Call for proposals for projects with combined ERDF/NDICI funding

Interreg MAC Programme 2021–2027

Online – 17 June 2026

Interreg

MAC

Cofinanciado por la Unión Europea

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MAC 2021-2027
Cooperación Territorial

NDICI

A contribution of **10 million euros from the Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Programme (NDICI)** to the MAC programme to facilitate the participation of African countries in projects.

Contribution Agreement signed between the **European Commission and the Government of the Canary Islands**, designating the latter – and specifically the MAC Managing Authority – as **the Managing Body** (MB).

The approval and resolution of calls **for** proposals will be carried out by the **MAC Programme's Monitoring and Steering Committees**.

The **Joint Secretariat** of the MAC Programme will assist the Monitoring Committee and the Steering Committee and provide technical and administrative support to project partners.

General aspects

Purpose

Cooperation projects with **combined ERDF/NDICI funding, involving separate grant agreements that are,** however, interlinked and share the same Lead Beneficiary.

Regulatory framework

The actions will be subject to the provisions of **European legislation relating to the Structural Funds** for the ERDF component and to the provisions of **European legislation relating to the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument,** as well as to the provisions of the **Contribution Agreement and its annexes** for the NDICI component.

Thematic area

Projects must fall within **Priorities 1 (Smart MAC) and 2 (Green MAC)** and demonstrate their contribution to **climate resilience** and **job creation.**

Specific objectives and funding

PRIORITIES AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES		ERDF	TOTAL ERDF COST	NDICI	TOTAL NDICI COST
SO 1.1	Development and enhancement of research and innovation capacities and the implementation of advanced technologies	2,000,000	2,352,941	1,860,000	1,860,000
SO 1.3	Strengthening sustainable growth, the competitiveness of SMEs and job creation within them	2,000,000	2,352,941	1,860,000	1,860,000
TOTAL P1	**SMART MAC**	4,000,000	4,705,882	3,720,000	3,720,000
SO 2.2	Promotion of renewable energy in accordance with Directive (EU) 2018/2001	1,500,000	1,764,706	1,395,000	1,395,000
SO 2.4	Promoting adaptation to climate change, disaster risk prevention and resilience	1,500,000	1,764,706	1,395,000	1,395,000
SO 2.6	Promoting the transition to a circular and resource-efficient economy	1,500,000	1,764,706	1,395,000	1,395,000
SO 2.7	Promoting the protection and conservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing pollution	1,500,000	1,764,706	1,395,000	1,395,000
TOTAL P2	**GREEN MAC**	6,000,000	7,058,824	5,580,000	5,580,000
TOTAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS		**10,000,000**	**11,764,706**	**9,300,000***	**9,300,000**

* The NDICI allocation is 9,300,000 because the Contribution Agreement stipulates a 7% fee for the Managing Body

ERDF / NDICI

- Only organisations located in the Member States participating in the Programme may be **beneficiaries of the ERDF**.
- ERDF beneficiaries **may not incur ERDF expenditure in** partner **African countries**.
- The **ERDF co-financing rate** for the programme is **85%** of the total eligible cost; therefore, each ERDF beneficiary will be reimbursed 85% of the validated expenditure paid.
- Both organisations located in partner African countries and Lead Beneficiaries may be **beneficiaries of the NDICI**.

  In exceptional cases, where organisations based in African partner countries that are beneficiaries of the NDICI are unable to carry out the activities assigned to them under the project, the NDICI funds allocated to those activities may be implemented **by other European project partners**, subject to the conditions set out in the amendment clauses of the grant agreement.
- **NDICI funding** covers **100 per cent** of the total eligible cost; therefore, each NDICI beneficiary will be reimbursed 100 per cent of the validated expenditure incurred.

Project partnerships

Lead Partner (ERDF+NDICI)	MAC Partner(s) (ERDF)	African partner(s) (NDICI)
Institutional public sector bodies with their own legal personality, based in Spain or Portugal (autonomous bodies, public companies, foundations, universities, research centres, etc.)	Public or private non-profit organisations with their registered office or permanent establishment in Madeira, the Azores or the Canary Islands (mandatory unless the Lead Beneficiary already has its registered office or permanent establishment in one of these regions)	Public or private non-profit organisations with their headquarters or a permanent establishment in one of the seven African partner countries of the programme (Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Mauritania, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal)

Maximum of 5 partners per project

Private companies are not permitted to participate

As a general rule, all beneficiaries must have their headquarters or permanent establishment within the programme's eligible territory. Organisations whose official headquarters are located outside this territory must demonstrate that they have the authority to operate within the programme's eligible territory (for example, state public bodies with jurisdiction across the entire national territory, national foundations, etc.)

Project management

The **Lead Beneficiary** will sign **two grant agreements**:

- One for the part of the project funded by **the ERDF,** which will be managed in the same way as has been the case to date
- One for the part of the project funded by **the NDICI,** which must comply with the provisions of the Contribution Agreement and with the specific internal rules. Amendments may be made subject to approval by the Monitoring Committee.

The **Lead Beneficiary** is **SOLELY RESPONSIBLE** to the Managing Authority for the **technical and financial justification** of the implementation of the NDICI part of the project, as well as for the **repayment of NDICI funds** in the event of non-implementation or irregularities.

Advance payments

An **advance payment of 5% of the ERDF** allocated to the beneficiaries of approved projects may be granted to those who request it.

Following the signing of the grant agreement, the **Lead Beneficiary** will receive an **advance payment of 100% of the NDICI allocated to the project and will be responsible for transferring to each African partner their respective share** in accordance with the following schedule:

- First **advance payment of up to 25% (optional)**
- Remaining payments following the submission of **half-yearly reports**. Where an advance payment has been received, this **will be deducted from subsequent payments**

The Lead Beneficiary **may require the African partners to provide security** prior to the payment of the advance. The costs incurred in providing financial security are **eligible as project costs**.

Eligible expenditure

ERDF	The same as in the standard ERDF calls for proposals under the Interreg MAC Programme**. Eligible from the date of approval of the terms and conditions until the end of the project's implementation.**
NDICI	**Eligible** if incurred **during the project's implementation** **Lead Beneficiary** • Audit costs • Costs arising from financial transactions. Administrative and management costs will also be eligible, calculated as a flat rate of 7% of the total actual costs paid and verified by all beneficiaries of the NDICI fund. **Other NDICI beneficiaries** • Staff costs. • Travel and accommodation costs. • Costs of external services and consultancy. • Equipment costs. • Small-scale infrastructure costs. ➢ All NDICI expenditure will be **verified by external auditors** appointed by the Lead Beneficiary ➢ **Public procurement** by NDICI beneficiary organisations in **African** partner **countries** shall be carried out in accordance with the rules set out in the Practical Guide to Procurement Procedures for the European Union's External Action (PRAG). ➢ **Public procurement** by NDICI beneficiary entities located within the territory of the Programme's **partner Member States** shall be carried out in accordance with their internal regulations

Deadline for eligibility of expenditure: 31 December 2029

Budget limit per project

Policy objective	Priority		Minimum TOTAL COST requested (€)	Maximum TOTAL COST requested (€)
OP1	1	Smart MAC	1,000,000	4,000,000
OP2	2	Green MAC	1,000,000	4,000,000

The budget must consist of at least 40% ERDF funding and a further 40% NDICI funding

Obligations of the Lead Beneficiary

- Solely **responsible** to the Managing Authority for the technical and financial justification of the project's implementation.
- Signs two grant **agreements**: an ERDF agreement and an NDICI agreement.
- **Receives** all NDICI funds allocated to the project and ensures traceability and separate accounting, keeping separate records.
- **Transfers** to each African partner their respective share of the NDICI grant, and may request the provision of a guarantee for the advance payment.
- It enters into a **Partnership Agreement** with its partners, which sets out:
  a) reporting obligations
  b) repayment in the event of non-compliance
  c) access to audits and verification
- At the end of the project's implementation, **it shall repay** any unspent NDICI funds, as well as any funds spent improperly, even where the cause giving rise to the request for repayment is attributable to one of the partners.
- It shall engage an **independent auditor** to verify the expenditure of NDICI beneficiaries.
- Submit **implementation reports** every six months (the first report must be submitted by 15th. January 2027), comprising an activity report and a financial report, accompanied by the auditor's report.

Assessment and selection

Phase 1

- ADMISSIBILITY (Joint Secretariat)
- If it is found that a project does not meet the eligibility requirements, no rectification will be permitted, and the project will therefore be excluded from the evaluation process

Phase 2

- ASSESSMENT
- The evaluation of project applications will be carried out jointly by the Joint Secretariat (JS), the Regional Governments of the Canary Islands, the Azores and Madeira, and the national representatives of the African partner countries of the Programme, in accordance with the evaluation criteria annexed to the terms and conditions.

Phase 3

- SELECTION (MAC Programme Steering Committee)

Assessment criteria

GENERAL CRITERIA	**70%**	
Strategic criteria	**60%**	
Relating to the context of the cooperation project: relevance and cooperative nature		20%
Relating to the project's intervention logic: objectives, expected results and outputs		60%
Relating to the partnership		20%
Operational criteria	**40%**	
Relating to the project description		50%
Relating to the communication plan		20%
Relating to the financial plan		30%
OTHER CRITERIA	**30%**	
Criteria set by the MAC Regional Governments		50%
Assessment by national authorities in African partner countries		50%

Calendar

Applications must be submitted via the **e-MAC application**, accessible via the programme's website: www.interregmac.org.

The application must be registered by the Lead Beneficiary in **Spanish or Portuguese**

Start of the application period:
15 June 2026

Closing date for applications:
31 July 2026 (23:59 – Canary Islands and Madeira; 1 hour earlier in the Azores)

Thank you for your attention

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