

CALL FOR PROJECTS 2016 Phase 2 – Full applications

31 October to 19 December 2016

ANNOUNCEMENT

Introduction

The Interreg Atlantic Area Programme 2014-2020 announces the second stage of its first call for projects.

The Programme is financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and supports cooperation addressing shared regional challenges and innovative approaches to strengthen territorial and sustainable economic development in the Atlantic Area. The Programme targets partnership projects which will provide joint solutions to shared transnational challenges faced by eligible regions along the Atlantic coast in France, Ireland, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Cooperation projects financed by the programme will be expected to deliver against the outputs specified in the Cooperation Programme document and produce tangible and sustainable results. This will be achieved by involving key and relevant local and regional stakeholders across the transnational space in the priority areas defined below.

Funds available

No specific amount has been set for the first call for projects. The Programme intends to announce calls for proposals on an annual basis from 2016 to 2020, as long as there are funds available.

Priorities

All Priority Axes in the Cooperation Programme are open:

Priorities	Specific objectives
1. Stimulating innovation and competitiveness	1.1 - Enhancing innovation capacity through cooperation to foster competitiveness
	1.2 - Strengthening the transfer of innovation results to facilitate the emergence of new products, services and processes
2. Fostering resource efficiency	2.1 - Fostering renewable energies and energy efficiency
	2.2 - Fostering Green Growth, eco-innovation and environmental efficiency
3. Strengthening the territory's resilience to risks of natural, climate and human origin	3.1 - Strengthening risk management systems
4. Enhancing biodiversity and natural and cultural assets	4.1 - Improving the protection of biodiversity and enhancing ecosystems' services
	4.2 - Enhancing natural and cultural assets to stimulate economic development

Application process: The process is organised in two stages.

First stage - submission and selection of Expressions of Interest (closed)

Second Stage - Submission and approval of full applications

According to decisions made by the Programme Monitoring Committee, successful applicants are invited to prepare and submit a full project application. Applicants have approximately 7 weeks to submit their full project application. Where relevant, any requests and recommendations from the Joint Secretariat and the Monitoring Committee relating to consideration of the Expression of Interest (EOI), will need to be taken into account by the project partners.

Final decisions on stage 2 applications will be made by the Programme Monitoring Committee by end of March/ beginning of April 2017.

Practical information

The full application form, the Programme Manual, which provides detailed support and guidance for applicants, and other relevant documents including the Cooperation Programme document are available in the “Call for Projects” domain of the Programme website (<http://atlanticarea.eu/>). It is important that applicants consult the information in each document before submitting their full application form.

31 October 2016	Opening second stage call
19 December 2016 - 12 noon GMT	Deadline for submission of full projects application
End March/begin April 2017	Monitoring Committee approval decision

Who can apply?

Only EOI successful at stage 1 may apply for the second phase of the first call for projects. Only the lead partners of selected EOI may submit the corresponding full project application. In total 102 EOI have been approved in stage 1.

Approval of EOI at stage 1 does not guarantee approval at stage 2.

Partnership

What is a balanced partnership? The partnership should: involve relevant organizations from public to private sector, from research institutions to the business sector, reflect the transnational cooperation approach by its geographical coverage as well as sufficient competences and expertise, finally financial equity/involvement has to be foreseen.

The Atlantic Area projects must have at least 3 Members States in the partnership consisting of France, Ireland, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom. Partnerships with 4 and 5 Member States from

Atlantic Area are especially welcomed. A balanced partnership also means that the project outputs are developed in all the partnership areas and just not in one Member State, and the project has a clear impact in the Atlantic Area and not just one or two Member States.

Quality of Projects, results and impacts sought

The Interreg Atlantic Area Programme Monitoring Committee is the governing body for the Cooperation Programme. It is committed to delivering visible, tangible transnational results through supporting genuinely high quality transnational projects which respond to the Priority Axes and address those specific objectives set out in the Programme document.

The Programme is committed to funding high quality sustainable projects addressing key transnational challenges or common transnational problems shared by different regions across the Atlantic Area. Projects should also be impact oriented, seeking to generate sustainable change in the region. Particular attention to outputs and results will be given (please check the Manual for indicators list). They must therefore have a strong design and relevance for all partner regions involved, respond to genuine transnational need, and have a robust transnational feature.

Atlantic Area is a cooperation programme in which innovation is a priority area, but, pure research activities are not funded in this programme. Please check another EU programmes such Horizon 2020 for R&D funding opportunities.

Eligible regions

The cooperation area covered by the Cooperation Programme includes the European Atlantic regions listed below. Project partners must be located within the eligible territory of the Atlantic Area regions. However, in duly justified cases, organisations based outside the cooperation area in the EU or third countries may join project partnerships of the Programme, if the benefit for regions in the cooperation area is clearly demonstrated.

Atlantic Area Eligible Regions

- **France:** Haute-Normandie, Basse-Normandie, Pays-de-la-Loire, Bretagne, former Region Poitou Charentes Aquitaine (except Limousin)
- **Ireland:** Border, Midland and Western, Southern and Eastern.
- **Portugal:** Norte, Algarve, Centro, Lisboa, Alentejo, Açores, Madeira.
- **Spain:** Galicia, Principado de Asturias, Cantabria, Navarra, País Vasco, Andalucía (Huelva, Cádiz and Sevilla), Islas Canarias.
- **United Kingdom:** Cumbria, Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Merseyside, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol/Bath Area, Dorset and Somerset, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly, Devon, West Wales and the Valleys, East Wales, South Western Scotland, Highlands and Islands, Northern Ireland.

Project Partnership, applicants and beneficiaries

A wide range of organisations under public or private law, are potential beneficiaries of ERDF funding and may therefore join a project partnership. Eligible organisations cover entities like:

- ✓ National, regional, or local public bodies;
- ✓ Education and research institutions;
- ✓ Not-for-profit organisations;
- ✓ Private and public companies;
- ✓ International, transnational and cross-border organisations.

The number of partners depends on the nature and scope of the project and should reflect an optimum capacity to deliver its aims and objectives and a balanced distribution of roles and funding among partners and over the various countries of the Atlantic area. Therefore the size of the partnership is flexible and should reflect the scope of the project while remaining manageable.

Duration of Projects

Projects should normally propose a work timeline with a duration of 18 to 36 months, with a start in the second quarter of 2017. If justified by the project scope and the planned activities, a longer implementation period up to 48 months could be acceptable.

Budget and eligible expenditure

There is no pre-established lower or upper limit to project budgets, they depend on the nature, scope of projects and number of partners. To ensure that operations have a robust transnational feature, a strong and balanced coverage of partners and funding over the different countries of the Programme area must be sought by projects.

Expenditure is considered eligible if it complies with European and national rules and the established legal limits and if it is directly related to the project and observes the principles of economic efficiency and cost-effectiveness. Eligible expenditure shall be incurred and paid within the set eligibility period.

Co-financing rate and national match funds

As general rule the Programme offers a maximum co-financing rate of 75% of the total project budget.

Language use

Applicants can communicate with the Joint Secretariat in any of the 4 Programme languages. However, the application form must compulsorily be completed in English and optionally in any other Programme language. The project title and the brief description shall be compulsorily completed in all four Programme Languages

Information and assistance Programme website: <http://atlanticarea.eu/>

Documents and facilities available on the Programme website:

- ✓ Atlantic Area Cooperation Programme;
- ✓ Programme Manual;
- ✓ Application package.

For general advice please contact the Joint Secretariat: atlantico.stc@ccdr-n.pt.