

Interreg Central Europe

- make regions more resilient to common challenges that know no borders and which cannot be solved alone

Extract from the tender documentation

Link to the call [HERE](#)

Documents to download:

- [Application package](#)
- [Programme](#)

Submission system Jems [HERE](#).

Deadlines:

Internal deadline – notification of interests (inform Mgr. Lipenská)	28. 04. 2023
Internal deadline for Apollo	05. 05. 2023
Call deadline	17. 05. 2023, 1 pm

Proposal cannot be submitted without gaining the approval in **Apollo** first! Regarding Apollo, please contact **Mgr. Lipenská** (lipenska@fme.vutbr.cz; 2167).

Basic information of the call

Start of the project	2023
Duration of the project	recommended 30 months (max 42 months)
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• allocation 60 mil EUR from ERDF• max 80 % from ERDF + max 10% state funding• ex-post funding• recommended budget per project: 1.2 – 1.9 mil EUR from ERDF

1. Objectives and activities

Scope

“Bring regions and cities together beyond borders to find fitting solutions for their citizens, in a fair and equal way everywhere”

- support for project activities that are implemented in the programme area
- to select high quality transnational projects, in which relevant organisations cooperate to make regions more resilient to common challenges that know no borders and which cannot be solved alone

Programme priorities (and 9 objectives)

Priorities	Specific Objectives	Saturation after the 1 st call	Allocation for 2 nd call
PRIORITY 1 Cooperating for a smarter central Europe	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.1 Strengthening innovation capacities in central Europe – ERDF PO1 (i)	Mostly covered	18 mil EUR ERDF
	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.1 Strengthening skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship in central Europe – ERDF PO1 (i)		
PRIORITY 2 Cooperating for a greener central Europe	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.1 Supporting the energy transition to a climate-neutral in central Europe – ERDF PO1 (i)		30 mil EUR ERDF
	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.2 Increasing the resilience to climate change risk in central Europe – ERDF PO1 (i)	Mostly covered	
	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.3 Taking circular economy forward in central Europe – ERDF PO1 (i)	Mostly covered	
	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.4 Safeguarding the environment in central Europe – ERDF PO1 (i)	Mostly covered	
	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.5 Greening urban mobility in central Europe – ERDF PO1 (i)		

<p>PRIORITY 3</p> <p>Cooperating for a better-connected central Europe</p>	<p>SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3.1 Improving transport connections of rural and peripheral regions in central Europe – ERDF PO1 (i)</p>		<p>6 mil EUR ERDF</p>
<p>PRIORITY 4</p> <p>Improving governance for cooperation in central Europe</p>	<p>SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4.1 Strengthening governance for integrated territorial development in central Europe – ERDF PO1 (i)</p>	<p>Mostly covered</p>	<p>6 mil EUR ERDF</p>

P1 Cooperating for a smarter central Europe

- projects that enhance innovation capacities and encourage the uptake of advanced technologies. But also those that build capacities for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship.

P2 Cooperating for a greener central Europe

- projects that address environmental challenges in central Europe and help increasing energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy. But also those that encourage sustainable urban mobility.

P3 Cooperating for a better-connected central Europe

- projects that improve transport connections of rural and peripheral regions in central Europe and enhance sustainable, intelligent and intermodal transport, including connections to TEN-T corridors.

P4 Improving governance for cooperation in central Europe

- projects that improve capacities of public authorities on all territorial levels for setting up and implementing integrated territorial development strategies through cooperation.

Outputs

The programme will **not support** basic research projects or purely academic networking.

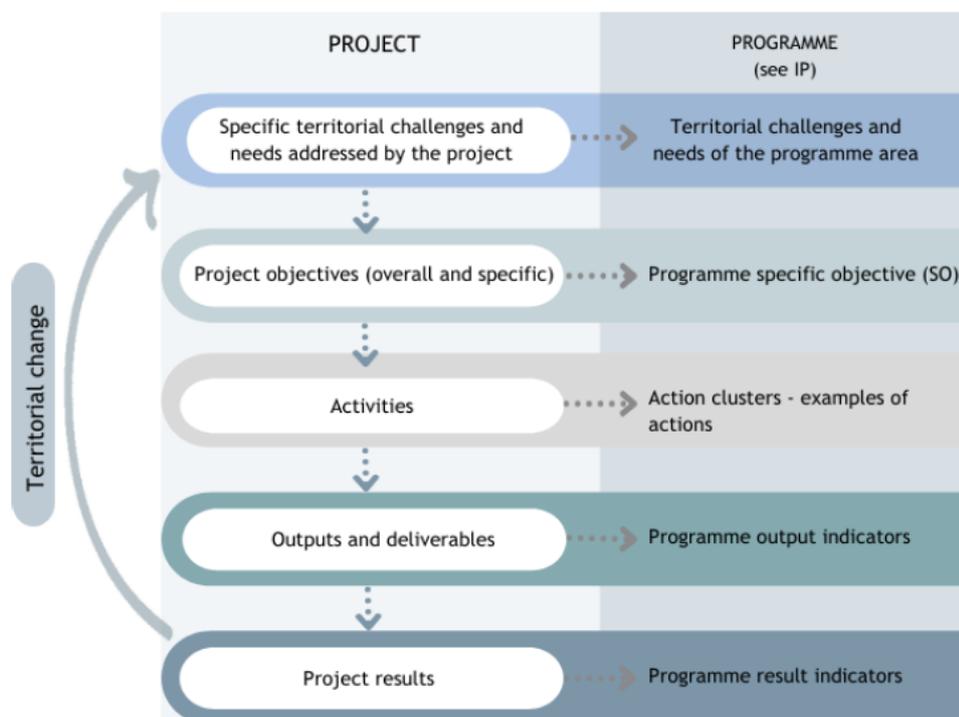
A project should demonstrate the translation of outputs into concrete, visible and sustainable results that lead to an improvement of the initial situation. These outputs are expected to lead to **programme results**, which are clustered themselves in the types below.

Type of outputs

- Cooperations
- Strategies & action plans
- Pilot actions
- Solutions

Type of results

- Improved policy development, learning and change
- Increased knowledge and capacity, knowledge transfer and exchange
- Better coordinated cooperation and enhanced governance at different levels
- Reduced barriers
- New or better services
- Behavioural change
- Leverage of public and private funds



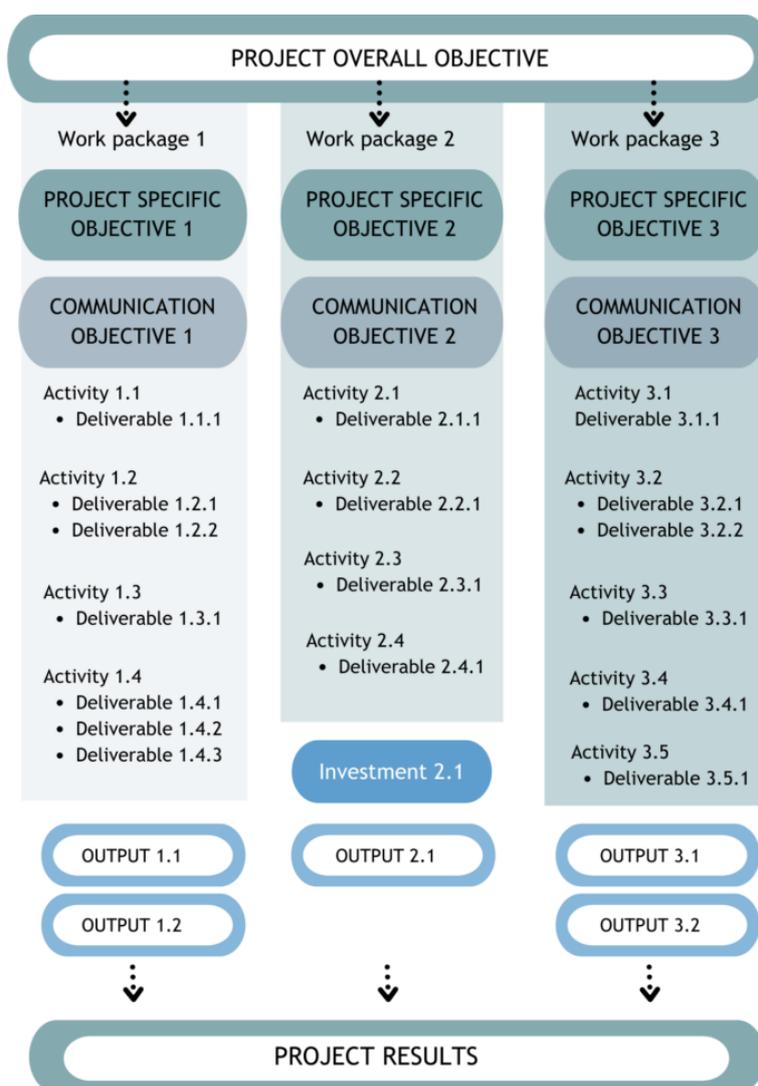
Indicators

- for table of indicators see webpage [HERE](#); all indicators apply to all priorities and objectives

Activities

- **between 1 to 3 deliverables per activity**
- **Cooperation activity** (p16 of Programme Manual) - The cooperation dimension which has to be at the core of each project has to be reflected in the following indicators:
 - Output indicator RCO 87 “Organisations cooperating across borders” (**mandatory for all projects**);
 - Result indicator “RCR 84 “Organisations cooperating across borders after project lifetime”
- **Policy support activities** – strategy and action plan outputs (p16 of Programme Manual)
- **Implementation-Oriented Activities** – pilot actions and solutions (p17 of Programme Manual)
- **Capacity-building activities** – including training (p18 of Programme Manual)
- **Communication activities** - (p18 of Programme Manual)

A visualisation of the general structure of the work plan:



2. Partnership and Eligibility

- recommended partnership ranging indicatively from **5 to 12 partners**;

Minimum requirement:

- **At least three financing partners**;
- **From at least three countries**; and
- **At least two of the partners located in Interreg CE regions.**

Programme area:

- **Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia**
- Germany and Italy are only partly in the programme area
- In the current programme, the area was enlarged by **Braunschweig region in Germany** compared to the previous programme.
- The list of all participating regions is available on the programme website [HERE](#).



Partners outside the programme area that are eligible to participate

- **outside the prog. area but within EU** – eligible for funding; must bring a clear benefit to the programme area, cannot be the Lead Partner. Their involvement is considered as exceptional and must be duly justified.
- **assimilated partners** - German and Italian national public authorities and bodies that are located outside the programme area; activities that are beneficial for the prog. area
- **outside the prog. area and outside the EU** – not eligible for funding

Associated partners - Institutions willing to be involved in the project without financially contributing are considered as associated partners; usually key stakeholders

Eligible types of organizations

- National, regional and local public bodies;
- Private institutions, including private companies, having legal personality;
- International organisations acting under the national law of an EU Member State
- International organisations acting under the international law, with restrictions

Who can be the Lead Partner

All eligible organisations located in the programme area, including “assimilated partners” can take the LP role, with the exception of international organisations acting under international law.

3. FUNDING

- reimbursement **ex-post**

Funding rate:

- The ERDF co-financing rate **is 80%**
- national contribution for **research organisation** is **additional 10%** (Ministry document, p9-10 [HERE](#))

4. Budget

- allocation for the 2nd call: **60 mil EUR from ERDF**
- recommended budget per project: **1.2 to 1.9 mil EUR from ERDF**
- if justified by the project scope and the planned activities – budget can be bigger or smaller

COST ELIGIBILITY (Manual, p24)

- **Project preparation** - can be compensated through a lump sum of 14 000 EUR (p71 of Programme Manual)
- **Implementation** - eligible from its start date until its end date as set in the approved application form
- **Closure phase** - preparation and submission of the last joint progress and joint finance reports and the control of expenditure of the last reporting period; costs referring to these activities are eligible

Cost Options (Manual, p24)

Cost Categories	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Preparation and Contracting Costs	Lump Sum of 14 000 EUR		
1. Staff Costs	Real costs	flat rate 20% of direct costs from 4.-6. cost category	Real costs
2. Office and Administrative Costs	15% of eligible direct staff costs		Flat rate 40% of direct staff costs
3. Travel and Accommodation Costs	Flat Rate– exact % according to the country (Czech.Rep. 7%)		
4. External expertise and services costs	Real costs		
5. Equipment costs	Real costs		
6. Costs for infrastructure and works	Real costs		
Closure Phase			

COST CATEGORIES (Manual, p28-39):
1. Staff costs

- **salary payments and costs directly linked to salary payments** (employment taxes, social security etc.), contracted work
- reimbursement - **real costs or flat rate of 20%** of direct costs other than staff costs
 - a. **real cost** - unjustified ad-hoc salary increases or bonuses for project purposes are not eligible, staff costs calculated individually for each staff member charged to the project; FTE of an employee must stay fixed during each financial reporting period and it can be changed only if justified; each employee has to have The Task Assignment Document; other documents for audit – p29-31 of the Manual
 - b. **20% flat rate** – the flat rate is calculated from 1) External expertise and services costs, 2) Equipment expenditure, 3) Costs for infrastructure and works; no documentation on staff costs needs to be provided to the controller, the beneficiary has to demonstrate that at least one employee is involved in the project

2. Office and administrative costs

- no distinction is made between direct and indirect costs in this cost category
- **it covers ONLY:** Office rent; Insurance and taxes related to the buildings where the staff is located and to the equipment of the office (e.g. fire, theft insurances); Utilities (e.g. electricity, heating, water); Office supplies; Accounting; Archives; Maintenance, cleaning and repairs; Security; IT systems; Communications (e.g. telephone, internet, postal

services, business cards); Bank charges for opening and administering the account or accounts where the implementation of the project requires a separate account to be opened; and Charges for transnational financial transactions.

- **flat rate of 15% of eligible direct staff costs OR under 40% flat rate for all direct costs**

3. Travel and accommodation costs

- **covers ONLY:** Travel costs (e.g. tickets, travel and car insurance, fuel, car mileage, toll, and parking fees); Costs of meals; Accommodation costs; Visa costs;
- inside or outside the programme area
- **flat rate is based on the country where the beneficiary is located ->**
- Travel and accommodation costs of **external experts and service providers are reimbursed under the external expertise and services cost category.** The same applies to travel and accommodation costs of staff of institutions acting as associated partners

Country	Flat rate
Austria	5%
Croatia	11%
Czech Republic	7%
Germany	5%
Hungary	8%
Italy	6%
Poland	9%
Slovakia	6%
Slovenia	6%

4. External expertise and services costs

- External expertise and services costs are paid on the basis of contracts or written agreements and against invoices or requests for reimbursement to external experts and service providers who are sub-contracted to carry out certain tasks or activities linked to the implementation of the project
- **covers ONLY:** Studies or surveys (e.g. evaluations, strategies, concept notes, design plans, handbooks); Training; Translations; Development, modifications and updates to IT systems and website; Promotion, communication, publicity or information linked to a project; Financial management; Services related to the organisation and implementation of events or meetings (including rent, catering or interpretation); Participation in events (e.g. registration fees); Legal consultancy and notarial services, technical and financial expertise, other consultancy and accountancy services; Intellectual property rights; Verification and validation of expenditure carried out by authorised national controllers; Provisions of guarantees by a bank or other financial institution where required by EU or national law or in the programme manual; Travel and accommodation for external experts, speakers, chairpersons of meetings and service providers; Other specific expertise and services needed for the project.
- Additional Eligibility Requirements on p35-36 of the Manual

5. Equipment costs

- equipment purchased, rented or leased other than those covered by the cost category "office and administrative costs"
- **covers ONLY:** Office equipment; IT hardware and software; Furniture and fittings; Laboratory equipment; Machines and instruments, Tools or devices; Vehicles; Other specific equipment **needed for the project**
- Additional Eligibility Requirements on p37-38 of the Manual

6. Costs for infrastructure and works

- **covers ONLY:** Building permits; Building material; Labour; Specialised interventions (e.g. soil remediation, mine-clearing)
- Costs of feasibility studies, environmental impact assessments, architectural or engineering activities and any other expertise needed for the realisation of the infrastructure, shall be allocated under the cost categories “**Staff costs**” or “**External expertise and services costs**” (depending whether carried out internally by the beneficiary or with the support of external suppliers).
- Additional Eligibility Requirements on p39 of the Manual

NON-ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES (Manual, p23)

- Interest on debts;
- Purchase of land;
- Value added tax (VAT) if the total cost of the project is at least EUR 5.000.000 (including VAT). In such a case only non-recoverable VAT under national VAT legislation is eligible.7
- Fines, financial penalties and expenditure on legal disputes and litigation;
- Costs of gifts;
- Costs related to fluctuation of foreign exchange rate;
- In-kind contributions, (including unpaid voluntary work);
- Splitting cost items among project partners (i.e. sharing of common costs);
- Discounts not considered when claiming the costs (only the discounted amount is to be regarded as eligible);
- Expenditure supporting relocation
- **Fees between beneficiaries of a same project for services, equipment, infrastructure and works carried out within the project.**

5. Submission and Attachments

- web-based programme **joint electronic monitoring system (Jems)** available [HERE](#)
- Project proposals must be submitted by the lead applicant at the latest by: 17.05.2023 at 13:00 CET

Language:

Project proposals must be submitted **in English language**

Attachments

- **LP and PP declarations** - To be filled in and signed by the lead applicant and each partner
- **Private LP** - Simplified Financial Statement - Data of the last 2 financial years, Balance sheets and profit & loss accounts of last 2 financial years, Audit report of last financial year or Reference letter from the bank; For private lead applicants, the required supporting documents listed in chapter II.2.1.4 have to be submitted.

6. Evaluation

2 phases

- 1) Relevance
- 2) Full assessment
 - a. strategic selection criteria – Relevance and Partnership
 - b. operational selection criteria - Implementation

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

- for **relevance filter** see p4 of Terms of Reference document (download Application package on the page [HERE](#))
- for **full assessment guiding questions** see p6 of Terms of Reference document (download Application package on the page [HERE](#))
- for **SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL** go to webpages [HERE](#)

7. other

Regional contacts:

Ing. arch. Stella Horváthová (national coordinator – MMR)

Deputy - **Mgr. Tereza Tkadlečková** (MMR)

Tel: +420 224 862 213, +420 224 862 260

Mobil: +420 731 628 385

nadnarodni@mmr.cz

- **Individual consultations 31.3. – 10.5.**, only 1 hour per project (deep preparation therefore recommended)

Applicant Community – find a partner

<https://community.interreg-central.eu/>

VUT FSI Project support department contact: **Mgr. Ivana Lipenská**, klapka **2167**, email:

lipenska@fme.vutbr.cz