

Funding 4 y EU

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Successful Seminar on The Seventh Framework Programme (FP7): Opportunities for SMEs



Forum Malta fl-Ewropa (whose function is now absorbed by MEUSAC), together with the Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST) recently organised a seminar to disseminate information on the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) and the array of EU funding opportunities for research and innovation which this Programme offers to SMEs. The main speaker of this seminar was Dr Barend Verachtert, Head of Sector at the European Commission's DG Research. He focused on two main themes of the FP7 Cooperation and Marie Curie.

Cooperation is the core of FP7 and it had been allocated round two thirds of the FP7 budget that amount to € 32,413. 15% of the budget allocated to **Cooperation** specifically targeting SME participation. The main aim of this theme is to support all the research activities within the following ten key thematic areas: Health; Food, agriculture and fisheries, and biotechnology; Information and communication technologies; nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies; Energy; Envi-

ronment (including climate change) Transport (including aeronautics); Socio-economic sciences and the humanities; Space and Security.

Marie Curie focuses on training, mobility and career development of researchers in both the public and private sectors.

Malta Enterprise official and National Programme Coordinator Ing. Samantha Runco, provided information on EUREKA, a pan-European network for market-oriented, industrial R & D.



MCST CEO Dr Brian Warrington and Programme Manager Eric Flask, outlined assistance being given by the Malta Council for Science and Technology to SMEs engaging in research

This year the MCST received 40 applications for research and innovation projects. In total these requests amounted to €5.4 million. 7 projects were selected and are being funded under the R&I Programme

Inside this

Issue:

Successful Seminar on FP7	1
EU Globalisation Funds	1
Culture Programme 2007-2013	2
Life+ Programme	3
Proposed Schemes for the	4
Maltese participation in Research	4
Seminar for NGOs	6
Funding News	7
Open Calls	8

EU Globalisation Funds

The EU Globalisation Fund was established in 2006 and it aims to help workers made redundant as a result of changing global trade patterns to find another job as quickly as possible. This fund was launched in 2007 and will provide up to 500 million euro a year in support. Till date six applications have been approved and these includes the automotive industry in France (car sector and relate to suppliers of Peugeot-Citroën and Renault, respectively), and in the mobile phone sector in Germany and Finland together with Malta (textile) and Portugal (automotive).

The European Commission made pay-

ments totalling to € 3.1 million to Portuguese and Maltese authorities from the European Globalisation adjustment Fund (EGF) of which € 2.4 million were allocated to Spain and € 681,000 were allocated to Malta.

The Portuguese application covers 1,549 redundancies from three auto companies which are moving their production plants to lower cost countries. The Maltese application covers 675 redundancies from two textile manufacturing companies.

Usually applications to be considered for funding from EGF must at least have 1,000 redundancies but this was accepted

for Malta since this number of redundancies had a big impact on the labour market.

The Maltese government is responsible to implement all the necessary schemes funded by EGF by the 11th September 2008. ETC is the entity responsible for these schemes. For further information on these schemes please refer to ETC EGF Scheme Coordinator on 2220 1275 or joseph.d.mercieca@gov.mt

Source: <http://ec.europa.eu/egf>

Culture Programme 2007-2013

The Culture Unit of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) manages and implements most of the activities of the Culture Programme (2007 – 2013).

A new Culture Programme Guide has been launched. This programme provides cultural operators with the funding opportunities. The aim of this programme is to encourage and support all cultural operators to contribute to the development of cultural cooperation at European level and encouraging European citizenship. It mainly promotes the trans-national mobility of cultural players, the trans-national circulation of artistic and cultural works and products and the intercultural dialogue.

With a total budget of € 400 million EUR for 2007 – 2013 the Programme allows to co-finance around 230 different cultural actions per year.

Within the Culture Programme there are two types of grants:

- grants for projects (Multi-annual Cooperation projects (*strand 1.1*), cooperation projects (*strand 1.2.1*), Literary Translation projects (*strand 1.2.2*) and cultural cooperation projects with *Third Countries* (*strand 1.3*).
- grants for operating costs (structural support) of an organisation active at European level in the field of culture (*strand 2*). Operating grants are different from project grants as they provide financial support to costs necessary for the proper conduct of the usual and permanent activities of an organisation. These costs include staff costs, costs of internal meetings, publications, information and dissemination

The following is a summary of strands available:

Support for cultural projects (*strand 1*). Cultural organisations are given support for projects to work together across borders and to create and implement cultural and artistic activities. The thrust of this *strand* is to help organisations, such as theatres, museums, professional associations, research centres, universities, cultural institutes and public authorities from different countries participating in the Programme to cooperate so that different sectors can work together and extend their cultural and artistic reach across borders. This *strand* is divided into four categories, which are detailed below.

The **Multi-annual Cooperation Projects** (*strand 1.1*) and the **Cooperation Projects** (*strand 1.2.1*) promote trans-national mobility of people working in the cultural sector; encourage trans-national circulation of cultural and artistic works and products; or encourage intercultural dialogue.

In the case of **Multi-annual Cooperation Projects**, duration will be of between 3 and 5 years and involve a minimum of six cultural operators from six different *eligible countries*. *The eligible costs of these projects will vary from EUR 200.000 and EUR 500.000 for each year of activity. These projects comply with the maximum EU co-funding ceiling set at 50% of the total eligible budget.*

Cooperation Projects will have a duration of up to 24 months and involve a minimum of three cultural operators from three different *eligible countries*. *The eligible costs of these projects will vary from EUR 50.000 and EUR 200.000 present a balanced budget (expenditure = income) and comply with the maximum ceiling of EU co-funding set at 50% of the total eligible budget.*

Cultural Cooperation Projects with Third Countries (*strand 1.3*) must generate a real European added value as well as an international cooperation dimension and have a duration of maximum 24 months. These projects must involve a minimum of three cultural operators from three different *eligible countries* and involve cultural cooperation with at least one organisation from the selected *Third Country*. At least 50% of the action should take place in the *Third Country* and request a grant between EUR 50.000 and EUR 200.000 present a balanced budget (expenditure = income) and comply with the maximum ceiling of EU co-funding set at 50% of the total *eligible budget*.

Literary Translation Projects (*strand 1.2.2*) aim at enabling the largest possible spread of European literature among European citizens, through the support of the translation and publication of European literature into the different languages of the countries participating in the Programme. Eligible applicants must be public or private publishing houses or publishing groups and have their registered legal seat in one of the *eligible countries*. Translation of works of fiction from one European language into another European language is eligible.

Support for Organisations Active at European Level in the field of Culture (*strand 2, Operating Grants*) aims to co-finance expenditure regarding the long-term work programme of organisations pursuing an aim of general European interest in the field of culture or an objective forming part of the EU policy in this area. *Four categories of organisations are eligible under this strand. An organisation can only apply for one of those categories or for one subcategory if it applies under category d).*

The following are the four categories

a) Ambassadors : Organisations which, through their influence in the cultural field at European level, have clear aptitude to be European "representatives" of European culture and, as such, can fulfil their role of European Cultural Ambassadors. The organisations particularly referred to in this category are orchestras, choirs, theatre groups and dance companies whose activities have a real European dimension. The organisation's activities must be carried out in at least seven *eligible countries*.

b) Advocacy Networks : Advocacy networks entrusted by the associated members of the network and which ensure a significant representation of specific category(ies) of cultural operators or the cultural fields at European level. The networks have to exist since at least one year. The networks should gather members which are legally established in at least fifteen *eligible countries*. Alternatively, when networks are composed of organizations representing cultural operators at national level (such as national federations) the network shall reach a substantial representation in at least ten *eligible countries*.

c) Festivals : Organisations carrying out festival(s) which perform supranational activities with clear European added value and geographical outreach as well as broad European visibility covering at least seven *eligible countries*. Festivals have to be renowned and recognised at European level and exist at least since five years. This Programme does not support activities relating to the audiovisual and cinematographic sectors (such as film festivals).

Proposed Schemes for the Tourism Sector

The Tourism Directorate, within of the Office of the Prime Minister, has been appointed by the Managing Authority of the Structural Funds as the Intermediate Body managing Schemes that have as their objective the improvement of the Tourism Sector.

These schemes are currently in the process of approval by the Managing Authority of the Structural Funds and are expected to be launched in February 2009. The main aim of these grant schemes is to achieve Sustainable Tourism Development. Sustainable tourism can be brought about through economic sustainability, social sustainability and environmental sustainability.

These Grant Schemes seek to strengthen Malta's competitive advantage, promote R&I, encourage ICT use and good environmental practises. It is also expected that these will increase innovative and self sustaining projects.

The following are the proposed areas of intervention:

Product Upgrade & Investment in Equipment

Eligible Activities :

- Physical upgrading activities which aim at enhancing the enterprise product
- Purchase of equipment which will ensure an enhanced product offer
- Development of the tourism product so as to increase the quality of the product

Investment in Environmentally friendly measures

Eligible Activities :

- Activities leading to EMAS or eco-certification
- Implementation of responsible tourism where both locals & guests gain from each other
- Air & noise pollution prevention
- Activities related to enhanced waste & water management systems
- Activities related to environmental CSR

Investment in Information Communication Technology

Eligible Activities :

- Purchase of ICT tools which enhance tourism products & services
- ICT tools which are created specifically for the enterprise
- Implementation of innovative ICT tools which will help the development of innovation in the sector



Investment in Entrepreneurship

Eligible Activities :

- Investment in research activities to identify ways of adapting sustainable tourism practices
- Investment in studies relating to the innovative development of tourism products & services available or new ones
- Studies focusing on ways of how to address the seasonality issue
- Design of new product/project ideas for the Maltese Islands

Investment in Marketing

Eligible Activities :

- Overseas large scale marketing campaigns
- Creation of a long term marketing strategy
- Implementation of an existing marketing strategy (excluding fairs & sales trips)
- Website development including e-business activities
- New forms of marketing
- Promoting local crafts

Who can benefit from these funds to implement a project of direct relevance to tourism once approved and launched ?

- Small, medium and large enterprises
- Groups of companies
- Start-up enterprises (license must be in hand on signing of grant agreement)
- Networks (group of enterprises working together for the purpose of the scheme)



Operational Programme I – Cohesion Policy 2007-2013
Investing in Competitiveness for a Better Quality of Life
This project is being considered for European Union part-financing
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
Co-financing rate: 85% EU Funds; 15% National Funds
Investing in your future



Maltese Participation in Research Program



Very often we hear that EU countries are lagging behind in research. Statistics show that the EU is investing only 1.8% of its GDP in R&D and it is expected that by 2010 this percentage would increase to 3% of the GDP. One of the most important requirements is knowledgeable people that have the necessary skills to perform research. Malta has participated in FP5 and FP6 and is now also participating in FP7

Malta participated in 45 projects under FP5 and 98 projects in FP6. Various Departments from the University of Malta had taken the opportunity to participate in FP6 to obtain funding for research staff and equipment. In fact, the UOM managed to obtain around 2.2 million Euros to finance these research projects. Although this is a sum is quite impressive, it is nevertheless believed that the University of Malta can further utilize these programmes and participate in more projects.

The following table provides an overview of Malta's Participation in FP6 (as of March 2006)

<u>Type of Project</u>	<u>Submitted</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Coordinated</u>
Integrated Projects	48	7	
Network of Excellence	26	5	
STREP	106	15	
Coordinated Action	50	6	
Specific Support Actions	89	27	4
Other	99	10	2
Total No of Projects	471	92	6
Total Funding allocated			Approx 8.5 M Euro

FP6 has been replaced by the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) 2007-2013. This is the key financial tool for supporting Research and Innovation at European level, with the purpose of integrating Europe's research capacities, creating jobs and improving competitiveness in line with the Lisbon Agenda.

The following is an analysis of Malta's Participation in the first call of FP7

	<u>Submitted Proposals</u>	<u>Funded Proposals</u>	<u>Participants in Funded Proposals</u>	<u>Participants Costs</u>	<u>Participants EC Contribution</u>
<u>CO-OPERATION</u>					
Health	17	2	2	247,552	227,189
Food, Agriculture & Biotechnology	15	2	3	279,665	217,389
Information & Communication Technology	18	3	3	724,920	517,420
Nanoscience, Nano technologies, Material & New Production Technologies	1	0			
Energy	5	0			
Environment (including Climate Change)	22	3	3	149,747	149,747
Transport (including Aeronautics)	10	1	1	154,816	118,608
Socio-economics sciences & Humanities	15	3	3	301,276	162,683
Space	2	2	2	414,080	244,080
Security	5	2	2	160,200	122,650
<u>IDEAS</u>					
European Research Council	0	0			
<u>PEOPLE</u>					
Marie-Curie Actions	7	2	2	120,012	118,520

Culture Programme 2007-2013 (cont.)

d) Policy Support Structures for the Culture Agenda :

In the framework of the European Agenda for Culture, support can be provided for organisations actively engaging in a structured dialogue with the European Commission as well as to groupings developing policy analysis supporting the objectives of this Agenda, and more particularly with the five priority areas for action for the period 2008-2010 endorsed at European level by the Council.

The five priorities are:

- improving the conditions for the mobility of artists and other professionals in the cultural field;
- promoting access to culture, especially through the promotion of cultural heritage, cultural tourism, multilingualism, digitisation, synergies with education (in particular arts education) and greater mobility of collections;
- developing data, statistics and methodologies in the cultural sector and improving their comparability;
- maximising the potential of cultural and creative industries, in particular that of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs);
- promoting and implementing the UNESCO Convention

on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions; Two sub-categories of organisations may be supported under this category:

- Structured dialogue platforms
- Policy analysis groupings

The following are this year's deadlines for applications :

Strand 1: Support for cultural projects

Strand 1.1 : Multi-annual cooperation projects - **1 October 2008**

Strand 1.2.1 : Cooperation projects - **1 October 2008**

Strand 1.2.2: Literary translation projects - **1 February 2009**

Strand 1.3 : Cultural cooperation projects with third countries
1 May 2009

Strand 2 : Support for organisations active at European level in the field of culture **1 November 2008**

Further information can be obtained from

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/culture/guide/index_en.htm

LIFE+ Programme

This programme finances projects that support innovative solutions with a public dimension, that develop technologies for the environment, helping endangered species and natural habitats. Life+ is the main EU programme that provide financial aid for these projects.

The selection of the best 21 LIFE Environment projects for 2007-2008 was recently announced. This group was shortlisted to the very best 5 projects. The following were the top five projects: ART (Sweden), RETOXMET (Hungary), ENVIFACILITATE (Finland), PROWATER (Italy) and DIONYSOS (Greece). Further information on these projects can be found on <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/bestprojects/best2007-2008/index.htm>

The selected projects represent the most recent successful LIFE Environment projects in terms of their contribution to immediate and long-term environmental, economic and social improvements; their degree of innovation and transferability; their relevance to policy, and their cost-effectiveness. On the 26th May 2008 six projects funded by the Life programme from Belgium (**Ecospeed**), Britain (**MAD BUT BETTER**), France (**ISONITRATE**), Hungary (**LIFE-SUMAR**), the Netherlands (**Brine Recovery**) and Slovenia (**LIMNOTOP**), won the national prizes for the 2007 International Energy Globe Awards. Further information on these projects is available on : <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/news/newsarchive2008/may/>

index.htm

LIFE aims to bridge the gap between R&D and large-scale application, whilst also assisting in the process of disseminating good practices and validating pioneering approaches and technologies that improve environmental management. Since the launch of the Life programme in 1992, more than 160 projects related to agriculture were co-financed. Some of these projects dealt with landscape protection, improved irrigation techniques, soil and water protection, the effects of animal husbandry, conservation activities, pest control and waste management.

The 2008 call for proposals was published on 15th July 2008. The Programme has a budget allocation of 2.143 billion for the 2007-2013.



CAPACITIES					
Research infrastructures	4	3	3	76,312	69,177
Research for the benefits of SMEs	31	6	9	1,479,674	1,093,773
Regions of Knowledge	2	0			
Research Potential	2	1	1	23,433	23,433
Science in Society	8	3	5	48,616	48,616
Coherent development of research policies	0	0			
Activities of International Cooperation	3	2	2	142,096	142,096
	167	35	41	4,222,399	3,255,381

The above analysis shows that that Malta should further increase the participation in the area of People and Ideas. The 'People' Programme is implemented through actions that seek to improve on the quality of human resources in scientific research through the transfer of knowledge. This section of FP7 builds on the Marie Curie successful experience and for the 2007-2013 it has been allocated a budget amounting to € 4750 million. The main objective of this programme is to improve the HR potential in European research and this is done by covering all stages of a researcher's professional life. Further information on 'People' is available on http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm?pg=people or http://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/people/docs/fp7-flyer_en.pdf. The 'Ideas' programme was allocated € 7510 million for the period 2007-2013. Further information on this programme is available on http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm?pg=ideas. The main aim of this programme is to increase the wealth and social progress by offering new opportunities for scientific and technological advancement.

The National contact point responsible for the FP 7 programme in Malta is the Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST). Further information regarding FP7 open calls is available from <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm>.

(Source National Strategic Plan for Research & Innovation 2007-2010 Building and Sustaining the R&I enabling framework and Issue 07 Ricerka.)

Seminar for NGOs

Over fifty representatives from various civil society organisations, local councils and public bodies recently attended a seminar which the Malta Resource Centre at SOS Malta organised at the Mediterranean Conference Centre. The Seminar, entitled 'Towards the increased participation in Structural Funds', provided a forum for discussion about training, technical assistance and capacity-building needs of Maltese civil society organisations with regard to EU Structural Funds.

The event was part-financed by the Structural Funds Programme for Malta 2004-2006 (European Social Fund: co-financing 75%). It was organised as part of 'The Structural Funds Training and Technical Assistance Programme for NGOs and Civil Society Organisations 2007' - a sub-project which the Malta Resource Centre implemented within the scope of the European Social Fund's Technical Assistance.

During the period 2004-2006, only five NGOs participated in projects financed by Structural Funds. In an effort to increase the participation of the third sector in the European Social Fund, the pilot programme, implemented by the Malta Resource Centre last year, aimed at training civil society organisations about the project mechanisms of Structural Funds. The training programme consisted

of a total of fifty training hours, spread over eight workshops held in August, September and October 2007.

During the seminar Philippa Arrigo, Project Coordinator, presented the main outcomes and recommendations emanating from the pilot training programme. Further training and capacity-building initiatives will need to be undertaken to ensure that the participation of Malta's third sector in projects financed through the European Social Fund is enhanced.

Noel Toledo, Director on Cohesion Policy at the Planning and Priorities Coordination Division, explained that Technical Assistance plays a critical role for the efficient implementation of Structural Funds. He noted that in the case of Malta's Operational Programme II (European Social Fund), there is a financial allocation of ,~5,604,705 for Technical Assistance during the seven year period 2007-2013, of which 85% will be funded by the European Community. This financial allocation is aimed at supporting the main horizontal stakeholders implementing the European Social Fund in Malta - including those public bodies which relate to the goal of enhanced participation by socio-economic partners and NGOs. He also referred to the training programme implemented by the Malta Resource Cen-

tre as a good practice which should be followed by similar initiatives in the upcoming years.

The seminar also provided an opportunity for practical accounts to be given by Maltese civil society organisations having experienced the application and implementation processes involved in European Social Fund projects. Presentations were given by Holder Saliba from Richmond Foundation and Perit Simone Vella Lenicker from Kamra Tal-Periti.

Claudia Taylor-East, Director at SOS Malta, said that the Malta Resource Centre will continue to promote cooperation between various stakeholders to make sure that NGOs working with and for disadvantaged groups have access to Structural Funds with measures in place. All participants were provided with a publication which the Malta Resource Centre produced at the end of the training programme. The publication includes various recommendations for future training and capacity-building initiatives for the third sector. A few printed copies are still available and may be requested by contacting the Project Coordinator, Ms. Philippa Arrigo, by e-mail: philippa.arrigo@mrc.org.mt.



Funding News

SANTA LUCIJA SELECTED AS EUROPEAN DESTINATION OF EXCELLENCE

21 Local Councils participated in this project. Santa Lucija placed first whilst Lija, Qormi and Zejtun shared the second place and Nadur placed third. The main aim of this project was to promote heritage and attract tourism interested in history and Culture. The evaluation criteria were based on seasonality, accessibility, quality, sustainability, diversity, authenticity and innovation.

MALTA ENTERPRISE EXPLORATORY AWARD

The Malta Enterprise Exploratory Award Scheme provides assistance, in the form of a grant, to help SME's develop project proposals for submission to FP7 and CIP. The Fund is intended to stimulate the capacity of SMEs to participate in such projects. Malta Enterprise will be helping businesses overcome the barriers and challenges faced in developing proposals in order to enhance SMEs participation in submitting successful proposal submissions. Through these programmes, SMEs can strengthen their overall position through networking and relationship building with international partners, enjoy access to research centres of excellence, and develop research and innovation skills. The Exploratory Award Scheme will cover 60% of the total eligible costs of the preparatory proposal up to a maximum of € 10,000.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY EUROPE AWARDS

The 3rd edition. Deadline for project submission: 31 October 2008. The award winners will be presented at a ceremony during the EU Sustainable Energy Week in Brussels on 10 February 2009, part of the Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign, an IEE-supported initiative of the European Commission www.sustenergy.org/award_competition

THE EXECUTIVE AGENCY FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION (EACI)

Under the **2008 call for proposals** that closed on 26th June 2008, the EACI received a total of 340 funding applications. Their evaluation will be completed by the end of the year. If you missed this year's call, your next chance to apply for IEE funding will be the publication of the 2009 call for proposals early next year.

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/call_for_proposals/index_en.htm

The Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI) launched a new website dealing with Intelligent Energy - Europe, Eco-innovation, Marco Polo, Enterprise Europe Network. The website address is <http://ec.europa.eu/eaci>

Organisations based in Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia or Montenegro are now eligible for funding under the CIP Eco-initiative. Whilst Turkey, Israel and Albania can become eligible if their Memorandum of Understanding enters into force by the call deadline of 11 September 2008.

2009 EU PRIZE FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE/ EUROPA NOSTRA AWARDS

The nominations for the EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards are now open. This award is granted annually to best practices in the conservation of tangible cultural heritage, to stimulate the exchange of knowledge and experience throughout Europe, to enhance public awareness and appreciation of Europe's cultural heritage, and to encourage further exemplary initiatives through the Power of Example.

Outstanding heritage achievements will be awarded in the following categories:

Conservation

Research

Dedicated Service by Individuals or Organisations

Education, Training and Awareness-Raising

The EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards consist of two award levels. Up to six entries will be awarded a Prize, which includes a monetary award of € 10 000. Up to twenty-five entries will be awarded a Medal. The deadline for this award is **1st October 2008**. Further information is available on http://www.europanostra.org/lang_en/index.html

Open Calls



EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND MALTA 2007-2013

Restricted Call for Proposals VP/2008/018 Learning for change - setting up learning networks under the ESF 2007-2013

The European Commission has just published a restricted call for proposals under the ESF Technical Assistance operational budget "Learning for change-Setting up learning networks under the ESF 2007-2013". The call is open for ESF Managing Authorities of the Member States and regions, collaborating with Intermediate Bodies and strategic stakeholders from different countries.

Lead partners in these transnational projects need to be Managing Authorities whereas core group partners could also be Intermediate Bodies, key stakeholders, including governmental entities/departments in charge of ESF supported policy and Beneficiaries. In the case of the latter, eligible Beneficiaries are Public Sector organisations, Local Councils, Social Partners and Voluntary Organisations.

The deadline for submission of complete applications is by 16.00 hours on 15th September 2008 for the 1st round of calls and by 16.00 hours on 28th November 2008 for the second round. The amount set aside by the Commission for 2008 is €4 million and the maximum amount to be granted per network will be €500,000. This amount may be increased by another €200,000 for networks developing and testing a common tool in a significant number of Member States. Applicants (lead partners and core group) need to provide at least 10% of the total cost of the operation. The request for Community grant should be of not less than €100,000 and not more than €700,000.

The call for proposals supports the purpose of transnational cooperation of contributing to employment policy and delivering reforms through learning from other countries and regions by bringing together people, knowledge and practice, activities, networks and fora in the field of employment, social inclusion and training. This transnational cooperation will help strengthen capacities to innovate, modernise and adapt institutions to new social and economic challenges, identify and assess issues and solutions for reforms in policy and delivery in order to meet the Lisbon targets and by improving the quality of public governance.

The specific objective of the call is to establish learning networks and community of practice on themes and issues relevant for delivering the Lisbon reform agenda. Given the Commission's 15th September deadline, interest participants are required to provide their feedback by Wednesday 20th August. Questions can be sent by email to EMPL-ESF-GRANTS-2008@ec.europa.eu or to the Transnational Contact Point within the Managing Authority: Ms Stephanie Chetcuti, Projects Manager, Email: stephanie.g.chetcuti@gov.mt

INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES POLICY SUPPORT PROGRAMME

The Information Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme is one of the main financial instruments of 2010 strategy and aims to help overcome the hurdles hindering the development of an information society for all in support of the 2010 goals. The major hurdles for the wider and better use of ICT in areas like health, inclusion, public administrations or energy efficiency include the unavailability of ICT-based services, the lack of interoperability of solutions across the Member States as well as the market fragmentation of ICT-based solutions. The ICT PSP 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. It does so by creating wider market opportunities and better services for SMEs rather than by providing direct subsidies to SMEs. The programme is expected therefore to have an impact on a wide range of SMEs extending far beyond those that participate directly in the supported actions.



The **2008 ICT-PSP Call for Proposals will close on 9 September 2008**. More information on the programme is available on http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/index_en.htm



CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROJECTS UNDER Life+

The 2008 call for proposals has been published by the European Commission on 15 July 2008. For this second LIFE+ call for proposals, the deadline for the submission of proposals to the Member States is 21 November 2008. A total amount of €207,5 million is available for the 2008 call for proposals. More information on this programme is available on <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplus.htm#second> and <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplus/call/index.htm>. The deadline for the submission of proposals to the Member States is 21st November 2008.

Open Calls

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROJECTS UNDER ECO-INNOVATION

The Call for Proposals under the Eco-innovation 2008 programme is now open. Closing date for submission of proposals (electronic only) is **Thursday 11th September 2008 at 17:00** (local time). The call text can be accessed at http://ec.europa.eu/environment/etap/ecoinnovation/library_en.htm

The 2008 Call seeks to fund some of the best eco-innovative pilot and market replication projects (i.e. new products, processes or services showing clear environmental benefits) and help them succeed in the market. About **€28 million** are available for funding, covering up to 60% of the total eligible costs. The Call is open to all legal persons that are based in eligible countries but the priority will be given to SMEs. Clusters of applicants and projects which demonstrate a European added value and have a high potential for market replication are strongly encouraged. This year's funding priorities are: materials recycling (better sorting processes, innovative recycling products, new recycling solutions for energy-intensive industries, etc.); buildings (innovative processes and products in the building sector, sustainable construction materials, etc.); food & drink (cleaner, more efficient processes for production, waste treatment and reduction, recycling and recovery, water management, etc.); greening business and smart purchasing (Eco-Management & Audit Scheme applications for clusters of enterprises, eco-design, eco-labelling, life cycle approaches)

More information on the Programme is available on http://ec.europa.eu/environment/etap/ecoinnovation/index_en.htm. The national contact point may be contacted on tel: 21497970 or email cip@mimcol.com



LIFE LONG LEARNING PROGRAMME

Comenius/Grundtvig, In-Service Training Courses -31 October for courses between 01.01.09 and 31.03.09. For more information visit : www.llp.eupa.org.mt

Youth in Action Programme-

All Actions:

1 September for projects between 01.12.08 and 30.04.09

1 November for projects between 01.02.09 and 31.07.09

Further information can be obtained from : www.yia.eupa.org.mt

CALLS FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROJECTS UNDER EUROPE FOR CITIZENS PROGRAMME

The aim of this programme is to enhance participation in the European Construction. Eligible expenses include transnational exchanges and cooperation activities that develop European ideals and integration.

Action 1 : Town Twinning Citizens' Meetings: For meetings occurring in the period 1st January-31March 2009. Deadline 1 st September

Thematic Networks of twinned Towns: Deadline is 1 st December 2008 for activities starting between 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010

Further information can be available on: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/guide/index_en.htm



CALL FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM PROJECTS - COHESION POLICY 2007 – 2013

A new Call for Project Proposals under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) 2007-2013 has been launched by the Planning and Priorities Co-ordination Division (PPCD) within the Office of the Prime Minister. This call has been designed specifically for Non-Governmental Organizations, Voluntary Organizations and Partner Organizations which are interested in implementing projects under Priority Axis 2 of Operational Programme I, 'Investing in Competitiveness for a Better Quality of Life'. The call closes at NOON on **16th September 2008**. Eligible organizations are invited to submit applications for projects which aim to promote sustainable tourism and which fall within the following focus areas of intervention: Priority Axis 2: Focus Areas – Product Development; Niche Market Development and Branding. The Financial Threshold for this call is **€7 million**.

The Application Forms and Guidance Notes as well as further information can be downloaded from http://ppcd.gov.mt/calls_all. Prospective applicants should refer to Operational Programme I and the Guidance Notes in order to check whether their project proposals are eligible for funding through this call for project proposals.

For generic queries relating to this Call or to Cohesion Policy 2007-2013, kindly refer to PPCD's website: www.ppcd.gov.mt or contact PPCD's Email Helpdesk: info.ppcd@gov.mt.

Open Calls

European Parliament Grants for Television Programmes, Events, Websites and internet-based initiatives, Projects Targeting children and young adults, Radio.

The European Parliament Office in Malta has announced a Call for Proposals for the 2009 EP Grants that will focus on the role played of the Parliament in the decision-making process. €5,000,000 are available for Grants to applicants in the EU-27. The EP Grants 2009 aim to enhance an understanding of the role of the European Parliament and how it functions, to encourage a wider public participation in the decision-making process, and to provide a platform for citizens to raise issues which are important to them.

Proposed Projects may take the form of:

1. Television Programmes.
2. Public Events.
3. Websites and other Internet-based initiatives.
4. Projects targeting children and young adults.
5. Radio Programmes.



This funding opportunity is specifically aimed at projects proposing new and interesting methods of communication. **Proposed Projects must take place between 1st January 2009 at the earliest and 30th April 2009.** The Call for Proposals, Application Forms, Guidance Notes, and Description of Themes are available for download on www.europarl.europa.eu/valletta. **Deadline for Applications : 1st October 2008, at noon.**



Open Call for Territorial Cooperation Projects - Archimed Programme

The third call for project proposals has just been launched by the Interreg IIB Archimed Programme, cofinanced by the European Regional Development Fund.

Under this programme, Maltese partners (public and public equivalent entities) may participate in transnational projects together with partners from Greece, Cyprus and Italy (Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Sicily and Puglia). The total ERDF budgetary allocation for this call amounts to € 5,000,000 whereas the total budget for each project should be between € 200,000 and € 1,500,000.

Projects may be submitted under the following priority axes:

- Priority Axis 1: Strategies for spatial planning development, development of urban systems and integration of the island areas;
- Priority Axis 2: Transport and telecommunication networks – information society;
- Priority Axis 3: Integrated and sustainable management of cultural, natural resources, landscapes and risk management.

Before applying, project applicants are strongly advised to read carefully the [Community Initiative Programme, the Programme Complement and all the documents included in the Applicants' Package](#). Maltese Project applicants should also follow the [financial guidelines issued by PPCD in July 2006](#) as well as [OPM Circular 34/2004](#).

Applications should be submitted to the Managing Authority for the Archimed programme by not later than **22nd August 2008** at the following address: Managing Authority of CIP INTERREG, 65, Georgikis Scholis Avenue, 57 001, Pilea, Thessaloniki, Greece. Further information may be obtained from www.interreg.gr or the [Archimed](#) page on the PPCD website. Generic queries may be addressed to the [Online Helpdesk](#)



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