



**FINANCIAL MECHANISM OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA 2009-2014
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND ENERGY**

**PROGRAMME BG04 ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
BILATERAL RELATIONS FUND BG04-00-02**

CALL FOR REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE BILATERAL RELATIONS FUND

The Fund aims to promote the cooperation between Bulgarian organizations and organizations in the Donor States through exchange and transfer of knowledge, experience and best practices in the field of Programme BG04.

The total amount of funds in the Fund is 251,228 EUR, which represents 1.6% of the eligible costs of the Programme BG04 (15,600,288 EUR).

WITH FUNDS FROM THIS FUND WILL BE SUPPORTED:

1. The search for Partners for Donor Partnership Projects during the preparation of an Application for a specific Call for Project Proposals, the development of such Partnerships and for the preparation of Project Proposal, referred to as "**Support Scheme for Development of Project Proposals**". Under this scheme are envisaged 60% of the Fund's Budget, and the indicative allocation of funds by Calls is as follows:

	Calls for Project Proposals	Funds, EUR
1	Utilization of Hydropower Potential	28 000
2	Promotion of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy measures for Heating in municipal and government buildings and Local District Heating	48 000
3	Production of Fuels from Biomass	42 737
4	Training and Education activities to increase the Administrative capacity related to EE&RES Measures	28 000
	Total funding:	146 737

2. Setting up of a network of experts, exchange, sharing and transfer of knowledge, technologies, experience and best practices between the Project Promoters and entities in the donor states, hereinafter referred to as "**Support Scheme for Travel**". Under this scheme are envisaged 40% of the Fund's budget, allocated indicatively as follows:

	Calls for Project Proposals	Funds, EUR
1	Utilization of Hydropower Potential	16,000
2	Promotion of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy measures for Heating in municipal and government buildings and Local District Heating	32,000
3	Production of Fuels from Biomass	20,000
4	Training and Education activities to increase the Administrative capacity related to EE&RES Measures	12,491
Total funding:		80,491

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

- legal entities from Bulgaria;
- legal entities from the Kingdom of Norway, Iceland and the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Potential Beneficiaries may apply for all activities eligible for funding by the Fund, but will receive a grant only once.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES:

Support Scheme for Development of Project Proposals:

- Consultancy services provided by a Donor state organization in respect of development of a Project Proposal for participation in the Calls for Project Proposals for Programme BG04;
- Travel of the Applicant and/or Partner in a Donor state or in Bulgaria;
- Organization of meetings in Bulgaria (translation services, rent of venue and equipment, coffee breaks);
- Participation in conferences, seminars, courses, meetings.

Provision of financial assistance for development of Project Proposals is carried out upon clearly defined Project Idea and evidence for the contribution of the initiative to the preparation of the Project Proposal.

Support Scheme for Travel:

- Visits and workshops to share know-how and professional experience;
- Visits and participation in seminars and conferences in the field of Programme BG04.

Eligible costs

The Fund provides up to 100% grants, but not more than 4,000 EUR, co-financing is not required. The funds will be reimbursed after completion of the activities in BGN or EUR, depending on the approved Request for Support from the Fund, based on Request for Reimbursement of Payment accompanied by all required documents.

Requests for Reimbursement of Payment must be submitted within one month after the completion of the last activity approved as per the Request for Support.

IMPORTANT!

The allowable maximum Grant of a "single undertaking" is based on the accumulation of other de minimis aid received by the Applicant for the past three fiscal years, where the cumulative aid should not exceed the BGN equivalent of 200,000 EUR (391,166 BGN) calculated with the official exchange rate BGN-EUR (1 EUR = 1.95583 BGN), and in case the Applicant is operating in the "road freight transport", this grant amount is 100,000 EUR (195,583 BGN).

SUBMISSION OF REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT

Requests for Support shall be submitted to:

Ministry of Economy and Energy

Sofia 1040, 8 Triaditsa Street

Under the first scheme Requests for Support are eligible with the opening of each of the Calls and will be accepted incessantly until the Budget of the Fund is depleted for each of the Calls for Project Proposals and no later than the closing date for submission of Project Proposals under the relevant Call. The activities funded under this scheme must be completed no later than the date of submission of the Project Proposal by the Applicant in the relevant Call for Project Proposals for Programme BG04.

Under the second scheme Requests for Support will be accepted incessantly until the budget of the Fund is depleted for each of the Calls of Programme BG04, but not later than **1 March 2016**.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Questions may be asked in Bulgarian or English and addressed by e-mail to the following address eerebg04@mee.government.bg

Written answers will be provided in both languages within 10 working days after receiving the questions, but not later than 11 days before the deadline for receipt of Project Proposals.

The questions, along with the answers, will be posted on the website of the Programme BG04: www.energygrantsbg.org