

France: ESF Innovative Transnational Actions

2012 National-Level Call for Projects

Permanent Call

The innovative transnational actions in the French OP

In the French national ESF “Regional Competitiveness and Employment” Operational Programme, transnational actions can be funded under Priority 4: “Investing in human capital and networking, innovation and transnational actions”.

Measure 4.3 allows the funding of innovative, transnational projects within 3 sub-measures:

- **4.3.1: “Innovative and experimental projects”**. This priority funds projects testing new solutions bringing added value to systems of employment and vocational training.
- **4.3.2: “Partnerships for innovation” (networks)**. This priority funds innovative network activities including the experimentation of new methods or tools, or the dissemination of good practices.
- **4.3.3: “Transnational cooperation” (mobility)**. This priority funds projects promoting the European mobility of disadvantaged groups (disabled, people with very low levels of qualification, people from disadvantaged areas...) on the labour market.

This measure is decentralised into 26 regions. A small part of the budget has been kept at central level for national projects.

Racine: manager for the “ESF Innovative Transnational Actions”

At national level, the French ESF Managing Authority delegated the implementation and management of the transnational measures to an Intermediary Body: RACINE.

At regional level, regional ESF Managing Authorities can choose whether or not to allocate resources to this measure. For regions where funding is allocated to this measure, regional Managing Authorities implement and manage their own calls for projects. The content and timing of these calls is likely to be different to those at national level.

A “national level” call for projects

This national call for projects targets organisations working at *national* or *interregional* level within France. National projects should propose activities carried out, or having an impact, throughout France. Interregional projects must implement activities in at least 3 French administrative regions.

Characteristics of eligible projects

- The objectives of the project must correspond to one sub-measure ;
- The project must be of national or interregional dimension. To be interregional, a project must operate in at least 3 French regions¹;
- The project must include transnational activities with at least one partner from another Member State, set out in a Transnational Agreement;
- The project must be run by a solid structure able to manage a transnational project funded by the ESF;
- The project must find match funding from public or private sources for at least 45% of eligible costs.

Thematic areas to be addressed

Applications can be submitted for projects in any thematic area eligible under the French ESF Operational Programme. Eligible themes include for example: age management, overcoming ethnic discrimination on the labour market, the promotion of European mobility for disadvantaged groups, the adaptation of workers in sectors undergoing structural change, solutions for better work-life balance, the development of entrepreneurship, better coordination between employment services and enterprises... No priority is given to any particular theme.

All applicants must demonstrate that they have actively integrated the principle of gender equality, and are encouraged to take into account other cross cutting issues of the Operational Programme including the integration of the disabled, sustainable development and equal opportunities.

Target groups

Any target group eligible for support from the ESF can be addressed, for example: jobseekers facing difficulties in access to the labour market, the most disadvantaged groups (the homeless, ex-prisoners, those on social minima, migrants, inhabitants of remote rural areas...), vulnerable workers (with low levels of qualification, single parents, ageing workers...), workers threatened with unemployment due to structural changes, disadvantaged groups seeking to create their own business/activity, staff working with any eligible target public, etc.

¹ This means that purely regional projects are not eligible for this national call for projects. For these projects, funding possibilities may be available in their region.

Available funding

- Total ESF budget available for transnational projects for 2011-2013 : around 8 million €
- Average ESF funding will be 130 000€ per project per year
- The maximum level of ESF funding per project will be 55% of the total budget cost.
- Project activities are eligible for a maximum of 12 or 18 months.

Transnational partners

- To be eligible, each project must have at least one partner² from another Member State, with the transnational activities set out in a Transnational Agreement
- Transnational partners must have their own source of funding to cover their participation in the transnational activities: from the ESF in their Member State, other EU programmes, national grants, or self-funding.

Minimum recommended part of transnational activities

A minimum amount of project expenditure dedicated to the transnational activities is stipulated for each sub-measure:

- Sub-measure 4.3.1: **25%**
- Sub-measure 4.3.2: **25%**
- Sub-measure 4.3.3: **50%**

Calendar

- The call for projects 2012 at national level will be open from 12th January 2012. It is a permanent Call for projects.
- Projects will be selected in March, May and July 2012.

For the latest information

See www.racine.fr, section "Transnationalité 2007-2013" (page available in English)
or contact transnat@racine.fr

² It is advised not to have more than 4 transnational partners