
Interreg Alpine Space

Terms of Reference

2nd call for project proposals

14 | 20





Introduction

The **Interreg Alpine Space programme 2014-2020** is an EU transnational cooperation programme to support sustainable regional development in the Alpine region. Contributing to the EU 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, it provides stakeholders with a framework to develop, test, implement and coordinate new solutions. The programme has four funding priorities: innovative Alpine Space, low carbon Alpine Space, liveable Alpine Space and well-governed Alpine Space. The funding priorities of the Alpine Space programme have a high consistency with the thematic pillars of **EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)**. The programme contributes to the implementation of the strategy through its projects in all priorities. More information on the programme can be found under: www.alpine-space.eu.

Depending on the availability of funds the Alpine Space programme regularly launches calls for project proposals. These calls are based on the programme strategy as defined in the cooperation programme as well as in so-called Terms of Reference. In these present Terms of Reference the expectations of the programme and the general requirements for applications are described to enable the applicants to better target their proposals.

Application and assessment procedure

Before the opening of each call the programme publishes Terms of Reference on the programme website. Interested project developers are invited to study this document carefully and contact the Alpine Space contact points (ACPs) for clarifications or informal feedbacks on their project ideas. The ACPs provide information on content and consistency of the proposal and its overall coherence to the cooperation programme. It includes information on the suitability of the selected programme, on transnational relevance, fitting to the selected objective, clarity of the intervention logic, selection of target groups and suitability of the partnership as well as general advice on the preparation of project proposals.

In this second call, project proposals will be selected in a two-step application procedure (see details in the factsheet “project application”). In a first step, applicants are requested to submit a short project description, called expression of interest (EoI). This information will be assessed by the JS with support of the ACP (for details see factsheet “project selection:



procedure and criteria”). As a result of this assessment the JS will propose a ranking list of EoI to the programme committee (PC) composed by the Partner States of the programme. On the basis of this the PC will select by consensus projects that are highly scored and show good quality to be invited to submit a detailed application form (AF) in a second step. If appropriate, applicants will be given recommendations by the PC on how to further elaborate the project proposal to shape it to the expectations of the programme.

The AF, together with a signed partnership agreement will be assessed by the JS with support of the ACP. As a result of this assessment the JS will propose a ranking list of AF to the PC. On this basis, the PC will finally select by consensus the projects that are highly scored and show good quality and thus shall be co-financed; the PC decides on the allocation of ERDF.

The JS will assess the EoI and the AF against the programme assessment criteria. The assessment of an AF will also take into consideration the compliance with the given recommendations. Applicants shall specifically pay attention to the programme’s eligibility criteria. Details on the application procedure, the quality requirements for projects, and the assessment criteria and the eligibility criteria are provided in factsheets and guidance that can be found on the programme website¹.

For this call an amount of about 30 million € ERDF for priorities 1-3 has been reserved. The PC will seek for a balanced consumption among priorities 1-3 when selecting projects for co-financing. Priority 4 will be opened with an additional amount of about 2 million € ERDF.

Project budget

The programme does not set specific budget restrictions for the projects. However, the programme expects applicants to pay attention to the consistency of the project budget with the envisaged activities and outputs. As a general recommendation, applicants may orientate themselves on the average ERDF allocation to projects funded by the by the forerunner and present programme which amounts to around 1,7 million Euros ERDF. Project proposals submitted under priority 4 in this second call for proposals are expected to have an ERDF amount of max. 1 million Euros.

¹ www.alpine-space.eu (see section project implementation handbook)



Project duration

Also as regards project duration applicants shall pay attention to its consistency with the envisaged activities and outputs. The duration of projects must not exceed 36 months including the project closure.

Project partnership

The minimum number of participants which a project shall have is four, coming from at least four different Partner States. The size of partnership shall not exceed a total of 15 project participants, including the lead partner and non-EU partners. However, projects shall consider that it is not the number of partners that makes a project good but the appropriateness and relevance of the partners and the quality of the partnership.

Further expectations of the programme

The programme expects projects to understand the underpinning assumptions and the rationale of the Alpine Space programme as set out in the factsheet “Quality requirements and contents”². Applicants are highly recommended to study this factsheet in which guidance and illustration is given to allow projects to better understand the programme expectations regarding quality project proposals.

Thematic fields covered by call 2

The present second call for project proposals is open throughout priorities 1-4. Applicants are invited to study the above-mentioned documents carefully and to make use of information events and measures organised in the Partner States or contact the [programme management bodies](#) in case of questions.

Projects have to demonstrate their embedment in the existing policy framework such as the EUSALP and how they contribute to it. Therefore, due to the high consistency of the funding priorities of the Alpine Space programme and the thematic pillars of EUSALP, applicants are kindly invited to analyse the [EUSALP action plan](#), to ensure and demonstrate that their

² www.alpine-space.eu (see section project implementation handbook)



project - whenever relevant - contributes to the implementation of the macro-regional strategy.

Without being exclusive, the following notes highlight those thematic fields of priorities 1-4 where projects are particularly welcome.



Priority 1: Innovative Alpine Space

Specific objective: Improve the framework conditions for innovation in the Alpine Space:

- Improving framework conditions for stakeholders in the field of innovation in order to increase knowledge transfer between business, users, academia and administration actors of the area;
- Fostering the setting up of joint transnational cluster action plans, to encourage the development of regional research-driven clusters;
- Enhancing the potential for business innovation on topics of Alpine Space importance (e.g. creative industries, eco-innovation and smart technologies, green growth);
- Coordinating actions in key innovative sectors addressed by S3 strategies.

Specific objective: Increase capacities for the delivery of service of general interest in a changing society:

- Addressing marginality, inequality and social exclusion in remote, urban and peripheral areas by integrating policies affecting the quality of life and well-being of citizens;
- Improving accessibility to services of general interest specifically for vulnerable segments of population (e.g. elderly, immigrants, teenagers, NEET, etc.) also by promoting public private partnerships (e.g. social enterprises, non-profit sector, public bodies etc.);
- Helping to respond to the migration related challenges through the promotion of welcoming culture/integration in our societies of migrants and refugees and the development and implementation of related services.



Priority 2: Low carbon Alpine Space

Specific objective: Establish trans-nationally integrated low carbon policy instruments

- Establishing low carbon policy instruments with adequate responses to the specific needs and challenges in the Alpine area, through the combination of available or potential technological and operational innovations and tools;
- Promotion of awareness and understanding of the potentials and the implications of low carbon policy instruments among decision makers and key administrations;
- Promoting wood as a renewable energy (biomass), but also as a carbon sink and as a regional raw material;
- Exploiting local/regional value chains in the agriculture and agro-food industry to reduce CO2 emissions;
- Fostering the development of an energy sufficient model region for the whole Alpine area, using the best practices of some alpine regions;
- Promoting smart energy management systems in the Alpine area;
- Fostering investments in retrofitting homes to reduce the dependency on imported fossil fuels.

Specific objective: Increase options for low carbon mobility and transport

- Fostering the availability and use of low-carbon mobility and transport solutions. These are not a matter of technical applications alone;
- Coordinating local and regional transport planning at macro-regional level to increase the efficiency of existing networks and the share of population using less impacting transport means;
- Improving interfaces between national networks and transnational corridors, in order to increase intermodal and low carbon transport options;
- Enhancing connection of logistics aspects/mobility and spatial planning policies to improve the transport and mobility flows and land use in the Alpine Space;
- Developing low carbon mobility options for persons as well as the related information services.



Priority 3: Liveable Alpine Space

Specific objective: Sustainably valorise Alpine Space cultural and natural heritage

- Strengthening an alpine cultural identity and assuming a pioneer role in utilising its material and non-material assets e.g. green growth as constituent elements of the alternative and distinct Alpine lifestyle;
- Promoting value chains based on cultural and/ or natural resources;
- Promoting innovative cultural management practices tackling commonly shared issues of decreasing public funds, digitalisation and online accessibility of cultural contents;
- Increasing the sensibility and value for natural and cultural heritage especially among youth with better integration of related topics into the educational curricula and practices;
- Developing and promoting governance frameworks by creating synergies between regional sustainable tourism strategies and local cultural and nature conservation sectors. This shall be supported by the promotion of active involvement of local people, in order to foster sustainable quality tourism offers and contribute to the revitalisation of urban and rural areas;
- Fostering new models that give added value to the cultural heritage but also income support and the integration of local organisation and touristic SMEs in a global context.
- Promoting the valorisation of the natural environment and the diversification of its functions (e.g. for social, recreational and environmental purposes and/or as driver for sustainable local/regional development, in rural and urban surroundings).

Specific objective: Enhance the protection, the conservation and the ecological connectivity of Alpine Space ecosystems

- Strengthening of trans-sectorial integrative approaches to strategic planning concerning different issues of Alpine relevance such as ecosystem conservation, natural risks and hazards or sustainable natural resources management;
- Improving ecological connectivity in the Alpine area by better coordinating national and regional policies and integrating the issue in a wider territorial scale and in a cross sectorial approach;



- Fostering natural risk prevention and management, in particular in case of impact on population.
- Improving sustainability models and networking solutions for isolated mountain settlements (small villages, mountain refuges, alpine farmstead, etc.) at transnational level to foster the exposure/visibility/sustainability of local networks and to support development initiatives.



Priority 4: Well-governed Alpine Space

The Alpine Space programme aims to increase multilevel and transnational governance by triggering and guiding the debate for governance innovation and by supporting public administrations in re-defining their tasks, approaches, services and processes, developing, testing and adopting innovative solutions through transnational cooperation.

Projects under priority 4 will focus on strengthening institutional and administrative capacity and enhancing efficiency of public administration. Institutional capacity relates to how public authorities interact with and deliver services to businesses and citizens. Institutional capacity building aims at "good governance". Such projects can in principle relate to fields like spatial planning, public transport, training, environment, social issues, security, culture, education, tourism, youth, sport, etc. **provided that the capacity building aspect is their main focus.** Moreover projects are encouraged to address themes related to EUSALP strategy and to support networks of relevant institutional actors responsible for the specific field concerned. Whether an action should be financed under priority 4 or the other programme priorities will thus depend on the focus of the action. If the primary objective is to take an integrated approach addressing institutional bottlenecks in the administration as a whole, the project fits into priority 4. Other priorities of the Alpine Space programme can be addressed in cases where the capacity building is an integral part of the actions necessary to attain the specific objective of the priority.

Examples of thematic fields for projects under priority 4:

- Developing transnational models for the design, testing, up-scaling, comparison and evaluation of innovations (tools, processes, actors, organisations and interfaces) in the field of public administration;



- Setting up a policy foresight for governance challenges in relation to the Alpine Space driving forces³;
- Developing innovative models for institutional co-operation and spatial organisation for and between different territorial types⁴;
- Improving governance through a more active involvement especially of non-institutional actors;
- Designing implementation strategies, setting up models and test pilot actions for successful and reciprocal communication of public administrations among them and with the civil society.

Submission periods and decisions on projects

Call 2 submissions for project proposals in priorities 1-4 will run according to the following schedule.

Step one: EoI shall be uploaded on the programme website between 26.2.2016 and 8.4.2016 2 pm. All submissions will be acknowledged with an automatic email confirmation. Applicants should reserve enough time for filling in the online EoI.

Step two: Project proposals selected by the PC on 6/7.6.2016 will be invited to submit the AF together with the signed partnership agreement via the programme website from 13.6.2016 until 05.08.2016 2 pm. All submissions will be acknowledged with an automatic email confirmation. Applicants should reserve enough time for filling in the online AF.

The final decision on project selection in priorities 1-4 will be taken by the PC in a meeting foreseen 19-20.10. 2016. More information: www.alpine-space.eu

³ The relevant driving forces are climate change, tensions on the energy market, economic globalization, rise of the information society and the knowledge economy, socio-demographic change, increased mobility of goods and persons (ref. Alpine Space cooperation programme, section 1, page 5).

⁴ The relevant territorial types are alpine metropolises, cities, stable or growing rural areas, declining or shrinking rural areas, tourism areas (ref. Alpine Space cooperation programme, section 1, page 7).