

Borough Briefing: Interreg Europe: Second Call for Proposals

1.0 Introduction

The Interreg Europe programme is an Interregional Cooperation Programme financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The programme has **a budget of €322 million available to co-finance projects at a rate of 85% for public bodies**. As a capitalisation programme, Interreg Europe is primarily targeted at local and regional public authorities and focuses on the identification, analysis, dissemination and transfer of good practices and policy experiences with a view to improve the effectiveness of local and regional policies.

The programme has identified four thematic priorities: research & innovation, enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs, **supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy** and resources efficiency. Priority three is the most relevant for those interested in the sustainable mobility agenda. It includes references to policies that facilitate the move to more sustainable, low-carbon alternatives for transport and mobility by introducing cleaner transport modes and systems, and by promoting alternative mobility behaviour. Further details on priority three can be found in the annex to this briefing.

2.0 Types of actions (ToA)

The four thematic priorities are addressed in two supported actions:

- **Interregional cooperation projects:** Projects allow partners from the EU 28 to work together on a shared regional policy issue under the four thematic priorities. By adopting successful approaches from other project partners, the regions involved in these projects should improve the way their programmes and policies are implemented.
- **Policy learning platforms:** the programme provides assistance to all European regions through policy learning platforms. Any organisation dealing with regional development policies in Europe can request expert support to improve the way they manage and implement their public policies. These platforms will offer services such as individual advice peer reviews, thematic seminars and recommendations on the design and implementation of Structural and Investment Funds,

This second call for proposals is for **interregional cooperation projects** and must involve partners from at least three different countries. Projects under this call are expected to last 3-5 years.

3.0 Interregional cooperation projects: main features

An interregional cooperation project supports partners to work together on a shared regional policy issue by exchanging their experiences and practices in order to integrate the lessons learnt from this cooperation into their policies. It builds on the experience of the participating regions and focuses on the

identification, analysis and transfer of good practices and policy experiences among these regions. To reinforce the focus on results and give the learning process a better chance of leading towards tangible results, an interregional cooperation project is designed in two phases:

- Phase 1 is dedicated to interregional learning and to preparing the exploitation of the lessons learnt from the cooperation through the development of action plans.
- Phase 2 is dedicated to monitoring the implementation of each action plan. When relevant, pilot actions may also be tested during this phase.

Organisations responsible for policies are the main target group of the programme; this can include national, regional and local authorities as well as other organisation in charge of defining and implementing regional policy makers.

4.0 Overall Objective of the Interreg Europe Programme:

To improve the implementation of policies and programmes for regional development, principally of programmes under the Investment for Growth and Jobs goal and, where relevant, of programmes under the European Territorial Cooperation goal, by promoting exchange of experience and policy learning among stakeholders of regional relevance.

This overall objective is broken down into the following two operational objectives:

1. To facilitate ongoing EU-wide policy learning and the capitalisation of practices among stakeholders of regional relevance in order to strengthen regional policies, and in particular the implementation of programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs and, where relevant, European Territorial Cooperation.
2. To support exchange of experience and sharing of practices among stakeholders of regional relevance with the aim of integrating and deploying the lessons learnt by cooperation within mainstream regional policies instruments, in particular through their programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs and, where relevant, European Territorial Cooperation. These operational objectives at programme level are applicable to all priority axes of the programme

5.0 Timescale for bidding

05 April 2016: Planned opening date of the call

13 May 2016: Deadline for submissions

6.0 Funding and co-financing

For Interregional Cooperation Projects a budget of €322 million is available. The co-financing rate for public bodies is 85% with a co-financing requirement from partners of 15%. Based on the INTERREG IVC experience, the average **budgets for project of this type are between €1-2 million.**

7.0 Next steps

Boroughs are encouraged to [contact LEPT](#) with any queries, expressions of interest or project ideas.

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7.0 Further Information:

Programme manual: http://www.interregeurope.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/Call_related_documents/Interreg_Europe_Programme_manual.pdf

Terms of Reference: [http://www.interregeurope.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/Call_related_documents/Interreg_Europe -
_Second call terms of reference.pdf](http://www.interregeurope.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/Call_related_documents/Interreg_Europe_-_Second_call_terms_of_reference.pdf)

Annex 1: Priority 3: Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors.

Investment Priorities: Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multi-modal urban mobility and mitigation relevant adaptation measures.

Specific Objective 3.1: Improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in particular programme for Investment for Growth and Jobs and, where relevant, European Territorial Cooperation programmes, addressing the transition to a low-carbon economy.

The required focus on cohesion policy means that at least half of the policy instruments addresses by the EU regions in a project must be Structural Funds programmes.

Policies must facilitate the move to more sustainable, low-carbon alternatives for transport and mobility by including cleaner transport modes and systems and by promoting alternative mobility behaviour.

Integrated regional low-carbon strategies are needed to identify the most promising areas of actions, mobilise stakeholders, facilitate and channel the public and private investments and increase the awareness among inhabitants, business and other stakeholders of need for, and opportunities of, using low-carbon alternatives.

Example of possible projects under specific objective 3.1:

Regional and city authorities sharing experiences on sustainable mobility measures, resulting in action plans that prepare actions and investments to increase the use of low-carbon transport options to be funded from Growth and Jobs programmes or other regional programmes.