



**HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR**

Ministry for Economic Development, Telecommunications and the Gibraltar Savings Bank  
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Gibraltar

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**EU Commission approves Gibraltar Operational Programme for ERDF**

The new Gibraltar Operational Programme for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for 2014-2020 has been approved by the EU Commission and will be launched on Wednesday 21 January 2015, at Grand Bastion House, commencing at 11.30am. Members of the public are invited to attend.

**WHAT IS ERDF?**

ERDF is the new strategic programme for the use of structural funds in Gibraltar. Its aim is to stimulate economic development. Funds will be concentrated in 2(two) of the Commissions Thematic Objectives. This is to ensure that maximum benefit will be obtained of the allocated funds whilst at the same time allowing the flexibility required in the economy.

Activity will be focussed around, and combine: Enhancing the competitiveness of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) & supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors.

**WHY APPLY FOR FUNDING?**

The EU makes funds available to assist SMEs start-up and expand their businesses, creating sustainable employment. Funding is also made available to encourage the use of alternative renewable energy sources and schemes, which meet EU objectives and which would otherwise require a considerable investment.

Funding is available in the form of grants.

**WHO WILL BENEFIT AND HOW?**

Grants are available for applicants who fulfil the eligibility criteria under the following objectives:-

- a. Creation and expansion of innovative and sustainable businesses; &
- b. Production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources.

## HOW WILL THE PROGRAMME WORK?

Eligibility of projects will be confirmed by the EU Funding Advisor of the EU Programmes Secretariat (EUPS) at Bleak House; Europa Road on Tel: 20073255 or email [dtibusiness@gibtelecom.net](mailto:dtibusiness@gibtelecom.net) . Once all the required documentation has been presented, the appropriate application form will be completed and the project will be appraised and recommended/rejected for funding. This process takes on average 10 working days. Once recommended a Grant Offer Letter is signed by the parties involved and expenditure may commence. Applicants pay for all eligible expenses as they occur and then present a claim with an appropriate audit trail to the EUPS for reimbursement of the percentage of the grant obtained.