

Interreg Call 3

-Concept note-

Project title: TBD

Priority: Priority 2 - Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs

Specific objective: S.O. 2.1: Improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes, in particular programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs and, where relevant, European Territorial Cooperation programmes, supporting SMEs in all stages of their life cycle to develop and achieve growth and engage in innovation

Consortium: ADR Muntenia, Asociatia Start Inovare;

Consortium leader: ADR Muntenia;

Project Topic:

The project proposes to **enhance support to SMEs and start-ups working in waste and sludge management in Romania and at least two other countries (3-6 regions total)**. It will do so through grant-making through business incubators or other financial instruments targeting start-ups (Structural Funds – specifically the European Regional Development Fund – through programs such as the Romanian Regional Operational Programme - POR) creatively working in the field through all forms of smart specialisations;

In order to achieve its main objective, as stated above, the project will foster experience exchange between the participating regions and countries (organization of study visits), and will gauge the interests and needs of business communities, as well as the primary obstacles for startups in each of the project regions (organization of round tables and other multi-stakeholder events).

Project objective:

The **main aim** of the project is to enhance SME & start-up waste and sludge management capacity in Romania and two other countries (TBD).

The project's **specific objectives** are:

1. To provide recommendations for improving the European-funded financial instruments targeting start-ups (e.g. Structural Funds) in order to contribute to promote a more resource-efficient, greener, and more competitive economy;
2. To directly impact the way the European-financed projects handled by consortium members (such as the Romanian POR – Regional Operational Programme, that the lead applicant, ADR Muntenia, can have a direct effect on) are run, in order to foster sustainable and smart growth.

Project structure:

The project will follow the recommended Interreg structure, being divided into two phases:

Phase 1: Interregional learning

During this two-year phase, an action plan will be constructed based upon study visits in all the project regions and through organizing a series of multi-stakeholder events in each region (round tables etc.)

This phase will end with a conference where the **action plan** will be presented to a multi-stakeholder audience including representatives of all project consortium organizations, as well as regional and national authorities responsible for the targeted financial instruments.

Phase 2: Implementing the action plan at the level of each region.

During this phase, the action plan resulting from the previous phase will be implemented in each of the project regions.