

PROJECT PROPOSAL: STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

PROGRAMME	INTERREG EUROPE 2021-2027
CALL:	THIRD CALL
OPENING DATE:	20TH MARCH 2024
CLOSING DATE:	7TH JUNE 2024 (12:00 CET)
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET:	1-2 M€
BUDGET PER PARTNER:	150-350,000 €
COFINANCE RATE:	80% for public bodies, 70% non profit private entities.
ELIGIBLE COSTS:	Staff, office (15%), travel (15%), subcontracting, equipment...
ELIGIBLE PREPARATION COSTS:	17,500 € (if the project is approved).
RELEVANT OBJECTIVE FOR THE PROJECT:	OBJETIVE: 5. EUROPE CLOSER TO CITIZENS. (I) Sustainable integrated territorial development , culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism, and security (urban areas).
TYPE OF PROJECT:	Interregional cooperation projects: Partnerships made up of policy-relevant organisations from different countries in Europe which work together for 4 years to exchange experience on a shared regional development issue.

PROJECT GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The aim of the project would be **to improve strategic urban planning instruments for a more effective integration and approach to the challenges and objectives linked to sustainable development** (Agenda 2030, SDGs, Urban Agenda, European Green Pact, New Bauhaus...) through the exchange of experiences between administrations from different European territories.

GENERAL APPROACH

The proposal aims to set up a **partnership with a minimum of 5 territorial areas from 5 different countries** and **with diverse and complementary characteristics and challenges**, both in relation to the territory and to the planning instruments to be worked on and improved. This consortium would include **state or regional entities** with policies or planning instruments that have a direct impact on strategic urban planning, **metropolitan areas of large cities, and small and medium-sized cities**, which may or may not be part of **functional areas**.

In each of the 5 countries the approach can and should be different to allow for a more diverse exchange and deeper learning. Depending on the potential partners that may be interested in the proposal, different project approaches can be explored.

The INTERREG Europe programme has as its final objective the improvement of ERDF policy instruments (Operational Programmes) and it is necessary to select in each of the 5 territories which instrument is to be improved. At least 1 of these instruments has to be an ERDF OP.

LIDERSHIP OF THE PROJECT

The project proposal has been launched from Spain, through collaboration between the Ministry of Housing and the Urban Agenda and the Barcelona Metropolitan Strategic Plan. In Spain, work has already begun on **the revision of the Spanish Urban Agenda to include the metropolitan perspective**. Furthermore, there is a clear link between the Spanish Urban Agenda and the Spanish ERDF Multi-regional Operational Programme (2021-2027) in relation to urban development objectives.

In the case of Spain, it is considered that it would be best to aim at improving the Spanish Urban Agenda as a policy instrument. In this way, if the project is approved, it would reinforce the process that has been initiated led by the Ministry and with the participation of the Barcelona Metropolitan Strategic Plan and several city councils for the inclusion of the metropolitan perspective in the Spanish Urban Agenda.

The proposed partnership in Spain would include the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Agenda** and the **Barcelona Metropolitan Strategic Plan**. Work is also being carried out to include other partners or associated entities such as the Provincial Council of Barcelona, the CIDEU network of cities (for communication issues, capitalisation of knowledge, etc.) or the Ministry of Finance as responsible for the Pluri-regional OP. The possibility of involving some city councils and other public entities as "stakeholders" is also being considered, and their travel to meetings and activities could be financed.

In this sense, if the project is approved, the following benefits could be obtained:

- **Economic resources** for carrying out analyses, studies, reports, workshops, conferences, communication, dissemination, etc.
- **Access to knowledge, learning and good practices** in the field at European level.
- **Improvement of target policy instruments** in the integration of the principles of sustainable urban development and, especially, of the New Urban Agenda.

ACTIVITIES TO BE FINANCED

Projects of this type are structured in two phases: an initial phase, called the Core Phase, which lasts 3 years, where exchange and learning take place, and a final phase, called the Follow Up Phase, which lasts 1 year. The types of activities funded include the following:

- **Core Phase** (3 years): collection of good practices, joint analyses and reports, constitution of group of actors (may be other administrations), preparation of action plans, seminars, workshops, study visits, staff exchanges, peer review... In principle, no pilot actions are envisaged.
- **Follow up Phase** (1 year): monitoring of results, exchange of improvements made to policy instruments, etc.
- **For both phases**: communication and dissemination, management and coordination, programme level activities, etc.