

# Call for Capitalisation “Covid-19 emergency response - Maximising impact”

## Terms of Reference: December 2020

France (Channel) England 2014-2020

### 1. Covid-19 emergency response

The immediate pressure on the health systems, with terrible human casualties, has been followed by sudden and severe social and economic consequences.

This will cause considerable decline in economic outputs, a reduction in number of economic operators and sharp increase in unemployment and poverty. It will also pose significant challenges for public finances and debt management in the years to come, which in turn may limit public investment necessary for economic recovery and development.

#### **EC Regulation, Brussels, 28.5.2020 COM (2020) 450 final 2018/0196 (COD)**

Responding to the current COVID crisis which is strongly affecting all parts of the FCE programme area, capitalisation initiatives which address this situation and its consequences are being sought, as long as they are based on successful pilot actions by project partners or on project results which could be rolled out across the FCE programme area.

Such a project may make use of the following amendment to Commission proposal COM(2018) 375 as per the CRII+ regulations

*“Article 15a*

**Temporary measures for the use of the Funds in response to exceptional and unusual circumstances**

(b) allow the authorities of a Member State to select for support operations that have been physically completed or fully implemented before the application for the funding under the programme is submitted to the managing authority, by way of derogation from Article 57(6), provided that the operation is in response to the exceptional circumstances;

(c) provide that expenditure for operations in response to such circumstances may be eligible from the date on which the Council endorsed the occurrence of those circumstances, by way of derogation from Article 57(7);

## **2. Aim of the calls for capitalisation**

In the framework of its capitalisation strategy, the *France (Channel) England* programme is developing various tools and activities aiming to maximise the impact of project results achieved up to now. Some project results show a particularly strong potential to be rolled-out or taken up beyond what was initially planned and can substantially enhance the programme's impact in a cost-efficient way. Unforeseen benefits often emerge during the lifetime of a project and could benefit from further exploration and support.

This capitalisation initiative aims to support these project results, the FCE programme is organising a call for capitalisation, open to both partners of approved projects and organisations that have completed successful pilot actions in response to the Covid-19 crisis within the current 2014-2020 programming period.

A call for capitalisation projects was launched in December 2020 and is a rolling open call with a final closure date of the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. It is open to all partners involved in current FCE projects and other organisations in the programme area that have already completed successful pilot actions in response to the Covid-19 crisis. This includes both current and closed projects from all programme priorities.

## **3. Type of projects expected**

The call for capitalisation "Maximising project impact" targets projects which have a solid ground for additional activities and where continuation of cooperation brings significant added value. Capitalisation initiative proposals should therefore stem from a well performing and successful project, with solid results to showcase. They should build on existing results (foreseen or unforeseen) that have a strong potential for further uptake and roll-out throughout FCE - and potentially in the rest of the EU. This means that the social, economic and environmental impact of these projects has already been clearly

proven, in a concrete and tangible way during the project lifetime. It also means that the long-term effects planned in the corresponding work package are well underway.

In their objective to roll-out and support the further uptake of successful results, capitalisation initiatives should also clearly contribute to the programme's objective of reducing territorial (economic, social and environmental) disparities in the FCE area. This means that proposals need a strong territorial justification. Based on successful project results (foreseen or unforeseen), three main directions can be taken by capitalisation initiatives:

Expand on Covid-19 related activities necessary for long term economic recovery and development that are currently underway, or activities that could be adapted to respond to the Covid-19 crisis, covering:

- o adapting processes or services
- o significant changes to existing business practices
- o different type of target group/type of stakeholders
- o transferability to a different economic sector
- o different geographical areas within FCE

#### **4. Partnership**

In order to better achieve their results and impact, projects are encouraged to include new partners in order to better reach the relevant territories, target audiences or economic sectors aimed for.

These new partners will need to show how they can add value with their skills and knowledge, to leverage the project results/pilot actions obtained so far and enhance territorial impact in FCE.

New partners should come from within the Programme area with or without previous experience of funding programmes. The partnership for the capitalisation initiative should remain focused, easy to manage and quickly operational to implement results.

#### **5. Assessment criteria**

##### **• Eligibility**

- o The eligibility criteria is laid out in the Programme Manual, Guidance Note 5

In your application it should be clear:

- Which projects/activities/results are being capitalised on
- Which activities/results are being expanded to support Covid-19 recovery
- Which partners are new to the Programme and what skills they bring
- How will this Covid-19 Capitalisation initiative bring lasting benefits to the Programme area and beyond

- **Objective**

- o The capitalisation project objectives should go beyond the current project results and are not the long-term effects already planned in existing projects/activities.
- o The capitalisation initiative maximises the impact of project results (foreseen or unforeseen) by supporting their roll-out and/or uptake in one (or more) of the following ways:
  - in new geographical areas
  - towards new target groups / type of stakeholders
  - in new economic sectors

- **Crossborder cooperation**

- o The capitalisation initiative contributes to reducing territorial disparities by rolling-out or supporting further uptake of results in territories that either:
  - Have not yet been covered by the initial activities
  - Are lagging behind in the area (leader-follower approach)
  - Are less developed (e.g. GDP/head lower than FCE average)

- **Partnership and cooperation**

- o The partnership proposed for the capitalisation initiative brings together the relevant stakeholders in order to reach the objectives (results/ value for money / target audiences/end users, economic sectors).

- **Value for money**

- o The capitalisation initiative represents good value for money, achieving an enhanced result with a budget which is well justified.

- **Results**

- o The capitalisation initiative outputs and results are measurable and quantified.
- o They contribute to the relevant priority's indicators and potentially other priority indicators.
- o They contribute to the Covid-19 recovery response throughout the Programme area

## 6. Who can apply?

This call is open to all eligible organisations based within the Programme area

## 7. Funding available

The overall programme allocation is €209 million of ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) For this call, €8 million ERDF is available. All expenditure must be eligible (see guidance note 6 & 8). Please note that no In-Kind contributions will be eligible under this call. The maximum ERDF grant rate for partners is 100% of the total capitalisation project budget, unless the project/partners are State Aid relevant.

## 8. Selection procedure

Applicants should complete the application form in line with programme guidance.

Capitalisation initiative proposals must be submitted in English and French on eMS and by email at [interregva.apply@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:interregva.apply@norfolk.gov.uk) before the set deadline (31 March 2021). Applications can be accepted at any stage up to this date.

All project proposals are assessed against the assessment criteria in guidance note 5 Project Selection and information contained within these Terms of reference.

The decision on project applications will be made by the Interreg FCE Monitoring Committee (MC), which is made up of representatives from both national and regional authorities within the FCE Member States.

The Monitoring Committee will meet on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 and 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021. The applicants will be notified of the Monitoring Committee's decision within 1 week after these meeting dates.

## 9. Project development support

How to get assistance? Please contact a programme facilitator directly or via the interreg mailbox: [interregva@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:interregva@norfolk.gov.uk) They are available to respond to any queries. All contact details can be found on the website [www.chanelmanche.com](http://www.chanelmanche.com)

The application forms and information for this call can be downloaded in the "Useful Documents" section of the website [www.chanelmanche.com](http://www.chanelmanche.com)

It consists of:

- Terms of Reference for the call for capitalisation

- Application form 'Offline eMS template'
- Programme Manual
- Cooperation Programme