

**Interreg**



Co-funded by  
the European Union

**Meuse – Rhine** (NL – BE – DE)

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

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

---

## PROVINCIAL BULLETIN

<b>Official name of rules:</b>	Detailed subsidy rules for the Fifth Call for Proposals under cross-border cooperation programme Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE)
<b>Title for citation:</b>	Detailed subsidy rules for Fifth Call for Proposals Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE)
<b>Name of revoked rules:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Resolved by:</b>	Province of Limburg (NL) Executive in its capacity as Managing Authority for the programme Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE)
<b>Topic:</b>	European (ERDF) subsidy for cross-border cooperation
<b>Legal basis or capacity on which the rules are based:</b>	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.
<b>Effective date:</b>	The day after the day of publication in the Provincial Bulletin
<b>Term rules are in force:</b>	The day after the day of publication in the Provincial Bulletin until 31 December 2026
<b>Responsible cluster:</b>	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) 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;

In consideration of Regulation (EU) 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) 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;

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 16 April 2025 the Monitoring Committee approved the specific provisions underlying the Detailed Subsidy Rules for Fifth 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;
2. A greener, low-carbon Meuse-Rhine area;
3. A more social Meuse-Rhine area;
4. A Meuse-Rhine area with better cooperation governance.

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) No 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;
- b. Commission Regulation (EU) No 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 10 June 2025 to establish the following subsidy rules:

# DETAILED SUBSIDY RULES FOR FIFTH CALL FOR PROPOSALS 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) 651/2014 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. 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) 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: Provincial Executive of the Province of Limburg is designated as Managing Authority (as referred to in Article 45, paragraph 1, of Regulation (EU) 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) 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 with further details of eligible and ineligible costs for the cooperation programme drafted on the basis of Article 37, paragraph 2, of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059. Version 4.4, as being approved by the Monitoring Committee on 12 March 2025 and published on the website of the cooperation programme ([www.interregmeuserhine.eu](http://www.interregmeuserhine.eu)), applies to this fifth call for proposals;
- g. Lead partner: a legal person or partnership 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) 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 structures 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 en e. ii) of Regulation (EU) 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 Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE) programme document;
- m. Legal person: 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) 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) 2021/1059.

## **Article 2 Objective of the rules**

The rules make subsidy available for projects that contribute to the objectives of the Cooperation Programme as described and incorporated into the Cooperation Programme, being the development of the Meuse-Rhine area into:

- 1. A smarter Meuse-Rhine-area;
- 2. A greener, low-carbon Meuse-Rhine area;
- 3. A more social Meuse-Rhine area;
- 4. A Meuse-Rhine area with better cooperation governance.

## **Article 3 Applicant and beneficiary**

- 1. Subsidies under these rules can be applied for by a lead partner.
- 2. A public or private legal entity in the partnership as referred to in Article 14, paragraph 1 (4 and 5) and Article 18, paragraph 1 (4 and 5), may be the beneficiaries of the subsidy.

## **Article 4 Obligations of subsidy recipient**

The granting of a subsidy is subject to the following obligations:

- 1. The recipient of the subsidy performs the project in accordance with the project plan on which the subsidy was granted, does not start before the date of the grant application, and completes it no later than the moment specified within the subsidy grant.
- 2. The subsidy recipient 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 subsidy recipient;
  - 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 subsidy recipient 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 subsidy recipient 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 fifth call for proposals.
5. The subsidy recipient 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 objectives of the cooperation programme 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, 5 and 6 of this document.
  - d. The subsidy application is not fully received or received outside the period given in article 13 for step 1 and article 17 for step 2.
  - e. The subsidy application pertains to activities aimed at the regular operations of an enterprise or institution.
  - f. The project does not fulfil the European regulations on issues such as state aid and/or public procurement.
  - g. The total eligible cost of the project amounts to less than € 150.000.
  - h. The applicant is an enterprise against which there is an outstanding recovery order as defined in paragraph 4(a) of Article 1 of Regulation (EU) No 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).
  - i. 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) 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 Fifth Call for proposals

### Article 6 Specific objectives

The fifth call for proposals will be opened for projects that fit within the following priorities and their specific objectives (SO) or Interreg specific objectives (ISO):

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.
	SO 1.iii Enhancing sustainable growth and the competitiveness of SMEs, including by means of productive investments.
2. A greener, low-carbon Meuse-Rhine area	SO 2.ii Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Directive (EU) 2018/2001, including the sustainability criteria set out therein.
	SO 2.iv Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account ecosystem based approaches.
	SO 2.vi Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy.
3. A more social Meuse-Rhine area	SO 4.i Enhancing the effectiveness and inclusiveness of labour markets and access to quality employment through developing social infrastructure and promoting social economy.
	SO 4.ii Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training.
	SO 4.v Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family-based and community based care.
	SO 4.vi Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation.
4. Better cooperation governance in the Meuse-Rhine area	ISO 1.ii Enhance efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens, civil society actors and institutions, in particular, with a view to resolving legal and other obstacles in border regions.



## Chapter 3 Financial aspects Fifth Call for Proposals

### Article 7 Subsidy ceiling

1. The Monitoring Committee has determined the subsidy ceilings for the ERDF contribution per priority axis of the cooperation programme for the fifth call for proposals as follows:

Priority	ERDF amount
1	€ 10.576.149
2	€ 13.166.551
3	€ 14.629.035
4	€ 267.853
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 38.639.588</b>

2. During the duration of the fifth call for proposals, the grant ceilings mentioned in the first paragraph of this article may be adjusted in response to:
  - release of budget after final decision-making in call 4,
  - unused budget of ongoing/completed projects,
  - submitted and/or approved applications during call 5,
  - shifts of budgets between priorities instigated by the Monitoring Committee,
  - impact of automatic decommitment of funds (N+3) by the European Commission.The current state of play regarding the grant ceilings for the fifth call for proposals is shown on the programme website [www.interregmeuserhine.eu](http://www.interregmeuserhine.eu), under Project application.

### 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.
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 application

### Article 10 Application system

Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE) uses a two-step approach for approving projects. Two different application forms will be used for step 1 and for step 2. **Step 1** is intended to assess **the fit of a project idea** into the Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE) programme. After the project has successfully passed this first step, in the sense of having a positive decision from the Managing Authority, the project can proceed to step 2. **Step 2** is intended to **assess in detail the appropriateness of a full-fledged project proposal** in the Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE) programme.

### Article 11 General criteria

1. The general criteria for the subsidy are as follows:
  - a. The project has a maximum duration of 3 years (36 months);
  - b. The earliest start date for implementation of eligible activities under the project is the date of submission of the project;
  - c. A project has to fit within one of the targeted priorities and specific objectives within this fifth call for proposals (Article 6).
2. In case of state aid, in order to be eligible for subsidy the project must:
  - a. fit within one of the articles 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 for step 1

### Article 12 Submission of application in step 1

A subsidy application for step 1:

- a. must be submitted to the Managing Authority;
- b. can only be submitted through the JEMS electronic system;
- c. comprises at least:
  - the fully completed application form in the JEMS electronic system for step 1.

## Article 13 Period for submission of application in step 1

1. The submission period for a step 1 application shall be from 1 July 2025 to 13 April 2026 at 12:00 hours (noon). Within the submission period set out in this article, five cut-of dates have been established for applications to be submitted to the Steering Committee for review. See the programme website [www.interregmeusehine.eu](http://www.interregmeusehine.eu), under Project Application, for an up-to-date overview of the cut-off dates, moments when the Steering Committee assesses and the decision moments of the Managing Authority. For step 1, only the first four set cut-off moments apply.
2. Step 1 applications that are submitted before a certain cut-off date and meet the minimum requirements as described in Article 14(1) will be submitted for assessment to the next meeting of the Steering Committee.

## Article 14 Assessment criteria for step 1

In the assessment process of step 1 applications, a distinction is made between assessing the grant eligibility requirements and assessing the selection criteria.

### 14.1 Grant eligibility requirements for step 1

The grant eligibility requirements will be administratively checked by the Managing Authority and the Joint Secretariat. When a step 1 application does not meet all of the grant eligibility requirements below, the relevant application will not be assessed against the selection criteria.

	Requirement
1	The application has been submitted within the defined call for proposals period in JEMS.
2	The application has been formulated in English, or in the three programme languages (FR, DE, NL).
3	All mandatory fields for the step 1 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 the partnership) are legal persons.
6	The project does not start before the date of submission, has a maximum duration of 36 months and does not end after 31 December 2029.

### 14.2 Selection criteria for step 1

The selection criteria for step 1 are shown below. The selection criteria are there to assess the quality of applications. Applications will be assessed on these by the Steering Committee.

Selection criterion
<b>1: Contribution to the objectives of the programme/cross-border character</b>
a. How well is the cross-border problem or challenge that the project addresses justified? b. Does the project's overall objective contribute to the programme goals? c. Does the project contribute to at least one of the defined grand societal challenges? d. Does the project fit under the chosen specific objective? e. Has sufficiently made clear why cross-border cooperation is needed to address the problem or challenge?

f. What is new / of added value compared to the already existing situation?
g. Does the expected impact contribute to the envisaged objectives of the programme?
<b>2: Partnership</b>
a. Is the partnership composition relevant for the proposed project?
b. Is the partnership able and competent to let the described target group(s) benefit from the project outputs and results?
c. Is the partnership able and competent to deliver the envisaged deliverables?
<b>3: Budget &amp; value for money</b>
a. What about the estimated total budget? Is this reasonable compared with the (number of) partners involved, the planned basic structure of the project and the project duration?
b. For overall judgement, is the expected impact of the project in line with the estimated budget (value for money)?

### 14.3 Quality assessment and decision on the grant application for step 1

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

Quality assessment	Score
Outstanding	5
Good	4
Adequate	3
Weak	2
Insufficient	1

The quality assessment for step 1 goes as follows:

- Every selection criterion will be awarded a single score.
- In order to proceed to step 2 (“go”), an application must score at least 3 points on each of the in Article 14.2 mentioned three selection criteria. An application that does not meet that minimum requirement will be rejected, and cannot proceed to step 2 (“no go”). So there is no possibility of reworking the step 1 application.

### Article 15 Decision period step 1 application

1. The Managing Authority will take a decision on the fit of a step 1 application in the Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE) programme no later than five working days after the Steering Committee has informed the Managing Authority of the results of its assessment. See the programme website [www.interregmeuserhine.eu](http://www.interregmeuserhine.eu), under Project application, for an up-to-date overview of moments on which the Steering Committee assesses and the decision moments of the Managing Authority.
2. The Managing Authority will notify the applicant of its decision in an electronic mail message.

## **Chapter 6 Application procedure, planning, assessment criteria, quality assessment, ranking, decision and decision period for step 2**

### **Article 16 Submission of application in step 2**

A subsidy application for step 2:

- a. must be submitted to the Managing Authority;
- b. can only be submitted through the JEMS electronic system;
- c. comprises at least:
  - the fully completed application form in the JEMS electronic system for step 2;
  - a partnership agreement signed by all members of the partnership;
  - proof of any co-financing or intention to provide so, not being the own organisation's contribution;
  - if applicable, a declaration on the legal status of all members of the partnership that also evidences that the partnership does not include any enterprise(s) in difficulty as referred to in part (c) of the fourth paragraph of Article 1 of the General Block Exemption Regulation.
  - for applicants – with a private legal status only – 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](http://www.interregmeuserhine.eu), under Project application, for the Excel sheet).
  - if applicable, a request for pre-financing on the ERDF contribution to be granted.
  - in case of partners located outside the programme area, a written confirmation/guarantee by a public or private institution to cover any ERDF amounts unduly paid to the partner.

### **Article 17 Period for submission of application in step 2**

1. In the event of a positive decision within the framework of the assessment of a step 1 application as referred to in Article 15, paragraph 1, of this Detailed Subsidy Regulation, this will open the procedure for the submission of a step 2 application from. The Managing Authority will state in its decision when the step 2 application must be submitted by the latest. The ultimate deadline for receipt of a step 2 application is 1 July 2026 at 12:00 hours.
2. Within the submission period set forth in paragraph 1 of this article, five cut-off dates have been set for applications to be submitted to the Steering Committee for assessment. See the programme website [www.interregmeuserhine.eu](http://www.interregmeuserhine.eu), under Project Application, for an up-to-date overview of the cut-off dates, moments when the Steering Committee assesses and the decision moments of the Managing Authority. For step 2, only the last four set cut-off dates apply.
3. Applications will be processed in order of receipt.
  - a. The date and time of receipt of a full-fledged step 2 application form in the JEMS system determines the order of entry. If an applicant has not complied with any statutory requirement for consideration of the application, the date and time on which the application complies with the statutory requirements will be the moment of receipt with regard to the distribution.
  - b. In the event of inaccessibility of the electronic system JEMS, the submission period may be extended if the cause of the inaccessibility is due to a malfunction on the Management Authority's server. The duration of the extension will thereby be equal to the duration of the interruption.

## Article 18 Assessment criteria for step 2

As in step 1, in the assessment process of step 2 applications, a distinction is made between assessing the grant eligibility requirements and assessing the selection criteria.

### 18.1 Grant eligibility requirements for step 2

The grant eligibility requirements will be administratively checked by the Managing Authority and the Joint Secretariat. When a step 2 application does not meet all of the grant eligibility requirements below, the concerning application will not be assessed against the selection criteria.

	Requirement
1	The application has been submitted within the defined call for proposals period in JEMS.
2	The application has been formulated in English and in the three programme languages (FR, DE, NL).
3	All mandatory fields for the step 2 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, has a maximum duration of 36 months and does not end after 31 December 2029.
7	The application is sufficiently similar in content and financially to the short application that was positively assessed in step 1.
8	The project matches one of the priorities and specific objectives as defined in the programme document.
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) 2021/1060.
10	The maximum ERDF co-financing rate as stated in the text of the call for proposal has not been exceeded.
11	For infrastructural projects or productive investments: The partners applying for ERDF funds have the necessary financial resources and instruments to cover operating and maintenance costs, to ensure their financial sustainability.
12	For infrastructure investments with an expected life span of at least five years: The project includes an assessment of expected climate change impacts.

### 18.2 Selection criteria for step 2

The selection criteria for step 2 are given below. Applications will be assessed against these criteria by the Steering Committee.

Selection criterion
<b>1: Contribution to the objectives of the programme/cross-border character</b>
a. How well is the cross-border problem or challenge that the project addresses justified? b. Does the project's overall objective contribute to the programme goals? c. Does the project contribute to at least one of the defined grand societal challenges? d. Does the project fit under the chosen specific objective?

<b>Selection criterion</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e. Has sufficiently made clear why cross-border cooperation is needed to address the problem or challenge?</li> <li>f. Is the project's approach to tackle the identified cross-border problem or challenge plausible and new (new for the partnership, new for the region, or new at all)?</li> <li>g. What is new / of added value compared to the already existing situation?</li> <li>h. Does the expected impact contribute to the envisaged objectives of the programme?</li> <li>i. To what extent does the project contribute to other relevant strategies and policies?</li> <li>j. Are there synergies with other EU- or public-funded projects or initiatives, and to what extent does this project build on them?</li> <li>k. To what extent does the project go beyond the current situation and build on available knowledge?</li> <li>l. Has the project work plan been built around cross-border activities?</li> </ul>
<b>2: Partnership</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Is the partnership composition relevant for the proposed project?</li> <li>b. Is the partnership able and competent to deliver the envisaged actions?</li> <li>c. Has the added value of cross-border cooperation within the partnership been described sufficiently?</li> <li>d. If the partnership contains one or more partners from outside the programme area, do they bring an added value and impact on the programme area?</li> <li>e. Is the partnership able to serve the described target group?</li> </ul>
<b>3: Feasibility</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Has the consortium presented a realistic project that can be executed within the financial limits and time plan?</li> <li>b. Is the work plan in relation to the budget coherent and realistic?</li> <li>c. Are the project management arrangements clear, realistic and appropriate?</li> <li>d. Are the project's communication strategy and activities (per work package) sufficiently elaborated?</li> <li>e. Are the envisaged project outputs and results (translated into indicators) measurable, realistic and achievable?</li> <li>f. Is the project in line with the EU horizontal principles (sustainable development, equal opportunities and non-discrimination, equality between men and women, climate and biodiversity)?</li> <li>g. Have the long term plans (ownership, durability, transferability) been sufficiently clear described?</li> <li>h. For projects with 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?</li> </ul>
<b>4: Budget &amp; value for money</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Is the budget sufficiently attributed to activities specifically oriented on cross-border cooperation?</li> <li>b. Is the overall budget reasonable compared with the planned activities / deliverables / outputs and the project duration?</li> <li>c. Does the budget breakdown include sufficient detail?</li> <li>d. Are the budgeted costs in line with the Cost Catalogue?</li> <li>e. Based on the requested budget, does the project contribute proportionately to the achievement of the output and result indicators (value for money)?</li> <li>f. Do the partners involved have enough budget available to do the things they propose and to maintain the results?</li> </ul>



### 18.3 Quality assessment on the grant application for step 2

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

Quality assessment	Score
Outstanding	5
Good	4
Adequate	3
Weak	2
Insufficient	1

The quality assessment for step 2 goes as follows:

- Every selection criterion will be awarded a single score.
- An application must score at least 3 points on each of the in Article 18.2 mentioned four selection criteria.

### Article 19 Distribution of subsidy ceiling and decision

- a. The Steering Committee shall determine a score on the selection criteria for each project and thus the overall score.
- b. Each project that meets the requirement as mentioned in Article 18.3, second bullet, will be selected by the Steering Committee and then be transferred to the Managing Authority, which will then proceed to perform final technical checks and the formal decision-making.
- c. The distribution of the subsidy ceiling per priority axis is made among the grant applications that qualify after assessment in step 1 (Article 14), that sufficiently meet the selection criteria for step 2 applications as stated in Article 18 and that have passed the final technical checks by the Managing Authority.
- d. For applications that meet all the requirements and conditions listed in paragraph c, the Managing Authority will take a grant decision based on the order of receipt (see Article 17(3), taking into account the available ERDF budget per priority axis as shown in Article 7.
- e. If several selected step 2 grant applications have been received by the Managing Authority on the same date and at the same time, and they cannot all be honoured within the subsidy ceiling, the amount remaining within the subsidy ceiling will be distributed among these applications in proportion to the grant amount requested.
- f. If an application does meet all the requirements but cannot receive the full ERDF budget for which it was submitted due to the applicable subsidy ceiling, the applicant will be consulted in order to determine the extent to which the grant can be awarded using the available ERDF budget. If this proves not to be an option, the application will be rejected in its entirety.
- g. The next submitted step 2 application (based on the order of receipt) that meets the selection criteria for step 2 applications and passes the final checks by the Managing Authority will then be eligible for funding under the applicable subsidy ceiling.
- h. Applications which do not meet the minimum score requirements on the selection criteria, or which fall outside the subsidy ceiling based on their position in the ranking, will be rejected.
- i. Applications that do not meet the minimum score requirements on the selection criteria will be notified by the Managing Authority and will be given the opportunity to rework their step 2 applications up to a maximum of two times. The date and time of submission of the reworked step 2



application will then count as the moment of receipt of the reworked application, provided it is within the duration of the fifth project call.

- j. The Managing Authority will notify the applicant of its decision by electronic message.

Without prejudice to the above provisions, the Managing Authority may decide to reject some or all of an application if it does not comply with the rules of the programme, or the rules the programme has to obey to.

## **Article 20 Decision period step 2 application**

The Managing Authority will take a decision on a step 2 application under the Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE) programme no later than 26 weeks after the closing date for the submission of step 2 applications.

# **Chapter 7 Implementation and subsidy determination**

## **Article 21 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) 2021/1060, up to a maximum of 90% of the subsidy granted.
2. Beneficiaries must submit a payment claim twice per year.
3. A payment claim will be part of the bi-annual progress report, consisting of a content part and a financial part (payment claim). The content part has to contain the content progress of the project, 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.
4. Payment to beneficiaries will take place in accordance with Article 74, paragraph 1 (b), of Regulation (EU) 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 22 Subsidy determination**

1. Within the time period specified in the grant letter, the beneficiary must submit an application for the determination of the subsidy to the Managing Authority, via the JEMS system, using the form specified for that purpose by the Managing Authority.
2. In the application 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 subsidy have been met.
3. The following supplementary documentation must be attached to the determination of the subsidy as referred to in the first paragraph:
  - a. a substantive final 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 determination of the subsidy within 26 weeks.

---

## Chapter 8 Final provisions

### Article 23 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 December 2026, 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 Fifth Call for Proposals Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE)”.