



EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND

CENTRAL EUROPE PROGRAMME
ANNOUNCEMENT 3RD CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2010

15 MARCH 2010

1. INTRODUCTION

The CENTRAL EUROPE Managing Authority invites public and private organisations established in the EU Central Europe regions to present proposals for the 3rd application round. The detailed conditions of this call for project proposals can be found in the "Application Manual 3rd call" which can be downloaded on the Programme website www.central2013.eu together with the "Application Package 3rd call". The Application Package containing the "Application Manual 3rd call" constitutes an integral part of this call for proposals.

2. OBJECTIVES

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

The Programme shall, 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 Programme constitutes the legal basis for this call for proposals.

3. PROGRAMME AREA

The CENTRAL EUROPE Programme area includes regions from Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Ukraine¹ and ².

4. 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

Under the terms of this call, a project proposal must focus on one Priority only.

5. ALLOCATED ERDF BUDGET

The Programme will allocate around 60 Million EUR for the third call for proposals to co-finance the selected project proposals.

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 Ukrainian partners do not benefit from ERDF contribution.

6. APPLICATIONS

Proposals must be completed in English using the specific Application Form and Annexes for the 3rd Call provided by the Programme.

The “Application Package 3rd call” containing also the “Application Manual 3rd call” can be downloaded from the CENTRAL EUROPE website www.central2013.eu.

7. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

In the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme eligible applicants are:

- National, regional and local public authorities;
- Public Equivalent Bodies³;
- International organisations;
- Private institutions, including private companies.

8. ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIP

8.1 The CENTRAL EUROPE Operational Programme requires that the partnership involves:

- at least three financing partners,
- from at least three countries and
- being at least two of the partners located in EU CENTRAL EUROPE regions⁴.

8.2 Applicants located outside the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme area but within the EU can also apply for funding as project partners. Please note that the sum of funding for these project partners may not exceed 20 % of the overall ERDF project budget. In case of participation, their activities shall be for the benefit of the regions of the EU CENTRAL EUROPE area. Their involvement is considered as exceptional and must be clearly justified.

8.3 Applicants can also be located outside the EU but will not benefit of ERDF co-financing.

³ For a definition of public equivalent body please refer to the Operational Programme, page 103.

⁴ 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.

9. ELIGIBLE LEAD APPLICANT

The following institutions can be Lead Applicant:

- National, regional and local public authorities⁵;
- Public Equivalent Bodies⁶;
- International Organisations acting under national law;
- Private institutions, including private companies (only for projects submitted under Priority 1).

Only institutions located in the EU CENTRAL EUROPE Programme area can apply as Lead Applicants.

10. 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.

11. CO-FINANCING RATES

The following co-financing rates shall apply:

- up to 85 %for applicants of Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia;
- up to 75% for applicants of Austria, Germany, Italy;
- up to 75% for EU applicants located outside the EU CENTRAL EUROPE Programme area.

In case project applicants intend to implement activities being considered as State Aid relevant, the maximum grant will be calculated applying the *de minimis* regime⁷ while respecting the percentages above. Should the activities to be carried out by EU-partners outside the CENTRAL EUROPE area be considered as State Aid relevant, the participation of these partners will not be allowed.

⁵ See footnote No. 4.

⁶ See footnote No. 4.

⁷ as referred to in the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1998/2006 of 15 December 2006 on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the Treaty to *de minimis* aid published on the Official Journal of the European Union L 379 on 28 December 2006.

12. DEADLINE

Project proposals must be sent according to the requirements provided in the Application Manual 3rd call at the latest by 7 May 2010 date as per post mark to:

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

Applications must be sent by normal post or express courier. In case of delivery by hand, the application must arrive before 5:00 p.m. of the day of the deadline.

13. AWARD CRITERIA

The award shall be subject to the principles of transparency and equal treatment. The selection procedure takes place as follows:

Verification of the administrative compliance: the project proposals will be checked to ensure that they fully comply with the formal, legal and eligibility requirements as described in paragraph 5.2.1 of the Application Manual 3rd call;

Verification of the financial capacity of private Lead Applicants within Priority 1: the financial capacity will be verified according to the criteria described in paragraph 5.2.2 of the Application Manual 3rd call;

Evaluation: proposals in conformity with the verification of the administrative compliance and, if this is the case, with the financial capacity of the Lead Partner, will be subject to two parallel assessments: the content and financial assessment and the analysis on the State Aid compliance as described in paragraphs 5.2.3 and 5.2.4 of the Application Manual 3rd call.

Content and financial criteria:

- a. Relevance;
- b. Partnership technical and operational capacity;
- c. Implementation and Methodology;
- d. Quality of the outputs and Sustainability of the achieved results;
- e. Budget and cost effectiveness.

Each criterion is composed by several sub-criteria measured according to scores (1-5).

The total score of each category is the sum of the subcategories scores. The overall score is the sum of every category.

14. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

More information regarding the Programme, conditions for the submission of project proposals, evaluation process, the Application Package as well as other relevant information is available for download at:

<http://www.central2013.eu>

It is also possible to contact the Contact Points representatives located in each EU CENTRAL EUROPE country and the Joint Technical Secretariat based in Vienna.