

Information Note



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Higher Education European Funding Services

**Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP)
Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme**

Call for Proposals

Knowledge networks for the competitiveness and sustainability of European tourism

Deadlines: 1 October 2010

ENT/CIP/I0/B/N04S00

Background

On 30 June 2010, the Commission published its Communication on "Europe, the world's No 1 tourist destination – a new political framework for tourism in Europe". With this communication, the European Commission intends to encourage a coordinated approach for initiatives linked to tourism and define a new framework for action to increase the competitiveness of the tourism sector and its capacity for sustainable growth. It therefore proposes a number of European or multinational initiatives aimed at achieving these objectives, drawing in full on the Union's competence in the field of tourism as introduced by the Lisbon Treaty.

To make the tourism sector more competitive, the Commission considers it essential to have a better socioeconomic knowledge base at European level for tourism and its relationship with the environment. The total budget for this call for proposals is €1m, which is expected to support 3 to 4 projects.

Subject of this call

The overall objective of this call for proposals is to strengthen the research potential on competitiveness and sustainability tourism related issues on a European scale, in particular by encouraging and supporting the development, across Europe, of regional 'research driven clusters' associating universities, research centres, enterprises and regional authorities.

The specific objectives are to :-

- improve cooperation and coordination on research activities related to competitiveness and sustainability tourism-related issues so as to create a more favourable framework for the tourism sector
- foster transnational research activities in the field of tourism with a clear EU added value; and



- to pave the way for the future constitution of a European knowledge network for the competitiveness and sustainability of European Tourism ('virtual tourism observatory')

Technical Features

- Projects must have a trans-European dimension, both in terms of project partners and of activities, specifically this means that:-
 - i. The project partners have to cover at least 6 eligible countries¹
 - ii. The research activities proposed have to focus on the 6 countries covered by the partnership and outcomes should include transnational comparisons
- At least one of the partners has to be a national or regional tourism authority
- Project activities must include:-
 - i. Knowledge gathering and research
 - ii. Awareness raising
- Projects are expected to commence in February 2011
- Maximum duration for a project is 18 months
- Maximum grant rate is 75% of eligible cost
- Maximum grant available for a projects is €330,000
- University and research institution applicants must have at least 3 years of activity in the field of tourism related educational activity or research

Selection Criteria

All applications will be assessed against the following criteria:-

Criteria	Proportion of the score available
Relevance	40%
Impact	30%
Quality	30%

Further Information

All documentation and information relating to this call for proposals can be obtained from the following link:-
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=4474&lang=en

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¹ Eligible countries include the 27 EU Member States, Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Albania, Montenegro, Serbia and Israel