

ESF France National Level: Transnational Measures

Call for Projects 2008

Which measures allow funding for transnationality?

In the French ESF “Regional Competitiveness and Employment” Operational Programme, transnationality can be funded under Priority 4: “*Investing in human capital and networking, innovation and transnational actions*”.

Measure 4.3 allows the funding of innovative, transnational projects within 3 sub-measures:

- 4.3.1 (Domain G): “Innovative and experimental projects”
- 4.3.2 (Domain H): “Partnerships for innovation” (network activities)
- 4.3.3 (Domain I): “Transnational cooperation” (mobility)

Who manages these measures?

The French ESF Managing Authority decided to delegate the management of the transnational measures of the PO to an Intermediate Body at national level: RACINE.

What sort of projects can be funded under the transnational measures?

Sub-measure 4.3.1 (Domain G):

- Allows the funding of a wide variety of innovative, transnational projects
- Fields of activity include:
 - fighting against discrimination in employment
 - lifelong training
 - work-life balance
 - adaptability of human resources due to economic mutations ...
- Types of activities:
 - Transfer of practices and tools between organisations from at least 2 Member States
 - Joint development of new tools, methods and practices at transnational level
 - Joint experimentation of innovative approaches or measures
- Recommended minimum % of transnationality in total project budget: 25%

Sub-measure 4.3.2 (Domain H):

- Allows the funding of activities by networks and partnerships
- Types of networks include:
 - Those working with young people, and aiming to make links between schools and business

- Those bringing together structures working with populations facing difficulties on the labour market (advice, information, guidance) and businesses or economic sectors
- Those promoting certain occupations
- Those promoting entrepreneurship for disadvantaged groups ...
- Types of activities:
 - Seminars/training session to disseminate good practice to members of the network
 - Joint experimentation carried out by members of the network
 - Development of new tools using the skills and experience of members of the network
- Recommended minimum % of transnationality in total project budget: 10%

Sub-measure 4.3.3 (Domain I):

- Allows the funding of projects promoting mobility for disadvantaged groups
- Types of activities:
 - Mobility (exchanges, placements...) for students / trainees
 - Mobility for trainers / staff working with disadvantaged group (to gain new skills and increase competencies)
 - Mobility for workers and apprentices (particularly those with low levels of qualifications or from disadvantaged groups)
 - Implementation of joint systems of skills or experience accreditation, or joint training courses leading to qualifications recognised in different Member States
 - Experimental projects in the field of joint recognition of qualifications or competencies
- Recommended minimum % of transnationality in total project budget: 50%

What are the characteristics of eligible projects?

- The objectives of the project must correspond to the priorities of domains G, H or I
- The project must be of national or inter-regional dimension. To be inter-regional, a project must operate in at least 3 French regions¹
- The project must include transnational activities with at least one partner² from another Member State, set out in a Transnational Agreement
- The project must be run by a solid structure, capable of managing a transnational project funded by the ESF
- The project must find match funding from public or private sources

¹ This means that purely regional projects are not eligible for this national call for projects. For these projects, different possibilities may be available in the different French regions, set out by the regional Managing Authority.

² It is advised not to have more than 4 transnational partners

How many projects?

The French IB estimates that it will select approximately 50 projects, at national or inter-regional level, every year.

What funding is available to the projects?

- Total ESF annual budget available for transnational projects: 4.275 million €
- The average ESF annual grant given to a project will be approximately 80 000€
- The maximum level of ESF funding per project will be 55% of the total budget cost

How long can the projects run?

- Project activities are eligible for a maximum of 12 months, within one calendar year.
- For 2008, the maximum period of eligibility will be from the 1st January 2008 to the 31st December 2008.
- It may be possible to renew projects in the following year.

Call for projects 2008

- The call for projects will open on the 3rd March 2008
- Operators will be able to submit project proposals for six weeks, until the 14th April 2008
- Projects will be pre-selected in mid-May, on condition of submitting a Transnational Agreement
- Project promoters will be given extra time to submit their Transnational Agreement: 15th June 2008

Transnational Partners

- To be eligible, each project must have at least one partner³ from another Member State, set out in a Transnational Agreement
- Transnational partners must have their own source of funding: from the ESF in another Member State, other EU programmes, national grants, or self-funding

For the latest information

See www.racine.fr (information available in French only!)

³ It is advised not to have more than 4 transnational partners