

Joint Operational Programme “Black Sea Basin 2007-2013”

Newsletter July 2011

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1- CURRENT STATUS OF THE PROGRAMME

The first half of 2011 was an important period for implementation of the Programme and witnessed important developments and progress.

The **Joint Technical Secretariat** was established following the public procurement procedure launched by the JMA (Joint Managing Authority) for identifying and selecting qualified and experienced experts in order to ensure the functioning of the JTS (Joint Technical Secretariat) of the Programme. One Head and three Experts have been contracted and started to implement the tasks delegated to the JTS by the JMA from June 2011. Another public procurement procedure is envisaged to be launched in the second half of 2011 for the recruitment of experts for the remaining five positions.

The **2010 Annual Implementation Report**, prepared by the JMA, containing detailed information on the progress registered in the implementation of the

programme in 2010, was approved by the Joint Monitoring Committee of the Programme.

The **National Authority in Turkey**, former Secretariat General for European Union Affairs is a separate ministry now. The full title is the Ministry for EU Affairs and will represent Turkey in the JMC in the future period.

Important: There is a change in Georgian international telephone codes: When calling a mobile phone, the code was changed from +995 to +9955 (and 8 digital numbers). When calling a fixed phone, the code was changed from +99532 to +995322 (and 6 digital numbers).

In March 2011, the European Commission decided to allocate **2,900,275 Euro extra millions to the ENPI budget** of the Programme, which now amounts 24,196,790 Euro ENPI funds.

First Call for proposals showed a high interest from potential applicants in the



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Black Sea Basin Operational Programme with 173 applications submitted.

19 projects were selected for financing under the first call for proposals and the contracting process has already started. The ENPI budget of the selected projects is 7,197,097.14 Euro and the IPA budget is 941,710.51 Euro.

The contract signature process for the approved 19 projects within the First Call for Proposals in the areas of sustainable economic development, tourism, nature and environment protection and cultural cooperation, areas that correspond to the three priorities of the Programme, started in December 2010 and is ongoing.

On 1st and 2nd September 2011 a **Beneficiary and partners training seminar** will be organised in Bucharest, by the JTS in cooperation with the JMA and the RCBI. The training is a great opportunity for guidance of the beneficiaries and their partners. It is also a good opportunity for each project team to meet up as well as a forum discussion among all beneficiaries and partners to network, establish contacts and discuss on specific implementation issues.

The Second Call for Proposals has been launched and the **deadline is 30 September 2011**. A series of events were organised in this period, in order to get the potential applicants and partner acquainted with the specific requirements of the Programme.

2- EVENTS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SECOND CALL

As in the previous period, the JMA together with the RCBI (Regional Capacity Building Initiative) and the National



Project Preparation Workshop in Varna

Authorities from the participating countries in the Programme and the National Info Points, organised two dedicated Partnership Forums; one in Yerevan on 19th of April 2011 and another in Istanbul on 5th of May 2011 aiming at supporting the potential beneficiaries to develop good quality



Project Preparation Workshop in Constanta



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projects that contribute to the indicators set up in the joint operational programme.



Project Preparation Workshop in Bourgas

For this purpose, 11 project preparation workshops were also organised, one in each city presented below:

- Varna-10 of May 2011
- Komotini - 17th of May 2011
- Braila- 24th of May 2011
- Bourgas - 07th of June 2011
- Thessaloniki - 14th of June 2011
- Constanta- 21st of June 2011
- Chisinau-06.06.2011
- Cahul-07.06.2011
- Yerevan-13.06.2011
- Zaporizhya- 14.06.2011
- Donetsk- 16.06.2011

Also several info days were organised in Turkey in the cities of Trabzon, Sinop and Karabük.

3- THE JOINT TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

The JTS was established in June 2011 and is located in Bucharest, Romania.

The JTS (Joint Technical Secretariat) is

the administrative and secretarial body of the Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2007-2013, responsible for day-to-day management and acting as contact point for potential applicants as well as grant beneficiaries.

The Joint Technical Secretariat performs its activities under the supervision of the JMA (Joint Managing Authority), the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, Romania.

The costs of the JTS functioning are financed through a direct grant from the European Commission and co-financed under the programme's Technical Assistance budget of the Joint Managing Authority.

Currently, four positions are occupied in the organisational structure of the JTS, as presented below.



JTS Staff - From Left to Right: Roxana Racovita, Arkam Oğrak, Catalina Stan, Sergiu Dragos Serban



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Sergiu Dragos Serban - Head of Joint Technical Secretariat

Mr. Sergiu Serban is responsible for the supervision of Joint Technical Secretariat, in line with all relevant regulations and procedures of the JOP Black Sea Basin JOP 2007-2013 and ensures that all the tasks delegated by the Joint Managing Authority are completed timely and with the agreed level of quality.

E-mail: serban.sergiu@blacksea-cbc.net

Arkam Oğrak - Information and Communication Manager

Mr. Arkam Oğrak is responsible for the efficient implementation of information and communication activities of the Programme, by providing advice on visibility and communication related requirements to potential applicants and project beneficiaries as well as by ensuring a smooth information flow through online and printed tools, applications and databases.

E-mail : arkam.ograk@blacksea-cbc.net

Roxana Racovita - Projects Manager

Ms. Roxana Racovita is responsible for assisting contract beneficiaries of the Programme in timely, efficient and cost effective implementation of projects in the framework of the Joint Operational Programme “Black Sea Basin 2007-2013”. In addition, she contributes to the overall JTS functions as a secretariat for the Programme and its constituencies in particular the Joint Managing Authority.

E-mail: roxana.racovita@blacksea-cbc.net

Catalina Stan - Projects Manager

Ms. Catalina Stan is responsible for monitoring and providing implementation

support for the approved projects in the framework of the Joint Operational Programme “Black Sea Basin 2007-2013”. In addition, she contributes to the overall JTS functions as a secretariat for the Programme and its constituencies in particular the Joint Managing Authority.

E-mail : catalina.stan@blacksea-cbc.net

4- 2nd CALL FOR PROPOSALS HIGHLIGHTS

The deadline for the submission of the applications under the 2nd Call is 30th of September 2011.

The Joint Managing Authority (JMA) for the Joint Operational Programme "Black Sea Basin 2007-2013" published the second Call for Proposals on 30th of June 2011. All priorities of the programme are open for submission of proposals.

The indicative amount made available under this Call for Proposals is 15,169,098.86 Euro (ENPI contribution). For Turkish partners' participating in joint actions, the indicative amount made available under this Call for Proposals is 5,300,241.30 Euro (IPA contribution).

No grant may exceed 90% of the total eligible costs of the Action. The rate of co-financing is 10% of the total eligible costs of the Action and it is requested for each approved proposal. Co-financing is to be provided by the Beneficiaries in order to demonstrate local commitment.



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ENPI Funding		
Type of actions (projects)	Minimum amount - ENPI grants	Maximum amount - ENPI grants
Priorities 1 & 2	EUR 100,000	EUR 700,000
Priority 3	EUR 50,000	EUR 300,000
Joint Actions implemented mainly or entirely in a single participating-country but having a cross-border impact	EUR 50,000	EUR 250,000

IPA Funding		
Type of actions (projects)	Minimum amount - IPA grants	Maximum amount - IPA grants
Priorities 1 & 2	EUR 50,000	EUR 700,000
Priority 3	EUR 50,000	EUR 300,000
Joint Actions implemented mainly or entirely in a single participating-country but having a cross-border impact	EUR 50,000	EUR 250,000

Following entities are eligible under this Call for Proposals:

- national, regional or local public authorities;
- bodies governed by public law¹, other than legal entities defined under par.a;
- associations formed by one or several national, regional or local public authorities or one or several bodies governed by public law, as defined under par.a-b;
- public undertaking² operating in the water, energy and transport services sectors;
- international organizations.

The projects will be jointly submitted and implemented by partnerships that will always involve partners from one or several Member States (Bulgaria, Greece, Romania) and from one or several partner countries (Armenia, Georgia, R. Moldova, Ukraine) and/or Turkey. The participation

¹ Bodies governed by public law as defined in Article 1(9) of Directive 2004/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 on the coordination of procedures for the award of public works contracts, public supply contracts and public service contracts (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2004:134:0114:0240:EN:PDF>) and in compliance with the national legislation of each participating country

² Public undertaking as defined in Article 2(1)b of Directive 2004/17/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 coordinating the procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2004:134:0001:0113:EN:PDF>) .



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of Turkish partners is only possible in tripartite projects involving at least one partner from a Member State and one partner from a partner country.

The recommended number of partners involved in each project partnership is between 4 and 8 partners.

Please note that priority will be given to projects involving minimum 4 partners from minimum 4 different countries.

Three types of projects are eligible:

1. Integrated projects with different activities in several countries that jointly achieve a certain objective having a cross border impact;
2. Symmetrical projects with the similar activities in all countries participating in the project;
3. Projects implemented mainly or entirely in a single participating-country but having a cross-border impact.

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

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

5- USEFUL PROGRAMME TOOLS

Project Management Tools

Frequently Asked Questions:

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The FAQ section on the website of the Programme has been updated in order to assist potential applicants and partners interested in submitting project proposals for the Second Call for Proposals, with up-to-date information. It is strongly recommended that, during your preparation process, in case you need some points to be clarified and cannot find it in the documentation of the Second Call for Proposals, you first resort the FAQ section. Please visit the following link to access the FAQ: <http://www.blacksea-cbc.net/index.php/eng/FAQ>

Infocall Service:



The help desk established within the JTS of the Programme with the support of the JMA, is at the disposal of potential applicants and their partners for providing clarifications. Please address your questions in English to: infocall@blacksea-cbc.net



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National Info Points:



You can contact the NIPs (National Info Points), for questions in your national language and also for country specific information. Please visit the following link to access the contact details of the NIPs:

<http://www.blacksea-cbc.net/index.php/eng/Media/Common-objects/Contact>

Partner and Project Idea Search:

Project Ideas Search

In order to share your project idea and see project ideas of other organisations who are in process of preparation of proposals, please use the Project Ideas Search Tool on the Programme website:

<http://www.blacksea-cbc.net/index.php/eng/Projects/Projects-ideas-search>

This section requires you to register and login in order to be able to see the project ideas present.

Partner Search

You may also desire to search for partners for your project. In that case, it is strongly recommended you to use the Partner Search tool on the Programme website: <http://www.blacksea-cbc.net/index.php/eng/content/view/full/191>

RCBI Web Support Modules:

Regional Capacity Building Initiative

Supporting partner country participation in ENPI CBC Programmes 2007 - 2013

The Regional Capacity Building Initiative is in process of preparation of a practical web support module for the potential applicants and their partners, to assist them with specific up to date rules of Second Call for Proposals, in their preparations of joint actions. The module will soon be accessible for the registered users on RCBI website.

Project Implementation Tools

RCBI Project Implementation Manual for ENPI projects - RCBI: The Regional Capacity Building Initiative (RCBI) is currently elaborating a comprehensive guide to the successful management and implementation of ENPI CBC projects.

This Project Implementation Manual (PIM) is designed to be a source of information on the management and implementation of ENPI CBC projects by project Beneficiaries and Partners. It is based on, and complements, training provided by programme staff, the Regional Capacity Building Initiative (RCBI) INTERACT ENPI and other online support for the implementation of projects. The PIM is a ‘generic’ manual which can be made programme specific and ‘branded’ by each of the ENPI CBC programmes as their own as they wish. The PIM is directed equally to representatives from both



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Beneficiary and Partner organisations in awarded ENPI CBC projects. However it can also be useful to potential Beneficiaries and Partners wanting to know what is involved in implementing ENPI CBC projects.

BSB Project Implementation Guidelines for 1st Call: The Joint Technical Secretariat is preparing a Project Implementation Guidelines, specifically for successful management and implementation of the projects financed under 1st Call for Proposals. The Guidelines will be published in August 2011 on the Programme website and will be communicated to the beneficiaries and partners.

6- UPCOMING EVENTS

RCBI Events

The Regional Capacity Building Initiative (RCBI) together with the JMA will hold Follow up Info Sessions in the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Armenia and Georgia in September 2011 to facilitate the preparation of projects under the Black Sea Basin Programme second call for proposals. These workshops are in addition to the information seminars already held by the Programme and by the RCBI. The proposed locations for these sessions are the following:

- Chisinau and Cahul (Republic of Moldova),
- Yerevan (Armenia),
- Mykolayiv and Simferopol (Ukraine),
- Tbilisi and Batumi (Georgia)

Further information on the events can be found on the [website of the RCBI](#).

Beneficiaries Training

The Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) of the Programme in cooperation with the Joint Managing Authority (JMA) and the Regional Capacity Building Initiative (RCBI) organise a training seminar on projects' implementation for the Beneficiaries and partners of the projects, on 1st -2nd of September 2011, in Bucharest, Romania. The event is also a great opportunity for each project team to meet up as well as a forum for discussions among all Beneficiaries and partners to network, establish contacts and discuss on specific implementation issues.

An Annual Conference of the Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2007-2013 will be organised by the end of the year . The annual conference will focus on showing the added value of the Programme for the participating countries, the progress achieved by the programme bodies in the implementation of the projects approved in the framework of the first Call for Proposals and perspectives for the future programming period.

For further information on the annual conference, please check regularly the [Programme website](#).

ENPI CBC meeting in Budapest in October

INTERACT ENPI will organize the ENPI Annual Conference for 2011 on 18th -19th of October 2011 in Budapest. The event has annually offered an opportunity for ENPI CBC programmes to meet and to exchange experience on practical implementation issues and programme



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management. In 2011, the discussions will address also the future challenges for ENPI CBC programmes.

Further information on the agenda and the venue will soon follow.

The fifth meeting of the Joint Monitoring Committee of the Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2007 - 2013 is

estimated to be held in November 2011. The purpose of the Joint Monitoring Committee is to reach decision concerning the administrative check of projects proposals submitted under the second call for proposals.

Contacts:

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For the contact details of the National Info Points, please check the Programme's website at: <http://www.blacksea-cbc.net/index.php/eng/Media/Common-objects/Contact>



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