

## Borough Briefing

### Interreg NWE – Seventh Call for Proposals

### Transnational Cooperation Initiatives

#### 1.0 Introduction

The Interreg North-West Europe (NWE) Programme is a transnational European Territorial Cooperation Programme funded by the European Union. The programme promotes the economic, environmental, social and territorial future of the NWE area. The programme has identified three thematic priorities: innovation, low carbon and resource and material efficiency. The three priorities cover a range of policy areas, including transport and mobility, renewable energy, climate change and resource efficiency.

#### 2.0 Timescale for bidding

26 March 2018: Planned opening date of the call

26 April 2018: Deadline for submissions

June 2018: Evaluation results known

#### 3.0 Funding and Eligibility

The programme has a budget of €372 million to co-finance projects at a rate of 60%.

#### 4.0 Thematic priorities & Specific Objectives

The Interreg NWE has identified three thematic priorities, each of which is sub-divided into one or more specific objectives.

**Innovation:** Focuses on tackling the territorial gap and disparities in innovation performance amongst regions

**Specific Objective:** To enhance innovation performance of enterprises throughout the NWE regions. This specific objective will lead to enhance innovation performance of enterprise in NWE. The NWE Programme uses the following definition for 'enhance innovation performance': 'to better exploit research outcomes for the development of new technologies, products, processes and services generating an impact on the social, demographic, spatial, economic and environmental condition of NWE territories.'

**Low Carbon:** Addresses the challenge of finding ways to reduce Greenhouse gases (GHGs) to meet climate change goals. In regards to transport, a high energy consuming sector, NWE remains heavily reliant on road transport for the movement of goods and people. With the motorisation rate above the EU27 average in the majority of NWE area tackling energy use, pollution, and CO2 emissions is addressed in this priority.

**Specific Objective 2: To facilitate the implementation of low-carbon, energy and climate protection strategies to reduce GHG emissions in NWE.** This Specific Objective will lead to a reduction of emissions, less energy consumption and an increase in the use of renewable energy in NWE, in particular in public buildings, public infrastructure and social housing. The aim is to ensure NWE cities are more resilient to the effects of climate change.

**Specific Objective 3: To facilitate the uptake of low carbon technologies, products, processes and services in sectors with high energy saving potential, to reduce GHG emissions in NWE.** This specific objective will lead to reduced GHG emissions and pollution and optimise the regions' energy consumption and production in the NWE areas. The expected result of initiatives undertaken within this specific objective will be the removal of barriers to the adoption of and improvement of conditions for low carbon technology deployment by enterprises.

**Specific Objective 4: To facilitate the implementation of transnational low-carbon solutions in transport systems to reduce GHG-emissions in NWE.** This specific objective will lead to reduced GHG emissions in transport systems in NWE. The programme aims to improve the conception and coordination of low carbon transport and mobility solutions by the sector by increasing its institutional capacity. The objective does not support stand-alone solutions, but focuses on transitional transport systems.

**Resource and Materials Efficiency:** Promote the transition to a resource-efficient and ultimately regenerative circular economy.

**Specific Objective 5: To optimise (re)use of material and natural resources in NWE.**

This specific objective will lead to an optimised use of material resources and a reduction in the use of natural resources in NWE. Success will be measured in terms of the use and uptake of eco-innovations in NWE, but also in terms of the resource savings and (waste) recycling rates they generate. The Programme aims to accelerate the transition of the NWE economy to a circular model by enabling spill-over effects of eco-innovation in the resource intensive industry.

**Priority two, low carbon, and objectives three and four are especially suited to local authority partners.**

## 5.0 Types of actions (ToA)

There are nine types of project (or 'action') being funded based on the five specific objectives outlined above. **Listed below are two actions most relevant to borough priorities.**

**ToA6:** Supports Specific Objective Three. Action six focuses on projects implementing low-carbon technologies and other solutions through the demonstration and roll-out of existing low-carbon products, technologies, or solutions. Projects should focus on the environmental and economic impact associated with the zero/low carbon solution and demonstrate how the project will support further uptake of such solutions.

Actions should consider:

- Implementing and adopting zero/low carbon technologies in enterprises and industrial production processes; particularly those relating to energy generation and/or energy reductions/efficiency;
- Delivering and roll out of emerging energy technologies;

- Implementing transnational living labs to test and demonstrate the use of zero/low carbon solutions in real life conditions;
- Implementing of joint zero/low carbon technology demonstration schemes and facilities, including fab labs and R&D/testing facilities;
- Ensuring that new energy solutions are feasible (for example, finding ways for bioenergy production to not negatively impact on agricultural or water resources).

Actions must demonstrate the environmental and economic impact associated with the use of existing zero/low carbon solutions, leading to the uptake of such solutions, particularly by private stakeholders.

**ToA7:** Supports Specific Objective four. Action seven supports projects implementing transnational solutions for low-carbon transport systems. Projects are required to demonstrate the transnational added value of their actions and how they will decrease GHG emissions.

Actions should consider:

- Developing pilot or demonstration actions to bring in-reach technologies or emerging solutions for low carbon transportation (e.g. new forms of propulsion systems) closer to public use in NWE transport systems or networks;
- Testing and demonstrating low carbon transport solutions in real life conditions, such as low carbon or zero-carbon rolling stock, vehicles using alternative fuels, increasing levels of e-mobility, in NWE transport systems or networks;
- Engaging with different kinds of transport operators and their supply chains across the NWE area to affect large-scale behavioural change with respect to the use of low carbon transportation and the implementation of different low carbon solutions.

Actions should lead to the uptake of transnational low carbon solutions (technologies, systems, processes, services) within existing transportation systems, demonstrating reductions in GHG emissions.

## 6.0 Next steps

Any boroughs interested in participating in an Interreg NWE 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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