

**Call for proposals for indirect actions under the multiannual Community Programme
on promoting safer use of the Internet and new online technologies
(*Safer Internet plus*)**

TEXT WITH EEA RELEVANCE

1. In accordance with Decision No.854/2005/EC of 11 May 2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council adopting a multiannual Community Programme on promoting safer use of the Internet and new online technologies¹ (*Safer Internet plus*), the European Commission hereby invites proposals for actions to be financed under the programme.

Safer Internet plus is based on four actions:

- (a) fighting against illegal content;
- (b) tackling unwanted and harmful content;
- (c) promoting a safer environment;
- (d) awareness-raising.

The programme is a successor of the Safer Internet Action Plan (1999-2004).

2. In conformity with Article 3 of the European Parliament and Council Decision, a Work Programme² was drawn up by the European Commission to serve as the basis for implementing the programme. The Work Programme contains further information about the objectives, priorities, indicative budget and types of actions referred to in this call notice and the eligibility rules for taking part.
3. Information on how to prepare and submit proposals and on the evaluation process is given in the Guide for Proposers³.

This documentation can be obtained, along with the work programme and any other information relating to this call, from the European Commission using the following address:

*European Commission
Information Society and Media Directorate General
Safer Internet plus
Jean Monnet Building, Office EUFO 1194
Rue Alcide de Gasperi
L-2920 Luxembourg*

¹ OJ L 149, 11.6.2005, p. 1

² Commission Decision C(2005) 3231 of 09.09.2005, europa.eu.int/saferinternet

³ <http://europa.eu.int/saferinternet>

Email: saferinternet@cec.eu.int
Fax: (+352) 4301-30269
Web: europa.eu.int/saferinternet

4. Proposals may be made for the call parts identified below. Applicants wishing to make proposals for more than one call part should make separate proposals for each one.
5. The indicative total budget available for this call is € 9.3 million of Community contribution under the 2005 budget.
6. Eligible applicants

The participation in the Safer internet plus programme is open to legal entities established in the Member States.

It is furthermore open to legal entities established in the candidate countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Turkey) if a bilateral agreement with the relevant country has been concluded to this effect. It may be opened to participation of legal entities established in EFTA States which are contracting parties to the EEA Agreement (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein), in accordance with the provisions of that Agreement⁴.

Legal entities established in third countries and international organisations may take part in projects at their own expense.

Part 1: Call parts

Action 1: FIGHTING AGAINST ILLEGAL CONTENT

7. Identifier: 1.1 HOTLINE

Hotlines allow members of the public to report illegal content (such as child pornography, illegal adult pornography and racism). They pass the reports on to the appropriate body for action (Internet Service Provider (ISP), police or correspondent hotline). Proposals are invited for hotlines to act as nodes of the network and to co-operate with other nodes within the European network of hotlines. A standardised set of tasks and performance indicators will be used, in order to ensure comparability and to simplify project management and reporting. Active participation in networking and cross-border activities is mandatory.

The tasks of the hotlines are set out in further detail in the Work Programme.

Funding at 50% of eligible costs.

⁴ Up to date information on which countries are part of the programme is published on the Official Journal of the European Communities. An up to date list is also available on the programme web site at <http://europa.eu.int/saferinternet>.

8. Identifier: 1.2 HOTCOORD

A co-ordinating node will be assigned to the European network of hotlines, which will facilitate agreement between the hotlines so as to develop European-level guidelines, working methods and practices which respect the limits of the national laws applying to the individual hotlines. The existing code of conduct and guidelines for best practice will be further updated and developed.

The tasks of the co-ordinating node are set out in further detail in the Work Programme. Funding at 80% of eligible costs.

Action 2: TACKLING UNWANTED AND HARMFUL CONTENT

9. Identifier: 2.1 USER EMPOWERMENT

In addition to action to fight illegal content at its source, users - responsible adults in the case of minors - may need technical tools. Accessibility to these tools may be promoted in order to empower users to make their own decisions on how to deal with harmful and unwanted content (user empowerment).

Proposals will be invited for measures which meet the needs of users and which empower them to limit the amount of unwanted and harmful content which they receive, and to manage unwanted spam that they receive, including:

- a thematic network facilitating and coordinating exchanges of views between child welfare specialists and technical experts on technical measures against unwanted and harmful content which could be used as input in the development of protocols and standards;
- targeted projects to increase take-up of content rating and quality site labels by content providers and to adapt content rating and labels to take account of the availability of the same content through different delivery mechanisms;
- targeted projects contributing to the accessibility of filter technology, addressing a) localisation of filtering systems in languages not adequately covered by the market, b) enabling sharing or interoperability of resources used by filtering systems and c) increasing user-friendliness of filter technology by making its installation, configuration and operation by the end-user more easy.

N.B. Projects to develop existing or new filter technology other than described above will not be funded.

Funding at 50% of eligible costs for targeted projects. Funding at 100% of a reduced set of eligible costs (direct costs of co-ordinating and implementing the network) for thematic networks.

Action 3: PROMOTING A SAFER ENVIRONMENT

10. Identifier: 3.1 SELFREG

Proposals will be invited for targeted projects and thematic networks to design and implement cross-border actions in the field of co-regulation and self-regulation of illegal, harmful and unwanted content of Internet and new online technologies. Participants could include national co-regulatory or self-regulatory bodies, standards bodies, representatives of industry and user organisations (e.g. parent and teacher associations, child protection groups, consumer protection bodies and civil and digital rights organisations). Policy makers, government agencies and programmes and law enforcement authorities could also be associated.

Funding at 50% of eligible costs for targeted projects. Funding at 100% of a reduced set of eligible costs (direct costs of co-ordinating and implementing the network) for thematic networks.

Action 4: AWARENESS-RAISING

11. Identifier: 4.1 AWARENODE

Awareness actions which will carry out awareness actions and programmes in close co-operation with all relevant actors at national, regional and local levels. They should address a range of categories of illegal, unwanted and harmful content (including e.g. content considered unsuitable for children, racism and xenophobia) and, where appropriate, take into account related issues of consumer protection, data protection, information and network security issues (viruses/spam).

The tasks of the awareness nodes are set out in further detail in the Work Programme. Funding at 50% of eligible costs.

12. Identifier: 4.2 AWARECOORD

A co-ordinating node will be funded to provide overall co-ordination and logistical support to national nodes, ensuring high European-level visibility of an effective awareness campaign implemented at national level.

The tasks of the co-ordinating node are set out in further detail in the Work Programme. Funding at 80% of eligible costs.

13. Identifier: 4.3 HELPLINE

Awareness nodes may also apply to run helplines, where children could raise concerns about illegal and harmful content on the Internet. These would offer one-to-one conversations with a trained helper in real time (by telephone or online). This could be done in conjunction with organisations with the necessary experience and infrastructure, such as organisations currently running helplines dealing with calls from children. Helplines should be affiliated to the European network of awareness nodes. Funding at 50% of eligible cost.

14. Identifier – 4.4 MEDIA

A proposal will be invited for a thematic network to co-ordinate research carried out in Member States into the way people, especially children, use new media, with the purpose of identifying areas of particular concern for child safety and of recommending effective ways of raising awareness and other practical action in the field. The purpose will be to ensure that the results of this research are made available on a comparable basis. This work will be done in close co-operation with work in the wider field of media literacy.

Funding at 100% of a reduced set of eligible costs (direct costs of co-ordinating and implementing the network).

Part 2 – Evaluation criteria

The evaluation of proposals will be based on the principles of transparency and equality of treatment. It will be carried out by the Commission with the assistance of independent experts. Each submission will be assessed on the basis of the evaluation criteria, which are divided in three categories: eligibility criteria, award criteria, selection criteria. Only proposals meeting the requirements of the eligibility criteria shall be evaluated further. The description of these criteria is presented below.

15. Eligibility criteria

On receipt, all proposals and applications will be subject to an eligibility check, to ensure that they conform to the requirements of the call, and to the submission procedure.

The following checks will be carried out:

- Receipt of proposal by the Commission on or before the deadline date and time established in the call.
- Proposal completeness. Proposals which are substantially incomplete - that is to say that the forms do not include sufficient information to identify the partners, their legal status and to evaluate the scope of the proposed project - will be excluded.

In addition, proposers must certify that they are not in one of the situations listed in the Work Programme which would exclude them from participation.

16. Award criteria

In order to evaluate the relative merit of proposals received, each means to implement the programme (targeted projects, thematic networks and integrated networks) will have its specific set of award criteria, with specific weightings. The description of these award criteria is presented in the work programme and in the Guide for Proposers²

17. Selection criteria

Selection criteria will ensure that the applicants possess the resources to co-finance the project and the professional competencies and qualifications required to complete the work successfully.

Selection criteria are applied on the basis of the information supplied in the proposal. If this identifies cases of weak financial capacity or professional competence it may necessitate compensating actions such as financial guarantees or other actions. Successful proposals called to negotiations will be the subject of a formal legal and financial validation as a requirement to the issuing of a grant agreement.

The description of the selection criteria is presented in the work programme and in the Guide for Proposers².

Part 3 – Administrative details and deadline

18. Proposals responding to this call may be submitted in electronic format, using the electronic proposal submission system (EPSS) which is available via the Safer Internet *plus* <http://europa.eu.int/saferinternet>.

Proposals may also be prepared using the forms in the guide for proposers (referred to as on paper) and received by the Commission at the following address:

European Commission
Directorate General Information Society
Safer Internet *plus*
Jean Monnet Building, Office EUFO 1194
Rue Alcide de Gasperi
L-2920 Luxembourg

19. Deadline for receipt of all proposals (i.e. electronic proposals submitted through the EPSS or proposals on paper sent by registered post, or delivered by hand or by courier⁵): **24 November 2005 at 17h00 (Luxembourg local time)**.

Proposals arriving later than the deadline, or sent by fax, will be excluded.

Reminder Notice: Please note that deadlines apply to receipt by the Commission. In addition, failure to use the above address exactly as it is reproduced here could lead to delays in having your proposal received by the Safer Internet *plus* programme responsible, and could lead to your proposal not being received before the deadline.

20. Indicative evaluation and selection timetable: the evaluation will take place within two months from the closing date of this call. Applicants will be informed on the results of their application after the evaluation has taken place. Start of most of the actions is envisaged by March-April 2006, following the signature of grant agreements. The timing of some new projects will take account of existing contracts which, in the case of some awareness nodes, run until 2007, so as to ensure the most efficient use of funding.

⁵ For courier services that require a telephone number for the recipient, please use (+352) 4301 32963

21. In all correspondence relating to this call (e.g. when requesting information or submitting a proposal) please make sure to cite the applicable call part identifier.

In submitting a proposal, applicants accept the procedures and conditions as described in this call and in the documents to which it refers.

All proposals received by the European Commission will be treated in strict confidence.

The European Community pursues an equal opportunities policy and, in this context, women are particularly encouraged to either submit proposals or to be involved in their submission.