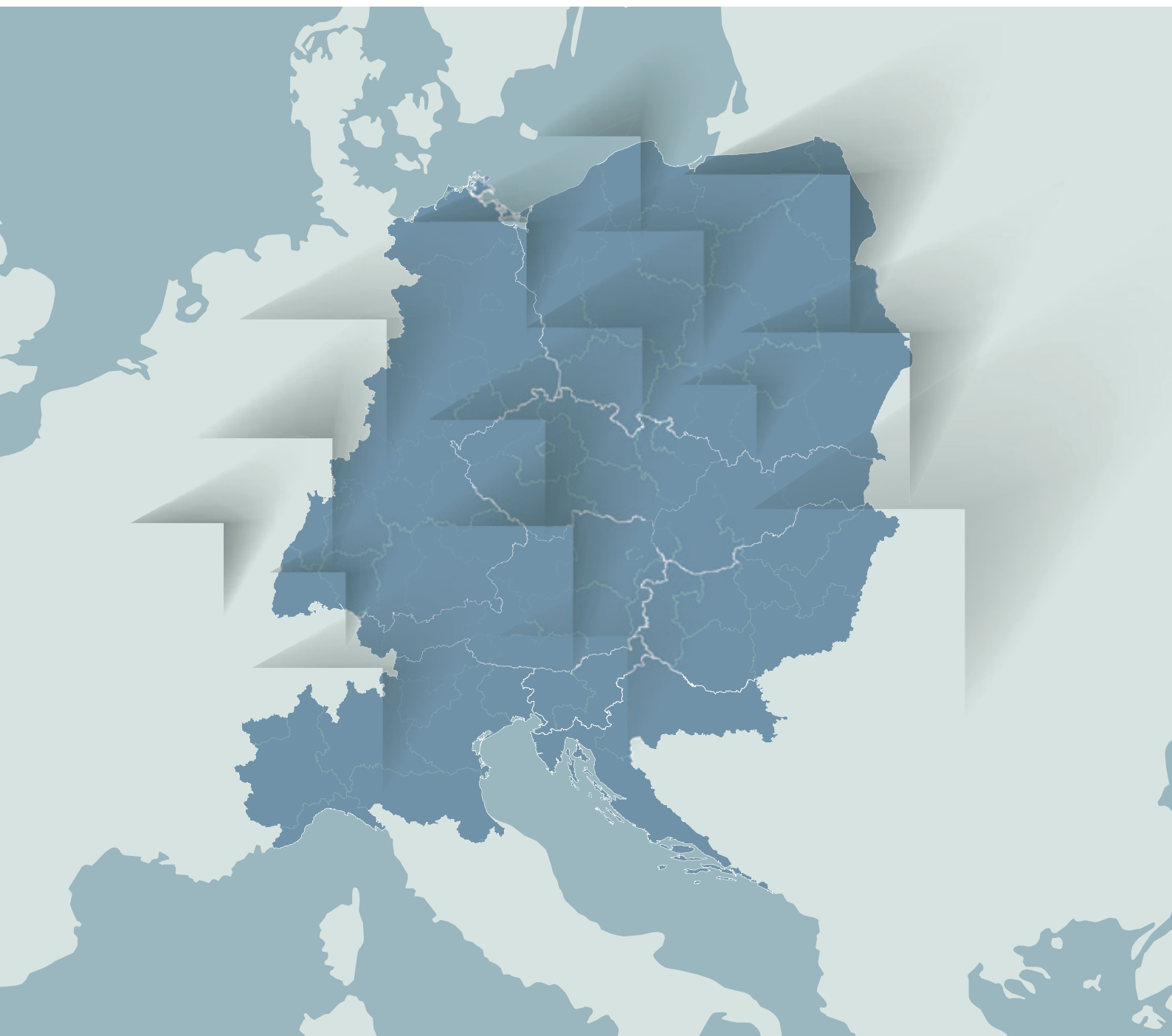


ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FOURTH CALL FOR PROPOSALS

4 March 2019



1. ANNOUNCEMENT

The Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE (CE) Programme invites public and private organisations in central European regions to submit applications to the fourth call for proposals. Detailed conditions and the timeline for the call can be found in the “Application manual - Fourth Call” included in the “Application package - Fourth Call”. The application package constitutes an integral part of this call announcement and is available at www.interreg-central.eu/apply.

The key elements of the Interreg CE programme (incl. programme objectives, the cooperation area, contents of its funding priorities, eligible applicants, programme budget, management structures and more) are described in detail in the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE “Cooperation Programme” document, available for download from www.interreg-central.eu/documents (section “Programme Documents”).

The “Cooperation Programme” document (Version 2 - adopted on 26.10.2016) constitutes the legal basis for this call for proposals. A minor revision of the Cooperation Programme is under evaluation at the time of launching the call. A revised version (Version 3) will become the new legal basis for the call after its adoption by the European Commission.

2. THEMATIC FOCUS OF THE CALL

The fourth call for proposals is devoted to the exploitation of outputs and results being delivered by projects funded by the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme within the first two calls.

Projects funded in the fourth call shall exploit transnational outputs and results by applying two different approaches:

- **Upstreaming:** Existing outputs and results are taken up and tailored in a way that they can be integrated into relevant territorial or thematic policies and strategies. This should happen at the most appropriate level, i.e. European, national, regional or local.
- **Downstreaming:** Existing outputs and results are tailored in a way that they can be further rolled-out at the national, regional or local level. Such roll-out could happen geographically to utilise adapted outputs and results in other regions; or thematically to utilise these in other sectors than initially addressed. The main aim of downstreaming is to give regions in central Europe easier access to transnational outputs and results.

Both approaches are complementary and a combination of the two in one proposal is possible.

The thematic focus of the call is restricted to the following seven topics addressed by 44 projects funded in the first two calls:

TOPIC/THEMATIC CLUSTER	PRIORITY	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE
I. Industry 4.0/advanced manufacturing	1	1.1 To improve sustainable linkages among actors of the innovation systems for strengthening regional innovation capacity in central Europe
II. Social entrepreneurship	1	1.2 To improve skills and entrepreneurial competences for advancing economic and social innovation in central European regions
III. Energy efficient renovation of public	2	2.1 To develop and implement solutions for increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy usage in public infrastructures
IV. Low carbon mobility and urban air quality	2	2.3 To improve capacities for mobility planning in functional urban areas to lower CO2 emissions
V. Climate change adaptation and risk prevention	3	3.1 To improve integrated environmental management capacities for the protection and sustainable use of natural heritage and resources
VI. Cultural heritage (sites & buildings) at risk	3	3.2 To improve capacities for the sustainable use of cultural heritage and resources
VII. Accessibility for peripheral and border regions to TEN-T CNC networks / nodes	4	4.1 To improve planning and coordination of regional passenger transport systems for better connections to national and European transport networks

Within the fourth call, applications can be submitted only under the Specific Objectives listed above.

Annex 1 to the Application Manual for the fourth call provides, for each topic, a description of the thematic focus, a summary of the challenges and policy framework, the expected results, the reference to the respective programme Specific Objective. Furthermore, the annex contains the list of the 44 Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE projects linked to the 7 topics.

The application manual for the fourth call also contains important information on the minimum requirements that proposals have to fulfil in order to be eligible for funding. These requirements concern, among others:

- The thematic focus to be chosen by a proposal
- The coordination between different projects to be exploited through the proposal
- The eligible partners and the composition of the partnership
- The requirements of the lead partner
- The location of partners and project activities

In particular, the following requirements have to be complied with:

REQUIREMENT	EXPLANATION
A. Thematic focus	The project proposal focuses on one of the above 7 pre-selected topics
B. Coordination	<p>The project proposal coordinates the exploitation of outputs and results obtained from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > at least two projects funded by the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme and listed in annex 1 (even if they belong to different topics); > And at least one thematically relevant project funded by a programme directly-managed by the European Commission (e.g. Horizon 2020/7th Framework Programme, LIFE, Connecting Europe Facility, Creative Europe, ...) <p>Further information on exploitation and coordination requirements is provided in chapter 2.3 and 6.1 of the application manual.</p>
C. Partnership	<p>The partnership (as listed in section 2 of the application form) must respect the following minimum requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > At least 50 % of the partnership consists of institutions and bodies that have been involved in the pre-selected Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE projects (even if they belong to different topics, see annex 1) whose outputs and results are going to be exploited. > At least one partner is included from a project funded by a directly-managed EU programme, who brings in additional project outputs and results that will be exploited by the partnership. <p>Further information on partnership requirements is provided in chapter 3.2 and 6.1 of the application manual.</p>
D. Compulsory consultation	The project proposal must have been consulted with the JS in the framework of a "compulsory consultation". For further information on compulsory consultations please see chapter 7 of the application manual.
E. Multiple participation	A same institution/body cannot be involved in more than one proposal within a same topic.

The non-compliance with the mentioned requirements may result in the proposal being rejected. It is therefore strongly recommended to read the application manual carefully.

3. ERDF BUDGET AVAILABLE

The programme will allocate around 10m EUR ERDF to the fourth call for proposals. These funds are subject to availability from savings generated by projects funded in previous calls.

4. CO-FINANCING RATES

The following co-financing rates apply:

- Up to 85 % for applicants from Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia;
- Up to 80 % for applicants from Austria, Germany, Italy;
- Up to 80 % for applicants located in EU regions outside the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme area.

In case of EGTCs covering geographical areas in which different co-financing rates apply, the co-financing rate applicable to the EGTC is the one of the country in which it is registered.

5. PROJECT DURATION

In the framework of the fourth call for proposals, the maximum project duration is 24 months, taking into account that **the latest possible end date for a project is 30 June 2022.**

6. PARTNERSHIP AND BUDGET SIZE

The number of partners and the project financial size shall reflect the scope of a project and be related to activities foreseen in the work plan. Accordingly, there is no recommended minimum or maximum size of a partnership¹ or project budget.

Indicative examples of partnership and budget sizes are provided in chapter 4.3 of the application manual.

7. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

The fourth call for proposals is organised according to a one-step procedure.

Project proposals must be submitted in English language and only through the web-based electronic monitoring system (eMS) on <https://ems.interreg-central.eu>. The application package for the fourth call contains also the off-line template of application form (for information purposes only).

Project proposals must be submitted by the lead applicant through the eMS at the latest by **Friday, 5 July 2019 at 13:00 CET.**

¹ For further information on minimum partnership requirements, please refer to chapter 3.2 of the application manual.

8. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

More details about the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme, conditions for the submission of project proposals, the assessment of proposals, the application package and other relevant information is available at: www.interreg-central.eu/apply

For further information and support please also contact the National Contact Points located in each CENTRAL EUROPE Member State or the Joint Secretariat based in Vienna. Contact information is available on the programme website.