1. Annual work programme and call for applications for 2001

This annual work programme has the aims to present themes for actions and measures of particular interest for the implementation of the STOP II programme in 2001, and to provide information to assist those who wish to apply for the co-financing of projects. The indicative budget for 2001 is EUR 2 million.

2. Objectives of the STOP II programme

The programme shall contribute to the general objective of providing citizens with a high level of protection in an area of freedom, security and justice. Within this framework, it is intended to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings as addressed also by the European Council of Tampere and all forms of sexual exploitation of children, including child pornography and the violence associated with it, and to assist the victims of these criminal activities. It seeks in general to encourage and strengthen networking and practical cooperation such as the exchange and dissemination of information, experience and good practice, and the improvement and adaptation of training and scientific and technical research in the abovementioned fields. It also seeks to give particular attention to participation in the actions and measures involving private or public or private organisations, institutions or associations concerned in the candidate countries as well as to encourage the stepping up of cooperation with third countries and the competent regional and international organisations.

In this context, the main objectives are:

— to provide incentives and support to a multidisciplinary and coordinated approach to the phenomena of trafficking in human beings and the sexual exploitation of children including child pornography on Internet;

— to address the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation throughout the trafficking chain (recruiters, exploiters, other intermediaries and clients);

— to encourage and support the establishment of networks of persons responsible for preventing and combating the crimes in question as well as assisting the victims of the crimes, with a view to stimulate various forms of cooperation;

— to further encourage scientific and technical research and to disseminate new techniques through the production of manuals as well as the preparation of training modules.

The STOP II programme shall co-finance projects submitted by public or private bodies, institutions or associations in the Member States of the European Union involved in helping victims and preventing and combating trade in human beings and the sexual exploitation of children. Applications from individuals are not eligible for financial support under this programme.

The programme is intended for persons responsible for assisting victims and for preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and the sexual exploitation of children, such as judges, public prosecutors, law enforcement authorities, public services concerned with immigration and border controls, social service authorities, researchers and representatives of non-governmental and voluntary organisations.

3. Relations with other Title VI programmes

The STOP II programme has been set up alongside the other Commission programmes under Title VI of the Treaty on European Union, namely:

— Oisin II programme (programme for the exchange and training of, and cooperation between, law enforcement authorities, OJ L 186, 7.7.2001);

— Grotius II programme — General and Criminal (programme of incentives and exchanges for legal practitioners, OJ L 186, 7.7.2001);

— Odysseus programme (programme of training, exchanges and cooperation in the field of asylum, immigration and crossing of external borders, OJ L 99, 31.3.1998);


Another programme that should be mentioned in addition to those listed above is the Daphne programme (\(^1\)) (not based on a Title VI decision), which has the following objectives:

— to set up and reinforce networks at European level to support and coordinate information and action on measures aimed at protecting, and preventing violence towards children, young people and women, including the promotion of cooperation between NGOs, voluntary organisations and the authorities involved in these areas;

— the protection of children, young people and women from all kinds of violence, commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking in human beings and other abuse, and the prevention of these phenomena.

The Daphne programme was adopted on 13 December 1999 for a period of four years (2000 to 2003). It has a financial reference amount of EUR 20 million.

Applicants are recommended, when drawing up their projects and before submitting an application under the STOP II programme, to take account also of these other programmes and their respective annual priorities to ensure that they have made the right choice. Applications that are not sent to the relevant programme run the risk of not being selected, owing to the deadlines for lodging applications under the different programmes.

Financial support under the STOP II programme may not be combined with grants from other programmes financed by the Community budget.

4. Eligible expenditure

A maximum of 70 % of expenditure arising directly from the implementation of the project and committed during the period laid down in the contract can be co-financed. It should be pointed out that with the aim of supporting a higher number of projects, the STOP Committee has decided in the previous rounds of selection to grant lower co-financing rates (except in exceptional cases) which, as an average, ranged from 60 % to 65 %.

The specific projects and complementary measures referred to in Article 3(4) of the Decision qualify for 100 % financing, up to a maximum of 10 % and 5 % respectively of the total funding allocated annually to the programme for each of the two categories.

Any project for which financing is provided out of the Community budget for 2001 must have made a significant start on its work before the end of 2001. As a general rule, all projects must be finalised within twelve months of the date of dispatch of the letter confirming the granting of the subsidy.

Expenditure contracted before the committee meeting at which the financing decision is taken is not eligible.

Applications, which do not comprise a detailed financial statement, which makes it possible to appreciate the adequacy of expenditure in relation to the different contents of the project, will not be considered.

It should be noted that the payment procedures applied by the Commission require projects to be pre-financed partly by applicants (50 % of the grant is paid after signature of the agreement and the remaining 50 % after receipt and approval of the final report and financial statement).

Furthermore, emphasis is put on the participation of services and organisations from the candidate countries. Such participation is among other things intended to familiarise them with the policies of the European Union and to facilitate their accession. It needs to be stressed, however, that it is not the purpose of the STOP II programme to give direct financial assistance to actions organised from the central and eastern European countries, the financing of which falls under the Phare programme.

5. Activities of the programme

The STOP II programme provides financial support for actions and measures in the following areas:

— exchange programmes and networking;

— conferences and seminars;

— studies and research;

— training and dissemination of information.

The Commission may also present a list of specific actions and complementary measures to be approved by the STOP Committee:

— specific actions of particular interest in terms of either the programme’s priorities or cooperation with the applicant countries;

— complementary measures such as seminars, expert meetings or other dissemination activities of information obtained in the framework of the STOP programme.

The budget of EUR 2 million for 2001 could be distributed, on an indicative basis, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exchange programmes and networking</td>
<td>750 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferences and seminars</td>
<td>400 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studies and research</td>
<td>500 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training and dissemination of information</td>
<td>350 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific actions and complementary measures</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>2 000 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Selection criteria

The Commission will evaluate applications and select projects for a proposal to the STOP Committee for co-financing on the basis of the following criteria:

— conformity with the programme’s objectives as indicated under 2, including the potential impact of the expected results on the achievement of these objectives;
— the European dimension of the project in terms of content and participation by Member States and candidate countries, i.e. minimum of three Member States or two Member States and one candidate country;

— consistency of topics with work undertaken or planned under the Council priorities;

— the operational and practical value of the project (for example, the emphasis placed on disseminating knowledge to the professions concerned);

— the number and degree of preparation of the persons responsible for combating trafficking in human beings and sexual exploitation of children and likely to benefit from the project, either directly or through contact with participants;

— the appropriateness of the requested co-financement in relation to the expected results;

— the degree of preparation and the standing of the institution or body responsible for the project, and the clarity and accuracy with which the objectives and procedures for implementing the project are defined;

— the partners involved in the organisation of the project and the extent to which the project is open to persons from different countries and different disciplines;

— complementarity of projects, e.g. the extent to which projects can be integrated into a consistent overall approach to prevent trafficking in human beings and sexual exploitation of children, rather than the simple juxtaposition of isolated operations;

— complementarity with STOP projects previously or currently implemented.

Furthermore, the following guidelines based on the above criteria should be borne in mind by applicants:

— applicants for certain projects may be asked to coordinate and rationalise their approach in order to avoid duplication and ensure complementarity.

7. Priorities for 2001 (1)

Exchange programmes and networking

— Promoting European-level exchanges between persons holding posts of responsibility, including those responsible for operational initiatives or involved in the drafting of crime policy, with a view to encourage cooperation, exchange of information, experiences and best practices as well as to improve skills and knowledge about trafficking in human beings and the exploitation of children. Where initiatives are of a specifically operational nature, the STOP programme may help to finance the preparation and evaluation of such meetings, aiming at promoting general exchange of information and analysis of situation.

— Encouraging the launching, including through the use of modern technology such as the Internet, of networks with a view to improve cross-border cooperation against trafficking in human beings and the sexual exploitation of children by adults or adolescents.

Conferences and seminars

— Facilitating, through specialised conferences and seminars, European-level contacts between persons who hold posts of responsibility in the same area of professional activity (e.g. police officers, the judiciary, social workers) and are involved in combating trafficking in human beings, sexual exploitation of children, including child pornography on the Internet, or between persons from several professions who wish to focus on a specific topic relating to such trade and exploitation.

— Promoting European-level meetings or conferences which bring together judges, police officers, immigration and border control officials, social service officials and those responsible for public or private bodies concerned with preventing trafficking in human beings, sexual exploitation of children, including child pornography on the Internet, or providing assistance to victims. The aim must be to share experiences and to compare ideas on multi-disciplinary practices and training in this area. Representatives of the countries of central and eastern Europe may take part in such meetings or conferences.

(1) The themes mentioned below will be given priority by the STOP Committee when it considers specific projects. These priorities do not automatically exclude projects on other topics in the area of prevention and fight against trafficking in human beings and the sexual exploitation of children.
Studies and research

— Improvement of the statistical data and the various sources of information, which could be used to quantify the phenomena of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation and sexual exploitation of children, including child pornography on the Internet.

— Studies and research on practices and methods with a view to develop and improve the assistance to and the rehabilitation of the victims of trafficking in human beings and the sexual exploitation of children.

— Studies and research on practices and methods with a view to develop and improve the prevention of trafficking in human beings and the sexual exploitation of children, including the trafficking chain (recruiters, transporters, exploiters, other intermediaries and clients) the rehabilitation of perpetrators and also the validation of assessment instruments concerning sex offenders.

— Studies and research on practices and methods with a view to develop and improve the combating of trafficking in human beings and the sexual exploitation of children, including legal, sociological, and other scientific topics as well as feasibility studies and development of operational tools and methods seeking to enhance cross-border cooperation between and amongst Member States and the candidate countries.

Training and dissemination of information

— Facilitating the introduction of training modules on specific topics relevant to trafficking in human beings and sexual exploitation of children, including child pornography on the Internet (e.g. preventive measures, identification of video cassettes with a paedophile content, assistance to victims and training in the psychology of victims, preparation of technical training courses for law enforcement officers and judges, including courses available on the Internet, provided that confidentiality and access facilities could be ensured, etc.).

— Measures to prevent the use of telecommunications facilities, including the Internet, for the purposes of trafficking in human beings or sexual exploitation of children, including child pornography.

— Examination of the scope for using data transmission networks in the fifteen Member States to circulate regularly updated information on international legal instruments, criminal legislation and draft legislation relating to measures to combat trafficking in human beings and the sexual exploitation of children, including child pornography on the Internet.

— Dissemination of information of the results of the actions co-financed under the programme with a view to better achieve the objectives of the programme; in particular encouragement of the circulation or publication of material and manuals such as lists of articles, studies and legislation, or results from relevant actions referred to in the programme and this annual work programme concerned with the assistance to victims, the combating, and the prevention of trafficking in human beings and the sexual exploitation of children, including the use of the Internet and, possibly, the creation of databases, with a view to improve the knowledge and awareness about these phenomena as well as facilitating increased exchange of information.

Specific actions

The specific projects that may be submitted to the Commission by promoters are of particular relevance to the priorities of the programme or to cooperation with applicant countries. The Commission proposes the following specific action for 2001:

— conference on the prevention of, the fight against, and the dismantling of east European trafficking networks for the purpose of sexual exploitation of women and children.

Complementary measures

The complementary measures that may be submitted to the Commission by promoters are of particular relevance to the priorities of the programme or to cooperation with applicant countries. The Commission proposes the following complementary measures for 2001:

— creation of a specific web site or sub-web site for the dissemination of the results of the STOP programme, including links to other established web sites, or for the exchange of information between STOP-project organisers and interested parties.

8. Submission of applications

Applications for grants must be submitted by the latest on 31 August 2001 to the European Commission, Directorate General Justice and Home Affairs, for the attention of Mr Henrik Sjölinder LX 46 04/166 or Mr Geert D’holander, LX 46 04/150, rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200, B-1049 Brussels, in one of the eleven official languages of the European Union, using the standard application form, with a summary not exceeding one page in EN, FR or DE. Applications sent by express courier or delivered by hand must reach 46-56, Rue de Luxembourg no later than 1700 (Brussels time) on 31 August 2001.

The form should be downloaded from the following web site: http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/index_en.htm en.pdf. The original copy of the form should be signed and stamped by the applicant organisation and sent (not faxed), with a covering letter, within the time specified (the postmark being taken as proof). Applications on a form that has been altered or on an earlier version of the form run the risk of being rejected.
Applications must be accompanied by a detailed budget in euro, showing the estimated total cost of the project. A valid application must also include:

— the original copy of the application, duly completed and signed on the appropriate form, accompanied by a summary of the project (maximum one page in EN, FR or DE);

— the planned budget with a detailed financial breakdown.

Beneficiaries are requested to state in all advertising or published material that the project has received financial support under the STOP programme. They will be asked to send an assessment form to all participants. They should if requested allow a representative of the JAI unit managing the programme to attend any seminars, symposia or conferences.

Beneficiaries will, within three months of completion of the project, send DG JAI a final report on the project, obstacles encountered, participants’ assessments, products and results obtained, their dissemination and the conclusions to be drawn. They will also be required to agree to make available to the Commission the products and results, presented in a form that is usable and suitable for their dissemination: manuals, publications, videos, software, Internet sites.

Notice of closure of the call for proposals for indirect RTD actions under the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration on improving the human research potential and the socioeconomic knowledge base

**Accompanying measures**

*Call identifier IHP — ACCO-00-1 (1)*

(2001/C 199/14)

A great number of high quality proposals have been received for the past evaluation dates under the call for proposals for indirect RTD actions concerning accompanying measures. The budget allocated for this call has been exhausted following the results of the last evaluation session (8 May 2001). Therefore, no funds are left for financing additional proposals.

The call for proposals for indirect RTD actions concerning accompanying measures No 2000/C 136/09 is closed as of this date in accordance with a Commission Decision of 12 July 2001 (2) amending the work programme adopted on 9 March 1999 (3).

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