

Fifth Strategy Board meeting of the Territorial Strategy under Interreg VI-A IPA Bulgaria - North Macedonia Programme 2021 -2027

held on 24th of March 2025

1. Description:

The Strategy Board meeting under Interreg VI-A IPA Bulgaria – North Macedonia Programme 2021-2027, was held on 24th of March 2025, with the following agenda:

1. Opening of the Strategy Board meeting
Introductory and welcoming speeches:
 - Mrs. Andrea Zlatkovska, East Planning Region and Co-chairperson of the Strategy Board
 - Mr. Zhivko Ivanov, Business Information and Consulting Centre Sandanski (BICC - Sandanski) and Co-chairperson of the Strategy Board
 - Mrs. Stanka Dimitrova – Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, Head of Managing Authority
 - Mr. Stefan Vangelski – Ministry of Local-Self Government, Republic of North Macedonia

Approval of the agenda;
2. Presentation of the direct support available to SMEs under Priority 3 under the Territorial Strategy of the Interreg VI-A IPA Bulgaria – North Macedonia 2021 – 2027 followed by discussion;
3. Presentation of the submitted Governance Project under the Territorial Strategy;
4. AOB,

State of play of the Programme implementation
5. End of meeting.

2. Decisions:

The following decisions were taken by the Strategy Board:

Decision 1:

Applicants registered and operating in the Programme area between Bulgaria and North Macedonia no later than 31.12.2022 /minimum 2 completed financial years/ to be eligible for direct support available to SMEs under Priority 3.

Decision 2:

Minimum 2 – maximum 4 project partners (maximum 2 partners per partnering country) should be allowed to participate in a single project proposal for direct support available to SMEs under Priority 3.

Decision 3:

The financial capability of the SMEs should be assessed through an in-depth financial evaluation.

Decision 4:

The maximum grant is 300 000 euro per partnering country (regardless if there are one or two partners per country) and the maximum total project grant is 600 000 euro for the whole project proposal eligible for direct support available to SMEs under Priority 3.

Decision 5:

Minimum 65% investment component from total project costs should be eligible for application under Priority 3.

Decision 6:

Investment should cover purchase of equipment and investment that includes equipment installation and related infrastructure works.

Decision 7:

All proposed SMEs' codes for economic activities will be eligible for application, except the code 3831: burning of wastes without producing energy.

3. Attachments: 1. Minutes of the fifth Strategic Board meeting.

for Republic of North Macedonia:



Mrs. ANDREA ZLATKOVSKA

Chairperson of the Strategy Board

for Republic of Bulgaria:



Mr. ZHIVKO IVANOV

Co-chairperson of the Strategy Board