

Annual Work Programme for grants in the Environment Policy Area
LIFE + programme.

On 27 March 2007, the European Parliament and the Council achieved within the framework of the conciliation an agreement on a Joint Text on the LIFE + Programme.

The LIFE + programme was adopted on 23 May 2007 and should come into force 3 days after its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union, which is expected by mid-June 2007.

A provisional and unofficial version of the Regulation based on the Joint Text can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplusdraft_en.pdf

This work programme relates to grants to be awarded for the operational activities of Non Governmental Organisations primarily active in protecting and enhancing the environment at European level and involved in the development and implementation of Community policy and legislation.

The work programme will be complemented after the entry into force of the LIFE + Regulation by detailed provisions concerning call for proposals for projects to be supported through action grants in accordance with article 6 of the Regulation.

The amended work programme is expected to be adopted and published during the summer of 2007, with the publication of the call for proposals expected in September 2007.

Call for proposals - promotion of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) primarily active in the field of environmental protection and enhancement at a European level

1 INTRODUCTION.

1.1 Budget line.

07 03 07 - LIFE+ (Financial Instrument for the Environment — 2007 to 2013)

1.2 Basic Act.

Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE+), subject to the adoption and entry into force of the regulation establishing the LIFE + Programme without any substantial modifications from the Joint Text agreed on 27 March 2007 within the framework of the conciliation procedure.

2 OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

To promote non-governmental organisations (NGOs) primarily active in the field of environmental protection and enhancement at a European level. To this end financial assistance is offered to co-finance the operating costs of European environmental NGOs in relation to activities provided for in their annual work programme that involve contributing to the development and implementation of Community environmental policy and legislation in Europe.

3 EXPECTED RESULTS OF ACTIONS TO BE SUPPORTED

Effective co-financing of European environmental NGOs that enables them to play a full part in the stakeholder dialogue.

4 SPECIFIC TARGETS /ACTIONS/ THEMES FOR 2007:

Support from this mechanism shall target in particular the priority areas from the Sixth Environment Action Programme, grouped under four main headings as follows:

- (a) limiting climate change;
- (b) nature and bio-diversity, including desertification, - protecting a unique resource;
- (c) health and environment;
- (d) ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources and waste.

In addition to the abovementioned areas, implementation and enforcement of Community environmental legislation shall also be a priority.

5 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.

An applicant organisation must be an independent and non-profit-making legal person primarily active in the field of environmental protection and enhancement with an environmental objective aimed at the public good and with a view to sustainable development.

It should be operating at a European level, either alone or in the form of several co-ordinated associations, with a structure (membership base) and activities covering at least three European countries.

Its activities must meet, in particular, the principles underlying the Sixth Environment Action Programme and be in line with the priority areas as listed above in section 2.1.4.

The applicant must have been legally constituted for more than two years and have had its annual statement of accounts for the two preceding years certified by a registered auditor. In cases of exceptional circumstances, notably regarding the creation of a new network, the Commission may grant a derogation from these two requirements.

The support is open to the participation of European NGOs established (legally registered) in the EU27 Member States.

6 SELECTION CRITERIA.

- Financial capacity: stable and sufficient sources of funding to carry out its work programme and to participate in its funding.
- Operational capacity: professional competencies and qualifications required to complete the proposed work programme

7 AWARD CRITERIA.

A point system according to the award criteria will be established for evaluating and selecting actions to be supported, on the basis of the following criteria :

- (a) Extent to which the application and, more specifically, the proposed work programme meet the following objectives and priorities :
- Policy relevance and potential impact of involvement in Community environmental policy-shaping and implementation in relation to the following priority areas:
- Climate Change
 - Nature and Biodiversity
 - Environment and Health
 - Natural Resources and Waste
 - Horizontal or cross-cutting issues.
- (b) Extent to which the application and, more specifically, the proposed work programme meet the following objectives and priorities : policy relevance of activities relating to environmental education, enlargement and third countries in relation to the policy areas listed above under (a).
- (c) Institutional/ Capacity building effect: significant improvement expected of the targeted organisations as compared to the present situation : expected organisational development which would allow the NGO to be a more effective partner in the policy process. This could relate to:
- Organisational structure, staffing ;
 - Strategic approach ;
 - Financial management ;
 - Evaluation and reporting ;
 - Technical competence.

8 INDICATIVE TIMETABLE FOR CALL FOR PROPOSALS:

Timing of call for proposals :	
publication date	January 2007 (conditional call) May 2007 (re-publication)
closing date	18 June 2007
finalisation date	August – September 2007

9 INDICATIVE BUDGET AND EXPECTED NUMBER OF PROJECTS TO BE SELECTED:

Around 30 projects for a total budget of €8.200.000.

10 MAXIMUM RATE OF CO-FINANCING.

The rate of overall Community assistance shall not exceed 70% of the applicant's eligible expenses for the current year.

In accordance with article 16.3 of the Joint text agreed by the European Parliament and the Council, for grants awarded in 2007, it will be possible for the period of eligibility of expenditure to start on 1 January 2007, provided that the expenditure does not precede the date on which the beneficiary's budget year starts.

All information on the call for proposals can be found at :

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm