



## Call 1 - R&I Business Investment in Research & Innovation

### 1. Summary of call

The INTERREG V Programme is making a call for applications under the specific objective: **Research and Innovation, Objective 1.2 aimed at SME's engaged in cross-border research and innovation activity.**

The total value of call is €15.9 Million ERDF

Opening Date: 5 August 2015

Closing Date: 30 September 2015 (17:00)

**The result indicator:** To increase the number and capacity of SMEs engaged in cross-border research and innovation activity in the region aimed at the development of new products, processes and tradable services. The current baseline is 22% of SMEs in the eligible region involved in research and innovation involving cross-border collaboration. The target value is 33% by 2023.

#### The outputs indicator:

Target Value	Output Indicator	Strand
1408	Number of enterprises receiving support	Strand 1
1408	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Strand 1
469	Number of enterprises receiving One to one innovation advice	Strand 2

94	Number of enterprises in receipt of an Innovation Capability Development Programme	Strand 3
70	Number of enterprises engaging an Innovation Intern	Strand 4
50	Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Strand 4
19	Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research project	Strand 5
5	Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Strand 5

## 2. Essential information:

This call for applications should be read in conjunction with the following:

- Cooperation Programme, and associated Citizens Summary;
- The Programme Rules
- Guide for Applicants.

Please consult these documents before completing the application form as they contain essential information to assist you in making the best application possible.

Applicants may also find it useful to consult 'Impact Assessment Toolkit for Cross Border Cooperation'. This toolkit has been developed by the Centre for Cross Border Studies, as part of an INTERREG IVA funded project and is intended to be a practical guide to assist with planning cross-border projects. A copy of the toolkit can be downloaded from our website.

## 3. Project Selection.

Applicants will be required to deliver the proposed service across the entire eligible region. Your project must provide specific information on how it will make a significant contribution

towards achieving **all** of the Output Indicator targets. **Applicants who cannot deliver more than 50% of all of the Output Indicator targets need not apply.**

The following selection criteria will be used:

- a. Contribution of the project to the defined results and outputs of the programme;
- b. Quality of project design;
  - Programmes that support SMEs to participate in cross-border research and innovation activity;
  - Programmes must operate across the eligible area;
  - SMEs within export potential within manufacturing and tradable services only;
- c. Quality of project team and implementation arrangements;
- d. Value for money - Cost effectiveness of impacting on the result indicator
- e. Quality of cross border co-operation with demonstrable added value;
- f. Contribution towards sustainable development;
- g. Contribution towards equality.

#### **4. Background to INTERREG Programme**

The INTERREG VA 2014-2020 Programme is one of approximately 60 programmes across the European Union designed to promote greater levels of cross-border cooperation. Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland share a number of common features with other border areas across Europe where developmental problems are exacerbated by the existence of borders. Borders can distort infrastructure and communication networks resulting in reduced economic development and different policy approaches which hinder joined-up service delivery.

The INTERREG VA Programme has been designed to address many of these issues in order to promote greater economic, social and territorial cohesion across the region.

#### **5. Eligible Region**

The eligible area for the INTERREG VA Programme is:

- Northern Ireland;
- The Border Counties of Ireland (Monaghan, Leitrim, Cavan, Louth, Sligo and Donegal); and

- Western Scotland (Dumfries & Galloway, East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire mainland; South Ayrshire; Lochaber, Skye & Lochalsh, Arran & Cumbrae and Argyll & Bute and Eilean Siar/Western Isles).

Projects must comply with the cross border requirements of Article 12 of 1299/2013 as detailed in the Programme rules.

#### **6. What is the INTERREG VA Programme Research and Innovation Priority Axis objective 1.2 aimed at SME's going to achieve?**

The specific objective of this investment priority will be to increase the number and capacity of SMEs and microbusinesses engaging in cross-border, collaborative research and innovation activity aimed at the development of new products, processes and tradable services. In order to achieve this objective, it will be necessary to engage in an intensive programme of development with SMEs and microbusinesses within the region aimed at increasing their levels of innovation activity and cross-border networking. This investment will increase levels of participation in cross-border R&I development programmes in partnership with other SMEs and microbusinesses from across the region. The investment needs to be of sufficient scale to ensure sustainability beyond the lifetime of the Programme.

#### **7. Anticipated actions:**

Indicative actions to be supported:

- Education and awareness building programmes aimed at SMEs;
- One to one mentoring and advice programmes for SMEs.
- Innovation capability audits within SMEs;
- Development and implementation of innovation actions plans tailored to the needs of the SME which addresses innovation capability deficiencies;
- Innovation internship programmes incorporating technology job creation; designed to address the capability deficiencies;
- A collaborative research and development programme designed to create and support collaborative research projects between SMEs and research

institutions.

- The Key Enabling Technologies, identified in the UK and Ireland Partnership Agreements, are priority technologies for programme support

**SMEs in the eligible region will be the main beneficiaries and will be involved in each of these five strands:**

- **Strand 1 - Preparatory Interventions delivered via workshop**

An initial series of preparatory workshops for SMEs in the region, aimed at raising awareness of R&I and identifying those SMEs with potential to progress to more intensive development activities.

This element describes a series of workshops to educate and influence SMEs on the importance of the innovation ecosystem enabling them to leverage this on a cross-border basis to advance their business. It is anticipated that these workshops will have cross-border participation and will serve to raise knowledge and awareness of other innovation actors and support systems across the border.

- **Strand 2 – Preparatory Interventions delivered on a one to one basis**

A more intensive preparatory intervention with individual SMEs, providing them with one to one advice and support in the identification of R&I opportunities.

This element describes an in-firm activity to assess their current approach to innovation and how the local and cross-border innovation ecosystem is utilised. The output will identify specific areas where cross-border collaboration will be beneficial and the appropriate cross-border intervention for each individual SME. Where progression to strands 3 or 4 or 5 is not appropriate, SMEs will be signposted to alternative local and cross-border support mechanisms.

- **Strand 3 – Innovation Capability Development Programme**

Engaging with a targeted group of SMEs in an intensive R&I capability development programme.

Participation in this element is optional and is dependent on the outcome of strand 2. Where participation does occur, the support provided will aim to address any internal

barriers that will prevent the participating firms realising the full potential of the cross-border innovation providers and programmes.

- **Strand 4 - Cross-border Innovation Internship Programme**

Providing selected and targeted SMEs with the opportunity to avail of a cross-border internship programme that will make available to them a qualified graduate with the necessary skills to contribute to the R & I activity within their company.

- **Strand 5 – Cross-border R&I Projects**

Engaging targeted SMEs in cross-border R&I projects that have been identified as having significant potential for economic impact within their companies and within the economy of the region.

Strands 1, 2 and 3 are necessary to promote, identify and in many cases prepare businesses, in terms of developing innovative capability, to participate in Strands 4 and 5.

The Programme will utilise these tried and tested models of intervention to engage with SMEs across the eligible region and to support them to form effective collaborations both between SMEs, and between SMEs and research institutions. Whilst there has been some existing activity between Northern Ireland and Ireland, there is currently less collaboration with Western Scotland. The Programme will bring a new dynamic to this work by involving all three jurisdictions, facilitating the creation of new and relevant collaborations.

## **8. Budget and co-financing rate**

€15.9m million ERDF is available under this call. The maximum intervention rate that can be applied is 85 %.

This means that applicants are required to bring a minimum of 15% match funding to the eligible project costs over the lifetime of the project. Please see programme rules for further details on match funding

However, please be aware the intervention rate (grant rate) may decrease depending upon the state aid implications of your project. You should therefore carefully consider the issue of *de minimis levels when considering your overall project costs and the contributions required from project participants*. . It is the responsibility of the Lead Partner to ensure that

State Aid cover and compliance is in place. The application should clearly outline the process to ensure and demonstrate State Aid compliance.

**All successful projects will be offered a grant in Euro.**

### Standard Scales of Unit Costs

For this call SEUPB have adopted a simplified cost option model which projects will be required to apply;

	Unit Cost €	Target Number	Total (direct costs)	Flat Rate Financing available (25% of direct costs )	Total Per strand
Strand 1 – unit cost per enterprise receiving support	135	1408	190,080	47,520	237,600
Strand 2- unit costs per enterprise receiving one to one innovation advice	1,150	469	539,350	134,838	674,188
Strand 3 – unit cost per enterprise in receipt of an Innovation Capability Development Programme	8,250	94	775,500	193,875	969,375
Strand 4 – unit cost per enterprise engaging in an innovation intern, on a cross border	81,500	70	5,705,000	1, 426,250	7,131,250

basis					
<b>Total 1-4</b>			7,209,930	1,802,483	9,012,413
Strand 5	n/a	19	7,780,032*	1,945,007	9,725,039
<b>Total costs</b>					<b>18,737,452</b>

\* real cost reimbursement

### Flat Rate Financing:

**In addition to the unit costs stated above, an additional 25% will be paid to the Lead Partner to cover all management staff and indirect costs.** (Regulation 1303 /2013 Article 68 1(a))

### 9. Application process.

A two stage process will be in place for this call as detailed in the Applicants Guide. Full details of the assessment process, including admissibility criteria are available in the Applicants Guide.

Details of a workshop that will place to help you with your application will be detailed on our website.

You can apply on line through the SEUPB website. (Note: the on-line process will not be fully operational until the end of August 2015, in the interim an application form is available from the SEUPB).

### 10. Contact Us

For general enquiries about this call please contact the SEUPB on: Tel: +44 28 82 255750

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Call 2

## Sustainable Transport Multi-model Transport Hub

### 1. Summary of call

The INTERREG V Programme is making a call for applications under the specific objective:  
***To promote cross border, intermodal and sustainable transport in the region.***

The total value of call is €20 million ERDF

Opening Date: 5 August 2015

Closing Date: 30 September 2015 (17:00)

**The result indicator:** An increased number of daily passenger journeys (up to 25%) utilising cross-border public transport services by 2023. The current baseline value is 8.8% of cross border daily journeys made by public transport.

**The outputs indicator:** Cross-border multimodal public transport hub encompassing cross-border integrated services

### 2. Essential information

This call for applications should be read in conjugation with the following:

- Cooperation Programme, and associated Citizens Summary;
- The Programme Rules
- Guide for Applicants

Please consult these documents before completing the application form as they contain essential information to assist you in making the best application possible.

Applicants may also find it useful to consult 'Impact Assessment Toolkit for Cross Border Cooperation'. This toolkit has been developed by the Centre for Cross Border Studies, as part of an INTERREG IVA funded project and is intended to be a practical guide to assist

with planning cross-border projects. A copy of the toolkit can be downloaded from our website.

### **3. Project Selection Criteria**

**Your project must provide specific information on how it will meet the output indicator target in full. Applicants who cannot deliver in full the output indicator target need not apply.**

The following selection criteria will be used:

- a. Contribution of the project to the defined results and outputs of the programme;
- b. Quality of project design;
  - Investments selected for support will be those which demonstrate the most positive impact on carbon emissions by bringing about a shift to sustainable transport as defined by the result and output indicators;
  - Projects must demonstrate how they contribute to an agreed integrated strategy for sustainable local mobility in the cross-border region;
  - Contribute to sustainable urban mobility plans and air quality plans (ambient air quality directive 2008/50/EC);
- c. Quality of project team and implementation arrangements;
- d. Value for money - Cost effectiveness of impacting on the result indicator
- e. Quality of cross border co-operation with demonstrable added value;
- f. Contribution towards sustainable development;
- g. Contribution towards equality.

### **4. Background to INTERREG Programme**

The INTERREG VA 2014-2020 Programme is one of approximately 60 programmes across the European Union designed to promote greater levels of cross-border cooperation.

Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland share a number of common features with other border areas across Europe where developmental problems are exacerbated by the existence of borders. Borders can distort infrastructure and

communication networks resulting in reduced economic development and different policy approaches which hinder joined-up service delivery.

The INTERREG VA Programme has been designed to address many of these issues in order to promote greater economic, social and territorial cohesion across the region.

## **5. Eligible Region**

The eligible area for the INTERREG VA Programme is:

- Northern Ireland;
- The Border Counties of Ireland (Monaghan, Leitrim, Cavan, Louth, Sligo and Donegal); and
- Western Scotland (Dumfries & Galloway, East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire mainland; South Ayrshire; Lochaber, Skye & Lochalsh, Arran & Cumbrae and Argyll & Bute and Eilean Siar/Western Isles).

Projects must comply with the cross border requirements of Article 12 of 1299/2013 as detailed in the Programme rules.

## **6. What is the theme “Sustainable Transport” going to achieve?**

The cross border region is characterised by a predominance of the car as the preferred mode of transport, with corresponding high carbon emissions. There is a need for cross border collaboration in order to jointly contribute to a more sustainable mobility in the cross border region. Across the transport sector there is a strong added value from working on cross border basis to reinforce connectivity leading to a more coherent public transport network. The INTERREG Programme will contribute to a more environmentally friendly, multi-modal and integrated transport infrastructure. The investments from the Programme will complement other policy initiatives by authorities within individual jurisdictions.

## **7. Anticipated Actions**

It is anticipated that the programme will fund the following types of actions;

The development of a cross-border multi-modal hub which facilitates a shift from private cars to public transport. In particular urban areas close to the jurisdictional border would benefit from an integrated approach to planning public transport and associated multi-modal hub.

The integrated approach would ensure coordination of bus and train services and ensure adequate facilities and improved access for cyclists. The multi modal hub may also encompass some of the following: integrated ticketing and timetabling; park bike and ride; public cycle schemes; car share; EV utilisation.

A significant impact in sustainable cross –border mobility can be achieved in the North West Gateway between NIE Donegal, the city of Derry / Londonderry and the west of County Londonderry by developing a multi-modal hub leading to the integration of cross border sustainable transport.

### **8. Budget and co-financing rate**

€20m million ERDF is available under this call. Successful projects will be offered a grant in Euro. The maximum intervention rate that can be applied is 85 %

This means that applicants are required to bring a minimum of 15% match funding to the eligible project costs over the lifetime of the project. Please see programme rules for further details on match funding

However, please be aware the intervention rate (grant rate) may decrease depending upon the state aid implications of your project. It is the responsibility of the Lead Partner to ensure that State Aid cover and compliance is in place. The application should clearly outline the process to ensure and demonstrate State Aid compliance.

The level of grant aid may also be adjusted to take due account of anticipated future revenue streams. Please consult the Programme rules for further details.

Grants and payments may take any of the following forms:

- (a) Reimbursement of eligible costs actually incurred and paid;
- (b) Standard scales of unit costs;
- (c) Flat-rate financing, available for overhead costs or salary costs.

The above options may be combined only where each option covers different categories of costs or where they are used for different projects forming a part of an operation or for

successive phases of an operation. **The Flat-rate financing, available for overhead costs or salary costs for this call will be 15%.**

### **9. Application process.**

A two stage process will be in place for this call as detailed in the Applicants Guide. Full details of the assessment process, including admissibility criteria are available in the Applicants Guide.

Details of a workshop that will place to help you with your application will be detailed on our website.

You can apply on line through the SEUPB website. (Note: the on-line process will not be fully operational until the end of August 2015, in the interim an application form is available from the SEUPB).

### **10. Contact Us**

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Call 3

## **Environment - Improving Water Quality in Transitional Waters**

### **1. Summary of call**

INTERREG V Programme Call for Applications under the priority axis:

**The INTERREG V Programme is making a call for applications under the specific objective: Environment, Objective 2b Investment in the Water Sector Objective 2.3 aimed at improving water quality in transitional waters.**

The total value of call is €30 million ERDF

Opening Date: 5 August 2015

Closing Date: 30 September 2015 (17:00)

**The result indicator:** The percentage of the shared transitional waters in the region with good or high quality. The current baseline value is 0% and the target for 2023 is 100%.

#### **The outputs indicator:**

- 10,000 people benefiting from improved wastewater treatment
- 2 sewage network and wastewater treatment projects completed to improve water quality in shared transitional waters

### **2. Essential information**

This call for applications should be read in conjugation with the following:

- Cooperation Programme, and associated Citizens Summary;
- The Programme Rules
- Applicants' Guide.

Please consult these documents before completing the application form as they contain essential information to assist you in making the best application possible.

Applicants may also find it useful to consult 'Impact Assessment Toolkit for Cross Border Cooperation'. This toolkit has been developed by the Centre for Cross Border Studies, as

part of an INTERREG IVA funded project and is intended to be a practical guide to assist with planning cross-border projects. A copy of the toolkit can be downloaded from our website.

### 3. Project Selection Criteria

**Your project must provide specific information on how it will meet the outputs indicator target in full. Applicants who cannot deliver in full the output indicator target need not apply.**

The following selection criteria will be used:

- a. Contribution of the project to the defined results and outputs of the programme;
- b. Quality of project design and in particular;
  - i. All projects activities must align with the EU Water Framework Directive (this also includes integrated river basin management plans);
  - ii. Activities involving urban wastewater treatment plants must have a strategy for the disposal of sewage sludge;
  - iii. Climate change impacts on wastewater treatment should be given attention, in particular in terms of storm water management;
  - iv. Alternative innovative solutions should be taken into account where appropriate (e.g. in particular in remote areas/small villages);
  - v. The financial sustainability of projects has to be considered and pertinent information such as proposed tariffs should be given due consideration;
  - vi. Operational costs (including maintenance) have to be considered;
  - vii. Since wastewater collection and treatment is not compulsory below 2 000 population equivalent, any public investment there should be duly justified technically and economically, compared to the alternative of individual septic tanks; and
  - viii. Proposed investments have to be able to meet current and future needs, without becoming oversized.
- c. Quality of project team and implementation arrangements;
- d. Value for money;
- e. Quality of cross border co-operation with demonstrable added value;

- f. Contribution towards sustainable development;
- g. Contribution towards equality.

#### **4. Background to INTERREG Programme**

The INTERREG VA 2014-2020 Programme is one of approximately 60 programmes across the European Union designed to promote greater levels of cross-border cooperation. Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland share a number of common features with other border areas across Europe where developmental problems are exacerbated by the existence of borders. Borders can distort infrastructure and communication networks resulting in reduced economic development and different policy approaches which hinder joined-up service delivery.

The INTERREG VA Programme has been designed to address many of these issues in order to promote greater economic, social and territorial cohesion across the region.

#### **5. Eligible Region**

The eligible area for the INTERREG VA Programme is:

- Northern Ireland;
- The Border Counties of Ireland (Monaghan, Leitrim, Cavan, Louth, Sligo and Donegal); and
- Western Scotland (Dumfries & Galloway, East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire mainland; South Ayrshire; Lochaber, Skye & Lochalsh, Arran & Cumbrae and Argyll & Bute and Eilean Siar/Western Isles).

Projects must comply with the cross border requirements of Article 12 of 1299/2013 as detailed in the Programme rules.

#### **6. What is the theme “Environment, Objective 2b Investment in the Water Sector Objective 2.3” going to achieve?**

Within the programme area, Ireland and Northern Ireland share the following transitional water bodies;

1. Carlingford Lough - (between County Louth in Ireland and County Down in Northern Ireland)
2. Lough Foyle - (between County Londonderry in Northern Ireland and County Donegal in Ireland).

Cross-border collaboration is essential to improve the water quality of these shared transitional waters and thus efficiently address the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. In particular this specific objective will seek to achieve a good or high water quality status for these two shared transitional waters. Marine modelling of cross-border transitional and coastal waters can identify the sources of pollution and the optimum way to achieve and maintain good water quality status. Such modelling will identify the most effective interventions and improvements required for the sewage network and waste water treatment works that impact on the shared waters.

#### **7. Anticipated Actions**

It is anticipated that the programme will fund the following types of actions;

Research and development in wastewater treatment technologies, including the use of sustainable technologies with direct relevance to the shared transitional waters. The creation of demonstration sites in the catchment areas to illustrate best practice wastewater treatment methodologies. Sewerage network and wastewater treatment projects to protect and enhance the WFD classification of the transitional waters.

#### **8. Budget and co-financing rate**

€30m million ERDF is available under this call. **Successful projects will be offered a grant in Euro.**

The maximum intervention rate that can be applied is 85 %

This means that applicants are required to bring a minimum of 15% match funding to the eligible project costs over the lifetime of the project. Please see programme rules for further details on match funding

However, please be aware the intervention rate (grant rate) may decrease depending upon the state aid implications of your project. It is the responsibility of the Lead Partner to ensure that State Aid cover and compliance is in place. The application should clearly outline the process to ensure and demonstrate State Aid compliance.

The level of grant aid may also be adjusted to take due account of anticipated future revenue streams. Please consult the Programme rules for further details.

Grants and payments may take any of the following forms:

- (a) Reimbursement of eligible costs actually incurred and paid;
- (b) Standard scales of unit costs;
- (c) Flat-rate financing, available for overhead costs or salary costs.

The above options may be combined only where each option covers different categories of costs or where they are used for different projects forming a part of an operation or for successive phases of an operation. **The Flat-rate financing, available for overhead costs or salary costs for this call will be 15%.**

#### **9. Application process.**

A two stage process will be in place for this call as detailed in the Applicants Guide. Full details of the assessment process, including admissibility criteria are available in the Applicants Guide.

Details of a workshop that will place to help you with your application will be detailed on our website.

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