

# IMPROVING METHODS FOR DIRECTING PROJECT DEVELOPERS TO APPROPRIATE FINANCING TOOLS

The relevant financing tool for each project may be identified by using practical guides, web portals, help platforms, etc.



**Practical guides** set out the specific features of the different European programmes (INTERREG, Horizon 2020, Cosme, Life) and aid available nationally and at the subnational levels.

## EXAMPLE:

In June 2014, the French-German-Swiss Upper Rhine Conference published the **“Guide des sources de financement des projets transfrontaliers dans le Rhin supérieur”**. This guide catalogues funds available for

projects in this territory. Objectives, eligible structures, conditions, available credit and contact persons are detailed for each source of financing.

<http://www.conference-rhin-sup.org/fr/la-conference-du-rhin-superieur/sources-de-financement.html>



**Web portals** direct potential developers to the best sources of financing.

## EXAMPLE:

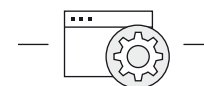
**The French web portal of the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation** contains information on the specific features of the Horizon 2020,

Cosme, Eurostars and EUREKA programmes, etc.

<http://www.horizon2020.gouv.fr>

**The “Your Europe Business” portal** has a search engine for locating funding available in the member states and their regions.

[http://europa.eu/youreurope/business/funding-grants/access-to-finance/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/youreurope/business/funding-grants/access-to-finance/index_en.htm)



**Les plateformes d’assistance** offrent des conseils ciblés aux porteurs de projets dans leurs recherches de financements.

## EXAMPLE:

**PASTEL, the European Platform of Technical Assistance in Lorraine**, is a network made up of the main public institutions in Lorraine. PASTEL informed project developers of the opportunities offered by the European programmes for the 2007-2013 period and was able to closely support developers (project set-up, search for partners, administrative and financial monitoring, evaluation, audit-internal control, etc.).

[http://eureka.lorraine.eu/jahia/Jahia/fr/pid/1705?view\\_id=8759](http://eureka.lorraine.eu/jahia/Jahia/fr/pid/1705?view_id=8759)

# PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT THE RULES ON STATE AID FOR THE 2014-2020 PERIOD

In line with the principle of free competition within the internal European market, state aid granted to businesses may be deemed to be favouring certain businesses over their competitors. As state aid may distort competition, it is therefore not permitted in the European Union (Articles 107 and following of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union).

However, exceptions authorise aid to promote common European interest where such aid does not distort competition to an extent contrary to the

general interest. Such aid allowed by exception must in general be notified to the European Commission and may only be granted following approval by the Commission.

The Commission has however adopted regulations that, from 2001, have authorised Member States to grant certain categories of **aid without prior notification** when this aid complies with predefined criteria. Member States must notify the Commission of the introduction of an aid scheme that is exempt from the notification requirement,

but they are not subsequently required to notify the Commission of the individual aid granted under this scheme.



## There are nine types of aid schemes that are exempted:

- regional aid;
- SME investment and employment aid;
- aid for female entrepreneurship;
- aid for environmental protection;

- aid for consultancy for SMEs and SME participation in trade fairs;
- aid in the form of risk capital;
- aid for research, development and innovation;
- training aid;
- aid for disadvantaged and disabled workers.

