

Interreg North-West Europe 2014-2020

Terms of reference
2nd call for capitalisation
“Maximising project impact”

12 October 2020

1. Aim of the calls for capitalisation

In the framework of its capitalisation strategy, the North-West Europe programme is developing various tools and activities aiming to maximise the impact of project results achieved up to now.

Some project results show a particularly strong potential to be rolled-out or taken up beyond what was initially planned and can substantially enhance the programme's impact in a cost-efficient way. Unforeseen benefits often emerge during the lifetime of a project and could deserve further attention and support.

Among the different capitalisation initiatives aiming to support these project results, the NWE programme is organising ***calls for capitalisation***, open to approved projects within the current 2014-2020 programming period.

Following the first call for proposals which closed on 10 January 2020, **a second call for capitalisation is organised between 12 October 2020 and 29 January 2021.**

It is open to all NWE projects except for the ones that have been approved at the first call for capitalisation. This includes both running and closed projects from all 3 programme priorities, as well as projects which were rejected in the first call.

2. Type of projects expected

The second call for capitalisation "Maximising project impact" targets projects which have a solid ground for additional activities and where continuation of cooperation brings significant added value.

Capitalisation initiative proposals should therefore stem from a well performing and successful project, with solid results to showcase. They should build on existing results (foreseen or unforeseen) that have a strong potential for further uptake and roll-out throughout NWE - and potentially in the rest of the EU.

This means that the social, economic and environmental impact of these projects has already been clearly proven, in a concrete and tangible way during the project lifetime. It also means that the long-term effects planned in the corresponding work package are well underway and will be happening independently of the capitalisation initiative proposal.

In their objective to roll-out and support the further uptake of successful results, capitalisation initiatives should also clearly contribute to the programme's objective of reducing territorial (economic, social and environmental) disparities in the NWE area. This means that proposals need a **strong territorial justification**.

Based on successful project results (foreseen or unforeseen), three main directions can be taken by capitalisation initiatives:

- **new geographical areas within NWE**
e.g. a project has successfully implemented energy retrofitting solutions in the private housing sector in Germany, the Netherlands and France and will now propose to replicate it to other NWE countries, specifically targeting less developed regions or deprived urban areas.
e.g. a project has successfully implemented urban energy transformation measures and would now like to apply the method in small towns or rural areas in NWE considering their specific needs.
- **new type of target group/type of stakeholders**
e.g. a project has successfully implemented a social innovation process to enhance access to employment for NEETS and will propose to address a new target audience which has a specific relevance on the NWE territory.
e.g. a project has successfully implemented energy retrofitting solutions in the private housing sector and would now propose to extend it to the social housing sector.
- **new economic sector**
e.g. a project has developed a coating technology for the space industry which can be used in a new design for the drone sector as well.
e.g. a project focusing on the use of algae for energy also identified unforeseen market opportunities for algae in pharma, food, feed, cosmetics and more. The capitalisation initiative will now be delivering on some of these opportunities.

Considering the current COVID crisis which is strongly affecting all NWE countries, capitalisation initiatives which address this situation and its consequences are also welcome, even if they do not address one of these three directions directly, and as long as they are also based on successful project results.

3. Partnership

In order to better achieve their results and impact, **existing project partnerships can be adapted or modified.**

Projects are encouraged to include new partners in order to better reach the relevant territories, target audiences or economic sectors aimed for. These new partners will need to show how they can add value with their skills and knowledge, to leverage the project results obtained so far and enhance territorial impact in NWE.

New partners can come from other projects funded by the NWE programme or from other ETC programmes, thus creating synergies between existing territorial cooperation projects. They can also be stakeholders involved in other EU programmes (e.g. regional ERDF / ESF, H2020, LIFE...) or not involved in any EU project.

Not all organisations from the existing partnerships need to be included in the capitalisation initiative if they do not have a specific role to play.

The partnership for the capitalisation initiative should remain focused, easy to manage and quickly operational to implement results.

4. Assessment criteria

- **Eligibility**
 - The capitalisation initiative is based on an existing NWE project (ongoing or closed).
 - The following eligibility criteria (step 2) remain applicable to the capitalisation initiative: n°2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15.
- **Context**
 - The capitalisation initiative is based on a successful 2014-2020 project, whose spending as well as content delivery are well aligned with the respective project application.
- **Objective**

- The capitalisation initiative objectives go beyond the results and are not the long-term effects planned in the existing project.
- The capitalisation initiative maximises the impact of project results (foreseen or unforeseen) by supporting their roll-out and/or uptake in one (or more) of the following ways:
 - in new geographical areas
 - towards new target groups / type of stakeholders
 - in new economic sectors
- **Territorial relevance**
 - The capitalisation initiative contributes to reducing territorial disparities by rolling-out or supporting further uptake of results in territories that either:
 - Have not yet been covered by the initial project
 - Are lagging behind in the area (leader-follower approach)
 - Are less developed (e.g. GDP/head lower than NWE average)
- **Partnership and cooperation**
 - The partnership proposed for the capitalisation initiative brings together the relevant stakeholders in order to reach the objectives it aims for (territories, target audiences/end users, economic sectors).
 - The capitalisation initiative clearly demonstrates the need for transnational cooperation in all the planned activities.
- **Value for money**
 - The capitalisation initiative represents good value for money, achieving an enhanced result with a budget which is well justified.
- **Results**
 - The capitalisation initiative outputs and results are measurable and quantified.
 - They contribute to the relevant priority's indicators.
 - They contribute to the balanced development of the NWE area.

5. Who can apply?

The call for capitalisation is aimed at bringing further support to projects approved within the current programming period 2014-2020.

Applications for capitalisation initiatives need to be based on an existing project. The lead partner of the existing project must remain the lead partner of the capitalisation initiative. Please see the programme manual addendum for further details.

This second call for capitalisation is open to all projects from call 1 to 9, as well as the targeted call on renewable energy. This includes both running and closed projects from all 3 priorities, as well as proposals that have not been approved in the first call for capitalisation.

Projects that have been **approved at the first call for capitalisation cannot submit a second proposal.**

6. Funding available

The overall programme allocation is €372 million of ERDF (European Regional Development Fund)

For this call, €26 million ERDF is available.

All projects need to be match-funded. The maximum ERDF grant rate for partners is 60% of the total capitalisation project budget. Existing partners will keep the same grant rate as in the initial approved application. The partners will need to provide the remaining amount.

7. Selection procedure

In order to simplify the application process and to focus only on the specificities of this call, applicants will have to fill in the Word template “Capitalisation initiative application form”.

In this document, applicants are required to give all the details on their capitalisation initiative: rationale, objectives and results based on what has been achieved by the initial project, as well as a description of the full partnership, the project work plan and budget. No other documents/attachments will be looked at by the assessors.

Capitalisation initiative proposals must be submitted in English only by email at nwecap@nweurope.eu before the set deadline (29 January 2021).

All project proposals are assessed against the assessment criteria mentioned in section 4 of the present Terms of reference.

The decision on project applications will be made by the Interreg NWE Monitoring Committee (MC), which is made up of representatives from both national and regional authorities within the NWE Member States.

The Monitoring Committee will meet in March 2021.

The applicants will be notified of the Monitoring Committee's decision after this meeting.

If approved, the applicant will have to adapt the project's existing application form in the eMS with an additional work package and a revised budget.

For further detail on the application and selection process, see the 'Programme Manual addendum' specific to this call for capitalisation.

8. Opening and closure of the call

The 2nd call for capitalisation "Maximising project impact" will open on Monday 12 October 2020.

Applications must be submitted by email (to nwecap@nweurope.eu) at the latest by **Friday 29 January 2021, 12.00 pm (noon) CET**.

9. How to get assistance?

Continuous assistance will be provided by the Interreg NWE network of contact points during the phase of project development. They are available to respond to any queries. We encourage all lead partners to contact their national contact points before submission to discuss their capitalisation initiative idea.

All contact details can be found on the website www.nweurope.eu.

The application package for this call can be downloaded in the "Application resources" section of the website www.nweurope.eu. It consists of:

- Terms of reference for the 2nd call for capitalisation

- Application form for the 2nd call for capitalisation
- Programme Manual addendum for the 2nd call for capitalisation
- Programme Manual
- Cooperation Programme