Subsidy Contract for the project: “Click here to enter text.”



The following contract between the Land of Salzburg acting as managing authority (hereinafter “MA”) of the European territorial cooperation programme "Interreg Alpine Space", represented by the government office of the Land of Salzburg, department 1 (economy, tourism and municipalities), Südtirolerplatz 11, post office box 527, A-5010 Salzburg, Austria

and

Click here to enter text., based in Click here to enter text., represented by Click here to enter text. as lead partner (hereinafter “LP”) and representing the partners of the above mentioned project

is concluded on the basis of:

* the European Structural and Investment Funds Regulations for the period 2021-2027, especially Article 23 of the Regulation (EU) No 2021/1059,
* the Interreg Alpine Space programme 2021-2027, approved by the European Commission on May 5th 2022,
* the programme manual,
* the laws of Austria.

**Article 1**

**Award of co-financing and general conditions**

1. Based on the application documents (application form and partnership agreement) and in accordance with the approval decision and recommendations of the programme committee (PC) datedClick here to enter text.,an earmarked subsidy is awarded to the LP from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under the following conditions. The subsidy is granted in the maximum amount of

Click here to enter text. EUR

1. The award of the subsidy from ERDF funds is limited to the amount mentioned in paragraph (1). Furthermore, it is limited to a maximum of 75 % of the total eligible costs of the project. The ERDF co-financing amount decreases proportionally if the reported eligible costs are lower than the amount planned in the ultimate approved version of the project application form (AF).
2. Should a project fail to respect the spending plan, budget absorption, visibility requirements, achievements of outputs and results as set out in the project application and contractual arrangements (partnership agreement and present subsidy contract) corrective measures may be put in place to ensure the project performance. The programme committee may also reduce the ERDF-co-financing allocated to the project as a consequence thereof.

**Article 2**

**Object of use, Eligibility of expenditure**

1. The subsidy is awarded exclusively for the project “Click here to enter text.” as described in the project application documents and as approved by the PC. The application documents form an integral part of this subsidy contract.
2. Project costs which qualify for co-financing from ERDF funds consist exclusively of costs listed in the latest approved AF. Project expenditure will only be co-financed if it complies with the programme’s eligibility rules.
3. It is explicitly stated that the project must not make use of funds from other programmes co-financed by the European Union to finance the present project.
4. The eligibility period for costs incurred by the project starts with Click here to enter text., lasts as indicated in the application form and must be respected by the project.

**Article 3**

**Reporting obligations**

1. The LP is entitled to request ERDF payments on behalf of the project by providing project reports to the JS. Reports will have to be submitted via the programme’s online monitoring system (Jems). Access to the online reports will be granted by the JS.
2. The financial part of the report shall comprise the amount indicated in all certificates of controller related to the project expenditure that has arisen until the end of the reporting period and that can be objectively and spatially imputed to the project. All project expenditure must be certified by the authorised public or private institutions, following the rules as set out in the relevant national control system. To this end, the LP verifies that each project partner enables controls and audits on the proper use of funds to be carried out by the responsible institution in the state where the partner is located, as will the LP itself. Furthermore, the LP will pre-check the certificates of controller received from the project partners, with regard to plausibility and correct issuing, and will also clarify with the relevant partners any doubt or inconsistency before the submission of the report.
3. The activity part of the report shall inform about the project realisation (realisation of work packages, deviations in comparison to planned activities, achievement of the project indicators and the envisaged next steps).
4. The LP shall make sure that the project implementation is in line with the work plan per work packages, the time schedule and the approved budget, as indicated in the AF.
5. Unless otherwise specified by the JS/MA the first report must be submitted to the JS/MA by Click here to enter text. at the latest. Subsequently further reports have to be submitted every six months.
6. A final report shall be submitted to the JS/MA at the latest three months after the project closure date. Beside the elements mentioned in paragraphs (2) and (3), the final report shall focus on the valorisation of the project results and its impact on the cooperation area. The LP has to be available for any revision of the final report also after the project closure until JS and MA have approved it.
7. Based on the fact that the payments by the European Commission to the managing authority will only be made in accordance with the corresponding budget commitments, the LP must report on the expenditure as foreseen in the AF for each reporting period.
8. The MA reserves the right not to accept – in part or in full – expenditure validated by controllers if – as as result of its own check and/or controls performed by another authority – the validation or the facts stated in the report prove to be incorrect or if the underlying activity or expenditure is not in line with the legal frame.

**Article 4**

**Payments**

1. After the progress reports have been presented in due time and completely to the MA/JS and the JS in coordination with the MA has verified that the documents meet the programme requirements, the MA will pay out the subsidy to the LP based on the reported eligible expenditure. The MA will ensure that the project receives payments of the co-financing in time and in full.
2. The funds will be disbursed in Euro (EUR).
3. Disbursement of the subsidy is subject to the condition that it can be covered by the available ERDF funds that the MA has received from the European Commission. In case of delays in the availability of ERDF funds, the MA can withhold payments until such a time as the funds are made available and cannot be held liable for delays in payments to the project.
4. The MA has the right to suspend payments should the project become subject to controls or audits until these controls have been completed.
5. By paying out the subsidy according to this agreement, the Land of Salzburg fulfils its obligations resulting from the present contract. The LP has no further right to claim against the Land of Salzburg.

**Article 5**

**Representation of project partners, Liability**

1. The LP guarantees that it is entitled to represent the partners participating in the project and that they have established with the project partners the division of the mutual responsibilities in a partnership agreement. The present subsidy contract will not enter into force unless the LP has submitted the signed partnership agreement to the JS and the JS in coordination with the MA has verified that it includes all essential provisions. Furthermore, the LP guarantees having complied with all the relevant legal and other requirements under the law which applies to it and to the project partners and that all necessary approvals have been obtained.
2. The LP is liable to the MA for ensuring that all project partners have a legal status that is in line with the definition set out by the programme (see programme manual) as it is in force on the date when this contract is signed. The LP is furthermore liable towards the MA for ensuring that the project participants fulfil their obligations. It is liable towards the MA for infringements by the project partners of obligations under this contract in the same way as for its own conduct.
3. If the MA demands repayment of the subsidy in accordance with this contract, the LP is liable to the MA for the amount requested to be repaid.
4. The MA cannot, under any circumstances or for any reason whatsoever, be held liable for damage or injury sustained by the staff or property of the LP or one of the project partners while the project is being carried out. The MA therefore cannot accept any claim for compensation or increases in payment in connection with such damage or injury.
5. The LP shall assume sole liability to third parties, including liability for damage or injury of any kind sustained by them while the project is being carried out. The LP shall discharge the MA of all liability associated with any claim or action brought as a result of an infringement of rules or regulations by the LP or one of the project partners, or as a result of violation of a third party’s rights.

**Article 6**

**Project management**

1. The LP undertakes:
2. to ensure a professional management of the project,
3. to coordinate the start, implementation and closure of the project according to the time schedule as indicated in the ultimate version of the AF,
4. to install a separate (sub)account for the settlement of the present project and to safeguard that any received national subsidy can be clearly traced,
5. to constantly monitor the exhaustion of the project budget foreseen for each project participant and to ensure that budget shifts are carried out within the limits and according to the rules of the programme,
6. to submit the progress reports within the reporting deadlines established by the programme, to ensure that the expenditure reported by each project participant has been controlled according to the rules where the project participant is located and to verify that it has been used for the purpose of implementing the project and that it corresponds to the activities agreed between the project participants and set out in the project AF,
7. to forward the ERDF funds to the project partners in accordance with the information provided by the MA and without any delay,
8. to inform the MA and JS immediately about all circumstances that delay, hinder or make impossible the realisation of the project as well as all circumstances that mean a change of the disbursement conditions and frameworks as laid down in this contract (e.g. loss of a project partner, making use of additional subsidies) or circumstances which entitle the MA to reduce payment or demand repayment of the subsidy wholly or in part,
9. to provide the MA and JS with any information requested without any delay,
10. to retain for audit purposes all files, documents and data about the project until the MA informs that keeping of documents is no longer required for the project. The documents shall be kept for at least five years from December 31st of the year in which the last payment by the MA to the project is made. Other possibly longer statutory retention periods as might be stated by national law remain unaffected by this regulation,
11. to implement the project in accordance with the European Union’s and national legislation, especially on public procurement and state aid as well as the programme rules and to ensure that also the project partners respect these rules,
12. to ensure that undertakings are selected in a non-discriminatory and transparent way (same conditions for all) in case they participate in or benefit from the project activities (e.g. trainings),
13. to provide data for the monitoring system in compliance with this contract and according to the MA and JS instructions,
14. to inform the MA and JS without any delay about any envisaged changes of the partnership agreement,
15. to ensure that information and communication measures of the project are carried out in accordance with the respective regulations and rules set up by the programme (see Article 7),
16. to submit with the relevant progress report the main outputs and deliverables as stated in the AF. One specimen of each developed material shall be stored at the lead partner’s or project partner’s premises for the first and second level control checks,
17. to participate in transnational seminars organised by the programme,
18. to support the programme in its information, communication and evaluation activities (e.g. join project exhibitions, submit texts for programme website and brochures and press releases).

**Article 7**

**Information and communication, publicity and intellectual property rights**

1. Unless the MA requests otherwise, any notice or publication made by the project, including presentations at conferences or seminars, shall point out that the present project was implemented through financial assistance from ERDF funds of the Interreg Alpine Space programme. All information and communication measures of the project shall be carried out in accordance with the project AF and the programme guidelines concerning communication whereby the LP shall provide the project participants with these guidelines.
2. The LP shall ensure that the PP comply with all publicity, communication and branding obligations according to the relevant regulations and programme rules, it shall co-ordinate the information and communication activities of the project and ensure the following:
3. display on each project participant’s official website or social media sites, where such sites exist, a short description of the project, including its aims, results and financial support from the programme,
4. display of a statement highlighting the support from an Interreg fund in a visible manner on documents and communication material related to the implementation of the project, intended for the public or for participants,
5. launch of a project website within the first six months after project start. The project website will be hosted on the programme website and shall be regularly updated by the responsible project participant in accordance with guidance given by the JS,
6. production of posters with information about the project (minimum size A3 or equivalent electronic display), including the financial support from the Union, to be displayed at each project participant’s premises, at a location readily visible to the public such as the entrance area of a building.
7. The LP takes full responsibility for the content of any notice, publication or publicity product provided to the MA which has been developed by the LP, any of the PP, or third parties on behalf of the LP or the PP. Should a third party claim compensation for damages (e.g. due to an infringement of intellectual property rights), the LP will indemnify the MA should the MA suffer any damage because of the content of the publicity and information material.
8. The LP, on behalf of the project partners, herewith takes note that the MA/JS, on behalf of the programme bodies and of other programme promoters at national level, is entitled to use the outputs of the project in order to guarantee a wide spread of the project deliverables and outputs, and to make them available to the public. The LP agrees that the outputs are forwarded by the MA/JS to other programme authorities, as well as the countries participating in the programme, to use this material to showcase how the co-financing is used.
9. Any communication campaign, media appearance or other publicity of the project shall be communicated to the MA/JS for potential website updates or showcases.
10. In the spirit of cooperation and exchange, the LP and PP shall ensure that all the outputs and results produced as a result of the project are in the public interest and publicly available. They should be accessible and available to the general public in a usable format and free of charge. The MA/JS and any other relevant programme, EU and national body can use them for information and communication purposes in the framework of the programme.
11. The LP shall ensure that it has all rights to use any pre-existing intellectual property rights, if necessary for the implementation of the project.
12. The LP shall inform the MA if there is any sensitive or confidential information, or any pre-existing intellectual property rights related to the project that must be respected.
13. The project must comply with the web platform requirements described in the programme manual.
14. The LP authorises the MA to use communication and visibility material produced by the project to showcase how the co-financing is used. The LP furthermore authorises the relevant programme body/ies to forward this material to other programme bodies, programme promoters at national level, as well as Union institutions, bodies, offices or agencies. For this purpose, the LP ensures that a royalty-free, non-exclusive and irrevocable licence to use such material and any pre-existing rights attached to it is granted to the aforementioned programme and Union bodies in accordance with the above-mentioned regulations.
15. The MA/JS is entitled to publish, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, including the Internet, (parts of) the project data in order to fulfil its own reporting, communication and visibility obligations arising from the relevant regulations.
16. All products (material and intellectual) that derive from the project will be the joint property of all project participants. Consequently, the LP safeguards that each project participant grants a simple, non-exclusive right of use of any produced work of authorship to all other project participants. For small scale investments made by a project participant, the LP ensures that the project participants agree beforehand on the conditions for its use after project end (e.g. by taking a decision in the project steering group).

**Article 8**

**Modifications to the project**

1. The LP shall be allowed to carry out the following project changes under the conditions set out below.
2. Content-related minor changes shall be reported and justified within the progress reports. Content related changes that are resulting in major changes in the project’s activities, outputs and/or results require the prior approval of the PC. These changes shall be immediately reported to the JS and described in a well-founded request for the envisaged changes and a revised AF.
3. Changes in the budget of cost categories and project participants are allowed as long as the maximum amount of ERDF co-financing awarded is not exceeded. It is allowed to carry out budget relocations between project participants up to a maximum of 20 % or 20,000 EUR (whichever is greater) of the respective ERDF per project partner budget, as stated in the ultimate version of the AF. In these cases the JS shall be informed of the reallocation of funds through the reporting routines, whereas it remains the duty of the LP to monitor the compliance with the above mentioned thresholds. Reallocations exceeding these limits are only allowed once during the project duration or in duly justified cases; they require the prior approval by the JS (which acts on behalf of the MA whenever approving project changes). To this end the LP has to timely submit a well-founded request for the envisaged changes together with a revised AF to the JS as soon as the LP learns about the necessity to do them.
4. As regards deviations from the approved time schedule of the project the following rule shall apply: deviations that result in a prolongation of the project duration up to six months shall be reported to the JS immediately and need the prior approval of the JS. Extensions of the project duration of more than six months are not possible.
5. All project changes requiring an approval of the programme bodies will only enter into force after approval has been given. However, once approved, they are valid retrospectively starting from the date when a written request was submitted to the JS. The basis for the project changes is the latest approved AF.
6. In the application documents the contribution of each project participant is clearly defined. Changes in the project partnership require the prior approval of the relevant programme bodies as outlined below. However, once approved, they are valid retrospectively starting from the date when a written request was submitted to the JS. Changes in the project partnership shall be described in a request for change and revised AF.
7. The LP guarantees that in case a project participant backs out of or is debarred from the project, has become insolvent or closed down as a result of bankruptcy or decision of its owners, its contribution to the project will be covered by one or more of the existing project participants or new project participants as soon as possible and at the latest within three months after the official communication to the JS on the partner’s withdrawal. If this is not possible, a re-approval of the project by the programme committee is necessary.
8. In case the contribution of the project participant that left the project is covered by the remaining project participants, the LP will immediately report to the JS the loss of the project participant and the new division of work and budget between the project participants (see also the paragraphs below which foresee a re-approval of the project by the PC if the reduction of project participants would mean a change in the evaluation result of the project).
9. In case the contribution of the project participant that left the project is at least partially covered by a new project participant, the LP will immediately report to the JS the loss of the project participant and the envisaged new division of work and budget between the project participants. At the same time, it will send to the JS a well-founded request for the entry of a new project participant and a scan of the partnership agreement that it has signed with the new partner.
10. In case a new project participant intends to enter the project partnership, the LP will send a request to the JS and provide it with information as regards the new division of work and budget. At the same time, it will provide the MA with information on the envisaged amendments of the partnership agreement.
11. The JS will examine the request for the entry of a new participant and give its recommendation, after consultation of the relevant Alpine Space Contact Point, within one month. The MA will examine the planned changes of the partnership agreement. The entry of a new project participant has to be approved by the PC and the changes in the partnership agreement need the approval of the MA.
12. In case of loss of a project participant, its project costs may only be eligible and co-financed until the date of withdrawal of this project participant as communicated by the LP to the JS; the eligibility of its costs is also subject to the confirmation from the LP and the JS that the contribution of this partner can be used for the project by the remaining project participants.
13. The LP is aware of the fact that the MA is entitled to withdraw from this subsidy contract if the minimum number of project participants is no longer ensured. If a reduction of the project participants would mean a change in the evaluation result of the project, a re-approval by the PC is necessary. Until this decision is made by the PC, the LP and its project partners shall stop any payments for activities that cause costs related to the project.

**Article 9**

**Assignment, Legal succession**

The LP is allowed to assign its duties and rights under this contract if prior consent of the MA and the PC is given. This approval shall be granted if the party to which assignment is made provides for the same guarantee as the transferring LP for the fulfilment of its rights and duties related to the project. In this case the LP is obliged to assign all rights and obligations and all project related documents to each and any legal successor. This provision shall also apply in case of a change of the legal form of the LP or in case of legal succession with regard to single rights and duties of the LP.

**Article 10**

**Financial controls, document keeping**

1. The responsible auditing bodies of the EU, and, within their responsibility, the auditing bodies of the participating EU member states as well as the programme bodies are entitled to audit the proper use of funds by the LP or by the project partners or arrange for such an audit to be carried out by authorised persons.
2. The MA has the right to conduct sample checks in addition to the above-mentioned audits and can at any moment request additional information and supporting documents from the project participants.
3. With regard to such financial controls the LP is, in addition to the reporting and information obligations as laid down above, obliged to:
4. keep available all files, documents and data related to the project safely and orderly either in original or as certified copies on commonly used data media, until the MA informs that these documents do not need to be kept any longer from the programme perspective (see Article 6 (1) litera i) of this subsidy contract),
5. make all necessary arrangements to ensure that any audit, notified by the duly authorised institution, can be carried out smoothly,
6. give these institutions any information about the project they request and give them access to the accounting books, supporting documents and all other documentation related to the project and give them access to business premises and project-related locations.
7. The LP is obliged to guarantee the fulfilment of the duties stipulated above in relation to all its project partners.

**Article 11**

**Termination of the contract**

1. The MA is entitled to withdraw from this contract, especially in case the European Commission requests for it, and to demand immediate repayment of the subsidy in full or in part, if
2. the co-financed project cannot or could not be realised in due time, or a precondition for the approval of the project (e.g. minimum number of project partners) is lost,
3. the correctness of the final report and herewith the entitlement to make use of ERDF co-financing cannot be verified any longer, unless the documents have gone lost without fault of the LP or
4. the LP has become insolvent or closed down as result of bankruptcy or decision of its owners before the project has been properly terminated and therefore especially the objectives of the cooperation programme do not seem accessible or secured, or if the LP sells, leases or lets the project to a third party within this time, or
5. the LP has obtained the subsidy through false statements or has given false or incomplete information towards organs/appointees of the European Commission, the JS and the MA or any other authority involved in the implementation of the programme, or
6. the LP fails to submit the foreseen reports or to provide evidence or to provide necessary information, provided that a written notice of cancellation has been sent to the LP including a reasonable “period of grace” and the expressive reference to the legal consequences of noncompliance of this notice, or
7. the LP fails to provide immediate information about circumstances that delay, hinder or make impossible the realisation of the co-financed project, as well as about any circumstances that mean a change of the disbursement conditions and frameworks as laid down in this contract or entitle the MA to reduce or demand repayment of the subsidy wholly or in part,
8. the LP hinders the due control or evaluation measures, or
9. the subsidy has been used wholly or partly against its purpose, or
10. the prohibition of cession has not been obeyed, or
11. regulations of the EU law and applicable national law (especially provisions concerning public procurement and state aid and environmental law and regulations concerning equal treatment of men and women) have been violated, or
12. any other preconditions for subsidy or obligations of the LP contained in the present contract or set out by the programme or in any other Austrian and community regulations, especially those which shall safeguard the achievement of the general objectives of the cooperation programme, have not been observed.
13. If the MA exercises its right of withdrawal, it will send a written notice to the LP (e-mail is sufficient) and will deduct the relevant amount from the ERDF reimbursement requested by the project in the next available progress report. This deduction will be applied to the project participant that has caused the request for ERDF repayment or, if this is not possible, to the LP. If it is not possible to recover the due amount of ERDF by deducting it from the next available progress report, the LP will ensure the reimbursement of funds to the MA without delay. The repayment amount is due within one month following the date of receiving the letter by which the MA asks for reimbursement (in case of e-mail correspondence the relevant date shall be the date of sending the e-mail). In case of any delay in effecting repayment the respective amount shall be subject to interest on late payment, starting on the calendar day following the due date and ending on the date of actual payment. The interest rate on late payment shall be 1,5 % above the rate applied by the European Central Bank in its main refinancing operations and it will be indicated by the MA in the letter asking for repayment. The LP is only entitled to request repayments from the programme for the part of the project carried out before the termination of the contract.
14. In case one of the circumstances listed above occurs or is suspected to have occurred before the ERDF co-financing has been fully paid out, the MA is entitled to stop any further payment of subsidies and to commission a control in order to clarify the suspicion. If this suspicion is confirmed, the LP is no longer entitled to claim the corresponding ERDF reimbursement.
15. Any further legal claims of the parties shall remain unaffected by the above provisions.

**Article 12**

**Data management and data protection**

1. The LP takes note on behalf of all PP that personal data related to the project and the present subsidy contract will be processed by the MA/JS or other relevant programme bodies in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural person with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (General Data Protection Regulation/GDPR).
2. The MA, other programme bodies and the Commission shall be allowed to process personal data where necessary for the purpose of carrying out their respective obligations, in particular for monitoring, reporting, communication, publication, evaluation, financial management, verifications and audits and, where applicable, for determining the eligibility of participants.
3. The MA may transfer project and/or personal data to relevant programme bodies and national authorities for the same purposes as listed in paragraph 2 of this article.

**Article 13**

**Concluding provisions**

1. Programme language is English. Thus, all correspondence between LP, JS and MA under this contract must be in English language. Correspondence shall be email based whenever possible.
2. All parties agree herewith that the subject of the present agreement is exhaustively and completely regulated in this document and the above-mentioned integrated parts.
3. Amendments and supplements to the present contract must be in written form. Consequently, any changes of the present contract shall only be effective if they have been agreed upon in writing and have been designated as amendment of or supplement to this contract (the exchange of emails is sufficient). As an exception to this formal requirement, modifications to the project that are approved in writing by the responsible programme bodies (PC or JS on behalf of MA, as appropriate) shall modify automatically the present contract.
4. If any provision in this contract should become wholly or partly ineffective, the remaining provisions remain binding for the parties. The parties agree to replace the ineffective provision by one which serves the purpose of this contract as closely as possible.
5. The LP is entitled to file a formal complaint on behalf of the partnership against any act and/or decision of the MA, JS, programme bodies related to the execution of this contract. In case of differences that are not ruled by this contract, the parties agree to find a joint solution.
6. The parties will make an effort to settle any disputes arising from this contract out of the court. In case a solution cannot be found, the parties herewith agree that Salzburg shall be the venue for all legal disputes arising from this contract.
7. The laws of Austria shall apply to all legal relations arising in connection with this contract.
8. Two copies will be made of this contract, of which each party keeps one.
9. The present contract shall come into force retroactively per Click here to enter text. upon signature of all parties and guarantee of any national public co-financing to be granted to the project according to the application documents. It shall remain in force until the LP has discharged in full its obligations towards the MA.

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