

*Insight Brussels is an information service exclusively tailored for Eurosité members. Insight Brussels reports on developments in Brussels regarding the Bird and Habitat Directives, the Common Agricultural Policy and other relevant policies; it also reports on funding opportunities and key events. Insight Brussels also acts as a platform for Eurosité members to share their views and agree on collective action. Insight Brussels is a product of the European Facilitation Service.*

## EU Funding: Interreg IVa- Cross-border Cooperation

European Territorial Cooperation is one of the objectives of the European Fund for Regional Development (ERDF). The ERDF is one of the financial instruments of the EU's Cohesion Policy and can be used by site managers to finance their projects. European Territorial Cooperation, also called Interreg, is divided in three strands of cooperation:

- Interreg IVa: cross-border cooperation;
- Interreg IVb: transnational cooperation;
- Interreg IVc: inter-regional cooperation.

This factsheet will focus on Interreg IVa: cross-border cooperation. More information on the other cooperation strands can be found on the Eurosité website: [www.eurosite.org](http://www.eurosite.org).

Interreg IVa is divided in 52 different Operational Programmes (OPs)<sup>3</sup>. Each OP is lead by a Secretariat and covers part of a border area between EU Member States. All Member States can participate in Interreg IVa, but only if an organisation or authority is located in the eligible area of one of the programmes (Map 1). IVa has a total budget of 6,44 billion<sup>1</sup> euro for the programme period 2007-2013.

### Objective/ Priorities

Interreg IVa - Cross-border Cooperation aims at "strengthening cross-border cooperation through joint local and regional initiatives"<sup>2</sup>. The ERDF focuses its assistance on the development of cross-border economic, social and environmental activities through joint strategies for sustainable territorial development, and primarily:

- by encouraging entrepreneurship, in particular the development of SMEs, tourism, culture, and cross-border trade<sup>2</sup>;
- by encouraging and improving the joint protection and management of natural and cultural resources, as well as the prevention of natural and technological risks<sup>2</sup>;
- by supporting links between urban and rural areas<sup>2</sup>;
- by reducing isolation through improved access to transport, information and communication networks and services, and cross-border water, waste and energy systems and facilities<sup>2</sup>;
- by developing collaboration, capacity and joint use of infrastructures, in particular in sectors such as health, culture, tourism and education<sup>2</sup>.

In addition, the ERDF may contribute to promoting legal and administrative cooperation, the integration of cross-border labour markets, local employment initiatives, gender equality and equal opportunities, training and social inclusion, and sharing of human resources and facilities for R&TD.

## Operational Programmes

Interreg IVa has 52 Operational Programmes, each covering part of a border area between EU Member States (Map 1). Annex 1 provides an overview of all the programmes and a link to the Programme website (if available). The Regional Policy website of the European Commission also gives an overview of all the cross-border programmes and provides summaries and information on each OP<sup>3</sup>. There are differences between the programmes, so please consult the information of the Operational Programme document for details. There are however, also many similarities and an overview is presented below:

- Programme area: Every OP focuses its programme priorities on a specific border-area of the EU territory. An organisation or authority can only participate in an Interreg IVa programme, if it is located in the eligible area of that programme. As a general rule, a maximum of 150 km from the border shall be eligible for financing<sup>2</sup>. Most programmes, however, have included rules to enable partners outside the programme area to participate.
- Partnership: Every project should include a partnership consisting of minimally two partners from different countries in the programme area. There is flexibility to include partners from outside the programme area, but dependent on the rules included in the different programmes, most need to participate on their own costs or with a lower co-financing rate (20%)<sup>2</sup>. Eligible partners under Interreg IVa are:
  - regional and local authorities,
  - state organisations,
  - NGOs;
  - private enterprises.

Each OP has its own definition for eligible partners; therefore this list varies between the programmes.

- Lead partner: Interreg IVa works with a Lead partner principle, meaning that one organisation or authority leads during the project and carries the financial and organisational responsibility for the project. The Lead partner also acts as the contact point for the Programme authorities.
- Co-financing principle: Interreg is based on co-financing. Depending on the GDP per head of the participating Member State, the ERDF funding varies between 50 - 85%<sup>2</sup>.
- Interreg IVa programmes are focused around two EU policy themes, namely the Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategies and the EU's Cohesion Policy.
  - Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategies<sup>4</sup>: During the meeting of the European Council in Lisbon (March 2000), the Heads of State or Government launched a "Lisbon Strategy" aimed at making the EU the most competitive economy in the world and achieving full employment by 2010. This strategy rests on three pillars: 1) An economic pillar preparing the ground for the transition to a competitive, dynamic, knowledge-based economy. 2) A social pillar designed to modernise the European social model by investing in human resources and combating social exclusion. 3) An environmental pillar, which was added at the Gothenburg European Council meeting in June 2001, draws attention to the fact that economic growth must be decoupled from the use of natural resources.
  - Cohesion Policy<sup>2, 5</sup>: The European Union's cohesion policy has been given the objective of reducing the gap in the different regions' levels of development, in order to strengthen economic and social cohesion. The aim is balanced development throughout the EU, reducing structural disparities between regions and promoting equal opportunities for all. Cohesion policy should contribute to increasing growth, competitiveness and employment by incorporating the Community's priorities for sustainable development as defined in the Lisbon and Gothenburg strategies.
- Communication/ publicity: Beneficiaries of ERDF funding are obligated to use the EU logo and mention that the project is co-financed by the ERDF. Also, each project is advised to develop a communication plan. This plan has to describe in detail what kind of information and publicity measures will be taken during the project and quantifies publicity and communication indicators<sup>6</sup>.
- Most programmes want the following themes to be included in a project:
  - Equal rights (for men and women),
  - Non-discrimination,
  - Sustainable development,
  - Innovation.

### Funding possibilities for site managers

There is a large variety of funding possibilities for site managers considering there are 52 different Operational Programmes. Below, several possibilities are mentioned:

- Cooperation between the existing institutional frameworks (e.g. environment protection agencies, administrations of the protected areas) for the maintenance of the sustainability of ecosystems and protection of the shared natural environment, a cross-border integrated approach and networking; (Romania-Bulgaria Programme<sup>7</sup>);
- Environmental awareness raising activities/campaigns (Central Baltic Programme<sup>8</sup>);
- To encourage the protection and joint management of the environment (Austria Hungary Programme).

Also, the Eurosite website contains an overview of several projects done by Eurosite members during the previous programme period (Interreg IIIa). For more project ideas, please consider the programme websites of the previous and current (Annex 1) programming period, as most of them have a project database.

### Practical tips for project application

If you are interested in applying, please consider the following:

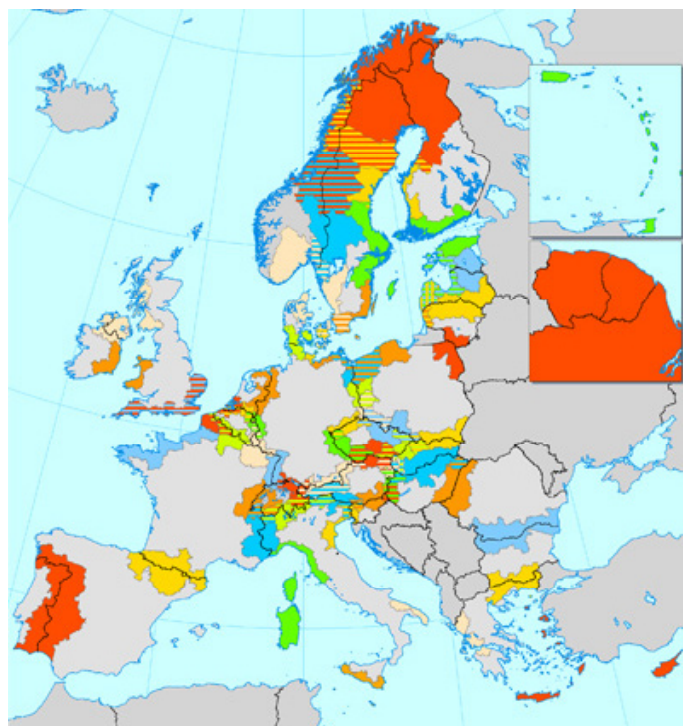
- Go to the programme website and read the Operational Programme and the latest Programme Manual. These documents contain the information about programme priorities, application guidelines, eligibility criteria etc.
- Make sure you check the eligibility rules of the Interreg programme you are interested in;
- If you have questions about the programme and application, do not hesitate to contact the national or programme contact points. Contact details of these points are available at the programme website (Annex 1) or through the following link  
[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/atlas2007/eu/crossborder/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/atlas2007/eu/crossborder/index_en.htm);
- It is only possible to submit a project application during a call for proposal. Therefore it is important to find out when the next call will be opened. At each call updated information on the programme is given. Information and assistance on project developed are offered at any time.

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For more information please contact Eurosite's European Facilitation Service Coordinator:  
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### Maps



Map 1 - Interreg IVa: cross-border cooperation (orange, red, yellow, blue, green and striped areas are eligible)<sup>9</sup>

## Annex 1 – Overview of Interreg IVa Programmes and websites<sup>10, 11, 12</sup> (August 11, '08)

1. Romania – Bulgaria: <http://www.cbromanialbulgaria.eu/>
2. Central Baltic: <http://www.centralbaltic.eu/>
3. Northern Ireland/ Western Scotland: <http://www.seupb.eu/programmes.htm>
4. Ireland – Wales: <http://www.irelandwales.ie/>
5. 2 Mers Seas Zeeën: <http://interreg4a-2mers.eu/UK/accueilUK.html>
6. France (Manche) – England: [http://www.interreg3.com/EN/i4\\_consult.asp](http://www.interreg3.com/EN/i4_consult.asp)
7. Nord: <http://www.bd.lst.se/utveckling/default.aspx?propID=10009827>
8. Botnia-Atlantica: <http://www.botnia-atlantica.eu/>
9. Sverige-Norge: <http://www.interreg-sverige-norge.com/index.asp>
10. Öresund - Kattégatt – Skagerrak: <http://www.interreg-oks.eu/se>
11. South Baltic: <http://www.cofund.org.pl/obiurze.php?CID=24&BID=9&IDJęzyk=2>
12. Eesti – Latvija: <http://www.estlat.eu/>
13. Latvija – Lietuva: <http://www.bsrinterreg3a.net/index.php?sec=prg&num=148>
14. Lietuva – Polska: <http://www.lietuva-polska.eu/>
15. Mecklenburg-Vorpommern/Brandenburg – Zachodniopomorskie: <http://www.pomerania.net/main.cfm?l=de&rubrik=2&th=48#19>
16. Województwo Lubuskie – Brandenburgia: <http://www.fundusze-strukturalne.gov.pl/> & [http://www.wirtschaft.brandenburg.de/cms/detail.php?gsid=bb2.c.434392.de&\\_siteid=132](http://www.wirtschaft.brandenburg.de/cms/detail.php?gsid=bb2.c.434392.de&_siteid=132)
17. Sachsen – Polska: [http://www.sn-pl.eu/servlet/PB/menu/1041391\\_I1/index.html](http://www.sn-pl.eu/servlet/PB/menu/1041391_I1/index.html)
18. Česká Republika – Polska: <http://www.strukturalni-fondy.cz/>
19. Polska – Slovensko: <http://www.cofund.org.pl/obiurze.php?BID=10&IDJęzyk=2>
20. Bayern - Česká Republika: [http://www.stmwivt.bayern.de/EFRE/Interreg\\_IV/](http://www.stmwivt.bayern.de/EFRE/Interreg_IV/)
21. Sachsen - Česká Republika: [http://www.ziel3-cil3.eu/servlet/PB/menu/1037218\\_I1/index.html](http://www.ziel3-cil3.eu/servlet/PB/menu/1037218_I1/index.html)
22. Deutschland/Bayern – Österreich: <http://www.interreg-bayaut.net/>
23. Alpenrhein - Bodensee – Hochrhein: <http://www.interreg.org/>
24. Rhin supérieur – Oberrhein: <http://www.interreg-oberrhein.eu/>
25. Grande Région: <http://www.grossregion.net/de/index.html>
26. Euregio Maas Rhein: <http://interregemr.info/index.html>
27. Deutschland – Nederland: <http://www.deutschland-niederlande.eu/>
28. Syddanmark - Schleswig - K.E.R.N: <http://www.interreg4a.de/wm229714>
29. Sjælland - Ostholstein - Lübeck – Plön: <http://www.fehmarnbeltregion.net/de/main/index.php>
30. Vlaanderen – Nederland: <http://www.grensregio.eu/>
31. France - Wallonie – Vlaanderen: <http://www.interreg-fwf.org/>
32. France - Schweiz/Suisse/Svizzera: <http://www.franche-comte.fr/fr/le-conseil-regional/les-politiques-regionales/europe-et-international/la-franche-comte-et-l-europe/index.html>
33. Italia - France ALCOTRA: <http://www.interreg-alcotra.org/pages.asp?p=18&lang=fr>
34. Italia - France Maritime: <http://www.maritimeit-fr.net/>
35. España - France – Andorra: <http://www.poctefa.eu/>
36. Amazonie: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/08/387&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>
37. España – Portugal: <http://www.poctep.eu/index0.htm>
38. Italia - Schweiz/Suisse/Svizzera: <http://www.interreg-italiasvizzera.it/interreg/>
39. Italia – Österreich: <http://www.interreg.net/>
40. Elláda – Italia: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/08/420&format=HTML&aged=0&language=FR&guiLanguage=en>
41. Italia – Malta: <http://www.interreg-italiamalta.org/>
42. Österreich - Česká Republika: [http://sk-at.eu/at-cz/de/1\\_programm.php](http://sk-at.eu/at-cz/de/1_programm.php)
43. Slovensko – Österreich: <http://www.sk-at.eu/>
44. Österreich – Magyarország: <http://sk-at.eu/at-hu/index.php>

45. Slovenija – Österreich: [http://www.svlr.gov.si/si/delovna\\_podrocja/podrocje\\_evropske\\_kohezijske\\_politike/kohezijska\\_politika\\_v\\_obdobju\\_2007\\_2013/cilj\\_3/operativni\\_program\\_cilj\\_3\\_slovenija\\_avstrija\\_2007\\_2013/](http://www.svlr.gov.si/si/delovna_podrocja/podrocje_evropske_kohezijske_politike/kohezijska_politika_v_obdobju_2007_2013/cilj_3/operativni_program_cilj_3_slovenija_avstrija_2007_2013/)
46. Česká Republika – Slovensko: <http://www.sk-cz.eu/>
47. Magyarország – Slovensko: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/country/prordn/details\\_new.cfm?gv\\_PAY=HU&gv\\_reg=ALL&gv\\_PGM=1290&LAN=7&gv\\_per=2&gv\\_defL=7](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/country/prordn/details_new.cfm?gv_PAY=HU&gv_reg=ALL&gv_PGM=1290&LAN=7&gv_per=2&gv_defL=7)
48. Slovenija – Magyarország: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/08/389&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>
49. Magyarország – Románia: <http://www.vati.hu/main.php?folderID=3445>
50. Elláda – Bulgária: <http://www.eufunds.bg/?cat=39>
51. Elláda – Kypros: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/02/697&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>
52. Italia - Slovenija: <http://www.interreg-it-si.org/?lng=eng>

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