



# INTERREG PROGRAMMES IN TÜRKİYE

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# INTERREG PROGRAMMES IN TÜRKİYE

Cross-border cooperation, which originated in Northern Europe in the 1950s, was formally supported by the EU as part of its integration strategy starting in the 1990s. These programmes promote collaboration for balanced development in border regions whether between EU countries and neighbouring non-EU countries, or within the EU itself. They are key tools in the European Neighbourhood Policy and the EU's Regional Policy, helping border regions to develop while fostering cultural and societal connections.

Türkiye has been an active participant in cross-border cooperation since 2003, starting with the Bulgaria-Türkiye Cross-border Cooperation Programme. Since 2007, Türkiye has also been part of the Black Sea Basin Cross-border Cooperation Programme. For the 2021-2027 period, Türkiye has expanded its involvement to include the Interreg Next Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme. The Directorate for EU Affairs serves as the National Authority of these Interreg Programmes in Türkiye.

# INTERREG IPA

# BULGARIA - TÜRKİYE PROGRAMME

The Interreg IPA Bulgaria-Türkiye Programme is a vital cross-border cooperation effort between Türkiye and Bulgaria. It is managed by the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works of the Republic of Bulgaria, with the Directorate for EU Affairs at the Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Foreign Affairs acting as the National Authority. The programme focuses on enhancing collaboration between the provinces of Edirne and Kırklareli in Türkiye and the administrative regions of Haskovo, Yambol, and Burgas in Bulgaria.



# 2021-2027 Period

The priority areas of the Interreg IPA Bulgaria-Türkiye Programme, with a budget of **34.4 million Euros** are:

- **A greener and low-carbon Europe**
  - Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gases
  - Promote the transition to a circular and resource-efficient economy
- **A Europe closer to citizens**
  - Sustainable and inclusive economic growth based on digital and green transformation by increasing the competitiveness of the local economy
- **A safer and more secure Europe**
  - Improving migration management

—➤ For information on the Interreg IPA Bulgaria-Türkiye Programme,

visit: [cbc.ab.gov.tr](http://cbc.ab.gov.tr) and [ipa-bgtr.mrrb.bg](http://ipa-bgtr.mrrb.bg)



BULGARIA - TÜRKİYE



## THE PATH AND LIGHT OF THE MONASTERY OF HAGIA NICHOLAS CAME FROM EUROPE

The “**Common Cultural and Historical Heritage Beyond the Borders**” project is a collaborative effort between the Kırklareli Directorate of Culture and Tourism and the Regional Historical Museum of Burgas, funded by the Bulgaria-Türkiye IPA CBC Programme. With a budget of approximately 486,000 Euros, this 24-month project focused on preserving and enhancing the shared cultural and historical heritage of the region.

Key achievements of the project include:

- **Road and Lighting Enhancements:** The project financed the development of road arrangements and lighting for the Hagia Nicholas Monastery in Kiyıköy, Kırklareli. This included creating a vehicular and pedestrian road connecting the monastery to Kiyıköy Castle, as well as establishing a car park in front of the archaeological site.
  - **Increased Accessibility:** These improvements have facilitated easier access for tourists to the Hagia Nicholas Monastery, a rock-carved structure, thereby boosting the region’s tourism potential.
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Project Code:  
CB005.1.21.139  
Project Name:  
Common Cultural and  
Historical Heritage  
Beyond the Borders  
Implementation Period:  
21.03.2017 - 20.03.2019





## ALPULLU/ KIRKLARELI STRONGER AGAINST FLOODS WITH EU FUNDS

The “**Improving the capacity of municipalities of Alpullu and Topolovgrad for prevention and mitigation the consequences of floods in the Aegean basin**” project, a collaborative effort between Alpullu Municipality in Türkiye and Topolovgrad Municipality in Bulgaria, aims to mitigate flood risks in the Aegean basin.

Funded by the Interreg IPA Bulgaria-Türkiye Cross-border Cooperation Programme with approximately 550.000 Euros, this project focuses on environmental development and flood prevention in the cross-border region.

Key achievements of the project include:

- **River Cleaning and Rehabilitation:** The Pancarköy River in Türkiye and the Sinapovska River in Bulgaria were cleaned and rehabilitated, reducing potential risks to human health and wildlife. Additionally, retaining walls along the rivers were reinforced.
  - **Increased Public Awareness:** The project has significantly raised awareness about flood risks and contributed to the safety of the region.
  - **Enhanced Regional Cooperation:** This initiative fostered joint efforts between the two municipalities, addressing common issues and strengthening cross-border cooperation
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Project Code:  
CB005.1.11.084  
Project Name:  
Improving the capacity of municipalities of  
Alpullu and Topolovgrad for prevention  
and mitigation the consequences of floods  
in the Aegean basin  
Implementation Period:  
21.03.2017 - 20.03.2019

## EDİRNE IS READY TO RESPOND TO FLOODS

The “**Cross-border cooperation for preparedness and reaction in case of floods**” project represents a strategic partnership between the Edirne Provincial Disaster and Emergency Management Directorate in Türkiye and the Directorate General of Fire Safety and Civil Protection in Bulgaria.

Funded by the Interreg IPA Bulgaria-Türkiye Cross-border Cooperation Programme with approximately 590.000 Euros, this initiative aims to bolster flood response capabilities and improve coordination between the two nations.

Key outcomes of the project include:

- **Enhanced Capacity:** The funding has strengthened the flood response capacities of the Turkish and Bulgarian emergency management institutions. This includes the development of a joint response plan to address flood risks in the border region effectively.
- **Increased Awareness and Solidarity:** The project has raised awareness about flood risks and fostered a spirit of solidarity between Türkiye and Bulgaria in tackling cross-border challenges.
- **Upgraded Equipment:** Edirne AFAD received advanced equipment, including a search and rescue vehicle, an underwater search robot, rope launching equipment, a rescue boat, and a drone, to improve response capabilities.

Project Code:

CB005.1.11.007

Project Name:

Cross-border cooperation for preparedness and reaction in case of floods

Implementation Period:

25.07.2017 – 24.07.2019

## İNECE'S TOURIST ATTRACTION IS INCREASING

The “**Increasing attractiveness of municipalities Topolovgrad and İnce as ecotourism destinations**” project is a collaborative effort between İnce Municipality in Türkiye and Topolovgrad Municipality in Bulgaria, aimed at enhancing the appeal of the region for tourists. Funded by approximately 350.000 Euros from the EU, this project focuses on improving local parks and recreational facilities.

Key outcomes of the project include:

- **Park Enhancements:** The project involved upgrading parks in both municipalities, including the installation of landscaping elements such as benches and garbage bins.
- **Outdoor Sports Facilities:** Necessary fields and equipment for outdoor sports activities were provided and constructed, enhancing recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.
- **Strengthened Cooperation:** This initiative not only accelerated regional development but also fostered a stronger culture of cooperation between the local governments of Türkiye and Bulgaria.

Project Code:

CB005.1.21.167

Project Name:

Increasing attractiveness of municipalities Topolovgrad and İnce as ecotourism destinations

Implementation Period:

20.03.2017 - 20.03.2019

## EAGLES BEYOND BORDERS

Project Code:  
CB005.2.12.108  
Project Name:  
Eagles Beyond Borders  
Implementation Period:  
23.07.2019-23.10.2020

The **“Eagles Beyond Borders”** is a vital project aimed at protecting the globally endangered Imperial Eagle across the Thrace region. This bird of prey, which migrates across Southeast Europe to Central and Western Asia, faces serious threats from habitat destruction, pesticide use, and power line density, resulting in population declines and shrinking habitats.

### Key objectives of the project include:

- **Mapping Breeding Areas and Habitats:** Identifying and mapping the breeding areas and habitats of the Imperial Eagle in Thrace to enhance conservation efforts.
- **Awareness Campaign:** Launching campaigns involving youth and citizens to combat coastal pollution and protect important habitats.
- **Coastal Clean-up:** Organizing large-scale cleanups of coastal areas to mitigate environmental hazards affecting eagle populations.
- **Youth Involvement:** Engaging young people in cross-border bird migration activities through a joint monitoring camp.
- **Natura 2000 Protection:** Identifying potential Natura 2000 protected areas in Kırklareli and Edirne based on the distribution of the Imperial Eagle and other species.
- **Nest Protection:** Implementing protection measures for Bald Eagle nests in Türkiye and Bulgaria.

Led by the Association of Back to Nature Youth and Sport Club, this project aims to enhance the conservation of the Imperial Eagle through habitat protection, community engagement, and cross-border cooperation.





# INTERREG NEXT BLACK SEA BASIN PROGRAMME

The Black Sea Basin Programme is a significant initiative under the EU Cohesion Policy and European Neighborhood Policy, with the Directorate for EU Affairs functioning as the National Authority for Türkiye. This programme involves eight countries: Türkiye, Bulgaria, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Ukraine, and Greece.

In Türkiye, the programme covers a broad range of provinces, including: İstanbul, Tekirdağ, Edirne, Kırklareli, Kocaeli, Sakarya, Düzce, Bolu, Yalova, Zonguldak, Karabük, Bartın, Kastamonu, Çankırı, Sinop, Samsun, Tokat, Çorum, Amasya, Trabzon, Ordu, Giresun, Rize, Artvin, and Gümüşhane.



## 2021-2027 Period

The budget for the Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme is **94,4 million Euros**. The priorities for this period have been determined as follows:

➤ **A more competitive and smarter Europe**

- Developing and strengthening research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies

➤ **A greener and low-carbon Europe**

- Promote climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account ecosystem-based approaches
- Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution

➤ **Better Cooperation Governance**

- Build up mutual trust in particular by encouraging people-to-people actions

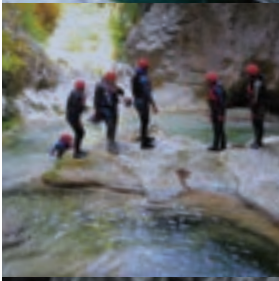
—➤ For information on the Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme, visit:

[cbc.ab.gov.tr](http://cbc.ab.gov.tr) and [blacksea-cbc.net](http://blacksea-cbc.net)


# BLACK SEA BASIN



## ADVENTURE NETWORK STARTED IN CONSTANZA PASSES THROUGH KASTAMONU



The “**Development of Outdoor Adventure Tourism Network in Black Sea Region**” (DOOA) project brings together partners from Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova, and Türkiye to enhance adventure tourism in the Black Sea Region. In Türkiye, the project includes Kastamonu Provincial Special Administration, Rize Provincial Special Administration, Karadeniz Ereğli Municipality, and the Awareness for Development Association.



Adventure tourism, which focuses on physical activity, cultural exchange, and nature experiences, was the core of this initiative. The project, had a total budget of approximately 560.000 Euros.

Key achievements of the project include:

- **Diversified Tourism Activities:** The multinational cooperation network established through the project diversified tourism offerings and created new opportunities for the participating countries.
- **Strengthened Cooperation:** The project has enhanced cooperation among the basin countries and made significant strides toward increasing their tourism potential and revenues.

Project Code:

TR11C1.01-02/232

Project Name:


Development of Outdoor Adventure Tourism Network in Black Sea Region

Implementation Period:

15.03.2014 - 15.03.2015



## CULTURAL PORTS FROM THE AEGEAN TO THE BLACK SEA



The “**Cultural Ports from the Aegean to the Black Sea**” project brings together partners from Türkiye, Greece, Romania, Ukraine, Georgia, and Bulgaria with a shared goal: revitalizing cultural ports in the Black Sea Region. İstanbul University and Koç University from Türkiye participated in this project.



With funding of approximately 1.197 million Euros, the project focused on strengthening connections between port cities and enhancing cultural interaction.

Key achievements of the project include:

- **Revitalizing Cultural Ports:** Strengthening the connection between port cities across the region.
- **Fostering Cultural Interaction:** Promoting cultural exchanges and breaking down prejudices between cultures.
- **Supporting SMEs:** Encouraging the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in the tourism sector.

Project Code:

TR11C1.01-02/331

Project Name:

Cultural Ports from the Aegean to the Black Sea

Implementation Period:

01.07.2013 - 01.07.2015

## BLACK SEA BUILDINGS ENERGY EFFICIENCY PLAN

The “**Black Sea Buildings Energy Efficiency Plan**” project, realized through a partnership involving Türkiye, Romania, Armenia, Moldova, and Greece, marked a significant breakthrough in enhancing institutional capacities in energy efficiency for buildings. The project was funded with approximately 795.000 Euros.

From Türkiye, Samsun Municipality and Tekirdağ Municipality benefited from this project, which enhanced energy efficiency and strengthened regional partnerships and cooperation within the Black Sea Basin.

Key achievements of the project include:

- **Energy Efficiency Improvement:** A significant step was taken towards securing the future of energy resources in the region.
- **Data Exchange:** The mutual exchange of data and information on energy efficiency in buildings and the systematic dissemination of this information across the Black Sea Region.

Project Code:  
TR11C1.01-02/345  
Project Name:  
Black Sea Buildings Energy  
Efficiency Plan  
Implementation Period:  
01.06.2013 - 01.06.2015



## ZERO WASTE IN BLACK SEA

The “**Zero Waste Project**” is a significant initiative brings together partners from Greece, Ukraine, Bulgaria, and Türkiye with a budget of 967.000 Euros, aimed at ensuring the separation, collection, and recycling of biodegradable and packaging wastes from household waste in 39 villages within the Vize and Demirköy districts of Kırklareli.

Key activities and achievements of the project include:

- **Infrastructure Development:** The purchase of 78 garbage containers, 1 recycling waste vehicle, and 1 garbage truck with a crane for the 39 villages
- **Public Engagement:** Training sessions for local residents, feasibility studies for waste utilization, and software development to establish a reward system for controlling all collected wastes.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Educational campaigns were conducted in the region's schools to promote waste separation and collection, fostering a community that respects nature and the environment.

Project Code:  
BSB 788  
Project Name:  
Zero Waste Project  
Implementation Period:  
23.04.2020-22.10.2022

## NEW TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES WITH “TREASURE”

Project Code:

BSB 371

Project Name:

TREASURE

Implementation Period:

18.09.2018- 17.07.2021

The “**TREASURE Project**” aims to promote and develop cross-border business opportunities in the tourism sector by emphasizing cultural values and joint initiatives within the Black Sea Basin.

Key activities and achievements:

- **Training Centre and Coaching Program:** Renovation of a 1500 m<sup>2</sup> building in Enez, Edirne, to establish a fully equipped training centre for water sports and cultural activities, including a coaching program and educational opportunities for 300 children per season.
- **Underwater Museum and Digital Mapping:** Creation of an underwater museum with artificial reefs and a digital map of the underwater archaeological area.
- **Digital Atlas and Experience Sharing:** Development of a digital atlas displaying partner cities and their cultural activities, and organization of a joint event in Enez to exchange innovative methods and project experiences.



# INTERREG NEXT MEDITERRANEAN SEA BASIN PROGRAMME

For the first time, Türkiye joined the Interreg NEXT Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme in the 2021-2027 period. The Directorate for EU Affairs serves as the National Authority, while the programme's Managing Authority is the Administration of the Autonomous Region of Sardinia. This programme brings together 15 Mediterranean countries.

In Türkiye, the programme's area of implementation encompasses the following provinces: Tekirdağ, Edirne, Kırklareli, Balıkesir, Çanakkale, İzmir, Aydın, Denizli, Muğla, Antalya, Isparta, Burdur, Adana, Mersin, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Osmaniye, Manisa, Afyonkarahisar, Kütahya, and Uşak.



# 2021-2027 Period

The programme's budget for the 2021-2027 period is **281 million Euros** with the following priorities:

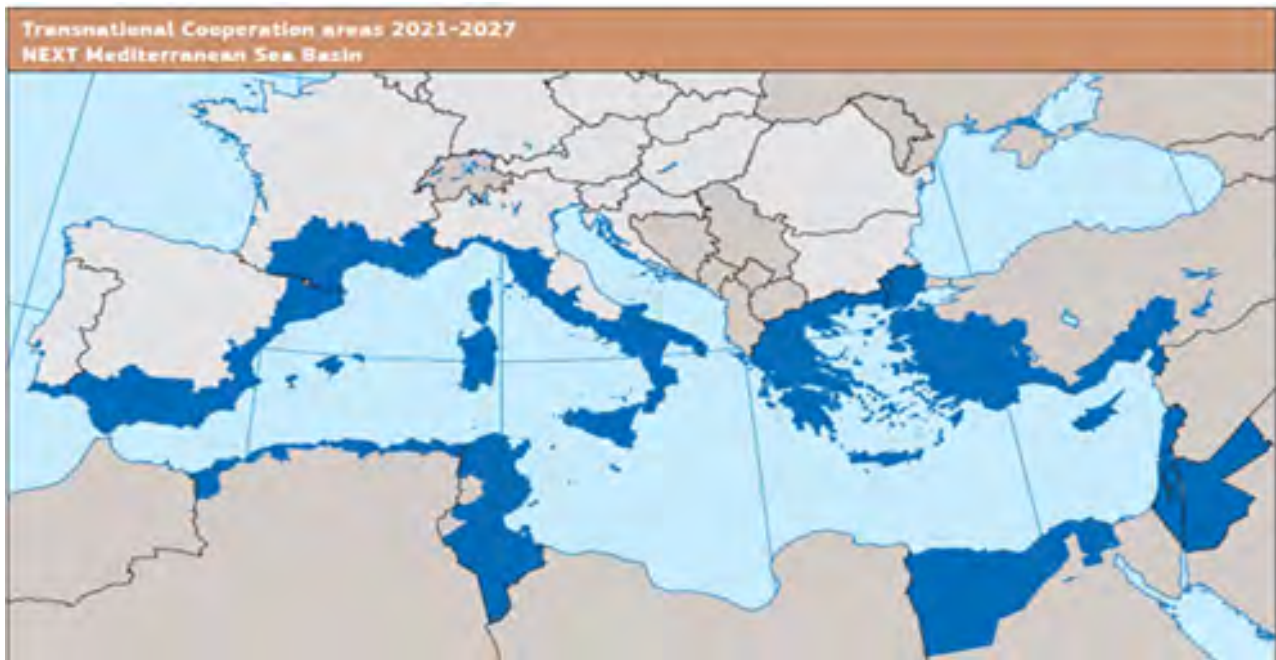
- **A more competitive and smarter Mediterranean**
  - Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies
  - Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments
  
- **A greener, low-carbon Mediterranean**
  - Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions
  - Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience taking into account eco-system based approaches
  - Promoting access to water and sustainable water management
  - Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy
  
- **A more social and inclusive Mediterranean**
  - Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training
  - Ensuring 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

MEDITERRANEAN BASIN

➤ **A better cooperation governance for the Mediterranean**

- Fostering local governance models and processes through cross-sectoral, multilevel and cross-border partnerships, encouraging the cooperation and dialogue between citizens, civil society actors and institutions in view of addressing issues of joint interest at local level through transnational exchanges, bottom-up and participatory approaches

—» For information on the Interreg NEXT Mediterranean Basin Programme, visit: [cbc.ab.gov.tr](http://cbc.ab.gov.tr) and [interregnextmed.eu](http://interregnextmed.eu)



MEDITERRANEAN BASIN



## 2021-2027 Period Cross-border Cooperation Programme's Eligible Area



More than half of the cities in Türkiye are benefiting from Interreg Programmes!

### INTERREG IPA BULGARIA-TÜRKİYE PROGRAMME

- Edirne
- Kırklareli

### INTERREG NEXT BLACK SEA BASIN PROGRAMME

- İstanbul
- Tekirdağ
- Edirne
- Kırklareli
- Kocaeli
- Sakarya
- Düzce
- Bolu
- Yalova
- Zonguldak
- Karabük
- Bartın
- Kastamonu
- Çankırı
- Sinop
- Samsun
- Çorum
- Amasya
- Trabzon
- Ordu
- Giresun
- Rize
- Artvin
- Gümüşhane
- Tokat

### INTERREG NEXT MEDITERRANEAN SEA BASIN PROGRAMME

- Afyonkarahisar
- Kütahya
- Uşak
- Antalya
- Isparta
- Burdur
- Adana
- Mersin
- Hatay
- Kahramanmaraş
- Osmaniye
- Tekirdağ
- Edirne
- Kırklareli
- Balıkesir
- Çanakkale
- İzmir
- Aydın
- Denizli
- Muğla
- Manisa

PH-WEB

**Interreg - IPA CBC**   
Bulgaria - Turkey

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**Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme**

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