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**Programme specific objectives and thematic focus of
third call**



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CENTRAL EUROPE - Territorial needs

Cooperating beyond borders in central Europe to make our cities and regions better places to live and work

Priority axis 1
Cooperating on innovation to make CENTRAL EUROPE more competitive

Specific objective 1.1

To improve sustainable linkages among actors of the innovation systems for strengthening regional innovation capacity in central Europe

Specific objective 1.2

To improve skills and entrepreneurial competences for advancing economic and social innovation in central European regions

Priority axis 2
Cooperating on low carbon strategies in CENTRAL EUROPE

Specific objective 2.1

To develop and implement solutions for increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy usage in public infrastructures

Specific objective 2.2

To improve territorially based low carbon energy planning strategies and policies supporting climate change mitigation

Specific objective 2.3

To improve capacities for energy planning in functional urban areas to lower CO₂ emissions

Priority axis 3
Cooperating on natural and cultural resources for sustainable growth in CENTRAL EUROPE

Specific objective 3.1

To improve integrated environmental management capacities for the protection and sustainable use of natural heritage and resources

Specific objective 3.2

To improve capacities for the sustainable use of cultural heritage and resources

Specific objective 3.3

To improve environmental management in functional urban areas to make them more liveable places

Priority axis 4
Cooperating on transport to better connect CENTRAL EUROPE

Specific objective 4.1

To improve planning and coordination of regional passenger transport systems for better connections to national and European transport networks

Specific objective 4.2

To improve coordination among freight transport stakeholders for increasing multimodal environment-friendly freight solutions





PRIORITY AXIS 1

Cooperating on
innovation to make
CENTRAL EUROPE
more competitive



SO 1.1 Improving sustainable linkages among actors of the innovation systems



Thematic focus of third call:

- Bottom-up implementation of **smart specialisation strategies (RIS3)** in technology priority areas
 - Triple and quadruple helix approaches to strengthen the participation of public and civil society actors
 - Innovative practices such as open innovation and co-creation approaches
 - Actions for bringing innovation closer to the market (e.g. financing mechanisms)

*“**RIS3** - national or regional innovation strategies which set priorities in order to build competitive advantage by developing and matching research and innovation own strengths to business needs...”*



SO 1.1 Improving sustainable linkages among actors of the innovation systems



Examples of supported actions (see annex I of application manual):

- Transnational integration of RIS3 implementation
- Strengthening **regional innovation eco-systems** through improving their transnational networks, collaborative schemes, joint innovation support services etc.
- Building **transnational links and strategic collaborations between key RIS3 actors** (in particular triple helix or quadruple)
- Innovative practices such as **open innovation and co-creation approaches**
- Bringing **innovation closer to the market** and facilitating the **access to financing of innovation**





Applications not demonstrating a clear contribution to the thematic focus of SO 1.1 on RIS3 will not be supported in the third call

(e.g. RTD projects, projects focussing purely on technology transfer between research and business)



SO 1.2 Improving skills and entrepreneurial competences for advancing economic & social innovation



Thematic focus of third call:

- **Social innovation** and integration of disadvantaged groups (including migrants) and regions
 - Bottom-up **social innovation practices** (e.g. support infrastructure, services and schemes)
 - **Integration of disadvantaged groups** into society and the labour market
 - Innovation of **social policies** (e.g. policy coordination)
 - **Social entrepreneurship**

“Social innovations - new ideas (products, services and models) that simultaneously meet social needs (more effectively than alternatives) and create new social relationships or collaborations....Fields of activity are among others work integration, social services, education and research, culture and recreation, health etc.”



SO 1.2 Improving skills and entrepreneurial competences for advancing economic & social innovation



Examples of supported actions (see annex I of application manual):

- Bottom-up **social innovation practices** creating/strengthening support infrastructure, services and schemes
- Strategies/tools for the **integration of disadvantaged groups** including migrants into the labour market
- **Support services and trainings** for prospective entrepreneurs with a migrant background
- Innovation of **social policies** to better meet the needs of the disadvantaged groups
- Strategies/tools for improving **social innovation initiatives** as well as **competences for social entrepreneurship**





Applications not demonstrating a clear contribution to the thematic focus of SO 1.2 on social innovation will not be supported in the third call

(e.g. projects focussing purely on training, business and competence development not considering the social innovation dimension)





PRIORITY AXIS 2

Cooperating on low
carbon strategies in
CENTRAL EUROPE



SO 2.1 Increasing energy efficiency (EE) and renewable energy usage in public infrastructures



Thematic focus of third call:

- Energy efficiency and renewable energy usage of **public infrastructure other than buildings and streetlights**:
 - Transport infrastructure (railway, road, waterways, terminals etc.)
 - Water infrastructure including distribution and maintenance of water supply
 - Waste and waste water infrastructure including collection and treatment
 - ICT infrastructure including data storage and distribution systems
- Integration of renewable energy sources (excluding public buildings and streetlights)
- Financing aspects of energy efficient renovation (excluding public buildings and streetlights)

“Public infrastructure - infrastructure that is owned by the public and/or is for public use...”



SO 2.1 Increasing energy efficiency (EE) and renewable energy usage in public infrastructures



Examples of supported actions (see annex I of application manual):

- Policies/strategies/solutions to **improve EE in public infrastructures** as well as to **increase the use of renewable energies**
- Innovative **management approaches** for improving energy performance in public infrastructure
- Application of **novel energy saving technologies** that will increase EE in public infrastructures
- Strengthening the capacity of the public sector on **innovative energy services, incentives and financing schemes**





Applications not demonstrating a clear contribution to the thematic focus of SO 2.1 will not be supported in the third call

(i.e. projects addressing public buildings such administration buildings, schools, hospitals as well as streetlights)



SO 2.2 To improve territorially based low-carbon energy planning strategies and policies supporting climate change mitigation



Thematic scope (fully open within third call):

- Supporting innovative local and regional energy planning strategies
- Facilitating the transition towards ‘Sustainable Energy Regions’
- Linking of approaches between demand and supply sides
- Mobilising investment for low-carbon measures at territorial level

“Energy planning at the territorial level provides a framework linked to policies and economic development which considers specific local/regional patterns of energy needs and resources serving as a tool to mitigate climate change and enhancing sustainability.”



SO 2.2 To improve territorially based low-carbon energy planning strategies and policies supporting climate change mitigation



Examples of supported actions (see annex I of application manual):

- Integrated territorial strategies/plans to increase the use of **endogenous renewable energy potentials** and improve **regional energy performance**
- Territorial strategies/tools to improve the **energy management** in both the public and the private sector (especially in SMEs)
- **Demand-focused strategies** and policies to reduce energy consumption
- Strategies/solutions for improved interconnections and coordination of **energy networks**, **smart grids** development and deployment, **energy storage**
- Promoting the role of **energy prosumers** in achieving the vision of the Energy Union



SO 2.3 To improve capacities for mobility planning in functional urban areas to lower CO2 emissions



CLOSED WITHIN THE THIRD CALL





PRIORITY AXIS 3

**Cooperating on natural
and cultural resources
for sustainable growth
in CENTRAL EUROPE**



SO 3.1 To improve integrated environmental management capacities for the protection and sustainable use of natural heritage and resources

Thematic scope (fully open within third call):

- Integrated environmental management approaches and uptake into the public and private sector
- Reducing current and avoiding future **usage conflicts**
- **Resource efficiency** as guiding principle
- Capitalising on **location factors**

“Integrated environmental management - Comprehensive approach to natural resource planning and management encompassing ecological, social, and economic objectives. It considers interrelationships among different elements and incorporates concepts of carrying capacity, resilience and sustainability.”



SO 3.1 To improve integrated environmental management capacities for the protection and sustainable use of natural heritage and resources

Examples of supported actions (see annex I of application manual):

- Integrated strategies/tools for sustainable management of **protected or environmentally highly valuable areas**
- Integrated strategies/tools to sustainably use natural resources for **regional development**, thus avoiding **potential use conflicts**
- **Innovative technologies/tools** for effective integrated environmental management
- **Efficient management of natural resources** in public institutions and enterprises
- Harmonising concepts/tools for **environmental risk management** and reducing negative **climate change impacts**



SO 3.2 Improving capacities for the sustainable use of cultural heritage and resources



Thematic focus of the third call:

- Cultural and creative industries (CCI):
 - CCI entrepreneurship
 - CCI policies
 - linking CCI to other sectors and innovative technologies (cross-sectorial cooperation)

*“Cultural industries - producing and distributing goods or services which at the time they are developed are considered to have a specific attribute, use or purpose which **embodies or conveys cultural expressions**, irrespective of the commercial value they may have. Besides the traditional arts sectors (performing arts, visual arts, cultural heritage - including the public sector), they include film, DVD and video, television and radio, video games, new media, music, books and press.”*

*“Creative industries - use culture as an input and have a cultural dimension, although their outputs are mainly functional. They include architecture and design, which **integrate creative elements** into wider processes, as well as sub-sectors such as graphic design, fashion design or advertising.”*



SO 3.2 Improving capacities for the sustainable use of cultural heritage and resources



Examples of supported actions (see annex I of application manual):

- Strategies and policies for **valorising the potentials of CCI**
- **Integrated territorial development strategies/concepts** building on CCI
- Tools and approaches for a better **promotion** of the CCI sector and fostering of **CCI entrepreneurship**
- Enhancing **cross-sectorial cooperation and linkages** of CCI to other sectors and/or innovative technologies





Applications not demonstrating a clear contribution to the thematic focus of SO 3.2 on CCI will not be supported in the third call

(e.g. projects focusing on cultural routes linking historic sites)



SO 3.3 To improve environmental management of functional urban areas to make them more liveable places



Thematic scope (fully open within third call):

- Integrated urban environmental management to tackle environmental problems related to both urban core areas and their hinterlands
- Cross-sectoral and multilevel governance for better planning, management and decision making
- Triggering follow-up investments for improving the quality of the urban environment

“Functional urban areas - economic unit characterised by densely inhabited “urban cores” and “hinterlands” whose labour market is highly integrated. This spatial delimitation beyond administrative borders is relevant for a multitude of thematic fields, e.g. transport, economic development, environment, social.”



SO 3.3 To improve environmental management of functional urban areas to make them more liveable places



Examples of supported actions (see annex I of application manual):

- Strategies/tools to manage environmental quality and tackle natural and man-made risks in functional urban areas
- Strengthening the capacity for environmental planning and management at the level of functional urban areas
- Integrated strategies, policies and tools to reduce land-use conflicts in functional urban areas
- Integrated strategies and pilot applications for the rehabilitation and reactivation of brownfield sites
- Concepts and environmental pilot applications to support the development towards smart cities





PRIORITY AXIS 4
**Cooperating on
transport to better
connect CENTRAL
EUROPE**



SO 4.1 To improve planning and coordination of regional passenger transport systems for better connections to national and European transport networks



Thematic scope (fully open within third call):

- Improving connections to the TEN-T network and transport nodes, especially for peripheral regions/areas
- Focus on sustainable public transport at regional level
- Increasing planning and implementation capacity in the field of integrated passenger transport systems
- Improving regional and transnational coordination between stakeholders

“Regional passenger transport system - combination of vehicles, infrastructure and operations that enable the movements or satisfy the travel demand of people within a defined region.”



SO 4.1 To improve planning and coordination of regional passenger transport systems for better connections to national and European transport networks



Examples of supported actions (see annex I of application manual):

- Strategies (including innovative financing and investment models) to **link sustainable passenger transport** in particular in peripheral areas to the **TEN-T network and transport nodes**
- Coordinated strategies, tools and pilot applications to improve **regional public transport systems** for passengers in particular **across borders**
- Pilot applications for **smart regional mobility**
- Coordinated concepts, standards and tools for **improved mobility services in the public interest**



SO 4.2 To improve coordination among freight transport stakeholders for increasing multimodal environmentally-friendly freight solutions



Thematic scope (fully open within third call):

- Enhancing efficiency, reliability and quality of **greener freight transport modes** (e.g. rail, river or sea transport) and services
- Strengthening capacities in **multimodal logistics management**
- Overcoming discontinuities of **logistic chains and services across borders** and optimising freight flows
- Paving the way for designing and implementing **future freight transport infrastructure**

“Multimodal transport - Carriage of goods by at least two different modes of transport. Thereby environmentally friendly transport solutions are those allowing a significant reduction of emissions of CO₂, NO_x and particulate matter as well as of noise.”



SO 4.2 To improve coordination among freight transport stakeholders for increasing multimodal environmentally-friendly freight solutions



Examples of supported actions (see annex I of application manual):

- Coordinated strategies (including innovative financing and investment models) for strengthening the **multimodality of environmentally-friendly freight transport systems**
- Coordination and **collaboration mechanisms** between multimodal freight transport actors
- Coordinated concepts, management tools and services for increasing the share of **environmentally friendly logistics** through **optimised freight transport chains**
- Coordinated strategies and concepts for “**greening**” the last mile of freight transport





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