

Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme

Webinar

Application Pack - *Regular projects*

6th of April 2023



1st call for
project
proposals

Personal data protection notification Regulation (EU) 2016/679

- Please note that this meeting will be video and audio recorded and the information collected shall be used for communication and information purposes.
- The photographs and/or videos taken during the event can be used on social media, on the Programme's website and for the Programme's communication and information activities.
- Personal data collection, processing and storage shall be performed by MA according to the provisions of the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 for the purpose of implementation of the Programme, including archiving and statistics, by taking all technical and organizational measures necessary in order to ensure the integrity and confidentiality of your personal data.
- Any personal data processed by MA may also be transferred only to other bodies with responsibilities as regards the Programme.
- By attending this meeting you agree on the collection and on processing of your personal data as described above.
- If you do not agree with the personal data collection and processing for the mentioned purposes, please turn off your camera and microphone.

Webex meeting

- Turn OFF Video;
- During the presentations, please keep your microphones muted;
- Use the chat for transmitting questions;
- After each part, a Q&A session will be organized;

First call for proposals - Regular projects

Call duration: 3 months (30th of March - 4th of July, 2023, 16:00hrs Romania time)

Financial allocation:

Interreg Funds - 90%

- Total: EUR 26,610,390
- Per Specific Objective: EUR 8,870,130
- Per project: EUR 500,001 - 1,500,000

Project duration: Up to 30 months

Call for proposals for regular projects

Application pack available here: www.blacksea-cbc.net



GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CALL

PART I - KEY ASPECTS OF THE (INTERREG VI-B NEXT) BLACK SEA BASIN PROGRAMME

PART II - PROJECT'S MAIN REQUIREMENTS

PART III - APPLICATION FORM - OFFLINE TEMPLATE

PART IV - ASSESSMENT, SELECTION AND CONTRACTING

ANNEXES

Submission of Application Form - Joint Electronic Monitoring System (JeMS)

- Applications submitted on-line, only by the Lead Partner
- Other users (consultants or Partners) allowed to fill in sections of the Application - they can read or add/modify data in the AF, only after the Lead Partner gives the necessary permissions
- REGISTER ON **EC PARTICIPANT REGISTER** PRIOR TO SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATION!



Pre-submission checks automatically made by JeMS - verifies that all sections are filled in with text, not the quality of information!



JeMS does not allow submission of Application unless all fields are filled in.



Take sufficient time for verifications!



MAIN FEATURES OF THE PROJECT ACTIVITIES

1. Contribution to Programme Objectives and Priorities

Policy Objective 1

A more
competitive and
smarter Europe

Priority 1

Blue and
Smart
region

Specific Objective

1. Developing and enhancing
research and innovation
capacities

Priorities

Policy Objective 2

A greener Europe

Priority 2

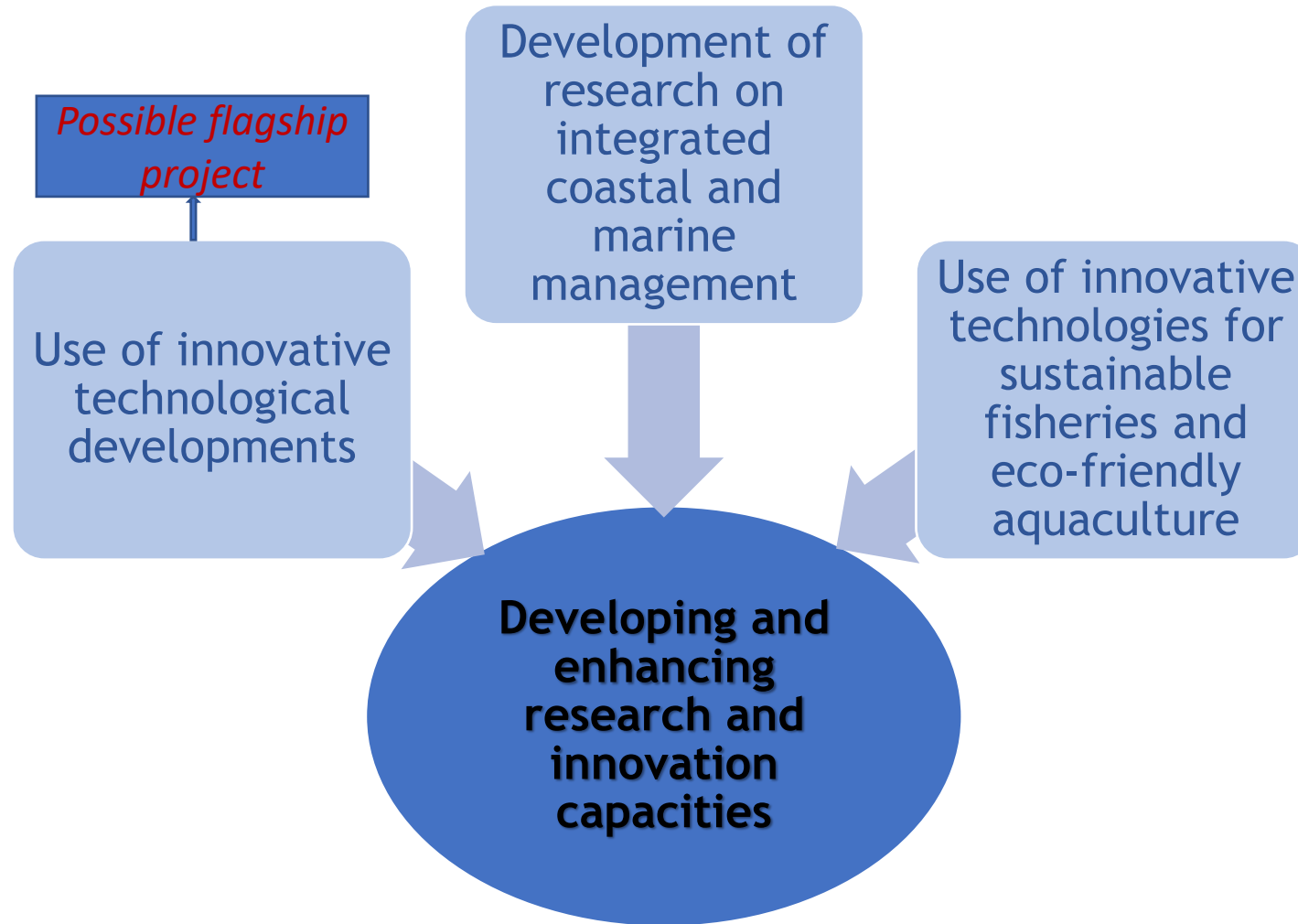
Clean and
Green
region

Specific Objectives

4. Promoting climate
change adaptation and
disaster risk prevention

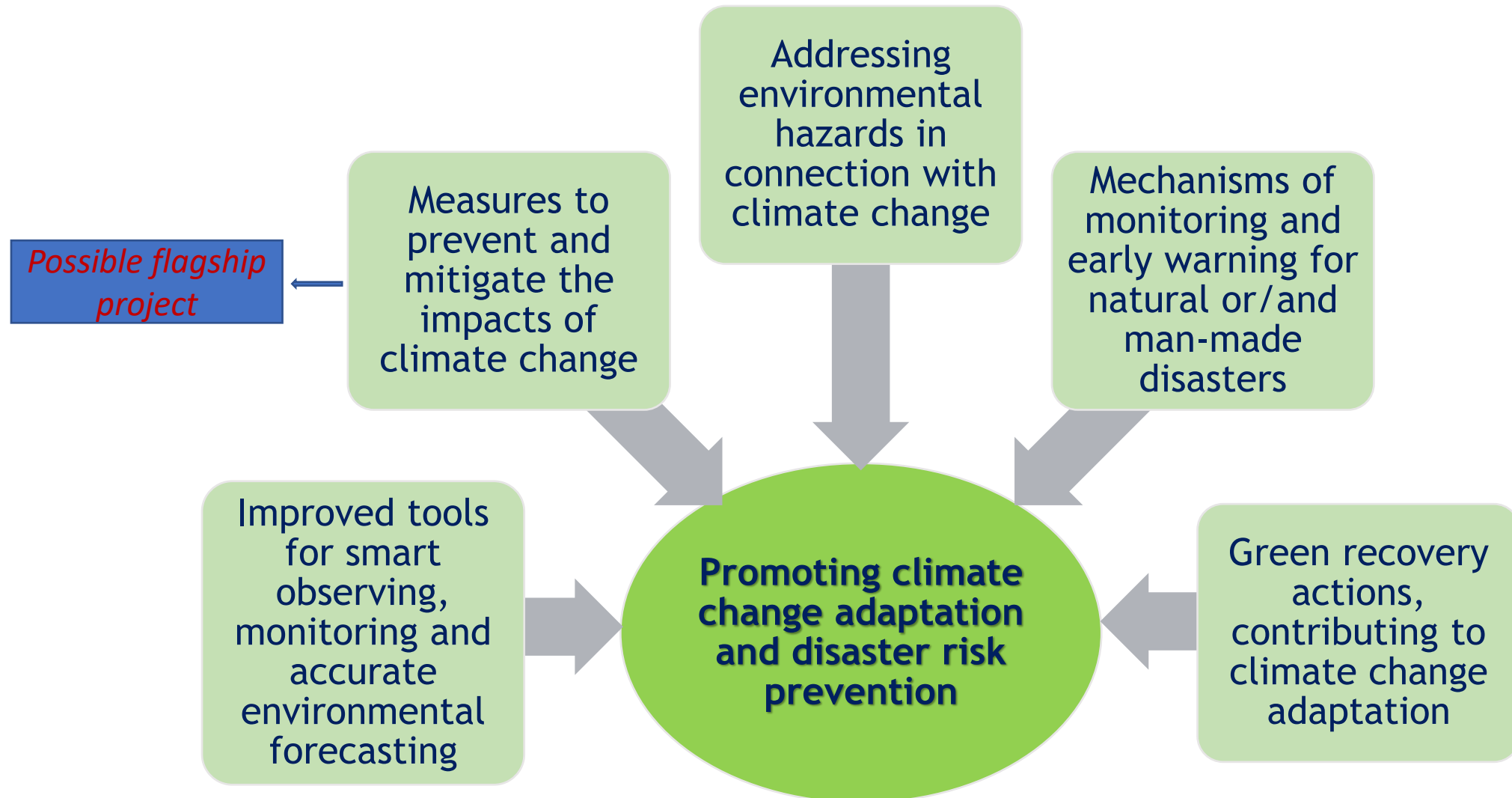
7. Enhancing protection
and preservation of
nature, biodiversity and
green infrastructure

Fields of action (1/3)



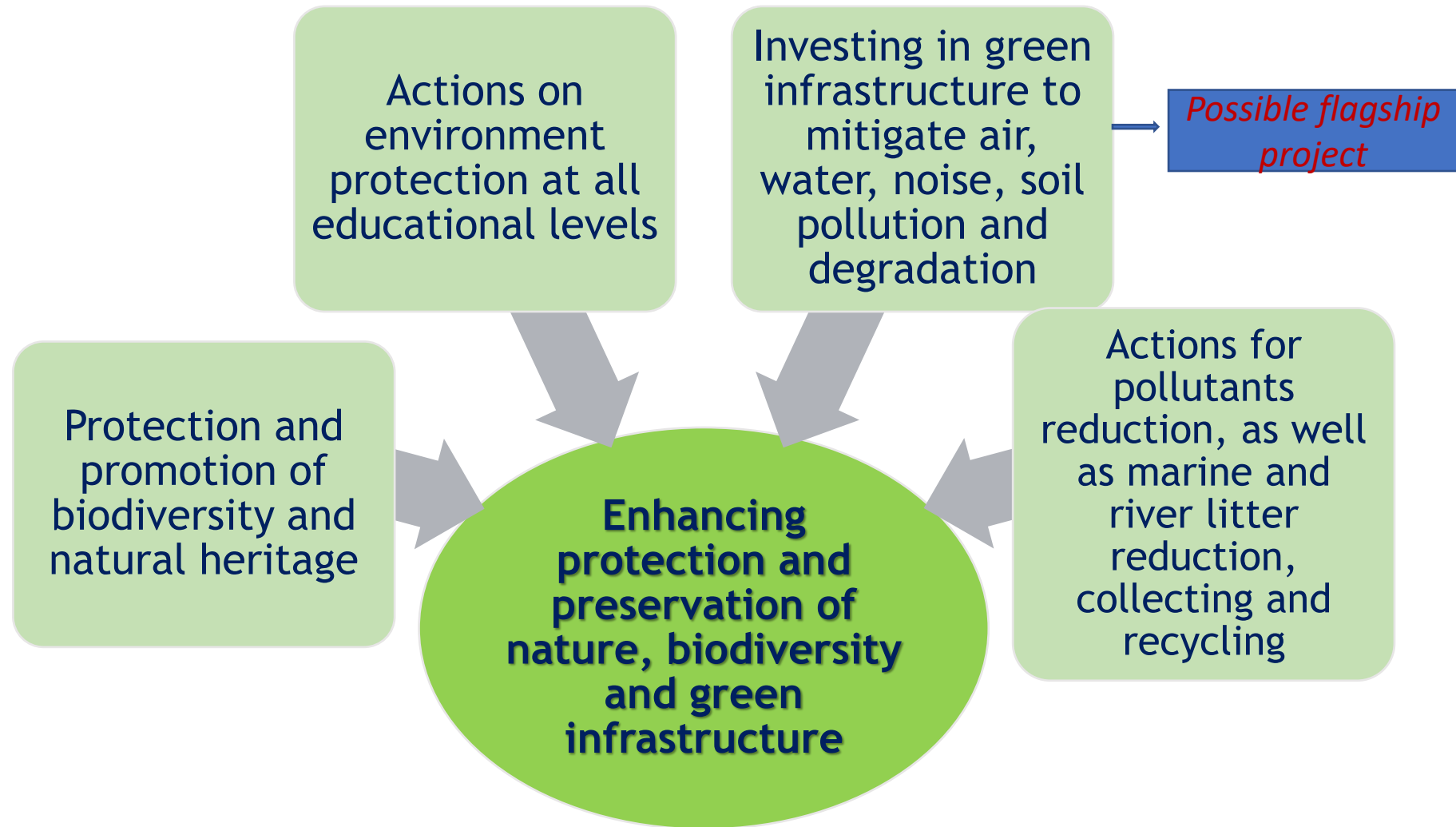
Priority 1 - Specific Objective 1

Fields of action (2/3)



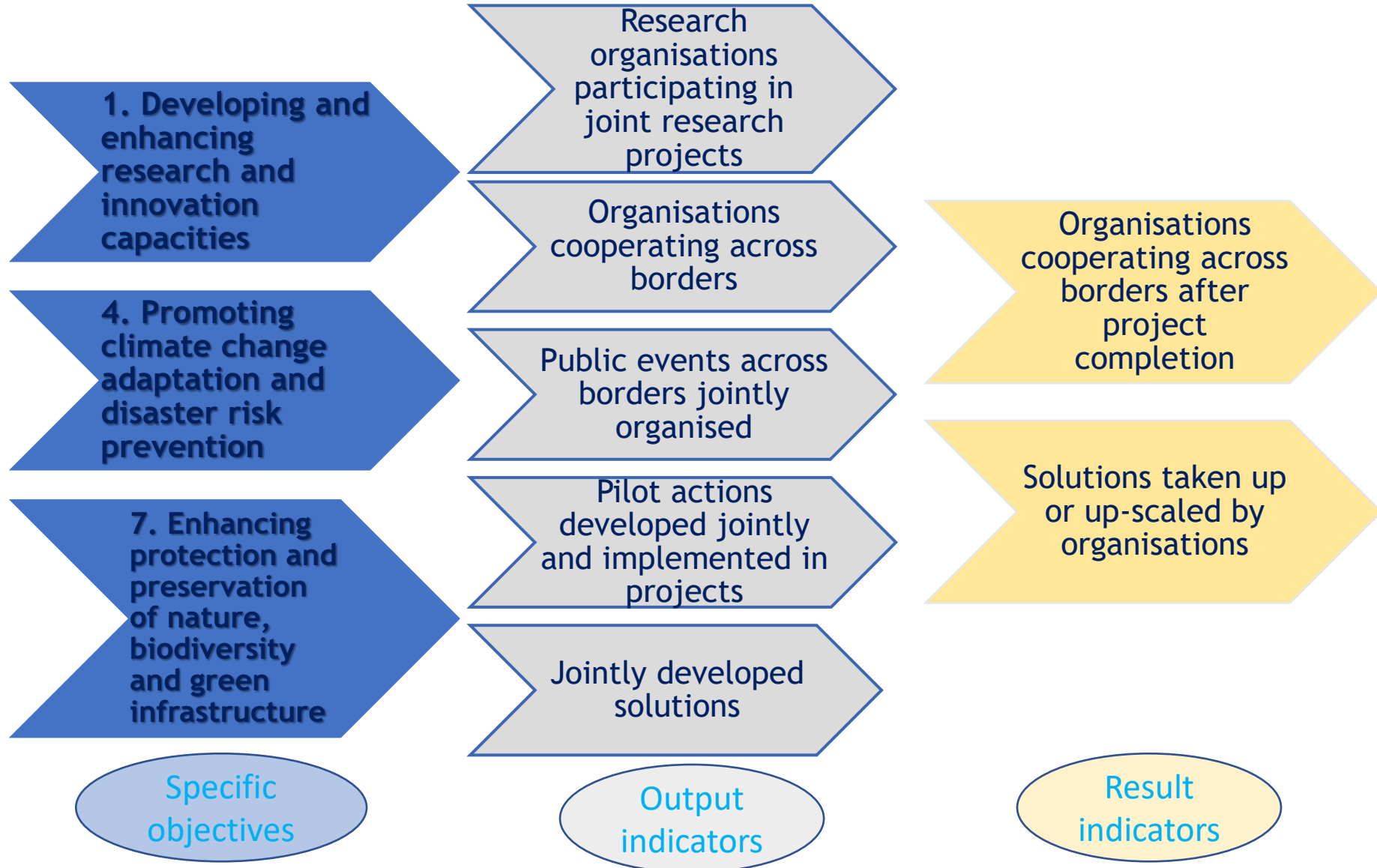
Priority 2 - Specific Objective 4

Fields of action (3/3)



Priority 2 - Specific Objective 7

Expected results



2. Transnational relevance

Transnational relevance is a key quality requirement

Each project should foresee activities which address the main challenges that are shared across the regions participating in the project, have a clear transnational impact and contribute to one of the programme specific objectives

This means:

- ❖ *All partners actively participate in the project in order to achieve the project results;*
- ❖ *Solutions are jointly developed by organisations in different participating countries working together in a project, thereby showing a clear transnational added value going beyond the results independently achievable in the involved regions;*
- ❖ *Project outputs reflect the transnational, joint approach;*
- ❖ *The problems identified can be solved more efficiently jointly, instead of individual regions or countries acting alone*

Projects are not considered transnational if they produce and/or just consist of a series of local actions or solutions linked only through a vague thematic relationship and/or an ex-post exchange of experience or information among partners without any joint implementation

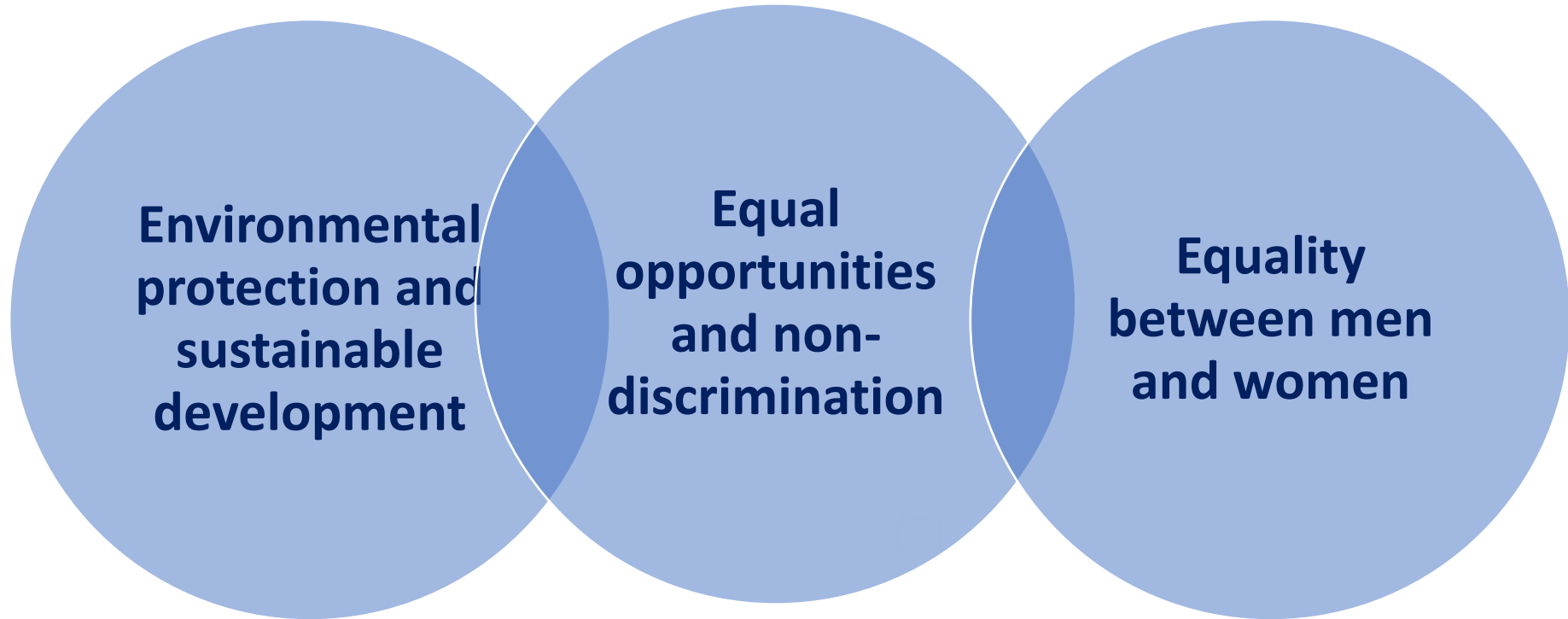
3. Contribution to a macro-regional strategy or a sea-basin strategy

Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme contributes to the Common Maritime Agenda objectives and activities

Other relevant strategies:

- ❖ EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- ❖ EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)

4. Horizontal principles compliance



! Read Annex 1

4.1 Environmental protection and sustainable development

Projects submitted under any specific objective are strongly encouraged to incorporate activities for tackling environmental concerns and reducing their environmental and carbon footprint

Examples:

- ❖ *Include environmental criteria in procurement procedures;*
- ❖ *Giving preference to environmentally-friendly mobility options (in particular for short travel distances);*
- ❖ *Organise conferences and events in a sustainable way (e.g. by combining different meetings in one place, reducing printing and using recyclable materials, using video conference facilities, etc.);*
- ❖ *Consider resource efficiency and the use of renewable energy at all levels;*
- ❖ *Make use of regional supply chains (reducing supply chain length and CO2 emissions).*

In case a partner suspects that a project activity is likely to harm the environment, it should consult the environmental local/regional authority and if necessary, shall undertake, at its own cost an Environmental Impact Assessment if indicated by the local/regional authority, according to the national legislation

4.2 Equal opportunities and non-discrimination

No one should be discriminated based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. Instead, project activities should, where possible, increase the possibilities of all groups to participate in the activities of the society

Examples:

- ❖ *Ensure products, goods, services and infrastructures that are open or provided to the citizens are accessible to all citizens including those with disabilities;*
- ❖ *Accessibility to the physical environment, transport, ICT shall be ensured in order to promote inclusion of disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities;*
- ❖ *Guarantee that all communication products (websites, electronic newsletters, publications, etc.) are accessible;*
- ❖ *Use straightforward language that guarantees cognitive accessibility;*
- ❖ *Emphasise social diversity in videos, posters, etc., using people with a variety of profiles to encourage identification among all groups;*
- ❖ *Involve members of minority groups in your activities and/or composition of the project team;*
- ❖ *Take into account the needs of the various target groups at risk of discrimination.*

4.3 Equality between men and women


To make possible that everyone, regardless of gender, has the right to work and support themselves, to balance career and family life, and to live without the fear of abuse or violence

Examples:


- ❖ *Take into account findings from gender analyses, gender impact assessment, or stakeholders consultation when planning your project;*
- ❖ *Elaborate gender-specific objectives in line with the latest findings and with the objectives of the project and explain how these objectives would be achieved;*
- ❖ *Take into account gender-balanced composition of the project team;*
- ❖ *Ensure the participation of gender experts in teams or groups;*
- ❖ *When organizing events and conferences, give a good balance between women and men speakers;*
- ❖ *Give visibility to gender issues and avoid the use of sexist language and stereotypical or discriminatory images;*
- ❖ *Take into account to promote gender equality through the goods, services or works being purchased (it means that the buyer and supplier examine the impact of all contracted activities on women's and men's needs, interests and concerns, and design and deliver contracts in a way that reduces inequalities).*

5. Capitalisation of previous programmes' results

Projects may include activities to capitalise on the achieved results of previous projects aiming at their roll out into broader policies, strategies, action plans



Capitalisation activities should also focus on the widening up of the audience/target groups of existing project results beyond the partnership and/or the raising of ownership and awareness of relevant stakeholders



A database with ENI CBC Black Sea Basin 2014-2020 projects results, available on the [Programme website](#)



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility of activities

One Single Work Package

Implemented in the programme eligible area

Partially outside the programme area, only if they are:

- For the benefit of the regions; *and*
- Essential for the project; *and*
- Explicitly foreseen in the application

Example:

- capacity building,
- exchange of experience,
- promotion of project results at international level.

Eligibility of applicants (1)

Type - Legal status:

a) Public authorities

b) Bodies governed by public law

c) Non-profit organisations

- Meeting needs of general public interest, no commercial or industrial character
- Have legal personality
- Are financed for the most part by the state or local authorities

Geographical location:

Effectively established (registered and located as legal entities) in the eligible area.

Legal status and geographical location are cumulative criteria!!!



Eligibility of applicants (2)

Exceptions:

- ❖ Faculties, educational departments within a university (registered and located in the eligible area) - shall be considered separate legal entities;



- ❖ A public authority or a body governed by public law having a mandate which covers the entire country, but with main office/headquarter located outside eligible area, may be eligible through its' subsidiary office operating in the eligible area, even if the subsidiary it's not registered as a distinct legal entity.

Important! The involvement of the subsidiary should be essential in terms of exclusive institutional competences and relevance for the project implementation.

- ❖ Organisations from Ukraine effectively established (registered and located in the eligible area), with offices operating, at the date of project submission, in other areas in Ukraine outside the programme eligible area.

Ineligible applicants



- Organisations which are not effectively established in the eligible area;
- Entities from the public or private sector established for commercial and profit making purposes;
- International organizations;
- Organisations representing and owned by religious cults;
- Natural persons;
- Political Parties.

Partnership (1)

- Minimum 4 - maximum 6 partners
- Maximum 2 partners from the same country;
- Partners - from at least 3 different participating countries including at least one from a EU Member State and one from a partner country;
- Same organization - Leader in maximum 1 **grant contract** per Priority - rule applies separately for small scale projects and regular projects
- A Lead Partner/Partner - may be partner in other applications;



Departments/units/sub-units of the same Lead Partner shall not be considered different Partner under the same Priority;

Partnership (2)



COMPETENT & RELEVANT



Relevance (all partners):

- ✓ have good knowledge of the challenges in the targeted area and of the needs of the target groups;
- ✓ have the adequate expertise and thematic competence to implement the project;
- ✓ be involved in a way that demonstrates the joint implementation of the project.

Professional and financial capacity:

- ✓ All partners have competences and financial capacity to manage the project and to secure the cash-flow needed for the project implementation;
- and**
- ✓ Lead partner has relevant experience for managing a cooperation project.

Check with MA that project partners do not have any unpaid debt to the MA for any project financed under ENI-CBC Black Sea Basin Programme 2014-2020.

Find partners



Access: <https://blacksea-cbc.net/bsb-community>



Register/login



Browse ideas *or* Find partners





FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

Payment arrangements and reporting



1 **Advance payment** - maximum 30% - recovered by deducting 20% from the eligible value of the next payment requests until the amount is recovered

N **Several interim payments** - linked and based on actual expenditure made and reported



Reports - cover 4 months implementation period

- plus 1.5 months for preparation and submission to the controllers for expenditure verification
- include technical and financial information

Main budget lines - regular projects



- **1. Staff - 20%** of the eligible direct costs other than staff costs
- **2. Office and administration (indirect) - 7%** of the eligible direct costs
 - *Automatically calculated in Jems*
 - *No justifying/supporting documents required*



Flat rate

- **3. Travel and Accommodation**
- **4. External expertise and services**
- **5. Equipment**
- **6. Infrastructure and works**
 - *Justifying/supporting documents required*
 - *Certification by the controller required*



Real costs

1. STAFF COSTS

- Consists of gross employment costs of staff employed for implementing the project.
- Shall be calculated as a **flat rate of 20%** of eligible direct costs other than staff costs, at partner level - *automatically calculated in Jems*, as soon as the amounts for budget lines 3, 4, 5 and 6 are filled in.
- Expenditure limited to:

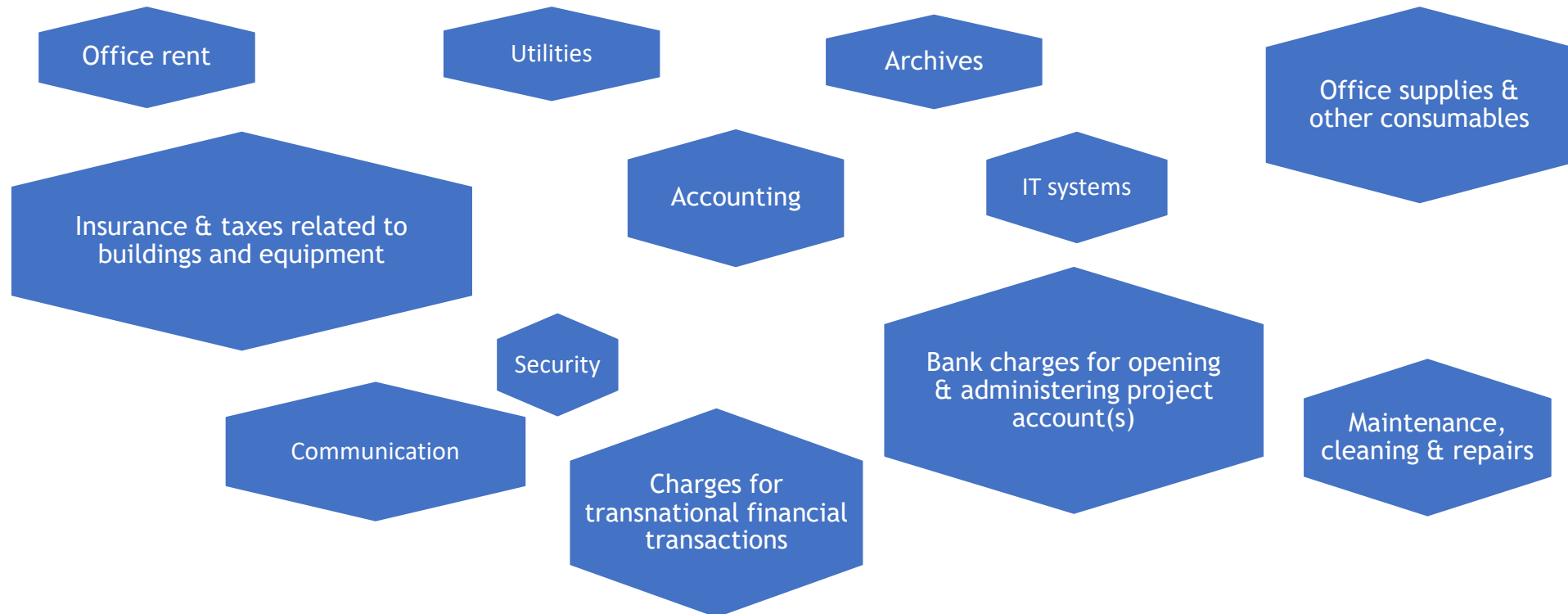
Salary payments related to activities which would not be carried out if operation concerned is not undertaken, provided for in an employment document or by law and relating to responsibilities specified in job description

Any other costs directly linked to salary payments incurred and paid by employer

- Payments to natural persons working under a *contract* other than an employment or work contract may be assimilated to salary payments  *employment document*.

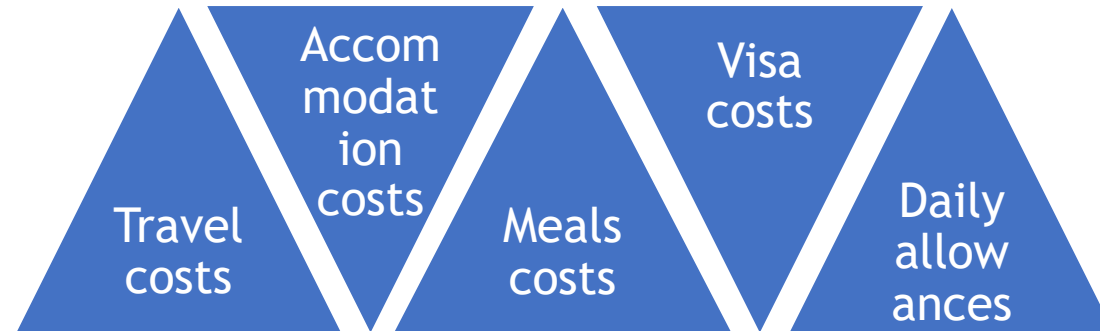
2. OFFICE AND ADMINISTRATION

- Include operating and administrative expenses necessary for project implementation.
- Shall be reimbursed only as a **flat rate of 7%** of the eligible direct costs, at partner level - *automatically calculated in Jems*, as soon as the amounts for budget lines 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are filled in.
- Expenditure limited to:



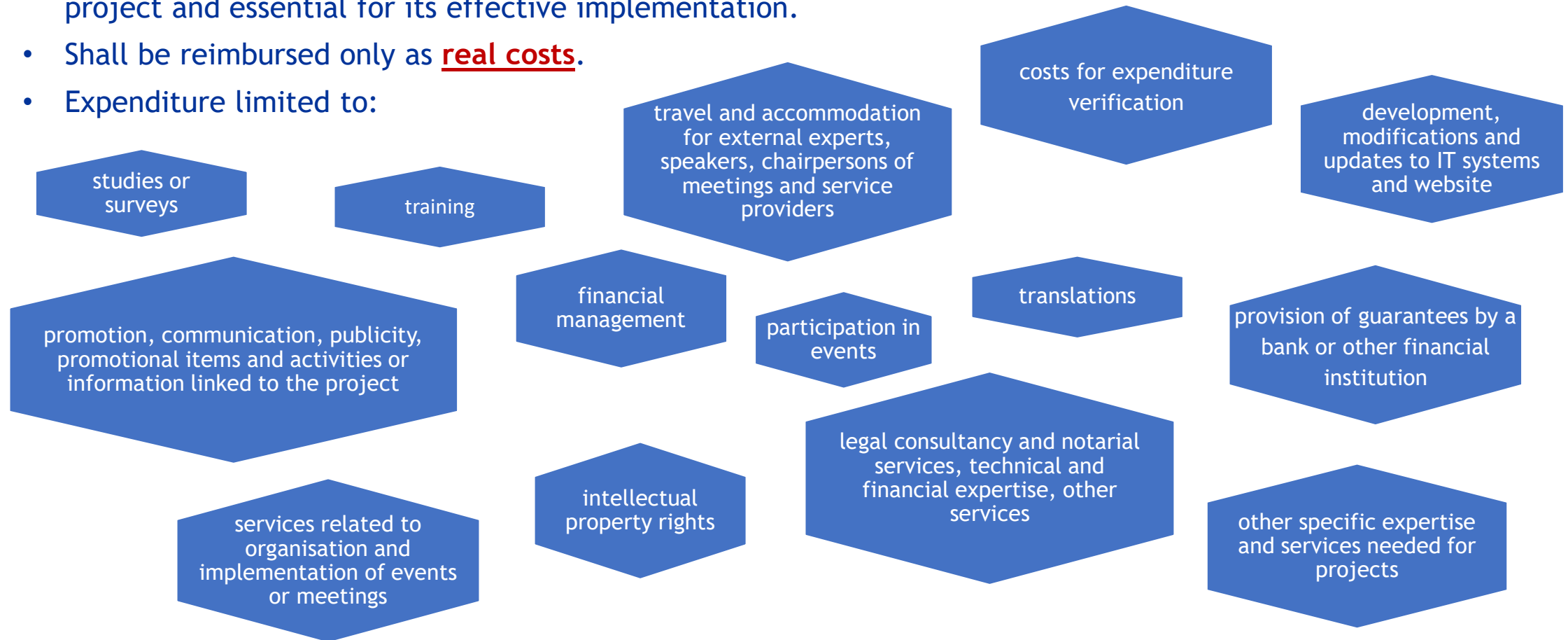
3. TRAVEL AND ACCOMODATION

- Refer to travel and accommodation for *project staff, personnel or management staff of the partner(s)* who execute tasks directly related to the project and must be justified by activities carried out.
- **!** Costs for travel and accommodation of *external experts and service providers* shall be reimbursed under budget line 4.
- Shall be reimbursed only as **real costs**.
- Expenditure limited to:



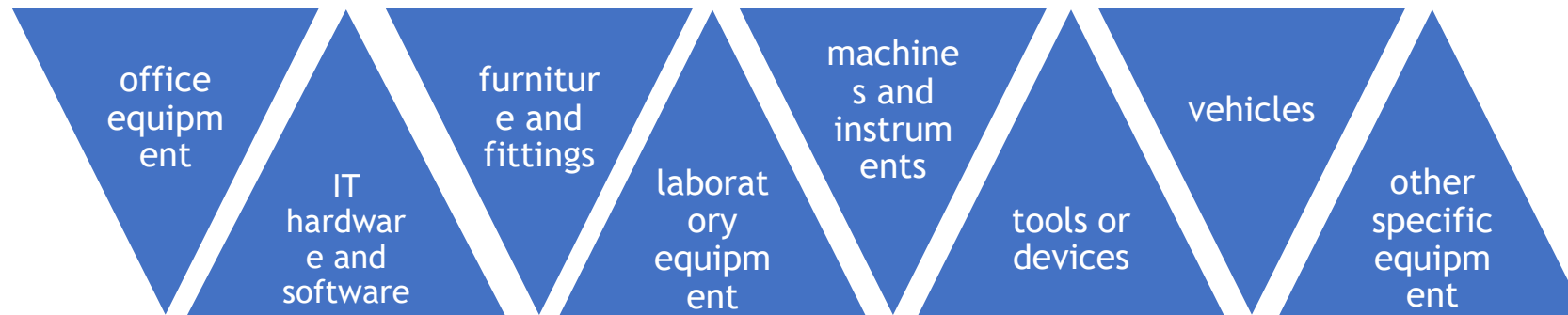
4. EXTERNAL EXPERTISE AND SERVICES

- Refer to external expertise and services provided by a public or private body or a natural person outside of partner organisation and contracted to carry out certain tasks or activities which are strictly linked to the project and essential for its effective implementation.
- Shall be reimbursed only as real costs.
- Expenditure limited to:



5. EQUIPMENT

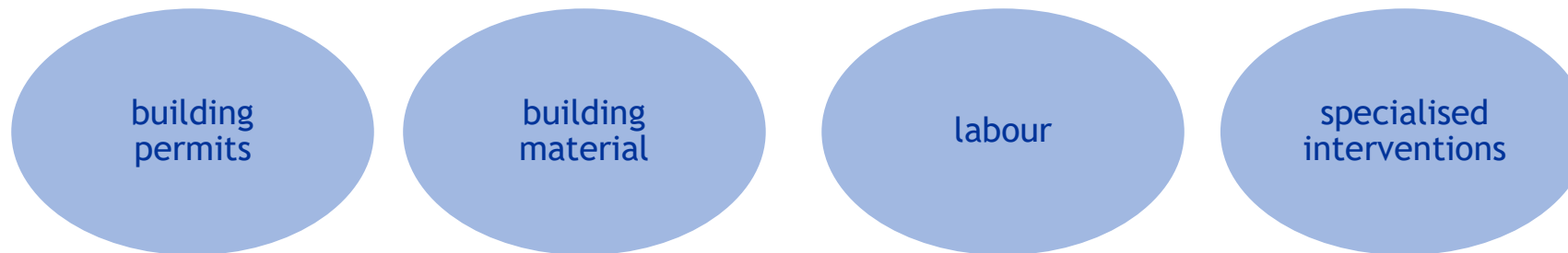
- Refer to expenditure for equipment purchased, rented or leased specifically for the purpose of the project, which should be listed in the approved project budget.
- Shall be reimbursed only as **real costs**.
- Expenditure limited to:



- During project implementation, purchase of any new type of equipment not explicitly mentioned in the Application will be subject to prior approval.
- For rental or lease of equipment, the cost(s) shall be eligible only based on a well-grounded justification provided in the Application.

6. INFRASTRUCTURE AND WORKS

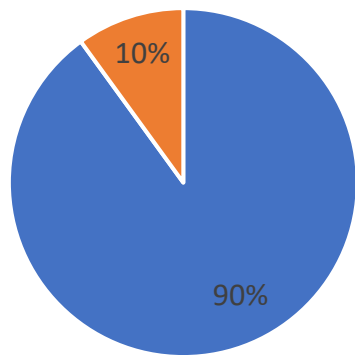
- Refer to costs incurred for the execution of the fixed investment(s) which is(are) necessary for the implementation of the project and achieving its objectives (e.g. renovation/construction of buildings, installation of equipment, etc.).
- Shall be reimbursed only as real costs.
- Expenditure limited to:



- ! The costs for e.g. an equipment which requires works for permanent installation shall be budgeted under this budget line.
- For investments in infrastructure with an expected lifespan of at least 5 years, an *assessment on how the potential impacts of climate change were taken into consideration* has to be made and described (climate proofing = climate adaptation & resilience).

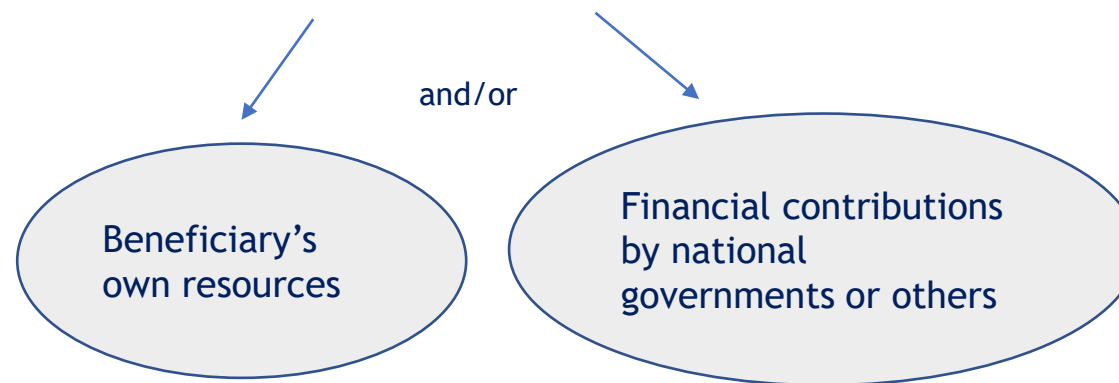
Co-financing

Project budget



■ Interreg funds ■ Co-financing

- Interreg funds - 90% of total eligible costs
- Co-financing - 10% of total eligible costs



percentages - equal for all Partners

Value Added Tax (VAT)


- VAT is considered **eligible** in projects.
- Nevertheless, project partners which according to national legislation are **entitled to recover VAT from other sources *shall not include*** in project budget and reimbursement and/or payment requests the amounts representing VAT corresponding to the reported/requested eligible expenditure.

Conversion into Euro

- Project budget must be developed in **Euro** and, in case of approval, reporting of project expenditure shall be made in **Euro**.
- Expenditure paid in **another currency shall be converted into Euro, automatically by Jems**, using the monthly accounting exchange rate of EC in the month during which that expenditure was submitted for verification.

State Aid



- State Aid is **not permitted**.
- **State Aid**  any aid granted by a MS or through *State resources* in any form whatsoever *which distorts or threatens to distort competition by favouring certain undertakings or the production of certain goods*, therefore *affecting trade* between MSs or between MSs and partner countries.
- Requirement to **check the Project activities for State Aid** (both direct and indirect) relevance when preparing the Application.
- All project activities will have to be assessed **at partner level**.
- During the **self-assessment**, all project partners should be able to clarify the aspects related to:
 - identification of “undertaking” and “economic activity”;
 - identification of possibility that activities bring a selective advantage to the project partner which would not be obtained under ‘normal market conditions’ .
- State aid will be **assessed during evaluation and selection process**.

Key takeaways - Activities

- Project overall objective clearly targets one single programme specific objective within the chosen priority
- Project corresponds to a relevant field of action of the selected specific objective
- Activities and outputs are logically linked to the targeted programme specific objective and field of action
- Project clearly contributes to the programme result indicator(s)

Key takeaways - Budget

- Reimbursement mechanism:

- One advance payment - maximum 30%
- Several interim payments - linked and based on actual expenditure made and reported; in each tranche, retention of 20% from the eligible value of the next payment requests.

&

- Co-financing of partner = 10% of the total project budget



Make sure your organisation owns sufficient financial resources necessary for the project implementation and to cover the co-financing

- VAT is eligible if not recovered from other sources
- Costs for investments outside the eligible area - not eligible;

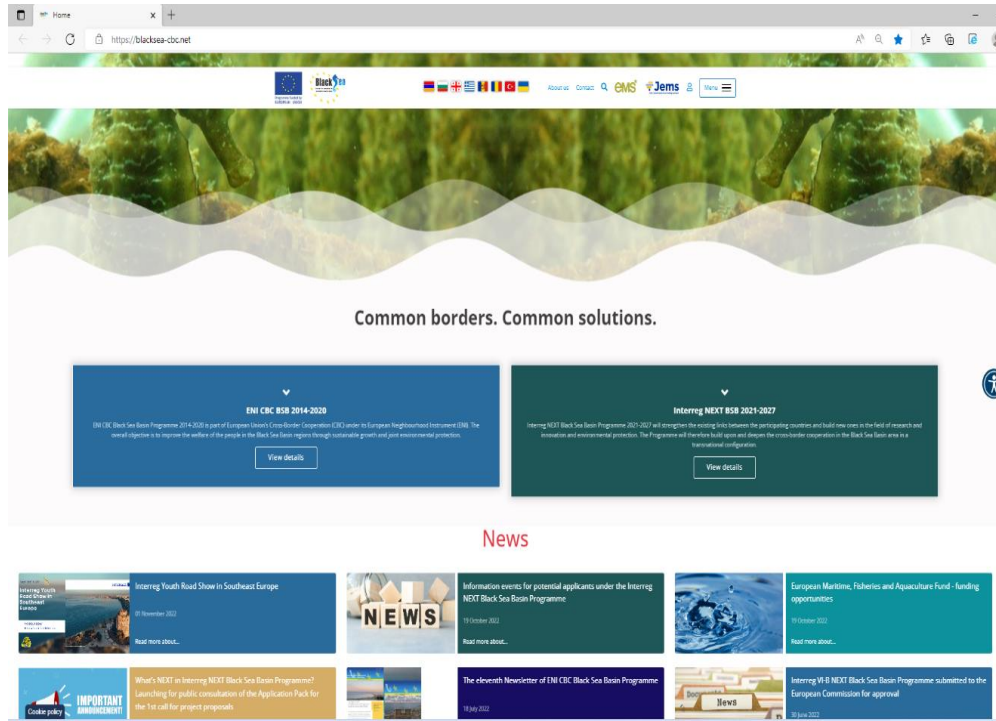
Information about the call

More information about the call and its Application Pack may be checked/downloaded at: <https://blacksea-cbc.net/interreg-next-bsb-2021-2027/calls-for-proposals/first-call-for-proposals>

Help Desk

Any request for clarifications may be addressed until 20th of June, 2023 to the Joint Secretariat at: office@bsb.adrse.ro

www.blacksea-cbc.net



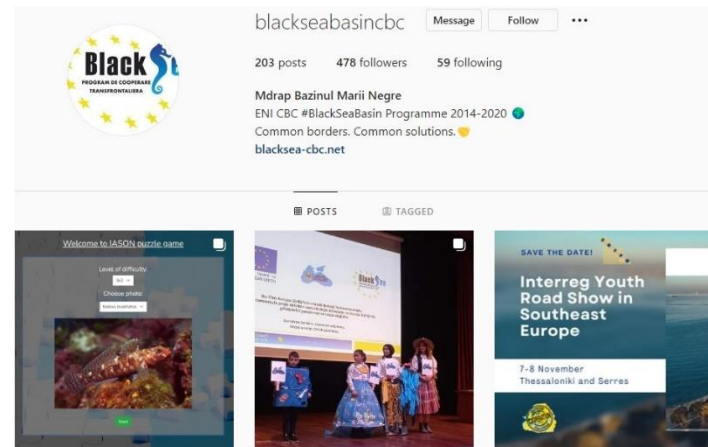
The screenshot shows the homepage of the Black Sea Basin CBC website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the European Union flag, the Black Sea Basin CBC logo, and flags of member countries. Below the navigation bar is a large banner image of a forest with a wavy white line across it. The main heading reads "Common borders. Common solutions." Below this, there are two main content boxes: "ENI CBC BSB 2014-2020" and "Interreg NEXT BSB 2021-2027", each with a "View details" button. A "News" section is located at the bottom, featuring several news items with images and titles, such as "Interreg Youth Road Show in Southeast Europe" and "Information events for potential applicants under the Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme".

www.facebook.com/BlackSeaBasin/



The screenshot shows the Facebook profile page for Black Sea Basin CBC. The cover photo features a satellite-style map of the Black Sea region with the text "Common borders. Common solutions." and an "edit" button. The profile picture is the Black Sea Basin CBC logo. The page name is "Black Sea Basin CBC" with the handle "@BlackSeaBasin" and a rating of 4.8 (18 reviews). Below the profile information, there are navigation tabs for "Home", "About", "Photos", "Reviews", and "More". There are also buttons for "Promote" and a search icon.

www.instagram.com/blackseabasincbc/



The screenshot shows the Instagram profile page for blackseabasincbc. The profile picture is the Black Sea Basin CBC logo. The bio reads: "Mdrap Bazinul Marii Negre ENI CBC #BlackSeaBasin Programme 2014-2020 Common borders. Common solutions. blacksea-cbc.net". The page shows 203 posts, 478 followers, and 59 following. Below the bio, there are tabs for "POSTS" and "TAGGED". Three posts are visible: a "Welcome to JASON" quiz image, a photo of a presentation stage with a Black Sea Basin CBC banner, and a poster for the "Interreg Youth Road Show in Southeast Europe" held on 7-8 November in Thessaloniki and Serres.