

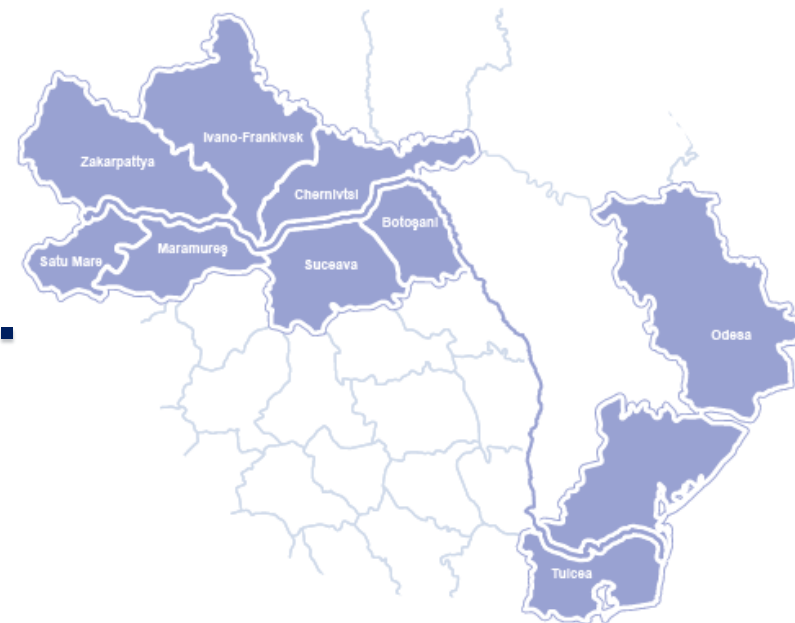
# Interreg



Co-funded by  
the European Union

## NEXT Romania – Ukraine

**From ENI to INTERREG (novelties).  
Useful TOOLS**



## NEXT Romania – Ukraine

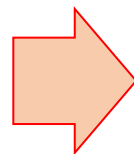
| Partners/ area  | Cooperation   | Financial  | Evaluation  | Structure of projects   | Other  |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>only projects that benefit the Programme area will be eligible</li> <li>A share of the project may be implemented outside the Programme area</li> <li>participation of partners registered outside the Programme area (section 2.2.1.1)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mandatory cooperation criteria (joint development, implementation/ financing)</li> <li>optional associated organizations</li> <li>lead partner main obligations clearly stated</li> <li>importance of partnership and joint actions</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>co-financing - ensured by each partner, at least 10% of their own eligible expenditure</li> <li>use of flat-rates</li> <li>rules for public procurement</li> <li>payment and reporting</li> <li>expenditure decommitment</li> <li>restructuring of costs (clear category for investment)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>different stages for evaluation, involving a quality stage having strategic and operational criteria</li> <li>clear cross border impact envisaged</li> <li>updated quality evaluation grid, with information related to rejection motives</li> <li>find criteria that is different for public authorities (i.e. supporting documents for annual accounts)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>intervention logic updated, simplified</li> <li>mandatory/ optional indicators</li> <li>mandatory competence of partners in the fields related to specific objective, in correlation with mandatory indicators</li> <li>activities grouped into only 1 work package</li> <li>restucturing of information related to project management and communication activities</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>application Form submitted exclusively via the Joint electronic monitoring system (JEMS)</li> <li>minimum visibility requirements</li> <li>investment requirements</li> </ul> |

**Associated  
organizations**

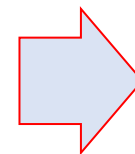
- do not receive funding from the Programme
- do not have to meet the eligibility criteria
- do not have to sign the Project Partner Statement and Partnership Agreement
- a cooperation agreement may be signed and submitted together with the application form in order to include these organizations in the target for indicators

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**Contracting authorities** or contracting entities within the meaning of the Union legislation applicable to procurement procedures located in the **Member States**, shall apply **national laws, regulations and administrative provisions** adopted (article 58.1(a) of the Regulation no 1059/2021)



In **all other cases**, the public or private Partners shall apply the provisions set out in Articles 58.2 of the Regulation no 2021/1059, which make references to the provisions of Regulation no 1046/2018 and have also been reflected in **Annex 2 Public Procurement of the Financing Agreement\*** between Ukraine, Romania and the European Commission.



The Lead Partners and the Partners shall ensure that the **conditions applicable** to them, in terms of liability, visibility and communication, accounts and technical and financial checks, ownership/ use of project results and assets, access rights, conflict of interests and good conduct, confidentiality, and protection of personal data are *also applicable to contractors awarded a procurement contract*.

! No PRAG rules applied

!! Partner country: national + programme specific

\* Tools developed for partner countries (TESIM/ INTERACT)

✓ **Advance payment** – maximum 15%, received by LP in aprox. 1 month from request (consider also added days for transfer to Partners)

✓ **Several interim payments**

- linked and based on actual expenditure made and reported
- advance deducted by 15% from the eligible value of the next payment requests until the amount fully recovered by MA
- the amount claimed for reimbursement is not lower than 5,000 euro

✓ **Reports** cover 4 months implementation period

- plus 1.5 months for preparation and submission to the controllers for expenditure verification
- include technical and financial information

!!! no more than 4 months extension, during implementation

## Project level (direct impact)

In case the amounts submitted for verification are lower compared to the amounts forecasted for the half of the implementation period, the MA is entitled to decommit project funds, by reducing the original project budget and the corresponding Interreg contribution, as follows:

- 5% reduction of the budget for the partners who have submitted for control an amount lower than 75% of the related amount;
- 10% reduction of the budget for the partners who have submitted for control an amount lower than 50% of the related amount.

In case of a decision to reduce the project budget, the Lead Partner shall submit to the MA a revised budget, reflecting the decommitment, within 10 days following the receipt of MA's notification. In case of failure to respect the deadline, the reduction shall be applied proportionally to all budgetary lines. The modification of the contract in case of reduction at project level shall take the form of a decision of the representative of the MA signing the contract, which will be notified to the Lead Partner and which becomes part of the contract.

The reduction shall be done without prejudice to the partners' obligation to implement all the activities and achieve all the results, according to the approved project.

## Programme level (indirect impact)

In case the European Commission decommits any amount in the Programme according to Article 105 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, when the beneficiaries fail to submit their payment requests according to the calendar set at the project level and the delays generate decommitment at the Programme level, the MA may decide to cancel part of the grant, pending a MC decision in this respect.

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- project management and communication are included in the single work package with one or more communication objectives and target audiences settled.
- the communication objective should be correlated with the project specific objective. Communication objective aim at changes in a target audience's behavior, knowledge or belief.
- the overall approach to project communication has to be described in the section “C.7 Project management and communication” of the application form.
- communication activities are mostly not to be considered as main implementation steps and therefore should be integrated in the column “activity description” of related activities.
- **ANNEX J - Mandatory activities to ensure the visibility of the project and programme**

**Useful communication tools:**

- Interreg brand manual - determines how the Interreg brand is to be used by all territorial cooperation programmes  
<https://www.interact-eu.net/library/interreg-brand-design-manual-2021-2027/pageflip>
- online generator - enables automated design for communication materials:  
[https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/policy/communication/online-generator\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/communication/online-generator_en)

- use of official website or social media sites, for a short description of the operation and highlighting the financial support from the Programme
- visibility on documents and communication material relating to the implementation of the operation, intended for the general public or for participants
- organize a communication activity, at project level, to publicize the launching and the closure of the operation
- for investment: video materials (at least 10 qualitative photos and/or 2 short videos etc.) at different stages of implementation
- for investment: displaying durable plaques or billboards
- for other Interreg operations, publicly display at least one poster of a minimum size A3 or equivalent electronic display with information about the Interreg operation highlighting the support from an Interreg fund



- investment component of minimum 500,000 EUR per project
- infrastructure and works and/ or specialized equipment, as well as services directly linked to the investment
- the single work package will also include detailed information about investment
- specialized equipment will be purchased, to be considered as investment
- costs of works must be linked with an Investment in JEMS, to be considered as Investment and calculated as part of the minimum 500 000 EUR of the project budget dedicated to investment
- a contingency reserve not exceeding 10% of the costs as per budget line 6. Infrastructure and works may be included

- the applications will incorporate relevant information on how the potential impacts of climate change were taken into consideration (climate proofing in the sense of climate adaptation & resilience), according to the relevant provisions from the Commission Notice "Technical guidance on the climate proofing of infrastructure in the period 2021-2027"
- have provable rights over each location land/ building/space where the infrastructure/works are foreseen to be executed and/or equipment over EUR 60,000 is to be installed/ used
- shall remain in use after the project implementation for at least 5 years after the final payment to the project
- partners must have the necessary financial resources and mechanisms to cover operation and maintenance cost for operations
- within five years of the final payment, no substantial change affecting its nature, objectives or implementation conditions , in ownership of an item of infrastructure that gives to a firm or a public body an undue advantage

**!!! Pay attention:**

- general rule: information to be correlated between Application Form (JeMS, Investment), Technical documents (including Annex E/ F), official supporting documents (legal acts stating property rights of partners, registration of legal acts, statements, agreements)
- detailed location where the infrastructure is foreseen to be executed AND/OR equipment over EUR 60,000 is to be installed/ used
- existence of property rights of partners, as per *legal acts and their official registration*, at the time of submission provided by official documents submitted (for each location where the infrastructure over EUR 60,000 is foreseen to be executed AND/OR equipment over EUR 60,000 is to be installed/ used)
- existence of property rights of partners, as per *legal acts*, at the time of submission provided by official documents submitted (for each location where the infrastructure of less than EUR 60,000 is foreseen to be executed)
- certain equipment may be rented or leased when the need for its use, during the project implementation, is only temporary. In this later case, the corresponding costs will be included in the budget accordingly, *will not be considered as investment and will not count for the minimum value of investment* mentioned at section 1.3.3. Type of projects
- distinction should be made between the investment and other equipment used for project implementation

The partner budget should only be filled in once the project duration in all JEMS sections are completed.

- Justification: to ensure consistency between financial figures and the planned activities (e.g. in terms of timing of the respective costs, correct allocation of cost items in budget lines)

Each partner must select in the application Form the „ Staff cost flat rate” and „Office and administrative flat rate based on direct costs” and to indicate the maximum percentage envisaged for these lines in their share of budget

- Justification: if not selected, the value of the line will be automatically set as „0 ”

Allocation of budget to reporting periods that run on a 4-monthly basis as from the project start date

- Justification: the budget reflects partly the activities taking place in a certain period; risk of cash flow shortage minimized

For real costs

- Identify the **main categories** and list them separately
- For each category a **clear description** needs to be included
- Price per unit should represent the **price per type of e.g. service, main type of equipment or infrastructure and works**; in case several items will be purchased under 1 service contract, unit type shall be “service contract” and no. of units shall be “1”
- **Avoid the artificial split of the estimated value** of a contract
- **Split** the total amount **between the different project periods** (i.e. a forecast of when costs will actually be paid by the partners)

## Lessons learnt:

- ✓ complex project activities planned in the 2nd part of implementation period
- ✓ considerable differences between the amounts estimated and amounts contracted following procurements
- ✓ high amounts of unspent funds at the end of the implementation period

**Thank you for attention!**

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