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Understanding the main eligibility rules

First call for proposals

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The first call for proposals

Key facts and figures

- Open to the **4 Programme Priorities** and **9 Programme Specific Objectives**. A **proposal shall refer to one Programme Specific Objective only**;
- EU funds allocated: **€103.633.273,00** (financial allocation per specific objective);
- **Up to 89%** of projects total costs covered by the EU contribution;
- **Minimum** contribution at project level: **11%** of the total costs;
- **3 types of projects**: Thematic, Youth-oriented and Governance;
- **Project duration**: 24, 30, 36 months
- **Minimum 3** different participating countries in partnerships;
- **At least 1 Mediterranean Partner Country (MPC)** and **1 European Union Mediterranean Country (EUMC)** in partnerships;
- Deadline for submission: **28th of March 2024**.



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The 'trio' of projects

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Features of the different types of projects

Thematic

- Allocation: **€76.5 million**
- Priorities 1, 2, 3
- Project value: €1,5 million – €2,5 million
- Priorities 1, 2, 3
- Max. recommended number of partners: 7

Youth-Oriented

- Allocation: **€19.1 million**
- Priorities 1, 2, 3
- Project value €500,000 – €1 million
- Max. recommended number of partners: 5

Governance

- Allocation: **€7.9 million**
- Only Priority 4
- Project value: €1 million – €1.3 million
- Max. recommended number of partners: 5



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Focus on thematic projects

- Significant **demonstration** and **pilot** dimension;
- **Scale-up of already developed solutions** should be considered;
- **Avoid**, as much as possible, to “reinvent the wheel” and **start from scratch**;
- **Link with existing** results and knowledge;
- Achieve an **impact** at different levels, including **technical, societal** and **regulatory**.

The **focus** of thematic projects is on the **operational phase**, including pilots and experiments on the ground



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Focus on youth-oriented projects

- **20% of the budget** of Priorities 1,2 and 3 is allocated to youth-oriented projects;
- Aim to **enable young people to take action** in Interreg NEXT MED Programme through their participation in the design and implementation of the projects;
- All proposals shall have the scope to **deliver mainly for young people**;
- **Meet at least one of the two** following criteria:

Partnership including **at least 2** organisations whose **majority of staff** involved in the management is **aged 18-30**

And
/ Or

Partnership including **at least 2** organisations whose **core mission*** is to work **for the benefit of young people**



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*Demonstrating **at least two years** of experience from the date of the launching of the call in leading or participating in projects addressing Youth with similar managed budget as for the share of the requested grant



Focus on governance projects

- Enhance the **capacities of public authorities** and **other stakeholders** to **design** and effectively **deliver public services** that aim at the **socio-economic** and **environmental well-being** of **citizens** and **places**, specifically on a local scale;
- Development of **local governance models** and **processes** that strengthen participatory approaches;
- **Address** issues of interest at local level for the **provision of services** or **development of strategies/ policies**: health, education, mobility, employment, social inclusion, waste management, energy efficiency, urban development, etc.;
- Promote **common** methodologies and tools, **share** best practices, data and results, and create **transnational frameworks** to facilitate **exchange** of knowledge and collective action **across borders** among groups of stakeholders from different countries.

The ultimate goal is the implementation of transnational cooperation projects that **engage citizens, local stakeholders** and **public authorities** in the delivery of **quality public services**



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Main eligibility rules

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Geographical eligibility

15 participating countries

- **Mediterranean Partner Countries:** Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Tunisia, Türkiye
- **EU Mediterranean Countries:** Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain
- **Eligibility of Mediterranean Partner Countries** to be confirmed upon signature of a financial agreement with the European Commission

General rules

- Minimum **3 different participating countries** in partnerships: at least **1 Mediterranean Partner Country** (MPC) and **1 European Union Mediterranean Country** (EUMC) in partnerships
- Applicants and partners must be established in eligible territories of these countries only (**max. 2 organizations from the same country**)
- Unlike for ENI CBC MED, **adjoining regions can't participate** anymore

Recommendation

- Geographically balanced partnerships (North-South and East-West Mediterranean)



Eligibility of applicants and partners (non-exhaustive list)

Participation is allowed for legal entities (not physical persons) with legal status of:

- **Public bodies** (national and local administrations, other public bodies);
- **Bodies governed by public law***;
- **Private Bodies** (enterprises, NGOs, associations and other no profit organisations, etc.);
- **International Organisations** (with limitations) set up by intergovernmental agreements and accepting specific programme obligations through a specific declaration to be submitted.

The Applicant and the partners shall be legally registered in the eligible territories since **at least two years** from the launching date of the call for proposals



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*As defined by art. 2(4) of Directive 2014/24/EU (in MPCs those obliged to follow national rules - check with National Contact Points)



Specific rules for geographical eligibility

For some organizations, participation is allowed only under certain conditions!

International Organizations

- Only if they have an **operational office** in the eligible area
- Do not contribute to the fulfilment of the minimum geographic partnership requirement

Ministries and other national public administrations (outside eligible territories)

- Only if activities carried out in and **for the full benefit of the Programme eligible regions**
- The project activities should be implemented **by the existing local structure** (if any)

Decentralized organisations

- Only if the decentralized office has been **established at least 2 years before the launch of the call for proposals**
- The office has the **capacity to undertake legal obligations and assume financial responsibility**



Other types of organisations that can be involved in a project

- **Associates:** organisations involved in the project but they **cannot receive project funding**. Travel and accommodation may be paid by the Applicant or PP and is included in the 15% flat rate. They **cannot participate in procurement procedures** launched by the project. No geographical requirements but a specific declaration to be submitted in order to prove their involvement.
- **Subcontractors:** some activities can be outsourced by Applicant and partners but not the whole project implementation (bulk of the project). **Applicant and partners cannot subcontract among themselves.**

Under **no circumstances** can project partners or associates be subcontracted by the project



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Geographical eligibility of activities

- **General rule:** project activities must be implemented in eligible territories of the countries represented **in the partnership**.
- Exceptions for geographical activities implementation: specific activities outside the eligible area may be included, provided that their **added value** to the Programme area is well **justified**. Their eligibility will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.



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Specific participation requirements

Conditions to be met:

- The same organisation can apply **only once as Applicant under each Specific Objective;**
- **No limitation** applies for the participation **at partner level;**
- The same organization **cannot be awarded* more than 2 grants as Lead Partner** under this call for proposals.

In case an organisation participates in more than 1 project as Applicant under the same Specific Objective, **all concerned projects submitted under that Specific Objective will be rejected**



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*In case more than two proposals from the same Applicant are preselected according to the rules for this call, only the two best ranked proposals will be included in the list of projects to be financed.



Ineligible proposals and exclusion situations

Project proposals concerning **only or mainly** the following activities are **ineligible**:

- Individual sponsorships for participation in workshops, seminars, conferences, individual scholarships for studies or training courses, **pure academic and research-oriented activities, studies**, etc.;
- Projects already financed by other European Union initiatives or other donors (double funding).

Applicants and PPs will be **excluded** from the call for proposals or from the grant if:

- According to Article 135(2) of the Regulation (EU) 2018/1046 they are bankrupt or being wound up, fraud, corruption, conflict of interest, etc.;
- Specific cases: applicants and partners with unsuccessful recoveries in ENPI CBC and ENI CBC MED Programmes; attempts to obtain confidential information or to influence the selection process.



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Suspension clause

- The first call for proposals was launched with a **suspension clause**
- Partners located in Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC) eligible territories may apply but can receive Programme funds only if their respective country has signed a Financing Agreement (FA) with the European Commission **by the 30th of June 2024**
- **The updated list of countries which have signed the Financing Agreement (FA) can be found on www.interregnextmed.eu**
- In case you involve MPC partners that have not signed the FA, Applicants will be given **30 calendar days to replace** the partner: **one or two partners maximum** can be replaced according to the partnership composition (see text of the call for proposals). The **Applicant can never be replaced!**



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Thank you

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