

First call of Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE is already open

On 12th February 2015, the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme has opened the first call for proposals. Up to 80 million Euros of co-financing are available for public and private organisations that want to cooperate beyond borders on innovation, low-carbon strategies, natural and cultural resources or transport. The first call is organised in a competitive two-step procedure. The deadline for submitting online applications to step 1 of the call is 13th April 2015. The application package is already available [here](#).

Which are the eligible countries or regions included in the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme?

The CENTRAL EUROPE programme area includes all regions from Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, as well as eight Länder from Germany (Baden-Württemberg, Bayern, Berlin, Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Sachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt, Thüringen) and nine regions from Italy (Emilia-Romagna, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Liguria, Lombardia, Piemonte, Provincia Autonoma Bolzano, Provincia Autonoma Trento, Valle d'Aosta, and Veneto).

Which are the priorities?

This first call will cover 4 thematic priorities; each of them includes some specific objectives. Under the terms of this call, a project proposal must focus on only one priority axis and one programme specific objective, among the following choices:

- **Cooperating on innovation to make Central Europe more competitive**
 - To improve sustainable linkages among actors of the innovation systems for strengthening regional innovation capacity in Central Europe.
 - To improve skills and entrepreneurial competences for advancing economic and social innovation in Central European regions.
- **Cooperating on low-carbon strategies in Central Europe**
 - To develop and implement solutions for increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy usage in public infrastructures.
 - To improve territorially based low-carbon energy planning strategies and policies supporting climate change mitigation.
 - To improve capacities for mobility planning in functional urban areas to lower CO2 emissions.
- **Cooperating on natural and cultural resources for sustainable growth in Central Europe**
 - To improve integrated environmental management capacities for the protection and sustainable use of natural heritage and resources.
 - To improve capacities for the sustainable use of cultural heritage and resources.
 - To improve environmental management of functional urban areas to make them more liveable places.
- **Cooperating on transport to better connect Central Europe**
 - To improve planning and coordination of regional passenger transport systems for better connections to national and European transport networks.
 - To improve coordination among freight transport stakeholders for increasing multimodal environmentally-friendly freight solutions.

Who can apply?

In the framework of the Interreg Central Europe Programme, eligible applicants are:

- National, regional and local public bodies (including EGTCs in the meaning of Article 2(16) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013);
- Private institutions, including private companies, having legal personality;
- International organisations acting under the national law of any Central Europe Member State or, with restrictions, under international law.

Which are the partnership requirements?

Projects supported by the Interreg Central Europe Programme must involve in the partnership:

- at least three partners
- from at least three countries and
- being at least two of the partners located in Central Europe regions (Please note that German and Italian national public authorities/bodies which are competent in their scope of action for certain parts of the eligible area but which are located outside of it (e.g. ministries) are to all effects assimilated, both in terms of rights and obligations, to partners located in the programme area).

Applicants located outside the programme area but within the EU can also apply for funding as project partners. Please note that ERDF allocated to a single project for such partners, together with the ERDF spent outside the programme area, cannot exceed 20 % of the total ERDF contribution to such project. The involvement of partners from EU regions outside the programme area shall bring a clear benefit to the regions of the programme area. Their involvement is considered as exceptional and must be duly justified. Applicants can also be located outside the EU, but they will not receive ERDF funding from the Interreg Central Europe Programme.

What is considered as an eligible lead applicant?

Only institutions located in the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme area can apply as lead applicants.

Which are the co-financing rates?

- Up to 85 % for applicants of Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia;
- Up to 80 % for applicants of Austria, Germany, Italy;
- Up to 80 % for applicants located in EU regions outside the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme area.

Which is the recommended financial size of projects?

The recommended financial total budget is in the range of EUR 1 to 5 million. In exceptional cases, smaller or larger projects can be supported.

Furthermore the size of the partnership should reflect the scope of the project and remain manageable. Therefore, the recommended maximum size of a partnership should not exceed 12 partners. Larger partnerships are possible but need to be duly justified according to the specific project scope.

Which is the recommended project duration?

The recommended project duration is 30 to 36 months. However, if justified by the project scope and the planned activities, a longer implementation period up to maximum 48 months could be acceptable.

Which is the date for submitting applications?

Project proposals for step 1 of this call must be submitted through the [electronic Monitoring System](#) the latest by **Monday 13 April 2015, 18.00 CET**. (The deadline for the second step is not yet precised).



Which are the criteria that are going to be taken into account?

- In Step 1 : Relevance and partnership
- In Step 2: Relevance, partnership, implementation and budget.

Where can applicants go in case of need of support or additional information?

More information regarding the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme, conditions for the submission of project proposals, assessment of proposals, the application package as well as other relevant information is available at:

www.interreg-central.eu/call

It is also possible to contact the representatives of the national contact points located in each CENTRAL EUROPE Member State as well as of the joint secretariat based in Vienna. Contact information is also available on the programme website.

In addition to this, the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme offers support in preparing project applications on the national and the transnational levels during both steps of the application process.

To find more details about this call, please have a look at the [application manual](#).

For more information, please contact:

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