

**Managing Authority of European  
Territorial Cooperation Programmes**

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**3<sup>rd</sup> CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS  
EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME**

**"GREECE – ITALY" 2007-2013**

**CO-FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (ERDF)**

**1. Context**

The European territorial cooperation programme "Greece – Italy" 2007-2013 is a cross-border cooperation Programme co-financed by the European Union under the European Regional Development Fund.

Its specific mission is to improve and develop the border relations and partnership between Greece and Italy.

The total budget (ERDF and national contribution) for the Cross-border cooperation Programme Greece-Italy in the period 2007-2013 is **€118,606,893**. The total financing consists of **€88,955,170** (75%) ERDF funding and **€29,651,723** (25%) national contribution.

Territorial cooperation for the eligible regions constitutes both a challenge and an opportunity for the programming period 2007-2013. Polycentric spatial development with a new relationship between urban and rural areas, parity of access to infrastructure and knowledge, along with sustainable management of the natural and cultural heritage, represent already major objectives for balanced and sustainable growth. Within this

framework, the **strategic objectives** which constitute the policy outline for the convergence in the area of intervention are:

- Strengthening competitiveness and innovation of the cross border area economic systems, focusing especially on common comparative advantages;
- Improve the accessibility of the programme area to networks and services, thus enhancing the competitiveness of its economic systems in the wider Mediterranean space;
- Improve the quality of life, preserve and effectively manage the environment, and increase social and cultural cohesion

## 2. Documents of reference

Before submitting any project proposal, applicants are invited to consult the Operational Programme approved by the European Commission on 28 March 2008, Regulation (EC) 1083/2006 as in force, Regulation (EC) 1080/2006 as in force, Regulation (EC) 1828/2006 as in force. These documents are available on the Programme website at <http://www.interreg.gr> and the <http://www.europuglia.it>

## 3. Priorities and Specific Objectives

The present call for proposals is open to all 3 Programme Priorities and the respective seven (7) Specific Objectives:

PRIORITY	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES
<b>1. Strengthening competitiveness and innovation</b>	1.1 Strengthening interaction between research/innovation institutions, SMEs and public authorities 1.2 Promoting cross-border advanced new technologies
<b>2. Improve accessibility to sustainable networks and services</b>	2.1 Enhancement of the cross-border integrated and sustainable connections 2.2 Improvement of transport, information and communication networks and services
<b>3. Improving the quality of life, protection of the environment and enhancement of social and cultural cohesion</b>	3.1 Promotion of cultural and natural heritage 3.2 Valorisation & improvement of joint protection, management of natural resources, natural and technological risks' prevention 3.3 Protection of health and promotion of social integration

#### 4. Budget available

The total budget available for the present call is **20,000,000 €** (of which **15,000,000 € ERDF**).

The contracting of projects per Priority Axis is conditional upon Programme amendment.

No state aid regimes are foreseen. Any public support under this programme must comply with the procedural and material State aid rules applicable according to the EU legislation in this field.

After drawing up a list with the proposed projects per Priority Axis, a reserve list of alternate projects can be drawn up per Priority Axis. The remaining available budget per Priority Axis of the Programme can be used to finance the proposed alternate projects. The alternate projects could be financed by the Programme in case of budget savings either due to approved projects' de-commitment/withdrawal, or due to uncommitted budget from the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for proposals, or due to the non contracting of projects under future calls (including non publication of future calls), etc. The selection of a project from the reserve list of alternate projects will be made on the basis of its ranking and the marking it received under the specific Priority Axis.

#### 5. Eligible Partnerships

Project proposals must include partners from both countries participating in the Operational Programme and cooperating in at least two of the following ways: joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing and joint financing. The total number of partners must not exceed **six (6)**, including the Lead Partner.

This call for proposals is only addressed to beneficiaries' categories a, b, and c as defined in the Project Manual:

- a. National, regional or local **public authorities**;
- b. **bodies governed by public law**<sup>1</sup>, other than legal entities defined under paragraph a, established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest (needs not having an industrial or commercial character) and which fulfil at least one of the following conditions:
  - i. be financed, for the most part, by the national, regional or local authorities, or other bodies governed by public law, or;
  - ii. be subject to management supervision by those bodies, or;

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<sup>1</sup> Bodies governed by public law as defined in Article 1(9) of Directive 2004/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 on the coordination of procedures for the award of public works contracts, public supply contracts and public service contracts (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2004:134:0114:0240:EN:PDF>) and in compliance with the national legislation of each participating country.

- iii. have an administrative, managerial or supervisory board, more than half of whose members are appointed by the national, regional or local authorities, or by other bodies governed by public law;
- c. **private organisations**, non profit organisations founded according to private law can be eligible under the condition that:
  - they do not have a commercial, or industrial character or activities;
  - they do not distribute profits to the shareholders;
  - they operate for at least one year before the launch of the specific call for proposals. This rule is also applicable for the local/regional subsidiary/branch offices.

It should be noted that **private companies not falling under the above categories b. and c. are not eligible;**

Further information about the eligibility of partnerships is provided in the Project Manual (Section 2. Project Applicant's Manual).

## 6. Eligible Programme Area

Project beneficiaries should be located within the eligible programme area as indicated in the table below:

REGIONS/ NUTS I	NUTS II	NUTS III
GREECE	Region of Western Greece	Prefecture of Aitolokarnania
		Prefecture of Achaia
	Region of Ionian Islands	Prefecture of Kerkyra/Corfu
		Prefecture of Lefkada
		Prefecture of Kefallinia/Cephalonia
		Prefecture of Zakynthos
	Region of Epirus	Prefecture of Ioannina
		Prefecture of Preveza
		Prefecture of Thesprotia
ITALY	Region of Apulia	Province of Bari <sup>2</sup>
		Province of Brindisi
		Province of Lecce

Moreover, the following NUTS III areas have been included as **adjacent territories** and therefore funding for operations in these territories can be admitted up to 20% of the total expenditure provided by the ERDF in the Programme:

<sup>2</sup> Including territories belonging to the Municipalities of Andria, Barletta, Bisceglie, Canosa di Puglia, Minervino Murge, Spinazzola, Trani, which were part of the Province of Bari at the time of approval of the Operational Programme and are currently under the Province of BAT.

REGIONS	NUTS II	NUTS III
GREECE	Region of Western Greece	Prefecture of Ilia
	Region of Epirus	Prefecture of Arta
ITALY	Region of Apulia	Province of Taranto
		Province of Foggia <sup>3</sup>

The **adjacent areas** have been selected to maximise the impact of cross border cooperation programmes' achievements. According to ERDF Regulation<sup>4</sup>, these areas can receive up to 20% of the Programme's total eligible public funds. This means, in practice, that the programme may report costs related to the activities incurred on the territory of these areas, up to the limit of 20% of the ERDF budget. However, this does not mean that a fixed share of 20% of the programme budget is reserved for partners from these areas.

Projects including proposed activities in the Province of BAT should clearly state in Section B.2.5. 'Location of Activities' of the Application Form, which part of their budget falls under the eligible area and which under the adjacent.

## 7. How to apply - deadline

In order to submit a project proposal, Applicants must refer to the Applicant's Package and to all relevant documents for this call for proposals.

Project Proposals should be submitted according to the guidelines provided in the Project Manual. **The below mentioned standard forms must be used (and not be modified) otherwise the project proposals will be rejected.**

A Project Proposal consists of:

1. the Application Form (standard excel form provided)
2. the Partnership Declaration (standard form provided)
3. the co-financing statements and the declarations of non-double financing (standard form provided)
4. The Declaration of not generating revenues (standard form provided). In case of revenue generating projects, a cost - benefit analysis should be attached (using

<sup>3</sup> Including territories belonging to the Municipalities of Margherita di Savoia, San Ferdinando di Puglia, Trinitapoli, which were part of the Province of Foggia at the time of approval of the Operational Programme and are currently under the Province of BAT.

<sup>4</sup> Article 21 of the ERDF Regulation states that: "In the context of cross-border cooperation and in duly justified cases, the ERDF may finance expenditure incurred in implementing operations or parts of operations up to a limit of 20 % of the amount of its contribution to the operational programme concerned in NUTS level 3 areas adjacent to the eligible areas for the programme referred to in Article 7(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 or surrounded by such adjacent areas. In exceptional cases as agreed between the Commission and Member States, this flexibility may be extended to the NUTS level 2 areas in which the areas referred to in Article 7(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 are located."

the "Guide to cost-benefit analysis of investment projects Published by DG Regional Policy in 2008" available at [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docoffic/working/sf2000\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/working/sf2000_en.htm) )

5. A Justification of budget costs (explaining the way that each Action/Deliverable costs have been calculated – standard form provided)
6. Maturity Sheet per partner (standard form provided)
7. Compatibility Check Sheet with SEA (standard form provided)

Furthermore, bodies governed by public law and private organisations should submit the following supporting documents<sup>5</sup>:

- Statutes including all modifications;
- Official document indicating the composition of the administrative, managerial or supervisory board;
- Official document indicating the sources of the body's capital;
- Official document indicating the sources of the body's revenues, during the last three years preceding the presentation of the project proposal;
- Official document indicating the supervision by national, regional or local authorities, or other bodies governed by public law (if applicable);
- Declaration for the non distribution of profits;
- Any official document certified by a public administration authority, proving that the private organisation operates at least one (1) year before the launch of the specific call for proposals<sup>6</sup>.

Infrastructure Projects should include the relevant supporting documents (building permits, any other required approvals, a compliance assessment report, preliminary studies, technical designs or any other relevant technical documentation, actual Bill of Quantities and Cost signed by the respective body, a document certifying the land/building ownership or documentation of transferring the operation rights for the period of 5 years after the end of the project, environmental impact assessments etc., if applicable).

All necessary documents regarding the abovementioned issues (bodies governed by public law and private organisations, Infrastructure projects) that are still pending by the day of submission, may be provided at a later stage upon JTS's request and -certainly

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<sup>5</sup> these documents can be submitted in the original language of the partners

<sup>6</sup> applicable only for private organisations

before the signing of the Subsidy Contract. The JTS may also request additional documentation for clarification.

The project proposal (points 1-7) must be submitted in 1 original hard copy.

The electronic version (CD/DVD) must include the Application Form and the justification of the budget costs (always respecting the standard excel format, otherwise the proposal shall be rejected), as well as an electronic version of all supporting documents, concerning bodies governed by public law and private organisations.

**The non-submission of the above mentioned documentation (points 1-7), stamped and signed (where applicable), and the CD/DVD ROM, will lead to the project proposal rejection.**

The JTS, during the evaluation phase, **will also accept a scanned and/or copy version of all the above mentioned documentation (points 1-7).**

Regarding the "Partnership Declaration" (point 2), the JTS shall accept **a signed, separate page for each partner.**

**Any incongruity (wrong name of partners, wrong project title or budget, etc.) among the information provided in the documents points (1-4) will lead to the project proposal rejection.**

Concerning the supporting documents relating to the bodies governed by public law and private organizations they have to be submitted **both in hard copy and electronic version**

The Project Proposal must be submitted to the Programme's Joint Technical Secretariat in the following way:

**by post** (the stamp date should not exceed the deadline of the call);

or by **private courier service** or **hand-delivery**,

to the following address:

**Joint Technical Secretariat**  
**ETCP "GREECE-ITALY 2007-2013"**  
65, Georgikis Scholis Avenue  
57001, Pilea, Thessaloniki, Greece

A signed and dated certificate of receipt will be handed to the deliverer. To be recognised as admissible submission, the project proposal must be submitted **by 4pm (local time) on 04/06/2012 (4 June 2012).** Proposals sent after this date will not be considered as eligible.

**In any case, the complete package must reach the JTS within thirty (30) working days.**

**ATTENTION: If the signed Project Proposal is submitted by registered mail or private courier service, only the stamp indicating the postal date proves that the Project Proposal has been sent within the deadline.**

**If the signed Project Proposal is submitted in person, only the Managing Authority's register number is proof of timely submission.**

#### **8. Project size**

Projects shall have total eligible costs ranging from a minimum of **500,000 €** (five hundred thousand euros) up to a maximum of **2,500,000 €** (two million and five hundred thousand euros).

#### **9. Duration**

Projects should be concluded within a period of two years after the signature of the Subsidy Contract. Whilst projects can start to be implemented before the signature of the contract (anywhere after the 1st January 2007), projects which have been concluded before the official launch of the respective call for proposals, will not be eligible.

#### **10. Eligibility of expenditure**

The starting date for eligible expenditure is 1/1/2007. The closing date of the eligibility period of the expenditure stated in the approved proposals is two years after the signing of the subsidy contract. Under no circumstances can the final date of eligibility of expenditure exceed the 31 December 2015.

Eligibility rules on activities and related expenditure are set out in the Project Manual.

#### **11. Additional information**

To obtain additional information on the project application procedure and project development, please contact:

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All relevant information and documents shall be available on the Operational Programme website, which is a key communication tool between the programme management bodies (MA, JTS) and the potential beneficiaries.

**THE ALTERNATE MINISTER FOR DEVELOPMENT  
COMPETITIVENESS AND SHIPPING**

**SOKRATIS XYNIDIS**

Annexes:

1. Applicant's Package (Application Form, Partnership Declaration, co-financing declaration of non-double financing, Declaration of not generating revenues, Justification of budget costs as well as the accompanying Budget Justification Instructions, Maturity sheet per Partner, Compatibility Check Sheet with SEA, environmental indicators)
2. Project Manual with all relevant Annexes