

Trainers' Digest



ETUI-REHS

European Trade Union Institute

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**ETUI-REHS EDUCATION's
information bulletin about EU
training programmes**

Budget heading 04.03.03.01

"Industrial Relations and Social Dialogue"

Call for proposals 2008

The European Commission has launched a Call for proposals for implementing the budget heading 04.03.03.01 intended to cover grants for promoting social dialogue at the cross-sectoral and sectoral levels in accordance with Articles 138 and 139 of the EC Treaty.

The appropriation will be used to finance consultations, meetings, negotiations and other operations designed to achieve these objectives and to promote actions outlined in the European Commission's Communication on "The European social dialogue, a force for innovation and change (COM(2002) 341 final)" and in the Communication on "Partnership for change in an enlarged Europe - Enhancing the contribution of European social dialogue (COM(2004)557final)".

The measures should help social partner organisations to contribute to the re-launching of the Lisbon Strategy and to the achievement of its objectives.

This includes modernisation of the labour market, anticipation and management of change, flexicurity, youth employment, follow-up to the Green Paper on labour law, a contribution to the health and safety strategy, combining work and family life, action in the field of anti-discrimination, active ageing and active inclusion.

The activities should also involve social partner representatives in the Candidate countries. Special attention will be paid to improving the level of female participation.

Those two concerns are of a horizontal nature, i.e. they apply to both sub-programmes.

Access for disabled persons must be guaranteed for measures funded under this heading.

2 Sub-programmes

The budget line is structured into 2 sub-programmes, within which different activities are supported:

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1. **Support of the European social dialogue**, through:
 - measures to prepare European social dialogue, e.g. preparatory surveys, meetings and conferences;
 - measures regarded as part of the social dialogue pursuant to Article 138 of the Treaty, including negotiations, meetings to prepare for negotiations or meetings relating to the implementation of negotiated agreements and other negotiated outcomes;
 - measures to implement the European social partners' work programmes (e.g. round tables, exchanges of experience and networks of players);
 - measures to monitor and follow up European social dialogue activities and outcomes, e.g. conferences and initiatives to disseminate the results of European social dialogue through European or national events, whether as paper publications or in electronic form (including translations);
 - measures to strengthen social dialogue in the Member States and particularly in the New Member States and Candidate countries (e.g. through capacity building, information and training seminars etc.);
 - measures taken by European and national social partners which contribute to the Lisbon strategy.
2. **Development of competencies in the field of industrial relations**, through:
 - seminars or conferences on industrial relations, including preparatory studies;
 - exchanges of experience and networks of players and/or experts;
 - initiatives designed to further the collection and use of information on national industrial relations systems and on developments at European level (parties involved, institutions, developments, etc);
 - initiatives designed to promote knowledge on effective industrial relations practices, including successful forms of worker participation;
 - initiatives connected with the use (i.e. promotion, discussions and dissemination) or preparation of the European Commission's Industrial Relations in Europe report.

What kinds of organisations are eligible to be promoters?

To be eligible, applicants must:

- be properly constituted and registered legal persons. In application of Article 114 of the Financial Regulation, social partner organisations without legal personality are also eligible provided that their representatives have the capacity to assume legal obligations on their behalf and assume financial liability;
- fall within one of the following categories:
 1. **Social partners:**
 - a) European social partner organisations currently consulted in accordance with Article 138 of the Treaty. A list of these organisations is included in Annex 5 of the European Commission's Communication on Partnership for change in an enlarged Europe - Enhancing the contribution of European social dialogue (COM(2004) 557 final);
 - b) National or regional organisations affiliated to European social partner organisations as long as the project is part of a European approach;

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- c) European social partner organisations not covered by the above, for example for operations involving the preparation and launching of European social dialogue at sectoral level.
 2. **Organisations linked to industrial relations:** Non-profit-making organisations, research centres and institutes; universities; non-profit-making networks of companies or of workers' organisations.
 3. **Public authorities:** national and regional authorities, including related associations and government services or agencies;
- have active partners from several different Member States in the case of projects which are not submitted by a European or international organisation. Signed letters indicating this active involvement are required;
 - have their registered offices in one of the EU Member States;
 - not be in one of the following type of situations: bankruptcy, compulsory winding-up, under court administration, etc.

Deadlines and procedure for submission of proposals

The Call for proposals specifies priorities, eligibility rules, deadlines, the scale of funding and procedures.

The deadlines for the submission of applications are as follows:

- **14 March 2008** (for operations commencing no earlier than 15 May 2008);
- **1 September 2008** (for operations commencing no earlier than 1st November 2008 and no later than 22 December 2008).

The compulsory on-line grant application form as well as other useful documents (e.g. the European Communities' Financial Regulation and Implementing Rules) can be found at the following Internet address:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/tenders/tenders_en.cfm?id=2565

Please send originals of your covering letter of application, together with all the other documents listed in the table under the section "Eligible applications" of the Call, as well as one copy of all these documents, by the deadlines stated above to the following address:

Call for proposals VP/2008/001
Budget heading 04.03.03.01
European Commission – DG EMPL/F.1
J54 00/93
B – 1049 Brussels
Belgium

Please send your application by registered mail or express courier service only and keep proof of the date of sending (the date of the post office stamp or express courier receipt will be considered as proof of the date of sending).

Hand-delivered applications must be received by the European Commission by the last day for submission.

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The address for hand deliveries of documents for the European Commission is:

**Avenue du Bourget 1
B-1140 Evere, Belgium**

Proof of delivery is a signed receipt from the Commission's Archives Service stamped with the date of the last day for submission or earlier.

What scale of funding is available?

The EU contribution will be a maximum of 80% of the total costs. Applicants must contribute at least 20% of the total cost of the operation.

In derogation, the European Commission may decide to finance up to 95% of the total cost of social dialogue operations involving negotiations in accordance with Articles 138 and 139 of the Treaty, meetings to prepare for negotiations (sub-programme I - second bullet point), or joint social partner operations relating to the implementation of the results of European social dialogue negotiations.

Social dialogue meetings organised by the social partners themselves can also be financed up to a rate of 95%.

Contributions in kind will not be taken into account.

Who administers the budget line?

**European Commission
DG EMPL/F.1
J54 00/93
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium**

Enquiries by *e-mail only at:*
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