**Romanian Ministry of Development, Public Works and** **Administration**

**Managing Authority**

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| **(Interreg VI-B) NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme**  **PART I**  **KEY ASPECTS OF THE (INTERREG VI-B) NEXT BLACK SEA BASIN PROGRAMME**  **GUIDELINES FOR GRANT APPLICANTS Reference: First Call for Proposals** |

**GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS**

BSB Black Sea Basin

BSS Black Sea Synergy

CMA Common Maritime Agenda

EC European Commission

EUSDR European Union Strategy for the Danube Region

EUSAIR European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region

ISO Interreg Specific Objective

JEMS Joint Electronic Monitoring System

JS Joint Secretariat

LP Lead Partner

MA Managing Authority

MC Monitoring Committee

MS Member States

NUTS Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics

NUTS 2 Second level of divisions created for statistical purposes

PO Policy Objective

SO Specific Objective

SRIA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda

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1. **LEGAL AND STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK**

**Relevant programme documents**

* [(Interreg VI-B) NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme 2021-2027](https://blacksea-cbc.net/images/documents/news/2022/220630-Interreg-NEXT-BSB-Programme_SFC.docx);

**European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027: Key regulations**

* [Common provisions regulation (CPR) – Regulation (EU) 2021/1060](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2021:231:FULL&from=EN) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy;
* [INTERREG Regulation – Regulation (EU) 2021/1059](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2021:231:FULL&from=EN) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the European Regional Development Fund and external financing instruments;
* [ERDF Regulation - Regulation (EU) 2021/1058](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2021:231:FULL&from=EN) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund;
* [NDICI Regulation - Regulation (EU) 2021/947](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0947&qid=1625048356498&from=EN) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009;
* [Financial Regulation (EU, Euratom) 1046/2018](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018R1046&from=EN) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012;
* [Regulation no 2988/1995](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:31995R2988&from=EN) on the protection of the European Communities financial interest;

**Strategic framework**

* [Multi-annual strategy document on Interreg NEXT Strategic Programming 2021 - 2027;](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/publications/decisions/2022/multi-annual-strategy-document-on-interreg-next-strategic-programming-2021-2027)

**Macro-regional strategies**

* [Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea (CMA)](http://www.bsec-organization.org/areas-of-cooperation/bsec-eu-cooperation/common-maritime-agenda#:~:text=The%20Common%20Maritime%20Agenda%20for,of%20the%20Black%20Sea%20Strategy.)
* [EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR),](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/european-union-strategy-for-the-danube-region.html) Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - COM(2010) 715 final;
* [EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/macro-regional-strategies/adriatic-ionian/) Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, COM(2014) 357 final;
* Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for the Black Sea (SRIA).

1. **OVERVIEW OF INTERREG NEXT BSB PROGRAMME**

The Interreg NEXT BSB Programme is jointly funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) and by the Instrument for Pre-accession (IPA), hereinafter referred to as Interreg funds, in the framework of the European Neighbourhood and the Cohesion policy.

The programme was designed so that to ensure continuity and coherence with the Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2007-2013 and Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020 and aims to make use of synergies and complementarities with other EU funded programmes and other donors’ contribution. The programme was agreed by all participating countries following extensive and thorough consultations with relevant partners. The approved version of the Interreg NEXT BSB Programme document is available for download from <http://blacksea-cbc.net>.

1. **ELIGIBLE AREA**

The programme cooperation area comprises the entire territory or parts (NUTS level 2 or equivalent areas) of the territory of eight countries, of which 3 EU Member States (Bulgaria, Greece, Romania) and 5 partner countries (Armenia, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Republic of Türkiye and Ukraine).

The geographical coverage of the Interreg NEXT BSB Programme, as described and reflected in the Programme document, is as follows:

* **Bulgaria:** Severoiztochen, Yugoiztochen
* **Greece:** Kentriki Makedonia, Anatoliki Makedonia Thraki
* **Romania:** Sud-Est
* **Republic of Türkiye**: TR10 (İstanbul), TR21 (Tekirdağ, Edirne, Kırklareli), TR42 (Kocaeli, Sakarya, Düzce, Bolu, Yalova), TR81 (Zonguldak, Karabük, Bartın), TR82 (Kastamonu, Çankırı, Sinop), TR83 (Samsun, Tokat, Çorum, Amasya) and TR90 (Trabzon, Ordu, Giresun, Rize, Artvin, Gümüşhane)
* **Ukraine**: Odessa, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia Oblasts and Bakhmut District, Kramatorsk District, Volnovakha District, Mariupol District, Pokrovsk District from Donetsk Oblast
* **Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Armenia** - whole territory

1. **PRIORITIES AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

The Programme focuses on smart and blue economic growth and on promoting climate change adaptation and enhancing protection and preservation of nature and biodiversity. The programme priorities contribute to two policy objectives (POs) and three specific objectives (SOs), as reflected in Figure 1, below.

*Figure 1 - Priorities and Specific objectives*

**Interreg NEXT BSB Programme**

**Priorities and Specific objectives**

 

**INTERVENTION LOGIC**

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**POLICY OBJECTIVE 1**

**A more competitive and smarter Europe and its neighbourhood**

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**Specific Objective 1**

Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies

**Priority 1**

Blue and smart region

**POLICY OBJECTIVE 2**

**A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe and its Neighbourhood**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Specific Objective 4**

Promoting climate change adaptation, and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches

**Specific Objective 7**

Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity, and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution

**Priority 2**

Clean and Green Region

The intervention logic of the Interreg NEXT BSB Programme consists of 2 programme priorities broken down into 3 specific objectives (SO1, SO4, SO7) which will contribute to two (2) policy objectives (POs).

Each specific objective will be achieved through several activities envisaged to be implemented by the funded projects in different fields of action.

The developed outputs (direct products of supported projects) will be measured by project output indicators, linked to a Programme Common Output Indicator which shall contribute to achieving the programme expected results.

*Figure 2- Programme logical framework*

**Programme**

**Project**

Overall Objective(s)

Results (Specific objectives)

Outputs

Priority (Policy Objective)

Specific Objective

Programme Outputs (Common output indicators)

Activities

Programme Results (Common Result indicators)

Programme suported field of action

The Interreg NEXT BSB Programme will fund projects which clearly demonstrate the translation of outputs into concrete, visible and sustainable results thus contributing to a change of the initial situation with impact on the direct addressee.

All projects will have to define and quantify at least one project output indicator which shall be linked to a relevant **Programme Common Output Indicator (RCO)** and contribute to a programme specific objective.

Also, all projects shall achieve a set of results that will allow the programme to reach its objectives. Results and related changes are measured through **Result indicators** **(RCR)** linked to each programme specific objective.

**RCO = Common Output indicator** *means an indicator to measure the specific deliverables of the intervention, which* are the main products, goods, services, obtained following the implementation of project activities with the project funds and that are further used by relevant target groups or final beneficiaries. This indicator is in the control of the project. Indicative examples: tools, small-scale investments, pilot projects/actions, solutions, events, educational products such as training programmes or methods, curricula etc.

**RCR = Common Result indicator** *means an indicator to measure the effects of the interventions supported,* with particular reference to the direct addressees, population targeted or users of deliverables. It describes the advantage of carrying out the project. Result(s) are derived from the outputs achieved by the project. Indicative examples: organizations cooperating in the concerned area after project completion, pilot joint actions up-scaled, joint solutions applied, etc.

The Interreg NEXT BSB Programme indicator system is presented below:

*Figure 3 – Programme Common Output indicators and result indicators*

RCO116 Jointly developed solutions

RCO07 Research organizations participating in joint research

RCO84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects

RCO115 Public events across borders jointly organised

***Common Output Indicators***

**Priority 1 - BLUE AND SMART REGION**

RCO87 Organisations cooperating across borders

RCO116 Jointly developed solutions

RCO84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects

RCO115 Public events across borders jointly organised

***Common Output Indicators***

**Priority 2 – CLEAN AND GREEN REGION**

Specific Objective 4

RCO87 Organisations cooperating across borders

RCO84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects

RCO115 Public events across borders jointly organised

***Common Output Indicators***

**Priority 2 – CLEAN AND GREEN REGION**

Specific Objective 7

RCO87 Organisations cooperating across borders

RCO116 Jointly developed solutions

All applicants are strongly advised to read carefully the [*Programme Performance Framework Methodology*](https://blacksea-cbc.net/images/documents/news/2022/03.Interreg-Next-BSB-_PF-Methodology.docx) which provides **guidance to potential beneficiaries for a coherent approach in the identification of appropriate project indicators** able to contribute to Interreg NEXT BSB Programme results and may **support beneficiaries during implementation in measuring progress on achieving the proposed targets**. The document also explains the most relevant aspects in order to ensure that the **project outputs are identified, collected and reported correctly, in line with the programme requirements**.

A visualisation of the full programme intervention logic including indicative list of type of activities within each field of action and the linked output and result indicators as well as target groups per each priority can be found here (link to the programme web-site).

1. **BUDGET**

The **Interreg NEXT BSB** Programme budget for projects, including co-financing, is of EUR 65,704,670 as in the table below.

*Table 1 – Interreg NEXT BSB Programme budget*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **TOTAL Interreg Funds (EUR)**  **(90%)** | **Co-financing**  **(own contribution) (EUR)**  **(10%)** | **TOTAL Programme budget**  **(EUR)** |
| 59,134,203 | 6,570,467 | 65,704,670 |

1. **MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES**

**Managing Authority** **(MA)** - the Romanian Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration is the responsible body for the effective and efficient management and implementation of the Programme in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and for ensuring that the decisions of the Monitoring Committee comply with the applicable laws and requirements.

**Contact Point (CP) (**former National Authorities) - entity (local or regional authority) appointed by each participating country to support the Management Authority in the implementation of the programme in its own territory. The list of the CPs is mentioned in section 7.1 - *Programme authorities* in the Programme document and can be found on the programme webpage (link).

**Audit Authority (AA)** -within the Court of Accounts of Romania. The main responsibilities of the AA consist of carrying out system audits and audits on operations and on the annual accounts of the programme.

The Audit Authority for the programme is assisted by a Group of Auditors comprising a representative from each country participating in the programme.

**Monitoring Committee (MC)** - joint decision-making structure for the programme. The MC shall follow the programme implementation and progress in achieving the milestones and targets of the programme and it shall examine any issues affecting the programme performance.

**Joint Secretariat (JS)** - responsible for fulfilling all the tasks delegated by the MA for the implementation of the Programme – information of potential beneficiaries, support project preparation, evaluation and selection, as well as project implementation. JS for the Interreg NEXT BSB Programme is located in Constanta in the South East region of Romania within the South East Regional Development Agency (SERDA).

**Controllers** – the national or regional authority, private body or the natural person identified and appointed by the Contact Point in each participating country to undertake the tasks of management verifications on its territory.

*Figure 4 – Programme management structures – to be added*

1. **LANGUAGE**

The official language of the Programme is English. Therefore, all communication between applicants (lead partners and/or project partners)/beneficiaries and the MA/JS is carried out in English language. Information in applications, reports as well as official correspondence should be treated accordingly. Although guidance on the Programme might be available in national languages, this can only be used as support when interpreting the Programme rules.

In case translation of documents is needed, it is recommended to take advantage of the Commission automatic translation service, eTranslation covering all EU official languages and part of the languages of the programme eligible area (e.g Turkish and Ukrainian). The tool is available at <https://language-tools.ec.europa.eu/>