Conclusions and looking ahead

*b-Solutions*: border and cross-border regions implementing the Communication

Association of European Border Regions

info@aebr.eu

b-solutions@aebr.eu
Call for pilot projects: *b-solutions*

- **Target:** launch of the call on 1st February 2018 through AEBR website, direct mailing and social media.
- **URL:** [https://www.b-solutionsproject.com/](https://www.b-solutionsproject.com/) (the logo is provisional)
  - Functional e-mail address: *b-solutions@aebr.eu*
  - End of the call: 30 April 2018
  - Start of the implementation of 20 pilot actions: June 2018
  - End: September 2019
Application form

• Title of the proposed action
• Name of the lead applicant
• Co-applicant(s) and affiliated entities’ data
• Description of the obstacle
• Early solution proposed
• Background information: geographical, thematic, other
• Calendar of proposed activities
• Estimated budget
Guidelines for applicants

i. Policy Background and Context for the Pilot Actions (Commission Communication and Staff Working Document)

ii. Expected results and outputs from the projects (b-Solutions)

iii. Selection criteria: effective and clear criteria for selection of projects

iv. Eligible applicants for pilot projects

v. Budget for pilot projects (at least 20 x up to €20,000 each)

vi. General principles for pilot project grants, rules on use of finances, eligible/ineligible (subcontracting, any limit on particular items such as staff/consultancy, any rates to apply, etc.)

vii. Duration of pilot projects (up to 15 months)

viii. Definitions

ix. Agreement format for pilot actions (Draft Grant Agreement)

x. Reporting requirements

xi. Publicity requirements

xii. How to apply (forms to use, method of application, supporting documents required, etc.) (The form and instructions will be available online)

xiii. Information requests during application

xiv. Annexes: Application Form, Budget Template, Reporting Template (if appropriate), Declaration of Honour, Model Pilot Action Grant Agreement
Criteria for selection

Main selection criterion will be “the proposed action address real and documented obstacles of an administrative and/or legal nature” to:

- implement a cross-border action;
- cooperate across a national boundary;
- move across the border for work, study or doing business effectively;
- provide, deliver or receive a cross-border public service.

Other criteria will be:

- the partners’ mandate to devise possible solution(s) for the identified obstacle;
- the replicability potential of the action in other European (cross-)border region(s);
- the size of budget in relation with proposed activities and duration of the action; and, last but not least,
- the five indicated priority fields: (1) employment, (2) health, (3) transport, (4) multi-lingualism and (5) institutional cooperation.
Eligible applicants for pilot projects

1. **Lead Applicant** should be a **public body** (national, regional, local) and must involve at least a **co-applicant** from the other side(s) of the border.

2. **Cross-border entities** (EGTCs, Euroregions and similar CB structures with legal personality) can also apply (even if they are not public bodies)

3. **Affiliated entities** of any nature can also be included in applicants’ consortia (attention to triple and quadruple helixes)
Receipt, administration, evaluation and selection of proposals

• Application forms will be received in electronic format, confirmation of receipt will be sent to applicants and eligibility checks will be performed.

• An expert panel will be formed to perform quality assessments and rank the proposals. The experts should be geographically and gender balanced – they should all have a proven track-record of cross-border work (academic, legal, practical, etc.).

• The expert’s panel will meet once at a kick-off meeting to initiate the evaluation and selection, they will receive the valid proposals and distribute the work.

• The experts will present the results of their assessment, ranking the proposals and explaining the followed methodology. Then, AEBR will prepare an evaluation report with a proposal of selected applications to be implemented. The final list of selected applications will be agreed with the European Commission.
Thank you very much for your attention!

Association of European Border Regions
Projects’ Office:
Rüdesheimer Str. 8
D-14197 Berlin
info@aebr.eu
www.aebr.eu

b-solutions
b-solutions@aebr.eu

https://www.b-solutionsproject.com/