

Call information			
Programme	INTERREG EUROPE (http://www.interregeurope.eu/).		
Type of action	Interregional Cooperation Project		
Call	3 rd Call: opening date March 1 st 2017	Deadline	30 th June 2017
Eligible partners	<p>Public Authorities (national, regional or local), public equivalent bodies in charge of defining and implementing regional policy instruments and non-profit bodies (also private) in any EU region.</p> <p><u>Public equivalent bodies:</u> Any body, (a) established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest, not having an industrial or commercial character; (b) having legal personality; and (c) financed, for the most part, by the State, regional or local authorities, or other bodies governed by public law; or subject to management supervision by those bodies; or having an administrative, managerial or supervisory board, more than half of whose members are appointed by the State, regional or local authorities, or by other bodies governed by public law.</p> <p><u>Private non-profit bodies:</u> Any body, (a) established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest, not having an industrial or commercial character; (b) having legal personality; (c) - not financed, for the most part, by the State, regional or local authorities, or other bodies governed by public law; - not subject to management supervision by those bodies; - not having an administrative, managerial or supervisory board, more than half of whose members are appointed by the State, regional or local authorities, or by other bodies governed by public law.</p>		
Funding rate	85% for public authorities and public equivalent bodies. 75% for private non-profit bodies.		
Project proposal information			
Title	<p>“WaterManage”: New strategies for local sustainable & efficient management of water in European small towns</p> <p>Other acronyms: WaterEffManage, WaterEff ...</p>		
Contact Persons	<p>Project promoter and Lead Applicant: Government of La Rioja: <u>Department (General Direction) of environmental quality and water</u> José María Infante: jminfante@larioja.org</p> <p>Project partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decentralized Administration of East Macedonia and Thrace (regional authority responsible for the drafting and implementation of the policy instrument) • Special Secretariat for Water, Greek Ministry of Environment & Energy (national authority responsible for the drafting and implementation of the policy instrument) • University of Thessaly, Civil Engineering Department • Calabria Region (TBC) 		

	<p>External consultants: Iniciativas Innovadoras: Joseba Aranguren: jaranguren@iniciativas-innovadoras.es Claire Gahigiro Merino: cgahigiro@iniciativas-innovadores.es</p>
<p>Foreseen project duration and budget</p>	<p>Project duration: the project will be implemented in 2 phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1: Exchange of experience and definition of Regional Action Plans (24 months): this phase is dedicated to the diagnosis, benchmarking, exchange of policy experience and analysis. By the end of this phase, each partner region shall produce an Action Plan for the integration of lessons learnt from the cooperation in their regional policies and/or (Growth and Jobs, ETC) programmes. The Action Plans shall identify the measures to be integrated and their timeframe, work steps, responsible actors, costs (if any) and funding sources. The partners shall actively involve relevant regional stakeholders in all activities. • Phase 2: Monitoring of implementation of Regional Action Plans (24 months): this phase is dedicated to the monitoring by each partner region of the implementation of their Action Plan by the responsible actors in their territory. The actual implementation of these actions <i>is not funded by INTERREG EUROPE</i>. This monitoring primarily takes place within the context of each region. However, the interregional partnership may decide to organise joint activities in this monitoring phase to continue their policy learning process. In duly justified cases, phase 2 may also include pilot actions to test certain parts of the Action Plan in practice. <p>Budget per region: 250.000-350.000€ (85% - 75% ERDF contribution, depending on public/private nature of partner) for both Phases. Max budget: 2.000.000 €</p>
<p>Partnership and Specific objective targeted</p>	<p>Partnership could be composed of 6 EU28 regions, including La Rioja (Spain).</p> <p>Besides the regions (public authorities – Regional Governments), other entities could be partners of the project (Universities,... etc).</p> <p>The project will target Specific objective 4.2: “Improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in particular programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs and, where relevant, European Territorial Cooperation programmes, aimed at increasing resource-efficiency, green growth and eco-innovation and environmental performance management”.</p>
<p>Background</p>	<p>Sustainable use of European water resources, especially in its quantitative aspects, is a real challenge for those in charge of water policy, taking into account global phenomena, such as climate change and demographic evolution.</p> <p>In this sense, the European Commission has developed a Plan to safeguard water resources in Europe (Blue Print), whose axes of action include the need to improve the efficiency of water resources. Under this plan it is highlighted the high potential untapped of water efficiency measures in the main consuming sectors of water including acquisition infrastructures, management and distribution networks of drinking water.</p> <p>Regarding to the leaks in water distribution networks, the Commission considers that the problem only could be resolved case by case and should estimate the environmental and economic benefits of the reduction of leakage. The situation differs greatly from one Member State to another and within the same Member State, and may vary the leaks from 7% to more than 50% or a higher percentage.</p> <p>Like other regions, La Rioja is also concerned about inefficiency of management systems of water resources and the loss of water in distribution networks. Since the Government of La Rioja are estimated that more than 7 Hm³ can be saved per year in the small towns reducing leaks in the management and distribution of drinking water for 250,000 people.</p> <p>In a big part of the European territory, in the case of small towns, the control and management of water are carried out with limited economic and human resources.</p>

	<p>Moreover, staff often has limited technical qualifications to perform the management of the services in a safe and efficient manner.</p> <p>For this reason, it is understood that is important to develop a guidance document to assess efficiency in the management and distribution of drinking water in small municipalities and develop the bases of a regional and local strategy on efficiency of water resources management in the distribution of water for human consumption.</p> <p>With all of this, it can be said that this project address to one of the objectives of the Interreg Europe program which refers to the transition to a resource-efficient economy based on green growth and eco-innovation and to improving environmental performance management.</p> <p>Interreg Europe is the most suitable instrument for facilitating the exchange between regions on the design of Action Plans with a combination of policy and funding instruments.</p>
<p>Approach</p>	<p>The overall objective of the project is to improve regional development policies and programmes (regional or local strategies) in the field of efficiency in the local management and distribution of drinking water in small towns and rural areas of the participating regions, in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce water losses in the system of treatment and distribution of drinking water in towns • Reduce of vulnerability to periods of drought and dwindling water resources due to climate change in rural areas. • Improve control and quantification of costs associated with the water management for human consumption. <p>The project will identify the synergies and complementarities between different policy and funding instruments (ERDF, H2020, EAFRD, LIFE, local, regional & national environment strategies, etc) in order to design Regional Action Plans with specific funding and policy mixes for achieving the transition to a resource-efficient economy based on green growth and eco-innovation and to improving environmental performance management in the main consuming sectors of water (population, livestock, services and industry) of the participating regions.</p> <p>The Regional Action Plans will be developed following a three-fold approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A participatory approach, allowing project partners to engage in a continuous and wide consultation process with public authorities, policy-makers, farming, livestock, industry, etc within regional water management and water consuming systems. Stakeholders will be organized in Local Stakeholder Groups according to a number of thematic areas pre-identified in the project proposal. • A systemic approach, allowing to comprehensively covering the water sustainable management value chain of the regions in order to find synergies and complementarities between existing measures, programmes and models of the participating regions. • A bottom-up approach, allowing project partners to escalate from the regional level to the EU level through identifying measures, programmes and models covering the cross-sector and cross-border hybridization of the local water management sectors within and among the participating regions as well as at the EU level. <p>The approach followed will allow designing holistic Regional Action Plans with greater chances for successful implementation due to the ownership of results by the regional stakeholders.</p> <p>Furthermore, the project will address and will be in line with the "The blueprint to Safeguard</p>

	<p>Europe's Water resources - (COM(2012) 673" which outlines actions that concentrate on better implementation of current water legislation, integration of water policy objectives into other policies, and filling the gaps in particular as regards water quantity and efficiency. The objective is to ensure that a sufficient quantity of good quality water is available for people's needs, the economy and the environment throughout the EU.</p> <p>The Water Blueprint's time horizon is closely related to the EU's 2020 Strategy and the analysis underpinning the Blueprint covers a longer time span, up to 2050, and is expected to drive EU water policy over the long term.</p> <p>So the idea of the project can be resumed as follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The first part of the project would be to identify the main problems of the water management in small towns, in principle in those with less of 20,000 inhabitants with a local supply system. For that, it is necessary to analyze different municipalities and/or towns of different regions, sizes and characteristics, with the aim of determining the demands of fixed population, seasonal population, livestock, services and industry. - It is also important to diagnose the distribution network losses of the drinking water from its acquisition to delivery to the final consumer. To do this it is necessary to define the basic equipment and an audit methodology to improve the control. - In third term, it must be defined the available best practices, equipment and technologies to improve the efficiency in the local management of water taking into account the resources availability of the municipalities. This previous work should serve as basis for the development of strategies and regional or local programmes for the improvement of the efficiency of water resources management. - Finally, the project would define a system of labelling of water efficiency of the management and distribution model of water for human consumption, allowing being a clear identifier of the level, not only of the relationship between water collected and water supply, but also the energy consumption and CO2 emissions associated with the supply of water for human consumption. <p>So, for the development of the project and for the transfer of knowledge it is interesting the collaboration of various European regions with relevant importance of their rural population and small towns, as well as universities, companies or entities specialized in water management technology.</p>
<p>Expected Results</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Savings between 20-70% of the abstraction of water for human consumption in scattered towns in the implementation of the project. - Preparation of a document for the elaboration of programmes and strategies of leakage reduction and improvement of water management (Regional Action Plan). A document providing details on how the lessons learnt from the cooperation will be implemented in order to improve the policy instrument that is addressed within each region. It will specify the nature of the actions to be implemented, their timeframe, the players involved, the costs (if any) and funding sources (if any). - Developing a labelling system for water efficiency in the management of water.
<p>Activities</p>	<p>The project will be implemented through the following Components:</p> <p>C1: MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION. Led by DG Innovation La Rioja Government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interregional Steering Group meetings each 6 months. • Reporting to JTS. • Monitoring and evaluation of project results.

	<p>C2: COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION. Led by “To be Determined”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of a Communication Strategy and Plan to be implemented. • Tools: website, social media, brochure, • Holding of regional and interregional dissemination events. • Lay out, printing and dissemination of publications: Method, Good Practices Guide and Policy Recommendations. <p>C3. EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE LEADING TO REGIONAL ACTION PLANS (RAP). Led by “To be Determined”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holistic analysis at regional and inter-regional level. • Identification of Good Practices. • Field Visits to partners’ good practices and Peer Review process of local policies. • Definition of Regional Action Plans. <p>C4. MONITORING OF REGIONAL ACTION PLANS (RAP). Led by “To be Determined”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and reporting implementation progress of RAP.
<p>Expected outputs</p>	<p><u>Main outputs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional Reports with results of Diagnosis Phase. - Inventory of Good Practices. - Regional Policy Briefs. - Policy Road Map. - Regional Action Plans.

