

# Funding 4 yEU

## Focus on CIP/LIFE+



Malta-EU Steering  
& Action Committee

Issue 2

1st April 2010

### Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP)

With small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as its main beneficiary, the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) supports innovation activities (including eco-innovation), provides better access to finance and delivers business support services within the EU. It encourages a better adoption and use of information and communication technologies (ICT) and supports the development of the information society. It also promotes increased energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources.

The CIP runs through 2007 to 2013, with an overall budget of € 3,621 million and is divided into three operational programmes.

Each programme has its specific objectives, aiming to contribute to the competitiveness of enterprises and innovative capacity in the relevant areas, such as ICT or sustainable energy:

- The Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP)
- The Information Communication Technologies Pol-

icy Support Programme (ICT-PSP)

- The Intelligent Energy Europe Programme (IEE)

In fact, these funds target 2 different levels. A level of funding is aimed directly for the benefit of SMEs whilst other addresses national authorities, business support and interest representation organisations (among others) which in turn devise their own series of initiatives and schemes that ultimately benefit SMEs or the general .

*The Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) places the emphasis on providing SMEs with a comprehensive funding structure to stimulate productivity, innovation and sustainable growth. Similarly, persistent environmental challenges create an added dimension to the CIP's main goals*



### The Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP)

The EIP seeks to support innovation and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the EU, with the emphasis on:

- **Access to finance** for SMEs through "CIP financial instruments" which target SMEs in different phases of their lifecycle and support investments in technological development, innovation and eco-innovation, technology transfer and the cross border expansion of business activities. The funding is provided only to financial intermediaries (such as banks), that devise

schemes (e.g. micro credits, venture capital schemes, loan guarantee schemes) for SMEs. [http://ec.europa.eu/cip/eip/access-finance/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/cip/eip/access-finance/index_en.htm)

- **Business services:** the "Enterprise Europe Network" (EEN). Business and innovation service Centres all around the EU and beyond provide enterprises with a range of quality and free-of-charge services to help make businesses competitive, delivering business and innovation support services to RTDI actors, particularly

SMEs. Locally, the EEN desk is located at Malta Enterprises. For more information visit: [http://www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu/index\\_en.htm](http://www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm)

- Support for improving **innovation policy** is provided by facilitating transnational networking of innovative firms, the various actors in the innovation process that include benchmarking initiatives and the exchange of best practice. For more information visit: <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/>

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eco-innovation 

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## Cont....

- Funding under the annual **eco-innovation** is made available for pilot and market replication projects for testing in real conditions of innovative products, processes and services that are not fully marketed due to residual risks and that aim to reduce environmental impacts, prevent pollution or achieve a more efficient use of natural resources, thus making sustainable development become a business reality. SMEs can directly apply for funding under this programme.

Moreover, they do not need to partner with organisations from other EU Member States, as in most EU funding programmes. For more information visit: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eco-innovation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eco-innovation/index_en.htm)

- **Support for innovation and SME policy-making** through contracts and grants: Analytical work and awareness raising activities (i.e. conferences and studies) on certain industrial sectors, SMEs or

innovation policy are conducted to inform and support policy-makers, and make policy suggestions to increase cooperation between EU Member States. Therefore, SMEs benefit indirectly from these funds. One concrete example is the reduction of administrative red tape.

For more information visit: [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/index_en.htm)

## The Information and Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme (ICT-PSP)



The Information and Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme (ICT-PSP) focuses on developing a single European information space, strengthening the European internal market for ICT and ICT-based products and services, stimulating innovation through the wider adoption and investment in ICT and developing an inclusive information society. Improvement in the efficiency and effectiveness of services in areas of public interest, and the quality of life are also addressed.

ICT-PSP aims at stimulating a wider uptake of innovative ICT based services and the exploitation of digital content across Europe by citizens, governments and businesses, in particular SMEs. To this end, exchange of best practices, networking and policy analysis are supported.

The focus is placed on public organisations enhancing the uptake in areas of public interest while addressing EU priorities such as the move towards a low carbon economy or challenges posed by an ageing society. The programme contributes to a better environment for developing ICT-based services and helps to overcome hurdles such as the lack of interoperability and market fragmentation. Therefore, this programme is mainly addresses policy makers and implementers whilst benefiting SMEs as end-users, rather than being the actual participants in projects.

Funding goes mainly to pilot actions, involving both public and private organisations, for validating in real-life setting, innovative and interoperable ICT based services in areas such as:

- ICT for health, ageing and inclusion;

- Digital Libraries;
- ICT for improved public services;
- ICT for energy efficiency and smart mobility;
- Multilingual web and Internet evolution.

Networking actions for sharing experiences and preparing the deployment of innovative ICT based solutions in such areas are also supported, as well as the monitoring of the Information Society through benchmarking, analyses and awareness raising actions.

The ICT PSP offers opportunities to both for innovative SMEs in the ICT sector and for SMEs that can make good use of ICT to improve their products, services and business processes. It does so by contributing to the creation of wider market opportunities and better services

**Total budget under CIP  
during 2007-2013:  
€3,621 million**

## Cont...

helps develop markets for innovative ICT-based solutions notably in areas of public interest and opens a wide range of new business opportunities in particular for innovative SMEs that provide ICT-based solutions. However, it does so by creating wider market opportunities

and better services for SMEs rather than by providing direct grants to SMEs. Nevertheless, it will also fund the participation of SMEs supplying innovative ICT-based solutions in pilots and networking activities together with the main users of these solutions. Therefore, the

programme is expected to have an impact on a wide range of SMEs extending far beyond those that participate directly in the supported actions.

For more information visit: [http://ec.europa.eu/cip/ict-ssp/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/cip/ict-ssp/index_en.htm)



## The Intelligent Energy Europe Programme (IEE)

With about € 730 million of funds available between 2007 and 2013, the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme (IEE) will help deliver on the ambitious climate change and energy targets that the EU has set for itself. It will do so by promoting increased energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources by overcoming non-technological barriers (legal, financial, institutional, socio-cultural). The programme supports concrete projects, initiatives and best practices via annual calls for proposals.

In this context, it will support pilot and market replication projects and promotion and dissemination projects aiming at capacity building, development and spreading of know-how, skills and methods, exchanges of experience, development of market and intelligence, policy input, awareness raising and information provision, and education and training.

Examples of projects funded under this programme include:

- Training on new construction techniques that can lead to 50 percent or more energy savings compared with traditional buildings;
- Improving the effectiveness of support schemes for electricity generation from renewable energy sources across Europe;
- Helping Europe's cities to develop more energy-efficient and cleaner transport.

SMEs can in principle participate in IEE projects, however the objectives of this programme can mainly be achieved by organisations that can target and impact a large audience. Example of such "multipliers" are: educational bodies, business support organisations, associations of producers or consumers, policy makers and implementers. These type of organisations would then devise projects that might

assist SMEs in their efforts for a more rational use of energy resources. For example, a chamber of commerce could develop a project through which it would provide free-of-charge energy audits to their members. Otherwise, an association of electrical appliances manufacturers / importers could provide training to sales staff to enable them to provide adequate guidance to their clients interested in energy-efficient products.

For more information visit: [http://ec.europa.eu/cip/iee/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/cip/iee/index_en.htm)

For more information about the CIP programme or related structures contact the CIP Malta National Contact Point:

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San Gwann SGN 3000  
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W: [www.cipmalta.com](http://www.cipmalta.com)  
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The three CIP funding structures:

**EIP**  
(*Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme*)

**ICT PSP**  
(*Information and Communication Technology Policy Support Programme*)

**IEE**  
(*Intelligent Energy Europe Programme*)



## Success Story - Fostering Creativity

*ImMediaTe consortium clusters located in Rome, Paris, Barcelona, Amsterdam and Malta.*

Today's society is shaped by a number of key inventions which are the product of creativity. However, the potential of such creativity often remain unrealised due to a number of restrictions, with the lack of financial backing being the main obstacle. Although various funding instruments are available for the creative industry, existing cultural and educational barriers prove to be yet another stumbling block.

The **ImMediaTe** consortium launched the **Project ImMediaTe**, funded by the CIP ICT PSP programme that strives to provide digital media companies with access to financial assistance through the use of specific designed

tools and services. Currently, the consortium comprises 10 partners which operate 5 clusters coordinated by the region of Lazio's business development agency, **Filas**.

Through a series of *thematic events* to be held in every cluster during 2010, stakeholders are given an opportunity to network with prospective partners thus facilitating SME mobilisation and business diversification.

In turn, this should make firms operating within the sector investment-oriented whilst enabling investors to be more aware of the digital media industry. Given the diverse models employed,

The support lent by **ImMediaTe** to businesses in business negotiations and the provision of secure access to the global market is crucial to the growth of firms and the market itself.

*Further information on the consortium and its project is available on:*

<http://www.europe-innova.org/immediate>;  
<http://project-immediate.blogspot.com>

## LIFE +

Investing in environmentally sound policies, technologies and practices, the EU funding instrument **LIFE+** can contribute in making the necessary investment to render operations increasingly environmentally friendly.

With a budget of €2.143 billion, spread over 2007-2013, the funds contribute to the conservation of protected habitats and species, reversing the loss of biodiversity and the **development and implementation of environmental policy** as a key aspect of sustainable development.

Projects tackling air quality, environmental health, climate change, soil, waste, urban environment, noise, natural resources and chemicals and which can provide assistance to reduce environmental degradation while achieving economic

prosperity will be considered. Selected projects will be co-financed at rate of **50%**.

**LIFE+** is currently financing a host of projects. **LIFE 07 INF/UK/000950 – Eco-animation: a cutting edge cartoon to raise awareness on climate change and sustainable use of resources**

The production of an animation series targeting young children and which provides useful tips on climate and energy consumption.

Another project currently being financed is **LIFE07 ENV/IT/000421A- Recovery, recycling resource; Valorisation of olive mill effluents by recovering high added value bio-products**. The project seeks to transform waste generated from a production process into alternative energy biogas. The aim of this project is to improve

the environment whilst generating a profit.

**LIFE03 ENV/NL/000488 - A dairy industry which is self-supporting in water** managed to reduce the use of water in a production process. It was awarded the title of "Best of the Best" from a shortlist of 21 "Best" LIFE Environment projects in 2005-2006.

**LIFE03 ENV/P/000505. The Extensivity project successfully implemented a Sustainability Management System (SMS)** with the aim of accompanying, monitoring, measuring and disseminating the performance of the participating farms. In parallel, farmers received technical support in the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices.

The project began with 10 pilot farms, reaching 86 at the end. The project was primarily

*Budget allocated for the 2007-2013 period:*

€2.143 billion

*Co-financing rate: 50%*

## Cont....

The project began with 10 pilot farms, reaching 86 at the end with the primary focus being the livestock production farms (sheep for milk and meat, beef cattle and field pigs) based on pastures supported by non-irrigated and irrigated tree cultures, olive groves, wood pastures and forest.

The final list of farms participating in the project detailed businesses of all types with diverse levels of sustainability. The project areas were primarily located in the inland part of central and southern Portugal. The project was financed in 2003 and the total project costs

were €1,419,571.00 of which 50 % was funded.

Further information on all projects can be found on the LIFE Database hosted by the official LIFE Website <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplus.htm> or by contacting Life + Focal Point, Ms Maria Elena Attard on [maria-elena.attard@gov.mt](mailto:maria-elena.attard@gov.mt)

This year's call for project submissions will open on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2010 and close on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010. Interested parties are advised to contact the Focal Point at this early stage. The application package containing the

application forms and all related documentation will be made available on the official website <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplus.htm> on the opening day of the call.

The 2009 documentation, currently available on the same site, may guide prospective applicants on the applicability or on of their projects ideas. A workshop is being held on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2010 by the European Commission for those interested in applying under this call. More information will be made available closer to the date on [www.lifeplus.gov.mt](http://www.lifeplus.gov.mt)

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**Source:** <http://ec.europa.eu/cip/>



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