

TACIS Cross Border Cooperation (CBC)

Cross border cooperation with Belarus, Moldova, Russia and the Ukraine

Official title

"TACIS Cross Border Cooperation"

Legal basis

Council regulation (EC, EURATOM) No. 99/2000 of 29 December 1999 concerning the provision of assistance to the partner States in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Objective

TACIS CBC is one of the multi-country programmes of TACIS and covers four partner States: Belarus, Moldova, Russia and the Ukraine. The TACIS regulation defines the purpose of cross-border cooperation as:

- assisting border regions in overcoming their specific development problems;
- encouraging the linking of networks on both sides of the border, e.g. border-crossing facilities;
- accelerating the transformation process in the partner States through their cooperation with border regions in the European Union or Central and Eastern Europe
- reducing transboundary environmental risks and pollution.

Beneficiaries

TACIS projects are classified into small and large-scale projects, depending on the cost of the project.

Large-scale projects are mostly border-crossing, environment and energy projects and the budget is usually more than EUR 2 million. Project proposals are submitted to the National TACIS Co-ordinating Unit.

The small projects facility offers scope for regional and local authorities to participate directly in cross-border cooperation. The projects are usually worth between EUR 50,000 and EUR 200,000. Calls for proposals are published by the Commission and applications are submitted directly to EuropeAid (the office responsible for implementing the external aid instruments of the European Commission).

Priority actions

In order to maximise impact, assistance will be limited to three areas of cooperation:

- development of infrastructure networks;
- promotion of environmental protection and management of natural resources;
- support to the private sector and assistance for economic development.

Measures to be supported

The following is an indicative list of the types of measures to be supported:

- transfer of expertise and know-how, including training;
- industrial cooperation and partnership for institution building based on cooperation between public and private organisations from the EU and partner States;
- on a case by case basis, the reasonable cost of supplies required in the implementation of the assistance;
- Investment and investment related activities. This can include technical assistance or direct investment finance.

Eligible areas

The TACIS CBC programme will focus on the borders between the NIS (Newly Independent States) and the EU (including both land and maritime borders), and the NIS borders with the Applicant States. Within the Partner States the eligible border regions will remain unchanged from those which have applied for the TACIS CBC programme since 1996.

Coordination with other EU programmes

In relation to TACIS CBC the Commission will seek to ensure complementarity with projects financed by other EU programmes in the neighbouring countries. This relates specifically to INTERREG on the borders with the Member States and to ISPA and PHARE on the borders with the Applicant Countries.



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OBSERVATORY

During the selection process the Commission will look favourably on projects that have or could have links to other programmes. However, separate applications will have to be prepared for the different programmes. In the case of small projects, a section of the TACIS CBC application form and call for proposals should address this issue.

Calls for proposals

TACIS CBC support is based on indicative programmes, valid for 3-4 years, which identify priorities and areas of co-operation as well as annual (for Russia and Ukraine) and biannual (for the other countries) action programmes setting out the projects to be supported and the funding available, within the guidelines defined by the indicative programme. For the small projects the Commission organises a call for proposals every year and sets a cut-off date for the submissions of project proposals for the springtime. It is anticipated that the first call for proposals will be published in January 2002.

Nature and rates of aid

The TACIS CBC Indicative Programme for 2000-2003 provides funding for three main areas of cooperation and for a small project facility as follows:

- 40-50% for the development of infrastructure networks (border crossings);
- 15-25% for promotion of environmental protection and the management of natural resources;
- 15-25% for support to the private sector and assistance for economic development;
- 10-25% for small projects.

European Union financial support

Subject to the specific annual budgetary approval process, for indicative purposes it is proposed that around EUR 30 million per annum will be provided for the period 2000-2003

Communication means

Further information on TACIS is available at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/ceeca/tacis/index.htm

Or on the EuropeAid website at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/index_en.htm

Information on coordination between TACIS CBC and other EU programmes is available on the web sites of the Directorates-General for Regional Policy (www.inforegion.cec.eu.int/INTERREG3) and the EuropeAid Cooperation Office (http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/index_en.htm)

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

European Commission

EuropeAid:
Rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 - Brussels
Mr Vic Heard
Tel: +32 2 2966434
E-mail: Vic.Heard@cec.eu.int

Other Useful Contacts:

The EC's Phare and TACIS Information Centre:
Rue Montoyer 19, B-1000 - Brussels
Tel.: (+32 2) 545 90 10
Fax: (+32 2) 545 90 11
E-mail: phare-tacis@cec.eu.int

Local Contacts:

A complete list of contacts in each country is also available at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/ceeca/tacis/contacts.htm