

FUTURE CLIMATE CHANGE FUND



Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the European Investment Bank (EIB) and European Development Finance Institutions (EDFI) are planning to establish a joint climate change fund. The aforementioned European Development Finance Institutions are expected to sign a Memorandum of Understanding for the Interact Climate Change Fund (ICCF) shortly. The ICCF fund intends to establish an investment matching facility to invest in private sector climate change projects in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, Asia and Latin America before the end of 2010. Partners will seek to demonstrate the financial attractiveness of climate-friendly projects to private sector investors in developing countries and emerging markets and will commit to act as catalyst lead investors to attract additional long-term investments. The institutions intend to further promote the use of clean technology as an integral part of economic development and provide long term financing for renewable energy projects in countries facing acute energy shortages and restricted energy access, further aiding to economic development. Funding is expected to be provided by Agence Française de Développement, the European Investment Bank through the Cotonou Investment Facility and 12 EDFI members: BIO (Belgium), CDC (United Kingdom), COFIDES (Spain), DEG (Germany), FINNFUND (Finland), FMO (the Netherlands), IFU (Denmark), NORFUND (Norway), OeEB (Austria), PROPARCO (France), Sifem (Switzerland) and SWEDFUND (Sweden). The initiative has the twin aim of promoting sustainable development of private sector climate change projects and strengthening meaningful co-operation between European Development Finance Institutions, AFD and the European Investment Bank.

EU ECONOMIC RECOVERY

The European Commission has confirmed with its spring forecast that the economic recovery is in progress in the EU. According to the European Commission, after having experienced the deepest recession in its history, the EU economy is set to grow by 1 per cent in 2010 and 1¼ per cent in 2011. This indicates an upward revision of ¼ percentage point for this year from the European Commission's autumn forecast, as the EU countries benefit from a stronger external environment. Nevertheless, weak domestic demand continues to restrain the recovery further out. The speed of recovery that is forecast varies across Member States, reflecting their individual circumstances and the policies they pursue. Labour market conditions have shown some signs of stabilisation recently, with the unemployment rate projected to peak this year at a lower level than forecast earlier, yet at close to 10 per cent in the EU. The temporary fiscal measures put in place have been the key to turning the EU economy around, but also added to the public deficit, which is set to rise to 7¼ per cent of GDP in 2010, before falling back slightly in 2011. According to the forecast for the UK the figures are as follows: in 2010 – GDP growth: 1.2 per cent, year over year (2.1 for 2011); Inflation – 2.4 per cent year over year (1.4 for 2011); Unemployment – 7.8 (7.4 for 2011); Public budget balance -12.0 per cent of GDP (-10 for 2011); Current account balance - 1.8 per cent of GDP (-2.0 for 2011). In addition, year over year (y-o-y) is a method of evaluating two or more measured events to compare the results at one time period with those from another time period (or series of time periods), on an annualised basis.



EU 2020 STRATEGY AND NATIONAL TARGETS

The EU2020 discussions have already started between the European Commission and Member States to determine which national targets should be set. Cities can now engage with their national governments to influence national targets that are being developed for the delivery of 'Europe 2020'. This is the EU's strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth that will set the EU's strategic objectives and shape the budget, impacting on local government across a range of policy areas, including education, employment, and social inclusion. There is a risk that targets will not reflect the real challenges or opportunities at the local level if cities are not involved in the process, or that national strategies to achieve targets will truly reflect the role of cities. The Spring European Council agreed on the main aspects of the strategy and the focus is now on developing a governance and implementation structure. The EU Council conclusions did call for the involvement of sub-national government in target setting, but this will vary from country to country. The Commission is expected to outline the outcomes of the target setting process ahead of the June European Council, where the final national targets are to be validated.

OTHER OPEN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – INTELLIGENT ENERGY EUROPE (IEE)

On 23 March 2010 the European Commission published a call for proposals under the IEE programme. The programme is structured around three strands: **SAVE** - promotes energy efficiency and the rational use of energy resources, particularly in the building and industry sectors, **ALTENER** - focuses on renewable heating and cooling, domestic and small-scale power generation and integrating new and renewable energy sources into local energy systems, **STEER** – supports initiatives relating to the diversification of fuels, promoting renewable fuels and energy efficiency in transport. The call has a budget of €56m (SAVE - €20m, STEER - €10m, ALTENER - €20m and Integrated initiatives - €6-7m) providing support of up to 75 per cent of the eligible project costs. The IEE programme aims to contribute to European energy policy, including the EU action plan for energy-efficiency, the Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (RES Directive) and the combined heat and power (CHP) directive. Activities under the 2010 call for proposals can only take the form of projects (approx. 50 projects funded in 2010) therefore the establishment of new local and regional energy management agencies is excluded from activities this year. Deadline: 24 June 2010.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – LIFE+

LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU, as well as in some candidate, acceding and neighboring countries. The current call has a budget of €243,243,603 (UK allocation: €19,346,954) to support projects under the three components: 1. Nature & Biodiversity, 2. Environment Policy & Governance, 3. Information & Communication At least 50 per cent of this amount shall be allocated to measures to support the conservation of nature and biodiversity (component one). Project proposals must be sent to the relevant national authorities before 1 September 2010 which after must be sent to the European Commission by 4 October 2010.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMME

On 31 March 2010 the Official Journal of the EU published two new calls for proposals under the Lifelong Learning Programme - Leonardo da Vinci Programme, as follows: 1. award of grants to support national projects to test and develop the credit system for vocational education and training (ECVET), 2. award of grants to support national projects for the development of a national approach to improve the quality assurance of vocational education and training (VET) systems by promoting and developing the use of the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework in vocational education and training. The deadline for sending applications under the both calls is 16 July 2010.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – ECO-INNOVATION PROJECTS

The 2010 call, funded under the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP), has a budget of €35m which will fund approximately 50 projects in the areas of materials recycling, sustainable buildings products, the food and drink sector and green business practices. The European Commission invites, in particular, small businesses with green products or services that need backing to penetrate markets. The deadline for sending applications is 9 September 2010.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – PREVENTION OF AND FIGHT AGAINST CRIME

On 27 April 2010 DG Justice and Home Affairs published seven targeted calls for proposals for action grants under the 2010 Annual Work Programme. The Prevention of and Fight Against Crime scheme provides financial support to activities aimed at combating all types of crime affecting, particularly terrorism, trafficking in persons and offences against children, illicit drug trafficking and illicit arms trafficking, corruption and fraud. It covers the themes of: crime prevention and criminology, law enforcement, protection and support to witnesses, and protection of victims. Deadline: various from 18 and 25 June 2010.

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