

PREVENTION OF AND FIGHT AGAINST CRIME

CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2007

Action grants

1. INTRODUCTION

On 12 February 2007, the Council adopted Decision No 2007/125/JHA establishing the programme Prevention of and Fight against Crime as part of the general programme Security and Safeguarding Liberties¹. The objectives of the programme are the following:

- a. to stimulate, promote and develop horizontal methods and tools necessary for strategically preventing and fighting crime and guaranteeing security and public order such as the work carried out in the European Union Crime Prevention Network, public-private partnerships, best practices in crime prevention, comparable statistics, applied criminology and an enhanced approach towards young offenders
- b. to promote and develop coordination, cooperation and mutual understanding among law enforcement agencies, other national authorities and related Union bodies in respect of the priorities identified by the Council in particular as set out by the Europol's Organised Crime Threat Assessment
- c. to promote and develop best practices for the protection of and support to witnesses
- d. to promote and develop best practices for the protection of crime victims

This call for proposals covers the four themes as identified in Art. 3 of the Decision:

- (a) crime prevention and criminology;
- (b) law enforcement;
- (c) protection and support to witnesses;
- (d) protection of victims.

The amount available for action grants to be awarded under this call for proposals will be €18,556 million.

¹ Council Decision of 12 February 2007 establishing for the period 2007 to 2013, as part of General Programme on Security and Safeguarding Liberties, the Specific Programme "Prevention of and Fight against Crime", OJ L 058, 24.2.2007, p.7.

2. ACTIVITIES AND THEMATIC PRIORITIES

Under this call for proposals, financial support may be provided in particular for:

- (a) actions improving operational cooperation and coordination (strengthening networking, mutual confidence and understanding, exchange and dissemination of information, experience and best practices);
- (b) analytical, monitoring and evaluation activities;
- (c) development and transfer of technology and methodology;
- (d) training, exchange of staff and experts; and
- (e) awareness and dissemination activities.

The above mentioned activities are to be linked to the following thematic priorities:

2.1. Horizontal approaches and crime prevention measures

- (1) Innovative projects in view of developing a system for measuring crime and criminal justice.²
- (2) Strengthening prevention of organised crime through horizontal approaches such as public-private partnerships, administrative approaches to fight organised crime, and the transfer of best practices to restrict the social and economic effects of crime.
- (3) Strengthening and professionalizing the prevention of general crime (domestic violence, urban, juvenile and drug related crime), taking into account priorities identified by the European crime prevention network (EUCPN).³ Identification and evaluation of good practices and successful interventions in crime prevention, particularly when based on statistical evidence.
- (4) Strengthening prevention and fight against organised crime through cooperation of authorities within the EU with corresponding authorities in third countries, with a view to the EU strategy on the external aspects on the Union policy on freedom, security and justice.⁴

² COM(2006)437 final - Communication from the Commission: Developing a comprehensive and coherent EU Strategy to measure Crime and Criminal Justice: An EU Action Plan 2006 – 2010.

³ Council Decision of 28 May 2001 setting up a European Crime Prevention Network - OJ L 153, 8.6.2001.

⁴ Strategy for the External Dimension of the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice, adopted in December 2005 by the Council (Doc. 14366/3/05 JAI 417 RELEX 628) on the basis of the Commission Communication COM(2005)491 of 12.10.2005. Action oriented papers were also adopted in specific areas.

- (5) Developing an Intelligence-led Law Enforcement Mechanism (ILLE)⁵ based on thorough threat and risk assessments.
- (6) Protecting victims and supporting and protecting witnesses and other persons ready to co-operate with justice. Development of police and judicial cooperation with social services, schools and hospitals in cities, to strengthen mechanisms of protection of victims and adequate treatment and rehabilitation of perpetrators.
- (7) Developing effective strategies and initiatives to extend the reach of policies regarding counter-terrorism, the prevention of violent radicalisation and recruitment to terrorism especially among youth, the renunciation of violence and terrorism and the containment of incitement to racial or religious hatred.⁶
- (8) Enhancement of European detection capabilities and capacities⁷ - development of targeted activities in specific areas related to the detection tools, including but not limited to, development of standardisation, testing and certification schemes, interoperability of detection systems, enhancement of mobility and portability of detection tools.
- (9) Promoting exchanges among law enforcement officials, training, seminars, sharing of knowledge and/or best practices aimed at mutual confidence, strengthening criminal investigation and/or improving policing standards.
- (10) Linguistic support activities aiming to increase language comprehension among actors working in the third pillar fields: language training, translation and assistance and support for oral and written communication.

The foreseen global budget for projects carried out in this part is €9,056 million.

2.2. Prevention of and fight against crime in specific areas

- (1) Financial crime, including terrorist financing – development and implementation of existing and new instruments regarding money laundering, corruption, identity theft, fraud (in particular fiscal fraud and fraud on non-cash means of payments).
- (2) Environmental crime - strengthening Member States' confidence in each other's law enforcement system.
- (3) Trafficking in cultural goods – development and fostering of cooperation among the relevant actors, i.e. law enforcement services, and cultural (public and private) partners.
- (4) Counterfeiting and piracy - strengthening the coordination of investigations and exchange of best practices

⁵ The concept of ILLE, a mechanism and model for rational decision making on law enforcement priorities, aims at ensuring that such decision-making is based not only on the best available information, but also on a careful and methodical analysis of that information. See the relevant Council conclusions on 12 October 2005.

⁶ COM(2005) 313 final - Communication from the Commission concerning Terrorist recruitment: addressing the factors contributing to violent radicalisation, and Council document n° 14781/1/05 - The European Union Strategy for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment to Terrorism

⁷ COM(2006) 474 final - Green Paper on Detection and associated Technologies in the Work of Law Enforcement, Customs and other Security Authorities.

- (5) Illicit drug trafficking - Contributing to the implementation of the supply reduction policy of the EU Drugs Action Plan 2005 – 2008⁸, covering law enforcement co-operation, control of chemical precursor diversion and international co-operation (actions 18 to 27, 36 and 46, according to the identified conditions).
- (6) Trafficking in Human Beings - prevention, protection of and assistance to victims, prosecution and punishment of offenders, coordination and cooperation mechanisms as well as the collection of reliable data.⁹
- (7) Trafficking in firearms – further developing co-operation, co-ordination of investigations, training and exchange of best practices, including actions aiming at further development or better implementation of legal instruments.
- (8) Sexual exploitation of children - strengthening the application of and, where necessary, further developing of legal instruments countering the sexual exploitation of children and child pornography.
- (9) Radiological Terrorism – development of trans-national radiological initiatives and best practices in the field of prevention, detection and response to the threat of radiological and nuclear terrorism, including issues related to the insecurity for radiological material.
- (10) Biological Terrorism – development of operational and technical law enforcement cooperation and related applied research with a view to enhancing capabilities to prevent and respond to biological terrorist threats.
- (11) Explosives and Detection – development of private sector initiatives to engage and participate in the European Public - Private Strategy for the Security Enhancement of Explosives, Detonators, Precursors and Related Technologies.¹⁰

Foreseen global budget for projects carried out in this part is €9,5 million.¹¹

3. ELIGIBLE ORGANISATIONS

This call for proposals is opened to bodies and organisations with legal personality established in the Member States.

The Programme as such is destined for law enforcement agencies, other public and/or private bodies, actors and institutions, including local, regional and national authorities, social

⁸ EU Drugs Action Plan (2005-2008) adopted in Council on 5 June 2005, OJ C 168, 8.7.2005, p.1

⁹ EU plan on best practices, standards and procedures for combating and preventing trafficking in human beings, adopted in Council on 1 December 2005, OJ C 311, 9.12.2005, p.1

¹⁰ COM(2005) 329 final - Communication from the Commission on measures to ensure greater security in explosives, detonators, bomb-making equipment and fire-arms

COM(2006) 474 final - Green Paper on detection and associated technologies in the work of law enforcement, customs and other security authorities

¹¹ Please note that the specific programme "Prevention, Preparedness and Consequence Management of Terrorism and other Security related risks" established by the Council Decision 2007/124/EC EUROATOM of 12 February 2007, OJ L 58, 24.2.2007, p.1, covers also matters related to terrorism. The main difference between the two programmes is linked to the distinction in competencies between the first and the third pillar of the European Union. More information available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/cips/funding_cips_en.htm

partners, universities, statistical offices, non-governmental organisations, public-private partnerships and relevant international bodies. Please note that this programme does not deal with judicial cooperation.¹² However, it may cover actions which aim at encouraging cooperation between judicial authorities and law enforcement authorities.

Bodies and organisations which are **profit oriented shall have access to grants only in conjunction with non profit oriented or state organisations**. The nature of this cooperation shall be explained in the partnership declaration to be submitted along with the application form.

As regards transnational projects, third countries and international organisations may participate as partners but are not permitted to submit projects.

Applications from natural persons are not eligible.

4. TYPES OF PROJECTS

The applicants are invited to submit proposals for either transnational or national projects.

Transnational projects shall involve partners in at least two Member States, or at least one Member State and one other country which may either be an acceding or a candidate country.

Proposals for **national** projects conducted within Member States do not need any partners but they must:

- (i) prepare transnational projects and/or Union actions ("starter measures");or
- (ii) complement transnational projects and/or Union ("complementary measures");or
- (iii) contribute to developing innovative methods and/or technologies with a potential for transferability to actions at Union level, or develop such methods or technologies with a view to transferring them to other Member States and/or other country which may either be an acceding or a candidate country.

The applicants must clearly explain how their project proposal complies with one of the above mentioned conditions.

5. FUNDING CONDITIONS

The maximum rate of EU co-financing by the Commission is 70 % of the total eligible costs of the project. EU grants are given for non-commercial purposes only and projects must be strictly non-profit making.

¹² Please note that the specific programme "Criminal Justice", established by the Council Decision of 12 February 2007, No 2007/126/JHA , OJ L 058, 24.2.2007, p.13, provides financial support for activities in the field of judicial cooperation. More information is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/jpen/funding_jpen_en.htm.

Project proposals seeking EU co-funding of less than €50.000 will not be eligible to receive a grant. There is no maximum limit, but the amount of co-financing requested and its appropriateness as to expected results will be assessed as one of the award criteria.

As a general rule, the co-funding is provided in two instalments: a pre-financing payment on signature of the grant agreement and the balance on receipt and approval by the Commission of the final report and final financial statement.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR PROPOSALS

6.1. Eligibility criteria

To be eligible grant applications must meet the following criteria:

- (1) Project proposals must be submitted by bodies or organisations with legal personality established in the Member States. Applications submitted by natural persons or international organisations will not be eligible. Profit oriented bodies must submit a declaration from its partner non-profit or state organisation.
- (2) Project proposals must relate to one of the general objectives of the programme¹³ and fall within the priorities as above in Section 2.1. and 2.2.
- (3) Project proposals must be submitted using the action grant application form made available by the Commission in electronic format; no other form will be accepted; all sections of the form must be completed, the form must be dated and signed and it must be accompanied by all the documents listed in Section 7;
- (4) Project proposals must contain a budget in Euro, balanced in income and expenditure. The amount of Community funding requested may not exceed 70% of the total eligible costs of the project; it must include a minimum contribution of 30% of the total eligible costs of the project (from the applicant, partners, other sponsors and revenue),
- (5) Project proposals seeking EU co-funding of less than €50.000 will not be eligible to receive a grant.
- (6) Transnational projects must involve partners in at least two Member States, or at least one Member State and one other State which is an acceding or a candidate country.
- (7) National projects must comply with the condition as described in Section 4.
- (8) Projects cannot be already completed and should be scheduled to start between 1.9.2007 and 31.12.2007.
- (9) Projects cannot last more than three years.
- (10) The deadline for applications is **16 July 2007**.

6.2. Exclusion criteria

Applicant organisations shall be excluded from participating in this call for proposals if:

¹³ Articles 2, 3, 4 of the Council Decision No 2007/125/JHA.

- 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;
- they have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of *res judicata*;
- they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify;
- 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 contract is to be performed;
- 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;
- they are currently the subject of an administrative penalty referred to in Article 96 (1);
- they are subject to a conflict of interest;
- that are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required or fail to supply this information.

Candidates must sign the declaration on the last page of the application form. Candidates who have been found guilty of making false declarations or have been found to have seriously failed to meet their contractual obligations in an earlier Community procurement or grant award procedure may be subject to administrative or financial penalties or exclusion from Community contracts and grants in accordance with Art. 133 IR.¹⁴

6.3. Selection criteria

In accordance with Article 116(1) of the Financial Regulation and Article 176 of the Implementing Rules, proposals for projects shall be evaluated on the basis of the following selection criteria:

- (a) the applicant's operational and professional competencies and qualifications required to complete the proposed action (including evidence of its know-how and that of its partners and of its ability to access the information or participants in the way proposed in its application);
- (b) the applicant's financial capability, i.e. stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain his activity throughout the period during which the action is being carried out and to participate in its funding, based on the submitted documents (such as the

¹⁴ Art. 133, Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1248/2006 of 7 August 2006 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (Official Journal L 227, 19/8/2006).

balance sheets showing the annual incomes and expenditures, cash flow, debts, and the amount of cash available)

Only proposals which satisfy the selection criteria will be examined further.

6.4. Award criteria

Project proposals that are eligible and meet the selection criteria will be assessed by the evaluation committee and they will be ranked on the basis of the following award criteria:

- (a) **Conformity.** Projects will be assessed on the extent to which they fall within the priority areas identified in Section 2 above and in the relevant EU strategic documents and/or action plans. For each project, it should be demonstrated that its objective reflects a clearly identified need for action according to the EU's policy priorities in the field of prevention and fight against crime. **(25 points)**
- (b) **Quality** of the proposed action regarding its conception, organisation, presentation, methodology, expertise, expected results and strategy for their dissemination. In particular, the ability of the project to attain the desired objective(s) will be assessed. **(25 points)**
- (c) **Value for money.** Amount requested for financial support and its appropriateness as to expected results. **(15 points)**
- (d) **Impact** of the expected results on the general objectives of the programme and on measures taken in the different domains as specified in Articles 3 and 4 of the Council Decision. **(15 points)**
- (e) **European dimension.** Wide geographic scope of the project, in terms of partners, participants and the target groups, will be favoured. For national complementary projects, this criterion is replaced by the geographical scope of the measure they complement. For other national projects (starter measures and other actions), it is replaced by the potential geographical scope of follow-up measures. **(10 points)**
- (f) **Economies of scale.** Larger projects, in terms of, for example, ambition and participants, will be favoured. **(10 points)**

7. PRACTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted using the action grant application form and budget form made available by the Commission in electronic format available on the Europa web-site.

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/isec/funding_isec_en.htm

The applicant must fill in the fields indicated and send back the document on a diskette or CD-ROM and in three paper copies (**one signed original plus two copies**). Applications submitted on an application form that has been altered or used before, or forms completed by hand, will be disqualified.

7.1. DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED:

The following documents must be submitted in **triplicate**:

- the application form for an action grant, **duly completed, dated and signed by the person authorised to enter into legally binding commitments on behalf of the applicant**;
- **a forward budget, dated and signed, presented on the specific budget form, including a detailed breakdown of expected expenditure and revenue**, (the relevant budget form can be found on the Commission's website);
- a timetable for implementation of the project;
- declarations by all partners, standard forms for which can be found on the Commission's website;
- an organisation chart and a description of the tasks of the staff, including the CVs of staff members responsible for carrying out the activities specified in the project proposal;

A single copy of the following documents is required for **all applicants**:

- the financial identification form, dated and signed by the applicant, and signed and stamped by the bank concerned;
- the legal entities form, dated and signed by the applicant;
- the applicant organisation's annual activity programme for 2007 including the list of the planned activities and their timing, location and costs;¹⁵
- a report or description of the activities carried out by the organisation in 2005 and 2006;¹⁶
- evidence that the applicant can enter into financial commitments on behalf of the university (applicable only to universities or university departments);

In addition to the above mentioned documents, private institutions or bodies should provide:

- the latest financial statements (balance sheet, profit and loss account), including audited accounts when required under the national law;
- an external audit report if the amount of grant awarded exceeds 500 000 euros; this audit report shall certify the account of the last financial year available;
- the forward budget for 2007 showing a detailed breakdown of the body's expected expenditure and revenue;
- evidence of legal status, including articles of association;
- a copy of any official document (e.g. Official Gazette, Register of companies, etc.) showing the contractor's name and address and the registration number given to it by the national authorities;

¹⁵ Ministries, law enforcement and judicial authorities do not need to provide these documents.

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- a copy of the VAT registration document if applicable and if the VAT number does not appear on the official document referred to above;

In addition to the above mentioned documents, public bodies and authorities should provide:

- a copy of the resolution, law, decree or decision establishing the entity in question;
- or, failing that, any other official document attesting the establishment of the entity.

Please avoid binding the documents along the spine (into a book). It is recommended to use a single staple in the left-hand corner.

7.2. DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

Applications must be received in a sealed envelope by registered mail, by courier service or by hand-delivery (a signed and dated certificate of receipt will be given to the deliverer) to the address indicated below:

By registered mail to:
European Commission
Directorate-General Justice, Freedom, Security
Unit D4 Financial support
Programme "Prevention of and Fight against Crime"
Call for proposals/Action grants 2007
Office LX-46 2/106
B-1049 Brussels

By courier or by hand delivery, to:
European Commission
Directorate-General Justice, Freedom, Security
Programme "Prevention of and Fight against Crime"
Call for proposals/Action grants 2007
Office LX-46 2/106
Mail Department
Avenue du Bourget 1
B-1140 Brussels-Evere

Applications must be:

- either by registered mail or by courier service, posted or dispatched **not later than 16 July 2007** (as evidenced by the postmark or by the date of the deposit slip),
- or by hand-delivery (in person or by an authorised representative) **not later than 16 July 2007 at 15.00** (Brussels time), in which case a receipt must be obtained as proof of submission, signed and dated by the official who took delivery.

Any application received after the deadline or at the wrong address will be automatically rejected.

Acknowledgement of receipt

Following the opening of proposals, the Commission will send an acknowledgement of receipt to all applicants, indicating whether or not the application was received prior to the deadline and informing them of the reference number of their application.

8. FURTHER INFORMATION

Applicants are invited to consult the “Guide for applicants” at the following address:

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/isec/funding_isec_en.htm

Questions may be sent by e-mail or by fax to the address or number listed below, indicating clearly the reference of the Call for Proposals:

e-mail address: JLS-ISEC@ec.europa.eu

Fax: + 32 2 299 82 15

The Commission shall reply according to the Code of good administrative behaviour within 15 working days from the receipt of the question.

The Commission may contact applicants to request additional information at any time prior to taking its award decision. Failure to respond to such requests by the deadline set may lead to disqualification of the application. Applicants must take the necessary steps to ensure that they can be contacted rapidly up to the end of the selection process. Where the Commission contacts an applicant, this does not in any way constitute or reflect a pre-selection of the proposal on the part of the Commission.

In addition, the European Commission has the task of promoting equality between women and men and must aim in all its activities to eliminate gender inequalities (Articles 2 and 3 of the EC Treaty). In this context, women are particularly encouraged either to submit proposals or to be involved in their submission. As regards studies or research projects, the Commission would also like to draw your attention to the importance of a systematic breakdown by sex of all statistics used and of an analysis of the potentially different impact of policies on men and women, even if they appear at first sight to be gender neutral.

9. TIMETABLE

The evaluation committee expects to complete its report by the end of September 2007. The Commission will then consult the committee of representatives of the Member States set up by the Decision establishing the programme. Applicants shall be informed of the outcome of their application within fifteen calendar days after the award decision has been taken, indicatively no later than 31 October 2007.

For beneficiaries of a grant under this programme, a pre-financing payment of 60% may be made after the signature of the grant agreement by both parties and in accordance with its terms. The Commission may require the beneficiary to lodge a guarantee in advance to limit the financial risks connected with the payment of pre-financing. The exact calculation of the final amount of the subvention will be done when the project has ended on the basis of supporting documents provided by beneficiary.

10. EX-POST PUBLICITY

All grants awarded in the course of a financial year must be published on the Internet site of the Community institutions during the first half of the year following the closure of the budget year in respect of which they were awarded. The information may also be published by any other appropriate medium, including the Official Journal of the European Union. The following will be published with the agreement of the beneficiary:

- (a) the name and address of the beneficiaries;
- (b) the subject of the grant;
- (c) the amount awarded and the rate of funding of the costs of the approved work programme.

The European Commission may waive the above obligations if publication of the information could threaten the safety of the beneficiaries or harm their business interests. Beneficiaries of grants must clearly display acknowledgement of the support received from the EU.
