



Interreg



Co-funded by
the European Union

Romania – Bulgaria

No. 5959/17.09.2026

**NOTIFICATION LETTER
SELECTED FOR FUNDING**

Interreg VI-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme

Call for proposals:	7
Application Jems No.	ROBG00449
Application Title:	Bicycle Routes Around Nature Districts - Plan, Revitalize, Inspire, eXplore the charm of cycling
Lead partner:	Municipality of Belene
Legal representative:	Milen DULEV
To: Contact person	Asya DULEVA
E-mail	obshtinabl@abv.bg

Dear Mr. Mayor,

We would like to inform you that the assessment of your above mentioned application has been completed and the final decision has been made by the Monitoring Committee for the INTERREG VI-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme (MC Decision no. 91/17.09.2026).

We inform you that your project proposal has been selected for funding.

For information purposes, please be informed that your application received the following **total score - 61.88 points**.

Following the assessment process, the below recommendation should be implemented by the project partners:

1. Recommendations for the pre-contracting phase:

a) Jems, the Application Form, the final work plan, deliverables and indicator documentation shall consistently reflect RCO58 = 22.69 km, RCO77 = 2 sites, RCO87 = 4 organisations, RCR64 = 1,000 annual users, RCR77 = 5,000 visitors/year and RCR84 = 4 organisations. RCR77 shall cover only the two sites counted under RCO77. The indicator methodology shall contain explicit baselines, justified target calculations, data sources, monitoring responsibilities and rules preventing double counting.

b) The Partner 2 - Desa Municipality and Partner 3 - Association Lower Danube 2022 should fill up the PIC code for the institution in the application form.

c) The boat, panoramic binocular, three bungalows and observation tower/platform shall be removed from the project scope, activities, deliverables, indicators and implementation timetable.

d) The Lead Partner - Belene Municipality shall ensure that every partner budget recorded in Jems is fully correlated with the revised budget structure and the financial information presented in the first response to clarification. A consolidated reconciliation table shall show, for every affected line, the partner, original amount, clarification-based amount, assessment reduction, final eligible amount and corresponding activity or deliverable. Reduced costs shall not be reintroduced under another line or partner.

e) PP2 - Desa Municipality shall submit a final reconciliation table linking each budget line to the General Estimate chapter, object estimate, Bill of Quantities, technical component, unit price, VAT, correct Jems cost category and corresponding Application Form activity. Only expenditure traceable to the final approved technical and financial documentation may be contracted or reported.

f) The partners shall submit an updated critical-path timetable reflecting all scope and budget corrections and demonstrating that the remaining investments can be completed within the implementation period.

g) The municipalities shall confirm the responsible operators and annual operation and maintenance resources for all retained infrastructure.

For this purpose, each municipality shall provide, for the retained infrastructure under its responsibility, a brief confirmation identifying:

- (i) the municipal structure responsible for its operation and maintenance after project completion;
- (ii) the main annual operation and maintenance needs;
- (iii) the estimated annual resources required and the source from which these resources will be covered.

Where these arrangements are already established through existing municipal documents or budgetary mechanisms, reference to the relevant arrangements shall be sufficient.

2. Recommendations before the start of the relevant works or activities

a) Works procurement shall start only after the required final technical documentation, Bills of Quantities, approvals and permits are available. Environmental decisions, climate-proofing measures, DNSH safeguards, accessibility requirements, biodiversity protection, resource efficiency and waste-prevention measures shall be incorporated into the Technical Designs, Bills of Quantities, procurement documents and works contracts.

b) Before launching the respective procurement procedures, the concerned partners shall confirm the staff, procurement, technical-supervision and other implementation capacity required for the respective activities.

c) Before completion of the Technical Design, the partners shall verify, consolidate and, where necessary, update the cadastral and property/administration documentation for all investment locations and ensure its full correlation with the final technical solution, including cadastral references, affected areas, site boundaries and technical drawings. Any discrepancies affecting the location, ownership/administration rights or technical feasibility of the investments shall be resolved before the affected works are contracted/commenced, as applicable.

d) Following removal of the boat, the cross-border function shall be demonstrated through continuous and safe connections with EuroVelo 6, common information tools, coordinated

promotion and joint operation and monitoring of the Romanian and Bulgarian components. In line with Strategy Board Recommendations 3.1 and 3.2, the outputs shall operate as an integrated cross-border tourism product rather than parallel national investments. The underlying objective of Strategy Board Recommendations 2.5 and 2.6 shall be preserved through a continuous and safe connection between the Desa infrastructure, EuroVelo 6 and the supported attractions.

e) Media campaigns, digital tools and promotional materials shall be coordinated, to the extent possible, with other ITS projects and the common ITS regional brand. Existing common platforms, databases, maps, content and promotional instruments shall be reused whenever technically possible, and duplicate software, hosting, GIS data, audiovisual content, translations or promotional materials shall not be financed.

f) Training sessions, seminars, workshops, meetings and events shall be jointly organised and, wherever practicable, involve mixed Romanian-Bulgarian participation. The final communication plan shall prevent duplication between partner-level and project-level activities.

g) PP3 - Association Lower Danube 2022 and PP4 - Cross Border Association E(quilibrium) Environment ATeE shall implement one joint VeloDanube Festival with a combined remaining budget of 40,000.00 euro: 20,000.00 euro under PP3 and EUR 20,000.00 under PP4. Before implementation, they shall establish one consolidated budget and a clear division of responsibilities and non-overlapping components.

h) Multimedia-terminal procurement shall distinguish hardware, installation and terminal-specific software from separately financed CMS, GIS, virtual-tour, audiovisual and translated content. The terminals shall be free public-information facilities and shall not duplicate content financed under other deliverables.

3. State aid safeguards - mandatory non-economic operating model

a) The retained Belene camping site, Scocul Fetelor accommodation/visitor facilities, pontoon and floating platforms, bicycles, visitor services and multimedia terminals shall remain under direct public control and shall be operated as open, transparent, non-exclusive and non-discriminatory public-interest facilities. They shall not be leased, concessioned, reserved or entrusted preferentially to an economic operator.

b) No paid accommodation, booking, bicycle rental, catering, conference-room hire, commercial advertising, preferential listing or other commercial service shall be introduced. Any strictly necessary tariff shall be transparent, municipally adopted and limited to documented operating-cost recovery, without profit or cross-subsidy; separate accounts shall be maintained.

c) Training and knowledge-exchange activities shall be revised before procurement as general public education and awareness activities, with open selection under objective rules. They shall not provide undertaking-specific consultancy, individual business advice, certification advantages, equipment, employer cost relief or commercial lead generation. Participant/employer status and cost allocation shall be documented, and substantive outputs shall be published free of charge.

Before procurement of these activities, the responsible partners shall provide the JS with a brief description of the revised participation arrangements, including the target participants, the open and objective participation/selection rules and the general content of the activities. The information shall demonstrate that the activities are of a general educational/awareness nature and do not provide undertaking-specific consultancy, individual business advice, certification advantages, equipment, employer cost relief or commercial lead generation.

d) Promotion, digital listings, events and public outputs shall apply published objective criteria and shall not channel bookings, advertising, equipment, exclusive access or preferential visibility to identifiable undertakings.

4. Monitoring and durability

Compliance with the non-economic operating model shall be checked during implementation and annually throughout the five-year sustainability period.

The partners are responsible for ensuring full compliance with all applicable legal provisions and Programme rules throughout the project implementation, state aid and in sustainability phase. Any recommendations, observations or suggestions included in MC Decision no. 91/17.09.2026 concerning the implementation stage and State aid requirements are non-exhaustive and shall not be construed as limiting or replacing the partners' obligation to identify and comply with all relevant legal and Programme requirements.

The total financial support granted to finance the implementation of your project amounts **5,672,377.01** euro comprising of **4,537,901.60** euro ERDF and **1,134,475.41** euro national co-financing.

However, please be advised that the budget can be further revised by the Managing Authority during the contracting process, based on additional analysis and information.

In line with the decision of the Monitoring Committee, the budget of the proposed project has been reduced as follows:

Budgetary category reduced	Reduced amount EUR	Reasons for reduction
Lead Partner - Belene Municipality		
Equipment	35,790.43	a) 5,112.92 euro for the panoramic binocular. The observation tower/platform and the three bungalows are not included in the current project. Consequently, the binocular has no project-financed supporting infrastructure and no sufficiently demonstrated autonomous project function; b) 30,677.51 euro for the motorboat with outboard engine and bicycle-transport equipment. The legal and technical feasibility of the proposed international passenger-and-bicycle service has not been demonstrated. The required navigation, riverbank-use, embarkation, safety, accessibility and operating conditions remain unresolved.
Staff costs	7,158.08	Automatically reduction due to applying the flat rate.
Office and administrative costs	1,073.71	
Travel and accommodation costs	0.00	
Partner 2 - Desa Municipality		
Infrastructure and works	16,837.59	The amount of 16,837.59 euro for project preparation, registration and submission. The services cover preparation of the Application Form, Jems submission and support during assessment clarifications and overlap with the EUR 14,000 project-preparation lump

		sum. The same preparation activities cannot be financed through both a lump sum and real costs.
Staff costs	3,367.52	Automatically reduction due to applying the flat rate.
Office and administrative costs	505.13	
Travel and accommodation costs	0.00	
Partner 3 - Association Lower Danube 2022		
External expertise and services	120,000.00	a) 20,000 euro from the joint VeloDanube Festival allocation. The Application Form describes one joint festival, but PP3 and PP4 each budget 40,000 euro without demonstrating distinct and non-overlapping components; b) 100,000 euro for the production of two 25-minute promotional films. The documentation does not provide individual comparable-offer values or an auditable calculation covering filming days, personnel, equipment, drone services, travel, editing, post-production, translation, accessibility, licences and distribution; therefore, no substantiated eligible amount can be retained.
Staff costs	24,000.00	Automatically reduction due to applying the flat rate.
Office and administrative costs	3,600.00	
Travel and accommodation costs	0.00	
Partner 4 - Cross Border Association E(quilibrium) Environment ATeE		
External expertise and services	92,000.00	a) 20,000.00 euro from the joint VeloDanube Festival allocation. The total correction for the duplicated festival allocation is 40,000 euro, distributed equally between PP3 and PP4. The remaining combined allocation shall cover the entire joint festival; b) 22,000.00 euro for the two-day balloon festival ‘Danube from the Air’. The temporary recreational activity has only an indirect relationship with the cycling infrastructure, EuroVelo 6 and the supported sites. It does not create a durable project output, has an insufficient cost-result relationship and may overlap with project-financed aerial audiovisual content; c) 50,000.00 euro for ten community meetings and eight school meetings. No auditable breakdown by activity, quantity and unit cost was provided. The proposed costs

		for experts, venues, catering, travel, accommodation, materials, photography and technical support are insufficiently quantified and separated from other activities.
Staff costs	18,400.00	Automatically reduction due to applying the flat rate.
Office and administrative costs	2,760.00	
Travel and accommodation costs	0.00	
Total amount of the budgetary reductions:	325,492.46	

We hereby inform you that your project will pass on to the pre-contracting phase. In this respect, we kindly ask you and your project partners to prepare the following documents, which need to be ready and uploaded in Jems before the pre-contracting visit, which will be organized shortly:

- I. **Legal documents: new documents issued after the submission of the application form or documents which were not submitted together with the application (if the case), will be uploaded along with the English translation (certified through signature by the legal representative of the organization), for example:**
 - founding documents of the institution (law, decree, government decision, statute, registration act, article of association);
 - fiscal registration certificate / BULSTAT;
 - VAT registration;
 - documents for appointing the legal representative;
 - documents certifying the ownership status of the land and/or building (if not submitted during the assessment process).
- II. **Other documents which will be uploaded along with the English translations, if issued in other language than English (certified through signature by the legal representative of the organization):**
 - a) Criminal record of the legal representative, for all partners;
 - b) Fiscal certificate regarding the fulfilment of the obligations related to the payment of debts to the consolidated state budget, for all partners;
 - c) Fiscal certificate regarding local taxes, for all partners;
 - d) Pre-contracting declaration, for all partners (electronically signed);
 - e) Decisions of the empowered bodies (County Council, Board of directors, etc.) regarding the availability of own resources and assuming the positions in the project implementation team, for all partners (electronically signed);
 - f) Financial identification form (electronically signed)
 - for LP account in EURO;
 - for Bulgarian partners account in EURO;
 - for Romanian partners 2 accounts at the Romanian National Treasury for the 2021-2027 Programme period (Normele de aplicare a Legii nr. 231/2022);
 - g) Agreement for the possible adjustments on the budget, for all partners (electronically signed);
 - h) Annex 5 to subsidy/coffin contract: Milestones for the activities of the project and outputs and results to be achieved by the project (electronically signed);

- i) Budgetary commitments, only for Romanian public authorities (Fișă de fundamentare - ANEXĂ la normele metodologice din 21 martie 2023 de aplicare a Legii nr. 231/2022 privind gestionarea și utilizarea fondurilor Interreg și a contribuției publice naționale, pentru obiectivul "Cooperare teritorială europeană", în perioada 2021-2027 - electronically signed;
- j) Declaration included in the Programme Code of Conduct, for all partners (electronically signed);
- k) Project Environmental Impact Analysis for applications including infrastructure (electronically signed).

The drafts of the documents mentioned at points d-k, will be submitted along with the present letter.

You will receive shortly a letter from the JS, informing you about the date when the pre-contracting visit is scheduled as well as about the format of this visit (online or onsite). The letter shall be sent with minimum 5 working days before the visit.

Please pay attention to the fact that all documents requested during pre-contracting period, for all partners, should be submitted / uploaded in Jems within the maximum period specified by the Joint Secretariat, respectively within 15 working days from the Notification letter - selected for funding.

Thank you for the interest shown in the INTERREG VI-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme and we invite you to access the official site of the Programme: www.interregviarobg.eu in order to be up to date about the future opportunities that will be made available to you within its context.

Best regards,

Head of Joint Secretariat

Eugen-Bogdan
Musat

Digitally signed by Eugen-
Bogdan Musat
Date: 2026.09.17 15:32:44 +03'00'

Head of Assessment, Pre-contracting and Support for Beneficiaries Unit

Slavena-Ivanova Zheleva-Petrova

Semnat digital de Slavena-Ivanova Zheleva-Petrova
Data: 2026.09.17 15:31:13 +03'00'

Chair of the Assessment Committee,

Florica-Daniela Albu

Digitally signed by Florica-Daniela Albu
Date: 2026.09.17 15:28:52 +03'00'