

discover



new opportunities with European funds



ABOUT UNICREDIT BULBANK

UniCredit Bulbank is part of UniCredit Group, one of the leading commercial banks in Europe operating both locally and worldwide. We are a market leader with a portfolio of more than 1 mln. clients and a solid branch network throughout the country. We take top positions in terms of assets, deposits, loans and capital. We support projects which are economically stable and risk-balanced.

Being part of UniCredit Group we possess significant advantages incl. solid and recognisable name, access to multiple internal markets, as well as applying best practices developed by experienced professionals from different countries. Our work is inspired by principles for honesty, transparency, respect and trust. Following these principles, each and every one of us in UniCredit strives to build stable and efficient professional relations with our clients.

For us it is essential to provide financial solutions and benefits to the business of all our clients and partners.

I INTEND TO FINANCE MY PROJECT WITH EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES
BUT I DO NOT KNOW WHERE TO START FROM.

We will guide your way through.



UniCredit Bulbank

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Банката в телефона ви!

Добре дошли в  BULBANK Mobile

 Сметки	 Преводи	 Карт
 Депозити	 Обмяна	 Локации
НАСТРОЙКИ		ИЗХОД

'Bulgaria needs to boost entrepreneurial spirit for creation of favourable environment and stimulus for business establishment, growth of existing companies and opening of new job positions. The European programmes and initiatives are successful tools which enable the realisation of projects and ideas. The benefits for the local economy of EU funds are indisputable. The role of UniCredit Bulbank in this area is to offer concrete innovative solutions to its customers via which they can increase their competitiveness. This positively impacts the entire economy.'



Levon Hampartzoumian

CEO and Chairman

of the Management Board of UniCredit Bulbank



UNICREDIT BULBANK AND EU FUNDS

UniCredit Bulbank is the first financial institution to establish a dedicated unit 'European Competence Center' in 2005 which consults existing and potential clients of the bank for their investment ideas.

When applying for national and operative programmes financed by the European Union, you can contact us and together we will find optimum solutions to realise your business ideas.

UniCredit Bulbank and European Funds Team provide:

- preliminary consultations about opportunities for financing and execution of projects supported by the Structural and Cohesion Funds of the European Union as well as national and local programmes;
- loans with preferential conditions, incl. for grants and/or subsidies;
- guarantees from national and international financial institutions;
- complete solutions for financing through specialised credit lines and guarantee schemes, where the bank is a partnering financial intermediary;
- issuing of bank guarantees for advance payment, bid bonds, performance bonds etc.;
- assistance in applying for European programmes - by issuing bank references.

Let us find out together the probability your project to be approved for financing.

EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES 2014 - 2020

More than EUR 15 196 000 000 have been allocated to Bulgaria under the European structural and investment funds for the 2014 - 2020 programming period, incl. additional funding opportunities through cooperation and partnership in international programmes:

Operational programme 'Transport and Transport Infrastructure' 2014 - 2020	14
Operational Programme 'Environment'	15
Operational Programme 'Regions in growth'	17
Operational PROGRAMME Innovations and Competitiveness	19
Operational Programme Human Resources Development	21
Operational Programme 'Science and Education for Smart Growth'	23
Operational Programme 'Good governance'	25
Rural Development Programme	27
Programme for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	29
National programme for the Wine Sector	31
Programmes of National Culture Fund (NCF)	33
cross-border Cooperation Programme Bulgaria - the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	36
INTERREG-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Bulgaria - Serbia	38
cross-border Cooperation Programme Bulgaria - Turkey	41
cross-border European Territorial Cooperation Programme Greece - Bulgaria	43
The Danube Transnational Programme	45
ESPO 2020 Cooperation Programme	47
Programme INTERREG Europe 2014 - 2020	49
Programme INTERREG Balkan - Mediterranean 2014 - 2020	52
Black Sea Basin Programme 2014 - 2020	55
The EU Programme for research and innovation 'Horizon 2020'	58
Programme Horizon 2020 - SME Instrument	60
Programme: Erasmus+	62
Programme Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs	64
COST - European Cooperation in Science and Technology Programme	66
Programme EUREKA	68
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions - Research Fellowship Programme	70
Programme Creative Europe	72
Programme: Europe for Citizens	74
Programme: LIFE+	76
Programme: Health for Growth Programme	78

LARGE COMPANIES

Operational Programme 'Innovations and Competitiveness'	p. 20	COST - European Cooperation in Science and Technology Programme	p. 66
Operational Programme 'Human Resources Development'	p. 22	Programme EUREKA	p. 68
Programme for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	p. 30	Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions - Research Fellowship Programme	p. 70
National Programme for the Wine Sector	p. 32	Programme Creative Europe	p. 72
The Danube Transnational Programme	p. 45	Programme LIFE+	p. 76
ESPN 2020 Cooperation Programme	p. 47	Programme Health for Growth Programme	p. 78

SME

Operational Programme 'Innovations and Competitiveness'	p. 20	Programme Horizon 2020 - SME Instrument	p. 60
Operational Programme 'Human Resources Development'	p. 22	Programme Erasmus+	p. 62
Programme for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	p. 30	Programme Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs	p. 64
National Programme for the Wine Sector	p. 32	COST - European Cooperation in Science and Technology Programme	p. 66
Cross-border Cooperation Programme Bulgaria - the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	p. 36	Programme EUREKA	p. 68
The Danube Transnational Programme	p. 45	Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions - Research Fellowship Programme	p. 70
ESPN 2020 Cooperation Programme	p. 47	Programme Creative Europe	p. 72
The EU Programme for Research and Innovation 'Horizon 2020'	p. 58	Programme LIFE+	p. 76
		Programme Health for Growth Programme	p. 78

BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS

Operational Programme 'Innovations and Competitiveness'	p. 20	The Danube Transnational Programme	p. 45
Programme for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	p. 30	ESPN 2020 Cooperation Programme	p. 47
National Programme for the Wine Sector	p. 32	Programme INTERREG Europe 2014 - 2020	p. 49
Cross-border Cooperation Programme Bulgaria - the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	p. 36	Programme INTERREG Balkan - Mediterranean 2014 - 2020	p. 52
INTERREG-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Bulgaria - Serbia	p. 38	Black Sea Basin Programme 2014 - 2020	p. 55
Cross-border Cooperation Programme Bulgaria - Turkey	p. 41	The EU Programme for Research and Innovation 'Horizon 2020'	p. 58
Cross-border European Territorial Cooperation Programme Greece - Bulgaria	p. 43	Programme Erasmus+	p. 62
		Programme Europe for Citizens	p. 74
		Programme Health for Growth Programme	p. 78

NGO

Operational Programme 'Environment'	p. 16	ESPN 2020 Cooperation Programme	p. 47
Operational Programme 'Regions in Growth'	p. 18	Programme INTERREG Europe 2014 - 2020	p. 49
Operational Programme 'Human Resources Development'	p. 22	Programme INTERREG Balkan - Mediterranean 2014 - 2020	p. 52
Operational Programme 'Science and Education for Smart Growth'	p. 24	Black Sea Basin Programme 2014 - 2020	p. 55
Operational Programme 'Good Governance'	p. 30	The EU Programme for Research and Innovation 'Horizon 2020'	p. 58
Programme for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	p. 34	Programme Erasmus+	p. 62
Programmes of National Culture Fund (NCF)	p. 36	Programme Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs	p. 64
Cross-border Cooperation Programme Bulgaria - the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	p. 38	COST - European Cooperation in Science and Technology Programme	p. 66
INTERREG-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Bulgaria - Serbia	p. 41	Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions - Research Fellowship Programme	p. 70
Cross-border Cooperation Programme Bulgaria - Turkey	p. 43	Programme Creative Europe	p. 72
Cross-border European Territorial Cooperation Programme Greece - Bulgaria	p. 45	Programme Europe for Citizens	p. 74
The Danube Transnational Programme		Programme LIFE+	p. 76
		Programme Health for Growth Programme	p. 78

FARMERS

Rural Development Programme	p. 28	National Programme for the Wine Sector	p. 32
-----------------------------	-------	--	-------

MUNICIPALITIES

Operational Programme 'Environment'	p. 16	Programme for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	p. 30
Operational Programme 'Regions in Growth'	p. 18	ESPN 2020 Cooperation Programme	p. 47
Operational Programme 'Human Resources Development'	p. 22	Programme INTERREG Balkan - Mediterranean 2014 - 2020	p. 52
Operational Programme 'Science and Education for Smart Growth'	p. 24	Black Sea Basin Programme 2014 - 2020	p. 55
Rural Development Programme	p. 28	Programme Erasmus+	p. 62
		Programme Europe for Citizens	p. 74

PUBLIC BODIES

Operational Programme 'Transport and Transport Infrastructure' 2014 - 2020	p. 15	Cross-border European Territorial Cooperation Programme Greece - Bulgaria	p. 43
Operational Programme 'Environment'	p. 16	The Danube Transnational Programme	p. 45
Operational Programme 'Human Resources Development'	p. 22	ESPN 2020 Cooperation Programme	p. 47
Operational Programme 'Science and Education for Smart Growth'	p. 24	Programme INTERREG Europe 2014 - 2020	p. 49
Operational Programme 'Good Governance'	p. 30	Programme INTERREG Balkan - Mediterranean 2014 - 2020	p. 52
Programme for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	p. 32	Black Sea Basin Programme 2014 - 2020	p. 55
National Programme for the Wine Sector	p. 36	Programme Erasmus+	p. 62
Cross-border Cooperation Programme Bulgaria - the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	p. 38	COST - European Cooperation in Science and Technology Programme	p. 66
INTERREG-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Bulgaria - Serbia	p. 42	Programme Europe for Citizens	p. 74
Cross-border Cooperation Programme Bulgaria - Turkey		Programme LIFE+	p. 76
		Programme Health for Growth Programme	p. 78

CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Operational Programme 'Innovations and Competitiveness'	p. 20	ESPN 2020 Cooperation Programme	p. 47
Operational Programme 'Human Resources Development'	p. 22	Programme INTERREG Europe 2014 - 2020	p. 49
Operational Programme 'Science and Education for Smart Growth'	p. 24	Programme INTERREG Balkan - Mediterranean 2014 - 2020	p. 53
Programmes of National Culture Fund (NCF)	p. 34	Black Sea Basin Programme 2014 - 2020	p. 55
Cross-border Cooperation Programme Bulgaria - the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	p. 36	The EU Programme for Research and Innovation 'Horizon 2020'	p. 58
INTERREG-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Bulgaria - Serbia	p. 38	Programme Erasmus+	p. 62
Cross-border Cooperation Programme Bulgaria - Turkey	p. 41	COST - European Cooperation in Science and Technology Programme	p. 66
Cross-border European Territorial Cooperation Programme Greece - Bulgaria	p. 43	Programme EUREKA	p. 68
The Danube Transnational Programme	p. 45	Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions - Research Fellowship Programme	p. 70
		Programme Creative Europe	p. 72
		Programme Europe for Citizens	p. 74
		Programme Health for Growth Programme	p. 78

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATIONS

Operational Programme 'Innovations and Competitiveness'	p. 20	The EU Programme for Research and Innovation 'Horizon 2020'	p. 58
Operational Programme 'Science and Education for Smart Growth'	p. 24	Programme Erasmus+	p. 62
INTERREG-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Bulgaria - Serbia	p. 38	COST - European Cooperation in Science and Technology Programme	p. 66
Cross-border Cooperation Programme Bulgaria - Turkey	p. 41	Programme EUREKA	p. 68
Cross-border European Territorial Cooperation Programme Greece - Bulgaria	p. 43	Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions - Research Fellowship Programme	p. 70
Programme INTERREG Balkan - Mediterranean 2014 - 2020	p. 52	Programme Europe for Citizens	p. 74
		Programme Health for Growth Programme	p. 78

CLUSTERS

Operational Programme 'Innovations and Competitiveness'	p. 20	Programme INTERREG Europe 2014 - 2020	p. 49
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Main expenditure items for allocation of funding in the EU Funds Strategy until 2020.





THE EUROPEAN FUNDS EXPERTS AT UNICREDIT BULBANK ADVISE:

WHAT IS A EUROPEAN GRANT?

European programmes are financial instruments implemented by the European Commission. They provide funding for projects that contribute to the EU public policy objectives via European subsidies-grants. Grants are determined amount of money, which is allocated to business, following a specific application process. There is no due interest and it is not necessary that these funds are returned - at least until the conditions of the grant are being fulfilled.

Do you consider EU subsidies as a source for funding your activities?

WHO CAN BENEFIT FROM EU FUNDING?

Companies including SMEs; non-governmental organisations (NGOs); young people; researchers; farmers; public bodies and other categories can benefit from realisation of EU funded projects.

Do you consider your organisation eligible under one of these categories?

WHY I SHOULD APPLY FOR EU FINANCING FOR MY ACTIVITIES?

The EU provides grants aimed at specific policy objectives like innovation, environment, research or education. Every year the EU supports more than 200 000 businesses.

Would you like to be the next funded organisation?

WHEN I SHOULD START REALISATION OF MY BUSINESS IDEA?

The concept alone will not get funding therefore to prove that your idea can actually be implemented, you should develop and submit a project application under the open calls for proposals.

Do you know what the expected EU programmes are in 2014 - 2020?

HOW TO SELECT THE RIGHT FUNDING PROGRAMME FOR MY PROJECT?

Each project must be part of the strategy of an organisation. This brochure will walk you to the information needed to find the most suitable EU programme to realise your EU project. That's why we recommend you to evaluate afterwards which ones are the most appropriate to your desired outcomes.

Do you want to be informed and to find the right EU programme to ensure financing for your activities?

HOW TO APPLY?

There are regular calls for proposals which are indicated within the brochure, to help you specify the activities, to learn more about the application criteria and the budgetary allocations relevant to the respective call. Applying for EU funds is no more that bureaucratic, thanks to the available online tools for project submission.

Do you know how easy-to-apply is the EU project submission?

How I can find partners for my EU project?

The EU funded projects are collaborative projects, which allow you to involve more than one participant or organisation from different EU Member States or Associated Countries. In most national programmes is not allowed Partnership and the applicant is a direct beneficiary of the grant.

Do you know that there are various free of charge partner search services such as online platforms with databases of partner profiles?

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ASSURING CO-FINANCING?

Some EU measures require project budget to include co-financing on behalf of the applicant in order to show financial sustainability and eligibility to receive contributions from EU institutions. Most of EU funded national schemes ensure the grant after project completion and verification of costs. Therefore the beneficiary can receive financing for the project completion throughout a wide range of bank products: investment loans, bridge loans, bank guarantees, working capital, microfinance, etc.

Why don't you check UniCredit Bulbank financial opportunities and instruments?

WHERE I CAN FIND CONSULTANCY SUPPORT?

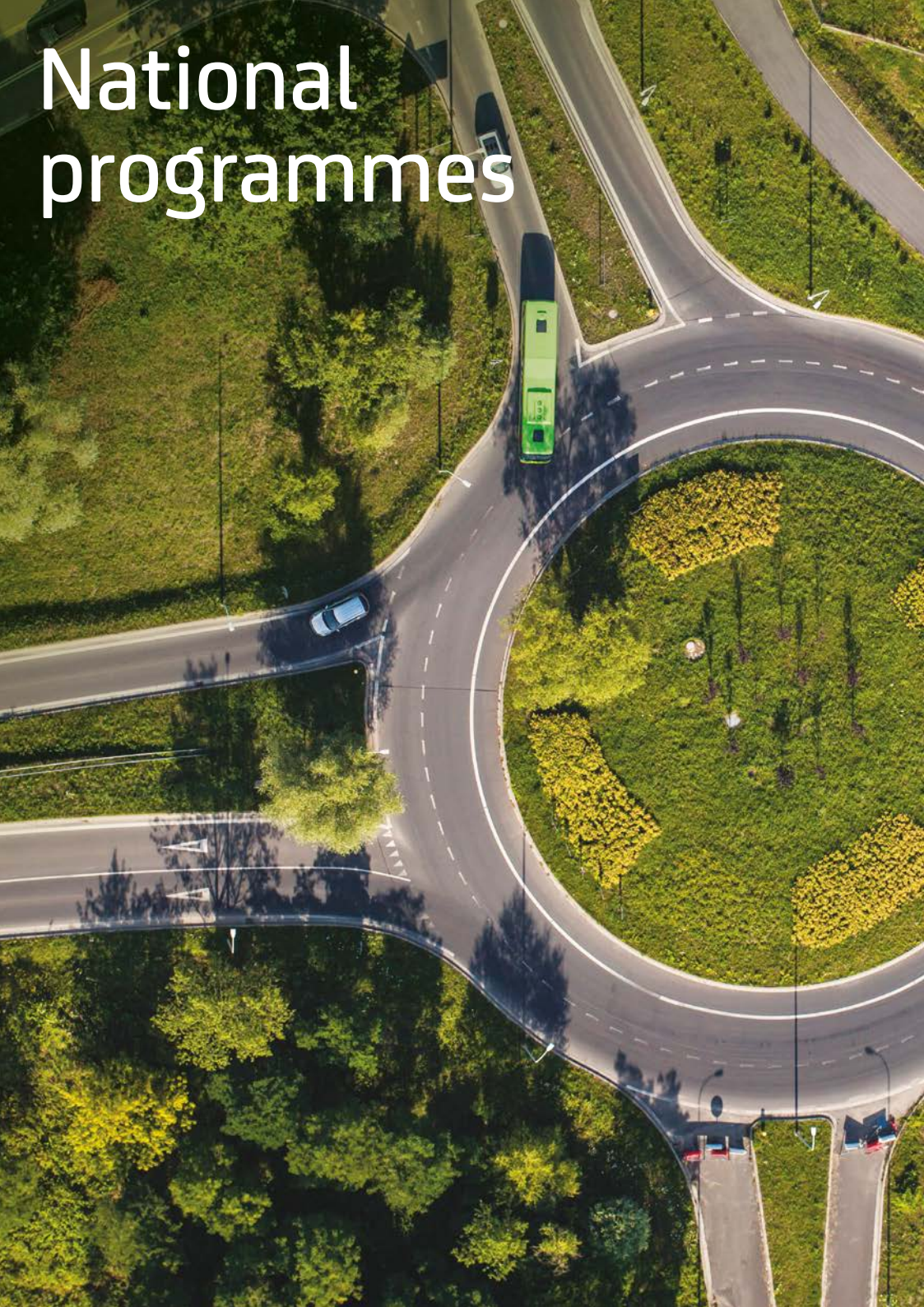
To receive information about all active calls for projects in a synthetic and easy-to-understand format you can contact UniCredit Bulbank EU Funds Experts, who can help you identify EU Funds opportunities, to offer you financial support for your business growth and sustainability.

Do you know that with the right financial and consulting partners, additional bureaucracy is reduced to minimum?

WHAT IS THE KEY TO ACCESS EUROPEAN GRANTS?

UniCredit Bulbank brochure is a pocket-size dictionary where you can find useful information on vast number of EU programmes and for more details you can directly contact European Funds Team Experts mail to: ecc@UniCreditGroup.bg

National programmes





Did you know?



Operational Programme 'Transport and Transport Infrastructure' (OPTTI) is the operational programme with the largest budget in Bulgaria. It is focused on financing projects for:

- modernization/reconstruction of railway lines;
- construction of highways;
- improvement of the the conditions for navigation on the Danube;
- improvement of the safety of transport (railway, water and air);
- activities to improve traffic management through the development of management information systems of road traffic and rail traffic and information systems in ship navigation.
- activities to improve the quality of aeronautical data and information and improving environmental management in civil aviation;
- modernization and construction of reception facilities and waste treatment in Bulgarian ports.

The expansion of the subway in the city of Sofia and the increase in the use of intermodal transport is thanks to the financing of the programme.

Specific in OPTTI is the preliminary determination of the direct beneficiaries of the projects and the advanced prioritization of an indicative list of infrastructure projects to be funded by the programme. The respective beneficiaries initiate and implement individual projects and receive public funds.

Direct business opportunities provide the necessary investment for the development of airports and ports, which are planned through public-private partnership (concessions). This OPTTI is expected to provide connectivity of airports and ports with the interior of the country through.

Opportunities of the Connecting Europe Facility instrument will be used for financing projects with a strong cross-border effect, as is the project for improvement of the conditions for navigation in the common Bulgarian-Romanian section of the Danube, the realization of which requires joint action by Bulgarian and Romanian side.

Funds from the Connecting Europe Facility might be the modernization of many railway lines up to the territorial borders of Bulgaria, linking us with Europe, which will also have cross-border effect.

In the current terms of lower growth, the construction of new infrastructure will stimulate the Bulgarian economy. In the long term, good transport connectivity will create new business opportunities and reduce the cost of transporting goods, which will have positive impact on the economic performance of the business.

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME 'TRANSPORT AND TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE' 2014 - 2020



Active period: 2014 - 2020



Budget: EUR 1 900 000 000



Managing authority: Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications



% of funding: 85% of the eligible project costs



Objectives of the programme: development of a sustainable transport system through the integrated development of the transport network of the country as part of the Trans-European Transport Network and increasing the efficiency of transport utilization and transport infrastructure.



Applicant eligibility: predetermined final beneficiaries: 'National Company Railway Infrastructure'; 'Strategic Infrastructure Projects'; 'Agency Road Infrastructure'; 'Metropolitan' EAD; Executive Agency 'Exploration and Maintenance of the Danube'; Executive agency 'Port Infrastructure'; Executive Agency 'Maritime Administration'; Directorate General 'Civil Aviation Administration' and State enterprise 'Air Traffic Control'.



Eligible expenses: predetermined size of projects and budgets for their implementation:

- TEN-T-Railway infrastructure (MEUR 673) - construction of the railway section Plovdiv - Burgas; the railway Sofia - September;
- TEN-T-Road infrastructure (highways) (MEUR 673) - construction of highway 'Struma' LOT 3 - Blagoevgrad - Sandanski;
- intermodal transport and sustainable urban transport (MEUR 425) - third metro diameter of the Sofia Metro & intermodal freight terminal in Ruse;
- systems and services for the management of transport (MEUR 68) - information systems for car traffic management and systems rail traffic.



Budget framework: predetermined for each of the projects



How to apply: the predetermined eligible applicants apply by submitting an application through the electronic system ISUN 2020



For more information: www.optransport.bg and www.eufunds.bg

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME 'ENVIRONMENT'



Active period: 2014 - 2020



Budget: EUR 1 770 381 345



Managing authority: Ministry of Environment and Water (MEW)



% of funding: between 50% and 100% of the eligible project costs



Objectives of the programme: Operational Programme 'Environment' 2014 - 2020 is primarily aimed at implementing the priority of sustainable growth strategy 'Europe 2020' and in particular:

- building a competitive low carbon economy in which resources are used in an efficient and sustainable way;
- protecting the environment, reducing emissions and preventing biodiversity loss;
- taking advantage of Europe's leading position in developing new environmental technologies and production methods.



Applicant eligibility:

- water: municipalities; water operators; Associations in water; Environmental Protection Fund; structures of the Ministry;
- waste: municipalities; legal entities (for activities which are subject to financial instruments); EMEPA;
- Natura 2000: structures of MEW, Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAF) and others responsible for the Natura 2000 network; NGOs, municipalities, EMEPA, scientific organisations, regional information centers (for national information and communication strategy for Natura 2000);
- policies on Environment and Climate Change: Institutions/bodies responsible for the formation, implementation and enforcement of these policies; legal entities.



Eligible expenses:

- urban waste water, improvement of water quality for drinking and management of flood risks;
- use of innovative technologies aimed at better environmental protection and resource efficiency in the sector 'Water';
- construction of water supply infrastructure in agglomerations with over 2000 inhabitants;
- expansion of the systems for collection of household waste;
- establishment of training centers for reuse;
- construction of facilities for pre-treatment (sorting, separation) of waste;

- construction of anaerobic and/or composting installations for biodegradable waste and green waste;
- construction of facilities for pre-treatment (sorting, separation) of hazardous waste from household waste flow and build other installations for the recovery and/or disposal of waste;
- mapping and assessing the status of species and habitats in protected areas in the Black Sea;
- measures related to the improvement of the monitoring system of biodiversity;
- information and communication measures for better recognition of the network;
- optimization of the legislation and increasing the capacity of the institutions responsible for policies on the environment and climate change, and promoting sustainable development, including in urban environment (demonstration or pilot projects).



Budget framework: predetermined amount according to the type of programme.



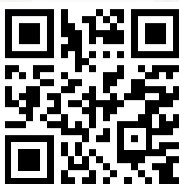
How to apply: by submitting an application through the electronic system ISUN 2020 and submission of relevant required documents on paper.



For more information:

www.moew.government.bg

www.ope.moew.government.bg



Did you know?:



The expected procedures will focus on the construction of the sewage infrastructure which is one of the investment opportunities in the construction industry in the new programming period. Investments in sector 'Waste' for construction of facilities for composting and pre-treatment and anaerobic plants for separately collected biodegradable waste are also foreseen. Other features of the programme are financing the activities for prevention and management of flood risks, counteracting landslides and reducing the risk from them. These large-scale resource and projects require better mobilization of all stakeholders and a strong partnership.

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME 'REGIONS IN GROWTH'



Active period: 2014 - 2020



Budget: EUR 1 589 272 238



Managing authority: Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works



% of funding: between 50% and 100% of the eligible project costs



Objectives of the programme: creating conditions and opportunities for growth and jobs in the regions through measures for urban development, regional tourism and new financial instruments. The Operational Programme supports polycentric development of Bulgarian territory.



Applicant eligibility:

- 39 large and medium cities in Bulgaria (Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna, Burgas, Ruse, Stara Zagora, Pleven, Veliko Tarnovo, Blagoevgrad, Vidin, Montana, Vratsa, Lovech, Gabrovo, Targovishte, Razgrad, Shumen, Silistra, Dobrich, Sliven, Yambol, Haskovo, Kardzhali, Smolyan, Pazardzhik, Pernik, Kyustendil, Svishtov, Gorna Oryahovitsa, Kazanlak, Dimitrovgrad, Asenovgrad, Karlovo, Dupnitsa, Petrich, Lom, Gotse Delchev, Panagyurishte, Velingrad);
- 28 small towns only for energy efficiency measures in residential and public buildings (Sandanski, Svilengrad, Samokov, Botevgrad, Troyan, Sevlievo, Karnobat, Nova Zagora, Popovo, Peshtera, Pomorie, Razlog, Devin, Novi Pazar, Mezdra, Provadia, Cherven briag, Kozloduy, Berkovitsa, Tutrakan, Elhovo, Belogradchik, Zlatograd, Nikopol, General Toshevo, Krumovgrad, Ivaylovgrad, Malko Tarnovo).



Eligible expenses: implementation of activities from the approved Integrated plans for urban renovation and urban development:

- implementation of energy efficiency measures in residential and administrative buildings of state and municipal administration, as well as renovation of common parts, incl. activities for constructive strengthening;
- urban renewal through investments in public recreation areas;
- construction of technical infrastructure in industrial areas of cities;
- improvement of sports infrastructure;
- development of cultural infrastructure in cities by investing in theaters, community centers, libraries, museums and more;
- investments in educational infrastructure such as nurseries, kindergartens, primary and secondary schools;
- development of social infrastructure by providing modern social housing for vulnera-

- ble, minority and socially disadvantaged groups and disadvantaged people;
- development of sustainable urban transport.



Budget framework: a predetermined amount according to the type of procedure and the specific municipality.



How to apply: by submitting an application through the electronic system ISUN 2020 and submission of relevant required documents on paper.



For more information:

www.mrrb.government.bg

www.bgregion.eu



Did you know?:



The opportunities available under the OP 'Regions in Growth' will allow the energy efficiency of public infrastructure and housing in small towns, by means of 'Energy efficiency in outlying areas.' The programme encourages the modernization of the system of emergency medical care in Bulgaria.

It is expected with the support of the programme to continue the process of deinstitutionalization of social services for children, adults and people with disabilities.

Moreover, it is expected the development of tourism attractions by financing projects aimed at the preservation, protection and promotion of cultural heritage of national and global importance in Bulgaria.

It is recommended that municipalities beneficiaries under Priority axis 1 of OP 'Regions in Growth' 2014 - 2020 to register at e-mail address: REGIO-UDN@ec.europa.eu in order to receive updated information about upcoming events organized by the Network for Urban development. The mission of the network is to monitor how EU funding is realised in the cities of Europe, to support direct dialogue between the European Commission and the participating cities as well as the exchange of information and cooperation between participants.

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME INNOVATIONS AND COMPETITIVENESS



Active period: 2014 - 2020



Budget of programme: EUR 1 270 135 903



Managing Authorities: Ministry of Economy



% of funding: between 25% and 90% of the total eligible project costs, depending on the category of the enterprise (SMEs or large), the place of project realisation and the regime under which the grant is approved.



Objectives of the programme: The OPIC programme is addressing the key challenges related to the need for growth and sustainable development of the Bulgarian economy.



Applicant eligibility:

- Priority 'Technological development and innovation' - companies developing/implementing innovations, or their associations, including partnerships with research and development organisations; start-ups; technology centers; clusters;
- Priority 'Capacity for growth of SMEs' - existing SMEs; clusters; supportive organisations, institutions, agencies for support of business and improvement of the business environment; Start-ups and active enterprises in areas of the defined National Strategy for Promotion of Small and Medium Enterprises sectors; enterprises in the cultural and creative industries; companies developing new products and services, etc.;
- Priority 'Energy and resource efficiency' for existing companies (excl. companies operating in Trade and Services sectors); SMEs in manufacturing; SME organisations; clusters; industrial areas; Sustainable Energy Development Agency (SEDA);
- Ministry of Energy.



Eligible expenses:

- general productive investments for production improvement and capacity growth through effective and efficient use of production factors and creating opportunities for adaptation of European and international knowledge and technology;
- support for clusters and business networks for SMEs;
- support for specialized services for SMEs to develop and strengthen the management capacity (incl. services management, marketing and design, ERP & CRM systems);
- development and promotion of cultural and creative assets and services and SMEs;
- information and communication technologies, services and applications for SMEs (incl. e-commerce, e-business and business processes in the network)
- living labs, Internet entrepreneurs and new ventures in information and communication technologies sectors;

- support for increasing energy efficiency in enterprises;
- support for pilot and demonstration initiatives to raise the resource efficiency in enterprises and/or groups of companies;
- joint projects between companies and businesses, including clustering, and participation in innovative pro-EU networks and platforms;
- projects for creation/development of innovative capacity and sharing resources for development and implementation of innovative processes and products;
- development of technology transfer offices and technology centers;
- investment support, consulting and supportive services for the development and
- introduction of innovation in enterprises;
- establishment, development and accreditation of thematically focused laboratories
- needed to meet business needs.

OR

- Priority 'Innovation' - the development and implementation of innovation by enterprises:
 - > wages of the project team;
 - > acquisition and software;
 - > consulting services.
- Priority 'Increasing the capacity of SMEs' - only for SMEs in certain sectors:
 - > purchase of fixed assets and software;
 - > implementation of internationally recognized standards;
 - > implementation of administrative systems (ERP, CRM and other applications).
- Priority 'Energy efficiency':
 - > finance measures contributing for improvement of energy efficiency of enterprises;
 - > purchase of fixed assets and software;
 - > construction activities;
 - > implementation of energy management systems.



Budget framework: predetermined amount according to the type of programme.



How to apply: by submitting an application through ISUN 2020.



For more information: www.opic.bg

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT



Active period: 2014 - 2020



Budget: EUR 1 092 248 077



Managing authority: Ministry of labour and social policy



% of funding: up to 100% for SMEs and up to 80% for large companies of the total eligible project costs



Objectives of the programme: to provide more and better job positions; to support active social inclusion for all disadvantaged and streamlining and optimization of the processes in order to reduce administrative burden.



Applicant eligibility:

- public bodies and state institutions - Ministry of Labour and Social Policy; National Employment Agency; Agency for people with Disabilities; Center for Development of Human Resources and Regional Initiatives; State enterprise 'Bulgarian - German Vocational Training Center'; Ministry of Justice; State enterprise 'Prison fund';
- private institutions - employers; organisations providing mediation services on the labor market; education and training organisations and institutions; centers for information and carrier development;
- municipalities and regions;
- social partners and NGOs.



Eligible expenses:

- provision of intermediary services to the labor market, activation of inactive persons, organizing and participating in job fairs and other supporting employment services;
- carrier development and counseling;
- providing training to enhance the professional qualifications or acquiring new;
- provide training for acquisition of key competences - computer skills and foreign languages;
- assuring employment after providing intermediary services and/or training;
- learning by doing and apprenticeships;
- providing incentives to employers for hiring unemployed people from disadvantaged groups in the labor market - subsidiary employment;
- providing incentives to employers for hiring unemployed youths - subsidiary employment;
- promoting and encouraging the development and establishment of business activities and entrepreneurship;

- providing training for acquisition of entrepreneurial, managerial and business skills;
- supporting the development of business ideas and target funding programmes for start-up entrepreneurs;
- providing organized transport to and from work for up to 12 months;
- purchasing personal protective equipment and special clothing;
- acquisition of standards for safe working conditions;
- construction activities for the improvement of the working conditions.



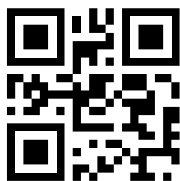
Budget framework: for non-governmental organisations up to EUR 200 000 under the de minimis regime (under this regime a legal entity could receive not more than EUR 200 000 for three years period).



How to apply: by submitting an application through the ISUN 2020.



For more information: www.esf.bg



Did you know?:



Envisaged are changes in the Law on Employment Promotion, which will focus on the joint cooperation and research between local authorities, Trade unions and employers on the need for labor, where on every six months will be realized a detailed forecast on the need for personnel for each region, industry and sector. The results will be used in the development of training programmes for unemployed and employed, which will increase the effectiveness of investments in workforce development.

The best way to modernize vocational training is for business to participate in the development of the training programmes, in order to prepare professionals with the required knowledge and skills.

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME 'SCIENCE AND EDUCATION FOR SMART GROWTH'



Active period: 2014 - 2020



Budget: EUR 701 177 274



Managing authority: Ministry of Education and Science



% of funding: up to 100% of the eligible project costs



Objectives of the programme: in relation to the strategy Europe 2020 are:

- increase the investment in science and research to 1.5% of GDP;
- reduce the percentage of early school leavers to under 11%;
- increase the percentage of graduates to 36% of the people between 30 and 34 years old.



Applicant eligibility:

- potential beneficiaries of the envisaged for implementation schemes are all structures of public administration (central, regional and municipal level), the judiciary system and civil society structures.



Eligible expenses:

- Priority axis 1 - 'Research and technical development' will fund activities aimed at improving the quality of research and development of innovation. The national objective is to achieve sustainable growth of Bulgaria, through targeted investments in priority areas for the country's scientific, skilled researchers, inventors and attractive scientific environment.
 - > competence centers;
 - > centres of excellence;
 - > research infrastructure;
 - > development of regional smart specialization;
 - > international cooperation.
- Priority axis 2 - 'Education and lifelong learning' is aimed at improving access to higher education and increasing the share of graduates between 30-34 years old up to 36%. Provided are incentives to motivate young people to complete higher education (scholarships, student loans), particular attention will be given to students with special achievements in science, engineering and technical activities, innovation and entrepreneurship, arts, culture and sport (on competitive basis):
 - > quality of school education;
 - > access to higher quality education;

- > lifelong learning;
- > vocational education and connection with the labor market;
- > information and communication technologies;
- > supportive horizontal activities.

- Priority axis 3 - 'Learning environment for active social inclusion' will aim to build an educational environment that promotes the potential of each child and student personal development as well as the successful realization and socialization. It will finance the effective integration in education of children, students and young people from ethnic minorities and other vulnerable groups by creating a supportive environment for the education of children with special educational needs:
 - > active engagement;
 - > social and economic integration.



Budget framework: predetermined amount according to the type of programme.



How to apply: by submitting an application through the electronic system ISUN 2020 and submission of relevant required documents on paper.



For more information: sf.mon.bg



Did you know?:



Through the programme 'Science and Education for Smart Growth', Bulgaria for the first time has access to resources from the Structural and Investment Funds for research and technological modernization of research infrastructure, supporting the connection between higher education and school education with the labor market, educational integration and lifelong learning in a single operational programme. Part of the project documentation for the application under the programme 'Science and Education for Smart Growth', is prepared in English.

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME 'GOOD GOVERNANCE'



Active period: 2014 - 2020



Budget: EUR 335 919 605



Managing authority: Directorate 'Operational Programme Good Governance' at the Council of Ministers.



% of funding: up to 100% of the eligible project costs



Objectives of the programme: achieving high-quality public services for citizens and businesses, as well as increasing the transparency and effective operation of the judiciary system in Bulgaria.



Applicant eligibility:

- all structures of public administration (central, regional and municipal level), the judiciary and civil society structures.



Eligible expenses:

- optimization and reengineering of the working processes for the provision of administrative services through various channels;
- standardization and unification of administrative services at the municipal level and the creation of a reference model for key municipal services;
- introduction of complex administrative services;
- implementation of administrative services electronically to transaction level;
- views, optimization and computerization of regulatory regimes;
- strengthen the activity of the control, regulatory and revenue authorities;
- creation of single points of data storage and provision of services;
- establishment of IT data centers and disaster recovery;
- digitalization of the information and archives in the administration;
- construction of single systems integrator (SSI);
- development of information systems;
- completion (design, development and improvement) and connection of key records in the administration;
- development of central systems and infrastructure of the e-government and provision of interoperability;
- introduction of e-procurement, including hardware and software upgrading of the Public Procurement Portal and the Public Procurement Register;
- upgrading the e-customs;
- establishment of a national information system for e-health;

- improving access to administrative services for people from vulnerable groups by setting up mobile groups of employees;
- establishment of an online system and call center to indicate support for the use of e-services.



Budget framework: predetermined amount according to the type of programme.



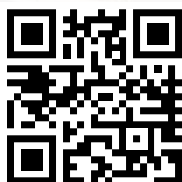
How to apply: by submitting an application through the electronic system ISUN 2020.



For more information:

www.eufunds.bg

www.opac.government.bg



Did you know?:



The new programme 'Good Governance' is the successor to the previously active 'Administrative Capacity' and 'Technical Assistance'. The active programme period 2014 - 2020 will be focused on increasing citizen participation in the processes of formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies and legislation by providing transparent and accountable government partnership with citizens and businesses. There will be recommendations for improving processes for providing services, better regulatory environment, fight against corruption, and the prevention of conflicts of interest and abuse of office, as well as the respect of ethical standards by the civil servants.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



Programme period: 2014 - 2020



Budget: EUR 2 900 000 000



Managing authority: State Fund Agriculture at Ministry of Agriculture and Food



% of funding: depending on the measure, the funding is a percentage of the total budget or a predefined amount



Objectives of the programme: to improve the overall activity, economic efficiency and competitiveness of agricultural producers, enterprises in the food processing industry and municipalities in the rural areas.



Applicant eligibility:

- farmers;
- agricultural producers;
- markets of producers;
- established groups and organisations of producers of agricultural products;
- municipalities in rural areas in accordance with National plan for agricultural development in rural areas.



Eligible expenses:

- purchase of land necessary for building/modernisation of buildings etc.;
- building or renovation of buildings and other real estate;
- purchase and/or installation of new machinery, facilities and equipment;
- renovation of existing or building of new drain facilities;
- planting of perennial plants, incl. sweet vine;
- purchase of specialized agricultural vehicles;
- investments to achieve compliance with newly-established standards of the community;
- achieve compliance with international standards;
- purchase of software, know-how, patent rights and licenses;
- expenses related to preparation of the project;
- establishment of collective farms of new farmers;
- establishment of groups and organisations (cooperatives);
- adoption of innovations in the farms - in cooperation of business and scientific organisations and institutions;
- introducing variety of non-agricultural activities.



Budget framework: preliminary defined funding depending on the type of programme.



How to apply: all documents should be submitted in hard copy in the regional offices of State Fund Agriculture.



For more information:

www.dfz.bg

www.dfz.bg



Did you know?:



As part of the active programme period 2014 - 2020, under Rural Development Programme are featured many procedures for the promotion of individual consultancy services in the form of consultancy packages for farmers.

Funding is provided for tangible and intangible investments that lead to improved economic stability and performance of farms and activities for creation and development of young farmers. The most anticipated measures 'Investments in processing/marketing of agricultural products', 'Investments in support of non-agricultural activities', 'Support for the establishment of groups and producer organisations in the field of agriculture', 'Activities to maintain the practices and methods of organic farming' are also subject to financing during the period. Projects providing investments for the creation, improvement or expansion of all types of small-scale and broadband infrastructure is also expected to receive priority funding. 2017 will be the last year to finance measures for the promotion of animal welfare, food safety and environmental protection.

PROGRAMME FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES



Programme period: 2014 - 2020



Budget: EUR 113 543 226



Managing authority: Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture (EAFSA)



% of funding: from 50% to 100% depending on the procedure



Objectives of the programme: to support vitality, competitiveness and ecological sustainability in the sectors of maritime affairs and fisheries and to encourage social collaboration and occupation in communities dependent on fisheries.



Applicant eligibility:

- persons registered according to the Commercial Law or Cooperatives Act with activities in the fisheries sector;
- fishermen;
- trawler owners, assigned in the Register for trawlers of EAFSA;
- established fishing organisations;
- public law bodies; scientific/technical bodies; Legal entities in compliance with the law for non-profit organisations;
- producers' organisations;
- fisheries local action groups.



Eligible expenses:

- improvement of competitiveness and vitality of enterprises operating in the sector of fisheries, incl. small-scale fishing fleet, as well as improvement of safety and labor conditions;
- decrease of impact of fishery on marine environment, incl. avoiding and decreasing as much as possible undesired catch;
- protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and water ecosystems related to aquaculture and promotion of aquaculture with efficient use of resources;
- support of the increase of technological development, innovations and know-how transfer;
- protection and recovery of marine biological variety and improvement of ecosystems related to aquaculture, as well as encouraging aquaculture with efficient use of resources;
- improvement and sharing scientific knowledge, as well as improvement of data collection and data management;
- economic growth stimulation, social incorporation, opening of new job positions;

- improvement of market organisation for products of fisheries and aquaculture;
- enhancement of investments in the sectors for processing and offering on the market.



Budget framework: preliminary defined funding depending on the type of programme.



How to apply: all documents should be submitted as project proposal in ISUN 2020 system.



For more information: oprsr.government.bg



Did you know?:



Frequent consumption of fish forms certain requirements and criteria for consumption. Therefore, those Bulgarians, who value healthy eating, prefer to eat mostly fresh fish from a reliable source. Most Bulgarians consume fish that is cooked at home. Fortunately, every tenth of the people consuming fish at home makes this a few times a week. One third pays special attention to the need to expand the range of fish products such as caviar, pate of fish, canned fish. A total of 44% of fish consumers in Bulgaria want the market to offer more live fish. People who buy imported fish would like it to be cheaper, and people who prefer Bulgarian fish want more choice of fresh fish.

NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE WINE SECTOR



Programme period: 2014 - 2018



Budget: EUR 134 000 000



Managing authority: Executive agency on vine and wine (EAVW)
Department 'Wine' at the State Fund 'Agriculture'



% of funding:

- the maximum funding under 'Restructuring and conversion vineyards' is up to 75% of the actual costs of implementing each particular activity on a certain price;
- the maximum funding under 'Promotion on third-country markets' is up to 80% of the total eligible project costs; which are not subject to national co-financing projects and aimed at promoting trade commercial brands; in these cases the applicants should provide cofinancing of the project with no less than 50% of the actual costs;
- the maximum funding under measure 'Green harvesting' is up to 50% of the amount of direct costs for removal of grape bunches and the loss of revenue resulting from the implementation of the measure. The direct costs for grape bunches removal are calculated on a basis of price caps formed per hectare, depending on the number of vines, but not less than 2,500 hectares in vines available at acceptable downgrade up to 5%.



Objectives of the programme: National programme for the Wine Sector for the period 2014 - 2018 is aiming to provide financial funding under the following measures:

1. 'Restructuring and conversion vineyards' is a submeasure to support conversion of varietal composition of the plantation with varieties classified, according to the relevant wine-growing regions of the country; restructuring of vineyards; better applied techniques for vineyards management;

2. 'Promotion on third-country markets' - the measure aims to enhance the recognition of the wines with Bulgarian origin on a third countries markets, by introducing a system of measures for promotion in order to increase the demand of quality wines; this submeasure is applicable to wines with a protected designation of origin (PDO), protected geographical indication (PGI) or varietal wines without PDO/PGI;

3. 'Green harvesting' - under the submeasure could be financed green harvesting through full removal of green, still unripe bunches for down to zero yield of a wine estate.



Applicant Eligibility:

- under measures 1 'Restructuring and conversion vineyards' and 3 'Green harvesting'



measures grapes and wine producers entered in the vineyard register under Art. 27 of the Wine and Spirits Law are eligible for funding;

- under measure 'Promotion on third-country markets', the eligible applicants are commercial companies, professional organisations, producer organisations and interprofessional organisations under the Law on wine and spirits, public authorities and institutions with activities related to business promotion; for financial funding could apply holders of trademarks registered under the national legislation, implementing projects aimed at promoting the brand.



Eligible expenses:

- 'Restructuring and conversion vineyards' - eligible activities are replanting with/without relocation of vineyards or by grafting; planting rights from the national reserve; enhance the techniques of vineyards management;
- 'Promotion on third-country markets' - the implementation period of the promotional projects may not exceed three years from the date of grant contract signing; eligible expenses are for activities and expenditures for promotion or advertising, promotional materials, information campaigns, organizing visits, design and administration of websites, tastings, participation in events, fairs and exhibitions of international importance, exploring new markets, etc.;
- 'Green harvesting' measure will not finance the non-harvest grapes, grown in order to obtain a marketable product left on the vine plantation at the end of the grape harvest for each wine year.



Budget framework: predefined depending on the type of measure

Restructuring and conversion vineyards - EUR 90 000 000

Promotion on third-country markets - EUR 8 000 000

Green Harvest - EUR 3 000 000



How to apply:

Restructuring and conversion vineyards application with all supportive documents should be presented at State Fund Agriculture.

Promotion on third-country markets application form should be submitted at Executive agency on vine and wine.

For Green harvesting measure all candidates should apply at the Agency's regional divisions where the vineyard is registered.



For more information: www.dzf.bg & www.eavw.com

PROGRAMMES OF NATIONAL CULTURE FUND (NCF)



Active period: 2015 - 2020



Budget: BGN 500 000



Managing authority: Managing Board chaired by the Minister of Culture of Republic of Bulgaria



% of funding: up to 80% of the project costs.



Objectives of the programme: support the development of culture by raising, managing and spending funds for the purpose of pursuing the national policy in the field of culture as set forth in the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria for the respective period and in the Culture Protection and Development Act. The priorities in NCF activity are also in compliance with the criteria set forth in Chapter 'Culture and audio-visual policy' of the EU Accession Treaty of Bulgaria.

- **Cultural contacts programme 'Mobility'** - finances the participation in international, national and local cultural forums of representatives of Bulgarian culture and art and visits of foreign managers and programmers in the field of culture and arts. Promote European cultural events and processes; Decentralization of cultural life in the country; Individual international travel;
- **'Debuts' programme** - aims to support the professional realisation of the young generation Bulgarian artists (performers, directors, choreographers, musicians, writers, artists, photographers and more.), who make their first professional experience, as well as to support organisations and events that create opportunities for expression of debutants;
- **'Audience' programme** - research, development and attracting new audiences;
- **Programme 'Intangible cultural heritage'** - promoting the community, group or individual participation in the process of creating, storing, transmitting of the intangible cultural heritage and inclusion of youth and the general public to the values of the intangible cultural heritage as an object of ensuring public visibility, impact and creative knowledge.



Applicant eligibility:

All cultural organisations including non-profit organisations and individual cultural activists.



Eligible expenses:

The funds are granted for creative projects aimed at developing the cultural sector. The funding is performed after the official announcement of competitions under an initially

prepared and approved by the Managing Board programme.

- **Under programme 'Mobility'** can be financed only travel expenses from the place of residence of the applicant to the place of the performance/s.
- **Under programme 'Debuts'** can be financed the production, organizational/administrative expenses, fees and copyrights and other.
- **Under programme 'Audiences'** can be financed fees for the team - up to 20% of the total project cost; fees for experts/artists/tutors/; rental of premises/equipment for events; marketing and advertising - up to 10% of the project cost.



How to apply: applicants submit the respective documents, which are different for each competition. The competition is opened by placing an advertisement in the central press and on the internet site of National Culture Fund - www.ncf.bg and the Ministry of Culture - www.mc.government.bg

The application documents are accepted at the Ministry of Culture - 17, 'Al. Stamboliiski' Blvd. Sofia.



For more information: ncf.bg/en/



Programmes for territorial cooperation



CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME BULGARIA - THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA



Active period: 2014 - 2020



Budget of programme: EUR 19 461 690



Managing authority: Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works of the Republic of Bulgaria



% of funding: 100% of project eligible costs
(The EU will finance 85% of the eligible expenditures and the state budgets of the two participating countries shall provide 15% co-financing.)



Objectives of the programme: to mitigate the effects of climate change and to address the issues related to the conservation of nature and biodiversity, the sustainable use of natural resources, environmental protection and risk management at cross-border level as well as to help enhance the competitiveness of SMEs and facilitate their access to new markets.

- Priority axis 1 - Environment: protecting the environment, promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management;
- Priority axis 2 - Sustainable tourism: encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage;
- Priority axis 3 - Competitiveness: enhancing competitiveness, business environment and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, trade and investment.



Applicant eligibility:

Geographical eligibility:

- in Bulgaria: districts of Blagoevgrad and Kyustendil;
- in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: North East, South East, and Eastern regions.



Type of organisations:

- local and regional authorities and organisations established and managed by local and regional authorities;
- national authorities and organisations established and managed by national authorities;
- regional and sector development agencies;
- administrations of protected areas;
- regional touristic associations/NGOs in the field of tourism;
- business support structures - chamber of commerce, business association, business cluster;
- education and social institutions;

- research and academic institutes;
- cultural institutes (museum, library, art gallery, community centres, etc.);
- civil society/non-governmental organisations.



Eligible actions: (if needed more can be found [here](#) (p. 11 - 15))

- Priority axis 1 - Environment:
 - > actions for environmental protection and sustainable use of the common natural resources of the CBC area;
 - > risk prevention and mitigation the consequences of natural and manmade hazards and disasters in the CBC region.
- Priority axis 2 - Tourism:
 - > enhancing the tourism potential of the region through better preservation and sustainable utilization of natural and cultural heritage;
 - > raising the competitiveness of the CBC region's tourist offer;
 - > promoting cooperation among regional actors in the area of sustainable tourism.
- Priority axis 3 - Competitiveness:
 - > improving the competitiveness of regional businesses. Two types of actions will be distinguished: investments projects that have a predominant investment character and only a minor part of accompanying soft activities;
 - > soft measures - projects that are mainly oriented at preparing studies, establishing networks, providing trainings, developing concepts, providing services for certain target groups, raising awareness on specific themes, etc. These projects may only have a minor investment part that is needed for delivering the soft measures in an effective way. Soft measures also include people-to-people type of actions, e.g. small scale initiatives among civil society institutions that aim at increasing direct contacts and cooperation across the border among the people and their associations in the region.



Budget framework:

- investment projects: EUR 100 000 - 400 000; 12 - 24 months;
- soft projects: EUR 50 000 - 120 000; 8 - 15 months.



How to apply: the Application form, its annexes and supporting documents must be received in a sealed package by registered mail, private courier service or by hand-delivery at the Joint Secretariat main office at the following address:

Joint Secretariat; 7 Marin Drinov Str., 2500 Kyustendil, Bulgaria



For more information: www.ipa-cbc-007.eu/index.php



INTERREG-IPA CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME BULGARIA - SERBIA



Active period: 2014 - 2020



Budget: EUR 34 102 251



Managing authority: Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works of the Republic of Bulgaria



% of funding: 100% of the eligible project costs



Objectives of the programme: the overall objective of the programme is to promote balanced and sustainable development of the border region between Bulgaria and Serbia, integrated into the European area-through smart growth, adaptation to environmental changes and improvement of the culture of learning. Furthermore, the focus of the programme is to enhance the capacity of local and regional authorities in the development and implementation of joint projects within the border region, to facilitate the acquisition of knowledge and exchange of best practices, to improve the implementation of regional and local development policies, help raise the competitiveness of SMEs and facilitating their access to new markets and to create and develop cross-border partnerships.

- Priority axis 1 - Sustainable tourism: promote the development of tourism, cultural and natural heritage by supporting the development of common competitive tourist attractions, which will diversify the provided tourism services in border regions;
- Priority axis 2 - Youths: support for creating an attractive environment and opportunities for advancement of youth through cooperation in border region;
- Priority axis 3 - Environment: protect the environment, support adaptation to climate change, minimize and manage risk.



Applicant eligibility:

Geographical eligibility:

- in Bulgaria the districts: Vidin, Montana, Vratsa, Sofia, Pernik and Kyustendil;
- in Serbia the districts: Bor, Zaječar, Nisava, Toplica, Pirot, Jablanica and Pcinja.



Type of organisations:

- legal entities established in the eligible cross border region between Bulgaria and Serbia, which are non-profit making organisations;
- local /regional/ national authorities or their subsidiary bodies; national and regional agencies;
- national and regional agencies;
- administrations of protected areas;



- local/regional forestry administrations;
- educational organisations - universities, schools, colleges and libraries;
- institutions for research and academic institutions;
- cultural institutions (museums, libraries, art galleries, community centers and others);
- NGOs;
- euro regions;
- associations of two or more of the listed above institutions/organisations.




Eligible activities: (if necessary, more information can be found official application guidelines.

- Priority axis 1 - Sustainable tourism:
 - > tourist attractiveness - supporting the development of competitive tourist attractions achieved through cooperation, thus contributing to the diversification of tourist product(s) in the cross-border region;
 - > increased tourist attractiveness of the cross-border area through better utilisation of natural, cultural and historical heritage and related infrastructure;
 - > cross-border touristic product - capturing economic benefits from development of natural and cultural heritage in the border area through creating common cross-border touristic destination(s);
 - > people-to-people networking - encouraging cooperation among regional participants in the field of sustainable tourism, implementation of joint activities for optimal effect of the touristic, cultural, historical and natural heritage in border areas.
- Priority axis 2 - Youths:
 - > skills and entrepreneurship-supporting the development of attractive environment for advancement of young people in the border region achieved through cooperation;
 - > people-to-people networking - promoting cooperation initiatives for and with young people, thus enhancing mobility of young people across borders.
- Priority axis 3 - Environment:
 - > joint risk management - preventing and mitigating the consequences of natural and man-made cross-border disasters;
 - > nature protection - promoting and enhancing the utilization of common natural resources, as well as stimulating nature protection in the programme area, through joint initiatives across the border.

The programme will finance projects in accordance with the specific objectives of these priority axis of the programme and can be separated to:

- **investment projects**, which have a predominantly investment character (construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, repairs, etc.) and/or the purchase of equipment, components, etc., with very little part of supporting 'soft' activities;

- 
- **projects under 'soft' activities** - projects, focusing on pure research, development of concepts and strategies to provide services to specific target groups, including the provision of training, exchange of knowledge and know-how to raise awareness on specific topics and others. These projects may have only a small investment part which is necessary to ensure 'soft' activities in an effective manner. The 'soft' activities include also activities, aiming to increase the direct contact and cooperation of people across borders and their partnerships in the region.

(The EU will finance 85% of eligible costs and the remaining 15% will be provided as co-financing from national budgets of the two countries involved).



Budget framework:

- investment projects: EUR 300 000 - 600 000; 12 - 24 months;
- projects, focusing on 'soft' activities: EUR 75 000 - 200 000; 8 - 15 months.



How to apply: The full set of documents shall be sent in a sealed envelope to:
Joint secretariat INTERREG-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Bulgaria - Serbia Programme.



For more information: www.ipacbc-bgrs.eu/bg



CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME

BULGARIA - TURKEY



Active period: 2014 - 2020



Budget: EUR 29 642 896



Managing authority: Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works of the Republic of Bulgaria



% of funding: 100% of project eligible costs



Objectives of the programme: strengthening the Bulgaria - Turkey cross-border cooperation capacity in the field of nature protection and sustainable tourism, leading to enhancement of European territorial cohesion:

- Priority axis 1 - Environment: Protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management;
- Priority axis 2 - Sustainable tourism: encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.



Applicant eligibility:

Geographical eligibility:

- in Bulgaria the districts: Burgas, Yambol and Haskovo;
- in Turkey the districts: Edrine and Kirkclareli.



Type of organisations:

- all levels of local/regional authorities; central and regional offices and structures of relevant national and governmental institutions/administrations;
- regional and sector development agencies;
- associations of local/regional authorities and of other organisations;
- administrations of protected areas;
- public cultural institutes (museums, libraries, community centres, etc.);
- registered regional touristic associations;
- business support institutions and organisations - chambers of commerce, industry and crafts;
- universities and scientific institutions;
- educational and training institutions and organisations;
- euro regions and other joint cross border structures and institutions;
- NGOs (incl. Local Action Groups-LAGs);
- youth organisations.



Eligible activities:

- Priority axis 1 - Environment:
 - > early warning and disaster management systems, equipment/fixed assets, small-scale interventions;
 - > environmental friendly small-scale investments;
 - > joint initiatives, strategies, trainings, services, awareness raising campaigns, exchange of experience;
 - > Joint initiatives addressing water quality and management.
- Priority axis 2 - Sustainable tourism:
 - > small-scale investments and ICT facilities establishment;
 - > ICT and GIS platforms, touristic transport schemes;
 - > sustainable tourism strategies/action plans, marketing and promotional initiatives and tools, training and consultancy;
 - > joint networking and awareness raising events.

(The EU will finance 85% of the eligible expenditures and the state budgets of the two participating countries shall provide 15% co-financing.)



Budget framework:

- investment projects: EUR 250 000 - 600 000; 12 - 24 months
- soft projects: EUR 50 000 - 120 000; 8 - 15 months



How to apply: the application form, its annexes and supporting documents must be received in a sealed package by registered mail, private courier service or by hand-delivery at the Joint Secretariat main office at the following address:

Joint Secretariat, 2 Patriarh Evtimiy Str., 6300, Haskovo, Bulgaria



For more information: www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu/bg/



CROSS-BORDER EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME GREECE - BULGARIA



Active period: 2014 - 2020



Budget: EUR 110 241 234



Managing authority: Ministry of Development and Competitiveness of the Republic of Greece



% of funding: up to 100% of the eligible project costs



Objective of the programme: Improvement of the economic, social and sustainable growth of the area covered by the programme through the following specific objectives:

- competitive and innovative cross-border region;
- sustainable and adaptable to climate border region;
- cross-border region with improved interconnection;
- cross-border region with a high degree of social inclusion.



Applicant eligibility:

Geographical eligibility:

- in Greece: regional unit of Evros, Kavala, Xanthi, Rodopi, Drama, Thessaloniki and Serres;
- in Bulgaria the districts: of Blagoevgrad, Smolyan, Kardjali and Haskovo.



Type of organisations:

- national, regional and local institutions and their bodies responsible for supporting the private sector and business;
- business chambers, professional and collective associations, non-governmental and non-profit organisations, regional development agencies, business networks (different actors in the public and private sector) and other bodies representing and/or dealing with the private sector;
- universities and other educational institutions; research institutes/centers (public or private) in the border area;
- chambers, collective organisations and associations representing business and other professionals involved in the tourist circuits;
- environmental NGOs, nonprofits, cross-border networks and other civil society organisations;
- local providers of primary health care (public institutions); hospitals; medical faculties of universities.



Eligible activities:

- promoting and facilitating entrepreneurship;

- facilitate the operation and modernization of existing and/or construction of new facilities to support the business;
- development of services promoting productivity;
- transfer and development of marketing models and solutions;
- creation of clusters or other 'networks';
- joint or shared services to support export business in the border region;
- development and control of test systems for branding of 'green' and 'traditional' products;
- development of common standards that apply to national plans for managing flood risk;
- development of strategies and action plans for the management of flood risks;
- building of capacity for action at risk of flooding;
- specific activities in the field of education, information exchange, training and training for the local population;
- rehabilitation/protection of cultural resources with cross-border importance;
- cross-border cultural initiatives;
- develop joint strategies and procedures for sustainable management of resources, the development of green infrastructure, protection of biodiversity, landscape management and the creation of green corridors;
- development of cross-border partnerships in the field of 'eco-innovation' and participation in the European Innovation Partnerships in the field of water management and soil;
- construction of new or reconstruction/rehabilitation of existing transport infrastructure with cross-border importance for the regions;
- promoting cooperation among health authorities and organisations to share resources and expertise in healthcare;
- support the creation and operation of social enterprises.



Budget framework: min. EUR 250 000 , max. EUR 1 500 000



How to apply: The full set of documents shall be sent in a sealed envelope to:
Joint Secretariat INTERREG V-A 'Greece - Bulgaria 2014 - 2020', Thessaloniki, Greece



For more information: www.INTERREG.gr



THE DANUBE TRANSNATIONAL PROGRAMME



Active period: 2014 - 2020



Budget: EUR 262 989 839



Managing authority: Joint Secretariat, hosted by the Ministry for National Economy in Hungary



% of funding: up to 85% of approved budget



Objectives of the programme: the cooperation programme is structured across four priority axes that intend to develop coordinated policies and actions in the programme area reinforcing the commitments of the Europe 2020 strategy towards the three dimensions of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth:

- Priority axis 1 - 'Innovative and socially responsible Danube region' - Improve framework conditions for innovation & Increase competences for business and social innovation;
- Priority axis 2 - 'Environment and culture responsible Danube region' - Strengthen transnational water management and flood risk prevention & Foster sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage and resources & Foster the restoration and management of ecological corridors & Improve preparedness for environmental risk management;
- Priority axis 3 - 'Better connected and energy responsible Danube region' - Support environmentally-friendly and safe transport systems and balanced accessibility of urban and rural areas & Improve energy security and energy efficiency;
- Priority axis 4 - 'Well-governed Danube region' - Improve institutional capacities to tackle major societal challenges & Support to the governance and implementation of the EUSDR.



Applicant eligibility:

Geographical eligibility:

- 9 EU countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany - Baden - Württemberg and Bavaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia;
- 5 non-EU countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, and Ukraine (four provinces only: Chernivetska, Ivano-Frankivska, Zakarpatska and Odessa Province).



Type of organisations:

- local, regional, national public bodies;
- universities and educational institutions;
- national and international organisations - local business associations, NGOs, trade chambers, business support agencies, regional development agencies, SME unions, etc.;
- private bodies (including private enterprises from programme countries).

SME

Large companies

Public Bodies

Cultural and educational institutions

Business associations

NGO



Eligible activities:

- development of common orientations, frameworks and strategies in fields of transnational relevance where early policy development is needed (i.e. in fields which until now have not been touched by significant projects in the previous programming periods);
- development and practical implementation of transnational tools and services (e.g. analytical tools, management tools, technical tools, software tools, monitoring tools);
- preparation of transnational investments (infrastructure, equipment) to be subsequently financed through other sources;
- pilot activities including small-scale fixed investments (of testing or demonstration nature);
- development and practical implementation of training and capacity building (e.g. training seminars and courses, study visits, peer reviews);
- accompanying information, dissemination, capitalisation and publicity measures to inform stakeholders and/or the general public about project activities and outcomes.



Budget framework: Bulgaria's contribution to the formation of the total ERDF funds is 17 378 639 EUR



How to apply:

- 'First step' with the expression of Interest outlining mainly the intervention logic of the proposal and the strategic relevance for the DTP submitted through the programme website;
- 'Second step' with the submission of the completed application form with the required annexes through the programme monitoring system.

Only proposals pre-selected in the first step can submit the completed application form (with its required annexes) in the second step.



For more information: www.INTERREG-danube.eu



ESPON 2020 COOPERATION PROGRAMME



Active period: 2014 - 2020



Budget: EUR 48 678 823



Managing authority: Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Directorate 'European Affairs'



% of funding: 100% of the eligible project costs



Objective of the programme: to support the effectiveness of cohesion policy of the EU and other sectoral policies and programmes financed by the EU Structural and Cohesion Funds.



Applicant eligibility:

Geographical eligibility:

- throughout the whole European Union (EU-28) plus the partner-countries Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein.



Type of organisations:

- managing authorities, creating policies on cohesion policy and sectoral and thematic policies and programmes at European level;
- national institutions, responsible for territorial cohesion, the European Territorial Cooperation programmes, macro-regional strategies and the preparation and implementation of national cohesion policy;
- regional and local institutions responsible for spatial planning and development and/or involved in cross-border cooperation;
- organisations promoting various regional/urban initiatives at EU level;
- university professors, researchers and students;
- private sector and European public organisations.



Eligible activities:

- applied territory research and analytical studies;
- transfer of scientific evidence and knowledge for the development of policies;
- structures for monitoring trends and dynamics of different types of territories and exploration of potential opportunities and challenges for their future development;
- reaching potential users of data for development of the territory, stimulating interest in the European territorial perspective at all levels of policymaking.



How to apply: the European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion (EPSON) provides a detailed Annual Work Plan. After approval by the Monitoring Committee EPSON outsources the approved for financing activities to public and private organisations in accordance with the rules of public procurement.



For more information: www.espon.eu



PROGRAMME INTERREG EUROPE 2014 - 2020



Active: 2014 - 2020



Budget: EUR 359 000 000



Managing authority: Nord Pas de Calais-Picardie Regional Council, France



% of funding: up to 85% of project activities



Objectives of the programme: to improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes by allowing regional and local public authorities and other players of regional relevance across Europe to exchange practices and ideas on the way public policies work, and thereby find solutions to improve their strategies for their own citizens:

- research & innovation - fosters exchange of experience, capacity building and networking aimed at achieving the 'smart growth' envisioned in the Europe 2020 strategy;
- SME competitiveness - fosters exchange of experience, capacity building and networking aimed at helping SMEs engage in growth in regional, national and international markets;
- low-carbon economy - fosters the exchange of experience and collection of best practices towards a low-carbon economy and how growth is achieved as a result of integrating all aspects of the economy around technologies and practices with low emissions;
- environment & resource efficiency - support regions to find practices to answer regional challenges, such as preparing sustainable exploitation models for cultural heritage, developing and integrating green infrastructure, encouraging SMEs to assess and address resource use issues, or reducing waste volumes in SMES and households.



Applicant eligibility:

Geographical eligibility:

- 28 member states of the European Union, Norway and Switzerland.



Type of organisations:

- public authorities - local, regional and national;
- institutions governed by public law (e.g. regional development agencies, regional environmental agencies, business support organisations, universities, research institutes, Business support actors, cluster organisations, other organisations representing SMEs, etc.);
- private non-profit bodies.
- SME are important target group and are encouraged to take part in the activities under the INTERREG Europe projects and to benefit from the experience and knowledge exchange even though they cannot participate as direct beneficiaries/partners under the programme.



Eligible activities:

The programme finances two types of action:

- INTERREgional cooperation projects: partnerships made up of relevant policy organisations from different countries in Europe work together for 3 to 5 years to exchange their experiences on a particular policy issue. Each region involved in the cooperation project produces an action plan, specifying what will be done in the region to ensure that the lessons learnt from the cooperation project are put into action;
- Policy learning platforms: a space for continuous learning where any organisation dealing with regional development policies in Europe can find solutions and request expert support to improve the way they manage and implement their public policies in the four priority topics.
- Research & innovation:
 - > exchange of experience on public funding schemes for innovation support;
 - > exchange of experience on policies and programmes to create research facilities and to set up international R&D cooperation networks;
 - > exchange of experience to plan actions for improving the match between curricula of higher education institutes and human capital needs of businesses in their regional smart specialisation sectors;
 - > exchange of experience among regional players to improve policies in support of innovation infrastructure (e.g. incubators, technology information centres, research centres);
 - > exchange of practices to develop, for each region, facilities and methods to support knowledge transfer and strengthen opportunities for open innovation in the field of green technologies;
 - > exchange of practices on cluster development and the management of life-science clusters;
 - > exchange of practices and preparation of action to increase intra - and INTERREgional triple-helix cooperation facilitating the commercialisation of R&D results.
- SME competitiveness:
 - > cooperation to exchange practices on the set-up and management of seed-capital facilities to support SMEs, to prepare the creation of such financial support schemes;
 - > sharing experiences on awareness-raising and building entrepreneurial capacities among young people and developing action plans for the introduction of young entrepreneur support schemes;
 - > exchange of practices about SME internationalisation and export support facilities, resulting in action plans for establishing new and improving existing SME internationalisation support facilities.
- Low-carbon economy:
 - > exchange of experience and good practices resulting in action plans for setting up regional structures to promote and facilitate local sustainable energy generation and



distribution systems in rural areas;

- > sharing of experiences on sustainable mobility measures, resulting in action plans that prepare actions and investments to increase the use of low-carbon transport options;
- > cooperation on practices to encourage and support businesses to invest in energy-efficiency measures, resulting in the preparation of regional support programmes for energy efficiency in companies.
- Environment & resource efficiency:
 - > exchange of practices on nature management to prepare the development and integration of regional green infrastructures in areas under urban pressure;
 - > exchanging experiences on methods to assess the vulnerability of regional and cross-border eco-systems identify mitigation measures;
 - > exchange of experience on governance models for regional nature parks and NATURA 2000 areas to prepare the introduction of new management and exploitation models;
 - > exchange of experience on the preservation, development and exploitation of cultural heritage in remote and mountainous areas;
 - > sharing experiences on support measures and schemes to encourage manufacturing SMEs to assess their resource use and introduce more resource-efficient work processes;
 - > exchange of experience on policies and measures to reduce waste volumes and to increase recycling rates among small businesses and households;
 - > exchange of practices for the monitoring, management and improvement of air quality in urban and industrialised areas, resulting in action plans for establishing air quality and monitoring and mitigation schemes.



Budget framework: depending on the number of partners involved, duration of INTERREGIONAL learning etc., the average total budget of a project is expected to be EUR 1-2 million.



How to apply:

The project should involve partner policy organisations from at least three different countries in Europe who come together for three-five years to learn from each other and to address a regional policy issue of common concern.

Applications have to be completed in English.

The application is fully online. All required documents (application form, partner's declaration and letter of support) must be submitted online via the iOLF system (www.iOLF.eu).



For more information: www.INTERREGEurope.eu



PROGRAMME: INTERREG BALKAN - MEDITERRANEAN 2014 - 2020



Active period: 2014 - 2020



Budget: EUR 39 727 654 (priority axis 1: MEUR 14; priority axis 2: MEUR 22.5)



Managing authority: Managing authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes



% of funding: 85% cofinancing rate



Objectives of the programme: The main needs and challenges shared by the Programme actors can be grouped to the following headings: socioeconomic development and demography, environment and climate change, natural and cultural heritage.

Programme is built upon the following two priority axis:

Priority axis 1 - 'Entrepreneurship & innovation' - dedicated to actions that foster the area's entrepreneurship potential by encouraging SMEs' cooperation and networking, clusters and clusters policies, new business models' applications and in particular those that support innovation, opening of new markets and internationalisation support:

- competitive territories: stimulating business performance and extroversion through transnational linkages, clusters and networks;
- innovative territories: unleashing territorial potential to improve the transnational innovation capacity of the business sector;
- territories of knowledge: entrepreneurial learning and knowledge transfer for more competitive SMEs.

Priority axis 2 - 'Environment' - focused on natural/cultural heritage and resources' efficiency. The axis will target projects for sustainable use of natural resources in the fields of the waste sector, the water sector and the soil and air pollution as well as the energy efficiency sector. Technological innovation will also be considered to stimulate climate-related investments and the transition to an inclusive and green economy:

- biodiversity: promoting ecological connectivity and transnational ecosystems' integration;
- sustainable territories: fostering transnational cooperation for resource efficiency and climate change resilience;
- delivery on environmental legal framework: improving transnational governance capacities.

Applicant eligibility:

Geographical eligibility:

- ERDF countries: Bulgaria; Cyprus; Greece (entire countries);
- IPA countries: Republic of Albania; The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (entire countries).





Type of organisations:

- umbrella organisations of SMEs;
 - development and planning agencies;
 - local, regional and national authorities involved in business' management;
 - technology transfer centres and universities;
 - innovation support networks;
 - non-governmental and Civil Society organisations.
- Priority axis 2: 'Environment':
- local, regional and national authorities;
 - environmental and development agencies;
 - protected/designated areas' management organisations and bodies;
 - non-governmental and Civil Society organisations;
 - umbrella organisations of SMEs.



Eligible activities:

Priority axis 1 - 'Entrepreneurship & innovation':

- clusters, incubators and business cooperation networks to improve transnational competitiveness;
- joint development and rapid transfer of technological and non-technological solutions;
- 'green' - 'blue' economic and social development;
- application of new business models;
- transnational collaborations like 'triple helix' (business sector, public sector and research/academic centers) or 'quad helix' (business sector, public sector, research/academic centers and civil society organisations);
- benchmarking/rationalization and reorientation of tools or processes for promoting business, social, 'green', 'blue' and digital innovation;
- joint organization of training schemes for the promotion of entrepreneurial culture;
- tailor-made learning schemes for enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs, including, inter alia, studies and field visits;
- transnational entrepreneurial mentoring networks/training programmes towards growth and employment.

Priority axis 2 - 'Environment':

- joint action plans and strategies to promote sustainable management of protected areas (cultural and environmental), including Natura 2000 sites;
- integrated maritime and coastal planning for the protection of marine and coastal heritage, including the identification and management of marine protected areas;
- sustainable cultural tourism approaches, including methods of labeling and branding;
- jointly developed strategies/policies/programmes/models and tools on resource issues, energy efficiency, renewable energy, waste, recycling water and soil protection (and chemical pollution of the groundwater).



Budget framework:

Priority axis 1 - 'Entrepreneurship & innovation':

- minimum project budget: EUR 500 000
- maximum project budget: EUR 1 000 000

Priority axis 2 - 'Environment':

- minimum project budget: EUR 500 000
- maximum project budget: EUR 1 500 000



Additional requirements:

- the budget of each ERDF partner is not lower than EUR 100 000 to prove its active involvement in the project;
- in case of IPA partners, the budget (1) is not lower than EUR 50 000 and (2) is equal or superior to 5% of the total eligible budget of the project to prove its active involvement in the project;
- one partner must not concentrate more than 35% of the total eligible budget of the project;
- partners from a single country must not concentrate more than 50% of the total eligible budget of the project.



How to apply:

One original paper version officially stamped and signed and one paper copy, and two CD/DVD ROMs including the application form and the 'Specification of Budget' in the MS Excel format, along with all supporting documents should be submitted to the managing authority.

The application package is to be compiled in English language.



For more information: www.INTERREG.gr



BLACK SEA BASIN PROGRAMME 2014 - 2020



Active period: 2014 - 2020



Budget: EUR 54 000 000



Managing authority: Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration, Directorate - MA for European Territorial Cooperation programmes, Bucharest, Romania



% of funding: between 80% and 90%



Objectives of the programme: improve the welfare of the people in the Black Sea Basin regions through sustainable growth and joint environmental protection by:

- promoting business and entrepreneurship within the Black Sea Basin (priority 1)
 - > stronger cross-border business opportunities in the tourism and cultural sectors;
 - > increased cross-border links for trade and modernisation in the agricultural and connected sectors in BSB.
- promoting coordination of environmental protection and joint reduction of marine litter in the Black Sea basin (priority 2):
 - > improved availability of cross-border compatible environmental monitoring data and information within BSB;
 - > increased awareness on environmental challenges and good waste management practices related to river and marine litter within BSB.



Applicant eligibility:

Geographical eligibility:

- **applicants:** Bulgaria (only North-Eastern and South-Eastern), Greece (only Central Macedonia, East Macedonia and Thrace), Romania (only South-Eastern) and Turkey (only TR10, TR21, TR42, TR81, TR83, TR90);
- **partners:** Armenia (entire territory), Georgia (entire territory), Moldova (entire territory), Russia (only Rostovska Oblast, Krasnodarskii krai, Adygea Republic), Ukraine (Odesa, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Zaporozh'ye and Donetsk Oblasts, Crimea Republic, Sevastopol).



Type of organisations:

- authorities at regional and sub-national administrative levels - local and regional authorities, regional development agencies, national parks & protected areas managing authorities, etc.;
- chambers of commerce - local business associations, farmers unions, trade chambers, business supporting agencies, SME associations & unions, business associations, aquaculture and fisheries associations, etc.;
- academic and educational community;

- civil society organisations - touristic agencies, touristic associations, cultural and archaeological associations & institutions, NGO, migrants' unions, etc.



Eligible activities:

Priority 1 - 'Promoting business and entrepreneurship':

- Priority 1.1 - joint promotion of business and entrepreneurship in tourism and culture;
- Priority 1.2 - increase cross-border trade opportunities and modernization of agriculture and related sectors.

Priority 2 - 'Promoting coordination of environmental protection and joint reduction of marine litter':

- Priority 2.1 - improved cooperation in monitoring of the environment;
- Priority 2.2 - jointly promotion of good environmental management practices and technologies related to waste management on riverbanks and seashores.



How to apply: submitting application form and supporting documents to the management authority in paper version (more details in the call for proposals when published).



For more information: blacksea-cbc.net



Centralised programmes



THE EU PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION 'HORIZON 2020'



Active period: 2014 - 2020



Budget: EUR 78 600 000 000



Managing authority: European Commission



% of funding: up to 100% (in some cases up to 70% for companies) of the eligible project costs



Objective of the programme: to ensure the competitiveness and prosperity of Europe on a global scale by stimulating economic growth and creating jobs and smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

- excellence in science-activities in response to the critical need to reinforce and expand excellence in the science base of the EU, to provide research and talent from world-class, which will ensure the long-term competitiveness and prosperity of Europe;
- industrial leadership - activities to maintain and increase leading positions in EU industry by encouraging the private sector to invest in research & development and innovation, promote research and innovation through an agenda set by the business and accelerate the development of new technologies;
- societal challenges - activities to increase the efficiency of research and innovation in responding to key societal challenges in seven areas: health; agriculture, maritime and bioeconomy; energy; transport; climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials; reflected societies; security. Activities must take place through challenges based approach, bringing together resources and knowledge from different fields, technologies and disciplines.



Applicant eligibility:

Geographical eligibility:

EU Member States (and other countries as additional partners)



Type of organisations:

- institutes and universities;
- SMEs;
- consortium of partners from different countries, industries and scientists;
- start-up researchers or experienced researchers (of any nationality), technical staff, national/regional programmes for research mobility.



Eligible activities:

- **scientific and innovative activities** - funding for research projects with clearly defined challenges, that can lead to accumulation of new knowledge or new technologies;
- **innovative activities** - funding is directed towards activities, which are closer to the market. For example, prototyping, testing, demonstration, pilot studies, scaling, etc., if they aspire to produce new or improved products or services;
- **actions for coordination and support** - the funding covers the coordination and networking of research and innovative projects, programmes and policies. Funding of research and innovation per se is covered elsewhere;
- **subsidies for research at the frontiers of scientific knowledge** - European Research Council - Funding for projects which are evaluated under the sole criteria of excellence in every scientific research area, implemented by national or multinational team, lead by a chief researcher;
- **support for training and career development** - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions - Funding for international research grants in the public or private sector, research training, exchange of staff.



Budget framework: depends on the type of actions



How to apply: by submitting an electronic application form to the managing authority in Brussels within the stated deadlines. It is mandatory to apply together with a partner(s) in English language.



For more information:

- Information on the programme Horizon 2020

ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en

- Портал за участниците

ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html



PROGRAMME HORIZON 2020 - SME INSTRUMENT



Active period: 2014 - 2020



Budget: EUR 3 000 000 000



% of funding: 70% of total cost of the project



Objectives of the programme: helps high-potential SMEs to develop groundbreaking innovative ideas for products, services or processes that are ready to face global market competition. Available to SMEs only, which can however organise a project in the way that best fits their business needs - meaning that subcontracting is not excluded - the new scheme has opened a new highway to innovation through phased, progressive and complimentary support.



Applicant eligibility:

Geographical eligibility:

- EU member states.



Type of organisations:

- SME.



Eligible activities:

The dedicated SME instrument's supports close-to-market activities, with the aim to give a strong boost to breakthrough innovation. Highly innovative SMEs with a clear commercial ambition and a potential for high growth and internationalisation are the prime target.

The SME Instrument offers small and medium-sized businesses the following:

- business innovation grants for [feasibility assessment purposes](#) (optional phase I);
- business innovation grants for [innovation development & demonstration purposes](#) (possible phase II);
- [free-of-charge business coaching](#) (optional in phases I and II), in order to support and enhance the firm's innovation capacity and help align the project to strategic business needs;
- access to a wide range of innovation support services and facilitated [access to risk finance](#) (mostly in optional phase III), to facilitate the commercial exploitation of the innovation.



Budget framework:

- phase I: EUR 50,000 (lump sum) per project (70% of total cost of the project);
- phase II: an amount in the indicative range of EUR 500,000 and 2,5 million (70% of total cost of the project as a general rule).



How to apply:

Submit application form (based on phase type) to managing authority in English within deadline for the respective call and topic. It is mandatory that the applicant organization has a valid PIC number after registration in the Research Participant Portal in the European Commission Authentication Service website (ECAS).

The project proposal is organized with completing the electronic form of application.



For more information:

[Work programme](#)

[Participants portal](#)





PROGRAMME: ERASMUS+



Active period: 2014 - 2020



Budget: EUR 14 700 000 000



Managing authority: [The European Commission, DG Education and Culture](#)



% of funding:

- for mobility projects - fixed daily/weekly/monthly rate per country;
- for cooperation projects - up to 100% of project staff & travel costs & up to 75% of other project costs.



Objectives of the programme: aims to support actions in the fields of Education, Training, Youth and Sport for the period 2014 - 2020.



Applicant eligibility:

Geographical eligibility:

- all EU member states.



Type of organisations:

- all types of organisations - both public and private.



Eligible activities:

Erasmus+ provides grants for a wide range of actions and activities **in the fields of education, training, youth and sport.**

- **mobility** - the programme gives opportunities to students, trainees, staff and volunteers to spend a period abroad to increase their skills and employability;
- **development of educational & VET courses** - it supports organisations to work in transnational partnership and to share innovative practices in the fields of education, training and youth;
- **university cooperation** - Erasmus+ also includes a strong international dimension notably in the field of higher education, which opens the programme to institutional cooperation and mobility of young people and staff worldwide;
- **sport activities** - the new Sport action will support grassroots projects and cross-border challenges such as combating match-fixing, doping, violence and racism.



Budget framework:

up to EUR 150 000 per year; up to 3 years project duration.



How to apply:

The actions of the Erasmus+ programme are divided into **decentralised actions** and **centralised actions**:

- the decentralised actions are managed in each programme country by [National Agencies](#). For decentralised actions the beneficiaries should apply at the National agency by submitting an electronic application form;
- the centralised actions are managed at a European level by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) located in Brussels. For centralised actions the beneficiaries should apply at EACEA by submitting an electronic application form. The [centralised actions](#) are included in the General Call for proposals and the details of these actions are outlined in the [Erasmus + Programme Guide](#).



For more information: www.eacea.ec.europa.eu



PROGRAMME ERASMUS FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS



Active period: 2014 - 2020



Budget: annually approved and different for every participating country.



Managing authority: Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs Support Office & National points of contact



% of funding: fixed monthly rate based on country of stay



Objectives of the programme: is to facilitate exchanges of experience, learning and networking for new EU entrepreneurs by means of working with an experienced entrepreneur in another EU country by:

- on-the-job-training for new entrepreneurs in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) elsewhere in the EU in order to facilitate a successful start and development of their business ideas;
- exchanges of experience and information between entrepreneurs on obstacles and challenges to starting up and developing their businesses;
- to enhance market access and identification of potential partners for new and established businesses in other EU countries;
- networking by building on knowledge and experience from other European countries.



Applicant eligibility:

Geographical eligibility:

- all countries in Europe - both EU members and non-members.



Type of organisations:

- new entrepreneurs, firmly planning to set up their own business or have already started one within the last three years;
- experienced entrepreneurs who own or manage a Small or Medium-Sized Enterprise in one of the Participating Countries.



Eligible activities:

The exchange of experience takes place during a stay with the experienced entrepreneur, which helps the new entrepreneur acquire the skills needed to run a small firm. The stay abroad can last between one and six months.



Budget framework:

The financial support to new entrepreneurs contributes to travel and subsistence costs during the visit. The grant is paid by the local contact point chosen by the new entrepreneur.



How to apply: the programme is run by a network of local contact points, including chambers of commerce, incubators and other organisations supporting businesses, present in the different European Union countries.

After you fill in your online application and get accepted for the programme, the contact point you will have chosen in your country will provide you with support and assistance to find your host entrepreneur. You will also receive practical assistance during your stay abroad.

For more information about contact points in your country, please visit 'Your local contact point' on the programme's website.



For more information: www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu



COST - EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMME



Active period: 2014 - 2020



Budget: EUR 210 000 000



Managing authority: The COST Association (the 36 COST Member Countries are full members of the COST Association; Israel is a Cooperating State.)



% of funding:

The average COST Action budget depends on the number of COST Countries participating in the Action. The funding is provided via an yearly grant agreement.



Objectives of the programme: to enable breakthrough scientific developments leading to new concepts and products. It thereby contributes to strengthening Europe's research and innovation capacities by:

- building capacity by connecting high-quality scientific communities in Europe and worldwide;
- providing networking opportunities for Early Stage Researchers (ESR);
- increasing research impact on policy makers, regulatory bodies and national decision makers as well as on the private sector.



Applicant eligibility:

Geographical eligibility:

- the 36 COST Member Countries are: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.



Type of organisations:

- universities, public and private research institutions;
- NGOs;
- large and small, public and private organisations.



Eligible activities:

COST does not fund research itself, but provides support for networking activities carried out within COST Actions. COST Actions are bottom-up science and technology networks open to researchers and stakeholders, with a four-year duration and a minimum participation of five COST Countries.

The support will cover the costs of networking activities such as meetings (e.g. travel,



subsistence, local organiser support), conferences, workshops, short-term scientific exchanges, training schools, publications and dissemination activities.

To learn more about participating in [COST Actions](#), please visit the [Participate](#) page.



How to apply:

COST invites researchers throughout Europe to submit proposals for [COST actions](#) through a continuous [open call](#). Following a thorough evaluation and selection process, the decision for funding a proposal is taken by the COST [Committee of Senior Officials \(CSO\)](#) within eight months from the collection date. Successful proposals are approved to become [COST actions](#).



For more information: www.cost.eu





PROGRAMME EUREKA



Active period: 2014 - 2020



Budget: EUR 1 140 000 000

- **EUREKA clusters** - long-term and strategically significant initiatives that develop technologies of key importance for European competitiveness. Through their industrial representation, EUREKA Clusters have a prominent and active role to play in bringing innovation to the market.
- For more information please read our EUREKA cluster report: the [EUREKA clusters: Essential Instruments for Global Competitiveness](#).
- **EUREKA Umbrellas** - they are an association of at least five national thematic networks in a specific field of technology or service. Umbrellas are comprised of experts from science and industry as well as representatives of national funding institutions. They are set up to support and advise project consortia on developing project ideas through international partnerships in their given field of technology.
- Any group of companies and research organisations wishing to set up an umbrella can submit a proposition by filling out an [official form to create an Umbrella](#).
- **EUREKA InnoVest Programme (EInnoVest)** - aims to boost the investment awareness and readiness of EUREKA innovative SMEs, promote these companies towards the investment community and actively facilitate investment matching with experienced investors. It is the new EUREKA instrument aimed to leverage one of EUREKA's main assets - its incredibly rich reservoir of innovative companies.

For additional information regarding EInnoVest [please visit the EInnoVest website](#).



Managing authority: The Chairmanship of EUREKA (changes annually, with a different member country).



% of funding: depending on measure and project type



Objectives of the programme: EUREKA is a publicly-funded, intergovernmental network, involving over 40 countries. EUREKA's aim is to enhance European competitiveness by fostering innovation-driven entrepreneurship in Europe, between small and large industry, research institutes and universities.



Applicant eligibility:

Geographical eligibility:

- 41 full members (full list of members can be found at: www.eurekanetwork.org), including the European Union & 3 associated countries: Canada, South Africa and South Korea. Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina are National Information Points.



Type of organisations:

- SMEs & large companies;
- research institutions and universities.



Eligible activities:

- **Network projects** - are transnational, market-driven innovative research and development projects. They aim to develop marketable products, services or processes. Participation in international cooperation projects through EUREKA offers businesses, research institutes and higher education institutions a range of advantages. They are bottom-up and cover all technological areas with a civilian purpose. To set up a EUREKA Network Project there must be at least two partners from two different EUREKA countries. More info on the current call for projects - [here](#).
- **Eurostars Programme** - a European Joint Programme dedicated to the R&D performing SMEs. Eurostars projects must involve at least two participants from two different Eurostars participating countries. In addition, the main participant must be a research-performing SME from one of these countries. More info is available [here](#) (www.eurostars-eureka.eu).



Budget framework: depending on measure and project type



How to apply: depending on measure and project type



For more information: www.eurekanetwork.org



MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS - RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME



Active period: 2014 - 2020



Budget: EUR 6 160 000 000



Managing authority: [Research Executive Agency](#)



% of funding: depending on type of action



Objectives of the programme: to support researchers at all stages of their careers, irrespective of nationality as well as industrial doctorates, combining academic research study with work in companies, and other innovative training that enhances employability and career development.



Applicant eligibility:

Geographical eligibility:

- EU Member States (and other countries as additional partners)



Type of organisations:

- Researchers in all stages of their career - from PhD candidates to highly experienced researchers working across all disciplines - from life-saving healthcare to 'blue-sky' science.



Eligible activities:

The programme funds worldwide and cross-sector mobility that implements excellent research in any field (a 'bottom-up' approach).

There are four main types of MSCA:

- [Research networks \(ITN\)](#): support for Innovative Training Networks that develop new researchers;
- [Individual fellowships \(IF\)](#): support for experienced researchers undertaking mobility between countries, with the option to work outside academia;
- [Research and Innovation Staff Exchanges \(RISE\)](#): for international and inter-sectoral cooperation;
- [Co-funding](#) of regional, national and international programmes that finance research training or fellowships involving mobility to or from another country.

The MSCA also funds the [European Researchers' Night \(NIGHT\)](#), public events involving researchers which take place every year across Europe on the fourth Friday of September.



Budget framework: depending on type of action



How to apply:

Funding decisions for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions are made on the basis of proposals submitted following calls published on [participants portal](#).

The [Participant Portal](#) contains the essential information to guide you through the process of preparing and submitting a proposal, including the Guide for Applicants. Proposals are submitted electronically via the Commission's participants portal - Electronic Proposal Submission Service (EPSS) before a strictly-enforced deadline.



For more information: ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/index_en.htm



PROGRAMME CREATIVE EUROPE



Active period: 2014 - 2020



Budget: EUR 1 460 000 000



Managing authority: [Education, Audiovisual, and Culture Executive Agency \(EACEA\)](#)



% of funding: up to 50% of the total eligible costs of the project



Objectives of the programme:

- help the cultural and creative sectors seize the opportunities of the digital age and globalisation;
- enable the sectors to reach their economic potential, contributing to sustainable growth, jobs, and social cohesion;
- give Europe's culture and media sectors access to new international opportunities, markets, and audiences.



Applicant eligibility:

Geographical eligibility:

- EU Member States, Norway, Iceland, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine.



Type of organisations:

- cultural and creative organisations;
- filmmakers, distributors, sales agents and other audiovisual professionals;
- artists and cultural professionals;
- publishers.



Eligible activities:

- > [Culture sector opportunities](#), such as those promoting cross-border cooperation, platforms, networking, and literary translation:
- > cross-border cooperation projects between cultural and creative organisations within the EU and beyond;
- > networks helping the cultural and creative sectors to operate transnationally and to strengthen their competitiveness;
- > translation and promotion of literary works across EU markets;
- > platforms of cultural operators promoting emerging artists and stimulating a truly European programming of cultural and artistic works;
- > capacity building and professional training for audiovisual professionals.
- [Audiovisual sector opportunities](#), such as those promoting the development,



distribution, or access to audiovisual works:

- > development of fiction, animations, creative documentaries and video games for European cinema, television markets and other platforms;
 - > distribution and sales of audiovisual works in and outside Europe;
 - > film festivals that promote European films;
 - > funds for the international co-production of films;
 - > audience development to foster film literacy and to raise interest in Europe's films through a wide range of events.
- The [cross-sectoral strand](#), including a Guarantee Facility and transnational policy co-operation:
 - > the establishment of a Guarantee Facility targeting the cultural and creative sectors;
 - > the promotion of transnational policy cooperation;
 - > supporting a network of Creative Europe Desks.



Budget framework: depending on project type



How to apply:

1. Applicants must register their organisation in the participant portal to receive a Participant Identification Code (PIC);
2. Create your official electronic application form;
3. Submit the application online.



For more information: ec.europa.eu/creative-Europe





PROGRAMME: EUROPE FOR CITIZENS



Active period: 2014 - 2020



Budget: EUR 229 000 000



Managing authority: Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency



% of funding: in general, the funding does not exceed 70% of the temporary eligible costs, but some eligible activities could be financed up to 90%.



Objectives of the programme:

- to contribute to citizens' understanding of the EU, its history and diversity;
- to foster European citizenship and to improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at EU level;
- to raise awareness of remembrance, common history and values;
- to encourage democratic participation of citizens at EU level, by developing citizens' understanding of the EU policy making-process and, by promoting opportunities for societal and intercultural engagement and volunteering at EU level.



Applicant eligibility:

Geographical eligibility:

- 28 EU Member States;
- Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.



Type of organisations:

- public local/regional authorities;
- non-profit organisations, including civil society organisations, survivors' associations and cultural, youth, educational and research organisations;
- associations of twinned town.



Eligible activities:

- **European remembrance** – raising awareness of remembrance, common history, values and the aim of the EU - [Supported activities](#). It supports activities inviting reflection on European cultural diversity and on common values. It aims to finance projects reflecting on causes of totalitarian regimes in Europe's modern history and to commemorate the victims of their crimes. This strand also concerns other defining moments and reference points in recent European history. Preference will be given to projects encouraging tolerance, mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue and reconciliation:
 - > include different types of organisations (local authorities, NGOs, research institutes etc.);



> develop different types of activities (research, exhibitions, public debates, non-formal education etc.).

- **democratic engagement and civic participation** – encouraging democratic and civic participation of citizens at Union level - [Supported activities](#):

- > town Twinning - supporting projects bringing together citizens from twinned towns;
- > networks of towns - providing funding to municipalities and associations working together on a common theme in a long term perspective;
- > civil society projects - supporting projects gathering citizens in activities directly linked to EU policies.

- **operating grants** - providing financial support for regular and usual activities of an organisation-[Supported activities](#).



Budget framework:

- European remembrance - the maximum eligible grant for a project is EUR 100 000 with maximum project duration of 18 months;
- democratic engagement and civic participation: between EUR 25 000 and EUR 150 000 per project depending on the applied measure.



How to apply:

Applicants must have an ECAS (European Commission Authentication Service) account each organisation involved in your project (applicant and partners) must [register in the Participants portal](#) and receive a Participant Identification Code (PIC).

Applicants must create own official electronic application form, also called the e-Form.

Upon e-Form completion and all required annexes attachment, the e-Form is submitted online.



For more information: eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens_en



PROGRAMME: LIFE+



Active period: 2014 - 2020



Budget: EUR 3 400 000 000



Managing authority: Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises ([EASME](#))



% of funding:

- traditional nature and biodiversity projects: 60% co-financing & 75% for projects targeting priority habitats & species;
- integrated projects, preparatory projects and technical assistance projects: 60% co-financing;
- capacity building projects: 100% co-financing;
- all other projects:
 - > 60% co-financing during the first multiannual work programme (2014 - 2017);
 - > 55% co-financing during the second multiannual work programme (2018 - 2020).



Objectives of the programme: to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environmental and climate policy and legislation by co-financing projects with European added value.



Applicant eligibility:

Geographical eligibility:

- EU member states.



Type of organisations:

- public bodies;
- private commercial organisations;
- private non-commercial organisations (including NGOs).



Eligible activities:

Projects by theme:

- Nature & Biodiversity:
 - > [biodiversity issues](#);
 - > [habitats](#);
 - > [species](#).
- Environment:
 - > [air and noise](#);
 - > [energy](#);
 - > [environmental management](#);

- > [industry-production](#);
- > [information-communication](#);
- > [land-use and planning](#);
- > [risk management](#);
- > [services & commerce](#);
- > [waste](#);
- > [water](#).
- Climate actions:
 - > [climate change adaptation](#);
 - > [climate change mitigation](#).
- Projects by type:
 - > traditional projects: best practice, innovation and demonstration projects, as well as dissemination/information projects and governance projects (similar to LIFE+);
 - > integrated projects: projects aiming at the implementation on a large territorial scale plans and strategies required by EU legislation in the areas of nature, water, waste, air;
 - > preparatory projects: projects identified by the Commission to support specific needs for the implementation and development of EU environmental or climate policy and legislation;
 - > capacity building projects: financial support to the activities required to build the capacity of Member States with a view to enabling their more effective participation in LIFE.

Budget framework:

- Depending on type and theme of project.

How to apply:

Calls for proposals are published yearly. Detailed instructions on how to draw up and submit the application are provided in the application guidelines published together with the call for proposals.

Applicants must use the respective LIFE application packages (in English only) for the preparation of their proposals.

For 'Traditional' projects, applicants must use only the e-Proposal tool to create and submit proposal(s). Access is provided via <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/eproposalWeb/>. All other types of projects must use the application forms provided in the corresponding application package.

 **For more information:** ec.europa.eu/environment/life/index.htm

PROGRAMME: HEALTH FOR GROWTH PROGRAMME



Active period: 2014 - 2020



Budget: EUR 449 400 000



Managing authority: Consumers, Health and Food Executive Agency



% of funding: 60% is the maximum co-financing rate for all types of grants, and in some rare cases of exceptional utility this may be raised up to 80%.



Objectives of the programme:

- promote health, prevent diseases and foster supportive environments for healthy lifestyles taking into account the 'health in all policies' principle;
- protect Union citizens from serious cross-border health threats;
- contribute to innovative, efficient and sustainable health systems;
- facilitate access to better and safer healthcare for Union citizens.



Applicant eligibility:

Geographical eligibility:

- EU Member States;
- Iceland and Norway;
- Countries which have a bilateral agreement with the European Union in accordance with Article 6 of Regulation (EU) No 282/2014 on the establishment of a third Health Programme for the Union's action in the field of health (2014 - 2020).



Type of organisations:

- legally established organisations;
- public authorities, public (or non-public sector) sector bodies (research and health institutions, universities and higher education establishments);
- non-governmental bodies;
- international organisations;
- private companies (through public procurement).



Eligible actions:

The programme would help fund:

- the uptake of innovative solutions to improve healthcare provision;
- pooling of resources and know-how between EU countries to address common problems, while enabling national governments to retain control over their own healthcare systems.

The programme will fund actions targeting the following objectives:



Objective 1: Contribute to innovative & sustainable health systems:

- encourage Member States in the adoption of health technology assessments;
- further stimulate the use of e-health solutions;
- build an evidence base of information in order to provide advice to Member States on how to organise and manage their health systems better;
- health workforce issues through the identification and promotion of successful strategies for recruitment in the health sector as well as encouraging cross-border education and training.

Objective 2: Increasing access to better & safer healthcare:

- support implementation and accreditation of the European Reference Networks system;
- increase collaboration on patient safety and quality of care to expand patients' options in terms of the cross-border possibilities available to them by increasing the availability of information and the transparency on care delivery which would help to achieve improved healthcare outcomes.

Objective 3: Promoting Good health & disease preventing to improve citizens health:

- support and accelerate the take-up of best practices by Member States;
- support existing EU strategies;
- foster effective cooperation between Member States;
- establish an EU-level validation mechanism that will demonstrate how practices and community-based intervention can be assessed with a view to sustainable implementation at the level of whole populations;
- support adequate dissemination and evaluation methods.

Objective 4: Protecting Citizens from cross-border Health Threats

- preparedness and response planning;
- risk and crisis communication;
- capacity building for risk assessment and training;
- exchanges of best practice and experience;
- measures designed to monitor and provide early warnings of health threats with a view to combating them more effectively.

Budget framework:

Depending on type of project activities and project objective

How to apply:

Proposals can only be submitted electronically via the Electronic Exchange System of the EU Research & Innovation Participant Portal. Electronic submission through Participant Portal is available.

If your organization is not in the electronic registration system for the FP 7/HORIZON

2020 and other Programmes i.e. you do not have a 9-digit PIC-number (participant identification code), please [register](#) on the Participant Portal.

All the information on how to do so, together with application forms, is available here: [Consumers, Health and Food Executive Agency](#).



For more information: ec.europa.eu/health/programme/policy/index_en.htm





USEFUL PLATFORMS:

- EuropeAid (International Cooperation and Development Programme) - Calls for proposals & Procurement notices
https://ec.europa.eu/Europeaid/about-funding_en
- Enspire EU - entrepreneurs & entrepreneurship; self-employment.
www.enspire.eu
- COPIE - Managing Authorities and Implementing Bodies for entrepreneurship at national and regional level
www.cop-ie.eu
- Senior Enterprise - seniors, unemployed adults
www.seniorenterprise.ie
- Europioneers - web-entrepreneurs (a specific category who create new digital services and products that use the web as an indispensable component)
europioneers.eu
- Tech All Stars - start-ups
techallstars.eu/faq.html
- EIT Digital - digital technology innovation and entrepreneurial training
www.eitdigital.eu
- Enterprise Europe Network - SME
<http://een.ec.europa.eu>
- European IPR Helpdesk - Intellectual property rights
<https://www.iprhelpdesk.eu>
- INNOVACCESS - The European Network of National Intellectual Property Offices- Intellectual property rights
<http://www.innovaccess.eu>
- EU Eco-innovation Action Plan - innovations and innovative projects
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecoap/about-action-plan/index_en.htm



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