

ANNOUNCEMENT AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

SECOND Call for Project Applications

Background

The Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme 2014 - 2020 was successfully implemented and has led to continued commitment to developing a new successor programme that is expected to run until 2027. The Interreg Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme 2021-2027 was approved by the European Commission on 8th September 2022, thereby the priorities and objectives of the Interreg NPA 2021 - 2027 Programme (Interreg NPA) are established.

The Interreg NPA Programme is part of the European Territorial Cooperation Objective supported by the European Regional Development Fund. The programme contributes to and aligns with the European Cohesion strategy of a Greener and Smarter Europe, and a Europe closer to citizens, National and Regional policies and development strategies, macro regional and sea basin strategies, and other programmes covering parts of the geographical area. Furthermore, an increased interest and rapid developments in Arctic regions has resulted in a more explicit recognition of the programme's regional development contribution to the EU's Arctic Policy.

The programme's vision is a Northern Periphery and Arctic area where communities cooperate with each other to harness opportunities, find common solutions to shared challenges and together become more prosperous and resilient.

Expected outcomes

Main projects are expected to develop concrete and durable project outputs, leading to a positive impact on the project's target groups in the Programme area. An output should be captured by an output indicator, and directly contribute to the achievement of the result envisaged by the programme objectives.

Besides main projects in Priorities 1 and 2, the Monitoring Committee is looking to fund capacity building small-scale projects in Priority 3. The purpose of these small-scale projects is to strengthen the organisational capacity among NPA communities to make better use of cooperation opportunities, and thereby develop more resilient communities. This includes working with natural and cultural heritage to protect, promote and develop these important features for the programme area and developing wider territorial synergies and links to the benefits of the programme area. In addition, this type of project is aimed at building up cooperation capacity and experience for representatives of specific underrepresented groups (e.g. young people, and indigenous peoples) in the programme area. The ambition is that partners become better suited for engagement in main projects as partners in the future.

In the second call, project applications addressing the development and transfer of capacity building concepts to engage young people in cooperation are of particular interest.

Northern Periphery and Arctic

The Monitoring Committee is looking to fund projects in the following Priorities:

PRIORITY 1: Strengthening the innovation capacity for resilient and attractive NPA communities

- 1.1 - Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies
- 1.2 - Reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies, research organisations and public authorities and
- 1.3 - Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments

PRIORITY 2: Strengthening the capacity for climate change adaptation, and resource sufficiency in NPA communities

- 2.1 - Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- 2.2 - Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account ecosystem-based approaches and
- 2.3 - Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy

PRIORITY 3: Strengthening the organisational capacity among NPA communities to make use of cooperation opportunities

- 3.1 - Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders to implement macro-regional strategies and sea-basin strategies, as well as other territorial strategies

For all Priorities, the following is highlighted:

- All projects are expected to make a special effort to include end users in their project proposals. End user involvement can be demonstrated by the composition of the partnership (e.g. involvement as full project partners, or associated partners), the involvement of end users as described in dedicated work package activities, or by attaching letters of support from end users.
- In all activities that are approved by the NPA programme, there should be an integration of the horizontal criteria. This means that the activities should strive for sustainable development, gender equality, non-discrimination and accessibility and inclusion of underrepresented groups, including indigenous peoples and other culturally and linguistically distinct groups originating from the NPA area. Activities should be carried out with respect for fundamental rights.

Project Budget

A **Main project** is expected to have an average total budget of 1.500 000 EUR.

Capacity building small-scale projects applying under Priority 3 have a total budget of no more than 200.000 EUR. The support to the beneficiaries will be handled as a lump sum based on a draft budget established on a case-by-case basis and agreed ex ante by the Managing Authority.

Northern Periphery and Arctic

Applicants from Non-Member states are strongly advised to check if there are any national restrictions to budget levels, for example by checking national information websites, or by contacting their Regional Contact Point.

Project duration

Main project: 3 years for project activities, excluding final reporting.

Capacity building preparatory projects: 18 months for project activities, excluding final reporting.

Project structure

Main projects and capacity building small-scale projects in Priority 3 must involve partners from at least 3 programme partner countries, at least one of which is from an EU Member State.

Partnerships are recommended to include at least 2 of the 3 geographical zones of the programme area: Finland-Sweden-Norway; Ireland; Faroe Islands-Greenland-Iceland.

In addition to expectations outlined in the Interreg Regulation (Article 26, Regulation 2021/1059), Lead Partners have to meet the following criteria:

- They are a public sector organisation.
- They are based in the NPA Programme area, unless they have a national remit that covers the Programme area.

For information about eligible partners, please see the Programme Manual, chapter 2.2.1.

Mandatory supporting documents to be submitted with JEMS application:

- PDF of signed Lead partner statement
- PDF of signed Project partner statements

Timeline

OPENING OF 2nd CALL:	5th October 2022
APPLICATION DEADLINE:	5th December 2022 12:00 (noon) CET
DECISION DATE:	22nd March 2023

Project development support events

October 19th, 2022 – “How to Apply” webinar via Zoom, 13:00 - 15:00 CET Register [here](#)

October 20th and October 21st – Online Project clinics, booking details to follow.

November 16th, 2022 - “How to complete a Jems application” webinar via Zoom, 13:00 – 15:00. Register [here](#)

**Northern Periphery and Arctic**

Further information

If you are interested in applying, we recommend that you are in touch with the Regional Contact Point in your region, click [here](#) for contact details. Alternatively, you can contact Christopher Parker at the Programme Secretariat, christopher.parker@interreg-npa.eu.

Details of the main project application call and the application pack including guidance materials will be published on www.interreg-npa.eu.

General information about the Interreg NPA 2021-2027 can be found at this link:
<https://www.interreg-npa.eu/interreg-npa-2021-2027/>