

Joint Operational Programme “Black Sea 2007-2013” Newsletter August 2010

Common borders. Common solutions.

Highlights of the third newsletter:

1. Improvement of the website tools
2. JMC meeting in Batumi
3. Status of the Evaluation and Selection process
4. Next Call for Proposals

1. Improvement of the website's tools

The Joint Managing Authority launched an improved version of the Programme's web site (www.blacksea-cbc.net) in March 2010.

A special attention was paid to the Partner search tool and Project idea search tool. These databases aim at encouraging the creation of cross-border partnerships and at supporting projects generation.

Potential beneficiaries may search for partners and/or register as partners in the programme's partners database by country, region, priority and measure. Organisations can include other details about themselves such as: the type of organization, its fields of interest, the amount of funds that they are interested in obtaining, making it easier for those searching particular kinds of partners.

Also, the organisations can publish their project ideas on the programme's website. This electronic instrument was created for those who already have a project idea but do not have partners with whom to implement it. The fact that a project idea is published on the Programme's website, does not mean that the Joint Managing Authority takes any responsibility for the quality or the relevance of the submitted project ideas.

Another communication tool available on the Programme website is the electronic newsletter. This is published by the Joint Managing Authority twice a year and presents news about the state of play of the Programme and future developments. Those who are interested in receiving the newsletter can subscribe on the Programme' site.

2. Third meeting of the Joint Monitoring Committee



Batumi, Georgia

The third meeting of the Joint Monitoring Committee was held in Batumi, Georgia, on the 28th of June 2010.

The meeting was attended by the members of the Joint Monitoring Committee representing the eight countries participating in the programme (Armenia, Bulgaria, Greece, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Turkey, and Ukraine), representatives of the Joint Managing Authority (Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism), European Commission, RCBI and INTERACT ENPI.

The following documents were approved during this meeting: the Annual Implementation Report, the revised Rules of Procedure of JMC and the Manual for step 3: technical and financial evaluation.

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28 June 2010, JMC meeting

3. Current state of the Evaluation and Selection process

The eligibility check of the applications submitted under the first Call for proposals has been finalized at the beginning of August 2010 after the meeting of the Selection Committee.

During the same month the selected external independent assessors will carry out the quality assessment (final step) of the applications submitted under this Call.

The final decision on selection of the projects will be taken by the Joint Monitoring Committee. The JMC meeting is planned to be organised in September.

Given this indicative calendar the JMA estimates that the first grant contracts should be signed before the end of the year.

4. Second call for proposals of the Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2007-2013

The Joint Managing Authority for the Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2007-2013 is planning to launch the second call for proposals in October 2010.

Cross-border cooperation projects will be financed within this call, in the areas of sustainable economic development, tourism, nature and environment protection and cultural cooperation, areas that correspond to the three priorities of the Programme.

The indicative amount of ENPI funds available under the second call is **8.501.844 Euro EURO**, and Turkey participates with IPA funds amounting to **3.256.852 Euro EURO**. The cofinancing of the EU is 90 % of the total eligible costs at project level.

The eligible area of the Programme includes the following countries: Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, R. Moldova, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine.

The organizations from Russian Federation and Azerbaijan can participate in the Programme only with their own funding, as „associate partners”, as Russian Federation and Azerbaijan did not sign the Financial Agreement with the European Commission by 31 of December 2009.

The eligible applicants are: central public authority (Eg: Ministry of Environment), local/regional public authority (e.g. city councils), body governed by public law (contracting authorities as defined by the national legislations transposing Directive 2004/18/EC on public procurement), associations formed by one or several national, regional or local public authorities or one or several bodies governed by public law, public undertakings as defined in Directive 2004/17/EC, other non profit organizations, Euroregions, EGTC.

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For this second call for proposals the Joint Managing Authority is planning to launch a new improved version of the Guidelines for Grant Applicants which will be available for public consultation on the Programme's web site in September 2010.

Also, in the framework of the second call for proposals the JMA together with the RCBI (Regional Capacity Building Initiative) and the National Authorities from the participating countries in the Programme will organize Partnership Forums and project preparation workshops.

The calendar of the events together with the registration form, as well as more information about the launching of the second call will be published in the following period on the Programme's website (www.blacksea-cbc.net).

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