

STATE AID TEMPORARY FRAMEWORK



The European Commission has adopted a temporary framework providing EU national governments with additional possibilities to tackle the effects of the credit squeeze on the real economy, as part of the measures set out in the 26 November 2008 recovery plan. Under certain conditions, and until the end of 2010, EU countries may now grant, without notification of individual cases, subsidised loans, loan guarantees at a reduced premium, risk capital for SMEs and direct aid of up to €500,000. This framework is based on the agreement that, provided national governments

notify the Commission of schemes that fully comply with the above types of aid and provide adequate information, the Commission will act quickly in the approval process and, once schemes are approved, no notice will need to be given of aid given to individual companies. Alongside this, the Commission has also produced a list of questions and answers concerning the framework. If you would like a copy of the FAQs, please contact the office.

CZECH EU PRESIDENCY 2009

On the 1 January 2009 the Czech government officially took up the reins of the six-month rotating EU Presidency, previously held by the French government. The Czech government has announced that their EU Presidency is to be characterised by the three 'E' – economy, energy and external relations. Alongside this, the Czech EU Presidency motto will be a 'Europe without Barriers', symbolising a Europe without internal economic, cultural and value barriers for individuals, entrepreneurs and economic entities. The



EXCHANGE PROGRAMMAE FOR COUNCIL OFFICIALS PROPOSED



The European Parliament has approved a non-binding report by Jean-Marie Beaupuy MEP (Liberal, France) on creating an Erasmus-style exchange programme for locally elected representatives. This training programme would allow local project managers to share their experiences and exchange good practice, particularly concerning the use of structural funds. The report also stresses the need for local, regional and national officials to better prepare themselves regarding operational project management and cohesion policy. Mr Beaupuy believes that by creating an exchange scheme for local elected representatives, the EU would be

able to create a common culture of governance for European funds. The report will now be sent to the European Commission, who will consider its recommendations.

YOUNG EUROPEAN CITIZENS FORUM IN MANCHESTER

The UK Learning and Skills Network (LSN), an independent not-for-profit organisation committed to making a difference to learning and skills, is holding a free one day 'Citizenship and Europe' event for young people on behalf of the UK Office of the European Parliament. It will be an opportunity for young people to meet MEPs, learn more about European democratic structures and issues and put forward, explore and develop their points of view in a lively and engaging way. Members of staff working with groups of young people are invited to accompany up to ten young people to attend the free event. The LSN will be holding an event in Manchester on Friday 23 January 2009.



OPEN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

INTERREG IVC – SECOND CALL

The INTERREG IVC programme is part of the European Territorial Cooperation Objective of the Structural Funds policies for the period 2007-2013. The overall objective of the INTERREG programme is to improve the effectiveness of regional development policies in the areas of innovation, the knowledge economy, the environment and risk prevention as well as to contribute to the economic modernisation and increased competitiveness of Europe. The programme supports projects that aim, through interregional exchange of experience at policy level, to improve regional and local policies addressing the above themes. **Deadline: 30 January 2009**

MEDIA 2007

The European Commission has published a new Call for Proposals which seeks to fund and support the audiovisual industry in the European Union. The current Call is aimed at facilitating the development, distribution, promotion and training in the media and audiovisual industry. The objective is to support independent European production companies' access to funding from banks and financial institutions, by co-financing part of their costs in the following areas: insurance items, completion guarantee and financial costs. **Deadline: 2 February 2009**

MIGRATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

The European Commission and United Nations Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI) have launched a new fund as part of a new initiative to connect Diaspora groups with NGOs in their country of origin to work together for the development of their countries. The new financial initiative will provide approximately €10 million in funding to support concrete interventions in four priority areas: 1) migrant remittances, 2) migrant communities, 3) migrant capacities, and 4) migrant rights. Projects will be implemented by consortia of non-state actors linking migrant host, transit and sending countries. Each consortium will need to have a partner based in the EU and one in the sixteen target countries: Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Cape Verde, Nigeria, Ghana, Mali, Senegal, Ethiopia, Ecuador, Jamaica, Georgia, Moldova, Sri Lanka and the Philippines. **Deadline: 13 March 2009**

AMICUS – YOUTH PLACEMENTS

A call for proposals has been launched to implement the Amicus preparatory action, which aims to promote the transnational character of youth placements in civic service and voluntary work activities. The action also aims to promote a framework of interoperability of existing civic service and voluntary work opportunities for young people across the EU. Projects must begin between 1st September and 30th November 2009 and finish by 31st December 2010. The total budget for the programme is €2,300,000 although the Commission reserves the right not to allocate the entire budget. The maximum award per project will be €300,000. **Deadline: 30 April 2009**

YOUTH IN ACTION

A call for proposals has been launched under the Youth in Action 2007-2013 programme. The programme seeks to promote young people's active citizenship, develop solidarity and tolerance, and foster mutual understanding. In 2009 particular attention will be paid to the following priorities: creativity and innovation; combating violence against women; participation in European elections; promoting healthy lifestyles; sport as a means of inclusion; inclusion of young people with disabilities; awareness raising to global challenges; and intercultural dialogue. The programme has an overall budget of €885 million Euros for the period 2007-13. **Deadline: varies according to the proposed start date of the project**

Greater Manchester Brussels Office
North West House
21 Rue du Marteau
B-1000 Belgium
Phone: 0161 408 7147
Phone: 0032 2 2295 375
E-mail: info@greater-manchester.eu
Web : <http://www.greater-manchester.eu>