

# Information Note



heefs

Higher Education European Funding Services

## Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP)

### Background

The Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP) provides EU financing to enhance competitiveness and innovation capacity in the EU, to advance the knowledge society and to ensure secure, sustainable energy for Europe. It aims to contribute to the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs in the following ways:-

- By supporting the improvement of the business environment
- By enhancing competitiveness of European companies, particularly SMEs

### Objectives

The CIP has 4 main objectives, summarised as follows:-

- Foster the competitiveness of enterprises, in particular of SMEs
- Promote all forms of innovation, including eco-innovation
- Accelerate the development of a sustainable, competitive, innovative and inclusive information society
- Promote energy efficiency and new renewable energy sources in all sectors, including transport

### Budget and Management

The Programme has a budget of €3.6 billion for the period 2007 – 2013. It operates through three specific programmes as follows:-

- Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP)
- ICT Policy Support Programme (ICT-PSP)
- Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE)



In summary the three Programmes cover the following:-

### **Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP)**

- Better access to finance for SMEs through venture capital investment and loan guarantee instruments
- Business and innovation support services delivered through a network of regional support centres
- Promotion of entrepreneurship and innovation
- Support for eco-innovation
- Support for policy making that encourages entrepreneurship and innovation

### **ICT Policy Support programme (ICT-PSP)**

- Developing a single European Information space
- Strengthening the European internal market for ICT and ICT based products and services
- Encouraging innovation through the wider adoption of and investment in ICT
- Developing an inclusive information society and more efficient and effective services in areas of public interest

### **Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE)**

- Fostering energy efficiency and the rational use of energy sources
- Promoting new and renewable energy sources and energy diversification
- Promoting energy efficiency and new energy sources in transport

### **Delivery and types of support**

Each of the three Programmes are managed in slightly different ways, with elements provided for through commissions and contracts as well as through open calls for tenders and proposals. However, an annual workplan is published for each, which sets out the objectives for each year and provides details of the calls that will be made during the year.

Overall, through the three Programmes, the CIP provides financial support for the following activities:-

- Direct financial support for SMEs in the form of the European Investment Fund
- Business and innovation support services through the Enterprise Europe Network
- Pilot and market replication projects for which **grants are awarded following a call for proposals**
- Policy development, including for example networking, benchmarking, surveys and analysis, **for which calls for tender and proposals are made.**

### **Opportunities for HEIs**

Higher Education Institutions are identified as eligible participants in the CIP and its sub-programmes. Clearly, the overall Programme is quite complex and wide-ranging. Only certain elements are relevant and open to HEI involvement. There are however, significant opportunities for HEIs to submit proposals for support for pilot and market replication projects, and various activities aimed at supporting policy development. There are also opportunities for some education and training projects to be supported under Intelligent Energy Europe.

HEIs should be aware, however, that activities funded under the CIP must have a 'European added value'. Thus it is necessary to clearly demonstrate the benefits of the project at the European level and to explain why the project should receive CIP funding rather than being funded by local, regional or national resources.

The workplans for the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP) and the ICT Policy Support Programme (ICT-PSP) for 2009 have been published. The workplans cover all of the activities the programmes will support and all of the calls that will be made during the year. Clearly not all aspects of the workplans are of interest to HEIs, so we have attempted to highlight for each of the programmes those elements of most interest.

Under the EIP calls will be made throughout the year the timings are indicated on the extract of the workplan. For the ICT-PSP the main call for proposals will be published in February 2009, it will have a closure date of in June 2009. Further calls for ICT-PSP support measures will be made later in the year.

### Further Information

Information about the sources of funding available from DG Enterprise and Industry is available from:-  
<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/funding/index.htm>

General information about the **Competitiveness and Innovation Programme** can be accessed from the following link:-  
[http://ec.europa.eu/cip/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/cip/index_en.htm)

The workplan for the **Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme** can be obtained from the following link:-  
<http://ec.europa.eu/cip/cipwp.htm>

The workplan for the **ICT Policy Support Programme** can be obtained from the following link:-  
[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/activities/ict\\_psp/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/index_en.htm)

Information about **Intelligent Energy Europe** can be found at:-  
[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/call\\_for\\_proposals/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/call_for_proposals/index_en.htm)

### Support from Higher Education European Funding Services

With regard to the CIP, HEEFS will offer support to UK HEIs in the following ways:-

- Information
- Support for applicant HEIs
- Support for projects

#### Information

- i. Provision of general background information on the Programme, its sub-programmes and its objectives
- ii. Analysis of the annual workplan to identify calls which are considered to be relevant to HEIs
- iii. Regular monitoring of the Programmes websites so that when the relevant calls are announced during the year, they can be identified

- iv. When calls are made they will be highlighted in the 'HEEFS E-Bulletin' which will be circulated to our mailing list and placed on our 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
- 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)
- 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 or by building its own costs into the overall project costs. Details will be negotiated with individual HEIs on a case by case basis.