

The “interested organisation” form used by the 2 Seas programme.

<http://forms.interreg4a-2mers.eu/interested-organisation-28-07-2014/fr>

↳ To attract more businesses, preference should be given to **ongoing project submission procedures** rather than calls for project proposals that take place once or twice during a seven-year programming period.



↳ **Project appraisal periods should be shortened** to fit in with businesses’ calendars. It is also important to help project developers to draft their grant requests, an exercise that often requires technical knowledge that few economic players have. The role of coordination and support of the Joint Technical Secretariats (JTSs) is essential.

↳ **The project selection process should also be shortened** compared with the 2007-2013 period. External experts should be used to assess the quality of project proposals.

EXAMPLE:

In the **Science Offensive initiative of the 2007-2013 Upper Rhine programme**, a group of 30 scientists evaluated the research projects submitted.

The selection committee’s decision was therefore based on technical arguments relating to the expected outcome of the projects.

<http://mtmo.eu/fr/science/offensive-sciences.html>

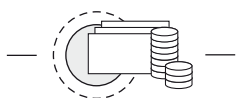
↳ **The JTSs should give specific support to private-sector players** during the project execution phase, because often these project developers may devote fewer resources to the administrative management of their projects. It is useful for example to support the developers in using management software (Synergie CTE), to draft intermediate and final progress reports, etc.

↳ **Payment periods should be significantly reduced** at project closure compared with the 2007-2013 period.

<http://www.europe-urbain.fr/index.php/accueil/actualites-meu/203-vade-mecum-pour-la-mise-en-oeuvre-d-instruments-d-ingenierie-financiere-cofinances-par-les-fonds-europeens-2014-2020>

DEVELOPING OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR CROSS-BORDER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

INTERREG programmes are potentially the most important source of public funding for cross-border economic development projects. However, sources of funding should also be diversified, particularly because INTERREG programmes are not suited to all types of projects.



↳ It is important to increase **project subsidies from local and regional authorities or cross-border structures**.

EXAMPLE:

The Aquitaine-Euskadi Euroregion conducts an annual call for project proposals. The eligible fields change every year; for example in 2012 and 2013, research and technological innovation were eligible. Though the amount granted is smaller than amounts available through INTERREG programmes, it helps to finance smaller projects or to launch projects by providing seed funding.

<http://www.aquitaine-euskadi.eu/appele-a-projets-aquitaine-euskadi-2013.html>

↳ Another way is to **develop financial engineering for cross-border projects**, such as private or public investment funds or working capital. Under certain conditions, these funds may be financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF): on this topic see the “Vade-mecum pour la mise en œuvre d’instruments d’ingénierie financière cofinancés par les fonds européens (2014-2020)” (Vade-mecum for the implementation of financial engineering instruments co-financed by European funds) published by France’s General Commission for Territorial Equality.

<http://www.europe-urbain.fr/index.php/accueil/actualites-meu/203-vade-mecum-pour-la-mise-en-oeuvre-d-instruments-d-ingenierie-financiere-cofinances-par-les-fonds-europeens-2014-2020>

EXAMPLE:

EUREFI is the first cross-border venture capital fund, set up in 1991 at the joint initiative of the European Union and private French, Belgian and Luxembourg shareholders in the Longwy European Development Pole (PED) area, which has been undergoing regeneration. It is not designed for a particular sector of activity; the criteria determining companies’ eligibility for this funding are based mainly on the (existing or potential) cross-border nature and viability of their development project.

<http://www.eurefi.eu/>