# Aquaculture Funding Guidance Sheets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>FUND</strong></th>
<th>INTERREG EUROPE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Acronym:</strong></td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Type</strong></td>
<td>European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scale</strong></td>
<td>Whole territory of the EU, plus Norway and Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fund amount</strong></td>
<td>2014 - 2020 programme budget €539 million (£269 million)</td>
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## Fund purpose

**Overview**

INTERREG EUROPE is the new inter-regional cooperation funding stream previously known as INTERREG IVC. It will promote the exchange of experiences and knowledge across regions for the dissemination of good practice with a view to influencing the development of jobs, growth and prosperity across the EU at the regional level. This funding stream is targeted mainly at those with regional significance or relevance, e.g. national, regional or local public authorities.

Central to this fund is the need to support innovation, growth and job creation whilst responding to demographic changes and the challenges laid down by climate change. There is, therefore, a strong emphasis on job creation and SME innovation, which may be of interest to many aquaculture businesses. The term used in the EU is ‘smart growth’ which relies on research and development, innovation and the relationship between these two processes.

The programme is best suited to organisations wishing to contribute as project partners who would work together with other European regions, for three to five years, on a shared policy issue. The resulting action plan will allow learning to be translated into action for each region who then monitor how far their development has progressed.

INTERREG EUROPE will finance two actions; Cooperation Projects (calls for project proposals will be launched throughout the programme), and Policy Learning Platforms. You can get involved as either a project partner – committing time and money, be involved in a stakeholder group where learning is disseminated or participate in the platforms for discussion.

The fund was officially launched in Bologna, Italy in December 2014.

**Aims and objectives**

INTERREG EUROPE aims to improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in particular programmes for investment in growth and jobs.

**Priorities/Themes**

INTERREG EUROPE focuses on four main themes, all related to regional development:

- Research and Innovation
- SME Competitiveness
- Low-carbon economy
- Environment and resource-use efficiency
### Proposed supportable activities

Proposed areas of work to be supported include:

- Strengthening research and innovation infrastructure and capacities e.g. improving financial instruments for innovation support
- Innovation delivery through regional innovation chains in chosen ‘smart specialisation’ field e.g. increasing commercialisation of R&D results
- Allow regions to improve their policies in supporting SMEs in all stages of their life cycle to develop
- Achieve growth and engage in innovation e.g. creating and boosting entrepreneurial spirit; responding to obstructions to business growth
- Addressing the transition to a low-carbon economy in all sectors, through policies aimed at improving renewable energy contributions to the energy mix such as local low-carbon strategies
- Protection and development of natural and cultural heritage e.g. improving management of regional nature parks – transition to a resource-efficient economy, promoting green growth and eco-innovation e.g. increasing recycling rates among SMEs

### How it works

INTERREG EUROPE will deliver interregional cooperation for all member states. In the UK you will need to contact the Department for Communities and Local Government for detailed information on how to apply to this fund in early 2015.

### Grant (the full UK grant will be confirmed in 2015)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Size of grant</th>
<th>€84 million (£63 million) allocated to each of the four main programme themes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Restrictions</td>
<td>Commercial organisations may not receive funds but can contribute to project delivery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Match funding</td>
<td>85% co-financing for public bodies, 75% for non-profit bodies</td>
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### Guide to eligibility

#### Overview

The whole of the UK is eligible for INTERREG EUROPE funding. Those eligible are:

- Managing Authorities of Structural Funds programmes
- Regional and Local Authorities
- Agencies, research institutes and thematic policy organisations
- Bodies established on a commercial profit-making basis are not eligible to receive funds but can be involved in projects where they are influencing innovation and development

#### Exceptions and restrictions

Innovation is such a strong theme that it is likely businesses and SMEs will be encouraged to contribute as project partners, but a strong lead partner (usually a Local or Regional Authority) will be essential for success, as will representation from research and academic institutions.

#### Industry involvement

There is strong emphasis on stakeholder engagement and the need for piloting project ideas in order to strengthen policy changes. Contributions from SMEs to these pilots and steering groups will be welcomed but commercial bodies are not eligible to receive funds.

#### Stakeholder involvement

The key to this programme is that all projects must address issues of regional significance. It will thereby appeal mostly to organisations who have a regional relevance such as fisheries and aquaculture representative bodies, forums and associations.
### Contact details for applicants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Managing authority</th>
<th>Department for Communities and Local Government</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Contact details</strong></td>
<td>For general information on the programme, please contact the Joint Technical Secretariat. For eligibility questions and queries that cannot be handled by the Secretariat, please contact Department for Communities and Local Government, UK</td>
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### Useful websites and where to go for other information

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>UK Government: DCLG</th>
<th>Government (DCLG)</th>
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<tr>
<td>European Commission</td>
<td>Beginners Guide to EU Funding</td>
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| INTERREG EUROPE 2014 – 2020 | • European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) programmes  
• General description of the programme from Europe  
• Cooperation programme  
• An initial leaflet outlining INTERREG EUROPE  
• INTERREG EUROPE Launch Leaflet |