

Preparatory measures to promote the integration of refugees

Call for Proposals

(VP/1999/007)

(1999/C 130/10)

Context and aim of the call for proposals

At the request of the European Parliament, a number of pilot actions to promote the integration of refugees were funded in 1997 and 1998 from budget heading B3-4113. Based on the experience gained from these pilot actions the Commission adopted, in December 1998, a proposal for a Council Decision to establish a Community action programme to promote the integration of refugees (COM(1998)731 final) (1). For 1999 the budget authority has allocated EUR 5 million to budget line B3-4113 for preparatory measures aimed at the integration of refugees. The purpose of the actions supported under these preparatory measures is to prepare for and test the feasibility of the proposals contained in the proposed action programme.

Actions eligible for Community support in 1999

Transnational, multidimensional pilot projects (covering a period of from 6-12 months) which involve:

- partners from at least two Member States or from all 15 Member States;
- several of the various factors which influence the integration of refugees in their new society: education and vocational training (including language courses), housing and accommodation, access to social and other services, culture and leisure activities and strategies designed to improve public awareness and understanding of refugees in the European Union (this list is not exhaustive).

Priority will be given to actions which target the achievement of independence and prevent the social exclusion of refugees, and will test new practices and models capable of being developed further at European level. Proposals which are developments of existing multiannual pilot projects financed under budget heading B3-4113 should include the transnational element mentioned above and actions to promote the exchange of information and good practice arising from the activities already funded.

Actions leading to the creation of transnational networks (covering a period of from 6-9 months) involving organi-

(1) The Commission also adopted in December 1998 a complementary proposal for a joint action to establish measures to provide practical support in relation to the reception and voluntary repatriation of refugees, displaced persons and asylum applicants (COM(1998) 733 final) based on work carried out under budget headings B5-803 and B7-6008 during the same period.

sations, projects, researchers and other actors concerned with the integration of refugees in three or more Member States with a view to the development of concerted actions to promote the integration of refugees including the exchange of information, experience and good practice at European level.

The comparative analysis of the situation of refugees in the European Union (covering a period of from 6-9 months) including the policies of the Member States, the comparability of statistics, the evaluation of projects, good practice and other experiences at national and transnational level concerning the integration of refugees.

Who can apply for financial assistance?

Proposals should be planned and implemented by private (non-profit) or public bodies or organisations in the Member States with qualifications and/or experience relevant to the integration of refugees.

Proposals involving several different partner organisations or bodies must appoint one of them to be responsible to the Commission for the implementation of the programme and for the management of the subsidy and for coordination and liaison with the Commission. **A single application** must be submitted by the coordinator on behalf of all the partners.

Eligibility criteria

The Commission will examine applications for funding only if they meet the following eligibility criteria:

- activities must take place within the European Union. No actions which take place outside the EU will be considered;
- proposals for funding must be submitted on the special application form;
- proposals must be accompanied by a **financial plan** for the cost of the whole action specifying all items directly related to the activity, as well as proof of own and/or other sources of **cofinancing** (at least 40 % of the total costs in the case of pilot projects and 10 % for networks and comparative analysis of the situation of refugees). The financial plan must be presented by means of the budget forms included in the application form (Part III);

- proposals must include an appropriate **evaluation** system related to the objectives of the activities;
- **target group**: proposals should concern persons who have permission to stay in a Member State: either as refugees within the meaning of Article 1 of the Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951, as amended by the New York Protocol of 31 January 1967, or as persons granted protection on an individual basis in accordance with Member States' international obligations or on humanitarian grounds.

When selecting actions for funding, the Commission will take into account the situation in Member States with a proportionally high number of resident refugees and/or with a proportionally high increase in the number of resident refugees.

Application procedure and further information

Further information about this call for proposals, including copies of the Guidelines for applicants and the special application form which must be used for making applications (please specify the language version required) may be obtained from:

European Commission
DG V/D/4
Call for Proposals VP/1999/007
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels
Fax (32-2) 295 18 99.

Alternatively the Guidelines for applicants and the Application form may be downloaded from the Calls for tender section of the 'DGV site on the Commission' website at the following address:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg05/index_en.htm

or from the website of the European network on Integration of Refugees at the following address:

<http://www.refugeenet.org>

Proposals must be posted by 30 June 1999 at the latest including those for multiannual projects which are already receiving funding from B3-4133 as there will only be one selection round in 1999.

SE-Borlänge: operation of scheduled air services

Invitation to tender issued by Sweden pursuant to Article 4 (1) (d) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2408/92 for operation of scheduled air services between Östersund and Umeå

(1999/C 130/11)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. Introduction

Pursuant to Article 4 (1) (a) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2408/92 of 23.7.1992 on access for Community air carriers to intra-Community air routes, Sweden decided on 2.12.1993 to impose a public service obligation on scheduled air services between Östersund and Umeå. The terms of the public service obligation were published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* C 64 of 2.3.1994.

No air carrier was able to provide scheduled air transport services between Östersund and Umeå in accordance with the terms of the public service obligation without applying for financial compensation. Therefore, pursuant to Article

4 (1) (d) of the same Regulation and after a public invitation to tender, Sweden limited access to the Östersund-Umeå line to only 1 air carrier for the period 1.7.1997-31.12.1999. The situation now has to be reviewed, for which reason the right to operate the line from 1.1.2000 inclusive is being offered by public tender.

2. Subject of the invitation to tender

Operation of scheduled air-transport services between Östersund and Umeå from 1.1.2000 until 31.12.2000 inclusive, in accordance with the public service obligation laid down for that route and published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* C 64 of 2.3.1994.