



**Generalitat
de Catalunya**

3rd Call for project proposals

on

Interreg Europe 2021-2027

**BIM for complex economic procedures &
permits with data analysis**

Barcelona, March 2024

Government of Catalonia

**Interreg
Europe**



EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional
Development Fund

INTRODUCTION

The INTERREG Europe programme funded by the European Commission offers a unique opportunity by supporting policy learning among relevant policy organisations with a view to improving the performance of regional development policy instruments.

The Interreg program 2021-2027 contributes to all EU priorities and strives for better regional governance through capacity building.

Through the hereby proposed initiative, promoted in the current call for proposals (3rd) opened until June 7th, 2024, we would like to build on our existing experience and feed our regional policy to promote the inclusion of BIM technologies and methodologies for a faster data analysis and further procedure approval regarding the complex projects. The initiative is then in line with the following Interreg Europe interests:

- **Axis SMARTER EUROPE:** Interregional cooperation can contribute to a smarter Europe by enabling European regions to improve their innovation and R&D policies and programmes, particularly their smart specialisation strategies. The exchange of experience and policy learning will enable regions to accelerate and improve the implementation of their regional development policies in key areas, such as: digitalisation of the economy and society, digital connectivity and activity, the uptake of advanced technologies, innovation in the digital administration and procedure scope, and effectiveness in data analysis and data distribution within the public administration.

PROPOSAL NEW INTERREG PROJECT

2.1 Context

The European context:

In this respect, at the start of the 2021-2027 programming period, Europe is facing an unprecedented health crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which took hold in spring 2020. This is set to have very severe and long-lasting effects on many economic sectors (e.g., tourism, the cultural and creative sector) and probably on other issues such as people's choice of transport mode, consumer habits, ways of life, health, etc. in Europe's regions. Over the coming decades, the EU must address the challenges arising from these

effects, along with the ecological transition, the digital transitions and demographic change. All these challenges will have strong impacts on a wide range of policy fields at EU, national, regional and local levels.

Public policies will undoubtedly be needed to help Europe's economy and the wider society to recover from the crisis. In this regard, the EU's cohesion policy remains essential for supporting the economic and social recovery in EU regions. With this policy, the EU contributes to the harmonious development across the Union by strengthening its economic, social and territorial cohesion in all EU regions and Member States.

Interreg Europe continues to be one instrument of this policy with the potential to accelerate harmonious development by promoting a large-scale exchange and transfer of experience, peer-learning and benchmarking across Europe.

The Catalan case

The Catalan administration has been experiencing a digital and technological revolution in terms of business related procedures in the last few years. The Government of Catalonia has been implementing complex technology systems and artificial intelligence to promote the digital administration growth.

The Government of Catalonia has played an active role in the transition to a smarter and more digitalized framework, supporting all relations business administration in a proactive and more agile way. Thus, the Government's advance in the legal scope and the data system of *only once* allows new technologies and methodologies to become a part of their day-to-day working environment.

The competitiveness of the Catalan scope and the necessity for a faster legalization of activities has influenced the Government of Catalonia in the search for innovative tools to implement in the economic procedures scope. Recent trends in other areas of the Government aim towards a more competent and digital administration in all sectors.

This new approach involves a transformation of the legal administrative burdens, and necessarily involves a technological transformation and an internal organizational change, that causes a real cultural change of the administration traditionally understood.

As for the current days, the information for specific procedures needs to be included in a free of form dossier, which complicates the data extraction for analysis; the procedure then lacks automatisations and consequently carries delays in the process for the evaluation and further approval of the permit. The combination of such complex procedures and permits with the constant technological advancing of the administration presents itself as the highlight of the necessity for a change.

The Government of Catalonia has initiated a participative process to update their strategy of implementation of the Building Information Modeling (hereon as BIM) technology. This technology and methodology has put forward new and more advanced ways to exploit data when it comes to public construction. Consequently, the Government wants to take on the opportunity, as an integral administration, to further implement this BIM technology in many others of their axis, such as economic procedures and permits.

This new project intention is bring to the table the implementation BIM in the areas of technical project procedures, which complies this free form dossier, as well as building permits. BIM will enable the possibility to distribute data in stratified way, allowing the administration to extract faster and more proactively the necessary data in a more effective and less bureaucratized way.

In order to reach this goal, the administration must bring to the table an integral study of the required items for a global and complete implementation of BIM. This relies on a manual of conditionings and elements, a validation system for such data, a legal scope that enables this implementation and how the management of this necessity and change has lined up.

The alignment of all key elements impulses the Government of Catalonia to follow the digitalization and technological development path. The incorporation of BIM technology and methodology to the system and working culture supposes a central cornerstone in order to support businesses in their legalization of economic activity.

We focus on SMART area, to make a smarter Europe through new technology. We want to improve regional policies through capacity building.

As a public administration, we focus in intelligent tools applied to business, making easier interaction between public authority and consumers of a public service. We want to provide the public administration with intelligent tools for process improvement and business innovation.

The aim of the project is to introduce BIM technology and methodology in the complex project procedures approval, other related procedures and digital building permits. Through the analysis of data that is made available from businesses, entrepreneur and intermediaries, the administration will be able to have a faster and more effective response to the needs of the businesses.

2.2 Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to reduce the necessary timing to obtain the mandatory permits that economy activity requites in the administrative procedure fields of digital building, environment, security and/or health.

In this line of work, we aim to improve regional policy and implement the smart technologies and methodologies of BIM that enables a conducive environment for the administration to analyse more effectively the data related to diverse procedures and digital permits.

In order to achieve the project's goal, we must transform three main pillars to enable the public administration to merge with the BIM technology: the way of working of the public servants, the technology of support and the legal scope.

The sub-objectives of this new project are:

- To engage in interregional capacity building to create Regional Action Plans that integrate best practices in regional business support policies, creating better working and effective public administrations in Europe that are responsive to new data analysis trends and internal technological development.
- As a public administration, we have the challenge of providing intelligent tools to the administration and make new work environments due to improve the public procedures scope.
- To offer new technological products and services from the public administration to improve the approval of the legalization of economic activity of businesses.

2.3 The proposed Work Plan

The project will be “dedicated to the exchange of experience among project partners and preparing the implementation of the lessons learnt from the cooperation. In order to optimise the chance that the findings from interregional policy learning are transformed into actions, an Action Plan will be prepared at the end of Phase 1 for each policy instrument indicated at the project proposal by each partner.

Produced by each region, the action plan is a document providing details on how the lessons learnt from the cooperation will be implemented in order to improve the policy instrument that is addressed within their region. It specifies the nature of the **actions to be implemented, their timeframe, the players involved, the costs** (if any) and **funding sources** (if any).”

Activities for the exchange of **experience** to be defined with project partners:

1. State of the art study in each region concerning the integration of objectives at local / regional / national level.

2. Set up of regional stakeholder groups, including private sector stakeholders.
3. Organisation of Interregional Thematic Workshops to share problems and solutions among regions.
4. Interregional peer reviews / site visits (2/3 visits per year to learn from other partners' experiences).
5. Intense Exchanges (Staff long visits).
6. Development of an Action Plan per region.

2.4 Partnership (tbc)

The partnership should be based on a consortium of **leading-edge public authorities** with responsibility for SME support policies, especially start-up and OSS-OOP projects at a similar stage of development, facing common challenges and barriers.

- **Catalonia - OGE – Business Management Office of the Government of Catalonia**
– Lead partner
- NORTH: Denmark, Norway, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden.
- WEST: United Kingdom, Ireland, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Belgium, Luxembourg and France.
- SOUTH: Greece, Italy, Croatia, Cyprus, Malta, Portugal, Spain.
- EAST: Poland, Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia.

2.5 Do you want to join us?

We are looking to involve regional authorities, which are responsible for the policy instrument addressed by this initiative (Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs) and can meet the specific requirements of INTERREG Europe programme. In particular:

- ✓ Can you identify your policy instrument (Entrepreneurship support and SME Competitiveness)?
- ✓ Is the ERDF Regional Operational Programme your policy instrument?
- ✓ Are you the authority responsible for the policy instrument? If not, can you have a letter of support from the relevant authority?
- ✓ Do you already have a implemented activity and construction permits in your region? If not, is there an active strategy or any will to implement it?
- ✓ Can you identify and bring on board relevant stakeholders in your region involved in the policy instrument to be improved?
- ✓ Have you previous INTERREG experience?

- ✓ Can you identify 3 good practices in your region that you can transfer to other regions?

If you are interested in participating in Pilot Actions as well as Good Practices to share with other partners.

If so, please contact us soon as possible before **June 7th of 2024**:

Paula Vergés Vega

paulaverges@gencat.cat

Lead Project Coordinator at Office of Business Management

Departament d'Empresa i Treball | Generalitat de Catalunya

Sepúlveda, 148-150 | 08011 Barcelona | +34 935128686

Cristina Pruñonosa Bengochea

cristina.prunyaonosa@gencat.cat

Manager of the Office of Business Management

Departament d'Empresa i Treball | Generalitat de Catalunya

Sepúlveda, 148-150 | 08011 Barcelona