

# European Funds for local Climate Protection

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## **I. Direct support**

Direct support includes funding programmes covering the whole EU or seeking the common interest of the Community. They are typically managed by the European Commission or an assigned implementing authority. In these cases, applications are sent and evaluated at EU-level. Interested potential applicants should refer to the website of the relevant programme.

Community Programmes are instruments launched by the European Commission to promote co-operation between Member States in the fields of different EU policies.

### 1. Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme

The Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) supports innovation activities, provides better access to finance and delivers business support services in the regions. CIP is further divided into three operational programmes, which have their own specific objectives and each managed by a different Directorate General (DG): Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP) / Information and Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme (ICT-PSP) / Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE).

### **Intelligent Energy Europe programme (IEE)**

The Intelligent Energy-Europe programme (2007-2013) has become the main EU instrument to tackle non-technological barriers to the spread of efficient use of energy and greater use of new and renewable energy sources. It is managed by the Executive Agency (EACI) for Competitiveness and Innovation. The programme priorities are on energy savings, particularly in buildings and industry (SAVE), the use of new and renewable energy sources in the local production of electricity and heat (ALTENER), as well as on sustainable energy use in transport (STEER). The last priorities covered by the IEE programme are Integrated Initiatives combining several of the specific fields referred to SAVE, ALTENER and STEER. Some of these initiatives are especially designed for small and medium size municipalities

A good opportunity for those considering submitting a project proposal constitutes the annual IEE Info Days. National and European Info Days give information on the call for

proposals, application procedures, and concrete project examples. A database of funded projects by the programme is available on the website of the IEE:

[www.ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent](http://www.ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent)

**Who can get funding?** Any private or public organisation established in the European Union. Projects need to involve at least three partners from three countries.

**To what extent?** The IEE programme has a global budget of €730 million. The indicative total amount available for the call 2011 is about € 67 million. Funding covers up to 75% of the eligible project costs.

**What kind of projects?** Projects designed to help deliver on the EU's energy and climate change objectives and with a significant impact on the market.

**How to apply?** Annual calls for project proposals of the IEE

### **European Local Energy Assistance (ELENA)**

The IEE programme also includes a specific fund targeted at offering technical assistance to urban areas, the European Local Energy Assistance (ELENA). It has been created at the initiative of the European Commission and the European Investment Bank (EIB). ELENA aims at supporting regional or local authorities in accelerating their investment programmes in the fields of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. It covers a share of the cost for technical support that is necessary to prepare, implement and finance the investment programme, such as feasibility and market studies, structuring of programmes, business plans, energy audits, preparation for tendering procedure. Up to 90% of eligible costs required for technical support related to a clearly identified investment programme are covered.

[www.eib.org/products/technical\\_assistance/elena](http://www.eib.org/products/technical_assistance/elena)

### 2. LIFE +

The LIFE+ is an EU's funding instrument directed exclusively for the environment. The programme runs from 2007-2013 and has a budget of € 2.143 billion. The maximum EU co-financing rate for LIFE+ projects is 50 percent of the total eligible project costs. The European Commission launches one call for LIFE+ project proposals per year. Proposals must be eligible under one of the programme's three components: LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity, LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance, and LIFE+ Information and Communication.

Two components are particularly relevant:

*LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance* supports technological projects that offer significant environmental benefits, for example process or efficiency improvements. It also helps projects that improve the implementation of EU environmental legislation, and that build the environmental policy knowledge base.

*LIFE+ Information and Communication* co-finances projects that spread information about environmental issues, such as climate change and nature conservation.

[www.ec.europa.eu/environment/life](http://www.ec.europa.eu/environment/life)

**Who can get funding?** Public or private bodies and institutions registered in the European Union.

**To what extent?** The maximum co-financing rate is normally 50 percent.

**What kind of projects?** Projects linked to environmental technology and the communication of environmental matters.

**How to apply?** Annual calls for proposals are organised by the European Commission. Member States forward project proposals to the Commission and can set national priorities and prepare comments on the proposals.

## **II. Indirect support**

In case of indirect support, competition is on a national level and interested proposers should contact the implementing authority to get information on application procedures and priorities.

The Structural Funds are allocated by the European Union as part of its regional policy. They aim to reduce regional disparities in terms of income, wealth and opportunities, with special focus on Europe's poorer regions.

### **1. European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

The ERDF of the EU Structural Funds can finance a palette of investments, and it is largely up to the eligible regions to decide on the focus of the programmes. It aims to strengthen economic, social and territorial cohesion in the European Union by reducing inequalities and supporting territorial co-operation between its regions.

The Community initiative INTERREG aiming at stimulate cooperation between member states in the EU at different levels is financed under the ERDF.

### **Transnational Cooperation: INTERREG IV B**

INTERREG IV B is part of the European Territorial Cooperation Objective of the Structural Fund policies for the period 2007-2013. Overall, there are 13 programmes (zones) supporting trans-national cooperation. Each programme defines its own priorities, eligible actions, beneficiaries, budget, co-financing rates etc. Although the priorities are defined individually in each programme, objectives related to climate protection are part of the most priorities.

### **Interregional Cooperation: INTERREG IV C**

The programme is implemented under the European Community's territorial co-operation objective and financed through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). It is composed of two programme priorities: innovation & the knowledge economy, and environment & risk prevention. A project builds on the exchange of experiences among partners who are ideally responsible for the development of their local and regional policies. Measures like development and testing of tools and methodologies improving local and regional policies, networking with the local actors, awareness raising and education campaigns are supported by the programme.

**Who can get funding?** Interregional cooperations between regional and local authorities throughout Europe. Projects have to involve partners from at least three countries,

**To what extent?** Total available ERDF budget of € 321 million for the 2007-2013 period. Co-financing rate of either 75% or 85% depending on the Member State.

**What kind of projects?** Exchange of experience and transfer of results and tools. Possible project outcomes include for example case study collections, policy recommendations, strategic guidelines or action plans.

**How to apply?** Regular calls for proposals are organised by INTERREG IVC

## **URBACT II programme**

As part of Europe's Cohesion policy, the URBACT II programme brings together actors at local and regional level to exchange experience and to facilitate learning on sustainable urban development. Almost 80% of the total budget is contributed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

[www.urbact.eu](http://www.urbact.eu)

## 2. Community Initiatives

Besides the main regional policy instruments the European Community has introduced special programmes: the Community Initiatives. These Initiatives apply various solutions to common problems throughout the Community in order to identify the most efficient and effective. They are partly financed through the EU Structural Funds/Cohesion Fund and by supplementary or other sources (such as EIB & EIF, CEB, EBRD etc.)

## **JESSICA**

In order to promote sustainable investment, growth and jobs in Europe's urban areas, the Commission in cooperation with the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) started a Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas, called JESSICA. These funds could be targeted specifically at projects such as energy efficiency improvements or urban infrastructure, including transport, water/waste water and energy. The enabling framework is provided by regulations allowing Member States to use some of their Structural Fund allocations to take advantage of financial engineering mechanisms to support sustainable investment in integrated urban transformation schemes.

[www.eib.org/projects/publications/jessica](http://www.eib.org/projects/publications/jessica)