

**SPECIFIC PROGRAMME "FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND
CITIZENSHIP" (2007-2013)**
CALL FOR PROPOSALS JLS/2009-2010/FRAC/AG Action Grants
SPECIFIC TRANSNATIONAL PROJECTS

1. INTRODUCTION

On 19 April 2007, the Council adopted Decision No 2007/252/JHA¹ establishing the Specific Programme "Fundamental Rights and Citizenship" for the period 2007-2013 as part of the General Programme 'Fundamental Rights and Justice', in order to contribute to the strengthening of the area of Freedom, Security and Justice over the period of 2007 - 2013.

2. ESSENCE OF THE CALL

This call for proposals for **action grants** aims to select projects falling under the objectives of the **FRC programme**² and the **call priorities**.

Projects require a **minimum partnership of 2 organisations** from different **EU member states** and must have a **duration** of between **12 and 24 months**.

Grants awarded under the call will range **from € 100.000 to € 1.000.000**, which may constitute a maximum of 80% of overall, eligible project cost.

The projects should start in the first half of 2011.

The **deadline** for submitting proposals via the **PRIAMOS** on-line application is **29 April 2010, 12:00 CET**.

3. SPECIFICITIES OF THIS CALL

The call for proposals is based on the Fundamental Rights and Citizenship annual work programmes for 2009 and 2010³ and combines the priorities as well as the resources available for both years.

Therefore approximately twice the usual funding will be available amounting to an indicative € 19.395.000. It is therefore expected that a higher number of projects will be funded than in previous calls.

1 <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:110:0033:0039:EN:PDF>

2 Art. 2 and Art. 3, Council Decision No 2007/252/JHA

3 http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/rights/funding_rights_en.htm

4. CALL PRIORITIES

Protection of the rights of the child

The 2006 communication “Towards an EU strategy for the rights of the child” advocates increased promotion of children’s rights, as listed in the United Nations Convention on the rights of the child. This activity will support awareness raising campaigns, surveys concerning good practice in Member States and ways to disseminate them, analysis of particular problems such as specific needs of the children, children who are victims of crimes, etc.

Combating racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism

The European Union, within the powers conferred on it by the Treaties, implements a policy against racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and other related intolerance, such as Islamophobia and anti- Roma racism. This activity will provide financial support for actions aimed at fighting traditional and new stereotypes whose persistence or diffusion are at the roots of racist attitudes and speech, discriminatory action and violent incidents. It will particularly encourage initiatives aiming at countering such stereotypes and their divulgation, as well as initiatives aiming at fostering mutual understanding. Priority will be given to projects aimed at developing cross-community approaches.

Fight against Homophobia: Enhanced/improved understanding and tolerance

Priority will be given to actions that emphasise the fundamental rights perspective in the fight against homophobia, in particular projects aimed at better identifying homophobic attitudes and stereotypes. Actions that duplicate other activities in this area, particularly in the framework of non-discrimination in the area of employment, will not be retained.

Active participation in the democratic life of the Union.

The Commission intends to promote information and civic education initiatives on the active participation of Union citizens in the democratic life of the Union, and in particular, participation in European Parliament and municipal elections.

Priority will be given to projects focusing on the exercise of electoral rights of Union citizens in the Member State where they reside and of which they are not nationals. The Commission will support activities aimed at encouraging and supporting grassroots initiatives and projects carried out by associations in which non national Union citizens, residing in another Member State than their own, are involved.

Training and networking between legal professions and legal practitioners

There is a need to develop and strengthen a shared culture of fundamental rights within the European Union. This requires that the legal, judicial and administrative authorities, legal professionals and practitioners have a good knowledge and understanding of the principles laid down in Art 6 of the Treaty on European Union and reflected in the Charter of Fundamental Rights. Training and awareness-raising are means to achieve this goal. The Commission will support training on the Charter, as well as cooperation and exchange of information between the legal profession and all legal practitioners in the area of fundamental rights. Projects which involve a larger number of partners will be prioritised.

Data protection and privacy rights

The development of a legal framework allowing the free circulation of information based on the protection of the fundamental rights of the individual and in particular their right to privacy with respect to the processing of personal data is an important task not only at European level but at international level as well.

Under this subject, priority actions should focus on: Reinforcing children's privacy in the current environment; Tackling the risks posed by internet and electronic means of communication and surveillance in respect of the privacy of citizens and their economic interests; general information on the fundamental right to the protection of personal data and awareness-raising campaign, for example on the occasion of the European Data Protection Day (28th January); Privacy Enhancing Technologies (PETs).

Applicants must indicate clearly which of the above priorities their proposal addresses. Proposals must demonstrate their innovation and show that there is no duplication with existing activities, including those foreseen by the FRA – European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights.⁴

Only new projects, which do not aim to generate a profit, will be eligible for funding. Projects that have already started before the deadline for submission of the proposals will not be eligible for funding.

5. CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

Applicants must comply with the conditions set out in the call and follow the instructions stipulated in the **Guide for Applicants** published with this call.

The project must be prepared by a **partnership** and involve at least two eligible organisations (applicant plus one partner minimum) from two different EU Member States.

Applicants and partners cooperate in the design and implementation of the action, must all be eligible for funding under this Programme, and will share the financial responsibility for the project.

5.1. Applicant / Partners

Applicants and partners must comply with the following requirements:

Legal status: They must be legally constituted non-governmental organisations, institutions and public or private organisations, universities, research institutes, national regional and local authorities, and other organisations established in one of the Member States of the European Union or international organisations, working on a non-profit basis.

Origin: They are based in one of the 27 Member States of the European Union;

Non-profit: They are non-profit-making (bodies and organisations which are profit-oriented shall have access to grants under the Programme only as partners if justified by the nature of the action).

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Applications from natural persons (private individuals) are not eligible.

An applicant may apply for support for several separate projects. In this case, separate applications should be submitted. Only one application is required for each project. In case more than one project is selected for funding, the applicant must demonstrate its technical and financial capacities to implement all of its selected projects. Applicants may also participate as partners in projects submitted by other organisations.

⁴ <http://fra.europa.eu>

5.2. Associate Partners

Organisations which either do not comply with the criteria for applicant or partner organisations or do not wish to receive funding to participate in the project may participate as associate partners. This includes organisations from any third country which are not eligible for EU funding.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The submitted proposals will be evaluated against exclusion, eligibility, selection and award criteria.

6.1. Exclusion Criteria

Potential applicants and partners may not participate in this call for proposals or be awarded grants if they are in any of the situations referred to in Articles 93(1), 94 and 96(2)(a) of the Financial Regulation⁵. A full list of these is included at the end of the application form.

6.2. Eligibility Criteria

Proposals will be declared ineligible if they do not respect one or more of the following criteria. If a grant application is declared ineligible, it will not be considered for further evaluation and a rejection letter to that effect will be sent to the applicant.

- 1) The grant application must have been submitted through PRIAMOS before the deadline at 12:00 CET on 29 April 2010;
- 2) The applicant organisation and the partners must be eligible to participate in accordance with heading 5 of this call⁶;
- 3) Projects must involve organisations (applicant and partner(s)) from at least two EU Member States;
- 4) Applications must be submitted on the standard forms with all annexes required for this call for proposals duly completed;
- 5) The grant applied for must be between € 100.000 and € 1 million, lower or equal to 80% of the total eligible cost of the project; and the estimate budget of the project must be balanced;
- 6) The duration of the project must be between 12 and 24 months;

⁵ Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:2002R1605:20071227:EN:PDF>

⁶ Organisations from third countries currently cannot participate as the conditions set out in Art 5 of the legal basis (Council decision No 2007/252/JHA) are not currently met or expected to be met in the near future.

6.3. Selection criteria

In accordance with Article 116(1) of the Financial Regulation and Article 176 of the Implementing Rules, proposals will be evaluated according to the following selection criteria:

- 1) The applicant's **sufficient operational capacity** to complete the proposed action.
 - The applicant must have appropriate and proven qualifications and experience in the field of Fundamental Rights and Citizenship, which includes: children's rights, rights of the Union citizens, fight against racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism, networking between legal, judicial and administrative authorities and the legal professions, or data protection.
 - The key staff must have the necessary skills, experience and capacity to carry out the project.
- 2) The applicant's **sufficient financial capacity** to complete the proposed action.
 - The applicant must have a sound financial situation and sufficient sources of funding to maintain the activities of the action over the entire duration of the project.
 - The applicant must have secured⁷ co-financing of at least 20% of the total eligible costs of the project, evidenced through the budget, its own accounts, signed Partner Declaration(s) and/or Co-financing Declaration(s);

Only proposals which satisfy the selection criteria will be examined further.

6.4. Award criteria

The award criteria aim to ensure the selection of actions with a high inherent quality, which contribute as much as possible to Programme objectives and priorities in a cost-effective manner. Synergies and complementarities with other Union instruments and programmes shall be sought and overlaps and duplications with existing activities avoided. All projects will be assessed against the following criteria:

- 1) Relevance to the Programme's objectives and complementarities with other Union activities. (25 points)**
 - a) To what extent does the proposal fall under the priorities of the call/the objectives of the programme? (25 points)
- 2) Quality of the proposed action regarding its conception, presentation, organisation, methodology and expected results. (30 points)**
 - a) How well has the project been prepared? (6 points)

⁷ "Secured" means that funds are in the applicants' accounts or that any funds promised by a partner or donor (proved in writing by signing the co-financing declaration form) can only be subject to the condition of obtaining a grant under this call for proposals. Any additional condition will render the contribution non-secured. For co-funding from public authorities an additional condition of compliance with the relevant national budgetary regulations may be accepted.

- b) To what extent does the proposal give a clear insight into the project? (6 points)
 - c) To what extent is the project organised with a balanced distribution of tasks between the partners? (6 points)
 - d) To what extent have the applicant and partners attributed the appropriate expertise to the different activities in the project? (6 points)
 - e) To what extent is the methodology appropriate for the expected results? (6 points)
- 3) European dimension: the geographical scope of the project in terms of partners, participants and target group and/or its added value at European level. (15 points)**
- a) To what extent does the project include a balanced partnership in terms of geographical scope? (5 points)
 - b) To what extent will activities reach a broad target group in accordance with the partnership? (5 points)
 - c) How high is the added value of the project at European level? (5 points)
- 4) Sustainability of the project, impact and dissemination of the results. (20 points)**
- a) To what extent is the dissemination of results foreseen and appropriate? (10 points)
 - b) Will the project have a lasting impact through its results? (10 points)
- 5) Value for money. The extent to which the requested financing is reasonable given the expected results of the project (10 points)**

Once the evaluation procedure is completed, including receipt of the Programme Committee's opinion and the Commission's decision, the Commission will inform each applicant of the final decision taken, including reasons for rejection of proposals, and of the next steps. The Commission will then set in motion the procedures necessary for preparation of the grant agreement for successful applications (including dialogue with the applicant concerning any necessary technical and financial adjustments).

7. KICK-OFF MEETING

The budget for the proposal must include **travel costs to and from Brussels and 1 overnight stay** (if necessary) for 1 to 2 representatives of the coordinating organisation (Including at least the project coordinator but ideally also the financial coordinator if not the same person).

These costs are to allow successful applicants **to participate in the 1-day "kick-off" seminar** dedicated to project management, administrative aspects and reporting obligations.

8. APPLICATION DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED

Together with the duly completed Grant Application Form, the applicant must upload the following annexes: (IMPORTANT: please note that Partner declaration form, Associate partner declaration form and co-financing declaration form need to be signed and scanned before uploading).

Please use the templates provided by the Commission:

1. Project description;
2. Budget form;
3. Applicant's Legal entity form;
4. Applicant's financial identification form;
- 5.a Partner declaration form (includes declaration on exclusion criteria and legal entity);
- 5.b Associate partner declaration form (if relevant);
6. Co-financing declaration form (if relevant);

In addition, applicants must submit the following supporting documents using their own format:

7. Official annual financial statements (Profit and loss account and/or balance sheet) for the past 2 years that demonstrate the applicant's financial capacity, **and**, in the case of grants exceeding € 500.000, an audit report certifying the accounts for the last financial year available, produced by a certified external auditor (not applicable for universities and public authorities);
8. Curriculum vitae of key staff performing the work in connection with the project;
9. Applicant's article of association or statutes and proof of legal registration of the applicant;
10. Annual technical/narrative report of the applicant organisation for the previous year.

9. DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

Applications must be completed and submitted via PRIAMOS by:

29 April 2010, 12:00 CET.

Please note that although the PRIAMOS system is able to handle a high number of applications at the same time, it is advisable NOT to wait until the last moment to register on the system and submit your application.

10. GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

Please read the guide for applicants carefully, as it contains all details required for applying. It provides explanations and further details on the conditions to be met, the documents to fill out and submit, as well as instructions on how this must be done using PRIAMOS.

11. HELPDESK

Questions regarding the call for proposals may be sent by e-mail to the address below:

JLS-FRC-PROGRAMME@ec.europa.eu

Questions regarding registration and application via PRIAMOS may be sent to:

JLS-PRIAMOS-USM@ec.europa.eu

The Commission shall reply according to the Code of good administrative behaviour within 15 working days from receipt of the question.

In the interest of equal treatment of applicants, the Commission cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of an applicant, a partner or an action or on the outcome of the call before the official publication of results.

12. WHERE TO GET FURTHER INFORMATION

The Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme website:

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/rights/funding_rights_en.htm

PRIAMOS self-learning materials:

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/doc/electronic_applications/Introduction_Applicants.htm