

A Guide to
EU Funding Programmes
for Tourism Stakeholders

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prepared for

DG Enterprise & Industry

by

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Glossary

ACP	Africa, Caribbean and Pacific
CAST	Coastal Actions on Sustainable Tourism
CBC	Cross-Border Cooperation
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy
CIP	Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme
CORDIS	Community Research and Development Information Service
COSME	Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium Enterprises
CSG	Community Strategic Guidelines
DCI	Development Cooperation Instrument
EACI	Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation
EACEA	Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
ECF	European Cohesion Fund
ECOC	European Capitals of Culture
EDEN	European Destinations of Excellence
EDF	European Development Fund
EEE-F	European Energy Efficiency Fund
EEPR	European Energy Programme for Recovery
EFF	European Fisheries Fund
EIB	European Investment Bank
EIF	European Investment Fund
EIP	Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme
ELENA	European Local Energy Assistance
EMFF	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
ENPI	European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESF	European Social Fund
EURES	European Employment Services
FLAG	Fisheries Local Action Group
FP7	Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development

GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIF	High Growth and Innovative SME Facility (under EIP)
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HORECA	Hotel, Restaurant and Catering Sector
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
ICT-PSP	Information Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme
IEE	Intelligent Energy Europe Programme
IMP	Integrated Maritime Policy
INTERREG	Interregional Cooperation (part of ERDF)
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
LAG	Local Action Groups
LEADER	Promoting the Implementation of Local Development Strategies (Axis 4 of EAFRD)
LIFE+	Fund for Environmental and Nature Conservation Projects
LLP	Lifelong Learning Programme
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRN	National Rural Network
NRDP	National Rural Development Programme
NSRF	National Strategic Reference Framework
OCT	Overseas Countries and Territories
Ops	Operational Programmes
PROGRESS	Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity
PSCI	Programme for Social Change and Innovation
SCF	Strategic Coherence Framework
SMEG	SME Guarantee Facility (under EIP)
SMEs	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
TEN-T	Trans-European Transport Networks
URBAN	Transnational Cooperation (part of ERDF)

Introduction

Background

The tourism sector encompasses a diverse range of stakeholders, from governments and public sector agencies to companies, private sector associations, multilateral and intergovernmental organisations and non-profit organisations.

In the twenty first century, the European tourism industry has remained strong in the face of many challenges, such as the economic crisis and adverse weather events, but competition is expected to grow as a result of increased globalisation and a greater variety of destinations.

The Treaty of Lisbon has introduced a new competence for the EU to support, complement and coordinate Member States' action in the field of tourism. There is therefore scope for a more coherent approach between all European institutions, as well as stakeholders to address the current policy challenges for tourism.

Support for tourism stakeholders can come in many shapes and forms. Tourism stakeholders can benefit from EU funding programmes, either directly, via co-financing of projects, or indirectly, via studies or research, surveys, etc. carried out by the Commission through calls for tender specific to the tourism sector. But, in addition to tourism earmarked financial resources, tourism activities and projects can be funded under different EU financial instruments. This will depend on their focus and funding will be given on the condition that the objectives of the project match the different objectives and requirements specific to those financial programmes.

The consultation undertaken for this study¹ has indicated that access to funding continues to be a challenge for the sector and greater clarity about the different funding programmes would be welcome by the relevant stakeholders. The Commission has commissioned this Guide in order to help to meet this need.

About this Guide

This document is intended to provide a practical map and guide to EU financial instruments for use by the tourism sector's public and private stakeholders in order to identify and access sources of funding. The Guide is divided into two sections:

Section 1 – Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2007-2013 - provides a summary of the key funding programmes within the Multiannual Financial Framework 2007-2013, which could be used by the tourism stakeholders considered within the scope of this study up to 2013 (although implementation of some of the specific projects can go beyond 2013).

¹ Although this Guide does not present the views of stakeholders consulted in the course of this study, the accompanying Volume 1 to this Report incorporates, amongst others, the views that stakeholders shared during the consultation.

Section 2 - Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 - lists proposals for some new funding programmes for the period 2014-2020 that could potentially be available for tourism stakeholders for specific projects from 2014 onwards.

Both financial frameworks cover similar areas of expenditure, although with some slight modifications. New funding programmes have been added as from 2014 under different headings and other programmes from the 2007-2013 Framework have been consolidated. For instance, in 2014-2020 Erasmus for All will replace seven programmes under the 2007-2013 Framework: the existing Lifelong Learning Programme, Youth in Action, and five international cooperation programmes (Erasmus Mundus, Tempus, Alfa, Edulink and the Programme for Cooperation with Industrialised Countries). Similarly, Horizon 2020 will combine the 7th Framework Programme for Research and the innovation related activities of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP).

The following Table sets out the different funding programmes by MFF and by area.

	MFF 2007-2013	MFF 2014-2020
Cohesion	Structural funds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Cohesion Fund • European Social Fund • European Regional Development Fund 	Structural funds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Cohesion Fund • European Social Fund • European Regional Development Fund • European Globalisation Adjustment Fund*
Agriculture & Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) • LIFE+ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development • LIFE+
Research, Innovation and Competitiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme ➢ Information Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme ➢ Intelligent Energy Europe Programme • Seventh Framework Programme for Research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs (COSME) 2014-2020 • Horizon 2020 - Framework Programme for Research and Innovation • Connecting Europe Facility • Galileo and EGNOS programmes • European Earth Monitoring Programme
Culture and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Culture Programme • Lifelong Learning Programme • Youth in Action Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative Europe Programme • Erasmus for All Programme
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PROGRESS • European PROGRESS Microfinance Facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme for Social Change and Innovation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ PROGRESS Programme ➢ PROGRESS Microfinance ➢ EURES
Marine and Fisheries Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Fisheries Fund • Programme to Support the Further Development of an Integrated Marine Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

External Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance 	External Action Instruments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-accession instrument European Neighbourhood Instrument Development Cooperation Instrument Partnership Instrument Instrument for Stability European Instrument for Democracy & Human Rights Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation Instrument for Greenland European Development Fund
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument Instrument for Stability Development Cooperation Instrument European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights Nuclear Safety Cooperation Instrument European Development Fund (outside EU budget) 	
Financial Instruments	Europe 2020 Project Bonds 2012-2013	Europe 2020 Project Bonds
Health and consumers*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consumer Programme 2007-2013 Health Programme 2008-2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consumer Programme 2014-2020 Health for Growth Programme
Justice and Home affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil Justice, Criminal Justice, Drug Prevention and Information Programmes Fundamental Rights and Citizenship, Daphne III Programmes European Refugee Fund, European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals, European Return Fund Prevention and Fight against Crime Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Justice Programme 2014-2020 Rights and Citizenship Programme 2014-2020 Asylum and Migration Fund Internal Security Fund
Citizens	Europe for Citizens Programme 2007-2013	Europe for Citizens Programme 2014-2020*
Civil Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Civil Protection Mechanism Civil Protection Financial Instrument 	Union Civil Protection Mechanism
Anti-Fraud	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hercule II Programme Pericles 2007-2013 	OLAF's Anti-Fraud Community Programmes: Hercule III and Pericles 2020*
Statistical Programme	Community Statistical Programme 2008-2012	European Statistical Programme 2013-2017
Custom Union and Taxation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customs 2013 Fiscalis 2013 	FISCUS Programme 2014-2020
<p>Please note, that for the purpose of this study the funding programmes are grouped under two Multiannual Financial Frameworks, 2007 – 2013 and 2014 – 2020. The descriptions of funding programmes under the Multiannual Financial Framework 2007 – 2013 focus only on those that are the most relevant for tourism stakeholders. The areas in grey list programmes under the Multiannual Financial Framework 2007 – 2013 that are not described in this guide, as they are less relevant to tourism. However, this list provides a context for the overview of the next MFF 2014 – 2020, which is as exhaustive as possible. This table was created specifically for this Guide to present a summary of funding programmes encompassed in this report as well as interlinks between them.</p>		

This Guide provides detailed and structured information about:

- the purpose of each funding programme (under the Section - *What is the financial instrument*);
- which tourism stakeholders are eligible to apply (under the Section - *Who Can Apply*). For the purpose of this Guide various categories of tourism stakeholders have been selected in order to illustrate the range of tourism stakeholders eligible for funding. It is important to note, however, that these categories do not cover all the stakeholders that can apply under each funding programme and are focused on stakeholders within the tourism sector only. The selected categories are:
 - Tourists
 - Accommodation providers
 - Transport providers
 - Restaurants/ Cafés
 - Travel agents/ Tour operators
 - Attractions
 - Public authorities (e.g. national, regional or local authorities)
- the application procedure (under the Section - *How to Apply*).

Finally, there are also examples of funded projects with relevance to tourism under each of the financial instruments (Section - *Examples of funded Projects*) which may help you establish whether your project may be eligible for funding. More information about the future of the programmes is also provided (Section – *Future Prospects*).

1. Multiannual Financial Framework 2007-2013

Adopted in 2006, the 2007-2013 financial framework set the maximum amounts ('ceilings') for each broad category of expenditure under six broad policy areas ('headings') for the years from 2007 to 2013.

The policy areas, or headings, relevant to tourism related projects under the framework are:

1. **Sustainable Growth:** this is further sub-divided into the following sub-headings:

1a. *Competitiveness for Growth and Employment:* covering research and innovation, education and training, trans-European networks, social policy, economic integration and accompanying policies. This heading includes funding for the following programmes: the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme, the 7th Framework Programme for Research, the Lifelong Learning Programme, PROGRESS, the European Progress Microfinance Facility and the Europe 2020 Project Bond Initiative

1b. *Cohesion for Growth and Employment:* covering convergence of the least developed EU countries and regions, EU strategy for sustainable development outside the least prosperous regions, inter-regional cooperation. Expenditure under this heading is allocated to the following programmes: Structural Funds (i.e. the European Cohesion Fund, European Social Fund and European Regional Development Fund); and the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance

2. **Preservation and Management of Natural Resources:** including the common agricultural policy, common fisheries policy, rural development and environmental measures. Under this heading, funding is given to the following Programmes: European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, LIFE+; the European Fisheries Fund and the Integrated Maritime Policy

3. **Citizenship, Freedom, Security and Justice:**

3a. *Freedom, Security and Justice:* including justice and home affairs, border protection, immigration and asylum policy

3b. *Citizenship:* public health, consumer protection, culture, youth, information and dialogue with citizens. This includes expenditure on the European Culture Programme and the Youth in Action Programme

The following Sections describe the funds in greater detail, with a focus on the tourism sector. It is important to note that funding under the above headings is also allocated to legislative proposals, which are not discussed in this Guide.

Structural Funds

Structural funds are the EU’s main instrument for supporting social and economic restructuring in Member States under heading 1b, cohesion for growth and employment. Their budget usually accounts for one third of the European Union budget and the funds are distributed according to the three objectives of cohesion policy, which are:

1. **Convergence** – the aim is to reduce regional differences in the EU by helping those regions whose per capita GDP is less than 75% of the EU to catch up with those where GDP is higher than the average;
2. **Regional Competitiveness and Employment** – the aim is to create jobs by promoting competitiveness and making the regions concerned more attractive to investors. This objective covers all regions in Europe not covered by the convergence objective; and
3. **European Territorial Cooperation** – the aim is to encourage cooperation across borders, between countries and regions, which would be difficult to achieve without a pan-European approach in a form of European cohesion policy

These overarching objectives are applied to three structural funds: the European Cohesion Fund (ECF), European Social Fund (ESF) and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Figure 1.1 below demonstrates the linkages between the objectives and particular structural funds in the financial period 2007 - 2013.

Objectives	Structural Funds and instruments		
Convergence	ERDF	ESF	Cohesion Fund
Regional Competitiveness and Employment	ERDF	ESF	
European Territorial Cooperation	ERDF		

Figure 1.1: Objectives and Structural Funds 2007-2013

In general, the overarching priorities for the structural funds are set at the EU level and then transformed into national priorities by the EU Member States and the regions.

At the EU level the overarching priorities are established in the Community Strategic Guidelines (CSG). These set the framework for all activities that can be undertaken under the funds.

Within this framework, each Member State develops its own National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF). The NSRF sets out the priorities for the respective Member State, taking specific national policies into account. Ultimately, Operational Programmes (Ops) for each region within the Member State are drawn up in accordance with the respective NSRF, representing the needs of individual regions. This vertical approach is illustrated in Figure 1.2:

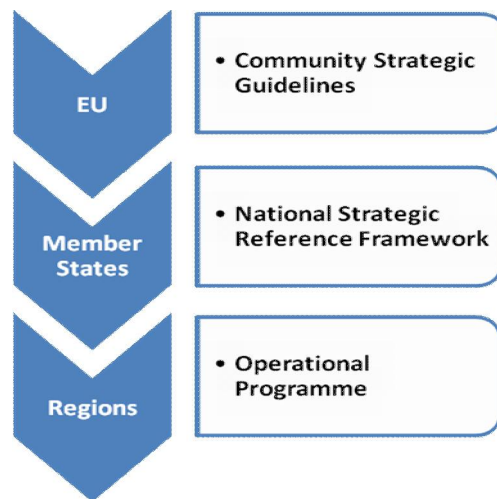


Figure 1.2: Management Structure of Structural Funds

The Member States and their regions manage the programmes, which involves selecting eligible projects, their control and assessment. The Commission, however, is involved in monitoring the programme as a whole. The detailed management of the projects/activities which gain financial support from the structural funds is the responsibility of the Member States. There is a designated managing authority, at the national, regional and local level, which is obliged to provide detailed information to all interested parties. Details of who can apply for structural funds in a particular region can be obtained from the regional managing authority.

The three main structural funds; the European Cohesion Fund, European Social Fund and European Regional Development Fund are described further in the following sections.

European Cohesion Fund

What is the European Cohesion Fund?

Council Regulation (EC) No 1084/2006 established a Cohesion Fund (ECF) for the period 2007-2013, with the total EU funding available estimated at € 308 billion. Cohesion Policy projects are co-financed by the Member States. The Cohesion Fund provides support to reduce the economic disadvantages of Member States for which the Gross National Income (GNI) per inhabitant is less than 90% of the Community average. For the 2007-2013 period, the Cohesion Fund covers Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Spain is also eligible for the Cohesion Fund, but on a transitional basis (so-called "phasing out"), as its GNI per inhabitant is less than the average of the EU-15.

The Cohesion Fund finances activities under the following categories:

1. Trans-European transport networks (TEN-T): particularly priority projects of European interest as identified by the Union, including:
 - completion of connections needed to facilitate transport
 - optimization of the efficiency of existing infrastructure
 - achievement of interoperability of network components
 - integration of the environmental dimension in the network
2. Environment - the Cohesion Fund can also support projects related to energy or transport, as long as they clearly present a benefit to the environment (e.g. energy efficiency, use of renewable energy, developing rail transport, supporting intermodality, strengthening public transport, etc.)

Who can apply?

Transport providers

Public authorities

How to apply?

As with all of the structural funds, the overarching priorities for the European Cohesion Fund are established in the Community Strategic Guidelines. These set the framework for all activities that can be undertaken using the funds. Within this framework, each Member State develops its own National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF). The NSRF sets out the priorities for the respective Member State, taking specific national policies into account.

Ultimately, Operational Programmes for each region within the Member State are drawn up in accordance with the respective NSRF, representing the needs of individual regions. The list of programmes for all of the structural funds, including the European Cohesion Fund, is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/country/prordn/index_en.cfm?gv_pay=ES&gv_reg=ALL&gv_obj=ALL&gv_the=ALL&gv_per=2

The detailed management of the programmes is the responsibility of the Member States. There is a designated managing authority, at the national, regional and local level, which is obliged to provide

detailed information to all interested parties. Details of who can apply for structural funds in a particular region can be obtained from the regional managing authority. Further information on managing authorities in the Member States can be found at the Directorate General for Regional Policy website at:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/manage/authority/authority_en.cfm

Examples of funded projects

Austria-Czech Republic-Poland-Slovakia: Railway axis Gdańsk–Warszawa-Brno/Bratislava-Vienna

This involved modernisation and upgrading of the rail route which forms part of the former pan-European transport corridor VI identified at the Crete (1994) and Helsinki (1997) conferences - which connects Gdańsk via Katowice and Žilina to Bratislava and through a western branch via Brno to Vienna. The corridor was identified as a multimodal north-south axis to create a multimodal transport system for goods and passengers with the port of Gdańsk.

Estonia-Finland-Latvia-Lithuania-Poland: Rail Baltica axis - Warsaw-Kaunas-Riga-Tallinn-Helsinki

‘Rail Baltica’ is a strategic and sustainable rail project and it is the only rail connection between the three Baltic States, Poland and the rest of the EU. Rail Baltica also connects three major Baltic seaports: Helsinki, Tallinn and Riga and has a short rail connection to a fourth - Klaipeda.

Hungary: Flood management along the Tisza river

A decision was made to build six reservoirs to help authorities in eastern Hungary to tackle the flooding of the Tisza river and to cope with other impacts from climate change. These investments started in 2000-06 and are continuing over 2007-13. The first reservoir was finished in 2008. The reservoirs have had several co-benefits, which include improved nature based tourism.

Future prospects²

Based on a proposal presented in October 2011, it is intended that this fund will continue for the period 2014-2020. The approval of the different regulations and implementing acts is expected by the end of 2013. The proposed scope of the European Cohesion Fund for 2014-2020 will remain largely similar to the current period, with support for investment to comply with environmental standards, energy projects (provided they present a clear benefit to the environment, for example by promoting energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy) and investment in trans-European transport networks, as well as urban and low-carbon transport systems.

² Reference is made here to Commission proposals which are currently still under consideration in co-decision procedure by the European Parliament and the Council. Therefore, it is possible that some of the details of the proposals may still change.

European Social Fund

What is the European Social Fund?

The European Social Fund (ESF), established by Regulation (EC) 1081/2006, aims to improve employment and job opportunities in the EU. ESF for the period 2007 – 2013 has total funding of € 75 billion. Projects are co-financed by the Member States (public or private financing). Funding is allocated according to six priority areas:

- improving human capital (34% of total funding)
- improving access to employment and sustainability (30%)
- increasing the adaptability of workers and firms, enterprises and entrepreneurs (18%)
- improving the social inclusion of less-favoured persons (14%)
- strengthening institutional capacity at national, regional and local levels (3%)
- mobilisation for reforms in the fields of employment and inclusion (1%)

Who can apply?

Accommodation providers

Transport providers

Restaurants/ Cafés

Attractions

Public authorities

How to apply

As with the other structural funds, the overarching priorities for the European Social Fund are established in the Community Strategic Guidelines (CSG). These set the framework for all activities that can be undertaken under the funds. Each Member State, together with the European Commission, agrees on one or more Operational Programmes for ESF funding for the 2007-2013 period, as do those regions that have their own Operational Programmes (not all do). Operational Programmes set the priorities for ESF intervention and their objectives. The list of programmes for all of the Structural Funds, including the European Social Fund is available at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=45&langId=en-#>

The Member States and their regions manage the programmes, which involves selecting eligible projects, their control and assessment. There is a designated managing authority, at the national, regional and local level, which is obliged to provide detailed information to all interested parties. Details of who can apply for structural funds in a particular region can be obtained from the regional managing authority. Further information on managing authorities in the Member States can be found at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=45&langId=en>

Examples of funded projects

Estonia: Back to school in Estonia [ESF contribution: € 1.9 million]

The project funded vocational schools to create flexible and free-of-charge places for young school drop-outs who wanted to complete their education. One of the subject specialisations included nature and tourism.

Latvia: Enhancing of Further Education Possibilities in E-media for Employees in the Tourism Sector in Vidzeme Region [ESF contribution: € 7.5 million]

Within the framework of this project, e-study courses were organised free of charge on aspects related to "Rural Tourism", "Tourism and Environment", "Tourism Marketing" and "Small and Medium Sized Enterprise Work Planning and Organisation".

Malta: Advance: Training Tourism Leaders [ESF contribution: € 2.5 million]

The Malta Tourism Authority launched the second intake of its training programme 'Advance: Training Tourism Leaders'. The training programme was organised around two platforms, one for senior managers and a second for middle management and supervisors in the tourism sector. It was also open to people who wanted to enter the hospitality industry. Teaching was provided by 12 foreign experts, training sessions were held in leading tourism establishments, and one-to-one mentoring was offered.

Future prospects³

Based on a proposal presented in October 2011, it is intended that this fund will continue for the period 2014-2020. The approval of the different regulations and implementing acts is expected by the end of 2013.

In terms of scope, the draft ESF Regulation proposes to target the ESF on four 'thematic objectives' throughout the EU:

- promoting employment and labour mobility
- investing in education, skills and lifelong learning
- promoting social inclusion and combating poverty, and enhancing institutional capacity
- an efficient public administration

Each thematic objective is transformed into categories or 'investment priorities'. Additionally, the ESF should also contribute to other thematic objectives, such as supporting the shift towards a low-carbon, climate resilient and resource efficient economy, enhancing the use of information and communication technologies, strengthening research, technological development and innovation and enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises.

³ Reference is made here to Commission proposals which are currently still under consideration in co-decision procedure by the European Parliament and the Council. Therefore, it is possible that some of the details of the proposals may still change.

European Regional Development Fund

What is the European Regional Development Fund?

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), established by Regulation (EC) 1080/2006, aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the EU Member States by reducing imbalances between its regions. The total funding available for projects under the ERDF is € 201 billion for the period 2007-2013.

The ERDF can intervene in the three objectives of the EU Cohesion policy: *Convergence*, *Regional Competitiveness and Employment* and *European Territorial Cooperation*. The ERDF also gives particular attention to specific territorial characteristics, for instance, to towns with economic, environmental and social problems and to areas which are disadvantaged due to geographical circumstances, such as remote, mountainous or sparsely populated areas.

The ERDF finances:

- direct aid to investments in companies (in particular SMEs) to create sustainable jobs
- infrastructures linked notably to research and innovation, telecommunications, environment, energy and transport
- financial instruments (capital risk funds, local development funds, etc.) to support regional and local development and to foster cooperation between towns and regions
- technical assistance measures

Who can apply?

Accommodation providers

Transport providers

Restaurants/ Cafés

Attractions

Public Authorities

How to apply

As for the other structural funds, the overarching priorities for the European Regional Development Fund are established in the Community Strategic Guidelines (CSG). These set the framework for all activities that can be undertaken using the funds. Within this framework, each Member State develops its own National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF). The NSRF sets out the priorities for the respective Member State, taking specific national policies into account. Ultimately, Operational Programmes (OPs) for each region within the Member State are drawn up in accordance with the respective NSRF, representing the needs of individual regions. The Member States and their regions manage the programmes, which involves selecting eligible projects, their control and assessment. The detailed management of the programmes which gain financial support from the structural funds is the responsibility of the Member States. There is a designated managing authority, at the national, regional and local level, which is obliged to provide detailed information to all interested parties. Details of who can apply for structural funds in a particular region can be

obtained from the regional managing authority. Further information on managing authorities in the Member States can be found at the Directorate General for Regional Policy website at:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/manage/authority/authority_en.cfm

Examples of funded projects

Poland: Stage set for world-class music venue [ERDF contribution: € 40 million]

Construction of the National Music Forum in Wroclaw, a modern, multipurpose concert hall of high quality standards in terms of architecture and acoustics. The venue expects to stage about 700 events per year, including concerts, exhibitions and conferences, with annual visitor numbers in the region of 400,000.

Belgium-Netherlands-France-UK: CBC Programme - 2 Seas: CAST: Coastal Actions on Sustainable Tourism [ERDF contribution: € 1.4 million]

The project aims to strengthen coastal tourism by identifying new opportunities to attract and retain visitors and improve products and services while guaranteeing the sustainability of tourism.

EU MS: Denmark-Estonia-Finland-Germany-Latvia-Lithuania-Poland-Sweden, Non-EU: Belarus: AGORA 2.0 [ERDF contribution: € 2.8 million]

The project focuses on fostering the common identity of the Baltic Sea Region by highlighting, developing and marketing its natural and cultural heritage as a potential business opportunity. To achieve this aim, there are three groups acting jointly: scientific experts, NGOs and public bodies that are responsible for heritage (nature and culture), business development and tourism.

Future prospects⁴

Based on a proposal presented in October 2011, it is intended that this fund will continue for the period 2014-2020. The approval of the different regulations and implementing acts is expected by the end of 2013. Under the proposal, regions would need to concentrate ERDF support on a limited number of objectives, in line with the Europe 2020 strategy. The proposed ERDF would move resources towards energy efficiency and innovation and support for SMEs – at least 80% of support for more developed regions and at least 50% for less developed regions. Specific support from the ERDF would go to cities and urban development. The proposal would set aside an amount for integrated sustainable urban development measures and for setting-up an urban development platform to promote exchanges of good practices between cities. Tourism-related proposals could potentially be funded from this allocation.

⁴ Reference is made here to Commission proposals which are currently still under consideration in co-decision procedure by the European Parliament and the Council. Therefore, it is possible that some of the details of the proposals may still change.

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

What is the EAFRD?

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), established by Regulation (EC) 1290/2005, aims to strengthen the EU's rural development policy for the period 2007-2013 by improving the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry, the environment and the countryside, quality of life and the management of economic activity in rural areas. The EAFRD is based on the co-financing principle. The EARDF was allocated a budget of € 96.3 billion (2011 prices) for the period of 2007-2013, which currently accounts for 20% of the funds dedicated to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Under the Fund, each Member State draws up a national plan in line with the EU strategic guidelines. Rural development plans are then developed at national or regional level detailing how funding will be spent. These plans are grouped into four different axes and aid can be sought for each axis. The axes are as follows:

- Axis 1 - Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector
- Axis 2 - Improving the environment and the countryside
- Axis 3 - Improving quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy. This includes activities undertaken with regards to micro-businesses, tourism, and natural heritage
- Axis 4 - LEADER - Promoting the implementation of local development strategies through public-private partnerships called "local action groups" (LAG), and enabling cooperation between groups, be it regionally, nationally or trans-nationally. The LEADER strategy must incorporate the objectives of at least one of the three preceding axes

Who can apply?

Accommodation providers

Transport providers

Restaurants/ Cafés

Travel agents/ Tour operators

Public authorities

How to apply

The funding available is set at Member State level and regional levels. The Member States' national plan must indicate the expected financial contribution of the EARDF for each axis.

Tourism-related activities are financed under the third and fourth axes. Calls for proposals are published by the relevant national administrative institution, or managing authority, established for

this purpose by the national governments. The respective administrative institution or managing authority is responsible for the implementation of the rural development plans at national level. Applications have to meet certain eligibility criteria, for instance: be located in a specific area, be beneficial to the rural economy, be financially and environmentally sustainable, etc. The application procedure may differ between Member States and different types of rural development projects. Applicants can contact the Managing Authority of the National Rural Development Programme (NRDP) or the National Rural Network (NRN) for information concerning funding. Each Member State establishes own NRN which groups together the organisations and administrations involved in rural development. Contact details and information on National RDP and NRN for each Member State (EU27) can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/countries/index_en.htm

Examples of funded projects

Austria: LAG Verein Steirisches, Salzkammergut

In an area dependent on traditional tourism, this LAG used EARDF funding to help diversify the area's tourism products by offering improved access to facilities for disabled persons. Facilities included accommodation, multi-functional buildings, a meeting hall and gardens.

Belgium: LAG Brugse Ommeland

The LAG assisted in the diversification of agriculture in the area around the city, while strengthening environmental management at farm level. A common brand was developed for regional organic produce. Marketing and promotional materials were also developed in the form of a website, billboards, leaflets, etc.

Sweden: LAG Smålandsgruppen

In order to arrest population decline and reduce dependence on traditional activities, the LAG promoted a cooperative which aided the development of a range of leisure and business activities in the region. These included a new hotel, petrol station, spa, golf course and a fruit farm. Other activities were aimed more specifically at improving quality of life in the area, to bridge generational boundaries or increase gender equality.

Future prospects⁵

Based on a Commission proposal presented in October 2011, it is intended that this fund will continue for the period 2014-2020. The approval of the different regulations and implementing acts is expected by the end of 2013. The Commission proposal includes a provision to finance a 'LEADER start-up kit'. This would enable partners not yet applying for funding through LEADER to test and introduce the local development strategy. This may help to develop tourism in areas where it is currently under-developed, i.e. Eastern Europe. The minimum proportion of funding for LEADER should remain at 5% of the total EAFRD contribution to the rural development programme and the spending will still be driven by the Member State priorities.

⁵ Reference is made here to Commission proposals which are currently still under consideration in co-decision procedure by the European Parliament and the Council. Therefore, it is possible that some of the details of the proposals may still change.

LIFE+

What is LIFE+?

LIFE+, established by Regulation (EC) 614/2007, is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects. LIFE+ has a total budget of over € 2 billion for the period 2007-2013 and it has three components:

1. LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity: these projects will co-finance best practice or demonstration projects that contribute to the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives and the implementation of the objectives of Commission Communication (COM (2006) 216 final) "Halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 – and beyond". The maximum co-financing rate is 50% but may be 75% for projects focusing on priority species or habitats
2. LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance: this will co-finance projects that contribute to the implementation of Community environmental policy, the development of innovative policy approaches, technologies, methods and instruments, the knowledge base as regards environment policy and legislation, and the monitoring of environmental interactions (including forest monitoring). The maximum co-financing rate will be 50%
3. LIFE+ Information and Communication: this will co-finance projects that implement communication and awareness raising campaigns on environmental, nature protection or biodiversity conservation issues, as well as projects related to forest fire prevention (awareness raising, special training). The maximum co-financing rate will be 50%

Who can apply?

LIFE+ is open to all Member States, as well as to some candidate, acceding and neighbouring countries (Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Gaza Strip & West Bank, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Russia, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey). LIFE+ is open to public or private bodies, actors or institutions registered in the European Union. On this basis, the eligible tourism partners could include:

Accommodation providers

Transport providers

Public authorities

How to apply

The Commission issues a call for proposals each year, taking into account national priorities and the multiannual strategic programme set out by the Regulation establishing LIFE+. This sets out the priority areas of action for EU funding under the different components. The Commission decides which out of the submitted projects qualify for financial support under LIFE+ and regularly publishes a list of these projects. To qualify for funding, projects must:

1. be of EU interest by contributing to the development, implementation and updating of EU environmental policy and environmental legislation
2. be technically and financially coherent and feasible and provide value for money

3. satisfy at least one of the following criteria:

- be best-practice or demonstration projects concerning the protection of wild birds or habitats
- be innovative or demonstration projects at EU level concerning the objectives of environmental policy
- consist of awareness-raising and training campaigns on forest fire prevention
- relate to the broad-based, harmonised, comprehensive and long-term monitoring of forests and environmental interactions

More information about call for proposals can be found at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplus.htm>

Examples of funded projects

Belgium: LIFE+ Biodiversity [EU contribution: € 2.6 million]

The aim of the ELIA Biodiversity project is to demonstrate techniques for the creation and maintenance of ecological corridors under overhead power lines, allowing the maximisation of their potential benefits for biodiversity. Other benefits include improved attractiveness to tourists.

Greece: LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance [EU contribution: € 660,000]

The CARBONTOUR project (Region of the North Aegean) aims to develop an integrated methodology to measure CO₂ equivalent emissions from tourism accommodation facilities and to strategically plan mitigating measures. The main output of the project will be a user-friendly software tool.

Portugal: LIFE+ Information and Communication [EU contribution: € 286,000]

The long-term ECO-COMPATÍVEL (Serviço do Parque Natural da Madeira) project objective is to reinforce, through educational and awareness activities, the compatibility of regional and territorial development in the Madeira Archipelago (i.e. socio-economic activities such as tourism, fisheries and agriculture) with EU biodiversity conservation policy (namely the management of nature reserves, sites, habitats and species listed in the Habitats and Birds directives).

Future prospects⁶

The Commission has tabled a proposal for a future LIFE+ for the period 2014-2020 with an indicative budget of € 3.2 billion. The proposal foresees a change through the creation of integrated projects aiming to improve the implementation of environmental and climate policy and their integration into other policies, especially by ensuring a coordinated mobilisation of other Union, national and private funds towards environmental or climate objectives. This fund could have positive impacts on the tourism sector, should more calls for proposal be issued under the programme concerning tourism activities.

⁶ Reference is made here to Commission proposals which are currently still under consideration in co-decision procedure by the European Parliament and the Council. Therefore, it is possible that some of the details of the proposals may still change.

Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme

What is the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme?

The Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP), established by Decision 1639/2006/EC, supports innovation activities (including eco-innovation), better access to finance and provides support services in the EU regions. The CIP runs from 2007 to 2013 with an overall budget of € 3.6 billion. The CIP is divided into three operational programmes:

1. the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP)
2. the Information Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme (ICT-PSP)
3. the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme (IEE)

These are explained individually below.

The Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme supports competitiveness and eco-innovation throughout Europe, in line with the Community's priorities. It includes all Community actions in the area of entrepreneurship, SMEs, innovation, industrial competitiveness, ICT development and use, environmental technologies and intelligent energy. However, the priorities and objectives, the groups of stakeholders targeted as well as application procedures vary across the three sub-programmes.

Who can apply?

CIP targets European organisations and enterprises, with a special focus on SMEs. The following non-EU countries are also eligible to participate in the programme:

- EFTA countries which are members of the EEA, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the EEA Agreement
- candidate countries benefiting from a pre-accession strategy
- countries of the Western Balkans
- other third countries, when agreements so allow

How to apply?

More detailed information on CIP financial instruments is available from the Access to Finance website at: <http://www.access2finance.eu/>.

At a regional level, additional information on the CIP and other EU funding opportunities can be obtained from the Enterprise Europe Network, which exists in all Member States. More information can be found at: <http://portal.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu/>

Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme

What is the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme?

The Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP), with a budget of € 2.17 billion for the period 2007-2013, seeks to support innovation and SMEs. The EIP focuses on:

1. **Access to finance** for SMEs through CIP financial instruments. These instruments target SMEs in different phases of development and support investments in technological development, innovation and eco-innovation, technology transfer and the cross border expansion of business activities. The CIP financial instruments include:
 - the High Growth and Innovative SME Facility (GIF): provides capital for innovative SMEs in their early stages (GIF1); and capital for SMEs with high growth potential in their expansion phase (GIF2)
 - the SME Guarantee Facility (SMEG): provides co-, counter-, and direct-guarantees to financial intermediaries that provide finance directly to SMEs. There are four windows under SMEG, which give access to financing for: loan guarantees (*guarantees for loans to SMEs with growth potential*), micro-credit - guarantees for loans of up to €25, 000 (*to micro-enterprises with up to nine employees*), equity and quasi-equity guarantees (*guarantees to existing equity guarantee schemes*) and securitisation (*guarantees to support securitisation structures*)
2. **Business services** through the Enterprise Europe Network, a network of business and innovation service centres all around the EU and beyond, providing enterprises with a range of quality and free-of-charge services to help make them more competitive
3. Support for improving **innovation policy** by supporting transnational networking of different stakeholders in the innovation process
4. **Eco-innovation** pilot and market replication projects for testing in real conditions of innovative products, processes and services (under the cross-cutting objective of eco-innovation, there are funding possibilities for projects in various sectors that reduce environmental impacts or promote a more efficient use of natural resources)
5. Support for innovation and **SME** policy making by the production of reports, conferences and other public events

Under the EIP objective 'Creation of an environment favourable to SME co-operation, particularly in the field of cross-border co-operation', small-scale tourism dedicated actions have been implemented since 2008, with a variable budget from year to year.

Who can apply?

Accommodation providers

Transport providers

Restaurants/ Cafés

Travel agents/ Tour operators

Attractions

How to apply

With the exception of the CIP financial instruments, the funding is generally assigned through calls for proposals. Schemes are based on the co-financing principle, meaning that the Commission contributes, in the form of a grant, a given percentage of the project's overall eligible costs (as defined for each specific call). Applicants need to ensure that the intended activity falls within the range of activities funded and that it is covered by an open call for proposals. A deadline by which applications are to be submitted is set for each call for proposals. All proposals are evaluated and ranked and funding decisions are made on the basis of this ranking, within the limits of the available budgetary resources. More specific information about EIP can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/cip/eip/index_en.htm

An overview of the actions to be funded each year can be found in the Annual EIP Work Programmes published at:

http://ec.europa.eu/cip/documents/work-programmes/index_en.htm

Examples of funded projects

EMAS EASY MOVE-IT [Project budget: € 1.2 million, EU contribution: 53%, Project duration: 2009 - 2012]

The EMAS Easy MOVE IT project proposes an EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) cluster certification applied to a regional tourism product and service offer.

INTOUR [Project budget: € 1.7 million, EU contribution: 50%, Project duration: 2010 -2013]

European travel companies have agreed to apply industry-wide environmental management standards to most sectors of the tourism industry. The main focus is on climate and biodiversity. The new INTOUR project will use the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) and the EU Ecolabel to provide credibility to efforts to improve environmental performance of travel agencies and tour operators.

Future prospects⁷

For the period 2014-2020, the Commission made a proposal for a Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs (COSME) with a planned budget of € 2.5 billion. The Programme should ensure continuity with initiatives and actions already undertaken within the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme, with the exception of innovation-related actions. Its main objectives should be: facilitating access to finance for SMEs, creating an environment favourable to business creation and growth, encouraging an entrepreneurial culture in Europe, increasing the sustainable competitiveness of EU companies, and helping small businesses operate outside their home countries and improving their access to markets. The Commission proposal includes a reference to specific objectives to improve the competitiveness of enterprises in the tourism sector.

⁷ Reference is made here to Commission proposals which are currently still under consideration in co-decision procedure by the European Parliament and the Council. Therefore, it is possible that some of the details of the proposals may still change.

What is the Information Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme?

The Information Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme (ICT-PSP) aims to stimulate a wider uptake of innovative ICT-based services and the exploitation of digital content across Europe by citizens, governments and businesses, in particular SMEs. The ICT Policy Support Programme runs from 2007 to 2013 with a budget of € 730 million.

The programme contributes to a better environment for developing ICT-based services and helps overcome hurdles such as the lack of interoperability and market fragmentation. Funding goes mainly to pilot actions, involving both public and private organisations, for validating innovative and interoperable ICT based services in real settings, in areas such as:

- ICT for health, ageing and inclusion
- digital libraries
- ICT for improved public services
- ICT for energy efficiency and smart mobility
- multilingual web and internet evolution

Who can apply?

The programme is open to all legal entities established in the EU Member States and associated countries to the ICT Policy Support programme. On this basis, the eligible tourism partners could include:

Accommodation providers

Transport providers

Restaurants/ Cafés

Travel agents/ Tour operators

Attractions

Public authorities

How to apply

Application is through a call for proposals. Participation in the programme is open to organisations from all EU Member States and Croatia, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia and Turkey. An overview of the actions to be funded each year can be found in the Annual ICT-PSP Work Programmes published at:

http://ec.europa.eu/cip/documents/work-programmes/index_en.htm

More information about current proposals is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/participating/calls/call_proposals_12/index_en.htm

Examples of funded projects

eAccess+ [Project budget: € 740,000, EU contribution: CIP-ICT-PSP + FP7: 100%, Project duration: 2010-2013]

This project, partly funded by ICT-PSP, aims to bridge the widening gap between the potential of ICT/AT (Information and Communication Technology/Assistive Technology) and eAccessibility for people with disabilities and the ageing population on the one hand, and the actual implementation of eAccessibility on the other hand. The focus includes the use of self-service terminals (SSTs) and devices for tourism and cultural heritage.

SMART-ISLANDS [Project budget: € 1.5 million, EU contribution: € 0.8 million, Project duration: 2011-2013]

The project aims to test a platform for developing and using innovative geo-related web services (e.g. addressing transport, environment, meteorology and mapping or tourism issues) specifically addressed to Mediterranean islands.

Future prospects⁸

For the next financial framework it is envisaged that the ICT-PSP will be covered under the new Horizon 2020 Programme. Horizon 2020 is an amalgamation of existing research and innovation funding, including the 7th Research Framework Programme, the innovation-related activities of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology. It is proposed that Horizon 2020 will have a budget of € 80 billion for the period 2014 – 2020. It will be divided into three sections: excellent science (€ 24.6 billion), industrial leadership (€ 17.9 billion) and societal changes (€ 31.7 billion).

⁸ Reference is made here to Commission proposals which are currently still under consideration in co-decision procedure by the European Parliament and the Council. Therefore, it is possible that some of the details of the proposals may still change.

Intelligent Energy Europe Programme

What is the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme?

Launched in 2003 by the European Commission, the Intelligent Energy Programme (IEE) has the following objectives:

1. promoting energy efficiency and encouraging the rational use of energy sources
2. increasing the use of new and renewable energy sources as well as encouraging energy diversification
3. stimulating energy efficiency and renewable energy in the field of transport.

The funding allocated to the IEE between 2007 and 2013 is estimated at € 727 million.

Who can apply?

Accommodation providers

Transport providers

Restaurants/Cafés

Travel agents/ Tour operators

Attractions

Public authorities

How to apply

The IEE supports projects, initiatives and best practises according to three financing streams:

1. Funding projects: the majority of the programme's budget goes to funding projects across the EU that support and promote energy efficiency and renewable energy. Funds can be used to cover up to 75% of the project's costs. Applicants have to respond to a call for proposals, setting out their project idea and plan. Calls are published annually. The eligibility, selection and award criteria are set out in the call documents.
2. Procurement of products and services: procurement is used to obtain studies and services that the European Commission or the EACI need to achieve the objectives underlying the IEE Programme. The EACI subcontracts services to private companies and organisations via calls for tender. The services required and the criteria for applicants are detailed in each call for tender.
3. European Local Energy Assistance (ELENA) Financing facility for cities and regions - ELENA is a technical assistance facility that makes funds available to cities and regions across the EU that are investing in sustainable energy. ELENA covers a share of the cost (a maximum of 90%) for technical support that is necessary to prepare, implement and finance the investment programme, such as feasibility and market studies, structuring of programmes, business plans, energy audits, preparation for tendering procedures. ELENA is run by the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) Group –The German Development Bank. The EIB receives a yearly allocation from the European Commission to fund ELENA projects.

For ELENA projects, applicants need to contact the EIB at:

http://www.eib.org/products/technical_assistance/elena/index.htm

An overview on the actions to be funded each year can be found in the Annual IEE Work Programmes published at:

http://ec.europa.eu/cip/documents/work-programmes/index_en.htm

The current call for proposals is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/getting-funds/call-for-proposals/how-to-apply/index_en.htm

Examples of funded projects

Biofuels and Electric Propulsion Creating Sustainable Transport in Tourism Resorts (BIOSIRE) [Project budget € 1.7million, Project duration: 2008-2011]

The project aims to encourage a shift towards bio-diesel and electric propulsion for fleets, ships and special vehicles in tourist areas in Spain, France, Greece, Italy, Croatia and Austria.

Excellence in Energy for the Tourism Industry (EETI) [Project budget: € 1.2million, Project duration: 2008-2011]

The project aims to improve energy efficiency in the tourism industry, by developing practical solutions and user-friendly tools for energy management in SME hotels across 27 EU countries.

Regional Networks for the development of a Sustainable Market for Bioenergy in Europe (BIOREGIONS) [Project budget: € 1.5million, Project duration 2010- 2014]

BioRegions will help to develop bioenergy regions at a European level, building on the work of the most advanced areas and documenting their experiences in a way that can be easily replicated by other regions.

Sustainable Energy in Tourism dominated Communities (SETCOM) [Project budget: € 1.4million, Project duration 2008–2011]

The project aims to build up and promote ten communities from ten countries as pioneers for sustainable energy use in tourism businesses.

Future prospects⁹

For the next financial framework it is envisaged that Intelligent Energy Europe Programme will be covered under a newly created funding programme, a Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). The Connecting Europe Facility will enable the preparation and implementation of projects of common interest within the framework of the trans-European networks policy in the sectors of energy, transport and telecommunications. In particular, the CEF shall support the implementation of projects aimed at the development and construction of new, or upgrading of, infrastructure in the field of transport, energy and telecommunications.

⁹ Reference is made here to Commission proposals which are currently still under consideration in co-decision procedure by the European Parliament and the Council. Therefore, it is possible that some of the details of the proposals may still change.

Seventh Framework Programme for Research – FP7

What is FP7?

The Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7), established by Decision No 1982/2006/EC, is the EU's main instrument for funding research from 2007 to 2013. The total EC budget for FP7 over this period is € 50.5 billion.

The broad objectives of FP7 have been grouped into four categories, with the following budget allocations:

- cooperation (€ 32.4 billion): The specific programme on 'Cooperation' supports all types of research activities carried out by different research bodies in trans-national cooperation and aims to gain or consolidate leadership in key scientific and technology areas.
- ideas (€ 7.5 billion): The objective of the specific programme 'Ideas' is to reinforce excellence, dynamism and creativity in European research and improve the attractiveness of Europe for the best researchers from both European and third countries
- people (€ 4.7 billion): this specific programme's overall strategic objective is to make Europe more attractive for the best researchers
- capacities (€4.1 billion): this aims to enhance research and innovation capacities throughout Europe and ensure their optimal use.

For each type of objective, there is a specific programme corresponding to the main areas of EU research policy. All specific programmes work together to promote and encourage the creation of European poles of (scientific) excellence.

The Community financial contribution under FP7 can range from 50% to 100% of the total costs of the project.

Who can apply¹⁰?

Participation in FP7 is open to a wide range of organisations and individuals. Any company, university, research centre, organisation or individual, legally established in any EU Member State or Associated State (Albania, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Iceland, Israel, Liechtenstein, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, and Turkey) may participate in a collaborative project. On this basis, the eligible tourism partners could include:

Accommodation providers

Transport providers

¹⁰ Participation in FP7 is also open to research organisation, university, including private sector research organisations; to individual researchers, PhD students, experts, NGOs, businesses or research associations, chambers of commerce.

Restaurants/ Cafés

Travel agents/ Tour operators

Attractions

Public authorities

How to apply

Plans for implementing the Specific Programmes are announced by the European Commission in annual work programmes. These work programmes include the schedule of calls for proposals which cover specific research areas. All calls for proposals are announced in the EU's Official Journal. The annual work programmes and the full texts of the calls are published on the FP7 section of CORDIS, available at:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html

CORDIS also provides help with information and also in planning of proposals.

Examples of funded projects

ERNEST [Project budget: € 2.1 million, FP7 contribution: € 1.9 million, Project duration: 2008 - 2012]

European research network on sustainable tourism (the ERNEST project) addresses the issue of sustainable development in tourism through coordination and collaboration among regional research programmes.

UNDERSAFE [Project budget: € 1.4 million, FP7 contribution: € 1 million, Project duration: 2011 - 2013]

UNDERSAFE is a system which will provide constant, round-the-clock monitoring of environmental and other conditions in underground sites open for recreational and tourist purposes. The UNDERSAFE system will be based on wireless technologies. The objective is to develop a safety system which will detect and provide early warnings of a number of conditions that can pose a danger to those underground.

TOUREG [Project budget: over € 1 million, FP7 contribution: € 979,000, Project duration: 2008 - 2010]

This project aimed at improving competitiveness and knowledge exchange in the tourist sector through the establishment of a platform for the generation and transmission of knowledge.

CONCERTOUR [Project budget: € 652,000, FP7 contribution: 100%, Project duration: 2008 - 2010]

The project aimed to develop concerted innovative approaches, strategies, solutions and services to improve mobility in European tourism. It encourages transport to guide travellers through 'the stages of the whole itinerary'.

Future prospects¹¹

A new programme for research and innovation has been proposed for 2014 - 2020, called Horizon 2020. This amalgamates FP7 with the innovation- and ICT-related activities of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP). It has been proposed that Horizon 2020 will have a budget of € 80 billion for the period 2014 – 2020 and will be divided into three sections: excellent science (€ 24.6 billion), industrial leadership (€ 17.9 billion) and societal changes (€ 31.7 billion).

Horizon 2020 will also provide financial support for the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), with a total budget of € 2.8 billion. The EIT was established in March 2008 with the objective of reinforcing the innovation capacity of the EU. The EIT brings together higher education institutions, research centres and businesses in partnerships known as Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs).

¹¹ Reference is made here to Commission proposals which are currently still under consideration in co-decision procedure by the European Parliament and the Council. Therefore, it is possible that some of the details of the proposals may still change.

European Culture Programme

What is the European Culture Programme?

The European Culture Programme, established by Decision No 1855/2006/EC as amended by Decision No 1352/2008/EC, promotes Europe's cultural diversity and aims to enhance the shared cultural heritage.

The Culture Programme aims to achieve three main objectives:

- promote cross-border mobility of those working in the cultural sector
- encourage the transnational circulation of cultural and artistic output
- foster intercultural dialogue

For the period 2007-2013, the total funding available is estimated at € 400 million. The programme is open to all cultural sectors, except the audiovisual industry. It supports three strands of activities:

1. Cultural actions - this strand enables different organisations from different EU Member States to cooperate on cultural and artistic projects. The strand is composed of three sub-categories:
 - multi-annual co-operation projects - 3-5 years
 - co-operation measures - 2 years maximum
 - special measures - this includes high-profile actions, for example support to European Capitals of Culture and festivals with a European dimension
2. European-level cultural bodies - this strand supports cultural bodies at the European level to enable them to represent the sector in dealing with EU institutions, to participate in the public debate on cultural issues and to act as European cultural ambassadors. Exchanges between cultural organisations in different EU Member States are encouraged in order to identify the needs of the European artistic community
3. Analysis and dissemination activities - this strand supports analysis and dissemination activities, which help to raise awareness of the Culture programme and its activities. The first focus is on providing support for analyses in the field of cultural co-operation and policy development. The second is on supporting cultural contact points which have been established to ensure the effective dissemination of practical and targeted information on the programme locally in all participating countries. The third focus is on supporting the collection and dissemination of information, so that cultural operators can make use of the output and results of previous EU-funded projects. This category also supports cooperation projects between private or public organisations which have direct and practical experience in the analysis, evaluation, or impact assessment of cultural policies at local, regional, national and/or European levels, related to the objectives of the European Agenda for culture

Who can apply?

The Programme is open to the participation of all categories of non-profit public or private organisations with legal status whose main activity is in within the areas of cultural or creative activity. More information can be found at '*Culture Programme Guide*', available at: <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/culture/programme/documents/2010/may/EN.pdf>

On this basis, the eligible tourism partners could include:

Attractions

Public authorities

How to apply

Most activities are delegated to the Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency with the following exemptions: support for the European Capitals of Culture; awarding of European prizes in the cultural field; support for cooperation with international organisations and support for the collection and dissemination of information and for maximising the impact of projects in the field of cultural cooperation.

Application for funding is undertaken through an annual call for proposals and funding is provided on the principle of co-financing. The amounts available vary according to the strand and can range from 50% to 80% of the total eligible costs up to a maximum amount per year. More information is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/calls-for-proposals/funding-opportunities-2012_en.htm

Examples of funded projects

Italy: Tourist Promotion of Archaeological Sites along the Aquileia-Viminacium road [EU budget: € 183,490 – EU contribution: 50%]

The T-PAS project aims to connect three ancient Roman towns in Italy, Slovenia and Serbia: Aquileia (in the Italian province of Udine), Emona (the ancient Ljubljana) and Viminacium (Kostolac, close to Belgrade). During the Roman Empire, a route linked Aquileia to the Black Sea through Emona and Viminacium. These three archaeological sites will work together to promote the route and the sites along it realising the first concrete foundation of a European Network of Archaeological Sites. The project includes a socio-economic analysis aimed at benchmarking the state-of-the-art and the tourism demand and supply in order to develop innovative approaches for increasing employment and the attractiveness of businesses.

Spain: Network of cities promoting creative tourism [EU budget: € 58,000 – EU contribution: 46%]

The project proposes the creation of an international network of cities and territories which are distinguished for their work in Creative Tourism. The project aims to promote intercultural mobility and dialogue and the cooperation of operators who have both an extensive knowledge of the social fabric and art of their city, the demands of creative tourists as well as significant networking experience.

UK: Lux Scientia – A European Constellation [EU budget: € 199,300 – EU contribution: 50%]

Lux Scientia will bring together three festivals in the UK, Poland and Estonia. The festivals will play host to three commissioned pieces, each exploring the scientific and aesthetic aspects of light.

Three artists from the UK, Poland and Estonia will create the installations, which will be developed with the three cities in mind. Promoting the cities as places of dynamic discussion and innovative art is expected to promote the visibility of each city as European cultural hubs.

Future prospects¹²

The proposed cultural programme for the period 2014-2020 is to be called the Creative Europe Programme. It draws together three existing programmes: Culture, MEDIA and MEDIA Mundus. The programme will make more funding available for transnational cultural activities within and outside of the EU. The Commission's proposal targets a 37% increase on current spending levels, to reach a total of € 1.8 billion for the period 2014 - 2020. It is proposed that 30% of the budget should be dedicated to culture (around € 540 million), 55% to media and 15% to cross-sectoral issues such as financial facility, data support and piloting.

¹² Reference is made here to Commission proposals which are currently still under consideration in co-decision procedure by the European Parliament and the Council. Therefore, it is possible that some of the details of the proposals may still change.

Lifelong Learning Programme

What is the Lifelong Learning Programme?

The Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) for the period 2007-2013, established by Decision No 1720/2006, provides funding for all stages of lifelong learning; for activities at school, at college, at university, in the workplace and in the local community. With a budget of nearly € 7 billion for 2007 to 2013, the programme funds a range of actions including exchanges, study visits and networking activities. Projects are intended not only for individual students and learners, but also for teachers and organisations involved in education and training. The LLP is made up of four principal sub-programmes: *Comenius*, *Erasmus*, *Leonardo da Vinci* and *Grundtvig*, each aimed at a specific target group. Projects in areas that are relevant to all levels of education, such as language learning, information and communication technologies, policy co-operation, dissemination and exploitation of project results are funded through the "transversal" part of the programme.

Who can apply ?

Organisations involved in education and training and individuals wishing to undertake vocational training can be eligible for funding under LLP. For more detailed information on who can apply, please see European Commission (2010): ***What's in it for me; EU opportunities in education, culture and youth***, available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/pub/pdf/general/what_en.pdf.

On this basis, the eligible tourism partners could include:

Public authorities

How to apply

The Lifelong Learning Programme is open to all EU Member States and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. Croatia (EU Member State as of July 2013) and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia can take part in a preparatory phase. The Commission has published a comprehensive guide outlining each educational, cultural and youth programme run by the DG Education and Culture, which provides more detail on who can apply and where to find the application forms online. The guide: *What's in it for me; EU opportunities in education, culture and youth*, is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/pub/pdf/general/what_en.pdf

Each year, the European Commission issues a general call for proposals for projects to be funded through the LLP. These projects should match priorities for funding set out by the Commission. A recent call for proposals can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/llp/doc848_en.htm

Applications for other 'centralised' actions, which include networking initiatives and other large-scale projects, are made to the EU's Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Applications for education and vocational training specialists and decision makers are available from the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, known as Cedefop, at: <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu>

For some actions (known as ‘decentralised’ actions) such as exchanges and study visits, funding applications are available at the national level. Individuals seeking to participate in projects or exchanges usually need to apply directly to the project organisers, which include universities, schools and other education and training providers. National agencies may be able to provide information on these organisations and the projects that they run. A list of national agencies can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc1208_en.htm

Examples of funded projects

Cyprus-Italy-Malta-Portugal: YES Employability

The two-year project, entitled YES Employability - Young Europeans, Skills for Employability in Tourism - is financed as part of the Leonardo da Vinci Lifelong Learning Programme. The project proposes to tackle the need of the Tourism Education and Vocational Training sector for a workable system of validation, transfer and recognition of skills and competencies. The YES Project draws upon work already carried out in a prior Leonardo da Vinci project, NEW Hospitality, which, from 2006 to 2009, carried out research, testing and developed an internet-based software application and a manual to guide workers in the hotel/hospitality sector through the preparation of a European curriculum vitae.

Estonia-Finland-Italy-Poland: Lifelong Learning in Ecotourism Development (ECOLL)

The ECOLL programme ran between 2005 and 2007 and developed education and training programmes specialising in ecotourism. The programme worked with partners from Estonia, Finland, Poland and Italy. These programmes were suitable for students who chose tourism as their vocational training subject and wanted to specialise in ecotourism, for people who already worked in the tourism sector (for example entrepreneurs, guides), but wished to broaden their knowledge and skills in the area of rural and/or ecotourism and for people who lived in rural communities or areas that had ecotourism potential.

Future prospects¹³

In a proposal presented in November 2011, the Commission has designed a new programme for education, training, youth and sport for the period from 2014 to 2020 called Erasmus for All Programme. The programme would replace seven existing programmes (Lifelong Learning Programme; Youth in Action; and five other international cooperation programmes - Erasmus Mundus, Tempus, Alfa, Edulink and the programme for cooperation with industrialised countries). The proposed budget is € 19 billion, with more funding opportunities for study, training, teaching and volunteering opportunities abroad. There will also be more opportunities for education and training institutions or youth organisations to engage in partnerships with businesses to promote innovation and employability, as well as greater support for IT platforms.

¹³ Reference is made here to Commission proposals which are currently still under consideration in co-decision procedure by the European Parliament and the Council. Therefore, it is possible that some of the details of the proposals may still change.

Youth in Action Programme

What is the Youth in Action Programme?

The Youth in Action Programme, established by the Decision No 1719/2006 /EC, aims to develop and support European cooperation to encourage young people, especially the most disadvantaged and the disabled, to participate in public life. Youth in Action targets people aged 15-28 (in some cases 13-30). The objectives of the Programme are to:

- promote young people's active citizenship in general and their European citizenship in particular
- develop solidarity and promote tolerance among young people, in particular in order to foster social cohesion in the European Union
- foster mutual understanding between young people in different countries
- contribute to developing the quality of support systems for youth activities and the capabilities of civil society organisations in the youth field
- promote European cooperation in the youth field

The Youth in Action Programme is structured around five actions:

- Action 1- Youth for Europe
- Action 2 - European Voluntary Service
- Action 3 - Youth in the World
- Action 4 - Youth Support Systems
- Action 5 - Support for European Co-operation in the Youth field.

The funding allocated to the Youth in Action Programme between 2007 and 2013 is € 885 million.

Who can apply?

Funding is available for a variety of organisations which include informal youth groups, non-profit organisations, non-governmental organisations, international governmental non-profit organisations, organisers of cultural, social and sport events and activities aimed at young people and European level bodies active in the youth field (ENGO), having member branches in at least eight Programme countries. On this basis, eligible tourism partners could include:

Public authorities

How to apply

Youth in Action is open to all 27 EU Member States as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein Norway and Turkey.

The Programme Guide provides information about the priorities, actions and main features of the Programme as well as the criteria and conditions on how to participate. This is available at: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/programme/programme_guide_en.php#application_forms.

However, for some actions, specific calls for proposals are published. The EACEA website http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/programme/how_apply_en.php provides more information on how to apply within specific sub-programmes.

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency is responsible for the implementation of the centralised Actions of the Youth in Action Programme. However, much of the programme management is decentralised, through a network of national agencies implementing the Programme at national level and acting as the link between the European Commission, promoters at national, regional and local level and the young people themselves. More information about the national agencies is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth/doc152_en.htm.

Examples of funded projects

Norway: Climate Governance and Europe (Focus on the Arctic) [Project duration: 26 June-3 July 2011]

The project included a seven day training course organised by the British Council (a National Agency) that focused on Arctic Governance. The project was aimed at young people (18 to 30) active in climate change projects who wanted to learn more about the issues of climate change in the Arctic regions. During the event, participants learned about sustainable tourism and capacity building in communicating climate change.

Poland: Sports Activity as a Tool to Encourage Youth to Take Action [Project duration: 8-17 March 2008]

This training course, organised by the Polish Association of Disabled People, was designed for young people, youth leaders and non-profit youth organisations. The aim of the training course was to encourage disabled young people, through sports, recreation and tourism, to be active in their societies and to demonstrate the importance of sports in the process of equalising chances and rehabilitation.

Future prospects¹⁴

The Youth in Action Programme will be incorporated into the new programme Erasmus for All Programme. The proposed budget is € 19 billion.

¹⁴ Reference is made here to Commission proposals which are currently still under consideration in co-decision procedure by the European Parliament and the Council. Therefore, it is possible that some of the details of the proposals may still change.

PROGRESS

What is PROGRESS?

PROGRESS – the Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity for the period 2007-2013 - was established by Decision No 1672/2006 and has total funding of around € 683 million. The programme has six objectives:

- to improve knowledge and understanding of the social situation of the Member States through analysis, evaluation and close monitoring of policies
- to support the development of statistical tools and methods and common indicators
- to support and monitor the implementation of legislation and policy objectives
- to promote networking, mutual learning and the identification and dissemination of good practices at EU level
- to make stakeholders and the general public aware of EU policies in the fields supported by PROGRESS: employment, social protection and inclusion, working conditions, diversity and non-discrimination, and equality between men and women
- to boost the capacity of the key EU networks to promote and support EU policies.

The programme is divided into the following five sections:

1. Social Protection and Social Inclusion (30% of the budget)
2. Employment (23%)
3. Anti- Discrimination (23%)
4. Gender Equality (12%)
5. Working Conditions (10%)

Who can apply?

Accommodation providers

Transport providers

Restaurants/ Cafés

Travel agents/ Tour operators

Public authorities

How to apply

PROGRESS is open to all EU Member States, candidate countries and potential candidate countries as well as EFTA/EEA countries (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein).

Funding is awarded either for procurement (by way of calls for tenders) or in the form of grants (by way of calls for proposals). These are available to download and view from the PROGRESS website at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=327>

Examples of funded projects

Hotels and Restaurants: Comprehensive Sectoral Analysis of Emerging Competencies and Economic Activities in the European Union [Report published in April 2009]

The aim of the study was to map structures, trends and drivers of change in the hotels and restaurants sector, focusing strongly on labour related issues such as changes in skills needs, the employment structure and emerging competencies. The study included policy recommendations.

Czech Republic: Tourism Industry: Employment and Labour Market Challenges [June 2009]

As a part of the activities of the Czech Presidency of the EU Council, an international conference “Tourism Industry: Employment and Labour Market Challenges” was organised. This conference aimed to discuss new challenges and issues relevant to the tourism industry at the European level. The two-day conference provided a platform for the exchange of opinions and experiences from the area of employment and labour market challenges in the EU.

Future prospects¹⁵

For the period 2014 – 2020, the Commission has proposed the PROGRESS programme to be included in the new programme in support of employment and social policies across Europe - the EU Programme for Social Change and Innovation (PSCI) (together with EURES - European Employment Services and the European Microfinance Facility). The proposed budget for the 2014 - 2020 period for PROGRESS is € 574 million.

¹⁵ Reference is made here to Commission proposals which are currently still under consideration in co-decision procedure by the European Parliament and the Council. Therefore, it is possible that some of the details of the proposals may still change.

European Progress Microfinance Facility

What is the European Progress Microfinance Facility?

The European Progress Microfinance Facility (Progress Microfinance) was launched in 2010 and provides a facility to secure a microcredit (below €25,000) for micro-enterprises.

The Microfinance Facility was developed for those who want to become self-employed, or want to set up/further develop a microenterprise (i.e. a business with less than ten employees). It is aimed particularly at people who are currently unemployed, people who have taken time out of the labour market and people who have difficulty accessing credit. Progress Microfinance cannot be used to cover credit lines such as overdrafts or short-term revolving facilities.

The Facility provides financial support by enabling selected microcredit providers in the Member States to enhance lending by:

- issuing guarantees
- providing funding to increase microcredit lending.

Total funding of € 200 million is secured by the European Commission and the European Investment Bank. The microcredit providers may be private or public banks, non-bank microfinance institutions and non-profit microcredit providers.

Who can apply?

Accommodation providers

Restaurants/ Cafés

Travel agents/ Tour operators

Attractions

How to apply

To date Progress Microfinance, which was launched in 2010, has been taken up in 12 Member States: Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Greece, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Spain. It is not clear why other Member States have not taken up the facility. It may be because the European Investment Bank (EIB), which manages Progress Microfinance, has to consider a set of financial requirements e.g. financial standing and financial capacity, before an applying financial institution is granted the status of a financial intermediary under the programme. However, it could be that in some Member States Progress Microfinance has not been sufficiently publicised amongst potential intermediaries.

The European Commission, the European Investment Bank and the European Investment Fund provide funding to the Progress Microfinance Fund. This Fund in turn provides loans and equity, direct guarantees or counter guarantees to the Microfinance intermediaries in Member States. Applications for a microloan are made directly to the Progress Microfinance intermediaries. Different application requirements and procedures may apply in different Member States. The

Microfinance Facility website provides information about microfinance providers in the different countries:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=983&langId=en>

Examples of funded projects

Bulgaria: Innovative wooden buildings for the Tourism industry

GEL Cupol Ltd. is a small company which specialises in the manufacturing of wooden buildings, such as small restaurants and houses. The products are primarily aimed at the local tourism industry. The company takes on innovative projects and the materials used are natural and free of most chemical additives. The company, which was set up in Bulgaria at the end of 2010, took advantage of the European Progress Microfinance Facility. A € 3,000 microloan from Mikrofond AD allowed the company's founder to repair the workshop and develop the company's website.

Future prospects¹⁶

For the period 2014 – 2020, the Commission has proposed to include the European Microfinance Facility in the EU Programme for Social Change and Innovation (PSCI). According to the Commission proposal, Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship would receive around € 192 million, split as follows:

- access to microfinance: € 87 million
- institutional capacity building: € 9 million
- support to social enterprise development: € 95.5 million.

¹⁶ Reference is made here to Commission proposals which are currently still under consideration in co-decision procedure by the European Parliament and the Council. Therefore, it is possible that some of the details of the proposals may still change.

European Fisheries Fund

What is the European Fisheries Fund?

The European Fisheries Fund (EFF), established by Regulation (EC) 1198/2006, contributes to the realisation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), which ensures the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources. The EFF provides co-funding according to four axes:

1. measures to adapt the EU fishing fleet (27% of the total funding)
2. aquaculture, inland fishing, processing and marketing (30%)
3. collective action (27%)
4. sustainable development of fishing areas (13%)

The EFF has a budget of € 4.3 billion for the period 2007-2013. The funds are divided between the Member States according to the size of their fisheries industry, the number of people employed within the sector, the adjustments considered necessary for the fishing industry and continuity of existing measures.

Axis 4 enables the formation of local groups or partnerships known as Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) to implement strategies which support the sustainable development of fisheries areas. The EFF provides financial support to help operators deal with the changes taking place in their sector. It is available for all sectors of the industry - sea and inland fishing, aquaculture, processing and marketing of fisheries products. Particular attention is given to the fishing communities most affected by recent changes in the industry. FLAGs have supported tourism ventures in the past, including activities such as the promotion of ecotourism and pesca-tourism, and improvement of local infrastructure and services. Projects have been undertaken mainly to improve the attractiveness of fisheries areas as tourist destinations.

Who can apply?

Accommodation providers

Transport providers

Restaurants/ Cafés

Travel agents/ Tour operators

How to apply

In order to benefit from funding, each participating EU Member State must provide a national strategic plan which outlines how the national authority intends to use the funding to develop the industry with regard to the CFP objectives. This strategic plan sets a basis for the negotiation and adoption of the operational programmes. Operational programmes provide a more detailed account of how the authority will adopt the plan. Applications can be made at any time. To apply

for funding, the applicant must contact the authority that manages the EFF in the respective country. The relevant application form should be also submitted to the national authority. Axis 4 funding is allocated to the selected FLAGs to support the implementation of their local development strategies. This funding can be used to support projects initiated by the FLAG itself, as well as projects conceived and implemented by local actors from the public, private and community and voluntary sectors. Anyone who is developing or would like to develop a particular project should contact their local FLAG and fill in an Expression of Interest Form. A list of FLAGs and their contact details can be found at:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/cms/farnet/tools/flags>

Examples of funded projects

Finland: FLAG Northern & Eastern Lapland - Tourism training for fishermen [Project budget: € 78, 000, EFF Axis 4 Contribution: 38%]

This project, based in Northern & Eastern Lapland, Finland, offered a package of tailor made training courses for fishermen who wanted to diversify into tourism. This project has helped 14 of the 20 local fishermen with the qualifications they need to develop and offer a successful tourist package. This included courses and exams in safety issues as well as study visits to tourism companies. A further 10 days of training focused on product development, pricing and customer service and was complemented by seven days of personalised study and guidance. As a result of this training, five local fishermen started tourism activities: winter net fishing trips and summer river fishing trips with the local professional fishermen.

France: FLAG: Groupe Varois, le Var - Pescatourisme 83 [Project budget: € 277, 590, Axis 4 Contribution: 31%]

This project, based in le Var, France, transfers and adapts pesca-tourism experience gained in Italy to the context of le Var. The objective of Pescatourisme 83 was to carry out a pilot project along the Var coast in order to establish the conditions necessary to put pesca-tourism into practice in the area. Pesca-tourism is understood to involve professional fishermen welcoming a certain number of tourists on to their boats to engage in fishing activities.

Future prospects¹⁷

In November 2011, the Commission proposed that for the period 2014 - 2020, the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) should replace the previous European Fisheries Fund. The proposed financial envelope for the EMFF amounts to € 6.5 billion for the period 2014 to 2020 and one of the pillars is integrated maritime policy.

¹⁷ Reference is made here to Commission proposals which are currently still under consideration in co-decision procedure by the European Parliament and the Council. Therefore, it is possible that some of the details of the proposals may still change.

Programme to Support the Further Development of an Integrated Marine Policy

What is the Programme to support further development of an Integrated Marine Policy?

Regulation (EU) 1255/2011 established a Programme to support the further development of an Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP). The total allocated budget for the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2013 is € 40 million. The objectives of the Programme are as follows:

- to foster development and implementation of integrated governance of maritime and coastal affairs (at least 4% of the total budget)
- to contribute to the development of cross-sectoral tools (at least 60%)
- to promote the protection of the marine environment, in particular its biodiversity (at least 8%)
- to support the development and implementation of sea-basin strategies (at least 8%)
- to improve and enhance external cooperation and coordination in relation to the objectives of the IMP (maximum 1%)
- to support sustainable economic growth, employment, innovation and new technologies in maritime sectors and in coastal, insular and outermost regions in the Union (at least 4%).

Who can apply?

Accommodation providers

Transport providers

Restaurants/ Cafés

Travel agents/ Tour operators

Public authorities

How to apply

Funding from the Programme is awarded following the submission of a proposal or by responding to a call for tender. Eligibility for participation shall be detailed in the technical specifications of the relevant call for proposals or call for tender.

The EU works in close collaboration with EFTA States in the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy. Acceding countries, candidate countries, potential candidates and third countries which share a sea basin with EU Member States, are also eligible for funding.

International organisations which pursue one or more of the general and operational objectives (as stated in Articles 2 and 3 of Regulation (EU) No 1255/2011) of the Programme may also apply for funding; however, the measures must always involve participants from the European Union.

More information on the Integrated Maritime Policy is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/index_en.htm.

Examples of funded projects

Maritime employment and education: [EU budget: € 400,000- call for proposals to be launched in the third quarter of 2012]

The action seeks to stimulate the development of initiatives and programmes that will address maritime skills and jobs opportunities to provide people with the right skills for employment. This will be done, for example, through proposals for the exchange of students and professionals in maritime activities. Potential beneficiaries include employers, employees, students, teaching staff and public bodies, including education institutes, across the EU. The action is based on the co-financing principle, with a maximum EU contribution of 80%. For more details see:

http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/news/news/items/c%282012%29_1447_en.pdf

Future prospects¹⁸

For the period 2014-2020, the Commission has proposed a European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). The EMFF should help deliver the objectives of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy and support the implementation of the IMP. The proposed budget is estimated at € 6.5 billion for the period 2014 to 2020.

¹⁸ Reference is made here to Commission proposals which are currently still under consideration in co-decision procedure by the European Parliament and the Council. Therefore, it is possible that some of the details of the proposals may still change..

Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance

What is the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance?

The Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA), established by Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006, offers financial assistance to countries included in the accession process to the EU for the years 2007-2013.

The overall objective of EU financial assistance is to support pre-accession states to take on the obligations required by membership to the EU. The beneficiary countries of the IPA are divided into the following categories:

1. acceding country: Croatia (accession date – 1 July 2013)
2. candidate countries: the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Turkey
3. potential candidate countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia including Kosovo

The IPA budget for the period 2007 - 2013 is € 11.4 billion. The IPA is made up of five different components:

- I. assistance for transition and institution building
- II. cross-border cooperation (with EU Member States and other countries eligible for IPA)
- III. regional development (transport, environment, regional and economic development)
- IV. human resources (strengthening human capital and reducing exclusion)
- V. rural development

Components III, IV and V are open to the acceding countries and candidate countries. Exceptionally, and in the interests of coherence and efficiency, other countries may benefit from measures financed by the IPA (provided these measures form part of a regional, cross-border, trans-national or worldwide framework and do not duplicate other programmes under Community external aid).

Who can apply?

Accommodation providers

Transport providers

Restaurants/ Cafés

Travel agents/ Tour operators

Attractions

Public authorities

How to apply

Although the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA) is available only for acceding, candidate and potential candidate countries, it supports projects that focus on structural change across various policy areas. The funding under IPA is distributed according to the strategic objectives encompassed in the Strategic Coherence Framework (SCF) and a Multiannual Operational Programme. These documents mirror those required when accession is achieved, such as the National Strategic Reference Framework and Operational Programmes. The multi-annual operational programmes under IPA are a precursor to the operational programmes under the structural funds regime.

The funding under the IPA is provided according to the progress and needs of the beneficiary countries. The IPA is based on strategic multiannual planning established in accordance with the broad political guidelines set out in the Commission's enlargement package, which now includes a Multiannual Indicative Financial Framework (MIFF). The MIFF takes the form of a table presenting the Commission's intentions for the allocation of funds for the three forthcoming years, broken down by beneficiary and by component, on the basis of the needs and the administrative and management capacity of the country concerned.

Assistance under the IPA can take the following forms:

- investment, procurement contracts or subsidies
- administrative cooperation, involving experts sent from the Member States
- participation in Community programmes or agencies
- measures to support the implementation process and management of the programmes
- budget support (granted exceptionally and subject to supervision)

The EC delegations in the acceding, candidate and potential candidate countries are in charge of the practical implementation of IPA grants. More information on the IPA national coordinators is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/thefunds/ipa/index_en.cfm

Examples of funded projects

Slovenia-Croatia Cross-border Cooperation Programme - Marijina Romarska Pot Project (The Pilgrimage of Mary) [Project budget: € 703,000, Project duration: 2009-2011]

The Marijina Romarska Pot Project aimed to improve the tourist infrastructure and to promote selected religious centres. The project brought together both Slovenian and Croatian partners and focused on, *inter alia*, marking routes for walkers; identifying and providing information on different cultural and religious sites; providing facilities such as bins, tables and benches and encouraging cross-border travel packages.

Adriatic Cross-border Cooperation Programme - the Adriatic A3-NET project [Project budget: € 2.5 million, Project duration: 2011-2014]

The A3-NET project aims to strengthen the network of small airport facilities in the Adriatic region. The lead beneficiary is the Municipality of Bovec, in Slovenia. The main aim of the project is to improve accessibility to and between regions in the Adriatic. A3 - NET intends to upgrade the facilities in five small airports to provide modern and safe services to customers and to modernise infrastructure and services in order to increase air traffic.

Future prospects¹⁹

Based on a proposal presented in December 2011, it is intended that this fund will continue for the period 2014-2020. IPA II has a proposed budget of € 14.1 billion. The approval of the different regulations and implementing acts is expected by the end of 2013.

¹⁹ Reference is made here to Commission proposals which are currently still under consideration in co-decision procedure by the European Parliament and the Council. Therefore, it is possible that some of the details of the proposals may still change.

Pilot Phase of Europe 2020 Project Bond Initiative

What is the Europe 2020 Project Bond Initiative?

Political agreement was achieved between Parliament and Council on 22 May 2012 on the Commission legislative proposal launching the pilot phase of the Project Bond Initiative. The Initiative is a risk-sharing instrument. The Commission's stated intention is to focus on the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) and Trans-European Energy Network (TEN-E) and some information and communication technology (ICT) related projects.

The aim is to enlarge possible sources of financing and to attract institutional investors by enhancing the credit quality of project bonds issued by private companies. The Europe 2020 Project Bond instrument would help private partners that need to raise private funds for the infrastructure projects they promote.

The pilot phase will be implemented in 2012-2013. The EU budget allocated to the pilot phase (2012-2013) is € 230 million.

Who could apply?

The eligible tourism partners could include:

Transport providers

Public authorities

How to apply?

Partners interested in projects eligible for funding under the TEN-T or TEN-E policies, or under the CIP-Decision²⁰, could benefit from the initiative. Project Bonds are not issued by the European Union or by Member States. They are private debts issued by the company running the specific project. Partners interested in the initiative would have to demonstrate economic and technical independence as well as credibility and experience in running projects. If the project sponsor decides to use the facility, the project would have to be approved by the European Investment Bank (EIB) in line with standard procedures. The application and implementation would have to be compatible with EU policies and comply with all applicable EU law, including in the area of state aid.

²⁰ Infrastructure projects under the CIP decision are expected to focus on the development of high-speed broadband.

Future Prospects

The Project Bond Instrument will be fully integrated into the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020. Together with the Connecting Europe Facility, the Project Bond Initiative will contribute to the development of infrastructure such as roads, railways, energy grids, pipelines, and broadband networks. A Commission Communication on financial instruments for the post 2013 period²¹ that was published in parallel to this Initiative reviews the current state of financial instruments and develops the organisational fundamentals for the next. Ultimately, the Financial Regulation and the delegated act replacing the Implementing Rules will set out the overall principles and technical standards for the financial instruments, including Project Bonds.

²¹ Commission Communication (2011): ***A framework for the next generation of innovative financial instruments – the EU equity and debt platforms***, [COM(2011) 662]

2. Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020

On 29 June 2011, the European Commission presented its proposal for the multiannual budget for 2014-2020. The overall amount proposed for the next seven years is nearly € 2, 000 billion.

Among the objectives supporting the new framework is the simplification of funding programmes, in order to reduce the administrative burden and costs for beneficiaries of funds and for all actors involved. As a result, the new financial framework has rationalised some of the EU programmes receiving financial support and some of the programmes have been consolidated. For instance, Erasmus for All Programme will replace the existing Lifelong Learning Programme and Youth in Action, among other programmes, and Horizon 2020 will combine the 7th Framework Programme for Research, the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) and the innovation related activities of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP).

Some other programmes will continue (although the budget allocation will be changed). These include the structural funds, the EAFRD and LIFE+, for instance. New programmes of funding include the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), a programme for EU priority infrastructure investments, for funding of projects across transport, energy and telecommunication networks that could directly benefit the tourism sector.

The relevant funding programmes for the tourism sector under the new framework are explained below.

Structural Funds

All European regions can benefit from support offered by the ERDF and ESF. However, in the Multiannual Framework 2014 – 2020 a distinction is made between less developed, transition and more developed regions in order to focus the Funds according to the level of GDP. This will include:

- **Less-developed regions** – this category of regions will include those where the GDP per capita is less than 75% of the average GDP of the EU-27
- **Transition regions** – this category aims at replacing the current system of phasing in and phasing out and it will include all regions with a GDP per capita between 75% and 90% of the EU – 27 average
- **More developed regions** – although cohesion policy support will continue to focus on the less developed regions, there are changes in the priorities that will concern all Member States e.g. global competition in the knowledge-based economy and the shift towards the low carbon economy. This category will encompass those regions whose GDP per capita is above 90 % of the average GDP of the EU-27.

The European Commission also laid down common rules for cohesion policy, as well as rural development and maritime and fisheries policy, in relation to strategic planning, eligibility and durability. There will be one single EU and one national strategic document (for each Member State) for the five funds concerned: the European Cohesion Fund, European Social Fund, European Regional Development Fund, European Agricultural and Rural Development Fund and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

The remainder of the process will be the same as in the previous Multiannual Financial Framework 2007 – 2013; it will require Member States to develop Operational Programmes for each region in accordance with the priorities set out in the EU and national strategic documents.

However, the proposal set out new propositions in order to increase flexibility, these include:

- Member States and regions can plan for the ERDF, ESF and the CF jointly or in separate operational programmes
- Member States can adjust the financial allocation by up to 2 % between categories of regions
- Member States and regions can combine financing for one project from several EU funded instruments
- Member States and regions can finance horizontal technical assistance activities from one Fund and merge the functions of the managing and certifying authorities

In the following table (overleaf) an overview of cohesion policy frameworks for two subsequent Multiannual Financial Frameworks 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 is presented.

EU Cohesion Policy supported by Structural Funds				
2007 - 2013		2014 - 2020		
Objectives	Funds	Goals	Category of regions	Funds
Convergence	ERDF ESF	Investment in Growth and Jobs	Less developed regions	ERDF ESF
Convergence Phasing out			Transition regions	
Regional Competitiveness and Employment Phasing in				
			Cohesion Fund	Cohesion Fund
Regional Competitiveness and Employment	ERDF ESF		More developed regions	ERDF ESF
European Territorial Cooperation	ERDF	European Territorial Cooperation		ERDF

An overview of the three structural funds that feature in the Multiannual Framework 2014-2020 is presented in the following section.

European Cohesion Fund

What is European Cohesion Fund?

Based on a proposal presented in October 2011, it is intended that this fund will continue for the period 2014-2020. The proposed scope of the European Cohesion Fund for 2014-2020 will remain largely similar to the current period, with support for investment to comply with environmental standards, energy projects (provided they present a clear benefit to the environment, for example by promoting energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy) and investment in trans-European transport networks, as well as urban and low-carbon transport systems. For the first time, part of the Cohesion Fund will contribute to the Connecting Europe facility – for a competitive and sustainable European transport system.

Who can apply?

Transport providers

Public authorities

How to apply?

As with all of the structural funds, as well as EARDF and EMFF, the overarching priorities for the European Cohesion Fund will be established in the Community Strategic Guidelines. These will set the framework for activities that can be supported using the funds. Within this framework, each Member State develops its own National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) that will be common for all structural funds, as well as EARDF and EMFF. This will establish the priorities for the respective Member State, taking specific national policies into account. This will be followed by Operational Programmes for each region within the Member State, which will be drawn up in accordance with the NSRF. Member States and regional authorities will have flexibility to decide whether to establish separate operational programmes for each fund concerned or to prepare them jointly for one or more of the funds.

European Social Fund

What is European Social Fund?

Based on a proposal presented in October 2011, it is intended that this fund will continue for the period 2014-2020. The European Social Fund will aim to improve employment opportunities, promote education and life-long learning, enhance social inclusion, contribute to combating poverty and develop the institutional capacity of public administration. However, the new proposal introduces changes in rules governing allocation of the funds; these will include, for example:

- there will be a minimum share of the budget allocated to each category of regions; this share, for each category of regions will be higher than in the previous MFF 2007 – 2013
- Member States will have to focus the ESF on a limited number of objectives and investment priorities in line with the Europe 2020 Strategy
- a minimum share of 20% of the ESF will be focused on social inclusion actions

Who can apply?

Accommodation providers

Transport providers

Restaurants/ Cafés

Attractions

Public authorities

How to apply?

As with all of the structural funds, as well as EARDF and EMFF, the overarching priorities for the European Social Fund will be established in the Community Strategic Guidelines. These will set the framework for activities that can be supported using the funds. Within this framework, each Member State develops its own National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) that will be common for all structural funds as well as EARDF and EMFF. This will establish the priorities for the respective Member State, taking specific national policies into account. This will be followed by Operational Programmes for each region within the Member State, which will be drawn up in accordance with the NSRF. Member States and regional authorities will have flexibility to decide whether to establish separate operational programmes for each fund concerned or to prepare them jointly for one or more of the funds.

European Regional Development Fund

What is European Regional Development Fund?

Based on a proposal presented in October 2011, it is intended that this fund will continue for the period 2014-2020. The European Regional Development Fund will aim to strengthen economic, social and territorial cohesion in the European Union by reducing differences between European regions. The ERDF support should be channelled through detailed priorities focusing on:

- research and development, and innovation
- improving access to and quality of information and communication technologies
- climate change and moves towards a low-carbon economy
- business support to SMEs
- services of general economic interest
- telecommunication, energy, and transport infrastructures
- enhancing institutional capacity and effective public administration
- health, education, and social infrastructures
- sustainable urban development

The European Commission also set minimum allocations for a number of priority areas, for example, in more developed and transition regions, at least 80 % of ERDF resources at national level should be allocated to energy efficiency and renewables, innovation and SME support. Of this, at least 20 % should be allocated to energy efficiency and renewables. In contrast, less developed regions will have a wider range of investment priorities to select from, in light of their broader development needs. However, the less developed regions will have to allocate at least 50 % of ERDF funds to energy efficiency and renewables, innovation and SME support. The new proposal also set a minimum of 5% of ERDF funding for projects supporting sustainable urban development.

Who can apply?

Accommodation providers

Transport providers

Restaurants/ Cafés

Attractions

Public Authorities

How to apply

As with all of the structural funds, as well as EARDF and EMFF, the overarching priorities for the European Regional Development Fund will be established in the Community Strategic Guidelines. These will set the framework for activities that can be supported using the funds. Within this framework, each Member State develops its own National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) that will be common for all structural funds as well as EARDF and EMFF. This will establish the

priorities for the respective Member State, taking specific national policies into account. This will be followed by Operational Programmes for each region within the Member State, which will be drawn up in accordance with the NSRF. Member States and regional authorities will have flexibility to decide whether to establish separate operational programmes for each fund concerned or to prepare them jointly for one or more of the funds.

Proposal for a European Globalisation Adjustment Fund 2014-2020

What is the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund?

The Proposal for the European Globalisation Fund (EGF) should focus on helping workers find new jobs and develop new skills when they have lost their jobs as a result of:

- changing global trade patterns, e.g. when a large company closes or a factory is moved outside the EU
- the global financial and economic crisis.

EGF funding has been available for this since 1 May 2009 and was due to end on 30 December 2011. However, the Commission has proposed extending this provision until 31 December 2013. Applicants will be eligible for funding under this provision for two more years, until 31 December 2013, when the whole EGF Regulation will be reviewed. It was proposed that the EGF would have a total budget of € 3 billion. EGF funding could support different activities including job-search assistance, career advice, tailor-made training, re-training or promoting entrepreneurship. The EGF differs from other EU funds as it is a one-off, time-limited fund intended to help workers who have suffered from redundancy as a result of the current economic situation. The EGF proposal for the period 2014-2020 extends its support to include farmers affected by trade agreements.

Who could apply?

Individual workers for all EU Member States who were made redundant can benefit from schemes set up by national governments. EGF funding cannot be used to keep enterprises in business or to help them with modernisation or structural adjustment. On that basis, the fund could benefit workers who have been made redundant from tourism businesses, which could include:

Accommodation providers

Transport providers

Restaurants/ Cafés

Travel agents/ Tour operators

Attractions

How to apply?

There is little information available yet on the application procedure. However, applications for the current 2007-2013 programme should be submitted by Member States. Individuals, representative organisations or companies affected by redundancies, and wishing to apply for funding from the EGF, should contact their national authorities. A list of national authorities can be found at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=581&langId=en>

European Agriculture and Rural Development Fund

What is the European Agriculture and Rural Development Fund?

Based on the proposals submitted by the European Commission, it is intended that the European Agriculture and Rural Development Fund will continue to provide support for the period 2014-2020.

However, instead of three axes linked to economic, environmental and social issues, with minimum spending requirements for each axis, in the new programming period the EARDF will provide financial support for six priorities; these are:

- fostering knowledge transfer and innovation
- enhancing competitiveness
- promoting food chain organisation & risk management
- restoring, preserving & enhancing ecosystems
- promoting resource efficiency & transition to low carbon economy
- promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas

Member States are still required to maintain 25% of their Rural Development envelope on issues related to land management and the fight against climate change.

The EU co-funding rates will be 85% in less developed regions, the outermost regions and the smaller Aegean islands, and 50% in other regions for most payments, but can be higher for innovation & knowledge transfer, cooperation, establishing producer groups, young farmer installation grants and LEADER projects.

Who can apply?

Accommodation providers

Transport providers

Restaurants/ Cafés

Attractions

Public Authorities

How to apply?

As with all of the structural funds, as well as EMFF, the overarching priorities for the European Agriculture and Rural Development Fund will be established in the Community Strategic Guidelines. These will set the framework for all activities that can be supported using the funds. Within this framework, each Member State develops its own National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF)

that will be common for all structural funds as well as EARDF and EMFF. This will establish the priorities for the respective Member State, taking specific national policies into account. This will be followed by Operational Programmes for each region within the Member State, which will be drawn up in accordance with the NSRF. Member States and regional authorities will have flexibility to decide whether to establish separate operational programmes for each fund concerned or to prepare them jointly for one or more of the funds.

LIFE+

What is LIFE+?

The Commission has tabled a proposal for a future LIFE+ for the period 2014-2020 with an indicative budget of € 3.2 billion. The sub-programme for Environment will support projects in the following areas:

1. Environment and Resource Efficiency
2. Biodiversity
3. Environmental Governance and Information

The sub-programme for Climate Action covers the following areas:

1. Climate Change Mitigation
2. Climate Change Adaptation
3. Climate Governance and Information

New aspects of the future LIFE Programme include:

- creation of a new sub-programme for climate action
- definition of priorities with multi-annual work programmes adopted in consultation with the Member States
- integrated projects - these projects will aim to improve the implementation of environmental and climate policy, especially by ensuring a coordinated mobilisation of other Union, national and private funds towards environmental or climate objectives.

Who can apply?

Accommodation providers

Transport providers

Public authorities

How to apply?

Grants to finance projects will continue to be the main type of intervention under LIFE+.

Operating grants for NGOs and other bodies will still be possible, and there will also be scope for contributions to innovative financial instruments. In addition, the European Commission has also scheduled information sessions in each EU Member State, in the national language, for potential LIFE+ applicants. The sessions aim to provide advice and guidance on what national authorities and the Commission expect from project proposals.

HORIZON 2020 - Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

What is HORIZON 2020?

The Commission has proposed an EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, called HORIZON 2020.

Horizon 2020 is an amalgamation of existing research and innovation funding, including the 7th Research Framework Programme, the innovation-related activities of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology. It is proposed that Horizon 2020 will have a budget of € 80 billion for the period 2014 – 2020 and it will be divided between:

1. excellent science (€ 24.6 billion) providing support to research in Europe
2. industrial leadership (€ 17.9 billion) supporting major investment in key technologies, easier access to capital and support for SMEs.
3. societal changes (€ 31.7 billion) contributing to help major common concerns including:
 - health, demographic change and wellbeing
 - food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime research and the bio-economy
 - secure, clean and efficient energy
 - smart, green and integrated transport
 - climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials
 - inclusive, innovative and secure societies

Who can apply?

Horizon 2020 shall be open to partners from:

- EU Member States
- acceding countries
- candidate countries and potential candidates
- selected third countries that fulfil the relevant criteria (capacity, track record, close economic and geographical links to the Union, etc.).

The following participants are eligible for funding:

- any legal entity established in a Member State or associated country, or created under Union law
- any international European interest organisation
- any legal entity established in a third country identified in the work programme.

Eligible tourism partners could include:

Accommodation providers

Transport providers

Restaurants/ Cafés

Attractions

Public Authorities

How to apply?

Funding shall be available in form of grants and call for proposals. Calls for proposals shall be scheduled by the European Commission in annual work programmes. More information can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/pdf/proposals/proposal_for_a_regulation_of_the_european_parliament_and_of_the_council_laying_down_the_rules_for_the_participation_and_dissemination_in_horizon_2020%20%282014-2020%29.pdf#view=fit&pagemode=none

Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs - COSME

What is COSME?

For the period 2014-2020, the European Commission has published a proposal for a Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs (COSME) with a planned budget of € 2.5 billion. COSME should ensure continuity with initiatives and actions already undertaken within the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme, with the exception of innovation-related actions. The Programme has the following general objectives:

- improve access to finance for SMEs in the form of equity and debt
- improve access to markets inside the Union and globally through Enterprise Europe Network that will facilitate expansion of businesses beyond the borders
- promote entrepreneurship by developing entrepreneurial skills and attitudes, especially among new entrepreneurs, young people and women.

The Commission proposal includes a reference to specific objectives to improve the competitiveness of enterprises in the tourism sector. Coherence and consistency in implementation will be ensured, as well as informed policy-making at Union level. Benchmarking, the exchange of best practices and sectoral initiatives in particular will be encouraged.

Who can apply?

The main beneficiaries will include existing entrepreneurs (small businesses in particular), future entrepreneurs (including young people) as well as national, regional and local authorities. On this basis, eligible tourism partners could include:

Accommodation providers

Transport providers

Restaurants/ Cafés

Attractions

Public Authorities

How to apply?

Currently there is no detailed information on the application procedure. However, funding will be available through different sources. Actions to improve SME access to finance shall include:

- the Equity Facility for Growth (EFG) - the equity facility shall focus on funds that provide venture capital and mezzanine finance, such as subordinated and participating loans, to expansion and growth-stage enterprises, in particular those operating across borders, while having the possibility to make investments in early stage enterprises
- the Loan Guarantee Facility (LGF) - part of a single EU debt financial instrument, shall include debt financing via loans, as well as securitisation of SME debt.

Connecting Europe Facility

What is Connecting Europe Facility?

The European Commission has proposed a new programme – the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) - with a fund of €50 billion worth of investment to improve transport infrastructure, energy links and digital networks. It shall be distributed between:

- transport (€ 31.7 billion, out of which € 10 billion shall be transferred from the Cohesion Fund to be spent in line with this Regulation in Member States eligible for funding from the Cohesion Fund) - projects supported by this leg of CEF should focus on upgrading Europe's transport infrastructure, build missing links and remove current transport bottlenecks
- energy (€ 9.1 billion) – projects supported should help to achieve objectives of energy efficiency and adaptation to climate change as set out in Europe 2020
- telecommunications (€ 9.2 billion) - to support investment in fast and very fast broadband networks and pan-European digital services

The CEF shall concentrate on high EU added-value projects and will fund projects which help enclose the missing links in Europe's energy, transport and digital networks.

The CEF will fund specific projects in conjunction with the Europe 2020 Project Bonds Initiative, which was designed to help the promoters of individual infrastructure projects to attract long-term private sector debt financing. The Project Bonds Initiative will set up a means to reduce the risk for third party investors seeking long-term investment opportunities. Currently, a pilot phase is being implemented - Pilot Phase of Europe 2020 Project Bond Initiative (please refer to Section 1 – Multiannual Financial Framework 2007 – 2013) and it will be fully integrated in the next Multiannual Financial Framework.

Who can apply?

Proposals may be submitted by one or several Member States, international organisations, joint undertakings, or public or private undertakings or bodies established in Member States. On that basis, eligible tourist partners could include:

Transport providers

Public Authorities

How to apply?

Only actions contributing to projects of common interest, as well as programme support actions shall be eligible for support through EU financial aid in the form of grants, financial instruments and procurement. Proposals shall be selected through calls for proposals based on Work Programmes.

Proposal for the Implementation and Exploitation of European Satellite Navigation Systems; Galileo and EGNOS Programmes

What are the Galileo and EGNOS programmes?

The Galileo programme aims to establish Europe's first satellite positioning and navigation system for civil purposes. It will provide positioning, timing and navigation services and may be used for a wide range of applications, for example within the transport, finance, and energy sectors. The budget is proposed to comprise of nearly € 8 billion. In 2014 Galileo will offer three services: the Open Service (open); the Public Regulated Service (a navigation service using encrypted signals, which ensures that key services such as the police and ambulance services, continue to function during crisis) and the Search-and-Rescue Service (an international satellite-based search and rescue distress alert detection system for use in times of emergency, for example a sailor lost at sea).

EGNOS is a European system developed to improve the performance of the American GPS in Europe. It makes existing satellite navigation services appropriate for use in, for example, aviation or maritime transport.

These programmes have two specific objectives:

1. to develop and provide global satellite-based radio navigation infrastructures and services (Galileo) by 2019
2. to provide satellite-based services, improving on the performance of GPS, to gradually cover the whole ECAC (European Civil Aviation Conference) region by 2020 (EGNOS).

Who could apply?

The programme is relevant to tourism as many of its applications impact the industry. These include improvements in:

- LBS (location based service) which is available in individual handsets and mobile phones and could guide tourists around new destinations
- road transport, which could make more efficient use of road travel
- aviation, for safer and more efficient air travel
- maritime transport, for safer and more efficient navigation

How to apply?

Currently there is no information on the application procedure.

Communication on the European Earth Monitoring Programme (GMES) and its operations (from 2014 onwards)

What is the European Earth Monitoring Programme?

The European Earth Monitoring Programme (GMES) was established together with the "Galileo" navigation satellite system. Policymakers and public authorities, the major users of GMES, will use the information to prepare environmental policies with a focus on climate change. These could include monitoring, implementation and assessment of the effects. GMES also supports the critical decisions that need to be made quickly during emergencies, catastrophes and humanitarian crises, which could be potentially used by transport providers.

It is proposed that the GMES fund should consist of € 5.8 billion contributed by Member States (depending on their GNI) and any other voluntary contributions from other entities.

Who could apply?

GMES will be open to partners from all EU Member States. Currently GMES services are provided in a pre-operational mode by consortia selected by the European Commission within FP7. These Consortia include the public and private sectors. On that basis the eligible tourism partners could include:

Transport providers

Public authorities

How to apply?

There is currently no information on the application procedure.

Creative Europe Programme

What is the Creative Europe Programme?

The proposed cultural programme for the period 2014-2020 is to be called the Creative Europe Programme. It draws together three existing programmes: Culture, MEDIA and MEDIA Mundus. The main objective of the programme will be fostering the safeguarding and promotion of European cultural and linguistic diversity as well as strengthening the competitiveness of the cultural and creative sectors with a view to promoting smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The total funding is established at € 1.8 billion, this will be distributed between three strands:

- Culture (30% of budget) will be addressed to the cultural and creative sectors
- MEDIA (55%) will be addressed to the audiovisual sector
- Cross-sectoral (15%) will be addressed to all cultural and creative sectors

Who could apply?

Participation in the Creative Europe Programme shall be open to the following countries:

- Member States
- EFTA/EEA countries
- accession, candidate and potential candidate countries
- neighbourhood countries
- other countries may be involved in specific actions.

Eligible tourism partner could include:

Attractions

Public authorities

How to apply?

The current system of management, through the ECAEA, will continue; however, limited information about application procedures is currently available. A network of information points (the current Cultural Contact Points and MEDIA Desks) will continue to provide information and advice on applying under the programme.

Erasmus for All Programme

What is Erasmus for All Programme?

The Commission proposed a new programme for education, training, youth and sport for the period 2014 – 2020, Erasmus for All Programme. The Commission's aim was to increase efficiency, increase the ease of application and reduce duplication and fragmentation. The programme would replace seven existing programmes:

- Lifelong Learning programme;
- Youth in Action; and
- five international cooperation programmes - Erasmus Mundus, Tempus, Alfa, Edulink and the programme for cooperation with industrialized countries.

The overall budget for the period 2014 - 2020 is proposed at €19 billion.

Who could apply?

In the proposed programme, there would be more funding opportunities for study, training, teaching and volunteering opportunities abroad for higher education and vocational students, trainees, teachers, trainers and youth workers. There would also be more opportunities for education and training institutions or youth organisations to engage in partnerships with businesses to promote innovation and employability, as well as greater support for IT platforms. The programme will support three main types of actions:

- learning opportunities for individuals, including: study and training, traineeships, teaching and professional development and non-formal youth activities such as volunteering;
- institutional cooperation between educational institutions, youth organisations, businesses, local and regional authorities and NGOs; and
- support for policy reform in Member States and cooperation with non-EU countries.

How to apply?

Two completely new elements will be part of Erasmus for All Programme:

- a loan guarantee scheme to help Master's degree students to finance their studies abroad; and
- the creation of 400 'knowledge alliances' and 'sector skills alliances'. Knowledge alliances are large-scale partnerships between higher education institutions and businesses; sector skills alliances are partnerships between education and training providers and businesses.

Currently there is no further information available on the application procedure.

Programme for Social Change and Innovation

What is the Programme for Social Change and Innovation?

The new programme - Programme for Social Change and Innovation (PSCI) - will draw on the experience of existing programmes: PROGRESS, EURES (European Employment Services) and the European Microfinance Facility.

The programme will support policy coordination, sharing of best practices, capacity-building and testing of innovative policies, with the aim that the most successful measures will be extended with support from the European Social Fund.

The budget for the 2014 - 2020 period can be divided into three axes, corresponding to the existing programmes:

1. PROGRESS would receive €574 million, of which €97 million would be allocated to experimental projects
2. Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship would receive around €192 million; it would be split as follows:
 - access to microfinance would receive €87 million
 - institutional capacity building would receive almost €9 million, and
 - support to social enterprise development €95.5 million.
3. EURES would receive a very similar budget, at around €20 million per year, but the budget foreseen for Your First EURES Job, a sub-section of EURES, will be €10 million per year. In the short term the Commission will create a dedicated hospitality sector section in EURES. The aim of this is to provide an on-line platform for the hospitality sector that will allow employers to assess the skills and experiences of job seekers from their own and other EU countries, facilitate a better match of supply and demand on the labour market for the hotel and restaurant sector and thus enhance mobility of workers.

Who could apply?

Participation in the Progress axis shall be open to the following countries:

- Member States
- EFTA and EEA member countries
- Acceding, candidate countries and potential candidates

Eligible tourism partners could include:

Accommodation providers

Transport providers

Restaurants/ Cafés

Travel agents/ Tour operators

Attractions

Public authorities

How to apply?

Currently there is no information available on the application procedure.

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

What is the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund?

For the period 2014- 2020, the European Commission has proposed that the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) should replace the previous European Fisheries Fund. The EMFF will help deliver the objectives of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy and support the implementation of the EU Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP). The proposed financial envelope for the EMFF amounts to €6.5 billion and it will be distributed between four main pillars:

1. smart, green fisheries
2. smart, green aquaculture
3. sustainable and inclusive territorial development
4. integrated maritime policy

The current proposal indicates that the EMFF may support investments contributing to diversification of the income of aquaculture enterprises through the development of complementary activities outside aquaculture, for example tourism. The current proposal also may contribute to tourism under the new approach towards Integrated Maritime Policy.

Who could apply?

Eligible tourism partners could include:

Accommodation providers

Restaurants/ Cafés

Attractions

Public authorities

How to apply?

As with all of the structural funds, as well as EARDF, the overarching priorities for the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund will be established in the Community Strategic Guidelines. These will set the framework for activities that can be supported using the funds. Within this framework, each Member State develops its own National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) that will be common for all structural funds as well as EARDF and EMFF. This will establish the priorities for the respective Member State, taking specific national policies into account. This will be followed by Operational Programmes for each region within the Member State, which will be drawn up in accordance with the NSRF. Member States and regional authorities will have flexibility to decide whether to establish separate operational programmes for each fund concerned or to prepare them jointly for one or more of the funds.

Proposal for an External Budget for 2014-2020: External Action Instruments

What are the External Action Instruments?

This Proposal establishes the conditions for the Union's provision of financial assistance towards actions to be carried out under nine external action instruments.

The nine instruments are:

- Pre-accession instrument (IPA)
- European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)
- Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)
- Partnership Instrument (PI)
- Instrument for Stability (IfS)
- European Instrument for Democracy & Human Rights (EIDHR)
- Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation
- Instrument for Greenland
- European Development Fund (EDF, outside EU Budget)

The external instruments will allow the EU to fulfil its responsibilities and global commitments in fields such as fighting poverty, promoting democracy, peace, stability and prosperity. The range of instruments will support developing countries, as well as countries in the European neighbourhood and those that are preparing for accession into the EU. Tourism businesses in these countries could potentially benefit from instruments. The total amount proposed for these nine instruments is € 96 billion over the period 2014-2020.

Who could apply?

There is currently no information on the application procedure.

How to apply?

There is currently no information on the application procedure.

Proposal for a Consumer Programme 2014 - 2020

What is the Consumer Programme 2014 - 2020?

The Consumer Programme 2014-2020 would replace the 2007-2013 Programme of Community Action in the field of consumer policy. It would aim to support and complement national policies on consumer policy by ensuring that EU consumers, including tourism consumers, could benefit fully from the internal market. There would be an emphasis on protecting consumer safety and economic interests, in particular by:

- reinforcing and enhancing product safety through effective market surveillance
- improving consumer information, education and awareness of their rights, and working closely with Member States
- consolidating consumer rights and strengthening effective redress, especially through alternative dispute resolution mechanisms
- strengthening cross-border enforcement by closer co-operation between national enforcement bodies and by offering advice and support to consumers

Who could apply?

This programme will be open to partners (i.e. public authorities) from:

- EU Member States
- EFTA/EEA countries
- acceding, potential candidate and candidate countries
- the European Neighbourhood Policy countries

Consumer organisations that are non-governmental, not-profit making, independent of industry and have a prime objective of promoting and protecting the health, safety, economic and legal interests of EU consumers can also apply.

How to apply?

Specific actions will be published in the yearly work programme. Calls for proposals and calls for tenders will be announced on the websites of DG for Health and Consumers and the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC):

http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/strategy/programmes_en.htm#programme2014

http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/consumers/consumers_calls.html

Proposal for a Health for Growth Programme 2014 - 2020

What is the Health for Growth Programme 2014 - 2020?

The Proposal for the Health for Growth Programme aims at working closely with Member States to encourage innovation in healthcare and increase the sustainability of health systems, to improve the health of EU citizens and protect them from cross-border health threats. This could be of particular importance for tourists and for regions hosting tourists. It focuses on four specific objectives which include:

- to contribute to innovative and sustainable health systems
- to increase access to better and safer healthcare for EU citizens
- to prevent diseases and promote good health
- to protect citizens from cross-border health threats

Who could apply?

The Health for Growth Programme will be open to partners (i.e. public authorities) from:

- EU Member States
- EFTA/EEA countries
- acceding, potential candidates and candidate countries
- European Neighbourhood Policy countries

National health authorities, public bodies, private bodies, international organisations and NGOs with a general interest in health at EU level and which support the programme's specific objectives are potential candidates for funding.

How to apply?

Funding can be applied for in the form of grants or public procurement. As is the case with the current health programme, the Health and Growth programme would be funded through:

- grants for action co-financed by the competent authorities responsible for public health in the Member States (so called 'joint actions') and with international health organisations
- grants to support NGOs working in the area of public health who play an effective role in civil dialogue processes at EU level and contribute to at least one of the specific objectives
- procurement contracts

The Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC) is assigned by the European Commission to implement the Health Programme. More details are available at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/health/index.html>

Proposal for a Justice Programme 2014 - 2020

What is the Justice Programme 2014 - 2020?

The general objective of the Justice Programme 2014-2020 is to contribute to the creation of a European area of justice by promoting judicial cooperation in civil and criminal aspects. This could affect tourists seeking justice outside their own countries. The Justice Programme aims at:

- promoting the effective, comprehensive and consistent application of Union legislation in the areas of judicial cooperation in civil and criminal aspects
- easing access to justice
- preventing and reducing drug demand and supply

The Justice Programme 2014-2020 is the successor of three current programmes: Civil Justice (JCIV), Criminal Justice (JPEN) and the Drug Prevention and Information Programme (DPIP).

Who could apply?

The Justice Programme will be open to partners (i.e. public authorities) from:

- EU Member States
- EFTA/EEA countries
- acceding, candidate and potential candidate countries
- the European Neighbourhood Policy countries

The Commission may cooperate with international organisations active in the areas covered by the Justice Programme, such as the Council of Europe, the United Nations and the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

How to apply?

Specific actions will be published in the yearly work programme. Specific calls for proposals and calls for tenders should be published accordingly.

Proposal for the Rights and Citizenship Programme 2014 - 2020

What is the Rights and Citizenship Programme 2014 - 2020?

The general objective of the Rights and Citizenship Programme will be to help make people's rights and freedoms more effective by making people aware of their rights and through consistent enforcement of these rights in the EU Member States. The programme will promote the rights of the child, the principles of non-discrimination (due to racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation), and gender equality (including projects to fight violence against women and children). The programme would be the result of merging the current Fundamental Rights and Citizenship programme; Daphne III programme; and the sections which cover 'Antidiscrimination and Diversity' and 'Gender Equality' within PROGRESS, into one single Programme. The foreseen budget is € 439 million. This Programme will focus on specific objectives:

1. to contribute to enhancing the exercise of rights deriving from the citizenship of the Union
2. to promote the effective implementation of the principles of non-discrimination on the grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, including equality between women and men and the rights of persons with disabilities and of the elderly
3. to contribute to ensuring a high level of protection of personal data
4. to enhance the respect of the rights of the child
5. to empower consumers and businesses to operate within the internal market by consistent enforcement of EU consumer legislation and by supporting cross-border trade. This could be of particular relevance to tourists and tourism businesses.

Who could apply?

The Rights and Citizenship Programme 2014-2020 will be open to partners (i.e. public authorities) from:

- EU Member States
- EFTA/EEA countries
- acceding, candidate and potential candidate countries
- the European Neighbourhood Policy countries
- international organisations operating in these countries

How to apply?

The current Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme meets its objectives by funding transnational actions (Action grants), operating grants and the Commission's own initiatives (calls for tenders). However, currently there is no specific information on how the 2014-2020 programme will be run. Further information, which could be consulted, should be published on the website of DG Home Affairs at: http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/funding/beyond/funding_intro_en.htm

Proposal for the Asylum and Migration Fund

What is the Asylum and Migration Fund?

The Asylum and Migration Fund has a proposed budget of € 3.8 billion. Its objective is to contribute to the effective management of migration flows in the Union as part of the area of freedom, security and justice, in accordance with the EU policy on asylum, temporary protection and immigration.

This programme brings together three separate programmes; the European Refugee Fund, the European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals, and the European Return Fund.

The Asylum and Migration Fund will focus on people flows and the integrated management of migration. It will support actions in relation to asylum, legal migration, return operations and the integration of third-country nationals.

Who could apply?

Funding would mainly go to the Member States' departments responsible for the implementation of such policies as well as to international organisations or NGOs working in the field of asylum and migration (admission procedures, integration measures and return operations).

How to apply?

Specific actions will be published in the yearly work programme. Specific calls for proposals and calls for tenders should be published on the website of DG Home Affairs at:

http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/funding/beyond/funding_intro_en.htm

Proposal for the Internal Security Fund

What is the Internal Security Fund?

The Internal Security Fund will support the implementation of the Internal Security Strategy. It will also support a coherent and comprehensive approach to law enforcement cooperation, including the management of the EU's external borders. It will finance the activities currently supported by the Specific Programmes on: 'Preventing and combating crime'; and 'Prevention, preparedness and consequence management of terrorism and other Security-related risks'. It also covers activities which are currently supported under the External Borders Fund. The overall budget of the Internal Security Fund will be € 4.6 billion and it will be divided between two instruments:

1. The Instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management (€ 1.1 billion). This will contribute to the overall objective of the Fund by:
 - preventing and combating serious and organised cross-border crime including terrorism
 - strengthening cooperation between Member States authorities and other third countries
 - enhancing the capacity of EU Member States in the management of security-related risks and crises
2. The Instrument for financial support for external borders and visas (€ 3.5 billion). This will contribute to the overall objective of the Fund by:
 - supporting a common visa policy, which could be of particular relevance to cross-border tourism
 - supporting borders management to ensure a high level of protection of external borders and the proper application of the Schengen acquis

Who could apply?

- To the Police cooperation instrument – funding will mainly be received by Member States' law enforcement authorities. It will also go to any other authorities specialising in the protection of critical infrastructure and the management of crises, and also to relevant International Organisations and NGO's,
- To the Borders Management instrument – financial support will mainly go to the services implementing the EU acquis, the Schengen Borders Code and the Visa Code in the Member States, for example for border guards, police and consular services.

How to apply?

There is currently no information on the application procedure. However, the Commission has proposed to discuss with each participating Member State about how Home Affairs funding can best be used to achieve EU policy objectives within this area. The close cooperation between the Commission and Member States will ensure a focus on policy priorities and results.

Proposal for the 'Europe for Citizens' Programme 2014 - 2020

What is the Europe for Citizens Programme 2014 - 2020?

The general objective of the Europe for Citizens Programme will be to enhance capacity for civic participation at the Union level. It would develop the capacity of citizens' organisations in order to engage citizens in the democratic life of the Union.

The specific objectives aim to:

- stimulate debate, reflection and networking on remembrance, the Union's history, identity and aim
- develop citizens' understanding of the Union policy-making process and promote opportunities for societal engagement and volunteering at Union level

Who could apply?

The projects supported by the Europe for Citizens Programme will be open to partners (i.e. public authorities) from:

- EU Member States
- EFTA/EEA countries
- acceding, candidate and potential candidate countries

How to apply?

Similar to its predecessor, the programme will be implemented through operating grants and action grants based on open calls for proposals and through service contracts based on calls for tenders.

Proposal for a Union Civil Protection Mechanism

What is the Union Civil Protection Mechanism?

The Union Civil Protection Mechanism will aim to support, coordinate and supplement the actions of Member States in the area of civil protection. This involves improving the effectiveness of systems for preventing, preparing for, and responding to disasters, such as, natural and man-made disasters, terrorism, technological disasters, radiological or environmental accidents, marine pollution and health emergencies. The Mechanism shall cover people, but also the environment, property and cultural heritage. The latter aspects could be of particular relevance to tourism. The Mechanism will focus on the cooperation between the EU and Member States with a focus on three specific objectives:

- to achieve a high level of protection against disasters by preventing or reducing their impacts and by promoting a culture of prevention
- to improve the Union's state of preparedness to respond to disasters
- to facilitate rapid and efficient emergency response interventions in the event of major disasters.
- The proposed budget for the Union Civil Protection Mechanism is € 513 million.

Who could apply?

The Union Civil Protection Mechanism will be open to legal persons governed by private or public law from:

- EU Member States
- EFTA/EEA countries
- acceding, candidate and potential candidate countries
- the European Neighbourhood Policy countries
- international or regional organisations may cooperate on the basis of an appropriate agreement with the Commission

How to apply?

Financial assistance under this Mechanism may take the form of grants, reimbursement of expenses, public procurement, or contributions to trust funds available through Member States competent authorities. A list is yet to be agreed upon.

Proposal for OLAF's Anti-Fraud, Community Programmes: Hercule III and Pericles 2020

What are Hercule III and Pericles 2020?

The Hercule III programme is set up to fight fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities affecting the financial interests of the EU. It focuses in particular on cooperation between the Commission, via the European Anti-fraud Office (OLAF), the Member States competent authorities and other European institutions and bodies. The programme aims to provide protection in the Member States and in all EU institutions, bodies and agencies. Actions provided under the Hercule III programme include: professional training and technical and operational support for law enforcement authorities in Member States in their fight against illegal cross-border activities.

The Pericles 2020 programme is an exchange, assistance and training programme to strengthen the protection of euro banknotes and coins in Europe and worldwide. This could benefit a range of tourism businesses by protecting them from currency fraud. Projects financed under the Pericles programme include, for example, a seminar on the 'Community Strategy for the protection of the euro in the Mediterranean area'; a training course on money counterfeiting in Latin America; and a number of staff exchanges between authorities within and outside the EU.

Who could apply?

OLAF's Anti-Fraud Community Programmes will be open to partners (i.e. public authorities) from EU Member States and candidate countries (under certain conditions). The funding will be available for:

- public administrations (national or regional)
- research and education institutes
- non-profit bodies

How to apply?

There is currently no information on the application procedure.

Proposal for the European Statistical Programme 2013 - 2017

What is the European Statistical Programme 2013 - 2017?

The principle objective is to produce and disseminate high-quality, harmonised European statistics which may be used for EU policy development. This includes statistics relevant to tourism. The specific objectives include:

- providing high quality statistics to better design, monitor and evaluate EU policies
- implementing more efficient methods of producing European statistics
- strengthening the leading role of the European Statistical System in official statistics worldwide

Total proposed budget for 2013 - 2017 is € 299.4 million, of which € 57.3 million will be covered by the programming period 2007 – 2013 and € 242.1 million will be covered by the programming period 2014 – 2017.

Who could apply?

The projects supported by the Programme will be open to partners (i.e. public authorities) from:

- EU Member States
- EFTA/EEA countries
- acceding, candidate and potential candidate countries
- the European Neighbourhood Policy countries
- the Western Balkan countries included in the stabilisation and association process

How to apply?

The Commission (Eurostat) may invite any institution or body of the Community to consult or cooperate with it in order to develop methods and systems for statistical purposes in their respective field. Grants to identified beneficiaries may be awarded without a call for proposals. Operating grants (50%) may be awarded to non-profit making organisations, independent of industry.

Proposal for a FISCUS Programme 2014 - 2020

What is the FISCUS Programme 2014 - 2020?

The FISCUS Programme will have a budget of € 777 million. It will support the Customs Union and strengthen the Internal Market by improving cooperation and coordination in taxation policies. This could be relevant to tourism businesses operating cross-border. The FISCUS Programme will also facilitate networking, joint actions and training amongst tax and customs personnel, as well as funding projects on e-administrations in customs and taxation. The specific objectives of the programme are:

- to support the application and implementation of EU law in the area of customs and taxation
- to improve the capacities of taxation and customs administrations
- to reduce administrative burdens
- to ensure the safety and security of EU citizens
- to tackle fraud and tax evasion
- to facilitate trade and cooperate with trading partners
- to protect the EU's and Member State's financial interests
- This programme is the successor of the current Fiscalis 2013 and Customs 2013 programmes.

Who could apply?

EU Member States' and candidate countries' customs and tax authorities will be eligible for funding.

How to apply?

There is currently no information on the application procedure.

