Summary of changes in the requirements to projects for the 1st Call For Proposals and the 2nd Call For Proposals

Changes in the Programme Manual

Sections in the Programme Manual for 2nd Call For Proposals	Changes comparing to the Programme Manual for 1st Call For Proposals
Introduction	The date of approval of Programme amendments is specified.
Programme area	The Programme map is changed to map with Tukums included in the Programme area.
Programme funding	The Programme funding is updated after Programme changes.
Management bodies	1) Contact details of the Joint Secretariat are added. 2) JS "Branch office" changed to JS "Contact Point".
Programme priorities and supported activities	1) The list of ineligible activities is transferred to separate section 3.4 "Ineligible activities" for better navigation. 2) Table No. 1 is updated: information on Programme outputs and results transferred to Annex I "Programme output and result indicators"; amounts of indicative available financing for 2nd Call for Proposals are updated. Codes for the Programme Specific objectives added according to the Programme document.
Priority I	1) Table with outputs and results is restructured; table with indicative financing available for SO 1.1 is added. 2) Specific rule is added: Projects must contribute to both: mandatory Programme output indicator "Organisations cooperating across borders" with respective result indicator "Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion" and Programme output indicator "Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects" with respective result indicator "Solutions taken up or upscaled by organisations". This rule is foreseen to cover underachievement of Programme output and results indicators under SO 1.1. 3) Under specific rules for SO 1.1 for better understanding points 4 and 5 are reformulated (for other SOs the same points are also reformulated). 4) Recommended threshold for purchase of equipment up to 20% of the total project budget is added as the specific rule for SO 1.1.
Priority II SO 2.1	1) Table with outputs and results is restructured; table with indicative financing available for SO 2.1 is added. 2) Specific rule is added: Projects must contribute to both: mandatory Programme output indicator "Organisations cooperating across borders" with respective result indicator "Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion" and Programme output indicator "Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects" with respective result indicator "Solutions taken up or upscaled by organisations". This rule is foreseen to cover underachievement of Programme output and results indicators under SO 2.1.

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	3) Under specific rules for SO 2.1 for better understanding points 7 and 8 are reformulated. 4) To point 6 "highly" is added to: "The Programme highly recommends to supplement projects applying under specific objective 2.1 with awareness rising activities".
Priority II SO 2.2	1) Table with outputs and results is restructured; table with indicative financing available for SO 2.2 is added. 2) Under specific rules for SO 2.2 for better understanding points 5 and 6 are reformulated. 3) To point 7 additional requirements are added to receive proper justification on need for investments for preservation of ecosystems in places that are used for recreational purposes. 4) For Point 9 "highly" is added to: "The Programme highly recommends to supplement projects applying under specific objective 2.2 with awareness rising activities".
Priority III	1) Table with outputs and results is restructured; table with indicative financing available for SO 3.1 is added. 2) Terms for SO 3.1 are explained (social services and social inclusion measures). 3) Under indicative list of supported activities for SO 3.1 point 1 is reformulated for better understanding. 4) Under specific rules for SO 3.1 points 2 and 3 reformulated for better understanding.
Priority IV	1) Table with outputs and results is restructured; table with indicative financing available for SO 4.1 is added. 2) Under indicative list of supported activities for SO 4.1 "joint" added to cross-border tourism products. 3) Under specific rules for SO 4.1 Points 5 and 6 are reformulated for better understanding.
Ineligible activities	One of the points in the list with ineligible activities is changed to: "investments in infrastructure and equipment outside the Programme territory" with reference "In exceptional cases, investments in infrastructure and equipment outside the Programme area could be eligible, if they are well-justified and contribute to and directly support project outputs and results".
Project partnership	1) To sub-section about geographical eligibility of LP/PPs is added: "Activities carried out by the partners from outside the Programme area have to contribute to the development of the Programme area that is specified in section 2.2 "Programme area" of the Programme Manual." 2) In sub-section "Requirements for partnership eligibility" a reference to a legal document "Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on public procurement and repealing Directive 2004/18/EC" is added for sentence "established for the specific purpose of meeting the needs for the general interest and not having an industrial or commercial character". 3) From point stating about bank account wording "that is registered at the name of the LP and PP" is removed.

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	4) For financial requirements for NGO, that is LP, years are updated to 2021 and 2022. 5) Removed sentence: "Hospitals and other health-care providing institutions are eligible only if they are registered as social service providers" because it was general for all projects, however this requirement is applicable only for projects applying under Specific Objective 3.1. The requirement itself stays and is relevant projects applying under Specific Objective 3.1.
Programme and project intervention logic	1) Under sub-section "Communication objective and target audience" requirement about planning communication objectives in JEMS is removed. 2) Sub-section "Project deliverable" is supplemented with typical examples of deliverables and the main elements that must be described in JEMS, as well as several explanations are added. 3) In sub-section "Investments" few sentences are reformulated for better understanding. 4) In sub-section "Time plan" a sentence is added on correct planning of activities and deliverables.
Budget planning	One point is added, and one point is supplemented with requirements for correct planning of costs.
Strategic framework (State Aid)	1) A sentence is added: "The applicants should fill in "State aid criteria self-check" in the Application Form section B for LP and each PP individually". 2) Under sub-section "State aid measures" a sentence is added: "If state aid is identified for LP or PP, the Programme grants State aid for the whole budget of respective LP or PP". 3) Threshold for Article 20a of the GBER is updated from 20 000 EUR to 22 000 EUR and for Article 20 from 2 MEUR to 2,2 MEUR (due to changes in Regulation).

Application requirements	1) Requirements for submission of some documents have been changed:
	  a) Confirmation letter and Lead Partner/Project Partner statement: to be submitted with e-signature, time and date of signature will not be checked, missing Confirmation letter will be asked during eligibility check, incorrect Confirmation letter will be corrected at the stage of implementation of conditions, if the project is selected for funding.
	  b) Added: "If any documentation (except Application Form) cannot be submitted electronically but only in paper format, the LP must contact the MA via the official Programme e-mail latlit@varam.gov.lv. The LP need to provide a clear explanation of why electronic submission is not possible and request MA permission to submit the documents in paper form, as an exception to the rules outlined above".
	  c) Technical documentation for infrastructure works that according to national legislation require full set of technical documentation: to be submitted with application, date of issue of documents will not be checked, missing or incorrect documents will be asked at eligibility stage. **If incorrect or not submitted after request, the project will be rejected at eligibility stage**.

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	d) Technical documentation <u>for simplified infrastructure works</u> that according to national legislation <u>do not require full set of technical documentation:</u> to be submitted with application, date of issue of documents will not be checked, missing or incorrect documents will be asked at eligibility stage. If incorrect or not submitted after request, the project will not be rejected but clarifications will be asked at condition stage, if the project is selected for funding. e) Documents for installation of outdoor equipment (stands, fitness equipment, etc.): to be submitted with application, documents will be assessed during quality assessment, clarified during condition stage, if the project is selected for funding. 2) Updated years for requirements regarding NGO being as Lead Partner: documents for the financial years 2021 and 2022, and year of establishment to 2021 (when ERDF co-financing is more than 200 000 EUR).
Assessment of applications	1) Updated procedure on requesting documents during eligibility check. 2) The deadline for submission of missing or incorrect documents is changed from 5 to 10 working days. 3) Date of issue of submitted documents will not be checked. 4) The procedure on sending of request is explained in details.
Eligibility assessment criteria	1) Criteria for assessment of documents are aligned with the requirements for submission of documents. 2) For simplification, several criteria "Project fulfils minimum requirements for partnership", "LP and PPs are registered in Lithuania and in Latvia and are eligible organisations (type, financial requirements)" and "LP and PP comply with eligibility requirements set out in section 4.2 "Project partnership" were joined to one "Minimum requirements for partnership are fulfilled; LP and PPs are registered in Lithuania and in Latvia, they are eligible organisations (type, financial requirements) and comply with eligibility requirements set out in section 4.2 "Project partnership." 3) For simplification for criterion "Budgetary requirements are observed" co-financing amounts indicated in the Application Form and in Lead Partner/Project Partner Statement are not checked at eligibility stage but at condition stage, if project is selected for funding. 4) Criterion "Positive or neutral contribution for horizontal principles (sustainable development, equal opportunities and non-discrimination, equality between men and women) is specified" is removed, because it is assessed during quality assessment.
Quality assessment criteria	1) Sentence is added: "Information must be provided in relevant sections of the Application Form as specified in Table No. 5." 2) Sentence in Table No. 6 is changed from "Indicative links to sections in the Application Form are provided" to "Sections in the Application Form where information must be provided". 3) Quality assessment criteria are updated: a) Criterion "The project intervention logic (the sequence of activities, proportions of activities, methods of work) is optimal for achieving targeted project objectives, outputs and results"

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	is removed from Strategic criteria because similarly the project is assessed in Operational criteria. b) Criterion "With respect to the project's objectives the project partnership is balanced with respect to the levels, sectors, and territory. Partnership consists of LP/PPs that complement each other" reformulated to "The project partnership is balanced in terms of the project's objectives, territory coverage, financial contributions, and expected project outputs. Partnership consists of LP/PPs that complement each other". c) Criteria "There is clear and logical linkage among project overall objective, specific objective(s), activities, deliverables, outputs and results. Proposed activities and deliverables are relevant and lead to planned outputs and results" and "Planned activities, deliverables and outputs are realistic and it is possible to achieve them with given resources and time. Activities and deliverables are logical and transparent" joined and reformulated to one "The project intervention logic (the sequence of activities, proportions of activities, methods of work) is optimal for achieving targeted project objectives, outputs and results. Proposed activities and deliverables are logical and transparent, lead to planned outputs and results and it is possible to achieve activities, deliverables and outputs with given resources and timeline." d) To criterion about communication activities a sentence is added: "Mandatory publicity measures applicable to the project are included as tangible deliverables." e) Criteria "Project budget is coherent, proportionate to the proposed work plan and the main outputs and results" and "The project budget is reasonable and cost-efficient in regard to the project objective, activities, deliverables, outputs and results" are joined to one "Project budget is coherent, proportionate and cost-efficient in regard to the proposed work plan and the main outputs and results."
Project changes	In section 6.2 "Project changes" the requirement to submit the Request for Changes via JEMS is changed to the requirement to submit electronically signed Request for Changes to the JS to email pasts@varam.gov.lv (because there is no functionality available in JEMS to submit changes within the system).
Publicity requirements	Adjustments in publicity requirements were incorporated to align closely with the mandatory measures outlined in the CPR and Interreg Regulation, ensuring a more targeted and compliant approach. The revisions aimed to establish a clear distinction between mandatory requirements and recommendations, as well as information on available support from the JS (layouts for billboards and posters), providing clarity and sense of support to project implementers in meeting the publicity requirements. The main change - marking of investments into equipment or infrastructure by permanent plaques or billboards is mandatory if total project budget is more than 100 000 EUR.
Project reporting and payments	Updates are made to align names of documents and procedures with JEMS (e.g., "Partner Progress Report" to "Partner report"; "Project Progress Report" to "Project report.

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Annex I "Programme output and result indicators"	More guidance on planning and reporting of project outputs and results is added.

Changes in Applicant's pack documents

Name of the document	Changes made comparing to the Applicant's pack for the Programme Manual for 1st Call For Proposals
Application form	1) Changes title that the Application Form is for the 2nd Call For Proposals. 2) In section B.1.5 Contact person title of input field is changed from: "E-mail address" to "Official e-mail address for communication with the Programme". 3) In section C.2.2 title of input field is changed from "How does the project tackle identified common challenges and/or opportunities and what is new about the approach the project takes" to "How does the project tackle identified common challenges and/or opportunities and what are an innovative solutions the project takes" to align title of input field with quality assessment criteria.
Lead partner/Project partner Statement	Point 14 is added: "confirms the validity of the official email address of [Lead partner or Project partner (choose relevant)] institution specified in the "Contact" section of the Application Form and commits to utilizing this specified email for all official communication with the Programme. Should any changes to this email address occur, they will be made in accordance with the procedure outlined in sub-section 6.2.1 "Deviations" of the Programme Manual for 2nd Call for Proposals".
Project Confirmation Letter	The footnote is updated according to application requirements of the Programme Manual.