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# Main features of the first call for proposals

Interreg NEXT MED – October 2023

#everythingMEDpossible



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# The first call for proposals at a glance

## Key facts and figures

- Open to the **4 Programme Priorities** and **9 Programme Specific Objectives**;
- EU funds allocated: **€ 103.633.273,00** (financial allocation per specific objective);
- **Up to 89%** of projects total costs covered by the EU contribution;
- **Minimum** contribution at project level: **11%** of the total costs;
- **3 types of projects**: Thematic, Youth-oriented and Governance;
- **Minimum 3** different participating countries in partnerships;
- **At least 1 Mediterranean Partner Country (MPC)** and **1 European Union Mediterranean Country (EUMC)** in partnerships.

**A proposal shall refer to one Specific Objective only**



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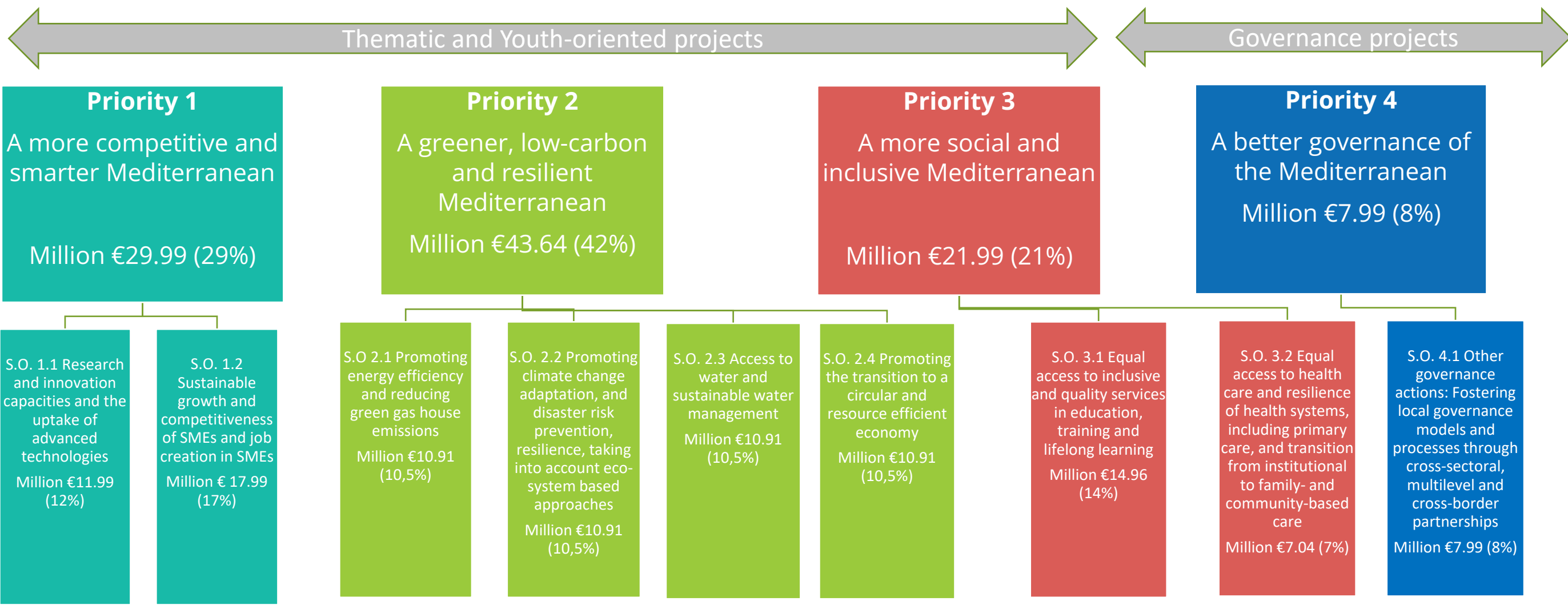


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# The first call for proposals: main features

Financial allocation by Programme Specific Objective



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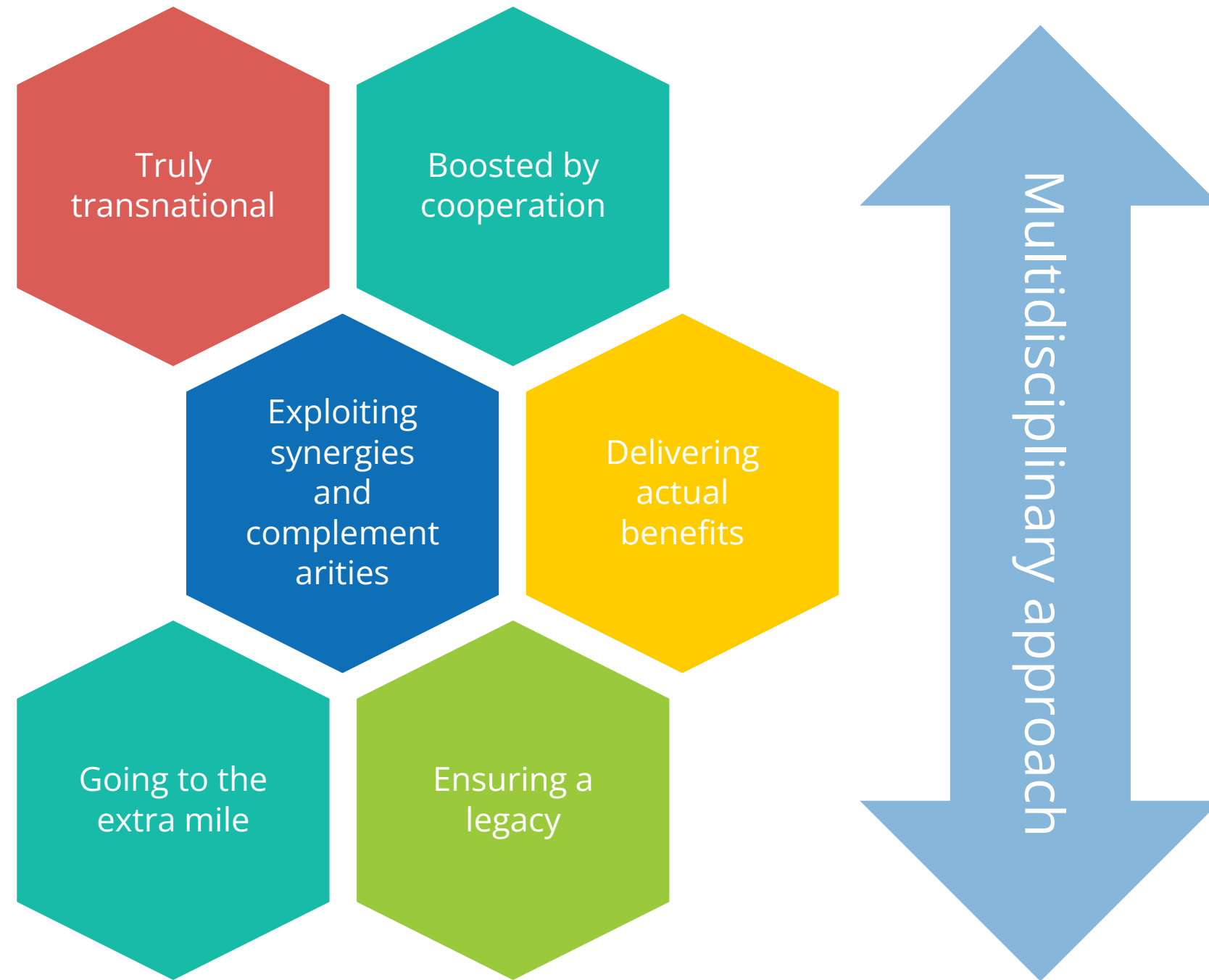
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# Interreg NEXT MED projects

## Key successful factors



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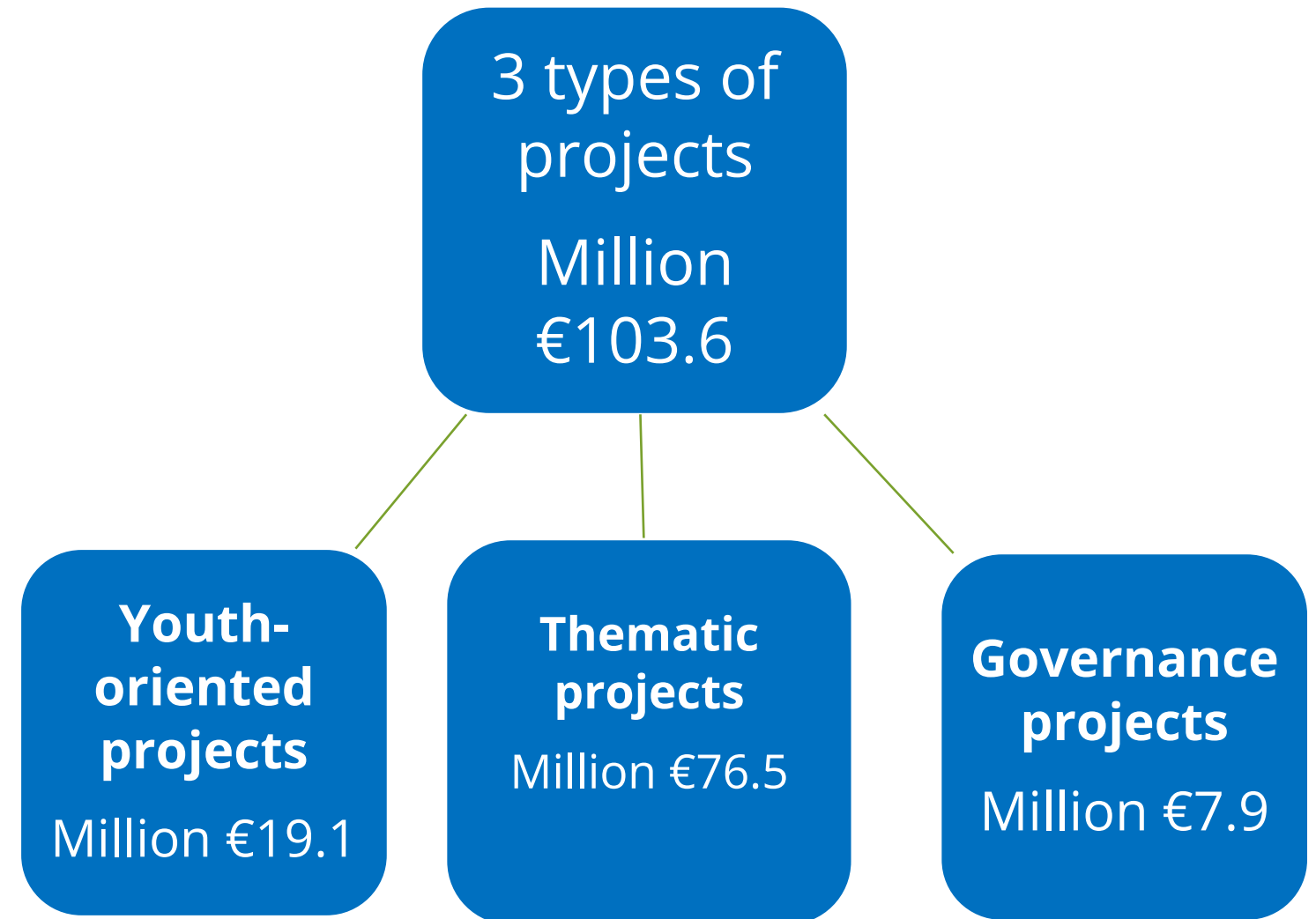


# The first call for proposals: main features

## Three types of projects

Three different categories of projects, each with a set of specific features

- **Youth-oriented** projects as a major innovation in the Interreg NEXT MED strategy (within priorities 1, 2 and 3);
- **Thematic projects** in the continuity of the ENI CBC MED standard and strategic thematic projects (within priorities 1, 2 and 3);
- **Governance projects** to better connect public authorities, local stakeholders and citizens (priority 4).



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# The first call for proposals: main features

Financial dimension and duration



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\* Recommended maximum number of partners and recommended well-balanced partnership North-South and East-West Mediterranean



# Type of projects

Focus on thematic projects

- Can be submitted under Priorities 1, 2, and 3 ;
- Significant **demonstration** and **pilot** dimension;
- **Scale-up of already developed solutions** should be considered ;
- **Avoid**, as much as possible, to “reinvent the wheel” and **start from scratch**;
- **Link with existing** results and knowledge;
- Achieve an **impact** at different levels, including **technical, societal** and **regulatory**.

The **focus** of thematic projects is on the **operational phase**  
including pilots and experiments on the ground



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# Type of projects

Focus on youth-oriented projects

- Can be submitted under Priorities 1, 2, and 3 ;
- **20% of the budget** of Priorities 1,2 and 3 is allocated to youth-oriented projects;
- Aim to **enable young people to take action** in Interreg NEXT MED Programme through their participation in the design and implementation of the projects;
- All proposals shall have the scope to **deliver mainly for young people**;
- **Meet at least one of the two** following criteria:

Partnership including **at least 2** organisations whose **majority of staff** involved in the management is **aged 18-30**

And  
/ Or

Partnership including **at least 2** organisations whose **core mission\*** is to work **for the benefit of young people**



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\*Demonstrating **at least two years** of experience from the date of the launching of the call in leading or participating in projects addressing Youth with similar managed budget as for the share of the requested grant





# Type of projects

## Focus on governance projects

- Can be submitted under **Priority 4 only** ;
- Will **improve** the **capacities of public authorities** and **other stakeholders** to **design** and effectively **deliver public services** that aim at the **socio-economic** and **environmental well-being** of **citizens** and **places**, specifically on a local scale;
- Focus on the development of **local governance models** and **processes** that strengthen cross-sector and multilevel partnership;
- Will **address** issues of interest at local level-for like the **provision of services** or **development of strategies/local policies** in the fields of health, education, mobility, employment, social inclusion, waste management, energy efficiency, urban development, etc.;
- Will promote **common** methodologies and tools, **share** best practices, data and results, and will create **transnational frameworks** to facilitate **exchange** of knowledge and collective action **across borders** among groups of stakeholders from different countries.

The ultimate goal is the implementation of transnational cooperation projects that **engage citizens, local stakeholders** and **public authorities** in the delivery of **quality public services**



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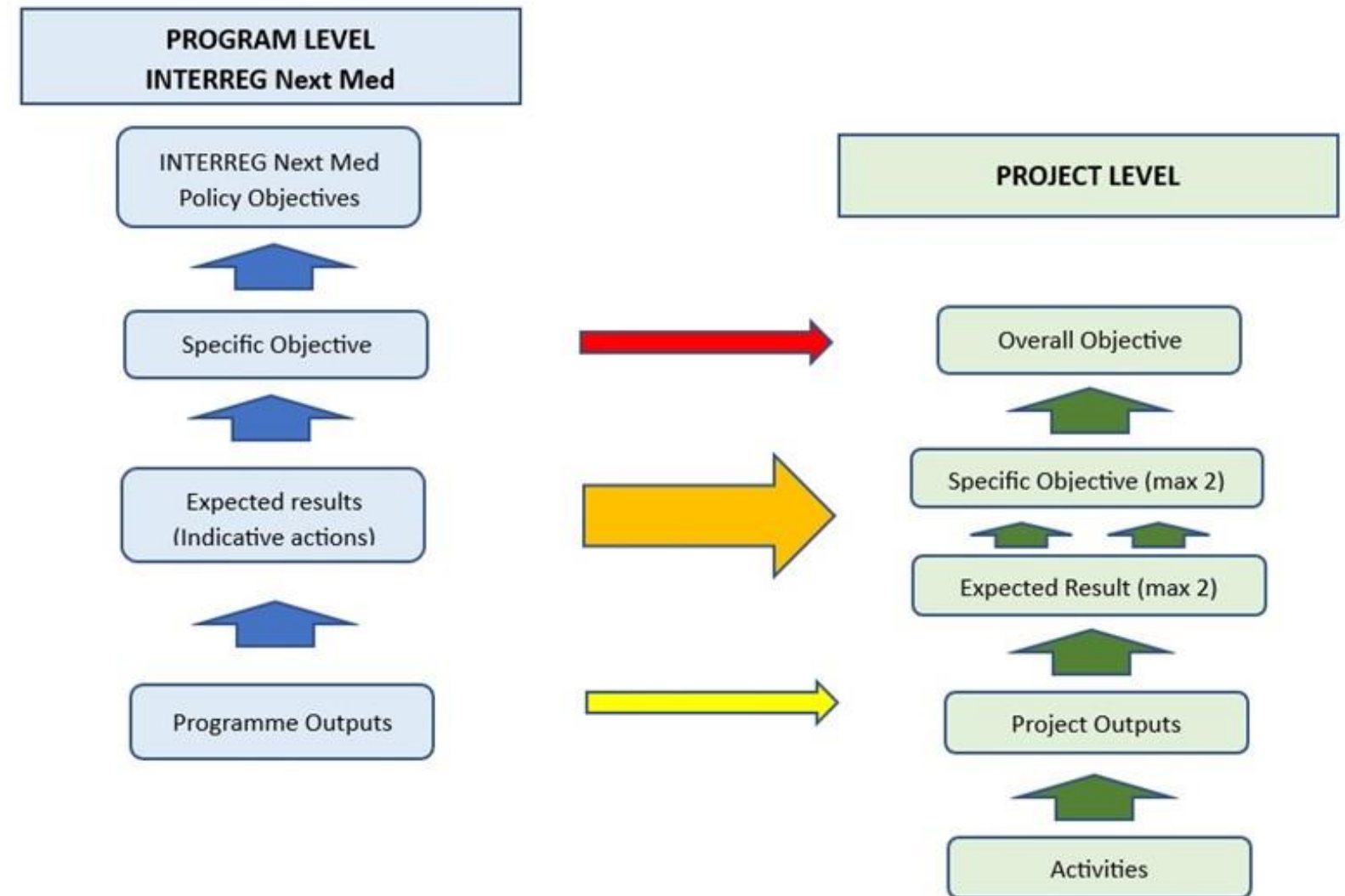
# The first call for proposals: main features

## The Intervention Logic – Logical framework

The Logical framework is designed **to match** the project's objectives, results and outputs **with the strategy of Interreg NEXT MED** Programme;

Interreg NEXT MED projects will have a clear **result-oriented approach**;

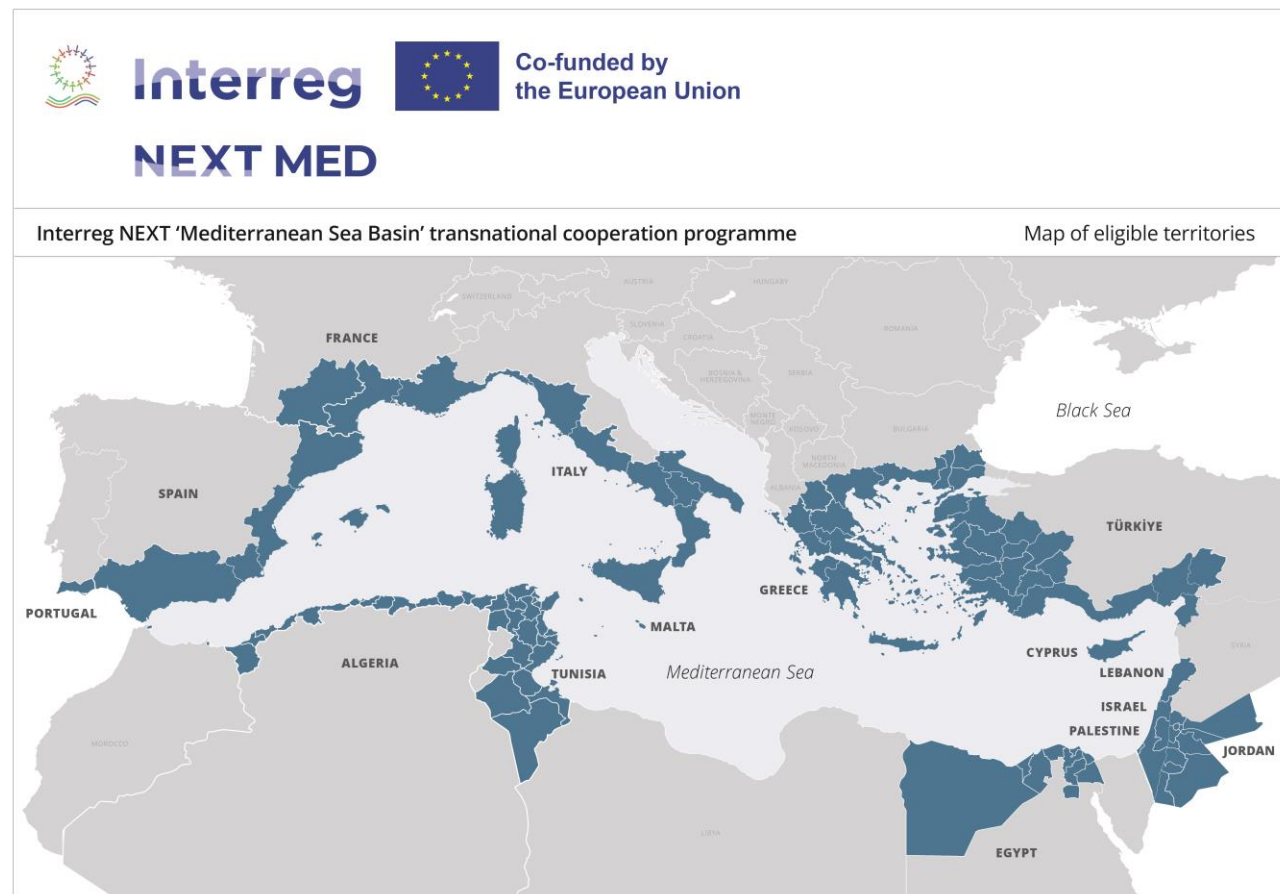
A good Logical framework is the best **roadmap** for project implementation.



From activities to the overall objective, the **main focus is on the long-term change** that the projects must aim at!



# Geographical eligibility



## 15 participating\* countries:

- **Mediterranean Partner Countries:** Algeria, Egypt, Israël, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Tunisia, Türkiye
- **EU Mediterranean Countries:** Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain

## General rules (par. 4.3.1 GfA):

- Applicants and Partners must be established in eligible territories of these countries **ONLY (max. 2 organizations from the same country);**
- Unlike for ENI CBC MED, **adjoining regions can't participate** anymore

\*Eligibility of Mediterranean Partner Countries to be confirmed upon signature of a financial agreement with the European Commission



# The first call for proposals

Eligibility of applicants and partners (*non exhaustive list*)

Participation is allowed for legal entities (not physical persons) with legal status of:

- **Public bodies** (national and local administrations, other public bodies);
- **Bodies governed by public law\***;
- **Private Bodies** (enterprises, NGOs, associations and other no profit organisations, etc.);
- **International Organisations** (with limitations) set up by intergovernmental agreements and accepting specific programme obligations through a specific declaration to be submitted.

The applicant and the partners shall be **legally registered** in the **eligible territories** since **at least two years from the launching date of this first call!**



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\*As defined by art. 2(4) of Directive 2014/24/EU (in MPCs those obliged to follow national rules - check with National Contact Points)



# The first call for proposals

## Specific rules for geographical eligibility (4.3.1 GfA)

For some organizations, participation is allowed only under certain conditions!

### International Organizations

- Only if they have an **operational office** in the eligible area
- Do not contribute to the fulfilment of the minimum geographic partnership requirement

### Ministries and other national public administrations (outside eligible territories)

- Only if activities carried out in and **for the full benefit of the Programme eligible regions**
- The project activities should be implemented **by the existing local structure** (if any)

### Decentralized organisations

- Only if the decentralized office has been **established at least 2 years before the deadline** set for the submission
- The office has the **capacity to undertake legal obligations and assume financial responsibility**



# The first call for proposals

## Eligibility of territories - activities

- **General rule:** project activities must be implemented in eligible territories of the countries represented **in the partnership**.
- Exceptions for geographical activities implementation: specific activities outside the eligible area may be included, provided that their **added value** to the Programme area is well **justified**. Their eligibility will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.



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# The first call for proposals

Other types of organisations that can be involved in a project

- **Associates:** organisations involved in the project but they **cannot receive project funding**. Travel and accommodation may be paid by the Applicant or PP and is included in the 15% flat rate. They **cannot participate in procurement procedures** launched by the project. No geographical requirements but a specific declaration to be submitted in order to prove their involvement.
- **Subcontractors:** some activities can be outsourced by Applicant and partners but not the whole project implementation (bulk of the project). **Applicant and partners cannot be sub-contracted by themselves.**

Under **no circumstances** can project partners or associates be subcontracted by the project!



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# The first call for proposals

## Specific requirements

Conditions to be met:

- The same organisation can apply **only once as Applicant under each Specific Objective**;
- **No limitation** applies for the participation **at partner level**;
- The same organization **cannot be awarded\*** more than **2 grants as Lead Partner** under this call for proposals.

In case an organisation participates in more than one 1 project as Applicant under the same Specific Objective, **all concerned projects submitted under that Specific Objective will be rejected!**



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\*In case more than two proposals from the same Applicant are preselected according to the rules for this call, only the two best ranked proposals will be retained in the list to be financed





# The first call for proposals

## Financial dimension

### EXAMPLES:

#### Thematic project

Total project eligible costs € 2.000.000

EU contribution: € 1.760.000 (88%)

Project co-financing: € 240.000 (12%)

#### Youth-oriented project

Total project eligible costs € 800.000

EU contribution: € 640.000 (80%)

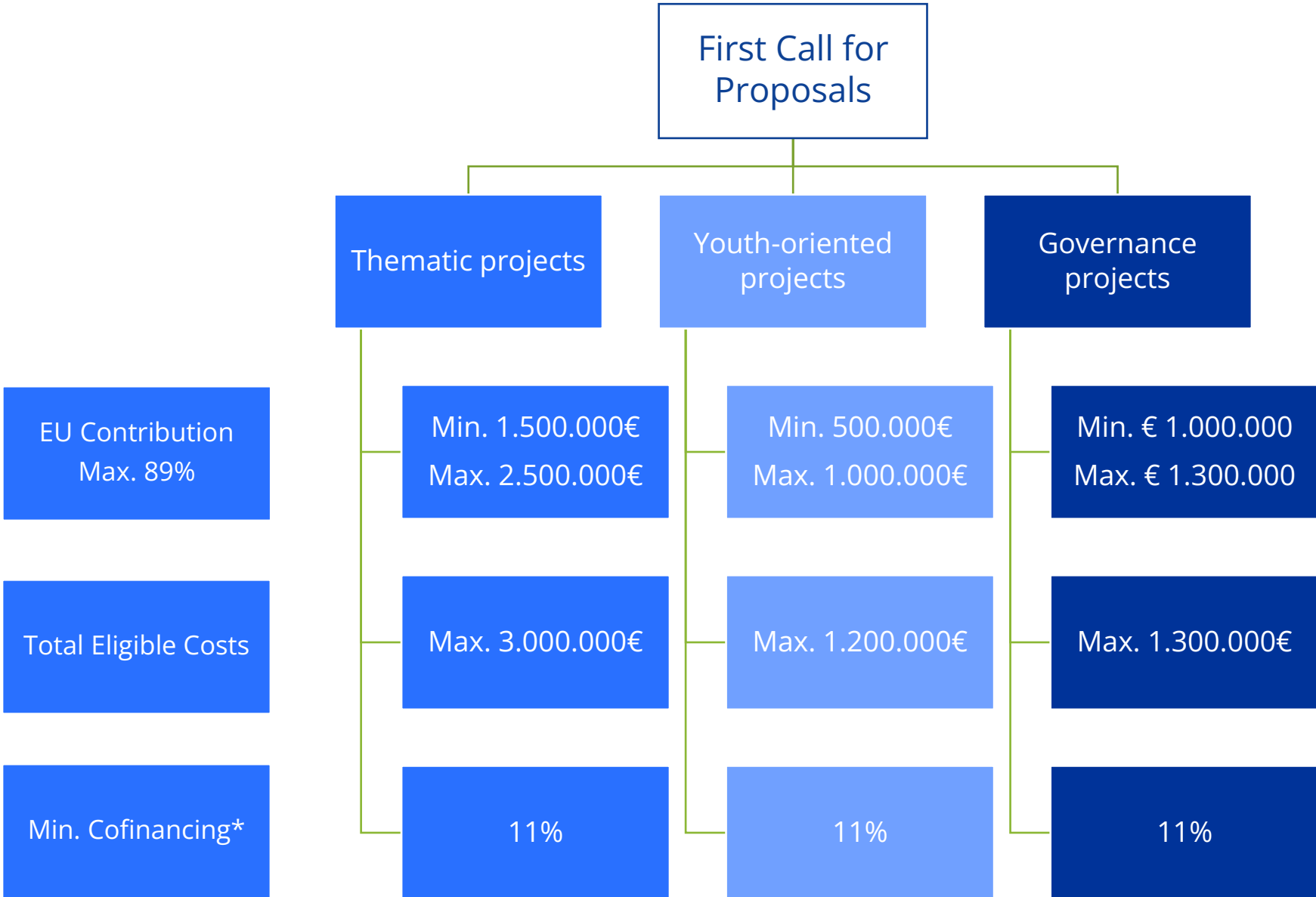
Project co-financing: € 160.000 (20%)

#### Governance project

Total project eligible costs € 1.300.000

EU contribution: € 1.157.000 (89%)

Project co-financing: € 143.000 (11%)



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\* Provided with the Applicant's and partners' own resources, or with public or private (national/regional/local) sources other than the European Union Budget and the European Development Fund



# The first call for proposals

## Specific financial requirements

- When preparing the budget, **at least 50%** of the project total eligible costs shall be dedicated **to activities** to be **implemented in the Mediterranean Partner Countries territories**.

The criterion is fulfilled in the following cases:

At **least 50%** of the project total eligible costs is allocated **to the partners from the Mediterranean Partner Countries**

or

In case the financial allocation to partners from Mediterranean Partner Countries is lower than 50%, **the difference up to the minimum of 50%** shall be justified by **activities implemented by the EU Applicant and/or partner/s and/or International Organisations in the Mediterranean Partner Countries**



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# The first call for proposals

## Ineligible proposals and exclusion situations

Project proposals concerning **only or mainly** the following activities are **ineligible**:

- Individual sponsorships for participation in workshops, seminars, conferences, individual scholarships for studies or training courses, pure academic and research-oriented activities, studies, etc.;
- Projects already financed by other European Union initiatives or other donors (double funding).

Applicants and PPs will be **excluded** from the call for proposals or from the grant if:

- According to Article 135(2) of the Regulation (EU) 2018/1046 they are bankrupt or being wound up, fraud, corruption, conflict of interest, etc.;
- Specific cases: applicants and partners with unsuccessful recoveries in ENPI CBC and ENI CBC MED Programmes; attempts to obtain confidential information or to influence the selection process.



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# The first call for proposals

## Communication – Lead partner responsibility and staff

- **Lead partner's role in communication:**

Work Package 2 (Communication) shall be coordinated by the Lead Partner: this is **to ensure the full ownership of the Lead Partner on communication activities** and a consistent link between the implementation project activities, results achieved and their sound, timely promotion under communication efforts.

- **Staff: communication manager**

This means that the Lead Partner will have **to count on a communication manager at senior level** (at least 5 years of experience), either as permanent staff or staff specifically recruited for the purpose of the project, while subcontracting communication management functions to private companies should be avoided to ensure the full ownership of the Lead Partner on the project.



# The first call for proposals

Communication – *webpage and logo are not eligible costs*

## Website:

Costs for developing and hosting websites are **not eligible** and shall not be included in the budget

## Logos:

Following their approval, projects **will be provided with the harmonised Interreg NEXT MED logo, customised with the project name.**

In consequence, projects are under no circumstance allowed to develop their own project logo and no cost for designing project logos will be eligible nor shall be included in the budget

**The common branding of funded projects and the integration of project webpages in the Programme website is a great tool to increase visibility of the NEXT MED community and create a unique platform that connects all stakeholders.**





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# Stay in touch

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