

Call for proposals INTERREG IV C - February/March 2010

Category « Capitalisation projects »

PROJECT IDEA FORM

Main topic of the project	« High Speed Broadband access in rural areas »
Objectives	<p>Global :</p> <p>To reinforce and support the quality of life and the economic potential within rural areas through the development of High Speed Broadband connections. Specific :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To offer a wide range of services to consumers and develop new opportunities for innovation within public and private organizations. - To establish technical and operating best practices required for the development of such projects within a rural environment. - To apply relevant economic and technical models to the project of High Speed Broadband connection within rural areas in order to attain best value/lowest cost.
Methodology	<p>The project will use the methodology of « Capitalisation INTERREG IVC »:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research and apply best practice as used by partner territories in the establishment of High Broadband connection. - Define an action plan for each partner territory in order to establish the budget required for the application of best practice. - Motivate and involve key stakeholders within each of the partner territories, including regional FEDER program managers.
Potential Actions	<p>A list of actions that are likely to be required in order to establish best practice might include :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ <i>Definition of a territory-specific scheme for the establishment of High-Speed Broadband connection.</i> ▶ <i>Cooperation scheme between civil engineering bodies charged with laying cables, pipes, etc (to ensure best cost efficiency for the installation of cables)</i> ▶ <i>Application of Broadband and High Speed Broadband technology in order to ensure coverage of uncovered zones (separation from the local network, VDSL, WiMax).</i> ▶ <i>Definition of economic models to calculate the return on investment for high speed broadband projects.</i> ▶ <i>Establishment of commercial offers combining both ICT infrastructure and services and offers that could aggregate the needs of many users.</i> ▶ <i>Establishment of observatories of internet use on a territory-wide scale.</i> ▶ <i>Project management of private-public partnerships and access to public and private funding solutions.</i>
Supporting structure	<p>Niverlan – emanating from public organisations – the Nièvre County and the Agglomeration of Nevers (NUTS III – located in Burgundy, France) – which have transferred their joint skills in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to Niverlan.</p> <p>Examples of best practice applied following the test period :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Installation of fibre optic cable within rural areas via electricity poles. - Establishment of the first WiMAX network in France, by number of relay points as well as by surface area covered. <p>Niverlan will be pleased to share its expertise in the above areas with all stakeholders.</p>
Probable partnerships already established	<p>In France :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bourgogne Region – an intermediary organisation responsible for the management of the FEDER within the programme « Regional competitiveness and employment» within the domain of ICT networks in Burgundy. • e-Bourgogne : a public-interest association concerned with e-administration, made up of state-funded regional services (NUTS II and NUTS III) in Burgundy.

Profile of expected partners	<p>Partners located <u>preferably</u> in the following countries of within the European Union : Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Germany (East part), Ireland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Romania, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.</p> <p>Types of structures:</p> <p>1. Specialist or intermediary organisations for the management of FEDER funds as part of the programme of « Convergence » or « Regional competitiveness and employment »</p> <p>2. Public organisations already experienced in innovation in the realm of Broadband and High Speed Broadband connections (infrastructures and services) within rural areas, with proven results that can be shared with other European territories.</p> <p>3. Public organisations wishing to enter into initiatives involving Broadband or High Broadband connections in rural areas during the period 2010 – 2013, and who would be willing to test the transferability of best practice from other European territories.</p>
Provisional calendar of activity	<p>Initial contact will be made via telephone and email with interested parties.</p> <p>A first meeting will be organized on November 3 rd 2009 in Brussels to bring together those organisations wishing to become involved in the project.</p> <p>One or two further meetings will then be convened towards the end of the year/start of 2010 and the candidates list will be finalized by February/March 2010.</p>
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About INTERREG IV C Capitalisation projects

A Capitalisation project :

- Aims to transfer best practice between European regions, and to communicate results with a view to their application on a wider scale.
- Is particularly open to those organisations responsible for the management of regional infrastructure budgets. Such organisations agree to adapt their regional FEDER program to include and apply the findings of the capitalisation project.
- Should bring together partners from between 6 and 10 European Union countries, which may be funded to a limit of 75% or 85% by the FEDER depending upon their geographical location.
- Should have a total budget of between 300 000 and 3 000 000 €
- Should have a duration of around 24 months.