**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 |
| **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. | | | |
| **Information required for application** | * Brief exploration history of the project * Description of the planned work * Proposed expenditure | | | |
| **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 | | | |

**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)](about:blank)

[Prospector Assistance, Forms & Guides - Industry, Energy and Technology (gov.nl.ca)](about:blank)

[Prospector Training - Industry, Energy and Technology (gov.nl.ca)](about:blank)

New Brunswick

[Exploration Incentives (gnb.ca)](about:blank)

Yukon

[Apply for mineral exploration funding | Government of Yukon](about:blank)

Ontario

[JEAP\_Guidebook-and-Forms-2017\_I.pdf (ontarioprospectors.com)](about:blank)