

EU funding programmes of possible interest to the marine equipment sector

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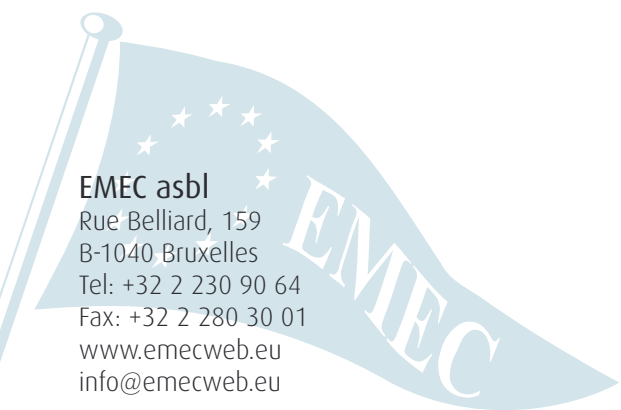
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1. EU funding programmes of possible interest to the Marine Equipment Sector

1.a. Competitiveness and innovation

1.a.i. Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) (2007-2013)

Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme, a response to the objectives of the Lisbon Agenda, is divided into three specific programmes:

- Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme;
- ICT Policy Support Programme;
- Intelligent Energy-Europe Programme;

With Eco-innovation as a cross-cutting theme of the whole programme.

Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme

It will bring together activities that were previously carried out under the Multiannual Programme for Enterprise and Entrepreneurship (MAP), and the environmental technologies part of the LIFE-Environment programme and will also build on innovation activities that were previously implemented through framework programmes for research, technological development and demonstration.

The programme aims to help enterprises innovate by providing access to finance through financial instruments will be operated by EIF.

It offers SMEs simple, clear and efficient access to the EU via the business support networks consisting of many information and advice about of today's EICs (Euro Info Centres) and IRCs (Innovation Relay Centres).

The conditions for innovation will be improved through innovation actions, including exchanges of best practices between Member States and evidence (innovation trendchart, innobarometer, innovation scoreboard).

More information:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/cip/index_en.htm#entr

ICT Policy Support Programme

More information:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/cip/index_en.htm#ict

Intelligent Energy-Europe Programme

Aim: to encourage the wider uptake of new and renewable energies and to improve energy efficiency by accelerating action in relation to the agreed EU strategy and targets in the field of sustainable energy, increasing the share of renewable energy and further reducing our final energy consumption. I.a. it is to stimulate the diversification of fuels and energy efficiency in transport.

More information:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/cip/index_en.htm#ener

1.a.ii. EUREKA

EUREKA is an intergovernmental pan-European network for market-oriented, industrial R&D, whose aim is to enhance European competitiveness through support to businesses, research centres and universities who carry out pan-European projects to develop innovative products, processes and services.

EUREKA offers project partners rapid access to a wealth of knowledge, skills and expertise across Europe and facilitates access to national public and private funding schemes. Currently EUREKA has 38 members.

More information: <http://www.eureka.be>

1.b. Education and Training

1.b.i The Lifelong Learning Programme (2007 - 2013)

It replaces the existing Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci, and eLearning programmes which expire at the end of 2006. It comprises four sectoral programmes on school education (Comenius), higher education (Erasmus), vocational training (Leonardo da Vinci) and adult education (Grundtvig), and is completed by a transversal programme focusing on policy cooperation, languages, information and communication technology and dissemination and exploitation of results. The final element to the new programme is the Jean Monnet action, which focuses on supporting the teaching of European integration as a subject at universities, and supports certain key institutions and associations active in the field.

The aim of the new programme is to contribute, by emphasising the need for lifelong learning, to the development of the Community as an advanced knowledge society, with sustainable economic development, more and better jobs and greater social cohesion. It aims to foster interaction, cooperation and mobility between education and training systems within the Community, so that they become a world quality reference.

More information:
http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/newprog/index_en.html

Eligible applicants

The Lifelong Learning programme applies to all types and levels of education and vocational education and training and it is accessible to all the entities listed in Article 4 of the Decision. Applicants must be established in one of the following countries:

- the 27 countries of the European Union (as of 1.1.2007),
- the EFTA and EEA countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway,
- candidate countries: Turkey.

Deadline for the submission of applications

The main deadlines are:

- Erasmus University Charter 28 February 2007
- Jean Monnet programme 15 March 2007
- Comenius, Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Grundtvig 30 March 2007
- Transversal Programme and Accompanying Measures 30 April 2007

More information:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/c_313/c_31320061220en00420043.pdf

GRUNDTVIG - Mobility of Individuals - Individual Adult Learner Mobility Action

will be funded from 2008, no further information available at the moment

Erasmus – Mobility of individuals – Staff Training for Teaching and other staff in Higher Education institution and enterprises

Awards grants for i.a. mobility of staff of a higher education institution going to an enterprise and staff of an enterprise going to a higher education institution, to allow the beneficiaries to learn by transfer of knowledge or know-how and to acquire practical skills. The activities can be very varied: seminars, workshops, courses and conferences, periods of practical training, short secondments, etc. The initiative needs to come from the higher education institution.

The grants are awarded by National Agencies in respective countries.

More information:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/llp/structure/fiches/erasmus5_en.pdf

Leonardo da Vinci – Mobility of individuals - Placements and Exchanges - Mobility for Professionals in Vocational Education and Training (VETPRO) Action

The action supports transnational mobility of persons responsible for vocational training and/or human resources, also from enterprises. It focuses on the transfer, improvement and update of competences and/or of innovative methods and practices in the field of vocational training. It can also cover vocational language learning of professionals.

The grants are awarded by National Agencies in respective countries.

More information:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/llp/structure/fiches/leonardo3_en.pdf

Leonardo da Vinci – Mobility of individuals - Transnational Placements in Enterprises or Training Institutions for People in the Labour Market

This action aims at the support of transnational mobility of workers, self-employed or people available for employment (including graduates) undergoing a training period abroad in a vocational training context.

The training placement is considered as a period of vocational training and/or work experience undertaken by an individual beneficiary in a partner organisation in another participating country. Individual beneficiaries will receive their grants within a mobility project organised by a coordinating organisation. The grants are awarded by National Agencies in respective countries.

More information:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/llp/structure/fiches/leonardo2_en.pdf

Erasmus – Mobility of individuals - Student Placements in Enterprises, Training Centres, Research Centres and Other Organisations

A placement is a period of time in an enterprise or organisation in another participating country, with a view to helping individuals to adapt to the requirements of the Community-wide labour market, to acquiring a specific skill and to improving understanding of the economic and social culture of the country concerned in the context of acquiring work experience. The period may be supported as appropriate by preparatory or refresher courses in the host language or working language. Host organisations for student placements may be enterprises, training centres, research centres and other organisations.

The grants are awarded by National Agencies in respective countries.

More information:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/llp/structure/fiches/erasmus3_en

Leonardo da Vinci – Mobility of Individuals - Transnational Placements in Enterprises or Training Institutions for Trainees in Initial Vocational Training (IVT)

The action aims at the support of transnational mobility of persons undergoing initial vocational education and training. The general objectives are:

- To support participants in training and further training activities in the acquisition and the use of knowledge, skills and qualifications to facilitate personal development
- To enhance the attractiveness of vocational education and training and mobility for individuals

A training placement for people in initial vocational training consists of a period of vocational training and/or work experience undertaken by an individual beneficiary (apprentice, pupil, trainee, etc in IVT) in an enterprise or a training institution in another participating country. Individual beneficiaries will receive their grant within a mobility project organised by a coordinating organisation. Individuals cannot directly apply for a grant to National Agencies.

More information:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/llp/structure/fiches/leonardo1_en.pdf



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1.c. Environment

1.c.i. LIFE+ (2007-2013)

LIFE+ is a programme devoted to environmental funding. The first call for proposals is envisaged for the autumn 2007.

More information:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/news/futureoflife.htm>

1.d. Health and Safety at Work

1.c.i. The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (OSHA)

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work i.a. runs funding schemes for SMEs to help them improve their health and safety standards.

More information:

<http://sme.osha.europa.eu/>

1.e. Research

1.e.i. FP7 'Cooperation'

The specific programme on '**Cooperation**' supports all types of research activities carried out by different research bodies in trans-national cooperation and aims to gain or consolidate leadership in key scientific and technology areas.

Themes of interest to the marine equipment industry include:

FP7 Cooperation: Energy

Covers i.a. themes such as fuel cells, energy savings in transport etc.

More information:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/cooperation/energy_en.html

FP7 Cooperation: Transport

More information:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/cooperation/transport_en.html

FP7 Cooperation: Security

Covers i.a. security with regard to transport and environment

More information:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/cooperation/transport_en.html

1.e.ii. FP7 'Ideas'

'Ideas' programme aims to enhance dynamism, creativity and excellence in European research at the frontier of knowledge by supporting 'investigator-driven' research projects across all fields by individual teams competing at a European level. Projects will be funded based on proposals presented by researchers on subjects of their choice, evaluated on scientific excellence by peer review.

The Ideas programme proposes a trans-European mechanism to support creative scientific research designed to generate new knowledge that opens up new avenues for technological progress and new solutions for social and environmental problems.

1.e.iii. FP7 'People'

Specific Programme on 'People' aims to improve the quality of the human potential in European R&D and increase the number of researchers and others working in the R&D sector by stimulating people to enter into research professions, encouraging European researchers to stay in Europe and making Europe more attractive for the best researchers from around the world. Training and career development of researchers will be actively supported. The FP7 programme's activities will be based on the long and successful experience of the Marie Curie actions, with an enhanced focus on better structuring and less fragmentation, industrial participation and stronger international dimension.

1.e.iv. FP7 'Capacities'

FP7 Capacities programme aims to enhance research and innovation capacities throughout Europe and ensure their optimal use. It will operate in six areas:

Research infrastructures

Aim: to optimise the use and development of the best research infrastructures existing in Europe, as well as to help to create new research infrastructures of pan-European interest in all fields of science and technology.

More information:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/research-infrastructures_en.html

Research for the benefit of SMEs

Aim: to strengthen the 'innovation capacity' of SMEs in Europe and their contribution to the development of new technology based products and markets. The programme will help them outsource research, increase their research efforts, extend their networks, better exploit research results and acquire technological know how, bridging the gap between research and innovation.

More information:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/research-sme_en.html

Regions of knowledge

Aim: to strengthen the research potential of European regions, in particular by encouraging and supporting the development, across Europe, of regional 'research-driven clusters', associating universities, research centres, enterprises and regional authorities.

More information:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/regions-knowledge_en.html

Research potential of Convergence Regions

Aim: to stimulate the realisation of the full research potential of the enlarged European Union by unlocking and developing the research potential in the EU's 'convergence regions' and outermost regions, and helping to strengthen the capacities of their researchers to successfully participate in research activities at EU level.

More information:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/convergence-regions_en.html

Science in society

Aim: to stimulate the harmonious integration of scientific and technological endeavour and associated research policies into European society.

More information:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/science-society_en.html

Support to the coherent development of research policies

Aim: to enhance the effectiveness and coherence of national and European Community research policies and their articulation with other policies, improving the impact of public research and its links with industry, and strengthening public support and its leverage effect on investment by private actors.

More information:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/research-policies_en.html

International cooperation

Objectives:

- to support European competitiveness through strategic partnerships with non-EU countries in selected fields of science and by engaging the best scientists from such countries to work with and in Europe;
- to enhance the production of knowledge and scientific excellence by enabling European universities, research institutions and firms to establish contacts with their partners in such third countries, thereby facilitating access to research environments outside Europe and promoting synergies on a global scale;
- to address specific problems that third countries face, or that have a global character, on the basis of mutual interest and mutual benefit.

More information:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/international-cooperation_en.html



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1.e.v. ICT in FP7

Information and Communication Technologies

More information:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/research/documents/fp7-ict-4poverview.pdf

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/>

1 Call open until May 8:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CooperationDetailsCallPage&call_id=11

1.f. Structural Funds

1.f.i. European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

European Regional Development Fund - three priority objectives:

- Convergence: speed up the economic convergence of the less developed regions (78.54% of the budget);
- Regional competitiveness and employment: strengthen regional competitiveness and attractiveness and help workers and companies to adapt themselves to economic changes (17.22% of the budget);
- European territorial co-operation: strengthen cross-border, transnational and inter-regional co-operation (3.94% of the budget).

More information:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/2007/index_en.htm

1.f.ii European Social Fund (ESF)

The four key areas for action under the “Regional competitiveness and employment” objective are:

1. increasing adaptability of workers and enterprises;
2. enhancing access to employment and participation in the labour market;
3. reinforcing social inclusion by combating discrimination and facilitating access to the labour market for disadvantaged people;
4. Promoting partnership for reform in the fields of employment and inclusion.

In the least prosperous regions, the ESF concentrates on promoting structural adjustment, growth and job creation.

More information:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/esf2000/2007-2013_en.html

Within structural funds programmes are managed and projects selected on national and regional levels.

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2. Financial Instruments (e.g. Loans)

2.a. The Innovation 2010 Initiative (i2i) by EIB

i2i centres on three objectives paving the way for technological modernisation and the tailoring of human capital to the European economy of tomorrow: education and training, research and development, ICT networks.

Support to innovative SMEs and entrepreneurship is ensured through European Investment Fund, notably through venture capital activities.

To stimulate investment in innovation, i2i disposes of:

- senior loans
- risk-sharing or structured loans through the Structured Finance Facility (SFF);
- EIF equity participations and counter-guarantees designed to stimulate the creation and development of innovative SMEs by providing equity in the form of venture capital or facilitating access to bank credit.

I.a. the EIB's Innovation 2010 Initiative supports investment in research and development by financing:

- Public R&D programmes, particularly where the investment involves cooperative links with Community programmes or even international public research centres.
- Private sector participation in public research, in particular by co-financing contributions from private operators.
- The establishment of centres of R&D excellence. Innovative industries tend to cluster in science parks and close to major basic research centres and universities. The promoters of this type of infrastructure are offered long-term loans and flexible repayment arrangements.
- Intangible investments i.e. research expenditure and patents, particularly for SMEs within the framework of global loans.

More information:
<http://www.eib.org/i2i>

2.b. Risk-sharing finance facility

Aim: to improve access to loans for R&D projects, the Community has proposed the Risk-Sharing Finance Facility. It consists of a contribution from the European 7th Research Framework Programme to the European Investment Bank. More precisely, the RSFF aims to improve access to the EIB debt finance for participants of large scale European R&D projects.

By sharing the risk with the EIB, this facility will allow a larger volume of loans for R&D projects and the financing of bankable projects with a higher risk than would otherwise be possible for the EIB. The Risk-Sharing Finance Facility should start operating in 2007. EIB loans will benefit major R&D projects (including infrastructure projects) with a strong European dimension.

Partners may approach EIB either individually or through joint legal entities. Beneficiaries may thus include large companies, SMEs, public and private research organisations, public-private partnerships.

Partners in large projects supported by FP7, such as joint technology initiatives, collaborative projects and research infrastructures, will be automatically eligible. Eligible requests will then be examined by the EIB according to the usual banking practice.

More information:

http://ec.europa.eu/invest-in-research/funding/funding02_en.htm

2.c. Joint European Resources for Micro and Medium Enterprises (JEREMIE)

JEREMIE is a joint initiative by the European Commission, European Investment Bank and European Investment Fund, whose aim is to improve SMEs' access to finance in the framework of European Regions. The initiative will enable Member States and regions to use part of their structural funds to obtain a set of financial instruments that are specifically designed to support micro and medium sized enterprises.

The JEREMIE initiative foresees 3 main financial instruments:

- Advisory and technical assistance;
- Equity and venture capital;
- Guarantees (both for micro-credit loans and SME loans);

More information:

<http://www.eif.org/jeremie/>



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