



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Ministry of Economy and Finance

TO BE POSTED ON THE WEB

**SPECIAL SECRETARIAT
FOR ERDF & CF PROGRAMMES**

MANAGING AUTHORITY "INTERREG 2021 - 2027"

Address: 65 Georgikis Scholis Ave Thessaloniki, 57001

Information: ROSANNA SEMERDJIAN

Tel.: 2310469624, 2310469600

Email: rsemergian@mou.gr

Code of Call: 1BG
S/N of Call in MIS: 4212

**CALL FOR
COMMON**

**PROJECT PROPOSALS
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**1ST OPEN CALL FOR COMMON PROJECTS PROPOSALS OF THE CBC INTERREG VI-A GREECE-
BULGARIA 2021-2027 PROGRAMME**

**FOR SUBMISSION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS
AT THE PROGRAMME**

(Interreg VI-A) Greece-Bulgaria

The Special Secretary for ERDF & CF Programmes

Taking into consideration:

1. The Article 90 of the Code of Legislation for the Government and governmental bodies, which was ratified by the first article of the Presidential Decree 63/2005 "Codification of legislation for the Government and government bodies" (Government Gazette 98/A/22.4.2005), which was kept in force by par. 22 of article 119 of Law 4622/2019 (A'133);
2. The Law 4914/2022 "Management, control and implementation of development interventions for the Programming Period 2021-2027, establishment of a Public Company "National Register of Young Enterprises S.A." and other provisions" (A' 61) and in particular articles 11 par. 9 and 63 par. 29 thereof;
3. The Presidential Decree 77/2023 "Establishment of Ministry and renaming of Ministries - Establishment, abolition and renaming of General and Special Secretariats - Transfer of responsibilities, service units, staff positions and supervised entities" (Government Gazette 130/A/27.06.2023), as amended with PD 82/2023 (Government Gazette 139/A/01.08.2023);
4. The Presidential Decree 79/2023 "Appointment of Ministers and Deputy Ministers" (Government Gazette 131/A/27.06.2023);

5. The Presidential Decree 63/2020 "Establishment of General and Special Secretariats, transfer of responsibilities between General Secretariats" (A' 156);
6. The Joint Decision No. 86593/2020 (Government Gazette 628/Y.O.D./13-08-2020) of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Development and Investments "Appointment of Special Secretary for the Management of Programs of the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund of the Ministry of Development and Investments";
7. The Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 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 (hereinafter "Common Provisions Regulation – CPR")
8. The Regulation (EU) 2021/1059 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 (hereinafter "ETC Regulation")
9. The Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 240/2014 of 7 January 2014 on the European code of conduct on partnership in the framework of the European Structural and Investment Funds
10. The Law 4914/2022 for the "Management, control and implementation of development interventions for the Programming Period 2021-2027, establishment of the Public Company "National Register of Young Enterprises S.A." and other provisions" (Government Gazette 61/A/21.3.2022).
11. The Ministerial Decision 3411/16-01-2023 (Government Gazette B' 183/18-01-2023) for the "Purpose, tasks and internal structure of the "Managing Authority Interreg 2021-2027" of Article 9 and paragraph 8 of Article 65 of Law 4914/2022 and of the Joint Secretariats of Interreg Programmes of Article 11 of the same law.
12. The Joint Ministerial Decision 45820/17-05-2023 (Government Gazette B' 3281/17-05-2023) concerning "Expenditure eligibility rules, public procurement, complaints objections of the beneficiaries of the INTERREG Programs 2021-2027
13. The Cross Border Cooperation Programme (Interreg VI-A) "Greece – Bulgaria 2021-2027 ", as approved with the number C(2022)6635/13-9-2022 European Commission Implementing Decision for the approval of the support of the Cooperation Programme "Interreg VI-A Greece – Bulgaria 2021-2027" from the European Regional Development Fund within the framework of the objective of European Territorial Cooperation (Interreg) in Greece and in Bulgaria.
14. The decision of the 2nd Monitoring Committee meeting of the Interreg VI-A "Greece – Bulgaria 2021-2027 " Programme, on 10/1/2024, by which the Terms of Reference of the present call, the Programme and Project Implementation Manual the Applicant's Package, Project Selection Methodology and Selection Criteria of project proposals, as described and specified in the document attached to the Call were approved.

I N V I T E S

- a) **national, regional or local public bodies**
- b) **bodies governed by public law** (as defined in Article 2(4) of Directive 2014/24/EU)
- c) **bodies governed by private law**, non-profit organisations founded according to private law
- d) **international organisations** registered under the national law of the Member States of the Programme
- e) **European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)**

to submit a concept note as outlined in the present Terms of Reference and apply specifically to the present Call for Project Proposals, to be included and financed in the context of:

- Cooperation Programme: (Interreg VI-A) Greece-Bulgaria
- European Fund: ERDF

Preamble

This document outlines the terms and conditions that apply specifically to the 1st Call for Project Proposals launched by the Interreg VI-A Greece-Bulgaria (GR-BG) Programme. It is part of the 'Application Package for the 1st Call for Project Proposals', which is available at the programme website.

The application package consists of:

- 'Terms of Reference (hereinafter ToR)' for the Call (the present document);
- 'Concept Note'; (template)

More general information on rules and requirements to be observed when applying for present Call are laid down in:

- 'Programme and Project Implementation Manual' (hereinafter PPIM);
- 'Project Selection Methodology';
- 'Project Selection Criteria – Stage A: Concept Note';
- 'Programme Output & Result Indicators Guide' (hereinafter PORIG)
- 'Guidelines for applying in MIS 2021-2027';
- Technical guidance for Beneficiary User Registration and Account Management;
- Technical guidance of MIS 2021 – 2027.

The knowledge of the above documents is essential for developing and submitting a project proposal. Therefore, all applicants are invited to carefully study and consult all main reference documents before submitting any project proposal. For reference information, please visit the official websites of the Greece-Bulgaria Managing Authority and of the Responsible Authorities in the Member States (see §10 of ToR).

1. OBJECTIVES AND FOCUS OF THE CALL

Project applicants are invited to submit their project application under one of the specific objectives of the Programme listed above.

The Specific Objectives

Nr	Code	Title
1	RSO2.6	<i>Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy</i>
2	RSO2.7	<i>Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution</i>
3	RSO4.2	<i>Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training</i>
4	RSO4.6	<i>Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation</i>

The Intervention Categories

Nr	Code	Title
1	029	Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises, research centres and universities, focusing on the low carbon economy, resilience and adaptation to climate change

2	067	Household waste management: prevention, minimisation, sorting, reuse, recycling measures
3	077	Air quality and noise reduction measures
4	079	Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure*
5	137	Support for self-employment and business start-ups **
6	145	Support for the development of digital skills
7	165	Protection, development and promotion of public tourism assets and tourism services

*Focus should be made in green infrastructure in urban and peri-urban areas.

** This call does not envisage direct funding to SMEs.

The Geographical areas

Nr	Code	Geographical area(s)
1	Regional Unit	Eastern Macedonia and Thrace
2	Regional Unit	Drama
3	Regional Unit	Kavala
4	Regional Unit	Evros
5	Regional Unit	Blagoevgrad
6	Regional Unit	Xanthi
7	Regional Unit	Serres
8	Regional Unit	Kardzhali
9	Regional Unit	Thessaloniki
10	Regional Unit	Smolyan
11	Regional Unit	Haskovo
12	Regional Unit	Rodopi

Financing Activities located outside the programme area

The Programme area covers geographical areas in the two participating countries as above. In principle, all activities of a project should take place within the Programme area. If a project plans to finance activities or events outside the programme area, this is possible in the context of cooperation Programmes. Exceptions to this principle may be granted for EU partners from outside the Programme area and for Assimilated Partners in duly justified cases.

If activities (including travel and accommodation) and/ or events are planned outside the programme area, the following conditions need to be satisfied:

- the activity and/ or event are for the benefit of the Programme area;
- the activity and/ or event are essential for the implementation of the project;
- the implementation and/ or the relevance of the activity and/ or the event have been approved by the Programme beforehand (foreseen in the Application Form or, if not, have been previously authorised by the MA/JS).

Infrastructure located outside the Programme area, even if it is directly related to the project either for the development or for implementation, shall not be eligible.

The Output and Result Indicators

	ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ "INTERREG 2021-2027" MANAGING AUTHORITY "INTERREG 2021-2027"	 www.interreg.gr	Call Code Nr.: 4212 Date:
---	---	--	------------------------------

CODE	Description of Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target
RCO116	Jointly developed solutions	Number	8
RCO36	Green infrastructure supported for other purposes than adaptation to climate change	Hectare	10.7
RCO39	Area covered by systems for monitoring air pollution installed	Number	2
RCO77	Number of cultural and tourism sites supported	Number	12
RCO84	Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	Number	10
RCO85	Participations in joint training scheme	Number	300
RRC104	Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations	Number	8
RRC50	Population benefiting from measures for air quality	Individuals	430000
RRC77	Visitors of cultural and tourism sites supported	Annual number of Visits	8000
RRC81	Completion of joint training schemes	Individuals	270
RRC95	Population having access to new or improved green infrastructure	Individuals	251200

Beneficiaries may only use the indicators listed in the present Call for Project Proposals. (see also in PORIG)

More detailed information about the Programme, Priorities, Specific Objectives, Region Categories, Indicators as well as the distribution of public expenditure per priority are listed in **Annex I**.

2. BUDGET OF THE CALL

The Programme will allocate **32.050.467,10 EUR** (EU & National Funds) to the present Call for Project Proposals. The EU contribution rate is 80%. The 20 % national co-financing for Bulgarian beneficiaries is ensured from the state budget. Beneficiaries shall ensure the needed own contribution (public and/or private), if applicable.

An indicative budget allocation (EU & National Funds) to the programme priorities and to the specific objectives is presented in Annex I – Table 2. In the context of the present Call, projects will be included up to the amount of the budget of the Call. When selecting projects to be funded, such allocation may be adapted by the Monitoring Committee (MC) according to programme needs. Projects may be selected up to **100%** of the budget of the present Call for Project Proposals, if deemed necessary.

3. CONTEXT OF THE CALL

The present Call concerns Stage A – Submission by the beneficiaries of a summary of their proposal with specific implementation data (Concept Note). The potential Lead Partners submit a short paper (Concept Note) in which they briefly present i) the main idea of the proposal, ii) the partnership, iii) the proposed activities and the appropriate indicators iv) an indicative budget of activities, and v) information regarding the eligibility of the beneficiaries participating in the partnership vi) Cross Border Cooperation Added Value vii) Relevance with specific objectives of the Call (for more details on the procedure see §9 of ToR).

The 1st Call for Project Proposals intends to select high quality cross-border projects, in which relevant institutions cooperate to make border regions more resilient to common challenges, find shared solutions in fields such as environment, research, education, transport, sustainable energy, tourism, health and more, and to exploit the untapped growth potential in border areas, while enhancing the cooperation process for the purposes of the overall harmonious development of the Union. Within the 1st Call for Project Proposals, proposals can be submitted under the two programme priorities (P1 and P3) and four (4) specific objectives (as listed in §1 of ToR). The description of programme priorities and objectives, together with exemplary actions, is provided for in chapter 2 of the Interreg Programme (IP) available at the programme website, which defines the programme strategy and intervention logic for Interreg VI-A Greece-Bulgaria 2021-2027 Programme, as adopted by the European Commission. Indicative actions or examples of projects for funding (non-exhaustive list) appear in Annex II of the ToR.

Project applicants are invited to submit their Concept Note under one of the specific objectives of the Programme listed in §1 of ToR. The project objectives and the proposed activities shall be clear and in-line with the Programme priorities, contribute to the achievement of Programme indicators and both shall have an impact on the Greece-Bulgaria area.

4. PROJECT DURATION

Projects should be concluded within a maximum period of twenty four (24) months after the signing of the Subsidy Contract (SC) between the Managing Authority/ Special Secretary for ERDF and CF Programmes and the Lead Beneficiary. Projects that have started their implementation before the signing of the contract, and in any case after 1/1/2021, should not have been concluded before the application for funding at the present Call for Project Proposals.

This limit applies for the operative phase of the project and does not include the preparation phase.

5. ELIGIBILITY OF APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants for the present Call for Project Proposals are the entities that fall into the above mentioned categories of potential Beneficiaries:

a) national, regional or local public bodies

b) bodies governed by public law (as defined in Article 2(4) of Directive 2014/24/EU) meaning bodies that have all of the following characteristics:

a. they are established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest, not having an industrial or commercial character;

b. they have legal personality; and

c. they are financed, for the most part, by the State, regional or local authorities, or by other bodies governed by public law; or are subject to management supervision by those authorities or bodies; or have an administrative, managerial or supervisory board, more than half of whose members are appointed by the State, regional or local authorities, or by other bodies governed by public law;

c) bodies governed by private law, non-profit organisations founded according to private law can be eligible under the following conditions as a whole:

a. they are not established with the goal to obtain profit,

b. they do not distribute profits to the shareholders,

c. they should have at least completed one accounting year of operation before the launch of the specific call for proposals. This rule is also applicable for the local-regional subsidiary/branch offices.

It should be noted that private companies, not falling under the conditions listed at point (c) are not eligible.

d) international organisations registered under the national law of the Member States of the Programme can be considered as eligible if they fulfil the criteria foreseen for the non-profit bodies governed by private law. However, international organisations operating under international law are not eligible

e) European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC). Eligible EGTC must be governed by the law of one of the participating countries where the EGTC has its registered office. EGTCs located outside the Programme area and not registered in one of the Member states participating in the cross-border Programme are not eligible for funding

An EGTC cannot be a sole beneficiary of a project proposal

Bodies governed by public law (under category b. above) and private organisations (under category c. above) and EGTC (under category e. above) should have at least completed one accounting year of operation before the launching of the Call for proposals. If a body governed by public law or a private organization is participating through a branch located at the Programme area, the branch must be operational for at least 12 months before the launching of the call for proposals.

In principle, to become a project beneficiary, the legal address/registration of the beneficiary's organisation has to be located in the eligible area of the Programme with the exception of:

- bodies of the central government located outside the Programme area (e.g. Ministries or other national authorities/bodies with specific competencies on national level)

- organisations located outside the Programme area but inside the Member states participating in the cross-border Programme if their participation in the project brings added value and expertise to its implementation and benefits the Programme cooperation area

Organisations located outside the Programme area but having local/regional subsidiary/branch office established in the Programme area are eligible only for Greek Project partners. Bulgarian partners must have their legal registration located in the eligible Programme area.

Organisation located outside the Programme area not registered in one of the Member states participating in the cross-border Programme are not eligible for funding.

6. ELIGIBILITY OF PARTNERSHIPS

As a minimum requirement, the project partnership must involve 2 partners one from each Member State. The partnership scheme must not exceed 5 partners.

In line with Article 2(9) of the CPR, beneficiaries are responsible for initiating and/or implementing projects. They can be public or private legal entities of both participating countries; and shall cooperate in the development and implementation of operations, as well as in the staffing or financing of operations, or both in accordance with Article 23(4) of the ETC Regulation.

An activity may be implemented in a single country, provided that the impact on and the benefits for the programme area are identified in the application of the activity in accordance with Article 23(2) of the ETC Regulation.

The project partnership shall consist of two types of beneficiaries the Lead Beneficiary (LB), and the Project Beneficiary (PB). The Lead Beneficiary who undertakes the submission of the proposal on behalf of multiple beneficiaries, is the Coordinator of the project defined by all the beneficiaries / co-beneficiaries.

Each beneficiary may submit up to 5 Project Proposals in the Present Call. The above limit applies to all types of Beneficiaries (LB, PB) considered as a unique structure (not as single Units/Departments) and it is applied at Call level– not at Specific Objective level. In case a potential Beneficiary applies to more than 5 Project Proposals, then the first 5 proposals submitted via MIS will be assessed.

7. ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURE

7.1 The end date of the eligibility period for the costs of the proposed operations is defined as 31.12.2029. The end date of the proposed projects (completion in both physical and financial terms of the project) should be by the above date.

7.2 Projects that have been physically completed or fully executed before the application for funding at the present Call for Project Proposals are not eligible, regardless of whether or not the related payments have been made.

7.3 Project budget requirements (incl. EU & National Funds)

The minimum budget of the submitted project proposals is defined as the amount of 1.000.000,00 €.

The maximum budget of the submitted project proposals is defined as the amount of 2.500.000,00 €.

7.4 Partners budget requirements (incl. EU & National Funds)

The minimum budget of the submitted project proposal per project partner is defined as the amount of 150.000 €.

7.5 Associated Partners budget requirements (incl. EU & National Funds)

Not applicable

7.6 The ERDF co-financing to beneficiaries may be reduced in case of State aid relevance of project activities, in compliance with relevant rules on State aid (see PPIM). In such a case State aid is granted under the *de minimis* regime or *GBER* within the project.

7.7 The MA may modify the total amount of the public expenditure of the present Call or may proceed with a justified termination of the validity of the Call, informing in any case the beneficiaries through the programme website .

7.8 The eligibility rules for the costs of the co-financed operations are specified in Programme and Project Implementation Manual. The beneficiaries may select to be financed either on real costs or on flat rate as follows.

7.9 Categories of Expenditure that will be financed and reimbursed based on real costs

Expenditure category	Description
2	Staff Cost (Real cost)
4	Office and Administration (Real cost)
6	Equipment (Real cost)
8	Travel and Accomodation (Real cost)
10	External Expertise and Services (Real cost)
12	Infrastructure and Works (Real cost)

7.10 Expenditures based on simplified cost options.

Expenditure category	Description	Measurement Unit	Flat rate	Description
2	Staff Cost	%	20	up to 20 % of the direct costs other than the direct staff costs of the operation
4	Office and Administration	%	15	up to 15 % of eligible direct staff costs
8	Travel and Accomodation	%	15	up to 15% of the direct staff costs of the operation

The simplified cost options applied to the projects will not be able to be modified either during its implementation or upon its completion.

For all expenses that will be reimbursed using the simplified cost option, Beneficiaries will not provide paid receipts of expenses or documents of equivalent accounting value maintained in the Beneficiary's accounting system.

7.11. Costs within the budget lines "staff costs, travel and accommodation costs and external expertise and services", which have been incurred for the preparation of the project, are eligible for funding on a real cost basis calculation, but should not exceed the amount of €30.000 at project level.

7.12. The management costs of each project beneficiary should not exceed 10% of the its total budget. For the Lead Beneficiary this percentage shall be limited to 15% of its budget.

7.13. Communication' costs cannot exceed 8% of the total project budget and no more than 100.000€, without limits at beneficiary level.

7.14. It is strongly recommended that the total Budget of expenditures in categories 2,4,8 and 10 (soft measures) , cannot exceed the amount of 600.000€ per Project.

Detailed eligibility rules on activities and related expenditure are described in the *Programme and Project Implementation Manual*.

8. INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS/CONCEPT NOTES

The concept note is submitted via MIS with reference on present Call for Project Proposals, from **12/02/2024** (start date for submission of proposals), time **09:00 Greek local time (CET+1)** until,

exclusively, **27/03/2024** (deadline for submission of proposals), time **14:00 Greek local time (CET+1)** at the latest.

The Concept Note should be signed by the Lead Partner and attached in pdf format via MIS. No proposal submitted afterwards will be accepted.

After the successful submission of the concept note, the Beneficiary is informed via MIS.

Concept notes will not be accepted outside of the above deadlines.

The deadline for the project submission for Stage B will be determined after evaluation of all concept notes.

9. SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process has as follows:

STAGE A – Concept note submission.

The potential beneficiaries submit the proposal exclusively electronically via MIS. The Concept Note should be signed by the Lead Beneficiary and attached in pdf format. Proof of timely submission is only the timestamp of the MIS. No proposal submitted afterwards will be accepted.

After the successful submission of the proposal, the Lead Beneficiary is informed via MIS system.

STAGE B: Project proposal submission

Only the approved by the Monitoring Committee Concept Notes can proceed to the next stage (submission of full application forms with the attached mandatory documents) exclusively through the MIS. Beneficiaries submit their project proposals in Stage B. The project proposal must be submitted no later than 30 calendar days after the date of the notification. Proposals submitted after the above deadline will not be accepted.

After the submission of the proposal by the potential Beneficiary, the selection process and approval of projects is as follows.

9.1 Evaluation of the proposals of the Cooperation Programme is conducted in two stages:

Stage A' – Pre-Assessment of Concept Note

The evaluation is based on methodology and criteria approved by the Monitoring Committee, which are attached to this call and begins after the deadline for submitting the Concept Notes of this call (see §8 of present ToR). The proposals are evaluated by the MA in collaboration with the National Authorities of the two countries if required, based on a targeted set of criteria and examining whether each proposal is consistent with the strategy, the intended targets, the indicators of the Programme etc. The results of the evaluation are approved by the Monitoring Committee, and are communicated to the Lead Beneficiaries of each partnership by the Managing Authority. Upon the completion of the pre-assessment, projects approved by MC are eligible to apply for Stage B'.

Stage B' – Evaluation of The Proposals

The evaluation is based on methodology and criteria approved by the Monitoring Committee, which will be attached to the Stage B' call and begins after the deadline for submitting Project Proposals to Stage B (see §8 of present ToR).

This stage consists of three phases as follows:

Phase B1: Administrative & Project Eligibility Assessment

Phase B2: Quality Assessment

Phase B3: Beneficiaries Eligibility Check & State Aid Compliance for Project Proposals which have been positively evaluated in phases B1 and B2

During the evaluation, the MA/JS may request from the beneficiary, (B1 & B2 Phase) to submit additional information and clarifications, within a specific deadline.

Additional data are those which, while foreseen in the Call, were not submitted due to an omission (or a set of permitted errors) by the potential beneficiary and have been issued before the submission of the proposal. Clarifications are items requested by the assessor(s), in order to clarify the submitted information and better understand the content of the proposal. In case of an external assessor from the Register of Assessors, clarifications can be requested exclusively through the Managing Authority provided that it consents.

Upon completion of the comparative assessment of Phase B1 & B2, the proposals are ranked in descending order based on their score, following the approval of the MC. Upon the completion of the comparative assessment, projects as approved by the MC proceed in Phase B3 assessment.

9.2 Publication of a provisional list of evaluated proposals for Stage A, Phase B1&B2 and Phase B3.

9.3 Submission and examination of complaints

The potential Beneficiaries may submit a complaint to the MA/Joint Complaint Committee regarding the results of the evaluation (see Annex 13. Project Selection Methodology). Complaints are submitted once per evaluation stage, within a specific deadline of seven (7) working days from the day following the notification of the evaluation results, namely:

- of the Decision issued during Stage A' of the evaluation
- of the Ranking Table of evaluated proposals issued during Stage B': Phase B1' & B2' of the evaluation procedure, approved by the Monitoring Committee .
- of the Ranking Table of evaluated proposals issued during Stage B': Phase B3' of the evaluation approved by the Monitoring Committee

Upon completion of the examination of the complaints concerning:

- Stage A',
- Stage B': Phase B1' & B2',
- Stage B': Phase B3'

of the evaluation, the proposals for which the complaint is accepted are added to the ranking table, in the order in which they are ranked by their score, in order to produce the Final Ranking Table of evaluated proposals (see Annex 13. Project Selection Methodology)

10. COMMUNICATION - SUPPORT TO APPLICANTS

10.1. For information with regard to the Programme, the Management and Control System, the institutional framework for the implementation of the actions within the Programme, the eligible expenditure costs for the actions, as well as any information related to the submission of proposals (such as instructions for the completion of the Application Form, monitoring indicators, specification of the project proposal evaluation criteria and other documents, which are necessary for the examination of the proposal) please visit the Programme website www.interreg.gr.

You may also find relevant information on the Managing Authority's website (www.interreg.gr) and the Programme website www.greece-bulgaria.eu.

The programme provides the following support measures and tools to assist applicants (potential beneficiaries) in submitting quality project proposals. In particular: *Information Events / Info-Days* – Applicants can attend informative events in both participating countries with regard to the present Call for Project Proposals related to the Call ToRs, programme features, objective/s and actions, partnership requirements, communication, project finances, etc. in the context of their project proposal (idea). Specific information (date, time, etc.) about the events is posted on the Programme website.

- *Assistance to Applicants* (applicant exchange of project proposal ideas and matchmaking) - In a dedicated section on the programme website, applicants are facilitated with sharing project ideas, checking relevance, project partner searching and finding existing ideas for cooperation.
- *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)* - In a dedicated section on the programme website, applicants are provided with answers to the most frequently asked questions (FAQ) regarding the programme funding and application process. Questions may be posed in written (at.interreg@mou.gr) via an e-mail to the Managing Authority, no later than twenty (20) calendar days before the deadline for the submission of proposals. Answers shall be published no later than ten (10) calendar days before the deadline for the submission of Project Proposals. As the FAQ is regularly expanded and updated, please revisit the programme website regularly for retrieving the most up-to-date information.

- *Helpdesks for technical support* - For questions related to the application system, contact MIS helpdesk (ikalaitzoglou@mou.gr) by email or consult the MIS user manual.
- *National support by Antenna and Info Points (IPs)* - Applicants can also reach out to Antenna and Info Points (IP) in both programme countries. They offer national support regarding the calls and provide information in national languages on primarily national application issues.

10.2 Applicants are invited to regularly consult the official Programme website for updates and further details regarding all support measures.

11. PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION

11.1 The Managing Authority that holds the position of "controller" declares that:

- is aware of the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, the Hellenic Legislation - Law 4624/2019 and the relevant instructions and decisions of the Hellenic Data Protection Authority, which govern the legal execution of the Call, and
- fully undertakes the obligations deriving from the legislation, regarding the protection and security of personal data, which may be processed and/or come to its knowledge in any way.

11.2 The processing by the beneficiaries (acting as processors) is governed by a legal act that falls under the European Union law and the Hellenic law, which binds the processor in relation to the controller and determines the object and duration of the processing, the nature and purpose of the processing, the type of personal data and the categories of data subjects, as well as the obligations and rights of the controller and the processors. This legal act, takes the form of the Subsidy Contract between the Managing Authority and the Lead Beneficiary (Lead Partner) of a project - following the Decision of the Monitoring Committee, where all the provisions related to the protection of personal data are provided.

The Special Secretary for ERDF & CF Programmes

Georgios Zervos

ANNEX I: DETAILS OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME ON THE ANNOUNCED ACTIVITIES OF THE PRESENT CALL
Tables 1-4
Table 1: CALL-SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

COOPERATION PROGRAMME: (Interreg VI-A) Greece-Bulgaria							CODE: 633	
POLICY OBJECTIVE	CODE	PRIORITY	CODE	FUND	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	CODE	INTERVENTION CATEGORY	CODE
A Greener Europe	2	PRIORITY 1 - A more Resilient and Greener Greece-Bulgaria Cross Border Territory	1	ERD F	Circular economy	RSO 2.6	Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises, research centres and universities, focusing on the low carbon economy, resilience and adaptation to climate change	029
A Greener Europe	2	PRIORITY 1 - A more Resilient and Greener Greece-Bulgaria Cross Border Territory	1	ERD F	Circular economy	RSO 2.6	Household waste management: prevention, minimisation, sorting, reuse, recycling measures	067
A Greener Europe	2	PRIORITY 1 - A more Resilient and Greener Greece-Bulgaria Cross Border Territory	1	ERD F	Nature protection and biodiversity	RSO 2.7	Air quality and noise reduction measures	077
A Greener Europe	2	PRIORITY 1 - A more Resilient and Greener Greece-Bulgaria Cross Border Territory	1	ERD F	Nature protection and biodiversity	RSO 2.7	Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure	079
A More Social Europe	4	PRIORITY 3 - A more Inclusive Greece-Bulgaria Cross Border Territory	3	ERD F	Education and training infrastructure	RSO 4.2	Support for self-employment and business start-ups	137
A More Social Europe	4	PRIORITY 3 - A more Inclusive Greece-Bulgaria Cross Border Territory	3	ERD F	Education and training infrastructure	RSO 4.2	Support for the development of digital skills	145
A More Social Europe	4	PRIORITY 3 - A more Inclusive Greece-Bulgaria Cross Border Territory	3	ERD F	Culture and sustainable tourism	RSO 4.6	Protection, development and promotion of public tourism assets and tourism services	165

Detailed reference is provided in *IP* and *Programme Manual*.

Table 2: CALL-SPECIFIC BUDGET

COOPERATION PROGRAMME : (Interreg VI-A) Greece-Bulgaria			CODE: 633
PRIORITY	CODE	FUND	ERDF & NATIONAL BUDGET
PRIORITY 1 - A more Resilient and Greener Greece-Bulgaria Cross Border Territory	1	ERDF	18.495.327,10
<i>RSO2.6. Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy</i>			9.149.532,71
<i>RSO2.7. Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution</i>			9.345.794,39
PRIORITY 3 - A more Inclusive Greece-Bulgaria Cross Border Territory	3	ERDF	13.555.140,00
<i>RSO 4.2. Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training</i>			4.205.607,48
<i>RSO4.6. Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation</i>			9.349.532,71

Detailed reference is provided in *Programme Manual*.

Table 3: CALL-SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS

COOPERATION PROGRAMME: (Interreg VI-A) Greece-Bulgaria		FUND: ERDF		
PRIORITY	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	INDICATORS		
		CODE ID	TITLE	MEASUREMENT UNIT
PRIORITY 1 - A more Resilient and Greener Greece-Bulgaria Cross Border Territory	RSO2.7	RCO36	Green infrastructure supported for other purposes than adaptation to climate change	Hectare
PRIORITY 1 - A more Resilient and Greener Greece-Bulgaria Cross Border Territory	RSO2.7	RCO39	Area covered by systems for monitoring air pollution installed	Number

PRIORITY 3 - A more Inclusive Greece-Bulgaria Cross Border Territory	RSO 4.6	RCO77	Number of cultural and tourism sites supported	Number
PRIORITY 3 - A more Inclusive Greece-Bulgaria Cross Border Territory	RSO 4.2	RCO84	Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	Number
PRIORITY 3 - A more Inclusive Greece-Bulgaria Cross Border Territory	RSO 4.2	RCO85	Participations in joint training scheme	Number
PRIORITY 1 - A more Resilient and Greener Greece-Bulgaria Cross Border Territory	RSO2.6	RCO116	Jointly developed solutions	Number

Detailed reference is provided in *Programme Output & Result Indicators guide*.

Table 4: CALL-SPECIFIC RESULT INDICATORS

COOPERATION PROGRAMME: (Interreg VI-A) Greece-Bulgaria		FUND: ERDF		
PRIORITY	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	INDICATORS		
		CODE ID	TITLE	MEASUREMENT UNIT
PRIORITY 1 - A more Resilient and Greener Greece-Bulgaria Cross Border Territory	RSO 2.7	RCR50	Population benefiting from measures for air quality	Individuals
PRIORITY 3 - A more Inclusive Greece-Bulgaria Cross Border Territory	RSO 4.6	RCR77	Visitors of cultural and tourism sites supported	Annual number of Visits
PRIORITY 3 - A more Inclusive Greece-Bulgaria Cross Border Territory	RSO 4.2	RCR81	Completion of joint training schemes	Individuals
PRIORITY 1 - A more Resilient and Greener Greece-Bulgaria Cross Border Territory	RSO 2.7	RCR95	Population having access to new or improved green infrastructure	Individuals
PRIORITY 1 - A more Resilient and Greener Greece-Bulgaria Cross Border Territory	RSO 2.6	RCR104	Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations	Number

Detailed reference is provided in Annex 10. *Programme Output & Result Indicators guide*.

ANNEX II: INDICATIVE ACTIONS PER SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE**Specific objective: RSO2.6. Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy****Indicative Actions:**

Promotion of Circular Economy in CBC Greece -Bulgaria

Examples of projects (non-exhaustive list):

1. Creation and operation of CB secondary product marketplaces, including digital platforms
2. Initiatives that support infrastructure for the development of industrial symbiosis, reduction of waste, improved management of waste and promoter resource efficiency (reform, reduce, recycle).
3. Integrated territorial monitoring of waste management and pollution sources.
4. Awareness raising initiatives and pilot actions for more responsible consuming.
5. Experience and good practices exchange.

Specific objective: RSO2.7. Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution**Indicative Actions:**

Monitoring, planning and development of green infrastructure that support functions of ecological corridors in the CBC areas and quality of life including the digitization of protection systems and promoting biodiversity and environmentally friendly practices.

Examples of projects (non-exhaustive list):

1. Green and infrastructure in urban and peri-urban areas (in line with New European Bauhaus principal) that promotes the ecosystem services.
2. Capacity building and good practices sharing in areas/ species/ natural resources management, including joint training of personnel for the promotion of urban ecology.
3. Development and test of integrated environmental action plans on urban or regional level as a basis for pollution prevention and remediation measures.
4. Monitoring systems for the environmental conditions in urban areas and associated pollution prevention and control management plans.
5. Sustainable management practices towards greener approaches in various fields, bilaterally agreed

Specific objective: RSO4.2. Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training**Indicative Actions:**

1. Joint Training programmes, courses in topics of common interest
2. Development and pilot implementation of tools focusing on upskilling and reskilling of targeted groups; focusing on digitalisation and greening of economy.
3. Special educational/ training programmes, including for disabled

The Programme will cover explicitly equipment that is necessary for the implementation of the above type of actions (for example electronic devices for the participation of disabled).

Specific objective: RSO4.6. Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation**Indicative Actions:**

Examples of actions supported from open Calls (non-exhaustive list):

1. Implementation of Joint Strategic Sustainable Tourism Development plans for inclusive and silver tourism, including the upgrade of attractions and sites.
2. Technological and digital platforms and tools for cooperative tourist development and promotion, strengthening digital governance of tourist destinations cooperation for joint touristic utilization.
3. Networking and highlight of historical and cultural border Heritage (including fortifications, historic war sites, etc.).
4. Improvement of Climate Resilience of Tourist destinations / Infrastructure.
5. Promotion of thematic routes in areas such as geo-tourism etc.