



April 2016

Dear Members of the South Eastern Focus Group,

With Danijel Bertovic (PINS, Croatia), we have gathered some specific information that could be of great interest for you. We have insisted on the funding possibilities and we invite you to liaise with the Secretariat if you have project ideas that you would wish to develop for your mountain areas.

Don't hesitate to share with us other interesting pieces of news that we could disseminate.

We hope that you will be interested in reading this first newsletter,

The Secretariat of Euromontana

COMING EVENTS

WOOD-TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE, OPATIJA, CROATIA, 30-31.5.2016

Wood-Technology conference represents the central event of the Croatian woodworking industry and forestry.

The first Wood-Technology Conference was held in 2004; then, as well as today, the main objective of the conference was to assemble the representatives of the manufacturing, retail, academic and institutional sector in the field of forestry, woodworking and furniture manufacturing.

As an initiator of key processes in the sector, each year, the Conference offers an abundance of current relevant data and market movements in this sector, in Croatian and countries of the SEE region. The Conference is also recognized for its interactive and innovative activities, which give the participants an opportunity for active contribution, whether it is plenary lectures, panel-discussion or specialized workshops. Therefore, the Wood-Technology Conference is the best way for every participant to contribute to creating the woodworking sector policy.

Details about conference and fees can be found here: <http://www.drvena-konferencija.hr/en/registration/>

X EUROPEAN MOUNTAIN CONVENTION, BRAGANÇA, PORTUGAL, 3-5.10.2016

"Mountains' vulnerability to climate change: how can people and territories adapt and mitigate its effects?"

Mountain areas have difficult climatic and environmental conditions, but mountain people are used to adapting to these. Thanks to their great experience of innovation and adaptation, they have already started to tackle the challenge of climate change. This X European Mountain Convention will present a state-of-the-art of the situation in mountain areas and of how experience and technical knowledge have been used to provide solutions to adapt to and mitigate climate change. The focus will be on solutions not only at the policy level, but also at the practitioners' level, on different issues such as agriculture, energy, water, transport and tourism.

You can benefit from reduced prices if you register **before June 2016**, so don't hesitate and **register now to the X° European Mountain Convention!**

For more information and registration, please have a look at [Euromontana's website](#) or directly at the [website of the Mountains 2016 events](#).





INTERESTING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE SOUTH EAST EUROPE

Several funding opportunities regarding European Territorial Cooperation are available for members of the South Eastern Europe Focus Group such as the **Interreg Central Europe, the Interreg Slovenia-Croatia, Interreg Europe or Interreg Balkan-Mediterranean**. Be careful to the deadlines as several are coming before the Summer.

INTERREG CENTRAL EUROPE

The programme's objective is "to cooperate beyond borders to make central European cities and regions better places to live and work" by implementing **smart solutions** answering to regional challenges in the **fields of innovation, low-carbon economy, environment, culture and transport**.

Eligible areas



The CENTRAL EUROPE programme area includes all regions from Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, as well as eight regional states 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).

Eligible applicants

- National, regional and local public
- 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

Consortia: projects supported by the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme must involve in the partnership

- at least **three** financing partners,
- from at least three countries and
- being at least two of the partners located in CENTRAL EUROPE regions.

Budget: the recommended financial size of projects to be submitted is in the range of **EUR 1 to 5 million** total cost. In exceptional cases, smaller or larger projects can be supported.

Co-financing rates: the following co-financing rates shall apply:

- 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

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

Application procedure and deadlines: a second call for project proposals has been on **26th April 2016 until 23rd June**. This call is opened again to all programme priorities and specific objectives but is organised this time in a single-step procedure. More information on Interreg Central Europe: http://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/news/Second_call.html



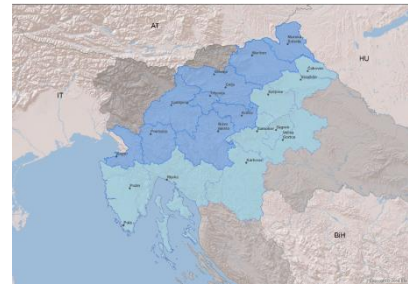
INTERREG SLOVENIA – CROATIA

The objective of this Call for Proposals is to co-finance operations that promote sustainable, safe and **vibrant border area** by fostering smart approaches to **preservation, mobilization** and management of natural and cultural resources for the benefit of the people living and working in or visiting the area.

The Programme operates on the basis of the **Open Call system**. This means that applicants can submit project applications continuously after the Open Call is launched as long as funds are available.

Eligible areas

- In Slovenia: Pomurska region, Podravska region, Savinjska region, Zasavska region, Posavska region, Jugovzhodna Slovenija region, Osrednjeslovenska region, Primorsko-notranjska region, Obalno-kraška region;
- In Croatia: Primorsko-goranska County, Istarska County, City of Zagreb, Zagrebačka County, Krapinsko-zagorska County, Varaždinska County, Međimurska County and Karlovačka County.



Priorities

- Investment priority 6c: **Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage**
- Investment priority 6d: **Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure**
- Priority Axis 3: **Healthy, safe and accessible border areas**

Budget

- from 100.000,00 EUR ERDF and up to 2.500.000,00 EUR ERDF for Priority **Axis 2** (Preservation and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources)
- from 100.000,00 EUR ERDF up to 1.000.000 EUR ERDF for Priority **Axis 3** (Healthy, safe and accessible border areas)

Co-financing rates

the Community co-financing from the ERDF funds can amount to max. **85 %** of the total eligible costs; at least 15% is to be ensured from other sources.

Eligible costs

- Staff costs
- Office and administrative expenditure
- Travel and accommodation costs
- External expertise and services costs
- Equipment expenditure
- Infrastructure and works expenditure

Submission of the proposals

The Application can be submitted at any time between the launch date and the closing date of the Open Call for Proposals or till the funds are available. The project Applications can be submitted continuously after opening the call. **The next deadline for the submission will be in autumn 2016.**

Click [here](#) for more information.



INTERREG EUROPE

The Interreg Europe programme was designed to support **policy-learning** among the relevant policy organisations with a view to improving the performance of regional development policies and programmes. The deadline for submission is 13th May 2016.

Priorities: the Interreg Europe programme has 4 thematic topics, each related to regional development:

1. Research, technological development and innovation
2. Competitiveness of SMEs
3. Low-carbon economy
4. Environment and resource efficiency.

Funding priorities: the funds will finance projects and project activities that have as purpose:

- Development of action plans,
- Preparation of studies and analysis of regional innovation infrastructure policy,
- The organisation of interregional seminars and events aimed at the exchange of content and capacity building innovation infrastructure,
- Communication and dissemination of project results,
- Thematic content such as newspapers, studies and similar documents

Eligible applicants: following organisations based in the 28 EU Member States, as well as Norway and Switzerland are eligible for Interreg Europe funding:

- National, regional or local public authorities
- Institutions governed by public law (e.g. regional development agencies, business support organisations, universities)
- Private non-profit bodies

Consortiums

Co-financing rates: under the Interreg Europe programme, the eligible project activities are co-financed by the ERDF at a rate of either **75% or 85%** depending on the legal status of the project partner.

- Public bodies and bodies governed by public law from all 28 EU partner states – 85% ERDF
- Private non-profit bodies from all 28 EU partner states – 75% ERDF
- Public bodies, bodies governed by public law and private non-profit bodies from Norway - 50% Norwegian funding
- Partners from Switzerland are invited to contact the Swiss Interreg Europe national point of contact to receive information on Swiss funding opportunities - Swiss funding.

The programme is financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The total budget for the programme is EUR 359 million:

Overall programme budget

- EUR 322.4 million is available to co-finance interregional cooperation projects implemented by EU partners. Partners from Norway and Switzerland will be co-financed by national funds from their respective countries
- EUR 15.3 million is allocated to finance activities carried out by the policy learning platforms
- EUR 21.3 million for technical assistance

More information on Interreg Europe can be found in the articles already written by Euromontana: see the article published on 3 July 2015: [Don't miss the chance: the call for Interreg Europe has just been launched.](#)



INTERREG BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN

The INTERREG Balkan-Mediterranean 2014-2020 is a **new cooperation** programme, born from the strong will of the BalkanMed participating countries to promote cooperation in the area. It is the first time ever that the European cooperation addresses the Balkan Peninsula and the Eastern Mediterranean Sea together, in a joint effort across maritime and terrestrial borders, to contribute to the ["EU 2020"](#) strategy. The first call for proposals was open up to the 26th April 2016. Other calls are expected in the coming years.

Areas included

- 3 EU Members: *Bulgaria, Cyprus and Greece*
- 2 candidate countries, *Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.*

Priority Axes

- Priority Axis 1: **Entrepreneurship & Innovation**
- Priority Axis 2: **Environment**

Co-financing rates: 85% for the overall cooperation area

Size of the projects

Priority Axis 1: Entrepreneurship & Innovation: minimum: **500.000 €** and maximum: **1.5 mil €**;
priority Axis 2 Environment: min: **500.000 €**; max. **1.5 mil €**

Eligible applicants: *Public bodies, Bodies governed by public law, Non-profit Bodies governed by private law and international organisations.* The participation of *profit making private entities and political parties* is **not eligible**

Partnership: at least three **participating countries**, at least one of which shall be from an EU Member State. The partnership scheme must consist of at least three partners and not to exceed a maximum of eight (8) partners

Project Duration: projects should be concluded within a maximum period of **24 months** after the signing of the Subsidy Contract (SC) between the Managing Authority and the Lead Partner.

Others: the official language of the Programme is English.

Overall programme budget: the BalkanMed Programme is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) with 28.330.108 €. The total support from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) fund accounts for 5.126.138 €. Therefore, the total budget of the Programme, including national contribution, is 39.727.654 €.

For more information, click [here](#).



MEETINGS BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE FOCUS GROUP

SEE working group members from **Slovenia (Heart of Slovenia) and Croatia (Pins)** held a meeting in Novo Mesto, Slovenia in January 2016 and discussed about project ideas and future joint application for Interreg programmes. Interested topics for further cooperation would be development of rural tourism with new tourism products and development of mobile health teams in mountain areas.

During the 2015 General Assembly of Euromontana, Lars Hustveit from **Sogn og Fjordane County Council** (Norway) has developed a project idea under Interreg Europe programme to improve rural innovation system by professionalizing networking activities and innovation tools. Several SEE members are actively involved in developing this project. The proposal is based upon an assumption that incomplete rural innovation systems may be improved. The overall effect sought to be accomplished is competitive and attractive businesses based in rural areas. SEE group members from **Heart of Slovenia and Local development agency PINS** participated in the meeting in Milano (Italy), on 10th and 11th February 2016 where project was further developed with other Euromontana members. Project will be submitted for the 13th May 2016.