



## **INTERREG IVA PROGRAMME (2007-2013) ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA**

### **1. INTERREG IVA Programme (2007 – 2013) Project Eligibility and Selection Criteria**

1.1 The Eligibility and Selection Criteria will form the basis of the decision making process for all funding applications under the INTERREG IVA Programme. The Criteria has been developed in accordance with Article 65 (a) of the Council Regulation (EC) No1083/2006.

#### **Stages of Assessment**

1.2 All applications will go through the following stages of assessment:

- **Stage 1: Basic Eligibility Check:** In the first instance, the applications will be subject to a basic eligibility check. If the application does not meet all the basic eligibility criteria it will not progress any further in the appraisal process; and
- **Stage 2: Full Project Appraisal and Scoring:** Projects will be appraised and scored against the following criteria:
  1. They will be appraised and scored according to the programme, priority and theme specific selection criteria. (60% of the marks)
  2. They will be appraised and scored according to generic selection criteria – efficiency, effectiveness and the cross cutting themes. (40% of the marks)

1.3 Where necessary, applications will be subject to full economic appraisal. This shall be commissioned and paid for by the SEUPB and will inform the overall score applied to the application.

1.4 Once appraisal and scoring is complete, applications will be presented to an independent Steering Committee with a recommendation and a supporting rationale for that recommendation. The Steering Committee will make the final decision on the application.

### **Stage 1: Basic Eligibility Criteria**

1.5 The following basic eligibility criteria must be met by all project applicants:

- The project proposal must clearly address one of the priorities outlined within the Operational Programme;
- The project activity must be within the eligible area as defined in Council Regulation (EC) No1080/2006, (Article 21);
- All sections of the application form must be completed accurately and in full;
- Applications must be submitted on time (in the case of a published closing date);
- The willingness for project partners to engage in the partnership must be fully demonstrated in the application; and
- The project must be in accordance with the governing EU-Regulations in particular, rules on the eligibility of expenditure,

public procurement, state aid, environmental assessment and equal opportunities.

- All projects must be cross border in nature. In order to demonstrate this, partners must cooperate in a minimum of least two of the following four elements: joint development; joint implementation; joint staffing; joint financing (as required by Council Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 Article 19(2)).
- In the case of projects which include partners from Scotland, appropriate levels of match funding must be identified.

1.6 From a corporate governance perspective, the Lead Partner in the application should be a Public Sector Body or equivalent.

1.7 If the application is deemed ineligible it will not progress any further in the appraisal process.

### **Stage 2: Full Project Appraisal and Scoring**

1.8 Projects will be fully appraised and scored against the following criteria.

#### **Programme:**

1.9 The application must provide evidence of how the project contributes to the overall objective of the Programme (30%).

1.10 The overarching objective of the Programme is to support strategic cross-border co-operation for a more prosperous and sustainable region.

1.11 The project must match with the Programme objectives. Full details of the Programme objectives are available in annex format.

## **Priority and Theme:**

- 1.12 The applicant must provide evidence of how the project contributes to the Programme Priority and Themes (30%)
- 1.13 The two priorities within this Programme are: Co-operation for a more prosperous cross-border Region; and Co-operation for a sustainable cross-border Region. The Programme themes are: Enterprise, Tourism, Collaboration and Infrastructure.
- 1.14 The project must contribute to one of the above priorities and one of the above themes. Full details of the priority and theme specific criteria are available in annex format.

## **2 Generic Selection Criteria – Efficiency, Effectiveness and Cross Cutting Themes**

- 2.1 40% of the marks will be awarded on the basis of meeting the generic selection criteria. These criteria will help assess the efficiency and effectiveness of proposals and how they address the cross cutting themes.
- 2.2 Evidence of **Value for Money/Added Value**: Projects must be realistically costed. The project must have the capacity to provide a lasting legacy to the Programme. Projects must build on the experiences and lessons learned from the previous programmes and bring added value. Sustainability and/or mainstreaming must be considered. Projects must provide assurance that activities would not otherwise be achieved without EU funding.
- 2.3 Evidence of **Need**: The need for the project must be well established and described. Any relevant research should be undertaken to show how the project links with or complements government strategies or initiatives.

2.4 Evidence of **Contributing to Cross Cutting Themes**: Projects must contribute to the cross cutting themes of the programme. These are:

- **Equality** - Projects must show due regard for the need to promote equality of opportunity and adherence to the equality legislation in relevant jurisdictions.
- **Sustainable Development** - Projects must illustrate how they will promote sustainable development which is concerned with the integration of environmental, economic and social issues. Projects must not have a detrimental effect on any of these areas.
- **Impact on Poverty** - Projects must demonstrate adherence to the relevant anti-poverty strategies in Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland.
- **Partnership** - Projects must demonstrate the development of an active partnership in the preparation and implementation of the project.

### **3 Scoring System**

3.1 All projects will be scored out of 200. The quality threshold is 130 ie 65%. Projects that do not score at least 65% of the total marks available will not be selected for support. A score equivalent to 65%, or above, will not guarantee funding as applications will be scored and ranked and the finite amount of funding will be allocated to the highest ranked projects.

## ANNEX 1 - DETAILED PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA

### INTERREG IVA: PRIORITY 1.1 COOPERATION FOR A MORE PROSPEROUS CROSS-BORDER REGION: ENTERPRISE: CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

**Proposed Scoring System:**

- **60% of the scoring from the selection criteria must be awarded on the basis of meeting the Programme, Priority and Theme specific objectives.**
- **40% of the scoring from the selection criteria will be awarded on the basis of efficiency and effectiveness and will have due regard to the cross cutting themes.**

	<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Maximum Score</b>	<b>Weighting</b>	<b>Weighted Final Score</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>PROGRAMME, PRIORITY AND THEME SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES</b>			
1.1	Programme Specific Objectives	20	x3	60
1.2	Priority and Theme Specific Objectives	20	x3	60
<b>2.</b>	<b>EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS</b>			
2.1	Value for Money / Added Value	20	x1	20
2.2	Need	20	x1	20
<b>3</b>	<b>CROSS CUTTING THEMES</b>			
3.1	Equality	20	x0.5	10
3.2	Sustainable Development	20	x0.5	10
3.3	Impact on Poverty	20	x0.5	10
3.4	Partnership	20	x0.5	10
	<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>200</b>
	<b>QUALITY THRESHOLD (65%)</b>			<b>130</b>

- Taking weighting into consideration, all projects will be scored out of 200. A minimum score of 130 (or 65%) must be achieved in order for a project to be recommended for funding.
- As well as achieving an overall score of 65%, successful applications must score 65% in both Programme, Priority and Theme Objectives, and in Efficiency and Effectiveness objectives. Additionally, an application must achieve a minimum scoring band of 9-12 (evident) for each cross-cutting theme.

- The following tables give details of the questions which are taken into consideration for the overall score for each criterion.

## 1. PROGRAMME, PRIORITY & THEME SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

### 1.1 Programme Specific Objectives (60 marks)

Factors for Consideration
The project must contribute to the overall objective of the INTERREG IVA programme in demonstrating that it is supporting strategic cross-border cooperation for a more prosperous and sustainable region.
The project must demonstrate how it addresses an 'infrastructural gap' and how it contributes to broader economic development and will combat social disadvantage in the eligible region.
The project must promote integrated development and delivery which creates synergies and leads to a more diverse economy.
The project must be cross border in nature. <i>(Draw on Council Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 identifying at least two of the following areas of cross border cooperation – joint development / joint implementation / joint staffing / joint financing)</i>

### 1.2 Priority and Theme Specific Objectives (60 marks)

#### Enterprise: Creative Industries

Factors for Consideration (for further detail on the key criteria below please refer to section 3.1. of the Application Form Guidance)
The project must demonstrate how it will contribute to the strategic development of the Creative Industries sector across the eligible region.
The project must demonstrate how it adds value to existing initiatives to support the Creative Industries sector across the eligible region.
The project must demonstrate how it will address the key barriers to growth within the Creative Industries sector
The project must demonstrate how it will improve the competitiveness of companies within the Creative Industries sector and assist the sector to increase market access both within the eligible region and beyond.
The project must demonstrate how it intends to build links between the Creative Industry and other stakeholders across the eligible region
The project must demonstrate the specific advantages of inter-regional action.

## 2. EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

### 2.1 Evidence of Value for Money / Added Value (20 marks)

<b>Factors for Consideration</b>
Has a well costed budget been provided with a clear breakdown of all supporting costs?
Are overhead / management charges apportioned on a justifiable basis?
Does the project demonstrate efficient use of the goods and services purchased for the project? The Lead Partner must show efficiency in terms of prices paid, which should be in line with the market average.
Is there evidence of public procurement procedures being followed where applicable?
Does the proposal have the potential to make a difference and have a lasting impact on the target communities/beneficiaries?
Is the project once-off in nature or does it have ongoing operational funding implications?
If yes, there are ongoing issues of financial sustainability, what is the likelihood of the proposal being sustained beyond period of INTERREG IVA funding? Have any potential sources been identified at this stage?
Does the Lead Partner have a proven track record – i.e. knowledge and proven ability in a field relevant to the proposed project?
Does the project implementation plan provide a level of assurance that the promoter has the capacity to complete the project within the stated timeframe?
Are potential mainstream funders involved in the design and implementation of proposal?
If not, have relevant stakeholders been kept informed about the project?
A Communication Plan is a basic eligibility criterion for each Programme. The quality of the Plan needs to be taken into consideration. Has it been well costed in relation to the overall project? Will it be effectively implemented?
Complementarity with other EU Programmes – is your project in receipt of any other EU Programme funding? Ensure this is complementary and there is no duplication.
Is the project additional? Does it provide assurances that without ERDF funding would not otherwise have been achieved?
Will the project result in a higher level of quality / better outputs than it would without the benefit of ERDF funding?
Displacement should be considered. Will the proposal result in any other similar operation/ activities being adversely affected?
Will it complement / add value to existing services?
Is it clearly addressing gaps in existing provision?

Is an evaluation built in to the proposal as a part of best practice / sustainability strategy?

## 2.2 Evidence of Need (20 marks)

Factors for Consideration
Has the applicant provided concrete evidence of need for the project for the proposed target group? For example, is there evidence that the target group has been consulted with during the design of proposed operation?
Has relevant local and / or national research been provided or been cited in support of this need?
Is the plan compatible and complementary with activities delivered at a local level?
Has the plan taken consideration of how its proposed activities can fit within, and influence, the broader strategies in the eligible region and beyond at the macro level?
Is relevant and full supplementary information provided: Research reports, business plans, drawings, plans, financial statements, project implementation plan with timeframe etc.?
Does the proposal provide a clear and defined strategy of implementation? Key components should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evidence of Need</li><li>• Project Objective(s) clearly stated</li><li>• Programme of Activities</li><li>• Anticipated Outputs / Results / Impacts</li><li>• A Plan for Monitoring</li><li>• Timeframe for roll out</li><li>• Detailed Associated Costings</li></ul>
Has the applicant included a monitoring and evaluation strategy for tracking outputs, results and impacts? <i>(NOTE – This Plan needs to link with table 4.1 in the OP which outlines the targets and indicators.)</i>
Are the stated project outcomes achievable and realistic?
In the assessment of need, has the applicant identified different options that may meet the need and provided a rationale for the option that they have pursued?
Has the applicant identified the main risks associated with the various options and factored these into the final option identified?

### 3. CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

(NOTE: The cross-cutting theme of cross-border will be factored into the priority specific criteria as there is a derogation that PEACE III may be delivered on a single jurisdiction basis.)

#### 3.1 Focus on Equality (10 marks)

##### **Equality:**

How will the project contribute to the development of opportunities for socially excluded groups? For example, opportunities for all those groups listed within Section 75 Legislation / Equal Status Act.

- i.e. Have key target groups been meaningfully involved in the consultation and drawing together of the Local Plan and will the project outcomes positively affect them?

#### 3.2 Focus on Sustainable Development (10 marks)

##### **Sustainable Development:**

How does the project demonstrate compatibility with the environmental sustainability objectives of the Programme?

- i.e. Has the applicant considered any potential negative environmental impacts the project may incur and have they proposed any steps or actions to mitigate against these?
- i.e. In the case of any capital / construction projects, have basic environmental standards been incorporated into the design of the proposed projects?

Sustainable development is concerned with the integration of environmental, economic and social issues. Project work should preferably contribute to environmental, social and economic goals and should not have a detrimental effect on any of these aspects.

#### 3.3 Focus on Poverty (10 marks)

##### **Impact on Poverty:**

Does the proposal demonstrate that it will target resources and effort on people, groups and areas which, according to current research, are shown to be the most socially disadvantaged?

- i.e. Do they show that particular effort was made to facilitate the involvement of New TSN (or equivalent) and marginalised and disadvantaged groups?

#### 3.4 Focus on Partnership (10 marks)

##### **Partnership:**

Does the proposal build on the experiences of local partnerships in previous programmes and / or does it facilitate a strong partnership approach at a local level?

- i.e. Are the guiding principles of Partnership embedded in the proposal? – Participation / Openness / Shared Ownership / Representation / Mutual Respect.

The scoring bands are as follows

**Proposed Scoring Bands to be applied to Appraisal Template**

<b>Score</b>	<b>How Evident?</b>	<b>Link to Criterion</b>	<b>Link at Project Level</b>
0-4	Not Evident	The application failed to meet a basic standard under this criterion.	The project proposal does not demonstrate that it has the capacity to deliver basic project outcomes that would be expected in order to be awarded funding.
5-8	Less Evident	The application met some of the basic requirements of this criterion.	The project proposal demonstrates some ability to deliver key outputs and outcomes in areas, but overall it is below the standard expected in order to be awarded funding.
9-12	Evident	The application met the requirements of this criterion.	The project proposal demonstrates an ability to deliver project outcomes to an acceptable standard and it may be considered suitable for funding.
13-16	Very Evident	The application fully met the requirements of this criterion.	The project proposal is strong in the manner in which it has described a range of activities that will result in good outputs and the achievement of key goals.
17-20	Highly Evident	The application was an excellent fit with the requirements of this criterion	The project proposal demonstrates an excellent ability to deliver and shows a high degree of competency in achieving the outcomes described.