

OISIN II PROGRAMME

Annual work programme and call for applications for 2002

(2002/C 66/19)

On 28 June 2001 the Council of Ministers of the European Union adopted the Oisín II programme (OJ L 186, 7.7.2001, p. 4), a multiannual programme in the area of training and cooperation between the law enforcement services covering the period 2001/2002.

The budget foreseen for this programme in the year 2002 is EUR 4 million.

1. Objectives of the programme

The general objective of the Oisín II programme consists of providing citizens with a high level of security in an area of freedom, security and justice, in accordance with Article 29 of the Treaty of Amsterdam. Within this framework, the programme aims, like the Oisín programme 1997/2000, at encouraging cooperation between the law enforcement services of the Member States and at providing them with a better insight in the working methods and constraints of their counterparts in other Member States.

Article 3(3) of the Decision provides that, in order to be eligible for co-financing, projects must involve **at least three** Member States **or two** Member States and one applicant country.

The following activities can be funded in 2002: training, exchanges and work experience placements, operational projects, studies and research, meetings and seminars, as well as dissemination of the results obtained within the framework of the programme.

Applicants will be law enforcement services in the Member States. This means the bodies responsible, under national legislation, for the fight against and the prevention and detection of crime (police services in the broad sense as well as customs services). The applicants may be national or international, public or private institutions including research establishments and the organisations responsible for all forms of training of police and customs officials.

Private individuals may not submit projects to this programme.

Finally, in keeping with the aim of helping applicant countries to prepare for accession to the EU, police or customs officers in these countries, or of other third countries can take part in projects, where this is in the interest of these projects.

2. Sphere of activity of the Oisín programme in relation to other Title VI programmes

In addition to the Oisín programme, the Commission manages four programmes in the field of justice and home affairs (title VI of the Treaty on European Union):

- Falcone (programme of exchanges, training and cooperation for persons responsible for action to combat organised crime) (OJ L 99, 31.3.1998),
- Grotius II criminal (programme designed for the support and exchange of the judiciary) (OJ L 186, 7.7.2001),
- STOP II (incentive and exchange programme for persons responsible for combating trade in human beings and the sexual exploitation of children) (OJ L 186, 7.7.2001),
- Hippocrates (programme of incentives and exchanges, training and cooperation for the prevention of crime) (OJ L 186, 7.7.2001).

A project may only obtain funding from one Commission programme. Combined financing between these or other Commission programmes is not allowed. It is imperative that requests for financing are submitted under the correct programme. If not, the Commission will however endeavour to ensure that the bids are transmitted for examination to the secretary of the suitable programme, but cannot guarantee this. Applicants are advised to consult information on all five programmes to check that their projects are being submitted to the correct programme.

3. Eligible expenditure

To be eligible for co-financing, projects will have to involve at least three Member States or two Member States and one applicant country.

Expenditure directly linked to the implementation of projects will be eligible for co-financing up to a maximum of **70 %** of the total cost of the project.

The Council decision of 28 June 2001 makes it possible that specific actions and complementary measures can be financed up to 100 % under the programme with a view to achieving the programme's objectives. A maximum of 10 % respectively 5 % of the annual allocation for the programme can be devoted to such projects.

Under no circumstances will the overhead costs of an organisation be funded by the Oisín II programme.

As far as the sequence of operations is concerned, it is important to note that:

- owing to the payment procedures applied by the Commission, the pre-financing of projects will fall on the applicants,

- any project financed under the 2002 budget must have started and progressed before the end of 2002,
- projects have to be completed, at the latest, a year after the decision to grant the subsidy. Any possible request for extension must be submitted officially in writing to the president of the Committee.

Projects organisers are requested to carry out their projects in accordance with the vade-mecum on project management, which can be consulted on the website of the Justice and Home Affairs DG.

4. Activities of the programme

The programme will finance the following activities:

- **training** for professional purposes including language courses,
- **conferences, seminars or meetings,**
- **research and study** work on topics concerning cooperation between law enforcement services,
- **operational projects,** such as exercises or joint surveillance operations,
- **dissemination** of the results of the programme and information on cooperation between the law enforcement services,
- **exchanges and work experience placements** for police and customs officers.

As an indication, appropriations between the various areas could be broken down as follows:

Fields	euro
— Training	800 000
— Exchanges	600 000
— Research/studies	800 000
— Meetings (seminars, conferences)	1 600 000
— Dissemination/information	200 000
Total	4 000 000

5. Evaluation and selection criteria

The Commission will carry out the evaluation of the projects with the aid of experts within its services or belonging to bodies specialising in cooperation in police or customs matters. The criteria of evaluation and of selection of projects mentioned in the Council Decision concerning the programme Oisin II are as follows:

- conformity with the programme's objectives,
- whether the project has European dimension and is open to participation by the applicant countries,
- compatibility with work undertaken or planned within the framework of the European Union's political priorities on police and customs cooperation,
- complementarity with other past, current or planned cooperation projects,
- ability of the organiser to implement the project,
- the inherent quality of the project in terms of its conception, organisation, presentation and expected results,
- the amount of subsidy requested under the programme and whether it is proportionate to the expected results,
- the impact of the expected results on the programme's objectives.

The following indications, based on the criteria of evaluation and on the experience of the management of the Oisin I and of other programmes, may also be useful to the applicants:

- the knock-on effect of projects will be evaluated according to the number of participants, their position and their capacity to disseminate the results of the project; a proper balance between participants of the Member State of origin and participants of other Member States and third countries will be an additional asset for the project,
- ambitious or long-term projects or those for which significant levels of financing is required should be accompanied by feasibility studies,
- the advantages which can result from very small projects, from the organisation of training periods or of exchanges involving a small number of participants will have to be duly justified,
- the level of preparation will be evaluated both objectively, according to the planning and organisation of the project, and subjectively, according to experience and to the applicant's reputation; account will be taken of the antecedents if the same organisation has already submitted other requests,
- any project with the aim of putting in place documentation networks or databases should indicate in detail its sources, the field of investigation, the methods followed, the frequency of the updates, the users of information etc.,
- research projects must be based on practical experience and aim to reach operational conclusions,

- seminars must be organised in partnership with other participants and have the strongest possible European dimension. They must take account of the results of work and of conferences on similar topics, in order to avoid duplication and to give a real added value. A detailed programme for seminars will have to be attached at the application. This programme should indicate the themes of the interventions, the participants' profiles, the names and qualities of the speakers or organisations contacted and the way in which these seminars form part of the activities and work programmes of the organiser,
- applicants are invited to examine with their partner organisations the possibility of complementary projects, in terms of contents or timetable, so as to mutually benefit the projects.

6. Actions and priorities for the year 2002

Priorities for the programme must be consistent with the political priorities of the European Union, as defined at the European Council of Tampere and specified in the scoreboard of the European Union (the text of the scoreboard is available on the Internet site of the Commission at the address:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/justice_home/pdf/com2000-167-fr.pdf).

The following priorities have been adopted for 2002.

A. Improvement of **police cooperation** in the following areas:

- training of the police officers of all levels,
- police methods and techniques, in particular in the field of community policing and relations between police services and private security companies,
- joint operations or exercises,
- criminal intelligence,
- the fight against certain forms of crime:
 - drugs trafficking,
 - terrorism,
 - urban violence and crime,
 - crime in the field of means of payment, and in particular in connection with the introduction of the euro,
 - environmental crime,
- use of technology in fighting crime,
- law and order,
- criminological analysis,

- participation of police forces in non-military crisis management, as regards selection, recruitment, training and equipment of police staff.

B. Improvement of **customs cooperation** in the following fields:

- development of best practice for customs controls (e.g. development of practical guides),
- joint operations or exercises,
- customs officers' training,
- implementation of the Naples II Convention with regard to the fight against crime,
- feasibility study on the creation of new computer databases in the field of customs (third pillar).

C. Improvement of **horizontal cooperation** between law enforcement authorities.

D. Specific projects and complementary measures

In order to achieve the objectives set out in Article 3(4) of the Decision, proposals for specific projects and complementary measures may also be submitted to the Commission by partners from the Member States in the fields described above.

In 2002, the Commission intends to undertake the following specific projects:

- a study on the priority areas/subjects for EU police cooperation in the next few years and how to bring cooperation forward in these areas in order to further improve the Union's effectiveness in the fight against crime,
- an examination of the obstacles which exist in Member States for the transmission of data from their law enforcement services to the law enforcement services of other Member States as well as ways to overcome such obstacles,
- improving cooperation between the customs administrations and police services in Member States.

The Commission therefore invites applicants to consider proposing projects in this field.

E. Candidate countries

Close attention will be paid to projects associating applicant countries. Like Oisin I, Oisin II will not be intended to provide funding to these countries since specific measures exist under Phare.

7. Submission of applications

Applications for grants must be sent no later than 30 April 2002 (the postmark being taken as proof) to the European Commission, Directorate-General for Justice and Home Affairs, for the attention of Mrs Laura Tarragona Sáez, LX 46, 4/146, B-1049 Brussels. Applications sent by express courier or delivered by hand must reach the European Commission, Service Courier, Rue de Genève 1, B-1140 Brussels, no later than 17.00 (Brussels time) on 30 April 2002.

Applications must be submitted using the application form in one of the 11 European Union languages; however, in order to facilitate examination of the file, applicants are asked, where possible and without their being under any obligation, to attach a summary of the project and its expected results in English or French.

Forms may be obtained by applying to the address above, by fax on (32-2) 299 63 50, by e-mail from JAI-OISIN@cec.eu.int, or by downloading the application forms from the website http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/jai/prog_en.htm. Note that the signed **original** application form must be submitted (not a fax followed by the original), together with **two copies** and detailed description of the project (**three copies in total**). Alterations to the form or the use of earlier versions of the form, etc., will disqualify the application.

A detailed budget in euro must be sent in with the application. The budget must show the expected overall cost, expenditure and revenue of the project. The aid requested may not exceed 70 % of the final cost, except in the case of specific projects and complementary measures, which may be wholly financed.

The amount of aid actually granted may be less than the amount requested. In other cases, it may be decided to grant aid only for part of the proposed action. It should be pointed out that most of the aid granted to date has covered 50 % to 60 % of project budgets. If the amount granted is less than that originally requested, the project organisers will be required to submit a revised budget estimate showing the new breakdown of the project's funding.

Important! Applications which do not comprise a detailed financial statement enabling expenditure to be correlated to the various items in the project will not be considered.

In summary, a valid application consists of:

- **the original application form, duly completed and signed,**
- **the description of the project,**
- **the planned budget with a detailed financial statement.**

The original and two copies of these documents must be sent to the Commission.

Beneficiaries are required to state in all advertising or published material that the project has received financial support under the Oisín II programme. They will be asked to send an evaluation form to all participants. They should allow on request a representative of the manager of the Oisín programme to attend any seminars or conferences.

Project organisers will be informed of the outcome of the assessment during August 2002.

Within three months of the completion of their project, they must submit a **final report** to the Directorate-General for Justice and Home Affairs, for the attention of Mrs Laura Tarragona Sáez, LX 46, 4/146, B-1049 Brussels, on the project, any obstacles encountered, the evaluation given by the participants, the results obtained, the dissemination of such results and the conclusions drawn; they should also submit a final **financial report**.

They will also be required to agree to make available to the Commission the results, presented in a form that is usable and suitable for their dissemination: manuals, publications, videos, software, Internet sites.