



Interreg 



DECISION no. 11
of 24th of April 2018

Regarding the complaints lodged against the Monitoring Committee Decision no. 72 of 22nd of March 2018, approving the List of approved and rejected projects submitted under the third call for proposals for the Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme - deadline 23rd of October 2017

Having regard to the following:

- Monitoring Committee Decision no. 51 of 2nd of August 2017 approving the Complaint Panel for the Eols and full applications submitted under the 3rd call for proposals, priority axes 1-3, Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme, step 1 and 2,
- The Complaint Procedure of Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria,

the Complaint Panel of Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme has adopted this:

DECISION

Article 1. The present document partially rejects the complaint lodged by *Municipality of Chuprene*, lead beneficiary of the project *Flood prevention for the Municipalities Chuprene and Plenitrsa* - code eMS 539 and registered by CBC ROC with the number 6411/02.04.2016, appealing the score received at technical and financial evaluation. The project has received a score of 35.5 points and thus it was rejected from financing.

Article 2. The applicant provided a self-assessment of the application. For 4 out of the 23 criteria the score is the same with the ones granted by the assessors. For 19 criteria, the score from the self-assessment is higher:

- a) Q2 - 1 point (maximum) in self-assessment vs. 0 points granted. No clear identification of other EU, national, regional, local strategy or programmes is provided, only general remark that the project is in line with the local development plans¹. Therefore, the applicant failed to prove the contribution to other EU, national, regional, local strategy or programmes. Also, the applicant failed to provide in the complaint clear justification regarding accomplishment of this criterion. Considering all these, the Complaint Panel rejects the complaint for this criterion.
- b) Q3 - 1 point (maximum) in self-assessment vs. 0 points granted. No information regarding the capitalization of other implemented initiatives or synergies with past or current EU and other projects or initiatives the project makes use of is presented. The information provided in AF and complaint is strictly related to other projects implemented by the applicants, but from different fields, namely road infrastructure and forest fire, while the project tackles flood aspect. Therefore, the Complaint Panel rejects the complaint for this criterion.

¹ Quote from AP:....development plans, to improve the infrastructure of the territories, to implement flood prevention measures and to ensure better flood risk management.

- c) Q 4 - 10 points (maximum) in self-assessment vs. 4 points granted. The justification included by the Applicant in the complaint is not related to the output indicators (assessed under this criterion), but to the result indicator. Some unclear justifications regarding the output indicators are included under Q 20 (criterion dedicated to target groups), but no impact on the score awarded by the assessors. Therefore, as no relevant information regarding the contribution to the output indicators is provided, the Complaint Panel rejects the complaint for this criterion.

However, 4 points were granted to this criterion because there is a high risk for not achieving the results without the implementation of phase 2 of the project (which is not part of this application). Moreover, part of the technical solutions proposed by the application are not feasible (for Romanian partner), and thus with impact on the project capacity to reach the results.

- d) Q 5 - 2 points (maximum) in self-assessment vs. 0 points granted. The applicant failed on promoting clear and relevant green solutions within AF as well as in the complaint (general information regarding green solution is presented, but no specific details regarding their identification and implementation²). Moreover, the investment proposed by partner 2 can be considered grey infrastructure.

In the same time, no additional information is presented in the complaint.

Therefore, considering all these aspects, the Complaint Panel rejects the complaint for this criterion.

- e) Q 7 - 2 points (maximum) in self-assessment vs. 0 points granted. Based on the information provided in AF and the complaint, the applicants failed on clearly justifying the project strong cross-border impact, as well demonstrating that a wider joint problem is tackled by the project with a joint solution which brings benefits to the border area. Therefore, the Complaint Panel rejects the complaint for this criterion.
- f) Q 8 - 1 point (maximum) in self-assessment vs. 0 points granted. The Complaint Panel approves the complaint for this criterion. Thus, 1 point is granted to this criterion.
- g) Q 9 - 1 point (maximum) in self-assessment vs. 0 points granted. The Complaint Panel approves the complaint for this criterion. Thus, 1 point is granted to this criterion.
- h) Q 10 - 1 point (maximum) in self-assessment vs. 0 points granted. No specific measures for promotion of sustainable development were identified in the project. Therefore, the Complaint Panel rejects the complaint for this criterion.
- i) Q 12 - 2 points (maximum) in self-assessment vs. 0 point granted. Based on the information included in AF, only one partner has experience in the general field addressed by the project (Lead partner, forest fire risk management). Therefore 1 point is awarded to this criterion. Thus, the Complaint Panel partially approves the complaint for this criterion.
- j) Q 14 - 15 points (maximum) in self-assessment vs. 5.5 points granted. Based on the information provided in AF, overall the project is not well structured and the logical link between problems, objectives, resources, activities, outputs and results is weak. Moreover, for the lead beneficiary there is a concern regarding the achievement of the outputs and results as they can be proven only after the completion of all stages of the project (the current application is dedicated only to stage 1. For the second stage, no clear information is provided. Also, the

² Quote from AF: *The project is also setting a tendency to use green solutions in the strategy related to risk management, which is a milestone for sustainable development of the region - the investment activities, part of this project are green solutions to problems, related with floods in the the CB region.*

technical solution proposed by Plenita locality is not feasible (the problem is not well justified, information regarding the historical flooding, the number of households affected by flooding, the human life losses, financial losses etc. is missing, the hydrological study does not demonstrate that the proposed investment will solve the flooding problem, the Feasibility study has no water flow data for the existing situation, as well as for the situation after the project implementation). Therefore, the Complaint Panel rejects the complaint for this criterion.

- k) Q 15 - 15 points (maximum) in self-assessment vs. 5.5 points granted. The applicant failed on providing clear justifications regarding the proposed score. Also, based on the information included in the AF and the above arguments (see point j)) the description of the activities is not satisfactory. Therefore, the Complaint Panel rejects the complaint for this criterion.
- l) Q 16 - 5 points (maximum) in self-assessment vs. 2 points granted. Based on the information provided in AF, activities listed mostly follow a logical time-sequence, but considering that the project (for Lead Beneficiary) is artificially divided into two stages and no indication on how the implementation of the second stage will be financed and when it will be implemented, this criterion was scored with 2. As the applicant does not provide clear justification within the AF as well as in complaint for supporting the proposed score (5 points), and considering the arguments above, the Complaint Panel rejects the complaint for this criterion.
- m) Q 17 - 2 points (maximum) in self-assessment vs. 1 point granted. According to the information included in AF, the applicants shall make use of quite enough information and publicity channels (e.g. press conferences, web site creation, and package for promotional materials, other public events, and publications in local media). However there is partial relevance between the number and the type of the information tools and the indicative number and type of the target groups planned to be reached and involved in the project. Therefore, the score awarded by assessors is considered justified and the Complaint Panel rejects the complaint for this criterion.
- n) Q 18 - 2 points (maximum) in self-assessment vs. 1 point granted. According to Assessor's Guide, 1 point is awarded when the *proposed information and publicity activities correspond partially to the project scope and purposes*; 2 points are awarded when - *Yes they are fully corresponding*. According to the information included in AF some of the activities/parts of activities proposed are not fully relevant for the projects and not focused on the promotion of the project results (e.g. parts of the activity related to promotional materials). Therefore, the score awarded by assessors is considered justified and the Complaint Panel rejects the complaint for this criterion.
- o) Q 19 - 10 points (maximum) in self-assessment vs. 2.5 point granted. Considering all the above arguments (please see points j-l), and the risks regarding the accomplishment of the project results, the score initially awarded is justified. Therefore, the Complaint Panel rejects the complaint for this criterion.
- p) Q 20 - 3 points (maximum) in self-assessment vs. 1 point granted. The justification provided is related to output indicators and not to target groups. However, the information included in AF in relation to the target groups and the correlation with the proposed activities is weak. Therefore, the score awarded by assessors is considered justified and the Complaint Panel rejects the complaint for this criterion.
- q) Q 21 - 3 points (maximum) in self-assessment vs. 1 points granted. The information included in AF in relation to the target groups and the problems talked is weak Moreover, the involvement of some parts of the target group, which is major for the project success, is not considered (e.g. education, NGO's

could be involved for educating/increasing the awareness at population level regarding the prevention in case of flooding and create an adequate behavior in case of emergency). Therefore, the score awarded by assessors is considered justified and the Complaint Panel rejects the complaint for this criterion.

- r) Q 22 - 2 points (maximum) in self-assessment vs. 1 point granted. The applicant provides information regarding the activities envisaged after the completion of the project. However, the information provided is too general and doesn't provide clear and feasible plan for the sustainability of all project results. Therefore, the score awarded by assessors is justified and the Complaint Panel rejects the complaint for this criterion.
- s) Q 23 - 15 points (maximum) in self-assessment vs. 6 points granted. Based on the information provided within AF there is a sufficient correlation between activities and budget. However, giving the above justifications regarding the feasibility of this project and risk of not reaching the results, the criterion was scored with 6. Moreover, budgetary cuts are proposed, the new total eligible budget being 916.395,45 euro.
Therefore, considering all these, the score awarded by assessors is justified and the Complaint Panel rejects the complaint for this criterion.

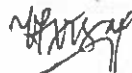
Concluding, following the applicant complaint and the Complaint Panel decisions, the score is increased with 3 points (1 for Q 8, 1 for Q 9 and 1 for Q 12). However, the new score - 38.5 points - does not modify the Monitoring Committee Decision no. 72 of 22nd of March 2018 regarding the rejection from financing of this project.

Article 3. The decision of the Complaint Panel is final, binding to all parties and not subject of any further complaint proceedings within the Programme.

Signed by

Members of the Complaint Panel

Signature



Member 1 - Managing Authority representative, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration, Romania

Signature

Member 2 - National Authority representative, Ministry of Regional Administration and Public Works, Bulgaria



Signature

Member 3 - External expert (from the Evaluation Unit), Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration, Romania

