**Support for Mineral Exploration in Europe**

**Concept Note**

**Basic proposal**

To discover mineral deposits throughout the European Union (and other designated regions/ countries) by supporting mineral exploration entities without income streams by way of direct financial assistance. This concept note is a proposal to support the junior European Mineral Exploration Sector.

**Source of funds**

European Union (and any Member State government wishing/ willing to participate).

**What will the grants support and how will the Programme work?**

Grants could be provided as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Programme Element** | **Greenfield Exploration** | **Brownfield Exploration** | **Drilling** |
| **Eligible activities (examples)** | * Desk studies
* Geological mapping/ prospecting
* Regional geochem surveys
 | * Detail geochem surveys
* Geophysical surveys
* Shaft/ adit cleaning
* Dewatering
* Sampling
* Bulk sampling
 | * Diamond drilling
* Assaying/ analysis
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| **Total amount available from EU for programme element per year** | €10,000,000 | €10,000,000 | €10,000,000 |
| **Maximum grant per project** | Up to €100,000 or 75% of projected cost | Up to €200,000 or 75% of projected cost | Up to €400,000 or 75% of projected cost |
| **Maximum number of grants** | 100 | 50 | 25 |
| **Conditions** | * Independent EU registered SME with a minimum capitalization of €Xm as of <date>.
* No income from mineral production in the applicant or any associated companies.
* Must hold exploration permits e.g., PL(s) in Ireland, and the applicant must have any other relevant permits.
* Applicant must contribute 25% of project costs. Applicant to provide evidence (bank statement and commitment that the funds will be used in the project).
* Shares are not eligible as proof of funds or as payment of expenses.
* Provide proof of Public Liability and Employer Liability Insurance with application <amounts to be specified>.
* Provide a technical report of the work done and the conclusions reached – will be placed on public file after 3 years.
* Keep track of project expenditures for the financial report (separate to technical report). Provide proof of payment for all expenditures including copies of all invoices and records of payment.
* No administration or overhead costs will be allowed but payment of own staff salaries is permissible for work on the project.
* One grant per company or project.
* The same applicant cannot obtain a grant for the same property for 2 years after the initial grant.
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| **Information required for application** | * Brief exploration history of the project
* Description of the planned work
* Proposed expenditure
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| **Selection criteria** | * Economic and market potential of the project
* Quality and merit of the proposal
* Technical capacity to manage and carry out the project
* Financial ability and commitment of the applicant
* Qualifications and business record (as appropriate) of the applicant
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**Justification**

 Support for SMEs

 Will encourage further mineral investment (Canadian examples)

 Develop Europe’s position as a mineral producer

 Develop new markets within Europe

**Examples**

Newfoundland and Labrador

Junior Exploration Assistance Program - Industry, Energy and Technology (gov.nl.ca)

Prospector Assistance, Forms & Guides - Industry, Energy and Technology (gov.nl.ca)

Prospector Training - Industry, Energy and Technology (gov.nl.ca)

New Brunswick

Exploration Incentives (gnb.ca)

Yukon

Apply for mineral exploration funding | Government of Yukon

Ontario

JEAP\_Guidebook-and-Forms-2017\_I.pdf (ontarioprospectors.com)