

EuropeAid

Additional € 3 million to help Local authorities and NGOs to participate in ENPI Cross Border Cooperation.

The Commission approves the next phase of the Regional Capacity Building Initiative (RCBI) for the ENPI CBC.

A budget of €3 million has been approved for the further implementation of the Regional Capacity Building Initiative (RCBI) for the period 2010-2012.

RCBI is a project aiming at assisting ENPI beneficiary countries within the framework of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument Cross Border Cooperation programmes (ENPI CBC) to strengthen their capacity to prepare and implement projects. The objectives pursued by the Regional Capacity Building Initiative are to build up the capacity of local and regional authorities and NGOs in project development and management terms in the eligible regions.

13 ENPI CBC were adopted by the Commission by the end of the year 2008. All programmes have by now established their programme structures and are actively working on launching calls for proposals to be followed by contract signature and project implementation. The beneficiaries in Partner countries need to be supported in this implementation. This need is particularly urgent in the southern partner countries, since these countries have no previous experience of cross border cooperation.

Regional cross border cooperation offers particular challenges, especially for people in the non-member states. RCBI is a project funded by the EU specifically to give practical support in the partner countries which currently participate in the ENPI CBC programmes.

Whether helping local officials develop projects in Murmansk, or giving information to potential applicants in Al Aqaba, RCBI aims to ensure the full, active and equal involvement of people in partner countries in the development, management and implementation of the ENPI CBC programmes. The ongoing RCBI project will phase out at the end of 2009 and will be extended for another 30 months until mid 2012.

RCBI activities include:

- Information on ENPI CBC opportunities
- Support to identify and develop projects and understand application forms
- Help to find partners on both sides of the border
- Training in project management

For more information on ENPI CBC:

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/regional-cooperation/enpi-cross-border/index_en.htm

For more information on RCBI:

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/regional-cooperation/enpi-cross-border/technical_assistance/index_en.htm

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