

EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES – FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

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Following the EU accession, Romania is direct beneficiary of European Union funds: structural instruments (European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund and Cohesion Fund), Instrument for Pre-Accession and European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument.

Some of these funds are dedicated to cooperation between Member States and between these and the non-member states neighbouring the EU, based on programmes approved by the respective states and adopted by the European Commission. The purpose of these programmes is to strengthen the cooperation between the states and regions of Europe and of neighbouring states.

The Romanian Ministry of Development, Public Works and Housing represents Romania in all these programmes, which are 11 in total. Some of these programmes are relevant for the Black Sea issues, namely:

- the Black Sea Joint Operational Programme;
- the Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme;
- the South-East Europe Programme;
- the ESPON 2013 Programme;
- the INTERREG IVC Programme.

The Black Sea Joint Operational Programme, with a total budget of almost 19 Million Euro, is dedicated to the Black Sea region, covering three priorities. Each of the three priorities is further broken down in a number of Measures, as follows:

Priority 1: Supporting cross border partnerships for economic and social development based on common resources

Measure 1.1: Strengthening accessibility and connectivity for new intra - regional information, communication, transport and trade links

Measure 1.2: Creation of tourism networks in order to promote joint tourism development initiatives and traditional products

Measure 1.3: Creation of administrative capacity for the design and implementation of local development policies

Priority 2: Sharing resources and competencies for environmental protection and conservation

Measure 2.1: Strengthening the joint knowledge and information base needed to address common challenges in the environmental protection of river and maritime systems

Measure 2.2: Promoting research, innovation and awareness in the field of conservation and environmental protection for protected natural areas

Measure 2.3: Promotion of cooperation initiatives aimed at innovation in technologies and management of solid waste and wastewater management systems

Priority 3: Supporting cultural and educational networks for the establishment of a common cultural environment in the Basin

Measure 3.1: Promoting cultural networking and educational exchange in the Black Sea Basin communities.

The Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme, with a total budget of over 262 Million Euro, covers the entire Romanian-Bulgarian border, of which more than 2/3 is represented by the Danube, but it also deals with the Black Sea issues, namely:

Priority axis 2: Environment - Sustainable use and protection of natural resources and environment and promotion of efficient risk management in the cross-border area

Key Area of Intervention 1 - Development of joint management systems for environmental protection

- Cooperation between the existing institutional frameworks (e.g. environment protection agencies, administrations of the protected areas) for the maintenance of the sustainability of ecosystems and protection of the shared natural environment, a cross-border integrated approach and networking;
- Joint development and promotion of tools and techniques to promote sustainable resource use;
- Joint studies on climate change impacts on the area and joint action plans for reducing these impacts;
- Joint research studies, inventories, data collection, information and know how exchange on cross-border area's natural resources protection
- Support to establishment of area environmental (including greenhouse gas emissions) monitoring centres and laboratories, and facilitating cooperation between existing agencies and institutions in the cross-border area;
- Joint public awareness campaigns for environmental protection and nature-friendly behaviour: joint conferences, workshops, exhibitions, bi/multi-lingual promotional literature;
- Joint cross-border information campaigns focused on protecting the area's fragile environment, including cross-border and international workshops on environmental risk prevention and fight against climate change challenges;
- Joint bilingual training programmes on biodiversity conservation and environment protection;
- Joint training and awareness-raising programmes focused on climate change issues;

Key Area of Intervention 2 - Development of joint infrastructure and services to prevent the impact of natural and man-made crises, including joint emergency response services

- Cooperation of existing institutional frameworks to harmonise activities and implement joint measures in the field of Black Sea shore protection and rehabilitation and reducing the pollution loads of the Black Sea;
- Elaboration of joint detailed maps and data bases indicating natural and technological risks, and land use for regional planning authorities, environmental agencies and emergency services;
- Joint disaster control studies, exchanges of information on issues of mutual interest, exchanges of experience and knowledge in the field of efficient risk prevention and management in the cross-border area
- Purchasing common equipment for measuring/monitoring environmental parameters, e.g. emission levels, water purity, analysis of soil and water samples etc., and joint assessment of results;
- Elaboration of studies and plans for joint disaster early warning, control and emergency management, emphasising the sharing of best practices; preparation of joint emergency and disaster management plans;
- Support for the implementation of joint projects to forecast possible crises, e.g. meteorological services, river level monitoring, coastal climate monitoring etc.

Innovation, as well as coordination with policies, strategies and studies in the field is highly appreciated in the project assessment process. The sustainable development and the fight against climate change are horizontal themes which have to be tackled by all projects.

International Seminar on Natural Hazards in the Marine Area
28-29 July 2008, Bucharest, Romania

For the Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme, the first call for proposals has been launched and the deadline for submitting projects is September 15. A new call for proposals will be launched in September this year.

The remaining three programmes don't have special provisions for the marine environment, but they finance a large variety of studies, maps, exchanges of good practice, seminars, conferences etc.

**GENERAL INSPECTORATE FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS:
PLACE, ROLE AND TASKS IN THE NATIONAL SYSTEM FOR THE
MANAGEMENT OF EMERGENCY SITUATIONS IN ROMANIA**

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In Romania, the national system for the management of emergency situations is organized and operates, for the prevention and management of emergencies, by ensuring and coordinating the related human, material and financial resources. The main responsibility for emergency disaster management lies with the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform - General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (GIES).

GIES was established on 15th of December 2004 by merging of Civil Protection Command and General Inspectorate of Military Fire Corps, as a representative specialized body of the Romanian Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform.

The Romanian legislation defines the **emergency situation** as an exceptional **non-military** event that threatens:

- life and health of the population;
- environment;
- cultural and material values,

and during which, for re/establishment of the normal status, the following are necessary:

- urgent measures and actions;
- allocation of supplementary resource;
- joint management of forces and resources.

In case of an emergency situation, a National Committee for Emergency Situations comes into action, that is overseeing directly the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations, and working closely with the other ministries with responsibilities in a given crisis situation, to ensure the horizontal coordination. The vertical coordination is organized through the affected counties (the Prefects) and further to the level of the communes (mayors).

The risks that are managed by the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform, through the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations are: fires, radiological and nuclear emergencies/accidents, off-site chemical accidents, sea coast pollutions, failure of public utilities and public events that can degenerate etc.

In what concerns the management of emergencies related to hazards in the marine area, presently among the tasks and missions of the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations, only the activity for the removal of sea coast pollutions is included. In this respect, within the Operative Committee for Marine De-pollution, a special operational unit of "Dobrogea" Constanta County Inspectorate for Emergency Situations, is functioning in the coastal region of the Black Sea and surrounding waters (e.g. Danube-Black Sea Canal).

Given especially the present context of global climate and sea level changes, the development of adequate infrastructure and capabilities to manage the emergencies, induced by natural hazards in the Black Sea, as exceptionally storms, tsunamis waves and others, becomes important and this respect the scientific community is expect to provide a strong and well-grounded support.