

SOUTH EAST EUROPE (SEE)

Call announcement

3rd Call for Project Proposals

April 2011

Introduction

The South East Europe (SEE) Programme 2007 – 2013 aims at improving the territorial, economic and social integration process and contribution to cohesion, stability and competitiveness through the development of transnational partnerships and joint actions on matters of strategic importance. The Managing Authority (MA) of the SEE Programme and the partner states (Albania, Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine) are launching the third call for projects (CfP) for transnational cooperation in the South Eastern area of Europe to be co-financed by ERDF, IPA and ENPI.

The 3rd call for proposals is introducing for the first time the concept of strategic projects in the South East Europe Programme, by addressing 5 strategic themes further translated into 5 Terms of Reference (ToR).

Legal framework

In order to develop their project ideas and submit an Expression of Interest (Eoi) and, subsequently, a project Application Form (AF), applicants will need to conform to the requirements laid down in this *Call Announcement* and in the following documents:

- SEE Operational Programme (SEE OP)
- SEE Programme Manual (SEE PM)
- Terms of Reference for the 3rd call for proposals
- SEE Applicants' Guidelines – part 1 Expression of Interest

General procedure

The call for proposals will follow the two steps targeted procedure according to chapter 7.2 of the SEE OP and the section 6.1 of the SEE PM.

Priorities

The 3rd call for proposals' main objective is to generate strategic projects in some key intervention areas by integrating fully the potential stakeholders of the Western Balkan countries and Ukraine and Republic of Moldova. In this respect, in order to be considered eligible, a project must address **the strategic topics identified at programme level and translated into 5 ToRs**, as follows:

1. **Priority 1:** *Policy Learning Mechanisms in Support of Cluster Development*
2. **Priority 2:** *Climate Change Adaptation: assessing vulnerabilities and risks and translating them to implementation actions at the regional and local levels*

3. **Priority 3:**

3.1. *Network of (Hub) cities for an increased access and mobility of people in the SEE region*

3.2. *Efficient access to a SEE coordinated multimodal freight network*

4. **Priority 4: Managing Demographic Change in SEE – Migration and Human Capital as key for sustainable economic growth**

Budgetary restrictions

On project level no specific **ERDF or IPA budget** restrictions are foreseen.

The minimum amount of ENPI funding that can be requested by project partners from ENPI countries is 100,000 Eur.

The consistency of the budget with the envisaged activities/outputs will be carefully assessed.

The indicative allocation for this call is as following:

<i>Fund</i>	<i>Max amount in EUR</i>
ERDF	30.000.000
IPA	8.000.000
ENPI	1.000.000

ERDF funds are subject to availability in relation to the financial plan approved in the OP and the current commitment level per Priority as consequence of the 1st and 2nd CfP (see document on Commitment level by Priority Axis).

IPA funds are subject to the adoption of the relevant financing decisions by the European Commission and signature of the related financing agreements by the European Commission and the governments of the beneficiary countries (see document on Commitment level by Priority Axis)..

ENPI funds are subject to the adoption of the relevant financing decisions by the European Commission and signature of the related financing agreements by the European Commission and the governments of the beneficiary countries. The ENPI Contracting Authorities reserve the right not to award all the programme funds allocated to this Call for Proposals.

Public funding

The ERDF co-funding is based on public funds.

The co-funding rate of both ERDF and IPA fund is 85%. The remaining budget (15%) has to be covered by national contribution, brought in by each project participant. The ERDF/ IPA project partner's national contribution can be covered by state contribution and/or own and/or other public contribution. Each partner state applies a different system in providing public co-financing. Some apply an automatic procedure for granting the funds whilst others envisage specific calls and others require the project partners to provide the co-financing themselves.

The co-financing rate for ENPI contracts will be up to 90%, meaning that no grant may exceed 90 % of the total eligible costs of the action. The balance (minimum 10%) must be financed from the applicant's or partners' own resources, or from sources other than the European Community budget.

Project duration

The duration of projects must not exceed 30 months. This limit applies for the operative phase of the project and does not comprise the preparation phase. Please understand that stricter limitations in time may apply for ENPI contracts therefore applicants are suggested to clarify this issue with the respective SCP.

Time schedule

The call will be open from 28.04.2011.

The EoI has to be submitted to the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) until 17.06.11 (18:00 pm Central European time).

Indicatively, the AF will have to be submitted to the JTS by the end of November 2011 (upon invitation).

Submission

EoI and AF have to be submitted by electronic upload. Only for the second step, the applicant is requested to confirm the electronic upload by mailing a signed hardcopy of the AF and related documents. All documents shall be mailed to:

SEE JTS
Gellérthegey str. 30-32
H-1016 Budapest,
Hungary

The complete package shall reach the JTS until the deadline.

Further documents may be requested at national level. Thus, we encourage the applicants and their partners to contact their SEE Contact Points (SCPs) well in advance before the submission deadline.

The applicant by submitting the application for the present call duly consents to the fact that the MA and the JTS will manage all the personal data included in the application package and provided in the contracting or project implementation phase.

Eligibility

Programme area

Project beneficiaries should be located within the programme area as indicated in section 1.3 of the OP and 2.5 of the SEE PM. Derogations are foreseen in the application of the so called *10% and 20% ERDF flexibility rule* (as explained in section 4.1.6 of the SEE PM).

Eligibility of partners

The eligibility of partners is indicated in the section 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 (ERDF/ IPA) and 5.1 (ENPI) of the SEE PM. Please notice the exception in Priority 3, where infrastructure and transport operators may be eligible for funding under specific conditions. Besides the general eligibility criteria established at programme level, the partners must comply with the specific eligibility criteria defined by each ToR.

Eligibility of activities

Activities and related expenditures are eligible according to the eligibility rules set out in SEE OP and the Terms of reference developed for the purpose of the call. However, please note that the SEE Programme 2007 – 2013, is fully integrated within the Objective 3 of the Cohesion Policy, strongly concentrated on the achievement of the Lisbon and Gothenburg objectives.

The orientation on research, technology and innovation encloses a significant entrepreneurial development aspect. Hence pure academic research activities cannot be supported under this programme.

Projects must include the **minimum set of compulsory activities as described in each ToR**. However the applicants may include additional activities if considered necessary in order to propose a clear and concise methodological approach.

Selection criteria

The selection criteria are detailed in the OP and SEE PM (chapter 7).