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Interreg Europe



European Union  
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# EDIOP 1.3.2 | Flexibility in the implementation of international activities in support to clusters

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22nd September 2022, Budapest



# Short summary of the practice



COVID reached the projects **during their implementation period**, which can be up to **24 months** according to the call. **International activities** had to be managed with a high degree of **flexibility**, bearing in mind the original objectives of the projects.

# Information of the call for proposal

## Aim of the call

Supporting Cluster Management Organizations for providing developed services to their members

## Beneficiaries

Cluster management organizations with noticable track records

## Amount of subsidy / intensity rate

- Budget of the projects: 12 500 EUR- 125 000 EUR;
- Intensity rate: 50-75% (wage support on 50%)

## Supported activities

- Information technology development
- Acquisition of licences and databases
- Training (for: CMO and members)
- Cluster management services related to international market access:
- Wage of the cluster manager(s)

## Obligation

- At least 40% of the eligible costs must be related to internationalization activities

# Challenges and handling them

## State of play

24 projects were contracted in late 2017 and early 2018, so the projects were in their implementation period when COVID hit Europe

## Challenges

- Rapid adaptation to new, changed circumstances.
- Continuous redesign of opportunities (in case of in-person exhibitions, depending on the entry rules the clusters had to have A/B/C plans constantly, if they wanted to carry out these activities in-person.
- Placing personal meetings to online platforms.
- Digital and technical challenges in case of online conferences.
- Organizing effective event online, maintaining attention.
- Increased workload for Managing Authorities.

## Evidence of success

- **Open and flexible approach for modifying** certain activities in order to make the projects feasible and to meet the purpose of the call; to **promote and increase the international presence of clusters**.
- Allowing **extensions regarding the deadline** for implementing the projects, entrusting the realization of in-person events.
- **Fair assessment of the preliminary requirements** of the project activities, if could be identified that the call's purpose was fulfilled despite of the cancelled/modified activities.
- Thereof most of the **ongoing cluster projects were saved** due to this behaviour of the MA.



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# Thank you!



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