

ESF France National Level

ESF Innovative Transnational Actions

Which measures of the French ESF OP allow funding for transnational cooperation?

In the French ESF “Regional Competitiveness and Employment” Operational Programme (OP), transnational cooperation 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 (Domain G): “Innovative and experimental projects”
- 4.3.2 (Domain H): “Partnerships for innovation” (network activities)
- 4.3.3 (Domain I): “Transnational cooperation” (mobility)

Who manages the transnational measures?

- The French ESF national-level Managing Authority (MA) decided to delegate the management of the transnational measures at national level to an Intermediary Body: RACINE (www.racine.fr).

Metropolitan France (excluding the overseas territories which are not covered by the Regional Competitiveness and Employment OP) consists of 22 regions. The ESF in each region is managed by a different regional Managing Authority (MA). Each could decide whether or not to allocate funding to the transnational measure (4.3) of the OP. In the regions where the MAs chose to provide funding for transnational measures, these measures are managed by the regional-level MA concerned. Significant differences are therefore possible between the type of calls for projects at national level, and in different regions.

This document presents the transnational measures at national level.

What sort of projects are considered “national-level”?

National-level projects are either:

- Projects which have an impact on the entire French territory (i.e. run by organisations with national coverage);
- Projects carrying out activities in at least 3 French regions.

What sort of projects can be funded under the transnational measures?

To be eligible, transnational projects must target one (or several) of the priorities of the ESF Operational Programme in France. Three types of project are possible:

Sub-measure 4.3.1 (Domain G):

- Allows the funding of a wide variety of innovative, transnational projects
- Possible themes include:
 - fighting against ethnic discrimination in employment
 - age management
 - gender equality
 - adaptability of human resources due to economic mutations
 - etc.
- Types of activities:
 - Transfer of practices and tools between organisations from at least 2 Member States
 - Joint development of new tools, methods and practices at transnational level
 - Joint experimentation of innovative approaches or measures
- Recommended minimum % of transnationality in total project budget: 25%

Sub-measure 4.3.2 (Domain H):

- Allows the funding of activities by networks and partnerships
- Types of networks include:
 - Those working with young people, and aiming to make links between schools and business
 - Those bringing together structures working with populations facing difficulties on the labour market (advice, information, guidance) and businesses or economic sectors
 - Those promoting certain occupations
 - Those promoting entrepreneurship for disadvantaged groups ...
- Types of activities:
 - Seminars/training session to disseminate good practice to members of the network
 - Joint experimentation carried out by members of the network
 - Development of new tools using the skills and experience of members of the network
- Recommended minimum % of transnationality in total project budget: 10%

Sub-measure 4.3.3 (Domain I):

- Allows the funding of projects promoting mobility for disadvantaged groups
- Types of activities:
 - Mobility (exchanges, placements...) for vocational training trainees
 - Mobility for vocational trainers / staff working with disadvantaged groups (to gain new skills and increase competencies)
 - Mobility for workers and apprentices (particularly those with low levels of qualifications or from disadvantaged groups)

- Implementation of joint systems of skills or experience accreditation, or joint training courses leading to qualifications recognised in different Member States
- Experimental projects in the field of joint recognition of qualifications or competencies
- Recommended minimum % of transnationality in total project budget: 50%

What are the characteristics of eligible projects?

- The objectives of the project must correspond to the priorities of domains G, H or I
- The project must be of national dimension (see above for definition)
- The project must include transnational activities with at least one partner¹ from another Member State, set out in a Transnational Agreement
- The project must be run by a solid structure, capable of managing a transnational project funded by the ESF
- The project must find match funding from public or private sources

Transnational partners

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

When can candidates apply for funding?

National-level calls for projects will be opened for a fixed period once per year. The first call for projects took place in 2008. The dates are announced on the website (see below for address).

How many projects will be selected each year?

It is estimated that approximately 50 projects will be selected every year.

¹ It is advised not to have more than 4 transnational partners

What funding is available to the projects?

- Total ESF annual budget available for transnational projects: 4.275 million €
- The average ESF annual grant given to a project will be approximately 80 000€
- The maximum level of ESF funding per project will be 55% of the total budget cost

How long can projects run?

- Project activities are eligible for a maximum of 12 months, within one calendar year (1st January to the 31st December)
- It may be possible to renew projects in the following year, but projects must submit a new (simplified) application

For the latest information

See www.racine.fr (section "Transnationalité 2007-2013")
or contact transnat@racine.fr