

Ten things to improve your application

Tips for a better quality project application

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1. Read the Call Announcement

- For each call, **specific conditions** may apply, for example which themes and target groups are targeted.
- The announcement may also give information about **available funding**, especially for Non-EU countries
- Please make sure you have the most **up-to-date information!**

2. Find the right fit

- Choose the right **specific objective** for your project idea.
- Have a look at the **description of the priorities** in the Cooperation Programme Document to understand what challenge in the programme area they try to solve, and what type of actions are supported.
- If possible, highlight why your application is **specific for the NPA area**.

3. Consider the context

- Show that you are aware of **other projects** funded in the same theme as your project idea.
- Have a look at the NPA **map of results**, for achievements of previous NPA projects.
- Also consider the **situation for your chosen topic** in each of the participating countries.

4. Involve stakeholders

- The Interreg NPA is **not a research programme**, and for this reason, purely academic partnerships are discouraged.
- For your project to make a real impact, **stakeholders should be involved throughout the project**, e.g. as partners or associated partners, in the development and testing of outputs, and in the outreach activities to communities.
- Have a look at the **expectations for project communication** in the Programme Manual.

5. Focus on cooperation

- It should be clear that your project can only be achieved by **working together transnationally**.
- Explain how the project partners **complement** each other.
- Have a look at the **cooperation criteria** in the Programme Manual.

6. Focus on tangible solutions

- Make it clear how the tangible solutions developed by your project will **improve the situation for the target groups** you have identified.
- It should be explained **what and how many solutions** are developed, and if they are expected to be taken up by your target groups by the end of the project.
- Have a look at the **expectations for project outputs** in the Programme Manual.

7. Be green and inclusive

- In the project setup, management, and implementation, consider how the project's **impact on the environment can be reduced**, how **equality** between men and women can be **ensured**, and how the project can be made **more inclusive and accessible**.
- Projects should strive to **involve underrepresented groups**, such as young people, women, Indigenous peoples.
- Have a look at the **horizontal principles** in the Programme Manual.

8. Allocate enough resources

- Your project budget should support a good implementation of your project, and represent **value-for-money**.
- This means having enough **staff resources** to do the work outlined, having a budget for **promotion**, and carefully considering **when to use external expertise**.
- Have a look at the **eligibility rules** in the Programme Manual.

9. Keep it short and simple!

- Enough said...

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10. Check and double check

- Have a look at the **checklist for applicants**, and regularly use the **pre-submission checks** in Jems.
- If possible, ask someone not involved in the project to **proofread** your application (is it easy to understand, is it logical, is it concrete, is it clear who does what?).
- And if anything is unclear, **ask for help** from the Joint Secretariat or a Regional Contact Point.

THANK YOU!



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