

## **ORET.NL**

### **Frequently Asked Questions ORET October 2007**

The period within which applications can be made for ORET grants over 2007 was closed as at 1 August last. The Minister for Development Cooperation came to this decision because in the first six months of 2007 applications made approximated three times the budget available of EUR 119 million, which justifies the expectation that applications submitted afterwards would in any event not qualify for financing due to depletion of the grant maximum. In addition, the Minister decided for budgetary reasons not to make available any means for 2008 and 2009 for accepting new grant applications. Over the past months, ORET has received questions on the consequences of said decisions. The answers to the most frequently asked questions can be found below.

#### **Question 1**

The registration period was closed as at 1 August 2007 because the Minister for Development Cooperation expects that applications submitted after said date will not qualify for appraisal due to depletion of the grant maximum. Does that mean that all applications taken up before 1 August 2007 will be awarded a grant?

#### **Question 2**

Complete applications that were submitted in 2007 are taken up in the order in which they come in. Can an applicant whose application was found to be complete in January assume that a grant will be awarded?

#### **Question 3**

An application was submitted before the closure as at 1 August 2007. The application was found to be complete after 1 August 2007. Will the application still be taken up?

#### **Question 4**

An application was submitted before the closure as at 1 August 2007. A letter was received requesting the completion of the application. Is this still advisable?

#### **Question 5**

The ORET programme states that an application submitted has to be complete in order for it to be taken up. So why does ORET take up incomplete applications?

#### **Question 6**

Early this year, an application was submitted that was found to be complete in writing and on which questions were posed as regards content. Will a grant be awarded automatically on the basis of the application taken up?

#### **Question 7**

If an application taken up in 2007 is not accepted because the grant maximum has been reached, will a grant be awarded in 2008 or 2009?

#### **Question 8**

Why does the Minister for Development Cooperation not make ORET funding available for 2008 and 2009?

**The registration period was closed as at 1 August 2007 because the Minister for Development Cooperation expects that applications submitted after said date will not qualify for appraisal due to depletion of the grant maximum. Does that mean that all applications taken up before 1 August 2007 will be awarded a grant?**

No, it is unlikely that sufficient budget will be available for all applications that were taken up before 1 August. On 1 December 2006, the Minister for Development Cooperation set the grant maximum for 2007 at EUR 124 million. By order of 20 December 2006, the Minister reduced said maximum to EUR 119 million. And by order of 29 March 2007, the nature of a commitments maximum instead of a cash maximum was awarded to said grant maximum of EUR 119 million. For 2007, a maximum amount of EUR 119 million is therefore available for accepting applications submitted in 2007.

This year, the ORET programme is very popular. Already on 1 June 2007, applications submitted were in excess of EUR 119 million. Consequently, applicants are to take into account that applications submitted after said date, even if they meet the criteria of the programme, cannot be accepted due to the grant maximum being reached.

**Complete applications that were submitted in 2007 are taken up in the order in which they come in. Can an applicant whose application was found to be complete in January assume that a grant will be awarded?**

No, the application has to meet all requirements of the ORET programme, in addition to the fact that there has to be sufficient budget available. Even though the application was received and found to be complete shortly after the start of the application period, the appraisal of a grant depends on ORET.nl's assessment as regards content. During the assessment period, the application may turn out to be complete as regards administration, but to provide insufficient information to fully conduct the assessment. Or the application may turn out not to meet the requirements of the ORET programme, based on the information provided so far. The applicant is then given the opportunity to provide additional information within a reasonable period of time. If the application still does not meet the requirements after the additional information has been provided, or if the period is exceeded, the application will not be accepted.

**An application was submitted before the closure as at 1 August 2007. The application was found to be complete after 1 August 2007. Will the application still be taken up?**

Yes, the application will be taken up, but that does not constitute a guarantee (as explained above) for a grant appraisal. Many complete applications were received during the period open to applications in 2007. The order in which the complete applications come in determines the order in which they are taken up and possible financing of the proposal. Therefore, it is very likely that the grant maximum of EUR 119 million for 2007 will be reached with the applications that were complete earlier in 2007.

**An application was submitted before the closure as at 1 August 2007. A letter was received requesting the completion of the application. Is this still advisable?**

The applicant is formally entitled to supplement the application within the period stated in the letter. However, it has to be taken into account that the application, after it has been found complete and possibly taken up as well, will not lead to the appraisal of a grant.

**The ORET programme states that an application submitted has to be complete in order for it to be taken up. So why does ORET take up incomplete applications?**

In such situations, ORET.nl does not take up the application, but provides the applicant the opportunity to supplement the application. ORET.nl gives applicants four weeks to correctly fill in and sign the application form and/or send any documents lacking. If ORET.nl does not receive a response after four weeks, it will send a letter of reminder, giving the applicant another two weeks to respond. Applicants who are unable to supplement their application within the stipulated periods are advised to notify ORET.nl in writing of the reason. The

Project Director ORET decides on the basis of the information received how to act in these specific circumstances.

**Early this year, an application was submitted that was found to be complete in writing and on which questions were posed as regards content. Will a grant be awarded automatically on the basis of the application taken up?**

No, not all applications taken up lead to the appraisal of a grant. During the assessment period, the application may turn out to be complete, but to provide insufficient information to fully conduct the assessment. Or the application appears not to meet the requirements of the ORET programme, based on the information provided so far. The applicant is then given the opportunity to provide additional information within a reasonable period of time. If the application still does not meet the requirements after the additional information has been provided, or if the period is exceeded, the application will not be accepted.

**If an application taken up in 2007 is not awarded because the grant maximum has been reached, will the grant be awarded in 2008 or 2009?**

No, the applications that cannot be appraised due to insufficient budget available, are rejected and the accompanying files closed. For on 20 July 2007 the Minister for Development Cooperation decided not to make available any means in 2008 and 2009 for financing new ORET applications. The grant maximum (for entering into new commitments) for 2008 and 2009 has therefore been set at zero euro.

**Why does the Minister for Development Cooperation not make ORET funding available for 2008 and 2009?**

Since 2005, the number of ORET applications submitted and the ensuing number of approved applications, has risen sharply. This is expected to result in increasing expenses for ORET for the years to come. Commitments assumed earlier will be accepted and applications that have already been taken up will be dealt with, as described above. On the basis of said ORET commitments earlier assumed, the expected expenses will be of such a high level, that there is no budgetary room for accepting additional applications.