

Small projects in Interreg: Present & Future



22-23 October 2026

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AVI Center, Ministry of Regional Development Czech Republic
Prague | Czech Republic





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Outlines

The meeting will bring together Interreg programmes using or considering small projects implemented directly or through a Small Project Fund (SPF), to exchange practical experience and discuss their future role in Interreg.

The first day will combine the financial and implementation perspective with a broader discussion on the role of small projects in strengthening the local dimension of territorial cooperation. We will also discuss practices and simplification regarding small projects management.

Particular attention will be given to simplified implementation methods, SCOs and draft budgets, including experience from audits and controls.

The meeting will also look beyond the current programming period and discuss the place of small projects and SPF Post 2027, including opportunities and requirements emerging from the proposed regulatory framework.

The second day of event will focus on Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) and explore whether elements of the CLLD approach could provide inspiration for the future development of Small Project Funds, including ideas emerging from the European Commission and OECD.

Objective

The objective of the meeting is to exchange practical experience implementing small projects and SPFs, identify approaches that simplify delivery while maintaining sound financial management, and discuss how SPFs can further strengthen the local dimension of Interreg.

The meeting will also provide a space for programmes to jointly reflect on the future of Small Project Funds after 2027 and identify elements that should be considered when designing the next generation of Interreg programmes.



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Day One – Thursday, 22 October 2026

Local time	Session
09.00–09.30	Registration and welcome coffee
09.30–09.45	Welcome and introduction Objectives of the meeting, agenda and introduction of participants
09.45–11.15	Small projects as laboratories for local cross-border cooperation Innovative approaches to the local dimension of cooperation Inspiring small practices Reaching new and smaller beneficiaries What makes a small project generate a meaningful cross-border effect?
11.15–11.45	Coffee break
11.45–12.45	Making the Small World simpler: SCOs (incl. draft budget methodology) and other simplified approaches Practical experience from programmes What works and what remains complicated? Approaches to setting and verifying costs.
12.45–13.45	Lunch break
13.45–15.15	Simplification meets audit: experience from controls and audits of SPFs Audit experience with SCOs Recurring findings and challenges What can programmes learn from each other? Programme examples and discussion
15.15–15.30	Coffee break
15.30–16.45	Small Projects and SPF post-2027 – part I: what place in the future Interreg architecture? small project/SPF in the proposed regulatory framework New requirements and opportunities What should programmes prepare for? What should be preserved or changed compared with 2021–2027?
16.45–17.00	Wrap-up of Day 1 Key messages and questions for Day 2
19.00–21.00	Social Activity – Voluntary



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Day Two – Friday, 23 October 2026

Local time

Session

09.00–09.15

Welcome back and recap of Day 1

09.15–10.15

Small Project and SPF post-2027 – part II

10.15–10.30

Coffee break

10.30–11.30

Community-Led Local Development (CLLD): a direction for future Small Project Funds? | Introduction to the CLLD concept and its relevance for territorial cooperation | Ideas and perspectives from the European Commission and OECD | What could a CLLD-inspired approach bring to Interreg and SPFs?

11.30-12:00

Buffet Brunch

12.00–12:45

From concept to practice: could CLLD work for Small Project Funds? | Interactive discussion with programmes | Potential benefits and risks | Governance, local ownership and selection of projects | Which elements could realistically be transferred to future SPFs?

12.45-13:00

Conclusions and next steps | Main messages from Prague | Follow-up within the Interact SPF network **and End of the meeting**



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Practicalities

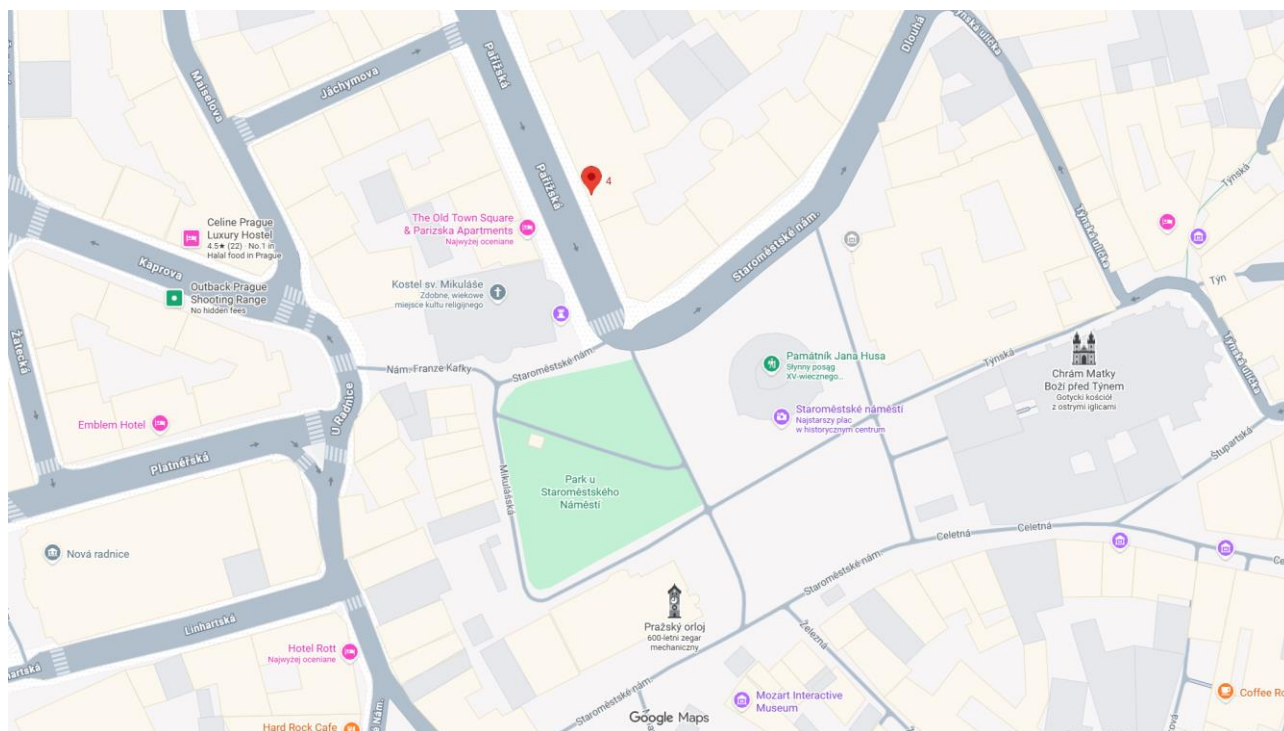
Below you will find all essential information about travel, getting around, accommodation, the event venue, and practical tips for your stay in Czechia.

Venue

Akademii Veřejného Investování (AVI)

Address: Pařížská street no 4, Praha 1

[See on Google Map](#)



The event is organised in kind cooperation with the Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic. The official name of the venue is Akademie veřejného investování (AVI).

It is located just a few steps from the main square, Staroměstské náměstí (Old Town Square).

From the airport, you can use the Airport Express (AE bus) bus operated by Czech Railways to the Main Railway Station and then walk for around 20 minutes. Alternatively, you can take bus No. 59 to Veleslavín metro station (Green Line – direction Skalka), transfer to the metro, get off at Staroměstská station, and walk approximately 300 metres to the venue.

The nearest metro stations to the venue are Staroměstská (Green Line) and Můstek (Yellow Line – approximately a 10–12-minute walk).



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Travel

In Prague, **it is important to use only official taxi services from the airport**. Uber Airport is the official taxi service at Prague Airport – you can order a ride via the app or directly at the airport. In the city, we kindly recommend not using taxis from the street, but only pre-booked services such as Bolt or Uber, or official taxis with prices announced in advance.

Tickets for public transport can be purchased from ticket machines (usually accepting coins and cards). On some trams and buses, you can also buy a ticket directly on board by card, but this option is not always available.

You can also buy a 24-hour ticket (150 CZK – around EUR 6) or a 72-hour ticket (350 CZK – around EUR 14). These tickets are valid for all trams, buses and metro services, including regular public transport to and from the airport.

NOTE: Public transport tickets are not valid for the Airport Express (AE). A separate ticket is required and costs 200 CZK (approx. EUR 8). It can be purchased directly on the bus or via the České dráhy app.

Getting around Prague

Prague city centre is compact and easy to navigate on foot. The city also has an extensive and reliable public transport network consisting of metro, trams and buses. Most key attractions and the meeting venue are within walking distance or easily accessible by public transport.

Accommodation

Participants are expected to arrange their own accommodation.

There is a wide range of hotels and other accommodation options in Prague city centre. We recommend booking accommodation in Prague 1 or 2, particularly in the Old Town (Staré Město), New Town (Nové Město) or around the Můstek and Náměstí Republiky areas. Early booking is recommended, as centrally located hotels can be in high demand.

Other Information

Prague is a historic European capital known for its well-preserved architecture, vibrant cultural life and walkable historic centre. The Old Town and surrounding areas offer a wide selection of restaurants, cafés, bars and cultural attractions.

Practical information

Weather in October: typically cool and variable, with daytime temperatures around 10–15°C. Mornings and evenings can be considerably cooler, and rain is possible.

Currency: Czech koruna (CZK)

Payment: Card payments and mobile wallets are widely accepted in hotels, restaurants, shops and most other establishments. However, it may be useful to carry a small amount of Czech koruna in cash.

Contacts



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