



ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

of the

Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2007 - 2013

**Pursuant to Article 28 of
Commission Regulation (EC) No 951/2007**

Reporting period: 27/11/2008 - 31/12/2009

**Number of
the Commission Decision:** C (2008) 7406

Joint Managing Authority: Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism
General Directorate for European Territorial Cooperation
Directorate for International Territorial Cooperation

This Annual Report was approved by the Joint Monitoring Committee of the Programme on

28/06/2010



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I. Technical Part

<i>Programming period:</i>	2007-2013
Decision Number of the Commission:	C(2008) 7406
<i>Programme title:</i>	Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2007-2013
<i>Reporting year:</i>	2008-2009
<i>Date of approval of the annual report by the Joint Monitoring Committee:</i>	28/06/2010

1. Introduction

The Annual Implementation Report for the Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2007-2103 has been prepared in accordance to the provisions of art 28 of the Commission Regulation no.951/2007. It comprises information about the technical and financial progress of the programme during the end of 2008 and during 2009.

2. Progress achieved in implementing the programme and its priorities

2.1 Progress analysis and achievements

a. Programming process

The European Commission approved the “Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2007-2013” on the 27th of November 2008, with its Decision no. 7406.

The programme document is the result of a joint programming effort of the relevant authorities of the participating countries, with the close support of the European Commission, and regional and local partners involved in a large consultation process.

The Programme provides the framework for the implementation of cross border activities in the context of the European Neighbourhood Policy with the aim to improve the economic, social and environmental situation in the Programme area, in the context of safe and secure borders, through increased contact of partners on both sides of the borders.

The Financing Agreements established according to the art.10 of Implementing Rules for ENPI no 951/2007, between the European Commission and partner states, were concluded as follows:

- April 2009 with Armenia;
- June 2009 with Republic of Moldova;
- July 2009 with Georgia;
- December 2009 with Ukraine;



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The Russian Federation ~~and Azerbaijan have did~~ not concluded within the set deadline the Financing Agreements with the European Commission. Azerbaijan signed the Financing Agreement in December 2009 with reservations which were not accepted by the European Commission. Given this situation the entities from Russian Federation and Azerbaijan can participate in projects financed in the framework of this programme as “associate partners”, with their own funding.

b. Setting up of the programme management bodies

The management and administration of the Programme is organised according to the description provided by chapter 7 of the Joint Operational Programme and in compliance with the Commission Regulation (EC) No 951/5007 laying down the implementing rules for ENPI CBC.

The following structures are involved in the management of the Programme:

The Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC), the main decision making structure of the Programme, has been established in December 2008. It includes representatives appointed by each participating country, on a functional basis. Each country designated a maximum number of 3 members from central level and at least one observer from the civil society.

During the reporting period, the Joint Monitoring Committee had two meetings. Both meetings took place in Bucharest on 16.12.2008 and, on 26th and 27th of February 2009. During the first meeting the JMC approved its rules of procedure by unanimity. In addition to these meetings, for ensuring the proper management of the programme, the JMA initiated written procedures to approve several documents.

The Joint Managing Authority (JMA) is the executive body bearing the overall responsibility for the management and implementation of the programme towards the European Commission.

In 2006, the Ministry of Development, Public Works and Housing from Romania was designated by the participating countries Joint Managing Authority for this operational programme.

From 2006 to date, the responsibilities of the **Ministry of Development, Public Works and Housing** were assumed respectively by the **Ministry of Regional Development and Housing** and the **Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism**, pursuant to the reorganizations of the Romanian Government. Nevertheless, the internal structure of the Joint Managing Authority remained unchanged, as described in the Joint Operational Programme.

The General Director for European Territorial Co-operation is appointed as Head of the JMA, while the *Directorate for International Territorial Co-operation* fulfils the role of *Operational Unit* of the JMA, responsible for the overall supervision of the Programme implementation, for the operational management of the Programme, participation in Joint Monitoring Committee and selection committees and for presenting annual reports to the JMC and the EC

With due respect to the division of functions, the operational, financial and audit functions are ensured by the *Directorate for International Territorial Co-operation*, the *General Directorate for Programme Authorisation and Payments* and *Directorate for Internal Audit*.



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In addition to these three main units, the General Directorate for Legal Affairs, the Own Financial Preventive Controller Compartment, the Economic and Administrative General Directorate, the Public Procurement General Directorate, the Human Resources Directorate, the Directorate for Control and Verification of Community Funds and the Compartment for Verification of Programmes Conformity and Irregularities Management provide support to the JMA.

A Principal Advisor for the Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2007-2013 proposed and financed by the Greek National Authority, will be placed by the JMA, to the *Directorate for International Territorial Cooperation*. The advisor will have a clearly specified role and tasks, contributing to the management of the programme. The JMA and the Greek National Authority will set up joint criteria for the selection of the Principal Advisor. During the reporting period, the JMA and the National Authority from Greece worked on the preparation of a Memorandum of Understanding to be concluded also with the National Authority in Bulgaria, detailing the responsibilities of the authorities in the Member States in the implementation process of the programme.

The Audit Authority (AA) carries out the annual ex-post financial audit on the accounts of the JMA. The Audit Authority within the Romanian Court of Accounts accomplishes the external audit tasks for the programme.

The National Authorities (NAs) represent the counterparts of the Joint Managing Authority in the partner countries:

Armenia -	Ministry of Economy
Bulgaria -	Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works
Georgia -	State Minister's Office of European and Euro Atlantic Integration
Greece -	Ministry of Economy, Competitiveness and Shipping
R. Moldova -	State Chancellery
Turkey -	Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA)
Ukraine -	Ministry of Economy

The Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) to be established within the structure of the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, to support the JMA in the day-to-day management of the programme, in accordance with the stipulations of the article 10 (1) of the Regulation (EC) no.1638/2006 and to article 16 of the Commission Regulation (EC) no.951/2007.

In June 2009 the JMA concluded a grant contract with the European Commission for the set up and functioning of the JTS, contract reference 2009/213-363 and 2009/213-393 "**Establishment of the Joint Technical Secretariat for the ENPI CBC Black Sea Programme 2007-2013**". The contract value is of 1,310,613.60 Euro, with duration of 41.5 months, starting from 15th July 2009.

The JMA started the necessary procedures for the establishment of the JTS; however it encountered difficulties that made it impossible for the JTS to be set up during 2009. Please see section 2.4.

The National Info Points (NIPs) were established in each participating-country. The NIP provided information to potential beneficiaries in their own countries on the planned activities under the programme.

The indicative activities of the NIP are:



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- Organise the flow of information to potential beneficiaries 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 among others rules and procedures);
- Liaise with NIP from other countries in order to facilitate partner search.
- Keep a small-scale database at measure level of (potentially) interested parties.

Nominated National Info Points in 2009:

Armenia: Ministry of Economy

Bulgaria: Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works

Georgia: EU Programmes National Coordinating (Unit NCU) of the State Ministers Office on European Integration

Greece: Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes, Ministry of Economy, Competitiveness and Shipping

R. Moldova: State Chancellery

Turkey: TİKA ISTANBUL BRANCH FOR PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES:
Development Union for Central Black Sea Region/Programme
Implementation Union-Kastamonu

~~EU Programmes National Coordinating (Unit NCU) of the State Ministers
Office on European Integration~~

Development Union for Yesilirmak Basin, Programme Implementation Union-
Amasya

Service and Development Union for Eastern Black Sea region/Programme
Implementation Unit -Trabzon

Ukraine: Department for external relations and external economic development,
Zaporizka oblast state administration Ukraine
Department for European Integration and Tran boundary Cooperation of
Odeska Oblast State Administration Ukraine

In each NIP, there is at least one person dedicated to the activities of information and helpdesk. The NIP staff was trained during a training seminar organized by the JMA, and also attended the *Networking meeting for National Information/Contact Points, relevant National and Regional Authorities and Programme joint implementing bodies* organized by INTERACT.

The **Selection Committee (SC)** assesses project proposals in accordance with the evaluation guidelines approved by JMC; appointed by the JMC based on the proposal of the National Authorities as follows: one non-voting chairperson proposed by the JMA; one non-voting secretary from the JMA; 5 voting members proposed by the participating countries on a **rotation basis as described in the JMC rules of procedure** and observers. The Selection Committee was set up partially by the nomination of the Chairperson and Secretary, by the JMC, in December 2009.

c. Setting up the national control systems in the Member States



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Bulgaria: The National control system in Bulgaria is a decentralized control system, through external controllers enlisted in a Central short list established at national level. The “Territorial Cooperation Management” Directorate General within the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, as national body responsible for the control system set up, assigns authorized controllers from Central short list on request of Bulgarian beneficiaries or project partners to perform control. The controllers are financed from the project budget based on a Framework Agreement signed between the Bulgarian beneficiary/partner and the designated controller, raising up to 1200 BGN (614 EUR) per project per year.

Greece: The National control system in Greece is a centralized control system. The Ministry of Economy, Competitiveness and Shipping and in particular the First Level Control Unit of the Single Paying Authority is the responsible National Body for the First Level Control System as foreseen in Art 16 of the Commission Regulation (EC) 1080/2006. The controllers will be members of a Register managed by the First Level Control Unit of the Single Paying Authority or members of an external audit firm contracted in this scope.

The verification of the actions implemented by the Hellenic Beneficiaries or partners will be performed by Unit D (of First Level Control and Verification of Expenditure) of the Paying Authority from Greece according to the “First Level Control Manual” approved with the decision 37338/21-7-2009.

The controllers shall be financed from the project budget based on a service contract. The cost will not exceed the 3% of the budget of the project partner.

Romania: The National Control System in Romania is a centralized control system. The verification of the operations implemented by the Romanian beneficiaries or partners (project expenditure and delivery of products and services) will be performed by the Directorate for Coordination of the Territorial Activity, through its Territorial Units, set up within the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism of Romania, being technically independent from the JMA. The costs of the control shall be born by the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism.

d. Setting up of procedures and agreements necessary for the programme implementation

JMA working procedures and audit trail: During the reporting period the JMA has finalized the majority in its internal working procedures necessary for ensuring proper programme management, covering the following processes: project generation, project evaluation and selection, project management and monitoring, financial management at programme and project level, technical assistance management, first level control manuals for technical assistance and projects, irregularities management, organizational management, recovery system. The procedures specify clearly the responsibilities of the departments involved in the process, the audit trail of the documents and the timing necessary to complete the tasks.

MOU between JMA and NAs from Greece and Bulgaria: Given the responsibilities of the Member States in the implementation of the programme (recovery of funds) already at the Joint Operational Programme level, the JMA and the National Authorities from Greece and Bulgaria committed themselves to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding detailing the their responsibilities in the implementation of the programme, setting up national control systems and ensuring recovery of funds. During the reporting period the text of the memorandum was finalized, leaving for 2010 the signature of the MOU after the



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completion of internal national procedures specific to each Member State, for the conclusion of this tripartite international agreement.

Protocol of Collaboration with Turkey: Given the complexity of the implementation system of the Black Sea Basin JOP, where Turkey participates with funds from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance, the JMA and the ~~national authorities~~ **operating structure** from Turkey decided to conclude a protocol of collaboration detailing the responsibilities of the parties for each step of the programme implementation, ways of communication and collaboration and the time framework needed to ensure a smooth implementation of the projects and programme. During the reporting period the JMA and the responsible authorities in Turkey agreed on the final text of the protocol, leaving for 2010 the official signature of the protocol of collaboration.

e. Programme monitoring indicators

The achievement of indicators and figures aimed to monitor the progress of the programme implementation according to the approved Joint Operational Programme is at an initial stage, as the first projects are currently in evaluation.

As for the future reports, the indicator system consists of two sets of indicators:

- The first set is defined at the programme level in the strategic chapter of the Programme, and supports the monitoring and evaluation activities of the programme level;
- The second one has to be established for every project selected and will contribute to the monitoring and evaluation activities of the project level;

The indicator system designed, takes into account the tasks and the needs of all the bodies involved in the management of the Programme and projects.

The responsible bodies for monitoring these two sets of indicators are the Joint Monitoring Committee, the Joint Managing Authority and the Joint Technical Secretariat.

Programme Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Number of SMEs active in eligible regions (indicator of development of local economic systems based on local resources)	Achievement	-	-	0							
	Target 2014										
	Baseline	-	-	-							
Number of tourist arrivals (indicator of the orientation of local economies to exportable services and international integration)	Achievement	-	-	0							
	Target 2014										
	Baseline	-	-	-							
Enrolment rate in higher education institutions (indicator of the growth of higher education access, promoted by cross border cooperation)	Achievement	-	-	0							
	Target 2014										
	Baseline	-	-	-							
Population having access to improved water infrastructure (indicator of sustainable development promoted through CBC)	Achievement	-	-	0							
	Target 2014										
	Baseline	-	-	-							
Permanent cultural and scientific cooperation	Achievement	-	-	0							
	Target 2014										



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initiatives in the basin area (indicator of cultural and scientific integration in the basin)	Baseline	-	-	-								
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2.2 Information on Call for proposals launched during the reporting period

a. Preparation and launch of the 1st call for proposals

Early 2009 the JMA started the preparation of the application package for the 1st call for proposals.

Given the specificities of the ENPI regulation, when preparing the application package the JMA had to prepare and request derogations to PRAG from the European Commission for aspects related to the application form, grant contract (general and special conditions, Annex VII Expenditure verification). In addition the JMA introduced new annexes (partnership statement, and partnership agreement) necessary to ensure that there is a real commitment for the joint projects from the partners declared to be involved.

In addition, due to the fact that Turkey participates with IPA funds to the Black Sea Basin programme, and these funds are managed by the Turkish authorities, the application package had to reflect the specificities of the ENPI - IPA interaction in the context of joint application and joint implementation processes of common projects, but with a parallel system of contracting, monitoring, and financial management. More precisely the JMA made efforts to accommodate the PRAG templates to comply with the requirements of separation of ENPI activities from IPA activities, the presence of an IPA financial Lead Beneficiary with its IPA partners, having direct implications to the budget of the action, the application form and its annexes. In collaboration with the Turkish authorities the JMA prepared also a template for the IPA grant contract.

The approval of the application package took quite a long time due to the need to present to the European Commission a long list of derogations from PRAG, due to discussions raised by the eligibility of international organizations for funding, and the specific steps necessary to be followed for the approval of the application package: approval by JMC and endorsement by the EU Delegation in Turkey.

The first call for proposals was launched on the 30th of June 2009, for all priorities, with suspensive clause concerning the partner countries that have not signed the Financing Agreement with the European Commission. The deadline for submission of the project proposals was 12th of October 2009.

The overall indicative amount made available under the 1st call for proposals was 3.311.369 Euro from ENPI funds, and 1.339.401 Euro from IPA funds.

b. Evaluation and selection of projects

The evaluation process is organised by the JMA, at its headquarters, where also was the place for submission of the applications.

The JMA prepared the manuals for evaluation of projects, steps 1 and 2 administrative and eligibility checks, which were approved in written procedure by the JMC at the end of 2009.



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The JMC approved also by written procedure the appointment of the Chairperson and of the Secretary of the Selection Committee and the JMA internal assessors, and the start of the administrative and eligibility checks for the projects submitted under the 1st call for proposals.

In order to perform the step 3 technical and financial evaluation of the projects, the JMC decided to use external assessors. The selection criteria for assessors were approved by the JMC through written procedure. Based on these criteria the JMA elaborated a tender dossier and prepared to launch the appropriate tender procedure according to the national procurement law while respecting the rule of nationality according to Article 21 of ENPI Regulation no. 1638/2006.

Following the call for proposals, 173 applications, with a total value of 70 MEUR, were submitted.

The distribution per priority of applications submitted and of the funds requested, as well as the average value of the grants requested under the first call for proposals is presented below:

ENPI	EC Funding	National co-financing ¹	National co-financing rate	Total funding (EC + national)
Priority 1	1,169,318	116,932	10%	1,286,249
Priority 2	1,328,770	132,877	10%	1,461,647
Priority 3	813,281	81,328	10%	894,610
TOTAL	3,311,369	331,137	10%	3,642,506

IPA	EC Funding	National co-financing ²	National co-financing rate	Total funding (EC + national)
Priority 1	472,972	52,552	10%	525,524
Priority 2	537,468	59,719	10%	597,187
Priority 3	328,961	36,551	10%	365,512
TOTAL	1,339,401	148,822	10%	1,488,223

The *average value* of the submitted projects was:

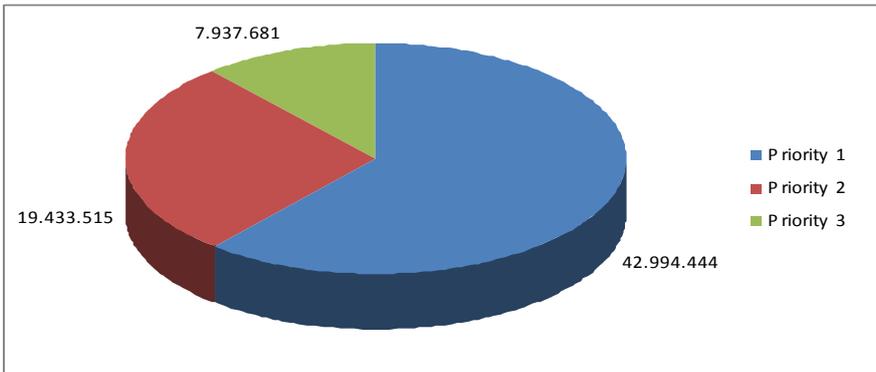
Priority	Allocation available for the call for proposals (all financing sources)	Number of projects submitted	Total value of projects submitted	Average value for projects submitted
Priority 1	1,642,290	92	42,994,444	467,330
Priority 2	1,866,238	41	19,433,515	473,988
Priority 3	1,142,242	40	7,937,681	198,442
Total	4,650,770	173	70,365,640	406,737

¹ Calculated as 10% of EC funding, according with ENPI rules

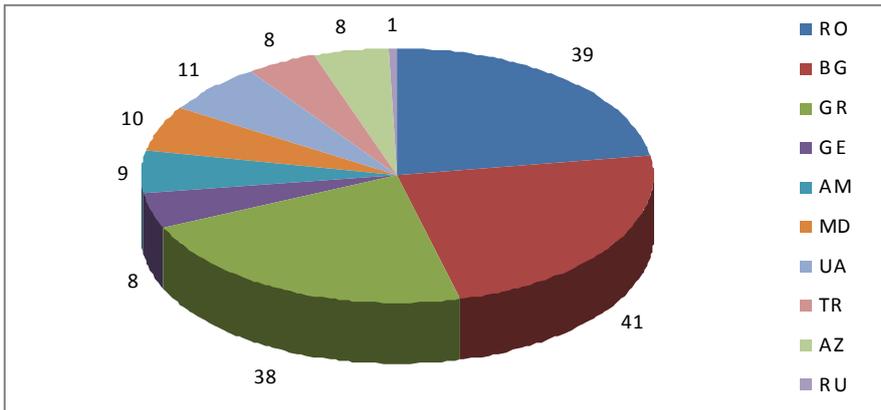
² Calculated as 10% of Total funding (EC + national), according with IPA rules.



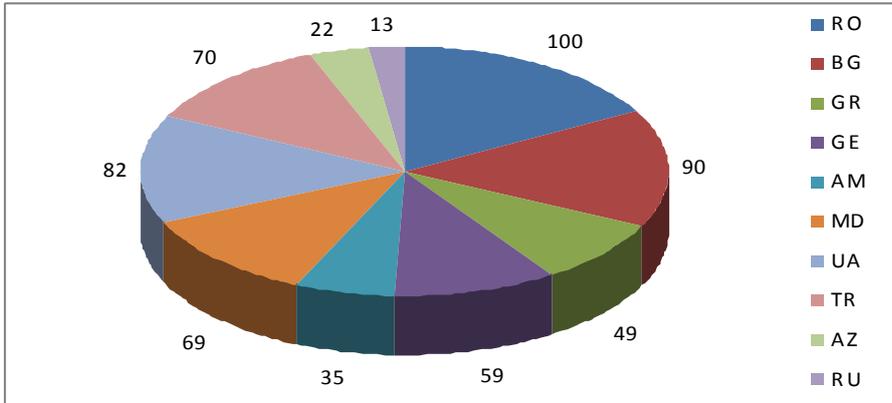
Funds requested: 70.365.640 Euro (ENPI +IPA)



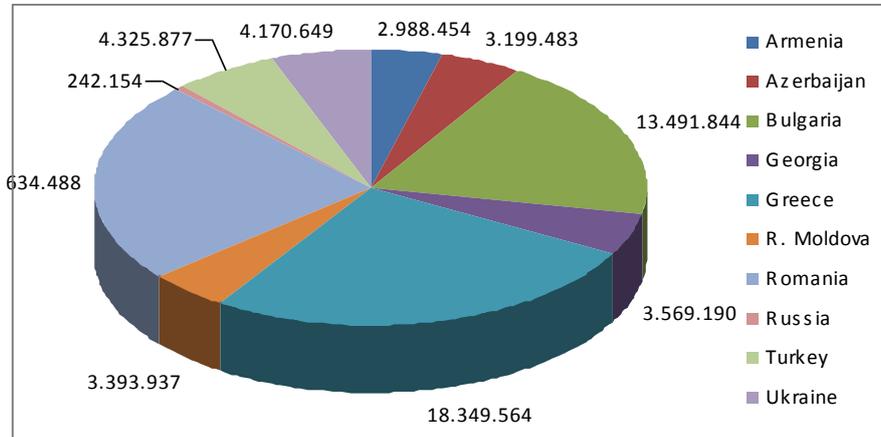
Number of applicants per country



Number of partners per country



Grant requested (by country of the applicant):



Type of applicants:



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Number of project partnerships establishing permanent economic relations between the economic actors from different countries after the end of project activities	Achievement	-	-	0								
	Target 2014	5										
	Baseline	-	-	-								
Number of entrepreneurs adopting innovations and starting new production after involvement in projects	Achievement	-	-	0								
	Target 2014	10										
	Baseline	-	-	-								
Number of entrepreneurs / economic agents completing activities and achieving new skills and competencies	Achievement	-	-	0								
	Target 2014	100										
	Baseline	-	-	-								
Number of new permanent joint products or partnerships in the area of tourism	Achievement	-	-	0								
	Target 2014	5										
	Baseline	-	-	-								
Number of local administrations and organizations activating new types of services or new ways of providing existing services	Achievement	-	-	0								
	Target 2014	10										
	Baseline	-	-	-								
Number of cross border partnerships for local development projects created	Achievement	-	-	0								
	Target 2014	10										
	Baseline	-	-	-								
Number of entrepreneurs / economic agents involved in project activities	Achievement	-	-	0								
	Target 2014	100										
	Baseline	-	-	-								
Number of training / innovation promotion initiatives for entrepreneurs initiated	Achievement	-	-	0								
	Target 2014	10										
	Baseline	-	-	-								
Number of local administrations involved in initiatives for capacity building	Achievement	-	-	0								
	Target 2014	100										
	Baseline	-	-	-								
Number of new information, communication, transport and trade links researched and/or established	Achievement	-	-	0								
	Target 2014	10										
	Baseline	-	-	-								

2.3.2 Priority 2 Sharing resources and competencies for environmental protection and conservation

Priority 2 Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Number of partnerships	Achievement	-	-	0							



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contracts / agreements establishing permanent relations among institutions / agencies active in the environmental sector	Target 2014	5									
	Baseline	-	-	-							
Number of entrepreneurs / technicians / researchers completing activities and achieving new skills and competencies	Achievement	-	-	0							
	Target 2014	100									
Number of institutions active in environmental protection adopting innovations developed by projects.	Achievement	-	-	0							
	Target 2014	10									
Number of environmental training and/or research initiatives carried out	Achievement	-	-	0							
	Target 2014	20									
Number of agencies / associations involved in project activities	Achievement	-	-	0							
	Target 2014	100									
Number of research / education institutions assisted / involved in project initiatives.	Achievement	-	-	0							
	Target 2014	50									
Number of trainings initiatives begun in environmental protection	Achievement	-	-	0							
	Target 2014	10									
Number of inhabitants of natural areas participating in awareness events	Achievement	-	-	0							
	Target 2014	10									
	Baseline	-	-	-							

2.3.3 Priority 3 Supporting cultural and educational initiatives for the establishment of a common cultural environment in the Basin

Priority 3 Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Number of permanent cultural and educational networks established after the implementation of projects	Achievement	-	-	0							
	Target 2014	10									
	Baseline	-	-	-							
Number of citizens completing cultural projects and achieving educational / cultural objectives	Achievement	-	-	0							
	Target 2014	100									
	Baseline	-	-	-							



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Number of students completing an internship or training in partner countries	Achievement	-	-	0											
	Target 2014	50													
	Baseline	-	-	-											
Number of partnerships created for cultural and educational initiatives	Achievement	-	-	0											
	Target 2014	5													
	Baseline	-	-	-											
Number of media products produced and distributed by the projects	Achievement	-	-	0											
	Target 2014	10													
	Baseline	-	-	-											
Number of cultural agencies / associations participating in project activities	Achievement	-	-	0											
	Target 2014	50													
	Baseline	-	-	-											
Number of education institutions assisted in project initiatives.	Achievement	-	-	0											
	Target 2014	20													
	Baseline	-	-	-											
Number of citizens / students participating in events and activities implemented in the projects	Achievement	-	-	0											
	Target 2014	1000													
	Baseline	-	-	-											

2.4 Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

a. Setting up of the programme management bodies

Joint Technical Secretariat

According with the provisions of the grant contract, the JTS should have been established within the structure of the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism.

The JMA started the procedures to establish the JTS within the structure of the ministry by asking the approval of the necessary number of posts.

Due to new legal restrictions imposed by the Romanian Government to the hiring of staff in the public administration, as a consequence of the economic crisis (Government Emergency Ordinance no. 34/2009), the JMA could not obtain the approval to set up the JTS.



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Thus, the JMA initiated discussions with the European Commission to modify the grant contract as to allow the JMA instead of hiring staff to purchase through a procurement procedure the services of specialized experts. As this seemed to suppose a derogation to PRAG rules, the decision took longer than expected. At the beginning of 2010 the JMA was informed that it could hire the JTS staff based on service contracts as long as the JMA kept the responsibility for the management of the grant contract.

Selection Committee

The deadline for the 1st call for proposals was 12th of October 2009. In order to start the evaluation of the projects, the Selection Committee had to be set up. Due to the fact that some of the countries were still in process of negotiating the signature of the Financing Agreement with the European Commission, the deadline being December 2009, the JMA proposed to the JMC the approval of the appointment of the Chairperson and the Secretary of the Selection Committee and of the JMA internal assessors to start the administrative and eligibility checks. Thus, the full appointment of the Selection Committee members was postponed for the beginning of 2010.

b. Setting up the national control systems in the Member States

The information concerning the national control systems in Bulgaria and Greece was provided to the JMA only in 2010 due to internal constraints. This influenced directly also on the finalization of the text of the Memorandum of Understanding.

c. Setting up of working procedures and agreements necessary for the programme implementation

The signature of the MOU Romania -Bulgaria -Greece and of the Protocol of collaboration with Turkey was postponed for 2010. The preparation of both documents needed extended discussions among the partners due to the vagueness of the ENPI IR on certain aspects like recovery of funds, control system and the difficulties that rise from the ENPI-IPA interaction and the complexity of the implementation system that needs to be set up to answer to such characteristic of the programme.

d. Launch of the 1st call for proposals

PRAG rules

The lack of adaptation of PRAG rules to the ENPI context and its specificities created difficulties for the JMA and JMC members in the preparation of the application package for the 1st call for proposals. As required, the JMA presented for approval to the EC a long list of needed derogations. The most affected part of the application pack was the grant contract template which now foresees in the special conditions several pages of derogations to the general conditions, being a document difficult to be followed by any of the beneficiaries. It is the JMA opinion that in order to facilitate the understanding of the grant contract by the beneficiaries, PRAG template should be modified by introducing in the general conditions all derogations made by all the programmes. There is also the need to clarify when the reference to the Contracting Authority implies a reference to the JMC and when to the JMA, given that this role is split between the two bodies.

In what concerns Annex VII of the grant contract, there were discussions related to the applicability of this annex by the National Control Systems set up in the Member States. The JMA and RCBI worked closely on the adaptation of this annex to cover the specific context of the national control systems in the Member States and also with the principle of Lead partner/Beneficiary which in the context of a joint project with several partners



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supposed the preparation of integrated reports at project level with contributions from all partners. Even though the annex VII was improved it is still to determine in practice how the National Control Systems will apply it. The JMA will undertake during 2010 discussions with the control bodies from the Member States to build a complete image of the control systems and provide the beneficiaries with the necessary information. The support of the EC in this process is essential.

To avoid long debates on aspects that suppose the interpretation of programme rules (EU regulations, PRAG, programme documents, JMC decisions), an enhanced cooperation and better communication between all the stakeholders involved in the programme management is the key for a successful decision making process, as well as placing confidence in the work performed by the JMA, considering the responsibilities with which this body was invested by the partners.

The role of European Commission is also crucial, especially when the partners cannot reach a decision due to different interpretations of rules governing the programme, by guiding the discussions and providing an accurate and firm opinion on the debated issues.

ENPI-IPA interaction

During the preparatory phase of the application package there were several discussions related on one hand to the content of the application package and on the other on the procedure of approval of the application package. There were divergent opinions related to the role of CFCU in the process of the endorsement of the application package considering the national experience of the Turkish authorities implementing IPA programmes and the specificities of the Black Sea Basin JOP.

In addition during the events organized by the JMA and TIKA, the potential Turkish beneficiaries put under question the rule based on which the Turkish entities can not be Beneficiaries for a joint ENPI CBC project in the Black Sea Basin JOP, and also questioned the necessity to be part of a tripartite partnership comprising an entity from a Member State, one from the Partner Countries and an entity from Turkey.

The JMA and the Turkish authorities agreed to put forward these issues to the European Commission, DG Enlargement and DG Aidco, as the issues raised are related directly with the regulations of the European Commission.

2.5 Changes in the context of the JOP implementation (if relevant)

The Russian Federation did not conclude within the set deadline the Financing Agreement with the European Commission. Azerbaijan signed the Financing Agreement in December 2009 with reservations which were not accepted by the European Commission.

The immediate consequences for the programme were the need to amend at the beginning of 2010 the rules of procedure of JMC in what concerns the number of participating countries needed to ensure the quorum of the meetings, the number of participating countries needed to take decisions by voting procedure and the set up of the rotation system methodology for the appointment of the members of the Selection Committee.

The applications submitted under the 1st call for proposals by applicants from the Russian Federation and Azerbaijan or with partners from these countries shall be analyzed by the Selection Committee case by case to determine if the partnerships are still viable to

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continue and the applications can be selected for financing, ensuring the application of the equal treatment principle.

On a long term basis, the situation described above, has as a consequence the participation of entities from Russian Federation and Azerbaijan in projects financed in the framework of this programme only as “associate partners”, with their own funding.

N/A

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3. List of the signed contracts as well as possible difficulties encountered

N/A

4. Technical Assistance

The Technical Assistance (TA) component of the programme aims to support efficiently the programme implementation by funding two main actions:

- **Management of the programme:** project selection, day-to-day management, monitoring, audit and control;
- **Communication and information flows within and around the programme:** seminars, translation, information dissemination, and publicity measures.

4.1. Technical Assistance Strategy

The Technical Assistance Strategy (TA Strategy) is a framework document of all TA interventions dedicated to the Black Sea Basin JOP and details the basic elements needed to reach the TA Strategy objectives: the stakeholders involved in the implementation of the strategy, the eligible actions, the general methodology, the allocated resources and the action plan for implementing the TA Strategy

The TAS is implemented annually through:

- *Annual work plan of the programme*
- *Annual TA Budget*
- *Annual Information and Communication plan*

4.2. Beneficiaries of the Technical Assistance (TA) priority axis are:

Direct beneficiaries of TA funds (ENPI or IPA) are the programme bodies that actually make expenditure and benefit from TA funds. For ENPI TA: JMA (Directorate for International Territorial Cooperation, General Directorate for Programme Authorization and Payments, Internal Audit Directorate), and JTS, for IPA TA: Operating Structure, JMA and JTS).

Indirect beneficiaries of TA funds (ENPI or IPA) are the programme bodies which only benefit from TA support and not make themselves the expenditure. For ENPI TA: JMC, SC, AA and NIP; for IPA TA: JMC, SC, and NIPs in Turkey.

4.3. Elaboration/revision of relevant documents for the implementation of the Technical Assistance



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The relevant documents for the implementation of the Technical Assistance during the reporting period are the following:

- The TA Strategy
- Annual work plan of the programme-2009
- 2009 Annual TA Budget
- Annual Information and Communication plan-2009
- The Order of the Minister of Regional Development and Housing no. 547/2009 approving the eligible categories of eligible expenditure under the TA component of the Black Sea Basin JOP 2007-2013
- The relevant procedures comprised in the Procedures Manuals of the JMA.

The TA strategy, annual work plan of the programme, 2009 annual TA budget and the annual information and communication plan were approved in the 1st meeting of the JMC, on the 16th December 2008.

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The TA Strategy and the 2009 Annual TA budget were revised by written procedure once during the reporting period for the following reasons:

- in order to ensure the participation of the representatives of all partner countries the travel and accommodation costs should be covered by the programme within the TA component, thus the TA strategy was modified by introducing under *Action 2: information, promotion and project generation activities*, as eligible activity: **the Participation of participating countries officials to the major events of the programme (page 14)** and as eligible costs: **travel and accommodation costs (page 15)**.
- the Financial Unit of the JMA, the Economic Department and the Acquisitions Department of the ministry have signalled the fact that the detailed budget of TA for 2009 in the format approved by the JMC in December 2008, poses a lot of problems in terms of its management, as it contains also the budget fundamentation (indicative costs, indicative number of units etc). As the format was considered as inflexible and difficult to adapt to the real needs, **a simplified format containing only the categories of expenditure was approved** (staff costs, travel, accommodation and daily allowance, equipment and supplies, consumables, indirect costs, subcontracting and others) with their totals, based on the detailed budget presented in December last year (page 9 of the TA strategy).
- The rule of 15%, shall apply to modifications between the categories of expenditure, and shall be calculated to the amount from which the money is taken from (the source category). (page 10 of the TA strategy)
- In addition as the denomination "**subcontracting**" posed problems of interpretation for the JMA supporting directorates, it was decided to change it to "**services**" (pages 9, 12).

4.4. Eligible expenditure

The categories of TA eligible expenditure are presented in the TA Strategy and the relevant national legislation mentioned above respecting the provisions of the ENPI IR 951/2009 and of the programme document.

4.5. Technical assistance contracting and payments



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In accordance with the national legislation (Law of state budget for year 2010 nr. 11/2010, Government Ordinance nr. 46/2007 with further modifications and completions regarding the management of the EU funds and national co-financing for the ETC Objective), the JMA used the TA funds for ensuring the management and implementation of the programme and the communication and information activities, based on annual Global Financing Decisions that replace the financing contract when the JMA is the beneficiary of TA.

The Global Financing Decision is issued by the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism based on the decision of the JMC approving the annual TA budget and allows the JMA to spend the necessary amounts to organize TA activities, by making payments from Romanian national funds, established at the level of the ministry's budget. All TA expenditures are recorded in the ministry's accounting system.

In January 2010, the JMA prepared the reimbursement claim covering the funds spent for TA activities in 2008 and 2009 and asked for the 1st level control to be performed on the expenditures claimed.

As a general rule, after the 1st level control, the reimbursement claim goes to the financial unit of the JMA where the authorizing and accounting officers are placed. As a result of the check of the financial unit on the reimbursement claim, an amount is authorized for payment, and the payment is done from the programme account back to the State budget.

As funds are spent first from national budget and the expenditure is reimbursed from ENPI funds only after all checks are completed, in the programme account there will be registered the global amounts of the payments.

Payments made by the JMA from the ministry's budget for carrying out its own activities for the management, implementation and communication of the programme, presented in the financial report, will be deducted from the programme account only in 2010.

2008

Taking into consideration the fact that expenditure under the TA component became eligible at the end of November 2008, when the programme was officially approved by the EC, the only expenditure incurred during year 2008 was the one necessary for organizing the first JMC meeting.

2009

The total TA budget approved by the JMC for year 2009 amounts at 464.181 euro.

Action 1: Programme management and implementation

This action supports the functioning of the Programme bodies: JMA, JMC, JTS, Selection Committee, NIP's.

Achievement indicators:

Number of calls for proposals finalized;	1
Number of potential applicants that attended to project preparation workshops;	1800



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Number of project applications received from potential applicants that participated to projects preparation workshops;	N/A
80% of project applications received/assessed by JTS/assessors approved by the JMC;	N/A
Number of Joint Monitoring Committee meetings organised;	2
Number of on-the-spot checks held;	N/A
Number of officers participating in trainings and successfully performing their duties in JTS and other programme bodies;	16
Number of internal training sessions organized;	2
Number of contracts signed;	N/A
Number of projects successfully implemented;	N/A
Purchase of equipments and contracting of services in time and in line with annual plans;	Several procurement procedures were launched for the proper endowment of the operational unit of JMA with office equipment necessary for the management and implementation of the Programme (PCs, copy machine, printer, video projector, etc).
Number of reports, studies, analyses and surveys drafted.	N/A
Number of contracts signed from projects application selected.	N/A
Number of projects successfully implemented from contracts signed	N/A

Action 2: information, promotion and project generation activities

This measure finances all activities related to information and promotion of the programme, and those activities aiming to the generation of projects, creation of partnerships among eligible partners in the programme area.

Achievement indicators:

Number of information and promotion events	41
Number of printed publications (types)	N/A
Number of publicity campaigns carried out	N/A
Number of visitors on the programme website	36.500



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Number of events organised for final beneficiaries	N/A
Number of participants in the events	1800

4.6 Problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

The main problem encountered by the JMA in implementing the TA activities during 2009 was related to the gap identified in the Romanian legislation concerning the making of expenditure abroad by a central public administration. The Romanian legislation foresaw only specific provisions for how public funds were to be spent on the Romanian territory.

Thus, the JMA took the initiative to promote a Governmental Decision to cover the gap identified. However, due to new legislative restrictions imposed by the Romanian Government for public expenditure due to the economic crisis, the Governmental Decision was not adopted.

In order to overcome the obstacles created by the above situation, the JMA organized the JMC meetings, the annual conference and a partnership forum in Romania, used other funds to organize training events in Romania (PHARE funds), and organized in partnership with RCBI a partnership forum in Bulgaria. The events in the partner countries were organized and financed by RCBI. The JMA organized in partnership with the Greek National Authority a training event for the potential beneficiaries in Greece.

At the end of 2009, the JMA, managed to introduce a provision in the Law approving the state budget for 2010, allowing the institutions managing ETC programmes to promote through internal legislation for making expenditure abroad from the TA component.

Thus, early 2010 the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism approved the ministerial order no. 1242/2010 approving the Norms containing the maximal limits of expenses for organizing abroad the specific actions of the MRDT for implementing the European Territorial Cooperation Programmes.

5. Monitoring, evaluating and auditing of projects/programme

5.1 Monitoring of projects

As the implementation of the Programme is at an initial stage and no projects have been implemented yet, the monitoring activities of the JMA or JMC were limited in 2009.

The main tool of the monitoring system developed by the Programme is *the Management Information System-European Territorial Co-operation (MIS-ETC)*, which allows for data collection of the information related to implementation, necessary for financial management, monitoring, verification, audit and programme evaluation. The system provides to the competent bodies (Joint Managing Authority, Joint Monitoring Committee, Audit Authority, and Joint Technical Secretariat) a practical tool to perform their tasks and to ensure the flow of information through all the Programme authorities. The system supports both the project cycle and the Programme implementation.



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The Management Information System related to the European territorial Cooperation (MIS-ETC) is an information system developed by the responsible institutions, under the coordination and financed by the Romanian Ministry of Public Finances, in order to ensure the collection of the information related to implementation, necessary for financial management, monitoring, verification, audit and evaluation of the programmes under European Territorial Co-operation Objective. The system addresses the needs of all management levels (Managing Authorities/Joint Managing Authorities, Joint Technical Secretariats, Certifying Authority, Audit Authority etc.) and through all the stages of the programme cycle (programming, tendering, contracting, monitoring, evaluation, payments, audit and control). MIS-ETC main characteristic is that it provides its users with a single mechanism for assisting them in accomplishing their tasks.

As a monitoring tool, MIS-ETC is the main provider of information on progress regarding the implementation, at both project and programme level, allowing monitoring reports to be automatically generated.

The MIS-ETC design follows three main principles: data availability (data are directly available following the request of an authorised user); data confidentiality (data are provided only to those users authorised for accessing that specific piece of information); data integrity (data processing should occur only by authorised users under authorized means). As means for implementing the three aforementioned principles the system supports multiple users categorised into a number of user groups/roles. In that way user permissions are easily organised and managed, and the access to information can be thoroughly audited and logged in a flexible way.

In order to provide an effective management tool, the functional model of the MIS-ETC is based on a set of modules, which together reflect the broad range of functionalities the System is designed to perform, as follows:

- Programming, which allows the registration and the modification of the main information on the Operational Programme, broken down at lower levels by, priority, measure and activity
- Project Management (registration and the modification of the main information on projects, including the contracts);
- Monitoring, which allows observing the progress in implementation at all levels, where appropriate against targets previously set. It also allows automatically bottom-up aggregation of the actual value of the core data which are registered at lower levels of the System;
- Audit and Control, which registers the control and audit findings;
- Evaluation: allow the evaluation of the programme
- Funds Flow Management, which deals with payment request forecasts, inflows, project revenues, suspensions and recoveries of funds.

Data related to the Programme is introduced in MIS-ETC at the appropriate level, based on clearly defined user rights profiles. The access to the system is granted based on user name/password assigned, following a specific procedure.

5.2 Auditing of projects

The Internal Audit Unit of the JMA is responsible for the organization and implementation of the annual audit plan for projects. During the reporting period the Internal Audit Unit of the JMA prepared the internal audit manual comprising the internal audit strategy and



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methodology to be used. The Internal Audit Unit intends to externalize the implementation of the annual audit plan for the projects selected under the 1st call for proposals through a procurement procedure, at the end of 2010.

5.3 Programme evaluation

The programme mid term evaluation shall be carried out by the European Commission specialized services during 2010.



6. Information and communication activities

2009 was the first year on the communication agenda for the “Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2007-2013”.

In 2009, the Joint Managing Authority contracted various services in order to contribute to the implementation of the Annual Communication Plan, financed from the Technical Assistance Budget:

The aim of the Annual Communication Action Plan for 2009 was to provide the citizens of the targeted areas, applicants and potential beneficiaries with information regarding the communication measures that will:

- Increase the awareness about the programme;
- Provide the potential beneficiaries and the beneficiaries with reliable information about the programme;
- Attract a wide number of potential beneficiaries and ensure a large number of applications;
- Ensure a high quality for the applications submitted;
- Highlight the role of the community and ensure the transparency of the assistance from the ENPI funds and national co-financing.

According to the 2009 Annual Communication Plan, the following activities should have been implemented:

6.1 Information tools

The programme website (www.blacksea-cbc.net)

Target groups: potential beneficiaries from the participating countries in the Programme, mass-media, bodies involved in the management and implementation of the programme and other interested audiences

Financing source: Technical Assistance Budget of the Programme

Short description: The Programme’s web site (www.blacksea-cbc.net) should have been improved in 2009 by adding new functions. In addition, a firm was contracted for the maintenance of the web site. 16 000 Euro were available for this procedure. Thus, the JMA organized a public tender for the firm in charge with optimizing and maintaining the web site of the Programme. The contract in amount of 6,500 Euro was signed in November 2009 for a two years period. The updated version of the site is estimated to be launched at the latest in March 2010. A special attention will be paid to the partner search tool and to the project idea search tool. In 2009, 36.500 visits were registered on Programme’s web site.

Leaflets- According to the 2009 Annual Communication Plan, 2000 leaflets were supposed to be distributed in the framework of the first call for proposals. No new leaflets were elaborated in 2009, as the JMA still had available for distribution 1000 leaflets published



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under the PHARE project RO 2004/016-772.04.03.01.03.05 "Awareness campaign for the Regional Operational Programme".



A Help Desk function should have been established at local level acting as main information point for all interested parties, operating at the National Info Points (NIPs) offices in the ten countries. Except for Russia, all countries nominated NIPs. NIPs offered information to the potential beneficiaries during the first call for proposals. In addition, the JMA answered to approximately 140 written questions put by potential beneficiaries during the first call for proposals.

Newsletters- According to the 2009 Annual Communication Plan, the JMA was supposed to deliver 2 Newsletters. They were published in July 2009 and January 2010 on the Programme's website and sent to the mailing list.

Promotion materials

Target groups: potential beneficiaries from the participating countries in the Programme, decision-makers, representatives of the European Commission, National Authority, Managing Authority and Audit Authority, official's mass-media.

Financing source: Technical Assistance of the Programme

In May 2009, the JMA organized a public tender for the acquisition of 500 badges and business cards. The value of the contract was 541 Euro.

In June 2009, the JMA organized a public tender for the acquisition of 1000 pens, 4 banners, 1000 badges and 1000 folders. The value of the contract was 2870 Euro.

A third public tender was organised in November for the acquisition of 1000 calendars and 1000 notebooks. The items will be delivered and paid in 2010.

Press releases/Press conferences

In 2009, 3 press releases were sent to the media and posted on the Programme's web site. No press conferences were organised in 2009.

Establishment of an Information Network

Although no official information network was established in 2009 in the Black Sea Basin area, the JMA initiated cooperation with different international organisations. The JMA members participated to events organised by international organisations active in the area and invited to the programme events international organisations active in the Black Sea Basin area.

6.2 Events organized

Launching conference for the programme and 1st call for proposals

Date & Location: the 5th May 2009, Bucharest, Romania

Target groups: representatives of the European Commission, National Authorities, officials, representatives of mass-media, potential beneficiaries from the participating countries in the Programme

Financing source: Technical Assistance Budget of the Programme

Short description: More than 200 persons participated (high officials from participating counties in the Programme, ambassadors, and representatives from National Authorities,



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National Info Points, and international organisations). The total cost of the event was 7392 Euro.



Partner Search Forums

Date & Location: the 6th May 2009, Bucharest, Romania

Target group: potential beneficiaries from the participating countries in the Programme

Financing source: Technical Assistance Budget of the Programme and RCBI's budget

Short description: In the framework of the Conference, on the 6th of May 2010 the JMA together with RCBI organised a Partner search forum. The total cost of the event was 4612 Euro. During the first call for proposals, RCBI organised 2 more Partner search forums, in Varna and Odessa.

Info Days

The JMA was supposed to organise 4 Info Days in 2009 in Greece, Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey. Because Romania did not have a legislative framework, which allowed organising events abroad, those events could not be organised. RCBI organised 9 Info Days in the Partner countries.

Project preparation workshops

Date & Location: July-November 2010, participating countries in the Programme

Target group: potential beneficiaries from the participating countries in the Programme

Financing source: Technical Assistance Budget of the Programme, PHARE project, National Authorities from Greece and Turkey own funding and RCBI's budget

Short description: The JMA was supposed to organise 8 Project preparation workshops in Greece, Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey (2 events per country). Because Romania did not have a legislative framework, which allowed organising events abroad, those events could not be organised using the Programmes' funds. The National Authority from Turkey organized 4 project preparation workshops in this country. The Turkish National Authority covered the cost of the event from the IPA funds, according to the Programme's budgetary allocation.

Nevertheless, the JMA with the help of the National Authority from Greece organised one project preparation workshop in Thessaloniki. The cost of the event was covered by the Greek National Authority.

In Romania 3 such events were organised using the funds of a PHARE project. Potential beneficiaries from Greece and Bulgaria were invited to the event.

RCBI organised 11 Project preparation workshops in the Partner countries and 10 follow up seminars.

6.3 Capacity building

Training for the JMA and NIPs

Date & Location: Bucharest 7 May 2009

Target group: JMA staff, NIPs

Financing source: Technical Assistance Budget of the Programme, RCBI's budget

Date & Location: Florence, 22-23 June 2009

Target group: JMA staff, NIPs

Financing source: Technical Assistance Budget of the Programme, RCBI's budget, INTERACT budget



Date & Location: Bucharest 9 November 2009

Target group: internal assessors

Financing source: Technical Assistance Budget of the Programme and INTERACT budget

The JMA organised on the 7th of May a training seminar for NIP's and JMA staff with RCBI's support, in order familiarize them with the specificity of the first call for proposals. The cost of the event was 254 Euro.

In the view of the start of the evaluation process, at the request of the JMA, the INTERACT project organized in Bucharest a training for the Joint Managing Authority staff and internal assessors on the 3rd of November.

In addition, in June 2009, the INTERACT project organized in Italy, Florence, a networking meeting of the National Information and Contact Points of the south and south-eastern ENPI CBC programmes. The meeting offered the participants the possibility to exchange their views on the role of national authorities and Info Points in maximizing awareness and local and regional involvement in ENPI CBC Programmes.

Conclusions:

1) 173 applications submitted under the first call for proposals, as well as the 1800 participants to the events organized in the framework of the first call show the high interest of potential applicants towards the programme and the fact that the Programme is known in the Black Sea area.

JMA, together with RCBI and National Authorities/NIPs from the countries participating to the programme organized 41 events (Partner Search Forums (3), Info Days (9), Project Preparation Workshops (19), and Follow-up Information Workshops (10). The participants represented local, regional authorities (38 %), central authorities (7%), NGO's (32%), chambers of commerce, regional development agencies and business associations (8%), universities and research institutes (9%), others (6%).

Taking into consideration the fact that the Programme is well-known in the area, the events organised in 2010 should focus more on helping potential beneficiaries to prepare their applications and on finding partners.

The Partner search forums³, organised by RCBI and JMA including financial support for the participation of potential applicants and partners from Partner countries has been seen as very helpful. The same support was required for Member State's participants and by participants from Turkey, whose travel expenses were not covered, and their participation was not very numerous.

2) From the total amount of funds allocated for the 2009 Communication Plan (110 700 Euro), only 22 079 Euro were spent. The main reason was that Romania did not have the appropriate legislative framework to allow the organisation of events abroad. This issue was solved by introducing an amendment in the 2010 Romanian State Budget Law, which will allow the JMA (the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism) to organise events abroad in 2010.

³ According to RCBI's Assessment of the State of Play in the Management and Implementation of the ENPI CBC Programmes 2007-2013



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3) The National Authorities and National Info Points played an important role in the dissemination of information for potential beneficiaries. During the first call for proposals, the NIP's organized the flow of information to potential beneficiaries from their own country (supported RCBI and JMA in organizing events, provided information about the calls for proposals in their own language).

4) RCBI played a very important role in supporting the JMA in organising the events for potential beneficiaries in 2009. This collaboration shall continue in the framework of this communication plan.

5) The involvement of INTERACT project in organising training activities for the JMA and NIP should continue in 2010. More training workshops for NIP's should be organised in the framework of the second call for proposals and the start of implementation of first projects.

6) The partner search engine on the RCBI's website and on the Programmes' website was considered useful, but insufficient in their functionalities.⁴ Potential beneficiaries requested more detailed communication information on potential partners.

7. Programme of activities to be implemented the following year, expected progress

In 2010 the main activities to be carried out in accordance with the annual work plan of the programme approved by the JMC shall focus on:

- Setting up of the Joint Technical Secretariat;
- Signature of the MOU with the NAs from Bulgaria and Greece, and of the Protocol of collaboration with Turkish responsible authorities;
- Selection of the projects submitted under the 1st call for proposals, including the possibility to contract supplementary funds depending on the quality and number of applications that passed the evaluation process;
- Contracting the entire amount made available under the 1st call for proposals and possibly additional funds;
- Launching in autumn 2010 a second call for proposals for a higher amount of funds, based on improved procedures as a result of the experience accumulated during the 1st call for proposals;
- Organizing events to ensure good quality project generation;
- Preparing for the projects implementation phase by promoting the conclusion of bilateral agreements with the partner countries on implementation aspects of the programme, ensuring proper training of the beneficiaries and their partners, and preparing a manual for project implementation.

⁴ Idem 1



II. Financial Part

During 2009 the JMA requested and received from the European Commission the pre-financing for the programme. In this respect the JMA received 926,374.57 from ENPI 2008 commitment and 926,369.43 from ENPI 2009 commitment.

JMA launched a 1st call for proposals in the amount of 3.311.369 Euro from ENPI funds. The first contracts are estimated to be signed during the second semester of 2010.

According to the national legislation, the JMA financed its 2009 activity from the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism budget.

Payments made by the JMA, in 2008 and 2009, from the ministry's budget for carrying out activities for the management, implementation and communication of the programme, presented in a separate attachment, will be deducted from the programme account only in 2010.

Overall, the JMA spent in 2008-2009 the amount of 68. 052, 83 Euro of which:

- **Travel & accommodation 58,45%** : JMC 10%, NIP'S 29,44%, JMA 58,33% (JMA staff 26,13%, speakers to the annual conference 19,14% , participants to training events 13,06%); NAs 2,23%.
- **Equipment and supplies: 14,99%**;
- **Consumables: 1,03 %**;
- **Subcontracting: 25,44%**;
- **Other: 0,1%**.



III. Declaration of Assurance

Herein by, as the Head of the Joint Managing Authority of the Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2007-2013 give an assurance that the management and control systems set up by the programme in the course of the year 2008 and 2009 complies with the model approved by the Commission and that they have operated in such a way as to warrant a reasonable degree of confidence in the correctness of the financial report and in the legality and regularity of the transactions to which it relates.

Bucharest,

Iuliu BARA
Head of JMA



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Annex I. Annual Report of the Internal Audit Service

Please see the separate attachment.



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Annex II. Annual report on implementation of the audit plan for the projects

N/A



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Annex III. External audit report

Please see the separate attached document.



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Annex IV. Statement of the bank account

Please see the separate attached document.