



An Roinn Post, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta
Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation

**Call for proposals for grant funding relating to
Consumer Support 2014**

Purpose

The Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation operates a fund which provides once-off grants, the purpose of which is to provide funding for a project(s) to address the needs of consumers of goods and services.

Objectives

The objective of the funding is to provide for initiatives which will contribute to increased consumer protection, enhanced consumer welfare, enhanced consumer empowerment or greater information and awareness about the choices consumers make. The more consumers are able to make informed decisions, the greater the impact they can have on stimulating growth in the economy.

The consumer protection environment will see further changes in 2014 and 2015 with the transposition into domestic law of the Consumer Rights Directive¹, the Directive on Alternative Dispute Resolution² and the Regulation on Online Dispute Resolution³. While such legislative provisions will strengthen and enhance the robustness of consumer rights in Ireland, there is still a knowledge deficit about relevant consumer protections among many consumers.

The objective of the Consumer Support funding is to identify facets of the consumer profile in Ireland which would benefit from specific attention. This could entail, for example, conducting research, surveys, consumer awareness campaigns or publicising instances where relevant consumer protections and enforcement provisions have prevented consumer detriment, increased consumer empowerment etc.

Amount

The 2014 allocation is €45,000. There is no minimum amount under this call whilst the maximum grant amount is €45,000. The grant money will be paid to one or more suitable projects.

¹ Directive 2011/83/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on consumer rights, amending Council Directive 93/13/EEC and Directive 1999/44/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Directive 85/577/EEC and Directive 97/7/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, OJ L 304, 22.11.2011, p. 64–88.

² Directive 2013/11/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2013 on alternative dispute resolution for consumer disputes and amending Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 and Directive 2009/22/EC (Directive on consumer ADR), OJ L 165, 18.6.2013, p. 63-79.

³ Regulation (EU) No 524/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2013 on online dispute resolution for consumer disputes and amending Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 and Directive 2009/22/EC (Regulation on consumer ODR), OJ L 165, 18.6.2013, p. 1-12.

Eligibility

Any legal entity or natural person is eligible for funding provided that the application deals with a project proposal relevant to the purpose and objectives of the funding for Consumer Support. An application which is already in receipt of Government funding will not be eligible for funding.

Duration

The project must be completed by 31st October 2014.

Tax Clearance Procedures/Charity Status

The Government's tax clearance procedures apply to all grants allocated. These procedures mean that groups must give their tax number, the name of the tax office dealing with their affairs and must certify that their tax affairs are in order. In the case of applications for over €10,000, a valid tax clearance certificate must be supplied. If your organisation has been granted Charitable Tax Exemption from the Revenue Commissioners, your CHY will suffice.

For further information on tax clearance procedures in relation to grants please see Department of Finance Circular 44/2006 which is available at <http://circulars.gov.ie/pdf/circular/finance/2006/44.pdf>.

Eligible costs

All costs will be agreed upon in advance.

- Direct Project Costs
- Up to 10% maximum of overhead costs directly associated with the project

Application Forms

An Application Form for the Consumer Support funding must be made on the standard application form which may be downloaded on the Department's website at <http://www.djei.ie/commerce/consumer/issues.htm>. Only one application per person/organisation will be accepted. Applications must be returned by email by the closing date. Please ensure that all parts of the application form are completed before submitting the application for funding as incomplete forms may disqualify the project.

Processing of an application

Applicants should ensure that the content of the application form is clear and complete. All applications are checked in the first instance for all relevant details and then assessed and evaluated by the Competition & Consumer Policy Section in the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation. Please note the Department may seek further information in relation to the application. The Section will forward its recommendations to award the full amount, some of the requested amount or none along with the completed application(s) to the Minister. The Minister will make the final decision on approving the successful application for funding. There is no commitment to any grant-aid any application received in response to the call for proposals.

The successful applicant(s) must comply with the conditions of the Letter of Offer and sign a Grant Agreement in respect of the funding provided. Project completion deadlines must be strictly adhered to. The Grant will be paid on a phased basis which will be agreed in advance and the terms will form part of the Grant Agreement. The successful applicant(s) will be expected to pay for the projects and seek reimbursements on foot of relevant supporting documentation, including vouched relevant expenditure. All payments will be made in 2014.

If project costs prove higher than the amount stated in the application form, there will be no mechanism for increasing the grant aid to cover these additional costs. In the event, that the successful applicant(s) do not adhere to the terms of the Grant Agreement, the Department will seek to recover the whole or part of the grant.

Queries

If you have any queries regarding grant funding relating to Consumer Support, please contact the Competition and Consumer Policy Section by email at conspol@djei.ie or you may call 01-6312612 or 01-6312618.

Competition & Consumer Policy Section
Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
Earlsfort Centre
Earlsfort Terrace
Lower Hatch Street
Dublin 2

Closing date

Application forms must be returned by email to conspol@djei.ie by **close of business Friday, 2nd May 2014**.

Freedom of Information

Applicants should be aware that submissions may be disclosed by the Department in response to requests under the Freedom of Information Acts 1997-2003. Any information that respondents do not wish to be made public should be clearly identified as 'confidential' in the application. In the event of a request under the Freedom of Information Acts, the Department will consult with respondents about information identified as commercially sensitive before making a decision on a freedom of information request.