



MANAGING AUTHORITY OF EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL
COOPERATION PROGRAMMES

JOINT SECRETARIAT OF THE CP INTERREG V-A
“GREECE – BULGARIA 2014-2020”

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Subject: 5th Call for Proposals «Grant scheme for supporting SMEs to grow and expand beyond local markets» within the framework of the Cooperation Programme “Interreg V-A Greece-Bulgaria” 2014-2020.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT

Having regarded to:

1. Commission delegated REGULATION (EU) No 481/2014 of 4 March 2014 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to specific rules on eligibility of expenditure for cooperation programmes;
2. REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 17 December 2013, on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European territorial cooperation goal;
3. REGULATION (EU) No 1301/2013 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 17 December 2013, on the European Regional Development Fund and on specific provisions concerning the Investment for growth and jobs goal and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006;
4. REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 17 December 2013, laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, as in force;
5. COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 1407/2013 (O.J EE L 352/1 of 24.12.2013), on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to De Minimis Aid;
6. Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) 1296/2013, (EU) No. 1301/2013, (EU) No. 1303/2013, (EU) No. 1304/2013, (EU) No. 1309/2013, (EU) No. 1316/2013, (EU) No. 223/2014, (EU) No. 283/2014 and Decision No. 541/2014 / EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) 966/2012;

7. Commission decision number C (2015) 6283/09.09.2015, approving the Territorial Cooperation Programme «Interreg V-A Greece – Bulgaria 2014-2020» (CCI: 2014TC16RFCB022) and its 1st modification C (2016) 8708/13.12.2016;
8. Article 90 of the Code of Legislation on Government and Governmental Bodies, ratified by the first article of presidential decree 63/2005 (Government Gazette 98 /A/2005);
9. Common Ministerial Decision number 91589/ 04.09.2018 of the Prime-Minister and the Minister of Economy and Development “Assignment of responsibilities to the Deputy Minister of Economy and Development Efstathios Giannakidis” (Greek Government Gazette 3814/B’/04.09.2018);
10. Presidential decree number 88/2018 (Greek Government Gazette 160/A/29.08.2018) Appointment of Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Alternate Ministers;
11. Common Ministerial Decision number 302050/YΔ5250 (Greek Government Gazette 5205/20.11.2018) on the system of financial corrections and procedures for recovery of unduly or unlawfully paid amounts from the state budget for the implementation of European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) Programs 2014-2020, according to Art. 22 of Law 4314/2014”;
12. Ministerial Decision number 110427/EΥΘΥ 1020/20.10.2016 entitled «Modification and replacement of the Decision number 81986/EΥΘΥ 712/31.07.2015 (Greek Government Gazette 1822/B/24.08.2015) - National eligibility rules for the NSRF programs 2014-2020 - Audits on the eligibility of public contracting of co-financed operations NSRF 2014-2020 by Managing Authorities and Intermediate Bodies - Complaints procedure on the results of proposal assessments»;
13. Common Ministerial Decision number 300488/YΔ1244/6-4-2016 (Greek Government Gazette 1099/B/19.04.2016) for the Management and Control System of the Programmes under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective;
14. Ministerial Decision number 109283/EΥΘΥ 1012/23-10-2015 (Greek Government Gazette 2362/B/04.11.2015) restructuring the Managing Authority of Programmes under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective;
15. Common Ministerial Decision number 34686/27-3-2015 (Greek Government Gazette 178/ΥΟΔΔ/27.03.2015) of the Prime-Minister and the Minister of Economy, Infrastructure, Maritime Affairs and Tourism on the appointment of a Special Secretary of the Special Secretariat for the Management of Sectoral Operational Programs of the ERDF and CF of the Ministry of Economy, Infrastructure, Maritime Affairs and Tourism;
16. Ministerial Decision number 3357/EΥΣ/1338/27.01.2011 “System elements to control cumulation of State aids”, as in force;
17. Presidential decree number 123/2016 (Greek Government Gazette 208/A/04.11.2016) restructuring and renaming the Ministry of Administrative Reform and eGovernment; restructuring of the Ministry of Tourism; establishing the Ministry of Migration Policy and Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Information; renaming the Ministries of Interior and Administrative Restructuring / Economy / Development and Tourism / Infrastructure, Transport and Networks;
18. Administrative Decision 135250/19.12.2016 (ΑΔΑ:672Χ4653Ο7-Η6Ε) for the relocation/appointment of Ms. Angeliki Bouziani to the position of Head of the Managing Authority of Programmes of the European Territorial Cooperation Objective of the Ministry of Economy and Development;
19. Legal Act 4488/2017 on Public pension and other insurance provisions, increased protection of workers, rights of persons with disabilities and other provisions;
20. Legal Act 4314/2014 on the management, control and implementation of development interventions for the programming period 2014-2020 (Greek Government Gazette 265/A/23.12.2014), as amended and in force;
21. The written consent of the Special Authority for State Aid with reference number 137769/EΥΚΕ2182/19-12-2018;
22. The Cooperation Programme Monitoring Committee Decision, taken on the 04/12/2018 in Xanthi during the 5th MC meeting, approving the methodology and selection criteria for actions under this Call, as described and specified in this document;

23. The Guidance on Management Verification document available at the Cooperation Programme website (<http://www.interreg.gr/images/news-en/GR-BG/031210/Guidance%20on%20management%20verification%20OP%20Greece%20Bulgaria.zip>);

Hereby decides

1. The release of the 5th Call for Proposals «Grant scheme for supporting SMEs to grow and expand beyond local markets» that belongs to Priority Axis 01, which aims to enhance the competitiveness of SMEs in the Greece-Bulgaria border area and contributes to Programme Specific Objective 02 «To improve SME capacity to expand beyond local markets», which aims to stimulate enterprise growth of new and existing CB area SMEs through the expansion of economic activity to new markets and products.
2. The total applicable indicative Public Expenditure of the present Call amounts to €10,000,000.00. Public Expenditure consists of €8,500,000.00 of ERDF funds and €1,500,000.00 National Contributions by Greece and Bulgaria. The present Call is exclusively financed by the Cooperation Programme «Interreg V-A Greece-Bulgaria» 2014-2020, Priority Axis 01 «A Competitive and Innovative Cross-Border Area», Specific Objective 02 «To improve SME capacity to expand beyond local markets».
3. The time period for the completion of any investment supported through this Call shall be 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 and the completion date cannot exceed 3 years from the grant approval date.
4. 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. The final beneficiary can select to make an investment, which is greater than the upper threshold under this Call, but in this case 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.
5. Eligible enterprises under this Call are enterprises (the conditions apply equally to the enterprise submitting the proposal and the project beneficiary enterprise) in the priority productive sectors of the CB area "smart specialization" strategies, namely: agro-food industry, waste management for recycling or energy production, renewable energy and energy saving and efficiency, sustainable tourism, health, materials – technology, construction materials and textile industry, as specified by the NACE classification codes. Eligible enterprises must have their main business activity belong to the specified NACE codes before submitting an investment proposal to this Call.
6. 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. Only one proposal per enterprise is allowed. In case an enterprise is participating into more than one proposal, all of the proposals that it is participating in will be deemed ineligible.
7. All applications will be submitted electronically through the State Aid Information System at www.ependyseis.gr/(State-Aid operations). The Call will remain open from 15/02/2019 to 15/04/2019. The deadline for submission of applications is 14:00h of 15/04/2019. After this deadline, the electronic system will close and no more applications will be accepted. In parallel, all required documentation, which has not been uploaded through the SA MIS, must be submitted (in person or by mail) in hardcopy to the Managing Authority of the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020 by the deadline (15/04/2019) of this Call.

8. The Managing Authority of the Cooperation Programme publicizes on the Cooperation Programme website <http://www.greece-bulgaria.eu/summary> data for each approved project. Rejected applications are not publicized.
9. The 5th Call for Proposals «Grant scheme for supporting SMEs to grow and expand beyond local markets» will be publicized on the Cooperation Programme website <http://www.greece-bulgaria.eu/>, the Managing Authority's website www.interreg.gr and on www.espa.gr. Furthermore, the Call will be publicized on the website of the Bulgarian Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works www.mrrb.government.bg.
10. For information purposes regarding this Call, potential beneficiaries may contact the:
 - Joint Secretariat, tel: +30 2310 469 695, jts_grbg@mou.gr
 - the Managing Authority, tel: +30 2310 469 650, interreg@mou.gr
 - the Bulgarian National Authority, tel: +359 2 940 5592, na-gr-bg@mrrb.government.bg

All questions must be in writing and be sent by e-mail. For technical aspects, the potential beneficiaries may contact the HELPDESK (support office), which the Management Organisation Unit of Development Programmes operates, tel: 210-7787940, support@mou.gr (office hours 09: 00-17: 00 during work days).

The Deputy Minister of Economy and Development

Efstathios Giannakidis

Attachments:

- 5th Call for Proposals Project Application Guidelines

Copy:

- Office of the Minister of Economy and Development Mr. Ioannis Dragasakis
- Office of the Deputy Minister of Economy and Development Mr. Efstathios Giannakidis
- Office of the Special Secretary for ERDF & CF Funded Sectoral OPs Ms. E. Fotoniata
- Head of the MA of Territorial Co-operation Programmes, Ms. A. Bouziani (e-copy)
- Unit B1, Management and Monitoring of Balkan Peninsula Programmes – Black Sea Basin and Interregional Cooperation Programmes
- JS of the CP INTERREG V-A “Greece – Bulgaria 2014-2020”