Interreg Europe

European Union | European Regional Development Fund

*Sharing solutions
for better regional policies*

Building a successful partnership

Starting blocks

1. What do I want to change?

2. How can I make a change?

3. Who can make the change?

4. Who else to involve?

1. WHAT DO I WANT TO CHANGE?

What do I want to change?

- What is the challenge I want to address in my region?

- Are there other regions sharing similar challenges I could learn from?

What do I want to change?

To be as specific and focused as possible: key to a successful application

Examples:

"To improve natural and cultural heritage management"

Too vague; innovative character?

"To preserve medieval and military based heritage in mountainous regions"

The 'who' and the 'where' are clear!

In the application form

B.2.1 Policy instrument 1

B.2.1.1 Definition and Context

Territorial context

What is the geographical coverage of this policy instrument?

> Please select ⌄

What is the state of play of the issue addressed by this policy instrument in the territory? Why is this particular issue of relevance to the territory and what needs to be improved in the territorial situation?

→ Should refer to the topic addressed!

Is this issue linked to the national/regional innovation strategy for smart specialisation (RIS3)?

> Please select ⌄

In the application form

C.2 Issue addressed ℹ

Based on the information p | more ge

Based on the information provided in section B.2 ('polices addressed'), explain in more general terms the regional development issue addressed by the project and, in particular:

C.3 Objectives

- How does this issue fit in the European context and in the EU2020 strategy?
- How is it relevant to the INTERREG EUROPE programme and to the selected specific objective?
- How can interregional cooperation contribute to improve this issue?

Programme priority specific objective the project will contribute to

Overall objective and sub-objectives ℹ

2. HOW CAN I MAKE A CHANGE?

What is a policy instrument?

Any **policy, strategy, or law** developed by public authorities to improve a specific territorial situation such as:

- Structural Funds programmes

e.g. Regional operational programme of Andalucía,

Interreg Estonia-Latvia cooperation programme

- other local, regional or national policy instruments

e.g. Waste management plan of Flanders

→ **key element to be identified by each partner region at the start of your application**

Example
Project on SME competitiveness

	Italy	Norway	Poland	France
Policy instrument addressed	Regional OP ERDF Measure 2.8.4 on business support	National programme on business creation	Municipal support programme to business start-up	Regional OP ERDF Measure 3.5.2 on young entrepreneurs
Partners involved	Apulia regional authority, MA (LP)	Ministry of Economy	Poznan city council	Regional association of incubators of Brittany
	Apulia Regional development agency			

- at least half of policy instruments addressed by EU regions are Structural Funds programmes (two out of three)
- two partners from the same territory can address the same policy instrument

In the application form

B.2.1 Policy instrument 1

B.2.1.1 Definition and Context

Definition

1 Please name the policy instrument addressed. For Structural Funds programmes, please provide the exact name of the Operational or Cooperation Programme concerned.

→ **Be specific**

2 Please describe the main features of this policy instrument (e.g. objective, characteristics, priority or measure concerned) and the reason(s) why it should be improved.

→ **Give details & explain why you address it**

3 Is this an operational/cooperation programme financed by Structural Funds? (Only select YES if this policy instrument is one of the Investment for growth and jobs or European territorial cooperation programmes approved by the EC)

Please select

→ **Eligibility issue**

In the application form

4 How do you envisage the improvement of this policy instrument (e.g. through new projects supported, through improved governance, through structural change)?

→ **Read carefully the programme manual (section 4.3.1)**

5 Proposed self-defined performance indicator (in relation to the policy instrument addressed)

→ **Be realistic**

TIME FOR QUESTIONS

Starting blocks

1. What do I want to change? ⬌ territorial context ✓

2. How can I make a change? ⬌ policy instruments ✓

3. Who can make the change?

4. Who else to involve?

3. WHO CAN MAKE THE CHANGE?

Who can change policy instruments?

My university?

The local NGO?

Grandma?

Who can change policy instruments?

Public authorities:

organisations responsible for

policy design and implementation

⬇

Core target group of Interreg Europe

How to select partners?

Is the partner competent in the topic?

Can the partner influence the policy instrument?

What can the partner bring to the cooperation?

Other criteria:

- programme's wide geographical coverage
- partner's capacity to actively participate in project

Policy relevance

Important when partner involved not the body responsible for the policy instrument addressed

Example:

"the partner can improve the policy instrument. In particular, it is involved in its implementation and obtained a letter of support"

Too vague; no clear relevance

"The partner is one of the core stakeholders consulted in the design, implementation and monitoring of the policy instrument. It is also an official member of the Monitoring Committee who meets twice a year. In 2013, the body managed to introduce a new measure in the instrument thanks to…..

Clearer, more specific

In the application form

B.2.1.2 Partner relevance for policy instrument 1

Partner

1 What are the partner's competences and experiences in the issue addressed by this policy? In case the partner is involved in several applications / projects, please justify this multiple involvement.

→ **refer to the issue addressed**

2 What is the capacity of the partner to influence the above policy instrument 1? (e.g. in case the partner is not the policy reponsible organisation, what are its links with this organisation? How is the partner involved in the design and implementation of the policy instrument?)

→ **describe involvement in policy making process**

3 How will the partner contribute to the content of the cooperation and benefit from it?

→ **describe partner's role in the project**

What if the policy maker is not a partner ?

→ A **letter of support** must be provided

This is an eligibility criterion!

What is a letter of support?

- A commitment from the policy responsible organisation to support and follow the project implementation
- A letter of support is **not enough** to demonstrate policy relevance

Who provides a letter of support?

→ **body responsible for the policy instrument addressed**

- ■ for Structural Funds programmes:

Managing Authorities or other relevant bodies

(see country-specific information on <u>programme website</u>)

- ■ for any other policy instrument:

Organisation responsible for this policy instrument

Example
Project on SME competitiveness

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Partners involved	Apulia regional authority, MA (LP)	Ministry of Economy	Poznan city council	Regional association of incubators of Brittany
	Apulia Regional development agency			
Letter of support needed?	No	No	No	**Yes**

See programme manual (section 4.6)

In the application form

B.2.1 Policy instrument 1

B.2.1.1 Definition and Context

Is the body responsible for this policy instrument included in the partnership?

Yes ▾

Please name the responsible body and provide a support letter from this body

Please select ▾

Letter of support? NOT NEEDED

In the application form

B.2.1 Policy instrument 1

B.2.1.1 Definition and Context

Is the body responsible for this policy
instrument included in the
partnership?

No

Please name the responsible body
and provide a support letter from this
body

Letter of support? REQUIRED

Letter of support* from the relevant organisation

responsible for policy

For Structural Funds programmes (i.e. Investment for Growth and Jobs and European Territorial Cooperation programmes), the list of policy responsible organisations is available on the 'in my country' pages on the programme website www.interregeurope.eu

Project acronym[1]	
Project title	
Name of the signing organisation (original) including department if relevant)	
Name of the signing organisation (English) including department if relevant)	
Name of the policy instrument addressed (original)	
Name of the policy instrument addressed (English)	
Name of partner(s) concerned in the application form (English)	

We hereby confirm:

- that we were informed about the preparation of the above-mentioned project,
- that the topic tackled by this project is in line with our organisation's policy,
- that we acknowledge the participation of the above-mentioned partner(s) in the project,
- that we will engage with the stakeholder group and welcome opportunities for exchanging experiences with other institutions in Europe,
- that we will consider possibilities for implementation of the action plan through our policy instrument.

Name of signatory	
Position of signatory	
Date	
Signature and institution stamp (if exists)	

* Amendments to the text of the template or template not correctly completed will lead to the ineligibility of the whole application

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[1] *Information indicated in this table must correspond to the information provided in the application form.*

4. WHO ELSE TO INVOLVE?

What is a stakeholder group?

- Gathers organisations concerned by policy instrument
- Contributes to action plan development and implementation

→ **key tool** for driving policy change

Group composition varies:

- ✓ **Relevant public authorities**
- ✓ **Chambers of commerce**
- ✓ **NGOs**

- ✓ **SMEs**
- ✓ **Regional development agencies**
- ✓ **…**

In the application form

B.2.1.3 Stakeholder group relevant for policy instrument 1

1 Please provide the indicative list of stakeholders to be involved in the project

→ **be precise**
→ **include policy-responsible body if not partner**

2 Role of these stakeholders in relation to the above policy instrument? (e.g. in the decision making process)

→ **describe each member's role with regards to the policy instrument**

3 How will this group be involved in the project and in the interregional learning process?

→ **describe how the group will be involved in project**

Advisory partners?

- Offer a particular competence that can facilitate the project's implementation
(e.g. European network in charge of communication strategy)

- Do not address a policy instrument and therefore do not need to develop an action plan

- Work for the entire partnership

Participation to be justified in section B.1 of application form

TIME FOR QUESTIONS

Recap of starting blocks

1. What do I want to change? ⬌ territorial context ✓

2. How can I make a change? ⬌ policy instruments ✓

3. Who can make the change? ⬌ project partners ✓

4. Who else to involve? ⬌ stakeholder group ✓

Final recommendations

Be careful in the definition of policy instruments & territorial context

- Ensure policy instruments and territorial context reflect the overall issue

- Clearly indicate the name of the Structural Funds programmes addressed

  → **Eligibility issue**

- **Select the right partners**

Final recommendations

If policy makers are not directly involved, demonstrate the policy relevance of your partners!

- **Policy relevance** = involvement of an organisation in policy making process and capacity to influence policy instrument

- Core element of quality of partnership (dedicated question in section B.2 of the application form)

- **Letters of support not sufficient** to demonstrate policy relevance of partners

Main weakness identified in the first two calls!

Thank you!