

Information Note



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Higher Education European Funding Services

**Competitiveness & Innovation Programme
Entrepreneurship & Innovation Programme**

Call for proposals

European Network of Female Entrepreneurship Ambassadors

Deadline: 12 March 2010

ENT/CIP/09/E/N08S003

Background

This call for proposals is a follow-up to a call announced early in 2009 which was restricted to Enterprise Europe Network partners across the EU. It is managed by the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI) on behalf of the European Commission. The 2009 call resulted in applications from only 10 of the eligible countries. The purpose of this call, therefore, is to spread coverage of the Network to all the remaining countries, one of which is the UK.

Through the Network of Female Entrepreneurship Ambassadors, the Commission is seeking to boost the rate of female entrepreneurial activity across the EU. The call is addressed to 'organisations active in business support'¹ that will, as a consortium, set up a national network, to bring together successful entrepreneurs across Europe to work locally and nationally to inspire and encourage women to recognise that entrepreneurship could be a career path for them.

Activities to be supported

Each project will set up a national network, together the national networks will constitute the European network. Each applicant must identify potential ambassadors and specify target groups. Ambassadors will participate in conferences, discussions, workshops and other events aimed at promoting female entrepreneurship. For example, ambassadors might speak to groups in schools,

¹ 'any public or private entity whose core activity is in the field of fostering, promoting and/or supporting entrepreneurship can participate in this call for proposals' (page 7 Call for Proposals)



colleges, universities, community groups and the media, as well as addressing conferences, business networks and employment initiatives.

Opportunities for HEI involvement

The definition of 'organisations active in business support' set out in footnote 1 would seem to allow for HEI involvement as applicants. In particular, business support units/centres/departments etc. would be eligible to apply. This call may also be of interest to certain relevant academic or other networks in which colleagues in HEIs might be involved.

As set out below, the amount of grant available is very small, each project expected to receive somewhere in the region of around €50,000. Fees to ambassadors will not be an eligible cost, and match funding in kind is not applicable. It would seem, therefore, that the grant would, in the main, be considered as a contribution to the management of the network and to the travel and subsistence costs incurred by the ambassadors.

Technical Issues

- Maximum duration of support is 24 months, after this time the participating partners are expected to take over the management of each national network to ensure its continuation.
- Scheduled start date is August 2010
- Total amount available for this call is €545,000
- Average amount of grant per project is likely to be only €50,000
- Grant rate is 50% of eligible costs

Further Information

All information relating to this call can be obtained from the following link:-
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=3917&lang=en

Details of EU initiatives to support women's entrepreneurship can be found at:-
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/promoting-entrepreneurship/women/index_en.htm#h2-female-entrepreneurship-ambassadors