INTERREG ATLANTIC AREA PROGRAMME 2021-2027

Fourth Call for Proposals

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1) Project Submission and Assessment

Questions	Answers
How long does the selection process take?	The eligibility checks and quality assessment by the Joint Secretariat are planned from 2 November to 18 December 2026, followed by selection and approval by the Monitoring Committee around the end of January/beginning of February 2027. The timeline may be extended if more than 70 applications are submitted.
Technical problems with the Application form?	Applicants are encouraged to directly contact this email address when dealing with technical difficulties: **itsupport@atlanticarea.eu**. Phone: 00 351 226 074 263.
When I try to register on SIGI, I receive an error advising that "There is already an Entity with this Tax Number".	This probably means that someone from your organisation has already registered on the platform. In this case, only this person or the IT Support can invite you by adding you as a member.
Can I access the project proposal on the SIGI platform?	The person (member of the Lead Partner organisation) who creates the proposal can invite their colleagues and project partners to view it but only this person will have editing rights on the proposal. To know how to access the project proposal, please follow the steps mentioned at the end of this document.
What is the deadline for applying?	The deadline for this 4th Call 2021-2027 is 30 October 2026 at **13:00 (Lisbon time).**
In which language applications must be completed?	All sections must be completed in English, other Programme languages are optional. However,

	project summary must be provided in the 4 Programme languages.
What is the focus of the Fourth Call?	The Fourth Call focuses exclusively on capitalisation, scaling-up, transfer and governance, building on knowledge, tools, methodologies and solutions already developed, particularly through Interreg Atlantic Area projects. Proposals should deliver concrete and transferable results and maximise strategic impact within the remaining Programme implementation period.
What types of projects/actions are supported under this call?	Projects may address one or several of the following, depending on their focus and scope: (1) capitalisation and scaling-up; (2) innovation transfer; (3) governance frameworks; (4) decision-support tools; and (5) light pilot actions. Light pilots should test or adapt already mature solutions rather than develop entirely new tools.

2) Partnership

Questions	Answers
How many partners must the project have?	The application must involve at least 4 public bodies or not-for-profit private organisations from the 4 Member States and eligible regions: France, Ireland, Portugal and Spain. The Fourth Call is designed around a limited partnership size to better management. Associated partners may also be included where relevant.
Can the Lead Partner be external to the countries involved in the Programme?	No, the Lead Partner must be located in the eligible area of the Atlantic Area. For more info, please check our Programme Manual.
Can UK organisations participate as partners in the project?	No, UK partners can participate only as Associated Partners with their financing.
Does the proposal to be made have to include beneficiaries from all countries in the eligible programme area?	Yes. The partnership must include one partner from each of the four Atlantic Area Member States: France, Ireland, Portugal and Spain, located in an eligible region.
Is it possible for the same partner to participate in more than one proposal?	Yes.
Can a large enterprise participate as a Partner/Beneficiary in a project?	No, just as an associated partner. Only small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are eligible as partners/beneficiaries.

What is the difference between a contact person and a Legal representative?	The Contact person produces applications and reports while the Legal representative signs the documents related to project application and project implementation.
Can associated partners be subcontracted?	They cannot be contracted/subcontracted.
Can two departments of the same organisation participate in a project?	Yes. However, if several departments of the same organisation wish to participate and share the same VAT number, they must present themselves as one partner.
Can a private not for profit organization be Lead Partner?	Yes. Eligible Lead Partners include public bodies, universities, education and research organisations, not-for-profit private institutions and international organisations acting under national law. The Lead Partner must be located in the Atlantic Area Programme eligible territory.
Can partners located outside the eligible area be part of project and ask for 75% ERDF funding?	The four mandatory project partners must be located in eligible Atlantic Area regions in France, Ireland, Portugal and Spain. The participation of organisations outside the eligible area should therefore not be presented as replacing any of these four mandatory partners. Any additional participation must comply with the final ToR and Programme eligibility rules. The participation of this kind of partner must be duly justified, as stated in the Programme Manual. These partners can also ask for 75% of ERDF funding and an agreement must be signed with the national authorities concerned.
Can one partner participate in 3-4 proposals under the same priority?	Yes, it is possible.
Can one partner coordinate more than one proposal?	Yes, it is possible.
Is it necessary to register 'Associated partners' on the SIGI?	Yes, it is necessary.
Is collaboration with the AA project GRAAL project required?	Yes. Applicants must be aware of the need to collaborate with the ISO 1 GRAAL – "Lighthouse Atlantic Area Governance" project linked to Priority 4, including by providing information and responding to possible requests or invitations to joint events.

3) Budget

Questions	Answers
What is the budget for a project?	The ERDF contribution per project must be between EUR 0.4 million and EUR 0.8 million. The co-financing rate is up to 75%.
What happens if the total budget is higher?	The Fourth Call establishes an ERDF contribution ceiling of EUR 0.8 million per project. Proposals must respect the financial limits established in the final ToR.
How about financing? Will there be any pre-financing?	No.
What about project own funding. The 25% still work?	The maximum of ERDF granted remains 75%. 25% remains the national counterpart (to be provided by the partner).
How can the co-financing of 25% be provided by the beneficiary?	The co-financing can either be provided through its own resources or through other schemes that might be set up at the national, regional or local level. This means that the 25% financing can be covered by funding received from the national, regional or local level, if there is such a possibility. However, it is important to note that the programme only reimburses costs incurred and paid by the beneficiaries. This means that each beneficiary must fully pre-finance its project expenditure. Then, once verified by the controller and included in a joint (consolidated) progress report, the Programme reimburses 75% (ERDF). The sum of the ERDF and co-financing received by a beneficiary can never exceed 100% of the costs occurred for the concerned item(s).
Can Associate partners be paid by projects partners for travel and accommodation on their participation in project activities?	No. Lead Partner or a partner will not be able to claim associated partners' expenditures under travel and accommodation line (none any other) if invited to attend events/meetings.
Is the 60% limit applied to the Human resources budget?	No limit was established; however, it is recommended not to exceed 60%.
Preparation costs	The preparation costs are a lump sum corresponding to € 17,480, and it is mandatory to request (automatically assumed by SIGI). The amount can be shared

	between all project's partners in proportion to their participation in the preparation.
Can partners choose different options for staff costs?	Within the same project, each partner can choose between direct costs or a flat rate option for the staff costs. Once an option is chosen, it cannot be changed during the project implementation.
Can partners choose real costs reimbursement instead of the fixed flat rate of 15% of eligible staff costs for Travel and accommodation?	Real costs are allowed only when the partner chooses the flat rate of 20% for staff costs or in case the flat rate is not appropriate for the partner (duly justified).
Will the 15% flat rate of travel costs be calculated on the result of the 20% flat rate of staff costs (and travel costs are not considered in the calculation of staff costs)?	If the 20% flat rate for staff costs is selected, travel and accommodation costs must be reported as real costs.
Are heavy infrastructure and large equipment eligible?	No. Heavy infrastructure and large equipment are not eligible under this call. The ToR gives examples such as construction works, acquisition of vessels/cars and heavy machinery.
How much ERDF is available for the Fourth Call?	The draft ToR foresees an initial indicative allocation of approximately EUR 7 million ERDF. A further amount of up to approximately EUR 4 million may potentially become available through decommitments and Programme budget adjustments.

4) Workplan

Questions	**Answers**
How many work packages can be foreseen in the application form?	There is a maximum of 4 WPs excluding the WP 0 – Preparation. For the Fourth call, applicants are strongly encouraged to structure the project around a single thematic work package (in addition to WP0).
Which work packages are compulsory?	Only WP 0 – Preparation – is compulsory. Thematic work packages should be used exclusively. Management and Communication are not considered as work packages but embedded in the thematic ones.
How long is the duration of a project?	The indicative project duration is up to 24 months. All projects must end no later than 30 June 2029, and the duration may be reduced where necessary to comply with the Programme timeline.

How to allocate the activities and budget related to project management and communication to the single work packages?	As regards the activities related to project management and communication, these shall be described in Section 5 of the application form. The budget related to project management and communication needs to be allocated to the respective cost categories and year.
How many specific objectives should be selected?	Projects must select one Programme priority and one **Programme specific objective (Section 1.2 Area of intervention)**. Programme priorities and specific objectives are listed and detailed in the main documents. Moreover, following the project intervention logic, applicants should define one overall **project objective (Section 2.1 Project overall objective)**. Considering the scope of this call and the recommendation to structure the project around one thematic work package (in addition to WP0), projects should preferably define one clear and focused specific objective (Workplan Section 3.2) directly contributing to the overall project objective. Where duly justified by the nature and scope of the project, additional project specific objectives may be defined, up to a maximum of three. Project specific objectives must be clearly linked to the corresponding activities, outputs and deliverables and contribute directly to the achievement of the overall project objective.
Is there any limit for the number of activities within each Work Package?	No more than 4 activities by WP are allowed.
What is the difference between an output and a deliverable?	**Outputs** are products delivered by the partnership as a result of the activities conducted during the project implementation. They must answer the needs of the target groups and, at the same time, demonstrate durability and transferability beyond the project partnership. Equally important is the fact that project outputs should be measurable and contribute to the programme output indicators.

	On the other hand, a project **deliverable** is a side product that contributes to the development of an activity whose purpose is to support the completion of an output, either on its own or in combination with other activities. Each activity should include one or more deliverables (e.g. analysis report, feasibility study, etc.) that contribute to the achievement of project outputs. All small steps of a single activity, such as stakeholder meeting documentation, working groups, etc., do not need to be listed as separate deliverables but should be aggregated into one deliverable, e.g. a qualitative report describing the stakeholder involvement, for example.
How to select results and outputs indicators?	Select the Programme output and result indicators that are directly relevant to the project's planned activities and expected achievements, in accordance with the list of indicators available for the selected Programme Specific Objective (Section 1.2 Area of intervention). Indicators should reflect what the project will actually deliver and achieve and must comply with the Programme's definitions and units of measurement. The logic is sequential: project activities lead to outputs, which in turn generate results. For each selected indicator, set a realistic and achievable target. Targets must be clearly explained and justified, including what will be counted and how the target has been calculated. (check programme manual)
Can participation in public events or internal project meetings be reported under output indicator RCO 81 – Participations in joint actions across borders?	No. Public events (e.g. conferences, seminars, open days or press conferences) and internal project meetings (e.g. Steering Committee or partner coordination meetings) cannot be counted under RCO 81. This indicator counts only participations in joint actions across borders implemented by the project. A joint action is an activity organised together by project partners where participants actively take part in transnational exchanges, meetings, visits or demonstrations.

Can the same organisation be counted more than once under output indicator RCO 87 – Organisations cooperating across borders and result indicator RCR 84 – Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion?	No. Each organisation can only be counted once under each indicator, regardless of the number of activities or joint actions in which it participates. This also applies to project partner organisations.
Could projects build on existing results?	Yes. The call is mainly designed to build upon, strengthen, transfer, scale up and capitalise on results and outputs already generated. Projects should not simply replicate previous projects or focus mainly on developing entirely new solutions.

5) Documents

Questions	Answers
What are the documents that must be uploaded to the SIGI platform in the application phase?	None at this stage. The upload of project documents must be done after project approval, during the contracting/PAF phase. The list of documents (cf. ToR) must therefore be prepared in advance as the contractualization period will be short.
What documents must partners provide?	None at this stage. The upload of partner documents must be done after project approval, during the contracting/PAF phase. The list of documents (cf. ToR) must therefore be prepared in advance as the contractualization period will be short.
What documents must associated partner provide?[1]	None at this stage. Associated partners only need to provide the "Associated partner declaration" during contractualization period.
Legal representative/LEAR: must these supporting documents be uploaded at this stage?	No, all documents must be submitted after project approval during the contractualization period.
Partner declaration: must it be printed on the organisation's letter-headed paper as the other documents?	It is not necessary; you only need to sign the template of the Programme for the partners. This document will be provided during contractualization period.

When the Partnership Agreement must be submitted to the Programme?	The Partnership Agreement is only provided to the Programme in case of approval. Therefore, it has not to be included in the Application Form.
How much time will projects approved have to complete the contracting procedure?	Project partners will have **20 working days** from the date of contact by the Joint Secretariat to initiate the contracting procedure, collect and sign the requested documents, introduce any required modifications and submit the complete set.

6) Other questions

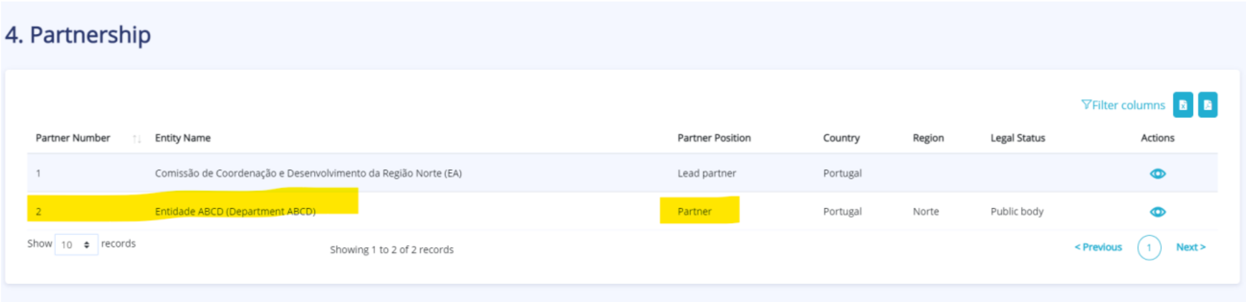
Questions	**Answers**
Is there any information about how many proposals will be awarded?	The exact number cannot be fixed in advance. Projects will be ranked after assessment. The highest-ranked proposals within the initial financial envelope will be approved for immediate funding (Lot A), while other technically approved and ranked proposals may be placed on a reserve list (Lot B), subject to additional ERDF becoming available.
Will there be any info-session?	Yes, info sessions are foreseen.
Is there any tool to match make contacts for this new call?	Yes, please consult the Programme website.
Where can I get information on projects that have already been funded?	There are several possibilities to find co-financed Interreg projects, which were implemented already in former periods or which are still running that you can check on similarities or synergies: On the EU-wide level the Interact database www.keep.eu includes projects from the running funding period 2014-2020 as well as from previous funding periods (2000 – 2006, 2007 -2013). On the Atlantic Area website, you can find projects that have been financed during the 2014-2020 period.
How can I see my proposal(s) on SIGI?	Please follow the steps described in the following pages. If you find any difficulties, contact IT Support.
How does the phased approval model work?	After assessment, proposals will be ranked. Lot A will include the highest-ranked projects that can be funded immediately from the

	initial ERDF allocation. Lot B will form a conditionally approved reserve list; projects may be activated progressively, in ranking order, if additional ERDF becomes available, without a new assessment.
When will projects on the reserve list know whether they will be funded?	The Joint Secretariat will contact all projects on the reserve list by the end of the first half of 2028 to inform whether funding is available.

How to Access the Project Proposal

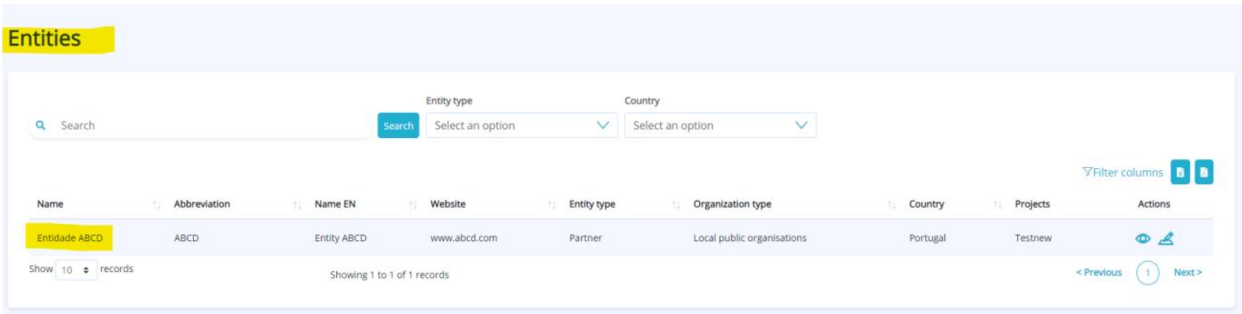
Step 1

The Lead Partner (LP) associates an Entity as Partner:



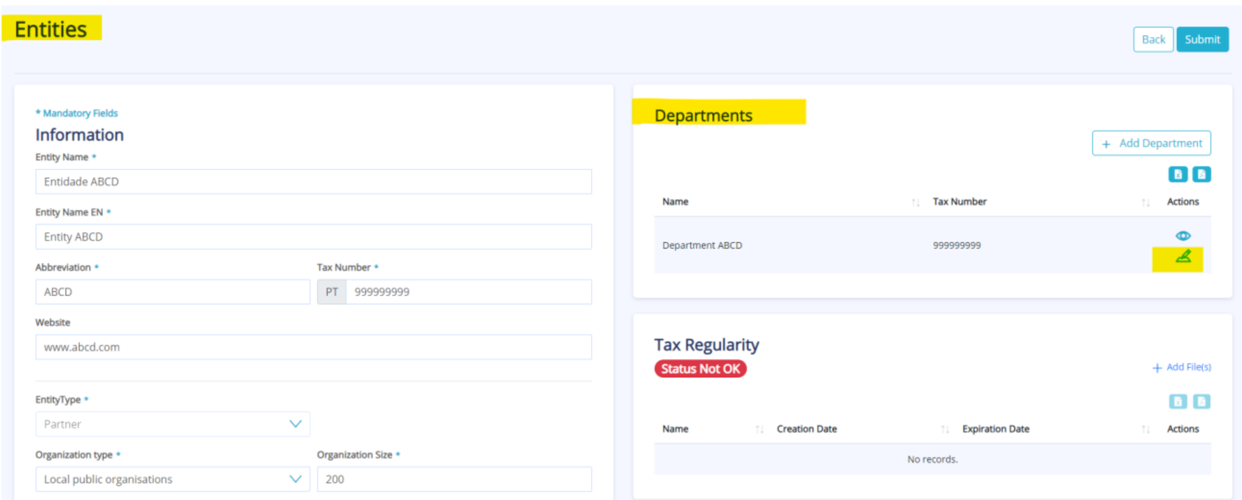
Step 2

The Partner receives an e-mail communicating that he has been associated, enters in the system and goes to the registration of entity:



Step 3

The Partner enters the Departments module in edit mode:



Step 4

In the Project Users Management module, select the Actions button. You should now have access to view the application being prepared by the LP: