



EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND

**CENTRAL EUROPE PROGRAMME
ANNOUNCEMENT 4TH CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2011**

10 JUNE 2011

1. ANNOUNCEMENT

The CENTRAL EUROPE Managing Authority invites public and private organisations established in the EU Central Europe regions to present proposals for the 4th application round. Due to the success of earlier calls, resulting in 94 projects already running, the remaining programme funds are limited. The Monitoring Committee therefore decided to restrict this call to the Programme Areas of Intervention no. 1.3, 2.4, 3.4, 4.1 and 4.3. The detailed conditions of this call for project proposals can be found in the “Application Manual 4th call” which can be downloaded from the Programme website www.central2013.eu together with the “Application Package 4th call”. The Application Package containing the “Application Manual 4th 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 CENTRAL EUROPE Operational 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 4th call for proposals is restricted to the following Programme Areas of Intervention:

Priority 1 - Facilitating innovation across Central Europe	Priority 2 - Improving accessibility to, and within, Central Europe
Area of intervention: 1.3 Fostering knowledge development	Area of intervention: 2.4 Promoting information and communication technology and alternative solutions for enhancing access
Priority 3 - Using our environment responsibly	Priority 4 - Enhancing competitiveness and attractiveness of cities and region
Area of intervention: 3.4 Supporting environmentally friendly technologies and activities	Areas of intervention: 4.1 Developing polycentric settlement structures and territorial cooperation 4.3 Capitalising on cultural resources, to make cities and regions more attractive

Project applicants are strongly encouraged to check the already running projects in the respective areas to avoid duplication. (<http://www.central2013.eu/nc/central-projects/implementing-a-project/approved-projects/>).

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

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.

5. ALLOCATED ERDF BUDGET

The Programme will allocate at least 22,5 Million EUR ERDF to the 4th call for proposals. This amount shall be increased in the case that funds allocated to projects approved within the previous calls are made available.

Project proposals selected in the framework of the 4th call will be funded according to the ERDF available in each Priority. The final ERDF allocation per Priority depends from the approval of a revision of the CENTRAL EUROPE Operational Programme - including a revision of the allocation of funds per Priority - that, at the date of the launch of the 4th call, is being analysed by the European Commission. The available ERDF per Priority will be communicated on the CENTRAL EUROPE web site (www.central2013.eu) upon approval of the revised Operational Programme.

6. APPLICATIONS

Proposals must be completed in English using the specific Application Form and Annexes for the 4th Call provided by the Programme.

The “Application Package 4th call” containing also the “Application Manual 4th 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 having legal personalities.

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

³ For a definition of public equivalent body please refer to chapter 6.4 of the Operational Programme.

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.

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.

9. ELIGIBLE LEAD APPLICANT

The following institutions can be Lead Applicant:

- National, regional and local public authorities;
- Public Equivalent Bodies⁵;
- International Organisations acting under national law;
- Private institutions, including private companies having legal personalities (only for projects submitted under Priority 1).

Only institutions located in the EU CENTRAL EUROPE Programme area⁶ can apply as Lead Applicants.

10. PROJECT SIZE

The recommended financial size of projects submitted in the framework of the 4th call for proposals is in the range of 1 to 2,5 million EUR total budget.

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. 3.

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. PROJECT DURATION

In the framework of the 4th call for proposals the recommended project duration is 24 to 30 months, taking into account that the latest acceptable end date for a project is set with 31 December 2014.

13. DEADLINE

Project proposals must be sent according to the requirements provided in the Application Manual 4th call at the latest by 14 October 2011 (date as per post mark) to:

CENTRAL EUROPE PROGRAMME
JOINT TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT
APPLICATION FOURTH 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.

14. 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 4th 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 4th 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 4th 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.

15. 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.