

# Elements of the second call for proposal

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Information to be published when launching the first call for proposals

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11.2021

## 1. Introduction

The Working Group CENTRAL EUROPE 2021-2027 (WG CE21+) decided at its 13<sup>th</sup> meeting (15.10.2021) to publish initial information on the second call for proposals when launching the first call (on 15.11.2021). The objective is to provide applicants with an outlook and more information before deciding whether to apply to the first call or to wait for the next one. At the same meeting, the WG CE21+ also discussed which information should be published in view of the second call (slides 12 and 13 in WG meeting presentation No 2).

The WG CE21+ decision is fully in line with requirements set by Article 49(2) CPR, according to which programmes shall publish on their websites a timetable of planned calls for proposals with, among others, the following information: <sup>1</sup>

- Geographical area covered by the call for proposal;
- Policy objective or specific objective concerned;
- Type of eligible applicants;
- Total amount of support for the call;
- Start and end date of the call.

With this paper, the managing authority (MA) and joint secretariat (JS) summarise the main elements of the second call for proposals that should be published when launching the first call. This paper also pinpoints some aspects of the second call that for the time being **should not be communicated**.

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<sup>1</sup> Information published shall be updated at least three times per year.

## 2. Main elements of the second call

In line with discussions held at the 11<sup>th</sup> WG CE21+ meeting (25-26.03.2021), the second call for proposal should be developed along the following main elements:

- a. The call should be **thematically focused**, also considering the territorial and thematic coverage of projects selected within the first call.
- b. The call should be launched shortly after the selection of first call projects by the monitoring committee (MC), which is expected **towards the end of 2022**.
- c. The call should specifically target **“projects of smaller size”**, in line with requirements set in chapter 6 of the Interreg Programme (IP) document and as further detailed in the next chapter of this paper.
- d. Funds earmarked to the second call should amount to ca. **5% of the programme funds** (i.e. around 10 million EUR ERDF), in line with assumptions made in chapter 5 of the “Methodology paper on indicators and performance framework”<sup>2</sup>.

The above elements **would all be communicated at the launch of the first call**.

## 3. Projects of the second call

As discussed at various WG CE21+ meetings, the programme will communicate “types of calls” to applicants rather than “types of projects”. This way, each future call can be focused on one eligible project type only, which ultimately helps with reducing complexity for applicants and allows comparison between submitted proposals during project selection.

On the basis of outcomes of WG CE21+ meetings and provisions included in chapter 6 of the IP, as well as considering inputs given by experienced lead partners at the “Focus group on project implementation 2021-27” (25-26-02-2021), the second call should therefore target “Pioneer projects”<sup>3</sup>.

We propose to **continue using the term “pioneer projects”** and to communicate it at the launch of the first call. Reasons for this are:

- To pass the message that such small projects should be highly innovative (experimental), at the same time avoiding confusion with the terminology used in other contexts (e.g. R&D, where the terms “experimental” or “prototyping” projects are commonly used);
- To clearly distinguish from the term “small projects” enforced by the European Commission solely for projects funded under “Small Project Funds” (Article 25 of the Interreg regulation) and widely used by Interreg programmes implementing such funds.

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<sup>2</sup> The document was agreed at the 11<sup>th</sup> WG CE21+ meeting (25-26.03.2021) and submitted to the European Commission in September 2021.

<sup>3</sup> As named in the input paper on call 1 discussed at the 10<sup>th</sup> WG CE21+ meeting (28-29.01.2021).

The main characteristics of pioneer projects are summarised in the below table.

1. Applicability	Pioneer projects should be <u>limited in number</u> and be selected through thematically targeted calls.
2. Duration	12 to 18 months
3. Budget	0,4 to 0,8 m EUR (total)
4. Partnership	Around 3 to 6 partners
5. Description	<p>The aim of pioneer projects can be twofold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To test, on a small scale, concrete and highly innovative approaches and solutions;</li> <li>- To test, on a small scale, new approaches to integrated territorial development (e.g. to improve multi-level governance processes by better integrating policy sectors and better involving citizens).</li> </ul> <p>Pioneer projects will make use of existing tools and methods in order to limit preparatory work, thus justifying a shorter duration for such projects.</p>
6. Approach	<p>Such projects would be developed according to a simplified application form and they should make use of simplified cost options (SCOs) to the possible extent in view of simplifying their implementation. Also reporting requirements would be streamlined, given the shorter duration of such projects.</p> <p>The participation of relevant and competent “newcomers” (in the context of Interreg CE) might be stimulated by the experimental nature of such projects and the easier implementation framework.</p>

Project requirements for the second call, to be published at the launch of the first call, would consist of information included in the above lines 2. to 5. **Information in lines 1. and 6. should not be published** since more detailed discussions in this respect should be carried out by the new MC in 2022, when shaping the second call.

As discussed in previous WG meetings, the MC might also decide in future to bring forward successful pioneer projects through capitalisation, thus setting up a bottom up modular approach to projects where the pioneer projects would be the first module and capitalisation projects the second one. Also this aspect **should not be communicated** when launching the first call, since the matter should be further discussed by the new MC in 2022.