

**Call for proposals for INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS within the framework of the EEA
Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism
in the Republic of Cyprus**

The **Planning Bureau** which is the **National Focal Point (NFP)** for the **EEA Financial Mechanism** and the **Norwegian Financial Mechanism** announces on 25 August 2006 a **Call for Proposals** for the submission of applications for **Individual Projects** within the framework of the said Mechanisms.

- Total amount of the Call: **€2,508,255**.
- Amount of grant assistance per individual project: Minimum €250,000 and maximum €750,000.
- Deadline for the Submission of Applications: 15 January 2007, 12:00 noon.
- Address for the delivery of Applications (by hand or by registered mail):
Planning Bureau (Registry on 2nd floor)
Byron Avenue 29
1096 Nicosia
(care of Ms Aleca Knekna)

The Application and its Appendices, **in English**, should be submitted in one printed original and two printed copies as well as in electronic format (floppy disk or CD-ROM). Applicants must ensure that the hard copy and electronic versions are identical.

I. PARAMETERS FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE PROPOSALS

1. Areas of support

Under both Financial Mechanisms Individual Projects will be supported in the priority areas shown below, with particular attention given to the focus areas listed:

Academic research in the priority areas listed below will not be prioritized.

PRIORITY AREA	FOCUS AREAS
Protection of the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated pollution prevention and control • Reduction of CO2 emissions • Management of selective solid waste and possible recycling, i.e. of electric and electronic equipment waste
Promotion of Sustainable Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote sustainable natural resources management and efficient use • Sustainable forest management • Implementation of management plans for Natura 2000 sites
Conservation of European Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation and renovation of cultural heritage sites and objects • Restoration of village squares
Human Resources Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of education, training and lifelong education systems within the public sector and local government • Support of social inclusion and dialogue
Health and Childcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of mortality and spread of communicable diseases

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction and prevention of lifestyle-related diseases • Improvement of mental health care, focused on youth and children
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In addition to the above, the Norwegian Financial Mechanism will also make funding available for:

Implementation of Schengen Acquis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement of infrastructure on the external border of equipment for combating organised crime and illegal immigration • Strengthen migration and asylum infrastructure • Support preventive action to reduce youth criminality • Combating and preventing organised and economic crime
Regional policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local and regional development promotion programmes

2. Type of Application

A complete application in English containing all information required by the *Application Form – Part I* (to be completed by the Applicant), available on www.eeagrants.gov.cy under the Section “Application for Grants” should be submitted.

3. Type of Project Assistance

Applicants should submit applications for individual projects, provided that the project proposals are within the overall framework of priority sectors of the EEA and the Norwegian Financial Mechanisms. Particular attention shall be given to the focus areas. (For more details see the *Guidelines for Individual Projects* available on www.eeagrants.gov.cy under the Section “Guidelines”).

4. Eligible Applicants

All public or private sector bodies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) constituted as legal entities in the Republic of Cyprus and operating in the public interest – e.g., National and Local Authorities, Education/ Research Institutions, Environmental Bodies, Voluntary and Community Organisations and Public-Private Partnerships may apply for assistance.

5. Eligible Expenditures

Eligible expenditures are defined according to the rules on eligibility of expenditure contained in the *Guidelines on Detailed eligibility provisions - expenditures* available on www.eeagrants.gov.cy under the Section “Guidelines”. Figures in Section (5) of the Application Form “Budget and Financial Resources” should be expressed in Euros. The exchange rate to be used for Applications under this Call is 1 euro = CYP 0,5761.

6. Grant Rate Ceilings and Co-financing Requirements

The contribution from the Financial Mechanisms in the form of grants shall be determined on a case-by-case basis taking all relevant factors into account, as the minimum necessary to allow the project to proceed, according to the following rules:

- (a) **Grant rate up to 60%**, With the exceptions referred to in subparagraphs (b) and (c) below, the grant rate shall not exceed 60% of the project cost.
- (b) **Grant rate up to 85 %** For grant assistance where 15 % or more of the project cost is co-financed by central, regional or local government budget allocations.
- (c) **Grant rate up to and above 85%** for grant assistance set up to support NGO activities (including social partners)¹.

In every case mentioned above the remaining cost per project should be covered in the form of co-financing. 80% of the required co-financing should be covered by the project promoter in the form of Cash while 20% of the co-financing will be provided from the Government Budget.

7. Timeframe of Operations

In accordance with the *Rules and Procedures for the Implementation of the EEA and the Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2004-2009* available on www.eeagrants.gov.cy under the Section “Legal Framework”, the end of the eligibility period for each project shall be 24 months after the scheduled date for project completion, but no later than 30 April 2011.

8. Supporting Documents

All relevant Supporting Documents listed in Section I-11 of the Application Form, in English, should be attached to it and be clearly numbered. The required Documents for the Applicant Eligibility/ Suitability Check should be submitted concurrently with the Application Form but under separate cover (more details are available at www.eeagrants.gov.cy under the Section “Application for Grants”).

II. ASSESSMENT, SELECTION AND FINANCING PROCESS

1. Assessment and Selection Process of Applications

The Planning Bureau (National Focal Point), with the assistance of a Steering Committee (composed by the relevant governmental bodies), will assess the Applications and make the decision on which to be forwarded to the Financial Mechanism Office (FMO) in Brussels for further appraisal. The proposed projects will also be screened by the European Commission for their compatibility with the Community objectives. The Project Appraisal Form containing the detailed criteria for the assessment of the Applications is available at www.eeagrants.gov.cy under the Section “Application for Grants”.

Final decisions on approval/ rejection of Applications will be issued by the EEA Financial Mechanism Committee in case the project will be financed under the EEA Financial Mechanism and by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in case the project will be financed under the Norwegian Financial Mechanism.

¹ The EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism may be applied in combination in order to allow grant rates above those described in sub-paragraph (a) and (b) of this Article, but generally not above 90%. Domestic co-financing will normally be required

2. Grant Agreement

For approved projects an Agreement will be signed between the Planning Bureau (NFP) and the Project Promoter on the terms and conditions (including the responsibilities of the Project Promoter) under which the grant assistance will be provided.

III. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION

Additional documentation on the EEA and the Norwegian Financial Mechanisms is available at the web site of the Financial Mechanisms Office in Brussels: www.eeagrants.org

Additional information on the Call of Proposals can be given by the Contact Person at the National Focal Point:

Ms Ioanna Kleanthous
Planning Bureau
Tel.: 22602922 (direct line) and 22 602809 (secretary)
Fax: 22666810
Email: ikleanthous@planning.gov.cy

Questions may be sent by e-mail or by fax no later than 21 calendar days before the deadline for the receipt of proposals to the contact person mentioned above, indicating a clear reference to the call of proposals. A reply will be sent within 18 calendar days and no later than 10 calendar days before the deadline for the submission of the applications. Questions that may be relevant to other applicants, together with the answers, will be published on the web site www.eeagrants.gov.cy.