

# ASSESSMENT PRACTICES



INTERREG VI-A ROMANIA-BULGARIA  
2021-2027

12 March 2025

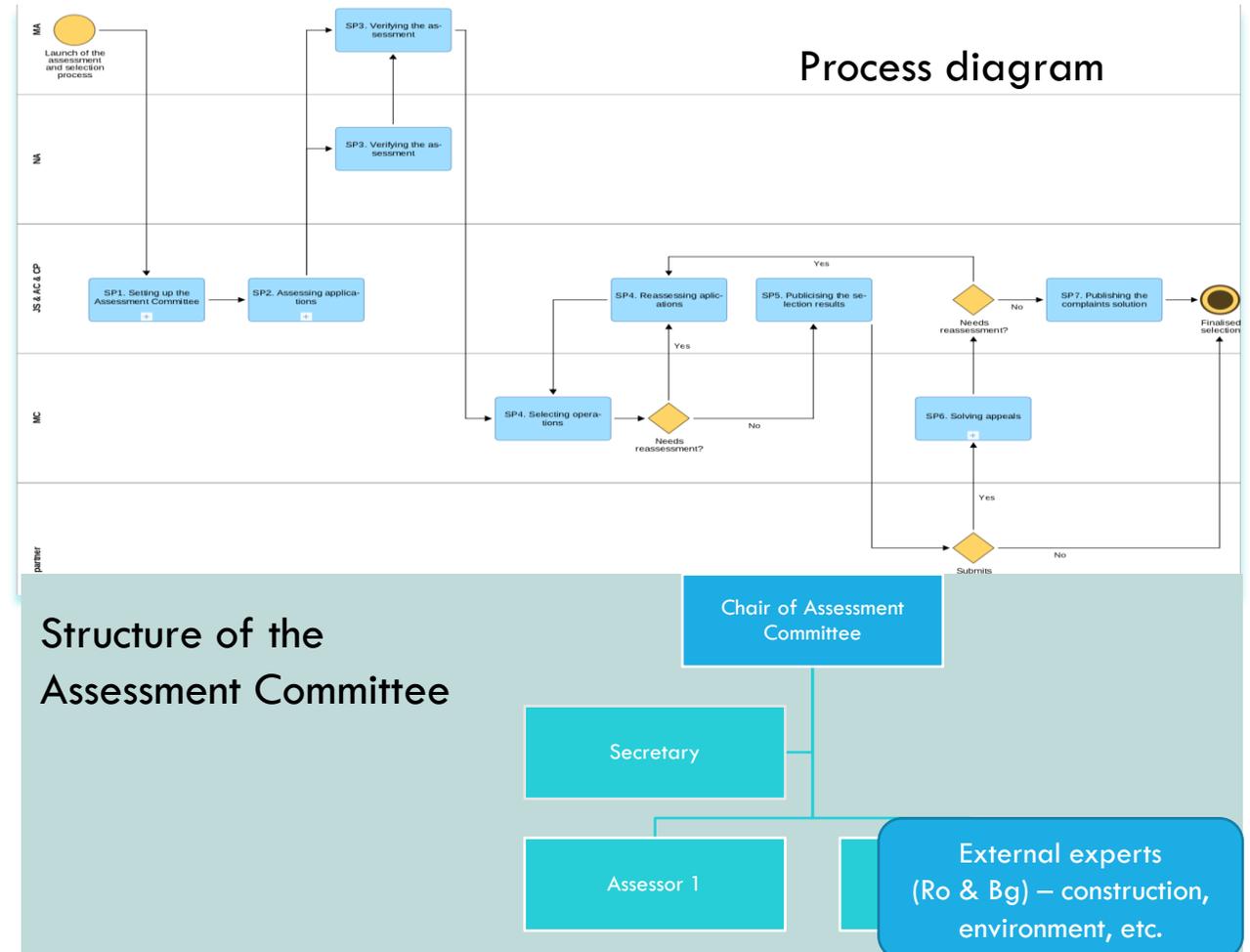
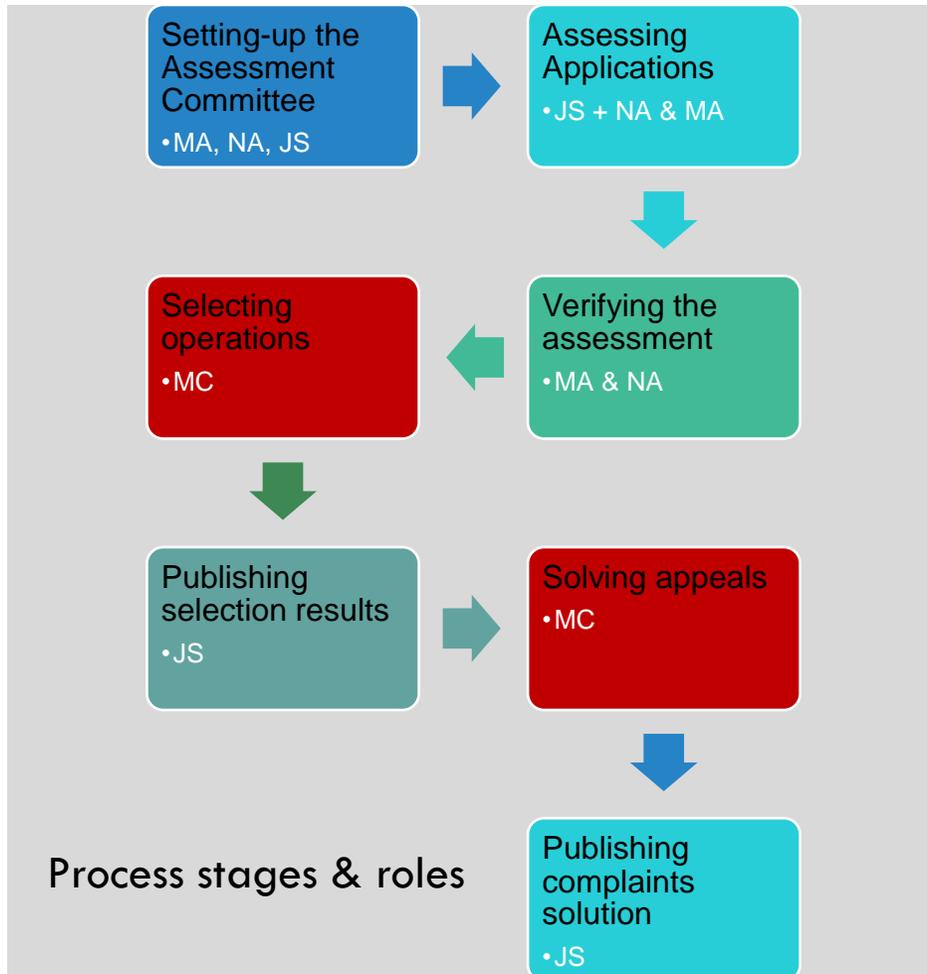
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# ASSESSMENT PROCESS



# APPLICANTS & APPLICATIONS

## Categories of applicants

Public bodies  
(municipalities,  
agencies, research  
institutions, etc.)

Offices / branches  
of public bodies

NGOs

Chambers of  
commerce &  
Universities

## Calls assessed & under assessment

Call no.	Specific objective	Applications	Requested budgets	Observations / Status
1	3.2 Mobility 2.4 Climate change adaptation	3 applications	EUR 52 M	Strategic projects 2 contracted, 1 under revision
2	2.4 Climate change adaptation 2.7 Nature preservation & biodiversity	62 applications	EUR 115.4 M	Competitive 8 contracted, 2 under contracting
3	4.2 Education	50 applications	EUR 42.4 M	Competitive Assessment due to close
4	2.4 Climate change adaptation	19 applications	EUR 17.8 M	Competitive Assessment just started

# PARTNERSHIP RELEVANCE CRITERIA

- Partnership relevance gets approx. 10% of the quality score
- To be analyzed in complementarity:
  - with the cooperation criteria, as partner's roles have to be shared
  - with the budget criteria, in relation to the financial capacity of partners
- Strong points:
  - Comprehensive & well-balanced criteria
- Observed issues:
  - Partners need the legal competence to carry-on certain project activities
  - Partners not working in the field or with limited experience (e.g. in environmental projects)
  - Partners not having the technical capacity >>> high proportion of externalized services ( ! risk criteria for our ex-post analysis !)
  - Partners fail to demonstrate capacity (present it) even if they have resources
  - Few institutions in charge of the environmental policies applied for call 2 >>> cause for weak selection results
  - High competition from other financing programmes, with more attractive conditions (e.g. national recovery & resilience plans), diminishing appeal for Interreg

Translated into 4 sub-criteria:

Relevant actors to  
address the challenge

Balanced and  
complementary  
partnership

Proven experience &  
competence in the field  
+ capacity

Defined roles within the  
partnership

# CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION & IMPACT

- Cross-border cooperation character & impact gets approx. 15% of the quality score
- **!** If 0 points are awarded, the application is rejected **!**
- Assessment is based on arguments of applicants & overall understanding of activities and results
- Strong points:
  - Certain partners developed long term partnerships, applying several times together during 3 programming periods (since 2007)
- Observed issues:
  - Numerous “mirror” projects, particularly because:
    - the RoBg cross-border region is rather focused in investment activities
    - the Danube poses a high geographical challenge (hard border)
  - Certain inability of applicants to explain cross-border impact (weak needs’ analysis, no data collected, weak identification of target groups)

Translated into 3 sub-criteria:

Clearly demonstrated  
importance of CB  
cooperation

CB cooperation absolutely  
necessary to reach results

Benefits of CB cooperation  
demonstrated for  
stakeholders & IP area

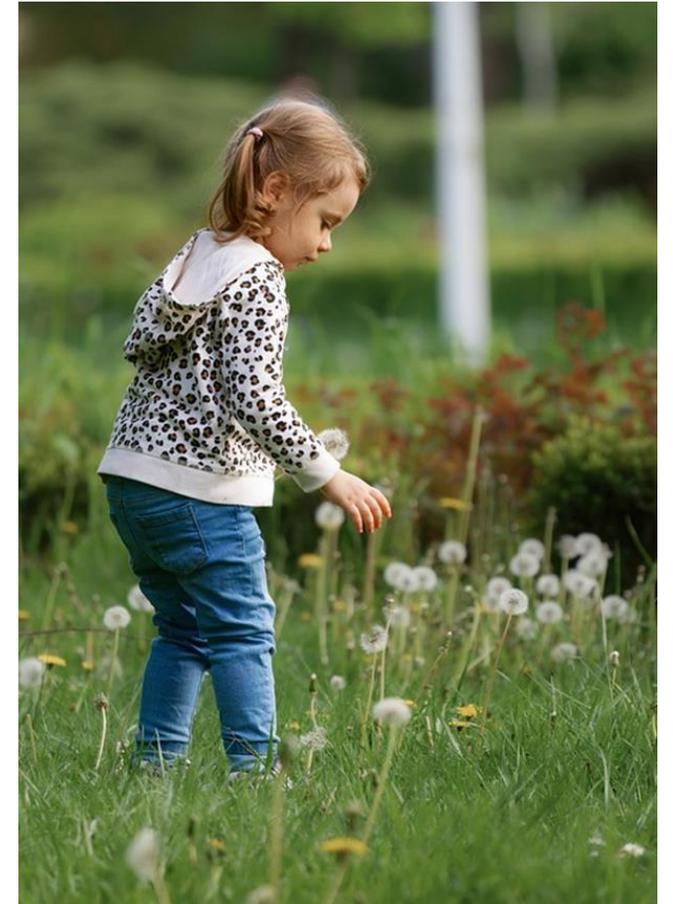
# SPECIAL REMARKS

## Challenging assessment in relation to environmental projects:

- very complex policy area, not suitable for “traditional” beneficiaries of RoBg Programme
- irrelevant partners (competence, experience)
- cross-border impact not sufficiently explained
- focus on investment, but too little on green infrastructure
- difficulties in realizing quality climate proofing self-assessment (for infrastructure with expected lifespan of  $> 5$  years)
- little understanding of horizontal issues – e.g. New European Bauhaus

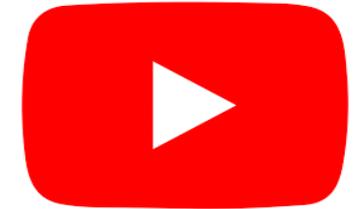
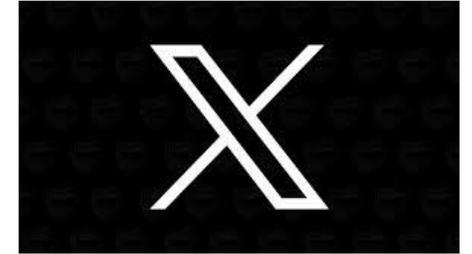
## Next steps:

- more promotion activities in relation to future calls
- relaunching call for S.O 2.7



# APPROACHES IN CAP-COM ACTIVITIES

- Social media announcements
- Joint events with other EU programmes
- Online sessions for initial and deeper understanding of project requirements
- Events for sharing successful project applications
- Partner search events (both online and in-person)



# LESSONS LEARNED

- Call's preparation is essential
- Promotion activities for each call need to consider:
  - Policy knowledge (e.g. environmental policies)
  - Explaining tricky subjects (e.g. climate proofing, New European Bauhaus)
  - Competition from other financing programmes
  - Identifying the right possible beneficiaries
  - Easing administrative burden and more flexible rules on eligibility
- Worth trying to have more focused calls (on specific topics, such as reforestation or pollinators' protection)
- No quality, no project



Thank you for your time.  
Your insights will help this  
high-value work.



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