

EU 2020 STRATEGY



The European Commission has adopted its communication 'Europe 2020 – a strategy for intelligent, sustainable and inclusive growth', which will take over from the 2000-2010 Lisbon Strategy and gives recommendations for European economic recovery and growth to create more jobs and improve citizens' lives. The strategy focuses on following three priorities: intelligent growth (developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation); sustainable growth (promoting a low-carbon economy) and inclusive growth (encouraging high-employment and favouring social and territorial cohesion). In line with the abovementioned priorities, the strategy also outlines 5 key objectives to be achieved: 1) to get 75 per cent of EU citizens aged between 20 and 64 into work; 2) to invest 3 per cent of the EU's GDP in research and development; 3) to reach the 20/20/20 climate and energy objectives; 4) to

bring the school drop-out rate to below 10 per cent and to ensure at least 40 per cent of young people receive a higher education diploma; and 5) to bring the number of Europeans at risk from poverty to below 20 million. In order to achieve these objectives, the Strategy highlights seven key initiatives to be followed by the EU Member States: 1. 'Union of innovation': to improve access to R&D funding and guarantee that innovative ideas can be transformed into marketable products; 2. 'Youth in movement': to improve educational systems' performance and access for young people to the labour market; 3. 'Digital strategy for Europe': to expand broadband internet access and establish a single digital market; 4. 'Low-resource Europe': to promote a low-carbon economy and energy efficiency, increase renewable energy resources and modernise the transport sector; 5. 'Industrial policy for green growth': to improve the EU business environment, especially for SMEs, and create a strong and sustainable industrial base capable of facing global competition; 6. 'Strategy for new skills and new jobs': to modernise the employment market, promote life-long skills acquisition and better match education and training with labour market demands; 7. 'European platform against poverty': to guarantee economic, social and territorial cohesion and help the poor and socially excluded play an active role in society. The Strategy, which the European Commission hopes will deliver more than 2 per cent growth across the EU, is due to be adopted by Member States at the European Council on 25-26 March 2010.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION CREATES TWO NEW DIRECTORATES-GENERAL

The European Commission has created two new Directorates-General for Energy (ENER) and Climate Action (CLIM). The action implements the organisational consequences of the allocation of portfolios to new Commissioners. DG Energy consists of the departments in the former Transport and Energy DG dealing with energy issues and of the Task Force Energy which will be transferred from DG External Relations. The position of Director-General will be assumed by Philip Lowe, a British national, currently Director-General in DG Competition. The departments responsible for transport policy will remain in the renamed Mobility and Transport DG (MOVE). The Climate Action DG will be created from the relevant activities in DG Environment, the activities in the External Relations DG related to international negotiations on climate change and the activities in the Enterprise and Industry DG related to climate change. Jos Delbeke from Belgium, who is currently Deputy Director-General in the Environment DG, has been appointed Director-General of the Climate Action DG.



CALL FOR BRITAIN-ISRAEL EXCHANGE SCHEME

The British Council has announced the second call for proposals in the Britain-Israel Research and Academic Exchange Partnership (BIRAX). The aim of the scheme is to strengthen academic cooperation between universities in the UK and Israel by awarding grants for joint research. Researchers from universities in the UK and Israel are invited to apply for funding in all fields of scientific research, including the social sciences, on the theme of 'Global Challenges in Energy and the Environment.' In particular, proposals are sought for research that addresses the challenges of responding to increasing energy demands and the need for secure and sustainable energy supplies while mitigating against the negative impacts of production and

countering the threat to climate change. The call also covers research on living with and adapting to the environmental changes brought on by rapid population and economic growth, which can lead to severe weather, biodiversity loss, and pressure on ecosystems and services that impact upon social and economic wellbeing. Proposals for research in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology with applications relevant to Energy and Environment are also welcome.

OTHER OPEN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – DRUG PREVENTION AND INFORMATION

European Commission's DG Justice, Freedom and Security has published a call for proposals under the programme Drug Prevention and Information. The call is based on the Drug Prevention and Information work programmes for 2009 and 2010 and combines the priorities as well as the resources available for both years. The call has an indicative budget of €4,189,300. All proposals submitted must be within the overall scope of the programme including some of the specific priorities for 2010. Projects require a minimum of 2 organisations from different Member States and the deadline for submission is 28 April 2010.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – DAPHNE III

European Commission's DG Justice, Freedom and Security has published a new call under the DAPHNE III, the EU-funding programme that supports projects which prevent and combat violence against children, young people and women and protect victims and groups at risk. The call concerns action grants to fund projects falling within the specific priorities of DAPHNE. As the call is based on the DAPHNE work programmes for both 2009 and 2010, both priorities and funding are combined with a total budget of approximately €28,995,560. Projects require a minimum of 2 organisations from different Member States and the deadline for submission is 30 April 2010.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – MEDIA 2007 – TRAINING

On 5 February 2010 the Official Journal of the European Union published a call for proposals in the field of 'Training' under the European Commission Media Programme. The call has a budget of €2.5m and the deadline for sending applications is 9 July 2010. The projects shall last for a maximum period of 12 months, with financial support from the European Commission that cannot exceed 50-60 per cent of the total eligible costs. The eligible actions should aim at developing the capacity of audiovisual professionals to understand and integrate European dimension to their work by improving expertise in the fields of economic, financial and commercial management, new audiovisual technologies or script project development.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

The Official Journal of the EU published a new call for proposals under the 2010 Work Programme for the Information and Communication Technologies Policy Support (ICT PSP). The current call for proposals is the fourth call: CIP-ICT PSP-2010-4 and includes the following: Theme 1: ICT for low carbon economy and smart mobility (energy and water efficiency in social housing, energy efficiency in cooperative transport management systems, water efficiency); Theme 2: Digital Libraries; Theme 3: ICT for health and inclusion (eHealth and ePrescription, eAccessibility of public digital terminals); Theme 4: Open innovation for future internet-enabled services in 'smart' cities; Theme 5: ICT for improved public services for citizens and businesses (eJustice services, implementation of the Services Directive, universal ID); Theme 6: Multilingual Web (open linguistic infrastructure, multilingual online services). The call deadline is 1 June 2010.

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