

**B7-6312 (new number: 21 02 07 03)**

→ Programme of aid for population policies and reproductive health care

**BACKGROUND**

DG DEV is responsible for setting out the policy priorities of the programme of aid for population policies and reproductive health care (budget line B7-6312).

The legal basis for this budget line is the Regulation on Aid for Policies and Actions on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights in Developing Countries, which was adopted in June 2003. The purpose of activities carried out under the Regulation is to:

- secure the right of women, men and adolescents to good reproductive and sexual health;
- enable women, men and adolescents to have access to a comprehensive range of quality, safe, accessible, affordable and reliable reproductive and sexual health care services, supplies, education and information, including information on all kinds of family planning methods;
- reduce maternal mortality and morbidity rates, with particular reference to the countries and populations where these are highest.

In the 2003 EC Budget, the funding for the fight against HIV/AIDS (including the legal basis for EC Board membership of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria - GFATM) was incorporated into a new budget line for 'poverty diseases', i.e. HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis (B7-6311). Please see EC3.

**TYPES OF GRANT**

Co-financing grants for operations focusing on reproductive health.

**GRANT SIZE**

The financial framework for the implementation of the Regulation (which acts as the legal basis for this budget line) is set at Euro 73.95 million for the period 2003-2006. The European Commission proposes the following breakdown for the implementation of the Regulation: Euro 13.95 million for 2003, Euro 17 million for 2004, Euro 20 million for 2005 and Euro 23 million for 2006.

The amount available for each particular Call is given at the time of issue, as is advice on grant sizes.

The last Call for Proposals was issued in spring 2003 and focused on safe motherhood and reducing maternal mortality and morbidity. Euro 5 million had indicatively been made available for this Call, with EC grant sizes of between Euro 1 million and Euro 2.5 million.

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### OWN CONTRIBUTION

Previously, and with the last Call, grants have covered up to a maximum of 90% of the total eligible costs of the project, with the remainder to be financed from the applicant's own resources or from sources other than the EC budget. This is not expected to change in forthcoming Calls for Proposals.

### FUNDING PRIORITIES

The Regulation on reproductive and sexual health and rights implements the EU's commitment to upholding the principles agreed to at the ICPD and ICPD+5. Financial support will be given to operations targeting the poorest and most vulnerable populations which aim to:

- support and promote policy and operational frameworks and action, tailored to meet specific targets for the progressive realisation of people's rights to adequate basic health services and accountable service providers;
- ensure better access to quality reproductive and sexual health services, offering, in particular, contraceptive choice and the prevention and diagnosis of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, and the provision of confidential voluntary counselling and testing;
- offer adolescents and young adults educational programmes that focus on the relationship between family planning, reproductive health, sexually transmitted diseases and the impact of HIV/AIDS on partnerships, and provide them with the necessary information, services and skills to protect their reproductive and sexual health, avoid unwanted pregnancies and involve them in the design and implementation of such programmes;
- combat practices harmful to the sexual and reproductive health of women, adolescents and children, such as female genital mutilation, sexual violence, child marriages and early marriages;
- ensure the sustained supply, availability and affordability of more effective and acceptable methods of contraception and protection from sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS;
- promote comprehensive maternal health programmes, including the provision of quality ante-natal care, care during childbirth and post-natal care, and the establishment and/or expansion of a group of skilled birth attendants;

- provide effective emergency obstetric and post-partum care, including treatment for complications resulting from unsafe abortion;
- reduce unsafe abortions by decreasing the number of unwanted pregnancies through the provision of family planning services, compassionate counselling and information, including the use of contraception, and by investing in the training and equipping of suitable staff, including medical service personnel, to manage complications resulting from unsafe abortion under hygienic and safe conditions.

The last Call for Proposals targeting safe motherhood and a reduction in maternal mortality and morbidity had the following criteria:

- Develop innovative approaches, projects and/or services in accordance with the guidelines of the "Millennium Development Goals" (MDGs) regarding safe motherhood.
- Be complementary to the instruments of development, aid in general and European aid in particular. Special attention will be given to situations where other instruments cannot be used.
- Take into consideration questions regarding feasibility and sustainability while adapted to a great number of beneficiaries.
- Address the needs of people belonging to the most vulnerable and underprivileged groups.
- Integrate gender issues at the level of the health system with particular attention to questions regarding sexual relations where women, due to biological, social and economic factors, are particularly at risk and where they are submitted to constraints and diverse forms of violence at home, at school, in the work place and in other social circles.
- Support policies, strategies and priorities of health systems and programmes of the areas concerned.
- Encourage relevant and effective co-operation between partners in the same country and/or in different countries while integrating the reduction of maternal morbidity and mortality in respect to the reduction of poverty.
- Demonstrate the potential for capacity building of developing countries and local networks in the field of reproductive health care.
- Provide measurable results in the level of health, the improvement of living conditions and the reduction of poverty.

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### GRANTMAKING CRITERIA

Proposals may be put forward by organisations individually or in consortia with partners. Official applicants of the proposal must meet the following conditions to be eligible:

- be a non-profit-making legal entity
- belong to the following categories: non-governmental organisations, public sector operators distinct from the State<sup>1</sup>, local authorities, research or training institutions, international organisations<sup>2</sup>
- have their headquarters in the European Union or in one of the beneficiary countries<sup>3</sup>
- be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the operation, not acting as an intermediary.

### GUIDELINES

Guidelines are issued with each Call for Proposals.

### PROJECT DURATION

The maximum implementation period for a project is three years.

### DEADLINE

The Call for Proposals indicates the deadline for submitting applications.

### APPLICATION FORMS

The application forms are annexed to the Call for Proposals.

### APPLICATION AND PROCEDURES

In the year 2000, a Call for Proposals for this budget line was issued for the first time. From this point, Calls for Proposals have been used as the method to allocate funds, with the next Call being expected at the end of 2003 or early 2004. Such Calls are published in the Official Journal and on the tenders page of the EuropeAid website:

» <http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/cgi/frame12.pl>

Proposals directly submitted to the European Commission, without a Call for Proposals, will no longer be considered. Advice on what kind of operations will be considered are given in the Guidelines, which accompany each Call.

### LANGUAGES

Under the Spring 2003 Call for Proposals, applications had to be made in English or French. Advice on which languages will be accepted is usually provided in section II.2.1 of the Guidelines accompanying the Call.

### TIPS

NGOs are encouraged to monitor the website for the Call for Proposals or for any changes, and to follow scrupulously the budget guidelines, relating to both the narrative and the financial sections.

<sup>1</sup> The probability of being considered as such will depend on the capacity to demonstrate independence of the State in matters of decision making, budget control and the appointment of personnel (also for members of its controlling body).

<sup>2</sup> Recognised as such by the new Financial Regulations. The international organisations are organisations of international public right, created by governmental agreements as well as specialised agencies created by these; the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of National Societies of Red Cross and Red Crescent.

<sup>3</sup> This is not applicable to international organisations as defined above.