



# EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment

## ACTIVE YOUTH - Call no. 2017-1

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – CONCEPT NOTE PHASE

Publication date: 26.04.2017

Deadline for submission of the Concept Note: **01.08.2017 12:00h CET**

first tutorial: call presentation

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The Donor States Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein with support from their secretariat the Financial Mechanism Office (“the FMO”) announces call no. 2017-1 seeking the submission of proposals for grants for transnational projects under the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment (“the Fund”).

A Fund Operator (“the FO”), a consortium consisting of Ecorys Polska and JCP Italy, assists the FMO in implementing the Fund.

The project selection will follow a two-step procedure, in which this call is the first step. Based on the assessment of submitted concept notes, successful applicants may continue to the second step.

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Projects funded are intended to contribute towards the overall objectives of the EEA and Norway Grants:

- reducing economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area; and
- strengthening relations of the Donor States Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein with 15 Beneficiary countries in Northern, Central and Southern Europe.

**The Fund supports projects that promote sustainable and quality youth employment.**

**The total amount available for projects is €60.6 million.**

Projects are expected to contribute towards the specific objective of the Fund:

- **strengthening transnational cooperation to address European challenges in the area of youth employment.**

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The Donor States are: **Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein**

The 15 Beneficiary countries in Northern, Central and Southern Europe are: **Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Cyprus, Malta and Portugal**

Additionally, in this call, also **Ireland, Italy and Spain** are considered as eligible beneficiary countries

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All projects and activities funded shall be based on the common values of:

- Respect for human dignity;
- Freedom;
- Democracy;
- Equality;
- Rule of law; and
- Respect for human rights, including the rights of people belonging to minorities

All projects and activities supported by the Fund shall follow the principles of good governance; they shall be participatory and inclusive, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient. There shall be zero-tolerance towards corruption. All projects and activities supported by the Fund shall be consistent with sustainable development, long-term economic growth, social cohesion and environmental protection.

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The Fund aims to advance new and innovative solutions and activities and outputs within projects may happen on several levels, both systemic (e.g. developing formal educational modules; develop systematic cooperation with non-traditional stakeholders) and personal (e.g. attending to the individual needs of the members of the target group). Suggested measures with a mandatory *transnational* focus, will include but are not limited to:

- Efficient practices that develop sustainable jobs;
- Innovative solutions on how to prepare and train young people for structural labour market changes like digitalisation and smart automation;
- Widening involvement of stakeholders, including the social services, child/youth services, medical and psychiatric professionals, parents, etc.;
- Involvement of non-traditional employers and sectors, for instance NGOs, civil society organisations and SMEs;
- Outreach strategies;
- The development or involvement of social entrepreneurship/enterprises;
- Innovative start-up support to young entrepreneurs;
- Community-based approaches;
- Family learning (learning activities that involve all family members, where learning outcomes are intended for all, contributing to a culture of learning in the family);
- New mentoring and coaching approaches;
- Development of new flexible solutions, e.g. in entry qualification requirements to educational institutions or in work contracts for apprentices;
- Experimental pedagogy and didactics;
- Innovative focus on employability and soft skills development;
- Mixing informal, non-formal and formal learning arenas;
- Innovative apprenticeship modules and work-based learning;
- Innovative mobility measures and job placements; and
- Experimental gender mainstreaming strategies.

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This call for transnational projects addressing youth unemployment has three principal **support areas**:

*a) Innovation and exploration*

*b) Transfer of know-how and good practice*

*c) Analysis and research*

Each of these support areas are described below. All support areas imply networking and close cooperation with entities in other eligible countries, including expertise partners established in a Donor State, in a non-eligible EU Member State or an international organisation if relevant.

**Support areas may be combined**

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## ELIGIBLE CONSORTIA

Projects shall involve entities from at least two countries, including at least one Beneficiary State. Each project must include one lead partner and at least one beneficiary partner.

- Eligible lead partner: any eligible entity established in a Beneficiary State;
- Eligible beneficiary partner: any eligible entity established in a Beneficiary State, Ireland, Italy or Spain;
- Expertise partners can be any eligible entity established in a Donor State, in a non-eligible EU Member State or international organisations.

**Project partners are the consortium members, including the lead partner, the beneficiary partner(s) and any expertise partner(s).**



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Eligible project partners may be entities, public or private, commercial or non-commercial and non-governmental organisations, established as legal persons, including but not limited to:

- Municipalities, organisations owned or partly owned by municipalities, associations of municipalities;
- Regions, organisations owned or partly owned by regions; associations of regions;
- Organisational units of central government, organisations partly funded by central government units, state enterprises, state organisations;
- Public and private education and research institutions;
- Civil society organisations, non-profit organisations, social enterprises, interest associations of legal persons, foundations and endowment funds;
- Commercial companies;
- Cooperatives (manufacturing, housing, consumer);
- Business support organisations (incubators, start-up centres, etc.); and
- Social partners (trade unions, sector associations, employer associations, chambers of commerce and industry).

Sole proprietorships and natural persons are not eligible consortium members.

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## **Support of projects with expertise partners**

Projects under the Fund are intended to benefit identified target groups within the 15 Beneficiary States, Ireland, Italy or Spain. The consortia may invite expertise partners to support the projects by bringing added value by way of sharing expertise, experience and know-how.

The concept note shall list the expertise partners to be involved in the project and describe their relevant work achievements and why they are considered necessary to reach the objectives of the project.

Bilateral relations between Beneficiary and Donor States shall be encouraged in line with the overall objective of the EEA and Norway Grants.

The reason for inviting expertise partners into the consortia is to provide benefit to the target groups in the 15 Beneficiary States as well as Ireland, Italy and Spain, as outlined in this call.

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## PROJECT DURATION

The project duration must be taken into account in the development of the concept note. Long-term project funding could be considered for example where pilots are being developed, for projects which are focused on change processes and the development of new methodologies, or in the case of projects involving capacity building. Long-term funding may also be needed for larger-scale projects.

The final date for eligibility of expenditures for projects is **30th April 2024 at the latest.**

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## FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

The amount of grant assistance applied for within a project shall not be less than EUR 1 million.

There is no maximum grant amount per project.

## Project co-financing

The project consortium is required to provide project co-financing. The grant cannot constitute more than 85% of the total eligible costs of the project. The required co-financing may be provided by one or more partners, as decided among themselves.

In case of project partners with the status of non-governmental organisations, in-kind contribution in the form of voluntary work may constitute up to 50% of the co-financing required for the project. In exceptional cases, and subject to approval by the FMC, in-kind contribution in the form of voluntary work may constitute up to 100% of the co-financing required.

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Eligible consortia may submit a maximum of **one** concept note and consortium members may not participate in other project consortia under this call.

Concept notes must be drawn up in English. The budget estimate must be presented in EUR.

The concept note shall be submitted electronically via the fund operator's system (EGREG) by **01.08.2017 (12:00 noon CET)**. No modification to the concept note is allowed once the deadline for submission has elapsed.

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## Indicative timetable

No	Stages	Dates
1	Deadline for submitting concept notes	01.08.2017
2	Notification of applicants of the results of the assessment of the concept notes	20.09.2017
3	Deadline for submitting full project applications	01.11.2017
4	Notification on selection of projects	31.12.2017

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Answers to any question during the preparation of concept notes will be provided during the period the call is active. Technical (IT) issues are solved via the EGREG help desk:

[helpdesk@egregsystem.info](mailto:helpdesk@egregsystem.info)

Other questions may be sent electronically by e-mail to the following account: [eeagrants@ecorys.com](mailto:eeagrants@ecorys.com).

Answers will be published on the webpage of the Fund:  
<http://eeagrants.org/fundforyouthemployment>

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## Further information are available at:

EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment website:

<http://eeagrants.org/fundforyouthemployment>

or calling the fund operator hub services:

- **East Hub Information Unit** (Warsaw): +48 22 339 45 40
- **West Hub Information Unit** (Reggio Emilia): +39 05 22 501 157
- **South Hub Information Unit** (Sofia): +35 92 491 75 18

and/or at the EEA and Norway Grants website: <http://eeagrants.org>  
and <http://norwaygrants.org>



the first step:  
connect to :

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<https://www.egregsystem.info/fundforyouthemployment/>

follow the instructions in order to register as  
potential Applicant to this call, for any problem pls  
send an e-mail to:

[helpdesk@egregsystem.info](mailto:helpdesk@egregsystem.info)

and/or follow the next tutorial; we remain at your disposal