



## ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

The eligibility criteria that will be used in assessing project proposals are:

1. The proposed project must not be limited to the provision of traditional technical assistance. It must demonstrate the ability to contribute significant added value to the INTERREG Programme.
2. The application form must be submitted in due time in hard copy and electronic format and it must be completed in accordance with instructions.
3. The proposal must be accompanied by a statement of commitment to the co-financing requirements.
4. The general ERDF co-financing rate of 50% maximum must be observed at level of each single partner involved.
5. The indicative costs applied for must take account of Regulation (EC) No 1145/2003 amending Regulation Commission Regulation (EC) No 1685/2000 of 28 July 2000 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 as regards eligibility of expenditure of operations co-financed by the Structural Funds and must be in accordance with the general provisions of the INTERACT Programme Complement.
6. The duration of the project must be clearly indicated. Projects must be finalised before the end of 2008
7. The proposed project must be in line with relevant national and EU legislation and policies
8. The proposed project is not in receipt of funding from any other EU or national source
9. The proposed project must complement and support the actions taken by the INTERACT Secretariat and the INTERACT Points and must be seen to assist different groupings of regions and players in all strands of INTERREG to expand their activities
10. The proposed project must address the needs of more than one strand of INTERREG or clearly covers the interest of several programmes under one strand of INTERREG



11. In the case of Priority 2, the proposed project must involve partners from at least two Member States or one Member State and an Associated Country<sup>1</sup>. In the latter case, the Lead Partner must be located in a Member State.
12. In the case of Priority 3, Measure 2, the proposed project must involve partners from at least two Member States. The Lead partner must be located either in a COM 437 Region<sup>2</sup> and one of the partners must be from one of the new Member States

The selection criteria that will be used to rank eligible project proposals:

1. Relevance for the INTERACT Programme and the specific Priority (P2 or P3.M2)
  - 1.1 Clear description of the problem to be addressed and its relevance to the Programme, the objectives and their relevance to the Programme objectives and a clear definition of the planned effects (outputs, results, impacts)
  - 1.2 Project clearly related to the implementation of INTERREG at either programme or project level
  - 1.3 Clear description of which group of INTERREG players are to be targeted and which aspects of cooperation are to be addressed
  - 1.4 Clear geographical and/or thematic focus which relates to the general objectives of the INTERREG initiative
2. Coherence/Consistency of Proposal
  - 2.1 Coherence between problem, objectives and planned effects
  - 2.2 Coherence between planned effects and financial resources
  - 2.3 Intensity of cooperation (exchange and dissemination of experience, transfer of instruments and projects, development of new approaches)
  - 2.4 Consistency with national and regional policies
  - 2.5 The proposal should build on previous experience.

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<sup>1</sup> An Associated Country is defined as a neighbouring country that has formally associated with the programme and has paid the corresponding ex-ante contribution.

<sup>2</sup> As defined in the Commission Communication on the impact of enlargement on border regions with the candidate countries adopted on 25 July 2001 [COM(2001) 437 final],



### 3. Quality of Approach and Management

- 3.1 Coherence between the planned project effects and proposed approach and methodology
- 3.2 Clear division of tasks and responsibilities, realistic and transparent work plan and timetable
- 3.3 Experience of the Lead Partner in project management and financial management
- 3.4 Experience of partners in similar programmes and projects

### 4. Quality of Partnership/network

- 4.1 Coherence between the project objectives and partnership/network
- 4.2 Level of involvement of all partners/network partners in developing project idea, preparing application, implementing and co-financing the project
- 4.3 One or more partners from neighbouring countries involved in developing idea, preparing application, implementing and co-financing the project.

### 5. Quality of Results

- 5.1 Expected results are concrete (visible and measurable); publicity and dissemination to the relevant target groups is provided for
- 5.2 Expected impact on INTERREG or specific strand of INTERREG
- 5.3 Degree of innovation to be achieved (new methods and management tools, development of new networks)
- 5.4 Expected impact on the performance of participating regions in INTERREG
- 5.5 Either complementary to existing information activities of the Commission or INTERREG managing bodies or significantly improving existing information
- 5.6 The results expected must contribute to the achievement of the goal of sustainable development



6. Durability of Project Results

Provisions to ensure the durability of the project effects (e.g. strategy for further cooperation, actors responsible for continuation of activities, etc.)