



**Ministry of Economy,
Competitiveness and
Shipping
Managing Authority of
European Territorial
Cooperation Programmes**



**European Union
European Commission**



**Ministry of Regional
Development and Public
Works
Bulgarian National Authority**

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**2nd CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS
EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME**

"GREECE – BULGARIA" 2007-2013

CO-FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (ERDF)

A. Context

The European Territorial Cooperation Programme Greece – Bulgaria 2007-2013 is a cross-border cooperation Programme co-financed by the European Union under the European Regional Development Fund.

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

The total budget (ERDF and national contribution) for the Cross-border Cooperation Programme Greece-Bulgaria 2007-2013 is **€132,318,963**. The total financing consists of **€112,471,118** (85%) ERDF funding and **€19,847,845** (15%) national contribution.

The European Territorial Cooperation Programme Greece-Bulgaria 2007-2013 focuses on the strengthening of networks and the cooperation in the fields of border security, natural resources, management, business and research networks, in order to provide viable solutions for unhindered communication via modern infrastructures. Furthermore, it intends to promote the harmonious, balanced and sustainable development of the cross border area, while reducing the economic and social territorial disparities which have arisen in counties and regions lagging behind, and speeding-up their economic and social restructuring. Within this framework, the **strategic objectives** which constitute the policy outline for the convergence in the area of intervention are:

- Strengthening the attractiveness of the area by upgrading the quality of life and improving accessibility structures.

- Enhancing Competitiveness by promoting entrepreneurship, establishing networks of cooperation and investing in human resources.

The programme finances joint projects, which are jointly selected by the participating countries, following the calls of proposals that cover the entire eligible area.

B. Documents of reference

Before submitting any project proposal, applicants are invited to consult the Operational Programme approved by the European Commission on March 28th 2008, the respective internal rules on the eligibility of expenditure for the operations implemented by beneficiaries under the "European territorial cooperation programme "Greece – Bulgaria" 2007-2013 concerning both Countries, Regulation (EC) 1083/2006 as in force, Regulation (EC) 1080/2006 as in force, and Regulation (EC) 1828/2006 as in force. These documents are available on the Programme website at <http://www.interreg.gr>.

C. Priorities and areas of intervention

The present call for proposals is open for all 3 Programme Priorities and to the 8 related Measures:

PRIORITY	AREAS OF INTERVENTION
1. Quality of Life	1.1 Protection, Management & Promotion of the Environmental Resources 1.2 Protection, Management & Promotion of the Cultural Resources 1.3 Cooperation and Networking in Health and Social Welfare Issues
2. Accessibility	2.1 Development of the Road & Railway Network 2.2 Improvement of Cross Border Facilities
3. Competitiveness & Human Resources	3.1 Support and Valorisation of Human Resources – Support of Preparatory Actions in view of the Open Labour Market 3.2 Encouragement of Entrepreneurship & Actions that Cope with the Restructuring of the Economy 3.3 Promotion of Cooperation between research, technological and academic institutions and business organizations

D. Eligible Programme Area

Project beneficiaries should be located within the eligible programme area as indicated in the table below:

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

Moreover, the following NUTS III area has been included as **adjacent** and, therefore, funding operations in this territory is also possible and can be allowed up to 20% of the total expenditure provided by the ERDF in the Programme.

REGIONS/NUTS I	NUTS II	NUTS III
GREECE	Region of Eastern Macedonia-Thrace	Regional Unit of Kavala (former Prefecture)

The inclusion of the adjacent area is expected to maximise the impact of cross border cooperation programmes' achievements. According to ERDF Regulation¹, these areas can receive up to 20% of the Programme total eligible public funds. This means in practice that the programme may report costs related to the activities incurred on the territory of these areas to the limit of 20% of the ERDF budget.

However, this does not mean that a fixed share of 20% of the programme budget is reserved for partners from the above mentioned adjacent area. The cross border added value of such participation will be assessed on a project by project basis.

E. Available Budget

The total budget available for the present call is **44 MC** (of which **37,4 MC ERDF**) and is indicatively allocated as follows:

¹ Article 21 of the ERDF Regulation states that: "In the context of cross-border cooperation and in duly justified cases, the ERDF may finance expenditure incurred in implementing operations or parts of operations up to a limit of 20 % of the amount of its contribution to the operational programme concerned in NUTS level 3 areas adjacent to the eligible areas for the programme referred to in Article 7(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 or surrounded by such adjacent areas. In exceptional cases as agreed between the Commission and Member States, this flexibility may be extended to the NUTS level 2 areas in which the areas referred to in Article 7(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 are located."

INDICATIVE BUDGET ALLOCATION				
No	PRIORITY AXIS	TOTAL BUDGET	ERDF	NATIONAL CO-FINANCING
1	Quality of Life	10,000,000 €	8,500,000 €	1,500,000 €
2	Accessibility	27,000,000 €	22,950,000 €	4,050,000 €
3	Competitiveness & Human Resources	7,000,000 €	5,950,000 €	1,050,000 €
TOTAL BUDGET		44,000,000 €	37,400,000 €	6,600,000 €

F. Eligible Partnerships

Project proposals must include at least one partner from each country participating in the Operational Programme and cooperating in at least two of the following ways: joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, and joint financing. The total number of partners must not exceed ten (10), including the Lead Partner.

This call for proposals is only addressed to beneficiaries' categories a., b. and c., as defined in the Project Manual (Part 2 – Project Applicant's Manual):

a. national, regional or local public authorities;

b. bodies governed by public law², or according to the national legislations, having legal personality, other than legal entities defined under paragraph a, established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest (needs not having an industrial or commercial character) and which fulfil at least one of the following conditions:

- i. be financed, for the most part, by national, regional or local authorities, or other bodies governed by public law or
- ii. be subject to management supervision by those bodies or

² Bodies governed by public law as defined in Article 1(9) of Directive 2004/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 on the coordination of procedures for the award of public works contracts, public supply contracts and public service contracts (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2004:134:0114:0240:EN:PDF>) and in compliance with the national legislation of each participating country.

- iii. have an administrative, managerial or supervisory board, where more than half of its members are appointed by the national, regional or local authorities, or by other bodies governed by public law;

c. private organizations: non-profit organizations, founded according to private law, are eligible under the following conditions as a whole,

- they don't have a commercial or industrial character or activities
- they do not distribute profits to the stakeholders, according to their constitutional framework
- they operate for at least 1 year before the launch of the specific call for proposals. This rule is applicable for the branches as well.

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

Further information about the eligibility of partnerships is provided in the Project Manual (Part 2.- Applicant's Manual).

Each partner, either as Lead Partner or Project Partner, can participate in no more than **one** project proposal per area of intervention (measure) of Priority Axis 1 and Priority Axis 3. In particular for Tertiary Education and Research Institutions, the previous rule applies to each Department. An exemption will be made for Priority Axis 2, where a partner can participate in **more than one** project proposals per area of intervention (measure). If an applicant/partner does not conform to the previous rule as explicitly stated above, **all of its project applications will be rejected.**

G. How to apply - deadline

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

Project Proposals should be submitted according to the guidelines provided in the Project Manual.

A Project Proposal consists of:

1. the Application Form (standard excel form provided)
2. the Partnership Declaration (standard form, including the co-financing statements and declarations of non-double financing provided)
3. The Declaration of not generating revenues (standard form provided). In case of revenue generating projects, a cost - benefit analysis should be attached (using the "Guide to cost-benefit analysis of investment projects Published by DG Regional Policy in 2008" available at http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/working/sf2000_en.htm)
4. The Declaration of non distribution of profits (standard form provided)

5. Decision of the designated body of each Project Partner (e.g. Municipal Council, Board of Directors, etc) stating its agreement for submitting the particular project proposal, according to the internal rules/statute of each partner or the national legislation.
6. A Justification of budget costs, (standard excel form provided)³
7. Partners' related documents:
 - a. For bodies governed by public law (of Article Fb above), official documents proving that requirements of the article Fb of this call are met. In case the nature of the public body does not clearly derive from the submitted documents, the Joint Technical Secretariat may request additional documentation for clarification.
 - b. For private organisations:
 - i. Documents for establishing the applicant's entity (Statutes including all modifications, registration act, etc.) including all modifications for the past 2 years (for the available period in case the organizations/branches are registered 1 year before the call launch).⁴
 - ii. Official document indicating the sources of the body's revenues, for the past 2 years (for the available period in case the organizations/branches are registered 1 year before the call's launch) of operation, preceding the presentation of the project proposal (e.g. Annual Balance Sheets, The Annual Incomes statement)
 - iii. Declaration for the non distribution of profits (standard form provided).
 - iv. Any official document certified by a public administration authority, proving that the organization operates at least 1 year before the launch of the specific call for proposals.
8. Infrastructure Projects must include the relevant accompanying documents (building permits, any other required approvals, a compliance assessment report, preliminary studies, technical designs or any other relevant technical

³ The Bill of Cost and Quantities, for infrastructure projects, shall be considered as a part of Justification of the Budget.

⁴ Documents in points 7a, 7bi, 7bii, 7biv and 8 can be submitted in the original languages of the partners.

documentation, actual Bill of Quantities and Cost signed by the respective body, a document certifying the land/building ownership or documentation of transferring the operation rights for the period of 5 years after the end of the project, environmental impact assessments etc., if applicable). All necessary licenses/approvals that by the day of submission are still pending, may be provided at a later stage should the JTS request it, and in any case, before the signing of the subsidy contract. The JTS may also request additional documentation for clarification.

9. A maximum 2-page document needs to be submitted in order to justify the financial and operational sustainability of the project outcomes after the end of the financing period.

The hard copy of the project proposal must be submitted in 1 original copy. A CD/DVD-ROM including the electronic version of the Application Form, the sustainability document and the justification of the budget excel must also be included in the package submitted.

The non-submission of the above documentation (points 1-9), where applicable, and the CD/DVD ROM shall result to a project proposal rejection.

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

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

Joint Technical Secretariat
ETCP "GREECE – BULGARIA 2007 – 2013"
Balkan Center, Building D, Elevator 2, 3rd floor
9th Km Thessaloniki - Thermi Road
570 01, Thessaloniki, Greece

The proposal **must arrive no later than the last day** of the submission period (from **23/03/2011** until **10/06/2011** until **16.30**) **in a single envelope / package**.

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

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

2nd CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS
EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME

"GREECE - BULGARIA" 2007-2013

Axis:

Area of Intervention:

Project Acronym:

Lead Partner /name/ /address/

Envelope shall not be opened before the evaluation session.

H. Project size

Projects shall have total eligible costs ranging from a minimum of 200,000€ up to a maximum of 2,000,000€ for Priority Axis 1 and Priority Axis 3. The budget of project proposals submitted within the framework of Priority Axis 2 should be of 1,000,000€ minimum with no upper limit.

I. Duration

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

J. Eligibility of expenditure

The starting date for eligible expenditure is **1/1/2007**. The closing date of the eligibility period of the expenditure stated in the approved proposals is two years after the signing of the subsidy contract. Under no circumstances can the final date of eligibility of expenditure exceed the **31st of December 2015**.

Eligibility rules on activities and related expenditure are set out in the Project Manual (Part 2. Applicant's Manual).

K. Additional information

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

**Ministry of Economy, Competitiveness and Shipping
Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes**

Address: 65, Georgikis Scholis Avenue, Pilea
57001 Thessaloniki, Greece
Tel.: +30 2310 469600 - Fax: +30 2310 469602
E-mail: interreg@mou.gr

**Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works
Bulgarian National Authority**

Address: 17-19 Sv.sv. Kiril i Metodi St.
1202 Sofia, Bulgaria
Tel.: +359 2 9405672 - Fax: +359 2 9405493
E-mail: ZKraleva@mrrb.government.bg

Joint Technical Secretariat

ETCP "GREECE – BULGARIA 2007 – 2013"

Address: Balkan Center, Building D, Elevator 2, 3rd floor
9th Km Thessaloniki - Themi Road
570 01, Thessaloniki, Greece
Tel.: +30 2310 024030 - Fax: +30 2310 024078
E-mail: jts_grbg@mou.gr

Smolyan Info-point

Address: 14, Bulgaria Boulevard
4700, Smolyan
Tel.:
E-mail:

All relevant information and documents shall be available at the Operational Programme's website, which is a key communication tool between the programme management bodies (MA, JTS) and the potential beneficiaries.

THE ALTERNATE MINISTER OF ECONOMY COMPETITIVENESS AND SHIPPING

SOKRATIS XINIDIS

 ΑΚΡΙΒΕΣ ΑΝΤΙΓΡΑΦΟ

ΜΠΟΥΣΙΒΑΛΗ ΣΟΦΙΑ

Annexes: Applicant's Package (Application Form, Partnership Declaration, Declaration of not generating revenues, Declaration for the non distribution of profits, Justification of budget costs, Call for Proposals, Summary of the Call for Proposals, Project Manual)