

Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020

Common borders. Common solutions.

Spotlight on the Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020

We are glad to introduce you the second newsletter addressed to the Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020. Let us share with you some useful information on the Programme state of play, at the end of 2017.

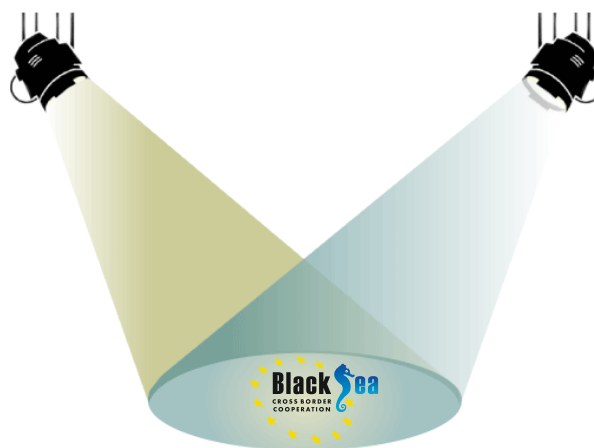
This year has been a dynamic one with great progress in the programme's implementation; the framework was set in, the tasks were divided and acquired, programme documents were approved, the communication channels were opened and the 1st Call for proposals was officially launched on 31st of January, 2017.

The relevant documents regarding the call were available on the programme website since the first round of public consultation (second half of 2016), which provided a large span of time to potential beneficiaries to get acquainted with all the details on the call.

Our intensive work reached one of its main objectives - high interest among the potential beneficiaries in accessing the programme funds to improve the welfare of the people in the Black Sea Basin regions through sustainable growth and joint environmental protection.

By 31st of May, 2017, deadline of submission, a total number of **301 applications** were submitted through the electronic Monitoring System (eMS).

The financial involvement is also considerable; the amount of ENI funds made available under the 1st Call for proposals is ~20 mil EUR, while the total ENI budget requested by the submitted applications is ~250 mil EUR.



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Launching 1st Call for proposals

After two rounds of public consultations on draft Guidelines for Grant Applicants, the 1st Call for proposals was opened on 31st of January, 2017 with the deadline on the 31st of May, 2017.

The indicative amount of ENI funds made available under the Call for proposals was ~20 mil EUR out of which ~11.5 mil EUR for the first Specific Objective *Promote business and entrepreneurship within the Black Sea Basin* and ~8.5 mil EUR for the second Specific Objective *Promote coordination of environmental protection and joint reduction of marine litter in the Black Sea Basin*.

The programme management structures supported the potential beneficiaries to prepare their applications by:

- ✓ Organizing project preparation workshops in each participating country (starting in 2016, continuing in 2017);



- ✓ Opening the HelpDesk using a dedicated e-mail address: office@bsb.adrse.ro, for the purposes of helping them to provide assistance;

- ✓ Updating the FAQ section from the programme website, www.blacksea-cbc.net, with the answers at the most common type of questions addressed;

- ✓ Facilitating Partner Search and Project Ideas Search using the tools available on programme website.



- ✓ Keeping the potential beneficiaries informed on the relevant issues (events scheduled, deadlines, important notices etc.) through the Facebook page of the programme;



- ✓ Publishing information on the 1st Call for proposals in a leaflet disseminated among the programme stakeholders.



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Project preparation workshops

During March - April 2017, additional project preparation workshops dedicated to the potential beneficiaries were held in each participating country.



The events were delivered by the Managing Authority and Joint Technical Secretariat and assisted by the National Authority in each country, who provided information on national rules. The events in Partner Countries and Turkey were organized with the support of TESIM (Technical Support to the Implementation and Management of ENI CBC programmes) project.



The roadtrip had 15 stops: Yerevan and Vanadzor (Armenia), Istanbul and Sinop (Turkey), Tbilisi and Batumi (Georgia), Odessa, Mikolaiv and Zaporihya (Ukraine), Chisinau, Balti and Cahul (Republic of Moldova), Xanthi (Greece), Varna (Bulgaria) and Galati (Romania). In total around 900 persons from the eligible area of the programme participated in these events.



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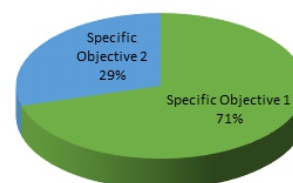
Applications submitted during the 1st Call for proposals (I)

By 31st of May, 2017, deadline of submission, a total number of **301 applications** were submitted through the electronic Monitoring System (eMS). The facts further introduced are referred to 299 applications, as 2 of them were not considered due to lack of data filled in (project partners, activities, budget).

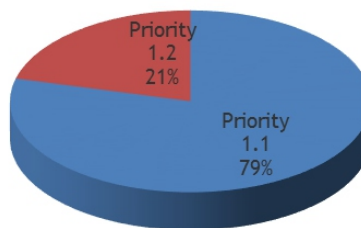
The highest number of project proposals were submitted under priorities 1.1 (*Jointly promote business and entrepreneurship in the tourism and cultural sectors*) and 1.2 (*Increase cross-border trade opportunities and modernisation in the agricultural and connected sectors*), followed by priority 2.1 (*Improve joint environmental monitoring*) and priority 2.2 (*Promote common awareness-raising and joint actions to reduce river and marine litter*).

The total ENI budget requested by the submitted applications is 249.3 million Euro, exceeding 12 times the amount of 19.65 million Euro allocated for this 1st Call for proposals.

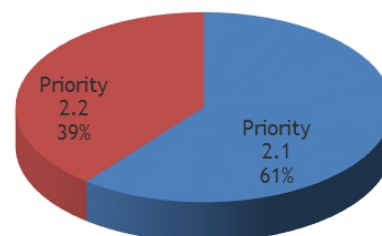
Total ENI Funds per specific objective



The ENI funds requested per priority:
Specific Objective 1

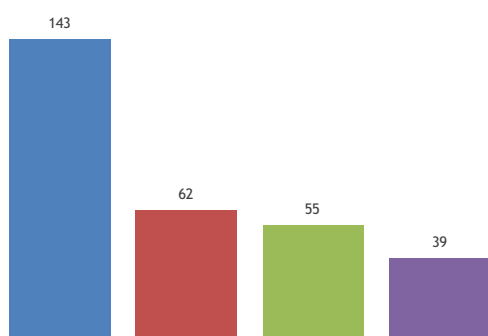


Specific Objective 2



Statistical distribution of applications per priority

■ Priority 1.1 ■ Priority 1.2 ■ Priority 2.1 ■ Priority 2.2



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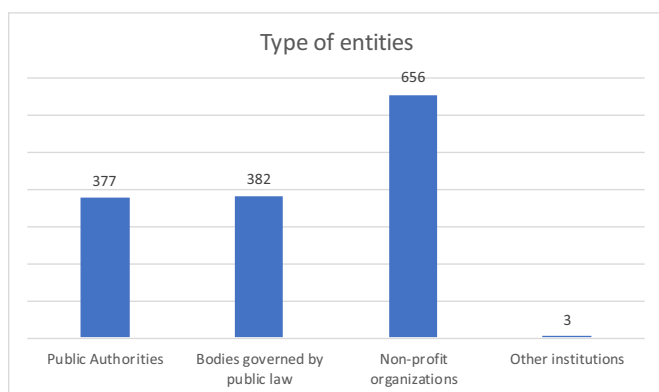
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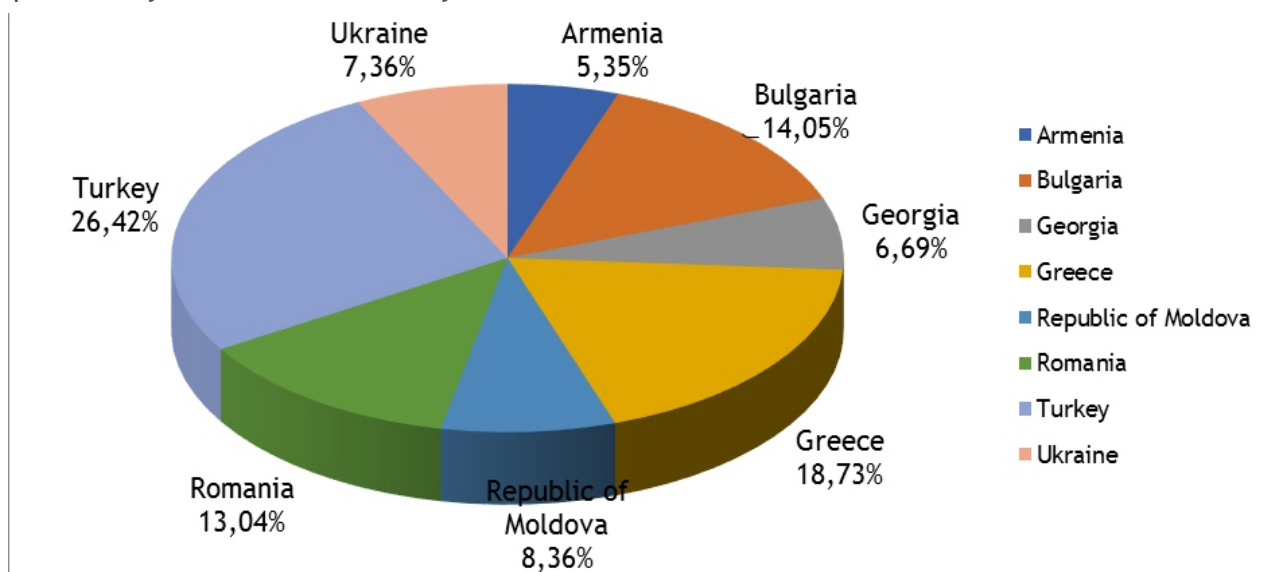
Applications submitted during the 1st Call for proposals (II)

1,418 organisations from the Black Sea Basin regions are involved as potential beneficiaries in the applications considered for assessment.

At the moment the process of evaluation and selection of the applications is on-going. A decision of the Joint Monitoring Committee concerning the approved applications is expected at the beginning of 2018.



The statistical distribution of the submitted applications per country of the lead beneficiary:



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Designation of the authorities for the Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020

On 13th of October, 2017, the Audit Authority within the Romanian Court of Accounts released the final audit report and the formal decision for nominating the Romanian Ministry for Regional Development, Public Administration and European Funds as Managing Authority for the Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020.

This is a crucial step in the lifespan of the Programme, the implementation can go ahead to what is necessary to achieve the programme purpose.

Implementation Manual of Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020

The Managing Authority is developing the Implementation Manual for providing detailed guidance for beneficiaries during project implementation, from contracting phase to project closure, including reporting obligations, procurement, monitoring and evaluation, grant contract modifications, and other requirements set in the Grant Contract.

The Implementation Manual will be uploaded on the programme website after the Joint Monitoring Committee approval.

Communication and Visibility Manual of Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020

Following the launching of the 1st call for proposals with clear requirements regarding the project communication, it was identified the necessity to review and update the Communication and Visibility Manual for the Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020 so that to cover most of the communication situations in a user-friendly structure.

Thus, the 2nd edition of the Communication and Visibility Manual for the Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020 is under approval by the Joint Monitoring Committee in December, 2017 and shall be available on the programme website, www.blacksea-cbc.net.



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2017 Annual ENPI/ENI CBC Conference

Cross-border cooperation along the EU's external borders: lessons learnt and ways forward

On 30th of November, 2017, TESIM (Technical Support to the Implementation and Management of ENI CBC programmes) organized in Tallin, Estonia, the Annual ENPI/ENI CBC Conference.

The event hosted by the Ministry of Finance of Estonia, in the context of the European Council, was chaired by Mathieu Bousquet, Head of Unit from DG NEAR.

The event focused on finding answers to the following questions:

- ✓ What are the lessons learnt now that ENPI CBC programmes 2007-2013 are heading towards closure?
- ✓ How can the project results be efficiently used in order to have a better impact and visibility?
- ✓ Where do ENI CBC programmes 2014-2020 stand after a first year in full swing?
- ✓ Which are the main challenges ahead?
- ✓ What could be done in order to better support their management and implementation?



The event was attended by the representatives of the management bodies of Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020. Further, the representative of Turkey National Authority, Şebnem Sözer, conveyed information to the panel debate on what has been the response so far of the local and regional actors to the new funding opportunities provided.



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Joint Operational Programme
Black Sea Basin 2014-2020
is sending you the very
Best Wishes
for a Joyful Holiday Season

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Joint Technical Secretariat
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