



# Multi-region assistance call for proposals

## Information session

**Brussels**  
**26 May 2015**

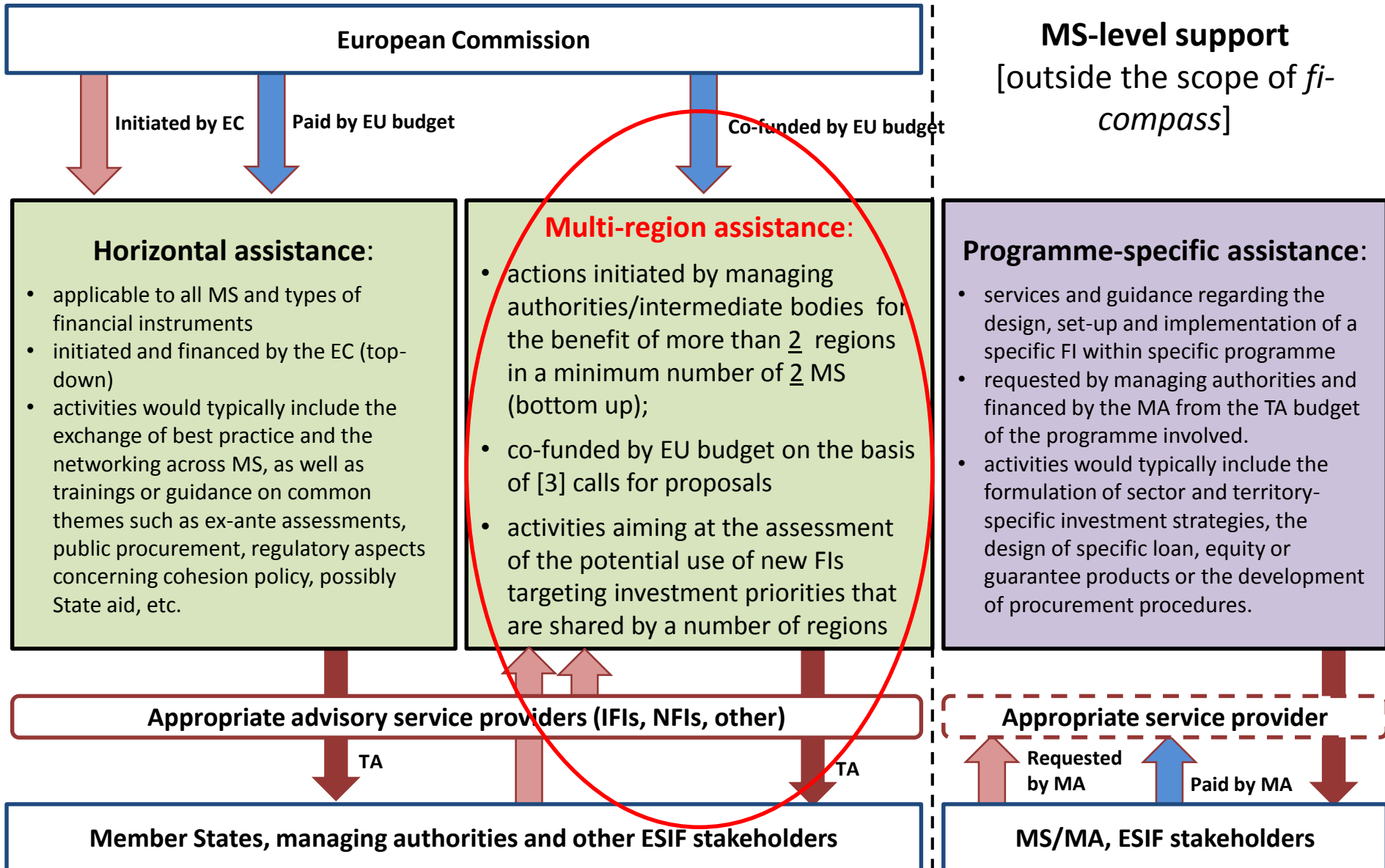


# **Multi-region assistance**

# **The objectives and the themes of the call**

**Rudolf Niessler  
Director REGIO.B**

## Two forms of assistance delivery under *fi-compass*



# EU policy objectives pursued by the call

- Facilitate a broadened use of FIs, in terms of amounts involved, geographical scope and thematic scope (innovative, new areas) in line with the objectives of the Investment Plan
- Incentivise bottom-up cooperation between regions from distinct Member States aimed at assessing possible use of financial instruments, exchange of practices and mutual learning
- Incentivise cooperation and tapping in the relevant expertise of financial institutions, such as International Financial Institutions, national promotional banks or others

# Themes of the call

Actions can be supported under one of the following themes or any combination of them:

- A. Assessing the potential use of financial instruments as a form of support addressing thematic objectives under the programmes co-funded by **European Regional Development Fund and/or the Cohesion Fund** and specific to and shared by at least two regions from at least two distinct Member States;
- B. (...) **European Social Fund** (...)
- C. (...) **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development** (...)

# Examples of grant actions?

- All 11 thematic objectives of ESIF are eligible
- Ideas about the use of FIs in areas going beyond the typical ones are encouraged and will be rewarded accordingly in the evaluation procedure
- 6 **INDICATIVE** example areas indicated in the Q&A Guide for Applicants:
  - Energy efficiency
  - Roma inclusion
  - Macro-regional strategies
  - Broadband networks
  - Urban development
  - Agriculture / forestry

**Thank you for your  
attention!**

**Questions & Answers**

# **Multi-region assistance**

# **Eligibility, selection and award criteria**

**Bogna Filipiuk-Olteanu**  
**REGIO.B3**



# Eligibility criteria (1)

- Covering at least 2 regions and are being submitted by at least 2 MAs/IBs from distinct MSs (exception if the application involves at least one cross-border or transnational programme), organised in a consortium with coordinator
- Involving expertise of at least one IFIs or financial institution(s) covering with their activities the applying regions
- Actions assessing the potential use of FIs supported by the ERDF, CF, ESF and/or EAFRD (combination possible) – implementation of (a) concrete FI(s) is expected
- Targeting investment priorities that are specific to and shared by the applying regions

## Eligibility criteria (2)

- Activities eligible under this call for proposals have to be to the benefit of the applicants and the grant action and may include:
  - advisory services;
  - research activities, surveys, studies, analyses, mapping projects;
  - workshops, learning activities;
  - actions aiming at cooperation, at the creation and improving of networking, exchanges of good practices;
  - awareness and dissemination actions, including conferences, seminars.

# Involvement of financial institutions

- MAs/IBs are required to use the expertise of financial institutions to render the assessment meaningful and target FIs which have a realistic chance to be implemented
- No formal restriction on the type of financial institutions which may be involved in the grant action (but the geographical scope of their activities)
- MAs/IBs will be grant beneficiaries; financial institutions may be involved as the so called non-beneficiaries parties: affiliated entities or sub-contractors (in the sense of the Financial Regulation)

# Non-beneficiaries parties involved in the action implementation

	Description	Costs
<i>Affiliated entities</i>	<p>With a structural - legal or capital - link to the beneficiary</p> <p>“Part” of the beneficiary and under his responsibility</p> <p>To be indicated in the application form</p>	<p>Entitled to incur eligible costs</p> <p>Expected costs to be indicated in the budget form</p>
<i>Sub-contractors</i>	<p>Contracts signed by the beneficiary for the implementation of a (<u>justified</u>) part of the action</p> <p>Scope of the tasks to be described in the application form (not coordinator’s tasks)</p> <p>Best value for money or lowest price and avoiding conflict of interests</p>	<p>Costs entailed to such contracts represent eligible costs for the beneficiary</p> <p>Expected costs to be indicated in the budget form</p>

## Selection criteria

- Applicants must not be in any of the exclusion criteria as defined in the Financial Regulation
- That have demonstrated their **financial and operational capacity** to carry out the proposed action:
- Financial capacity: Verification waived for public bodies; for private bodies the supporting documents to be provided as specified in the call (e.g. for low value grants only declaration of honour)
- Operational capacity: To be declared/described in the application form and CVs for key staff to be provided

# Award criteria

**To score above 50% for each of the three award criteria and above 60% in total:**

- **Relevance:** contribution to the objectives of the call; level of the involvement of broader expertise sources; the integral and comprehensive nature of activities; innovative nature of the action [40%]
- **Impact:** geographical coverage; sustainability of action's results; transferability and planned use of the results, including planned dissemination [30%]
- **Quality:** effectiveness and rationality of the methodology and organisation (e.g. timetable); relevance and quality of means of implementation (in particular cost-effectiveness); consistency of the proposal [30%]

**Thank you for your  
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**Questions & Answers**

# Multi-region assistance

# Financial provisions and grant agreement

**Symela Tsakiri**  
**REGIO.A3**



# Financial parameters

- Overall budget reserved: EUR 10.83 million (may not be used up)
- Max. grant amount per grant action: EUR 2.5 million
- Max. grant amount per theme:
  - ERDF and/or CF: EUR 2.5 million
  - ESF: EUR 0.5 million
  - EAFRD: EUR 1.4 million
- The grant will take a form of up to 95% of the actual eligible costs and is subject to the above limits
- Direct costs: actual eligible costs; Indirect costs: 7% of the direct eligible costs

# Definition

## Eligible costs:

- Incurred (*i.e. generated*) during the action
- Necessary for the implementation
- Indicated in the budget estimate
- Identifiable and verifiable
- Compliant with tax and social legislation
- Reasonable and justified

# Definition

## Grant Amount:

- Double ceiling (% co-financing and EUR)
- Checking the non-profit rule
- Final amount of grant (determination amount to be paid according to the eligible costs or recovered)

# Grant agreement (1)

- Key elements of special conditions will be:
  - Agreed entry into force of the agreement and duration of the action
  - Agreed maximum amount and co-financing rate of the grant
  - Provisions on reporting, payments and payment arrangements: 40% pre-financing upon the request by coordinator and balance payment after the end of the action and accompanied by valid final reports (technical report and financial statement)

## Grant agreement (2)

- General conditions are the standard clauses used by the Commission, for instance regarding:
  - Obligations and roles of beneficiaries, liabilities
  - Confidentiality, conflict of interest and processing of personal data
  - Visibility of EU funding
  - Awards of contracts and subcontracting
  - Suspension of the action, termination of the agreement
  - Eligible costs
  - Checks, audits and evaluation

# Record keeping

- Period for keeping documents related to grants by the beneficiary from the payment of the balance: 5 years
- Same periods apply for documents related to audits, appeals, litigation or claims.

**Thank you for your  
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**Questions & Answers**

# **Multi-region assistance**

# **Timetable and practical information**

**Ricardo Pinheiro**  
**REGIO.B3**



# Call launched on 28 April 2015

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/index.cfm/en/newsroom/funding-opportunities/calls-for-proposal/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index.cfm/en/newsroom/funding-opportunities/calls-for-proposal/)

## Documents:

- Call for proposals
- Application form and budget form
- Model grant agreement including model reports
- Q&A – Guide for applicants

**Deadline for applications: 31 July 2015**

# Admissibility criteria

- Applications in writing using the application form, including its annexes, duly completed, dated, showing a balanced budget
- In one of the EU official languages. If not submitted in English, it should be accompanied by a summary in English
- Submitted in one paper original signed by the person authorised to enter into legally binding commitments on behalf of the applicant organisation plus electronic copy of original files in initial formats saved on an electronic carrier
- Placed inside two sealed envelopes, one inside the other; the inner envelope must contain the paper version of the full proposal and bear the indication specified in the call
- Sent no later than 31/07/2015 to any of the two addresses indicated in the call
- Applications sent by fax or e-mail will not be accepted

# TIME TO GRANT

6 months

3 months

Call  
deadline

Information  
to  
applicants

Legal  
commitment

# Timetable

DATE	STEP
<b>28 April 2015</b>	Call published
<b>26 May 2015</b>	Information Session
<b>31 July 2015</b>	<b>Deadline for submission of applications</b>
<b>30 November 2015 (tentative!)</b>	Information to applicants
<b>31 January 2016 (tentative!)</b>	Grant agreements signed
<b>Starting date of the action</b>	First day after grant agreement signed
<b>Duration of the action</b>	One year (expected)

## Additional Information

- Applicants may send their questions to REGIO-MULTI-REGION-CALL@ec.europa.eu
- To respect the equal treatment principle, all questions received and Commission's responses to them will be published on the website where the call is published
- Also the questions & answers from this session will be published.
- Certain questions, e.g. on the eligibility of an applicant or the quality of the envisaged action, will by principle not be replied by the Commission
- In addition applicants should consult the website regularly for (possible) important updates

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**Questions & Answers**