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# 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 2007-2011 for Community Assistance under the IPA Regional Development Component in Croatia

### 2. Objectives of the programme, priorities for 2012 and expected results

#### (a) Business Related Infrastructure

**Objective:** This Grant Scheme is meant to contribute to economic and social cohesion by helping Croatia's lagging behind regions to 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 investments 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; and investments into the accompanying services that maximise the benefit of the infrastructure investment as an integral part of the infrastructure investment project.

**Expected results:** The GS will improve and expand the business-related infrastructure in 10 lagging behind regions and support regional and municipal authorities with the development of business related support systems. All this will result in number of newly created jobs and newly established or expanded SME's and ensure the capacity for the future use of EU assistance. This will lead to reducing of internal socio-economic disparities and improvement of economic and social cohesion in the Republic of Croatia.

#### (b) Support for Increasing the Competitiveness of Croatian SMEs

**Objective:** In order to ensure that its enterprises remain competitive within the single and global market, Croatian companies need to invest in new processes and new technologies including green and energy efficiency technologies, in ICT development and deployment and in the development of new products, including testing and certification to ensure their compliance with international quality standards. This Grant Scheme aims to strengthen the competitiveness of Croatian SME's by introducing international eco standards and energy efficiency technologies in production processes and by applying best practices and successful business models in order to more easily develop new and competitive products.

**Expected results:** The Operation will lead to the increased level of SMEs' investments in energy efficiency and eco standards in the production process, increased quality of products/services and production enhanced as well as improved competences and specific knowledge of technical and quality assurance staff.

### **3. Eligibility conditions**

#### **(a) Business Related Infrastructure**

The applicants will be regional and local self-government units, regional/local-owned public institutions or associations, public companies owned by local/regional self-government units, and regional/local tourism boards.

#### **(b) Support for Increasing the Competitiveness of Croatian SMEs**

The applicants will be SMEs.

### **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 EU external actions

### **5. Maximum rate of European Union financing**

#### **(a) Business Related Infrastructure**

Maximum rate of European Union financing will not exceed 85% of total eligible costs of any action financed under this Call for Proposals.

#### **(b) Support for Increasing the Competitiveness of Croatian SMEs**

Maximum rate of European Union financing will not exceed 85% of total eligible costs of any action financed under this Call for Proposals.

### **6. Schedule of calls for proposals**

#### **(a) Business Related Infrastructure**

3rd Call for Proposals - in the third quarter of 2012.

#### **(b) Support for Increasing the Competitiveness of Croatian SMEs**

2nd Call for Proposals - in the fourth quarter of 2012.

## **7. Indicative amount of calls for proposals**

### **(a) Business Related Infrastructure**

The overall indicative amount made available for call for proposals is EUR 8.000.000,00 (indicative size of individual grants will be EUR 325.000,00 – EUR 1.000.000,00)

### **(b) Support for Increasing the Competitiveness of Croatian SMEs**

The overall indicative amount made available for call for proposals is EUR 5.000.000,00 (indicative size of individual grants will be EUR 50.000,00 – EUR 200.000,00)

This Annual Work Programme for Grants is indicative only.

Please note that the awarding of the grants is subject to the condition of the prior conclusion of a financing agreement between the European Commission and the Republic of Croatia.