



INTERREG North-West Europe 2014-2020

Operational Programme summary

What is INTERREG North-West Europe?

The Programme's mission is to make the North-West Europe area one of the world's key economic players and an attractive place to work and live.

The Programme is one of the instruments of the European Cohesion policy and is designed to strengthen territorial cohesion in North-West Europe by reducing imbalances among the regions. Cohesion Policy, as with all other European Policies, is directed by the [Europe 2020 strategy](#). This is the EU's overarching policy agenda to promote smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

Where will it operate?

The North-West Europe (NWE) area comprises the EU Member States of Ireland, the United Kingdom, Belgium, and Luxembourg, parts of France, Germany and the Netherlands as well as the non-EU member state Switzerland. This includes about 180 million inhabitants.

How will it work?

With an overall budget of EUR 396 million ERDF (European Regional Development Fund), the Programme will support transnational partnerships' efforts to enhance innovation performance, reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and optimise (re)use of material and natural resources in NWE. The maximum ERDF grant rate for projects will be up to 60%.

Who can access funding?

Partnerships of organisations wishing to work together to achieve the Programme objectives can participate. Organisations need to be one of the following:

- Governmental organisations (local, regional, national and international)
- Civil society stakeholders (for example, third sector organisations such as NGOs and non-profit organisations)
- Education and knowledge institutions, including private or semi-public research organisations
- Business support organisations, such as chambers of commerce, development agencies, cluster organisations, technology transfer offices
- Enterprises
- Public environmental organisations, such as nature organisations

What will change compared to the 2007-2013 period?

The 2014-2020 Programme will have a stronger thematic focus, with a stronger orientation on results. It will be more demanding than the previous Programme in terms of the level of collaboration. The Programme will continue to focus on concrete implementation activities rather than research.

The specific thematic focus will help to create quality projects where cooperation is key to achieving bigger and measurable impact. Projects need to deliver real solutions – tested on the ground – and push for their up-take during and after the project’s lifetime.

In what themes will it work and for whom?

Based on the needs and key challenges identified, the NWE 2014-2020 programme focuses on 3 priorities which are broken down into 5 specific objectives:

Thematic Priority	Specific Objectives	Target groups (end-users)
Innovation	To enhance innovation performance through international cooperation in NWE	Innovation stakeholders, explicitly those in regions lagging behind regarding innovation performance; (Social) Enterprises, including SMEs; Excluded population or population at risk for exclusion; Communities under pressure.
Low Carbon	To reduce GHG emissions through international cooperation on the implementation of low carbon, energy and climate protection strategies in NWE	Households / inhabitants, including those facing problems with energy affordability and / or accessibility; Social housing providers. Public organisations (local, regional, national and international);
	To reduce GHG emissions through international cooperation on the uptake of low carbon technologies, products and services	Households / inhabitants; (Social) Enterprises, including SMEs; Governmental organisations (local, regional, national, international); Civil society stakeholders promoting energy saving measures (for example third sector organisations such as NGOs and non-profit organisations); Intermediate bodies, such as chambers of commerce, development agencies, cluster organisations, technology transfer offices; Environmental and energy agencies.



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	To reduce GHG emissions through international cooperation on transnational low carbon solutions in transport systems	Households/inhabitants Governmental organisations with strategic or regulatory powers to transport; Public transport organisations Enterprises in the transport sector (such as service companies, logistics operators)
Resource and Materials Efficiency	To optimise (re)use of material and natural resources through international cooperation in NWE	Consumers; Governmental organisations (local, regional, national and international); Civil society stakeholders in the field of environment (for example third sector organisations such as NGOs and non-profit organisations); Enterprises; Land owners.