

Interreg



Co-funded by
the European Union



GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA



HUNGARIAN
GOVERNMENT

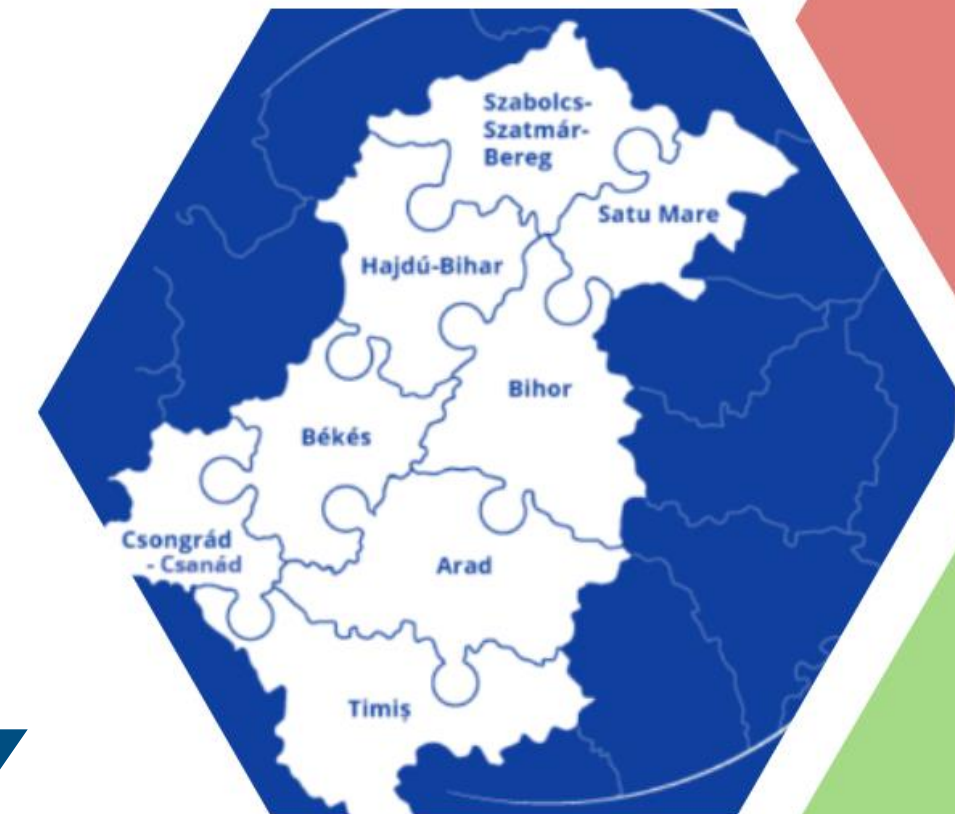
Romania - Hungary

GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

INTERREG VI-A

ROMANIA-HUNGARY

1st OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS



interreg-rohu.eu

VISION

Greener,
more resilient and cohesive
cross-border region,
with enhanced understanding of
cooperation opportunities.



FOCUS ON 3 PRIORITIES

COOPERATION



19.3
MEUR

GREENER



58 MEUR

MORE
SOCIAL



98.5 MEUR

BUDGET



TOTAL ALLOCATION

€ 175,940,025

out of which

€ 140,752,020

European Regional
Development Fund



ERDF ALLOCATIONS ON CALL TYPES

Priority	Specific objective	Call 1 - 70% launching 2023	Call 2 - 30% launching 2024	OPEN call allocation	RESTRICTED Call Allocation launching 2023
PO2	2.2	5,558,762.58	2,382,326.82	7,941,089.40	14,421,381.07
	2.4	2,318,977.49	993,847.50	3,312,824.98	7,210,690.54
	2.7	7,366,460.86	3,157,054.66	10,523,515.52	0
PO4	4.5	10,640,393.63	4,560,168.70	15,200,562.32	21,631,741.98
	4.6	10,842,062.22	4,646,598.09	15,488,660.31	21,343,643.99
ISO	6.1	0	0	0	2,884,276.21
	6.2	0	0	0	2,884,276.21
	6.3	6,090,896.99	2,610,384.42	8,701,281.41	0
Total		42,817,553.76	18,350,380.18	61,167,933.95	70,376,010.00

* The amounts represent the ERDF allocated to projects, without TA

CALLS AND PROJECTS TYPES

OPEN CALL



DURATION

Max. 30 months



ERDF BUDGET

250,000 - 2 MEUR



DURATION

Max. 12 months



ERDF BUDGET

50,000-200,000 EUR

NORMAL
PROJECTS

PEOPLE
TO
PEOPLE

RESTRICTED CALL



DURATION

Max. 36 months



ERDF BUDGET

8.75 MEUR

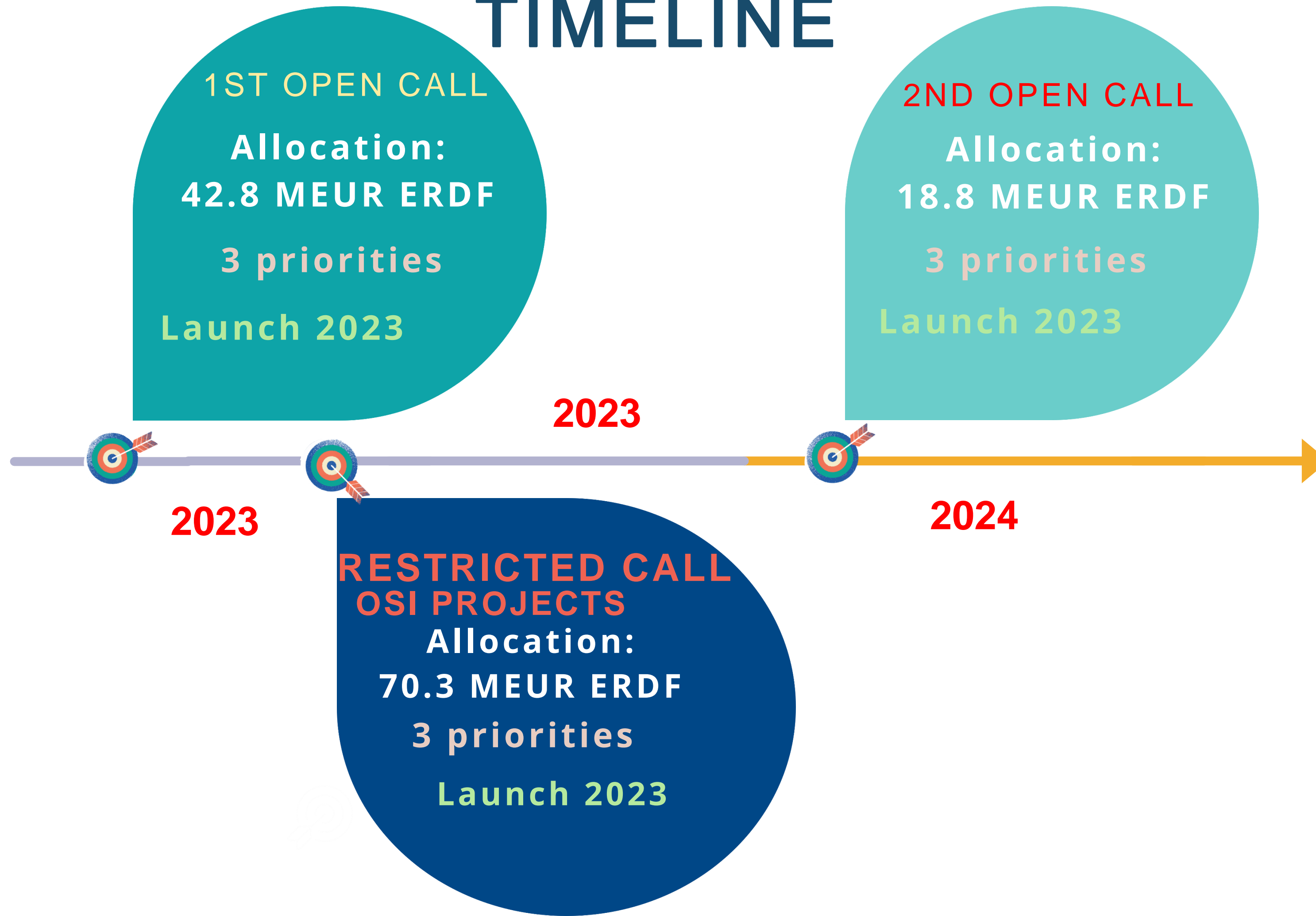


ONLY OSI PROJECTS

Included in Annex 3 of the
Programme document

RESTRICTED
CALL

CALL TIMELINE



II. 1st Call for Proposal



Guide for applicants

- ✓ Drafted in a simplified manner;
- ✓ Consulted with the future MC members from March 27th, 2023 to April 6th, 2023;
- ✓ Public consultation took place from April 7th, 2023 to May 7th, 2023;



1st Call basics – Guide for applicants

CHAPTER 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

CHAPTER 2. RULES OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

CHAPTER 3. HOW TO APPLY

CHAPTER 4. ASSESSMENT AND SELECTION OF APPLICATIONS

CHAPTER 5. CONTRACTING

ANNEXES



1st Call basics

Call Budget: € 53,521,942

out of which € 42,817,554 ERDF

Priorities (Ps): P1, P2 and P3

Procedure: Competitive call

Submission: Online via JEMS



Launch: Q2, 2023



1st Call allocations

Priority / Specific Objective	Community Funding ERDF (a)	National counterpart (public + own) (b)	Total funding (Euro) (a)+(b)	Total ERDF funds per project (Euro)	Project duration (maximum months)
P1/ RSO 2.2	5,558,763	1,389,691	6,948,453	Min 250,000 - Max 2,000,000	30
P1/ RSO 2.4	2,318,977	579,744	2,898,722		
P1/ RSO 2.7	7,366,461	1,841,615	9,208,076		
P2/ RSO 4.5	10,640,394	2,660,098	13,300,492		
P2/ RSO 4.6	10,842,062	2,710,516	13,552,578		
P3/ISO 6.3	6,090,897	1,522,724	7,613,621	Min 50,000 - Max 200,000	12
Total	42,817,554	10,704,388	53,521,942		



Submission deadline

SOFT projects

- People-to-people or any other project **not including** infrastructure component that would require a **building permit**
- submission **deadline: within 3-month** from the launching of the call

HARD projects

- including infrastructure component **requiring a building permit**
- submission **deadline: within 6-months** from the launching of the call (*Specific RO and HU documentation to be submitted upon submission*)
- will have to be **ready to start the execution of the planned investment** immediately after the subsidy contract is signed, at the latest! (*Technical Plans/Documentation requested upon contracting*)



General eligibility criteria

A. Eligibility of applicants

B. Eligibility of costs/expenditure

C. Eligibility of actions (projects)



A. Eligibility of applicants (I)

- Applicants**
- Public authorities**
Bodies governed by public law
 - Non-profit organisations**
-

Each Applicant must be a legal person, be non-profit making and be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the proposed project activities both from a professional and financial point of view and must not act as intermediaries.

Note! An applicant may be selected in maximum 5 projects (leader/partner).

Partnership criteria:

- a. at least **one Project Applicant on each side of the border**;
- b. the (Lead) Applicant must have **legal competencies in the project relevant field**;
- c. the applicants should have **stable and sufficient financial resources** throughout the duration of project and its sustainability period;
- d. the applicants must demonstrate that **they have not received financing support from public funds in the past 5 years** before submitting the applications under the Call for proposals **for the same operation / project**;
- e. **all applicants involved in the project must prove their professional, operational/administrative capacity to manage their share of activities** in the field of action

A. Eligibility of applicants (II)

Geographical location: the Applicants must have their seats or a regional/local branch registered in the eligible Programme Area (PA).

Exceptions are also possible – in the case of public entities not having their legal seat in the eligible area, but having legal competencies for implementing operations in the programme area. Three situations are identified:

- 1) In case the public entity's headquarter is registered outside the eligible programme area and its branch office is not a legal entity**, the respective public entity may apply and, in case of contracting, it shall be the beneficiary. In this special case, the public entity shall also meet the following criteria:
 - The regional/local branch office needs to prove its existence and the relation with the headquarter.
 - The legal representative of the main entity shall nominate the person responsible for acting in the scope of the project implementation.
- 2) In case the public entities headquarter is registered outside the eligible programme area without a branch office in the eligible area**, the respective public entity may apply;
- 3) If the public entities headquarter is registered outside the Programme Area but legally coordinates the branch office in the eligible area**, the respective public entity may apply, with the condition that the foreseen investments will be made in the Programme Area.



ADMINISTRATIVE SURFACE

50,435.31 km²

POPULATION

3,846,734 inhabitants

8 COUNTIES

B. Eligibility of costs / expenditures (I)

Timeline: incurred by a partner of an operation and paid from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2029!
The costs incurred before the signing of the contract may be included in the project budget (if the case), in the relevant cost categories!

Type of eligible costs/ expenditures

- **Staff costs** - flat rate - 20% of direct costs (other than direct staff costs, but maximum 150.000 euro)
- **Office and administrative expenditure** – flat rate - 15% of direct staff costs
- **Travel and accommodation costs** – flat rate - 15% of direct staff costs
- **External expertise and services costs**
- **Equipment expenditure**
- **Infrastructure and works**

Exceptionally, PEOPLE-to-PEOPLE projects, submitted under Specific Objective 6.3 may use the **simplified off-the-shelf option** (Art 56 of [EU Reg. No. 1060/2021](#)), as follows: A flat rate of up to 40 % of eligible direct staff costs may be used in order to cover the remaining eligible costs of an operation.

Investments in infrastructure owned by bodies governed by private law, with the exception of bodies governed by private law performing public duties, shall be limited to **small-scale interventions** (e.g., interior renovation, design of spaces/project premises), necessary for the implementation of the project and whose costs do **not exceed 30% of the partner budget**.

B. Eligibility of costs / expenditures

Examples of SCOs calculation

Normal projects – partner budget

Cost type	Amount
External expertise	100,000.00
Equipment	100,000.00
Infrastructure & works	170,000.00
Total direct costs	370,000.00
Staff costs* (20% X 370,000.00)	74,000.00
Office & Administrative costs (15% X 74,000.00)	11,100.00
Travel & accommodation (15% X 74,000.00)	11,100.00
Total budget	466,200.00

P2P – exception – partner budget

Cost type	Amount	
Staff costs (on real costs basis)	80,000.00	
Remaining eligible costs (40% X 80,000.00)	Office & administrative costs	32,000.00
	Travel & accommodation	
	External expertise	
	Equipment	
	Infrastructure & works	
Total partner budget	112,000.00	

* but no more than EUR 150,000

B. Eligibility of costs / expenditures (II)

Investments in infrastructure and works shall:

- have a public character / as a main rule be carried out on a real estate (land and/or building) owned by the state (national/regional/local level);
- be necessary for project implementation;
- be justified in the Interreg VI-A Romania–Hungary Programme cross-border context;
- be maintained for as long as possible, but at least until the end of the sustainability period.

Type of **non-eligible** costs/ expenditures

- **interest on debt;**
- **the purchase of land for an amount exceeding 10%** of the total eligible expenditure for the operation concerned; for derelict sites and for those formerly in industrial use which comprise buildings, that limit shall be increased to 15 %. This provision shall not apply to operations concerning environmental conservation (criteria 12 – administrative and eligibility check);
- **value added tax ('VAT')**, except: (i) for operations the total cost of which is below EUR 5 000 000 (including VAT); (ii) for operations the total cost of which is at least EUR 5 000 000 (including VAT) where it is non-recoverable under national VAT legislation.
- **finances, financial penalties and expenditure** on legal disputes and litigation;
- **costs of gifts** ; or
- costs related to **fluctuation of foreign exchange rate.**

C. Eligibility of actions

- ⑩ ensure a **relevant contribution to the Programme Objectives/Priorities and results**;
- ⑩ strong and balanced partnership with respect to the levels, sectors, territory and budget ;
- ⑩ **implemented in the Programme Area, exceptions up to maximum 10% of the total eligible costs**;
- ⑩ contribute to a wider strategy on one or more policy levels (EU / macroregional / national / regional / county);
- ⑩ make a positive contribution to the Programme horizontal principles;
- ⑩ in line with the objective of promoting sustainable development, considering the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, and the "do no significant harm" principle;
- ⑩ **in case of projects involving exclusively the elaboration of technical plans/feasibility studies - clear commitment of the relevant authority/body to support the actual investment**;
- ⑩ **for infrastructure investments, the applicants must prove they have the legal right to perform the project activities in the specific location**;
- ⑩ **bilateral agreement** between the Member States in case of building physical cross border infrastructure, for projects financing cross border infrastructure other than roads, those bilateral agreements must be in force at the time of submission of project applications
- ⑩ **not completed or fully implemented** before the Project Proposal was submitted for funding under the Call, in case operations started before the submission, the costs are only eligible if applicable law has been respected;
- ⑩ meet the minimum mandatory information and communication requirements;

PRIORITY 1: COOPERATION FOR A GREEN AND MORE RESILIENT CROSS-BORDER AREA



SO2.2. Promoting renewable energy

- ⑩ Exchange of good practices, capacity building for a better understanding of the benefits of using renewable energy adapted to the needs of different stakeholder groups (political-legislative, technical, public authorities, young people and women, etc.)
- ⑩ Renewable energy projects based on the high geothermal/photovoltaic potential of the pilot action

SO2.4. Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention

- ⑩ Joint solutions related to improved preparedness and alert systems
- ⑩ Implementing structural and non-structural measures related to flood risk management, support for better prognosis, and forecasting
- ⑩ Capacity building and procedures for better preparedness for disaster management, including the involvement of young people and women in civil protection actions
- ⑩ Increase the preparedness and resilience of communities against storms, floods, fires and droughts (information and awareness raising events), including youth involvement and gender mainstreaming in civil protection joint actions
- ⑩ Identifying innovative solutions to support disaster management (IT tools, mobile apps, etc.)

SO2.7. Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity, and green infrastructure

- ⑩ Developing the Master Plan for Natura 2000 border areas or sensitive areas to focus on identifying major biodiversity hotspots, jointly establishing conservation objectives, identifying priority sites for restoration and biodiversity integration measures
- ⑩ Projects to support the sustainable use of protected areas to increase the support and ownership of the local population;
- ⑩ Developing and/or implementing action plans for conservation and/or management plans focusing on certain aspects of species conservation
- ⑩ Capacity building and raising awareness concerning biodiversity conservation, the blue and green infrastructure
- ⑩ Conservation and restoration of biodiversity and creation and improvement of green infrastructure

PRIORITY 2: COOPERATION FOR A MORE SOCIAL AND COHESIVE PA



SO4.5. Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems

- ⑩ Analysis of trends, needs, standards and barriers to cooperation for health-care services in the PA (including health status of population)
- ⑩ Investment in infrastructure, equipment, IT software /hardware, support of e-Governance in the field of health
- ⑩ Joint capacity building and exchange of experience for public employees and civil society in the field of health-care services
- ⑩ Networks to exchange good practices, peer learning in the field of health-care services
- ⑩ Developing Action Plans (transnational/cross-border) and development strategies in the field of health

SO4.6. Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation

- ⑩ Identifying opportunities and developing sustainable tourism offers and products, including investments, integrated into common tourism strategies for local development
- ⑩ Capacity building and exchanges of experience between cross-border stakeholders.
- ⑩ Identification, mapping, and further development of cultural heritage (tangible and intangible), including its conservation, protection, conservation and rehabilitation, as well as the development of joint strategies for promotion and conservation, and assessment of barriers to cooperation.
- ⑩ Mapping the needs and possibilities of digitalizing the cultural heritage and developing joint strategies
- ⑩ Innovative solutions and the creation of thematic routes

PRIORITY: P3. A MORE SUSTAINABLE, COMMUNITY-BASED, AND EFFECTIVE CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION



ISO6.3. Build up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging people-to-people actions

- ⑩ People-to-people actions, promoting trust and cooperation among communities (i.e. small-scale cultural and educational initiatives)
- ⑩ Exchange of experience, peer exchanges and participation in small-scale joint events
- ⑩ Community initiatives connected with the New European Bauhaus (i.e. participation of local communities in the co-design of sustainable and inclusive solutions for the renovation of public spaces)

State aid approach

the applicant is an **undertaking** (engaged in economic activity)

the measure is **financed from the State budget** or is imputable to the state

the measure **confers an advantage** that an undertaking would not have obtained under normal market conditions

the measure is **selective, favouring** certain undertakings or the production of certain goods

the measure **distorts or threatens to distort competition** and trade within the European Union

if all 5 criteria are met, the measure is under **state aid incidence**

The applicant submits, with the application package, ***Annex 2. State Aid Self-Assessment***.

JS supports the project applicants in the self-assessment of state aid incidence **and guides them on how to develop their activities in order to avoid state aid incidence** (Annex C – Guidelines to avoid State Aid incidence)

In case State Aid incidence cannot be avoided, the Programme will handle such cases either under the **de minimis Regulation**, the **General Block Exemption Regulation - GBER** and/or as **Services of General Economic Interest - SGEI**

Mandatory Annexes to the Application Form

No.	Mandatory information/documents for submitting an eligible application
1	<p>PROJECT (LEAD) APPLICANT DECLARATION To be provided in EN language.</p>
2	<p>Copy of the establishing documents of the Applicants: Articles of Association, Statutes, Deed of foundation, establishing resolution law or equivalent documents according to the national legislation, etc. Additionally, establishing documents will be provided for the related branch / field office, etc., that will prove its existence and the relation with the headquarter. Exception: public institutions/authorities/ do NOT need to submit this document! To be provided in RO / HU language.</p>
3	<p>The official statement of the relevant decision-making body regarding the support of the project and the availability of the own contribution for the planned investment, during the implementation of the project (e.g. County Council Decision, Local Council Decision, Board of Directors Decision, authorised person etc.); To be provided in RO / HU language.</p>
4	<p>The job descriptions for all positions included in the proposed management team AND/OR the Terms of references in case the management is externalized. To be provided in EN language.</p>
5	<p>State Aid Documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5.1 Self-Assessment (Annex 2) 5.2 De Minimis Declaration (Annex 3) 5.3 GBER Declaration (Annex 4)
6	<p>Commitment (e.g. letter, strategy, legislation) of the relevant authority/body (e.g., Local/county council) on the need for the investment covered by the technical plans / feasibility study to be financed from the programme, in case of projects involving exclusively the elaboration of technical plans/feasibility studies</p>
<p>For projects foreseeing investments in infrastructure - Annex B. Supporting documents in case of projects with works components/activities.</p>	

Mandatory Annexes to the Application Form for projects foreseeing infrastructure works

Supporting documents in case of projects with works components/activities		
Document	Description	Availability
<p>Title deeds / Documents providing information regarding the ownership rights or rights of use of real estates affected by the works</p> <p>RO: Title deed must be issued by the Land Registry, not older than 30 calendar days , for each real estate (land and/or building) affected by the investment.</p>	<p>Copy of the valid relevant documents, such as title deed, contract, agreement, declaration concerning the quality of ownership and any other rights of the Applicants. In case of an appropriation procedure is needed, the document of launching the procedure shall be attached.</p> <p>In case the land and / or building is in concession/administration, etc., it must be proved that the duration of the concession/administration of the land and/or building is based on a long term contract/enactment (i.e. min. 5 years after the estimated month for the financial closure of the project) and that the owner of the real estate has given his written agreement (no standard format) that the applicant is free to perform the investment and stating that the land and / or building / item of infrastructure is free of any encumbrances, not the object of a pending litigation, not the object of a claim according to the relevant national legislation.</p>	<p>Ideally, on submission of the application. If justified, the documents will be accepted by contracting, at the latest!</p>
<p>For RO applicants: Feasibility study / DAIW (if applicable for RO applicants)</p>	<p>Only in case of works activities in the respective project part!</p> <p>The study should be drawn up according to the national regulations regulating the content and formal requirements.</p> <p>In case a study is required its content must cover all the works element(s) of the planned project concerned and it has to contain a cost-benefit analysis.</p> <p>Note! During the quality assessment feasibility related clarification(s), i.e. a feasibility study/cost-benefit analysis may be requested by the assessors.</p>	<p>On submission of the application</p>

Mandatory Annexes to the Application Form for projects foreseeing infrastructure works

Supporting documents in case of projects with works components/activities		
Document	Description	Availability
<p>For HU applicants: Construction technical plans (engineering plans, descriptions) / Építési engedélyezési dokumentáció (tervrajzok, műszaki leírás)</p>	<p>Construction plans (engineering plans, descriptions) / Építési engedélyezési dokumentáció (tervrajzok, műszaki leírás): Construction plan and technical description to be submitted for the building permit in PDF format AND in an engineering software compatible format (protected version).</p> <p>If the planned works activity does not require a building permit: technical description and diagrammatical plan and the general plan of each building site – one copy per plan.</p> <p>NOTE! Construction plans should be available also in printed version at the premises of the relevant Beneficiary.</p>	On submission
<p>For HU applicants: Detailed cost estimation of works / Tételes költségbecslés</p>	<p>Detailed cost estimation (Tételes költségbecslés) /price quotation by type of work issued by a designer indicating unit prices and the costs of materials and works / Detailed price quotation issued by an actor of the market, indicating unit prices and the costs of materials and works.</p>	On submission
<p>For HU applicants: Photo documentation / Fotó dokumentáció</p>	<p>Photos taken from the scene of the works activities (taken from all corners for each item for which land or building registration certificates are submitted) in its current state – in separate folders in JPG or PDF format.</p>	On submission
<p>Bilateral agreement of the Member States</p>	<p>Required in case of cross-border infrastructure (other than roads)</p>	On submission

Assessment and selection of applications



1. Quality Assessment

- Strategic assessment criteria
- Operational assessment criteria



2. Administrative compliance and eligibility



Proposals scored **minimum 65 points in the quality assessment** per total and **minimum 30 points (out of 45) for the strategic criteria** → proposed for financing



Monitoring Committee will approve the final list of project proposals, selected to be supported for financing, based on the ranking list

* During the contracting phase the state aid incidence will be assessed, at activity level



INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE

Managing Authority: Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration in Romania

National Authority: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Hungary

Joint Secretariat: Oradea Regional Office for Cross-Border Cooperation - BRECO

Info Points: Széchenyi Programme Office

Thank you!