

Joint Operational Programme "Black Sea 2007-2013" Newsletter June 2009

Common borders. Common solutions.



1. Launching Conference of the Joint Operational Programme "Black Sea 2007-2013"

The Launching Conference of the Joint Operational Programme "Black Sea 2007-2013" took place in Bucharest, on the 5th and 6th of May 2009.

Officials and potential applicants and partners from the 10 states participating in the Programme (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine), as well as representatives of the European Commission and other international organizations active in the Black Sea area attended the event.

The aim of the Conference was to inform the public and the potential applicants and partners about the financing opportunities offered by the Joint Operational Programme

"Black Sea 2007-2013", which will support "soft" projects contributing to the sustainable economic and social development of the region.

The first day of the Conference focused on the promotion of the Programme, its importance and political support of the participating countries, presentation of the programme in the context of the European and international initiatives in the Black Sea area and on the exchange of ideas regarding the generation of synergies between the different initiatives of different donors in the region.

The second day was organized with the support of Regional Capacity Building Initiative (RCBI). The seminar was dedicated to the potential applicants and partners who were familiarized with the content of the application package by simultaneous thematic working groups organized taking into consideration the Programme priorities and aiming at generating project ideas and analyzing the eligibility conditions necessary for submitting viable applications.

Presentations and other materials from the Conference may be downloaded at:

<http://www.blacksea-cbc.net/index.php?page=EVENTS>



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2. First Call for Proposals opened on 30th of June 2009

The Joint Managing Authority (JMA) for the Joint Operational Programme "Black Sea 2007-2013" published the first Call for Proposals on 30th of June 2009. All priorities of the programme are open for submission of proposals.

What is the deadline for submission of applications?

The deadline for the submission of applications is 12th of October 2009 as evidenced by the date of dispatch, the postmark or the date of the deposit slip. Any application sent after the deadline as defined above will automatically be rejected. For reasons of administrative efficiency, the JMA may reject any application received after the effective date of approval of the administrative check step.

Which is the indicative allocation of funds for the first Call for Proposals?

The indicative amount made available under this Call for Proposals is EUR 3,311,369 (ENPI contribution). For Turkish partners' participating in joint actions, the indicative amount made available under this Call for Proposals is EUR 1,339,401 (IPA contribution).

What is the level of co-financing?

No grant may exceed 90% of the total eligible costs of the Action.

The rate of co-financing is 10% of the total eligible costs of the Action and it is requested for each approved proposal. Co-financing is to be provided

by the Beneficiaries in order to demonstrate local commitment.

Which is the size of grants?

Any EU grant contribution awarded under this Call for Proposals must fall between the following minimum and maximum amounts:

<u>Type of actions (projects)</u>	<u>Minimum amount</u>	<u>Maximum amount</u>
Priorities 1 & 2	EUR 100,000	EUR 700,000
Priority 3	EUR 50,000	EUR 250,000
Projects implemented mainly or entirely in a single participating-country but having a cross-border impact	EUR 50,000	EUR 250,000

Which legal entities are eligible under this programme?

- national, regional or local public authorities;
- bodies governed by public law, other than legal entities defined under par.a;
- associations formed by one or several national, regional or local public authorities or one or several bodies governed by public law, as defined under par.a-b;
- other non-profit organisations, other than legal entities defined under par.c;



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e. public undertakings operating in the water, energy and transport services sectors.

What are the conditions for an eligible partnership?

The projects will be jointly submitted and implemented by partnerships that will always involve partners from one or several **Member States** (Bulgaria, Greece, Romania) and from one or several **partner countries** (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, R. Moldova, Russia, Ukraine) and/or **Turkey**. The participation of Turkish partners is only possible in tripartite projects involving at least one partner from a Member State and one partner from a partner country.

All partnerships will be led by a **Beneficiary** (Lead Partner) responsible for the management of the project in question and signing a contract on behalf of the partnership with the JMA.

How many members should form a partnership?

The recommended number of partners involved in each project partnership is between 3 and 10 partners.

Please note that **priority will be given to projects involving minimum 3 partners from minimum 3 different countries.**

Can more than one project of the same applicant be selected?

- An Applicant **may** submit more than one application under this Call for Proposals.

- An Applicant **may not** be awarded more than **three grants** under this Call for Proposals, one grant per each priority.
- An Applicant **may** at the same time be partner in another application.
- Partners **may** take part in more than one application.

The Selection Committee may decide to limit the number of grants awarded to one Applicant.

According with PRAG provisions (Section 6.4.8.6), where several proposals submitted by the same Applicant are selected for financing, but the Applicant does not prove to have the necessary capacity required to implement all selected proposals for which grants may be awarded, the Selection Committee shall reject the proposal(s) which has (have) been awarded a lower score, and select the proposal(s) that the Applicant has the capacity to implement.



Which types of projects are eligible?

Three types of projects are eligible:

1. **Integrated projects** with different activities in several countries that jointly achieve a certain objective having a cross border impact;
2. **Symmetrical projects** with the similar activities in all countries participating in the project;



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3. **Projects** implemented mainly or entirely in a single participating-country but having a cross-border impact.

Please note that **priority will be given to integrated projects** and that only 10% of this Call for Proposals budget will be available for projects implemented mainly or entirely in a single participating-country, but having a cross-border impact.

Where can I find documents related to the Call for Proposals?

All documents related to the Call for Proposals (the Application Package) are available on the programme’s website www.blacksea-cbc.net in the *Calls for Proposals* and also in the *Documents - Guidelines for applicants* sections.



3. Tools available for potential applicants/partners to develop project proposals

Frequently Asked Questions

Potential applicants and partners are strongly recommended to start their quest for developing project ideas by first reading the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on the

programme’s website (www.blacksea-cbc.net in *Frequently Asked Questions* section).

Among the FAQ you will find answers to most of the questions you may have regarding the application process for the first Call for Proposals of the programme.

In case you have additional questions, you may send them to the Joint Managing Authority by e-mail or by fax no later than 15 days before the deadline for the submission of applications to the below addresses:

E-mail address: blacksea-cbc@mdrl.ro

Fax: +40 372 111 456

Replies will be given no later than 11 days before the deadline for the submission of applications.

Questions that may be relevant to other applicants, together with the answers, will be published by the Joint Managing Authority on the programme’s website (www.blacksea-cbc.net in *Frequently Asked Questions* section).



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Finding partners tools

- "Finding Partners" tools on the RCBI's website

(http://www.rcbi.info/pages/18_1.html)

Looking for project partners in the EU or the Partner Countries? Whether you are from an EU Member State and Turkey or from a Partner Country, on the pages below you may search for partners, register to be a partner or find other useful tools for developing partnerships:

[Find partners in the Partner Countries](#)

[Find Partners in EU Member States and Turkey](#)

[Register to be included in the Partner Countries database](#)

- "Partner Search" tool on the programme's website (www.blacksea-cbc.net in the *Partner Search* section)

You may search for partners and/or register as partners in the programme's partners database by country, Priority and Measure.

- **Submitting project ideas on the programme's website** (www.blacksea-cbc.net in the *Call for proposals* section)

You may have your project ideas published on the programme website in order to facilitate partnerships. Please note that only those project idea forms explicitly mentioned as "to be published" will be posted on the website.



Information events and Partnership Forums/ Project Preparation Workshops

- **Partnership Forums** will support the setting up of partnerships between potential applicants and partners of the programme. Further details regarding the venue and exact date and hours shall be published on the programme's website (www.blacksea-cbc.net in *Events* section).

- **Project Preparation Workshops** will concentrate on addressing the information needs of the potential applicants and partners of the programme. Further details regarding the venue and exact date and hours shall be published on the programme's website (www.blacksea-cbc.net in *Events* section).



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Indicative timetable of coming events

Date	Type of event	Location	Organizers
06.07	Project Preparation Workshop	Constanta (RO)	JMA + Phare project
08.07	Project Preparation Workshop	Galati (RO)	JMA + Phare project
23.07	Partnership Forum	Varna (BG)	JMA + RCBI
30.07	Project Preparation Workshop	Istanbul (TR)	TİKA+JMA
04.08	Partnership Forum	Odessa (UA)	JMA +RCBI
06.08	Project Preparation Workshop	Trabzon (TR)	TİKA+JMA
10.08	Project Preparation Workshop	Kastamonu (TR)	TİKA+JMA
13.08	Project Preparation Workshop	Amasya (TR)	TİKA+JMA
04.09	Project Preparation Workshop	Thessaloniki (GR)	JMA
09.09	Project Preparation Workshop	Stara Zagora(BG)	JMA
15.09	Project Preparation Workshop	Tulcea (RO)	JMA
22.09	Project Preparation Workshop	Alexandropolis(GR)	JMA
22.09	Project Preparation Workshop	Burgas(BG)	JMA

The two Partnership Forums are organized in one EU Member State and one Partner Country by JMA with the support of RCBI.

The Project Preparation Workshops in EU Member States are organized by JMA.

The Project Preparation Workshops in Turkey are organized by the Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) with the support of JMA.

For similar events in Partner Countries please consult regularly RCBI website:

http://www.rcbi.info/cgi-bin/migc_preview.pl?lg=1&page=61.



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Additional support from National Info Points

National Info Points (NIP) are established in each participating country. The NIPs are responsible for providing information to potential applicants and partners in their own countries on the planned activities under the programme, being available for informing them in their own language and taking into account their own national context.

The indicative activities of the NIP are:

- Organise the flow of information to potential applicants and partners from their own country (organising small-scale seminars, providing translated material from the programme web-site in their own national language, informing about the launch of calls for proposals, explaining the rules set out for each of the call for proposals and other procedures);
- Liaise with NIPs from other countries in order to facilitate partner search;
- Keep a small-scale database at measure level of (potentially) interested parties.

Please find the contact details for all National Info Points on the programme's website (www.blacksea-cbc.net in *Programme Management/National Info Points* section).



Regional Capacity Building Initiative

Supporting partner country participation in ENPI CBC Programmes 2007 - 2013

RCBI - An EU project supporting the implementation of the Black Sea in Partner Countries

Information events to tell people about the Black Sea Programme and **practical workshops** which walk through the application process step by step are some of the activities being implemented in Programme Partner Countries by the Regional Capacity Building Initiative (RCBI).

An EU project implemented by a consortium led by MWH, RCBI aims to support full and active participation by partner countries in the Black Sea Programme (and all the ENPI CBC Programmes).

Nearly 600 people in Partner Countries have taken part in the 16 events held so far indicating a high level of interest in the programme and in participating in Calls for Proposals.

For many regions (and organisations) in the Partner Countries, this is their first exposure to ENPI CBC and their first experience of cross border cooperation. One of the most common issues raised, was **how to find partners**.

There are still more RCBI events to come, including two **Partnership Forums**. Held in one of the partner countries, the Partnership Forum aims to help people form and develop partnerships to



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implement projects of common benefit on both sides of the EU external borders.

Help to find a partner was a key feature of the Programme launch where 200 people took part in a Partnership Forum facilitated by the JMA and RCBI. This event helped people to identify others working in similar fields or on similar project ideas.



For people in Partner Countries there is further help to find partners. Organisations can register themselves in the Partners database on the RCBI website (www.rcbi.info) where they can be found by like minded organisations for other Partner Countries or EU Member States. They can also follow links to databases of partners in EU Member States.

Support for programme management and implementation, including training for the National Information Points in each country is another RCBI activity but this component will soon be managed INTERACT ENPI.

The RCBI website is brimful of information to help organisations wanting to apply for support under the Black Sea Programme. As well as help to find partners, visitors will find materials from past RCBI events, dates for coming events and even be able to register to attend. Contact details for RCBI experts are also on the site. All information on the website is available in English, French, Arabic and Russian.

For more information on RCBI events, and to register to attend, please visit the news pages on www.rcbi.info.



Sharing Expertise ENPI CBC 

INTERACT - support for the implementation of the Black Sea Programme

Face to the challenges that the implementation of ENPI CBC Programmes represent, the need for strengthening the capacities of national actors constitutes a key condition to ensure that ENPI CBC Programmes and projects are implemented efficiently and will produce tangible impacts and benefits for the cooperation area.

In order to successfully address these challenges, **National Information and Contact Points of the five south and south-eastern ENPI CBC**



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programmes have met in Florence on 23 June in order to exchange their views on the role of national authorities in fields such as dissemination and capitalisation, the promotion of partnership and the generation and development of projects.

This meeting, hosted by the Regional Council of the Tuscany Region, has represented the starting point

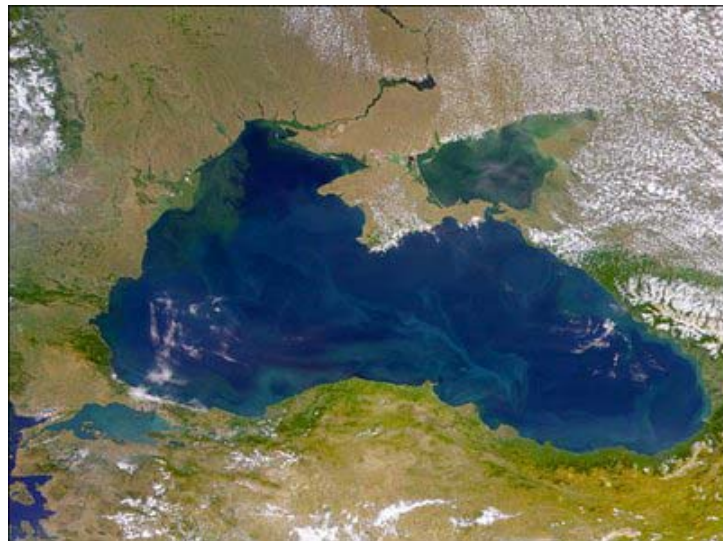
of a series of networking activities targeted to these actors and which will be supported by the INTERACT ENPI project.

Being communication a crucial component of the activities that the National Information and Contact Points should carry out in order to maximize awareness and local and regional involvement in ENPI CBC Programmes, training on the elaboration and implementation of useful communication strategies and tools was also organized by the INTERACT ENPI project in combination with the network meeting. Based on the fact that communication activities require a common understanding and a proper coordination between the programme level and the national level, Joint Managing Authorities and Joint Technical Secretariats have also participated in this training, in which the visibility requirements applicable to EU external actions were also tackled.

The Black Sea Programme was largely represented in both events, with the attendance of national representatives of most of the participating countries as well as of the Joint Managing Authority. In addition, the communication plan of the programme was the object of a specific presentation.

For more information please visit:

www.interact-eu.net/enpi



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Newsletter edited by the “Black Sea 2007-2013” Joint Managing Authority - the Ministry of Regional Development and Housing, Romania



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