

Working for you in the East of England



Your four Conservative MEPs for the East of England
Robert Sturdy, Geoffrey Van Orden, Vicky Ford and David Campbell Bannerman

A PDF version of this publication – with active links to all the websites listed in this booklet – is available from these websites:

www.geoffreyvanorden.com www.robertsturdymep.com
www.vickyford.org www.dcbmep.org

European funding

A brief guide for the East of England



Produced by Geoffrey Van Orden, Robert Sturdy, Vicky Ford and David Campbell Bannerman – Conservative MEPs for the East of England



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Background to the process

The Commission awards money in the form of grants in order to implement projects or activities in relation to European Union policies. The grant beneficiaries are mainly private or public organisations and, occasionally, a specific individual.

Grants

Since grants cover a very diverse range of programmes, the specific conditions that need to be fulfilled will vary. However, some basic principles apply in every case.

- Grants are a form of complementary financing. The EU does not finance projects up to 100% within its own borders.
- Grants enable a given operation to break even financially and cannot lead to a profit for their beneficiaries.
- Grants cannot be awarded retroactively for actions that are already completed.

In addition, only one grant may be awarded for the same action. Instead, they are subject to annual programming.

Application process

Before 31 March each year, Departments of the Commission publish their annual work programme on their internet site.

The work programme fixes the broad outlines of the grants that are envisaged over the year (area of activity, objectives, timetable, budget, etc).

Subsequently, the Commission's Departments publish calls for proposals on their internet sites; the calls for proposals invite candidates to present, within a given deadline, a proposal for action that corresponds to the objectives pursued and fulfils the required conditions.

All applications are examined and evaluated on the basis of criteria that have been announced in the calls for proposals. Candidates are individually informed of the final decision concerning their proposal.

Beneficiaries

By 30 June of each year, the Commission Departments publish on their internet sites the list of the grants that they awarded during the previous year, except those awarded in the form of scholarships to individuals.

Exceptional grants

Some grants are exceptionally awarded directly to certain beneficiaries without a call for proposals, such as humanitarian aid in a disaster zone.

Types of applicants

Companies

- If you are an SME, you may benefit from EU funding through grants, loans and guarantees. There are also several programmes and business support services that might be applicable.
- SMEs can usually apply for the programmes if they present sustainable, value-added and transnational projects.
- The **JEREMIE** initiative enables Member States and regions to use part of their structural funds to provide guarantees for loans as well as equity and venture capital finance to SMEs.

Farmers

- Most farmers are eligible to receive direct payments, the major form of EU funding in agriculture. Money is to support farmers' incomes in return for them respecting standards of environmental protection, animal welfare, food safety and keeping the land in good condition.

Individuals

- If you want to study abroad the **Erasmus** programme may help.
- The **Comenius** programme also provides opportunities for those in school education up to the end of upper secondary education.
- **Leonardo da Vinci** offers opportunities for those in vocational education and training.
- The **Youth in Action** programme co-funds projects which reinforce active civic engagement of young people, as well as providing help for youth workers. It is open for anyone aged 15 to 28.

Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organisations (NGOs)

- NGOs are involved in many areas covered by EU policies on a non-profit basis, a pre-condition for receiving funding from EU coffers.
- Funding is available both under programmes run by national and local authorities via 'structural funds', as well as Commission programmes.
- It is estimated that over €1,000 million a year is allocated to NGO projects by the Commission.
- An NGO may receive two types of funding either for a concrete proposal via an Action Grant, or by subsidising your organisation's activities via an Operating Grant.

Public bodies

- Cohesion Policy is where most funding for local infrastructure projects or initiatives to boost employment comes from. This money is available through programmes under structural funds.
- Funding from the **European Social Fund** is available for national and local administrations to strengthen their institutions and activities.
- **JESSICA** (funds which support urban renewal and development projects) and **JASPERS** (which covers technical, economic and financial aspects of a project) are two initiatives designed to support public administration and local authorities.
- The **Europe for Citizens** programme offers funding opportunities for town-twinning initiatives.
- Projects aimed at increasing public security can be co-financed from EU coffers. Public bodies dealing with law enforcement, crime prevention and the protection of victims and witnesses may receive funding from the **Prevention and Fight against Crime** programme.

Researchers

- The **7th Framework** (FP7) is the EU's main programme for funding research. At the end of its term, in 2013, it will be replaced by a new framework – **Horizon 2020**.
- **FP7** has five major 'building blocks' or specific programmes:
 - Co-operation
 - Ideas
 - People
 - Capacities
 - Nuclear research
- **FP7** is based on co-financing. The standard reimbursement rate is 50%, although some organisations can receive up to 75% funding. Certain activities may be reimbursed up to 100% of the eligible costs.
- **European Research Council** provides research grants to individuals in frontier research.

Funding programmes in the East of England

Funds allocated to the East of England

East of England Competitiveness Programme

Towards low carbon economic development

This programme, funded through the European Regional Development fund, is specifically dedicated to local authorities wishing to access EU funds.

Under the 2007 to 2013 programme, the region can receive €110.9m of European investment.

The programme will support low carbon economic growth until 2013. Funding supports initiatives that meet the programme's three priorities:

- Promote innovation and knowledge transfer to improve productivity.
- Stimulate enterprise and support successful business by overcoming barriers to business creation and expansion.
- Ensure sustainable development, production and consumption.

www.communities.gov.uk/regeneration/regenerationfunding/europeanregionaldevelopment/eastengland/application

East of England Low Carbon Innovation Fund for SMEs

The Low Carbon Innovation Fund (LCIF) is a venture capital fund. It was initially seeded with £8m from the East of England Competitiveness Programme and matched with private sector investment.

The fund will make early-stage equity investments into small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) within the East of England that are developing new and innovative products or processes in a low carbon, environmentally sensitive manner.

www.lowcarbonfund.co.uk

Employment Programme

The Employment Programme, funded through the European Social Fund (ESF), aims to help people fulfil their potential by giving them better skills and better job prospects. It supports the EU's goal of increasing employment by giving unemployed and disadvantaged people the training and support they need to enter jobs.

ESF also equips the workforce with the skills needed by business in a competitive global economy.

Objectives

As one of the EU's Structural Funds, ESF seeks to reduce differences in prosperity across the EU and enhance economic and social cohesion. So although ESF funding is spread across all the EU, most money goes to those countries and regions where economic development is less advanced.

Funding and eligibility

The 2007 to 2013 England ESF programme is investing £5 billion, of which £2.5 billion is from the ESF and £2.5 billion is national funding. Any legally constituted organisation or partnership may apply to operate an eligible scheme.

www.dwp.gov.uk/esf

Rural Development Programme for England

This programme is funded by the Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and provides support for land-based rural industries, environmental compliance and diversification of rural areas.

Objectives

- Improving the competitiveness of the farming and forestry sectors.
- Improving the environment and the countryside.
- Improving quality of life and encouraging diversification of the rural economy.

Funding and eligibility

The UK's rural development allocation for the current seven year period (from 2007 to 2013) is approximately £1.3 billion.

www.dpenetwork.defra.gov.uk

Funding for research

Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)

This is the EU's main instrument for funding research in Europe and it will run from 2007 to 2013. FP7 is also designed to respond to Europe's employment needs, competitiveness and quality of life.

Objectives

The EU budget for FP7 from 2007 to 2013 is €51 billion. The structure of FP7 is based on five specific programmes:

- Co-operation
- Ideas
- People
- Capacities
- Nuclear research

Funding and eligibility

Open to collaborating organisations, typically being a mix of industrial and research organisations.

There should be at least two organisations from different EU member states making a significant contribution to a project, and they should be independent of each other.

www.cordis.europa.eu/fp7

European Research Council

The goal of the ERC is to encourage high quality research through competitive funding. It aims to promote curiosity driven frontier research. The 2007 to 2013 budget is €7.5 billion. Over 2,200 grants have been awarded to date.

The ERC grants are typically to individual scientists of excellence. The ERC counts **three Nobel prize winners** and **three Fields Medallists** among its grant holders.

<http://erc.europa.eu>

Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme

Aims to enhance the quality of life of older people and strengthen the industrial base in Europe through the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

Objectives

- Support maintaining health and functional capability of the elderly.
- Promote a better and healthier lifestyle for individuals at risk.
- Extend the time people can live in their preferred environment by increasing their autonomy, self-confidence and mobility.

Funding and eligibility

The programme's total budget is €700 million from 2008 to 2013.

Open to research consortia with a minimum of three project partners from three different AAL Partner States. The participation of companies and end-user organisations is mandatory.

www.aal-europe.eu

Other funding for businesses

Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP)

This programme is aimed mainly at SMEs in order to support innovation activities, provide better access to finance and deliver business support. Its key aims are to encourage a better uptake of information and communications technologies (ICT) and also to promote the increased use of renewable energies. The CIP is divided into three programmes:

- **Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme** promotes entrepreneurship and innovation (including eco-innovation) within SMEs. It also provides better access to finance through venture capital investments and loan guarantee instruments. Enterprises are eligible to apply – www.ec.europa.eu/cip/eip.
- **ICT Policy Support Programme** encourages the wider uptake and best use of ICT by citizens, governments and businesses via network-building, exchange of knowledge and best practice. Both public and private organisations may participate in appropriate actions – www.ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_esp.
- **Intelligent Energy – Europe II Programme** aims to improve energy efficiency and encourage the wider uptake of new and renewable energies as well as helping increase the level of investment in new and best performing technologies. Public, private and non-governmental organisations are eligible for funding – www.ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent.

Eco-innovation

This programme is relevant to SMEs to support the uptake of new production processes, products or services and new management and business methods that are likely to prevent or reduce the risks to the environment.

Objectives

- Promote the adoption of new and integrated approaches to eco-innovation in fields such as environmental management, products, processes and services.
- Encourage the uptake of environmental solutions by increasing the market and by the removal of barriers to market penetration.
- Increase innovation capacities of SMEs.

Funding and eligibility

Nearly €200 million has been earmarked for eco-innovation projects for the period 2008 to 2013.

www.ec.europa.eu/environment/eco-innovation

European Investment Bank

The EIB is the long-term financing institution of the European Union and its mission is to help implement the EU's policy objectives by financing sound business projects. The Bank operates on a 'not for profit' basis and borrows on the capital markets to finance these projects.

Objectives

- Support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
- Economic and Social Cohesion and Convergence i.e. supporting the economically less developed regions of Europe.
- Implementation of the knowledge economy.
- Development of Trans-European Networks (TENs). TENs are large infrastructure networks of transport, energy and telecommunications.
- Protecting and improving the environment and promoting sustainable communities.
- Supporting the establishment of a sustainable, competitive and secure energy supply.

Funding and eligibility

The EIB offers a wide range of products and services to both public and private sector organisations in the forms of loans, technical assistance, guarantees, venture capital or micro-finance. In 2010, the EIB provided €10 billion of finance to over 160,000 SMEs.

www.eib.org/index.htm

JEREMIE: Joint European Resources for Micro to Medium Enterprises

An initiative of the Commission together with the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Investment Fund (EIF) in order to promote increased access to finance for the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in the EU.

Objectives

The role of the holding fund will be to organise calls for expressions of interest addressed to all interested financial intermediaries, such as venture or seed capital funds, start-ups, technology or technology transfer funds, guarantee or mutual guarantee funds, loan funds, micro credit providers, etc.

On the basis of its specific expertise, the holding fund, working closely with the managing authority, will evaluate, select and accredit financial intermediaries. It will be able to provide them with equity, loans or guarantees, as well as technical assistance, as appropriate.

Funding and eligibility

Structural funds provide financial assistance in the form of grants. Under JEREMIE, you can transform part of the grants into financial products. SMEs use financial products and will then reimburse the amounts.

Only available to financial intermediaries and public authorities acting as managing authorities of ERDF programmes who wish to involve financial intermediaries in their operational programmes.

www.ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/2007/jjj/jeremie_en.htm

JESSICA: Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas

An initiative of the Commission in co-operation with the European Investment Bank and the Council of Europe Development Bank in order to promote sustainable investment, growth and jobs in Europe's urban areas.

Objectives

JESSICA will offer the managing authorities of Structural Fund programmes the possibility to take advantage of outside expertise and to have greater access to loan capital for the purpose of promoting urban development, including loans for social housing where appropriate.

Programme contributions to urban development funds will be revolving and help to enhance the sustainability of the investment effort. The programme contributions will be used to finance loans provided by the urban development funds to the final beneficiaries, backed by guarantee schemes established by the funds and the participating banks.

Funding and eligibility

Where a managing authority wishes to participate, it would contribute resources from the programme while the EIP, financial institutions, private bank and investors would contribute additional loan of equity capital as appropriate.

www.ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/2007/jjj/jessica_en.htm

Other funding

Community Programme

This complements, supports and monitors the policies of Member States and contributes to protecting the health, safety, economic and legal interests of consumers.

Objectives

- To ensure a high level of consumer protection, notably through improved evidence, better consultation and better representation of consumers' interests.
- To ensure the effective application of consumer protection rules; in particular enforcement, co-operation, information, education and redress.

Funding and eligibility

Participation in the programme involves public bodies, non-governmental and non-profit making organisations and, in some cases, higher education institutions based in EU Member States.

www.ec.europa.eu/consumers/index_en.htm

Culture 2007 to 2013 Programme

Aims to support projects and initiatives to celebrate Europe's diverse cultures and enhance appreciation of our shared cultural heritage.

Objectives

- To promote cross-border mobility of those working in the cultural sector.
- To encourage the transnational circulation of culture and art.
- To foster intercultural dialogue.

Funding and eligibility

The programme is open to cultural operators based in the EU Member States; EFTA countries which are members of the EEA, Candidate countries benefiting from a pre-accession strategy; the countries of the Western Balkans.

www.ec.europa.eu/culture/index_en.htm

Daphne III

This programme supports research and exchange of best practice in matters relating to violence against women, young people and children.

Objectives

The programme relates to issues of public health, human rights, gender equality, as well as actions aimed at the protection of children's rights and the fight against the trafficking of human beings and sexual exploitation. Prevention, support and protection are the key measures being championed.

Funding and eligibility

It is open to participation by local public authorities and institutions (mainly universities and research institutes) as well as NGOs.

www.ec.europa.eu/justice_home/daphnetoolkit/html/welcome/dpt_welcome_en.html

Drug Prevention and Information

This is a small and recently established funding programme aimed at supporting the exchange of best practices and development of new approaches on prevention and treatment strategies.

Objectives

- To prevent and reduce drug use, dependence and drug-related harms.
- To contribute to the improvement of information on drug use.
- To support the implementation of the EU Drugs Strategy.

Funding and eligibility

Local authorities, university departments, research centres and NGOs can apply to this funding programme.

www.ec.europa.eu/justice/funding/drugs/funding_drugs_en.htm

ESPON II

Spatial analysis and mapping research projects.

Objectives

- Support policy development in relation to the aim of territorial cohesion and development of the European territory.
- Provide comparable information, evidence, analyses and scenarios on framework conditions for the development of regions and larger territories.
- Facilitate the mobilisation of territorial capital and potentials and contribute to improving European competitiveness.

Funding and eligibility

Calls for proposals will be open to public and public equivalent bodies.

www.espon.eu

European Fisheries Fund (EFF)

The EFF supports restructuring in the European fishing industry.

Objectives

- To support the Common Fisheries Policy and promote environmentally friendly fishing and production.
- To promote a sustainable balance between resources and the capacity of the community fleet and a sustainable development of inland fishing.
- To strengthen the economic competitiveness of enterprises in the fisheries sector.

Funding and eligibility

To provide funding for economic entities in the fishing and related marketing and processing industries and the bodies active in the regeneration of coastal fishery areas.

www.ec.europa.eu/fisheries

www.marinemangement.org.uk/fisheries/funding/eff.htm

European Integration Fund

Aims to facilitate the integration of non-EU citizens into European societies.

Objectives

- Implementation of actions designed to put the 'Common Basic Principles for immigration integration policy in the European Union' into practice.
- Development of indicators and methodologies to assess progress, adjust policies and measures and to facilitate co-ordination of comparative learning.
- Helping to improve co-ordination and intercultural competence across the many levels of local and national governments.
- Exchange of ideas and information on integration across the EU.

Funding and eligibility

National, regional and local authorities, non-governmental organisations, public or private bodies working on a non-profit basis with an expertise on immigration issues are eligible for this Fund.

www.ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/funding/integration/funding_integration_en.htm

Europe for Citizens

The programme targets local and regional authorities, municipalities and town twinning committees.

Objectives

- To give citizens the opportunity to interact and participate in constructing an ever closer Europe, thus developing citizenship of the European Union.
- Foster a sense of ownership of the EU among its citizens and develop a European Identity promoting its values and achievements.
- Respect and promote cultural and linguistic diversity.

Funding and eligibility

Funding goes towards citizen meetings through the town twinning mechanism for example, local authorities and organisations, educational institutions and citizens' groups.

www.ec.europa.eu/citizenship

External Co-operation Programmes

Co-operation with partner countries and regions to help developing countries.

Objectives

- Enlargement: deals with pre-accession countries as well as post-accession countries in their development and restructuring.
- Neighbourhood policy: the aim is to bridge the economic, social and cultural gap between the EU and its neighbours.
- Development: supports development co-operation to achieve Millennium Development goals for economic co-operation and for horizontal, thematic and global initiatives.
- Stability: it may be used in response to political crisis, natural disasters and peace support.
- Bilateral relations: opportunities to engage in projects between the EU and the USA, Canada, Latin America and Asia.

Funding and eligibility

Local and regional, universities and research centres. There are also business opportunities for the private sector.

www.eeas.europa.eu

INTERREG IV A – ‘Manche’ France-England

Encourages co-operation between EU regions across the Channel in areas of regional/economic development. Available only for coastal council areas – i.e. Essex CC, Norfolk CC, Southend-on-Sea, Suffolk CC and Thurrock.

Objectives

The strategic objective is to support the emergence of a common space of citizenship, a sense of belonging to a cross-border area with a unique identity through the development of durable co-operation between partners on both sides of the cross-border zone. The scheme has five goals:

- To reinforce the sense of belonging and raise awareness of common interests.
- To build partnerships for cross-border economic development.
- To build an attractive region to live in and visit.
- To ensure a sustainable environmental development of the common space.
- A common priority with the INTERREG IVA Two Seas Operational (‘North’) Programme.

www.interreg4a-manche.eu

INTERREG IV A – ‘Two Seas’

Encourages co-operation between EU regions across the Channel in areas of regional/economic development (ERDF).

Objectives

To develop the competitiveness and sustainable growth potential of the programme area’s maritime and non-maritime assets through building and advancing partnerships of cross border co-operation, focusing on:

- Supporting an economically competitive, attractive and accessible area.
- Promoting and enhancing a safe and healthy environment and improving quality of life.
- Common priority with the France ‘Manche’ – England programme.

www.interreg4a-2mers.eu/en

INTERREG IV B – North West Europe

Encourages co-operation between EU regions across North West Europe in areas of regional/economic development (ERDF)

Objectives

The fund will be used to co-finance projects that maximize the diversity of NWE’s territorial assets by tackling common challenges through transnational cooperation. To this end, the programme seeks organisations that contribute to a cohesive and sustainable territorial development of North West Europe. It aims to:

- Promote transnational partnerships which can enhance the region's capacity to innovate.
- Prevent and minimise the pollution of land, water and air.
- Improve transnational co-ordination of transport and ICT-related solutions.
- Support economic and social cohesion within and between cities, towns and rural communities.

www.nweurope.eu

Funding and eligibility for all INTERREG programmes – see over.

MEDIA 2007

Commitment to support the production, development and promotion of EU audiovisual works.

Objectives

- Preserve and enhance European cultural and linguistic diversity and its cinematographic and audiovisual heritage.
- Increase the circulation and viewership of European audiovisual works inside and outside the EU.
- Strengthen the competitiveness of the European audiovisual sector in the framework of an open and competitive European market favourable to employment.

Funding and eligibility

The programme is open to applications from companies in the audiovisual sector. Applicants should be registered in the EU Member States.

www.mediadeskuk.eu

MEDIA international

It has been established for promoting co-operation between organisations from the audiovisual industry in the EU and non-EU counterparts.

Objectives

- Strengthening the exchange of information, international expertise and familiarity with foreign audiovisual markets of audiovisual professionals.
- Improving the competitiveness and access to international markets of cinematographic/audiovisual works.

Funding and eligibility

Public and private organisations working in the audiovisual sector are eligible for funding.

www.ec.europa.eu/culture/index_en.htm

Progress

To obtain insight into EU social affairs and improve social services through the exchange of best practice.

Objectives

- To improve the knowledge and understanding of the situation prevailing in the Member States through analysis, evaluation and close monitoring of policies.
- To support the development of statistical tools, methods and common indicators where possible broken down by gender and age in areas covered by the programme.
- To support and monitor the implementation of community law and, where applicable, policy objectives in the Member States, assessing their effectiveness and impact.
- To promote networking, mutual learning, identification and dissemination of good practice and innovative approaches at EU level.
- To enhance the awareness of the stakeholders and public about the EU policies and objectives pursued under each of the five sections
- To boost the capacity of key EU networks to promote, support and further develop EU policies and objectives, where applicable.

Funding and eligibility

Access to this programme is open to all public and/or private bodies and institutions.

www.europa.eu/pol/socio

Public Health Programme

To protect EU citizens from health threats, generate health information and improve general health by focusing on key health determinants.

Objectives

- To promote health, including the reduction of health inequalities.
- To generate and disseminate health information and knowledge.

Funding and eligibility

The legal status of organisations which apply for funding under the Public Health Programme depends on the type of actions to be covered. Some actions are open to all organisations registered in one of the participating countries; some are open only to public or non-governmental bodies. Other applicants must have member organisations in more than one participating country.

www.ec.europa.eu/health

URBACT II

Networking and exchanges for urban areas.

Objectives

URBACT II will organise exchanges, mutual learning opportunities and the dissemination of knowledge around its main priorities of economic growth, jobs, fighting urban deprivation, improving innovation and improving social integration.

Funding and eligibility

All cities and urban areas in Europe are eligible for the programme.

www.urbact.eu

Youth in Action

It promotes active citizenship amongst young people. There are opportunities to establish partnerships with other organisations in at least two other countries.

Objectives

- Encouraging participation in democratic life, the European Voluntary Service and the Youth in the World programme.
- Helping to contribute to the development of policy co-operation in the youth field.

Funding and eligibility

Young people or groups between 15 and 30, youth workers, youth organisations and other partners working in the field of youth are eligible.

www.ec.europa.eu/youth

Additional help in the East of England

The East of England Brussels Office (EEBO)

This is a dedicated EU office designed to assist the East of England in securing a joined-up approach for representing the region in the EU.

Address East of England Brussels Office
Rue du Trône 4
B-1000 Brussels
Belgium

Phone 0032 22 89 12 00

E-mail brusselsoffice@east-of-england.eu

Website www.east-of-england.eu

EU Connects Team

The EU Connects project is a new and dedicated resource for local authorities, the voluntary sector and Local Enterprise Partnerships, to improve access to and take up of EU funds in the East of England.

www.eelga.gov.uk/campaigns-and-projects/eu-connects.aspx

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The European Commission UK Office

Most advice here is a repetition of what many of the local authorities offer; however the website does publish the current 'calls for proposals' on ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/work_with_eu/tenders.

Address Europe House
32 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3EU

Head of Representation Jonathan Scheele

Phone 020 7973 1992

E-mail jonathan.scheele@ec.europa.eu

Website www.ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom

East of England Councils

Most East of England County and Unitary Councils have a dedicated Council Officer who works in partnership with the EEBO office. *Please be aware this list is subject to change.*

Bedford Borough

Mark Oakley
Mark.oakley@bedford.gov.uk
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Cambridgeshire

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01223 715 852

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