

**HERCULE III**  
**Call for proposals — 2014**  
**Legal Training and Studies**  
(2014/C 227/10)

### 1. Introduction and objectives

This notice of call for proposals is based on Regulation (EU) No 250/2014 establishing the Hercule III programme<sup>(1)</sup>, in particular Article 8(b) ('Eligible Actions'), as well as the Financing Decision 2014 adopting the annual work programme<sup>(2)</sup> for the implementation of the Hercule III programme in 2014, in particular section 7.2 (Legal Training and Studies).

The general objective of the Hercule III programme shall be to protect the financial interests of the Union thus enhancing the competitiveness of the Union's economy and ensuring the protection of the taxpayers' money as defined in Article 3 of the programme.

The objective of this call is to provide grants in particular to enhance the degree of development of the specific legal and judicial protection of the financial interests of the Union against fraud by promoting comparative law analysis.

The Commission (OLAF) will award grants for actions which have as objective:

- Developing high-profile research activities, including studies in comparative law;
- Improving the cooperation between practitioners and academics (through actions such as conferences, seminars and workshops), including the organisation of the annual meeting of the Presidents of the Associations for European Criminal Law and for the Protection of the EU Financial Interests;
- Raising the awareness of the judiciary and other branches of the legal profession for the protection of the financial interests of the Union, including the publication of scientific knowledge concerning the protection of the financial interests of the Union.

The actions can be achieved through the organisation of: studies in comparative law, conferences, seminars, workshops, periodical publications, etc.

### 2. Eligible applicants

As defined in Article 6 of the programme, applicants must be:

- National or regional administrations of a Member State and a participating country which promote the strengthening of action at Union level to protect the financial interests of the Union,
- or
- Research and educational institutes and non-profit-making entities provided that they have been established and have been operating for at least one year, in a Member State or a participating country, and promote the strengthening of action at Union level to protect the financial interests of the Union.

Article 7(2) of the programme defines the participating countries other than Member States.

### 3. Budget and duration of projects

The total budget earmarked for this call for proposals is estimated at EUR 550 000. The financial contribution will take the form of a grant. The financial contribution awarded will not exceed 80 % of the eligible costs. In exceptional and duly justified cases, the financial contribution may be increased to cover a maximum of 90 % of the eligible costs. The call lists the criteria that will be applied to determine these exceptional and duly justified cases.

<sup>(1)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 250/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 establishing a programme to promote activities in the field of the protection of the financial interests of the European Union (Hercule III programme) (OJ L 84, 20.3.2014, p. 6).

<sup>(2)</sup> Commission Decision concerning the adoption of the work programme for 2014 and the financing for the implementation of the Hercule III programme C(2014) 3391 of 26 May 2014.

The application must relate to a project starting on 1 December 2014 at the earliest and finishing on or before 1 December 2015 at the latest.

The Commission reserves the right not to allocate all the funds available.

#### 4. **Deadline**

Applications must be submitted to the Commission no later than:

**Monday, 8 September 2014.**

#### 5. **Further information**

The full text of the call for proposals, application form and related documents are available on the following website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/anti\\_fraud/about-us/funding/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/anti_fraud/about-us/funding/index_en.htm)

Applications must comply with the requirements set out in the above-mentioned texts and be submitted on the forms provided.

Question and/or requests for additional information in relation to this call have to be sent by e-mail to:

OLAF-FMB-HERCULE-LEGAL@ec.europa.eu

The questions and answers may be anonymously published in the Guidelines for filling in the Application Form on OLAF's internet website if they are relevant to other applicants.

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