

2ND CALL FOR PROPOSALS

27 October 2008– 30 January 2009

1. INTRODUCTION

Authorities and stakeholders at local and regional level have a vital role to play in the achievement of the EU's strategies for growth, jobs and sustainable development. The exchange, sharing and transfer of policy experience, knowledge and good practices will contribute to the success of this objective.

The INTERREG IVC Programme is part of the European Territorial Cooperation Objective of the Structural Fund policies for the period 2007-2013. It aims, by means of interregional cooperation, to **improve the effectiveness of regional development policies** and contribute to economic modernisation and increased competitiveness of Europe, by:

- enabling local and regional actors across the EU to exchange their experiences and knowledge;
- matching regions less experienced in a certain policy field with more advanced regions;
- ensuring the transfer of good practices into Structural Funds mainstream programmes.

The INTERREG IVC Programme is financed through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), whose principles and regulations are laid down in Council Regulation N° 1083/2006 (General Regulation), Council and Parliament Regulation N° 1080/2006 (ERDF Regulation) and Commission Regulation N° 1828/2006 (Implementation Regulation). The principles and regulations for projects developed within the Programme are laid down in the Operational Programme, which was officially approved by the European Commission on 11th September 2007.

2. PRIORITIES AND TYPES OF INTERVENTION

The INTERREG IVC Programme is divided into two thematic priorities related to the EU strategy for growth and sustainable development known as the Lisbon and Gothenburg strategies.

Applicants are invited to submit their project application under one of the sub-themes listed below.

Priority 1 - Innovation and the Knowledge Economy	Priority 2 - Environment and Risk Prevention
- Innovation, Research & Technology Development	- Natural & Technological Risks (incl. climate change)
- Entrepreneurship and SMEs	- Water Management
- Information Society	- Waste Prevention and Management
- Employment, Human Resources and Education	- Biodiversity and Natural Heritage (incl. air quality)
	- Energy and Sustainable Transport
	- Cultural Heritage and Landscape

The following types of intervention are supported by the INTERREG IVC Programme:

- Regional Initiative Projects,
- Capitalisation Projects including Fast Track Projects.

Detailed descriptions of the types of interventions are provided in section 2.1 of the programme manual. Both types of interventions are open for the second call for proposals.

3. WHO CAN APPLY?

The eligible INTERREG IVC cooperation area covers the whole territory of the European Union with its 27 Member States, including insular and outermost areas. In addition, Norway and Switzerland are full members of the Programme and organisations from these countries are welcome to participate in it. Partners from other countries can participate at their own costs.

Only public authorities and bodies governed by public law are eligible. According to Directive 2004/18/EC, Article 1, a body governed by public law means any body:

- (a) Established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest, not having an industrial or commercial character;
- (b) Having legal personality; and
- (c) - Financed, for the most part, by the State, regional or local authorities, or other bodies governed by public law;
- Or subject to management supervision by those bodies;
- Or having an administrative, managerial or supervisory.

As indicated in the Operational Programme and programme manual, applications from national, regional or local authorities, or partnerships having at least a solid and relevant participation of regional and local authorities in them, will be considered with priority in the selection process. In order to maximise the impact of this programme on regional and local policies across the EU, applicants are strongly encouraged to include the relevant and competent public authorities in their operations.

Only "official partners" (those listed in the Application Form, also called "contributing partners") can incur costs and receive ERDF. It is therefore not possible to participate with an "observer" or "sub-partner" status.

4. LEAD PARTNER PRINCIPLE

Each project has to appoint a Lead Partner who makes the link between the project and the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS)/ Managing Authority (MA). The Lead Partner takes over the full responsibility for management, communication, implementation and co-ordination of activities among the involved partners. The Lead Partner also bears legal responsibility and liability for the whole partnership.

In order to ensure these tasks, the Lead Partner has to appoint:

- a coordinator, who is responsible for the organisation of the project's work;
- a financial manager, who is in charge the accounts, financial reporting, and the internal handling of ERDF funds and national co-financing.

5. FUNDING AVAILABLE AND CO-FINANCING RATE

Over the period 2007-2013, €302 million has been made available to co-finance projects implemented by EU partners. Partners from Norway and Switzerland are not eligible to receive ERDF but can receive co-financing from their respective national funds. Swiss partners should refer to the Cantons in order to know more about the availability of these funds.

A total of EUR 71.2 million was allocated in the first call for proposals in 2008. As no specific budget is allocated for the second call, the following remaining funds are available:

Priority 1	ERDF	EUR 136.9 million
	Norwegian funding	EUR 1.6 million
Priority 2:	ERDF	EUR 230.8 million
	Norwegian funding	EUR 2.6 million

Even if no specific budget allocation is decided for this second call, it should be noted that the programme aims to organise several calls for proposals. It is therefore not the intention of the Monitoring Committee to allocate all of the remaining funds during the second call. Final decision on budget allocation remains in the hands of the Monitoring Committee and would in any case depend on the overall quality of the submitted applications.

Under the INTERREG IVC Programme, the eligible project activities are co-financed from the ERDF at either 75% or 85% depending on the Member State.

Co-financing rate	Participating States (EU + Norway)
75% ERDF	Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom
85% ERDF	Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia
50% National Funds	Norway

6. NEW FEATURES OF THE SECOND CALL

Based on the experience of the first call for proposals, a certain number of changes were introduced for the second call.

6.1. Procedures

The following new eligibility rule has been approved by the INTERREG IVC Monitoring Committee: **the same organisation can be involved in a maximum of five applications per call.**

The organisation will be identified by the institution name provided in the application form (i.e. in section 5 on 'Partnership'). If an organisation is involved in more than five applications, it would lead to the following consequences:

- if this organisation does not lead the applications, it would imply an automatic ineligibility of this partner in all applications concerned but it would not lead to the ineligibility of the applications themselves;
- all the applications where this organisation applies as Lead Partner would be declared ineligible.

6.2. Application Pack

The programme manual has been revised. The updated version provides the applicants with additional information and/or clarifications on certain programme features (e.g. mini-programme requirements, innovative character and durability of project's results, partnership's composition, financial recommendations). These clarifications are all based on the experience gained from the first call for proposals. Applicants are clearly invited to carefully read this manual before applying to the programme.

The application form has also been slightly amended. Apart from improved instructions, the main change is related to an additional section dedicated to the innovative character of the expected results.

Finally, the following simplifications have been introduced:

- there is only one single template for the co-financing statement,
- the project time plan is no longer required.

The application pack is available under 'Application' on the INTERREG IVC website: www.interreg4c.eu

7. PROJECT APPLICATIONS

INTERREG IVC provides the opportunity for institutions involved in regional policy to gain access to the experience of partners in other parts of Europe. Project partners who would like to submit an application must fill in an application form in English, as it is the working language of the programme. Applications submitted in another language will be considered ineligible.

The application form consists of an Excel document, which includes a number of automatic links and formulae. These features ensure that error messages appear in the form if it is not properly filled in. Detailed instructions on how to fill in the application form are also provided in the application form itself. All the relevant information is available on the programme's website: www.interreg4c.eu

The Application Form has to be submitted electronically by e-mail to:

application@interreg4c.eu

at the latest by the **30th January 2009**. Similarly the original hard copy hand signed, stamped (if available) and dated (as per postal stamp or equivalent proof) has to be sent at the latest by the same date to the following address only:

**INTERREG IVC 2nd call
INTERREG IVC JTS
Les Arcuriales - Entrée D - 5e étage
45 rue de Tournai
59000 LILLE
FRANCE**

The original paper version of the application form must also include the co-financing statements from the Lead partner and all partners (in originals or in faxed copies).

Further requirements are outlined in section 3.4.1 (eligibility criteria) of the programme manual.

8. PROJECT SELECTION

All applications will be subject to a two-step assessment procedure. Projects will initially be checked against seven eligibility criteria (see section 3.4.1 of the programme manual). **The eligibility assessment is a 'yes or no' process. This means that the eligibility assessment does not allow any flexibility in the way the criteria are applied.** Only applications that pass this eligibility step will be subject to quality assessment according to six selection criteria.

Based on the results of the quality assessment, final decisions are made by the Monitoring Committee of the programme, which is made up of representatives from both national and regional authorities within the participating states. They are communicated to all Lead partners via a notification letter. The Monitoring Committee is expected to be held within eight months after the end of the call.

9. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A core JTS has been set up in Lille to support the Nord-Pas de Calais Region, Managing Authority of the programme. The JTS is in charge of the overall implementation of the programme (development, assessment, monitoring, auditing). The JTS works closely with four Information Points located across Europe. They provide assistance to applicants and organise events to promote the programme. They also support the network of national and regional contact points. Depending on their location (see table on the next page), applicants should be in contact with their respective Information Points.

Information Point	Geographical area
Katowice (Poland)	Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania
Lille (France)	Belgium, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Switzerland
Rostock (Germany)	Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden, Norway
Valencia (Spain)	Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain

The contact details of the Information Points are indicated below:

- Rostock (Germany): IP-North@interreg4c.eu
- Valencia (Spain): IP-South@interreg4c.eu
- Katowice (Poland): IP-East@interreg4c.eu
- Lille (France): IP-West@interreg4c.eu

10. FURTHER INFORMATION

A comprehensive description of the programme's strategies and priorities, together with a socio-economic analysis of Europe are included in the INTERREG IVC Operational Programme.

Further guidance for project applicants is provided in the programme manual which is available on the programme website. All official documents and contact details of the programme JTS and the Information Points are also available for download on this programme website:

www.interreg4c.eu