

Geographical flexibility

➔ Background Information

In general, only those project participants may ask for ERDF-co-funding which are located inside the programme area of the Alpine Space Programme and in the territory of an EU Member State.

The EU-structural funds regulations respectively the programme partners foresee two exceptions from this rule which means that ERDF-cofunding is also possible for:

- + national public bodies of one of the programme's Member States even if located outside the programme area;
- + expenditure incurred by other partners (i.e. other than these national public bodies) coming from EU Member States but located outside the programme area respectively expenditure incurred due to implementing activities on the territory of Non EU-Member States.

In both cases certain conditions have to be fulfilled for such ERDF-cofunding.

➔ Guidance

1 National public bodies of Member States

National public bodies of Member States which are part of the programme can request ERDF-cofunding, even though they are not located in the programme area if they have a competence covering the whole territory of the respective Member State (e.g. ministries located in the capitals of Italy, France or Germany). See also factsheet 2.1. *Who can participate?*

2 Expenditure incurred by project participants outside the programme area and expenditure related to activities implemented in Non-EU Member States

All other **project participants that are not located in the cooperation area** and that do not fall under the exception for national public bodies can ask for ERDF-co-funding under the following conditions:

The programme partners have agreed that project participants that come from regions that are not part of the programme area but located in a Member State of the Alpine Space Programme are invited to take part in projects approved by the programme and can receive ERDF co-funding.

This means that project participants situated in the following regions are concerned by this flexibility and can ask for ERDF-cofunding:

- + all regions of Germany except Upper Bavaria, Swabia, Tübingen and Freiburg (as these are full members of the programme).
- + all regions of France except Rhône-Alpes, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Franche-Comté and Alsace (as these are full members of the programme).
- + all regions of Italy except Lombardia, Friuli Venezia-Giulia, Veneto, Trentino - Alto Adige, Valle d'Aosta, Piemonte and Liguria (as these are full members of the programme).

Essential for the approval of ERDF funds for project participants located outside the programme area is that the benefit for the programme area is described carefully and traceably in section 3.2.2 of the Expression of Interest (EoI) respectively 3.8.1 in the Application Form (AF).

Please consider that the ERDF funds dedicated to project participants located outside the programme area are limited to 20% of the ERDF budget of the project.

In the case of project activities set outside the territory of EU Member States, the following shall be considered: only those actions located outside the EU that are implemented and financed by project participants coming from the EU-Member States Austria, Germany, France, Italy and Slovenia can be co-funded by ERDF.

Any activities implemented by Non-EU PP coming from Switzerland and Liechtenstein are not concerned by this rule as the related expenses will not be ERDF co-funded.

Essential for the approval of ERDF funds for these actions located outside the EU is that the benefit for the programme area is described in detail in section 2.5 of the EoI respectively 3.8.2 in the AF. Furthermore sections 4 and 6.3 of the AF shall be filled in carefully.

Please consider that the ERDF funds dedicated to the actions located outside the territory of EU Member States are limited to 10% of the ERDF budget of the project.

Reference Documents

- + Article 21 (2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on the European Regional Development Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1783/1999.
- + Operational Programme "Alpine Space", Chapter 1.1

Annexes

- + Model Expression of Interest (EoI) with guidance
- + Model Application Form (AF) with guidance