

InterregGov Project - Call for Applications Reference Guide

1. About the project

The legal framework for the 2021-2027 Interreg programmes introduced Interreg-Specific Objectives as a new feature. Among these, the Interreg Specific Objective 1 (“A better cooperation governance”) is a major milestone, focusing on governance themes in Interreg projects and programmes, such as cross-border obstacles and people-to-people cooperation, both of which are considered with high EU added value.

While most Interreg programmes have opted to support ISO1, many face challenges in implementing it effectively. Issues include a lack of guidance on organising governance-related calls, limited understanding and interest among potential beneficiaries, and low ambition to engage in legal and administrative cooperation. Only a few mature programmes have managed to implement impactful governance projects. The objective of InterregGov is to help all programmes to better implement ISO1 (through guidance, events, etc.) and more particularly up to 12 of them who will benefit from an expert (free of charge) to provide tailor-made on-the-ground assistance. Themes will depend on each border area's context and may include health, tourism, risk management, transport, education, culture, sports and more.

2. Who can apply

This call is open to the managing authorities of all Interreg VI-A cross-border programmes (2021-2027) excluding the IPA and NEXT ones. See Annex 1 with a list of eligible programmes.

3. What the regions of the selected pilot programmes will gain

InterregGov will provide tailor-made on-the-ground support to up to 12 selected pilot cross-border programmes through an expert (free of charge) who will work with the programme authorities and stakeholders.

The expert, together with the selected programmes and stakeholders, will work on:

- Needs assessment to better implement ISO1 and analysis of potential stakeholders who could implement projects (specific to the programme's territory);
- Action plan per programme focused on relevant priorities identified and jointly agreed themes (e.g., healthcare, education, disaster risk management, etc.);

- Design and preparation of different scale projects focusing on ISO1 solutions to be funded by the programme.

4. What is expected from selected pilot cross-border programmes to apply

The cross-border programme should dedicate resources to work with InterregGov for the whole period of tailor-made support (both with the expert and the InterregGov core team), which could be about 12 months.

Important note

- English will be used as a working language for all the communication between the InterregGov core team and the pilot programme. Regarding local events, they should ideally be in the language(s) of the programme. Regarding written communication (publication, website, etc.), they should be both in English and in the language(s) of the programme (possibly using machine translation tools).
- However, technical support provided by the experts to individual pilot programmes will be delivered in the local language(s) of the selected cross-border regions, if possible.

5. Structure and duration of the call

The call is opened from **20 May** to **17 June** 2026.

The call has two topics:

- Cross-border obstacles;
- People-to-people cooperation.

Interreg VI-A programmes (see Annex 1) can apply to one topic or for both (in the same application form).

6. Eligibility criteria and assessment considerations

Applications will be reviewed based on: eligibility criteria, which must be met for an application to be considered; and assessment considerations, which are not mandatory but may be considered as assets during the assessment.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible, applications must meet all of the following conditions:

- Applications must be submitted by the managing authority of one of the Interreg VI-A cross-

border programmes (2021-2027) on internal borders (See Annex 1), excluding the IPA and NEXT ones.

- Agreement of the Monitoring Committee (possibly through written procedure) for the programme to receive the support of the InterregGov project. In application the programme has to identify the date of Monitoring Committee approval of programme participation for the InterregGov project support or indicate the planned date when such decision will take place.
- In case the decision is taken after the application submission, the programme shall inform the InterregGov core team by email without delay once the Monitoring Committee agreement has been made.
- Only complete on-line application forms submitted in English will be considered.
- Confirmation of availability of resources and operational capacity to engage with InterregGov, (with the expert and with the core team).

Assessment considerations

The following elements are not eligibility requirements, but may be considered as assets during the assessment, as they can enhance the relevance, feasibility or learning potential of an application:

- Expression of needs for ISO1, especially on cross-border obstacles and people-to-people cooperation;
- Description of previous or current difficulties in implementing ISO1;
- If relevant, reference to previous use of other tools to address cross-border obstacles (such as the B-solutions initiative)
- Amount of the not-committed funds with attention to the ISO1 budget at the date of the application (2021-2027);
- Plans to work on cross-border obstacles and people-to-people cooperation (2028-2034);

The absence of one or more of these assessment considerations will not disqualify an application.

7. Application assessment process

- The assessment of the received applications will take place in a number of steps, combining eligibility checks with an overall appraisal of the application InterregGov will verify that the application is eligible.
- InterregGov and the European Commission will assess the application using the assessment considerations.

- InterregGov and the European Commission will seek to ensure a diverse portfolio of pilot programmes, notably in terms of geographical coverage, types of regions, and selected topics for assistance.
- The assessment will be carried out by a selection panel composed of representatives of InterregGov and the European Commission.
- The final decision on the selection of pilot programmes will be taken by the European Commission indicatively by the end of June – beginning of July
- All applicants will be informed of the outcome of the assessment by email within 2 weeks after the decision.
- Selection decisions are not subject to appeal.
- Applicants not selected in the first application round may reapply in subsequent rounds (if any), provided that the total number of 12 pilot programmes has not yet been reached.

8. Procedure for submission of applications

- The application form has to be filled in and submitted [here](#).
- Applications for the first application round must be submitted by **17 June 23:59** CET.

9. Informational webinar

An informational webinar for the call will be organised on **3 June from 10:00 to 11:30** (CET). During the webinar, InterregGov and the European Commission will present the project and the call for applications, and answer questions from programmes interested in applying. To register for this webinar, please click [here](#).

10. Contact information

For further information on this call, please contact InterregGov team info@interreggov.eu.

11. Data protection notice for this call for application

InterregGov is committed to protecting personal data in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Within the framework of this call, InterregGov processes personal data collected via the online application form, including: name and surname; professional title; professional contact details

(email address, telephone number); country and region; information on institutional roles and mandates; and information related to experience with cross-border cooperation and ISO1.

The data are processed for the purposes of assessing applications under the call for pilot cross-border regions, communicating with applicants, and managing follow-up activities related to the implementation of the InterregGov project. The legal basis for processing is Article 6(1)(b) and (e) GDPR.

The provision of personal data is mandatory. Failure to provide the required data will result in the application not being assessed and the impossibility of the programme to the tailor-made on-the-ground assistance.

Personal data are stored securely and retained until **30 August 2028**. Access is restricted to authorised InterregGov staff, members of the project consortium, and European Commission staff involved in the management, audit, and control of the project.

No transfers to third countries are foreseen. Should such transfers become necessary, they will be carried out in compliance with the GDPR.

Data subjects have the right to access, rectify, and, where applicable, erase their personal data, as well as to object to processing and request restriction, in accordance with the GDPR. Requests can be addressed to: unda.ozolina@InterregGov.eu.

Without prejudice to other remedies, data subjects have the right to lodge a complaint with a competent supervisory authority.

No automated decision-making within the meaning of Article 22 GDPR takes place.

Annex 1 to the InterregGov Project - Call for Applications Reference Guide**List of eligible programmes.**

2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Austria-Czechia
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Austria-Germany/Bavaria
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Austria-Hungary
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Belgium-France (Wallonie-Vlaanderen-France)
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Belgium-The Netherlands (Vlaanderen-Nederland)
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Czechia-Poland
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Estonia-Latvia
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Finland-Estonia-Latvia-Sweden (Central Baltic)
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A France-Belgium-Germany-Luxembourg (Grande Région/Großregion)
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A France-Germany-Switzerland (Upper Rhine)
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A France-Italy (ALCOTRA)
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A France-Switzerland
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Germany/Bavaria-Czechia
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Germany/Brandenburg-Poland
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Germany/Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania/Brandenburg-Poland
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Germany/Saxony-Czechia
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Germany-Austria-Switzerland-Liechtenstein (Alpenrhein-Bodensee-Hochrhein)
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Germany-Denmark
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Germany-The Netherlands
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Greece-Bulgaria
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Greece-Cyprus
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Greece-Italy
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Hungary-Croatia
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Hungary-Slovakia
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Italy-Austria
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Italy-Croatia
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Italy-France (Maritime)
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Italy-Malta
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Italy-Slovenia
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Italy-Switzerland
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Latvia-Lithuania
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Lithuania-Poland
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Maas-Rijn/Meuse-Rhin/Maas-Rhein (Netherlands-Belgium-Germany)
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Poland-Denmark-Germany-Lithuania-Sweden (South Baltic)

2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Poland-Germany/Saxony
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Poland-Slovakia
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Romania-Bulgaria
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Romania-Hungary
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Slovakia-Austria
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Slovakia-Czechia
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Slovenia-Austria
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Slovenia-Croatia
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Slovenia-Hungary
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Spain-France-Andorra (POCTEFA)
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Spain-Portugal (POCTEP)
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Sweden-Denmark-Norway (Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerrak)
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Sweden-Finland-Norway (AURORA)
2021 - 2027 Interreg VI-A Sweden-Norway