



- Support entrepreneurial culture through teaching and training for young people working in agricultural and connected sectors; share good practices in this field;
- Exchange of best practice experience on the practical introduction of standards (e.g. food safety);
- Joint actions to support productive use of migrant remittances in the modernisation of the agriculture/ aquaculture/ food industry.

Specific Objective 2 - Promote coordination of environmental protection and joint reduction of marine litter in the Black Sea Basin conservation

Priority 2.1 - Improve joint environmental monitoring

- Reinforce joint and compatible cross-border monitoring, evaluation and information systems, tools and capacity to prevent and control trans-boundary pollution (including through small-scale infrastructure works);
- Improve long-term cross-border collaboration, information and research capacity (including innovative technologies) for addressing ecosystem transformation, biodiversity monitoring and migration of species;
- Jointly strengthen collaboration between science, industry, relevant stakeholders and decision-makers to address integrated coastal management issues and to harmonise monitoring, marine environment assessment and data provision;
- Improve the availability and cross-border interoperability of updated online public access data and data products (e.g. maps) for the Black Sea so industry, public authorities, NGOs and researchers may make more effective use of them;
- Promote cross-border cooperation among maritime authorities so to share information on risks and threats (integrated maritime surveillance);
- Improve cooperation on environmental monitoring between stakeholders involved in disaster prevention and management;

- Enhance contact among countries and exchange good practice on early warning systems that allow the population exposed to hazards to take appropriate actions to avoid/reduce risk and to prepare effective responses; improve availability of environmental information for the population regarding notably the risk of earthquakes, floods and forest fires.

Priority 2.2 - Promote common awareness-raising and joint actions to reduce river and marine litter

- Jointly raise public awareness and education regarding river and marine litter problems, the value of biodiversity and environmental protection (mass-media campaigns, production of education tools and 'responsible-citizenship' guidelines for different sectors for target audiences such as children and students, tourists, municipal authorities, shipping companies and shipping crews);
- Share and promote good environmental management practices and technologies (including through small-scale infrastructure works) related to the treatment and disposal of waste, the reduction of illegal dumping and landfill sites on riverbanks and seashores and the prevention of their adverse effects;
- Jointly promote the practice of the '3 Rs' (reduce, reuse, recycle) for waste as well as the use of waste for energy production;
- Strengthen community action, promote and organise cross-border Black Sea Basin coastal and river clean-up campaigns (involving schools, students and volunteers) and share good experiences in this field;
- Encourage the involvement of, and partnerships between, NGOs and civil society, the private sector (e.g. in the tourism, shipping and fisheries sectors) and local/regional authorities and waste services to combat river and marine litter;
- Share experience to improve port reception facilities and services for garbage collection from vessels.



Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020

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MINISTRY OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
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Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020



Background information

Cross-border cooperation (CBC) in the European Neighbourhood from 2014 onwards builds on experience with the planning and implementation of CBC under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) in the period 2007-2013.

The Joint Operational Programme “Black Sea Basin 2014-2020” is one of the four maritime basin programmes established and financed under the framework of the *European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) - 2014-2020 - according to the Programming document for EU support to ENI Cross-Border Cooperation (2014-2020)*.

Programme objectives and priorities

The Programme’s **wider objective is to** “improve the welfare of the people in the Black Sea Basin regions through sustainable growth and joint environmental protection”.

Its goal is to establish long-lasting cross-border links within the Black Sea Basin by financing projects which should deliver **clear cross-border cooperation impact and benefits, and which demonstrate sustainability of their actions, and synergies and complementarity with other actions in the same field.**

The Programme’s **specific objectives and priorities**, are to:

- Promote business and entrepreneurship within the Black Sea Basin
 - Priority 1.1 Jointly promote business and entrepreneurship in the tourism and cultural sectors
 - Priority 1.2 Increase cross-border trade opportunities and modernisation in the agricultural and connected sectors
- Promote coordination of environmental protection and joint reduction of marine litter in the Black Sea Basin
 - Priority 2.1 Improve joint environmental monitoring
 - Priority 2.2 Promote common awareness-raising and joint actions to reduce river and marine litter

¹ The European Union (EU) is a group of 28 countries that operates as a cohesive economic and political block.

Expected results per each Priority

Priority 1.1	Stronger cross-border business opportunities in the tourism and cultural sectors in Black Sea Basin
Priority 1.2	Increased cross-border links for trade and modernisation in the agricultural and connected sectors in Black Sea Basin
Priority 2.1	Improved availability of cross-border compatible environmental monitoring data and information within Black Sea Basin
Priority 2.2	Increased awareness on environmental challenges and good waste management practices related to river and marine litter within Black Sea Basin

Programme result indicators

R1.1	Strength of cross-border business opportunities in the tourism and cultural sectors
R1.2	Strength of cross-border links for trade and modernisation in the agricultural and connected sectors
R2.1	Level of availability of cross-border compatible environmental monitoring data and information
R2.2	Level of awareness of environmental challenges and good waste management practices related to river and marine litter

Each project must also contribute to the achievement of the **output indicators** as described in the Programme.

Financial allocation

The overall indicative amount of ENI funds for the two thematic objectives is 44,134,737.30 EUR.

Co-financing

The national co-financing may take the following forms:

- Beneficiary’s own resources
- Financial contributions by third parties, from sources other than the European Union.

The ENI grant shall be maximum 92% of the total eligible costs of the Project (per each Lead/Project partner).

The rate of national co-financing shall be at least 8% of the total eligible costs of the Project, calculated per Lead/Project partner budgets in the project.

Key aspects regarding all projects

Projects must **fall within one of the following categories**:

- Integrated projects where each beneficiary implements a part of the activities of the project on its own territory;
- Symmetrical projects where similar activities are implemented in parallel in the participating countries;
- Single-country projects where projects are implemented mainly or entirely in one of the participating countries but for the benefit of all or some of the participating countries and where cross-border impacts and benefits are identified.

Each project shall aim at establishing:

- Enhanced cross-border contacts within the Black Sea Basin including e.g. networking, forums and the establishment of lasting partnerships;
- Enhanced knowledge and skills including e.g. the exchange of experience and good practice, innovation, capacity-building and joint research;
- Concrete and visible outputs including e.g. small scale investments, pilot projects, information and communication technologies shared tools, online open-access resources.

Potential Beneficiaries are:

- regional, local or, if necessary for the project purpose, national public authority;
- civil society organisations;
- chambers of commerce;
- academic and educational community;
- other eligible actors, important for the realisation of the objectives of the individual programme and must be based within the eligible programme area.

The specific requirements for eligibility are further described in the Guidelines for Grant Applicants.

Geographical location of eligible applicants

be a legal entity effectively established (registered and located) in the eligible area of the programme:

- Armenia (all regions),
- Bulgaria (NUTS II regions of Severoiztochen and Yugoiztochen),
- Greece (NUTS II regions of Kentriki Makedonia and Anatoliki Makedonia - Thraki),
- Georgia (all regions),
- Republic of Moldova (all regions²)
- Romania (NUTS II region of South-East),
- Turkey (NUTS II equivalent regions of TR10 (Istanbul), 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 (Odesa, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Zaporozh’ye and Donetsk Oblasts, Crimea Republic, Sevastopol)³

² According to the national legislation of the Republic of Moldova, the potential applicants from the Transnistrian area are eligible under the programme only if they are registered as legal entities in the Republic of Moldova.

Indicative activities

Specific Objective 1 - Promote business and entrepreneurship within the Black Sea Basin

Priority 1.1 - Jointly promote business and entrepreneurship in the tourism and cultural sectors

- Promote the development and joint marketing of cross-border tourism products and transnational thematic itineraries (e.g. cultural, religious, ancient trade routes, agricultural routes);
- Promote diversification and integration of coastal and inland tourism;
- Promote historical heritage and support its preservation through sustainable tourism development (e.g. small-scale infrastructure works, marketing);
- Encourage synergies, networking and connectivity among tourism and culture stakeholders and tour operators within the Black Sea Basin (e.g. specific network for maritime tourism, etc.); promote electronic marketing tools and cross-border logistics information on e.g. cultural events;
- Share experience and/or develop jointly targeted tourism packages for specific markets (e.g. the elderly); share experience to promote higher quality, and more innovative, tourism products (e.g. underwater archaeological parks, eco-tourism, cultural tourism, medical tourism);
- Jointly promote cultural products (handicrafts, artworks, etc.) and events (festivals, fairs);
- Jointly enhance the openness of the Black Sea Region to international and non-European tourism (e.g. joint marketing, communication and promotion campaigns, development of Black Sea Basin brands);
- Encourage networking, share good experience in strengthening cultural and creative industries (music, multimedia, etc.);

³ Please note that at the time of drafting this material, general EU restrictions on cooperation in Crimea Republic and Sevastopol regions are applicable to CBC, as provided for in the ENI CBC Programming document.

- Exchange best practices on the development of environmentally friendly tourism strategies (e.g. improve resource efficiency, waste and pollution prevention/management in tourist areas, guidelines on minimising impacts on biodiversity and enhancing benefits of tourism in protected areas);
- Improve tourism services and promote the upgrade of skills e.g. through exchange programmes between educational institutions (e.g. for young professionals), or through the joint creation of open online courses based on best experience.

Priority 1.2 - Increase cross-border trade opportunities and modernisation in the agricultural and connected sectors⁴

- Promotion of international trade links, sectoral and cross-sectoral networks and partnerships (e.g. business forums) within the Black Sea Basin and support to internationalisation of exchanges (e.g. capacity building);
- Strengthen internet connectivity, cross-border business information exchange systems, market and logistics information with greater use of information and communication technologies (ICT);
- Exchange good practice in modern and innovative marketing and trade strategies, electronic marketing tools and develop joint marketing strategies (e.g. regional branding);
- Support innovation, research and cooperation, including for the development of logistics, in the agricultural industry, jointly developing and implementing best practices in producing quality agricultural products;
- Introduction of innovative technologies for sectoral development (organic/bio products, sustainable aquaculture), including exchange of experience and small-scale infrastructure works in pilot projects;

⁴ Including aquaculture, food industry and agro-industry.