

PARTNER SEARCH

02/06/15

Call/Programme	INTERREG EUROPE
Objectives of the call	4.1. Protection and development of natural and cultural heritage
Title of the Project/Acronym	Sustainable Regional Development Opportunities through Better Use of Thermal Natural Springs (DEV. SPRINGS)
Deadline	Expression of interest: 22/06/2015 Submission deadline: mid-august 2015
Budget Min/Max	1-2 million euros
EU co-financing	85% for public bodies, 70% for private bodies
Duration	3 years
Description	<p>A large number of european regions are very rich in thermal natural springs, which they make use of in different ways. These thermal sources have great potential in Europe, especially in the fields of energy, tourism and health.</p> <p>The better use of thermal natural springs will contribute to the improvement of policies in many fields. It will bring social and economic cohesion to the regions, by focusing on one particular field, such as tourism, health services, promotion of SMEs or alternative energy solutions. Moreover, the exploitation of local springs will lead to polycentric and homogenous territorial development. Furthermore, it will create many new and specialised jobs, particularly in the tourism and health sectors. Health policy will also be improved, as the project will contribute to the prevention of diseases and the encouragement of healthy and active aging.</p>
Challenges	<p>The main challenge of this project is to develop an interregional cooperation in the field of thermalism, which does not exist today, and to find a way for this cooperation to contribute to inclusive, sustainable and integrated territorial development, as well as socioeconomic cohesion.</p> <p>Furthermore, another challenge is to create public-private partnerships (PPPs) and to make sure that all relevant and competent stakeholders on different levels, who are necessary for the successful outcome of project, participate and are able to elaborate a common action plan and strategy, as well as common tools.</p> <p>Finally, there is also the need to improve the knowledge and qualifications of the personnel, active in the field of thermalism, in order to ensure the quality of the services provided.</p>

<p>Main activities/Actions</p>	<p>Partners will exchange experiences in order to identify their needs in the area of thermal natural springs. They will exchange best practices on how to make the best use of these springs, during a peer review consisting in joint visits to each region, and examine the transferability of best practices from one region to another. Furthermore, they will exchange and provide knowledge, experimental and technical know-how through the organization of seminars and workshops and through the elaboration of local action plans with local support groups created for that purpose. The aim is for the project to have continuity with, on one hand, the creation of a European network of local and regional authorities, and on the other hand, the development of guidelines, which may ultimately be used by structural funds.</p>	
<p>Contact person details</p>	<p>STEREA ELLADA REGION Mr. Themistoklis CHIMARAS</p> <p>Tel: (+30) 2231351215 Fax: (+30) 22310 32957 E-mail: cheimarasth@fth.pste.gov.gr Website: www.pste.gov.gr/index.php</p>	<p>REGIOEUROPA Mr. Athanassios GOUMAS</p> <p>Tel: (+32) 2 234 36 00 Fax: (+32) 2 230 92 66 regioeuropa@skynet.be www.regioeuropa.net</p>