

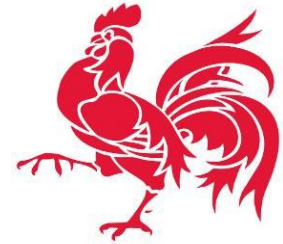
GEIE GECOTTI

***Groupement Européen pour la COopération
Transfrontalière Transnationale et Interrégionale***



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Wallonie

Réf. : AOOE N° 14ABC003

**FRAMEWORK CONTRACT WITH
ONE SINGLE ECONOMIC OPERATOR**

INTERREG EUROPE POLICY LEARNING PLATFORMS

INFORMATION NOTE



**Interreg
Europe**



European Union | European Regional Development Fund

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I - CONTEXT OF THE FRAMEWORK CONTRACT

The GEIE-GECOTTI is a European Economic Interest Group of Cross-border, Transnational and Interregional Cooperation which employs three Secretariats managing three types of «INTERREG» European Programmes. The objective of INTERREG Programmes is to reinforce economic and social cohesion in the European Union through the promotion of cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation as well as a balanced and sustainable development of the territory. The INTERREG programme concerned by this tender is the Interreg Europe programme.

The Interreg Europe programme is the successor programme of INTERREG IV C, part of the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) Objective of the Structural Fund policies for the period 2014-2020. It is financed through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and covers the 28 EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland. The main objective of the programme is to support policy learning, through exchange of practices and experiences, among relevant policy organisations with a view to improve the performance of policies & programmes for regional development, in particular Structural Funds programmes, and where relevant, ETC programmes.

The working language of the Interreg Europe programme and its Joint Secretariat is English and therefore the requested services would be in English. All information related to the programme can be found on the following website: www.interreg4c.eu/interreg-europe

II - FORM OF THE CONTRACT

Framework contract with one (1) single “economic operator”.

III - PURPOSE OF THE CONTRACT

The purpose of the Framework Agreement is to establish the terms governing the “subsequent procurement contracts” for the following services: setting up and implementing for eight (8) years, four (4) Policy Learning Platforms, one for each of the 4 thematic objectives addressed by the programme:

1. Strengthening research, technological development and innovation
2. Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs
3. Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors
4. Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency

A Policy Learning Platform is a hub of information and services for continuous policy learning where any organisation dealing with regional development policies in Europe can find solutions to improve the way they manage and implement their public policies in the four topics listed above. The platforms will offer activities and services for the whole community of regional policy stakeholders, in particular those involved in Investment for Growth and Jobs (G&J) programmes across Europe. Their purpose is to develop ‘policy intelligence’ through a demand driven approach that answers the real needs of the regions. More specifically the platforms would indicatively consist of:

1. A team of specialised experts to organise different activities and offer services to the platform users. The team would gather knowledge and long term experience in:
 - the 4 thematic policy fields addressed by the programme’s thematic objectives
 - the EU Cohesion Policy and in particular in the management and implementation of national or regional Operational Programmes in the field tackled by the respective platform
 - community and knowledge management

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2. Expertise in technical and creative support and in particular in e-learning, organisation and moderation of communication events (e.g. conferences, workshops, seminars etc.), production and promotion of information material and multimedia tools.
3. An interactive web interface designed to facilitate networking, information sharing and knowledge management and exchange. Basic functionalities should indicatively include:
 - A user management system for registration
 - Databases of Good Practices and of CVs of practitioners
 - Resource centre e.g. peer reviews material
 - Calendar of events
 - Discussion groups
 - Members details
 - Search facilities
 - Possibility to publish and exchange in different languages
 - Interoperability with the programme's website and Online Monitoring System of projects

Due to the wide thematic scope to be covered per platform and the diversity of competences and expertise required, the expert team would need to involve several specialised individuals. As a consequence, the team may be set up as a consortium of different bodies rather than as a single entity. Representatives from the core target groups (i.e. regional public authorities, managing authorities or intermediate bodies of G&J programmes) would be encouraged to participate.

The team of experts could be managed by a Lead Contractor (similar to a Lead Partner in a project). Since the platforms would not have a physical location, the role of this Lead Contractor would be crucial for the smooth coordination and management of the four platforms. The Lead Contractor would have to ensure that the expert team delivers the planned activities and would be the main responsible for the communication with the programme.

Indicatively activities and services of the Platforms would include (non-exhaustive):

- Provide and moderate online collaborative tools for knowledge sharing and policy learning
- Organise and facilitate peer reviews between European regions in support of policy improvement and capacity building
- Organise thematic events, workshops, seminars and meetings for the community of regional policy stakeholders
- Follow as far as possible the developments in G&J and ETC programmes and other relevant sources around Europe on topics related to the four thematic objectives to identify possible interesting experiences, tools, methodologies
- Answer requests for information from individual stakeholders involved in G&J and ETC programmes
- Analyse, benchmark and disseminate the content of the approved Interreg Europe projects
- Advise pro-actively running projects on content related issues when relevant
- Produce and promote information and multimedia material related to regional challenges such as newsletters, publications, studies, policy recommendations, videos, webinars, news, social media updates, e-learning forums etc.
- Advise Interreg Europe programme bodies on the programme's strategic orientation for example through recommendations for thematic calls for proposals
- Contribute to the Interreg Europe promotion by disseminating platforms activities and results
- Maintain a close collaboration with the Smart Specialisation Platform to share information and ensure complementarity of activities in particular related to Thematic Objective on Research and Innovation

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In principle, all stakeholders will have access to the basic level of services meaning that the main 'productions' of the platform would be public and accessible to all interested users. For more elaborated services (e.g. organisation of a peer review or a thematic workshop), the users would need to register first and demonstrate, by answering specific questions, their policy relevance for the topic tackled by the platform.

IV - ESTIMATED PROCEDURE LAUNCH DATE

The Contracting Authority intends to launch the procedure in summer 2015.

V - INDICATIVE BUDGET

The budget of the contract for a period of 8 years is indicatively 13M euros.