



Delegation of the European Commission in Romania



Ministry of Public Finance

SOCIAL/CIVIL SOCIETY**press release**

Bucharest, 16 September, 2005

The European Union invests in strengthening the Romanian civil society

The Delegation of the European Commission in Romania and the Romanian Government today launched three new Calls for Proposals worth over €4.6 million under the European Union's Phare Fund for Civil Society. The Fund provides financial support for projects to further enhance the credibility of the NGO sector and its capacity to serve the community's needs and interests better. The deadline for submission of project proposals is 17 November 2005.

Mr. Jonathan Scheele, Head of the Delegation of the European Commission in Romania stated: "*The European Union acknowledges the major role that NGOs play in bringing European values into citizens' daily life. This is why it continues to support NGO activities that benefit citizens and communities. We hope that these activities will also find increasing support from Romanian society itself.*"

The three Calls for Proposals aim at:

- enhancing the credibility and improving the institutional and operational capacity of NGOs in their relations with all stakeholders, from local communities to the general public, from constituencies to decision makers;
- further encouraging NGOs to play an increasing part in the adoption and implementation of the *acquis communautaire* in policy areas such as labour and social dialogue, consumer protection, environment, socio-economic development, equal opportunities between women and men, etc.;
- strengthening the NGOs' advocacy role in supporting democracy and the rule of law, in protecting basic human rights, including minorities' and children's rights, in ensuring access to information, freedom of expression and the independence of the media, and in promoting the independence of justice and the fight against corruption;

Technical details on the three Calls for Proposals are provided in the attached Annex. .

Contact persons: DOLORES NEAGOE, (Delegation of the European Commission in Romania, tel: 021-203.54.56, fax: 021-230.24.53, e-mail: dolores.neagoie@cec.eu.int);
CORINA ATANASIU (Civil Society Development Foundation, tel: 021-310.01.77, fax: 021-310.01.80, e-mail: corina@fdsc.ro).

The European Union supports Romania with expertise and financial resources in view of accession preparation, through three specific programmes: Phare, Ispa and Sapard. The beneficiary sectors vary from regional development and SME support, to investments in transport and environmental infrastructure and rural development.

The total annual amount of funds allocated to Romania through the three pre-accession programmes is increasing from about 660 MEURO in 2003 to well over 1 billion in 2006. The management of these funds is done by the Romanian authorities, under the coordination of the Ministry of Public Finance.

Annex

<p>Component 1: NGO Sector Development Domain I: Public information /education campaigns (PHARE 2004/016-772.01.02/01)</p>
<p>Eligible activities: Under this domain grants will be awarded to projects that propose local, regional or national public campaigns that focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • public interest subjects in the fields of: public health, consumer protection, environment, citizenship, social and economic development, education, culture, housing policy, community development, human rights, fight against corruption, rural issues, equal opportunities, etc. The projects should emphasize the role of the non-governmental sector in the proposed areas. • increasing the NGOs role in society as important players in changing mentalities through their education and information activities as well as through their openness to absorb, integrate and disseminate values like tolerance, respect for diversity, etc.
<p>Financial details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • value of the grants - between 15,000 and 150,000 EUR/project (EU contribution up to 90% of the total eligible costs of the project)
<p>Eligible applicants: Romanian non-governmental non-profit organisations which may act individually or in consortium with other Romanian non-governmental non-profit organisations and/or Romanian local/national public authorities/institutions and/or non-governmental non-profit organisations based in any other Phare country or EU country.</p>
<p>Deadline for receipt: 17 November 2005 at 16:00 h (Official Romanian time)</p>

Deleted: s

<p>Component 1: NGO Sector Development Domain II: Organisational Development for NGOs (PHARE 2004/016-772.01.02/01)</p>
<p>Eligible activities: Under this Domain the grants will be awarded to actions that aim to increase the organisational capacity of NGOs in Romania, the efficiency and effectiveness of the organisation as a whole. Focus may be on developing individual skills and competencies of the staff of NGOs (including the volunteers), of the members and governing boards, teams, the structure of the organisation. Organisational development activities for NGOs will focus on existing needs in the area; the development of innovative training approaches and training materials will be encouraged. NGOs will undertake to improve their own sustainability through ensuring the balance between effective performance and accountability towards beneficiaries, local communities' members, constituency, boards of directors or donors. The results obtained under these projects will be published with a view to promoting best practices</p>
<p>Financial details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • value of the grant - between 10,000 and 50,000 EUR/project (EU contribution up to 90% of the total eligible costs of the project).
<p>Eligible applicants: Romanian non-governmental non-profit organisations which may act individually or in consortium with other Romanian non-governmental non-profit organisations and/or Romanian local/national public authorities/institutions and/or non-governmental non-profit organisations based in any other Phare country or EU country.</p>
<p>Deadline for receipt: 17 November 2005 at 16:00 h (Official Romanian time)</p>

The European Union supports Romania with expertise and financial resources in view of accession preparation, through three specific programmes: Phare, Ispa and Sapard. The beneficiary sectors vary from regional development and SME support, to investments in transport and environmental infrastructure and rural development.

The total annual amount of funds allocated to Romania through the three pre-accession programmes is increasing from about 660 MEURO in 2003 to well over 1 billion in 2006. The management of these funds is done by the Romanian authorities, under the coordination of the Ministry of Public Finance.

Component 1: NGO Sector Development
Domain III - NGO Resource Centres
(PHARE 2004/016-772.01.02/01)

Eligible activities

Domain III – Window I

Under this Window, grants will be awarded only for the **establishment of NGO Resource Centres where such initiatives do not exist**, able to provide specific services such as: various information and communication including information about funding from foundations, corporations and other sources, training and other educational programmes, advocacy for a positive legal and fiscal environment for the sector, partnership building, networking with peer organisations, local/central authorities, business community, mass-media, etc.

Domain III – Window II

Under this Window, grants will be awarded **only for the strengthening of existing NGO Resource Centres**, acting as support organisations that serve non-governmental non-profit organisations. Financing will be granted only to those organisations that can clearly demonstrate the need for the services they provide and for the development of new ones and that can provide performance indicators related to their previous experience in acting as an NGO Resource Centre.

Financial details:

- value of the grants:

Window I - Establishing of new NGO Resource Centres

Between 15,000 and 40,000 EUR/project (EU contribution up to 90% of the total eligible costs of the project)

Window II - Strengthening existing NGO Resource Centres

Between 10,000 and 30,000 EUR/project (EU contribution up to 90% of the total eligible costs of the project)

Eligible applicants:

Romanian non-governmental non-profit organisations which may act individually or in consortium with other Romanian non-governmental non-profit organisations and/or Romanian local/national public authorities/institutions and/or non-governmental non-profit organisations based in any other Phare country or EU country.

Deadline for receipt: 17 November 2005 at 16:00 h (Official Romanian time)

Component 1: NGO Sector Development
Domain IV - NGO networks
(PHARE 2004/016-772.01.02/01)

Eligible activities:

Under this Domain the grants will be awarded to actions that aim to:

- set up and/or reinforce the networks/ coalitions between NGOs in order to:
 - Establish/develop local/national/trans-national networks on common interest issues;
 - Enhance the institutional building of NGOs through access and effective use of joint expertise and resources within networks;
 - Develop and implement joint actions, sustainability mechanisms and structures, think tanks, etc.
- increase participation of Romanian NGOs in local/regional/national/trans-national networks at European level, in order to:
 - Identify common trends and skills required in specific areas;
 - Strengthen existing local and national networks by connecting them to trans-national networks at European level;
 - Disseminate the results of European trans-national networks' activities with a view to promoting greater innovation and co-operation in specific areas.

The European Union supports Romania with expertise and financial resources in view of accession preparation, through three specific programmes: Phare, Ispa and Sapard. The beneficiary sectors vary from regional development and SME support, to investments in transport and environmental infrastructure and rural development.

The total annual amount of funds allocated to Romania through the three pre-accession programmes is increasing from about 660 MEURO in 2003 to well over 1 billion in 2006. The management of these funds is done by the Romanian authorities, under the coordination of the Ministry of Public Finance.

Financial details:

- value of the grants - between 5,000 and 70,000 EUR/project (EU contribution up to 90% of the total eligible costs of the project)

Eligible applicants:

Romanian non-governmental non-profit organisations which may act individually or in consortium with other Romanian non-governmental non-profit organisations and/or Romanian local/national public authorities/institutions and/or non-governmental non-profit organisations based in any other Phare country or EU country.

Deadline for receipt: 17 November 2005 at 16:00 h (Official Romanian time)

Component 2: Adoption and implementation of the acquis communautaire
(PHARE 2004/016-772.01.02/02)

Eligible activities:

Under the current Call for Proposals, grants will be awarded to projects that aim at further encouraging NGOs to play an increasing part in the promotion and implementation of the acquis communautaire in the fields of environmental protection, consumer protection and socio-economic development (labour, social dialog, equal opportunities between women and men, etc).

Financial details:

- value of the grants - between 10,000 and 70,000 EUR/project (EU contribution up to 90% of the total eligible costs of the project);

Eligible applicants:

Romanian non-governmental non-profit organisations which may act individually or in consortium with other Romanian non-governmental non-profit organisations and/or Romanian local/national public authorities/institutions and/or non-governmental non-profit organisations based in any other Phare country or EU country.

Deadline for receipt: 17 November 2005 at 16:00 h (Official Romanian time)

Component 3 – Democracy, human rights,
the rule of law and independence of justice
(PHARE 2004/016-772.01.02/03)

Eligible activities:

Under the current Call for Proposals, grants will be awarded to actions that may fall under one of the following two sections:

- *Section 1: NGOs promoting democracy, human rights, the rule of law and independence of justice*

Intensifying the NGOs involvement in the fields of democracy, the rule of law, human rights, including minorities' rights and children's rights, access to information and transparency of institutions, independence of the media and freedom of expression, independence of justice and fight against corruption.

- *Section 2: Support for professional organisations of magistrates*

Increasing the capacity of professional magistrates associations to get involved in initiatives related to democracy, the rule of law, human rights, access to information and transparency of institutions, independence of justice and fight against corruption.

Financial details:**Section 1:**

- value of the grants - between 10,000 and 80,000 EUR/project (EU contribution up to 90% of the total eligible costs of the project)

Section 2:

value of the grants - between 5,000 and 40,000 EUR/project (EU contribution up to 90% of the total eligible costs of the project)

Eligible applicants:**Section 1:**

Romanian non-governmental non-profit organisations which may act individually or in consortium with

The European Union supports Romania with expertise and financial resources in view of accession preparation, through three specific programmes: Phare, Ispa and Sapard. The beneficiary sectors vary from regional development and SME support, to investments in transport and environmental infrastructure and rural development.

The total annual amount of funds allocated to Romania through the three pre-accession programmes is increasing from about 660 MEURO in 2003 to well over 1 billion in 2006. The management of these funds is done by the Romanian authorities, under the coordination of the Ministry of Public Finance.

other Romanian non-governmental non-profit organisations and/or Romanian local/national public authorities/institutions and/or non-governmental non-profit organisations based in any other Phare country or EU country.

Section 2:

Romanian professional associations of magistrates at national and/or local levels which may act individually or in consortium with other Romanian non-governmental non-profit organisations and/or Romanian local/national public authorities/institutions and/or non-governmental non-profit organisations based in any other Phare country or EU country.

Deadline for receipt: 17 November 2005 at 16:00 h (Official Romanian time)

Applications for all Calls for Proposals must be received within the deadlines mentioned above, at:

Civil Society Development Foundation, 2K Splaiul Independentei, Entrance 1, 4th floor, Bucharest-3 **OR**
Civil Society Development Foundation, CP 22 – 219, Bucharest.

The set of documents needed for any of the Calls for Proposals described above (Guidelines for Applicants and Application Form) is available with:

- **Civil Society Development Foundation**, 2K Splaiul Independenței, Entrance 1, 4th Floor, Bucharest-3, tel. 021-310.01.77, e-mail: corina@fdsc.ro
- **Information Center of the European Commission in Romania**, 88 Calea Victoriei, Bucharest-1, tel. 021-315.34.70, e-mail: contact@infoeuropa.ro
- www.fdsc.ro and www.infoeuropa.ro

Contact:

DOLORES NEAGOE (European Commission Delegation in Romania, tel: 021-203.54.56, fax: 021-230.24.53, email: dolores.neagoie@cec.eu.int).

CORINA ATANASIU (Civil Society Development Foundation, tel: 021-310.01.77, fax: 021-310.01.80, e-mail: corina@fdsc.ro).

The European Union supports Romania with expertise and financial resources in view of accession preparation, through three specific programmes: Phare, Ispa and Sapard. The beneficiary sectors vary from regional development and SME support, to investments in transport and environmental infrastructure and rural development.

The total annual amount of funds allocated to Romania through the three pre-accession programmes is increasing from about 660 MEURO in 2003 to well over 1 billion in 2006. The management of these funds is done by the Romanian authorities, under the coordination of the Ministry of Public Finance.