

Call 9: General Information

End June, exceptional weather events lead to floodings in different parts of Europe. The cross-border area covered by the Interreg Euregio Meuse-Rhine programme was one of the regions that has been severely impacted.

These events revealed again that natural events as well as natural ecosystems do not stop at national borders and that efficient cooperation is necessary in order to manage such events as good as possible in order to minimize the impact for the population

In this specific context, the Interreg Euregio Maas-Rhine Programme opens a special call for projects. This call is open for initiatives fostering cooperation between public bodies in charge of public safety and security services, public administrative management as well as waterways management.

The call is open from 10 February to 15 March 2022, 12.00 noon. For this call, the programme makes available a high support rate of 90% ERDF and projects only have to submit a simplified application form.

Further documents are available for download on the programme's website <https://www.interregemr.eu>. The present document summarises the main elements and is part of the application pack for this call.

Application pack

- General information on call 9
- Guidance document
- Call regulation 'Detailed subsidy rules' (publication expected on 10 February 2022)
- Application form template (for reference)
- Budget template (for reference)
- Annexes to the application form
 - Self-declaration legal status / not-in-difficulty
 - State-aid self-assessment form
 - Cooperation agreement partnership
- Partner declaration on own means
- Guidance regional and national cofinancing
 - Cofinancing request form – Ministry EZK

Time line

- 10 February 2022 Opening of the call in the eMS
- **15 March 2022, 12.00 noon** **Closure of call**

- 26 April 2022 Decision on projects by Monitoring Committee

Submission & eMS

Applications forms have to be submitted electronically, via the programme's electronic monitoring system eMS, <https://ems.interregemr.eu>. The system will be opened for the applications on 10 February 2022.

Applications have to be submitted in English or in the 3 programme languages (DE/NL/FR).

If you have no user account yet, just click on 'register' on the start page. The lead applicant can give additional users rights to edit or view the application form in the 'user management' section. Press regularly 'save' to avoid losing data. The eMS has several integrated check functions. If you use the 'check' function by clicking first 'save project' and then 'check saved project' you may view several warning messages. Due to the specificity of the call, some of these warnings do not apply.

Budget & co-financing rate

The total budget available under this call is **EUR 6.900.000**

The ERDF contribution per project partner and project is max. **90%** of the total budget.

Costs will be refunded on the basis of **lump sums**. Lump sums must be linked to the deliverables described in the application form.

The implementation of the project cannot exclusively rely on services, good or works performed through public procurement (see Article 67(4) CPR).

Priority axis

Projects can be submitted under the following priority axis and specific objective:

- **Axis 4/Territorial development**
- **Specific objective 4.1. Decrease border hindrance effects for residents and institutions**

Project duration

- The earliest possible start date is 01/05/2022
- The latest possible end date is 31/12/2023
- The maximum duration of a project is 20 months.

Application form

The application form for this call has been simplified. A word and excel template (for reference only) are made available by the programme.

Some of the key elements:

- The main sections to complete are the tabs '**project overview [summary]**', '**partner**', '**work plan**' and '**project budget**'. Applicants do therefore not have to complete the various fields under 'project description'.
- Only **implementation work packages**; work packages for management, communication and first level control do not have to be completed or created.
- Use of **lump sums** in the budget. Lump sums should be listed under the budget line 'external expertise and services'. Indicate in the column 'sub budget line' the description/reference of the deliverable. Further information on the conditions/break down of the lump sum must be provided in a MS Excel fill that has to be uploaded as annex to the application form.
- The **annexes** to the application form, i.e. (1) Calculation methodology for the deliverables (MS Excel file) and (2) the self-declaration on the legal status and undertaking in-difficulty must be submitted before the submission deadline as annex to the application form. (3) State-aid self-assessment form must be submitted before the submission deadline as annex to the application form. (4) The cooperation agreement with project partners can be submitted after the call closure (sent out of the project grant letter is conditioned to the receipt and acceptance by the managing authority).

Assessment: eligibility and selection criteria

All submitted projects will be assessed against the call's eligibility criteria. Only projects that pass the eligibility check will pass to the quality assessment ('selection criteria'). For the quality assessment, projects will be rated on a scale from 1 (insufficient) to 5 (strong) under each criterion. A projects needs to score a minimum of 3 under each criterion to qualify for selection. All projects will then be ranked on the basis of their average score.

Eligibility criteria

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The application has been submitted before the submission deadline. 2. All mandatory fields in the application form are properly filled in according to the instructions 3. The project involves at least 2 public bodies from 2 different member states within the EMR Programme 4. The project application is submitted in English or Dutch, French and German 5. The maximum ERDF co-financing rate of 90% per partner has not been exceeded 6. The project's start date is 1 May 2022 at the earliest 7. The project's end date is not later than 31 December 2023 8. The requested annexes (state-aid self-assessments, legal status forms, calculation methodology) are included as attachments in eMS |
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Selection criteria

1. **Quality of the partnership**

- Do the organisations have the necessary expertise for the activities described ?
- If one organisation acts as coordinating body: does it have the administrative capacity to perform this role?

2. **Cross-border dimension of activities**

- The activities described in the application cover the needs or problems with regard to the flooding prevention or flooding management in at least 2 member states
- The activities/measures/tools of the project will benefit to a large number of citizens and/or organisations in the programme area
- How intensively will partners cooperate to deliver the change envisaged?

3. **Feasibility of the project**

- Has the consortium presented a realistic project that can be implemented within the limits in terms of funding and time?