

FONDATION
DE
FRANCE

Call for proposals

2010

**Rural areas
and sustainable
development
in the enlarged
Europe**

Deadline:

• 31 May 2010

Background

With the arrival of ten new countries in 2004 and a further two in 2007, the European Union (EU) now has 27 member states. The area of solidarity has expanded and citizens' organisations are setting up new collaborative projects.

To foster these community networks and show that genuine and practical solidarity exists at the European level, Fondation de France has supported 160 projects over the past seven years, led by key players in French civil society and their counterparts in ten of the EU's new member states. Rooted in the desire for balanced dialogue, these projects encompass all areas of public interest. Since 2008, they have focused in particular on sustainable development.

While maintaining the same approach this year, Fondation de France will concentrate on supporting actions relating to the future of rural areas. The contours and history of these areas, and the farmers at the heart of them, are extremely diverse. Increasingly, however, this diversity is being trammelled by common frameworks established by European and international negotiating bodies, such as World Trade Organization

agreements, the renegotiation of the Common Agricultural Policy, negotiations on greenhouse gas emissions, and so on. These frameworks impose specific and sometimes convergent development models and transformations on all rural areas and modes of farming. However, not all these areas and modes have the same capacity for development. And the future of the least well-off players does not lie in a one-size-fits-all development model, especially in this period of crisis.

Fondation de France wants to support projects that aim to promote local development and diversified agriculture. It will therefore assist innovative experiences and exchanges of expertise between French and eastern European partners involving the analysis of international and European frameworks for local development, as well as diversified experiences in eastern and western Europe.

Objectives

The objectives are to step up the exchange of expertise and strengthen the capacity of European associations to implement joint projects geared to rural contexts and small family farms, with a sustainable development theme.

In 2010 Fondation de France will support initiatives aimed at:

- implementing joint projects underpinned by the sharing of knowledge and experience;
- promoting dialogue between associations working within European and

international frameworks that encourage or hinder local development and the advancement of small family farms;

- strengthening and organising local capacities in partner countries to assess, support and promote projects;
- harnessing external expertise aimed at consolidating partnerships or actions, especially where these involve consultants in one of the partner countries (excluding France).

Who is this call for proposals aimed at?

Fondation de France will examine projects submitted by French partners, i.e. non-profit associations already involved in—or planning to become involved in—action to support rural development and/or small farms with a partner already established and recognised in at least one of the ten selected EU countries, namely Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia,

Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Special attention will be paid to projects with partners in several European countries, without ruling out the possibility of cooperating on other projects or programmes of a similar nature elsewhere in the world.

In which fields?

Projects must contribute to promoting or defending the values and strengths of rural development and small family farms from a sustainable development perspective. These projects include the creation of economic activities, development of agricultural production methods and responsible consumption, preservation of natural resource and biodiversity, city-countryside relations and relations with peri-urban areas.

Special attention will be paid to the social aspect of the project, especially the capacity to create or anchor employment in rural areas (e.g. stewardship of forestry resources). Key factors for conducting a project are participation, management organisation, a cross-cutting approach and participatory assessment.

Criteria and methodology

The selection committee will evaluate projects according to seven criteria:

- the partners' capacity to forge ties with local civil society and local authorities in charge of rural planning;
- networking capabilities at national and/or international level;
- feasibility of the budget / project match, with clear identification of project-related costs;
- financial and administrative aspects (co-financing obtained or requested, etc.);
- quality of monitoring and scheduled assessments;

- participative aspect at each stage of the project from the outset;
- mutual and balanced dialogue between the partners.

The following are not admissible:

- projects involving large-scale technical investments;
- requests for operational assistance for existing bodies;
- twinning operations that may be covered by other calls for projects.

How much financial assistance and for how long?

To encourage applicants to develop diversified partnerships, notably at local level, Fondation de France never funds an entire project. Applicants' financing plans must therefore give details of the other financial partners that have been approached or have already granted financing, as well as

the self-financed portion and the value of voluntary work.

For illustrative purposes, the annual amount granted per project will range from €15,000 to €30,000. Long-term projects may also be examined.

How to apply?

Full details of the grant application can be downloaded as a Word file from our website at www.fondationdefrance.org/Nos-Aides/Vous-êtes-un-organisme/Environnement/Développement-durable/En-Europe

Any questions regarding this call for proposals should be emailed to: solidaritesinternationales@fdf.org

Applications can be made in French or English and **should be submitted in Word format (4 Mb maximum) by email only to solidaritesinternationales@fdf.org**

The deadline for applications is 31 May 2010.

The jury will draw up a shortlist before the end of June and applicants will be informed of the results by email. Shortlisted applicants will have ten days to complete their application by sending scanned copies of all administrative documents such as the articles of association, the latest annual report and balance sheet, the minutes of the Annual General Meeting, the list of board members and bank account details.

The final selection will be made in September 2010 and applicants will be informed of the results by email in the course of the month.

Programme Manager: Martin Spitz

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