

Interreg North Sea 2021-2027

GUIDANCE NOTE

*Extension call for new
Norwegian partners and
additional funding for
existing Norwegian partners*

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Date of
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General note

Please note that this call is open only to regular projects that wish to add Norwegian partners or increase the budgets of existing Norwegian partners that would like to add new activities or extend activities already described in the project application. It is open from 1 May to 11 July 2025. The Online Monitoring System will allow submissions through 12:00 (noon) CET on 11 July 2025.

Special conditions for the extension call

- An extension, in the case of this call, refers to the addition of Norwegian partners and/or sub-partners, additional funding to a Norwegian partner already in a project, and the addition of activities and/or outputs and results that accompany these additions.
 - Given the timing of this call, projects have been divided into three groups to indicate if and how they qualify (see page 9). Projects in Group 1 (whose end dates are, on 1 May 2025, prior to 1 July 2026) do not qualify to add Norwegian partners or request additional funding for their Norwegian partners. Projects in Group 2 qualify for additional Norwegian partners/funding to carry out 'soft' activities (see below). Projects in Group 3 qualify for additional Norwegian partners/funding to carry out any types of activities.
 - The main objective of the call is to allow North Sea projects to add value to their implementation by including a Norwegian dimension to their activities and outputs or by increasing the scope of Norwegian participation already included in their framework. Eligible projects can reach out to Norwegian organisations and Norwegian organisations can approach eligible projects in order to take advantage of this opportunity.
 - The funding will go toward:
 - Projects that have no Norwegian partners but would like to add one or more Norwegian partners to their partnership;
 - Projects that have Norwegian partners and would like to add one or more Norwegian partner or sub-partner to their partnership;
 - Norwegian project partners that would like to implement additional or extend existing activities with the help of more funding.
 - Group 2 projects are eligible for this call with the understanding that additional Norwegian partners/funding will carry out/contribute to 'soft' activities. 'Soft' activities include (but are not limited to):
 - Capitalisation of project results by Norwegian partners/transfer of project results to other relevant organisations in Norway (please see the practical guide to capitalisation for Interreg North Sea projects [here](#)); successful approaches to facilitate the transfer will be shared within the partnership, empowering partners to facilitate capitalisation of the Norwegian results in their own countries;
 - Increasing project communication/dissemination measures and efforts, including promotion of project pilots, strategies and
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solutions developed in Norway towards stakeholders in Norway and other partner countries;

- Addressing social inclusion or citizen engagement through project activities in Norway; sharing lessons learnt as well as successful approaches to such engagement within the partnership.

The starting point for Group 2 projects applying for an extension should be the benefits of (increased) Norwegian involvement for the entire partnership. Projects in Group 2 must demonstrate in their application how the project partnership as a whole will benefit from incorporating these activities and how the activities sharpen the project's transnational angle. It is expected that the value of adding a Norwegian dimension, therefore, will surpass the 'soft activities' mentioned. Knowledge exchange and mutual learning are key in this respect.

- Extensions should be clearly in line with the framework of the existing project. This means that including additional activities and/or partners should be balanced, logical, and understood as add-ons to a project that is running but would like to expand or enhance the Norwegian perspective. An extension should therefore provide a proposal for additional funding that enables the partnership to carry out additional activities and/or to add partners that complement the existing project and add value to it. Partnerships that wish to submit an extension (especially those in Group 3) should also consider revising the targets of their project outputs and results to reflect the additional funding – be it for new or existing partners and activities – that they are requesting. Please liaise with your project advisor about this.
 - Additional Norwegian partners need to be a legal entity (organization or enterprise) based in the Norwegian part of the programme area in order to apply. Partners from outside this area but within Norway can participate in a project under special conditions (see Fact Sheet 17).
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How to apply

- Each extension request should be submitted by the Lead Partner of the project through the changes module in the Online Monitoring System (OMS). They should name their extension request 'Norwegian extension 2025.' It is important to note that while an extension request is open, projects cannot start or submit any other changes, aside from basic changes. Thus, project lead partners who are planning to submit an extension request should confer with their project advisor to ensure the continuation of smooth implementation during the call.
- Projects must adjust all parts of the project application that are impacted by the addition of new Norwegian partners or funding to existing partners. In addition, they must describe in the 'reason for change' section of the extension request in the OMS how a new Norwegian partner/s and/or how more activities (and therefore funding) on the part of existing Norwegian partners add value/demonstrate value for money for the project (see page 6, 'How is the funding decision made?', for more information about this).
- Due to the narrow scope of the extension call, most sections of the application will be left untouched when filling in the extension request. For projects adding Norwegian partners, the sections the programme expects to see adjusted are:
 - B.1 Partners
 - C.4 Project partnership
 - C.5 Work plan (added activities, increased targets for existing activities, and outputs)
 - C.6 Results
 - C.7.3, depending on which activities are added to the project
 - D.1, D.2 and D.3 Budget, funding and spending plan

For projects requesting additional funding for existing Norwegian partners, sections B.1 and C.4 will likely be left unchanged. However, depending on the size of the extension request made, other parts of the application form may also be adjusted.

- All new Norwegian partners and partners that wish to increase their budget must submit a signed (and updated) Letter of Intent with the extension request. All new partners joining projects approved in Call 3 or 4 will also need to fill in the State aid self-assessment tool.

Available funding

- The amount of Norwegian funding available for this call is €1.4 million. Partners wishing to join projects and partners in projects that would like
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additional funding should calculate their budgets keeping in mind that the grant rate for Norwegian partners is set at 50%.

- There is no limit to the amount of Norwegian funding requested by a project in this call; depending on demand the Monitoring Committee will prioritise and make decisions according to perceived added value and value for money (see page 6, 'How is the funding decision made?', for more information about this).

Assistance with preparing an application

- The Monitoring Committee and Joint Secretariat **strongly recommend** that applicants seek advice and assistance on their extension requests from their project advisor and National Contact Points (NCPs). Contact information for the NCPs is available [here](#).

Assessment of full applications

- Once your extension request is submitted, any new partners will go through an eligibility check. The purpose of this brief check is to ensure that they meet the minimum requirements, that there are no obvious errors with the budget or eligibility rules, and that any attached documents, such as Letter of Intent or a State aid self-declaration, have been completed correctly. When your project passes the eligibility check, you will be notified.
 - The extension request will go through quality assessment by the staff of the Joint Secretariat. The purpose of this assessment is to evaluate how far your proposal for an extension meets the strategic and operational requirements of the programme and its detailed rules and how the extension fits the project's objectives and already existing intervention logic.
 - All additional partners are subject to a capacity check, which will be carried out by the Norwegian national authority in parallel to the quality assessment procedure. As part of the capacity check, the organisation may be asked to submit additional documentation to help the national authority evaluate their capacity to participate as a partner in the project.
 - The assessment of the extension request will follow the logic of new project applications. Only sections of the application that are modified by the lead partner will be assessed, and the same rating scale will be used.
 - The assessment of the extension requests is based on the programme's selection criteria and focuses on how the modified project will be delivered. It also addresses technical questions concerning eligibility and coordination. Assessment ends with a recommendation to the Monitoring
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Committee on whether the project extension should be approved or rejected. You can find the assessment criteria in [Fact Sheet 18](#).

How is the funding decision made?

- Extension requests and assessments, together with a recommendation to fund or reject the request, are provided to the programme's Monitoring Committee made up of national and regional representatives from all of the countries in the programme.
 - The funding decision is primarily based on the assessment of the application and recommendation made by the staff of the Joint Secretariat.
 - If the total amount of Norwegian funding requested in all applications recommended for approval exceeds that which is available, i.e. €1,4 million, the applications will be ranked according to both the assessment criteria described in Fact Sheet 18 and an assessment of perceived value added or value for money. The latter will be judged based on the applicants' description of how a new Norwegian partner/s and/or how more activities (and therefore funding) on the part of existing Norwegian partners add value/demonstrate value for money for the project as a whole.
 - All applicants will be informed about the committee's decision in a written decision sent through the Online Monitoring System.
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What happens after approval?

- A new project contract is prepared by the Joint Secretariat.
 - Partner expenditure is eligible from the date of approval of the extension request. It is not necessary to wait for the signed project contract to start the work stemming from the changes.
 - All additional partners in the project must sign the Partnership Agreement. The Partnership Agreement should also **incorporate any changes to the shared costs scheme, if the project has one**.
 - All new partners in the project must appoint a controller to check all expenditure. They should include the cost of control checks in their budgets. (See <https://www.interregnorthsea.eu/resources/control-of-partner-expenditure> for more information about control of partner expenditure.) If an organisation joins a project as a sub-partner, they should discuss with the relevant partner whether their costs can be controlled by the partner's controller.
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Important points to keep in mind

- New and innovative project partners, activities and/or target groups should be included in the extension request.
 - All applicants must provide convincing arguments for their ability to deliver the additional activities outlined in the extension application.
 - It is important to emphasise that each application will be assessed on a case-by-case basis taking into account the specific circumstances for that project.
 - Programme rules and procedures are described in the fact sheets, which you can find on the [programme website](#). Registration for and access to the programme's Online Monitoring System is also available through the website.
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Call timeline

	Step	Date
1	Call for proposals is launched	1 May
2	Q&A webinar for interested projects and potential Norwegian partners	15 May
3	Call closes	11 July
4	Selection of proposals by the Monitoring Committee	End September/beginning October
5	Contract and Partnership Agreement modifications	15 November

Grouping and eligibility categories of Interreg North Sea Projects

	Project	End Date
Group 1	ShareDiMobiHub	30-09-25
	D4A	31-12-25
	FREIIA	31-12-25
	Active Cities	31-12-25
	REDII Ports	19-03-26
	Blue Transition	31-03-26
	MegaBITS	30-04-26
	ANCHOR	30-04-26
	Norsaic	30-04-26
	GRITH	30-04-26
	CEO	31-05-26
	TREASURE	31-05-26
	InnoWaTr	11-06-26
	ACE	30-06-26
Group 2	WaterWarmth	15-09-26
	Biodiverse Cities	20-09-26
	SMALL	02-10-26
	DARKER SKY	31-10-26
	BBoBB	31-10-26
	CTB	31-10-26
	Speak Up	01-12-26
	CR	31-12-26
	SN2	31-12-26
	MoLo Hubs	31-12-26
	DEMASK	31-12-26
	GREEN SUPPLY CHAINS	31-12-26
	NS H2V Ports	31-12-26
Group 3	FIER	15-01-27
	Anemol	31-01-27
	LIHYP	01-02-27
	3ST	28-02-27
	NESSIE	31-03-27
	DIOL	12-04-27
	Digital Kiosks	01-05-27
	GLEAM NSR	31-05-27
	SSCH	31-05-27
	REMARCO	30-06-27
	Green Team	01-07-27
	DivGrass	31-08-27
	H2ignite	31-08-27
	OASIS	31-08-27
	MANABAS COAST	30-09-27
	SIRR	30-09-27
	COPPER	30-09-27
	BRAVE	30-09-27
	EXPBIO	31-10-27
	MM	31-10-27
	COOL CITIES	31-12-27
	STORM_SAFE	31-12-27
	CLOSECYCLE	31-12-27
	DigiH4A	31-03-28
	Clancy	30-04-28
	CircleBIM	30-04-28
	DISCO	31-05-28