5th Call For Proposals «Grant scheme for supporting SMEs to grow and expand beyond local markets»

Kiriakos Fotiadis - Unit C, MA of ETCP

Afroditi Lioliou – Unit B1, MA of ETCP

1st Info Day

Thessaloniki, 1st of February 2019

Call coordinates *(1/4)*

- **Priority Axis 01:** *«A Competitive and Innovative Cross-Border Area»*
- **Thematic Objective 03** : *«Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises»*
- **Investment Priority 3d:** *«Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes»*
- **Specific objective:** *To Improve entrepreneurship SME capacity to expand beyond local markets*
- **Focus of the Call:** *Fostering value-added producing capability in enterprises by boosting their product and service development activities through* ***joint economic development actions****, preferably oriented towards innovation, to make it possible for them to access new markets.*

Call coordinates *(2/4)*

Eligible geographic areas	**BG413 - Благоевград (Blagoevgrad)** **BG422 - Хасково (Haskovo)** **BG424 - Смолян (Smolyan)** **BG425 - Кърджали (Kardzhali)** **EL111 - Έβρος (Evros)** **EL112 - Ξάνθη (Xanthi)** **EL113 - Ροδόπη (Rodopi)** **EL114 - Δράμα (Drama)** **EL115 - Καβάλα (Kavala)** **EL122 - Θεσσαλονίκη (Thessaloniki)** **EL126 - Σέρρες (Serres)**
Total public expenditure	**€10,000,000.00** of which 30% will be directed to new enterprises **65% aid intensity, 35% private co-financing**

Call coordinates *(3/4)*

Applicable investment limits/thresholds	**Minimum eligible investment (total per proposal): 300.000 €** **Maximum eligible investment (total per proposal): 600.000 €** **Maximum grant per enterprise (single undertaking) subject to the 200.000€ over a 3-year rolling period as *per de minims* Regulation**
Period of completion	Three (**3**) years
Eligible potential beneficiaries	• **Enterprises** that are either: - ***New enterprises*** (under establishment or who have not completed one fiscal year); **OR** - ***Existing enterprises*** (who have completed at least one fiscal year) • **Whose main activity belongs to the specified NACE codes** of the Call and conduct business activities within the eligible geographic area • **Who can be considered SMEs** according to the SME definition in Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC • **Who are either:** - Both registered and exercise their activities in the eligible area[1]; **OR** - Registered outside the eligible area, with an operational branch inside the eligible area which completed at least one fiscal year.[2]

Call coordinates *(4/4)*

NOTE:

[1] All new enterprises are required to be registered and exercise their activities in the eligible area.

[2] The enterprise needs to document that it either is registered and has its headquarters in the eligible geographic area or that it has a branch (independent legal entity, established in the eligible area) which has at least 1 employee – other than the owner – and generates revenues amounting to at least 10% of the enterprise total. Specifically in the cases of **Bulgarian branches** these have to be independent legal entity, established and registered in the eligible area.

Eligible partnership *(1/4)*

Each eligible potential beneficiary (Lead Beneficiary Enterprise) submitting a project proposal **should include** in the proposal **one other eligible potential beneficiary (Project Beneficiary Enterprise) from the other participating country**, with whom - according to Art.12 par 4 in Reg.1299/2013 – the project beneficiary shall cooperate in some capacity for the development and implementation of the proposed investment plan (e.g. in the staffing, or the financing, or the use of inputs/materials/intermediate products, or the use of know-how/technology/patents, in the use of research outcomes, etc).

Eligible partnership *(2/4)*

Such cooperation must be documented by providing either:

- Intended strategic partnership agreements. This is a pre-requisite for all new enterprises applying for financial support; invoices are not obligatory for new enterprises , but if they exist, they could add points to the evaluation score.
- Documentation of existing cooperation/strategic partnership agreements.
- Documentation of existing strategic integration partnership/ “building” agreements and corresponding cost-sharing/profit-sharing documentation and/or invoices.

Any such agreements must explicitly state the *duration* and *terms of the cooperation*.

Eligible partnership *(3/4)*

The beneficiary enterprises **must not belong to the same owner or belong to the same larger entrepreneurial group.** Ownership must be documented by providing:

- Enterprise establishment official documents

- Enterprise Registration Official Documents

- **All investment schemes are required to be implemented within the eligible geographic programme area**

- **Only one proposal per enterprise is allowed**

- **No public enterprises, public bodies or/and their subsidiaries are eligible**

Eligible partnership *(4/4)*

NOTE:

i. **In the case of mergers or acquisitions**, all *prior* de minimis aid granted to any of the merging undertakings shall be taken into account in determining whether any new de minimis aid to the new or the acquiring undertaking exceeds the relevant ceiling. De minimis aid lawfully granted before the merger or acquisition shall remain lawful.

ii. **If one undertaking splits into two or more separate undertakings**, de minimis aid granted *prior to the split* shall be allocated to the undertaking that benefited from it, which is in principle the undertaking taking over the activities for which the de minimis aid was used. ***If such an allocation is not possible***, then de minimis aid shall be allocated *proportionately* on the basis of the book value of the equity capital of the new undertakings at the effective date of the split.

Eligible applicants' conditions

- They either own installations (sites of operation) or are about to create an installation (site of operation) in the eligible geographic area;
- Are not under bankruptcy, liquidation or controlled management proceedings;
- Are not subject to an outstanding recovery order following a previous Commission decision declaring an aid illegal and incompatible with the internal market;
- Have not terminated the same business activity – for which they are now submitting a proposal - **within the last two years**;
- Have not relocated from one participating country to the other **within the last eight years;**
- Have completed at least 1 Annual Financial Balance at the time of proposal submission or, if newly established enterprises, who can provide an estimate of their first Annual Financial Balance;
- Keep general ledgers as accounting books;
- Have submitted a complete investment proposal as per the requirements of the present Call;
- **Have incurred eligible expenditures from the date of the publication of the call (21/12/2018);**
- Have not submitted the same investment scheme to any other programme co-financed by EU funds;

NACE codes sectors

	Eligible NACE codes in the following sectors:
ELIGIBLE PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES (I.E. MAIN ENTERPRISE ACTIVITY)	AGRO-FOOD INDUSTRY
	TEXTILE INDUSTRY
	HEALTH
	MATERIALS - TECHNOLOGY
	CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS
	WASTE MANAGEMENT FOR RECYCLING OR ENERGY PRODUCTION
	RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY SAVING AND EFFICIENCY
	SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

NACE codes per sector *(1/9)*

AGRO-FOOD INDUSTRY *(1/2)*

10.11	Processing and preserving of meat	10.81	Manufacture of sugar
10.12	Processing and preserving of poultry meat	10.82	Manufacture of cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery
10.13	Production of meat and poultry meat products	10.83	Processing of tea and coffee
10.31	Processing and preserving of potatoes	10.84	Manufacture of condiments and seasonings
10.32	Manufacture of fruit and vegetable juice	10.85	Manufacture of prepared meals and dishes
10.39	Other processing and preserving of fruit and vegetables	10.86	Manufacture of homogenised food preparations and dietetic food
10.41	Manufacture of oils and fats (Fishery products and aquaculture products are strictly excluded)	10.89	Manufacture of other food products n.e.c.
10.42	Manufacture of margarine and similar edible fats	10.91	Manufacture of prepared feeds for farm animals
10.51	Operation of dairies and cheese making	10.92	Manufacture of prepared pet foods
10.52	Manufacture of ice cream	11.01	Distilling, rectifying and blending of spirits
10.61	Manufacture of grain mill products	11.02	Manufacture of wine from grape
10.62	Manufacture of starches and starch products	11.03	Manufacture of cider and other fruit wines
10.71	Manufacture of bread; manufacture of fresh pastry goods and cakes	11.04	Manufacture of other non-distilled fermented beverages
10.72	Manufacture of rusks and biscuits; manufacture of preserved pastry goods and cakes	11.05	Manufacture of beer
10.73	Manufacture of macaroni, noodles, couscous and similar farinaceous products	11.06	Manufacture of malt

NACE codes per sector *(2/9)*

AGRO-FOOD INDUSTRY *(2/2)*

11.06	Manufacture of malt	46.33	Wholesale of dairyproducts, eggs and edible oils and fats
11.07	Manufacture of soft drinks; production of mineral waters and other bottled waters	46.34	Wholesale of beverages
20.53	Manufacture of essential oils	46.36	Wholesale of sugar and chocolate and sugar confectionery
46.11	Agents involved in the sale of agricultural raw materials, live animals, textile raw materials and semi-finished goods (Fishery products and aquaculture products are strictly excluded)	46.37	Wholesale of coffee, tea, cocoa and spices
46.17	Agents involved in the sale of food, beverages and tobacco (Fishery products and aquaculture products are strictly excluded)	46.39	Non-specialised wholesale of food, beverages and tobacco
46.21	Wholesale of grain, unmanufactured tobacco, seeds and animal feeds (Fishery products and aquaculture products are strictly excluded)	70.22	Business and other management consultancy activities e.g. quality management system certification services, consultancy services provided by agronomists and other experts on issues related to the rural economy and the agro-food sector, services provided by economists who are experts in rural economy and agro-food matters, consultancy services for quality control processes, consultancy services for food safety and quality control, etc.
46.22	Wholesale of flowers and plants		
46.23	Wholesale of live animals		
46.31	Wholesale of fruit and vegetables		
46.32	Wholesale of meat and meat products		

NACE codes per sector *(3/9)*

TEXTILE INDUSTRY

13.10	Preparation and spinning of textile fibres	14.14	Manufacture of underwear
13.20	Weaving of textiles	14.19	Manufacture of other wearing apparel and accessories
13.30	Finishing of textiles	14.20	Manufacture of articles of fur
13.91	Manufacture of knitted and crocheted fabrics	14.31	Manufacture of knitted and crocheted hosiery
13.92	Manufacture of made-up textile articles, except apparel	14.39	Manufacture of other knitted and crocheted apparel
13.93	Manufacture of carpets and rugs	15.11	Tanning and dressing of leather;dressing and dyeing of fur
13.94	Manufacture of cordage, rope, twine and netting	15.12	Manufacture of luggage, handbags and the like, saddlery and harness
13.95	Manufacture of non-wovens and articles made from non-wovens, except apparel	15.20	Manufacture of footwear
13.96	Manufacture of other technical and industrial textiles	20.60	Manufacture of man-made fibres
13.99	Manufacture of other textiles n.e.c.	46.16	Agents involved in the sale of textiles, clothing, fur, footwear and leather goods
14.11	Manufacture of leather clothes	46.24	Wholesale of hides, skins and leather
14.12	Manufacture of workwear	46.41	Wholesale of textiles
14.13	Manufacture of other outerwear	46.42	Wholesale of clothing and footwear

NACE codes per sector *(4/9)*

HEALTH

21.10	Manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products
21.20	Manufacture of pharmaceutical preparations
26.60	Manufacture of irradiation, electromedical and electrotherapeutic equipment
32.50	Manufacture of medical and dental instruments and supplies
46.46	Wholesale of pharmaceutical goods (including medical supplies, instruments and equipment)
72.11	Research and experimental development on biotechnology in the health sector

NACE codes per sector *(5/9)*

MATERIALS – TECHNOLOGY *(1/2)*

26.12	Manufacture of loaded electronic boards	27.51	Manufacture of electric domestic appliances
26.20	Manufacture of computers and peripheral equipment	27.52	Manufacture of non-electric domestic appliances
26.30	Manufacture of communication equipment	27.90	Manufacture of other electrical equipment
26.40	Manufacture of consumer electronics	28.11	Manufacture of engines and turbines, except aircraft, vehicle and cycle engines
26.51	Manufacture of instruments and appliances for measuring, testing and navigation	28.12	Manufacture of fluid power equipment
26.52	Manufacture of watches and clocks	28.13	Manufacture of other pumps and compressors
26.70	Manufacture of optical instruments and photographic equipment	28.14	Manufacture of other taps and valves
26.80	Manufacture of magnetic and optical media	28.15	Manufacture of bearings, gears, gearing and driving elements
27.11	Manufacture of electric motors, generators and transformers	28.21	Manufacture of ovens, furnaces and furnace burners
27.12	Manufacture of electricity distribution and control apparatus	28.22	Manufacture of lifting and handling equipment 2816
27.20	Manufacture of batteries and accumulators	28.23	Manufacture of office machinery and equipment (except computers and peripheral equipment
27.31	Manufacture of fibre optic cables	28.24	Manufacture of power-driven hand tools
27.32	Manufacture of other electronic and electric wires and cables	28.25	Manufacture of non-domestic cooling and ventilation equipment
27.33	Manufacture of wiring devices	28.29	Manufacture of other general-purpose machinery n.e.c.
27.40	Manufacture of electric lighting equipment	28.30	Manufacture of agricultural and forestry machinery

NACE codes per sector *(6/9)*

MATERIALS – TECHNOLOGY *(2/2)*

28.41	Manufacture of metal forming machinery	29.31	Manufacture of electrical and electronic equipment for motor vehicles
28.49	Manufacture of other machine tools	29.32	Manufacture of other parts and accessor ies for motor vehicles
28.91	Manufacture of machineryfor metallurgy	30.11	Building of ships and floating structures
28.92	Manufacture of machinery for mining, quarrying and construction	30.12	Building of pleasure and sporting boats
28.93	Manufacture of machinery for food, beverage and tobacco processing	30.20	Manufacture of railway locomotives and rolling stock
28.94	Manufacture of machinery for textile, apparel and leather production	30.30	Manufacture of air and spacecraft and related machinery
28.95	Manufacture of machinery for paper and paperboard production	30.40	Manufacture of militaryfighting vehicles
28.96	Manufacture of plastic and rubber machinery	30.91	Manufacture of motorcycles
28.99	Manufacture of other special-purpose machinery n.e.c.	30.92	Manufacture of bicycles and invalid carriages
29.10	Manufacture of motor vehicles	30.99	Manufacture of other transport equipment n.e.c.
29.20	Manufacture of bodies (coachwork) for motor vehicles; manufacture of trailers and semi-trailers	72.19	Research and experimental development on natural sciences and engineering in materials and technology

NACE codes per sector *(7/9)*

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

16.21	Manufacture of veneer sheets and wood-based panels	23.43	Manufacture of ceramic insulators and insulating fittings
16.22	Manufacture of assembled parquet floors	23.44	Manufacture of other technical ceramic products
16.23	Manufacture of other builders' carpentry and joinery	23.49	Manufacture of other ceramic products
20.30	Manufacture of paints, varnishes and similar coatings, printing ink and mastics	23.61	Manufacture of concrete products for construction purposes
23.11	Manufacture of flat glass	23.62	Manufacture of plaster products for construction purposes
23.12	Shaping and processing of flat glass	23.69	Manufacture of other articles of concrete, plaster and cement
23.13	Manufacture of hollow glass	24.20	Manufacture of tubes, pipes, hollow profiles and related fittings, of steel
23.14	Manufacture of glass fibres	25.11	Manufacture of metal structures and parts of structures
23.19	Manufacture and processing of other glass, including technical glassware	25.12	Manufacture of doors and windows of metal
23.20	Manufacture of refractoryproducts	25.21	Manufacture of central heating radiators and boilers
23.31	Manufacture of ceramic tiles and flags	25.29	Manufacture of other tanks, reservoirs and containers of metal
23.32	Manufacture of bricks, tiles and construction products, in baked clay	46.73	Wholesale of wood, construction materials and sanitary equipment
23.41	Manufacture of ceramic household and ornamental articles	46.74	Wholesale of hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies
23.42	Manufacture of ceramic sanitary fixtures		

NACE codes per sector *(8/9)*

WASTE MANAGEMENT FOR RECYCLING OR ENERGY PRODUCTION	
38.31	Dismantling of wrecks
38.32	Recovery of sorted materials
46.77	Wholesale of waste and scrap

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY SAVING AND EFFICIENCY	
16.29	Manufacture of other products of wood; manufacture of articles of cork, straw and plaiting materials (fire logs and pellets,other articles of wood))
26.11	Manufacture of electronic components (solar panels used for direct transforming of solar power into electricity)
28.11	Manufacture of engines and turbines, except aircraft, vehicle and cycle engines (wind turbines)
28.25	Manufacture of non-domestic cooling and ventilation equipment (Heat pumps)
35.11	Production of electricity (from hydro-electric generators, geothermal energy, biomass energy, solar panels)
38.21	Treatment and disposal of non-hazardous waste (to the extent related to the energy sector e.g. energy recovery resulting from waste incineration)
46.69	Wholesale of other machinery and equipment (to the extent related to the RES energy sector e.g. hydro-electric generators, geothermal energy technology, biomass energy technology, solar panels, etc and to the energy-efficiency sector)

NACE codes per sector *(9/9)*

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

49.39	Other passenger land transport n.e.c. (to the extent related to tourism e.g. visits to sites, transport to & from airports/hotels, etc)	79.12	Tour operator activities
50.10	Sea and coastal passenger water transport (to the extent related to tourism e.g. cruising services, sailboat rentals, etc)	79.90	Other reservation service and related activities
50.30	Inland passenger water transport (to the extent related to tourism)	82.30	Organisation of conventions and trade shows
56.10	Restaurants and mobile food service activities	90.01	Performing arts
56.21	Event catering activities	90.02	Support activities to performing arts
56.29	Other food service activities	90.03	Artistic creation
56.30	Beverage serving activities	91.02	Museum activities
58.11	Book publishing (to the extent related to tourism)	91.03	Operation of historical sites and buildings and similar visitors attractions
79.11	Travel agency activities	91.04	Botanical and zoological gardens and nature reserve activities

Business activity

Eligible enterprises must have their main business activity belong to the specified NACE codes **before submitting an investment proposal to this Call.**

All possible combinations between manufacturing/ processing, wholesale trade and service enterprises are eligible and should be examined. It is **recommended** however to promote a partnership combination where at least one of the participating enterprises is in the manufacturing/processing sector.

In any case, it is of utmost importance for the activities of the two cooperating enterprises to have ***relevance and complementarity*** and this complementarity to be demonstrated in the investment proposal.

Eligible types of investments *(1/2)*

- Investments for the establishment of new enterprises;
- Investments in existing enterprises including but not limited to investments in purchase of equipment, environmental protection, construction works, communication networks;
- Investments for the development of new products/services;
- Investments aimed at increasing employment;
- Technological and/or organizational investments aimed at reducing the cost of production/service delivery and any other investment leading to increased enterprise competitiveness;
- Investments aimed at increasing productive capacity and/or securing stable minimum production thresholds (quantities);
- Investments aimed at improving product/service quality;
- Investments aimed at accessing new markets or market segments

Eligible types of investments *(2/2)*

- All investment proposals **MUST** comply with the terms and conditions of regulation EU 1407/2013 (de minimis).

NOTE: Within EU Regulation 1407/2013 **are not eligible for this call**:

a) undertakings active in the *fisheries and aquaculture sectors*, which fall under Regulation (EC) No. Council Regulation

b) undertakings active in the *primary production of agricultural products*,

c) aid granted to undertakings active in the *processing and marketing of agricultural products in the following **cases***:

   i. where the amount of aid is determined on the basis of the price **or** quantity of such products sold by primary producers **or** put on the market by the undertakings concerned,

   ii. where the aid is accompanied by the obligation to pay it in whole **or** in part to primary producers;

Eligible expenses categories

- Buildings, installations, landscaping expenses (tangible assets)
- Machinery, equipment, vehicles expenses (tangible assets)
- Personnel expenses (operating assets)
- Software expenses (intangible assets)
- Promotion, marketing, networking expenses (intangible assets)
- Technical / consulting support expenses (intangible assets)
- Technology/knowhow (intangible assets)

Eligible expenses

✓ Eligibility of expenses starts at the date of Call announcement.

✓ Expenses incurred before the date of the announcement of the Call are **NOT ELIGIBLE**.

✓ All investment shall be maintained in the recipient area/ installation(s)/sites of operation **for at least three years after the completion of the investment scheme**.

✓ Eligibility of expenditure is determined by ***EU regulation 1303/2013, Chapter III*** (also see Annex II):

*" The eligibility of expenditure shall be determined **on the basis of national rules**, except where specific rules are laid down in, or on the basis of, this Regulation or the Fund-specific rules."*

NON-Eligible expenses *(1/2)*

- **Any expenditures incurred before the date of the publication of the call (21/12/2018).**
- All expenses associated with **construction works which took place before the issuance of necessary building permits and/or other necessary permits** as per the national legislation of the country where the investment takes place.
- **Taxes**, **duties** or **levies.**
- **Expenses for preparatory activities** such as expenses for feasibility studies or for the preparation and submission of the application, etc.
- **Operational expenses and consumables.**
- Interest payments, financial transaction fees, foreign exchange costs and foreign exchange differences, and all other **financial transaction expenses** of the eligible beneficiary, except if operational expenses have been included as eligible expenses in the grant.

NON-Eligible expenses *(2/2)*

- **Value-added tax**, except in cases where VAT is non-recoverable based on the respective national legislation (i.e. the beneficiary has no right for deduction or return of VAT) and only for the specific expenses for which VAT is non-recoverable.
- All **expenses not paid in full** before the payment claim date.
- **Withholdings** in the name of the beneficiary or withholdings that the beneficiary benefits from in any way.
- **Fines, financial penalties and expenses for dispute resolution** (e.g. court expenses, legal fees, etc).
- Expenses incurred for the purchase . of used machinery and/or equipment.

Budget

- *The total applicable Public Expenditure of the present Call*: **€10,000,000.00.**
- The total eligible investment cost of any grant application submitted to this Call: must be **greater than €300,000.00 and less than €600,000.00.**
- Proposals for total investment costs *greater than €600,000.00*. : the excess expenses are not supported through the grant and are covered solely through **private funds**, even though the entire investment is subject to evaluation and monitoring.
- Proposals for total investment costs *lower than the €300.000* threshold are **rejected as "ineligible"**.

Period of completion

- Time period for the completion of any investment supported through this Call: **three (3) years**.
- The ***start date*** of each investment project can be specified in each beneficiary's application **BUT** the start date **cannot be prior to the announcement of the Call**.
- The ***completion date*** **cannot** exceed 3 years from the grant approval date.
- An ***extension*** – up to six (6) months - may be given after a well-documented application is submitted to the Managing Authority/Secretariat at least two (2) months before the completion date. After the extension is approved the grant approval decision must be amended.

Financing scheme

- Total applicable indicative **Public Expenditure** of the present Call: **€10,000,000.00**
  - ERDF funds (85%): **€8,500,000.00**
  - National Contributions by Greece and Bulgaria (15%): **€1,500,000.00**
- **The aid intensity (i.e. public expenditure) is 65% of eligible cost** regardless of the size of enterprise or the type of expense.
- **No aid recipient (single undertaking) can receive total assistance in excess of 200.000€** over a rolling 3 year period - Regulation EU 1407/2013 (de minimis). Where the ceiling of **200.000€ (over a rolling 3 year period) would be exceeded** by the grant of new de minimis aid, **none of that new aid may benefit from this Regulation**.
- As **private co-financing** – for the 35% of the eligible expenses not covered by the grant – the participating enterprises may use own funds and/or loans. Loans used as private co-financing under this Call are eligible for assistance under financial instruments available during this programming period through other EU co-financed programmes. Such financial instruments may include equities, guarantees, interest rate subsidies, etc.

Budget breakdown

The budget of each investment plan submitted for financial support through this Call must be broken down respecting the following ***upper limits per category of expenses*** (these are the cumulative limits for the entire investment plan, i.e. the total expenses per category for the Lead beneficiary enterprise and the Project beneficiary enterprise together):

TYPE OF EXPENSES	PERCENTAGE OF INVESTMENT BUDGET
Investments (construction works, supply of equipment, vehicles, etc.)	Up to 100%
Personnel expenses	Up to 15%
Expenses for services associated with the implementation and monitoring of the investment plan	Up to 20.000€ per project proposal

Application *(1/4)*

- All applications will be submitted **electronically** through the **State Aid Information System.** In parallel, all applicants will submit by **mail (or in person)** a physical folder containing all the required **documentation** as described in the Call.

- The Call will remain open **from 15/02/2019 to 15/04/2019 (14:00 h).** After this deadline, the electronic system will close and no more applications will be accepted.

Application *(2/4)*

- All applications must be **FULLY COMPLETED.** Enterprises are allowed to participate (either as Lead or Project beneficiary Enterprise) **in only one application.**

- Applications completed but "not submitted" will remain in the system as "drafts" and **will not be evaluated/assessed**. Also, applications which have not been submitted electronically will not be evaluated/assessed.

Application *(3/4)*

- Corrections **are not allowed** after the "submission" of the application.
- **Cancelation** of an application that has been submitted is allowed up **until two (2) working days before the Call deadline**. The cancelation request can be submitted through the State Aid Information System at www.ependyseis.gr/mis. This action allows the beneficiary to submit another application – if desired – **within the remaining time until the Call deadline**.

Application *(4/4)*

- **In case of conflict** between information that has been submitted electronically and information contained in Annex I.2 (attached in pdf form in the electronic system), then **the information contained in the electronic system will be considered as valid** and will take precedence.
- False information declared in the "Funding Application Form" may result in penalties including rejection of the investment or recovery of the assistance at later stages.

Documentation

- All required documentation (Annex VII), which has not been uploaded through the SA MIS**, must be submitted** (in person or by mail) **on paper** *to the Managing Authority of the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020* **by the deadline (15/04/2019, 14:00h) of this Call.**
- Evidence of timely submission:
  - **In person**: the record the folder will receive as "incoming document" upon receipt and in the presence of the applicant.
  - **By mail**: the date recorded on the post stamp or the courier slip.
- In case the folder is not submitted in time, the application will be **rejected as "incomplete".**
- The folder must contain the **original documents and not copies**.

Evaluation criteria

- **STAGE A – COMPLETENESS & ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION**

Failure to fulfill any of the above criteria under Stage A is grounds for ultimate rejection of the application.

- **STAGE B – APPLICATION EVALUATION – SCORING BY GROUP OF CRITERIA**
  - **1st GROUP OF CRITERIA:** *"Human assets guaranteeing investment success"* (weight co-efficient 35 %)
  - **2nd GROUP OF CRITERIA:** *"Company assets/strengths guaranteeing investment success"* (weight co-efficient 30%). Three distinct groups of criteria are designed in order to account for the three possible combinations of investment schemes, i.e. a) one existing and one new enterprise, b) two existing enterprises, and c) two new enterprises.
  - **3rd GROUP OF CRITERIA:** "Realism and Maturity of Investment Plan" (weight co-efficient 35%)

– **Minimum acceptable total score: 40%**

Approval

The **Subsidy Contract** (i.e. the "grant contract") signed by the Ministry of Economy and Development and the legal representatives of the Lead Beneficiary enterprise and the Project Partner enterprise is the final approval act of the grant.

National BG co-financing will be handled directly by the BG National Authority.

Revised "Direct Assistance Guidelines" – Changes

- Eligible expenditures are those that are incurred from the date of the **publication** of the call **(21/12/2018**).

- **New enterprises** must state the relevant NACE that corresponds to their main activity and the eligible geographic area where they conduct business activities, and are requested to proceed in the establishment of the company **up to 3 months from the date of approval of the grant application, after which the Subsidy contract will be signed.**

Thank you for your attention

For additional information please contact:

Joint Secretariat of the Cooperation Programme

INTERREG V-A Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020

65, Leoforos Georgikis Scholis, 2nd floor,

57001, Thessaloniki, Greece

Tel: +30 2310 469 695

Email: jts_grbg@mou.gr

www.greece-bulgaria.eu