Examples of projects

SEMPRE: Improving social services in rural regions – this is the objective that Diakonisches Werk Schleswig-Holstein (charitable organisation of Protestant churches in Germany) has set itself with the SEMPRE project. Rural regions are often characterised by lower population density and poorer connection to public local transport. Particularly long-term unemployed, older people and migrants run a growing risk of becoming socially excluded. To counter these trends, Diakonisches Werk intends to develop programmes such as transport and care services in cooperation with the socially disadvantaged. Diakonisches Werk has been able to develop SEMPRE thanks to seed money funding under the Federal Programme. The Federal Government is also involved in the co-financing of the project. With 15 transnational partners, Diakonisches Werk will implement the project in the Baltic Sea Region by 2018.

BEA-APP: „Baltic Energy Areas – A Planning Perspective“ deals with the spatial planning challenges related to the so-called energy transition. The Ministry of Energy, Infrastructure and State Development of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania is the lead partner. It receives co-financing under the Federal Programme. To reach the climate protection objectives, additional areas in the Baltic Sea Region will have to be designated for wind parks and bioenergy units or solar installations. The most appropriate areas must be selected and compromises found for competing claims on land use. However, there is a shortage of planning instruments and information on local conditions. At the same time, spatial planners are often confronted with local resistance to renewable energy projects. The transnational project partners implement BEA-APP within the context of the Interreg Baltic Sea Region programme. Their objective is to improve regional and energy planning.

Contact us!

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Application forms, guidelines for applicants, current deadlines and other information on the German Federal Transnational Cooperation Programme can be found in the „National funding“ section at www.interreg.de

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The Federal Programme

There is much to be done in Europe: economic and financial crises, climate change and demographic shifts know no bounds. The EU and its Member States face the task of mastering these challenges together. This is where transnational cooperation — or briefly: Interreg B — starts. Its goal is to find solutions through project-based cooperation. In the 2014-2020 funding period, Germany participates in six transnational programmes: Alpine Space, Baltic Sea Region, Central Europe, Danube Region as well as North Sea Region and North-West Europe. Through the Federal Transnational Cooperation Programme the German Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI) co-finances selected transnational projects that focus on issues of special national interest and that can make a contribution to sustainable spatial development. The German Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development in Bonn coordinates the Programme on behalf of the BMVI.

The objective is to push forward transnational spatial development. The actors in Germany are to "get fit" for Europe. To this end, the Programme promotes the integration of new actors into transnational cooperation, the establishment of national and European cooperative relations and public-private partnerships as well as cross-border cooperative structures. In particular, it supports cooperation on spatial development policy, such as in European macro-regions.

Target group

The Federal Programme addresses German project partners in the field of transnational cooperation in all six Interreg B programmes with German involvement. The projects applying for funding must deal with issues that are of particular interest to the German Federal Government. Another requirement is that the projects must involve integrated approaches in spatial planning. Not one specific topic, but the sustainable development of regions should take centre stage in the project. Public, Germany-based institutions are eligible for funding. In some cases, private organisations may be funded, too.

Types of funding

The Federal Government provides an annual sum of EUR 500,000 for the period 2014 to 2020. Three funding categories have been defined. In all three categories applicants must make their own financial contributions.

Seed money
• Funds the preparation of Interreg B applications and the European search for partners
• Mainly intended for prospective lead partners
• Independent of the success of the final application under the Interreg B programme
• Supports applicants at both steps of the transnational application procedures
• Maximum funding: EUR 25,000

Co-financing
• Provides support with the applicant’s own contribution that each partner of an Interreg B project must provide
• Mainly intended for lead partners
• Projects are included in the communication activities of the German Federal Government to Interreg
• Funding: EUR 50,000 to EUR 100,000

Additional funding
• Supports measures that cannot be realised as part of an Interreg B project or that were not yet foreseeable upon application
• Promotes public relations and consolidation of project results
• Open to all project partners
• Maximum funding: EUR 50,000

Topics and added value

The projects should be thematically linked both to the funding objectives of Interreg B and those of the Federal Transnational Cooperation Programme. This means that not everything supported by Interreg B is automatically eligible for national funding! The German Federal Programme mainly funds projects that are demonstrably related to sustainable spatial development.

During the EU Structural Funding period 2014 to 2020, the German Federal Transnational Cooperation Programme supports the following priorities:

• Low-carbon transport, corridor development and hinterland connections
• Regional energy and climate protection concepts
• Social innovation, such as in the field of services of general interest
• Blue growth, development of coastal regions, maritime spatial planning
• Measures to protect the environment and resources as well as against risks – with relevance for regional development
• Other spatially significant projects

The German Federal Programme also supports the projects at political level. This creates greater attention among decision-makers and facilitates local communication of topics.