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HEAD OF MA

ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

2022

for the

INTERREG-IPA Bulgaria - Serbia CBC Programme

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PART A

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

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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.

General implementation of the Programme

The year 2022 was very significant, in terms of timely contacting and implementing of the last projects from the reserve list 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 of challenges during unstable global economic and health pandemic situation, on the other hand. In addition, MA approved 3 requests for temporary suspension of the project implementation.

In the second half of the 2022 based on preformed analysis of the Programme the efforts of the MA and National Authority (NA) were focused on negotiations with 11 provisionally approved projects under General ranking list of Second Call for Proposals (with JMC's decision taken on 27 of May 2020, 7 of June 2022 and 19 of July 2022) – 3 projects under Priority Axis (PA) 1; 5 projects under PA 2 and 3 projects under PA 3. After conducting of all pre-contracting procedures (online) and due to declining signature of the subsidy contract by some beneficiaries under PA 2, a list of projects provisionally selected for financing, was shortened to 7 projects as follows: PA 1 - 2 projects, PA 2 – 3 projects and PA 3 - 2 projects. Additionally 1 project proposal was financed which was already approved for funding in case of availability of funds by JMC Decision № 39 taken on 27 May 2022.

By the end of the year the total number of the contracts under the 2nd Call of the Programme become 68 - 14 projects were successfully finalized, 1 project was terminated and 8 new projects for a total amount of the EUR 1 086 163,98 under the Second Call for Proposals were contracted as follows:

- PA 1 “Sustainable tourism” - 3 projects at the total amount of the EUR 464 085,55
- PA 2 “Youths” – 3 project at the total amount of the EUR 358 294,47

PA 3 “Environment” – 2 projects at the total amount of the EUR 263 783,96.

The total verified amount for the projects by the end of 2022 is EUR 27 134 505,34 (79,57% from the contracted budget).

Programming post 2021-2027

In 2022, MA in coordination with NA continued the programming process of the future CBC Programme for programming period 2021-2027 and prepared the Final draft of the Interreg-IPA CBC Programme Bulgaria - Serbia 2021-2027. In connection with the preparation of the draft final version of (Interreg VI-A) IPA Bulgaria Serbia Programme, public consultations had been initiated from 4th of February 2022 to 4th of March 2022. Representatives of regional and municipal administrations, cultural institutions, non-governmental organizations, business, media and other stakeholders from Bulgaria and Serbia participated in the public

consultations. The final draft of the Programme was approved by Decision No 5 from 25 March 2022 by Joint Working Group (JWG) through video conference meeting. On 20.05.2022, the programme together with its annexes was formally submitted to the EC for consultation and approval. The Commission's observations on the programme were received on 14.07.2022.

In the August 2022 the development of the Territorial strategy for integrated measures (TSIM) 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 was successfully completed.

In the same period, in August 2022, the implementation of the contract “Elaboration of environmental assessment report (EAR) for INTERREG - IPA CB cooperation programme 2021 – 2027 between the Republic of Bulgaria and Republic of Serbia and for Cross-border Strategy for Integrated Territorial Development to be financed under the INTERREG - IPA CB cooperation programme 2021 – 2027 between the Republic of Bulgaria and Republic of Serbia” was successfully finalised following a positive opinion on the Strategic Environmental Assessment issued by Minister of Environment and Water. The opinion was one of the key documents required for submission of the Programme document to the EC for approval.

By Decision No 6 from 7 September 2022 the JWG approved by written procedure the amendments to the Second draft of the INTERREG VI-A IPA Bulgaria - Serbia Programme 2021-2027 based on the observations received by EC during the consultation phase. On 07.09.2022 the second draft of the programme together with its annexes was submitted to the EC for second round of consultations. The programme document was approved by European Commission on 23.11.2022 by Decision C(2022) 8660).

The Programme Monitoring Committee was established in the December 2022 setting up and first meeting took place in Nis, Serbia. During the meeting, the Application package including Guideline for applicants for Pre-defined Applicants and criteria for selection of operation under Priority 3 of the Programme was approved. The Call for Strategic Project Proposal was announced in early 2023.

In the meantime in December 2022, the Strategy Board of the Territorial Strategy under (Interreg VI-A) IPA Bulgaria Serbia Programme 2021 -2027 was established and the first meeting of the Strategy Board was held in Nis, Serbia. During the meeting, the members approved the final version of the Territorial strategy.

At the end of the year was launched two procedures – a procedure for “Providing logistics and organisation for events related to the implementation of INTERREG-IPA cross-border cooperation programmes” and a procedure for “Impact evaluation of INTERREG-IPA CBC PROGRAMMES 2014-2020, managed by the Republic of Bulgaria”. A service contracts will be signed by the end of March 2023.

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 Second Call for Proposals 3 projects at the total amount of EUR 464 085,55 were contracted and distributed per Specific objectives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SO 1.1 "Tourist Attractiveness" – during 2022 there were not contracted projects under this specific objective; • SO 1.2 "Cross-border Touristic Product" – 2 projects – soft measures at the total amount EUR 362 208,13 were contracted. Duration of the projects is 12 months; • SO 1.3 "People to People Networking" – 1 project – soft measures at the total amount EUR 101 877,42 was contracted. Duration of the project is 12 months. <p>2 project were temporary suspended due to unfavourable situation related to project implementation.</p> <p>In addition, 3 modification requested approval by JMC and signature of addendum (one budget modification and two extensions of implementation to 15 months) have been approved.</p> <p>By the end of 2022, 6 projects were successfully completed and contributed to the Programme objectives and 5 projects are under implementation.</p> <p>The targets of all four OIs under SO 1.1, all three OIs under SO 1.2 and all three OIs under SO 1.3 are achieved by the end of 2022.</p>
2	Youths	<p>Under the Second Call for Proposals 3 projects at the total amount of EUR 358 294,47 were contracted and distributed per Specific objectives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SO 2.1 "Skill and entrepreneurship" – during 2022 there were not contracted projects under this specific objective; • SO 2.2 "People to People Networking" – 3 projects – soft measures at the total amount EUR 358 294,47 were contracted and were in process of implementation. Duration of the projects is 12 months.

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
		<p>In addition 1 modification requested approval by JMC and signature of addendum (extension of implementation from 15 to 21 months) has been approved.</p> <p>By the end of 2022, 3 projects were successfully completed and contributed to the Programme objectives, 1 project was terminated and 3 projects are under implementation.</p> <p>The targets of all two OIs under SO 2.1 and one OIs under SO 2.2 are achieved by the end of 2022.</p>
3	Environment	<p>In 2022 under the Second Call for Proposals 2 projects at the total amount of EUR 263 783,96 were contracted and distributed per Specific objectives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SO 3.1 "Joint Risk Management" – during 2022 there were not contracted projects under this specific objective; • SO 3.2 "Nature protection" – 2 soft projects at the total amount EUR 263 783,96 were contracted and were in process of implementation. Duration of the projects is 12 months. <p>1 project was temporary suspended due to unfavourable situation related to project implementation.</p> <p>In addition, 4 modification requested approval by JMC and signature of addendum (one budget modification and three extensions of implementation up to 24 months) have been approved.</p> <p>By the end of 2022, 5 projects were successfully completed and contributed to the Programme objectives and 4 projects are under implementation.</p> <p>The targets of OIs 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3 and 3.1.6 under SO 3.1 and OIs 3.2.2, 3.2.3 and 3.2.4 under SO 3.2 are achieved by the end of 2022.</p> <p>The targets of OIs 3.1.5 under SO 3.1 and 3.2.1 under SO 3.2 are expected to be achieved with finalization of projects (CB007.2.31.141 and CB007.2.32.165).</p>
4	Technical Assistance	<p>The indicative budget for year 2020-2023 amounted to EUR 1 119 674. In September 2022 modification of the Eligibility of Technical assistance Expenditures was approved by JMC.</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
		<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 MC meetings; • Organization of online technical meetings of Programme bodies; • Pre-contracting procedures under 2nd Call (online); • Online meeting of Joint Working Group for preparation of the future Programme 2021-2027 (online); • Organization of Strategy Board meeting; • Conduction of tender procedure for “Impact evaluation of INTERREG-IPA CBC PROGRAMMES 2014-2020, managed by the Republic of Bulgaria”. • Conduction of tender procedure for “Providing logistics and organisation for events related to the implementation of INTERREG-IPA cross-border cooperation programmes” ; • Organisation of event for European cooperation day 2022. <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	2022	Observations
F	1.1.1	Total number of reconstructed / restored cultural and historical touristic objects in the eligible border area	number	15.00	16.00	
S	1.1.1	Total number of reconstructed / restored cultural and historical touristic objects in the eligible border area	number	15.00	19.00	
F	1.1.2	Total number of small scale technical infrastructure, encouraging the visits to the tourist attractions	number	18.00	20.00	
S	1.1.2	Total number of small scale technical infrastructure, encouraging the visits to the tourist attractions	number	18.00	26.00	
F	1.1.3	Total number of created/reconstructed facilities for disabled people in the supported touristic sites	number	7.00	7.00	
S	1.1.3	Total number of created/reconstructed facilities for disabled people in the supported touristic sites	number	7.00	11.00	
F	1.1.4	Total number of information access facilities created/upgraded	number	9.00	10.50	
S	1.1.4	Total number of information access facilities created/upgraded	number	9.00	15.00	
F	1.2.1	Number of sustainable tourism strategies/action plans of common tourist destinations	number	6.00	7.00	
S	1.2.1	Number of sustainable tourism strategies/action plans of common tourist destinations	number	6.00	8.00	
F	1.2.2	Total number of newly established touristic products / services	number	5.00	12.00	
S	1.2.2	Total number of newly established touristic products / services	number	5.00	16.00	
F	1.2.3	Tools developed and/or implemented for marketing and promoting tourist products in the eligible border area	number	8.00	24.00	
S	1.2.3	Tools developed and/or implemented for marketing and promoting tourist products in the eligible border area	number	8.00	32.00	
F	1.3.1	Public awareness initiatives promoting sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage and resources	number	20.00	28.00	
S	1.3.1	Public awareness initiatives promoting sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage and resources	number	20.00	28.00	
F	1.3.2	Capacity building initiatives for capitalisation of the common touristic product/services	number	20.00	30.00	
S	1.3.2	Capacity building initiatives for capitalisation of the common touristic product/services	number	20.00	30.00	
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	27.00	
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	34.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2021	2020	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	15.00	11.00	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	15.00	17.00	16.00	11.00	11.00			
F	1.1.2	Total number of small scale technical infrastructure, encouraging the visits to the tourist attractions	18.00	17.00	13.00	8.00	1.00			
S	1.1.2	Total number of small scale technical infrastructure, encouraging the visits to the tourist attractions	18.00	24.00	23.00	19.00	19.00			
F	1.1.3	Total number of created/reconstructed facilities for disabled people in the supported touristic sites	7.00	6.00	3.00	1.00	0.00			
S	1.1.3	Total number of created/reconstructed facilities for disabled people in the supported touristic sites	7.00	9.00	9.00	7.00	7.00			
F	1.1.4	Total number of information access facilities created/upgraded	9.00	7.50	6.00	3.00	1.00			
S	1.1.4	Total number of information access facilities created/upgraded	9.00	13.00	11.00	8.00	8.00			
F	1.2.1	Number of sustainable tourism strategies/action plans of common tourist destinations	6.00	5.00	1.00	1.00	0.00			
S	1.2.1	Number of sustainable tourism strategies/action plans of common tourist destinations	6.00	7.00	5.00	1.00	1.00			
F	1.2.2	Total number of newly established touristic products / services	5.00	5.00	3.00	3.00	0.00			
S	1.2.2	Total number of newly established touristic products / services	5.00	12.00	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	8.00	10.00	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	8.00	24.00	10.00	7.00	7.00			
F	1.3.1	Public awareness initiatives promoting sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage and resources	20.00	16.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
S	1.3.1	Public awareness initiatives promoting sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage and resources	20.00	25.00	16.00	0.00	0.00			
F	1.3.2	Capacity building initiatives for capitalisation of the common touristic product/services	20.00	14.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
S	1.3.2	Capacity building initiatives for capitalisation of the common touristic product/services	20.00	29.00	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	15.00	12.00	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	15.00	30.00	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	2022 Total	2022 Qualitative	Observations
1.1.1	Increased visitors to the cross-border region	percentage	642,269.00	2014	1.00			Frequency of reporting: 2018, 2023

ID	Indicator	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative
1.1.1	Increased visitors to the cross-border region							916,236.00	

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1.1.1	Increased visitors to the cross-border region								

Not validated

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	2022 Total	2022 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			Frequency of reporting: 2018, 2023

ID	Indicator	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative
1.2.1	Increased level of joint and integrated approaches to sustainable tourism development in the border area								2.82

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	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	2022 Total	2022 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			Frequency of reporting: 2018, 2023

ID	Indicator	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative
1.3.1	Increased level of community involvement and awareness about sustainable use of cross-border tourist resources								3.05

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	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								

Not validated

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	2022	Observations
F	2.1.1	Total number of supported youth-related small-scale infrastructure, training and information facilities	number	17.00	19.00	
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	31.00	
S	2.2.1	Total number of youth networking initiatives supported by the Programme	number	15.00	36.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2021	2020	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	17.00	17.00	12.00	1.00			
S	2.1.1	Total number of supported youth-related small-scale infrastructure, training and information facilities	17.00	18.00	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	573.00	573.00	500.00	40.00			
S	2.1.2	Total number of young people involved in the supported youth entrepreneurship schemes and initiatives	573.00	527.00	527.00	527.00	527.00			
F	2.2.1	Total number of youth networking initiatives supported by the Programme	15.00	17.00	2.00	2.00	0.00			
S	2.2.1	Total number of youth networking initiatives supported by the Programme	15.00	33.00	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	2022 Total	2022 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			Frequency of reporting: 2018, 2023

ID	Indicator	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative
2.1.1	Level of young people's satisfaction as regards opportunities for professional and social realization in the border area								2.84

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	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	2022 Total	2022 Qualitative	Observations
2.2.1	Increased level of youth involvement in networks across the border	scale	2.45	2014	3.00			Frequency of reporting: 2018, 2023

ID	Indicator	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative
2.2.1	Increased level of youth involvement in networks across the border								2.55

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.2.1	Increased level of youth involvement in networks across the border								

Not validated

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

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2022	Observations
F	3.1.1	Total number of joint activities aimed at establishing joint early warning and disaster management systems	number	6.00	6.00	
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	15.00	
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	6.00	
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	609.00	
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	945381.00	
S	3.1.5	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	number	986,113.00	707268.00	
F	3.1.6	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measure	number	1,586,332.00	1614149.00	
S	3.1.6	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measure	number	1,586,332.00	1229500.00	
F	3.2.1	Protected areas/Natura 2000 sites in the border region with EU conform management plans	number	2.00	1.00	
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	13.00	
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	20.00	
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	19.00	
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	34.00	
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	19.00	
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	28.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2021	2020	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	6.00	5.00	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	6.00	6.00	5.00	5.00			
F	3.1.2	Purchased specialised equipment related to disaster management	15.00	13.00	12.00	3.00	0.00			
S	3.1.2	Purchased specialised equipment related to disaster management	20.00	20.00	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.	3.00	3.00	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.	6.00	6.00	8.00	3.00	3.00			
F	3.1.4	Total number of people participated in risk prevention and management training activities	546.00	486.00	486.00	183.00	0.00			
S	3.1.4	Total number of people participated in risk prevention and management training activities	696.00	696.00	716.00	386.00	386.00			
F	3.1.5	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	833,329.00	810,145.00	810,145.00	808,658.00	0.00			
S	3.1.5	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	707,268.00	707,268.00	758,582.00	511,300.00	511,300.00			
F	3.1.6	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measure	1,614,149.00	1,586,332.00	1,586,332.00	280,898.00	0.00			
S	3.1.6	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measure	1,229,500.00	1,229,500.00	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	0.00	0.00			
S	3.2.1	Protected areas/Natura 2000 sites in the border region with EU conform management plans	2.00	2.00	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.	11.00	5.00	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.	20.00	16.00	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	15.00	4.00	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	26.00	21.00	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	16.00	7.00	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	21.00	18.00	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	2022 Total	2022 Qualitative	Observations
3.1.1	Increased level of preparedness to manage risks of transnational dimension	scale	1.90	2014	2.50			Frequency of reporting: 2018, 2023

ID	Indicator	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative
3.1.1	Increased level of preparedness to manage risks of transnational dimension						2.33		2.33

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	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	2022 Total	2022 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			Frequency of reporting: 2018, 2023

ID	Indicator	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative
3.2.1	Increased capacity for nature protection and sustainable use of common natural resources in the border region								2.34

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	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

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2022	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	0.00	Not cumulative.
S	4.1.2	Updated MIS system	number	1.00	0.00	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	3.00	Not cumulative.
S	4.1.4	Number of publicity events for beneficiaries	number	4.00	3.00	Not cumulative.
F	4.1.5	Number of employees (full time) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	number	8.00		Not cumulative. 13 BG FL controllers(% of the salaries is co-financed by the TA), 13 MA experts (% of the salaries is co-financed by the TA) , 6 JS experts 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		Not cumulative. 13 BG FL controllers(% of the salaries is co-financed by the TA), 13 MA experts (% of the salaries is co-financed by the TA), 6 JS experts in Sofia, 4 JS experts in Nis, and 3 SR FL controllers.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	4.1.1	Number of performed evaluations of the programme	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	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	0.00	
F	4.1.2	Updated MIS system	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	
S	4.1.2	Updated MIS system	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	
F	4.1.3	Number of Monitoring Committee meetings	1.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	
S	4.1.3	Number of Monitoring Committee meetings	1.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	
F	4.1.4	Number of publicity events for beneficiaries	7.00	2.00	4.00	13.00	3.00	8.00	12.00	
S	4.1.4	Number of publicity events for beneficiaries	7.00	2.00	4.00	13.00	3.00	8.00	12.00	
F	4.1.5	Number of employees (full time) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	37.00	32.00	29.00	27.00	28.00	12.00	5.00	
S	4.1.5	Number of employees (full time) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	37.00	32.00	30.00	22.00	28.00	12.00	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	2022	Observations
1	F	1	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 1 "Sustainable Tourism"	EUR	734 770*	11,935,790.00	8,941,857.89	
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	15.00	
1	O	1.1.2	Total number of small scale technical infrastructure, encouraging the visits to the tourist attractions	number	4	18.00	20.00	
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	24.00	
2	F	2	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 2 "Youths"	EUR	524 836*	6,495,821.00	5,295,669.09	
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	19.00	
3	F	3	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 3 "Environment"	EUR	629 803*	12,260,420.00	9,078,581.64	
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	6.00	

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
1	F	1	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 1 "Sustainable Tourism"	EUR	7,238,928.37	5,938,490.38	4,796,955.24	2,012,900.30	105,202.86
1	I	1.1.2	Number of projects contracted related to small scale technical infrastructure, encouraging the visits to the tourist attractions	number	15.00	14.00	13.00	11.00	11.00
1	O	1.1.2	Total number of small scale technical infrastructure, encouraging the visits to the tourist attractions	number	20.00	17.00	13.00	8.00	1.00
1	O	1.2.3	Tools developed and/or implemented for marketing and promoting tourist products in the eligible border area	number	21.00	10.00	7.00	7.00	0.00
2	F	2	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 2 "Youths"	EUR	4,707,391.99	4,142,305.82	3,574,687.72	1,980,434.54	205,579.49
2	I	2.1.1	Number of projects contracted related to youth-related small-scale infrastructure, training and information facilities	number	9.00	9.00	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	17.00	17.00	12.00	1.00
3	F	3	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 3 "Environment"	EUR	7,402,064.70	6,370,553.16	4,595,651.48	1,828,420.99	111,520.38
3	I	3.1.1	Number of projects contracted addressing joint early warning and disaster management systems	number	6.00	6.00	6.00	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	6.00	5.00	5.00	3.00	0.00

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2016	2015	2014
1	F	1	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 1 "Sustainable Tourism"	EUR	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	8.00		
1	O	1.1.2	Total number of small scale technical infrastructure, encouraging the visits to the tourist attractions	number	0.00		
1	O	1.2.3	Tools developed and/or implemented for marketing and promoting tourist products in the eligible border area	number	0.00		
2	F	2	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 2 "Youths"	EUR	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		
2	O	2.1.1	Total number of supported youth-related small-scale infrastructure, training and information facilities	number	0.00		
3	F	3	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 3 "Environment"	EUR	0.00		
3	I	3.1.1	Number of projects contracted addressing joint early warning and disaster management systems	number	5.00		
3	O	3.1.1	Total number of joint activities aimed at establishing joint early warning and disaster management systems	number	0.00		

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	12,002,038.00	85.00	13,959,613.16	116.31%	13,492,469.08	9,821,658.83	81.83%	46
2	Public	6,399,153.00	85.00	7,354,579.22	114.93%	7,141,515.38	5,838,317.61	91.24%	30
3	Public	12,290,840.00	85.00	13,864,416.69	112.80%	13,691,516.46	9,290,058.13	75.59%	30
4	Public	3,410,225.00	85.00	3,158,563.37	92.62%	3,158,563.37	2,184,470.77	64.06%	12
Total		34,102,256.00	85.00	38,337,172.44	112.42%	37,484,064.29	27,134,505.34	79.57%	118

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)

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	140,303.45	1
1	075	01	01	07	d	24	BG415	137,564.32	131,992.92	100,184.37	1
1	075	01	01	07	d	24	RS	259,601.95	240,690.85	236,789.39	2
1	075	01	02	07	d	24	BG415	183,142.72	172,699.47	0.00	1
1	075	01	03	07	d	24	BG311	101,027.82	93,812.02	91,057.94	1
1	075	01	03	07	d	24	BG412	574,829.04	532,153.36	0.00	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	586,271.09	546,182.94	78,664.03	1
1	094	01	01	07	d	24	BG414	598,501.52	598,501.52	570,141.27	1
1	094	01	01	07	d	24	BG415	162,942.95	162,942.95	161,122.63	1
1	094	01	01	07	d	24	RS	881,506.39	816,886.63	572,168.35	3
1	094	01	02	07	d	24	BG311	586,849.32	498,821.91	266,598.87	1
1	094	01	02	07	d	24	BG312	775,836.55	762,451.72	637,914.99	2
1	094	01	02	07	d	24	BG412	1,616,538.99	1,596,402.18	934,728.30	5
1	094	01	02	07	d	24	RS	1,440,477.05	1,420,320.47	1,305,360.55	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	328,263.08	1
1	094	01	03	07	d	24	RS	1,044,156.06	1,044,156.06	990,891.55	2
1	095	01	01	07	d	24	BG311	296,418.00	286,888.02	263,318.36	2
1	095	01	01	07	d	24	BG411	139,791.54	133,382.09	97,962.56	1
1	095	01	01	07	d	24	RS	117,431.27	108,808.32	101,059.86	1
1	095	01	02	07	d	24	BG312	364,190.55	352,787.40	213,237.57	2
1	095	01	02	07	d	24	RS	960,984.39	944,003.52	694,302.65	4
1	095	01	03	07	d	24	BG311	179,065.41	168,658.77	0.00	1
1	095	01	03	07	d	24	RS	275,986.79	275,986.79	260,202.05	2
2	055	01	01	07	e	24	BG415	121,029.00	113,665.13	104,517.34	1
2	055	01	02	07	e	24	BG312	596,646.73	596,646.73	264,976.56	1
2	055	01	02	07	e	24	RS	2,192,071.03	2,147,353.63	2,081,371.07	4
2	055	01	03	07	e	24	BG311	145,353.77	145,353.77	125,187.26	1
2	055	01	03	07	e	24	RS	139,744.63	139,744.63	131,054.13	1
2	109	01	01	07	e	24	BG311	294,437.62	273,325.57	269,232.63	2
2	109	01	01	07	e	24	BG313	136,664.55	128,943.23	98,021.07	1
2	109	01	01	07	e	24	BG414	142,187.70	142,187.70	116,436.17	1
2	109	01	01	07	e	24	BG415	109,058.74	109,058.74	100,693.14	1
2	109	01	01	07	e	24	RS	100,824.20	93,238.36	40,443.40	1
2	109	01	02	07	e	24	BG312	117,671.66	108,885.72	72,411.56	1
2	109	01	02	07	e	24	BG412	243,126.18	234,271.53	111,029.20	2
2	109	01	02	07	e	24	RS	292,769.25	268,332.29	274,274.47	2
2	109	01	03	07	e	24	BG311	129,227.43	121,507.77	0.00	1
2	118	01	01	07	e	24	BG411	136,175.88	136,175.88	109,483.03	1
2	118	01	01	07	e	24	BG414	107,395.50	99,783.79	0.00	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	230,192.86	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	175,063.01	172,990.82	1
3	085	01	01	07	b	24	BG415	413,401.83	413,401.83	340,146.41	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	BG312	1,109,171.45	1,104,731.50	1,052,463.59	2
3	085	01	02	07	b	24	BG412	951,946.92	892,525.31	448,610.57	3
3	085	01	02	07	b	24	BG415	590,754.61	590,754.61	573,701.56	1
3	085	01	02	07	b	24	RS	1,883,573.78	1,796,536.35	429,790.08	5
3	085	01	03	07	b	24	BG311	162,358.43	150,002.48	0.00	1
3	085	01	03	07	b	24	BG312	306,052.76	306,052.76	234,410.32	1
3	085	01	03	07	b	24	BG415	560,325.68	560,325.68	204,233.78	1
3	087	01	01	01	b	24	BG411	1,169,015.78	1,169,015.78	1,045,057.13	2
3	087	01	01	07	b	24	BG31	547,711.82	547,711.82	432,068.97	1
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	495,230.53	1
3	087	01	02	07	b	24	BG412	1,173,599.83	1,173,599.83	1,041,474.49	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	732,254.05	2
3	087	01	03	07	b	24	RS	1,155,749.17	1,155,749.17	349,104.83	2
4	121	01	07	07		24	BG	1,921,229.07	1,921,229.07	1,207,428.79	6
4	121	01	07	07		24	RS	1,237,334.30	1,237,334.30	977,041.98	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)
	1 619 610,83	5,59%	1 133 555,86	3,91%

(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.

Not validated

4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

According to the Programme Evaluation Plan (approved on 21.04.2016 by the JMC) during the programme implementation two type of evaluations were planned as follows:

1) *Implementation/mid-term evaluation of the Programme*

Tender procedure for Implementation evaluation under Interreg - IPA CBC Programmes, managed by the Republic of Bulgaria had been launched in June 2018. The procedure 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. The recommendations from the evaluation were accepted and taken into account in the process of preparation of the (Interreg-VI-A) IPA Bulgaria Serbia Programme for the new programming period.

2) *Impact evaluation*

Tender procedure for Impact evaluation of INTERREG-IPA CBC programmes 2014-2020, managed by Republic of Bulgaria was launched in December 2022. The service contract will be signed till the end of March 2023. The results of the impact evaluation will be presented by Monitoring Committee and will be reported in the Final Implementation report for 2023.

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

In the first half of the 2022 similar measures as 2021 has been undertaken in order to mitigate the obstacles resulting from the measures against COVID-19 pandemic. In the beginning of April 2022 all imposed emergency measures introduced at a national and local level in both countries related Covid-19 pandemic situation were revoked.

Beside that no other significant problems and obstacles that could have affected the Programme performance were identified during the reporting period.

Not validated

(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.

N/A

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 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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8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

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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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Not validated

Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

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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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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

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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

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Not validated

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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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Not validated

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

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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 that 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

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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.

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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).

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Not validated

DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
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LATEST VALIDATION RESULTS

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