



CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS N° 1/09

SELECTION OF ORDINARY PROJECTS



Art. 1 – Objective of the Call

This call for project proposals is aimed at the selection of ordinary projects which efficiently contribute to the attainment of the general objective of the OP Italy-Malta 2007-2013: “Strengthening the attractiveness and the competitiveness of the cross-border area, within a framework of environmental sustainability”. The selected projects will be eligible for financing at a co-financing rate of 85% (ERDF).

The projects must necessarily fall within one of the specific objectives foreseen in Priority Axis I and II:

AXIS I - Competitiveness: Research and Innovation; Sustainable Development

Specific Objectives Axis I: 1.1. Supporting research and innovation in order to promote sustainable development paths; 1.2. Improving cross-border accessibility and reinforcing transport systems that are more environmentally friendly; 1.3. Contributing to the improvement of the integrated tourist offer in the cross-border area; 1.4. Contributing to the strengthening of cross-border institutional partnership in the areas identified under Priority Axis I.

AXIS II - Environment, Energy and Risk Prevention

Specific Objectives Axis II: 2.1 Contributing to the protection of the environment through the safeguarding, valorisation and monitoring of natural resources; 2.2. Contributing to the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency; 2.3. Promoting joint actions in the sphere of prevention of risks resulting from both natural and human causes; 2.4. Contributing to the strengthening of cross-border institutional partnership in the areas identified under Priority Axis II.

Each project proposal may respond exclusively to only one of the specific objectives cited above.

More detail with regard to eligible actions can be found in Art. 6 of this same call for project proposals.

Art. 2 – Ordinary Project Characteristics

Every project proposal must respect the following requirements:

1. be executed by at least three partners, of which at least one is Italian and another one is Maltese;
2. satisfy at least two of the requirements of Art. 19 of Regulation (EC) n. 1080/2006: joint development, joint execution, joint personnel, joint financing;
3. have a total project allocation between a minimum of €300,000 and a maximum of €1,500,000;
4. have a high cross-border characteristic both in reference to the objectives of the activities as well as the composition of the partnership;
5. have a maximum duration of 24 months.

Art. 3 – Available funds and co-financing quotas

The total available funds of the present Call for proposals amount to **€15.000.000**, distributed between Axis I (€7,819,149) and Axis II (€7,180,851) as indicated below:

Axis	%	ERDF	Total (ERDF+CO-FIN)
Axis I – COMPETITIVENESS: Innovation and Research; Sustainable Development		6,646,277	7,819,149
Specific objective 1.1	20.74%	2,644,947	3,111,702
Priority themes	Expense categories		
<i>Research and Technological Development (RTD), innovation and Entrepreneurship</i>	<i>01 - RTD activities in research centres</i>		
	<i>02 - RTD infrastructure (incl. physical plant, instrumentation and high speed computer networks linking research centres) and centres for competence in a specific technology</i>		
	<i>03 – Technology transfer and improvement of cooperation networks between small businesses (SMEs), between these and other businesses and universities, post-secondary education establishments of all kinds, regional authorities, research centres and scientific and technological poles (scientific and technological parks, technopoles, etc.)</i>		
<i>Information Society</i>	<i>14 – Services and applications for SMEs (e-commerce, education and training, creation of networks, etc.)</i>		
<i>Increasing the adaptability of workers and firms, enterprises and entrepreneurs</i>	<i>63 – Design and dissemination of innovative and more productive ways of organising work</i>		
Specific objectives 1.2	10,11%	1.288.564	1.515.957
Priority Themes	expense categories		
<i>Transport</i>	<i>26 - Multimodal transports</i>		
	<i>30 - Ports</i>		
<i>Environmental protection and risk prevention</i>	<i>52 – Promotion of clean urban transport</i>		
<i>Information Society</i>	<i>11 – Information and Communication Technology (ICT) (access, security, interoperability, risk prevention, research, innovation, digital contents, etc.)</i>		
Specific objective 1.3	15,96%	2.034.574	2.393.617
Priority Themes	expense categories		
<i>Information Society</i>	<i>13 – Services and applications for the citizen (e-health, e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, etc.)</i>		
<i>Tourism</i>	<i>55 – Promotion of natural assets</i>		
	<i>56 – Protection and development of natural heritage</i>		
<i>Culture</i>	<i>58 – Protection and preservation of cultural heritage</i>		
Specific Objective 1.4	5,32%	678.191	797.872
Priority Themes	expense categories		
<i>Improving human capital</i>	<i>74 – Developing human potential in the field of research and innovation, in particular through post-graduate studies and training of researchers, and networking activities between universities, research centres and businesses</i>		
<i>Mobilisation for reforms in the fields of employment and inclusion</i>	<i>80 – Promoting partnerships, pacts and initiatives through the networking of relevant stakeholders</i>		
Axis II: Environment, Energy and Risk Prevention		6.103.723	7.180.851
Specific Objective 2.1	10,64%	1.356.383	1.595.745
Priority Themes	expense categories		
<i>Environmental protection and risk prevention</i>	<i>45 – Management and distribution of water (drinking water)</i>		
	<i>46 – Water treatment (waste water)</i>		
	<i>48 – Integrated prevention and control of pollution</i>		
	<i>51 – Promotion of biodiversity and nature protection (including Natura 2000)</i>		

Specific Objective 2.2		23,40%	2.984.043	3.510.638
Priority Themes	expense categories			
Energy	40 – Renewable energy: solar			
	43 - Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy management			
Specific Objective 2.3		11,70%	1.492.021	1.755.319
Priority Themes	expense categories			
Environmental Protection and Risk Prevention	44 – Management of household and industrial waste			
	53 – Risk prevention (including the drafting and implementation of plans and measures to prevent and manage natural and technological risks)			
	54 – Other measures to preserve the environment and prevent risks			
Specific Objective 2.4		2,13%	271.277	319.149
Priority Themes	expense categories			
Strengthening Institutional Capacity at National, Regional and Local Level	81- Mechanisms for improving good policy programme design, monitoring and evaluation at national, regional and local level, capacity-building in the delivery of policies and programmes			

The project proposals must indicate, in line with the previous Art. 1, the priority axis, the specific objective and the priority theme/s referred to, coherent with the eligible action as identified in the following Art. 6.

The coverage of the budget will be guaranteed by Community co-financing as identified in ERDF, equivalent to 85%, and by the National Co-financing for the remaining 15%. Therefore, every project partner must guarantee their co-financing quota of 15% through a co-financing statement which forms part of the application form.

For the Italian partners, following *Deliberazione CIPE* n. 36 of June 15, 2007, the financial coverage of the 15% quota of the Public National Co-financing is entirely assumed by the rotating Fund ex L. n. 183/1987 and is guaranteed by the *Ministero dell'Economia e Finanze – Ispettorato Generale per i Rapporti finanziari con l'Unione Europea (IGRUE)*. Therefore, the Italian partners must declare that the PNC will be covered by national funds ex *Delibera CIPE* as mentioned above (“Co-financing statements for partners and Lead Partner” found in the project presentation kit);

For the public Maltese partners the national co-financing may also be guaranteed through the commitment of internal personnel costs.

In the case of participation of economic operators, as defined by the regulations regarding that sector, these subjects are eligible for financing according to the regulation of the *DE MINIMIS* regime (Regulation (EC) n. 1998/2006/EC), especially with regard to the application of the maximum limits of eligible public contributions.

Art. 4 – Eligible Programme Areas

The eligible area of the OP refers to the part of the NUTS III territories which may benefit from the ERDF public contribution. The eligible areas of the Cross-border Cooperation Programme Italy-Malta 2007-2013 are the following:

I. NUTS III areas which enjoy physical proximity (eligible for financing in terms of article 7(1) of Reg. EC/1083/2006):

For Italy: the provinces of Agrigento, Caltanissetta, Ragusa, Siracusa and Trapani.

For Malta: the entire state of Malta (including the islands of Gozo and Comino).

II. Adjacent NUTS III Areas (eligible for financing in terms of article 21(1) of Reg. EC/1080/2006)

The provinces of Catania and Palermo up to a maximum of 20% of the ERDF.

With regard to the method of calculating the ERDF quota which falls into the NUTS III zones of Catania and Palermo, refer to the paragraph 2.3.6 of the OP Manual.

In the case in which a Lead Partner comes from territories adjacent to the programme, his budget must amount to a maximum of 20% of the ERDF resources available for the project. That limit may be exceeded, and in such a case, up to 45%, only in those cases in which there is the intention of availing oneself of the regulation concerning the localization of activities, as set in paragraph 2.3.6 of the OP Manual.

Art. 5 – List of Beneficiaries

According to the Operational Programme, the list of eligible beneficiaries for each priority axis is as follows:

Priority Axis 1: Central and Local Public Administrations and Bodies, Universities, Centres and Research Consortia, Management entities of protected areas, Airport and Maritime Authorities, Public and Private Tourist Operators, Organisations of SME's.

Priority Axis 2: Central and Local Public Administrations and Bodies, Universities, Centres and Research Consortia, Management entities of protected areas, Airport and Maritime Authorities, Consortia and Local Development agencies.

Regarding the legal status of the partners and of the Lead Partner, interested in participating in this Call, please refer to paragraph 2.3.2 of the OP Manual.

Art. 6 – Selection criteria and procedures, and list of eligible actions

The selection of projects will be carried out with respect to the above mentioned regulations.

The selection criteria and the relative eligible actions for the present Call are those found in paragraph 3.2 of the OP Manual.

Attachment A shows the analytic evaluation chart which measures the quality of the project with an indication of the sub criteria to be used.

In line with the provisions in the OP Manual, more specifically paragraph 3.2.2 which refers to the criteria of transversal evaluation, points are rewarded to projects which promote initiatives in the areas of environmental policies and equal opportunities. For the former, refer directly to the above mentioned paragraph (3.2.2), whilst for the latter (policies of equal opportunities) refer to the following list of reward criteria as proposed by the Programme representatives for equal opportunities in the sphere of the Executive Committee:

1. Specific action which removes stumbling blocks and hidden barriers to participation, including ensuring that all aspects of the project are effectively accessible and made available to all groups which are at risk of discrimination (age, race/ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion);
2. Awareness raising concerning the promotion of equal opportunities and social inclusion or committing to ensuring that any campaigns planned would be free from stereotypes.

With relation to the projects which focus on the above mentioned areas (environment and equal opportunity), a maximum of 3 points shall be assigned for each area, up to a maximum of 6 concurrent points on a total score of 100 points.

It is important to note that those project proposals that attain a score below the **45/100** point threshold, in line with letter d) of paragraph 3.1.1 of the OP Manual (which also reflects the selection criteria as approved by the MC), shall be rejected.

Art. 7 – Eligible Expenditure

For guidelines relating to eligible expenditure, refer to Chapter 5 of the OP Manual which defines eligibility in conformity with the applicable regional, national and Community regulations.

Art. 8 – Methodology for the presentation of the project proposals

This present call for project proposals will be published in the GURS of the Sicilian Region and advertised in the Malta Government Gazette and the principle programme websites. Following this publication the Lead Partners are invited to send their application form (AF) with all the relevant documentation by registered post, courier service, or by hand, ensuring that the AF arrives at the MA by the closing deadline of 2,00 p.m. of March 31, 2010.

In cases in which the AF is delivered by registered post, courier service, or by hand, the date of postmark established by the competent Protocol Office of the Regional Programme Department will be the only acceptable proof of date.

The Lead Partner must ensure that the envelope/package containing the AF is properly closed, sealed and countersigned on the flaps, and upon which the following wording must be written: **Programma Operativo Italia-Malta 2007-2013 (CCI: 2007 CB 163 PO 037) Bando pubblico n. 01/09 per la selezione di progetti ordinari obiettivo specifico– NON APRIRE.** The LP needs to insert the specific objective referred to in the submitted proposal, and send it to the following address:

Presidenza della Regione Siciliana

Dipartimento Regionale della Programmazione

Autorità di Gestione Unica del Programma Operativo Italia-Malta 2007-2013

Servizio X per la Cooperazione Territoriale Europea e la cooperazione decentrata

P.zza Sturzo, 36 – 90100 PALERMO

The envelope/package must contain the following documents:

1. **Application Form** (word and excel part) in three copies, duly compiled in all its sections, signed and stamped by the legal representative of the Lead Partner who is responsible of the completion and transmission of same;
2. **Letter of intent and co-financing of Lead Partner** duly signed and stamped by the legal representative of the Lead Partner of the proposed project;
3. **Letter of intent and co-financing of partner** duly signed and stamped by the legal representative of each participating partner of the proposed project;
4. A signed copy (front and back) of a **valid identity document** of the legal representative of the Lead Partner and of each partner in the project;
5. **Formal administrative act issued by the competent deliberative body** of the institutional structure of the Lead Partner approving the project proposal and indicating the total budget allocation;
6. Any necessary **permits or authorizations** giving evidence of the maturity status of the proposed project;
7. Where necessary, **the co-financing authorisation** issued by PPCD for Maltese partners;
8. **Check list** duly compiled and signed by the Lead Partner;
9. **CD-ROM** containing both a scanned and an electronic version of the documentation listed in this article.

Those entities/organisations that are not public entities as defined in paragraph 2.3.2 of the OP Manual, must submit the herewith specified additional documentation:

10. Statute of the Organization (certified copy);

11. Last two approved budgets of the organization.

In the event of participation of private partners it is necessary to include, in addition to the above mentioned documents, the following documentation:

12. **Letter of intent of private Maltese partner**, duly signed and stamped by the legal representative of the private partner participating in the proposed project;
13. **Letter of co-financing of private Maltese partner**, duly signed and stamped by the legal representative of the public Maltese partner who will guarantee the participation of the private partner;
14. **De MINIMIS** declaration duly signed and stamped by the legal representative of the private economic operator requesting the contribution.

In the event that the project does not include all of the detailed documentation listed above, including the CD-ROM as described in point 9, the application shall be rejected.

Regarding the documents mentioned in points 3, 11 and 12, please note that copies can be submitted by the Lead Partner by the set deadline whilst the originals of the same documents must then reach the MA by not later than fifteen (15) days from the expiration date of the Call for project proposals. Failure to comply with this procedure will result in the exclusion of the proposal. Please note that regarding the expiration date, only the date of postmark established by the competent Protocol Office of the Regional Programme Department will be the only acceptable proof of date.

Further information and/or clarifications will be published on the Programme website www.italiamalta.eu, and on www.ppcd.gov.mt and www.euroinfosicilia.it.

Art. 9 – Procedure Timetable

The entire procedure, from the publication of the Call for project proposals, to the publication of the final ranking list lasts 6 months.

The Lead Partners of the projects deemed admissible for financing, have two months at their disposal from the date of receipt of the registered letter of notification of admission to the financing of the project to produce the following documents, according to the outlines furnished by the MA:

- ✓ Subsidy Contract;
- ✓ Joint Convention among the partners;
- ✓ Down-payment request, amounting to 20% of the ERDF contribution, along with bank details for crediting (bank name, current account, ABI and CAB codes for Italy, IBAN and SWIFT code for Malta).

If, within the above mentioned deadline, the Lead Partner does not transmit these requested documents, the MA will revoke the financing granted and proceed to admit for financing the next proposal in the ranking list.

Art. 10 – Information on Data Protection

Beneficiaries are obliged to execute the project in conformity with the provisions of the present Call for project proposals, of existing European, National and Regional regulations, with particular reference to the legislation governing Structural Funds, Public Procurement, State Aid, Environmental protection, Equal Opportunities and non-discrimination, Publicity and Information.

According to letter d) of article 7 of Regulation (EC) n. 1828/2006, the list of beneficiaries admitted for financing in the sphere of the Programme, reference to the approved projects and the amount of public funds granted are subject to publication on the Programme website: www.italiamalta.eu.

All data presented in the submitted project proposals which can be used in investigation, is to be treated by the respective Programming Department in conformity with the data protection acts and may be disclosed to any organizations having the right to that information according to D. Lgs. n. 196/2003 for reasons connected to monitoring and statistics regarding the use of structural funds.

Art. 11 –Contacts

The responsible person for this call for project proposals is Dott.ssa Lucia Di Fatta - *Dirigente UOB II – Servizio V per la Cooperazione Territoriale Europea e per la Cooperazione Decentrata allo Sviluppo* lucia.difatta@regione.sicilia.it tel.: (+39) 091 7070059.

Programme Authority Contacts:

MANAGING AUTHORITY

Presidenza della Regione Siciliana

Dipartimento regionale della Programmazione

P.za Sturzo, 36 – 90139 Palermo

Tel.: (+39) 091.7070013/032

Fax: (+39) 091.7070273

Email: dipartimento.programmazione@regione.sicilia.it

Website: <http://www.regione.sicilia.it/Presidenza/programmazione/>

Dott. Antonio Piceno apiceno@regione.sicilia.it

Dott.ssa Lucia Di Fatta lucia.difatta@regione.sicilia.it.

Dott. Fabio La Mantia gaetano.lamantia@regione.sicilia.it

Dott.ssa Enza Verro enza.verro@regione.sicilia.it

JOINT TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

P.za Sturzo, 36 – 90139 Palermo

Tel.: (+39) 091.7070243/066

Fax: (+39) 091.7070054

Email: stc.italia-malta@regione.sicilia.it

Dott. Marco Sambataro marco.sambataro@regione.sicilia.it

Dott.ssa Sebastiana Iany Guastella iany.guastella@regione.sicilia.it

MALTESE NATIONAL COORDINATION AUTHORITY

Office of the Prime Minister – Planning and Priorities Coordination Division

12, St. Paul Str. Valletta VLT 1210 Malta

Tel.: 00356 22001142

Fax: 00356 22001141

Email: info.ppcd@gov.mt

Website: www.ppcd.gov.mt

Ms Marlene Bonnici

Mr Stephen Calleja

Mr Aldo Formosa

Mr Lorenzo Vella

Art. 12 – Disputes

For any disputes arising among the parties regarding the application of the financing derived from the present procedure, it is confirmed that the Court of Palermo has legal jurisdiction.

Art. 13 –Applicable Regulations and relevant attachments

The beneficiaries and participants in this call for project proposals are deemed to be knowledgeable of the regulations and dispositions referred to in this present procedure and which are necessary for the proper implementation of the projects themselves.

The following attachments listed in Annexes A and B, form an integral part of the present call for project proposals:

1. OP Manual
2. Application Form (word and excel)
3. Guideline for the compilation of the AF
4. Letter of intent and co-financing partner
5. Letter of intent and co-financing Lead Partner
6. Lettera of intent private Maltese partner
7. Letter of co-financing private Maltese partner
8. De MINIMIS declaration
9. Check list
10. Selection Criteria for Ordinary Projects – detailed sub criteria

Managing Authority
Felice Bonanno
signed