

Trainers' Digest



ETUI-REHS
European Trade Union Institute

RESEARCH

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*ETUI-REHS EDUCATION's
information bulletin about EU
training programmes*

Budget heading 04.03.03.03
**"Information, consultation and participation of
representatives of undertakings"**
Call for proposals 2008

A new Call for Proposals has been launched by the European Commission, aiming to strengthen transnational cooperation between workers' and employers' representatives on information, consultation and participation in undertakings operating in more than one Member State.

This appropriation may also be used to fund short training activities.

Part of this appropriation also covers the setting up of information and observation points aimed at informing and helping the social partners and undertakings to set up transnational information, consultation and participation structures, and to foster relations with EU institutions.

In 2008, two categories of projects will be supported: transnational cooperation projects and information/observation points.

Priorities of the 2008 Call

For transnational cooperation projects:

- To promote actions designed to prepare the setting up of information, consultation and participation structures in the context of the European Company, the European Co-operative Society and Companies with limited liability or resulting from cross-border mergers, as per art 16 of Directive 2005/56/EC;
- To promote the exchange of information and good practices aimed at creating favourable conditions for the setting up of information, consultation and participation structures within undertakings, as foreseen in the Directive 2002/14/CE;
- To promote the setting up of new European Works Councils, and to improve the transnational information and consultation processes in Community-scale undertakings and Community-scale groups of undertakings;

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- To strengthen transnational co-operation, particularly involving representatives from new Member States and Candidate countries, in the field of information, consultation and participation of workers;
- To promote actions aiming to enable the social partners to exercise their rights and duties relating the management of information, consultation and participation in Community-scale undertakings and Community-scale groups of undertakings, especially within the framework of their European works councils;
- To promote actions aiming to familiarize the actors represented at company level with transnational company agreements, and to strengthen their cooperation within the community framework.

Eligible measures

For transnational cooperation projects:

- Conferences, seminars, short training actions and exchange of information and good practices involving workers' and employers' representatives;
- Studies and analysis papers;
- Websites, publications, newsletters and other means of dissemination.

Eligibility of activities

To be eligible, operations must:

- A. Comply with the rules on dates for starting and ending the operations;
- B. Have a transnational dimension;
- C. Be linked to at least one of the objectives of the budget heading;
- D. Comply with the eligibility criteria for actions;
- E. Be carried out entirely in the Member States of the European Union or in the Candidate Countries;
- F. Comply with the subcontracting rules as set out in Annex I and II of the Call.

What kinds of organisations are eligible to be promoters?

The applicant must be a properly constituted and registered legal person, with its registered office in one of the EU Member States.

In derogation, social partner organisations without legal personality under the applicable national law are also eligible provided that their legal representatives have the capacity to assume legal obligations on their behalf and assume financial liability.

A project applicant cannot be an individual.

In particular for the transnational cooperation projects: applicants must be representatives of workers or employers, i.e.:

- **for workers:** works councils or similar bodies ensuring the general representation of workers; regional, national, European, sectoral or cross-sectoral trade unions;
- **for employers:** the management of the undertakings/organisations representing employers at regional, national, European, multi-sectoral or sectoral level.

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In case of commercial undertakings, the objective of the project must be non-commercial and the undertaking must not make any profit from it.

Apart from in exceptional circumstances, projects involving only one information and consultation body must be submitted as joint projects by both workers' and employers' representatives.

For information and observation points, the applicants must be European organisations representing workers and employers.

The participants in projects should be workers' and employers' representatives from the Member States and Candidate countries, that is: members or future members of information, consultation and participation bodies; the management of undertakings or groups or members of employers' associations; officials of workers' organisations/trade union representatives; experts nominated by the social partners.

Eligibility of applications

Applications must be:

- sent by the deadlines;
- submitted according to the Call requirements;
- completed in full and include all the documents listed in the Call for proposals;
- signed, in original, by the legal representative.

We encourage you to read the Guidelines and the text of the yearly Call, which provide strict indications from the European Commission concerning funding, priority themes, and procedural requirements.

The project activities cannot last more than 12 months.

Deadlines for submission of proposals

Applications will be examined and selected by a selection committee meeting.

- **31 March 2008**, for operations starting no earlier than 31 May 2008
- **5 September 2008**, for operations starting no earlier than 5 November 2008 and no later than 22 December 2008

Please be very careful with the starting and final dates of your proposal, which will otherwise not be considered valid by the Evaluation Committee.

NB: Send the application by the deadlines.
Include all the documents listed in the Application Form.
And, again, do not forget the signature of the legal representative!!

What scale of funding is available?

The EU grant will cover a maximum of 80% of the total costs.
Contributions in kind will not be accepted.

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Who administers the budget line?

The Budget Line is administered by **DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities** of the European Commission.

Procedure for submission of application

Completed applications must be sent as **signed original as well as one copy of all the required documents**, by the above deadlines, to the following address:

Call for proposals VP/2008/003
Budget heading 04.03.03.03
European Commission – DG EMPL/F.2
ARCHIVE Rue Joseph II, 54
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

The date of the post office stamp on the envelope, or the express courier stamp or slip on the envelope indicating the sending date will be considered as proof of the date of sending.

Hand-delivered applications must be received by the European Commission (address above) by the last day for submission. Proof of delivery is a signed receipt from the Commission's Archives Service stamped with the date of the last day for submission or earlier.

The address for hand deliveries of documents for the European Commission is: Avenue du Bourget n° 1, B-1140 Evere, Belgium.

All enquiries can be made **by e-mail only** at: empl-04-03-03-03@ec.europa.eu

The Call for proposals 2008, the relevant documents and the compulsory online application form can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/tenders/tenders_en.cfm?id=2785