

THE PEP Steering Committee, 9th session

Agenda item 7(c)

IMPLEMENTING THE AMSTERDAM DECLARATION

THE PEP PARTNERSHIP

Transport, Environment and Health

**A pocket guidebook to working in
partnership with the European Union**



***DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION WITH THE PEP STEERING COMMITTEE
At its Ninth Session***

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Introduction

About the Transport, Health and Environment Pan European Programme (THE PEP)

The Transport Health and Environment Pan European Programme (THE PEP), established in 2002, aims at bringing together key players from the three sectors on an equal footing. THE PEP pools capacities and skills from Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia and North America to support translating national policy into local action. It offers a platform for countries to share information and know-how and benefit from experience. By integrating transport, health and environment policies, THE PEP contributes to a greener economy, safeguarding health and the environment.

Following the Third High Level Meeting on Transport Environment and Health (2009), which adopted the Amsterdam Declaration – Making THE Link – *Transport choices for our Health, Environment and Prosperity*, THE PEP work plan is geared towards the achievement of the following four priority goals:

1. to contribute to sustainable economic development and stimulate job creation through investment in environment- and health-friendly transport;
2. to manage sustainable mobility and promote a more efficient transport system,
3. to reduce emissions of transport-related greenhouse gases, air pollutants and noise and
4. to promote policies and actions conducive to healthy and safe modes of transport

Progress towards the achievement of these goals is facilitated by three supportive implementation mechanisms, which include:

- the development of partnerships between interested stakeholder to address specific priority areas;
- thematic workshops to strengthen capacities and share experiences (THE PEP relay race)
- support to national implementation, notably through the development of National Transport, Health and Environment Action Plans (NTHEAPs).

The implementation of THE PEP work plan implies the development of collaborations among different countries from the pan-European Region, as well between different level of policy, ranging from the international to the national and local ones.

In this context, the European Union stands out as a key partner for European governments, both through its set of policies in the fields of transport, health, environment, and through the numerous opportunities for collaboration and support to national action and international cooperation provided by its set of financing instruments.

An example of an on-going collaboration with the European Commission is a project co-financed by the Directorate General for Health and Consumers Safety under its Health Programme, on “Promoting networking and action on healthy and equitable environments for physical activity (PHAN)”. PHAN is contributing to THE PEP implementation, by providing the opportunity of further improving tools for including the health effects of cycling and walking into transport policies.

About this document

This guidebook was developed by a consultant to THE PEP secretariat to provide Member States and other stakeholders participating in THE PEP implementation with basic information about how to integrate the national economic resources with the funding opportunities offered by European Union in the three main operational sectors of the PEP Programme: Transport, Health and Environment.

The guidebook focuses on the EU financial instruments of the greatest potential relevance to THE PEP, as well as on opportunities for non—EU member states to participate in the projects. It is not meant to provide a comprehensive guidance on each of the instruments reviewed, but rather at offering a synthetic overview of existing opportunities. After highlighting the main categories of available financial instruments, the document highlights operational aspects such as:

- specific funding instruments and their scope;
- funding mechanisms;
- eligibility for participation;
- existing resources to support participation;
- indications on how to apply.

It is hoped that this guidebook will facilitate a better understanding of the many opportunities for collaboration with the European Union and be a supportive practical tool for the further implementation of THE PEP workplan.

About the principles of the European Union supportive instruments

The current financial tools were established following the publication on the 26 January 2005 of the European Commission the EU COM(2005) 12 final document, in which the European Union indicated the “strategic objectives” for the period 2005 – 2009 “Europe 2010: A Partnership for European Renewal” in which the goals of “Prosperity, Solidarity and Security” were identified.

- The “*prosperity*” principle aims at giving a response to the lack of growth and to foster the job creation in order to safeguard the standard of living and social protection in Europe.
- The “*solidarity*” principle aims at working for sustainable development to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- The "*security and freedom*" principle involves that European institutions must tackle the risks faced by citizens in their daily life. The protection of the life and the property of citizens is a core task giving legitimacy to public power and public policies. Security also means the ability of citizens to run their daily life on a secure basis. This can be put at risk by natural disasters, environmental or health crises and transport and energy threats. The Union has a role to play at all stages: risk prevention, early warning, crisis management, and acting in solidarity with the victims of disasters
- "*Europe as International Partner*" based on the principle that in the world today, EU can only deliver fully on our key internal priorities if we succeed on the world scene. Globalisation and increasing interdependence have abolished many of the old distinctions between internal and external policy challenges. The political clout of the Union should better match its economic weight. To address this goal, the Union must achieve greater political coherence in external action: coherence between different branches of external policy; coherence between internal and external policies; and coherence in action between that of the Union or Member States bilaterally. The EU policy towards the rest of the world is oriented mainly in the following directions:
 - *future enlargements* of the European Union to increase its global strength, to prepare further enlargements, focusing on the negotiations with Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Iceland and Montenegro. At the same time, the other South Eastern Countries (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo and Serbia) will also be brought closer to the membership perspective;
 - the *neighbourhood policy* to increase the reach of the largest economy in the world. It aims at creating a more integrated space with our neighbours (Newly Independent States - NIS and the Mediterranean countries - MEDA) for the better management of some sectors: trade; immigration; networks; services to list just a few examples of areas where there is the need for such integrated space. The economic and social progress of the whole Mediterranean area and countries that border it is also a prime European concern;
 - *development of much closer partnerships*, based on the economic interests, with EU new trading partners in Asia such as China and India, as well as with Brazil and Latin America more generally in order to promote competitiveness and growth;
 - *promotion of global solidarity* seen also a way to promote and protect our values outside our borders. Europe must promote stable international growth founded on sustainable development and remain true to its commitment to human rights and to the poverty reduction through effective multilateralism and trade liberalisation facilitating the integration of developing countries into the world economy. The Union needs a specific response for Africa, in particular Sub-Saharan Africa which is falling behind;
 - *Europe cannot survive as an island of peace in a world of instability*. Europe's external policy needs to be adjusted to international developments including crisis and global security challenges. The Union has the potential to wield much more influence over the long-term political and economic choices determining prosperity and stability in Europe and the wider world. In turn,

these influence the well-being and security of Europeans. External action is also required to tackle stability and security issues at their root by strongly promoting sustainable development through both multilateral and bilateral channels. They must be at the heart of all the Union's external relationships. A successful neighbourhood policy is a step towards world stability and security. So Europe's commitment is to play an active role in searching for, and implementing on the ground a Middle East peace settlement. So too is closer security cooperation with the United States in the framework of a re-invigorated transatlantic partnership.

- Also *European security and defence capabilities* need to match these challenges by providing a fully credible capability for action, through a full implementation of the European Security Strategy and a more effective European Security and Defence Policy.

The main financial mechanisms of the EU

In order to achieve its strategic objectives, the European Union (EU) has set up two different modalities of financial instruments:

- A. the ***indirect management***, which includes:
 - Structural Funds
- B. the ***direct management***, which includes:
 - EU direct funding
 - External assistance financial instruments

Financial support from EU is usually provided on a project selection procedure. The EU, through its various financial instruments promotes cooperation and synergy across and outside Europe.

The difference between direct and indirect funding

To the "***indirect funding***" belong the so-called "Structural Funds" and "Cohesion Fund", which are financial tools set up to implement the Cohesion policy, are also referred to as the Regional policy of the European Union. They aim to reduce regional disparities in terms of income, wealth and opportunities. Europe's poorer regions receive most of the support, but all European regions are eligible for funding under the policy's various funds and programmes.

The Structural Funds are made up of the

- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- European Social Fund (ESF).

Together with the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund make up the great bulk of EU funding, and the majority of total EU spending.

Apart from funds under the Cohesion policy, there are other funds that have the potential to contribute to the regional development. These are:

- Funds under the CAP, namely the European agricultural guarantee fund (EAGF)
- the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)
- The European fisheries fund (EFF)

In the ***indirect funding***, (the Structural Funds) the Community budget, is spent through a system of shared responsibility between the European Commission and Member State authorities:

- the Commission negotiates and approves the development programmes proposed by the Member States, and allocates resources.
- the Member States and their regions manage the programmes, implement them by selecting projects, control and assess them.

- the Commission is involved in programme monitoring, commits and pays out approved expenditure and verifies the control systems.

For each operational programme, the Member State appoints:

- **a managing authority** (a national, regional or local public authority or public/private body to manage the operational programme);
- **a certification body** (a national, regional or local public authority or body to certify the statement of expenditure and the payment applications before their transmission to the Commission);
- **an auditing body** (a national, regional or local public authority or body for each operational programme to oversee the efficient running of the management and monitoring system).

In this way over the 76% of the EU budget is thus managed by national and regional authorities.

In the **Direct funding** also known as “community programmes”, the European Community, through the different General Directorates of the European Commission manage directly the EU budget in the different sectors (research, education, environment, transport etc.). The funds are transferred directly from the European Commission to the beneficiaries who use the budget to implement the awarded projects.

Another important distinction lies in the fact that structural funds, fund mainly infrastructure structures, whereas the direct fund mostly innovative ideas elaborated in partnership with other countries.

How do I apply?

- Applications, within the structural Funds are managed at national and regional level and, as a result, are submitted to and evaluated by national and regional Authorities.
- For EU grants, application procedures are set out in the call for proposals for specific programmes and project proposers apply directly to the European Commission or an executive agency which runs the programme in question.

The difference between grants and public contracts

The General Directorates of the European Commission to implement the European Programmes may use two types of procedures:

- **Grants** are awarded to the beneficiary to co-finance specific projects or objectives and can be usually be obtained through call for proposals.
- **Public contracts** are awarded through call for tenders (public procurement) to buy services, goods or works in order to ensure the operations of EU Institutions or programmes.

THE PEP and the EU funding instruments at a glance

The following table provides a synthetic overview of existing instruments, which are further discussed in the following sections.

	Area of relevance	Who can apply	Funding mechanism	Who can help?
DIRECT FUNDING				
Life+	Environment	public or private bodies actors or institutions registered in the European Union.	Call for proposals to be published on the Official Journal of the EU or on the website of the DG	DG EU Environment and National Contact Point, usually the National Environment Ministries of the Member States
Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP), Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP), Information Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme (ICT-PSP) and Intelligent Energy Europe Programme (IEE)	Environment and Transport	SMEs, financial institutions, business organizations, of the following countries: EFTA, EEA, candidate countries, Western Balkans	Call for proposals to be published on the Official Journal of the EU or on the website of the DG	DG Enterprise and Industry At a regional level, information can be obtained from the Enterprise Europe Network located in all Member States. There are also CIP National Contact Points specialized on ICT and on Intelligent Energy Europe Programme.
Research – Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)	Environment and Transport and Health	Research groups at universities or research Institutes, SMEs, industries, Public administrations Researchers, international organizations, civil society organizations from Member States, Associated countries, candidate countries, third countries	Call for proposals to be published on the Official Journal of the EU or on Cordis website	Different thematic DGs. At local level there is a network of National Contact Points, Cordis Help desk
Trans European Networks-Transport (TEN-T)	Transport and Environment	Companies of the EU Member States and international organizations, joint undertakings private/public	Call for tenders published on the website of the DG Mobility and	DG Mobility and Transport

	Area of relevance	Who can apply	Funding mechanism	Who can help?
		undertakings bodies from EU member States	Transport	
Marco Polo	Transport	Single undertakings and consortia both from private and public sector from candidate countries, EFTA	Call for proposals to be published on the Official Journal of the EU or on the website of the DG	DG Transport Marco Polo Help desk
Health programme	Health	Non-governmental organisations, public sector bodies, public administrations, universities, higher education establishments, public and private research institutions and commercial firms. The organisation needs to be legally established in: one of the 27 EU member states. Partners can also come from: EFTA, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Serbia and Montenegro	Call for proposals to be published on the Official Journal of the EU or on the website of the DG	DG Health and Consumers and the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers
Consumer Programme	Health	Public bodies Non-profit organisations Universities and equivalent institutions Specialised ONG European consumer organisations Consumer protection officials From the following countries: Member States EFTA/EEA countries Third countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy Western Balkan countries Acceding and Candidate Countries	Call for proposals to be published on the Official Journal of the EU or on the website of the DG	DG Health and Consumers and the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers
Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)	Environment; Transport and Health	beneficiary countries are divided into two categories: EU candidate countries Potential Candidate Countries	Call for tenders to be published on the Official Journal of the EU (TED database) or on the website of the DG	DG Enlargement
The European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)	Transport, Environment, Health	decentralised institutions and entities in partner countries and regions, mixed organisations, international and regional organisations, international financial	Call for for tenders to be published on the Official Journal of the EU (Ted database) or on the website of the	DG Development and cooperation

	Area of relevance	Who can apply	Funding mechanism	Who can help?
		institutions, European institutions and agencies to a certain extent, non-governmental players. The following countries are involved: MEDA countries: Algeria, Egypt, Gaza/West Bank (Palestine Authority), Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, * Tunisia, Libya, * Turkey NIS countries: Ukraine, Belarus*, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kirghizistan, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia	DG	
Development Co-operation Instrument (DCI)	Transport, Environment, Health	Partner countries and regions, institutions, Local governments in the partner countries, non state actors, international organizations, EU agencies from 18 countries in Latin America, 29 in Asia, 5 in the Middle East and South Africa	Call for tenders to be published on the Official Journal of the EU (TED database) or on the website of the DG	DG Development and cooperation
INDIRECT FUNDING				
Convergence 1. Objective Regional 2. Competitiveness and Employment Objective	Transport, Environment, Health	public bodies, some private sector organisations (especially small businesses), universities, associations, NGOs and voluntary organisations. Foreign firms with a base in the region covered by the relevant operational programme EU Member States	Applications have to be sent to National and Regional Authorities	The Managing Authorities of the Single Regional or national Operational Programmes
3. Territorial Cooperation	Transport, environment	public bodies, some private sector organisations (especially small businesses), universities, associations, NGOs and voluntary organisations. Foreign firms with a base in the region covered by the relevant operational programme EU Member States, IPA countries and Meda countries	Applications have to be sent to National and Regional Authorities	The Managing Authorities of the Single Regional or national Operational Programmes

The indirect funding: the Structural funds

The Structural funds includes *three objective*;

1. Convergence Objective
2. Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective
3. Territorial Cooperation Objective

and *three funds*:

1. European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
2. European Social Fund (ESF)
3. The Cohesion Fund

The three objectives

Convergence Objective

The Convergence objective (Formerly Objective 1): covers regions whose GDP per capita is below 75% of the EU average and aims at accelerating their economic development. It is financed by the ERDF, the ESF and the Cohesion Fund. The priorities under this objective are human and physical capital, innovation, knowledge society, environment and administrative efficiency. The budget allocated to this objective is € 283.3bn in current prices. The list of the covered regions In Europe is available at the following web site:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/how/coverage/index_en.cfm#1

Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective

Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective (Formerly Objective 2) covers all regions of the EU territory, except those already covered by the Convergence objective. It aims at reinforcing competitiveness, employment and attractiveness of these regions. Innovation, the promotion of entrepreneurship and environment protection are the main themes of this objective. The funding – € 55bn in current prices – comes from the ERDF and the ESF.

The list of the covered regions in Europe is available at the following web site:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/how/coverage/index_en.cfm#2

Territorial Cooperation Objective

Territorial Cooperation Objective (Formerly Objective 3) builds upon the Interreg initiatives of previous years, which were originally planned to be fully incorporated into the main objectives of the structural funds. Financed by the ERDF with a budget of €8.7bn, its aim is to promote cooperation between European regions, as well as the development of common solutions for issues such as urban, rural and coastal development, shared resource management or improved transport links. This objective is divided in three strands:

- *cross-border cooperation* (formerly the Interreg IIIA) - aimed at neighboring border-regions
- *transnational cooperation* - aimed at the multilateral cooperation of regions from countries (minimally 3) divided into wider programme areas (e.g. Central Europe, Southeast Europe, Mediterranean, etc.)
- *interregional cooperation* - aimed at cooperation in the field of policy making, research and capacity building, encompassing programmes Interact II, ESPON, Interreg IVC and URBACT

The European Territorial Co-operation objective is financed by the European Regional Development Fund and supports cross-border, transnational and interregional co-operation programmes. The budget of €8.7 billion for this objective accounts for 2.5% of the total 2007-13 allocation for cohesion policy, including the allocation for Member States to participate in EU external border co-operation programmes supported by other instruments (IPA and ENPI). For European Territorial Co-operation the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) regulation is applicable, in particular chapter 3. The complete list of the concerned regions in Europe is available at the following web site:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/how/coverage/index_en.cfm#3

The European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) is a new European legal instrument designed to facilitate and promote cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation. Unlike the structures which governed this kind of cooperation before 2007, the EGTC is a legal entity and as such, will enable regional and local authorities and other public bodies from different member states, to set up cooperation groupings with a legal personality.

Cross-border co-operation programmes

Cross-border cooperation is essentially about "filling the gaps". It does so through agreed cross-border 'analysis and response' strategies, formulated in each of the 52 cross-border programmes. It deals with a wide range of issues, which include:

- Encouraging entrepreneurship, especially the development of SMEs, tourism, culture and cross-border trade;
- Improving joint management of natural resources;
- Supporting links between urban and rural areas;
- Improving access to transport and communication networks;
- Developing joint use of infrastructure;
- Administrative, employment and equal opportunities work.

Cross-border co-operation intends to address the challenges related to infrastructure (building bridges), markets and services (linking universities to business to clients) cultural or linguistic barriers.

The Cross-border Programmes are:

- CBC AT/CZ Austria - Czech Republic
- CBC AT/DE Austria - Bavaria
- CBC AT/HU Austria - Hungary
- CBC BE/DE/FR/LU Greater Region

- CBC BE/NL Border Region Flanders - Netherlands
- CBC CZ/PL Czech Republic - Poland
- CBC DE/AT/CH/LI Alpenrhein - Bodensee - Hochrhein
- CBC DE/CZ Bavaria - Czech Republic
- CBC DE/CZ Saxony - Czech Republic
- CBC DE/NL Germany - Netherlands
- CBC DE/PL Mecklenburg-Vorpommern/Brandenburg - Zachodniopomorskie
- CBC DE/PL Saxony - Poland
- CBC DK/DE Syddanmark - Schleswig - K.E.R.N.
- CBC EE/LV Estonia - Latvia
- CBC EL/BG Greece - Bulgaria
- CBC EL/CY Greece - Cyprus
- CBC EL/IT Greece - Italy
- CBC ES/FR/AD Spain - France - Andorra
- CBC ES/PT Spain - Portugal
- CBC FI/SE/EE/LA Central Baltic
- CBC FR/BR/SU Amazonia
- CBC FR/DE/CH Upper Rhine
- CBC FR/UK France (Manche) - England
- CBC FR/UK/BE/NL 2 Seas
- CBC France - Switzerland
- CBC HU/RO Hungary - Romania
- CBC HU/SK Hungary - Slovakia
- CBC IE/UK Northern Ireland - Border Region of Ireland - Western Scotland
- CBC IT/AT Italy - Austria
- CBC IT/CH Italy - Switzerland
- CBC IT/FR Italy - France 'Maritime'
- CBC IT/FR Italy - France ALCOTRA
- CBC IT/MT Italy - Malta
- CBC IT/SI Italy- Slovenia
- CBC LT/PL Lithuania - Poland
- CBC LV/LT Latvia - Lithuania
- CBC NL/BE/DE Euregio Meuse-Rhine
- CBC PL/DE Lubuskie - Brandenburg
- CBC PL/SE/DK/LT/DE South Baltic
- CBC PL/SK Poland - Slovak Republic
- CBC Programme Spain External Borders
- CBC RO/BG Romania - Bulgaria
- CBC SE/DK/NO Öresund - Kattegat - Skagerrak
- CBC SE/FI/NO Botnia - Atlantica
- CBC SE/FI/NO Nord
- CBC SE/NO Sweden - Norway
- CBC SI/AT Slovenia - Austria
- CBC SI/HU Slovenia - Hungary
- CBC SK/AT Slovak Republic - Austria
- CBC SK/CZ Slovak Republic - Czech Republic
- CBC UK/IE Ireland - Wales

For the link to each single programme web site visit Interact web site:

<http://www.interact-eu.net/cbcprogrammes/18>

The programme factsheets are available in electronic form and in other languages on the DG Regional Policy Website.

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/atlas2007/eu/crossborder/index_en.htm

Transnational co-operation programmes

The transnational programmes add an important extra European dimension to regional development, developed from analysis at a European level, leading to agreed priorities and a coordinated strategic response.

This allows meaningful work between regions from several EU Member States on matters such as communication corridors, flood management, international business and research linkages, and the development of more viable and sustainable markets. Themes covered include:

- Innovation, especially networks of universities, research institutions, SMEs;
- Environment, especially water resources, rivers, lakes, sea;
- Accessibility, including telecommunications, and in particular the completion of networks;
- Sustainable urban development, especially polycentric development.

There are currently 13 transnational co-operation programmes.

The Transnational programmes are:

1. Northern Periphery
2. Baltic Sea
3. North West Europe
4. North Sea
5. Atlantic coast
6. Alpine Space
7. Central Europe
8. South West Europe
9. Mediterranean
10. South East Europe
11. Caribbean Area
12. Acores-Madeiras-Canarias
13. Indian Ocean area

For the link to each single programme web site visit Interact web site:

The http://www.interact-eu.net/transnational_programmes/110

Further information are available on Europe portal

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

Interregional co-operation

Interregional cooperation works at pan-European level, covering all EU-27 Member States, and more. It builds networks to develop good practice and facilitate the exchange and

transfer of experience by successful regions. It showcases what regions do well, to the benefit of those still investing.

The INTERREG IV C programme enables EU regions to work together and is structured around two priorities, which address:

- innovation and the knowledge economy
- environment and risk prevention.

It involves the following countries: EU-27, Norway and Switzerland.

Priority 2 of the programme includes the following sub-themes:

- natural and technological risks (including climate change);
- water management;
- waste management;
- biodiversity and preservation of natural heritage (including air quality);
- energy and sustainable transport;
- cultural heritage and landscape.

Priority 1 includes as a sub-theme innovation, research and technological development.

<http://www.interreg4c.net/>

The network programme: Urbact

The URBACT II programme brings together actors at local and regional level to exchange experience and to facilitate learning on urban policy themes. The programme supports thematic networks and working groups between cities, conferences and the development of tools.

It involves the following countries: EU-27, Norway and Switzerland.

<http://urbact.eu/>

The three Funds

European Regional Development Fund

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) supports programmes addressing regional development, economic change, enhanced competitiveness and territorial co-operation throughout the EU. Funding priorities include modernising economic structures, creating sustainable jobs and economic growth, research and innovation, environmental protection and risk prevention. Investment in infrastructure also retains an important role, especially in the least-developed regions.

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/thefunds/regional/index_en.cfm

The European Social Fund

The European Social Fund (ESF) focuses on four key areas: increasing the adaptability of workers and enterprises, enhancing access to employment and participation in the labour market, reinforcing social inclusion by combating discrimination and facilitating access to the labour market for disadvantaged people, and promoting partnership for reform in the fields of employment and inclusion.

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/thefunds/social/index_en.cfm

The Cohesion Fund

The Cohesion Fund contributes to interventions in the field of the environment and trans-European transport networks. It applies to member states with a Gross National Income (GNI) of less than 90% of the EU average. As such, it covers all 12 new member states as well as Greece and Portugal. Spain is also eligible for the Cohesion Fund, but on a transitional basis (so-called "phasing out").

In general, the overarching priorities for the Structural Funds are set at the EU level and then transformed into national priorities by the member states and regions.

At the EU level the overarching priorities are established in the Community Strategic Guidelines (CSG). These set the framework for all actions that can be taken using the funds. Within this framework, each member state develops its own National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF). The NSRF sets out the priorities for the respective member state, taking specific national policies into account.

Finally, Operational Programmes for each region within the member state are drawn up in accordance with the respective NSRF, reflecting the needs of individual regions.

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/thefunds/cohesion/index_en.cfm

The basic documents

- *At EU Level:* Community Strategic Guidelines
- *At National Level:* National Strategic Reference Framework for each member state,
- *At Regional Level:* Operational Programme for each region.

The *Community Strategic Guidelines* (CSG) contain the principles and priorities of the EU's cohesion policy and suggest ways the European regions can take full advantage of the funding that has been made available for national and regional aid programmes for the period 2007-2013. There are three priorities:

- Improving the attractiveness of member states, regions and cities by improving accessibility, ensuring adequate quality and level of services, and preserving their environmental potential;
- Encouraging innovation, entrepreneurship and the growth of the knowledge economy by supporting research and innovation capacities, including new information and communication technologies;
- Creating more and better jobs by attracting more people into employment entrepreneurial activity, improving adaptability of workers and enterprises and increasing investment in human capital.

National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) establishes the main priorities for spending the EU structural funding a member state receives between 2007 and 2013. Each member state has its own NSRF. Adopting an NSRF is a new requirement of the Structural Funds regulations for 2007 to 2013. Each NSRF functions as a high-level strategy for the Operational Programmes in the respective member state. The document provides an overview of the economic strengths and weaknesses of the member state's

regions, and sets out the approach to future Structural Funds spending across the member state.

An *Operational Programme* (OP) sets out a region's priorities for delivering the funds. Although there is scope for regional flexibility, a region's priorities must be consistent with the member state's NSRF.

There is an Operational Programme for each region in the EU. These OPs, just like the NSRF, have to be approved by the European Commission before any implementation.

The complete list of the covered regions is available at the following web site:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/how/coverage/index_en.cfm

How to apply

You should apply for regional funding to the authority managing the relevant regional programme. That body will evaluate your project and decide whether to grant funding.

The list is available at the following web site:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/country/prordn/index_en.cfm

Funding

The procedures for the allocation of Structural Funds to projects differ depending on the relevant national or regional programme. Application procedures (e.g. ongoing application and project selection, calls for proposals or competitions with fixed deadlines) are decided by the Managing Authority, depending on what is most appropriate for the activities in question. Project selection criteria are agreed by each programme's Monitoring Committee and are published (e.g. on managing authority websites or in some cases on the national Official Journals).

EU Official Journal : <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOIndex.do?ihmlang=en>

Who can apply?

Organisations that can benefit from regional funding include public bodies, some private sector organisations (especially small businesses), universities, associations, NGOs and voluntary organisations. Foreign firms with a base in the region covered by the relevant operational programme can also apply, provided they meet European public procurement rules.

Contact your managing authority for more information on who can apply in your region.

Project promoters in countries that are candidates or potential candidates for EU membership should contact the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA).

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/glossary/ipa_en.htm

In most cases, funding is granted to projects, so you need to develop a project to be eligible for funding, which you will then receive at different stages of the process.

Who can help me?

The Europe Direct information relays, with hundreds of information points all over Europe

http://europa.eu/europedirect/index_en.htm

Your managing authority can give you advice, through each stage of the project application

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

The European team in your local authority or chamber of commerce

The Enterprise Europe Network provides expert advice to small businesses on how to access EU public funds and grants for research and development, innovation, investment, employment and training.

http://www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm

The direct funding

The Community Programmes are a series of integrated measures accepted by the European Commission aiming to strengthen the co-operation among the Member States regarding Community policies for a period of time. The Community Programmes are financed from the general budget of the Community. All Acceding and Candidate countries have the opportunity to participate in the programmes, although, as a main condition of participation, an annual fee has to be paid to the budget.

Community Programmes can be tied to almost every Community policy. The Community decides on the type of programmes, their budgets and their durations. Any legal entity (sometimes individuals, too) can submit a proposal. The submission, evaluation and settlement of the accounts along with the full administration belong to the Administration of the Directorate Generals (DGs) of the European Commission.

The proposals can be submitted in a consortium with the participation of minimum two or more organisations from the EU Member States (specified in the Calls for Proposals). The applicants are directly in contact with EC officers, from the submission till the closure of the project. However, each participating country opens a national programme office or agency (either within a competent Ministry or within a separate organisation) whose task is the collection of information and mediation in order to assist the national applicants. In some cases the national programme coordinators have higher responsibility and competence.

At the beginning of 2007 the Union adopted a new generation of programmes for the financial programming period 2007-2013. These new programmes are particularly designed to stimulate innovation, economic growth and employment. The programming strategy priorities policies for sustainable economic progress, solidarity, security and a stronger role for Europe in the world. Given that the funding is made available at European level, the project needs to have a European dimension – an explicit European purpose which gives the project a European added value. However, how the European dimension is specified varies between the different programmes. In the research programme, for example, a key criterion for funding is to provide Europe with research excellence. Often, the European Commission also requires that the results of the project have relevance even outside the countries included in the project.

EU financing usually covers less than 75% of the total cost of a project. The rest often comes from national funds, private sponsors or even own resources, such as support staff and office resources. This support needs to be documented. The key providers of information on EU programmes in the different Member States are the National Contact Points (NCN) of each programme, the Representation Offices of the European Commission and the different EU information networks. NCNs, in particular, also often organise courses and seminars on how to apply and how to manage projects. They often provide potential applicants with programme user-guides in the national languages. The European Commission also distributes such information. Potential applicants can also use the national contact points and the regional EU offices in Brussels for information and support on the application process.

The direct funding can be divided in two main areas:

- **The European programmes** which allow the Member States to cooperate together, even if most of them are also open to the participation of other countries like the EFTA countries (Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein) the potential and candidate countries, Switzerland and other third countries;
- **The external assistance programmes** which represent the legal framework of the EU's external assistance to Third and Developing countries.

What is a project?

An EU project can take many forms. Typically, a project is carried out by consortia with participants from different countries that aim at increasing mobility, developing new knowledge, or strengthening European dimensions. The size, scope and internal organisation of projects can vary from field to field and from topic to topic. Increasingly, consortia are forming larger EU project networks. Here, a number of organisations combine their activities in a given field. Implementation of these activities usually requires the networks to formally commit their resources and activities in the network. An EU project can also be set up to coordinate or support activities and policies (networking, exchanges, transnational access to infrastructures, studies, conferences, etc.).

Individual projects are also possible. Here, a project is set up to support other projects carried out by individual national or transnational teams. Also, projects can be set up to support the training of network and agency staff.

How to find partners?

Most EU projects require at least 2 partners in different countries. Finding a good project consortium is a crucial part of the application process. Sourcing partners from existing networks, or from already completed or ongoing projects, often makes partner search quicker and cooperation easier. Through databases available on Commission websites, applicants can find lists of previous projects and overviews of partners available.

The National Contact Points in the different countries can also support this partner search. It is important to make sure that all partners have a genuine interest in the project, as they often work together for several years. The project consortium is often formalised through an agreement. It governs the internal organisation of the consortium, the distribution of funds, dissemination and use of project results, including intellectual property right arrangements, and settlement of internal disputes. Successful projects

usually consist of some experienced and some new partners. Typically, the project coordinator is an organisation, body or enterprise with previous EU project experience. The European Commission is helpful and responsive to questions which may arise ahead of the application deadline. The Commission often sets up help desks to answer questions on the applications, and support the partner search during the period the call is open (“clinics”).

When to apply?

After the EU has decided to launch a programme, the EU Official Journal publishes a call for proposals. As in the new programming period it is not mandatory any more to publish the call for proposals on the EU Official journals, it is better to check always also the web site of the different Directorates Generals (DG) of the European Commission. Often, other publication channels spread the information as well. Usually the call is launched at specific information meetings, often organised by the Commission in Brussels or Luxembourg. These meetings are highly valuable for grasping what the Commission is looking for.

All calls for proposals in the programmes are published in the EU Official Journal (OJ):

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/>

The OJ publishes all official EU information in all the official languages of the EU, and also publishes the EEA Supplement.

The Europa website (http://europa.eu/index_en.htm) gives the best overview of open calls. The information is organised by the directorate-general responsible for the programme in question. Here, the objective of the call, the criteria for funding and the formal application requirements are found. The call is usually open from 4 to 12 weeks.

However, sometimes the call is left “open”, which means that one can apply for funding continuously (with fixed selection dates). The application is sent directly to the European Commission or the executive agencies in Brussels or Luxembourg. But for some of the programmes, national agencies manage the entire application process.

How to apply?

Application forms are available online, through the websites of the national contact point or the Commission. Before applying for EU funds, it is important to have a clear idea of what the project aims to accomplish and ensure that all partners in the project are fully aware and supportive. The project idea needs to be checked against the programme objective and all the formal call criteria. The European added value should be explicit at a very early stage of the process and should include a clear objective for the distribution of the project results after the project has been completed. Making a budget for the project is time-consuming as it needs to be realistic and coherent even at an early stage. Writing an application includes the following basic elements:

- Firstly, **the idea, objectives and target group** should be carefully defined. What is unique in this project, what is the main innovation compared to what is already available? What does the project want to do, for whom, how and when does it want to do it? Which needs does the project respond to?
- Secondly, a **clear target hierarchy** should be established, with quantity measures of resources and the time needed to carry out the project.

- Thirdly, ***what methods and techniques*** will the project use to obtain its objective? In larger projects, it is important to use a work package structure to describe the different stages of the project. In all proposals, it is important to be clear about milestones and objectives, including timelines, throughout the project.
- Fourthly, the application usually describes each project partner in detail, ***how each partner contributes*** to the project objective and how the partners cooperate. Here again, the European added value should be emphasised.
- Fifthly, ***information, dissemination, and exploitation of project results*** is an integral part of an application. How will the project inform, to whom and when?
- Sixthly, realistic budgeting is an essential part of any successful EU project.

EU financing is usually based on three types of grants:

- reimbursement of eligible costs,
- lump sums
- flat rate financing.

These may be used to cover the entire EU financial contribution for a funding scheme or more than one may be combined. For most programmes, reimbursement of eligible costs is the preferred method. However, lump sums and flat rate financing will be used more extensively in the new programmes.

When a project starts, its coordinator usually reports the costs and the results to the Commission, on an annual or biannual basis. Based on this, the Commission conducts regular reviews of the project, to ensure that it is following its objectives and the formal criteria for funding. Also, it is crucial to submit the application on time. Often, excellent applications are deemed ineligible due to avoidable mistakes or late arrival.

EU direct funding in the Environment and Energy sector

LIFE+ (2007 – 2013)

The general objective of Life+ is to contribute to the implementation, the updating and the development of environment Community policy and legislation, including the integration of the environment into other policies, thus contributing to sustainable development. In particular Life+ promotes the VII Framework Programme, including the thematic strategies, and finance measures and projects with a high European added-value.

LIFE+ pro, runs from 2007-2013 and has a budget of €2.143 billion. During the period 2007-2013, the European Commission has been launching one call for LIFE+ project proposals per year. Proposals must be eligible under one of the programme's three components:

- LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity
- LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance
- LIFE+ Information and Communication.

LIFE+ Nature & Biodiversity

The Nature & Biodiversity component continues and extends the former LIFE Nature programme. It co-finances best practice or demonstration projects that contribute to the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives and the Natura 2000 network. In addition, it co-finances innovative or demonstration projects that contribute to the implementation of the objectives of Commission Communication (COM (2006) 216 final) on "Halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 – and beyond". At least 50 percent of the LIFE+ budget for project co-financing must be dedicated to LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity projects.

LIFE+ Environment Policy & Governance

The Environment Policy & Governance component continues and extends the former LIFE Environment programme. It co-finances innovative or pilot projects that contribute to the implementation of European environmental policy and the development of innovative policy ideas, technologies, methods and instruments. It also helps monitor pressures (including the long-term monitoring of forests and environmental interactions) on our environment.

LIFE+ Information & Communication

This new component co-finances projects relating to communication and awareness raising campaigns on environmental, nature protection or biodiversity conservation issues, as well as projects related to forest fire prevention (awareness raising, special training).

Projects financed by LIFE+ must satisfy the following criteria:

- Projects must be of EU interest, making a significant contribution to the achievement of the general objective of LIFE+;
- They must be technically and financially coherent and feasible and provide value for money;

- Where possible, projects financed by LIFE+ should promote synergies between different priorities under the 6th Environmental Action Programme, and integration.

In addition, to ensure European added value and avoid financing recurring activities, projects should satisfy at least one of the following criteria:

- Best-practice or demonstration projects, for the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives;
- Innovative or demonstration projects, relating to EU environmental objectives, including the development or dissemination of best practice techniques, know-how or technologies;
- Awareness-raising campaigns and special training for agents involved in forest fire prevention;
- Projects for the development and implementation of EU objectives relating to the broad-based, harmonised, comprehensive and long-term monitoring of forests and environmental interactions.

Guidelines for applicants are published annually with the call for proposals. The European Commission also organises information workshops for potential LIFE+ applicants in each EU Member State, providing valuable advice and guidance on what national authorities and the Commission expect from project proposals in national languages. Potential beneficiaries are advised, if possible, to attend one of these workshops, which generally take place in May, June and July.

The project proposals received from the national LIFE+ authorities are registered by the Commission and an acknowledgement of receipt is transmitted to the coordinating beneficiary. The LIFE Unit of the Environment Directorate General is responsible for the evaluation procedure. It verifies the admissibility, exclusion and eligibility, the selection and the award criteria and propose to the LIFE+ Committee a list of project proposals for co-financing, according to the criteria outlined in the "Guide for the evaluation of LIFE+ project proposals" (which is published each year with the call).

The LIFE+ Committee is made up of representatives of the 27 Member States and is chaired by the Commission. Should this Committee give a favourable opinion, and within the limits of the funds available, the Commission will then decide upon a list of projects to be co-financed. After approval by the European Parliament, individual grant agreements are sent to each successful coordinating beneficiary for signature.

The full text of the LIFE+ Regulation and information for each LIFE+ component – including how to apply for funding, project selection criteria and application forms – can be found on the funding section of the LIFE website.

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

Potential beneficiaries

LIFE+ is open to:

- public or private bodies
- actors or institutions registered in the European Union.

Project proposals can either be submitted by a single beneficiary or by a partnership which includes a coordinating beneficiary and one or several associated beneficiaries. They can be either national or transnational, but the actions must exclusively take place within the territory of the 27 Member States of the European Union.

Funding

The EU Cofinancing rates are the following:

1. LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity projects

The rate of the Union financial support shall be a maximum of 50 % of the eligible costs. Exceptionally, a maximum cofinancing rate up to 75 % is applicable to proposals which target priority habitats/species of the Birds' and Habitats' Directives.

2. LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance

The rate of the Union financial support shall be a maximum of 50 % of the eligible costs.

3. LIFE+ Information and Communication

The rate of the Union financial support shall be a maximum of 50 % of the eligible costs.

Submitting a proposal

Following the annual call for proposals, applicants to the programme must submit their proposals to the competent national authority of the Member State in which the coordinating beneficiary is registered. Member States forward project proposals to the Commission, may set national priorities and may prepare comments on proposals, in particular in relation to national annual priorities. The Commission aims to ensure a sound geographic distribution of projects by establishing indicative annual allocations for each Member State. These are based on population and the area of Natura 2000 sites. Proposals sent directly by applicants to the Commission will not be accepted.

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

Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP)

With small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as its main target, the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) supports innovation activities (including eco-innovation), provides better access to finance and delivers business support services in the regions.

It encourages a better take-up and use of information and communication technologies (ICT) and helps to develop the information society. It also promotes the increased use of renewable energies and energy efficiency. The CIP runs from 2007 to 2013 with an overall budget of € 3621 million.

The CIP is divided into **three operational programmes**. Each programme has its specific objectives, aimed at contributing to the competitiveness of enterprises and their innovative capacity in their own areas, such as ICT or sustainable energy:

- the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP)
- the Information Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme (ICT-PSP)
- the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme (IEE)

Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP)

The EIP, one of the specific programmes under the CIP, seeks to support innovation and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the EU, focusing 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.

- **Business services:** the "Enterprise Europe Network". 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 them more competitive.
- **Support for improving innovation policy:** Supports transnational networking of different actors in the innovation process and innovative companies, including benchmarking initiatives and the exchange of best practice.
- **Eco-innovation** pilot and market replication projects for the testing in real conditions of innovative products, processes and services that are not fully marketed due to residual risks and that are aimed at reducing environmental impacts, preventing pollution or achieving a more efficient use of natural resources. The Eco-innovation programme is addressed mainly to companies that have developed an environmental product, service, management practice or process which has a proven track record, but is not fully marketed due to residual risks. The programme supports the market uptake of the eco-innovative products, services, processes, etc. Further information are available on the following web site: 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 organised to inform and support policy-makers, and make policy suggestions to increase cooperation between EU Member States.

Further information on EIP are available at the following web site:

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

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

The Information and Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme (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. The focus is placed on driving this uptake in areas of public interest while addressing EU challenges such as moving towards a low carbon economy or coping with an ageing society.

The programme contributes to a better environment for developing ICT based services and helps overcome hurdles such as the lack of interoperability and market fragmentation. Funding goes mainly to pilot actions, involving both public and private organisations, for validating in real settings, 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.

Further information on ICT-PSP are available at the following web site:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/index_en.htm

Intelligent Energy Europe Programme (IEE)

The IEE programme aims at giving a boost to clean and sustainable solutions. It supports their use and dissemination and the Europe-wide exchange of related knowledge and know-how. Targeted funding is provided for creative projects putting this idea into practice

The programme is implemented through the following actions:

1. Promoting energy efficiency and encouraging the rational use of energy sources (SAVE);
2. Increasing the use of new and renewable energy sources as well as encouraging energy diversification (ALTENER);
3. Stimulating energy efficiency and renewable in the field of transport (STEER)
4. integrated initiatives
5. promotion and dissemination projects

Potential beneficiaries

The Programme is open to the participation mainly of Industrial companies (including SMEs through intermediaries in the public sector, financial institutions, business organisations and other associations of the following countries:

- European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries which are members of the European Economic Area (EEA), in accordance with the conditions laid down in the EEA Agreement;
- accession countries and candidate countries benefiting from a pre-accession strategy, in accordance with the general principles and general terms and conditions for the participation of those countries in Community programmes established in the respective Framework Agreements and Association Council Decisions;
- countries of the Western Balkans, in accordance with the provisions to be determined with those countries following the establishment of Framework Agreements concerning their participation in Community programmes;
- other third countries, when Agreements and procedures so allow.

The following non-EU-member countries are participating in the three specific CIP programmes:

- Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP): Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Turkey and Serbia fully participate in the EIP; Israel and Albania participate in certain parts.

- Intelligent Energy Europe Programme (IEE): Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Croatia.
- ICT Policy Support Programme (ICT-PSP): Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Croatia, Turkey and Serbia.

Further information on IIE are available at the following web site:

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

Funding

The three EU funding sources (FP7, CIP and Structural Funds), when operating individually, provide significant support for research, development and innovation. However, their value can be further enhanced by combining them. When considering how the funding sources can be combined, a clear distinction must be made between, on the one hand, co-financing, and, on the other hand, complementary financing.

Co-financing

Although the EU can in some circumstances provide 100% of the eligible costs of the financing for a programme or project, the general rule is that the beneficiary (whether a public authority, SME or research entity) also contributes to the cost. This is called co-financing. The Structural Funds, FP7 and CIP each have their specific rules on the required level of co-financing. The question arises whether an applicant, faced with the need to provide a contribution to a project under one of the three instruments, could use funds it has received from one of the other instruments to cover the cost. In the case of the applicant's contribution to a project financed with the Structural Funds, the answer is a definite no. Structural Funds must be co-financed by national and regional public and private funds. This means that funds received from another Community programme, like FP7 or CIP, cannot be used to provide the required national contribution to a Structural Funds programme and such action would indeed be illegal. The same prohibition applies in the other direction to the use of Structural Funds to cover the applicant's contribution to a project funded by FP7 or the CIP.

In the case of FP7 or the CIP, using one of these funds to cover the cost of the applicant's contribution to a project under the other fund is in practical terms impossible, given the system of calls for proposals with specific subjects, eligibility and selection criteria.

However, funds from the European Investment Bank Group (EIB and EIF) can be used to finance the national or regional contribution to a project under FP7, CIP or the Structural Funds. Finally, in all cases, the maximum level of public support for a project is subject to respect of the state aid rules and the maximum contribution rate for each of the funds.

Complementary financing

While co-financing the same project by different EU funds is either prohibited or not practically possible, it is possible to combine the resources of the Structural Funds, FP7 and CIP in a complementary way. This means using different funds for different actions (with separate cost statements/bills), which are carried out in a related or consecutive manner.

Eco-Innovation Funding

The projects are selected through annual calls for proposals and they receive grants covering up to 50% of the eligible project costs.

Funding for Pilots type A

Union funding for Type A pilots is up to 50% of those costs exclusively related to work needed to achieve the proposed interoperability goal. The Union contribution for this type of pilot typically ranges from 5 to 10 M€ per pilot unless specified otherwise within the objectives of the Work programme.

Funding for Pilots type B

Union funding for Type B pilots is up to 50% of total eligible costs (direct and indirect). The Union contribution for this type of pilot typically ranges from 2 to 4 M€ per pilot unless specified otherwise within the objectives of the Work programme.

Funding for Thematic Network

The typical Union contribution for each Thematic Network is 300-500K€ unless specified otherwise

Funding for Best Practice Networks

The Union funding for Best Practice Networks is limited to 80% of direct costs. No overheads may be claimed. The Union contribution for this type of project typically ranges from 3 to 5 M€ per project unless specified.

Submitting a proposal

The calls for proposals are published on the CIP website and on the web pages of each CIP programmes.

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/newsbytheme.cfm?displayType=fo&tpa_id=1007&lang=en

Each of the three CIP pillars has a separate work programme. By consulting the three work programmes you can have a clearer idea about the details of the actions covered by the calls for proposals to be published each year.

Seventh Research Framework Programme (FP7) Theme 2 and 6

The EU's Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development is the major tool to support the creation of the European Research Area, aiming at realizing a durable integration of European research systems and promoting scientific excellence and innovation as key factors of competitiveness and sustainable economic growth.

The FP7 gives priority to Research in the field of economic development.

FP7 activities can be grouped into 4 categories:

The "**cooperation**" programme supports cooperation and aims to consolidate industry-research partnership in a transnational dimension

The "**ideas**" programme supports the frontier research, as it opens new opportunities for scientific and technological advance, and is pivotal in producing new knowledge leading to future applications

The “**people**” programme supports the quantitative and qualitative strengthening of human resources in the research market

The “**capacities**” programme provides the researchers with effective facilities and equipment to enhance the quality and competitiveness of European Research.

The FP7 supports specific environmental projects predominately in the co-operation (collaborative research) programme. Relevant thematic areas include:

- Food, Agriculture and Fisheries and Biotechnology (theme 2)
- Environment, including climate change (theme 6).

For further information about the FP7, we would recommend the CORDIS FP7 (http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html) Service and the European Commission FP7 website (<http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/>).

Theme 2

The primary aim of funding the 'Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology' research theme under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) is to build a European Knowledge Based Bio-Economy (KBBE).

The 'Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology' theme is built around three major activities':

- sustainable production and management of biological resources from land, forest and aquatic environments;
- fork to farm: Food (including seafood), health and well-being;
- life sciences, biotechnology and biochemistry for sustainable non-food products and processes.

Further information on theme 2 are available at the following web site

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/kbbe/home_en.html

Theme 6

The main objective of research for the environment under FP7 is to promote the sustainable management of both the man-made and the natural environment and its resources. To this end, increased knowledge on the interaction between the climate, the biosphere, ecosystems and human activities is sought and new environmentally-friendly technologies, tools and services are developed.

As environmental problems extend beyond national borders and natural resources are under pressure, Europe needs a new sustainable relationship with the environment.

Funded actions focus on:

- predicting changes in climate, ecological conditions, earth and ocean systems;
- tools and technologies for monitoring, prevention and mitigation of environmental pressures and risks including health risks;
- sustainability of the natural and man-made environment.

Funding in this area will also improve competitiveness and strengthen the position of European industries in world markets for environmental technologies.

Further information on theme 6 are available at the following web site

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/environment/home_en.html

Potential beneficiaries

Participation in FP7 is open to a wide range of organisations and individuals:

- research groups at universities or research institutes
- companies intending to innovate
- small or medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
- SME associations or groupings
- public or governmental administration (local, regional or national)
- early-stage researchers (postgraduate students)
- experienced researchers
- institutions running research infrastructures of transnational interest
- organisations and researchers from third countries
- international organisations
- civil society organizations

While FP7 participants can in principle be based anywhere, there are different categories of country which may have varying eligibility for different specific and work programmes:

- Member States - The EU-27;
- The Associated countries – with science and technology cooperation agreements that involved contributing to the framework programme budget;
- Candidate countries – currently recognised as candidates for future accession;
- Third countries - the participation of organisations or individuals established in countries that are not Member States, candidates or associated should also be justified in terms of the enhanced contribution to the objectives of FP7.

Funding

The basic principle of funding in FP7 is co-financing. This means that, in general, the Commission does not “purchase” research services by placing contracts and paying a price. Rather, it gives grants to projects, thus contributing a certain percentage to the overall costs. The maximum reimbursement rates to the costs of a project depend on the funding scheme, the legal status of the participants and the type of activity. The standard reimbursement rate for research and technological development activities is 50%. Certain legal entities can receive up to 75% (non-profit public bodies, SMEs, research organisations, higher education establishments). For demonstration activities, the reimbursement rate may reach 50%. For other activities (consortium management, networking, training, coordination, dissemination etc.), the reimbursement can be up to 100% of the eligible costs. The 100% rate applies also to frontier research actions under the European Research Council.

Submitting a proposal

The calls for proposals are published on the Cordis website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/searchcalls?state=open&theme=en>
[v](#)

TEN-T and Environment

Part of the TEN-T Transport Initiative, it aims in making member States, regions and project proposers respect the environmental acquis for infrastructure related to any Community co-financing. For the TENs, the main concerns are related to potential negative impacts arising from TEN-T. Article 8 of the TEN-T Guidelines stipulates that environmental protection must be taken into account by the Member States through the carrying out of an Environmental Impact Assessment (for projects) and a Strategic Environmental Assessment (for plans and programmes) and through the application of the nature directives. The Declaration of European Interest included in the Guidelines further emphasises Community legislation on environmental protection.

There are five Community directives particularly relevant for the Trans European Transport Network:

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive
- Birds Directive
- Habitats Directive
- Water Framework Directive

Another concern is the climate change. Addressing climate change requires two types of response: the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions ("mitigation measures") and implementation of "adaptation" actions to deal with the unavoidable impacts.

Adaptation is particularly relevant for existing transport infrastructure where, for example changes in rain fall and heat patterns may be different from those that were taken into account when infrastructures were designed. Risks of damage and disruption due to storms, floods, heat waves, fires and landslides are expected to increase. The predicted sea level rise clearly has particular implications for ports for example, reducing the sheltering effect of breakwaters and quay walls. It could also have impacts where transport infrastructures are located close to the sea. It is going to be important to integrate adaptation into policies and adopt measures to increase the resilience of infrastructure. This means:

- promoting measures that are beneficial both for mitigation of and adaptation to climate change,
- avoiding adaptation measures that will make it more difficult to cope with future climate risks or exacerbate impacts in another region or cause the poorest groups or regions to be the worst hit
- adopting in the first place adaptation measures that would pay off in the short term irrespective of uncertainties in the future forecasts ("no regret" measures)
- considering worst-case scenario measures, even if uncertainties are high, in cases where the costs or the magnitude of the impacts in such scenarios would be unacceptable

For further information visit the following web site

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/infrastructure/ten-t-policy/other-areas/environment_en.htm

Potential beneficiaries

TEN-T funding opportunities are open to all EU Member States or, with the agreement of the Member States concerned, international organisations, joint undertakings, or public/private undertakings or bodies. Funding in TEN-T grants can support studies or works which contribute to TEN-T programme objectives.

Funding

In general, TEN-T projects are nonetheless funded to a major extent by from national governments.

Trans-European transport networks are co-financed by the following Community instruments :

- Grants from the Trans-European transport budget (Funding rules)
- Grants from the Cohesion Fund budget, in the countries eligible for its intervention
- Grants from the ERDF, prioritarily on Convergence objective regions
- TEN-T budget
- Loans and guarantees from international financial institutions (e.g. the European Investment Bank (EIB)) and private funding

Moreover, TEN-T projects can benefit from the results of the Community Framework Programme on RTD. Can be transferred to the TEN-T policy developments.

In order to give financial support to the implementation of the TEN-T guidelines, the Parliament and Council adopted Regulation No 680/2007/EC specifying general rules for the granting of Community aid in the field of trans-European networks (Regulation (EC) No 807/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 2236/95 laying down general rules for the granting of Community financial aid in the field of trans-European networks). These regulations increased the maximum level of Community support for specific projects, providing a greater incentive for project implementation, including the setting up Public-Private Partnerships. The new rules also allow multi-annual commitments, providing greater flexibility to promoters of TEN-T projects.

Submitting a proposal

The calls for proposals are published on the following web site:

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

EU direct funding in the Transport sector

TEN-T / Transport infrastructure

The TEN-T programme consists of hundreds of projects – defined as studies or works – whose ultimate purpose is to ensure the cohesion, interconnection and interoperability of the trans-European transport network, as well as access to it. TEN-T projects, which are located in every EU Member State, include all modes of transport:

- road

- rail
- maritime
- inland waterways
- air
- logistics
- co-modality
- innovation

30 Priority Projects (or Axes) and other horizontal priorities have also been established to concentrate on pan-European integration and development.

As a whole, TEN-T projects aim to:

- Establish and develop the key links and interconnections needed to eliminate existing bottlenecks to mobility
- Fill in missing sections and complete the main routes - especially their cross-border sections
- Cross natural barriers
- Improve interoperability on major routes

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/infrastructure/ten-t-funding-and-financing/funding_en.htm

Potential beneficiaries

TEN-T funding opportunities are open to all EU Member States or, with the agreement of the Member States concerned, international organisations, joint undertakings, or public/private undertakings or bodies. Funding in TEN-T grants can support studies or works which contribute to TEN-T programme objectives.

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greater incentive for project implementation, including the setting up Public-Private Partnerships. The new rules also allow multi-annual commitments, providing greater flexibility to promoters of TEN-T projects.

Submitting a proposal

The calls for proposals are published on the web site:

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

Marco Polo

The programme provides support for measures that reduce congestion, improve the environmental performance of the transport system and enhance intermodal transport. The current Marco Polo II programme contains two new types of action:

- the motorways of the seas and
- traffic avoidance measures which were not included in the first Marco Polo programme.

In all, 5 distinct types of action will be supported:

- **Modal shift actions:** these aim to shift as much freight as economically meaningful under current market conditions from road to short sea shipping, rail and inland waterways. They may propose the start-up of new services or significantly enhance existing services.
- **Catalyst actions:** one of three types of actions supported through the original Marco Polo programme. The goal here is to change the way non-road freight transport is conducted in the EU. Support will be provided to innovative proposals aimed at overcoming structural market barriers in European freight transport.
- **Motorways of the sea actions:** these aim to shift freight from long road distances to a combination of short sea shipping and other modes of transport.
- **Traffic avoidance actions:** the objective is to integrate transport into production logistics. This should lead to a reduced freight transport demand by road with a direct impact on emissions. It is emphasised that actions of this type shall not adversely affect either output or the labour workforce
- **Common learning actions:** the objective here is to enhance knowledge in the freight logistics sector and foster advanced methods and procedures of cooperation in the freight market.

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

Potential beneficiaries

Single undertakings as well as consortia may receive support. However, in all cases, there is a minimum requirement of having at least one EU partner involved. For applications made by a single undertaking, the undertaking needs to be established in an EU member State and for consortia, at least one undertaking needs to be established in an EU Member State. Undertakings from "Close third countries" can never be lead partners, only associated partners. The project partners must be established commercial legal entities. They can be privately or publicly owned commercial undertakings. The commercial undertakings involved in a consortium can be linked or subsidiaries, so that undertaking A controls more than 50% of undertaking B.

As regards the participating countries we have to make a difference. Firstly, there is a differentiation between "participation" and "being eligible for funding" (the latter also often referred to as "full participation").

From day one of the programme undertakings from EU Member States and "close third countries", such as all Candidate States, EFTA Countries as well as others due to their Geographical proximity are eligible to participate in Marco Polo projects. However, only costs and modal shift/traffic avoidance arising on the territories of EU Member States or fully participating countries (i.e. countries which have concluded Special Agreements (e.g. Memorandum of Understanding) with the EU) are eligible for Marco Polo funding.

The practical consequence for calculating the lengths of the transport routes is that only route sections going through fully participating countries which are eligible for funding are to be used. This is important when calculating the tonne-kms figure (modal shift volume), but also to estimate the environmental benefit of the modal shift realised by the freight transport service proposed in the project.

Currently the following countries are fully participating in the Marco Polo programme: Liechtenstein, Iceland and Norway (i.e. all EFTA/EEA countries excluding Switzerland). Croatia signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Commission which enables Croatian undertakings to take part in the programme as of the Call for proposals 2009.

Commercial undertakings from Candidate States, which are scheduled to be joining the EU in the years to come, are welcome to participate in the Marco Polo programme. However, according to financial arrangements required for a full participation of undertakings from these countries, the conclusion of a Special Agreement between the EC and the respective country is needed. Nevertheless, the participation of undertakings from other Candidate States is possible without such a special agreement. However, project costs arising on the territory of these Candidate States are neither eligible for funding under Marco Polo, nor can the Environmental benefits or modal shift/traffic avoidance generated on their territory contribute to the project key figures.

Undertakings from third countries not fully participating in the Marco Polo II programme cannot be lead partners of a project; they therefore need to be part of a wider consortium, headed by an undertaking from an EU Member State or a fully participating country.

Funding

The community funding covers up to 35% of the total eligible costs for the first 4 actions and the 50% for the common learning actions

Submitting a proposal

The calls for proposals are published on the web site:

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/marcopolo/getting-funds/index_en.htm

Seventh Research Framework Programme (FP7) Theme Transport (including aeronautics)

The EU's Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development is the major tool to support the creation of the European Research Area, aiming at realizing a durable integration of European research systems and promoting scientific excellence and innovation as key factors of competitiveness and sustainable economic growth.

The FP7 gives priority to Research in the field of economic development.

FP7 activities can be grouped into 4 categories:

The "**cooperation**" programme supports cooperation and aims to consolidate industry-research partnership in a transnational dimension

The "**ideas**" programme supports the frontier research, as it opens new opportunities for scientific and technological advance, and is pivotal in producing new knowledge leading to future applications

The "**people**" programme supports the quantitative and qualitative strengthening of human resources in the research market

The "**capacities**" programme provides the researchers with effective facilities and equipment to enhance the quality and competitiveness of European Research.

The FP7 supports specific transport projects predominately in the co-operation (collaborative research) programme. The central objective of transport research under FP7 is to develop safer, greener and smarter transport systems for Europe that will benefit citizens, respect the environment, and increase the competitiveness of European industries in the global market. While the European transport system has a crucial role in the transportation of people and goods and is essential to Europe's prosperity, ways must be found to mitigate the negative impacts and consequences of increased mobility in relation to the environment, energy usage, safety and security and public health.

Therefore emphasis is given to the following activities:

- Aeronautics and air transport
- reduction of emissions, work on engines and alternative fuels,
- air traffic management, safety aspects of air transport,
- environmentally efficient aviation
- Sustainable surface transport - rail, road and waterborne
- development of clean and efficient engines and power trains,
- reducing the impact of transport on climate change,
- inter-modal regional and national transport,
- clean and safe vehicles,
- infrastructure construction and maintenance, integrative architectures

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/transport/>

Potential beneficiaries

Participation in FP7 is open to a wide range of organisations and individuals:

- research groups at universities or research institutes
- companies intending to innovate
- small or medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
- SME associations or groupings
- public or governmental administration (local, regional or national)
- early-stage researchers (postgraduate students)
- experienced researchers
- institutions running research infrastructures of transnational interest
- organisations and researchers from third countries
- international organizations
- civil society organizations

While FP7 participants can in principle be based anywhere, there are different categories of country which may have varying eligibility for different specific and work programmes:

- Member States - The EU-27;
- The Associated countries – with science and technology cooperation agreements that involved contributing to the framework programme budget;
- Candidate countries – currently recognised as candidates for future accession;
- Third countries - the participation of organisations or individuals established in countries that are not Member States, candidates or associated should also be justified in terms of the enhanced contribution to the objectives of FP7.

Funding

The basic principle of funding in FP7 is co-financing. This means that, in general, the Commission does not “purchase” research services by placing contracts and paying a price. Rather, it gives grants to projects, thus contributing a certain percentage to the overall costs. The maximum reimbursement rates to the costs of a project depend on the funding scheme, the legal status of the participants and the type of activity. The standard reimbursement rate for research and technological development activities is 50%. Certain legal entities can receive up to 75% (non-profit public bodies, SMEs, research organisations, higher education establishments). For demonstration activities, the reimbursement rate may reach 50%. For other activities (consortium management, networking, training, coordination, dissemination etc.), the reimbursement can be up to 100% of the eligible costs. The 100% rate applies also to frontier research actions under the European Research Council.

Submitting a proposal

The calls for proposals are published on the Cordis website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/searchcalls?state=open&theme=tpt>

EU direct funding in the Health sector

Health Programme

The Health programme aims at achieving the following objectives:

- improve citizens' health security;
- health promotion to improve prosperity and solidarity;
- generate and disseminate information and knowledge on health

This is mainly done through financing four types of different actions:

- projects
- conferences
- joint actions
- operation grants.

Those actions intend to have a special European dimension, meaning that a minimum of various partners of different European Countries have to be involved in the project plan.

<http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/health/index.html>

Potential beneficiaries

Non-governmental organisations, public sector bodies, public administrations, universities, higher education establishments, public and private research institutions and commercial firms can submit a project proposal as the main partner or associated partners.

To receive EU financial support for a project, i.e. to be a main beneficiary or associated partner, the organisation needs to be legally established in:

- one of the 27 EU member states
- an EFTA country party to European Economic Area (Iceland, Liechtenstein or Norway)
- Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Serbia and Montenegro under their own Stabilisation and Association Agreements (SAA).

Organisations from other countries can only participate as subcontractors of the tenderer.

Funding

Normally up to 60 percent of the eligible costs of the project can be covered by the EU contribution. Given the complementary and motivational nature of EU grants, at least 40 percent of project costs must be funded from partners' sources such as staff costs pertaining to national officials and other external resources. In cases of exceptional utility, projects can receive up to 80 percent co-financing of eligible costs.

Submitting a proposal

The calls for proposals are published on the website

http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/health/calls_for_health_programme.html

Consumer Programme

The Consumer Programme 2007-2013 constitutes the financial framework of Consumer policy. Every year, the Commission establishes its annual work programme setting the various budget items for consumer policy to be spent on a given year.

The Consumer Programme 2007-2013 aims primarily to ensure:

1. a high level of consumer protection, notably through improved information on consumer-related data, better consultation and better representation of consumers' interests

2. the effective application of consumer protection rules, notably through cooperation between authorities and organisations responsible for the implementation of consumer legislation, information, education and dispute resolution.

The **first objective** is supported by actions relating to:

- collection, exchange, and analysis of data and information on the development of consumer policy and for the integration of consumer interests in other Community policies, as well as the safety of consumer goods and services;
- support for scientific advice and risk evaluation, including the tasks of the independent scientific committees established by the Commission and preparation of legislative and other regulatory initiatives and promotion of co-regulatory and selfregulatory initiatives;
- financial contributions to the functioning of European consumer organisations ;
- capacity building for regional, national and European consumer organisations.

The **second objective** should be achieved through:

- the improvement of the effective application of Community consumer protection legislation in line with EU better regulation policy;
- legal and technical expertise, including studies, for the monitoring and assessment of the transposition, implementation and enforcement of consumer protection legislation by Member States including the development and maintenance of easily and publicly accessible databases covering the implementation of Community consumer protection
- legislation;
- actions on information, advice and redress;
- actions on consumer education.

http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/strategy/programmes_en.htm

Potential beneficiaries

The following organisations are eligible for funding:

- Public bodies
- Non-profit organisations
- Universities and equivalent institutions
- Specialised ONG
- European consumer organisations
- Consumer protection officials

From the following countries:

- Member States
- EFTA/EEA countries
- Third countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy
- Western Balkan countries
- Acceding and Candidate Countries

Funding

- 50% of the cost of actions jointly financed by the Community and one or more Member State
- 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
- 95% of expenditure for the functioning of European consumer organizations representing consumer interests in the development of standards for products and services at European Union level

Submitting a proposal

The calls for proposals are published on the website

http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/consumers/calls_for_consumer_programme.html

Seventh Research Framework Programme (FP7) Theme Health

The EU's Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development is the major tool to support the creation of the European Research Area, aiming at realizing a durable integration of European research systems and promoting scientific excellence and innovation as key factors of competitiveness and sustainable economic growth.

The FP7 gives priority to Research in the field of economic development.

FP7 activities can be grouped into 4 categories:

The "**cooperation**" programme supports cooperation and aims to consolidate industry-research partnership in a transnational dimension

The "**ideas**" programme supports the frontier research, as it opens new opportunities for scientific and technological advance, and is pivotal in producing new knowledge leading to future applications

The "**people**" programme supports the quantitative and qualitative strengthening of human resources in the research market

The "**capacities**" programme provides the researchers with effective facilities and equipment to enhance the quality and competitiveness of European Research.

The objective of health research under FP7 is to improve the health of European citizens and boost the competitiveness of health-related industries and businesses, as well as address global health issues. The Health theme is a major theme of the Cooperation programme. The specific programme on 'Cooperation' supports all types of research activities carried out by different research bodies in trans-national cooperation and aims to gain or consolidate leadership in key scientific and technology areas. The Cooperation programme is sub-divided into ten distinct themes, the first of which is Health.

Within the Health Programme priority is given to the following activities:

- biotechnology, generic tools and technologies for human health - producing knowledge that will be applied in the area of health and medicine;
- translating research for human health - making sure that basic discoveries have practical benefits and improve the quality of life;
- optimising the delivery of health care to European citizens - ensuring that the results of biomedical research will ultimately reach the citizens;
- while underlying child health, health of the ageing population and gender-related health as overarching issues of the Health theme. As translation of basic discoveries

into clinical applications is one of the main objectives of this theme, clinical research is expected to be a major tool used in the funded projects.

Inclusion of 'high-tech' SMEs in most projects throughout the work programme is a priority of the Health theme. International cooperation is an important aspect of FP7 and is an integral part of Theme 1 on Health Research. Special attention is given to communicating research outcomes and engaging in dialogue with civil society, in particular with patient groups, at the earliest possible stage, of new developments arising from biomedical and genetics research.

Potential beneficiaries

Participation in FP7 is open to a wide range of organisations and individuals:

- research groups at universities or research institutes
- companies intending to innovate
- small or medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
- SME associations or groupings
- public or governmental administration (local, regional or national)
- early-stage researchers (postgraduate students)
- experienced researchers
- institutions running research infrastructures of transnational interest
- organisations and researchers from third countries
- international organizations
- civil society organizations.

While FP7 participants can in principle be based anywhere, there are different categories of country which may have varying eligibility for different specific and work programmes:

- Member States - The EU-27;
- The Associated countries – with science and technology cooperation agreements that involved contributing to the framework programme budget;
- Candidate countries – currently recognised as candidates for future accession;
- Third countries - the participation of organisations or individuals established in countries that are not Member States, candidates or associated should also be justified in terms of the enhanced contribution to the objectives of FP7.

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/health/home_en.html

Funding

The basic principle of funding in FP7 is co-financing. This means that, in general, the Commission does not “purchase” research services by placing contracts and paying a price. Rather, it gives grants to projects, thus contributing a certain percentage to the overall costs. The maximum reimbursement rates to the costs of a project depend on the funding scheme, the legal status of the participants and the type of activity. The standard reimbursement rate for research and technological development activities is 50%. Certain legal entities can receive up to 75% (non-profit public bodies, SMEs, research organisations, higher education establishments). For demonstration activities, the reimbursement rate may reach 50%. For other activities (consortium management, networking, training, coordination, dissemination etc.), the reimbursement can be up to 100% of the eligible costs. The 100% rate applies also to frontier research actions under the European Research Council.

Submitting a proposal

The calls for proposals are published on the cordis website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/searchcalls?state=open&theme=health>

External assistance programmes

The external assistance programmes represent the legal framework of the EU's external assistance to developing countries. The EU's external policies, including EU development co-operation, are governed by a multitude of Council and European Parliament regulations and decisions. All Council and European Parliament regulations are based on proposals made by the European Commission (usually as "Commission Communications"). These regulations, referred to as 'legal instruments', provide the legal basis for all EU programs which provide external assistance.

There are two types of EU legal instrument:

- geographical instruments that apply to a specific region or country,
- thematic or 'horizontal' instruments that concern a specific theme or sector of development co-operation and apply to all external relations.

In August 2006 the legal framework of EU external assistance was condensed and considerably restructured. Over time, more than 30 geographical and thematic instruments had been created on an ad hoc basis; these were replaced by nine comprehensive instruments, eight of them new.

Four instruments to support specific policies with a geographical focus:

- The Development Co-operation Instrument (DCI)
- The Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)
- The European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)
- The Instrument for Co-operation with Industrialized Countries (ICI)

Five instruments with horizontal/thematic focus, which deal with major areas of EU external assistance on a global basis:

- The European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)
- The Instrument for Stability (IFS)
- The Instrument for Humanitarian aid
- The Macro-Financial Assistance Instrument (MFA)
- The Instrument for Nuclear Safety Co-operation (INSC)

The new legal structure continues five previously-existing "global" development programs. They are now managed within the framework of the DCI. These five programs cover: non-state actors; food security; human and social development; environment; and asylum and migration.

Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)

IPA aims at providing targeted assistance to countries which are candidates and potential candidates for membership to the EU. Its main objectives are to help the country to face the challenges of European integration, to implement the reforms needed to fulfill EU requirements and progress in the Stabilization and Association Process and to lay the foundations for fulfilling the Copenhagen criteria for EU Membership.

The main objectives of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) are:

- Strengthening democratic institutions

- Promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and enhanced respect for minority rights
- Development of civil society
- Regional and cross-border cooperation

In accordance with its objectives, IPA comprises five components:

1. Assistance for transition and institution building;
2. Cross-border cooperation (with EU Member States and other countries eligible for IPA);
3. Regional development (transport, environment, regional and economic development);
4. Human resources (strengthening human capital and combating exclusion);
5. Rural development.

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

Potential beneficiaries

The IPA beneficiary countries are divided into two categories:

- EU candidate countries (Croatia, Turkey and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,) are eligible for all five components of IPA. The last three of which aim at preparing them to manage EU funds after accession.
- Potential Candidate Countries – Albania, Serbia, Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina – are eligible for the first two components of IPA, which concentrate on institution building, in particular to strengthen the Copenhagen political criteria, enhance administrative and judicial capacity and encourage some alignment with the *acquis communautaire*.

Types of assistance

Types of assistance under IPA will include finance investments, procurement contracts, grants, including interest rate subsidies, special loans, loan guarantees and financial assistance, budgetary support, and other specific forms of budgetary aid, and the contribution to the capital of international financial institutions or the regional development banks. Any natural or legal person based in the eligible countries (under the eligible component) will be able to apply for funding under IPA.

Submitting a project proposal

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/how-does-it-work/grants-tenders/index_en.htm

European Neighbourhood & Partnership Instrument (ENPI)

The European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) supports the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). Operational since 1 January 2007, it represents the strategic continuity with enlarged objectives of the former cooperation programmes TACIS (for the Eastern European countries) and MEDA (for the Mediterranean countries).

The ENPI has the following strategic objectives:

- supporting democratic transition and promoting human rights,
- the transition towards the market economy,

- the promotion of sustainable development; and policies of common interests (antiterrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, conflict resolution, the rule of international law, etc.).

Within this framework, the Commission and partner countries established four principal axes of co-operation based on:

- the implementation of a strengthened dialogue on priority multisector reforms,
- the approximation of legislation,
- institutional support,
- the objectives of the UN's Millennium Development Goals.

The ENPI finances actions in the various sectors, including:

- more equitable development;
- regulatory trade and reforms;
- the liberalisation of certain sectors;
- justice and home affairs;
- energy;
- transport;
- information society;
- environmental sustainability;
- research and innovation.

In addition, it can provide support to electoral observation and post-crisis missions and to disaster preparedness.

ENPI has replaced the previous TACIS and MEDA programme and presents the following innovative features:

- cross-border co-operation, under which the ENPI finances joint programmes, bringing together regions of Member States and partner countries sharing a common border,
- a Governance Facility which provides resources to creative partners which have shown the will to carry forward essential reforms related to improving good governance,
- the Twinning instrument, bringing together public sector expertise from EU Member States and beneficiary countries with the aim of enhancing co-operative activities,
- TAIEX (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange), jointly managed by EuropeAid and the European Commission's Enlargement Directorate-General, aiming to help foster political and economic co-operation in a number of areas, primarily regarding the approximation, application and enforcement of EU legislation.

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/enpi_en.htm

Potential beneficiaries

The entities which are eligible for funding are:

- decentralised institutions and entities in partner countries and regions,
- mixed organisations,
- international and regional organisations,
- international financial institutions,

- European institutions and agencies to a certain extent,
- non-governmental players.

The following countries are involved:

- *MEDA countries*: Algeria, Egypt, Gaza/West Bank (Palestine Authority), Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria,* Tunisia, Libya,* Turkey
- *NIS countries*: Ukraine, Belarus*, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kirghizistan, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia
-

* *The full benefits of the European Neighbourhood Policy cannot currently be extended to Belarus, Libya or Syria. Belarus and the EU will be able to develop contractual relations when Belarus has established a democratic government, following free and fair elections. Libya would need to first become part of the Barcelona Process before having an Association Agreement and eventually an ENP Action Plan. For Syria, the Association Agreement would have to be ratified before an ENP Action Plan could be considered.*

Types of assistance

A specific and innovative feature of the European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument (ENPI) is its Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) component. Under this component, the ENPI will finance "joint programmes" bringing together regions of Member States and partner countries sharing a common border. This component will be co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). An estimated amount of EUR 233 million per year (in 2004 prices) will be allocated from ERDF to CBC between the Member States and neighbour countries covered by the ENPI and by the IPA.

Types of actions under ENPI-CBC should center on the following four axes:

- Promoting sustainable economic and social development in border areas
- Working together to address common challenges
- Ensuring efficient and secure borders
- People-to-people cooperation

Submitting a project proposal

In case of call for proposals and tenders each of them will specify in related documents the eligibility criteria for that specific call or tender.

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/funding/index_en.htm

Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)

DCI was launched in January 2007, and replaces a wide range of geographic and thematic instruments which was created over time. In this way, it increases the effectiveness of the EU development cooperation.

Development Cooperation Instrument is financing the European Community development cooperation policy, which aims to reduce poverty, strive for sustainable economic and social development as well as a gradual integration of development countries into the world economy. The instrument is implemented through geographic and thematic programmes.

The *geographic programmes* support the development of and reinforce the cooperation with countries and regions in Latin America, the Middle East and South Africa.

The **thematic programmes** complement the Geographical Programmes and supports projects that are not geographically specific mainly in developing countries.

The overall objective is to eliminate poverty in partner countries and regions and help them to reach the Millennium Development Goals. This should be achieved through cooperation aiming to:

- Support democracy, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, good governance, gender equality and related instruments of international law
- Foster the sustainable development by all aspects; political, economic, social and environmental
- Promote partner countries smooth and gradual integration into world economy
- Help develop international measures to preserve and improve the quality of the environment and the sustainable management of global natural resources, in order to ensure sustainable development
- Reinforce the relationship between the Community and partner countries and regions

The DCI covers three components:

1) geographic programmes supporting cooperation with 47 developing countries in Latin America, Asia and Central Asia, the Gulf region (Iran, Iraq and Yemen) and South Africa.

These programmes support actions within the following areas of cooperation:

- poverty eradication and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- essential needs of the population, in particular primary education and health;
- social cohesion and employment;
- governance, democracy, human rights and support for institutional reforms;
- trade and regional integration;
- sustainable development through environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources;
- sustainable integrated water resource management and fostering greater use of sustainable energy technologies;
- developing infrastructure and an increased use of information and communication technologies;
- sustainable rural development and ensuring food security;
- assistance in post-crisis situations and fragile States.

2) thematic programmes benefiting all developing countries (including those covered by the ENPI and the EDF). These programmes support actions in the following fields:

- 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

3) programme of accompanying measures for the 18 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Sugar Protocol countries, in order to help them adjust following the reform of the EU sugar regime.

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/dci_en.htm

Potential beneficiaries

partner countries and regions, and their institutions, decentralised bodies in the partner countries (municipalities, provinces, departments and regions), joint bodies set up by the partner countries and regions with the Community, Non State Actors, international organisations, EU agencies.

The countries involved are: 18 countries in Latin America, 29 in Asia, 5 in Central Asia, 5 in the Middle East and South Africa

Types of assistance

Of the total budget of 16.897 million euro, the Geographical Programmes have been allocated 10.057 million euro, the Thematic programmes 5.596 million euro and the support to the Sugar Protocol countries amounts to 1.244 million euro.

Submitting a project proposal

In case of call for proposals and tenders each of them will specify in related documents the eligibility criteria for that specific call or tender.

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/funding/index_en.htm

Other opportunities

European Networks

Polis

Polis is a network of European cities and regions working together to develop innovative technologies and policies for local transport. Since 1989, European local and regional authorities have been working together within Polis to promote sustainable mobility through the deployment of innovative transport solutions.

Its aim is to improve local transport through integrated strategies that address the economic, social and environmental dimensions of transport. To this end, Polis supports the exchange of experiences and the transfer of knowledge between European local and regional authorities. It also facilitates the dialogue between local and regional authorities and other actors of the sector such as industry, research centres and universities, and NGOs.

Polis fosters cooperation and partnerships across Europe with the aim of making research and innovation in transport accessible to cities and regions. The network and its secretariat actively support the participation of Polis members in European projects. Polis participation in European projects allows them to create a framework which facilitates dialogue and exchange between local authorities and the transport research community.

In Polis, decision makers are provided with the necessary information and tools for making sustainable mobility a reality. Within the Political Group of Polis, they formulate recommendations to the European institutions.

The activities of Polis are organised around the four thematic pillars of a sustainable urban and regional transport policy:

- Environment and Health in Transport

- Mobility and Traffic Efficiency
- Transport Safety and Security
- Social and Economic Aspects of Transport

Polis members meet regularly in working groups organised in the framework of these pillars. The network is currently chaired by Dresden and has a permanent secretariat located in Brussels.

<http://www.polisnetwork.eu/about/about-polis>

European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL)

IMPEL, the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law, is an international association of environmental authorities in Europe. The network is committed to contribute to a more effective application of EU environmental law by capacity building, awareness raising, sharing good practices, providing guidance and tools, enforcement cooperation and giving feed back to lawmakers and regulators on the practicability and enforceability of environmental legislation.

<http://impel.eu/>

EIONET

Eionet is a partnership network of the European Environment Agency (EEA) and its member and cooperating countries involving approximately 1000 experts and more than 350 national institutions. The network supports the collection and organisation of data and the development and dissemination of information concerning Europe's environment

<http://www.eionet.europa.eu/>

European Network of the Heads of Environment Protection Agencies

The EPA Network is an informal grouping bringing together the heads and directors of environment protection agencies and similar bodies across Europe. The network exchanges views and experiences on issues of common interest to organisations involved in the practical day-to-day implementation of environmental policy.

<http://epanet.ew.eea.europa.eu/>

Other call for tenders

Road safety

In the web page of the DG Mobility and Transport of the European Commission are published also call for proposals and grants which do not belong to a specific community programme, such as grants devoted to Road safety.

The call for proposals can be consulted at the following web site

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/grants/2011_09_30_en.htm

Where to get information on the European Union direct funding

Directorates General of the European Commission

http://ec.europa.eu/about/ds_en.htm

Official EU information Points

“Europe Direct”

http://europa.eu/europedirect/index_en.htm

Enterprise Europe Network

http://www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm

European Documentation Centres

<http://www.cdeita.it/>

Cordis

http://cordis.europa.eu/home_en.html

The European Union representation offices in the 27 Member States

http://ec.europa.eu/represent_en.htm

The EU Delegation offices in “Third Countries”

http://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/web_en.htm

Further Reading

New funds, better rules

Overview of new financial rules and funding opportunities

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/library/biblio/publications/funds_rules/pack_rules_funds_en.pdf

Doing business with the European Commission

Tips for potential contractors

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/library/biblio/publications/business/doing_business_en.pdf

FP7 in Brief - How to get involved in the

EU 7th Framework Programme for Research

http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/pdf/fp7-inbrief_en.pdf

Practical Guide to EU funding opportunities for Research and Innovation

http://cordis.europa.eu/eu-funding-guide/home_en.html