

ANNEX I

2. BUDGET LINE 33 03 01: SUPPORTING AND PROMOTING JUDICIAL TRAINING AND FACILITATING EFFECTIVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL

2.2 Action Grants

2.2.2. Call for proposals to support training of national judges in EU competition law and judicial cooperation between national competition law judges

LEGAL BASIS

Art. 4 and 6(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

Specific objective: to support and promote judicial training, including language training on legal terminology, with a view to fostering a common legal and judicial culture

BUDGET LINE

33 03 01

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The aim of this call is to contribute to an effective and coherent application of EU competition law in the Member States. This includes Articles 101 and 102 TFEU, the State aid rules, including Article 107 and 108 TFEU, and the private enforcement of the EU competition rules before national courts, including antitrust damages actions.

The priority areas of this call for proposals are:

- Improvement of knowledge, application and interpretation of EU competition law;
- Development of legal linguistic skills of national judges.

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

This call will fund:

- training activities aiming to ensure a coherent and effective application of EU competition rules and improve legal linguistic skills by national courts.

Distribution of financial support between different priorities and allocation of points

When deciding on the allocation of grants, a fair balance between priorities will be sought. The Commission shall therefore finance at least two projects (if enough applications are submitted in compliance with the essential eligibility and award criteria) of each of the above 2 priority areas.

Moreover, preference will be given to projects that:

- Provide for a training foreseeing consecutive levels, building up one on another;
- Do not simply duplicate/overlap existing/planned training material or existing/future projects but that act in complementarity or that innovate
- Address judges from several member states in one training and thus encourage networking

Financial provisions

Beneficiaries shall declare eligible costs for accommodation and meals/refreshments of participants/speakers/interpreters of the trainings on the basis of unit costs, the amounts of which are established in accordance with Commission Decision C(2008)6215 approving the General implementing provisions adopting the Guide to missions for officials and other servants of the European Commission, unless a specific ad hoc decision(s) is adopted in the meantime.

50% daily rate will apply to meals/refreshments for half day seminars. These unit costs give a reasonable approximation of the costs typically incurred by persons staying in a different location than their own, no matter for what purpose.

The use of unit costs is justified by the nature of the eligible costs covered by the unit costs (accommodation and subsistence costs for the participants/speakers/interpreters in the trainings requiring the extensive verification of actual costs incurred for relatively small amounts). The authorisation of unit costs will simplify the management of the grants by alleviating the administrative and financial burden for the beneficiaries when reporting and for the Commission when verifying the costs actually incurred.

The majority of beneficiaries participating in this call will be public entities, thus the risk of fraud or irregularities is assessed as relatively low.

The compliance with the co-financing principle will be ensured by the application of the applicable co-financing rate to the eligible costs declared on the basis of unit costs.

The compliance with the no-profit principle will be ensured at the time of verification of the final financial statement of the beneficiary.

Avoidance of double financing is ensured by clear identification of the categories of costs covered by the unit costs (accommodation costs and meals/refreshments of participants in trainings).

Essential eligibility and award criteria

1. To be **eligible**, grant applications must comply with all of the following criteria:

- (a) the project must be submitted by authorities, public or private organisations duly established in one of the eligible countries, or an international organisation. Organisations which are profit-oriented must submit applications in partnership with public entities or private non-profit organisations.
- (b) the project must target the members of the target group as defined in the call for proposal;
- (c) the EU grant applied for cannot be lower than EUR 50 000 or higher than EUR 400 000;
- (d) the project must not have started prior to the date of submission of the grant application.

2. Proposals will be assessed based on the following **award criteria**:

- (a) Relevance to the objectives, priorities and preferences of the call;
- (b) The intrinsic quality of the project as regards its design, presentation, organisation and implementation;
- (c) Geographical scope of the project in terms of partners, participants and target group;
- (d) Expected results, dissemination and sustainability;
- (e) Cost-effectiveness.

Implementation

By DG COMP based on a co-delegation

Indicative timetable and indicative amount of the call for proposals

Reference	Date	Amount
COMP/2016	Q2 2016	1 000 000 EUR

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

80% as normal maximum rate.

90% in exceptional and duly justified cases, notably for:

- European, national or sub-national entities specifically created with the purpose of training "judicial staff" as defined in the Call for Proposals;
- European, national and sub-national associations of competition law judges;
- applicants originating from EU Member States under financial assistance or surveillance (Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Portugal, Romania and Spain).

2.4. Procurement

LEGAL BASIS

Art. 4 and 6(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013

Specific objective: to support and promote judicial training, including language training on legal terminology, with a view to fostering a common legal and judicial culture

BUDGET LINE

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Subject matter of the contracts envisaged (study / technical assistance / evaluation / survey / IT / communication services/etc.)

In 2016 the Commission intends to undertake several actions through contracts following public procurement (calls for tenders and framework contracts) or administrative arrangements. Conferences, expert meetings, seminars, communication activities may be organised and studies and impact assessments may be undertaken as far as they are needed in order to prepare, or accompany new legislation or to respond to policy changes in the area covered by the Programme. The total budget envisaged for these types of actions by DG Justice is EUR 6 420 000. It may cover in particular the following actions:

- Specific objective: judicial training
 - Conference on European judicial training to counter terrorism/ radicalisation (Q2 2016; framework contract)
 - Actions implementing the recommendations of the expert group on European judicial training (Q3 2016, framework contract);
 - Creation and setting-up of a web-portal on trainings on competition law (Q2-Q3 2016, call for tenders or framework contract, DG COMP);
 - Organisation of conferences with European, national and/or sub-national associations of competition law judges and/or with individual changes (Q2-Q4 2016, new contract or framework contract, DG COMP);
 - Provision of targeted training activities (seminars, workshops, conferences, electronic and paper publications and learning tools etc.) aiming to contribute to a coherent and effective application of EU competition rules and improve legal linguistic skills of national courts. This includes both, antitrust rules (Articles 101 and 102 TFEU) and state aid rules (Article 107 and 108 TFEU) (Q 4 2016).

Indicative number of new contracts envisaged: 10

Indicative number of specific contracts based on framework contracts envisaged: 30

Implementation

By DG Justice and, where indicated, by DIGIT or DG COMP based on a co-delegation