Welcome to the Interreg Knowledge Fair

This is the **second edition** of the Interreg Knowledge Fair, it is still a new approach for us.

The **Conference Support** stand in the Exhibition Room is a one-stop shop for your questions.

At the end of this session, you are asked to rate the **session experience**.

At the end of the event, you will be asked your **overall feedback**.

Small or Big?
What next for small scale projects and SPF?

Bernhard Schausberger/Grzegorz Gołda | Interact

| 07.03.2024

Interact

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Interreg

Session objectives

- To zoom in on facts and figures;
- To stocktake on interesting practicies;
- To reflect on legal provisions;
- To set a course for the next step.

Plan

01	02	03	04
Objectives & Intro	Facts, Figures, Experiences	Reflections and further simplifications	Wrap up & Outro

3. Should we improve the uptake of low-scale, local solutions worked out in Interreg projects (e.g. SPF) and increase their impact?

1 4 6

YES

76 %

NO

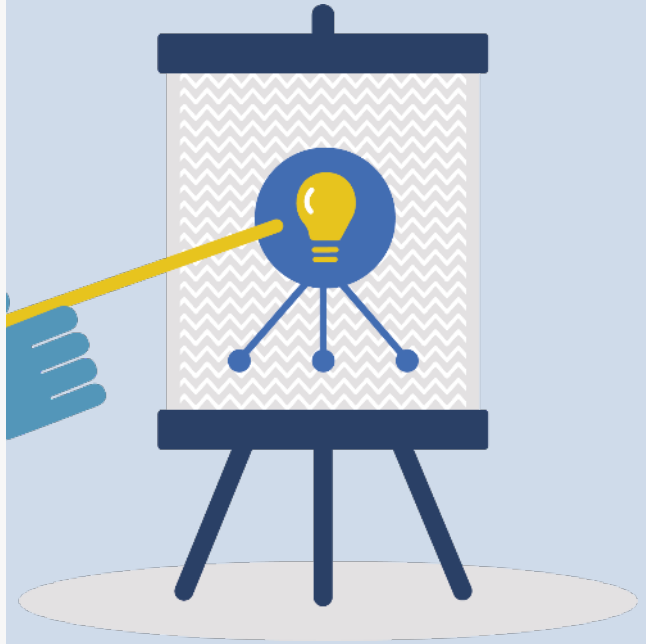
24 %

Interreg Annual Event 2023

4. In your personal opinion, what implementation challenges still remain?

1 3 9

Interreg Annual Event 2023



Small figures

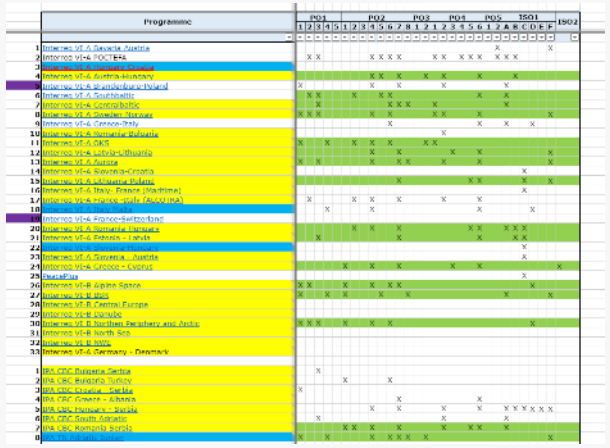
& facts

SSPs mapping
(based on info in point 6 in CP)

- 19 programmes plan to use it all PA,

  the rest - in some (at least 1 SO (10));
- several programmes have not committed yet, but do not exclude

  in the future;
- SSPs are also popular among TNs (even though not obligatory);
- the most popular – PO2, runners-up - PO 4 & ISO1;
- earmarked allocation;
- minimum/ maximum values;
- More, please see dedicated file in the “Small projects” community

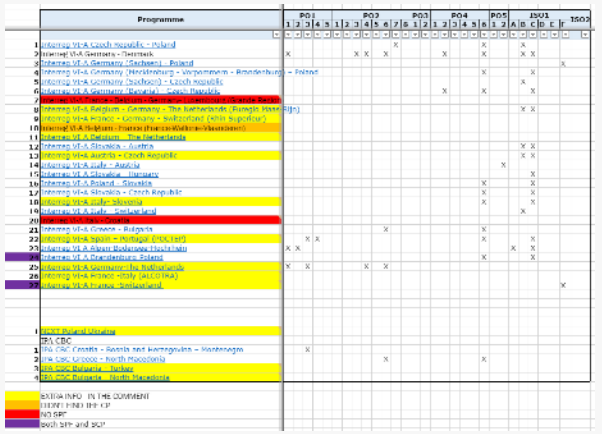


SPF mapping
(based on info in point 6 in CP and updates)

- 23 programmes (including 2 IPA);
- several programmes have not committed yet but do not exclude in the future;
- 2 programmes plan to have an SPF and SSP;

- the most popular – ISO1 (18) & PO4 (11);
- 5 programmes – PO1 and PO2;
- PO3 and ISO2 - none;

- most often - either 2(10) or 1 (7) SO(s) have been selected for SPF;
- but 3, 4 or even 13 also happen;
- for more details, check a dedicated file in the “Small projects” community



SPF - calls

- Different allocations in programmes;
- Different number of SPFs/number of SPFs beneficiaries in a programme;
- Different types of SPF beneficiaries;
- Different types of small projects;

SSPs – WHY?

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North-West Europe

Why a small-scale project call?

Making our programme more accessible

- Allowing projects with reduced scope, size & duration
- Proposing a simplified project application and implementation process
- Offering a stepp

Home > Programme Manual > Apply for a project > Small-scale projects

Small-scale projects

A small-scale project could be defined as a preparatory project or a pre-study but can also be a normal implementation project but with a limited size of the budget compared to a regular project. A project with a budget no higher than 60 000 euros when partners from all 3 partner countries participate and no higher than 40 000 euros when only 2 countries participate in the project will be considered as a small-scale project. This means a total budget of 20 000 euro per participating country.

Clarification of the budget limitation:

- This implies a maximum of ERDF-funding of no more than 13 000 euro per participating country from Sweden/Finland. That means it is possible to apply for ERDF-funding up to an amount of 26 000 euros if both countries participate and the budget is 40 000 for the EU-partners, but still, note that the budget limit is 20 000 euro per country and the ERDF-funding hence is 13 000 euro per participating country.
- For Norwegian partners participating in a small-scale project this limitation implies a maximum of IR-funding of no more than 10 000 euro to be shared among Norwegian partners.

This is possible:

		Swedish partners	Finnish partners	Total
Costs		20 000	20 000	40 000
EU-funding	65%	13 000	13 000	26 000
		Norwegian partners		Total
Costs		20 000		20 000
IR-funding	50%	10 000		10 000

This is NOT possible as the budget is above 20 000 for one of the partners (even if the total is only 40 000 for EU partners):

		Swedish partners	Finnish partners	Total
Costs		25 000	15 000	40 000
EU-funding	65%	16 250	9 750	26 000
		Norwegian partners		total
Costs		20 000		20 000
IR-funding	50%	10 000		10 000

A small-scale project can be intended to lead to an application for a regular project, but it can also have other expected results. The purpose of a small-scale project could be for example:

- building suitable and well-balanced cross-border partnerships
- facilitate the joint development of cross-border implementation models that correspond with the objectives of the Programme

PROGRAMME MANUAL

- PLAN YOUR PROJECT +
- APPLY FOR A PROJECT +
- Calls for applications
- Project information
- Small-scale projects
- Regular projects
- Project duration
- Programme area
- Programme Priorities and Specific Objectives
- Eligible partners
- Project relevance and content
- Project overall objective
- Programme Indicators
- Definitions of output indicators
- Definitions of result indicators
- Sustainable development
- Exit strategy
- Project management
- Project partnership
- Financial management
- Project communication
- Project activities
- Budget
- Staff costs
- Office and administrative expenditure
- Travel and accommodation costs
- External expertise and services costs

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Fact Sheet 27: Small-scale Projects

Version	Valid from	Valid to	Main changes
Version 1	16.11.2021	-	n/a

CORE MESSAGE
Small-scale project are smaller in scope, budget, partnership size, and length than regular projects funded by the North Sea Programme. This fact sheet outlines the parameters and rules governing small-scale projects.

Background

The North Sea Programme funds two types of projects: regular projects and small-scale projects. In contrast to regular projects, small-scale projects have a reduced application timeframe, smaller budget and partnership size, and shorter project lifetime. While many of the programme's rules apply to both kinds of projects, some requirements of small-scale projects are slightly different. It is important to understand these differences before applying for funding of a small-scale project.

Parameters of small-scale projects

Small-scale projects are funded under all four priorities in the North Sea Programme. However, they are limited to a maximum lifetime of 18 months, €500.00(partners[1]. Although the partners must be based in programme strongly encourages applicants to includ three countries, if possible.

Given their smaller scale, small-scale projects benefit fr through the two-stage process, small-scale project app

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Central Baltic Programme

Small projects:
smart, short and simple

The choice of project type depends on the purpose and scope of your idea but there are good reasons to apply for a small project funding. In a nutshell, small projects are smart, short, and simple.

Smart – a small project requires fewer resources but still allows you to develop innovative solutions, especially on the grass-root level.

The Programme specifically encourages developing a small project proposal for two Programme Objectives as their expected results are likely to be achieved with the approach of small projects:

- Improved Employment Opportunities on Labour Market (6) and
- Improved Public Services and Solutions for the Citizens (7)

What could be the purpose of a small

Short – a small project brings results in a short time.

The duration of a small project is up to 18 months: the shorter the project is, the more likely the chance that you have the needed resources to deliver the project itself and the time committed to managing the project.

Simple – a small project requires less paperwork thanks to simpler procedures.

The calls for small projects are organised in a one step application process, they have lighter reporting and easier financial management compared to regular projects.

If the project's total budget remains under 200.000 EUR the project can only choose simplified cost options, which are pre-defined by the programme and easy to calculate. Project partners will add

Small project factsheet

Definition and aims

Small projects are aimed at facilitating easier access to the Programme, in particular for those partners that have not previously participated in the Programme. Applying for a small project and implementing a small project is much simpler when compared to the core projects. For example, the budget of a small project is smaller than of a core project. The work plan consists of one work package (WP) and it may be implemented by small partnerships.

In small projects, partners are encouraged to develop **practical and durable outputs** and solutions for challenges in the region. These challenges need to correspond to one of the Programme objectives. Small projects should **increase capacity of the target groups** to deal with the identified challenges during and after the end of the project implementation.

The development of solutions is not obligatory in small projects. However, activities need to go beyond pure networking and knowledge exchange.

In addition, small projects have to address at least one of the following specific aims:

- building trust that could lead to further cooperation initiatives,
- initiating and keeping networks that are important for the BSR,
- bringing the Programme closer to the citizens,
- allowing a swift response to unpredictable and urgent challenges.

Project outcomes

The activities leading to the project outcomes are organised in one WP. The activities need to go beyond pure networking and knowledge exchange. They can include, for example, the integration of management schemes in municipalities or the adaptation of developed action plans on the regional level. The activities should lead to the development of at least **one output** addressing the challenges which the applicants identified together with the target groups of the project. Such outputs can be, for example local cooperation models or harmonised procedures in a particular

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Interreg Bayern-Österreich Kofinanziert von der Europäischen Union

Leitfaden

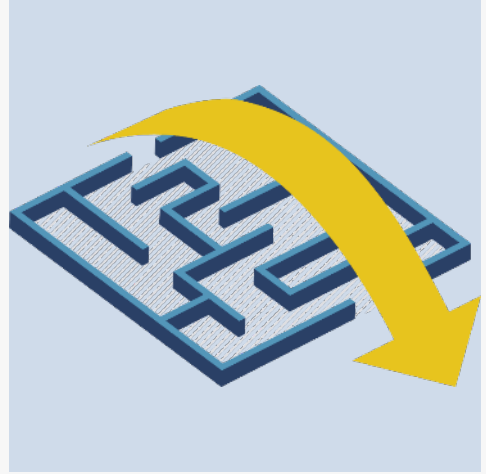
zur Budgetierung und Anerkennung von Kosten in Projekten mit Gesamtkosten bis zu 35.000 €

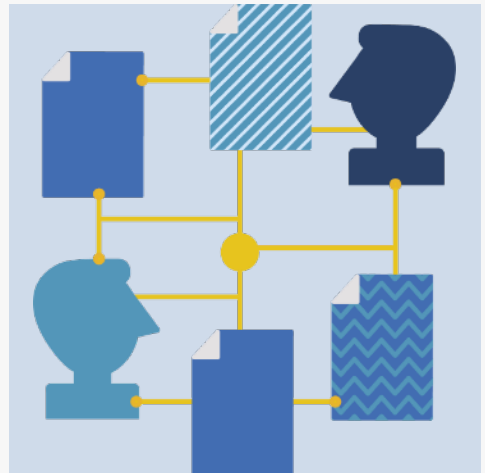
KLEINPROJEKTE
PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE-PROJEKTE

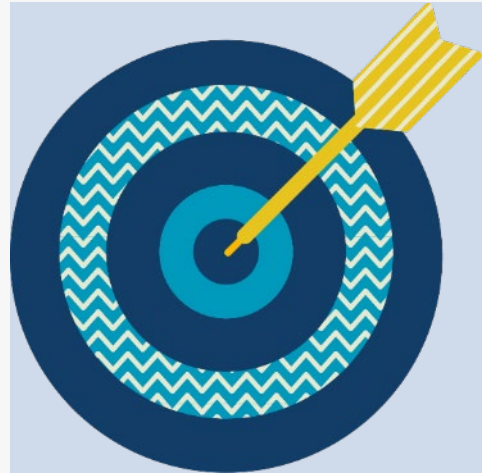
INTERREG VI-A Bayern – Österreich
2021 – 2027

Version 1
Stand 15. Dezember 2021

2021-2027
Small pilots







Are there any small tweaks necessary?

The ‚smallest' common denominator in IR

Article 24

Support to projects of limited financial volume

and D programmes shall support projects of limited financial volume, either:

each programme; or

more small project funds.

terreg B or D programme is unable to fulfil the obligation laid down in paragraph 1, the be fulfilled shall be set out in the programme document in accordance with point 6 of

Article 25

Small project funds

1. The total contribution from the ERDF or, where applicable, an external financing instrument of the Union, to small project funds within an Interreg programme shall not exceed 20 % of the total allocation of the Interreg programme.

The final recipients within a small project fund shall receive support from the ERDF or, where applicable, the external financing instruments of the Union through the beneficiary and implement the small projects within that small project fund ('small project').

2. The small project fund constitutes an operation within the meaning of point 4 of Article 2 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 which shall be managed by a beneficiary, taking into account its tasks and remuneration.

The beneficiary shall be a cross-border legal body or an EGTC or a body which shall have legal personality.

The beneficiary shall select the small projects which are implemented by the final recipients within the meaning of point (18) of Article 2 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. Where the beneficiary is not a cross-border legal body or an EGTC, a body involving representatives from at least two participating countries, of which at least one is a Member State, shall select the joint small projects.

3. The document setting out the conditions for support to a small project fund shall, in addition to the elements laid down in Article 22(6), set out the elements necessary to ensure that the beneficiary:

(a) establishes a non-discriminatory and transparent selection procedure;

(b) applies objective criteria for the selection of small projects, which avoid conflicts of interest;

(c) assesses applications for support;

(d) selects projects and fixes the amount of support for each small project;

(e) is accountable for the implementation of the operation and keeps at its level all supporting documents required for the audit trail in accordance with Annex XIII to Regulation (EU) 2021/1060; and

(f) makes available to the public the list of the final recipients which benefit from the operation.

What is the uptake of SSP in my programme? What are my first observations?

Simplifications in scope

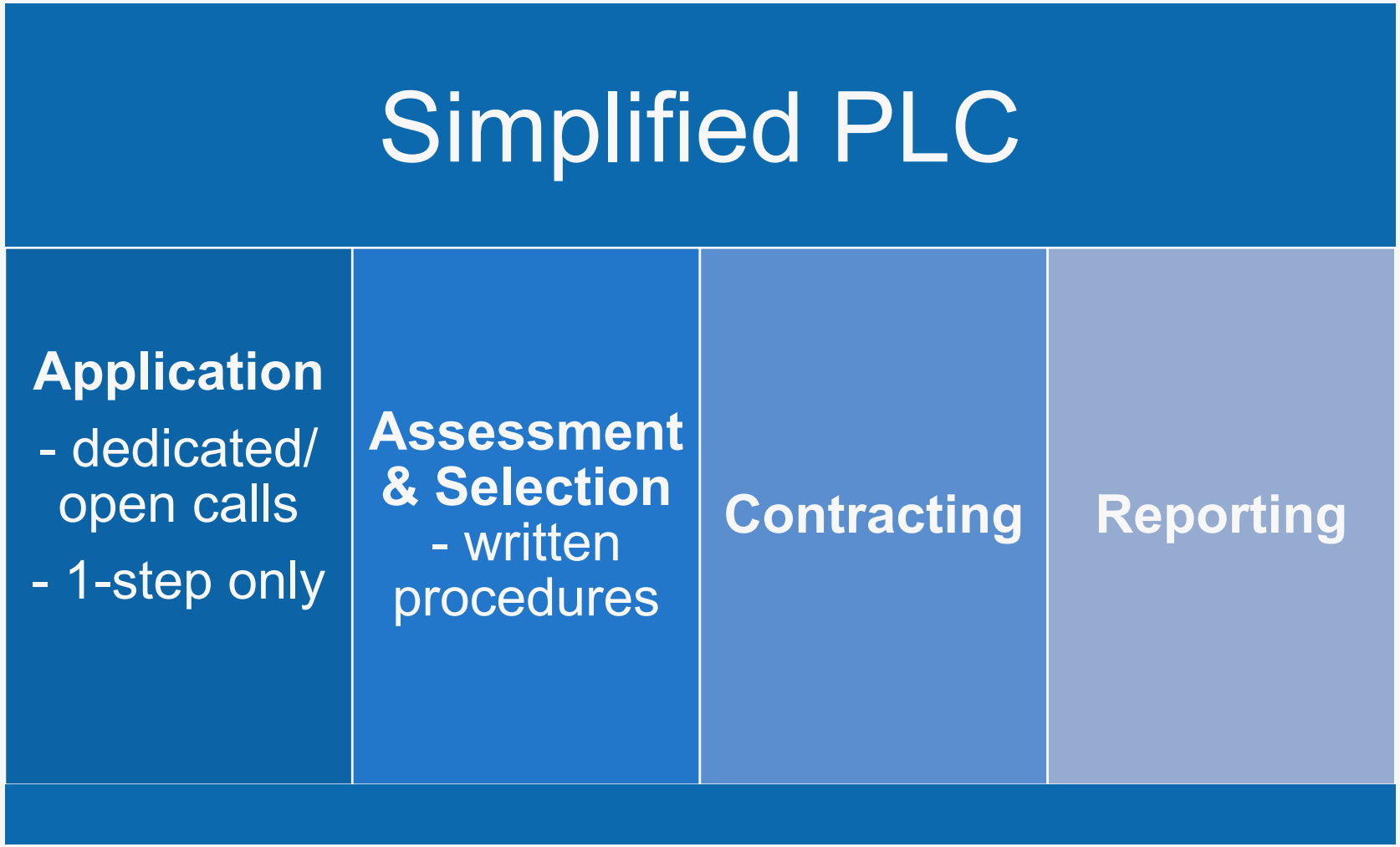
Downsizing

- Less outputs
- Fewer partners
- Shorter duration
- Less WPs
- Smaller budgets

Simplified budgeting - SCOs

- Programme-specific SCOs
- Other costs – up to 40% flat rate
- Draft budget method
- Fully as SCOs

Simplifications in processes



Can it be more simple?

Thank you for being here!

Your opinion matters to us.

Please take a few minutes to provide us with feedback to help us improve our services.

Log into the **Whova app** and tell us what you think in the **session Q&A, from 1 (bad) to 5 (amazing)**
Please check which session you are in!

You can also talk to us at the Conference Support stand in the networking area.

Cooperation works

All materials will be available on:

Interact / Events / Interreg Knowledge Fair (5-7 March 2024)