



**Malta-EU Steering
& Action Committee**

The Civil Society Fund & other Funding Structures

10th June, 2010

Introduction to EU Funding

- EU Funding is divided into two categories, being; **(i) Indirect** and **(ii) Direct funding**
- **Indirect funding** relates to Cohesion Policy and Structural funding. Therefore, the objectives centre on those earmarked by the member states (national priorities). Submissions are received and evaluated by national agencies.
- A total of €855 million has been allocated for the 2007-2013 budgetary period.
- Further information on the distribution of Structural and Cohesion Policy financing is available on the Planning and Priorities Coordination Department's website (**PPCD**) (http://ppcd.gov.mt/07_13?|=1)
- On the other hand, **direct funding** is defined as funding programmes which reflect priorities set for the 27 member states. Applications are generally received and evaluated centrally (i.e. The relevant agencies based in Brussels). A example of direct funding is the Europe for Citizens (**EfC**) Programme

Indirect Funding Calls

- The following are examples of indirect funding models , co-financed by the **E**uropean **R**egional **D**evelopment **F**und and **E**uropean **S**ocial **F**und.
- ERDF and ESF frameworks are also utilised by:
- Operational Programme I - *Investing in Competitiveness for a Better Quality of Life* (**7 priority axes**);
- Operational Programme II - *Empowering People for more jobs and a Better Quality of Life* (**5 priority axes**) structures.

OPI & OPII calls

- **ERDF Priority Axis 4 - Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change (Deadline: 16th July 2010)**

The call focuses on the interventions planned by Local Councils and NGOs to boost energy efficiency through the use of renewable energy sources and practices, thus highlighting the role to be played by actors at the local level. The total budget co-financed by the ERDF fund is €3.5 million.

For the purpose of this call, NGOs targeting submission need to have been founded at least a year prior to the call, with buildings under consideration to be owned by the applicant in question

- **ESF Priority Axis I - Strategic Educational Pathway Scholarships - STEPS (Deadline: 15th June 2010)**

Currently in its 4th call, the STEPS programme provides individuals with financial assistance so as to pursue academic specialisation in a number of given areas. Applicable areas include part-time, full-time and long-distance learning Master's courses and full-time doctorate degrees. The 4th call amounts to a total budget of €3 million.

Europe for Citizens

- The scope of the Europe for Citizens programme underlines the EU's commitment to enabling its citizens to actively contribute to the integration process. The framework also strives to bring the EU closer to its citizens
- Of equal importance is the development of a European identity and the instilling a sense of ownership in the EU's continued growth
- Furthermore, emphasis is placed on the preservation of cultural and linguistic diversity through intercultural dialogue.

The main strands

- **Action 1 – Active Citizens for Europe**

Directed specifically at activities involving citizens in line with the Programme's objectives

- **Action 2 – Active Civil Society in Europe**

Directed at civil society organisations and think tanks, who will receive either structural support on the basis of their work programme (operating grant) or support to transnational projects (action grant)

- **Action 3 – Together for Europe**

Aims at deepening the concept of 'active European citizenship' and at promoting its understanding all over Europe. Not dealt with here as events/studies/dissemination tool are organised by the Commission

- **Action 4 – Active European Remembrance**

Aims at preserving the main sites and archives associated with deportations and at commemorating the victims of Nazism and Stalinism



Youth in Action

- The programme takes into consideration the socio-economic achievements that has in turn presented youths with numerous opportunities. These include freedom of movement made possible mainly by the creation of a largely borderless Europe.
- In view of the ever-changing European social and economic space, the EU deems the YiA framework as an essential tool for young people to play in the continued development on both a national and Union level.
- Therefore, the key objectives set under the YiA structure are driven by the EU Youth strategy. Emphasis is placed on the promotion of the core values of active European citizenship, social inclusion, intercultural diversity and solidarity of young people. Other Annual priorities are also highlighted by the European Commission.

The main Strands

Action 1

Youth for Europe

Action 2

European Voluntary Service

Action 3

Youth in the World

Action 4

Youth support systems

Action 5

Support for policy cooperation



Other call specifics

- Budget: €885 million covering the 5 actions.
- Period covered: 2007 -2013.
- Age bracket: 15 - 28 (13 - 30 range applies in some areas).
- Eligibility: citizens from the EU-27;
- EFTA members of the EEA (*Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway*) are categorised as Participating Countries;
- Turkey (candidate country)
- Individual calls are also provide for the involvement of Neighbouring Partner countries. (Participation criteria is specified in each call).

Sport

- Current call open entitled - “Preparatory Actions in the Field of Sport”.
- Emphasis placed on the addressing of priorities currently being faced by sport organisations and prevalent within the various disciplines.



- The priorities include: (i) The fight against doping, (ii) Social inclusion through sport, (iii) Boosting the concept of volunteering through sport
- Actions financed by this call are not to be limited to basic research or conferences
- All three themes necessitate the involvement of at least groups from 5 member states
- Deadline: 31st August, 2010

The co-financing fund

- Launched by the Maltese Government in 2009, the co-financing instruments seeks to address the financial limitations faced by both Local Councils (LCs) and CSOs in the submission and implementation of EU-funded projects.
- The two separate budgets are currently open to LCs and CSOs, with a total of €280,000 on offer to the latter.
- Projects eligible for co-financing strive to further enhance EU and national policies. Therefore, the overall goal of such actions point to active involvement and support being given at the local level.
- CSOs that intend to submit a project under any of the EU Funded Programmes during 2010 may apply with funds released upon receipt that acknowledgement that their project has been accepted and financed.
- CSOs which have already submitted a project under any of the EU Funded Programmes and have acknowledgement that their project has been accepted and financed and for which the project commences at any stage as from the 1st of July 2009.

- Eligible entities:
 - Voluntary, self-governing organisations not subject to direction by public authorities, independent of political control or Social Partners Organisations (such as employers organisations and trade-unions having official recognition and regulated by Maltese law or regulation or administrative act).
 - Eligible organisations cannot be of a commercial or industrial nature. Therefore, financing can only be accessed by organisations that have founded to address areas/interests which are either general or set in the mission statement.
 - Beneficiaries are also required to be actively involved in MEUSAC's consultation process.
 - The mentioned entities are still required to provide a level of financing
- Submission deadline: 1st December 2010 (applications to be forwarded to: **The CSOs Co-Financing Committee, Parliamentary Secretariat for Consumer Affairs, Fair Competition, Local Councils, and Public Dialogue, Office of the Prime Minister, Auberge De Castille, Valletta**).
- Application form and guidelines can be accessed on: <http://meusac.gov.mt/fme/749/default.aspx>

Civil Society Fund (CSF)

Placing the onus on the involvement of CSOs in the development of the Union, the Civil Society Fund provides financial assistance for Non-governmental organisations to contribute to the process.

The objectives of the CSF as set out in Part B, Type I are the following:

- Keep abreast of developments in the European Union;
- Enable CSOs and its members to increase their understanding on EU matters relevant to their fields of competence; and
- Enable CSOs to further participate in the decision-making process at European level.

Eligibility Criteria

The following denotes the status of potential CSF beneficiaries:

- Civil Society Organisations that include: Voluntary, self-governing organisations not subject to direction by public authorities, independent of political control and enrolled with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations in terms of the Voluntary Organisations Act, and Social Partners (employers organisations and trade-unions having official recognition under some specific law or regulation or administrative act);
- Established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest or in the interest of their mission statement and not having an industrial or commercial character. Supporting documents should be attached to the application form.
- Only organisations actively and regularly participating in the MEUSAC consultation structures (Core Group and Sectoral Committees) are eligible.

Financing process

Given the instrument's aim to support the participation of Local CSOs, fees for the membership in European organisations is one example of eligible costs.

The funds available under this policy will cover a percentage of up to **80%** of the eligible expenses borne by the respective Civil Society Organisation. In the case of travel-incurred expenses, the Committee will only consider eligible for reimbursement the most economical air fare (on presentation of ticket/s and boarding passes).

The percentage rate will be determined by the Evaluation Committee and such decision shall be final.

Upon approval of the project proposal, the grant allocated will be paid out in two instalments:

- Pre-financing of up to **70%** of the grant following the signature by the organisation of the grant agreement. The precise pre-financing rate is to be determined by the Committee.
- The balance once the final technical implementation report and the financial statement, complete with the relevant receipts have been approved by the Committee.

- Further information on the 2010 CSF call issue and deadlines will be announced in due course (*Period to be covered by 2010 call: 1st September 2010 - 31st December 2011*).
- Details of the 2009 fund are available on MEUSAC's website: <http://www.meusac.gov.mt/fme/450/default.aspx>

Thank you for your time

Simon Grech

e-mail: simon.grech@gov.mt

Contact Number: 2200 3323

Oswaldo Zammit

e-mail: osvaldo.zammit@gov.mt

Contact Number: 2200 3308