



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL AFFAIRS & EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Social Protection and Social Integration

CALL FOR PROPOSALS VP/2006/014

2006 European Year of Workers' Mobility

PILOT PROJECTS

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1. Background

In its efforts to enhance the EU's competitiveness and foster job creation, the European Council has placed mobility at the heart of the Lisbon strategy. Notwithstanding the efforts undertaken to facilitate mobility, in both geographic and labour market terms, the current mobility rates for workers in Europe remain low, due to a combination of factors, such as the persistence of legal, administrative, and socio-cultural obstacles; the lack of knowledge about rights, opportunities and instruments concerning workers' mobility; as well as the inability of many stakeholders – in particular public authorities, social partners and businesses – to work together in order to provide the right support to enhance workers' mobility in the EU. It is in this context that the European Commission designates **2006 as the European Year of Workers' Mobility**¹.

2. Aims

The purpose of the present call for proposals is the co-funding of a limited number of **pilot projects in order to:**

- develop and test innovative instruments which facilitate the geographic and labour market mobility of workers and their families and remove existing obstacles to mobility;
- transfer between sectors, regions and countries or mainstream existing successful instruments and practices in the area of mobility.

All projects need to evidence a clear **European added value** and should be able to be reproduced in other contexts. They should involve relevant stakeholders and should have the potential to lead to new policy initiatives.

3. Who can apply?

The present call for proposals will be financed by the Employment Incentive Measures (EIM) Programme, budget heading 04 02 15, and is open to participants from the Member States of the European Union. Applications may also be submitted by countries having effectively made a financial contribution to the EIM Programme budget to cover their participation in the Programme for 2006. This concerns specifically countries of the European Economic Area, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey and Croatia. The precise nature of each country's participation in the Programme is governed by the conditions laid down in the Agreement between the European Commission and the country concerned.

Proposals must be developed and implemented by a **partnership**, preferably at transnational level, and must involve at least two relevant stakeholders potentially interested in the objectives of the call (i.e. public authorities and social partner organisations, non governmental organisations, public-private partnerships, academia, municipalities, etc). **The effective contribution of each individual partner,**

¹ http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/workersmobility2006/

including the amount of its financial contribution, must be clearly described in the project.

Interested partners and stakeholders are requested to submit their proposal through a single applicant, who will be responsible for the overall management of the project. The applicant will sign the grant agreement with the Commission, receive and manage the grant from the Commission and be responsible for the implementation and reporting to the Commission on the progress of the overall project, as well as ensuring on-going monitoring and evaluation. The Commission will only deal with the applicant organisation.

4. Priority themes / actions

Given the specific nature of the European Year of Workers' Mobility, proposals submitted under the present call should specify how they relate to the overall aims of the Call, as described in point 2 above, and clearly identify the actions to be carried out, how, when and by whom and who is the intended target group.

By way of example, projects put forward under the present call may concern:

- **development and testing of innovative instruments/methodologies** in strategic areas in order to facilitate workers' mobility and removal of existing obstacles (e.g. support for families and dual career couples, enforcement of social protection rights and housing policies, specific tools for temporary/seasonal mobile workers, recognition of acquired competencies and qualifications and management of return to the country of origin, promotion of mobility into regions of demographic decline or with specific labour needs, feasibility studies on financial support mechanisms for encouraging workers' mobility within the EU, etc).
- **transfer** between sectors, regions and countries or **mainstream existing successful mobility instruments** and practices (e.g. adaptation and transposition of particularly successful existing activities developed in a given sector , country or region to a broader context)

All proposals should include the organisation of an **awareness raising activity** (i.e. press conference, workshop, etc.), to take place **before 31 December 2006**, aimed at informing the public about the aims and characteristics of the project, and relating it to the objectives of the European Year. This activity should aim at reaching a wide audience with limited financial resources (awareness raising is not the aim of this call for proposals and should not constitute the main component of the project).

5. Examination of grant applications

5.1. *Submission dates*

The **deadline** for the submission of applications under this call is 17/07/2006. Applicants should note that the **deadline** for the submission of applications **will be strictly applied**. Any application that does not meet the relevant deadline, for whatever reason, will automatically be declared ineligible.

5.2. *Indicative amounts*

The budget available for the present call is **€2 million**. It is envisaged that this will be sufficient to award between **5 and 8** grants. In keeping with the open nature of this call, no minimum and maximum grant amounts are being fixed. The average grant under the call is expected to be around **€300.000**.

5.3. *Commission co-funding*

The budget is intended to finance specific projects. Commission grants are intended to cover expenditure that is directly linked to these projects.

Commission grants under this call may not be used to finance the normal operational or running costs of applicant or partner organisations.

Commission grants awarded under this call may not be used for the generation of financial gain or profit by or for any of the actors involved in a project (whether applicant, partner or other organisations).

Under the present call, the Commission will co-finance projects **up to a maximum of 85%** of the total eligible costs. The applicant and its partners must therefore guarantee **co-financing of at least 15% of the total budget in cash**. **Contributions in kind are not accepted**. Any application which requests a grant of more than 85 % will be automatically excluded from the selection.

5.4. *Eligibility criteria*

All applications will be examined. Only the proposals that satisfy the eligibility and selection criteria will be assessed against the award criteria.

Eligibility of the Applicant

To be eligible, applicants must:

- be a properly constituted and registered legal person established in one of the countries mentioned at point 3. Applicants from countries covered by Agreements governing their participation in the EIM Programme (countries of the European Economic Area, Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia and Turkey) will be eligible only if their respective financial contribution to the EIM Programme for 2006 has effectively been made on the date of submission of the application
- The social partners' organisations may also take part in this call for proposals. In derogation from the requirement of article 114 of the Financial Regulation, with regard to grants attributed for operations falling within the scope of

Article 138 of the EC Treaty, social partner organisations without legal personality are also eligible (Commission Communication relating to the eligibility of social partner organisations (C(2003)2014) adopted on 1 July 2003).

- be a public authority, state or semi-state body or agency situated at central or regional level
- non-profit organisations active mainly in the area of employment policy, quality of work or social inclusion may be eligible to submit an application on condition that they are active at international, national or regional level and submit a proposal in partnership with a public authority, state- or semi-state body or agency as described above.
- not be in one of the situations referred to in Articles 93 and 94 of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No. 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002²). For this purpose, the applicant shall send a signed declaration (annex may be found by accessing the SWIM application form)

Eligibility of the Application

To be eligible, actions must:

- comply with the European Community rules for co-financing and guarantee co-financing of at least 15 % in cash of the total cost of the project
- clearly demonstrate the existence of a partnership to carry out the project
- be fully carried out within the territory of the Member States of the European Union, the accession or candidate countries or the countries belonging to the European Economic Area.
- not receive, or have received at any time in the past, financing from any other Community funding relating to the same activity or part thereof, irrespective of the identity of the applicant

To be eligible, applications must:

- be sent by the deadline indicated in section 5.1
- be complete and include all the documents indicated in the checklist provided in the Applicant's Guide and the Application Form.

5.5. Selection criteria

The applicant must

- have access to solid and adequate funding to maintain activities for the period of the project and to help finance it as necessary. For this purpose, the applicant shall send a signed declaration (annexed to SWIM). However, the Commission reserves the right to request, during the evaluation process, the applicant organisation's annual accounts or equivalent documents establishing

² OJ L248 of 16.09.2002, p.26

financial viability. For actions where the cost to be financed exceeds EUR 300 000, the application shall be accompanied by an external audit report produced by an approved auditor. That report shall certify the accounts for the last financial year available and give an assessment of the financial viability of the applicant. This requirement does not apply to public bodies;

- have the operational resources (operational, managerial) needed to successfully complete the activity. The operational and managerial capacity should be proven by the applicant organisation's organisational chart and the CV of the project manager involved in the implementation of the activity.

5.6. Award criteria

Proposals which fulfil the eligibility and selection criteria indicated above will be assessed according to the following award criteria:

i. Relevance of the proposal (max 20 points)

Particular attention will be paid to:

- The degree to which the proposal effectively meets the objectives set out in point 2
- Policy relevance of the proposal
- Innovative value of the approach developed or policy interest of the transfer/mainstreaming

ii. The lasting impact and multiplier effect of the operation (the European added value) (max 20 points)

Particular attention will be paid to:

- Potential impact of the operation once funding has ended
- Degree to which the idea/approach can be used/reproduced in other contexts (transferability)
- Degree to which it could lead to further developments, notably policy developments.

iii. The quality of the proposed partnership (max 20 points)

Particular attention will be paid to:

- The relevance of the partnership and where relevant of the transnational partnership
- Degree of involvement of the partners in the work programme (e.g. share of tasks, effective joint development of actions)
- Degree to which the proposal will contribute to increased cooperation practices between different stakeholders

iv. The cost effectiveness of the operation (max 20 points)

Particular attention will be paid to:

- The degree to which the level of output and impact of the project is proportionate to the amount of the grant requested
- Evidence of sound financial management.

v. Clarity and completeness of the proposal (max 20 points)

Particular attention will be paid to:

- Methodological aspects, work programme and timetable
- Adequacy of resources allocated to the project (human and financial) in relation to the objectives foreseen
- Quality, clarity and depth of budgetary presentation

Any proposal which scores less than 10 points (minimum threshold) in any of the criteria or less than 75 points in total will not be selected.

6. Arrangements for submitting the application

The application form **must be filled in online via our SWIM** (Saga Web Input Module) **official website:** <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/swim/displayWelcome.do?lang=en>

Applicants are invited to fill in the application form and present the project proposal, preferably in **English, French or German** in order to facilitate the treatment of the proposals and to proceed with the evaluation as soon as possible. However, proposals in other Community languages will be accepted.

Proposals must also be submitted in 3 copies in paper format - on a printout of the **SWIM Application Form** - and be sent together with all supporting documentation as listed in the **Applicants' Guide either by post to address (a) below, or by express courier service to address (b)** by 17/07/2006. Proof of the submission date will be taken as the **postmark date or receipt by express courier services** and any proposal submitted after this date will not be eligible. Applicants submitting by courier express are advised to ensure they keep proof of having sent their applications on or before the deadline for submission.

a) **by post to the following postal address :**

European Commission
Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG
Directorate E: Call for Proposals VP/2006/014
CAD Service J-27 (0/115)
1049 Brussels
Belgium

b) **by express courier service to the following delivery address :**

European Commission
Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG
Directorate E: Call for Proposals VP/2006/014
Rue de Genève 1
1140 Evere
Belgium

Proposals may also be delivered personally to address (b) above, by 16h00 on 17/07/2006. Date and time of delivery will be recorded by the Central Courier Service and a signed and dated receipt will be issued to the person delivering the proposal.

To help applicants complete the Application Form and to draw up the project provisional budget, an **Applicants' Guide** and **Checklist** are annexed. The information contained in these documents provides all the information required to submit an application and applicants are invited to read them carefully.

If however questions arise, these may be sent by e-mail only to the following address : **empl-e-vp/2006/014@ec.europa.eu**

Applicants are requested to present their queries in a brief and concise format and to allow a reasonable time for a reply.

With the exception of the documents referred to at point 5.5, first bullet point, new or complementary documents sent by the applicant whether by post, fax or electronic mail after the cut-off date for submission will not be taken into consideration.

7. Notification procedure

All applications received will be registered. A reference number will be allocated to each application and shall be quoted in any further correspondence regarding the proposal.

An evaluation committee specific to this call for proposals will be set up to oversee the evaluation process. Applications will be assessed according to above mentioned eligibility, selection and award criteria. Upon completion of their work the evaluation committee will draw up a list of proposals recommended for funding under this call.

Applicants whose proposals have not been successful will be informed of the results of the selection process in writing at the end of the procedure. The reasons for the non-selection of an application, with reference to the criteria as detailed in this document, shall be given.

Successful applicants will receive two copies of the grant agreement for their approval, signature and return to the Commission. The Commission will return to the successful applicant one of the copies signed by both parties. Any expenditure incurred before written confirmation that the application has been accepted is at the applicant's risk.

The Commission will publish on the website of the Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities' DG the list of awarded proposals with the beneficiary's name, address, the subject and the purpose of the grant, the amount granted and the proportion of the action's total cost covered by the grant.

8. Publicity

Unless the Commission requests otherwise, any notice or publication by the beneficiary about the project must display the European Year **logo** (downloadable from http://ec.europa.eu/comm/employment_social/workersmobility2006/index_en.htm) and specify that:

"This project has received funding from the European Commission within the framework of the European Year of Workers' Mobility 2006".

Any notice or publication by the beneficiary, in whatever form and on/by whatever medium, including the internet, must specify *"that it reflects the author's view and that the European Commission is not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein"*.