



**Ministry of Economy
and Finance**

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE

**Authority for Coordination of Structural Instruments
The National Focal Point for the EEA Financial Mechanism**

**Announces a call for proposals for the submission of applications for individual projects in the
framework of the EEA Financial Mechanism**

1. OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the EEA Financial Mechanism is to support economic and social development of Romania as a member of the European Economic Area in line with the national priorities and the agreements with the EU.

2. ASSISTANCE FORM AND AMOUNTS

The assistance under the financial mechanism is provided in the form of grants for eligible individual projects. The total amount available for the present Call for proposals is **EUR 40,500,000**.

The amount of grant assistance applied for shall not be less than EUR 250,000. The maximum amounts of grant assistance for an individual project, under each priority sector, are specified in the Applicants' Guide.

3. PRIORITY SECTORS

Grants shall be available for projects falling within the priority sectors shown below and within the specified focus areas under each priority sector. An application should relate to only one priority sector and only one focus area.

Priority sector no. 1: Protection of the environment, including the human environment, through, inter alia, the reduction of pollution and the promotion of renewable energy

Total indicative budget available under this priority sector is **EUR 13,900,000**.

Focus areas:

- Supporting biodiversity and nature reserves, including sustainable use of water resources;
- Monitoring systems for ground water, waste water and air pollution;
- Reducing water pollution from mining activities;
- Developing sustainable waste water collection and promoting recycling systems;

- Enhancing flood prevention;
- Strengthening integrated coastal area management;
- Developing renewable energy sources, including geothermal energy and hydropower.

Priority sector no. 2: Human resource development through, inter alia, promotion of education and training, strengthening of administrative or public service capacities of local government or its institutions and the democratic processes that support it

Total indicative budget available under this priority sector is **EUR 5,000,000**.

Focus areas:

- Enhancing the administrative capacity of central and local public authorities, including for integrated development planning and the use of information technology;
- Developing tools and databases for territorial planning;
- Promoting the social dialogue;
- Enhancing competence building in the justice and home affairs sector;
- Enhancing attractiveness, access and participation to vocational education and training.

Priority sector no. 3: Health and childcare

Total indicative budget available under this priority sector is **EUR 10,800,000**.

Focus areas:

- Supporting children at risk;
- Rehabilitating buildings, modernisation of equipment and managerial systems;
- Implementing preventive measures to promote a healthy lifestyle;
- Preventing and improving treatment of communicable diseases (HIV/AIDS and TB).

Priority sector no. 4: Conservation of European cultural heritage, including public transport and urban renewal

Total indicative budget available under this priority sector is **EUR 10,800,000**.

Focus area:

- Conservation of European cultural heritage.

All applications have to reflect the EEA Financial Mechanism's horizontal priorities of sustainable development, gender equality and good governance, as set out in the Good Governance Policy and Guide, Gender Equality Policy and Guide and the Sustainable Development Policy and Guide available in English on www.eeagrants.org and www.fonduri-ue.ro/eeagrants.

4. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Under this call for proposals, eligible applicants are public or private sector bodies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) constituted as legal entities in Romania and operating in the public interest - e.g. national, regional and local authorities, education/research institutions, environmental bodies, voluntary and community organisations and public-private partnerships. The categories of eligible applicants for each focus area are specified in the Applicants' Guide. Projects that involve partners from the EEA EFTA states (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) are encouraged.

5. GRANT RATES

The grant rate will be determined on a case-by-case basis, as the minimum necessary to allow the project to proceed:

- a. Grant rate up to 60%; with the exceptions referred to in subparagraphs (b) and (c) below, the grant rate shall not exceed 60% of the total eligible project cost;
- b. Grant rate up to 85% of the total project eligible costs could be provided to individual projects, for which 15% or more of the project costs, are co-financed by central, regional or local government budget allocations;
- c. For grant assistance set up to support NGO activities (including social partners), grant rates above those described above, but generally not above 90%, could be provided.

Should an individual project be subject to state aid, the maximum grant rate will not exceed the maximum state aid intensity allowed under the applicable state aid regime.

6. PROCEDURE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS – FORMAL REQUIREMENTS

1. The applicants shall fill in an Application Form in accordance with the requirements of the Applicants' Guide. The Application Form and the Applicants' Guide are available on www.fonduri-ue.ro/eeagrants.
2. Supporting documents which are relevant to the priority sectors / focus areas and type of projects shall be attached to the application. The list of the necessary supporting documents is foreseen in the Applicants' Guide.
3. The application (including supporting documents) shall be submitted in English in 3 hard copies (1 original and 2 copies), as well as in 3 copies in electronic format (CDs), which shall be identical to the hard copy.
4. The envelope containing the application shall be marked "EEA Financial Mechanism Application – call for proposals 2008", with the inscription "DO NOT OPEN".

7. DEADLINE AND ADDRESS FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications shall be submitted in a sealed, intact envelope/box as letter/package by registered or express mail, by courier or in person to the address indicated below:

Ministry of Economy and Finance

Authority for Coordination of Structural Instruments

44 Mircea Vodă Blvd., M17 Block, Entrance C, Sector 3, Bucharest, Romania

Applications sent by any other means (e.g. by fax or by e-mail) or delivered at other addresses will be rejected.

The deadline for submission of applications is: **13 June 2008 (3 p.m.)**.

In case the applications are sent by post, the latest acceptable post mark is on closing date of this call.

8. REFERENCE DOCUMENTATION FOR THE PRESENT CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The main reference documentation for the present call for proposals is as follows:

- Memorandum of Understanding on the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism in Romania
- Rules and Procedures of the EEA Financial Mechanism
- Application Form
- Applicants' Guide

The above documentation can be found at: www.fonduri-ue.ro/eeagrants.

Additional documentation on the EEA Financial Mechanism is also available on the web site of the EEA Financial Mechanism Office: www.eeagrants.org.

9. EURO EXCHANGE RATE

For the purpose of calculation of the financial amounts, the exchange rate to be used in the case of applications is EUR 1.0 = RON 3.51

10. CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information and clarifications you can contact the National Focal Point.

Questions may be sent by e-mail or by fax to the contacts below, but not later than 10 days before the deadline for the receipt of applications. A reply will be sent within 5 working days.

NATIONAL FOCAL POINT IN ROMANIA

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