

Interreg



Co-funded by  
the European Union

Aurora



## Get ready - 7th call for regular projects

Webinar 4 June 2025  
09.00 - 10.30 (CET)





Interreg



Co-funded by  
the European Union

Aurora

# INTERREG AURORA

Tina Nilsson, Programme Director

Susanna Ehre, Linda Stenström, Anita Heikkilä Sjöberg,  
Päivi Sainio Rohner, Amanda Mannervik  
Programme Officers



**Interreg**



Co-funded by  
the European Union

**Aurora**

# **Webinar agenda**



- **Introduction**
- **About Interreg Aurora**
- **Upcoming calls**
- **Networking & Partner search**
- **What signifies a good Interreg Aurora project?**
- **Project types & financing rates**
- **Get prepared – where to start as an applicant**
- **Tips for writing a good application**
- **Q&A session**
- **Closing of the meeting**



**Interreg**



Co-funded by  
the European Union

**Aurora**

# THE GOAL OF INTERREG AURORA 2021-2027

To encourage cross-border collaboration, and thereby strengthening the competitiveness, sustainability and attractiveness of the programme area through social inclusion, digitalisation and just green transition.



## SUB-AREA AURORA

### FINLAND

Lappi  
Pohjois-Pohjanmaa  
Keski-Pohjanmaa  
Österbotten/Pohjanmaa  
Etelä-Pohjanmaa  
Kainuu  
Pohjois-Karjala

### SVERIGE

Norrbotten  
Västerbotten  
Västernorrland

### NORGE

Finnmark  
Troms  
Nordland

## SUB-AREA SÀPMI

### FINLAND

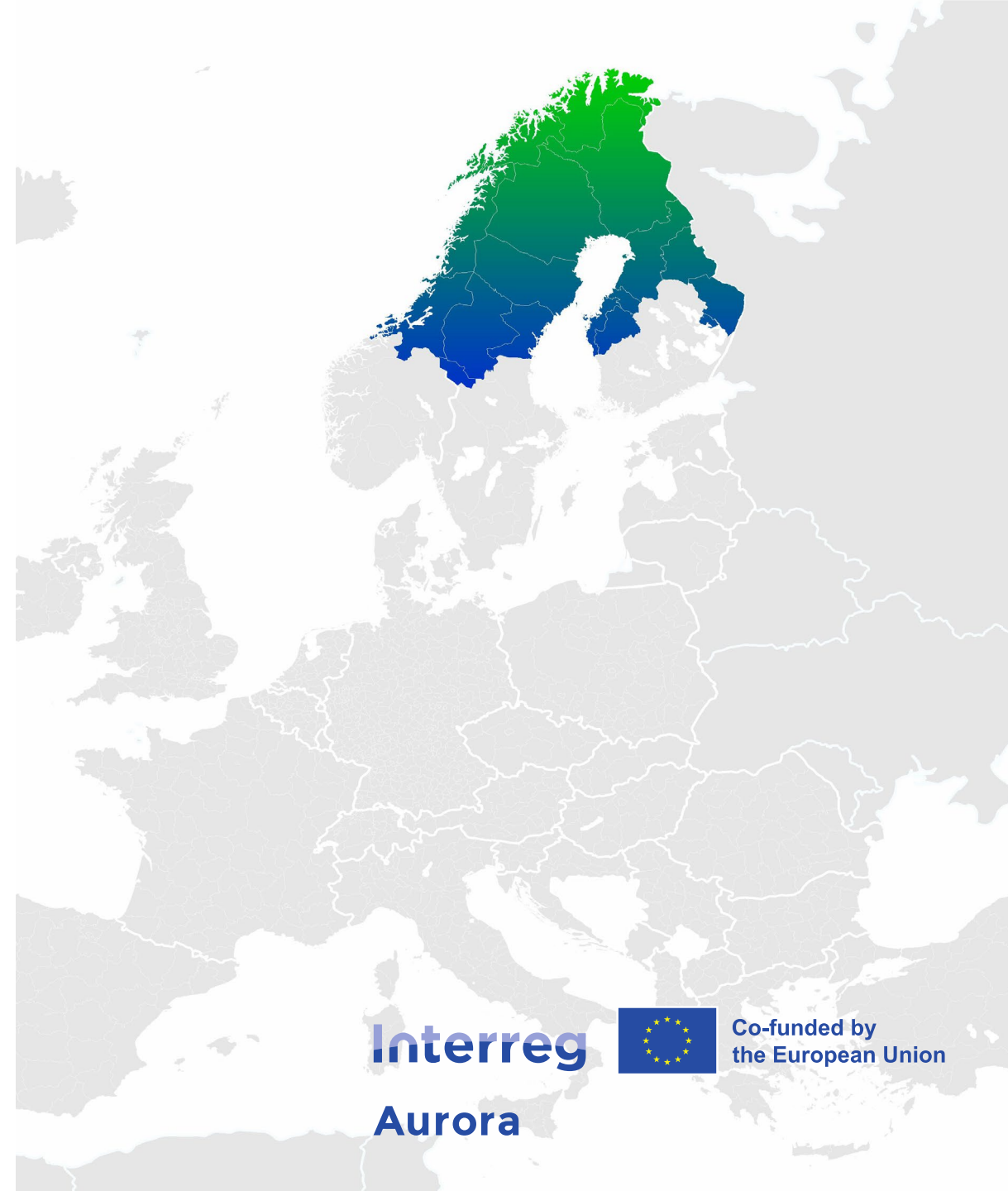
Lappi  
Pohjois-Pohjanmaa  
Keski-Pohjanmaa

### SVERIGE

Norrbotten  
Västerbotten  
Västernorrland  
Jämtland  
Idre Sameby, Dalarna

### NORGE

Finnmark  
Troms  
Nordland  
Trøndelag  
Innlandet (Elgå Reinbeitedistrikt)



**Interreg**  
**Aurora**



Co-funded by  
the European Union

Interreg



Co-funded by  
the European Union

Aurora

# **GREAT IDEAS** **KNOW NO BORDERS**

Get to know all Interreg Aurora funded projects and how cross-border cooperation improves the daily lives in our Programme area.



[Project Bank - Interreg Aurora](#)

**CLIMATE CHANGE  
KNOWS NO  
BORDERS.**

**MOTIVATION  
KNOWS NO  
BORDERS.**

**COMPETENCE  
KNOWS NO  
BORDERS.**



## 4 PRIORITIES 8 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Jointly decided by all the regions in the Programme area and the Swedish, Finnish and Norwegian Sami Parliaments.

Based on the needs and challenges of the Programme area.

**It is only possible to select one of the Specific Objectives!**



### **Priority 1 - A smarter Europe** **Smart and sustainable growth**

Specific Objective 1.1 Smart specialization, research and innovation

Specific Objective 1.2 Competitiveness of SMEs



### **Priority 2 - A greener Europe** **Green and sustainable transition**

Specific Objective 2.1 Climate change adaptation

Specific Objective 2.2 Nature protection and biodiversity

Specific Objective 2.3 Sustainable mobility



### **Priority 3 - A more social Europe** **Education, culture and sustainable tourism**

Specific Objective 3.1 Education and lifelong learning

Specific Objective 3.2 Culture and sustainable tourism



### **Priority 4 - A better Interreg Governance** **Better and more sustainable cross-border cooperation**

Specific Objective 4.1 Cross-border capacity building

Interreg



Co-funded by  
the European Union

Aurora

# Summary of the Interreg Aurora Programme document



[www.interregaurora.eu/summary-of-the-interreg-aurora-programme/](http://www.interregaurora.eu/summary-of-the-interreg-aurora-programme/)



# Upcoming calls

- Call for regular project applications

**Call 7.** 8 September – 6 October 2025

- Call for small-scale project applications

**SSP Call 5.** 8 September – 6 October 2025.

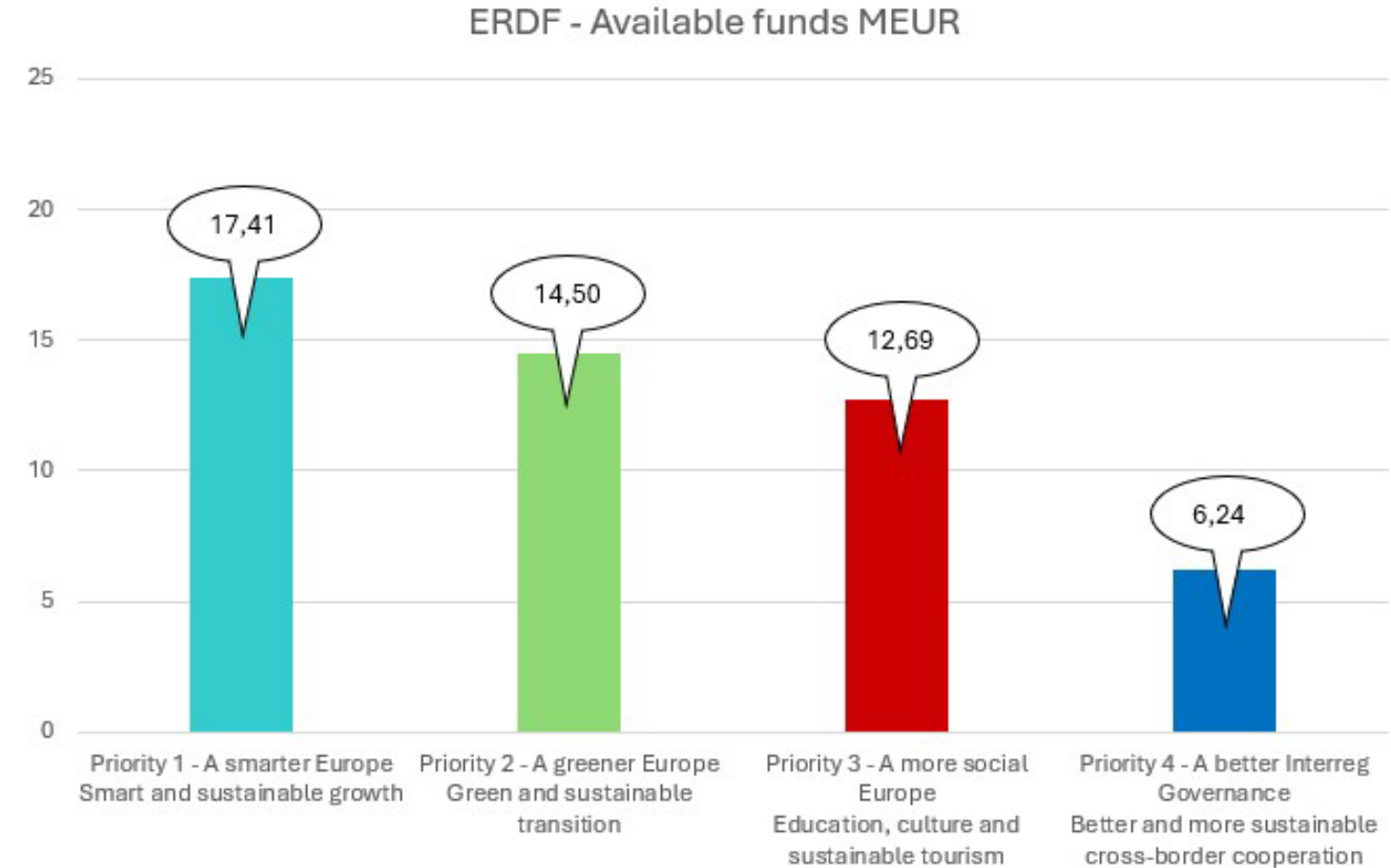
*Note! Interreg Arctic Cooperation, Clustering Call*

## IMPORTANT!

- [Terms of reference](#) may differ for each call



# Available funding



The Interreg financing for Norwegian project partners is allocated in yearly budgets. Available IR-funding left for 2025 is approximately 2 MEUR.



# Specific for Norwegian partners

- Partners - Organisation within the programme area except when an organisation have a national responsibility
- Maximum IR support (200 000 Euro)
- Develop a good Interreg Aurora project idea
  - early project idea



# **What signifies a good Interreg Aurora project?**

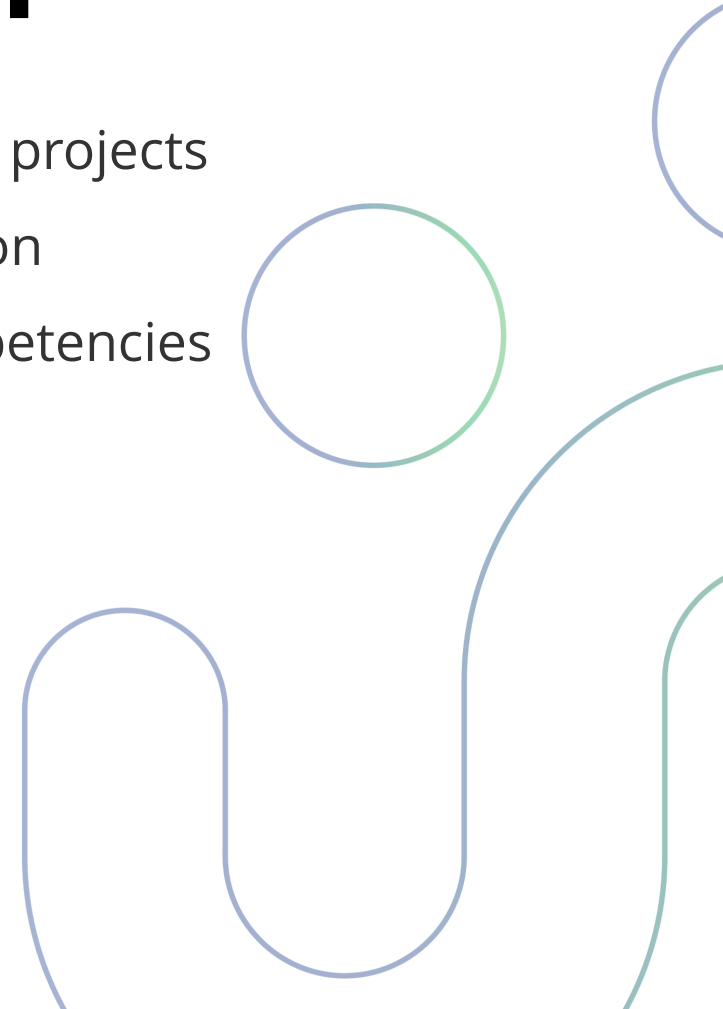
- Cross-border cooperation
- Relevance for the Programme (specific objective)
- Sustainable development
- The partnership (capacity, new partnerships)
- Project logic
- Relevance to target group
- Value for money
- Results (concrete, innovative, lasting, exit strategy, dissemination)
- Additional criteria sub-area Sápmi





# Cross-border cooperation

- Interreg – cross border cooperation must be at the core of all projects
- All countries and partners should benefit from the cooperation
- Sharing of know-how, critical mass and complementary competencies
- Solving of joint tasks



# **Relevance for the programme (Specific Objective)**

- An application must target one specific objective
- Project results – contribute to the specific objective

**Note! No financing of basic research nor research too close to commercialisation.**



# Sustainable development



- Clarify how the three horizontal principles (**social sustainability, ecological sustainable development, and economic sustainability**) will be integrated in the project.
- Highlight relevant SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals).
- Projects with a negative impact on sustainable development cannot be funded by the programme.



# The partnership

- Competence and capacity
- Do the partners have the mandate to carry out the project?
- Complementary competencies
- Are there organizations obviously missing?
- New partners

**Note! One non-eligible partner will make the whole application non eligible.**

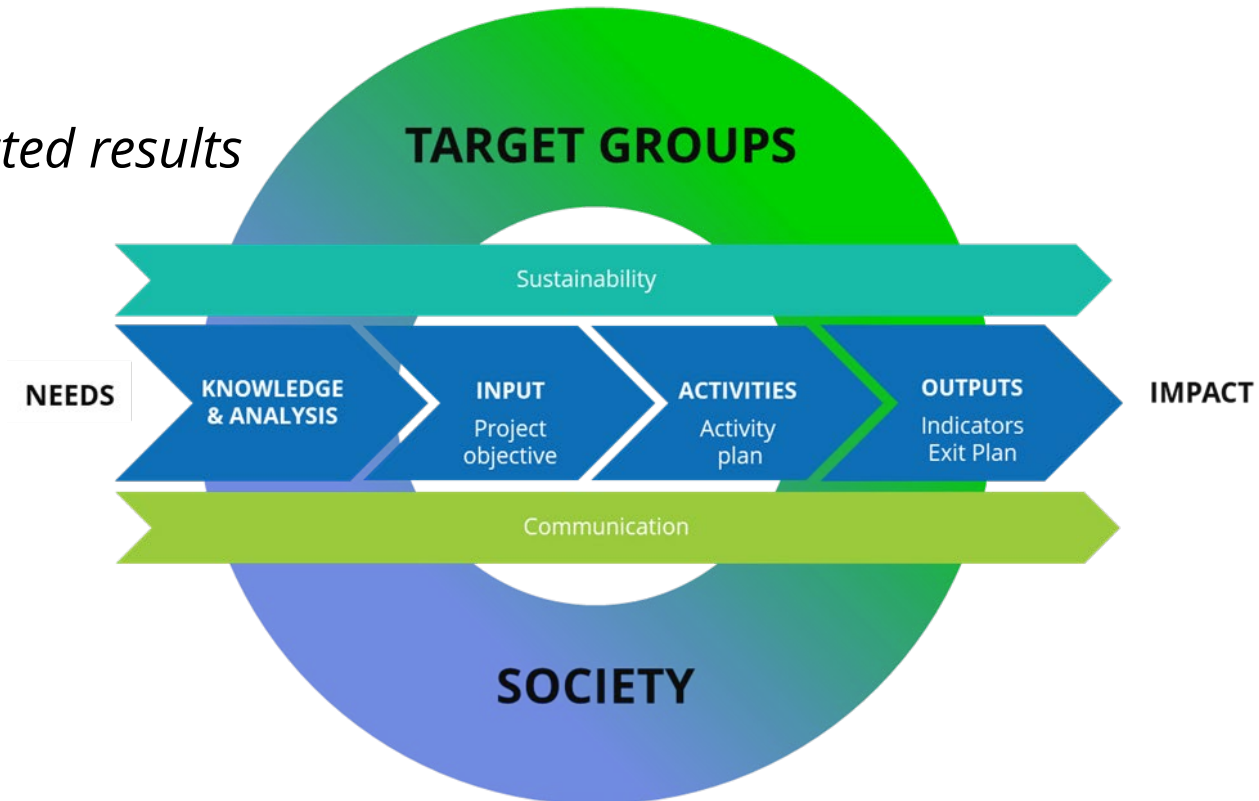


# Project logic

- Common thread in project planning:  
The overall objective, the planned activities and the expected results need to be clearly defined – and in logic relation with each other.

*Overall objective → Planned activities → Expected results*

- Read more about project logic in the [programme manual](#)



# Relevance to target group

- Main target group
- Target group needs
- Target group anchoring

# Value for money

- Realistic budget
- Balance
- Correlation between costs and estimated results
- Level of detail

**Note! The budget must be very well specified!**



# Results

- Open access
- Change/improvement
- Concrete, measurable results
- Innovative
- Strong communication/dissemination plan
- Long-term plan
- Exit strategy



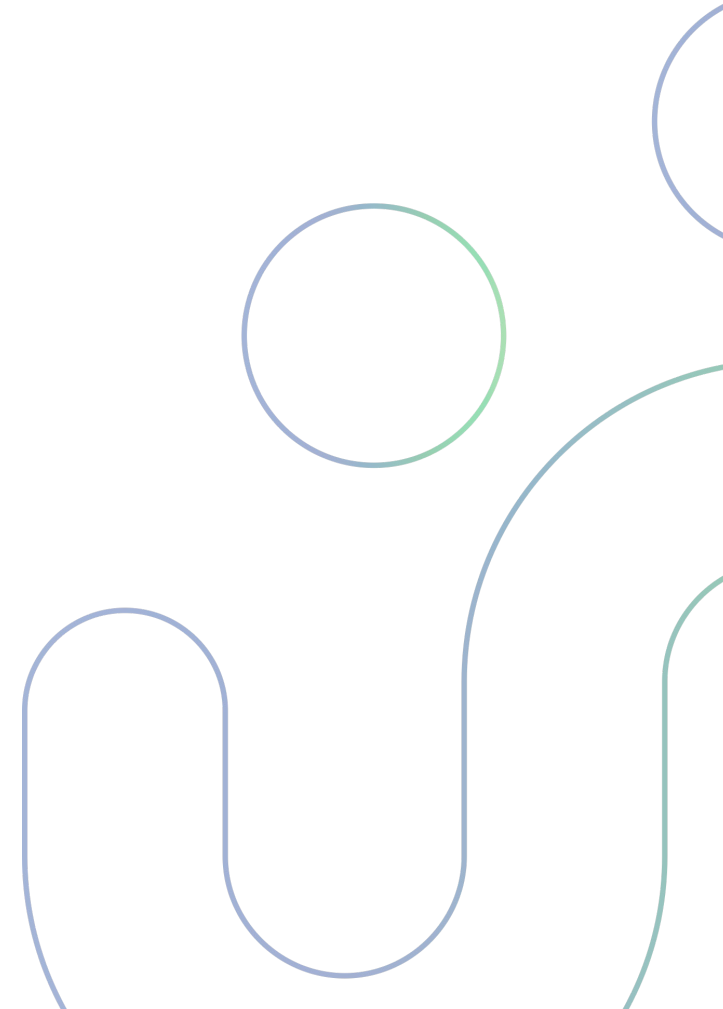


# Sub-area Sápmi

Applications within sub-area Sápmi need to fulfil requirements for *minimum* two of these four criteria:

- Promoting/strengthening árbediehtu
- Promoting/strengthening Sámi languages
- Creating long term benefits for Sámi society
- Strengthening Sámi traditional livelihoods and Sámi businesses

**Note! Anchoring among Sámi actors. There is a need to involve Sámi actors in all projects in sub-area Sápmi.**



# **Project Types and EU-Financing Rates**

## **Small-scale projects**

- Budget max 20 000 Euro/country
- Lump sum support

## **Regular Projects**

- Budget up to 200 000 Euro (Staff + 40%) Budget over 200 000 Euro (Staff + 40% OR all cost categories)

## **Financing Rate**

- 65% EU-funding for Swedish and Finnish partners
- 50% IR-funding for Norwegian partners

**Interreg**



Co-funded by  
the European Union

**Aurora**

# **NEW!**

## **A new simplified cost option for STAFF COST**

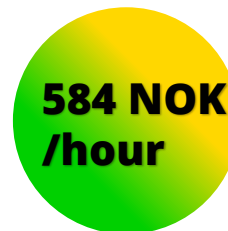
Applications submitted the autumn call  
8th of September – 6th of October 2025 can  
choose to budget (and if approved, report) the Staff  
cost with pre-defined unit costs.



**Swedish partners**



**Finnish partners**



**Norwegian partners**

# Hourly rate per country – regardless position

Interreg Aurora uses the same unit costs as the programmes Interreg Baltic Sea Region and Interreg Central Baltic so if your organization is participating in those programmes the method is already familiar to you.

It applies to all roles – no matter the type of work or actual salary

It cover all salary payments related to the activities of the project(s) and any other costs directly linked to salary payments incurred and paid by the employer, such as employment taxes and social security including pensions.



# Budget

- 1) Plan the staff resources needed for the project activities
- 2) Calculate the planned hours times the unit cost for respective country to get the amount for the budget\*

*\*Budget amounts in SEK and NOK are converted into EUR in the same way as all other costs in SEK and NOK before adding the amounts in Min Ansökan*

- 3) Note that 100% is a maximum of **1 720 hours for 12 months**

The assessment of the budget will be made according to how you have planned regarding the staffing of the work to be done in the project.

# Budget specification

The budget shall be specified on partner level as well as under each cost category (flat rates need no specification).

Kostnader		
19 Staff cost		
Project Manager SE, 4 205 euros per month, social fees 50 %, working 20 % for 36 months	45 416 €	45 416
Admin, 3 525 euros per month, social fees 50 %, working 15 % for 36 months	28 551 €	28 551

## Staff costs (40% flat rate or all cost categories)

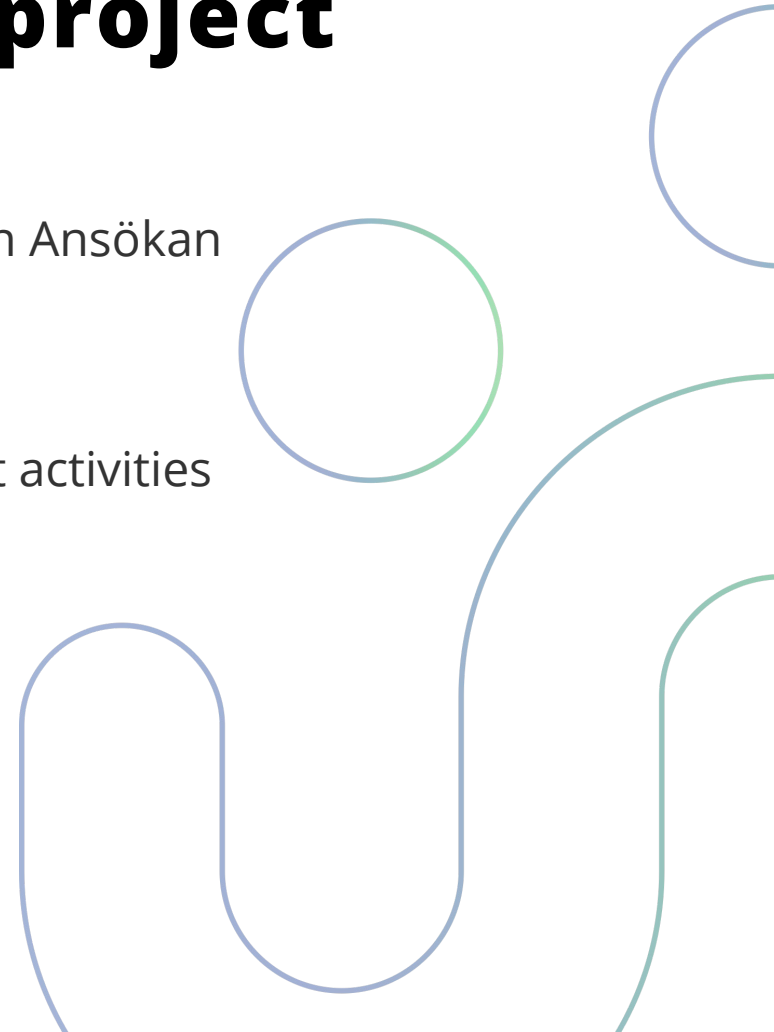
- **Fixed percentage:** Specify for **each role** and **each partner** (examples above and below).  
“Researcher FI, 4 500 euros per month, social fees 22 %, working 20 % for 36 months”
- Note: Social fees differ from organization to organization.
- **Unit costs:** Use the unit cost to calculate the total planned cost, note that 100% is a maximum of 1 720 hours for 12 months.  
Example “Researcher FI, working 100% for 36 months”.

# Programme indicators

- **Small-scale projects** does not need to provide, measure or report any indicators
- **Regular projects** must provide, measure and report indicators
- The Interreg Aurora programme's output and result indicators are **common guidelines from the European Commission** for all Interreg programmes 2021-2027
- The indicators assess how each project's objectives and results contribute to the overall success of the Interreg Aurora programme

# Programme indicators for regular project applications

- You need to register indicators in the electronical application system Min Ansökan
- You need to register both output and result indicators
- Register realistic and measurable indicators directly linked to the project activities



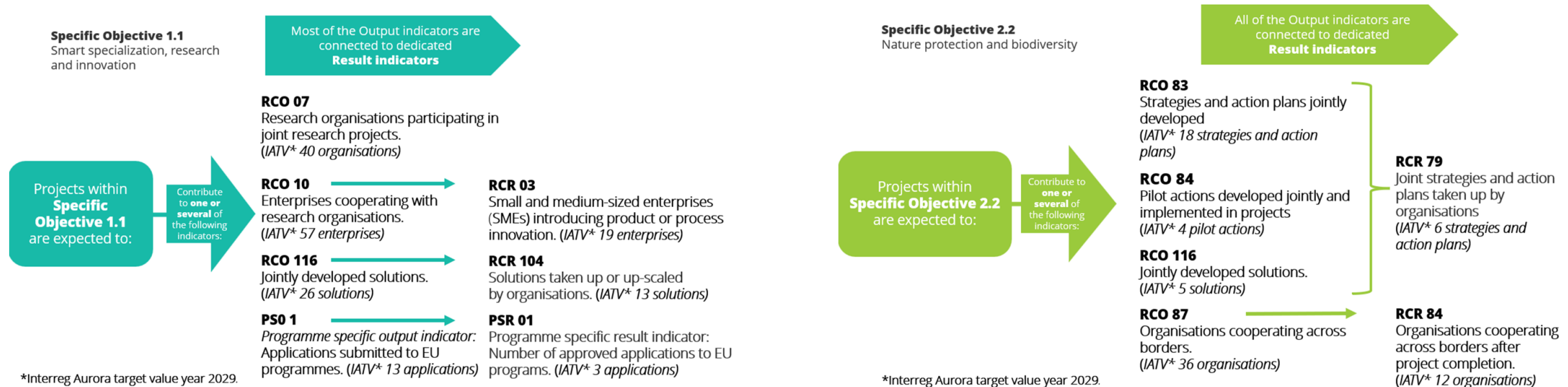


# Step 1. Identify relevant indicators

The Specific Objective you are applying within decides which indicators your project shall measure.

You find an overview of the relevant indicators in each Specific Objective in the Interreg Aurora [programme manual](#)

Examples:



## Step 2. Read the definition of each indicator

You can find specific manuals on the Interreg Aurora website that explain each indicator

### [Manual för output indicators](#)

Measure the direct outputs of the project activities, or the results that occur directly during the activities

### [Manual for result indicators](#)

Measure the benefit delivered by the project, or the long-term results of the activities

# Min ansökan - Indicators



Min ansökan

[← Projects](#)

1. Project information
2. Lead partner EU
3. Project partner EU
4. Lead partner Norway
5. Project partner Norway
6. Project relevance and context
- 7. Project description**
8. Project management
9. Project activities
10. Budget EU
11. Budget Norway
12. Contact information
13. Attachments

Status on application

Draft

## 7. Project description

This section regards information on project achievements.

### Project overall objective

Describe the project's main objective - what do you aim to achieve by the end of your project? Remember that the project needs to contribute to the chosen programme specific objective.

0/1000

## Programme indicators

Indicators are the European Commission's way of following up results in projects based on predetermined measurement areas. Which indicators your project should measure depends on what the project is to achieve.

## Output indicators

The output indicators capture results that occur directly during the execution of an activity.


## Result indicators

The result indicators capture the long term results of several activities.


# Min ansökan - Indicators SO 1.1

## Output indicators


The output indicators capture results that occur directly during the execution of an activity.

<b>Applications submitted to EU programmes</b> 
Target value <input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="applications"/>
Comment <input type="text"/>


  

<b>Research organisations participating in joint research projects</b> 
Target value <input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="research organisations"/>
Comment <input type="text"/>


<b>Enterprises cooperating with research organisations</b> 
Target value <input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="enterprises"/>
Comment <input type="text"/>


<b>Jointly developed solutions</b> 
Target value <input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="solutions"/>
Comment <input type="text"/>

## Result indicators


The result indicators capture the long term results of several activities.

<b>Number of approved applications to EU programmes</b> 
Target value <input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="applications"/>
Comment <input type="text"/>

<b>Small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) introducing product or process innovation</b> 
Target value <input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="enterprises"/>
Comment <input type="text"/>

<b>Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations</b> 
Target value <input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="solutions"/>
Comment <input type="text"/>

# Summary, what to think about:

- There are different indicators in the different Specific Objectives (SO)
- Each SO have both output indicators and result indicators
- Several of the result indicators are directly linked to their corresponding output indicators and can therefore maximum be equal or lower than their corresponding output indicator
- Read the definitions of output and result indicators in the Programme manual

# Get prepared!



## For project applicants

To guide applicants in the application process, there are supporting materials. Applicants should carefully read all supporting materials to gain a comprehensive understanding of the Programme rules, conditions for funding and functioning of the electronic application system.

### Step 1. CAN my project idea be funded?

Read [The Programme documents](#), does your project idea have a clear cross-border added value? Does your project idea support one of the programme Specific Objectives? Do you have eligible project partners from at least two countries? The Programme documents for Interreg Aurora also tell you what kind of activities the programme can support.

### Step 2. HOW do I apply?

Read [The Programme Manual](#), the main guidance for applicants on how to plan your project, how to apply for a project as well as guidance for implementation and finishing of a project.

### Step 3. WHEN can I apply?

Read the [Terms of Reference for the calls](#), stating the dates and the essential information about each specific call for applications. It is important that you always read and check the terms of reference before applying. The terms of references are specific for each call.

The terms of reference for each call states if there are any limitations, such as:

- closed Priorities and/or Specific Objectives
- financial limitations and accessible funding to apply
- other specific conditions related to the progress of the Interreg Aurora programme

[CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS](#)

We have collected the most frequently asked questions (FAQ) by our applicants and beneficiaries.

[FAQ](#)

You can also find useful templates and tutorials on this page.

## PROGRAMME MANUAL

[Plan your project](#) +

[Apply for a project](#) +

[Implement your project](#) +

[Finish your project](#) +

## TEMPLATES & TUTORIALS

[Templates](#)

[Tutorials](#)



**Interreg**



Co-funded by  
the European Union

**Aurora**

**NEW! Online  
consultations  
for project ideas**



### Sub-area Aurora

- **Specific Objective 1.2: Competitiveness of SMEs.**
- **Specific Objective 2.2: Nature protection and biodiversity, only regarding applications focused on air quality or noise reduction.**
- **Specific Objective 2.3: Sustainable mobility.**

### Sub-area Sápmi

- **All priorities and specific objectives.**

***Interested?***

***Send an email to [interregaurora@lansstyrelsen.se](mailto:interregaurora@lansstyrelsen.se)***

**Interreg**



Co-funded by  
the European Union

**Aurora**

# **Q&A - 7th call for regular projects**

**Webinar 12 September 2025**

**09:00 - 10:30 (CET)**

# Networking and Partner search



LinkedIn



Page on our website

[www.interregaurora.eu/support/partner-search-and-networking/](http://www.interregaurora.eu/support/partner-search-and-networking/)

## Partner search - project ideas



### DEVELOPING TOGETHER – INITIATIVES FOR THE LABOUR MARKET

Partner search: Partners from Finland, Sweden and Norway for a project consortium: education providers (public and private), employers, municipalities, employment services (public and private), business

2023-11-22

PARTNER SEARCH



### SÁMI HANDICRAFTS

Partner search for a Sámi handicrafts related cross-border project in which the purpose is to develop Sámi handicrafts education with the Sámi schools who are

2023-11-13

PARTNER SEARCH



### STRENGTHENING CROSS- BORDER CO-OPERATION IN SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES IN SÁMI LANGUAGES

Partner search: In Finland, responsibility for organising social and health services was transferred from municipalities to wellbeing services counties 1.1.2023. Lapland wellbeing county has a

2023-11-10

PARTNER SEARCH



### STRATEGIC COOPERATION BETWEEN EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY IN CONNECTION WITH THE GREEN TRANSITION

Partner search: Partners from regions with business establishments that entail large recruitment needs: VET educators,



### ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A CROSS BORDER COOPERATION PROJECT REGARDING FOOD WASTE PREVENTION?

Waste Insight is a research team at the University of Vaasa developing innovative solutions for food waste prevention and



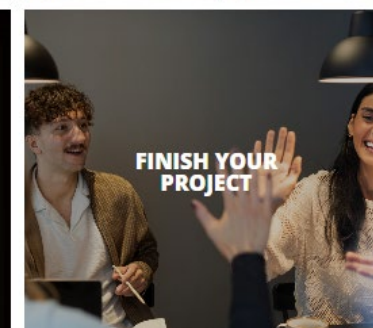
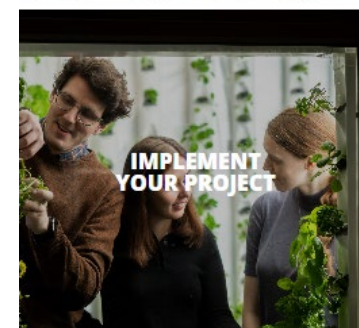
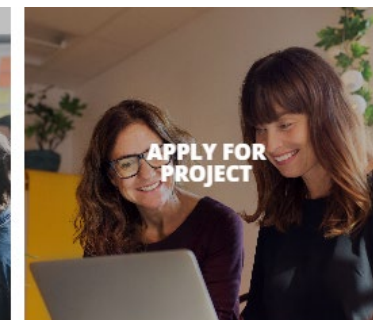
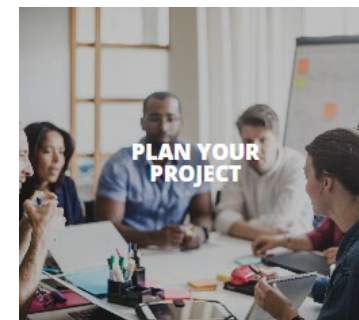
### SUSTAINABLE AND HEALTHY NORDIC CITIES FOR THE FUTURE

Partner search: The desired urban living environment of the future supports planetary health and well-being. Northern cities have great potential to create concentrations of sustainable,

# Some last important advice!

## *Project idea phase*

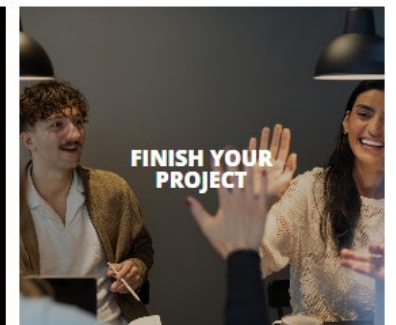
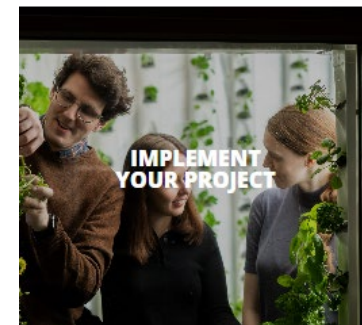
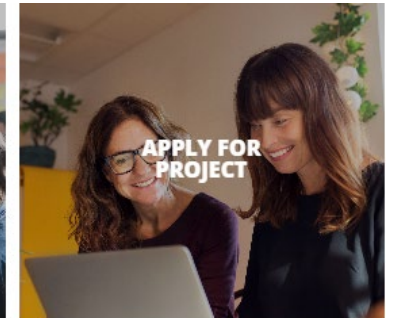
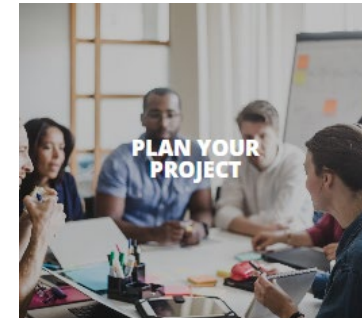
- Involve the target group
- No ordinary business, no double funding
- Regular projects, submit the [Project idea template](#) if you want feedback (Call 7, 1 June – 1 August)
- Read the [Calls for applications](#) (Terms of reference might be different for different calls)
- Read the [Programme Manual](#) (NB! Some things do not apply for small-scale projects)



# Some last important advice!

## *Project application phase*

- [Connections to other projects and initiatives](#) – be concrete
- [Exit strategy](#) – describe how you (and target group) will secure lasting results
- Indicators – [Definitions of output indicators](#) , [Definitions of result indicators](#)
- [Staff cost specifications](#) – mandatory for all projects
- Budgeted costs need to match – total budget vs activity plan
- Write clear and concise texts – read the instructions
- Finally, check and double-check







**SAVE THE DATE!**

**JOIN #INTERREGAURORA  
IN UMEÅ**

**SEE YOU 18 SEPTEMBER, 2025**

**Interreg  
Aurora**



Co-funded by  
the European Union



**Interreg**



Co-funded by  
the European Union

**Aurora**

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



# Thank you for your attention!

[www.interregaurora.eu](http://www.interregaurora.eu)

#interregaurora

**Managing Authority, County Administrative Board of Norrbotten**

Phone: +46 10 225 50 00

E-mail: [interregaurora@lansstyrelsen.se](mailto:interregaurora@lansstyrelsen.se)

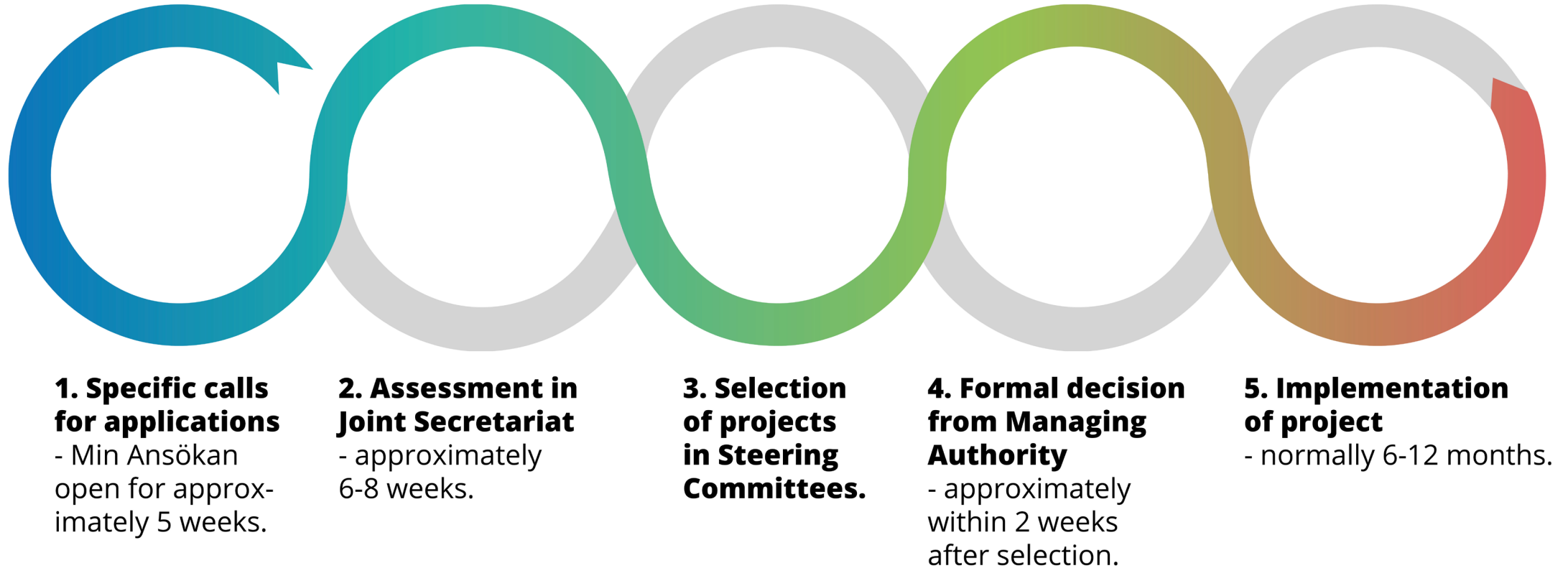
**Norwegian Managing Organisation, Troms County Council**

Phone: +47 474 55 357

E-mail: [ian.jawahir@tromsfylke.no](mailto:ian.jawahir@tromsfylke.no)



# SMALL-SCALE PROJECT



- Total project budget max 20 000 Euro/country
- Lump sum support

Interreg

Aurora



Co-funded by  
the European Union

# REGULAR PROJECT



**1. Specific calls for applications**

- Min Ansökan open for approximately 5 weeks.

**2. Assessment in Joint Secretariat**

- approximately 10-12 weeks.

**3. Selection of projects in Steering Committees.**

**4. Formal decision from Managing Authority**

- approximately within 2 weeks after Steering Committee meeting.

**5. Implementation of project**

- normally 36 months.

- Budget up to 200 000 Euro (Staff + 40%)
- Budget over 200 000 Euro (Staff + 40% OR all cost categories)

**Interreg**

**Aurora**



Co-funded by  
the European Union

# EU-financing rates and national co-financing

## EU-financing rate, Interreg Aurora

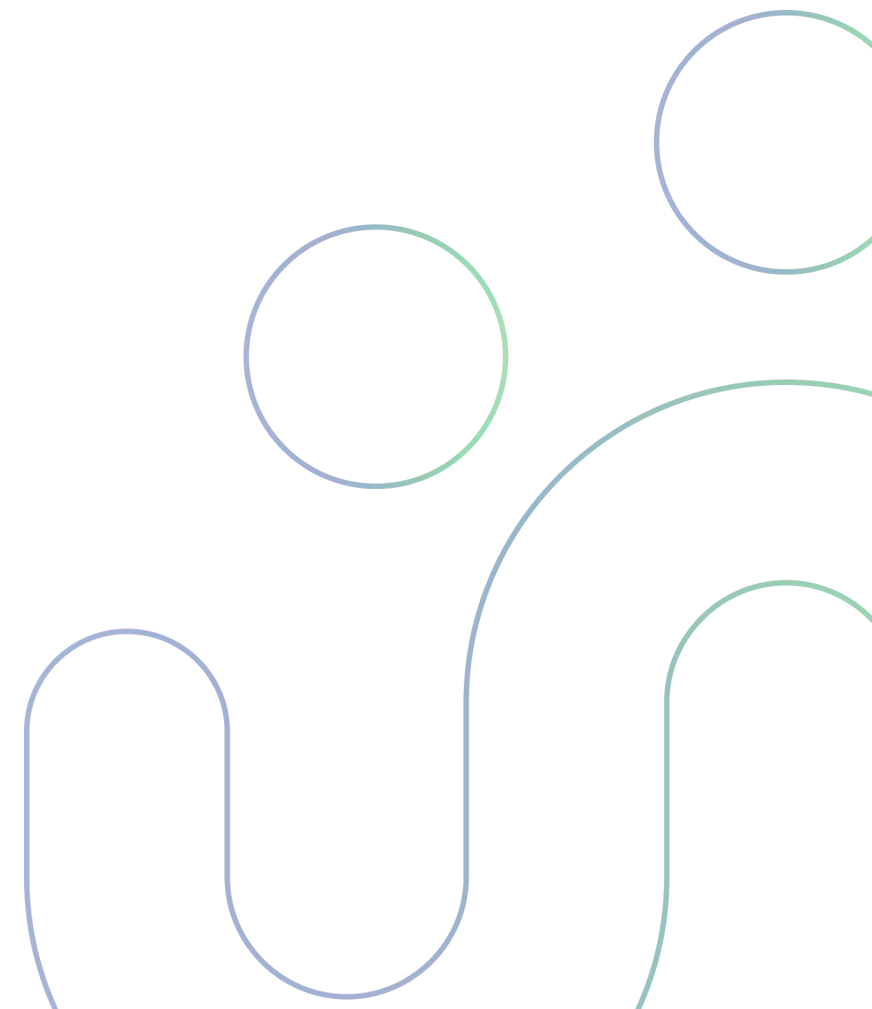
- 65% EU-funding for Swedish and Finnish partners
- 50% IR-funding for Norwegian partners

## National co-financing

- Finland - **NEW!** Administrated by Lapin liitto
- Sweden – own financing or external financing
- Norway - own financing or external financing

Can be both public and/or private funding

Read more [Funding - Interreg Aurora](#)



## Aurora

Project type	Budget in application	Reporting	Control of costs	Payments
<b>Small-scale</b>  Total project budget no more than EUR 20 000 per participating country	Staff costs + flat rate 40 % <b>OR</b> All cost categories (whereof flat rates 15% for Office & admin and 15% for Travel & accom.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only once</li> <li>No report on costs</li> <li>Final written report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No</li> </ul>	Agreed lump sum will be paid after approval of the final report
<b>Regular project</b>  Total project budget up to EUR 200 000	Staff costs + flat rate 40 %	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Every 4-6 months</li> <li>Staff costs + flat rate 40 %</li> <li>Progress reports and final report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only staff costs</li> <li>No verification needed for costs covered by flat rates</li> </ul>	Support share will be paid after reporting of costs and approval of progress/final reports.
<b>Regular project</b>  Total project budget over EUR 200 000	Staff costs + flat rate 40 %	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Every 4-6 months</li> <li>Staff costs + flat rate 40 %</li> <li>Progress reports and final report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only staff costs</li> <li>No verification needed for costs covered by flat rates</li> </ul>	Support share will be paid after reporting of costs and approval of progress/final reports.
	<b>OR</b> All cost categories (whereof flat rates 15% for Office & admin and 15% for Travel & accom.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Every 4-6 months</li> <li>All cost categories (whereof flat rates 15% for Office &amp; admin and 15% for Travel &amp; accom.)</li> <li>Progress reports and final report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff costs and other real cost categories</li> <li>No verification needed for costs covered by flat rates</li> </ul>	



# Eligible partners

- Organisations that are legal entities from the public and private sectors
- A project shall involve partners from at least two participating countries
- The main rule is that all partners shall be located in the programme area, the Norwegian Lead partner must be in the programme area
- Project partners can also come from others part from Sweden, Finland or Norway. However, their participation must be justified and relevant for the project implementation. For example, specific expertise that cannot be found in the programme area
- Partners from outside Sweden, Finland or Norway are welcome to participate as associated partners, without project budget

# State aid and business sector participation

- All applications will be assessed in relation to State aid
- State aid might be supported using De minimis or GBER
- Open access to results
- No patents

Read more about [State Aid](#)

