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Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG

Social Protection and Integration

Social and Demographic Analysis

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

VP/2010/015

PILOT PROJECT ON PREVENTING ELDER ABUSE

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND	3
2.	OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS	4
3.	SUBMISSION AND EXAMINATION OF GRANT APPLICATION.....	6
3.1.	Submission date and implementation.....	6
3.2.	Available budget and co-financing.....	6
3.3.	Eligibility and Exclusion Criteria.....	6
3.3.1.	Eligible countries.....	6
3.3.2.	Eligible organisations	6
3.3.3.	Eligible applications	7
3.3.4.	Eligible proposals	7
3.4.	Selection criteria.....	7
3.4.1.	Financial capacity.....	8
3.4.2.	Operational capacity.....	8
3.5.	Award criteria.....	8
4.	PROCEDURE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS	9
5.	CHECKLIST OF DOCUMENTS (VP/2010/015)	11

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Elder abuse in institutional and domestic settings is increasingly being recognised as a major societal problem. There is a risk that this problem will grow as Member States experience rapidly ageing populations. Indeed, people over the age of 80 will be the fastest-growing age group in Europe over the coming decades, their share in the population rising from 4% today to 11% in 2050. This will represent more than 56 million people, many of them in good health, but also many in poor general health, sometimes aggravated by disabilities, and thus vulnerable and dependent on the help of informal or professional carers. These dependent elderly are particularly vulnerable to abuse which may take many different forms: physical abuse, psychological or emotional abuse, neglect, financial, legal or material abuse and sexual abuse.

The circumstances in which elder abuse can occur are very diverse, as are the members of the risk group. Abuse may occur when an older person lives alone or with a relative; it may occur within residential or day-care settings, in hospitals, home support services and other places assumed to be safe. A wide range of people may abuse older people, including relatives and family members, professional care workers, volunteers, other service users, neighbours or friends.

It appears, however, that only in a minority of cases the abuse of older people does represent a deliberate attempt to harm or exploit the victims. Often it is the result of a lack of adequate knowledge, overburdening and stress on the part of professional and family carers alike. In family settings, it may also result from longstanding relational difficulties between care-givers and care-receivers.

In professional care settings, inappropriate practices involving poor standards of care, rigid routines, quantitatively and qualitatively inadequate staffing, and overprotective and excessively paternalistic attitudes may all lead to elder abuse. In such situations it becomes difficult to identify any specific individual as the perpetrator because it is a systemic and organisational problem of the institution rather than the result of individual professional failure, let alone deliberate malevolence.

The United Nations International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002) strongly recommended that more emphasis be put on preventing elder abuse through a multi-sectoral, EU-based approach. It called for changes in attitudes, policies and practices at all levels and in all sectors in order to ensure that persons everywhere are able to age with security and dignity as citizens with full rights.

Furthermore, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, signed by the European Union and all the EU Member States, contains in its Article 16 clear obligations for State Parties to take appropriate measures to protect persons with disabilities and prevent abuse, addressing in particular age sensitive issues. The European Commission is preparing a new European Disability strategy 2010-2020 with the main objective to fully implement the UN Convention in Europe

The prevention of elder abuse and neglect was discussed in depth at a European conference held on 17 March 2008 in Brussels.¹ The Czech and the Swedish presidencies took up the question on how to assure dignity in old age through two presidency

¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=502&langId=en&eventsId=58&furtherEvents=yes>

conferences. Following the Swedish presidency conference the Council adopted conclusions on "Healthy and dignified ageing" at its meeting on 30 November 2009² which invites the Member States to make the issue of healthy and dignified ageing one of the priorities for the coming years and invited the Commission to support future actions to promote healthy and dignified ageing at EU, national and local levels. These initiatives are closely related to the Open Method of Coordination on Social Protection and Social Inclusion which also looks at the quality of long-term care services.³

The European Parliament has expressed its concern about the issue of elder abuse in a resolution of 21 February 2008 on the demographic future of Europe and requested the Commission to run in 2009 and 2010 a pilot project on preventing elder abuse.

The Commission implemented the pilot project in 2009 through a call for proposal under which two projects were awarded⁴: The EuROPEAN project will map existing policy approaches and policy frameworks in the European Union, identify good practices and present a reference framework comprising measures and instruments needed for an effective prevention of elder abuse⁵. The purpose of the second project is to take stock of existing mechanisms for monitoring elder abuse in the context of health and long-term care systems and to develop a common reference framework presenting a list of measures and indicators to be used for improving national systems for monitoring the quality of long-term care.

In addition, the European Commission has or is currently co-financing a number of actions under the DAPHNE programme to combat violence against children, young people and women including and the Health action programme:

- Breaking the taboo – Violence against older women in families: recognising and acting⁶
- EUSTaCEA – European strategy to combat elder abuse against older women⁷
- ABUEL – Elder abuse: A multinational prevalence survey⁸

The purpose of the present call is to allocate parts of the credits available for the pilot project to a specific project which will examine how best to prevent elder abuse by ensuring high quality and dignity in elderly care.

2. OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS

No single response will be sufficient to tackle the complex issue of elder abuse. Most Member States have yet to come up with a comprehensive strategy that could offer effective protection to the population of frail elderly people.

2

http://www.se2009.eu/polopoly_fs/1.27820!menu/standard/file/Council_Conclusion_on_Healthy_and_Dignified_Ageing.pdf

3 See the Joint Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion 2010

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=757&langId=en>

4 <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=630&langId=en&callId=224&furtherCall>

5 <http://www.preventelderabuse.eu>

6 http://www.rotekreuz.at/fileadmin/user_upload/PDF/GSD/Brochure-English.pdf

7 <http://www.age-platform.eu/en/daphne>

8 <http://www.abuel.org>

The aim of this call for proposals is to offer grant funding to one applicant which may involve not-for-profit organisations including public authorities, universities and research centres and civil society/stakeholder organisations. The grant will be awarded for a project that will examine how existing recommendations and charters at national and European level on the rights of older people in need of long-term care and assistance can be implemented and how this process can be supported. Attention should be paid particularly to vulnerable older persons like those with disabilities.

In recent years some Member States considered the development of a charter on the rights of dependent older people as an important instrument of a comprehensive strategy that could protect dignity in elderly care, ensure high quality of care services and prevent elder abuse. The German government set up in 2003 a “Round Table for Long Term Care” with the aim of improving conditions for people in Germany who are in need of long-term care and assistance. Some 200 experts from all areas responsible for care in old age developed as a main result a “Charter of Rights for People in Need of Long-Term Care and Assistance”⁹. The Charter gives a detailed catalogue of the rights of people in Germany who are in need of long-term care and assistance.

In France, the National Foundation of Gerontology developed with the support of the French government for the first time in 1987 a “Charter of Rights of People in Need of Long-Term Care and Assistance”. The most recent version of this charter was presented in 2007¹⁰.

Building on these examples of good practice, the EUSTaCEA project is developing a “European charter of rights of older people, in particular older women in need of long-term care and assistance”. The project runs until November 2010 and the draft version of the Charter is already available on the project website.

The aim of this call for proposals is to support an initiative that will examine how existing recommendations and charters at national and European level on the rights of older people in need of long-term care and assistance can be implemented and how this process can be supported.

The purpose of the grant to be awarded will be to finance an initiative designed:

- (1) to organise in various Member States a reflection exercise, bringing together representatives from all areas responsible for care in old age (public authorities, long-term care insurance funds, care providers, bodies responsible for the supervision of care institutions and care services etc.) as well as organisations representing older people and the users of long-term care services like some person with disabilities, that should discuss how recommendations and charters at European and national level can be implemented and identify existing obstacles in this regard;
- (2) to draw lessons from this reflection exercise and to produce instruments for supporting the implementation of existing recommendations and charters at national and European level in Member States (e.g. implementation guidelines, checklists, control mechanism) and

⁹ http://www.bmg.bund.de/cln_169/SharedDocs/Downloads/EN/Long-term-care-insurance/charter-of-rights.templateId=raw.property=publicationFile.pdf/charter-of-rights.pdf

¹⁰ http://www.fng.fr/html/droit_liberte/charte_integral.htm

(3) to prepare a final conference (agenda, speakers) where the project results could be presented and discussed.

3. SUBMISSION AND EXAMINATION OF GRANT APPLICATION

3.1. Submission date and implementation

Applications must be submitted electronically **and** sent by post to the Commission **not later than 11 August 2010**. Proposals sent after this deadline will not be considered.

It is expected that the successful applicant will receive the agreement for signature by the end of November 2010. The estimated project start date is December 2010. The period of eligibility of costs will start on the day the grant agreement is signed by the last of the parties, i.e. the European Commission.

The maximum project duration is 24 months. Applications for projects with a duration in excess of 24 months will not be considered. Extensions to the eligibility period beyond the maximum duration will *not* be granted, except in very exceptional circumstances.

3.2. Available budget and co-financing

The budget earmarked for the co-financing of the project selected under this call for proposals is four hundred and fifty thousand Euros (€ 450,000).

The maximum EU financial contribution will not exceed 80% of the total eligible costs for the selected project.

The European Commission reserves the right not to distribute the funds available if the quality of the applications received does not merit it.

3.3. Eligibility and Exclusion Criteria

Applications must satisfy the criteria described below:

3.3.1. Eligible countries

Applications may only be submitted by organisations legally established in one of the 27 Member States.

3.3.2. Eligible organisations

To be eligible, applicants must:

- certify that they are not in one of the situations listed in Articles 93(1), 94 and 96(2) of the Financial Regulation¹¹. The applicant organisation's legal representative must sign a Declaration on honour.

¹¹ The situations referred to include bankruptcy, compulsory winding-up, being under court administration, in an arrangement with creditors or any other similar proceedings; convictions of professional misconduct; non fulfilment of social security or tax payment obligations; convictions of fraud, corruption, involvement in a

- have a legally non-profit status, including public authorities and agencies which are part of public health and long-term care systems, universities and research centres and civil society/stakeholder organisations;
- be a properly constituted and registered legal entity in a Member State. In application of Article 114 of the Financial Regulation, social partners' organisations without legal personality are also eligible provided their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf and assume financial liability.

3.3.3. *Eligible applications*

To be eligible, applications must:

- be submitted electronically on-line and by post in four hard copies (1 original and 3 copies) by the deadline for submitting the application indicated in section 3.1;
- be complete and include all supporting documents requested as indicated in the checklist (See point 5).

Applicants should note that the Evaluation Committee will not examine applications lacking one or more of the documents detailed under point 5.

3.3.4. *Eligible proposals*

To be considered as eligible for funding under this call, proposals must

- be clearly related to the objectives of the call;
- not run counter to any fundamental objectives and principles of the European Union;
- comply with the European Union's rules for co-financing and guarantee a co-financing of 20 % of the total eligible costs;
- be fully carried out in the Member States
- demonstrate that the proposed actions are not being financed twice from two different sources within the EU budget (particularly in cases where applicants are already participating in preparatory actions or other programmes). The applicant shall indicate the sources and amounts of any other funding received or applied for under the EU budget for 2010 for any other project, and any funding already received under previous calls or programmes in the course of the three preceding accounting periods.

3.4. **Selection criteria**

Only organisations with the necessary financial and operational capacity may be awarded.

criminal organisation or any other illegal activity; declared in serious breach of contract in relation to activities funded by the EU budget; subject to conflict of interest; guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the required information.

3.4.1. Financial capacity

In order to prove that they have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain its activities throughout the period during which the action is being carried out and to help finance it as necessary, applicants shall provide:

- the letters of commitment signed by the legal representatives of the co-funding organisations and specifying the amount of each cash contribution, proving that together they co-finance the project for at least 20 percent of the total action eligible costs;
- the annual balance sheet and profit and loss account for the most recent financial year for which the accounts have been closed for the applicant¹².

The assessment of financial capacity shall not apply to public bodies.¹³

3.4.2. Operational capacity

The applicant must demonstrate that it has the operational (technical and managerial) capacity and the professional skills and qualifications necessary to execute the project for which funding is being requested, as well as the ability to implement it. The applicant must have a strong track record of competence and experience in the field and in particular in the type of action proposed.

This will be demonstrated by the following:

- the CVs of the persons responsible for carrying out the action, showing all relevant professional experience;
- a list of projects already undertaken within the last 3 years in the relevant fields by the applicant.

3.5. Award criteria

All proposals that meet the eligibility and selection criteria will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- Relevance to the objective of the call for proposal: *Applicants should demonstrate that the proposed activities and the anticipated results will make a significant contribution for improving the prevention of elder abuse by responding to the objectives under point 2;*

¹² As an example, one possible way to analyse the financial capacity of the applicant is to calculate a ratio between the total assets in the balance sheet and the budget of the project (i.e. the ration between the "total assets" in the balance sheet divided by the total project budget should be higher the 0.70)

¹³ For the purpose of this call, all higher education institutions and research institutes with a mandate conferred by a Member State (participating countries), or which have received over 50 % of their annual revenues from public sources over the last two years, or which are controlled by public bodies or their representatives, are considered to be public bodies under the terms of this call for proposals. Such organisations are required to sign a declaration stating that their organisation complies with the above-mentioned definition of public body. The Commission reserves the right to request documentation to prove the veracity of this declaration

- Overall quality of the proposal: *Project proposals should be clear in their conceptual and practical approach (methodology, tools). The respective roles and responsibilities among the project team should be clearly defined. The work plan should be appropriate and realistic with regard to the project goals;*
- EU-wide coverage of the proposal: *Project proposals do not have to cover all or even most Member States, but they should be designed in such a way that their results will be relevant for most Member States;*
- Relevance of the proposal for the EU policy debate: *Project proposals should be allowing meaningful transnational comparisons and mutual learning, by fostering a useful exchange of information and experience. Project proposals should have an impact going beyond the partners directly involved in it. This may be achieved through efforts aimed at ensuring the visibility and dissemination of the project results (media coverage or other multiplier effects);*
- Sound cost-effectiveness ratio and financial quality of the proposal: *Proposals should demonstrate that the project will offer good value for money for the financial support requested from the Commission and that it will be cost-effective;*

4. PROCEDURE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Only applications submitted on or before the deadline and on the prescribed forms will be considered. Applicants are strongly advised not to wait until the deadline to submit their on-line applications as the application process may prove difficult if too many applicants are trying to submit at the same time.

Applicants are invited to fill in the application form and present the project proposal preferably in English or French, in order to facilitate the treatment of the proposals and carry out the evaluation as soon as possible. However, it should be noted that applications in other EU languages will be accepted.

Applicants must complete an online application form (create a 'SWIM account') by registering on the following internet site (web gate):

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/swim/external/displayWelcome.do>

Before starting to fill in the application form on SWIM, please read carefully the User's Guide (click on the 'Help on SWIM' button at the top of the page):

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/calls/pdf/swim_manual_en.pdf

The compulsory annexes must also be filled in online on the SWIM site (and then printed out for signature).

After filling in the form, applicants or their legal representatives must submit it both electronically and in hard copy.

- **ELECTRONICALLY:** validate the request (click on the 'send' button). This step is irreversible and must be carried out on or before the deadline.

- **FOUR HARD COPIES** (i.e. one should be marked 'original' and three should be marked 'copy'): Please send your covering letter of application together with all the other documents listed in the checklist (under point 5.) as signed originals as well as three copies of all these documents by the deadline to the following *postal* address:

Call for Proposals VP/2010/015
European Commission
Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG
Unit E.1 Social and demographic analysis
B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Please ensure that your application is sent by registered post and keep proof of the date of sending (the date of post office stamp will be considered as proof of the date of sending).

For hand-delivered applications or applications delivered by express courier services (DHL, UPS, etc.) these must be received by the European Commission on or before 16h00 on the last day for submission. **The address for hand deliveries/express courier service delivery** of documents for the European Commission is:

Call for Proposals VP/2010/015
European Commission
Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG
Unit E.1 Social and demographic analysis
Avenue du Bourget n°1, B-1140 Evere, Belgium

Proof of delivery will be provided to the delivery service in the form of a signed and date stamped receipt from the Commission's Central Postal Service in Evere.

If an applicant submits more than one proposal, each one must be submitted separately.

Additional documents available:

- **Financial Guide for Applicants**, containing instructions for presenting the proposal's provisional budget along with the rules on which categories of expenditure are eligible and which are not,
- **Draft grant agreement**, containing the general and specific provisions of the agreement.

Should applicants have any further queries on the requirements of the call for proposals or on the application process, please put your query – **in writing only** - quoting the reference '**VP/2010/015- query**' to the e-mail address below:

EMPL-E1-CALLS@ec.europa.eu

5. CHECKLIST OF DOCUMENTS (VP/2010/015)

<i>Order</i>	<i>Document</i>	<i>Check</i>	<i>To be downloaded from SWIM</i>
1	The original letter of application quoting the reference number of the call for proposals (VP/2010/015), duly signed and dated by the legal representative of the applicant organisation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2	A print-out of the online application form (https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/swim/external/displayWelcome.do) duly completed (see point 4.), dated and signed by the legal representative. NOTE: The application form must be electronically submitted before printing. After the electronic submission no further changes to the application are possible.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3	Printed version of Annex E1: Declaration on honour , dated and signed by the legal representative of the beneficiary on his/her honour that the organisation is not in one of the situations listed in Article 93 (1) and Article 94 and 96(2)(a) of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Union, and attesting its financial and operational capacity.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
4	Printed version of Annex E2: Letters of commitment signed by the legal representatives of the organisations concerned, explaining the nature of their involvement and specifying the amount of each cash contribution.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
5	Printed version of Annex E3: Financial identification form duly filled in, dated and signed by the account holder and bearing the bank stamp and signature of the bank representative.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
6	Printed version of Annex E4: Legal entities form , duly completed and signed by the legal representative.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
7	Printed version of Annex E5: Description of the action (no template provided) dated and signed by the legal representative.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8	Printed version of Annex E6: Detailed work programme of the project (no template provided) dated and signed by the legal representative, including a timetable linking months to activities and outputs	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9	Printed version of Annex E7: Contracts for implementing the action (if applicable) dated and signed by the legal representative.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
10	A written declaration signed by the project manager certifying the professional competence of the team performing the tasks associated with the action for which funding is requested. This declaration shall be accompanied by the CVs of the project manager and of the other main experts involved in the project implementation, with a brief description of their outputs related to the subject of the proposal.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11	A list of the main projects carried out in the last three years relating to the objective of the call. In the case of work done for the European Commission, the applicants must also indicate the reference number of the contract and the department for which the contract was performed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12	Copy of the Annual balance sheet and profit and loss account for the last financial year, duly signed and dated by the legal representative of the applicant organisation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13	Copy of the official registration certificate or any other official document attesting to the legal establishment of the organisation (not necessary for public bodies).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14	Copy of articles of association/statutes or equivalent , proving the eligibility of the organisation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15	In the case of social partner organisations without legal personality, a signed letter of the representative indicating his capacity to undertake legal obligations must be provided.	<input type="checkbox"/>	