
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 2011 and expected results

(a) Science and Innovation Investment Fund

Objective of the grant scheme will be to facilitate effectiveness of domestic policy to commercialize the results of research and development with a view to creating a productive environment where innovation capacity can grow and develop. 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.

Expected result: Number of technology transfer projects including concrete commercialization and capacity building activities completed, resulting with fully developed institutional capacity in higher education institutions and research organisations to interact with business, particularly SMEs.

(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 Operation will 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 result: 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) Science and Innovation Investment Fund

Actions must take place in Croatia.

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

(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) Science and Innovation Investment Fund

The IPA financing rate will amount to maximum 85%.

(b) Support for Increasing the Competitiveness of Croatian SMEs

The IPA financing rate will amount to maximum 85%.

6. Schedule of calls for proposals

The calls for proposals will most likely be published for:

(a) Science and Innovation Investment Fund

Second Call for Proposals in 2nd quarter of 2011.

(b) Support for Increasing the Competitiveness of Croatian SMEs

In the 3rd quarter of 2011.

7. Indicative amount of calls for proposals

(a) Science and Innovation Investment Fund

The overall indicative amount made available for call for proposals is EUR 6,700,000.

(b) Support for Increasing the Competitiveness of Croatian SMEs

EUR 3,000,000 (size of individual grants will be EUR 50,000 – EUR 200,000).