

Information Note



heefs

Higher Education European Funding Services

**Competitiveness & Innovation Programme
Enterprise & Innovation Programme
European Network of Mentors for Women Entrepreneurs**

Call for Proposals

Deadline: 20 April 2011

6/G/ENT/CIP/10/E/N01C21

Background

The European Commission plans to set up a European Network of Mentors for Women Entrepreneurs designed to:-

- Boost female entrepreneurship
- Recognise and support the distinctive nature of women's business start ups
- Ensure that newly established women entrepreneurs can sustain their activity throughout the first, very challenging years of their businesses

The purpose of this call is to support the establishment of national networks in at least 15 Member States, the total budget available is €1m.

It is intended that mentors will work with mentorees on a voluntary basis, so this initiative will contribute to the European Year of Volunteering in 2011.

Objectives of the call

National networks are to be implemented by organisations active in business support and/or in the promotion of women entrepreneurs and their main role would be:

- To identify successful (male and female) entrepreneurs across Europe, who will act as mentors;
- To identify women entrepreneurs across Europe, who will engage as mentorees, and
- To establish mentoring relationships between mentors and mentorees of the same country as well as from different countries



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Eligible applicants

Target organisations are any public or private body, whose core activity is in the field of business support and/or the promotion of women entrepreneurs, including:-

- Public authorities responsible for or active in the fields of economic affairs, enterprise, business support etc.
- Chambers of commerce and industry etc.
- Business support organisations, start up centres and incubators
- Business associations and business support networks
- Women entrepreneurs' associations
- Public and private entities offering business support services

Applications must be from consortia of at least 2 eligible organisations, one of which must act as coordinator on behalf of the consortia.

Activities to be undertaken

The consortia will be required to:-

1. identify, select and train mentors
2. identify and select women entrepreneurs to be mentored
3. form the best and most efficient 'mentor/mentoree' relationships, based on respective experiences and expectations of participants
4. monitor and facilitate these relationships
5. evaluate and report on these relationships in a comprehensive and consistent manner
6. ensure the visibility of the national networks as part of an EU funded and supported initiative by:
 - a. dedicating specific web pages to the respective schemes
 - b. communicating widely to the media and all relevant stakeholders

Technical Features

Projects should be scheduled to start in November 2011

Maximum project duration is 24 months

Maximum grant rate is 60%

Maximum grant to be awarded will be determined by the proposed number of mentorees to be supported as follows:-

Proposed number of mentorees	Maximum grant award
5 – 10	Up to €35,000
10 -20	Up to €50,000
20+	Up to €75,000

Further Information

Full details of the call, application forms and guidance notes can be obtained from:-

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=4975&lang=en&tpa=0&displayType=f&o&ref=newsbytheme%2Ecfm%3Flang%3Den%26displayType%3Dfo%26fosubtype%3Dp%26tpa%3D0%26period%3Dlatest%26month%3D%26page%3D1