



CITIZEN'S SUMMARY

ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT 2021

ARTICLE 50 (9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013

Interreg - IPA CBC
Bulgaria - Serbia



The Programme

In the framework of the annual reporting to the European Commission (EC), the current report gives an overview about the implementation of the Programme in the year 2021.

The eligible area of the Programme covers NUTS III regions or equivalents, situated on the border between both partnering countries, including: Bulgarian districts of Vidin, Montana, Vratsa, Sofiyska oblast, Pernik and Kyustendil, and Serbian districts of Bor, Zajecar, Nisava, Toplica, Pirot, Jablanica and Pcinja.



PRIORITY AXES OF THE PROGRAMME

- **Sustainable Tourism** - Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage;
- **Youth** - Investing in youth, education and skills;
- **Environment** - Protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management.

FINANCIAL ALLOCATION

The total Programme budget is EUR 34 102 256.

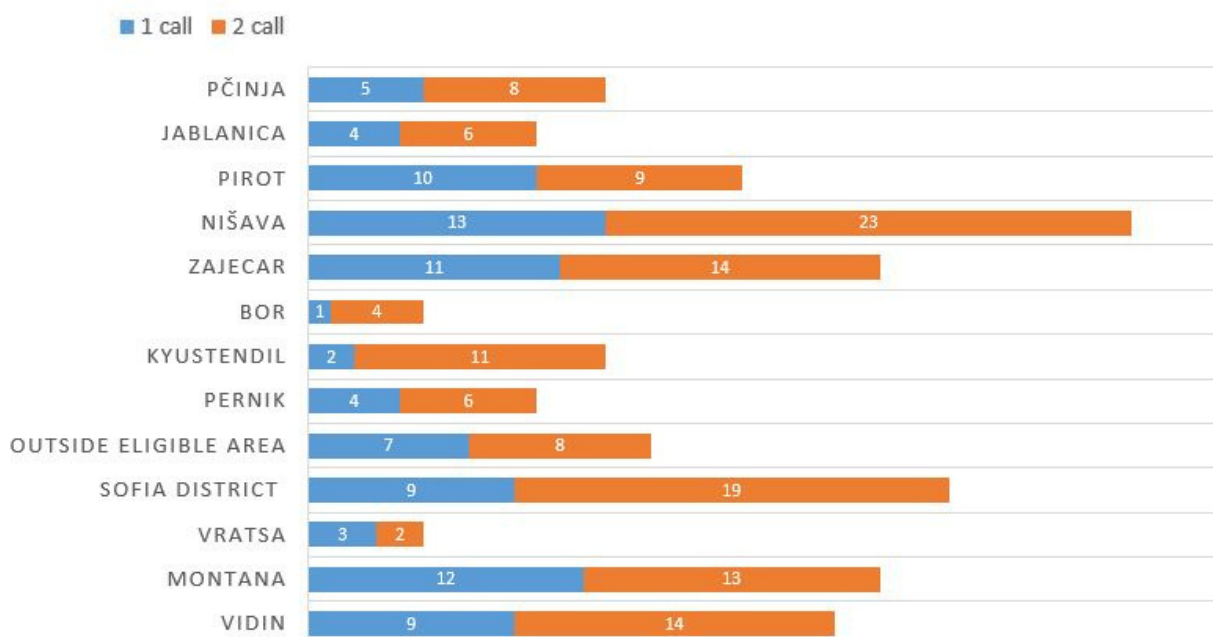
The Programme is co-financed by the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) at a rate of 85% and requires a share of 15% national co-financing.

Performance and Progress in 2021



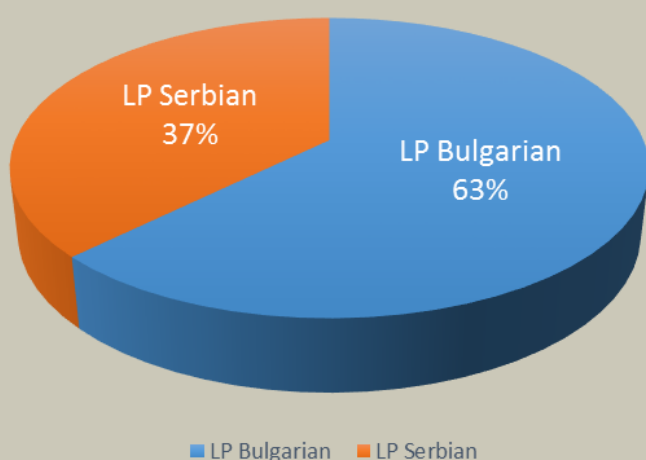
- 62 lead partners from Bulgaria and 37 from Serbia;
- 57 project partners from Bulgaria and 71 from Serbia;
- Mostly municipalities, cultural institutes, government administrations and NGOs;
- Sustainable trend in the distribution of partnership along the border;
- Low share of partnerships between public and civil sector.

Project partners per region

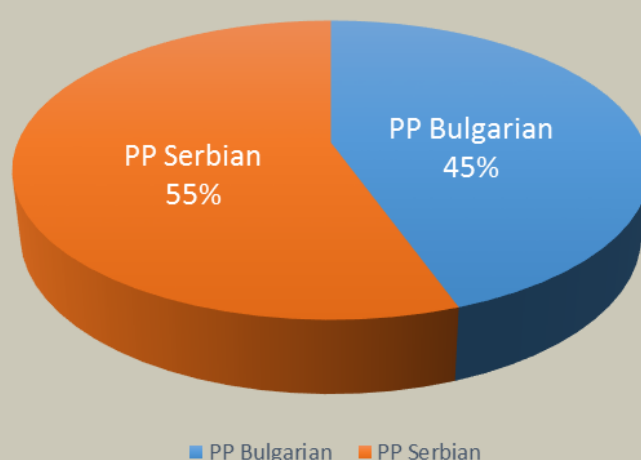


Performance and Progress in 2021

LEAD PARTNERS



PROJECT PARTNERS



Financial progress in 2021

Priority Axis	Funded proposals	Contracted amount (euro)	Payments (euro)
PA 1 - Sustainable tourism	43	13,495,527.61	7,688,095.02
PA 2 - Youth	28	7,111,931.48	4,989,338.15
PA 3 - Environment	28	13,600,382.73	7,752,096.96
Total	99	34,207,841.82	20,429,530.13

Out of 61 projects from the Second Call, 42 projects (21 under PA1, 12 under PA2 and 9 under PA3) have been completed, while the remaining 19 proceed with implementation.

Milestones 2021



Projects under the Second Call



JMC Meeting 2021

The ninth meeting of the Joint Monitoring Committee under the Interreg-IPA CBC Bulgaria - Serbia Programme 2014-2020 was held online on 22 November 2021. The progress of Programme implementation for the period 2014-2020 and the preparation stage of the future Programme between the two countries for the next programming period 2021-2027 have been presented on the meeting.

The results achieved are more than satisfactory:

- **34.2 million EUR invested** in supporting the tourism, youths and environment in the CBC region, which is **110% over-contracting** of the Programme budget;
- **Close to 65%** of the Programme budget **already paid** to the beneficiaries;
- **All objectives and financial targets for 2021 and 2022 are completed** in accordance with the N+3 rule .



The JMC members were informed, that the draft of the new Programme is expected to be submitted to the European Commission until 31 March 2022 and that the Managing Authority is working on Guidelines for applicants, including simplified costs options, in order to be ready when the Programme is adopted in the early 2022.

The agenda of the meeting also included issues, related to the management of the Technical assistance of the Programme, which has been accepted by the JMC members without any remarks or comments.

At the end of the meeting, the participants had the pleasure to watch a short video for sports projects under the Programme, which has been produced for the **Project Slam Initiative of Interact** this year.

European Cooperation Day 2021

On 21 September 2021, we celebrated the 10-th anniversary of the European Cooperation Day. Preparations for the celebration have been carried out by our Serbian partners – the National Authority, represented by the Ministry of European Integration of the Republic of Serbia on the basis of the rotation principle we have been following in recent years.

Several live film projections were scheduled for September 21-23, in addition to the annual ones in Belgrade (Republic of Serbia). Online projections were also available to the Bulgarian public and the broadcasts were live on the Facebook page of the Serbian Ministry of European Integration and on the following platform: <https://srbijaueu.rs/>.

On the occasion of the European Territorial Cooperation Day
Online Documentary Film Festival

EUROPEAN COOPERATION: FILM STORY

28 and 29 September
Via the following platform: <https://srbijaueu.rs/>

**BLIZANCI
SATKANI
OD SNA**

TWINS WOVEN FROM DREAMS
Directed by Sead Šabotić and Lea Vahrušev
28 September
20 h

**BULGARIAN
DREAM**

BULGARIAN DREAM
Directed by Srđan Šarenac
29 September
20 h

Live projections of selected movies in the movie hall of the Cultural Center “Vlada Divljan” in Belgrade, Serbia (21-23 September 2021) and online projections in both countries – Serbia and Bulgaria (28 – 29 September 2021) were broadcasted.

The following movies were projected:

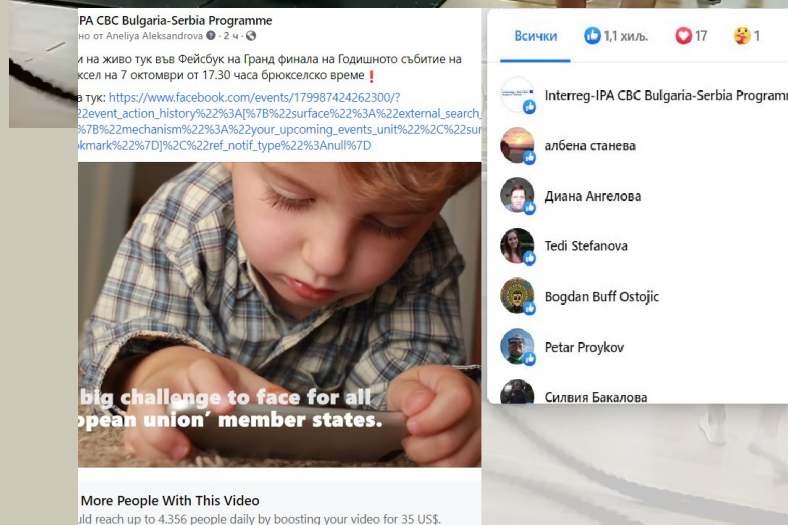
1. Bulgarian Dream, Srđan Šarenac - Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina - 2020 - 52' - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mD4LpTLFVwA>
2. Twins Woven from Dreams, Sead Šabotić, Lea Vahrušev - Serbia - 2020 - 70' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EO-MYfyWGiQ>
3. The Hidden Life of Trees, Jerg Adolf, Germany, 2020, 93' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LUpR_XhJHBE

EC Day events database: <https://ecday.eu/event/ec-day-documentary-film-festival/>

Interreg Project Slam 2021

The Interreg-IPA CBC Bulgaria-Serbia Programme was among the ten selected finalists in an annual initiative for original stories from regional development projects, called "Interreg Project Slam". The initiative was a part of a mass campaign for celebration of the territorial cooperation in the framework of the European Cooperation Day, which has traditionally been celebrated for 10 years.

An impressive short video story showed the contribution of our Programme in providing opportunities for free practice of various sports in the Bulgarian-Serbian CBC region. Four successfully completed projects in the field of youth health and promotion a healthy lifestyle among young people have provided free professional individual and group trainings in swimming, basketball, youth gymnastics and school facilities for football and fitness.



In 5 days, the video was viewed more than 14,000 times and liked by 1,149 people on Facebook and was on second place according to the preferences of the audience. The video was presented on a Grand Final in Brussels on October 7, 2021 and was highly estimated by the European Commission representatives.

The video could be watched here:

<https://www.facebook.com/ipacbcgrs/videos/1229332737555920>

Contacts



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