

Terms of Reference for Clustering and Micro Projects – July 2017

Background

The Northern Periphery and Arctic 2014-2020 Programme is part of the European Territorial Cooperation Objective supported by the European Regional Development Fund. The programme contributes to and aligns with the Europe 2020 Strategy, national and regional policies and development strategies, macro regional and sea basin strategies, and other programmes covering parts of the geographical area.

The programme's vision is to assist in the generation of vibrant, competitive and sustainable communities, by harnessing innovation, expanding the capacity for entrepreneurship and seizing the unique growth initiatives and opportunities of the Northern and Arctic regions in a resource efficient way.

Clustering Projects

Clustering activities can take place between projects from different programmes dealing with the same theme or projects that are addressing the same territorial challenges. The cooperation has to take place between projects funded by different cooperation programmes and the objective is to ensure better implementation of the cooperating projects, more efficient use of the funding, better results and wider dissemination of the results.

Purpose of clustering projects

- Synergy, mutual inspiration, complementing expertise and cross fertilizing between projects
- Ensure more resources and critical mass for solving important problems
- Ensure higher quality of outputs
- Ensure more resources for dissemination activities and bigger outreach
- Extend existing partnership and develop new

Minimum requirements

- An eligible project idea and a work plan for the clustering project
- The application should describe the expected tangible and lasting outcomes of the clustering activity
- The project involves, besides an ongoing NPA funded project, minimum two other project partnerships (normally represented by the lead partner) from two other programmes that cover/partly cover the NPA area
- An eligible Lead Partner (for the clustering activity)
- Eligible match funding in place
- Completion of the cluster project application form

Clustering themes

- E-Health (Priority axis 1)
- Entrepreneurship (Priority axis 2)
- Energy efficiency (Priority axis 3)

Note: Over-arching all clustering themes is the encouraged of the involvement of SME's

Submission and duration

Clustering projects are expected to operate between 6 to 12 months.

Decisions of Clustering projects will be made between the launch of the call and **30th September 2017**, after which further involvement will be on a call-by-call basis.

See [Project extensions for clustering activities](#) for further details.

Micro Projects

Micro projects are meant for building up capacity and experience for representatives for specific under represented groups (women, young people, and indigenous peoples) in relation to the NPA programme. The ambition is on the one side that partners who have been involved in micro projects in the future shall be better suited for engagement in main projects as partners. On the other side, micro projects might complement main projects and support the Programme to foster changes that are of importance for people living in the programme area.

Purpose of micro projects

- Engagement of groups and representatives for groups that are not usually represented as partners in NPA main projects
- Capacity building and networking in relation to the role as partners in transnational cooperation projects
- Support development of more need and user driven projects
- Contribute to the Programme's Arctic Dimension

Minimum requirements

- An eligible project idea addressing one of the four Priority Axes and a work plan for a micro project including a description of how the capacity building and networking should take place
- The project involves minimum three partners from three partner countries in the NPA area, one of which is located in a European Union Member State
- An eligible Lead Partner
- Eligible match funding in place
- Completion of the micro project application form
- Financial information for all partners

Submission and duration

Micro projects are expected to operate between 6 to 12 months.

Decisions of Micro projects will be made between the launch of the call and will remain open until the Monitoring Committee decides to close the call for Micro projects.

See [Micro projects](#) for further details.