European Commission

GUIDE ON
EU FUNDING
2014-2020

FOR
THE TOURISM
SECTOR

**Directorate-General for
Enterprise and Industry**

**GUIDE ON EU FUNDING
FOR THE TOURISM SECTOR**

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Why this specific guide and why now

This guide has been prepared for various reasons, starting with the strategic importance of tourism for the EU. As the third largest EU economic sector, tourism has indeed a wide-ranging impact on economic growth, employment and social development.[1] Its importance is acknowledged by the Treaty on the functioning of the EU, which requires the Union to support, complement and coordinate Member States' action in this field (TFEU art. 195).

A specific guide was also necessary because of the diversity of the tourism sector's needs and the range of EU thematic programmes that can, by consequence, support it. Made of many different players with different needs[2], the sector got support from various programmes over time (see correspondence table below). Thanks to continuous simplification efforts, gathering and digesting information about many programmes is progressively easier, but remains a challenge for hard-pressed private and public entities promoting tourism destinations or developing tourism services.

Why now? With the adoption of the EU Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2014-2020, new programmes are phased in while old programmes are phased out. The new MFF brings simplification at various levels: merger of EU funding programmes for easier access to information, harmonisation of application procedures, ... It also introduced the possibility to support new types of actions focusing for instance on smart specialisation. This guide reviews these continuities and novelties.

The guide will be periodically revised to provide more recent examples of funded actions and updated information on the new programmes. Conceived as an entry point to specialised websites, this guide contains many internet links. Some of these links are fairly long and cryptic. Most of them have therefore been inserted as hyperlinks. This is why this guide is only available in electronic form. Feedback on the guide and suggestions on possible improvements may be sent to ENTR-TOURISM-GUIDE@ec.europa.eu

2. How to use this guide

This guide focuses on the most important EU programmes for the tourism sector[3], around practical questions: type of tourism-related actions eligible for funding; type and level of funding; who can

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[1] Total employment estimated by Eurostat at 17 million jobs; direct and indirect contribution to EU economy estimated at around 10% of its GDP. See Eurostat, Tourism Satellite Accounts in Europe - 2013. The tourism sector also proved remarkably resilient despite the economic crisis: foreign visitor spending amounted to more than € 291 billion in 2012 (EU-28), i.e. well above the 2008 pre-crisis level (€ 265 billion for EU-27). See Eurostat site on tourism.

[2] Players contributing directly to the tourism value / supply chain include indeed marketing & advertising; travel agents, on-line booking intermediation and tour operators; transports; accommodations; restaurants & cafés; attractions (theme park, ...); conference & events organisations; and destination management organisations. Sub-sectors contributing indirectly such as entities providing specialised training, auditing, … Moreover, some of these players are operating on different markets: adventure tourism; business tourism; cultural tourism; eco-tourism (biking, …); educational tourism (school trips, seminar vacation, study abroad experience …); fishing / hunting tourism; gastronomic tourism; health & wellness tourism; nature tourism; social tourism; etc.

[3] The tourism sector is defined here as private and public entities promoting tourism destinations or developing tourism services. This development can be direct (e.g. National tourism offices) or indirect (entities training tourism workers – e.g. universities organising a master in tourism management …).

apply and how to apply. It also points at concrete examples of what has been funded under previous programmes, as a possible source of inspiration.

For brevity sake, the guide only covers what is indispensable to know for getting support. Therefore, it does not cover the following elements: references to the various acts underpinning a programme, starting with its financial regulation; its general governance[4]; its actions targeting other sectors[5]; its overall budget; changes in the budgetary allocation between programmes; etc. This generic information can be found through hyperlinks provided under the Section "1. What is [Programme name]?" of each fiche.

Step 1: Identify relevant programmes and financial instruments

Find out the most relevant programmes for you thanks to the summary table at the end of the guide. This table indicates who can apply for what and refers the readers to corresponding fiches.

Go to the most relevant fiches and read Section "2. Type of tourism-related actions eligible for funding" and Section "3. Who can apply within the tourism sector?" for determining if it is worth further investigating opportunities offered by these programmes.

Step 2: Identify relevant calls for proposals / tender / applications

Use the hyperlinks and information under Section "5. How to apply and when" of each fiche.

Step 3: Get familiar with the call specific documentation and forms (online)

Each call comes with a complete information package, usually including a 'Guide' with advice on preparation and submission. If something about the call is not clear for you, use the dedicated interface (functional mailbox, online page …). Help and advice for small firms in EU matters, including accessing markets both within the EU and beyond and applying for funding – The Enterprise Europe Network offers personal support to small EU firms on applying for funding, this through a network of local contact points (see Enterprise Europe Network branch). Your professional organisation might also provide such support.

Step 4: Find partners where useful or required

Some (sub)programmes support cross-border or trans-European projects. You then need to have partners based in a number of other Member States and form a consortium.

Many programmes websites offer a "looking for partners" service. Alternatively the page advertising a specific call often contains a section where potential partners can post their offer or request. See also the "Enterprise Europe Network" and its "Tourism and Cultural Heritage Sector Group". The European Small Business portal also has a "business partners" section.

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[4]   e.g. specific responsibility of each Directorate General of the Commission, overseeing committees, …

[5]   e.g. Horizon 2020's programme section "Health, Demographic Change and Wellbeing" dedicated – among other things – to better understand the causes and mechanisms underlying healthy ageing and disease as well as to improve our ability to monitor health and to prevent, detect, treat and manage disease.

Step 5: Submit your proposal / offer / application on time

3. Different types of support: direct and indirect funding

The EU provides direct funding through grants or indirect funding via financial intermediaries. Grants are advertised through specific calls for proposals. In most cases, these grants co-finance projects in relation with EU policy objectives like improving European cooperation in research or education. The beneficiaries own the result of their action. In no circumstances shall the same costs be financed twice by the EU (non-cumulative award rule). Grants cannot be awarded for actions already completed (non-retroactivity rule) and cannot result in a profit for their beneficiaries (they help beneficiaries to break even financially). Click here for more information on calls for proposals per topic or sector.

Indirect funding (sometimes called "access to finance") usually consists of loans, equity financing and guarantees provided by financial intermediaries. They help SMEs in particular finding seed money, start up, expand and transfer their business. The beneficiaries also own the result of their action. Click here for more information on access to finance.

EU funding should not be mistaken with what European institutions buy for themselves. Services, works or supplies that European institutions wish to buy are advertised through calls for tender. The EU owns the result of these contracts. Click here for more information on public procurement.

4. Correspondence table between old and new programmes

Under the Multi-Annual Financial Framework for 2014-2020, new programmes have been added while some of the 2007-2013 programmes have been consolidated. For instance, *Erasmus +* is the consolidation of seven pre-existing programmes. Similarly, "Horizon 2020" combines the "7th Framework Programme for Research" and the innovation related activities of the "Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme". The correspondence / concordance table below lists the different funding programmes by MFF and by area.

Table 1. Most relevant programmes for the tourism sector in the EU

Area	MFF 2007-2013	MFF 2014-2020
Cohesion	Structural funds: • European Cohesion Fund • European Social Fund • European Regional Development Fund ○ INTERREG IVC (European Territorial Co-operation)	Structural funds: • European Cohesion Fund • European Social Fund • European Regional Development Fund ○ European Territorial Co-operation
Environment, Agriculture & Marine and Fisheries Policy	• LIFE+ • European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development • European Fisheries Fund • Programme to Support the Further Development of an Integrated Marine Policy	• LIFE • European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development • European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

Area	MFF 2007-2013	MFF 2014-2020

Research, Innovation and Competitiveness	• Seventh Framework Programme for Research
	
	• Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme:
	  ○ Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme
	  ○ Information Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme
	  ○ Intelligent Energy Europe Programme
		• Horizon 2020 (Framework Programme for Research and Innovation
		
		• COSME (Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs)

Culture and Education	• European Culture Programme • Lifelong Learning Programme (Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Comenius and Grundtvig) • Erasmus Mundus • Tempus • Alfa • Edulink • Programme for cooperation with industrialised countries	• Creative Europe Programme • Erasmus for All Programme

Employment	• PROGRESS
	• European PROGRESS Microfinance Facility
		• EaSI (EU programme for Employment and Social Innovation)
		  ○ PROGRESS (Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity)
		  ○ EURES (European Employment Services)
		  ○ PROGRESS Microfinance Facility

II. EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

1. What is the European Regional Development Fund?

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is one of the five "European Structural and Investment Funds" (ESIF)[6]. Under ESIF rules, each Member State has to draw up and implement a strategic plan indicating its 2014-2020 objectives investment priorities for the use of these Funds (see list below). Once the European Commission's observations adequately taken into account, this plan becomes a "Partnership Agreement". Member States also have to draw up "Operational Programmes" breaking down priorities listed in the Partnership Agreements into concrete actions. "Operational Programmes" (OP) are implemented by Managing Authorities set up by the Member States (at national, regional or another level).

The ERDF aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union by correcting imbalances between its regions. It may provide essential support to improve the competitiveness and quality of tourism at regional and local levels, notably in areas in (industrial / rural) decline or those undergoing urban regeneration.

ERDF support may go to 11 "thematic objectives and investment priorities" in line with the Europe 2020 policy priorities. The most relevant for the tourism sector probably are:

- Research and innovation (N°1)

- Information and Communication Technologies (N°2)

- Competitiveness of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (N°3)

- Shift to a low-carbon economy (N°4)

- Environmental protection and resource efficiency (N°6)

- Employment and support for labour mobility (N°8)

- Education, skills and lifelong learning (N°10)

ERDF not only supports regional and national programmes in the Member States. It also finances "European Territorial Cooperation" (ETC) which covers Cross-border co-operation programmes,[7] Transnational co-operation programmes (between regions from several EU Member States – see below) and Interregional co-operation programmes (working at pan-European level). Moreover ETC may contribute to "Macro-regional strategies".[8]

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[6] List of ESIF: European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund, Cohesion Fund, European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, European Maritime & Fisheries Fund.

[7] The main aim of cross border cooperation is to reduce the negative effects of borders as administrative, legal and physical barriers, tackle common problems and exploit untapped potential. There are programmes along internal EU borders (e.g. area across the Bulgarian-Romanian border) or at EU external borders (with Candidate and Potential Candidate Countries, co-financed by the "Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance", or with Partners Countries, co-financed by the "European Neighbourhood Instrument").

[8] See EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR), EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) which all list the promotion or development of

For more information, see the European Regional Development Fund page on InfoRegio.
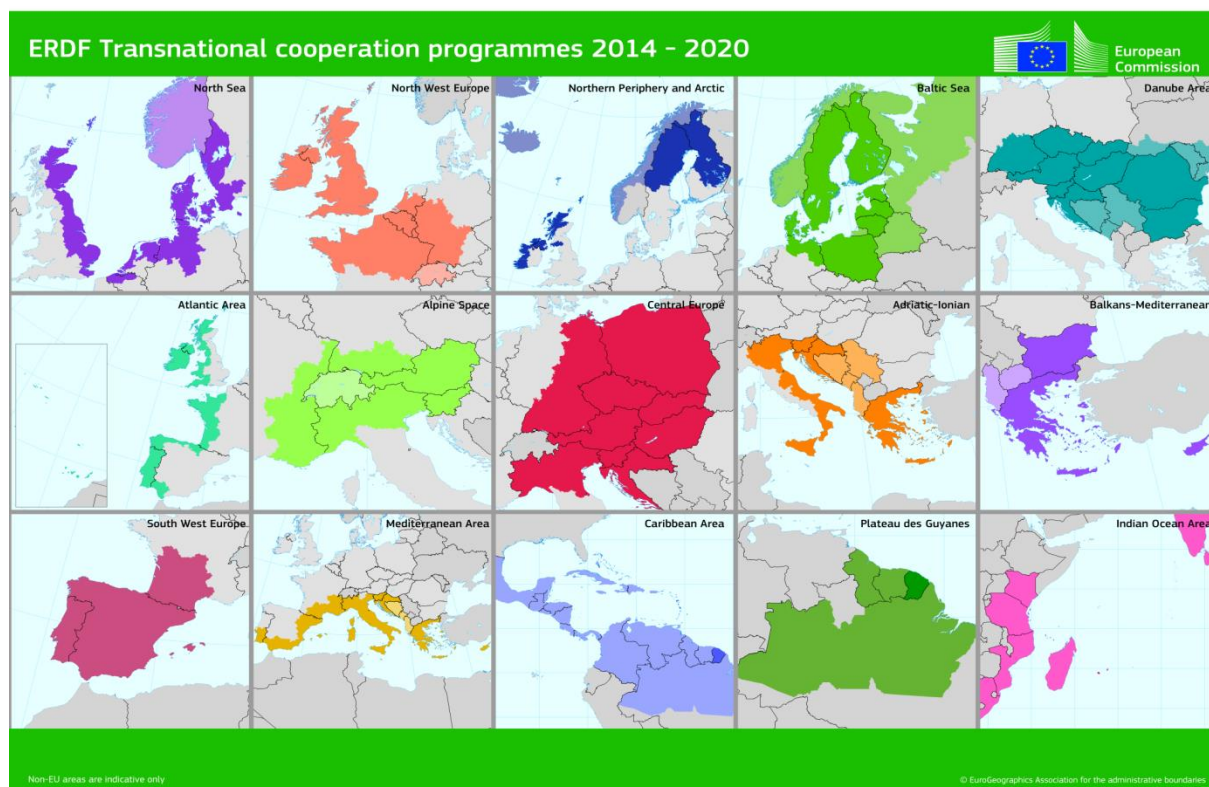
2.   Type of tourism-related actions eligible for funding

These programmes may for instance support:

- tourism-related research, technological development and innovation, including service innovation and clusters (tourism service incubators, living labs, demonstration projects, …)

- the development of tourism-related ICT products (apps, data mining, …)

- the development of innovative tourism services, in particular in less favoured and peripheral regions with underdeveloped industrial structures and strongly dependent on tourism (new business models, exploitation of new ideas, …)

- the development of high value added products and services in niche markets (health tourism, tourism for seniors, cultural and ecotourism, gastronomy tourism, sports tourism, etc.) by mobilising specific local resources and therefore contributing to smart regional specialisation

- clustering activities[9] among different tourism industries as well as with creative industries, to diversify regional tourism products and extend the tourism season (e.g. in the nautical and boating tourism industry, as well as for the cruise industry).

(sustainable) tourism among priority areas. The adoption of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region is scheduled for 2015.

[9]   including through enhancing external links, adding expertise and critical mass/knowledge through cooperation across borders.

- activities connecting the coastal regions to the hinterland for more integrated regional development

- measures to improve energy efficiency and renewable energy use among tourism SMEs

- the protection, promotion[10] and development of natural and cultural tourism assets and related services

- small-scale cultural and sustainable tourism infrastructure[11]

- measures in favour of entrepreneurship, self-employment and business creation as well as the internationalisation of tourism SMEs and clusters

- Vocational training, skills upgrading

3. Who can apply within the tourism sector?

- All legal persons (any public body, company and in particular SMEs, research organisations, universities, non-governmental organisations, tourism clusters ...)

4. Type and level of funding

The type and level of funding vary across Programmes, depending on the needs and choices of each Member State. The ERDF allocation may be disbursed through grants to individual recipients and consortia; loans, venture capital and credit guarantees through Financial Instruments[12]; or public procurement (for support services, feasibility studies, etc.). For grants, the maximum co-financing rate is 50% for the most developed regions, 60% for transition regions (and in exceptional cases 80%) and 85 % for the less developed regions.

5. How to apply and when

Start by checking the ERDF Programmes available in your region and verify that your project meets the selection criteria and investment priorities[13]. Follow the application procedures of the relevant managing authority (some have an ongoing procedure, others accept applications at certain times

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[10]   Evaluators have criticised tourism campaigns that are not part of a thoroughly researched market strategy, addressing proven market demand/potential, and are not flanked by other support actions (e.g. comprehensive SME support, service innovation, upgrading of facilities). Such campaigns are often focused more on what the destinations want than on consumer needs. They are unlikely to get EFDR funding.

[11]   Funding requests for infrastructure are more likely to be successful where they are clearly part of a territorial strategy and with the ambition of achieving financial self-sustainability. Some tourism and/or culture-related projects have failed to achieve significant socio-economic impacts. They concerned large-scale cultural venues and sports facilities, tourism infrastructures, one-off support to cultural events, but also smaller scale culture and tourism infrastructure (e.g. local museums, renovation of historic buildings) not embedded in entrepreneurial strategies and/or comprehensive support actions. Court of Auditors Special Report No 6/2011 – Were ERDF co-financed tourism projects effective?

[12]   Cf. JEREMIE (Joint European REsources for MIcro to medium Enterprises) offering Member States the possibility to use part of their ERDF allocation to invest in revolving instruments such as venture capital, loan or guarantee funds.

[13]   List of 60 cross-border cooperation programmes and 15 transnational cooperation programmes set for 2014-2020 (Commission implementing decision of 16 June 2014 C(2014)3776.

only - see the website of your managing authority for details). Your managing authority can advise you on each stage of the project application.

6. Example(s) of successful projects in the past

Krimml Waterfalls used to develop health tourism initiative (Austria)

Tourism in the Oberpinzgau region of the Hohe Tauern National Park was stagnating. The regional authorities therefore set out to develop new tourism products exploiting scientific evidence about the health benefits of a notable local feature: the highest waterfalls in Europe with a drop of 380 m. In 2006, a Salzburg University had indeed set up a scientific laboratory near the Krimml Waterfalls to study the finely dispersed highly concentrated aerosol produced by the water hitting the floor. It demonstrated the benefits of this natural aerosol for people suffering from asthma and allergies: a daily stroll around the waterfalls can reduce the symptoms with positive effects lasting over a few months. Together with other local features (low pollution, low levels of fungal spores, and a short flowering season), this made this part of the National Park an ideal place for treatment or cure.

With the support of the ERDF programme "Strengthening Regional Competitiveness Salzburg 2007–13", a feasibility study looked at the allergologic conditions hotels had to fulfil to be part of this new health-tourism package, how they could be certified and whether a sufficient number of hotels could be found. Eleven local hotels did undergo the required renovation/adaptation measures to offer anti-allergic certified rooms. Collaboration with the regional hospital was also developed to help hotels providing access to medical services as part of their 'premium product'. The ensuing promotion campaign has targeted persons with allergies and guests with high health awareness (appreciating allergy-friendly accommodations and high-quality diet).

The idea then spread to the local wood and construction industry, with a leading woodworking company joining the initiative to work with a university institute on the construction of 'allergy-proof' wood products (from furniture to houses).

Finalist of the RegioStars Award 2012, this project is an example of how innovative services can be created in a rural area by a traditional sector working with science-based services. It concretely illustrates what "smart specialisation" is. Local hotels benefited (with the number of overnight stays during the summer season going from 60.000 in 2008 to 78.000 in 2010) but beyond that it contributes to position the entire region including the National Park.

EU contribution: € 125.000 - Level of EU funding: 25 %

Source: Inforegio database ; www.hohe-tauern-health.at

C-Mine – turning a former coal-mining site into a creative hotspot (Belgium)

Through C-Mine, the industrial city of Genk aimed to re-invent itself as an entrepreneurial city. The project helped transforming a former coal-mining site into a place where creative economic activities can thrive: gaming industry, cultural centre, tourism attractions (including an underground 'experience centre' in the air shaft of the former mine) but also space for the "Media and Design Academy", the Design Innovation Laboratory for innovative SMEs, etc.

EU contribution: € 317.819.800 (completed in 2011) - Level of EU funding: 57 %

Source: Inforegio database; C-Mine

Cinema on the Border Film Festival (Czech Republic – Poland)

When Czechoslovakia and Poland emerged from the dismantling of the Austro-Hungarian Empire at the end of World War I, both countries wanted the Tesin region. The region was

eventually split between the two countries, the historical town of Tesin becoming a 'two-city' town consisting of Český Těšín and Cieszyn, with the Olza river as a national border.

The creation of the Euroregion Silesia helped developing cross-border cooperation. The "Cinema on the Border" Film Festival is one of the activities supported by the Český Těšín-Cieszyn Small Projects Fund created thanks to ERDF Territorial Cooperation. Among other things, the festival organises cross-border screenings (the projector and audience being on the Czech bank of Olza River, with the big screen on the Polish side). It now attracts Polish, Czech, Slovak and Hungarian visitors.

EU contribution: € 83.202 (2008-2009) - Level of EU funding: 85 %

Source: Territorial Cooperation projects - KEEP; http://www.olza.pl/

WW2 Heritage project (BE, FR, NL, UK)

The Second World War has had a lasting impact on the landscape of the Channel and the North Sea. Many physical remains such as bunkers and fortifications still remain but are derelict and inaccessible to the public. The same goes to some extent for the memories of eye-witnesses.

Supported by the "2 Seas cross-border Operational Programme", the WW2 Heritage project aimed to ensure the preservation of this heritage and improve access to it. Combining physical and intellectual heritage is indeed the best way to learn about this historical period. The 10 partners, each responsible for key WW2 heritage sites and expert in interpreting this heritage, made an inventory of the physical relics, collected WW2 eye-witness accounts and improved access to this heritage. They also developed the touristic potential of these sites by creating a range of interactive and digital applications as well as "discovery trails" for pedestrians, cyclists and cars. A fee App called WWII Heritage is for instance leading visitors on a cross-border discovery route in the regions of Zeeland, West-Flanders, Nord Pas de Calais and the South East of Great Britain (http://www.worldwar2heritage.com/en/routes).

EU contribution: € 2.108.055 (2011-2014) - Level of EU funding: 50 %

Source: Territorial Cooperation projects - KEEP; www.worldwar2heritage.com/

Recognition of the Danube Limes as UNESCO World Heritage

The "Limes" refers here to the fortified frontiers of the Roman Empire at its apex (2nd century AD). A large number of Roman Limes sites have been excavated, recorded and partly preserved, forming the single largest cultural heritage monument across Europe from Scotland to the Black Sea. In 2005, UNESCO set up a transnational World Heritage Site "Frontiers of the Roman Empire" made of several sections of the Limes in the UK and in Germany, but open to other 'Limes' countries as soon as their sites meet the UNESCO nomination criteria.

Part of the Central Europe Programme 2007-2013, the project aimed at preparing the Danube Limes to join this World Heritage site and exploiting its large potential for (soft) tourism. It focused on the sustainable preservation and protection of joint Danube 'limes' in Slovakia, Hungary and Austria. The project has in particular provided a viable methodology to describe a transnational World Heritage Site situated along a river, to the benefit of other river sections of the Limes (in the Netherlands …).

EU contribution: € 1.681.260 (2008-2011) - Level of EU funding: 82 %

Source: Territorial Cooperation projects - KEEP; www.danube-limes.eu

Co-operation projects of oceanographic museums in the South Baltic region

The South Baltic Programme has supported two projects (BalticMuseums 2.0 & BalticMuseums 2.0 Plus) for the development of cross-border tourism information on four oceanographic museums: the "German Oceanographic Museum", "Gdynia Aquarium" in

Poland, the "Lithuanian Sea Museum" and the "Museum of the World Ocean" in Kaliningrad. As the partner museums are a main tourist attraction in their respective region, these projects are contributing to regional economic development.

With the help of local universities, these partners have developed a joint website (www.balticmuseums.net), with a joint online ticketing system, and attractive benefits for those who visit at least two museums in one year. This was followed by the joint development of so-called "eguides". These electronic guidance systems offer tailor-made tours (e.g. for parents with kids) in several languages. Their content and material have been designed to build on the museums' complementarity.

The BalticMuseums 2.0 Plus also included a promotion campaign around these new features, using web-based marketing activities (e.g. search engine optimisation, search engine advertisements) and more traditional means (e.g. newsletters, flyers, free-cards, promotion via tourist organisations).

EU contribution: € 1.911.555 (2008-2014) - Level of EU funding: 85 %

Source: Territorial Cooperation projects - KEEP; http://www.balticmuseums.org/

For other examples, see:

• lessons from the past and negative examples, see Thematic Guidance Fiche on tourism investments.

• Database with examples of regional development projects supported by the Structural Fund and/or the Cohesion Fund, including all 'major projects' (> € 50 million) implemented between 2007 and 2013.

• Database with examples of earlier regional policy projects

• Database on Territorial Cooperation projects - KEEP (Knowledge and Expertise in European Programmes)

• Macro-Regional Projects on Inforegio

• The Guide to Multi-Benefit Cohesion Policy Investments in Nature and Green Infrastructure (A Report for the European Commission by IEEP and Milieu – June 2013)

• How to use Structural Funds for SME & Entrepreneurship Policy, Guidebook series, European Commission (DG Enterprise and Industry) 2013

III. COHESION FUND

1.   What is the Cohesion Fund?

The Cohesion Fund (CF) is one of the five "European Structural and Investment Funds" (ESIF)[14]. Under ESIF rules, each Member State has to draw up and implement a strategic plan indicating its 2014-2020 objectives investment priorities for the use of these Funds. Once the European Commission's observations adequately taken into account, this plan becomes a "Partnership Agreement". Member States also have to draw up "Operational Programmes" breaking down priorities listed in the Partnership Agreements into concrete actions[15]. "Operational Programmes" (OP) are implemented by Managing Authorities set up by the Member States (at national, regional or another level).

In order to reduce economic and social disparities and to promote sustainable development, the Cohesion Fund is aimed at Member States whose Gross National Income (GNI) per inhabitant is less than 90 % of the EU average[16]. According to the investment and infrastructure needs specific to each Member, the CF may support

* Investment in the environment, including areas related to sustainable development and energy which present environmental benefits[17]

* Trans-European transport networks (TEN-T) in the area of transport infrastructure[18]

For more information, see the Cohesion Fund page on Inforegio.

2.   Type of tourism-related actions eligible for funding

Depend on the needs of each eligible Member State, as defined in their Operational Programmes[19].

3.   Who can apply within the tourism sector?

See previous section.

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[14]   List of ESIF: European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund, Cohesion Fund, European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, European Maritime & Fisheries Fund.

[15]   There are no "Operational Programmes" solely dedicated to the Cohesion Fund. Eligible Member States are in fact drawing Operational Plans also covering the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund.

[16]   Eligible Member States for 2014-2020: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

[17]   This includes promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management; preserving and protecting the environment; promoting resource efficiency and use of renewable energy, …

[18]   Funding for transport infrastructures such as high-speed trains, tunnels or seaports is not cover in this guide (click here for further information). Such infrastructures often benefit the tourism sector but are not developed by the tourism sector. There is therefore no funding opportunity for the sector here.

[19]   For instance, the 2007-2013 Operational Programme 'Environment' for Bulgaria – co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund – included actions for the conservation of biological diversity, natural habitats, wild species of fauna and flora as well as the efficient management of protected areas.

4. Type and level of funding

Grants. Level of funding defined in the calls prepared by Managing Authorities. Maximum co-financing rate of 85 %.

5. How to apply and when

See "European Regional Development Fund" fiche.

6. Example(s) of successful projects in the past

Flood management along the Tisza river (Hungary)

> Part of a program called "Improvement of Vásárhelyi Plan", this project aimed at tackling flood problems of Tisza valley in Eastern Hungary. Funded by the 2007-2013 Hungarian "Operational Programme Environment and Energy" under the Cohesion fund, it allowed building a reservoir delimited by dykes, with controllable water intake/outlet structures. An environmental monitoring system was also put in place to measure its impact on the natural habitat. This 99 million m3 water reservoir contributed to reduce flood waves and manage the surrounding natural landscape. This benefitted nature based tourism in the area.
>
> EU contribution: € 45.415.314 (2007-2013) - Level of EU funding: 82 %

Source: Inforegio database

For other examples, see:

- Database with examples of regional development projects supported by the Structural Fund and/or the Cohesion Fund, including all 'major projects' (> € 50 million) implemented between 2007 and 2013.

- Database with examples of earlier regional policy projects

IV.   EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND

1.   What is the European Social Fund?

The European Social Fund (ESF) is one of the five "European Structural and Investment Funds" (ESIF)[20]. Under ESIF rules, each Member State has to draw up and implement a strategic plan indicating its 2014-2020 objectives investment priorities for the use of these Funds. Once the European Commission's observations adequately taken into account, this plan becomes a "Partnership Agreement". Member States also have to draw up "Operational Programmes" (OP) breaking down priorities listed in the Partnership Agreements into concrete actions. These OPs can cover entire Member States and/or regions, or be cooperation programmes involving more than one country. "Operational Programmes" are implemented by Managing Authorities set up by the Member States (at national, regional or another level).

The ESF aims in particular to improve employment and (workers) mobility as well as the level of professional qualifications in the EU. For more information, see the European Social Fund website.

2.   Type of tourism-related actions eligible for funding

Eligible actions are listed in the "Operational Programmes" prepared by the Member States. Depending on their choices, funding from the European Social Fund may be used, among other things, for:

- training workers to help companies having to cope with restructuring or a lack of qualified workers

- training people in difficulty and those from disadvantaged groups to get better skills and jobs

- supporting mutual learning, establishing networks, and disseminating and promoting good practices and methodologies in the domain of social innovation

Most actions are regional or national, but the ESF can also support transnational and inter-regional co-operation, depending on the approach defined in Operational Programmes.

3.   Who can apply within the tourism sector?

- All legal persons active in the labour market or in the fields of education & training (e.g. SMEs, chamber of commerce, trade union, foundation, NGO, …).

4.   Type and level of funding

ESF is providing grants. All projects have to be co-financed, with a maximum EU contribution of 50% to 85% (95% in exceptional cases) of the total project costs depending on the relative wealth of the region ("More developed regions", "Transitions regions" or "Less developed regions"). The level of funding varies widely, depending of the project and the Operational Programme. Examples listed below range from EUR 50.000 to EUR 3 million.

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[20]   List of ESIF: European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund, Cohesion Fund, European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, European Maritime & Fisheries Fund.

ESF may also support actions and policies falling within its scope through financial instruments, including micro-credits and guarantee funds.

5.   How to apply and when

The Member States[21] manage the ESF Operational Programmes, which involve advertising ESF funding opportunities, providing specific information and selecting eligible projects. Interested entities should therefore contact the ESF Managing Authority in their country or region via the ESF 'Support in your country' map or list.

6.   Example(s) of successful projects in the past

Training programme for tourism managers and supervisors in Malta

> In 2011 the Malta Tourism Authority received EUR 3 million from the Maltese government and the ESF (25%-75% co-financing) for its training programme "Advance: Training Tourism Leaders". The programme was organised around two platforms: one for 450 senior managers and a second for 300 middle management and supervisors in the tourism sector. Teaching was provided by 12 foreign experts. Training sessions were held in leading tourism establishments and one-to-one mentoring was offered.
>
> EU contribution: € 3,5 million (2008-2013) - Level of EU funding: 85%

Source: European Social Fund list of projects & tourism.gov.mt

Developing an alternative way of presenting Slovenia's capital city to tourists

> The Bosnian Cultural Association of Slovenia has received ESF funding for its "Alternative Ljubljana" project to include 'alternative sights' into Ljubljana's tourist offering. The intention is to offer visitors of Slovenia's capital city a 'multicultural path' combining traditional Slovenian culture with the culture of immigrants, such as German, Italian and Jewish communities, and minorities coming from other parts of the former Yugoslavia. The project also aims to reduce youth unemployment through training (how to make videos helping visitors and residents explore the rich history, architecture and culinary delights of the city …).

Source: Uroš Škerl Kramberger on 19/09/2013 http://www.dnevnik.si/

Stimulating rural tourism by cooking with local products

> The ESF supported the "Cooking with local produce" training programme organised in the Vercors district (France) by AFRAT, the association for training rural people in tourism activities (EUR 52.000, 50% co-financing). The training drew on the practices and history of the countryside. It combined theory and practice, introducing students to local producers and arranging work experience (hostels, country restaurants, rural hotel businesses, gîtes and tourist activity centres). All participants (apprentice cooks) found work at the end of the programme. Cooking with local products proved to stimulate tourism business in the area.
>
> EU contribution: € 52.776 (2010) - Level of EU funding: 50%

Source: European Social Fund list of projects

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[21]   In some Member States, this is done at sub-national level. For instance, in the United Kingdom, specific sites exist for England, Northern Ireland, Wales … Funding opportunities for England are flagged on http://www.dwp.gov.uk/esf/funding-opportunities/

Promoting the role of women entrepreneurs in cultural routes

The "El Legado Andalusí Foundation is supporting the development of cultural routes around the 800-year Hispano-Muslim legacy in the south of Spain. In July 2012, the Foundation held an ESF co-funded European seminar on how rural women entrepreneurs can participate in boosting tourism and economic development along such 'cultural routes' across Europe.

Source: http://rutas.legadoandalusi.es/

For other examples, see:

- European Social Fund partial list of projects (2007-2013)

- European Social Fund data base mostly for the programming period 2000-2006

- Toolkit for transnational exchange and cooperation in the ESF 2007 – 2013

V. EUROPEAN AGRICULTURE FUND FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

1. What is the EAFRD?

The "European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development" (EAFRD) aims, among other things, at promoting economic development in rural areas. Funds for rural development are allocated by Managing Authorities appointed by the Member States. Depending on the needs and choices of each Member State, support may be granted to:

- the diversification of farmers into non-agricultural activities

- the development of non-agricultural SMEs in rural areas and engaged in sustainable & responsible tourism

- the restoration / upgrading of the cultural and natural heritage of villages and rural landscapes.

For more information, see the Rural Development Gateway 2014-2020.

2. Type of tourism-related actions eligible for funding

Eligible actions are listed in the national and regional "Rural Development Programmes" (RDP) prepared by the Member States. Depending on their choices, these RDPs may fund[22]:

- vocational training and skills acquisition actions (courses, workshops, coaching … for instance on how to develop rural tourism), demonstration activities and information actions

- advisory services to help farmers, forest holders, other land managers and SMEs in rural areas to improve their economic performance

- business start-up aid as well as investments for non-agricultural activities in rural areas (rural accommodation, shops, restaurants, guided tours, …)

- drawing up and updating of plans for the development of municipalities and villages in rural areas[23]

- investments for public use in recreational infrastructure, tourist information and small scale tourism infrastructure

- studies and investments associated with the maintenance, restoration and upgrading of the cultural and natural heritage of villages, rural landscapes and high nature value sites, including related socio-economic aspects, as well as environmental awareness actions

- co-operation involving at least two entities (creation of clusters and networks; co-operation among small operators in organising joint work processes and sharing facilities and resources and for the development and/or marketing of tourism services relating to rural tourism; …)

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[22]   Regulation 1305/2013 of 17 December 2013 on the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

[23]   This also covers the drawing up / updating of protection and management plans relating to Natura 2000 sites and other areas of high nature value (see Section on "LIFE").

3.   Who can apply within the tourism sector?

- Any natural or legal person active in rural areas (farmer, forestry company, SMEs operating in rural areas …)

- "Local Action Groups" (LEADER – CLLD)[24]

4.   Type and level of funding

The EAFRD is providing grants, with a minimum contribution rate of 20 %. Each "Rural Development Programme" prepared by the Member States includes a table setting out a specific EAFRD contribution rate for each type of operation. Where applicable, this table indicates separately the EAFRD contribution rate for less developed regions and for other regions.[25] The RDP also defines what is considered as small-scale infrastructure. For co-operation actions, support is limited to maximum 7 years.

5.   How to apply and when

Identify the Managing Authority responsible for the programme corresponding to the location and scope of your project. This managing Authority is publishing application information on its website responsible. Click here for the websites of the Ministries for Agriculture in the Member States.

6.   Example(s) of successful projects in the past

"At the Saddler" - Bulgaria

> The Lovech province, located in the central Bulgarian mountains, has beautiful landscape and a strong tradition in handcraft production. Hristo Hristov, specialised in manufacturing leather and particularly saddlery products, decided to build a guest house in Apriltsy and renovate a building to be used as workshop for saddler craft products. The small guest house 'At the Saddler' can host up to 4 people. The workshop is used for exhibitions of the craft products and demonstrate how the products are made, giving tourists the possibility to practice. Together to horseback tours, these activities are expected to lead to an increased production and sales as well as help to promote local traditions.
>
> EU contribution: € 15.144 (2013-2014) - Level of EU funding: 30%

Source: http://www.hamuti-bg.com/

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[24]   Under the previous programme, some funding was earmarked for LEADER Community Initiatives (French acronym standing for 'Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale' and meaning 'Links between the rural economy and development actions'). The "Leader approach" to rural development involved individual projects designed and executed by local partnerships to address specific local problems. It worked through "Local Action Groups" (LAGs) selected by the EAFRD authorities in the Member States and asked to implement local development strategies. Made up of public and private partners from the rural territory, including representatives from different socio-economic sectors, the LAGs were awarding grants to local projects. In the 2014-2020 multi-fund context, the LEADER approach is referred to as "Community-Led Local Development" (CLLD). LEADER-CLLD is a mandatory part of the Rural Development Programmes funded by the EAFRD and a possible option under the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

[25]   Regulation 1305/2013 (article 59) sets maximum contribution rates for different categories of regions (from 85% for less developed regions to 53% for more developed regions).

''In den Bongerd'' - Therapeutic Holiday Houses for the Disabled

> The Stek family wanted their fruit company business to assist the disabled or the chronically ill. The orchard was equipped with paved paths, making this peaceful environment accessible to these persons and their families. Tailored medical care was made available through cooperation with a local organisation. Recreation residence facilities of the company now provide extra income to the fruit company.
>
> EU contribution: €68.768 (2009-2010) - Level of EU funding: 20%

Source: Leader-zuidtwente

Restoration of natural habitat of the Vrøgum March - Denmark

> In 2005, the Danish Nature Fund bought approximately 13.5 hectares of the protected Vrøgum Marsh, located in the southern part of the File Lake. The area was deteriorated and under severe fouling. Trees were manually removed and Scottish highland cattle were introduced to graze the area, which resulted in the restoration of more than 150 plant species. On the other hand, public access was ensured thanks to the construction of foot bridges and the installation of stepping stones. A trail system over the most humid areas and information boards now attract many tourists.
>
> EU contribution: € 3.594 (2011-2013) - Level of EU funding: 40%

Source: http://www.danmarksnaturfond.dk/Default.aspx?ID=20661

Jämsä river flows! - Finland

> This project aimed at promoting Jämsä River's cultural and natural heritage among local residents and tourists. The main activities consisted in the organisation of river-related events (sing-along and dancing evenings, community drives to mow and clear vegetation, markets, regatta). Facilities for travellers were also installed (signs, billboards and information boards). Information material on the history of the river, including the older generation's memories, was also compiled and disseminated among schools, educational institutions and clubs. Nearly 100 river-related events with almost 13 000 participants were organised. This contributed to increase recreational activities (such as canoeing, fishing and swimming), making the river valley more pleasant and attractive to tourists and local people.
>
> EU contribution: € 46.800 (2010-2012) - Level of EU funding: 36%

Source: http://www.maaseutu.fi/fi/index/viestinta/uutiset/jamsanjoki_virtaa.html

''Routes without barriers'' - Accessible Tourism in Portugal and Spain

> This LEADER (trans-national cooperation) project promoted "accessible tourism" for people with disabilities in four Local Action Group territories in Portugal and Spain. The partners have each adapted a museum space with fully accessible facilities; created an interactive website accessible to all users; undertaken many awareness-raising actions, including a new accessible tourism guide; etc. Tourism services and attractions in each LAG area are now more 'inclusive'.
>
> EU contribution: €160.000 (2010-2012) - Level of EU funding: 40%

Source: http://www.terrasdentro.pt

For other examples, see:

- European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) – RDP project database

VI.   EUROPEAN MARITIME AND FISHERIES FUND

1.   What is the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund?

Replacing the European Fisheries Fund, the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) has among its priorities to increase employment and territorial cohesion in coastal and inland communities depending on fishing and aquaculture. This should be achieved by

- the promotion of economic growth, social inclusion, creation of jobs and supporting labour mobility in these communities;

- the diversification of activities within fisheries and into other sectors of maritime economy.

Each Member State is allocated a share of the total Fund budget in relation with the size of its fishing industry. It then draws up an "Operational Programme", saying how it intends to spend the money. Once the programme approved by the Commission, it is up to the Managing Authority set up by each Member State (at national or regional) to implement it.

Managing authorities responsible for the implementation of EMFF operational programmes delegate a number of tasks to "Fisheries Local Action Groups" (FLAGs). These partnerships between fisheries actors and other local private/public stakeholders design local development strategies[26]. FLAGs also manage a budget to support technically and financially the implementation of their local strategy via specific projects.

Under these local strategies, funding is available in particular for cultural fisheries and maritime cultural heritage. This can cover tourism-related projects, such as eco-tourism, pesca tourism and fishing tourism[27], local gastronomy (fish and seafood restaurants), accommodation, tourist trails, diving, etc.

For details, see the EMFF website.

2.   Type of tourism-related actions eligible for funding

The EMFF may support operations such as:

- studies;

- projects, including test projects and cooperation projects;

- conferences, seminars, for a and workshops;

- public information and sharing best practice, awareness raising campaigns and associated communication and dissemination activities such as publicity campaigns, events, the development and maintenance of websites, stakeholder platforms;

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[26]   This bottom-up approach is called "Community-Led Local Development" (CLLD) methodology.

[27]   e.g. retro-fitting of fishing vessels for activities other than commercial fishing, including tourism purposes as well as the permanent cessation of fishing activities where the vessel retains a land-based heritage function.

- professional training, life-long learning and the acquisition of new professional skills enabling professionals of the fisheries sector or their life partners to enter into tourism activities or to carry out complementary activities in the field of tourism.

3.   Who can apply within the tourism sector?

- All legal and natural persons in coastal and inland communities

4.   Type and level of funding

The EMFF provides grants to co-finance projects, along with national funding. The operational programme of each country establishes the EMFF contribution rate applicable to each of the objectives. The maximum EMFF contribution rate is 75% of the eligible public expenditure. The minimum EMFF contribution rate is 20%.

5.   How to apply and when

Identify the Managing Authority responsible for the programme corresponding to the location and scope of your project. This Managing Authority is publishing application information on its website: list of national authorities. Also check whether there is "Fisheries Local Action Group" in your area.

Tools and assistance for "Fisheries Local Action Groups" and local stakeholders are available online.

6.   Example(s) of successful projects in the past

Under Axis 4 of the European Fisheries Fund (2007-13) a series of tourism-related projects has been financed. Axis 4 is continued under the 2014-2020 EMFF under the name "Community-Led Local Development".

Multi-functional fish restaurant, shop & work space (North Jutland - Denmark)

Hune, a small town of 3 000 inhabitants situated 40 km away from one of the top Danish tourism destinations (city of Aalborg), has beautiful beaches but lacked restaurants and shops focusing on high quality fish products. An itinerant fishmonger, Mogens Klausen decided setting-up his own restaurant, combined with a fish shop and a smoke house (which compensates the low activity of the restaurant during the autumn/winter season). He contacted the North Jutland FLAG that provided him with technical and financial support. Open all the year, his complex has created 6 all-year full-time jobs for local people, staff increasing to 20 Full Time Equivalents during the summer season.

EU contribution: €22.500 – Level of EU funding: 3,3%

Source: Farnet

Tourism training for fishermen (Lapland – Finland)

The remaining professional fishermen of Sodankylä were eager to complement their income by diversifying into tourism. However, they lacked the skills and licenses to make this a reality. Following discussions with their local FLAG, a group of specialists delivered a tailor made training package including courses and exams in safety issues, study visits to tourism companies (to forge contacts with and learn from tourism operators), a 10 days training focused on product development, pricing and customer service, completed by 7 days of personalised study and guidance. Between them, the fishermen have developed a

total of seven marketable products and the nearest big tourist resort (www.luosto.fi) is now marketing their winter net fishing trips and summer river fishing trips.

EU contribution: € 30.186 – Level of EU funding: 39%

Source: Farnet

Fishing Village Anno 1906 (Bremen - Germany)

The objective of this project was to increase the attractiveness of the run down and somewhat industrial looking harbour area of Bremerhaven. A local fish wholesaler based in the harbour and the local FLAG cooperated to establish a small, rustic fishing village at the port entrance, made up of 11 thatched huts based on traditional fishing huts from the year 1906. Restaurants, shopping possibilities (clothes and fish) and sightseeing were arranged as a "maritime attraction world" focused around fish. The oldest existing "fish packing hall IV" (established 1906) was also refurbished. Around 15 trading companies and gastronomes are now offering their products and services in these halls.

EU contribution: € 158.000 – Level of EU funding: 40%

Source: Farnet

Discovery of shell fish farming in the Pays d'Auray (Brittany – France)

The pays d'Auray has been shaped by fishing and sell fish farming. These sectors are however under pressure because of a significant residential demand (secondary residences). A public–private partnership was therefore set up to develop a targeted tourism offer for the discovery of fishing and shell fish farming (support for the creation of an 'Oyster house'; programming of visits to shell fish farming sites, processing companies, the auction at Quiberon; discovery routes, links between producers, restaurant owners and consumers, etc.).

EU contribution: € 500.000 – Level of EU funding: 42%

Source: Farnet

For other examples, see:

- FARNET (European Fisheries Areas Network) bringing together fisheries areas supported by priority Axis 4 of the European Fisheries Fund (2007-2013). Projects by country or by theme.

VII. LIFE

1.   What is "LIFE"?

LIFE is the financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU. The priority areas of its sub-programme for environment are:

- Environment and Resource Efficiency[28]

- Nature and Biodiversity[29]

- Environmental Governance and Information[30].

The priorities areas of its sub-programme for climate action are:

- Climate Change Mitigation (contributing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions)

- Climate Change Adaptation (contributing to increase resilience to climate change)

- Climate Governance and Information

For more details, see LIFE programme website and 2014-2017 LIFE multiannual work programme.

2.   Type of tourism-related actions eligible for funding

The most relevant actions are probably those envisaged under the so-called "Traditional Projects",[31]

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[28]   The non-exhaustive list of thematic priorities for this priority area refers to: water, including the marine environment (management of flood risks, avoiding misuse of water resources, …); waste (integrated approach for the implementation of waste plans – see example below on Sustainable Cruise - …); resource efficiency, including soil and forests (improved land use, prevention of forest fires, …); environment and health, including noise levels (see example below on Tourism Accessibility in Small Attractive Cities); air quality and emissions, including the urban environment (see example below on Tourism Accessibility in Small Attractive Cities). EU Regulation 1293/2013 establishing LIFE.

[29]   The non-exhaustive list of thematic priorities for this priority area refers notably to activities aimed at improving the conservation status of habitats and species of Union interest (Natura 2000) as well as activities establishing green infrastructure to maintain and enhance ecosystems.

[30]   The non-exhaustive list of thematic priorities for this priority area refers in particular to information, communication and awareness campaigns in line with the EU Environment Action Programme & activities as well as measures to promote compliance with in relation to EU environmental legislation (see example below on the information campaign for the reduction of smoking related litter on beaches).

[31]   The other types of projects are

(a) the "Integrated Projects" implementing on a large territorial scale environmental or climate plans or strategies required by EU legislation in the areas of nature, water, waste and air;

(b) the "Technical Assistance Projects" for those implementing integrated projects;

(c) the "Preparatory Projects" supporting specific needs for the implementation and development of EU environmental or climate policy and legislation (see example below on the reduction of smoking related litter on beaches as targeted by the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive - 2008/56/EC); and

(d) the "Capacity building projects" for more effective participation of the Member States in LIFE.

which may take different forms:

- pilot projects assess the effectiveness of a method/approach that is new or has been used in a different (geographical, ecological, socio-economic) context; they compare its results with those produced by best practices, in order to determine if the method should be tested on a larger scale (i.e. in a demonstration project) and inform stakeholders;

- demonstration projects test and evaluate a method/approach that is new or has been used in a different context; they inform other stakeholders of the results and, where appropriate, encourage them to apply these methods / approaches[32];

- best practice projects apply appropriate, cost-effective and state-of-the-art techniques, methods and approaches taking into account the specific context of the project

- information, awareness and dissemination projects related to one of the priority areas.

If LIFE does not finance big infrastructure projects, it may support investment in "Green Infrastructure" through grants and loans/bank guarantees - see below, NCFF (Natural Capital Financing Facility) and PF4EE (Private Financing for Energy Efficiency instrument). Green Infrastructure (GI) refers to a network of high quality natural and semi-natural areas[33], which is designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services from the protection of biodiversity to the quality of water. These services also include recreational and touristic activities.

Green Infrastructure is made of different things, from hedgerows, fish ladders or motorway overpass for bears to measures concerning entire ecosystems such as free-flowing rivers. As some ecosystems extend beyond national boundaries[34], there may be EU-level GI projects.

3.   Who can apply within the tourism sector?

GRANTS FOR "TRADITIONAL PROJECTS"

- all legal persons (SMEs, NGOs, public authorities, …)[35]

LOANS AND/OR BANK GUARANTEES - NCFF

- all legal persons

LOANS AND/OR BANK GUARANTEES - PF4EE

- SMEs and mid-cap larger companies (mainly)

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[32]   Such projects could, for instance, demonstrate the added value of coordinating integrated coastal management and maritime spatial planning in new marine contexts, supporting the concrete implementation of sea basin strategies, or connecting integrated coastal management and maritime spatial planning with the procedures for designating and managing Marine Protected Areas or Natura 2000 sites.

[33]   The Natura 2000 network comprises of 26,000 sites dedicated to the protection of the habitats and species is a core element of the wider EU green infrastructure

[34]   Cf. Major river basins (the Rhine, the Danube …) or mountain ranges (the Alps, the Pyrenees, the Carpathians …). The development of cross-border / transnational GI may also be pursued through the macro-regional strategies supported by the European Regional Development Fund and through European territorial cooperation programmes (see ERDF Fiche).

[35]   Applications can be handed in individually or in partnership with other entities.

4. Type and level of funding

GRANTS FOR "TRADITIONAL PROJECTS". € 500.000 to 1,5 million, with a maximum co-funding rate of 60 %, except for projects targeting priority habitats & species (75 %).

LOANS AND/OR BANK GUARANTEES - NCFF. The "Natural Capital Financing Facility" (NCFF) will support selected financial intermediaries providing loans/bank guarantees for Green Infrastructures (see above) and other types of upfront investment foreseen in revenue-generating or cost-saving pilot projects. This may concern payments for ecosystem services (e.g. programs to protect and enhance forestry, biodiversity, to reduce water or soil pollution) as well as pro-biodiversity and adaptation businesses (e.g. sustainable forestry, agriculture, aquaculture, eco-tourism). During the 2014-2017 pilot phase, target operations will typically have a size of € 5 to 15 million.

LOANS AND/OR BANK GUARANTEES - PF4EE. For small energy efficiency investments, capable of using energy savings to repay up-front borrowing. Level to be determined.

5. How to apply and when

For Grants, go to the funding page of the LIFE programme. Except for "Traditional" projects, applicants must use the application form provided in LIFE application packages (available on the same page) and submit them to the Contracting Authority, i.e. the "Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises" (EASME). Proposals for "traditional" projects must be created and submitted via the eProposal tool. When preparing the proposal, applicants may consult the relevant LIFE National Contact Point in the Member States.

For loans or bank guarantees, apply to the financial intermediaries (commercial banks, …) supported by the "Natural Capital Financing Facility" (NCFF) or the "Private Financing for Energy Efficiency instrument". Selection of NCFF financial intermediaries due in 2014.

6. Example(s) of successful projects in the past

Tourism for conservation in the Burren and Cliffs of Moher geopark (Ireland)

Burren area has a rich and diverse range of flora and fauna, archaeological monuments and traditional cultural practices. The concentration of tourists (90% during summer months) however has serious environmental implications (use of resources …). Yet, whilst the Cliffs of Moher (one of the highest sea cliffs in Europe) attracts up to one million visitors a year, another desirable tourism location only 20 km away – the Black Head Loop Walk – attracts fewer than 3 000 visitors annually.

The "Burren Tourism for Conservation" project (also called Geopark LIFE project) aims to reconcile tourism development with conservation of biodiversity and cultural heritage. Reducing the impact of tourism on the Burren is indeed a way to increase its 'carrying capacity'. Pilot actions include a resource management programme for about 100 enterprises (dealing with the use of sun pipes bringing sunlight into dark parts of a building, installation of smart meters …) and improvement of 4 monuments and 3 natural sites (long-term protection measures of a site while tourism activity can take place around it). The lessons of its pilot actions will be shared, notably through tool kits, offering a 'tourism for conservation' methodology of value to local communities in Europe.

EU contribution: € 1.108.872 (2012-2017) - Level of EU funding: 50 %

Source: LIFE Projects database; Geopark-LIFE

Development of sustainable tourism in the Slitere national park (Latvia)

Selected among best LIFE-environment projects 2012, POLPROP-NATURA aimed at developing a sustainable tourism-management model for Natura 2000, using Slītere National Park as its demonstration site. There is a growing demand for ecotourism but many tourists are unaware of Natura 2000 purposes and do not always behave appropriately on its sites.

Led by Latvian development agency "Lauku Ceļotājs", the project created five new sustainable tourism products for the area (park guide; plant finder featuring common but attractive species instead of exposing rare and sensitive species; attractions in and routes to less sensitive zones of the park; cheap and simple touring route marking method; …).

It also developed a monitoring methodology providing key data for new tourism initiatives and conducted an awareness-campaign on Natura 2000, coupled with the distribution of a guide on sustainable nature-based tourism products in the 14 national parks in the Baltic countries.

As a result, there was an increase in the number of visitors, the length of their stay and the amount of money they spent on average on the park territory. The number of companies that offer services/products to visitors increased from 23 to 48. Tourist accommodation providers, (nature) guides, catering services (cafes, farms offering tasting of produce and meals on request), producers of traditional smoked fish, equipment rental companies, craftsmen all benefitted.

EU contribution: € 244.900 (2009-2012) - Level of EU funding: 49 %

Source: LIFE Projects database; Polprop-Natura website

Sustainable cruise

According to the 2008 EU Waste Framework Directive, waste prevention should be the first priority in waste management. Given the degree of luxury afforded to their passengers, cruise ships produce a lot of waste (with less than 1% of the merchant fleet, it is estimated that they are responsible for 25% of its waste).

Led by one of the largest cruise companies (Costa Crociere), the project therefore aimed in particular to demonstrate the potential for waste prevention, recovery and recycling on a cruise ship. It has assessed the environmental impacts of three waste streams (packaging, biodegradable waste and paper) and the technical/economic viability of the large-scale waste management solutions. It has also suggested a standardised approach to waste management on-board. Last but not least, it provided guidelines for an advanced certification scheme and assessed the possibility of converting CO_2 emissions reductions into tradable carbon credits.

EU contribution: € 1.314.623 (2011-2014) - Level of EU funding: 50 %

Source: LIFE Projects database; Sustainable cruise

Information campaign for the reduction of smoking related litter on beaches (Greece)

Marine litter is one of the most serious environmental problems of the 20th Century. It has an adverse effect on the economy, affecting tourism, industry, the fisheries sector and human health.

Coordinated by an NGO (Mediterranean SOS Network), the project aims to improve the aesthetic value of beaches and boost hygiene, as well as diminishing the need for expensive clean ups. This relies on an integrated information campaign for the prevention/reduction of smoking-related litter in coastal areas of Greece.

EU contribution: € 299.709 (2013-2015) - Level of EU funding: 50 %

Source: LIFE Projects database; LIFE-ammos

Tourism Accessibility in Small Attractive Cities (Italy)

Air pollution and noise are two of the main problems for seasonal small/medium size tourist resorts. One way of improving the quality of life for inhabitants and accessibility for tourists is to reduce the average distance travelled to find a parking space.

Led by the Public Transport Department of the Regione Marche, the project therefore aimed to develop and implement a mobility model for car traffic due to touristic flows into urban centres (T.A.SM.A.C. model). Expected results include a 3db reduction in ambient traffic noise and a NOx reduction equal to 0.6 kg/day per medium powered vehicle, notably by managing at least 70% of all parking spaces by an online information/reservation system.

EU contribution: € 666.186 (2010-2014) - Level of EU funding: 46 %

Source: LIFE Projects database

For other examples, see:

• LIFE Projects database[36]

• Library of Best LIFE Projects (list identifying 'best of the best' and 'best' projects whose results, if widely applied, could have the most positive impact on the environment)

• Most recent LIFE Sports and Recreation activities Projects

• Most recent LIFE Tourism - Accommodation Projects

• Brochure (2013) on Green Infrastructure

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[36] For keyword-based search, use: agritourism, coastal area, coastal management, cultural heritage, energy saving, green building, historical site, landscape protection, natural heritage, natural park, tourism, tourism facility, touristic zone.

VIII. HORIZON 2020

1. What is "Horizon 2020"?

Bringing together three previous programmes / initiatives[37], "Horizon 2020" is the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020). It is made of "programme sections" (also called "pillars"), some being divided in sub-sections. The most interesting sections for tourism probably are:

- "Excellent Science"

    o sub-section MSCA ("Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions") for career development and training of researchers – with a focus on innovation skills – in all scientific disciplines through worldwide and cross-sector mobility

- "Industrial Leadership"

    o sub-section programme LEIT ("Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies"), among other things, for greater competitiveness of the European cultural and creative sectors by stimulating ICT innovation in SMEs Technologies.

- "Societal Challenges"[38]

    o sub-section programme "Europe in a changing world - Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies", hereafter Reflective, to address in particular the issues of memories, identities, tolerance and cultural heritage.

- "SME instrument" for high-potential SMEs to develop ground-breaking innovative products, services or processes that are ready to face global market competition

For details on structure & procedures, see the European Commission's Horizon 2020 site.

2. Type of tourism-related actions eligible for funding

MSCA

"Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions" funds in particular (a) "Individual Fellowships"[39] enabling researchers to work on projects within or outside Europe; (b) "Innovative Training Networks"[40]

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[37] The 7th Research Framework Programme (FP7), innovation aspects of "Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme" (CIP), EU contribution to the "European Institute of Innovation and Technology" (EIT).

[38] This programme section deals with seven "challenges". If challenge n°6 "Europe in a changing world …" probably offers the biggest opportunities for the tourism sector (see main text), it is also worth considering challenge n°7 "Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials". A link can, for instance, be made between (cultural / natural) heritage and lines of activities such as "Fighting and adapting to climate change" or "Protecting the environment, sustainably managing natural resources, water, biodiversity and ecosystems". One of its "Disaster Resilience & Climate Change" calls is dedicated to "Mitigating the impacts of climate change and natural hazards on cultural heritage sites, structures and artefacts" (DRS-11-2015).

[39] There are 2 types of Individual Fellowships (IF): "European Fellowships" for researchers either coming to Europe or moving within Europe and "Global Fellowships" for the secondment outside Europe of researchers based in the EU or Associated Countries.

offering joint research training and/or doctoral programmes, implemented by universities, research institutions and non-academic organisations; and (c) "Research and Innovation Staff Exchange" enabling staff exchange i.a. between academic and non-academic sectors. See MSCA Pocket guide

LEIT

This sub-section programme funds "Innovation Actions"[41] and "Coordination and Support Actions"[42] of interest for the tourism sector. "Innovation Actions" should, among other things, develop innovative Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) products, tools, applications & services for the cultural and creative sectors[43] (e.g. 3D, augmented reality, advanced user interfaces, visual computing).[44] Proposals should clearly demonstrate their high commercial and innovation potential. "Coordination and Support Actions" focus on non-research activities such as disseminating results and promoting the use of ICT-driven innovation thanks to a sustainable network of 'multipliers'. They could also contribute to connect SMEs from the creative sectors with appropriate sources of funding (e.g. loans, venture capital, business angels' investment, crowd-funding …) and with international business networks.

REFLECTIVE

This sub-section programme funds in particular "Research & Innovation Actions"[45], "Innovation Actions" and "Coordination and Support Actions" on transmission of European cultural heritage[46], uses of the past[47], 3D modelling for accessing EU cultural assets[48].

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[40]   ITNs can take i.a. the form of "European Training Networks" implemented by at least 3 partners from in and outside academia, allowing the researcher to experience different sectors and develop transferable skills by working on joint research projects.

[41]   Innovation action: "an action primarily consisting of activities directly aiming at producing plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services. For this purpose they may include prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication" http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/reference_terms.html

[42]   Coordination and support action: "an action consisting primarily of accompanying measures such as standardisation, dissemination, awareness raising and communication, networking, coordination or support services, policy dialogues and mutual learning exercises and studies, including design studies for new infrastructure and may also include complementary activities of networking and coordination between programmes in different countries" (Ibidem).

[43]   Two calls for 2014-2015 were, for instance, dedicated to "Support the growth of ICT innovative Creative Industries SMEs" (ICT-18) and "Technologies for creative industries, social media and convergence" (ICT-19).

[44]   Next to ICT related calls, cultural heritage in particular may benefit from other LEIT strands dedicated to "Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials and Production" or "Energy Efficiency". See, for instance, "Materials-based solutions for the protection or preservation of European cultural heritage" (NMP-21) and "Energy strategies and solutions for deep renovation of historic buildings" (EE-03-2014).

[45]   Research & Innovation Actions: "The whole spectrum of activities of research, technological development, demonstration and innovation, including the promotion of cooperation with third countries and international organisations, dissemination and optimisation of results and stimulation of high quality training and mobility of researchers in the European Union." http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/reference_terms.html

[46]   e.g. calls on "Emergence and transmission of European cultural heritage and Europeanisation" (REFLECTIVE-2-2015) or "The cultural heritage of war in contemporary Europe" (REFLECTIVE-5-2015).

[47]   e.g. call on "Innovation ecosystems of digital cultural assets" (REFLECTIVE-6-2015) for bringing cultural content to new audiences in novel ways, through the development of new environments, applications, tools, and services for digital cultural resources in scientific collections, archives, museums, libraries and cultural heritage sites.

[48]   The documentation of cultural assets is inherently a multimedia process, addressed through digital representation of the shape, appearance and conservation condition of the heritage/cultural object.

SME INSTRUMENT

The SME instrument supports the assessment of the technical and commercial feasibility[49] of an innovative concept as well as the development of a business plan. If the feasibility study concludes that this concept has potential but requires additional funding before it can be commercialised, the SME instrument may support the development and demonstration phases.[50] [51] Last but not least, it may facilitate access to risk finance.

3. Who can apply within the tourism sector?

MSCA, LEIT & REFLECTIVE

- All natural or legal persons (any public body, company, research organisations, universities, non-governmental organisations, ...) regardless of their place of establishment or residence, but possessing the operational and financial capacity to carry out the proposed research tasks[52].

- SMEs from creative industries (particularly but not exclusively targeted by LEIT)

- ICT technology providers (particularly but not exclusively targeted by LEIT)

SME INSTRUMENT

- SMEs

4. Type and level of funding

MSCA. Grants at all stages of researchers' careers, from PhD candidates to highly experienced researchers. "Individual Fellowships": duration of 12 to 24 months; EU contribution calculated on the basis of a 'researcher unit cost' of € 4650/month[53] + € 800/month for research costs + € 650/month for management costs of the hosting institution. "Innovative Training Networks" ("European Training Networks"): research and innovation training for 3 to 36 months; maximum EU contribution of € 3 186 000[54]. "Research and Innovation Staff Exchange": project of up to 4

Research on cost-effective technologies for advanced 3D modelling is therefore one of the dimensions supported by Horizon 2020. For instance, "Advanced 3D modelling for accessing and understanding European cultural assets" (REFLECTIVE-7-2014) focuses on developing new methods and tools for automated 3D modelling and analysis of physical cultural resources and assets (e.g. cultural heritage sites, monuments, sculptures, archaeological sites…) beyond simple digital reconstruction.

[49] This may include risk assessment, design or market studies and intellectual property exploration.

[50] e.g. prototyping, miniaturisation, scaling-up, design, performance verification, testing, demonstration, development of pilot lines, validation for market replication, including other activities aimed at bringing innovation to investment readiness and maturity for market take-up.

[51] PM. Besides funding, the SME instrument provides free-of-charge business coaching (optional) during feasibility assessment and innovation development & demonstration (commercialisation's coaching, linking with private investors and customers through brokerage activities …).

[52] Click here for the list of associated countries.

[53] As of 2014, monthly allowance, adjusted by country, plus a mobility allowance of €500/month and, if applicable, a family allowance of €500/month.

[54] Maximum 540 researcher/months. EU contribution = 'researcher unit cost' of €2900/month (tariff for Early-Stage Researchers) + 'institutional unit cost' of €3000/month (research and training costs of €1800 + management and overhead of €1200).

years, offering grants for secondment of staff members for 1 month to 1 year; EU contribution of € 4500€ per month[55].

LEIT & REFLECTIVE. For "Research & Innovation Actions", grants for projects typically lasting 36 to 48 months, with an average EU contribution of € 2 to 5 million over that period. The grant may cover 100% of the total eligible costs. For "Innovation Actions", grants for projects typically lasting 30 to 36 months, with an average EU contribution of € 2 to 5 million over that period. The grant may cover 100% of the total eligible costs for non-profit organisations and 70% maximum for profit-making entities (companies …). For "Coordination and Support Actions", grants for projects typically lasting 12 to 30 months and an average EU contribution of € 500.000 to 2 million over that period. The grant covers 100% of the total eligible costs.[56]

SME INSTRUMENT. For feasibility assessment, grants of € 50.000 (lump sum) with a typical duration of 6 months, covering maximum 70 % of total cost of the project. For innovation development & demonstration projects, grants of € 500.000 to 2,5 million (indicative range), with a typical duration of 1 to 2 years, covering 70 % of total cost of the project as a general rule). As for risk finance, SMEs may get easier access (via financial instruments) to loans, guarantees, counter-guarantees and hybrid, mezzanine and equity finance.

5. How to apply and when

Click here for open calls for proposals or keyword search. For detailed information on application procedures, see the participant portal for Research & Innovation and H2020 online manual. For further support, contact Horizon 2020 Helpdesk, your National Contact Point (to identify suitable calls) or the Enterprise Europe Network (for the SMEs).

Facilitating cooperation activities in research and innovation is the key to bridging the gap between research and the market. Partners for various types of cooperation are available in the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) database

6. Example(s) of successful projects in the past

UnderSafe - Keeping underground tourist destinations safe

Caves, catacombs and tunnels are becoming increasingly popular, with an estimate of more than 1.800 underground tourist attractions in Europe (primarily in Germany, Austria, Italy, Spain and France). About 27 million people visit these attractions every year in Europe. It is therefore necessary to ensure that they are safe and environmentally friendly.

Thanks to the UnderSafe project, a polish-led consortium (made of technological SMEs, a company exploiting a touristic salt mine and a polytechnic university) has been developing a wireless intelligent system providing round-the-clock detection and early warning about potential dangers to tourists, guides and professionals working underground.

Thanks to a special necklace or bracelet, users to access a central monitoring system via all popular mobile devices. Alerts are issued when people enter non-visitor areas or

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[55]   'Researcher unit cost' of € 2000 Euro/month + 'institutional unit cost' of €2500/month (research and training costs of €1800 + management and overhead of €700).

[56]   The size of the average grant may vary across specific calls for proposals. In the case of "Support the growth of ICT innovative Creative Industries SMEs" (ICT 18), the Commission considered that proposals requesting an EU grant between EUR 0.5 million and EUR 1 million for a period between 6 and 18 months would be appropriate, without precluding proposals requesting other amounts or duration.

unstable zones, when a visitor remains immobile for an extended period of time, or when someone falls behind a group. The system also provides environmental control of the underground facility in terms of physical parameters (e.g. humidity, temperature) and gas sensing (e.g. carbon dioxide, oxygen, carbon monoxide). For instance, it calculates the maximum number of visitors a site can accommodate without destroying flora and fauna or ancient drawings. It will also include structural sensors to detect rock falls and landslide movement.

EU contribution: € 1.045.400 (2011-2013) – Level of EU funding: 75%

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/news/keeping-underground-tourist-destinations-safe; http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/100443_en.html

OntoWiki for enterprise knowledge management, e-learning and e-tourism

Specialised activities lead to specialised terminologies and concepts. This makes it hard to communicate and share knowledge within a company, a sector, … Ontologies, glossaries, thesauruses, …, are developed to facilitate communication between human beings and computers, among human beings as well as among computers.

A free open-source software, OntoWiki is an ontology editor and a knowledge acquisition system. Developed at the University of Leipzig, it has a large and active user base. This project allowed upgrading OntoWiki and adapting it to the needs of SMEs engaged in e-tourism. It helped preparing for the commercial exploitation of this semantic collaboration software.

EU contribution: € 943.800 (2008-2011) – Level of EU funding: 64%

Source: http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/92171_en.html

CHESS – personalised interactive stories in museums and cultural sites

Cultural heritage institutions must make their collections more engaging to visitors, especially the young 'digital natives', while exploiting recently developed digital libraries. At the same time, new mobile devices (smartphones, tablets) allow the widespread deployment of apps used in museums and cultural sites to improve visitor's experience.

CHESS (Cultural Heritage Experiences through Socio-personal interactions and Storytelling) uses various techniques for delivering personalised interactive stories. Often including an augmented reality interface, these cultural 'adventures' adapt continuously to the individual profiles and preferences of their visitors. They were tested in different sites; most notably two world-renowned museums, the New Acropolis Museum, and the Cité de l'Espace in France.

In order to achieve this, CHESS had to conduct interdisciplinary research in personalization and adaptivity, digital storytelling, interaction methodologies, and narrative-oriented mobile and mixed reality technologies, with a sound theoretical basis in museological, cognitive, and learning sciences.

EU contribution: € 2.859.712 (2011-2014) – Level of EU funding: 67%

Source: http://www.chessexperience.eu/; http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/97182_en.html

Cultural and Natural Heritage in Arctic and Sub-Antarctic Regions

These extreme regions with similar features as regards their natural and cultural heritage are destined to experience similar changes due to the global warming and globalisation processes. Their fragile ecosystems could however be rapidly damaged by mass tourism or uncontrolled development strategy.

This project therefore consists in a comparative study (Swedish Lapland, Siberia and Patagonia) of how to protect and promote cultures, territories and heritages. It will also provide – cross-cultural – training for local officials and postgraduate curricula linked to tourism, geography, natural heritage, politics and social economics aimed at improving

know-how and disseminate good practices on how to valorise this heritage in a sustainable way.

EU contribution: € 327.900 (2013-2017) – Level of EU funding: 100%

Source: http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/106872_en.html

For other examples, see:

- CORDIS advanced search – projects, including

  o 3D-COFORM (New tools for the digitisation of cultural heritage artefacts will result in richer and more realistic representations, better documentation and higher cost effectiveness of digitisation)

  o Concerted innovative approaches, strategies, solutions and services improving mobility and European tourism

  o Towards Sustainable Tourism Development Models in the Euro Mediterranean region: A case study of Malta and Sardinia

  o European research network on sustainable tourism

IX. COSME

1.   What is "COSME"?

COSME is the EU programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). It aims to support SMEs in four areas:

- facilitate access to finance for SMEs through the "Loan Guarantee Facility"[57] and the "Equity Facility for Growth"[58]

- improving access to markets (notably thanks to the services provided by the Enterprise Europe Network)

- improving framework conditions for the competitiveness and sustainability of Union enterprises, notably thanks to the Tourism Action Plan

- promoting entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial culture, notably thanks to the Erasmus for young entrepreneurs exchange scheme

For more information, see COSME website.

2.   Type of tourism-related actions eligible for funding

ACCESS TO FINANCE

Any type of useful transaction or investment for the development of legitimate SMEs activities.

TOURISM ACTION PLAN

Some of the Tourism Action Plan's objectives[59] are pursued through calls for Proposals and calls for tenders open to the tourism sector. These concern, among other things:

- the development and/or promotion of sustainable transnational thematic tourism products (linked, for instance, European routes dedicated to specific aspects of our cultural and industrial heritage, cycling trails, eco-tourism, maritime and sub-aquatic areas, etc.).

- the development and/or promotion of niche products exploiting synergies between tourism and creative industries at European level (e.g. European Route around high-end products)

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[57]   The Loan Guarantee Facility provides guarantees and counter-guarantees for financial intermediaries (e.g. banks, leasing companies). It also includes securitisation of SME debt finance portfolios. By sharing the risk, the COSME guarantees help financial intermediaries to provide more loans to a large range of SMEs.

[58]   The Equity Facility for Growth invests in funds that provide venture capital and mezzanine finance to expansion and growth-stage SMEs in particular those operating across borders. The managers of these funds operate on a commercial basis, to ensure that investments are focused on SMEs with the greatest growth potential.

[59]   Diversify tourism offer; enhance tourism quality, sustainability, accessibility, skills, information and innovation; improve socio-economic knowledge of the sector.

- transnational public and private partnerships developing tourism products targeting specific age groups (e.g. seniors and youth) to increase tourism flows between European countries during the low and medium seasons

- capacity building schemes whereby managers, destination managers, entrepreneurs, …, can learn from experienced and successful 'accessible' operators, create synergies with other operators along the supply chain, explore new market opportunities and way to make business.

ERASMUS FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

This exchange scheme allows young entrepreneurs to spend 1 to 6 months with an experienced entrepreneur[60] based in another European country and ready to act as a mentor. Young entrepreneurs and their hosts get to discover new European markets or business partners, different ways of doing business, and possibly decide to continue their collaboration on the longer-term (e.g. joint ventures, sub-contracting activities, contractor-supplier relationships). For young entrepreneurs, this action also eases the successful start of their business or strengthens their new enterprise. As for host entrepreneurs, they benefit from fresh ideas from a motivated new entrepreneur who may have specialised skills or knowledge which complement yours.

3. Who can apply within the tourism sector?

ACCESS TO FINANCE

- SMEs

TOURISM ACTION PLAN

- All legal persons (SMEs, NGOs, public authorities, …)

ERASMUS FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

- Entrepreneurs

4. Type and level of funding

ACCESS TO FINANCE. Interventions (loans, guarantees, …) supported by the Loan Guarantee Facility: duration of minimum 12 months and maximum 10 years; amount below or equal to € 150.000 for any type of SME, and above under specific conditions.

TOURISM ACTION PLAN. Grants for projects typically lasting 18 months, with an average EU contribution of € 250.000. Contracts for studies and analyses of variable duration and amount.

ERASMUS FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS. Grants covering part of travel and subsistence costs during the visit. It is calculated monthly and reflects the overall living costs of the country of stay. Depending on the country of stay, the monthly financial assistance ranges from € 560 to € 1.100 (see table of monthly financial assistance paid per country of stay).

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[60]   Host entrepreneurs are the owner-manager of a SME or a person directly involved in entrepreneurship at SME board level for more than 3 years.

5. How to apply and when

For grants, information on calls for proposals and application procedures is available on the site of the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME), set up to manage COSME, and on Research & Innovation's Participant Portal[61].

For loans, credit guarantees, equity or venture capital, use the access to EU finance search engine to find financial intermediaries (commercial banks, …) located in your country and supported by the "Loan Guarantee Facility" or the "Equity Facility for Growth".

For "Erasmus for young entrepreneurs" exchange scheme, application can be done online or via a contact point in your country of residence.

6. Example(s) of successful projects in the past

European AstroTourism Route (BG, EL, ES, IT, PT)

> Astro-tourism is on the increase in the global tourist offer. The project therefore aims at the development of a route of European sites of astronomical interest, encompassing treasures from prehistory to the present day. It will, among other things, evaluate European assets and potential, produce guides on selected observatories, test stargazing sessions, organise thematic routes (some of them at night), communicate on the results of the demo experiences, … This route should eventually invite the traveller to discover the universe through the European sky as well as the European scientific contribution to astronomy.
>
> EU contribution: € 200.000 (2013-2015) – Level of EU funding: 75 %

Source: Europa

EuroVelo 13 – Iron Curtain Trail (AT, CZ, DE, EE, FI, LT, LV, PL)

> The "Iron Curtain Trail" (ICT) is part of the European cycle route network (EuroVelo) initiated by the European Cyclists' Federation. The ambition of Eurovelo is to develop high-quality cycling routes linking all countries in Europe, to be used by long-distance cycle tourists as well as by local people for short leisure journeys.
>
> The ICT follows the line which forcibly divided Europe into East and West for half a century. It reminds people and nations about the Cold War and the achievements of the new democratic order in Europe and can become the flagship of 'Brand Europe' with few negative environmental impacts and many positive social and economic benefits.
>
> This project focuses on the northern section of the ICT. It aims to develop/promote transnational thematic cycling tourism package offers along that section as well as to facilitate the emergence of tourism-related public-private partnerships.
>
> EU contribution: € 200.000 (2014-2016) – Level of EU funding: 75 %

Source: Europa

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[61] EU budgetary authorities (European Parliament and Council) occasionally invite the European Commission to do Pilot Projects (PP) or Preparatory Actions (PA) in relation with the tourism sector (e.g. accessible tourism, cultural & industrial tourism). These PP and PA are directly managed by the Commission. Information about related calls for proposals and/or calls for tenders is therefore advertised on Europa – Enterprise and Industry (funding and info).

For other examples, see:

- European Commission website, <u>Enterprise and Industry</u> (Promoting tourism in the EU & Support for Businesses

X.   CREATIVE EUROPE PROGRAMME

1.   What is the "Creative Europe Programme"?

The Creative Europe programme aims at helping cultural and creative organisations to operate transnationally, the circulation of works of culture as well as the mobility of cultural players. Bringing together 3 pre-existing programmes (Culture, MEDIA and MEDIA Mundus), "Creative Europe" is made of 3 parts:

- the "Culture sub-programme" for cultural & creative sectors

- the "Media sub-programme" for the audio-visual industries[62]

- the Cross-sectoral strand for joint projects between the cultural & creative sectors and the audio-visual industries.

For details on its structure & procedures, see on Creative Europe web-site.

2.   Type of tourism-related actions eligible for funding

TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

The "Culture sub-programme" funds transnational activities within and outside of the EU, aimed at developing, creating, producing, disseminating and preserving goods and services which embody cultural, artistic or other creative expressions. This encompasses activities to develop skills, competences and know-how, including how to adapt to digital technologies; to test new business and management models; to organise international cultural activities, such as touring events, exhibitions, exchanges and festivals; as well as to stimulate interest in, and improve access to, European cultural and creative works. The programme will not support projects including pornographic or racist material or advocating violence.

EUROPEAN NETWORKS

The "Culture sub-programme" supports European networks (i.e. structured groups of organisations) that strengthen the capacity of the cultural and creative sectors to operate transnationally and internationally, adapt to change and promote innovation[63]. A limited number of networks with broad coverage will be supported across a balanced range of sectors. Greater synergies between existing networks are welcomed in order to reinforce their organisational and financial structure and avoid duplication of efforts.

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[62]   This sub-programme largely focuses on the development and distribution of European films, TV programmes ... It is therefore not covered by this guide. One of its actions however could be of interest for the tourism sector, i.e. support to Film Festivals. This action covers (1) initiatives promoting presenting and promoting a diversity of European audio-visual works, as well as (2) activities aimed at promoting film literacy and increasing audience's knowledge of, and interest in, European audio-visual works, including the audio-visual and cinematographic film heritage, in particular among young audiences.

[63]   The general objectives of this action are to foster and promote cultural / linguistic diversity as well as strengthen the competitiveness of these sectors.

EUROPEAN CAPITALS OF CULTURE

The title of "European Capital of Culture" is awarded each year to one city in two Member States, according to a [chronological list](#) of eligible Member States set for 2020-2033 (Croatia and Ireland in 2020; Romania and Greece in 2021 …). These cities have to create a cultural programme specifically for that year. The "Culture sub-programme" supports the implementation of this programme which has to highlight the richness and diversity of European cultures and the features they share, as well as to promote greater understanding between European citizens.[64]

CROSS-SECTORAL STRAND

The Cross-sectoral strand will facilitate loans to cultural & creative enterprises and organisations. It will also support transnational policy cooperation activities across the cultural, creative and audio-visual sectors, for instance to exchange of experiences and know-how relating to new business and management models.

3. Who can apply within the tourism sector?

TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

- All legal persons[65] active in the cultural and creative sectors; they must have had a legal personality for at least 2 years on the date of the deadline for submission of applications.

EUROPEAN NETWORKS

- Networks active in the cultural and creative sectors, consisting of at least 15 member organisations (legal persons) established in at least 10 participating countries; these European networks must have had a legal personality for at least 2 years on the date of the deadline for submission of applications.

EUROPEAN CAPITALS OF CULTURE

- Cities

4. Type and level of funding

TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS. For "smaller scale cooperation projects" (max 48 months and implemented by a consortium of at least 3 partners from 3 different participating countries,), grants up to € 200.000 representing maximum 60% of the eligible budget. For "larger scale cooperation projects" (max 48 months and implemented by a consortium of at least 6 partners from 6 different participating countries), grants up to € 2 million representing maximum 50% of the eligible budget.

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[64] There are also symbolical prizes that don't provide financial support to the winners but help to boost their reputation. The "European Heritage Label" is awarded to sites that have symbolic historical value for the European integration process (how to apply). The "EU prize for cultural heritage" is awarded to recent examples of outstanding heritage care or remarkable efforts made in raising awareness about our cultural heritage and its value to the European society and economy. The EU also supports financially the organisation of the "European Heritage Days" in cooperation with the Council of Europe.

[65] Natural persons (i.e. individuals) may not apply for a grant.

EUROPEAN NETWORKS. Action grants awarded under a 3-year Framework Partnership Agreement, which shall not exceed € 250.000 per year. Maximum co-financing rate of 80% of total eligible costs.

EUROPEAN CAPITALS OF CULTURE. Each city holding the European Capital of Culture title gets € 1.5 mil (Melina Mercouri prize), provided that it meets a number of criteria and has implemented of recommendations of EU panels.

CROSS-SECTORAL STRAND. € 121 mil should be affected to a Guarantee Fund enabling financial intermediaries to lend more to these sectors.

5.   How to apply and when

Information on calls for proposals and application procedures is available on the site of the Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency and via Creative Europe Desks.

As for the European Capitals of Culture, interested cities should await the announcement of a competition in their own country (6 years before the country's turn for hosting). The authority in charge of this competition (usually the Ministry of Culture) publishes a call for applications (see "European Capitals of Culture 2020 to 2033 - A guide for cities preparing to bid").

6.   Example(s) of successful projects in the past

Tourist Promotion of Archaeological Sites along the Aquileia-Viminacium road (Italy)

The T-PAS project is promoting the Roman route connecting Italy with the Black Sea and passing through three ancient Roman towns: Aquileia (in the Italian province of Udine), Emona (the current Ljubljana in Slovenia) and Viminacium (Kostolac, close to Belgrade in Serbia). These three archaeological sites worked together to promote the route and the sites along it. The project included a socio-economic analysis benchmarking the state-of-the-art and the tourism demand & supply in order to develop innovative approaches for increasing employment and the attractiveness of businesses.

EU contribution: € 183.490 (2011–2013) - Level of EU funding: 50% (2011-2013)

Source: http://www.t-pas.eu/en

Network of cities promoting creative tourism

The project supported the creation of an international network of cities and territories which are distinguished for their work in Creative Tourism. It promoted intercultural mobility and dialogue as well as cooperation among operators who have both an extensive knowledge of the social fabric and art of their city, the demands of creative tourists as well as significant networking experience.

EU contribution: € 58.000 – Level of EU funding: 46%

Source: http://www.creativetourismnetwork.org/

Lux Scientia – A European Constellation

The project allowed a trans-European collaboration between three European light festivals cooperated (Artichoke trust in the UK, Skyway in Poland and Valgusfestival in Estonia). Three artists, one from each host country, were asked to create a lightwork with the three cities concerned in mind. Their installation was shared by each city. Promoting the cities as places of dynamic discussion and innovative art is expected to promote the visibility of each city as European cultural hubs.

> Lux Scientia also provided the opportunity for resident artists and scientists to discuss the scientific and aesthetic aspects of light, culminating in a London symposium in February 2012. The debate contributed to raise awareness of a shared European heritage, foster mutual understanding and celebrate the cultural diversity of the three countries.
>
> EU contribution: € 199.300 (2011-2012) – Level of EU funding: 50%

Source: http://www.culturefund.eu/projects/lux-scientia-a-european-constellation

For other examples, see:

- http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/projects/

- European Capitals of Culture success strategies and long term effects, European Parliament – DG for internal policies, 2013

XI. ERASMUS +

1. What is "Erasmus +"?

"Erasmus+" aims to boost skills and employability, as well as modernising Education and Training. In addition to the new sport action and the Youth in Action programme, it brings together 6 other pre-existing programmes:

- the Lifelong Learning Programme (Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Comenius and Grundtvig)

- Erasmus Mundus, Tempus, Alfa, Edulink and the programme for cooperation with industrialised countries

For details on its structure & procedures, see Erasmus + website.

2. Type of tourism-related actions eligible for funding

In order to promote innovation and employability, the programme supports:

- learning opportunities for individuals through Mobility Projects for Higher Education Students and Staff, a loan guarantee scheme to help Master's degree students financing their studies abroad and Mobility Projects for VET Learners and Staff (Vocational Education and Training);

- cooperation between educational institutions, businesses, local and regional authorities and NGOs, mainly through Joint Master Degrees (i.e. high-level integrated international study programmes of 60, 90 or 120 ECTS), Strategic Partnerships (allowing organisations from different socio-economic sectors to develop and disseminate, among other things, innovative practices leading to high quality teaching, training, learning and youth work), Knowledge Alliances (to develop innovative and multidisciplinary approaches to teaching and learning[66], stimulate entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial skills among teaching staff and workers; facilitate the exchange, flow and co-creation of knowledge between higher education and enterprises) and Sector Skills Alliances[67] (to design and deliver joint vocational training programmes and teaching / training methodologies, with particular focus on work-based learning, providing learners with the skills required by the labour market);

- not-for profit European sport events encouraging participation in sport and physical activity[68].

3. Who can apply within the tourism sector?

MOBILITY PROJECTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION / VET

- Universities and other higher education institutions / Professional or vocational schools

- All legal persons active in the labour market or in the fields of education & training (e.g. SMEs, chamber of commerce, trade union, foundation, NGO, …)[69].

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[66] e.g. organising continued educational programmes and activities with and within companies.

[67] "Cultural and creative sectors" as well as "Tourism" are among the 7 sectors eligible for funding (October 2014 list).

[68] Sport tourism is also supported through grants for sustainable or cultural tourism (e.g. hiking, biking, …, routes along European Cultural Routes or Eurovelo routes – see fiche on COSME).

JOINT MASTER DEGREES

- Universities and other higher education institutions (applying on behalf of a consortium)

- All legal persons that contributes directly and actively to the delivery of the Joint Master Degree (e.g. SMEs, chamber of commerce, trade union, foundation, NGO, …)

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS / KNOWLEDGE ALLIANCES / SECTOR SKILLS ALLIANCES

- All legal persons (e.g. higher education institution, SMEs, chamber of commerce, trade union, foundation, NGO, cultural organisation, library, museum, …)

EUROPEAN SPORT EVENTS

- All legal persons active in the field of sport, established in a Programme Country[70]

4.   Type and level of funding

MOBILITY PROJECTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS. Traineeships (work placement) abroad in an enterprise or any other relevant workplace for 2 to 12 months (excl. travel) in any programme country[71]. EU grant for each trainee ranging from 300 to 700 € per month (depending on the hosting country living costs) and travel costs of up to 1.100 €.

MOBILITY PROJECTS FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING LEARNERS. Traineeship in any relevant workplace for apprentices and students in vocational training schools, from 2 weeks to 12 months (excl. travel) in any programme country. EU support for each trainee ranging from 18 to 112 € per day (depending on the hosting country living costs) and travel costs of up to 1.100 €.

JOINT MASTER DEGREES. Grants of € 2 to 3 million, covering 4 to 5 year projects (depending if the Master lasts for 1 or 2 years).

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS. Grants of maximum € 300.000 for Partnerships lasting 2 years and € 450.000 for Partnerships lasting 3 years.

KNOWLEDGE ALLIANCES. Grants of € 700.000 for a 2-year Alliance; € 1 million for a 3-year Alliance.

SECTOR SKILLS ALLIANCES. Grants of € 700.000 for a 2-year Alliance; € 1 million for a 3-year Alliance.

EUROPEAN SPORT EVENTS. Grant of up to € 2 million for sport event involving participants from at least 12 programme countries.

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[69]   These organisations are usually among partners in a consortium led by a Higher Education Institution, a Vocational school or a recognised coordinating organisation.

[70]   Finding partners tool for Erasmus+ Sport

[71]   Professional organisations, chambers of commerce, …, may for instance be involved in a mobility project as a receiving organisation in charge of finding businesses ready to welcome trainees and of offering students a traineeship programme or a programme of training activities. EU grants cover the costs of the receiving organisations.

5.   How to apply and when

The Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency (EACA) is responsible for the implementation of centralised Actions (Joint Master Degrees, Strategic Partnerships, Knowledge Alliances, Sector Skills Alliances and Sport actions). It publishes calls for proposals on https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding_en. Applications are submitted on line.

For actions that are not directly managed by EACA (Mobility Projects), proposals must be submitted to the National Agency of the country in which the application organisation is established. See their list on http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/national-agencies_en.htm.

6.   Example(s) of successful projects in the past

European Master in Tourism Management (EMTM)

Supported by the former "Erasmus Mundus Programme", EMTM is a two-year joint master program tailor-made by 3 European universities situated in Denmark, Slovenia and Spain. The EU contribution was used to cover consortium costs (4% of the total) and scholarships for the first four years.

It provides future professionals with an integrated knowledge of the dynamics of tourism development, sustainable management, the role of cultural diversity, innovation and governance in tourism. It also trains future researchers in the field of tourism management. EMTM students follow an obligatory mobility path at 3 universities (1st semester at University of Southern Denmark; 2nd semester at University of Ljubljana; 3rd semester at University of Girona). The fourth semester is dedicated to writing the master thesis.

EU contribution: € 2.926.600 (2010-2013) - Level of EU funding: 100 %

Source: http://www.emtmmaster.net/

Health and Well-being in Tourism Destination (WelDest)

Supported by the former "Life-Long Learning Programme", Weldest helps private companies, destination management organisations (DMO) and government agencies to turn a location into a (better) health and well-being destination thanks to various tools. An electronic handbook is being developed, offering a self-assessment tool, a development tool and course design with educator instructions. A blog has also been set up where industry, academia and citizens can share their knowledge on health and well-being and tourism related issues (http://weldest.blogspot.be/).

EU contribution: € 299.966 (2012-2014) - Level of EU funding: 65 %

Source: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/llp/project_reports/documents/erasmus/ECUE/eras_ecue_527775.pdf

Attractiveness of European higher education in Heritage and Cultural Tourism

Supported by the former "Erasmus Mundus Programme", the Hercules project is advertising what France, Germany, Italy and the UK have to offer in terms of higher education at that level, in order to encourage students from developing countries (starting with the Maghreb) to attend these courses. It should in turn help these countries to take full advantage of their rich heritage, thanks to qualified and trained professionals on tourism management of cultural wealth. To facilitate this choice, a vast documentation is accessible through on-line guide and database.

Moreover, the project is facilitating the exchange of experiences among higher education institutions of Europe and third countries via conferences and its website. A "Summer

Seminar on Tourism Management of World Heritage Cultural Sites" was organised in Assisi (Italy) in July 2013.

EU contribution: € 298.918 (2011-2013) - Level of EU funding: 100 %

Source: http://www.herculesproject.eu/index.php/en/

For other examples, see:

- Project compendia (including Innovations and Learning in Spa Management – ILIS; International Master in Sports Tourism Engineering – IMISTE; Sustainable e-Tourism programme targeting Asia …)

- Dissemination platform

XII. Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI)

1.   What is the EaSI programme?

The Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) programme promotes a high level of quality and sustainable employment, guaranteeing adequate and decent social protection, combating social exclusion and poverty, and improving working conditions. It brings together:

- PROGRESS (Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity)

- EURES (European job mobility) and

- a Microfinance facility and Social Entrepreneurship

For details on its structure & procedures, see EaSI website and brochure.

2.   Type of tourism-related actions eligible for funding

PROGRESS supports analytical work useful for policy-making, social innovation and social policy experimentation (i.e. testing innovative policies on a small scale and up-scaling the most successful ones, including with the European Social Fund support - see European Social Fund fiche).

EURES supports workers' mobility and helps companies recruiting in another European country via targeted mobility schemes[72] (e.g. "Your First EURES Job" for jobseekers between 18-30 years …)[73]. Besides job matching and job placement support, these schemes may cover part of the SMEs costs of training newly-recruited workers and helping them settle in. They may also help job-seekers to pay for interview trip and/or moving abroad to take up a new job.

The MICROFINANCE FACILITY supports the setting up or development of small businesses, including for investment, leasing, and working capital needs, as well as the acquisition of licenses and other start-up costs. Financing cannot be used to cover credit lines such as overdrafts or short-term revolving facilities.

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP supports the development of social enterprises[74], in particular by facilitating access to finance.

3.   Who can apply within the tourism sector?

PROGRESS

- Higher education institutions (Universities …) and research institutes

- Public authorities - Employment services

- Social partners

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[72]   This is possible where labour market shortcomings have been identified and/or to help workers with a propensity to be mobile, where a clear economic need has been identified.

[73]   EURES is also a portal hosting job vacancies and cv of jobseekers: https://ec.europa.eu/eures/

[74]   Defined as businesses whose primary purpose is social, rather than to maximise profit distribution to private owners or shareholders.

- Experts in evaluation and in impact assessment

EURES

- Public authorities - Employment services

- Jobseekers (EU nationals and legally living in an EU country)

- Enterprises - SMEs

MICROFINANCE FACILITY

- Enterprises - Micro-entrepreneurs[75]

- Individuals[76]

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Enterprises - Social enterprises[77]

4. Type and level of funding

PROGRESS. For grants, each call for proposals is setting a maximum level of funding. Budget available under calls for tender also varies.

EURES (under "Your first EURES job" and till early 2014). For SMEs, a grant to cover part of the cost of training newly-recruited workers and helping them settle in (integration programme)[78]. For job-seekers, a flat-rate allowance (or lump-sum) to cover expenses incurred for interview trips[79] and/or to settle in another country after s/he got the job[80].

MICROFINANCE. The microcredit providers offer direct or counter-guarantees, different forms of loans (less than € 25.000) and equity investments. For more information, see European Investment Fund.

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[75] Priority to those with limited access to the conventional credit market (female entrepreneurs, young entrepreneurs, entrepreneurs belonging to a minority group, entrepreneurs with a disability …).

[76] Unemployed people, people at a risk of losing their jobs, people from disadvantaged groups, for instance young or older people or migrants.

[77] Definition: enterprise whose primary objective is to achieve social impact rather than generating profit for owners and shareholders; which operates in the market through the production of goods and services in an entrepreneurial and innovative way; which uses surpluses mainly to achieve these social goals; and which is managed by social entrepreneurs in an accountable and transparent way, in particular by involving workers, customers and stakeholders affected by its business activity (European Commission, MEMO/14/11).

[78] Amount depending on the number of (young) recruited workers, the level of training (basic or comprehensive) and the country where workers are integrated. Early 2014, the maximum flat rate per recruited worker ranged from € 1.200 (Denmark) to € 600 (Bulgaria).

[79] Amount depending on the distance between the country of residence and the country where the interview takes place, in cases where it cannot be held via Skype or other technologies or at multinational companies' local offices. Early 2014, the rate was € 300 when that distance is more than 500 km and € 200 when it is less.

[80] Early 2014, that allowance ranged from € 1.200 (Denmark) to € 600 (Bulgaria).

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUPPORT. No direct loans but help to public and private bodies which provide loans and other financial instruments. Maximum €500.000 per social enterprise, on condition it is not listed on the stock market and with an annual turnover not exceeding €30 million (€92 million will be available for the 2014-2020).

5.   How to apply and when

Click on the following links for information on PROGRESS calls for proposals or calls for tender.

For benefiting from a worker mobility scheme, see Your first EURES Job's guide.

For microcredit and microloans, contact one of the microcredit providers in your country (available in 16 Member States as of March 2014)[81]. Applications are reviewed on a continuous basis.

6.   Example(s) of successful projects in the past

Conferences and studies funded by PROGRESS

The PROGRESS programme co-funded in 2009 a major conference on "Tourism Industry: Employment and Labour Market Challenges" which reviewed new challenges and issues relevant to the tourism industry at the European level. The two-day conference provided a platform for the exchange of opinions and experiences from the area of employment and labour market challenges in the EU.

PROGRESS also funded a study on "Hotels and Restaurants: Comprehensive Sectoral Analysis of Emerging Competencies and Economic Activities in the European Union" (April 2009) which mapped structures, trends and drivers of change in this sector, focusing strongly on labour related issues such as changes in skills needs and emerging competencies.

Source: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-12-796_en.htm

Microcredit for starting a business in the tourism sector

A young Portuguese waiter, who had been working under precarious conditions in a restaurant for several years, was able to start his own restaurant in the South of Portugal thanks to a loan from a microcredit provider (Millennium BCP) with a Progress Microfinance guarantee.

Source: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-12-796_en.htm

Mobility of (young) workers thanks to EURES

Germany was searching for qualified personnel for seasonal employment in the tourist sector. Cooperation between EURES Germany and Bulgaria helped Bulgarian jobseekers to fill that gap.

The Sheraton Frankfurt Airport Hotel is among companies using the EURES network. Confronted with a shortage of skilled jobseekers, it hired highly-qualified jobseekers from Greece and Romania for front-office positions. For such hotels, there is an additional advantage to have employees from different nationalities: not only they speak several

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[81]   The Microfinance facility does not directly finance entrepreneurs, but enables selected microcredit providers in the EU to increase lending. These providers get EU guarantees (thereby sharing their potential risk of loss) and EU funds they can lend.

languages, but it also creates a multicultural environment that makes their guests feel more comfortable.

Source: EURES news

For other examples, see:

- EURES news

SUMMARY TABLE – WHO CAN APPLY FOR WHAT

Legend: When no qualification is made, "All" refers to all legal and natural (i.e. individuals) persons. For the meaning of the acronyms, see Glossary. For the meaning of the abbreviations, see the section dedicated to the programme.

	All	All in rural areas	All legal persons	All legal persons in labour market, education, training	LAG	All legal persons in coastal and inland areas	All legal persons in cult. And creative sectors	Public authorities employment services	Cities	SME	Social enterprises	Entrepreneurs	Higher education / Professional schools	Social partners	Natural persons
ERDF			X												
CF			x												
ESF				x											
EAFRD		x			x										
EMFF						x									
LIFE projects			x												
LIFE – NCFF			x												
LIFE – PF4										x					
H2020 - MSCA	x														
H2020 – LEIT	x														
H2020 – Reflective	x														
H2020 – SME instr.										x					
COSME – access										x					
COSME - Tourism			x												
COSME – EfE												x			
CEP – TCP							x								

	All	All in rural areas	All legal persons	All legal persons in labour market, education, training	LAG	All legal persons in coastal and inland areas	All legal persons in cult. And creative sectors	Public authorities employment services	Cities	SME	Social enterprises	Entrepreneurs	Higher education / Professional schools	Social partners	Natural persons
CEP – Eur. networks							x								
CEP – ECOC									x						
ERASMUS + mobility													x		
ERASMUS + masters			x										x		
ERASMUS + others			x												
EaSI - Progress								x					x	x	
EaSI – EURES								x		x					x
EaSI - micro										x		x			x
EaSI – Soc. Entr.											x				

GLOSSARY

CBC	Cross-Border Cooperation	
CEP	Creative Europe Programme	
CLLD	Community-Led Local Development	
CF	Cohesion Fund	
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy	
CORDIS	Community Research and Development Information Service	
COSME	Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium Enterprises	
EaSI	Employment and Social Innovation programme	
EASME	Executive Agency for Small and Medium Size Enterprises	
EACEA	Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency	
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development	
ECOC	European Capitals of Culture	
ECTS	European credit transfer and accumulation system	
EIB	European Investment Bank	
EfE	Erasmus for Entrepreurs	
EMFF	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund	
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund	
ESF	European Social Fund	
ESIF	European Structural and Investment Funds	
EURES	European Employment Services	
FLAG	Fisheries Local Action Group	
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	
H2020	Horizon 2020 – EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation	
HORECA	Hotel, Restaurant and Catering Sector	
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies	
INTERREG	Interregional Cooperation (part of ERDF)	
LAG	Local Action Groups	
LEADER	Promoting the Implementation of Local Development Strategies	
LEIT	Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies (H2020)	
LIFE	Fund for Environmental and Nature Conservation Projects	
LLP	Lifelong Learning Programme	
MSCA	Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions	
NCFF	Natural Capital Financing Facility	
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization	
OP	Operational Programme	
PF4EE	Private Financing for Energy Efficiency instrument	
PROGRESS	Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity	
REFLECTIVE	Europe in a changing world - Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies (H2020)	

SMEs	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
TEN-T	Trans-European Transport Networks
TCP	Transnational Cooperation Projects (Creative Europe)

**European Commission
Directorate-General for
Enterprise and Industry**

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