

## JOINT MONITORING COMMITTEE

under INTERREG-IPA CBC Bulgaria – Turkey Programme,

CCI No 2014TC16I5CB005

Written procedure No.39, initiated on 23 June 2020

**1. Description:** The Written Procedure in accordance with Article 4 (2) of the Rules of Procedure of the JMC of the INTERREG-IPA CBC Bulgaria – Turkey Programme for approval the proposal for revision of Guidelines for Pre-defined Applicants for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Call for Proposals, was initiated by the Managing Authority – Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works of Bulgaria on 23 June 2020.

The official letter No. 99-00-2-139(2) \_23.06.2020 and the attachments: Modified Guidelines for Pre-defined Applicants for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Call for Proposals and revised Application form were sent to the JMC members via e-mail and made available in the JMC section of the Management Information System.

The Managing Authority received questions from the pre-defined applicant from Bulgaria (the representatives of the “Prof. D-r Asen Zlatarov” University of Burgas) requiring clarification and corrections of eligibility of expenditures part of the Guidelines for Pre-defined Applicants. The pre-defined applicant informed that under the strategic project was envisaged appointment of thematic experts responsible for the implementation of scientific research and studies, stating that the role of these experts was not directly related to the overall coordination and management of the project but rather to the implementation and coordination of concrete actions (methodology development, in the field work, analysis etc.) contributing to project indicators and results. With respect to the above, the pre-defined applicant requested information whether the fees for the thematic experts which were part of the universities' staff would be eligible under the Budget Line 1 together with the salaries for the project staff including project manager, coordinator, accountant etc. In addition the representatives of the “Prof. D-r Asen Zlatarov” University of Burgas asked for reconsideration of the 10% limit of the Budget line 1, stating that it would be insufficient in that case. The applicant requested clarification and if staff costs on a real cost basis would also be considered eligible under the present call for proposals.

According to the art. 3 (2) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 481/2014 of 4 March 2014 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to specific rules on eligibility of expenditure for cooperation programmes the expenditure on staff costs should be limited to the salary payments related to the activities which the entity would not carry out if the operation concerned was not undertaken, fixed in an employment/work contract, an appointment decision (both hereinafter referred to as 'employment document') or by law, relating to responsibilities specified



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in the job description of the staff member concerned and any other costs directly linked to salary payments incurred and paid by the employer, such as employment taxes and social security including pensions as long as they are fixed in the employment document and they are in accordance with the legislation and standard practices in the country and/or organization and are not recoverable by the employer.

The respective text of the regulation was currently included in the Guidelines for Pre-defined Applicants, with an explanation that "The members of the project staff perform periodically repetitive actions related to the organization, coordination, management and reporting of the activities, expenditures and results related to the project during the project period".

Taking into account the above, the need for clarity during the process of verification of expenditures under the project, the expertise of the project partners and fact that including of the experts of the partnering organization for implementation of the activities of the project would contribute to the better results of the strategic project and would guarantee its sustainability the Managing bodies considered that respective corrections should be made in the Guidelines for Pre-defined Applicants. The correction would allow to the project partners to include expenditures for experts related to the activities under the project in BL1. Concerning the way of the reimbursed of the staff costs, the option for real cost basis was also applicable according to the art.3 (3) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 481/2014. The modified Guidelines for Applicants would give the beneficiaries the chance to choose between two reimbursement options for the staff employed by the beneficiary for management of the project.

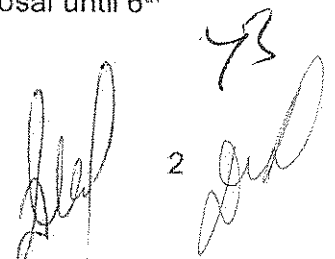
In relation with the proposed amendment the Managing bodies proposed to extend the deadline for submission of the project proposal until 6<sup>th</sup> of July 2020.

The JMC members were given 2 (two) working days to send their approval or comments of the aforementioned proposals.

No comments were received from the JMC Members from both sides within the set deadline and therefore according to the Rules of procedure of the JMC the requested amendment of the Guidelines for Pre-defined Applicants for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Call for Proposals is deemed approved.

## 2. Decisions:

1. The Joint Monitoring Committee approves the listed under section "Description" above proposals for revision of Guidelines for Pre-defined Applicants for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Call for Proposals related to the eligibility and thresholds of the expenditures under Budget Line 1, allowing the project partners to include expenditures for experts related to the activities under the project in BL1 and giving the beneficiaries the chance to choose between two reimbursement options (flat rate or real cost) for the staff employed for management of the project.
2. The Joint Monitoring Committee approves the additional proposal for extension of the deadline for submission of the project proposal until 6<sup>th</sup> of July 2020.

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The hereby decisions enter into force on the 26 June 2020, the date following the deadline for submission of comments / objections / additional proposals from the JMC members.

3. Attachments:
1. Attachment 1: Letter No. 99-00-2-139(2)\_23.06.2020 from the Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Public Works - Co-chairperson of the JMC for written procedure for approval the proposal for revision of Guidelines for Pre-defined Applicants for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Call for Proposals;
  2. Attachment 2: Modified Guidelines for Pre-defined Applicants for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Call for Proposals;
  3. Attachment 3: Revised Application form.

**Signatures:**

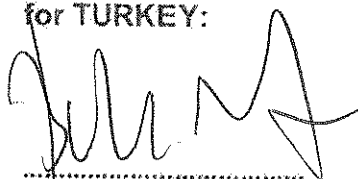
for BULGARIA:



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**Ms. Denitsa NIKOLOVA**

*Deputy Minister of  
Regional Development and Public Works,  
Co-chairperson of the JMC*

for TURKEY:



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**Mr. Bülent Özcan**

*Acting Director-General to the Directorate  
General of the Financial Cooperation and  
Project Implementation, Directorate for  
European Union Affairs,  
Head of National Authority,  
Co-Chairperson of the JMC*