Interreg Europe

Co-funded by the European Union

Key **project & second call** features

Ilaria Ramaglioni
Policy Officer | Interreg Europe Secretariat

28 March 2023 | 30 Minutes

Info event in Italy
Online

Follow us on social media:

Content

1. Project **objectives & activities**
2. **Partnership** requirements
3. Project **finances**
4. From 1st call results to **2nd call features**

Interreg Europe
Co-funded by the European Union

1. Project **objectives & activities**

Project **objective**

Improve the **policy instruments** of the participating regions

- Public interventions at local, regional or even national levels can be addressed
- But at least **one** policy instrument per project must be an

  Investment for jobs and growth goal programme

Project **activities**

- Exchange of experience & **capacity building** through identification and transfer of **good practices**

- **Pilot actions** possible from the start of the project or at mid-term (but maximum one per policy instrument)

What is a **good practice**

- A **policy-related** initiative
- Proved to be **successful** in a region
- Potential **source of inspiration** for other regions

Example of a **good practice**

‘Digital Enterprise Lazio’

Voucher initiative launched by the Government of Lazio Region to promote the digitalisation of SMEs.

The initiative offered **financial support** through non-repayable loan of **up to €25,000 for SMEs** to adopt **digital and technological solutions** such as digital marketing, e-commerce, digital point of sale, booking and payment, 3D printing…

- ✓ 110 SMEs projects financed for investments from 7,000 to 25,000 €
- ✓ 20% of the planned budget was allocated to companies with operational headquarters in one of the Municipalities falling within the Crisis Complex Areas of the Lazio Region

Example of a **good practice**

‘Bike to work’ **project** launched by the **Municipality of Reggio Emilia**

Beneficiaries: employees of private companies, public bodies, educational institutions

Employees can download a **dedicated app** on smartphones and **count the useful kilometres** to the incentive

Incentive of 0.20 €/km for a maximum of 50 €/month by making the path home-work-house by bicycle

Evidence of success:

- **active employees** = **590**
- Valid Km = 72.546,34
- Total incentive [€] = 14,505.99
- **CO2 avoided [kg] = 12.237,70**

What is a **pilot action**

?

Implementation-related activities dedicated to **testing** a new public intervention approach.

Possible only under certain conditions:

- Clear contribution to policy improvements
- Clear interregional & testing character

Example of a **pilot action**

REBUS
Interreg Europe

TITLE

3-Layer Module for Behavioural Change

KEY FEATURES

A capacity building programme structured on the basis of 2 interregional experiences from the project: the **Energy Renovation Path** (ERP) developed thanks to all partners, and the Good Practice from **Durham County Council "The Big Switch Off".**
Focusing on **behavioural change applied to** Planning, Management and Monitoring.

OBJECTIVE

Providing the Regional Government of Tuscany (Managing Authority) with a tested solution ensuring increased energy savings, at very limited costs, thus encouraging the uptake of similar approaches in the regional Operational Programme.

Activities and achievements

REBUS
Interreg Europe

- Organisation of 10 **"We Save Energy"** capacity building sessions
- Identification of the Pilot Local Council: **Greve in Chianti**
- Setting up of an internal **Energy Team** supported by ARRR
- Development of the communication material
- Assessment of the energy performance of the pilot building

The pilot took place in March 2020 with **improved behaviour of building users** and **monitoring activities carried out by the Energy Team**

Savings amounting to 11.55% compared to 2019 (1286 kwh vs 1454 kwh) and 33.68% compared to 2015 (1286 kwh vs 1939 kwh)

Implementation of activities

2 phases over 4-year implementation

CORE	FOLLOW UP
3 years	**1 year**
Exchange of experience to achieve policy improvements	Monitor policy improvements

Implementation of activities

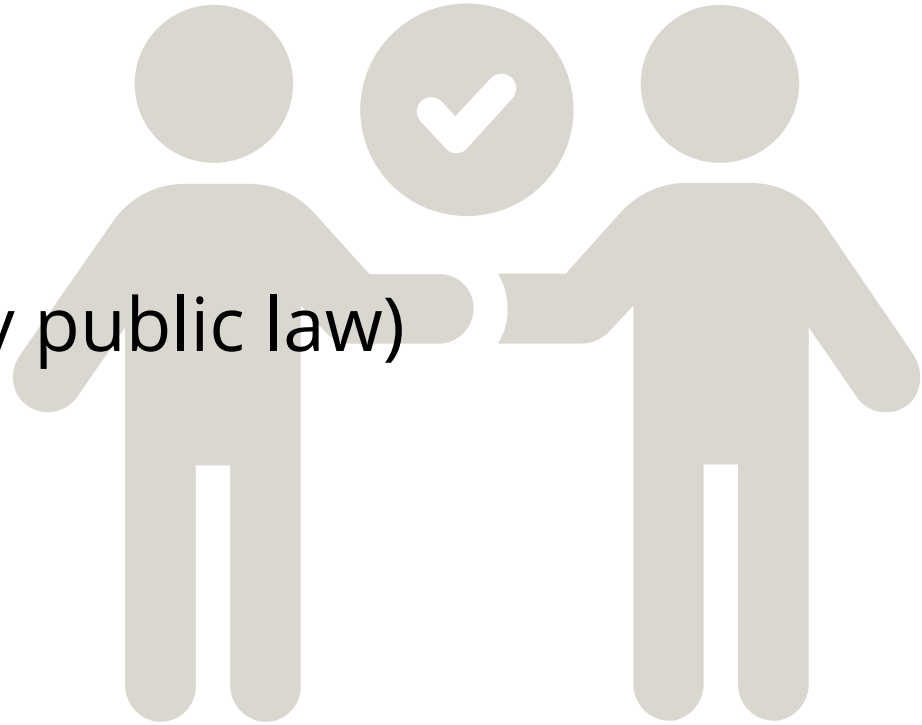
- **Action plans** no longer needed (only for regions which do not achieve results by end of core phase)

- Some **flexibility** in the follow-up phase:
  - Up to each project to define the exact activities
  - Exchange of experience still possible

2. Partnership **requirements**

Who is **eligible?**

- **Public authorities**
- **Public law bodies** (bodies governed by public law)
- **Private non-profit bodies**



Policy relevance of partnership

Policy responsible authorities must be involved in the project:

- As **partners** for at least **50%** of the policy instruments addressed
- As **‘associated policy authorities’** for the remaining policy instruments

Creation of a **stakeholder group** in each region

What is an **'associated policy authority'**

Main features:

- Officially included in the application form
- No budget - travel & accommodation costs covered by relevant project partner
- Declaration provided at the application stage
- Involvement regularly monitored during project implementation

Geographical coverage

- Broad coverage required
- Mixed between more and less advanced regions

3. Project **finances**

Co-financing rates

Co-financing rates	According to legal status or location
80% ERDF*	Public or public equivalent from the EU
70% ERDF*	Private non-profit from the EU
50% Norwegian funding	Public, public equivalent and private non-profit from Norway (NO)
Swiss funding	Public, public equivalent and private non-profit from Switzerland (CH)

* ERDF – European Regional Development Fund

Simplified financial rules

Cost categories	Simplification
Preparation costs	Lump sum €17,500
Staff	Fixed % of the real gross employment cost
Office & administration	Flat rate of 15% of staff costs
Travel & accommodation	Flat rate of 15% of staff costs (real cost reporting only in specific justified cases)
External Expertise and Services	
Equipment	
Infrastructure and Works	For pilots only

Plus:

- Simplified reporting, faster payments to projects
- Less control (sampling, risk-based verifications)

4. From 1st call results to **2nd call features**

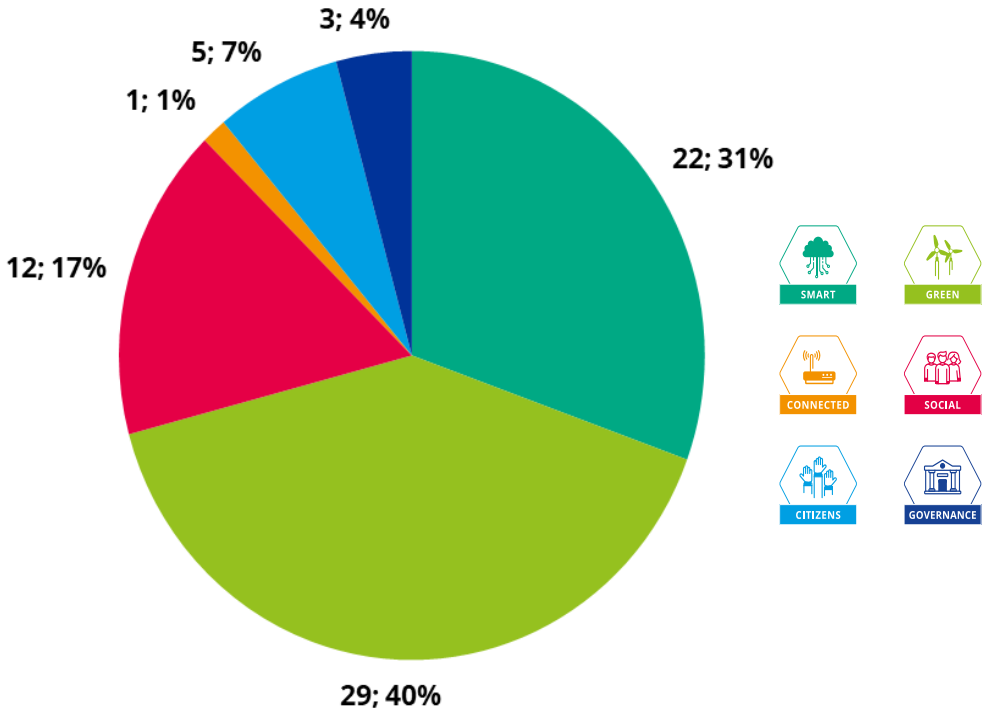
First call **key figures**

2021 – 2027

From **5 April to 31 May 2022**

134	project proposals
1,073	partners coming from all partner states
EUR 1.4 million	average budget per project proposal
EUR 192 million	total ERDF budget requested

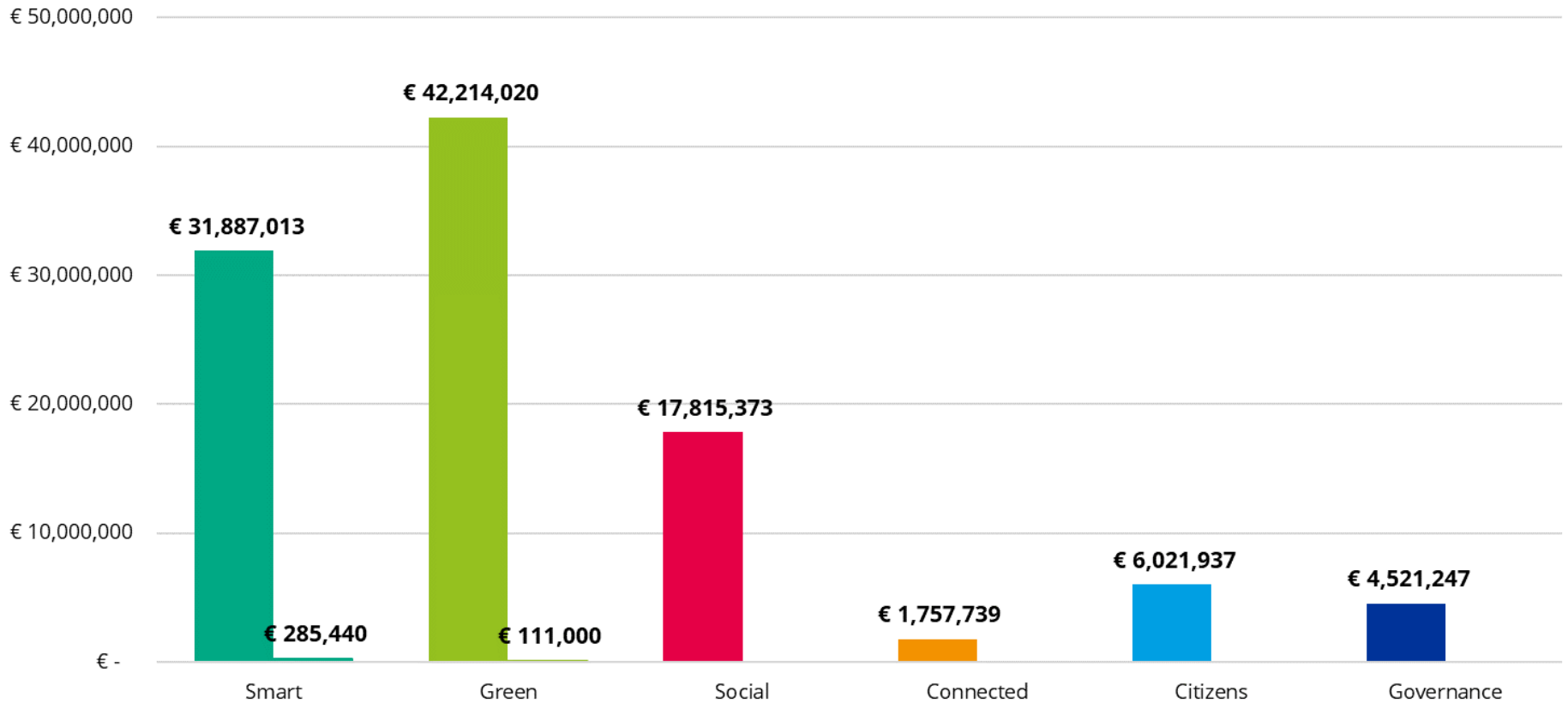
Approved (72)



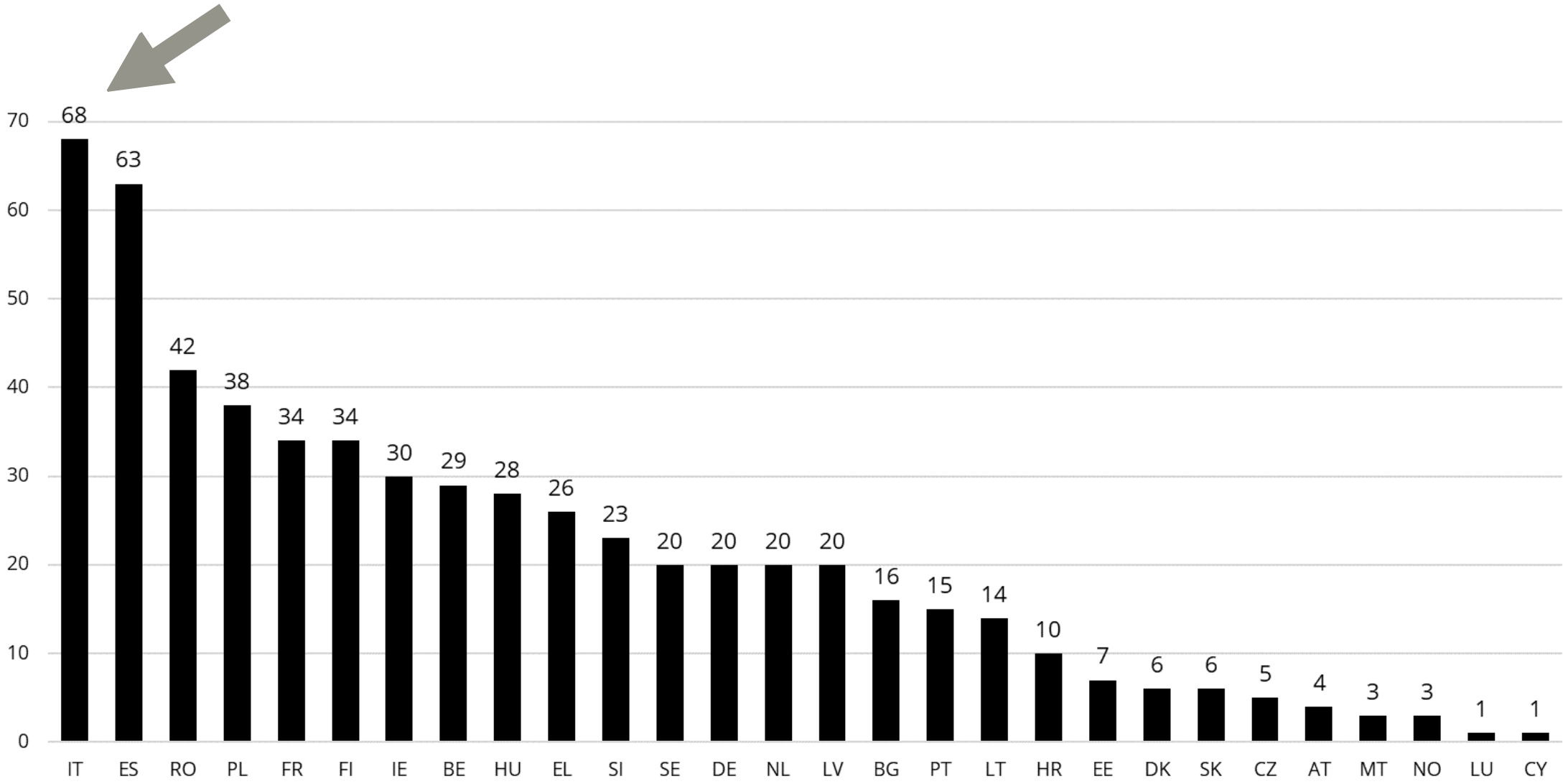
Budget in all approved projects

ERDF = MEUR 104.2

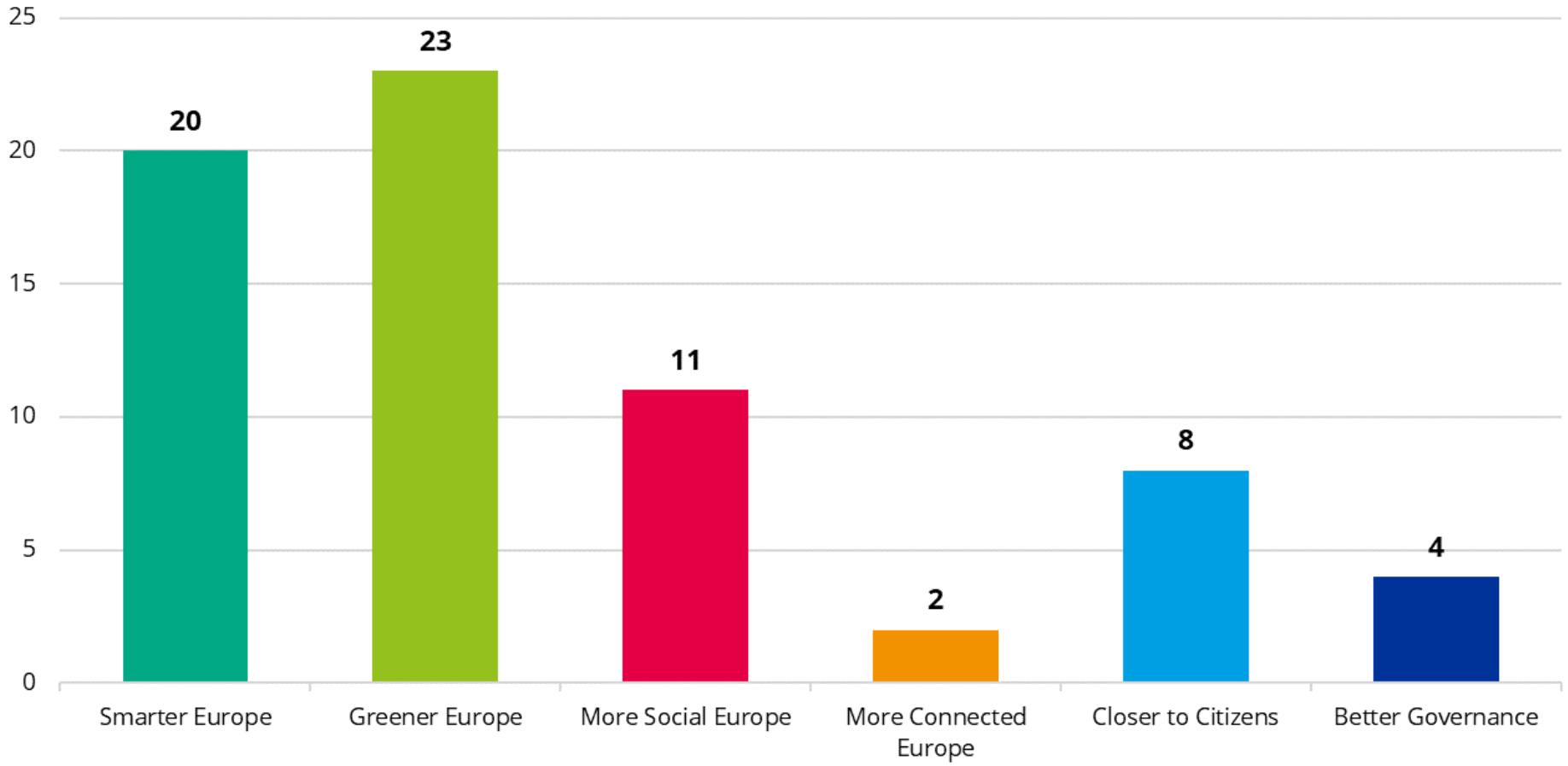
Norwegian = EUR 396,440



Approved project partners by countries



First call project partners **in Italy**



Second Call **main features**

1. When? **15 MAR – 9 JUN 2023, 12 noon** (CEST Paris time)
2. How much? Up to **130 MEUR**
3. About what? All **topics** open
4. From where? All **corners** of the programme area

Interreg Europe
Co-funded by the European Union

Timing of **the call**

12 weeks

Opening: **15 March 2023** (portal available)

Closing: **9 June 2023 at 12:00** CEST (Paris time)

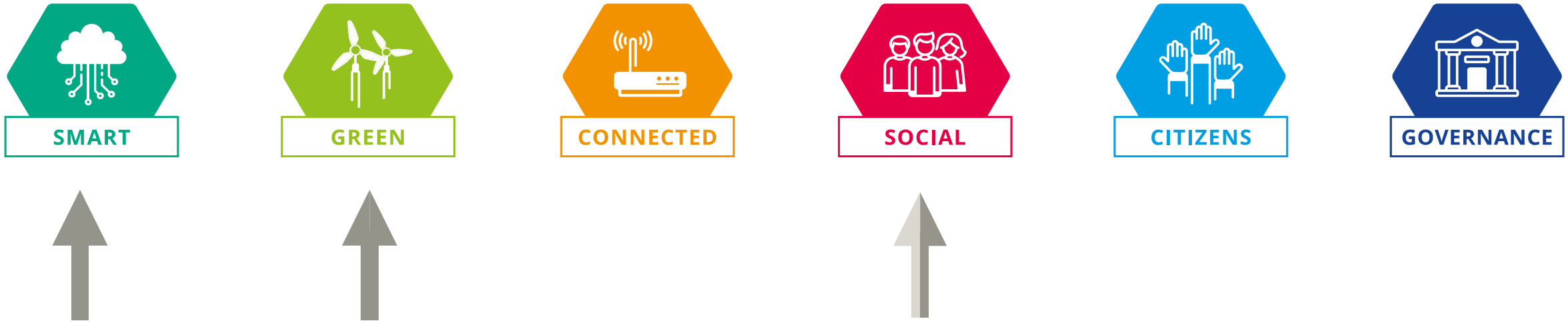
Decision: **end of 2023**

Application pack available on the programme website:

https://www.interregeurope.eu/apply-for-the-call#anchor-the-application-pack

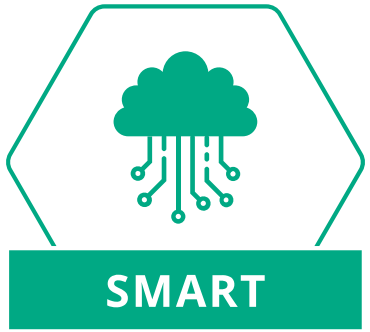
Topics of the call

All topics open



Concentration principle (80%)

Insight into **topics**



Within 80%

- **Research and Innovation** capacities, uptake of advanced technologies
- **Digitisation** for citizens, companies, research organisations and public authorities
- Sustainable growth and **competitiveness of SMEs** and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments
- **Skills** for smart specialisation, industrial transition & entrepreneurship
- Digital **connectivity**

Insight into **topics**

Within 80%

- **Energy efficiency** and reduction of greenhouse emissions
- **Renewable energy**
- **Smart energy systems**, grids and storage
- **Climate change** adaptation, disaster risk prevention, resilience
- Access to **water** and sustainable water management
- Circular and **resource efficient** economy
- Protection and preservation of **nature and biodiversity**, green infrastructures, pollution reduction
- **Sustainable urban mobility** for zero carbon economy

Insight into **topics**

Within 80%

- Effectiveness and inclusiveness of **labour market**, access to quality employment, social economy
- Equal access to **health care**, health systems resilience, family-based and community-based care
- **Culture and tourism** for economic development, social inclusion and social innovation

Insight into **topics**

- Accesses to **education, training** and lifelong learning, distance and on-line education and training
- Inclusion of **marginalised communities**, low-income households and disadvantaged groups
- Socio-economic **integration** of third country nationals, including **migrants**

- **Climate resilient**, intelligent, secure, sustainable and intermodal **TEN-T**
- **Sustainable**, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal **national, regional and local mobility**

- Sustainable **integrated territorial development**, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism and security

Insight into **topics**

‘Non-thematic’ topics related to implementation of regional development policies

For example:

- evaluating and monitoring public intervention
- management of public procurement
- management of state aid
- management of financial instruments

Innovative character

What is the added value of your project?

Remember to check:

www.interregeurope.eu/approved-projects

Geographical **coverage**

- **Four areas** to be covered

Geographical areas	Countries covered
North	Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden
East	Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia
South	Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain
West	Belgium, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Switzerland

First call - **first lessons learned**

- Select carefully the **policy instrument addressed** in each region
- Ensure that at least one instrument is an **Investment for growth & jobs goal programme**
- Check carefully the **'policy responsible authority' status** of the organisation involved in the project
- Ensure that partnership goes **beyond transnational** cooperation areas (e.g., MED covers Slovenia, Bulgaria and part of France)

Key to **successful application**

- Thorough **preparation**
  - Read carefully programme documents (e.g., the manual)

- **Assistance** tools
  - Use self-assessment tool
  - Ask for JS feedback (during open call)
  - Join assistance events

- Get to know our **selection process**
  1. Eligibility = ineligible proposals get **no further assessment**
  2. Quality criteria = meet programme expectations

Interreg Europe

Co-funded by the European Union

Thank you!

Follow us on social media:

Title of event
Online