

Joint Operational Programme “Black Sea Basin 2007-2013”

Newsletter January 2012

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HIGHLIGHTS

- I. CURRENT STATUS OF THE PROGRAMME
- II. FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS: CONTRACTING AND IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS
- III. SECOND CALL FOR PROPOSALS: SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS AND START OF EVALUATION

I. CURRENT STATUS OF THE PROGRAMME

The Second Call for Proposals of the Joint Operational Programme “Black Sea Basin 2007-2013” opened on the 30th of June 2011 and it constituted the major task of the Programme bodies in the second part of 2011. Preparatory events such as partnership forums, project preparation workshops and info days had already been carried out during the first half of 2011. In the second part, direct support was provided to potential applicants and partners via helpdesk. The Call has been closed successfully and evaluation of 195 projects submitted under the Second Call has started.

Another major task in this period has been the contracting and implementation process of the awarded projects under the First Call for Proposals. 13 out of 19 awarded projects have been contracted and their implementation has started.

In December 2011, the European Commission decided to increase the financial allocation of the ENPI budget of the Programme with 1.499.726 Euro, making the current total allocation raise to 25.696.516 Euro ENPI funds.



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In the context of the renewed approach to the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) outlined in the Joint Communication of 25 May 2011, starting with 2014, the new European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) will provide increased support to 16 partner countries to the East and South of the EU's borders. Check out the main points from [here](#).

Interact, together with volunteering European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) programmes, is running a pilot initiative with a focus on promoting ETC to a non-ETC audience: the European Cooperation Day, which will take place on 21 September 2012 through many local events across Europe. More information about the initiative will be made available in the coming months. More information about this and other initiatives by Interact, can be accessed from [Interact ENPI website](#).

II. FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS: CONTRACTING AND IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

The contracting process of the projects awarded under the First Call for Proposals started in December 2010. By the end of 2011, 13 contracts were signed and their implementation has started. The updated list of the awarded grants under the First Call for Proposals can be followed up from [here](#).

Trainings on Grant Implementation



Beneficiaries Training 1-2 September 2011

As projects started to go under implementation, the first training on grant implementation for beneficiaries and partners of the projects under the First Call for Proposals was organised in Bucharest on the 1st and 2nd September 2011. The training, which was organised by the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) and the Joint Managing Authority (JMA) with the support of Regional Capacity Building Initiative (RCBI), was an opportunity for the participants to become aware of the specific implementation rules such as procurement rules, project management, reporting, visibility requirements etc.



Beneficiaries Training
1-2 September 2011

During the training, participants were



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National Info Points Representatives

also provided with the chance to have consultations with their project managers and, also, to meet and discuss with their project partners/beneficiaries within face to face meetings.

The second training on grant implementation was organised on the 24th and 25th November 2011, in the same format, additionally with the involvement of the National Info Points (NIPs) representing the Programme countries, in order to continue the cooperation with NIPs in the project



Beneficiaries Training 24-25 November 2011

implementation process. The cooperation with NIPs has already brought about fruitful outcomes in supporting the potential beneficiaries and partners.

Training presentations, as well as project implementation manuals, can be downloaded from [here](#).

Brief information on the projects under implementation can be found in the 2011 Annual Brochure, which also contains information on the progress registered in the implementation of the programme in 2011. It can be downloaded electronically from the [Programme website](#).



III. SECOND CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Joint Managing Authority (JMA) launched the Second Call for Proposals on the 30th of June 2011. All priorities of the programme were open for submission of



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proposals.

The indicative amount made available under the Second Call for Proposals is 15,169,098.86 Euro (ENPI contribution). For Turkish partners' participation in joint actions, the indicative amount made available under this call for proposals is 5,300,241.30 Euro (IPA contribution). No grant will exceed 90% of the total eligible costs of the Action. The rate of co-financing is at least 10% of the total eligible costs of the Action and it is requested for each approved proposal. Co-financing has to be provided by the beneficiaries, in order to demonstrate local commitment.

In order to increase the quantity and quality of the project proposals, in the second half of 2011 the Programme bodies continued to carry out events.

Events in the Second Half of 2011



Joint Managing Authority had already finalised the events such as partnership

forums, project preparation workshops and info days during the first half of 2011.

As the deadline for submission of the proposals approached, several project preparation workshops were also held by RCBI in September 2011, listed below:

- Armenia, Yerevan - 1 September 2011
- Georgia, Tbilisi - 7 September 2011
- Georgia, Batumi - 8 September 2011
- Ukraine, Simferopol - 6 September 2011
- Ukraine, Mykolayiv - 8 September 2011
- Republic of Moldova, Cahul - 8 September 2011
- Republic of Moldova, Chisinau - 7 September 2011

Help Desk

A helpdesk was established at Programme level within the JTS and at local level within the National Info Points.



The help desk provided information to potential applicants and partners on various specific issues within the Second Call for Proposals, with the assistance of the JMA. At Programme level, 234 questions included in 180 e-mails were answered in writing via “Infocall”, the e-mail account created specifically for the



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Call, besides the real time clarifications provided on telephone. Around 90% of the questions were answered within 3 days, most of them being in the first 24 hours.

RCBI E-support



Regional Capacity Building Initiative with the support of JMA and JTS created an e-support module for potential applicants and their partners in order to support them in their project preparation efforts, specifically designed for the Black Sea Basin Programme. The e-support can be accessed from [here](#).

Applications Evaluation Process

195 applications have been received under the Second Call for Proposals. Evaluation of project proposals started in December 2011. The Opening & Administrative Check represents the first step in the evaluation and selection

process of projects submitted under the Second Call for Proposals. Following this step, the technical and financial evaluation of project proposals will take place. The third and last step is the eligibility check. After each step, the applicants will be informed about the results of the evaluation.



The approval by the JMC of the Evaluation Report for Step 1 - Opening & Administrative Checks is estimated to take place in mid-February 2012. Letters will be sent to all applicants informing them whether their project proposal has been recommended for further evaluation.

Important: The telephone numbers of JTS Office have changed, please find the updated numbers below and on the Programme website, [Contact section](#).

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Contacts:

Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism

Joint Managing Authority

12 Libertatii Blvd., 5 Sector, Bucharest, Romania

blacksea-cbc@mdrt.ro

www.blacksea-cbc.net

Head of Joint Managing Authority

Mr. Iuliu BARA

Phone: +40 372 111 319

Fax: +40 372 111 456

E-mail: blacksea-cbc@mdrt.ro

Programme Manager

Mr. Cristian BULUMAC

Phone: +40 372 111 323

Fax: +40 372 111 456

E-mail: cristian.bulumac@mdrt.ro

Head of Joint Technical Secretariat

Mr. Sergiu ȘERBAN

Phone: +40 372 784 182

Fax: +40 372 111 456

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

Information and Communication Manager

Mr. Arkam OĞRAK

Phone: +40 372 784 179

Fax: +40 372 111 456

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

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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