| **No.** | **Question received** | **Answer provided** |
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| **I. Application Form** | | |
| **I.1** | On behalf of a municipality from Romania, in regard to the current call 2.7, please clarify the following two issues, your answer being extremely important for us in order to draw up the application in full compliance with the call`s rules:  Context: being a municipality, so a population over 50.000 inhabitants, we would like to develop as many green areas as possible, targeting biodiversity conservation and protection  Question no. 1: Please confirm if it is possible for our municipality to submit the same investment objective (in our case the municipal park) in two distinct applications, in order to receive more funding, for the same 1 single investment objective. The funds necessary for the development of our municipal park exceed the total financial support from the programme (in half, being 2 partners in the project, we need more than 2,5 million euro), so we thought to submit the same investment in two distinct applications, in order to receive more funding (of course, there will be 1 single technical documentation, 1 single municipal decision, that we will attach to each of the 2 applications, and the works will be completely distinct for each application).  The reason we ask this is because we are not sure if the programme / call, allows multiple competing applications / multiple proposals (having the same investment objective, the two applications will be in fact competing one against the other)  or multiple submissions (the two applications will have the same investment objective at least for us as lead partner in both applications), both cases (multiple competing applications and multiple submissions) not being permitted by the largest part of the EU funded programmes.  We have seen from our colleagues from Medgidia, Dobrich and Balchik municipalities and their projects selected for funding under the first call for 2.7 SO and currently under implementation, that the Romanian partner Medgidia town has submitted in two different applications (ROBG00089 and ROBG00125) the same investment objective being the Municipal Park 1 Mai Medgidia.  So we assume that the same evaluation criteria will be applied also in the current call, but we wanted nevertheless to be sure, and hence asking you was the best way to clarify this issue.  Question no. 2: Within our investment target (the municipal park, splitted in two applications as explained in Q1) we intend to build a Conservation Education Center, given the fact that our municipality is situated near several protected areas and we do have a very large school population.  In accordance to the Guide, only natural materials are permitted and other materials are not funded by the programme, the current call not supporting building activities.  These provisions make the development of our Conservation Education Center, with the financial support of the programme, very difficult if not even impossible, because there is not technical solution in making a building, that includes only natural materials (for eg: concrete is needed, iron / metal is needed).  Based on the previous projects that you have selected for funding under 2.7/Call 1 (for eg application ROBG00018 - BioGuard where the facility/storage to be build is from metal and  concrete ), please confirm that the same evaluation criteria will be applied also in the current call, as in the first call, all beneficiaries being equal to the programme INTERREG VI-A. | 1. Regarding your request for confirmation of the fact your municipality may submit the same investment objective (in your case the municipal park) in two distinct applications, in order to receive more funding please be informed that the Applicant Guide for the 5th Call for proposals does not include any express provisions in this regard.  Each project shall standalone by itself, considering that the Applicant’s Guide state that each project must follow an intervention logic that reflects the need of the territory (and of the partner) and the intended change the project seeks to induced through its implementation. The project must clearly describe its objectives, activities and the expected outputs and results.  Therefore, each project shall present the identified needs, activities (including infrastructure works), deliverables (including in terms of investment), outputs (also related to infrastructure works) and results (measured by the selected indicators). Also each project shall clearly identify the infrastructure and the related activities and shall be supported by technical documentation regarding the proposed activities and shall have a clear separated budget.  Thus, in line with the Programme rules, each project must be standalone, with its own objectives, activities, deliverables, outputs, results, technical documentation, and budget. This ensures that, if only one project is selected for funding following the competitive process, it can implemented effectively and achieve its intended objectives and indicators independently of the other project.  Any overlap between projects in terms of activities, budget, contribution to indicators, elements of technical documentation, etc. is strictly prohibited by the Programme rules. Consequently, in order to eliminate any risks of overlapping, the Programme recommendation is to have a dedicated technical document and a municipal decision for each application.  The proposal of having a single technical documentation and a municipal decision for both applications it too risky as it should ensure a clear demarcation between the two projects, and should have clearly identify all elements for each application, with no overlapping of activities, budget, or expected results. Another important aspect to consider is the potential impact on the technical documentation if only one project is selected for funding under the Programme.  Also, considering that both applications would target the same (construction of green infrastructure, i.e., park), it will be particularly challenging, if not impossible, to provide a separate contribution from each project proposals to the indicator RCR 95 “Population having access to new or improved green infrastructure”, as both projects would target the same population.  2. Regarding your second question, please consider that before selecting the type of materials recommended by the Programme rules for the Municipal park, you shall carefully analyse the relevance of Education Centre within in the framework of call, particularly in terms of promoting biodiversity, enhancing nature and harmoniously integrating green spaces into public areas. In addition, we would like to remind you that even if within the Applicant’s Guide it is envisaged that:  *"Only natural and environmentally friendly materials, such as wood, stone, etc., are permitted; other materials are not funded by the Programme. The cost of urban furniture must not exceed 20% of the total investment costs for urban parks/gardens per project partner"*,  within the same Applicant’s Guide is envisaged that:  *"This call aims at enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure as well as to reducing all forms of pollution; therefore, this call is not supporting building activities, such as for offices, storage, housing, industrial, cultural or entertainment purposes. Nevertheless, if the projects still includes any building activities, those activities should strictly take into account legislation and the local regulations on the share of greenery at the level of the intervention locations and should contribute to the objective 2.7. For Bulgarian applicants: unless required differently in a general urban plan (ОУП) at least 30% of the intervention area should be allocated for greenery when the investment takes place within the building boundary (строителна граница) of the settlement. When the investment takes place outside the building boundary of the settlement at least 60% of the project area should be allocated for greenery. If building boundaries have not been defined within the Municipality then the 30% rule applies."*  In response to your reference to the evaluation criteria, please be informed that the criteria applicable to each call are publicly available and are included as Annex A to the Applicant’s Guide, available on Programme website. Each project was assessed against the criteria set for the related call under which it was submitted. As regard of your remark on equality of the beneficiaries, please note that the Programme ensures equal treatment of all applicants. However, this does not alter the fact that each call is characterized by certain features that are addressed in the application documents. Even though all applicants are treated equally under the Programme, they are required to demonstrate the needs, justifications and relevance of their ideas in the context of the challenges addressed for the respective call. Compliance with these requirements is mandatory, as the selection process is competitive.  Last, but not least, please note that compliance with the Programme requirements will be assessed during the evaluation phase based on the documentation submitted. |
| **II. Eligibility of expenditures** | | |
| **II.1** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **III. Eligibility of applicants and activities** | | |
| **III.1** | Related to the Open Call dedicated to Priority 2 – A Greener Region, Specific Objective 2.7 Increasing the protection and conservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, as well as reducing all forms of pollution and based on the provisions of the Applicant Guidebook section 2.2. Eligible applications and applicants: Applicants, outside the Programme area, but from Romania and Bulgaria, can also participate in projects if:  - Are competent in their scope of action for certain parts of the eligible area (e.g. ministries, national agencies, agencies, administration's, national companies etc.);  - Carry out activities that are beneficial for the Programme area  - Their participation must bring clear added value and expertise to the implementation of a project and has to be beneficial for the Programme area.  - They cannot take the Lead Partner role,  Please clarify whether the Institute of World Economy of the Romanian Academy, based in Bucharest and which has no branches or offices in other areas but operates at national level as a public research organization with responsibilities in carrying out relevant studies, analyses and public policies at national, European and global level, can be a partner in a project under this call. | In relation to your request regarding the eligibility of the Institute of World Economy of the Romanian Academy, we inform you that, in accordance with the provisions of the Applicant Guide, section 2.2 - Eligible applications and applicants, entities outside the eligible area of the Programme, but located in Romania or Bulgaria, may participate in projects as partners (except for the role of Lead Partner), if the following conditions are cumulatively met:  1. They are competent in their field of activity for certain parts of the eligible area (e.g. ministries, national agencies, research institutes, etc.);  2. They carry out activities that bring direct benefits to the eligible area of the Programme;  3. Their participation brings clear added value and expertise in the implementation of the project;  4. They cannot have the role of Lead Partner.  In case the Institute of World Economy is a public research institution, part of the Romanian Academy, with recognized competences in conducting relevant studies, analyses and public policies at national and international level and it operates at national level (supporting documents such as legal framework and statute shall be provided in this regard) , it may be considered eligible as a partner in a project, provided that the activities proposed in the project are clearly relevant, useful and beneficial for the eligible area of the Programme.  It is the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate in the project proposal how the Institute of World Economy involvement will bring added value to the implementation of the project in the eligible area of the Programme.  However, please be informed that the eligibility of partners will be assessed during the evaluation process (evaluators may request additional evidence and arguments regarding the eligibility of applicants), based on the supporting documents submitted and in accordance with the eligibility criteria of applicants listed in the Applicant Guide. |
| **III. 2** | According to the provisions of the Applicant guide, offices/ branches of public national/regional authorities and other public bodies can participate in projects if they are registered and functioning in the programme area. If those offices/ branches which are functioning in the programme area are not legal bodies, the Application should be submitted by their Headquarters indicating the office/ branch responsible for implementing the activities. The applicant has its headquarter outside the programme area, the branches are registered and functioning in the programme area.  Does it mean that the applicant (Headquarter) can not be a Lead partner, as well? | Indeed, your understanding is correct, the organizations located outside the eligible area, having branches which are not legal bodies located in the eligible area, may apply for financing with their headquarter with a clear indication of the office / branch responsible for implementing the activities. Also, since they are located outside the eligible area, they cannot take the role of Lead Partner.  In this regards, on pages 5 and 6 from the Applicant`s Guide, it is specified that, “offices/ branches of public national/regional authorities and other public bodies active on the themes of the priority in the programme area (registered and functioning in the programme area). If those offices/ branches which are functioning in the programme area are not legal bodies, the Application should be submitted by their Headquarters, indicating the office/ branch responsible for implementing the activities. If the project covers more administrative units or if there is/are office(s)/ branch(s) with their own legal personality in the Programme area, depending on the partnership’s decision, the application may still be submitted by the Headquarters”.  Further on, at page 8, it is mentioned that “Applicants, outside the Programme area, but from Romania and Bulgaria, can also participate in projects, but only in exceptional cases, namely if they:   * Are competent in their scope of action for certain parts of the Programme area (e.g. ministries, national agencies, research institutes etc.); * Carry out activities that are beneficial for the Programme area; * Their participation must bring clear added value and expertise to the implementation of a project and has to be beneficial for the Programme area. * They cannot take the Lead Partner role”.   Last, but not least, we would like to draw your attention also to the fact that the Applicant’s Guide, Section 2.4 – Location of activities states that “activities related to investments (equipment, infrastructure, works etc.) should be implemented exclusively in the Programme area. The purchased equipment must be located, installed and used in the eligible area of the Programme. As an exception, in duly justified cases, IT equipment (such as laptops and/or desktops) can be purchased and used outside the Programme area, provided they are used in the interest of the programme and are necessary for implementing the project activities”. Therefore, in case of organizations located outside the eligible area applying with their headquarters and indicating the offices / branches responsible for implementation, the activities and the related investments (equipment / infrastructure / works) shall be implemented at the offices / branches, in the eligible area.  Still, please be informed that the administrative compliance of the submitted project proposals in JEMS is to be analysed during the evaluation process. In addition, please be aware that, during the process of elaboration of the application proposal, it is recommendable to consult regularly the list with the Q&A available on the Programme website, which contains questions and given answers from other potential applicants under Call 5. |
| **III.3** | When organizations located outside the eligible area, having branches which are not legal bodies located in the eligible area,  apply for financing with their headquarter of the office, whose financial capacity should be taken into account - of the headquarter or of the branch? In section "B.1 Project partner" should we fill the legal and financial information of the headqurter - PIC, VAT number, etc.? Even the branches are not legal bodies, they have identifiers, производни на identifier of the headuarter.  In cases where organizations located outside the eligible area apply for financing through their headquarters,  with a clear indication of the branch (which is not a separate legal entity) within the eligible area, which entity’s financial capacity should be assessed — the headquarters or the branch?  Additionally, in Section "B.1 Project Partner", should the legal and financial information (e.g., PIC, VAT number, etc.) refer to the headquarter, even though the branch will be involved in the project implementation? While the branches are not legal entities, they have identifiers derived from the headquarters' identification number. How should this be correctly presented in the application? | In regards to your question concerning the clarification of the financial information related to the eligible applicant entitled to apply under the Programme, please be aware that, according to the Programme’s eligibility rules, if offices/ branches which are functioning in the programme area are not legal bodies, the Application should be submitted by their Headquarters, indicating the office/ branch responsible for implementing the activities. Therefore, in this particular case, when the application is submitted through the headquarters, all required documents and financial information (e.g., financial capacity, PIC numer, VAT number, etc.) shall be provided with reference to the headquarters, which holds the main responsibility for the project and for ensuring the financial resources. Please also note that Applicants from outside the Programme area cannot take the Lead Partner role.  With regard to the PIC number, please consult the Applicant’s Guide, page 7, where it is specified that, all applicants must register in the EC Participant Register to obtain a PIC number, which must be included in the Partner Identity Information section in Jems. For more details, it could be visited the EC Participant Register (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register>).  Further and not the last, following the instructions for filling the required documents to be submitted with the Application form, described within the Applicant`s Guide on pages 55-57, in regards to Annex A9 “Financial Capacity Self-Assessment – spreadsheet file format (.xls or similar) and signed document (Annex AF\_A9 – standard format) - and the related mitigation plan, if the case (open format)”, please note that, each project partner should fill in financial Capacity Self-Assessment (.xls or similar format as well as in the form of a document **certified through signature by the legal representative of the organization** or by other authorized person).  Still, please be informed that the administrative compliance of the submitted project proposals in JEMS is to be analysed during the evaluation process. In addition, please be aware that, during the process of elaboration of the application proposal, it is recommendable to consult regularly the list with the Q&A available on the Programme website, which contains questions and given answers from other potential applicants under Call 5. |
| **III.4** | We are currently developing a project proposal under the 5th call of the INTERREG VI-A Romania–Bulgaria Programme (Specific Objective 2.7), which involves the renovation and transformation of an abandoned school building owned by a Bulgarian municipality (also partner in the project) into a cross-border Biodiversity and Sports Living Lab.  In this regard, we kindly request clarification on the following two points:   1. Contractual arrangements between municipality and NGO Is it permissible under the Programme rules for the owning municipality (public body) to sign a contract or agreement with a local sports club (NGO and project partner) for the management and exploitation of the renovated facility (the school building)? The intention is for the NGO to operate the Living Lab and ensure its long-term functionality and community outreach. 2. Delegation of tendering responsibility to NGO Partner Given that the BG municipality currently lacks sufficient administrative and human resource capacity to carry out procurement procedures, would it be acceptable under programme regulations for the NGO partner to launch and manage the tender procedures for the refurbishment of the municipal building, assuming this is clearly agreed upon and detailed within the project proposal and partnership agreement?   We would appreciate your guidance on whether such arrangements comply with the programme rules and eligibility criteria, especially regarding ownership, investment, and procurement under shared management. | First of all, please note that call 5 is addressed to types of actions dedicated to Specific Objective 2.7: Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution. In this respect, we kindly ask you to carefully consider the eligible types of actions (please refer to Section 2.3 – Eligible indicative types of actions of the Guide).  Secondly, please take into consideration a set of mandatory conditions, as follows:  1. To be eligible, applicants are required to fulfill a number of criteria and conditions, including:  Prove their competence in the field and the activities envisaged under the project through ownership acts, legal acts/strategies/action plans references, etc. Thus, the applicant must have the necessary legal authorization, responsibility or task to carry out the proposed activities, according with its statute or according to the national legislation, or alternatively have a formal agreement from the relevant institutions, organizations, bodies etc. to implement these activities.  For both soft and hard type of operations, the partnership should include project partners or associated project partners legally responsible for the field of interventions/policy domain addressed by the project and who will be the user of the project outputs.  Specific Requirements for Bulgarian Partners - in case of infrastructure and works, the investment activities should be carried out on public property, both public and private domain of the state/municipality (the applicant must prove the ownership of the public property or the concession of that property).  Subcontracting between project partners or associated partners is strictly prohibited. Any such cases will result in the entire partnership being deemed ineligible, and the project will be rejected without further assessment.  2. Furthermore, at the time of submitting the application, each applicant, in their capacity as project partner, certifies that:  The institution they represent has the administrative and operational capacity to implement the project proposal, and in particular:   It has enough human resources and technical means to ensure a sound project implementation and management;   Its administrative and financial involvement in the project does not undermine the institution´s daily activities;   It is directly responsible for the preparation, management and implementation of the project with project partners, and is not acting as an intermediary.  The institution they represent has the necessary financial resources and mechanisms to cover operation and maintenance costs for investment in infrastructure or productive investment if implemented within the project, so as to ensure their financial sustainability.  Therefore, when developing the future application, please take into account the above-mentioned aspects, as well as the fact that no state aid is granted under this call. Accordingly, specific provisions regarding state aid must be observed. The project must not confer an economic advantage to an undertaking (please refer to the provisions on state aid in the Applicant’s Guide). To this end, please be advised that the operation and administration of the renovated facility must be subject to public procurement procedures in accordance with EU and national legislation, ensuring compliance with the principles of openness, transparency, and non-discrimination.  Regarding question no. 2, if the NGO is also a project partner, please be advised that subcontracting between project partners is not allowed within the project, as previously mentioned. However, if your institution lacks the expertise or administrative capacity required to carry out procurement procedures, you may choose to subcontract this type of service under External expertise and services cost category, provided that the expertise and services to be contracted is not available at the level of the project management team and that the Staff costs are not already financing the type of external expertise and services (to be) contracted. |
| **III. 5** | In the context of preparing an application under the Interreg VI-A Romania–Bulgaria Programme, Call for Proposals – Specific Objective 2.7, we kindly request your official clarification regarding the following aspect:  Whether, within the programme’s eligibility framework, lands located outside the built-up area of the locality (extravilan) may also be considered eligible, in cases where they directly contribute to:  • enhancing nature protection,  • conserving biodiversity,  • developing green and blue infrastructure in areas of ecological value.  This request arises from the intention of the Commune of Vărăști to apply for funding, and such clarification is essential for establishing the correct framework for the proposed investment. | Following your request for clarification regarding the eligibility of lands located outside the built-up area (extravilan) under the framework of the Interreg VI-A Romania–Bulgaria Programme, Call for Proposals – Specific Objective 2.7, please be informed the Applicant’s Guide for Call 5, SO 2.7 does not have such conditions on the land location. As such, land outside the built-up area (extravilan) may be used for implementing the activities of the envisaged project.  Nevertheless, we underline that the proposed investments must observe all the Applicant’s Guide provisions (including those related to the property of the land and its legal status) and the national legal frameworks that regulates the investments on the land situated outside the built-up areas (in extravilan) and shall be accompanied by all the approvals and endorsements necessary in case of investments outside the built-up area.  Please note that compliance will be assessed during the evaluation phase based on the documentation submitted. |
| **IV. Applicant’s Guide and Annexes** | | |
| **IV.1** | We kindly ask for your support with a clarification regarding the annexes required in the project submission process.  Concerning the completion of the “Financial capacity self-assessment” form, please let us know whether the information should be taken from the organization’s most recent financial statement.  To better clarify the situation:  Our organization has closed a financial statement as of 31.12.2024 (for the entire 2024 fiscal year), as well as one as of 30.06.2025 (corresponding to the first semester of 2025).  We would like to know which of these financial statements is the most appropriate for completing the mentioned form. | In accordance with the Applicants Guide provisions, together with the Financial Capacity Self-Assessment the applicants shall provide:  “(…) - the last balance sheet *and*  - the last available annual profit and loss account *and*  - if the case, the mitigation plan.  Annual accounts for the latest financial year for which the accounts have been closed at the moment of submission of the Application must be submitted by the Lead Partner and all project partners, as full unofficial translation(s) in English.”  In this regard, the reply of your question is that the financial statement as of 31.12.2024 (for the entire 2024 fiscal year) shall be provided considering that it is representing annual account for the latest financial year.  Last, but not least, please note that compliance with the Programme requirements will be assessed during the evaluation phase based on the documentation submitted. |
| **V. JEMS** | | |
| **V.1** |  |  |
| **VI. Budget** | | |
| **VI.1** | We intend to submit a proposal under Interreg VI-A Romania–Bulgaria – Call 5 and, for the preparation of the financial plan, I respectfully request you to confirm the following aspects:  1. Co-financing & own contribution. Please confirm the mechanism: ERDF 80% + 18% co-financing from the state budget + 2% own contribution, applicable to RO and BG partners in Call 5?  2. Pre-financing / advance. Is there any pre-financing (at program or national level)? For example, advance from national co-financing – percentage, conditions, calendar and applicability for RO/BG.  3. Lump-sum preparation/closure. Please confirm regarding €14,000 (preparation, after signature) and €6,500 (closure, upon predefined outputs), plus an indication of the timing of payments upon fulfilment of conditions. | Please find below the requested clarifications, in line with the latest provisions of the Applicants Guide and the Project Implementation Manual (Revision 1 – August 2025) which can be consulted at the following link: <https://interregviarobg.eu/en/project-implementation-manual>.  1. In relation with Co-financing and Own Contribution, we confirm the financing structure applicable for partners from both Romania and Bulgaria, according to the Interreg VI-A Ro-Bg Programme provisions, are:  - ERDF contribution: 80%  - National co-financing: 18% provided from the state budget  - Own contribution: 2% covered by the project partner  2. As regards Advance Payments/Prefinancing, for national co-financing, advance payments may be granted in line with the national legislation of Romania and Bulgaria having in mind the PIM provisions mentioned at sub chapter 3.1.5. Reimbursement of the preparation costs (lump sum and real costs) and of the advance payment:   * Romania: up to 70% of national co-financing, upon request via JEMS and email notification. * Bulgaria: up to 80% of national co-financing, under similar conditions.   Advance payment requires signed co-financing contract and correct bank details uploaded in JEMS.  3. Lump Sums for Preparation and Closure  a) Preparation lump sum: EUR 14,000 per project, payable after signature of the subsidy contract. In this regard please observe the provisions foreseen in the PIM mentioned at sub chapter [*3.1.5. Reimbursement of the preparation costs (lump sum and real costs) and of the advance payment*](https://www.interregviarobg.eu/assets/2025/07/pim-interreg-vi-a-robg-rev1-site.pdf);  b) Closure lump sum: EUR 6,500 per project, payable after acceptance of the final report and confirmation that all outputs and results have been delivered. For details, please refer to the Project Implementation Manual, Rev.1, sub-chapter [*5.1 Final report*](https://www.interregviarobg.eu/assets/2025/07/pim-interreg-vi-a-robg-rev1-site.pdf)*.*  Both lump sums are fixed amounts, independent of the real cost, are not part of the basis for flat-rate calculations and can be split between the partners. Please note that no verification of the supporting documents for actual costs is required to demonstrate that the lump sum amount was spent by the applicant(s) on the predefined cost categories or activities. |
| **VII. Horizontal issues** | | |
| **VII.1** |  |  |
| **VIII. Other aspects** | | |
| **VIII.1** | 1. Reimbursements & first payment. What is the usual timetable until the first ERDF reimbursement from the start of implementation? Is there an option for more frequent reporting to reduce cash-flow pressure?  2. National co-financing contract. What are the practical steps and usual deadlines for signature in RO/BG after the decision of the Monitoring Committee? | 1. According to the Programme rules, the Lead Partner (LP) is required every four months to create and submit through the electronic system, a project report to the Joint Secretariat (JS). This report must cover both the financial and physical progress of the project and be based on validated partner reports submitted in Jems, in line with the contractual reporting conditions and Project Implementation Manual provisions.  As an exception to the mandatory contractual reporting deadlines, as mentioned above, the LP may request reimbursement of expenditure from the Managing Authority (MA) at any time by submitting a project report through the electronic system. This applies to one or more partners, provided that the expenditure claimed for reimbursement amounts to at least EUR 100,000 ERDF per partner.  For details on the indicative timeframe for reporting and payment procedures, please refer to the Project Implementation Manual, Rev.1, sub-chapter 3.2. Reporting and payment procedures.  2. After approval of the selection by the Monitoring Committee, projects are requested to submit a set of documents to prepare the necessary documentation for signing the subsidy and co-financing contracts. During this period, any recommendations approved by the Monitoring Committee following the assessment process (e.g. budget reductions, removal/revision of a particular activity, revision of indicators etc.) should also be reflected in Jems. This phase is expected to last a maximum of two months. With regard to the National Co-financing signing process, please be informed about the provisions of the PIM mentioned at Chapter 2 Contracting, sub chapters [2.2 and 2.3](https://www.interregviarobg.eu/assets/2025/07/pim-interreg-vi-a-robg-rev1-site.pdf).  Co-financing contracts will be signed as follows:   * Romanian Partners – with MA of the programme; * Bulgarian Partners – with NA of the programme.   Templates and procedures can be consulted at the following link: <https://interregviarobg.eu/en/templates>. |
| **VIII. 2** | 1. Timing and processing of advances  From which exact moment can a partner request the national co-financing advance (immediately after signing the co-financing contract, or only once the Subsidy Contract enters into force)? Is the advance requested and paid per partner or at project level, and what is the indicative processing time from request to payment? Are financial guarantees required?  2. Exceptional reimbursement threshold  When using the “≥ EUR 100,000 ERDF per partner” option, should each partner included in that report individually meet the threshold for that same report? May the LP submit an interim report including only partners that meet the threshold, while others remain on the regular four-month reporting?  3. Allocation of lump sums  Should the internal split of the EUR 14,000 (preparation) and EUR 6,500 (closure) be predefined in JEMS at contracting stage, or can it be set later (e.g., prior to requesting the lump sum)? | 1. In relation with Timing and processing of advances:  a) immediately after signing the co-financing contract, but before submitting the first project report each Romanian or Bulgarian partner may submit an advance request via the shared folder from Jems, with notification to MA (robg@mdlpa.gov.ro) or NA (NA-RO-BG@mrrb.government.bg, lpetkova@mrrb.government.bg) email addresses, according to the partner’s nationality. The advance may be up to 70% of the co-financing contract value for Romanian partners, or up to 80% for Bulgarian partners, as applicable. For further details, please refer to the PIM, section Advance payment, page 20, <https://www.interregviarobg.eu/assets/2025/07/pim-interreg-vi-a-robg-rev1-site.pdf>. The MA/NA shall verify the advance payment request and transfer the corresponding amount in accordance with the terms stipulated in the national co-financing contract. For example, in the case of a Romanian partner, the MA will verify the request within 15 days from the registration date at the MA level (this deadline may be suspended in case additional information is needed) and will transfer the advance within a maximum of 10 days from the date of the approval of the advance payment request. Please consider consulting the co-financing templates available here <https://interregviarobg.eu/en/competitive-call-for-project-proposals-dedicated-to-priority-2-a-green-region-specific-objectives-24-and-27>.  b) The advance is requested and paid individually per partner, not at project level.  c) No financial guarantees are foreseen by the Programme. National authorities apply the specific legal provisions for public institutions and other beneficiary types. Nevertheless, during pre-contracting, the partners are requested to provide declarations signed by the partners legal representative stating that funds for implementation are available and the partner commits to ensure availability of funds until they are reimbursed by the programme and to support the non-eligible expenditures (if the case). (PIM Rev.1, Section 5.4 – “Payments and Financial Flows”)  2. In regards to the Exceptional reimbursement threshold: indeed, the LP may submit an interim project report (using the “≥ EUR 100,000 ERDF per partner” option) including only those partners who meet the threshold (≥ EUR 100,000 ERDF per partner), while the remaining partners continue with the regular four-month reporting schedule. To conclude, each partner included in that report must individually meet the threshold for that same report. This mechanism is optional and designed to support cash-flow for large partners with significant expenditure. (PIM Rev.1, Section 6.2 – “Reporting and Payment Procedures”)  3. Regarding the Allocation of lump sums: please be aware that the internal distribution of lump sums among partners should be defined and reflected in the submitted Application Form in JEMS. Please be informed that the lump sum will be reimbursed to the Lead Partner upon achievement of a predefined output, which constitutes the condition triggering the reimbursement (i.e. the signing of the financing contract in the case of preparation costs and the acceptance of the final report in the case of closure). The Lead Partner is not required to submit a request for the lump sum. The MA will transfer the lump sum to the LP’s bank account within a maximum of 10 working days from the date on which the fast track lump sum is set (by a Programme structure) as ready for payment. After receiving the lump sum, the LP will distribute the amount to each partner in the proportions agreed within the Partnership. Adjustments of lump sums at a later stage are possible only in exceptional cases. Such changes require amendments to the financing contract and can be made solely before the payment of the lump sum. Therefore, we strongly recommend that the splitting of lump sums be carefully discussed, planned, and reflected in the application form prior to the submission of the project.  Please bear in mind that after the submission, the project proposal is subject of the verification during the assessment process based on provided documents/information/justifications included in the AF. Following the assessment process, if the project proposal is selected for funding by the Monitoring Committee, the pre-contracting process will be performed and only after signing the Subsidy contract the project enter in implementation phase. |