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Meuse – Rhine (NL – BE – DE)

# Detailed Subsidy Rules for the Eighth Call for Proposals under cross-border cooperation programme

# **Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE)**

# PROVINCIAL BULLETIN

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| **Official name of rules:** | Detailed subsidy rules for the Eighth Call for Proposals under cross-border cooperation programme Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE) |
| **Title for citation:** | Detailed subsidy rules for Eighth Call for Proposals Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE) |
| **Name of revoked rules:** | Not applicable |
| **Resolved by:** | Province of Limburg (NL) Executive in its capacity as Managing Authority for the programme Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE) |
| **Topic:** | European (ERDF) subsidy for cross-border cooperation |
| **Legal basis or capacity on which the rules are based:** | Decision of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate of 17 December 2022, no. WJZ/22253869, entailing delegation of the Managing Authority and the audit authority for the Interreg programme Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE) 2021–2027. |
| **Effective date:** | The day after the day of publication in the Provincial Bulletin |
| **Term rules are in force:** | The day after the day of publication in the Provincial Bulletin until 31 August 2027. |
| **Responsible cluster:** | Cluster EMR |

# Introduction

The Province of Limburg (NL) Executive in its capacity as Managing Authority for the cross-border cooperation programme Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE) in accordance with the decision approving the programme by the European Commission of 14 November 2022, as well as in accordance with the decision of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy of 17 December 2022, no. WJZ/22253869, entailing delegation of the Managing Authority and the Audit Authority for the Interreg programme Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE) 2021–2027;

In consideration of Regulation (EU) Nr. 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy;

In consideration of Regulation (EU) Nr. 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund;

In consideration of Regulation (EU) Nr. 2021/1059 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the European Regional Development Fund and external financing instruments;

Whereas the Monitoring Committee agreed to the general principles underlying these detailed subsidy rules, including the Cost catalogue Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE) 2021–2027;

Whereas on 25 June 2026 the Monitoring Committee approved the specific provisions underpinning the Detailed Subsidy Rules for the Eighth Call for Proposals;

Whereas the Managing Authority is responsible for the implementation of the Cooperation Programme Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE) under the financial framework of the European Regional Development Fund for the development of the Meuse-Rhine area into
1. A smarter Meuse-Rhine-area (this objective is relevant to this eighth call for proposals);
2. A greener, low-carbon Meuse-Rhine area (this objective is relevant to this eighth call for proposals);
3. A more social Meuse-Rhine area (not relevant to this eighth call for proposals);
4. A Meuse-Rhine area with better cooperation governance (not relevant to this eighth call for proposals).

Whereas the eligibility of activities for expenditure can be defined broadly, and this broad definition is intended to achieve optimal achievement of the objectives, the Managing Authority will review whether the total of government contributions to the subsidy recipient does not exceed the amount of state aid permitted under the provisions of European law. Specifically, for the purposes of the determination of whether state aid is justified, the Managing Authority considers the following regulations on state aid applicable:
a. Commission Regulation (EU) Nr. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 (consolidated version) declaring

certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty, OJ L 187/1 of 26 June 2014, as last amended by Regulation (EU) 2021/1237 of 23 July 2021, OJ L 270/39 of 29 July 2021;

b. Commission Regulation (EU) Nr. 2023/2831 of 13 December 2023 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to the *de minimis* aid, OJ Series L of 15 December 2023.

Resolve on 15 September 2026 to establish the following subsidy rules:

# DETAILED SUBSIDY RULES FOR EIGHTH CALL FOR PROPOSALS UNDER INTERREG MEUSE-RHINE (NL-BE-DE)

## Chapter 1 General provisions

### Article 1 Definitions

For the purposes of these rules, the following terms are defined as follows:

a. General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER): Regulation (EU) Nr. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 (consolidated version) declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty, OJ L 187/1 of 26 June 2014;
b. Audit Authority: The director of the "Auditdienst Rijk" of the Netherlands is designated as the Audit Authority, as referred to in Article 45, paragraph 1, of Regulation (EU) Nr. 2021/1059, for the Interreg Meuse-Rhine programme and as referred to in Article 2, paragraph 2 of the decision of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy of 17 December 2022, no. WJZ/22253869, entailing delegation of the Managing Authority and the Audit Authority for the Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE) 2021–2027 programme;
c. Managing Authority: Board of Governors of the Province of Limburg is designated as Managing Authority (as referred to in Article 45, paragraph 1, of Regulation (EU) Nr. 2021/1059 for the Interreg Meuse-Rhine programme and as referred to in Article 2, paragraph 1 of the decision of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy of 17 December 2022, no. WJZ/22253869, entailing delegation of the Managing Authority and the Audit Authority for the Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE) 2021-2027 programme;
d. *De minimis* aid: aid that meets the conditions for exemption from registration as set out in Commission Regulation (EU) Nr. 2023/2831 of 13 December 2023 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to the *de minimis* aid, OJ Series L of 15 December 2023, including any amendments thereto to be adopted in the future;
e. ERDF: European Regional Development Fund;
f. Cost catalogue: catalogue setting out in detail the eligible and ineligible costs for the cross-border cooperation programme Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE) for the period 2021-2027, drafted on the basis of Article 37, paragraph 2, of Regulation (EU) Nr. 2021/1059. Version 4.6 of the Cost catalogue, as formally adopted by the Monitoring Committee on 22 April 2026 and published on the website of the cooperation programme (http://www.interregmeuserhine.eu) applies to this eighth call for proposals;
g. Lead partner: a legal entity acting as subsidy applicant on behalf of a partnership;
h. SME: the category of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises as defined in Annex 1 of the General Block Exemption Regulation;
i. Monitoring Committee: the committee charged with the monitoring of the performance of the cooperation programme in accordance with Article 28, 29 and 30 of Regulation (EU) Nr. 2021/1059;
j. Enterprise: unit that engages in an economic activity, irrespective of its legal structure and the manner in which it is financed. Under Flemish and Dutch law, certain business structures (sole proprietorship, general/commercial partnership, limited partnership, professional/public

partnership) do not have legal personality, but these natural business structure forms are considered legal persons;

k. Output and result indicators: indicators as referred to in Article 16, paragraph 1 under (a) and Article 22, paragraph 3 under (d. ii and e. ii) of Regulation (EU) Nr. 2021/1060, and the Commission staff working document on Performance, monitoring and evaluation of the European Regional Development Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the Just Transition Fund in 2021-2027, and as elaborated in chapter 2 of the cooperation programme document;
l. Programme area: territory of the Meuse-Rhine area, as defined in chapter 1.1 of the cooperation programme;
m. Legal entity: A public or private body, or an entity with or without legal personality;
n. Cooperation programme: Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE) programme; programme as referred to in Article 3, paragraph 1 (a), of Regulation (EU) Nr. 2021/1059, approved by the European Commission on 14 November 2022 (2021TC16RFCB001); this programme can be consulted on the website http://www.interregmeuserhine.eu;
o. State aid: any aid granted as referred to in Article 107(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union;
p. Steering Committee: the Steering Committee acts under the responsibility of the Monitoring Committee to select operations (project selection) that contribute to realising the programme goals in accordance with Article 22 (1) of Regulation (EU) Nr. 2021/1059.
q. Beneficiary: legal entity as defined in sub m of this article.

## Article 2 Objective of the subsidy rules

The subsidy rules make subsidy available for projects that contribute to the objectives of the cooperation programme, with this eighth call for proposals being limited to two specific topics derived from the cooperation programme:

- Valorisation circular economy,
- Valorisation Einstein Telescope.

Under the topic of 'Valorisation circular economy', we are seeking tangible initiatives that further accelerate the transition to a circular economy. This involves the implementation of 'biobased' value chains, in which traditional raw materials are replaced by sustainable bio-based raw materials. Innovation topics such as robotics, artificial intelligence, data and 3D printing play a key role in this transition of using natural resources towards a circular economy. The combination of advanced technologies and innovative enterprises paves the way for a greener economy, characterised by the efficient use of resources.

Under the topic of 'Valorisation Einstein Telescope' we see opportunities arising from the potential arrival of the Einstein Telescope (ET) in the programme area. It is important to note that this does not concern the scientific aspect of this development; rather, we are focusing on connecting SMEs to the development of key technologies related to the ET. It is expected that innovative solutions developed for the ET will also have spin-off effects on other applications and sectors. In other words, we are specifically targeting valorisation initiatives centred on the ET. In doing so, we are seeking initiatives in which enterprises actively collaborate across borders with one another, or collaborate with knowledge and research institutes within the ET theme.

## Article 3 Applicant and beneficiary

1. Subsidies under these rules can be applied for by a lead partner.
2. A legal entity in the partnership as referred to in Article 1, sub m, may be the beneficiary of the subsidy.

## Article 4 Obligations of the beneficiary

The granting of a subsidy is subject to the following obligations:
1. The beneficiary performs the project in accordance with the project plan on which the subsidy was granted, does not start before the date of submission of the application and completes it no later than the moment specified in the grant letter.
2. The beneficiary will report to the Managing Authority prior to the change of a project for which subsidy is granted, any proposed change pertaining to
   a. the beneficiary;
   b. the activity to be performed or the objectives to be achieved;
   c. deviations in hours for functions greater than 25% compared to the application;
   d. new functions dedicating hours to the project which were not known in the application;
   e. the financing of the project;
   f. the planning or timeline, and/or;
   g. other changes compared to the application.

   These changes are subject to the approval of the Managing Authority.
3. Alongside the provisions of paragraph 2, the beneficiary will immediately notify the Managing Authority in writing at the moment that it becomes likely that the obligations imposed under the decision for the granting of the subsidy will not be met, or will not be met in a timely manner and/or in full.
4. The beneficiary keeps records that are set up in such a way that all costs incurred and paid can be specified and checked at all times in a simple and clear manner in accordance with terms and conditions as stated in the Cost catalogue Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE) 2021-2027 applicable to this eighth call for proposals.
5. The beneficiary is obliged to cooperate with all audits considered necessary for the performance of the programme.
6. The Managing Authority may also impose other obligations on the subsidy, including reporting requirements on the material and financial progress.

## Article 5 Grounds for rejection

1. An application may be rejected if:
   a. The project does not contribute to the specific objectives of these subsidy rules as defined in article 2.
   b. It is not submitted by an applicant as defined in the first paragraph of article 3 and/or does not benefit the beneficiary as defined in the second paragraph of article 3.
   c. It fails to comply with the provisions of chapters 4 and 5 of this document.

d. The subsidy application is not fully received or received outside the period given in article 13.
e. The project does not fulfil the European regulations on issues such as state aid and/or public procurement.
f. The total eligible costs of a project amount to less than € 1 million.
g. The applicant or one of the other beneficiaries are an enterprise against which there is an outstanding recovery order as defined in paragraph 4(a) of Article 1 of Regulation (EU) Nr. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014, by which certain categories of aid are, under Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty, considered to be compatible with the internal market (OJ L 2014, 187).
h. An enterprise involved as applicant or beneficiary can be considered to be in difficulty as defined in part (c) of the fourth paragraph of Article 1 of the Block Exemption (Regulation (EU) Nr. 651/2014).

2. Without prejudice to the provisions of the first paragraph, the Managing Authority may decide to reject some or all of an application if it is clear that any or all of the intended financing will not be granted by the other co-financing parties.

# Chapter 2 Content aspects regarding Eighth Call for proposals

## Article 6 Specific objectives

1. The eighth call for proposals is open to projects that fall within the following priorities and their specific objectives (SO):

| **Priorities** | **Specific objectives** |
|---|---|
| 1. A smarter Meuse-Rhine area | SO 1.i Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies |
| 2. A greener, low-carbon Meuse-Rhine area | SO 2.vi Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy |

2. For the purposes of further clarification, the eighth call for proposals, in accordance with Article 2 of these subsidy rules, is open exclusively to initiatives that either fall within the topic of 'Valorisation Einstein Telescope' (under SO 1.i of Priority 1) or fall within the topic of 'Valorisation circular economy (under SO 2.vi of Priority 2).

# Chapter 3 Financial aspects Eighth Call for proposals

## Article 7 Subsidy ceiling

1. The Monitoring Committee has set the subsidy ceiling for the ERDF contribution for this eighth call for proposals as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total** | **€ 7,000,000** |

2. The above ceiling is not further broken down between priorities 1 and 2.

## Article 8 Amount of subsidy

1. The amount of the ERDF subsidy is maximum 60% of the project's total eligible costs.
2. If the applicant applies for less than 60% of the eligible costs as referred to in the first paragraph, then only the subsidy percentage applied for will be granted.
3. Where there is state aid and the activity meets one of the conditions of the second paragraph of Article 11, the amount of subsidy granted will only be such that the total of government contributions to the subsidy recipient does not exceed that permitted under European law provisions governing state aid under the General Block Exemption Regulation or what is allowed within the framework of the *de minimis* regulation.

## Article 9 Eligible and ineligible costs

1. Eligible and ineligible costs are governed by the rules and conditions as set out in the Cost catalogue Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE) 2021-2027, on the understanding that only cost option 3 from the Cost catalogue is permitted under this eighth call for proposals.
2. In case of state aid granted under application of the General Block Exemption Regulation or another exemption, then only the costs identified in the applicable article of the General Block Exemption Regulation or other exemptions on the basis of which the subsidy is granted are eligible for expenditure.

# Chapter 4 General information on application

## Article 10 Amount of subsidy

This call for proposals constitutes a single step application procedure, under which the full-fledged application form, including annexes, must be submitted within the application period. The application system is a tender procedure.

## Article 11 General criteria

1. The general criteria for the subsidy are as follows:
   a. The project has a maximum duration of 2 years (24 months), but does not end after 30 September 2029;
   b. The start date for implementation of eligible activities under the project is not before the date of submission of the application;
   c. A project has to fall within one of the priorities and specific objectives set out in this eighth call for proposals (Articles 2 and 6).

2. In case of state aid, in order to be eligible for subsidy the project must:
   a. fit within article 20 of the General Block Exemption Regulation, meet the conditions of that particular article and meet the general and procedural provisions of Chapters I and II of the regulation in question; or
   b. meet the conditions specified in the *de minimis* regulation; or
   c. meet the conditions of another exemption.

# Chapter 5 Application procedure, planning, assessment criteria, quality assessment, decision and decision period

## Article 12 Submission of an application

An application:
   a. must be submitted to the Managing Authority;
   b. can only be submitted through the JEMS electronic system;
   c. comprises at least:
      i. the fully completed application form in the JMES electronic system;
      ii. a partnership agreement signed by all participants in the partnership;
      iii. proof of any co-financing that is not the contribution of the organisation itself or the final recipients, or the intention to make such co-financing available;
      iv. where applicable, a statement on the legal status of all members of the partnership, which also shows that the partnership does not include any undertaking(s) in difficulty as referred to in Article 1(4)(c) of the General Block Exemption Regulation;
      v. for applicants – exclusively those with private status – the financial statements for the last two available years (approved annual accounts) and a completed Excel sheet

relating to the financial position (see the programme website www.interregmeuserhine.eu, under Project application, for the Excel sheet);

vi. where applicable, a request to be considered for pre-financing of the ERDF-contribution to be granted.

vii. in the case of applicants originating from outside the programme area, a written confirmation/guarantee from a public or private institution to cover any ERDF amounts unduly paid to the partner in the event of a grant being awarded.

## Article 13 Period for submitting an application

1. The application can be submitted as of 21 September 2026 (12:00 hours) and has to be received by the Managing Authority no later than 16 December 2026 at 12:00 hours (noon).
2. For the date of receipt, the date of receipt of a complete subsidy application in the JEMS system is decisive.
3. In the event that the electronic JEMS system is not accessible, the submission period may be extended if the cause of the inaccessibility is connected with server problems on the Managing Authority's server. This is subject to the following provisions:
    a. In the event of inaccessibility between 21 September 2026, 12:00 hours, and 15 December 2026, 12:00 hours, an extension will only be applied if the system is inaccessible for more than 8 uninterrupted hours.
    b. In the event of inaccessibility between 15 December 2026 as of 12:00 hours and 11:00 AM on 16 December 2026, an extension will only be applied if the system is inaccessible for more than 2 uninterrupted hours.
    c. In the event of inaccessibility on 16 December 2026 as of 11:00 AM until 16 December 2026 12:00 hours, an extension will only be applied if the system is inaccessible for more than 30 minutes.
4. The duration of an extension will in all cases be equal to the duration of the interruption.

## Article 14 Assessment criteria

In the assessment process, a distinction is made between assessing the grant eligibility requirements and assessing the selection criteria.

### 14.1 Grant eligibility requirements

The grant eligibility requirements will be administratively checked by the Managing Authority and the Joint Secretariat. When an application does not meet all of the grant eligibility requirements below, the relevant application will not be assessed against the selection criteria.

| | **Grant eligibility requirement** |
|---|---|
| 1 | The application has been submitted within the defined call for proposals period in JEMS. |
| 2 | The application has been formulated in the three programme languages (FR, DE, NL) and in English. |
| 3 | All mandatory fields for the application in JEMS have been properly filled in. |
| 4 | The project involves at least two partners from two different Member States within the programme area, or at least one cross-border organisation (e.g. an EGTC). |
| 5 | All applicants (lead partner and other partners in a partnership) are legal persons. |
| 6 | The project does not start before the date of submission of the application, has a maximum duration of 24 months and does not end after 30 September 2029. |
| 7 | The project falls either under SO 1.i under priority 1, or under SO 2.vi under priority 2. |
| 8 | The project is in accordance with the further specification of the thematic focus, as described in Articles 2 and 6. |
| 9 | The project may be assigned to one of the intervention types for the specific objective concerned, as defined in the programme document and in accordance with Annex 1 to Regulation (EU) Nr. 2021/1060. |
| 10 | The maximum ERDF co-financing rate as stated in the call for proposal has not been exceeded. |

## 14.2 Selection criteria

The selection criteria are given below. Applications will be assessed against these criteria by the Steering Committee.

| **Selection criterion** | **Weight** |
|---|---|
| **1: Contribution to the objectives of the programme/cross-border character** | **25%** |
| a. To what extent is the cross-border problem or challenge addressed by the project justified?<br>b. Does the project's overall objective contribute to the objectives of this call for proposals (Articles 2 and 6)?<br>c. Does the project fit under the selected specific objective?<br>d. Does the project contribute to at least one of the defined grand societal challenges?<br>e. Has it been made sufficiently clear why cross-border cooperation is necessary to tackle the problem or challenge?<br>f. What is new or of added value compared to the existing situation?<br>g. Does the expected impact contribute to the programme's intended objectives and, in particular, to those of this call for proposals?<br>h. To what extent does the project contribute to other relevant strategies and policies?<br>i. Are there synergies with other EU- or public-funded projects or initiatives, and to what extent does this project build on them?<br>j. Has the project work plan been built around cross-border activities? | |

| **2: Partnership** | **25%** |
|---|---|
| a. Is the composition of the partnership relevant to the proposed project?<br>b. Is the partnership capable and competent to deliver the envisaged actions?<br>c. Has the added value of cross-border cooperation within the partnership been sufficiently described?<br>d. If the partnership includes one or more partners from outside the programme area, do they provide added value and have an impact on the programme area?<br>e. Is the partnership capable of serving the target group(s) described? | |
| **3: Feasibility** | **25%** |
| a. Has the consortium proposed a realistic project that can be carried out within the financial limits and time plan?<br>b. Is the work plan coherent and realistic in relation to the budget?<br>c. Are the project management arrangements clear, realistic and appropriate?<br>d. Are the project's communication strategy and activities sufficiently elaborated?<br>e. Are the envisaged project outputs and results (translated into indicators) measurable, realistic and achievable?<br>f. Is the project in line with the EU's horizontal principles (sustainable development, equal opportunities and non-discrimination, gender equality, climate and biodiversity)?<br>g. Have the long term plans (ownership, durability, transferability) been sufficiently clear described?<br>h. In case of investments: how risky is the project? Is a risk management strategy in place and has the partnership identified the main risks and relevant mitigation measures? | |
| **4: Budget & value for money** | **25%** |
| a. Is the budget sufficiently attributed to activities specifically aimed at cross-border cooperation?<br>b. Is the overall budget reasonable compared with the planned activities / deliverables / outputs and the project duration?<br>c. Does the budget breakdown provide sufficient detail?<br>d. Are the budgeted costs in line with cost option 3 in the Cost catalogue?<br>e. Based on the requested budget, does the project contribute proportionately to the achievement of the output and result indicators ('value for money')?<br>f. Do the partners involved have sufficient budget available to carry out the activities they propose and to sustain the results? | |

## 14.3 Quality assessment on the application

The extent to which applications meet each selection criterion, including the sub-aspects included, will be evaluated based on the scoring table below:

| Quality assessment | Score |
|---|---|
| Excellent | 5 |
| Good | 4 |
| Adequate | 3 |
| Weak | 2 |
| Insufficient | 1 |

The quality assessment goes as follows:

i. Each of the four selection criteria will be awarded a single score.
ii. The points per selection criterion are totalled and weighted in order to arrive at a total score.
iii. An application must score at least 3 points (unweighted) per selection criterion, and thus also 3 points overall (weighted).

## Article 15 Allocation of subsidy ceiling and decision

1. The Steering Committee determines a score on the selection criteria for each application and, consequently, the total score as well.
2. Each application that meets the requirement as set out in Article 14.3, point iii, will be ranked by the Steering Committee according to its score (from high to low).
3. The ranking of applications selected by the Steering Committee will then be transferred to the Managing Authority, which subsequently carries out final technical checks and formal decision-making.
4. The subsidy ceiling is allocated amongst the applications that sufficiently meet the selection criteria as set out in Article 14 and that have passed the final technical checks carried out by the Managing Authority.
5. For applications that meet all the requirements and conditions set out in paragraph 4, the Managing Authority will take a grant decision based on the ranking, taking into account the available ERDF budget as set out in Article 7.
6. Applications that do not meet the minimum score requirements for the selection criteria, or which, based on their position in the ranking, fall outside the subsidy ceiling, will be rejected.
7. Without prejudice to the above provisions, the Managing Authority may decide to reject an application in whole or in part if it does not comply with the rules of the programme, or the rules to which the programme must conform.
8. The Managing Authority will notify the applicant of its decision regarding the application submitted by means of an electronic message.

## Article 16 Decision period

The Managing Authority will take a decision on an application under the Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE) programme no later than 26 weeks after the closing date for the submission of applications.

# Chapter 6 Implementation and closure

## Article 17 Payment and advances

1. The Managing Authority will make advance payments on the subsidy amount granted based on payment claims submitted by the beneficiary for the purpose as described in Article 74, paragraph 1 (a) and (i), of Regulation (EU) Nr. 2021/1060, up to a maximum of 90% of the subsidy granted.
2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, the Management Authority may make pre-financing available, if the consortium so requests in its application.
3. Beneficiaries must submit a project report twice per year.
4. A project report consists of a content part and a financial part (payment claim). The content part must contain the project's content progress, including the realisation of the deliverables and the output and result indicators as mentioned in the application form. The payment claim must comprise at least the declaration of the costs incurred.
5. Payment to beneficiaries will take place in accordance with Article 74, paragraph 1 (b), of Regulation (EU) Nr. 2021/1060, which means that the payment to the beneficiary has to be made no later than 80 days after the submission of the payment claim.

## Article 18 Closure

1. Within the time period specified in the grant letter, the beneficiary must submit an application for the closure of the project to the Managing Authority, via the JEMS system, using the form specified for that purpose by the Managing Authority.
2. In the closing request referred to in the first paragraph, the beneficiary must demonstrate that:
   a. the activities for which the subsidy has been granted have been performed.
   b. the obligations in connection with the grant have been met.
3. The following supplementary documentation must be attached to the closure of the subsidy as referred to in the first paragraph:
   a. a final content report;
   b. documentation substantiating the reported value(s) for the output indicators;
   c. final payment claim.
4. The Managing Authority will make a decision on an application for closure of the grant within 26 weeks.

# Chapter 7 Final provisions

## Article 19 Effective date

1. This decision goes into effect on the day after publication of the Rules in the Provincial Bulletin.
2. These rules expire as of 31 August 2027, provided that they continue to apply to subsidy applications received prior to that date by the Provincial Executive in its capacity of Managing Authority for Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE) and subsidy decisions made prior to that date, including subsequent steps in the subsidy process.
3. These rules can be cited as "Detailed Subsidy Rules for Eighth Call for Proposals under Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE)".