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**NEXT MED**

# Interreg NEXT MED Programme

Text of the call for green transition projects



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA  
DE SARDIGNA  
REGIONE AUTONOMA  
DELLA SARDEGNA

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## Introduction

Interreg NEXT MED is a Programme funded by the European Union (EU) that supports transnational cooperation through the financing of joint projects which aim at making the Mediterranean area more resilient to the shared challenges it faces.

NEXT MED is part of Interreg<sup>1</sup>, a key instrument of the European Union which promotes European territorial cooperation across borders by means of joint programmes, projects and networks among national, regional and local actors from different EU Member States and among EU actors and adjacent non-EU countries, partner countries, overseas countries and territories (OCTs).

With a budget of €263million, Interreg NEXT MED aims at contributing to smart, sustainable, fair development for all across the Mediterranean basin by supporting balanced, long-lasting, far-reaching cooperation and multilevel governance. The programme mission is to finance cooperation projects that address joint socio-economic, environmental and governance challenges at the Mediterranean level such as the uptake of advanced technologies, competitiveness of SMEs and job creation, energy efficiency, water management, climate change adaptation, transition to a circular and resource efficient economy, education and training, health care.

The cooperation area, home to over 200 million people, covers over 100 eligible territories of 15 countries: Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Jordan, Malta, Palestine, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Türkiye.

## Reference documents

For preparation and implementation of projects, Applicants are invited to consult the following documents:

- Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund;
- Regulation (EU) 2021/1059 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the European Regional Development Fund and external financing instruments;
- Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions;
- Interreg VI-B NEXT Mediterranean Sea Basin (NEXT MED) Joint Operational Programme approved by Commission Implementing Decision C(2022) 9543 of 12 December 2022;

<sup>1</sup> Available at [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/policy/cooperation/european-territorial\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/cooperation/european-territorial_en)



- Guidelines for Grant Applicants, meant for supporting Applicants in project design and development.

All these documents can be consulted on the Programme website (<https://www.interregnextmed.eu>).

## Priorities and budget of the call for proposals

The call for green transition projects addresses the 4 Priorities of the Programme and 9 related Specific Objectives. Each proposal shall **indicate one Specific Objective only within the Priority concerned**. The evaluation of the Application Form will be carried out in relation with the Priority and Specific Objective under which it was submitted.

The total EU contribution available for this call is **€83.711.958,00** indicatively distributed amongst the 4 Priorities and 9 Specific Objectives as follows:

| Priority  | Specific Objective  | EU co-financing        | Project co-financing  | Total                  |
|---|---|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| <b>1. A more competitive and smarter Mediterranean</b>      | <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>24.230.069,00 €</b> | <b>2.961.453,00 €</b> | <b>27.191.522,00 €</b> |
|   | 1.1 Research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies  | 9.692.028,00 €         | 1.184.581,00 €        | 10.876.609,00 €        |
|   | 1.2 Sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs   | 14.538.041,00 €        | 1.776.872,00 €        | 16.314.913,00 €        |
| <b>2. A greener, low-carbon and resilient Mediterranean</b> | <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>35.251.821,00 €</b> | <b>4.308.557,00 €</b> | <b>39.560.378,00 €</b> |
|   | 2.1 Energy efficiency and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions   | 8.812.955,00 €         | 1.077.139,00 €        | 9.890.095,00 €         |
|   | 2.2 Climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience taking into account ecosystem-based approaches   | 8.812.955,00 €         | 1.077.139,00 €        | 9.890.095,00 €         |
|   | 2.3 Access to water and sustainable water management  | 8.812.955,00 €         | 1.077.139,00 €        | 9.890.095,00 €         |
|   | 2.4 Transition to a circular and resource efficient economy   | 8.812.955,00 €         | 1.077.139,00 €        | 9.890.095,00 €         |
| <b>3. A more social and inclusive Mediterranean</b>         | <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>17.768.717,00 €</b> | <b>2.171.732,00 €</b> | <b>19.940.450,00 €</b> |
|   | 3.1 Equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training | 12.115.035,00 €        | 1.480.727,00 €        | 13.595.762,00 €        |
|   | 3.2 Equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from   | 5.653.683,00 €         | 691.006,00 €          | 6.344.689,00 €         |



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|   |  |                       |                     |                       |
|---|--|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
|   | institutional to family- and community-based care  |                       |                     |                       |
|   | <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>6.461.352,00 €</b> | <b>789.721,00 €</b> | <b>7.251.073,00 €</b> |
| <b>4. A better cooperation governance for the Mediterranean (Interreg Specific Objective)</b> | 4.1 Other governance actions: Fostering local governance models and processes through cross-sectoral, multilevel and cross-border partnerships, encouraging cooperation and dialogue between citizens, civil society actors and institutions in view of addressing issues of joint interest at local level through transnational exchanges, bottom-up and participatory approaches | 6.461.352,00 €        | 789.721,00 €        | 7.251.073,00 €        |

## Type of projects

For this call for proposals, the Programme has defined two different categories of projects. Both typologies apply to the 4 Programme priorities (smart, green, social Mediterranean, and better governance) and have a set of specific features as described below:

- **Green transformation projects:** these projects represent the bulk of the call for proposals and should be conceived as having a significant **demonstration** and **pilot** dimension, focusing on the joint development and testing of innovative approaches for accelerating the green transition and mitigating the consequences of climate change by demonstrating the potential and impact of low-carbon/climate-friendly solutions. **Scale-up** of already developed solutions using existing results which efficiency has been proven in the framework of previous initiatives and implemented projects should be considered by potential applicants.
- **Eco-youth projects:** the youth strand aims to support young people taking action for the green transition and to encourage their direct participation in the design and implementation of projects. Eco-youth projects are allocated maximum 20% of the budget of the call (€16 million) and can focus on all the Programme Priorities. To be considered as a project under the eco-youth strand, project proposals shall meet at least one of the following eligibility 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 benefits of young people (demonstrating at least two years of experience prior to 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).





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Moreover, all proposals shall have the **scope to deliver mainly for young people** according to the definition provided above (the consistency and coherence of the project proposal with this scope will be assessed during the evaluation phase).

## Who may apply?

Applicants and partners must be established in the countries participating in the Programme as detailed below and they shall meet the eligibility criteria indicated in the Guidelines for Applicants.





| COUNTRIES        | REGIONS COVERED BY THE PROGRAMME  |
|------------------|---|
| <b>Algeria</b>   | Tlemcen; Ain-Temouchent; Oran; Mostaganem; Chlef; Tipaza; Boumerdes; TiziOuzou; Bejaia; Jijel; Skikda; Annaba; El-Tarf; Alger.  |
| <b>Cyprus</b>    | Whole country   |
| <b>Egypt</b>     | Matruh; Al Iskandariyah (Alexandria, alex.); Al Buhayrah (Al Beheira);Kafr-Ael-Sheikh; Al Sharqiyah (Al Sharkia); Al Daqahliyah (Al Dakahlia); Damietta; Al Ismailiyah (Al Ismailia); Port Said; Governorate of Cairo.  |
| <b>France</b>    | Languedoc-Roussillon; Midi-Pyrénées; Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur; Corse.   |
| <b>Greece</b>    | Αττική/Attiki;ΒόρειοΑιγαίο/Voreio Aigaio; ΝότιοΑιγαίο/Notio Aigaio; Κρήτη/Kriti; Ανατολική Μακεδονία, Θράκη/AnatolikiMakedonia, Thraki; Κεντρική Μακεδονία/Kentriki Makedonia; Δυτική Μακεδονία/Dytiki Makedonia; Ήπειρος/Ipeiros; Θεσσαλία/Thessalia; Ιόνια Νησιά/IoniaNisia; ΔυτικήΕλλάδα/DytikiElláda; ΣτερεάΕλλάδα/Sterea Elláda;Πελοπόννησος/Peloponnisos. |
| <b>Israel</b>    | Whole country   |
| <b>Italy</b>     | Liguria; Campania; Puglia; Basilicata; Calabria; Sicilia; Sardegna; Toscana; Lazio.   |
| <b>Jordan</b>    | Whole country   |
| <b>Lebanon</b>   | Whole country   |
| <b>Malta</b>     | Whole country   |
| <b>Palestine</b> | Whole country   |
| <b>Portugal</b>  | Algarve.  |
| <b>Spain</b>     | Catalunya; Comunitat Valenciana; Illes Balears; Andalucía; Región de Murcia; Ciudad de Ceuta; Ciudad de Melilla.  |
| <b>Tunisia</b>   | Zaghouan; Kairouan;SidiBouz;Manouba;Siliana; Le Kef; Gafsa; Kebili; Tataouine; Jendouba; Beja; Bizerte; Ariana; Tunis, Ben Arous, Gabes, Mahdia, Medenine, Monastir, Nabeul, Sfax, Sousse.  |
| <b>Türkiye</b>   | Tekirdağ, Edirne, Kırklareli; Balıkesir, Çanakkale; İzmir; Aydın, Denizli, Muğla; Manisa, Afyonkarahisar, Kütahya, Uşak; Antalya, Isparta, Burdur; Adana, Mersin; Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Osmaniye.   |



The **project partnership** shall represent a **minimum of three (3) eligible countries** including at least one (1) EU Mediterranean Country (EUMC) and one (1) Mediterranean Partner Country (MPC).

The **same organisation can apply only once as Applicant** (Lead Partner) under each Specific Objective. No limitation applies for the participation of the same organization at partner level. In case an organisation participates in more than one (1) project as Applicant under the same Specific Objective, all concerned projects submitted under that Specific Objective will be rejected.

The partnership shall **not include more than two (2) organisations from the same country**.

For this call related to the green transition, an **exception** to the geographical eligibility rule has been introduced to allow the participation of partners established in a non-eligible region of one of the 15 countries participating in the Programme. These "**Advisory partners**" must meet specific requirements<sup>2</sup> and the activities under the responsibility of an Advisory Partner, in case it is involved in a project, must be implemented for the benefit of the territories eligible for the Programme.

## Financial requirements

The minimum and maximum EU contribution to projects is reported below and it is linked to the different types of projects.

| Type of project      | Minimum EU co-financing | Maximum EU co-financing | Maximum total eligible costs |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Green transformation | € 1.780.000             | € 3.115.000             | € 3.500.000                  |
| Eco-Youth            | € 623.000               | € 1.780.000             | € 2.000.000                  |

The EU contribution cannot exceed 89% of the project total eligible costs and the project co-financing must be at least 11% of the total eligible costs<sup>3</sup>.

The co-financing provided with the Applicant's and partners' own resources, or with public or private (national/regional/local) sources other than the European Union Budget and the European Development Fund, shall cover the remaining budget costs.

When preparing the budget, **at least 50%** of the project total eligible costs shall be dedicated to activities to be implemented in the Mediterranean Partner Countries territories.

<sup>2</sup> For further details, please see the Guidelines for Applicants.

<sup>3</sup> Beneficiaries from Italy, Greece and Türkiye are entitled to receive national contribution to provide project co-financing. The conditions and modalities will be set by the respective National Authorities, and they will be published in the Programme webpage.

An organisation may be allocated up to a **maximum of 35%** of the project total eligible costs.

## Project duration

The project duration shall not be lower than 24 months and must not exceed 36 months.

## Submission of project proposals

Applications must be submitted using the online Application Form available at <https://eform.interregnextmed.eu/>. For the drafting of the proposal, Applicants are also encouraged to use the courtesy application form. Please note that the submission of a proposal can be possible only if using the e-form.

All documents included in the Application Pack can be downloaded from the Programme website ([www.interregnextmed.eu](http://www.interregnextmed.eu)).

Proposals must be submitted only in one of the following languages: English or French.

The deadline for the submission of project proposals is **15 of May 2025 at 1pm (CET)**.

## Responsibility for the procedure

Responsibility for the administrative procedures of this call for proposals lays on Sardinia Region, in the person of the Director of the Operational and Authorising Unit of the Managing Authority.

## Additional information

The conditions for submission of project proposals and the selection and award criteria are detailed in the Guidelines for Grant Applicants which are an integral part of the Application Pack.

Questions related to the call for proposals may be submitted either in English or French and no later than 15 calendar days before the deadline for the submission of the proposals through the dedicated "Frequently Asked Questions" section of the Programme website.

In case of differences between the Arabic, English and French versions of the documents of the call, the English version shall prevail.

For further information, please visit the Programme website at [www.interregnextmed.eu](http://www.interregnextmed.eu)

**The Head of the Operational  
and Authorising Unit**

**Managing Authority of the  
Interreg NEXT Med Programme**