

THE INTERREG VA FRANCE (CHANNEL) ENGLAND PROGRAMME SCHEME FOR AID TO SMES, AID FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION, AND AID FOR CULTURE AND HERITAGE PRESERVATION

Reference Number: SA.46761

General Conditions

Legal Basis

The Legal Basis for this scheme is the European Territorial Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A-France-United Kingdom (Channel/Manche) (2014TC16RFCB040). Aid under the scheme will be awarded in compliance with the conditions set out in Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 (GBER).

Definitions

The Definitions set out in Article 2 of the GBER shall apply in full to this scheme.

Primacy

In the event that any part of this scheme is inconsistent with the GBER, the provisions of GBER shall prevail.

Eligible Area

This scheme is available in the EU Member States covered by the Programme: France, The United Kingdom. The status of their territories is as follows;

The United Kingdom

Art. 107 (3)(a) - status A

Art. 107(3)(c) TFEU – Status C

Unassisted – status N

France

Art. 107 (3)(a) - status A

Art. 107(3)(c) TFEU – Status C

– Unassisted Status N

Organisations Permitted to award Aid under this scheme

Norfolk County Council

Duration

1/12/2016 – 31/12/2020

Form of Aid

Aid awarded under this scheme will take the form of grants.

Articles used

Aid will be awarded under Article 20 (Aid for Aid for cooperation costs incurred by SMEs participating in ETC projects), Article 25 (Aid for Research and Development Projects), and Article 53 (Aid for Culture and Heritage Conservation) of the GBER.

Excluded Aid

Aid will not be granted under this Scheme where it would fall outside the scope of the GBER, as set out in Article 1 of the GBER.

Incentive Effect

All awards of Aid under this scheme will be required to show incentive effect. An incentive effect will be considered present if the beneficiary has submitted a written application before work on the project or any activities start.

Cumulation

Aid under this scheme may be cumulated with other forms of Aid exempted under GBER 2014-20 provided that either: those measures concern different identifiable eligible costs; or, where there is partial or total overlap in eligible costs with other Aid exempted under GBER 2014-20 or awarded under the De Minimis Regulation¹, the highest Aid intensity or Aid amount applicable under GBER 2014-20 will not be exceeded.

Budget

The total budget of the scheme is 209 million EUR. Annual awards under the scheme may reach 90 million EUR. These are indicative estimates and not a commitment to grant this amount of Aid.

Funding

The award of Aid will be using the European Regional Development Fund allocated to the France (Channel) England Programme.

Contact

Any Questions regarding this scheme should be directed to France (Channel) England Programme, Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Norwich, Norfolk, NR1 2DW. Email: InterregV@norfolk.gov.uk

¹ Commission Regulation (EU) 1407/2013

Categories of Aid

Aid for cooperation costs incurred by SMEs participating in European Territorial Cooperation projects

Awards of Aid under this scheme for co-operation costs incurred by SMEs will comply with the conditions set out in Article 20 of the GBER.

Eligible Expenditure

The Aided part of projects supported under Article 20 shall be restricted to;

- (a) costs for organisational cooperation including the cost of staff and offices to the extent that it is linked to the cooperation project;
- (b) costs of advisory and support services linked to cooperation and delivered by external consultants and service providers;
- (c) travel expenses, costs of equipment and investment expenditure directly related to the project and depreciation of tools and equipment used directly for the project.

The services referred to in paragraph (b) shall not be a continuous or periodic activity nor relate to the undertaking's usual operating costs, such as routine tax consultancy services, regular legal services or routine advertising.

Aid intensity

The Aid intensity shall not exceed 50% of the eligible costs.

Awards of Aid will not exceed €2 Million per undertaking, per project.

Aid for Research and Development

Awards of Aid under this scheme for Research and Development will comply with the conditions set out in Article 25 of the GBER.

The Aided part of the research and development project shall completely fall within one or more of the following categories:

- (a) Fundamental research;
- (b) Industrial research;
- (c) Experimental development;
- (d) Feasibility studies.

These categories will be defined in accordance with the definitions set out in Article 2(84-87) of the GBER.

Eligible Expenditure

The Aided parts of research and development projects shall be allocated to a specific category of research and development, and costs shall be limited to the following:

- (a) Personnel costs: researchers, technicians and other supporting staff to the extent employed on the project;
- (b) Costs of instruments and equipment to the extent and for the period used for the project. Where such instruments and equipment are not used for their full life for the project, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the project, as calculated on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles are considered as eligible.
- (c) Costs for of buildings and land, to the extent and for the duration period used for the project. With regard to buildings, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the project, as calculated on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles are considered as eligible. For land, costs of commercial transfer or actually incurred capital costs are eligible.
- (d) Costs of contractual research, knowledge and patents bought or licensed from outside sources at arm's length conditions, as well as costs of consultancy and equivalent services used exclusively for the project;
- (e) Additional overheads and other operating expenses, including costs of materials, supplies and similar products, incurred directly as a result of the project;

The eligible costs for feasibility studies shall be the costs of the study.

Aid Intensity

The Aid intensity will depend on the category of the enterprising receiving the Aid, and the classification of the Research and Development. Aid will be granted up to the rates indicated in the table below.

	Fundamental Research	Industrial research	Experimental development	Feasibility studies
Large Enterprises	100%	50%	25%	50%
Medium Enterprises	100%	60%	35%	60%
Small Enterprises	100%	70%	45%	70%

Awards of Aid under this scheme for Research and Development will not exceed the following thresholds;

If the project is predominantly fundamental research: EUR 40 million per undertaking, per project; that is the case where more than half of the eligible costs of the project are incurred through activities which fall within the category of fundamental research;

If the project is predominantly industrial research: EUR 20 million per undertaking, per project; that is the case where more than half of the eligible costs of the project are incurred through activities which fall within the category of industrial research or within the categories of industrial research and fundamental research taken together;

If the project is predominantly experimental development: EUR 15 million per undertaking, per project; that is the case where more than half of the eligible costs of the project are incurred through activities which fall within the category of experimental development;

Aid for feasibility studies in preparation for research activities will not exceed EUR 7,5 million per study;

Aid for Culture and Heritage Conservation

Awards of Aid under this scheme for Culture and Heritage Conservation will comply with the conditions set out in Article 53 of the GBER.

Eligible Expenditure

For investment Aid, the eligible costs shall be the investment costs in tangible and intangible assets, including:-

- (a) Costs for the construction, upgrade, acquisition, conservation or improvement of infrastructure, if at least 80 % of either the time or the space capacity per year is used for cultural purposes;
- (b) Costs for the acquisition, including leasing, transfer of possession or physical relocation of cultural heritage;
- (c) Costs for safeguarding, preservation, restoration and rehabilitation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, including extra costs for storage under appropriate conditions, special tools, materials and costs for documentation, research, digitalisation and publication;
- (d) Costs for improving the accessibility of cultural heritage to the public, including costs for digitisation and other new technologies, costs to improve accessibility for persons with special needs (in particular, ramps and lifts for disabled persons, braille indications and hands-on exhibits in museums) and for promoting cultural diversity with respect to presentations, programmes and visitors;
- (e) Costs for cultural projects and activities, cooperation and exchange programmes and grants including costs for selection procedures, costs for promotion and costs incurred directly as a result of the project.

For operating Aid, the eligible costs shall be the following:

- (a) The cultural institution's or heritage site's costs linked to continuous or periodic activities including exhibitions, performances and events and similar cultural activities that occur in the ordinary course of business;
- (b) Costs of cultural and artistic education activities as well as promotion of the understanding of the importance of protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions through educational and greater public awareness programs, including with the use of new technologies;
- (c) Costs of the improvement of public access to the cultural institution or heritage sites and activities including costs of digitisation and of use of new technologies as well as costs of improving accessibility for persons with disabilities;

(d) Operating costs directly relating to the cultural project or activity, such as rent or lease of real estate and cultural venues, travel expenses, materials and supplies directly related to the cultural project or activity, architectural structures for exhibitions and stage sets, loan, lease and depreciation of tools, software and equipment, costs for access rights to copyright works and other related intellectual property rights protected contents, costs for promotion and costs incurred directly as a result of the project or activity; depreciation charges and the costs of financing are only eligible if they have not been covered by investment Aid;

(e) Costs for personnel working for the cultural institution or heritage site or for a project;

(f) Costs for advisory and support services provided by outside consultants and service providers, incurred directly as a result of the project.

Aid Intensity

For investment Aid, the Aid amount shall not exceed the difference between the eligible costs and the operating profit of the investment.

For operating Aid, the Aid amount shall not exceed what is necessary to cover the operating losses and a reasonable profit over the relevant period.

For Aid not exceeding €1 million, the maximum amount of Aid may be set, alternatively to the above, at 80% of eligible costs.

Aid will not exceed €100 million per project for investment Aid, or €50 million per undertaking per year for operating Aid.

Other Conditions

For publishing of music and literature as defined in paragraph 2(f), the maximum Aid amount shall not exceed either the difference between the eligible costs and the project's discounted revenues or 70 % of the eligible costs. The revenues shall be deducted from the eligible costs ex ante or through a clawback mechanism. The eligible costs shall be the costs for publishing of music and literature, including the authors' fees (copyright costs), translators' fees, editors' fees, other editorial costs (proofreading, correcting, reviewing), layout and pre-press costs and printing or e-publication costs.

Aid to press and magazines, whether they are published in print or electronically, shall not be eligible under this Scheme.