

EUROPEAN FUNDING

OVERVIEW

EUROPEAN FUNDING

➤ PURPOSE:

- To combat regional disparities
- To promote economic and social cohesion
- To provide additional resources
- To promote social inclusion
- To support security and stability
- To prepare applicant countries

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➤ STRUCTURAL FUNDS

- European Regional Development Fund
- European Social Fund
- European Agricultural Guarantee and Guidance Fund
- Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance

➤ COHESION FUNDS

- Environment Projects (including Health)
- Transport Infrastructure Projects

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➤ RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

- 7th Framework Programme (FP7)
 - 53 billion Euros 2007-2013
 - 5 specific programmes
 - Peer appraisal of proposals
 - Complex application requirements
 - On line application process (EPSS)
- Public Health Programme
 - Complex application requirements
 - Not likely to be relevant

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- Structural Funds – Objectives:
 - Objective 1 – for projects in the least developed regions
 - Objective 2 – for projects in industrial, urban and rural decline
 - Objective 3 – for labour market projects – particularly for excluded and disadvantaged groups

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➤ COMMUNITY INITIATIVES:

- Interreg for cross-border, transnational and interregional projects (Interact)
- Lifelong Learning for education and vocational training (Leonardo da Vinci)
- Progress for innovative labour market networks
- LIFE for environmental projects
- Leader+ for innovative rural development projects

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➤ ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- Cohesion funds – any Member State whose GNP is less than 90% of the Community average.
- Structural funds – any Member State, different criteria for different objectives
- Community Initiatives – any Member State and many accession states.

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➤ ADMINISTRATION

- All funding is linked to the National Development Plan for the Country
- National responsibility for sound and transparent financial systems and control
- National responsibility for monitoring project activity, eligibility and budgets
- National (or Regional) responsibility for project selection against agreed criteria

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➤ ADVANTAGES:

- Promote and develop best practice
- Exchange of ideas and sharing good practice
- Raise awareness of the European agenda
- Additional resources for local projects
- Encourage partnership between public, private and voluntary sectors
- Develop workforce skills

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➤ DISADVANTAGES

- Complex application process
- Complex monitoring process
- Need for matchfunding (variable rates!)
- Delay in project approval
- Requires good project management skills
- Language barriers

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- http://ec.europa.eu/grants/index_en.htm
- <http://ec.europa.eu/youth/>
- http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/llp/index_en.htm
- www.ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/
- www.cordis.europa.eu/fp7/
- <http://ted.europa.eu/>
- www.kent.ac.uk/eiss