On the third call

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Summary

- **Terms of reference**

- **Reminder on the assessment**

- **Lessons learnt from previous calls**

- **Conclusion**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Terms of reference: main features

Timing:

- Opening: **1 March 2017** (online system open)
- Closing: **30 June 2017** (midday Paris time)

- November 2016: assistance to applicants launched
- Early 2018 – expected start of projects

Terms of reference: main features

Thematic scope:

- No restrictions: open to all investment priorities
- But applications encouraged under environment and resource efficiency (priority axis 4)
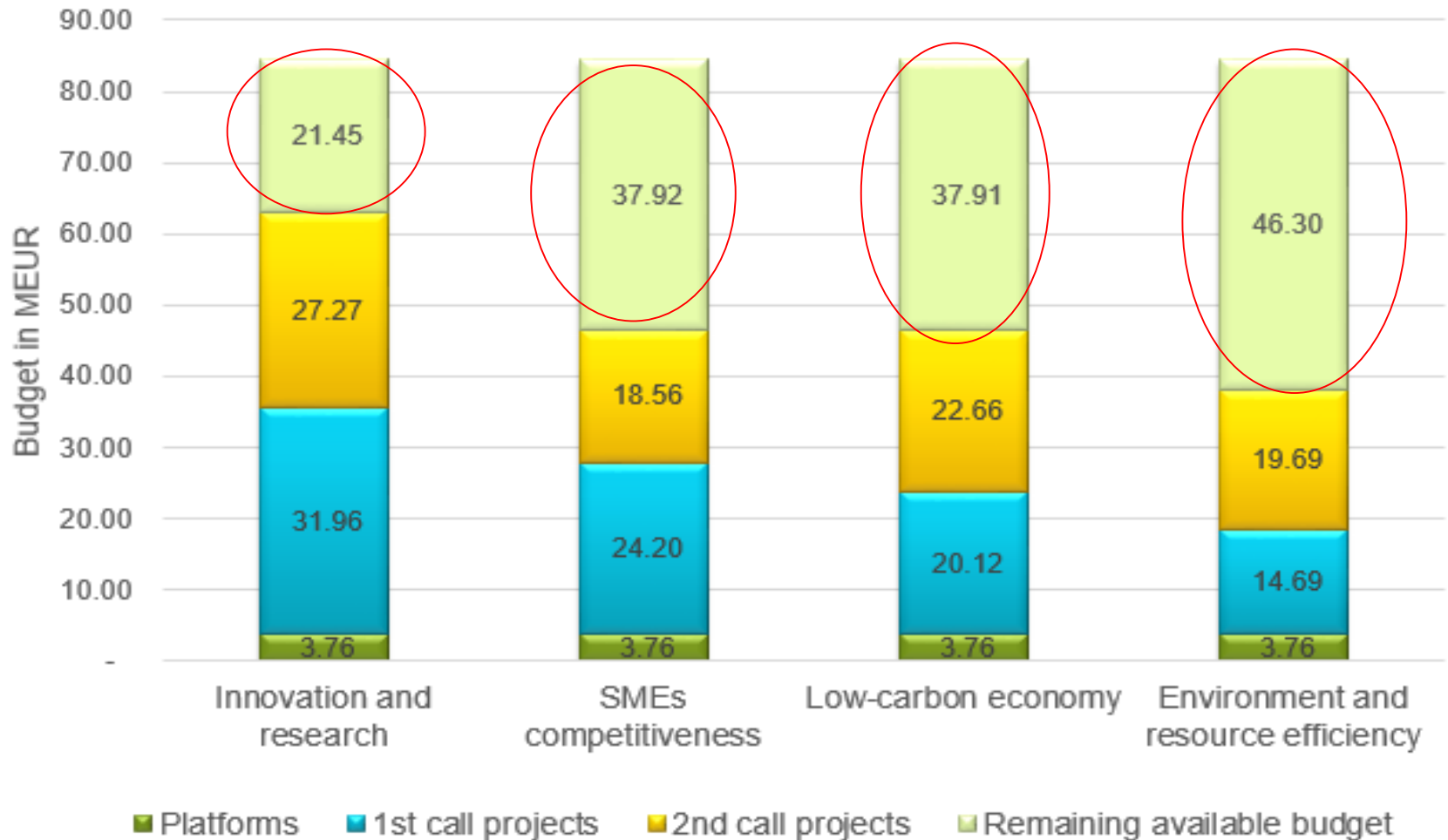
Procedure:

- Online system: www.iolf.eu

Terms of reference: main features

- All remaining ERDF per priority axis available

Terms of reference: recommendations

- Innovative character in particular in relation to already successful topics

Priority axis 1:	Priority axis 2:
- Governance of RIS3 (7 projects) - Clusters within RIS3 (6 projects) - Innovation in the health sector (4 projects)	- Internationalisation of SMEs (7 projects) - Innovation capacity of SMEs in rural / peripheral regions (6 projects)
Priority axis 3:	Priority axis 4:
- Energy efficiency in buildings (10 projects) - Urban mobility (7 projects)	- Circular economy (6 projects)

Terms of reference: recommendations

- Applications tackling under represented topics encouraged: **financial instruments**, **renewable energy** or **water management**

- Applications encouraged under Priority axis 4 **Environment & Resource Efficiency**

- Involvement of **regions not already represented** encouraged (annex 1 of the terms of reference)

REMINDER ON ASSESSMENT

Selection procedure

2-step procedure

- **1. Eligibility assessment:**
  fulfilment of technical requirements

- **2. Quality assessment:**
  two-step qualitative evaluation

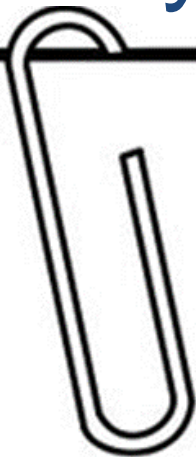Detailed description in the programme manual (section 5.3)

Eligibility principles

- Technical **yes** or **no** process

- **No correction possible** after submission

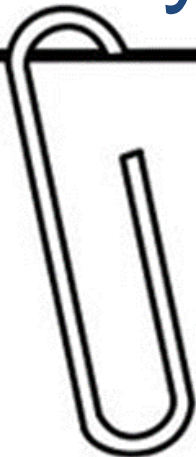- Only eligible applications are further assessed

Eligibility checklist

✓ Is your application **complete** (partner declarations, support letters)?

✓ Is the application **filled in** according to instructions?

✓ Is it in **English**?

✓ Are all **partner declarations**:

- Signed and dated
- With name of partner identical to application form
- With stated amount covering **at least** the amount of partner contribution in application
- With no amendments to the standard text

Eligibility checklist

- ✓ Are **all support letters**:
    - Attached to the application form
    - Signed and dated by relevant organisation (check the country-specific list!!)
    - With name of partner(s) **identical** to application form
    - With no amendments to the standard text

- ✓ Are at least **3 countries** of which **2 are EU members** involved and financed by Interreg Europe?

- ✓ Are at least **half** of the policy instruments addressed Structural Funds programmes?

Quality assessment

Second step only for eligible applications!

Strategic ass.

- Relevance of proposal
- Quality of results
- Quality of partnership

Only adequate proposals (score ≥3.00) are further assessed

Operational ass.

- Coherence of proposal & quality of approach
- Communication & Management
- Budget & finances

- Decision by **monitoring committee**.
- Only projects reaching at least an **overall adequate level (≥3.00)** are recommended for approval (with conditions) to the monitoring committee

Assessment provisional timing

July – August 2017	Eligibility check
September – November 2017	Quality assessment
End 2017	Decision & notification
Early 2018	Fulfilment of conditions
Early 2018	Effective start date of projects

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:

- **Improved instructions** in the application pack: Warning messages included in different documents

- **Full online application** & improved functionalities: Compulsory documents to be uploaded on iOLF & automatic generation of annexes

Quality: common weaknesses

Topic addressed (Criterion 1):

- **Too broad** scope **/ topic poorly** described

- **Not in line** with priority axis

- **Not reflected** in all the policy instruments addressed

Check approved projects at:
http://www.interregeurope.eu/discover-projects/

Quality: common weaknesses

Policy instruments (Criterion 1):

- Not **precisely defined** in the AF (e.g. indication of the specific priority addressed)

- Misunderstanding for Structural Funds (instrument indicated not the **Operational / Cooperation** programme)

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

Policy relevance of partners (Criterion 3):

- No direct involvement of bodies responsible for the policy instrument addressed

- No clear policy relevance of the partners involved: involvement in the policy-making process & capacity to influence the policy instrument
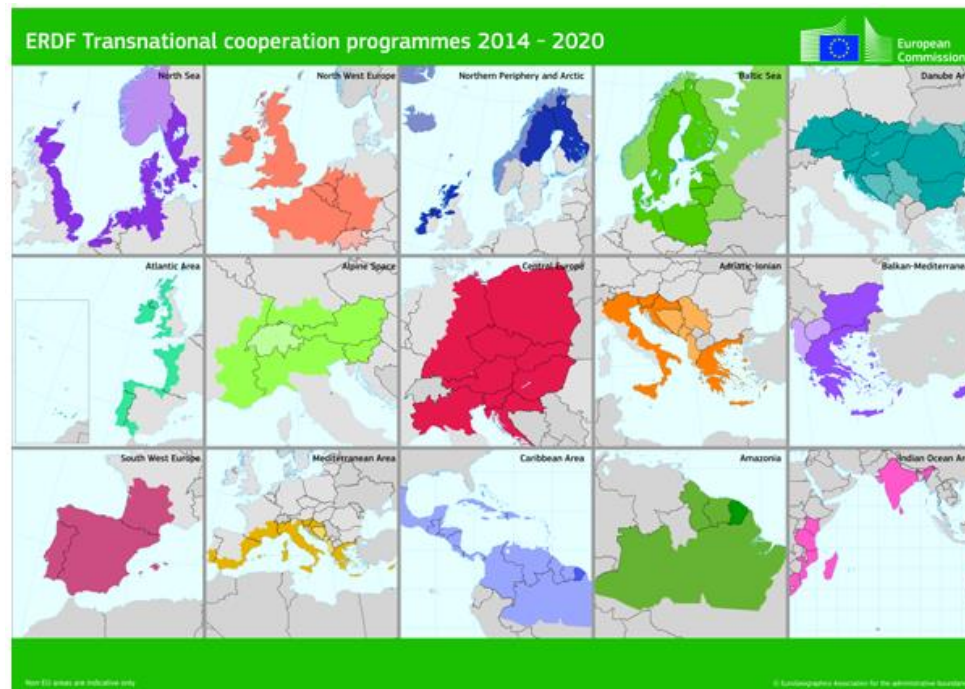
  → **Letter of support is not sufficient**

Dedicated question in section B.2 of the application form

Quality: common weaknesses

Geographical features (Criterion 3)

- Coverage limited to transnational areas
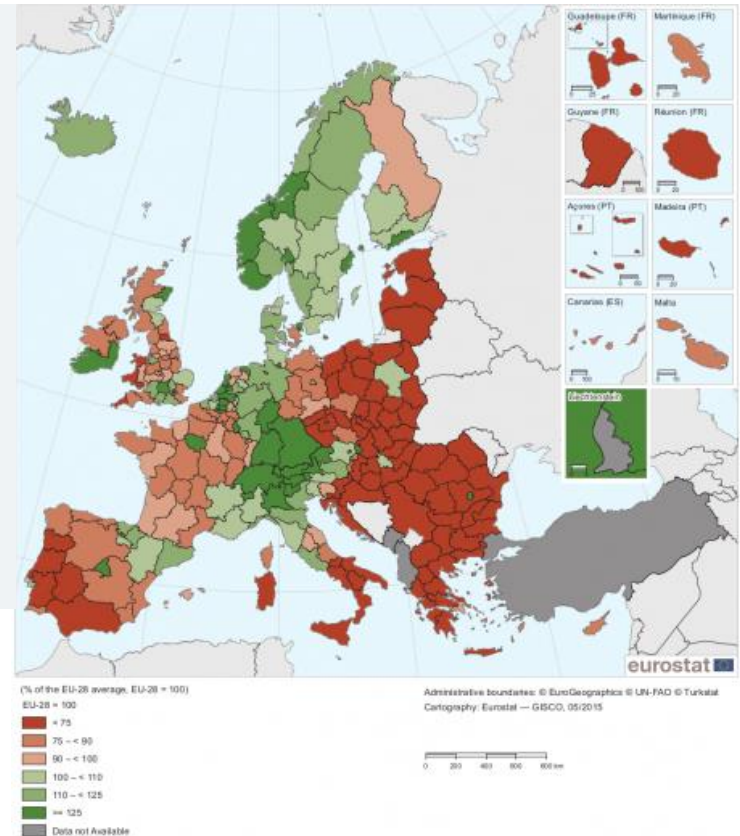

Go beyond transnational area!

Quality: clarification

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

'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

Multiple involvement (Criterion 3):

- Involvement in numerous applications very demanding and not recommended. Multiple involvement **should be justified**.

Be **strategic**: select only the most relevant project(s) for your region

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

Importance of the application form

A Project Summary

B.1 Partners

B.2 Policy Instruments (definition and context, territorial context, partner relevance, stakeholders)

C.1 – C.5 Project Description (story, issue addressed, objectives, approach, communication strategy,)

C.6 Expected results and outputs

C.7 Horizontal principles

C.8 Management

D.1 Phase 1 (per semester)

D.2 Phase 2

Workplan

E Project Budget

F Annexes

See demo version of the application form in PDF: http://www.interregeurope. eu/fileadmin/user_upload/d ocuments/2017-02-16_AF_3rd_call_demo_ver sion.pdf

Remember!

- ✓ Read the programme manual

- ✓ check the assessment criteria (eligibility & quality)

- ✓ Be specific, topic addressed needs to be focussed & reflected in policy instuments

- ✓ Start from the needs

- ✓ Involve policy-relevant partners

- ✓ Take the learning process seriously

- ✓ Communication serves your project

- ✓ first activities, then budget planning!

Useful links

Programme manual

- www.interregeurope.eu/help/programme-manual/

Application pack

- www.interregeurope.eu/apply/

Online application/ reporting system

- www.iolf.eu/

Interreg Europe community

- www.interregeurope.eu/account/dashboard/

Project development videos

- http://www.interregeurope.eu/projects/project-development/

Thank you!