

The SEE Transnational Programme 2007 – 2013 and the 1st call for project proposals

16th May 2008
Info day – Vienna
Alessandra Pala – SEE Joint Technical Secretariat

Jointly for our common future



Content

- ◇ The South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme
- ◇ How to develop a successful project
- ◇ The 1st Call for Proposals

Jointly for our common future



Legal framework

- ◇ Reference Document at EU level
 - The Community Strategic Guidelines on Cohesion 2007 – 2013
 - EC Regulation 1083/06 – General
 - EC Regulation 1086/06 – ERDF
 - EC Regulation 1828/06 – Implementing EC Reg. 1083/06
 - EC Regulation 1085/06 – IPA Regulation
 - EC Regulation 718/07 – Implementing EC. Reg. 1085/06
- ◇ Reference Document at programme level
 - Operational Programme (20th December 2007)
- ◇ Reference Document at national level
 - National Strategic Reference Frameworks 2007 – 2013

Jointly for our common future

From INTERREG...

What didn't work?

- ✓ Poor awareness of projects results/transnational programmes on territories
- ✓ Results not properly used at the end of the project activities
- ✓ Perception of transnational cooperation as vague, unclear and useless instrument

Jointly for our common future

...to transnational European Territorial Cooperation...

How can we improve?

- ✓ Implementing Lisbon and Gothenburg goals
- ✓ Preparing larger investment projects (Obj. 1 and 2 of the Cohesion Policy)
- ✓ More structured partnerships (vertical, horizontal/ cross-sectoral approach)
- ✓ Wider (political) support from national level
- ✓ Impacts on the whole cooperation area (or significant parts thereof)
- ✓ Ensuring the viability of results after funding, more resources for dissemination

Jointly for our common future



...within the SEE Programme!

- ✓ Joint concrete cooperation projects with a result-oriented approach (not simple „exchange of experiences“ and „know-how transfer“)
- ✓ Clear transnational focus on the SEE area
- ✓ Active project development beyond open call procedure
- ✓ Actions preparing investment and delivering concrete examples of small-scale investment
- ✓ Better transfer of project results; higher project budget for dissemination and capitalisation

Jointly for our common future



The programme area



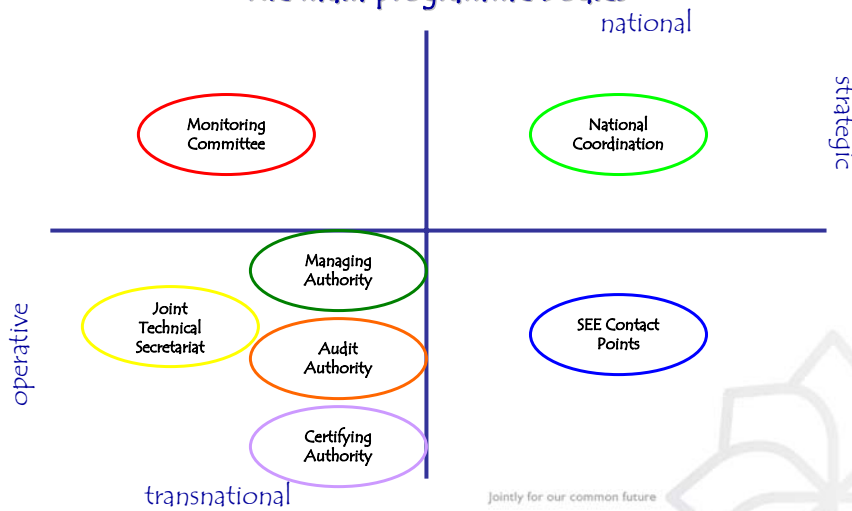
EU Member States:
Austria, Bulgaria, Greece,
Hungary, Italy, Slovakia,
Slovenia, Romania

Non-EU-member States:
Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina,
Croatia, former Yugoslav
Republic of Macedonia,
Serbia, Montenegro, Republic
of Moldova, Ukraine

(Italy and Ukraine do not
participate with its whole
territory)

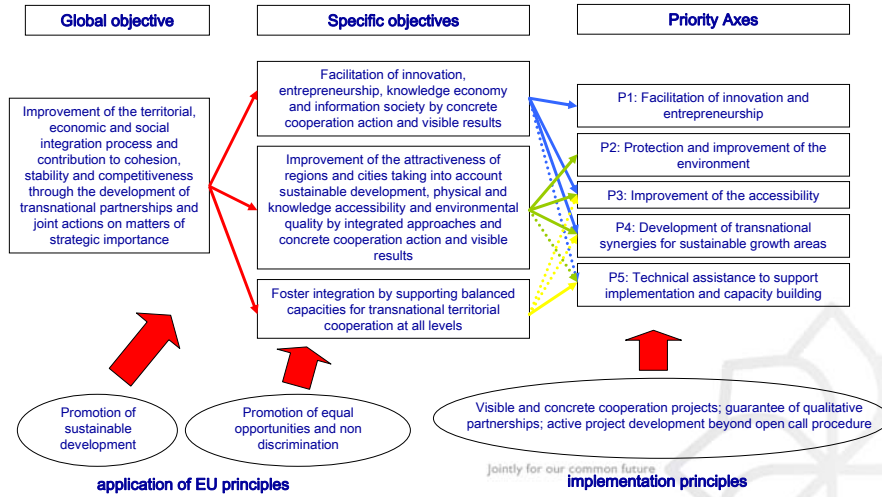
Jointly for our common future

The main programme bodies



Jointly for our common future

The programme strategy



The priority axis 1

Priority Axis 1:
Facilitation of
Innovation and
Entrepreneurship

Objective is to facilitate innovation, entrepreneurship, knowledge economy and to enhance integration and economic relations in the cooperation area

1. Develop technology and innovation networks in specific fields

Technological cooperation in **specific technology fields**; focusing more on **processes** than products

2. Develop the enabling environment for innovative entrepreneurship

Addressing structural deficits especially in the **SME sector** such as missing access to knowledge, bad roads to market, low level of Internationalization

3. Enhance the framework conditions and pave the way for innovation

Strengthening the enabling **innovation environment at the governance level** and promotion of **public awareness for innovation**

Jointly for our common future

The priority axis 2

Priority Axis 2:
Protection and
Improvement of the
Environment

Objective is to override
the constraints imposed
by natural barriers, to
foresee future
environmental threats
and opportunities and to
develop common
transnational actions for
the protection of
nature and humans

1. Improve integrated water management and flood risk prevention	Development of transnational structures and tools for an integrated management of water and flood risk prevention
2. Improve prevention of environmental and technological risks	Transnational structures and systems/tools for environmental risk protection , and policy development to reduce risks and impacts on human health, biodiversity and other environmental issues
3. Promote cooperation in management of natural assets and protected areas	Cooperation and know-how transfer in managing natural assets and transnational awareness building on natural assets as development factor
4. Promote energy and resource efficiency	Coordination and transfer of know-how on energy and resource efficiency policies , to cover the expected rise in energy demand and resources consumption

Jointly for our common future

The priority axis 3

Priority Axis 3:
Improvement of the
Accessibility

Objective is the
promotion of coordinated
preparation for the
development of
accessibility networks and
the support of multi-
modality

1. Improve coordination in promoting, planning and operation for primary and secondary transportation networks	Provision of tools and space for coordinated promoting, planning and operation for primary and secondary transportation networks .
2. Develop strategies to tackle the "digital divide"	The support of joint initiatives to lessen the "digital divide" among states and regions especially where market failure is evident or expect
3. Improve framework conditions for multi modal platforms	The support of multi –modal platforms and the promotion of alternative transport means (e.g. rail or sea compared to road) from the view of public interest

Jointly for our common future

The priority axis 4

Priority Axis 4:
Development of
Transnational Synergies for
Sustainable Growth Areas

Objective is to develop and implement integrated strategies for metropolitan areas and regional systems of settlements, work towards optimal polycentric structures in the Programme area and use cultural values for sustainable development

1. Tackle crucial problems affecting metropolitan areas and regional systems of settlements

Development, implementation and dissemination of concrete **strategies and action plans to tackle crucial problems affecting metropolitan areas and regional systems of settlements, focusing mainly on spatial planning.**

2. Promote a balanced pattern of attractive and accessible growth areas

Elaborating **integrated spatial and development strategies for strengthening functional regions** as carriers of growth and competitiveness and providing partners with tools for the formulation of their role and for the formation of new partnerships within those areas.

3. Promote the use of cultural values for development

Inclusion of **cultural values** as an integral part of the programme area **in the planning and development processes** of urban centres, systems of settlements and surrounding rural areas aiming at **creating income and jobs.**

Jointly for our common future

The programme budget

	ERDF	Nat. Pub. Contr.	Total	%	IPA 2007
P1. Facilitation of innovation and entrepreneurship	44,051,157	7,773,734	51,824,891	85%	3,290,288
P2. Protection and improvement of the environment	53,739,828	9,483,499	63,223,327	85%	
P3. Improvement of the accessibility	55,160,834	9,734,265	64,895,099	85%	
P4. Development of transnational synergies for sustainable growth areas	41,338,329	7,294,999	48,633,328	85%	

228,576,645

Jointly for our common future

Project generation: Main elements

Starting questions and answers

- ✓ What are our needs? = territorial analysis
- ✓ What do we want to change? = setting objectives
- ✓ How will we achieve this? = defining partnership and activities
- ✓ What resources do we need to do this work? = developing the budget
- ✓ How will we know if we have succeeded? = defining the indicators

Jointly for our common future

The territorial analysis

What are the main characteristics of our territory?
What are our competences and expertise?

What has been already done? What is undergoing?

Capitalisation of results of past and on-going projects and interventions:
Building upon past efforts and existing knowledge!

Innovative character of the project core (avoid duplication of the efforts)

Synergies with ongoing projects, to strengthen the impact of the activities

Jointly for our common future

Setting the objectives

Objectives must always be

clearly and logically **linked** to the needs and problems, the activities, the resources, the outputs and the results

concrete in a sense of knowing what exactly is going to be delivered

quantifiable and measurable

realistic for being achievable with the resources available

Jointly for our common future

Creating the partnership

Getting the right mix

Good Partners have:

Shared needs with other partners and complementary expertise to support exchange of experience

Commitment, enthusiasm and trust towards other partners willingness to take part actively already during project development

Good financial capabilities in order to pre-finance project activities

Good technical and institutional capabilities to allow a flowing implementation of the project's procedures (the LP has also good management capabilities)

Knowledge of the relevant issues in order to contribute to the content of the project

Jointly for our common future

A partnership for the SEE Programme

Partners from a **minimum of three partner states**, of which **at least one shall be from a EU Member State**

Partners of the project are **eligible** (according to the eligibility rules set out in the Operational Programme, the Programme Manual and the respective call for proposals)

The partnership is as large as required – as small as possible (**the high number of partners is not an added value**; the partnership dimension should be well justified and able to contribute in a balanced manner to the implementation of the transnational co-operation project)

Jointly for our common future

...define the activities in detail

1. Break up the main project idea in activities
2. Check the eligibility of the types of activities
3. Set a detailed timetable
4. Describe the technical character of single actions
5. Define the role of each partner

Jointly for our common future

And finally develop the budget

Calculate the realistic cost of involved resources

- ✓ The budget plan corresponds to the description of the activities
- ✓ The budget is reasonable compared to the number of partners involved
- ✓ The budget is appropriately distributed according to the timetable

Jointly for our common future



Transnational cooperation projects should:

- ✓ Have clear need for territorial cooperation
- ✓ Have clear links to the programme strategy
- ✓ Be innovative
- ✓ Have an integrated approach
- ✓ Be strategic
- ✓ Follow the paradigm of sustainability (financial, institutional and political sustainability)

Jointly for our common future



... and some further hints!

- ✓ Idea first, the instrument comes later...
- ✓ Information is the key word! Get the other programme's brochures, contact your SCP...
- ✓ Be ambitious... but not too much!
- ✓ Avoid the "flirt with the donor" approach
- ✓ Avoid the "Give me the paper, I know how to play" approach (read all the documents first...)

Jointly for our common future

The 1st call: main elements



open to all priorities and areas of intervention

open competitive procedure according to chapter 7.2 of the OP!

following the two-step procedure

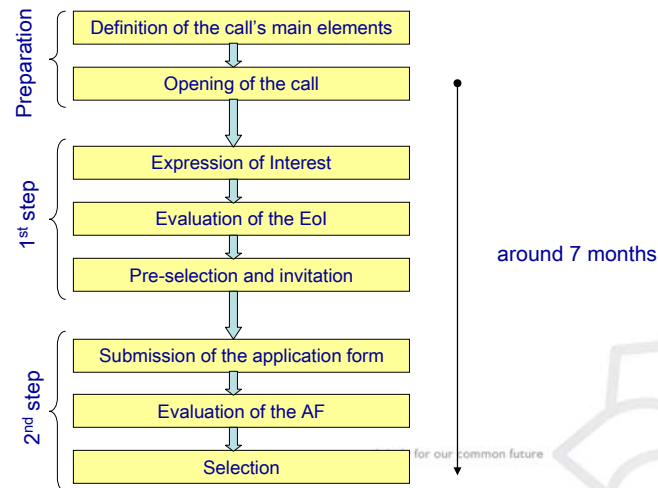
ERDF + IPA funding

relevant documents:

- ◇ call for proposals announcement
- ◇ Programme Manual
- ◇ application templates
- ◇ Applicants' Guidelines

Jointly for our common future

The 1st call: step by step...



The 1st call: step by step...

1st step: project proposal – Expression of Interest

- ✓ information needed: problems, objectives, expected results, budget, partners etc.
- ✓ approx. 5 Pages
- ✓ light assessment by JTS and pre-selection from the Monitoring Committee
- ✓ electronic submission only!

2nd step: preparation of the application form (full AF pack)

- ✓ support from the SCPs and JTS
- ✓ project submission by the Lead Partner
- ✓ full assessment
- ✓ selection from the Monitoring Committee

The 1st call: who can apply?

- ◇ Public bodies
- ◇ Bodies governed by public law
- ◇ Bodies governed by private law

Jointly for our common future



The 1st call: who can apply?

Bodies governed by **public law**:

- a) they are established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest, **not having an industrial or commercial character**;
- b) they have legal personality; and
- c) they are financed, for the most part, by the State, regional or local authorities, or other bodies governed by public law; **or** subject to management supervision by those bodies; **or** having an administrative, managerial or supervisory board, more than half of whose members are appointed by the State, regional or local authorities, or by other bodies governed by public law.

Jointly for our common future



The 1st call: who can apply?

Bodies governed by **private law** (CC, NGOs, etc.):

- a) they are established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest, **not having an industrial or commercial character**;
- b) they have legal personality; and
- c) they make available the results of the project to the general public;
- d) they apply the principles of public procurement..

Jointly for our common future



The 1st call: what is not possible?

- Direct participation of bodies having industrial or commercial character (think about sub-contracting possibilities!)
- Direct participation of international organizations acting under international law
- Direct participation of EU partners coming outside the programme area (use of 20% ERDF flexibility rule)
- Carry out activities having industrial or commercial character
- Use of ENPI funds
- Project lasting more than 36 months

Jointly for our common future



The 1st call: money talks...

- ◊ no specific budget restrictions at project level...
- ◊ the co-funding is based on public contribution only!
- ◊ the IPA and ERDF contribution is 85%
- ◊ budget allocated for the call as following...

ERDF		58,287,044.00
IPA	Croatia	400,000.00
	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	453,020.00
	Albania	200,020.00
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	453,020.00
	Montenegro	670,000.00
	Serbia	1,114,228.00

Jointly for our common future

The 1st call: 10% ERDF flexibility rule

It can be considered for the benefit of two types of partners:

- ◊ ERDF LP or ERDF PP: in case of expenditure incurred for the implementation of specific activities within one or more WP of the project in countries outside the EU, part of the Programme area;
- ◊ non EU PP of the programme area: for the implementation of specific activities within one or more work packages of the project, not financed by IPA, ENPI or other public funds.

Jointly for our common future

The 1st call: selection criteria

- **formal check:** it confirms that a proposal has arrived within the set deadline and that the EoI or application form, depending on the step, is conformable and complete
- **eligibility criteria:** examine whether the proposal fulfils the minimum requirements on e.g. the structure of the transnational partnership, the general compatibility with the Programme's objectives and principles, the grant requested etc. Eligibility criteria can be answered with a "Yes" or "No" and are not open to interpretation
- **quality criteria:** these criteria form the basis for an assessment of the proposal with the aim of bringing the projects in a certain ranking for selection. Quality criteria are supplementary grouped in two categories:
1) Quality of Transnational Partnership 2) Quality of the Content

The 1st call: quality criteria

- Transnationality
- Partnership targeted towards the objectives of the project
- Institutional/ technical capacities of the partners
- Internal and external communication abilities
- Qualification of the project within a transnational Programme
- Consistency of the project with the objectives and strategy of the Programme
- Cross-sectoral and integrated approach
- Clear definition of the expected outputs/ results and their use and transferability
- Sound budget planning

The 1st call: Expression of Interest

The questions to answer (1/2):

- What challenge or problem is your project addressing?
- What are the main objectives?
- How does your project intend to achieve these objectives (main activities)?
- What concrete outputs and tangible results will then be produced?
- Why do you need transnational cooperation? Why the SEE programme?

Jointly for our common future

The 1st call: Expression of Interest

The questions to answer (2/2):

- How much money do you indicatively need? ERDF? IPA?
- Which are the actors that will work with you?
- (partnership) Why you all have decided to work together?
- Why should we select your project?

Jointly for our common future

The 1st call: things to know

The technical evaluation of the EoI will be carried out by the JTS with the support of the SCPs.

The evaluation results will be presented to the Monitoring Committee that will decide

Only project proposals matching a certain readiness and quality level and responding to the selection criteria will be invited to enter the second step of the application procedure

In very limited and specific cases, applicants will be provided with comments on their proposal and furthermore might be asked to amend their proposal

Proposals that in the second step present radically changed information in the partnership composition and indicated activities will be rejected

Jointly for our common future

If you have IPA partners...

You should check:

- ✓ if they are eligible
- ✓ If they comply with the eligibility criteria of the programme
- ✓ what activities can they implement
- ✓ To have the answer to this question you should check if the implicated costs are eligible according to the PRAG, General Conditions of Contract, available on: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/procedures/implementation/grants/index_en.htm
- ✓ if they can get the money to do it
- ✓ how much IPA funds for each partner country are available for this programme/call

Jointly for our common future

If you have IPA partners...

- ✓ Include them in the partnership agreement
- ✓ They should be involved in drafting of the project application together with ERDF partners
- ✓ If there are more partners from the same IPA country, they must appoint a Financial Lead Partner for the respective country
- ✓ Help them draft the budget but follow the specific IPA provisions closely. Make sure they can provide the co-financing – 15% of their total budget
- ✓ Make sure they contact their national authorities and let them know they are applying for funding

Jointly for our common future



If you have IPA partners...

- ✓ Provide all the relevant information to your IPA partners
- ✓ Check always if your partners take into consideration the specific provisions applying for their country when drafting the application (special provisions and references to PRAG are mentioned in the Application Pack)
- ✓ When planning the activities, make sure their activities are not scheduled to be implemented in the very beginning of the project, as their expenditures are eligible only after signing the IPA grant contract. This procedure will last around three months
- ✓ They have to go to the Operating Structure in their country and submit the documents requested for signing the IPA grant contract

Jointly for our common future



If you have IPA partners...

- ✓ Ask the Joint Technical Secretariat or the Contact Point in the relevant country, if you're not sure of something
- ✓ Apply PRAG rules for subcontracting, contract changes and other issues that may occur during the implementation of your project
- ✓ DON'T...spend IPA money before the contract is signed
- ✓ DON'T...spend IPA money outside the country except travel and accommodation costs which are eligible

I have an idea, is it transnational?

- If it is relevant for your institution, region, county from a strategic point of view
- If it complies to the strategy of the SEE Programme and it's priorities
- If it is also relevant for other institutions within the countries of SEE
- If you find the right partners within the SEE eligible area to implement it (at least one of them should come from a member state)
- If you are sure that your idea can only be implemented through a transnational partnership

Contacts at SEE JTS



Priority 1: Facilitation of innovation and entrepreneurship

Stephen Halligan (English, Hungarian)
halligan@southeast-europe.net
Tel: +36-1-224-3182



Priority 2: Protection and improvement of the environment

Alessandra Pala (Italian, English, French, Spanish)
pala@southeast-europe.net
Tel: +36-1-224-3156



Priority 3: Improvement of the accessibility

Roberta Calcina (Italian, English, French, German)
calcina@southeast-europe.net
Tel: +36-1-224-3161



Priority 4: Development of transnational synergies for sustainable growth areas

Kirill Dimanopulosz (Hungarian, Greek, English)
kirill@southeast-europe.net
Tel: +36-1-224-4573

Thank you and good luck!