



Interreg 

Austria-Hungary 2014-2020

European Union – European Regional Development Fund

CALL FOR PROJECT EXTENSION

**Guiding principles on project modification
with additional work packages**



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The Cooperation Programme INTERREG V-A Austria-Hungary (hereinafter: the Programme) is in an implementation phase in which, due to budgetary and content-related requirements, beneficiaries of approved/contracted projects are invited to extend their projects with new elements.

Project extensions shall be submitted as regular project modifications that will be assessed by the Joint Secretariat and put forward to a decision by the Monitoring Committee (MC).

1 Thematic approach

Project extensions shall be prepared as additional work packages to the already approved/contracted projects. As the new work packages are going to become parts of an existing structure, it is expected that any additional work package as well as its individual elements – in duly justified cases, also new partner(s) – comply with the following thematic requirements:

- they **fit the original intervention logic** of the project;
- they foresee and contribute to **capitalization, enhancement, reinforcement or further development of project outputs and results**;
- the new elements have to be of a nature that can be implemented also in the circumstances of the **COVID-19** epidemic;
- **no infrastructural elements** are allowed as project extension.

The Programme welcomes project extensions which aim at the following fields of activities:

- **Strategies and studies** which can be used in preparation for the next programming period (2021-2027), either as setting a policy framework or as red line for project development, preferably with coverage over the whole programme area. Potential topics may include e.g. biodiversity, tourism, education, etc.
- Furthermore, project extension with outputs contributing to programme indicators less undertaken so far by partnerships would be appreciated. Contribution to the following output indicator is in favour of the programme implementation:
 - **Priority axis 2 – Specific objective SO22:
OI25 Protection measures (incl. investments)**

2 Financial considerations

The Programme aims at achieving the best financial use of the available funds. For this reason, project extensions submitted will be financed from the return flow of unspent ERDF-funds of completed projects.

From the financial point of view two types of project extensions can be distinguished:

1. Newly introduced elements covered by the original project budget, to minimize leftovers in the project.
2. Requesting additional funds for the implementation of newly introduced elements.





The total cost of project extensions should be reasonable, correspond to planned activities, and adjusted to available funds in the Programme that will be communicated by the Regional Coordinators.

As a general rule for the budget of the project extensions (additional work packages) an **upper limit of 250 000 Euro** (on the basis of total costs) has to be respected for the request of additional funds. However in duly justified cases the limitation can be disregarded by the MC (confirmation beforehand by the RCs is expected).

3 Recommended timeline

From the timely perspective, two types of project extensions can be distinguished:

1. Keeping the original end date of the projects. New elements will be implemented within the original duration.
2. Prolongation of the project. New elements will be implemented in the prolonged period.

The implementation of the project extension shall not start earlier than the date of submission of the modification. However, the eligibility of any action performed before the decision of the MC is at the own risk of the project holders. If the extension work package is scheduled to be implemented in combination with a project prolongation, as a general rule in the additional period only the new project elements and the related project management and communication activities are allowed. The continuation of other previous project content in this period is subject to the confirmation of the MA/MC.

When planning a prolonged project implementation, please allow sufficient time to implement the extended project content in order to avoid any need for further prolongations. **In any case, general programme rules of the eligible period of implementation must be respected, i.e. the last day of eligibility in the Programme is the 31th December 2022.**

Project modifications for extensions shall be submitted as soon as possible but not later than 3rd February 2021, in order to be assessed and put forward to discussion by the MC in its 12th meeting foreseen on 3-4 March 2021. Any modifications submitted later are subject to decision by the MC depending on its meeting schedule as well as on the funds available.

The final decision on the approval or rejection of a project extension will be made by the MC. For the purpose of financial control of the Programme, the MC has the right to place individual project extensions on reserve list.

4 Support to project extensions

The Programme aims at co-financing project extensions that produce best possible contribution to the programme targets. Therefore, professional support at regional level is offered to the project partners. Regional Coordinators (hereinafter: RCs) are at the project partners service at previously agreed times. It is strongly advised by the Programme to establish strong, continuous contacts with the RCs in order to elaborate quality exten-





sions (preferably two/three personal/online consultations during the preparation of the extension, continuous consultation via e-mail and on phone – covering not only technical issues but primarily content). Elaboration of project extensions is advised to have strict time plans, preferably set together with the RCs. Therefore, the first contact with the RCs is recommended to be made at the earliest stage of the planned modification as possible.

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