

JOINT MONITORING COMMITTEE

under INTERREG-IPA CBC Bulgaria – Turkey Programme,

CCI No 2014TC16I5CB005

Written procedure No 50, initiated on 9 November 2021

1. Description: The Written Procedure in accordance with Article 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the JMC of the INTERREG-IPA CBC Bulgaria – Turkey Programme for approval of the request for modification of the strategic project “Cross-border Regions Collaborate for BLUE GROWTH (BLUE GROWTH COLLABs)” (Subsidy contract ПД-02-29-170/09.10.2020) with reference number CB005.3.12.001, was initiated by the Managing Authority – Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, Bulgaria on 9 November 2021.

The official letter No 99-00-2-208-(36)_09.11.2021 and the attachment: Request for modification of Subsidy contract № ПД-02-29-170/09.10.2020, project with reference number CB005.3.12.001 were sent to the JMC members via e-mail and made available in the JMC section of the Management Information System.

The request for contract modification concerns activities 2, 3 and 6 under the project.

Under Activity 2 “Equipment and infrastructure for establishing Blue Growth Research centre at “Prof. D-r Asen Zlatarov” University of Burgas” inclusion of additional equipment is envisaged, namely a boat (reserve research vessel) and a cyclist. According to the provided explanations by the LP, the small boat will allow implementation of the field monitoring activities in shallow waters and also will serve as a life-saving equipment in case of emergency. Due to the specificities of the water bodies selected during the first quarter of the project implementation for monitoring and research activities (depth, eutrophication, level of swamp etc. - Burgas bay, Vaya (Burgas) Lake and Karaagach River) certain points of those selected would not be accessible by the main vessel. The purpose of the envisaged cyclist for the small reserve boat is to allow smooth transportation of the vessel.

The changes under Activity 3 “Equipment and infrastructure for establishing Blue Growth Research centre at Trakya University of Edirne” concern the establishment of the Blue Growth Research centre in one of the existing university buildings of Trakya University instead of the preliminary envisaged construction of a new building. The need for the

modification stems from administrative issues faced regarding the issuance of the construction permit for the new laboratory building by Edirne Municipality. The initial activity envisage construction of a 450 m² laboratory building at Trakya University Balkan Campus integrated to the building of the Faculty of Science. According to the opinion of Municipality of Edirne at the stage of project application regarding the building permission regime for the new laboratory building, the permit can be issued provided that parcellation is made in the area where the laboratory building is planned to be constructed. At the stage of project implementation, a second letter from Municipality of Edirne was received informing Trakya University that the construction permit for the building cannot be issued unless a parcellation plan is developed for the entire Balkan Campus of the University. According to PP2 the new condition imposed by the local authority enlarges the scope of the preparatory work which has to be done in terms of spatial planning and cannot be finalized in due time to guarantee the implementation of construction within the time limits of the project. With reference to the above-described impediments as an alternative to the new building construction PP2 proposed the Blue Growth Research centre to be located on the second floor of the Trakya University Technology Research and Development Application and Research Center (TUTAGEM). Therefore small-scale construction activities are planned to adjust the existing premises for the needs of the Research centre laboratories. As a result of the proposed amendment of the investment the amount of 5.1.1. Small scale construction of the Water Pollution Monitoring, the Aquatic Ecosystem, and the Aquaculture and Biotechnology Labs is decreased from 120 045,69 EUR to 18 635,69 EUR. The savings are transferred for upgrading two items of the technical specification for Laboratory equipment of PP2 (GC-MS MS and Raman Confocal Microscope) in relation with supplementation of activity 6. In this respect the funds for GC-MS MS increase from 158 500 EUR to 210 810 EUR and for Raman Confocal Microscope increase from 60 090 EUR to 110 000 EUR.

Under Activity 6 "Implementation of a pilot aquatic ecosystem study in Edirne region" the envisaged analysis is supplemented with analysis of causes and sources of micro plastic pollution as a result of the proposed upgrade of the equipment under activity 3. The new element is related with development of a methodology and analysis of causes and sources of micro plastic-induced pollution. The scope of the laboratory analysis is enhanced including characterization of micro plastic pollution by causes and type of pollutants (industry, transport, agriculture, urbanization etc.).

The JMC members were given 5 (five) working days to send their approval or comments on the modification request.

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 modification of the strategic project "Cross-border Regions Collaborate for BLUE GROWTH (BLUE GROWTH COLLABs)" is deemed approved.

2. Decision: JMC approves the contract modifications concerning activities 2, 3 and 6 of the strategic project "Cross-border Regions Collaborate for BLUE GROWTH (BLUE GROWTH COLLABs)" with reference number CB005.3.12.001, subsidy contract № РД-02-29-170/09.10.2020.

The hereby decision enters into force on 17 November 2021, the date following the deadline for submission of comments / objections / additional proposals from the JMC members.

3. Attachments:

1. Attachment 1: Letter No 99-00-2-208-(36)_09.11.2021 from the Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Public Works - Co-chairperson of the JMC for written procedure for approval the request for modification of the strategic project "Cross-border Regions Collaborate for BLUE GROWTH (BLUE GROWTH COLLABs)" with reference number CB005.3.12.001;
2. Attachment 2: Request for modification of project CB005.3.12.001;
3. Attachment 3: Table of the comments received by JMC members.

Signatures:

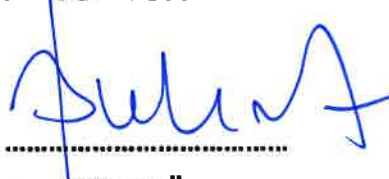
for BULGARIA:



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Ms. Nina Stoimenova

*Deputy Minister of
Regional Development and Public Works,
Head of Managing Authority
Co-Chairperson of the JMC*

for TURKEY:



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Mr. Bülent Özcan

*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*