Let's spend the money wisely!

Webinar Applicant's Guide for the Operations of Strategic Importance
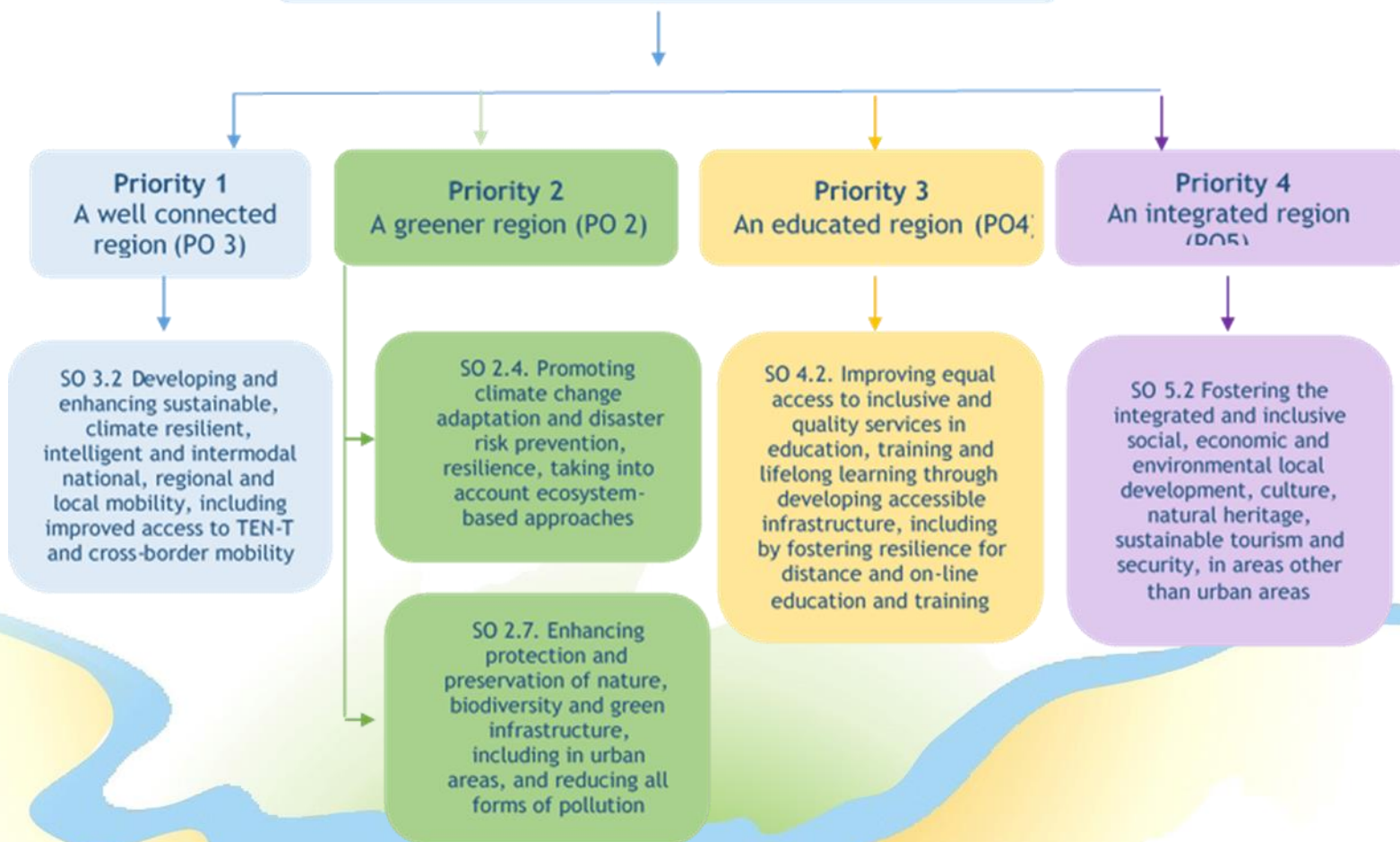
23rd of May | Online, Webex

OSI features

Programme picture

Interreg VI-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme

Priority 1
A well connected region (PO 3)

SO 3.2 Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility

Priority 2
A greener region (PO 2)

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

SO 2.7. Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution

Priority 3
An educated region (PO4)

SO 4.2. Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training

Priority 4
An integrated region (PO5)

SO 5.2 Fostering the integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental local development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism and security, in areas other than urban areas

Programme picture

Total budget of the IP:

207,457,163.08 euro
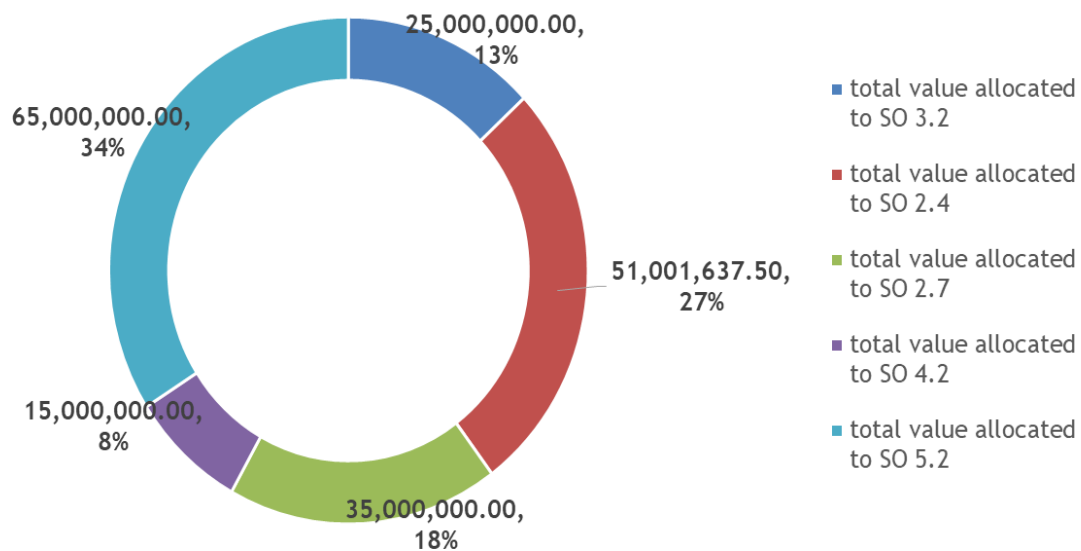
- **Total budget for projects:**

191,001,637.50 euro

- **TA total budget:**

16,455,525.58

Programme total budget - dedicated to projects

25,000,000.00, 13%

51,001,637.50, 27%

35,000,000.00, 18%

15,000,000.00, 8%

65,000,000.00, 34%

- total value allocated to SO 3.2
- total value allocated to SO 2.4
- total value allocated to SO 2.7
- total value allocated to SO 4.2
- total value allocated to SO 5.2

General information

- **Open:** on 10th of May 2023

- **Close:**

  - **DISMAR and STREAM 2** on 11th of September 2023, at 12:00 PM EET

  - **DANUBE RISK** on 9th of November 2023, at 12:00 PM EET

  - **Rail connectivity** on 3rd of January 2023, at 12:00 PM EET

List of the OSI and the budget of the call

Projects of strategic importance	Indicative ERDF allocation – Euro	Indicative total allocation – Euro
DISMAR – Danube Integrated System for MARking	8,000,000	10,000,000
Enhancing rail connectivity and mobility across the Danube Project	12,000,000	15,000,000
Streamlining cross-border cooperation: Joint approach in disaster resilience – STREAM 2	19,500,000	24,375,000
Danube Risk Prevention – Danube RISK	14,000,000	17,500,000
Total	53,500,000	66,875,000

Types of applicants

- Only the applications included in the Call.
- Only the partners identified in the Call
    - In exceptional cases, the partnership can be modified
    - The modification must not introduce a major change in the project objectives, main activities, results and outputs, the strategic character, otherwise it can lead to the rejection of the project and its exclusion from the Programme.
    - In this case, the rules set by the call must be observed.

If new applicants are included, the conditions from the Call need to be observed

- **Duly justified, real contribution the operation (clear role and responsibilities)**

Types of actions

- Based on concepts notes submitted for OSI and on the indicative types of actions included in the Interreg Programme

  - Actions enhancing rail connectivity and mobility across the Danube

  - Actions improving the navigation conditions and safety on the Danube and Black Sea in order to enhance the mobility and connectivity in the cross-border area

  - Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account ecosystem-based approaches

- Additional activities may be added, provided they are in line with the Programme specific objective and indicative types of actions, and contribute to the achievement of the OSI objectives, as described in the concepts notes submitted for the project idea.

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

![Interreg Romania – Bulgaria, Co-funded by the European Union]

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

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.

- Activities related to **investments (equipment, infrastructure, works etc.) should be implemented in the Programme area.**

- The **purchased equipment should be located, installed and used in the eligible area 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.

- the applicant must clearly identify and justify the share (including the related budget) corresponding to the Programme area, otherwise the costs related to this activity shall be considered as ineligible and shall be excluded from funding under the Programme.

- 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).

Project budget and duration

- The projects budget/duration must be within the indicative allocation set at each OSI level.
- If the final proposed value is exceeding the indicative allocation, the difference should be included in the budget as non-eligible costs/ non-refundable funds.
- If the case, the information regarding the non-refundable funds should be included in the narrative section A.2 Project Summary.
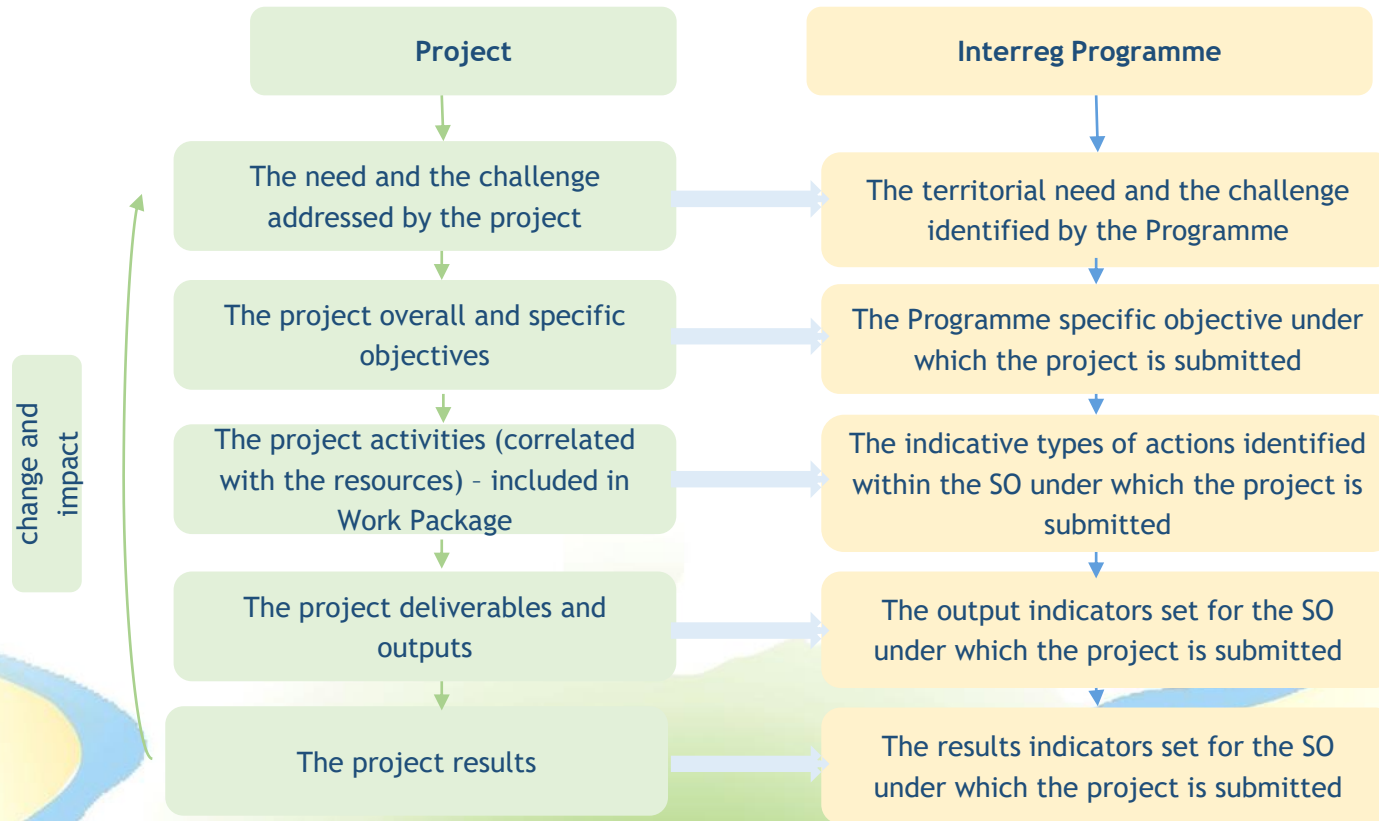
Operations of strategic importance	Indicative ERDF allocation – Euro/total	Duration – months
DISMAR – Danube Integrated System for MARking	8,000,000/10,000,000	36 months
Enhancing rail connectivity and mobility across the Danube Project	12,000,000/15,000,000	48 months
Streamlining cross-border cooperation: Joint approach in disaster resilience – STREAM 2	19,500,000/24,375,000	48 months
Danube Risk Prevention – Danube RISK	14,000,000/17,500,000	36 months
Total	53,500,000/66,875,000	

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.**
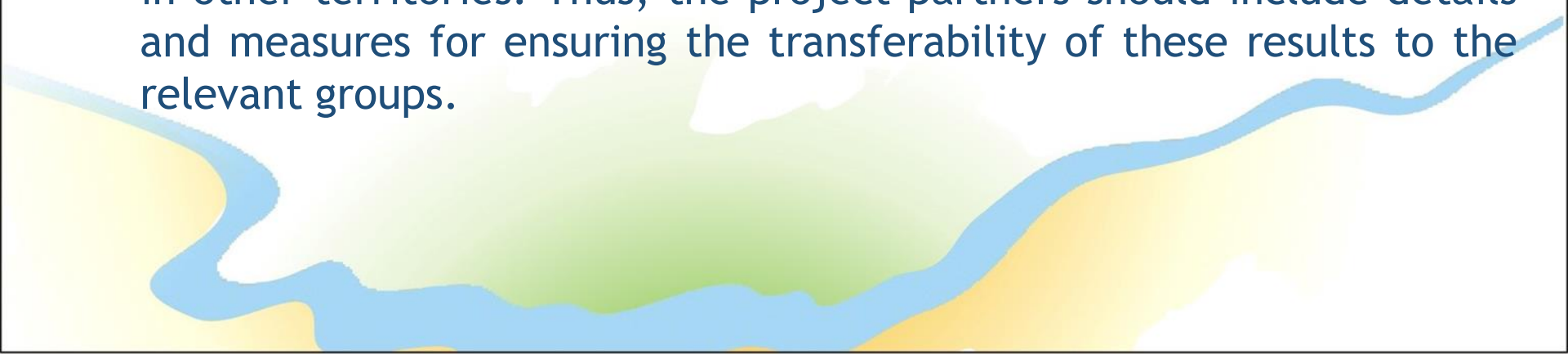
Your project!

The project logic intervention

Project	Interreg Programme
The need and the challenge addressed by the project	The territorial need and the challenge identified by the Programme
The project overall and specific objectives	The Programme specific objective under which the project is submitted
The project activities (correlated with the resources) – included in Work Package	The indicative types of actions identified within the SO under which the project is submitted
The project deliverables and outputs	The output indicators set for the SO under which the project is submitted
The project results	The results indicators set for the SO under which the project is submitted

change and impact

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

Durability, transferability and financial sustainability

- The durability and the financial sustainability of the project must be ensured after the project implementation.

- The application form must include detailed information on how the financial sustainability and the durability of the project and its results will be endures after a period of 5 years since the project completion.

- Some outputs/deliverables that will be delivered by the project can be adapted or further developed to be used by other target groups or in other territories. Thus, the project partners should include details and measures for ensuring the transferability of these results to the relevant groups.
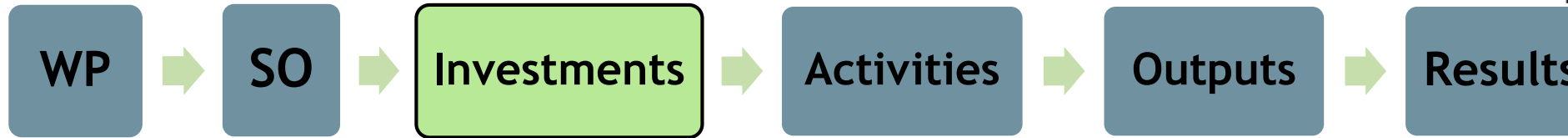
Let`s start

WP → SO → Investments → Activities → Outputs → Results
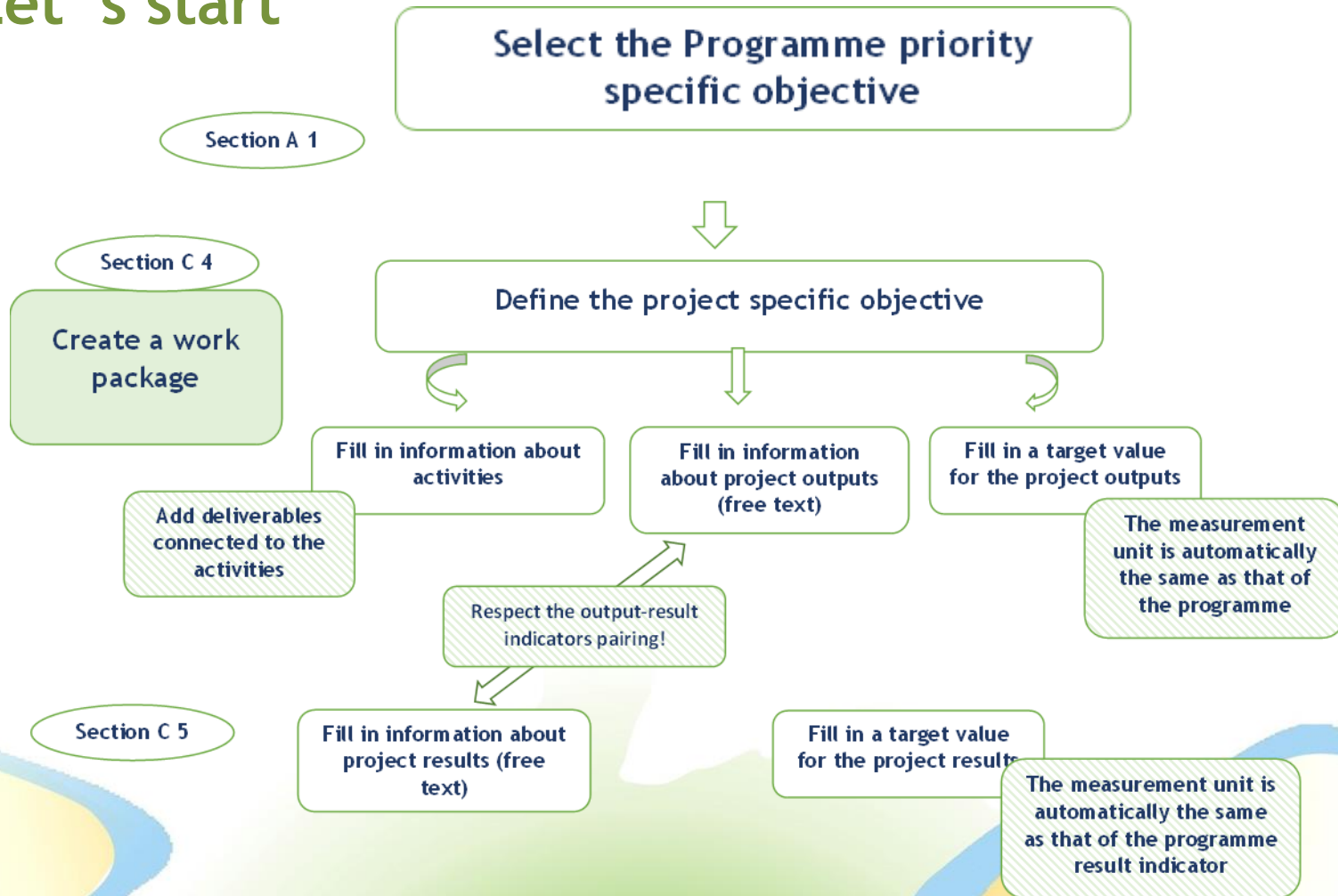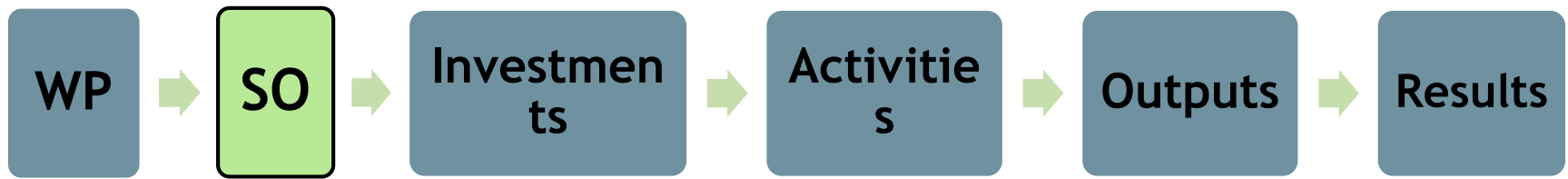
- Define a specific objective that will be achieved when all activities in the work package are implemented and outputs delivered.

- Describe the communication objective and target audience.

Let`s start

| WP | → | SO | → | **Investments** | → | **Activities** | → | **Outputs** | → | **Results** |

- 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).

WP ➡ **SO** ➡ **Investments** ➡ **Activities** ➡ **Outputs** ➡ **Results**
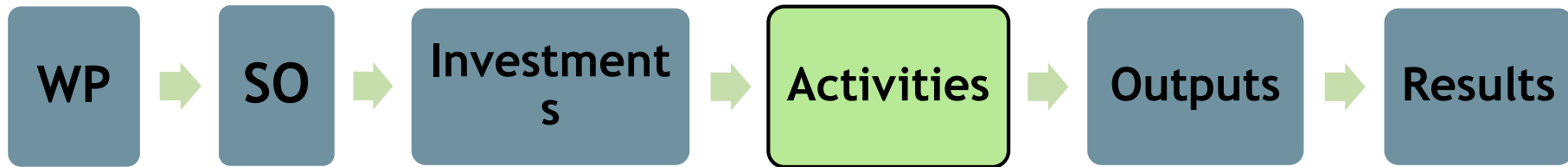
- Describe the activities by which the project achieves the SO and related communication objective.

- 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 3.2, DISMAR and Rail connectivity

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	1	RCR104 - Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organizations	Solutions	2
PSO2 Length of waterway supported in the Romania-Bulgaria cross-border area	Km	0	470			
RCO83 Strategies and action plans jointly developed	Strategies and action plans	0	1			
RCO87 - Organisations cooperating across borders	Organization	0	4	RCR84 - Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	Organisation	2
PCO1 Length of rail reconstructed or modernised - in the Romania-Bulgaria cross-border area	km	0	0.5	RCR58 Annual users of newly, built, upgraded, reconstructed or modernised railways	passenger-km/year	5,000
RCO53 New or modernised railway stations and stops	stations and stops	0	2			

Programme indicators – SO 3.2, DISMAR and Rail connectivity

Indicator	Mandatory	Optional but encouraged	Indicator	Mandatory	Optional but encouraged
Output			**Result**		
RCO84 -Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	*DISMAR Project*	Rail connectivity	RCR104 - Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organizations	*DISMAR Project* Rail connectivity	
PSO2 Length of waterway supported in the Romania-Bulgaria cross-border area	*DISMAR Project*				
RCO83 Strategies and action plans jointly developed	Rail connectivity	*DISMAR Project*			
RCO87 - Organisations cooperating across borders	*DISMAR Project* Rail connectivity		RCR84 - Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	*DISMAR Project* Rail connectivity	
PCO1 Length of rail reconstructed or modernised - in the Romania-Bulgaria cross-border area	Rail connectivity		**RCR58 Annual users of newly, built, upgraded, reconstructed or modernised railways**	Rail connectivity	
RCO53 New or modernised railway stations and stops	Rail connectivity				

OSI – 3.2: Rail connectivity

- For the output indicator RCO53 the lead partner together with the project partners must prepare and submit together with the application form the methodology (1-2 pages maximum) used to set the project baseline for, which will be the same methodology to measure these indicators throughout the lifetime of the project.

- The methodology needs to cover:

  - Data collection: the baseline for the indicator (documented by the partners through databases, data sourced; statistical data, studies, analyses, etc. available at that time for that specific area/geographic area covered); the target value of the indicator, to be achieved until the end of the implementation period and the justification for the proposed target. Evidence of the reported data should be made available when requested by the Programme during the assessment process or pre-contracting phase.

  - Reporting method: information on how the data (on-achieved result indicator) will be collected and reported. Keep in mind that your reporting has to be well documented from verifiable and reliable sources. The available evidence (such as statistic data, surveys, etc.) should be made available in the Programme monitoring system (Jems).

Programme indicators – SO 2.4, Stream II and Danube Risk

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
RCO24 - Investments in new or upgraded disaster monitoring, preparedness, warning and response systems against natural disasters	Euro	0	20,000,000	RCR37 - Population benefiting from protection measures against climate related natural disasters (other than floods or wildfire)	Population	1,000,000
RCO122 - Investments in new or upgraded disaster monitoring, preparedness, warning and response systems against non-climate related natural risks	Euro	0	4,000,000	RCR96 - Population benefiting from protection measures against non-climate related natural risks and risks related to human activities	Population	300,000

Programme indicators – SO 2.4, Stream II and Danube Risk

Indicator	Mandatory	Optional but encouraged	Indicator	Mandatory	Optional but encouraged
Output			**Result**		
RCO84 -Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects		Stream II Danube Risk	RCR104 - Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organizations		Stream II Danube Risk
RCO87 - Organisations cooperating across borders		Stream II Danube Risk	RCR84 - Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion		Stream II Danube Risk
RCO26 - Green infrastructure built or upgraded for adaptation to climate change	Stream II Danube Risk		**RCR35 - Population benefitting from flood protection measure**	Stream II Danube Risk	
RCO24 - Investments in new or upgraded disaster monitoring, preparedness, warning and response systems against natural disasters	Stream II Danube Risk		**RCR37 - Population benefiting from protection measures against climate related natural disasters (other than floods or wildfire)**	Stream II Danube Risk	
RCO122 - Investments in new or upgraded disaster monitoring, preparedness, warning and response systems against non-climate related natural risks	Stream II Danube Risk		**RCR96 - Population benefiting from protection measures against non-climate related natural risks and risks related to human activities**	Stream II Danube Risk	

OSI – 2.4: Stream II and Danube Risk

For the result indicators RCR35, RCR37 and RCR96, the lead partner together with the project partners must prepare and submit together with the application form the methodology (1-2 pages maximum) used to set the project target value of the indicator, which will be used to measure these indicators throughout the lifetime of the project.

- The methodology needs to cover:

  - Data collection: the target value of the indicator, to be achieved until the end of the implementation period (documented by the partners through databases, data sourced; statistical data, studies, analyses, surveys, etc. available at that time for that specific area/geographic area covered) and the justification for the proposed target.

  - Reporting method: information on how the data (on-achieved result indicators) will be collected and reported. Keep in mind that your reporting has to be well documented from verifiable and reliable sources. The available evidence (such as statistic data, surveys, etc.) should be made available in the Programme monitoring system (Jems).

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 OSI is submitted, according to the applicant's guide rules.

- 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)
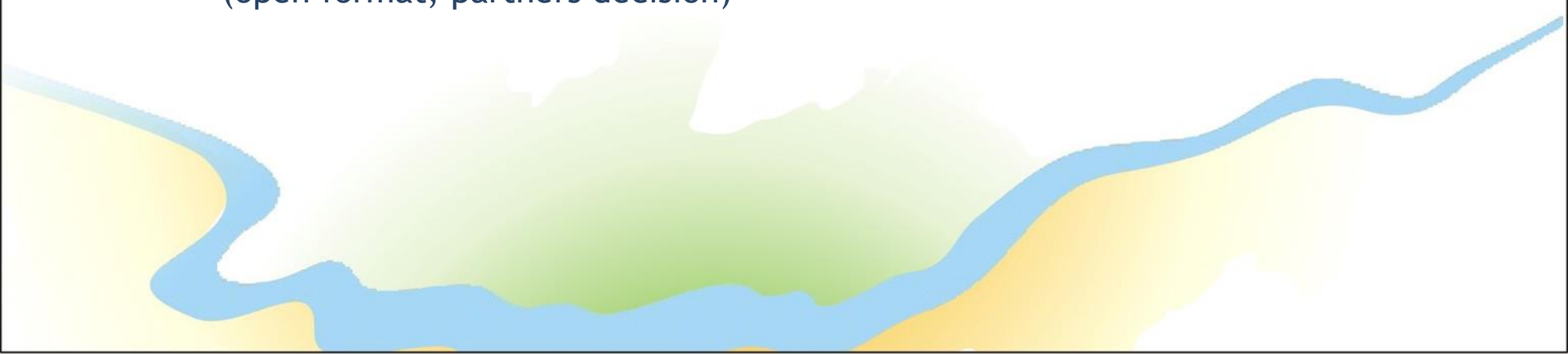
Future plans

- **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!

- **Dedicated sessions for each OSI (thematic approach)**

  - **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