



EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND

**CENTRAL EUROPE PROGRAMME
1ST CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2008**

3 MARCH 2008

CENTRAL EUROPE is a European Union programme that encourages cooperation across the countries and regions of Central Europe to improve innovation, accessibility, and environment and to enhance the competitiveness and attractiveness of their cities and regions.

The programme is financed by the European Regional Development Fund and runs from 2007 to 2013 and invests EUR 231 million to co-finance transnational cooperation activities by public and private organisations from Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia.

The programme should, hence, play a considerable role in strengthening the development efforts of these countries and their regions, while contributing to an integrated development of the entire programme area by promoting trans-national cooperation projects with mutual benefit, tangible outputs and concrete results.

The CENTRAL EUROPE Managing Authority invites public and private organisations established in the Central Europe regions to present proposals for the 1st application round.

1. PROGRAMME AREA

The CENTRAL EUROPE Programme area includes regions from Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Ukraine¹.

¹ Austria, Czech Republic, Germany (Baden-Württemberg, Bayern, Berlin, Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Sachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt, Thüringen), Italy (Emilia-Romagna, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Liguria, Lombardia, Piemonte, Provincia Autonoma Bolzano/Bozen, Provincia Autonoma Trento, Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste, Veneto), Hungary, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Ukraine (Chernivtsi, Ivano-Frankivsk, Volyn, Lviv, Zakarpattia).

2. ALLOCATED BUDGET

For the first call the allocated ERDF budget will be of 67 Million EUR.

3. THEMATIC PRIORITIES

The following priorities are covered by this announcement:

No 1 - Facilitating innovation across Central Europe	No 2 - Improving accessibility to, and within, Central Europe
Areas of intervention: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Enhancing the framework for innovation– Fostering knowledge development– Establishing the capacity to diffuse and apply innovation	Areas of intervention: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Improving Central Europe's interconnectivity– Developing multi-modal logistics cooperation– Promoting sustainable and safe mobility– Promoting information and communication technology, as well as alternative solutions for enhancing access
No 3 - Using our environment responsibly	No. 4 - Enhancing competitiveness and attractiveness of cities and region
Areas of intervention: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Developing a high-quality environment by managing and protecting natural resources and heritage– Reducing the risks and impacts of natural and man-made hazards– Supporting renewable energy and increasing energy efficiency– Supporting environmentally friendly technologies and activities	Areas of intervention: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– developing polycentric settlement structures and territorial cooperation– addressing the territorial effects of demographic and social change– capitalising on cultural resources, to make cities and regions more attractive

4. APPLICATIONS

Proposals must be completed in English using the specific Application Form provided by the Programme. The Application Pack and the Application Manual can be downloaded from the CENTRAL EUROPE website:

www.central2013.eu

5. ELIGIBLE ORGANISATIONS

In the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme eligible organisations are:

- National, regional and local public authorities;

- Public Equivalent Bodies²;
- International organisations;
- Private entities, including private companies.

Partners benefiting from ERDF funds must be located in the CENTRAL EUROPE regions³.

6. ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIP

The minimum requirements established in the CENTRAL EUROPE Operational Programme imply that the partnership should involve:

- At least three financing partners,
- From at least three countries and
- Being at least two of the partners located in EU CENTRAL EUROPE regions⁴.

7. PROJECT SIZE

Typical projects within the framework of CENTRAL EUROPE will have a total budget ranging from 1 through to 5 Mio EUR. In exceptional cases, smaller or larger projects can also be funded.

8. CO-FINANCING RATES

The following co-financing rates will apply:

- up to 85 %for applicants of Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia;
- up to 75% for applicants of Austria, Germany, Italy.

In case project partners implement activities being considered as State Aid relevant, the maximum grant will be calculated applying the *de minimis* regime.

9. DEADLINE

² For a definition of public equivalent body please see the Operational Programme, page 103.

³ Please note that Italian and German National public authorities or public equivalent bodies which are competent in their scope of action for certain parts of the eligible area but which are located outside of it (e.g.: ministries) are to all effects considered as partners located in the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme area.

⁴ See footnote No. 3.

Project proposals must be submitted in hard copy and electronically.
Hard copy version of the project proposals shall be submitted at the latest by the 14th April 2008 (date of the post stamp) to:

**CENTRAL EUROPE PROGRAMME
JOINT TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT
APPLICATION FIRST CALL
MUSEUMSTRASSE 3/A/III
1070 VIENNA
AUSTRIA**

Electronic version of the project proposals must be sent by e-mail within the same day (h. 24:00) to the following e-mail address: info@central2013.eu.

10. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

More information regarding the Programme, conditions for the submission of project proposals, evaluation criteria as well as other relevant information are available for download at:

<http://www.central2013.eu>

It is also possible to contact the Contact Points representatives located in each CENTRAL EUROPE country.

The second Call for proposals will be launched within the end of 2008.