

Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme

Webinar

Application Pack - *Small scale projects*

11th 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

- Please turn OFF video;
- During presentations, please keep your microphones muted;
- Please use the chat for transmitting questions;
- Q&A session will be organized after each part.

Call for proposals - Small scale projects (1/2)

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

Financial allocation:

Interreg Funds - 90%

- Total: EUR 5,913,420
- Per Specific Objective: EUR 1,971,140
- Per project: EUR 250,000 - 500,000

Project duration: Up to 18 months

Aim: To strengthen people-to-people cooperation in the Programme area in the environmental and research fields through balanced partnerships between eligible legal entities.

Call for proposals - Small scale projects (2/2)

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

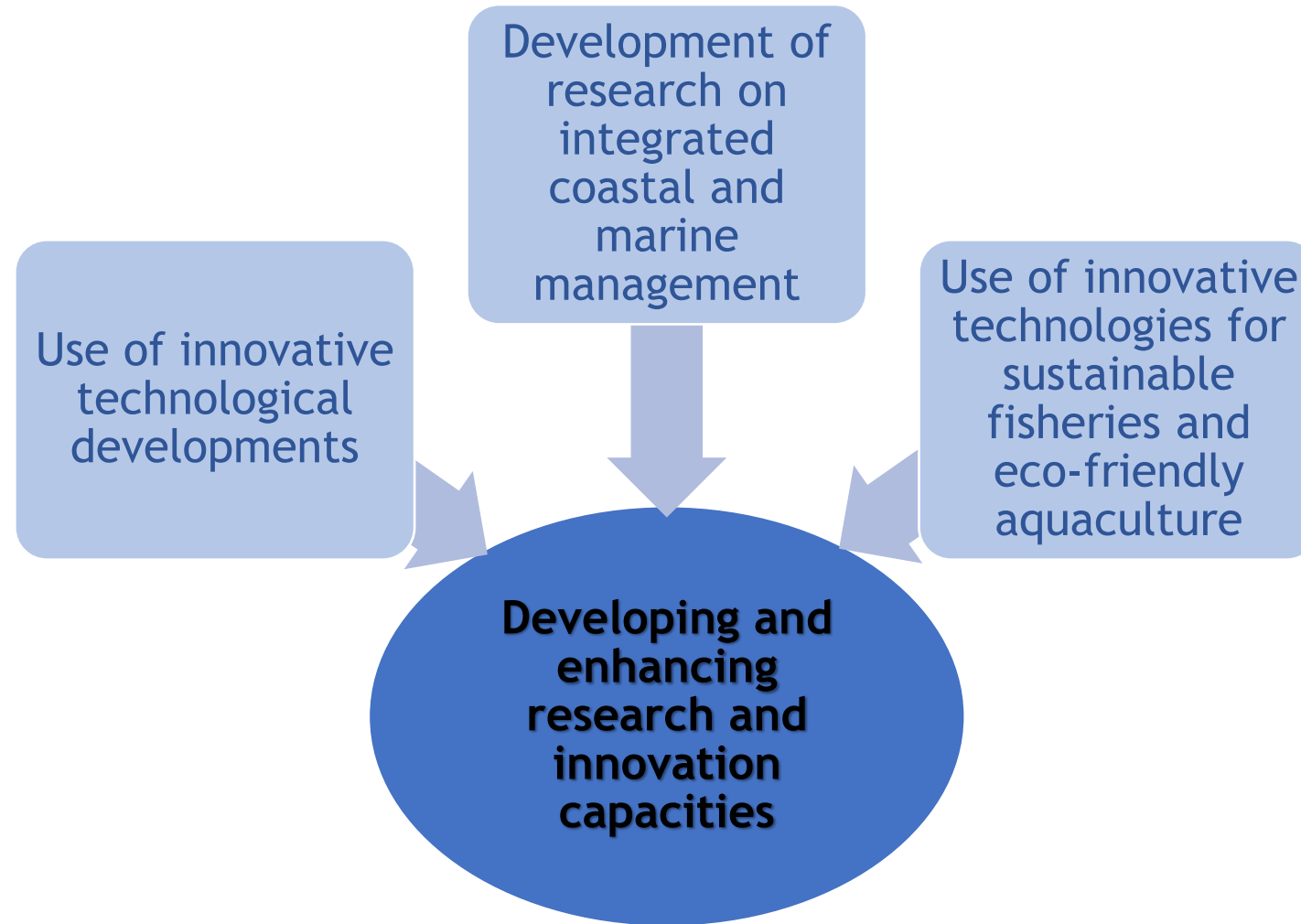
Clean and
Green
region

Specific Objectives

4. Promoting climate
change adaptation and
disaster risk prevention
and resilience

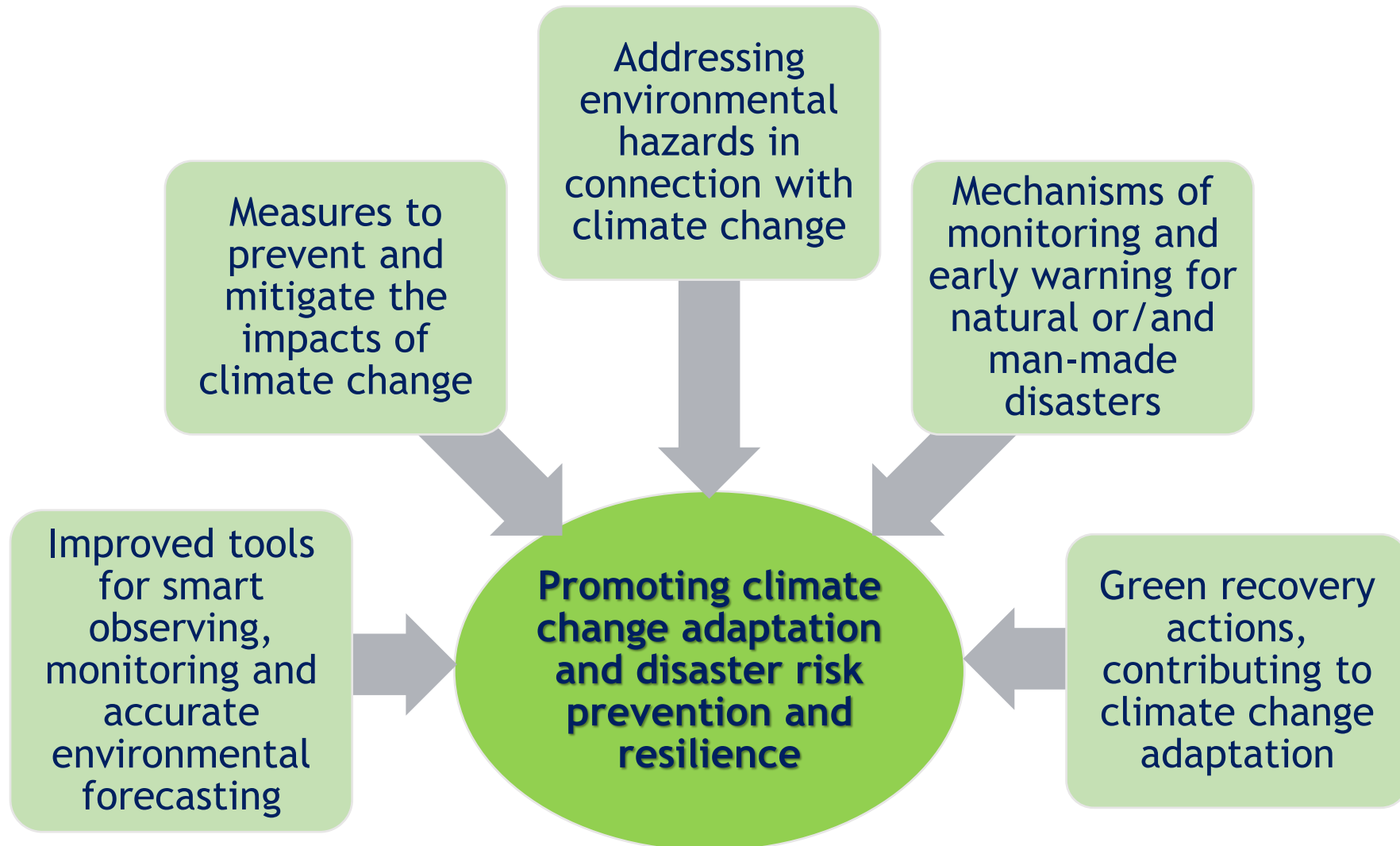
7. Enhancing protection
and preservation of
nature, biodiversity and
green infrastructure

Fields of action (1/3)



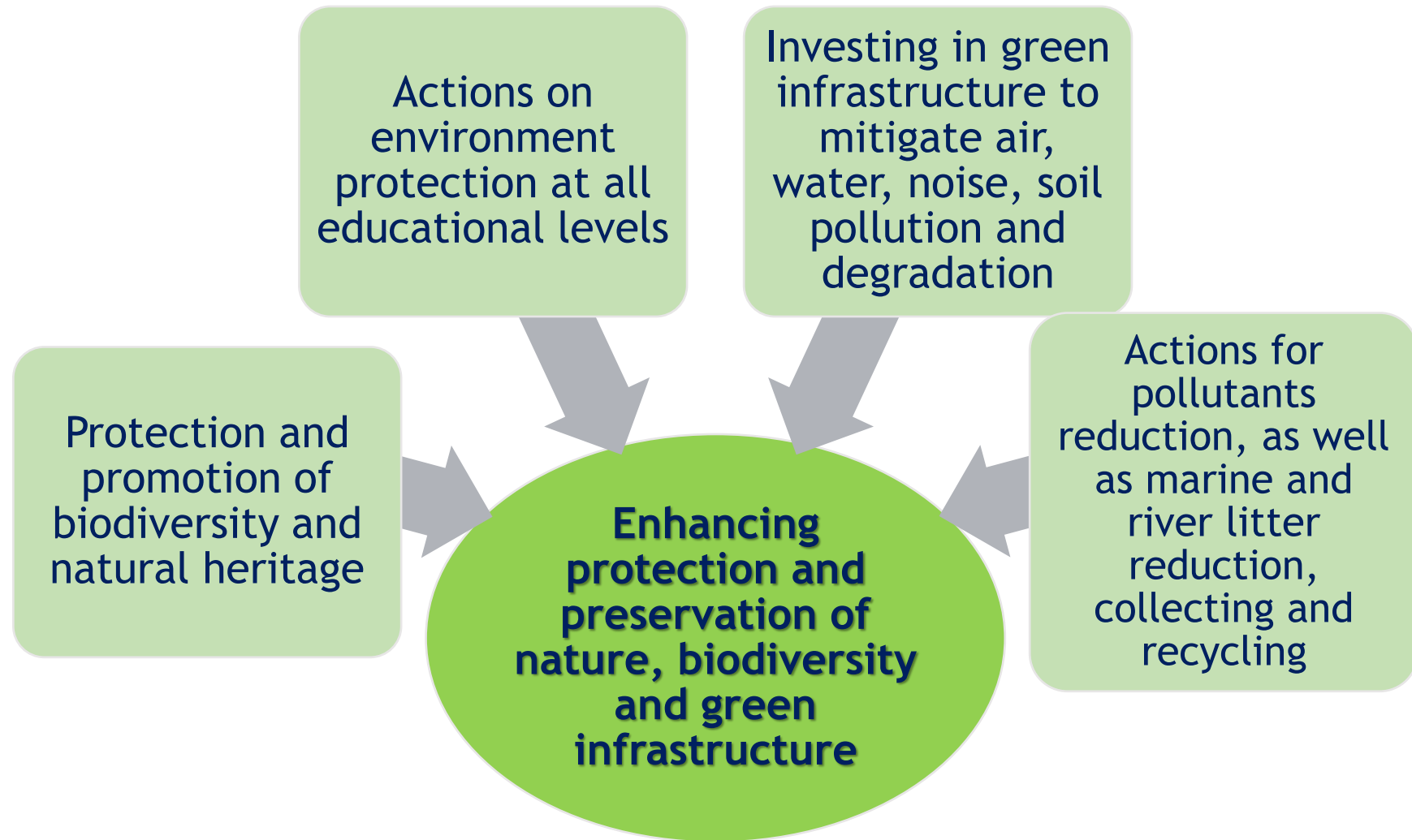
Priority 1 - Specific Objective 1

Fields of action (2/3)



Priority 2 - Specific Objective 4

Fields of action (3/3)



Priority 2 - Specific Objective 7

Expected results



Output indicators (1/2)

Research
organisations
participating in
joint research
projects
(RC007)

- counts the number of supported research organisations that cooperate in joint research projects;
- covers active participations in joint research projects;
- excludes contractual arrangements with no active cooperation in the supported project.

Organisations
cooperating
across borders
(RC087)

- counts the number of organisations cooperating formally in supported projects (project partners);
- it reveals the cooperation dimension;
- *mandatory for all projects.*

Public events
across borders
jointly organized
(RC0115)

- counts the number of events across borders, jointly organized by the partners and not the number of participations in public events;
- a public event across borders = a joint action advertised through relevant means, to the general public of the eligible area and is not dedicated to the partner institutions only;
- should have participants from at least two countries of the programme eligible area and involves stakeholders from outside the project consortium.

Output indicators (2/2)

**Pilot actions
developed
jointly and
implemented
in projects
(RCO84)**

- counts the number of pilot actions developed jointly and implemented by supported projects, by the end of project;
- a pilot action = a practical implementation of newly developed solutions (e.g. services, tools, methods or approaches, even a small scale investment);
- scope is to test procedures, new instruments, tools, experimentation or transfer of practices.

**Jointly developed
solutions
(RCO 116)**

- counts the number of jointly developed solutions from joint actions (including as a result of pilot actions) implemented by supported projects;
- a solution = an action or a process of solving a problem;
- an identified solution should include clear indications of the actions needed for it to be taken up or to be upscaled.

Result indicators

Organisations
cooperating across
borders after
project completion
(RCR84)

- counts the number of organisations cooperating across borders after the completion of the supported projects;
- Who? - legal entities involved in project implementation;
- How? - continue cooperation, after the end of the supported project (could be on different topic);
- What? - a cooperation agreement signed during the contracting stage.

Solutions taken up
or up-scaled by
organisations
(RCR104)

- counts the number of solutions and/or pilot actions, other than legal or administrative solutions, developed by supported projects and taken up or upscaled during the implementation of the project or within one year after project completion.
- Who? - any organization;
- How? - by adopting the solutions developed by the project;
- What? - solutions reflected in strategies, action plans etc.

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, e.g.:

testing concrete and
innovative solutions
through **pilot actions on
a small scale**

initiating and
strengthening networks

exchange of best
practices and transfer of
know how activities

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 countries working together in a project, showing a clear transnational added value going beyond the results independently achievable in the involved regions;*
- ❖ *Project outputs reflect the transnational, joint approach;*
- ❖ *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*

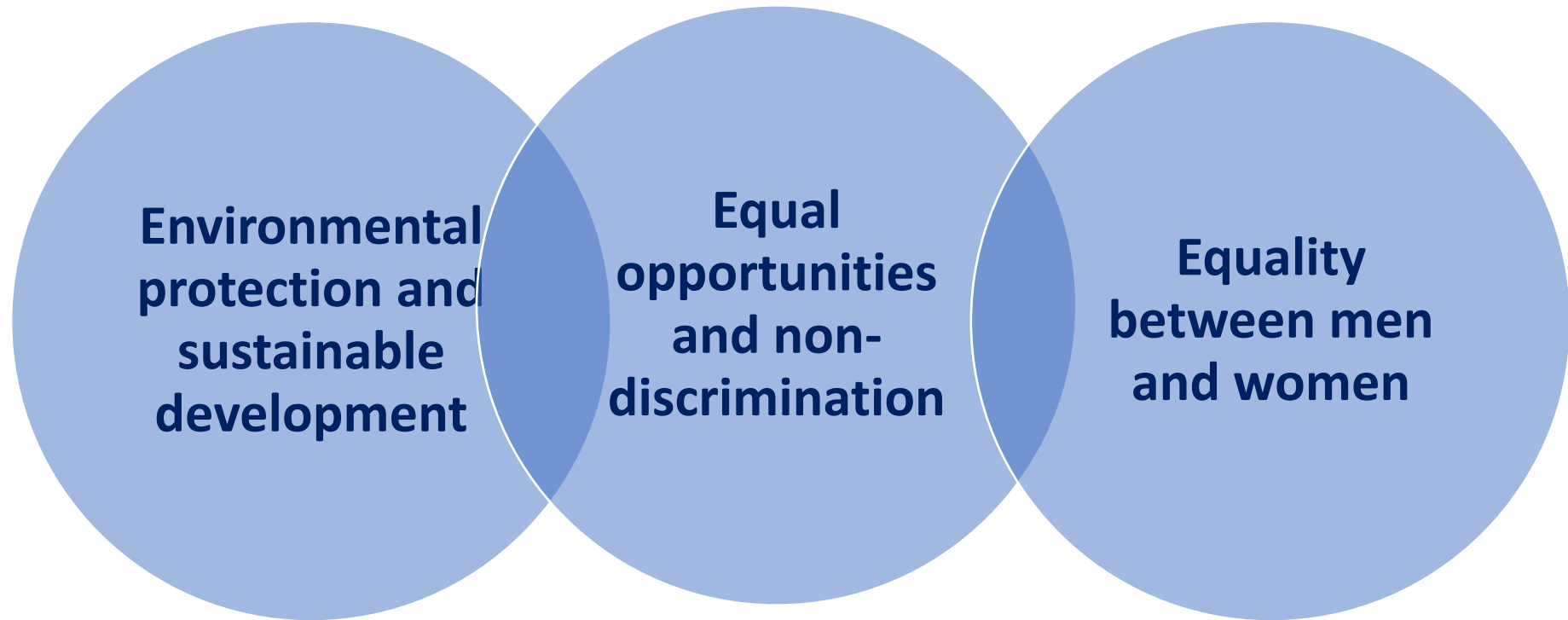
3. Contribution to a macro-regional strategy or a sea-basin strategy

Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme
contributes to the
Common Maritime Agenda (CMA)
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

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 *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

Database with projects results of ENI CBC
Black Sea Basin Programme 2014-2020:

www.blacksea-cbc.net/communication/e-library



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

Exception:

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

Eligibility of applicants (2)

Geographical location:

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

Exceptions:



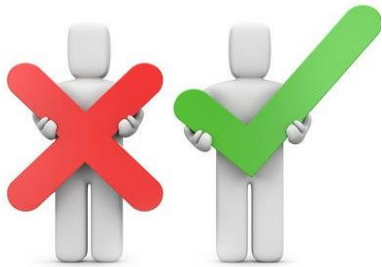
- ❖ A public authority or a body governed by public law having a mandate which covers the entire country, but with main office/headquarter located outside eligible area, may be eligible through its' subsidiary office operating in the eligible area, even if the subsidiary it's not registered as a distinct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

Legal status and geographical location are cumulative criteria!!!

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 3 - maximum 4 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 - except the case of universities.

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 (lead partner):

- ✓ have competences and financial capacity to manage the project and to secure the cash-flow needed for the project implementation;
- and**
- ✓ 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

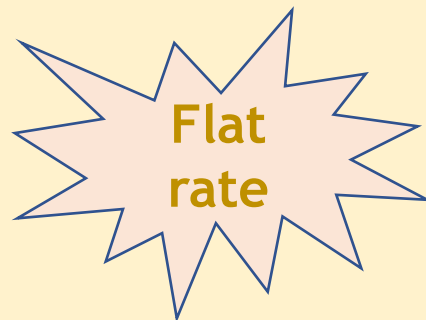
Budget - small-scale projects

The eligible costs for small scale projects are **based on:**



Staff costs

- *Justifying/supporting documents required*
- *Certification by the controller required*



Automatically
calculated in
Jems

Other costs calculated as 40% of eligible direct staff costs covering the budget categories:

- *Office and Administration*
 - *Travel and Accommodation*
 - *External expertise and services*
 - *Equipment*
-
- *NO justifying/supporting documents required*
 - *NO certification by the controller required, directly linked to the expenditures certified as eligible for Staff costs*

Calculating the budget

Budget category	Budget
Staff	300.000 €
Other (40% flat rate)	300.000 € * 40% (= 120.000 €)
TOTAL	420.000 €

What does **NOT** mean


Budget category	Budget
Staff	60% (300.000 €)
Other	40% (200.000 €)
TOTAL	500.000 €

1. STAFF COSTS

- Consists of gross employment costs of staff employed for implementing the project.
- Shall be reimbursed as a **real costs**
- 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*.
- However, please pay attention that external experts contracted under a service contract cannot be included under “Staff costs”

2. Other costs (40% flat rate) covering:

Office and administration costs

- Include operating and administrative expenses necessary for project implementation.

Travel and accommodation costs

- 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 considered as external expertise.

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.

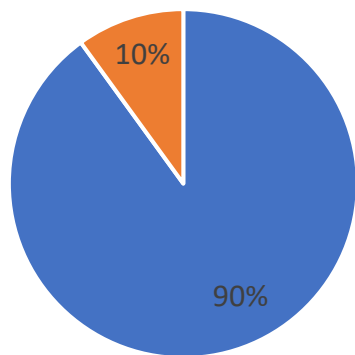
Equipment

- 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.

No infrastructure investments shall be funded under any small scale project.

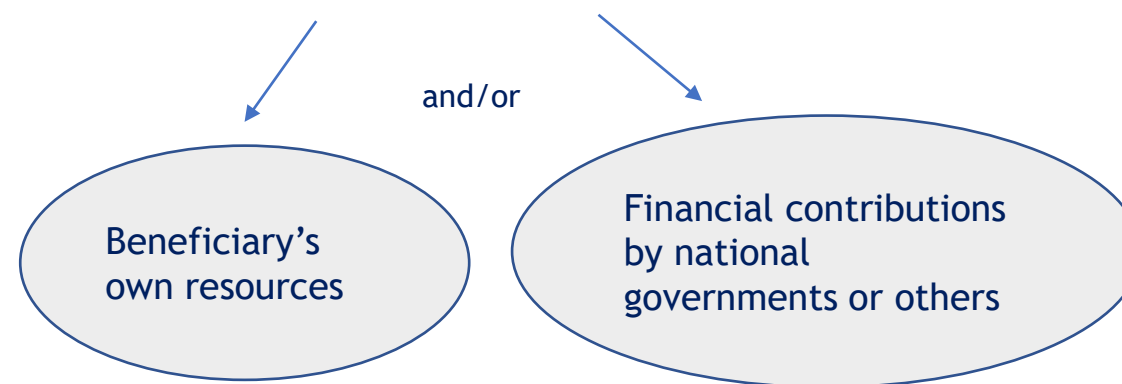
Co-financing

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% of the advance payment.

&

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



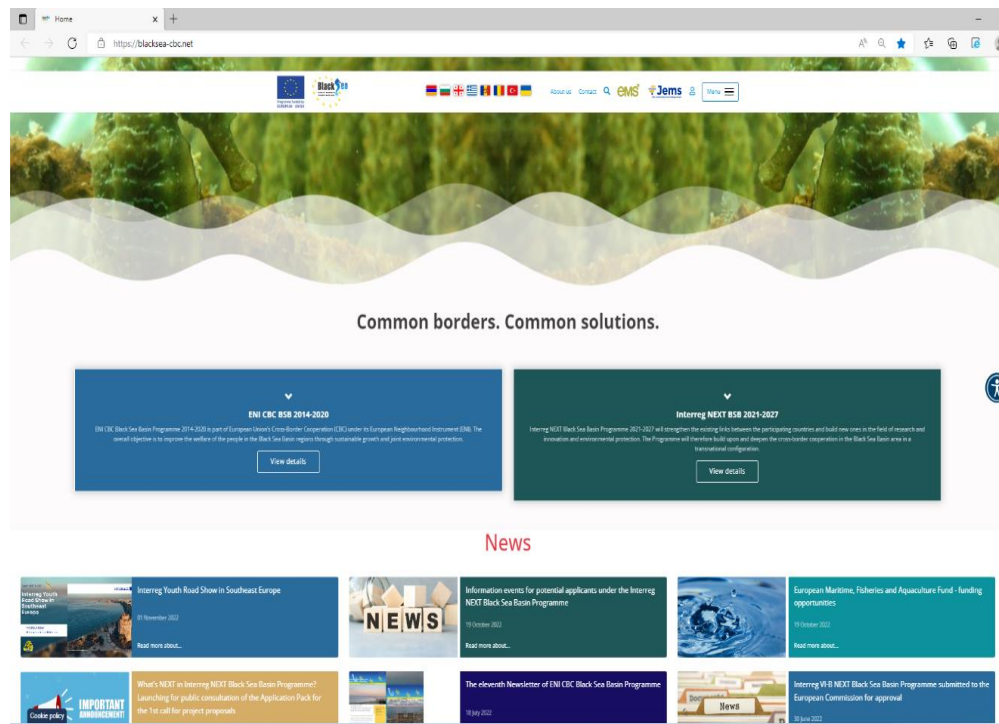
Make sure your organisation owns sufficient financial resources necessary for the project implementation and to cover the co-financing

- VAT is eligible if not recovered from other sources

No infrastructure investments shall be funded under any small scale project.

Help desk:
office@bsb.adrse.ro

www.blacksea-cbc.net



www.facebook.com/BlackSeaBasin/



www.instagram.com/blackseabasincbc/

