



## **Annual Grants to Irish National Beekeepers Federations**

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) pays annual grants to Irish National Beekeepers Federations to help their associated members to pursue the craft of beekeeping to the highest standards and to also inform the general public about the environmental role that bees play in maintaining Irish bio-diversity and crop production. This grant aid is restricted to Irish National Beekeepers Federations.

### **Funding and State Aid Rules**

#### **Objective of the Scheme**

The objective of the Scheme is to incentivise Irish National Beekeepers Federations to help their associated members to pursue the craft of beekeeping to the highest standards and to also inform the general public about the environmental role that bees play in maintaining Irish bio-diversity and crop production.

Funding for this Scheme will be provided through the National Exchequer.

#### **Legal Basis**

The operation of this Scheme is subject to the provisions of Commission Regulation (EU) No 702/2014 of 24 June 2014, (hereafter referred to as “the Regulation”) and in particular Chapter III, Section 2, Article 21 “Aid for knowledge transfer and information actions”.

#### **Budget**

The average annual budget of this Scheme shall not exceed €15,000 per beneficiary.

#### **Scope of the Irish National Beekeepers Federations Grant Scheme (Article 1)**

The Regulation shall apply to aid to cover vocational training and skills acquisition actions, including training courses, workshops and coaching, demonstration activities and information actions. The investment shall comply with Union legislation and with national laws.

In accordance with Article 1(5) & (6), the Regulation shall not apply to:-

- aid to undertakings who are subject to an outstanding recovery order following a previous Commission Decision declaring an aid illegal and incompatible with the internal market;
- aid to undertakings in difficulty subject to certain conditions as laid out in Article 1(6) (a) & (b) of the Regulation.

### **Eligible Costs and Aid Intensity (Article 7)**

For the purposes of calculating the aid intensity and the eligible costs, all figures used shall be taken before any deduction of tax or other charge. The eligible costs shall be supported by documentary evidence which shall be clear, specific and contemporary.

Value added tax (VAT) shall not be eligible for aid, except where it is non-recoverable under national VAT legislation.

The Scheme shall cover the following eligible costs:

- (a) the costs of organising the vocational training, skills acquisition actions, including training courses, workshops and coaching, demonstration activities or information actions;
- (b) the costs for travel, accommodation and per diem expenses of the participants;
- (c) the cost of the provision of replacement services during the absence of the participants;
- (d) in the case of demonstration projects in relation to investments:
  - (i) the construction, acquisition, including leasing, or improvement of immovable property, with land only being eligible to an extent not exceeding 10 % of total eligible costs of the operation concerned;
  - (ii) the purchase or lease purchase of machinery and equipment up to the market value of the asset;
  - (iii) general costs linked to expenditure referred to in points (i) and (ii), such as architect, engineer and consultation fees, fees relating to advice on environmental and economic sustainability, including feasibility studies; feasibility studies shall remain eligible expenditure even where, based on their results, no expenditure under in points (i) and (ii) is incurred;
  - (iv) the acquisition or development of computer software and the acquisitions of patents, licences, copyrights and trademarks.

The costs referred to in paragraph 3(d) of Article 21 of the Regulation, shall only be eligible to the extent used for the demonstration project and for the duration period of the demonstration project.

Only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the demonstration project, as calculated on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles, shall be considered as eligible.

Aid referred to in paragraph 3(a) and (c) of Article 21 of the Regulation, shall not involve direct payments to the beneficiaries.

The aid referred to in paragraph 3(a) and (c) of Article 21 of the Regulation, shall be paid to the provider of the knowledge transfer and information actions.

Bodies providing knowledge transfer and information actions shall have the appropriate capacities in the form of staff qualifications and regular training to carry out those tasks. The provision of the activities referred to in paragraph 2 may be undertaken by producer groups or other organisations, regardless of their size.

The aid shall be accessible to all those eligible undertakings in the area concerned, based on objectively defined conditions. Where the provision of the activities referred to in paragraph 2 is undertaken by producer groups and organisations, membership of such groups or organisations shall not be a condition for access to those activities.

Aid intensity shall be limited to 100% of the eligible costs.

In the case of demonstration projects referred to in paragraph 3(d) of Article 21 of the Regulation, the maximum aid amount shall be limited to EUR 100 000 over 3 fiscal years.

**Cumulation (Article 8)**

Aid under the Irish National Beekeepers Federations Grant Scheme may be cumulated with any other State Aid as long as those measures concern different identifiable eligible costs. Aid may also be cumulated with any other State Aid, in relation to the same eligible costs (partly or fully overlapping), but only if such cumulation does not result in the highest aid intensity or aid amount applicable under this scheme to be exceeded.

Aid under the Irish National Beekeepers Federations Grant Scheme shall not be cumulated with any de minimis aid in respect of the same eligible costs, if such cumulation would result in an aid intensity or aid amount exceeding those laid down in the Regulation.

**Publication and Information (Article 9 and Annex III)**

With effect from 1st July 2016, the following information will be published on the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine's State Aid website, on each individual aid award exceeding €60,000 for beneficiaries active in primary agricultural production:-

Reference of the identification number of the aid (as provided by the European Commission);

- Name of the beneficiary;
- Type of enterprise (SME/large) at the date of granting the aid;
- Region in which the beneficiary is located;
- Sector of activity at NACE group level;
- Aid element, expressed as full amount;
- Aid instrument (i.e. grant);
- Date of granting the aid;
- Objective of the aid;
- Granting authority.

This information shall be published within six months from the date the aid was granted and shall be available for at least 10 years from the date of granting the aid.

Further information can be obtained from:

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine  
Crop Policy, Production and Safety Division  
Administration Building, Backweston Campus  
Celbridge, Co. Kildare

E-mail: [beekeeping@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:beekeeping@agriculture.gov.ie)