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3. Territorial cooperation programmes 2014-2020

3.2 Transnational cooperation programmes
3.2.1 Central Europe

PROGRAMME/CALL	CENTRAL EUROPE 2020 PROGRAMME
Programme	The CENTRAL EUROPE 2020 programme, active for the period 2014-2020, concerns the support to regional cooperation among central European countries.
General objectives	The CENTRAL EUROPE 2020 programme shall contribute to achieve the following overall objective: • To cooperate beyond borders to make central European cities and regions better places to live and work by implementing smart solutions answering to regional challenges in the fields of innovation, low-carbon economy, environment, culture and transport. The specific objectives of the programme are: - To improve sustainable linkages among actors of the innovation systems for strengthening regional innovation capacity in central Europe; (OS 1.1) - To improve skills and entrepreneurial competences for advancing economic and social innovation in central European regions; (OS 1.2) - To develop and implement solutions for increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy usage in public infrastructures; (OS 2.1) - To improve territorially based low-carbon energy planning strategies and policies supporting climate change mitigation; (OS 2.2) - To improve capacities for mobility planning in functional urban areas to lower CO_2 emissions; (OS 2.3) - To improve integrated environmental management capacities for the protection and sustainable use of natural heritage and resources; (OS 3.1) - To improve capacities for the sustainable use of cultural heritage and resources; (OS 3.2) - To improve environmental management of functional urban areas to make them more liveable places; (OS 3.3) - To improve planning and coordination of regional passenger transport systems for better connections to national and European transport networks; (OS 4.1) - To improve coordination among freight transport stakeholders

	for increasing multimodal environmentally-friendly freight solutions. (OS 4.2)
Types of projects funded	The types of projects to be funded by CENTRAL EUROPE 2020 will be illustrated with the launch of the Programme, and it is not known yet. The focus will be on policy-learning and implementation-oriented approaches at the transnational level. More concretely, actions will include the development and implementation of strategies and action plans, the development, testing and implementation of tools, the preparation of larger investment, the implementation of pilot actions – including pilot investments – as well as capacity building measures including training.
Eligible activities	The projects that can be funded under the CENTRAL EUROPE 2020 concern 4 main Priority Axis: *Priority Axis 1: Cooperating on innovation to make CENTRAL EUROPE more competitive* - *Investment priority 1(b): promoting business investment in innovation and research, and developing links and synergies between enterprises, R&D centres and higher education, in particular product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation and public service applications.* *Examples of possible Projects concerning OS 1.1:* ➢ Establishing and further strengthening transnational innovation networks and clusters, also supporting their internationalisation; ➢ Enhancing the transfer of R&D-results from research institutions to the business sector (in particular SMEs) leading to new services and products; ➢ Building transnational links for improving existing and developing new services which support innovation in businesses; ➢ Strengthening links between the public sector, finance institutions as well as the business sector (in particular SMEs) to design and test new structures and services that facilitate the access to financing of innovation; ➢ Increasing cooperation between research, the public and private sectors to stimulate innovation and entrepreneurship (e.g. reduction of administrative barriers of innovation, public procurement of innovative products and services, social innovation, etc.). *Examples of possible Projects concerning OS 1.2:* ➢ Increasing skills of employees in the business sector (particularly SMEs) regarding novel technologies (e.g. eco-innovation, low-carbon technologies, ICT, key enabling

technologies, etc.), innovative products, services or processes and social innovation contributing to regional smart specialisation strategies;

➢ Developing and implementing strategies and tools to improve creativity and entrepreneurial mind-sets building on different business cultures and on all levels of education;

➢ Developing and implementing strategies and tools for improving technological and managerial competences for entrepreneurship for economic and social innovation (e.g. healthcare and social inclusion of minorities, disabled persons, elderly etc.);

➢ Adapting, developing, and testing innovative learning systems for increasing skills and entrepreneurial competences considering demographic change challenges (e.g. ageing society, youth unemployment, shrinking regions facing skills shortages etc.).

Priority Axis 2: Cooperating on low-carbon strategies in CENTRAL EUROPE
- *Investment priority 4(c): supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructures.*

Examples of possible Projects concerning OS 2.1:
➢ Developing, testing and implementing policies, strategies and solutions to improve the energy efficiency in public infrastructures including buildings as well as to increase the use of renewable energies;

➢ Developing and testing innovative management approaches to increase regional capacities for improving the energy performance in public infrastructure including buildings (e.g. energy managers);

➢ Developing and implementing solutions for the application of novel energy saving technologies that will increase the energy efficiency in public infrastructures including buildings;

➢ Harmonising concepts, standards and certification systems at transnational level to improve the energy performance in public infrastructure including buildings;

➢ Strengthening the capacity of the public sector to develop and implement innovative energy services, incentives and financing schemes (e.g. energy performance contracting, PPP models, etc.).

- *Investment priority 4(e): promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multi-modal urban mobility and mitigation relevant adaptation measures.*

Examples of possible Projects concerning OS 2.2:
- ➢ Developing and implementing integrated territorial strategies and plans to increase the use of endogenous renewable energy potentials and to improve regional energy performance;
- ➢ Designing and testing concepts and tools for the exploitation of endogenous renewable energy resources;
- ➢ Developing and implementing territorial strategies to improve the energy management in both the public and the private sector (especially in SMEs);
- ➢ Developing demand-focused strategies and policies to reduce energy consumption (e.g. smart metering, distribution of smart consumer applications, etc.);
- ➢ Developing and testing solutions for improved interconnections and coordination of energy networks targeting the integration and use of renewable energy sources.

Examples of possible Projects concerning OS 2.3:
- ➢ Developing and implementing integrated mobility concepts, action plans and services for reducing CO_2 emissions;
- ➢ Setting up and/or adapting governance systems as a basis for integrated low-carbon mobility in functional urban areas;
- ➢ Developing and testing concepts and strategies (including innovative financing and investment models) to facilitate the introduction of novel low-carbon technologies in the public transport sector in functional urban areas;
- ➢ Developing and implementing services and products fostering smart low-carbon mobility in functional urban areas (e.g. multimodal services, etc.).

Priority Axis 3: Cooperating on natural and cultural resources for sustainable growth in CENTRAL EUROPE
- *Investment priority 6(c):* conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage.

Examples of possible Projects concerning OS 3.1:
- ➢ Developing and implementing integrated strategies and tools for the sustainable management of protected or environmentally highly valuable areas (e.g. biodiversity, landscapes, eco-systems, etc.);
- ➢ Developing and implementing integrated strategies and tools to sustainably use natural resources for regional development, thus avoiding potential use conflicts (e.g. with tourism, transport, industry, agriculture, energy etc.);
- ➢ Developing and testing the application of innovative technologies and tools that facilitate effective integrated

environmental management (e.g. remediation technologies, monitoring tools etc.);
➢ Developing and testing applications to improve the efficient management of natural resources in public institutions and enterprises (e.g. reduction of natural resource consumption, closed loop systems);
➢ Harmonising environmental management concepts and tools on the transnational level to reduce negative climate change impacts on the environment and human life (e.g. adaptation measures).

Examples of possible Projects concerning OS 3.2:
➢ Developing and implementing strategies and policies for valorising cultural heritage and resources and/or the potentials of cultural and creative industries;
➢ Developing and implementing integrated territorial development strategies and concepts building on cultural heritage to foster sustainable economic growth and employment (e.g. in the tourism sector);
➢ Developing and testing innovative management tools for the preservation and sustainable use of cultural heritage and resources (e.g. ICT applications);
➢ Establishing and strengthening transnational cooperation among relevant actors to foster the sustainable use and the promotion of cultural heritage sites in central Europe.

- *Investment priority 6(e): action to improve the urban environment, revitalisation of cities, regeneration and decontamination of brownfield sites (including conversion areas) and reduction of air pollution and promotion of noise-reduction measures.*

Examples of possible Projects concerning OS 3.3:
➢ Developing and implementing strategies and tools (including innovative financing and investment models) to manage and improve environmental quality (air, water, waste, soil, climate) in functional urban areas;
➢ Strengthening the capacity for environmental planning and management (e.g. participatory planning mechanisms and decision making processes) at the level of functional urban areas;
➢ Developing and implementing integrated strategies, policies and tools to reduce land-use conflicts in functional urban areas (e.g. urban sprawl, shrinkage and fragmentation also in the view of social implications);
➢ Developing and implementing integrated strategies and pilot applications for the rehabilitation and reactivation of brownfield sites;
➢ Developing concepts and implementing environmental pilot applications to support the development towards smart cities (e.g. ICT applications, environmental technologies).

	Priority Axis 4: Cooperating on transport to better connect CENTRAL EUROPE
	- *Investment priority 7(b): enhancing regional mobility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes.*
	
	Examples of possible Projects concerning OS 4.1:
	  ➢ Developing and implementing strategies (including innovative financing and investment models) to link sustainable passenger transport in particular in peripheral areas to the TEN-T network as well as to the primary, secondary and tertiary transport nodes;
	  ➢ Developing and implementing coordinated strategies, tools and pilot applications to improve regional public transport systems for passengers in particular across borders (e.g. commuter connections, interoperability, etc.);
	  ➢ Developing concepts and testing pilot applications for smart regional mobility (e.g. multimodal ticketing, ICT tools, routes on demand, etc.);
	  ➢ Developing coordinated concepts, standards and tools for improved mobility services in the public interest (e.g. for disadvantaged groups, for shrinking regions, etc.).
	
	- *Investment priority 7(c): developing and improving environment-friendly (including low-noise) and low-carbon transport systems including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility.*
	
	Examples of possible Projects concerning OS 4.2:
	  ➢ Developing and implementing coordinated strategies (including innovative financing and investment models) for strengthening the multimodality of environmentally-friendly freight transport systems (e.g. rail, river, or sea transport);
	  ➢ Developing and implementing coordination and collaboration mechanisms between multimodal freight transport actors;
	  ➢ Developing and implementing coordinated concepts, management tools and services aimed at increasing the share of environmentally friendly logistics through optimised freight transport chains (e.g. multimodal transnational freight transport flows);
	  ➢ Developing and testing coordinated strategies and concepts for "greening" the last mile of freight transport (e.g. logistics planning).

Eligible organizations	Organizations that can access funding within CENTRAL EUROPE 2020s Programme are organizations from the public and private sector, including enterprises.

	Their target participation depends on the Priority Axis that will be selected.
Eligible countries	The CENTRAL EUROPE 2020 programme is open to the participation of the entities listed above established in one of the following countries: • all regions from Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia; • eight Länder from Germany (Baden-Württemberg, Bayern, Berlin, Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Sachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt, Thüringen); • nine regions from Italy (Emilia-Romagna, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Liguria, Lombardia, Piemonte, Provincia Autonoma Bolzano, Provincia Autonoma Trento, Valle d'Aosta, and Veneto)
Duration	The Programme CENTRAL EUROPE 2020 shall be implemented for the period from 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2020. The expected duration of the projects to be funded is still unknown.
Budget	The CENTRAL EUROPE 2020 programme has a budget of €246 million ERDF for the 2014-2020 period. Two co-financing rates by EU authorities apply at partner level: ✓ 80% (partners from Austria, Germany and Italy) ✓ 85% (partners from Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia). Based on the Commission delegated regulation n.481/2014 supplementing the Regulation n.1299/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council concerning the eligibility of expenditure for the European Territorial Cooperation Programmes, the main cost categories will be: (a) staff costs; (b) office and administrative expenditure; (c) travel and accommodation costs; (d) external expertise and services costs; and (e) equipment expenditure.
Deadlines	The CENTRAL EUROPE 2020 programme is expected to be officially launched in late 2014. The submission of the programme to the European Commission is expected in June 2014. At present no deadlines are known.
How to apply	Project applications can be submitted following calls for proposals whose terms of reference will be published on the programme website. At present, since the Programme has not been officially launched, this information is missing.

Evaluation criteria	Details of the selection procedure will be made available upon the launch of the programme and through the publication of the programme manual.
Link	Central Europe 2020 Draft Cooperation Programme Document Central Europe 2020 Summary Document Central Europe 2020 Official Website