



EU funding possibilities for trade union projects

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Diverse sources of funding

Among others, see the 'funding' section in the webpage of DG EMPL:
<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=629&langId=en>

European Social Fund (ESF) : national-level capacity building of social partners

Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI): PROGRESS, EURES, microfinance facility & social entrepreneurship

The 3 "Social Dialogue" Budget Lines (which are the focus of this presentation)

Three social dialogue budget lines

Implemented in 2014 via **4 calls for proposals**:

- 1)VP/2014/**001**: Support for Social Dialogue
- 2)VP/2014/**002**: Information and training measures for workers organisations
- 3)VP/2014/**003**: information, consultation and participation of workers at company-level
- 4)VP/2014/**004** : improving expertise in the field of industrial relations

What kind of projects?

Pre-requisite:

Projects must have a clear **European dimension** and a strong link to industrial relations developments at EU-level.

Novelty for 01 and 02 calls: projects promoted by national-level organisations need the genuine involvement of a EU-level Social Partner organisation, as a formal partner in the project:

- ETUC
- ETUFs (IndustriAll, UNI Europa, EPSU, EFFAT, etc...)
- BusinessEurope, UEAPME, CEEP

What kind of projects?

The purpose of these budget lines is to **stimulate social partners collaboration on a transnational level** (as opposed to the ESF which focuses on national-level capacity building projects)

Overarching objective:

To help strengthen the capacity of Trade Unions for contributing to the employment and social dimensions of the Europe 2020 strategy, and for reaching the EU objective of a job-rich recovery from the crisis.

- Europe 2020 Strategy: a strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth (COM (2010) 2020),
- Commission Communication 'Towards a job Rich recovery' (COM (2012)173)
- Commission Communication 'Strengthening the social dimension of the Economic and Monetary Union' (COM (2013)690)

What kind of projects?

Eligible project activities:

- Transnational events (seminars, conferences, short trainings, workshops, expert working groups)
- Reports and studies (collection of information, questionnaires & interviews, case studies and analyses)
- Means of communication / dissemination (publications, websites, newsletters, e-tools, short video productions)

Administrative and financial aspects

These budget lines are implemented in the form of grant agreements for the successful applicants (with the co-financing principle).

Process:

- Publication of the call (which includes relevant information: priority objectives, eligibility, deadlines, administrative & financial aspects)
- Deadline for the submission of applications (online + by post)
- Evaluation period at the Commission (at least 2 months)
- Grant agreement signed with the beneficiaries

Administrative and financial aspects

Novelty 2013: DG EMPL adopted a “multi-beneficiary” approach, whereby each project partner has the responsibility for managing its own “share” of the budget (the aim is to ensure a stronger responsabilisation of the project partners).

Novelties in 2014: longer larger projects encouraged

- Minimum grant requested: 108,000 EUR
- Increased co-financing rate: the Commission’s grant may cover up to 90% of the total cost of a project.
- Increased eligible duration of projects: 24 months

Support for social dialogue

Call for proposals VP/2014/001

VP/2014/001 : Objectives

Promoting Social Dialogue at cross-industry or sectoral level, and more particularly, developing European social dialogue in its different dimensions:

- information exchange
- consultations
- negotiations
- joint actions

These projects can therefore include meetings to prepare EU social dialogue negotiations, but also follow-up activities to facilitate the implementation of agreements resulting from EU social dialogue.

VP/2014/001 : Objectives

Particularly welcome:

Measures to support the European social partners and social dialogue committees undertake and contribute to impact assessment of the employment and social dimensions of EU initiatives.

Horizontal objectives:

- strengthening synergies and exchanges between European social dialogue sectoral committees and between the sectoral committees and the inter-professional level
- involving representatives of the social partners from the Candidate Countries
- promoting equal participation of women and men in the decision-making bodies of both trade unions and employers' organisations

VP/2014/001: Eligibility criteria, budget and deadlines

Eligible Beneficiaries: social partners, research institutes, public authorities (all lead applicants must be based in EU member states / co-applicants can also be from candidate countries).

Total budget for 2014: 8.5 million Euro

Deadlines 2014: **2 May** and **25 August** for projects starting no later than December 2014

ATTENTION: Projects can only start 2 months after a deadline! Any expenditure incurred before written confirmation that the application has been accepted is at the applicant's risk

BH 04030301 : Partnerships

Requirements:

Strong **transnational dimension**: it is necessary to include project partners from at least three countries and a European-level organisation

Joint projects ! No 'workers only' projects any more: we need to involve employers' organisations as project partners (co-applicants or associated organisations).

Information and training measures for workers' organisations

Call for proposals VP/2014/002

(the 'Trade Union' Budget line)

VP/2014/002: Objectives

To support projects promoting **information and training measures for workers' organisations.**

These measures should strengthen the capacity of TUs to address, at EU/transnational level, issues such as:

- anticipation and management of change and restructuring
- greening of the economy
- youth employment
- skills
- mobility and migration
- gender equality and equal opportunities
- health & safety, working conditions, etc...

VP/2014/002: Eligibility criteria, budget and deadlines

Total Budget for 2014: 4,14 Million Euro

Eligible Beneficiaries: trade union organisations (or bodies mandated by trade unions) based in the EU (candidate countries are eligible as partners)

Single Deadline: 6 June 2014 (for projects starting from October 2014)

Information, consultation and participation of representatives within undertakings

Call for proposals VP/2014/003

VP/2014/003: objectives

- Facilitating the implementation of EU law (the *acquis communautaire*) in matters of information and consultation rights of workers in national and multinational companies;
- Facilitating the establishment of worker representation bodies (EWCs, SEWCs, etc)
- Strengthening the role of worker representation bodies in the anticipation of corporate restructuring processes and the resolution of labour conflicts
- familiarising the actors represented at company level with Transnational company agreements

VP/2014/003: EC Directives concerned

- EWC Directive 2009/38/EC (recast EWC directive) & Directives 1994/45/EC & 97/74/EC
- SE Directive 2001/86/EC on employee involvement in the European Company (SE)
- SCE Directive 2003/72/EC on European Cooperative Society (SCE)
- Directive 2002/14/EC on information and consultation (general framework)
- Directive 2005/56/EC on cross-border mergers

VP/2014/003: Eligible Beneficiaries

- Organisations registered/having headquarters in one of the EU Member States (candidate countries are eligible as partners);
- Workers' representatives: company level (works councils) or regional, national, European level, sectoral or multi-sectoral trade unions;
- Employers' representatives: company level (management of undertakings) or regional, national, European level, sectoral or multi-sectoral employer organisations;
- Technical bodies (not-for-profit, training or research institutes) need to be mandated by a social partner organisation.

VP/2014/003: budget and deadlines

Budget for 2014: € 7.25 Million EURO

Single Deadline: 4 June 2014 (for projects starting from October 2014)

Improving expertise in the field of industrial relations

Call for proposals VP/2014/004
Still to be published by the Commission

VP/2014/001 : Objectives

Improving expertise in the field of industrial relations, which includes the collection of information and practices, comparative studies, exchange of experiences and of knowledge on industrial relations systems, etc.

Priority will be given in particular to projects which contribute to the research and analytical products of the EU: 'Industrial Relations in Europe' report, etc.

VP/2014/004: Eligibility criteria, budget and deadlines

Total Budget for 2014: tbc

Eligible Beneficiaries: social partners (or bodies mandated by them, such as trade union institutes, etc) based in the EU (candidate countries are eligible as partners)

Single Deadline: tbc – provisional date communicated is 27 June 2014 (for projects starting from October 2014)