorial Cooperation: 75-80% The maximum co-financing rate for the Cohesion Fund is 85%. The rules for eligibility can vary depending on the country.

The total amount of resources is 308 041 million euro and is divided among the objectives as the following:

- ◆ Convergence: 81.54% (EUR 251 163 134 221).
- ◆ Regional Competitiveness and Employment: 15.95% (EUR 49 127 784 318)
- ◆ European Territorial Cooperation: 2.52% (EUR 7 750 081 461)

LEGAL BASIS

In addition to the regulation establishing each fund, the following documents apply:

Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional

Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999

Corrigendum to Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing regulation (EC) No 1260/1999

MORE INFORMATION

Inforegio

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.htm

Each Member State designate for each programme a managing authority which will be responsible for implementation.

Contact details for all Member States

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/manage/authority/authority_en.cfm



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COHESION FUND

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 61 000 million

The Cohesion Fund is a structural instrument for the least prosperous Member States to help catch-up with other Member States and to stabilize their economies while supporting sustainable development. The Cohesion Fund finances major projects in the fields of transport, energy and environmental protection.

OBJECTIVES

The Cohesion Fund aims to:

- ◆ Help economic progress
- ◆ Stabilise economies
- ◆ Develop of transport infrastructure
- ◆ Contribute to a sustainable development

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

The Cohesion Fund is implemented through two types of projects:

- ◆ Transport infrastructure projects - support is provided to the development of transport infrastructure as outlined in the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) guidelines (railways, road traffic, inland waterways, civil air transport, etc.).
- ◆ Environment projects - support is available to implement projects in line with the Community Environmental Policy, covering areas of sustainable development such as energy efficiency, renewable energy and transport projects outside the priority fields of TEN-T in order to help achieve the objectives of the EC treaty and in particular projects in line with the priorities conferred on Community Environmental policy by the relevant Environment and Sustainable Development action plans.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Cohesion Fund is implemented at a national level by a managing authority. Calls for proposals and tenders are published in the national language and potential applicants should contact the managing authority in his/her country for more information. For detailed information on implementation, see description under regional policy description.

The size of individual allocations for each country is determined on the basis of population, total area of the country, GDP per capita and socio-economic factors related to the transport infrastructure system.

If public deficit of a beneficiary Member State exceeds 3% of national GDP (EMU convergence criteria), no new project will be approved under the Cohesion Fund until the deficit has been regulated.

ELIGIBILITY

The eligible countries for Cohesion Fund are the least prosperous Member States of the EU whose Gross National Product (GNP) per capita is below 90% of the EU-average. This currently includes the 14 new Member States since 2004 as well as Greece and Portugal. Spain is eligible only on a transitional basis.

LEGAL BASIS

Council Regulation (EC) No 1084/2006 of 11 July 2006 establishing a Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1164/94

Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999

MORE INFORMATION

Cohesion Fund

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/en.htm

Info regio

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.htm

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (ERDF)

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: NA

The European Regional Development Fund is one of two Structural Funds, the other one being the European Social Fund. ERDF strives to strengthen economic and social cohesion and to contribute to the development of regions. It finances all three objectives: Convergence, Regional Competitiveness and Employment, and Territorial Co-operation, with different priorities under each.

OBJECTIVES

Under the Convergence objective, ERDF supports actions related to sustainable economic development and employment by financing projects aiming to modernise and diversify economic structures in the following areas: research and technological development, innovation and entrepreneurship, information technology, local development initiatives, environment, risk prevention, tourism, culture, investment in transport, energy, education and health and social infrastructure.

Under the Regional Competitiveness and Employment objective, the ERDF provides support to sustainable development strategies with emphasis on promoting employment. Efforts focus on three priorities:

- Innovation and the knowledge economy through supporting regional RTD and stimulating innovation and entrepreneurship
- Environment and risk prevention through stimulating investment in environmental remediation, supporting infrastructure related to biodiversity, promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy production, development of risk and prevention plans and protection of natural and cultural heritage
- Access to transport and telecommunication services of general economic interest through progressing networks and improving the uptake and efficient use of ICT, in particular by SMEs

Under the European territorial cooperation objective, the ERDF provides support for joint strategies for sustainable territorial development of cross border activities beneficial for economic development, as well as in the fields of social sciences and environment. Transnational cooperation is highly encouraged.

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

- Direct aid to investments in enterprises (focus on SMEs) to create sustainable jobs
- Infrastructures related to research and innovation, telecommunications, environment, energy and transport
- Support via financial instruments such as capital risk funds, local development funds, etc. for regional and local development and encouragement of cooperation between cities and regions
- Technical assistance

IMPLEMENTATION

ERDF is implemented at a national level by a managing authority. Calls for proposals and tenders are published in the national language and potential applicants should contact the managing authority in his/her country for more information. For detailed information on implementation, see description under regional policy description.

ELIGIBILITY

All 27 EU Member States are eligible for funding. Interested applicants should contact their national managing authority.

LEGAL BASIS

Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on the European Regional Development Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1783/1999

Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999

Corrigendum to Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing regulation (EC) No 1260/1999

MORE INFORMATION

ERDF

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/leder/index_en.htm

Inforegio

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.htm

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: NA

The European Social Fund (ESF) is one of two Structural Funds for the period 2007-2013, the other one being the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). ESF provides support for investment in people and for the implementation of the EU's strategy for Growth and Jobs.

ESF finances actions under the Convergence and the Regional Competitiveness and Employment objective with the overall aim to reinforce economic and social cohesion and support the creation of more and better jobs. ESF strives to help prepare regions for a changing economic and social environment in the era of globalisation. ESF supports actions aimed at increasing the adaptability of workers and enterprises, to improve the labour market and increase participation via a greater access to employment, to facilitate social inclusion by fighting discrimination, and to encourage partnerships for reform. ESF promotes lifelong learning and supports networking between education institutions and businesses, as well as innovative forms of organisations.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the ESF are to:

- ◆ Reinforce economic and social cohesion
- ◆ Contribute to the creation of better and sustainable jobs
- ◆ Support regions for a changing economic and social environment in an era of globalisation

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

ESF supports action in relation to:

- ◆ Lifelong learning and adoption of workers and enterprises
- ◆ Integration of unemployed, women and migrants in the labour market
- ◆ Fighting discrimination in the labour market
- ◆ Reforming education system and improving human capital

IMPLEMENTATION

ESF is implemented at a national level by a managing authority. Calls for proposals and tenders are published in the national language and potential applicants should contact the managing authority in his/her country for more information. For detailed information on implementation, see description under regional policy description.

The level of funding will depend on the region and socio-economic factors and can vary between 50-85%.

LEGAL BASIS

Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on the European Social Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1784/1999

Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999

Corrigendum to Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing regulation (EC) No 1260/1999

ELIGIBILITY

All 27 EU Member States are eligible for funding. Interested applicants should contact their national managing authority.

MORE INFORMATION

European Social Fund

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/esf

Inforegio

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.htm

QUICK GUIDE TO EU FUNDS

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Community Initiatives apply various solutions to common problems throughout the Community in order to identify the most efficient and effective. They are financed by the Structural Funds. If they prove to be successful they may be mainstreamed and become an instrument in the next coming programming period or included in other instruments. This has been the case with initiatives from the last period such as Leader and Equal for example.

JASPERS

JASPERS - Joint Assistance in Supporting Projects in European Regions - is a technical assistance partnership to prepare major projects between the Regio DG, the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). Jasper will mainly focus on projects supported by the Cohesion Fund and the ERDF, and on the sectors that are most likely to receive assistance, such as roads, rail, public transport, water supply, wastewater treatment and solid waste, but other types of projects will not be excluded.

IMPLEMENTATION

JASPERS will provide a pool of expertise, free of charge, to assist structural fund managing authorities with the preparation of major projects. The assistance covers technical, economic and financial aspects and is available from the early stages of project preparation. JASPERS main aim is to ensure high quality projects and to increase the impact of fund transfers on growth and jobs. By using JASPERS, project managers should be able to secure additional sources of funding.

For administrative purposes, however, JASPERS is considered a unit within the EIB. JASPERS is provided free of charge and Member States are not required to take part in JASPERS. Those Member States which do participate in JASPERS are also not required to borrow from the EIB or the EBRD. Furthermore, both the EIB and the EBRD can choose not to lead JASPERS projects.

LEGAL BASIS

Articles 36, 39, 40, 41 and 45 of COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999

Memorandum of Understanding in respect of Joint Assistance in Supporting Projects in European Regions (JASPERS) between the European Commission, the European Investment Bank and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (entered into force 30 May 2007)

MORE INFORMATION

JASPERS

www.jaspers.europa.eu

European Investment Bank

<http://www.eib.org>

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

<http://www.ebrd.com>

JEREMIE

JEREMIE is the acronym for Joint European Resources for Micro to Medium Enterprises and a joint initiative by the European Commission and the European Investment Fund in order to improve access to finance for Small and Medium Enterprises and development of micro credit in regions supported by the ERDF. The aim is to allow regions to utilize their structural fund allocation in a more efficient and flexible manner.

OBJECTIVE

- ◆ Allow regions to utilise structural funds more efficiently
- ◆ Improve access to finance for SMEs
- ◆ Develop micro credit in regions supported by the ERDF

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

The Member States are responsible for implementation and for selecting and signing agreements with a holding fund. The holding fund conducts an open call for expression of interest, open for at least the first half of the programming period, offering concerned financial intermediaries the possibility to participate in the initiative. The holding fund chooses and accredits the intermediaries before providing equity, guarantees or loans to the accredited financial intermediaries.

The financial intermediaries then make the equity, loans or guarantees available to SMEs, with a special emphasis on technology transfer, start-ups, technology, innovation and micro credits. The financial intermediaries monitor the investments.

The reimbursement of loans and resources returned to the holding fund are reused by the Member State for the benefit of micro to medium enterprises. The reuse of resources is a key point in improving access to finance for small enterprises.

LEGAL BASIS

Articles 36, 44 and 78 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 and articles 43 - 46 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 of 8 December 2006 setting out rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Regional Development Fund

Memorandum of Understanding in respect of a coordinated approach to improving access to finance for micro to medium enterprises in the regions supported by the European Regional Development Fund (Joint European Resources for Micro to medium Enterprises - JEREMIE) between the European Commission and the European Investment Fund (entering into force 30/5-2007)

MORE INFORMATION

JEREMIE

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/jjj/jeremie_en.htm

European Investment Fund

<http://www.eif.org/jeremie>

JESSICA

JESSICA - Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas - is an initiative by the Commission, the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) in order to encourage sustainable investment, economic growth and the creation of more and better jobs in urban areas. JESSICA aims to coordinate the three institutions' approach and by using a mix of grants and loans provide financing for urban renewal and development actions, as well as for social housing.

OBJECTIVES

JESSICA allows managing authorities the possibility of providing funding for public-private partnership or other urban development projects that are capable of repaying in the long-term.

JESSICA is also expected to:

- Attract contributions from international financial institutions, banks, and the private sector, thereby achieving greater leverage from scarce grant resources
- Allow managing authorities access to expertise, as well as greater accessibility to loans in the field of urban development

IMPLEMENTATION

JESSICA is implemented via one of two possible management options:

- A managing authority launches a call for expression to development funds and a funding agreement will then be signed between the managing authority and the selected urban development fund. The urban development fund then provides public private partnerships and other urban projects with loans, equity or guarantees.
- JESSICA is organised through holding funds. Holding funds are those investing in more than one urban development fund, providing them with equity, loans or guarantees. Also in this case, a funding agreement is signed between the Member State and the holding fund. The urban development fund then provides public-private partnerships and other urban projects with loans, equity or guarantees.

LEGAL BASIS

Articles 36, 44 and 78 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 and Articles 7, 8, Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on the European Regional Development Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1783/1999

Memorandum of Understanding in respect of a coordinated approach to the financing of urban renewal and development for the programming period 2007-2013 of the Community Structural Funds between the European Commission, the European Investment Bank and the Council of Europe Development Bank (entered into force 30 May 2007)

MORE INFORMATION

JESSICA

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/jjj/jessica_en.htm

QUICK GUIDE TO EU FUNDS

REGIONS FOR ECONOMIC CHANGE

Regions for Economic Change is an initiative by the European Commission striving to increase competitiveness and economic modernization by drawing on experience and facilitating transfer of best practices.

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

Functioning within the European Territorial Co-operation Objective, the initiative Regions for Economic Change will work alongside the two existing instruments of European Regional Policy - the Interregional Co-operation and the Urban Development network programmes, setting economic development themes to encourage economic modernization.

In addition to linking European Cohesion Policy with the renewed Lisbon Agenda, the initiative further supports the Community's strategic guidelines on cohesion by establishing a voluntary network for Member States, regions and cities to share effective development schemes.

While Member States and regions may decide a theme to steer their actions, the Commission provides four thematic options: improving Member States, cities and region's attractiveness and accessibility while preserving the environment; innovation, entrepreneurship and knowledge; creation of more and higher quality jobs; improve growth potential; allow for equal regional development.

IMPLEMENTATION

In addition to providing cities and regions with the initiative to start networks, the Commission can also initiate networks via the fast track option, where regions and cities that join may utilize the Commission for advice and expertise regarding testing and evaluating best practices, as well as receive administrative support if needed.

Regions for Economic Change also offers the possibility to disseminate best practices, via the "two-way bridge". The "bridge" also refers to the connection Member States, regions and cities make between their Regions for the Economic Change network and regular programmes, to allow for the Regions for Economic Change ideas and effective tactics to reach other States through mainstream programmes.

The effective and open communication network to share ideas, information and best practices is a key component of the Regions for Economic Change.

MORE INFORMATION

Regions for Economic Change

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/interregional/ecochange/index_en.cfm

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EXTERNAL SUPPORT

One of the main priorities for the EU is to reinforce its presence on the global stage and to strengthen cooperation with third countries in order to protect its interests and to promote its values around the globe; prosperity, democracy and human rights thus a lot of resources have been earmarked for third countries. There are several different instruments for external support; the most important instruments being introduced while some region- or country specific instruments are still under negotiation and not included in this Guide.

During the programming period 2007-2013 funding related to external support is available in many thematic areas related to different EC policies such as enlargement, development policy, European Neighborhood Policy and Humanitarian aid. The forms of funding and the rules for participation vary and depend on the instrument

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION INSTRUMENT (DCI)

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 15 653 million

The overall DCI budget for geographic programmes for the period from 2007 to 2013 is EUR 10 057 million while for Thematic Programmes is EUR 5 596 million.

The Development Cooperation Instrument assists developing countries on their way to reducing poverty and enhancing sustainable development and social progress towards faster integration into the world economy. The DCI finances the Development Policy of the Community, including the pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals. The DCI intends to foster human rights and rule of law, as well as promote democracy and good governance, and strengthen the relationship between the Community and partner countries and regions. Moreover, it intends to foster sustainable development, including political, economic, social and environmental aspects of the partner countries, especially those most at a disadvantage.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of DCI are to:

- Assist developing countries to reduce poverty
- Enhance sustainable development
- Support faster integration into world economy
- Foster human rights
- Promote democracy and good governance
- Strengthen relationships between the Community and partner countries

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

The DCI instrument is implemented through Geographical and Thematic Programmes:

Geographic Programmes:

- ♦ Funds are allocated following country strategy papers that include multi-annual indicative programmes

specifying the priority objectives and the indicative multi-annual financial allocations.

- ♦ The regulation establishing the instrument provides a list of 26 different types of actions, which can be funded by the DCI and numerous areas of cooperation.

In addition to these areas of co-operation, the DCI regulation includes priorities specific to the different regions. The regulation establishing the DCI allows a broad range of actors to access DCI funds.

Thematic programmes:

The thematic programmes focus on one specific theme and are not country specific.

List of New Thematic Programmes:

- ♦ Investing in people
- ♦ Environment and sustainable management of natural resources including energy
- ♦ Non-State actors and local authorities in development
- ♦ Food security
- ♦ Migration and asylum

IMPLEMENTATION

The DCI instrument is implemented through Geographical and Thematic Programmes.

The geographic part of it replaces:

- ♦ The ALA programme for developing countries in Asia and Latin America
- ♦ Parts of the TACIS programme (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan)
- ♦ The Programme for Reconstruction and Development in South Africa (EPRD) valid until 2006

The European Commission prepares annual action programmes which specify the objectives pursued, the fields of intervention, the expected results, the management procedures and total amount of financing planned.

Thematic programmes complement the Geographical Programmes and supports projects mainly in developing countries, they are not geographically specific. Thematic programmes are implemented by an intermediary organisation such as non-governmental organisations or international organizations.

DCI is implemented through calls for proposals and tenders. The maximum co-financing rate is 50% in most regions.

ELIGIBILITY

Target Group: Developing countries in Latin America, Asia (including Central Asia) and the Republic of South Africa

LEGAL BASIS

Regulation (EC) No 1905/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation.

MORE INFORMATION

DG Development

http://ec.europa.eu/development/index_en.cfm

EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP INSTRUMENT (ENPI)

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 11 181 million

ENPI offers a single instrument for cooperation with the EU's neighbouring partner countries in Eastern Europe, Russia, the Caucasus and the Mediterranean region. The main aim is to encourage and progress cooperation and economic integration between the EU and partner countries. ENPI strives to contribute to sustainable development and is playing a key role in the promotion of an area of security, stability and prosperity in the EU and beyond. Funding is available to promote economic and social development in border areas to ensure efficient and secure borders, to promote people-to-people cooperation and to address common challenges.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of ENPI are to:

- ◆ Promote an area of security, stability and prosperity in the EU and beyond
- ◆ Encourage and progress in cooperation between the EU and partner country
- ◆ Contribute to sustainable development
- ◆ Provide solutions to common challenges in border areas

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

ENPI replaces several previous instruments such as MEDA and parts of TACIS. The European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) is the main financial instrument to finance the implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP).

1st objective:

- ◆ Administrative capacity building and reform
- ◆ Local and regional development
- ◆ SME and business development
- ◆ Transport and energy cooperation

2nd objective: Environmental protection, cross-border environmental challenges

3rd objective: Improvement of border management operations and customs procedures increasing transparency and efficiency in trade and border passage

4th objective: Sectoral cooperation, support to civil society and local communities democratisation, good governance, education and cultural exchange

QUICK GUIDE TO EU FUNDS

ENPI has a cross-border component with a joint budget drawing on both external and internal funds coming from the External Relations heading and the Structural Funds budget.

IMPLEMENTATION

After the Commission prepares the Country Reports and the ENP Action Plan is developed with each country based specifically on the country's needs, programmes set out in the Action Plan are implemented through the funds available by the ENPI. Since ENPI replaces various other instruments, it is designed to be much more flexible, policy focused and targets priorities agreed by the EC and the partner country.

ENPI CBC Strategy Paper sets out the strategic approach with the four common objectives for each programme and also the framework for the 15 ENPI CBC programmes, laying down the programmes, their eligibility, objectives and funding allocation together with an analysis of the present situation in the area.

Leaving the task of programming cross border development for the Joint Task Forces (JTF) consisting of local and regional stakeholders from Member States and partner countries, the ENPI strategy seeks to ensure coherence with other national and regional development policies.

EC Assistance priorities are acknowledged in cooperation with the partner countries general Country Strategy Papers (CSPs), which cover seven-year periods, while the more detailed National Indicative Programmes (NIPs) cover three years and include detailed annual programmes. ENPI finances actions through country, regional and cross-border programmes.

ENPI is implemented through:

- ◆ Country or multi-country programmes addressing territorial cooperation
- ◆ Regional and cross-border programmes

The Country programmes intend to support the partner countries own efforts in implementing political, governance, economic and social reform programmes. Country Specific Action Plans for 3-5 years draw the process of economic reform and set out short- and mid-term priorities jointly accepted by the partner country and the Commission.

Regional Programmes provide support for co-operation activities, including support for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and a newly established ENP scholarship scheme. There is an interregional programme, as well as a regional programme for the south and east.

Cross-Border Cooperation will be supported, involving cooperation between local and regional authorities on both sides of the EU's external border. 277 million euro (matched by an equivalent amount from the European Regional Development Fund) will be available for cross-border cooperation. Specific Strategic Papers define the list of cross-border programmes and allocation of funds.

Moreover, 400 million euro will be used during the 2007-2010 period to support good governance and to promote investment, through two new facilities, the Governance Facility and the Neighbourhood Investment Fund.

Governance Facility

- ◆ Provides additional EC support
- ◆ Acknowledges and supports the work of those partners who have made the most progress in implementing the agreed reform agenda set out in their Action Plan; supports key elements of the reform agenda, helping reformist governments strengthen their domestic constituencies for reform

The Commission intends to devote an amount of 300 million euro over the period 2007-2013.

Neighbourhood Investment Fund:

Used to support IFI lending in ENP partner countries and concessional lending for investment products in ENP partner countries, in priority sectors as identified in their ENP Action Plans.

In addition to ENPI grant funding neighbouring countries are eligible for loan financing through the European Investment Bank of up to a total of 12.4 billion euro for the 2007-2013 period.

Crossborder Cooperation Programme:

The Cross-Border Cooperation programmes on European external borders are going through transitional development from implementing separate instruments on both sides of the border, to merging two instruments (ERDF and ENPI) into one funding programme, with joint management structures, comprising the Joint Monitoring Committee, Joint Selection Committee, Joint Managing Authority and the Joint Technical Secretariat.

The ENPI Partner countries have played an active role in participating in the programming of the ENPI CBC and have been supported in their tasks by the Regional Capacity Building Initiative (RCBI) set up by the EuropeAid Co-operation Office. The programming process has progressed well; Joint Managing Authorities (JMA) have been identified for nearly all 15 programmes and Joint Task Forces are finalising the drafting of programme documents for final submission.

QUICK GUIDE TO EU FUNDS

ELIGIBILITY

Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine and Russia

LEGAL BASIS

Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 laying down general provisions establishing a European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument

MORE INFORMATION

ENPI

http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index_en.htm

EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND (EDF)

Period: 2008-2013

Budget: EUR 22 700 million

The European Development Fund is designed to offer development assistance to the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP). EDF's main aim is to encourage economic, political, cultural and social development of the ACP countries by promoting peace, security and democratic principles. The partnership lays down the main objectives of sustainable development and poverty reduction, by integrating ACP countries into the world economy.

The instrument works in five-year periods. On average EUR 3 780 million is expected to be disbursed annually under the 10th EDF.

OBJECTIVES

EDF's main aim is to encourage economic, political, cultural and social development of the ACP countries by promoting peace, security and democracy principles. The partnership lays down the main objectives of sustainable development and poverty reduction, by integrating ACP countries into the world economy.

- ◆ Achieve economic growth
- ◆ Support human and social development
- ◆ Promote cultural values of communities
- ◆ Support institutional reforms
- ◆ Ensure environmental sustainability
- ◆ Reinforce gender issues
- ◆ Help institutional development and capacity building

IMPLEMENTATION

Each ACP country prepares a Country Strategy Paper, describing how the EDF funds will be used; the funding priorities will vary depending on the Country Strategic Paper. The National Authorising Officer manages the funds. EDF is implemented via grants, the size and maximum co-financing rate is country specific.

The EDF consists of several instruments, including grants, risk capital and loans to the private sector. In addition to EDF own resources, the European Investment Bank contributes with resources.

LEGAL BASIS

Tenth EDF: 2008-2013 (Revised Cotonou Agreement)

http://ec.europa.eu/development/Geographical/CotonouIntro_en.cfm

MORE INFORMATION

European Development Fund

http://ec.europa.eu/development/How/Aid_en.cfm

DG Development

http://ec.europa.eu/development/index_en.cfm

HUMANITARIAN AID

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 200-300 million euro annually

The Humanitarian Aid assistance provides support to victims of conflicts or disasters (both natural and man-made) in third countries with the main aim to save and preserve life, and to reduce and prevent suffering in those regions hit by humanitarian crisis.

OBJECTIVES

The Humanitarian Aid aims to:

- ◆ Provide short-term emergency aid
- ◆ Stabilise the economic and social situation
- ◆ Facilitate long-term development in third countries

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

Humanitarian Aid is implemented through the following actions:

- ◆ Direct aid such as medicines, tents, food, emergency equipment
- ◆ Specific and targeted food aid
- ◆ Purchase of products needed for humanitarian assistance, reconstruction work, external personnel costs logistical support etc
- ◆ Training, studies and network actions

IMPLEMENTATION

DG ECHO manages the implementation of the Humanitarian Aid instrument. The instrument is implemented via framework agreements with humanitarian NGOs, international organisations, and the United Nation's specialized agencies. Partner NGOs and international organisations can submit project proposals at any time after contacting ECHO's geographical desk in Brussels. NGOs without a signed Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) can receive funding only after verification of its finances and administrative management procedures and consultation with the national authorities.

ELIGIBILITY

Actions can be implemented at the request of international organisations and bodies, NGOs, Member States, beneficiary third countries, or on the Commission's own initiative in countries in any of the following regions:

- Africa, Caribbean and Pacific States
- Asia
- Latin America
- Candidate Countries
- Newly Independent States
- Mediterranean Countries

MORE INFORMATION

DG ECHO

<http://ec.europa.eu/echo>

QUICK GUIDE TO EU FUNDS

INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA)

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 12 900 million

The Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) is a single instrument to support the Candidate and Potential Candidate Countries in their efforts to adapt to EU standards and rules and is replacing PHARE, ISPA, SAPARD and Turkey pre-accession instrument from the last programming period.

OBJECTIVES

IPA strives to achieve the following objectives:

- ◆ Strengthen democratic institutions
- ◆ Intensify administrative and economic reforms
- ◆ Promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms
- ◆ Enhance respect for minority rights
- ◆ Develop civil society
- ◆ Progress regional and cross-border cooperation

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

IPA is implemented through different types of assistance such as investment, procurement contracts or grants, special loans, loan guarantees and financial assistance, administrative cooperation involving experts sent from the Member States, action by the Community acting in the interest of the beneficiary country or budget support, and contribution to the capital of international financial institutions or regional development banks.

IPA assistance is divided into five components. The following two components are open for Candidate Countries and Potential Candidate Countries:

- ◆ Transition and institution-building - strengthen democratic institutions and help to progress the economic and administrative reforms
- ◆ Cross-border cooperation - support cross-border activities among beneficiary countries and between beneficiary countries and Member States

The following three components are open only for Candidate Countries to prepare them for the implementation of Community policies and managing the funds that will be available upon accession:

- ◆ Regional development - designed to prepare the countries for the implementation of the Community's cohesion policy, and in particular for the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund

- ◆ Human resources development - preparing the countries to take part in the Cohesion policy and the European Social Fund
- ◆ Rural development - providing support to prepare for future funding related to the Common Agricultural Policy and related policies, as well as for support under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

IMPLEMENTATION

The overall political priorities for pre-accession are set out in the European and Accession Partnerships, the annual country reports and the enlargement strategy paper contained in the enlargement package presented to the Council and European Parliament each year.

The Multi-Annual Indicative Financial Framework (MIFF) for the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA) assistance provides information on the indicative breakdown of the overall IPA envelope and sets out the political priorities. The MIFF indicates the allocation of the envelope for pre-accession assistance by country and by component, and also gives an indication of the envelope for regional and horizontal programmes and the amounts allocated to support expenditure.

The MIFF is normally established for a three-year period, but due to delays, the first MIFF only covers 2008-2009.

The Multi-Annual Indicative Planning Document (MIPD) established for each beneficiary country, through which pre-accession aid for that country is delivered, will take into account the indicative breakdown proposed in the MIFF.

Annual or multi-annual programmes are implemented in three ways: by centralised, de-centralised or shared management.

The Commission manages the funding for the Potential Candidate Countries in a centralised manner. The Commission can be the contracting authority or delegate the management to the European Agency for Reconstruction.

Funding under the other three IPA components aims at preparing Candidate Countries for the management of Structural Funds and largely mirrors the Structural Funds regulations. Programmes under these components are implemented in a decentralised management manner once benefiting countries, the Candidate Countries, have demonstrated autonomous programming and management capacities.

LEGAL BASIS

Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 of 17 July 2006 establishing an Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)

ELIGIBILITY

IPA has been created for the Candidate Countries and the Potential Candidate Countries.

MORE INFORMATION

IPA

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/financial_assistance/ipa/index_en.htm

DG Enlargement

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/enlargement/index_en.htm

INSTRUMENT FOR STABILITY

Period: 2007-2013

Budget: EUR 2 062 million

The overall objective of the Instrument for Stability is to assist in the recovering processes during and after a crisis situation or an emerging crisis. The instrument intends to facilitate building capacity to prevent and manage disaster-struck areas and conditions as well as to address global and trans-regional threats with destabilizing effect.

OBJECTIVES

The aims of the Instrument for Stability are to:

- ◆ Assist in the recovering process during and after a crisis situation or an emerging crisis
- ◆ Support capacity building to prevent disastrous places/condition

SUPPORTED ACTIONS

- ◆ Short term-components as a rapid and flexible tool to prevent conflict, maintain post-conflict political stabilisation and to ascertain fast recovery after a natural disaster
- ◆ Long term-components that allow the EU to enhance the capacity on national, regional and international level to address persistent trans-regional and global threats affecting one or more countries and their people causing greater vulnerability
- ◆ Support to international organizations, governmental and non-governmental actors in the field of conflict prevention and post-conflict peace building

In response to situations of crisis or emerging crisis in areas assistance is provided for actions related to: democratic reform, human rights, rehabilitation and reconstruction of key infrastructure, post-crisis and post war education, measures for sudden population movements, measures for equitable and transparent management of natural resources.

In the context of stable conditions for cooperation, assistance is provided to actions related to capacity building of law enforcement and judicial and civil authorities involved in the fight against terrorism and organised crime, threats to international transport, civilian research as alternative to military research, capacity building for health threats and dismantlement of weapon related facilities.

LEGAL BASE

Regulation(EC) No 1717/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 November 2006 establishing an Instrument for Stability.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Instrument is authorized by the DG External relations. Community assistance is implemented through four types of actions:

1. Exceptional Assistance Measures and Interim Response Programmes
2. Multi-country Strategy Papers, Thematic Strategy Papers and Multi-annual Indicative Programmes
3. Annual Action Programmes
4. Special Measures

Financial assistance provided in crisis situations or emerging crises is allocated in accordance with Exceptional Assistance Measures and Interim Response Programmes. Support provided in stable conditions is allocated along Multi-country Strategy Papers, Thematic Strategy Papers and Multi-annual Indicative Programmes.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants can be nationals of or legal persons who are established in a Member State, a Candidate Country or in a EEA State.

Non-state actors eligible for financial support under this instrument include: non-governmental organisations, organisations representing indigenous peoples, local citizens' groups and traders' associations, co-operatives, trade unions, organisations representing economic and social interests, local organisations (including networks) involved in de-centralized regional cooperation and integration, consumer organisations, women and youth organisations, teaching, cultural,

research and scientific organisations, universities, churches and religious associations and communities, the media and any non-governmental associations and private and public foundations likely to contribute to development or the external dimension of internal policies.

Other eligibility criteria:

- Third country considered a Least Developed Country according to the criteria laid down by the OECD, calls are open on a global basis.
- Support provided in crises situations, calls are open on a global basis.
- Support provided in stable conditions, the calls are open to any natural or legal person of a developing country or of a country in transition, as defined by the OECD

MORE INFORMATION

Instrument for Stability

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/worldwide/stability-instrument/index_en.htm

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ACRONYMS

ACP Countries	Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific Countries
ALA Countries	Asian and Latin American Developing Countries
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CEB	Council of Europe Development Bank
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy
CIP	Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme
CMO	Common Organisation of Markets
CORDIS	Community Research and Development Information Service
CSP	Country Strategy Papers
DCI	Development Cooperation Instrument
DG	Directorate General
EACEA	Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EAGF	European Agricultural Guarantee Fund
EAP	Environmental Action Programme
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC	European Commission
ECB	European Central Bank
EDF	European Development Fund
EDFI	European Development Finance Institutions
EEA	European Economic Area
EFF	European Fisheries Fund
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EIB	European Investment Bank
EIDHR	European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights
EIF	European Investment Fund
EIP	Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme
EMU	Economic and Monetary Union
ENP	European Neighbourhood Policy
ENPI	European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument
ENPI CBC	European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument Cross-Border Cooperation
EPRD	Programme for Reconstruction and Development in South Africa
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESA	European Space Agency
ESF	European Social Fund
EU	European Union
FP7	Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development
FPA	Framework Partnership Agreement
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNP	Gross National Product

HAM	Horizontal Actions and Measures
ICI ICI PSP	Information Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme
ICPC	International Cooperation Partner Countries
ICT	Information Communication Technologies
IDABC	Interoperable Delivery of European E-Government Services to Public Administrations, Business and Citizens
IEE	Intelligent Energy Europe
INTI	Integration of Third-Country Nationals
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
IfS	Instrument for Stability
IT	Information Technology
JASPERS	Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions
JEREMIE	Joint European Resources for Micro to Medium Enterprises
JESSICA	Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Area
JMA	Joint Managing Authorities
JRC	Joint Research Centre
JTF	Joint Task Force
JTI	Joint Technology Initiatives
LAG	Local Action Group
LIFE +	l'instrument financier pour l'environnement
LLP	Lifelong Learning Programme
MEDA	Euro - Mediterranean Partnership
MFA	Macro Financial Assistance
MIFF	Multi-Annual Indicative Financial Framework
MIPD	Multi-Annual Indicative Planning Document
NCP	National Contact Point
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NIP	National Indicative Programmes
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OLAF	European Anti-Fraud Office
PHEA	Executive Agency for the Public Health Programme
PPP	Public-Private partnership
RCBI	Regional Capacity Building Initiative
RTD	Research and Technological Development
SME	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
TEN-E	Trans-European Energy Networks

QUICK GUIDE TO EU FUNDS

COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES

Civil Protection Instrument	9
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/civil/prote/finance.htm	
Competitiveness and Innovation Programme	10
http://ec.europa.eu/cip/index_en.htm	
Consumer Programme	12
http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/overview/cons_policy/index_en.htm#programmes	
Culture 2007 Programme (2007-2013)	13
http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/index_en.html	
Customs 2013	14
http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/common/legislation/legislation/customs/index_en.htm	
Europe for Citizens	15
http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/index_en.html	
Fiscalis 2013	16
http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/taxation/index_en.htm	
FP7	17
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html	
Fundamental Rights and Justice	19
http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/intro/funding_rights_en.htm	
Fight against violence (Daphne III)	19
http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/daphne3/funding_daphne3_en.htm	
Drugs Prevention and Information	19
http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/drugs/funding_drugs_en.htm	
Fundamental Rights and Citizenship	20
http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/rights/funding_rights_en.htm	
Criminal Justice	20
http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/jpen/funding_jpen_en.htm	
Civil Justice	20
http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/civil/funding_civil_en.htm	
Galileo	21
http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy_transport/galileo/index.htm	
Hercule II	22
http://ec.europa.eu/anti_fraud/programmes/index_en.html	
IDABC	23
http://europa.eu.int/idabc	
LIFE+	24
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifepius.htm	

QUICK GUIDE TO EU FUNDS

Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) . . . . .	.25
http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/llp/general/index_en.html	
Marco Polo II . . . . .	.26
http://ec.europa.eu/transport/marcopolo/2/index_en.htm	
Media 2007 . . . . .	.27
http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/media/index_en.htm	
Pericles programme . . . . .	.28
http://ec.europa.eu/anti_fraud/index_en.html	
Progress . . . . .	.29
http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/progress/index_en.htm	
Public Health Programme . . . . .	.30
http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/pgm2008_2013_en.htm	
Safer Internet Plus Programme . . . . .	.31
http://ec.europa.eu/saferinternet	
Security and Safeguarding Liberties Framework Programme . . . . .	.32
http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/intro/wai/funding_security_en.htm	
Prevention, Preparedness and Consequence Management of Terrorism and other Security related risks . . . . .	.32
http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/cips/funding_cips_en.htm	
Prevention and Fight Against Crime . . . . .	.33
http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/isec/funding_isec_en.htm	
Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows . . . . .	.34
http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/intro/funding_solidarity_en.htm	
European Refugee Fund . . . . .	.34
http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/refugee/funding_refugee_en.htm	
External Borders Fund . . . . .	.34
http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/borders/funding_borders_en.htm	
European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals . . . . .	.36
http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/integration/funding_integration_en.htm	
European Return Fund . . . . .	.37
http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/return/funding_return_en.htm	
Trans-European Energy Network (TEN-E) . . . . .	.38
http://ec.europa.eu/ten/energy/index_en.htm	
Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) . . . . .	.39
http://ec.europa.eu/ten/transport/index_en.htm	
Youth in Action . . . . .	.40
http://ec.europa.eu/youth/yia/index_en.html	

QUICK GUIDE TO EU FUNDS

AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT

European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) . . . . .	.41
http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/index_en.htm	
European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) . . . . .	.42
http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/index_en.htm	
European Fisheries Fund (EFF) . . . . .	.43
http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/structural_measures/arrangements_2007_2013_en.htm	

REGIONAL POLICY

EU Regional Policy . . . . .	.45
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.htm	
Cohesion Fund . . . . .	.46
Cohesion website: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/cf/index_en.htm	
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) . . . . .	.47
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/feder/index_en.htm	
European Social Fund (ESF) . . . . .	.48
http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/esf/index_en.htm	
JASPERS . . . . .	.49
http://jaspers.europa.eu	
JEREMIE . . . . .	.49
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/2007/jjj/jeremie_en.htm	
JESSICA . . . . .	.50
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/2007/jjj/jessica_en.htm	
Regions for Economic Change . . . . .	.51
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/interregional/ecochange/index_en.cfm	

EXTERNAL SUPPORT

Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) . . . . .	.53
http://ec.europa.eu/development/index_en.cfm	
European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument (ENPI) . . . . .	.53
http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index_en.htm	
European Development Fund (EDF) . . . . .	.55
http://ec.europa.eu/development/How/Aid_en.cfm	
Humanitarian Aid . . . . .	.56
http://ec.europa.eu/echo	
Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) . . . . .	.57
http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/e50020.htm	
Instrument for Stability . . . . .	.58
http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/worldwide/stability-instrument/index_en.htm	

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