

Have you Considered European Funding?

building new production units • development and modernization • buildings and facilities • technologic and operational tools and equipments • agriculture • purchasing tractors and other agriculture equipment • farms and greenhouses construction and modernization • plantations and nursery gardens • apiculture • tourism • software, patents, licenses, know-how, unpatented technical solutions • professional training • research-development-innovation services • developing electrical and thermal power production units • producing and using renewable energy • business consultancy • marketing and promotion • electronic commerce • broadband access • management systems and international standards

Presentation

Have you Considered European Funding?

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Are you interested in investing in production, energy, agriculture, human resources, innovation and eco-efficiency, research and development, information technology and communication? European funding might represent a solution to financing such projects, as well as a series of activities you might consider developing in other areas.

Read in the following an overview of what, how and how much of your projects you can finance from this source in 2010, as well as a set of expert recommendations from Voicu & Filipescu's lawyers on some of the legal aspects one should consider when accessing European funding.

New calls for proposals open in 2010*

PRODUCTION

Investments in SME

Sectoral Operational Program Increase of Economic Competitiveness – DMI 1.1 (Financial Support in Amount of up to RON 1,075,000 for Investing in Small and Medium Enterprises. Financial Support in Amounts between RON 1,075,001 and RON 6,450,000 for Investing in Small and Medium Enterprises).

Recommendation

Before initiating the measures for submitting a financing application, the eligibility criteria should be carefully verified and analyzed regarding both the applicant and the project. For instance, in the case of certain financing a review of the relevant legislation pertaining to small and medium enterprises is necessary, so that to confirm that the potential applicant is eligible as per the criteria set forth by the guide. Moreover, the legal and fiscal documentation submitted along with the financing application need to be valid as of the submission date and to give evidence of the accurate compliance with the prerequisites in the guide.

Beneficiaries

Projects

How much it can be financed

What can be financed

Estimated call opening date

small and medium enterprises – SME

• creating a new production unit • expanding an existing unit such as to increase production capacity • diversifying the production of an existing facility by launching new products or services • company modernization • intangible assets purchase • consultancy and specialized training

up to RON 1,075,000 (approximately EUR 255,952), and between RON 1,075,001 and RON 6,450,000 (approximately EUR 1,535,741), respectively

• land acquisition • buildings and facilities • assets purchase including fixed assets and patrimony objects (facilities and equipment or technologic transport means directly connected to the production cycle) • intangible assets purchase (software, patents, licenses, know-how, unpatented technical solutions) • consultancy services specialized training for the operations employees

July 2010, September 2010

ENERGY

Efficient and sustainable energy – energetic efficiency

Total allocated amount:

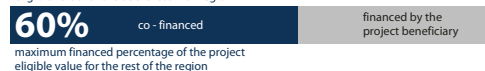
400.000.000 lei

(approximately EUR 95,238,000)

SMALL ENTERPRISES AND MICRO-ENTERPRISES



MIDDLE ENTERPRISES



LARGE COMPANIES



Beneficiaries

Projects

How much it can be financed

What can be financed

When

large companies and SME in the industrial sector

increasing energetic efficiency – investing in facilities and equipment specific to companies in this industry in order to ensure energy • investing in highly efficient cogeneration capacities

RON 40,000,000 (approximately EUR 9,523,800). RON 80,000,000 (approximately EUR 19,047,619) in the case of investments made in highly efficient cogeneration capacities. Projects of a maximum value of EUR 50,000,000

• expenses for buildings and facilities • expenses for technologic and functional gear and equipment • expenses for gear fitting • intangible assets purchase (software, patents, licenses, know-how, unpatented technical solutions)

January 4, 2010 – November 30, 2010

New calls for proposals open in 2010*

AGRICULTURE

Modernizing agricultural production

**Total allocation 2010:
EUR 100.000.000**

National Rural Development Program - Measure 121 (Modernization of Agriculture Production)

Recommendation

European financing does not cover the entire value of the project to be implemented. Therefore, before submitting the project, the applicant should make sure that it can sustain out of its own sources the other expenditures related to the project or/and that the investments thereon and the implementation form also fulfill the conditions imposed by the credit institution for granting a loan (including any guarantees requested by the credit institution). In case one fails to consider this aspect, the chances for the project to be finalized are endangered, while non-fulfillment over time of the undertaken commitments might even lead to the termination by the competent authority of the financing contract.

Beneficiaries

Projects

What can be financed

Estimated call opening date

individuals and legal entities of various forms

- introducing and developing new technologies and procedures
- production diversification
- adapting profits and the production volume and quality to the market demands, including the ecologic ones
- producing and using energy from renewable sources
- adapting agricultural production to the European standards
- increasing incomes from the agriculture production
- supporting the members of producers' groups

- investing in crop farming and livestock farming agriculture production
- purchasing new machines and tools
- establishing plantations
- constructing and/or modernizing: buildings used for agriculture production, internal road infrastructure and access roads, cattle dairy farms, greenhouses, including thermal plants and watering systems
- ensuring facilities for environmental compliance purposes
- leasing new tractors and other gear, equipments, software, new transportation means
- replacing vineyards
- establishing fruit trees, shrubs, strawberries plantations
- vineyard, fruit trees and shrubs nurseries
- investments for producing and using renewable energy
- apiculture investments
- investments for processing agriculture products on a farm level
- investments for adapting farms to ecologic agriculture
- investments for ensuring compliance with European standards

May 3-5, 2010, October 1-29, 2010

New calls for proposals open in 2010*

AGRICULTURE

Increasing the added value of farming and forestry products

National Rural Development Program - Measure 123 (Increasing the Added Value of Farming and Forestry Products)

Recommendation

Where relevant, the state aid applicable legislation should be considered, as well as the implications generated by the applicant's benefiting of other state aid forms over the possibility of applying for non-refundable financing.

Beneficiaries

SME, large companies**, agriculture products processing agriculture cooperatives, capitalization cooperative companies, authorized individuals, individual entrepreneurs, family entrepreneurs, groups of producers

Projects

tangible and intangible investments for the processing and marketing of agriculture products

What can be financed

- constructing new buildings and/or modernizing the buildings used in the production process or used for the purpose of storing products
- purchasing new gear, facilities, equipment, devices
- improving internal quality control
- purchasing new specialized transportation means
- purchasing quality management and food safety systems
- purchasing technologies, patents, licenses, software

Estimated call opening date

June 1-30, 2010

Total allocation 2010

EUR 170,000,000

New calls for proposals open in 2010*

AGRICULTURE

Investments for processing farming and forestry products for the purpose of obtaining non-agriculture products

National Rural Development Program - Measure M123 (Stimulating Regional Development by Investing in Farming and Forestry Products Production for the purpose of Obtaining Non-agriculture Products)

Estimated call opening date

July 2010

Total allocation 2010

EUR 99,000,000 (80% farming, 20% forestry)

Infrastructure for the development and adapting of forestry

National Rural Development Program - Measure M125 (Improving and Developing the Infrastructure for the Development and Adapting of Forestry)

Estimated call opening date

October 15 – November 15, 2010

Total allocation 2010

EUR 297,548,370

Support for disfavored alpine area, disfavored areas, agro-environment payments

National Rural Development Program – Improving the Rural Environment and Space: M211 (Support for the Disfavored Alpine Area). M212 (Support for Disfavored Areas). M214 (Agro-environment Payments)

Estimated call opening date

May – June 2010

Total allocation 2010

EUR 57,100,000

EUR 44,000,000

EUR 186,000,000

New calls for proposals open in 2010*

AGRICULTURE

Encouraging tourism activities

National Rural Development Program – Measure DMI313 (Encouraging Tourism Activities)

Recommendation

During the project implementation phase, the beneficiary needs to comply with the procurement regulations (and with the public procurement relevant legislation, where applicable). Failure to comply with such rules may result in the refusal from relevant authorities to reimburse the expenses made by the beneficiary for the purpose of the project and may also generate litigation with the authority with which the financing contract is concluded.

Beneficiaries

micro-enterprises, individuals, NGO, communes, inter-communitarian development associations

Projects

• increasing and improving small sized tourism units • developing tourism informational and promotional systems • creating resorts for the purpose of providing access to natural tourism areas

Estimated call opening date

July 2010

Total allocation 2010

EUR 136,055,694

HUMAN RESOURCES

Professional training for entry level employees

Estimated amount: EUR 2,440,000

*Sectoral Operational Program Human Resources Development – DMI 2.1
(Transition from School to an Active Life – Money for Professional Training)*

How much it can be financed?

Minimal value: EUR 10,000

Maximal value: EUR 2,000,000

Active employment measures. Human resources in rural areas

Estimated amount:

approximately EUR 29,200,000 (DMI 5.1)

approximately EUR 32,000,000 (DMI 5.2)

*Sectoral Operational Program Human Resources Development – DMI 5.1
(Developing and Implementing Active Employment Measures). DMI 5.2
(Promoting Long Term Sustainability of Rural Areas in regard to the Development
of Human Resources and Workforce Employment)*

How much it can be financed?

Minimal value: EUR 10,000

Maximal value: EUR 2,000,000

Beneficiaries

Projects

When

large companies and SME

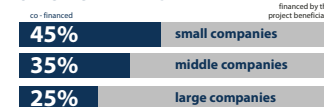
- covering the costs afferent to mentorship programs for entry level employees

March 31, 2009 – November, 30 2010

GENERAL TRAINING



SPECIFIC TRAINING



Beneficiaries

Projects

When

large companies and SME

- covering salary costs for new employees
- covering salary costs for newly employed individuals from rural areas

March 31, 2009 – November 30, 2010

DISFLAVORED WORKERS



EXTREMELY DISFLAVORED WORKERS



DISABLED WORKERS



INNOVATION AND ECO-EFFICIENCY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, IT&C

Start-ups and spin-offs

Total allocation 2010:
EUR 18,500,000

*Sectoral Operational Program Increase of Economic Competitiveness – DMI 2.3.1
(Companies Access to Research and Development and Innovation Activities –
Innovative Start-ups and Spin-offs)*

Recommendation

The beneficiary of the financing should comply with the terms agreed under the financing agreement regarding the project implementation, as well as with the other obligations set forth by the said agreement, so that to avoid the application by the authority of measures to which it is entitled according to the agreement, such as contract and/or payments suspension, claiming the full reimbursement of the amounts received as non-refundable financing, applying penalties as percentage of the non-refundable eligible value, or recovery of undeserved amounts.

Beneficiaries

micro-enterprises and small enterprises with at least 20 employees with a length of service of at the most 3 years for start-ups, and newly established companies for spin-offs

Projects

- research and development activities or specific services acquisition
- contracting consultancy services in the field of innovation regarding management, technologic assistance, technologic transfer, acquisition, protection, trading industrial property rights, use of standards
- acquisition of innovation support services
- activities for implementing into production the results of research/ know-how/ license or another industrial property right

How much it can be financed

EUR 200,000. EUR 100,000 for companies active in the transport industry

What can be financed

- personnel expenses
- endowments such as fixed assets or patrimony objects
- purchasing raw materials and resources
- research, development, innovation services
- purchasing publications, subscriptions and membership fees
- purchasing software, patents, licenses, know-how
- spin-off establishment and incorporation

When

March 17, 2008 – up to the moment when all allocated funds are spent

New calls for proposals open in 2010*

INNOVATION AND ECO-EFFICIENCY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, IT&C

Developing e-commerce systems and other electronic business solutions

*Sectoral Operational Program Increase of Economic Competitiveness – DMI 3.3.2
(Support for the Development of E-commerce Systems and Other Electronic Business Solutions)*

Beneficiaries

Projects

Estimated call opening date

SME

• implementing e-commerce systems electronic bidding informatics systems • secured electronic transactions informatics systems • e-payment systems • e-learning systems • implementing informatics systems for company activity development/optimization

May 2010

Broadband and additional services access for SME and NGO

*Sectoral Operational Program Increase of Economic Competitiveness – DMI 3.1.1
(Supporting the Broadband and Additional Services Access, SME, NGO)*

Beneficiaries

Projects

Estimated call opening date

SME, NGO

• broadband connections Internet access • purchasing IT&C equipment and peripherals • building LAN networks necessary for project implementation • purchasing licenses necessary for project implementation • purchasing a company/NGO website • purchasing a new .ro domain name directly from the national .ro web domains provider • purchasing and implementing electronic signature solutions • purchasing specific software for disabled users

June 2010

New calls for proposals open in 2010*

INNOVATION AND ECO-EFFICIENCY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, IT&C

Access to new markets and internationalization

*Sectoral Operational Program Increase of Economic Competitiveness – DMI 1.1.3
(Support for Access to New Markets and Internationalization)*

Beneficiaries

Projects

Estimated call opening date

SME

- participation to fairs, international exhibitions and economic missions
- creating and producing printed/branded promotional materials
- on-line promotion
- services regarding the promotion on new internal markets, on international markets and marketing
- external suppliers/clients identification services by Hosted Buyers programs

July 2010

Integrated informatics systems and other business management software

*Sectoral Operational Program Increase of Economic Competitiveness – DMI 3.3.1
(Support for Implementing Integrated Informatics Systems and Other Business Management Software)*

Beneficiaries

Projects

Estimated call opening date

SME

- purchasing software applications, IT&C equipment, consultancy and specialized training services necessary for implementing or expanding Enterprise Resource Planning systems
- implementing or expanding Customer Relationship Management systems
- implementing software solutions for design and/or production, for improving the products life cycle
- implementing economic analysis and business intelligence systems and other business management systems

July 2010

New calls for proposals open in 2010*

INNOVATION AND ECO-EFFICIENCY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, IT&C

Standards implementation

**Estimated call opening date:
August 2010**

*Sectoral Operational Program Increase of Economic Competitiveness – DMI
1.1.2 (Support for Standards Implementation)*

Beneficiaries

Projects

SME

• implementing and certifying quality management systems
environment management systems • voluntary certification and
ecologic labeling • trial and calibration laboratories development and
licensing

Promoting innovation

**Estimated call opening date:
September 2010**

*Sectoral Operational Program Increase of Economic Competitiveness – DMI 2.3.3
(Promoting Innovation in Companies)*

Beneficiaries

Projects

SME

projects regarding products innovation and processes for goods and
services innovation

Support for consultancy

**Estimated call opening date:
Q4 2010**

*Sectoral Operational Program Increase of Economic Competitiveness – DMI 1.3.2
(Support for Consultancy to SME)*

Beneficiaries

Projects

SME

• purchasing consultancy for project/business plans • developing
company/product/service strategies • financial consultancy for
investments • marketing and promotional activities • human resources
management • information technology and e-business • innovation
and intellectual property rights

Have you Considered European Funding?

For updated information on any of the aspects included in this guide, as well as for legal advice on accessing European funding, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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This guide provides a brief description of some aspects regarding European funding. The information above reflects the actual situation as of the date when this material was drawn up (i.e. April 2010). The information and recommendation herein are not exhaustive, nor should they be deemed as legal advice.

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