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Cross-border Co-operation INTERREG/ENI 2014–2020



Ministry of Economic Affairs
and Employment of Finland

**Cross-border Co-operation, Interreg 2014–2020
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The EU supports territorial co-operation on its internal and external borders

As part of its cohesion policy and external policies, the European Union has supported cross-border co-operation with both its member states and third countries since the 1990s. Funded by structural funds, the INTERREG Community Initiative was adopted in 1990, while an effort was made to promote external border co-operation by developing the cross-border co-operation aspects of the Phare and Tacis external policy instruments.

During the previous programme period (2007-2013), cross-border regional co-operation was further strengthened. First, the pilot INTERREG Community Initiative was standardised as a new structural fund objective called European Territorial Co-operation (ETC). However, the already established INTERREG concept remained the unofficial brand of the function. Second, external border co-operation was separated to form its own entity in connection with the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). Part of the funding for this ENPI CBC instrument came from the structural funds, part from the external policy budget.

During the current programme period (2014-2020), activities will continue to build upon the basis established in the previous period. Several ETC programmes have even officially readopted

the INTERREG name. In external border co-operation, ENPI has been replaced by the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), which is used to support, for example, cross-border co-operation (ENI CBC).

During this programme period, Finland is participating in nine ETC/INTERREG programmes and three ENI CBC programmes. ETC/INTERREG programmes were approved in 2014/2015 and launched during 2015. ENI CBC programmes were approved at the end of 2015, but, due to delays in funding agreements, they were not launched until the beginning of 2017.

This brochure presents all twelve ETC/INTERREG and ENI CBC programmes in which Finland is participating. The ETC/INTERREG programme presentations also include examples of projects already approved.

European Territorial Co-operation (ETC) objective 2014–2020

The ETC is an EU structural fund objective, which will receive approximately EUR 10.1 billion (2.8% of all cohesion funding provided).

The objective of ETC is to promote cross-border (A), transnational (B) and interregional (C) co-operation on the Union's internal borders. Funding for external border co-operation is being provided by the ENI and IPA (Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance).

Finland is participating in three A programmes (in total 60 programmes in the EU), two B programmes (15) and all C programmes (4). The A and B programmes and one of the C programmes are also known as INTERREG programmes.

Finnish ETC programmes 2014-2020

Cross-border co-operation programmes (A)

- Nord
- Botnia-Atlantica
- Central Baltic

Transnational co-operation programmes (B)

- Baltic Sea Region
- Northern Periphery and Arctic

Interregional co-operation programmes (C)

- INTERREG EUROPE
- INTERACT III
- URBACT III
- ESPON 2020

Most programmes were approved in December 2014 and the rest in spring/summer of 2015 and the implementation of the new programmes began in 2015.

All programmes are based on or are an extension of programmes from the previous programme period.

New elements compared to the previous programme period:

- Focusing of programme content.

- Each programme should choose no more than four thematic objectives from the list of eleven thematic objectives specified in the regulations.
- More weight given to specifying programme targets and measuring their achievement.
- Simplification of programme and project management, e.g. simplified cost models.
- Transition to electronic management (eCohesion).

Programmes in the Baltic Region (above-mentioned A and B programmes) should also take into consideration and support the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR).

Programme funding

Each country has received funding from the ERDF for A and B programmes (Finland EUR 161.3 million), which it allocates to the programmes in which it is participating (including ENI CBC programmes). Thus, the total EU funding for individual A and B programmes is the sum of contributions made by participating countries. In programme implementation the funding allocated is treated as a whole, without dividing the resources into country-specific quotas. ERDF funding for C programmes is allocated directly from the EU budget.

The share of ERDF funding in projects being funded ranges between 85% and 60%, depending on the programme (and, in some programmes, also on the country). In activities receiving state aid, this share may be smaller. Mandatory national funding can be both public and private (see table).

Finnish project partners may apply for state match funding, which can be used to cover a part of the national funding needed.

Programme priorities

For each programme no more than four priorities have been selected and specific objectives defined for each of them. Key priorities are innovation, entrepreneurship and business (particularly SMEs), the environment and natural resources, and transportation.

Programme administration

Each programme has its own Managing Authority and Audit Authority. With the exception of one programme (Central Baltic), they are located outside Finland.

Each programme has its own Monitoring Committee, in which all countries participating in the programme are represented. In B and C programmes, the Monitoring Committee selects the projects to be funded, while in A programmes the selection is delegated to one or more Steering Committees.

Each programme has a Joint Secretariat--usually in connection with the Managing Authority--and some programmes also have branch offices and/or info/contact points in other participating countries.

Each country is responsible for the First Level Control of ETC programmes. The control system may be centralised or decentralised. In Finland, it is decentralised.

MEAE role in the administration of ETC programmes

The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment:

- acts as the national authority responsible for ETC programmes, but not as a programme Managing Authority
- is represented in the Monitoring Committees of all programmes and serves as the Monitoring Committee chair when it is Finland's turn
- participates (in the Monitoring Committee) in the selection of projects in B and C programmes
- is responsible for granting state match funding to Finnish project partners of ETC programmes. In A programmes, match funding administration is delegated at the regional level.
- is responsible for First Level Control in Finland and the certification of controllers selected by project partners

Further information: <http://www.rakennerahastot.fi/web/en>

Table 1: ETC programme funding 2014-2020 (MEUR)

Programme	EU member states				RU and BY ENI	Other ¹⁾ State funding
	ERDF funding		National funding	ERDF + Natl. funding		
	Total	of which Finland				
Nord	42.0	17.6	23.9	65.9		8.7
Botnia-Atlantica	36.3	12.0	25.0	61.3		3.0
Central Baltic	122.4	32.9	37.9	160.3		
Baltic Sea Region	263.8	29.3	59.2	323.0	8.8	6.0
Northern Periphery and Arctic	50.2	9.5	28.4	78.6		9.0
INTERREG EUROPE	359.3		67.0	426.3		6.0
INTERACT III	39.4		6.9	46.3		
URBACT III	74.3		22.0	96.3		
ESPO 2020	41.4		7.3	48.7		
Total (EUR millions).	1 029.1		277.6	1 306.7		

1) Nord, Botnia-Atlantica, Baltic Sea Region: Norway. Northern Periphery and Arctic: Norway, Iceland, Faroe Islands & Greenland
 INTERREG EUROPE: Norway & Switzerland

Nord

The Nord programme promotes cross-border cooperation between Finland, Sweden and Norway. The programme encompasses the Arctic area of the Nordic countries and the Kola peninsula, and its Arctic nature has been taken into consideration in drafting the programme. The current programme period is the fourth consecutive in the scheme.



PROGRAMME AREA

The programme area includes areas within Finland, Sweden and Norway and is divided into two, partially overlapping sub-areas - sub-area Nord and sub-area Sápmi. The Finnish programme area includes the regions of Lapland, Northern Ostrobothnia and Central Ostrobothnia.

Programme website www.interregnord.com

Programme priority axes

The Programme priority axes and their specific objectives are:

- 1. Research and innovation** (Ability of companies to commercialise innovation and functional capacity of actors in the innovation system have been enhanced)
- 2. Entrepreneurship** (Increased number of SMEs with cross-border business models and increased exports among SMEs)
- 3. Culture and environment** (The region's culture and heritage have become stronger and more vital, Sámi language is strengthened within the Sámi population, conservation status of natural environments is improved, knowledge and expertise on green growth and resource efficiency in the region has increased in the public sector)
- 4. Common labour market** (Cross-border mobility in the labour market has increased, strengthened skills and knowledge development in Sámi enterprises)

Priority axis 4 is a new focal point in this programme period.

Funding

The programme's EU (ERDF) funding is EUR 42.0 million and equivalent Norwegian funding is EUR 17.3 million. The share of EU funding for projects is 65% of the costs eligible for support.

Administration and application for funding

The County Administrative Board of Norrbotten serves as the Managing Authority of the programme. The Joint Secretariat is located in Luleå (sub-area Nord) and Kiruna (sub-area Sápmi). The Finnish infopoint is located in Rovaniemi at the Regional Council of Lapland.

Several application rounds for funding are held during the programme period. Projects applying for funding must include partners from at least two countries participating in the programme. The project lead partner (main support beneficiary) must be from an EU member state. Programme funding may also be sought for exploratory projects.

Project examples

CMT (P1)

The objective of the project is to improve the international competitiveness of SMEs in the region by investing in modern surface treatment technologies (CMT + laser) and their development. The region's mining, offshore and processing industry has demand for new material innovations.

- Lead partner: Centria University of Applied Sciences. Other partners: Luleå University of Technology (Sweden) and University of the Arctic (Norway).
- Total costs: EUR 1.5 million, of which the EU covers EUR 0.7 million.

Visit Arctic Europe (P2)

The objective of the project is to improve cross-border networking and co-operation, thus resulting in a common, internationally-renowned tourism region in Northern Scandinavia. The project will work to improve accessibility, engage in joint tourism marketing and develop new products and shared product packages that meet the demands of foreign tourists.

- Lead partner: Finnish Lapland Tourist Board ry. Other partners: Swedish Lapland Visitors Board and Northern Norway Tourist Board
- Total costs: EUR 6.5 million, of which the EU covers EUR 2.8 million.

Giallagáldu (P3)

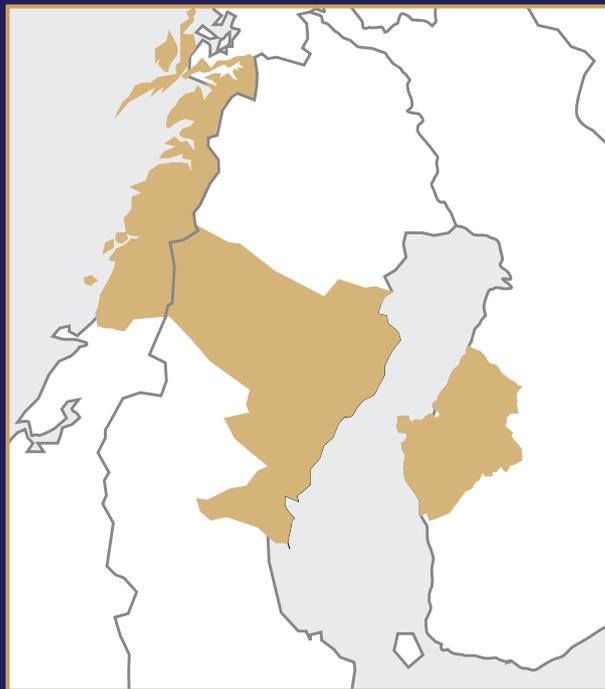
The objective of the project is to establish the operations of Sámi Giellagáldu as a Nordic centre for Sámi information and registers. It is also to strengthen and increase the use of the Sámi language in all arenas where language is used as well as strengthen and promote Sámi cultural traditions.

- Lead partner: Finnish Sámi Parliament. Other partners: Swedish and Norwegian Sámi Parliaments.
- Total costs: EUR 3.1 million, of which the EU covers EUR 0.9 million.

For more information, visit the programme website

Botnia-Atlantica

The Botnia-Atlantica programme promotes cross-border cooperation between Finland, Sweden and Norway. The first corresponding INTERREG programme (called Kvarken-MittSkandia) was launched in 1997 and the current programme period is the fourth consecutive in the scheme.



PROGRAMME AREA

The programme area includes areas within Finland, Sweden and Norway. The Finnish programme area includes the regions of Ostrobothnia, Central Ostrobothnia and Southern Ostrobothnia. The region of Satakunta, which participated during the previous programme period, has been transferred to the Central Baltic programme.

Programme website www.botnia-atlantica.eu

Programme priority axes

The Programme priority axes and their specific objectives are:

1. **Innovation** (competence centres, innovative solutions)
2. **Business** (cross-border business co-operation)
3. **Environment** (sustainable utilisation of natural and cultural heritage, readiness for handling environmental challenges in marine, coastal and mountain areas as well as estuarine areas)
4. **Transport** (objectives and strategies connected to East-West traffic)

Priority axis 4 is quite small in terms of funding and focuses on the drafting of common objectives and strategies.

Funding

The programme's EU (ERDF) funding is EUR 36.4 million and equivalent Norwegian funding is EUR 6.0 million. The share of EU funding for projects is 60 % of the costs eligible for support.

Administration and application for funding

The County Administrative Board of Västerbotten serves as the Managing Authority of the programme. The Joint Secretariat is located in Umeå and the Finnish office is located at the Regional Council of Ostrobothnia in Vaasa.

Several application rounds for funding are held during the programme period. Projects applying for funding must include partners from at least two countries participating in the programme. The project lead partner (main support beneficiary) must be from an EU member state.

Project examples

Renovation Center / A Nordic Center for Energy Efficient Renovations (P1)

The objective of the project is to increase the number of skilled professionals needed to perform resource and energy efficient renovations within the programme area. In order to achieve this objective, the "Nordic Renovation Center", a Nordic knowledge network, will be established.

- Lead partner: Novia University of Applied Sciences. In addition three partners from Finland, three from Sweden and one from Norway
- Total costs: EUR 1.8 million, of which the EU covers EUR 0.9 million.

Cleantech Kvarken (P2)

The objective of the project is to strengthen the pre-conditions for small and medium sized enterprises in the cleantech sector to do business on national and international markets by establishing cross-border co-operation between cities, municipalities and publicly owned companies, increasing the cooperation between the cleantech companies in the regions, executing joint export initiatives to markets both inside and outside the Nordic countries as well as attracting investments and establishment of new companies to the regions.

- Lead partner: Kompetensspridning i Umeå AB. In addition one partner from Sweden and two from Finland (Oy Merinova Ab, Vaasa Region Development Company, VASEK)
- Total costs: EUR 1.3 million, of which the EU covers EUR 0.8 million.

Spotlight High-Low Coast (P3)

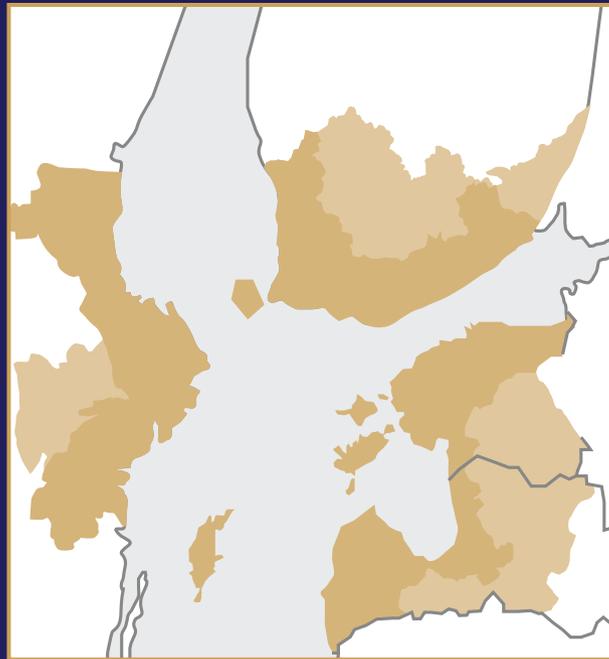
The objective of the project is to create product packages and marketing material to attract more visitors to the High Coast/Kvarken Archipelago World Heritage Site and the surrounding regions.

- Lead partner: Kvarken Council. In addition two partners from Sweden and one from Finland (Vaasa Region Development Company, VASEK)
- Total costs: EUR 0.75 million, of which the EU covers EUR 0.45 million.

For more information, visit the programme website

Central Baltic

The Central Baltic Programme is a cross-border co-operation programme between Finland, Sweden, Estonia, Latvia and Åland. The current programme period is the second consecutive in the scheme.



PROGRAMME AREA

The programme area includes areas from Finland, Sweden and Latvia and Estonia in its entirety. The Mainland Finland programme area includes the regions of Satakunta, Southwest Finland, Uusimaa, Kymenlaakso, Pirkanmaa, Kanta-Häme, Päijät-Häme and South Karelia. The regions of Satakunta and Pirkanmaa were added to the programme area during this programme period. The programme area also includes the region of Åland, which is participating in this programme as an independent actor. The programme area is divided into core areas and peripheral areas. The projects being funded must benefit core areas first.

The programme consists of three sub-programmes: Central Baltic (entire programme area), Southern Finland – Estonia (Finnish and Estonian programme area) and Archipelago and Islands (archipelago areas in Finland, Sweden and Estonia).

Programme website www.centralbaltic.eu

Programme priority axes

The Programme priority axes and their specific objectives are:

1. **Competitive economy** (new knowledge-intensive companies, more entrepreneurial youth, more company exports to new markets)
2. **Sustainable use of common resources** (natural and cultural resources developed into sustainable tourist attractions, sustainably planned and managed marine and coastal areas, better urban planning, reduced nutrients, hazardous substances and toxins inflows into the Baltic Sea)
3. **Well-connected region** (improved transport flows of people and goods, improved services of existing small ports)
4. **Skilled and socially inclusive region** (more people benefiting from stronger communities, more aligned vocational education and training programmes)

Project examples

RIBS / Rolling Images in Business Startups (P1, Archipelago and Islands)

The objective is to develop young people's knowledge about entrepreneurship and media literacy by engaging them in cross-border entrepreneurship courses, local and international workshops and exchange possibilities for students, teachers and coaches.

- Lead partner: City of Pargas, In total six partners from Finland, Sweden and Estonia.
- Total costs: EUR 1.8 million, of which the EU covers EUR 1.4 million

Lights On! (P2, Southern Finland and Estonia)

The project is based on the constant interaction of Estonian and Finnish culture since prehistoric times. The project will design and package eight historical sites into attractive tourist attractions, by improving visitor experience, on-site services, creating joint marketing tools and developing new, innovative products.

- Lead partner: Metsähallitus, State Forest Enterprise, Parks and Wildlife Finland. In total four partners from Finland and Estonia
- Total costs: EUR 1.9 million, of which the EU covers EUR 1.5 million

Funding

The programme's EU (ERDF) funding is EUR 122.4 million. The share of EU funding for projects varies by country and, in Finland, is 75% of the costs eligible for support.

Administration and application for funding

The Regional Council of Southwest Finland serves as the Managing Authority of the programme. The Joint Secretariat is located in Turku. In addition, there is a contact point in each of the participating countries. The Finnish contact point is located in Helsinki at the Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council.

Several application rounds for funding are held during the programme period. Funding can be sought for regular projects or small projects. Projects applying for funding must include partners from at least two countries participating in the programme.

30Miles (P3, Southern Finland and Estonia)

The objective of the project is to improve the overall service level and safety in small ports and waterfront areas. The purpose is to organise a network of small ports located around the Eastern Gulf of Finland in an effort to develop sustainable port services and marketing activities.

- Lead partner: Kotka Maritime Research Centre (Merikotka). In total eleven partners from Finland and Estonia
- Total costs: EUR 3.3 million, of which the EU covers EUR 2.6 million

Let us be active! (P4, Central Baltics, small project)

The objective of the project is to decrease social exclusion and loneliness among older people in Estonia, Finland and Latvia through involving them in voluntary work. The project will draft guidelines for social and health care workers to promote and support the voluntarism of senior citizens.

- Lead partner: Baltic Region Healthy Cities Association. In total four partners from Finland, Estonia and Latvia
- Total costs: EUR 0.3 million, of which the EU covers EUR 0.2 million

Baltic Sea Region

The Interreg Baltic Sea Region programme involves the transnational co-operation of eleven countries. The current programme period is the fourth consecutive in the scheme. Since the previous programme period, the programme has played a key role in the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR).



PROGRAMME AREA

The EU programme area includes Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland in their entirety as well as northern areas of Germany. The non-EU programme area includes Norway and Belarus in their entirety as well as northwestern areas of Russia.

Programme website www.interreg-baltic.eu

Programme priority axes

The Programme priority axes and their specific objectives are:

1. **Capacity for innovation** (research and innovation infrastructures, smart specialisation and non-technological innovations)
2. **Management of natural resources** (clean waters, renewable energy, energy-efficiency, “blue growth”)
3. **Sustainable transport** (linking different transport modes, accessibility of remote areas, maritime safety, environmentally-friendly shipping, environmentally-friendly mobility in urban areas)
4. **Support for implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)**

Priority axes 1-3 are closely related to the focus areas of the EUSBSR. Priority area 4 directly supports implementation of the EUSBSR, by funding administration of the strategy and preparing projects in accordance with it (seed money).

Funding

The programme’s EU (ERDF) funding is EUR 263.8 million and equivalent Norwegian funding is EUR 6.0 million. EUR 8.8 million in ENI funding has been earmarked for Russia and Belarus, subject to signing of separate financial agreements.

The share of EU funding for projects in priority axes 1-3 varies by country and, in Finland, is 75% of the costs eligible for support. The share of EU funding for projects in priority area 4 is 85 % of the costs eligible for support.

Administration and application for funding

Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein serves as the Managing Authority of the programme. The main office of the Joint Secretariat is located in Rostock, Germany and the branch office in Riga, Latvia.

Funding application rounds are held for priority axes 1-3. Projects applying for funding must include partners from at least three countries participating in the programme. The main applicant must be from an EU member state or Norway. Separate application rounds for the funding of priority area 4 projects are held for specific target groups.

Project examples

BSN / Baltic Science Network (P1)

The project will establish a political co-ordination framework, whose aim is to support the realisation of the European Research Area (ERA). The objective is to increase research and innovation performance.

- Lead partner: Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg. In total 15 partners from eight countries; Finnish partners: University of Turku and Åbo Akademi.
- Total costs: EUR 2.9 million, of which the EU covers EUR 2.3 million.

WAMBAF / Water management in Baltic forests (P2)

The basis of the project is the importance of riparian forests and wetlands in the Baltic Sea catchment area. Forestry activities increase the nutrient and hazardous substance load in watersheds and small bodies of water. The project will initiate co-operation between countries in the Baltic Sea catchment area toward development of forestry water protection. The practical application of project results is an essential part of the project.

- Lead partner: Swedish Forest Agency. In total 9 partners from five countries; Finnish partners: Natural Resources Institute Finland and Metsähallitus, State Forest Enterprise.
- Total costs: EUR 2.9 million, of which the EU covers EUR 2.3 million.

NSB CoRe / North Sea Baltic connector of regions (TI 3)

The objective of the project is to improve the sustainable accessibility of the Eastern Baltic Sea Region (EBSR) to freight and passenger transport from a regional and urban standpoint as well as the measures taken to achieve this. The project will develop a vision for transportation and regional development, which combines lower level TEN-T core network corridor (CNC) links and emphasises the accessibility of border areas.

- Lead partner: Regional Council of Uusimaa. In total 16 partners from six countries. Finnish partners also include the City of Helsinki, City of Hämeenlinna, Kvarken Council and Techvilla Oy.
- Total costs: EUR 3.3 million, of which the EU covers EUR 2.6 million.

For more information, visit the programme website

Northern Periphery and Arctic

The Northern Periphery and Arctic transnational programme promotes co-operation between nine programme partner countries. The current programme period is the fourth consecutive in the scheme. The programme's Arctic dimension was more explicitly recognised during the 2014–2020 programme period.



PROGRAMME AREA

The programme area includes areas in Finland, Sweden, Norway, Scotland and Ireland as well as Northern Ireland, Iceland, the Faroe Islands and Greenland in their entirety. The Finnish programme area includes the regions of Lapland, Northern Ostrobothnia, Kainuu, North Karelia, Pohjois-Savo, Etelä-Savo, Central Finland and Central Ostrobothnia. The aim is to also bring in actors from northwestern Russia and northeastern Canada.

Programme website www.interreg-npa.eu



Programme priority axes

The Programme priority axes and their specific objectives are:

1. **Innovation** (increased innovation and transfer of R&D, increased innovation in the provision of public services)
2. **Entrepreneurship** (improved support systems for SMEs, greater market reach)
3. **Renewables and energy efficiency** (increased use of energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions in housing and public infrastructure)
4. **Natural and cultural heritage** (increased capacity for sustainable environmental management in remote and sparsely populated areas)

Funding

The programme's EU (ERDF) funding is EUR 50.2 million and equivalent funding for non-EU countries (Norway, Iceland, Greenland, Faroe Islands) is approximately EUR 9 million. The share of EU funding for projects is 65% of the costs eligible for support (no more than 50% for SMEs).

Administration and application for funding

The County Administrative Board of Västerbotten serves as the Managing Authority of the programme. The Joint Secretariat is located in Copenhagen. Each programme partner country has a Regional Advisory Group (RAG), which issues opinions on project applications, and a Regional Contact Point (RCP), which provides information and advice to the applicants from each respective country. The Finnish RCP is located at the Regional Council of Lapland.

Several application rounds for funding are held during the programme period. Projects applying for funding must include partners from at least three countries participating in the programme. Both public and private actors are suitable as project partners, but only public actors from EU member states, Norway and Iceland may serve as project lead partners.

Furthermore, funding for preparatory projects may be applied for on a continuous basis.

Project examples

Rye Connect (P2)

The project will enhance the entrepreneurship of youths in the programme area and its international potential. The opening of broader markets and networks to local business and innovation is key. During the project, a region-wide channel for maximising the business ideas and innovations of youths and their potential will be created, including timely expert and investor expertise.

- Lead partner: Kajaani University of Applied Sciences. In total 4 partners from three countries
- Total budget: EUR 1.8 million, of which the EU covers EUR 0.9 million.

e-Lighthouse (P3)

The aim of the project is to increase energy savings by influencing building renovation, higher quality of new construction, more efficient lighting and waste recovery. The project consortium consists of cities committed to the Covenant of Mayors energy efficiency campaign from participating countries. The project will produce a handbook and guide on the use of sustainable development and renewable forms of energy in the municipal sector.

- Lead partner: Oulu University of Applied Sciences. In total 10 partners from six countries
- Total budget: EUR 2.0 million, of which the EU covers EUR 1.3 million.

REGINA (P4)

The project target areas are, in particular, sparsely populated areas, in which large-scale investments are currently being made. For such regions and municipalities, it is often difficult to find the right solutions to balance the challenges and opportunities brought about by investments. The project aims to promote the development of a new kind of operating model, in which RDI organisations and regional/local development organisations seek solutions together.

- Lead partner: Nordregio. In total 12 partners from five countries; Finnish partners: Municipality of Sodankylä and University of Lapland
- Total budget: EUR 2.0 million, of which the EU covers EUR 1.2 million.

For more information, visit the programme website

INTERREG EUROPE

The **INTERREG EUROPE programme** promotes co-operation among public and public-equivalent bodies in improving the objectives of regional development and influence of programme work. It offers organisations located all over Europe an opportunity to exchange experiences and views on the effectiveness of public policies. The programme is an extension of the 2007-2013 INTERREG IVC programme.

Programme area

The programme encompasses the entire EU. Norway and Switzerland also participate in the programme.

Programme priority axes

1. Research, technological development and innovation
2. SME competitiveness
3. Low-carbon economy
4. Environment and resource efficiency

The programme funds two types of projects:

1. interregional co-operation projects (approximately 95% of all programme project funding)
2. policy learning platforms for each of the four priority axes

Funding

The programme's EU (ERDF) funding is EUR 359.3 million. The share of EU funding for projects is 85% of the costs eligible for support for public and public-equivalent bodies and 75% of the costs eligible for support for private, not-for-profit actors. Norway and Switzerland provide approximately EUR 3 million of their own programme funding.

Administration and application for funding

France's Conseil Régional Nord – Pas de Calais serves as the Managing Authority of the programme. The Joint Secretariat is located at the Managing Authority in Lille, France.

Open calls for funding applications are held. Projects applying for funding must include partners from at least three countries. At least two of these partners must be from EU member states and receive funding from the INTERREG EUROPE programme.

Programme website www.interregeurope.eu

INTERREG EUROPE Project examples

Industrial Symbiosis for Regional Sustainable Growth and a Resource Efficient Circular Economy (SYMBI)

SYMBI's general objective is to empower regions to build sustainable economies, resilient to environmental pressures and climate change. SYMBI supports the transition towards a resource-efficient economy through industrial symbiosis. This is done by establishing territorial synergies to manage waste and exchange energy & by-products as secondary raw resources.

- The project partner countries are Spain, Poland, Italy, Slovenia, Greece, Hungary and Finland. The Lead partner of the project is from Spain (Foundation FUNDECYT Scientific and Technological Park of Extremadura). The Finnish partners are the Regional Council of Häme and Häme University of Applied Sciences.
- The total budget is approximately EUR 1.6 million, with approximately EUR 1.36 million from the EU.
- Further information in Finland: arto.saarinen@hame.fi

Building Innovative Food Value Chains in Regions (NICHE)

The objective of the project is to promote the innovation of food chains in regions where the food industry is a key theme.

Common denominators among the project partners are the importance of the food industry to the region, increasing research and innovations in an industry with growth potential, and a desire to learn and share experiences with other European regions.

The project aims to influence the aspect of regional strategy that deals with sustainable food systems and new bioeconomy solutions. The purpose of the project is also to identify, analyse, disseminate and duplicate good practices and strategic measures used at the regional and local levels.

- The project partner countries are Romania, Ireland, Great Britain, Estonia, Poland, Greece, and Finland. The Lead partner of the project is from Romania (Regional Development Agency of the West Region Romania - WDA) The Finnish partner is the Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia.
- The total budget is approximately EUR 1.3 million, with approximately EUR 1.1 million from the EU.
- Further information in Finland: sanna.inkeri@etela-pohjanmaa.fi

INTERACT III

INTERACT III is primarily a network exchange programme for promoting the implementation and operational development of ETC programmes. In certain respects, the INTERACT III programme also supports ENI CBC programmes. The objective is to support actors working in the above-mentioned programmes so that they can be carried out more effectively and efficiently.

Programme area

INTERACT III encompasses the entire EU. Norway and Switzerland also participate in the programme.

Programme objectives

- To improve management and control capacity of ETC programmes
- To improve ETC capacity in capturing and communicating the programme results
- To improve the cooperation management capacity to implement innovative approaches

Funding

The programme's public funding during the programme period is a total of EUR 46.3 million, of which approximately EUR 39.3 million is EU funding.

Administration

The Bratislava Self-governing Region in Slovakia serves as the Managing Authority of the programme. The Joint Secretariat is located at the Managing Authority in Bratislava. The programme has four regional offices: Turku, Viborg (Denmark), Vienna (Austria) and Valencia (Spain). The Turku office is located in the Southwest Finland Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment.

Programme website www.interact-eu.net

Turku office ip.turku@interact-eu.net

URBACT III

The objective of the **URBACT III programme** is to work together and develop integrated solutions to common urban challenges, by networking, learning from one another's experiences, drawing lessons and identifying good practices to improve urban policies. The programme is a tool for cities to participate in networking and exchanging experiences in various urban development themes with other European cities.

Programme area

The programme includes EU member states and Norway and Switzerland.

Programme objectives and themes

1. Improve the capacity of cities to manage sustainable urban policies and practices in an integrated and participative way
2. Improve the design of sustainable urban policies and practices in cities.
3. Improve the implementation of integrated and sustainable urban strategies and actions in cities.
4. Ensure that practitioners and decision makers at all levels have access to knowledge and share know-how on all aspects of sustainable urban development in order to improve urban development policies.

The urban topics of the programme, around which the co-operative networks are built, are integrated urban development, economy, environment, governance and inclusion.

Funding

The programme's public funding during the programme period is a total of EUR 96.3 million, of which approximately EUR 74.3 million is EU funding. Norway and Switzerland also contribute to the programme funding. The share of EU funding in developed areas (incl. Finland) is 70% of the costs eligible for support.

Administration

France's General Commissariat for Territorial Equality (CGET) serves as the Managing Authority of the programme. The Joint Secretariat is also located in France. The Secretariat has set up National URBACT Points (NUP). The University of Eastern Finland Spatia Centre for Regional Research serves as the info-point for Finland.

Open calls for funding applications are held. These calls are announced on the programme website.

Programme website <http://urbact.eu>

ESPON 2020

ESPON 2020 (European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion) is a programme that focuses on the provision of regional information and its research. The programme supports implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy, other sectoral policies and programmes by producing, analysing and disseminating research and other information related to the balanced development of the European territory.

Programme area

The programme includes EU member states and Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

Programme objectives and themes

- Continued production of territorial evidence (52% of funding)
- Upgraded knowledge transfer and analytical user support (21% of funding)
- Improved territorial observation and tools for territorial analyses (12% of funding)
- Wider outreach and uptake of territorial evidence (15% of funding)
- Leaner, effective and efficient implementation provisions and proficient programme assistance (6% of funding)

The programme pays special attention to the use of territorial evidence in policy preparation and implementation for different sectors and at different regional levels.

Funding

The programme's public funding during the programme period is a total of EUR 48.7 million, of which approximately EUR 41.4 million is EU funding. In addition, Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein also contribute to the programme funding.

Administration

The Finnish national contact point operates under Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment. Further information: hanna-maria.urjankangas@tem.fi

The European Grouping on Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) was established to act as the Single Beneficiary and source programme contributors for implementation of the programme.

Programme website www.espon.eu

European Neighbourhood Instrument cross-border co-operation programmes 2014–2020 (ENI CBC)

The European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) is the funding instrument of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). Its target countries are the ENP partner countries and Russia. The instrument is used to support European Neighbourhood Instrument Cross-Border Co-operation (ENI CBC). Finland participates in three ENI CBC programmes:

- Kolarctic (Finland-Sweden-Norway-Russia)
- Karelia (Finland and Russia)
- South-East Finland-Russia (Finland and Russia)

The basis for these programmes was the 2007–2013 European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument Cross-Border Co-operation (ENPI CBC) programmes carried out on the eastern border of Finland.

The ENI CBC has three (3) overarching strategic objectives:

1. promote economic and social development in regions on both sides of common borders
2. address common challenges in environment, public health, safety and security
3. promotion of better conditions and modalities for ensuring the mobility of persons, goods and capital

Direct people-to-people contact is a horizontal principle, which is used to support implementation of the three overarching strategic objectives mentioned above.

An agreement on the ENI CBC programme areas was reached in negotiations between the countries in question and the European Commission. The countries and regions participating in the programmes determine the programme content within the parameters specified in EU regulations. The European Commission approved the programmes in December 2015. Beginning the implementation of programmes still requires programme-specific funding agreements, which were signed by the end of 2016.

Programme funding

The European Commission has confirmed the following programme-specific figures for the total amount of funding to be granted to action programmes between Finland and Russia during the 2014–2020 programme period:

- Kolarctic: EUR 24.7 million.
- Karelia: EUR 21.5 million.
- South-East Finland-Russia: EUR 36.2 million.

Consequently, the confirmed EU funding for these programmes totals EUR 82.4 million. Furthermore, an additional EUR 55.6 million (Kolarctic EUR 20.7 million, Karelia 16.2 million and South-East Finland – Russia EUR 18.7 million) in EU allocations may be granted for the period 2018–2020 on the basis of programme progress and Commission mid-term reviews in 2017.

Table 2: Funding of ENI CBC programmes in different regions (MEUR)

ENI CBC programme	EU funding	Russian funding	Finnish/Swedish funding	Norwegian funding	Funding total
Kolarctic	24.7	12.4	12.4	14	63.4
Karelia	21.5	10.8	10.8		43
South-East Finland-Russia	36.2	18.1	18.1		72.3
Total	82.4	41.3	41.3	14	178.7

The EUR 7 million earmarked by the Norwegian government for the Kolarctic programme can be matched with EU funding. These funds and the equivalent match funding in Norwegian regions can be used to fund the participation of Norwegian actors in programme projects. EU support may not be granted to Norwegian beneficiaries or bilateral projects between Norway and Russia.

EU member states participating in programmes and the Russian Federation have agreed to allocate state co-funding to the programmes that is equal to the EU funding. The confirmed programme funding framework is shown in table 2.

Administration and project selection

The same decentralised management model used during the 2007-2013 programme period is used for ENI CBC programmes. A mutually agreed Managing Authority is responsible for the management and implementation of the programme. The Regional Council of Lapland serves as the Managing Authority of the Kolarctic programme, the Council of Oulu Region serves as the Managing Authority of the Karelia programme and the Regional Council of South Karelia serves as the Managing Authority of the South-East Finland-Russia programme.

EU funding is paid directly from the Commission to the Managing Authority. The programme Managing Authorities also administer the national share of funding of Finland and Russia. Sweden and Norway grant their own national funding directly to their respective actors.

The Monitoring Committee is a key programme body. The Committee consists of an equal number of members from all participating countries. Members represent programme areas and the central governments of countries participating in the programmes. The European Commission representative is invited to meetings in an advisory capacity.

The Monitoring Committee appoints a Selection Committee (SC) for the Karelia and South-East Finland-Russia programmes. The SC assesses the suitability of projects for the programme and EU funding. As with the Monitoring Committee, the SC consists of an equal number of members from all participating countries. SC members represent regional organisations and national authorities.

The Monitoring Committee makes the final decisions regarding the selection of projects to receive funding by confirming the SC assessment. Decisions in the MC and SC are made unanimously.

The Monitoring Committee of the Kolarctic programmes appoints a Regional Assessor Group (RAG) for each participating country. These four groups assess all project plans submitted in applications and their suitability for the programme, and they make their recommendation on the granting of funding. The Monitoring Committee makes the final decisions on the selection of projects to receive funding. The RAG and Monitoring Committee decisions are made unanimously.

Projects and applicants

ENI CBC programme projects receiving funding must have partners from both EU member states and Russia. The partnership requirements vary by programme. Each project must have a lead partner, which submits applications, makes grant contracts on behalf of all partners, and assumes overarching responsibility for project completion and reporting. Requirements concerning the legal status of partners must be ensured for the programme in question.

National funding

In addition to EU funding, national funding (state co-funding, partner funding) is also allocated for ENI CBC projects. In Finland, state co-funding is earmarked for ENI CBC programmes during the entire programme period. Money is budgeted for the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment state budget line and allocated for use by programme Managing Authorities each year. State co-funding is applied for together with EU funding in accordance with the guidelines set by the Managing Authority. Information on the funding application procedure can be found on each programme's website.

Kolarctic

The overall objective of the Kolarctic programme is to promote a viable economy and increase the attractiveness of the region, where inhabitants and tourists can enjoy Arctic nature and natural resources are used sustainably.



PROGRAMME AREA

The programme's core area includes northern areas of Finland, Sweden, Norway and the Russian Federation. The core regions are Lapland (Finland); Norrbotten (Sweden); Finnmark, Troms and Nordland (Norway); and Murmansk, Arkhangelsk and Nenets Autonomous District (Russia). The adjoining regions are Northern Ostrobothnia (Finland); Västerbotten (Sweden); and Republic of Karelia, Republic of Komi (Russia). In addition, the City of St. Petersburg is eligible for support as a major social, economic and cultural centre.

Programme website www.kolarctic.fi

Programme priority axes

The Programme priority axes and their thematic objectives are:

- 1. Viability of the Arctic economy, nature and environment.**
The objective is to develop a vital economy and improve the quality of life by enhancing the region's attractiveness and ensuring biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources.
- 2. Fluent mobility of people, goods and knowledge.** The objective is to improve the smoothness, function, efficiency and safety of transport and logistics as well as facilitate the cross-border movement of people, goods and information within the programme area.

Funding

The programme's public funding during the programme period is a total of EUR 63.4 million, of which approximately EUR 24.7 million is EU funding. EU member states (Finland and Sweden) and the Russian Federation contribute a total of EUR 24.7 million (50% + 50%) in funding to the programme. Norway contributes EUR 14 million in funding to the programme.

Administration and application for funding

The Regional Council of Lapland in Rovaniemi serves as the Managing Authority of the programme. The programme maintains branch offices at the County Administrative Board of Norrbotten in Luleå and the Regional Administration of Finnmark in Vadsø. Branch offices are also being established in northwestern Russia.

Projects must include at least one partner from an EU member state and one from Russia. Information on applying for funding can be found on the programme website in the application guide for each application round. The first programme application round will open at the beginning of 2017. After this, two application rounds will be held each year until 2020.

Karelia

The overall objective of the Karelia programme is to make the programme area attractive for people to live and work and businesses to locate and operate. The programme contributes to regional development by funding cross-border co-operation projects, which benefit regions and stakeholders on both sides of the border. The programme can also serve as an initiator of broader development projects and entities.



PROGRAMME AREA

The programme's core area includes Northern Ostrobothnia, Kainuu and North Karelia in Finland and the Republic of Karelia in Russia. The adjoining regions are North Savo, Lapland, South Savo and South Karelia in Finland and the regions of Leningrad, Murmansk and Arkhangelsk in Russia. In addition, Helsinki, St. Petersburg and Moscow are eligible for support as major social, economic and cultural centres.

Programme website www.kareliacbc.fi

Programme priority axes

The Programme priority axes and their thematic objectives are:

- 1. Growing cross-border business co-operation (EU funding EUR 5.0 million).** The objective is to develop cross-border business co-operation and create new employment opportunities for current and future residents of the programme area, particularly youths.
- 2. Attractive cultural environment (EU funding EUR 2.6 million).** The objective is to promote the development of sustainable and diverse cultural services.
- 3. Clean and comfortable region to live (EU funding EUR 4.4 million).** The objective is to improve people's living and work environments.
- 4. Functioning border crossing (EU funding EUR 6.5 million).** The objective is to eliminate bottlenecks at international border crossing within the programme area and improve their security, thus making the smooth movement of people and goods across the border possible.

Funding

The programme's public funding during the programme period is a total of EUR 43.0 million, of which approximately EUR 21.5 million is EU funding. Finland and Russia contribute a total of EUR 21.5 million (50% + 50%) in funding to the programme.

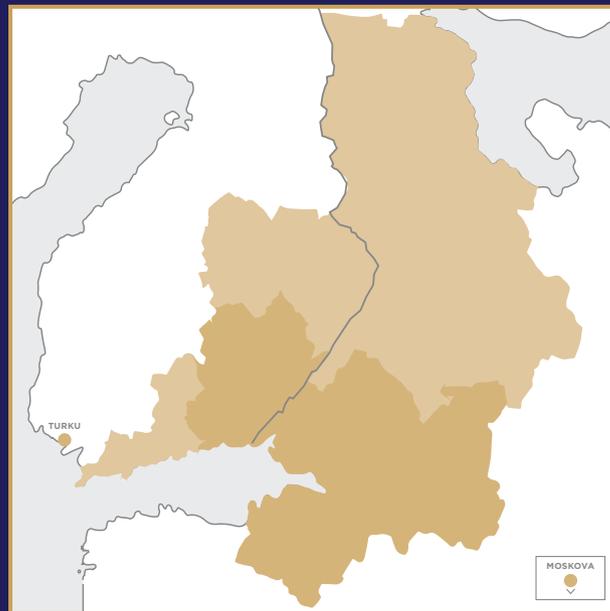
Administration and application for funding

The Council of Oulu Region serves as the Managing Authority of the programme. The programme maintains a branch office in Petrozavodsk.

The project must include actors from both Finland and Russia: in addition to the lead partner, there must be at least one other partner. All projects must primarily take place within the actual programme area. Information on applying for funding can be found on the programme website in the application guide for each application round. The first programme application round will open at the beginning of 2017. According to preliminary plans, the next application rounds are scheduled to open in 2018 and 2019.

South-East Finland-Russia

The overall objective of the South-East Finland-Russia programme is to contribute to economic and social development, mitigate common challenges and promote mobility among actors of regional relevance to further improve cross-border cooperation and the sustainable prerequisites of the programme area.



PROGRAMME AREA

The programme's core area includes South Karelia, South Savo and Kymenlaakso in Finland and the City of St. Petersburg and Leningrad region in Russia. The adjoining regions are Uusimaa, Päijät-Häme, North Savo and North Karelia in Finland and the Republic of Karelia in Russia. In addition, Turku and Moscow are eligible for support as major social, economic and cultural centres.

Programme website www.southeastfinrusnpi.fi or www.sefrcbc.fi Twitter [@sefinruscbc](https://twitter.com/sefinruscbc)



Programme priority axes

The Programme priority axes and their thematic objectives are:

1. **Lively, active and competitive economy (EU funding EUR 9.3 million).** The objective is to develop and promote a knowledge-based, innovative economy and take advantage of the area location by enhancing the operating environment for SMEs. Support is also given to the founding of new enterprises and SME access to international markets is facilitated.
2. **Innovative, skilled and well-educated area (EU funding 4.6 million).** The objective is to promote and support education and research as well as technological development and innovation.
3. **Attractive, clean environment and region (EU funding 7.8 million).** The objective is to support environmental protection and promote efforts to mitigate and make adjustments to the impacts of climate change.
4. **Well-connected region (EU funding EUR 10.8 million).** The objective is to promote border management and security within the programme area.

Funding

The programme's public funding during the programme period is a total of EUR 72.3 million, of which approximately EUR 36.2 million is EU funding. Finland and Russia contribute a total of EUR 36.2 million (50% + 50%) in funding to the programme.

Administration and application for funding

The Regional Council of South Karelia serves as the Managing Authority of the programme. The programme maintains a branch office in St. Petersburg.

The project must include a lead partner and partners from both Finland and Russia. Project benefits must be focused primarily within the core area of the programme. Information on the application rounds will be provided on the programme website and in other communication channels. The first programme application round will open at the beginning of 2017.





In brief

In addition to national regional development programmes, the European Union also provides funding for cross-border co-operation at its internal and external borders.

During the 2014-2020 programme period, Finland is participating in nine internal border co-operation programmes (ETC/INTERREG) and three external border co-operation programmes (ENI CBC).

This brochure presents all twelve of these programmes and provides some examples of approved projects.



Ministry of Economic Affairs
and Employment of Finland