

## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

### **SUPPORT TO PEER REVIEWS OF NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES**

#### **I. Subject of the call**

1. The renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy (EU SDS) adopted by the European Council in June 2006 gives an important role to voluntary peer reviews of National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS):

Voluntary peer reviews of NSDSs should start in 2006 with a first group of Member States. These should involve officials and stakeholders from other Member States, including national councils for sustainable development and, where appropriate, international observers. Peer reviews could focus either on the strategies as a whole or on specific themes. They should also serve to identify examples of good policies and practices. A subsequent round of peer reviews could start in 2007 with the next group of Member States. Peer reviews could be supported by scientific evidence through external evaluation.

In line with the Council conclusions, in 2006 the Commission launched and co-financed, as a pilot action, the first round of voluntary peer reviews of NSDSs in 2006. The objective of this call for proposals is to co-finance the second round of NSDSs peer reviews.

The aim of this call for proposals is to support a system of peer reviews of national sustainable development strategies and facilitate the identification, exchange and dissemination of good practices and mutual learning among Member States, and enhance the synergies between the EU and national strategies.

2. DG Environment is planning to allocate up to EUR 200 000 for this call for proposals. Proposals may be solely submitted by public institutions from Member States in charge of National Sustainable Development Strategies. DG Environment will co-fund up to 50% of costs of 2 projects with a maximum of €100 000 each provided that they meet a number of conditions detailed in the documentation relating to the call for proposals.

This documentation may be consulted on the Europa website at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm)

3 The fields concerned, and the nature and content of the actions (as well as the conditions for granting assistance and application forms) are set out in the above referred documentation relating to the call for proposals.

#### **II. Procedure for the submission and examination of proposals, timetable**

The call for proposals is open until 15 October 2007

All the documents required for a proposal must be sent in triplicate. They should be presented in A4 form.

The complete proposal must be delivered to the European Commission by hand, by registered letter or by private courier not later than on 15 October 2007. Faxes, electronic mail, incomplete dossiers or dossiers sent in several parts will not be accepted.

The proposal must be valid at least until 31 December 2007.

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.

Beneficiaries will be selected on the basis of the criteria set out in the documentation relating to this call for proposals and within the limits of the available budget.

The entire procedure is strictly confidential. In the event of approval by the Commission, a contract (made out in euro) will be concluded between the Commission and the party submitting the proposal.

The decision of the Commission is final.

### **III. Information**

The grant application guide and application form are available on the website of the European Commission [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm)

The peer reviews guidebook can be downloaded from the EC website <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/pdf/nsds.pdf> .

#### **Person to contact**

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