

INTERREG IVC



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.

This guide is an overview of the selection criteria that will be used to determine whether or not your project is approved under the INTERREG IVC programme. You should use this guide as a basis for developing your project application and you should use it in conjunction with the INTERREG IVC Operational Programme and the latest version of the project handbook. For more information, please see www.interreg4c.eu

Programme Area

All Member States of the European Union are eligible for INTERREG IVC projects. In addition, Norway and Switzerland are full members of the programme. Partners from other countries can also participate, but at their own costs. INTERREG IVC is the only INTERREG programme which is open to all EU regions, and so it is strongly advised to involve partners from a wide geographical area.

Programme Priorities

The programme is organised around two thematic priorities related to the Lisbon Agenda (economic growth and job creation) and the Gothenburg Agenda (environment and sustainable development).

Types of project intervention

- **Regional Initiative Project**

The aim of these projects is to aid exchange, dissemination and transfer of experience. The Partnership must involve at least 3 partners, from which at least two partners must be from EU Members Countries. The size of the partnership shall depend on the level of intensity of the cooperation. The higher the level of intensity is, the lower the number of partners. The recommended duration for projects is 36 months. For complex issues, projects which involve from 3 to 8 partners can also be set up as mini programmes. It is recommended that only public bodies apply as project partners, because they have a natural legitimacy in managing a mini-programme including selecting sub-projects and funding participants from the territories involved. If Justified, The period could last up to 48 months. The ERDF contribution can be from €500 000 to €5 million. All Regional Initiative

projects must have a particular focus on the exchange of experience and on the identification, analysis and dissemination of good practices in the policy area tackled by the project.

- **Capitalisation Project**

Capitalisation Projects are interregional projects which focus specifically on the transfer of regional development and good practices into mainstream EU Structural Funds Programme. The potential partnership involved in Capitalisation projects must demonstrate that they have good results and transferable tools and approaches, as well as good management skills and knowledge, for example knowledge which could result from a previous INTERREG IIIC project. Some Capitalisation projects can benefit from additional expertise from the European Commission in order to contribute to the Regions for Economic Change. These projects are called Fast Track Projects. For Capitalisation Projects, there are no specific requirements in terms of number of partners, but there is a minimum of six countries recommended, and a maximum of ten countries. The recommended duration of the projects should in general not exceed 24 months. The ERDF Contribution to Capitalisation Projects can be from €300.000 to €3 million.

For Regional Initiative Project and Capitalisation Projects, Public authorities and bodies governed by public law are eligible to be beneficiaries.

Eligibility Criteria

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. The following criteria are indicative and can be stricter in the Term of Reference of each call for proposals.

- The application form must be submitted in due time in original and electronic versions, both versions being identical, with a proof of sending provided.
- The application must be dated and hand signed and properly completed. The form must include the original application form and the co-financing statements for the lead partner and each partner (original or faxed copy)
- Co-financing statements have to be signed and dated

Be careful:

- That the names of partners mentioned in this document are the same as the application form.
- That the sum stated in the statement at least cover the “national co-financing” amount (or total amount in case of partners not applying for INTERREG IVC co-financing) is indicated in the application form.
- That the standard form is included in the application pack used and that no amendments have been made to the form apart from completing the requested fields.

Quality Criteria

If the project application fulfils the above criteria, the project will then be assessed against the quality criteria:

- **Content-related criteria**

1- Relevance of the proposal

The theme has to be linked with the Lisbon and/or Gothenburg agenda, and in line with one of the programme sub-themes. It also has to be obviously related to development and/or regional policies, and clearly in line with the competences of regional and local authorities.

The proposal must have a clear added value, and the theme of the project must be considered of general interest in the context of EU regional policy. The project shall have a clear focus on the exchange of experience within the partnership.

The project has to demonstrate its contribution to the programme's objectives.

The approach has to be interregional and the cooperation must be fair and shared between the partners.

2- Coherence of the proposal and quality of approach

The issue tackled has to be clearly stated, and the objectives and sub-objectives clearly defined, as well as the outputs and results.

Issues tackled, objectives and planned effects have to be logically inter-related, and the expected results have to be achieved through the proposed methodology and planned activities.

The overall proposed methodology has to be realistic and consistent, with logically inter-related components. Activities have to be logically interrelated. The intensity of cooperation has to be in line with the proposed activities. For capitalisation projects, the focus has to be placed on the transfer of identified good practices into Structural Funds mainstream programmes.

The planned activities and outputs have to be described in enough detail in the project work plan. The description of the outputs must be in line with the description of the activities.

Equal opportunities and environment sustainability (the horizontal principles) have to be respected.

3- Quality of results

The expected results have to be concrete, clearly specified, precisely quantified and realistic. They will have to be innovative in the context of INTERREG IVC, have a clear added value, and disseminated to other interested stakeholders in Europe. Make sure that the communication activities are clearly defined.

The project must demonstrate a good capacity to improve the regional policies and instruments, and its results will have a direct influence on the local regional policies of the regions represented in the partnership. The results of the project must be of European relevance and applicable to other European regions.

For Capitalisation Projects, an action plan per participating regions is expected.

Make sure that the results of the operation are durable.

If one of those points is not filled, it has to be justified in the application form.

- **Implementation-related criteria**

1- Quality of management

The procedures for decision-making, monitoring, evaluation management and coordination have to be clear, transparent and fair. Make sure that all partners are involved in the decision making process.

The procedures for administrative and financial management also have to be explained. If there is a sharing of tasks within the partnership, its division has to be clear and logical.

Make sure that the lead partner has experience in managing similar projects, and that the other partners have an experience of similar projects.

If one of those points is not filled, it has to be justified in the application form.

2- Quality of partnership

The issue tackled must interest all partners. They all should benefit from the operation. The appropriate partners are involved to solve the issue tackled, and they are in position to influence their regional/local policies and strategies.

The number of partners involved is in line with the intensity of the cooperation and with the programme's recommendations.

For capitalisation projects, the relevant policy makers have to be involved in the cooperation.

The involvement of all partners has to be proportionate and financial contribution between the partners has to be balanced and realistic.

Partnership has to be a mix between less experienced and less experienced partners in the field tackled by the project and should be geographically spread across the EU.

If one of those points is not filled, it has to be justified in the application form.

3- Budget and finance

The overall budget has to be reasonable compared with the planned activities, outputs and project's duration. The overall budget must be reasonable compared with the number of partners involved.

The value for money must be demonstrated in the context of INTERREG IVC. The budget allocated to management, coordination tasks and the budget allocated to administration costs have to be reasonable. The budget share has to be dedicated to external expertise and services reasonable. Finally, the budget allocated to equipment must be reasonable.

If one of those points is not filled, it has to be justified in the application form.