



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME)

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Unit B3 - LIFE and CIP Eco-Innovation
Head of Unit

Brussels,
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Subject: **Your application for funding under LIFE2015 Integrated Projects
LIFE 15 IPC 000006
"Coast 2 Coast Climate Challenge"**

Dear applicant,

I am pleased to inform you that your application has successfully passed the first part of the evaluation in the framework of the above-mentioned call for proposals.

You are therefore invited to submit your full integrated project (IP) proposal by **15 April 2016 at 16:00 (Brussels time)**. Please see chapter 1.8 of the *Guidelines for applicants LIFE Climate Action Integrated Projects 2015* for the relevant instructions.

Please note that 5 concept notes have passed this stage successfully and have been invited to submit their full IP proposal, with a total requested EU contribution of EUR **40** million. I draw your attention to chapter 1.4 of the Application guide: "*The total indicative budget available for Climate Action Integrated Projects in 2015 is about EUR 14 million*". This indicative budget would allow us to finance only a limited number of IPs, based on the average contribution of 5-10 M€ indicated in the application guide. It is therefore unlikely that we would accept an EU contribution significantly exceeding the average indicated.

As foreseen in the *Guide for the evaluation*, you will have the opportunity to participate in a **written question and answer phase**, during which you can submit questions related to the preparation of a full proposal. You may submit your questions via e-mail to EASME LIFE ENQUIRIES EASME-LIFE-ENQUIRIES@ec.europa.eu during the period **between 4 January and 18 February 2016**. It would be appreciated if you could group your questions and send them in batches. Questions should mainly - but not exclusively - concern clarifications of the guidelines or the related processes.

At the end of this phase, the Commission will render public the questions and answers in an anonymous manner, to assist equally all applicants. This information will be available on the LIFE 2015 call for proposals page under "FAQ IPs":

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/life2015/index.htm>.

Please note that the present letter does not represent any commitment on the part of EASME and could not constitute a ground to claim any expectations concerning the signature of a grant agreement. EASME may, until such time as the agreement is signed, either abandon or cancel the procedure without this entitling you to any compensation.

You will find in the annex to this letter our general comments together with specific comments on your concept note.

Yours sincerely,

Angelo Salsi

Annex

1. General comments to all applicants

1.1 Complementary actions, mobilisation of funds

With a view to the fact that the adoption process of all RDPs and OPs was still ongoing at the time of the submission of the CNs (and is still ongoing now) but are expected to be finished shortly, all applicants should revisit the issue of available complementary funding sources and include in the full proposal those funds that can be genuinely mobilised as foreseen in Chapter 1.4 of the Application guide.

In this respect, note has been taken of the large difference in the amount of complementary funds included in the concept notes, indicating that the applicants may have different understanding of the complementary funds and their mobilisation. We therefore draw the attention of all applicants to the provisions of the above mentioned Chapter 1.4, with particular attention to the requirements that:

- *"Complementary actions shall always implement **the same large scale plan or strategy** that the Integrated Project is targeting."* Note that actions not meeting this condition will not be taken into account during the assessment and scoring of the proposal.
- *"The quality of the coordination with other funding mechanism(s) and the level of mobilisation of complementary funds as well as the likelihood of their actual mobilisation and their functional link to the plan to be implemented will have an impact on the evaluation of the **EU added value** of the IP."* The applicants should pay attention to this criterion and provide well substantiated arguments especially in case none of the IP beneficiaries are involved in the management and/or granting of the funding mechanism in question and hence have no actual influence on the use of those funds.

1.2 Project period

In order to ensure a sufficient time frame to implement all actions, applicants are encouraged to foresee sufficient buffer periods, in particular in relation to all necessary administrative procedures and to actions with innovative and demonstrative elements.

1.3 Implementation of the targeted plan

Applicants are reminded that the IP must be clearly designed with the aim of creating the conditions for the full implementation of the Plan. The IP shall include strategic actions to catalyse a process and mobilise supplementary commitments and funding that will lead, in due time, to the full implementation of the plan/strategy. The IPs should therefore be designed in a way to address this long term objective. Under these conditions, applicants are invited to verify whether LIFE 'traditional' grant funding is not a more appropriate funding source for their project.

2. Specific comments on your concept note

The Concept Note is well designed by integrating CCA and CCM in a multi-city/regional project. The partnership is strong and the proposal contains an appropriate stakeholders list. The concrete actions cover cross-cutting themes (governance, tools, innovation, and capacity-building) and concrete elements (rainwater, seas, rivers, lakes, groundwater) common to all CCA plans identified and aimed for implementation. Geographical scope appears to be sufficient.