



Intermediary



Norwegian Financial Mechanism



National Focal Point
Government Office of the
Slovak Republic



EEA Financial Mechanism

**Call for Submission of Applications for
Non – Repayable Financial Contribution for Subprojects in Line with
Block Grant “Modernization of Public Lighting”**

**Announced on 23.4.2008
Call code: MVO**

1. Introduction

Block grant “Modernization of Public Lighting” is a part of the EEA Financial Mechanism and Norwegian Financial Mechanism implementation. The Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency (SIEA) is the Intermediary for this grant. Financial aid from this Block grant is offered to the end recipients as non-repayable financial contribution (NFC).

Block grant focuses on modernization of public lighting in cities and villages, aiming to secure efficient and reliable lighting of public areas.

2. Block grant objectives

Objective of the Block grant is to achieve 30% energy savings in comparison with year 2007 on public lighting operation through the modernization of the public lighting system. Such modernization would have a positive impact on sustainable development and on improvement of living standards of local population in Slovakia.

Financial resources will be used in the area of energy efficiency measures of public lighting. Final results of individual modernization projects in particular cities and villages will include:

- energy savings for public lighting operation while keeping or improving the level of illumination of public areas (this will bring positive results, such as decreased level of emissions resulting from the production of electrical energy),
- reduced costs for consumption of electrical energy,
- reduced costs for maintenance of the public lighting system,
- reduced rate of accidents and injuries on public roads,
- reduced crime rate in the areas where the lighting is malfunctioning.

3. Areas of support

It is possible to provide, within the Block grant, an aid for subprojects in the priority area of “Promotion of sustainable development” and focus area of “Improvement of municipal street lighting for energy savings”.

4. Eligibility criteria

Eligible applicants

Eligible applicants are local governments such as towns and villages and organizations founded by towns and villages with the purpose to own or operate the public lighting system. One applicant can submit only one application. Subprojects can be implemented in the whole Slovak Republic.

General conditions for support

The co-financing amount for a subproject from EEA Financial Mechanism, Norwegian Financial Mechanism and from the state budget of Slovakia in the form of non-repayable financial contribution can not exceed 90 % of all eligible costs for the subproject. However, it has to be at least 70 % from the total eligible subproject costs. Co-financing from the end recipients' own or bank loan resources must be 10 % at a minimum.

The minimum amount of NFC per subproject is 10 000 EUR = 332 400 SKK
The maximum amount of NFC per subproject is 150 000 EUR = 4 986 000 SKK

Referential exchange rate for the purposes of this call is **1 EUR = 33.24 SKK**

Eligible costs

Eligible costs have to be included in the subproject budget and have to be inevitably and directly connected to:

- Replacement of current lights by less energy consuming lights,
- Installation of modern system of control of lighting,
- Refurbishment, replacement and installation of new switchboards, related to the change of lighting system,
- Reconstruction and/or replacement of wiring network, related to the change of lighting system,
- The procurement of devices and/or material, as well as their assemblage and set up costs.

Only costs in line with the results of public procurement can be considered to be eligible. Public procurement has to be in line with Act No. 25/2006 Coll. concerning public procurement and changes and amendments of some laws as amended. Public procurement has to be completed before submitting the Application for NFC.

More detailed provisions on the eligibility of expenditures can be found in the Applicants User Guide and Detailed Eligibility Provisions – Expenditures, except that costs related to real estate or land are not eligible.

In-kind contributions that fall within Article 2.2 of the Detailed Eligibility Provisions – Expenditures are eligible. In-kind contribution can constitute up to 20 percent of end-recipient's own contribution.

Only solutions involving Best Available Technologies (BAT) can be used for the subproject implementation. This implies no light emissions horizontally or upwards (0 cd/klm), no stronger light than demanded by safety standards into the target area, only allowing the most efficient light bulbs (minimum 87 lm/W), optimization of each light position, and application of dimming technology.

5. Deadlines

Call announcement: **23.4.2008**

Deadline for submitting the applications: **22.8.2008 by 15:00**.

Maximum duration of the subproject is 18 months. Minimum duration of the subproject is not defined. Subproject can be implemented after signing the Implementation Contract concluded between SIEA and the end recipient. That means that the first day of project implementation is the date following the date when the Implementation Contract becomes effective.

6. Basic financial data

The overall financial resources allocated for the purposes of financing of the block grant subprojects are 2 893 614 EUR = 96 183 729, 36 SKK.

There will be only one call for the whole re-granting amount to be provided.

7. Application for NFC and its evaluation

Application for NFC (hereinafter referred to as “application”) has to be submitted in the assigned form. Application should be filled in Slovak language, electronically, and the printed original of the application form must be signed by applicants’ authorized representative. In case that some additional document is in other than Slovak language, it is necessary to enclose the authorized translation to Slovak language.

List of documents to be submitted with the Application for NFC:

1. **filled-in Application form for NFC**– 1 x original + 2 x copy
2. **mandatory attachments to the Application for NFC form** – Attachment 1 to 10 must be submitted 1 x original or authorized copy + 2 x copy. Attachment 11 must be submitted 1 x CD.

Application form must be submitted in a complete form, it is to say no table should be left out or erased. Attachments must be numbered according to the instructions in the list of attachments and visibly marked by the relevant number according to the list of attachments. Application form should be submitted stapled together with attachments in one pack. That means the applicant submits three packs: 1 x original and 2 x copy.

Lights audit can be submitted as an optional attachment, in case the applicant has one. (2 copies)

Submission of the application:

Applications must be delivered in sealed, non-transparent envelope with the following specification:

- name and address of the applicant,
- name and address of SIEA,
- sign „Modernization of public lighting“

- sign „call code MVO“
- sign „DO NOT OPEN“

Applicant's name	
Address	
Modernization of public lighting	
Call code: MVO	
DO NOT OPEN	Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency
	Department of Supporting Programs
	Address

Application must be delivered personally, via courier or by registered post by the deadline stated in point 5 of this call. The date of reception of the application is the day when it was physically delivered to the SIEA. It is possible to deliver the application to any branch of the Department of SIEA Other Supporting Programs. (Bratislava, Trenčín, Banská Bystrica, Košice). Contact details are stated in point 10 of this call. In case that the application is not delivered within the stated deadline, or it is not delivered in line with stated conditions (for example in an opened or transparent envelope), SIEA will not accept the application and will return it to the applicant.

In case of the personal delivery of the application, a person who receives the application will fill out the *Confirmation of reception of the Application for NFC* and will give it to the deliverer. In case that the application is delivered by registered mail or via courier, the applicant will receive the confirmation of delivery from them. (e.g. postal advice of delivery, confirmation from the courier service). These documents substitute the *Confirmation of reception of the Application for NFC*.

8. General criteria for evaluation of the applications

Evaluation will focus on the following general criteria:

- Accordance with the goal of Block grant,
- Suitability of the proposed technical solution,
- Contribution of the subproject in the energy efficiency area,
- Specific subprojects investment related to energy savings
- Measurability and relevance of subprojects' indicators,
- Managerial and operational ability of the applicant,
- Fulfillment of the eligibility of costs criteria,
- Objectivity of the proposed budget and the effectiveness of costs,
- Description and mitigation of risks,

- Providing co-financing for the subproject.

More detailed evaluation criteria are stated in the Applicants User Guide.

9. Subprojects financing process

Implemented subprojects should be of an investment character. It means that the expenses of an investment character in a subproject should be more than 50% from overall eligible expenses. Subprojects will be financed in the form of pre-financing from the state budget.

More detailed process of financing is stated in the Applicants User Guide.

10. Contacts

Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency
Department for Other Supporting Programs
Bajkalská 27
827 99 Bratislava 27
Tel.: 02/58 248 401

Regional offices:

Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency
Department for Other Supporting Programs
Hurbanova 59
911 00 Trenčín
Tel.: 032/74 35 216

Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency
Department for Other Supporting Programs
Rudlovska cesta 53
974 28 Banská Bystrica
Tel.: 048/471 46 30, 471 46 31

Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency
Department for Other Supporting Programs
Krivá 18
041 94 Košice
Tel.: 055/678 25 32, 678 25 33

All relevant documents for the applicants, including the Application form for NFC and Applicants User Guide are available for download from www.siea.gov.sk/mvo. Information on seminars for potential applicants will be placed also on the web page.

More detailed information on Block grant can be provided personally or by phone on above-mentioned phone numbers or by emailing mvo@siea.gov.sk. Consultations will be offered no later than 5 work days before the deadline closing the call.

Additional information is available on www.eeagrants.sk and www.eeagrants.org.

11. List of attachments

1. Application form for NFC
2. Applicants user guide
3. Evaluation criteria