

III

(Notices)

COMMISSION

Call for proposals

Programme of Community action on the prevention of AIDS and certain other communicable diseases (1996-2000)

(1999/C 127/07)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. BACKGROUND

The Commission is required to ensure the implementation of Decision No 647/96/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 March 1996 concerning the Programme of Community action on the prevention of AIDS and certain other communicable diseases (OJ L 95, 16.4.1996, p. 16). The programme covers a period of five years and has an overall budget of ECU 49,6 million. The actions envisaged by the Programme are described in detail in the Annex to the Decision. The following are listed under heading A, 'Surveillance and monitoring of communicable diseases':

Objective

To help to improve knowledge and dissemination of information and data concerning HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, taking into account international disease-classification provisions, and to improve the coordination of systems for monitoring these diseases and coordinating Community-level responses, particularly in the event of an epidemic outbreak.

Actions

1. Exploration with Member States of ways to increase the amount and improve the quality, comparability and availability of data and provide support for strengthening national or regional monitoring systems and implementing them as part of a network and, in the case of HIV/AIDS and connected diseases, support for the European Centre for the Epidemiological Monitoring of AIDS.
2. Contribution towards improving the quality and coordination of Member States' epidemiological monitoring systems and participation in the development of surveillance networks on the basis of the jointly-defined methodologies and conditions for data transmission, prior consultation and coordination of replies.
3. Setting up of a Community network of public health epidemiologists for the purpose of defining common

surveillance methods and tools and enhancing the ability to respond in a coordinated way to the development of communicable diseases, especially in the case of epidemic outbreaks.

4. Contributing, in particular by the provision of the logistical support necessary, to the production and dissemination of a regular information notice and of a Community bulletin on communicable diseases surveillance, comprising both routine surveillance data and reports on specific epidemiological investigations.
5. Encouraging action aimed at increasing awareness of the problems and including comparable and reliable data on nosocomial infections particularly in routine surveys of hospital conditions; promoting knowledge and exchanges of experience on the ways in which surveillance results concerning infections caused by germs resistant to normal treatment (antibiotics) are analysed, processed and used by the actors in the field.
6. Promotion of investigations of the effectiveness and feasibility of screening for certain types of communicable diseases (tuberculosis, hepatitis, etc.), in particular among pregnant women. Coordination of research to minimalise transmission of diseases from mother to child.

These actions constitute the reference framework for the selection of projects.

On 24 September 1998 the Council and the European Parliament adopted Decision No 2119/98/EC setting up a network for the surveillance and control of communicable diseases. This Decision defines a framework for the surveillance of all relevant communicable diseases at European level.

The provisions of Decision No 2119/98/EC constitute the reference framework for the selection of projects relevant to actions 1, 2 and 5. Only projects that contribute to the objectives of that Decision will be considered for financial support.

2. PURPOSE OF THIS CALL FOR PROPOSALS

With this call for proposals the Commission services are inviting project proposals from organisations active in the field concerned. The types of organisations eligible to submit proposals are defined in point 3. The types of projects eligible are defined in point 4. Interested organisations are invited to submit a funding application to the Commission services in accordance with the procedure described in point 6, bearing in mind the selection and funding criteria described in point 5.

The proposals selected will qualify for Community financial assistance.

3. ORGANISATIONS ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

A. Projects relevant to actions 1, 2 and 5 as described in point 1

Only proposals from organisations able to contribute to the objectives of Decision No 2119/98/EC will be eligible for funding. In particular, these organisations must be able and officially authorised to provide, process and analyse data transmitted in the framework of Decision No 2119/98/EC. The following specific criteria will be used to assess the eligibility of each project:

- All participating organisations/structures must have the scientific, technical and legal capacity necessary to fulfil their respective role in the project.
- Each participating organisation from a Member State must produce a written statement from the Government of that Member State authorising the organisation to act as national partner for the specific purposes of the project in question.

B. Projects relevant to actions 3, 4 and 6 as described in point 1

All organisations fulfilling the general requirement of Decision No 647/96/EC are eligible.

4. PROJECTS ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

A. Projects relevant to actions 1, 2 and 5 as described in point 1

Networks must be established by bringing into permanent communication with one another the Commission and those structures and/or authorities which, at the level of each Member State and under the responsibility of that Member State, are competent at national level and are charged with collecting information relating to the epidemiological surveillance of communicable diseases, and by establishing

procedures for the dissemination of the relevant surveillance data at Community level. Each project must establish a network dedicated to the surveillance of one or several of the diseases listed in the Annex to Decision No 2119/98/EC.

B. Projects relevant to actions 3, 4 and 6 as described in point 1

All projects fulfilling the general requirements of Decision No 647/96/EC are eligible.

5. CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION AND FUNDING OF PROJECTS

Selection of projects for funding under this Programme will be based on the following criteria:

1. The project must address one or more of the actions listed in point 1.
2. The participating organisations must fulfil the criteria set out in point 3.
3. In the case of actions 1, 2, 4 and 5, the project must include participants from all 15 Member States. In the case of actions 3 and 6, large-scale projects will generally be given priority.
4. In the case of actions 1, 2 and 5, the project participants must use the IDA-EUPHIN-HSSCD system for the internal transmission of data.
5. Account will be taken of the activities undertaken by other Commission services and by national and international organisations, in order to avoid any duplication.

6. PROCEDURE, DEADLINES AND SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Proposals must comply with the requirements set out below, otherwise they will not be considered for funding:

- they must be drawn up using the form obtainable from the address shown below;
- they must be submitted, in triplicate, by 15 June 1999 (as evidenced by the postmark) for projects commencing in 2000, to the following address:

European Commission
 Programme 'AIDS and other communicable diseases' —
 DG V/F/4
 Bâtiment Euroforum
 10, rue Robert Stumper
 L-2257 Luxembourg
 Fax (352) 43 01 332 48

Financial provisions

The following extract from the main financial provisions applying to projects is given for guidance:

1. After appropriate consultation and after selecting the projects, the Commission will determine the amount of financial assistance to be granted on the basis of the annual budget availability.
2. Projects are financed under the shared cost principle. If the amount granted by the Commission is lower than the financial support requested by the applicant, it is up to the applicant to find supplementary financing or to cut down on the total expenditure without diluting either the objectives or the content of the project.
3. The Commission grants a percentage of the estimated total cost of the project. If the actual expenditure is lower than the estimated total cost, the Commission's contribution will be reduced in proportion to the difference between the actual cost of the project and the estimated cost. If expenditure is higher than the

estimated total cost, the Commission will pay, at the most, the sum equivalent to the percentage granted on the basis of the initial budget annexed to the contract.

7. PRACTICAL INFORMATION

An information pack containing all the documents needed for submitting an application is available on written request (letter or fax) from the address shown in point 6.

The information pack contains:

- Decision No 647/96/EC (published in OJ L 95, 16.4.1996, p. 16),
- Decision NO 2119/98/EC (published in OJ L 268, 3.10.1998, p. 1),
- the rules, criteria and procedures for the selection and financing of projects,
- the application form, along with a summary sheet;

together with other relevant information.
