| **No.** | **Question received** | **Answer provided** |
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| **I. Application Form** | | |
| **I.1** |  |  |
| **II. Eligibility of expenditures** | | |
| **II.1** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **III. Eligibility of applicants and activities** | | |
| **III.1** | Dear Interreg VI-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme team,  Regarding the launching of a new 4th call for project proposals, please give me the clarification of the following questions:   1. We are an NGO from Bulgaria established in 2020 in region, which is outside of the Programme area. At the moment we are in a process of changing our place of registration (headquarter) in the city of Vratsa, which is in the eligible area. Are we eligible to participate as a Lead partner or a Project partner under the current call, if our registration in the eligible region will be established a month or two, before the deadline for the project’s submission? 2. Our NGO was registered as a non-profit organization operating its activity in a “private benefit”. Regarding to that, is it eligible to participate as an applicant/partner in the project or its registration need to be in a “public benefit”? | To clarify the question regarding the launching of the 4th call for project proposals, please see the response below:   1. There conditions set within the Applicant’s Guide regarding the location of the applicants (with their headquarters in the Programme’s area) should be met at the time when the application form is submitted, before the deadline for project submission.   However, in case the organization does not change its registration and is located outside the Programme area, please be informed that the organization may still participate in projects if the following conditions are met:  “Applicants, outside the Programme area, but from Romania and Bulgaria, can also participate in projects, but only in exceptional cases, namely if they:  - Are competent in their scope of action for certain parts of the eligible area (e.g. ministries, national agencies, research institutes, organizations etc.);  - Carry out activities that are beneficial for the Programme area;  - Their participation must bring clear added value and expertise to the implementation of a project and has to be beneficial for the Programme area.  - They cannot take the Lead Partner role.”   1. Regarding the eligibility of a NGO that is registered as a non-profit organization operating its activity in a “private benefit”, please note that according to the Applicant guide Non-governmental organizations (associations or foundations) are eligible applicants, regardless of whether the organization is operating for “public benefit” or for “private benefit”, therefore both types of NGOs are eligible. Please keep in mind, that grants shall not have the purpose or effect of producing a profit within the framework of the action or the work programme of the beneficiary (‘no-profit principle’).   However, please bear in mind that the eligibility of the partners is to be analyzed during the assessment process, based on the justification documents submitted and in accordance with the eligibility criteria of the applicants listed in the Applicants Guide. The assessors may request, at any time, additional documentary evidence and argumentations regarding the eligibility of applicants. |
| **III. 2** | We would like to ask a clarification regarding eligible activities under Call 4 - Competitive call for project proposals dedicated to Priority 2: A Green Region, Specific Objectives 2.4, so we can best structure our proposal.  Partner organizations in the eligible territories have established a need for acquiring a specialized "vessel for collecting algae and floating garbage", which could be used for various interventions around the Danube river beds, including collecting floating tree branches and other debris, as well as cleaning oil spillages. The vessel could also be used for surveys of the river bank’s state, observation of erosion processes, visible only from the river surface and observation of natural habitats without disturbing the plans and wildlife, residing there.  Will such a vessel be eligible under the current call if both Romanian and Bulgarian partners have equal and free access for its use? | Regarding your question concerning the eligibility of  purchasing a vessel, please be informed that in accordance with the Applicant’s Guide, section 2.9 Eligibility of Expenditures, the project budget should be prepared on the basis of the activities needed to meet the projects’ objectives and the resources required to carry out these activities. Therefore, eligibility of a certain type of equipment (including a vessel) shall be established by the assessment committee when assessing the project, based on the described justification of the need of the specific equipment for implementation of the project’ activities.  Please pay attention to the fact that the project’s activities shall contribute to the specific objective of the call for proposal, namely the current call addresses **only** the types of actions related to **climate change adaptation measures,** meant to identify, asses and reduce the effects of climate change. These actions aim at adapting to the effects of climate change and taking appropriate action to use the opportunities that may arise.  **At the same time, please keep in mind that the actions related to disaster risk prevention and resilience are not financed under this call.**  Therefore, just describing the use of the vessel as needed for collecting algae and floating garbage / debris, observing the river banks / interventions will not ensure the eligibility of the procurement of such equipment as it is not duly justified in terms of clear contribution to the climate change adaptation measures. For a proper development of the project proposal, we are recommending you to first determine the need for the project’s activities, the desired goals of the project and their contribution to the Programme’s objectives and indicators and only after that to proceed with the identification of the resources needed (such as equipment) for the implementation of the respective activities. |
| **IV. Applicant’s Guide and Annexes** | | |
| **IV.1** |  |  |
| **V. JEMS** | | |
| **V.1** |  |  |
| **VI. Budget** | | |
| **VI.1** |  |  |
| **VII. Horizontal issues** | | |
| **VII.1** |  |  |
| **VIII. Other aspects** | | |
| **VIII.1** |  |  |