Interreg

Greece – Italy

Co-funded by the European Union

Frequently Asked Questions:

6th Call for Project Proposals,

7th Call for Governance Project Proposals

Cross-Border-Cooperation Programme
Interreg VI-A 'Greece-Italy 2021-2027'
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Table of Contents

1. Project Application 3
2. Eligibility of Beneficiaries 5
3. Eligibility of Expenditure & Financing 9
4. Project Development 12
5. MIS/ Other issues 15

1. Project Application

Q 1.1. What is the limitation for a Beneficiary to participate in project proposals? Does this limitation apply for a specific category of Beneficiary e.g. Lead Beneficiary or Beneficiary?

A. 1.1. A potential Beneficiary may participate **up to two (2) Project Proposals in total per Call**. The above limit applies to all types of Beneficiaries (LB, PB) considered as a unique structure (not as single Units/Departments) and it is applied **at Call level (i.e. 6th Call: Part A & Part B or 7th Call)** – not at Priority or Specific Objective level. In case a potential Beneficiary applies to more than 2 Project Proposals, then the first 2 proposals submitted via MIS will be assessed.

Q 1.2. If we participate in more than two (2) project proposals, which will be the consequences? Will all the project proposals in which we will participate be rejected?

A. 1.2. In case a potential Beneficiary participates in more than two (2) proposals, not all Project Proposals will be rejected. The time of each Project Proposal submission via MIS is the criterion. The first two (2) Project Proposals submitted via MIS will be assessed, the other(s) will be rejected and not be assessed.

Q1.3. Is the file "Project_Detailed_Description.xls" submitted as an attachment via MIS? According to the PPIM, it is (page 81). According to the Call, it is not. And what is required to write in field "B.10.1 Other"? Is it possible to download template of application form to work on it offline? Because in the application package, there is no application form template.

A1.3. Annex 2 - Project Detailed Description is attached to facilitate your 'offline' work, as informative paper. In the MIS AF you will find the same questions of the Project Detailed Description in the Section 'Additional Information'.

In case of difference in max characters between the Annex 2 and the MIS/AF/Additional Information' the Max characters per each field are the ones allowed by MIS.

In the field 'B.10.1 Other' you can add something to clarify better your project (if needed).

Draft MIS Application Form (AF) can be downloaded only after a Lead Applicant creates a specific project's AF in the MIS system.

Q 1.4. Are the submitted project proposals evaluated per Priority or per Specific Objective?

A 1.4. The submitted project proposals are evaluated and ranked per Specific Objective. Beneficiaries may submit more than one project proposal at the same Specific Objective. In this case, in which the same organization is participating in more than one project proposal, the proposals are competitive.

Q 1.5. Do we have to select only one Specific Objective, or can we submit a proposal in more than one?

A 1.5. Project applicants are invited to submit their Project application under one of the Specific Objectives of the Programme. The Project objectives and the proposed activities shall be clear and in-line with the Programme Priorities and both shall have an impact on the Greece-Italy area. Each Project is asked to select those indicators that will fit best to the particular planned results and outputs of the Project. Therefore, a Project applicant can apply a Project proposal only under one Specific Objective.

Q 1.6. What docs we need to attach on Utilities section

A 1.6. Please advise the Info day's presentations for both Calls which are uploaded in the Programme's website, in 'News' section in the below link: https://www.greece-italy.eu/more-than-200-participants-at-the-infoday-for-6th-and-7th-calls-in-catanzaro/.

2. Eligibility of Beneficiaries

Q 2.1. Who can be considered eligible and therefore may participate in a project proposal?

A. 2.1.

Eligible Beneficiaries

In principle, Interreg Greece-Italy Programme supports Beneficiaries coming from GR-IT Programme Area. For Greece, eligible are the Regions of Western Greece, Ionian Islands and Epirus (all Prefectures). For Italy, eligible are the Regions of Puglia (all Provinces), Basilicata (Province of Matera) and Reggio Calabria (Provinces of Catanzaro, Cosenza, Crotone and Reggio di Calabria.

Please consult the Implementing Provisions of the Programme **here**.

Eligible categories of Beneficiaries

For the 6th Call (Part A & Part B), the following categories of Beneficiaries may be considered as eligible:

a) national, regional or local public bodies
b) bodies governed by public law (as defined in Article 2(4) of Directive 2014/24/EU)
c) bodies governed by private law, non profit
d) international organizations
e) European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC).

Please consult the Terms of Reference of the 6th Call (see §5).

For the 7th Call, the following categories of Beneficiaries may be considered as eligible:

f) national, regional or local public bodies
g) bodies governed by public law (as defined in Article 2(4) of Directive 2014/24/EU)
h) European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC).

Please consult the Terms of Reference of the 7th Call (see §5).

SMEs / Profit making organisations are not eligible in both Calls.

Q 2.2. Are Organisations/ Bodies located outside Greece-Italy area eligible for participating in a project proposal?

A 2.2. In principle, to become a project beneficiary, the legal address of the beneficiary's organisation has to be located in the eligible area of the Programme with the exception of:

a) bodies of the central government located outside the Programme area (e.g. Ministries or other governmental authorities with specific competencies on national level);

b) organisations located outside the Programme area but having local/regional subsidiary/branch office established in the Programme area (operating for the last 12 months from the date of the submission of the Application Form).

Please note that in the 6th Call and & 7th Call, **other organisations** – apart from the above-mentioned- **located outside the Programme area** but inside the Member States **are not eligible** to participate even though their participation in the project could bring added value and expertise to its implementation and benefits the Programme cooperation area.

Therefore, each potential Beneficiary should examine whether they fall into one of the two categories mentioned above.

Q 2.3. Are Universities or Organisations/ Bodies located outside Greece-Italy area (i.e. Athens, Thessaloniki, Rome etc.) eligible for participating in a project proposal?

A 2.3. Additionally to Q 2.2, regarding Universities that are located outside the Programme area and wish to participate as Beneficiaries, they should consult Q2.1 and Q2.2 along with the relevant Terms of Reference of each Call.

Each applicant participates in a Project proposal on its own account. In any case, the eligibility check of a potential Beneficiary is part of the evaluation procedure, during PHASE B3 of evaluation, based on the Project Selection Criteria.

Q 2.4. Under which conditions an EGTC may be considered as eligible?

A. 2.4. An Eligible EGTC must be governed by the law of one of the participating countries where the EGTC has its registered office. EGTC located outside the Programme area and not registered in one of the Member States participating in the cross-border Programme is not eligible for funding. An EGTC cannot be a sole beneficiary of a project proposal.

Q 2.5. Under which conditions an International Organization may participate in the 6th Call for Proposals?

A. 2.5. International Organizations, registered under the national law of the Partner States of the Programme, can be considered as eligible if they fulfil the criteria foreseen for the non-profit bodies governed by private law. International Organizations operating under international law are not eligible.

Q 2.6. Which is the level of eligibility for Universities?

A 2.6. Universities may participate in Greece-Italy Programme at University level. Also, please consult Q2.1.

Q 2.7. Are SME's/ Profit-making Organisations eligible?

A 2.7. SMEs/ Profit-making Organisations are not eligible for direct financial support in this Call. They can only benefit from guidance and other type of support and consultancy throughout cooperation schemes with research institutions.

Q 2.8: Are universities (ruled by public law) eligible under the 7th Call (in the context of ISO6.1 and ISO6.4)?

A 2.8: According to the 7th Call, potential eligible partners could be:

a) national, regional or local public bodies
b) bodies governed by public law (as defined in Article 2(4) of Directive 2014/24/EU) meaning bodies that have all of the following characteristics:
    a. they are established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest, not having an industrial or commercial character;
    b. they have legal personality; and
    c. they are financed, for the most part, by the State, regional or local authorities, or by other bodies governed by public law; or are subject to management supervision by those authorities or bodies; or have an administrative, managerial or supervisory board, more than half of whose members are appointed by the State, regional or local authorities, or by other bodies governed by public law;
c) European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC). Eligible EGTC must be governed by the law of one of the participating countries where the EGTC has its registered office. EGTCs located outside the Programme area and not registered in one of the Member States participating in the cross-border Programme are not eligible for funding. EGTC cannot be a sole beneficiary of a project proposal

Please consult the Terms of Reference of the 7th Call (see §5).

Each applicant participates in a Project proposal on its own account. In any case, the eligibility check of a potential Beneficiary is part of the evaluation procedure, during Phase B3 of evaluation, based on the Project Selection Criteria.

Q 2.9: Could you please advise me how to proceed to register as a Potential Partner? Fulbright and UNDP scholar intrecultural leadership, I work as a researcher at Ionian University.

A 2.9: A: The INTERREG VI-A Greece Italy Programme foresees the participation of bodies/ organisations - not individuals (citizens).

Q 2.10: In the context of the present Call (6th Call - SO1.3.), the eligible beneficiaries are the following:

a) National, regional, or local public bodies,

b) Bodies governed by public law,

c) Non-profit organisations founded according to private law,

d) International Organisations,

e) EGTC – European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation,

So the question is the following, can an SME be a beneficiary? How an SME may participate to SO1.3 call? Under which conditions and types of consortium parts?

A 2.10: Please consult Q2.3 along with the relevant Terms of Reference for each Call.

Q 2.11. Are Associated Beneficiaries eligible in the 6th and 7th Calls of Project Proposals?

A 2.11. The participation of Associated Beneficiaries (i.e. without budget beneficiaries) is not applicable in the 6th & 7th Calls of Greece-Italy Programme.

Q 2.12. Are we eligible as potential beneficiaries or partners, considering that we have a branch office in Apulia, which is officially registered and operational but does not have an independent budget from our headquarters in Milan?

A 2.12. Please consult Q2.1 and Q2.2 along with the relevant Terms of Reference for each Call. In general, a Project Beneficiary in order to be eligible should have a registered and operational branch located in the eligible area. Terms concerning the existence of independent budget does not apply.

3. Eligibility of Expenditure & Financing

Q 3.1. What is project expenses eligibility period?

A. 3.1. The project eligibility period starts with the signature of the Subsidy Contract and lasts until the end date of the project.

However, in case of project activities started their implementation before the signing of the Subsidy Contract, and in any case after 01/01/2021, should not have been concluded before the application for funding at of the Call, in order to be eligible.

Overall, the expenses eligibility period starts at January 1st 2021 and ends on December 31st 2029 for Greece-Italy Programme.

Q 3.2. We represent a small nonprofit organization with limited financial resources. In case of the approval of the project proposal in which we will participate, are we entitled to receive a pre financing and up to which amount?

A. 3.2. All categories of Beneficiaries are entitled to receive a pre financing after signing the Subsidy Contract and the Partnership Agreement.

All categories of Beneficiaries from Greece will receive pre financing from the Public Investment Programme.

All categories of Beneficiaries from Italy will not receive pre financing. They will receive ERDF reimbursement from the Accounting Authority of the Programme and the relevant national co financing from the Italian National Authority, according to the progress of Project Implementation.

Q 3.3. We represent a small nonprofit organization with limited financial resources. In case of the approval of the project proposal in which we will participate, are we obliged to cover the national co financing from our own budget? If not, who will be responsible to cover the national co financing?

A. 3.3. All types of Beneficiaries are entitled to receive the national co financing, during the Project Implementation and after signing the Subsidy Contract and the Partnership Agreement.

All categories of Beneficiaries from Greece will receive the national co financing from the Public Investment Programme.

All categories of Beneficiaries from Italy will receive the national co financing from the Italian National Authority, following the ERDF reimbursement from the Accounting Authority. After Italian Beneficiaries receive the ERDF reimbursement, the JS will inform the Italian National Authority in order to proceed with the reimbursement of the national co-financing to the LB, in case LB is Italian. Otherwise, if the LB is Greek, the Italian National Authority will pay directly to the beneficiaries.

Q 3.4. Are the preparation costs eligible? What is the limitation? Does the limitation apply on Beneficiary or on a Project level? They will be calculated on Real Cost or on Simplified Cost bases?

A. 3.4. Costs within the budget lines “staff costs, travel and accommodation costs and external expertise and services”, which have been incurred for the preparation of the

project, are eligible for funding if they do not exceed the amount of €30.000 at project level and should be calculated on Real Cost basis.

Q.3.5. Do preparation costs need to be declared in a separate Work Package or in a specific Deliverable? Can invoices for preparation costs be issued after the project is approved?

A.3.5. The provision for the preparation costs are set out in the Programme & Project Implementation Manual.

Preparation cost must be included in the Application Form in the Deliverable 1X1 "Preparation Activities" (where X is the number of the beneficiary).

The services or activities must be implemented and there must be at least a commitment decision for them between 1st of January 2021 and the date of submission of the Application Form. The related invoices and payments could be issued and made after the project is approved. The payments for preparation costs should be included preferably in the first request for verification.

Q 3.6. Is it possible to create additional budget lines?

A 3.6. No, Project budgets must be structured according to the following predefined six (6) budget lines:

1) Staff costs

2) Office and administrative expenditure

3) Travel and accommodation costs

4) External expertise and services costs

5) Equipment expenditure

6) Infrastructure and works (applicable only in 6th Call)

Q 3.7. Is it possible for a Project Beneficiary to choose different method of cost calculation for staff costs, for office and administration costs and for travel and accommodation?

A 3.7. Each project partner must select a method of cost calculation (flat rate basis or real cost basis) for staff costs, for office & administration costs and for travel & accommodation. Different methods may be chosen.

Q 3.8. Is VAT an eligible expense?

A 3.8. VAT is eligible expense for all projects with budget under 5.000.000€ for all types of beneficiaries.

Q 3.9. Are there any limitations regarding the distribution of budget among the Work Packages?

A 3.10. Specific budget limits are defined in the Terms of Reference of both Calls for Project Proposals and in Programme & Project Implementation Manual/ Section B: Project Development and must be respected by all Project Beneficiaries.

Q 3.10. Are there any travel, accommodation and DSA rates per country that need to be taken into consideration when developing the project budget?

Q 3.10. These rates are defined by the national law in each country participating in the Greece-Italy Programme, and may vary according to the legal status of each Project partner.

Q 3.11. What is the difference between 'Equipment' and 'Infrastructure & Works' budget lines?

A 3.11. The budget line 'Equipment costs' refers to expenditure for the financing of equipment purchased, rented or leased by a partner, necessary to achieve objectives of the project.

The budget line 'Infrastructure & Works costs' refers to expenditure for the financing of infrastructure and construction works related to investments in infrastructure that do not fall into the scope of other budget lines.

Q 3.12. What are approximately the costs for FLC? How should the expenses for controllers be declared?

A 3.12. Greece has a centralized FLC system, so no FLC costs are foreseen in Project proposal.

Italy opts for a decentralised FLC system. For the exact rates, please contact Joint Secretariat. FLC costs shall be allocated in WP1, in a separate deliverable 'Deliverable x.x.x – Cost item: Audits for the verification of expenditure – external auditors (First Level Control)' under BL "External Expertise and Services Costs".

4. Project Development

Q4.1 ONLY FOR GREEK BENEFICIARIES - Can Municipalities, Universities and other bodies conclude Programming Agreements (προγραμματικές συμβάσεις) in Greece-Italy Programme?

A4.1. The case of assuming responsibility for the implementation of a Project instead of the owner of the project, by another body, is provided for in Article 8, point 3 of the YPASYD of INTERREG Programmes 2021-2027 (Government Gazette 3281/Issue B'/17.05.2023), as follows:

"In the cases of actions for which the responsibility for the implementation of the action is assumed by another entity as beneficiary instead of the project owner on the basis of a programming agreement, in accordance with article 44 of Law 4412/2016, as it applies each time, the eligible costs are paid for the act by the project owner or by the beneficiary, depending on what is specified in the programming contract,...".

Furthermore, the YPASYD lists in detail (points a to h) the conditions that must be met in order the relevant Programming Agreement and the costs derived from it to be eligible.

In addition, article 44 of Law 4412/2016 states that:

"Article 44. Technical competence of contracting authorities in public works contracts and studies

1. The contracting authorities who judge that they do not have technical competence or their technical competence is incomplete, may in particular:

a) enter into programming agreement, within the meaning of paragraph 6 of Article 12, for concluding, supervising and overseeing a public procurement for work or study,

b) conclude contracts for the provision of technical services within the meaning of article 52

and

c) be supported by the EKAA of par. 1a of article 41 in the context of its exercise of ancillary purchasing activities.

3. The contracting authority is responsible to the project owner for the proper performance of its duties and to third parties it is jointly and severally liable with the project owner. If the programming agreement does not specify otherwise, it represents the project owner in court and out of court against third parties during the exercise of its duties until the end of the contract. The ruling bodies are determined by the programming agreement."

Therefore, from the above it is clear that the conclusion of Programming Agreements is allowed **only in cases in which conditions of Article 44 of Law 4412/2016 are met and exclusively for the services described in paragraph 1a of Article 44**.

More specifically, the following should apply **cumulatively**:

a) **documented non-existence or inadequate existence of Technical Competency** of a Contracting Authority/ potential Beneficiary,

b) assumption of responsibility by another body, exclusively for the services referred to in Article 44 par.1, i.e. **"for concluding, supervising and overseeing a public procurement for work or study"**, and not for the provision of other services.

In any case the body that assumes responsibility can not, be a contractor for part or the whole of the works or studies.

The potential Beneficiary should document, during the submission of the proposal in Stage B, the need to conclude a Programming Agreement in the context of the above.

As far as the limitation of two (2) project proposals is concerned, we would like to clarify the following:

- ✓ in case of operations for which another body takes over completely the responsibility of the project implementation instead of the competent body, then this body is declared as Project Beneficiary in the Application Form and in this case applies the rule of 5 Projects per Beneficiary.
- ✓ In case of operations for which another body takes over partly the responsibility, then the rule of two (2) Projects per Beneficiary does not apply.

Also, a Programming Agreement can be signed after the MC approval decision only in exceptional justified cases. For that, please consult the Programme & Project Implementation Manual (PPIM/ § Other modifications/ b) Modifications related to special cases of take over).

Q 4.2. Is it mandatory to select the targeted territory from the beginning of the proposal? If yes, is there any limitation on the number of territories that we should select?

A 4.2. The description of targeted territories is an integral part of the proposal and shall be evaluated as such. No limitations on the number of territories apply.

Q 4.3. Is it eligible as a capitalization action to widely implement already co-funded tools demonstrating added value and transfer potential?

A 4.3. Capitalisation is welcome. However, there must be no double-financing.

Q 4.4. In case there are no actions outside the Programme area, should WP6 be left blank?

A 4.4. In such case the Project shall have three (3) thematic Work Packages (WP 3,4,5), if required, additional to the obligatory WP1 - Project Management & Coordination and WP2 – Project Communication & Dissemination. WP6 shall not be used.

Q 4.5. Is it mandatory the Project proposal to contribute to all Programme Output Indicators for the relevant Specific Objective?

A 4.5. Project applicants are invited to submit their Project application under one of the Specific Objectives of the Programme. The Project objectives and the proposed activities shall be clear and in-line with the Programme Priorities and both shall have an impact on the Greece-Italy area. Each Project is asked to select those indicators that will fit best to the particular planned results and outputs of the Project. Therefore, a Project applicant can apply a Project proposal only under one Specific Objective and select only the best suitable indicators (see Programme Output & Result Indicators Guide). In any case, each Project is treated as a whole and shall be evaluated as such.

Q 4.6: Regarding the content of the 6th Call for Common Project Proposals: PART A: SO1.3 – Growth, I would like to have a clarification. Does the reference "Cross-border actions The main focus shall be on the blue economy" means that solely directly blue economy and maritime proposals will be considered as falling within the scope of the Call or could other proposals indirectly linked to these contexts also be eligible.

A. The Interreg VI-A Greece Italy is a maritime Programme and in this context the aspect of the blue economy predominates, directly or indirectly. However, the proposed projects are not required to relate exclusively to this sector. Other proposals may also be eligible.

For more information regarding the eligible actions under S.O. 1.3, consult the Call and the approved Programme document.

5. MIS/ Other issues

Q 5.1. Is there a partner search platform for Greece-Italy Programme?

A 5.1. Please click here https://www.greece-italy.eu/project-ideas/