

Interreg



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Get ready for new calls for projects applications

Webinar
14 January 2026
09.00 – 10.30 (CET)



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INTERREG AURORA

Susanna Ehrs, Amanda Mannervik, Anita Heikkilä Sjöberg,
Johanna Liikamaa, Programme Officers Interreg Aurora

Øystein Andresen,
Programme Officer and Norwegian Managing Organisation



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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**

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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

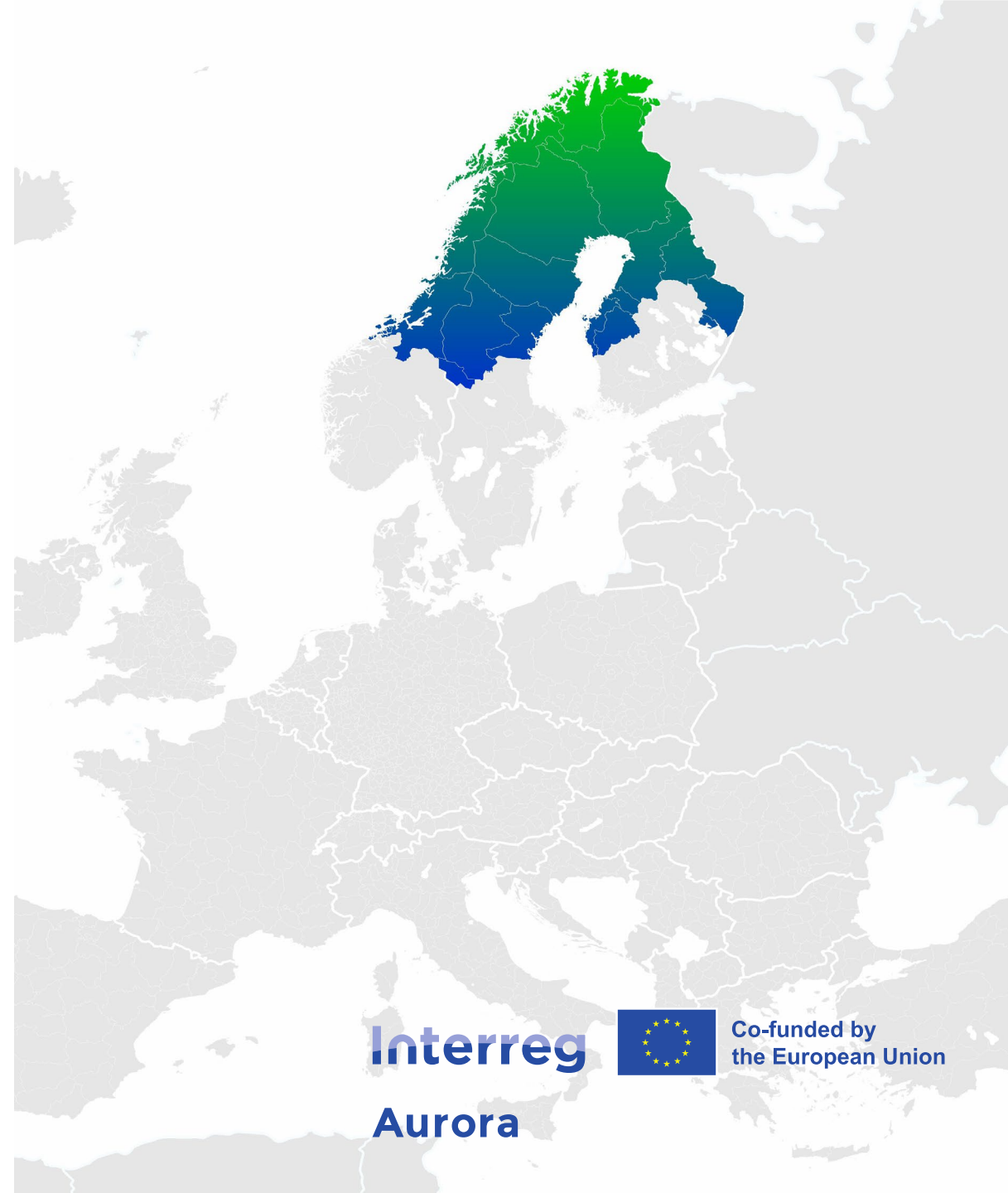
Lappi
Pohjois-Pohjanmaa
Keski-Pohjanmaa

SVERIGE

Norrbotten
Västerbotten
Västernorrland
Jämtland
Idre Sameby, Dalarna

NORGE

Finnmark
Troms
Nordland
Trøndelag
Innlandet (Elgå Reinbeitedistrikt)



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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

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Summary of the Interreg Aurora Programme document



www.interregaurora.eu/summary-of-the-interreg-aurora-programme/

Upcoming calls

- Call for regular project applications
Call 8. 9 February– 9 March 2026
- Call for small-scale project applications
SSP Call 6. 9 February – 9 March 2026.

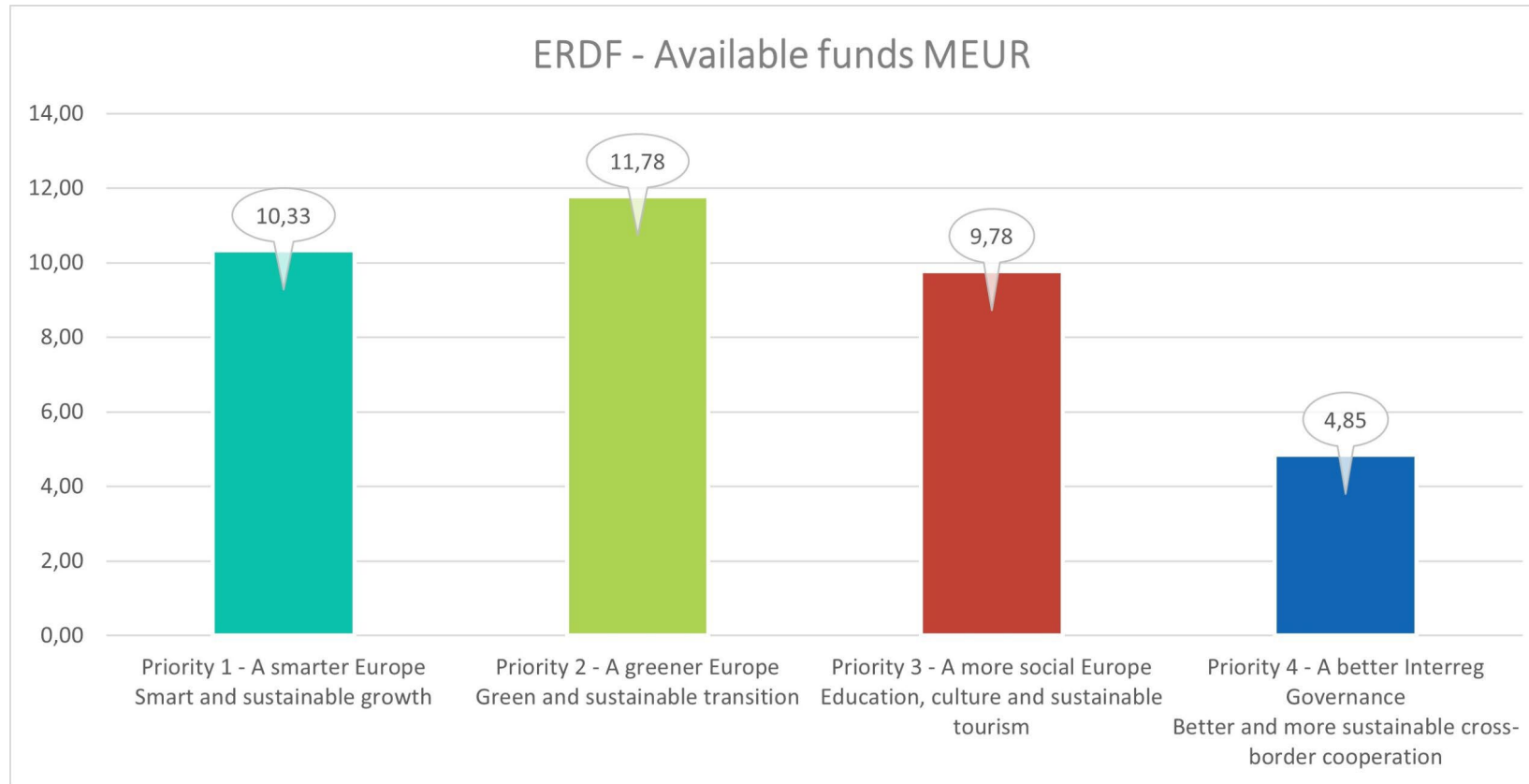
IMPORTANT!

- [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 3,1 MEUR.

Wanted!



Sub-area Sápmi

- All Priorities and Specific Objectives.

Sub-area Aurora

- Specific Objective 1.2: Competitiveness of SMEs.

- Specific Objective 2.2: Nature protection and biodiversity, applications focused on air quality or noise reduction.

- Specific Objective 2.3: Sustainable mobility.

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**PROTECTION, RESTORATION
AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF
NATURA 2000 SITES**

Apply for a cross-border project.
We have funding!

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**CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS
DON'T KNOW BORDERS**

Apply for a cross-border sustainable
mobility project. We have funding!

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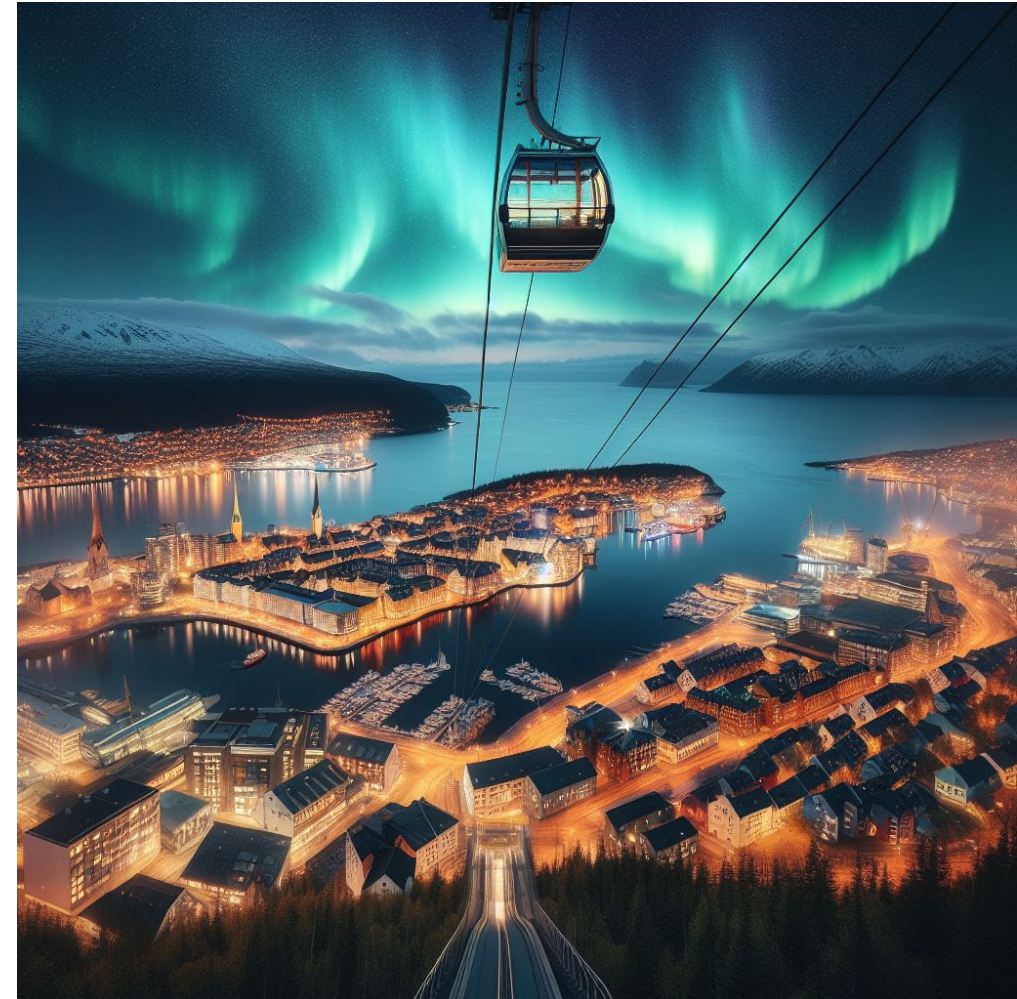
**AIR AND NOISE POLLUTIONS
DON'T KNOW BORDERS**

Apply for a cross-border
project. We have funding!

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Specific for Norwegian partners

- Partners - Organisation within the programme area except when an organisation have a national responsibility
- Maximum IR support (300 000 Euro for sub-area Aurora and 70 000 Euro for sub-area Sápmi)
- Last call for 3 years projects and PO1





What signifies a good Interreg Aurora project?

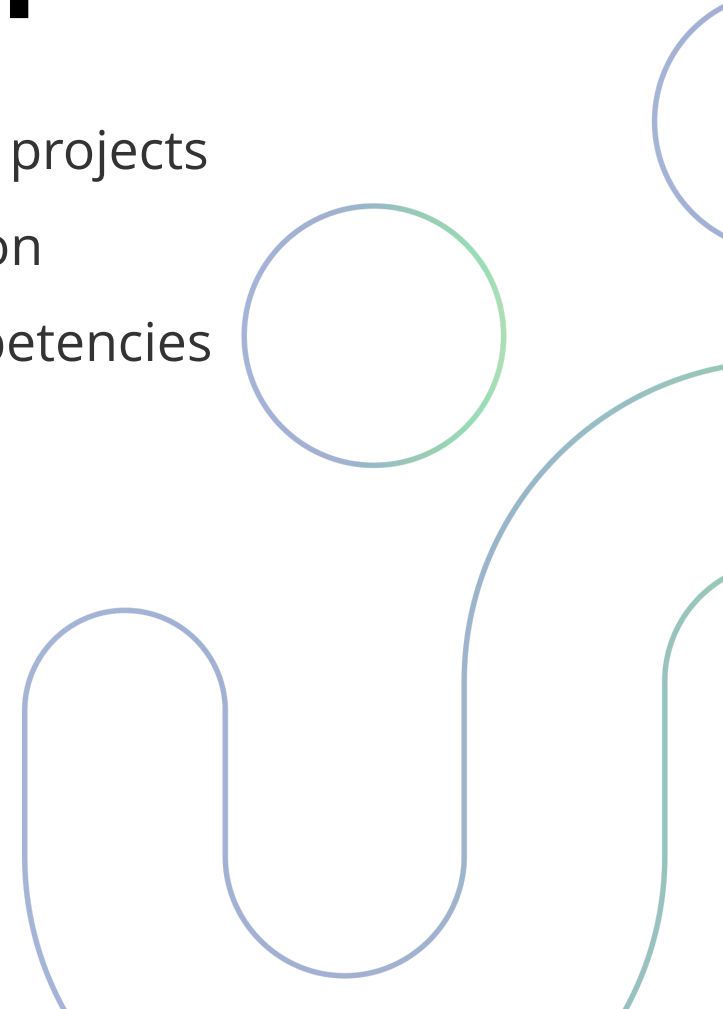
- Cross-border cooperation
- Relevance for the Programme (specific objective)
- Sustainable development
- The partnership (capacity, new partnerships)
- Project logic
- Relevance to target group
- Value for money
- Results (concrete, innovative, lasting, exit strategy, dissemination)
- Additional criteria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

[Read more about the sustainability section of the application.](#)



Gender equality



Reduced inequalities



Partnership for the goals



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

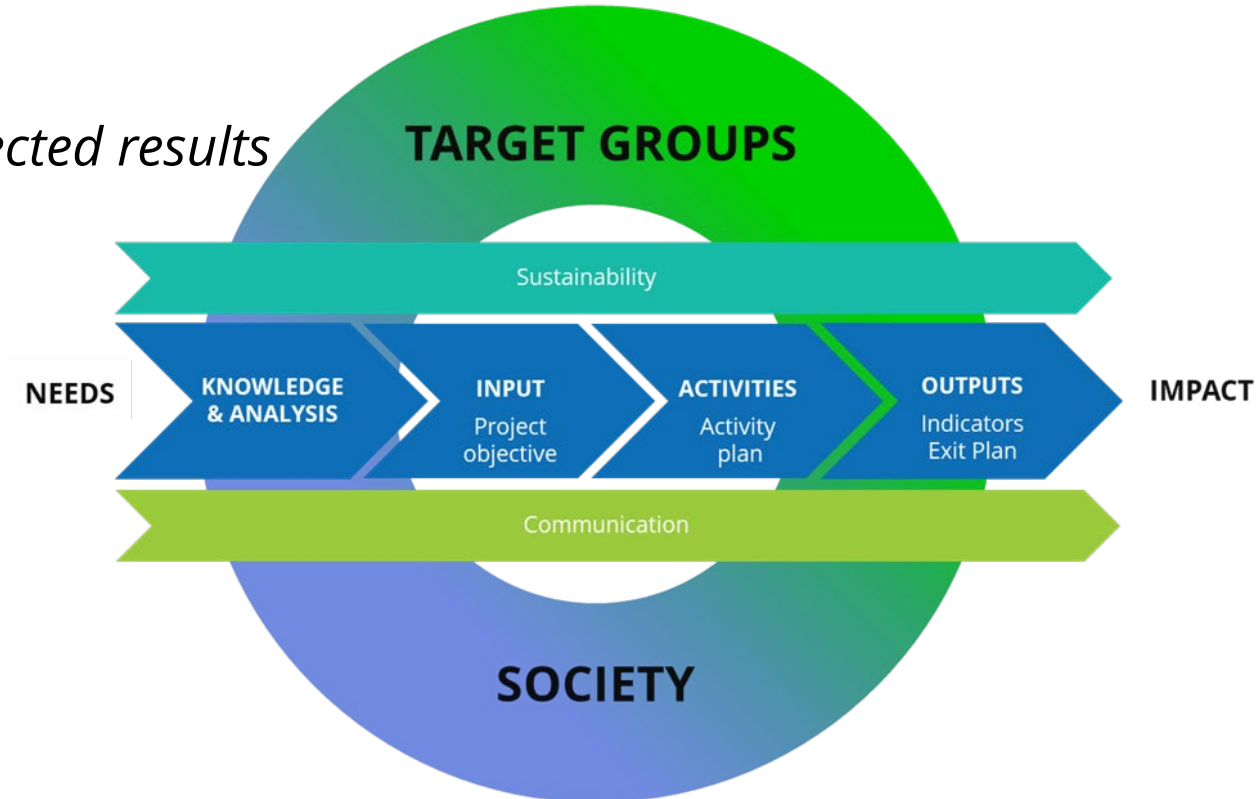
Note! One non-eligible partner will make the whole application non eligible.

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

Note! Communication activities and programme management should be specified in each work package. They are NOT separate work packages in your application.



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

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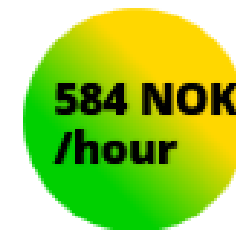
Simplified cost option for staff costs – Unit costs



Swedish partners



Finnish partners



Norwegian partners

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

- Specify for each role and each partner (examples above and below).
Researcher FI, 4 700 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 “Project manager FI (39 EUR * 1720 hours * 3 years) = 201 240 EUR”



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](#)

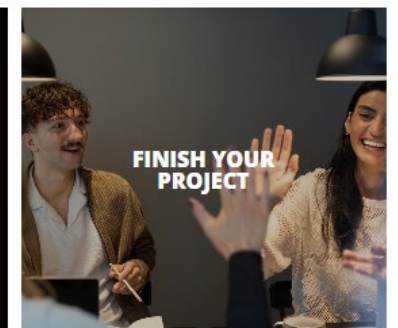
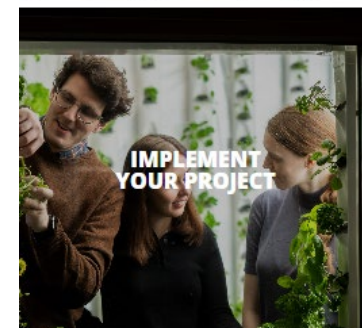
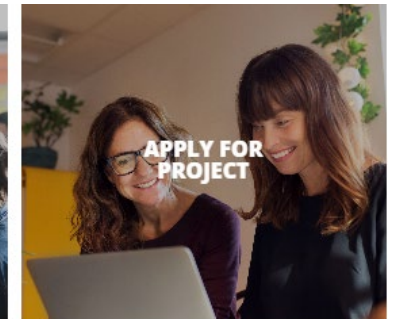
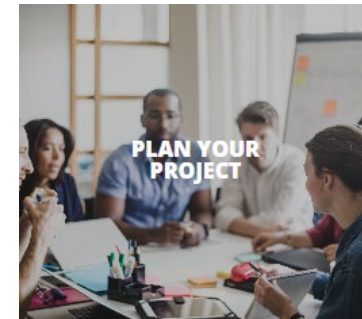
Some last important advice!

Project idea phase

- Involve the target group
- No ordinary business, no double funding
- 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)

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



Networking and Partner search

Partner search - project ideas

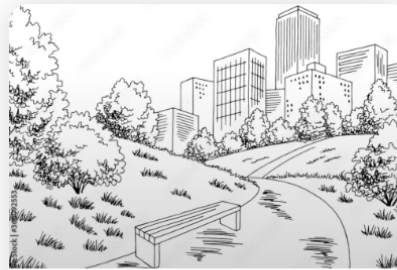


LinkedIn



Page on our website

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



KAJAANI UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES IS SEEKING PROJECT PARTNERS FOR A PROJECT IDEA ABOUT URBAN BIODIVERSITY (BIODIVERCITY)

Partner search: Kajaani University of Applied Sciences (KAMK UAS) is developing solutions to strengthen biodiversity in Arctic and Sub-Arctic cities. Urban biodiversity is essential for



KAJAANI UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES IS SEEKING PROJECT PARTNERS FOR A PROJECT IDEA ABOUT ARCTIC MELT SOLUTIONS – SUSTAINABLE SNOWMELT WATER MANAGEMENT

Partner search: Kajaani University of Applied Sciences is developing solutions for an environmental challenge in Arctic and Sub-Arctic cities: urban snow deposits and



SEINÄJOKI UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES IS SEEKING PROJECT PARTNERS FOR A PROJECT IDEA ABOUT CROSS-BORDER XR FOR MANUFACTURING SMES

Partner search: Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences (SeAMK), Finland, is seeking Swedish and Norwegian partners for a cross-border project bringing practical XR (VR/AR/WebXR) into the



Thank you for your attention!

www.interregaurora.eu

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Managing Authority, County Administrative Board of Norrbotten

Phone: +46 10 225 50 00

E-mail: interregaurora@lansstyrelsen.se

Norwegian Managing Organisation, Troms County Council

Phone: +47 474 55 357

E-mail: ian.jawahir@tromsfylke.no



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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS