

On the basis of Council Regulation (EC) **No 1085/2006** of 17 July 2006 laying down general provisions on the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance Fund (IPA), Commission Regulation (EC) **No 718/2007** of 12 June 2007 setting out rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2007 establishing IPA, Operational Programme Slovenia-Croatia 2007-2013, approved by Commission Decision No. C(2008)739 on 28 February 2008, and of Decree on the implementation of procedures for the use of funds of ETS and IPA in the Republic of Slovenia in the programming period 2007-2013 (Official Gazette RS No.110/2007), the Managing Authority hereby issues the

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

Reference number: 4300-28/2008

1. Managing Authority

The Government Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy, Kotnikova 28, 1000 Ljubljana, represented by the European Territorial Cooperation Division acts as the Managing Authority.

The Managing Authority is the contracting authority for IPA funds.

2. Call for Proposals

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

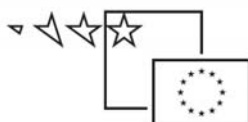
The Application Pack, consisting of the Practical Implementation Manual (PIM), Application Form and its Annexes, sample IPA Subsidy Contract, sample Partnership Agreement and IPA Operational Programme Slovenia-Croatia 2007-2013, is available on the web page <http://www.svlr.gov.si>.

3. Subject of the Call for Proposals

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

To create a dynamic cross-border area with intense interactions of development actors and their stakeholders on both sides of the border towards the jointly defined goals.

The subject of this Call for Proposals is co-financing of operations from the IPA funds corresponding to the following Activity fields within Priorities 1 and 2 of the IPA Operational Programme Slovenia-Croatia 2007-2013.

**Priority 1: Economic and Social Development**

- Measures:
 - Tourism and rural development
 - Development of entrepreneurship
 - Social integration

Priority 2: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

- Measures:
 - Environmental protection
 - Preservation of protected areas

For detailed information on the description of measures, their objectives and main activities under each priority refer to chapter 6 of the Operational Programme. In order to make your project compliant with the programme it is compulsory to read and take into account the description under each priority and measure.

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.

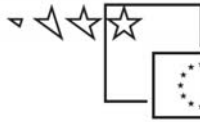
The project partners must fulfil at least one of the cross border cooperation criteria: joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, and joint financing.

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

The amount of **14.152.158,00 EUR** from the IPA Fund under this Call for Proposals will be available for co-financing operations. The Managing Authority and Joint Monitoring Committee reserve the right not to grant all available funds in this call if not enough good applications are received.

The funds are subdivided by priority as follows:

Priorities	Community IPA funding
1. Economic and Social Development	7.862.310,00
2. Sustainable Management of Natural Resources	6.289.848,00
Total	14.152.158,00



Only eligible expenditures can be co-financed by the programme, whereby the Community co-financing from the IPA fund can amount to max. 85% of the public funding. Each Slovene partner must ensure at least 5% of own contribution. Each Croatian partner must ensure at least 15% from public sources.

The projects eligible for participation in the programme are those with the total IPA amount requested from 75.000,00 EUR to 2.000.000,00 EUR.

5. Programme Area

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

- **in the Republic of Slovenia:** Pomurska, Podravska, Savinjska, Spodnjeposavska, Jugovzhodna Slovenija, Notranjsko-kraška, Obalno-kraška, Osrednjeslovenska (20%) regions
- **in the Republic of Croatia:** Međimurska, Varaždinska, Krapinsko-zagorska, Zagrebačka, Karlovačka, Primorsko-goranska, Istarska, City of Zagreb (20%) counties.

6. Eligible applicants and partners

Beneficiaries of the two priorities must:

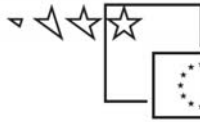
1. be non-profit legal persons established by public or private law for the purpose of public and general interest, belonging to one of the following groups:

- Regional and local public authorities;
- Public bodies and public equivalent bodies such as: funds, institutions, agencies established by the state or a municipality, research and development institutions, education and training institutions, health care institutions, institutions for protecting natural and cultural heritage, local and regional development agencies etc.;
- Non-governmental organisations such as associations, foundations;
- Chambers of commerce, agriculture, crafts and industry, clusters registered as non-profit legal persons;
- Legal entities established by private law with non-profit status and purpose of operating, such as societies, local and regional development agencies registered as companies, local tourism organizations, training organizations, private institutions, etc.

2. come from Slovenia and Croatia ;

3. be located within the eligible area unless justified;

4. must have legal, financial and operational capacity to participate in the programme.



The minimum requirement is to have **at least one project partner from Slovenia and one from Croatia**. The upper number of project partners is not limited.

7. Eligible period of co-financing

The earliest possible start of the project is the date of the decision of the project approval by the Joint Monitoring Committee.

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 2012 at the latest.

8. Duration

The projects eligible for participation in the programme are those with the duration of up to 36 months of project implementation.

9. Eligible costs

- 1) Personnel cost;
- 2) External-service costs,
- 3) Investment costs;
- 4) Administrative costs.

A detailed description of the eligible costs is included in the Practical Implementation Manual under Chapter 4.1.

Expenditure can be considered to be eligible at the earliest from the date of the decision of the project approval by the Joint Monitoring Committee. The start of the eligibility period of expenditure can also be determined on a later date if national or European legislation requires so.

10. Project development support:

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

Joint Technical Secretariat Slovenia-Croatia 2007-2013

Government Office RS for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy
European Territorial Cooperation Division
Kotnikova 28, SI-1000 Ljubljana
Contact person: Gordana Stanišić

Fax: +386 1 478 37 60

e-mail: jts-si-hr.svlr@gov.si

or by telephone +386 1 478 3735 (Office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9.00-12.00)



Info Point

Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management
Vlaška 106
Contact person: Nevena Tutavac

Fax: +385 1 4695 819

e-mail: nevena.tutavac@mmpi.hr

or by telephone +385 1 4695 765 (Office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9.00-12.00)

The Joint Technical Secretariat and Info Point shall provide support to potential applicants by providing information concerning the programme and technical support in preparing the applications.

Check the programme website www.svlr.gov.si for dates on planned informative workshops and for frequently asked questions and answers or contact directly the JTS or the Info Point.

11. Submission of the applications:

Each Lead Partner can submit several applications. The application can be submitted at any time between the launch date and the closing date of the Call for Proposals.

The application pack is available at the web site: www.svlr.gov.si

The deadline for the **receipt** of applications under this Call is **20.10.2008** by **15.30 hours on the following address:**

Joint Technical Secretariat Slovenia-Croatia 2007-2013
Government Office for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy
European Territorial Cooperation Division
Kotnikova 28
SI-1000 Ljubljana

Application can be submitted to the indicated address only.

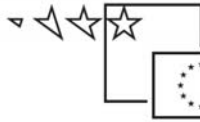
The application must be submitted in paper and electronic form.

12. Opening of the applications:

The opening of applications is not public.

The envelope is sealed and properly marked and includes:

- a) The address to which the application is submitted
- b) The full name and address of the Lead Partner
- c) The reference number of the Call for Proposals: 4300-28/2008
- d) The acronym of the project proposal
- e) The wording: »**Do not open - 1st Call for Proposals for OP SI-HR 2007-2013**«.



In order for the application to be accepted, the application must arrive at the indicated address in time and the envelope must be marked in such a way that it can be seen to which Call for Proposals it refers to.

13. Project selection

The project selection procedure will be conducted in two phases.

13.1 Administrative and eligibility check

After registration of the received project applications, the JTS shall perform the administrative and eligibility check.

The application is complete if:

1. One original of paper version of the completed Application Form (all sections of Part A and Part B, plus authorised Annexes) must be submitted. Supporting documents may be copies in case they correspond to the original; All supporting documents which are applicable in line with the List of Supporting Documents have to be enclosed.

2. One copy of the original Application Form including Annexes and supporting documents;

3. One electronic version of the completed Application Form (all sections of Part A and Part B, plus authorised Annexes) must be submitted on a CD-Rom or Memory stick.

The electronic version must contain all the documents (Application Form and scanned Annexes). The e-version of the Application Form must be identical to the printed one.

In case of missing documents or clarifications needed, the Lead Partner shall be contacted.

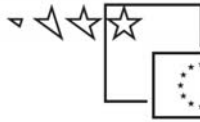
13.2 Rejection of the application

The application will not be opened and will be rejected automatically if the requirements listed in point 11 and 12 are not fulfilled:

1. The application in hard copy did not arrive in time,
2. The envelope was not appropriately marked in line with Point 12.

The application will be rejected without any requests for missing documents if:

1. The Application Form was hand-written instead of typed,
2. The application was not submitted in the required languages (except for Annex II to Application Form),
3. The application in hard copy did not arrive in forms demanded (1 original, 1 copy),
4. The reply to the request for missing documents or request for clarifications did not arrive within the deadline indicated in the request or if the materials/answers sent in were incomplete or inappropriate,



The application will be rejected also for the following reasons:

1. The application does not fulfil the opening, administrative or eligibility conditions,
2. The score the application obtained on the ranking list was not high enough to receive the IPA funds available.

The applications have to fulfil all the conditions in the administrative and eligibility check. Ineligible costs doesn't have the influence on the eligibility of the whole application. The ineligible costs will not be co-financed.

In case of missing data/supporting documents or clarifications needed, the Managing Authority/JTS can invite the applicants to complete or provide missing documentation or clarifications to specific parts of the application in 5 working days. In case where the reply is not received in time the applications will be rejected. **Rejected applications will not be returned to the applicants, neither applications recommended for co-financing.**

Please note that in case any section of the Application Form is not filled in, the application will not be automatically rejected. If some parts are missing which are not vital for the project implementation, the project will obtain a lower score for the aspects missing.

The applications that fulfil the conditions in administrative and eligibility check will proceed to Quality assessment.

13.3 Quality Assessment

The projects that pass the administrative compliance and eligibility check shall be further assessed by assessors using the criteria presented in Chapter 5.3 of the Practical Implementation Manual.

Only applications receiving at least 80 points in the quality assessment can be co-financed within the 1st Call for Proposals.

14. Projects Approval

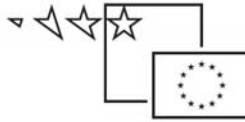
The **final decision** on the project is made by the JMC of the Operational Programme Slovenia-Croatia 2007-2013.

The JMC formally decides on the approval or rejection of projects and on the IPA contribution.

15. 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.



16. Amendments to the Call for Proposals

Should the Call for Proposals and its Application Pack be amended before the closing date of the Call for Proposals, corrigenda will be published on the following web site: www.svlr.gov.si.

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

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

17. Language

The Call for Proposals and the Application Pack are published in Slovene and Croatian language. In case of discrepancies between the Slovene and Croatian text of the application pack, harmonized English version will be used as a tool for common understanding.

The application must be submitted in **Slovene AND Croatian** only, except for Annex II to Application Form which must be submitted also in English, and supporting documents which can be submitted only in the original language.

18. Suspensive clause

Subsidies may be granted under the condition the Financing Agreement between the Commission and the Republic of Croatia for the 2007-2009 period is signed before the final stipulation of IPA Subsidy Contracts.

19. Other provisions

The results of this Call for Proposals are information of public nature and will be published on the web site www.svlr.gov.si after signature of IPA Subsidy Contracts with the selected Lead Partners.

Government Office of the Republic of Slovenia
for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy