

TERRITORIAL COOPERATION 2007-2013

"ALPINE SPACE"

4th call for project proposals **Terms of Reference**

→ Partner States

Austria
France
Germany
Italy
Liechtenstein
Slovenia
Switzerland

The Alpine Space Programme 2007-2013 aims at increasing competitiveness and attractiveness of the cooperation area by developing joint actions in fields where transnational cooperation is required for sustainable solutions. The Managing Authority of the Alpine Space Programme (Land of Salzburg) and the partner states (Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovenia and Switzerland) are launching the forth call for projects for transnational co-operation in the Alpine Space area to be co-financed under this programme.

Formal requirements

In order to develop their project ideas and submit an expression of interest as well as a project application, applicants will need to conform to the requirements laid down in the following documents:

- Alpine Space Operational Programme,
- Alpine Space Programme Implementation Handbook, particularly section 3: application procedure (factsheet 3.1: project application and factsheet 3.2: national requirements)
- the present document

General procedure

According to chapter 4.2.2 of the Operational Programme the call for proposals will follow a two step application procedure. In a first step applicants are requested to submit an expression of interest (EoI) based on a short form (see annex 1). Prior to the submission, the potential Lead Partner must have had a contact with the Alpine Space Contact Point of his/her country. In the EoI applicants have to describe the problem or the challenge the project wants to address, the envisaged objectives and results, the foreseen budget and partnership. In a second step pre-selected project ideas will be invited to submit an application form (AF), containing a detailed description of the project proposal, together with the partnership agreement (see annex 2) which will be the basis for the selection of projects. If appropriate, applicants will be given recommendations on how to further elaborate the project proposal to shape it to the expectations of the programme.

Budgetary restrictions

On project level no specific budget restrictions are foreseen. As a general recommendation, applicants may orientate themselves on the average ERDF allocation to projects implemented in the first calls (approx. ERDF 2 Mio €). Moreover, the consistency of the budget with the envisaged activities/outputs will be carefully assessed.

For this expected last call 24 Mio € ERDF will be made available (Priority 1 approx. 9.7 Mio €, Priority 2 approx. 6.5 Mio € and Priority 3 approx. 7.7 Mio €).

Public funding

The ERDF-co-funding is based on public funds.

Project duration

The duration of projects must not exceed 36 months. This limit applies for the operative phase of the project starting from WP 2 and does not comprise WP 1 as preparation phase of the project. Projects shall end on 30th June 2015 at the latest. No extension on overall project durations will be granted which will lead to a closure later than this date.

Submission periods

The call will run from 26/10/2011 to 27/04/2012.

The step one is opened for submission of EoI between 28/11/2011 and 20/01/2012 at 2pm at the latest.

The step two is opened for submission of AF together with the partnership agreement between 19/03/2012 and 27/04/2012 at 2pm at the latest.

Ways of submission

Step one: EoI has to be submitted by electronic upload on the Alpine Space website between 28/11/2011 and 20/01/2012 at 2pm at the latest.

Step two: AF together with the partnership agreement have to be submitted by electronic upload on the Alpine Space website between 19/03/2012 and 27/04/2012 at 2pm at the latest. The Lead Partner is requested to send the signed copy of the AF and photocopies of the signed partnership agreement(s) within the deadline of 27/04/2012 to the following address:

Joint Technical Secretariat
Alpine Space Programme
Bayerisches Landesamt für Umwelt
Lazarettstr. 67
80636 München
Germany
Web: www.alpine-space.eu

Expectations of the programme

Building on the assessment and selection results of the previous three calls for projects and an external assessment of the impacts of approved projects the programme expects projects to understand the underpinning assumptions and the rationale of the Alpine Space Programme as set out in the following.

European Cohesion Policy 2007–2013 is strongly focused on the Lisbon and Gothenburg strategy and its follow up the "Europe 2020"-strategy. All programmes were designed to meet these policy objectives. Especially with the **transnational strand** under the Objective 3 European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) programmes these objectives provide **a specific challenge** for projects **to fulfil the requirements of European policy in the context of their respective territory, the specific themes set out in the structural funds regulations and the programme and the programme focus of cooperation**. With the strategy "Europe 2020" the necessity to combine forces to meet the future challenges was underpinned. Projects shall prove their contribution to "smart, sustainable and inclusive growth"¹. Projects therefore:

- shall provide a **clear reference to programme and priorities objectives** (see chapters 2 and 3 of the Operational Programme). The contribution of projects to growth, job creation and sustainable territorial development should be tangible and concrete in the output. In this context it is worth mentioning that innovation must not be a mere keyword but should lead to the creation of new products and services, the development of new markets, the improvement of human resources, to leverage effects on investment, to the development of new policy perspectives and contribute to systems building and governance models,
- have a strategy for the **development of outputs and results**,
- have a strategy for the **dissemination of results**.

The Alpine Space Programme is of the **transnational** strand of territorial cooperation. The cooperation area therefore is the background against which the project applicants have to set out their proposals. Projects therefore shall:

- clearly demonstrate why and how the **transnational approach adds value in tackling the defined topics or in achieving the defined outputs and results**,
- **offer a good justification for the amount of funds applied for**,

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020/index_en.htm for more information about the communication of the EC.

- demonstrate that the **partnership is consistent** in terms of relevance, quality and quantity and thus is the right one to tackle the defined objectives (e.g. sector-specific expertise, multi-level and multi-sectoral composition, role in the relevant policy field).

Unlike other objectives of European Cohesion Policy, the **transnational ETC-programmes** especially **deal with policy development issues**. The Alpine Space Programme therefore supports projects that are dedicated to one of the three stages of the policy cycle: strategic policy development, explorative and piloting activities and policy implementation.² Therefore project applicants shall explain their **position in the policy cycle** and set out how the results can contribute to improvements in policy making.

The focus of **projects should be on results**. European Cohesion Policy aims at results that lead to the envisaged changes defined in the policy guidelines. For projects it must be clear **what result will be delivered and for whom it will be good** for. Moreover it must be clear that in the context of European Cohesion Policy project results must have a long-term perspective and shall **contribute to influence policy development**. The programme therefore expects project applicants to:

- make explicit the long term use of the project results and the **expected impact** on target areas (geographically and thematically) and target groups,
- generate **long-lasting effect** and create **synergies** with other projects, programmes and initiatives,
- clearly **identify the stakeholders** for whom the tackled problem and the intended solutions and project results are relevant,
- demonstrate how the **involvement of the relevant actors that will use the results** is ensured,
- show how they **capitalise on results** in the field of the project and what their specific contribution to the topic is. The programme wants projects to create new results and work on innovative aspects. Latest research results shall become available for policy development and investment decisions.

² The Alpine Space Programme deals with policy development issues. In order to bring clarity into the nature of this a typology was developed that differentiates among three project types:

1. Projects with a focus on strategic policy development concentrate on more general analytical and research activities and include i.a. policy owners.
2. Projects with a focus on explorative and piloting activities are frequently rooted in a strategy with a focus on development of new tools or methodologies and their testing. Thematic leadership, know-how and capacity are prerequisites for the partnership.
3. Projects with a focus on policy implementation have a clear focus on fully developed instruments for the concrete implementation of a policy. A clear policy framework forms the background for the implementation.

For a better understanding of the programme's intentions applicants are referred to:

www.alpine-space.eu/fileadmin/media/Programme_Implementation_Handbook/Factsheet_2.6_Policy_cycle.pdf

One of the programme strategies is the **capitalisation of experiences and results** (see chapter 2.3.1. of the OP). Therefore projects shall build on results in the policy field. It should be illustrated from which step of the policy cycle the project starts (taking aboard the outcomes and findings of previous projects or studies), which is the foreseen policy evolution, and by which means the results will be used and transferred. The proposal shall provide information on:

- the way stakeholders are involved;
- possible synergies and follow ups offered by other programmes or projects;
- valorisation and further use of project results for the development of policy documents legislations, plans.

Priorities

In the applications the programme expects the projects to consider the specific objectives of the priorities and to explain how they contribute to these objectives. Applicants are invited to go beyond traditional schemes and provide creative approaches to the topics. As a general rule it has to be noted that the programme is not expecting projects with an agricultural, research or investment focus.

The following notes highlight those thematic fields where projects are particularly welcome.



Priority 1: Competitiveness and Attractiveness

Coping with the effects of Demographic Change

Demographic change is recognised as one of the most significant challenges facing Europe and its regions. The development and composition of the Alpine population, as well as inward and outward migration, are often completely differing from one region to the other. The high heterogeneity of Alpine regions with regard to their geography as well as to their natural and cultural heritage makes them more vulnerable to the impacts of demographic change.

The Alpine Space area is to be made ready to cope with its demographic future.³ That means both dealing with the negative effects of demographic change and at the same time taking advantage of the economic and social opportunities offered by this process. Actions

³ The Alpine Space Programme organised in 2011 a thematic event on Demographic Change to take a close look at major challenges the cooperation area is facing, fine tune its strategic orientation and contribute to policy shaping. The report of this Demographic Change Forum can be found on: www.alpine-space.eu

are welcome which tackle opportunities and challenges for economic restructuring, particularly in the fields of public services, health, care and leisure/tourism (“silver economy”) or social and labour market stabilisation (“active aging”, stop of brain drain in regional labour markets). Services relating to competitiveness, such as education and training, or age management provided by small and medium sized enterprises will therefore be of increasing importance.

Furthermore actions shall be developed to increase competitiveness of territories and revitalise declining towns and cities in response to demographic trends. Here the maintenance, the improved supply and/or adaptation of public services and of the urban living environment to prevent an ongoing social exclusion and rural exodus are potential fields of intervention. Municipalities concerned by a severe rural exodus need support to find incentives and soft measures to “retain” people, but also conflict management instruments to steer the “controlled shrinkage” of infrastructure and services to a sustainable level. Actions are called for to identify the potentials of a controlled and socially-cushioned shrinkage as a future planning tool.

Strengthening the role of urban areas as engines for sustainable development

The rationale behind is to exploit the potentials of the big cities as engines for growth and competitiveness in the alpine context. Sustainability and creativity are keywords for this objective.

Cities are locations for all kinds of research, development, education and knowledge institutions. Innovative knowledge-intensive and creative activities will define the urban economies of the future. As a consequence, cities must develop and evolve into creative and innovative urban systems. However the competitiveness of cities in the globalised economy will depend on their innovation capacity and their ability to attract actors with creative capacity. Project applicants should set out how these functions of the cities can be exploited and stimulated in an alpine context (i.e. how questions arising out of the specific situations of the Alpine Space can be answered).

Rural- urban relationship

The Alpine settlement patterns are characterised by the two most outstanding extremes of on the one hand booming metropolises with expanding suburban structures adjacent to the

large cities and on the other hand rural areas experiencing severe depopulation. Both trends cause specific conflicts like urban sprawl, congestion, loss of environmental quality in the agglomerations whereas remote areas suffer of a declining functionality as regards labour market, supply of public services or social life.

Furthermore, some rural areas are target of influx of new population groups on the search for an intact environment, authentic culture and comfortable living conditions. Valleys undergo high touristic impacts and hundreds of small and medium size towns display manifold economic and social vitality. Due to these multi-faceted patterns urban-rural relations and functionalities are being experienced differently from region to region.

The multiplicity of lifestyles in modern society is the driver of this processes which do not yet find satisfactory observance in the traditional policy sectors. Steering instruments and planning approaches are searched for which take into consideration all facets of post modern living and working styles and sustainable and energy efficient development. These should respond to the increasing need to find corresponding tools for these demand driven processes which ask for differentiated priorities and activities in the Alps and their surrounding lowlands. Approaches of participatory planning and spatial management are searched for in order to involve both urban and Alpine dwellers in the shaping of the development of the Alps.

Metropolises near the Alps lose population to the agglomerations around. The role and expectations from metropolitan regions to rural areas and valleys, and vice-versa, need be better analysed to identify “win-win” development options. The polarisation between attractive and competitive urban centres and declining mountain areas must be overcome by developing new strategies for regional development.

Investing in natural and cultural capital as a source of economic development

Investing in a more sustainable growth by fostering low-carbon economy and eco-innovation is essential to improve resource efficiency, competitiveness and job creation. Networked ICT infrastructures, along with innovative services and applications are key enablers for the deployment of green technologies and eco-innovation. It is important to promote energy efficiency and renewable energies as drivers for regional development with measures such as energy efficiency in SMEs, bringing local knowledge, resources and traditional sectors into the economic cycle; the development of smart grids and intelligent dis-

tribution systems (via ICT); the support to activities in the green technologies field through public-private partnerships; the promotion of low carbon strategies in urban areas.



Priority 2: Accessibility and Connectivity

In the framework of this programme, projects need to focus on preparing, supporting, monitoring and evaluating activities rather than on pure investment.

Mitigating negative effects of traffic flows crossing the Alps

The negative effects of traffic are among the most sensitive and controversial aspects with regard to development in the cooperation area. Therefore there is a call for actions that could help mitigating these effects as well as for actions proposing alternative solutions. Among these, there can be coordinated approaches for the improvement of transport security and safety (e.g. in tunnels, both railway and road, be it for passenger or goods transportation and for dangerous goods) or the coordination and elaboration of actions that mitigate the negative effects of transport, mobility and accessibility. In relation to these, actions aiming at improving traffic flow on existing infrastructures and actions aiming at improving transport security are particularly welcome.

Promoting sustainable and innovative mobility models

The improvement of sustainable mobility links, developing intelligent logistic nodes and implementing new multimodal solutions is essential for a sustainable development of transport systems. The application of sustainable and innovative mobility solutions in relation to the environment, human health and improvement of equal opportunity and access to services is particularly welcome. Projects dealing with the coordination of mobility strategies and mobility plans of regions to improve connectivity and increase the quality and reliability of transport systems (including persons, goods and information) are called for. Among these there can be actions on the harmonisation and improvement of services for transport users (e.g. logistic services, mobility management, online information, ticketing etc.) or soft measures as incentives to introduce new sustainable and cost attractive solutions (for freight and/or passengers) for behavioural change.

Supporting connectivity responding to the needs of the demographic change in society

The rise and influx of retirees significantly changes the demand in public services. The needs of an aging society in terms of recreation, care, health and accommodation are to be considered and integrated in a demand oriented approach to the accessibility of services.

Projects covering actions with regard to accessibility and connectivity services that support economic activities, offer sustainable solutions and help the local population to respond to the effects of demographic change are welcome. Further, soft solutions to retain (the young) population in rural areas such as innovative tools such as e-health, e-business and e-learning can be crucial for territorial development and can foster the attractiveness of villages and small towns.



Priority 3: Environment and risk prevention

Coordination and management for use of raw material and natural resources and for energy planning

Projects shall bring sustainable and concrete solutions into the policy development cycle to handle appropriately conflicts for natural resources management and energy planning (i.e. conflict management in energy planning as a basis for sustainable expansion of renewable energy production). Further, the development and implementation of planning instruments and tools to support administrations in the improvement of energy efficiency with particular focus on renewable and clean energy supplies are called for.

Further topics not yet covered by already approved projects in the “Alpine Space” programme are also welcome⁴.

Annexes

Annex 1: Form Expression of Interest

Annex 2: Application Form including Model Partnership Agreement

⁴ Applicants are kindly invited to consult the section of the programme website dedicated to the already approved projects: <http://www.alpine-space.eu/the-projects/running-projects/>. There, information about all running projects, their objectives and results, the state of the art, and specific websites can be found.