



EU **WATER** 4i-SD

Guide for European funding

Practical guide for small and medium sized enterprises regarding EU funding for the period 2021-2027



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How does this guide work?

This guide aims to be a practical and manageable tool to facilitate the participation of companies in this consortium the drafting and management of European projects. Even though it is a document, it works similarly to a website, allowing free browsing throughout the whole guide thanks to a series of internal links that lead to the different sections of the document. The links might look like:

What do they look like?



Resources

Links to a page



Links to go back to the main index, the section's index or last page



External links

It also contains a series of external links leading to relevant websites. All external links are signalled by this symbol.

Guida per l'accesso ai fondi

Section 1

What do I need to know about European funding?

Introductory chapter and key words to understand the concept of European funds, who manages them, where, and the diverse forms in which they might be presented during the period 2021-2027.

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Section 2

To which funding programmes can I apply as a company?

Mapping of programmes and EU funds to which the companies can apply, what these programmes include, key data, a review and recommendations for potential applicants.

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Guida per l'accesso ai fondi

Section 3

To which national funds can I apply as a company?

Mapping of programmes in each of the participant countries to which the companies can apply, what these programmes include, key data, a review and recommendations for potential applicants.

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Section 4

Which opportunities for which sectors?

Focus by sector, allowing the identification of relevant programmes for the concerned companies, as well as information and documents of interest for the presentation of project proposals.

Guida per l'accesso ai fondi

Section 5

How can I access EU funding?

Presentation of the lifecycle of a European project, highlighting key aspects of the application process, explaining how to elaborate a long-term strategy and including a series of recommendations and practical advice.

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Section 1

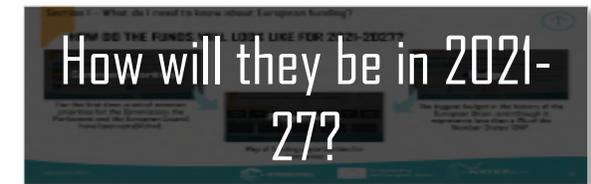
What do I need to know about European funding?



WHAT DO WE MEAN WHEN WE TALK ABOUT 'EUROPEAN FUNDS'?

European funds refer to a series of funding opportunities coming from the European Union.

These 'funds' are one of the means of the European Union to fulfill its political priorities, which are instrumentalized through the implementation of a variety of projects and actions distributed in its pluriannual budget. Given the immense size of this budget, it is divided into a series of programmes that manage them in reduced portions.



Section 1 - What do I need to know about European funding?



PARTNERSHIPS

Cooperation among entities

Generally, calls require the collaboration among entities of diverse natures that can make the most of their added value and complement each other.

Public and Private organizations

The European Commission values most positively the collaboration between public and private entities that join forces to reach a common goal.

Transnational

In the majority of cases, the calls require the creation of partnerships including entities from different European countries.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

CALL

Competitive calls

The awarding of funds follows a competitive process (calls) in which it is required to compete against other European entities.

DRAFTING THE PROJECT

Impact and Sustainability

When designing a project, it is crucial to define correctly the impact it will have on the target groups and explain in detail the project's effectivity beyond its lifetime.

Sectors and/or strategic thematic for the EU

The projects aligning with the strategic sectors and thematic deemed more relevant by the EU are more likely to be elected for funding.

FUNDING

Direct grants

European funds are non-refundable funds in the form of grants.

Co-financing

European projects are co-financed, thus, the entities receiving such funds will have to contribute to the funding of the project.

Non-retroactive

Generally, funds cover the expenses reported after signing the contract with the European Commission. Except in specific cases, previous expenses are non-eligible.

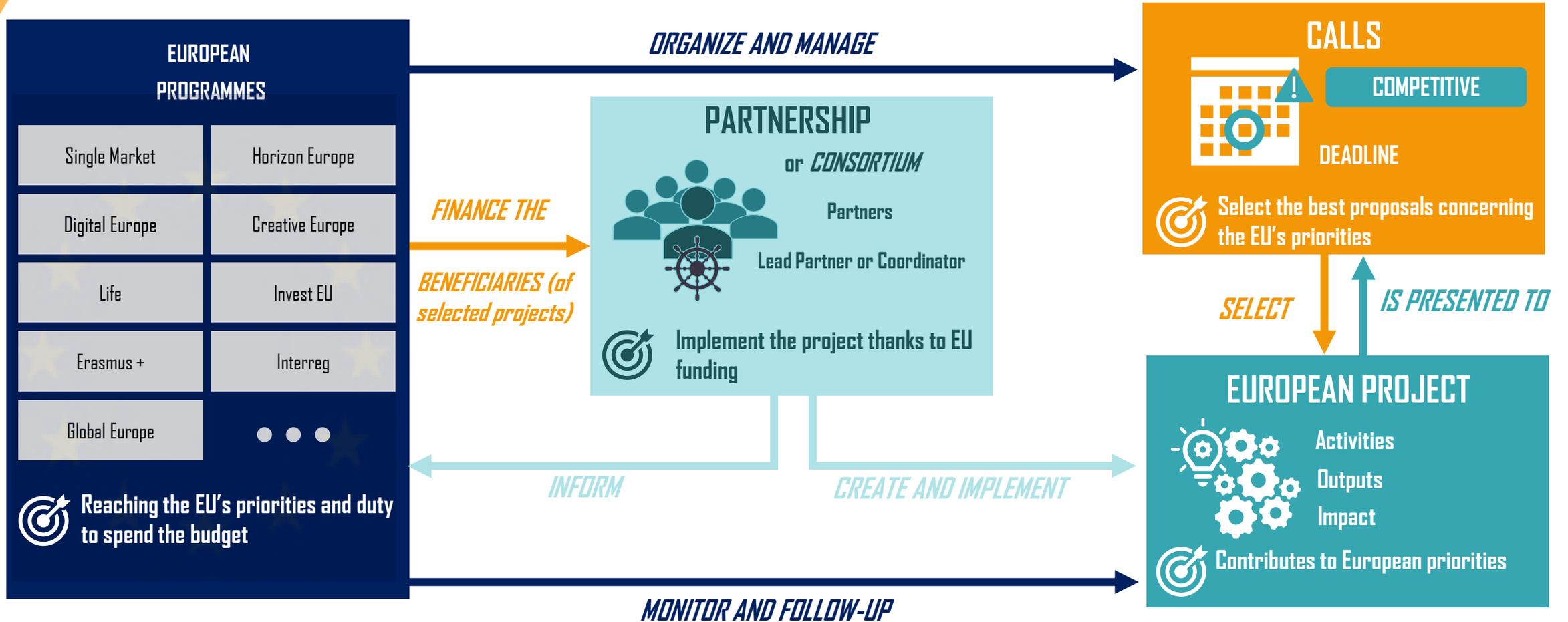
Without generating profit

The grant is exclusively aimed at covering the project's rightfully justified expenses. No profits can be declared.

Section 1 - What do I need to know about European funding?



Key concepts: the Commission's lingo





WHAT DO EUROPEAN PROJECTS LOOK LIKE?

Financial tools

Financial guarantees, loans and other bank aids.



Procurement

Financing a supplier through a tender



Grants

Non-refundable donations distributed through the programmes.

DE MINIMIS REGULATION

As to limit the impact of economic aids granted by Member States to their businesses, the European Commission limits the maximum quantity that one private entity can receive from each State: it is denominated as de Minimis regulation.





WHAT DO EUROPEAN PROJECTS LOOK LIKE?

Financial tools

Any European company, regardless their size or sector (entrepreneur, start-up, micro business, SMEs, big companies, etc) can benefit from funding through the financial tools of the EU. This funding can take a variety of forms: loans, microfinancing, warranties and capital risk.

How can I benefit from these funds?

There exist two pathways to receive financing:

- **Through local financial entities** (banks, investors in venture capital, providential investors, etc.) which, thanks to the European Union, can offer more financing to businesses.
- **Through European Programmes** which include financial tools for businesses (to the right).





WHAT DO EUROPEAN PROJECTS LOOK LIKE?

Procurement

One of the ways to get funds from the European Union is through a procurement. When concerning European funds, this procurement needs to be previously processed as a call for tender, which differs from calls for proposals in the following:

CALL FOR TENDER



Delegate the implementation of a specific action or a part of a project to a supplier (infrastructure, service or equipment and supplies)

There exist two types:

- **Direct procurement**, where the contractor is the European Union, and they are published at the 'TED' portal (see [Resources](#))
- **Indirect procurement**, where the contractor is the beneficiary of a grant, with the purpose of ensuring the implementation of a project.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS



Come up with an idea for a project and funding its implementation through a consortium of entities.



WHAT DO EUROPEAN PROJECTS LOOK LIKE?

De Minimis Regulation

The *de Minimis* Regulation is part of a series of rules established by the European Commission which objective is to ensure fair and equal conditions for businesses in all markets. To do so, the *de Minimis* Regulation **limits the economic aid** that a company can received from an EU Member State.

This aid covers a great variety of support, and can sometimes include EU programmes, through **funding**, such as grants (received as a project partner) or loans (e.g. granted by InvestEU), or **direct aids** (e.g. trainings, business plans, etc.).

Note that ***not all existing aids are subjected to this Regulation!*** See the terms and conditions of each call to know if it applies.

What is the limit that a company can receive from the same EU Member State?

The limit is equal to **200 000 euros*** for a period of 3 consecutive years (fiscal exercises). It is calculated **for each Member State** separately (grants received via centralised programmes are considered as coming from Belgium),

In case of doubt, consult your experts!

*this sum varies for companies of specific sectors like agriculture, fishery and aquiculture



WHO MANAGES EUROPEAN FUNDS?

Centralised funds

This funds are managed directly **from Brussels**, through a series of programmes implemented by the European Commission and its **33 Directorate Generals**



and **executive agencies** like EISMEA, the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Action. All of these managerial organs are listed in this [webpage](#).

Decentralised funds

These funds are managed indirectly by **Managing Authorities**, normally regional or national public authorities from Member States, with the support of



Joint Secretariats which oversee their daily implementation. These funds are distributed through programmes among defined territories, like the Interreg cooperation programmes.



Section 1 - What do I need to know about European funding?



HOW DO THE FUNDS WILL LOOK LIKE FOR 2021-2027?



Common priorities

For the first time, a set of common priorities for the Commission, the Parliament and the European Council have been established.



Programmes

Map of funding opportunities for companies



Budget

The biggest budget in the history of the European Union, even though it represents less than a 1% of the Member States' GNP.



HOW DO THE FUNDS WILL LOOK LIKE FOR 2021-2027?

Common priorities

The 6 priorities of the VON DER LEYEN Commission (2020-2024)



The European Green Deal

Become the first climate neutral continent thanks to an energetically efficient modern economy.



A Europe fit for the digital age

Empower people and companies with a new generation of technologies.



An economy that works for the people

Create a more attractive investment environment, and a growth that creates quality jobs, especially for the youth and SMEs.



A stronger Europe in the world

Strengthening the EU's voice in the world by championing multilateralism and a rules-based global order.



Promoting the European way of life

Protect the rule of law as to defend justice and core values of the EU.



A new push for European democracy

To give a bigger voice to Europeans and to protect our democracy from external interferences such as disinformation and online hate messages.



HOW DO THE FUNDS WILL LOOK LIKE FOR 2021-2027?

Budget

Usual budget for the EU in a seven-year period.

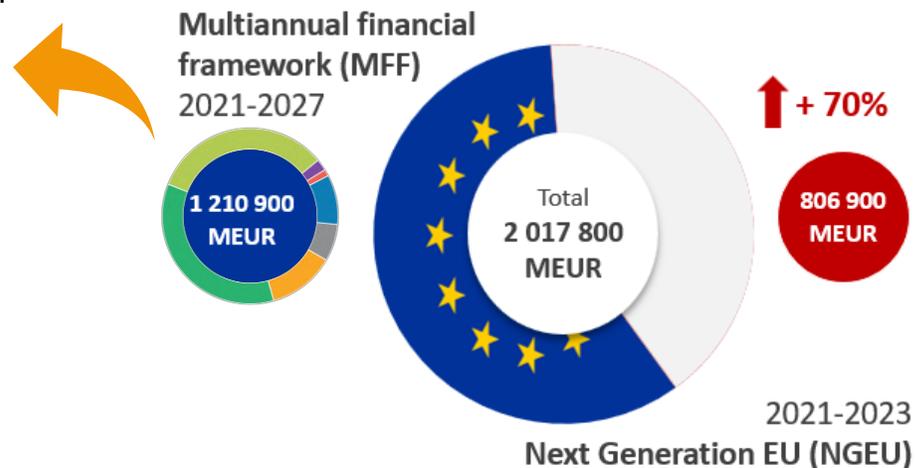
Finances the functioning of European organs and actions to achieve its goals through 7 epigraphs.

- I. SINGLE-MARKET, INNOVATION AND DIGITAL
- II. COHESION, RESILIENCE AND VALUES
- III. NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

- IV. MIGRATION AND BORDER MANAGEMENT
- V. SECURITY AND DEFENSE

- VI. NEIGHBOURING AND THE WORLD
- VII. EUROPEAN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The multiannual financial framework (MFF) and the funds Next Generation EU



Increase of 70% in relation to the classical budget (MFF) as to finance a **COVID19 recovery plan**.

90% of these funds are managed by Member States that distribute them through direct grants and calls.



Section 2

To which European funding programme can I apply?



Section 2 – To which European funding programme can I apply?



Some opportunities for companies in the sector:

CENTRALIZED FUNDS

HORIZON EUROPE

GENERAL VISION

Field: Research and Innovation

Budget: 1.000.000.000.000

Goal: Fund research and innovation to address societal challenges through the support of research and innovation activities.

Points of Interest: Research and Innovation, Digital Europe, Single Market Programme, Invest EU, Global Europe

Links: Horizon Europe, ERDF, ERDF - Database

LIFE

GENERAL VISION

Field: Environment, Climate Change and Circular Economy

Budget: 1.000.000.000.000

Goal: Support the implementation of the EU environmental policy and contribute to the achievement of the EU environmental objectives.

Points of Interest: Environment, Climate Change, Circular Economy

Links: LIFE, ERDF, ERDF - Database

SINGLE MARKET

GENERAL VISION

Field: Internal Market

Budget: 1.000.000.000.000

Goal: Support the implementation of the internal market policy and contribute to the achievement of the EU internal market objectives.

Points of Interest: Internal Market, Digital Europe, Single Market Programme, Invest EU, Global Europe

Links: Single Market Programme, ERDF, ERDF - Database

DIGITAL EUROPE

GENERAL VISION

Field: Digital

Budget: 1.000.000.000.000

Goal: Support the implementation of the digital policy and contribute to the achievement of the EU digital objectives.

Points of Interest: Digital, Digital Europe, Single Market Programme, Invest EU, Global Europe

Links: Digital Europe, ERDF, ERDF - Database

INVEST EU

GENERAL VISION

Field: Investment

Budget: 1.000.000.000.000

Goal: Support the implementation of the investment policy and contribute to the achievement of the EU investment objectives.

Points of Interest: Investment, Digital Europe, Single Market Programme, Invest EU, Global Europe

Links: Invest EU, ERDF, ERDF - Database

INVEST EU

GENERAL VISION

Field: Investment

Budget: 1.000.000.000.000

Goal: Support the implementation of the investment policy and contribute to the achievement of the EU investment objectives.

Points of Interest: Investment, Digital Europe, Single Market Programme, Invest EU, Global Europe

Links: Invest EU, ERDF, ERDF - Database

GLOBAL EUROPE

GENERAL VISION

Field: International Cooperation and Development

Budget: 1.000.000.000.000

Goal: Support the implementation of the international cooperation and development policy and contribute to the achievement of the EU international cooperation and development objectives.

Points of Interest: International Cooperation and Development, Digital Europe, Single Market Programme, Invest EU, Global Europe

Links: Global Europe, ERDF, ERDF - Database

DECENTRALIZED FUNDS

INTERREG ATLANTIC AREA

GENERAL VISION

Field: Regional Development

Budget: 1.000.000.000.000

Goal: Support the implementation of the regional development policy and contribute to the achievement of the EU regional development objectives.

Points of Interest: Regional Development, Digital Europe, Single Market Programme, Invest EU, Global Europe

Links: Interreg Atlantic Area, ERDF, ERDF - Database

INTERREG ALPINE SPACE

GENERAL VISION

Field: Regional Development

Budget: 1.000.000.000.000

Goal: Support the implementation of the regional development policy and contribute to the achievement of the EU regional development objectives.

Points of Interest: Regional Development, Digital Europe, Single Market Programme, Invest EU, Global Europe

Links: Interreg Alpine Space, ERDF, ERDF - Database

INTERREG DANUBE

GENERAL VISION

Field: Regional Development

Budget: 1.000.000.000.000

Goal: Support the implementation of the regional development policy and contribute to the achievement of the EU regional development objectives.

Points of Interest: Regional Development, Digital Europe, Single Market Programme, Invest EU, Global Europe

Links: Interreg Danube, ERDF, ERDF - Database

INTERREG CENTRAL EUROPE

GENERAL VISION

Field: Regional Development

Budget: 1.000.000.000.000

Goal: Support the implementation of the regional development policy and contribute to the achievement of the EU regional development objectives.

Points of Interest: Regional Development, Digital Europe, Single Market Programme, Invest EU, Global Europe

Links: Interreg Central Europe, ERDF, ERDF - Database

INTERREG BALTIC SEA REGION

GENERAL VISION

Field: Regional Development

Budget: 1.000.000.000.000

Goal: Support the implementation of the regional development policy and contribute to the achievement of the EU regional development objectives.

Points of Interest: Regional Development, Digital Europe, Single Market Programme, Invest EU, Global Europe

Links: Interreg Baltic Sea Region, ERDF, ERDF - Database

INTERREG EURO-MED

GENERAL VISION

Field: Regional Development

Budget: 1.000.000.000.000

Goal: Support the implementation of the regional development policy and contribute to the achievement of the EU regional development objectives.

Points of Interest: Regional Development, Digital Europe, Single Market Programme, Invest EU, Global Europe

Links: Interreg Euro-Med, ERDF, ERDF - Database

INTERREG SUDOE

GENERAL VISION

Field: Regional Development

Budget: 1.000.000.000.000

Goal: Support the implementation of the regional development policy and contribute to the achievement of the EU regional development objectives.

Points of Interest: Regional Development, Digital Europe, Single Market Programme, Invest EU, Global Europe

Links: Interreg Sudoe, ERDF, ERDF - Database

INTERREG NEXTMED

GENERAL VISION

Field: Regional Development

Budget: 1.000.000.000.000

Goal: Support the implementation of the regional development policy and contribute to the achievement of the EU regional development objectives.

Points of Interest: Regional Development, Digital Europe, Single Market Programme, Invest EU, Global Europe

Links: Interreg NextMed, ERDF, ERDF - Database

INTERREG NORTH WEST EUROPE

GENERAL VISION

Field: Regional Development

Budget: 1.000.000.000.000

Goal: Support the implementation of the regional development policy and contribute to the achievement of the EU regional development objectives.

Points of Interest: Regional Development, Digital Europe, Single Market Programme, Invest EU, Global Europe

Links: Interreg North West Europe, ERDF, ERDF - Database

INTERREG NORTH SEA REGION

GENERAL VISION

Field: Regional Development

Budget: 1.000.000.000.000

Goal: Support the implementation of the regional development policy and contribute to the achievement of the EU regional development objectives.

Points of Interest: Regional Development, Digital Europe, Single Market Programme, Invest EU, Global Europe

Links: Interreg North Sea Region, ERDF, ERDF - Database

Cagliari



European programme for research and innovation.

GENERAL VISION

Field: Research and Innovation

Budget: 95 424 MEUR

Goal: Reinforce European excellence in sciences and technology through the support of research and innovation and the entities and people involved.



Points of interest:



(EIC)



(EIT)

Links:  Website

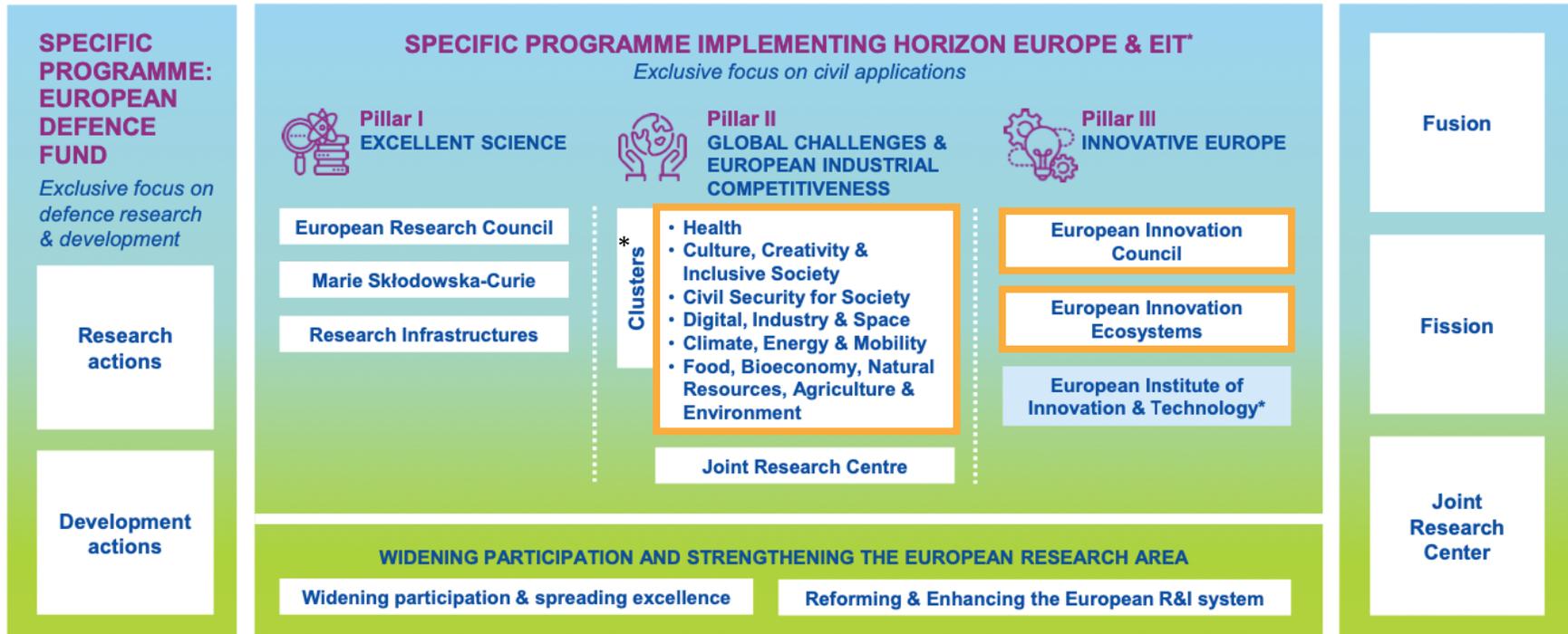
 CORDIS – Database



European programme for research and innovation.

HORIZON EUROPE

EURATOM



Strands of interest:

CLUSTER 4- Digital, Industry & Space

CLUSTER 5- Climate, Energy & Mobility

CLUSTER 6- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment

European Innovation Council (EIC)

European Institute for Innovation & Technology (EIT)

*By "cluster", the Horizon Europe programme means "thematic".



European programme for research and innovation.

Cluster 4 DIGITAL, INDUSTRY AND SPACE

Fields



Work plan
2023-2024

Manufacturing technology; key digital technologies (including quantic ones); emerging enabling technologies; advanced materials; Artificial intelligence and robotics; next generation internet; computer science and Big Data; Circular industries, clean and low emissions.

Destinations 2023-2024

- ❑ Climate neutral, Circular and Digitised Production
- ❑ Increased autonomy in key strategic value chains for resilient industries
- ❑ World-leading Data and Computer technologies
- ❑ Digital and Emerging technologies for competitiveness and Fit for the Green deal
- ❑ Open Strategic autonomy in Developing, Deploying and using Global Spaced-based infrastructures, services, applications and data
- ❑ A human-centered and ethical development of digital and industrial technologies





European programme for research and innovation.

Cluster 5 CLIMATE, ENERGY AND MOBILITY

Fields



Work plan
2023-2024

Sciences and environmental solutions; energy supply; energetic systems and networks; energy storage; buildings and infrastructures within the energetic transition; cities and communities; industrial competitiveness in smart transport and mobility, clean and secure.

Destinations 2023-2024

- Climate science and responses for the transformation towards climate neutrality
- Cross-sectoral solutions for the climate transition
- Sustainable, secure and competitive energy supply
- Efficient, sustainable and inclusive energy use
- Clean and competitive solutions for all types of transportation
- Safe, Resilient transport and Smart Mobility services for passengers and goods





European programme for research and innovation.

Cluster 6

FOOD, BIOECONOMY, NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Fields



Work plan
2023-2024

Observing the environment; biodiversity and natural resources; agriculture, forestry and rural areas; sea, oceans and internal waters; food systems; innovations on the fields of biology and bioeconomy; circular systems.

Destinations 2023-2024

- Biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Fair, healthy and environmental-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption
- Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors
- Clean environment and zero pollution
- Land, ocean and water for climate action
- Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities
- Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of Green Deal





European programme for research and innovation.

EUROPEAN INNOVATION COUNCIL (EIC)



FINANCIAL TOOL

➔ **Grant and/or financial aid to startups and SMEs** (according to [TRL](#) and activities)

EIC PATHFINDER



Research and/or development of an innovative emerging technology

TRL 0-4

EIC TRANSITION



Maturation of an innovative technology and elaboration of a business plan

TRL 4-6

EIC ACCELERATOR



Scaling-up of innovative technologies

TRL 5-8

Additional services for beneficiaries: consultancy, mentoring, trainings, experts, access to experts, investors, potential clients, networking and ecosystems.



Selection in 2 phases

Pre-submission always open

(short description of the innovation)



European programme for research and innovation.

EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY (EIT)



FINANCIAL TOOL

- ➔ Aids for **entrepreneurs, startups and SMEs** through **grant** programmes for the acceleration of businesses, development and creation of companies, product validation and **prizes**.

SPECIFIC SERVICES

- ➔ Trainings and education
- ➔ Networking



European programme for research and innovation.

TYPES OF PROJECTS

Research & Innovation Actions (RIA)

Types of activities: EU grant: profit (70%) / non-profit (100%)

Basic or applied research, development and integration of technology, testing, demonstration, validation of prototypes (laboratory or simulated environment)- to establish **new knowledge** or **exploring the feasibility** of new solutions

Coordination and Support Actions (CSA)

Types of activities: EU grant: profit (70%) / non-profit (100%)

Standardization, dissemination, awareness and communication, networking, management or support services, political dialogue- for the **accompaniment of RIA**

Innovation Actions (IA)

Types of activities: EU grant: profit (70%) / non-profit (100%)

Development of prototypes, testing, demonstrations, pilots, large-scale product validation, market launch-to **create plans and provisions or designs.**

Possible role for SMEs

Direct beneficiaries (coordinator or partner) as solution providers, applied research, business plans, exploitation, communication and management.



European programme for research and innovation.

Sources: [H2020 statistics](#) and [Horizon Dashboard](#)

RATING

Average dimensions of a project:



Competitiveness of calls:



Recommended previous experience with European projects:



RECOMMENDATIONS

- ➔ It is recommended to begin under the mentoring of an experienced Lead Partner, as a partner with a small and well-defined role
- ➔ Projects should be ambitious and innovative; they should always go the one step ahead of the current state of the art.
- ➔ All presented proposals should tackle: interdisciplinarity, gender perspective, open science and ethics (see the [European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#))
- ➔ Little restrictions on what entities can participate (research centers, SMEs, etc); however, special attention should be put on the evaluation criteria, which might add specificities depending on the call.
- ➔ To describe the project's impact, HE requires the use of the [Key Impact Pathways framework](#), a key concept for the evaluation of the proposal.

HORIZON EUROPE, Example of project

European programme for research and innovation.

SmArt water management with Integrated Decision support systems



The need for providing high quality water to citizens and to reduce damages produce by floods and droughts has motivated research and development of many software-based decision support systems (DSSs). However, despite the notable technical advances DSSs, most of the water infrastructures in Europe are still managed by expert operators based on traditional best practices but with little support from these new smart tools. The objective of SAID project is to involve the final users and the SMEs in

order improve the production and deployment of more smart water management systems in Europe. The project is focused on the deployment and evaluation of a complex demonstrator, composed by several heterogeneous and innovative DSSs in the same river basin. This demonstrator, in the south of Spain, represents many similar basins in Europe, and will be based on cutting-edge DSS technologies in four areas: flood control (including the optimization of dam management), quality of water, energy production and energy consumption. The feedback from the final users has driven the improvement of the DSSs and the development and validation of a software platform that facilitates the integration of existing and future DSSs.

Some members of
the partnership:



Timeline: 2014-2016
Overall budget: € 3 M

SINGLE MARKET PROGRAMME



European programme for the competitiveness and sustainability of companies

GENERAL VISION

Field: Internal market, competitiveness and sustainability of companies

Budget: 4 208 MEUR

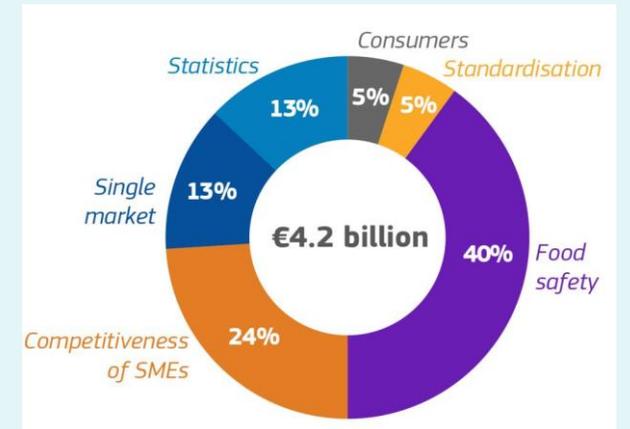
Goal: Support and strengthen the governance, functioning and competitiveness of the single European market.



Points of interest:



(EEN)



Links:  Website

 COSME Datahub- Database



Pillar 1 SUPPORTING SMEs

Description

The SMEs' pillar is the continuation of one of the most important actions of the COSME 2014-2020 Programme, and aims at facilitating SMEs' access to the market, to create a more favorable business environment and to favor the entrepreneurial spirit through capacity-building.

Fields of action

- Supporting SMEs to foster their creation and development
- Internationalization of SMEs
- Promotion of the entrepreneurial spirit and acquiring business competencies
- Promoting new models and business opportunities for SMEs
- Supporting competitiveness of industrial sectors and ecosystems
- Modernize towards a greener, more digital and resilient economy

Possible role for SMEs

Usually, indirect beneficiaries through cascade funding or Subgranting (financial support for third parties)– e.g. the cascade funding programmes of the Eurocluster projects



European programme for the competitiveness and sustainability of companies

Pillar 2

enterprise
europe
network

EUROPEAN ENTERPRISE NETWORK (EEN)



SUPPORT NETWORK FOR SMEs

➔ Help European SMEs to grow internationally through:

INNOVATION

Strategic innovation services and international technological cooperation

FINANCING

Information and support regarding cascade funding and bank loans

SUSTAINABILITY

Diagnosis, action plans, mapping of opportunities, etc.

INTERNATIONALIZATION

Diagnosis of internationalisation, exports, consulting, juridic, etc.

DIGITALISATION

Diagnosis and implementation of Industry 4.0

RESILIENCE

Consultancy and expressions of interest (e.g. Next Generation EU)

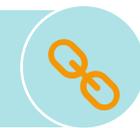
SINGLE MARKET PROGRAMME



European programme for the competitiveness and sustainability of companies

enterprise
europe
network

EUROPEAN ENTERPRISE NETWORK (EEN)



SCOPE

➔ EU members

➔ + 23 countries outside the European Union



SEARCH FOR PARTNERS



The Enterprise European Network offers a search engine to publish or search for partnership opportunities

Supplementary services: search for partners, events, (*brokerage*, business missions, conferences, workshops, seminars, trainings), information regarding European funding programmes, etc.

Non-EU

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| Albania | Bosnia And Herz | Canada | Chile | Colombia | Iceland |
| India | Israel | Japan | Kosovo | Montenegro | New Zealand |
| North Macedonia | Norway | Serbia | Singapore | South Korea | Switzerland |
| Taiwan | Turkey | Ukraine | United Kingdom | Usa | |



European programme for the competitiveness and sustainability of companies

Sources: [COSME Datahub](#) and [Interim Evaluation](#) 

RATING

Average dimensions of a project:



Competitiveness of calls:



Recommended previous experience in European Projects:



RECOMMENDATIONS

- ➔ The Single Market Programme is accessible for entities with little previous experience on European projects
- ➔ As regards the incoming calls check the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#) for reference on past projects and remain alert.
- ➔ Even though target beneficiaries for action 'supporting SMEs' are SMEs, other intermediary entities can be part of the consortium and receive a part of the grant.
- ➔ The [European IP Helpdesk](#) is a key resource that offers information and trainings on the field of Intellectual Property (particularly, regarding European projects)

Single Market Programme, Example of project

European programme for the competitiveness and sustainability of companies

AEWEN, Africa Europe Water Energy Network



Energy and water value chains show increasing interdependences, with each resource facing rising demands in many regions due to economic and population growth and climate change. Hence, synergistic approaches for exploiting the energy-water nexus are essential to provide integral and innovative solutions, especially in those markets with the highest demand and increasing business opportunities. However, most EU SMEs require external support to overcome the main barriers they face in internationalisation, i.e.:

1) limited information about the target markets; 2) lack of financial resources; 3) obstacles to find opportunities and partners. In this context, AEWEN integrates four consolidated European Clusters specialised in energy and water, that will design and implement a joint needs-based internationalisation strategy to support their member SMEs to tap into the growing demand for solutions in three specific countries in Africa with business opportunities in these fields: Morocco, Senegal and Tunisia. AEWEN will develop a series of preparatory actions to interlink the project partners and member SMEs with key counterparts in the target markets through: a) the signature of stakeholder agreements; b) the design of a joint internationalisation strategy and roadmap; c) the co-creation of a dynamic internationalisation service offer.

Some members of the partnership:



Timeline: 2021-2024
Overall budget: € 609.928



GENERAL VISION

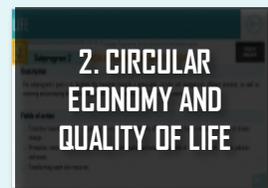
Field: Biodiversity, climate change, clean energy and circular economy

Budget: 5 432 MEUR

Goal: Restore the environment's quality, fight climate change and foster a shift towards a sustainable, circular and energetically efficient economy.



Points of interest:



Links:  Website

 LIFE Public DB – Database



Subprogram 1

NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY

Description

The subprogram's goal is to protect and restore European natural spaces as well as halting and reversing biodiversity loss.

Fields of action

- Nature conservation, specially in the areas of biodiversity, habitats and species.
- Development and management of the 'Natura 2000' network and the 'IAS Regulation'
- Contributing to the achievement of the European Union's biodiversity strategy for 2030, as a part of the European Green Deal



Subprogram 2

CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Description

The subprogram's goal is to facilitate the transition towards a sustainable, circular and energetically efficient economy, as well as restoring and protecting the environment's quality. Types of projects: SIP, SAP (*close-to-market*)

Fields of action

- Transition towards a circular, sustainable, non-toxic and energetically efficient economy that is resilient in the face of climate change.
- Protection, restoring and bettering of the environment's quality, particularly in the fields of: water, air, earth, acoustic pollution and waste.
- Transforming waste into resources.



Subprogram 3

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION



Description

This subprogram's goal is to foster adaptation to climate change, especially towards extreme meteorological phenomena, and strengthen its mitigation in the fields of: agriculture, use of land, managing of water sides and renewable energies. Types : SIP, SAP (*close-to-market*)

Fields of action

- ❑ Contributing to the transition towards a resilient and efficient economy, based on renewable energies.
- ❑ Adaptation to climate change and sustainable development (urban adaptation, agricultural planning, resilience of infrastructure, sustainable management of water, flooding and coastal management, resilience in the agricultural, touristic and forest sectors)
- ❑ Mitigation of climate change: reduce greenhouse gases, better management of land and sea, enhance natural carbon collectors.



Subprogram 4

CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION



Description

The subprogram 'transition towards clean energy' seeks to facilitate the transition towards an energetically efficient economy, based on climate neutral and renewable energies. Types of projects: DAG

Fields of action

- Creation of a national, regional and local political framework that supports the transition towards clean energies.
- Accelerate the development of technology, digitalisation, new services and business models, and the bettering of medical competences. Attract private funding for sustainable energy.
- Engage citizens in the energy transition
- Support regional and local investment projects



TYPES OF PROJECTS

Standard Action Projects (SAP)

Types of activities: EU grant: 60%

- **Better practices:** develop, demonstrate, amplify techniques, methods and existing approaches.
- **Innovative solutions:** create and test new techniques, methods and approaches.

Other Action Grants (OAG)

Type of activities: EU grant: 95%

Validation and replication of results, capacity-building, dissemination, awareness, political dialogue, implemented by wide transnational consortiums.

Strategic (Integrated/Nature) Projects (SIP/SNaP)

Types of activities: EU grant: 60%

Catalyze the **large-scale implementation of successful solutions/approaches** for the application of EU legislation and politics (national plans)





TYPES OF PROJECTS

Technical Assistance (TA-PP)

Types of activities:

EU grant: 60%

Capacity-building to support the implementation of SAPs, the preparation of SIPs and SNaPs, and the access to other European funds.

Possible role for SMEs

Direct beneficiaries (coordinator or partner) as solution provider, applied research, business plan, exploitation, communication and management

Technical Assistance projects (TA-R)

Types of activities:

EU grant: 60%

Technical assistance for the replication of other successful projects financed by the European Union (any type of project that is related to the LIFE programme's goals)

- Should exceed the replication/transfer efforts already envisaged in an original project
- Should address issues that arose during a project and could not be solved during its lifecycle

{ NOVELTY }

Sources: [Infoday](#) and [Life Datahub](#)

RATING

Average dimension of projects:



Competitiveness of calls:



Recommended previous experience in European projects:



RECOMMENDATIONS

- ➔ The calls of the Life programme offer great flexibility: the project's maximum budget is equal to the call's budget, projects can last up to 10 years, and there is no rules for the consortium's composition- as long as choices are justified correctly.
- ➔ The programme supports companies on the commercialization of green products, technologies and services in close-to-market conditions, and with elevated TRL (Technology Readiness Level). If it is your case, do not forget to include a work package on 'Sustainability, replication and capitalization of results' and a deliverable on 'Business plan' (compulsory).

LIFE, Example of project

European Programme for the environment and climatic action

LIFE WATER FACTORY OF THE FUTURE



Sewage is potentially an important source of biomass and other resources, such as ammonium and phosphate. However, until now, resource recovery from sewage has been very limited. A major problem is that traditional Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) are designed to destroy and remove organic and other components from wastewater, not to recover them. This leads to high costs, due mainly to the consumption of energy (e.g. aeration necessary for the biological degradation) and to the use of chemicals (e.g. for phosphate removal).

The LIFE WATER FACTORY project intends to establish a paradigm change in sewage management and to demonstrate a sustainable and circular sewage treatment model, by building and implementing an innovative full-scale demonstration plant, the LIFE WATER FACTORY. Only physical processes will be implemented in this demonstration plant, whereas traditional STPs rely on biological processes in which organic and other compounds are destroyed and cannot therefore be recovered.

Some members of the partnership:



Timeline: 2019-2022
Overall budget: €4,5M



GENERAL VISION

- Field:** Competences, infrastructure and digital technologies
- Budget:** 7 588 MEUR
- Goal:** Foster the European society and economy's digital transition, with special focus on SMEs.



Points of interest:



Links:  Website



Axis 1 CLOUD, DATA AND AI

Description and fields of action



Work plan
2023-2024

- ❑ **Infrastructures cloud-to-edge:** developing innovative, sustainable, secure and transnational cloud-to-edge services (cybersecurity, *blockchain*, *analytics*, etc) and developing large-scale pilot solutions CSA. Grants. Subcontracting.
- ❑ **Data space:** preparation and creation of a data space in the fields of: smart communities, agriculture, mobility, health, industry, cultural heritage, media, competencies, languages and tourism. CSA. Supporting SMEs. Grants. Subcontracting.
- ❑ **Artificial intelligence:** preparation structures, testing and experimentation of AI in the fields of: industry, health, agriculture, smart communities; and developing a platform on demand, offering a catalogue of services based on AI. CSA. Grants.





Axis 2 **ADVANCED DIGITAL COMPETENCES**

Description and fields of action

The programme's goal is to strengthen the security of digital products and services in Europe, through activities that ensure:

- ❑ The creation of specialized education programmes and modules (Data, Internet of Things (IoT), AI, Blockchain, cybersecurity, HPC quantum, etc.), and creation of short trainings for workers (specially in SMEs). Grants. Support to SMEs.
- ❑ Analyzing the market's needs in advanced digital competences. CSA.
- ❑ Promoting innovation in education. CSA.





TYPES OF GRANTS

Simple grants

Types of activities: EU grant: 50%
Flexible type of grant that covers a great part of possible activities.

Actions to support SMEs

Types of activities: EU grant: 50-75%
Activities aimed at supporting SMEs in their creation and development of digital competences.

Grants for subcontracting

Types of activities: EU grant: 50%
The main goal of this action is to buy and/or subcontract tasks. Limited costs of personnel.

Coordination and Support Actions (CSA)

Types of activities: EU grant: 100%
Promote cooperation and/or accompany in the drafting of politics: standardization, dissemination, awareness and communication, networking, coordination and support services.

Possible role for SMEs

- Direct beneficiaries (partner), as solution provider, business plan, exploitation, communication and management.
- Indirect beneficiaries through Actions to support SMEs – e.g. cascade funding, trainings, etc.



European programme for digitalisation

Sources: [Work programme 2023-2024](#)



RATING

Average dimension of projects:



Competitiveness of calls:



Recommended previous experience in European Projects:



RECOMMENDATIONS

- ➔ Digital Europe is a new programme of the EU. Even though there is no available data on the competitiveness of calls, it appears that the management of projects will not be easy, given the considerable budget per project and that the actual cost methodology for the calculation of the budget will be favored.
- ➔ Projects funded by this programme will be huge, with a high number of partners and budgets of millions of euros. Thus, it is recommended to have a small and well-defined role if you are a beginner.
- ➔ Considering the field of the programme (the digital world), topics such as security and ethics will be essential, and will need to be carefully addressed. It is even recommended to include specific measures on the project's formulation to address this topics, like creating a specialized consulting committee, or creating a security plan.

Digital Europe, Example of project

European programme for digitalisation

Data Space for Smart and Sustainable Cities and Communities



Time is critical in addressing the challenges of the twin digital and green transition. Cities and communities are ready for effective innovation, hence the need for the creation of a data space for smart communities as an enabler of the Green Deal goals and Sustainable Development Goals. Given the systemic nature of the Green transition challenge, the project will bring together existing local data ecosystems, and relevant stakeholders, public and private, to join efforts and identify common principles for sharing large pools of data at the EU level, ensuring wide geographical coverage.

The action will contribute to the definition of the technical infrastructure for data sharing across relevant domains (in particular, traffic, electricity, pollution, urban infrastructure, extreme weather events, water and waste management, etc.) in order to create cross-domain innovation and move towards the Green transition in each local context. Ultimately, the project outcomes (multi-stakeholder data governance scheme through operational local data platforms, a blueprint co-created with stakeholders, agreed set of priority datasets) will be a valuable basis on which to build a mature, connected pan-EU DS4SSCC, shaping and implementing the data space on the local, regional, national and EU level.

Some members of the partnership:



Timeline: 2022-2023
Overall budget: €1.999.883,50



GENERAL VISION

Field: Financial support and investment

Budget: 372 000 MEUR

Goal: Support sustainable investment, innovation and employability through the financial guarantee of public and private inversions.

Points of interest:



Links:



Website



FUND

INVESTMENT FUND INVESTEU

What is it?

Consists of mobilizing the investment of 372 000 MEUR thanks to European bank guarantees:

- Sustainable infrastructures
- Research, innovation and digitalisation
- SMEs
- Social investment and competences

Who can request funding?

Any individual or legal entity from a Member State of the EU: companies (SMEs, etc), public entities, non-profit organizations, etc.

How does it work?

The Fund guarantees 2 types of provisions which can be requested through financial intermediaries associated to the programme (banks, financial institutes, etc):

- Loans/Warrants
- Participation in capital/risk capital



Database of financial intermediaries of InvestEU



PORTAL

What is it?

This portal enables European promoters to establish relationships with potential investors worldwide, working as a “Marketplace” to find funding for their projects.

How to participate?

Any entity can register its project to the database of the portal.



Portal InvestEU

PLATFORM

What is it?

The InvestEU platform offers advice to promoters as to how to create an investment project: identification of opportunities, development of ideas, planification and implementation, financial structure, capacity-building, impact evaluation, procurements, communication, etc.



Consultative platform



GENERAL VISION

Field: External relations, cooperation and development in third countries

Budget: 79 460 MEUR

Goal: Support and and promote sustainable development around the globe and strengthen cooperation and relations with third countries

Points of interest:



Links:  Website

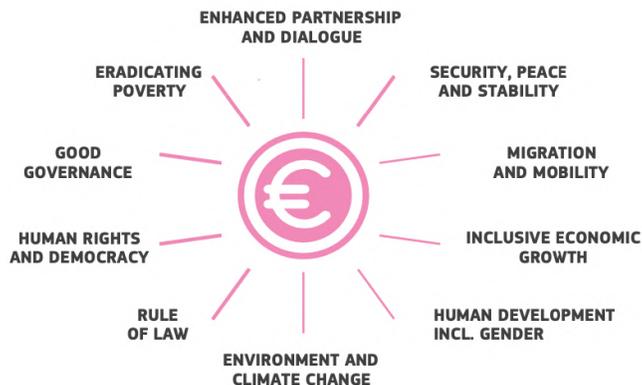
 International Cooperation and Development



THREE PILLARS

GEOGRAPHIC PILLAR

To foster **dialogue and cooperation** with third countries, every envelop focusing on the needs and priorities of every region- in accordance with the EU's priorities.



THEMATIC PILLAR

Support to Human Rights and democracy, civil society, stability and peace. Complements the activities of the Geographic pillar that must be addressed from a global perspective.

- Human Rights and Democracy (€1.36 billion);
- Civil Society Organisations (€1.36 billion);
- Peace, Stability and Conflict prevention (€0.91 billion);
- Global Challenges, for issues like: health, education, empowering women and children, migration and forced displacement, inclusive growth, decent work, social protection, food security and local authorities (€2.73 billion).

RAPID-RESPONSE PILLAR

Allows the EU to rapidly intervene to avoid conflicts and respond to crisis. It will increase partner's resilience as well as strengthen EU's foreign policy needs and priorities.

- Provide stability and conflict prevention in situations of crisis;
- Strengthen resilience and better link humanitarian and development action;
- Address the EU's foreign policy needs and priorities



INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK, within the geographic pillar

Description

The **investment framework** for external action will address resources towards sustainable development both in the public and private sectors. A particular focus will be placed on directing investments towards the EU Neighborhood, Africa and Western Balkans countries facing fragility or conflict, as well as least developed countries.

Fields of action

- Support micro enterprises and SMEs
- Promote decent job creation
- Strengthen public and private infrastructure
- Foster renewable energy and sustainable agriculture
- Support the digital economy
- Address the health and socioeconomic consequences of the COVID-19 crisis

Possible role for SMEs

Direct beneficiaries (partner) as solution provider, communication

Global Europe, Example of project

Neighborhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument

People & Planet- A common destiny



People & Planet mobilises young citizens and (g)local authorities in support of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#). It equips future change-makers with tools to raise “planet awareness”. Its coalition of local authorities enhances young people’s visibility and ability to promote sustainable behaviour. In Cape Verde and in eight EU Member States, People & Planet uses creative multimedia tools, participatory and dynamic methodologies for non-formal and informal education. Under a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) street campaign, 400 actions for youth

mobilisation took place over two years. In Germany, a specially created mega-sized newspaper, “Morgenkurier”, reported on what could be the [“water news” in 20 years](#). In Italy, performances with light projections in Bologna highlighted the [invisible water footprint](#) of several industries. In Umbria, people from different generations exchanged perspectives about the SDGs. In Ireland, [street art](#) for the SDGs included a moss mural. The [Water of the Future](#) campaign, launched on World Water Day, 22 March 2022, reached around 125 million people online and 7.5 million through mass media. Over 200 young European activists have been participating in eight Youth Advisory Councils, whose objective is to advise local authorities. Over 37 000 young Europeans participated in Global Green Labs, which are hands-on workshops on different green topics.

Some members of the partnership:



Timeline: 2020-2024
Overall budget: €6 715 000

Interregional Innovation Investment - 13



Interregional Innovation Investments (3) Instruments

GENERAL VISION

Field: Interregional Innovation Investment (3) Instruments

Budget: 80 MEUR (2024)

Goal: Support innovative projects in joint smart specialization areas on the road towards commercialization and scale-up

Points of interest:



Links:



Website



Funding & Tender Opportunities



THE STRANDS

STRAND 1

“Financial and advisory support for investments in interregional innovation projects”, supports partnerships as to allow them to develop and commercialize innovative solutions in priority areas. Furthermore, assistance is provided to develop a portfolio of investment projects.

STRAND 2a

“Financial and advisory support to the development of value chains in less developed regions”, placing the focus on less developed regions, it aims to increase their capacity for innovation as to become competitive in global value chains; while increasing their capacity to participate in partnerships.

FOR WHOM?

- Researchers
- Businesses
- Civil Societies & Public Administrations

Possible roles for SMEs: Direct beneficiaries (partner) as solution provider, applied research, business plan, exploitation, communication, management.

13, Example of project

Interregional Innovation Investments (3) Instruments

Hydrogen TO enter MARKets reducing carbon Emissions footprint



HYdrogen TO enter MARKets reducing carbon Emissions footprint in Europe (Hy2Market) brings together regions throughout Europe that work on different innovations to boost the production, transport, and use of green hydrogen. The main objective of Hy2Market is to realize a more mature hydrogen value chain across Europe. With an interregional approach, knowledge about building a robust and innovative Hydrogen value chain is realized through targeted investments on green hydrogen production -with special focus on management systems-, the transport of hydrogen in existing and new infrastructure and the offtake of green hydrogen by industrial partners and in mobility.

The results of this project will also be broadly spread within the regions and off course the EU-community as a whole. Hydrogen is a promising energy carrier that helps transform our energy system into a sustainable and carbon free system. But this means that a lot of barriers along the value chain must be identified and solved, before Hydrogen becomes a widely available and ready to be used on a big scale. The Hy2Market initiative aims to identify and overcome barriers like production, transport, use in industry and mobility and broad integration.

Some members of the partnership:



Timeline: 2023-2026
Overall budget: €949,357.50

INTERREG PROGRAMMES



Possible roles for SMEs: Direct beneficiaries (partner) as solution provider, communication.

INTERREG ATLANTIC AREA



INTERREG ALPINE SPACE



INTERREG DANUBE



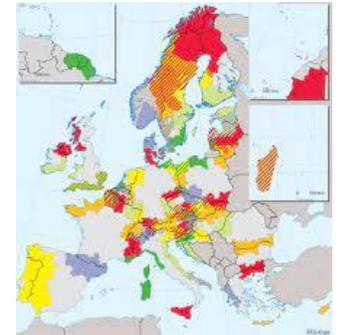
INTERREG CENTRAL EUROPE



INTERREG BALTIC SEA REGION



INTERREG STRAND A CROSS-BORDER PROGRAMMES



INTERREG EUROMED



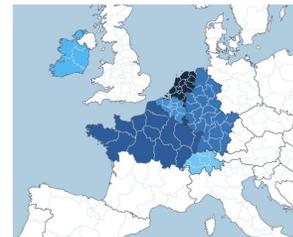
INTERREG SUDOE



INTERREG NEXTMED



INTERREG NORTH WEST EUROPE



INTERREG NORTH SEA REGION





European programme for Mediterranean territorial cooperation

GENERAL VISION

Field: Territorial cooperation at the European Mediterranean

Budget: 294 MEUR

Goal: To foster territorial cooperation to promote a greener and smarter north-Mediterranean territory



Points of interest:



Geographical coverage



Links:



Website



PROJECT RESULTS – Database



European programme for Mediterranean territorial cooperation

MISSION 1

STRENGTHEN AN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Description and types of projects

- ❑ Supporting the transnational cooperation of actors of the quadruple helix
- ❑ Favoring activities, services and organizational models that foster circularity
- ❑ Supporting the adoption of sustainable practices of production and consumption
- ❑ Bettering the co-implementation and the coordination with the Regional Specialization Strategies (RIS3)

EU grant: 80%

Types of projects

- ❖ Study
Research and analysis of a problem
- ❖ Test
Experimentation of tool, politics, strategies and action plans
- ❖ Transferability
Optimization and dissemination of tested solutions
- ❖ Strategic



MISSION 2

PROTECTING AND APPRECIATING THE ENVIRONMENT

Description and types of projects

- ❑ To promote adaptation measures and the mitigation of climate change
- ❑ Restore degraded maritime earth ecosystems
- ❑ Improvement of transnational connections between natural ecosystems
- ❑ Appreciation of the economic and social value of biodiversity

EU grant: 80%

Types of projects

- ❖ Study
Research and analysis of a problem
- ❖ Test
Experimentation of tool, politics, strategies and action plans
- ❖ Transferability
Optimization and dissemination of tested solutions
- ❖ Strategic



MISSION 3

FOSTERING GREEN LIVING SPACES

Description and types of projects

- Acting upon negative impacts of urban activities
- Facilitating the energetic transition
- Improving the resilience of territories against climate change effects
- Fostering citizen's participation in the green transition

EU grant: 80%

Types of projects

- ❖ Study
Research and analysis of a problem
- ❖ Test
Experimentation of tool, politics, strategies and action plans
- ❖ Transferability
Optimization and dissemination of tested solutions
- ❖ Strategic



MISSION 4

IMPROVING SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Description and types of projects

- Integrate tourism within circular economy
- Contribute to the Mediterranean's climate neutrality through tourism
- Improving the sustainability of services
- Preserving natural resources and cultural heritage

Types of projects

- ❖ Study
Research and analysis of a problem
- ❖ Test
Experimentation of tool, politics, strategies and action plans
- ❖ Transferability
Optimization and dissemination of tested solutions
- ❖ Strategic

EU grant: 80%



RATING

Average dimension of projects:



Competitiveness of calls:



Recommended previous experience with European Projects:



RECOMMENDATIONS

- ➔ Remember that INTERREG projects seek to foster transnational cooperation and have as a common objective the improvement of public policies.
- ➔ The Joint Secretariat of the INTERREG Euro-MED programme provides a series of tools to partnerships as to help them draft their project, among which we can find the [programme's guide](#) and a series of open [FAQs](#) where consults can be posted during the drafting process.
- ➔ One of the programme's goals is the dissemination and appropriation of developed solutions through the project to as many Mediterranean actors as possible. Therefore, a free, online training platform is currently being developed ([Euro-MED Academy](#)) where all solutions will be included in an accessible catalogue. It will be available at a website which is currently under construction.

Possible role for SMEs

Direct beneficiaries (partner), as solution provider, business plan, exploitation, communication and management.

Interreg Euro-Med, Example of project

European programme for Mediterranean territorial cooperation

CASTWATER



CASTWATER's overall goal was to enhance sustainable water management for the tourism sector in the Mediterranean coastal areas.

This was achieved by: (1) Studying regional needs and conflicting interests and develop a comprehensive managerial context to support consensus building and policy support by all involved regional agents with an emphasis on businesses and SMEs involved in the tourism sector;

(2) Adapting local and regional policy instruments, and develop policies and models addressing the issues of management of use, improve infrastructure for water efficiency and waste water management and upgrade managerial skills for the tourism sector regarding the sustainable water management; (3) Promoting awareness and support investments on environmentally friendly measures, methods, services and materials related to sustainable water management for the tourism sector, with emphasis on SMEs and public authorities.

Some members of the partnership:



Timeline: 2016-2019
Overall budget: € 2.388.116



European programme for South-East territorial cooperation

GENERAL VISION

Field: Territorial cooperation in South-East Europe

Budget: 106 MEUR

Goal: Fostering territorial cooperation between France, Portugal and Spain for the development of the region, particularly in rural areas.

Points of interest:



Links:



Website



PROJECT RESULTS – Database



Geographical coverage





PRIORITY 1

A SMARTER EUROPE

Description and fields of actions

- ❑ Develop and improved research and innovations capacities and integrate advanced technologies
- ❑ Capacity building for smart specialization, industrial transition and entrepreneurship.

Types of activities

- ❖ Pilot
Testing a new methodology on the field
- ❖ Demonstration
Application of a pre-existing methodology on the field
- ❖ Stakeholder recruitment
Activities and trainings for the development of competences.

EU grant: 75%



PRIORITY 2

A GREENER EUROPE

Description and fields of action

- ❑ Fostering adaptation to climate change and preventing risks, resilience, and considering approaches based on ecosystems.
- ❑ Promoting the access to water and a hydric sustainable management.
- ❑ Improving the protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructures, even in urban areas, and reduce any form of pollution.

Types of activities

- ❖ Pilot
Testing a new methodology on the field
- ❖ Demonstration
Application of a pre-existing methodology on the field
- ❖ Stakeholder recruitment
Activities and trainings for the development of competences.



PRIORITY 3

A MORE SOCIAL EUROPE

Description and fields of action

- ❑ Improving the efficiency and inclusiveness of labor markets and the access to quality jobs, through the development of social infrastructures and the promotion of a social economy.
- ❑ Ensure an equal access to sanitary assistance and strengthen the resilience of health assistance, particularly regarding primary attention, such as fostering the transition from institutional assistance to an assistance in local and familiar areas.
- ❑ Enhance the roles of culture and sustainable tourism in the economic development, and social inclusion and innovation as well.

Types of activities

- ❖ Pilot
Testing a new methodology on the field
- ❖ Demonstration
Application of a pre-existing methodology on the field
- ❖ Stakeholder recruitment
Activities and trainings for the development of competences.



RATING

Average dimension of projects:



Competitiveness of calls:



Recommended previous experience with European Projects:



RECOMMENDATIONS

- ➔ Remember that INTERREG projects seek to foster transnational cooperation and have as a common objective the improvement of public policies.
- ➔ Calls for this programme take place in two phases: the first one consists of a concept note that, if selected, will need to be developed as a complete draft for the second phase. It should be considered that concept notes, even though they are technically less developed, will only be slightly changed during the second phase. Thus, the project should be very defined from the very beginning.
- ➔ It is important to consider that partners of the consortium should represent the value chain of the project, that is, it must include public authorities, scientific and technological entities, and associations or business as well, and so on.

Possible role for SMEs

Direct beneficiaries (partner), as solution provider, business plan, exploitation, communication and management.



Support cooperation for a better integration of the Danube region

GENERAL VISION

Field: Supporting cooperation for a better integration of the Danube region

274 578 077 MEUR

Budget: Fostering transnational cooperation as to further integration in the Danube region

Goal: while tackling specific challenges

Points of interest:



Links:  Website

 PROJECT RESULTS – Database

Geographical coverage





Support cooperation for a better integration of the Danube region

PRIORITY 1

A SMARTER DANUBE REGION

Description and fields of action

Priority 1

To promote research and innovation in the Danube region, enhancing knowledge transfer

Specific objectives

- Enhancing innovation and technology transfer in the Danube region
- Developing skills for smart specialization, industrial transition and entrepreneurship

EU grant: 80%



Support cooperation for a better integration of the Danube region

PRIORITY 2

ENERGY TRANSITION

Description and fields of action

Priority 2

Promoting the use of renewable energy, a greener water management and mitigation of climate change risks

Specific objectives

- Promoting renewable energy
- Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster management
- Improving water and sediment management
- Protecting and preserving the biodiversity in ecological corridors and eco-regions

EU grant: 80%

INTERREG NORTH WEST EUROPE



Foster transnational cooperation among North-Western countries

GENERAL VISION

Field: Supporting transnational cooperation among North-Western countries

287 MEUR

Budget: Supporting transnational cooperation to face widespread challenges

Goal: specific to North-Western countries

Points of interest:



Links:

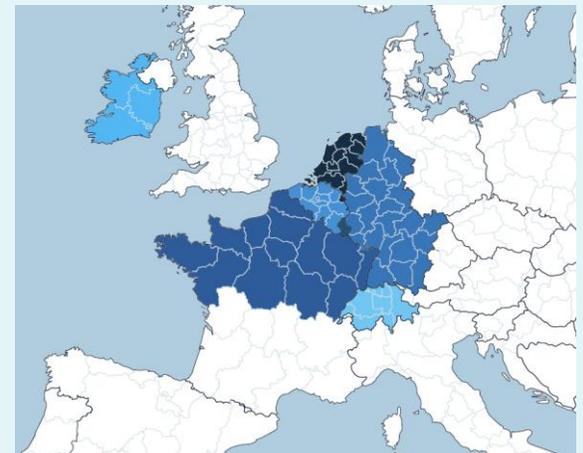


Website



PROJECT RESULTS – Database

Geographical coverage





Foster transnational cooperation among North-Western countries

PRIORITY 1

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

Description and fields of action

Priority 1

To promote adaptation and resistance to climate change, as well as protecting ecosystems

Specific objectives

- Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account ecosystem-based approaches
- Enhancing nature protection, biodiversity and reducing all forms of pollution

EU grant: 60%



Foster transnational cooperation among North-Western countries

PRIORITY 2

ENERGY TRANSITION

Description and fields of action

Priority 2

Promoting the use of renewable energy and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

Specific objectives

- Promoting efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Promoting renewable energy

EU grant: 60%



Foster transnational cooperation among North-Western countries

PRIORITY 4

INNOVATION AND RESILIENCE

Description and fields of action

Priority 4

Fostering research and innovation as well as knowledge transfer

Specific objectives

- Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies

EU grant: 60%

INTERREG NORTH SEA REGION



Transnational cooperation programme among the North Sea Region

GENERAL VISION

Field: Facing widespread challenges pressing the North Sea Region

158 MEUR

Budget: To foster transnational cooperation among the North Sea Region to tackle

Goal: widespread challenges

Points of interest:



Links:  Website

 PROJECT RESULTS – Database

Geographical coverage





PRIORITY 1

ROBUST AND SMART ECONOMIES

Description and fields of action

Priority 1

Helping SMEs and the public sphere to become smarter

Specific objectives

- Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies
- Developing skills for smart specialization, industrial transition and entrepreneurship



PRIORITY 2

GREEN TRANSITION

Description and fields of action

Priority 2

Speed up green transitions within energy, resource efficiency and urban mobility

Specific objectives

- Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Promoting renewable energy
- Promoting smart energy systems, storage and grids
- Promoting the transition to a circular economy
- Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility

EU grant: 60%



PRIORITY 3

CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND BIODIVERSITY

Description and fields of action

Priority 3

Support a cleaner more livable world with thriving ecosystems

Specific objectives

- A climate resilient North Sea Region
- Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas and reducing all forms of pollution

EU grant: 60%



Transnational cooperation to tackle widespread challenges in Central Europe

GENERAL VISION

Field: Facing widespread challenges pressing Central Europe

224 MEUR

Budget: To foster transnational cooperation among Central Europe to tackle widespread challenges

Goal:

Points of interest:



Links:



Website



PROJECT RESULTS – Database

Geographical coverage





Transnational cooperation to tackle widespread challenges in Central Europe

PRIORITY 1

COOPERATING FOR A SMARTER CENTRAL EUROPE

Description and fields of action

Priority 1

Promoting innovation and research to pursue a greener and more digitalized Central Europe

Specific objectives

- Strengthening innovation capacities
- Developing smart skills

EU grant: 80%



Transnational cooperation to tackle widespread challenges in Central Europe

PRIORITY 2

COOPERATING FOR A GREENER CENTRAL EUROPE

Description and fields of action

Priority 2

Speed up green transitions within energy, resource efficiency and urban mobility

Specific objectives

- Supporting climate-neutral energy transition
- Increasing climate change resilience
- Taking circular economy forward
- Safeguarding the environment
- Greening urban mobility

EU grant: 80%

INTERREG BALTIC SEA REGION



Transnational cooperation to develop a smarter Baltic Sea Region

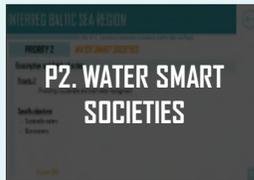
GENERAL VISION

Field: Fostering transnational cooperation to develop a smarter Baltic Sea Region

Budget: 250 984 823 MEUR

Goal: Fostering innovation and smarter solutions to improve life-styles in the Baltic Sea Region

Points of interest:



Links:



Website



PROJECT RESULTS – Database

Geographical coverage





PRIORITY 2

WATER SMART SOCIETIES

Description and fields of action

Priority 2

Promoting a sustainable and smart water management

Specific objectives

- Sustainable waters
- Blue economy

EU grant: 80%



PRIORITY 3

CLIMATE NEUTRAL SOCIETIES

Description and fields of action

Priority 3

Speed up green transitions within energy, resource efficiency and urban mobility

Specific objectives

- Circular economy
- Energy transition
- Smart green mobility

EU grant: 80%

INTERREG ALPINE SPACE



Transnational cooperation across borders of the Alpine Space

GENERAL VISION

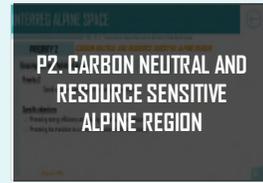
Field: Transnational cooperation across borders of the Alpine Space

139 751 456 MEUR

Budget: To foster cooperation among countries belonging to the Alpine Space to tackle widespread challenges

Goal:

Points of interest:



Links:  Website

 PROJECT RESULTS – Database

Geographical coverage





PRIORITY 1

CLIMATE RESILIENT AND GREEN ALPINE REGION

Description and fields of action

Priority 1

Promoting climate change adaptation and a greener approach to the management of urban areas

Specific objectives

- Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, and resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches
- Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution

EU grant: 75%



PRIORITY 2

CARBON NEUTRAL AND RESOURCE SENSITIVE ALPINE REGION

Description and fields of action

Priority 2

Speed up green transitions within energy and economy

Specific objectives

- Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy



Transnational cooperation across borders of the Alpine Space

PRIORITY 3

INNOVATION AND DIGITALISATION SUPPORTING A GREEN ALPINE REGION

Description and fields of action

Priority 3

Enhancing research to foster digitalisation and innovation

Specific objectives

- Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies
- Reaping the benefits of digitalisation for citizens, companies, research organizations and public authorities

EU grant: 75%

INTERREG ATLANTIC AREA



Transnational cooperation programme to tackle challenges in the Atlantic area

GENERAL VISION

Field: Transnational cooperation programme to tackle challenges in the Atlantic Area

Budget: 113 MEUR

Goal: To foster development and cooperation among the territories in the Atlantic area

Points of interest:



Links:

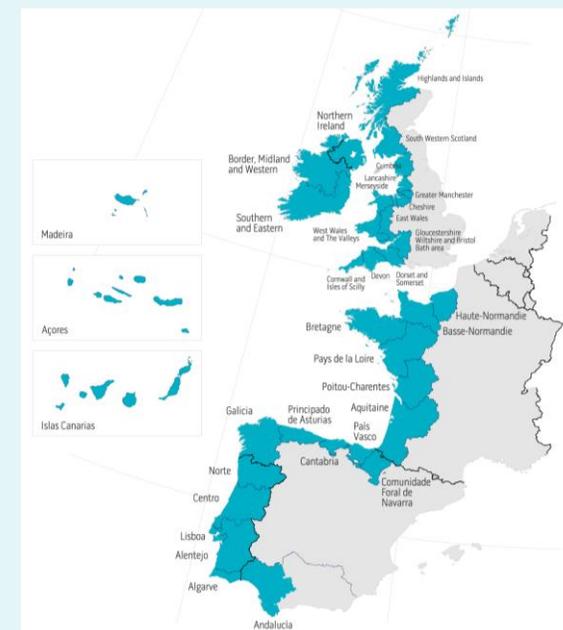


Website



PROJECT RESULTS – Database

Geographical coverage





Transnational cooperation programme to tackle challenges in the Atlantic area

PRIORITY 1

BLUE INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS

Description and fields of action

Priority 1

Promoting innovation and research to increase competitiveness

Specific objectives

- Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies
- Reaping the benefits of digitalisation for citizens, companies, research organizations and public authorities

EU grant: 75%



Transnational cooperation programme to tackle challenges in the Atlantic area

PRIORITY 2

BLUE AND GREEN ENVIRONMENT

Description and fields of action

Priority 2

Promote a green transition in the fields of energy, resource management and economy

Specific objectives

- Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account eco-system-based approaches
- Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy
- Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution

EU grant: 75%



GENERAL VISION

Field: Transnational cooperation in Northern and Southern Mediterranean

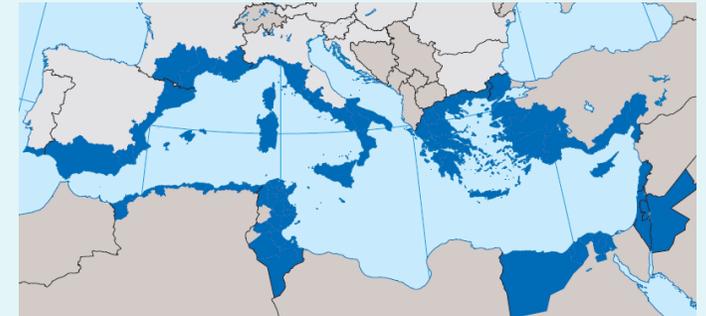
224 MEUR

Budget: Favouring cooperation between the regions in the North and South for a smarter and greener Mediterranean and a better governance.

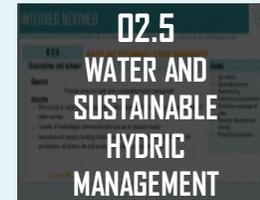
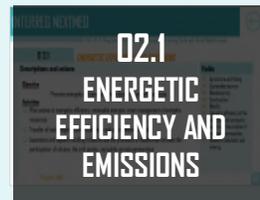
Goal:



Geographical coverage



Points of interest:



Links:  Website

 PROJECT RESULTS – Database



0 1.1

KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATION AND TRANSFERABILITY

Description and actions

Objective

Capacity building for research, innovation and integration of technologies.

Activities:

- Transnational testing and development of technologies, processes and services.
- Transferability of technologies and commercialization of research results, IPR.
- Transnational networks, platforms and collaborations of R&D for the exchange of results, experiences, good practices, mobility and synergies.
- Support research and innovation of business, even investments in infrastructure and equipment for research.

Fields

- ❖ Agri-tech, agriculture, aquaculture, fishing
- ❖ *Smart manufacturing*
- ❖ Healthy
- ❖ Climate change and renewable energies
- ❖ Industry 5.0
- ❖ Blue, green and circular economy
- ❖ Digital transition
- ❖ Tourism and culture



0 2.1

ENERGETIC EFFICIENCY AND EMISSIONS

Descriptions and actions

Objective

Promote energetic efficiency and the reduction of greenhouse gases

Activities

- Pilot actions in: energetic efficiency, renewable energies, smart management of energetic resources
- Transfer of technologies, commercialization and use of research results.
- Awareness and capacity-building initiatives and the promotion of models that increase the participation: of citizens, the civil society, and public-private partnerships

EU grant: 90%

Fields

- ❖ Agriculture and fishing
- ❖ Sustainable tourism
- ❖ Manufacturing
- ❖ Construction
- ❖ Mobility
- ❖ Energetic efficiency at the individual and community levels and the creation of energetic communities
- ❖ Research, education and training



0 2.4

RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND RISKS

Description and actions

Objective

To promote adaptation to climate change, prevent risks and resilience

Activities

- Pilot actions to promote the development of solutions, concept testins, and innovation in: adaptation to climate chance, risk prevention, resilience; considering approaches focused on natural systems.
- Awareness and capacity-building initiatives and the promotion of models that increase the participation: of citizens, the civil society, and public-private partnerships

Fields

- ❖ Agriculture and fishing
- ❖ Sustainable tourism
- ❖ Biodiversity, prevention and conservation of ecosystems
- ❖ Urbanism and arquitecture
- ❖ Research, education and training
- ❖ Green infrastructure



0 2.5

WATER AND SUSTAINABLE HYDRIC MANAGEMENT

Description and actions

Objective

Promote access to water and a sustainable hydric management

Activities

- Pilot actions in: water cycle management, hydric efficiency in the home industry, rehabilitation of water sources
- Transfer of technologies, commercialization and use of research results
- Awareness and capacity-building initiatives and the promotion of models that increase the participation: of citizens, the civil society, and public-private partnerships

Fields

- ❖ Agriculture
- ❖ Sustainable tourism
- ❖ Manufacturing
- ❖ Urbanism and architecture
- ❖ Distribution and supply of water
- ❖ Research, education and training
- ❖ Protecting ecosystems



0 2.6

CIRCULAR AND EFFICIENT ECONOMY

Description and action

Objectiu

Promoure l'economia circular i l'eficiència energètica

Activitats

- Accions pilot en: gestió del cicle de vida, disseny de producte, gestió de residus, eficiència energètica, reciclatge
- Transferència de tecnologies, comercialització i ús dels resultats de la recerca
- Awareness and capacity-building initiatives and the promotion of models that increase the participation: of citizens, the civil society, and public-private partnerships

EU grant: 90%

Fields

- ❖ Agriculture, aquaculture and fishing
- ❖ Tourism and sustainability
- ❖ Manufacturing
- ❖ Construction
- ❖ Urbanism and architecture
- ❖ Research, education and training
- ❖ Protection and preservation of ecosystems



0 1.3

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND COMPETITIVITY

Description and actions

Objectives

Foster the sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs

Activities

- ❑ Supporting co-creation and development of *startups* and *spin-offs*, and to foster entrepreneurship, innovation, diversification and growth.
- ❑ Development and promotion of transnational clusters, value chains, *networking* and *living labs*
- ❑ Services, networks and platforms to support companies (internationalization, eco-innovation, etc) and initiatives for the development and resilience of M-SMEs (digitalisation, innovation, etc).

Fields

- ❖ Blue, green and circular economy
- ❖ Digital transition
- ❖ Sustainable tourism
- ❖ Manufacturing
- ❖ Cultural and creative industries
- ❖ Agribusiness
- ❖ Social economy
- ❖ Education and training towards sustainability



Programme for transnational cooperation among South and North Mediterranean

RATING

Average dimension of projects:



Small

Big

Average budget *per* project: 2 MEUR

Competitiveness of calls:



Low

High

Recommended previous experience with European Projects:



Not much

A lot

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ➔ Remember that INTERREG projects seek to foster transnational cooperation and have as a common objective the improvement of public policies.
- ➔ The INTERREG NextMED programme is one of the most complex territorial cooperation programmes regarding administrative and financial management. It is not suitable for beginners, except if they can benefit from the support of an experimented entity.
- ➔ The programme's field of action covers the Southern Mediterranean: that is, the partnership will have to include non-European partners, countries such as Jordan, Palestine, Algeria, Israel, Egypt, Lebanon, Tunis and Turkey.

Possible role for SMEs

Direct beneficiaries (partner), as solution provider, business plan, exploitation, communication and management.

Interreg NextMed, Example of project

Programme for transnational cooperation among South and North Mediterranean

AQUACYCLE



Reclaimed municipal wastewater is considered as a valuable non-conventional water resource (NCWR). Unfortunately, a substantial number of wastewater treatment plants installed in the Mediterranean region have proven unsuccessful copies of western-based treatment system concepts. Besides their high operational and maintenance costs, these systems are often unsuited to address the local challenges of wastewater treatment.

As a result, treated municipal water is commonly underexploited throughout the region. To address these challenges, AQUACYCLE is set to bring an eco-innovative wastewater treatment technology that will consist of anaerobic digestion, constructed wetlands and solar treatment for the cost-effective treatment of urban wastewater with minimal costs of operation and maximum environmental benefits.

Some members of the partnership:



Timeline: 2019-2022
Overall budget: € 2,8M

INTERREGS STRAND A (CROSS-BORDER)



European programme for cross-border cooperation

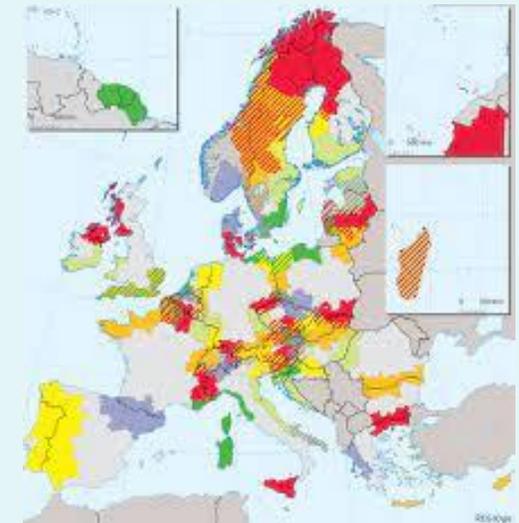
GENERAL VISION

Field: Territorial cooperation at the European Mediterranean

Budget: N/A

Goal: All of type-A (cross-border) INTERREG programmes have the same objective: foster cooperation between entities on each part of a border.

There is an INTERREG for each border of the European Union.



Links:



Portal of all Interreg programmes



Database of all Interreg projects & results

INTERREGS STRAND A (CROSS-BORDER)



European programme for cross-border cooperation

STRAND A

CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

Description and types of projects

@Interreg_EU



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Strand of cooperation : Cross-border

It appears clearly from exchanges with border regions and their representatives that certain key local issues faced by citizens and businesses crossing borders on a daily basis need further reflections and actions. Crossing borders to find employment, receive better healthcare, make use of public facilities or receive emergency support can still cause difficulties. Taxation or pension rights issues, non-recognition of rights or standards, impossibility to operate joint emergency services are still problems that exist today. Most of the remaining obstacles stem from diverging national legislations on either side of the border (national legislation is "border-blind"), incompatible administrative processes, or simply lack of common territorial planning. In order to respond to these challenges, DG REGIO has launched this Cross-Border Review, an initiative structured around 3 pillars

List of programmes



CONTACTS

SEE IN MAP

List of regions

Click on a country to expand the list of regions related to this Strand of cooperation in that country.

ANDORRA

AUSTRIA

There is an INTERREG for each border of the European Union. Usually, only entities which are based in border territories are eligible for funding, although some exceptions can be made.

To find all INTERREG cross-border programmes listed by country, check the website interreg.eu

INTERREGS STRAND A (CROSS-BORDER)



European programme for cross-border cooperation

RATING

Average dimension of projects:



Competitiveness of calls:



Recommended previous experience with European Projects:



RECOMENDATIONS

- ➔ Remember that INTERREG projects seek to foster transnational cooperation and have as a common objective the improvement of public policies.
- ➔ All INTERREG strand A are different, but usually their Joint Secretariats provide tools and guidelines to partnerships to help them draft their project (programme manual, FAQs, webinars, etc.) – available on their websites.
- ➔ The management of a project funded by an INTERREG strand A programme can be somewhat challenging – especially the justification of expenditures. Make sure to carefully check the financial rules before applying.

Possible role for SMEs

Direct beneficiaries (partner), as solution provider, business plan, exploitation, communication and management.

INTERREGS CROSS-BORDER, Example of project

European programme for cross-border cooperation

PHOTOPUR



PHOTOPUR's is a project financed by the Type A [Interreg Rhin Supérieur | Oberrhein](#) (Germany-France-Switzerland) which overall goal was to reduce the quantity of pesticides discharged into surface waters in the Upper Rhine Trinational Metropolitan Region. From Alsace to Kaiserstuhl via the Südliche Weinstraße, winegrowing is an integral part of the region's identity. Unfortunately, the traditional methods used by winegrowers to protect their vines include the use of pesticides. These products can enter surface waters, sometimes reaching levels that can be very harmful, even fatal,

To address this problem, a prototype for depolluting contaminated water named after the PHOTOPUR project (see image opposite) has been developed, optimised and tested throughout the project (until spring 2020). After passing through the PHOTOPUR, the water is depolluted and can then be reintroduced into the local wastewater system, while respecting the environment. It operates using a photocatalytic process (which speeds up certain chemical reactions), using materials activated by UV and solar radiation. The project has also led to the development of an eco-label for the sustainable management of winegrowing wastewater.

Some members of the partnership:



Timeline: 2017-2020
Overall budget: € 998.890



Section 3

To which national funds can I apply as a company?



Section 3 – To which national funding can I apply as a company?

Countries

Initiative to conduct business missions and matchmaking with 3rd country representatives

BULGARIA

GENERAL VISION
On regular basis the ICC through the Directorate of INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS organizes business delegations in the country and abroad on the occasion of the visit of representatives of the government, president, prime minister and ministers, as well as representatives of international organizations.
During the visit of the delegations, the ICC organizes meetings with interested companies from the respective countries.

Short description:

Managing entity: Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Sectors covered:

Links: [Website](#)

PEPR OneWater

FRANCE

GENERAL VISION
Launched in March 2022, OneWater is a national research program aimed at developing knowledge in the field of water in order to change the paradigm and rehabilitate water as a common good. Run over a 10-year period, the program is co-piloted by CNRS, BRGM and INRAE and aims to help society change on socio-ecosystems in France. OneWater is one of 17 Priority Exploratory Research Programs (PER) stemming from the 6th Five-Year Investments of France (P5I) launched by the French government. The program is an international research program in its field or European level and linked to a large scale transformation of France.

Short description:

Managing entity: (funding agency) ANIR (Programme leaders) CNRS, BRGM and INRAE

Sectors covered:

Links: [Website](#)

HANDITJI INNOVA

SPAIN

GENERAL VISION
Aid for large investments related to technological innovation in agricultural production among others. Investments in robotics for crop harvesting. Precision machinery and 4.0 technologies in the agricultural and livestock sector and livestock sector. High-tech installations in greenhouses for lighting and climate control. Installation of complete processes in milking farms (cattle, sheep and goats). High-tech machinery for sowing, weeding and irrigation installations and other planting systems involving high technology.

Short description:

Managing entity: SPRI

Sectors covered:

Links: [Website](#)

Operational Programme Environment

CZECH REPUBLIC

GENERAL VISION
The Operational Program Environment is a basic subsidy program in the field of environmental protection. In its third program period in the years 2020-2022, it provides the Czech Republic with approximately 61 billion crowns from European Union funds. The main objective is to improve the environmental situation in the Czech Republic, focusing on addressing climate change, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and addressing climate problems at the local level. The program covers a wide range of areas, including water management, air quality, and waste management.

Short description:

Managing entity: Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic

Sectors covered:

Links: [Website](#)

Bioökonomie International (Bioeconomy International)

GERMANY

GENERAL VISION
The BIMP intends to strengthen the implementation of the National Bioeconomy Strategy with regard to its international outlook and content by leading collaborative BIMP projects that involve foreign partners. The Bioeconomy International program funds research and development projects in close cooperation with international partners in the field of bioeconomy in order to strengthen international collaborations and research, development and innovation.

Short description:

Managing entity: Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Sectors covered:

Links: [Website](#)



Water



Agriculture



Industry



Construction



Energy



Other

Initiative to conduct business missions and matchmaking with 3rd country representatives



GENERAL VISION

Short description:

On regular basis the BCCI through the Directorate of INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS organizes business delegations in the country and abroad on the occasion of the visit of representatives of the government, president, prime minister and ministers, as well as representatives of business organizations.

During the visit of the delegations, business forums are held with bilateral meetings between interested companies from the respective countries.

Managing entity:

Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Sectors covered:



Links:



Website

Initiative to conduct business missions and matchmaking with 3rd country representatives



Scope of the Programme: National Scope

Main topics: Internationalisation, Innovation, Digitalisation, Green transition, Network and collaboration

Types of activities funded: Transportation costs

Complexity:



Below average difficulty

Which beneficiaries?

- Micro enterprise (<10 employees)
- Small enterprise (10-50 employees)
- Medium enterprise (50-250 employees)
- Public entities
- Clusters

- ▶ Several calls per year
- ▶ Allows individual beneficiaries
- ▶ Does **not** allow transnational consortiums
- ▶ Foresees collaboration of public and private actors



GENERAL VISION

Short description:

The activities carried out by the Agency are carried out with the help of a number of measures aimed at maintaining sustainable economic growth, increasing the competitiveness of Bulgarian enterprises and promoting their development, stimulating the entrepreneurial spirit and supporting technological and innovative productions, developing public-private partnerships.

Managing entity:

Bulgarian Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion Agency (BSMEPA)

Sectors covered:



Links:



Website



- Scope of the Programme:** National and Regional Scope
- Main topics:** Internationalisation, Innovation, Digitalisation, Green transition, Network and collaboration
- Types of activities funded:** Transportation costs

Complexity:



Average difficulty

Which beneficiaries?

- Micro enterprise (<10 employees)
- Small enterprise (10-50 employees)
- Medium enterprise (50-250 employees)
- Public entities
- Clusters

- ▶ Several calls per year
- ▶ Allows individual beneficiaries
- ▶ Does **not** allow transnational consortiums
- ▶ Foresees collaboration of public and private actors



GENERAL VISION

Short description:

Launched in March 2022, OneWater is a national research program aimed at developing knowledge in the field of water in order to change the paradigm and rehabilitate water as a common good. Run over a 10-year period, the program is co-piloted by CNRS, BRGM and INRAE, and aims to help accelerate transitions and measure the impact of global change on socio-ecosystems in France. OneWater is one of 17 Priority Exploratory Research Programs and Equipment (PEPR exploratoire) stemming from the 4th Plan Investissements d'Avenir (PIA4) launched by the French government in January 2021. The aim of these research programs is to build or consolidate French leadership, in scientific fields considered to be priorities at national or European level and linked to a large-scale transformation of France.

Managing entity:

(Funding agency) ANIR (Programme leaders) CNRS, BRGM and INRAE

Sectors covered:



Links:



Website



Scope of the Programme: National Scope

Main topics: Innovation

Average Budget and duration of project: Between 800K€ and 1,5M€; 36+ months

Complexity:



Average difficulty

Which beneficiaries?

- Micro enterprise (<10 employees)
- Small enterprise (10-50 employees)
- Medium enterprise (50-250 employees)
- Public entities
- Clusters

- ▶ 1 call per year
- ▶ Does **not** allow individual beneficiaries
- ▶ Allows transnational consortiums*
- ▶ Foresees collaboration of public and private actors

* Only French research organizations will be funded by the call



GENERAL VISION

Short description:

As part of the "France 2030" action plan, Bpifrance supports innovative projects in strategic areas of activity with the ambition of supporting the creation of companies with a high impact for the French economy. This applies to research, development and innovation projects with a total budget of between €1m and €5M€, and a duration of 12 to 36 months. Through this Programme, the French government is mobilizing up to €80 million a year for projects in areas such as the digital revolution, the ecological and energy transition, health and safety. Financial assistance of up to 45% of project costs is available in the form of grants and repayable advances.

Managing entity:

Bpifrance

Sectors covered:



Links:



Website

Concours d'innovation- i- Nov



Scope of the Programme: National Scope

Main topics: Innovation, Green Transition

Average Budget and duration of project: Between 1M€ and 5M€; 24 months

Complexity:



Average difficulty

Which beneficiaries?

- Micro enterprise (<10 employees)
- Small enterprise (10-50 employees)
- Medium enterprise (50-250 employees)
- Public entities
- Clusters

- ▶ 1 call per year
- ▶ Allows individual beneficiaries
- ▶ Does **not** allow transnational consortiums
- ▶ Does **not** foresee collaboration of public and private actors



GENERAL VISION

Short description:

France 2030 / PIA régionalisé draws on both the strengths of France 2030, a government program that supports training, research and its development by supporting innovative investment, and on those of the Regions, which have in-depth knowledge of local realities and proximity to local economic players, and contribute their expertise to the definition of the most appropriate levers to support them. France 2030/PIA4 aims to support collaborative research and development projects. Its aim is to strengthen the positions of industrial and service players in growth markets, in order to create or consolidate, around leaders, principals or suppliers of new, innovative, high value-added products or services, a fabric of lasting, collaborative industrial relationships involving large, medium-sized and small companies.

Managing entity:

Bpifrance

Sectors covered:



Links:



Website

France 2030, Projets collaboratifs/ I-Demo Régionalisé



Scope of the Programme: Regional Scope

Main topics: Innovation, Digitalisation and Green Transition

Average Budget and duration of project: Depending on the region

Complexity:



Average difficulty

Which beneficiaries?

- Micro enterprise (<10 employees)
- Small enterprise (10-50 employees)
- Medium enterprise (50-250 employees)
- Public entities
- Clusters

- ▶ 1 call per year
- ▶ Does **not** allow individual beneficiaries
- ▶ Does **not** allow transnational consortiums
- ▶ Does **not** foresee collaboration of public and private actors



GENERAL VISION

Short description:

Aid for large investments related to technological innovation in agricultural production, among others: Investments in robotics for crop harvesting. Precision machinery and 4.0 technologies in the agricultural and livestock sector and livestock sector; High-tech installations in greenhouses for lighting, heating and irrigation systems; Digitization of complete processes in milking farms (cattle, sheep and goats); High-tech machinery for on-farm slurry processing and treatment; and Irrigation installations and other planting systems involving high technology.

Managing entity:

SPRI

Sectors covered:



Links:



Website



Scope of the Programme: Regional Scope

Main topics: Innovation

Overall Budget of the call: 2.500.000 €

Complexity:



Average difficulty

Which beneficiaries?

- Micro enterprise (<10 employees)
- Small enterprise (10-50 employees)
- Medium enterprise (50-250 employees)
- Public entities
- Clusters



GENERAL VISION

Short description:

The objective of the aid program is to financially support investments for the demonstration and validation of emerging marine renewable energy technologies. Specifically, the eligible actions are: Experimental tests in demonstration phase and validation of prototypes at real scale, or close to real scale, of wave energy harvesting devices; Experimental tests in the demonstration and validation phase of full-scale prototypes, or close to full-scale prototypes, of floating wind turbine foundation devices; Experimental tests in the demonstration and validation phase of full-scale or near-full-scale prototypes of offshore wind turbines; Experimental tests in demonstration and validation phase of prototypes of auxiliary equipment or complementary components of any of the prototypes described in the previous sections.

Managing entity:

SPRI

Sectors covered:



Links:



Website



Scope of the Programme: Regional Scope

Main topics: Innovation

Overall Budget of the call: 2.500.000 €

Complexity:



Average difficulty

Which beneficiaries?

- Micro enterprise (<10 employees)
- Small enterprise (10-50 employees)
- Medium enterprise (50-250 employees)
- Public entities
- Clusters



GENERAL VISION

Short description:

The purpose of the program to support Innovative Business Groups (AEI) is to improve the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises. To this end, it provides public resources to support the innovation and business competitiveness strategies developed by the Innovative Business Groups (AEI) that are recognized as such as a result of their registration in the Ministry's Registry of Innovative Business Groups.

Managing entity:

General Secretariat for Industry and Small and Medium-Sized Companies

Sectors covered:



Links:



Website

Agrupaciones Empresariales Innovadoras (AEI)



Scope of the Programme: National Scope

Main topics: Innovation, Digitalisation

Complexity:



Average difficulty

Which beneficiaries?

- Micro enterprise (<10 employees)
- Small enterprise (10-50 employees)
- Medium enterprise (50-250 employees)
- Public entities
- Clusters

Lines of action:

Line 1. Actions to support the operation of Innovative Business Groups

Line 2. Technical feasibility studies

Line 3. Digital Technologies Projects

Operational Programme Environment



GENERAL VISION

Short description:

The Operational Program Environment is a basic subsidy program in the field of environmental protection. In its third program period in the years 2021–2027, it provides the Czech Republic with approximately 61 billion crowns from European Union funds. The main generally established goals include protecting and ensuring a quality environment for the life of the Czech population, limiting the negative impacts of human activity on the environment and climate, and contributing to solving environmental and climate problems at the European and global level. The areas of support are energy, RES, adaptation to climate change, water supply and sewerage, circular economy, and nature and pollution.

Managing entity:

Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic

Sectors covered:



Links:



Website

1. Promoting access to water and sustainable water management



Scope of the Programme: National Scope

Main topics: Innovation, Digitalisation, Green Transition

Overall Budget of call and average duration of projects: 595 million€, 24 months

Complexity:



Somewhat difficult

Which beneficiaries?

- ✓ Micro enterprise (<10 employees)
- ✓ Small enterprise (10-50 employees)
- ✓ Medium enterprise (50-250 employees)
- ✓ Public entities
- ✓ Clusters

- ▶ Ongoing calls permanently
- ▶ Allows individual beneficiaries
- ▶ Does **not** allow transnational consortiums
- ▶ Foresees collaboration of public and private actors

2. Promoting adaptation to climate change, disaster risk prevention and resilience, considering ecosystem approaches



Scope of the Programme: National Scope

Main topics: Innovation, Digitalisation, Green Transition

Overall Budget of call and average duration of projects: 430 million€, 24 months

Complexity:



Somewhat difficult

Which beneficiaries?

- ✓ Micro enterprise (<10 employees)
- ✓ Small enterprise (10-50 employees)
- ✓ Medium enterprise (50-250 employees)
- ✓ Public entities
- ✓ Clusters

- ▶ Ongoing calls permanently
- ▶ Allows individual beneficiaries
- ▶ Does **not** allow transnational consortiums
- ▶ Foresees collaboration of public and private actors

3. Technology for the accumulation, treatment, and distribution of grey and rainwater in buildings for the purpose of flushing, watering, washing and other relevant uses, with the exception of treatment for drinking water.



Scope of the Programme: National Scope

Main topics: Innovation, Digitalisation, Green Transition

Overall Budget of call: 515 million€

Complexity:



Somewhat difficult

Which beneficiaries?

- ✓ Micro enterprise (<10 employees)
- ✓ Small enterprise (10-50 employees)
- ✓ Medium enterprise (50-250 employees)
- ✓ Public entities
- ✓ Clusters

- ▶ Ongoing calls permanently
- ▶ Allows individual beneficiaries
- ▶ Does **not** allow transnational consortiums
- ▶ Foresees collaboration of public and private actors

National recovery plan-Physical infrastructure and green transition



GENERAL VISION

Short description:

Plan of reforms and investments of the Czech Republic, which it intends to implement within the framework of the use of funds from the EU Recovery and Resilience Instrument. The plan itself was created in response to the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic effects. It consists of reforms and investments that have the potential to direct the Czech Republic towards a green and digital future.

Managing entity:

Ministry of Trade, Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic

Sectors covered:



Links:



Website

1. Nature protection and adaptation to climate change



Scope of the Programme: National Scope

Main topics: Innovation, Digitalisation, Green Transition

Overall Budget of call: 615 million€

Complexity:



Somewhat difficult

Which beneficiaries?

- ✓ Micro enterprise (<10 employees)
- ✓ Small enterprise (10-50 employees)
- ✓ Medium enterprise (50-250 employees)
- ✓ Public entities
- ✓ Clusters

- ▶ Ongoing calls permanently
- ▶ Allows individual beneficiaries
- ▶ Does **not** allow transnational consortiums
- ▶ Foresees collaboration of public and private actors

2. Circular economy, recycling and industrial water



Scope of the Programme: National Scope

Main topics: Innovation, Digitalisation, Green Transition

Overall Budget of call: 186 million€

Complexity:



Somewhat difficult

Which beneficiaries?

- ✓ Micro enterprise (<10 employees)
- ✓ Small enterprise (10-50 employees)
- ✓ Medium enterprise (50-250 employees)
- ✓ Public entities
- ✓ Clusters

- ▶ Ongoing calls permanently
- ▶ Allows individual beneficiaries
- ▶ Does **not** allow transnational consortiums
- ▶ Foresees collaboration of public and private actors



GENERAL VISION

Short description:

Regional program to support adaptation measures to climate change, to replace boilers for low-income households in the South Moravian Region, to reduce emissions from local household heating, to support the fight against drought, to keep water in the landscape and subsequent care for greenery in the South Moravian Region, and subsidies in the area of water management.

Managing entity:

South Moravian Region

Sectors covered:



Links:



Website



Scope of the Programme:

Regional Scope

Main topics:

Innovation, Digitalisation, Green Transition, Other

Average Budget per Project and duration:

1.000€- 21.000€; 12 months

Type of activities:

Support of small watercourses and small water reservoirs, retention of water in the landscape, follow-up of greenery...

Complexity:



Average Difficulty

Which beneficiaries?

- Micro enterprise (<10 employees)
- Small enterprise (10-50 employees)
- Medium enterprise (50-250 employees)
- Public entities
- Clusters

- ▶ 1 call per year
- ▶ Allows individual beneficiaries
- ▶ Does **not** allow transnational consortiums
- ▶ Foresees collaboration of public and private actors



GENERAL VISION

Short description:

The BMBF intends to strengthen the implementation of the National Bioeconomy Strategy with regard to its international outlook and context by funding collaborative R&D projects that involve foreign partners. The Bioeconomy International program funds research and development projects in close cooperation with relevant foreign partners on core issues of the bioeconomy in order to strengthen international collaborations and to establish active, sustainable partnerships in the area of research, development and innovation.

Managing entity:

Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Sectors covered:



Links:



Website

Bioökonomie International (Bioeconomy International)



Scope of the Programme: National Scope

Main topics: Internationalisation, Innovation, Digitalisation, Green transition

Overall Budget: 50% of the costs are eligible for funding
Maximum funding of 500.000€ for three years

Complexity:



Somewhat difficult

Which beneficiaries?

- Micro enterprise (<10 employees)
- Small enterprise (10-50 employees)
- Medium enterprise (50-250 employees)
- Public entities
- Clusters
- Other: Research institutions

Exportinitiative Umweltschutz (EXI)



GENERAL VISION

Short description:

The aim of EXI is to promote projects that support the transfer of know-how and the application of German environmental and resource efficiency technologies, with a focus on emerging and developing countries. Funding is provided for project ideas, especially from German Greentech SMEs, in the areas of circular economy, water and wastewater management, off-grid green hydrogen and fuel cell technologies, sustainable consumption, mobility as well as sustainable urban and regional development and cross-cutting issues.

Managing entity:

Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

Sectors covered:



Links:



Website

Exportinitiative Umweltschutz (EXI)



Scope of the Programme: National Scope

Main topics: Internationalisation, Green transition

Overall Budget: 56 million €

Complexity:



Average difficulty

Which beneficiaries?

- Micro enterprise (<10 employees)
- Small enterprise (10-50 employees)
- Medium enterprise (50-250 employees)
- Public entities
- Clusters



GENERAL VISION

Short description:

With this funding measure, the BMBF supports industrial research and pre-competitive development projects to strengthen the innovative capacity of SMEs in Germany as part of the "Research for Sustainable Development (FDNA)" programme. In particular, SMEs should be encouraged to increase their R&D efforts and be better able to react quickly to changes and actively shape the necessary transformation. Grants from the BMBF are intended to support innovative research projects that could not be carried out without funding.

Managing entity:

Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Sectors covered:



Biodiversity conservation

Links:



Website

KMU-Innovativ: Ressourceneffizienz und Klimaschutz



Scope of the Programme: National Scope

Main topics: Innovation, Green transition

Complexity:



Average difficulty

Which beneficiaries?

- Micro enterprise (<10 employees)
- Small enterprise (10-50 employees)
- Medium enterprise (50-250 employees)
- Public entities
- Clusters



GENERAL VISION

Short description:

With this funding measure, the BMBF supports industrial research and pre-competitive development projects to strengthen the innovative capacity of SMEs in Germany as part of the "Research for Sustainable Development (FOONA)" programme. In particular, SMEs should be encouraged to increase their R&D efforts and be better able to react quickly to changes and actively shape the necessary transformation. Grants from the BMBF are intended to support innovative research projects that could not be carried out without funding.

Managing entity:

Investitions- und Strukturbank Rheinland-Pflaz

Sectors covered:



Links:



Website

Effizienzsteigerung gewerblicher Unternehmen (EffInvest)



Scope of the Programme: Regional Scope

Main topics: Innovation

Overall Budget:
Feasibility study: 52.500€
R&D Project: 500.000€

Complexity:



Easy

Which beneficiaries?

- Micro enterprise (<10 employees)
- Small enterprise (10-50 employees)
- Medium enterprise (50-250 employees)
- Public entities
- Clusters



Section 4

Which opportunities and for which sectors?



Section 4 – Which opportunities for which sectors?



WATER SUPPLY & MANAGEMENT

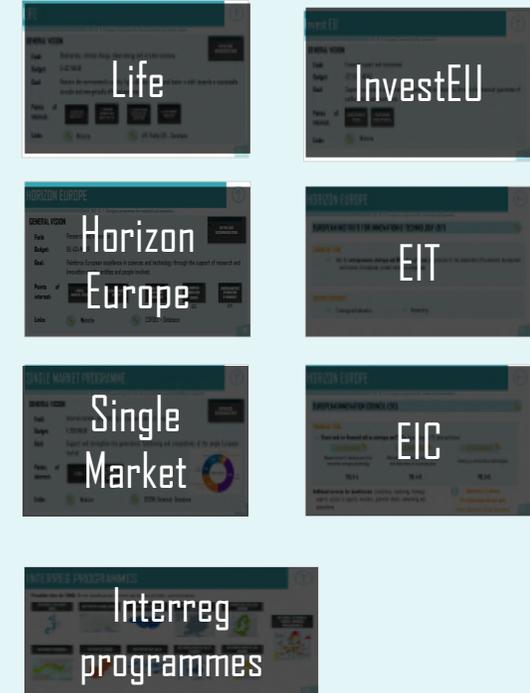


The water sector is specifically addressed by 3 European programmes: **Horizon Europe** (cluster 6, Food, Bioeconomy, Natural resources, agriculture and Environment); for projects focusing on research and innovation, the **Life** (subprogram 2, adaptation to climate change and mitigation); and finally, **Global Europe** tackles the priorities of the [SDGs](#) (which include, SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation).

Addressed since the creation of the EU, with the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community, industry has been one of the priorities of the Union. However, it was not included in the legislature until the ratification of the Treaty of Maastricht, tackled in [Article 173](#).

The **key concepts** to keep in mind with projects in this sector, are: sustainability, internationalization, development and digitalisation.

RELEVANT PROGRAMMES



Section 4 – Which opportunities for which sectors?



INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

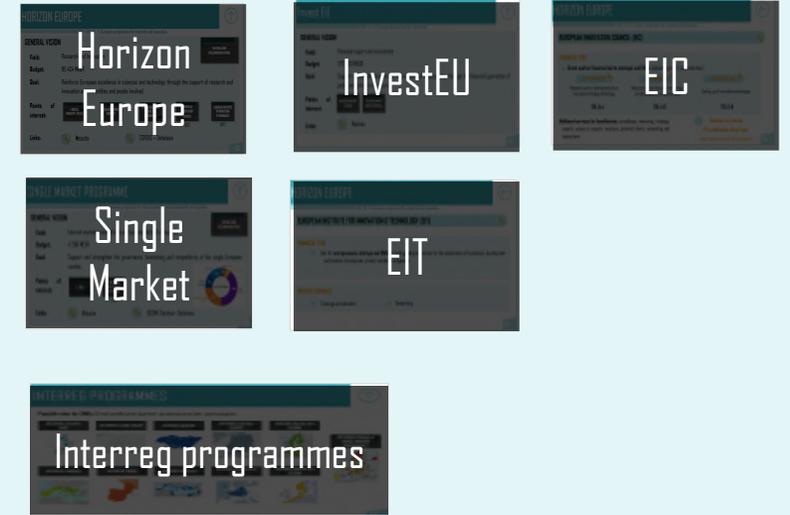


The industrial sector is specifically addressed by 3 European programmes: **Horizon Europe** (cluster 4, Digital, Industry & Space); for projects focusing on SMEs development, the Single Market Programme; finally, InvestEU for the sustainability and digitalisation of industries.

European policies concerning the water sector are mainly established in the [EU Water Framework Directive](#), which regulates the processes of water management to ensure the sustainability of this resource. Different directives for specific uses of water have been created within this framework, addressing specific sectors, such as the [Bathing Water Directive](#) or the [Drinking Water Directive](#).

The **key concepts** to keep in mind with projects in this sector, are: sustainability, health, security and environment preservation.

RELEVANT PROGRAMMES



Section 4 – Which opportunities for which sectors?



AGRI-FOOD SECTOR

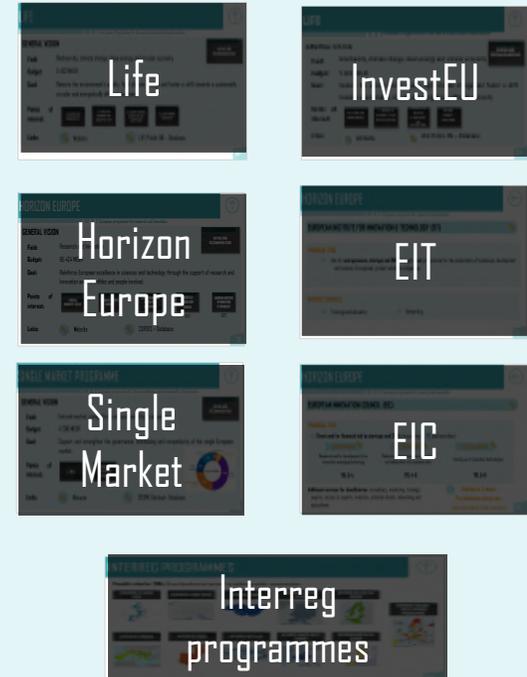


The agri-food sector is covered by 3 European programmes: **Horizon Europe** (cluster 6, Food, Bioeconomy, Natural resources, agriculture and Environment). For projects focusing on research and innovation, the **Life** and **Interreg NextMED**, and for circular and sustainable economy as well. The **Single Market Programme** for topics related to food security.

European policies concerning the agri-food sector are described in the [New Common Agricultural Policy 2023-2027](#), in which special attention is placed in the increase of competitiveness, focusing on research, technology and digitalisation, within its 10 specific objectives. Furthermore, the ['Farm to Fork' Strategy](#) seeks to accelerate the transition towards a sustainable food system.

The **key concepts** to keep in mind with projects in this sector, are: competitiveness (long and short terms), digitalisation, health, security and environment preservation.

RELEVANT PROGRAMMES



Section 4 – Which opportunities for which sectors?



CONSTRUCTION



The construction sector is **highly** transversal regarding European programmes: it can be included in those concerned with the environment, energetic efficiency, or even social inclusion. A few calls for the **Horizon Europe** programme, which are destined to contribute to the energetic transition of buildings and industrial infrastructure within Cluster 2 - *Climate, Energy, Mobility*.

European public policies regarding construction are: [the study about the Principles of Circular Economy for Building Design](#) and [The Strategy for sustainable competitiveness in the Construction Sector and its businesses](#).

The **key concepts** that should be considered for projects within this sector are: environmental protection, energetic efficiency, security for employees, circular economy, competitiveness and social inclusion.

RELEVANT PROGRAMMES



Section 4 – Which opportunities for which sectors?



ENERGY

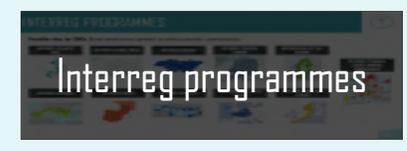


A series of European programmes tackle the field of energy: **Horizon Europe** (cluster 2, *Climate, Energy and Mobility*) for projects focused on research and innovation, and the Programme **Life** (subprogramme 3 *Transition towards clean energy*), and the **Interreg Euro-MED** and **Interreg NextMED** programmes for projects that foster the energetic transition.

The most relevant policy concerning this sector is the [European Green Deal](#), which aligns with the long-term goal of the EU to become climate neutral by 2050 (zero greenhouse emissions).

The **key concepts** to consider for projects in this sector are: renewable energy, energetic efficiency, clean energy and low carbon emissions, climate neutrality and energetic transition.

RELEVANT PROGRAMMES



Section 4 – Which opportunities for which sectors?



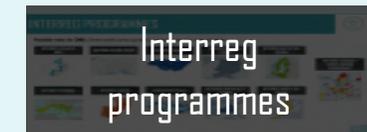
ICT



The period 2020-2023 is the EU's **Digital Decade**, as described in two key documents: **The path towards the Digital Decade** and the **Digital Compass**. The goals for 2030 include the digitalisation of companies, the creation of safe and sustainable infrastructures, and improving the digital competences of professionals in the sector and the general European population.

The most relevant programme for this sector is **Digital Europe**, but others can fit with this priority as well: **Horizon Europe** (cluster 1, *Digital, Industry and Space*) for research projects, **Interreg POCTEFA** for the acquisition of digital competences, and **Interreg NextMED** for the digitalisation of businesses. Furthermore, it must be highlighted that the digital transition is a transversal priority of many other programmes (particularly, EUI), and that depending on its specialization, a company in the ICT sector can participate in numerous calls.

RELEVANT PROGRAMMES



Section 4 – Which opportunities for which sectors?



MARITIME SECTOR

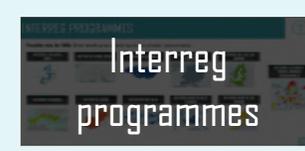


Different European programmes can fund projects of the maritime sector depending on their approach: **Life**, **Interreg NextMED** and **Interreg Euro-Med** programmes for projects concerning blue and sustainable economy, and the **Horizon Europe** programme for research projects, under Cluster 3- *Food, Bioeconomy, Natural resources, Agriculture, Environment*.

The **European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFA)** also funds projects through national calls (ADD ?).

The EU's **Integrated Maritime Policy** consists of 5 axis among which fisheries, blue and sustainable economy (climate change, sustainable economy and environment) and aquaculture (for the resilience and competitiveness of the sector). Some **key concepts** are: resilience, economic competitiveness, innovation, sustainability, circular economy, recycling, climate change, ecological transition, renewable energy, animals, consumer protection.

RELEVANT PROGRAMMES





Section 5

How can I obtain EU funding? Advice and recommendations



Project's lifecycle

1. Preparation

Obtaining EU funding implies competing with other entities around Europe. Thus, it is fundamental to prepare as best as possible.

6. Closing

Closing the project consists on evaluating and verifying the fulfilment of the project's goals and results, as well as starting to activate the mechanisms to ensure the sustainability of the project.

5. Management

Putting in practice the proposal requires planification and thinking about procedures and tools for an adequate management of time and resources.

2. Elaboration

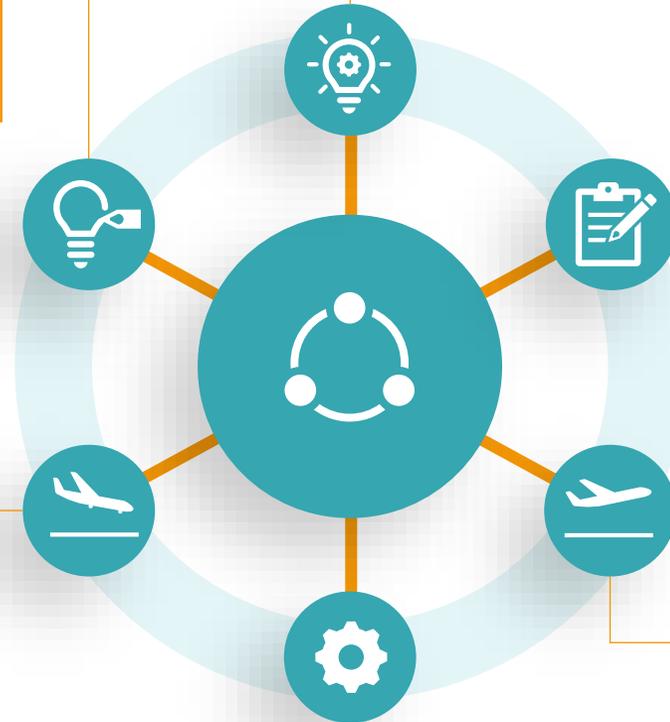
The starting point of any project consists of choosing an idea and developing it through a Concept Note, while we search for other entities to create the consortium.

3. Drafting

Requires to write a technical memory and elaborate a budget in collaboration with the other partners, finally, handing the proposal before the deadline.

4. Launch

The launching of the project is an essential moment for a good administrative and financial management of the project, as well as to regulate relationships and distribute responsibilities among partners.



Tools and resources

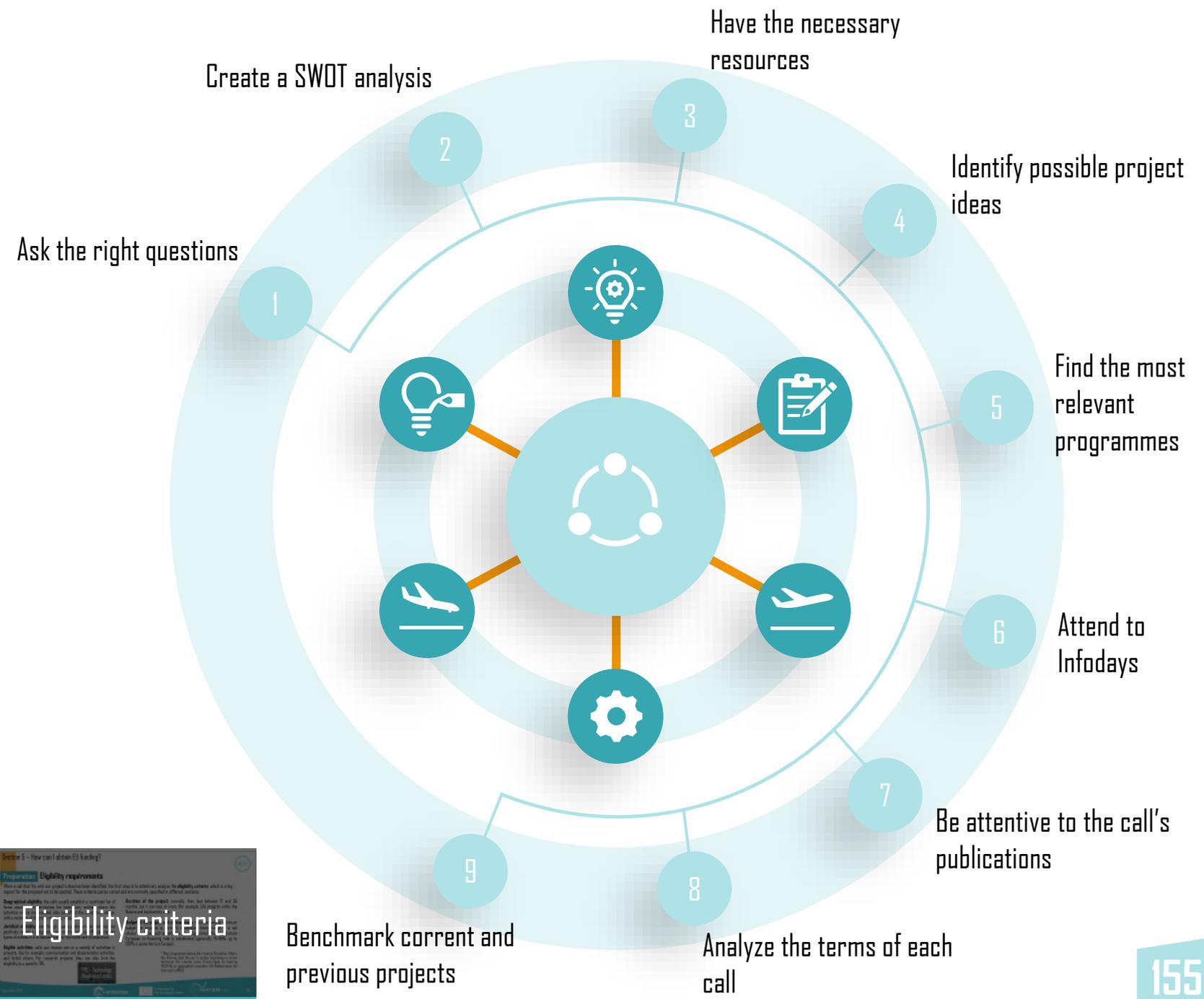
← 1. Preparation

To obtain European funding implies a competition with other European entities, given that the demand is higher than the available offer of funds.

For that reason, before starting to dive in the world of European Programmes, it is crucial to:

- Prepare and anticipate as much as possible
- Choose wisely which battles we want to fight
- Design an internal strategy, a road map, for the participation in European Programmes europeus

In this section, we will see what *preparation* implies.

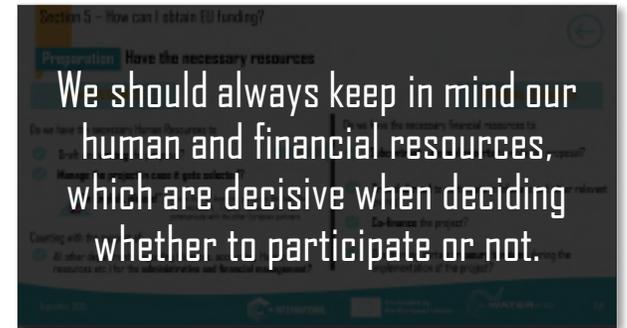
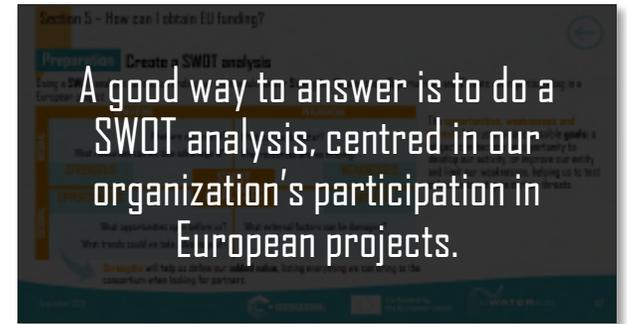




Preparation Ask yourself the right questions

Before beginning to check out different programmes, it is better to at least ask ourselves these **three questions**:

- 1 My goals: What do I want to achieve with an European project**
Obtaining funding is not the only interest: a European project grants the opportunity to create solutions to established problems and test them with a limited risk, or exploring potential developments.
- 2 My added value: what can I bring to a European project?**
At the time of participating in a project, an entity brings its expertise, previous experiences and knowledges. The goal is to identify our strong points to put them in value.
- 3 My skills: do I have the necessary resources?**
To participate in European projects always implies a certain risk. In order to make an informed decision concerning participation in a project, it is crucial to consider our own technical, human and financial competences.

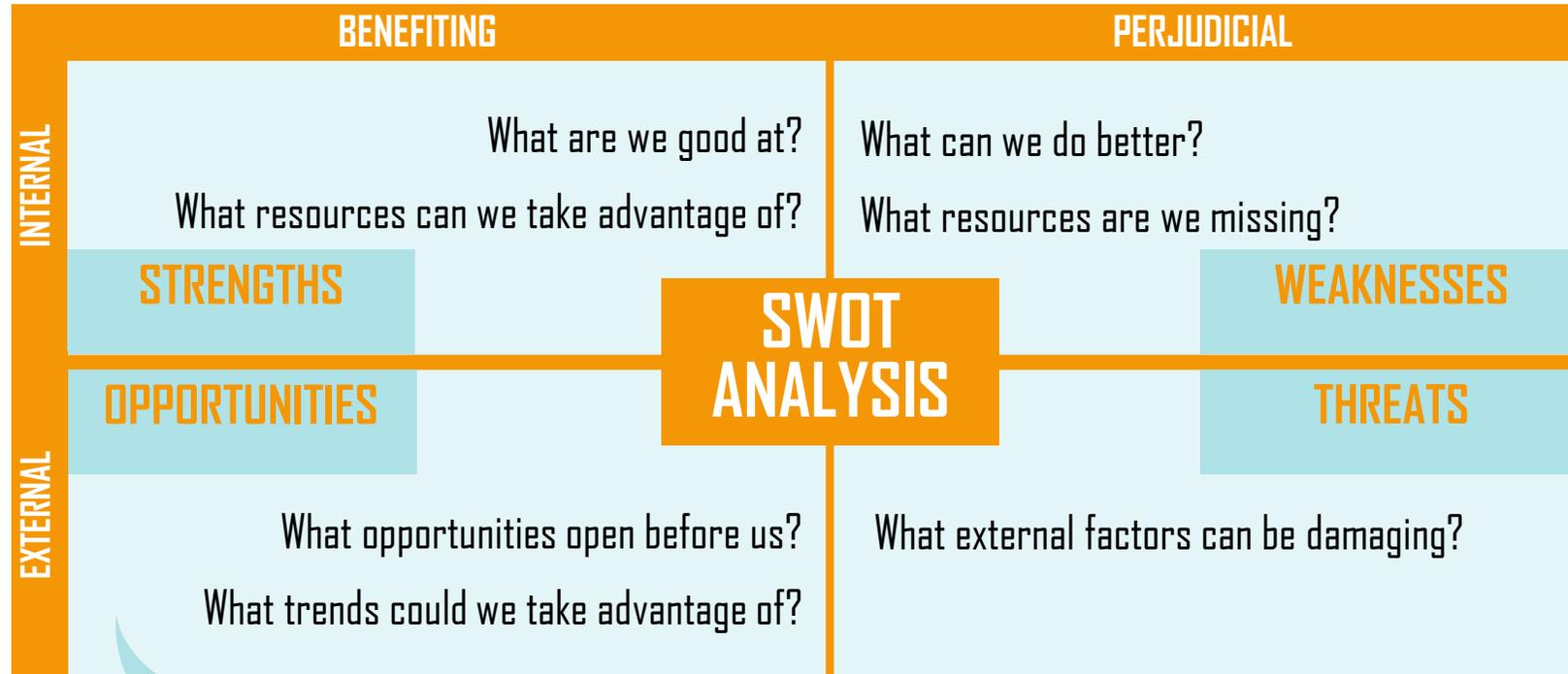


Section 5 – How can I obtain EU funding?



Preparation Create a SWOT analysis

Doing a **SWOT** analysis consist on finding out what would be our **S**trengths, **W**eaknesses, **O**pportunities and **T**hreats when participating in a European project.



The **opportunities, weaknesses and threats** help us envisage possible **goals**: a project can become an opportunity to develop our activity, or improve our entity and limit our weaknesses, helping us to test solutions to mitigate certain threats.

Strengths will help us define our **added value**, listing everything we can bring to the consortium when looking for partners.



Preparation Have the necessary resources

HUMAN RESOURCES

Do we have the necessary Human Resources to:

- ✓ Draft and **writing** the proposal?
- ✓ **Manage the project in case it gets selected?**



“In English, please!”

Ensure that at least one person in the team has the necessary English competences as to communicate with the other European partners.

Counting with the support of:

- ✓ All other departments regarding (finances, accounting, Human resources etc.) for the **administrative and financial management?**

... And if not

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Do we have the necessary financial resources to:

- ✓ **Subcontract external experts** to write the proposal?
- ✓ **Travel abroad** to participate in Infodays and other relevant events?
- ✓ **Co-finance** the project?
- ✓ Overcoming certain **treasury tensions** during the implementation of the project?



Preparation Identify possible project idea

Based on our SWOT analysis, we identify a series of ideas that we can develop and turn into European project proposals.

How to identify an idea?

An idea that can become a project, is an idea that:

- **Gives an answer to a problem** that has already been identified by the entity (Threat or Weakness) and that gives a response to a real interest .
- Represents an **opportunity to explore a non-previously worked on field** that will allow the development of future activities, according to the global strategy of the entity.

In any of these cases, they should **align the project's goals with those of our organization** and **involve the direction board to ensure their support** to avoid future difficulties that could generate issues with the project's management.



Preparation Find the most relevant programmes

Once we have decided that we want to access European funding, the research phase shall begin as to find the more adequate funding for our project idea.

Create your own alert system:

We can use the following tools:

Social network of programmes on Twitter and LinkedIn

European Commission's and Programme's **official websites**

Funding & Tender Portal
Where all calls are published

How and where to look for European Programmes?

- ◆ **Mapping European Programmes**, as included in this guide
- ◆ **Specialized websites**, like National Governments' sites
- ◆ **Create your own alert system**



Section 5 – How can I obtain EU funding?



Preparation Attend to Infodays

A lot of European programmes, when launching a call, organize an **Infoday**.

The following items are presented:

- ➡ **Goals** of the programme
- ➡ Specificities and characteristics of the **call**
- ➡ **Advice and suggestions** to present the best application possible

An opportunity to find partners

Additionally, most Infodays also provide opportunities **networking** among participants, as to allow them to explore new possibilities for cooperation and creation of new projects.

Where to find Infodays?

Through the channels of the programmes:

Programme's **social networks** on
Twitter and LinkedIn

Programme's and the European
Commission's official **websites**

Specialized websites
provided by National governments



Preparation **Be attentive to the call publication**

European programmes publish the calls on their **websites**, however, as to maximize their dissemination, they also publish them through **social networks** (specially Twitter).

Programme's action plans

Most programmes annually or biannually publish their Action Plans or Work Programmes **including provisional dates for foreseen calls** in the incoming months. They can be downloaded on their websites.

Centralized v.s decentralized programmes

All the calls concerning programmes directly managed by the European Commission are published on the **"Funding and Tender Opportunities" portal**, while decentralized programmes such as the Interregs, are published on their **respective websites**.

Where are they published?

To stay in tune with the different calls, you can consult:

Programme's **social network**

European Commission's and Programme's websites

Specialized websites

"Funding & Tender Opportunities" Portal



Preparation **Benchmark previous and current projects**

Before applying to a call, when developing the selected idea, it is important to do some benchmarking, that is, **seeking similar European projects** which are currently active or have been done in the past.

Why benchmarking?

Benchmarking allows the definition of the **innovative character** of the project and to **differentiate** it from others, while defining the possible complementarities and synergies with those other projects. Furthermore, it is a useful tool to seek for partners with previous experience.

How to benchmark?

It consists in looking up on programme's databases all the current or past projects related to certain **key words**.

Databases

The link to the databases can be found on the 1st page of each programme's description in [section 2](#) (European programmes) and [section 3](#) (national programmes).



Preparation Analyze the terms of each call

When analysing the terms of a European Programme, we must check:

- 1 The priorities/thematic that must be tackled:**
To ensure that our idea perfectly fits with the priorities and objectives of the call. If we must put special effort on fitting in the idea within the call's scope, maybe we should either change calls or the idea.
- 2 Participant and consortium requirements**
Verify that we fulfill all the eligibility criteria
- 3 The activities**
Ensure that the type of activities which can be funded under the programme are convenient both for us and for the project.
- 4 The budget**
Ensure that the estimated budget fits with our ambitions and with the size of our project.
- 5 Considering the deadline**





Preparation Eligibility requirements

When a call that fits with our project's idea has been identified, the first step is to attentively analyse the **eligibility criteria**, which is a key aspect for the proposal not to be ejected. These criteria can be varied and are normally specified in different sections:

Geographical eligibility: the calls usually establish a restricted list of home countries or territories for beneficiary entities where the activities will be implemented; also can affect the consortium set-up, with a minimum of different countries required.

Juridical eligibility: even though usually public-private ventures are positively valued, a programme can restrict in a specific call certain types of entities if it is deemed best for the fulfillment of objectives.

Eligible activities: calls can impose one or a variety of activities in projects, like for example, communication and dissemination activities, and forbid others. For research projects, they can also limit the eligibility to a specific TRL.



Duration of the project: normally, they last between 12 and 36 months, but it can be less or more (for example, Life projects within the Nature and biodiversity axis).

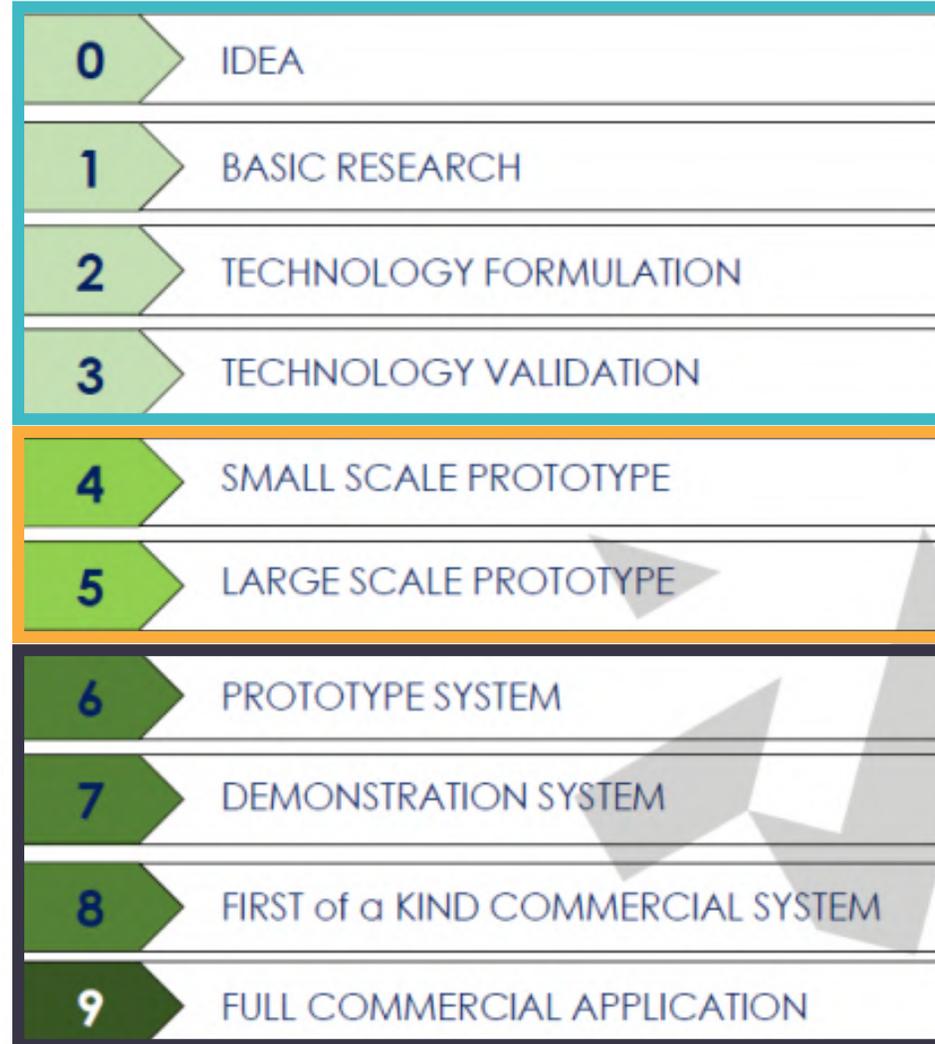
Budget of the project and cofinancing: a maximum and/or minimum budget for projects is normally established (even though it is not always the case, such as with the Life programme). Plus, a maximum European co-financing rate is established (generally 75-95%, up to 100% in some Horizon Europe).

* Many programmes destine their funds to EU entities. Others, like Interreg, limit the use to entities functioning in certain territories like c-border areas (France-Spain for Interreg POCTEFA) or geographical ensembles (EU Mediterranean for Interreg EuroMED).

Section 5 – How can I obtain EU funding?

Preparation TRL

The **Technology Readiness Levels (TRL)** scale is a tool used to estimate the maturity of technologies. It enables consistent and uniform discussions of technical maturity across different types of technology.



RESEARCH STAGE

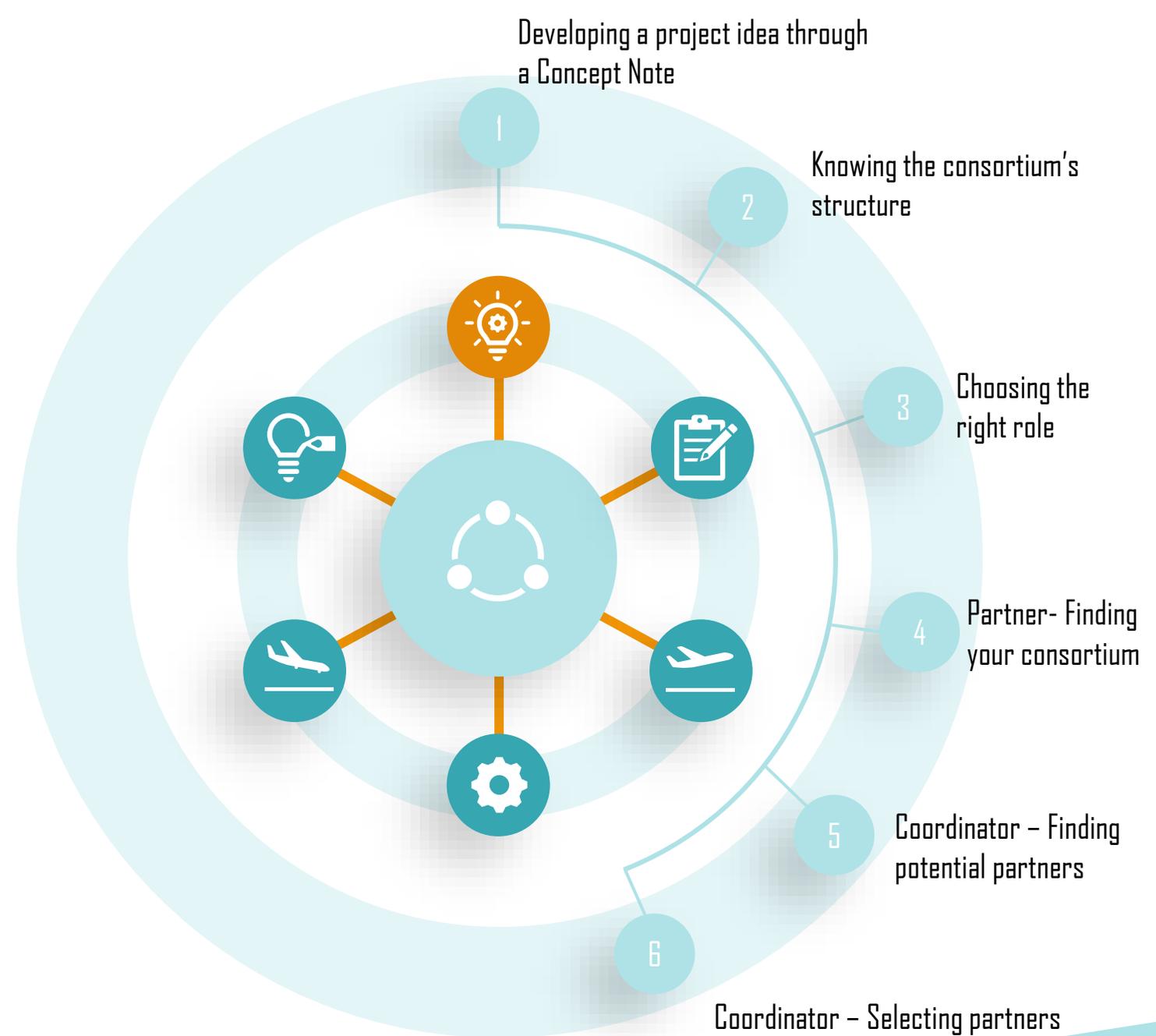
DEVELOPMENT STAGE

DEPLOYMENT STAGE

← 2.Elaboration

Once we have decided to participate in a call, the next step consists of selecting one idea and developing the project's summary through a Concept Note, and beginning to look for a consortium.

Before proceeding with the research, though, we need to discover what is the most suiting role for us: as a Partner or as a Lead Partner, thanks to the SWOT analysis we have developed in the Preparation phase.





Elaboration **Developing a project idea through a concept note**

Once we have identified a programme and a call that fits with our previously identified ideas (established during the preparation phase) we can start developing them.

What does a Concept Note contain?

- Programme and Priority to which we are applying
- Project title and acronym (attractive)
- Objectives
- Main activities and results to accomplish
- Duration (in months)
- Budget and co-financing ratio
- Profile of necessary partners
- Call's deadline



In English!

How to develop a project idea?

- 1 Select the adequate idea**
Among all the identified ideas, we choose one or two that seem particularly relevant.
- 2 Develop the idea**
Defining clear objectives, activities proposed to achieve them and the foreseen results, as well as the profiles of required partners.
- 3 Writing a Concept Note**
Synthetizing all the points mentioned above in a single document that we will be able to use for our search for partners.



Elaboration Knowing the consortium structure

Deciding to participate in an European project always imply needing to choose which role should be assumes: Coordinator, Partner, Associate Partner or Subcontracted.

Partnership of Consortium



The **Coordinator**, also known as **Lead Partner or Promoter**, is responsible of the project and represents the consortium to the EU. They are in charge of leading the drafting of the project and coordinating its management. They usually come up with the project's idea.

The **Partners** are other entities within the consortium that contribute to the drafting of the proposal and the implementation of activities. Just as the coordinators, they are beneficiaries of the subvention. In the case of big consortium, some partners can become **Work Package Leader**, that is, becoming responsible of coordination other partner's actions for the implementation of a specific *work package*.

The **Associated Partners** are entities associated to a Partner. They do not receive EU funding*. They contribute to the implementation of a small part of the project (often dissemination activities) but their participation in the drafting is reduced to signing a support letter. This role has gradually disappeared in the last years.

The **External providers** are not part of the consortium. They are suppliers of services selected through competitive processes (procurements) that contribute to the project through the implementation of a specific and limited task.

* Their travel and subsistence expenses can be eligible, but only if they are covered by one of the Partners.



Elaboration **Choosing the right role**

As to choose a role wisely, we need to understand the requirements for each of them. Given that Associate Partners have a smaller role, we will solely focus on Coordinators and Partners.

Coordinator

It is highly advisable that the Coordinator has a good **previous experience with European projects**. It can happen that an entity decides to lead even without that experience (because they have had the project's idea), but as long as the project's management remains simple.

Some programmes like the Single Market transfer the import of the grant directly to the Coordinator, who then transfer's the accorded amount to each Partner. Thus, in this case a **very good treasury** is a **must** as to assume all these movements.

Partner

Becoming Partner does not require any previous experience in European projects. However, it is essential to ensure that we have the necessary **Human** (considering required competences) **technical and material resources** needed for the assigned activities- and if not, having enough financial resources as to acquire the required material or resources.

It is crucial to have a **good treasury** as well, given that at least a part of the grant will be a reimbursement (the totality in the case of decentralized programmes).



Elaboration Partner: find your consortium

Being Partner of a project requires developing your own narrative and disseminate it to possible Lead Partners through adequate communication channels.

1 Developing your narrative

It will be our visiting card to find other Partners or Lead Partners, and includes:

- A brief presentation of the **organization**
- Our **goals**, a problem to which we want to offer a solution
- Our **added value**, the expertise we bring to the consortium

2 Circulate the narrative through adequate channels

Which channels?

Infodays

Other similar events

Tools to find Partners (by the programmes or others, pages offered by National Governments)

Contact points

National agencies for decentralized funds



Elaboration Coordinator: finding potential partners

There are many ways to find Partners. Here we list some of them:

- **Your own contact network** (recommended)
- **European and national federations, networks, associations**
- **European programmes' databases**
A good way to find Partners is to look at programmes' databases, looking for similar projects that have been previously funded and contacting the Partners that took part in them.
- **Infodays**
European Programmes often organize networking events during the InfoDays.
- **Tools to find Partners**
- **Other alternative ways** (social network, etc)



CORDIS Platform
Horizon Europe



COSME Data hub
Single Market Programme



Public database
Life Programme



Elaboration **Coordinator: selecting your partners**

The Partners are a key element of any Project. It is fundamental to know where and how to find them, and more specifically, how to choose them carefully so they are the most adequate and trustworthy possible.

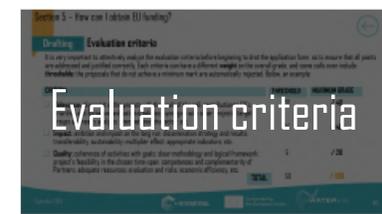
What should be considered when choosing a Partner?

- **Experience and expertise:** experience in a European Project, expertise on their field, etc.
- **Location:** the calls indicate which countries are eligible and which are not.
- **Complementarity:** each Partner should bring its own added value to the consortium
- **Role and commitment:** the Partner needs to be involved as to avoid the 'sleeping partners' phenomenon.
- **References and reputation:** it is preferable to select partners of our own networks, or by recommendation of a collaborator.

← 3. Drafting

While the consortium is consolidated, the drafting of the proposal begins. Normally, there is a margin of two months between the announcement of the call and the deadline to hand in proposals. It is a very short term, and the more anticipation we have to prepare, the better.

European calls are pretty competitive. They have an average success rate of 15%, depending on the programme and the call. That means that it is probable that our proposal is not selected the first time it is presented, but we should not give up because evaluator's feed-back will allow us to improve the proposal and re-submit it with more possibilities to be selected.





Drafting Gathering the necessary documents

Participating in a call requires gathering the following documents:

SUPPORT LETTERS

All members of the consortium, even Partners and Associate Partners, need to present a **support letter** that justifies their interest on the project, signed by a legal representative. The partners also need to provide a document disclosing their **legal commitment to co-finance** the assumed project, as described in the budget.

IDENTIFICATION FORMS

Also known as **PIF (Partner Identification Form, NOT to confuse with PIC)** this questionnaire is a document in which each Partner provides their **administrative data** (NIF, status, name of legal representative). Depending on the programme, also a list of previous projects in which the Partner has participated can be required.

CURRICULUM VITAE

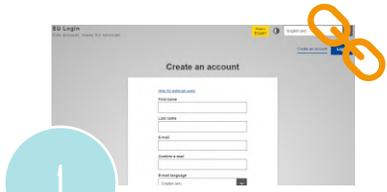
Some calls require consortiums to provide a **list of experts**, that is, a list of the employees of each Partner that will contribute to the implementation of activities, as well as a description of their competences and knowledge. Sometimes, a CV in Europass format can be required as well.





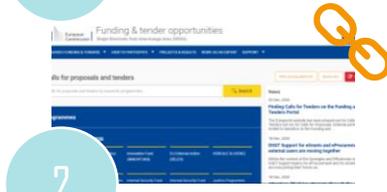
Drafting Obtaining a PIC number

Generally, to present a proposal to a call of a centralized fund, all Partners need an **identification PIC code** (*Participant Identification Code*), that can be obtained by following the next steps:



1

Create an account at EU Login (European Commission) to obtain a **user name** and **password**



2

Accessing to the **Participant's register** in the Funding & Tenders portal of the European Commission and connecting to register the entity. Previously, verify that it is not already registered.



3

Follow the instructions of the Portal and provide the required information (generally, administrative information of the entity) until obtaining the **provisional PIC number**. With this provisional PIC number, you can already participate in European Programmes' calls.

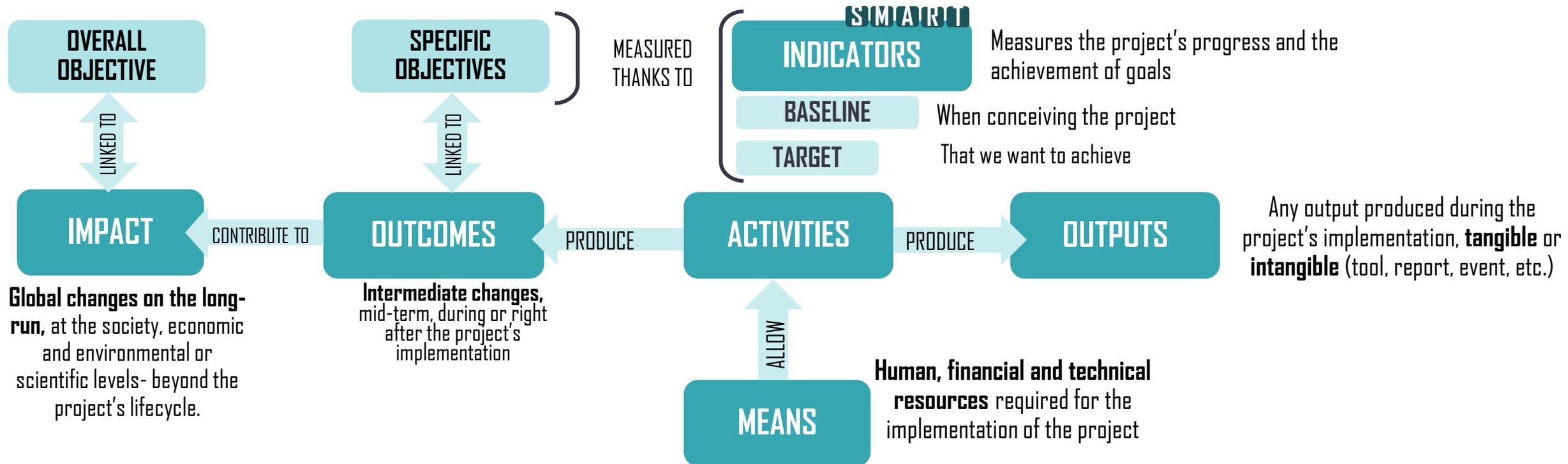
AND THE DEFINITIVE PIC?

The first time that the entity formalized a **first contact** with the European Commission, a validation of the PIC number will be required (with supplementary administrative information).



Drafting Defining the project structure

Designing the structure of the project, also known as **logical framework**, is essential as to have a defined proposal in line with the programme's objectives and the call. It is defined as following:



Section 5 – How can I obtain EU funding?



Drafting **Elaborating a workplan**

The activities or tasks are divided into **work packages** and are presents in a **Work Plan**:

Activities	Description	Dates	Deliverables	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	M9	...
WPI Project management	What?	M1 M48		[Orange bar]									
WP2 Communication	How?	M1 M48		[Orange bar]									
2.1 Communication Strategy	Where?	M1 M4	Strategy	[Light blue bar]			[Orange bar]			[Light blue bar]			
2.2 Content creation		M3 M6	Roll-up, flyers	[Light blue bar]									
2.3 Dissemination campaign		M38 M48	Dissemination plan	[Light blue bar]									

GANTT (calendar)

... And are attributed to Partners according to a **RAM**, Responsibility Assignment Matrix:

Activities	Coordinator	Partner 2	Partner 3
WP2 Communication	Contributor	Leader	Key actor
2.1 Communication strategy	Contributor	Leader	Key actor
2.2 Content creation	N/A	Leader	Key actor
2.3 Dissemination campaign	Contributor	Leader	Contributor

Leader: task coordinator, responsible of is quality and deadlines

Key actor: implementing the task or contributing on key aspects

Contributor: contribution and revision of deliverables



Drafting Writing the application form

The **Application form** is the document in which the project is presented. The following elements are defined:

The objectives

The objectives need to be **clear, measurable, realistic and achievable** in the time span of the project. They need to be coherent with the envisaged impact of the project.

The methodology

It is the global concept upon which the project is based. Consists of a description of the **challenge** (initial situation) to which the project offers an **innovative solution**, based on the **capitalization** of previous knowledge and past experiences, and seeks to **transfer** the outputs (beyond the project's lifetime) and the **sustainability** of results (on the long run).

Target groups

People or groups of people to which the project is directed.

They can be the **direct target of the action**, involved in the project's activities, or the **final beneficiaries** on the long run, at the regional, national or European levels or the sector.

Needs and limitations will need to be clearly identified and described.

Work Plan

The Work Plan is the section where activities are presented (What? Who? How? When?).

Presents the **project's activities** in Work packages, with established timelines (through a GANTT scheme), according to a specific logic (PERT diagram) and assigning tasks among the consortium member's (RAM matrix).





Drafting Tailoring the budget

Creating the budget consists of listing the necessary resources for the implementation of the activities, attributing a cost to each of them and divide them into categories, work packages and partners. Simultaneously, it must be ensured that financing rules are respected, considering the following principles:

What is an eligible cost?

- Needed for the implementation
- Identifiable and verifiable
- In accordance with national law
- Paid by a partner
- During the implementation period
- Included in the budget

...and VAT? It is eligible only if paid and not recovered (which is most of times for public administrations)

Eligible costs

Only can be included in the budget- and thus, declare- costs defined as eligible.

Direct grants

European funds are non-re-payable grants attributed through a competitive process.

Co-financing

European projects are co-financed by the EU (55-95%); thus, the entities must financially contribute to a part of the project.

Double financing

The same expense cannot be attributed to more than one project at a time, double-financing is absolutely forbidden.



Drafting Budget categories

The categories defined within the budget and even their limitations can vary from programme to programme, but generally, they consist of a set of **common categories**:



Personnel



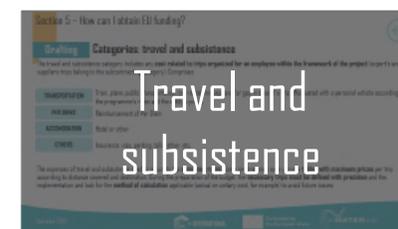
Subcontracting



Office and administration



Equipment



Travel and subsistence

...and other **additional categories** that exist according to the specific programme:



Additional categories

And the income?

The grant is exclusively destined to cover expenses associated to the project. Thus, no profit can be declared, and the possible profit generated through the activities need to be declared and subtracted from the grant.



Drafting Methods of calculation

There exist 4 main ways in which to calculate the costs of implementation of a project:

ACTUAL COST

The **actual cost** of a service, hour of work or product.

As to justify them, a series of proofs shall be presented (receipts, invoices, tickets). Is the most complicated management method.

FLAT RATE

Percentage of another expense, like the personnel or the total cost of the project.

This method requires no justification.

UNIT COST

Fixed import per unit (travel, product, etc), often determined by the programme.

The only required justification for this method is a proof that it has been done (for example, a trip).

LUMP SUM

Indemnification to lump sum by concept, often determined by the programme.

The only required justification for this method is the implementation of the corresponding activity (for example, that an event has been organized).

 **#SimplifiedCosts** The trend is to increasingly simplify the financial management of European projects, especially at the European level (for example, Lump Sums are now used for the global budget of Erasmus+ Projects). Decentralized programmes, however, still favor the Actual Cost method.



Drafting Categories: personnel

The personnel costs respond to all the costs linked to worked hours dedicated to the implementation of the project. It includes **gross salary, social contributions, and salary and employer's contributions** or any other expense that is included in the labor policy of the entity. This category does not include the expenses of subcontracted personnel nor travel and subsistence expenses.

Full-time

If a person is full-time dedicated to the project, their costs equal to the sum of their gross salary, their social contributions and salary and employer's contributions.

Part-time

Fixed percentage

Corresponds to the sum of costs in which the dedication percentage is applied- which can vary from year to year or declaration period. Preferible option (simplified management).

Changing hours

Corresponds to the number of hours worked multiplied by the cost per hour*. The employee shall fill in a schedule document that indicated the hours dedicated to the project per day.

Multiple projects

If a worker declares hours in more than one project, it must be checked that the total of declared time, hours or percentage, never surpass the equivalent to a full-time (number of hours foreseen by a grant agreement or 100%).

*The calculation of price per hour can vary depending on the programme, but normally is the sum of all the annual labor expenses (actual or estimated) divided by the number of hours established by the grant agreement or 1720 hours.



Drafting Categories: subcontracting

These costs correspond to all expenses related to the **subcontracting of experts and service providers** needed for the implementation of some of the necessary tasks of the project, if the consortium does not have the competences to carry them out. They can be, for example, translations, trainings, elaboration of studies and reports, communication activities (design, printing, catering), support to the management of the project, audits, etc.

DRAFTING

Always at **actual cost**. When tailoring the budget, an offer can be requested to have an approximate idea of the actual cost.

MANAGEMENT

Subcontracting always should be **according to** regional, national and European **procurement rules**. For private entities, even though they are not subjected to rules as strict as the ones for public entities, **it is advisable** to follow these boundaries established for public procurements:

For contracts between 3 000€ and 15 000€

To invite three suppliers to present their offers and establish a selection process with criteria (best quality-price relation or lowest price).

For contracts superior to 15 000€

Proceed with an open procurement, that is, publish it in a platform accessible by potential suppliers.



Drafting Categories: equipment

Regards all expenses linked to the **rental or purchase of equipment**. However, it does not include office material, which is comprised within the 'Office and Administration' category. It must be noted that this category is subjected to strict rules, and that only are eligible the equipment expenses considered **essential** for the development of the project's activities.

FAIR APPORTIONMENT, AMORTIZATION AND DEPRECIATION

It can happen that the useful life-time of the equipment expands beyond the project's lifetime. In this case, only a **faire apportionment** of its use during the implementation of the project. Depending on the programme, the cost of an equipment acquired previously to the beginning of the project can be eligible. In this case, the amortization and depreciation of the project will be declared- instead of its cost- calculated according to applicable accounting rules.

VISIBILITY OF THE CO-FINANCING

Any equipment or material purchased with European funding shall respect the **publicity rules** of the programme (that is, having a tag with the logo and the declaration of co-financing).



Drafting Categories: travel and subsistence

The travel and subsistence category includes any **cost related to trips organized for an employee within the framework of the project** (expert's and suppliers trips belong to the subcontracting category). Comprises:

TRANSPORTATION

Train, plane, public transportation, car rental, mileage and/or gas in case of a trip effectuated with a personal vehicle according to the programme's rules and the entity's policy.

PER DIEMS

Reimbursement of Per Diem

ACCOMODATION

Hotel or other

OTHERS

Insurance, visa, parking, tolls, other, etc.

The expenses of travel and subsistence need to adjust to the **economic rates**. Some programmes even provide **tables with maximum prices** per trip according to distance covered and destination. During the preparation of the budget, the **necessary trips must be defined with precision** and the implementation and look for the **method of calculation** applicable (actual or unitary cost, for example) to avoid future issues.



Drafting Categories: indirect costs

They are **indirect costs**, that is, they cannot be directly included as a project cost, but they are necessary for its implementation. This category includes all the expenses concerning the functioning of the office and administrative costs, as for instance, the cost of water, rent, cleaning services, internet, phone lines, taxes, etc.

Since the last programme period- and with the goal to simplify the management of European projects- almost all programmes foresee that these costs are calculated with a **flat rate** method, that is, with a fixed percentage of the total of direct expenses (between a 7% and a 20%) or the personnel expenses (between a 7,5% and a 15%). Therefore, they require no extra documented proof.



Drafting Categories: additional categories

INFRASTRUCTURE

Some programmes consider as eligible costs the expenses linked to the design, preparation, construction, agency, functioning and maintenance or reform of an **installation (building, road, etc)**, but they are subjected to very strict rules and always must be essential to the execution of the project.

PREPARATION

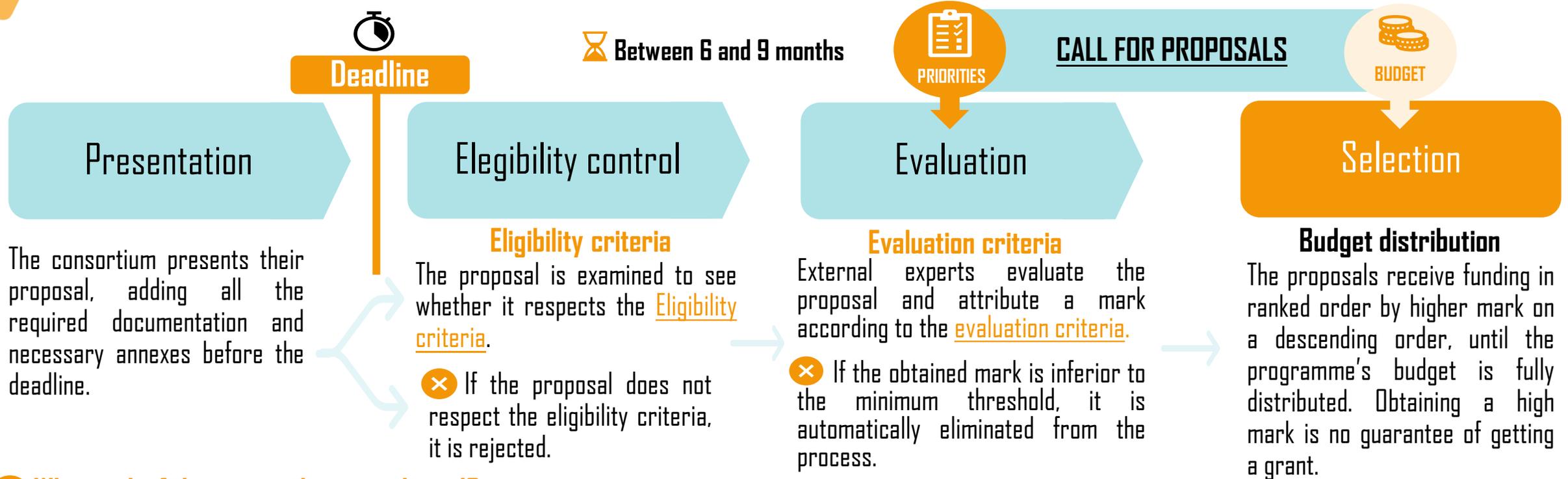
Some decentralized programmes reimburse some of the expenses linked to the **elaboration and drafting of the project** before it has been selected. It concerns personnel expenses, trips or subcontracting, their import is calculated, mainly, as actual or flat cost.

SUBGRANTING

Subgranting or **cascade grants** (also called *Financial Support for Third-parties*) consists of a partner distributing grants of a reduced import to other entities, so they implement their own project (of short duration and small size) that contributes to achieve the objectives of the project, selected through an internal call organized by the partner.



Drafting Evaluation and selection process



✗ What to do if the proposal is not selected?

The Evaluation Commission automatically sends a **detailed feedback** that contains the rating of the proposal, its strengths and weaknesses. It is a key document for the **re-submission** of proposals. The process can be long, and can lead to frustration. We must keep up and not give up!



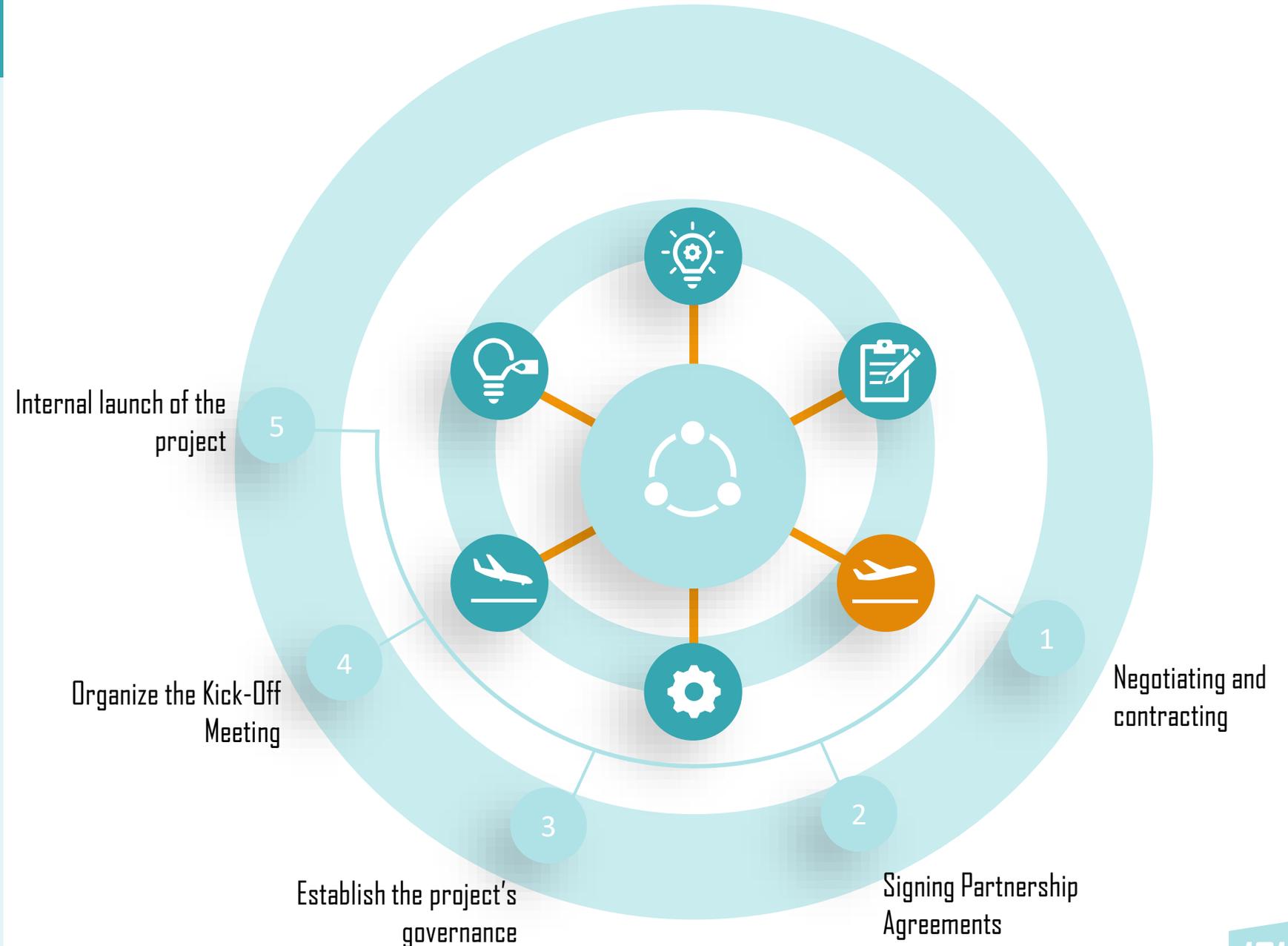
Drafting Evaluation criteria

It is very important to attentively analyze the evaluation criteria before beginning to draft the application form, as to ensure that all points are addressed and justified correctly. Each criteria can have a different **weight** on the overall grade, and some calls even include **thresholds**: the proposals that do not achieve a minimum mark are automatically rejected. Below, an example:

CRITERIA	THRESHOLD	MAXIMUM GRADE
<input type="checkbox"/> Relevance: alignment of the project with the goals of the call; contribution to EU's priorities and European and national policies; synergies with other projects; target groups and needs analysis; transnational character; etc.	20	/ 40
<input type="checkbox"/> Impact: ambition and impact on the long run; dissemination strategy and results; transferability; sustainability; multiplier effect; appropriate indicators; etc.	25	/ 40
<input type="checkbox"/> Quality: coherence of activities with goals; clear methodology and logical framework; project's feasibility in the chosen time-span; competences and complementarity of Partners; adequate resources; evaluation and risks; economic efficiency; etc.	5	/ 20
TOTAL	50	/ 100

← 4.Launch

The evaluation and selection of projects is a long process that can last between 4 and 6 months (even more if it is delayed). Once the official approval resolution of the proposal is communicated, begins the negotiation and contracting period which, depending on the case, can last up to 4 months. Thus, a year normally passes between the presentation of the proposal and the beginning of the implementation of the project. Therefore, it is essential to organize a Kick-Off meeting, where the main elements of the projects and the tools for shared management are presented, as well as agreeing upon all processes and responsibilities as to motivate the partners and give an impression of common and smooth management.





Launch

Negotiating and contracting

As soon as it is notified that the proposal has been selected, begins the **contracting process**. It is usual that the approval is conditional and depends on some recommended changes, which implies the beginning of a period of negotiating.

This **negotiations** are conducted between the contracting Authority and the Consortium represented by the Coordinator to reach an agreement on **some changes** that can include a revision of calculations, the inclusion, modification or elimination of activities and indicators, or a redistribution of the budget. Once this changes are agreed upon, the Grant Agreement is signed.

The **Grant Agreement** (GA) is a contract that establishes the **rights and duties of the Consortium and the contracting entity** (the European Commission for centralized programmes, or the Managing Authority for decentralized programmes). Only the Coordinator signs on behalf of all Partners, which sign the Manfate Letter.

What does the GA include?

- **The contract:** rights and duties of each party, duration of the project, import of the grant, deadlines (reporting, payments), etc.
- **Annex I – *Description of the Action*.** Application Form
- **Annex II – *Budget*.** Budget of the proposal



Launch

Signing partnership agreements

The **Partnership Agreements** (also called Consortium Agreement) are legally binding covenants between each partner and the project's coordinator and **define the functioning of the consortium**. The model of these agreements can be established by the European programme or flexible and defined by the partners.

SPECIFIC CONTENTS FOR EUROPEAN PROJECTS

- Legal foundation
- Description of responsibilities of the coordinator and the partners
- Monitoring managing and decision-making mechanisms
- Description of financial fluctuations and documenting (including terms)
- European publicity rules

CLASSICAL CONTRACTUAL CONTENT

- Jurisdiction in case of litigation and possibility of arbitration
- Modification procedures
- Intellectual property
- Period of validity
- Confidentiality
- Legal verification of the conformity with national legislation of all countries



Launch

Establish the project's governance

Even though it has been presented as part of the proposal, the project's **governance** must be developed and agreed upon by all members at the beginning of the implementation of the project to foster **co-responsability** and **co-decision** between all partners. Consists of **rules, processes and behaviors** that affect how power is executed. In a European project, it is normally divided between:

STEERING COMMITTEE

Strategic body of final decisions, responsible of determining the project's orientation and to make decisions in relation with the global functioning of the project.

COORDINATION TEAM

Operational body, responsible of the technical implementation of the project and to make decisions regarding daily management.

ADVISORY BOARD(S)

Optional consulting bodies to associated partners and stakeholders, as to involve them in the project and obtain their views and opinions.



Launch Organizing the Kick-Off meeting

The **Kick-Off meeting** of the project is the first meeting between all partners after the grant agreement has been signed with the European Commission. The goal of this seminar, is to officially launch the project, guaranteeing a **shared vision** by all the consortium and **agreeing upon management processes**. The goal is to:

REMIND

... The expected goals and results, activities, outputs, indicators, etc. as to revise and adjust the **work plan**.

AGREE UPON

...the management **procedures** (justification, meetings, etc), the channels of **communication**, and the **partnership agreement** between all partners.

GUARANTEE

... A shared communication of the project's **finances** and the **management tools** for the partners to familiarize with them

The Kick-Off meeting is part of a series of meetings (on top of *ad hoc* technical meetings regarding a certain activity) which are held during the project's lifetime in diverse frequencies according to the project's complexity:

STEERING COMMITTEE

Every 6 months or yearly

COORDINATION TEAM

From each week to every 3 months

ADVISORY BOARD(S)

Yearly



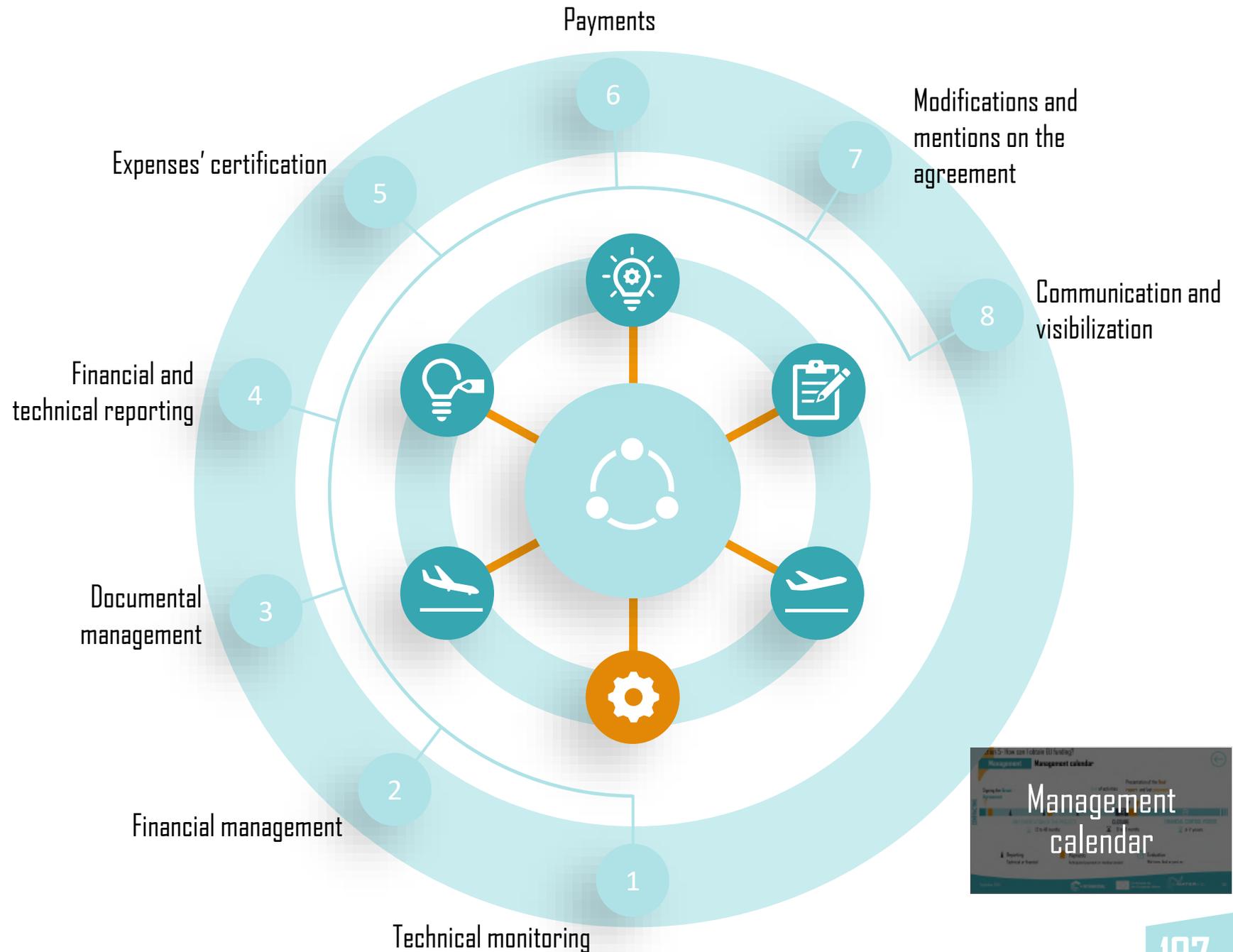
Launch Internal launch of the project

It is highly recommended that each partner's representative organizes their own launch within the entity with **all members that will be participating on the implementation of the project** (directly, like technical and communication departments, but also indirectly like sales and Human Resources departments). This **internal launch** consists of:

- 1 Carefully reading the **contractual obligations** and the Partnership agreement:
- 2 **Staff assignment and training**, so everybody understands the rules and procedures
- 3 Beginning the **compatibility and follow-up** system, **internal control** measures and a good **documental management** system.
- 4 **Financial planification** as to avoid treasury conflicts

← 5. Management

The management of a project requires flexibility and adaptability: consists of being able to solve issues on the way, tending to unforeseen challenges as they appear. As to limit the impact of this unforeseen circumstances, it is essential to have a good preparation and establish clear and defined procedures from the very beginning, for example, having separate accountability for all the project's expenses, or decision/making processes. The Coordinator's role is key, considering they are the ones who must propose the tools and procedures. A key actor in the management is the Project Officer, the channel between the consortium and the programme, and with whom regular and open communication should be established





Management Technical monitoring

An essential element of the management of a European project is the monitoring, both technical and financial. The **technical monitoring** of a European project consists of applying a data collection system to **ensure the correct implementation of the work plan** and allowing the consortium to have all the necessary information to **take rightful decisions**.

Technical monitoring: which data?

- The **deadlines** to deliver products and accomplish the tasks on time
- The **indicators**:
 - **Of realization**, to find out the level of execution of activities
 - **Of the result**, to verify the level of accomplishment of objectives
- the **risks** to avoid possible issues and mitigate them

The correct monitoring of these data allows to foresee potential **modifications**

How to monitor them?

For an adequate monitoring, it is advisable to create a series of tools*, for example:

- Dashboard: compiling in one document all the information such as contact information, task distribution or foreseen meetings. – Online repository, to share all documents and collaborate

*for more tools, see the [PM2 Training](#)



Management Financial management

The **financial management** of a European project consists of **controlling the eligibility of expenses and monitor the use of resources** by the consortium.

Monitoring the use of resources

When referring to monitoring of the use of resources, it means to monitor :

- (1) The **expenses linked to the project** and include them in the budget as to foresee any changes (inferior or superior costs, etc) and, if necessary, presenting a modification request;
- (2) The **timesheets with the hours per employee dedicated*** to the project

*not all programmes require a follow-up of human resources- it is especially in the case of the Single Market Programme or Horizon Europe

Controlling expenses

Each partner must ensure that all their expenses are in accordance with the **eligibility criteria** of the programme, as well as the requirements and the national and European contracting rules. This eligibility must be justified through **proofs and justification documents**.





Any entity receiving European funding should have proofs and justifying documentation known as **evidence** that proof the eligibility of expenses

It is recommended to create a **single archive** in which all the project's documentation is centralized to avoid the loss of information (in the eventual case of a change of personnel, for example). This archive must be saved until **contractual obligations are finished** with the contracting authority (the European Commission in the case of centralized programmes, or the Managing Authority in the case of decentralized programmes) **-from 3 to 7 years after the last payment.**

Which documents should be archived?

- ➔ Proofs of payment
- ➔ Invoice
- ➔ **Personnel expenses:** contract, project assignment, payroll, social contribution certificate, timesheets (if applicable).
- ➔ **Travel expenses:** trip justification (tickets, *per diem* requests or reimbursement, etc) and the documents proof the realization of the trip (pictures, assistance list, etc.)
- ➔ **Equipment expenses:** procurement documents, depreciation or amortization calculation and prorata of use
- ➔ **Subcontracting expenses:** procurement documents, proofs of tasks or services

Separated accounting





Management **Technical and financial reporting**

Every 6 months or yearly (as established by the Grant Agreement), the beneficiaries should report, which consists of **the financial justification of all expenses** recorded during the corresponding period, along with a **technical report** where the progress of the project's implementation is presented.

TECHNICAL REPORT

Individual technical report

Each partner explains their role and tasks that has accomplished during the corresponding period.



Global report of the project:

The Coordinator joins all individual reports in a global report, which additionally details the progress regarding the accomplishment of **objectives** (indicators) and **deliverables**.

FINANCIAL DECLARATION

Each partner justifies their expenses, that is:

- 1 Ensuring that expenses are eligible
- 2 Reuniting all the necessary documentation for the justification (**Evidence**)
- 3 Obtain the **certification** by presenting them to the auditor

Each declaration must be accompanied by a technical report, but not all technical reports must attach a declaration.



Management Certification of expenses

A **first-level auditor** establishes a **certificate** after having verified the eligibility of all declared expenses by partners, based upon the justifying documentation. There exist two options:

Option 1

Audit conducted by a validating organ contracted by the programme's managing authority.

In this case, the partners must send their declarations directly to the Managing Authority and attach all their justifying documentation.

What are clarifications?

While verifying the eligibility of expenses, the auditor can request clarifications to the partner, that is, explanations, additional documentation, etc.

Option 2

Audit conducted by an external entity contracted by the consortium, which can be according to the legal status of the partner and the authorized procedures of the Managing Authority:

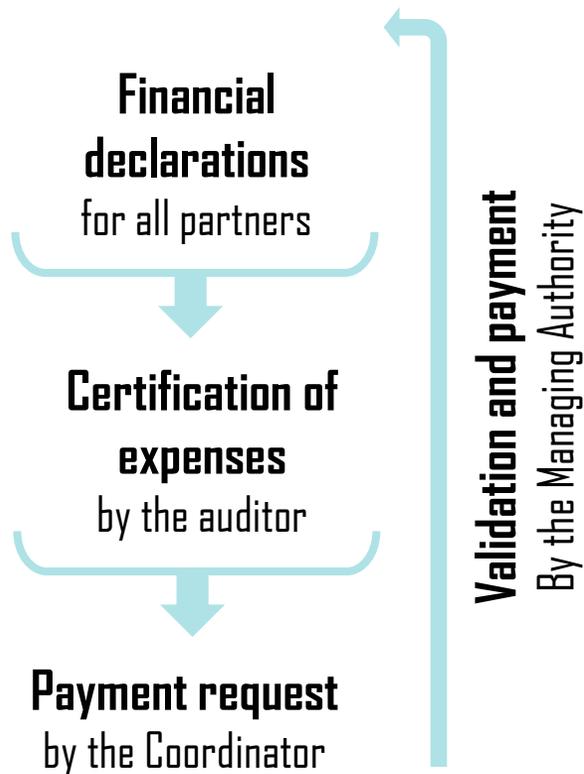
What to do in the event of a non-eligible expenditure?

Expenses found ineligible can be presented again during the clarification period, adding explanations and/or other justifications



Management Payments

The Coordinator creates a **payment request**, in which the **consolidated declaration** of all the consortium's eligible expenses is attached, the **certificate of first-level auditors**, and the project's **global technical report**. Then, it is sent to the Managing Authority, who validates them before proceeding with the payment.



Advance payment or reimbursement

The programmes managed by the European Commission normally cover an **advanced payment** (40-70%) of the grant at the beginning of the implementation. Decentralized programmes, such as Interreg, however, do not offer this possibility and only **reimburse** the paid expenses. Thus, the required **treasury** level varies according to the programme and must be considered when participating- or not- in European projects.

Budget execution

As long as it is possible, the total expenditure of the project must reach the 100% of the approved budget. If not, the grant could be reduced. In some cases, the programme can implement a minimum percentage of expense per declaration period, which in case of failure, can lead to a reduction of the grant.



Management

Modifications and amendments of the Grant Agreement

The implementation of the project normally **deviates** from the **work plan**, the **budget** and even the **consortium**. Given they affect the Grant Agreement, these deviations can become an amendment in the contract. Followingly, some examples of the type of changes that require a contractual amendment:

- Withdrawal or substitution of a partner in the consortium
- Withdrawal or substitution of an associated partner
- Substitution of the role of Coordinator by another partner
- Extension of the project's deadline
- Modification of the calendar of actions
- Modification of the work plan (main actions)
- Revision and update of the contribution to objectives (indicators)
- Elimination, substitution or inclusion of activities or deliverables
- Reduction of the total cost of the project (augmentation forbidden)
- Modification in the distribution of budget among partners
- Modification in the distribution of budget among categories
- Modification in the distribution of budget among Work packages

What kind of budgetary flexibility?

Even though there exists a trend towards a simplified management, some programmes still allow **flexibility percentages** that limit the possible changes among categories, partners and work packages:

- If the change is inferior to the percentage, it is a **minor change**;
- If it is superior, it is a **major change**, substantial modification that surpasses a pre-established percentage and that requires an amendment in the grant agreement



Management Communication and visibility

All European programmes share the requirement that every consortium has a **communication, dissemination and transferability strategy**, and that it applies some specific **publicity norms** regarding European co-financing.

Publicity norms

Concern the requirement to inform about European co-financing, and among others, consists of:

1 Co-financing declaration

This [element] is part of the project [name of the project] which has been funded by the European Union programme [name of the programme].

2 European emblem



Preeminence over other logos

Communication

Regards the communication about activities. The goal is to **give visibility to the project** and the European funding to the public and the media.

Dissemination

Concerns the communication of outcomes and the **dissemination** to interested parties and other relevant actors of all the **outputs** and the **knowledge** emerging from the project.

Transferability

Concerns on defining how the results of the project and the gained knowledge will be used beyond the project's lifetime (intellectual property, commercialization, etc). The goal is to maximize the **sustainability** and **impact**.

Section 5- How can I obtain EU funding?



Management

Management calendar

CONTRACTING

Signing the **Grant Agreement**

End of activities

Presentation of the **final report** and last **payment**



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

⌚ 12 to 48 months

CLOSURE

⌚ 6 to 10 months

FINANCIAL CONTROL PERIOD

⌚ 3-7 years

▲ Reporting
Technical or financial

■ Payments
Anticipated payment or reimbursement

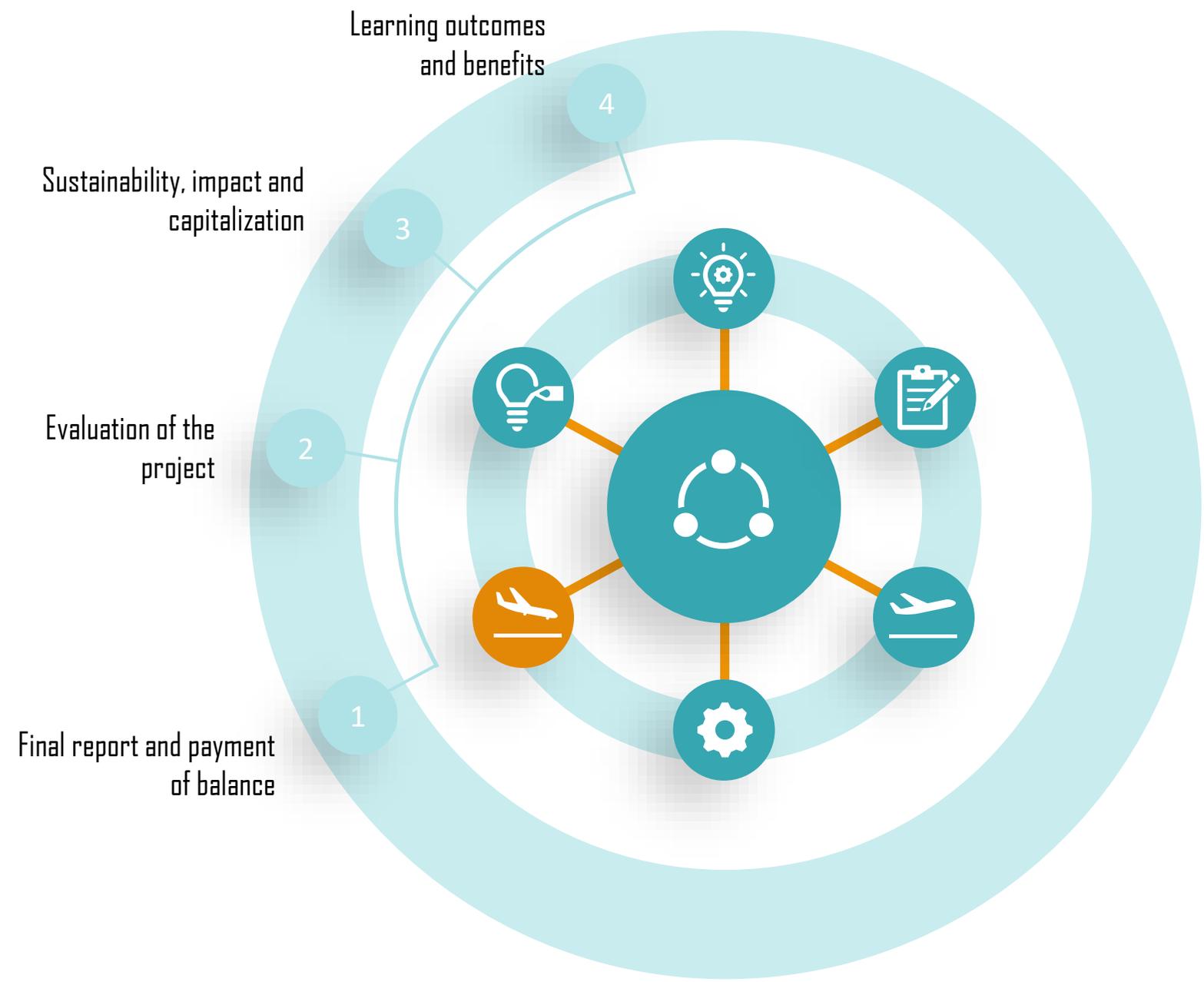
📄 Evaluation
Mid-term, final or post-ex

← 6. Closure

Closing the project consists of elaborating a final report and a last declaration of expenses as to obtain the payment of the balance. It is the time for a final evaluation as to determine the level of achievement of the project's goals.

However, it is also the time to ensure that the outputs and results of the project are still used beyond the implementation. Sustainability should be considered:

- Maintaining the website
- Transfer of tools
- Capitalization of results, etc.





Closure

Final report and payment of balance

The **final report** is a document similar to technical reports which is written once the implementation period comes to an end. It summarizes the most meaningful events such as obtained results, successes and achievements (indicators) and an evaluation of the shared execution in comparison with the initial idea of the project.

The final report accompanies the **final declaration of expenses** which is sent to the Managing Authority along with the **last payment request** so the balance payment can be emitted.

$$\text{BALANCE} = (\text{VALIDATED EXPENSES} - \text{INELIGIBLE EXPENSES} - \text{PREVIOUS PAYMENTS}) \times \% \text{ EU FUNDING}$$

The total of payments to the consortium cannot be in any case superior to the quantity of the grant attributed to the project.

The **Life programme** requires, additionally, another type of reform known as *Layman's report* which consists of a document of around 10 to 15 pages which summarizes the project and its results targeting the public, the media and political representatives.



Closure

Project evaluation

The **evaluation** of a European project consists of an objective and systematic assessment to determine the relevance and level of achievement of objectives, the quality of outputs, the long-term impact and sustainability or even efficiency of the implementation and management.

There are diverse types of evaluation which correspond to different moments of the project's lifecycle:

IN ITINERE EVALUATION

During the implementation. To be aware of how much has been invested, done and produced and what can be done to improve / adapt the project. By and for the Consortium.

MID TERM EVALUATION

Mid-way implementation. To analyze the progress towards the fulfillment of objectives and how they can be maximized. For an external expert.

FINAL EVALUATION

During closure. To analyze the qualitative and quantitative fulfillment of objectives. For an external expert, hired by the consortium or the Commission.

POST-EX EVALUATION

Afterwards. To see what sustainable changes on the long run have taken place and how the project has contributed to them. For an external expert, hired by the Commission.



Closure

Sustainability and capitalization

The **sustainability** corresponds to the continuity of results beyond funding.

The concept of sustainability is linked to two other key concepts which are essential criteria for the European Commission when evaluating and selecting which projects to fund:

-The **transferability**: application and/or adaptation of output and knowledge of the project (for example tools, methodologies, technologies, etc.) in another field.

-The **capitalization**: process that consists of reuniting the outputs and results of a project to foster its impact, specially regarding the development of policies, thanks to dissemination, promotion and awareness raising strategies of interested parties and relevant actors.

The consortium should envisage a **continuation in time and space** of the outputs and knowledge emerging from the project's implementation, which are disseminated further than the partner's circle and their territories. The actions envisaged to guarantee the sustainability depends on each project, but two aspects should be always considered: a **multiplier effect** should be created, through social networks for instance, and the consortium needs to have **the necessary resources** as to continue with the activity once European funding is complete.



Closure

Learning outcomes and benefits

A POSTERIORI ANALYSIS

Once finished the implementation, it is time to conduct a **post-mortem analysis** of the project, which consists of examining out participation and **considering possible learning outcomes** which we can take away for our future participation in other European Projects.

MID-TERM AND LONG-TERM BENEFITS

Participating in a European project generates positive effects on participants on the mid-term and long-term:

-Resources: train the personnel on drafting, management and even coordination of a European project, with the gain of competences at the technical and financial levels.

-Results: disposing of new products, materials or services and exploiting them- intellectual property and exploitation rights are defined in the partnership agreement.

-Transnationality: reinforcing international action of the entity and belong to European networks.



Up2Europe

Exchange platform to look for ideas, partners, consultants, calls for proposals or European projects.



PM²



Online training by the European Commission to familiarize with project management methodology.



European Enterprise Network

Network offered to SMEs with information and assessment regarding European programmes, innovation, research or technological transfer.



European IP Helpdesk



Technical assistance office of the European Commission that offers support and trainings regarding intellectual property rights.



Portal TED (procurements)

Official portal of the European Commission where to find all European procurements.



Funding & Tender Portal



Official portal of the European Commission in which to find all calls for proposals for centralized programmes.

Co-financing

European funds are non-refundable donations in the form of a grant, but it is expected for beneficiary entities to contribute to the funding of a part of the projects: that is, co-financing, between 5 and 40% of the total.

Coordinator

Also Lead Partner.

It is the partner responsible of the project. Generally, has a good previous experience on European projects and is who has the project's idea.

Consortium

Formal association of entities of different natures that collaborate to take advantage of their added values and complementarities to carry out the implementation of a European project.

Call for proposals

Grants are distributed through competitive process, that is, calls, in which a competition will take place between European entities as to access European Funds

Eligibility

Each call establishes a series of eligibility criteria, which the consortium must fulfill as to apply to funds (for example, a minimum number of partners, admissible juridical forms, etc.)

European funds

Variety of funding opportunities incoming from the European Union that allow it to achieve its political priorities through the implementation of a variety of projects and actions that share the pluriannual budget.

Funds NextGenerationEU

Specific EU funds that the European Union dedicates to the funding of measures destined to counter the possible economic consequences of COVID19.

Programme

Considering the immensity of the European Union's budget (known as Pluriannual Financial Framework), the European funds are divided in different programmes that oversee its management and organize calls.

Project

A European project consists of a combination of implemented activities by a consortium to achieve pre-defined results and a series of goals in line with the EU's priorities

Proposal

A proposal is the document (known as application form) that the consortium presents to a call, which includes annexes (such as the budget), the description of the project, its objectives, the activities and desired results.

Partner

Beneficiary entity of a European grant that is part of a consortium in charge of implementing a European project.

Associated partner

Associated entity to a Partner that contributed to the implementation of a part of the project but does not receive any direct funding from the European Union and does not participate any further than providing its experience and its vision in a specific field.

Grant

One of the three forms that European Funds can assume.

Non-refundable donations distributed through calls managed by a diversity of European programmes.

Work package

Work packages are a combination of activities or tasks that serve to structure a European project.



FRANCE
Water Team



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