

EU Newsletter

Date: 02.07.2010

Subject: **Introduction of Internationally Recognized Standards**
Operational Programme “Competitiveness” 2007 - 2013Deadline: **30.09.2010**

The Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism and the Bulgarian Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion Agency (BSMEPA) have announced a new call for proposals under scheme *Introduction of Internationally Recognized Standards* of the Operational Programme Competitiveness.

1. **Objective:** support for introduction of management systems, European and international standards and good manufacturing practices in order to improve management, production process and organisation of the enterprises.

2. **Eligible candidates:**

- ❑ legal entities or sole proprietors registered under the Commercial Act or the Cooperatives Act;
- ❑ research and development organizations¹;
- ❑ have **at least one** completed financial year (2009);
- ❑ have net sales for the previous year (2009) equal to or more than **BGN 80 000**

Non-eligible candidates:

- ❑ micro enterprises operating in the rural municipalities;
- ❑ micro enterprises for processing and/or marketing of forestry products;
- ❑ enterprises in the fisheries and aquaculture sector;
- ❑ enterprises in the primary production of agricultural goods;
- ❑ enterprises with main economic activity in the field of Sector C, code 10 “Manufacturing of Food Products” and code 11 “Production of Drinks”.

3. **Eligible activities:**

- ❑ consulting services for feasibility studies, preparation, development and introduction of management systems and/or achieving compliance with European/international standards, and/or introduction of good manufacturing practices;
- ❑ investments in new equipment and technologies for introduction of management system/good manufacturing practice and/or achieving compliance with European/international standards, and/or good manufacturing practices;
- ❑ services for certification of management systems, product compliance and/or introduction of good manufacturing practices – *compulsory activities*;
- ❑ consulting services for elaboration of the project proposal – *up to 5% of the eligible costs under the project, but not more than BGN 10 000*;
- ❑ visualisation – up to BGN 5 000;
- ❑ audit of the project – up to BGN 1 500.

The planned duration of the project **must not exceed 12 months**.

¹ These include universities, the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the Agrarian Academy and its institutes, experimental laboratories and research institutes with the Council of Ministers or with a minister, scientific institutes, non-profit organizations in the field of science and technologies.

4. Grant aid – total budget BGN 19 558 300:

- ❑ maximum intensity – **up to 75%** of the total eligible costs.
- ❑ maximum amount – **up to BGN 150 000**.

Payment mechanism:

- ❑ advance payment – **up to 20%** of the grant amount against a bank guarantee covering the full amount of the requested advance payment;
- ❑ interim payments;
- ❑ final payment – **not less than 20%** of the grant aid amount.

5. Projects shall be submitted to the regional offices of BSMEPA in the cities of Blagoevgrad, Burgas, Varna, Veliko Tarnovo, Vratsa, Pleven, Plovdiv, Ruse, Sofia and Stara Zagora.

The full package of application documents can be found [here](#).

For further information:
European Funds Section
ecc@unicreditgroup.bg

Ivan Peev
Head of Department
Commercial Strategy

Daniel Enchev
Manager of Section
European Funds