



Business Support on Your Doorstep

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EU NEWS

Specific actions: 'EU Network of Female Entrepreneurship Ambassadors' call for proposals launched

A restricted call for proposals concerning an EU Network of Female Entrepreneurship Ambassadors has just been launched by EACI, following the Commission's decision C(2009)32 of 14 January 2009 on the Work Programme 2009 of the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme.

For any further information about the call (ENT/CIP/09IN08S00) as well as to download the documents to apply, please see the Network Intranet page
<http://www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu/src/intranet/specific/female/index.cfm>

The deadline to send proposals is: 31 March 2009.

Competitiveness Report 2008 available online

The European Commission has recently presented its "Competitiveness Report 2008", which takes into account the role of the following factors in boosting competitiveness:

- productivity differences and growth drivers;
- fostering trade openness and foreign direct investment;
- entrepreneurial initiative and small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs);
- opportunities arising from renewable energies and climate change policies;
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Unfortunately, the report is overshadowed by the current economic downturn. However, the impact of the financial and economic crisis on Europe's economy highlights the relevance of the Growth and Jobs Strategy to boost competitiveness.

To download the 2008 report

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/competitiveness/1_eucompetrep/eu_compet_reports.htm

The Office for Harmonization of the Internal Market has launched new e-filing system

The Office for Harmonization of the Internal Market (OHIM) has launched its new Community trade mark online filing system (so called CTM e-filing system') on 2nd February 2009. The system is designed to be quick and simple to use. Its improved submission process will allow immediate confirmation, including the CTM application number and the generation of a receipt that the user can print or save. A short presentation and guidance to the new system are already available on the OHIM Web site so that the users can get acquainted with it.

New e-filing system

<http://oami.europa.eu/ows/rw/pages/QPLUS/forms/electronic/CTM-E-filingService.en.do>

Guidance to the new system

<http://oami.europa.eu/ows/rw/pages/OHIM/multimedia/CTM-E-Filing.en.do>

2009 Marco Polo call for proposals published

The 2009 call for proposals for Marco Polo has been just published. Some € 62 million are available, supporting between 35% and 50% of the eligible project costs. Stakeholders in the freight transport or logistics business, i.e. commercial undertakings (possibly owned by public administrations) from the EU Member States, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and potentially Croatia can apply.

The available funds are going to co-finance several projects in the following areas:

- Modal shift actions aiming at shifting as much freight as economically viable under current market conditions from road to short sea shipping, rail and inland waterways;
- Catalyst actions overcoming the structural market barriers in European freight transport through a highly innovative concept, which represents a real break-through;
- Motorways of the sea actions offering a door-to-door service, which shift freight from long road distances to a combination of short sea shipping and other modes of transport;
- Traffic avoidance actions integrating transport into production logistics so as to reduce freight transport demand by road, with a direct impact on emissions;
- Common learning actions enhancing knowledge in the freight logistics sector and foster advanced methods of co-operation in the freight market.

The deadline to submit project proposals is 8 May 2009.

For further information about the Marco Polo Programme

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/marcopolo/home/home_en.htm

To download the call documents

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/marcopolo/calls/2009docs_en.htm

Third call for proposals for the ICT Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP)

The third call for proposals for the ICT PSP, based on the Work Programme 2009, was opened on 29 January and will be closed on 2nd June 2009. The **ICT PSP** aims at stimulating innovation and competitiveness through the wider uptake and best use of ICT by citizens, governments and businesses. **The** ICT Policy Support Programme is part of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP).

The Information Day for Call 3 of ICT PSP was held on Monday 26 January 2009 in Brussels. The presentations as well as guidance documentation are available on

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/participating/calls/call_proposals_09/index_en.htm

The deadline to send proposals is: 2 June 2009

DG Information Society, ICT PSP webpage

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/index_en.htm

For further information about the Work Programme 2009 see

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/documents/ict_psp_wp2009.pdf

For specific contact mailboxes go to

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/contacts/contacts_background_objectives/index_en.htm

EuroTrans-Bio Initiative: 4th call for proposals

EuroTrans-Bio (ETB) is an initiative of some EU Member States and regions that aims to support trans-national research by coordinating national or regional public funding. The objective of this new call is to support SMEs and encourage their strategic partnerships.

The ETB 4th Call is launched with the participation of 12 EU Countries and Regions. The call is generic and includes all fields of biotechnology.

The deadline to apply is: 27 April 2009.

For further information, please see

<http://www.eurotransbio.net/>

Call for participants to training missions in Japan for EU manufacturers scheduled in June-July and October 2009

The EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Co-operation is currently inviting applications for the above-mentioned training missions in Japan financed by the European Commission. Called 'World Class Manufacturing', they are intensive 5-day training missions in Japan about improvement of productivity, assisting executives from EU manufacturing companies to acquire a better understanding of how Japanese companies continually eliminate costs from their manufacturing. This mission will provide participants with an ideal opportunity to visit some of the world's most advanced Japanese plants to understand the real "Gemba", (i.e. the production site), to talk directly with their production managers, and to observe how manufacturing methods are implemented effectively.

Two training dates for the missions are scheduled:

- Spring session from 29 June to 3 July 2009 (application deadline is 26 March 2009)
- Autumn session from 19 to 23 October 2009 (application deadline is 11 June 2009)

There is no tuition fee for SMEs.

More information on the programmes of the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Co-operation

<http://www.eu-japan.eu/global/business-training.html>



MEETINGS, FAIRS & EVENTS

European Inventor of the Year 2009, Prague – 28 April 2009

Under the aegis of the European Year of Creativity and Innovation, Europe's most inventive minds will be honoured at this annual competition, which recognises ground-breaking technological developments in four categories: industry, SME/research, non-European countries and lifetime achievement.

The award is one of the events organised in the framework of the European Patent Forum PATINNOVA 2009, which is going to take place in Prague from 28 to 30 April 2009.

Co-organisers: European Commission and Czech Republic's EU Council Presidency supported by the Industrial Property Office of the Czech Republic.

When: 28 April

Where: Prague

Deadline for registration (places available on first-come, first-served basis): 6 April 2009

To read the detailed programme of the event

<http://www.epo.org/about-us/events/epf2009/forum.html>

To register

<http://www.epo.org/about-us/events/epf2009/registration.html>

The list of the events advertised in the EU and Services Bulletin is not exhaustive. Therefore, you are kindly invited to visit the events page on the events section of the intranet or the Enterprise Europe Network website

PARTNERS' CORNER

The Sector Group on Services and Retail has produced some information documents on the provision of services in the Internal Market

The Sector Group has drafted an information package on the provision of services in the Internal Market for Newcomer colleagues in the Network. It has also produced two fact sheets, one of the posting of workers and the other on the provision of cross-border services by self-employed. These products are intended to help you better understand these issues in order to explain them to your SME clients.

Jitka Rysava, member of the Sector Group Services and Retail summarizes the main principles and requirements of the provision of services in the Internal Market:

'The principles of the freedom to provide cross-border services in the Internal Market were laid down already in the EC Treaty in 1957. The basic rule is set down: such activities must be temporary (within the limited period of time, limited number of orders, etc.) and the activities have to be supplied also in the home country. Provision of cross-border services can be applied in two ways:

- By posted workers - posting of workers.
- By self-employed - provision of cross-border services by self-employed persons.

Beside the EC Treaty and the case law, the Directive on posting of workers 96/71/EC is applied. The Services in the Internal market Directive 2006/123/EC should be implemented by the end of the year 2009. The rules and procedures for temporary provision of services are quite complicated. The providers must for instance follow subsequent rules on:

- Social and health insurance
- Income taxes
- VAT
- Conditions avoiding social dumping
- Notification procedure
- Transitional period
- Qualification for profession regulated in the host countries.'

The information package and the fact sheets are available in the First Class Conference of the Sector Group Services and Retail. They will soon be available on the Intranet page of the Sector Group:

http://www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu/src/intranet/documents/sector_groups/services/services.cfm

If you want to join the Sector Group and share your experience on services and retail, please send the message to the First Class Conference of the Group.

TRAININGS

Communication with Regional and National Media, Győr – 25 and 26 February

There are still some places left for the upcoming decentralized training on 'Communication with Regional and National Media'. This training session will be organised on the 25th and 26th by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry for Győr-Moson-Sopron County. The training will cover topics such as developing an external communication strategy, media relations, negotiation techniques and team building.

Organiser: CCI Győr

When: 25 and 26 February

Where: Chamber of Commerce and Industry for Győr-Moson-Sopron County

Contact: Ms Barbara Perlaky, e-mail: perlakybarbara@gymkik.hu



'Engaging SME in FP7', London – 17 March 2009

The registration for the upcoming Enterprise Europe Network decentralized training session on 'Engaging SMEs in FP7 - Sharing best practice' is now open.

Organiser: Greater London Enterprise

When: 17 March 2009

Where: London

Contact: innovation@gle.co.uk

Advanced level training session, Brussels – 2 and 3 April 2009

Registration is open for the Enterprise Europe Network advanced training sessions organised by the EACI in Brussels on 2 and 3 April. The event will cover several topics, including the 'FP7 life-cycle', 'Technology Audit and Technology Partnership Agreements', 'Access to Finance: How to Successfully Finance an Entrepreneur's Project' and more. All details about the training event are available in FirstClass "Circular Notes" and "Governance and Training" Conferences.

Organiser: EACI

When: 2 and 3 April 2009

Where: Brussels

Contact: The EACI training team using the FirstClass 'Training-Team' address

Deadline for registration: 20th February 2009.

For any further information about the training activities organised or supported by the EACI send an e-mail to the "Training-Team" functional mailbox on FirstClass addressed to Valentina Pierantozzi or to Fabrice Pourceau.

For any comment about this document, please post your message in the "Business Services" Conference on FirstClass.

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