

Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme

Webinar

Info session on 2nd calls for proposals

10th of April 2024



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Webex meeting

- Please turn OFF video;
- During presentations, please keep your microphones muted;
- Please use the chat for transmitting questions;
- Q&A session will be organized after each section.



SECOND CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

Second call for proposals - Regular projects

Call duration: 3 months (29th of March - 28th of June 2024, 14:00 hrs Romania time)

Financial allocation:

Interreg Funds - 90%:

- **Total:** EUR 31,350,327
- **Per Specific Objective:**
 - PO1/SO1 Research: EUR 11,054,293
 - PO2/SO4 Climate change: EUR 10,148,017
 - PO2/SO7 Nature protection: EUR 10,148,017
- **Per project:** EUR 500,001 - 1,500,000

Project duration: Up to 30 months

Aim at strengthening cooperation by addressing more complex challenges which require higher budgets

Second call for proposals - Small scale projects

Call duration: 3 months (29th of March - 28th of June 2024, 14:00 hrs Romania time)

Financial allocation:

Interreg Funds - 90%:

- Total: EUR 15,490,523
- Per Specific Objective:
 - PO2/SO4 Climate change: EUR 2,000,000
 - PO2/SO7 Nature protection: EUR 1,898,174
 - ISO1/SO3 Governance: EUR 11,592,349
- Per project: EUR 250,000 - 500,000

Project duration: Up to 18 months

Aim: To strengthen people-to-people cooperation in Programme area in the environmental and governance fields through balanced partnerships between eligible legal entities.

Application packs

Application packs available here: www.blacksea-cbc.net



PART I - KEY ASPECTS OF INTERREG VI-B NEXT BLACK SEA BASIN PROGRAMME

PART II - PROJECT MAIN REQUIREMENTS

PART III - OFFLINE APPLICATION FORM TEMPLATE

PART IV - ASSESSMENT, SELECTION AND CONTRACTING

ANNEXES 1-10

Submission of Application Form - Joint Electronic Monitoring System (JeMS)

- Applications submitted on-line, only by the Lead Partner
- Other users (consultants or Partners) allowed to fill in sections of the Application - they can read or add/modify data in the AF, only after the Lead Partner gives the necessary permissions
- REGISTER ON **EC PARTICIPANT REGISTER** PRIOR TO SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATION!



Pre-submission checks automatically made by JeMS - verifies that all sections are filled in with text, not the quality of information!



JeMS does not allow submission of Application unless all fields are filled in.

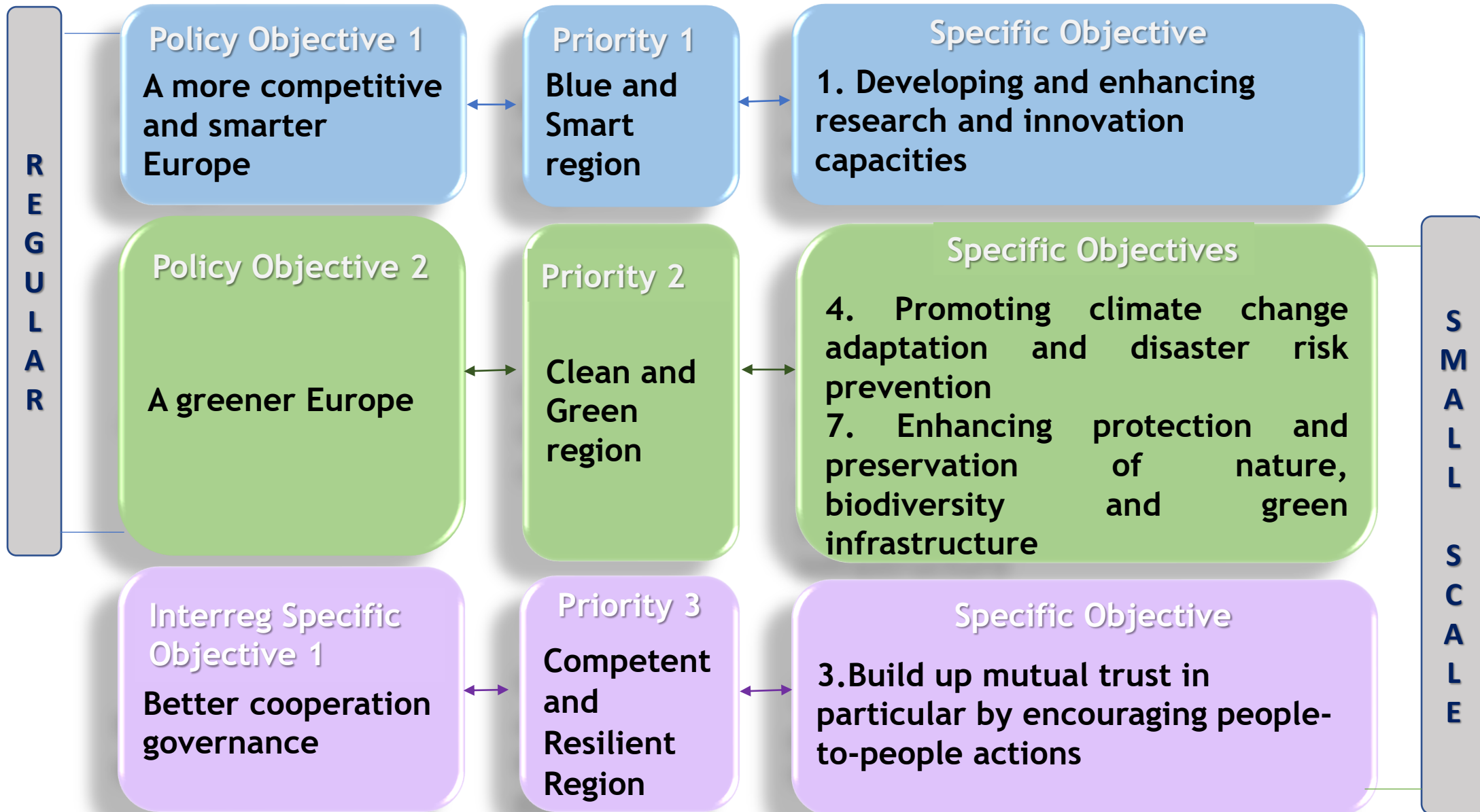


Take sufficient time for verifications!

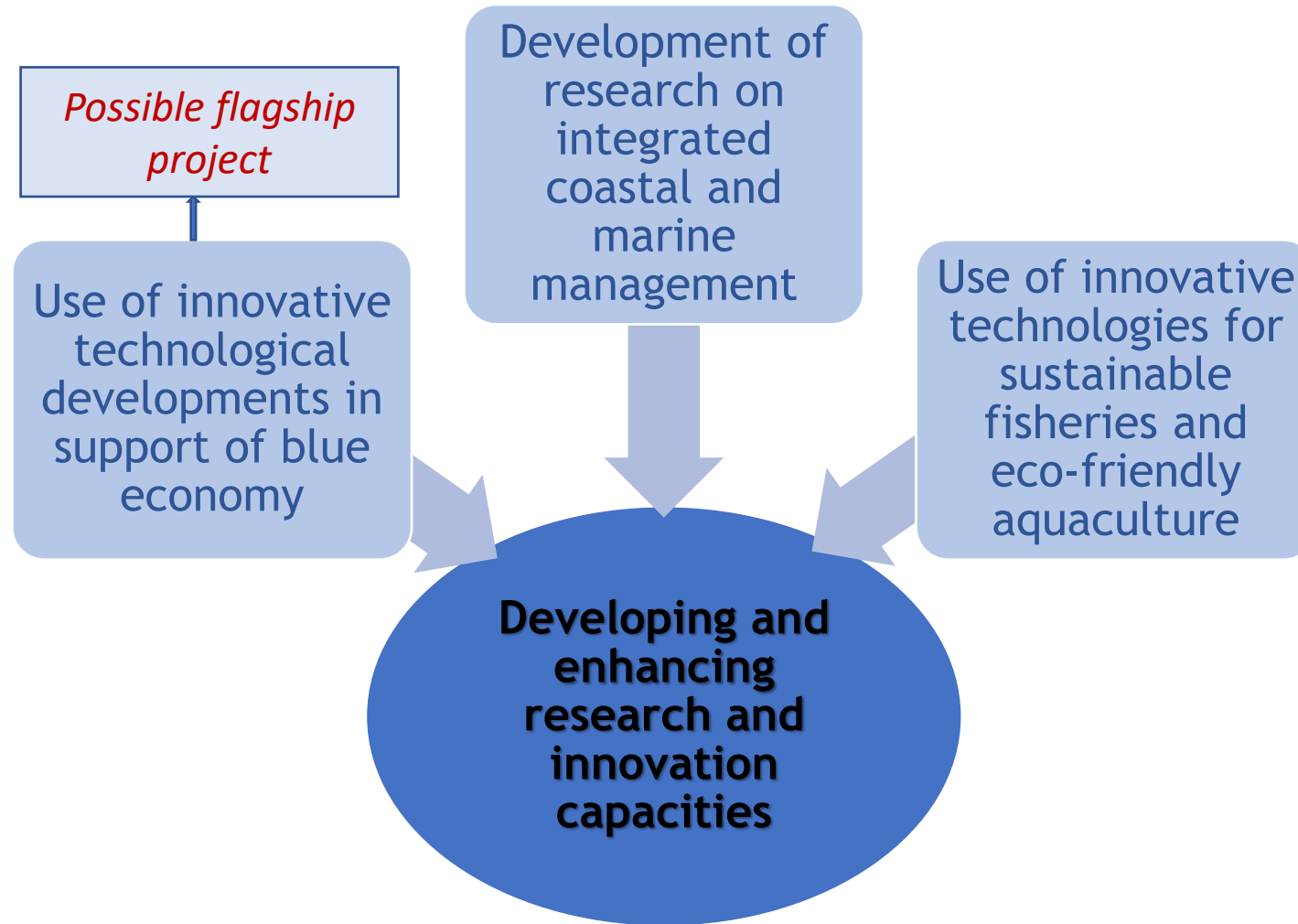


MAIN FEATURES OF THE PROJECT ACTIVITIES

1. Programme Priorities

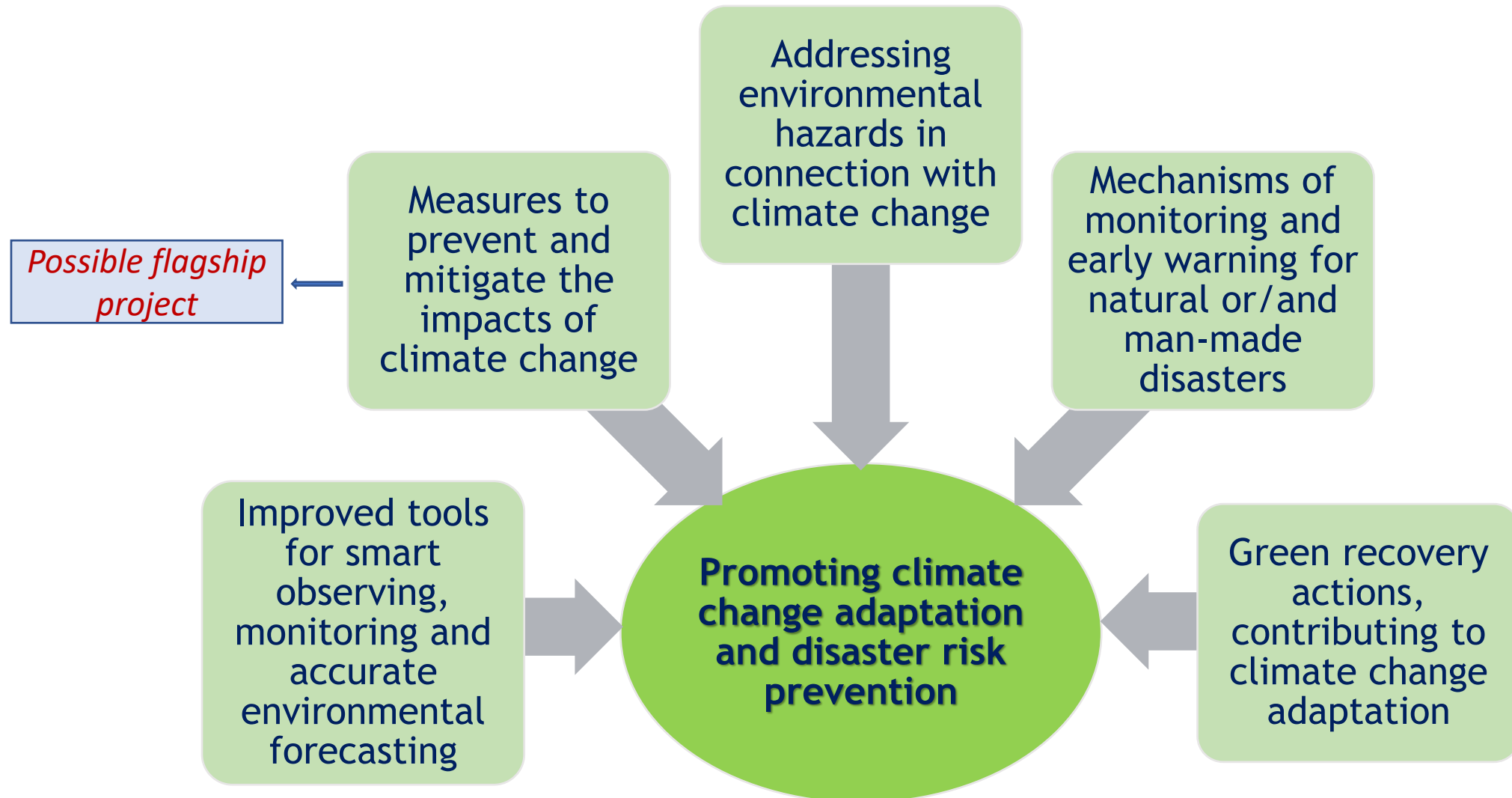


Fields of action (1/4)



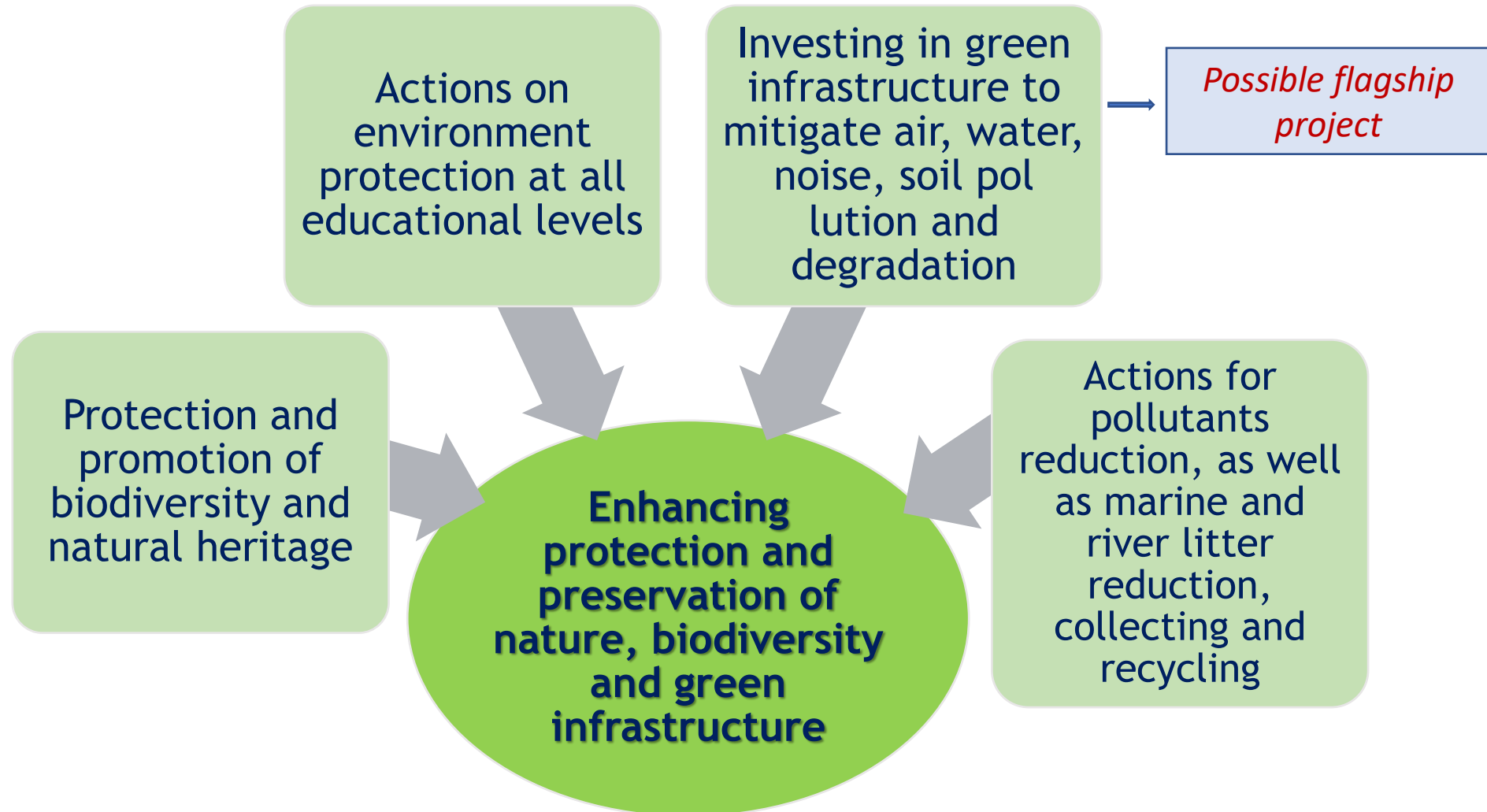
Priority 1 - Specific Objective 1

Fields of action (2/4)



Priority 2 - Specific Objective 4

Fields of action (3/4)



Priority 2 - Specific Objective 7

Field of action (4/4)



Enhance the institutional capacity of public authorities across the programme area, to build mutual trust, and to enhance sustainable democracy and support civil society actors

Build up mutual trust in particular by encouraging people-to-people

Priority 3 - Specific Objective 3

Performance Framework Methodology

https://blacksea-cbc.net/images/Interreg_Next_BSB_PF_Methodology_Rev_1.pdf

Programme indicators

	INDICATOR	Priority 1 BLUE AND SMART EUROPE	Priority 2 CLEAN AND GREEN REGION		Priority 3 COMPETENT AND RESILIENT REGION
		SO1 - Research and innovation	SO4 - Climate change	SO7 - Preservation of nature	SO3 - Mutual trust
OUTPUT	RCO07 Research organizations participating in joint research	●			
	RCO81 Participations in joint actions across borders				●
	RCO87 Organisations cooperating across borders	●	●	●	●
	RCO84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	●	●	●	
	RCO115 Public events across borders jointly organised	●	●	●	
	RCO116 Jointly developed solutions	●	●	●	●
RESULT	RRCR 84 Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	●	●	●	●
	RRCR104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations	●	●	●	●

2. Transnational relevance

Implemented:

- ✓ **in the programme eligible area**

- ✓ **Partially outside** the programme area, only if they are:
 - For the benefit of the regions; *and*
 - Essential for the project; *and*
 - Explicitly foreseen in the application.

address challenges that are shared across the regions participating in the project

cooperation is needed to address the challenges

results have a transnational added value

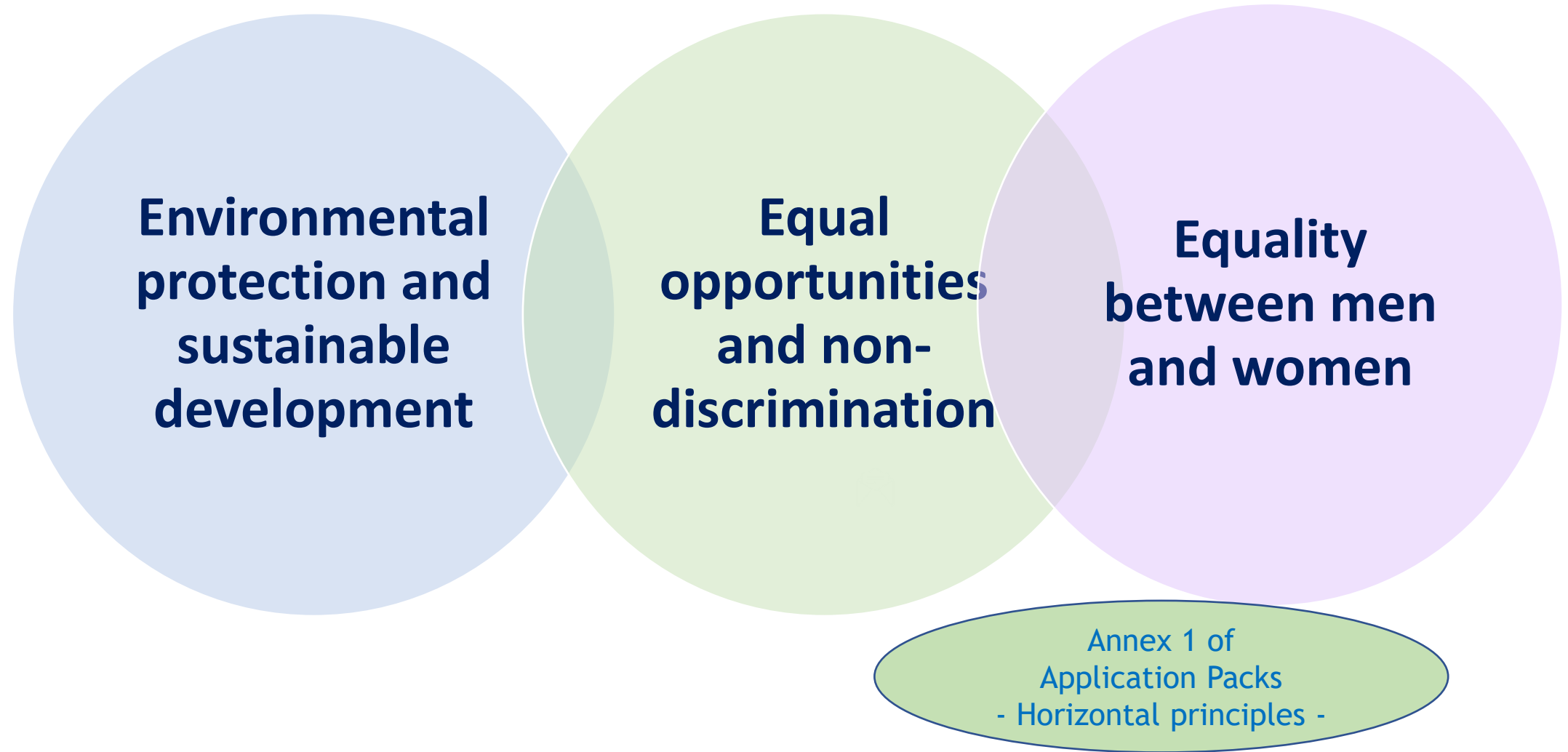
3. Contribution to a macro-regional strategy or a sea-basin strategy

Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme
contributes to the
Common Maritime Agenda (CMA)
objectives and activities

Other relevant strategies:

- ❖ EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- ❖ EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)

4. Horizontal principles compliance



5. Capitalisation of previous programmes' results

Projects may include activities to *capitalise on the achieved results of previous projects*

Capitalisation activities should also focus on *widening up of the audience/target groups of existing project results* beyond the partnership

Database with projects results of ENI CBC Black Sea Basin Programme 2014-2020:

<https://blacksea-cbc.net/capitalisation-platform>

6. State Aid



- State Aid is **not permitted**.
- **State Aid** *any aid which distorts or threatens to distort competition by favouring certain undertakings or the production of certain goods, therefore affecting trade between MSs or between MSs and partner countries.*
- Requirement to **check the Project activities for State Aid** (both direct and indirect) relevance when preparing the Application.
- All project activities will have to be assessed at **partner level**.
- During the **self-assessment**, all project partners should be able to clarify the aspects related to:
 - identification of “undertaking” and “economic activity”;
 - identification of possibility that activities bring a selective advantage to the project partner which would not be obtained under ‘normal market conditions’ .
- State aid will be **assessed during evaluation and selection process**.

Annex 8 of
Application Packs
- State Aid Assessment Grid -



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility of applicants (1)

Type - Legal status:



- a) Public authorities
- b) Bodies governed by public law
- c) Non-profit organisations

- Meeting needs of general public interest, no commercial or industrial character
- Have legal personality
- Are financed for the most part by the state or local authorities

Exception:

Faculties, educational departments within a university (registered and located in the eligible area) - shall be considered separate legal entities;

Eligibility of applicants (2)

Geographical location:

Effectively established (registered and located as legal entities) in the eligible area.

Exceptions:



- ❖ A public authority or a body governed by public law **having a mandate which covers the entire country**, but with main office/headquarter located outside eligible area, may be eligible through its' subsidiary office operating in the eligible area, even if the subsidiary it's not registered as a distinct legal entity.

Important! The involvement of the subsidiary should be essential in terms of **exclusive institutional competences and relevance for the project implementation**.

- ❖ Organisations from Ukraine effectively established (registered and located in the eligible area), with offices operating, at the date of project submission, in other areas in Ukraine outside the programme eligible area.

Legal status and geographical location are cumulative criteria!!!

Ineligible applicants



- Organisations which are not effectively established in the eligible area;
- Entities from the public or private sector established for commercial and profit making purposes;
- International organizations;
- Organisations representing and owned by religious cults;
- Natural persons;
- Political Parties.

Partnership (1)

- Small scale - minimum 3 - maximum 4;
- Regular - minimum 4 - maximum 6;
- Maximum 2 partners from the same country;
- Partners - from at least 3 different participating countries including at least one from a EU Member State and one from a partner country;
- Same organization - Leader in maximum 1 **grant contract** per Priority - rule applies separately for small scale projects and regular projects;
- A Lead Partner/Partner - may be partner in other applications.



Departments/units/sub-units of the same Lead Partner shall not be considered different Partner under the same Priority - with the exception of faculties

Partnership (2)

COMPETENT & RELEVANT



Relevance (all partners):

- ✓ have good knowledge of the challenges in the targeted area and of the needs of the target groups;
- ✓ have the adequate expertise and thematic competence to implement the project;
- ✓ be involved in a way that demonstrates the joint implementation of the project.

Professional and financial capacity (lead partner):

- ✓ have competences and financial capacity to manage the project and to secure the cash-flow needed for the project implementation;
- and**
- ✓ has relevant experience for managing a cooperation project.



Check with MA that project partners do not have any unpaid debt to the MA for any project financed under ENI-CBC Black Sea Basin Programme 2014-2020.

Find partners

KEEP

<https://keep.eu/programmes/64/2014-2020-Black-Sea-Basin/>

Projects/partners on map; View projects and partners

BSB Community

<https://blacksea-cbc.net/bsb-community>

Register/login; Browse ideas or Find partners

Capitalisation platform

<https://blacksea-cbc.net/capitalisation-platform>

Select criteria





FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

Annex 9 of
Application Packs
-Grant Contract-

Payment arrangements and reporting



- 1 Advance payment - maximum 30%**
 - recovered by deducting 20% from the eligible value of the Interreg funds included in the next payment requests until the amount is cleared
- N Several interim payments - linked and based on actual expenditure made and reported**



Reports - cover 4 months implementation period

- time needed for preparation and submission to the controllers for expenditure verification
- include technical and financial information

Budget structure - regular projects



➤ **1. Staff** - **up to 20%** of the eligible direct costs other than staff costs

➤ **2. Office and administration (indirect)** - **up to 7%** of the eligible direct costs

- *Set in Jems the percentage based on your estimated needs - the amount shall be automatically calculated in Jems*

- *No justifying/supporting documents required, except for a document proving the existence of the Staff cost category*

Flat rate

➤ **3. Travel and Accommodation**

➤ **4. External expertise and services**

➤ **5. Equipment**

➤ **6. Infrastructure and works**

- *Justifying/supporting documents required*

- *Certification by the controller required*

Real costs

1. STAFF COSTS

- Consists of gross employment costs of staff employed for implementing the project.
- Shall be calculated as a **flat rate of up to 20%** of eligible direct costs other than staff costs, at partner level - *set in Jems the percentage based on your estimated needs, the amount will be automatically calculated in Jems, as soon as the amounts for budget lines 3, 4, 5 and 6 are filled in.*
- Expenditure limited to:

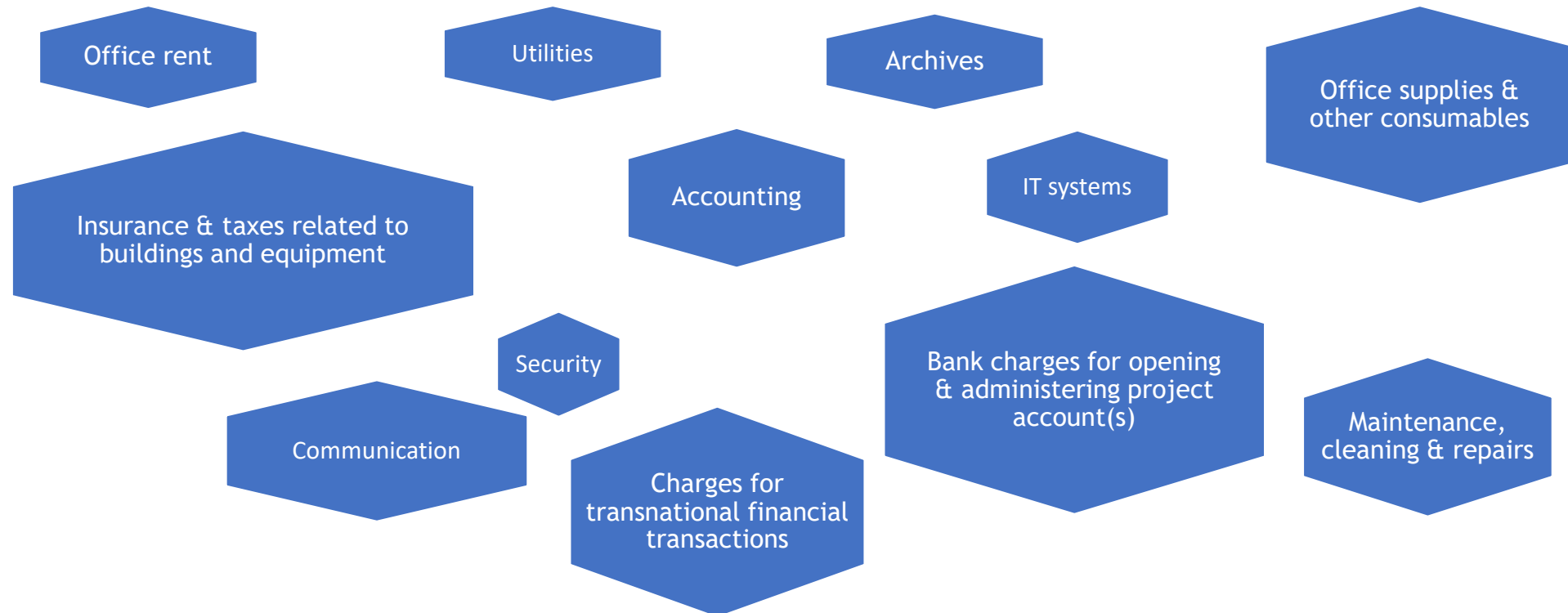
Salary payments related to activities which would not be carried out if operation concerned is not undertaken, **provided for in an employment document or by law** and relating to responsibilities specified in job description

Any other costs directly linked to salary payments incurred and paid by employer

- Payments to natural persons working under a *contract* other than an employment or work contract may be assimilated to salary payments  *employment document*.

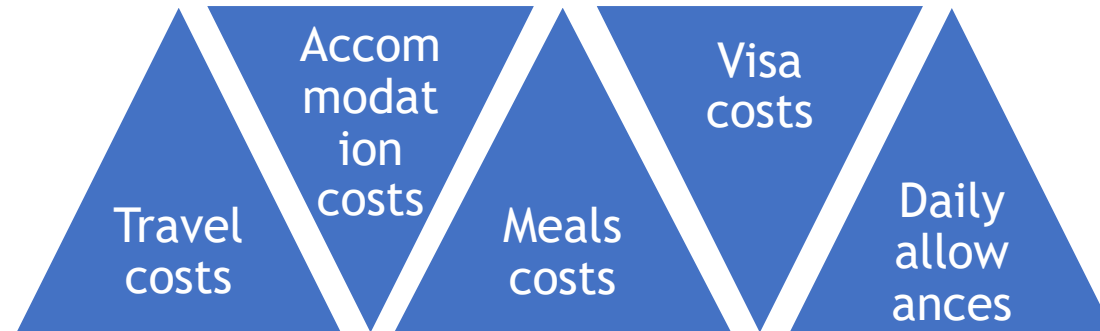
2. OFFICE AND ADMINISTRATION COSTS

- Include operating and administrative expenses necessary for project implementation.
- Shall be reimbursed only as a **flat rate of up to 7%** of the eligible direct costs, at partner level - *set in Jems the percentage based on your estimated needs, the amount will be automatically calculated in Jems*, as soon as the amounts for budget lines 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are filled in.
- Expenditure limited to:



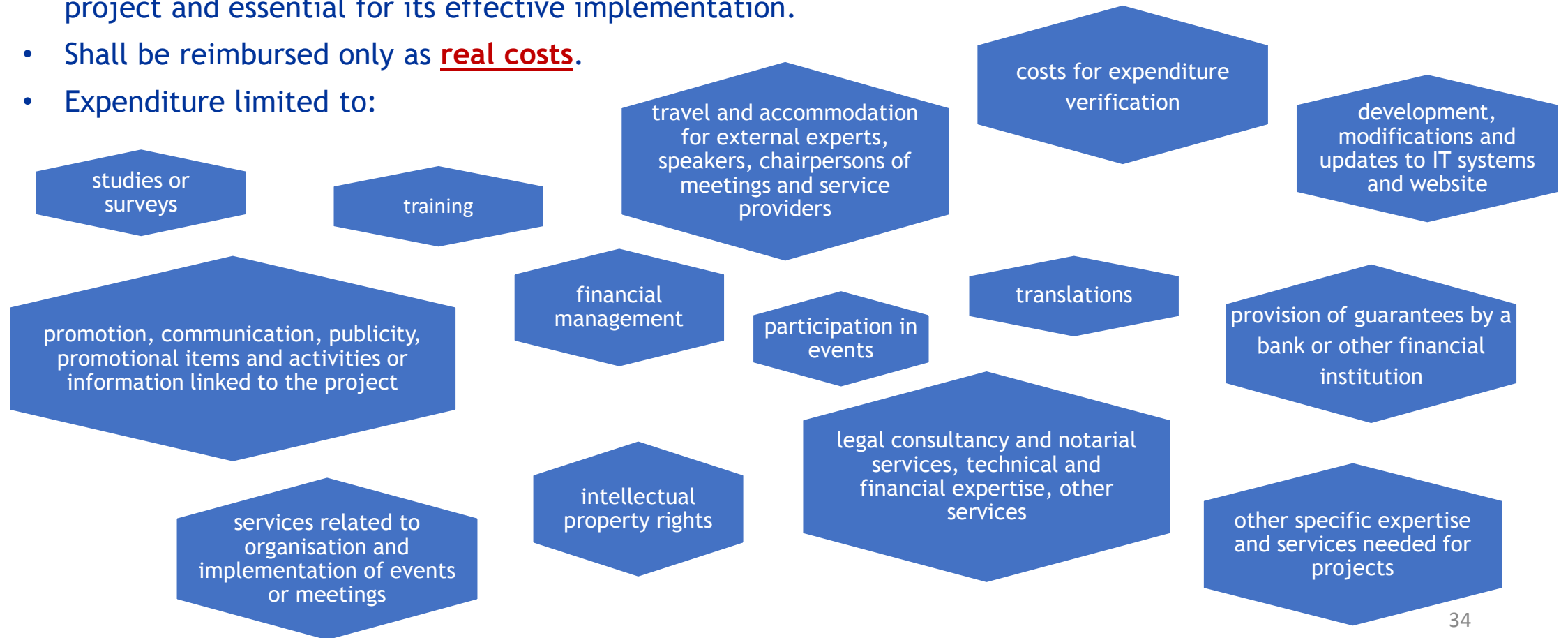
3. TRAVEL AND ACCOMODATION

- Refer to travel and accommodation for *project staff, personnel or management staff of the partner(s)* who execute tasks directly related to the project and must be justified by activities carried out.
- **!** Costs for travel and accommodation of *external experts and service providers* shall be reimbursed under budget line 4.
- Shall be reimbursed only as **real costs**.
- Expenditure limited to:



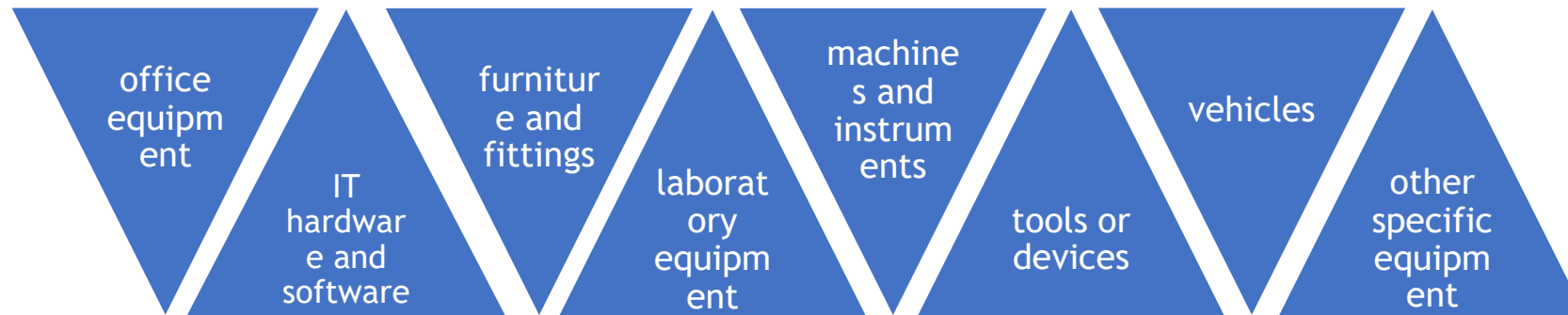
4. EXTERNAL EXPERTISE AND SERVICES

- Refer to external expertise and services provided by a public or private body or a natural person outside of partner organisation and contracted to carry out certain tasks or activities which are strictly linked to the project and essential for its effective implementation.
- Shall be reimbursed only as real costs.
- Expenditure limited to:



5. EQUIPMENT

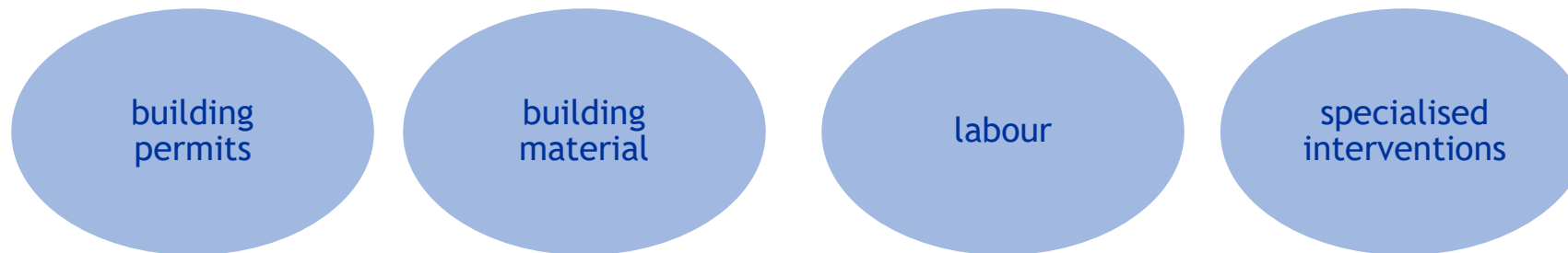
- Refer to expenditure for equipment purchased, rented or leased specifically for the purpose of the project, which should be listed in the approved project budget.
- Shall be reimbursed only as **real costs**.
- Expenditure limited to:



- For rental or lease of equipment, the cost(s) shall be eligible only based on a well-grounded justification provided in the Application.

6. INFRASTRUCTURE AND WORKS

- Refer to costs incurred for the execution of the fixed investment(s) which is(are) necessary for the implementation of the project and achieving its objectives (e.g. renovation/construction of buildings, installation of equipment, etc.).
- Shall be reimbursed only as real costs.
- Expenditure limited to:



- ! The costs for e.g. an equipment which requires works for permanent installation shall be budgeted under this budget line.
- For investments in infrastructure with an expected lifespan of at least 5 years, an *assessment on how the potential impacts of climate change were taken into consideration* has to be made and described (climate proofing = climate adaptation & resilience).
- Costs related to documentation for projects including an infrastructure component are eligible if they are incurred after the date of 1st of January 2021.

Budget structure - small-scale projects



New

For small-scale projects, project partners shall choose one of the 2 options available for designing the budget

- Option 1
- *Staff costs as real costs*
- *Other project costs (office and administration, travel and accommodation, external expertise and services and equipment) calculated as a flat rate of 40% of eligible direct staff costs*

- Option 2
- *Staff costs, travel and accommodation, external expertise and services, and equipment as real costs*
- *Office and administration as a flat rate of up to 7% of eligible direct costs*

Both options may be used within a project, as convenient for each project partner

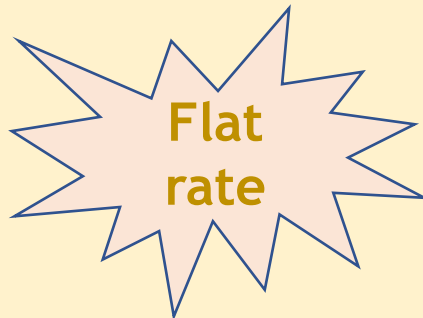
Budget - small-scale projects - option 1

The eligible costs for small scale projects are **based on:**



Staff costs

- *Justifying/supporting documents required*
- *Certification by the controller required*



Automatically calculated in Jems

Other costs calculated as 40% of eligible direct staff costs covering the budget categories:

- *Office and Administration*
- *Travel and Accommodation*
- *External expertise and services*
- *Equipment*
- *NO justifying/supporting documents required*
- *NO certification by the controller required, directly linked to the expenditures certified as eligible for Staff costs*

Calculating the budget

Budget category	Budget
Staff	300.000 €
Other (40% flat rate)	300.000 € * 40% (= 120.000 €)
TOTAL	420.000 €

What does **NOT** mean

Budget category	Budget
Staff	60% (300.000 €)
Other	40% (200.000 €)
TOTAL	500.000 €

Budget - small-scale projects - option 2



- Staff
- Travel and accomodation
- External expertise and services
- Equipment

- *Justifying/supporting documents required*
- *Certification by the controller required*

Real costs

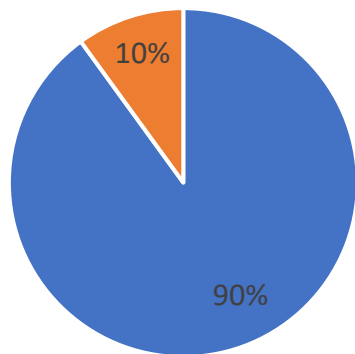
- Office and administration (indirect) - **up to 7%** of the eligible direct costs

- *Set in Jems the percentage based on your estimated needs*
- *The amount will be automatically calculated in Jems by applying the percentage of up to 7%, as decided by each partner, to the total eligible direct costs of the respective partner*
- *No justifying/supporting documents required*

Flat rate

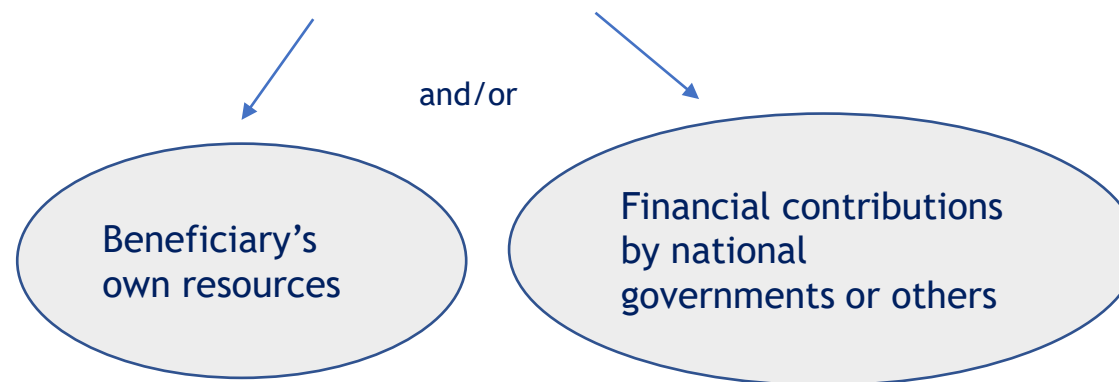
Co-financing

Project budget



■ Interreg funds ■ Co-financing

- Interreg funds - 90% of total eligible costs
- Co-financing - 10% of total eligible costs



percentages - equal for all Partners

Value Added Tax (VAT)

- VAT is considered **eligible** in projects.
- Nevertheless, project partners which according to national legislation are **entitled to recover VAT from other sources *shall not include*** in project budget and reimbursement and/or payment requests the amounts representing VAT corresponding to the reported/requested eligible expenditure.

Conversion into Euro

- Project budget must be developed in **Euro** and, in case of approval, reporting of project expenditure shall be made in **Euro**.
- Expenditure paid in **another currency shall be converted into Euro, automatically by Jems**, using the monthly accounting exchange rate of EC in the month during which that expenditure was submitted for verification.



KEY TAKEAWAYS

Key takeaways - Activities

- Project overall objective clearly targets one single programme specific objective within the chosen priority
- Project corresponds to a relevant field of action of the selected specific objective
- Activities and outputs are logically linked to the targeted programme specific objective and field of action
- Project clearly contributes to the programme result indicator(s)

Key takeaways - Budget

- Reimbursement mechanism:

- One advance payment - maximum 30%
- Several interim payments - linked and based on actual expenditure made and reported; in each tranche, retention of 20% from the eligible value of the Interreg funds included in the payment request until the amount is cleared

&

- Co-financing of partners = 10% of the total project budget



Make sure your organisation owns sufficient financial resources necessary for the project implementation and to cover the co-financing.

- VAT is eligible if not recovered from other sources
- Costs for investments outside the eligible area - not eligible;
- No infrastructure investments shall be funded under any small scale project.

Information about the calls

More information about the calls and the Application Packs may be checked/downloaded at: <https://blacksea-cbc.net/interreg-next-bsb-2021-2027/calls-for-proposals/second-call-for-proposals>

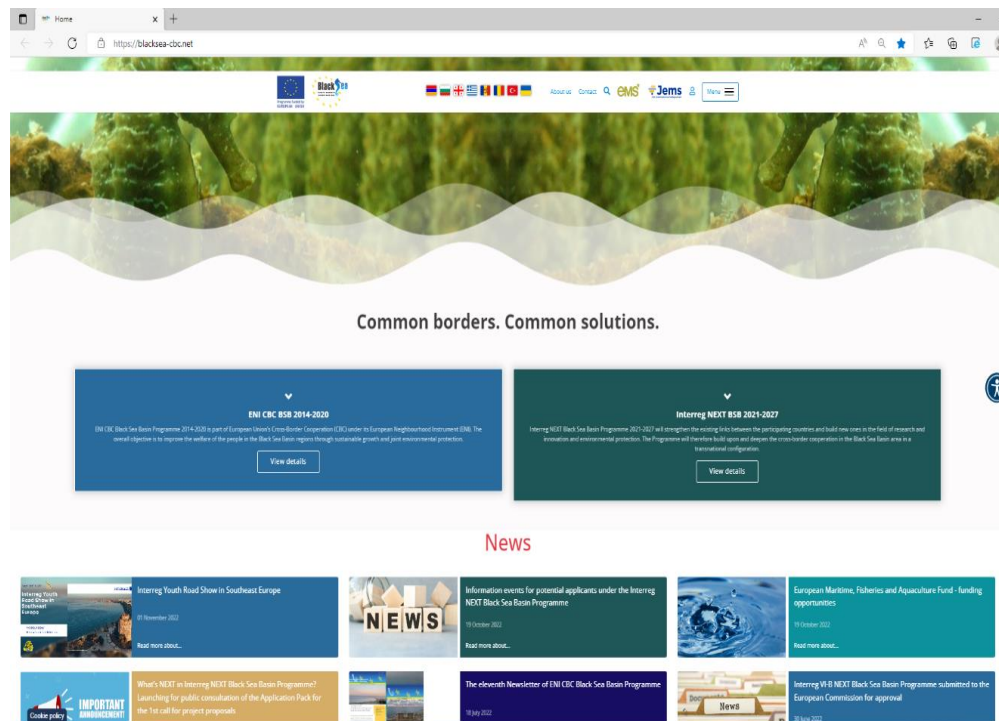
Help Desk

Any request for clarifications may be addressed until 14th of June 2024 to the Joint Secretariat at: office@bsb.adrse.ro

Last date on which clarifications are issued by JS shall be 21st of June 2024

Help desk:
office@bsb.adrse.ro

www.blacksea-cbc.net



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