



9th Call - Future Perspectives

Pre-announcement

December 2012

Background

The 9th Call for Applications will be launched in spring 2013. A guidance note for the Call is currently under preparation and is expected to be published towards the middle of January 2013. A guidance event is scheduled for 7 February 2013 in Copenhagen. Date and venue will be confirmed once registration opens in mid of January. Please note that the funding available for this Call will be limited.

There will be strict conditions on the types of project that will be considered and also that potential applicants should stay in touch with the Programme Secretariat and the National Contact Points to ensure that they receive the latest information on the developing situation. More detailed information will be available once the guidance note is formally approved and at the event in February.

The following is to give an outline of the 9th Call to those who plan to submit an application. Please note that only the final guidance note will include all relevant information and guiding principles.

Future perspectives

The aim of all 9th Call projects will be to maximise the benefits of the work that has already been done. The existing results of the projects taking part should be starting point of every application. The over-arching objective for these projects is that they should develop future perspectives for the North Sea Region.

This means making the best possible use of good project results so that the region is well-positioned for responding to the Europe 2020 strategy. There are various ways that results could be addressed to achieve this effect, such as:

- Communication: Projects may continue the communication of good results to a wider audience.
- Transferability: The solutions developed by projects take as their starting point the concrete local challenges being faced by the partners and may need to be adapted to fit other parts of the North Sea region.
- Partnerships: All new projects are encouraged to take on new partners where these can add to the quality of the work being done but some 9th Call projects may choose to focus on this issue.
- Future perspectives: These projects would focus on assessing the results of the projects against recent developments in European and relevant national policies and practices.

Projects should in no sense be limited to one of these approaches and are expected to demonstrate focus and a real ability to maximise benefits on the issues they choose to work with.

Two kinds of projects

The aim is to make the application process as simple as possible. Wherever projects are still running, they will apply through a project extension. Projects that have already closed will have to submit a new application using the simpler small projects application form.

Project extensions: Where projects have an end date of 30 June 2013 or later, it will be possible to apply for an extension in the usual way.

Small projects: Projects that have already finished by 30 June 2013 will not be able to submit an extension and will instead have to submit a new application.

Framework for small projects

A number of conditions will apply for all small projects whether they are using an extension or submitting a new application. These are:

- The maximum budget will be €700.000 (€350.000 ERDF and Norwegian equivalent). Projects are funded 50% ERDF/Norwegian and 50% co-financing.
- Projects cannot run for longer than 18 months and all small projects and extensions must finish activities by 31 March 2015.

The Lead Beneficiary in a small project must be a Lead Beneficiary or a beneficiary of an existing project. Small projects are open to all beneficiaries, including the possibility to include new partners. Project extensions will apply under the same priority as the original project. Small project applications will have to choose which priority to apply under.

Funding available

The funding available in each priority at the time of writing (December 2012) is as follows:

- Priority 1: 1 project (with a maximum of € 350.000 ERDF)
- Priority 2: 1 project (with a maximum of € 350.000 ERDF)
- Priority 3: 4 projects (with a maximum of € 350.000 ERDF)
- Priority 4: No projects (remains closed)

The Norwegian funds available are separate from the ERDF and projects wishing to include Norwegian partners must therefore contact the Secretariat to hear how much Norwegian funding is available for the priority concerned.

Preliminary timeline for the 9th Call and assistance available

- The guidance note should be published towards mid January 2013
- Deadline for submission of ideas to Secretariat for feedback Thursday 31 January (tbc)
- Guidance event in Copenhagen Thursday 7 February (tbc)
- Call for applications opens Monday 4 March (tbc)
- Call closes Monday 8 April (tbc)
- Decisions on applications May/June (tbc)
- Projects must be finished by 31 March 2015 (tbc)

Project ideas

The project ideas section on the Programme website will be reactivated to allow projects to publicise their proposals and start searching for partners. In addition, projects may submit an idea to the Secretariat for feedback during the planned guidance event in February. During this event it will also be possible to present ideas and there will be time for partner search. There will be no written pre-assessments from the Secretariat.

Assessment criteria

Future perspective projects will be assessed against a shortened list of the standard Programme selection criteria. The criteria will be listed in the guidance note.