

Interreg Europe: the second call for proposals in a nutshell

Category: Stay informed

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Interreg Europe at a glance

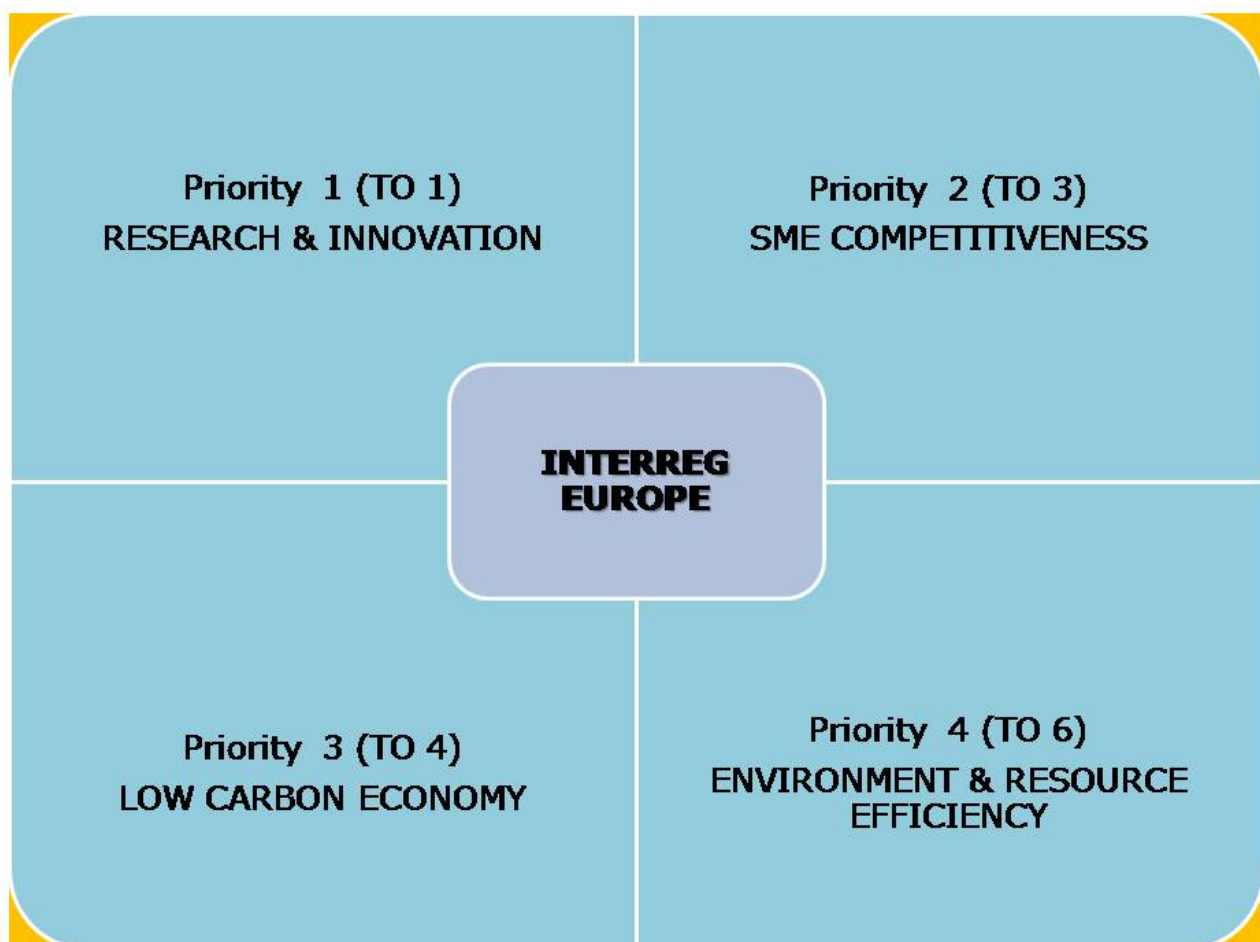
Interreg Europe is a particular Programme that builds upon the positive legacy of the **Community Initiative “Interreg”** launched in 1990.

Under the reformed cohesion policy, [Interreg Europe](#) is aimed at *‘sharing solutions for better regional policies’*, being part of the European Territorial Cooperation objective of the so-called ‘cohesion policy’. [1]

The whole Programme can be summarized according to a *‘4x2’ scheme*:

- **four themes (Priority Axes)** chosen among the 11 Thematic Objectives that establish a logic link between the “Europe 2020” strategy and interventions co-financed by **European Structural and Investment Funds – ESIFs** (see the chart below) [2],
- **two types of actions**, *id est* (i) **policy learning platforms** aimed at enhancing knowledge sharing between regional/local authorities, research institutes and other organizations willing to improve regional policies and (ii) **cooperation projects**.

Chart: Priority Axes of Interreg Europe



The second call

The opening date for the second call under Interreg Europe is set on 5 April 2016 and applications will be accepted until 13 May 2016.

Since the beginning of March is available on the Programme website the whole [Application Package](#) approved by the Monitoring Committee [3].

The goal of the 2nd call for proposals is to finance projects testing bold ideas and new knowledge sharing practices on the following Programme's specific objectives:

1.1. Improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in particular in the field of research and innovation infrastructure and capacities (Priority Axis 1);

1.2. Improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, that support the delivery of innovation by players in regional innovation chains (Priority Axis 1);

2.1. Improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, supporting SMEs in all stages of their life cycle, to develop and achieve growth and engage in innovation (Priority Axis 2);

3.1. Improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, addressing the transition to a low-carbon economy (Priority Axis 3);

4.1. Improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in the field of the protection and development of natural and cultural heritage (Priority Axis 4);

4.2. Improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, aimed at increasing resource-efficiency, green growth and eco-innovation and environmental performance management (Priority Axis 4).



Furthermore, the terms of references highlights that many projects financed under the first call are related to Priority Axis 1 (Research) and Priority Axis 2 (Enhancing competitiveness of SMEs).

Accordingly, eligible applicants are advised to submit innovative projects mainly related to Priority Axes 3 and 4.

All the proposals will be evaluated against eligibility and quality criteria (two-step assessment procedure). Quality criteria are grouped in two categories:

- strategic assessment criteria (relevance of proposals, quality of expected results, quality of partnership),
- operational assessment criteria (coherence of the proposal and quality of approach, communication and management, budget and finance).

Eligible organisations that can apply are: (i) public authorities, (ii) public law bodies, (iii) private non-profit bodies. Interreg Europe Programme Manual clearly indicates the target groups for each specific objective of the call.

Co-financing rates are set as follows:

- 85% of the total eligible cost for public bodies and bodies governed by public law from all 28 EU partner states;
- 75% of the total eligible cost for private non-profit

bodies from all 28 EU partner states. [4]

[1] Today, **Interreg V (European Territorial Cooperation)** is the 2nd objective of 'cohesion policy', holds its own regulation – **Reg. (EU) No 1299/2013** – and its financial envelope amounts to about EUR 9 billion (2.75% of the total 'cohesion policy' budget as referred to in Article 4 of the ETC regulation).

Article 2 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013 establishes that the European Territorial Cooperation goal of 'cohesion policy' is structured around three components:

- Cross-Border Cooperation programmes (they cover internal and external borders of the EU),
- Transnational Cooperation programmes (15 cooperation programmes),
- Interregional Cooperation programmes.

Furthermore, Article 2 highlights that 'interregional cooperation' is aimed at reinforcing the effectiveness of 'cohesion policy' by promoting:

(i) exchange of experience focusing on thematic objectives [...] and on the identification and dissemination of good practices ([Interreg Europe](#));

(ii) exchange of experience concerning the identification, transfer and dissemination of good practices in relation to sustainable urban development, including urban-rural linkages ([URBACT](#));

(iii) exchange of experience concerning the identification, transfer and dissemination of good practices and innovative approaches in relation to the implementation of cooperation programmes and actions ([INTERACT](#));

(iv) analysis of development trends in relation to the aims of territorial cohesion ([ESPON](#)).

[2] Interreg Europe Programme is structured as follows:

- Priority Axes (corresponding to Thematic Objectives 1, 3, 4 and 6 of European Structural and Investment Funds),
- Investment Priorities,
- Specific Objectives.

[3] Interreg Europe will be one of the financial instruments of the EU presented during the workshop '**New funding models for the Italian Public Administration**' organized by the research centre [CEIDA](#) (Rome, 5th and 6th of April). My colleague Elena Zanella, founder of the professional network [Fundraising Virtual Hub](#), and I will present new ideas on how to diversify and ameliorate funding models of Local Authorities, even by raising private donations and using 'civic' crowdfunding.

[4] It has to be taken into account that Norway and Switzerland are full members of the Programme, but organizations from these countries are not eligible to ERDF funds.