



# 1st Call for Proposals Application package

Information sessions



**The Application package is available on the Programme web site:**

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



# Application package

- Guidelines for Applicants
- Lead Partner Statement
- Project Partner Statement
- Partnership Pre-Agreement
- Model Subsidy Contract



# 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



# 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.



# Objectives of the Call

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

Small-scale projects  $\neq$   
small-scale infrastructure

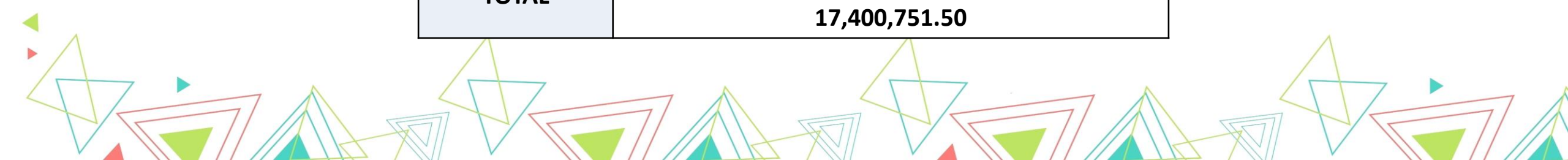




# Call requirements

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.**

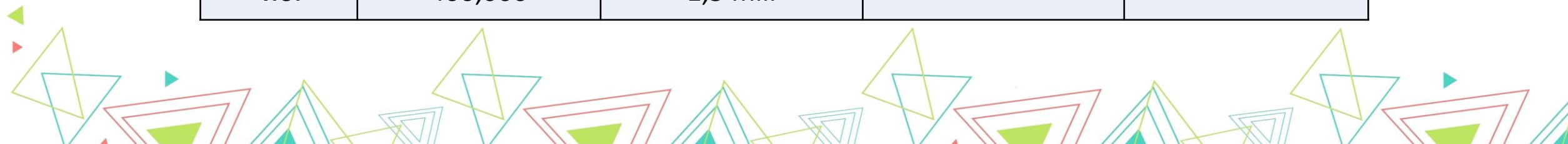






# Budget size of the projects

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



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



# 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 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);



# Eligibility of applicants/partners

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).



# Not eligible applicants/partners

- Profit-making companies (small, medium and large enterprises) are **not eligible**, neither as a Lead Partner nor as a Project Partner unless established and 100% owned by state, regional/local government units.
- Political parties/organizations are **not eligible**, neither as a Lead Partner nor as a Project Partner.





# 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



# List of potential applicants



## 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 requirements

- 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**.



# Partnership requirements

- 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

- Person appointed by the LP as a Project Manager / Coordinator who will be responsible for overall coordination of project management must have at least 2 years of the professional work experience.
- Knowledge and experience in managing EU projects should be an asset.
- During budget optimization phase, before signing the Contract, MA/JS may request CV of appointed person.







# 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.





# Eligible actions/activities

- Supporting cross-border innovation and technology based on smart specialization approach;
- improving cooperation between research institutions, SMEs, public sector, and business support organisations;
- Supporting pilot lines, early product validation, certification, advanced manufacturing capabilities including via science – business collaboration;
- Pilot actions aimed at transferring good practices on green economy trends and standards;
- Enhancing support services for SMEs and entrepreneurs to improve their access to research and technological innovations;

...





# 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





# Eligible actions/activities

- Development of joint solutions to increase the production of additional capacity for renewable energy;
- Development and implementation of joint pilot actions that improve the integration of sustainable renewable energy sources in different sectors;
- Joint solutions, research and pilot actions on RES;
- Implementing pilot actions to test innovative and climate-neutral solutions;

...





# 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





# Eligible actions/activities

- Development and introduction of joint climate change adaptation, disaster prevention and first response plans;
- Development and introduction of solutions and systems for monitoring, prevention and management of potential risks (e.g., floods, wildfires, landslides, droughts, earthquakes, invasive alien species, etc.);
- Encouraging intersectoral/interstate cooperation in risk prevention and rapid response management through development and implementation of joint protocols, procedures, approaches, measures, and sectoral risk and vulnerability assessments;





# Eligible actions/activities

- Establishment of joint emergency centres, small-scale infrastructure preferring nature-based solutions, response vehicles, equipment, shelters, etc.;
- Strengthening of institutional and expert capacities and raising awareness to address environmental issues, climate change and disaster risks reduction;
- Development of cross-border risk assessment and disaster risk strategies for cross-border hazards such as droughts, floods, landslides, fires, etc.

...





# 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







# Eligible actions/activities

- Development and implementation of ICT solutions and (pilot) actions to support digitalization in health and social care;
- Improving access to health and social care services for vulnerable and marginalised groups such as children, elderly, persons with disabilities through investments in individual social housing, equipment, transport means, etc;
- Improving the accessibility and effectiveness of cross-border public health care services by investing in telemedicine, diagnostics, mobile clinics/infirmaries and mobile assets, including small-scale infrastructure preferring nature-based solutions;

...





# 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





# Eligible actions/activities

- Developing and implementing joint (pilot) actions to support diversification and sustainability of the tourism by investing in lesser-known destinations and diverse forms of tourism;
- Developing and implementing innovative solutions and creating smart destinations;
- Development and implementation of measures to protect, develop and promote sustainable cultural heritage and cultural services, landscape heritage, public tourism assets and tourism services including investments in physical regeneration and security of public spaces, in the scope of their inclusion in the touristic and/or cultural circuit;

...





**Advance payment – in an amount  
of max 25%**

**Preparatory and contracting costs**

**Closure costs**



# 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.

**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.**



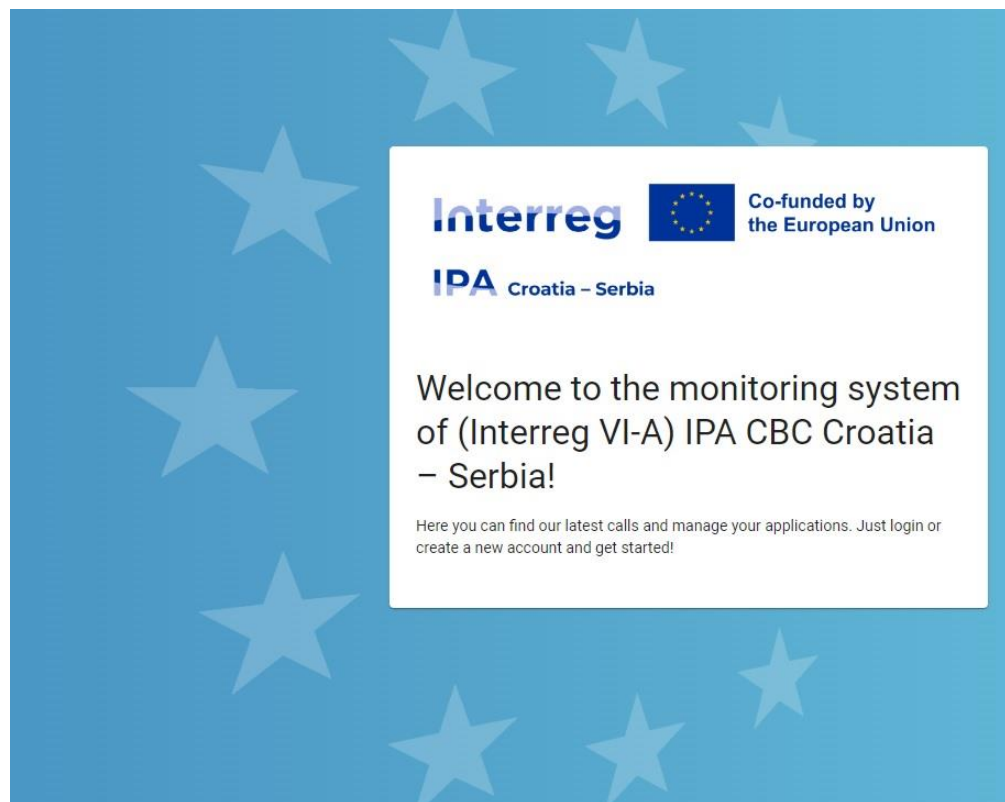
# De Minimis

- 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.**



# How to apply



Applications **MUST** be filled in  
and submitted only through the  
online submission system –  
**Jems.**



# How to apply

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.

The **official language** of the Programme is **English**.



# How to apply

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



# How to apply

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)



**4 September  
2023**

**15:00**



# How to apply

In order to properly plan the project and its budget, applicants are strongly recommended to consult:

- **Guidance for Applicants**
- **Programme Manual on Eligibility**

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



## Further information and support

- Questions related to 1st CfP may be sent in writing in English via e-mail address [js-hr-rs@mrrfeu.hr](mailto:js-hr-rs@mrrfeu.hr) no later than 10 days before the deadline for the submission of applications.
- To ensure equal treatment of all applicants, questions and answers will be published and updated regularly on the Programme website: [www.interreg-croatia-serbia.eu](http://www.interreg-croatia-serbia.eu).



# 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 assessment criteria** - The main aim is to determine the extent of the project's contribution to the achievement of Programme objectives (including contribution to Programme indicators), by addressing joint or common needs of the target group.
- 2. Operational assessment criteria** - The main aim is to assess the viability and the feasibility of the proposed project, as well as its value for money in terms of resources used versus results delivered.





# Assessment and selection process

**Clarifications** regarding Application will be requested from the Lead Applicant only when the information provided within the Application is **unclear or missing** and thus prevents JS/SC from conducting an objective assessment. If any of the requested information is missing or is incorrect, the Application may be rejected on that sole basis and the Application **will not be evaluated further.**



# Assessment and selection process

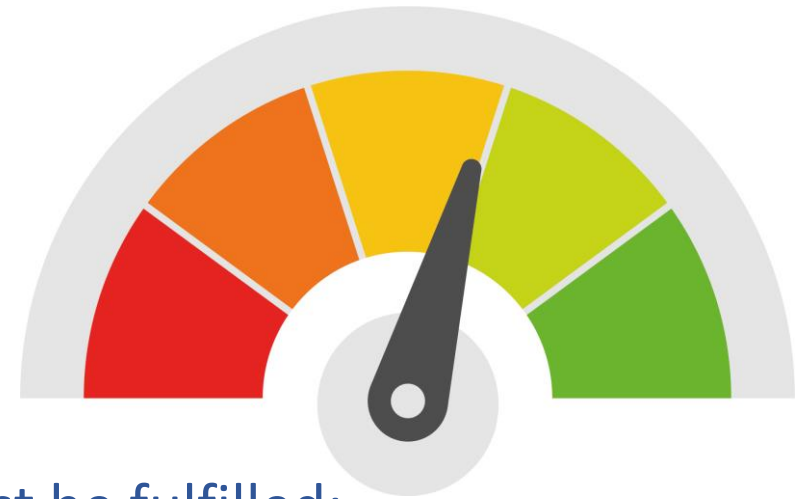
- Only proposals that satisfy all the admissibility and eligibility criteria will be subject to quality assessment.
- Project proposals that do not satisfy the admissibility and eligibility criteria will be notified by official letter signed by the MA.
- Lead Applicant may request clarification from the MA or issue a formal complaint after the receipt of the notification on MC decision on fulfilment of admissibility and eligibility criteria.



# Assessment and selection process

## Maximum scores in quality assessment:

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	MAXIMUM SCORE
STRATEGIC CRITERIA	65
OPERATIONAL CRITERIA	50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>115</b>

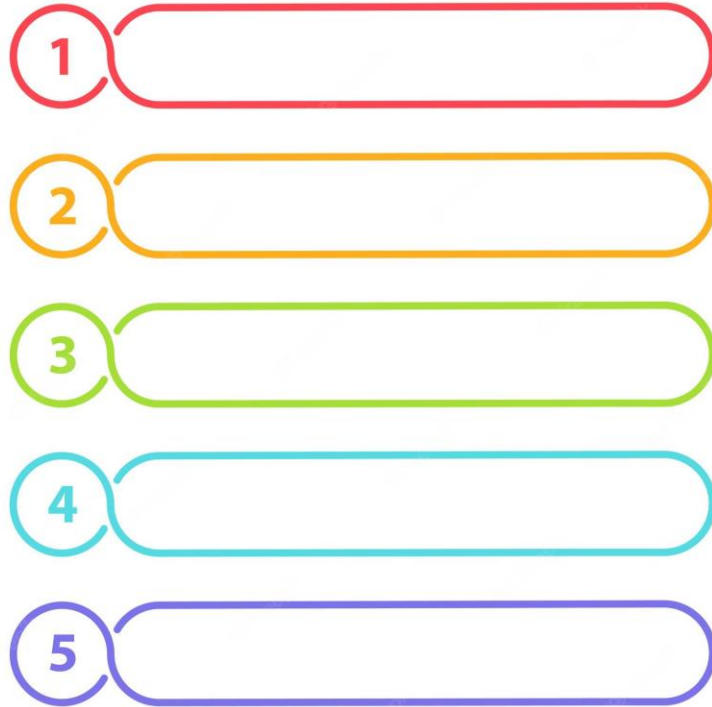


In order to be considered for funding, both conditions must be fulfilled:

1. at least 45 points for Strategic assessment criteria and;
2. at least 75 points in total.



# Assessment and selection process



- **Five (5) ranking lists** will be established, one per each SO.
- The ranking lists will also contain a **reserve list** of proposals.
- The Steering Committee (SC) will present these lists to the **Monitoring Committee (MC)** for **final decision**.



# 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.).



# Pre-contracting and contracting

## 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.



# Thank you for your attention!

## Joint Secretariat

Sector for Managing Interreg Cooperation Programmes

Directorate for European Territorial Cooperation

Ministry of Regional Development and EU funds of the Republic of Croatia

Miramarska cesta 22, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia

Email: [js-hr-rs@mrrfeu.hr](mailto:js-hr-rs@mrrfeu.hr)

