
ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME FOR GRANTS

of Central Finance and Contracting Agency

1. Basic act and Financing source

Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 of 17 July 2006 establishing an Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA).

Regional Competitiveness Operational Programme 2007-2009 for Community Assistance under the IPA Regional Development Component in Croatia

2. Objectives of the programme, priorities for 2010 and expected results

(a) Business related infrastructure

This Grant Scheme is meant to contribute to economic and social cohesion by helping Croatia's lagging behind regions¹ catch up with national development levels, specifically by supporting the creation and growth of SMEs, expanding and improving business-related infrastructure and accompanying services in those regions. It will primarily support investment in the development of new and existing business-related infrastructure, of existing business zones and new and existing business incubators and other business support entities grouping and servicing SMEs; investments in the development and upgrading public tourism infrastructure; investments into the accompanying services that maximise the benefit of the infrastructure investment as an integral part of the infrastructure investment project. This will result in creation of jobs and establishment or expansion of SMEs in the lagging behind regions.

(b) Science and Innovation Investment Fund

Objective will be to provide help on ensuring effectiveness of domestic policy to commercialize the results of R&D and thus create a productive environment where innovation capacity can grow and develop with the resulting increase in economic activity and in employment in knowledge-based industries. This will be achieved through building of technology transfer and commercialization capacities of Higher Education Institutions (HEI) and Public Research Organisations (PRO) in order to contribute to sustainable regional development and industry competitiveness of high value added sectors of the economy and knowledge based SMEs.

¹ Counties in which 50% and more of the surface area is classified as an Area of Special State Concern: Virovitica-Podravina, Vukovar-Srijem, Brod-Posavina, Sisak-Moslavina, Šibenik-Knin, Osijek-Baranja, Lika-Senj, Požega-Slavonija, Karlovac and Zadar.

3. Eligibility conditions

(a) Business related infrastructure

The applicants will be non-profit regional or local self-government units; public owned regional/local institutions or associations; public owned companies, companies owned by local/regional self-government units; regional/local tourism boards that can provide support to the creation and growth of SMEs and creation of jobs in Croatia's lagging behind regions

(b) Science and Innovation Investment Fund

The applicants will be Public Higher Education Institutions (HEI) or Public Research Organisations (PRO).

4. Selection and award criteria

The evaluation will be carried out in accordance with the procedures set out in the *Practical Guide to Contract Procedures for EC External Actions*.

5. Maximum rate of European Union financing

(a) Business related infrastructure

The IPA financing rate will amount to minimum 60% or maximum 75%. National co-financing will be ensured by public funds to the amount of minimum 25% and maximum 40%.

(b) Science and Innovation Investment Fund

The IPA financing rate will amount to maximum 75%.

6. Schedule of calls for proposals

The calls for proposals will most likely be launched for:

(a) Business related infrastructure

2nd Call for Proposals – in the second quarter of 2010

(b) Science and Innovation Investment Fund

Second deadline for published Call for Proposals “Science and Innovation Investment Fund Grant Scheme”, reference number EuropeAid/128624/M/ACT/HR is set to the second quarter of 2010².

² First deadline for submission of proposals under this Call for Proposals was 08 September 2009.

7. Indicative amount of calls for proposals

(a) Business related infrastructure

2nd Call for Proposals – EUR 6.300.000,00 € (size of individual grants will be EUR 325.000,00 – EUR 1.000.000,00).

(b) Science and Innovation Investment Fund

Total allocation is EUR 5.000.000,00. Funds that are not used in the first deadline³ will automatically be allocated to the second deadline (size of individual Grants is EUR 66.666,67 – EUR 1.000.000,00).

³ First deadline for submission of proposals under this Call for Proposals was 08 September 2009.