

Capitalisation tailored support 2022

Support activity: *Benchmark on capitalisation and clustering calls*



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1. Introduction: a large diversity of capitalisation calls

This benchmarking note is part of the support provided by INTERACT.

The detailed information concerning the different capitalisation calls (about fifteen calls are analysed) is included in an excel document, complementary to this note.

The objective of this note is:

- To compare the capitalisation calls in terms of objectives and expected results (promotion of results through targeted dissemination or transfer of concrete projects outputs/results towards new audience and stakeholders)
- To show and enhance the different possible options for the concrete implementation of capitalisation calls

Indeed, more and more INTERREG programmes have launched or launch in this current period capitalisation calls to use the residual funds for the programme and to prepare the next programming period.

Whatever the objectives of these calls, each concerned programme has defined:

- The projects and their outputs/results, which could be the focus of the capitalisation calls and the basis for the capitalisation activities (Part 3)
- The identification of potential targets/“takers” /”re-users” (Part 4)
- The modalities: one or two steps process, typology of capitalisation activities (Part 5)

2. From a targeted promotion to the transfer of concrete cooperation outputs

According to the programme and their context, capitalisation calls have and can combine various objectives, illustrating different degrees in the capitalisation:

- To identify the most successful projects outputs/good practices => URBACT, ENI MED, Atlantic area, MED
- To disseminate projects results towards new stakeholders, new geographic area or through thematic approach (thematic publication, thematic event, thematic communities...)=> 2 seas, NEW, Centrale Europe, MED, Italia-Croatia
- To stimulate synergies with other initiatives => ENI CBC MED, MED,
- To enrich the existing projects with the development of case studies, pilot actions, or to adapt them according to the COVID 19 and economic crisis => 2 seas, ADRION,
- To encourage or/and to support the concrete re-use of ETC projects outputs/results => MED, URBACT, atlantic area, Central Europe, ADRION, Italia-Croatia
- To stimulate the better knowledge of projects results at a higher level in order to change public policies (mainstreaming)=> MED, ENI CBC, Italy-Croatia

3. Identification of outputs enhanced in capitalisation calls

3.1. Open calls versus restricted capitalisation calls

Whatever the objectives of the capitalisation calls, programmes should define upstream the content which could be capitalised: some of the calls are really open to all the previous projects selected, others are more restrictive with some criteria.

- Open capitalisation calls: they are dedicated to all the applicants from previous “classical” calls (even the closed projects and sometimes the rejected projects), covering all the programmes axis/priorities: two seas programme, North West Europe programme, Atlantic Area, Northern periphery and Artic, Adrion ...

Even if these calls remind opened, programmes identify some criteria for the selection of application concerning outputs, such as:

- Quality of results and visibility at cross-border (2 seas)
 - Outputs should be in the 3 languages of the Programme (2 seas)
 - Capitalisation initiative outputs and results are measurable and quantified (NWE)
 - Exploitation of outputs from at least one thematically relevant project funded or managed by the European Commission (Centrale Europe)
 - Outputs produced and best practices tested during the implementation of “classical projects” (Italy-Croatia)
- Restricted capitalisation calls based on pre- identified eligible outputs before the launching of the call: several programmes have selected upstream the eligible projects outputs, which could be eligible for capitalisation calls applications. This is notably the case for several programmes, such as:
 - MED programme: the JS has selected the eligible outputs on the basis of several criteria: a) Projects having concluding their work / b) Projects not already capitalised in an ongoing Interreg Med Project / c) Outputs / deliverable shows "significant transferability potential"/ d) Outputs were tested during the 2014-2020 interreg MED completed project lifetime / e) Outputs are functional, with a guide / manual / training tool and display transferring requirements / f) Outputs are replicable and transposable in different MED territories (includes transfer plans, capitalisation plans) / g) Outputs should include concrete, clear and quantified target values / h) Deliverable can establish a link with the EU Green Deal and EU strategy
 - URBACT programme: the outputs have been defined during a previous call (a call for interest) for good practices (step 1). The good practices have been selected through the following criteria: a) relevance of the good practice/ b) integrated urban development principle/ c) Concrete evidences of the success / d) Transferability integrating also costs and budget criteria. A group of external experts have analysed and selected these good practices.

In any case, capitalisation calls generally cover all the thematic axis and priorities of their programme, but they can also be more restrictive (focus on one or two priorities) or concern the new European priorities, such as “a greener Europe”, “A smarter Europe”... facilitating the preparation of the next programming period (Adrion).

3.2. A diversity of outputs according to the scale of capitalisation

The type of enhanced outputs in a capitalisation call is also linked to the objectives and the expected results:

- Some calls are based on the capitalisation of one project: each applicant should capitalise its outputs developed in a previous call through various activities: dissemination, transfer...

- Others calls concern the capitalisation of several projects developed on a same topic: for example, applicants should gather at least 2 “classical projects” in their application (Centrale Europe or Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme)

4. Identification of potential takers/receivers (re-users) within capitalisation calls

4.1. [Three different potential options](#)

Capitalisation calls are really a way to better identify and mobilise potential takers (within and outside INTERREG), who could be interested in reusing ETC projects outputs. It contributes to show and demonstrate the added-value of cooperation in public policies.

According to the objectives of the capitalisation call, the identification and mobilisation of takers is organised on different ways:

- In some calls, the identification of takers is not a condition for the application. Applicants should “only” describe the activities they will carry out to reach new and wider audience.
- In others calls, the creation of the partnership should include “potential takers” or “associated partners, which:
 - o Are relevant organisation competent to share knowledge, results and undertake communication and dissemination (Two seas, Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme, North West Europe...).
 - o include measures to involve underrepresented groups such as young people and indigenous peoples, where possible (Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme), new economic sectors (NWE)
 - o come from an extended geographical area (NWE)

These two first cases/options concern mainly the calls aiming to develop targeted dissemination actions.

- The third option concern capitalisation calls, in which the identification of “takers” is mandatory and a condition for the creation of the partnership. It’s the case for the calls aiming at transferring concrete outputs towards new stakeholders.

4.2. [Focus on thematic clusters developed through capitalisation calls](#)

Several capitalisation calls concern the creation of thematic groups aiming at maximizing the experiences and results achieved, better organising the dissemination and encouraging the change of public policies (Horizontal projects in MED, clustering calls of Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme, Italy-Croatia programme).

These clusters based on the main thematic priorities of programme can be a way to facilitate the identification of potential takers. Indeed, the partners of these calls are wider. If they gather some projects owners from previous calls on a same field, they generally also include wider stakeholders, such as: universities, public authorities, thematic stakeholders, etc

5. Concrete modalities of capitalisation calls

5.1. [Main eligible activities in capitalisation calls](#)

According to the objectives (targeted dissemination, transfer, mainstream), capitalisation calls can include various activities, such as:

- Development of additional activities falling within the objectives of the existing project =>Atlantic area
- New pilots or demonstrations that complement the existing framework of the project: additional ideas =>Atlantic area
- Extended project geography with the inclusion of new partners from new regions / territories =>Atlantic area
- Study visits =>MED...
- Co-design of transfer plan for each partner =>URBACT
- Small investments =>MED...
- External services (study...)=> MED
- Policy recommendations, Memorandum of Understanding, agreements, procedures, regulatory proposals => MED
- Seminars, peer-reviews, workshops...

Adrion programme has defined more precisely the eligible activities:

- Organisation of at least 1 meeting and/or events per country beneficiaries
- Organisation of activities, e.g. : trainings, manuals, video tutorials, stakeholders' events (related to the promotion of practical application of products/practices and process developed, addressed to relevant stakeholders operating in the sector subject, cooperation with National Contact Points possible...)
- Organisation of at least 1 meeting and/or events per partner state
- Already delivered project strategy, action plan and networks (update, Improvement, enhancement, to ensure their resilience to COVID 19 and the economic crisis)
- Different tools like apps, platforms data and operability (further enhancement as compared to the first call)
- Max 2 pilote actions addressing COVID 19 situation (implementation)

5.2. Implementation method for capitalisation calls

Capitalisation calls generate projects with lower duration and budget than “Classical project”.

- Concerning the duration: the calls aiming at promoting cooperation projects results are very often on a period of 12 or 18 months maximum. The calls involving a real transfer are often longer (until 2 or 2,5 years). Finally, for the cluster, period can be even longer, until 3 years for MED horizontal projects.
- Concerning the budget: according to the typology of capitalisation activities (mainly soft activities), budgets are lower and represent an average of 500 000 ERDF. For some programmes, involving more partners (ENI CBC Med, MED programmes), it can reach higher amounts.

Finally, capitalisation calls can be implemented through different methods: one step or two steps processes. For the 2 steps process, it concerns ETC programmes, who pre-select eligible outputs before launching the capitalisation calls.

All the detailed information about the capitalisation calls launched by ETC programmes are included in an excel document complementary to this note.