

JOINT MONITORING COMMITTEE

under Interreg-IPA CBC Bulgaria – Turkey Programme,

CCI No 2014TC16I5CB005

Written procedure No.52, initiated on 28 February 2022

1. Description: The Written Procedure in accordance with Articles 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the JMC of the Interreg-IPA CBC Bulgaria – Turkey Programme for consideration and approval the request for extension of the project implementation period with 6 months (from 24 to 30 months) 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.

The official letter No. 99-00-2-208-(45)/28.02.2022 and the attachments were sent to the JMC members via e-mail and made available in the JMC section of the Management Information System.

The request is grounded by the delay in the implementation of core project activities with more than 6 months, namely:

- Activity 2: Equipment and infrastructure for establishing Blue Growth Research centre at "Prof. D-r Asen Zlatarov" University of Burgas – 8 months delay;
- Activity 3: Equipment and infrastructure for establishing Blue Growth Research centre at Trakya University of Edirne – 8 months delay;
- Activity 12: Purchase of necessary laboratory equipment and assets to improve capacity of BLUE GROWTH Research Centres for monitoring and analysis, diffuse pollution included – 6 months delay.

The delay of the abovementioned core activities is threatening the implementation of the scientific and related works, as follow:

- Activity 5: Implementation of a pilot aquatic ecosystem study in Burgas;
 - Activity 6: Implementation of a pilot aquatic ecosystem study in Edirne region;
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- Activity 7: Local actions for regional capacity in Burgas region;
- Activity 8: Local actions for regional capacity in Edirne region;
- Activity 13: Development and piloting of a systematic methodology for monitoring water pollution from diffuse sources.

As main reasons for the delay the project partners declare the global supply chain crisis caused by Covid 19 pandemic situation that lead to the cancelation of key tender procedures, related to works and supplies of PP1 (University "Prof. D-r Asen Zlatarov" Burgas) and PP2 (Trakya University of Edirne). Up to now five tenders are cancelled – three of PP1 and two of PP2 due to lack offers or offers exceeding the tender budget. The tender procedures of University "Prof. D-r Asen Zlatarov" Burgas that have been cancelled are: Engineering (investment technical design and supervision, construction works) for refurbishment of the premises of: Water Pollution Monitoring Lab, Aquatic Ecosystem Lab, Aquaculture and Biotechnology Lab; Supply of ITC equipment for the purposes and functioning of the scientific laboratories, and Supply of a vehicle for the field studies. Trakya University of Edirne has cancelled the tenders for supply of vehicle for sampling and monitoring, and for production and supply of small research vessel.

The significant price increase for works and equipment and related with it budget shortage impose the need for project budget modifications, which require additional time. According to the provided explanations the supplies of ITC equipment, vehicles and small research vessels is expected to take much more time than it was planned at the project submission phase, because the potential suppliers are claiming a longer time schedule for delivery, as shortages in industry and production globally are affecting the market. Further delay is due to the imposed and expected different changes in the project content – modification of the technical specifications of the laboratories equipment, small research vessels, workstation for the scientific laboratories, ITC and related equipment, consumables for the scientific laboratories and small scale construction at Trakya University.

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

Approval of the proposed amendment was received from the

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Governor of Yambol Region. His position is reflected in Attachment 1: "Table of comments received from JMC members".

2. Decision:

JMC approves the modification – extension of the project implementation period with 6 months (from 24 to 30 months) of the strategic project "Cross-border Regions Collaborate for BLUE GROWTH (BLUE GROWTH COLLABs)" (Subsidy contract PД-02-29-170/09.10.2020) with reference number CB005.3.12.001.

The hereby decision enters into force on the **9th of March 2022**, the date following the deadline for submission of comments/ objections/ additional proposals from the JMC members.

3. Attachments:

1. Table of the comments received by JMC members;
2. Letter No. 99-00-2-208-(45)/28.02.2022 of the Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Public Works, Bulgaria;
3. Annex 8 Request for Contract Modification №5_15.02.2022-extension of project duration;

Signatures:

for BULGARIA:



Ms. Delyana Ivanova

*Deputy Minister of
Regional Development and Public Works,
Co-chairperson of the JMC*

for TURKEY:



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*