

SOUTH EAST EUROPE (SEE)

Call announcement

4th Call for Project Proposals

October 2011

Introduction

The South East Europe (SEE) Programme 2007 – 2013 aims at improving the territorial, economic and social integration process and contribution to cohesion, stability and competitiveness through the development of transnational partnerships and joint actions on matters of strategic importance. The Managing Authority (MA) of the SEE Programme and the partner states (Albania, Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine) are launching the fourth call for projects (CfP) for transnational cooperation in the South Eastern area of Europe to be co-financed by ERDF, IPA and ENPI.

Legal framework

In order to develop their project ideas and submit a project Application Form (AF), applicants will need to conform to the requirements laid down in this *Call Announcement* and in the following documents:

- SEE Operational Programme (SEE OP)
- SEE Programme Manual (SEE PM)
- SEE Applicants' Guidelines

Provisions indicated in the above mentioned documents have to be deemed as binding. In order to steer and guide the project generation process towards achieving the Programme objectives the SEE management bodies, with the support of selected experts, prepared a "*Background Study*" that analyses the programme results so far and also the programme objectives in line with the main EU trends: Europe 2020, EU Strategy for Danube region etc. Applicants should be aware that this document is not mandatory, its role being only consultative.

Further to these, applicants shall consider all the other relevant policy documents and strategies developed (including macro-regional strategies).

General procedure

The call for proposals will follow the 1-STEP open competitive procedure according to chapter 7.2 of the SEE OP and the section 6.1 of the SEE PM.

Priorities

Under the present call, projects can be submitted under all the Programme Priorities and Areas of Intervention (Aoi):

- 1.1 Develop technology & innovation networks in specific fields;
- 1.2 Develop the enabling environment for innovative entrepreneurship;

- 1.3 Enhance the framework conditions and pave the way for innovation;
- 2.1 Improve integrated water management and flood risk prevention;
- 2.2 Improve prevention of environmental risk;
- 2.3 Promote cooperation in management of natural assets and protected areas;
- 2.4 Promote energy and resource efficiency;
- 3.1 Improve coordination in promoting, planning and operation for primary and secondary transportation networks;
- 3.2 Develop strategies to tackle the “digital divide”;
- 3.3 Improve framework conditions for multi-modal platforms;
- 4.1 Tackle crucial problems affecting metropolitan areas and regional systems of settlements;
- 4.2 Promote a balanced pattern of attractive and accessible growth areas;
- 4.3 Promote the use of cultural values for development.

Budgetary restrictions

On project level no specific **ERDF or IPA budget** restrictions are foreseen. However, at the level of Priority Axis, the total available ERDF amount depends on the modification of the Operational Programme. Consequently the approval of projects submitted under *Priority 4 - Development of transnational synergies for sustainable growth areas* is conditioned by the approval of the modified Operation Programme by the European Commission.

The minimum amount of ENPI funding that can be requested by project partners from ENPI countries is 100,000.00 EUR (90% of total eligible costs of the action).

The consistency of the budget with the envisaged activities/outputs will be carefully assessed.

The indicative minimum¹ allocation for this call is as following:

ERDF	Indicative minimum amount available 52,748,558.16 EUR
IPA	Indicative minimum amount available 10,389,348.47 EUR
ENPI	Indicative minimum amount available 1,554,750.00 EUR

IPA funds are subject to signature of the related financing agreements by the European Commission and the governments of the beneficiary countries. Based on the provisions

¹ *The amount represents the budget available, which could be increased based on the outcomes of the 3rd call and on the further analysis of the ongoing projects.*

of the Financing Agreements negotiated between the EC and SEE Partner States additional conditions for reimbursement of IPA funds might be added.

ENPI funds are subject to signature of the related financing agreements by the European Commission and the governments of the beneficiary countries.

Public funding

The ERDF and IPA co-financing is based on public funds.

The co-financing rate of both ERDF and IPA fund is 85%. The remaining budget (15%) has to be covered by national contribution, brought in by each project participant. The ERDF/ IPA project partner's national contribution can be covered by state contribution and/or own and/or other public contribution. Each Partner State applies a different system in providing public co-financing. Some apply an automatic procedure for granting the funds whilst others envisage specific calls and others require the project partners to provide the co-financing themselves.

The co-financing rate for ENPI contracts will be up to 90%, meaning that no grant may exceed 90 % of the total eligible costs of the action. The balance (minimum 10%) must be financed from the applicant's or partners' own resources, or from sources other than the European Community budget.

Project duration

The duration of projects must not exceed **24 months**. This limit applies for the operative phase of the project and does not comprise the preparation phase.

Time schedule and submission

The AF shall be submitted electronically via the IMIS 2007 – 2013 SEE Front Office by 25.11.2011 (16:00 pm Central European time).

In order to access the Front Office of the IMIS 2007-2013 Monitoring and Information System, all applicants shall register through the SEE Programme website

http://www.southeast europe.net/en/downloads_section/calls/fourth_call

following the instructions on the web page. Once registered, they will receive a **username and password** within the next 48 hours.

Only registered applicants will be able to access the Front Office of the IMIS 2007-2013 Monitoring and Information System, fill in the Application Form and submit it.

Registrations will be open starting from 28.09.2011 and closing on 04.11.2011, meaning that after this date potential Lead Applicants will no longer have the possibility to register in order to submit a project proposal to the JTS.

The call will be open from beginning of 10.10.2011. On that date, all registered users will receive the link to the system.

The full application package shall be delivered to the SEE JTS premises:

SEE Programme Joint Technical Secretariat
VÁTI Nonprofit Kft.
Gellérthegey str. 30-32
H-1016 Budapest,
Hungary

The complete package shall reach the JTS until 02.12.2011.

Further documents may be requested at national level. Thus, we encourage the applicants and their partners to contact their SEE Contact Points (SCPs) well in advance before the submission deadline.

The applicant by submitting the application for the present call duly consents to the fact that the MA and the JTS will manage all the personal data included in the application package and provided in the contracting or project implementation phase.

Documents to be submitted - Annexes to the Application Form

Sort of Partner		Annex 1 - Partnership Agreement	Annex 2 -Declaration of pre-financing and co-financing statement	Annex 3 - State Aid declaration	Annex 4 -Data sheet on the Member state responsible body	Annex 5 - ASP Declaration	Annex 6 - ENPI documents ²	
Financing Partners	LEAD PARTNER	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	
	ERDF PARTNER (Project Partner)		Yes	Yes	No	No	No	
	20% ERDF PARTNER (Project Partner)		Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	
	IPA-I PARTNER		Yes	No	No	No	No	
	ENPI PARTNER		No	No	No	No	Yes	
Associated Strategic Partners	ASPs		EU ASP	No	No	No	Yes	No
			20% ASP	No	No	No	Yes	No
			10% PP	No	No	No	Yes	No
OBSERVER			No	No	No	No	Yes	No

² Please refer to the SEE PM with regard to ENPI documents to be submitted

Eligibility

Programme area

Project beneficiaries should be located within the programme area as indicated in section 1.3 of the OP and 2.5 of the SEE PM. Derogations are foreseen in the application of the so called *10% and 20% ERDF flexibility rule* (as explained in section 4.3 of the SEE PM).

Eligibility of partners

The eligibility of partners is indicated in the section 3.2.1 (ERDF/ IPA) and 5.1 (ENPI) of the SEE PM. Please notice the exception in Priority 3, where infrastructure and transport operators may be eligible for funding under specific conditions.

Eligibility of activities

Activities and related expenditures are eligible according to the eligibility rules set out in SEE OP, Annex 1 of the SEE PM and the specific targeting explained in this *Call Announcement*.

However, please note that the SEE Programme 2007 – 2013, is fully integrated within the Objective 3 of the Cohesion Policy, strongly concentrated on the achievement of the Lisbon and Gothenburg objectives. Therefore, projects should clearly consider the following aims:

- contribution to sustainable territorial development;
- leverage effect on investment, development perspectives and policy development;
- facilitation of innovation, entrepreneurship, knowledge economy and information society by concrete cooperation action and visible results (creation of new products, services, development of new markets, improvement of human resources based on the principles of sustainability);
- contribution to integration by supporting balanced capacities for transnational territorial cooperation at all levels (systems building and governance).

The orientation on research, technology and innovation encloses a significant entrepreneurial development aspect. Hence pure academic research activities cannot be supported under this programme.

Projects could include activities such as studies and operational plans, capacity building activities, promotion actions, set-up of services, preparation and conduction of investments proposed by transnational strategic concepts, including infrastructure investment if appropriate and justifiable. Additional activities could include networking and exchange of information, but not as stand alone, as purely networking activities will NOT be supported.

Selection criteria

The selection criteria are detailed in the OP and SEE PM (chapter 6).

Project assessment procedure

The project assessment procedure is detailed in the SEE PM (section 6.3).