

Borough Briefing: Interreg Europe: Fourth Call for Proposals

1.0 Introduction

[The fourth call for project proposals opened on 7 May and closes on 22 June 2018.](#) 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.

The overall objective of the programme is: 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 Territorial Cooperation goal, by promoting exchange of experience and policy learning among stakeholders of regional relevance.

2.0 Timescale for bidding

7 May 2018: Opening date of the call

22 June 2018: Deadline for submissions

3.0 Funding and co-financing

The co-financing rate for public bodies is 85% with a co-financing rate requirement from partners of 15%. All the remaining European Regional Development Fund will be available for this fourth call - €74 million.

4.0 Thematic Priorities

As indicated above the Interreg programme is divided into four priority axes. Priority three, supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy, 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. Priority three indicates the investment priority and specific objective that projects should address:

Thematic Priority	Investment Priority	Specific Objective
Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon	Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of	Improve the implementation of regional

economy in all sectors.	territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multi-modal urban mobility and mitigation relevant adaptation measures.	development policies and programmes, in particular programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs and, where relevant, European Territorial Cooperation programmes, addressing the transition to a low-carbon economy notably in the framework of Smart Specialisation Strategies.
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Further information on the programme priority axes and specific objectives can be found in the Interreg Europe Cooperation Programme and section 2.5 of the programme manual.

5.0 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 third 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.

An interregional cooperation project supports partners to work together on a shared regional policy issues by exchanging their experiences and practices in order to integrate the lesson 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 a better chance of leading towards tangible results, the interregional cooperation project is designed in two phases:

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

6.0 Next steps

Any boroughs interested in participating in an Interreg project consortium should [contact LEPT](#) with any queries, expressions of interest or project ideas. LEPT will be monitoring partner searches and can broker places in consortia on behalf of boroughs.

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