

Interreg Italy - Croatia CBC Programme 2014-2020

*The call main highlights: structure, eligibility
rules and application procedures*

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What we are going to talk about...

- Strategic project definition
- Calls in short
- Strategic themes and budget
- Project financial dimension, duration and main requirements
- Partnership
- Application procedure
- Budget lines
- Selection procedure: admissibility, eligibility, quality checks, state aid

Strategic project definition

- **wide-area partnerships**
to involve a higher number of beneficiaries than the minimum eligible partnership requirement as set in the Cooperation Programme;
- **width of the involved territories**
to ensure that **greater Programme area population benefits** from the achieved results;
- **higher financial allocations**
than those foreseen for standard projects;
- **specific and targeted institutional and technical skills and know how**
to **ensure deeper/long-lasting impacts and benefits** for the whole cooperation area.

Calls for proposal *in short*

- **Submission open for 45 days,**
- **from 1st October to 15th November at 12 am CET and**
- **allocate 69.71 million euros from ERDF**
- **to finance projects within the 4 Programme Priority Axis and**
- **within the 11 strategic themes** defined by the Monitoring Committee representing the main challenges identified during the implementation of the Programme in order to achieve its objectives.

Strategic themes

Each one of the 11 strategic themes is characterised by

- specific **expected results**,
- **indicative actions** to be supported,
- **output indicators** to be fulfilled,
- **indicative** types of **beneficiaries** and
- **indicative** types of **target groups**.

Project financial dimension and duration

1/2

Priority Axis (PA)	Specific Objective (S.O.)	Strategic theme	Maximum ERDF budget (Euro)
1	1.1	1.1.1) Blue technology	5.116.000,00
2	2.1	2.1.1) Climate change	7.500.000,00
	2.2	2.2.1) Flood risk	8.000.000,00
		2.2.2) Oil spills and other marine hazards, fire and earthquake	14.029.000,00
3	3.1	3.1.1) Coastal and inland tourism	3.200.000,00
	3.2	3.2.1) Marine environment	4.945.000,00
		3.2.2) Fisheries and aquaculture	4.945.000,00
	3.3	3.3.1) Marine Litter	3.765.000,00
4	4.1	4.1.1) Maritime Transport	6.071.000,00
		4.1.2) Mobility of Passengers	6.071.000,00
		4.1.3) Nautical services	6.071.000,00

Project financial dimension and duration

2/2

- **Financial size** of the projects submitted shall be **in line with the concerned strategic theme**.
- It is expected that **1 strategic project will be funded for each theme**.
- **ERDF contribution: 85% of eligible costs** for all partners.
The share not covered by ERDF funds (at least 15%) shall be ensured by national co-financing sources
- **in-kind contributions are not eligible**
- **ERDF contribution requested** by each partner in the project proposal shall be **not lower than EUR 100.000,00**.
- **Project duration: no longer than 36 months**
in any case the **projects end date** shall be **31.12.2022** at the latest
all project expenditure shall be **reported** by 30.06.2023 at the very latest

Project main requirements

- strategic project **proposal submitted** shall be **consistent with all the requirements** set out in the Call announcement and in the concerned Strategic Theme Concept;
- **all macro-activities** listed in the concerned Strategic Theme Concept **must be included** in the strategic project proposal;
- the project proposal shall foresee a **clear contribution to the "expected outputs"** mentioned in the concerned Strategic Theme Concept;
- the strategic project proposals **submission** will follow a **single step procedure**;
- project proposals must be submitted in **English language** and only **through the web-based electronic management and monitoring system (SIU)**;

Application Package

- **Call announcement**
- **Factsheets**
- **Tools**
- **Templates**

Call Announcement

- **Call announcement:** Describing the detailed essential conditions for the strategic Call for Proposal opened
- **Call announcement annex n.1 - Strategic Themes Concepts:** the 11 strategic themes, identified with the institutional top-down approach. It identifies for each strategic themes:
 - ✓ macro-activities,
 - ✓ contribution to the output indicators,
 - ✓ expected outputs
 - ✓ categories of partners to be involved by the project.

Factsheets

- **Factsheet nr. 1 "Introduction and Background"**: Introduction of the European Territorial Cooperation for the 2014-2020 Programming period and the characteristics of the Italy-Croatia Cross Border Cooperation Programme and projects life cycle.
- **Factsheet nr. 2 "Project Generation"**: How to align the project idea with Programme Strategy (axis and objectives) and performance framework, where to search for partners and find assistance for project generation
- **Factsheet nr. 3 "Project Development"**: How to set up effectively relevant project partnership and sound project budget, and build the overall project work plan.
- **Factsheet nr. 4 "Project Application"**: Steps and procedures for the correct submission of the Application form and compulsory annexes using the SIU system.
- **Factsheet nr. 5 "Project Selection"** : Project assessment procedure: eligibility criteria and assessment criteria.
- **Annex of the FS 5 Selection Criteria**: Appraisal of project proposal (admissibility, eligibility quality assessment criteria)... the tables of approved selection criteria, some useful information on the Programme, strategic orientation and horizontal principles as well as strategic theme expected outputs, which will be evaluated during the assessment phase

Tools

- **Glossary:** the specific meaning of words or terms used in the Strategic Calls for Proposal.
- **Application form off-line** (for information purposes only)
- **Budget tool off-line** (for budget drafting supporting purpose)

Templates

- **Lead partner declaration form** (binding template)
- **Project partner declaration form** (binding template)
- **Subsidy contract** (only after the project approval)
- **Partnership agreement** (not binding template, and only after the project approval)

WHAT ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP? 1/4

Eligible partners are both Italian and Croatian organizations , located inside the Programme area, having the legal status of:

- ☐ **public body** (also association),
- ☐ **body governed by public law** (also association),
- ☐ **private body** (including private companies) and
- ☐ **international organizations** located in the Programme Area (exception in case of assimilated and associated partners).

Cross-border partnership should include **at least 3 Croatian and 3 Italian eligible partners** (associated partners excluded)

WHAT ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP? 2/4

Assimilated Partner: equal rights and obligations to applicants located within the Programme area

- Institution **located outside the eligible area** (public bodies or bodies governed by public law established under the national law of Italy or Croatia)
- **competent in its scope of action for all** (e.g.: Ministries including their agencies) **or part** (e.g.: Regional governments including their agencies) **of the eligible area**
- or anyhow **relevant due to specific and exclusive thematic competence for the eligible area**

WHAT ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP? 3/4

Associated Partners:

- key stakeholder that can be involved in a project without financially contributing to it and without receiving ERDF funding;
- all requirements regarding project partners applies also to associated partner;
- it can also be located outside the Programme area if it fit within requirements of assimilated partners.

Eligible expenses of associated partners: only the **costs of attending meetings** if reported by a partner, no matter if lead or project partner, and included in the project partner budget

WHAT ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP? 4/4

Restrictions for PPs!!!

The partners involved into strategic projects shall belong **exclusively** to the categories listed in the concerned theme concept.

It is strongly recommended to involve in the partnership all indicated categories.

WHAT ABOUT THE LEAD APPLICANT? 1/2

- **Public bodies** (national, regional or local level) including associations constituted by one or several regional or local public authorities.
- **Bodies governed by public law**, including associations constituted by one or several bodies governed by public law.
- **International organizations** acting under the Italian or Croatian national law with legal seat in Italy or Croatia and being operational from at least 2 fiscal years at the time of submission of the candidature.

... assimilated partners are eligible as Lead Partner, too!

WHAT ABOUT THE LEAD APPLICANT? 2/2

- **Each institution shall be considered as a unique body**, regardless its own organization. Therefore no distinction between departments/technical unit/etc will be taken into account.
- **One body cannot be lead applicant in more than one strategic project proposal.** If more than one proposal is submitted by the same lead applicant, all submitted proposals will be rejected.

Be careful !!!

- ❖ Strategic Themes 1.1.1 "*Blue technology*", 2.2.1 "*Flood risk*" , 2.2.2 "*Oil spills*", 3.1.1 "*Coastal and inland tourism*" shall be led by **Croatian LP** (1.1.1: Chamber of Economy; 2.2.1: Regional Development Agencies; 2.2.2: Counties and Regional Development Agencies; 3.1.1: Counties).
- ❖ Strategic Themes 2.1.1 "Climate change adaptation", 3.2.1 "Marine environment", 3.2.2 "Fisheries and aquaculture", 3.3.1 "Marin Litter", 4.1.1 "Maritime Transport", 4.1.2 "Mobility of Passengers", 4.1.3 "Nautical services" shall be led by **Italian LP**.

BUDGET LINES

- Preparation costs
- Staff
- Office and administration
- External expertise and services
- Travel and accommodation
- Equipment
- Small scale infrastructures and construction works

IT'S AN ESTIMATION THAT NEEDS
TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT
POTENTIAL CHANGES



FLEXIBILITY RULE

Project **preparation costs** are eligible up to **20.000 euro (ERDF and national co-financing included)**.

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE WITHIN
THE PROGRAMME, THEREFORE THEIR USE OF AS A
SOURCE OF CO-FINANCING IS NOT PERMITTED

BUDGETING 1/2

PREPARATION COSTS

Lump sum 20.000€ - can be assigned to one or more PPs

STAFF

real costs or *flat rate of 20%* of direct costs other than staff costs (travel, external expertise, equipment, small scale infrastructure)

OFFICE AND ADMINISTRATION

15% flat rate of eligible staff costs (automatically calculated in SIU)

TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

Travel of own staff only

BUDGETING 2/2

EXTERNAL EXPERTISE AND SERVICES

FLC Italy to be included here in the majority of cases

Public procurement rules shall be respected

EQUIPMENT

Equipment for general (office) use necessary (exclusively) for the project (not already included in O&A)

Thematic equipment directly linked to (or forming part of) the project outputs


SMALL SCALE INFRASTRUCTURES AND CONSTRUCTION WORKS

the result of CBC actions specifically directed at improving the development of the Programme area & crucial for the achievement of the project outputs and results


AUTHORISATIONS/ASSESSMENTS AND PERMITS

In case of:

- small scale infrastructures, construction works,
 - activities likely to have a significant effect on “Natura 2000” sites,
- all the necessary authorisations/assessments and permits have to be **available at the moment of the application or at the latest within 1 month after the closure of the Call.**

If not  the project will be **rejected** unless the infrastructure/activity is not essential in which case the concerned activities and related budget will be cut.

ADVANCE PAYMENTS?

YES  It is possible for approved projects to receive, upon request, an advance payment from the ERDF of 10% of the overall contribution, to the benefit of the partners who require it .

Details in Factsheet 6 “Project Implementation”

SELECTION PROCEDURE

The selection is in charge of the Monitoring Committee with the support of the Joint Secretariat, on the basis of the methodology and criteria approved by the MC.

External experts can be involved in the assessment.

Assessment procedure steps:

- 1. Admissibility**
- 2. Eligibility**
- 3. Quality**, divided into the following sub-groups:
 - i. Overall strategic assessment*
 - ii. Operational assessment*
 - iii. Strategic theme assessment*
- 4. State Aid relevance**

ADMISSIBILITY CHECK


A1: Submission and completeness of AF and LP annexes



ensuring the respect of the minimum requirements of the application from a **formal administrative perspective**. It verifies the adequacy of application form submission.

ELIGIBILITY CHECK

Criteria B1-B18

 ensuring the respect of the **minimum compulsory requirements** as regards to partnership (included the completeness of lead partner and project partners data/documents), duration, budget, specific theme, horizontal principles and cooperation. The eligibility check includes the verification of additional requirements per Specific Objective aimed at the respect of legislation, plans and Programmes which are thematically relevant.

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

C1. OVERALL STRATEGIC CRITERIA

Common to all STs  assess the contribution of the project proposals to:

C.1.1 Project context – relevance and strategy


C.1.2 Cooperation character

C.1.3 Contribution to Programme's objectives

C.1.4 Partnership relevance

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

C2. OPERATIONAL CRITERIA

Common to all STs  assess the viability and the feasibility of the proposed project, as well as its value for money in terms of resources used vs. foreseen achievements and communication items:

C.2.1 Management

C.2.2 Communication

C.2.3 Work Plan

C.2.4 Budget

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

C3. STRATEGIC THEME CRITERIA

specific for each ST

➡ assess to what extent the project proposals support the specific topics, macro-activities and expected results as indicated in the STC.

QUALITY SELECTION SCORE

There are some minimum quality thresholds to be reached:


33/50 points in C.1

24/40 points in C.2

39/60 points in C.3

also an **overall minimum quality threshold**, equal to **105/150 points** (70% of total score) shall be reached in order to be proposed for financing.

STATE AID ASSESSMENT

- In case of State aid relevance  the *official State Aid regime adopted by the Italy-Croatia Programme consists of the de minimis rule (Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013) given to beneficiaries by the Member State of Italy.*

JOINT SECRETARIAT SUPPORT

- ☐ Read the documents, if something is unclear read them again, THEN if something keeps being unclear, contact JS for clarification.
- ☐ Clarification of doubts in relation to the available documents (clear questions = clear answers) or use of tools
- ☐ No pre-assessment of project proposals
- ☐ Possibilities for meetings with LA

Thanks for your attention



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