

SWEDEN TAKES CONTROL OF EU PRESIDENCY

On 1 July Sweden took over the six-month rotating EU Presidency from the Czech Republic. The Presidency's motto 'Taking on the Challenges' is certainly apt. Sweden has identified the economy, employment and climate as the most important challenges it aims to tackle. Sweden aims to work with national governments to counter the negative impact of the economic crisis on jobs and growth, while the priority for the climate will be preparing for the Copenhagen climate summit in December. Additionally the Presidency may be confronted by challenges from the negotiations for the appointment of a new President of the European Commission, and the continuation of the Lisbon Treaty's ratification process.



THE NEW EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



The new Parliament which has emerged from the European Elections held last month reflects a general victory of the right over the left wing. The Party of European Socialists (PES) lost 54 members, while the centre-right group, the European People's Party (EPP) won an additional 20 members. The far-right also gained seats in a number of countries, including the UK, the Netherlands, Austria and Belgium. The North West reflected this pattern – with Labour (a member of PES) losing one seat, and the far-right British National Party winning at seat, with the election of its leader, Nick Griffin. Following David Cameron's promise that he would take the UK Conservatives out of the EPP they will now form a new group committed to free trade and opposed to a federal Europe, the 'European Conservatives and Reformists Group.' In addition to its 26 UK Conservatives, the new group also includes members from Poland's Law and Justice Party and the Czech Civic Democratic Party.

CULTURE 2007-13 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The European Commission has made a call across a number of project categories under its Culture Programme this month. The Culture programme aims to develop cooperation between Europe's cultural bodies to enhance Europe's sense of common cultural heritage, and encourage the emergence of European citizenship. This call is for cooperative cultural projects with partners from different countries and different cultural sectors. Funding is available for: multi-annual cooperation projects; cooperation projects; literary translation projects; cooperation projects with non-EU countries; and to support the operating costs of cultural organisations. Eligibility requirements and budgets differ between categories, although the Commission will fund up to 80% of total eligible costs for all types of projects. Deadlines also differ between projects; multi-annual cooperation projects and cooperation projects have the earliest deadline of 1 October 2009.



MEDIA 2007 CALL FOR PROPOSALS



MEDIA aims to promote European audiovisual and cinema works in Europe and internationally. Three calls have been launched under MEDIA this month. To develop media activities outside Europe, projects should facilitate access of European audiovisual professionals to markets and encourage the distribution of audiovisual works outside Europe. To develop training programmes for example: training in economic, financial and commercial management; training in new audiovisual technologies; and training in script project development. And to improve the circulation of EU audiovisual works by ensuring market access of the European audiovisual sector and encouraging cooperation between audiovisual organisations. The deadlines for these calls are between 7 and 19 August 2009.

OTHER OPEN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – MEDIA 2007 PROGRAMME

Two calls under the Commission's Media 2007 programme. The first supporting video on demand and digital camera distribution, aimed at supporting the creation and exploitation of European works catalogues to be distributed digitally. Total budget is €8 million and projects should be completed within 18mths. The second for pilot projects supporting the EU audiovisual sector, emphasising the introduction and utilisation of information and communication technologies, with a budget of €2m. **Deadline for both calls: 15 July 2009**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY

Call for financial assistance for projects in the field of energy, as part of the European Energy Programme for Recovery (EPR). Examples include: energy infrastructure projects such as energy interconnections and offshore wind energy. Total budget is €3.98bn. **Deadline: 15 July 2009**

LIFELONG LEARNING – EUROPEAN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK/ EDUCATION AND TRAINING

2 calls under the lifelong learning programme. The European Qualifications Framework (EQF) aims to develop and promote the learning outcomes approach for all qualifications, support links between national frameworks and the EQF, and promote trust between countries and sectors. The Cooperation in Education and Training call aims to raise awareness of lifelong learning strategies and of European cooperation in education and to support transnational cooperation in the development and implementation of national and regional lifelong learning strategies. **Deadline for both calls: 14 August 2009**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – PREPARATORY ACTION IN THE FIELD OF SPORT

This call will support transnational projects from public bodies or civil society in: Promoting health-enhancing physical activity; education and training in sport; European fundamental values by encouraging sport for persons with disabilities; gender equality in sport. Total budget is €4m. **Deadline: 31 August 2009**

ECO INNOVATION INITIATIVE

Aims to address organisations with innovative environmental products, services, management practice or processes which have a proven track record, yet is not fully marketed due to residual risks. Applications from SMEs are particularly welcome. Types of projects include: projects in the area of materials recycling; sustainable buildings (innovative building processes and products); food & drink industrial processes (waste reduction, recycling & recovery); green business; and smart purchasing. **Deadline: 10 September 2009**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – EDUCATION COOPERATION PROGRAMME

Call for exchange projects of students and staff, and which develop a joint curriculum and study programmes between the EU and Australia, Japan and the Republic of Korea. Eligible applicants are higher education institutions, vocational and training institutions. Total budget is €2.8m. **Deadline: 15 September 2009.**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – YOUTH IN ACTION

Call for projects focussing on the introduction, implementation and promotion of innovative and qualitative elements in non-formal education and youth work. Examples of such elements include activity content, implementation methods, or a novel approach to non-formal education. Projects must include partners from at least four different Programme Countries (EU, EEA and Turkey). Total budget is €1.2m. **Deadline: 30 September 2009.**

EUROPEAN YOUTH FOUNDATION

The purpose of the fund is to encourage co-operation among young people in Europe by providing financial support to such European youth activities which serve the promotion of peace, understanding and co-operation in a spirit of respect for the CoE's fundamental values of human rights, democracy, tolerance and solidarity. Previous projects have received between €8,000 and €20,000 funding. **Deadline: 01 October 2009**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – ERASMUS PROGRAMME WITH LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES

Call for projects developing partnerships between EU and Latin American higher education institutions. Total budget is €12.7m. **Deadline: 15 October 2009.**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – SAFER INTERNET PROGRAMME

Call for projects to develop a safer internet based on four actions: ensuring public awareness; fighting illegal content and tackling harmful online conduct; promoting a safer online environment and establishing a knowledge base. **Deadline: 19 November 2009.**

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>