

Higher Education European Funding Services Limited



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Bulletin 3 2009

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Programmes	Type of Information				
	Summary	Workplan	Calls	Results	Dissemination
Lifelong Learning Programme					
PROGRESS			Details of two calls for tender are provided on Pages 2-3		
CULTURE			Details of the call for proposals under Strand 1.3 Cooperation Projects with Third countries are provided on Page 4		
MEDIA			Details of a call for proposals under the Preparatory Action MEDIA International are provided on Pages 5-6		
Competitiveness & Innovation Programme	A summary of the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme is provided on Pages 7-8				
ESF					
Others			1.Details of a Prior Information Notice relating to a call for tender concerned with 'Identification of future skills needs in micro and craft (type) enterprises', are provided on Page 9 2. Details of a call for proposals under the EU-Canada Transatlantic Exchange Partnerships Programme are provided on Pages 10-11		

Study on Social Services of General Interest (SSGI)**Deadline: 8 May 2009****Commission Reference VT/2009/008****Subject**

A study on the organisation of certain SSGI¹ and the reform processes in this area, with a strong focus on quality issues.

The study should cover four sectors:- long-term care, employment services, childcare and social housing. For each of these areas, the study should describe in a schematic way, (in 22 countries to be chosen among the 27 EU Member States and the EFTA/EEA countries Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein):-

- How these services are provided and financed
- The relationships between the providers and public authorities
- Conditions for access
- The extent of cross border provision
- The various types of providers

The study should go on (for 15 countries) to:-

- Analyse the frameworks/tools which have been put in place by public authorities to guarantee quality.

Technical Issues

- Maximum duration is 15 months from signature of the contract
- Price should not exceed €450,000
- Tenders from consortia or groups of organisations are allowable, provided that one of the organisations takes on the responsibility for reporting, claiming etc.

Selection Criteria

To proceed through the first stage of selection, tenders must provide evidence of:-

- Economic and financial capacity to carry out the tasks set out in the call
- Technical capacity to carry out the contract

Award criteria

The contract will be awarded to the bid offering the best price/quality ratio, taking into account the following criteria weighted as indicated below:-

Approach	30%	Work organisation	30%
Methodology	40%		

Further Information

The Call was published in the Official Journal of the EU on 14/3/2009 reference number 2009/S 051-072974

All documentation can be accessed from the following link

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=625&lanId=en&callId=201&furthercalls=yes>

¹ SSGI are defined in the call as 'statutory and complementary social security schemes and services provided directly to the person that play a preventive and socially cohesive role, such as social assistance services, employment and training services, social housing, childcare or long term care services

Study on the use of age, disability, sex, religion or belief, race or ethnic origin and sexual orientation in financial services, in particular insurance and banking sectors

Deadline: 4 May 2009

Commission Reference

No. VT/2009/013

Subject

The study will identify current practices of financial services providers with regard to the use of age, disability, sex, religion or belief, race or ethnic origin and sexual orientation in the supply and design of financial products, as well as problems of discrimination and measures to prevent discriminatory practices.

The assessment must cover all 27 Member States and EFTA/EEA countries for which data will be collected and analysed by the contractor. The European situation should be compared with countries such as the USA, Canada, Australia and Switzerland.

Technical Issues

- Maximum duration is 9 months from signature of the contract
- Price should not exceed €400,000
- Tenders from consortia or groups of organisations are allowable, provided that one of the organisations takes on the responsibility for reporting, claiming etc.

Selection Criteria

To proceed through the first stage of selection, tenders must provide evidence of:-

- Economic and financial capacity to carry out the tasks set out in the call
- Technical and professional capacity to carry out the contract:-
 - Team must be composed of experienced lawyers and/or academics in the countries concerned specialised in retail insurance and banking services
 - Team should comprise at least the following experts:-
 - Senior expert in retail insurance and banking services with extensive experience in pricing of financial products and calculation of risks
 - Senior expert in retail insurance and banking services with extensive experience in consumer rights with regard to access to financial products
 - Senior expert in gender equality and anti discrimination law with extensive experience of discrimination on the grounds of age, disability and sex
 - Other experts with experience in the above fields and language skills allowing for field research in at least 15 Member States and EEA countries.

Award criteria

The contract will be awarded to the bid offering the best price/quality ratio, taking into account the following criteria weighted as indicated below:-

Approach	30%	Work organisation	30%
Methodology	40%		

Further Information

The Call was published in the Official Journal on 11/3/2009 ref. 2009/S 048-068928

All documentation can be accessed from the following link:-

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=625&lanId=en&callId=200&furthercalls=yes>

Interested?

If you are interested in either of these calls, we may be able to offer some assistance, please contact us for an informal discussion about how we might be able to help

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Culture Programme

Call for Proposals for Cooperation with Third Countries

Deadline **1 May 2009**

Background

As mentioned in our Bulletin 2, the first deadline for ‘cooperation’ projects under the Culture Programme is 1 May 2009. This deadline is for projects involving partnerships with ‘third countries’ (i.e. countries other than the 27 EU Member States and the EEA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) and the candidate countries (Croatia, Turkey, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia)).

Eligible ‘third’ countries

The ‘third’ countries chosen as priorities for cooperation for 2009 are:-

Armenia	Belarus
Egypt	Georgia
Jordan	Moldova
Occupied Palestinian Territory	Tunisia

Activities and Requirements

This strand supports cultural cooperation aimed at cultural exchanges between the countries involved. Projects must:-

- Generate real European added value as well as an international cooperation dimension
- Last a maximum of 24 months
- Involve at least 3 partners from 3 different eligible countries
- Involve at least 1 partner from one of the selected third countries. At least 50% of the action should take place in the third country

The grant rate for projects is a maximum of 50% of eligible cost and the amount of grant requested must be between €50,000 and €200,000.

Further Information

All related call documentation can be obtained from:-

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/culture/guide/strand_1_3/funding_en.htm

Advice about the call is also available from the UK’s Cultural Contact Point EUCLID at <http://www.culturefund.eu>

Interested?

If you or any of your colleagues have an idea for a proposal under the Culture Programme, then we may be able to offer some help in developing the idea and preparing an application. Please contact us for an informal discussion about how we might be able to assist.

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Call for Proposals 2009 – Preparatory Action MEDIA International

Deadline 2 June 2009

Objectives and description

The **Preparatory Action Media International** is intended to examine and test cooperation activities between European film professionals and professionals from countries outside the EU. The preparatory action runs in parallel to the main MEDIA Programme and is intended to assist the Commission in its preparation for the introduction of the MEDIA Mundus Programme. It has a budget of around €5m for 2009. The action has three main objectives:-

- Exchange information and knowledge of audiovisual markets
- Competitiveness and distribution
- Circulation

Activities

The Action consists of 5 separate Lots. All covered by this call for proposals:-

- Training
- Distribution
- Promotion
- Development of cinema networks
- Increasing audience demand

Opportunities for HEIs

The main area of interest to HEIs is within the Lot concerned with training. Support is available for:-

‘Training projects aimed at students/professionals from the audiovisual industry. Their aim is to build, through a training course or joint training measure, a deeper understanding of the operating conditions, legal framework and systems of financing of the audiovisual markets in all countries participating in the proposed project.’

The Action allows for both initial and continuous training. However, for this call proposals concerned with initial training are only allowable if they are extensions of existing MEDIA International or MEDIA funded training projects. **Thus for new applications, training is limited to continuous training.**

Requirements for Continuous Training Projects

- Continuous training projects must be directed at professionals with clearly proven skills and at least 3 years’ experience in the AV sector.
- Applications must be submitted by a minimum of 2 partners.
- The co-ordinator must be registered in one of the 27 EU Member States
- At least 1 partner must be registered in any third country other than Croatia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland
- Other partners could be registered in any third country including Croatia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland

Possible Grant Rates

- Up to 50% of eligible costs if the project co-coordinator is from Germany, Spain, France, UK, Italy
- Up to 75% of eligible costs if the project coordinator is from one of the 22 other Member States
- Up to 80% of eligible costs if the training takes place (even partially) in any third country

Thus UK HEIs considering submitting a proposal should, if they have partners in a Member State other than Germany, Spain, France or Italy try to convince their partner in one of the other 22 states to submit the proposal on behalf of the partnership. In this way the consortium can draw down 75% of eligible costs. Alternatively, projects should be designed so that an element of the training actually takes place in the third country, in which case the grant rate could be as high as 80%.

Further Information

All information relating to the call can be obtained from the following link:-

<http://ec.europa.eu/media>

Application Forms and all call documentation can be obtained from:-

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/media/overview/international/funding/2009/index_en.htm

Anyone considering submitting a proposal should also consult the UK Media Desk for information and advice:-

<http://www.mediadeskuk.eu>

Interested?

If you or any colleagues in your Institution are interested in submitting a proposal under this action, then we may be able to offer some assistance in both preparing the application and managing the project if successful. Please do not hesitate to contact us for an informal discussion about how we might be able to assist. Our contact details are as follows:-

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Competitiveness and Innovation Programme

Summary of the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme (IEE)

Objectives

To contribute to secure, sustainable and competitively priced energy for Europe, by providing for action:-

- To foster energy efficiency and the rational use of energy resources
- To promote new and renewable energy sources and to support energy diversification
- To promote energy efficiency and use of new and renewable energy sources in transport

It is the EU's main instrument to tackle non-technological barriers to the spread of efficient use of energy and greater use of new and renewable energy sources.

Actions and Activities

IEE covers actions in the following fields:-

Energy efficiency and rational use of resources, including:-

- Improving energy efficiency and the rational use of energy, in particular in the building and industry sectors
- Supporting the preparation and application of legislative measures

New and renewable energy resources, including:-

- Promoting new and renewable energy sources for centralised and decentralised production of electricity, heat and cooling, and biofuels, thus supporting the diversification of energy sources
- Integrating new and renewable energy sources into the local environment and the energy systems
- Supporting the preparation and application of legislative measures

Energy and transport, to promote energy efficiency and the use of new and renewable energies in transport, including:-

- Supporting initiatives relating to all energy aspects of transport and the diversification of fuels
- Promoting renewable fuels and energy efficient transport
- Supporting the preparation and application of legislative measures

Integrated Initiatives combining several of the fields mentioned above or relating to certain Community priorities.

Activities to be supported are grouped into 5 main categories:-

- Strategic studies
- Creation, enlargement or reorganisation of structures and instruments for sustainable energy development
- Promotion of sustainable energy systems and equipment in order to further accelerate their penetration of the market and to stimulate investment
- Development of information, education and training structures, the utilisation of results, the promotion and dissemination of know-how and best practices
- Monitoring of the implementation and the impact of Community legislative and support measures

The fields and objectives set out above are valid for the whole of the Programme from 2007 to 2013, although the workplans for each year may identify more specific objectives for certain actions.

Opportunities for HEIs

Some opportunities for HEIs to undertake research and deliver training exist under all 3 of the main fields of the Programme. For example, in 2008 the call included:-

- Studies and analyses of user behaviour
- Training and certification courses for installers
- Networking for professionals
- Training for urban and rural planners and building authorisation officers
- Transfer of know-how to and between business, in particular SMEs

Specific education related projects were called for under **Integrated Initiatives**, e.g.:-

- Replicate, enlarge and widen successful experience, tools and methods of sustainable energy education, particularly vocational and adult training
- Organise exchanges of experience between countries which have integrated energy education into their curriculum and countries which have not
- Make the best use of existing didactic tools, in particular those developed so far with IEE support
- Train and raise awareness among teachers and adult trainers on energy issues, including in-service training
- Explore relationships and links with other Community programmes such as the Lifelong Learning Programme.

Timetable

The workplan and call for 2009 has not yet been published, the estimated date for publication of the call is April 2009 with a deadline for applications in late June 2009.

Technical Issues

- The budget for the 2009 call is somewhere in the region of €65m.
- Proposals must involve 3 partners from 3 Member States or EFTA/EEA countries.
- The maximum duration for a project is 36 months
- Grant rates of up to 75% of eligible costs
- Project size is usually between €0.5 – 2.5m of grant
- Electronic submission of proposals

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:-

Relevance of the action	Quality of the methodology
Community added value	Costs and co-financing
Management and organisation of the team	

Further Information

Information about the 2009 call for proposals can be obtained from:-

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/call_for_proposals

Interested?

If you are interested in submitting a proposal for the IEE, then we may be able to assist in preparing applications. Please contact us for an informal discussion about how we may be able to help. Further information about the 2009 call for proposals will be included in a future edition of our Bulletin.

Prior Information Notice

Identification of future skills needs in micro and craft (-type) enterprises

Ref: 2009/S 31-044529

DG Enterprise and Industry, has issued a prior information notice for a call for tenders to undertake a study into the identification of future skills needs in micro and craft (-type) enterprises, which may be of interest to HEIs with experience of working with such companies.

The Commission requirements for the study include:-

- Identification of good practice in skills development and LLL in and anticipation of skills needs
- In depth analysis of recruitment difficulties as perceived by employers
- Elaboration of ways to overcome existing or arising skills gaps
- Recommendations for action at all relevant levels

There are no specifications for the number of countries to be covered by the study, but the notice does refer to the study covering a 'reasonable number' in order to achieve representation.

Estimated costs €250,000 excluding VAT

To view the Prior Information Notice go to the following link:-

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/calls/calls.htm>

EU- Canada Transatlantic Exchange Partnership (TEP) Programme

Call for Proposals

Deadline: 8 May 2009 (extended from the original of 1 April 2009)

Objectives and Description

The general objectives of the Programme are to promote mutual understanding between peoples of the EU and Canada including broader knowledge of their languages, cultures and institutions and to improve the quality of human resources in the EU and Canada.

Activities

There is only one type of action under this call, namely EU-Canada Joint Study and/or Training Programmes. Support is available to support EU-Canada consortia of HEIs and vocational training institutions 'Transatlantic Exchange Partnerships' (TEPs) to carry out joint study and training programmes and to implement student and staff mobility. In order to improve the relations between HEIs and the world of work, consortia are encouraged to involve enterprises, trade unions, industry and business groups etc. It is envisaged that such organisations may, for example, provide placements, advice, expertise and help to raise awareness of the initiative.

Activities should be planned to start between 1 September and 31 December 2009 and can last for a maximum of 36 months.

Eligible Partners

Each project must have a lead HEI in the EU and a lead in Canada. The consortium must consist of at least 4 Institutions in total (2 from the EU, 2 from Canada). Also the Institutions have to be from 2 different EU member states and 2 different Canadian provinces/territories.

Funding available and Eligible Costs

The budget available for the 2009 call is €1.104m. It is anticipated that 8 projects will be selected and the maximum amount of funding available to each will be €138,000 per consortium. The costs incurred by Canadian partners are covered by funds made available to them in Canada.

Maximum amount available from the EU for a TEP is €138,000. This amount includes a flat rate of a maximum of €18,000 for the general administration and unit costs for the mobility elements (both staff and student) up to a maximum of €120,000, as follows:-

- A flat rate amount of a maximum of €18,000 for expenses incurred by the consortium partners
- Mobility scholarships for students at a maximum of €1000 per month per student
- Mobility scholarships for staff at a maximum of €1000 per week per staff member
- Contributions towards travel and relocation costs of a maximum of €1000 per student/staff member

The scholarships are intended to offset additional costs incurred by the student/staff member over the costs of remaining at home, tuition or other fees are not eligible for funding.

Submission

Each consortium is required to submit applications to both the EU and to the Canadian authorities by the deadline of 8 May 2009. In order to be funded the consortium will have to be selected by both EU and Canadian authorities.

Further information

Further details of this call for proposals can be obtained from the website of the Commission's agents Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) as follows:-

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/extcoop/canada/index_en.htm

Interested?

If you or any of your colleagues are interested in developing a proposal for this Programme, then we may be able to help you prepare your application. Please contact us for an informal discussion about how we might be able to assist.

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Support from Higher Education European Funding Services (HEEFS)

In 2008, the Executive Boards of UniversitiesUK and GuildHE decided that the company formerly known as HE ESF Services Limited, should be renamed Higher Education European Funding Services Limited. This change of name reflects the company's change of role which has been widened to cover support to HEIs interested in participating in a variety of EU programmes, such as the **Lifelong Learning Programme**, **PROGRESS**, the **Competitiveness and Innovation Programme**, **Culture** and **MEDIA Programmes** as well as the **Structural Funds**. With regard to these Programmes, HEEFS will offer support to UK HEIs in the following ways:-

- Information
- Support for applicant HEIs
- Support for projects

Information

- i. Analysis of annual workplans to identify relevant calls for proposals;
- ii. Regular monitoring of the Commission's website so that when the relevant calls are announced during the year, they can be identified and HEIs notified;
- iii. When calls are made they will be highlighted in the 'HEEFS Bulletin' which will be circulated to the HEEFS mailing list and placed on HEEFS website.

Support for applicant HEIs

HEEFS will offer support and advice to any HEI interested in submitting a proposal or a tender against any of the calls made by the Commission. Support may take the form, for example, of:-

- Interpretation and explanation of the call documentation;
- Identification of opportunities and assistance with project design to meet requirements;
- Assistance with the preparation of a project proposal or a tender;
- Advice on costing for a project

Support for projects

HEEFS will offer support to any HEI that is successful in the application process. Support may take the form, for example, of:-

- Assisting the HEI to ensure that it is able to comply with contract requirements;
- Assistance with completion and submission of interim and final claims/reports;
- Where appropriate, management of elements of a project, (e.g. managing a network or providing management support);
- Assistance with dissemination of project outcomes via HEEFS contacts network.

The **Information** element of HEEFS support will be provided free of charge to all interested HEIs. HEEFS will however, seek to recover its costs in relation to **Support for applicant HEIs** and **Support for projects** through a levy charged on the funds awarded to HEIs or by building its own costs into overall project costs. As rules governing Programmes differ, details will be negotiated with individual HEIs on a case by case basis.

Interested?

Anyone working in a UK HEI who would like support to submit a proposal under any of the EU Programmes listed above should contact HEEFS for an informal discussion.

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