



Common borders. Common solutions.



**2010 Brochure of the
Joint Operational Programme
Black Sea Basin 2007-2013**



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Welcome!

This brochure is issued by the Joint Managing Authority of the Joint Operational Programme „Black Sea Basin 2007-2013” on the occasion of the annual conference on the implementation of the programme. It aims to briefly present the views of the participating countries on the added value of this Cross Border Cooperation Programme after two years of implementation, the most recent results of the selection process concluded for the first call for proposals and future opportunities that lie ahead for the potential beneficiaries.



The Black Sea region has always been closely connected to Europe and the latest round of enlargement of the EU to Bulgaria and Romania marked another step in the process of the close ties between the Black Sea region and the EU.

Between 2004 and 2007 the EU took important steps to assist the Black Sea region in its social and economic development and to further strengthen its ties with the EU. These are the reasons why the European Commission, supported by its Member States, decided to set up a Black Sea CBC programme, aimed at establishing a positive climate for further cooperation between the partners on all shores of the Sea including the Caucasus countries, with particular focus on local and regional actors who know the best the real needs of the region, its socio-economic situation, the common challenge of improving the environment and the re-introduction the real people-to-people contacts in trade, culture and business.

I'm convinced that the CBC programme will be turned into a success story. With 173 proposals submitted under in the first call for proposals of the programme with a total value of €70m we have proof of a very high commitment by the participating countries and a high level of interest from local and regional authorities, civil society and NGOs, etc. to participate in concrete projects. Out of the 173 submitted projects, 16 have been selected and I wish these projects best luck for their implementation to develop regional cooperation within the region.

Mrs. Bodil Persson, European Commission

VIEWS OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES ON THE ADDED VALUE OF THE JOINT OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME BLACK SEA BASIN 2007-2013

ARMENIA, Ministry of Economy

The Black Sea Cross Border Cooperation Programme, being a shelter of interests, capabilities and objectives of a group of countries, and thus presuming tight cooperation and joint efforts in all the relevant fields, has a specific meaning and role for Armenia. The first and probably most important point is that it tackles the regions of the country, which are in a great need of it, meanwhile approaching those from multiple angles of possible support and progress: socio-economic aspect, cultural, environmental, and educational. But above of all, the program is designed for specifically non-public sector, a fact that can and will have multi-level result investing both in the country, in the face of regions development, and enhancing the capabilities and activeness of the NGO sector. And for the overall region, this programme is to be the base and fundament on which the member countries can confirm the cultural links between themselves re-obtain the previous networks in educational and other areas and create some new ones.

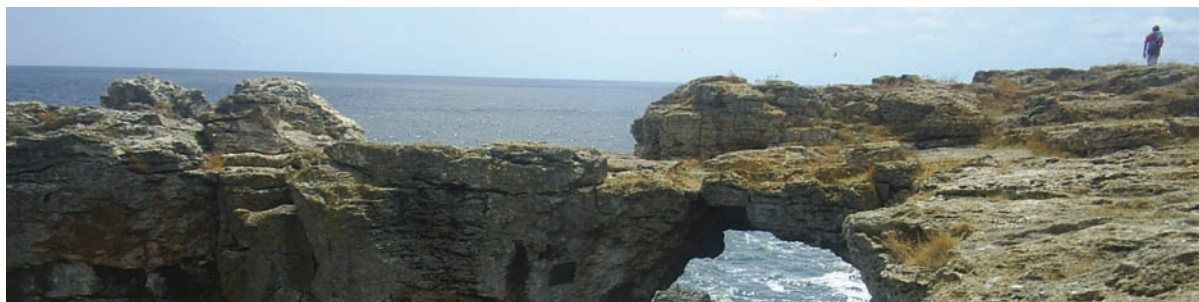


BULGARIA, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works

Bulgaria highly appreciates the importance of the Joint Operational Programme for Cross -Border Cooperation in the Black Sea Basin as a financial tool to develop regional cooperation between the EU and the region, as well as within the region.

To achieve the programme's objectives: to promote economic and social development, local, people-to-people actions and to address common challenges it is vital to involve fully all the countries located in the Black Sea Basin and their regional and local authorities.

One third of Bulgarian territory: 2 coastal regions North-Eastern and South-Eastern of all 6 regions at NUTS level 2 are included in the Black Sea Basin eligible area. The Bulgarian potential applicants located in this area - public authorities, administrative districts, municipalities and NGOs show significant interest to establish partnerships, to develop projects and implement joined activities for transforming the Black Sea Basin in a stable, cooperative and prosperous space.



GEORGIA, Ministry on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration

Georgia as a Black Sea country, pays particular attention to the enhancement of regional cooperation in the framework of existing and newly initiated policies, initiatives and formats like ENP, Black Sea Synergy and Eastern Partnership, as well as the BSEC and GUAM to promote free trade and develop alternative oil and gas pipelines and transport routes from the Caspian basin via the Black Sea region to the European Union.

The EU's Black Sea Cross Border Cooperation Programme can play special role in the region by promoting people-to-people contacts, dialogue between civil societies and local authority representatives in the jointly agreed priority areas.

We hope that our joint efforts under the European umbrella will create genuine cross-border cooperation opportunities to address common challenges in the Black sea region.



GREECE, Ministry of Economy, Competitiveness and Shipping

The Black Sea is a region whose historical and cultural input has always been of great importance in the making of European history itself.

The European Commission recognizing this region as a distinct one, has made efforts to support development in the area, through wide ranging cooperation programmes, one of which is our “Black Sea Basin” under the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument. (ENPI).

Greece being the oldest member state in the area has strongly supported the Programme’ s creation and building and believes in its scope and objectives: supporting civil society and local level cooperation in the area.

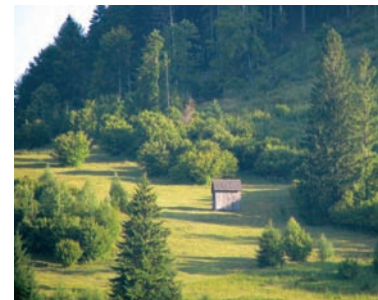
Greece attributing part of its historical and cultural heritage to this region wishes to contribute, so that this Programme is not just a possible source of financing.

We believe and try this Programme to be rather a platform envisaging the strengthening of contacts and ties among persons, communities and organizations, economic, scientific and cultural actors of the region.



REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, State Chancellery

The Republic of Moldova has been participating in the CBC projects for over a decade, currently being eligible for two CBC ENPI Programmes, Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova 2007-2013 and Black Sea Basin 2007-2013, which under new approach offer new opportunities: considerable funds; funding across the whole country; joint responsibility for the implementation, etc. Having the results of the first call for proposals, the Republic of Moldova demonstrated its strong commitment and willingness to actively participate in BSB Programme, which represents a potential framework that triggers the cooperation spirit all over the region. This is an instrument that not only promotes the cross-border cooperation but also, for the first time, links internal and external border regions along the Black Sea Basin with very colorful cultural and historical background. Exploring it at maximum extent would bring to a more advanced level the cooperation relations with neighboring countries, giving unique chance to learn from vast experiences and best practices while solving common problems. Just by joining our efforts in seizing the open opportunities can bring an increased stability, security and prosperity to the region.

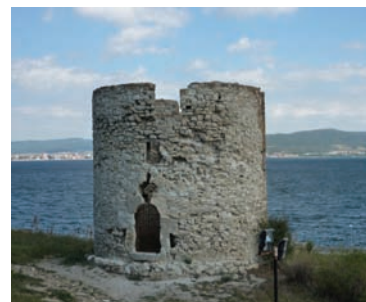


ROMANIA, Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism

For Romania the participation to the Joint Operational Programme „Black Sea Basin 2007-2013” supposes a double commitment and challenge, as on one hand it plays the important role of Joint Managing Authority for this programme through the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, and on the other, it encourages the participation of Romanian potential beneficiaries in the generation and efficient implementation of joint cooperation projects with entities from the area.

The programme slogan “Common borders. Common solutions”, expresses clearly the scope of this programme, through which we are engaged to find through the appropriate cooperation projects solutions to the common challenges faced by the Black Sea Basin countries in areas like sustainable economic development, tourism, nature and environment protection and cultural cooperation.

Romania strongly believes that only through a successful implementation of this joint operational programme realized in close cooperation with the participating countries, the Black Sea Basin area will gain the deserved attention from the EU and the international donor organisations.



UKRAINE, Ministry of Economy

It is the first time for Ukraine to participate in CBC ENPI “Black Sea Basin” which covers geographically many countries. There is the opportunity to increase competitiveness of the eligible regions through its economic, social and tourism development, environmental protection and conservation as well as promotion of cultural networking and educational exchange of local communities. Moreover the activities in CBC ENPI JOP “Black Sea Basin” framework coincide with the task of the Concept of the State target programme for transboundary cooperation for 2011 - 2015 years.

The applicants have a lot of expectations from CBC ENPI JOP “Black Sea Basin” nevertheless its small budget discourages them to participate in the Programme as the preparation of the project proposal is a time and efforts consuming process. So we consider it is necessary to make amendments in ENPI CBC JOP “Black Sea Basin” in order to increase its budget that in turn will give the desired transboundary effect.



TURKEY, General Secretariat for EU Affairs

Turkey gives utmost importance to all initiatives at and for the Black Sea. Having the longest coastline to the Black Sea and the largest eligible region in the “CBC at the Black Sea Programme” area, particular importance is given to the BSB Programme which is an EU Programme. Turkey participates in the BSB Programme as the only candidate country.

Turkey’s participation in the BSB programme aims at contributing to overcome common challenges together with its neighbours at the basin. By working together it is expected to raise awareness and establish joint mechanisms for constructing networks as well as cooperation at every level.

Cooperation for the Black Sea is of great significance, regarding the problems and threats the basin is facing. Turkey wishes to continue with contributing effectively to every measure and step to be taken to help improvement of the Black Sea Basin.

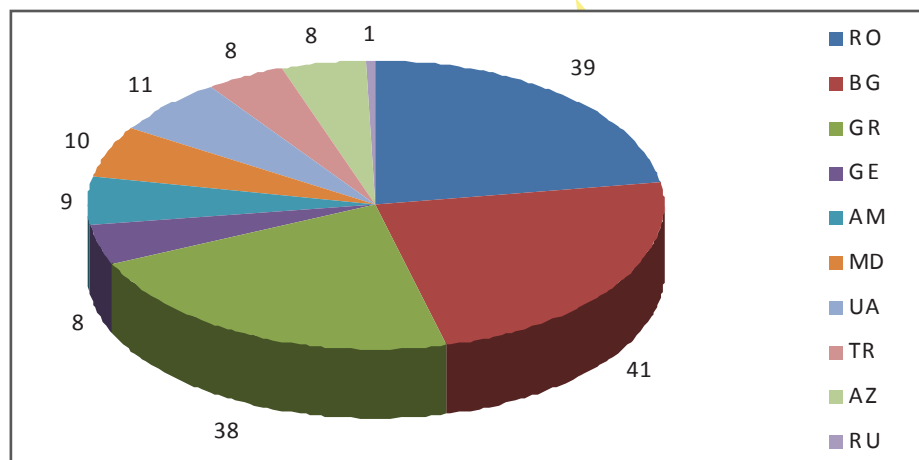


FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS IN FIGURES

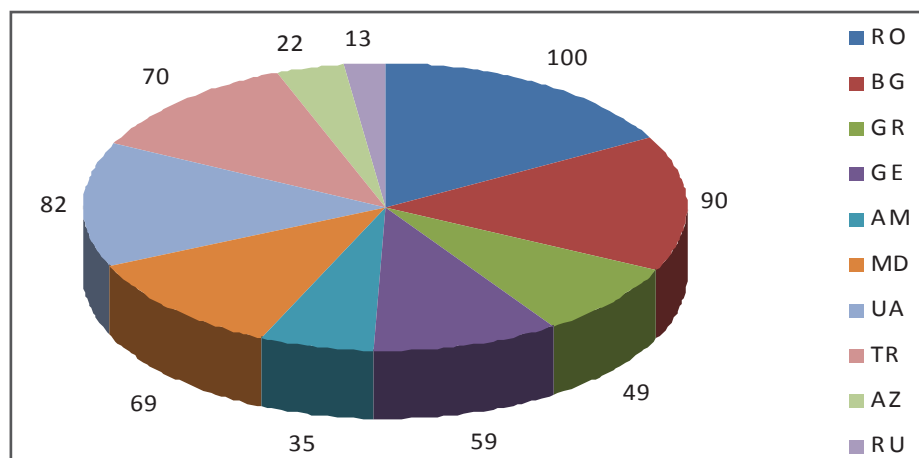
173 Applications were received during the first Call for Proposals, which was opened between 30 June and 12 October 2009.

Please find below some statistical data regarding the applications received:

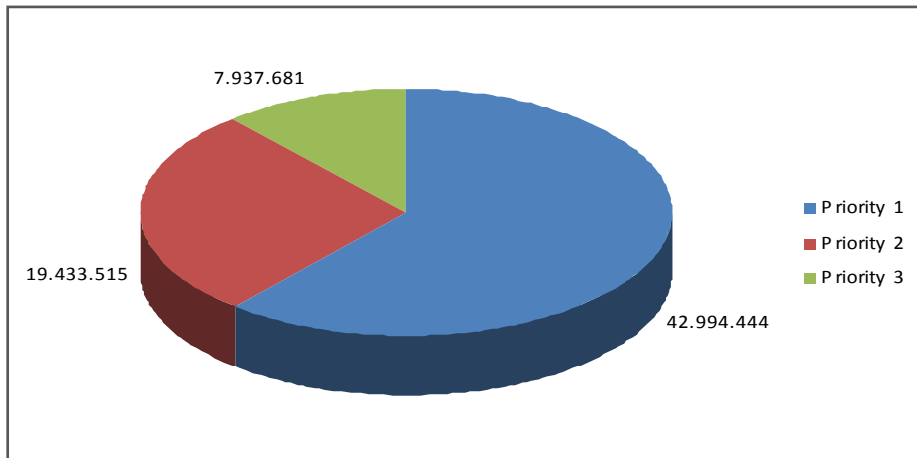
Number of applicants per country



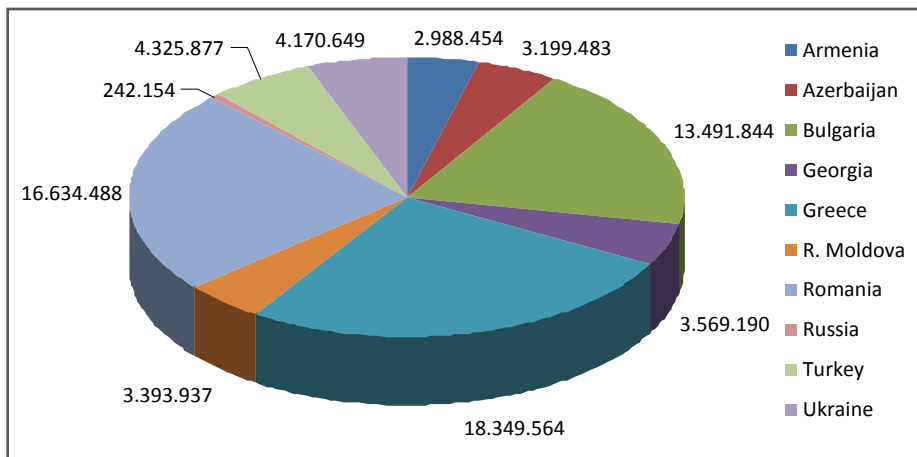
Number of partners (excluding applicants) per country



Funds requested (ENPI +IPA): 70.365.640 Euro

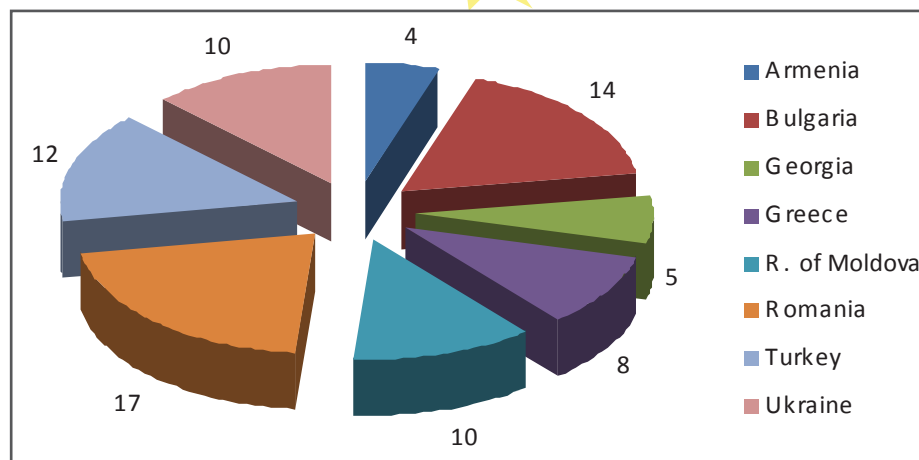


Grant requested (by country of the applicant)

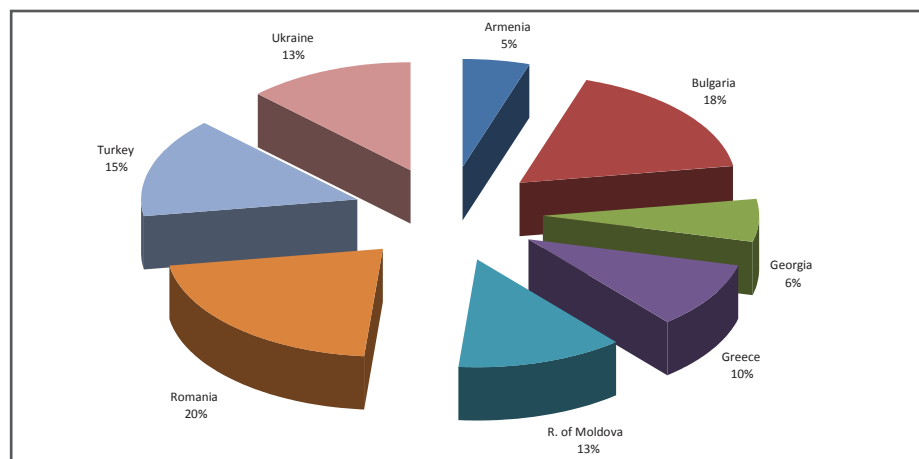


On the 3rd of November 2010, the Joint Monitoring Committee approved a list of 16 projects proposed to be funded under the first call for proposals by the Selection Committee, increasing the amount of the ENPI funds allocated to the first call from 3 311 369 EUR to 5 873 760 EUR. Some statistical information regarding the 16 selected projects is presented in the following graphics:

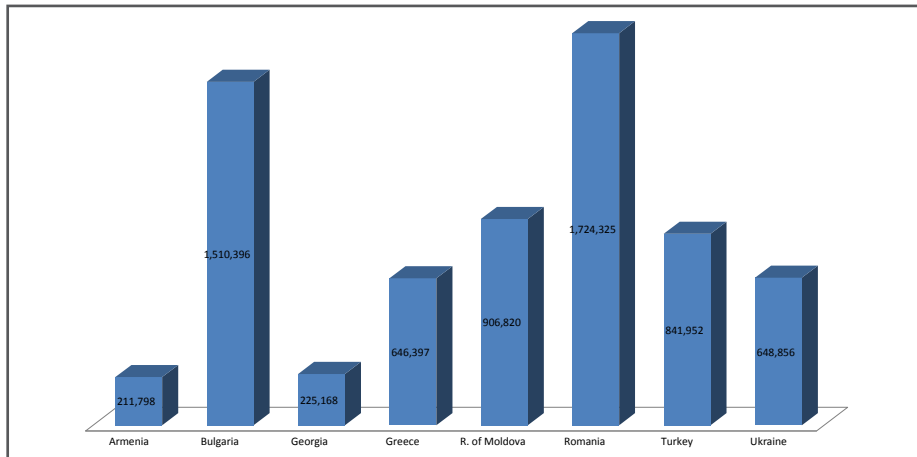
Number of legal entities



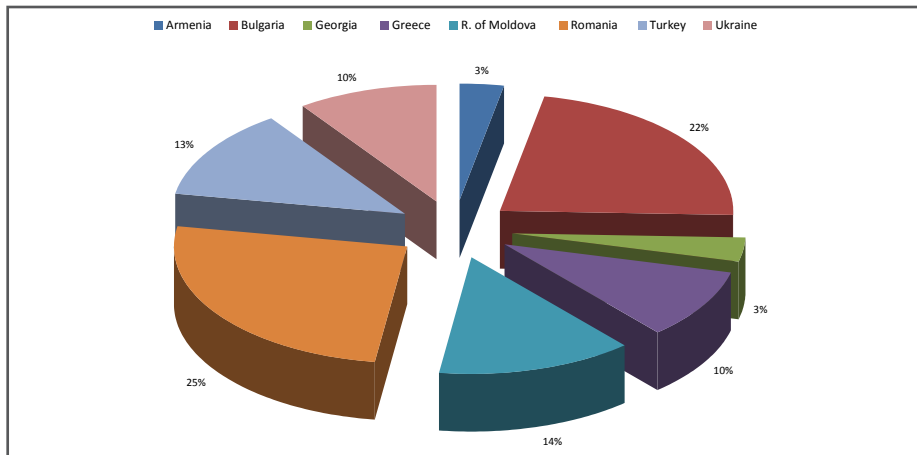
Number of legal entities



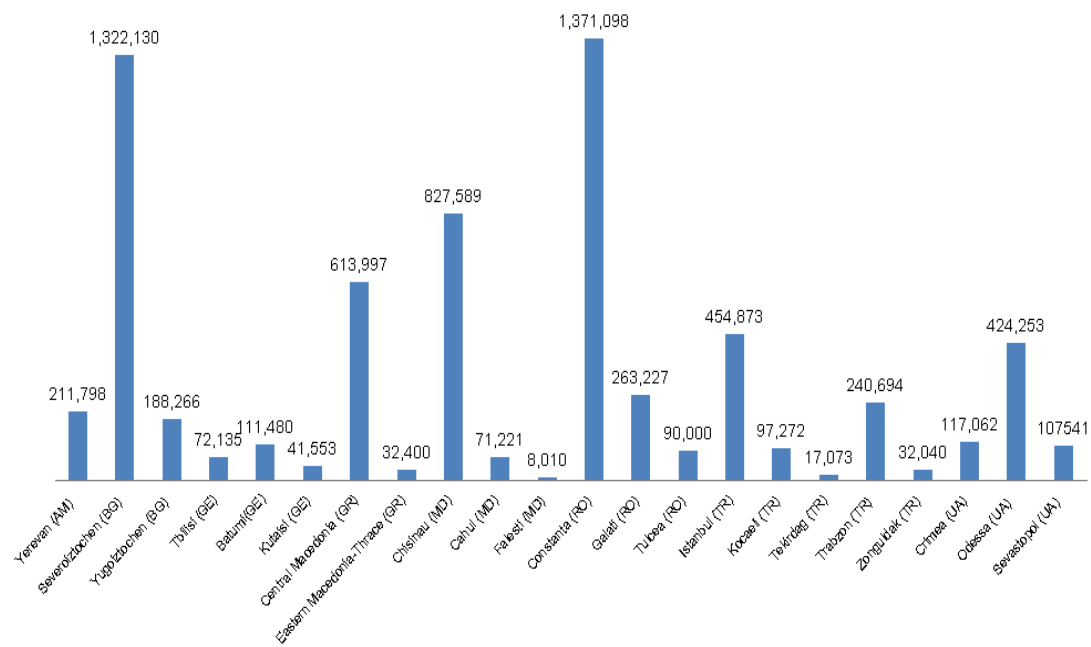
Funds requested per country (Euro)



Funds requested per country (%)



Funds requested per regions (Euro)





FREQUENT MISTAKES

In order to help potential beneficiaries to better prepare their applications, the JMA prepared a list of the most frequent mistakes encountered during the first call for proposals:

Partnership Statement (Section IV.2) has not been provided / signed / filled in or has been provided as copy/scan/not fully typed;

Declaration by the Applicant (Section VII) has not been provided / signed / filled in or has been provided as copy/scan;

Declaration by the IPA Financial Lead Beneficiary (Section VIII) has not been provided / signed / filled in or has been provided as copy/scan.

The following **data have not been filled** in within the Grant Application Form:

- **Financial Data** (Section II.3.2.1 Applicant / III.3.2.1 IPA Financial Lead Beneficiary and Section IV.1 Partners);
- **Financing Sources** (Section II.3.2.2 Applicant / III.3.2.2 IPA Financial Lead Beneficiary);
- Approved **External Auditor** for grants exceeding 500,000 Euro (Section II.3.2.2 Applicant / III.3.2.2 IPA Financial Lead Beneficiary);
- **Number of staff** (Section II.3.2.3 Applicant / III.3.2.3 IPA Financial Lead Beneficiary);
- **“Visibility of the Action”** - compulsory group of activities (Section I.1.9);
- **Indicators** have not been checked (Section IX).

Difficulties in correctly choosing the **correct legal status** for at least one organization within the partnership: “bodies governed by public law” (public - state owned - institutes, public - state owned - universities etc.) or “public undertakings” (public - state owned - companies) mistakenly considered themselves as “public authorities”.

Budget (Annex B):

- at least one Budget table has **not been provided** / filled in;
- the Budget tables were **not split by ENPI and IPA funds**;
- **inconsistencies** in the amounts within the Budget tables and with Section I.1.5 *Cost of the Action*).

Logical Framework Sheet (Annex C):

- has not been provided in the format requested, with **activities grouped by Group of Activities**;
- has not been **entirely filled in**.

Legal Entity Sheet (Annex D):

- has **not been provided** for at least one partner;
- has been provided as **copy/scan**;
- has not been provided as **fully typed**.

Unofficial translations of the supporting documents:

- have **not been certified** through signature and stamp by the head of the respective organization;
- have **not been provided**.

The **original and copies** of the application have **not been bound**.

A **list of contents** has **not been attached**.

The **very first page** of the Grant Application Form was **not visible on the sealed envelope**.

Electronic format of the application (CD):

- **not provided as a unique pdf file** (the application was split in several files);
- does not contain **exactly the same** application as the paper version;
- does **not contain the entire application** (including all annexes and all supporting documents).

In case of Applicants/partners registered and located outside the eligible area:

- the existence of a branch in the eligible area - **set up before the deadline of the call** - was not proved;
- the **exclusive competences** in the eligible area were not proved.



TOWARDS A SECOND CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The final results of the selection process of projects submitted during the first call for proposals will be communicated to the Applicants through official letters by the end of November 2010.

The Joint Managing Authority and the Joint Monitoring Committee of the Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2007-2013 are planning to launch the second call for proposals in the first quarter of 2011.

Cross-border cooperation projects will be financed within this call in the areas of sustainable economic development, tourism, nature and environmental protection and also cultural cooperation, areas that correspond to the three priorities of the Programme.

For this second call for proposals, the Joint Managing Authority is planning to launch an improved version of the Guidelines for Grant Applicants, which will be available for public consultation on the Programme's website before the end of this year. In terms of funding, the Joint Monitoring Committee and the Joint Managing Authority are analyzing the possibility to launch all remaining funds during this second call for proposals, which will be opened for more than 3 months.

As in the previous period, the JMA together with the RCBI (Regional Capacity Building Initiative) and the National Authorities from the participating countries in the Programme will organize dedicated Partnership Forums (in Armenia and Turkey) and at least 2 project preparation workshops in each participating country, aiming at supporting the potential beneficiaries to develop good quality projects that contribute to the indicators set up in the joint operational programme.

The calendar of events as well as additional information concerning the launch of the second call for proposals will be published in the coming months on the Programme's website (www.blacksea-cbc.net).

The Joint Managing Authority thanks to the INTERACT PROJECT AND THE REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE for their continuous support



From its launching event in November 2008, the INTERACT ENPI project has been delivering support to all running ENPI CBC Programmes on an on-going basis. In this context, the ENPI CBC Black Sea Basin Programme has always shown a high degree of interest in the portfolio of INTERACT ENPI services and, as a result, our involvement vis-à-vis the programme can be considered particularly fruitful. In addition to participating at the different Joint Monitoring

Committees held until now, a number of tailored trainings as well as advisory services have been delivered. Particular attention has been provided to the entire evaluation and selection process related to the first call for proposals; from the provision of comments to the evaluation documents and procedures, to the organization and delivery of trainings for internal and external assessors or briefings and on-site support to the members of the Project Selection Committee, the range of activities has been quite wide. Likewise, we are very much pleased about the active involvement of the Black Sea Basin Programme, including also National Information Points, in all networking events organized by the INTERACT ENPI project in these two years.

Taking into account the interest shown by all national, regional and local actors through their active participation to the first call for proposals of the ENPI CBC Black Sea Basin Programme, we are certain that this interest will be confirmed if not increased in the framework of the second call which be soon launched. The INTERACT ENPI project is ready and willing to accompany the Joint Managing Authority and all other actors involved at programme level during this challenging and at the same time gratifying process.

RCBI, supporting active participation by Partner countries in the Black Sea Basin ENPI CBC Programme

Building on the support given during the first call for proposals, the EU funded Regional Capacity Building Initiative (RCBI) project will hold a further 16 workshops for the second call for proposals, four in each of the Black Sea Programme Partner Countries, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Delivered in collaboration with programme staff and national authorities, there will be two types of workshops. The first round, held soon after the call is announced, will focus on completing the application form and building capacity to fill in the logical framework and prepare project budgets. The second round, held a month before the application deadline, will provide an opportunity to receive further information and clarify points that emerge when completing the grant application form.

Other RCBI support for the second call includes assistance for three Partner Search Forums, one during the Programme Annual Conference, and others in Armenia and Turkey. As well as helping to conduct the Partner Search Forums, RCBI will fund participation by a limited number of eligible applicants and partners. Those interested in participating should monitor the programme website for announcements.

But this is not the only support RCBI offers. For those projects awarded funding in the first call for proposals, there will be project implementation training (with the JMA). The RCBI website (www.rcbi.info) has a lot of useful information for organizations in both Member States and Partner Countries. See the Useful Materials page for presentations from RCBI events, get help to find partners on the Finding Partners page and check the News page for information on support events, calls for proposals and other news. Via the website, you can also register to be on our contact and partners database (address).

For more information, contact info@rcbi.info.

CONTACT DETAILS

Head of Joint Managing Authority
Mr. Iuliu BARA
Phone: +4 037 211 1319
Fax.:+40 372-111.456
Email: blacksea-cbc@mdrt.ro

Programme Manager
Ms. Sorina CANEA
Phone: +40 372 111 309, +40 749 196 143
Fax: +40 372 111 456
Email: blacksea-cbc@mdrt.ro

Communication officer
Ms. Ana GHEORGHE
Phone: +40 372-111.323, +40 749 196 058
Fax.:+40 372-111.456
E-mail blacksea-cbc@mdrt.ro



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Publication edited by the Joint Managing Authority of the Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2007-2013, Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, Romania
17 Apolodor Street, North Side, 5th sector, Bucharest
Phone: 004 372 111 323 Fax: 004 372 111 456
blacksea-cbc@mdrt.ro
www.blacksea-cbc.net

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