

The logo for eurogeographics is located in the top right corner. It features the word "eurogeographics" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font. A stylized graphic element, consisting of a yellow and blue curved line with a small star, is positioned above the "e" and "g".

eurogeographics

Landscaping study on funding opportunities

Intermediate report

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1 \ INTRODUCTION: CONTEXT AND METHODOLOGY

With the new European financial framework for 2021-2027, there are many new opportunities both for EuroGeographics and its members to benefit from European funding in order to further develop their activities and diversify their funding sources. The objective of this document is to **present the results of a European funding landscaping study**, which included several steps:

➤ **Identification of key topics of interest:** we identified the main areas of activities (and related keywords) for EuroGeographics and its members:

■ **Keywords related to the core business** of EuroGeographics (relevant both for the association and its members):

- Map(s), Cadastre, Land, Geography, Geospatial data/services, Geolocalisation
- Data access, Data visualization, Data infrastructure, Interoperable data, Open data, Data protection, Geoblocking
- Big data, Artificial intelligence, Machine learning, Disruptive technologies, Cloud
- Knowledge exchange, Capacity building

■ **Keywords related to application areas** (relevant mostly for the members of EuroGeographics)

- Land administration, Public administration, Real estate, Utilities
- Online services, e-services /e-government, Taxation, Public Sector Information / PSI Directive, INSPIRE Data Governance, e-Government
- Emergency planning, Security, First responders
- Environmental monitoring, Earth monitoring, Coastal surveillance
- Agriculture data, Energy data, Mobility / Transport, Smart cities, Green Deal
- Satellite positioning, GNSS /GEOSS, Health (e.g. linked to Covid-19 response), Digital single market, Internet of things, Space programs

➤ **Identification and analysis of funding programmes:** we identified funding programmes that could support activities on the topics defined previously. This survey included all European funding programmes as well as programmes open to members of EuroGeographics which are not based in the EU. We analysed each programme with regards to its relevance for EuroGeographics and its members. This included:

- What are the objectives of the programme?
- What types of projects and activities can be funded?
- What are the eligibility criteria (type and number of partners, eligibility of countries...)?
- What type of funding is offered (grant, loan...) and what is the funding rate?
- How is the programme managed? Are there calls for proposals? What is the schedule for the 2021-2027 period?
- Is the programme relevant for EuroGeographics and its members (topics, relevant projects or calls, ease of access...)?

We present below a short description of each programme (in alphabetic order) and its interest for EuroGeographics and its members.

➤ **Summary and recommendations:** based on the analysis carried out in the second step, we prepared recommendations on how to define a relevant strategy for EuroGeographics and, in our opinion, the most relevant funding programmes.

2 \ RECOMMENDATIONS

- Given that EuroGeographics **scope of work and areas of application are very large** (ranging from digital technology to data challenges to application field such as environment, agriculture, health and crisis management or smart cities), **many European and international funding programmes are *a priori* relevant**. The scope of this study was therefore very large, covering more than 15 programmes. It may be necessary to set priorities and to define what the most relevant programmes for EuroGeographics and its members are:

	CEF	COST	Digital Europe	ESIF	EU4Health	Horizon Europe	IPA	Interreg	InvestEU	LIFE	IVCDCI	World Bank
Geospatial data/services	X					X						
Open Data	X		X			X		X				
Artificial Intelligence, Bigdata		X	X	X		X		X	X			
Cloud			X			X						
Disruptive technologies		X	X			X						
Digital Single Market	X		X	X		X			X			
e-Government	X		X			X						
Mobility / Transport	X	X		X		X		X	X			
Landscape, Spatial Planning		X		X		X						X
Map, Land, Geography, Cadastre		X				X		X				
Agriculture		X		X		X	X			X		
Green Deal	X	X		X		X		X		X		
Energy	X	X		X		X			X			
Environment		X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Emergency planning				X	X	X		X			X	X
Health		X		X	X	X		X			X	X
Space programs						X						
Smart Cities	X	X		X		X		X				

- When analysing the interest of a programme, it is important to **go into details**:
- It is rarely the case that a programme, sub-programme or call for proposals directly targets the core of EuroGeographics activities, "geospatial data". However, geospatial data could contribute to address many challenges targeted by the calls/programmes. As a consequence, **EuroGeographics should not limit its search for funding to calls mentioning explicitly geospatial data/services**.
 - Most of the time, **only a section of the programme, a type of activity or a sub-programme could be relevant**, whereas other sections might not be so interesting.
- A **dedicated "programmes and calls monitoring"** should be organized to stay up-to-date with all programmes and opportunities:
- Because of the change of financial framework (from 2014-2020 to 2021-2027), there is currently a transition period before the new programmes fully enter into force.

Whereas for some programmes (e.g. Horizon Europe), there are already many information available, **information for other programmes is scarce or even not available at all** (see section 15). The present document will therefore need to be updated in the coming months and years when more information will be published.

- **Each funding programme identified in this report has its own rules, eligibility criteria, schedule and website.** There is also no single website that centralises information on all programmes. **Therefore, it is necessary to monitor closely the publication of the new calls for projects to avoid missing an opportunity.**
- Given that potentially there are many programmes of interest, it will be necessary to **prioritize the efforts towards the most relevant opportunities**. To do so, EuroGeographics should determine:
 - What type of projects should be funded: research and development, infrastructure, investment, training, policy reform...?
 - What type and level of funding is necessary (grant / loan / tender...)?
 - Are there areas of application that should be targeted in priority? ...

A first analysis and prioritization of programmes is proposed below. Details on the programmes are provided in sections 3-15 of this document.

Programme	Type of activities funded	Funding	EuroGeographics		EU Members		Non-EU Members	
			Eligibility	Relevance	Eligibility	Relevance	Eligibility	Relevance
CEF	Infrastructure Studies	Mostly grant (30-70% of eligible costs depending on type of project)	YES	Medium	YES	Medium	YES (If they contribute to EU priorities)	Medium
COST	Network	Grant (reimbursement of travel costs)	YES	Low	YES	Low	YES, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway	Low
Digital Europe	Research and Development Training	Grant (co-funding rate not known at the moment)	YES	Low / Medium	YES	Medium	YES, Iceland, Norway, and Switzerland, Euro-Mediterranean and Eastern Partnerships and neighbouring countries (they should bear the cost of their participation)	Low
ESIF	Infrastructure Investment Research and Development	Mostly grant (50-85% of eligible costs depending on region of establishment)	YES	Low	YES	High for ERDF Medium for cohesion fund, EAFRD Low for JTF	NO	Low

Programme		Type of activities funded	Funding	EuroGeographics		EU Members		Non-EU Members	
				Eligibility	Relevance	Eligibility	Relevance	Eligibility	Relevance
EU4Health		Investment Research and Development	Grant (co-funding rate not known at the moment)	YES	Low	YES	Low	YES (but the list of associated countries is not known yet)	Low
Horizon Europe		Research, Development and Innovation	Grant (70-100 % of eligible costs depending on types of projects)	YES	High / Medium for pillar II Low for pillar I and III (including as dissemination/ communication partner)	YES	High / Medium for pillar II Low for pillar I and III	YES, Albania, Armenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine	High / Medium for pillar II Low for pillar I and III
IPA		Investment Policy reforms	Grant (co-funding rate not known at the moment)	YES	Low	YES	Low / Medium (depending on country of establishment of the member)	YES, Candidate countries (Turkey, Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, North Macedonia) and countries from the Western Balkans	Medium
Interreg	Interreg A	Research and Development	Grant (50-85% of eligible costs depending on region of establishment)	YES (To be checked for each Interreg A programme)	Low (may participate as dissemination/ communication partner depending on the programme)	YES (To be checked for each Interreg A programme)	Medium	To be checked for each Interreg A programme	Medium
	Interreg B	Research and Development	Grant (50-85% of eligible costs depending on region of establishment)	YES (To be checked for each Interreg B programme)	Medium (may participate as dissemination/ communication partner depending on the programme)	YES (To be checked for each Interreg B programme)	Medium	To be checked for each Interreg B programme	Medium

Programme		Type of activities funded	Funding	EuroGeographics		EU Members		Non-EU Members	
				Eligibility	Relevance	Eligibility	Relevance	Eligibility	Relevance
	Interreg Europe	Regional policies Capacity building Exchange of good practices	Grant (50-85% of eligible costs depending on region of establishment)	YES	Low (may participate as dissemination/ communication partner)	YES	High	YES for Switzerland, UK, Norway	High
	ESPON	Research and Development Production of territorial observation tools and methods	Tenders	YES	High	YES	High	Yes for Island, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.	High
	URBACT	Transnational exchange Learning networks	Grant (70% for the most developed regions 85% for the least developed or transition regions.	YES	Low	YES	Low	YES for Norway and Switzerland	Low
InvestEU		Investment Infrastructure Research and Development	Financial instrument (loan, guarantee...)	YES	Low	YES	Low	YES (Members of the European Free Trade Association, acceding countries, candidates and potential candidates, countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy)	Low

Programme	Type of activities funded	Funding	EuroGeographics		EU Members		Non-EU Members	
			Eligibility	Relevance	Eligibility	Relevance	Eligibility	Relevance
LIFE	Demonstration Exchange of good practices Policy reform...	Mostly grant (55 – 60 % of eligible costs)	YES	Low (may participate as dissemination/ communication partner)	YES	Medium / Low	YES, as associated beneficiary by undertaking actions that are necessary for achieving the environmental or climate goals of the EU	Medium / Low
IVDCI	Policy reform	Grant (co-funding rate not known at the moment)	YES	Low	YES	Low	YES	High
Word Bank	Policy reform Infrastructure Investment	Financial instrument (loan, guarantee...)	NO	Low	NO	Low	YES (to be checked for each country)	High

*Note: relevance of a programme (**Low / Medium / High**) is defined based on the following criteria: does the programme fund projects linked to geospatial data or areas of application? Is the type of funding attractive (grant vs. loan, co-financing percentage...)? What is the probability of getting funded ?*

➤ EuroGeographics and its members might not target the same programmes:

- **EuroGeographics, focusing on its core business** (access to and exploitation of geospatial data), **might find the following programmes interesting: CEF** (already several projects funded during the previous financial frameworks), **Horizon Europe, Interreg B, Digital Europe...** Given the status of the association and its location in Brussels, EuroGeographics' participation might be limited in regional cooperation programmes (Interreg, ESIF...)
- **EuroGeographics could participate in projects as a partner in charge of dissemination or communication activities** (for instance in Horizon Europe, Interreg or LIFE - eligibility of such activities should be checked for each call for proposals). EuroGeographics could also participate in some projects as a member of the advisory board. Although EuroGeographics would not receive funding for this activity (except reimbursement of travel costs), it would all the association to increase its visibility and promote its activities.
- **EuroGeographics members, focusing on areas of application** (in addition to their core business on geospatial data) **might be able to participate in a larger number of programmes.** In addition to EU-wide programmes, **members based in EU Member States might benefit from European Structural and Investment Fund managed at a local level which are often less competitive.** Furthermore, without applying directly to European programme EuroGeographics members might be eligible to indirect support, for instance through the European Digital Hubs that will be created in European regions by the Digital Europe programme to support the uptake of digital technology by the public and private sectors (by providing local actors access to digital or testing infrastructures or access to training).
- **EuroGeographics members not based in the EU will need to check their eligibility** of the different programmes: they might be able to participate to EU funding programmes, either as partners based in associated countries or as partners from third countries. They may also be eligible for programmes managed by the European Commission and targeting non-EU countries.

➤ Finally, it may be worth having a look not only at calls for proposals/projects but also at **calls for tenders**. For instance, the **ESPON programme (European Spatial Planning Observation Network)** seems highly relevant for EuroGeographics, even though it is implemented through tenders.

3 \ CONNECTING EUROPE FACILITY

3.1 \ Presentation of the programme and its objectives

Connecting Europe Facility programme (CEF) aims to support the development and modernization of infrastructure networks, to contribute to the green and digital transition, to reduce market failures and to attract further investment from the public and private sectors. It will run from 2021 to 2027, with an overall budget of €33.71 billion.

CEF is divided into 3 sectors:

- **CEF Transport** supports the development of new transport infrastructure in Europe or the rehabilitation and upgrading of existing one. It focusses on decarbonation and making transport connected, sustainable, inclusive, safe and secure.
- **CEF Energy** contributes to the transition towards clean energy and the completion of the Energy Union. It aims to make the EU energy systems more interconnected, smarter and digitalized. CEF Energy focusses on cross-border energy projects, the interoperability of networks, and the better integration of the internal energy market;
- **CEF Digital (former CEF Telcom)** aims to improve digital connectivity by creating very high-capacity broadband networks. It will finance projects in six areas: providing gigabit connectivity to socioeconomic drivers, wireless connectivity to local communities, 5G coverage on important transport axes, very high-capacity networks to households, key international links, and digital operational platforms. CEF Digital will also support Digital Service Infrastructures (DSIs), to support the deployment of extremely complex trans-European digital services, based on robust and mature technical and process oriented organizational solutions, including for **Open data**.

3.2 \ Eligibility

The following entities are eligible for CEF funding:

- International organisations, companies, public or private bodies established in a Member State are eligible;
- Each Member State represented in a consortium must support and give prior approval to applicants who wish to submit a proposal;
- Third country/third country entities may only participate in a consortium with applicants from EU Member States;
- Minimum requirements regarding the composition of the consortium may vary depending on the CEF sector;
- Only projects contributing to the Projects of Common Interest (PCIs)¹, to the corridors or to EU priorities are eligible.

¹ PCIs are projects identified by the European Union as key priorities to interconnect Europe's energy/transport system infrastructure.

3.3 \ Type of projects

CEF funds the following projects:

- Infrastructure projects;
- Works and studies;
- New technologies and innovation;
- Cross-sectoral projects.

3.4 \ Funding

- Under CEF Transport, €25.8 billion will be available for grants to co-fund transport projects in EU Member States: 60 % of the budget will go to the development of basic infrastructure and 40 % to modernizing the existing network;
- Under CEF Energy, €5.84 billion will be available to co-fund projects and studies of common interest under the TEN-E Regulation as well as cross-border projects in the field of renewable energy: 90% will be used to support the integration of the energy market and 10% to support cross-border renewable energy projects (either between Member States or with a third country);
- CEF Digital will invest €2.06 billion in European connectivity infrastructures.

CEF funding takes the form of **grants**, procurement, financial instruments and support actions helping to prepare quality projects.

The co-financing rate for grants varies according to the type of action as well as the participating country. The table below details the co-financing rates for 2021-2027 period.

CEF Transport	Co-financing rate
General envelope and military mobility projects	30 % (or up to 50 % in case of studies, cross-border links, telematic applications systems, new technology and innovation, safety and outermost regions);
Cohesion envelope projects funded in synergy with the Cohesion Fund	70 % (cross border projects up to 85 %)
CEF Energy	Co-financing rate
Studies and work	up to 50 % (up to 75 % for projects that bring a high degree of security of supply, strengthen EU solidarity or include highly innovative solutions)
CEF Digital	Co-financing rate
Socio-economic drivers (schools, medical centers etc.)	up to 75 %
Wireless connectivity to local communities	up to 100 %
5G corridors along important transport axes	up to 50 %
Very high-capacity networks to households	up to 30 %
Key international networks	up to 50 %;

Along with the grants, CEF offers two financial instruments (CEF debt and CEF equity) to overcome market failures and to create leverage effects with European Union funding. Up to 8.4% of the CEF budget might be implemented through these instruments.

Eligible costs include personnel costs, travel and related subsistence allowances, costs of purchase, depreciation and lease of equipment, infrastructure and other assets, costs of consumables and supplies, costs of subcontracting and indirect costs².

3.5 \ Application procedure and schedule

Once adopted by the Council and the European Parliament, the CEF regulation will enter into force and should apply retroactively from 1 January 2021.

Most of the CEF budget is implemented on the basis of open and competitive calls for proposal. Calls will be published on the Commission's website.

3.6 \ Relevance for EuroGeographics and its members

- CEF puts emphasis on climate change, digital connectivity and renewable electricity. These topics are **relevant for EuroGeographics members'** projects related to mobility, transport, smart cities and infrastructure linked to transport, energy or digital questions. CEF could also be **relevant for EuroGeographics** as an association for calls related to e.g. open data.
- CEF aims to develop and fund infrastructure in the field of transport, energy and digital technologies. EuroGeographics members will need to **partner with entities involved in the development of these infrastructures** to apply for most of CEF funding. The size of the consortium will vary considerably depending on each project characteristics.
- The support of Member States is mandatory to be able to participate in CEF projects. **CEF is quite competitive and only projects contributing to PCIs, European corridors or other European priorities are eligible.**
- **Participation of non-EU entities is only possible if they contribute to EU priorities.**
- The funding rate depends on the calls for proposals, but it generally **does not cover all costs and co-funding is mandatory.**

➤ Example of project of interest for EuroGeographics

Several projects financed under CEF transport can be relevant for EuroGeographics members, such as the [development of the standard gauge railway line of the "Rail Baltic" corridor](#) and the [modernisation of the E30 railway line \(section Zabrze - Katowice - Krakow\)](#).

➤ Example of calls of interest for EuroGeographics

The **2020 CEF Transport call** aimed to optimize the integration and interconnection of transport modes and to enhance the interoperability of transport services, while ensuring the accessibility of transport infrastructures. This call would be relevant for EuroGeographics members in terms of transport, mobility and infrastructures.

The **2020-2 CEF Telecom call** focused on several themes that could be of interest to EuroGeographics and its members, such as eHealth, eProcurement, European Platform for Digital Skills and Jobs, Open Public Data.

² Indirect costs are only eligible for CEF Digital and will represent 7% of the total eligible direct costs minus subcontracting costs and costs of financial support to third parties

4 \ COST

4.1 \ Presentation of the programme and its objectives

European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) is a pan-European intergovernmental framework dedicated to European-based Science and Technology networking activities. Its objective is to allow participants to jointly develop their ideas and new initiatives across all scientific disciplines through trans-European coordination of nationally or otherwise funded research activities.

COST has three strategic priorities:

- Promoting and spreading excellence;
- Fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science;
- Empowering and retaining young researchers.

4.2 \ Eligibility

COST Actions are four-year science and technology networks. They are open to:

- all fields of science and technology (including interdisciplinary, new and emerging fields);
- all types of institutions (academia, public institutions, SME/Industry, NGO, European/International organisations, etc)
- all career stages;
- all COST Members³. Non-COST Members can also join Actions (Near Neighbour Countries and International Partner Countries).
- Each COST Action must include at least 7 different COST Full or Cooperating Members amongst which a minimum number shall be from COST Inclusiveness Target Countries⁴ (ITC).

Participation of stakeholders and non-research organization is encouraged.

4.3 \ Funding

Funding is in the form of a grants. COST funding only supports networking actions (not research and innovation): working group meetings, training schools, Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) and Dissemination.

4.4 \ Application procedure and schedule

COST is implemented through two open calls (usually spring and autumn) for networks each year (the deadline of the next call is set for October 2021).

³COST Members: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, The Netherlands, The Republic of North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom.

⁴ ITC: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Republic of North Macedonia, Republic of Serbia and Turkey.

It is also possible to join ongoing COST Actions (available on COST website) already in progress. To do so, the entity should contact the representative of its country in the Action or the Management Committee of the Action to express its interest to participate.

4.5 \ Relevance for EuroGeographics and its members

- COST funds **scientific networks in all topics**. Its main aim is to support collaboration between researchers and scientists from all over Europe and beyond by providing a platform for them to meet and build mutual trust. **Although COST targets mostly researchers, the Actions are also open to other entities** (including public authorities) and encourages the participation of stakeholders. This could be a good **opportunity for EuroGeographics' members to develop a network with researchers**.
- The programme is not limited to the EU, the **participation of neighbouring countries is highly encouraged**;
- Although it is probably not interesting nor possible for EuroGeographics ('members') to coordinate an Action, it would be easier to **join an ongoing network**.

➤ Example of COST Actions

- CA19139 - Process-based models for climate impact attribution across sectors;
- CA19128 - Pan-European Network for Climate Adaptive Forest Restoration and Reforestation.

5 \ DIGITAL EUROPE

5.1 \ Presentation of the programme and its objectives

Digital Europe aims to support the digital transformation of the European economy and society. The programme will boost investments in supercomputing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, advanced digital skills, and ensuring a wide use of digital technologies across the economy and society, including through European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIH). Digital Europe will:

- reinforce Europe's capacities in key digital technology areas through largescale deployment;
- widen their diffusion and uptake in areas of public interest and the private sector.

The programme will fund projects according to its five specific objectives:

- High Performance Computing;
- Artificial Intelligence;
- Cybersecurity and trust;
- Advanced digital skills;
- Deployment, better use of digital capabilities and interoperability.

5.2 \ Eligibility criteria

The following entities are eligible:

- Legal entities established in a Member State or a European Free Trade Association (EFTA) country;
- Legal entities established in a third country which is not associated to the programme (in particular within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean and Eastern Partnerships and with neighbouring countries) can participate in projects but should in principle bear the cost of their participation;
- Eligibility criteria regarding the type and composition of the consortium (minimum number of participants and countries) may vary depending on the calls for proposals.

5.3 \ Type of projects

The Digital Europe programme will fund research & development and innovation activities, as well as the design and delivery of specialised programmes and traineeships for future experts in key capacity areas like data and AI, cybersecurity, quantum and HPC.

5.4 \ Funding

Digital Europe has an overall budget of €9.2 billion. It should be implemented through grants. The co-funding rates are not known yet.

5.5 \ Application procedure and schedule

Adoption of the Programme and launch of the first calls are planned for the first semester of 2021. The programme will be implemented through multiannual work programmes and calls for proposals, which will be published on the [Funding &Tenders portal](#).

5.6 \ Relevance for EuroGeographics and its members

- Digital Europe aims to **support the use of digital technologies in Europe** (disruptive technologies, artificial intelligence, big data...). Given that these topics are highly relevant for geospatial data, this programme could be a good opportunity for EuroGeographics and its members.
- However, Digital Europe is a **new programme** and there is little information about how it will be implemented and what types of activities will be funded. More information should be available in the coming months. However, it is already expected that this programme should be quite competitive and that only high-quality proposals will receive funding.
- Among other activities, Digital Europe will support the **creation of European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH) in each region to support the uptake of digital technologies by the public and private sector through access (for instance) to facilities and training**. These EDIH should be operational by the end of 2021/beginning of 2022 and members of EuroGeographics may want to contact the EDIH of their region/country to understand which activities can be supported and how they can benefit from their services.
- Digital Europe will integrate activities previously implemented through the ISA² programme (Interoperability solutions for public administrations, businesses and citizens) which supported access to data, data sharing, open data as well as geospatial solutions in Europe.

6 \ European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)

As the main investment policy of the EU, the cohesion policy aims to support all regions and cities in the EU and to contribute to **sustainable economic competitiveness** through research and innovation, **digital transition**, the European **Green Deal** objectives as well as the promotion of the European Pillar of **Social Rights**. It also supports the preparedness of **health systems** as well as culture and tourism.

The cohesion policy is implemented through the European Structural and Investment Funds which include:

- Cohesion Fund,
- European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)
- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- Just Transition Fund (JTF)
- European Social Fund (ESF)
- European Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

ESF (which aims to support employment and education) and EMFF (the European funding tool of the Common Fisheries Policy and the Integrated Maritime Policy) are not relevant for EuroGeographics' priorities and will not be detailed here.

➤ Relevance for EuroGeographics and its members

- ESIF are attractive funds because of the huge investment it represents in some countries (up to 4% of their gross domestic product). They are **managed at the regional level (or national level in some Member States)** and each Region defines its priorities (according to EU guidelines) for the use of these funds. Therefore, **each entity should get in contact with its regional authority to understand what activities can be funded.**
- Given that ESIF are managed at a local level, it is sometimes **easier to get access to these funds compared to other EU-wide programmes.**
- All ESIF programmes **do not require cross-border partnerships**, making it easier to prepare and implement the projects.
- Finally, ESIF fund a **large number of topics**, from agriculture to energy transition, environment, preparedness of the healthcare system and resilience to crisis, research and innovation, infrastructure... Therefore, they could be highly relevant for EuroGeographics (members)'s activities considering their own priorities.
- **Only entities based in EU Member States are eligible.**

6.1 \ Cohesion Fund

6.1.1 \ Presentation of the programme and its objectives

The Cohesion Fund supports the less developed regions of the EU (Regions/Member States with a Gross National Income (GNI) per capita of less than 90% of the EU average) in order to promote growth, employment, sustainable development, trans-European transport networks and to minimize disparities between the regions of the EU.

6.1.2 \ Eligibility

- Any entities based in Member States / Regions with a GNI per capita of less than 90% of the Union average are eligible for support. For 2021-2027, this includes: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, as well as Cyprus (transition period);
- Both public and private organisations are eligible for the cohesion fund.

6.1.3 \ Type of projects

The Cohesion Fund mainly finances investments in environmental and transport infrastructure projects, contributing to a low-carbon economy, to fighting climate change and to environment and resource efficiency (energy efficiency, use of renewable energy, development of rail transport, strengthening public transport...).

The type of the project (individual or collaborative) depends on the country of establishment.

6.1.4 \ Funding

The Cohesion Fund offer support through grants covering 85 % of the eligible costs of the project. National and regional managing authorities define in their operational programmes how they intend to distribute the funding allocated to the different priority objectives.

6.1.5 \ Application procedure and schedule

The publication of all cohesion policy regulations for 2021-2027 in the EU Official Journal, marking their entry into force, is envisaged for June 2021. Summaries of the operational programmes validated by the European Commission will be available [on this website](#) once they are adopted (probably before the end of 2021).

As explained above, the cohesion fund and calls for proposals are managed by national / regional authorities. Each entity should contact its authority to receive information about the activities that can be funded. The contact details of the managing authorities are available on the [website of the European Commission](#).

6.1.6 \ Relevance for EuroGeographics and its members

- The cohesion fund can be **interesting for EuroGeographics' members who are based in regions eligible to this programme to support their projects related to environmental and transport infrastructures.**
- The **funding rate is high**, covering 85% of the eligible costs and the programme is managed at a local/national level, i.e. potentially making **it less competitive than EU-wide programmes.**

6.2 \ European agricultural fund for rural development (EAFRD)

6.2.1 \ Presentation of the programme and its objectives

The EAFRD is the funding instrument of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) which supports rural development strategies and projects. The EAFRD can contribute to the achievement of most of the EU priorities for rural development:

- fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas;
- enhancing competitiveness of all types of agriculture and enhancing farm viability;
- promoting food chain organization;
- promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate-resilient economy in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors;
- promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.

The management of the EAFRD is entrusted to the regional councils (or Member States depending on the organization of each country), which define Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) adapted to their own challenges and capacities. These programmes must address at least four of the EAFRD priorities listed above. The European Commission approves and monitors rural development programmes, but decisions on project selection and payments are taken at national or regional level.

6.2.2 \ Eligibility

- All actors in the field of agriculture, forestry and rural areas who are undertaking financially viable investment projects are eligible. This includes both public and private bodies as well as civil society organisations;
- Individual and collaborative projects are eligible under EAFRD, depending on each RDP.

6.2.3 \ Funding

EAFRD has a budget of €16.5 billion for the period 2021-2027 which will support investments, through grants or financial instruments, depending on the RDP.

The maximum funding rate depends on the region of establishment of the partner⁵:

Category of region	Rate of co-financing
More developed regions	co-financing up to 50%
Transition regions	co-financing up to 60%
Less developed regions	co-financing up to 85%

6.2.4 \ Application procedure and schedule

As explained above, the EAFRD and calls for proposals are managed by national / regional authorities. Each entity should contact its authority to receive information about the activities that can be funded.

The publication of all cohesion policy regulations for 2021-2027 in the EU Official Journal, marking their entry into force, is envisaged for June 2021. The adoption of the new RDPs should take place by the end of 2021. The timetable for calls for proposals and the processes for awarding funding vary between countries and regions.

⁵ To find out which category your region belongs to, consult the [map proposed by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Regional Policy](#) (DG Regio).

6.2.5 \ Relevance for EuroGeographics and its members

- The EAFRD is available for all entities based in EU Member States and engaged in projects in the **field of agriculture and rural development**, as it might be the case for EuroGeoGraphics' members.
- Given that the RDP and the activities that can be funded, as well as the funding mechanisms and amount may vary greatly depending on the RDP, **each entity should contact its managing authority to assess the interest of this programme for its projects**. Given that the programme is managed at a local/national level, it might be less competitive than EU-wide programmes.

➤ Example of project of interest for EuroGeographics

Example of a project financed by the EAFRD and implemented through the RDPs: [Implementation of a home location system](#) in Formentera, Spain, which allows emergency services to respond quickly to requests for assistance. This type of project could be relevant for EuroGeographics members (Maps, Land, First responders, etc.).

6.3 \ European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

6.3.1 \ Presentation of the programme and its objectives

The ERDF aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the EU by correcting imbalances between regions. The management of the ERDF is entrusted to the regional councils (or Member States depending on the organization of each country). Each managing authority defines its priorities in an Operational Programme. The programmes must focus their investments on the following topics:

- Innovation and research;
- Digital agenda;
- Support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs);
- Low-carbon economy.

65% to 85% of ERDF resources will be devoted to the following investment priorities:

- A **smarter Europe**, through innovation, digitalization, economic transformation and support for small and medium-sized enterprises;
- A **greener**, zero-carbon Europe, implementing of the Paris Agreement and investing in energy transition, renewable energy and the fight against climate change;
- A **more connected Europe**, with strategic transport and digital communication networks;
- A **more social Europe**, which will give concrete expression to the European set of social rights and support quality jobs, education, skills, social inclusion and equal access to health care;
- A **Europe closer to the citizen**, supporting locally driven development strategies and sustainable urban development across the EU.

6.3.2 \ Eligibility

The following entities are eligible:

- Local, regional and national authorities and administrative bodies;
- NGOs, associations and foundations;
- Companies and SMEs;
- Individual and collaborative projects are eligible under ERDF, depending on the operational programmes.

6.3.3 \ Type of projects

The ERDF supports mostly equipment and infrastructure projects. It also funds investment and projects in research and innovation.

6.3.4 \ Funding

Most of the ERDF is implemented through grants. The co-financing rate varies according to the category of region in which the entity is based⁶.

Category of region	Rate of co-financing
More developed regions	co-financing up to 50%
Transition regions	co-financing up to 60%
Less developed regions	co-financing up to 85%

Depending on the operational programmes, support can also take the form of financial instruments (mostly for SMEs and companies): loans, micro-credits, guarantees, equity investments.

6.3.5 \ Application procedure and schedule

As explained above, the ERDF calls for proposals are managed by national / regional authorities. Each entity should contact its authority to receive information about the activities that can be funded. There are usually two possible procedures for selecting projects:

- **Call for proposals**, where the managing authority publishes a specific call for projects;
- **Submission on an *ad hoc* basis**, where projects that meet the Region's priorities can be submitted at any time of the year.

The publication of all cohesion policy regulations for 2021-2027 in the EU Official Journal, marking their entry into force, is envisaged for June 2021. The adoption of the new operational programmes should take place by the end of 2021. The timetable for calls for proposals and the processes for awarding funding vary between countries and regions. Summaries of the operational programmes validated by the European Commission will be [available on the website of the European Commission](#) once they are adopted.

⁶ To find out which category your region belongs to, consult the [map proposed by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Regional Policy](#) (DG Regio).

6.3.6 \ Relevance for EuroGeographics and its members

- The ERDF is **available for all entities based in EU Member States**.
- The ERDF supports **investment and infrastructure projects as well as research and innovation activities**. The **topics are very large**, covering the main policies of the EU (green transition, digital transition...). Each managing authority defines its priorities in line with EU guidance and its smart specialization strategy. It is therefore very likely that EuroGeographics' members projects could be funded by the ERDF.
- The **funding rate depends on the region of establishment of each entity** (from 50 % to 85%) and will require co-financing. However, ERDF being managed on a local level tend to be **less competitive than EU-wide funding programmes**.

➤ Example of project of interest for EuroGeographics

The [OPCC](#) (Pyrenees Climate Change Observatory) is a project co-financed by the ERDF and is mobilized to ensure a monitoring and analysis of climate change in the Pyrenees in order to reduce the vulnerability of natural and human environments, to help the territories to adapt to its impacts and to become the reference platform of change in the Pyrenees mountain range. This type of project could be relevant for EuroGeographics members (Environment, Land, Agriculture etc.).

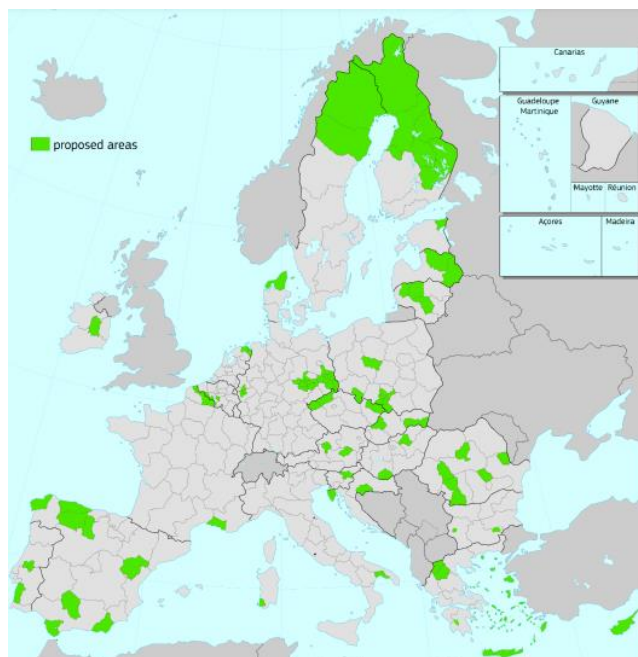
6.4 \ Just transition fund (JTF)

6.4.1 \ Presentation of the programme and its objectives

In February 2020, the Commission proposed the creation of a new JTF, which supports the territories most affected by the transition to climate neutrality and aims to avoid increasing regional disparities. This fund is the first pillar of the Just Transition mechanism (JTM) which is a key tool to ensure that the transition towards a climate-neutral economy happens in a fair way. The JTF must be articulated with the InvestEU programme and the European Investment Bank (EIB) loans. It will be implemented at a national/regional level depending on the Member States.

6.4.2 \ Eligibility

Support will be available to entities involved in carbon-intensive industries based in regions of the EU Member States which are the most carbon-intensive or with the most people working in fossil fuels. You can find aside a map showing the geographical areas covered by the JTF (note: the process to define the regions eligible to the JTF is still ongoing).



6.4.3 \ Type of projects

The JTF will support the economic diversification and conversion of the targeted regions. This will include support for research, development and innovation, environmental remediation, clean energy, digital, as well as the transformation of existing carbon-intensive facilities where these investments lead to significant emission.

6.4.4 \ Funding

The Just Transition Fund will have a budget of €40 billion for the period 2021-2027 and will offer grants to co-finance projects. The rate of co-financing varies according to the category of region in which the project belongs.

Category of region	Rate of co-financing
More developed regions	co-financing up to 50%
Transition regions	co-financing up to 70%
Less developed regions	co-financing up to 85%

6.4.5 \ Application procedure and schedule

There are no open calls for the moment. The JTF Regulation will enter into force the second quarter of 2021 (tbc).

The [Just Transition Platform](#) provides EU countries and regions a comprehensive advisory and technical support. Authorities and beneficiaries can access it to find all the information they need about the funds, including opportunities, useful regulatory updates and sector-specific initiatives.

6.4.6 \ Relevance for EuroGeographics and its members

- The JTF is a **new programme**, and we have no feedback to assess in detail its relevance for EuroGeographics. Yet, this programme will **target mostly entities involved in carbon-intensive sectors and based in regions eligible to the JTF. As a consequence, EuroGeographics' members projects could be funded only if they fall in this sector.**
- Given that the JTF is a new programme, there is no information available regarding the likelihood of getting funded.

7 \ EU4HEALTH

7.1 \ Presentation of the programme

EU4Health aims to build resilient health systems in the EU and to better equip the population for the future. EU4Health will support three types of projects (only the first one is relevant for EuroGeographics activities):

- Protecting people in the EU from serious cross-border health threats and improving crisis management capacity;
- Making medicines, medical devices and other crisis relevant products available and affordable and supporting innovation;
- Strengthen health systems and the health care workforce, including by investing in public health, for instance through health promotion and disease prevention programmes and improving access to healthcare.

7.2 \ Eligibility

EU4Health will provide funding to EU countries, public authorities and public sector bodies, including research and health institutions, universities, international organisations and non-governmental organisations.

Only legal entities established in the territory of a Member States or a third country associated to the programme are eligible (note: the list of associated countries is not known yet).

7.3 \ Funding

EU4Health will offer project or operating grants, direct grants to international organisations and grants to Member State authorities and bodies in the case of co-financed actions. The maximum co-financing rate should be 60% (in some cases it may reach 80% for projects of exceptional utility).

7.1 \ Application procedure and schedule

The first EU4Health Work Programme for 2021 will be implemented following the formal adoption of the programme, which is expected in the first semester of 2021.

The EU4Health Programme will be managed by the European Commission with the support of the Consumer, Health and Food Executive Agency ([CHAFEA](#)). It is possible to register to the [health programme notification](#) to receive more information about the programme.

7.2 \ Relevance for EuroGeographics and its members

- There is at the moment little information about how it will be implemented and what types of activities will be funded. More information should be available in the coming months.
- It may fund activities related to health crisis management (a small part of the programme). However, when the programme is published, it will be necessary to check if EuroGeographics' members are eligible to participate in the calls for proposals.

8 \ HORIZON EUROPE

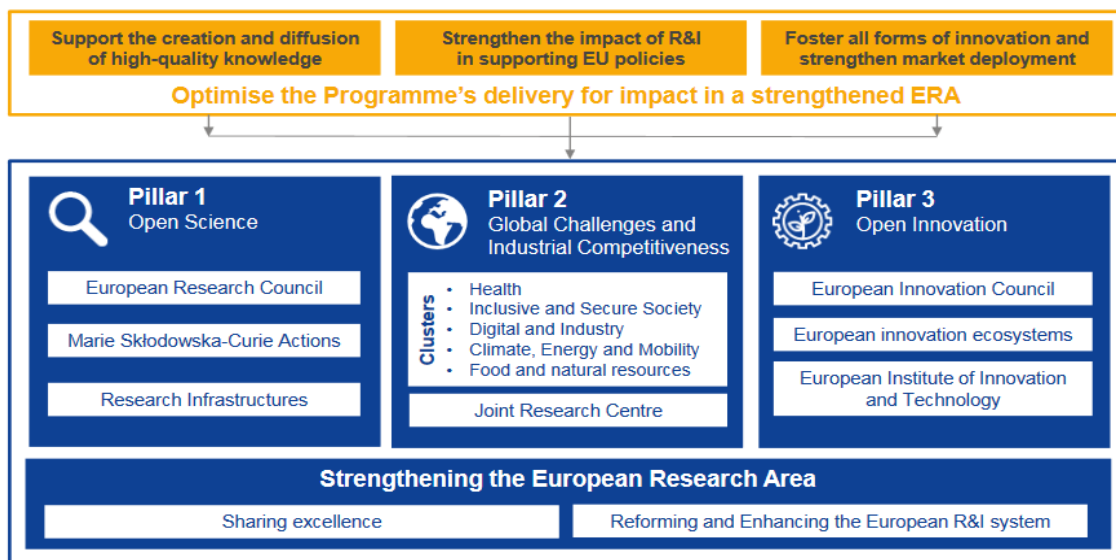
8.1 \ Presentation of the programme and its objectives

Horizon Europe is the EU's framework programme for research and innovation for the period 2021-2027. With a total budget of €95.5 billion, its objectives are to:

- Strengthen the EU's science and technology base;
- Boost its competitiveness, including the competitiveness of its industry;
- Implement the EU's strategic policy priorities;
- Contribute to addressing global issues, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

The programme is organized around 4 pillars: open science, global challenges, open innovation and strengthening the European Research Area:

Specific objectives of the Programme



The programme should be formally approved in April 2021 and the first calls for proposals should open in May 2021. They will be published on the [European Commission's portal](#).

➤ Relevance for EuroGeographics and its members

- Horizon Europe will fund projects in a **very large number of fields** (digital technology agriculture, environment, smart cities, urban planning, transportation, emergency planning...), some of them linked with geospatial data. However, **only innovative projects including research, development and innovation activities can be funded** by Horizon Europe.
- The **funding rate of Horizon Europe is usually very attractive** (70-100% of costs) but the programme is **very competitive** (around 10-15% of the proposals are funded) and the projects usually require a **large number of partners** (more than the minimum number set in the eligibility criteria).
- Entities based in the EU Member States are eligible as well as associated countries (the list is not finalized yet). Entities based in non-associated countries may also be funded. More information on associated countries [are available here](#).

The following sections provide a general description of the different pillars, partnerships and missions based on currently published information.

8.2 \ Pillar I: Scientific Excellence

The first pillar "Scientific Excellence" is divided into 3 programmes which are open to all research topics:

- **The European Research Council (ERC)** funds research teams to perform ground-breaking cutting-edge research activities. This sub-programme is not relevant for EuroGeographics;
- **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)** fund the career development and mobility of researchers and research staff (doctoral networks, individual fellowships, staff exchange...). This subprogramme is relevant for EuroGeographics and its members only they have staff performing research activities (even if not in a research organization)
- **Research infrastructures:** The objective is to develop integrated and interconnected world-class research infrastructures. A part of this programme is dedicated to **European Open Science Cloud EOSC**, which is an environment for hosting and processing research data to support EU science. It brings together institutional, national and European stakeholders, initiatives and data infrastructures to develop an inclusive open science ecosystem in Europe.

➤ Relevance for EuroGeographics and its members

- **Pillar 1 of Horizon Europe is dedicated to excellence research in all topics. Most of the programmes will supported early-stage research** (with very low TRL). Yet, EuroGeographics could probably benefit from research infrastructures on open science cloud and to some extent MSCA actions (e.g. they could participate to staff exchange programmes or host researchers during secondment in non-academic entities).

8.3 \ Pillar II: Global issues and industrial competitiveness

8.3.1 \ Presentation of the pillar

Pillar II "Global Issues and European Industrial Competitiveness" aims to support R&D activities linked to societal issues:

- Pillar II is divided in **six clusters**. Each cluster is implemented through a biannual work programmes divided in **"destinations" (long-term impacts)** and top-down calls for proposals. Each call defines the activities that should be included in the project and the expected impacts. The 2021-2022 work programmes should be published at the beginning of May 2021.
- Pillar II is also composed of **partnerships** between private and public actors who commit to jointly support the development and implementation of a programme of research and innovation activities on a specific topic.
- Finally, Pillar II includes **"missions"** which aim to generate solutions for major challenges (e.g., adaptation to climate change, protection of the oceans, fight against cancer, etc.)

➤ Cluster 1: Health

■ **6 destinations:** Lifelong health, Environmental and social health determinants, Rare and non-communicable diseases, Infectious diseases, including poverty-related and neglected diseases, Digital tools, technologies and solutions for health and care, including personalized medicine, Health care systems;

■ **1 Mission:** Beating cancer: mission possible;

■ **8 partnerships:** European Partnership for EU-Africa Global Health, European Partnership for Innovative Health (ex IMI), European Partnership for Chemicals Risk Assessment, European Partnership - ERA for Health Research, European Partnership on Health and Care Systems Transformation, European Partnership for Personalized Medicine, European Partnership on Rare Diseases, European Partnership for One Health/AMR Antimicrobial Resistance.

➤ Cluster 2 (Culture, Creativity and Inclusive society) includes the following destinations:

■ **3 destinations:** Democracy and governance, Cultural heritage, Economic and social transformation;

➤ Cluster 3 (Civil Security for society) includes the following destinations:

■ **3 destinations:** Disaster Resilient Societies, Protection and security, Cybersecurity;

➤ Cluster 4 (Digital, Industry and Space) includes the following destinations and partnerships:

■ **3 destinations:** Manufacturing technologies, Key digital technologies, Emerging generic technologies, Advanced materials, Artificial intelligence and robotics;

■ **11 partnerships:** Clean Steel, Carbon Neutral and Circular Industry, Made in Europe, IA/Data/Robotics, Photonics, Globally Competitive Space Systems, Geological Service, Key Digital Technologies (ECSEL), EuroHPC, Smart Networks and Services, Metrology;

Cluster 4 will also fund projects contributing the EU space priorities, notably to the Earth observation component (Copernicus) and to the satellite navigation system (Galileo).

Focus on Copernicus

Copernicus is the cornerstone of the EU's effort to monitor the Earth and its ecosystems. Copernicus has three main objectives: Development of innovative Earth observation systems, Centralized data collection and analysis to provide a global view of the state of the Earth, Analysis of data to predict global change in the areas of environment and security. Projects contributing to these objectives will be funded in Horizon Europe. The same eligibility criteria as in cluster 4 will apply regarding the composition of the consortium and the funding offered.

➤ Example of project of interest to EuroGeographics

The Copernicus App Lab aims at bridging the digital divide between the established, science-driven Earth observation community and the young, innovative, entrepreneurial world of mobile developers by establishing of a proof-of-concept for providing the data from the Copernicus Land, Marine Environment and Atmosphere Monitoring Services as Linked Open Data (LOD) for take-up of EO data in mobile applications.

Focus on the European Global Navigation Satellite System (EGNSS)

EGNSS encompasses the satellite navigation system established under the Galileo programme and the European Geostationary Overlay System (EGNOS). Projects contributing to the objectives of these programmes will be funded in Horizon Europe. The same eligibility criteria as in cluster 4 will apply regarding the composition of the consortium and the funding offered.

➤ Example of project of interest to EuroGeographics

Galileo Improved Services for Cadastral Augmentation Development On-field Validation, a project designed to involve the whole value chain of the cadastral domain. Its main scope is to design, develop and validate an innovative and cost-effective high accuracy service (HAS) for cadastral surveying applications, based on GPS+Galileo E6 HAS and precise point positioning-ambiguity resolution quick convergence techniques.

➤ Cluster 5 (Climate, Energy and Mobility) includes the following destinations, missions and partnerships:

- **3 destinations:** Climatology and climate solutions, Energy supply, Energy systems and networks, Buildings and industrial facilities in energy transition, Communities and cities, Industrial competitiveness in transport, Clean, safe and accessible transport and mobility, Intelligent mobility, Energy storage);
- **3 destinations:** Climate neutral and smart cities, Adaptation to climate change, including societal transformation;
- **11 partnerships:** Transforming Europe's rail system (Shift2Rail), Integrated Air Traffic Management (SESAR), Clean Aviation (Clean Sky), Clean Hydrogen (Fuel Cell and Hydrogen), Built environment and construction, towards zero-emission road transport, Cooperative, Connected and Automated Mobility, Zero-emission waterborne transport, European industrial battery value chain, Driving Urban Transition to a sustainable future, Clean Energy Transition.

➤ Cluster 6 (Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment) includes the following destinations, missions and partnerships:

- **7 destinations:** Environmental monitoring, Biodiversity and natural resources, Agriculture, forestry and rural areas, Seas, oceans and inland waters, Food systems, Bio-innovation systems in the EU bioeconomy, Circular systems;
- **3 missions:** Regenerating our ocean and waters, caring for the soil is caring for life, 100 climate neutral cities by 2030 - by and for citizens.
- **8 partnerships:** Accelerating farming systems transition: agroecology living labs and research infrastructures, European Partnership for Animal health, Agriculture of data, European Partnership for rescuing biodiversity to safeguard life on Earth, European, Partnership for a climate neutral, sustainable and productive Blue Economy, European Partnership for Safe and Sustainable Food Systems, European Partnership for a Circular bio-based Europe, European Partnership Water Security for the Planet.

8.3.2 \ Eligibility

- All types of legal entities are eligible: academic research and industry, SMEs, end-users of solutions, citizens, regulatory agencies (some calls may require the participation of a specific group of entity);
- Only collaborative projects are eligible: each consortium should be composed of at least 3 partners from 3 different Member States or Associated Countries, of which at least one is established in an EU Member State or Associated State. Coordination and Support Actions are an exception to this rule and could in principle be carried out by a single partner.

8.3.3 \ Type of projects and funding

Three types of projects will be funded. Each call for proposals will specify the type of project targeted and the maximum grant amount per project:

- **Research and Innovation Action (RIA)** are collaborative projects aiming to establish new knowledge and/or explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service (TRL up to 6). The typical duration of a RIA is between 36 and 48 months. It covers 100% of the eligible costs of the project. It covers 100% of the eligible costs of the project.
- **Innovation Actions (IA)** are collaborative projects aiming to produce plans, arrangements or concepts for a new or improved product, process or service (TRL between 5 and 8). The typical duration of an IA is between 30 and 36 months. It covers 70% of eligible costs (except for non-profit entities which are funded at 100% of their total eligible costs).
- **Coordination and Support Action (CSA)** are actions aiming to support measures such as standardization, dissemination, awareness and communication, networking, coordination and support services, policy dialogues, mutual learning exercises and studies. The typical duration of a CSA is between 12 and 30 months. It covers 100% of the eligible costs of the project.
- **Pre-commercial Procurement (PCP) and Public Procurement of Innovation (PPI)** aim to foster innovative public procurement procedures and administrative capacities. The main beneficiaries are procurement officers from the public sector. The funding rates are 90% of eligible costs for PCP and 35% for PPI.

8.3.4 \ Relevance for EuroGeographics and its members

- Pillar II supports a **large number of topics, some of which might be relevant to geospatial data** and EuroGeographics scope of work. However, **only innovative projects including research, development and innovation activities** can be funded by Horizon Europe. It will be necessary to **have a look in details at the calls for proposals to assess if they are relevant** for EuroGeographics and its members. As a consequence, not all clusters and not all calls will be equally attractive.
- The **funding rate of Horizon Europe is usually very attractive** (70-100% of costs) but the programme is **very competitive** (around 10-15% of the proposals are funded) and the projects usually require a large number of partners (more than the minimum number set in the eligibility criteria).
- Entities based in the EU Member States are eligible as well as associated countries (the list is not finalized yet). Entities based in non-associated countries may also be funded.

➤ Example of calls for proposals which might be interesting for EuroGeographics

The following table present a selection of calls that might be relevant of EuroGeographics and its members. The content of the calls might evolve until their publication in May.

Keywords	Identified Call	Budget	Deadline
Cadaster	HORIZON-CL4-2021-TWIN-TRANSITION-01-10: Digital permits and compliance checks for buildings and infrastructure (IA)	€15 million	23/09/2021
Maps	HORIZON-CL3-2021-FCT-01-04: Improved access to fighting crime and terrorism research data	€7 million	08/09/2021
Land	HORIZON-CL3-2021-BM-01-01: Enhanced security and management of borders, maritime environment, activities and transport, by increased surveillance capability, including high altitude, long endurance aerial support	€7 million	08/09/2021
Emergency planning	HORIZON-CL3-2022-DRS-01-01: Enhanced citizen preparedness in the event of a disaster or crisis-related emergency	€10 million	08/09/2022
Capacity building	HORIZON-CL3-2022-CS-01-01: Improved monitoring of threats, intrusion detection and response in complex and heterogeneous digital systems and infrastructures	€21 million	08/09/2022
First responders	HORIZON-CL3-2022-DRS-01-08: Enhanced situational awareness and preparedness of first responders and improved capacities to minimise time-to-react in urban areas in the case of CBRN-E-related events	€11 million	08/09/2022
Infrastructure, Smart Cities, Satellite positioning	HORIZON-CL3-2022-INFRA-01-01: Nature-based Solutions integrated to protect local infrastructure	€5 million	08/09/2022
Disruptive technologies	HORIZON-CL3-2022-CS-01-04: Development and validation of processes and tools used for agile certification of ICT products, ICT services and ICT processes	€18 million	08/09/2022
Machine Learning	HORIZON-CL3-2021-CS-01-03: AI for cybersecurity reinforcement	€11 million	08/09/2021
Spatial data, Coastal surveillance, Smart Cities, Crisis emergency, Earth monitoring	HORIZON-CL4-2022-SPACE-02-52: Public sector as Galileo and/or Copernicus user	€4,7 million	06/09/2022
Artificial intelligence, machine learning, block chain, big data, internet of things.	HORIZON-CL4-2021-HUMAN-01-26: Workforce skills for industry 5.0 (RIA)	€5 million	08/09/2021
Geography, Space	HORIZON-CL4-2022-SPACE-01-72: Education and skills for the EU space sector	€3 million	06/09/2022
Maps	HORIZON-CL4-2022-SPACE-02-51: EGNSS applications for Smart mobility	€9,5 million	06/09/2022

Keywords	Identified Call	Budget	Deadline
Maps	HORIZON-CL5-2021-D4-01-01: Advanced energy performance assessment and certification	€10 million	19/10/2021

8.4 \ Pillar III: Innovative Europe

Pillar III of Horizon Europe aims to develop innovation in Europe, in particular high-risk innovation in disruptive technologies and better integration of actors in innovation ecosystems. Pillar III includes notably the European Innovation Council (EIC): the EIC funds high-risk/high-gain research activities in all research areas (EIC Pathfinder). This is interesting for EuroGeographics only if early research projects with scientific teams are in the scope of the association's activities.

- **EIC Pathfinder** funds high risk/ high gain projects (TRL1-4) based on a deep tech technology and with a clear and radical vision towards societal and economic impact. All topics are eligible. This programme targets collaborative projects with at least 3 entities based in 3 Member States or countries associated to Horizon Europe (and usually no more than 6-8 partners), including at least one partner based in an EU Member State. It covers 100% of eligible costs, up to around € 3 million per project. There will be at least one deadline for the EIC Pathfinder each year until 2027, the first one being in May 2021.

➤ Relevance for EuroGeographics and its members

- Pillar III of Horizon Europe is dedicated to innovation. **It will fund research projects on all topics only as long as they are high-risk / high-gain. As a consequence, the pillar is relevant of EuroGeographics only for highly innovative projects.**

8.5 \ Horizontal Pillar: Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area

8.5.1 \ Presentation of the programme

The horizontal pillar of Horizon Europe aims to widen participation across member states, encouraging the inclusion of low R&D performing countries within the EU and its associated states. This pillar includes 2 distinct components: Sharing excellence and Reforming the Research and Innovation systems.

8.5.2 \ Eligibility

- This pillar is dedicated mostly to research organizations. However, other types of participants may be eligible to some calls for proposals;
- Entities based in EU Member States and associated countries. 'Widening' countries are countries with Research & Innovation performance below 70% of the EU average. This includes: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, Portugal, Greece and Associated Countries.

8.5.3 \ Type of projects

- **Teaming for excellence:** support/create centers of excellences as role models to stimulate excellence, new investments and reforms of national research and innovation systems;
- **Twinning: programs** (training, workshops, conference attendance, dissemination, networking activities) between a research institution from a country/region eligible for "widening" and at least two other institutions recognized for their scientific excellence and located in other Member States and associated countries;
- **Excellence hubs:** creation of local innovation ecosystems of at least two countries eligible for "widening" involving a wide variety of actors in order to develop and implement joint R&I strategies;
- **ERA Chairs:** to support universities or research organisations from eligible countries to attract and maintain high quality human resources and help excellent scientists and their teams to become game changers in their field;

➤ Relevance for EuroGeographics and its members

- The horizontal pillar of Horizon Europe is dedicated to improving R&D capabilities in low performing countries/regions. It is open to all areas of collaboration. It could be relevant for EuroGeographics and its members based in widening countries. However, this program remains quite competitive.

9 \ INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA)

9.1 \ Presentation of the programme and its objectives

IPA aims to prepare candidate and potential candidate countries for EU membership and supports them in adopting and implementing the necessary political, institutional, legal, administrative, social and economic reforms. For 2021-2027 period, IPA will focus on the respect of the rule of law and fundamental rights, economic governance, strengthening democratic institutions and public administration. It is structured around five "components":

- Transition Assistance and Institution Building;
- Cross-border cooperation (between EU Member States and countries eligible for IPA support);
- Regional development (transport, environmental infrastructure, boosting competitiveness and reducing regional disparities);
- Human Resources Development (strengthening human capital and combating exclusion);
- Rural Development.

IPA II (2014-2020) activities were implemented and managed either directly by the European Commission or indirectly (by entities in IPA II countries, development agency, agency, Member State...). It is expected that the same management structure will be reconducted for the next period.

9.2 \ Eligibility

The following entities are eligible for IPA III funding:

- Research centers, local and regional authorities, schools, large companies, training centers, state administrations, SMEs and universities;
- Entities based in candidate countries (Turkey, Albania, Montenegro, Serbia and the Republic of Northern Macedonia);
- Entities based in potential candidate countries from the Western Balkans (only for some components 1 and 2 listed above).

9.3 \ Funding

IPA III, with a total budget of €14.5 billion, will offer financial and technical assistance through grants. The co-financing rate will vary depending on the type of projects. For instance, it will cover 100% of eligible costs for technical assistance but will be limited to 85% of eligible costs for cross-border cooperation. IPA III will be implemented through beneficiary and/or multi-beneficiary programmes.

9.4 \ Relevance for EuroGeographics and its members

- IPA III may be an attractive instrument for EuroGeographics members based in candidate and potential candidate countries to prepare for accession. These projects may include use of geospatial data for institution building or regional development. However, there is little information available at the moment regarding the implementation of the 2021-2027 programme.

10 \ INTERREG

10.1 \ Presentation of the programme and its objectives

European territorial cooperation (ETC), better known as Interreg, supports joint actions and exchanges between national, regional and local actors from different Member States. Its main objective is to promote harmonious economic, social and territorial development throughout the EU. Interreg includes three types of programmes:

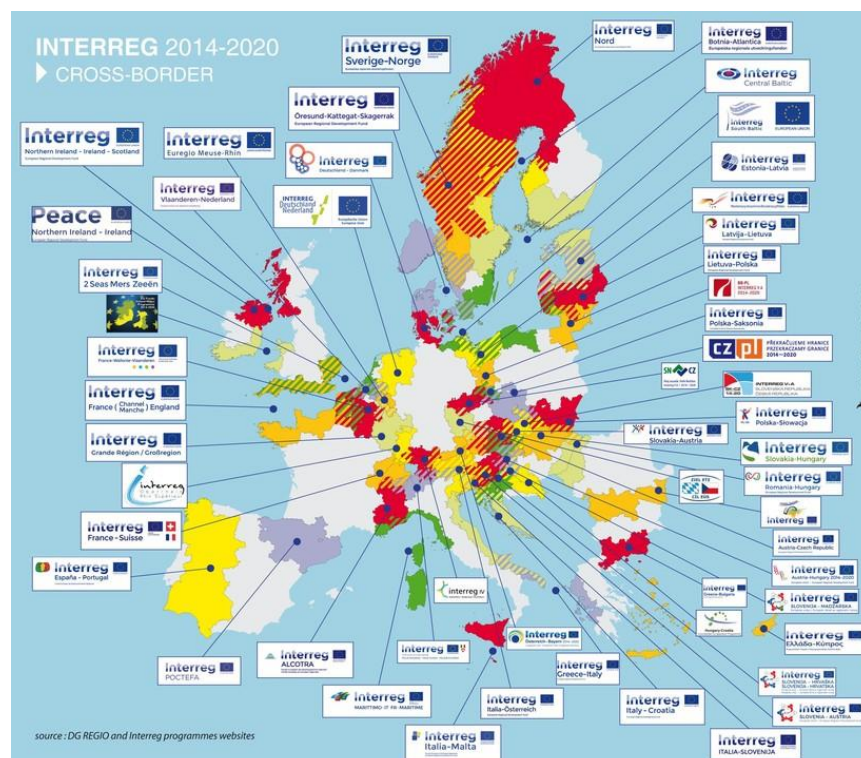
- Cross-border cooperation (Interreg A);
- Transnational cooperation (Interreg B);
- Interregional cooperation (Interreg C or Interreg Europe).

The list of Interreg programmes is available [on this website](#). Each Interreg programme is implemented by a managing authority (usually a Region), entrusted by the European Commission and prepares an operational programme which defines the types of projects and topics that will be funded.

10.2 \ Interreg A: cross-border cooperation

10.2.1 \ Presentation of the programme

Interreg A supports cooperation between NUTS III regions from at least two different Member States lying directly on the borders or adjacent to them. It aims to tackle common challenges identified jointly in the border regions and to exploit the untapped growth potential in border areas, while enhancing the cooperation process for the purposes of the overall harmonious development of the Union. For the period 2014-2020, there were 54 Interreg A programmes (it is expected that most of them will continue for the period 2021-2027). Most of these programmes fund project answering the following challenges: diverging national legislations on either side of the border, incompatible administrative processes, lack of common territorial planning...



10.2.2 \ Eligibility

Specific eligibility criteria (e.g. types of organization, size of consortium...) may vary depending on the Interreg A programme. However, the following criteria apply for all Interreg A projects:

- All Interreg programmes are territory restricted: only entities based on the territory of a specific programme are eligible (note: some exceptions are possible depending on the programme);
- Cooperation between different countries is required: since Interreg A is dedicated to support cross-border cooperation, transnational consortia are mandatory.

10.2.3 \ Funding

Interreg A programmes fund projects through grants. The co-financing rate varies according to the category of region in which the entity is based⁷.

Category of region	Rate of co-financing
More developed regions	co-financing up to 50%
Transition regions	co-financing up to 60%
Less developed regions	co-financing up to 85%

10.2.4 \ Application procedure and schedule

The publication of Interreg regulations for 2021-2027 in the EU Official Journal, marking their entry into force, is envisaged for June 2021. The adoption of the new operational programmes should take place by the end of 2021. The timetable for calls for proposals and the processes for awarding funding vary depending on the Interreg programmes. Calls for projects will be published directly on the websites of the 54 Interreg A programmes as well as on the official website of [Interreg](#).

10.2.5 \ Relevance for EuroGeographics and its members

- **Only entities based in the territory of the programmes are usually eligible** (although there might be exceptions). This means that some EuroGeographics members might not be eligible for funding.
- Yet, Interreg A programmes may fund a large variety of projects linked to cross-border challenges (research and innovation, urban planning, transport, energy, environment...). As a consequence, the **projects of EuroGeographics' members could be funded, only if they identify cross-border topics of interest.**
- It should be noted that Interreg does not fund all costs (funding rate varies depending on the region of establishment of the entity) and that Interreg projects are usually perceived as **very heavy regarding administrative management and financial reporting.**
- Although Interreg A remains a competitive programme, it is expected that the likelihood of receiving funding is higher than EU-wide programmes. However, it should be noted that some programmes use all the funding available in the first calls for proposals and will not publish calls every year until 2027. Therefore, it is advised to get in contact with the managing authorities as soon as the operational programs are published.

⁷ To find out which category your region belongs to, consult the [map proposed by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Regional Policy](#) (DG Regio).

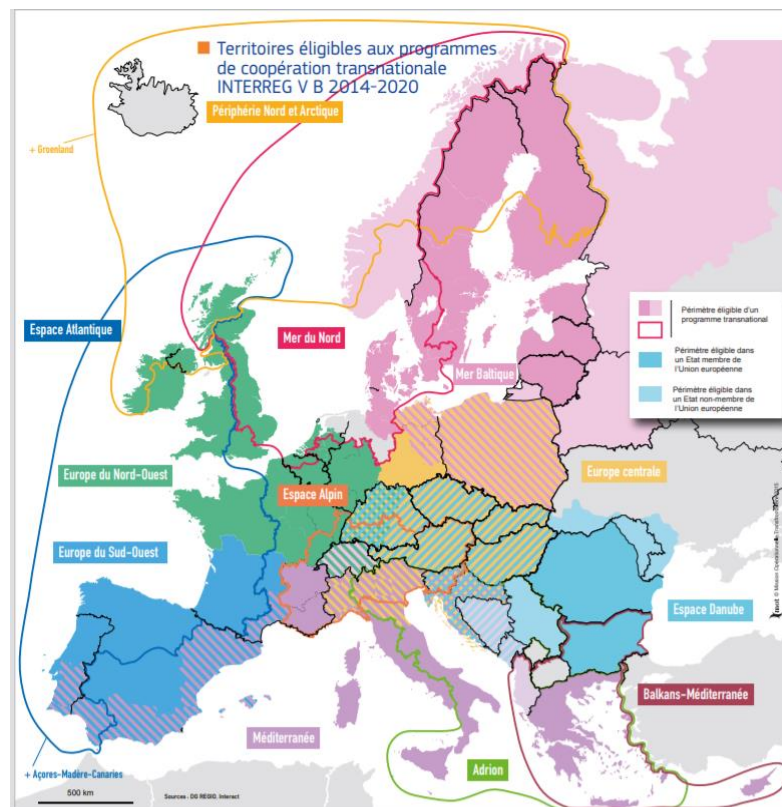
➤ Example of project of interest for EuroGeographics

INTER'RED aims to identify risks, propose appropriate solutions, cooperate in training and network call centres for the 112-emergency number. The idea is to offer the best possible rescue service to the citizens of the Greater Region, going beyond the notion of borders. It is in line with the following thematic objectives that may be of interest to EuroGeographics: Emergency planning, security, first responders.

10.3 \ Interreg B: Transnational cooperation

10.3.1 \ Presentation of the programme

Interreg B supports transnational cooperation between regions from several Member States of the EU. It aims to promote better cooperation and regional development within the Union by a joint approach to tackle common issues. Interreg B offers funding opportunities for projects that stimulate regional development or tackle common issues by a joint approach. For the 2014-2020 period, there were 15 transnational programmes (it is expected that most of them will be continued for the 2021-2027 period). Each one has a specific operational programme defining priorities adapted to its territory but most of them focus on: Innovation, Environment, Accessibility and Sustainable urban development.



10.3.2 \ Eligibility

Specific eligibility criteria (e.g. types of organization, size of consortium...) may vary depending on the Interreg B programme. However, the following criteria apply for all Interreg B projects:

- All Interreg programmes are territory restricted: only entities based on the territory of a specific programme are eligible (note: some exceptions are possible depending on the programme);
- Cooperation between different countries is required: because Interreg B is dedicated to support cross-border cooperation, transnational consortia are mandatory.

10.3.3 \ Funding

Interreg B programmes fund projects through grants. The co-financing rate varies according to the category of region in which the entity is based⁸.

Category of region	Rate of co-financing
More developed regions	co-financing up to 50%
Transition regions	co-financing up to 60%
Less developed regions	co-financing up to 85%

10.3.4 \ Application procedure and schedule

The publication of Interreg regulations for 2021-2027 in the EU Official Journal, marking their entry into force, is envisaged for June 2021. The adoption of the new operational programmes should take place by the end of 2021. The timetable for calls for proposals and the processes for awarding funding vary between on the Interreg programme. Calls for projects will be published directly on the websites of the 15 transregional programmes as well as on the official website of [Interreg](#).

10.3.5 \ Relevance for EuroGeographics and its members

- **Only entities based in the territory of a specific programme are usually eligible** (although there might be exceptions).
- Interreg B programmes may fund a large variety of projects linked to transnational challenges (research and innovation, urban development, transport, environment...). As a consequence, the **projects of EuroGeographics' members could be funded, only if they identify transnational topics of interest**.
- It should be noted that Interreg does not fund all costs (funding rate varies depending on the region of establishment of the entity) and that Interreg projects are usually perceived as very **heavy regarding administrative management and financial reporting**.
- Interreg B is a quite competitive programme. It should also be noted that some programmes may use all the funding available in the first calls for proposals and will not publish calls every year until 2027. Therefore, it is advised to get in contact with the managing authorities as soon as the operational programs are published.

➤ Example of project of interest for EuroGeographics

[BE-GOOD](#) is a pioneering project aiming to unlock, re-use and extract value from Public Sector Information (PSI) to develop data driven services in the area of infrastructure and environment. It is in line with the following thematic objectives that may be of interest to EuroGeographics: Open data, environment, data infrastructure, data access.

⁸ To find out which category your region belongs to, consult the [map proposed by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Regional Policy](#) (DG Regio).

10.4 \ Interreg C / Interreg Europe: Interregional cooperation

10.4.1 \ Presentation of the programme

The aim of Interreg Europe is to improve the implementation of regional development policies, including investment for jobs and growth, by promoting exchange of experiences, innovative approaches and capacity building among regional policy actors. The activities supported by Interreg Europe include mainly exchange of experience, capacity building, transfer of good practices and testing of innovative approaches.

For the 2021-2027 period, the European Commission defined two specific goals for Interreg programmes:

- Better Interreg governance (institutional capacities for macro-regional and sea-basin strategies);
- More security in Europe (cross-border administration and mobility, migration management...).

10.4.2 \ Eligibility

Beneficiaries eligible to receive funding from Interreg Europe include:

- Public authorities and bodies governed by public law;
- Private non-profit bodies, i.e. entities not having an industrial or commercial character and not financed or controlled, for the most part, by the state, regional or local authorities, or other bodies governed by public law (private non-profit bodies cannot be a lead partner);
- Entities based in the EU Member States, as well as Switzerland and Norway;
- The consortium must include at least 3 entities from 3 different countries, of which at least 2 are EU Member States;

10.4.3 \ Type of projects

Interreg Europe funds the following actions:

- collaborative research projects on shared issues (climate change, health);
- development of economic exchanges between participating countries;
- training and exchange activities for pupils, students and professionals;
- partnership projects on risk management, environmental preservation and cultural heritage development.

10.4.4 \ Funding

Interreg Europe is implemented through grants. The co-financing varies depending on the type of participants:

- Public bodies and bodies governed by public law: 85%;
- Private non-profit bodies: 75%;
- Norwegian organisations: 50%;
- Organisations from Switzerland need to contact the [Swiss national point of contact](#) to receive information on Swiss funding opportunities.

10.4.5 \ Application procedure and schedule

The preparation of the Interreg Europe cooperation programme is still ongoing. It is expected that the programme should be validated by the end of 2021 and that the first call for projects will be launched at the end of 2021-beginning of 2022.

More information about Interreg Europe is available on [Interreg official website](#).

10.4.6 \ Relevance for EuroGeographics and its members

- Interreg Europe aims to support **regional policies, capacity building and exchange of good practices** in all sectors relevant for the European Regions. This could include **environment, transport, healthcare and emergency planning, transports...**, i.e. topics of interest for EuroGeographics members.
- Interreg Europe is a highly competitive programme, and the proposals will need to be of high quality to receive funding.

10.5 \ URBACT

10.5.1 \ Presentation of the programme and its objectives

URBACT is a European exchange programme which promotes sustainable and integrated urban development. URBACT enables European cities to work together to develop effective and sustainable solutions to major key urban challenges.

10.5.2 \ Eligibility

The following beneficiaries are eligible:

- Cities from EU 27 Member States, Norway & Switzerland. This includes cities, municipalities, towns, infra-municipal tiers of government, metropolitan authorities as well as organized agglomerations;
- Local agencies, provincial, regional and national authorities, universities and research centers, SME support bodies, NGOs / associations;
- Almost all beneficiaries are local public authorities (cities and specialized agencies such as urban planning agencies);
- Projects must involve at least eligible 6 partners.

10.5.3 \ Type of projects

The main type of activities funded by URBACT are transnational exchange and learning networks. There are 3 types of networks:

- Action Planning networks: supporting cities in addressing a policy challenge by producing an integrated action-plan;
- Implementation networks: supporting cities with the delivery of an existing integrated urban strategy/action-plan;
- Transfer networks: supporting cities in adapting and re-using a good practice to enhance their urban policies.

The networks have a lifetime of 2,5 years (6 months of preparation and 24 months of implementation).

10.5.4 \ Funding

URBACT is funded by the ERDF. It is implemented through grants and the co-financing rate varies depending on the region of establishment of each partner:

- 70% for the most developed regions
- 85% for the least developed or transition regions.

The maximum grant for a network is up to €600,000 (depending on the final size of the network). Only staff costs, administrative and transport costs, external services and expertise and equipment are eligible.

10.5.5 \ Application procedure and schedule

The preparation of the URBACT programme for the period 2021-2027 is still ongoing. It is expected that the programme will be adopted in September 2021 and that the launch of URBACT IV should take place at the beginning of 2022.

URBACT will be implemented through open calls for proposals published on the [official website of Urbact](#).

10.5.6 \ Relevance for EuroGeographics and its members

- URBACT supports sustainable and integrated urban development. Although it is in theory open to different types of entities (public and local authorities, universities, agencies (including urban planning agencies), it seems that **almost all beneficiaries are cities. Each member of EuroGeographics will need to check if they are eligible under this programme**, depending on their specific status.
- Furthermore, only entities based in the EU, in Norway and in Switzerland are eligible for this programme.

10.6 \ ESPON

10.6.1 \ Presentation of the programme

ESPON (European Spatial Planning Observation Network) aims to organize, and fund applied research, place-based analyses and specific tools to support the formulation of territorial development policies in Europe with evidence, systematic data, maps, policy advice and pan-European comparative analysis. ESPON supports regions, cities and national governments to improve the quality of their decision-making by supporting the development, implementation and monitoring of their policies and strategies.

10.6.2 \ Eligibility

Eligible entities include both research organizations and public authorities (national, regional or local administrations, urban planning agencies) based in the EU Member States as well as Island, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

Only projects carried out by consortia are eligible.

10.6.3 \ Type of projects

ESPON supports different types of activities:

- Applied research projects carried out by scientific research teams;
- Support to policy makers to identify topics of interest for applied research projects;
- Production of territorial observation tools and methods, such as databases, maps and atlases, in order to enrich the available knowledge.

The objective is that the data produced through ESPON can be reused by decision-makers to design and implement policies in their territories.

ESPON funds projects on a large number of topics: regional economy, environmental challenges, urban and rural development...

10.6.4 \ Funding

Information for the 2021-2027 period is not available for the time being.

10.6.5 \ Application procedure and schedule

The programme is based on logic of calls for tender which set out detailed specifications for the studies expected. All calls are published on the European public procurement platform TED ([Tenders Electronic Daily](#)) and on the official website of [ESPON](#).

ESPON should be reconducted for the 2021-2027 period but no information is available on the content of the new programme yet.

10.6.6 \ Relevance for EuroGeographics and its members

- **ESPON funds the production of territorial observation tools and methods, such as databases, maps and atlases, in order to enrich the available knowledge, which is among EuroGeographics priorities.**
- ESPON is implemented through **calls for tenders** open to entities based in the EU, in Norway, Switzerland, Lichtenstein et Island.
- No information is available on the new priorities of the programme for the 2021-2027 period yet.

➤ Example of project of interest for EuroGeographics

[MRS. ESPON](#) provides European, macro-regional, national and regional policymakers and other stakeholders complementary territorial information, data, maps, graphs, analytical features and short reports. It brings together information from different data sources, such as the ESPON Database, Eurostat, National Statistical Offices, World bank, OECD and other regional collaboration partners.

➤ Example of call for tenders of interest for EuroGeographics

[ESPON 2020 data and map update II](#): the objective is to contract one or more service providers to collect data and metadata, build up time series and fill in existing data gaps, quality check and integrate the data into the ESPON 2020 Database (EMPLOY, LOCATE, PROFECY, Big Data and housing, CLIMATE datasets and maps).

11 \ INVESTEU

11.1 \ Presentation of the programme

InvestEU will bring together under one roof the multitude of EU financial instruments currently available to support investment in the EU, making funding for investment projects in Europe simpler, more efficient and more flexible. InvestEU is a major element of the EU recovery plan and will support:

- Long-term financing for companies and projects;
- Simplified and streamlined investment support with a single point of contact for advice;
- Mobilizing private and public investment to support a sustainable recovery;
- Building a greener, digital and resilient European economy.

The following scheme lists the instruments grouped under InvestEU as well as its four strands of action for the 2021-2027 period.



11.2 \ Eligibility

InvestEU provides support to final beneficiaries considered economically viable according to internationally accepted standards. Eligible final beneficiaries can be individual or legal persons established in an EU country or in an eligible third country, including:

- Private entities or project companies, large companies, medium-sized companies, including small and medium-sized enterprises and SMEs;
- Public sector entities and public type entities;
- Mixed entities, such as public-private partnerships and private companies;
- Non-profit organisations.

11.3 \ Funding

Funding will take the form of financial instruments (loan, guarantees...) provided by financial institutions. InvestEU is a new programme and as a consequence there are few information available on the type of format of funding that will be provided.

11.4 \ Application procedure and schedule

InvestEU will be implemented with the support of implementing partners (banks, guarantee societies, equity funds...), as well as by the European Investment Bank, which will be the main point of contact for the project leaders.

The Commission will launch the **call for expressions of interest** for the selection of implementing partners other than the EIB Group as soon as the Regulation enters into force, which is expected to be early April 2021.

In the meantime, discussions on EIB and EIF guarantee agreements are already progressing with a view to concluding negotiations by mid-2021 so that companies and project promoters can already start applying for funding at that time. Guarantee agreements with other implementing partners will follow in the second half of 2021.

11.5 \ Relevance for EuroGeographics and its members

- InvestEU builds on the success of the European Fund for Strategic Investments, set up under the Juncker Plan, and will provide **funding for investment projects in a large number of topics: sustainable infrastructure; research, innovation and digitalization...**, some of them might be interesting for EuroGeographics.
- However, InvestEU only offers support through **financial instruments** (loans and guarantees) and not grant, which might be less attractive than other programmes.
- Finally, InvestEU is a new programme. Therefore, there is little information on how it will work in practice.

12 \ LIFE

12.1 \ Presentation of the programme and its objectives

Launched in 1992, LIFE is one of the pillars of EU funding for environment and climate action. It aims to promote and finance innovative projects such as species and habitat conservation, soil protection, improvement of air or water quality, waste management or climate change mitigation and adaptation. The overall objective is to contribute to the development and implementation of EU environmental and climate policy and legislation:

- **Mitigation and adaptation to climate change:** greenhouse gas reduction, resilience, best practices;
- **Preservation of the environment:** rational use of resources, preservation of natural sites and species, good practices.

The **structure of the programme** is as follows:

- The Environment portfolio which includes:
 - the 'Nature and Biodiversity' sub-programme;
 - the 'Circular Economy and Quality of Life' sub-programme;
- The Climate Action portfolio, which comprises:
 - the 'Mitigation of climate change and adaptation to climate change' sub-programme;
 - the "Transition to Clean Energy" sub-programme.

12.2 \ Eligibility

The following entities are eligible:

- Legal entities established in one of the following countries or territories;
 - Member State or an overseas country or territory covered by that State;
 - A third country associated with the programme;
- Projects can be carried out by a single entity or by a consortium. There are no eligibility criteria regarding the minimum number of partners or countries.

12.3 \ Types of projects

LIFE funds four types of projects:

- **Traditional projects**, i.e. "standard" projects for the exchange of good practice, demonstration, pilot projects, information and awareness-raising;
- **Preparatory projects**, which address specific needs regarding the development and implementation of Union environmental or climate policy and legislation;
- **Integrated projects** on a large geographical scale, implementing plans or strategies (air quality, nature, water, waste) and which should benefit from third party funding;
- **Technical assistance projects** to support the preparation of integrated projects.

Some facts and figures on traditional and integrated projects

	Traditional projects	Integrated projects
Average grants	€1.5 million	€10 million
Duration	between 2 and 5 years	between 6 and 10 years
Total amount of the project	between €500,000 and €5 million	between €10 million and €20 million
Co-financing rate	55% of eligible costs (60% for the nature and biodiversity sub-programme).	60% of eligible costs

12.4 \ Funding

The budget for the period 2021-2027 is €4.8 billion. Funding is in the form of a grant of up to 60% of eligible costs (cf. table above for details).

Eligible costs include personnel costs, subcontracting, travel costs, equipment, prototype and infrastructure, consumables and supplies, costs related to land purchase or use, other direct costs (dissemination, evaluation...) and indirect costs (flat rate of 7% of direct costs). LIFE does not fund research and important infrastructures.

Grants may finance activities outside the Union, as long as the project pursues the Union's environmental and climate objectives and the activities outside the Union are necessary to ensure the effectiveness of the interventions carried out in the territories of the Member States.

More information are available in the LIFE [Guide for applicant](#).

12.5 \ Application procedure and schedule

LIFE grants are awarded through annual calls for proposals published on the Funding & Tenders portal. The application procedure varies according to the sub-programme:

- Single-stage application procedure for traditional projects in the climate action sub-programmes
- Two-stages application procedure for traditional projects in the environment sub-programmes
- Two-stages application procedure for integrated projects in the environment and climate action sub-programmes
- Single-stage application procedure for preparatory and capacity building projects

It is expected that the new call will be launched during spring 2021, with a deadline in autumn 2021.

Details of the new LIFE regulation, multiannual work programme and related calls for proposals are still under discussion. More information is available on the website of the [LIFE programme](#).

12.6 \ Relevance for EuroGeographics and its members

- Several themes covered by LIFE could be of interest to EuroGeographics such as environment, health, agriculture, Green Deal, Environmental monitoring, etc. Although geospatial data may contribute to these topics, it is not at the core of the programme.
- LIFE does not fund all eligible costs for the project and co-financing will be necessary.
- Collaboration between SMEs and local or regional governments— where many potential LIFE projects are conceived—is encouraged, but not essential.
- **LIFE is a competitive programme but not among the most competitive ones:** 20 to 35% of the proposals are selected for funding.

➤ Example of project of interest for EuroGeographics

The [SustainEuroRoad](#) LIFE Project proposes to create, validate and implement an innovative software to evaluate and reduce the environmental impact of road construction and maintenance in Europe.

13 \ NEIGHBOURHOOD, DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION INSTRUMENT (IVCDI)

13.1 \ Presentation of the instrument and its objectives

The Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (IVCDI) is the EU's main financial instrument to contribute to eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development, prosperity, peace and stability.

13.2 \ What is funded

IVCDI will be able to support projects related to environmental conservation. It will fund actions linked to the Sustainable Development Goals at global level. Thematic programmes will therefore focus on human rights and democracy, civil society, stability and peace, as well as on global challenges such as health, education and training, women and children, work, social protection, culture, migration and climate change.

13.3 \ Eligibility

Eligible beneficiaries include:

- NGOs;
- any entity with legal personality registered in an EU Member State or beneficiary of the programme.

13.4 \ Funding

IVCDI has a budget of €79.5 billion for the period 2021-2027. It mainly offers grants through public procurement.

13.5 \ Application procedure and schedule

Grants are awarded through calls for proposals published on the [Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal \(F&T Portal\)](#) of the European Commission's International Partnerships Department.

The exact schedule for the 2021-2027 programme is not known yet. The new instrument is expected to enter into force in the coming months, after its formal adoption by the Council and the Parliament.

13.6 \ Relevance for EuroGeographics and its members

- IVCDI is open to entities that are not based in the EU. **Members of EuroGeographics that are not based in EU Member States might therefore be eligible for this programme.**
- IVCDI aims to enhance political cooperation and support for the purposes of enhancing regional cooperation and promoting integration into the EU's internal market. **The relevance for EuroGeographics' members activities may be lower than other programmes.**

14 \ WORLD BANK

14.1 \ Presentation of the World Bank Group and its objectives

The World Bank is one of the world's largest sources of funding and knowledge for developing countries. Its main role is to fight poverty in the world and to promote shared prosperity between developing and developed countries. Two of its programmes are open to the public sector:

- IBRD, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development;
- IDA, the International Development Association;

14.2 \ Type of projects

The World Bank supports investment projects in the fields of food production, rural and urban development and population health and nutrition.

14.3 \ Funding

Since 1947, the World Bank has funded over 12,000 development projects, via traditional loans, interest-free credits, and grants.

IBRD provides national governments or their subdivisions with innovative solutions in the area of financial products (loans, guarantees and risk management instruments) as well as knowledge support and advisory services (which may be reimbursable). IBRD finances investments in all sectors and provides expertise and technical support at all stages of projects.

IDA provides loans on concessional terms. This means that IDA credits bear little to no interest and repayments are spread over 30 to 38 years, with a grace period of 5 to 10 years. IDA also provides grants to countries at risk of debt distress.

14.4 \ Application procedure

Projects can be submitted on the [World Bank](#) official website, where calls for projects are regularly published.

14.5 \ Relevance for EuroGeographics and its members

- Word Bank support is open to entities that are considered as **developing countries**. Members of EuroGeographics not based in EU Member States might therefore be eligible for this programme (to be checked for each country)
- Word Bank aims to **support investment in (for instance) land, data infrastructure, agriculture, environment, health and transport**. The **relevance must be checked for each of EuroGeographics' eligible member**.
- However, Word Bank only offers support through **financial instruments** (loans and guarantees) and not grant, which might be less attractive than other programmes.

- Example of project of interest for EuroGeographics

The objective of the [Program to Accelerate Agrarian Reform](#) (One Map Project) is to establish clarity on actual land rights and land use at the village level in the target areas. It is in line with the following thematic objectives that may be of interest to EuroGeographics: Maps, Lands, Geospatial, etc.

15 \ OTHER PROGRAMMES OF INTEREST

This section presents programmes that were running during the period 2014-2020 and that may be extended for the coming years, depending on the outcome of the programme evaluation. At the moment, there is little information available for the new period 2021-2027.

15.1 \ ELISE

European Location Interoperability Solutions for e-Government (ELISE) aims to break down barriers and promote a coherent and consistent approach to the sharing and reuse of location data across sectors and borders, in the context of the digital transformation of public services. It started in 2016 and will end in the third quarter of 2021. ELISE actions and objectives are implemented by providing location-related solutions for all levels of the European Interoperability Framework through four pillars:

- Studies;
- Framework and solutions;
- Applications;
- Geo Knowledge Base Service.

➤ Relevance for EuroGeographics and its members

- A number of action themes funded by ELISE fall under the scope of work of EuroGeographics (e.g. e-government, geospatial data and location intelligence).
- However, there is no information available regarding what will be funded by ELISE for the 2021-2027 period

15.2 \ TAEIX

TAEIX is the European Commission's Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument. It supports public administrations and social partners in the process of transposing, implementing and enforcing EU legislation and policies. The beneficiaries can use this tool to call upon the expertise of the Member States on subjects as varied as agriculture, the environment, telecommunications, etc. Workshops and study tours are organised to accompany the beneficiary and experts from the Member States are also available.

TAEIX eligible beneficiaries and partners are:

- Turkey, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo;
- Turkish Cypriot community in the northern part of Cyprus;
- Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine.
- EU Member States;
- Partner countries and territories covered by Directorate-General for International Partnerships.

➤ Relevance for EuroGeographics and its members

- TAIEX could be used to increase collaboration between EuroGeographics members based in the EU and members based in the eligible countries in order to implement EU policies (including policies linked to geospatial data)
- However, there is no information available regarding what will be funded by TAIEX for the 2021-2027 period

15.3 \ European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is an international financial institution whose goal is to develop market economies through investment. It supports entities based in countries from Central Europe to Central Asia⁹. This programme will continue in the upcoming years.

The EBRD supports projects in a large number of sectors, such as agriculture, energy, city infrastructures (transport, water supply, pollution control...), transport, tourism...

Projects are funded mostly through loans and guarantees. Projects usually range from € 5 million to € 230 million but smaller can also be funded.

The following eligibility criteria apply:

- The project must be located in an EBRD country
- The project must have strong commercial prospects
- The project must involve significant equity contributions in-cash or in-kind from the project sponsor (i.e. co-financing is needed)
- The project must benefit the local economy and help develop the private sector and satisfy banking and environmental standards.

➤ Relevance for EuroGeographics and its members

- EBRD investment is open to entities that are based in Central and Eastern Europe. Members of EuroGeographics based in these countries could therefore benefit from support.
- EBRD aims to **support investment in topics of interest for EuroGeographics: agriculture, energy, infrastructures...**
- However, EBRD only offers support through **financial instruments** (loans and guarantees) and not grant, which might be less attractive than other programmes.

⁹ The following countries are eligible : Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Egypt, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan



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