



**Interreg**



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**Aurora**

**Get ready to apply for  
funding from Aurora**

Webinar 15 January 2025  
09.00-10.30 (CET)

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# INTERREG AURORA

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Programme Officers

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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.

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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.

 [www.interregaurora.eu/approved-projects](http://www.interregaurora.eu/approved-projects)

**CLIMATE CHANGE  
KNOWS NO  
BORDERS.**

**MOTIVATION  
KNOWS NO  
BORDERS.**

**COMPETENCE  
KNOWS NO  
BORDERS.**

## SUB-AREA AURORA

### FINLAND

Lappi

Pohjois-Pohjanmaa

Keski-Pohjanmaa

Österbotten/Pohjanmaa

Etelä-Pohjanmaa

Kainuu

Pohjois-Karjala

### SVERIGE

Norrbottn

Västerbotten

Västernorrland

### NORGE

Finnmark

Troms

Nordland

## SUB-AREA SÀPMI

### FINLAND

Lappi

Pohjois-Pohjanmaa

Keski-Pohjanmaa

### SVERIGE

Norrbottn

Västerbotten

Västernorrland

Jämtland

Idre Sameby, Dalarna

### NORGE

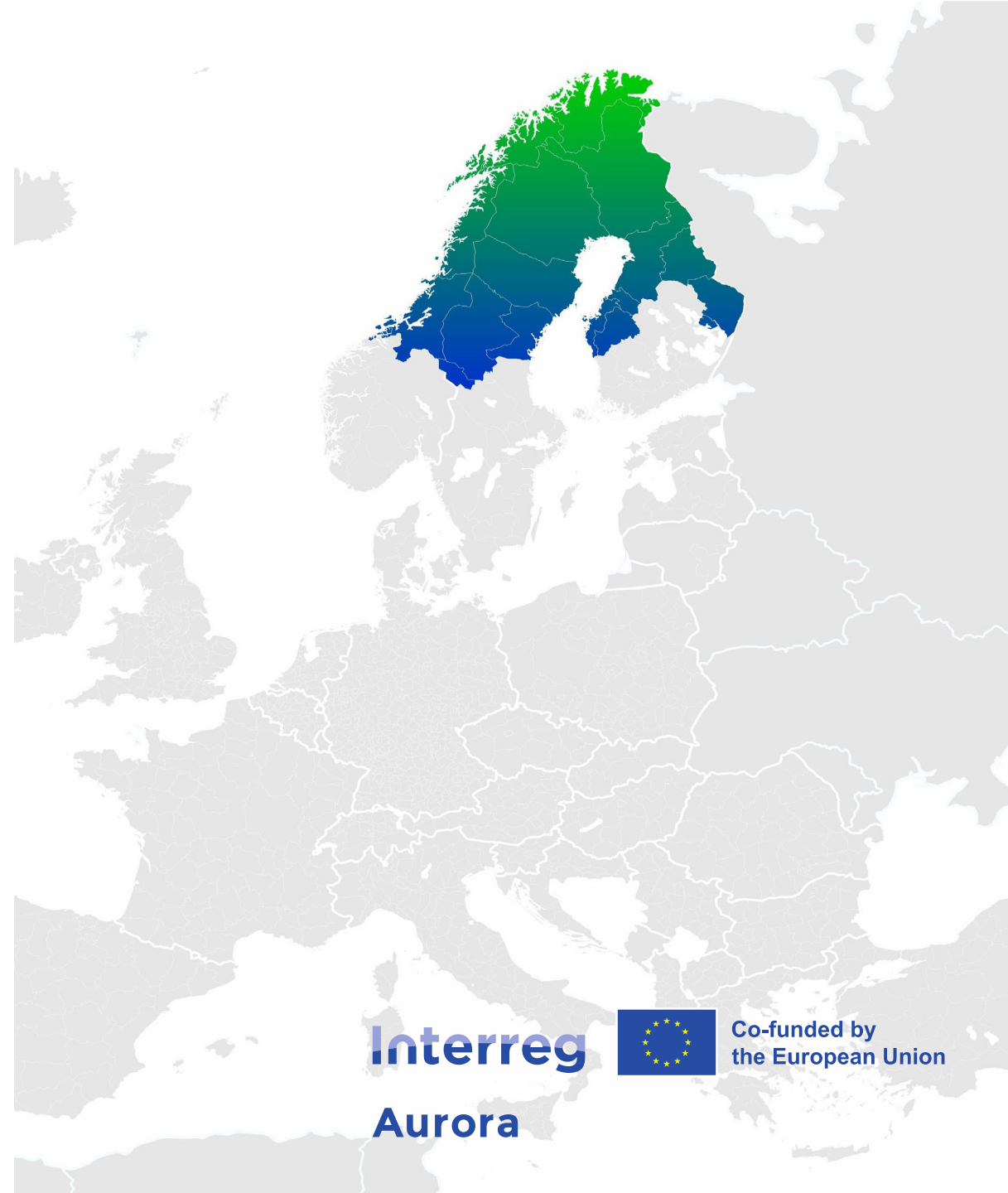
Finnmark

Troms

Nordland

Trøndelag

Innlandet (Elgå Reinbeitedistrikt)



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



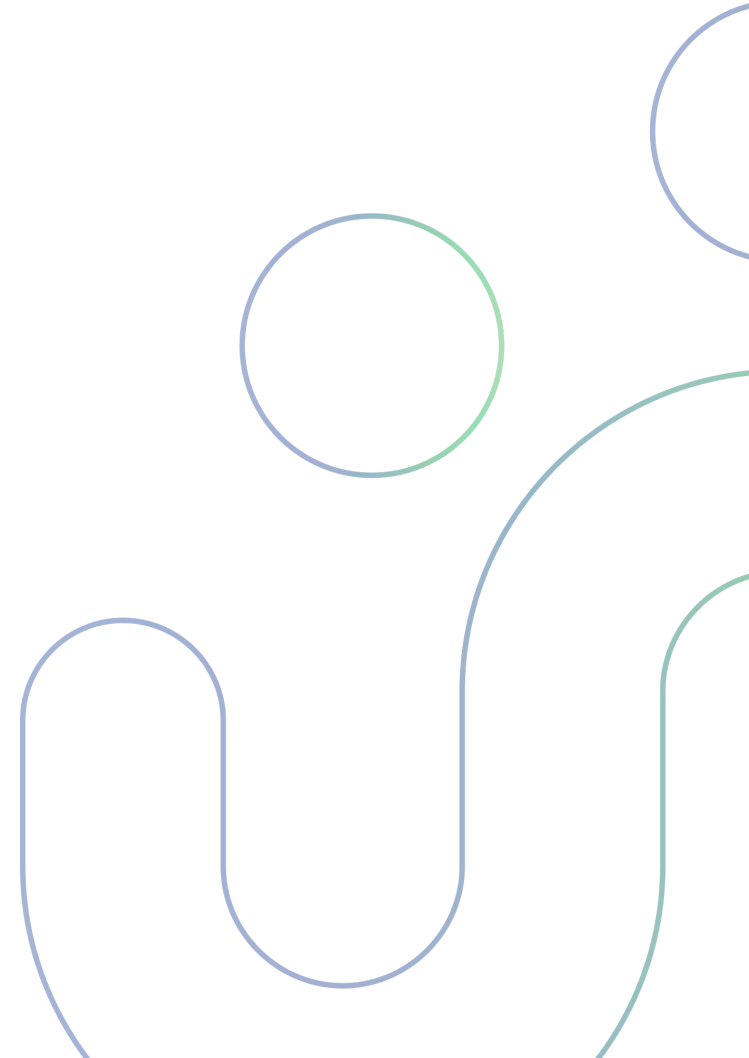


# Upcoming calls

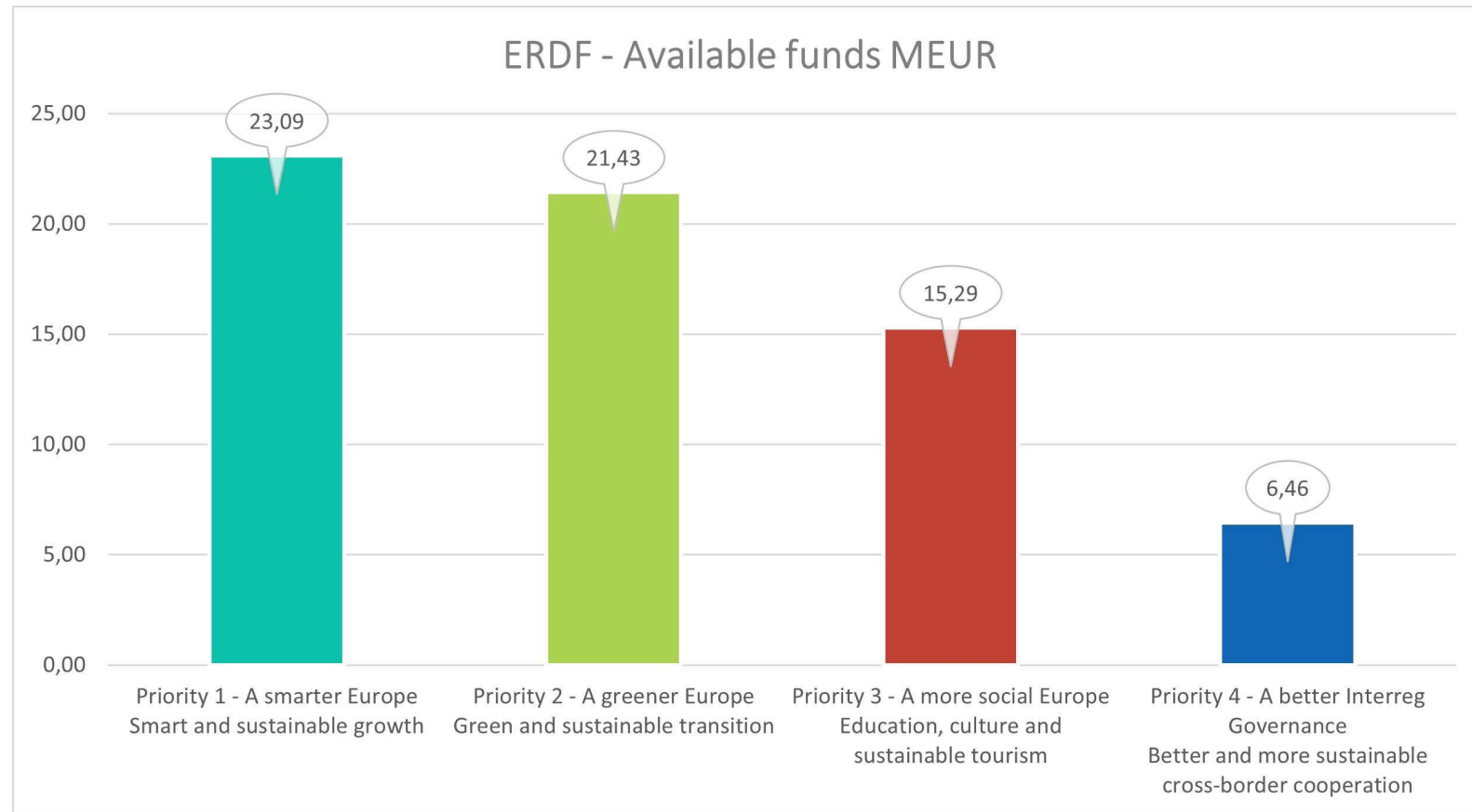
- Call for regular project applications  
**Call 6.** 17 February – 17 March 2025
- Call for small-scale project applications  
**SSP Call 4.** 17 February - 17 March 2025

**IMPORTANT! Terms of reference may differ for each call**

- [www.interregaurora.eu/projects/calls-for-applications/](http://www.interregaurora.eu/projects/calls-for-applications/)



# 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 (31 million NOK).

# Specific for Norwegian partners

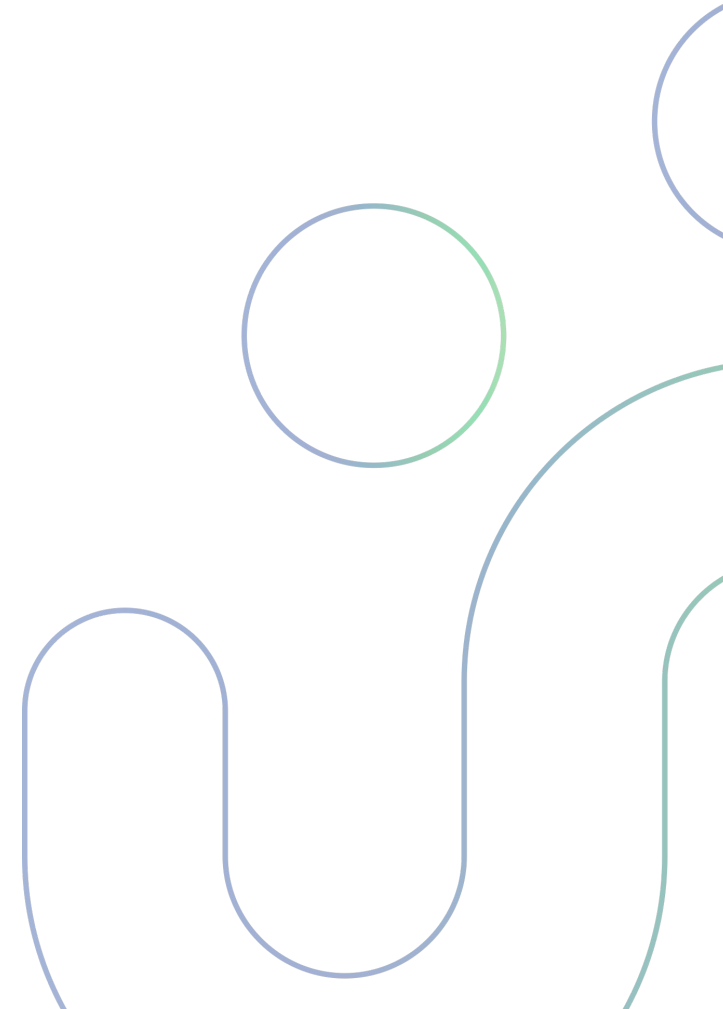
- Partners - Organisation within the programme area except when an organisation have a national responsibility
- Maximum IR support (200 000 Euro)
- Develop a good Interreg Aurora project idea  
- early project idea





# What signifies a good Interreg Aurora project?

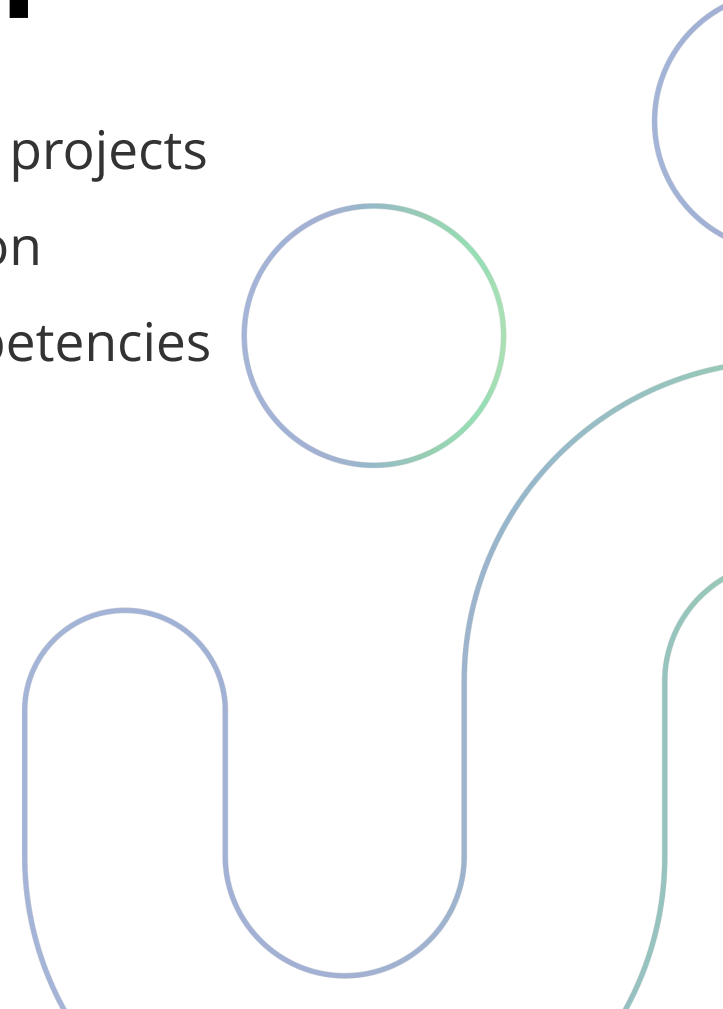
- Cross-border cooperation
- Relevance for the Programme (specific objective)
- Sustainable development
- The partnership (capacity, new partnerships)
- Project logic
- Relevance to target group
- Value for money
- Results (concrete, innovative, lasting, exit strategy, dissemination)
- Additional criteria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



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.**

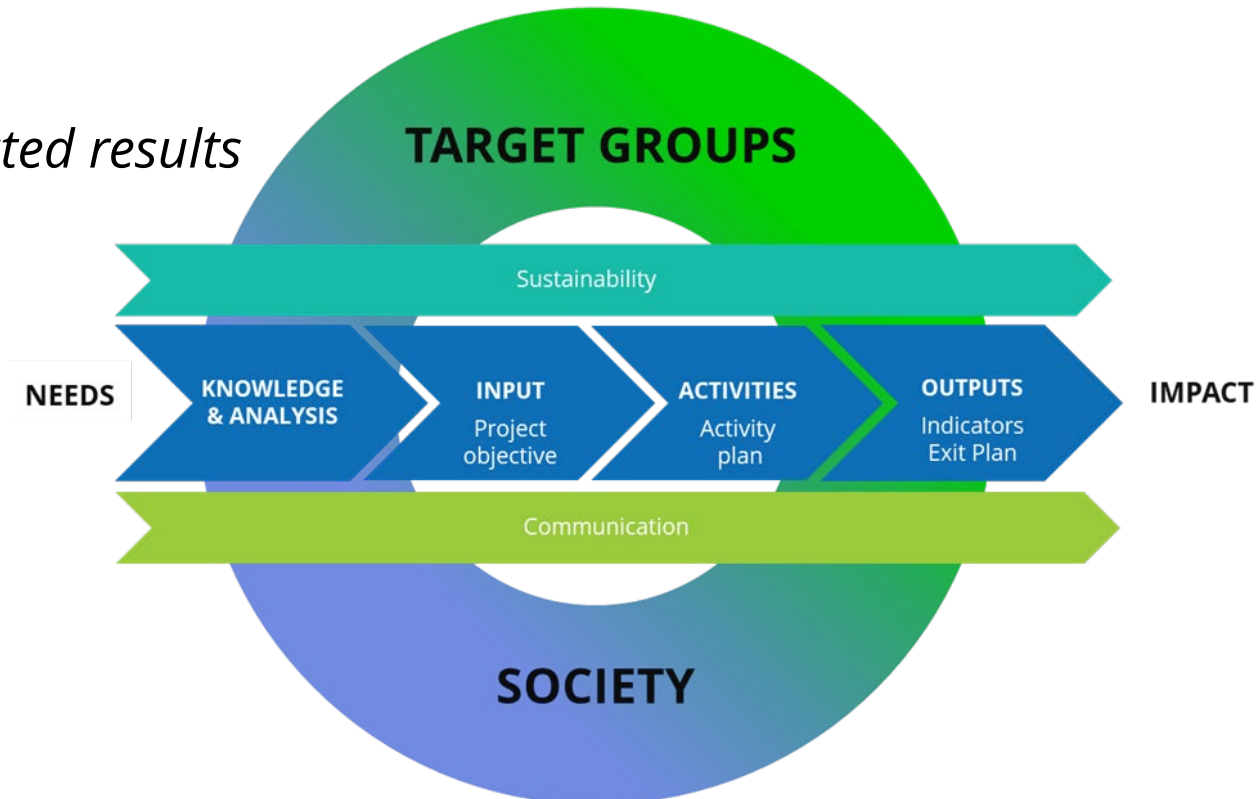


# Project logic

- 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 project management should be specified in each work package. They are NOT separate work packages in your application.**

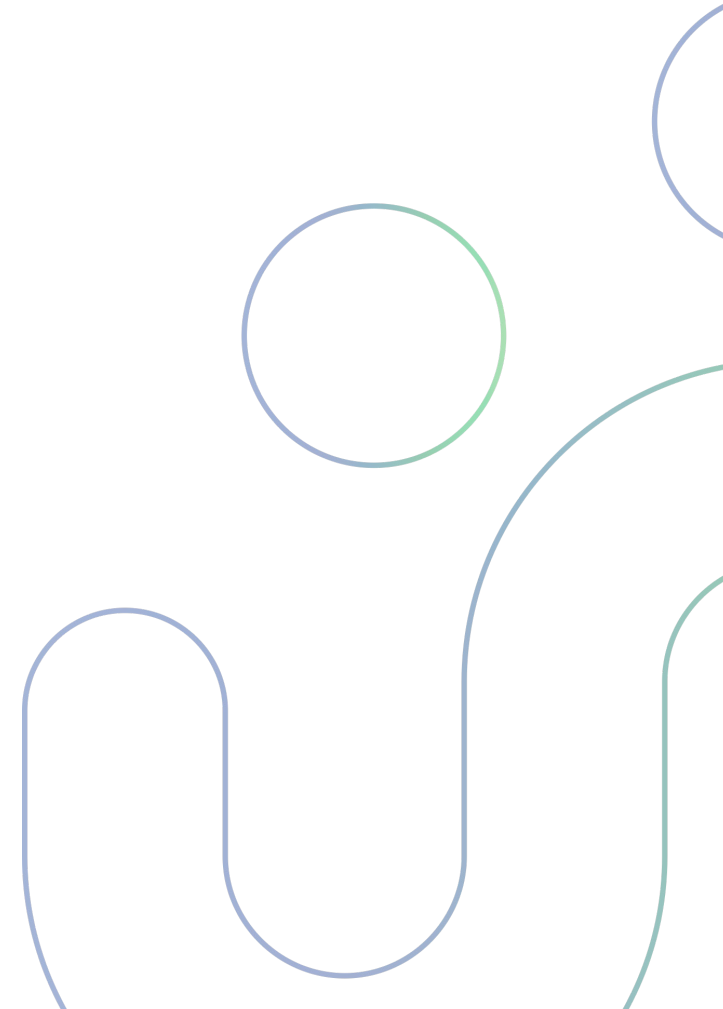


# Sub-area Sápmi

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

# Budget specification

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

Kostnader		
<b>19 Staff cost</b>		
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.



# Get prepared!



[Home](#) > [Support](#) > For project applicants

## 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](#)

## PROGRAMME MANUAL

[Plan your project](#) +

[Apply for a project](#) +

[Implement your project](#) +

[Finish your project](#) +

## TEMPLATES & TUTORIALS

[Templates](#)

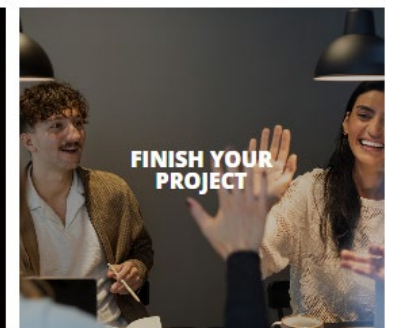
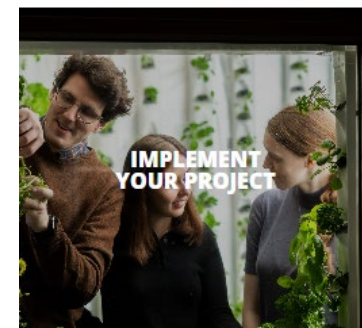
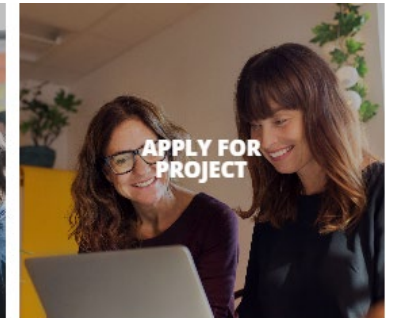
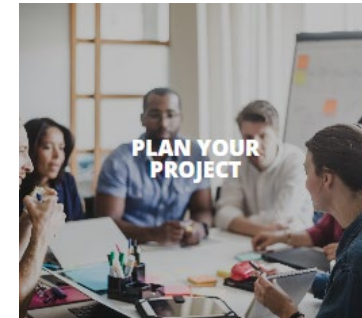
[Tutorials](#)



# Some last important advice!

## *Project idea phase*

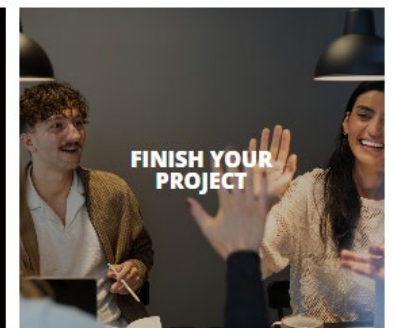
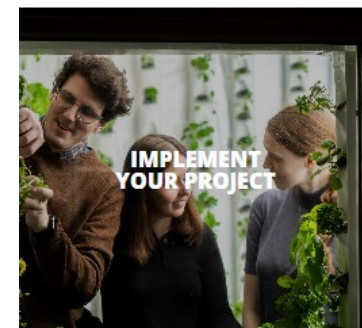
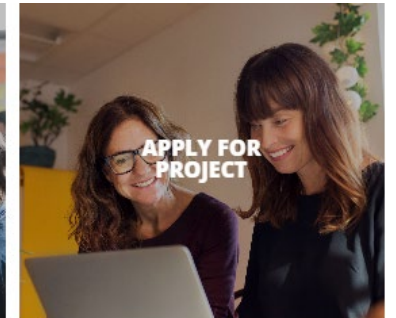
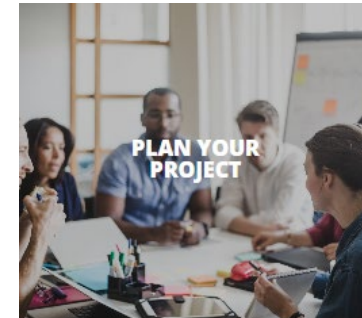
- Involve the target group
- No ordinary business, no double funding
- Regular projects, submit the [Project idea template](#) if you want feedback (Call 6, submit your idea 20 January – 14 February)
- Read the [Calls for applications](#) (Terms of reference might be different for different calls)
- 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 before you send in!



# Networking and Partner search



LinkedIn



New section/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,

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# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



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PEOPLE  
& BEYOND

GREAT IDEAS  
KNOW NO  
BORDERS.

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

# Thank you for your attention!

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

#interregaurora

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# SMALL-SCALE PROJECT



**1. Specific calls for applications**

- Min Ansökan open for approximately 5 weeks.

**2. Assessment in Joint Secretariat**

- approximately 6-8 weeks.

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

**4. Formal decision from Managing Authority**

- approximately within 2 weeks after selection.

**5. Implementation of project**

- normally 6-12 months.

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

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# 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)

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# 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
<p><b>Small-scale</b></p> <p>Total project budget no more than EUR 20 000 per participating country</p>	<p>Staff costs + flat rate 40 %</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>All cost categories (whereof flat rates 15% for Office &amp; admin and 15% for Travel &amp; accom.)</p>	<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>	<p>Agreed lump sum will be paid after approval of the final report</p>
<p><b>Regular project</b></p> <p>Total project budget up to EUR 200 000</p>	<p>Staff costs + flat rate 40 %</p>	<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>	<p>Support share will be paid after reporting of costs and approval of progress/final reports.</p>
<p><b>Regular project</b></p> <p>Total project budget over EUR 200 000</p>	<p>Staff costs + flat rate 40 %</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>All cost categories (whereof flat rates 15% for Office &amp; admin and 15% for Travel &amp; accom.)</p>	<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>• 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>• Only staff costs</li> <li>• No verification needed for costs covered by flat rates</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>	<p>Support share will be paid after reporting of costs and approval of progress/final reports.</p>

# 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](#)

