

Small-scale projects - is it simple to be small?

Grzegorz Golda, Iuliia Kauk

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Interact



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Interreg

Welcome to the Interreg Knowledge Fair

This is a **pilot activity** for Interact, testing a new approach to our service delivery – and **whether it works for you!**

While you are here, you will be asked to **rate individual sessions** (in Whova) and to respond to a **4-question survey** at the end of each day.

Please share your feedback with us!



Plan

01

**Intro &
mapping**

02

**Collection of
simplifications**

03

**What does
small mean
to me? -
Testimonials**

04

**Is it simple
enough? –
Group work**

05

Outro

SSPs mapping

(based on info in point 6 in CP)

- 19 programmes plan to use it all PO, 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;
- for more, please check a dedicated [file](#) in the “Small projects” community

Programme	PO1		PO2		PO3		PO4		PO5		ISO1		ISO2						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	A	B	C	D	E	F	
1 Interreg VI-A Bavaria-Austria																			
2 Interreg VI-A POCTFA	X	X																	
3 Interreg VI-A Austria-Croatia																			
4 Interreg VI-A Brandenburg-Poland																			
5 Interreg VI-A South Baltic	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
6 Interreg VI-A Carpathians	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7 Interreg VI-A Sweden-Hungary	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
8 Interreg VI-A Greece-Slova																			
9 Interreg VI-A Romania-Bulgaria																			
10 Interreg VI-A CAC	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
11 Interreg VI-A Latvia-Lithuania	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
12 Interreg VI-A Austria	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
13 Interreg VI-A Lithuania-Poland																			
14 Interreg VI-A Slovenia-Croatia																			
15 Interreg VI-A France-Portugal																			
16 Interreg VI-A Spain - France (Maritime)																			
17 Interreg VI-A France - Austria	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
18 Interreg VI-A France-Switzerland																			
19 Interreg VI-A Romania-Hungary																			
20 Interreg VI-A Estonia - Latvia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
21 Interreg VI-A Hungary																			
22 Interreg VI-A Slovenia - Austria																			
23 Interreg VI-A Slovenia - Croatia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
24 Interreg VI-A Greece - Cyprus																			
25 Interreg VI-A France-Slovak																			
26 Interreg VI-B Alpine Space	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
27 Interreg VI-B Baltic																			
28 Interreg VI-B Central Europe																			
29 Interreg VI-B Danube																			
30 Interreg VI-B Northern Periphery and Arctic	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
31 Interreg VI-B North Sea																			
32 Interreg VI-B NWI																			
33 Interreg VI-A Germany - Denmark																			
34 PA CBC Bulgaria-Greece	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
35 PA CBC Bulgaria-Hungary																			
36 PA CBC Croatia - Serbia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
37 PA CBC Greece - Albania																			
38 PA CBC Hungary - Serbia																			
39 PA CBC South Adriatic	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
40 PA CBC Romania-Greece	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

SSPs – WHY?



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 step

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	Finland partners	Total
Costs	20 000	20 000	40 000
EU-funding	65%	13 000	26 000
	Norwegian partners	Total	
Costs	20 000	20 000	
IR-funding	50%	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	Finland partners	Total
Costs	25 000	15 000	40 000
EU-funding	65%	16 250	26 000
	Norwegian partners	Total	
Costs	20 000	20 000	
IR-funding	50%	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



Fact Sheet 27: Small-scale Projects

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

CORE MESSAGE

Small-scale projects 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, €500,000 partners³. Although the partners must be based in programme strongly encourages applicants to include three countries, if possible.

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



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



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

Simplifications in SSPs

Simplified PLC

Application

- dedicated/
open calls
- 1-step only
- Written
procedures

Assessment

Contracting

Reporting

Simplifications in SSPs

Downsizing

Less outputs (1)

Fewer partners

Shorter duration

Less WPs

Smaller budgets
(from EUR 40k)

Simplified budgeting - SCOs

Programme-specific
SCOs

Other costs – up to
40% flat rate

Draft budget method

Fully as SCOs

What is “small”?

- **Central Baltic (Merike Niitepold, Pille Laaksonen) – “Small is smart”**
- **SL-HU (Aleš Mrkela) – “Small is to boost visibility and build trust”**



Questions & Answers



Group work - 30 min

„Small“ in PLC



Preparation		Assessment and contracting	
What did you do to simplify?	Is it enough, if not what else could you do?	What did you do to simplify?	Is it enough, if not what else could you do?
Implementation and reporting		Management verification	
What did you do to simplify?	Is it enough, if not what else could you do?	What did you do to simplify?	Is it enough, if not what else could you do?

How this will work:

- Discuss with colleagues at your table introduced simplifications within your programmes (PLC)
- Have you already launched your call(s) for SSPs?
- What have you learned?
- Is there any space for further simplifications?
- Report in plenary (appoint) & joint discussion

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**, go to the **relevant session**, and tell us what you think in the **session Q&A**.

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 \(23-25 May 2023\)](#)