



# 1st Call for Proposal Main features

1st MC meeting

4 - 5 April 2023, Vinkovci Croatia



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**INTERREG VI-A IPA CROATIA-SERBIA**

**1<sup>st</sup> Call for Proposals Guidelines for Applicants**

Deadline for the submission of applications: **July 2023**

[www.interreg-croatia-serbia.eu](http://www.interreg-croatia-serbia.eu)

# 1st Call for Proposals Guidelines for Applicants





- Aims to provide practical information to the applicants for the successful submission of the applications
- GfA is part of the “Application package” available for applicants of Standard and Small-scale projects
- The Application package is available on the Programme web site:  
[www.interreg-croatia-serbia.eu](http://www.interreg-croatia-serbia.eu)

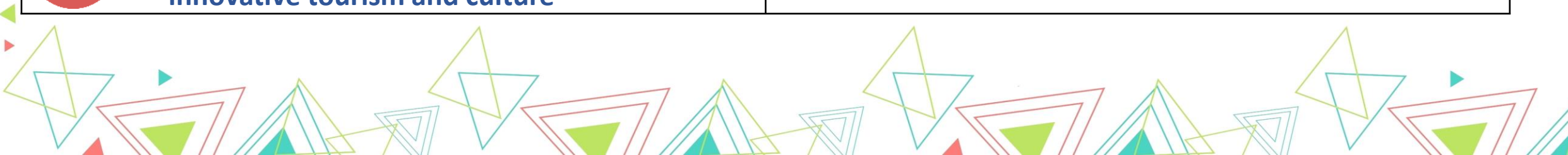




# Programme priorities and specific objectives



Priority axis (PA)	Specific objective (SO)
 <p><b>1. Cooperating for smarter programme area</b></p>	<p>1.1. Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies</p>
 <p><b>2. Cooperating for greener and climate change resilient programme area</b></p>	<p>2.2. Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001, including the sustainability criteria set out therein</p>
	<p>2.4. Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account ecosystem-based approaches</p>
 <p><b>3. Cooperating for healthier and more inclusive programme area</b></p>	<p>4.5. Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family-based and community-based care</p>
 <p><b>4. Cooperating for more sustainable and socially innovative tourism and culture</b></p>	<p>4.6 Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation</p>



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# Programme area





### Croatia

- 1 Osječko-baranjska county
- 2 Vukovarsko-srijemska county
- 3 Brodsko-posavska county
- 4 Požeško-slavonska county

### Serbia

- 1 North Bačka district
- 2 West Bačka district
- 3 South Bačka district
- 4 Srem district
- 5 Mača district



# Objectives of the Call

- high-quality cross-border projects
- cross-border approach
  
- Through the 1st CfP, the Programme will support two types of projects, small-scale projects and standard (regular) projects.

**Small-scale projects will be supported only under SO 1.1.**





# Call requirements

- The overall budget of the Programme is EUR 45,037,241.00 out of which the EU funding (Programme amount in the percentage of 85%) is EUR 38,281,653.00 and EUR 6,755,588.00 represents national co-financing (15%). The total EU funding available for projects is EUR 34,801,503.00.
- The programme will allocate EUR 17,400,751.50 of EU funds to the 1st CFP.



# Call requirements

The EU funding allocated for the 1stCfP is broken down per SO as follows:

SO	Available EU budget for Standard projects (EUR)	Available EU budget for Small-scale projects (EUR)
1.1		3,306,142.50
2.2	3,132,135.40	
2.4	4,698,203.10	
4.5	3,480,150.50	
4.6	2,784,120.00	
TOTAL	14,094,609.00	3,306,142.50
	17,400,751.50	

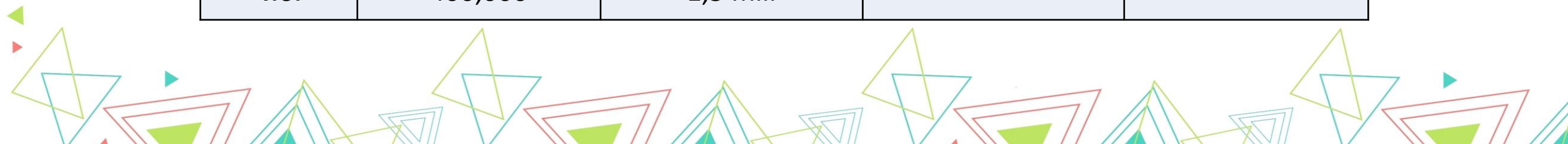
# Call requirements

- The EU (Programme) co-financing rate is maximum 85% of the total eligible expenditures of the project. Each partner is a financing partner and must ensure at least 15% of co-financing of its part of the project budget.
- **Each partner shall have a budget of at least 10% of the total project budget.**
- Any grant requested under this CfP **must fall between the following minimum and maximum percentages (%)** of total eligible expenditures of the project: minimum 20% of the total eligible expenditures of the project and maximum 85% of the total eligible expenditures of the project.



# Budget size of the projects

SO	Standard projects		Small-scale projects	
	Minimum grant (EUR)	Maximum grant (EUR)	Minimum grant (EUR)	Maximum grant (EUR)
1.1.			200,000	400,000
2.2.	400,000	2 mil.		
2.4.	400,000	2 mil.		
4.5.	400,000	1,5 mil.		
4.6.	400,000	1,5 mil.		



# Duration of the projects

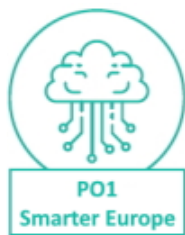
The duration of the projects must fall within the following ranges depending on the project type:

Type of project	Duration of project
Standard	From 18 to 30 months
Small-scale	From 12 to 18 months

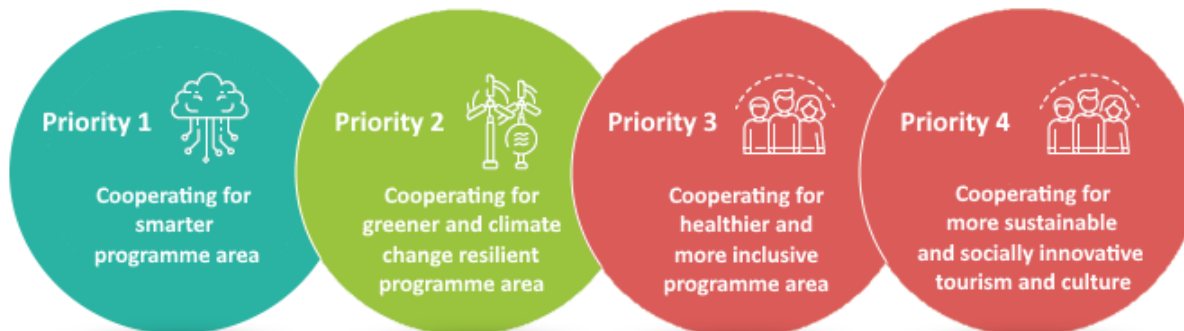


# Programme intervention logic





**Sustainable development of programme area through smart,  
green and socially inovative projects**



**SO 1.1** Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies

**SO 2.2** Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001, including the sustainability criteria set out therein

**SO 2.4** Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account ecosystem-based approaches

**SO 4.5** Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care and promoting the transition from institutional to family-based and community-based care

**SO 4.6** Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation



# Programme intervention logic

In order to apply for funding under this CfP, an application must refer to only one of the PA and one Programme SO, even in case of an application where some activities might also fall under more than one PA.





# Programme indicators

A set of indicators has been defined for each PA and SO:

- Output indicators – measuring the specific deliverables of the interventions
- Result indicators – measuring the effects of the interventions supported, with particular reference to the direct addressees, population targeted or users of the infrastructure.





# Priority Axis 1

*Specific objective: 1.1. - Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies*

Output indicators	Result indicators
RCO84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects (optional)	RCR84 Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion (mandatory)
RCO87 Organisations cooperating across borders (mandatory)	RCR104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organizations (mandatory)
RCO116 Jointly developed solutions (optional)	



# Priority Axis 2

*Specific objective: 2.2. – Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001, including the sustainability criteria set out therein*

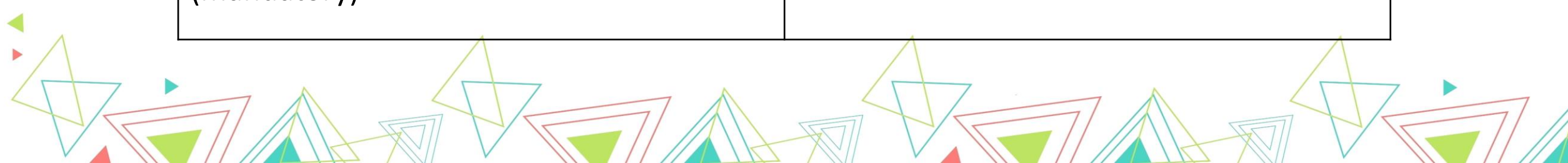
Output indicators	Result indicators
RCO84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects (mandatory)	RCR104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organizations (mandatory)
RCO116 Jointly developed solutions (mandatory)	





*Specific objective: 2.4. – Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account ecosystem-based approaches*

Output indicators	Result indicators
RCO83 Strategies and action plans jointly developed (optional)	RCR79 Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organizations (optional)
RCO84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects (mandatory)	RCR104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organizations (mandatory)
RCO116 Jointly developed solutions (mandatory)	





# Priority Axis 3

*Specific objective: 4.5. – Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family-based and community-based care*

Output indicators	Result indicators
RCO84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects (mandatory)	RCR81 Completion of joint training schemes (optional)
RCO85 Participations in joint training schemes (optional)	RCR84 Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion (mandatory)
RCO87 Organisations cooperating across borders (mandatory)	RCR104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organizations (mandatory)
RCO116 Jointly developed solutions (optional)	





*Specific objective: 4.6. – Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion, and social innovation*

Output indicators	Result indicators
RCO77 Number of cultural and tourism sites supported (mandatory)	RCR77 Visitors of cultural and tourism sites supported (mandatory)
RCO87 Organisations cooperating across borders (mandatory)	RCR84 Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion (mandatory)



# Rules of the Call

The direct **cross-border impact** is understood in terms of respecting the following cooperation criteria:

- Joint development
- Joint implementation
- Joint staffing
- Joint financing

**Each project must fulfil all four (4) of the described cross-border cooperation criteria.**



# Rules of the Call

**Horizontal principles** – project shall respect the following horizontal principles:

- Non-discrimination
- Gender equality
- Environmental sustainability
- Other elements of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights





# Eligibility of criteria

In order to be eligible for funding under the Programme, the applications should meet three (3) following sets of eligibility criteria:

1. Eligibility of applicants/partners;
2. Eligibility of activities;
3. Eligibility of expenditures.



# Eligibility of applicants/partners

In order to be eligible for a grant, the applicant must meet all of the following criteria:

1. be a **non-profit-making** legal person/entity established by a public or a private law for the purposes of public interest or specific purpose of meeting the needs of general interest;
2. be **established** under the national law in the respecting participating country (Croatia and/or Serbia);
3. **applicants** have to **be registered at least 12 months** prior to the deadline for the submission of applications;
4. Private partner (either lead partner or project partner) must have an annual income for the two last closed financial years (cumulatively) in amount at least equal to amount of grant requested (grant size of specific partner, not total project).



# List of potential applicants



## 1. Cooperating for smarter programme area

- SO 1.1. Legal personalities that can contribute to developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies in the Programme



## 2. Cooperating for greener and climate change resilient programme area

- SO 2.2. Legal personalities that can contribute to encouraging beneficial models and practices in use of renewable energy sources through supporting the public sector institutions that can educate end users and service providers, as well as initiate, plan and promote renewable energy
- SO 2.4. Legal personalities that can contribute to planning and implementing climate change adaptation and risk prevention and responses



# List of potential applicants



## 3. Cooperating for healthier and more inclusive programme area

- SO 4.5. Legal personalities that can contribute to improving the access to health/social care for all



## 4. Cooperating for more sustainable and socially innovative tourism and culture

- SO 4.6. Legal personalities that can contribute to creating and provisioning the tourist services in tourism and culture



# Partnership requirements

- All organizations, participating under 1st CfP, are called **partners**. For each application a “**Lead Partner**” (LP) must be **appointed among the Project Partners** prior to the submission of the application.
- Partnership must consist of at least two (2) partners from **different participating countries** (Croatia and Serbia).
- The maximum number of partners in application is **five (5) for standard projects** and **four (4) for small-scale projects** including the Lead Partner



# Partnership requirements

- One institution / organization can be selected for funding in a maximum of **five (5) operations**, out of which a **maximum of three (3) operations** as a **PP** and a **maximum of two (2) operations** as a **LP**.
- In case when faculties within university are not a separate legal entity this limitation is applied to each faculty and not to university.
- In case of state/regional/local government institutions (e.g. ministries, counties, municipalities, cities) this limitation is applied to different organizational departments (units) within institutions.
- Partnership may not be accepted when established between actors responding to the same name and belonging to the same mother organisation (e.g. two branches or “sister” organisation), irrespective of the fact that they are established in one or in each of the participating countries.



# Partnership requirements

All partners must sign a **Partnership Pre-Agreement** in preparation phase and **Partnership Agreement** in implementation phase, which stipulate their rights and duties within an operation.



# Non-eligibility and exclusion of Applicants

- There is a set of situations in which Applicants are not eligible to participate in the Call for Proposal
- The Lead Partner and Project Partners will declare in signed Statements (LP Statement and PP Statement) that they are not in any of above-mentioned situations







# Eligibility of activities

## Priority Axis 1 - Cooperating for smarter Programme area

### *1.1. Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies*

The Programme is focused on supporting actions that support and accelerate innovation and technology transfer, primarily (but not exclusively) in the area of green economy.





# Eligibility of activities

## Priority Axis 2 - Cooperating for greener and climate change resilient Programme area

*Specific objective: 2.2. – Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001, including the sustainability criteria set out therein*

The actions which are related to the promotion of renewable energy production will consider their contribution to climate neutrality policies and potential environmental impacts





# Eligibility of activities

## Priority Axis 2 - Cooperating for greener and climate change resilient Programme area

*Specific objective: 2.4. – Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account ecosystem-based approaches*

The Programme gives priority to joint nature-based solutions and developing sustainable systems that will help all the relevant stakeholders to jointly promote disaster prevention and resilience, as well as the climate change adaptation.

The aim is to improve the capacities and preparedness to combat with climate change impacts and disasters and to manage the related risks.





# Eligibility of activities

## Priority Axis 3 - Cooperating for healthier and more inclusive Programme area

*Specific objective: 4.5. – Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family-based and community-based care*

The Programme promotes the transition from institutional and hospital-centred model to family-based and community-based care and support primary and integrated health care models.





# Eligibility of activities

## Priority Axis 4 - Cooperating for more sustainable and socially innovative tourism and culture

*Specific objective: 4.6. – Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion, and social innovation*

The Programme aims to support the specific, innovative, sustainable, green, digital and smart forms of tourism and culture (including new and existing sustainable tourism/cultural sites) that develops the advantage for the local communities and economies.



# Eligibility of expenditures

Three different levels concerning the eligibility of expenditure applicable to Interreg projects are as follows:

- the European level: EU regulations
- the Programme level: Programme documents - specific rules decided for the Programme
- the national level: national legislation - national rules applicable in each Participating country.



# Eligibility of expenditures

- Any ineligible costs which are detected will be deducted from the total project costs during budget optimization process, reducing therefore the requested EU contribution accordingly.
- Final eligible costs will be calculated based on reported eligible expenditures after adequate controls by the relevant Programme bodies (FLC, JS and MA) have been performed.
- Please note that, costs which are not eligible according to the applicable eligibility rules cannot be claimed even if they are included in the approved project budget.



# Eligible cost categories

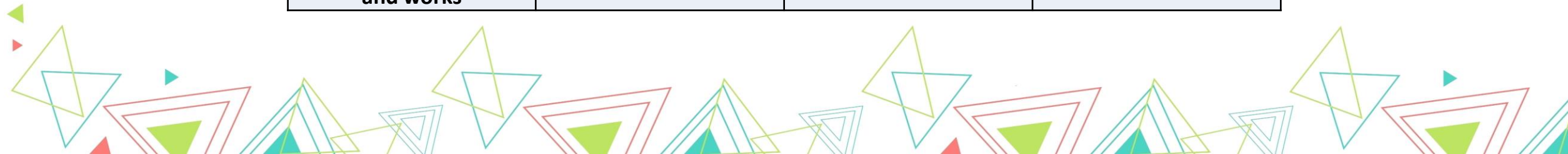
1. Staff costs,
2. Office and administrative costs,
3. Travel and accommodation costs,
4. External expertise and services costs,
5. Equipment costs,
6. Costs for infrastructure and works.





# Use of simplified cost options

Option 1		Option 2	
Cost category	Form of reimbursement	Cost category	Form of reimbursement
Staff costs	up to 20 % flat rate of direct costs (real costs)	Staff costs	Real costs
Office and administrative costs	up to 15 % flat rate of staff costs	Other costs	up to 40 % flat rate of staff costs for all other costs
Travel and accommodation costs	up to 15% flat rate of staff costs		
External expertise and services costs	Real costs		
Equipment costs	Real costs		
Costs of infrastructure and works	Real costs		



# Preparatory and contracting costs

- The lump sum shall cover the costs incurred by the partnership for preparing and submitting their application as well as for revising/adapting their application to conditions set forth by the MC and during optimization phase.
- The lump for the preparatory and contracting cost amounts to **EUR 5,500.00**, the total cost for the preparation and contracting.



# Closure costs

- The lump sum shall cover the costs incurred by the partnership for preparing and submitting the final project progress report and other project closure requirements.
- The lump sum for the closure costs amounts to **EUR 2,500.00**.

In order to properly plan the project budget, applicants are strongly recommended to consult Programme Manual on Eligibility available on [www.interreg-croatia-serbia.eu](http://www.interreg-croatia-serbia.eu).



# Advance payment

Based on the Subsidy Contract concluded between the LP and the MA, the LP is entitled to receive an advance payment, on behalf of the partnership, in an amount of maximum 25% from the total cost of the project.



# In house contracting

- In house contracting is considered as contracting of the bodies governed by public law (in house provider), which are controlled by the contracting authority (beneficiary) for the purchase of goods, services and works.
- Expenditure referring to tasks contracted with the in-house provider by the beneficiary (including staff and travel and accommodation costs) shall be planned under external expertise and services expenditure category if the following conditions are met:
  - costs incurred by the in-house provider are charged on a real costs basis without any profit margin;
  - the contracting of the in-house provider complies with national public procurement rules.

**The intention of in-house contracting must be indicated in the Application.**



# State Aid

- aid given to an economic undertaking that is seen as distorting or threatening to distort competition in the internal market.
- State Aid is present when all of the following criteria are met: **Existence of state resources**, **Selectivity**, Economic advantage, Effect on competition and trade
- Please note that the **first two criteria** are always present in the context of the EU funded operations.

**All applicants are obliged to declare the State aid relevance in LP Statement and PP Statement/s in order to assess whether the operation activities represent State Aid.**



# De Minimis

- Ceiling under which the aid has a negligible impact on trade and competition. The maximum amount of aid granted to a single recipient (undertaking) should not exceed 200,000.00 EUR over a period of three fiscal years.

**The applicants must report any de-minimis support granted over the past three fiscal years within the LP Statement and PP Statement/s.**

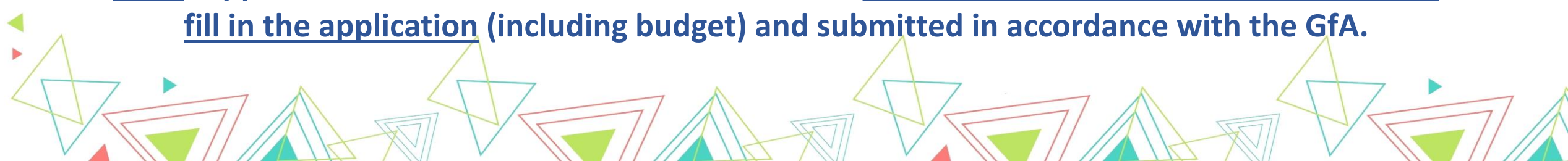


# The content of Application Package:

Guidelines for Applicants (GfA) and the following annexes:

- 1. Template of the Lead Partner Statement.
- 2. Template of the Project Partner Statement.
- 3. Template of the Partnership Pre-Agreement.
- 4. Model of the Subsidy Contract

**Applications MUST be filled in and submitted only through the online submission system – Jems. Applications shall be filled in accordance with Application Manual: instructions how to fill in the application (including budget) and submitted in accordance with the GfA.**





# How to apply

- The Application must be submitted by the Lead Partner (LP).

Documents that will be assessed:

1. Application (including budget)
2. Annexes for administrative compliance check (LP Statement, PP Statement, Partnership Pre-Agreement)
3. Supporting documents for eligibility check (The registration acts and/or decision on establishment and/or statute, additional documents for private partners for check of financial capacity – balance sheet, reference letter)



# How to apply

- Deadline – **July** 2023 at 15h
- Information days related to 1st CfP will be held in Croatia and Serbia.
- Questions related to 1st CfP - [js-hr-rs@mrrfeu.hr](mailto:js-hr-rs@mrrfeu.hr)
- Questions and answers will be published and updated regularly on the Programme website.



# Assessment and selection process

- For 1st CfP, the MC will set up Steering Committee (SC) acting under its responsibility for the selection of operations.
- The assessment process will be conducted in two steps:
  1. **Admissibility and eligibility check** – done by JS based on checklist
  2. **Quality assessment** – done by the assessment team (2 assessors)

under the responsibility of the SC and with the support of MA



# Assessment and selection process

The quality assessment check consists of assessing the relevance and feasibility of the project according to the following two criteria:

1. **Strategic criteria** assess the relevance of applications
2. **Operational criteria** assess the planned project implementation



# Pre-contracting and contracting

## 1. Pre-contracting phase (negotiation phase)

- Administrative compliance check will be done only for selected project proposals (LP Statement, PP Statement, Partnership Pre-Agreement).
- MC has a right to issue a conditional approval of project proposal (e.g. it may suggest modification of certain activities, deliverables, outputs, budget, partnership, infrastructural investments etc.).

## 2. Contracting phase

- After the pre-contracting phase is successfully finished the Subsidy Contract may be signed between the LP and MA.



# Resolution of complaints

- The Lead Applicant, on behalf the partnership, has the right to file a complaint in case a failure affecting the MC funding decision is suspected during the selection process.
- Complaints against the project proposal selection process have to be submitted to the MA within 14 calendar days after the notification on the MC decision regarding the CFP.
- In case the Lead Applicant is not satisfied with the received additional information from the MA, it may decide to submit a formal complaint to the MA.



# Thank you for your attention!

## Joint Secretariat

Sector for Managing Interreg Cooperation Programmes

Directorate for European Territorial Cooperation

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