

Call for the submission of proposals from European non-governmental organisations primarily active in the field of environmental protection under the Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE+)

Revision of the call for proposals

Precautionary clause

On 12/01/2007, the European Commission published on its website a call for proposals for non-governmental organisations primarily active in the field of environment, with a closing date of 28 February 2007.

In accordance with the precautionary clause published, the call for proposal was subject to a certain number of conditions :

- adoption, by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, of the final text of the legal basis establishing the LIFE + programme, without any substantial modifications;
- adoption by the Commission, after referral to the programme committee, of the multi-annual strategic programme for LIFE+;
- adoption of the annual work programme relating to the LIFE+ programme for 2007;
- adoption of the 2007 budget of the European Union by the budgetary authority.

On 27 March 2007, the European Parliament and the Council achieved within the framework of the conciliation an agreement on a Joint Text on the LIFE + Programme. The Commission adopted on 25 May 2007 the annual work programme for grants for the year 2007, which was published on DG ENV's website on 31 May 2007.

The LIFE + programme was adopted on 23 May 2007 and should come into force 3 days after its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union, which is expected by mid-June 2007.

A provisional and unofficial version of the Regulation based on the Joint Text can be found at :

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplusdraft_en.pdf

The Joint Text agreed by the European Parliament and the Council contains in article 16.3 specific provisions on transitional measures applicable to the support to operational activities of non-governmental organisations in 2007 as regards in particular the duration of eligible costs. In the light of this change, the Commission has decided to reopen the call for proposals to allow the presentation of proposals taking into account these provisions, as well as to allow the presentation by applicants who presented a proposal during the first phase of the call of any additional information they deem appropriate.

Legal Basis

Under the terms of the LIFE+ Programme the Commission invites European non-governmental organisations, which are primarily active in the field of environmental protection, to present proposals with a view to obtaining a financial contribution.

Description

Contributions would be towards the costs that European environmental NGOs have to bear in carrying out the activities provided for in their 2007 annual work programme. Applicant organisations should be operating at a European level, either singly or in the form of several co-ordinated associations, with a structure (membership base) and activities covering at least three EU Member States. Activities and membership base should primarily be at a European and not at an international level.

The Programme will be open to the participation of European NGOs established (legally registered) in EU27.

Organisations should have been legally constituted for more than 2 years and have had its annual statement of accounts for the two preceding years certified by a registered auditor.

Objectives

Financial assistance under this Call for Proposals may be provided for activities, which involve contributing to the development and implementation of Community environmental policy and legislation in different regions of Europe.

Proposals will be assessed on policy relevance and potential impact of involvement in Community environmental policy-shaping and implementation, in relation to the following priority areas:

- Climate Change
- Nature and Biodiversity
- Environment and Health
- Natural Resources and Waste
- Horizontal or cross-cutting issues

In addition to the areas mentioned above, environmental education, enlargement and third countries will also remain of interest.

When awarding grants, the Commission will also pay due attention to how the grant would contribute to the organisational development of the beneficiary.

Budget and eligibility criteria

The Programme is a co-financing instrument. The rate of overall Community assistance shall not exceed 70 % of the applicant's eligible expenses for the grant year.

The period of eligibility of expenditure may start on 1 January 2007, provided that the expenditure does not precede the date on which the beneficiary's budget year starts.

The amount of a grant will only become final once the audited financial statement of the beneficiary has been accepted by the Commission.

Beneficiaries will be selected on the basis of the criteria set out in the Grant application guide relating to this Call for Proposals and within the limits of the available budget.

The procedure for the appraisal of a request is as follows:

- receipt, recording and acknowledgement of receipt by the Commission,
- examination by the services of the Commission,
- formulation of the final decision and communication of the result to the applicant.

The decision of the Commission is final.

Information on the Application

The Grant application guide relating to this Call for Proposals which sets out the eligibility, exclusion, selection and award criteria and the application, assessment and approval procedure, can be downloaded from the Commission web site at the following address: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/finansup.htm>

It may alternatively be obtained by applying in writing to the following address (preferably by fax):

European Commission

Office: BU-5 00/134

B-1049 Brussels

Fax (00) (32-2) 298 63 27

Deadline for submitting applications

Proposals must be submitted by 18 June 2007 at the latest.

Proposals submitted during the first phase of the call for proposals which closed on 28 February 2007 will be considered, provided the validity of the first proposal is confirmed in writing by the applicant to the Commission by 18 June 2007. Applicants may also submit revised proposals or additional documentation by 18 June 2007.