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No.	Question as received	Translation (if the case)	Reply
Eligibility of partners			
EP.1	<p>Съгласно Насоките за кандидатстване (страница 24), партньорства, които имат най-малко двама бенефициенти със среднопретеглени проценти на финансово изпълнение за предишни проекти по-малко от 50% за проект, финансиран със средства по Програма Румъния-България 2007-2013, няма да бъдат одобрени за финансиране. В тази връзка, кандидатстване по настоящата трета покана за набиране на проектни предложения с проект на двама партньори, само единият от които има наложена 100% финансова корекция за предишен проект, финансиран по Програма Румъния-България 2007-2013г. ще бъде ли допустимо?</p>	<p>In accordance with the new Applicant's Guide (page 24), partnerships which have at least 2 of the project beneficiaries with previous average weighted financial execution rates of less than 50% for projects financed under Romania-Bulgaria CBC Programme 2007-2013 will not be accepted for financing. In this regard, will it be eligible if applying under the third call for proposals with a project with two partners, one of them having a 100% financial correction applied to a project, financed under the CBC Romania - Bulgaria 2007 - 2013?</p>	<p>In accordance with provision of the Applicants Guide page 24 "Partnerships having at least 2 of project beneficiaries with previous average weighted financial execution rates (also taking into consideration the last approved value of their budgets) of less than 50% for projects financed under Romania-Bulgaria CBC Programme 2007-2013 will not be accepted for financing!". Having in mind the above mentioned if the partnership has at least two beneficiaries with previous average weighted financial execution rates of less than 50% for projects financed under Romania-Bulgaria CBC Programme 2007-2013, then in accordance with provisions of the Applicants Guide the project will not be accepted for financing. Still, if the partnership is composed by two beneficiaries and only one of them has previous average weighted financial execution rates of less than 50% for projects financed under Romania-Bulgaria CBC Programme 2007-2013, and the other one has weighted financial execution rates of more than 50% for projects financed under Romania-Bulgaria CBC Programme 2007-2013 or didn't implement any projects financed under Romania-Bulgaria CBC Programme 2007-2013, then this partnership may be considered as eligible on this assessment criteria.</p>

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<p>EP.2</p>	<p>My organization which is from Bulgaria meets the criteria in the User's Guide because its headquarters are situated in the cross border region. The Romanian partner which we have chosen has its headquarters in Romania, but it's not in the eligible area. They don't have a branch office in the eligible area and that's why in our project we will respect the budget limitation of only 20% for this partner. My question is if we participate with this project idea only with this Romanian partner, do we fill the requirements for administrative complacency or do we have to take another partner who is from Romania and has its headquarters situated in the eligible area?</p>		<p>The minimum requirements included in the Applicant's Guide is to have a partnership made of at least two partners meeting the eligibility criteria, one from Romania and one from Bulgaria. Still be aware that Romanian partner may participate in project provided that the project budget limitation of 20% for partners outside the Programme eligible area is respected, but only in case the above applicant do not have the option of opening and applying with an local/regional branch office with legal personality. Therefore, as long as you and your partner from or outside the eligible area observe the eligibility criteria stated within the Applicant's Guide, you can submit your project proposal.</p>
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<p>EP.3</p>	<p><i>Disclaimer: the reply to these questions is not equivalent with a guarantee for selection. Only evaluators propose and the Monitoring Committee decides on issues related to eligibility and scoring</i></p> <p>Va scriu din partea unui institut national de cercetare- dezvoltare, referitor la Third Call for proposals Interreg Ro-Bg. Citind Applicant Guide, la capitolul II.2. Eligibility Criteria, i. Eligibility of Applicants, nu ne este foarte clar daca ne incadram in finantarea completa, nu numai 20% din valoarea proiectului.</p> <p>Noi, ca institut de cercetare national (fara a fi autoritate publica nationala) avem sediu social in Bucuresti, punct de lucru in Constanta, dar fara personalitate juridica. Hotararea de Guvern de infiintare prevede printre obiectele principale de activitate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cunoasterea structurii și funcționării ecosistemelor caracteristice pentru macrogeosistemul Dunare-Delta Dunării-Marea Neagră, supravegherea stării lor, modelarea și prognozarea evoluției sistemului - participarea directă și activă la cercetarea și explorarea Marii Negre și a altor zone de interes din "Oceanul Mondial"; activitate de cercetare marină în cadrul programelor internaționale. <p>Intrebari</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Este de ajuns acest document pentru a se considera ca avem competente in zona? 2. Daca se considera ca avem competente in zona se mai aplica limitarea de 20% din buget?" 	<p>I am writing you on behalf of a National Research - Development Institute in regard of the third call for proposals Interreg Ro - Bg. When reading the Applicant's Guide, chapter II.2. Eligibility Criteria, i. Eligibility of Applicants it was not very clear if we can obtain full financing and not only within the limit of 20% from the project value. We, as a national research institute (without being a public national authority), have our headquarters in Bucharest, an working point in Constanta but without legal personality. Government Decision for establishing foresees among its main objectives of activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knowledge of the structure and functioning of the characteristic ecosystems for the Danube-Danube Delta-Black Sea macroregion, the supervision of their state, the modeling and the prognosis of the evolution of the system - Direct and active participation in research and exploration of the Black Sea and other areas of interest in the "World Ocean"; Marine research activity in international programs. <p>Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is this document enough in order for us to be considered as having competences in the area? 2. If we are considered as having competences in the area is the limit of 20% from the budget going to be applied? <p style="text-align: center;">www.interregrobg.eu</p>	<p>The applicants must fulfill the following criteria: Be Romanian or Bulgarian non-profit making bodies/organizations (that were not established with the goal to obtain profit), legally established according to the national legislation of the state on whose territory they are located;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Be non-governmental organizations (associations or foundations), public sector operators, local/regional/national authorities which fulfil one of the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> have their headquarters in the eligible cross border region or; are organizations whose headquarters are not situated in the eligible area, but are located in Romania or Bulgaria and have local/regional branch offices with legal statute (legal entity) established in the eligible area. are Romanian or Bulgarian national public authorities whose area of competence, established by legal acts, extends to the eligible area of the programme. <p>If the applicant has its headquarters outside the eligible area but the legal possibility to open a local/regional branch office with legal personality exists, than this branch should apply for financing without any budgetary restrictions. In case the above applicants do not have the option of opening and applying with an local/regional branch office with legal personality they may participate in project provided that the project budget limitation of 20% for partners outside the programme eligible area is respected.</p> <p>In case the applicant is a Romanian or Bulgarian national public authority whose area of competence, established by legal acts, extends to the eligible area of the programme, than the applicant may apply without any budgetary restriction.</p> <p>The applicants, located in Romania and Bulgaria, but whose headquarters are not situated in the eligible area and cannot legally open a local/regional branch office with legal personality in the eligible area and whose area of competence does not extend to the eligible area may participate in projects provided that the project budget limitation of 20% for partners outside the programme eligible area is respected . In this case the applicant should be the mother organization."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 3 of 32</p> <p>Regarding the competences demonstrated by the Applicant, please be informed that it will be evaluated by the Assessment Working Group and that the final decision on the eligibility of applicants belongs to the Monitoring Committee of the Programme.</p>
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<p>EP.4</p>	<p>I work at the National Institute for Research and Development, and want to submit, together with 2 other partners from Romania and Bulgaria, a project proposal. The institute's headquarters are not situated within the eligible area.</p> <p>My question is: if my institute, as legal documents stipulates that the institute exercises powers of national geological service that provides organization, management and public capitalization fund national geological data, conservation and exploitation drilling cores, collections of minerals, rocks and flowers, hand, and monitoring state of the environment in mining areas.</p> <p>IS it eligible to be a partner for this call?</p>	<p>Only the Assessment Working Group (AWG) can decide on the eligibility of an applicant, based on provided legal documents. Still, in accordance with provision of the Applicant's Guide "The applicants must fulfill the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Be Romanian or Bulgarian non-profit making bodies/organizations (that were not established with the goal to obtain profit), legally established according to the national legislation of the state on whose territory they are located; □ Be non-governmental organizations (associations or foundations), public sector operators, local/regional/national authorities which fulfill one of the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> have their headquarters in the eligible cross border region or; are organizations whose headquarters are not situated in the eligible area, but are located in Romania or Bulgaria and have local/regional branch offices with legal statute (legal entity) established in the eligible area. are Romanian or Bulgarian national public authorities whose area of competence, established by legal acts, extends to the eligible area of the programme. <p>In case the applicant is a Romanian or Bulgarian national public authority whose area of competence, established by legal acts, extends to the eligible area of the programme, than the applicant may apply without any budgetary restriction.</p>
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EP.5	<p>I would like to know how you calculate the budgetary execution from the previous period. Seen from your table, in some cases it is equal to $(a+b)/2$ or more, in others it is less. A methodology or formula would be appreciated. If there is calculation mistake when do you correct it?</p>	<p>The financial execution is calculated by us and you can find it here (Annex 2 to the Assessor's Guide):</p> <p>http://www.interregrobg.eu/en/218-assessor-s-guide-for-the-third-call.html</p> <p>The methodology used for calculation of the budgetary executions of organizations involved in projects under CBC Romania - Bulgaria Programme 2007 - 2013 is in accordance with Applicant's Guide provisions (page 24): "Partnerships having at least 2 of project beneficiaries with previous average weighted financial execution rates (also taking into consideration the last approved value of their budgets) of less than 50% for projects financed under Romania-Bulgaria CBC Programme 2007-2013 will not be accepted for financing!. Consequently, all calculations, including your specific case, are following the formula: $\frac{\sum(e1...en)}{\sum(b1...bn)}$, where e is the amount executed for one project, b is the total partner budget for one project, and n is the number of projects where partner was involved within CBC Romania - Bulgaria Programme 2007 - 2013. In other words, there is a single final percentage, derived from total executions and total partner budgets.</p>
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EP.6	<p>We have few questions regarding the Call for proposals no. 3, Priority Axis 3 - A safe region, as follows:</p> <p>1. A NGO that occurs in one or more of the following situations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - has experience in providing certified international courses in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction, - has a cooperation protocol with the Ministry of Internal Affairs - Romania for providing training activities in the field of emergency situations or major disasters, - implemented private contracts or participated in projects implementation based on a signed collaboration protocols, in the field of improving risk management, respects the condition stipulated within the Annex B - Evaluation Expressions of Interest - <p>2. Eligibility of partners, namely “E7. The partners are the entities entitled to take action in the field/fields addressed by the project”?</p> <p>2. If two of the partners of a consortium consisting of 3 entities have their headquarters outside the eligible area but the legal possibility to open a local/regional branch office with legal personality, how we can prove their availability to open a legal branch in the eligible area at the time of the EOI submission? Is there a limit regarding the number of partners that can fall into this category within a project? At what moment should this legal branch be established?</p>	
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On the first point we cannot provide an opinion since the competences are evaluated by taking into consideration the proposed project idea/activities. Therefore, the assessors will be able to decide on this, once the project idea (expression of interest - EOI is submitted).

For point 2, the legal branch should be established at the moment when you submit the EOI, since that is the moment when the partner’s eligibility is assessed. If you open a legal branch with legal personality in the eligible area then it is irrelevant how many entities are comprising the main consortium (outside the eligible area), the applicant will be the new branch, which is only one single (legal) personality. The maximum number of partners per project is 5.



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EP.7

I am writing you on behalf of the National Meteorological Administration in Romania (MeteoRo) with regard to the third call for proposals Interreg Ro - Bg.

MeteoRo, Romanian legal entity, is the national public authority in the field of meteorology and climatology, thus its area of competence, established by legal acts, extends to the eligible area of the programme. MeteoRo has the headquarters in Bucharest, and has 7 branches without legal personality (Regional Meteorological Centers) across the country, which performs the activity object of MeteoRo according to the Law 216 / 2004.

We would like to submit a proposal targeting the cross border region North-West Bulgaria - South-West Romania. In this area, the Regional Meteorological Center Oltenia is located (in Craiova, Dolj County) thus being the MeteoRo branch closest and most interested in/for the target area.

My questions are as follows:

Q1: Are the eligibility conditions fulfilled if the legal representative of the applicant (MeteoRo) is the Director of Regional Meteorological Center Oltenia, taking into account/based on the decision of the General Director of MeteoRo (model attached) which (1) empowers this branch to take part to the project and (2) empowers the Director of Regional Meteorological Center Oltenia to sign all the documents related to project activities? Thus the applicant (beneficiary) is MeteoRo - which does fulfill the eligibility conditions - but it is represented in the project by its branch without legal personality namely the Regional Meteorological Center Oltenia. Also, in this case the legal representative to sign the Expression of interest (and other required documents for the application) would be the Director of Regional Meteorological Center Oltenia (and not the General Director of MeteoRo).

Q2: In case the above is applicable, the information required in the Expression of interest regarding the beneficiary (e.g. Address, Legal and financial information, Object of activity of the partner, Relevance of the beneficiary for the field addressed by the project, Previous EU financing experience of the beneficiary) are those referring to MeteoRo?

According to the provisions of the Applicant's Guide with reference to the eligibility of partners, it is stated that:

"The applicants must fulfill the following criteria:

□ Be Romanian or Bulgarian non-profit making bodies/organizations (that were not established with the goal to obtain profit), legally established according to the national legislation of the state on whose territory they are located;

□ Be non-governmental organizations (associations or foundations), public sector operators, local/regional/national authorities which fulfill one of the following criteria:

□ have their headquarters in the eligible cross border region or;

□ are organizations whose headquarters are not situated in the eligible area, but are located in Romania or Bulgaria and have local/regional branch offices with legal statute (legal entity) established in the eligible area.

□ are Romanian or Bulgarian national public authorities whose area of competence, established by legal acts, extends to the eligible area of the programme.

If the applicant has its headquarters outside the eligible area but the legal possibility to open a local/regional branch office with legal personality exists, than this branch should apply for financing without any budgetary restrictions. In case the above applicants do not have the option of opening and applying with an local/regional branch office with legal personality they may participate in project provided that the project budget limitation of 20% for partners outside the programme eligible area is respected.

In case the applicant is a Romanian or Bulgarian national public authority whose area of competence, established by legal acts, extends to the eligible area of the programme, than the applicant may apply without any budgetary restriction.

The applicants, located in Romania and Bulgaria, but whose headquarters are not situated in the eligible area and cannot legally open a local/regional branch office with legal personality in the eligible area and whose area of competence does not extend to the eligible area may participate in projects provided that the project budget limitation of 20% for partners outside the programme eligible area is respected. In this case the applicant should be the mother organization."

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Regarding the competences demonstrated by the Applicant please be informed that they will be evaluated by the Assessment Working Group and that the final decision on the eligibility of applicants belongs to the Monitoring Committee of the Programme.

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EP.8	<p>The potential applicant (also lead partner) for this third call is a Regional Cluster on Tourism from the eligible territory with a juridical statute of a NGO (non profit making body). The founding members of this Cluster (NGO) are several structures from SW Oltenia with extensive experience, financial and operational capacity. The Cluster itself however does not have (up till now) specific experience - activities/ financial resources - operated through the Cluster itself.</p> <p>In case the leading partner is the Cluster mentioned above, please clarify if the operational and financial capacity of the applicant can be evaluated according to the experience, expertise and financial capacity of the founding members of the Cluster?</p>		<p>In regard of the eligibility of applicant's the final decision belongs to the Monitoring Committee and is based on the recommendations of the Assessment Working Group. Also, take into consideration that the AWG will only assess the institutions which apply for funding.</p>
<u>Eligibility of actions</u>			

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EAC.1	<p>We have a municipal road directly connecting a municipality which is eligible applicant under the program with core TEN-T infrastructure, but we are concerned that the municipality in question is not included in the list of secondary and tertiary nodes indicated in the map from the Guidelines for applicants. In that case, is that road eligible under PA1? For example, if the relevant road section directly connects the municipality in question (which is outside the list of nodes) with the national road I-3 / I-5 Pleven-Rousse thus connecting the two secondary nodes - Pleven and Rouse, then is that road eligible for funding?</p>		<p>The question is very specific and concerns mainly eligibility of actions. Be aware that only the assessment working group and the Monitoring Committee of the Programme will be in position to decide on particular action and JS cannot give a prior opinion. Thus equal treatment of applicants will be respected. You are advised to read questions and answers published on the Programme site for the 1st call for proposals, and in particular “Eligibility of actions” part. Thus, according to the Applicant guide provisions: only roads proving cross border impact and connecting secondary or tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure (core or comprehensive) will be financed under Priority Axis 1. So, in order to be considered eligible, respective road must observe this requirement of the applicant guide. Also please be aware that the map included in the Applicant’s Guide is Infrastructure map, including indicative secondary and tertiary nodes (indicative map).</p>
EAC.2	<p>An organisation from outside the programme area with competences extending to the eligible area (by legal documents) that in the same time has the legal possibility to open a branch with legal personality in the programme area is eligible in case it decides not to open a branch in the programme area? Is there any budgetary restriction for this organisation?</p>		<p>According to the Applicant’s Guide, in case the applicant is a public authority whose area of competence, established by legal acts, extends to the eligible area it can apply directly (no branch opening is necessary) and with no partner budgetary restriction. The budgetary restriction of no more than 20% of the project activities to be situated outside the eligible area (in case it is necessary for the project and in the benefit of programme area) is still mandatory.</p>

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EAC.3	Equipment of an organization from outside the eligible area with competences extending to the programme area is to be counted in the 20% limitation of project activities outside the eligible area? We will implement activities in the benefit of the programme area with the equipment we will purchase.		It depends on the location of the equipment. In case the equipment is located (installed and used) outside the eligible area, than its value from the project will be counted for the 20% limitation of the project activities outside the eligible area.
EAC.4	It is mandatory to have a contribution also to result indicators that are achieved by now at programme level?		Yes, any application has to contribute to one programme result indicator for the priority axis chosen (plus at least one programme output indicator for the priority axis as listed in section I.5 of the Applicant's Guide). This is an eligibility condition according to the Applicant Guide Annex B - Evaluation Grid for the Expression of interest, criterion E10.
EAC.5	If we are a secondary node on the TEN-T network, is it eligible to finance roads from inside of the city?		Only the assessment working group and the Monitoring Committee of the Programme will be in position to decide on particular actions and a prior opinion cannot be given. According to the Applicant Guide provisions only roads proving cross border impact and connecting secondary or tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure (core or comprehensive) will be financed under Priority Axis 1. So, in order to be considered eligible, respective road must observe this requirement of the applicant guide.

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EAC.6	<p>Допустими за финансиране ли са разходи за реконструкция и рехабилитация на улици, част от улична мрежа на територията на населено място - общински център, представляващ третичен възел, съгласно дефинициите, посочени в Насоките за кандидатстване. В случай, че е допустимо, задължително условие ли е, всяка от улиците да бъде директно свързана с TEN-T мрежата или е достатъчно да има доказан трансграничен ефект?</p>	<p>Will be eligible for funding the costs related to reconstruction and rehabilitation of streets, part of the street network on the territory of a settlement - a municipal center representing a tertiary node, in accordance with the definitions, provided within the Applicant's Guide. In case if it is eligible, is it a mandatory condition for each of the streets to be directly linked with the TEN-T network or is it enough to be proven a cross-border effect?</p>	<p>Regarding the eligibility of an action, in the interest of equal treatment of applicants, the JS cannot give a prior opinion on this, the assessment working group and the Monitoring Committee of the Programme being entitled to decide on this. According the provisions of Applicant Guide only roads proving cross border impact and connecting secondary or tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure (core or comprehensive) will be financed. You are also advised to follow the list Q&A which is published on the programme website as well as to read the list for the first call for proposals in respect to the eligibility of actions.</p>
EAC.7	<p>We intend to apply for basic repair works for a History Museum, namely whitewashing walls, window replacing, lighting and water systems repairs. Can you please explain if these types of works are eligible, because we have noticed there are not mentioned in Annex D - List of ceilings and also if we need to elaborate a feasibility study or a technical report for these works. Moreover, as we intend to procure a video wall system, a specific type of equipment, we kindly ask you to explain if it would be eligible and what are the conditions we need to meet.</p>		<p>If the activity on the respective site requires building permit under law 50/1991 updated, it is needed Documentation Advisory Intervention Works (DALI) (for the repair, rehabilitation / modernization of existing constructions according to GD no. 907/2016 modified by GD no. 79/2017). Stil, the respective document should be submitted within the second step of the assessment, respectively when submitting full application form.</p> <p>Also, if the case, please be aware that other necessary documents/permits are to be submitted within the second step of the assessment according to the Applicant's Guide.</p> <p>The list of eligible expenditures, allows rehabilitation of buildings /purchase of specific equipment.</p> <p>Still, we cannot prior express a point of view regarding the eligibility of one particular expenditure/action , because the necessity and opportunity of the acquisition will be assessed by the AWG, taking into consideration the proposed application form.</p>

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EAC.8	<p>1)Is the following distribution of activities between the partners eligible under the Programme:</p> <p>One of the partners (B1) will reconstruct road and bridge thus improving the cross-border secondary and tertiary nodes connections to TEN-T infrastructure and will contribute to I1 - Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads. It will also implement traffic safety measures such as video surveillance along the length of the road and the bridge.</p> <p>The other partner (B2) will implement only traffic safety measures such as video surveillance to facilitate the connection of secondary/tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure.</p> <p>2) Will the activity of B2 - introduction of video surveillance be viewed as km upgraded road thus contributing to I1 - Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads?</p> <p>3) Will the fact that both partners are going to implement identical traffic safety measures such as video surveillance be viewed as contribution of the project to I2 - Number of joint mechanisms (e.g. route guidance, incidents/emergencies detection and management, studies on traffic flows, feasibility studies addressing cross-border transport issues, traffic safety measures, black-spot maps, awareness raising activities); to facilitate the connection of secondary/tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure?</p>	
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1) Within the Guide there are foreseen such indicative actions and there are no limits in regard of their distributions between partners.
 2) and 3) It depends from the way in which you describe the contribution to the indicator, still the final decision will be taken by the Monitoring Committee.

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<u>Eligibility of expenditures</u>			
EE.1	Will preparation costs be eligible for reimbursement if they are incurred before the submission date, but the real payment for the service is made after the official announcement of the approved projects and before first reimbursement claim by the beneficiary?		According to the Guide, page 36, it is clearly stated that: "preparation costs are eligible if they are incurred between 01.01.2014 and submission date".
EE.2	Under Priority axis 2 - A green Region, Specific Objective 2.1 (page 32 from the Applicant's Guide) it is mentioned the following: Modernizing/constructing roads to natural and cultural heritage interest points that will be part of a cross-border tourism product* Please clarify if the infrastructure investments under this Specific Objective are limited to modernizing/constructing roads, or other investments in infrastructure are eligible (example: Tourism Information Centres; Valorization and Promotion Centres; etc).		Please be informed that regarding the eligibility of an action, in the interest of equal treatment of applicants, we cannot give a prior opinion on this, the assessment working group and the Monitoring Committee of the Programme being entitle to decide on this. However, you could consult the list of indicative operations for PA 2, which is not exhaustive.
<u>Expression of Interets</u>			
Eol.1	Are there going to be clarifications also during the assessment of the Expressions of Interest?		Theoretically yes, the assessment working group has the possibility to send clarification letters also during the assessment of the expressions of interest. Please consult also the Assessors' Guide applicable for the third call for proposals that was published on www.interregrobg.eu and will be used by the assessment working group.

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Eol. 2	<p>According to the Applicant's Guide, "In case of participation of Bulgarian municipalities a Decision of Local Council regarding the project development and implementation has to be provided as well during the pre-contractual phase." Please specify when the decision for development and applying under the program should be issued - before or after the deadline for submission of Eol? Do we have to attach it to the Eol?</p>		<p>During the submission phase a declaration is to be submitted (Declaration of Commitment) and the actual document will be submitted in the pre-contractual phase.</p>
Eol.3	<p>In all the Declarations to the Expression of interest we have to fill up the "Project Code". In the "e-ms" system, Project summary the system generates "Project number" (for example ROBG-390). In the Dashboard the Project number (ROBG-390) has been shown as "Project_id". Does the Project code (in the declarations) is 390 or if no - how to understand what is the Project code?</p>		<p>The project code which should be mentioned within the declarations, Annexes to the Eol, is the code generated automatically by the system, namely ROBG - 390, as you have mentioned in your example.</p>
Eol.4	<p>In the online application form I didn't find any part about programme output indicators, but on the other hand - two places with the same information about contribution of the project to programme result indicator (in case of priority 3, but probably is the same with others). Is this a mistake, or we really need to explain twice?</p>		<p>There are separate sections for output and result indicators, both in the full application form and the expression of interest.</p> <p>For step 1, expression of interest, you have to describe in section Project summary to which output indicators you contribute (plus contribution) and in Project focus you have to select to which result indicators you contribute (plus contribution, minus the case of the qualitative result indicator for PA3, where no quantification is necessary, just explanation).</p>
e-MS			

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<p>eMS.1</p>	<p>One organization has to submit applications in e-MS from one single account or more accounts can be used? What is your recommendation?</p>	<p>It is up to each organization to choose its internal policy regarding users for applying in e-MS under Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria. From technical point of view, the e-MS has no restrictions in this respect, but the following aspects should be considered when you decide how you proceed internally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - e-MS credentials (user and password) have to be used by the persons authorised in your organisation to use the respective account. - For an application created in e-MS, one user has the possibility to assign other users (provided they are already registered in the system) for reading or for editing the respective application. When allowing more users for editing an application, please make sure that they are not working in the same time in the same section of the application - errors in saving data may occur and information can be lost! - an e-MS user can submit only applications created by the respective user account (one account/organisation - all applications can be submitted from the same account; more accounts for an organisation - each user submits its own applications on behalf of the organisation) - an user can monitor its own applications and the ones for which it was granted read/edit rights in the creation phase. Only the user who created the application in the system can grant the read/edit rights to another user/s.
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eMS.2	<p>What can we do in case the user creating and submitting the Expression of Interest leaves the organisation before Step 2 and doesn't provide the password to its colleagues? Can we change users for Step 2?</p>		<p>In case you no longer have the password of an user, please write to the Joint Secretariat to contact the system administrator for resetting the password for the respective account. It is not recommended for the user of the Lead applicant to be changed for Step 2, but, in duly justified cases, the system administrators can operate this change, following a request to JS from your part.</p>
eMS.3	<p>I registered in e-MS with an email address that I don't use that frequently and now I want to change it.</p>		<p>Changing an email address for an user is not an option of the system for current use. However, in duly justified cases, the email address that you declared for the user when registering can be changed only by system administrators, following a request to JS from your part.</p>
eMS.4	<p>I represent a public local authority, that wants to submit a EOI for the third call of Interreg V-A Ro-Bg.</p> <p>During filling the online eMS format, I encountered a difficulty in activating the Project Budget Overview part, which appears within Project Summary section.</p> <p>I noticed that each partner has a budget line within Project Budget Overview part, but I do not know how to fill in the table with the values afferent to each partner's budget.</p> <p>It will be most helpful for me if you could give me some guidance with this issue. Please help me to go further with this application.</p>		<p>Please be informed that according to the Applicant's Guide, Annex M - e-MS manual for applicants the Section G - Project Budget Overview should be filled in at step 2. At the current stage, step 1 - Submission of the expression of interest, an indicative project budget should be mentioned within the section A - Project summary.</p> <p>Also, please observe that within the Eoi there are also other sections that shall be filled in only for step 2. Those sections are clearly marked within the e-MS.</p>

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<p>eMS.5</p>	<p>We have submitted the Eol for one project on PA2. After submitting it, we saved the Eol as a pdf. In the pdf file, we concluded that there is a missing section of what we indeed completed (Programme result indicators). Also, when accessing the eMS system, you will see that our Eol includes a completed Programme result indicators section.</p>		<p>This is (among others) why we recommended all applicants not to use the PDF generated by the system in official purposes, but only as a reference/working tool (E-MS Manual for applicants - Annex M to the Applicant Guide, page 13, Eol presentations during Infodays - Slide 27).</p>
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<p>eMS.6</p>	<p>In Annex M - e-MS Guide for Applicants, page 28, it is explained how to complete the section C.1.4. Cooperation criteria, as part of the submission of Expressions of Interest. However, in the e-MS itself, there is a warning above the box for these cooperation criteria - "Only for Step 2 - Do not fill in for Expression of Interest!". Please clarify whether the information about the cooperation criteria should be completed at the stage of Expressions of Interest.</p> <p>We would like to bring your attention to the fact that the e-MS system in the boxes which have formatting controls does not allow pasting of large text and issues a warning "Paste data too big", whereas it is possible to paste large text in boxes without formatting controls. As the boxes with formatting controls contain the most essential information about the project and have the highest limits for number of characters allowed, it would be beneficial if the applicants have the opportunity to type their information offline and proofread it and then paste it in the e-MS without the need for typing it directly in the system and running the risk of still frequent breakdowns of the system</p>	<p>The material error you are mentioning in Annex M regarding the filling in of the Cooperation criteria for Step 1 instead of Step 2 was corrected on 14.04.2017. We hereby confirm that the Cooperation criteria section is to be filled in only in Step 2.</p> <p>Please be aware that in the electronic system the maximum number of characters allowed for each text field is including spaces and all other text formatting you are operating (e.g. bolding characters takes from the number of characters allowed in the text field). The applicants can paste at any time text already elaborated in other formats, provided that the number of maximum characters is observed (and provided that you only copy-paste text, without other special symbols/images/tables).</p>
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eMS.7	<p>Our question is where we mention the output indicator to which we will contribute, because it is very unclear. Which is the specific objective that includes this? The EMS application gives you the possibility to choose from the two specific objectives, but the Applicant's Guide, at the eligibility of actions is just specific objective 2.1. But, if we select this objective in the online application, the output result is the number of tourists' overnights...</p>	<p>The output indicators and contribution (which should be in line with the ones targeted by the call), are to be filled in the Project Summary section. This is a descriptive field (no drop down menu). The output indicators for PA 2 are connected to SO 1 for the third call. More details on specific objectives and indicators are available within the Programme (available on our website www.interregrobg.eu).</p> <p>The result indicators and contribution are to be filled in the Project focus section (you will get a dropdown menu here, not descriptive as above). According to the criteria (available as annex to the Guide and explained in the Assessor's Guide, document also published on our website), you do have to prove contribution to a result indicator (as well to at least one output indicator, see above), even if it was reached at Programme level.</p>
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eMS.8	<p>I have a problem with section Attachments It can't to record more of 5 files in Uploaded File List. Also, I don't open Download Selected Files.</p>	<p>When uploading the files, be careful at the size of the file. The system does not allow to upload files larger than 50 Mb. Regarding the number of files attached, the system does not have a limit, if the system does not allow the user to upload a file, than an error message should appear on the top of the page. Also, be careful at the type of the file the user wishes to upload, in order to be sure that the type of file is allowed by the system, we recommend you to make it ".rar" or ".zip", however the system also allows: pdf, doc, xls.</p> <p>Therefore, if you have observed everything mentioned above and still can't upload the documents, please send us a print screen with the error.</p> <p>In order to download a file which was already uploaded, the user could either click directly on it and select "save file" or select the files using the check box from the left and then click "Download Selected Files".</p>
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eMS.9	<p>Urmare a intentiei de depunere a unui proiect in cadrul celui de-al treilea apel de proiecte prin programul INTERREG V, RO-BG, Priority Axis 1: A well connected region, Specific objective 1.2: Increase transport safety on waterways and maritime transport routes, la sectiunea Select one programme result indicator your project will contribute to, nu stim exact care este metoda de calcul a procentajului, adica se va calcula din valoarea initiala de 20 km sau din restul km ramasi de atins pentru indeplinirea indicatorilor.</p>	<p>Following our intention of submitting a project within the third call for proposals under the Interreg V-A Romania - Bulgaria Programme, PA1 A well connected region, SO 1.2 Increase transport safety on waterways and maritime transport routes, in regard of the section Select one programme result indicator you project will contribute to, we do not know exactly what will be the calculation method of the percentage i.e. will it be calculated from the initial number of 20km or from the kilometers, remaining to be reached in order for the indicators to be achieved.</p>	<p>For PA1, SO 1.2, the result indicator (I7) is: % of the RO-BG CBC Danube length and Black Sea where safety of the navigation has been improved by joint actions.</p> <p>The 20 km to which you are referring to are in regard of the output indicator (I4): Total length of new or improved inland waterway.</p> <p>For the output indicator, you should specify the relevant indicator for your project. If you select I4, then you should also specify with how many km will you contribute to within the section Project Summary (Description).</p> <p>For the result indicator you should calculate the percentage by referring to no. of km that you improved through the project and total number of km of the Danube (see above, the indicator is "% of the RO-BG CBC Danube length ..."). The resulting percentage is the quantification to be included in the Project Focus section.</p>
<u>Annexes</u>			
A.1	<p>Do we have to present a traffic study for the road and if yes, on which phase of the application process?</p>		<p>In what concerns the submission of traffic study, please be aware that traffic study do not represents part from the Annex(es) 2 to the Application Form - Feasibility studies / equivalent technical documents, and it is not required by the Programme.</p>

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A.2	<p>Am o intrebare legata de actualizarea devizului general pentru un proiect de infrastructura drumuri axa 1 Interreg VA RO-BG - pentru modificarea cotei de TVA la 19 % se utilizeaza un anumit curs de schimb leu euro sau se utilizeaza cursul din data actualizarii devizului general ?</p>	<p>I have a question regarding the updating of the general specification (deviz general) for an infrastructure project, roads, PA 1 of Interreg VA RoBg Programme - to modify the VAT rate to 19%, shall we use a specific exchange rate leu/euro or shall we use the exchange rate from the date of the updating the general specification (deviz general)?</p>	<p>Following your request for clarification namely to specify the exchange rate to be used in case of modification of the general estimate for an investment we would like to inform you that the Programme doesn't impose any specific exchange rate to be used in case the technical and economic indicators are changed with implications on the minimum or maximum values of these indicators.</p> <p>Therefore, you should observe the provisions of the national applicable legislation imposing the obligation to update and re-approve the technical and economic indicators in the case of changes affecting the respective indicators (if the case might be for such modifications).</p>
A.3	<p>Our organisation is going to prepare a project proposal within the third call of Interreg Romania-Bulgaria programme. In this regard we started to fill all Annex but in the Applicant's pack I could not find Annex A.Eol 3 - Mandates of delegation from the legal representatives of beneficiaries. I would be grateful if you would provide me a template of this Annex 3.</p>		<p>In accordance with provision of the Applicants Guide page 41 "In case the EOI is not signed by the legal representatives of the Lead beneficiary / beneficiaries) and English translation (if issued in other language than English) will be annexed to the EOI.", Mandates of delegation should be uploaded within e-MS system only in case the application form is not signed by the legal representative of the Lead Beneficiary. Having in mind that the mandate represents an internal document for delegating the right of signature to other person than legal representative, issued by your organization, the Programme cannot impose a template.</p>

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A.4	<p>In the actual status of our Organization (NGO) it is indicated that it is represented together and separately by the chairperson and by the secretary. Please, clarify in this case who will have to sign the declarations (annexes to the Expression of Interest).</p>	<p>According to your statement regarding the statute of your organization regarding the NGO's representation, both options are envisaged: together by the chairperson and secretary or only by one of them. In any situation, the responsibility is yours to ensure that the signature(s) on the submitted documents fully engages the legal / procedural responsibility deriving from the actions related to submission of the Expression of Interest. The documents will be assessed by the Assessment Working Group that will decide regarding the compatibility of the submitted documents with the provisions of the Applicant's Guide (based on the documents provided by you, as statute, court registration decision, etc.). We would like to underline the fact that the existence of more than one signature on the submitted documents, if required by your statute, is not a reason for rejection.</p>
A.5	<p>In is indicated in the Gudilenes of application (p.42) that Annex 3 „Mandates of delegation from the legal representative” is needed in case the application form is not signed by the legal representative of the lead beneficiary. Please, clarify what you mean by „signed”, as nowhere is written that the Expression of interest should be signed and stamped, as it is sent electronically. Do you mean „Mandates of delegation from the legal representative” is needed in case the declaration of submission is not signed by the legal representative of the lead beneficiary or Do we have to sign the generated pdf file somewhere before finally sending it via the system?</p>	<p>The Expresion of interest is submitted electronically (please see Annex M of the Applicant's Guide) and will not be signed. You need to sign only the documents that are foreseen by the Applicant's Guide to be annexed to the Eol. Also, mandates of delegation (and their translations, if the case) shall be attached in case another person than the legal representative signs the document.</p>

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A.6	<p>Pe Interreg V-a Romania Bulgaria - daca exista un parteneriat doar intre 2 ONG-uri din RO si BG, mai este nevoie de scrisoare de suport de la autoritatea cu atributii?</p> <p>Din ghid se interpreteaza ca in cazul ONG nu mai este necesara depunerea de letter of support.</p>	<p>In regard of Interreg V-A Romania - Bulgaria - if there is a partnership between 2 NGO's from Romania and Bulgaria will it be necessary a letter of support from the authority with atributions?</p> <p>From what is written within the Guide, it can be interpreted that there is no need of submitting such a letter when referring to NGO's.</p>	<p>The Guide does not mention the necessity of submitting letters of support for NGO's.</p> <p>In case in which you refer to the letter of support for the second degree depositories (page 41), it is applicable for the second degree depositories from Bulgaria (e.g. District Administrations).</p>
A.7	<p>With regard to Annex A.EOI 6 Partnership declaration that has to be submitted until 15th of May, can you please specify if it has to be a single document signed by all partners or different documents signed by different partners involved in the project?</p>		<p>According to the provisions of the Applicant's Guide in regard of filling in the annexes to the expression of interest, section i. How to fill in Annexes: "the format provided in Annex EOI.6 will be filled in by each beneficiary, duly signed and stamped by the legal representative of the Lead Beneficiary and beneficiaries or by an empowered person (a letter of empowerment and English translation, if issued in other language than English will be attached to the EOI in this case) and will be annexed to the EOI.</p>
A.8	<p>Please answer the following question: Do we need an electronic signature for the application submission?</p>		<p>There is no need of electronic signature. According to the provisions of the Applicant's Guide, section i How to fill in Annexes (p.40) the annexes should be signed, scanned and uploaded in the electronic system e-MS.</p>

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<p>A.9</p>	<p>“In phase 1 the beneficiaries should submit their expression of interest filling the relevant sections from the AF, together with Annexes EOI 1-6. In case more than three annexes are completely missing, the Expression of Interest will be rejected. ”</p> <p>In the working applicant’s pack the only available annexes are EOI 1, 4, 5 and 6. Where can we access/ find the rest: Annex 2 and 3?</p>		<p>According to the provisions of the Applicant’s Guide, section i How to fill in Annexes (p.40), Annex 2 represents the Legal documents of the applicants: “Annex 2 to the Expression of Interest - Legal documents of the applicants</p> <p>Legal documents of all beneficiaries and their English translation (if issued in other language than English) must be scanned and attached to the EOI. Legal documents of the applicants: documents proving the establishing of the project partner entities (law, decree, government decision, statute, registration act, article of association etc.) - if the legal document is a law, government decision or any similar very large document, please attach to the EOI only the relevant sections of the document.”</p> <p>and Annex 3 represents the Mandates of delegation from the legal representatives of the beneficiaries: “Annex 3 to the Expression of Interest - Mandates of delegation from the legal representatives of beneficiaries</p> <p>In case the EOI is not signed by the legal representatives of the Lead beneficiary / beneficiaries) and English translation (if issued in other language than English) will be annexed to the EOI.”</p>
<p><u>Applicant’s Guide</u></p>			

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<p>AG.1</p>	<p>Our question is regarding project proposals of applicants who currently have 4 projects in implementation. The Applicant's Guide part of the 3rd call for proposals states that one beneficiary cannot simultaneously have more than four projects in implementation; in case 5 projects are selected, the fifth one shall be put on a reserve list (and could be contracted after the finalization of at least one of the other projects, provided the Programme has the financial allocation available).</p> <p>We are beneficiary under the Programme with 4 projects currently in implementation, which will be completed on 2 February 2018. Does this automatically puts any approved project proposal of our organization in the Reserve List or the MA will take into account the planned date for completion of the projects currently in implementation and that this date is likely to be prior to the contracting process under the 3rd call.</p>		<p>According to the provisions of the Applicant's Guide part for the 3rd call for proposals: "the Managing Authority has the right to decide not to sign a financing contract in case a Beneficiary already has in implementation 4 projects. After the finalization of one project the decision may be reconsidered, provided the financial allocation is available."</p>
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AG.2	<p>In the Applicant's guide it is mentioned that: "One beneficiary cannot simultaneously have more than four projects in implementation. In case 5 projects are selected, the fifth one shall be put on a reserve list (and could be contracted after the finalization of at least one of the other projects, provided the Programme has the financial allocation available). One beneficiary cannot simultaneously have more than four projects in implementation. In case 5 projects are selected, the fifth one shall be put on a reserve list (and could be contracted after the finalization of at least one of the other projects, provided the Programme has the financial allocation available)."</p> <p>Please clarify if in the current 3rd call there is a requirement concerning the maximum number of the project proposals that one organisation (acting as lead beneficiary or beneficiary) can submit within a specific Priority axis / Specific objective.</p>		<p>You may submit as many projects as you wish, the restriction concerns only contracting of a 5th project, when 4 are already in implementation.</p>
AG.3	<p>We have a question considering Priority Axis 2: A green region, Specific objective 2.2: To enhance the sustainable management of the ecosystems from the cross-border area. This specific objective is mentioned on page 9 of the Applicant's Guide, but nowhere else. Can we prepare project proposals under it, considering it's not described in the section ii. Eligibility of Actions in the Guidelines?</p>		<p>This is a special call, targeted for certain indicators. In case of PA 2, the output indicators targeted concern only SO 2. 1, therefore you need implicitly to prove contribution to this SO.</p>

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AG.4	<p>We have a question about the Guide for Call 3. In the guide for Priority Axis 2 - A green region is specified that the indicators targeted by present call are I9 - Number of integrated tourism products/services created and I10 - Number of common strategies, policies or management plans for valorising (including raising awareness) the cultural and natural heritage through its restoration and promotion for sustainable economic uses and the indicator Number of tourists overnights in the CBC region has already been reached.</p> <p>On the other hand, in the eMS platform when creating a project on Priority Specific Objective SO 2.1 To improve the sustainable use of natural heritage and resources and cultural heritage the only result indicator that we can choose in the Project focus module is R2.1 Number of tourists overnights in the CBC region.</p> <p>Can you tell us if it is correct in the Guide or in the electronic system?</p>		<p>The Indicators I9 (Number of integrated tourism products/services created) and I10 (Number of common strategies, policies or management plans...), are the output indicators this call for proposals is targeting for PA 2. The indicator Number of tourists overnights in the CBC region, is the result indicator attributed to this priority axes. The rules for the call for proposals are that a project should contribute to at least one output indicator and one result indicator. In this regard, please be informed that this is an eligibility criteria for the evaluation of the Expression of Interest (see Annex B to the Applicant's Guide, E10 - The project contributes to at least one output indicator (besides the financial OI) listed in the table in section I.5. of the AG and one result indicator of the Programme for the respective priority axis).</p> <p>Therefore even though the result indicator for PA 2 SO 2.1, appears to be already achieved at Programme level, the potential applicants who want to apply under this specific objective should still demonstrate that the project contributes to the specific result indicator.</p>
AG.5	<p>On the Programme Facebook page it is written that second degree depositors in Bulgaria need to obtain approval from the Council of Ministers before submitting their project.</p> <p>You are kindly requested to clarify what kind of approval document from the Council of Ministers is needed for second degree depositors and what the relevant legislative act which requires such approval is.</p>		<p>Not only the Facebook page mentions this, but also the Applicant's Guide (page 41). The legal act which explains the necessary steps and the obligation to obtain such an approval is Order P-56 from the 24th of March 2016.</p>

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AG.6	<p>The list of Q&A for the Third Call for proposals, section Expression of Interest, Eol2 includes the following question and response:</p> <p>Q: "According to the Applicant's Guide, "In case of participation of Bulgarian municipalities a Decision of Local Council regarding the project development and implementation has to be provided as well during the pre-contractual phase." Please specify when the decision for development and applying under the program should be issued - before or after the deadline for submission of Eol? Do we have to attach it to the Eol?"</p> <p>A: "During the submission phase a declaration is to be submitted (Declaration of Commitment) and the actual document will be submitted in the pre-contractual phase."</p> <p>Could this procedure be also followed for other second degree depositors from Bulgaria (or is valid only for municipalities)? Can the relevant approval document for other types of second degree depositors from Bulgaria be also submitted during the pre-contractual phase?</p>	
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The primary state budget administrators (ministers, the head of Council of Ministers, etc.) gives agreement to their second and less degree depositors for participation in projects. The Council of Ministers gives letter of support only to its second and less degree depositors.

The state universities need a letter of support from its first degree depositor - Minister of education. The letter of support has to be presented together with the Declaration of commitment according to the provisions of the Applicant Guide.

In accordance with the art. 11, para. 10 of Law of public finance "The budget administrators of less degree in the municipal budgets are determined by the municipal council on after a motion of the mayor." The decision of the Municipal Council has to be provided during the pre-contractual phase according to the provisions of the Applicant Guide.

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<p>AG.7</p>	<p>Please provide examples of secondary degree depositors in Bulgaria</p>		<p>Letters of support required by the beneficiaries - secondary budget administrators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - District administrations: They have to observe the Order R-56/24.03.16 issued by the Council of Ministries (CoM). Because District administration are secondary budget administrators to Council of Ministries, it is within the powers of the primary depository to decide whether to support or to deny support to a certain project or activity of the secondary depositories depending on justification of the request and the available budget limitations. As it is clearly stated in the AG the letter of support for district administration is required in the Eol step. - Universities and Institutions: If they are state /not private/ they have to present letters of support from their first degree despositor - Ministry of education. The letter of support has to be presented in the Eol step. - Agencies: The agencies are second depositories to the CoM or the Ministries. The letter of support is needed at the First step - Eol - Environment regional inspections: They are secondary degree depositor of the Minister of Environment and Water. The letter of support is needed at the First step - Eol.
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<p>AG.7</p>			<p>- Regional health inspectorates: They are secondary degree depositor of the Minister of Health. The letter of support is needed at the First step - Eol.</p> <p>Municipalities: In accordance with the art. 11, para. 10 of Law of public finance “The budget administrator of less degree in the municipal budgets are determined by the municipal council on after a motion of the mayor.” inistry of education.The decision of the Municipal Council has to be provided during the pre-contractual phase according to the provisions of the Applicant Guide.</p> <p>As a conclusion: For the central authorities, as it was clearly stated in the AG In case of participation of Bulgarian second degree depositors, the letter of support to the project from the respective first degree depositor is to be annexed together with the Declaration of Commitment.</p> <p>For the local authorities - In case of participation of Bulgarian municipalities a Decision of Local Council regarding the project development and implementation has to be provided during the pre-contractual phase.</p> <p>Please, take in consideration that the list provided is not exhaustive.</p>
<p><u>Assessor’s Guide</u></p>			

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AssG. 1	In the evaluation grid 2 points are given to a candidate who has included a "green solution" for a project under Priority axes 2 and 3. Please, clarify what exactly you mean by "green solution".		A green solution is a solution which proposes environmentally friendly measures vs. traditional measures (e.g. rehabilitating a museum by using solar systems for electricity).
AssG. 2	Considering the eligibility criterion E8 from Annex B - Evaluation Expressions of Interest, respectively "The partners have the capacity to ensure their own contribution and the financing for non-eligible expenditures of the project; they must also have the capacity to ensure the temporary availability of funds until they are reimbursed by the Programme", please specify: on the basis on which document will be perform the project evaluation (in respect of the fulfillment of the stated criterion)?		The document is Declaration of Commitment (Annex A EOI 4 to the Guide).