



Let's spend the money wisely!

**Webinar Applicant's Guide for the competitive call dedicated to
Priority 2: A green region, Specific Objectives 2.4 and 2.7**

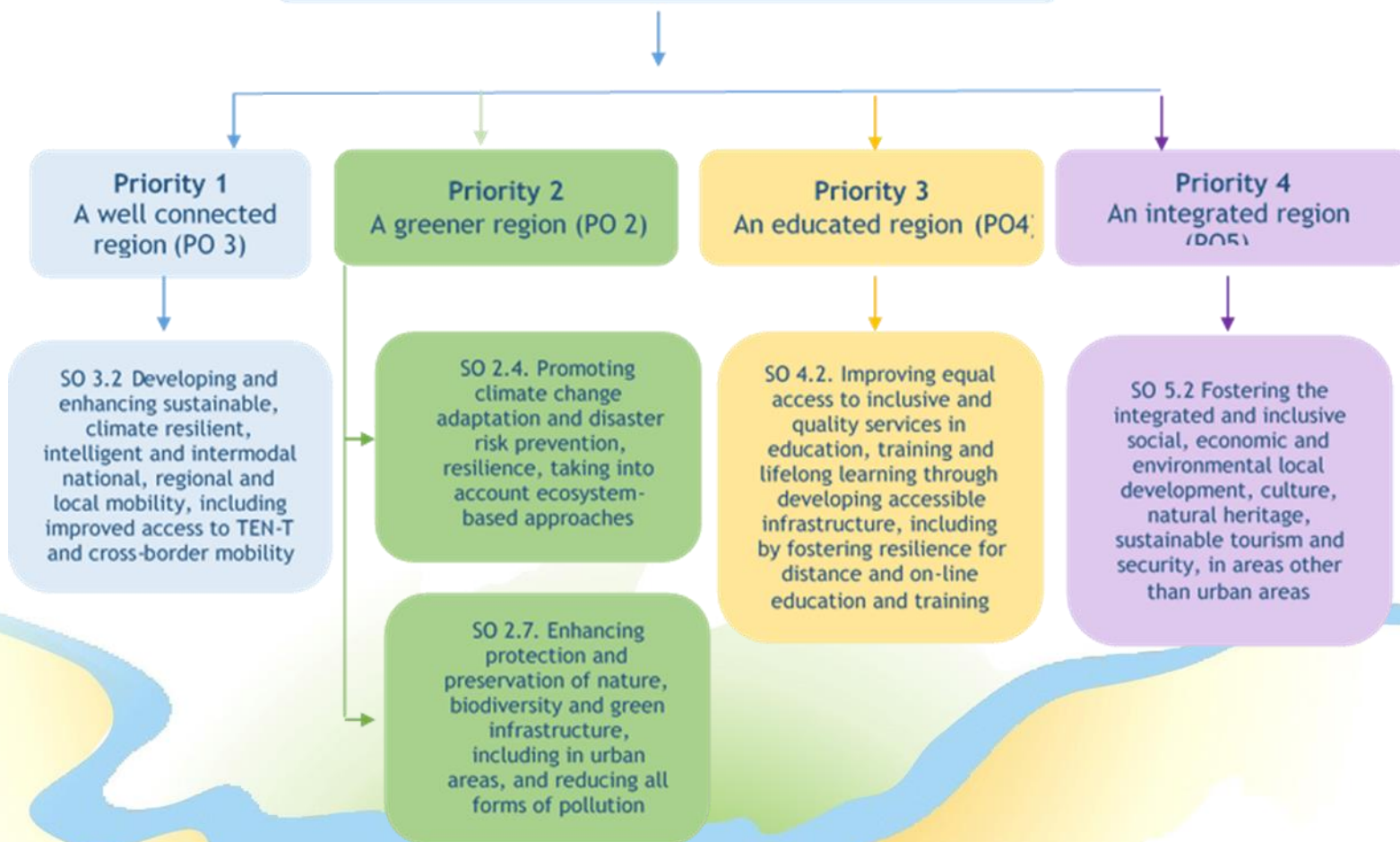
22nd of May | Online, Zoom

Project features



Programme picture

Interreg VI-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme



Programme picture

Total budget of the IP:

207,457,163.08 euro

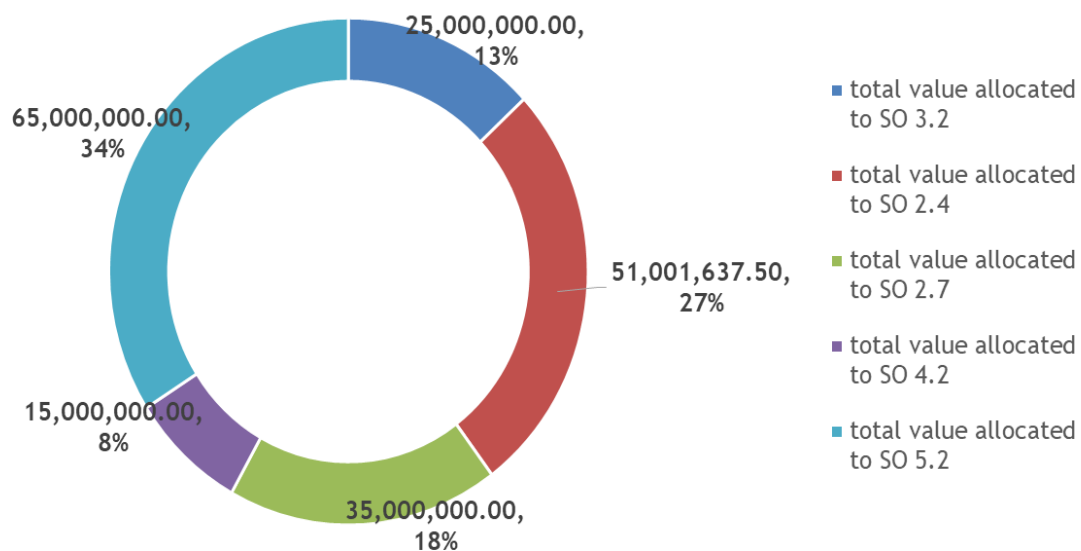
- **Total budget for projects:**

191,001,637.50 euro

- **TA total budget:**

16,455,525.58

Programme total budget - dedicated to projects



Romania – Bulgaria

General information

- **Open:** on 10th of May 2023
- **Close:** on 11th of September 2023. at 12:00 PM EET
- **Budget:**

Specific Objective	Indicative ERDF allocation - Euro	Indicative total allocation - Euro (Includes the contributions from national co-financing and the own contribution of partners from both countries)
SO 2.4 promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches (climate change adaptation actions).	7,301,310	9,126,637
SO 2.7 enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in the urban area, and reducing all forms of pollution.	28,000,000	35,000,000
Total	35,301,310	44,126,637

Types of applications

- **Soft operation** - is a project that has works/infrastructure component below 50% of the eligible budget.
- **Hard operation** - is a project that has an infrastructure/works component equal or more than 50% of the total project eligible budget.

Type of operation	Project duration	Total financial support from the programme (ERDF+national co-financing from SB + own contribution)	Features
Soft operation	not exceed 18 months from the starting date of the project	between 300,001 Euro and 750 000 Euro	Has works/infrastructure component below 50% of the eligible budget
Hard operation	not exceed 36 months from the starting date of the project	between 500,000 Euro and 2 000 000 Euro for 2.4 between 500,000 Euro and 3 500 000 Euro for 2.7	Has an infrastructure/works component equal or more than 50% of the total project eligible budget

Features of Interreg projects

- The projects must observe, at least the following characteristics:
 - Have a cross-border character and impact
 - Contribute to the Programme indicators
 - Integrate, as much as possible the core values of the New European Bauhaus (sustainability, aesthetics and inclusion)
 - Promote solutions that are friendly with the environment and observe the *Do no significant Harm* Principle, climate proofing (if the case)
 - The projects submitted under Priority 2 should promote eco-system based approaches
 - Promote the equal opportunities, transparency and green procurement
 - Partners must cooperate in the **development and implementation** of projects, as well as in the staffing or financing, or both, thereof.
- **The project that does not have a cross-border character and impact and does not observe the cooperation criteria will be rejected.**
- In case the **mandatory cooperation criteria are not met by the partners, as set in the Guide, the project shall be rejected and the assessment process shall stop without further analysis.**

Types of applications

- When developing your application please observe all features described above for each type of operation.
- It is very important to identify your type of operation in the application form, meaning SOFT or HARD, under Application Form Section Project acronym. This means that your project acronym will be accompanied by the type of operation.

Eg: if your hard project acronym is XYZ, then the section will be filled in as follow: XYZ - Hard.

- The evaluators will check during the assessment process if the type of project is clearly identified under the Project acronym Section and if it complies with the specific features.
- The projects budget must be within the set threshold. The Programme will grant maximum the amount included in the table above.
- If the final proposed value is exceeding the threshold, the difference should be included in the budget as non-eligible costs/ non-refundable funds, in the narrative section *A.2 Project Summary*.





Types of applicants

- National, regional and local public bodies, institutions, administrations, agencies, including the bodies governed by public law, county/district councils, local councils/ municipalities, educational and research institutions etc.
- Chambers of Commerce and Regional Development Agencies functioning in the eligible area and registered in accordance to national law
- Non-governmental organizations (associations or foundations) in the sense of art. 192, of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046)
- Offices/ branches of public national/regional authorities and other public bodies active on the themes of the priority in the programme area (registered and functioning in the programme area). If those offices/ branches which are functioning in the programme area are not legal bodies, the Application should be submitted by their Headquarters indicating the office/ branch responsible for implementing the activities.

Types of applicants

- Be a Romanian or Bulgarian entity, legally established according to the national legislation of the state on whose territory they are located
- Prove their competence in the field and the activities envisaged under the project through ownership acts, legal acts/strategies/action plans references, etc.
- Have their headquarters in the eligible cross border region (programme area)
- Are Romanian or Bulgarian national public authorities, agencies whose area of competence, established by legal acts, extends to the eligible area of the Programme.
- In case of infrastructure envisaged, the applicants should be the owners of the given territory/building subject of that investment activities. For Bulgarian partners, in case of infrastructure, the investment activities should be carried out on public property.
- For both soft and hard type of operations, the partnership should include project partners or associated project partners legally responsible for the field of interventions/policy domain addressed by the project and who will be the user of the project outputs.

Types of applicants

- 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);
 -  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.
- Applicants from third country partners (outside and inside EU) can participate as associated partners (associated organization) but cannot receive ERDF funding from the Interreg VI-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme.

Types of applicants

Size of the partnership

The partnership must observe the minimum requirements:

-  maximum 5 partners
-  at least one partner from each Member State participating the Programme (Romania, Bulgaria).



The size of the partnership should reflect the scope of the project and the role of each partner should be clear justified.



Types of actions

For all operations, it is compulsory that the applicant has among its attributions, according with its statute or according to the national legislation, the implementation of the proposed activities or that the applicant has an agreement with the relevant institutions to implement such activities, according with its statute or according to the national legislation.

Specific objective: 2.4. Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account ecosystem-based approaches

-  types of actions are related to climate change adaptation
-  risk related actions are not eligible under this call

****Please see the Programme document and the Applicant's Guide for more details**

*****More to come during the following events**

Types of actions

Specific objective: 2.7 Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution

- 🌍 Actions targeting protection, restoration, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and habitats
- 🌍 Actions targeting developing green infrastructures and supporting biodiversity and protecting nature in human settlements; Raising awareness of the benefits of green spaces
- 🌍 Actions targeted at improving pollution control by supporting investments in monitoring and data collection on air, soil and water pollution, particularly in urban areas

The objective of the urban parks/gardens should envisage the promotion of biodiversity, nature, harmonious improvement of nature in public space. The use of natural materials (wood, stone etc.) and environmental friendly is mandatory; any other materials are not accepted. The cost of the (urban) furniture should be limited to maximum 20% of the total cost of investments related to urban parks/garden per partner.

****Please see the Programme document and the Applicant's Guide for more details**

*****More to come during the following events**

Types of actions

Specific objective: 2.7 Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution

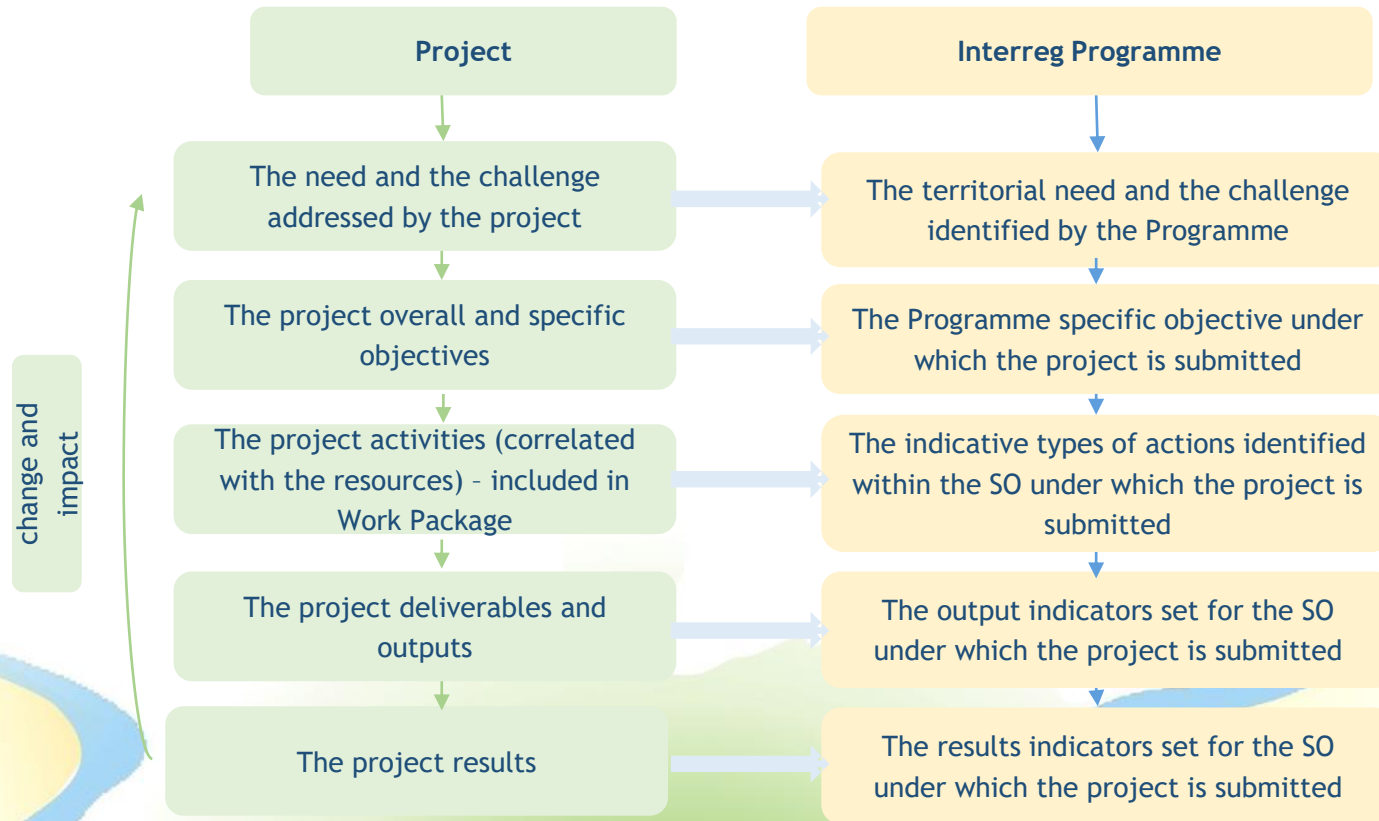
- Please bear in mind that the objective of this specific objective is the protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution. All the projects should be in the scope of this objective, otherwise they will not be selected for funding.
- All the projects that foresee planting of grasses, shrubs and trees, should use exclusively non-invasive local species, typical for the natural habitats in the regions of the implementation, including consideration and compliance with the available and/or possible (park) fauna.
- The projects that include construction works and landscaping must ensure the implementation of these project alternatives, which use minimum artificial treatment of the soil and maximum maintenance/ development of the green areas, including improving connections between urban and sub-urban green spaces, as well as supporting wild pollinators. During construction, to be defined a minimum level of artificial soil treatment.
- Measures addressing **green infrastructure and reduction of all forms of pollution** will be considered a **higher priority**, therefore, the recommendation is to include green infrastructure activities in the operations, where appropriate.

Location of actions

- implemented in the Programme area. The applicants are asked to demonstrate that those activities have cross-border impact on the Programme area and contribute to the objectives of the Programme.
- By exception, activities outside the Programme area can be implemented in duly justified cases. In such cases, the following requirements must be observed by the concerned activities:
 - They are for the benefit of the Programme area
 - They are essential for the implementation of the project
 - They are explicitly foreseen in the application form.
- Activities related to **investments (equipment, infrastructure, works etc.) should be implemented exclusively in the Programme area.**
- The **purchased equipment must be located, installed and used in the eligible area of the Programme.**
- The cost related to such activities shall be considered as ineligible and shall be excluded from funding under the Programme, if outside to the IP area and must be supported by the concerned applicant from resources outside the IP.
- For Bulgarian applicants, in case of infrastructure and works, the **investment activities should be carried out on public property** (the applicant must prove the right to own the public property or the concession of that property).

Your project!

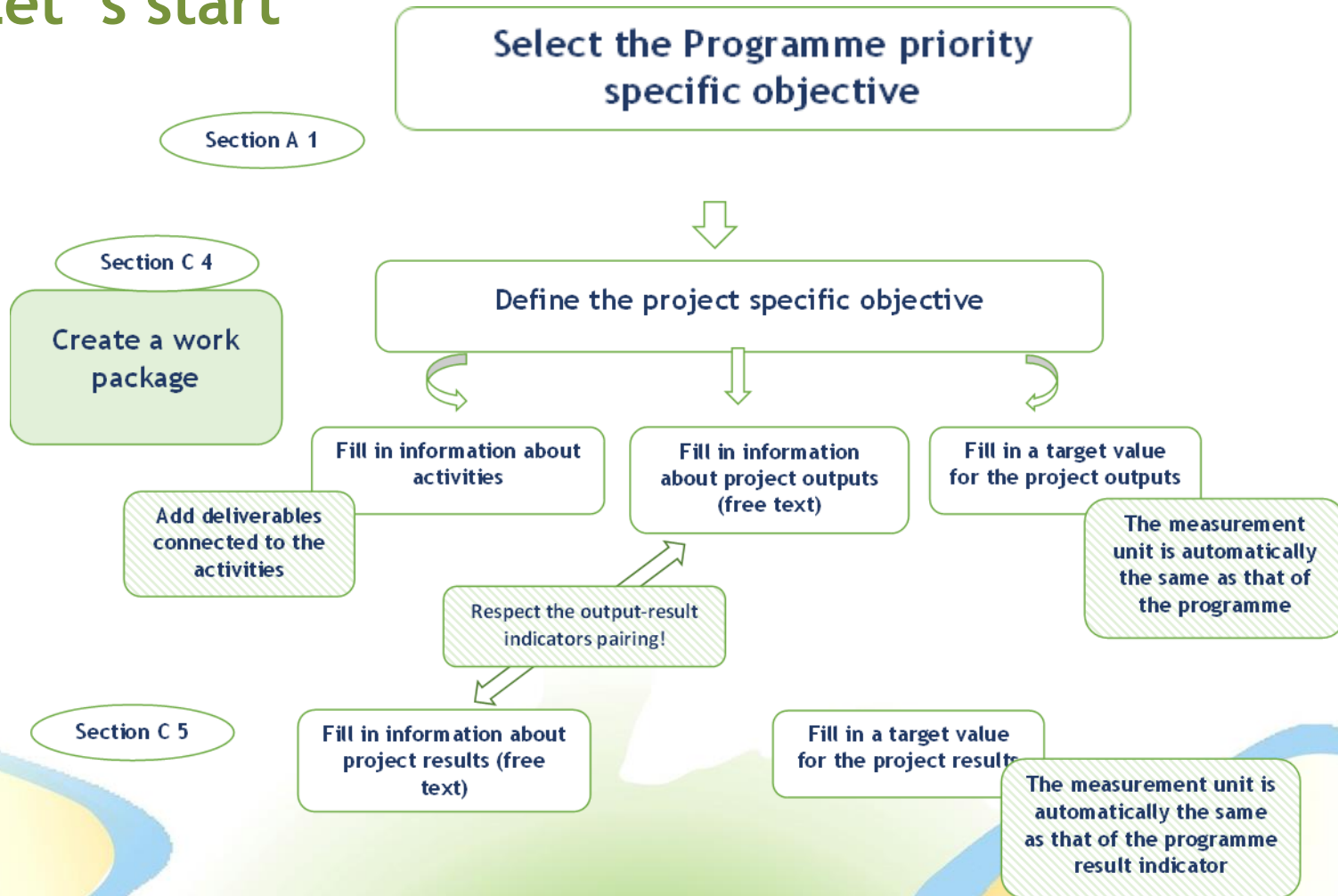
The project logic intervention



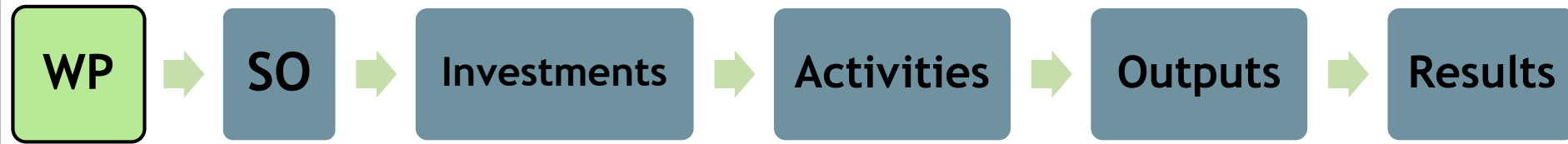
Let`s start

- Important!
- Needs (Start from territory)
- Project general objective - what do you aim to achieve by the end of your project?
- Project relevance and context - why your project is needed in the programme area and the relevance of your project for the programme area, in terms of common challenges and opportunities addressed?
- Why cross-border cooperation is needed to achieve project objectives and results.
- How do the project consider the results of other projects/sinergies/contribution to other strategies and policies.
- Ensuring the durability and the transferability of the outputs and results

Let`s start

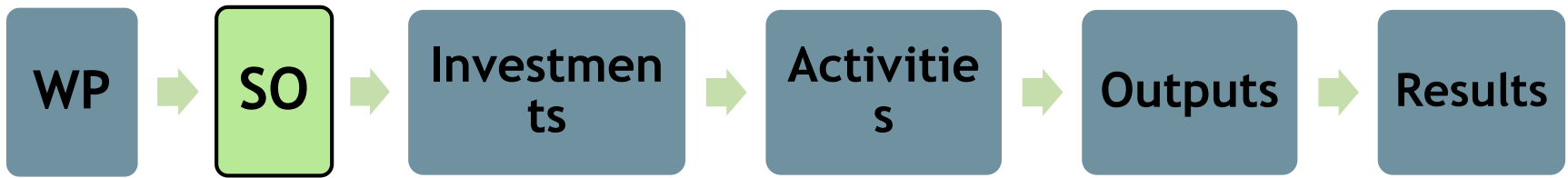


Let`s start



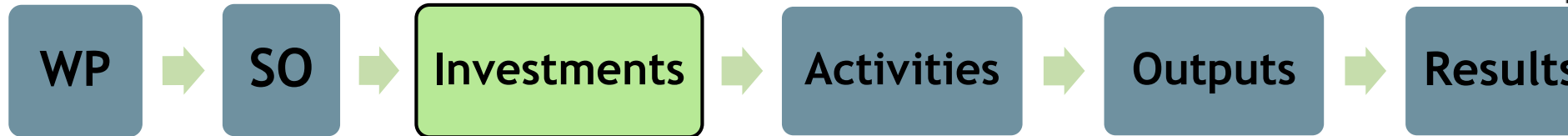
- Create a Work package (WP) - this is the building block of the project - up to 3 work packages.
- WP is defined as group of related project activities required to produce project main outputs. The project will have as many work packages as it will have project specific objectives defined.
- **SO=WP**
- each WP should have a distinct project specific objective (i.e. project specific objectives should not be repeated in other work packages)

Let`s start



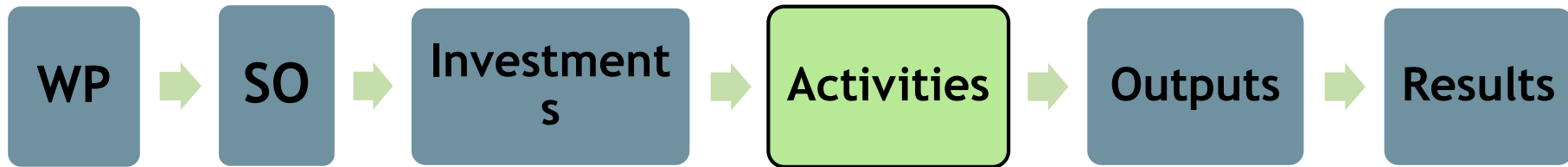
- Define a specific objective that will be achieved when all activities in the work package are implemented and outputs delivered.
- Describe the communication objective and target audience.

Let`s start



- List the investments that will be delivered within the work package.
- Recommendation: Investments should be grouped by their specificity. All equipment purchased for one output/ activity = one investment.
- Add elements related to: justification, relevance, target group, location, risks, documentation, ownership.
- Information on its environmental sustainability and risks. Infrastructure investments with an expected lifespan of at least 5 years have to ensure their climate proofing (climate resilience - adaptation to climate change).

Romania – Bulgaria



- Describe the activities by which the project achieves the SO and related communication objective.
- The activities should contribute to the development of the planned outputs. The number of activities per WP depends on its complexity, such as the number and type of outputs to be developed. Usually no more than 4 to 6 activities per work package should be foreseen.
- Each working package includes specific communication objectives and activities. As such, each project is required to set out the envisaged approach to communication and visibility of the WP.
- Project partner`s involvement in each activity should also be described.
- Add deliverable/s for each activity, which are:
 - side-products or services that contribute to the achievement/development of a project output;
 - the quantified outcomes of an activity.

WP



SO



Investments



Activities



Outputs



Results

- Describe the outputs that will be delivered during the implementation.
- Outputs are:
 - the main achievement of a set of project activities;
 - different from deliverables;
 - correlated with programme output indicators and share their measurement unit
- More than one project output can contribute to the same programme output indicator.

WP



SO



Investments



Activities





Outputs



Results

- Select the programme result indicators you will contribute to (what do you expect to change following the activities you plan to implement and the outputs you plan to deliver) and describe the project result/s:
 - All project results will be aggregated at the level of the corresponding result indicator/s you select;
 - You must select only result indicators which are linked with the selected output indicators.

Project outputs/results and Programme indicators

- The project outputs and results are must have the same measurement unit and definition as the programme output and result indicators,
- project output  programme output indicator
- project result  programme result indicator
- The outputs/results at the level of WP are aggregated in this table:
- The indicators target is given by the project outputs and results targets (cumulated)



Programme indicators - SO 2.4

Indicator	Measurement unit	Target 2024	Target 2029	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target 2029
Output				Result		
RCO84 - Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	Pilot action	0	4	RCR104 - Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organizations	Solutions	2
RCO87 - Organisations cooperating across borders	Organization	0	13	RCR84 - Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	Organization	7
RCO26 - Green infrastructure built or upgraded for adaptation to climate change	Ha	0	67	RCR35 - Population benefitting from flood protection measure	Population	1,000,000

Programme indicators - SO 2.7

Indicator	Measurement unit	Target 2024	Target 2029	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target 2029
Output				Result		
PSO3Tools implemented for mitigating pollution	number	0	8	PSR3 Population living within the area covered by the tools implemented for mitigating pollution	persons	210,000.00
RCO84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	pilot actions	0	16	RCR104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations	solutions	8.00
RCO87 Organisations cooperating across borders	organisations	0	32	RCR84 Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	organisations	16.00
RCO36 Green infrastructure supported for other purposes than adaptation to climate change	hectares	0	5	RCR95 Population having access to new or improved green infrastructure	persons	3,750.00

Project outputs/results and Programme indicators

Tips:

- Set realistic targets (when setting the target of each indicator, please be realistic and based on your previous experience and the data sources).
- When setting the target indicators please consider the data availability, as you have to justify the data sources (e.g. statistic data, surveys, questionnaires etc.). Evidence should be collected and considered when setting the targets. Later on, during the implementation phase, relevant evidence (documents, statistics, analysis etc.) shall be used in supporting the reported contribution to the indicators targets.
- The indicators must reflect the project activities.
- The indicators reflect the joint outputs/results (so the reporting will be at project level). When setting the target, all the partners should be involved and commonly discussed.
- Please bear in mind that the output indicators must be reported at the end of the project competition. This means that all the outputs must be completed by the end of the project implementation period, and not during the sustainability period. No contribution from the sustainability shall be considered.
- The result indicators shall be reported within 6 months or 1 year from the date of the project completion.

Project outputs/results and Programme indicators

Tips:

- Each project must contribute to the output and result indicators, corresponding to the Priority under which the project is submitted.
- The pairing of the indicators must be observed.
- For each Specific Objectives - specific rules regarding the mandatory pairs of indicators!
- Check the definition and the reporting details included in the Applicant's Guide!

The pair of indicators *RCO87 Organisations cooperating across borders and RCR84 Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion* cannot be used as a standalone pair. If this pair of indicators is chosen, at least another pair of indicators must be selected. If this rule is not observed, the project shall be rejected from funding, without further evaluation.



Annexes

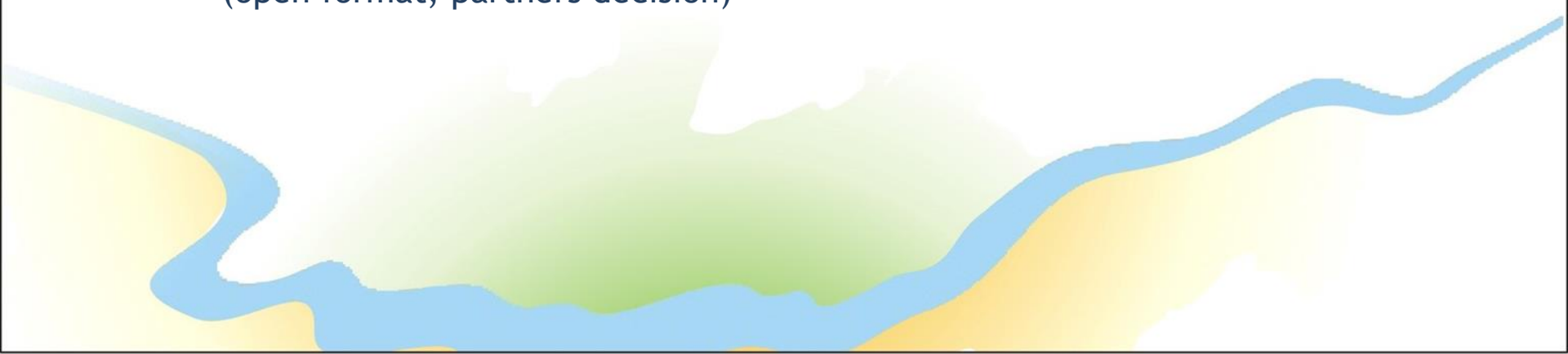
Documents mandatory for all applications (electronic signature) - covered by lump sum

- Annex A1 Project statement
- Annex A2 Project partner statement
- Annex A3 State-aid self-assessment
- Annex A4 Legalized mandates of delegation (in case the application form and annexed declarations are not signed by the legal representative of the Lead Partner) (open format, partners decision)
- Annex A5 Documents or Declaration on own responsibility certifying the ownership status of the land and /or building (where applicable, open format, partners decision)
- Annex A6 Market analysis for each item (open format, partners decision)
- Annex A7 DNSH declaration
- Annex A8 Associated partner declaration (if applicable)
- Annex A9 Methodology for measuring result/output indicators (only for result indicators RCR35; RCR37 and RCR96 and output indicator RCO53) (where applicable) - no standard format (open format, partners decision)
- Annex A10 Financial Capacity Self-Assessment

Annexes

Depending on the project type - Documents mandatory for applications (electronic signature) - covered by real costs

- Annex B1 Cost Benefit Analysis
- Annex B2 Feasibility studies / equivalent technical documents
- Annex B3 Urban planning permit, only for the Romanian beneficiaries
- Annex B4 Environmental agreement
- Annex B5 Environmental Impact Report
- Annex B6 Project Environmental Impact Analysis
- Annex B7 Assessment of expected impacts of climate change, the partner declaration and the independent verification report if additionally required (open format, partners decision)



Future plans

- **Beginning of June:** online tutorial on how to use JEMS
- **12th of June:** online Q&A session - your chance to asks questions and get answers!
- **14th of June:** Ruse, onsite event (How to develop a project and partner search)
- **28th of June:** Online forum - partner search
- **July...**stay tuned, more to come on the Programme facebook and site

<https://interregviarobg.eu/en/home>

<https://www.facebook.com/RomaniaBulgariaCbcProgramme>