

Interreg North West Europe Call 5 webinar for Irish applicants

19th September 2024

Additional questions not answered during the webinar

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Eligibility questions

- 1. Can a private, non-profit organization lead on a project (as opposed to public, non-profit)?** Yes a private not for profit organisation can be a Lead Partner
- 2. Can an Associate Partner join from outside the EU?** Yes, an Associated Organisation can be from outside the EU. They will not receive any funding for activities, but are permitted to travel to meetings as long as the travel costs are covered by one of the full partner's budgets.
- 3. Being outside the EU, can a UK based company participate ?** A partner from the UK, including Northern Ireland, can participate as an Associated Organisation. It is not possible for UK/NI organisations to receive EU funding. See Q2.
- 4. We are a limited private company - how can we find eligible organizations to partner with?**
 - [Sign up to the Irish partners mailing list](#) – ensuring your **key words** are correctly listed so that you can be found if an international consortium is looking for Irish partners working in a particular field.
 - It is recommended to join the [online community platform](#)
 - join the in-person networking event planned for Croke Park 5-6th November 2024
- 5. Can Plc's participate?** Yes all types of legal entity can participate – private for profit companies, including micro and small to medium enterprises are welcome, but they must provide proof of registration in Ireland and two years of audited accounts to show that they are solvent at the time of application.

6. **My project will solve an environmental problem that is applicable to many regions, not specific to NWE - would it still qualify?** Yes, it is likely that this would still be relevant to what the programme wants to fund. If you will be the lead partner, please reach out to the National Contact Point to discuss your idea and get some tailored feedback.

Co-financing/match funding questions

7. **Is matched funding required for this?** Yes, the **co-financing** mentioned during the webinar is sometimes call “match” funding. Each partner will need to bring a minimum of 40% of their total project budget, regardless of the type of partner.
- **It can be in cash** (either public or private sources) e.g.: a grant from county council, donations from citizens, a philanthropic donation, a private company donation if they are interested in the project results.
 - **It can be in salaries** e.g.: a percentage of a person’s time, where that person already has a fully funded salary. This must be backed up by employment contracts and proofs of time “donated” to the project e.g.: timesheets and/or a letter from the Director stating the time dedicated.
 - **It can be a mix of the above.**
 - In the application form you will have to specify the planned sources of partner contribution, stating how much will be public and how much privately sourced.
 - Note that in Ireland there is no existing fund to donate co-financing to Interreg projects. This does exist in other member states, so your lead partner might suggest it to you. Unfortunately, we don’t have this option in Ireland.
 - See also the [programme manual](#) for rules – but I highlight that **you cannot co-finance with other EU money** – e.g.: a person whose salary is 100% from another EU project cannot be used to co-finance this project.
8. **Can the 40% co-funding be Benefit in Kind contribution?** Interreg NWE does not allow “in kind” contributions; however, note that the Interreg NWE has its own definition of “In kind” which refers to the provision of works, goods, services, land, and real estate for which no cash payment supported by invoices has been made. For example, in the past partners would have counted the cost of time using pre-existing laboratory equipment or time worked by non-paid volunteers towards their match. These are no longer eligible.
9. **Vulnerable groups are considered (youth and elderly), where are these groups supposed to get the 40% funding?** Be aware that all partners involved in the projects must be registered legal entities. Individual people (youth and elderly) cannot apply directly for this funding, but a representative group could – for example a registered charity or local community development organisation. Private, not for profit organisations must provide proof of registration with the Irish Charities Registration Office and two years of audited accounts. The 40%

co-financing is a challenge, but many of these types of entities are used to the system and it can be solved in a number of ways as outlined during the recent Call 5 webinar (using salaries, other grants, donations etc).

About Call 4

10. When will the 4th Call results will be announced? The results will be known by mid December 2024.

Signing up, key words and firewalls

11. Can we have separate project partner key words for different projects, or can it only be for our organization as a whole?

- When registering [for the Irish partners mailing list](#), you can list as many key words as you think needed to ensure you yourself are identified if an international consortium is looking for an Irish partner in a particular field (e.g.: biodiversity, pollution, soil, nature-based solutions, city parks, urban).
- Everyone on a team or department can sign up using their own, slightly different, key words if they wish.
- The team could centralise the sign up, by using a common email address (info or admin) and using key words that suit the whole team.

12. Can I sign up to newsletter using my work email? When registering [for the Irish partners mailing list](#), and the Online community platform – it is recommended to use your work email address, but **ensure that the newsletter will not be blocked by your company firewall** (local authority IT departments can help you to add the email address for the national contact point to a “safe list” to avoid this).

13. Notes for IT departments to ensure delivery of newsletters and invitations to consortia: We are using MailChimp for these emails and that could be why they are either bouncing or not opening, due to your organisation’s IT security measures. **If you would like to be kept up to date on this type of funding opportunity, please reach out to your IT department** and take the following steps to ensure delivery of the emails.

For Outlook:

1. Open an email from us.
2. Right-click on the email address.
3. Select “Add to Outlook Contacts.”

For the IT department: here is the advice from MailChimp:

- Could there be an internal firewall? Please ask IT department to review the allowlisting information (other providers may refer to it as "whitelisting") if this may be the case.
- If none of the above seem to get your emails to subscribers, they may need to **add our IP addresses to their allowlist**. Generally, only corporate domains can do this. Consumer ISPs won't add IP addresses to their allowlists on a case-by-case basis.
- Typically, subscribers should ask their server administrator or IT department to handle allowlisting Mailchimp's servers.

Budget questions

14. In terms of the simplified cost model, is travel and accommodation capped at 15% of the total partner budget, or less? This is often an issue for Irish partners, given our additional peripherality. There are two methods that can be used to build your partner budget – please check the [programme manual](#), section 5.2.2 Simplified cost options (SCOs) – see especially the table which explains the two ways you can build your budget (p54). Each partner can choose whichever options suits them best. Regarding Travel and Accommodation – if you choose Option 1; Irish partners can receive 8% of their staff costs for their travel and accommodation. If you choose Option 2; partners will receive 40% of their staff costs – and may use that money as they wish, but it must cover admin, travel, external expertise etc.

15. What's required to prove staff time?

- At proposal stage it is not necessary (or even permitted) to attach staff contracts to JEMS, the employment proofs only come up if you are successful and start working and then submit your first claim – so approx. 6-7 months after the start date. At that time employment supporting documents include contracts and a letter from senior management confirming how much time the employee will dedicate to the project.
- Please note that there are a very limited number and type of attachments that can be uploaded for a proposal; See [Programme Manual Section 2.3.9 Attachments](#)