



ANNOUNCEMENT & TERMS of REFERENCE

Bridging Call for Project Applications

16th August 2021 – 8th October 2021

Background

It has been a practice for the programme to use remaining and de-committed funds towards the end of the programme's implementation to fund preparatory projects targeting envisaged specific objectives of a future programme.

At the Monitoring Committee (MC) in December 2020, it was decided that a bridging call for preparatory projects targeting main projects in the NPA 2021-2027 would first be launched after agreement on the themes of the new programme, and that the ToRs decided by the MC in June 2021.

Concept

As with previous bridging calls, the main purpose is to build a project pipeline for future main projects in the forthcoming programme and keep momentum and front-loading the future programme; thus allowing for a strong start. Secondly, to explore in practice the different themes proposed in the new programme and influence the design of future calls.

The Bridging call will be funded by the NPA 2014-2020 and only actions eligible under the current programme can be funded.

See the Terms of Reference, which outlines the conditions for applying.

Timeline

16th August 2021	Call opens
9th September 2021	How to Apply seminar
8th October 2021	Call closes
8 th December	Decision by Monitoring Committee

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENT

Bridging Call for Project Applications

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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.

To date, the NPA 2014-2020 Monitoring Committee has in total committed approximately 95% of the programme funding to 58 main projects and 116 preparatory projects.

Terms of Reference for the Bridging Call

Bridging projects

Bridging projects are preparatory projects funded by the current programme, targeting main projects in the future programme. Bridging project applicants are expected to have a view on the NPA 2021-2027 future Policy and specific objectives within the scope of the current NPA 2014-2020 priority axes.

The purpose of building a pipeline of project ideas for the upcoming programme is strengthening the starting position of the new programme. And, to explore in practice the different themes proposed in the new programme which could influence the programme or help design future calls.

The MC is looking to fund projects in all NPA 2014-2020 Priority Axes, whilst at the same time addressing the following indicative themes of the forthcoming NPA 2021-2027:

Indicative themes NPA 2021-2027

Priorities	Specific Objectives
Priority 1: Strengthening the innovation capacity for resilient and attractive NPA communities	1.1 - Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies 1.2 - Reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies, research organisations and public authorities 1.3 - Enhancing sustainable growth and

	competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments
Priority 2: Strengthening the capacity for climate change adaptation, and resource sufficiency in NPA communities	<p>2.1 - Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions</p> <p>2.2 - Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches</p> <p>2.3 - Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy</p>
Priority 3: Strengthening the organisational capacity among NPA communities to make use of cooperation opportunities	3.1 - Enhance institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders to implement macro-regional strategies and sea-basin strategies, as well as other territorial strategies

Note: Please see the Annexes 1 and 2 for a more detailed description of the new themes and their corresponding NPA 2014-2020 specific objectives are included in the application pack.

Project structure

Minimum of 2 partners from 2 different programme partner countries, at least one of which is located in an EU Member State, and a proportional budget.

The Lead Partner must be located in a NPA programme partner country in a Member State or Iceland or Norway or the UK.

Recommended maximum project size 3-4 partners plus associated partners, if clear a role is defined.

Project Budget

The project budget should be proportional to the activities planned and project duration. Regular intervention rates of programme partner countries apply.

Lump sum grant

Recommended ERDF grant: 60.000 EUR plus Non Member State grants. A maximum ERDF grant of 100.000 EUR can be requested in well justified cases and prior consultation with the Joint Secretariat, in addition to Non Member States grants.

Note: Partners from Scotland and Northern Ireland should apply for ERDF co-financing.

The lump sum is granted in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, Article 67 (5) and shall be established based on a draft budget on a case-by-case basis and agreed ex ante by the managing authority. The public support (ERDF support + public co-financing) for partners funded via ERDF shall not exceed EUR 100 000.

Note: Own match funding is not considered public support. If planning to include external funding sources as match funding, it is strongly recommended to contact the Secretariat beforehand.

Regular NPA intervention rates, and the NPA Eligibility Rules apply.

Project duration 6 months

Expected outcomes

Preparatory projects applicants are expected to address their chosen specific objectives, with actions such as **feasibility studies, stakeholder mapping and recommendations** with the purpose of developing project ideas ideally concluding with the presentation of a main project application addressing a call for main project proposals in the new programme period 2021-2027.

For all Priority Axes, the following is highlighted:

- All projects are expected make a special effort to include end users in their project proposals. End user involvement can be demonstrated by the composition of the partnership (e.g. involvement as full project partners, or associated partners), the involvement of end users as described in dedicated project activities, or by attaching letters of support from end users.
- Projects are encouraged to include measures to involve underrepresented groups such as young people and indigenous peoples, where possible.

Reporting

One final report is due within three months of completion and to be received no later than November 30th, 2022. Based on Lump sum principle the grant is paid out, if Grant Offer Letter conditions have been met.

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16th August 2021	Call opens
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ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING OF BRIDGING CALL:	16 th August 2021
APPLICATION DEADLINE:	8 th October 2021, 12:00 CET
DECISION DATE:	8 th December 2021

Guidance for applicants

See the NPA 2014-2020 Programme Manual ([click to download](#)) for a description of the Priority Axes, instructions for how to apply and the NPA eligibility rules. This and all other application documents can be found on the Bridging Call page.

How to Application

A “How to Apply Seminar” has been organised on September 9th, 2021 This seminar will offer technical sessions on the application form, budget and partnership. The seminar will be conducted as a combination of the presentation of factual material and online eMS tutorials. Project clinics will be hosted by Joint Secretariat Desk officers with project applicants. Register [here](#) registration closes on September 7th, 2021.

Special note

The Monitoring Committee recommends Norwegian and Icelandic project partners to contact their respective Regional Contact Points to discuss available funding, and to determine a reasonable grant request.

Project timeline

All approved projects are expected to be completed no later than August 2022.

Further information

If you are interested in applying, we recommend that you are in touch with the Regional Contact Point in your region, [click here for contact details](#).

Alternatively, you can contact Christopher Parker at the Joint Secretariat christopher.parker@interreg-npa.eu