

EU Funds for Energy & Environment

Opportunities in 2008 and beyond



**E&E
REVIEW**

June 2008

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Content

1. Introduction
2. E&E EU Funds
3. Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)
4. CIP-Intelligent Energy Europe and eco-innovation
5. LIFE+
6. Marco Polo II
7. Structural Funds
8. Recommendations for Proposers
9. Useful Information Sources

EU Funds for Energy & Environment

Opportunities in 2008 and beyond

1 Introduction

The overall aim of the Energy and Environment Funding Review is to summarize the new elements of energy, environment and transport related funds available within the frame of the EU's funding system for 2007-2013. There are several sources of funding dedicated to support activities in these fields and the following pages provide a brief overview about the funds of the current period based on experiences gathered in 2007 and 2008 as well as on the changes compared to the previous funding period. The E&E Funding review also comprises some recommendations and useful links for proposers who consider applying for funding within the fields of energy, environment and transport.

Funding opportunities for energy, environment and transport are available through several funding schemes and programmes such as Community Programmes or Structural Funds. As a general rule, each fund has its own rules for participation, application and implementation and it is crucial to download and read the latest updated version of the guidance documents specific to each fund before starting to prepare the proposal.

This study is primarily meant for project proposers, who intend to brave the next round of EU calls, to give an overview and some tips on application. More detailed instructions on how to obtain EU funding can be found in the "Handbook on EU Funding 2007-2013" together with descriptions on all other funding opportunities.

2 E&E EU Funds

Environmental and (renewable) energy topics are among the highest priorities of the 2007-2013 budgetary period and there is an abundance of funding opportunities available. The main funding lines include several Community Programmes such as Intelligent Energy-Europe Programme (IEE), FP7, LIFE+ and Marco Polo and also the Structural Funds such as the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund. Work Programmes are published regularly comprising information on open calls, topics and budgets for the respective funds with new opportunities continuously coming up.

The Seventh Framework Programme is the most significant source of funding for the three fields, with a combined contribution of over 1.3 billion¹ euro for 2007 and 2008. The 2007 and 2008 budgets of LIFE+ and IEE are dedicated entirely to the energy and environment fields, totaling over 300 million euro. Approximately 115 million² euro was available through the Marco Polo programme in 2007 and 2008. The share of the Structural Funds' budget concerning the three fields is defined at the national level through the national annual programmes. More detailed information can be found through national links or through National Contact Points (NCPs).

Table 1: Budgets of Energy, Environment and Transport Funds in 2008 (EUR)

EU Funds	Direct				Indirect
	FP7	CIP - IEE / eco-innovation	LIFE +	Marco Polo	Structural Funds
Environment	222 million	28 million	Will be published on 15 July		Varies by country
Energy	217 million	45 million			
Transport	233 million			59 million	

Source: Respective Calls for Proposals in 2008

It is clear that FP7 is the biggest contributor to the three fields, but when looking for funding sources IEE and LIFE+ and Marco Polo should not be ignored. Funding under FP7 is dedicated mainly to research activities and actions supporting research. While research is extremely important for energy, the environment and transport, especially in today's conscientious society and the race toward sustainable development, research is not the only area that can contribute to improvement and innovation in these fields. IEE and LIFE+ both work towards innovation and advancements in the energy and environment sectors, but through different channels and means that are all meant to be complementary to one another.

¹ Combined budget for Energy, Environment and Transport themes in FP7 for the years 2007-2008 published in respective work programmes

² 2007 and 2008 years call for proposal

EU Funds for Energy & Environment

Opportunities in 2008 and beyond

From EU's point of view, each of these instruments, in the broadest sense, are targeted to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Lisbon Strategy. Speaking specifically for the energy and environment fields, the EU Sustainable Development Strategy³, Environmental Technologies Action Plan⁴ (ETAP) and the Sixth Community Environment Action Programme⁵ (6th EAP) are the major guidelines that constitute the policy backdrop for the establishment and implementation of these programmes and funding schemes.

A practical example - Environment, being a key policy area for the EU, is allocated significant financing during the 2007-2013 budgetary period. Funding opportunities for different types of activities are available through different funding schemes including Structural Funds, FP7, LIFE+ and the eco-innovation scheme of CIP. Below is an example concerning hypothetical project ideas and corresponding funding schemes.

Table 2: Project types and corresponding funding scheme

Programme	FP7	LIFE+	CIP - eco-innovation	Structural Funds
Project ideas				
Establishing a waste composting and recycling centre				✓
Contribution to the conservation of biodiversity through demonstration of a proven methodology		✓		
Development of models for the integrated ecological assessment of water bodies to quantify climate change impacts	✓			
Introducing a clean production process in the manufacturing industry with an aim to reduce complex organic chemical substances			✓	

The above table shows targeting of possible projects in the field of environment according to different European programmes. This example is for indication purposes only and should not be taken as a definitive guideline. Each project idea should be assessed together with all the activities planned vis-a-vis the Guide for Applicants of the programmes.

Generally speaking, Research and Technological Development (RTD) activities should be targeted at FP7; market exploitation, take-up measures, and dissemination related actions at CIP; projects focusing on the implementation of environmental policies and relevant legislation at LIFE+; and any investment-type activity should be directed at Structural Funds.

To have a solid understanding of the type of activities supported under each programme, see funded project examples in projects databases of different programmes:

- » **FP7 Projects Database**
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/projects_en.html
- » **FP6 Projects Database**
<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp6/projects.htm>
- » **LIFE Projects Database**
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm>
- » **IEE Projects Database**
http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/projects/index_en.htm
- » **Marco Polo Projects Database**
http://ec.europa.eu/transport/marcopolo/projects/projects_en.htm
- » **Structural Funds Success Stories**
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/projects/stories/index_en.cfm

³ http://ec.europa.eu/sustainable/sds2001/index_en.htm

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/sustainable/sds2001/index_en.htm

⁵ <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/newprg/index.htm>

EU Funds for Energy & Environment

Opportunities in 2008 and beyond

3 Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)

A total of 672.59 million euro is allocated for the Energy, Environment and Transport themes from the 2008 budget of FP7. This represents one-sixth of the total budget of FP7 in 2008. It is worth mentioning that Environment is an important horizontal topic (especially in conjunction with the ICT, Health and Food themes) and is also an important priority under the Capacities and Ideas Specific Programmes. Thus, the actual amount of funding available for projects with relevance to Environment, Energy and Transport issues is actually more than the amount above.

Several projects selected under the 2007 calls in FP7 are already under implementation. A new database has been launched at CORDIS, the official web site of the programme, providing brief and structured data on those funded projects under FP7. (See the link to the FP7 Projects Database above)

Environment

Under the Environment theme of the Cooperation Specific Programme one call was issued in 2007 with a closing date of 2 May 2007, which covered 72 topics. DG Research received 600 proposals requesting over 1.8 billion euro, while the total amount of budget available was only 200 million euro. The submitted proposals covered a wide range of research areas from climate change to health related environmental issues. Environmental issues are gaining recognition in the international political sphere as the world becomes more environmentally conscious. As a result of this trend, competition for environment related calls for proposals was strong, and only the most innovative proposals from the first round made it through to negotiations. Out of the total 600 submitted proposals, slightly more than half, 329 passed all evaluation thresholds. Furthermore, out of those 329 that passed, only 70 proposals will receive funding, which means, the overall success rate is approximately 12%.

The second Environment call, with a budget of 212 million euro, was published on 30 November 2007 with a submission deadline 25 February 2008 covering 54 topics ranging from natural hazards to waste prevention technologies. In addition, a joint call for the Environment and Nanotechnologies themes (FP7-ENV-NMP-2008-2) was also issued on 30 November 2007, with a budget of 10 million euro and deadline of 25 February 2008. Proposers are now receiving initial feedback on their proposals, and the first results indicate that the competition is no less fierce compared to the first round of calls.

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- » Expertise and advice from leading EU Project Managers
- » Detailed information about project practicalities

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EU Funds for Energy & Environment

Opportunities in 2008 and beyond

Energy

The call FP7-ENERGY-2007-1-RTD, the first call issued for the Energy theme, focused on long-term research, with a view to accelerate technology development. Under the first call 328 proposals were submitted and approximately 42 will be funded. Thus, the success rate is 12.8%, but this also varies by instrument. Some energy-related topics have not yet been issued calls, such as CO₂ storage, Geothermal, and other areas have been issued calls, but the success rates are relatively low (Hydrogen supply - 11.8%, Knowledge tools for energy-related policy making - 9.3%). In terms of funding instruments, the highest competition is among small and medium sized projects under Collaborative Projects, with a 13.25% success rate. The highest success rates are seen in the Integrated Projects (IP), 22.73%, the Coordination Actions (CSA-CA) 17.64%, and the Supporting Actions (CSA-SA) 13.89%. The requested 930 million euro compared to the planned budget of 109.3 million euro also helps confirm the high level of competition.

Four calls under the Energy theme were published on 30 November 2007 with deadlines for submissions on 26 February 2008. In addition to the general Energy call (FP7-ENERGY-2008-1), a specific call "Energy EU-Russia" was published dedicated to enhancing RTD cooperation with Russia. The other two calls were a joint ENERGY-Nanotechnologies call and a call under the FET (Future and Emerging Technologies) scheme. Under the ENERGY-2008-1 call two-stage submission and evaluation procedure was pursued to distribute the 26.3 million euro budget to projects among eleven topics open in the 2008 Work Programme. Proposals were evaluated solely on the basis of their science and technology (S&T) excellence in stage 1 where the threshold to pass to the second stage was 4 out of 5. Consequently, several good and very good proposals were eliminated at stage 1 evaluations giving way to only those excellent ones the chance to pass onto stage 2 for submitting full proposals.

The second part of the 2008 Energy call (FP7-ENERGY-2008-TREN-1) was published on 29 April 2008 with deadline for submissions on 8 October 2008. A budget of 147 million euro is allocated over 18 topics for which a single stage submission procedure will be applied foreseen to take place in November 2008.

Figure 1: Submitted and selected proposals in Energy theme

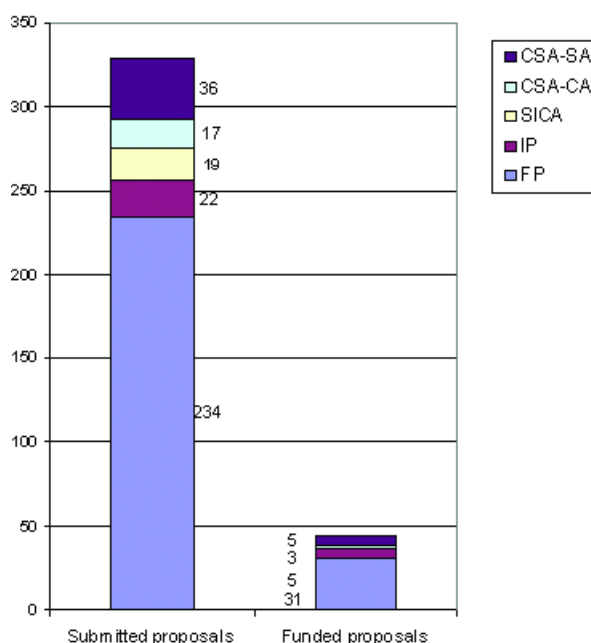
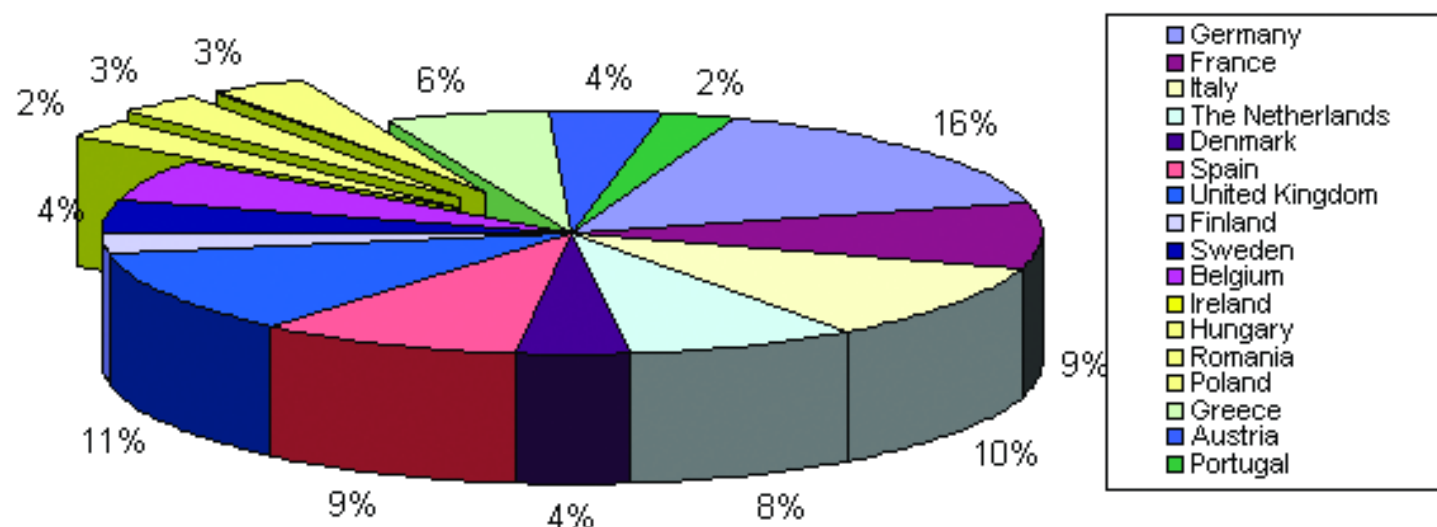


Figure 2: Ratio of partners under call FP7-ENERGY-2007-1-RTD by country



EU Funds for Energy & Environment

Opportunities in 2008 and beyond

Transport

In 2007, 200 proposals were submitted for the call FP7-AAT-2007-RTD that closed on 3 May 2007. The success rate remained at 18%, relatively higher when compared to the Energy and Environment themes. In a reverse trend, the EC has increased the initial funding from 153.48 million to 207 million euro.

Of the total five calls for proposals in the Transport theme in 2008, four calls with a total budget of 233.29 million euro have closed on 7 May 2008. Opportunities for participation, however, still exist within the ERA-NET / ERA-NET PLUS Call 2008. FP7-ERANET-2008-RTD is a joint call covering five themes, also including Transport. With deadline for submissions on 12 August 2008 and a total budget of 29.3 million euro, this call allocates 1.5 million euro to projects in the Transport theme. Pre-proposal check service is available for this call. Proposals can be submitted for a check before the final submission until July 11 2008⁶.

The following table shows the structure and highlights the relevant parts of FP7 including the budget and number of calls published in 2008.

Table 3: FP7 programme structure, budget and calls

Specific Programmes and Themes	Budget in 2008 (€)	Ratio to overall Budget 2008%	Number of calls in 2008
COOPERATION	1 583 962 000	40.98	23
Transport (including Aeronautics)	233 290 000	6.04	4
Information and Communication Technologies	447 100 000	11.57	4
Health	122 700 000	3.17	1
Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies	215 422 000	5.57	5
Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology	96 850 000	2.5	1
Energy	217 300 000	5.62	5
Environment (including Climate Change)	222 000 000	5.74	2
ERA NET / ERA NET PLUS (Coordination Research Activities)	29 300 000	0.76	1
CAPACITIES	272 760 000	7.06	9
PEOPLE	407 000 000	10.52	9
IDEAS	1 553 350 000	40.19	4
EURATOM	48 410 000	1.25	1
TOTAL	3 865 482 000	100.00%	46

Source: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7CallSearchResultsPage>

⁶ You can find the Pre-proposal check form along with all necessary documents for application to this call here: cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=usersite.FP7DetailsCallPage&CALL_ID=87

EU Funds for Energy & Environment

Opportunities in 2008 and beyond

4 CIP - Intelligent Energy-Europe

The Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) aims to encourage the competitiveness of European enterprises. With Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) as its main target, the programme supports innovation activities, provides better access to finance and delivers business support services in various regions. It encourages better take-up and use of information and communications technologies (ICT) and helps develop the information society. It also promotes increased use of renewable energies and energy efficiency. Any public or private organisation from the EU, Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Croatia can apply for funding in the IEE programme.

Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) is one of the three CIP operational programmes and aims to:

- » foster energy efficiency and rational use of energy sources
- » promote new and renewable energy sources and energy diversification
- » promote energy efficiency and new energy sources in transport

A general call for proposals is issued annually. For 2007, 52 million euro was made available for projects selected from the 435 proposals submitted, a 40% increase from the previous IEE call. In 2008, some 44 million euro has been made available to finance up to 75% of the eligible costs of 50 to 60 projects, a decrease of approximately 15%. Another 2 million euro is allocated to grants, which will fund the establishment of new local and regional energy management agencies.

The 2008 IEE call will fund the following activities:

- » strategic studies for the purpose of legislation;
- » creation, enlargement or reorganisation of structures and instruments for sustainable energy development;
- » promotion of sustainable energy systems and equipment
- » development of information, education and training structures
- » monitoring of the implementation and the impact of Community legislative and support measures

The IEE programme does not fund hardware type investments and technical research and development projects for energy efficiency and renewables⁷. Such projects may be funded under EU research framework programmes, namely the FP7.

A novelty for this year is that only online applications are possible.

CIP Eco-innovation activities

Eco-innovation is not only a horizontal priority to be taken into consideration during the implementation of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme, but also a separate initiative under the CIP programme. Calls for eco-innovation are launched under the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP) of CIP.

For the 2008 call, a budget of EUR 28 million is dedicated specifically to financing eco-innovation activities. The call is now open, with a submission deadline on 11 September 2008. It is expected that around 40 projects will receive funding, covering 40 to 60% of the eligible costs of projects.

Current priority areas for the Eco-innovation 2008 Call include

- » material recycling
- » building and construction sector
- » food and drink industry
- » green business and smart purchasing

Only technically demonstrated, high-quality projects should apply.

The Eco-innovation 2008 Call does not offer full pre-proposal checks. However, proposers can send a short description (maximum 2 pages) of their project in order to receive some feedback and comments. This service is available until two weeks before the call closes.

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⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/call_for_proposals/index_en.htm

EU Funds for Energy & Environment

Opportunities in 2008 and beyond

5 LIFE+

With a budget of 2.143 billion euro for the 2007-2013 budgetary period, LIFE+ is a limited but focused funding instrument providing specific support for the development and implementation of Community environmental policy and legislation. The first call in the new period was published on 28 September 2007 and covered the three components of the programme: Nature and Biodiversity, Environment Policy and Governance, Information and Communication. The deadline for the submission was 30 November 2007 and initial statistics were not yet available when this review went to publication. A total amount of EUR 187 million was available for the first call, allocated to the individual Member States.

Table 4: LIFE+ 2007 budget by country

Country	Indicative amount	Country	Indicative amount	Country	Indicative amount
AT	EUR 3 509 000	FI	EUR 6 696 000	MT	EUR 2 148 000
BE	EUR 3 858 000	FR	EUR 16 357 000	NL	EUR 5 996 000
BG	EUR 4 025 000	EL	EUR 6 356 000	PL	EUR 8 858 000
CY	EUR 2 000 000	HU	EUR 4 673 000	PT	EUR 5 236 000
CZ	EUR 3 710 000	IE	EUR 2 944 000	RO	EUR 8 139 000
DE	EUR 21 762 000	IT	EUR 16 457 000	SE	EUR 7 685 000
DK	EUR 4 591 000	LT	EUR 2 574 000	SI	EUR 4 029 000
EE	EUR 3 098 000	LU	EUR 2 044 000	SK	EUR 2 857 000
ES	EUR 20 028 000	LV	EUR 2 500 000	UK	EUR 14 871 000

Source: LIFE+ Call for proposals 2007, page 3

Legal entities established in Member States are eligible for participation under LIFE+ (public and/or private bodies, actors and institutions may receive financing). Currently only expenditure within EU27 countries is eligible, although future participation of certain third countries is possible if supplementary appropriations are received.

The range of fields covered by LIFE+ is wide and diverse. Under LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity projects the principal targets were natural systems, natural habitats, wild flora and fauna, and biodiversity. The LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance projects had twelve areas of concentration; climate change, water, air, soil, urban environment, noise, chemicals, environment and health, natural resources and waste, forests, innovation, and strategic approaches. The third element of LIFE+, Information and Communication projects target both policy decisions and citizens to ensure regular and effective information flow⁸.

Typically the rate of Community financial support in LIFE+ is a maximum of 50% of eligible costs, but there are some exceptions. A maximum co-financing rate of 75% is applicable to proposals targeting habitats/species of the Birds' and Habitats' Directives in LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity projects, and exceptionally, a maximum rate of 30% of eligible costs applies to proposals 'expected to generate substantial revenue' in LIFE+ Environment and Governance projects.

The call for 2008 will be published on 15 July 2008. The provisional timetable is as follows:

2008 project selection	Period
Publication of the 2008 call for proposals	15 July 2008
Workshop for potential applicants organised by the Commission	July to November 2008
Deadline for applicants to send proposals to Member States' authorities	21 November 2008
Deadline for Member States to send proposals to the Commission	05 January 2009
Eligibility, evaluation and revision	January to July 2009
Deadline for signing grant agreements	31 December 2009
Earliest possible starting date for 2008 projects	01 January 2010

Source: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplus.htm>

⁸ <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplus.htm>

EU Funds for Energy & Environment

Opportunities in 2008 and beyond

6 Marco Polo II

The Marco Polo II programme is focused on intermodal freight transport. With the aim of improving the environmental performance of the freight transport systems, it supports projects, which shift freight transport from the road to sea, rail and inland waterways. It is managed by the European Commission's Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI).

Currently the second phase of the Marco Polo programme is running, which covers the 2007-2013 budgetary period. Compared with the first phase of Marco Polo, the overall budget of which was 102 million euro, Marco Polo II has an increased budget of 450 million euro, accounting for more than two times increase in its annual budget. For the year 2008, 59 million euro have been made available, supporting between 35% and 50% of the eligible project costs.

Calls are published annually - in the first quarter of each year. Since the calls are very similar to each other in terms of rules and procedures as well as content, you can already begin to collect your project proposal ideas for the 2009 call on the basis of the 2008 call. Nevertheless, you should eventually consult the actual call and guide for applicants when preparing the actual proposal since there can be certain differences.

Funding areas for the year 2008 are the following:

- » Modal shift actions (up to 35% of the total costs are covered),
- » Catalyst actions (up to 35% of the total costs are covered),
- » Motorways of the sea actions (up to 35% of the total costs are covered),
- » Traffic avoidance actions, (up to 35% of the total costs are covered),
- » Common learning actions (up to 50% of the total costs are covered).

Project proposal success rate from 2007 provides grounds for optimism. Out of the 55 submitted project proposals, 27 were successful, achieving a success rate of 49%. Against the 58 million euro funding requested by successful project proposals the 2007 budget made available 56 million euro.

Only organisations from the EU, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein can apply for participation in Marco Polo II projects. Only entities from EU-27 Member States, EFTA & EEA States after conclusion of specific agreements, and candidate and close third countries after signing Memoranda of Understanding can be granted funding.

7 Structural Funds

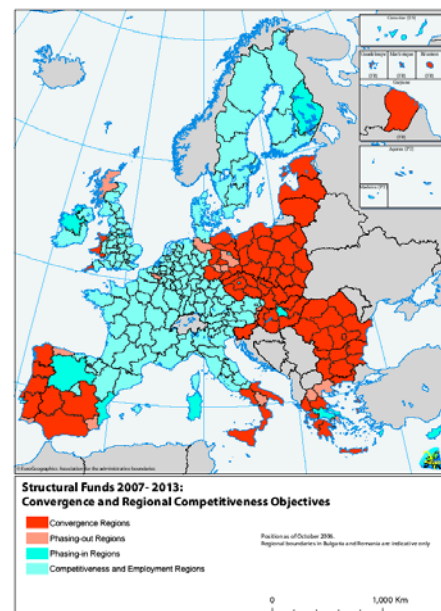
Structural Funds, primarily the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF), as well as the Cohesion Fund (CF) comprise the majority of EU spending and have targeted actions for energy, environment and transport. These funds and their budgets have been broken down in order to address three main objectives: Convergence, Regional Competitiveness and Employment, and Territorial Cooperation. The budget allocation according to the objectives is 81.5%, to Convergence 16% to Regional competitiveness and employment, and 2.5% to European Territorial Cooperation from the total 308 billion euro for the 2007-2013 budget period. Energy, environment and transport fields appear under all the three objectives.

One crucial remark at this point would be that no project could receive co-financing from two different EU programmes at the same time. In other words, it is not possible to get 50% co-financing for a project from Structural Funds and the remaining 50% from FP7. In EU jargon this is called "double financing" and proposers must strictly refrain from pursuing such action. On the other hand, it is perfectly OK, for instance, to apply for funding under CIP to promote the market uptake of a completed RTD project under FP7.

The map shows the eligible countries according their area of involvement.

The budget is allocated among the Member States according to population and need. The Member States are responsible for distributing the funding to eligible projects at the national and regional levels. Since national and regional authorities are responsible for the management of the funds and selection of the projects, the rules for participation, submission, reporting, etc., all vary according to the policies and practices of the respective Member States.

More information according to Member State policies can be found through the following link:
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/manage/authority/authority_en.cfm



EU Funds for Energy & Environment

Opportunities in 2008 and beyond

8 Recommendations for Proposers

EU funding does not come for free. The financial contribution does not have to be paid back to the European Commission and in this respect it may be more advantageous than a bank loan for example. However, receiving funding means entering into a legally binding contract to undertake a specific action and to respect all the rules and requirements. It is costly and time demanding to prepare and submit a well-constructed proposal. Costs incurred during proposal preparation must be covered by the proposer; they are not reimbursed by the Commission.

To be involved in a project is also costly and involves certain risks. The EC contribution is in most cases in the form of co-financing for the implementation of the project, and the partners must ensure the financing of the remaining costs. Money should not be the main motivation for participation; unless it is clear that the economics of an EU project fits into the organisation's financial plans, it may be better to forget about it.

Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) have their specific worries with regards to participation in EU Funded projects. The following list summaries the concerns expressed by different project proposers:

- » Too much information available - often poorly structured, which makes it hard to find relevant information and to identify the right programme and EU priorities
- » Time and resource consuming to prepare a proposal and to implement a project together with an international consortium
- » Heavy reporting bureaucracy requires expertise in specific EU rules
- » Adaptation problems between EU and national rules, taxation, VAT recuperation
- » Difficult to join a big consortium in time
- » IPR issues
- » Costly and time demanding to prepare a proposal
- » Inflexibility (binding contract)-there is no room for swift actions or following up developments by the market
- » Not all costs are reimbursed - Difficult to come up with the own share
- » Uncertainty - payment depends on all partners

Although we do not necessarily agree with all the comments above, these are the impressions of real proposers, who have submitted (or at least considered submitting) a project proposal under one or more of the programmes listed in this review.

While the negative aspects of participation outlined above mainly relate to costs and uncertainty, there are many positive aspects of being involved in an EU project. The international dimension of the projects and related advantages, opportunities to develop business networks already at the proposal development stage are just to name a few. Some of the below mentioned aspects may bring an added value to the organisation:

- » Opportunity to discover new ideas and solutions - getting involved in a project may allow to discover new application areas for existing know-how and expertise
- » Learning from the experiences of others - working in international consortia allows for discovering new working methods and styles
- » Developing new contacts and networks - being involved in proposal development already helps expand business network
- » Conquering new markets and establishing new business opportunities - involvement in a project may allow for expansion by opening up new markets
- » Inspiring International Cooperation - which could be beneficial for both the company and in the individual employee involved in the project
- » Possibility to pursue high-risk ideas - financed by the EC, you may get involved in activities that would normally be too risky from a financial point of view
- » "Supported by the EC" - advantage from promotional point of view - the additional benefits may be the greatest advantages of being involved in an EC projects. The logo may improve the companies/universities image

So, think before you apply and make sure that the EU project fits well into the organisation's business or research strategies. This is absolutely vital for SMEs, but may also be important for universities, where there are several other funding sources available with less administrative challenges (e.g. grants from national programmes, foundations, industry, etc).

EU Funds for Energy & Environment

Opportunities in 2008 and beyond

Practical Hints and Tips for Proposal Preparation:

If you believe that EU is the right place for you to request funding for your energy or environmental project, there are some points to consider while composing your proposal in order to make it a winning one:

- » Be up-to-date; be familiar with the Work Programme of the particular Theme you are interested in. The entire Work Programme document (and any related documents such as info on public consultations, the work of Technology Platforms, directives, etc) is important if you want to give the impression of a proposer that really knows what's going on.
- » Involve experienced partners in your consortium; the most important feature is balance in terms of expertise and geography.
- » Pay due attention to EU policies and other horizontal (e.g. gender) issues (but only if they are truly relevant because it can be counterproductive if you address non-existing or not relevant issues).
- » Partnership and management must be tailored to suit the project objectives and size.
- » Demonstrative presentation of the project's goals, necessity and importance, appropriate demonstration of the (scientific) content, always use references.
- » Professionally composed text properly formatted, use figures and diagrams; use EU terms (but do not overdo this).
- » Make sure that you properly introduce yourself and your partners. The roles must be very clear. Key staff should be briefly introduced.
- » The evaluators still have limited time to read the proposals and they appreciate it if the chapters are concise and to the point. So be clear, to the point and convincing.
- » You can directly address the evaluation criteria; the best is if you have some members of your staff (those not involved in its preparation) pre-evaluate the proposal.

And remember: only ambitious projects built around excellent ideas to be implemented by a very strong consortium have a real chance. Being in (or leading) a good Consortium is the most important issue, so here is some good advice for consortium building:

- » It is recommended that only partners with good references be included in the consortium. Even if you are looking for a specific expertise or participants from a specific country, make sure that they have related international reference(s). Earlier framework projects are the best.
- » It is strongly advisable to establish a consortium 'core': 2-3 persons/institutions responsible for the preparation of the proposal and for the compilation of all required material.
- » During proposal preparation a considerable level of coordination is required but it is necessary for the Coordinator to distribute the work among the partners. It is always partner's input and new approaches that can turn a good proposal into an excellent proposal.
- » It is useful if the consortium members have worked together on previous projects. This can strengthen cooperation.
- » The members of the consortium should be capable of carrying out all activities with respect to the project so that there will be no need to involve subcontractors.
- » The activities and experiences of the individual members of the consortium should complement each other but also be unique. There must be a very clear reason why you have a particular partner in your project.

Before you submit a proposal, make certain your partners are reliable and that they are at your disposal. This helps you to eliminate disagreement and serious problems that might occur during negotiations or the implementation of the project. At the first sign of trouble get rid of the problematic partner, there are thousands of others in Europe that are willing to work hard!

EU Funds for Energy & Environment

Opportunities in 2008 and beyond

9 Useful Information Sources

An abundance of useful information on EU funds and projects is available on the Internet:

- » The Gateway to the European Union
<http://europa.eu>
- » Enterprise Europe Network
http://www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm
- » EUR-LEX - Access to European Union law
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu>

Guidance documents are available on respective programme's website where it is also possible to sign up for updates, read about related policies, do partner search and review previously funded projects:

- » FP7: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html
- » LIFE+: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/index.htm>
- » IEE: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/index_en.html
- » Marco Polo http://ec.europa.eu/transport/marcopolo/index_en.htm
- » SFs and CF: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.htm

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