

**TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME FICHE
 SEE
 Territorial Cohesion programme for South-East Europe**

SYNTHETIC INFORMATION ON THE PROGRAMME



1. Eligible area:

- Three old member states: **Austria, Greece and Italy** (Regions: Lombardia, Bolzano / Bozen, Trento, Veneto, Friuli-Venezia-Giulia, Emilia Romagna, Umbria, Marche, Abruzzo, Molise, Puglia, Basilicata);
- Five new member states: **Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia;**
- One candidate country: **Croatia;**
- One candidate country (no negotiations): **Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;**
- Four potential candidate countries: **Albania, Bosnia, Montenegro and Serbia;**
- Two third countries: **Moldova and Ukraine** (Cjermovestka Oblast, Ivano-Frankiviska Oblast, Zakarpat-ska Oblast, Odessa Oblast).

2. Single ERDF budget of the programme (8 member states / 7 years)

Total budget ERDF + national co-financing		ERDF	
		ERDF	National co-financing
TOTAL	245,111.97	206,691,645	38,420.329

IPA Budget (in mil. Euro):

State/Year	2007	2008	2009
Albania	0,2	0,2	0,2
Bosnia and Herzegovina			
Croatia	0,4	0,4	0,4
Macedonia	0,5	0,5	0,5
Serbia	1,114.00	0,589	0,764
Montenegro	0,67	0,76	0,84

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME STRATEGY

3. Overall objective of the programme

The programme shall improve the territorial, economic and social integration process and contribute to cohesion, stability and competitiveness through the development of transnational partnerships and joint action on matters of strategic importance.

Priority 1 Facilitation of innovation and entrepreneurship

- Develop technology & innovation networks in specific fields;
- Develop the enabling environment for innovative entrepreneurship;
- Enhance the framework conditions and pave the way for innovation.

Priority 2 Protection and improvement of the environment

- Improve integrated water management and flood risk prevention;
- Improve prevention of environmental and technological risks;
- Promote co-operation in management of natural assets and protected areas;
- Promote energy & resource efficiency.

Priority 3 Improvement of the accessibility:

- Improve co-ordination in promoting, planning and operation for primary & secondary transportation networks;
- Develop strategies to tackle the “digital divide”;
- Improve framework conditions for multi modal platforms.

Priority 4 Development of transnational synergies for sustainable growth areas

- Tackle crucial problems affecting metropolitan areas and regional systems of settlements;
- Promote a balanced pattern of attractive and accessible growth areas;
- Promote the use of cultural values for development.

Priority 5 - Technical assistance to support implementation and capacity building

Financial allocation/priority axes

Priority axis	Total eligible financing	ERDF contribution	National Funding (co-finance)
Total:	245,111.97	206,691,64	38,420.33
Axis 1 - Facilitation of innovation and entrepreneurship	51.824.891	44.051.157	7.773.734
Axis 2 - Protection and improvement of the environment	63.223.327	53.739.828	9.483.499
Axis 3 - Improvement of the accessibility	64.895.099	55.160.834	9.734.265
Axis 4 - Development of transnational synergies for sustainable growth areas	48.633.328	41.338.329	7.294.999
Axis 5 - Technical assistance to support implementation and capacity building	16.535.329	12.401.497	4.133.832

5. Implementing method of the programme

Nonrefundable financing given following competitive project calls.

6. Expected results of the financed operations

- Small investments projects;
- Pilot projects;
- Opportunity studies;
- Thematic analysis;
- Feasibility studies.

*(the enumeration is not restrictive).

7. Eligible beneficiaries

Private, public and public equivalent bodies may be involved in projects as partners, non-financing partners or subcontractors.

The eligibility of applicants will be specified in the Applicant's Manual of each call for proposals including an indicative list of the types of institutions eligible.

8. Eligible projects

General and specific selection criteria for the actions are different, depending on the priorities, and will be set/approved by the Monitoring Committee. Minimum selection criteria are:

- The relevance of the topic/theme;
- The correctness of the envisaged results and impacts;
- The quality of the partnership of the project;
- Cost-benefit efficiency in terms of mobilized resources (financial, human, natural and cultural ones)

Minimum criteria referring to partnerships are:

- Partners from a minimum of three partner states, of which at least one shall be from a member state.

Indicative duration of a project: 24 months.

Indicative medium budget of a project: 1,8 millions euro.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME

MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURES

PROCESS	PARTNER STATES	ROMANIA
MONITORING		
Monitoring Committee	- MA and JTS representatives - 3 representatives from each partner states, - EC representatives, with advisory role	
MANAGEMENT		
Managing Authority	National Development Agency of Hungary	-
National Authority	Each partner state	Ministry of Development, Public Works and Housing, Directorate for International Territorial Cooperation
Joint Technical Secretariat	VATI, Budapest, Hungary	-
SEE Contact Point	In each partner state	Ministry of Development, Public Works and Housing, Directorate for International Territorial Cooperation
CERTIFICATION/PAYMENTS		
Certifying Authority	Ministry of Finance of Hungary	-
ERDF Paying Unit	Located in Budapest, Hungary	
Co-finance Paying Unit	In each partner state for the payment of the national co-financing	Ministry of Development, Public Works and Housing (General Directorate for Programme Payment Certification)
Delegated controllers	In each partner state, according to art._16 al Reg. ERDF	To be nominated
AUDIT		
Audit Authority	Government Control Office, Hungary	-
Group of Transnational Auditors	Partner states representatives	Representatives of the Independent Operational Body affiliated to the Romanian Court of Accounts

SELECTION PROCEDURE IS BASED ON A “TWO STEP” APPROACH

First the form “Expression of Interest” has to be submitted describing the partnership and the main characteristics of the proposal.

The main purpose of this step of the selection procedure is to identify quality projects.

Once a selection of relevant proposals is made by the SEE Monitoring Committee, selected projects are invited to fill out the full Application Form.

The JTS and the National Contact Points support the pre-selected projects in order to improve their quality and to develop the full application.

The final selection of the applications will be made based on the full applications.

SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL CO-FINANCING

For the projects in which the Lead Partner, or the partners are public institutions or NGOs from Romania, maximum 13% of the eligible expenses (representing the national co-financing) are allocated from the state budget.

CURRENT STAGE OF THE PROGRAMMING PROCESS

- The Operational Programme was approved by the EC on December 20th 2007
- Launching Conference: march 2008, Budapest
- 1st call for proposals: 5th May 2008
- Deadline for submitting Expressions of Interest: 13 July 2008
- Second step opening: 13 October 2008, Deadline for submission: 21 November 2008.
- Projects' selection: March 2009.

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