



МИНИСТЕРСТВО НА ФИНАНСИТЕ  
НА РЕПУБЛИКА БЪЛГАРИЯ

## Ministry of Finance

### Management of EU Funds Directorate The National Focal Point for the EEA Financial Mechanism

## ANNOUNCES A CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EEA FINANCIAL MECHANISM

### OBJECTIVE

The **main objective** of the EEA Financial Mechanism is to support economic and social development of Bulgaria as a member of the European Economic Area in line with the national priorities and the agreements with the EU.

### ASSISTANCE FORM AND AMOUNTS

The assistance under the financial mechanism is provided in the form of grants for eligible individual projects. The total amount available for the present Call for proposals is EUR 17 151 871.

The amount of grant assistance applied for shall normally not be less than EUR 250 000.

### PRIORITY AREAS

Grants shall be available for projects falling within the priority areas shown below, as one application should relate to only one priority area. Particular attention will be given to the focus areas within the identified priority areas, as listed below:

**1<sup>st</sup> Priority area: Protection of the environment, including the human environment, through, inter alia, the reduction of pollution and the promotion of renewable energy**

Total indicative budget available under this priority is EUR 5 145 561

Focus areas:

- Supporting biodiversity and nature reserves
- Developing sustainable forest management
- Protecting ground water, managing waste water, and reducing air pollution, including monitoring systems

- Developing sustainable waste water collection and promoting recycling systems
- Developing sustainable energy production, incl. renewable energy, geothermal energy, hydropower and energy efficiency

**2<sup>nd</sup> Priority sector: Human resource development through, inter alia, promotion of education and training, strengthening of administrative or public service capacities of local government or its institutions and the democratic processes that support it**

Total indicative budget available under this priority is EUR 3 430 374

Focus areas:

- Increasing the competence and administrative capacity of central, regional and local authorities / municipalities, including the use of information technology
- Developing cadastre through the establishment of a system as a basis for the Spatial Data Infrastructure
- Promotion of the social dialogue

**3<sup>rd</sup> Priority sector: Health and childcare**

Total indicative budget available under this priority is EUR 4 287 968

Focus areas:

- Supporting children at risk
- Rehabilitating buildings, modernisation of equipment and managerial systems
- Implementing preventive measures to reduce drug and alcohol abuse and promote a healthy lifestyle
- Preventing and improving treatment of communicable diseases (HIV/AIDS and TB)

**4<sup>th</sup> Priority sector: Conservation of European heritage**

Total indicative budget available under this priority is EUR 4 287 968

Focus areas:

- Preservation and rehabilitation of cultural and historic heritage
- Use of new technologies for improved management of archaeological, historic and religious collections

All applications have to reflect the horizontal priorities of sustainable development, gender equality and good governance, as set out in the *Good Governance Policy and Guide*, *Gender Equality Policy and Guide* and the *Sustainable Development Policy and Guide* available in English on [www.eeagrants.bg](http://www.eeagrants.bg) and [www.eeagrants.org](http://www.eeagrants.org).

## **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS**

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All public or private sector bodies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) constituted as legal entities in Bulgaria and operating in the public interest - e.g. national, regional and local authorities,

education/research institutions, environmental bodies, voluntary and community organisations and public-private partnerships are eligible to become project promoters.

Projects that involve partners from the EEA EFTA states (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) are encouraged.

### **CO-FINANCING CEILLINGS**

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**The grant rate** will be determined on a case-by-case basis, as the minimum necessary to allow the project to proceed:

- 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 total eligible project cost.
- b. Grant rate up to 85% of the total project eligible costs could be provided to individual projects, for which 15% or more of the project costs, are co-financed by central, regional or local government budget allocations;
- c. For grant assistance set up to support NGO activities (including social partners), grant rates above those described above, but generally not above 90%, could be provided.

### **PROCEDURE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS – FORMAL REQUIREMENTS:**

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1. The applicants shall fill in an Application Form in accordance with the requirements of the Application Form User Guide –version N 3 of 14 January 2008. The Application Form and The Application Form User Guide are available on [www.eegrants.bg](http://www.eegrants.bg), [www.eufunds.bg](http://www.eufunds.bg) and [www.eeagrants.org](http://www.eeagrants.org).
2. Supporting documents which are relevant to the priority areas and type of projects shall be attached to the application. The list of the necessary supporting documents can be viewed and downloaded at the above mentioned websites.
3. The application shall be submitted in English in 3 hard copies (1 original and 2 copies), as well as in 3 copies in electronic format (CDs), which shall be identical to the hard copy.
4. The envelope containing the application shall be marked "EEA Financial mechanism Application – call for proposals 2007", inscription "DO NOT OPEN".

### **6. DEADLINE AND ADDRESS FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS**

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Applications shall be submitted in a sealed, intact envelope/box as letter/parcel by registered or express mail, by courier, in person or by post to the address indicated below:

**Management EU Funds Directorate  
Ministry of Finance  
102 G.S.Rakovski Str,  
1040 Sofia Bulgaria**

Applications sent by any other means (e.g. by fax or by e-mail,) or delivered at other addresses will be rejected.

The deadline for submission of applications is: 25<sup>th</sup> April 2008 (3 p.m.).

In case the applications are sent by post, the latest acceptable post mark is on closing date of this call.

## 6. REFERENCE DOCUMENTATION FOR THE PRESENT CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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The main reference documentation for the present call for proposals is as follows:

- Memorandum of Understanding on the EEA Financial Mechanism
- Rules and Procedures of the EEA Financial Mechanism
- Individual Projects Guidelines
- Application Form
- Application Form User Guide

The above documentation can be found at: <http://www.eeagrants.bg> and <http://www.eufunds.bg>. Additional documentation on the EEA Financial Mechanism is also available on the web site of the EEA Financial Mechanism Office: <http://www.eeagrants.org>

## 7. EURO EXCHANGE RATE

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For the purpose of calculation of the financial amounts, the exchange rate to be used in the case of applications is EUR 1.0 = BGN 1.95583.

## 8. CONTACT INFORMATION

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For further information and clarifications you can contact the National Focal Point.

Questions may be sent **by e-mail** or **by fax** to the contacts below, but not later than 10 days before the deadline for the receipt of applications. A reply will be sent within 5 calendar days. An archive of frequently asked questions and answers can be found at [www.eeagrants.bg](http://www.eeagrants.bg)

### **BULGARIA FOCAL POINT**

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