

SOUTH EAST EUROPE (SEE)

Call announcement

2nd Call for Project Proposals

November 2009

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 second call for projects (CfP) for transnational cooperation in the South Eastern area of Europe to be co-financed by ERDF and IPA.

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)
- SEE Applicants' Guidelines

Provisions indicated in the above mentioned documents have to be deemed as binding.

General procedure

The call for proposals will follow the two steps open competitive procedure according to chapter 7.2 of the SEE OP and the section 6.2 of the SEE PM.

Priorities

Under the present call, projects can be submitted only under the following Priorities and Areas of Intervention (Aoi):

- 1.3 Enhance the framework conditions and pave the way for innovation;
- 2.2 Improve prevention of environmental risk;
- 2.3 Promote cooperation in management of natural assets and protected areas
- 2.4 Promote energy and resource efficiency;
- 3.1 Improve coordination in promoting, planning and operation for primary and secondary transportation networks;
- 3.2 Develop strategies to tackle the “digital divide”;
- 3.3 Improve framework conditions for multi-modal platforms;
- 4.3 Promote the use of cultural values for development.

In order to support a balanced implementation of the Programme, further targeting measures have been adopted; eligible Aols have to be considered either:

- FULLY OPEN (1.3; 3.1; 3.2; 3.3; 4.3): the listed Aols are open for financing project proposals implementing all kind of activities able to achieve all the goals of the Aol as explained in the Annex I of the SEE PM;
- OPEN FOCUSED (2.2; 2.3; 2.4): the listed Aols are open for financing project proposals implementing activities able to achieve all the goals of the Aol as explained in the Annex I of the SEE PM. However, in order to stimulate the submission of proposals tackling specific identified problems, additional scoring (sub-criterion 2.1 in the *First Step* and sub-criterion 2.2 in the *Second Step*) is given to the project proposals implementing specific activities/ tackling defined problems/ addressing identified challenges as indicated below.

2.2 Improve prevention of environmental and technological risks

The Programme is expecting the generation of concrete projects which will develop policies, plans and systems for the joint prevention of environmental risks both natural or imposed or accelerated by human activities while facilitating the exchange of information and coordination of activities in cases of emergency along with the rehabilitation of affected areas and risk sources and mitigation and prevention measures, integrated cross-sectoral activities for reducing risks. In this second call for proposal, particular attention should be paid to conversion of brown fields and transportation of dangerous goods, rehabilitation of polluted soils.

2.3 Promote cooperation in management of natural assets and protected areas

The Programme is expecting the generation of concrete projects which will address the need for the implementation of the relevant EU legislative framework, developing and implementing management plans for natural/semi-natural and protected areas of transnational interest which might also include actions to foster their development and actions promoting sustainable tourism. In this respect, particular attention should be paid also to maritime/lake basin natural areas and to proposals addressing the demand for know-how transfer and the development of skills for the better management of natural assets and protected areas.

2.4 Promote energy and resource efficiency

The Programme is expecting the generation of concrete projects which will support the adoption of renewable energy policies, resource efficiency (namely sustainable consumption and production) policies and technologies, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the movement to a recycling society. Furthermore, proposals should

exploit the capitalisation of results of previous projects implemented at a national and European level (especially Intelligent Energy Europe) and with a strong focus on the transnational aspect of the management of renewable energy sources.

Budgetary restrictions

On project level no specific ERDF budget restrictions are foreseen.

The minimum amount of IPA funding that can be requested by project partners from an IPA beneficiary country is EUR 50,000. The maximum amount of IPA funding that can be requested by project partners from an IPA beneficiary country is EUR 300,000. These limits apply regardless of the number of project partners from the country concerned.

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

The indicative allocation for this call is as following:

ERDF		50,000,000.00
IPA	Albania	540,182.00
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	866,282.00
	Croatia	360,000.00
	former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1,018,997.40
	Montenegro	1,311,787.00
	Serbia	1,137,855.00

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.

Residual IPA funds 2007 are subject to the extension of the contracting deadline by the Commission.

The IPA Contracting Authorities reserve the right not to award all the programme funds allocated to this Call for Proposals.

ENPI funds are not available.

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 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.

Project duration

The duration of projects must not exceed 36 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 IPA contracts therefore applicants are suggested to clarify this issue with the respective SCP. For further information please check also section 4.1.2 of the SEE PM.

Time schedule

The call will be open from 23.11.2009.

The EoI has to be submitted to the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) until 21.12.09 (10 pm Central European time).

Indicatively, the AF will have to be submitted to the JTS the beginning of April 2010.

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 4.1.8 of the SEE PM).

Eligibility of partners

The eligibility of partners is indicated in the section 3.2.1 (ERDF) and 5.1 (IPA) of the SEE PM. Please notice the exception in Priority 3, where infrastructure and transport operators may be eligible for funding under specific conditions.

Eligibility of activities

Activities and related expenditures are eligible according to the eligibility rules set out in SEE OP, Annex I of the SEE PM and the specific targeting explained in this *Call Announcement*.

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. Therefore, projects should clearly consider the following aims:

- contribution to sustainable territorial development;
- leverage effect on investment, development perspectives and policy development;
- facilitation of innovation, entrepreneurship, knowledge economy and information society by concrete cooperation action and visible results (creation of new products, services, development of new markets, improvement of human resources based on the principles of sustainability);
- contribution to integration by supporting balanced capacities for transnational territorial cooperation at all levels (systems building and governance).

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 could include activities such as studies and operational plans, capacity building activities, promotion actions, set-up of services, preparation and conduction of investments proposed by transnational strategic concepts, including infrastructure investment if appropriate and justifiable. Additional activities could include networking and exchange of information, but not as stand alone, as purely networking activities will NOT be supported.

Selection criteria

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

Project assessment procedure

The project assessment procedure is detailed in the SEE PM (section 7.2).