



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General for Information Society and Media

Content

Safer Internet *plus*

**A multiannual Community Programme on promoting safer use of the Internet
and new online technologies**

Work programme 2006

LUXEMBOURG, July 2006

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Safer Internet plus programme¹ provides funding for activities to promote safer use of the Internet and new online technologies, particularly for children, and to fight against illegal content and content unwanted by the end user, as part of a coherent approach by the European Union.

The purpose of the Work Programme 2006 is to continue these activities and to enhance their effectiveness by:

Extending operation of the hotline and awareness-raising networks to new countries;

Encouraging close co-operation between all stakeholders in Safer Internet activities;

Increasing the visibility of the Safer Internet plus programme for European citizens, both adults and children, and to help them find relevant information about how they can use the Internet more safely.

The Work Programme provides a road map on the actions to be carried in 2006. In particular it defines the content and criteria of a new call for proposals, with its objectives and expected result and indicative budget, and gives information about the activities which the European Commission will organise in collaboration with stakeholders.

In accordance with art 75(2) of the Financial Regulation², this Work Programme constitutes a financing decision.

2. THE ACTIONS OF THE PROGRAMME

The programme runs for the 4 years 2005- 2008. It has a budget of 45 mio € to be spent on activities under 4 actions:

- (a) fighting against illegal content
- (b) tackling unwanted and harmful content
- (c) promoting a safer environment
- (d) awareness-raising

In 2006 the focus will be on the following actions:

2.1. Action 1: Fighting against illegal content

The programme is funding the European network of hotlines. Hotlines allow members of the public to report illegal content (such as child pornography, illegal adult pornography and racism). They pass the reports on to the appropriate body for action (Internet Service Provider (ISP), police or correspondent hotline). Civilian hotlines complement police hotlines, where these exist. Their role

¹ Decision No.854/2005/EC of 11 May 2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council published in OJ L149 of 11.6.2005, p.1

² Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1.

is distinct from that of the law enforcement authorities, since they do not investigate offences or arrest or prosecute offenders. They may constitute centres of expertise providing guidance to ISPs as to what content might be illegal.

2.1.1. Hotlines

Following the 2005 call for proposals, the co-ordinator of the hotline network and 16 hotlines covering 15 countries (14 Member States plus Iceland) were recommended for EC funding.

Therefore the new call for 2006 will be open only for hotlines in the following countries where no hotline was recommended for funding under the 2005 call³:

- Member States: Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Slovakia, Sweden.
- Acceding Countries Bulgaria, Romania, and Candidate Countries: Croatia and Turkey⁴.
- Country covered by a “Stabilisation and Association Agreement”: Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia⁴.
- EFTA/EEA Countries⁴: Liechtenstein, Norway.

Funding will be provided for hotlines to act as nodes of the network in the above mentioned countries and to co-operate with other nodes within the European network of hotlines

Hotlines and awareness nodes & helplines (see actions 4.1 and 4.2) may decide to merge in a single project setting up a combined Safer Internet node for a given geographical area. This option will be considered as an asset during the evaluation of the proposals. It is essential that an awareness node exists in a country where a hotline is set up, so as to assist in ensuring the visibility of the hotline. Hotlines will therefore only receive funding if either a) the proposal recommended for funding is a joint proposal for an awareness node and hotline or b) an awareness node for that country is already operating under the Safer Internet programme⁵ or has been selected for funding.

Hotlines will be required to:

- establish, if necessary, and operate a hotline to receive information from the public relating to illegal content;
- inform users of the hotline’s scope of activity and how to contact it; Hotlines will make clear to users the difference between their activities and those of public authorities, and will inform them of the existence of alternative ways of reporting illegal content;
- deal rapidly with complaints received, in accordance with best practice guidelines drawn up by the network and in co-operation with law enforcement authorities;
- exchange specific information on identified illegal content with other nodes of the network;

3 Countries might be added to this list in the final version of the Work Programme if one or more negotiations with hotlines recommended for funding following the 2005 call are unsuccessful. See also list of current project at Appendix I.

4 See paragraph 3.1 below

5 Safer Internet Action Plan (1999-2004) or Safer Internet plus programme.

- participate actively in networking nationally and at European level and contribute to cross-border discussions and exchange of best practice;
- co-operate with the awareness node present in the country and Europe Direct (see 2.4.3 below);
- take an active part in events organised for Safer Internet Day at European, national and local level.

Hotlines should show that they have the necessary financial resources and support for their activities at national level and that their activities are in accordance with national law. Co-funding is intended for civilian hotlines, and therefore will not be provided for hotlines run by the police.

Hotlines will be funded at 50% of eligible costs as defined in the model grant agreement.

2.2. Action 2: Tackling unwanted and harmful content

In addition to action to fight illegal content at its source, users - responsible adults in the case of minors - may need technical tools. Accessibility to these tools may be promoted in order to empower users to make their own decisions on how to deal with harmful and unwanted content (user empowerment).

Rating systems and quality labels, in combination with filtering technologies, can help to empower users to select the content they wish to receive and provide European parents and educators with the necessary information to make decisions in accordance with their cultural and linguistic values. Taking account of the results of previous projects, funding could be given to projects which aim to adapt rating systems and quality labels to take account of the convergence of telecommunications, audio-visual media and information technology and to self-regulatory initiatives to back-up the reliability of self-labelling and services to audit the accuracy of self-rating labels. Further work may be also be needed to encourage take-up of rating systems and quality labels by content providers.

2.2.1. Implementation of action 2: thematic networks and targeted projects

2.2.1.1. Rating, quality labels, localisation and accessibility of filters

Following the 2005 call for proposals of the Safer internet *plus* programme, a thematic network was recommended for Community support under this action . This project aims at bringing together experts from all relevant disciplines and other relevant actors to jointly develop technical tools with increased effectiveness and approved pedagogical measures, building on and enhancing existing initiatives such as hotlines and awareness-actions.

The call-topics “localisation” and “interoperability” were not covered by selected proposals. Therefore under the new call for 2006 proposals will be invited for measures which meet the needs of users and which empower them to limit the amount of unwanted and harmful content which they receive, and to manage unwanted spam that they receive, through:

- targeted projects to increase take-up of content rating and quality site labels by content providers and to adapt content rating and labels to take account of the availability of the same content through different delivery mechanisms (convergence);
- targeted projects contributing to the accessibility of filter technology, addressing a) localisation of filtering systems in languages not adequately covered by the market, b)

enabling sharing or interoperability of resources used by filtering systems and c) increasing user-friendliness of such technology by making its installation, configuration and operation by the end-user more easy. Where appropriate, the technologies used should safeguard the right to privacy pursuant to Directives 95/46/EC and 2002/58/EC.

N.B. Projects to develop existing or new filter technology other than described above will not be funded.

Targeted projects will be funded at 50% of eligible costs as defined in the model grant agreement.

2.2.1.2. Pilot projects facilitating co-operation between hotlines and law enforcement authorities

In order to achieve maximum impact and effectiveness with the available funding, the hotlines must operate as efficiently as possible. In particular, setting up reference databases of illegal content can further improve the mechanisms for cooperation between hotlines and law enforcement authorities or expand the black lists of systems blocking access to illegal content, implemented by Internet Service Providers.

A further step to improve efficiency is to develop automatic content matching mechanism against these reference databases. The matching mechanism will enable hotlines to link incoming complaints of users to other cases referring to the same content. It should be reliable and enable to identify similar illegal content items presented through different media channels, different image coding formats or different message environments.

The reference database has to ensure a high degree of confidentiality and has to be operated in accordance with national legislation, if necessary it should not store directly illegal content but only means enabling the automatic identification of the content. Proposals will be invited for targeted pilot projects demonstrating best practices or involving innovative use of existing technologies, aiming at developing databases of references to illegal content and/or content matching mechanisms, which may include the sharing of data for the purpose of creating blacklists for use across the EU. The proposals would benefit to involve representatives of the hotlines network or of similar national initiatives to ensure that the proposed solutions could be widely used. Proposals should build upon existing work, including projects which have received funding under other Community programmes, such as DAPHNE, STOP and AGIS.

Targeted projects will be funded at 50% of eligible costs as defined in the model grant agreement.

2.3. Action 3: Promoting a safer environment

A fully functioning system of self-regulation is an essential element in limiting the flow of harmful and illegal content. Self-regulation involves a number of components: consultation and appropriate representation of the parties concerned; codes of conduct; national bodies facilitating co-operation at Community level; national evaluation of self-regulation frameworks.⁶ There is a continuing need for Community work in this area to encourage implementation of codes of conduct by the European Internet and new online technologies industries.

⁶ See the indicative guidelines for the implementation, at national level, of a self-regulation framework for the protection of minors and human dignity in on-line audiovisual and information services in Council Recommendation of 24 September 1998 on the development of the competitiveness of the European audiovisual and information services industry by promoting national frameworks aimed at achieving a comparable and effective level of protection of minors and human dignity, OJ L 270, 7.10.1998, p. 48.

The Safer Internet Forum spans all action lines, facilitating discussion and stimulating action relevant to illegal, unwanted and harmful content. It provides a focal point for discussion at expert level and a platform to drive consensus, inputting conclusions, recommendations, guidelines etc. to relevant national and European channels. It also gives the opportunity to discuss ways in which industry can contribute to the fight against illegal content. Where appropriate, by reason of the discussion in the Safer Internet Forum information may be exchanged and co-operation may be sought with relevant organisations active in related areas, such as in network and information security.

The Forum provides an opportunity for people active at national and European level, especially those involved in Member State programmes and initiatives, to exchange views, information and experience.

The Safer Internet Forum is open to participation of interested parties from outside the EU and candidate countries.

The Safer Internet Forum has the specific objectives of:

- Stimulating networking of the appropriate structures within Member States and developing links with self-regulatory bodies outside Europe.
- Stimulating consensus and self-regulation on issues such as quality rating of web-sites, cross-media content rating, rating and filtering techniques extending them to new forms of content such as online games and new forms of access such as mobile phones.
- Encouraging service providers to draw-up codes of conduct on issues such as handling Notice and Take Down procedures in a transparent and conscientious manner, information to users about safer use of Internet and the existence of hotlines for reporting illegal content.

Promoting research into the effectiveness of rating projects and filtering technologies. User organisations and scientific research institutes can be valuable partners in this effort.

Results and findings from ongoing and completed projects co-funded by the Programme feed into the process.

2.3.1. Implementation of action 3: Safer Internet Forum

The Commission will continue to set the agenda for and convene the meetings of the Safer Internet Forum. In 2006 a plenary meeting will be held on 21 June on the topics of children's use of new media and blocking access to child sexual abuse images. The geographical coverage of the audience will include the Member States of the European Economic Area and acceding and candidate countries and also a representative selection of third countries.

In order to promote awareness-raising activities in Russia a meeting discussing the same topics is planned to be held in Moscow in September/October. Stakeholders representing Russian authorities, the industry, law enforcement agencies and child welfare organisations will be invited to participate in the event.

The meeting should be seen as a first step to introducing the topic of a Safer Internet to the stakeholders and to identify organizations with the necessary experience and infrastructure, which if the appropriate formula can be agreed, could be given financial support from the EU to perform further awareness raising activities. Apart from the speakers taking part in the Safer Internet Forum,

officials from the Moscow administration and local NGOs will be invited to share their views on these topics.

Following the Safer Internet Forum in June 2005 and the follow-up workshop in October 2005, work will continue in the area of child safety and mobile phones with the objective of reaching agreement with mobile network operators on best practices and their implementation across Europe.

2.3.2. Implementation of action 3: thematic network

Following the 2005 call for proposals, a thematic network dedicated to self-regulation in the internet service providers (ISPs) sector at a European level was recommended for Community support.

Under the new call for 2006, proposals will be invited for a thematic network to implement cross-border actions in the field of co-regulation and self-regulation to combat unsolicited content (spam) harmful for children.

A thematic network covering a large number of Member States could examine issues related to unsolicited content (spam), defining best practices to combat it and facilitating dialogue among the different stakeholders (Internet service providers, regulatory authorities, filtering software suppliers, industry and user organisations, academia, etc.).

Thematic networks will be funded at 100% of a reduced set of eligible costs (see 4.3 below).

2.4. Action 4: Awareness-raising

2.4.1. Awareness nodes

The programme is funding the European network of awareness nodes to carry out awareness actions and programmes in close co-operation with all relevant actors at national, regional and local levels.

Following the 2005 call for proposals, the co-ordinator for the awareness network and 16 awareness nodes covering 16 countries (14 Member States, plus Norway and Iceland) were recommended for EC funding.

Therefore the new call for 2006 will be open only for awareness nodes in the following countries where no awareness node was recommended for funding under the 2005 call⁷:

- Member States: Estonia Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, United Kingdom
- Accessing Countries Bulgaria, Romania, and Candidate Countries: Croatia and Turkey⁸.
- Country covered by a “Stabilisation and Association Agreement”: Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia⁸.
- EFTA/EEA Country⁸: Liechtenstein.

⁷ Countries might be added to this list in the final version of the Work Programme if one or more negotiations with hotlines recommended for funding following the 2005 call are unsuccessful. See also list of current project at Appendix I.

⁸ See below paragraph 3.1

Awareness actions address a range of categories of illegal, unwanted and harmful content (including e.g. content considered unsuitable for children, racism and xenophobia) and, where appropriate, take into account related issues of consumer protection, data protection, information and network security issues (viruses/spam). They can also alert users of the potential liability for distributing and downloading content in breach of intellectual property rights. They should deal with content distributed over the World Wide Web as well as new forms of interactive information and communication brought about by the rapid deployment of the Internet and mobile telephony (e.g. peer-to-peer services, broadband video, instant messaging, chat-rooms, etc.).

Awareness actions should use cost-effective means of distribution of information to large numbers of users, notably by using multiplier organisations and electronic dissemination channels, mass media and the distribution of information material to schools and to Internet Cafés so as to reach the intended target groups.

Bodies seeking to act as awareness nodes need to show that they have the strong support of national authorities. They should have a clear mandate to educate the public in safer use of the Internet and new media or in media and information literacy, and must have the necessary financial resources to implement that mandate.

Awareness nodes will be expected to:

- devise a cohesive, hard-hitting and targeted awareness campaign using the most appropriate media, taking into account best practice and experience in other countries;
- establish and maintain a partnership (formal or informal) with key players (government agencies, press and media groups, ISP associations, user organisations, education stakeholders) and actions in their country relating to safer use of Internet and new media;
- promote dialogue and exchange of information notably between stakeholders from the education and technological fields;
- where appropriate, co-operate with work in areas related to the Safer Internet plus Programme such as in the wider fields of media and information literacy or consumer protection;
- inform users about European filtering software and services and about hotlines and self-regulation schemes;
- actively co-operate with other nodes in the European network by exchanging information about best practices, participating in meetings and designing and implementing a European approach, adapted as necessary for national linguistic and cultural preferences;
- provide a pool of expertise and technical assistance to start-up awareness nodes (new nodes could be 'adopted' by a more experienced node);
- take an active part in European-level events and in the organisation of national, regional and local events for Safer Internet Day;
- co-operate with the hotline present in the country, if any and Europe Direct (see 2.4.3 below).

Awareness nodes will be funded at 50% of eligible costs as defined in the model grant agreement.

As mentioned above (see 2.1.1), awareness nodes & helplines and hotlines (action 1.1) may decide to merge in a single project setting up a combined Safer Internet node for a given geographical area. This option will be considered as an asset during the evaluation of the proposals.

2.4.2. Helplines

Awareness nodes in the above-mentioned countries may also apply to run helplines, where children could raise concerns about illegal and harmful content on the Internet. These would offer one-to-one conversations with a trained helper in real time (by telephone or online). This could be done in conjunction with organisations with the necessary experience and infrastructure, such as organisations currently running helplines dealing with calls from children. Helplines will be affiliated to the European network of awareness nodes.

Helplines will be funded at 50% of eligible costs as defined in the model grant agreement.

2.4.3. EUROPE DIRECT

The EUROPE DIRECT contact centre, funded by the European Commission, offers a multilingual free telephone and e-mail service which citizens can use from anywhere in the European Union to find answers to questions they may have about the EU and EU-related issues, or about very practical issues related to, for instance, education and mobility.

From 2006 the EUROPE DIRECT service can act as a European contact point for inquiries relating to safer use of the Internet and filter incoming inquiries and guide/redirect citizens to the appropriate national hotline, helpline, or awareness node websites.

This should contribute to increase information for the general public and enhance visibility of the hotlines, awareness nodes / helplines and of the Safer Internet programme.

2.4.4. Eurobarometer survey

A new Eurobarometer survey of parents' views of their children's use of the Internet may be organised, covering all Member States, EEA/EFTA and candidate countries. It will be designed for comparability with the survey held at end of 2005 and possibly include questions on emerging issues. This will be carried out under the relevant framework contract.

2.4.5. Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day is part of a global drive by awareness-raising partners to promote a safer Internet for all users, especially young people. In February 2005 and 2006 Safer Internet Days were organised under the patronage of Commissioner Reding by the European internet safety network INSAFE, which is co-funded by the Safer Internet Programme, with the participation of a broad number of organisations and countries across Europe and world-wide.

In the framework of Safer Internet Day 2007 a central event is planned to be held in Brussels with the participation of high profile personalities active in the field of safer internet.

3. PARTICIPATION IN THE SAFER INTERNET PLUS PROGRAMME

3.1. Geographic origin of applicants

Participation in proposals to be submitted under the call for proposals foreseen by this Work Programme is open to all legal entities established in the Member States.

It is also open to participation of legal entities established in EFTA States which are contracting parties to the EEA Agreement (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein).

It is furthermore open to legal entities established in Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia⁹. If proposals submitted by legal entities from these countries are selected for funding, a grant agreement will only be signed once the necessary steps have been taken for the country concerned to join the Programme through signature of a bilateral agreement. Up to date information on which countries are part of the programme is available on the programme web site at <http://europa.eu.int/saferinternet>.

Legal entities established in third countries and international organisations may take part in all projects at their own expense.

3.2. Number of applicants

3.2.1. Targeted projects and thematic networks

Proposals may be submitted by a consortium of legal entities.

The European added value of the proposal will have to be clearly demonstrated, including coverage of several different Member States. For a targeted project consortia should be of a manageable size, 4 – 8 applicants covering at least 3 Member States, including at least 1 new Member State¹⁰. Consortia for thematic networks should cover at least 10 Member States, including at least 3 new Member States. The size of the consortium will be examined as part of the award criteria.

3.2.2. Integrated networks

In order to achieve maximum efficiency and impact, **hotlines and awareness nodes should preferably consist of a single organisation**.

In the case of a consortium, the distribution of work between partners should be clear and logical. The Commission will not accept consortia larger than two partners for a hotline, three partners for an awareness node (including awareness node and helpline) or four partners for a combined hotline and awareness node with or without helpline.

⁹ Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, of the other part, OJ L 84 of 20.03.2004. Protocol to the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, of the other part, on a Framework Agreement between the European Community and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on the general principles for the participation of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in Community programmes OJ L92 p23 of 22.7.2005

¹⁰ Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

4. PROJECT TYPES

The main financial means will be grants to cost-shared projects. Under the Financial Regulation¹¹, all such grants need to be co-financed by the beneficiaries, who will need to demonstrate in the proposal their contribution to the project.

The definition of eligible costs for each type of cost-shared project are found in the model grant agreement.

4.1. Targeted projects

In accordance with the Programme Decision, the standard funding model for targeted projects under action 2 (user empowerment) is 50% of the eligible costs of a participant.

4.2. Integrated networks

The 50% funding model is also the model for the nodes of “integrated networks” – hotlines under action 1 and awareness nodes and helplines under action 4.

4.3. Thematic networks

In the case of “thematic networks” under action 3 (self-regulation), only the direct costs of coordinating and implementing the network are covered, at a rate of 100%, and network members cover their own running costs except travel to network meetings. It would be expected that such a network would be open to new members and the estimated budget should be calculated to allow for this.

4.4. Public procurement

Procurement actions will be implemented through dedicated calls for tenders. They will not be part of the calls for proposals. Further details on the procurement actions foreseen in 2006 are given in point 6.2.

¹¹ Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (OJ L 248, 16.9.2002).

5. PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS

5.1. Projects overview

	Characteristics	Typical Duration	Typical EU Contribution
Targeted Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increase take-up of content rating and quality site labels by content providers (action 2) - contribute to the localisation and accessibility of filter technology (action 2) - facilitate co-operation between hotlines and law enforcement authorities (action 2) 	Up to 36 months (typically 24-30)	50% co-funding of eligible costs
Integrated networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hotlines (action 1) Awareness nodes and helplines (action 4) 	Up to 24 months	50% co-funding of eligible costs for the nodes.
Thematic Networks	- design and implement cross-border actions in the field of co-regulation and self-regulation to combat unsolicited content (spam) harmful for children (action 3)	Up to 36 months (typically 24-30)	Up to 100% funding of a limited set of eligible costs.
Public procurement	Study or service on the basis of detailed specifications defined by the Commission. Implemented through call for tender.	Up to 24 months	100%

5.2. Overview by action

	1 ACTION 1	2 ACTION 2	3 ACTION 3	4 ACTION 4
Targeted Projects		X		
Integrated networks	X			X
Thematic Networks			X	

6. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN and BUDGET

The commitment appropriations for 2006 available under the budget line 09 03 03 - Action on illegal and harmful content on the Internet - amount to 9.97 MEUR. Following the evaluation of the 2005 call for proposals¹², 37 projects were recommended for EC funding for a maximum amount of €11,785,820. The global commitment established under the 2005 budget (€9,214,374) will not be sufficient to fund all these projects and therefore 2.58 MEUR of the 2006 budget has been reserved to cover the remainder once the global commitment is exhausted. This means that the indicative amount available to fund the activities covered by the Work Programme 2006 will be 7.39 MEUR.

6.1. Call for proposals

A single call for proposals, with a fixed deadline, will be published in 2006 covering the actions of the programme mentioned above.

The Community contribution to the indirect actions selected from the call for proposals 2006 will be covered by the commitment appropriations for 2006 available under the budget line 09 03 03.

An indicative amount of 6.9 MEUR is available for the call. This indicative amount may increase by the contributions received from EFTA / EEA countries and candidate countries which may participate in the programme.

The **indicative budget breakdown** between actions is as follows:

1. Fighting against illegal content	30%
2. Tackling unwanted and harmful content	12%
3. Promoting a safer environment	8%
4. Awareness-raising	50%

The indicative calendar for the related activities is as follows:

Date	Event
July 2006	Adoption of Work Programme Publication of the call for proposals
Mid October 2006	Evaluation
November 2006	Evaluation report and draft implementation plan approved by Authorising Officer (DG)
November-Dec 2006	Committee Meeting – presentation for opinion of call results European Parliament Right of Scrutiny
January-April 2007	Negotiations, award decisions, individual commitments, grant agreements signature

¹² call for proposals published on 10 September 2005 (2005/C 223/09) in accordance with Decision No.854/2005/EC of 11 May 2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council adopting a multiannual Community Programme on promoting safer use of the Internet and new online technologies (*Safer Internet plus*). Prior to the call the SIP Programme Committee was consulted by written procedure launched on 28 June 2005.

6.2. Service contracts

The following activities using public procurement are foreseen in 2006.

Eurobarometer survey (framework contract)	260,000
Project reviews (appointment letters)	30,000

The commitment for the Eurobarometer survey will be in the last quarter. Project reviews will be committed equally throughout the year.

Experts who are chosen and accept to assist the Commission with project reviews may claim, in addition to the reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses, a payment of €450 in the form of a lump sum for each full working day spent assisting the Commission's services.

6.3. Safer Internet Forum and Safer Internet Day

Reimbursement of expenses for Safer Internet Forum	100,000
Expenses for Safer Internet Day 2007	100,000

These amounts will be committed in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters.

6.4. Administrative budget line

Commitment appropriations for 2006 available under the ADMIN budget line 09 010404

Evaluation of calls for proposals (appointment letters)	44,000
Electronic Proposals Submission System	5,000
Evaluation Service Provider	30,000
Expenses for Safer Internet Day 2007	205,000
Publications & other expenses	60,000
Communication activities of the DG	16,000

The commitment for evaluation of calls for proposals will be made in the 3rd quarter. Publications & other expenses will be committed equally throughout the year.

Experts who are chosen and accept to assist the Commission with evaluation of proposals may claim, in addition to the reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses, a payment of €450 in the form of a lump sum for each full working day spent assisting the Commission's services.

7. EVALUATION PROCESS

The evaluation of proposals will be based on the principles of transparency and equality of treatment. It will be carried out by the Commission with the assistance of independent experts.

1.1. Appointment of independent experts for evaluation and reviews

The Commission will appoint independent experts to assist with the evaluation of proposals and with the review of project results. The experts shall be identified on the basis of a current call for independent experts for the eContentplus and Safer Internet plus programmes (2005-2008). Experts will be selected in consideration of the skills and knowledge appropriate to the tasks assigned to them, taking into account the thematic requirements of a call or project, and with consideration of geographical and gender balance.

1.2. Evaluation criteria

Each submission will be assessed on the basis of the evaluation criteria, which are divided in three categories: eligibility criteria, award criteria, selection criteria. Only proposals meeting the requirements of the eligibility criteria shall be evaluated further. The description of these criteria is presented below.

1.1.1. Eligibility criteria

On receipt, all proposals and applications will be subject to an eligibility check, to ensure that they conform to the requirements of the call, and to the submission procedure.

The following checks will be carried out:

- Receipt of proposal by the Commission on or before the deadline date and time established in the call.
- Proposal completeness. Proposals which are substantially incomplete - that is to say that the forms do not include sufficient information to identify the partners, their legal status and their ability to carry out the work and to evaluate the scope of the proposed project - will be excluded.

Applicants will be excluded from participation if:

(a) they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;

(b) they have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of *res judicata*;

(c) they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify;

(d) they have not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are

established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the grant agreement is to be performed;

(e) they have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of *res judicata* for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Communities' financial interests;

(f) following another procurement procedure or grant award procedure financed by the Community budget, they have been declared to be in serious breach of grant agreement for failure to comply with their contractual obligations.

Successful applicants must certify that they are not in one of the situations listed above.

Applicants making false declarations expose themselves to financial penalties or exclusion from grants and contracts.¹³

1.1.2. Award criteria

In order to evaluate the relative merit of proposals received, each means to implement the programme (targeted projects, thematic networks and integrated networks) will have its specific set of award criteria, with specific weightings.

During the award phase of the evaluation, proposals can score between 0 and 100. Only proposals scoring more than 60 will be retained for EC funding.

1.1.1.1. Targeted projects

1. Relevance and impact

(Weighting of criteria 20%)

- Contribution to achieving the objectives of the Safer Internet plus programme and the relevant action as set out in the call.
- Expected impact of the proposed action and its viability beyond the phases of work sponsored by the European Union.
- Extent to which the exploitation and/or dissemination plans are adequate to ensure optimal use of the project results, where possible beyond the participants.

2. Quality of the technical part of the proposal

(Weighting of criteria 30%)

- Clear description of the problems, proposed solutions.
- Adequacy of the methodology and work plan for achieving the objectives stated in the proposal, including their feasibility in socio-economic, legal and regulatory terms.

3. Partnership, resources and management

(Weighting of criteria 30%)

- Quality of the partnership in terms of relevance, competences, combination of complementary expertise and resources available.
- Extent to which the project provides for the resources (personnel, equipment, financial ...) necessary for success.

¹³ Art. 175 of Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No. 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 (OJ L 357, 31 December 2002).

- Adequacy of the management, decision making structures, communication flow and cooperation mechanisms within the consortium.

- Adequacy of the measures and indicators for monitoring progress and assessing results and impact.

4. European added value and networking synergy **(Weighting of criteria 20%)**

- European dimension of the issue(s) addressed, and extent to which the proposed action would contribute to tackling them at European level.

- European added value of the consortium behind the proposal.

- Links with relevant external organizations or projects.

1.1.1.2. Thematic networks

1. Relevance, impact and European added value **(Weighting of criteria 15%)**

- Contribution to achieving the objectives of the Safer Internet plus programme and the relevant action as set out in the call.

- Expected impact of the proposed action.

- European dimension of the issue(s) addressed, and extent to which the proposed action would contribute to tackling them at European level.

2. Quality of the technical part of the proposal **(Weighting of criteria 25%)**

- Clear description of the problems, proposed solutions.

- Adequacy of the methodology and work plan for achieving the objectives stated in the proposal, including their feasibility in socio-economic, legal and regulatory terms.

3. Quality of the proposed network **(Weighting of criteria 35%)**

- Adequacy of the organisations participating in the network to achieve the co-ordination envisaged.

- Complementary of expertise available in the partnership.

- European added value of the network, including the need to reach an adequate critical mass.

- Links with relevant external organizations or projects.

4. Resources and management **(Weighting of criteria 25%)**

- Quality of the partnership in terms of relevance, competences, combination of complementary expertise and resources available.

- Adequacy of the management, decision making structures, communication flow and cooperation mechanisms within the network.

- The adequacy of the measures and indicators for monitoring progress and assessing results and impact.

1.1.1.3. Integrated networks

1. Relevance, impact and quality of the technical part of the proposal

(Weighting of criteria 20%)

- Contribution to achieving the objectives of the Safer Internet plus programme and the relevant action as set out in the call.
- Extent to which the Community support would have a substantial impact on the action and its scale, ambition and outcome.
- Clear description of the current situation in the country regarding issues related to safer use of technology and new online technologies and of the added value in this context of the proposed national node.
- Adequacy of the methodology and work plan for achieving the objectives stated in the proposal.

2. Partnership, resources, management

(Weighting of criteria 40%)

- Adequacy of the partnership in terms of relevance, size of the consortium, competences, combination of complementary expertise and task distribution.
- Extent to which the project provides for the resources (personnel, equipment, financial ...) necessary for success.
- Adequacy of the management, decision making structures, communication flow and cooperation mechanisms within the node.

3. National co-operation

(Weighting of criteria 20%)

- Extent to which the project documents support from national authorities, industry, NGO, Childcare organisations
- Co-operation with other organisations active in the field, both those funded by the Safer Internet plus programme and others.

4. European added value and network contribution

(Weighting of criteria-20%)

- European dimension of the issue(s) addressed, and extent to which the proposed action would contribute to tackling them at European level.
- Contribution of the node to the consolidation and further development of the European network

1.1.3. Selection criteria

Selection criteria will ensure that the applicants possess the resources to co-finance the project and the professional competencies and qualifications required to complete the work successfully.

Selection criteria are applied on the basis of the information supplied in the proposal. If this identifies cases of weak financial capacity or professional competence it may necessitate compensating actions such as financial guarantees or other actions. Successful proposals called to negotiations will be the subject of a formal legal and financial validation as a requirement to the issuing of a grant agreement.

Selection criteria are divided into two parts:

Financial and operational capacity to carry out the project

- Capacity to co-finance the proposed project as demonstrated by the applicant's accounts;

– Capacity to allocate adequate human resources to carry out the project in question;

Professional competencies and qualifications

– Documented relevant experience in the field of the proposed action.

8. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information related to this programme please refer to the Safer Internet web site at <http://ec.europa.eu/saferinternet>.

APPENDIX I

LIST OF CURRENT PROJECTS (AS OF 1 JANUARY 2006)
AND PROJECTS SELECTED FOR FUNDING IN 2005 CALL

I.1 HOTLINES

Country	Acronym	End date for present contract	Selected for funding in 2005 call
Austria	STOPLINE	28/02/2006	YES
Belgium	Childfocus Netaalert II	31/08/2006	YES
Bulgaria	Hotline Bulgaria	31/07/2007	
Cyprus	SaferNet	6/12/2006	
Czech Republic	Internet Hotline CZ		YES
Germany	Jugendschutz.net	28/02/2006	YES
Germany	IBSDE	28/02/2006	YES
Denmark	Red Barnet	31/08/2006	YES
Spain	Protegeles 2	28/02/2006	YES
Finland	Northern.Hotline-Nett.	28/02/2006	YES
France	AFA PdC	28/02/2006	YES
Greece	Safeline	31/12/2006	YES
Hungary	Hotline.hu	31/08/2006	
Ireland	ISPAI	28/02/2006	YES
Iceland	Barnaheill Stoplevel	31/08/2006	YES
Italy	STOP-IT 2	28/02/2006	
Italy	HOT114	31/03/2007	
Lithuania	Hotline Lithuania	28/02/2007	
Malta	Supportline 179	31/12/2007	
Netherlands	Meldpunt	28/02/2006	YES
Poland	NIFC Hotline	30/09/2006	YES
Slovenia	Hotline SI		YES
United Kingdom	IWF	31/03/2006	YES

I.2 AWARENESS NODES

Country	Acronym	End date for present contract	Selected for funding in 2005 call
Austria	saferinternet.at	31/12/2006	YES
Belgium	Safer Internet Belgium	30/09/2006	YES
Cyprus	CyberEthics		YES
Czech Republic	CziSI	31/08/2007	YES
Germany	klicksafe.de	31/10/2006	YES
Denmark	ANDK	31/08/2006	YES
Spain	Safenet	31/10/2006	YES
Finland	Children On-Line	30/09/2006	
Finland	TUNNE	31/10/2007	
France	CONFIANCE	30/09/2007	
Greece	SafeNetHome	30/09/2006	YES
Hungary	SIC	30/04/2007	
Ireland	IISAN	30/09/2006	YES
Iceland	SIAPI	30/09/2006	YES
Italy	EASY	30/09/2006	
Italy	EDEN	31/08/2007	
Lithuania	Safer Digital	31/03/2007	
Luxembourg	LUSI		YES
Latvia	Net-Safe		YES
Netherlands	NaNSoS	14/11/2006	YES
Norway	NONO	30/09/2006	YES
Poland	SIT	31/12/2006	YES
Portugal	Seguranet	14/11/2006	
Sweden	ANSWER	31/12/2006	YES
Slovenia	Safe-SI	28/02/2007	
United Kingdom	ISCA	30/09/2006	