



## **Interreg 2014-2020 – Call for cooperation on developing and supporting high quality Interreg applications in the field of transport**

### **What**

Several Interreg programmes offer great opportunities for transport related cooperation projects contributing to the transition towards a low carbon and circular economy and improved framework conditions for innovation or just more effective technologies.

The uptake of funding for and by transport projects within Interreg programmes has been slow, leaving considerable amounts of ERDF unused.

Until today mainly projects focusing on green personal mobility have been submitted to Interreg but the volume of approved projects remains limited. Other areas of transport remain for the moment largely uncovered with also a low influx of project ideas.

### **Call and services offered by the Flanders Innovation & Entrepreneurship (FIE)**

The Interreg National Contact Points (NCP) within FIE call upon all interested parties with knowledge of advanced project ideas in the field of transport and wishing to work together in supporting related consortia towards a possible Interreg application.

Interreg NCPs within FIE offer the following services:

- match making between foreign consortia and major Flemish players in the domain of transport;
- advice as to which programme offers the best strategic fit for which consortium and topic;
- hands-on and 1 on 1 guidance for project development during the elaboration of Interreg proposals;
- assistance with partner searches through Interreg networks;
- liaising with Interreg NCPs from other EU countries to further establish cross-border or transnational consortia;
- facilitate 1 on 1 or group interaction sessions

In terms of timing the ambition is to make as much as possible use of the nearest upcoming Interreg calls deadlines. This also to avoid as much as possible collision with possible BREXIT fall-out in certain Interreg programmes.

- 28/08/2017 North Sea Region (expressions of interest call)
- 27/10/2017 2 Seas (concept notes call)
- 17/11/2017: NorthWest Europe (concept notes call)
- March 2018: Flanders-Netherlands (concept notes call)

## Focus of this appeal

The following Interreg programmes are targeted: Flanders-Netherlands, 2 Seas, North Sea Region (NSR), NorthWest Europe (NWE).

These programmes all offer good opportunities for transport related projects albeit with some slight differences in focus. The FIE Interreg NCPs can advise on which programme offers the best strategic fit for a given project idea.

As to topics the Interreg NCPs within FIE want to focus first on transport of “goods” because not yet or enough covered by the cited Interreg programmes. Nevertheless strong ideas in the field of personal mobility remain welcome.

## More information on the role of transport projects under Interreg V

Transport related projects under Interreg V programmes are in general expected to

- facilitate the transition to a low carbon and circular economy
- contribute to a reduction of GHG emissions by transport
- encourage more sustainable transport modes, green mobility and intermodality
- make use of or improve technologies (in a broad sense) to realize these goals

Interreg is open to all sectors (shipping, air, road, water...) and cross-overs between sectors.

Project results should ultimately benefit companies and the general public.

Examples of possible project topics:

- Low carbon propulsion, fuels, vehicles...
- Smart logistics, added value logistics, smart cities..
- Multimodal transport systems and logistic chains aiming at the reduction of GHG emissions
- Integrated logistics across all transport modes
- Low emission last mile logistics in rural or urban contexts
- Reduced dependency on road transport for freight or personal mobility

Examples of indicators projects should ideally contribute to:

- Increase in passenger/freight trips using supported green transport solutions (NSR)
- Increase in freight volume using supported green transport solutions (NSR)
- Number of implemented low carbon solutions in transport (NWE)
- Number of transport operators supported implementing low carbon solutions (NWE)
- Number of tests/pilots/demo actions/feasibility studies developed (2 Seas)
- Number of cross-border strategies or networks developed (2Seas)

## General information on Interreg V projects

The average Interreg project duration is 3-4 years. Average budgets range from 2-3 MEUR total cost until several millions more depending on the issue and activities within a project.

The average Interreg grant rate is up to 50% with NWE offering up to 60%.

Project activities typically encompass cooperation between partners on applied research via living labs and a demonstration of technologies approach.

Project partnerships are typically consortia of knowledge institutes, cluster organizations, business support organizations, sector organisations, private companies, public agencies... mostly working together according to an open innovation logic.

State aid rules apply for Interreg projects but the programmes have provisions in place to guide and support project partners in managing eventual state aid considerations.

High quality Interreg projects combine in general the following characteristics

- Cross-border or transnational in nature: they focus on issues that require joint cross-border or transnational interventions as opposed to issues that only require a local intervention
  - The additionality of working together across borders immediately transpires from the project set-up and intervention logic.
  - They tackle a clearly identified need and market demand
  - Result-based and quantifiable: projects are geared towards the development and implementation of concrete solutions (technological, organisational, financial, regulatory and institutional) which generate quantifiable results by the end of the project
  - Innovative: projects show a high degree of innovation in their approach, their means and end results
  - Cross-sectoral partnerships: project partnerships involve all necessary key stakeholders (triple or quadruple helix) in order to guarantee an integrated approach of the project topic
  - Are built around the joint delivery of cross-border or transnational actions instead of isolated local actions.
  - Build upon and integrate the results of previous research and/or projects
  - Have a high awareness of and position themselves clearly towards other similar initiatives or projects
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## Who to contact



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[Interreg Flanders-Netherlands programme](#): Cooperation is almost only possible between Dutch and Flemish partners with a link to the cross-border area. Only in exceptional circumstances partners from outside the programme area can participate.



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[Interreg 2 seas programme](#): Cooperation between Flemish, French, English and Dutch partners located in the programme area. In case of high added value partners from outside the programme area can participate in projects.



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[Interreg North Sea Region](#): Cooperation between partners from Flanders, Germany, The Netherlands, UK, Sweden, Denmark and Norway.

[NorthWest Europe](#): Cooperation between partners from Belgium, Germany, France, The Netherlands, Luxemburg, UK, Ireland and Switzerland