



# Interreg Sudoe Programme Summary for potential beneficiaries

#### What is the Interreg Sudoe Programme?

The regions from Southwest Europe have **common problems**: poor investment in research and innovation, low competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises and exposure to climate change and environmental risks.

The European Union considers that the most efficient way to tackle these challenges is working together to overcome national borders. The combination of efforts will lead to the best ideas, the best practices and will avoid the duplication of the work.

The European tool to drive this common search for solutions is the **Interreg Sudoe Programme**, abbreviation of Cooperation Programme Interreg V-B Southwest Europe.

The European Commission approved the cooperation programme on the 18th of June 2015 for the period 2014-2020. It will fund projects created by partnerships of public and private organisations from different countries and regions of Southwest Europe.

#### How much budget is involved?

The Programme has a budget of **141 million Euros**: 106 million is provided by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and 35 million by private and public counterparts of the participating countries.



www.interreg-sudoe.eu

Who can participate?

The project must be submitted by a partnership composed by public or private entities (with the exception of large companies) from regions of different countries of Southwest Europe. The eligible regions are the following:

**Spain:** all the Autonomous Communities (except Canary Islands) and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla.

#### The six South western regions of France:

Aquitaine, Auvergne, Languedoc-Roussillion, Limousin, Midi-Pyrénées and Poitou-Charentes.

**Portugal:** all continental regions (thus excluding Madeira and Azores).

United Kingdom (Gibraltar)

The Principality of Andorra.



#### How to present a project

The organisations interested in receiving funds from the Interreg Sudoe Programme must submit their project proposals to one of the five calls for proposals that the Programme will launch during the period 2014-2020.

The projects must deal with one among **five priorities of the Programme**, identified as the areas on which transnational cooperation has its strongest impact in the context of Southwest Europe.



#### Who will benefit?

**All citizens:** higher level of well-being with a more developed economy, improved energy efficiency in buildings, better protection against natural risks and reinforced appreciation of their cultural and natural heritage.

**SMEs:** increased profits due to investment in R&D+i, business development initiatives and internationalisation services.

**Researchers and public administrations:** access to new knowledge and resources collaborating with researchers and administrations from other countries and regions.

# Which indicators will prove that objectives have been met?

- Participation of 300 companies and 300 research institutions in cross-border, transnational or interregional projects.
- Creation or support of 33 business development services.
- 1,100 companies will benefit from financial support and 1,100 companies will benefit from non-financial support.
- Creation or support of 22 internationalisation services.
- Development of 12 pilot actions and strategies, as well as 20 tools and services to improve the energy efficiency of the buildings.
- 13.5 million people will benefit from transnational measures of protection against natural risks.
- Development of 12 transnational strategies or action plans for risk prevention and management.
- Support and enhancement of 50 natural areas, enrolled in management processes for sustainable development or preservation of the environment and mitigating the impact of human activities.



# The priority axes

To correct the imbalances

between regions in Southwest Europe in terms of investment in research and innovation and to strengthen the networks in sectors of



excellence.

#### **Research and innovation**

WHY?

Promoting research, technological development, and innovation

#### BENEFICIARIES

Universities, research centres, technological centres, science and technology parks, clusters and other business associations, SMEs and governmental and regional institutions related to R&D+i.



#### **OBJECTIVES**

- 1. Strengthening the synergic and networking cooperation of R+i at a transnational level in the specific Sudoe sectors as from smart specialisation.
- 2. Developing dissemination of applied research related to key enabling technologies (KETs).

- Creation or consolidation of collaboration platforms.
- Increasing participation in European Innovation Partnerships (EIP) and European Technological Platforms (ETP).
- Coordination between the regional smart specialisation strategies.
- Developing models for transferring technology.
- Consolidation of value chains in the field of KETs.
- Developing pilot actions and multi-KET demonstration projects.
- Dissemination of KET technologies at a company level and other R&D+i Infrastructure.
- Application of innovation in order to improve environmental protection.





### **Competitiveness of SMEs**

Promoting the competitiveness and internationalisation of the SMEs of Southwest Europe

# WHY?

Because the productive structure of the Sudoe space is based on SMEs, which are highly relevant in the generating of employment and have a limited capacity for innovation and little access to financing.

#### BENEFICIARIES

#### First objective:

public and private institutions supporting the creation and expansion of companies, public or private institutions with the capacity to provide finance and sectorial representation structures.

#### Second objective:

institutions supporting internationalisation such as chambers of commerce, international business centres, business and commercial associations, public institutions, incubators of exporting companies and clusters.



#### OBJECTIVES

- 1. Developing capacities for the improvement of the environment of SMEs in the Sudoe space.
- 2. Improving and increasing the internationalisation of SMEs.

- Strengthening business support institutions.
- Development of new and innovating services to support business development.
- Promoting entrepreneurship in key sectors.
- Support for finance information activities.
- Creation and consolidation of internationalisation support services and networks.
- Support for the development and internationalisation of inter-business cooperation models.





### Low-carbon economy

Contributing to a higher efficiency of the energy efficiency policies

#### BENEFICIARIES

Public bodies, economic operators, companies, clusters and poles of competitiveness specialising in energy and ICTs applied to building, ecoconstruction or ecological engineering.

# WHY?

Because the construction sector has an important role in the economy of the Sudoe space, whilst the buildings mean near a half of all the energy consumption and they are the origin of 1/3 of the greenhouse gases.



# OBJECTIVE

Improving energy efficiency policies and the use of renewable energy sources in public buildings and housing through the implementation of networks and joint experimentation.

- Stimulating the transferring of innovation and its assessment and application.
- Promoting the modification of the behaviour of decision-makers, economic actors and the general public.
- Creation of observation and analysis tools.
- Support for energy saving projects in public buildings and homes.
- · Actions in favour of the improved use of renewable energy sources in buildings and housing.





# **Combating climate change**

Prevent and manage risks more efficiently

#### BENEFICIARIES

Public bodies, research institutions and business associations or companies specialising in the sectors most affected by the main natural or technological risks.

#### WHY?

Because the geographical characteristics of the Sudoe space, whose territory faces natural risks already present and other potential risks resulting from the impact of climate change. These risks are associated with the scarcity of water resources and high variability of rainfall, which favours the intensification of drought conditions, desertification, soil erosion, forest fires and flooding.



# OBJECTIVE

Improving the coordination and effectiveness of prevention, disasters management and rehabilitation tools of damaged areas.

- Sharing emergency plans.
- Implementing early warning systems.
- Development of transnational risk management tools.
- Creation of tools and methodologies for the regeneration of soil damaged by natural disasters.





# **Environment and resource efficiency**

Protecting the environment and promoting the efficient use of resources

# WHY?

Because the Sudoe space has a marked rural isolation, a great biodiversity and an extremely rich natural and cultural heritage that needs not only to be protected but also to be encouraged as to making use of it and contributing to local development in a sustainable manner.

### **BENEFICIARIES**

Public bodies and economic actors specialized in tourism, environmental sector, improvement of local and regional development, agricultural trade associations and livestock breeders, chambers of commerce, industry and navigation.



# OBJECTIVES

- 1. Improving management methods of common natural and cultural heritage through the implementation of networks and joint experimentation.
- 2. Reinforcing the cooperation of the Sudoe stakeholders of the natural sites through the development and the use of joint methods.

- Encouraging sustainable development and environmental impact mitigation strategies in tourist areas and the economic exploitation of natural areas.
- Improving knowledge of common cultural and natural heritage and the economic potential of natural areas.
- Promoting the internationally recognised tourist products from the natural and cultural heritage.
- Economic valuation of products resulting from the exploitation of forests and natural resources.
- Joint strategies for the protection and restoration of ecosystems and the integrated management of resources and natural areas.
- Improving knowledge.
- The creation of tools for joint/shared work.
- Pilot projects or the carrying out of tasks of ecological engineering designed to establish a network of ecological continuity, including urban and peri-urban areas.



# What changes from SUDOE 2007-2013 Programme?

Based on the experience of the 110 projects approved during the 2007-2013 Programme, the current programming period has decided to concentrate all the investment in projects focused on **competitiveness** and **green and sustainable growth**. The reason is that these axis have higher financial capacity but also that these kind of projects have the strongest impact on the solution of the existing problems in the Sudoe space.

One of the most important novelties of the 2014-2020 Programme is that for the first time it will be open to **companies**, although with limitations. With the exception of large companies, all private for-profit entities can participate in the Programme, yet they cannot be the lead beneficiary. Their co-financing rate will be decided according to the activities they will perform.

#### What is Interreg?

Interreg Sudoe Programme is part of the European territorial cooperation objective, better known as Interreg, which in turn is part of the most important European tool for regional policy: the **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**.

In particular, Interreg Sudoe Programme is one of the 15 programmes of the objective **Interreg B**, which funds transnational cooperation (among regions from different countries). On the other hand, Interreg A supports cross-border cooperation and Interreg C interregional cooperation.



**See also:** you can read all information related to the Programme on the website **www.interreg-sudoe.eu** 

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