

**Interreg
Europe**



European Union | European Regional Development Fund

*Sharing solutions
for better regional policies*

Europe-Spain, let's cooperate!

3rd INTERREG EUROPE National Event. 3rd Call

Lessons learnt

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GOBIERNO
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO
DE HACIENDA
Y FUNCIÓN PÚBLICA

SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO DE
PRESUPUESTOS Y GASTOS

DIRECCIÓN GENERAL
DE FONDOS COMUNITARIOS

31 January 2017 | Info Day in Madrid



Summary

- **Lessons learnt from two calls**
- **Few points about application**



LESSONS LEARNT

Eligibility



One NO disqualifies whole project => no assessment!

- High rate of ineligibility (29.4%)
- Main causes of ineligibility:
 - Letters of support (missing or incorrect)
 - Partner declaration (incorrect – amount lower than necessary!)

**Make sure all documents are provided and correct.
Don't prepare them at the last minute!**

Eligibility



Lessons learnt integrated in the third call application pack:

1/ Improved instructions in the application pack:

- Warning messages included in different documents

2/ Full online application

- Compulsory documents to be uploaded on iOLF



Quality: common weaknesses

Criterion 1: Topic addressed

- Needs to be clearly in line with priority axes
- Needs to be focused and as specific as possible
- Needs to be reflected in **all policy instruments addressed**

Check approved projects at:

<http://www.interregeurope.eu/discover-projects/>



Quality: common weaknesses

Criterion 1: Policy instruments

- Need to be precisely defined (e.g. indication of the specific priority addressed)
- For Structural Funds: the instrument addressed needs to be the Operational / Cooperation programme itself

Check country-specific pages for list of policy-relevant bodies for Structural Funds programmes at:

<http://www.interregeurope.eu/in-my-country/>



Quality: common weaknesses

Criterion 3: Policy relevance of partners

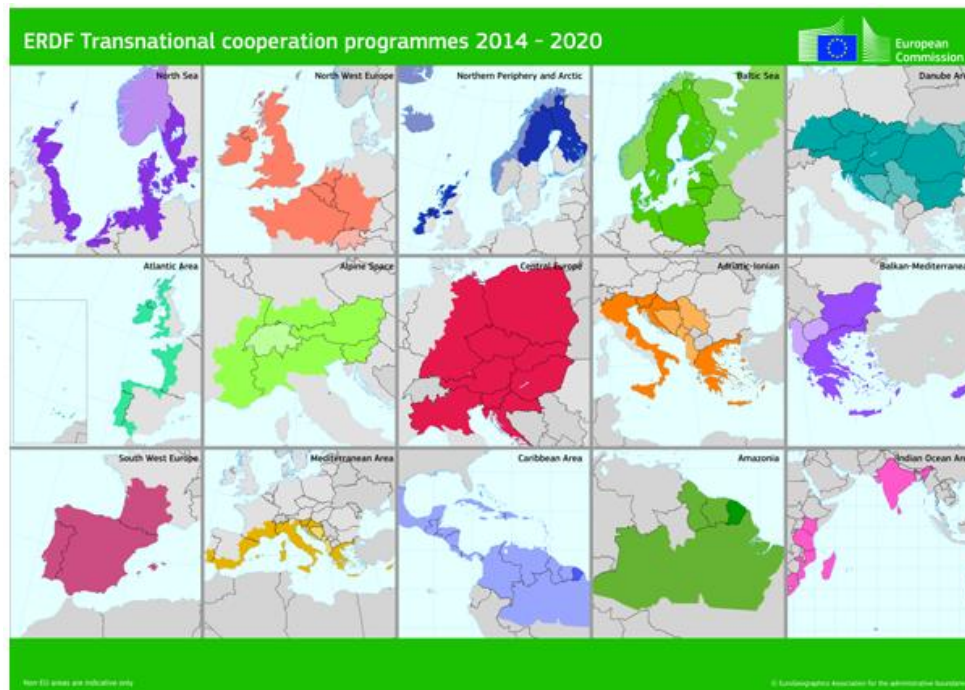
- **Policy relevance** = involvement of an organisation in the policy-making process and capacity to influence the policy instrument
- Core elements of the quality of partnership (dedicated questions in section B.2 of the application form)
- Letter of support is **not** sufficient to demonstrate policy relevance of a partner



Quality: common weaknesses

Criterion 3: Geographical features

- Coverage limited to a transnational area



Go beyond transnational area!

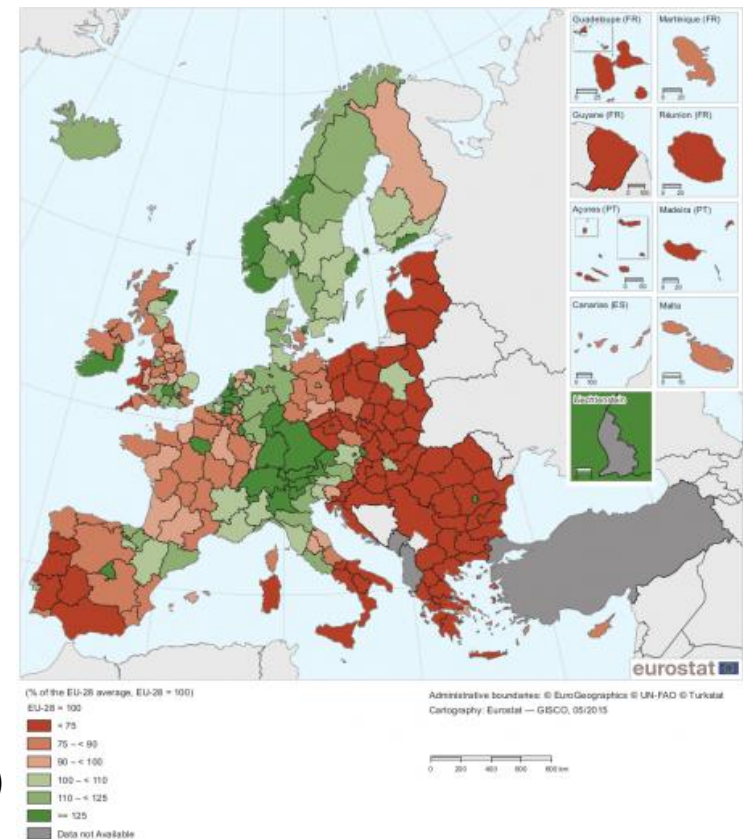


Quality: clarification

Criterion 3: mixing more and less developed regions (GDP)

'More and less developed regions', what does it mean?

The EC Cohesion policy aims at reducing disparities across regions in Europe. Interreg Europe contributes to this aim by encouraging regions with GDP per capita lower than 75% of the EU-28 average (less developed regions) to work with regions whose GDP per capita is higher (transition regions - GDP per capita between 75% and 90% of the EU-28 average - and more developed regions - GDP per capita above 90% of the EU-28 average). For more information, please check the [map](#) provided by the European Commission.



- Mix more and less developed regions (GDP)

Quality: justification



Criterion 3: multiple involvement

- Involvement in numerous applications demanding and not recommended. Multiple involvement should be justified.
- Be strategic: select only the most relevant project(s) for your region



Quality assessment: conclusion

Importance of the application form

Fairness and equal treatment principles:

- Application Form = the only basis for assessment
 - same information requested from all
 - same technical requirements for all (e.g. text limits)
- Application form has to be self-explanatory
 - Additional information / clarification not possible after submission



ON APPLICATION



Recommendations for applicants

- Read the programme manual and check assessment criteria
- Start from the needs
- Be specific, make sure the topic addressed is focused and reflected in the policy instruments
- Take the learning process seriously
- First activities, then budget planning
- Communication serves your project

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Thank you!



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