



HELLENIC REPUBLIC

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM



MANAGING AUTHORITY OF COOPERATION PROGRAMMES

JOINT SECRETARIAT OF THE INTERREG V-A "GREECE – BULGARIA 2014-2020" COOPERATION PROGRAMME

Date: 11/12/2015

Ref. No. 302200/MA5726

ADA:

2nd CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS

**INTERREG V-A GREECE – BULGARIA 2014-2020 COOPERATION PROGRAMME
CO-FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (ERDF)**

A. Context

The Interreg V-A Cooperation Programme Greece – Bulgaria 2014-2020 is a cross-border cooperation programme co-financed by the European Union under the European Regional Development Fund.

The Programme aims at promoting cross border cooperation by bringing together the different actors of the cross border area, in order to strengthen the development of the region and its transformation into a centre for sustainable development.

The total budget (ERDF and national contribution) for the Cross-border Cooperation Programme Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020 is **€129.695.572,00**. The total financing consists of **€110.241.234,00** (85%) ERDF funding and **€19.454.338,00** (15%) national contribution.

The Programme intends to promote the harmonious, balanced and sustainable development of the cross border area, while reducing the economic and social territorial disparities which

have arisen in counties and regions lagging behind, and speeding-up their economic and social restructuring. In continuation to the above, the proposed projects in the framework of this Call will include the achievement of significant goals and must, at the same time, safeguard the maturity prerequisites of the proposed interventions, with the higher aim of covering the commitments for the N+3 rules for the first years of the Programme.

Suspension clause

Please note that this Call for proposals is subject to the signing of the Ministerial Decision on Management and Control System (for Greek beneficiaries).

- **Documents of reference**

Before submitting any project proposal, applicants are invited to consult the INTERREG V-A Greece – Bulgaria 2014-2020 Cooperation Programme approved by the European Commission on 09/09/2015, the respective internal rules on the eligibility of expenditure for the operations implemented by beneficiaries under the "Interreg V-A Cooperation Programme Greece – Bulgaria 2014-2020 concerning both Countries, Regulation (EU) 1299/2013 as in force (with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 481/2014), Regulation (EU) 1301/2013 as in force, Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 as in force. These documents are available on the Programme's website at <http://www.greece-bulgaria.eu/> in the "Programming Period 2014-2020" section.

- **Priority Axes, Investment priorities, Synergies**

The present call for proposals is open for the following Programme's Priority Axes:

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PRIORITY AXIS	THEMATIC OBJECTIVE	INVESTMENT PRIORITY	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	INDICATIVE TYPES OF ACTIONS
Priority Axis 2: A Sustainable and Climate adaptable Cross-Border area	06 - Preserving And Protecting The Environment And Promoting Resource Efficiency	(6c)Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage.	SO 4: To valorize cross border area cultural and natural heritage for tourist purposes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity-building actions • Rehabilitation/protection of cultural assets of cross-border significance • Actions that support the better interpretation of natural and cultural heritage • Cross border area-wide cultural initiatives
		(6d)Protecting and restoring biodiversity, soil protection and restoration and promoting ecosystem services including NATURA 2000 and green infrastructures	SO 5: To enhance the effectiveness of biodiversity protection activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of cross border frameworks and platforms for the interoperability of existing databases and the integration of management approaches • Development of joint strategies & procedures (and pilot applications of such) for sustainable management of resources, for the development of green infrastructure, for

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				biodiversity protection, for landscape management and for the establishment of green corridors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development (and pilot application) of joint negotiation, mediation, participation and conflict resolution models in the context of land use • management with a view to protecting biodiversity • Design risk assessment & management models and strategies for CB protected areas
		6f) Promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector, water sector, soil protection or to reduce air pollution.	SO 6: To enhance water management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant cross border frameworks • Cross border eco-innovation partnerships • Pilot applications or promotion/ mainstreaming of existing innovative methods/technologies • Promoting “green behavior” campaigns in the areas of water management.

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PRIORITY AXIS	THEMATIC OBJECTIVE	INVESTMENT PRIORITY	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	INDICATIVE TYPES OF ACTIONS
Priority Axis 4: A Socially Inclusive Cross Border Area	09 - Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination	(9a) Investing in health and social infrastructure which contribute to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services.	SO 8: To improve access to primary and emergency health care (at isolated and deprived communities) in the cross border area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support centers of reference for health issues • Promote cooperation between healthcare authorities • Support for renovation and equipping of existing and new primary health care practices • Support for Cross Border technology-oriented health care provision methods
		(9c) Providing support for social enterprises	SO 9: To expand social entrepreneurship in the cross border area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the establishment and provision of development support to Social Enterprises • Support for social franchising • Activities consistent with the Action Plans for Social Economy promulgated by both countries

Further details about the above mentioned elements of the table including a full list of types of actions per Specific Objective can be found in the Cooperation Programme.

Each proposal must conform to the investment priorities/Specific Objectives that are common in this cross border cooperation Programme and contribute to the other EU (incl. macroregional) national, regional and local strategies, instruments and policies; in particular, those which concern the Programme area.

A non exhaustive list of indicative interventions and indicative project beneficiaries for each IP (Investment Priority) can be found in the Interreg V-A Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020 Cooperation Programme in force.

E. Programme area

The Programme area is defined as in the table below:

REGIONS/NUTS I	NUTS II	NUTS III
GREECE	Region of Eastern Macedonia-Thrace	Regional Unit of Evros (former Prefecture)
		Regional Unit of Xanthi (former Prefecture)
		Regional Unit of Rodopi (former Prefecture)
		Regional Unit of Drama (former Prefecture)
		Regional Unit of Kavala (former Prefecture)
	Region of Central Macedonia	Regional Unit of Thessaloniki (former Prefecture)
		Regional Unit of Serres (former Prefecture)
BULGARIA	Region of South-Central	District of Haskovo
		District of Smolyan
		District of Kardjali
	Region of South-West	District of Blagoevgrad

Institutions located in regions outside the Programme area, but inside the two Programme participating countries, Greece and Bulgaria, can become project beneficiaries (co-financed by the ERDF) only in duly justified cases. Their budget cannot exceed the 20% of the support from the ERDF of the project and their proposed activities must be implemented in the eligible area.

F. Available budget

The total budget available for the present call is **35,2 M€** (of which **29,92 M€ ERDF**) and is indicatively allocated as follows:

INDICATIVE BUDGET ALLOCATION			
PRIORITY AXIS	BUDGET (€)	ERDF (€)	NATIONAL CO-FINANCING (€)
2. A sustainable and climate-adaptable cross-border area	19.500.000,00 €	16.575.000,00 €	2.925.000,00 €
4. A socially inclusive cross-border area	15.700.000,00 €	13.345.000,00 €	2.355.000,00 €
Total	35.200.000,00 €	29.920.000,00 €	5.280.000,00 €

G. Project size

The budget threshold for each one of the investment priorities is provided on the following table:

Budget Limit per Investment priority

Priority Axis	Investment Priority	Minimum Project budget	Projects Budget Limits (€)
2	6c	250.000,00€	1.500.000,00€
	6d		1.500.000,00€
	6f		900.000,00€
4	9a		1.500.000,00€
	9c		650.000,00€

H. Duration

Projects should be concluded in a period of maximum two **years (2)** after the signing of the Subsidy Contract.

I. Eligibility of expenditure

The starting date for eligible expenditure is **1/1/2014**. The closing date of the eligibility period of the expenditure should be the end date of the subsidy contract in force. Under no circumstances the final date of eligibility of expenditure can exceed the **31st of December 2023**.

Eligibility rules on activities and related expenditure are set out in the Project Application Guidelines.

J. Eligible partnerships

Project proposals must include at least one beneficiary from each country participating in the **INTERREG V-A Greece – Bulgaria 2014-2020 Cooperation Programme**. Beneficiaries shall cooperate in the development and implementation of operations. In addition, they shall cooperate in the staffing or the financing of operations, or in both. The total number of beneficiaries must not exceed **ten (10)**, including the Lead beneficiary.

Please consult the Project Application Guidelines and the **INTERREG V-A Greece – Bulgaria 2014-2020 Cooperation Programme** on the indicative beneficiaries.

This call for proposals is addressed to the following beneficiaries' categories: a., b. and c., as defined in the Project Application Guidelines:

- a. national, regional or local **public authorities** legally established according to the national legislation of the state on whose territory they are located;
- b. **bodies governed by public law**¹, or according to the national legislations, having legal personality, other than legal entities defined under paragraph a, established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest (needs not having an industrial or commercial character) and which fulfil at least one of the following conditions:
 - i. be financed, for the most part, by national, regional or local authorities, or other bodies governed by public law or

¹ Bodies governed by public law as defined in Article 2(4) of the **Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on public procurement and repealing Directive 2004/18/EC Text with EEA relevance** (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32014L0024&from=EN>) and in compliance with the national legislation of each participating country

- ii. be subject to management supervision by those bodies or
 - iii. have an administrative, managerial or supervisory board, where more than half of its members are appointed by the national, regional or local authorities, or by other bodies governed by public law;
- c. private organizations:** non-profit organizations, founded according to private law, are eligible under the following conditions as a whole,
- not established with the goal to obtain profit²
 - they do not distribute profits to the stakeholders, according to their constitutional framework
 - have their headquarters in the eligible cross border area
- or
- whose headquarters are not situated in the eligible Programme area, but are located in Greece or Bulgaria and have local/regional branch offices that are independent legal entities³, established in the eligible area
- they operate for at least 1 year before the launch of the specific Call for Proposals. This rule is applicable for the branches as well.⁴

It should be noted that **private companies, not falling under the above categories b. and c. are not eligible.**

Further information about the eligibility of partnerships is provided in the Project Application Guidelines.

At each proposal, a **Lead beneficiary** shall be designated, with the capacity to start the implementation of the project as quickly as possible, to maintain and further specify in detail the holistic and interdisciplinary, synthetic and synergy creating, character of the intervention, to exploit the immediate results of the intervention [in a way that this can (a) act as a demonstration project for future mainstreaming, (b) acquire a wider sectoral scope or territorial coverage], and to concentrate all available managerial, financing and know-how resources and focus them on the project.

² Greek potential beneficiaries should not have commercial or industrial character

³ Branches which are not legal entities can participate in the Call through their mother organization using the 20% rule only (see chapter 4.3.2 of the Project Application Guidelines)

⁴ This requirement is not valid for Investment Priority 9c

Attention

Each applicant can participate as Lead beneficiary or as beneficiary in no more than one project proposal per Investment Priority. If an applicant does not conform to the previous rule as explicitly stated above, all of its project applications will be rejected. In particular for Tertiary Education and Research Institutions, the previous rule applies to each Department.

Please consult the Project Application Guidelines on the specific selection criteria and project requirements.

K. How to apply - deadline

In order to submit a project proposal, applicants must refer to the Applicant's Package and the Project Application Guidelines and to all relevant documents for this call for proposals.

Project Proposals should be submitted according to the guidelines provided in the INTERREG V-A Greece – Bulgaria 2014-2020 Cooperation Programme and Project Application Guidelines of the 2nd Call.

A project proposal consists of:

1. the Application Form (standard excel form provided)
2. Annex 1: "Scope of the Project and Sustainability".
3. the Partnership Declaration signed and stamped by all beneficiaries (standard form)
4. Declaration of not generating revenues signed and stamped by every beneficiary
or,
a Cost-benefit analysis, signed and stamped by the Beneficiary concerned, in case of revenue generating projects.
5. Declaration of non distribution of profits (standard form provided) signed and stamped (applies for the specific beneficiaries only, according to the call).
6. State Aid Declaration.
7. Decision of the designated body of each Project Beneficiary (e.g. Municipal Council, Board of Directors, etc) stating its agreement for submitting the particular project

proposal, according to the internal rules/statute of each Beneficiary or the national legislation.⁵

8. A Justification of budget costs, officially signed and stamped by the Legal representative of the Lead Beneficiary (standard excel form provided)⁶

9. Beneficiaries' related documents:

a. For bodies governed by public law (of Article Jb above), official documents proving that requirements of the article Jb of this call are met. In case the nature of the public body does not clearly derive from the submitted documents, the Joint Secretariat may request additional documentation for clarification.

b. For private organisations:

i. Documents for establishing the applicant's entity and its operation at least 1 year before the launch of the specific Call for Proposals⁷ (Hard copy of the establishment act and the actual legal status/ statute in force, accompanied by a list of all statute modifications signed and stamped by the legal representative of the beneficiary). In case such a document is not applicable, an establishment act should be submitted by the beneficiary. Explicitly for branches the required documents are:

a) For Greek Beneficiaries both:

1. Registration of the branch in the responsible local Tax Office and
2. a. Copy of the lease contract of the branch certified by the local tax office or b. pay sheets certified by the Labour Inspectorate.

b) For Bulgarian Partners:

1. Court registration and,
2. Document for the most recent legal status – not older than six months prior to the date of submission of the application.

ii. Official document indicating the sources of the body's revenues, for the past 2 years (for the available period in case the

⁵ Documents in points 7 and 9 9a, 9bi, 9bii and 10 can be submitted in the original languages of the partners.

⁶ The Bill of Cost and Quantities, for infrastructure projects, shall be considered as a part of Justification of the Budget.

⁷ This requirement is not valid for Investment Priority 9c

organizations/branches are registered 1 year before the call's launch) of operation, preceding the presentation of the project proposal (e.g. Annual Balance Sheets, The Annual Incomes statement)

- iii. Declaration for the non distribution of profits (standard form provided).

10. For infrastructure works in projects, beneficiaries have to include the relevant accompanying documents as described in the Project Application Guidelines.

The JS may also request additional documentation for clarification of the above issues, during the evaluation procedure.

Documents **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8** must be submitted officially signed and stamped, but are also acceptable in a **scanned version**⁸. **In this case the originals can be submitted upon request at a later stage.**

The hard copy of the project proposal must be submitted in 1 original copy.

A CD/DVD-ROM must be also submitted including the electronic versions of:

1. the Application Form in the excel format required,
2. Annex 1: "Scope of Project and Sustainability" in a word or PDF format and
3. The justification of the budget in the excel format required

The non-submission in hard-copy of the above documentation (points 1-10), where applicable, and of the CD/DVD ROM with all the necessary files shall result to **a project proposal rejection.**

The Project Proposal must be submitted to the Programme's Joint Secretariat in the following way:

by post or by **private courier service** or **hand-delivery** in the following address:

Joint Secretariat

INTERREG V-A "GREECE – BULGARIA 2014-2020"

Balkan Center, Building D, Elevator 2, 3rd floor

10th Km Thessaloniki - Thermi Road

570 01, Thessaloniki, Greece

⁸ Documents 9 and 10 are also acceptable in a scanned version.

The proposal **must arrive no later than the last day of the submission period** (from **14/12/2015 until 31/03/2016 until 16.30**) **in a single sealed envelope / package. No proposal received afterwards will be accepted.**

A dated certificate of receipt with the registration number of the MA will be handed to the deliverer, as proof of timely submission. Proposals delivered after this date and time will not be considered as eligible.

ATTENTION: The envelope/package with the application documents must bear the following indications in English:

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Axis:
Investment Priority/Specific objective:
Project Acronym:
Lead Beneficiary / address:
Envelope shall not be opened before the evaluation session.

L. Additional information

To obtain additional information on the project application procedure and project development, please contact:

Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism
Managing Authority of the European Territorial Cooperation Programmes

Address: 65, Georgikis Scholis Avenue, Pilea

57001 Thessaloniki, Greece

Tel.: +30 2310 469600 - Fax: +30 2310 469602

E-mail: interreg@mou.gr

Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works
Bulgarian National Authority

Address: 17-19 Sv.sv. Kiril i Metodi St.

1202 Sofia, Bulgaria

Tel.: +359 2 9405672 - Fax: +359 2 9405493

E-mail: MMLadenov@mrrb.government.bg; NA-GR-BG@mrrb.government.bg

Joint Secretariat**INTERREG V-A “GREECE – BULGARIA 2014-2020”**

Address: Balkan Center, Building D, Elevator 2, 3rd floor

10th Km Thessaloniki - Thermi Road

570 01, Thessaloniki, Greece

Tel.: +30 2310 024040 - Fax: +30 2310 024078

E-mail: jts_grbg@mou.gr

Attention!

The deadline for asking questions or requesting information is 20 days before the deadline of the present call.

The answers shall be given on the Operational Programme’s website, but no later than 10 days before the deadline of the present call.

All relevant information and documents shall be available at the Operational Programme’s website www.greece-bulgaria.eu which is a key communication tool between the programme management bodies (MA, JS) and the potential beneficiaries.

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, DEVELOPEMENT AND TOURISM**EVGENIA FOTONIATA****SPECIAL SECRETARY FOR ERDF & CF FUNDED SECTORAL OPS**

Annexes:

Applicant's Package consisting of the following documents:

1. Call for Proposals
2. Project Application Guidelines
3. Application Form,
4. Partnership Declaration,
5. Declaration of not generating revenues,
6. State Aid Declaration
7. Declaration of non distribution of profits,
8. Justification of budget costs,
9. Programme and Project Implementation Manual