



## Fund for Bilateral Relations at Programme level

### Travel support scheme of programme “Environment protection and climate change” (BG ENVIRONMENT)

The BG ENVIRONMENT programme provides travel support to potential beneficiaries to find partners of the projects or to exchange of experience and preparation of project proposals. The travel support/matchmaking event will be provided in form of cost reimbursement only for those applicants, who are interested to submit application under the programme.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE PROGRAMME

The programme BG Environment addresses those needs and gaps which were not addressed by other means and funding, in particular on biodiversity and ecosystem services, the “circular economy” and resource management, marine policy, and climate change adaptation and mitigation. The following areas of support are defined and within their frames – project proposals will be funded:

1. “Monetary valuation system for all Bulgarian ecosystems developed”
2. “Assessment, monitoring and management system of marine waters developed”
3. “Improved municipal resource management (Circular Economy)”
4. “Increased ability of local communities to reduce emissions and to adapt to the changing climate”

#### INVITATION FOR BILATERAL INITIATIVES AND TRAVEL SUPPORT SCHEME

The overall goal of the current Call for bilateral initiatives is to support activities that aim enhanced collaboration between Beneficiary and Donor State entities involved in the programme

The Programme actively encourages and facilitates donor partnership projects planned and implemented in partnership between the Donor and the Bulgarian entities by considering the potential for bilateral project-level cooperation during the programme development.

Taking into account the requirements of the programme it is necessary to comply with the following requirements:

##### 1. Eligible applicants:

	Eligible applicants (Project Promoters)	Eligible partners
<b>PDP no. 1</b> <b>Outcome 1</b> - Monetary valuation system for all Bulgarian ecosystems developed	<b>Predefined</b>	<b>Predefined</b>
<b>PDP no. 2</b>	<b>Predefined</b>	<b>Predefined</b>



<p><b>Outcome 2</b> “Assessment, monitoring and management system of marine waters developed”</p>		
<p><b>Call no. 1</b></p> <p><b>Outcome 2</b> “Assessment, monitoring and management system of marine waters developed”</p>	<p>Research Organisations, as defined in the EU Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (2014/C 198/01)</p>	<p>In accordance with Article 7.2.2 of the Regulation</p>
<p><b>Call no. 2</b></p> <p><b>Outcome 3</b> “Improved municipal resource management (Circular Economy)”</p>	<p>Municipalities</p>	<p>In accordance with Article 7.2.2 of the Regulation</p>
<p><b>PDP no. 3</b></p> <p><b>Outcome 4</b> “Increased ability of local communities to reduce emissions and to adapt to the changing climate”</p>	<p><b>Predefined</b></p>	<p><b>Predefined</b></p>
<p><b>Call no. 3</b></p> <p><b>Outcome 4</b> “Increased ability of local communities to reduce emissions and to adapt to the changing climate”</p>	<p>Municipalities</p>	<p>In accordance with Article 7.2.2 of the Regulation</p>
<p><b>SGS no. 1:</b> SGS for pilot models for marine water purification</p> <p><b>Outcome 2</b> “Assessment, monitoring and management system of marine waters developed”</p>	<p>In accordance with Article 7.2.1 of the Regulation</p>	<p>In accordance with Article 7.2.2 of the Regulation</p>
<p><b>SGS no. 2:</b> SGS for measures to reduce marine litter</p>	<p>Municipalities</p>	<p>In accordance with Article 7.2.2 of the Regulation</p>



<p><b>Outcome 2</b> “Assessment, monitoring and management system of marine waters developed”</p>		
<p><b>SGS no. 3</b></p> <p><b>Outcome 3</b> “Improved municipal resource management (Circular Economy)”</p>	<p>Any non-commercial public or private entity, as well as non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in Bulgaria whose principal activity is in the educational sector as defined in the Bulgarian law for the preschool and school education</p>	<p>In accordance with Article 7.2.2 of the Regulation</p>
<p><b>SGS no. 4</b></p> <p><b>Outcome 4</b> “Increased ability of local communities to reduce emissions and to adapt to the changing climate”</p>	<p>Any non-commercial public or private entity, as well as non-governmental organisations established as a legal person in Bulgaria whose principal activity is in the educational sector as defined in the Bulgarian law for the preschool and school education</p>	<p>In accordance with Article 7.2.2 of the Regulation</p>

## 2. Eligible activities:

The current Call for Bilateral Initiatives is opened for all Outcomes and for the eligible applicants/partners.

- The activities must be implemented only on the territory of Bulgaria, Iceland, Liechtenstein or in Norway.
- The maximum term for implementation of each bilateral initiative is **5 (five) calendar days**. This includes the days of arrival and the days for departure.
- Exchange experience with partners within the donor countries in order of their future collaboration in implementing projects under the BG ENVIRONMENT programme;
- Contacting new / potential partner organizations located on the territory of donor countries;

## 3. \*Eligible expenditures:

According to the maximum amount of funding under the current call (**€5 000**), the following expenditures and the respective limits to them are considered eligible:

- Expenditures for daily allowance for the maximum of two persons per applicant organization – 35 euros (thirty five) per day, per person in all countries (the limitation for two persons is not applicable for beneficiaries and partners of predefined projects).
- Expenditures for accommodation for the maximum of two persons from applicant organization from Bulgaria in Iceland and Liechtenstein – 130 euros per night, per person (the limitation for two persons is not applicable for beneficiaries and partners of predefined projects.)



- Expenditures for accommodation for the maximum of two persons from applicant organization from Bulgaria in Norway – 145 euros per night, per person (the limitation for two persons is not applicable for beneficiaries and partners of predefined projects.)
- Expenditures for accommodation for the maximum of two persons from applicant organization from the Iceland and Liechtenstein in Bulgaria – 130 euros per night, per person and from applicant organization from Norway - 145 euros per night, per person (the limitation for two persons is not applicable for beneficiaries and partners of predefined projects.)
- Expenditures for airplane tickets, both directions (from Bulgaria to the Donor States and from the Donor States to Bulgaria); the persons have right to economic class. The proof of expenditures are the scanned copies of boarding pass, e-ticket (with the total amount) and bank statement for payment made or document with equivalent value
- Expenditures for internal transport in Bulgaria between the cities. Expenditures for taxi or car rental will not be reimbursed.
- Expenditures for internal transport in the Donor States between the cities. Expenditures for taxi or car rental will not be reimbursed.
- Expenditures for international public transport. Expenditures for taxi or car rental will not be reimbursed.
- Medical insurance;
- Maximum amount **per event €5 000** on the basis of expenditure justifying documents (invoices, boarding cards, tickets etc.) for already incurred expenditures.

*\* The expenses for travel and subsistence in the country and abroad are in accordance with the Bulgarian Ordinance on missions in the country and the Ordinance on official missions and specializations.*

#### 4. Submission of applications:

- **The application/registration forms shall be submitted electronically in editable format (docx), signed, scanned (in pdf)!**
- The deadline for submission of applications is two weeks before the travel/ event.
- The documentation for applying is available at <https://www.eeagrants.bg/en/programs/environment-protection>;
- For an application for the implementation of activities under bilateral fund it is necessary to fill in Application form (Annex №1) which shall be filled and submitted in English to the following [eea@moew.government.bg](mailto:eea@moew.government.bg) and describes the activities under the visit/event;
- Invitation by the receiving organization (for the matchmaking event the Announcement of the PO's).
- After reviewing your application, the PO will provide a response of approval / rejection of the proposal.



- **FOR THE MATCHMAKING EVENT** organized by the PO, The Ministry of environment and waters approves or rejects the received application/registration form. The approval will be done through “the first come, first served” principle until the limit of the event is reached and by taking into account the eligibility of the candidates for participation.

The approved organizations receive confirmation via e-mail within 5 days.

- A list with the approved for participation organizations in Bulgarian and in English will be posted at <https://www.eeagrants.bg/en/programs/environment-protection>

#### 5. Verification and reimbursement of costs:

1. To apply for reimbursement of the costs incurred under the bilateral fund, it is necessary to fill in Annex 2. Applying to reimburse the incurred costs under the bilateral fund may only be made on condition that the Applicant has submitted Annex 1 and has been approved by the PO for the performance of the activities.
2. PO will reimburse only the eligible costs to the applicant. In the Annex, it is necessary to indicate the bank account of the entity that has incurred the costs.
3. The approved organizations shall submit the above-cited documents before the Ministry of Environment and Water on the following e-mail – [eea@moew.government.bg](mailto:eea@moew.government.bg) within 30 (thirty) work days following the conclusion of the event. The Ministry of Environment and Water will reimburse the approved amount within two weeks after complete template and documentation is received. **Rejected expenditures will not be reimbursed.**

#### 6. PERIOD OF OPERATION OF THE CALL

The current Call will be opened during the whole period of operation of the “Environment protection and climate change” Programme or until the exhaustion of budget of the Fund for Bilateral Relations.