



Interreg



Co-funded by
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NEXT MED

Learning from the experience of 80 ENI CBC MED projects and 95 ENPI CBC MED projects

What you should do and what you shouldn't!

10 lessons for the Interreg NEXT Programme

Focus in the Application Phasis

#everythingMEDpossible



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DE SARDIGNA
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1. ADDRESSING A COMMON MEDITERRANEAN CHALLENGE

You should address a **challenge/problem** which is relevant for your territory and for the Mediterranean basin.

You shouldn't:

- Address a purely local problem
- Address a problem which is relevant only to one shore of the Mediterranean
- Engage in projects where the addressed challenge is not a priority for your organization or territory



2. BUILD OR INTEGRATE THE RIGHT PARTNESHIP

You should give priority to the partnership as Interreg NEXT MED projects must be borne by **balanced**, **committed** and **effective** partnerships

You shouldn't:

- Build unbalanced and inadequate partnerships
- Integrate partnerships in which you don't believe
- Integrate partnerships where you don't play a clear role
- Add partners that you have never met
- Etc.



3. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE FULL COMMITMENT FROM OF YOUR ORGANIZATION

You should obtain the **endorsement** from your direction, the **commitment** of your legal representative and the **engagement** of human and financial resources

You shouldn't:

- Commit the project without a clear green light from your direction
- Wait until the last moment to inform your LR
- Engage in projects without the certainty that you will have HR resources at disposal, including a **project coordinator**, a **financial manager** and **communication manager** (if you are LB)
- Engage if you're not able to advance small to medium amounts of money



4. PROPOSE COMMON TRANSNATIONAL SOLUTIONS TO THE ADDRESSED CHALLENGES

You should propose solutions that are **genuinely transnational**, that have **a sea basin dimension** in all their components (activities, target groups, replicability, impact, etc.)

You shouldn't

- Act local with local means and for local beneficiaries only
- Propose one-shot solutions that can't be replicated
- Propose solutions already developed by other projects

Instead, elaborate and exploit promising results already developed – pilots are essential to the Programme!



5. TRULY CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROPOSAL

You should draft a **personal** proposal as Applicant, and, contribute to the proposal if you're a partner bringing **your activities** and your added value

You shouldn't:

- As Applicant, submit the project idea of someone else
- As Partner, participate in a proposal to which you haven't contributed, let alone a proposal that you haven't read
- If a partner has no role in the project proposal, remove it. Do not accept artificial partners



6. CONCEIVE AN EFFECTIVE PROJECT STRATEGY (LOGICAL FRAMEWORK)

You should propose a strategy **fully aligned** with the strategy of the programme (relevance).

You shouldn't:

- Propose an idea (even the best one) if not consistent with the Programme Strategy (read the Programme Document)
- Propose an idea where the relevance is unclear, limited or impossible to demonstrate
- Set vague specific objectives and poor connections between activities/outputs and the project/programme objectives
- Include unrealistic activities/outputs



7. BUILD A SUSTAINABLE AND REALISTIC BUDGET

You should build the budget considering **what the partners will be able to achieve** not what the partners want to receive

You shouldn't:

- Overestimate the budget
- Make a “one size fits all” budget
- Accept unrealistic budget requests
- Accept budget that do not match the activities
- Please partners by providing extra budget as it will fireback against the Applicant and the partnership



8. UNDERSTAND HOW THE EVALUATION WORKS

You should draft the proposal to convince the External Assessors that **your project proposal meet all the evaluation criteria**

You shouldn't:

- Write the proposal the same way you do it in other EU Programmes
- Write the proposal before mastering the evaluation criteria
- Force the assessor to make efforts to understand your proposal

Make it so clear to him that it the quality of your proposal becomes obvious!



9. UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU SIGN AND WHAT YOU SIGN FOR

You should **read carefully** the Declarations to be signed as well as the main Programme documents as ignorance of the Programme rules is a major source of errors

You shouldn't:

- Ever sign a document if you don't commit to the responsibilities it bears
- Press partners to sign. A partner that does not join the project on a voluntary basis is very unlikely to be an effective partner



10. So OBVIOUS BUT STILL : DO NOT LAST-MINUTE RUSH

You should plan to have your proposal **submitted a few days before the deadline** as last minute submission are source of serious and endurable problems

You shouldn't:

- Wait until the last day to upload the information and documents on the E-Form let alone to discover them
- Wait until the last week to obtain the partner declarations
- Wait until the last week to obtain the budget of the partners

Projects with the higher scores are almost always those that were planned well ahead of the deadline.





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First call for proposals