

Eurostat Grant Programme 2009

(adopted on 5 December 2008)

Projects eligible for Eurostat grants in 2009

Information for the public

The public are hereby informed of projects eligible for a grant from Eurostat in 2009.

Please read the following information closely, in particular the section explaining the difference between the categories. Grants for a recipient “pre-identified” in the financing decision (P) and grants restricted to the “European Statistical System (ESS)” participants identified by a legal act (L) are published for information only. Grants in the category of open calls for proposals (O) are published to inform the general public.

Definition of a grant

A grant is a direct financial contribution, by way of donation, from the budget to third-party recipients (usually non-profit-making legal persons) who are involved in activities of interest to the EU.

For Eurostat, this corresponds to financial aid aimed at partially covering the eligible costs incurred by a body in order to implement projects concerning statistical work directly related to the Commission’s political priorities and to improve the statistical data required for the management of Community policies.

Grant categories

The following grant categories can be established, based on the potential grant recipients:

- *Open calls for proposals (O)*: this category covers action grants that are open to the public.
- *Grants limited to bodies identified by a basic act*: this category covers work to be carried out by the “European Statistical System” (L). By virtue of the provisions and principles set out in Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 of 17 February 1997 on Community Statistics, the production of certain specific statistics cannot *legally or in practice* be realised by any body other than the national statistical institutes or other authorities responsible for the production of Community statistics in each Member State.

- *Calls for pre-identified grant recipients (P)*: this category covers work that can only be carried out by one recipient, for reasons of a legal or *de facto* monopoly.

For information:

Open calls for proposals (O):

In the category of open calls for proposals (O), there are 2 projects in 2009. These are listed in the table B [“Financing Decision – EUROSTAT – 2009 – PROGRAMMING GRANTS”](#).

Consequently, for these projects only, please consult the various open calls for proposals which will be published on the Eurostat website in 2009.

Legal persons who are interested in one or more of these open calls for proposals can download a set of documents supplementing the corresponding call for proposals, in particular a note setting out the grant award conditions (objectives, expected results, timetable, eligibility, exclusion, selection and award criteria), a technical description of the project, and a standard grant application form accompanied by guidelines on how to fill it in, as well a template of a Grant Agreement.

Please remember that you must respect the deadline for submitting grant applications, which will be set out in each open call for proposals (date as postmark). If you miss this deadline, your application will automatically be rejected.

Calls for proposals (for categories “L” and “P”)

Projects concerning the categories of *grants limited to bodies identified by a basic act (L)* and *calls for pre-identified grant recipients (P)* are made public for information purposes only. In fact, ESS participants and pre-identified grant recipients are contacted directly for their proposals when the corresponding project is launched.

When the relevant project is launched, you will receive a set of documents supplementing the call for proposals: a letter setting out the grant award conditions (work programme, results expected, timetable, maximum rates of EU co-financing, selection and award criteria), and a standard grant application form accompanied by guidelines on how to fill it in, as well a template of the Grant Agreement.

Proposal evaluation

Eurostat organises specific evaluation committees in which technical experts gather to assess grant applications on the basis of the eligibility, exclusion, selection and award criteria set out in the technical annex. The committee submits a recommendation to the authorising officer concerned, who decides whether or not to award a grant based on this recommendation and on his or her own judgment.

Specific financial rules

A number of specific rules apply:

1) *Pro rata rule*: If the expenditure that is effectively eligible for a grant is less than the estimated costs of the project, the EU grant is limited to the percentage indicated in the grant agreement.

2) *Period of eligibility*: No grant may be awarded retrospectively. In other words:

- a grant may be awarded for an action which has already begun only where the applicant can demonstrate the need to start the action before the agreement is signed. In such cases costs eligible for financing may not have been incurred prior to the date of submission of the grant application,

- grants cannot be awarded for projects that have already been completed.

3) *Subcontracting*: Subcontracting is not allowed without permission in writing from Eurostat, following a written request from the grant recipient.

4) *Co-financing*: By definition, grants do not finance the entire project. The level of co-financing from the EU budget varies from 50% to 90%, depending on Eurostat's interest in the project.

5) *Staff costs of national administration*: following the revision in 2007 of the Implementing rules of the Financial Regulation (article 172a § 2(e)) "administrative expenditure, staff and equipment costs, including the salary costs of personnel of national administrations may be considered as eligible by the authorising officer responsible to the extent that they relate to the cost of activities which the relevant public authority would not carry out if the project concerned were not undertaken".

6) *Indirect costs*: the indirect costs incurred in carrying out an action may be eligible in the form of flat-rate funding up to a maximum of 7% of the total eligible direct costs (except the cost of subcontracting in cases where this cost represents more than 20% of the total cost of the action) . They need not be supported by accounting documents.

7) A Multi-beneficiary Grant Agreement will be proposed where the implementation of the action requires the participation of several partners.

Further information

For queries regarding *financial or procedural aspects*, contact Mr Luis Blanco Garces (tel: + (352) 4301 373 47) or Mr Domenico Palmisano (tel: + 352) 4301 321 22), preferably by fax (+ (352) 4301 322 69), who will reply to you as soon as possible.