



1ST CALL FOR PROPOSALS

21 September 2007– 15 January 2008

1. INTRODUCTION

Authorities and stakeholders at local and regional level have a vital role to play in the achievement of the EU's strategies for growth, jobs and sustainable development. The exchange, sharing and transfer of policy experience, knowledge and good practices will contribute to the success of this objective.

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, by:

- Enabling local and regional actors across the EU to exchange their experiences and knowledge;
- Matching regions less experienced in a certain policy field with more advanced regions;
- Ensuring the transfer of good practices into Structural Funds mainstream programmes.

The INTERREG IVC Programme is financed through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), whose principles and regulations are laid down in Council Regulation N° 1083/2006 (General Regulation), Council and Parliament Regulation N° 1080/2006 (ERDF Regulation) and Commission Regulation N° 1828/2006 (Implementation Regulation). The principles and regulations for projects developed within the Programme are laid down in the Operational Programme, which was officially approved by the European Commission on 11th September 2007.

2. PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES

The INTERREG IVC Programme is divided into two thematic priorities related to the EU strategy for growth and sustainable development known as the Lisbon and Gothenburg strategies.

Project partners are invited to submit their project application under one of the sub-themes listed below.

Innovation and the Knowledge Economy (ERDF €177 million, 55%)	Environment and Risk Prevention (ERDF €125 million, 39%)
- Innovation, Research & Technology Development	- Natural & Technological Risks (incl. climate change)
- Entrepreneurship and SMEs	- Water Management
- Information Society	- Waste Prevention and Management
- Employment, Human Resources and Education	- Biodiversity and Natural Heritage (incl. air quality)
	- Energy and Sustainable Transport
	- Cultural Heritage and Landscape

3. WHO CAN APPLY?

The eligible INTERREG IVC cooperation area covers the whole territory of the European Union with its 27 Member States, including insular and outermost areas. In addition, Norway and Switzerland are full members of the Programme and organisations from these countries are welcome to participate in it. Partners from other countries can participate at their own costs.

Only public authorities and bodies governed by public law (also called public equivalent bodies) are eligible. According to Directive 2004/18/EC, Article 1, a body governed by public law means any body:

- (a) Established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest, not having an industrial or commercial character;
- (b) Having legal personality; and
- (c) - Financed, for the most part, by the State, regional or local authorities, or other bodies governed by public law;
- Or subject to management supervision by those bodies;
- Or having an administrative, managerial or supervisory.

Only “official partners” (those listed in the Application Form, also called “contributing partners”) can incur costs and receive ERDF. It is therefore not possible to participate with an “observer” or “sub-partner” status.

4. LEAD PARTNER PRINCIPLE

Each project has to appoint a Lead Partner who makes the link between the project and the JTS/MA. The Lead Partner takes over the full responsibility for management, communication, implementation and co-ordination of activities among the involved partners. The Lead Partner also bears legal responsibility and liability for the whole partnership.

In order to ensure these tasks, the Lead Partner has to appoint:

- a coordinator, who is responsible for the organisation of the project’s work;
- a financial manager, who is in charge the accounts, financial reporting, and the internal handling of ERDF funds and national co-financing.

5. FUNDING AVAILABLE AND CO-FINANCING RATE

Over the period 2007-2013, €302 million is being made available to co-finance projects implemented by EU partners. Partners from Norway and Switzerland are not eligible to receive ERDF but can receive co-financing from their respective national funds. Swiss partners should refer to the Cantons in order to out more about the availability of these funds.

Under the INTERREG IVC Programme, the eligible project activities are co-financed from the ERDF at either 75% or 85% depending on the Member State.

Co-financing rate	Participating States (EU + Norway)
75% ERDF	Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom
85% ERDF	Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia
50% National Funds	Norway

6. PROJECT APPLICATIONS

INTERREG IVC provides the opportunity for institutions involved in regional policy to gain access to the experience of partners in other parts of Europe. Project partners who would like to submit an application must fill in an Application Form in English, as it is the working language of the Programme. Applications submitted in another language will be considered ineligible.

The Application Form consists of an Excel document, which includes a number of automatic links and formulae. These features ensure that error messages appear in the form if it is not properly filled in. Detailed instructions on how to fill in the Application Form are also provided in the Application Form itself. All the relevant information is available on the Programme’s website: <http://www.interreg4c.net>

The Application Form has to be submitted electronically by e-mail at the latest by the 15th January 2008. Similarly the original hard copy duly signed, stamped and dated (as per postmark) has to be sent at the latest by the same date to the following address only:

**INTERREG IVC 1st call – NE PAS OUVRIR
Région Nord – Pas de Calais**

**Centre Rihour – 5 rue Rihour
59555 LILLE CEDEX
FRANCE**

The paper version of the Application Form must also include the two following compulsory annexes:

- Co-financing statements from all partners;
- Project time plan.

7. PROJECT SELECTION

All applications will be subject to a two-step assessment procedure. Projects will initially be checked against six eligibility criteria. Only applications that pass this eligibility step will be subject to quality assessment according to six selection criteria.

Based on the results of the quality assessment, final decisions are made by the Monitoring Committee of the programme, which is made up of representatives from both national and regional authorities within the participating states. They are communicated to all Lead Partners via a notification letter. The Monitoring Committee is expected to be held within five months after the end of the call.

8. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A core JTS has been set up in Lille to support the Nord-Pas de Calais Region, Managing Authority of the programme. The JTS is in charge of the overall implementation of the programme (development, assessment, monitoring, auditing). The JTS works closely with four Information Points located across Europe. They provide assistance to applicants and organise events to promote the programme. They also support the network of national and regional contact points.

Information Point	Geographical area
Katowice (Poland)	Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania
Lille (France)	Belgium, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Switzerland
Rostock (Germany)	Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden, Norway
Valencia (Spain)	Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain

Here are the contact details of the Information Points:

- Katowice (Poland): Teresa Marcinów, IP-East@interreg4c.net
- Lille (France): Akos Szabo, IP-West@interreg4c.net
- Rostock (Germany): Ronald Lieske, IP-North@interreg4c.net
- Valencia (Spain) Marvi Gil, IP-South@interreg4c.net

9. FURTHER INFORMATION

A comprehensive description of the Programme strategies and priorities, together with a socio-economic analysis of Europe are included in the INTERREG IVC Operational Programme.

Further guidance for project applicants is provided in the Programme Manual which is available on the Programme website: <http://www.interreg4c.net/application.html>

All official documents and contact details of the Programme JTS and the Information Points are available for download on the Programme website: <http://www.interreg4c.net>