

**Interreg
Europe**



Co-funded by
the European Union

Key project features

Ilaria Ramaglioni
Senior Policy Officer / Interreg Europe Secretariat

30 April 2024 | 20 Minutes

Interreg Europe Information Day
Venice & Online



Follow us on social media:



Outline

- 1. Project objectives & activities**
- 2. Partnership requirements**
- 3. Project finances**

**Interreg
Europe**



Co-funded by
the European Union

1. Project objectives & activities



Project objective

Improve the policy instruments of the participating regions

- Public interventions at local, regional or even national levels can be addressed
- But at least one policy instrument per project must be an **Investment for jobs and growth goal programme**



Project activities

- **Exchange of experience & capacity building through identification and transfer of good practices**
- **Pilot actions possible from the start of the project or at mid-term (but maximum one per policy instrument)**



What is a **good practice**



- **A policy-related initiative**
- **Proved to be successful in a region**
- **Potential source of inspiration for other regions**



Example of a good practice



Climate Toolkit 4 Business

- Online toolkit for SMEs developed in Ireland by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment with the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications.
- Launched in late 2021

The toolkit provides SMEs with advice on **how to limit their environmental footprint**. It helps them consider the main pollution components of their business activity (energy, travel, materials, water) and break down their green transition into smaller components. The tool automatically generates an **action plan** for individual SME based on their consumption data.

Since its launch, close to **ten thousand users** viewed an individual climate action report for their business.

The tool development, promotion, maintenance and staff cost around **EUR 154,000**.

Interreg
Europe



Co-funded by
the European Union

AccelerateGDT

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/good-practices/climate-toolkit-4-business>

What is a **pilot action**



Implementation-related activities dedicated to testing a new public intervention approach.

Possible only under certain conditions:

- **Clear contribution to policy improvements**
- **Clear interregional & testing character**

Example of a **pilot action**



Autonomous shuttle service

Objective: improve the transport connectivity of suburban areas in Vilnius and to provide access to public transport stops located outside of people's walking reach.

What will be tested: the viability of 12-seat L4 autonomous electric shuttle service to escort children to/from local schools and connect adults to/from bus stops in three selected suburban areas of Vilnius.

Durability: The Vilnius City Municipality will explore many aspects of the service before deciding **whether to scale up the solution** and include it in their **SUMP**. They will explore, for example, the vehicle model selection criteria, the impact of adverse weather conditions, the infrastructure requirements, optimal charging and routes, or operational costs.

Implementation of activities

2 phases over 4-year implementation

CORE	FOLLOW UP
3 years	1 year
Exchange of experience to achieve policy improvements	Monitor policy improvements

Implementation of activities

- **Action plans no longer needed (only for regions which do not achieve results by end of core phase)**
- **Some flexibility in the follow-up phase:**
 - Up to each project to define the exact activities
 - Exchange of experience still possible



2 ■ Partnership requirements



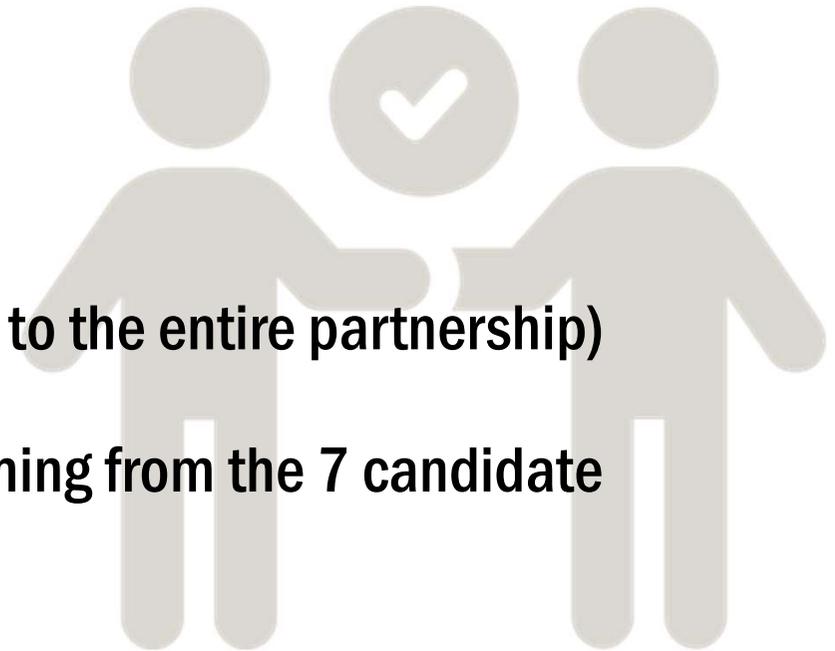
Who is eligible?

- **Public authorities**
- **Public law bodies**
(bodies governed by public law)
- **Private non-profit bodies**



What type of involvement?

- **Project partner** (addressing a policy instrument)
- **Advisory partner** (bringing additional knowledge to the entire partnership)
- **Discovery partner** (reserved to organizations coming from the 7 candidate countries)



Policy relevance of partnership

Policy responsible authorities must be involved in the project:

- **As partners for at least 50% of the policy instruments addressed**
- **As ‘associated policy authorities’ for the remaining policy instruments**

Creation of a stakeholder group in each region



What is an 'associated policy authority'



Main features:

- Officially included in the application form
- No budget - travel & accommodation costs covered by relevant project partner
- Declaration provided at the application stage
- Involvement regularly monitored during project implementation

* APA is not a project partner but a 'golden stakeholder'

Discovery partner



Rationale: facilitate participation from the 7 new countries

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Ukraine

Main characteristics:

- **Lighter form of involvement:** no need to address a policy instrument
- **Aim:** to discover interregional cooperation and learn from others
- **Recommendation:** max 2 per project

Geographical coverage

- **Broad coverage required**
- **Mix between more and less advanced regions**
- **Five areas**



Geographical areas	Countries covered
North	Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden
East	Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia
South	Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain
West	Belgium, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Switzerland
EU candidates	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Ukraine

Example of partnership & stakeholders

Project on PO1: A smarter Europe

SO (iii): Sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs

	Italy (South)	Sweden (North)	Poland (East)	France (West)	
Policy instrument addressed	Regional Programme ERDF Measure 1.8.4 on business support	Programme on business creation	Municipal support to start-up companies	Regional Programme ERDF Measure 1.5.2 on Business acceleration	✓
Partners					
Policy responsible authority	PP1. Puglia Region (LP)	PP3. Region Skane	PP4. Poznan City Council		✓
Other organisations	PP2. Regional Development Agency			PP5. Caen Business Innovation Center	✓
Stakeholders					
Associated policy authority				APA. Regional Council of Normandy	✓
Other organisations	University of Bari Entrepreneurship Foundation Lecce School of Management Otranto Tourism Cluster	City of Malmo Business Support Agency Co-working Space ONE IKEA	Incubator Fab Lab Start-up network University of Poznan	Caen ICT cluster Rouen Chamber of Commerce La Renaissance NGO City of Le Havre	✓

3 ■ Project finances



Projects co-financing rates

Co-financing rates	According to legal status or location
80% Interreg fund*	Public or public equivalent from the EU & 7 candidate countries*
70% Interreg fund*	Private non-profit from the EU & 7 candidate countries*
50% Norwegian fund	Public, public equivalent and private non-profit from Norway (NO)
Swiss fund	Public, public equivalent and private non-profit from Switzerland (CH)

* Subject to revised CP approval

Simplified financial rules

Cost categories	Simplification
Preparation costs	Lump sum €17,500
Staff	Fixed % of the real gross employment cost
Office & administration	Flat rate of 15% of staff costs
Travel & accommodation	Flat rate of 15% of staff costs (real cost reporting only in specific justified cases)
External Expertise and Services	
Equipment	
Infrastructure and Works	For pilots only

Plus:

- Simplified reporting, faster payments to projects
- Less control (sampling, risk-based verifications)

Time for questions



**Interreg
Europe**



Co-funded by
the European Union

Follow us on social media:



**Interreg
Europe**



Co-funded by
the European Union

Thank you!

Follow us on social media:



Interreg Europe Information Day
Venice & Online

