



On the basis of Council Regulation (EC) **No 1083/2006** of 11 July 2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing regulation (EC) NO 1260/1999 (OG RS NO 210 from 31 July 2006, p. 25), Commission Regulation (EC) **No 1828/2006** of 8 December 2006 setting out rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the ERDF, ESF and the Cohesion Fund and of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the ERDF and repealing regulation (EC) NO 1783/1999 (OG RS NO 210 from 31 July 2006, p. 1); Council and the European Parliament Regulation (EC) **No 1080/2006** of 5 July 2006 on the European Regional Development Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1783/1999; Operational Programme Slovenia - Austria 2007-2013, approved by the European Commission on 21 December 2007, No C(2007)6607 the Managing Authority issues the

**1st Open Call for Proposals
in the frame of the Operational Programme Slovenia - Austria 2007-2013**

Reference number: 4300-191/2008

1. Managing Authority

The Government Office for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy, Kotnikova 28, 1000 Ljubljana, represented by the Unit for Managing of Cross-border Programmes Maribor, Svetozarevska 6, 2000 Maribor.

The Managing Authority is acting in line with the above-mentioned legal basis and the Decree on the implementation of procedures for the use of funds of the European Territorial Cooperation and Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance in the Republic of Slovenia in the programming period 2007-2013. The Decree is not binding for the Lead Partner and it is necessary exclusively for the disbursement of programme funds.

The Managing Authority is the contracting authority for ERDF.

2. Open Call for Proposals

This Open Call for Proposals is issued by the Managing Authority and is applicable for eligible applicants from Austria and Slovenia.

The Application Pack, consisting of the Guide for Applicants, Project Outline/Application Form and Annexes, a sample of the Subsidy Contract, a sample of the Partnership Contract and Operational Programme Slovenia - Austria 2007-2013, is available on the web page www.si-at.eu.

3. Subject of the Open Call for Proposals

The subject of this Open Call for Proposals is co-financing operations that contribute efficiently to the **overall aims of the programme**:



- to extensively fostering the international competitiveness and visibility as well as the quality of the cooperation
- by joint development, sustainable and innovative use of
- the common potential and opportunities in the regions.

The subject of this Open Call for Proposals is co-financing of projects from the European Regional Development Fund corresponding to the following Activity Fields within Priorities 1 and 2 of the Operational programme Slovenia - Austria 2007-2013.

Priority 1: Competitiveness, knowledge and economic cooperation

- Activity Fields:
 - SME development
 - Tourism
 - Framework for knowledge based economy
 - Thematic fields of strengths

Priority 2: Sustainable and balanced development

- Activity Fields:
 - Management of natural resources
 - Environment and energy
 - Urban and regional development
 - Social and cultural development

Each project proposal can address only **one** of the above-mentioned priorities. Activities have to indicate cross-border impact on the eligible area of this Programme. The project partners must fulfil at least two of the cross-border cooperation criteria: joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, joint financing.

4. Available funds, share of co-financing, project size and project duration

The amount of 31,542,394.00 EUR from the European Regional Development Fund under this Open Call for Proposals will be available.

The funds are subdivided by priority as follows:

	Community funding
Priority 1 - Competitiveness, knowledge and economic cooperation	14,146,965.50
Priority 2 - Sustainable and balanced development	17,395,428.50
Total	31,542,394.00

The Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) reserves the right not to award all funds available.



Only eligible expenditure can be funded from the programme, whereby the Community co-financing from the ERDF can amount to max. 85% of the public funding; at least 15% is to be ensured from other public sources.

The projects eligible for participation in the programme have to apply for at least 30,000 Euro of ERDF funds and as recommendation should not apply for more than 3 million Euro ERDF funds.

The recommended project duration is up to 36 months.

5. Programme Area

The programme area of the cross-border cooperation Operational Programme Slovenia–Austria 2007-2013 includes the following territorial units on the NUTS level 3:

- **in the Republic of Slovenia:** Gorenjska statistical region, Savinjska statistical region, Koroška statistical region, Podravska statistical region, Pomurska statistical region and Osrednjeslovenska statistical region;
- **in the Republic of Austria:** Oststeiermark, West- und Südsteiermark, Graz, Obersteiermark Ost, Obersteiermark West, Unterkärnten, Klagenfurt-Villach, Oberkärnten, Südburgenland.

6. Eligible applicants and partners

The participation in the programme is open to **legal entities and sole proprietors**. The indicative list of potential applicants/Lead Partners or project partners under each priority:

Priority 1:

- private and public business support institutions (incubators, technology parks, science parks, competence centres, business support centres)
- enterprises, clusters and networks
- national, local and regional authorities
- research institutions
- universities and technology and business oriented high schools
- tourism institutions, associations and agencies
- local and regional development organisations
- training and education organisations and institutions
- institutions and organisations representing economic and social interests of employees, employers, cities and/or municipalities

Priority 2:

- Local, regional and national authorities and organisations
- enterprises, clusters and networks
- institutions and organisations in the field of nature protection and conservation, environment and risk prevention, emergency management, spatial planning, public transport
- institutions and organisations in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency



- institutions and organisations in the field of culture, health, medicine, education and training, rural development, tourism, social affairs, labour market
- associations and NGOs in the field of nature protection, environment, culture, education, social issues, rural development, tourism, sports and leisure
- institutions and organisations representing economic and social interests of employees, employers, cities and/or municipalities
- research institutions
- universities and high schools
- associations and agencies
- local and regional development organisations
- training and education organisations and institutions

7. Eligible period of co-financing

The earliest possible start of the project is the date when receipt of the fully completed Project Outline is confirmed by the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS), but not before 1 October 2007. The confirmation is possible if the form *Project Outline/Application Form* is filled in properly in all for the Project Outline required sections and submitted to the JTS.

If the Project Outline is not submitted, the earliest possible start of the project is the date of the receipt of the application.

The project end is the date when the last payment has been executed by the project partners. In any case, all projects have to be ended by 31 March 2015 at the latest.

8. Eligible expenditure

- 1) Personnel expenditure;
- 2) External expenditure,
- 3) Investments;
- 4) Administrative expenditure;

A detailed description of the eligible expenditure is included in the Guide for Applicants under Chapter 4.4.

9. Project development support

In the course of the Open Call for Proposals, questions may be sent by e-mail to the following addresses:



Joint Technical Secretariat	<p>Government Office for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy, Unit for Managing of Cross-border Programmes Maribor Svetozarevska 6, SI-2000 Maribor</p> <p>Contact person: Mojca Trafela tel. + 386 (0)2 229 42 15 e-mail: jts-si-at.svlr@gov.si</p> <p>www.si-at.eu</p>
Regional Bodies (RBs)	<p>Slovenia</p> <p>Government Office for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy, Unit for Objective 3, IPA, INTERREG III and PHARE,</p> <p>Contact person: Mateja Vegič tel. + 386 (0)2 229 42 32 e-mail: mateja.vegic@gov.si Svetozarevska 6, SI-2000 Maribor</p> <p>Contact person: Duša Sodnik tel. + 386 (0)1 478 37 67 e-mail: dusa.sodnik@gov.si Kotnikova 28, SI-1000 Ljubljana</p>
Regional Bodies (RBs)	<p>Austria</p> <p>R M B - Regionalmanagement Bgld GmbH Marktstraße 3, Technologiezentrum Eisenstadt, A-7000 Eisenstadt</p> <p>Contact person: Harald Ladich tel. +43 (0)26 82 704 2424 e-mail: harald.ladich@rmb.co.at</p> <p>Amt der Steiermärkischen Landesregierung Abt. 16 - Landes- und Gemeindeentwicklung Stempfergasse 7, A-8010 Graz</p> <p>Contact person: Johann Klug tel. +43 (0)316 877 2170 e-mail: johann.klug@stmk.gv.at</p> <p>KWF Kärntner Wirtschaftsförderungsfonds Heuplatz 2, A-9020 Klagenfurt</p> <p>Contact person: Reinhard Schinner tel. +43 (0)463 558 0023 e-mail: schinner@kwf.at</p> <p><i>for Priority 2 in cooperation with</i></p> <p>Amt der Kärntner Landesregierung , Abt. 20 - Landesplanung Wulfengasse 13 - 15, A-9021 Klagenfurt</p> <p>Contact person: Armin Schabus tel. + 43 (0)463 536 32023 e-mail: armin.schabus@ktn.gv.at</p>



The most frequently asked questions will be available on the web page: www.si-at.eu.

10. Submission of the applications

Each Lead Partner can submit several applications.

Potential applicants will be able to obtain access to the Application Pack at the web site: www.si-at.eu.

The submission of the applications is running on an open basis, which means that applications can be submitted throughout the whole Open Call for Proposals period or until the funds are available.

The application has to be submitted by the Lead Partner in **one printed original and in an electronic format**. The electronic format must contain all the documents (Application Form and scanned Annexes). The e-version of the Application Form must be identical to the printed one.

Application can be submitted to the following address only:

Služba vlade Republike Slovenije za lokalno samoupravo in regionalno politiko
Oddelek za upravljanje čezmejnih programov Maribor
Skupni tehnični sekretariat Slovenija - Avstrija 2007-2013
Svetozarevska 6
SI-2000 Maribor

Mark the envelope with “**OP SI-AT 2007-2013 / Application**”.

Please note the following dates:

The first **deadline** for the receipt of the applications is **30 September 2008 by 16.00 hours on the indicated address**.

The given deadline is set to ensure the decision on the scheduled (JMC) meeting.

All further deadlines will be published on the web site: www.si-at.eu.

11. Opening of the applications

The opening of applications is not public.

12. Project selection

The project selection procedure will be conducted in two phases:

12.1 Administrative and eligibility check



After registration of the received project applications, the JTS and the Regional Bodies shall perform the administrative and eligibility check. In case of missing documents or clarifications needed, the Lead Partner shall be contacted.

12.2 Quality Assessment on the basis of the selection criteria

The projects that will meet all the criteria under the administrative and eligibility check and will comply at least partly with the criteria stated in the assessment sheet will be considered for the co-financing under this Programme by the JMC.

13. Projects Approval

The **final decision** on the project is made by the JMC of the Operational Programme Slovenia-Austria 2007-2013.

The JMC formally decides on the approval or rejection of the project and on the ERDF contribution.

14. Informing on the project selection

On the basis of the decision of the JMC, the Managing Authority will inform the Lead Partner, on the approval/rejection of the application with an official letter within 30 days of the decision of the JMC.

For the approved projects, further information about the next steps for contracting will be provided within this letter.

15. Amendments to the Open Call for Proposals

Should the Open Call for Proposals and its Application pack be amended before the closing date of the Open Call for Proposals, corrigenda will be published on the following web site: www.si-at.eu.

Amendments of this Open Call for Proposals shall be published in the Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia.

Applicants are obliged to respect eventual amendments to the Open Call for Proposals and its Application pack published in the manner as described above.

16. Language

The Open Call for Proposals and the application pack are published in Slovene, German and English language. The bilateral agreed English version will be used as tool in case of discrepancies between the published versions.

The application is to be submitted in Slovene and German.



17. Other provisions

The results of the Open Call for Proposals are information of public nature and will be published on the web site www.si-at.eu after signature of Subsidy Contracts with the selected Lead Partners.

Government Office for Local Self-government
and Regional Policy