| **No.** | **Question received** | **Answer provided** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **I. Application Form** | | |
| **I.1** |  |  |
| **II. Eligibility of expenditures** | | |
| **II.1** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **III. Eligibility of applicants and activities** | | |
| **III.1** | Related to the Open Call dedicated to Priority 2 – A Greener Region, Specific Objective 2.7 Increasing the protection and conservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, as well as reducing all forms of pollution and based on the provisions of the Applicant Guidebook section 2.2. Eligible applications and applicants: Applicants, outside the Programme area, but from Romania and Bulgaria, can also participate in projects if:  - Are competent in their scope of action for certain parts of the eligible area (e.g. ministries, national agencies, agencies, administration's, national companies etc.);  - Carry out activities that are beneficial for the Programme area  - Their participation must bring clear added value and expertise to the implementation of a project and has to be beneficial for the Programme area.  - They cannot take the Lead Partner role,  Please clarify whether the Institute of World Economy of the Romanian Academy, based in Bucharest and which has no branches or offices in other areas but operates at national level as a public research organization with responsibilities in carrying out relevant studies, analyses and public policies at national, European and global level, can be a partner in a project under this call. | In relation to your request regarding the eligibility of the Institute of World Economy of the Romanian Academy, we inform you that, in accordance with the provisions of the Applicant Guide, section 2.2 - Eligible applications and applicants, entities outside the eligible area of the Programme, but located in Romania or Bulgaria, may participate in projects as partners (except for the role of Lead Partner), if the following conditions are cumulatively met:  1. They are competent in their field of activity for certain parts of the eligible area (e.g. ministries, national agencies, research institutes, etc.);  2. They carry out activities that bring direct benefits to the eligible area of the Programme;  3. Their participation brings clear added value and expertise in the implementation of the project;  4. They cannot have the role of Lead Partner.  In case the Institute of World Economy is a public research institution, part of the Romanian Academy, with recognized competences in conducting relevant studies, analyses and public policies at national and international level and it operates at national level (supporting documents such as legal framework and statute shall be provided in this regard) , it may be considered eligible as a partner in a project, provided that the activities proposed in the project are clearly relevant, useful and beneficial for the eligible area of the Programme.  It is the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate in the project proposal how the Institute of World Economy involvement will bring added value to the implementation of the project in the eligible area of the Programme.  However, please be informed that the eligibility of partners will be assessed during the evaluation process (evaluators may request additional evidence and arguments regarding the eligibility of applicants), based on the supporting documents submitted and in accordance with the eligibility criteria of applicants listed in the Applicant Guide. |
| **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** |  |  |