



Introduction to INTERREG IVC

Kelly Zielniewski, Communication and Project Adviser
Information Point South

National Information Day
Malta, 06 November 2008

1 Info Day_Malta_06.11.2008



Introduction to INTERREG IVC

SUMMARY

1. Reminder on the programme's main features
2. Overview of the first call
3. Lessons learnt and tricky questions
4. Second call for proposals

2

Second call for proposals – National Information Day, Malta



1. Reminder on the programme's main features



Eligible area

27 Member States

+ Norway

+ Switzerland

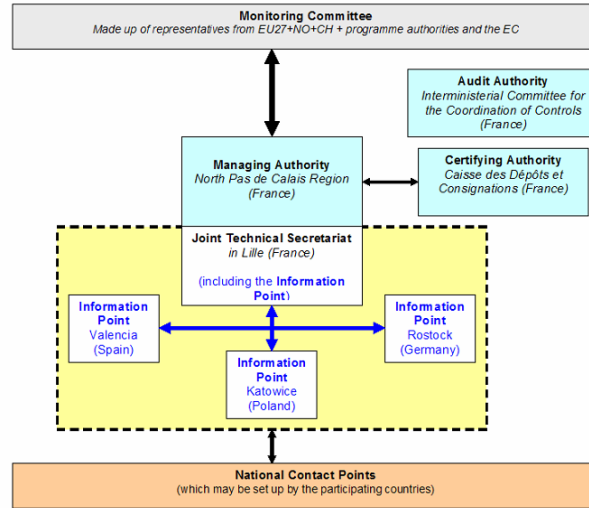
ERDF project funds:

- 302 million EUR





Management structures



Information Points

- Rostock (IBSH), Germany:
Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden, Norway;
- Katowice (MRD), Poland:
Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania;
- Valencia (GV), Spain:
Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain
- Lille (RNPC), France:
Belgium, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Switzerland



Overall objective

- Improve the **effectiveness of regional development policies**
- Contribute to economic modernisation and increased competitiveness of Europe
by
- Enabling **exchange of experiences** and knowledge
- Matching less experienced regions with more advanced regions
- Ensuring transfer of identified good practice into mainstream programmes



Programme Priorities

Priority 1: Innovation and Knowledge Economy (177 M€ERDF)

- Innovation, Research & Technology Development
- Entrepreneurship and SMEs
- Information Society
- Employment, Human Capital and Education



Programme Priorities

Priority 2: Environment and Risk Prevention (125 M€ERDF)

- Energy and Sustainable Transport
- Biodiversity and Preservation of Natural Heritage (including air quality)
- Natural and Technological Risks (including climate change)
- Water & Waste Management
- Cultural Heritage and Landscape



Who is eligible?

- **Public bodies** (regional and local authorities as main “target group”)
- Bodies governed by public law
 - (a) no industrial or commercial character
 - (b) legal personality
 - (c) - the most part financed by the State, regional or local authorities or other bodies governed by public law or
 - management supervision of these bodies or
 - administrative, managerial or supervisory boardmore than half of whose members are appointed by these bodies



Co financing

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 75% ERDF | Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, UK |
| 85% ERDF | Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta , Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia |
| 50% NO funding | Norway |



Types of Interventions

IVC proposes 2 types of interventions:

- Regional Initiative Projects
- Capitalisation Projects, including Fast Track Projects



Type 1 'Regional Initiative Projects' Definition & Main Characteristics

- 'Classic' type of interregional cooperation projects:
Cooperation projects between partners on a shared regional policy issue within the programme's thematic priorities
- Intensity of cooperation from networking activities to intensive joint development (e.g. mini-programmes)
- Regardless of the intensity, one core requirement for all: specific focus on the interregional exchange of experience at policy level



Type 1 'Regional Initiative Projects' Recommendations' overview

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Size of the partnership | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recommended number of partners depends on the level of intensity of cooperation e.g. basic level: max of 20 medium level: max of 15 ● Exception for mini-programmes: must not exceed 8 partners |
| Duration | 36 months (up to 48 months for mini programme) |
| Budget | Min ERDF: EUR 500,000 Max ERDF: EUR 5 million (only in <u>exceptional</u> case) Expected average ERDF budget of IVC projects: between EUR 1 and 2 million |



Type 2 'Capitalisation Projects' Definition and Main Characteristics

- Cooperation project dedicated to the transfer of good practices into EU Structural Funds mainstream programme of the participating regions (i.e. Convergence, Competitiveness & European Territorial Cooperation)
- Two prerequisites for applying to Capitalisation Projects
 1. Existence of good practices ready to be transferred
 2. Involvement of the relevant Managing Authorities



Type 2 'Capitalisation Projects' Definition and Main Characteristics

Expected results: one '**Action Plan**' for each participating region

Action Plan: strategic document defining precisely how the good practices will be implemented in the Operational Programme of each region involved in the project

To be signed by relevant stakeholders (political endorsement)

↳ **binding character**



Type 2 'Capitalisation Projects' Fast Track Projects

Fast Track Projects = Capitalisation projects benefiting from additional assistance by the European Commission in order to contribute to the "Regions for Economic Change" initiative

Further information on:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/intreregional/ecochange/themes_en.cfm?nmenu=3



Type 2 'Capitalisation Projects' Overview of Recommendations

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Size of the partnership | Min n° of countries represented: 6 Max n° of countries represented: 10 |
| Duration | 24 months |
| Budget | Min ERDF: EUR 300,000 Max ERDF: EUR 3 million |



2. Overview of the first call



15 January 2008 – 492 applications received



Eligibility check

94 ineligible applications in 1st call (19% of submitted)

- Co-financing statement not correct
- Application Form not properly filled in
- Application Form not complete
- Not submitted in due time



| Projects | Submitted | Approved | ERDF requested |
|------------------------------|------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Regional Initiative Projects | 479 | 35 | € 62,190,080.70 |
| Capitalisation Projects | 13 | 6 | € 9,070,230.02 |
| TOTAL | 492 | 41 | € 71,260,310.72 |

= 23% of ERDF budget

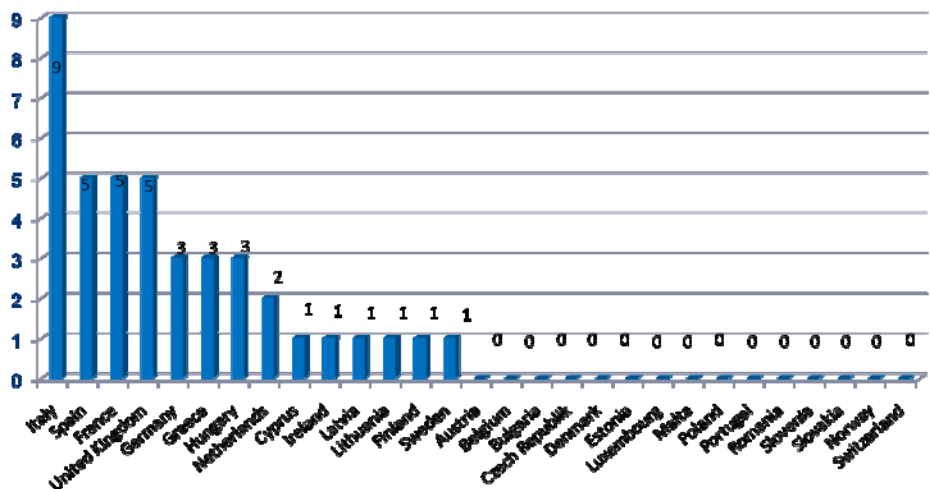


Applications received and approved per sub-themes:

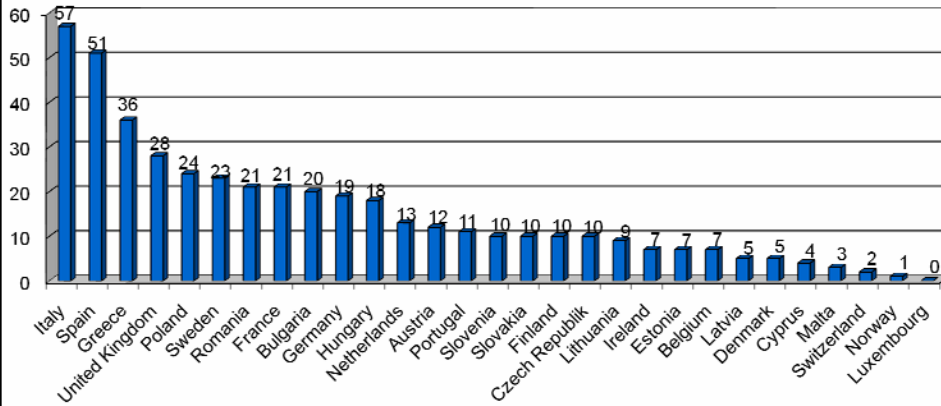
| Priority 1 | Received | Approved |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Innovation & RTD | 73 | 5 |
| Entrepreneurship & SMEs | 116 | 13 |
| Information Society | 31 | 3 |
| Employment & Human Capital | 56 | 4 |
| Subtotal 1 | 276 | 25 |
| Priority 2 | Received | Approved |
| Natural & Technological Risks | 50 | 5 |
| Water Management | 25 | 0 |
| Waste Management | 10 | 0 |
| Biodiversity & Natural Heritage | 23 | 2 |
| Energy & Sustainable Transport | 49 | 7 |
| Cultural Heritage & Landscape | 59 | 2 |
| Subtotal 2 | 216 | 16 |
| TOTAL | 492 | 41 |



Approved by Lead Partners



Approved by partners



3. Lessons learnt and tricky questions



General programme's features

Cooperation at EU level

- EU-wide relevance of the theme tackled

INTERREG IVC projects should strive for EU-wide relevance so that experiences and know-how generated will be relevant not only to the partners of the project but also to organisations outside the partnership.

- EU-wide geographical coverage of partnership

INTERREG IVC is the only cooperation programme covering all Europe.

Mistakes often made by applicants: 'transnational' partnerships and/or over-representation of the same country



General programme's features

'Integrated approach' vs. clear focus?

- Even though projects have to select only one of the programme's sub-themes, the way this sub-theme is tackled can have side effects on other programme sub-themes (in particular when the issue at stake is broad, e.g. innovation or climate change)
 - **Example: exchange of experiences on eco-construction cluster**
 - Sub-theme addressed: 'Entrepreneurship and SMEs'
 - Also related to Gothenburg strategy and more precisely on the 'Energy and Sustainable Transport' sub-theme
- 'Integrated approach' does not mean that projects should address different programme sub-themes simultaneously, as it often leads to a lack of clear focus and inconsistency of the approach



General programme's features

Themes to be tackled with a lot of care

- **'Innovation':**
 - Closely related to economic development issues, i.e. RTD
 - Issues directly contributing to the competitiveness of the region
- **'Culture':**
 - Cultural and creative sector (under Priority 1)
 - Culture and heritage (under Priority 2)
- **'Tourism':**
 - As an economic sector related to SMEs (under Priority 1)
 - In the context of 'sustainable tourism' (under Priority 2)



General programme's features

Themes to be tackled with a lot of care

- **'Agriculture':**
 - Even though '*supporting the economic diversification of rural areas*' is mentioned under Priority 1 (Entrepreneurship and SMEs), issues directly related to the 'agriculture' theme cannot be supported under the INTERREG IVC programme, as they are already covered by the EU common agricultural policy (CAP).



Types of interventions

Type 1 'Regional Initiative Projects'

Components

- Focus of component 3 : exchange of experiences
- Possible experimentations / pilot actions should appear ideally in another component (4 or 5, depending on the proposed approach)

Common mistake made by applicants: natural tendency to be 'implementation' or 'research' orientated.

Regardless of the intensity of cooperation proposed, Component 3 should be the core element of the proposal.



Types of interventions

Type 1 'Regional Initiative Projects'

Fundamental conditions to be respected by proposed activities:

➤ **Relevance to the programme**

Activities in line with the programme's overall objective (i.e. improvement of local / regional policies)

➤ **Interregionality**

Interregional character of activities. Example for pilot experimentation:

- transfer from one region to another
- pilot experimentation benefiting all the partners

➤ **Additionality**

Activities would not be supported without the INTERREG support and they should be different from the normal and regular tasks of the partners involved.



Types of interventions

Type 1 'Regional Initiative Projects'

Importance of providing detailed information (e.g. activities in the work plan)

- Allow a better understanding of the cooperation
- Allow a proper monitoring in case of approval

Common mistakes with pilot projects or experimentations

- only vaguely tackled in the application
- lack of consistency of the approach (pilot activities not known at the start of the project)



Types of interventions

Example of weak description

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------|---|
| January June 2009 | Activities | - Steering group meeting - Activity report & financial claim |
| | Outputs | SC minutes |



Types of interventions

Example of good description

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------|---|
| January June 2009 | Activities | The LP will sign the subsidy contract and appoint a project coordinator and organise internal financial management. This Project Secretariat (PS) will be in place in March 2009. It will make the arrangements for the project's initial meeting in April 2009 in Livorno and liaise for simultaneous translation into/from Italian. At this meeting, the project's International Management Group (IMG) will be convened, with one representative from each region. The IMG will agree upon the working and financial arrangements, laid out in the Co-operation Agreement, a draft version of which will be introduced at the meeting. The PS will develop a set of guidelines for the partners, to aid the smooth running of the project. |
| | Outputs | 1 subsidy contract signed; 1 partnership agreement signed; 1 IMG meeting; 1 set of guidelines produced |



Types of interventions

Type 1 'Regional Initiative Projects'

Mini-programmes

- Importance of the nature of the involved partners:
 - participation of regional authorities highly recommended (public legitimacy)
 - partners should represent a territory (determination of the eligible area of the call)
- Sub-projects in line with IVC rationale (no pure implementation or experimentation orientated sub-projects)
 - Exchange of experience also at strategic level (component 3)



Types of interventions

Type 2 'Capitalisation Projects'

- ❖ Final result: one Action Plan for each participating region
Political endorsement (signed by Managing Authority and relevant actors)
- ❖ Win-win cooperation
Not a unilateral transfer of experiences
Obviously less advanced regions may welcome more good practices than the more advanced regions.



Types of interventions

Type 2 'Capitalisation Projects'

- ❖ Importance of the Managing Authorities' involvement:
 - Ideally as main partner of the project
 - *If not, involvement should be clearly described in the Application Form (additional annexes not possible)*
e.g. MA costs paid by the main partnersFor the second option, importance of the 'contributing partners' principle.

👉 **Capitalisation projects imply a more demanding approach!**



4. Second call for proposals



Second call for proposals

Now open!

27.10.2008-30.01.2009 (decisions to be taken by Autumn 2009)

Application Pack published on the www.interreg4c.eu website:

- Programme Manual
- Application Form
- Co-financing statement



Get 10 steps closer to a good application!

1. Target specific policies, demonstrate clear policy influence!
2. Emphasis on local or regional policies, not on scientific research!
3. Describe the activities, outputs and results in detail!
4. Plan your dissemination activities!
5. Demonstrate added value to completed projects, existing tools and your statutory tasks!



Get 10 steps closer to a good application!

6. Involve all partners in implementing and managing the project!
7. Make sure all partners have the mandate and the competence (policy influence) to participate!
8. Build a partnership of wide geographical coverage!
9. Demonstrate the project's value for money!
10. Follow the eligibility rules!
(e.g. a maximum of 5 applications per organisation!)



Additional information

Reference documents at www.interreg4c.eu

- Operational Programme
- Programme Manual
- Application Pack
- FAQ section

Assistance

- Project Assistance Forms
- Individual Consultations
- Project Idea Database
- Advice by phone and e-mail



Upcoming events in the IP South area

Lead Applicant Seminar

- 18 November 2008 in Rome, Italy

National Information Days

- 13 November 2008 in Nicosia, Cyprus
- 1 December 2008 in Valencia, Spain

Individual consultations

- 13 November 2008 in Nicosia, Cyprus
- 18/19 November 2008 in Rome, Italy
- 1/2 December 2008 in Valencia, Spain
- 4/5 December 2008, Lisbon, Portugal



Thank you for your attention!

Information Point South

IP-South@interreg4c.eu

Kelly Zielniewski

Communication and Project Adviser

+34 96 315 33 18

Kelly.zielniewski@interreg4c.eu

www.interreg4c.eu

