

III

(Notices)

COMMISSION

Implementation of the Council Decision of 22 December 1995 on the medium-term Community action programme on equal opportunities for women and men (1996 to 2000)**Exchange, development and transfer of information and experience on good practice****Call for proposals**

(98/C 377/06)

I. Political context

The Council adopted a decision⁽¹⁾ on a medium-term Community action programme on equal opportunities for men and women on 22 December 1995. The programme has the following objectives:

- (a) to promote integration of the equal opportunities for men and women dimension in all policies and activities (mainstreaming);
- (b) to mobilise all the actors in economic and social life to achieve equal opportunities for men and women;
- (c) to promote equal opportunities for men and women in a changing economy, especially in the fields of education, vocational training and the labour market;
- (d) to reconcile working and family life for men and women;
- (e) to promote a gender balance in decision-making;
- (f) to make conditions more conducive to exercising equality rights.

II. Aim of the call for proposals

In accordance with Article 4(1)(a) of the Council Decision, the Commission will 'in order to allow the exchange of information and experience on good practice provide methodological and/or technical and/or financial support for projects to identify and develop good practice and transfer information and ex-

perience thereon'. The present call for proposals will serve to select the projects to be supported by the programme under the 1999 budget exercise.

III. Eligibility criteria

- According to Article 5 of the Council Decision, initiatives which could be eligible for support by other Community programmes and/or policies⁽²⁾ will not be considered within the framework of this call for proposals,
- the added-value of the programme resides in the identification and transnational exchange of information and experience on good practice in the field of equal opportunities for women and men. In order to be considered transnational, projects must involve organisations from at least three different Member States and/or from States of the European Economic Area (EEA)⁽³⁾, working in partnership. The action programme is currently being opened to the participation of countries which are candidates to become a member of the European Union. Organisations from Hungary, Lithuania and Romania may participate as of 1998, organisations from Estonia, the Czech Republic and Slovenia possibly as of 1999. For details on the conditions of their participation, please read the complementary note which will be sent with the application form.

Projects must also have as their objective the exchange of information or experience, transfer of good practice from one organisation to another, or

⁽¹⁾ Decision 95/593/EC (OJ L 335, 30.12.1995).

⁽²⁾ Other Community programmes or policies are, for example, ESF, NOW, Leonardo, Leader II, Daphne.

⁽³⁾ The members of the EEA are Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

cooperation on designing and implementing measures. Accordingly, the programme is not intended to support all measures in the area of equal opportunities for women and men which can be undertaken at national or local level,

- proposals must include proof of co-financing of at least 40 % of the total project costs,
- this call for proposals is not intended for projects selected under the 1998 budget exercise of the programme which were initially planned on a multi-annual basis (to continue after June 1999). A separate procedure will be applied to contract renewal requests for those projects,
- proposals which focus exclusively on research studies will be the subject of a separate call for proposals.

IV. Areas of action

Project proposals must contribute to one or more of the aims referred to in Section I and concern the following areas.

1. *Integration of the equal opportunities for women and men dimension in all policies and activities (mainstreaming)*

Promotion and development of methods, strategies and models aimed at integrating the equal opportunities dimension in all policies and activities.

2. *Employment and working life*

- education, training and continuing training and the promotion of equal opportunities for women and men in employment,
- access to employment and conditions of employment,
- promotion of economic independence,
- vertical and horizontal desegregation of the labour market,
- equal pay for equal work and work of equal value,
- organisation and flexibility of working life,
- aspects linked with the working environment, including sexual harassment,

— entrepreneurship,

— reconciliation of professional and parental responsibilities, including the role of men.

3. *Gender balance in decision-making*

Development and monitoring of methods, strategies and actions to promote balanced participation of men and women in decision-making, including in senior posts.

4. *Information*

Promotion of information and other actions to increase knowledge and promote favourable attitudes to equal opportunities for men and women.

V. Actors

Projects should be devised and implemented by those public and private parties and organisations which have appropriate qualifications and/or experience. The applying party or organisation must be properly constituted and registered under the law. It must furnish evidence of adequate legal status, financial viability and professional integrity to complete the project. The European Commission will verify the capacity of the applicant to properly operate and finance the activities for which a grant is given.

The applying party or organisation should be based in a EU Member State or in the EEA ⁽⁴⁾.

The participation of the following actors is particularly encouraged:

- the social partners, especially joint proposals from employers' and employees' organisations,
- non-governmental organisations, especially women's organisations,
- local and regional authorities.

Projects should be supported by partners at transnational level: the project promoter must cooperate with several partners in other EU Member States and/or in the EEA ⁽⁵⁾.

⁽⁴⁾ With regard to the participation of organisations from countries which are candidates to become a member of the European Union, please refer to Section III and read the complementary note which will be sent with the application form.

⁽⁵⁾ Please see footnote 4.

In order to have the maximum impact, and in line with the programme's aim to promote integration of the equal opportunities dimension in all policies, the project should preferably involve, in addition to the transnational partner organisations, one or more actors, as appropriate, at national and/or regional and/or local levels capable of developing the chosen subject area.

VI. Selection criteria

To qualify for support, proposals must meet the following criteria:

- present added-value at European Union level,
- contribute to one or more of the aims referred to in Section I,
- aim to promote best practice in the area(s) set out in Section IV,
- permit transnational exchange,
- target transferable results,
- include a strategy for the dissemination of the attained results,
- be submitted and implemented by parties and organisations referred to in Section V,
- have clear and precise objectives and have a realistic timespan given those objectives,
- be evaluated objectively and regularly,
- be innovatory, as far as possible, in terms of content and organisation.

VII. Duration of projects

The current call for proposals relates to a contractual period which will run from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000. The duration of each project should be justified by reference to its objectives. Certain projects might have a multiannual work programme (within the time frame covered by the programme: 1996 to 2000). In any case, contracts for multiannual projects will only be renewed following a separate and different procedure if funds are available, once a satisfactory evaluation has been performed and the decision for its continuation has been taken by the Commission. The establishment of a contract for one year does not presume the renewal of the contract.

VIII. Funding

The proposals eligible for funding will be selected on the basis of the annual budget provided for the programme by the Community Budgetary Authority. The Community's financial contribution will not exceed 60 % of the total acceptable costs of the project. Only those costs of actions are acceptable which are directly linked to achieving the object of the agreement. The costs must be necessary to carry out the project.

Project promoters need to secure co-financing for the remaining 40 % of the project costs. The European Commission recommends that the co-financing is provided in cash. In any case a minimum of 15 % of the total acceptable project costs must be co-financed in cash. Contributions in kind can be taken into account up to a maximum of 25 % of the total acceptable project costs. Project promoters who do not present proof of secured co-financing cannot be taken into consideration. The Commission reserves the right to reduce the Community grant if costs in the provisional budget are or ineligible, or are eligible but too high. For details on the eligibility of costs, presentation of the provisional budget and calculation of the Community grant please refer to the guidelines for applicants.

As a general indication for the project promoters and in line with the budget envelope of the programme, Community grants will generally not exceed EUR 150 000 per project per year. With the aim of strategical concentration of resources and in order to comply with the transnationality requirement and the need for transnational exchange, the programme usually does not co-fund small scale projects. Grants therefore cannot be smaller than EUR 30 000. The Community grant will generally be paid in successive instalments.

IX. Submission and selection procedures

Organisations and institutions wishing to submit a proposal should contact the European Commission in writing (letter or fax, see address below) in order to obtain the application form and guidelines for applicants. **Only correctly completed and signed application forms corresponding to the requirements of the guidelines will be accepted.**

In particular, each proposal should provide the following information:

- title of the proposal,
- objective of the programme to which the proposal corresponds (see Section I),

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — area(s) of action to which the proposal corresponds (see Section IV), — name of the organisation legally and financially responsible, — names of the partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — at transnational level, — at national and/or regional and/or local level, as appropriate, — description of the project (including work programme), — means of project evaluation, — means of dissemination of the project results, — duration of the project, — total cost of the project (in euro), — contribution requested from the Commission (in euro), — a detailed budget for the period 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000, listing expenses and income (including | <p>sources of co-financing equivalent to at least 40 % of the total costs).</p> <p>The selection of projects will be based on the eligibility and selection criteria set out above, on the quality and feasibility of the action proposed and in line with the budget envelope of the programme.</p> <p>The proposal should be sent by post or delivered by hand by 1 March 1999, at the latest, date as postmark, to:</p> <p>European Commission, Unit V/D/5 'Equal opportunities for women and men and matters regarding families and children', Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200, B-1049 Brussels</p> <p>and, at the same time, to the national authority concerned (see attached list).</p> <p>Any application sent by fax will be automatically rejected.</p> <p>For additional information, please contact unit V/D/5 in writing at the address given above, or by fax to (32-2) 296 35 62.</p> |
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ANNEX

List of members of the committee set up to implement the medium-term programme on equal opportunities for men and women (1996 to 2000)

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