

# CENTRAL ASIA INVEST

## 2010 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

EuropeAid

### *Development of Central Asian SMEs*

*Central Asia Invest is a regional programme which aims to promote the sustainable economic development of Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) by encouraging the development of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs).*

## What kind of projects?

Central Asia Invest provides grants to **capacity building projects for Business Intermediary Organisations** in Central Asia. The activities must aim at upgrading the skills of staff members, making them better equipped to service the local SMEs.

A **factfile** presenting the projects selected under the 1<sup>st</sup> call for proposals is available on the website of the Programme.

The awarded grants are between € 250 000 and € 500 000. No grant may exceed **85 % of the total eligible costs** of the action.

## Who can apply?

**Non-profit making organisations** such as chambers of commerce, sector-specific trade, industrial and professional associations, regulatory bodies and agencies promoting trade, investment and commercial activities as well as sector-based agencies concerned with working with SMEs.

Applications should be based on a **partnership of a minimum of two partners**, at least one partner from Europe and one from Central Asia:

### **Europe:**

- **UE 27:** Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom;
- **EEA:** Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein,
- **Candidate country:** Croatia, Turkey, FYRoM.

**Central Asia:** Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

**Partners:** China, Mongolia, Russian Federation, Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan can participate as associates (i.e. not receive direct funding).

## What are the news introduced by the 2010 call?

The objective and award procedure of the 2010 call for proposals are similar to the previous edition.

Three major changes have been introduced:

- Applicants shall restrict their action to **specific sectors and themes**;
- Projects will have to demonstrate **clear impact on SMEs**, which are the final beneficiaries of this Programme;
- The **minimum grant** is now € 250 000.



## When and how to apply?

The new call for proposals has now been launched with a budget of € 4 millions.

The call is organized in two steps:

- **12 March 2010**: Submission of concept notes
- **Mid June 2010**: Submission of Full Proposal for pre-selected applicants

An Info Session will be organised on 19 February 2010 in Brussels.

To register please complete the online registration form at [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/asia/regional-cooperation-central-asia/sme-development/ca\\_invest\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/asia/regional-cooperation-central-asia/sme-development/ca_invest_en.htm)

Application forms and guidelines for applicants can be downloaded under "funding opportunities" (reference 129 499) at <http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/funding/> Please note that the prior registration in PADOR for applicants and their partners is mandatory.

Please do not hesitate to consult the Frequently Asked Questions (available online). Further questions can be addressed before 19 February 2010 to the **Central Asia Invest mailbox**: [europeaid-ca-invest@ec.europa.eu](mailto:europeaid-ca-invest@ec.europa.eu).