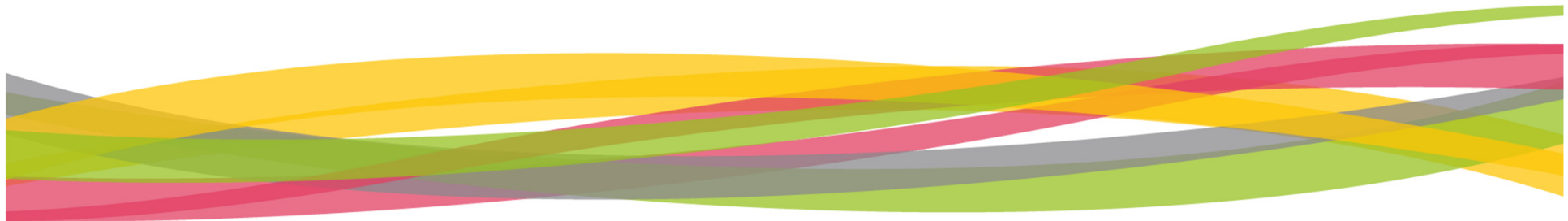


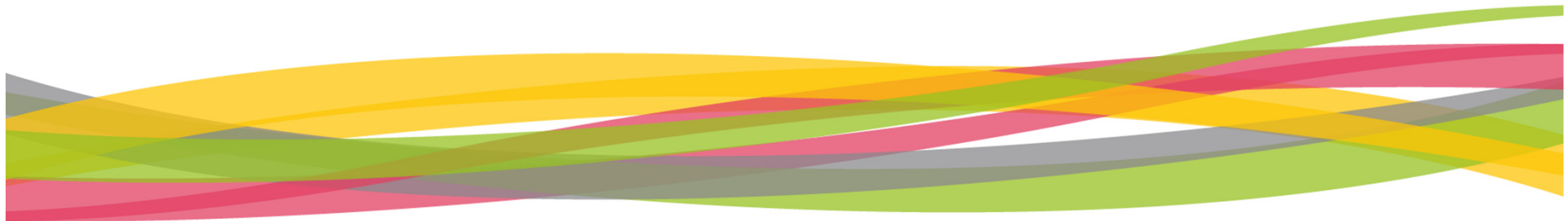


Technical Session – Rules that may impact the content of your Expression of Interest



Issues to consider at EoI stage

- + Understanding of detailed rules can wait until Full Application
- + Some issues may limit content of EoI
- + Full information in Fact Sheets, Guidance Note and Programme Manual



General Principles

- + Approved activities only
- + 50% funding – Paid as reimbursement
- + Beneficiaries in application only
- + Costs required for implementing the project only
- + No double funding

- + No maximum or minimum project budgets



The budget lines

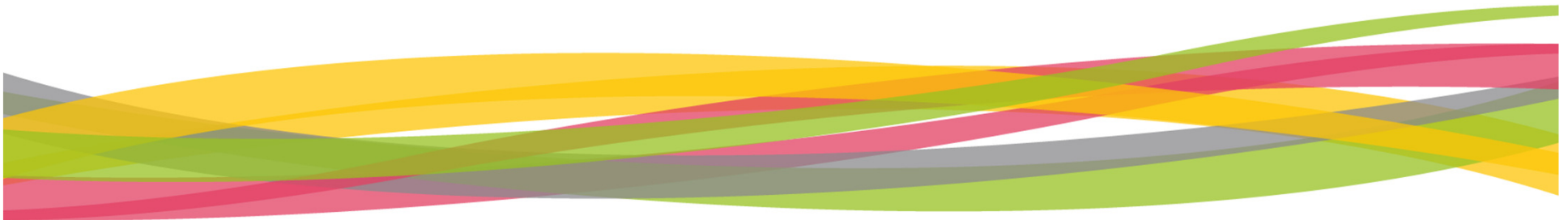
- + Staff
- + Office and Administration (15% flat rate of staff)
- + Travel and Accommodation
- + External Experts and Services
- + Equipment
- + Investments

- + Based on documented real costs



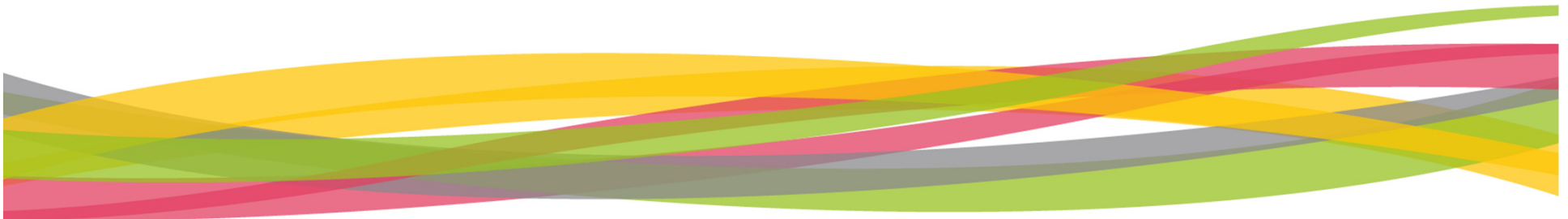
External Experts & Services

- + Procurement! Including project management and first level control
- + ‘We could only find one guy’ – Never pre-select suppliers



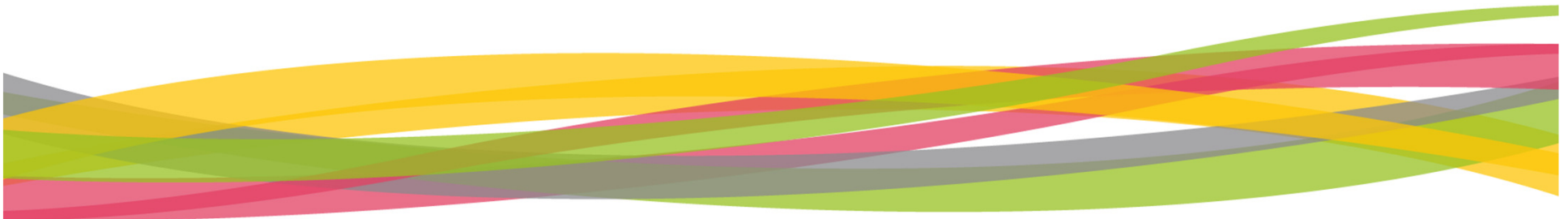
Equipment and Investments

- + Regular equipment vs Specialist equipment
- + Transnational benefit of infrastructure
- + Procurement
- + After the project...?



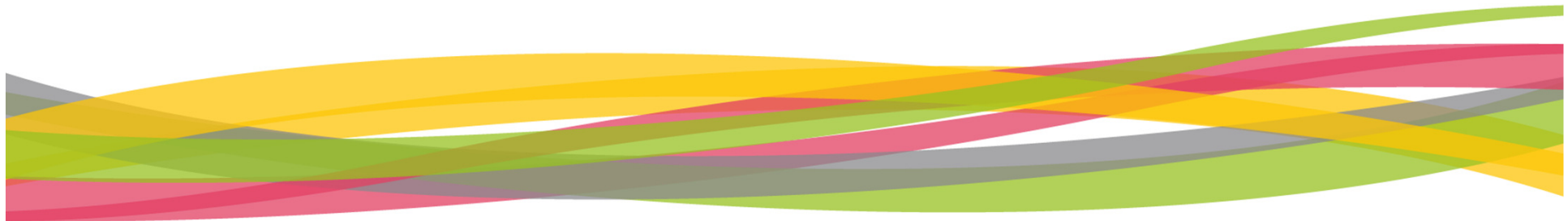
Tender

- + **Key message:** All contracts for any amount over €5,000 are offered to a range of bidders and advertisement and selection procedures must be documented (min 3 offers).
- + 4 rules to consider (over EU threshold; below EU threshold/ national / organisational; below €5,000)



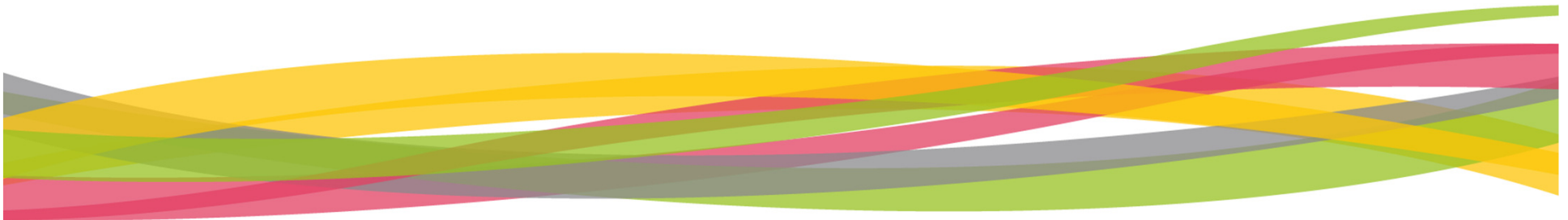
Partnership Roles and Responsibilities

- + **Key message:** Every project has a Lead Beneficiary with overall responsibility for ensuring the project is delivered according to plan
- + All beneficiaries – responsible for own activities and accuracy of expenditure
- + Local partnerships: Co-ordinating and Co-beneficiaries (same country!)



Private Sector Beneficiaries

- + Private sector partners are a risk factor
- + State aid, documentation, revenue, tendering
- + Monitor and assist them



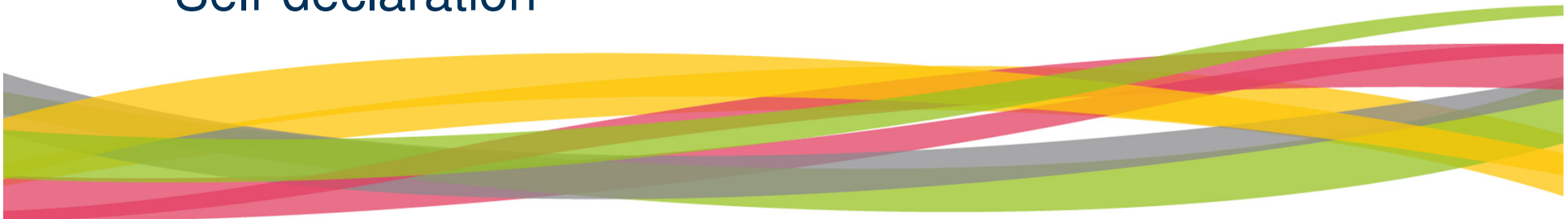
State Aid

Private and public beneficiaries – dependent on activities

- revenue generation, now or in future?
- competitive advantage?
- distortion of competition?

Applying under a State Aid Scheme

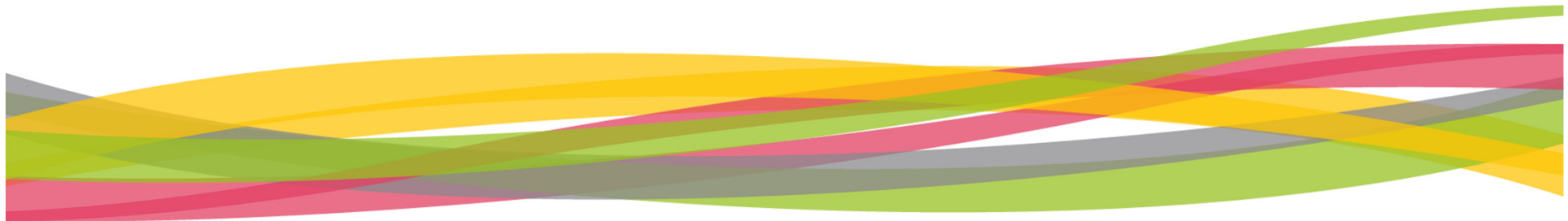
- De Minimis: Max €200,000 over 3 fiscal years
- Self-declaration



State Aid

General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER):

- Article 20 only in North Sea Region programme
- SMEs only
- €2 million max
- Only for costs of participating in a European Territorial Cooperation project
- 50% funding for services for final recipients



State Aid

Not State Aid relevant (public sector organisations only – and not always)

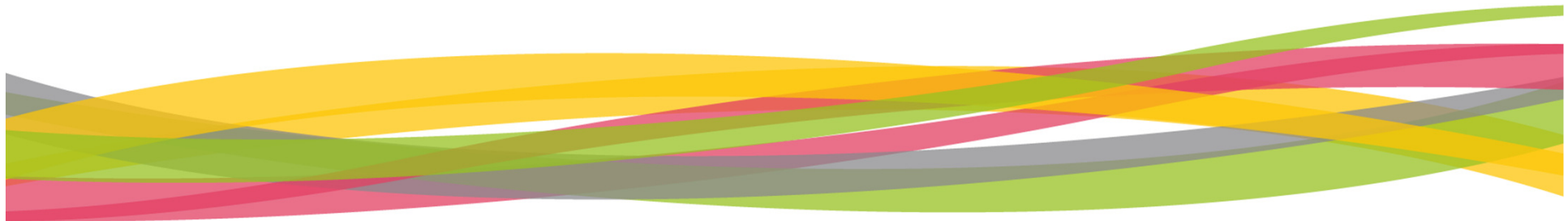
No economic advantage (not for profit-generating businesses)

- + All results publically available (replicable)
- + No proprietary or commercial rights
- + Real costs only
- + Must use tender rules (also private sector)
- + Must comply with all programme rules etc.



Location of Beneficiaries and Expenditure

- + **Key message:** As a basic rule all beneficiaries, activities and expenditure have to take place inside the boundaries of the North Sea Region.
- + Location of Lead Beneficiary
- + Partners outside programme area – 3 zones and special rules apply
 - Zone 1: The rest of the territory of Member States that are part of the North Sea Region (e.g. Berlin)
 - Zone 2: Member States which are not in the North Sea Region (e.g. Poland)
 - Zone 3: Non-EU countries outside the programme area (e.g. Iceland)
- + Location of expenditure – max 20% outside of programme area
- + Alternative arrangements: invited experts or contracted service providers



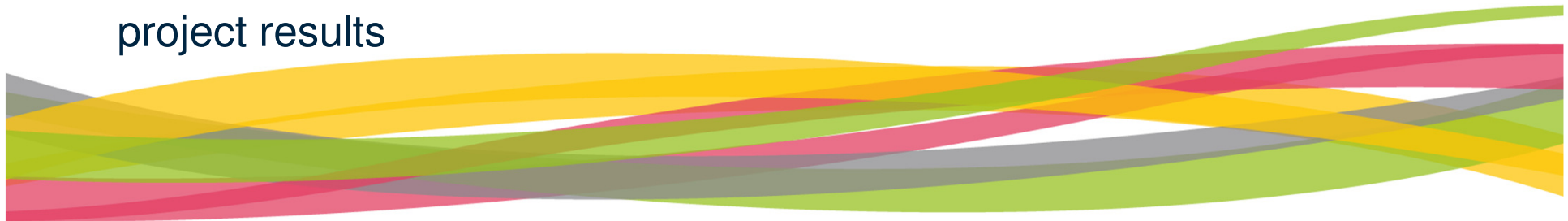
Publicity Requirements

Key message

- + Accepting an EU grant means agreeing to promote the work of the European Union in the North Sea Region
- + All materials produced for distribution outside the partnership must clearly state EU funding
- + The programme's strategy is built on active and effective communication of project results

Requirements

- + Set up and use website(webspace provided)
- + Use project logo provided by secretariat
- + Plaque/ billboard for infrastructure investments >500,000 EUR



Indicators

- + Read Fact Sheet 23!
- + Only results are required at EoI stage
- + But the core output indicator for each specific objective (page 6-11) tells you which specific objective to apply for
- + Check programme definitions of ‘deliverables’, ‘outputs’ and ‘results’ – Don’t get rejected for technicalities!

- + Results are essential – also at EoI stage
- + They **must** measure a benefit / improvement

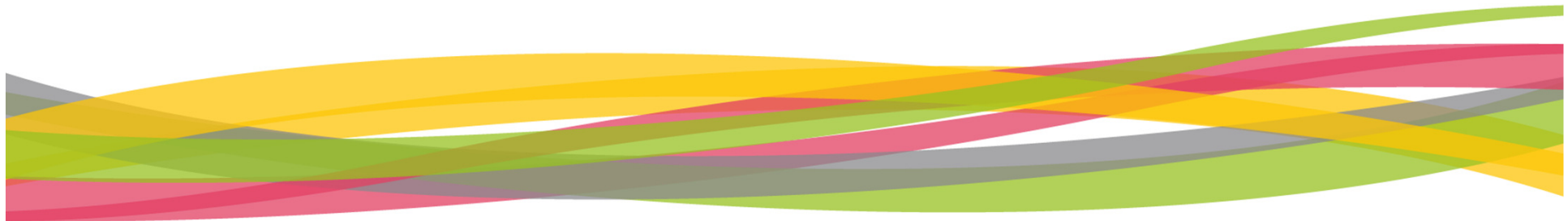




Final thoughts...

- + For Expression of interest you need....
- + Most if not all partners in place
- + Good estimate of budget
- + 3 good result indicators (which should not change significantly)

- + ...and of course a clear description of what you want to do and why...



Thanks you for your endurance

Fact Sheets and Guidance Note online

www.northsearegion.eu

Contact the Joint Secretariat for technical questions

