

Interreg North-West Europe 2014-2020

Terms of reference
Targeted call for proposals

**“Cooperating on increasing the
share of renewable energy supply
and demand in North-West Europe”**

Approved 1 December 2017

Introduction

The Interreg North-West Europe Programme invites public and private organisations to submit applications in the framework of a targeted call for proposals on “increasing the capacity of renewable energy in North-West Europe” for the 2014-2020 period.

A comprehensive description of the programme strategy and priorities is included in the Interreg North West Europe 2014-2020 [Cooperation Programme](#).

1. Aim of the Programme

The Interreg North-West Europe (NWE) Programme is one of the fifteen transnational cooperation programmes financed by the European Union. It is financed through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)¹. ERDF is one of the funds designed to improve EU Cohesion.

The programme encourages public, scientific, private and civil society organisations to cooperate with a view to improving the economic, environmental, territorial and social development of Europe's regions. The programme co-finances these organisations to work together in transnational projects on specific themes.

All projects financed by the programme will need to demonstrate high, transnational cooperation intensity throughout their lifetime with a clear focus on results. This means that partners must work together to deliver, evaluate, disseminate and roll-out the results of their project.

To deliver its aim, the programme has identified three thematic priorities, each of which is sub-divided into specific objectives. These priorities and specific objectives (SO) are:

Priority 1: Innovation

Specific Objective 1: To enhance innovation performance of enterprises throughout NWE regions.

Priority 2: Low Carbon

Specific Objective 2: To facilitate the implementation of low-carbon, energy and climate protection strategies to reduce GHG emissions in NWE.

Specific Objective 3: To facilitate the uptake of low carbon technologies, products, processes and services in sectors with high energy saving potential, to reduce GHG emissions in NWE.

Specific Objective 4: To facilitate the implementation of transnational low-carbon solutions in transport systems to reduce GHG-emissions in NWE.

Priority 3: Resource and materials efficiency

Specific Objective 5: To optimise (re)use of material and natural resources in NWE.

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32013R1301>

The current call for proposals is open only to the second thematic priority on low-carbon (Specific Objectives 2, 3 and 4).

Thematic focus of the targeted call

The Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC²) requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables. On 30 November 2016, the Commission published a proposal for a revised Renewable Energy Directive³ to make the EU a global leader in renewable energy. It ensures that the target of at least 27% renewables in the final energy consumption in the EU by 2030 is met.

NWE is one of the highest energy consuming regions in the EU and faces a number of energy-related challenges, including the low share of renewables in the production and consumption mix and NWE's strong dependence on non-renewable energy sources. This leads to environmental issues and dependency on non-EU resources. The share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption is increasing in all EU countries, but remains limited in NWE countries, ranging from 15% in France and in Germany (highest) to 3% in Luxembourg (lowest) in the year 2015. All NWE countries have a share below the EU28 average (which is 16%)⁴. NWE regions thus need to improve renewable energy distribution and generation infrastructure to reach the EU 2030 targets and to reduce GHG emissions.

In this context, the NWE Programme has decided to launch a targeted call to **support projects that contribute to increasing the share of renewable energy supply and demand in North-West Europe.**

The NWE Programme defines 'renewable energy' as the following:

Definition of Renewable Energy

Renewable energy, as defined in the proposal (2016) for a new Renewable Energy Directive, means energy from renewable non-fossil sources, namely wind, solar (solar thermal and solar photovoltaic) and geothermal energy, ambient heat, tide, wave and other ocean energy, hydropower, biomass, landfill gas, sewage treatment plant gas and biogases.

To create an impact, the NWE Programme is specifically looking for projects with a strong demonstration focus and an implementation phase that actively transfers results to other areas/regions/sectors. This means, for example, jointly implementing demonstration schemes or testing facilities to demonstrate solutions in real-life conditions. On one hand we expect projects which have a strong impact as regards overcoming barriers for and support the uptake of renewable energy solutions. In addition, we are expecting projects which ensure that new technologies are

² <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32009L0028&from=EN>

³ [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52016PC0767R\(01\)&from=EN](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52016PC0767R(01)&from=EN)

⁴ Eurostat

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/graph.do?tab=graph&plugin=1&pcode=t2020_31&language=en&toolbox=data

adopted in regions and cities, enterprises or other organisations. The roll-out of technologies and solutions should also target regions that are lagging behind in order to reduce disparities within NWE.

On this basis, we are prepared under this call to receive also projects with a larger budget than the budget of the average NWE projects that are currently funded under Priority 2. At the same time, the size of partnerships should remain focused, to ensure effective cooperation.

As for project activities, the Programme is particularly looking for projects that deal with **the demonstration, implementation and roll-out of:**

- Solutions that increase the share of renewable energies in the production and consumption mix;
- New and emerging renewable energy technologies to make them more cost-efficient and compatible with other primary energy sources' technologies;
- Storage capacities of renewable energies;
- Hybrid solutions (i.e. combination of two or more renewable energy technologies) to increase synergies and drive down costs;
- Solutions on new grid technologies at large-scale;
- Solutions to realize carbon free mobility;
- Solutions related to alternative transport fuels (e.g. 2nd and 3rd generation biofuels);
- Optimised energy management systems (e.g. flexible generation and consumption as well as storage) to better match demand and supply (like for example Smart City Solutions for residential living and industrial areas).

All projects under this call will have to contribute to one of the Specific Objectives of Priority 2: Low Carbon.

Thus, all guiding principles mentioned in the Cooperation Programme under each Specific Objective apply.

As almost all regions have translated the EU2020 targets for renewables into regional targets and explained the assets they will use to reach those, projects are advised to justify their territorial fit to those regional strategies. In this justification, also the reduction of territorial disparities should be explained.

Furthermore, projects need to contribute to the indicator framework as described in section 5.9 of the Programme Manual. In addition to the obligatory indicators for each Specific Objective, projects under this call should specifically contribute to the programme output indicators "Additional capacity of renewable energy production" and/or "Estimated annual decrease of GHG".

2. Who can apply?

The programme targets all or parts of 8 participating countries, including 7 EU Member States (Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom) and the non-Member State Switzerland. A wide range of bodies are entitled to take part in NWE project

partnerships including national, regional and local authorities, universities, R&D agencies, non-profit organisations as well as private partners, including profit-making partners (e.g. SMEs). Projects should bring together partners from at least three different countries (usually more) of which two must be from within the NWE area.

3. Lead partner principle

The “lead partner principle” will apply to the project management system, meaning that one partner takes up the lead in the project. The lead partner will be the link between the project partnership and the Joint Secretariat, the European Commission and other interested bodies. They will furthermore supervise the administrative and financial management of the project and bear legal responsibility and liability for them.

4. Funding available

Over the lifetime of the programme, €372 million of ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) will be allocated to the most qualitative and innovative projects.

For this call, a maximum of € 50m ERDF is available under Priority 2 Low Carbon.

All projects need to secure match-funding prior to approval. The maximum ERDF grant rate for partners is 60% of the total project budget. The partnership will need to provide the remaining part (see [Programme Manual](#)).

5. Submission of applications

This call for proposals is organised according to a one-step procedure. For a detailed description of the application and selection process, see the [Programme Manual](#) as well as the '[Manual on the application procedure](#)' specific to this targeted call.

Applicants for the call are invited to submit a “full application form” which includes all the details on the project’s intended change and result, the full partnership, the project work plan and budget. Project proposals must be submitted in English and only through the Interreg NWE portal ([eMS](#)).

The decision on project applications will be taken 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 on 25 October 2018.

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

6. Opening and closure of the targeted call

The targeted call will open on **Wednesday 24 January 2018**.

Applications can be submitted through the eMS until, at the latest by **Tuesday, 31 July 2018, 12.00 pm (NOON) CET**.

7. How to get assistance

During project development, assistance will be provided by the Interreg NWE contact points with the support of the Joint Secretariat. 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 programme website www.nweurope.eu. It consists of:

- Cooperation Programme
- Terms of References of the targeted call
- Manual on the application procedure specific to the targeted call
- Programme Manual
- Full application form (for reference)

Technical questions regarding the electronic Monitoring System should be asked through: eMS@nweurope.eu.