

Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 (Norway Grants)

BG-10 Green Industry Innovation Programme Bulgaria

ANNOUNCEMENT

Reallocation of funds

In accordance with article 5.6. in the Programme Agreement for BG-10 Green Industry Innovation Programme Bulgaria (signed between the Financial Mechanisms Office (FMO)/Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Innovation Norway), we hereby announce that there are funds available for reallocation due to grant not allocated to projects after the third call for project proposals and cancellations in other projects.

These funds are now available **for additional activities of already approved projects in the frame of the Green Industry Innovation Programme Bulgaria**, provided that these additional activities contribute to the project objectives and to complement the expected outputs, set in the signed Project Contract of the project receiving additional funds.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

Bulgarian entities already approved as Project Promoters in the frame of the Green Industry Innovation Programme Bulgaria, with an existing signed Project Contract with Innovation Norway. (According to the Programme Agreement between FMO/Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Innovation Norway, the max. grant amount per project is EUR 1 mill. and this must be respected, also when we add on the budget for the additional activities.)

AVAILABLE BUDGET:

The total amount available for co-financing of additional activities is approx. EUR 550,000 at this stage. However, the amount could increase if more project activities or projects should be cancelled until 25 January 2016 (the date when Innovation Norway is planning to make decisions on reallocation).

MINIMUM GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED/APPLIED FOR: EUR 20,000 per project.

MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED/APPLIED FOR: up to EUR 50,000 per project.

STATE AID:

The additional activities will not be considered as a new project, only as additional activities of the already approved project. The General Block Exemption Regulations, Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty will apply for funding of additional activities. Regulation text could be found at http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/legislation/block.html
The same state aid category and grant rate will apply for the additional activities, as specified in the signed Project Contract.

In some specific cases, *de minimis* support could be used (up to 85% for small enterprises, up to 70% for medium sized enterprises and up to 50% for large enterprises). If this is this case, Innovation Norway will ask the Project Promoter to submit a *de minimis* declaration.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES (ref. item 1 and 2 in the Project Contract)

- Extension of an ongoing/existing project activity/project output.
- Add on a new project activity.

In all cases, additional activity/activities shall contribute to the same objective/purpose/outcome as specified in the Project Contract.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE – REQUEST FOR FUNDING OF ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

E-mail application to bulgaria@norwaygrants-greeninnovation.no with the following mandatory attachments:

- A letter addressed to Innovation Norway:
 - referring to the case number and title of the already approved project;
 - confirming the management's support for the additional activity;
 - confirming the availability of the required co-financing for the additional activity (if your project is selected for additional funding, Innovation Norway could request proof of co-financing);
 - the letter should be signed by the legal representative of the entity (i.e. the person mentioned in the Good Standing Certificate or otherwise empowered to represent the entity).
- A short description of the additional activity (max. 2 pages, A-4):
 - justification of needs (why, what, how);
 - confirmation of expected objective/purpose/outcome (short-/mid-term impact of the activity);
 - expected outputs of the activity (deliverables after implementation);
 - description of any "green"/"greening" elements of the additional activity (definitions can be found on page 2 in previous calls);

- costs for the additional activity (total cost, grant requested, co-financing);
- confirmation that the activity can be implemented/finalized at the latest on 30 April 2016 (i.e. the activity should be possible to implement within 3 months).

DEADLINE for requests/applications: 22 January 2016 at 15.00 local Norwegian time (16.00 Bulgarian time).

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF REQUESTS/APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING OF ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Scoring method: yes/no;

1. The request/application has been submitted in line with the requirements set out in this announcement.
2. The additional project activity is eligible according to the state aid provisions for this announcement.
3. The activity has not yet started. (The grant must have an incentive effect, in a state aid context. Requests for funds shall constitute of activities that would not have been carried out without funding from this Programme.)
4. The Project Promoter has confirmed their co-financing ability.

Scoring method: 1 (lowest) – 6 (highest) points;

5. The additional activity is relevant for the already approved project and contributes to the same objective/purpose/outcome as set in the already signed Project Contract for the project.
6. The activity is mature, i.e. technically viable and feasible in terms of time schedule (possible to implement within 30 April 2016), budget and value for money.
7. The activity contributes to the vision of the Green Industry Innovation Programme; Good for business and good for the environment, aiming at improving the environmental performance of enterprises.
8. The Project Promoter has the necessary human resources, technical and financial capacity to implement the project and to support its costs.
9. The additional funding will strengthen the technical and green sustainability of the project.

PRIORITIZATION AND AWARD OF GRANTS:

- The main principle will be that those requests/applications with the highest scoring, as a result of the assessment process mentioned above, will have the highest probability to be awarded additional grants.
- The final ranking will be decided by the Selection Committee for the Green Industry Innovation Programme Bulgaria.

- SMEs will be prioritized.
- In justified cases we may give priority to:
 - a) Certain geographical Bulgarian regions lagging behind;
 - b) Group of less privileged Project Promoters.

Decisions to reallocate funds will be made by Innovation Norway, at the latest on 25 January 2016. An Addendum to the Project Contract will be issued for the selected projects. Project Promoters will be informed about the result of this procedure in writing. Information about the result of the reallocation of funds will be published on the Programme web-site www.norwaygrants-greeninnovation.no