



Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development

Call for Projects 2018

1. The Network and its mission

The nrg4SD is a network of regional governments that share common interests in climate change, biodiversity and sustainable development. Established in 2002, today it has 50 members from 26 countries and is the only international association on sustainable development matters representing solely regional governments.

The nrg4SD mission is to promote sustainable development at the level of regional governments around the globe. To achieve that, nrg4SD:

- Acts as the voice of regional governments at the international level in the environmental dimension of sustainable development, including UN negotiations and European Union initiatives.
- Facilitates collaboration between its members, promoting sustainable development at regional level.
- Promotes learning and sharing of specialised knowledge, peer review and exchange of best practices.

2. The call for projects

The call for projects 2018 aims at promoting cooperation among nrg4SD members, with the ultimate goal to support regions in the continuous refinement of their actions, based on principles of sustainable development. The call was approved by nrg4SD General Assembly and developed by the nrg4SD Secretariat, with the support of Co-Chairs and the Steering Committee. It will focus on actions and projects aimed at building capacities and partnerships in the context of the main initiatives of nrg4SD: *RegionsAdapt* initiative, *Regions4Biodiversity Learning Platform* and *Localising the SDGs at regional level*.

2.1 The vision

The call for projects was created to promote the exchange of knowledge between nrg4SD members, to establish new and/or to extend existing collaborations. It also seeks to promote exchanges between North-South and South-South members. As a Network concerned with the promotion of sustainable development as core value and main principle, it is fundamental to foster solidarity and cooperative frameworks that can result in environmental sustainable practices and policies.

Members of nrg4SD are regional governments and associations of regional governments from different continents with different natural, climate, socio-economic and cultural conditions. Nevertheless, all regions are facing growing challenges due to climate change, biodiversity loss, pressure on ecosystem services, unsustainable management of landscapes, social migrations, unbalanced territories and decrease of natural resources. As it is required to set regions onto a sustainable development track, the complexity of the



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2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as the Paris Agreement and the design of a post-2020 framework in biodiversity, sustainable development promotion at regional governments' level requires a broad and cross-cutting approach to understand and address the several processes and intertwined elements that could ensure sustainable territories.

Aiming to support the adoption and strengthening of sustainable strategies and actions by regional governments, and also to help regions exchange experiences and best practices, nrg4SD promotes *RegionsAdapt, Regions4Biodiversity and Localising the SDGs at regional level*. These three initiatives are addressed solely to regional governments and aim at reinforcing their capacities, establish collaboration frameworks and identifying solution to common issues.

Given the uniqueness of the three initiatives at international level and the critical importance of those topics to nrg4SD members, the 2018 call for projects is focused on promoting projects on *climate change adaptation, biodiversity and the SDGs* at the regional level, covering different aspects, sectors and stakeholders.

2.2 Outcomes and objectives

With the thematic focus on climate change adaptation, biodiversity and the SDGs, this call for projects aims to *co-fund projects between nrg4SD members with duration of 12 to 24 months*.

The call for projects has the following objectives:

- To engage regional governments to take action on achieving sustainable and resilient territories by co-funding projects between members that can transfer knowledge and expertise on adaptation, sustainable or biodiversity strategies/ plans/ actions/solutions;
- To encourage North-South and South-South members to exchange knowledge on developing, testing and demonstrating policy or management approaches, best practices, capacity building and solutions to climate change adaptation, biodiversity preservation and the localisation of the SDGs, which ideally will continue without funding in a sustained cooperation between the participating members;
- To assist regional governments in developing or improving regional adaptation/biodiversity/sustainable strategies and integrating climate change adaptation/biodiversity preservation/localisation of the SDGs into existing plans by increasing their knowledge base for the development, implementation and assessment of adaptation/biodiversity/sustainable actions and methods.



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- To support regional governments in mainstreaming biodiversity, climate adaptation and sustainable development values across all actions and efforts. Effective policies and strategies should consider the integrated and expanded consequences in actions of different thematic sectors, areas and departments.

Projects can apply practices in a region that have not been applied before (**pilot projects**), disseminate techniques/tools/approaches from one region to the partner region (**demonstration projects**) and/or support the dissemination of information and awareness raising (**dissemination projects**).

2.3 Framework conditions

The call for projects 2018 will co-fund **one project** between nrg4SD members. The project will receive a maximum of **8.000 Euros** that will be granted based on the conditions outlined throughout this call. **The financing provided by nrg4SD may not exceed 60% of the total eligible cost of the project.** The costs not covered by nrg4SD will be covered by the nrg4SD members of the partnership, either with own funds or funds provided by other organizations with whom they are involved. The costs to be covered by the partnership will be divided in the percentage agreed internally by members.

Projects should start in 2019 and not exceed 2 years from the approval date of the assigned subsidy. Participating member regions should present **a mid-term report and a final report** to the nrg4SD Secretariat. The mid-term report will show the progress made by the partnership and will assess the actions developed, as well as those still to be implemented. Upon finalisation of the project, a final report outlining the utility and impacts of the project will be submitted. The reports will be assessed by nrg4SD Co-Chairs and the Steering Committee. Should the reports not be presented or not provide any results, it may be decided to cancel the allocation of the grant.

To increase the visibility of the action and ensure the transparency of this initiative, the results of the projects will be **available** on the nrg4SD website (www.nrg4sd.org) and other releases promoted by nrg4SD.

2.4 Eligible regions

Members of nrg4SD in good standing with the Network will be considered eligible.

We understand as nrg4SD member:

- Regional administrations or associations of regional governments that are nrg4SD members;



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- Any type of professional structure with legal personality governed by private law, with headquarters in one of the member regions of nrg4SD (associations, foundations, consortiums etc.);
- Territorial entities and legal persons governed by public law, implemented in the territory of nrg4SD members.

2.5 Eligible activities

Projects can encompass a broad spectrum of activities, including but not limited to publications, conferences, capacity building programs, technical missions, expeditions, field studies and workshops.

Thematically, projects should focus on one of the topics identified by the *RegionsAdapt*, the *Regions4Biodiversity Learning Platform* or *Localising the SDGs at regional level*.

Given the different regional conditions, capacities and nature of consequences from climate change, biodiversity loss and the localisation of SDGs among nrg4SD members, as well as different socio-economic and environmental conditions, the call for project recognises the specific and unique requirements of each regional government. Applicants may outline their specific requirements and ideas not included in the above paragraph, subject to approval by a Selection Committee created by the Steering Committee.

2.6 Selection criteria

The Steering Committee will create a Selection Committee, which will select one project proposal based on quality and potential outcome, including replicability in other territories of no partner-regions. Priority will be given to project proposals that clearly outline the project's structure, vision, usefulness, efficiency and the added value it will bring to regional governments and target groups involved.

The following criteria will be considered during the selection process:

- Nature of participants and technical expertise of target group (the project should involve at least two nrg4SD members, with the inclusion of more members desirable and a North-South or South-South exchange preferred);
- Schedule/structure of the project (duration, clear timeframe, progress review, implementation aims);
- The thematic nature of the project (the project should address a topic(s) within climate change adaptation, biodiversity or localising the SDGs at the regional level);



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- Financial commitment of the involved parties (the amount of resources that will be invested by each of the partners);
- Expected results of the project (outputs, quantified achievements, conferences/workshops held, reports/outcome documents);
- The added value of the project (sustainability of the project, socio-economic impact of the project, stakeholders involved, potential constraints related to project implementation, visibility to nrg4SD and its members).

2.7 Selection process

The selection process for the call for projects 2018 will follow these steps:

- a) Open call (**17 December 2018**)
- b) Submission of project proposals by all applicants (**4 February 2019**);
- c) General review of submissions by the nrg4SD Secretariat. If the necessity for clarifications or detail arises, the nrg4SD Secretariat will contact the applicant(s) with follow-up requests (**11 February 2019**);
- d) Selection of one projects by the Selection Committee, responsible for the technical evaluation, based on the criteria outlined in 2.6 (**25 February 2019**);
- e) Formal approval by the General Assembly (**4 March 2019**)
- f) Official letter of notification of the decision made to the awarded consortium (**18 March 2019**);
- g) Signature of the agreement between the nrg4SD Secretariat and the beneficiaries (**1 April 2019**);
- h) Payment of an advance of the subsidy upon the presentation of documents requested by the Secretariat and confirmed the start of activities of the project (**15 April 2019**);
- i) Mid-term review of projects, progress assessment and verification of content fulfilment and scheduling as outlined in the project proposal (**Early 2020**);
- j) Presentation of outcome and submission of final report to the nrg4SD Secretariat. Ideally, results will be published on the nrg4SD website-www.nrg4sd.org (**Early 2021**).



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**Note: all timelines are tentative.*

2.8 Application process

The application deadline for submitting the project proposal is the **4th of February 2019**. Dossiers submitted past this deadline or incomplete dossiers will not be considered.

The application dossier must be sent by e-mail (digital version) to: nrg4sd@nrg4sd.org cc: nvera@nrg4sd.org. Contact: Natalia Vera, Secretary General.

The project proposal **must** include the following documents:

1. Application form provided by nrg4SD duly completed;
2. CVs on allocated staff by project partners;
3. Declaration provided by nrg4SD duly completed and signed;
4. Bank information, indicating:
 - a) Full name;
 - b) Address;
 - c) IBAN and SWIFT.

2.9 Framework of financial assistance

Funding will occur following the formal signature of an agreement between all the involved partners of the selected projects with nrg4SD.

The subsidy will be paid in two instalments: 50% after the official notification of project's approval and upon the signing of the agreement between the parties; and 50% at the end of the project (upon the presentation of the supporting documents related to the expenses - detailed instructions will be specified in the contract for the provision of the Network's funding).

In the event that the economic counterpart of the project is less than the initially foreseen estimative, and/or that the project has not been carried out as described, the Network is reserved to review the subsidy granted.

2.10 Eligible expenses

The expenses that will be covered by nrg4SD funding must be strictly related to the project, and it will be mandatorily required to present the respective invoices and receipts:



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1. Training activities, publications, conferences, capacity building programs, technical missions, expeditions, field studies and workshops;
2. Outsourcing expenses when stating the need to hire external service.
3. Mobility expenses carried out within the framework of the project and limited to the territory of the members who participate in the project: travel and accommodation (e.g. economy train tickets, low-cost plane tickets, fuel invoices, etc.);
4. Communication expenses: publicity and publications (accepted services) – e.g. communication support expenses, creation of a project website, etc.

Non-eligible expenses: investment expenses (furniture and material) – e.g.: purchase of computers, video-projectors, etc.; infrastructures different from demonstration or pilot projects; any identifiable indirect taxes, including VAT or duties; training activities do not cover salary costs of those being trained, salaries of officials or civil servants.

3. Appendices

- Application form;
- Declaration to be fulfilled by all partners.

Further information can be requested here: nvera@nrg4sd.org cc nrg4sd@nrg4sd.org

APPLICATION FORM

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Name of the project	Title
Main objective	Mention in a sentence
Type of project	<input type="checkbox"/> Pilot project <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstration project <input type="checkbox"/> Dissemination project
Partnership	List the partners of the consortium
Timeline	Months of duration of the project
Budget	Total budget & amount to be funded by nrg4SD
Contact persons	Full name, post, organization, email address, telephone (on behalf of each partner)
DESCRIPTION	
Field of action	<input type="checkbox"/> Climate adaptation <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry, protected areas and biodiversity; <input type="checkbox"/> Implementation/localisation of SDGs
Context	Maximum 1000 characters
Challenges and/or common territorial issues to be tackled	Maximum 5000 characters
State-of-the-art	Maximum 2500 characters



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Focus of the partnership to tackle common challenges	Maximum 2500 characters
Reasoning of the partnership	Maximum 2500 characters Briefly explain what is the experience, background, capacities and potential value that partners can bring to the project
Allocated staff from all partners	Resources and information
Stakeholders	Maximum 2500 characters Mention what stakeholders will be involved in the project and how
OBJECTIVES, DELIVERABLES, EXPECTED RESULTS	
Main objectives of the project	List and explain
Deliverables	List, quantify and timeline
Expected results	List and mention performance indicator if existing
WORK PLAN	
Tasks	List the tasks to be carried out and set them in a timeline. Mention what partner will be responsible for each task.
Potential constraints to be faced in the implementation of the project	List them and mention what solutions could be implemented
PLAN OF EXPENSES, SCHEDULE AND IMPLEMENTATION	
Plan of expenses	List expenses per concepts (i.e. training, raise of awareness, conference etc.)
Expenses and partners	List partners and mention the costs they are responsible for
Schedule and implementation	Timeline of expenses according “tasks-work plan”



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OTHER	
Added value for nrg4SD and its members	Mention the added value that the project would mean for nrg4SD considering the aims, actions and scope of the Network.



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DECLARATION

The (name of organization) is a partner of the project (name of project) that will last (number) months and will amount a total of (number) EUR, of which (number) EUR will be co-financed by nrg4SD

Full name	
Post	
Organization	
Address	
Town and ZIP	
Country	
Telephone	
Committed amount	EUR

In the event of approval of the project submitted to the call for projects 2016 launched by nrg4SD, the indicated project partner:

1. Confirms fulfilling the criterion of a regional administration, professional structure with legal personality governed by private law with headquarters in one of the member regions of nrg4SD, or territorial entity/legal person governed by public law, as defined in the call;
2. Commits itself to the project and the activities laid down in the application form, and intends to provide the above-indicated amount as contribution to the project’s budget;
3. Is aware of the programme rules on reimbursement and confirms the availability of own resources for co-financing the activities;
4. Declares that it is not under bankruptcy proceedings, bears full legal capacity and is financially reliable.

I have the capacity to commit on behalf of my organization to the aforementioned

Name of signatory	
Position of signatory	
Date	
Signature and seal of partner organisation (if exists)	