

## GUIDELINES ON HOW TO ADDRESS REGIONAL POLICIES

1. The main difference between INTERREG 4C (the old programme) and INTERREG EUROPE is that each project-partner must address only one “regional policy” (see also the Annex).
2. Perfect requirement is:
  - (1) Every partner addresses a policy included in its Structural Funds Regional Operational Programme (ROP).
  - (2) This regional policy should be linked to the EU objective for a low-carbon economy, because the project is being submitted under this IE priority .
  - (3) Ideally this regional policy should also be linked to the EU priority for “smart specialisation”<sup>1</sup>.
  - (4) The Managing Authorities of each ROP will be a project-partner
3. Minimum requirement is:
  - (1) Policies addressed:
    - (a) at least 50% are a Cohesion Policy ie they are in the Structural Funds ROP (or a relevant European Territorial Cooperation programme policy)<sup>2</sup>.
    - (b) The other policies may be regional (ie not Structural Funds) or municipal.
  - (2) Involvement of the Managing Authorities (MA) of each ROP. If the policy addressed is a Cohesion Policy:
    - (a) ideally each MA would be a project-partner,
    - (b) but not, o will the MA actively support the project
    - (c) if not (b) the MA must at least sign the formal **STANDARD** Letter of Support and agree to be a member of the local stakeholder group. *You can find the template to prepare the Standard Letter of support here (DO not change anything!!!):*  
[http://www.interregeurope.eu/fileadmin/user\\_upload/documents/Call\\_related\\_documents/Interreg\\_Europe\\_-\\_Second\\_call\\_letter\\_of\\_support\\_template.pdf](http://www.interregeurope.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/Call_related_documents/Interreg_Europe_-_Second_call_letter_of_support_template.pdf)  
At the very least each bid-partner addressing a Cohesion Policy must achieve (c). If they can't achieve this then the partner cannot participate.
4. So that you can understand what the Programme requires, here are the main questions in the Application Form that have to be answered for each policy instrument to be addressed by the project (whether Structural Funds or not):
  - \* Please describe the main features of this policy instrument (e.g. objective, characteristics, priority or measure concerned) and the reasons why it should be improved.
  - \* How do you envisage the improvement of this policy instrument (e.g. through new projects supported, through improved governance, through structural change)?
  - \* What is the state of play of the issue addressed by this policy instrument in the territory? What needs to be improved in the territorial situation?

### The INTERREG Europe website states

A policy instrument is a means for public intervention. It refers to any policy, strategy, instrument, or law developed by public authorities and applied on the ground in order to improve a specific territorial situation. In most cases, financial resources are associated with a policy instrument. However, an instrument can sometimes refer to a legislative framework with no specific funding.

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<sup>1</sup> Please check your OP carefully. See also <http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/home>. This website provides an analysis of all ROPs

<sup>2</sup> The ETC affects partners in different ways

In the context of Interreg Europe, operational programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs as well as Cooperation Programmes from European Territorial Cooperation are considered policy instruments. Beyond EU Cohesion policy, local, regional or national public authorities also develop their own policy instruments.