Introduction to Accessing EU funding

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IUCN European Union Representative Office
Introduction to EU funding

• Overview
  – Structure of the European Commission
  – Structure of the Budget

• Selection of some relevant EU funding programmes
  – Life+
  – ENPI
  – INTERREG IV

• Designing a project and application procedures
Structure of the EU

- European Parliament: (elected MEPs)
- Council of the EU: (national government representatives)

Shared legislative power and responsibility for adopting the EU budget

European Commission

Implements decisions and manages EU policies and budgets
What is a grant?

Different financial sources
• General EC Budget (DCI, ENPI, EIDHR, IPA etc)
  Included in the EU budget, agreed by the Council (Member States) and the Parliament, proposed by the Commission.

• European Development Fund (EDF)
  Outside EU budget, directly decided by the Member States participating in its financing.
  For ACP countries (Africa, Caribbean and Pacific).
Allocation of EU funds

- **Structural Funds**: via national intermediaries
- **Community Action Programmes**: European Commission
- **External Cooperation**: EC Delegations
EU Budget

- Budget 2010: 141.5 billions Euros
- Allocation:
Allocation of EU funds

• **Multiannual Financial Framework (2007 -2013):**

  5 Budgetary Headings representing the EU’s main objectives
  => ‘the preservation and management of natural resources’.

• **Annual Budget:** To be adopted each year

• **EU Regulation:** Lays down the general provisions of a financing instrument

• **Annual work programmes:** fixes the broad outlines of the grants that are envisaged over the year (area of activity, objectives, timetable, available budget, award conditions, etc…)

• **Calls for proposals**
EU Budget

(2) Annual Budget Procedure
EU Budget
(3) Annual Budget Procedure
Where do we stand?

• On 15\textsuperscript{th} of November, 2011 EU Budget negotiations have reached an impasse

• United-Kingdom and The Netherlands have blocked the process, as they insisted on more austerity in the EU Budget.

• The Commission now needs to propose a new draft budget, and hopefully the Council will adopt it at the 16-17 December Summit of EU Leaders.

• If not, the 2010 budget will apply for 2011 on a monthly basis, until a new one is adopted
## Types of EU funding

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<th>Procurement</th>
<th>Grant</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Object</strong></td>
<td>Purchase of:</td>
<td>Contribution to: an action intended to achieve an EU-policy objective or the functioning of a body</td>
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<td>- Works</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Supplies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Services</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Owner of Results</strong></td>
<td>Contracting authority</td>
<td>Grant beneficiary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Financial Contribution</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Co-financing: reimbursement of % total eligible cost</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Profit</strong></td>
<td>Profit allowed</td>
<td>No Profit allowed</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Procedure</strong></td>
<td>Cal for tenders</td>
<td>Call for proposals</td>
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<td><strong>Payment of</strong></td>
<td>Commercial invoices</td>
<td>Cost claims</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date</strong></td>
<td>Reception of tender</td>
<td>Dispatching of proposal</td>
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Relevant EU funding programmes for MED Region

• LIFE+
• ENPI
• INTERREG IV
• …
Relevant EU funding programmes for MED Region

- LIFE+
- ENPI
- INTERREG IV
- ...

The International Union for Conservation of Nature
Support the development and implementation of Community environment policy and legislation, with a view to promoting sustainable development in the EU (6th Environmental Action Plan)

Budget: 2.14 billion Euros 2007-2013

The LIFE+ programme has three components:

• LIFE+ Nature & Biodiversity:
  Grants for conservation of natural habitats, wild fauna and flora of European Interest

• LIFE+ Environment Policy & Governance
  Grants for innovating environment projects that contribute to strengthening the EU environment policy, including support for European Environmental NGO’s

• LIFE+ Information & Communication
  Grants for information and awareness raising projects on environmental issues
LIFE + CRITERIA

Beneficiaries:
- Research centres, authorities, training centres, federations, unions, states, administrations, agencies, SMEs, universities, associations, NGO’s

Regions:
- European Union, Candidate countries, European Economic Area, Balkans (including FYROM and Turkey)

Funding of the projects:
- Maximum funding rate 50% – 75% of the eligible expenses;
- 243 Million available in 2010

Selection of projects:
- National LIFE agency in each Member State is in charge of selecting the projects
LIFE+
Support to EU Env NGO’s

Special grant for EU Environmental NGO’s

OBJECTIVES:

• Support European non-governmental organisations active in the field of environmental protection and enhancement with a view to sustainable development to set up actions

• Promote systematic involvement of NGOs at all stages of policy shaping, by ensuring relevant representation in stakeholder consultation meetings and public hearings regions of Europe

• Contribute to the strengthening of small regional or local associations working to apply the ‘community right’ in relation to the environment and sustainable development in their local area
LIFE+ Support to EU Envi NGO’s (2)

PRIORITY AREAS 2011:

* Limiting climate Change

* Nature and biodiversity, including desertification, protecting a unique resource

* Environment and health

* Ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources and waste

* Horizontal or cross-cutting issues: implementation and enforcement of EU environmental legislation
LIFE+ Support to EU Envi NGO’s (3)

Submitting of proposals: via the application form available on the LIFE+ website.

Aim of the grant: to provide support towards the costs that European environmental NGOs have in carrying out their annual work programme.

Amount of the grant: Average 300.000 EUR / max. 900.000 EUR, up to 70% of the eligible Annual budget of the NGO

Calls are issued once a year
LIFE+
Support to EU Envi NGO’s (4)

• SELECTION CRITERIA FOR NGOs:
  - Independent and non-profit-making legal person primarily active in the field of environmental protection
  - Active at a European level, and have activities covering at least three European countries.
  - Legally constituted for > 2 years
  - Financial resources not exclusively made up of subsidies from European Union institutions

• THE SELECTION OF NGOs WILL BE BASED ON:
  - Their sustainable multiplier effect at European level
  - Their contribution to transnational cooperation
  - Their capacity to promote dialogue and cooperation
  - Their capacity to favor a multisector approach of environmental issues
  - Their engagement to promote largely the EC
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Publication of the 2010 call for proposals</td>
<td>04 May 2010</td>
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<td>Workshop for potential applicants organised by the Commission</td>
<td>May to August 2010</td>
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<td>Deadline for applicants to send proposals to Member States' authorities</td>
<td>01 September 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for Member States to send proposals to the Commission</td>
<td>04 October 2010</td>
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<td>Eligibility, evaluation and revision</td>
<td>October 2010 to April 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for signing grant agreements</td>
<td>July to August 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earliest possible starting date for 2010 projects</td>
<td>01 September 2011</td>
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Forthcoming Calls for Proposals
Save the Date!

• LIFE+ 2011 Call for Proposals will be published in February 2011, deadline for submissions end of May

• Funds for Environmental NGO’s: Deadline 3 December 2010!
+ Information LIFE+

LIFE+ Website

National Contacts
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/contact/nationalcontact/index.htm
Relevant EU funding programmes for MED Region

- LIFE+
- ENPI
- INTERREG IV
- …
European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)
What is ENPI?

Implements the ENP by providing assistance to the neighbouring countries of the EU through enhanced cooperation and dialogue.

Budget: 12 billion Euros 2007-2013

Objectives:

• Promote enhanced cooperation and progressive economic integration between the EU and the neighbouring countries

• Target sustainable development and approximation to EU policies and standards in the neighbouring countries
What is ENPI?

Types of programmes:

• National programmes for each partner country
• Three Regional programmes: East, South + trans-regional for both East and South.
• Fifteen Cross-border Cooperation programmes - including CBC-MED programme
• Five thematic programmes. They are common to neighbouring countries and development countries (ACP, ALA..)
What is ENPI?

Types of programmes:

- **National programmes for each partner country**
- Three Regional programmes: one for the East, one for the South and one trans-regional for both East and South.
- **Fifteen Cross-border Cooperation programmes** - including CBC-MED programme
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1. National programmes - *Criteria*

- **Beneficiaries:**
  Local and Regional authorities, Federations, Unions, Administrations, States, Agencies, chambers, NGOs, SMEs, Universities, Associations

- **Regions:** EU, candidate countries, New Independent States, Mediterranean countries, Switzerland, Balkans.

- **Budget:** 5.6 billion Euros (2007-2014)

- **Eligible areas for action:**
  - Cross border regions at sea crossings, coastal areas and lands
  - Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Russian Federation, Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine
1. National programmes - *Criteria*

- **Funding of the projects:**
  - Maximum 75% of the total eligible costs in most regions.

- **Call for proposals:**
  - Once a year
  - Calls are launched by the management authorities of the regions that are involved in co-operation:

See website and national contacts
2. Cross Border Cooperation Programmes (CBC)

15 Programmes (including CBC-MED programme)

1.18 billion EUR (2007-2013)

OBJECTIVES:

* To promote economic and social development in the border areas
* To promote cross-border infrastructures, support SMEs, transport, tourism
* To address common challenges, in fields such as environment, public health, and the fight against organised crime
* To ensure efficient and secure borders
* To promote local, "people-to-people" actions
2. Cross Border Cooperation Programmes (CBC)

ENPI – CBC MED Programme

• 173.607 million Euros for the 2007-2013 period

4 Priorities:
1. Promotion of socio-economic development and enhancement of the territories
2. Promotion of Environmental sustainability at basin level
3. Promotion of better conditions and modalities for ensuring the mobility of persons, goods and capitals
4. Promotion of cultural dialogue and local governance
ENPI – CBC MED Programme
Regions eligible

• 117 Regions belonging to 19 countries are eligible to the Programme:

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1. Geographical eligibility as outlined in the EU ENPI CBC Strategy Paper, not all regions/countries participate.
2. The region of Shamal Sina’ will not participate for the time being in the Programme.
Next calls for proposals:

End of February 2011, deadlines end of May 2011 for strategic call for proposal, and end of the year for general call for proposal.

The strategic call for proposal will be issued first, most likely focused on axis 3 (mobility)
CBCMED Programme - Contacts

• Joint Management Authority
  Regione Autonoma della Sardegna,
  Via Bacaredda, 184
  09127 Cagliari – Italy
  +39 070 400 359
  enpi.projects@regione.sardegna.it

• + information on the MED Programme website:
  www.programmememed.eu
+ Information ENPI:

ENPI Website

National Contacts:

Cross-border Cooperation Strategy Paper
Relevant EU funding programmes for MED Region

• LIFE+
• ENPI
• INTERREG IV
• …
European Territorial cooperation objective

INTERREG IV
What is it?
Funded by the European Regional Development Fund

Objective:
Support the harmonious and balanced integration of the EU territory by stimulating the cooperation in regions of high importance for the Community

Levels of action:
- INTERREG IVA Cross border
- INTERREG IVB Transnational
- INTERREG IVC Interregional

Total budget of 8.7 billions Euros for 2007-2013
1. Interreg Cross Border Strand

OBJECTIVE:

The development of cross-border economic, social and environmental activities through joint strategies for sustainable territorial development

PRIORITIES:

To reach the objective through;
- Encouraging entrepreneurship (such as tourism)
- Improving the joint protection and management of natural and cultural resources, as well as the prevention of natural and technological risks
- (others not related to environmental matters)
Cross-Border Cooperation around Mediterranean

Various programmes:

• Spain - Portugal
• France - Spain - Andorra
• Italy - France
• Italy – Maritime France
• Italy – Malta
• Italy – Greece
• Greece – Bulgaria
• Greece - Cyprus
2. Interreg Transnational strand

OBJECTIVE:

Programmes must focus on the objectives of economic growth and employment, strengthening of SMEs and innovation, **environment** and the prevention of risks

PRIORITIES:

To reach the objective by:
- Creation and development of scientific and technological networks to contribute to economic development
- Environment, Water management, energy efficiency and environmental protection activities with a clear transnational dimensions
- Sustainable urban development
- (others not related to environmental matters)

2 PROGRAMMES:
- South-West Europe Operational Programme
- Mediterranean Operational Programme
South West Europe Operational Programme

• 30 Regions and autonomous cities, 18.2% of EU Territory, 12.4% EU Population
South West Europe Operational Programme (2)

• Transnational Co-operation:
  – to improve the territorial, economic and social integration process and
  – to contribute to cohesion, stability and competitiveness of the area

• Priority axis 2: ‘Improving sustainability in order to protect and conserve the environment and the natural heritage of the Southwest Europe area’
South West Europe Operational Programme (2)

Priority axis 2: Improving sustainability in order to protect and conserve the environment and the natural heritage of the Southwest Europe area

Activities under this priority axis include:

• preserving, protecting and improving the patrimonial value of natural resources and regions
• improving management of natural resources, in particular by promoting energy efficiency and sustainable use of water resources
• encouraging cooperation strategies for natural disaster prevention, especially strategies related to fires, floods, earthquakes, deforestation, desertification and pollution.
SUDOE Programme
Contacts

- SUDOE Operational Programme website:

- Managing Authority
  Direccion General De Economia, Gobierno de Cantabria
  c/ Hernan Cortés 9, 6a planta
  E – 39003 Santander
  Juan, Llanes
  + 34 942207907
  aug@interreg-sudoe.org
  E-mail: jts@southeast-europe.net
Mediterranean Operational Programme

9 countries, 193 million Euro Budget
Mediterranean Operational Programme

Objectives:

To strengthen the region’s economy in order to ensure growth and employment for future generations.

To support territorial cohesion and improve the region’s environmental protection and sustainable development credentials.
Mediterranean Operational Programme

• Priority axe 2:
  ‘Environmental protection and promotion of a sustainable territorial development’
  – 4 Sub-objectives
    • Protection and enhancement of natural resources and cultural heritage
    • Promotion of renewable energies and energy efficiency improvement
    • Maritime risks prevention and strengthening of maritime safety
    • Prevention and fight against natural risks
Mediterranean Operational Programme
Contacts

• MED INTERREGIV Programme website:
  http://www.programmememed.eu/index.php?id=5175&L=1

• Managing Authority
  Direction Générale Adjointe des Relations Internationales et des Affaires Européennes
  Autorité Unique de Gestion MED
  Région Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur
  27, Place Jules Guesde – 13481 MARSEILLE Cedex 20
  Phone : 04 88 10 76 14 - Fax : 04 91 57 55 05
  aug-med@regionpaca.fr
Relevant EU funding instruments for MED Region

- LIFE+
- ENPI
- INTERREG IV

Others:
- Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)
- ENPI: Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF)
- Thematic Programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, including Energy (ENRTP)
- 7th Framework Programme (FP7)
- And many more…
Designing a Project

Starting Points for a Project:

- Why?
- For whom?
- How?
- With whom?
- Where?
- For what results?
Essential Features

• The project has to be in the future i.e. not already started
• Multidisciplinary – range of partners
• The project is unique – not a part of the ongoing activities
• May require a temporary partnership/network to be created
• Usually has to have a European dimension & promote EU objectives
• Innovative
• Evaluation - how you will monitor the project
• Impact - dissemination of results, who will benefit
Lobbying for your Application

Promote the project and increase its visibility, eg:

– Meet the responsible Desk Officer in the Commission before the call for proposals is announced

– Get letters of support from other decision-makers and influential bodies

– Project summary sheet
Partnerships

Partnership Features:

• Multidisciplinary – often from different countries, different types of organisations
• Common objectives
• Necessary expertise for project success
• Equal involvement of all partners in the process
• One project coordinator

Decision-making:

• Agree a structure e.g. unanimous decision-making or a number of votes per partner

Financial management rules:

• Agree rules e.g. for reimbursement of expenses (justify all expenses!)
• Transparency on expenses, delays, payments
Selecting an EU budget line: Documentation

- **Documents linked to the programme (available all year round)**
  - Programme decision (legal base)
  - The Financial Regulation
  - The annual work programme

- **Documents linked to the call for proposals (only available when the call is issued)**
  - Guidelines for applicants
  - Information about the call
  - Application form
Timing and Application Process

- Publication of the call for proposals
  - 6 – 8 weeks
- Deadline for applications
  - 3 – 6 months
- Decision on the success of applications
EC Selection Criteria and Project Evaluation

3 Steps:

1. Exclusion criteria (eligibility)
2. Selection criteria (capacity)
3. Award criteria (quality)
Selection Criteria and Project Evaluation

1. Exclusion criteria (eligibility)

Whether the organisation is eligible:
- Geographic location
- Legal status etc

Whether the proposal is eligible:
- Meet the administrative rules
- Meet the partnership requirements
- Enclose all required information/documents
Selection Criteria and Project Evaluation

2. Selection criteria (capacity)

- Financial capability (stable resources)
- Evidence of capacity to undertake the project (operational resources and professional experience)
- Necessary qualifications (skills of staff)
3. Award criteria (quality)

- Meeting EU’s objectives
- Partnership/networking
- Innovation
- Visibility
- Impact and dissemination of results
- Relevance of methodology and quality of management
Timing and Application Process

1. Start Project
2. 3 – 6 months
3. Receive 1st payment
4. 6 - 12 months
5. Accept mid term report and receive 2nd payment
6. 12 – 18 months
7. Accept final report and receive last payment
Tips for applying for EU funding

• Carefully read the documents and make sure you comply with eligibility criteria

• Be innovative! Cooperate with partners from other sectors, original projects.

• Ask your questions in time to the European Commission

• EC is not “flexible”… (deadline, reporting requirements etc)

• EU money is not “easy money”: be aware of reporting requirements (both technical and financial)

• Link your project to the EU priorities

• Guaranteed co-financing needed upon signing of agreement

• New to EU funding? Try to be a partner organisation first!
Contacting details

**European Commission:**
Rue de la Loi 200, 1049 Brussels, Belgium
+32 (0) 2 299 1111
www.europa.eu.int

**DG Environment + other DG’s (funding information)**
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm

**IUCN EURO – Accessing European Funding brochure**
www.iucn.org/europe

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