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**T-PVS/Notes (2015) 1**

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

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**2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE SPECIAL FOCAL POINTS ON ILLEGAL  
KILLING, TRAPPING AND TRADE OF WILD BIRDS**

Madrid, Spain, 24-25 February 2015

**ERADICATING ILLEGAL KILLING, TRAPPING AND  
TRADE OF BIRDS: POTENTIAL EU FUNDING  
OPPORTUNITIES**

*Informal note  
prepared by the European Commission*

**ERADICATING ILLEGAL KILLING, TRAPPING AND TRADE OF BIRDS: POTENTIAL EU FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES***Informal note prepared by the European Commission*

<b>Name of the Programme / DG</b>	Custom 2020 DG TAXUD	<i>Justice</i> DG JUST	<i>LIFE</i> DG ENV	<i>Internal Security</i> DG HOME
<b>Description</b>	<a href="#">Custom 2020</a> supports cooperation between customs authorities in the EU to help maximise their efficiency and avoid mismatches in their work. It will facilitate networking, joint actions and training amongst customs personnel, while also contribute to the development of a fully-fledged electronic customs in Europe.	<a href="#">Justice programme</a> supports judicial cooperation (civil and criminal matters) and training activities in order to promote a European area of justice based on mutual recognition and mutual trust.	<a href="#">LIFE</a> will contribute to sustainable development and to the achievement of the objectives and targets of <a href="#">the Europe 2020 Strategy</a> , <a href="#">the 7th Environment Action Programme</a> and other relevant EU environment and climate strategies and plans. The ‘Environment’ sub-programme covers three priority areas: environment and resource efficiency; nature and biodiversity; and environmental governance and information.	Internal security will support the implementation of the <a href="#">Internal Security Strategy</a> and coherent and comprehensive approach to law enforcement cooperation, including the management of the EU's external borders. The <a href="#">ISF-Police</a> is one of the 2 components of this programme.
<b>General Objective</b>	To support functioning and modernisation of the customs union in order to strengthen the internal market by means of cooperation between participating countries, their customs authorities and their officials.	To contribute to the further development of a European area of justice based on mutual recognition and mutual trust, in particular by promoting judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters.	Among others: - to contribute to the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment and to halting and reversing biodiversity loss; - to improve the development, implementation and enforcement of Union environmental policy and legislation; - to support better environmental governance at all levels, including better involvement of civil society, NGOs and local actors; - to support the implementation of <a href="#">the 7th Environment Action Programme</a>	To ensure a high level of security in the Union.

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<b>Specific Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to support customs authorities in protecting the financial and economic interests of the Union and of the Member States;</li> <li>- to increase safety and security; to protect citizens and the environment;</li> <li>- to improve the administrative capacity of the customs authorities;</li> <li>- to strengthen the competitiveness of European businesses.</li> </ul>	<p>Among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to support and promote judicial training, including language training on legal terminology, with a view to fostering a common legal and judicial culture;</li> </ul>	<p><u>Priority area Environmental Governance and Information</u></p> <p>Among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to promote awareness raising on environmental matters, including generating public and stakeholder support of Union policy-making in the field of the environment, and to promote knowledge on sustainable development and new patterns for sustainable consumption;</li> <li>- to support communication, management, and dissemination of information in the field of the environment, and to facilitate knowledge sharing on successful environmental solutions and practice, including by developing cooperation platforms among stakeholders and training;</li> <li>- to promote and contribute to more effective compliance with and enforcement of Union environmental legislation, in particular by promoting the development and dissemination of best practices and policy approaches;</li> <li>- to promote better environmental governance by broadening stakeholder involvement, including NGOs, in consultation on and implementation of policy.</li> </ul>	<p>Among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Crime prevention;</li> <li>- Combating cross-border, serious and organised crime including terrorism;</li> <li>- Reinforcing coordination and cooperation between law enforcement authorities/other national authorities, including with Europol or other relevant Union bodies, and with relevant third countries and international organisations;</li> </ul>

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<b>Operational Objectives</b>	<p>Among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to support the preparation, coherent application and effective implementation of Union law and policy in the field of customs;</li> <li>- to identify, develop, share and apply best working practices and administrative procedures;</li> <li>- to reinforce the skills and competences of customs officials;</li> <li>- to improve cooperation between customs authorities and international organisations, third countries, other governmental authorities, including Union and national market surveillance authorities, as well as economic operators and organisations representing economic operators.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- enhancing public awareness and knowledge of Union law and policies with a view to ensuring efficient judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, improving knowledge of Union law, of judicial cooperation instruments and of the relevant case-law of the Court of Justice of the EU, and of comparative law;</li> <li>- supporting the effective, comprehensive and consistent implementation and application of Union instruments in the Member States and the monitoring and evaluation thereof;</li> <li>- promoting cross-border cooperation, improving mutual knowledge and understanding of the civil and criminal law and the legal and judicial systems of the Member States and enhancing mutual trust;</li> <li>- improving knowledge and understanding of potential obstacles to the smooth functioning of a European area of justice;</li> <li>- improving the efficiency of judicial systems and their cooperation.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Thematic priorities of the Priority area Environmental Governance and Information</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- information, communication and awareness raising campaigns in line with the priorities of <a href="#">the 7th Environment Action Programme</a></li> <li>- activities in support of effective control process as well as measures to promote compliance in relation to Union environmental legislation, and in support of information systems and information tools on the implementation of Union environmental legislation.</li> </ul>	<p>Among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote and develop: measures strengthening MS' capability to prevent crime and combat cross-border, serious and organised crime including terrorism; administrative and operational coordination, cooperation, mutual understanding and exchange of information; training schemes to foster a genuine European judicial and law enforcement culture;</li> <li>- secure links and effective coordination between existing sector-specific early warning and crisis cooperation actors at Union and national level.</li> </ul>

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<b>Eligible Actions/Projects</b>	Among others: - seminars and workshops; - working visits; - customs administration capacity building and supporting actions; - Common training actions to support the necessary professional skills and knowledge relating to customs.	Among others: - training activities - mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination activities - support for main actors whose activities contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the Programme, including in the field of judicial training;	Projects (at least 81% of the budget), and notably information, awareness and dissemination projects  At least 55% of the budgetary resources allocated to projects supported by way of action grants under the sub-programme for Environment shall be dedicated to projects supporting the conservation of nature and biodiversity. <b>Please note</b> that while this text on LIFE funding focuses on the Environmental Governance and Information priority area, it being the most relevant to awareness raising, training and networking with respect to fighting against wildlife trafficking, it is also possible for <b>LIFE Nature and Biodiversity projects</b> that aim to improve the conservation status of species that are also subject to trafficking <b>to include specific actions for training, awareness raising and networking in relation to wildlife trafficking</b>	<u>Actions under national programmes</u> such as: - actions improving police cooperation and coordination between law enforcement authorities - projects promoting networking, public-private partnerships, mutual confidence, understanding and learning, the identification, exchange and dissemination of know-how, experience and best practices, information sharing, shared situation awareness and foresight, contingency planning and interoperability; - awareness raising, dissemination and communication activities; - exchange, training and education of staff and experts of relevant authorities;

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<b>Eligibility Criteria/Beneficiaries</b>	Customs administrations of Member States and of other eligible countries fulfilling the conditions for participation (Article 3.2 of the Regulation).	All bodies and entities legally established in Member States; EFTA countries parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area; candidate countries, potential candidates and countries acceding to the Union; <b>Please note that:</b> - Legal persons from candidate/ acceding countries are only eligible after their country has concluded a <b>Memorandum of Understanding</b> for participation in the respective part of the Justice programme. - Bodies and entities which are profit-oriented shall have access to the Programme only in conjunction with non-profit or public organisations.	Public and private bodies within the EU Member States. Under certain conditions (see articles 5 and 6 of the LIFE Regulation, and the application guide for details), LIFE projects may include activities and beneficiaries outside the EU, notably if this is necessary to meet to achieve EU environmental objectives	Member States' Authorities, Public Bodies.
<b>Annual/Multiannual Work Programme Highlights</b>	Total 2014 indicative amount: EUR 66 293 000	Budget for 2014: EUR 45 812 000	Budget for 2014-17: EUR 1 796 242 000.	
<b>Co-financing rates</b>	- Reimbursement of the eligible costs actually incurred by the beneficiaries (between 50% and 100%); - Reimbursement on the basis of unit costs for daily allowances for national delegates.	Up to 80% of eligible costs	<u>2014-2017</u> : up to 60% of eligible costs <u>2017-2020</u> : up to 55 % of eligible costs	
<b>Indicative timetable for grants</b>		Call for proposals for projects to support judicial cooperation in civil or criminal matters: deadline 11/03/15	2015 Call for proposals for LIFE Grants under both sub-programmes (for Environment and for Climate Action) – see the provisional indicative timetables on this website: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/life2015/index.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/life2015/index.htm</a>	

<p><b>Project proposals topics</b></p>			<p>The following governance project topics may in particular be of interest (see LIFE multi-annual work programme for 2014-2017, pages 18-19; note that projects that do not target a project topic have less chance of being co-financed by LIFE – see the evaluation guide in the application package):</p> <p><b>Enforcement, inspections and surveillance:</b></p> <p><b>1. Increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of environmental inspections and surveillance</b></p> <p>a) application of risk criteria in order to assess, evaluate and mitigate the most serious types of non-compliance;</p> <p>b) Fostering cooperation and coordination between different inspection and surveillance bodies to streamline and optimise the use of inspection and surveillance resources;</p> <p>c) Creation and use of electronic records of inspection and surveillance work to enable the efficiency and effectiveness of such work to be more easily measured and evaluated and/or</p> <p>d) Optimising the communication and active dissemination to the public of the results of this work.</p> <p><b>2. Increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of activities aimed at combating environmental crime</b></p> <p>a) Fostering the sharing of experience and best practice between public bodies charged with investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating environmental crime;</p> <p>b) Optimising the sharing of intelligence and other information between public</p>	
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			bodies charged with investigating environmental crime, including training for enforcement officers, financial investigation units, customs officers, police officers dealing with environmental crime, prosecutors and the judiciary.	
<b>FAQ</b>			If you have IT questions related to the use of the eProposal tool contact: <a href="mailto:env-life-eproposal-admin@ec.europa.eu">env-life-eproposal-admin@ec.europa.eu</a> . All other questions about LIFE should be addressed by reading the <a href="#">Guidelines for applicants</a> and, in case of need, by contacting the <a href="#">National Contact Point</a> .	