

ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

2020

for the

INTERREG-IPA Bulgaria - Serbia CBC Programme

CCI No. 2014TC16I5CB007

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**Implementation Report for
Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Bulgaria – Serbia
2014-2020**

PART A

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

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2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Key information on the implementation of the cooperation programme for the year concerned, including on financial instruments, with relation to the financial and indicator data.

The year 2020 was very significant, in terms of successful finalization of the last projects under 1st Call for Proposals and timely contacting of projects approved under 2nd Call for Proposals of the INTERREG-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Bulgaria - Serbia (hereinafter referred to also as Programme) on one hand, but also full with challenges due to COVID-19 pandemic situation, on the other hand. In relation of the COVID-19 pandemic situation as well emergency measures introduced at a national and local level, some projects had difficulties in implementation of the activities (mainly soft ones, which requires gathering of a large group of people or include vulnerable target groups as children). The Managing Authority (MA) was prepared and published guidelines for project implementation in emergency circumstances with flexible measures for project implementation. The MA approved 27 requests for temporary suspension of the project implementation. Furthermore, initial visits of the JS for newly contracted projects carried out by the Joint Secretariat (JS) and on-the-spot checks the Controllers of the First Level of Control (FLC) were held online due to imposed restrictions on a national and local level.

At the beginning of the year 2020 based on the decision of the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) from 24 January 2020, 24 projects were approved for financing under Second Call for Proposals – 15 under Priority Axis 1 (PA 1) and 9 under Priority Axis 2 (PA 2).

In the second quarter of the year based on preformed analysis of the Programme the efforts of the MA and NA were focused on negotiations with 5 provisionally approved projects under General ranking list of Second Call for Proposals (with JMC's decision taken on 2nd of October 2019 and 29th of October 2019) – 2 projects under PA 1, 1 project under PA 2 and 2 projects under PA 3. After conducting of all pre-contracting procedures (online) and due to declining for signature of the subsidy contract by beneficiary under PA 2 as well based on the decisions of the JMC from 27 May 2020 and from 25 November 2020, provisionally selected for financing, was shortened to 4 projects, as follows: PA 1 - 2 projects and PA 3 - 2 projects. There were available funds for only 1 of the approved for contracting project under PA 3, the other three projects under PA 1 and PA 3 subsidy contracts may be concluded in case of available financial resources.

By the first half of 2020 the last 2 project under the First Call for Proposals have been finished with them the all project awarded under First Call for Proposals was finalized.

The total verified amount until the end of 2020 for the projects is EUR 18 935 649,14 (55,53% from the contracted budget).

By the end of the year, 19 projects under Second Call for proposals were successfully finalized and 26 new

projects at the total amount of the EUR 6 148 646,90 under the Second Call for Proposals were contracted as follows:

- PA 1 “Sustainable tourism” - 14 projects at the total amount of the EUR 2 308 947,11
- PA 2 “Youths” – 9 projects at the total amount of the EUR 2 109 800,93
- PA 3 “Environment” – 3 projects at the total amount of the EUR 1 729 898,86 were signed after approval of the amendment of the Programme Decision C (2015) 5444 from 07.08.2020.

Thus the total number of the contracts under the 2nd Call of the Programme become 55. With signed subsidy contracts in 2020 total 102,44 % of the Programme budget is contracted.

Based on JMC decision on 2 October 2019 the MA launched a procedure for amendment of the Programme document to the European Commission (EC). The amendment was related with modification of financial plan for the period 2014-2020 with the corresponding co-financing and breakdown between priorities and of the financial indicators in the performance framework for final target 2023. The amount of EUR 2 029 744,15 was transferred from PA2 to PA3 for financing of all approved projects need for achievement of OIs. The Union support (in EUR) of PA 2 “Youths” was changed from EUR 7 246 729 to EUR 5 521 447 and the (%) of the proportion (%) of the total Union support for the cooperation programme was changed from 25% to 19%. Respectively, Union support (in EUR) of PA 3 “Environment” was changed from EUR 8 696 074 to EUR 10 421 356 and the (%) of the proportion (%) of the total Union support for the cooperation programme was changed from 30% to 36%. As the amendment of the Programme concern the targets for 2023 the managing bodies review Programme implementation results from the First Call for Proposals (CfP) and the expected results for projects` implementation under the Second CfP. Based on that, 4 output indicators (OIs) under PA 1 “Sustainable tourism”, 2 OIs under PA 2 “Youths” and 4 OIs under PA 3 “Environment” were proposed for revision. For 9 out of 10 OIs the final targets for 2023 were increased and one of them was decreased based on the real achievement of the targets of the OIs with projects under the 1st Call for proposals and the expected achievement with the projects under the 2nd Call for proposals. Therefore, on 7 August 2020 the amendment of the Programme was approved with Decision C (2015) 5444.

In 2020, MA in coordination with NA continued the process of programming for future CBC Programme for programming period 2021-2027 as prepared the Territorial analysis, including SWOT analysis. The prepared Territorial analysis was approved with Decision No 2 from 16 September 2020 by Joint Working Group (JWG) via written procedure which given mandate to MA and NA to elaborate and present proposal for intervention logic based on conclusions of the analysis. The second meeting of JWG was held on 18 December 2020 via video conference meeting where the Intervention logic of the future CBC Programme was approved as well was given mandate to MA and NA to elaborate and present proposal for Programme

document. In the end of the year in connection with approved Intervention logic and selected programme priority within the scope of Policy Objective 5 „Europe closer to the citizen” was launched procedure for Territorial strategy for integrated measures with the aim to meet the needs of the INTERREG - IPA CB cooperation programme 2021 -2027 between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Serbia to contribute to a sustainable economic development of the respective region.

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3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

3.1 Overview of the implementation

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
1	SUSTAINABLE TOURISM	<p>Under the 2nd Call 14 projects at the total amount of EUR 2 308 947,11 were contracted distributed per Specific objectives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SO 1.1 "Tourist Attractiveness" – 1 investment projects with project duration of 24 months and the total amount EUR 470 525,26; • SO 1.2 "Cross-border Touristic Product" – 5 projects – soft measures with project duration between 12 and 15 months at the total amount EUR 755 359,16; • SO 1.3 "People to People Networking" – 8 projects – soft measures at the total amount EUR 1 083 062,69 were contracted and were in process of implementation. Duration of the projects is between 12 and 15 months. <p>13 project were temporary suspended due to unfavourable situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic situation and imposed restrictions on national and local level.</p> <p>In addition nine modification requested approval by JMC and signature of addendum (three budget modification, four changes in partnership and two extensions of implementation to 15 months) have been approved.</p> <p>It is expected with projects finalized under 1st Call and contracted under 2nd Call all 10 Output indicators under PA 1 to be achieved.</p>
2	Youths	<p>Under the 2nd Call for Proposals 8 projects at the total amount of EUR 1 518 517,47 were contracted and distributed per Specific objectives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SO 2.1 "Skill and entrepreneurship" – 1 investment projects with project duration of 18 months and the total amount EUR 599 607,89;

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SO 2.2 "People to People Networking" – 7 projects – soft measures at the total amount EUR 918 909,58 were contracted and were in process of implementation. Duration of the projects is between 12 and 15 months. <p>8 project were temporary suspended due to unfavourable situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic situation and imposed restrictions on national and local level.</p> <p>In addition five modification requested approval by JMC and signature of addendum (three changes in partnership and two extensions of implementation to 15 months) have been approved.</p> <p>It is expected with projects finalized under 1st Call and contracted under 2nd Call all 3 Output indicators under PA 2 to be achieved.</p>
3	Environment	<p>In 2020 under the 2nd Call for Proposals 4 projects at the total amount of EUR 2 321 182,32 were contracted and distributed per Specific objectives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SO 3.1 "Joint Risk Management" – 2 investment project with project duration of 24 months and total amount EUR 1 151 609,14; • SO 3.2 "Nature protection" – 2 investment project at the total amount EUR 1 169 573,18 were contracted and were in process of implementation. Duration of the projects is between 18 and 24 months. <p>6 project were temporary suspended due to unfavourable situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic situation and imposed restrictions on national and local level.</p> <p>In addition two modifications requested approval by JMC and signature of addendum (one budget modification and one changes in partnership) have been approved.</p> <p>It is expected with projects finalized under 1st Call and contracted under 2nd Call all 10 Output indicators under PA 3 to be achieved-</p>

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
4	Technical Assistance	<p>The Annual Technical Assistance Plane for 2020-2023 was approved by the JMC on 25 of February 2020 together with a detailed breakdown and rules on Eligibility of Technical Assistance Expenditures. The indicative budget of Priority axis 4 “Technical assistance” for year 2020-2023 amounted to EUR 1 119 674. In December 2020 modification of the Eligibility of Technical assistance Expenditures was approved by JMC.</p> <p>During the reporting period, Programme management activities were performed that ensured the necessary support related to projects implementation and administrative and operational activities concerning MA, NA, JS and FLC units within the MA (staff remuneration, participation in various events and training seminars, maintenance of office premises, etc.).</p> <p>The Programme activities also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of JMC online meetings; • Organization of online technical meetings of Programme bodies; • Pre-contracting procedures under 2nd Call (online); • Online trainings for team members of projects funded under the 2nd Call due to Covid-19 pandemic situation; • Online meeting of Joint Working Group (JWG) for preparation of the future CBC Programme 2021-2027; • Ongoing upgrading and maintenance of Programme official website and MIS; • Conduction of tender procedure for “Elaboration of a Territorial strategy for integrated measures to be financed under the INTERREG - IPA CB cooperation programmes 2021 -2027 between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Serbia”. • Organization and conduction of the European cooperation day 2020 - online event. <p>There were no significant problems observed with the implementation of the Priority axis 4.</p>

3.2 Common and programme specific indicators (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axes other than technical assistance

Priority axis	1 - SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
Thematic Priority	d - Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 1.d

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	1.1.1	Total number of reconstructed / restored cultural and historical touristic objects in the eligible border area	number		15.00	11.00
S	1.1.1	Total number of reconstructed / restored cultural and historical touristic objects in the eligible border area	number		15.00	17.00
F	1.1.2	Total number of small scale technical infrastructure, encouraging the visits to the tourist attractions	number		18.00	17.00
S	1.1.2	Total number of small scale technical infrastructure, encouraging the visits to the tourist attractions	number		18.00	24.00
F	1.1.3	Total number of created/reconstructed facilities for disabled people in the supported touristic sites	number		7.00	6.00
S	1.1.3	Total number of created/reconstructed facilities for disabled people in the supported touristic sites	number		7.00	9.00
F	1.1.4	Total number of information access facilities created/upgraded	number		9.00	7.50
S	1.1.4	Total number of information access facilities created/upgraded	number		9.00	13.00
F	1.2.1	Number of sustainable tourism strategies/action plans of common tourist destinations	number		6.00	5.00
S	1.2.1	Number of sustainable tourism strategies/action plans of common tourist destinations	number		6.00	7.00
F	1.2.2	Total number of newly established touristic products / services	number		5.00	5.00
S	1.2.2	Total number of newly established touristic products / services	number		5.00	12.00
F	1.2.3	Tools developed and/or implemented for marketing and promoting tourist products in the eligible border area	number		8.00	10.00
S	1.2.3	Tools developed and/or implemented for marketing and promoting tourist products in the eligible border area	number		8.00	24.00
F	1.3.1	Public awareness initiatives promoting sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage and resources	number		20.00	16.00
S	1.3.1	Public awareness initiatives promoting sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage and resources	number		20.00	25.00
F	1.3.2	Capacity building initiatives for capitalisation of the common touristic product/services	number		20.00	14.00
S	1.3.2	Capacity building initiatives for capitalisation of the common touristic product/services	number		20.00	29.00
F	1.3.3	Total number of joint events aimed at promotion and cultivation of the common traditions of the borderland areas	number		15.00	12.00
S	1.3.3	Total number of joint events aimed at promotion and cultivation of the common traditions of the borderland areas	number		15.00	30.00

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	1.1.1	Total number of reconstructed / restored cultural and historical touristic objects in the eligible border area	10.00	2.00	0.00			
S	1.1.1	Total number of reconstructed / restored cultural and historical touristic objects in the eligible border area	16.00	11.00	11.00			
F	1.1.2	Total number of small scale technical infrastructure, encouraging the visits to the tourist attractions	13.00	8.00	1.00			
S	1.1.2	Total number of small scale technical infrastructure, encouraging the visits to the tourist attractions	23.00	19.00	19.00			
F	1.1.3	Total number of created/reconstructed facilities for disabled people in the supported touristic sites	3.00	1.00	0.00			
S	1.1.3	Total number of created/reconstructed facilities for disabled people in the supported touristic sites	9.00	7.00	7.00			
F	1.1.4	Total number of information access facilities created/upgraded	6.00	3.00	1.00			
S	1.1.4	Total number of information access facilities created/upgraded	11.00	8.00	8.00			
F	1.2.1	Number of sustainable tourism strategies/action plans of common tourist destinations	1.00	1.00	0.00			
S	1.2.1	Number of sustainable tourism strategies/action plans of common tourist destinations	5.00	1.00	1.00			
F	1.2.2	Total number of newly established touristic products / services	3.00	3.00	0.00			
S	1.2.2	Total number of newly established touristic products / services	5.00	3.00	3.00			
F	1.2.3	Tools developed and/or implemented for marketing and promoting tourist products in the eligible border area	7.00	7.00	0.00			
S	1.2.3	Tools developed and/or implemented for marketing and promoting tourist products in the eligible border area	10.00	7.00	7.00			
F	1.3.1	Public awareness initiatives promoting sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage and resources	0.00	0.00	0.00			
S	1.3.1	Public awareness initiatives promoting sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage and resources	16.00	0.00	0.00			
F	1.3.2	Capacity building initiatives for capitalisation of the common touristic product/services	0.00	0.00	0.00			
S	1.3.2	Capacity building initiatives for capitalisation of the common touristic product/services	14.00	0.00	0.00			
F	1.3.3	Total number of joint events aimed at promotion and cultivation of the common traditions of the borderland areas	0.00	0.00	0.00			
S	1.3.3	Total number of joint events aimed at promotion and cultivation of the common traditions of the borderland areas	16.00	0.00	0.00			

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	1 - SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
Thematic Priority	d - Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.
Specific objective	1.1 - TOURIST ATTRACTIVENESS: Supporting the development of competitive tourist

Table 1: Result indicators - 1.d.1.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
1.1.1	Increased visitors to the cross-border region	percentage	642,269.00	2014	1.00		0	Frequency of reporting: 2018, 2023

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
1.1.1	Increased visitors to the cross-border region		0	916,236.00					

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1.1.1	Increased visitors to the cross-border region				

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Priority axis	1 - SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
Thematic Priority	d - Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.
Specific objective	1.2 - • CROSS-BORDER TOURISTIC PRODUCT: Capturing economic benefits from development of natural and cultural heritage in the border area through creating common cross-border touristic destination(s)

Table 1: Result indicators - 1.d.1.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
1.2.1	Increased level of joint and integrated approaches to sustainable tourism development in the border area	scale	2.12	2014	2.50		0	Frequency of reporting: 2018, 2023

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
1.2.1	Increased level of joint and integrated approaches to sustainable tourism development in the border area		0		2.82				

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1.2.1	Increased level of joint and integrated approaches to sustainable tourism development in the border area				

Priority axis	1 - SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
Thematic Priority	d - Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.
Specific objective	1.3 - PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE NETWORKING: Capitalising the effect of cultural, historical and natural heritage tourism on border communities through common actions

Table 1: Result indicators - 1.d.1.3

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
1.3.1	Increased level of community involvement and awareness about sustainable use of cross-border tourist resources	scale	3.02	2014	3.50		0	Frequency of reporting: 2018, 2023

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
1.3.1	Increased level of community involvement and awareness about sustainable use of cross-border tourist resources		0		3.05				

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1.3.1	Increased level of community involvement and awareness about sustainable use of cross-border tourist resources				

Priority axis	2 - Youths
Thematic Priority	e - Investing in youth, education and skills through, inter alia, developing and implementing joint education, vocational training, training schemes and infrastructure supporting joint youth activities.

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 2.e

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	2.1.1	Total number of supported youth-related small-scale infrastructure, training and information facilities	number	17.00	17.00	
S	2.1.1	Total number of supported youth-related small-scale infrastructure, training and information facilities	number	17.00	18.00	
F	2.1.2	Total number of young people involved in the supported youth entrepreneurship schemes and initiatives	number	573.00	573.00	
S	2.1.2	Total number of young people involved in the supported youth entrepreneurship schemes and initiatives	number	573.00	527.00	
F	2.2.1	Total number of youth networking initiatives supported by the Programme	number	15.00	17.00	
S	2.2.1	Total number of youth networking initiatives supported by the Programme	number	15.00	33.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	2.1.1	Total number of supported youth-related small-scale infrastructure, training and information facilities	17.00	12.00	1.00			
S	2.1.1	Total number of supported youth-related small-scale infrastructure, training and information facilities	16.00	16.00	16.00			
F	2.1.2	Total number of young people involved in the supported youth entrepreneurship schemes and initiatives	573.00	500.00	40.00			
S	2.1.2	Total number of young people involved in the supported youth entrepreneurship schemes and initiatives	527.00	527.00	527.00			
F	2.2.1	Total number of youth networking initiatives supported by the Programme	2.00	2.00	0.00			
S	2.2.1	Total number of youth networking initiatives supported by the Programme	18.00	2.00	2.00			

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	2 - Youths
Thematic Priority	e - Investing in youth, education and skills through, inter alia, developing and implementing joint education, vocational training, training schemes and infrastructure supporting joint youth activities.
Specific objective	2.1 - SKILLS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Supporting the development of attractive environment for advancement of young people in the border region achieved through cooperation

Table 1: Result indicators - 2.e.2.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
2.1.1	Level of young people's satisfaction as regards opportunities for professional and social realization in the border area	scale	2.42	2014	3.00		0	Frequency of reporting: 2018, 2023

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
2.1.1	Level of young people's satisfaction as regards opportunities for professional and social realization in the border area		0		2.84				

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.1.1	Level of young people's satisfaction as regards opportunities for professional and social realization in the border area				

Priority axis	2 - Youths
Thematic Priority	e - Investing in youth, education and skills through, inter alia, developing and implementing joint education, vocational training, training schemes and infrastructure supporting joint youth activities.
Specific objective	2.2 - PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE NETWORKING: Promoting cooperation initiatives for and with young people, thus enhancing mobility of young people across borders

Table 1: Result indicators - 2.e.2.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
2.2.1	Increased level of youth involvement in networks across the border	scale	2.45	2014	3.00		0	Frequency of reporting: 2018, 2023

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
2.2.1	Increased level of youth involvement in networks across the border		0		2.55				

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.2.1	Increased level of youth involvement in networks across the border				

Priority axis	3 - Environment
Thematic Priority	b - Protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management through, inter alia: joint actions for environmental protection; promoting sustainable use of natural resources, resource efficiency, renewable energy sources and the shift towards a safe and sustainable low-carbon economy; promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems and emergency preparedness.

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 3.b

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	3.1.1	Total number of joint activities aimed at establishing joint early warning and disaster management systems	number	6.00	5.00	
S	3.1.1	Total number of joint activities aimed at establishing joint early warning and disaster management systems	number	6.00	6.00	
F	3.1.2	Purchased specialised equipment related to disaster management	number	15.00	13.00	
S	3.1.2	Purchased specialised equipment related to disaster management	number	15.00	20.00	
F	3.1.3	Total number of supported small-scale interventions/investments in green infrastructure for natural water retention.	number	5.00	3.00	
S	3.1.3	Total number of supported small-scale interventions/investments in green infrastructure for natural water retention.	number	5.00	6.00	
F	3.1.4	Total number of people participated in risk prevention and management training activities	number	600.00	486.00	
S	3.1.4	Total number of people participated in risk prevention and management training activities	number	600.00	696.00	
F	3.1.5	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	number	986,113.00	810,145.00	
S	3.1.5	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	number	986,113.00	707,268.00	
F	3.1.6	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measure	number	1,586,332.00	1,586,332.00	
S	3.1.6	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measure	number	1,586,332.00	1,229,500.00	
F	3.2.1	Protected areas/Natura 2000 sites in the border region with EU conform management plans	number	2.00	0.00	
S	3.2.1	Protected areas/Natura 2000 sites in the border region with EU conform management plans	number	2.00	2.00	
F	3.2.2	Total number of joint interventions, addressing the preservation and restoration of CBC ecosystems, as well as preservation and improvement of the quality of soils, air and water.	number	12.00	5.00	
S	3.2.2	Total number of joint interventions, addressing the preservation and restoration of CBC ecosystems, as well as preservation and improvement of the quality of soils, air and water.	number	12.00	16.00	
F	3.2.3	Education and awareness raising joint initiatives, in the field of preservation and protection of natural heritage, biodiversity and landscape	number	15.00	4.00	
S	3.2.3	Education and awareness raising joint initiatives, in the field of preservation and protection of natural heritage, biodiversity and landscape	number	15.00	21.00	
F	3.2.4	Capacity building initiatives, trainings, exchange of experience and know-how in the field of sustainable use of natural resources	number	15.00	7.00	
S	3.2.4	Capacity building initiatives, trainings, exchange of experience and know-how in the field of sustainable use of natural resources	number	15.00	18.00	

(I)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	3.1.1	Total number of joint activities aimed at establishing joint early warning and disaster management systems	5.00	3.00	0.00			
S	3.1.1	Total number of joint activities aimed at establishing joint early warning and disaster management systems	6.00	5.00	5.00			
F	3.1.2	Purchased specialised equipment related to disaster management	12.00	3.00	0.00			
S	3.1.2	Purchased specialised equipment related to disaster management	20.00	13.00	13.00			
F	3.1.3	Total number of supported small-scale interventions/investments in green infrastructure for natural water retention.	2.00	2.00	0.00			
S	3.1.3	Total number of supported small-scale interventions/investments in green infrastructure for natural water retention.	8.00	3.00	3.00			
F	3.1.4	Total number of people participated in risk prevention and management training activities	486.00	183.00	0.00			
S	3.1.4	Total number of people participated in risk prevention and management training activities	716.00	386.00	386.00			
F	3.1.5	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	810,145.00	808,658.00	0.00			
S	3.1.5	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	758,582.00	511,300.00	511,300.00			
F	3.1.6	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measure	1,586,332.00	280,898.00	0.00			
S	3.1.6	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measure	1,229,500.00	1,206,000.00	1,206,000.00			
F	3.2.1	Protected areas/Natura 2000 sites in the border region with EU conform management plans	0.00	0.00	0.00			
S	3.2.1	Protected areas/Natura 2000 sites in the border region with EU conform management plans	2.00	0.00	0.00			
F	3.2.2	Total number of joint interventions, addressing the preservation and restoration of CBC ecosystems, as well as preservation and improvement of the quality of soils, air and water.	4.00	2.00	0.00			
S	3.2.2	Total number of joint interventions, addressing the preservation and restoration of CBC ecosystems, as well as preservation and improvement of the quality of soils, air and water.	16.00	5.00	5.00			
F	3.2.3	Education and awareness raising joint initiatives, in the field of preservation and protection of natural heritage, biodiversity and landscape	4.00	2.00	0.00			
S	3.2.3	Education and awareness raising joint initiatives, in the field of preservation and protection of natural heritage, biodiversity and landscape	21.00	4.00	4.00			
F	3.2.4	Capacity building initiatives, trainings, exchange of experience and know-how in the field of sustainable use of natural resources	4.00	4.00	0.00			
S	3.2.4	Capacity building initiatives, trainings, exchange of experience and know-how in the field of sustainable use of natural resources	18.00	4.00	4.00			

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	3 - Environment
Thematic Priority	b - Protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management through, inter alia: joint actions for environmental protection; promoting sustainable use of natural resources, resource efficiency, renewable energy sources and the shift towards a safe and sustainable low-carbon economy; promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems and emergency preparedness.
Specific objective	3.1 - JOINT RISK MANAGEMENT: Preventing and mitigating the consequences of natural and man-made cross-border disasters

Table 1: Result indicators - 3.b.3.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
3.1.1	Increased level of preparedness to manage risks of transnational dimension	scale	1.90	2014	2.50		0	Frequency of reporting: 2018, 2023

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
3.1.1	Increased level of preparedness to manage risks of transnational dimension		2.33		2.33				

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
3.1.1	Increased level of preparedness to manage risks of transnational dimension				

Priority axis	3 - Environment
Thematic Priority	b - Protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management through, inter alia: joint actions for environmental protection; promoting sustainable use of natural resources, resource efficiency, renewable energy sources and the shift towards a safe and sustainable low-carbon economy; promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems and emergency preparedness.
Specific objective	3.2 - NATURE PROTECTION: Promoting and enhancing the utilization of common natural resources, as well as stimulating nature protection in the programme area, through joint initiatives across the border

Table 1: Result indicators - 3.b.3.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
3.2.1	Increased capacity for nature protection and sustainable use of common natural resources in the border region	scale	2.13	2014	2.50		0	Frequency of reporting: 2018, 2023

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
3.2.1	Increased capacity for nature protection and sustainable use of common natural resources in the border region		0		2.34				

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
3.2.1	Increased capacity for nature protection and sustainable use of common natural resources in the border region				

Priority axes for technical assistance

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance
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Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 4.Technical Assistance

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	4.1.1	Number of performed evaluations of the programme	number	2.00	0.00	Not cumulative.
S	4.1.1	Number of performed evaluations of the programme	number	2.00	0.00	Not cumulative.
F	4.1.2	Updated MIS system	number	1.00	1.00	Not cumulative.
S	4.1.2	Updated MIS system	number	1.00	1.00	Not cumulative.
F	4.1.3	Number of Monitoring Committee meetings	number	14.00	1.00	Not cumulative.
S	4.1.3	Number of Monitoring Committee meetings	number	14.00	1.00	Not cumulative.
F	4.1.4	Number of publicity events for beneficiaries	number	4.00	2.00	Not cumulative.
S	4.1.4	Number of publicity events for beneficiaries	number	4.00	2.00	Not cumulative.
F	4.1.5	Number of employees (full time) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	number	8.00	32.00	Not cumulative. 6 BG FL controllers, 13 MA experts, 5 JS experts in Sofia (1 ongoing competition for JS expert in sofia), 4 JS experts in Nis, and 3 SR FL controllers.
S	4.1.5	Number of employees (full time) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	number	8.00	32.00	Not cumulative. 6 BG FL controllers, 13 MA experts, 6 JS experts in Sofia, 4 JS experts in Nis, and 3 SR FL controllers..

(I)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	4.1.1	Number of performed evaluations of the programme	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	4.1.1	Number of performed evaluations of the programme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	4.1.2	Updated MIS system	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
S	4.1.2	Updated MIS system	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
F	4.1.3	Number of Monitoring Committee meetings	1.00	2.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	1.00
S	4.1.3	Number of Monitoring Committee meetings	1.00	2.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	1.00
F	4.1.4	Number of publicity events for beneficiaries	4.00	13.00	3.00	8.00	12.00	12.00
S	4.1.4	Number of publicity events for beneficiaries	4.00	13.00	3.00	8.00	12.00	12.00
F	4.1.5	Number of employees (full time) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	29.00	27.00	28.00	12.00	5.00	5.00
S	4.1.5	Number of employees (full time) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	30.00	22.00	28.00	12.00	5.00	5.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

3.3 Table 3: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone for 2018 total	Final target (2023) total	2020	Observations
1	F	1	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 1 "Sustainable Tourism "	EUR	734 770*	11,935,790.00	5 938 490,38	Total certified amount (IPA + national funding)
1	I	1.1.2	Number of projects contracted related to small scale technical infrastructure, encouraging the visits to the tourist attractions	number	8	12.00	14.00	
1	O	1.1.2	Total number of small scale technical infrastructure, encouraging the visits to the tourist attractions	number	4	18.00	17.00	
1	O	1.2.3	Tools developed and/or implemented for marketing and promoting tourist products in the eligible border area	number	4	8.00	10.00	
2	F	2	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 2 "Youths "	EUR	524 836*	6,495,821.00	4 142 305,82	Total certified amount (IPA + national funding)
2	I	2.1.1	Number of projects contracted related to youth-related small-scale infrastructure, training and information facilities	number	9	9.00	9.00	
2	O	2.1.1	Total number of supported youth-related small-scale infrastructure, training and information facilities	number	2	17.00	17.00	
3	F	3	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 3 "Environment "	EUR	629 803*	12,260,420.00	6 370 553,16	Total certified amount (IPA + national funding)
3	I	3.1.1	Number of projects contracted addressing joint early warning and disaster management systems	number	5	6.00	6.00	
3	O	3.1.1	Total number of joint activities aimed at establishing joint early warning and disaster management systems	number	2	6.00	5.00	

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
1	F	1	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 1 "Sustainable Tourism "	EUR	4,796,955.24	2,012,900.30	105,202.86	0.00	
1	I	1.1.2	Number of projects contracted related to small scale technical infrastructure, encouraging the visits to the tourist attractions	number	13.00	11.00	11.00	8.00	
1	O	1.1.2	Total number of small scale technical infrastructure, encouraging the visits to the tourist attractions	number	13.00	8.00	1.00	0.00	
1	O	1.2.3	Tools developed and/or implemented for marketing and promoting tourist products in the eligible border area	number	7.00	7.00	0.00	0.00	
2	F	2	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 2 "Youths "	EUR	3,574,687.72	1,980,434.54	205,579.49	0.00	
2	I	2.1.1	Number of projects contracted related to youth-related small-scale infrastructure, training and information facilities	number	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	
2	O	2.1.1	Total number of supported youth-related small-scale infrastructure, training and information facilities	number	17.00	12.00	1.00	0.00	
3	F	3	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 3 "Environment "	EUR	4,595,651.48	1,828,420.99	111,520.38	0.00	
3	I	3.1.1	Number of projects contracted addressing joint early warning and disaster management systems	number	6.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	
3	O	3.1.1	Total number of joint activities aimed at establishing joint early warning and disaster management systems	number	5.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2014
1	F	1	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 1 "Sustainable Tourism "	EUR	
1	I	1.1.2	Number of projects contracted related to small scale technical infrastructure, encouraging the visits to the tourist attractions	number	
1	O	1.1.2	Total number of small scale technical infrastructure, encouraging the visits to the tourist attractions	number	

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2014
1	O	1.2.3	Tools developed and/or implemented for marketing and promoting tourist products in the eligible border area	number	
2	F	2	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 2 "Youths "	EUR	
2	I	2.1.1	Number of projects contracted related to youth-related small-scale infrastructure, training and information facilities	number	
2	O	2.1.1	Total number of supported youth-related small-scale infrastructure, training and information facilities	number	
3	F	3	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 3 "Environment "	EUR	
3	I	3.1.1	Number of projects contracted addressing joint early warning and disaster management systems	number	
3	O	3.1.1	Total number of joint activities aimed at establishing joint early warning and disaster management systems	number	

Not validated

3.4. Financial data

Table 4: Financial information at priority axis and programme level

As set out in Table 1 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and table 17 of model for cooperation programmes under IPA.

Priority axis	Calculation basis	Total funding	Co-financing rate	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries	Number of operations selected
1	Public	11,935,790.00	85.00	12,395,005.03	103.85%	12,103,159.51	6,356,742.82	53.26%	41
2	Public	6,495,821.00	85.00	7,011,800.65	107.94%	6,815,292.93	4,255,736.22	65.51%	27
3	Public	12,260,420.00	85.00	12,369,903.30	100.89%	12,306,651.22	6,823,124.22	55.65%	25
4	Public	3,410,225.00	85.00	3,158,563.37	92.62%	3,158,563.37	1,500,045.88	43.99%	12
Total		34,102,256.00	85.00	34,935,272.35	102.44%	34,383,667.03	18,935,649.14	55.53%	105

Where applicable, the use of any contribution from third countries participating in the cooperation programme should be provided (for example IPA and ENI, Norway, Switzerland)

Not applicable

Not validated

Table 5: Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention

As set out in Table 2 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and tables 6-9 of Model for cooperation programmes

Priority axis	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	«r.ir.etc.table5.thempridimen»	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by eneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
1	075	01	01	07	d	24	BG311	144,791.99	134,914.03	116,344.81	1
1	075	01	01	07	d	24	BG415	137,564.32	131,992.92	0.00	1
1	075	01	01	07	d	24	RS	259,601.95	250,881.66	58,838.76	2
1	075	01	03	07	d	24	BG311	101,027.82	93,812.02	9,195.39	1
1	075	01	03	07	d	24	BG415	566,403.14	566,403.14	419,054.85	1
1	094	01	01	07	d	24	BG311	316,409.34	298,931.99	306,766.27	2
1	094	01	01	07	d	24	BG411	587,200.91	579,323.61	12,907.08	1
1	094	01	01	07	d	24	BG414	598,501.52	598,501.52	571,119.42	1
1	094	01	01	07	d	24	BG415	162,942.95	162,942.95	14,101.83	1
1	094	01	01	07	d	24	RS	881,506.39	804,888.96	481,420.32	3
1	094	01	02	07	d	24	BG312	775,836.55	762,451.72	241,801.22	2
1	094	01	02	07	d	24	BG412	1,616,538.99	1,596,402.18	166,816.47	5
1	094	01	02	07	d	24	RS	1,440,477.05	1,420,320.47	1,253,898.76	4
1	094	01	03	07	d	24	BG312	588,460.10	543,255.14	533,994.18	1
1	094	01	03	07	d	24	BG313	556,028.60	556,028.60	517,571.71	1
1	094	01	03	07	d	24	BG414	504,406.27	504,406.27	321,668.66	1
1	094	01	03	07	d	24	RS	1,103,867.52	1,103,867.52	576,293.41	2
1	095	01	01	07	d	24	BG311	296,418.00	286,888.02	74,200.09	2
1	095	01	01	07	d	24	BG411	139,791.54	133,382.09	0.00	1
1	095	01	01	07	d	24	RS	258,706.07	241,905.01	16,842.01	2
1	095	01	02	07	d	24	BG312	364,190.55	352,787.40	133,757.08	2
1	095	01	02	07	d	24	RS	718,346.67	718,346.67	530,150.50	2
1	095	01	03	07	d	24	RS	275,986.79	260,525.62	0.00	2
2	055	01	01	07	e	24	BG415	121,029.00	113,665.13	0.00	1
2	055	01	02	07	e	24	BG312	596,646.73	596,646.73	321,635.07	1
2	055	01	02	07	e	24	BG412	116,340.10	109,979.00	0.00	1
2	055	01	02	07	e	24	RS	2,192,071.03	2,147,353.63	1,510,249.80	4
2	055	01	03	07	e	24	BG311	145,353.77	145,353.77	0.00	1
2	055	01	03	07	e	24	RS	139,744.63	139,744.63	22,227.47	1
2	109	01	01	07	e	24	BG311	294,437.62	273,325.58	230,773.52	2
2	109	01	01	07	e	24	BG313	136,664.55	128,943.23	0.00	1
2	109	01	01	07	e	24	BG414	142,187.70	142,187.70	0.00	1
2	109	01	01	07	e	24	BG415	109,058.74	109,058.74	0.00	1
2	109	01	02	07	e	24	BG312	117,671.66	108,885.72	46,928.31	1
2	109	01	02	07	e	24	BG412	121,454.64	112,599.99	53,761.63	1
2	109	01	02	07	e	24	RS	292,769.25	268,332.29	139,401.97	2
2	118	01	01	07	e	24	BG411	136,175.88	136,175.88	52,829.90	1
2	118	01	01	07	e	24	RS	125,729.80	121,478.92	120,799.35	1
2	118	01	02	07	e	24	BG312	291,106.32	278,010.10	168,934.83	2
2	118	01	02	07	e	24	BG412	790,675.44	752,415.86	527,527.88	2
2	118	01	02	07	e	24	RS	457,450.96	457,450.96	428,186.55	1
2	118	01	03	07	e	24	BG412	182,792.42	171,244.66	150,564.01	1
2	118	01	03	07	e	24	RS	502,440.41	502,440.41	481,915.93	1
3	085	01	01	07	b	24	BG311	729,871.75	729,871.75	662,269.84	2
3	085	01	01	07	b	24	BG411	184,708.30	184,708.30	12,700.72	1
3	085	01	01	07	b	24	BG415	413,401.83	413,401.83	214,296.32	1
3	085	01	02	07	b	24	BG312	1,109,171.46	1,104,731.51	655,962.95	2
3	085	01	02	07	b	24	BG412	185,906.26	176,274.83	85,957.35	1
3	085	01	02	07	b	24	BG415	590,754.61	590,754.61	322,409.89	1

Priority axis	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	«r.ir.etc.table5.thempridimen»	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by eneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
3	085	01	02	07	b	24	RS	1,317,459.47	1,268,278.77	60,036.27	3
3	085	01	03	07	b	24	BG312	306,052.76	306,052.76	113,066.73	1
3	085	01	03	07	b	24	BG415	560,325.68	560,325.68	0.00	1
3	087	01	01	07	b	24	BG311	547,711.82	547,711.82	432,068.97	1
3	087	01	01	07	b	24	BG411	1,169,015.78	1,169,015.78	1,105,999.86	2
3	087	01	01	07	b	24	RS	585,459.69	585,459.69	510,371.67	1
3	087	01	02	07	b	24	BG312	579,499.83	579,499.83	541,018.81	1
3	087	01	02	07	b	24	BG412	1,173,599.83	1,173,599.83	713,069.77	2
3	087	01	02	07	b	24	BG415	590,306.06	590,306.06	565,879.49	1
3	087	01	02	07	b	24	RS	1,170,909.00	1,170,909.00	478,910.75	2
3	087	01	03	07	b	24	RS	1,155,749.17	1,155,749.17	349,104.83	2
4	121	01					BG	1,921,229.07	1,921,229.07	866,600.19	6
4	121	01					RS	1,237,334.30	1,237,334.30	633,445.69	6

Not validated

Table 6: Cumulative cost of all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area

1. Operation (2)	2. The amount of IPA support(1) envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations	3. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 2/total amount allocated to the support from the IPA at programme level * 100)	4. Eligible expenditure of IPA support incurred in all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority	5. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 4/total amount allocated to the support from the IPA at programme level *100)
All or part of an operation outside the Union part of the programme area	1 601 674,99	5,53 %	965 060,10	3,33 %

(1) IPA support is the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.

(2) In accordance with and subject to ceilings set out Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

According to the Programme Evaluation Plan (approved on 21.04.2016 by the JMC) the Implementation/mid-term evaluation of the Programme had been launched in June 2018. Tender procedure for Implementation evaluation under Interreg - IPA CBC Programmes, managed by the Republic of Bulgaria, had been completed and service contract with external consultant was signed on 23th of August 2018 with 7 months duration.

The contract ended in March 2019 and the Implementation evaluation report of the Programme 2014-2020 has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Art. 56 (3) of the Regulation (EU) № 1303/2013.

The Report had been submitted and approved with JMC Decision on 18 June 2019. The Action plan for implementation of the recommendations for the programming period 2014-2020 and recommendations for the programming period post 2020 was presented and approved on JMC meeting held on 08 November 2019.

The results about mid-term evaluation of the Programme was reported in the Annual Implementation report for 2019.

Not validated

Name	Fund	From month	From year	To month	To year	Type of evaluation	Thematic priority	Topic	Findings
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Not validated

5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN

(a) Issues which affect the performance of the programme and the measures taken

On the 20.03.2020 in relation of the COVID-19 pandemic situation as well emergency measures introduced at national and local level, the MA published a guidelines for project implementation in emergency circumstances. A version 2.0 of the guidelines was published on 23.04.2021 in order to improve control and legality of the actions to be taken in case of temporary suspension of projects, it supplements the instructions to the beneficiaries of the programme. The guidelines includes following measures:

- Analysis of the project activities – the partners were advised to analyse the planned activities taking into consideration any impediments as a consequence of the measures related to COVID-19, as well as the possibilities to implement soft measure activities by alternative means, including digital ones or to postpone at a later date;
- Suspension – the MA allowed a temporary suspension of the deadline for implementation of the subsidy contracts. The suspended contracts should provide to the JS the above-mentioned S analysis of the planned activities. Within this the partners should be presented notification for small content change with updated Duration and action plan or the relevant request for contract modification to the MA.
- Reporting, documentary and on-the-spot checks – The reporting to the JS and the submission of requests for FLC were maintained in the established format - by electronic exchange of documents through the Beneficiary Portal. Documentary checks carried out by the JS and the Controllers of the FLC continued on a regular basis. The on-the-spot checks carried out by the JS and the Controllers of the FLC tailored to the specificities and requirements of the emergency measures in the partner countries. At the discretion of the JS/FLC controllers and after approval by the Managing Authority, "virtual on-the-spot checks" may be carried out for the preparation of which the beneficiaries will be duly instructed.

Furthermore, in order to minimize the negative impact on the work plan implementation the JS conducted regular monitoring for projects and ensure the beneficiaries to carry out remaining project activities/events by alternative means, including digital ones.

In the end of the year due to Covid-19 pandemic situation and the local measures of the health authorities a revised version of Instructions and the amended FLC guidelines was published on the web-site of the programme. Preserving the health of all involved and help in the fight against the pandemic, the MA is temporarily introducing an alternative option for verification - Virtual (online) verification replaced on-the-spot visits and verification for “soft” projects.

(b) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, otherwise it will be included in point 9.1. An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate.

Not applicable

Not validated

6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

A citizen's summary of the contents of the annual and the final implementation reports shall be made public and uploaded as a separate file in the form of annex to the annual and the final implementation report

You can upload/find the Citizen's summary under General > Documents

Not validated

7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)

Not applicable

Not validated

8. PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (ARTICLE 101(H) AND ARTICLE 111(3) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(B) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013)

8.1. Major projects

Table 7: Major projects

Project	CCI	Status of MP	Total investments	Total eligible costs	Planned notification/submission date	Date of tacit agreement/ approval by Commission	Planned start of implementation	Planned completion date	Priority axis / Thematic priorities	Current state of realisation — financial progress (% of expenditure certified to Commission compared to total eligible cost)	Current state of realisation — physical progress / Main implementation stage of the project	Main outputs	Date of signature of first works contract (1)	Observations
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(1) In the case of operations implemented under PPP structures the signing of the PPP contract between the public body and the private sector body (Article 102(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).

Significant problems encountered in implementing major projects and measures taken to overcome them

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Any change planned in the list of major projects in the cooperation programme

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Not applicable

Not validated

8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

N/A

Not validated

Table 8: Joint action plans (JAP)

Title of the JAP	CCI	Stage of implementation of JAP	Total eligible costs	Total public support	OP contribution to JAP	Priority axis	Type of JAP	[Planned] submission to the Commission	[Planned] start of implementation	[Planned] completion	Main outputs and results	Total eligible expenditure certified to the Commission	Observations
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N/A

Not validated

Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

N/A

Not validated

9. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

9.1 Information in Part A and achieving the objectives of the programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axis	1 - SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
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Priority axis	2 - Youths
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Priority axis	3 - Environment
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Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance
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N/A

Not validated

9.2. Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (d) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of specific actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, including accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations

N/A

Not validated

9.3.Sustainable development (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on sustainable development, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of the actions taken to promote sustainable development in accordance with that Article

N/A

Not validated

9.4. Reporting on support used for climate change objectives (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

N/A

Not validated

9.5 Role of partners in the implementation of the cooperation programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 1, (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the role of partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, including involvement of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperation programme

N/A

Not validated

10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013

10.1 Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations

N/A

Not validated

Status	Name	Fund	Year of finalizing evaluation	Type of evaluation	Thematic priority	Topic	Findings (in case of execution)	Follow up (in case of execution)
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Not validated

10.2 The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy

N/A

Not validated

11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2 (A), (B), (C) AND (F), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

11.1. Progress in the implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including integrated territorial investments, sustainable urban development, and community led local development under the cooperation programme

N/A

Not validated

11.2 Progress in implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and to use the IPA

N/A

Not validated

11.3 Contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies (where appropriate)

As stipulated by the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, recital 19, article 8(3)(d) on the "Content, adoption and amendment of cooperation programmes" and article 14(4) 2nd subparagraph (c) "Implementation reports", this programme contributes to MRS(s) and/or SBS:

The INTERREG-IPA Bulgaria-Serbia CBC Programme contributes to the achievement of the European Strategy for the Danube Region (Danube strategy). The main needs identified in the Danube strategy are structured within the following areas: mobility, energy, environment, risk prevention and mitigation, socio-economic development, and security.

At the stage of assessment and selection of projects under the Second Call of the Programme, coherence with Danube strategy is ensured by a separate selection criterion in Section II of the Technical and Quality Assessment grid. The highest possible score under the criterion (4) point is obtained when a project envisages activities which are coherent with the strategy.

At the implementation stage, the CBC Programme is closely coordinated with the Danube strategy, as its priority axes contribute to different pillars and priority areas. More specifically, activities supported under PA 1 Sustainable Tourism are fully coherent with Pillar A: Connecting the Danube Region, Priority area 3: To promote culture and tourism, people to people contacts. PA 1 also partially contributes to Pillar C: Building Prosperity in the Danube Region, Priority area 8: To support the competitiveness of enterprises.

Activities supported under PA 2 Youths contribute to the achievement of the aims of Pillar C: Building Prosperity in the Danube Region, and Priority area 9: To invest in people and skills. For instance, eligible activities under SO 2.1 include support to youth entrepreneurship schemes and initiatives. PA 2 also partially addresses two priority areas under Pillar C of EUSDR: To develop the knowledge society through research, education and information technologies; and to support the competitiveness of enterprises, including cluster development.

Activities supported under PA 3 Environment are fully coherent with Pillar B: Protecting the Environment in the Danube Region. For instance, eligible activities under SO 3.2 include cooperation and networking initiatives tackling water pollution, including Danube pollution. Some of the projects funded under the First Call of the Programme contribute to Priority area 5 of the EUSDR: To manage environmental risks.

The Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy 2014 – 2020 for Bulgaria aims to outline a coherent framework for identification the strategic priorities for action to reduce the risk of disasters and to support the priorities measures implementation at national, district, municipal and field level.

PA 3 Environment is relevant to the last three priorities of the strategy.

The six NUTS III regions in Bulgaria that are covered by the Programme (Vidin, Montana, Vratsa, Sofia, Pernik and Kyustendil) have Regional Development Strategies for 2014 – 2020. In all of them the

sustainable tourism development and the adaptation to the climate changes and protection of environment are defined as leading priorities. The CBC Programme supports exactly the same activities.

- EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)

Not validated

11.4 Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation

N/A

Not validated

13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Information and assessment of the programme contribution to achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

N/A

Not validated

14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN — PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

Where the assessment of progress made with regard to the milestones and targets set out in the performance framework demonstrates that certain milestones and targets have not been achieved, Member States should outline the underlying reasons for failure to achieve these milestones in the report of 2019 (for milestones) and in the final implementation report (for targets).

N/A

Not validated

DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
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