

Questions and Answers
regarding the Guide for Applicants (GfA) for 1st Open Call for Proposal

Note: The answers to these questions is not a guarantee for selection. Only assessors propose and the Monitoring Committee decides on issues related to eligibility and scoring.

No.	Relevant section in the Guide for Applicants (GfA)	Question	Programme' answer
1	GfA, Open Call for Proposal	Can be eligible only the project/design costs within Ip 6/c Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage ? The project would not include construction investment.	Under the present Open call, within Ip 6/c only natural heritage conservation activities are financed/supported. Each project must contribute to achieving the programme'specifically defined and measurable indicators proportionally with the financing amount, which in this case is 4,000 ha surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status . For more information, please see the description of Ip 6/c within the Fact Sheets.
2	GfA, Open Call for Proposal	I would like to ask if the launched Open call documents are available in Hungarian.	The application documentation is available only in English version, for now. If so requested, the Joint Secretariat can provide you with help in Hungarian language, too. We invite you to write us as often as you need information, and even visit us, if the case. You can find our contact information on the Programme' website. Furthermore, we inform you that between February 6-9 and on February 10th we are going to organize Info days, respectively a Partner Search Forum. For more information, please follow the program website www.interreg-rohu.eu . The exact locations of these events will be communicated to each online registered stakeholder. The support materials concerning the Calls are going to be presented in the national language of the partner country, depending on the location of the event.
3	GfA, Open Call for Proposal	We would like to know if, in case of a project for preserving and revitalizing the Children's Park in Arad, which has a rich variety of secular trees and the land, according to GO976/2003 is in the Public Domain of Arad Municipality, as inventory of assets in the Arad Municipality Public Domain (as public park, recreation area), is the ownership by Title deed of the said area needed?	According to chapter 3 in Guide for Applicants, the Title deed is a mandatory document and must be no older than 30 calendar days . Such document is needed for proving the ownership of land/building when submitting the Application.
4	GfA, Open Call for Proposal	On page 28, related to preparation costs, it is not clearly explained whether such costs must be paid out within 60 days after reception or positive decision on project admission.	Preparation costs shall be paid out in maximum 60 days after the project is approved by the Monitoring Committee.
5	GfA, Open Call for Proposal	On page 34, related to translation of documents, the precise documents to be translated are listed. Is such requirement for documents translation in force? The reason for this question is the information we have got, that all documents must be translated to English.	Translations provided by certified translators are required only for documents relevant for quality assessment and are listed in Chapter 3. How to apply.
6	GfA, Open Call for Proposal	We would like a clarification on point 8, page 34, „Preliminary declaration of construction works“. What does this declaration imply?	A standard template was provided for Preliminary declaration of construction works. This document is issued at the applicant' request by a licensed architect and stipulates the main terms regarding investments on the basis of the national legislation and information provided by the applicant.
7	GfA, Open Call for Proposal	On point 16, page 36, it is mentioned a bilateral agreement for CB infrastructure. Could you provide us with more information on this bilateral agreement?	According to point 16, a bilateral agreement between the member states is required, in case of CB infrastructure other than roads. I.e. a fiber optic network crossing the border.
8	GfA, Open Call for Proposal	If we understand correctly, then only the "financial management" may be considered as external service? General management of the project is possible only under commission contract or labor contract?	The eligible costs related to external services are listed in the General Matrix of Costs_RO-HU, Annex III.2. The costs for management team are eligible under staff costs (in case of labor contract) OR under external expertise and services costs (when a service contract is needed)
9	GfA, Open Call for Proposal	For what kind projects (how big)/When is the feasibility study necessary? Regarding this question, no reference has been found, except for the information that the feasibility studies are needed in case of investment projects. What does this mean, how should it be construed?	In order to support your project proposal, the Feasibility study will be submitted for new investment objectives , if there is available at the moment of submission. The template is provided by RO legislation. The attached version is an unofficial translation and it is subject to modification depending on legislative changes.

10	GfA, Open Call for Proposal	We would like to know the maximum eligible amount allowed for a project submitted under the Investment priority 5/b.	<p>The rate of ERDF financing within a project is maximum 85% of the total eligible project budget; in case of Ip 5/b the minimum and maximum limits for ERDF are EUR 170,000 and EUR 2,550,000.</p> <p>The rate of national state budget co-financing is maximum 13% of the total eligible budget for Romanian beneficiaries, other than Central Public Authorities that are financed through the Romanian state budget, and maximum 10% for Hungarian beneficiaries, except bodies that are financed from the Hungarian state budget, where the maximum rate of national co-financing is 15% of their total eligible project budget. This rate is depended on the granted ERDF, and may vary accordingly. Whereas the rate of ERDF decreases, the national co-financing drawn from the state budget is proportionally decreased as well.</p> <p>Each Beneficiary has to bring an own contribution to the project, that shall be minimum 2 % in case of Romanian Beneficiaries, other than Central Public Authorities for which the contribution is fully ensured by the Romanian state budget, and 5 % in case of Hungarian Beneficiaries other than Central Budgetary Organs in Hungary who do not need to provide own contribution. Even there is no limitation regarding the own contribution, the maximum total project budget (ERDF + State Contribution + Own Contribution) for one project cannot exceed € 50 000 000 00.</p>
11	GfA, Open Call for Proposal	What amount of financing can be requested under Ip 6/c within PA1?	<p>The rate of ERDF financing within a project is maximum 85% of the total eligible project budget; in case of Ip 6/c the minimum and maximum limits for ERDF are EUR 425,000 and EUR 2,550,000.</p> <p>The rate of national state budget co-financing is maximum 13% of the total eligible budget for Romanian beneficiaries, other than Central Public Authorities that are financed through the Romanian state budget, and maximum 10% for Hungarian beneficiaries, except bodies that are financed from the Hungarian state budget, where the maximum rate of national co-financing is 15% of their total eligible project budget. This rate is depended on the granted ERDF, and may vary accordingly. Whereas the rate of ERDF decreases, the national co-financing drawn from the state budget is proportionally decreased as well.</p> <p>Each Beneficiary has to bring an own contribution to the project, that shall be minimum 2 % in case of Romanian Beneficiaries, other than Central Public Authorities for which the contribution is fully ensured by the Romanian state budget, and 5 % in case of Hungarian Beneficiaries other than Central Budgetary Organs in Hungary who do not need to provide own contribution. Even there is no limitation regarding the own contribution, the maximum total project budget (ERDF + State Contribution + Own Contribution) for one project cannot exceed € 50 000 000 00.</p>
12	GfA	What about the difference related the eligibility conditions between the <i>Programme general rules on eligibility of expenditure</i> and <i>Guide for Applicants</i> ?	<p>Please note that <i>Programme general rules on eligibility of expenditure</i> contain general rules, on Programme level. Specific rules are defined in the Guide for Applicants, dedicated for each Call for proposals. These specific rules prevail over the general ones.</p>
13	GfA	Please be so kind to provide us information on the eligibility of a project proposal, in partnership with Bekes County, for a study regarding sustainable use of thermal water resources. The Priority Axes regarding water resources do not include such theme.	<p>Having regard to the succinctness of the information provided, we can specify the followings:</p> <p>According to Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary Cooperation Programme, the Investment priority Ip 6/b you are referring to is focused on implementing integrated water management actions related to cross-border surface water – rivers, streams, flows, including water quality monitoring, information and data exchange, as well as the rehabilitation of natural waters using eco-system based approach, even their original flow direction, flood-protection, retention of surface water resources, agricultural and energy generation use of water, protection of the common water basins.</p> <p>In addition, the project indicator mentioned in the Programme is "Number of measurement points positively affected by the interventions (after the completion of the project) ". In Annex I to the Guide for Applicants for Open call for project proposals, it is highlighted that "given the limited funding available for this intervention and the character of this programme, only the measurement points on cross-border rivers and flows are considered when the value of the indicator is measured. At the same time, in the Guide for Applicants is stated that under Ip 6/b, studies, seminars, workshops, training, awareness raising campaigns, exchange of best practice or similar activities may not be supported as standalone operations, but only as part of complex</p>

14	GfA	<p>The object of the project is the sewerage, drainage works in case of one street located on the territory of the municipality. The city is located low in a water area, and we would like to solve this problem. According to the Water Management Plan, the city lies in a water-based sensitive area.</p> <p>Our question is whether the above-mentioned activity can be supported within the framework of the present Call for proposals, or we can apply strictly with activities aiming at the improvement of the quality of cross-border rivers, surface water?</p>	<p>The scope of the project and the related activities will have to ensure the fulfilment of the programme's specific objective related to the <i>Improved quality management of cross-border rivers and ground water bodies</i>, in a way that, following the investments, the water quality of cross-border rivers will increase at the measurement points. The proposed output indicator is "Number of measurement points positively affected by the interventions (after the completion of the project)", where „positively affected" means that the interventions delivered contribute to improving the ecological quality of the water measured at the given measurement point, and this has to be demonstrated at the end of the project.</p> <p>Given the limited funding available for this intervention and the character of this programme, the interventions focus on improving the quality of cross-border rivers, thus only the measurement points on cross-border rivers and flows are considered when the value of the indicator is measured.</p> <p>The relevant data are annexed in tabular form for reference (See Annex I-A and I-B) in Methodology for defining result indicators (Cooperation Programme, Annex IX.1.)</p> <p>Activities like: mitigation of the negative impacts of significant water pollutions caused by flood, collection and use of excess water, measurements for the mitigation of flood risks will be subject of a future call for proposal.</p>
15	GfA	<p>Within Interreg V-A RO-HU, Investment priority 6/c, for the preservation of century-old trees from ancient parkland along Mures river, we would like to know if the financial allocation of 3,500 - 3,600 Euro/ha mentioned in Factsheet Ip 6/c, page 4, implies the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -century-old trees preservation -re-arrangement of damaged landscape - small investments in signaling and information campaigns and in small pieces of furniture -investments in solar/photovoltaic lightning of the visited are. <p>Must the specific objective indicator, in case of an application submitted for century-old trees preservation, remain the number of overnight-stays as a result of visiting the improved area, following the implementation of the project?</p> <p>The park is located in the protected area of Palace of Culture, historical monument and</p>	<p>1. According to the Guide for Applicants released in December, the common output indicator for Ip 6/c relates to the surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status. Thus, no matter what activities and eligible investment involves your project, the spent budget will have to be proportional to the number of hectares of the affected area.</p> <p>2. Under the Call for proposals already launched, the output indicator is the one mentioned above, the activities having an impact on natural assets.</p> <p>In respect of the cultural heritage, where the indicator is "increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attraction points, such indicator is going to be the subject of a future Call for project proposals.</p>
16	GfA	<p>I do turn to you with a question of eligibility being a full partner from a Hungarian side in a case a public utility having over 50% of shares of municipality (approx.40% private), provides water utility services for cities (sewer, water supply). Would be a part of a project targeted sewer and environmental issues, but needs to know if eligible for full partnership or not/ we can not decide from the Programme/ call Document, therefore kindly ask your kind reply on that.</p>	<p>The eligibility of the applicants is subject to administrative and eligibility assessment. However, based on the information you provided, in case you are compliant with the eligibility conditions described in Chapter 2.2.1.1. of GfA, and based on your establishing documents, it may be the case that your company is state owned.</p>
17	GfA	<p>Can a LLC be an eligible Hungarian applicant? (aren't these categorized as governmental organizations?)</p> <p>In case we would like to recondition an existing building, is it mandatory to attach to the application the feasibility study?</p> <p>Who shall sign the documentation regarding the approval of intervention works?</p> <p>Is there a need for the urban planning certificate if it is just the case of reconditioning and not extension? If we don't get the permit before the submission of the application, is it sufficient to prove that we submitted the plans to obtain the permit in question?</p> <p>In case the investment is excepted from the permitting procedure, is it sufficient to attach only the authority' declaration stating this aspect?</p> <p>Should be attached plans to the application?</p>	<p>1.The eligibility of the applicants is subject to administrative and eligibility assessment. However, based on the information you provided, in case you are compliant with the eligibility conditions described in Chapter 2.2.1.1. of GfA, and based on your establishing documents, it may be the case that the applicant is non-profit body.</p> <p>2. The feasibility study is not a mandatory document to be attached to the application.</p> <p>3. Documentation for approval of intervention works will be signed and elaborated by a certified designer/planner. However, please note this is not a mandatory document for Hungarian applicants.</p> <p>4. In case the investment is excepted from the permitting procedure, it is no need for the Preliminary declaration of construction works (for HU applicants) or Urban planning certificate (for RO applicants).</p> <p>5. In this case, it is sufficient to attach to the application the authority' declaration stating the investment is excepted from the permitting procedure.</p> <p>6. Only if available. The plans are not mandatory to be attached to the application.</p>

18	GfA	Can the University of Debrecen as public body, to apply within Ip 5/b with regard to prevention in case of damage caused by climate change?	The list of potential beneficiaries described in the Fact sheet is only indicative. A public university may be considered as eligible in the frame of Investment priority 5/b. At the same time, in order to be eligible, a potential applicant must have legal competencies in the project relevant field (Chapter 2.2.1.1 of the Guide for Applicants). For all projects, it is compulsory that the partner-applicant has among its attributions, according to their statute or according to the national legislation, the implementation of the proposed activities or it must prove that it has a partnership agreement with the institutions competent to implement such activities, according to their statute or according to the national legislation.
19	GfA	Is Satu Mare Municipality, having in its structure the Voluntary Service for Emergency Situations, eligible under 5b Investment priority? The question arises in relation to FACTSHEET 5_Priority axis PA5 „Types of organisations having responsibility in risk prevention and disaster management activities in the eligible area are as follows: In Romania, all bodies that are members of the county level emergency response and disaster management Carei municipality. Regarding the first Open Call for project proposals, we are asking for some clarifications on PA5, Ip 5/b.	As mentioned in the Factsheet for Investment priority 5/b, local administrations are mentioned among potential applicants. Please consider all eligibility criteria that an applicant must fulfill, mentioned in the Guide for Applicants. The paragraph you are referring to is included in the Methodology for defining and calculating the result (Programme's) indicators, the county-level authorities being the authority responsible for filling in the questioners regarding Programme evaluation.
20	GfA	1. The list of indicative actions does not include building renovation and/or modernisation. Aren't those activities eligible? We mention that we are talking about the renovation and modernization of a building owned by Carei Administrative Territorial Unit, in order to be used as premises for an Integrated Centre for risk prevention and disaster management. In case the activity of building renovation/rehabilitation is eligible, are there any budgetary limitations for such activity? 2. Regarding the English translation of documents (certain documents), the following text is included in the Guide for Applicants (page 31): "The Application and its annexes must be filled in using English. The supporting documents issued by national/local authorities or other bodies shall be attached in the original language accompanied by a translation in English (translations provided by certified translators are required). Translations provided by certified translators are required only for documents relevant for quality assessment, where required (See 3.2 List of mandatory Annexes to the Application Form). On the other hand, in the list of mandatory annexes there are many documents issued by local authorities such as Local Council Decision, Urban Planning Certificate etc. for which English translation is not required. Should the Application package be prepared according to the List of mandatory annexes? 3. Which are the documents to be attached in case of projects including activities of purchasing specific equipment, goods and services intended for risk prevention and disaster management, considering that the Feasibility study and the Documentation for approval of intervention works refer to new construction/rehabilitation works (according to CD007/2016)?	1. The activities list, mentioned in the Factsheet for Investment priority 5/b, is an indicative one. This list includes the activity of "development of regional level infrastructure in the field of emergency situations". At the same time, in the methodology for defining and calculating the output (project) indicators, "population safeguarded by improved emergency response services" is mentioned as indicator, and that includes new or improved infrastructure, buildings, facilities or new equipment and even coordination of and protocols for such services. There are no budgetary limits, yet please consider the proposed project indicators and project budget, so that the necessary proportionality is kept, according to the relevant Factsheet for Ip 5/b. 2. The documents attached to the Application form shall be those mentioned in the table within Chapter 3.2. of the Guide for Applicants. The language requested for the submission of a document is specified in the table, near the relevant document. 3. In the current programming period, the Programme's approach is a more flexible-one, in order to reduce the administrative burden of the beneficiaries. Thus, for the purchase of equipment, goods or services, additional documents are not required. However, when you are drafting the Application, please pay attention to proper justify the necessity of their purchase, as well as to the amounts budgeted for such purchase. These aspects will be assessed and scored accordingly, during the qualitative assessment step. 4. Costs related to preparatory studies may be eligible during the project preparation phase, if they comply with the general eligibility rules mentioned in the Guide for Applicants. Preparation costs must be committed and incurred between 1 January 2014 and the date of the Application submission into eMS and must be paid out no later than 60 calendar days after the MC notification regarding the project approval. Moreover, as mentioned in Annex III.1 General rules on eligibility of expenditures, preparation costs shall not exceed 5% of the total eligible/project budget, out of which, the elaboration of Application may add up to the amount of maximum 1% of the total eligible/project budget, but no more than 15,000 Euro, and shall be proportionate with the Application complexity.
21	GfA	We would like to ask you whether within the Open Call for proposals under the Interreg v-A Romania-Hungary Program can the Szegedi Vizmu ZRT. apply as an applicant in case of Ip 6/b and 5/b? The Szegedi Vízmű is an exclusive shareholder group (ZRT).The City Hall of Szeged owns 51% of shares, and Veolia group owns 49% of shares. Our company is a profit-oriented organization, its main task consists of the operation of water utilities which are in municipal (state) property. The types of activities carried out by the company includes supplying the population with drinking water, waste and residual water drainage, purification (up to the Tisza River). The water quality protection level and type – in terms of the rivers and underground waters - are aspects which depend on us too. That is why we would like to participate in a cross-border project where we can assume the program'	The eligibility of the applicants is subject to administrative and eligibility assesement. However, based on the information you provided, in case you are compliant with the eligibility conditions described in Chapter 2.2.1.1. of GfA, and based on your establishing documents, it may be the case that your company is state owned.

22	GfA	Is University of Oradea eligible to apply within Ip 6/c ?	The list of potential beneficiaries described in the Fact sheet is only indicative. A public university may be considered as eligible in the frame of Investment priority 6/c. At the same time, in order to be eligible, a potential applicant must have legal competencies in the project relevant field (Chapter 2.2.1.1 of the Guide for Applicants). For all projects, it is compulsory that the partner-applicant has among its attributions, according to their statute or according to the national legislation, the implementation of the proposed activities or it must prove that it has a partnership agreement with the institutions competent to implement such activities, <u>according to their statute or according to the national legislation.</u>
23	GfA	We cannot decide on the basis of the Call for proposals, and therefore we would like to ask you on behalf of the Szent István University, whether such a university can be a partner within the Interreg V-Romania-Hungary Program.	The list of potential beneficiaries described in the Fact sheet is only indicative. A public university may be considered as eligible in the frame of the launched Calls . At the same time, in order to be eligible, a potential applicant have to meet all the other eligibility criteria (Chapter 2.2.1.1 of the Guide for Applicants). For all projects, it is compulsory that the partner-applicant has among its attributions, according to their statute or according to the national legislation, the implementation of the proposed activities or it must prove that it has a partnership agreement with the institutions competent to implement such activities, according to their statute or <u>according to the national legislation.</u>
24	GfA	The factsheet (page 5) says at the "Definition": The operation may be carried out both in or outside of Natura 2000 areas. Our understanding is that applicants can also submit project applications with areas <u>which are not Natura 2000 sites, and still be eligible. Is our understanding correct?</u>	Yes, your understanding is correct. Even according to the Cooperation Programme, interventions in Natura 2000 sites represent only one possible category of operations.
25	GfA	1. The representative of the BRECO was told that an EGTC can submit the application without any other partner. Is that right? Do we understand clearly that those applications receive the maximum score (5 points) regarding the A.4 strategic criterion ("The project proves all 4 joint cooperation criteria.")? 2. Do we interpret properly the rules regarding Feasibility Study and DAIW: these documents do not mandatory according to the GfA and to the national legislation (neither for RO, nor for HU applicants)?	1. EGTCs may apply within the first open call for project proposals if it complies with the applicants eligibility criteria, described in the Guide for Applicants, under chapter 2.2.1.1 Eligibility of applicants; see details at point 8.e. An EGTC complying with the eligibility criteria may submit alone a project proposal, with no other partner or cross-border partner and may receive maximum score, 5 points, for criterion A4. However, please keep in mind that in the eMS application, reference to cooperation criteria has to be properly addressed and the field Project relevance C.1. / Cooperation criteria has to be properly filled in. 2. Within the first open call for project proposals, it is not mandatory to submit with your application Feasibility Study or Documentation for approval of intervention works. Those documents may be developed in the implementation phase of selected projects for financing. However, if valid FS or DAIW are available for the foreseen works in the project, we recommend submitting it as supporting documents, translated in English language.
26	GfA	1. The Factsheet 5/b mentions two categories of interventions, with different code (087 si 088) each with a certain allocated amount. Should we understand that the proposed project activities have to belong to one of the categories of interventions? We have a draft of a project proposal that involve both, some actions in one category, some in the other. 2. The Factsheet 5/b also mentions that the application should contain details on how the output indicators will contribute to the achievement of the result indicators of the Programme. The identified result indicator is Quality of the joint risk management, measured as Rate of preparedness. Should we have such data, which result from studies, within ISU Satu Mare? Do we need supporting documents in order to demonstrate achievement of those indicators?	1. In order to prepare your project proposal, please see in the Factsheet 5/b, the types or indicative activities suggested for Priority investment 5/b. You may consider those activities as example for the activities you may implement in your project, taking into account the identified needs for the project. The activities proposed in the project may fall under one or both categories of interventions mentioned above. 2. In your project proposal you should refer firstly to the output indicator and should estimate the number of people safeguarded by the improved emergency response services. Please take into account the information provided in Factsheet 5/b, page 4 and calculate proportion between the financial allocation and the number of people benefiting from the project, in order to properly contribute to the achievement of the Programme's output indicator, 700000 persons safeguarded by improved emergency response services. The result indicator, Quality of the joint risk management, will be measured at Programme level. By achievement of the output indicator and implementation of actions aimed at improving emergency response services, <u>your project will contribute to the achievement of the Programme's result indicator</u>