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FACTS AND FIGURES OF THE 1st CALL FOR PROPOSALS

STAGE A – SUBMISSION OF CONCEPT NOTES

March 5, 2024

This report provides an insight of the key preliminary data regarding the 1st Call for Proposals of the Interreg (VI-A) IPA CBC Programme “Greece-North Macedonia” 2021-2027, including information on the most popular Specific Objectives, the typology of partners and the requested budget. On February 26, 2024, the Programme received **140 Concept Notes** submitted through the Monitoring Information System (MIS), a successful result considering that the Call amounted to 18 MEUR and was open for four out of six Specific Objectives of the Programme.

PROTECTION OF NATURE/ BIODIVERSITY AND CULTURE & SUSTAINABLE TOURISM RECEIVED GREATER INTEREST

The 1st Call for Proposals focused on **four specific objectives** under two **Priority Axes**. In detail, the four specific objectives (SO) aimed to:

Priority Axis 1: Transition to a low carbon economy

RSO2.6: Promote the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy

RSO2.7: Enhance protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution.

Priority Axis 3: Support and upgrade of health & social services

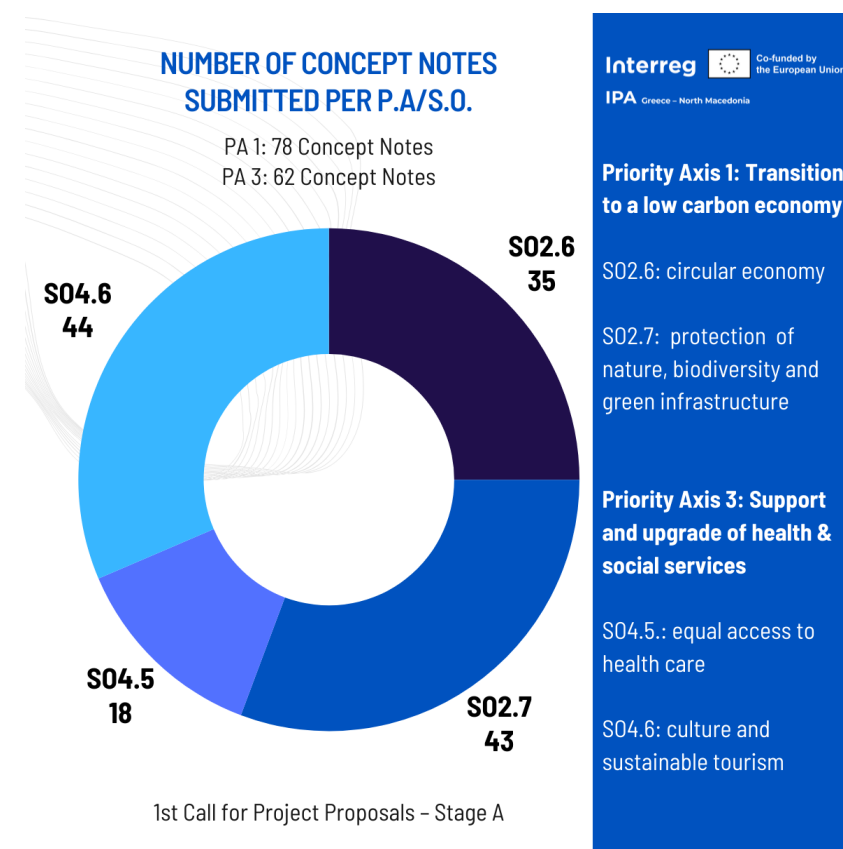
RSO4.5.: Ensure equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care.

RSO4.6: Enhance the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation

The **Specific Objective 4.6**, dedicated to the enhancement of culture and sustainable tourism, **received most of the applications, 44 out of 140**. This trend highlights the interest of both partner countries in the sustainable use of natural and cultural resources, especially through tourism, as a way to increase growth within the Programme area. In parallel, **43 Concept**

Notes were submitted under the Specific Objective 2.7 dedicated to tackle environmental vulnerability and risks through biodiversity.

The number of Concept Notes submitted and the share of each topic are depicted below;



STRONG PARTICIPATION BY MANY APPLICANTS

Preliminary data show the participation of a wide number of institutions, proving great interest for the topics covered by this 1st Call. Overall, **615 applicants were involved** in the Concept Notes' proposals (considering all entries), in which **297 unique institutions (158 from Greece and 139 from North Macedonia) participated.**

As per Call's rules, only institutions located in one of the partner states, namely Greece and North Macedonia, could apply as lead partner. **The majority of the applications, 110 in number, were submitted by Greece as Lead Partner, followed by 30 for North Macedonia.**

The following picture depicts how active each partner state was during the 1st Call.

LOCATION OF POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES

In the total of 140 proposals, 615 applicants were involved, out of which 297 were entries by a unique institution



Lead beneficiaries : 110

Unique institutions: 158



Lead beneficiaries : 30

Unique institutions: 139

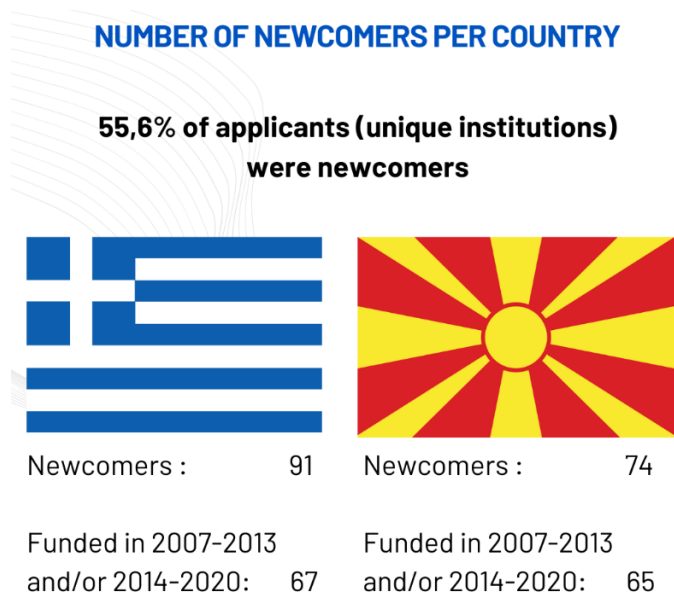
A WIDE SPECTRUM OF ELIGIBLE PARTNERS REPRESENTED

Among all the applicants, almost half share of the participants consists of private non-profit organizations. The second most represented type of organizations is “bodies governed by public law”. Regional and municipal authorities have also applied significantly. For instance, 27 Municipalities from Greece and 30 Municipalities from North Macedonia have participated in the Call. European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) were represented by 2 applicants.

DIVERSITY OF APPLICANTS

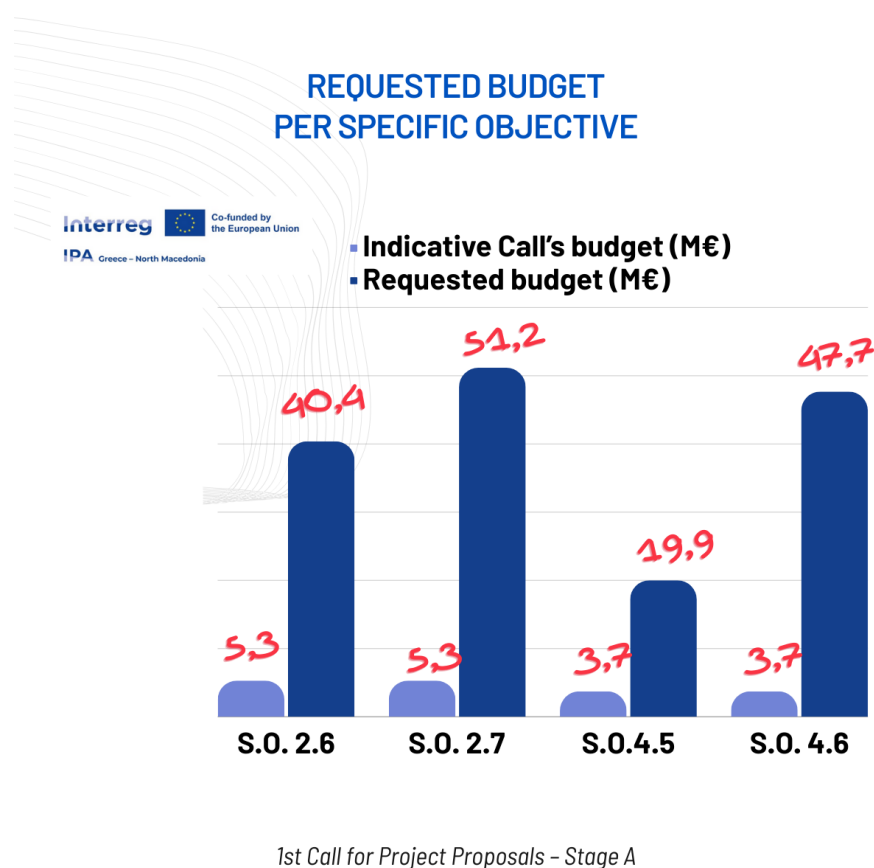
In general, the participation of newcomers in the 1st Call was strongly encouraged and the participation of the same organizations in several projects / applications was suggested by the Programme Management Authorities to be avoided. As a result, **an impressive percentage of 55.6% of all applicants were newcomers, meaning that they have never been funded by the Programme in previous programming periods of 2007-2013 and 2014-2020.**

The following picture shows the number of newcomers per country.



AVAILABLE FUNDS FOR THE SELECTED PROJECTS

The overall Call budget was of **EUR 18.045.455,50** with a co-financing rate of 80% EU funds and 20% national funds. The total requests received by the applicants exceeds largely the funds at Call's disposal, as **the overall financial requests reached EUR 159.237.980,77, almost nine times higher the available funds.**

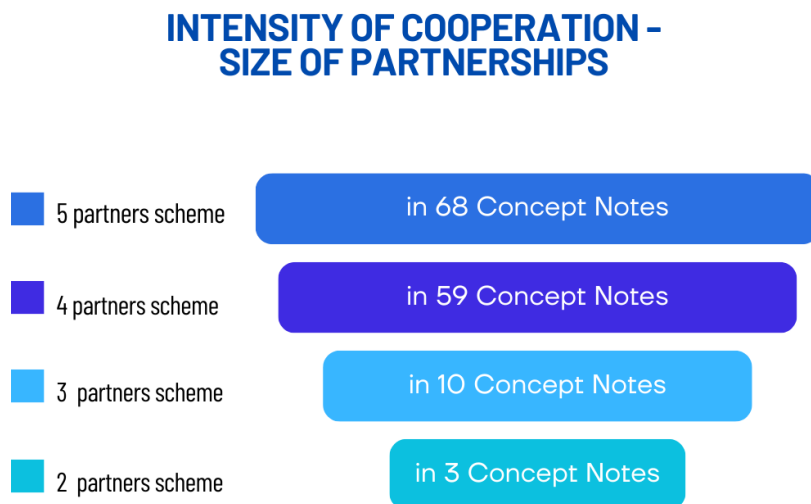


PROJECTS' BUDGET AND SIZE OF PARTNERSHIP

In the entire population of 140 proposals, the **average project total budget was 1.179.540,60€**, while the minimum project budget submitted was 710.000,00€ and the maximum 1.500.000,00€.

As far as the size of the partnership schemes are concerned, the vast majority of Concept Notes included 4 or (the maximum) 5 partners.

The following figure shows the intensity of cooperation regarding partnership size.



1st Call for Project Proposals - Stage A

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The proposals will now undertake a thorough **assessment** process to review the submitted Concept Notes that will pass to Stage B of the evaluation process.

We appreciate the enthusiastic response of all applicants for their interest in the 1st Call. We look forward to supporting the implementation of innovative projects that contribute to the development and cooperation in the cross-border area of Greece and North Macedonia.