

# Halting desertification in Europe - 2011

Open call for proposals in the framework of the Preparatory Action on development of prevention activities to halt desertification in Europe

## Background

Many European countries are affected by the consequences of water scarcity, droughts and land degradation caused by water resources over-exploitation exacerbated by the effects of climate change. Most European river basins and waters have been altered by different human activities leading to land degradation, low river flows, lowered groundwater levels and major adverse ecological effects.

Against this background a preparatory action/pilot project on development of prevention activities to halt desertification in Europe was included in the EU budget 2009 and 2010 and 4 pilot initiatives were financed from these budget allocations. In the framework of the Preparatory Action<sup>1</sup>, 'Desertification 2011' (Preparatory Action on development of prevention activities to halt desertification in Europe), the European Commission, Directorate-General for Environment, is launching again a Call for Proposals with the aim of identifying 5 to 6 projects eligible for financial support, promoting action on preventing desertification and droughts in pilot river basins.

## Description and objectives

The general objective of this preparatory action is to continue the identification and development of prevention activities to halt desertification in Europe started in 2009.

The pilot initiatives should supplement the ongoing projects on tackling water scarcity, droughts and desertification **by focusing on** complementing EU water resource balances elaborated in the framework of the System of Economic and Environmental Accounts for Water (SEEAW)<sup>2</sup> with local data, as well as identifying management, technological and economic measures allowing the setting up of optimal water management in the pilot river basins.

A more detailed description of the objectives and the specific content is set out in the Guide for grant applicants.

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<sup>1</sup> Preparatory Action within the meaning of Article 49(6) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1), as last amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 1525/2007 of 17 December 2007 (OJ L 343, 27.12.2007, p.9)

<sup>2</sup> <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/seeaw.asp>

### **Budget and Eligibility**

The budget available for this call is EUR 700.000.

The Programme is a co-financing instrument. The maximum co-financing is 75% of the eligible costs.

Applicants and their partners must be public or private bodies, actors and institutions, non-governmental organisations, universities and/or research institutes registered in an EU Member State.

Beneficiaries will be selected on the basis of the criteria set out in the Guide for grant applicants relating to this Call for Proposals and within the limits of the available budget.

The procedure for the appraisal of a proposal is as follows:

- receipt, recording and acknowledgement of receipt by the Commission,
- examination by the services of the Commission,
- formulation of the final decision and communication of the result to the applicant.

The decision of the Commission is final.

### **Information on the Application**

The Guide for grant applicants relating to this Call for Proposals which sets out the admissibility, eligibility, exclusion, selection and award criteria and the application, assessment and approval procedure, can be downloaded from the Commission web site at the following addresses:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/grants\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/grants_en.htm)

or

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/quantity/scarcity\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/quantity/scarcity_en.htm)

### **Deadline for submitting applications**

Proposals must be submitted by 30 September 2011, 17:00 hrs at the latest.

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