



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG

Social Dialogue, Social Rights, Working Conditions, Adaptation to Change
Working conditions and Adaptation to change

BUDGET HEADING 04.04.01.03

**RESTRUCTURING, WELL-BEING AT WORK AND FINANCIAL
PARTICIPATION**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

2008

VP/2008/017

In view of the large number of enquiries, please do not telephone.
Questions should be sent by e-mail only to: empl-04-04-01-03@ec.europa.eu.

To ensure a more rapid response it is helpful if applicants send their queries
in English, French or German.

The French version of the call is the original.

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BUDGET HEADING 04.04.01.03

Restructuring, well-being at work and financial participation

1. GENERAL CONTEXT OF THIS CALL OF PROPOSALS

The Social Agenda (2005-2010) has fixed as its overall strategic goal to promote more and better jobs and to offer equal opportunities for all. The realisation of the Social Agenda relies on a combination of instruments comprising EU legislation, the implementation of open methods of coordination in various policy fields and financial incentives such as the European Social Fund.

The Decision n°1672/20006 establishing a Community programme for employment and social solidarity – PROGRESS was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council on 24 October and published in the OJ on 15 November.

PROGRESS aims at supporting the core functions of the European Community towards fulfilling its Treaty-delegated tasks and powers in its respective areas of competence in the employment and social sphere. *PROGRESS* mission is to strengthen the EU contribution in support of Member States' commitments and efforts to create more and better jobs and to build a more cohesive society. To that effect, PROGRESS will be instrumental in:

- providing analysis and policy advice on PROGRESS policy areas;
- monitoring and reporting on the implementation of EU legislation and policies in PROGRESS policy areas;
- promoting policy transfer, learning and support among Member States on EU objectives and priorities; and
- relaying the views of the stakeholders and society at large.

More specifically, PROGRESS will support:

- (1) the implementation of the European Employment Strategy (section 1);
- (2) the implementation of the open method of coordination in the field of social protection and inclusion (section 2);
- (3) the improvement of the working environment and conditions including health and safety at work and reconciling work and family life (section 3);
- (4) the effective implementation of the principle of non-discrimination and promotion of its mainstreaming in all EU policies (section 4);
- (5) the effective implementation of the principle of gender equality and promotion of its mainstreaming in all EU policies (section 5).

The present Call for tenders is issued in the context of the implementation of the 2008 annual plan of work which is consultable at:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/progress/annwork_en.htm

2. WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF THE CALL

The PROGRESS programme related to working conditions aims to develop and support a positive and proactive approach to change through the promotion of exchange of information, particularly concerning the social and economic consequences.

This call is to provide subsidies to promote development and dissemination of better expertise and capabilities among the actors concerned in the areas of anticipation, preparation and the accompanying socially acceptable response when restructuring occurs. Appropriations will be used to finance conferences, meetings, networks, studies, sectoral observatories, and other activities to achieve these objectives and promote the actions presented in the European Commission communication on Restructuring and employment – anticipating and accompanying restructuring in order to develop employment: the role of the European Union (COM (2005) 120 final).

This call also covers measures to promote employees' financial participation within the meaning of the Commission Communication relating to a Framework on the promotion of the employees' financial participation (COM(2005) 364 final). By promotion, one can understand actions having as aim the exchange of information and good practice.

The PROGRESS programme related to working conditions is to support the promotion of exchange of information concerning health and well-being at work during restructuring processes.

In view of these objectives, 3 sub-programmes have been defined:

I	Improvement of expertise concerning restructuring
II	Better understanding of health and well-being at work during change
III	Promoting the financial participation of workers

This call for proposal will commit €1,013,780.

3. TYPES OF MEASURES WHICH CAN BE CO-FINANCED

I. Improvement of expertise in restructuring.

This sub-programme is to improve expertise regarding anticipation, preparation and social support during restructuring in an European point of view, to encourage exchange of information and experiences, to develop the capabilities of those who play an active part in restructuring (companies, workers, social partners, industrial associations, public authorities, non-profit making organisations, research centres and institutes, universities, conversion and/or development agencies, counselling and support centres) and to promote and develop good practice in Europe.

The following activities can be co-financed:

- a) conferences or seminars on restructuring, including preparatory studies;
- b) studies and measures to develop European social legislation (implementation of directives connected in particular to the processes of information and of consultation of workers' representatives at the time of restructuring);
- c) studies and measures to reinforce the collection and use of information on national

- systems to anticipate, prepare and accompany restructuring and on developments at European Level (rules, stakeholders, institutions, developments, etc.);
- d) initiatives to promote understanding of innovative and effective practices regarding restructuring;
- e) initiatives to support the preparation of the future report by the European Commission on *restructuring in Europe*;
- f) organisation of round-tables, exchanges of experiences and networks of actors and/or experts;
- g) support to observation capacities at sectoral level with a minimum of 3 activities listed above.

To be eligible, projects have to meet the following criteria (see 4.3):

- have a transnational dimension, i.e. be promoted by a European (or international) organisation or associated with partners (or participants) from various PROGRESS-participating countries or covering the transnational problems clearly.

Priority will be granted to projects:

- which have among their partners or their participants, organisations or persons presence in at least 10 PROGRESS-participating countries;
- associating various actors and encouraging dialogue and partnership between companies, trade unions, public authorities, organisations of civil society and other actors;
- having a sustainable multiplier effect;
- Comprise an important dissemination element.

II. Better understanding of health and well-being at work faced with change

This sub-programme is to promote better knowledge of health and well-being at work within the framework of workers' adapting to restructuring. Projects encouraging a better understanding of the factors causing stress and resistance to change during a restructuring process and those aimed at preventing the negative consequences of change in terms of health or psychosocial risks can be financed.

The following activities can be co-financed:

- Creation of expert networks in social psychology and health at work with a specific focus on the preparation and accompanying measures for workers and managers experiencing changes in case of restructuring. The objective is to produce recommendations and a guide of good practice to avoid or reduce the harmful consequences of restructuring on human health and identify preventative measures;
- organise seminars, conferences and round-tables, including disseminating its results by publications and internet;
- Innovative interdisciplinary research to identify the factors connecting health and adaptation to change beyond traditional boundaries.

To be eligible, projects have to meet the following criteria (see 4.3):

- a confirmed transnational dimension, i.e. to be supervised by a European or international organisation or active associate partners in various PROGRESS-participating countries.

Priority will be granted to projects:

- bringing together high level research workers and experts recognised by their peers at European Level;
- including among their partners organisations active in at least 10 ROGRESS-participating countries
- in cases where projects are submitted by national or regional social partner organisations, the relevant European Organisation should be amongst the active partners;
- which identify the elements of well-being of workers when a brutal change at work occurs;
- which promote good practice and the tools to accompany or prepare for change;
- which prevent the negative health consequences or psychosocial risks arising from change;
- have a sustainable multiplier effect;
- have an innovative dimension.

III. Promoting the financial participation of workers

Under this sub-programme, the objectives of the projects are to exchange information and good practice to promote the financial participation of workers, including with regard to corporate governance aspects.

The following actions can be co-financed:

- meetings, seminars and conferences.
- training activities.

Priority will be granted to projects:

- Innovative. Innovative projects are those improving the availability of information regarding the practice of these schemes and which associate partners of various sectors and PROGRESS-participating countries. The quality of the partnership is an important criterion. For projects not proposed by social partners, their involvement will be considered positive;
- including among their partners organisations active in at least 10 ROGRESS-participating countries
- including different actors and promoting the dialogue and partnership between companies, trade unions, public authorities, civil society organisations and other actors;
- have a sustainable multiplier effect;
- include an important dissemination element.

4. EXAMINATION OF GRANT APPLICATIONS

4.1 Submission and implementation dates

Only applications for operations starting in 2008 will be considered. In view of the time needed to examine applications, operations may not start before the deadlines given below. Applicants should note that if their project is approved they will not necessarily receive the grant agreement prior to the operation starting dates indicated and should, therefore, take this into account in programming the timing of their project.

Any expenditure incurred before written confirmation that the application has been accepted is at the applicant's risk.

Applications will be examined by an Evaluation Committee which will meet within 30 working days following the deadlines for submission indicated below. For each meeting of this committee, complete applications must be submitted to the European Commission by the deadline.

The available amount may be exhausted before the end of the budget year and it is therefore in the applicant's interest to submit a proposal as early as possible.

The **deadlines** for the submission of applications are as follows:

- **30 June 2008** for operations commencing no earlier than **1 September 2008** (indicative amount foreseen depending on the quality of projects submitted: **€350 000**);
- **1 September 2008** for operations commencing no earlier than **1 November 2008** and no later than **19 December 2008** (indicative amount foreseen depending on the quality of projects submitted: **€663 780**).

Proposals which indicate an earlier starting date than the ones indicated above will not be considered by the Evaluation Committee.

Applications will be examined and selected taking account of the budget comment and the criteria laid down in this document (see below).

4.2 Co-financing rates for the sub-programmes

This budget line makes it possible to support projects where applicants contribute a share of at least 20% of the total cost of the activity. Contributions in kind will not be taken into account. Any subsidy request higher than 80% will be excluded automatically from the selection.

4.3 Eligibility and selection criteria

Eligibility of the applicants

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be properly constituted and registered legal persons. In derogation from this requirement, 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 eligible¹;
- Fall within one of the following categories:

Social partners	European social partner organisations currently consulted in accordance with Article 138 of the Treaty. A list of these organisations is included in Annex 5 of the European Commission's Communication on <i>Partnership for change in an enlarged Europe – Enhancing the contribution of European social dialogue</i> (COM(2004) 557 final) National or regional organisations affiliated to such organisations as long as the project is part of a European approach European social partner organisations not covered by the above, for example for operations involving the preparation and launch of European social dialogue at sectoral level
Public authorities	National and regional authorities
Research centres, establishments and universities	Research departments of universities and centres of excellence recognised in socio-economic research, occupational psychology, social sciences or medical research in its aspects related to general health at work
International organisations (ILO, WHO or others)	The UN agencies, particularly their departments related to work and to health at work may be associated with the European projects if their participation brings added value to the transnational projects
Organisations of civil society and non-profit-making organisations	Organisations or non-profit-making associations independent of public and active authorities in the field of restructuring, representing professional interests, health at work, prevention of risks and financial participation.

- Have their registered offices in one of the PROGRESS-participating countries;
- Having regard to Article 114 of the Financial Regulation, revised on 13/12/2006, applicants must attest by their honour that they are not in one of the situations referred to in Article 93§1, Article 94 or Article 96§2a) of the Financial Regulation, i.e., they:
 - are not bankrupt or being wound up, having their affairs administrated by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
 - are not convinced of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgement which has the force of *res judicata*;

¹ Commission Communication relating to the eligibility of social partner organisations (C/2003/2014) adopted on 1 July 2003. In this case, the signatory of the grant agreement, duly authorised, commits jointly and severally the members of the organisation he represents.

- are not guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify;
- have fulfilled their obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes under the legislation of the country in which it is established;
- have not been subject of a judgement which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Communities' financial interests;
- are not currently subject to an administrative penalty for being guilty of misrepresentation in supplying information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in the procurement procedure, or failing to supply such information, or being declared to be in serious breach of his obligation under contract covered by the budget;
- are not subject to any conflict of interest;
- are not guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in the contract procedure or who fail to supply, any of this information.

Eligibility of operation

To be eligible, operations must:

- Be linked to at least one objective of this call;
- In the case of the proposal not being submitted by a European or International organisation, the operation must be carried out in co-operation between partners of the various PROGRESS-participating countries;
- Comply with the European Community co-financing percentage of maximum 80 %;
- Be fully carried out in the PROGRESS-participating countries;
- Comply with the subcontracting rules of the call for proposals indicated in Annex I;
- Comply with the rules on dates of submission and start of the operation in section 4.1.

Eligibility of the application

To be eligible, applications must:

- Be sent by the deadlines indicated in section 4.1;
- Be complete and include **all the documents indicated in the following table**. Applicants should note that the Evaluation Committee will not examine applications lacking one or more of these documents:

1	Official covering letter of application: quoting the reference of the call for proposals, with the original signature of the applicant's legal representative.
2	Print-out of the duly completed and submitted on-line application form (https://webgate.cec.eu.int/swim): dated and with the original signature of the legal representative. NOTE: The on-line form <u>must first be electronically submitted before printing</u> . After the electronic submission no further changes to the application are possible.

3	<p>A signed declaration of honour (see annexes to the on-line application). This must be written on the official letterhead paper of the applicant organisation and to have the original signature of the legal representative, certifying that the applicant organisation is not in one of the situations listed in Article 93, 94 and 96 of the Financial Regulation and has the operational and financial capacity to lead the proposed action to a positive outcome.</p> <p>NOTE: The signed declaration of honour must be submitted as paper version.</p>
4	<p>"Financial identification" form duly completed with the original signature of the legal representative and the original signature and stamp of the bank. The financial identification form can be found at:</p> <p>http://ec.europa.eu/budget/execution/ftiers_en.htm</p>
5	<p>"Legal entities" form duly completed with the original signature of the legal representative. The legal entities form can be found at:</p> <p>http://ec.europa.eu/budget/execution/legal_entities_en.htm</p> <p>Applicants must also provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a copy of the certificate of official registration or other official document attesting to the establishment of the entity (where this exists); • a copy of its articles of association/statutes or equivalent, proving the eligibility of the organisation; and • a copy of a document confirming the applicant's tax or VAT number, if available.
6	<p>Detailed work programme for the project. This has to be a separate document – the project description in the on-line application form is not sufficient.</p> <p>Detailed work programme must provide a detailed description of the project and a timetable for the activities. The detailed work programme should be submitted in English, French or German.</p> <p>NOTE: The detailed work programme <u>must also be submitted electronically as Annex D.4 to the on-line application form.</u> The electronic version must be identical to the paper version of the document in question.</p>
7	<p>Letters of support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if the applicant is a national or regional member of a European social partner organisation, a signed letter of support signed by the latter demonstrating its involvement in the project; • additionally, as well as in all other cases a letter of commitment from each of the partners, explaining the nature of their involvement and specifying the cash amounts of any funding provided.
8	<p>Draft tender specification in case of subcontracting for external expertise: Applicants wishing to recruit the services of external experts must provide a copy of the draft tender specifications. This applies to <i>any</i> amount of external expertise above € 60 000. This requirement does not apply to public authorities which are already governed by a system of procurement rules.</p> <p>To assist applicants, a model for tender specifications is included in Annex II. Important additional information concerning the award of contracts can be found in Annex I.</p>
9	<p>The most recent balance sheet of the applicant's organisation demonstrating the financial capacity of the applicant. The Commission reserves the right to request balance sheets from previous years, if necessary.</p>

10	For grant requests over €500 000, an external audit report produced by an approved auditor, certifying the last year available and assessing financial viability (not necessary for public bodies).
11	A brief curriculum vitae of the project manager indicating clearly the current employer with whom there exists either a permanent or temporary contract of employment
12	Detailed budget

Selection criteria

The applicant must have the financial and operational capacity to complete the activity for which funding is requested. Thus 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 and must have the operational resources (technical, management) needed to successfully complete the activity.

The financial capacity should be proven by the annual balance sheets and declaration of honour. The operational capacity should be equally demonstrated by a declaration of honour and curriculum vitae mentioned above.

4.4 Award criteria

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

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The extent to which the operation meets the objectives and priorities of the call; ii. The extent to which the operation has a genuine transnational dimension; iii. The quality of partnerships, i.e. the degree of involvement and commitment at the application stage of the social partners/stakeholders in the operation. Please note that the Commission does not consider it appropriate to include independent consultants, conference organisers, etc., as project partners. Please read Annex I carefully; iv. The added value and innovativeness of the operation; v. The lasting impact and/or multiplier effect of the operation²; vi. The cost-effectiveness of the operation; vii. The arrangements to publicise the operation and dissemination methods envisaged; viii. The overall quality, clarity and completeness of the proposal and budget explanation. |
|---|

The Commission reserves the right to reject proposals from organisations which have failed to comply with their contractual obligations in relation to earlier agreements.

² The multiplier effect refers to how the project and its results will promote change in other fields, e.g. geographical, sectoral, thematic, etc.

The Evaluation Committee also reserves the right when assessing projects to take into account the effectiveness and added value of previous projects undertaken by the applicant with Community funding.

5. PRACTICAL PROCEDURES

5.1 Where can the application form be found?

The compulsory on-line grant application form as well as the other requested forms and other useful documents (e.g. the European Communities' Financial Regulation and Implementing Rules) can be found at the following Internet address:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/tenders/index_calls_en.cfm

5.2 Where does the application need to be sent?

Please send your covering letter of application, together with all the other documents listed in the table under section **4.3 Eligible applications**" above as originals as well as **one copy of all these documents** by the deadlines indicated above, to the following address:

***European Commission – DG EMPL/F.3
Call for proposals VP/2008/017
Archives – courier J54 00/036
B – 1049 Brussels
Belgium***

Please send your application by registered mail or express courier service only and keep proof of the date of sending (the date of post office stamp or express courier receipt will be considered as proof of the date of sending).

Hand-delivered applications must be received by the European Commission on the last day for submission by 16.00h. The address for hand deliveries of documents for the European Commission is: Avenue du Bourget n° 1, B-1140 Evere, Belgium. Proof of delivery is a signed receipt from the Commission's Archives Service stamped with the date of the last day for submission or earlier.

Regarding the presentation of the application file, it is recommended to:

- Follow the order of documents as listed in the table under section 4.3 "Eligibility and selection criteria – Eligible applications";
- Print the documents double-sided, where possible;
- Use only 2-hole folders (please do not bind or glue).

If an applicant submits more than one proposal, each one must be submitted separately.

ALL ENQUIRIES MUST BE MADE BY E-MAIL ONLY AT:

empl-04-04-01-03@ec.europa.eu

- PLEASE DO NOT TELEPHONE -

5.3 What next? Accepted and rejected applications

Rejected applications

The European Commission will notify unsuccessful applicants no later than one month after the meeting of the Evaluation Committee at which the application was examined. Rejected proposals may be resubmitted following amendments. They will, however, only be considered at a subsequent meeting of the Evaluation Committee, if a new and complete application file including all supporting documents is sent to the Commission by the relevant deadline. Documents submitted to previous meetings of the Evaluation Committee will not be taken into account.

Requests concerning the progress of dossiers sent prior to the elapse of these time periods will not be answered.

Selected applications

Successful applicants will receive two original copies of the grant agreement for acceptance and signature. Both these copies must be sent back to the Commission, which will then return one of them once it has been signed by both parties.

The following section explains in greater detail other important considerations concerning agreements governing successful grant awards.

6. REMARKS ON THE AGREEMENT GOVERNING THE GRANT

The payment arrangements will be laid down in the agreement (see point 6 of Annex I).

The European Commission reserves the right to reject and/or limit the funding of specific elements in the budget estimate and to adapt the amounts and the co-financing rate.

The Commission may also adjust the duration of the operation proposed in the application.

The grant agreement may only be modified (notably the budget and the implementation period) in exceptional circumstances. Such requests must be received no later than one month before the end of the period stipulated in the agreement. **In general the duration of an operation is 12 months.**

The partial or total withholding by the applicant of any information that may have an impact on the Commission's final decision concerning the application will entail the automatic disqualification of the application or, if discovered at a later stage, will entitle the Commission to terminate the agreement and demand the full repayment of all sums received by the beneficiary under it.

Successful applicants should consult the section on subcontracting in Annex I and note that the Commission reserves the right to verify that the beneficiary has carried out the subcontracting in accordance with the description provided and with the rules included in the grant agreement. Failure to comply with these conditions will constitute grounds for non-acceptance of the costs of subcontracting in the final accounts of the beneficiary.

The project manager should keep the Commission informed on the development of the operation and informed in good time of the main events being organised as part of the operation. It should be noted that the Commission covers the travel and subsistence costs of its own officials and these should not therefore be included in the project budget estimate.

No later than three months after the end of the agreed implementation period for the operation (unless otherwise stated in grant agreement), the following documents must be submitted to the Commission:

- A final report on the implementation of the action;
- A final financial statement of the eligible costs actually incurred, following the structure of the estimated budget;
- A full summary statement of the receipts and expenditure of the action;
- A list of participants with the original signatures of participants, and details of all products developed for the operation itself or as a result of the operation, in the various languages provided for in the project;
- Where required under the terms of the agreement, an external audit report on the action's accounts.

The balance of the grant will not be paid, and sums already received will have to be paid back, if any of these items is missing.

The final report on the implementation of the action, should at a minimum answer the questions listed in Annex II of this call for proposals. Should the final report on the implementation of the action be deemed to be inadequate and of low quality, the Commission reserves the right to request additional information and, if necessary, to suspend the final payment until the requested information is provided.

Supporting documents must be kept for a period of five years from the date of payment of the balance for the purposes of any on-the-spot inspections.

The name and address of each beneficiary, the subject of the grant, the grant amount and the rate of funding will be published on the Internet site of the Commission.

7. PROGRESS –ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CALLS FOR PROPOSALS 2008

7.1 GUIDE ON HOW THE ACTIVITIES SHALL BE CARRIED OUT

The PROGRESS Programme aims at promoting gender mainstreaming in all its five policy sections and commissioned or supported activities. Consequently, the Beneficiary will take the necessary steps to ensure that:

- Gender equality issues, including the situation and needs of women and men, are taken into account when relevant for the drafting of the technical offer/proposal;
- Implementation of the requested tasks includes a gender perspective by considering systematically women and men dimension;
- Performance monitoring includes the collection and gathering of data disaggregated by sex when needed;
- its proposed team and/or staff respects the gender balance at all levels.

Equally, needs of disabled people shall be duly acknowledged and met while executing the requested service. This will in particular entail that where the Beneficiary organises training sessions, conference, issues publications or develops dedicated websites, people with disabilities have equal access to the facilities or the services provided.

Finally, the Contracting Authority encourages the Beneficiary to promote equal employment opportunities for all its staff and team. This entails that the Beneficiary shall foster an appropriate mix of people, whatever their ethnic origin, religions, age, and ability.

The Beneficiary will be required to detail in its activity report accompanying the request for the final instalment the steps and achievements it made towards meeting these contractual provisions.

7.2 PUBLICITY AND INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

1.- As a matter of principle, with a view to favouring valorisation by the European Commission of all results obtained and outputs delivered under PROGRESS programme, the Beneficiary will be required to provide - either upon specific request or in any event with the final activity report - for each of the tasks required under the present Call the following:

- Presentation of their key points in one page. Key points should be concise, sharp and easily understandable. They shall be provided in English, French and German. Other Community languages would be welcome even if not compulsory.
- And an executive summary in 5/6 pages in English, French and German.

2.- In accordance with the General conditions, the Beneficiary is under the obligation to acknowledge that the present service/activity is delivered on behalf of/with the support of the Community in all documents and media produced, in particular final delivered outputs, related reports, brochures, press releases, videos, software, etc, including at conferences or seminars, as follows. In the framework of PROGRESS, the Beneficiary must use the following sentences:

This (publication, conference, training session) is supported by the European Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity (2007-2013). This programme is managed by Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the European Commission.

This programme was established to financially support the implementation of the objectives of the European Union in the employment and social affairs area, as set out in the Social Agenda, and thereby contribute to the achievement of the Lisbon Strategy goals in these fields.

The seven-year Programme targets all stakeholders who can help shape the development of appropriate and effective employment and social legislation and policies, across the EU-27, EFTA-EEA and EU candidate and pre-candidate countries.

PROGRESS mission is to strengthen the EU contribution in support of Member States' commitments and efforts to create more and better jobs and to build a more cohesive society. To that effect, PROGRESS will be instrumental in:

- *providing analysis and policy advice on PROGRESS policy areas;*
- *monitoring and reporting on the implementation of EU legislation and policies in PROGRESS policy areas;*

- *promoting policy transfer, learning and support among Member States on EU objectives and priorities; and*
- *relaying the views of the stakeholders and society at large*

For more information see:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/progress/index_en.html

For publications it is also necessary to include the following reference: "The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission".

With regard to publication and any communication plan linked to the present service, the Beneficiary will insert the European Union logo, and if any another logo developed for the employment and social solidarity fields, and mention the European Commission as the Contracting Authority in every publication or related material developed under the present service contract/subsidy convention.

7.3 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

PROGRESS will be implemented through a results-based management - RBM. Managing for outcomes and results is about working to maximise results for European citizens. This includes:

- Identifying the most important results for European citizens;
- Managing for these results, including setting clear desired results, implementing plans based upon these results and learning about 'what works' in the process;
- Seizing opportunities to work together whenever this helps achieve the results.

As a first step, a Strategic Framework for the implementation of *PROGRESS* has been developed in collaboration with Member states and organisations from the civil society. The Strategic Framework provides the framework for implementing *PROGRESS*, complemented by the Performance Measurement, which defines *PROGRESS* mandate, its long-term and specific outcomes. See in Annex the overview of *PROGRESS* performance measurement framework. For more information on the strategic framework, please visit *PROGRESS* website.

The Commission will in that context monitors the effect of *PROGRESS* supported or commissioned initiatives and considers how these initiatives contributes to *PROGRESS* outcomes as defined in the Strategic Framework. In that context, the Beneficiary will be asked to loyally work in close cooperation with the Commission and/or persons authorised by it to define their expected contributions and the set of performance measures against which their contribution will be assessed. The Beneficiary will be asked to collect and report on its own performance on a regular basis to the Commission and/or persons authorised by it. In addition, the Contractor/Beneficiary will make available to the Commission and/or persons authorised by it all documents or information that will allow *PROGRESS* performance measurement to be successfully completed and to give them the rights of access.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

PROGRESS Ultimate Outcome

Member States implement laws, policies and practices in a manner that contributes to the desired outcomes of the Social Agenda

PROGRESS works toward its ultimate outcome by helping strengthen the EU's support for Member States' efforts to create more and better jobs and to build a more cohesive society. PROGRESS seeks to contribute to (i) an **effective legal regime** in the EU in relation to the Social Agenda; (ii) **shared understanding** across the EU with regard to Social Agenda objectives; and (iii) **strong partnerships** working toward Social Agenda objectives.

In operational terms, support provided by PROGRESS facilitates (i) provision of analysis and policy advice; (ii) monitoring and reporting on the implementation of EU legislation and policies; (iii) policy transfer, learning and support among Member States; and (iv) relaying to decision-makers the views of the stakeholders and society at large.

Legal Regime

Outcome:

Compliance in Member States with EU law related to PROGRESS areas.

Performance Indicators

1. Transposition rate of EU law on matters related to PROGRESS policy areas
2. Effectiveness of application in Member States of EU law on matters related to PROGRESS policy areas.
3. EU policies and legislation are grounded in thorough analysis of situation and responsive to conditions, needs and expectations in Member States in PROGRESS areas
4. Extent to which PROGRESS-supported policy advice feeds into the development and implementation of EU legislation and policies
5. Cross-cutting issues are addressed in PROGRESS policy sections
6. EU policies and legislation display a common underlying logic of intervention in relation to PROGRESS issues
7. Gender mainstreaming is systematically promoted in PROGRESS

Shared Understanding

Outcome:

Shared understanding and ownership among policy/decision-makers and stakeholders in Member States, and the Commission, of objectives related to PROGRESS policy areas.

Performance Indicators

1. Attitudes of decision-makers, key stakeholders and general public regarding EU objectives in PROGRESS policy areas
2. Extent to which national policy discourses or priorities reflect EU objectives
3. Extent to which principles of good governance (including minimum standards on consultation) are respected in policy debate
4. Extent to which the outcomes of policy debates feed into the development of EU law and policy.
5. Greater awareness of policy-and decision-makers, social partners, NGOs, networks regarding their rights/obligations in relation to PROGRESS policy areas
6. Greater awareness of policy-and decision-makers, social partners, NGOs, networks regarding EU objectives and policies in relation to PROGRESS policy areas

Strong Partnerships

Outcome:

Effective partnerships with national and pan-European stakeholders in support of outcomes related to PROGRESS policy areas.

Performance Indicators

1. Existence of common ground/consensus among policy and decision-makers and stakeholders on EU objectives and policies
2. Identification and involvement by the EU of key actors in a position to exert influence or change at EU and national levels
3. Effectiveness of partnerships in relation to outcomes related to PROGRESS policy areas.
4. Number of individuals served or reached by networks supported by PROGRESS.
5. Extent to which advocacy skills of PROGRESS-supported networks have improved
6. Satisfaction of EU and national authorities with the contribution of networks
7. Extent to which PROGRESS-supported networks take a cross-cutting approach

ANNEX I

FINANCIAL GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

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The purpose of this document is to enable applicants to prepare their grant applications.

Please be sure to read these guidelines carefully before replying to the current call for proposals.

MAIN FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT RULES

Disclaimer: this document provides the applicants with a quick summary of the main legal and financial rules contained in the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities³ and its Implementing Rules⁴. The information given is not exhaustive and beneficiaries are therefore asked to carefully read the agreement sent to them, as it will constitute the legal basis for the grant.

1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Grants are subject to the principles laid down in the Financial Regulation, in particular the principles of co-financing, prohibition of double financing and no-profit.

Co-financing principle

Community grants may not finance the entire cost of the action to be subsidised. The applicant must contribute to the implementation of the action either by way of own resources or by financial contribution from third parties (in the form of public or private assistance obtained elsewhere).⁵

No double financing rule

Each action may give rise to the award of only one grant, there can be no duplicate European Community funding of the same expenditure. The applicant must indicate the sources and amounts of any other funding received or applied for in the same financial year for the same action or for any other action and for routine activities.⁶

No-profit rule

The Community grant may not have the purpose or effect of producing a profit for the beneficiary. Profit is defined as a surplus of total actual receipts over the total actual costs of the action. Any income of the action must be indicated in the estimated budget and the final financial statement. The amount of the grant will be reduced by the amount of any surplus.⁷

2 RULES RELATED TO THE GRANT REQUESTED

- The Community grant will not exceed 80% of the total eligible costs.
- The applicant organisation and/or other fund providers are required to make financial (cash) contribution(s) to the proposal of at least 20% of the total eligible costs.
- The grant does not cover ineligible costs (see below for definition).
- Contributions in kind (unpaid charity work by a private individual or corporate body, etc.) cannot be accepted.
- Signed letters of commitment from the applicant organisation and/or other sources must be provided stating the precise amount of each financial (cash) contribution to the budget. If other institutions or organisations (partners) are involved in carrying out the project, the letter of commitment/partnership, from each of the partners, should also

³ Council Regulation (EC, Euratom), n° 1605/2002 of 25.06.2002 (OJ L 248, 16.09.2002), as amended by Regulation n° 1995/2006 (OJ L 390, 30.12.2006)

(<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/consleg/2002/R/02002R1605-20070101-en.pdf>)

⁴ Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) n° 2342/2002 of 23.12.2002, (OJ L 357, 31.12.2002) and subsequent amendments: Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) n° 1261/2005 of 20.07.2005 (OJ L 201, 02.08.2005), Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) n° 1248 of 07.08.2006 (OJ L 227, 07.08.2006) and Commission Regulation n° 478/2007 (OJ L 111, 28.04.2007)

(<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/consleg/2002/R/02002R2342-20070501-en.pdf>)

⁵ Art. 113 FR and 172 IR

⁶ Art. 111 FR and 173(5) IR

⁷ Art. 109(2) FR and 165(1) IR

provide the name, address and person responsible and explain the nature of their involvement.

- An external audit report of the previous accounts of the applicant organisation produced by an approved external auditor must be provided for grant applications where the cost to be financed exceeds EUR 500.000.⁸ The report must certify the accounts for the last financial year available.
- The partial or total withholding by the applicant of any information that may have an impact on the Commission's final decision concerning the application will entail the automatic disqualification of the application or, if discovered at a later stage, will entitle the Commission to impose financial and administrative penalties⁹.

3 THE ESTIMATED BUDGET OF THE ACTION

3.1 The budget must be detailed and balanced

Grant applications must include a detailed estimated budget presented in Euro (see application form). Applicants established in countries outside the Euro zone must use the conversion rates published in the OJ of the European Community (<http://ec.europa.eu/budget/inforeuro/index.cfm?Language=en>). Applicants should be aware that they fully carry the exchange rate risk.

The budget estimate must be properly balanced: the two totals (income and expenditure) must be the same, since the available income (including the grant requested from the Commission) will have to finance the planned expenditure¹⁰. Please make sure that all the items related to the implementation of the action are included and not just those for which financing is being sought.

3.2 Expenditure

Expenditure must include the estimated costs exclusively for the implementation of the action.

3.2.1 General criteria for eligibility of costs

In order to be eligible for Community funding, costs must meet the following criteria¹¹:

- (a) be incurred during the duration of the action, with the exception of costs relating to final reports and audit certificates;
- (b) be indicated in the estimated overall budget of the action attached to the grant agreement;
- (c) be necessary for the implementation of the action which is the subject of the grant;
- (d) be identifiable and verifiable, in particular being recorded in the accounting records of the beneficiary and determined according to the applicable accounting standards of the

⁸ Art. 173(4) IR (No audit report is required from public bodies or international organisations.)

⁹ Art. 175 IR

¹⁰ Art. 173(3) IR

¹¹ Art. 172a IR

country where the beneficiary is established and according to the usual cost-accounting practices of the beneficiary;

(e) comply with the requirements of applicable tax and social legislation;

(f) be reasonable, justified, and comply with the requirements of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency.

The successful applicant must take care to avoid any unnecessary or unnecessarily high expenditure.

The beneficiary's internal accounting and auditing procedures must permit a direct reconciliation of the costs and revenue declared in respect of the action with the corresponding accounting statements and supporting documents.

Documentation justifying costs must be kept by the beneficiary for **five years** following final payment by the Commission.

Expenditure eligible for financing may not have been incurred before the grant application was lodged.

Extra costs associated with the participation of people with disabilities are also eligible. These costs may be required to cover the use, for example, of special means of transport, personal assistants or sign language interpreters.

3.2.2 Eligible direct costs

The eligible direct costs for the action are those costs which, provided that they satisfy the criteria of eligibility set out above, are identifiable as specific costs directly linked to the performance of the action and which can therefore be booked to it directly.

In particular, the following direct costs may be considered eligible:

Staff costs

The costs of staff (permanent or temporary staff employed by the beneficiary or the partners) assigned to the implementation of the action, comprising actual salaries plus social security charges and other statutory costs included in the remuneration, are eligible. The salary costs should not exceed the average rates corresponding to the beneficiary's usual policy on remuneration. In addition, they should not be higher than the generally accepted market rates for the same kind of task.

The costs of personnel of national administrations may be considered as eligible to the extent that they relate to the cost of activities which the relevant public authority would not carry out if the project concerned were not undertaken.

Please, fill in the form reserved for these costs in the budget estimate (see application form) indicating the persons to be remunerated (full-time/part-time), the number of days of work to be performed and the daily rate calculated on the basis of an average of 20 days per month, up to a maximum total of 220 working days per year.

When submitting the request for final payment, the beneficiary may have to provide pay slips and timesheets justifying the actual staff costs declared.

The cost of any work to be performed by external experts by means of subcontracting must not be included in staff costs but under services.

Travel, accommodation and subsistence allowances

Travel costs must not exceed the most reasonable rates available on the market. Accommodation and subsistence costs related to the participants to the action are eligible provided that they are in line with the beneficiary's usual practices on travel costs or do not exceed the scales approved periodically by the Commission which are set out in the table below).

Journeys must be carried out by the most direct and economic route. Economy class fares will be used as the benchmark for analysing air travel costs. Air travel is acceptable only for distances above 400 km, i.e. return flight above 800 km. For other modes of transport, the benchmark is the first-class rail fare. Car journeys: equivalent of corresponding first-class train ticket.

The *Daily subsistence allowances (DSA)* are paid in addition to costs for accommodation as a flat-rate amount and are considered to cover breakfast and two main meals, local transport, the cost of telecommunications and all other sundries). Daily subsistence allowances are to be calculated as follows according to the length of the mission:

- stays less or equal to 6 hours: reimbursement of actual costs (on production of supporting documents);
- more than 6 hours up to 12 hours inclusive: 0.5 DSA;
- more than 12 hours up to 24 hours inclusive: 1 DSA;
- more than 24 hours up to 36 hours inclusive: 1.5 DSA;
- more than 36 hours up to 48 hours inclusive: 2 DSA;
- more than 48 hours up to 60 hours inclusive: 2.5 DSA, etc.

The maximum amounts (in Euro per calendar day) accepted for each country are set out in the table below, and applicants are advised to adhere to these rates in their budget estimates¹²:

<i>Destinations</i>	<i>DSA in EUR</i>	<i>Maximum hotel price in EUR</i>	<i>Destinations</i>	<i>DSA in EUR</i>	<i>Maximum hotel price in EUR</i>
AT Austria	95,00	130,00	IT Italy	95,00	135,00
BE Belgium	92,00	140,00	LT Lithuania	68,00	115,00
BG Bulgaria	70,00	205,00	LU Luxembourg	92,00	145,00
CY Cyprus	93,00	145,00	LV Latvia	66,00	145,00
CZ Czech Republic	75,00	155,00	MK F.Y.R. of Macedonia	50,00	160,00
DE Germany	93,00	115,00	MT Malta	90,00	115,00
DK Denmark	120,00	150,00	NL The Netherlands	93,00	170,00
EE Estonia	71,00	110,00	PL Poland	72,00	145,00
EL Greece	82,00	140,00	PT Portugal	84,00	120,00
ES Spain	87,00	125,00	RO Romania	60,00	170,00
FI Finland	104,00	140,00	SE Sweden	97,00	160,00
FR France	95,00	150,00	SI Slovenia	70,00	110,00
HR Croatia	60,00	120,00	SK Slovakia	80,00	125,00
HU Hungary	72,00	150,00	TR Turkey	55,00	165,00
IE Ireland	104,00	150,00	UK United Kingdom	101,00	175,00
RS Serbia	80,00	140,00			

Please note that the Commission and the other European Institutions cover the travel and subsistence costs of their own officials when they participate in an event organised by the beneficiary and these should therefore not be included in the budget estimate.

¹² The daily allowance rates are subject to periodic review by the Commission.

Catering

The total amount calculated according to the above mentioned rules regarding Daily subsistence allowances shall constitute a maximum. If catering services are provided by the organisers, the DSAs directly paid to participants must be reduced accordingly.

Costs of services

Information dissemination, publications costs can be taken into account provided that they are directly related to the action. Please give, for each publication and/or other materials, a description, an estimate of the number of pages and copies planned the frequency and language of publication, an indication of the production costs per copy as well as an estimate of the distribution costs where appropriate.

Translation costs must include the following details: the number of languages, the number of pages to be translated, the rate applied per page. These rates may not exceed the most reasonable market rates.

Interpretation: the different components must be specified. In particular, the number of languages, the number of interpreters, the number of days and the daily rates must be specified. The accepted daily fee of an interpreter may not exceed 700 EURO (including VAT). Interpreters should be hired locally. For their travel and subsistence expenses to be covered by the grant, it must be impossible to hire them locally and it must be explained why this is so.

Evaluation: if the proposal supported requires some form of evaluation, monitoring and evaluation methods must be developed, as well as tools to assess, on an on-going basis, the progress of the action in relation to the objectives defined at the beginning and to benchmark the results. The cost of such work will be regarded as eligible expenditure.

Subcontracting

Any service undertaken by an external party in connection with the implementation of the action is considered to be **subcontracting**.¹³

Applicants should have the operational capacity to complete the action to be supported. However, when justified and necessary, parts of the project may be subcontracted to another person or organisation. In this case, the beneficiary shall ensure that some¹⁴ of the terms applicable to itself under the agreement are also applicable to the subcontractors.

It must be clearly specified in the description of the project which tasks it is intended to subcontract and why this subcontracting is necessary.

Main rules related to subcontracting activities

When concluding external contracts in order to implement the action, the beneficiary must seek competitive tenders from potential contractors and award the contract to the bid offering **the best value for money, i.e. the best price-quality ratio**. In doing so, the beneficiary shall observe the principles of transparency and equal treatment of potential contractors and shall take care to avoid any conflict of interests¹⁵.

¹³ Art. 120FR, 184 IR

¹⁴ The terms related to liability, conflict of interests, confidentiality, publicity, evaluation, assignment and checks and audits

¹⁵ In addition to these general rules, where the value of the external contract exceeds EUR 60 000, beneficiaries may be required to apply specific rules of procedure which are based on the Financial Regulation and determined with due regard to the estimated value of the contracts concerned, the relative size of the Community contribution in relation to the total cost of the action and the management risk

When the beneficiaries expect to subcontract and the value of the procurement contract awarded exceeds EUR 60 000, they shall include a model of the specifications that they expect to use (see model of specifications in Annex II) and they must, if requested, be able to prove (including proof of posting) that they have sought bids from at least five different tenderers.

Contracts as referred above may be awarded only in the following cases:

- a) They may only cover the execution of a limited part of the action;
- b) Recourse to the award of contracts must be justified having regard to the nature of the tasks necessary for the implementation of the action;
- c) The tasks to be subcontracted and the corresponding estimated costs must be set out in detail in the budget estimate;
- d) Any recourse to the award of contracts while the action is underway shall be subject to prior written authorisation by the Commission;
- e) The beneficiary shall retain sole responsibility for the implementation of the action and for compliance with the provisions of the agreement. The beneficiary must undertake the necessary arrangements to ensure that the subcontractor waives all rights in respect of the Commission under the agreement;
- f) The beneficiary must undertake to ensure that the terms, mentioned above, applicable to him under the agreement are also applicable to the subcontractor.

Administration costs

Depreciation for purchase of equipment¹⁶: the purchase cost of equipment (new or second-hand) is eligible provided that it is written off in accordance with the tax and accounting rules applicable to the beneficiary and generally accepted for items of the same kind. Only the portion of the equipment's depreciation corresponding to the period of eligibility for Community funding covered by the grant agreement and the rate of actual use for the purposes of the action may be taken into account by the Commission. A justification for the need of purchasing such equipment is to be annexed to the budget estimate.

Other eligible administrative costs are: rent of meeting rooms (coffee breaks included), rent of interpretation booths, communications' costs, charges for financial services, costs relating to a bank guarantee and to external audits, etc. Indicative amounts for rental of booths, excluding technical equipment: 750€ (excluding VAT) per day. Rental of booths with equipment and technical assistance: 1200€(excluding VAT) per day.

3.2.3 Eligible indirect costs - Overheads

Indirect costs are general administrative costs – overhead costs incurred in connection with the eligible direct costs for the action. They are limited to a maximum flat-rate of 7% of the total eligible direct costs for the action. These can include maintenance, stationery, photocopying, mailing postage, telephone and fax costs, heating, electricity or other forms of energy, water, office furniture, insurance and any other expenditure necessary for the successful completion of the project. Postage costs are considered as overhead costs and cannot be accepted under the headings "publications" or "administration".

If the accepted budget includes provision for flat-rate funding in respect of indirect costs, they need not to be supported by accounting documents.

Indirect costs are not eligible for an action where the beneficiary already receives an operating grant from the Community budget during the period in question.

¹⁶ Art. 172 IR

3.2.4 Non-eligible costs

The following expenses are ineligible and not accepted:

- contributions in kind: these are contributions that are not invoiced, e.g. voluntary work, equipment or premises made available free of charge;
- return on capital;
- debt and debt service charges;
- doubtful debts;
- provisions for losses or potential future liabilities;
- interest owed;
- exchange losses;
- VAT, unless the beneficiary can show that he/she is unable to recover it;¹⁷
- excessive or reckless expenditure;
- costs declared by the beneficiary and covered by another action or work programme receiving a Community grant.

3.3 Income

Total income must be identical to total expenditure. The income side of the budget must show:

- The beneficiary's contribution in cash: the direct monetary (cash) contribution from the applicant's own resources and/or the contribution from any other fund providers. This means a financial flow that can be traced in the written accounts of the beneficiary.
- The revenue generated by the action: any income expected to be generated by the implementation of the action should be detailed (e.g. the yield from sales of publications).
- The Community grant: the grant requested from the Commission.

4 HOW THE GRANT WILL BE CALCULATED

If the proposal is selected for a grant, the Commission will calculate the Community contribution as a percentage of the total eligible costs as shown in the estimated budget for the implementation of the action.

The Commission reserves the right to reduce the grant requested if the proposal is acceptable but considered too expensive, and to reduce individual unit costs if these are estimated to be too high.

Determination of the final amount of the grant

The Community final grant is calculated on the basis of the **actual** eligible expenditure by applying the "double ceiling" rule and verifying compliance with the no-profit rule.

- Application of the "double ceiling" rule limiting the grant both to the percentage of the eligible costs and to the maximum amount mentioned in the grant agreement

The Community final grant is calculated by applying the percentage for the co-financing of the eligible costs laid down in the grant agreement to the total of the actual eligible costs.

¹⁷ It should be noted that VAT paid by a public body to operators who are subject to VAT (when purchasing goods or supplying services within the framework of the implementation of the co-financed action) is not eligible. The VAT thus collected by operators liable for tax will in fact be returned to accounts of the Member State of the public body. Considering this VAT as an eligible cost would lead to double financing (by the Community and by the fiscal revenue).

This amount must not exceed the maximum amount for the Community grant laid down in the grant agreement.

As a result, if the actual expenditure turns out to be lower than the expenditure you budgeted, the actual grant will also be reduced in application of the percentage contribution which will remain the same. If the actual expenditure turns out to be higher than the expenditure budgeted, the Community grant will not be increased. It is therefore in the applicant's interest to submit a realistic estimate of expenses.

- Verification of compliance with the no-profit rule

The grant may not have the purpose or effect of producing a profit for the beneficiary¹⁸.

On the basis of the above rule if the total income of the action is higher than the total costs, the final grant amount will be reduced accordingly so that it will not produce a profit.

A mere forecast of expenditure does not give entitlement to a grant. This is why the final grant amount cannot be calculated until the Commission has received the final activity report and the final statement of expenditure. The expenditure that is committed to the implementation of the action must be justified by invoices or equivalent supporting documents, in order to be accepted as actual expenditure. It must also relate to actual rather than inputted costs.

5 AGREEMENT GOVERNING THE GRANT

Should the Commission award a grant, a standard grant agreement for an action setting out the conditions and maximum level of funding will be concluded with the beneficiary.

Successful applicants will receive two original copies of the grant agreement for acceptance and signature. Both of these copies must be sent back to the Commission, which will then return one of them once it has been signed by both parties.

6 PAYMENT PROCEDURES

The payment arrangements will be laid down in the grant agreement.

There are 2 options regarding the amount of the grant awarded by the Commission.

If the grant is lower than EUR 100 000, the payment of the grant will be made in two instalments:

- A pre-financing payment of 50% at the signature of the grant agreement;
- The payment of the balance upon acceptance by the Commission of the final technical implementation report and final financial statement

If the grant exceeds EUR 100 000, the payment of the grant will be made in three instalments (two pre-financing payments and a final payment under the following conditions:

- A pre-financing payment of 30% at the signature of the grant agreement;
- A second pre-financing payment of 40% of the total amount awarded upon receipt and approval by the Commission of a progress report on implementation of the action and detailed statement of the costs already incurred, showing that at least 70% of the previous pre-financing payment has been used up. Where the consumption of the previous pre-financing is less than 70%, the amount of the new-pre-financing payment shall be reduced by the unused amounts of the previous pre-financing payment¹⁹;

¹⁸ Art. 109(2) FR

¹⁹ Art. 180(1) IR

- The balance will be paid upon acceptance by the Commission of the final technical implementation report and final financial statement.

7 GUARANTEE²⁰

The Commission may require the beneficiary to provide a guarantee in advance, in order to limit the financial risk linked to the payment of the pre-financing.

This guarantee shall be denominated in EUR and shall be valid for a period sufficiently long to allow it to be activated. The guarantee shall be provided by an approved bank or financial institution established in one of the Member States.

The guarantee shall be released as the pre-financing is gradually cleared against interim payments or payments of balances to the beneficiary in accordance with the conditions laid down in the grant agreement.

The guarantee may be replaced by a joint and several guarantee by a third party or by the irrevocable and unconditional joint guarantee of the beneficiaries of an action who are parties to the same grant agreement.

8 BANK ACCOUNT AND INTEREST GENERATED BY PRE-FINANCING PAYMENTS²¹

Payment shall be made to the beneficiary's bank account or sub-account denominated in Euro. This account or sub-account indicated by the beneficiary must make it possible to identify the funds transferred by the Commission.

If the funds paid to their account yield interest or equivalent benefits under the law of the State on whose territory the account is opened, such interest or benefits, if they have been generated by pre-financing payments which remain the property of the European Community, shall not be treated as a receipt for the action.

The beneficiary shall, as specified in the grant agreement, inform the Commission of any interest or equivalent benefits yielded by pre-financing payments higher than EUR 50 000, it has received from the Commission. Notification must be made when the request is introduced for interim payment or for payment of the balance that clears the pre-financing.

Interests yielded by pre-financing payments between EUR 50 000 and 750 000 will be directly deducted from payments. Interests generated by pre-financing payments higher than EUR 750 000 will be recovered by a recovery order.

Interests shall not be due to the Communities for pre-financing paid to Member States, to their regional or local authorities including organisms and administrative and instrumental structures under their control or paid in the framework of joint management with international organisations.

All costs related to these requirements (such as the cost for opening and closing accounts) are eligible and may be submitted in the budget estimate.

²⁰ Compulsory in the case of pre-financing representing over 80% of the total amount of the grant and exceeding EUR 60 000. However, this requirement may be waived for public-sector bodies and international organisations or for beneficiaries who have signed a framework partnership agreement with the Commission. (Art.118 FR and 182(1) IR)

²¹ Art. 5(a) FR, Art. 3, 4 , 4(a) IR

9 SUBMISSION OF REPORTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

The final report on the implementation of the action along with a final financial statement of all actual expenditure and actual revenue are to be sent within three months from the closing date of the action. The final report should answer at least to the following questions:

1. *How was the project carried out? Was it carried out in accordance with the description of the action annexed to the grant agreement? (Please provide a description of the project, its results and methodology, planned activities, timetable, partners, participants, etc.)*
2. *How has the operation met the objectives of the budget heading?*
3. *What is the transnational dimension of the operation?*
4. *How were social partners/stakeholders involved?*
5. *What contribution was made by the partners?*
6. *What was the added value of the project?*
7. *How was the operation publicised and how have the results been disseminated?*
8. *What other efforts have been made to ensure that the project has a lasting impact?*
9. *What lessons have been learnt from this experience?*
10. *Are there any plans to follow up this project, and if so, how?*

In addition to these requirements, the documents indicated in the text of the call for proposals must also be provided.

Should the final report be deemed to be inadequate and of low quality, the Commission reserves the right to request additional information within 60 days of reception of the final report, and, if necessary, to suspend the final payment until the requested information is provided.

10 PUBLICITY

Beneficiaries of the grant are required to mention clearly the fact that they have received funding from the Community in any publication and/or in other materials, or in the occasion of activities (conferences or seminars, etc.), for which the grant is used, using the following wording: "**With support from the European Union**". The logo of the EU should also be visible.

Any communication or publication by the beneficiary, in any form and medium, including the Internet, shall indicate that sole responsibility lies with the author and that the Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

In addition to these minimum requirements, references specified in the text of the call for proposals must also be indicated.

All grants awarded in the course of a financial year shall be published on the Internet site of the Community institutions during the first half of the year following the closure of the budget year in respect of which they were awarded.

By signing the grant agreement for an action, the beneficiary authorises the Commission to publish the following information in any form and medium, including via the Internet site of the Community²²:

- the beneficiary's name and the address;
- the subject of the grant;

²² Art. 110(2) FR, 169(2) IR

- the amount awarded and the rate of funding of the costs of the action.

Upon a duly substantiated request by the beneficiary, publication of this data can be waived if it threatens the safety of the beneficiary or harms his business interests.

11 EVALUATION

If the proposal should include a specific evaluation component for ongoing monitoring and final evaluation of the action, these costs can be taken into account as eligible in the budget estimate.

Successful proposals could be the subject of an ongoing and ex-post evaluation led by the Commission and/or by independent experts selected by the European Commission. Therefore, the beneficiaries of the grant undertake to make available to the Commission and/or persons authorised by it, all such documents or information as will allow the evaluation to be successfully completed and give them the rights of access required.

12 CHECKS AND AUDITS

An external audit report is required in the following cases:

12.1 Audit report in support of grant applications²³.

Organisations' proposals for an action for which the grant exceeds EUR 500 000, shall be accompanied by an external audit report produced by a certified auditor. That report shall certify the accounts for the last financial year available.

12.2 Audit report in support of requests for payment²⁴

In the case of a grant for an action over EUR 750 000, requests for payment shall, when the cumulative amounts per financial year of requests for interim payments and for payment of the balance is at least EUR 325 000, be accompanied by an external audit report produced by an approved auditor or in case of public bodies, by a competent and independent public officer. Its purpose is to certify that the submitted accounts comply with the financial provisions of the agreement, that the costs declared by the beneficiary in the financial statements on which the request for payment is based are real, accurately recorded and eligible according to the grant agreement and that all receipts have been declared.

The obligation to provide such certificate on the financial statements and underlying accounts may be waived in the cases of grant beneficiaries that are public bodies or international organisations. If an external audit of the action's accounts is not required, the beneficiary himself shall certify on his honour that information contained in requests for payments is full, reliable and true. He shall also certify that the costs incurred can be considered eligible in accordance with the grant agreement and that requests for payment are substantiated by adequate supporting documents that can be checked.

The beneficiary undertakes to provide any detailed information requested by the Commission or by another qualified outside body chosen by the Commission for the purposes of checking that the action and the provisions of the agreement are being properly implemented. The beneficiary must enable the Commission and/or the European Court of Auditors to verify the organisation's accounting documents, if they deem this appropriate. To this end, documentation justifying items of expenditure must be retained by the applicant's organisation for five years following final payment by the Commission.

²³ Art. 173(4) IR

²⁴ Art. 180(2) IR

13 PROCEDURE: ELECTRONIC MEANS OF SUBMISSION - SWIM

The Internet Web application called "SWIM" (SAGA Web Input Module) allows applicants/beneficiaries to introduce, edit, validate, print and submit grant applications, request for payments and request for modifications on the budget estimate. SWIM can be accessed in the following web address²⁵: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/swim> .

13.1 Introduction of grant applications

The grant application form has to be electronically filled in as follows: first, access the system at the address mentioned above and click on the link "New grant application", then, select the number of the call for proposals you wish to apply for and, eventually, fill in your application. Once your application is completed, click on the "submission" button in order to finalised the submission procedure.

Please note that after having submitted your application form electronically no changes to the application are possible.

After being submitted electronically, the application form must also be printed out, signed by the legal representative of the organization submitting the proposal and sent by post to the responsible Unit, as specified in the text of the call for proposals.

Failure to respect this procedure will render the application ineligible.

13.2 Requests for payments and budgetary modifications

In addition to the documents specified in the grant agreement, financial documents required in support of requests for further pre-financing payments and for payment of the balance, as well as requests for modifications of the budget estimate to be made by addendum must also be electronically submitted using SWIM.

To be allow to log on into SWIM and access its grant file, the beneficiary will be asked to enter in the login page the same File number and Access code assigned by the system to the grant application when it was created.

14 DATA PROTECTION

The grant application will be processed by computer. All personal data (such as names, addresses, CVs, etc.) will be processed in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data.²⁶ Replies to the questions in the application form are necessary in order to assess the grant application and they will be processed solely for that purpose by the department responsible for the Community grant programme concerned. On request, applicants may be sent personal data and correct or complete them. For any question relating to these data, please contact the Commission department to which the form must be returned. Beneficiaries may lodge a complaint against the processing of their personal data with the European Data Protection Supervisor at any time.

²⁵ For more technical details on SWIM utilisation, a user's manual is available on line

²⁶ Official Journal L 8, 12.1.2001.

ANNEX II

MODEL FOR TENDER SPECIFICATIONS FOR SUBCONTRACTING EXTERNAL EXPERTISE

Tender Specifications –

1. **Background**
2. **Purpose of the Contract**
3. **Tasks to be performed by the Contractor**

Description of tasks

Guidance and indications on tasks execution and methodology

4. **Expertise required**
5. **Time schedule and reporting**
6. **Payments and standard contract**
7. **Price**
8. **Selection criteria**
9. **Award criteria**

(option 1)

The contract will be awarded to the tenderer whose offer represents the best value for money - taking into account the following criteria:

-
-
-

It should be noted that the contract will *not* be awarded to a tenderer who receives less than 70% on the Award Criteria.

(option 2)

The contract will be awarded to the tenderer whose offer represents the lowest price.

10. **Content and presentation of the bids**

Content of the bids

Presentation of the bids