

# **NGO operating grants for 2012 under the Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE+) - Call for the submission of proposals from European non-governmental organisations primarily active in the field of environmental protection**

## **Legal Basis**

Under the terms of Regulation (EC) No. 614/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 May 2007 concerning the Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE+ Regulation) the Commission invites European non-governmental organisations, which are primarily active in the field of environmental protection, to present proposals with a view to obtaining a financial contribution for their operation.

## **Description**

Contributions would be towards the costs that European environmental NGOs have to bear in carrying out the activities provided for in their 2012 annual work programme. Applicant organisations should be operating at a European level either singly or in the form of several co-ordinated associations with a structure (membership base) and activities covering at least three EU Member States. Activities and membership base should primarily be at a European level and not at international level.

The Programme will be open to the participation of European NGOs established (legally registered) in EU27.

Organisations should have been legally constituted for more than 2 years and have had its annual statement of accounts for the two preceding years certified by a registered auditor.

## **Objectives**

Financial assistance under this Call for Proposals may be provided for activities which involve contributing to the implementation and development of EU environmental policy and legislation.

Proposals will be assessed on policy relevance and potential impact of involvement in EU environmental policy-shaping and implementation, in relation to the following priority areas:

- Climate Change
- Nature and Biodiversity
- Environment and Health
- Natural Resources and Waste
- Horizontal or cross-cutting issues (such as standardisation)

Awareness raising and international aspects will also be assessed.

When awarding grants, the Commission will also pay due attention to how the grant would contribute to the organisational development of the beneficiary.

### **Budget and eligibility criteria**

The indicative available budget for this call for proposals is EUR 9.000.000.

This call for proposals is launched pending the approval of the corresponding appropriations by the budgetary authority. As a consequence, the Commission reserves itself the right to abandon this call for proposals or to modify its amount, without the applicants being entitled to claim any compensation.

The Programme is a co-financing instrument. The rate of overall EU assistance shall not exceed 70 % of the applicant's eligible expenses for the grant year.

The period of eligibility of expenditure may start on 1 January 2012, provided that the expenditure does not precede the date on which the beneficiary's budget year starts.

The amount of a grant will only become final once the audited financial statement of the beneficiary has been accepted by the Commission.

Beneficiaries will be selected on the basis of the criteria set out in the Grant application guide relating to this Call for Proposals and within the limits of the available budget.

The procedure for the appraisal of a request is as follows:

- receipt, recording and acknowledgement of receipt by the Commission,
- examination by the services of the Commission,
- formulation of the final decision and communication of the result to the applicant.

The decision of the Commission is final.

### **Information on the application**

The Grant application guide relating to this Call for Proposals which sets out the admissibility, eligibility, exclusion, selection and award criteria and the application, assessment and approval procedure, can be downloaded from the Commission web site at the following address: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ngos/how\\_to\\_apply.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ngos/how_to_apply.htm)

It may alternatively be obtained by applying in writing to the following address:

European Commission

DG ENV E.4

B-1049 Brussels

Fax (00) (32-2) 297 96 93

Email: [env-ngo@ec.europa.eu](mailto:env-ngo@ec.europa.eu)

### **Deadline for submitting applications**

Proposals must be submitted by 5 December 2011 at the latest.