# Application form, budget & state-aid



# **Application form**

Application form section by section...

- General
- Work plan
- 'Intervention logic' & indicators
- Budget





## Before you start...

Be specific!

Who, what, when, where, how?

Cross-border is key!

Interreg = not H2020, not eurostars, ... Don't reinvent the wheel!

Existing projects...

What is the (cross-border) challenge?

Use non-specialist language



## Example

Be specific!

Who, what, when, where, how?

'All partners cooperate'
Vs
Company Delev will work with city Gara
on the evaluation plan
Association Pera will organise together
with Zeta the x event















4.3.01

#### The application form



#### Technical problems ? A question about the eMS ?

Check the eMS FAQ http://emsfaq.interregemr.eu/ or contact the helpdesk: ems-helpdesk@prvlimburg.nl

#### - 22-5-2020 eMS new update -

#### NEW FUNCTIONALITIES :

- 1) Self-registration: From now on, you can create your own user account by clicking on 'Register'. It is no longer necessary to contact the helpdesk to create an account. Attention: your password must have a minimum of 8 characters including at least one capital letter and one number (use combination of letters and numbers only).
- 2) List of expenditure: supplier drop-down list. When inserting a supplier, you can select from a list of already existing suppliers or create a new entry.
- 3) List of expenditure: improved Excel upload. If you are using the excel upload function instead of inserting expenses one by one in the eMS, you can now download a template in eMS in your partner report and the excel upload functionality has been improved.

#### CALL FOR PROJECTS

Call 6 is opened

Login

#### PREVIOUS UPDATES

05/2020 - Use of procurement section in the 'Supplementary information' obligatory

03/2020 - NEW COST CATALOGUE: version 4 is available

03/2020 - 20% FLEXIBILITY RULE for project budgets introduced

#### FOR MORE GUIDANCE

on eMS => https://tinyurl.com/y8d7gb54 in general => www.interregemr.eu/downloads

https://ems.interregemr.eu



## **Application form**

**Project Overview** 

Partner

Project Description

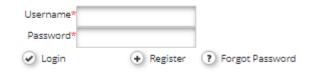
Workplan

Project Budget

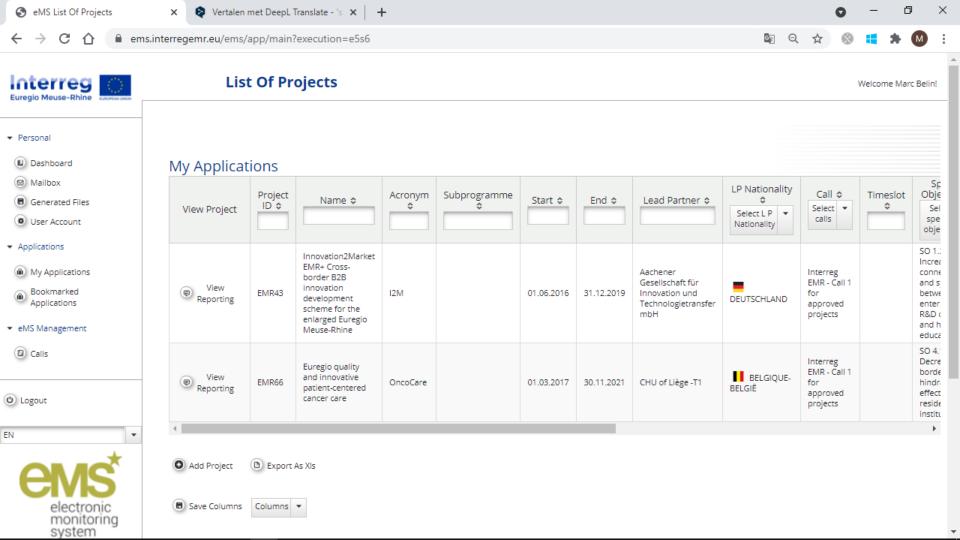
Project Budget Overview

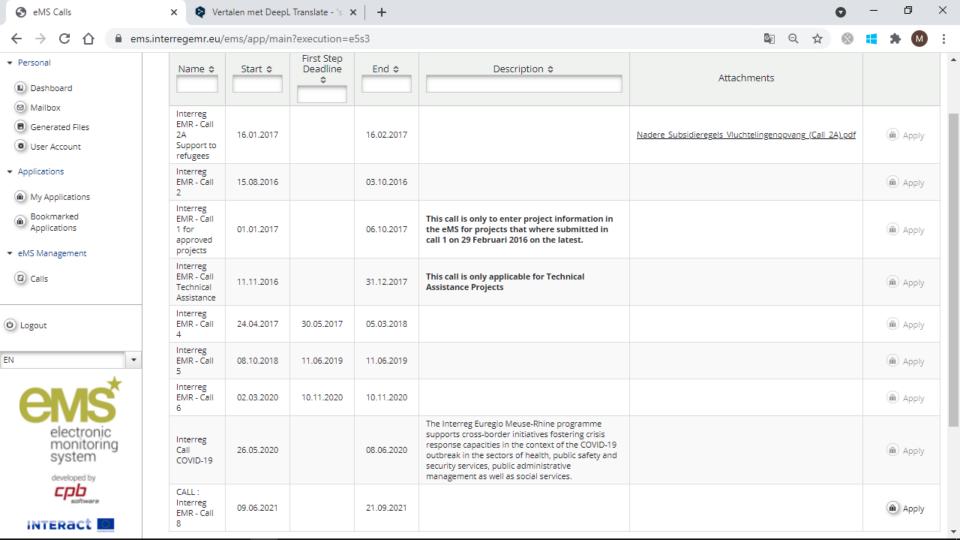
Self-registration available in the eMS!

https://ems.interregemr.eu







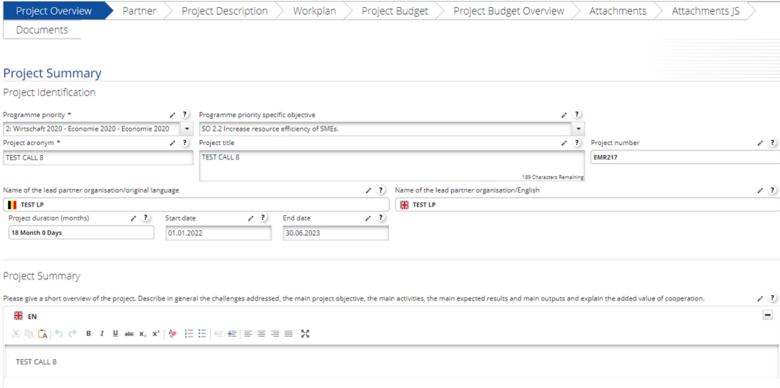


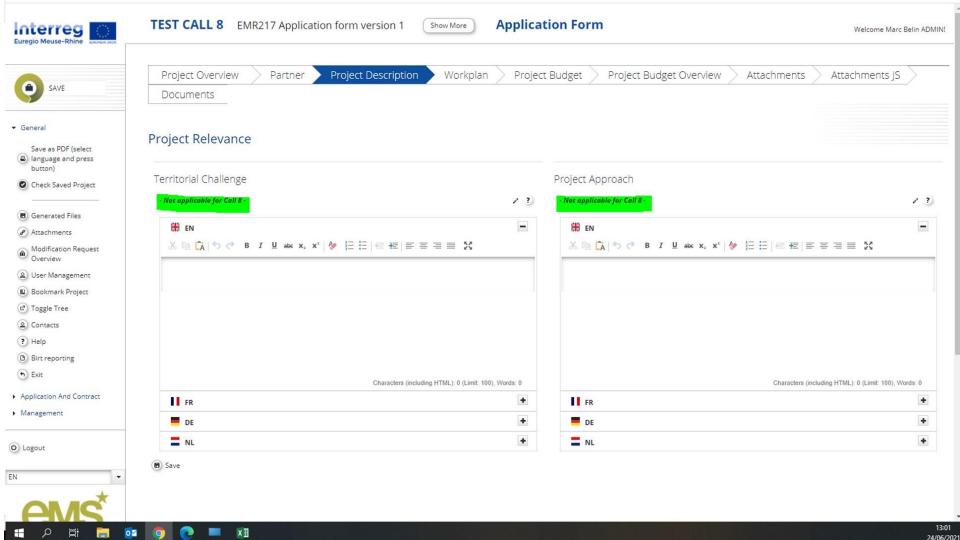


- language and press
  button)
- Check Saved Project
- Generated Files
- Attachments
- Modification Request Overview
- User Management
- Bookmark Project
- (c) Toggle Tree
- ② Contacts
- E COITCE
- ? Help
- Birt reporting
- Exit
- ▶ Application And Contract
- Management

O Logout

EN .







# Working in the eMS

- Save, save & save!!
- Pay attention to the questions asked in the different sections!
- There are parts that should not be filled in for call 8!
- Use the check function & Don't submit last minute

- Technical questions: contact the helpdesk ems-helpdesk@prvlimburg.nl
- **Guidance**: <a href="http://emsfaq.interregemr.eu/">http://emsfaq.interregemr.eu/</a> filter by Application Form
- https://tinyurl.com/y8d7gb54 eMS guidance Application Form!



# **Project overview**

- Project name & acronym select carefully
- Summary pitch your project in non-specialist language
- All partners have a legal personality!

# Project acronym – your brand name!

Select a meaningful acronym that tells something about the content

Avoid random letter combinations (e.g. BB2)



### The Summary section (7.000 characters)

#### Must include the following details:

- Describe the challenge your project addresses (need for the project) & provide sufficient evidence to back it up: studies, statistical data, etc.
- Why do you need to work in a cross-border manner to solve the project challenge/need?



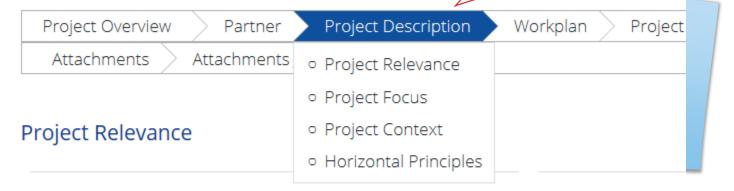
 What is the project result that helps improve the energy efficiency of SMEs?



**Project description** 

Not all these sections must be filled in. Carefully read what is requested!

Droject Approach



Recommendation: complete at the end and include concrete references to work plan

Most frequent mistake: too general descriptions





#### Work packages

- 1. Cross-cutting work packages (management, communication, first level control)
- 2. Implementation work packages
- 3. Investment work packages

#### Workpackage List **M MANAGEMENT T1 IMPLEMENTATION C COMMUNICATION** ø Jun.2020 Management Jul.2017 Communication ø ø Jul.2017 Jun.2020 Jul.2017 Jun.2020 T2 IMPLEMENTATION Ø Jul.2017 Jun.2020 **T3 IMPLEMENTATION** ø FLC Jul.2017 lun.2020



#### Work package Management



- Description of management arrangements (team, reporting, meetings)
- Only lead partner budgets costs
- No outputs needed
- Max. 10% for total budget <1,5 MEUR</p>
- Max. 8% for total budget 1,5-3 MEUR
- Max. 6% for total budget > 3MEUR, not exceeding EUR 300,000



## Work package First level control

- Select 1 indicator of our choice target value '0'
- All expenditure has to be certified by a first level controller
- The programme carries out the first level control for the project partners.
- Work package has to be manually added
- Each partner has to budget 2% of their partner budget (excluding first level control) budget line 'external expertise'





#### Work package Communication



General public or specialist audience?

What works for your project?

Website?
Social media?
Newsletter?
Video?
Workshops?







## Logo & poster

- Since call 5: standardized logo & poster available
- The templates are available on the programme website





#### www.interregemr.eu

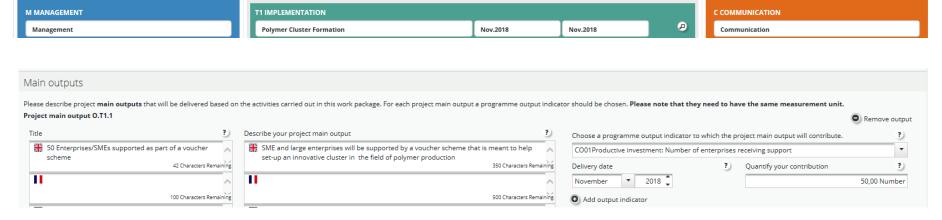
At Interreg Euregio Meuse-Rhine, we fund projects where partners work together across borders. In 2014-2020, we invest EUR 96 million from the European Regional Development Fund in our region.

We are a collaboration between 13 regions from Belgium, Germany and The Netherlands. Together, we develop shared solutions to common challenges. This gives Interreg its own, distinct spirit of cooperation: across regions and across borders.





#### Workpackage List

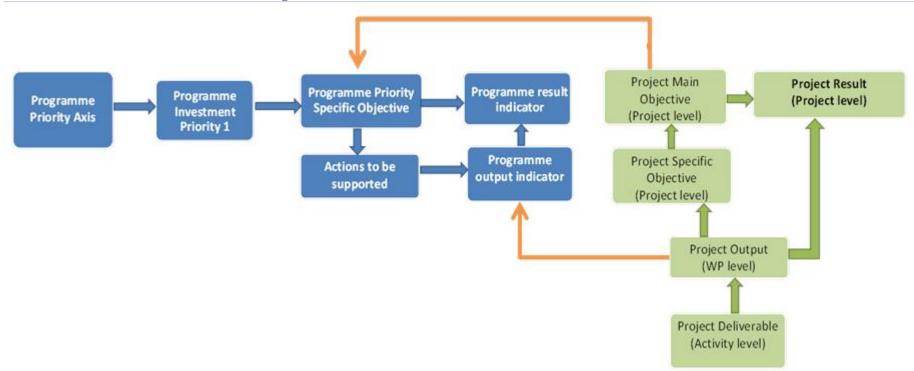


#### Project Main Outputs

Programme Output Indicators	Project Output Indicator Targets	Measurment Unit	Project Main Output Quantification Target	Project Main Output Number	Project Main Output Title
CO01Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	50.0	Number	50,00	O.T1.1	50 Enterprises/SMEs supported as part of a voucher scheme



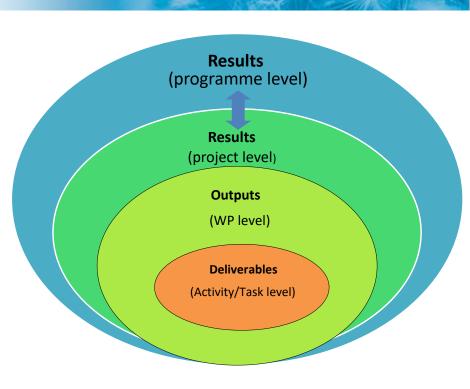
#### Intervention logic





## **Project Intervention Logic**

- Deliverables: e.g. meeting minutes, reports, market studies, work plans, etc. – they are intermediary steps that contribute to the output
- Outputs: e.g. Training sessions/ SMEs supported, the solutions to meet the chosen objectives and results – linked to the programme output indicators
- Results: describe the benefit of using the project outputs - what is the change the project is aiming for? - linked to the programme result indicators



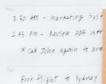


CASHBOOK

# FINANCE



Budget







#### **Business Company**

23 consectatur (peum sec ringilla mai Fusica 00000

Tel: 123-456-789-0 Fax: 123-456-789-1

> Bill to: Curabitur suscipit LTD 450 Pellentesque, Aliquet 2W st. SUO 9999 967-654-321

No.	Description		
1234	ld rutrum		



## **Budget lines**

- Staff
- Administration costs
- Travel and accommodation

Only for staff directly employed by the partner organisations

- Equipment
- External expertise and services (travel costs of external experts should be included under external expertise)
- Investment



#### **Staff costs**



- only staff employed by the partner organisation
- indicate positions/profile in the budget (e.g. project manager, etc.)



#### **Administration costs**



- fixed at 15% of staff costs
- No manual calculations click 'flat rate'
- Includes: office rent, utilities, office supplies, general accounting, etc.



#### Travel and accommodation

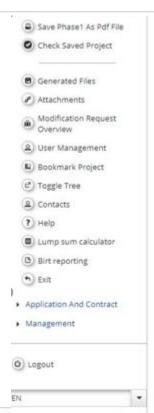


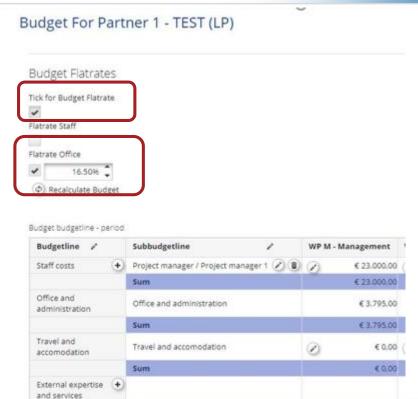
Fixed flat-rate – 1,5% of staff costs

Attention! In the eMS: select flatrate **16.5%** for administration costs. This includes 15% admin + 1.5% travel.

> DO NOT INCLUDE ANY COSTS IN THE TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION BUDGET LINE







# Combined flatrate for office & administration AND travel costs in the eMS

- Select 'tick for budget flatrate'
- > Select 16.5% for flat rate office (15% +1.5%)



## External expertise and services



















- Website, external project management, analysis, event services...?
- First level control



## Equipment



- Purchased, rented, leased
- Computers, cameras, consumables...
- Be aware of the fact that the programme functions based on depreciation (see the Cost Catalogue)!
- Do not expect to have the equipment/investments fully depreciated within the 18 months of the project!



#### Infrastructure and works



- Generally linked to investment work package
- Building and construction works, purchase of land

Difference equipment / investment

Equipment: something you buy & use ready-made

Investment: something you construct



## **Budget – common mistakes**

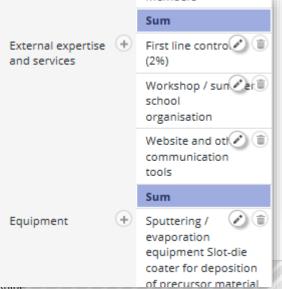
- Elements in the budget that don't exist in the work plan and vice versa
- All partners with identical budgets 'not realistic'
- No cross-check of partner budget by lead partner 'budgets don't match the project'
- Spending plan: too high at the beginning; identical amounts each semester





## Budget – attention points

Make use of sub-categories



Budgetline 🖍	Subbudgetling*	WP M - Management
Staff costs +	Project manage 🗷 🍵 Staff costs	€ 204.000,00
	Scientific	€ 27.200,00
	Researchers / S 🔊 🝵 costs	€ 0,00
	Expert in communication and valorization / Staff costs	€ 0,00
	Sum	€ 231.200,00
Office and administration	Office and administration	€ 34.680,00
	Sum	€ 34.680,00













## The 5 Key-Questions

- 1. Is the measure financed from state resources or it is imputable to the state?
- 2. Is the beneficiary an undertaking, i.e. engaged in an economic activity?
- 3. Does the measure confer a selective advantage to the beneficiary?
  - Is this advantage envisaged as thus at project level?
  - E.g.: studies for the large public; activities focused on knowledge understanding and dissemination
- 4. Does the support distort or have the potential to distort competition?
- 5. Does the support affect trade between Member States within the internal market?



# General Principle for the State-aid Assessments

- The same 5 questions are assessed on both sides: programme & partners
- The quality of the partner stateaid self-assessment does not impact the decision on the selection of the project

Programme state-aid assessment

5 key questions for state-aid

Partner state-aid self-assessment



## The 5 Key Questions: Conclusions

## If ALL questions are answered with YES: STATE AID

- In most cases, the question which makes the difference between state aid and non state aid relevant is the one regarding the undertaking status.
- SMEs must be autonomous: User guide to the SME definition
- https://ec.europa.eu/growth/content/revised-user-guide-sme-definition-0\_en
- Attention focused on selecting the type of legal entity in eMS



#### State-aid self-assessment

- The 5 questions are on a template provided by the programme –state-aid selfassessment
- This template is mandatory for the final project submission
- The template is to be filled in by every project partner
- The questions have to be answered per work package
- When answering the questions contextualize them to the work described in the application form!
- Plan properly for the signature of this document!
- Do not sign the document last minute, as time is needed to send it to LP to be uploaded in eMS!





## Types of Aid

### Direct State-Aid

Partners directly involved in the project — own budget defined in eMS

All those listed in the application form as fullpartners

## Indirect State-Aid

Third parties that benefit from the project activities, but are not named in the eMS

- Beneficiaries (SMEs) of the voucher schemes organized by projects
- Participants (SMEs) at specific seminars & trainings organized by projects



## Legal instruments used in Interreg EMR projects

Direct State-Aid

High use Interreg EMR General Block Exemption Regulation-GBFR

De Minimis – up to EUR 600,000

Indirect State-Aid

De Minimis – up to EUR 600,000

High Use Interreg EMR

General Block Exemption Regulation -GBER



#### Overview of State-aid Forms Needed

Forms needed for final submission  – one form per partner –  MANDATORY!	Forms needed only if the project is selected for funding and only if requested by MA/JS
State-aid self-assessment questionnaire – is available in the call package	De Minimis Declaration - if applicable
<b>Legal status – not in difficulty –</b> is available in the call package	20-80% Declaration – if applicable



## Q&A

For further questions on Call 8 – Keep in touch with your Regional Antenna!







### More information?

#### **Programme website**

www.interregemr.eu

#### **Key programme documents**

https://www.interregemr.eu/downloads

#### **Contact**

https://www.interregemr.eu/contact



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