

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENT

Clustering Call for Project Applications

15th January 2021 – 31st March 2021

Background

The Northern Periphery and Arctic 2014-2020 Programme is part of the European Territorial Cooperation Objective supported by the European Regional Development Fund. The programme contributes to and aligns with the Europe 2020 Strategy, national and regional policies and development strategies, macro regional and sea basin strategies, and other programmes covering parts of the geographical area.

The programme's vision is to assist in the generation of vibrant, competitive and sustainable communities, by harnessing innovation, expanding the capacity for entrepreneurship and seizing the unique growth initiatives and opportunities of the Northern and Arctic regions in a resource efficient way.

To date, the NPA 2014-2020 Monitoring Committee has in total committed approximately 96% of the programme funding to 58 main projects and 116 preparatory projects.

Terms of Reference for the Clustering Call

Clustering projects

Clustering projects are small projects that combine 2 or more previously successful or ongoing projects. The Clustering call offers a unique opportunity to diversify and to capitalise on outputs and results; further integrating results as well as disseminating their impacts. Thus, reaching a wider group of stakeholders with project outputs, supplementary learning and capacity building.

- The MC is looking to fund projects in all Priority Axes.
- A minimum of 2 ongoing or finalised projects, where the Lead partner or partner are from 2 different programme partner countries, at least one of which is an EU Member State.

Project Budget Indicative total ERDF budget of up to 153.846 EUR plus non-Member State budget, at the regular intervention rates of programme partner countries.

Lump sum grant Maximum ERDF grant of 100.000 EUR plus Non-Member State grants. Note: Partners from Scotland and Northern Ireland should apply for ERDF co-financing.

The lump sum is granted in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, Article 67 (5) and shall be established based on a draft budget on a case-by-case basis and agreed ex ante by the managing authority. The public support (ERDF support + public co-financing) for partners funded via ERDF shall not exceed EUR 100 000.

Note: own match funding is not considered public support.

If planning to include external funding sources as match funding, it is strongly recommended to contact the Secretariat beforehand.

Regular NPA intervention rates, and the NPA Eligibility Rules apply.

Project duration 12 months

For all Priority Axes, the following is highlighted:

- All projects are expected 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.
- Projects are encouraged to include measures to involve underrepresented groups such as young people and indigenous peoples, where possible.

The Monitoring Committee has taken a view and encourages the inclusion of the following:

- Projects collaborating to explore transferring of project outputs to other organisations, sectors and/or regions, for example disseminating result and outputs beyond their ongoing or completed project activities.
- Projects collaborating to maximize the transnational impact of existing outputs on local level end users or widening the preparedness for transnational cooperation to other beneficiaries, for example by organising collaboration initiatives that connect end users across regions.
- Projects collaborating to increase the awareness of the transnational added value and the potential of transnational cooperation. The establishment of a lasting network could be one such activity for example.
- Projects with complementary skill sets collaborating to focus on improving (the uptake of) project outputs.
- By clustering, projects collaborating to gain critical mass to inform decision makers.

Project structure

The core partnership is expected to consist of NPA Lead Partners (or essential partners) from the original projects, supplemented by other key partners, and if appropriate, a new partner(s) from projects funded by other Interreg programmes, provided that there are clear synergies.

Note: If involving partners from projects funded by other Interreg programmes, project idea developers are strongly encouraged to consult with the Joint Secretariat prior to applying. The Lead Partner should always be an NPA project.

Recommended maximum project size 5-6 partners plus associated partners, if a clear role is defined. Larger partnerships are discouraged, unless duly justified.

Reporting

Mid-project evaluation with Desk officer. One final report is due within three months of completion and to be received no later than September 30th, 2022. Based on Lump sum principle the grant is paid out if all Grant Letter conditions have been met.

ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING OF CLUSTERING CALL:	15 th January 2021
APPLICATION DEADLINE:	31 st March 2021, 12:00 CET
DECISION DATE:	8 th June 2021

Guidance for applicants

See the NPA 2014-2020 Programme Manual ([click to download](#)) for a description of the Priority Axes, instructions for how to apply and the NPA eligibility rules. This and all other application documents can be found on the [Clustering Call](#) page.

How to cluster and with whom

On January 27th, 2021 a webinar will offer an opportunity to discuss potential clustering consortiums with NPA Desk officers and other NPA projects. Register [here](#) registration closes on January 22nd, 2021

Special note

The Monitoring Committee recommends Norwegian and Icelandic project partners to contact their respective Regional Contact Points to discuss available funding, and to determine a reasonable grant request.

Project timeline

All approved projects are expected to be completed no later than September 2022.

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 Joint Secretariat christopher.parker@interreg-npa.eu