

**Interreg - IPA CBC**  
Bulgaria - Serbia



# CITIZENS SUMMARY

**ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT 2019**

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



# 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 2019.

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

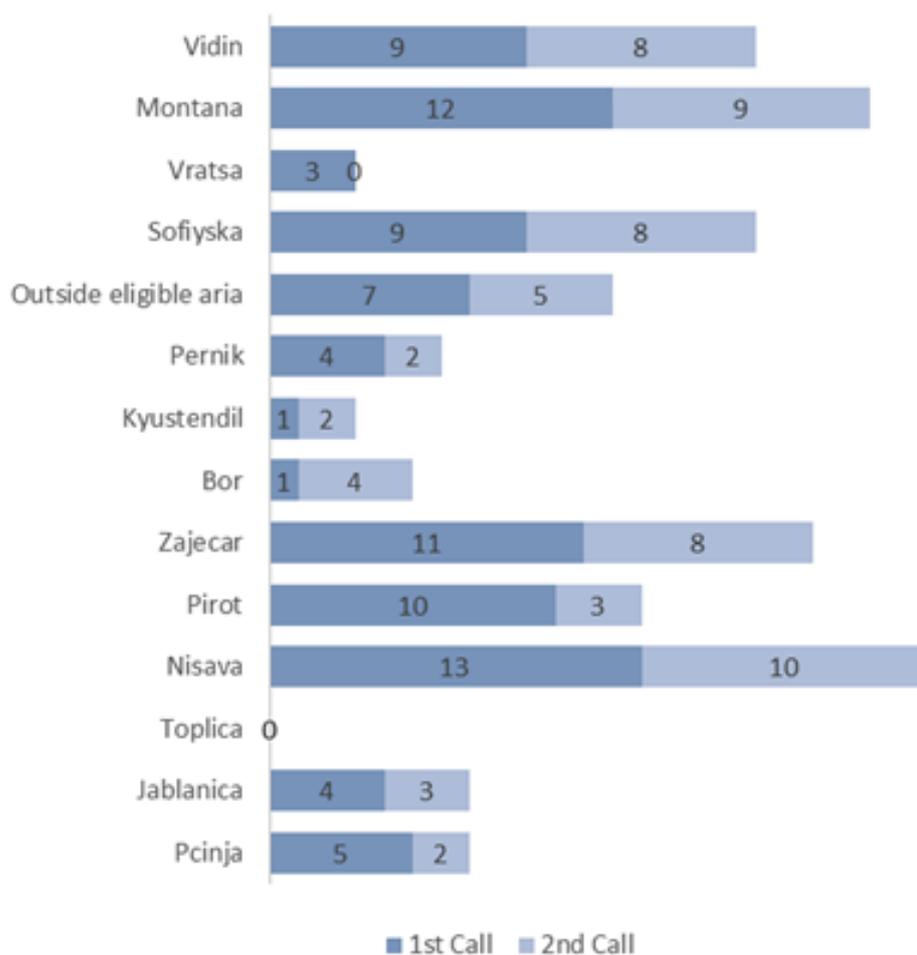
The total Programme budget is EUR 34 102 256.

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 2019

- 79 project partners are from Bulgaria and 74 from Serbia, from which 42 lead partners from BG and 25 from RS;
- Project partners are mostly municipalities, cultural institutes, government administrations and NGOs.

Distribution of project partners per region:



# Financial progress in 2019

The total amount of all funded projects is 25 632 652 EUR.

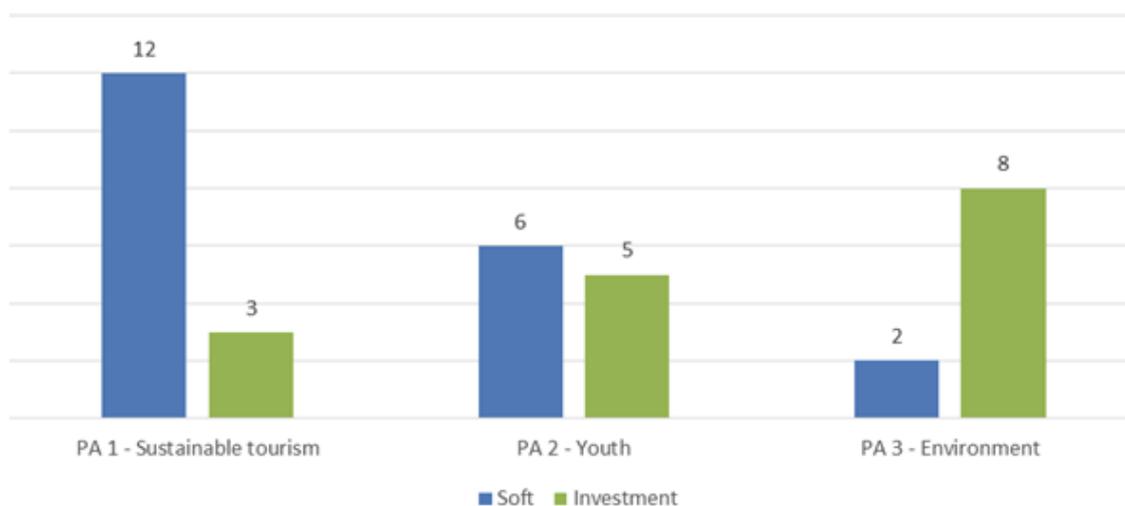
Priority Axis	Number of funded proposals	Contracted amount (€)	Payments (€)	Certified amount (€)
PA 1 – Sustainable Tourism	27	10 090 648	5 753 335	4 796 995
PA 2 – Youth	19	5 493 283	4 094 393	3 574 688
PA 3 - Environment	21	10 048 721	5 531 341	4 595 651
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>25 632 652</b>	<b>15 379 069</b>	<b>12 967 334</b>

## Performance and Progress in 2019

Out of 67 projects contracted, 37 projects have been completed by 2019, while the remaining 30 proceeded with implementation.

35 project partners are from Bulgaria and 31 from Serbia. 21 Lead project partners are from Bulgaria and 9 from Serbia.

Distribution of projects per type & priority axis



# Projects under the First Call



# Official contract awarding under the Second Call

The official ceremony for awarding of the first set of subsidy contracts under the Second Call for project proposals of Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Bulgaria – Serbia was held on 16 May 2019 at the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works in Sofia, Bulgaria. The contracts were awarded by Ms. Petya Avramova, Minister of Regional Development and Public Works of the Republic of Bulgaria, Ms. Jadranka Joksimovic, Minister of European Integration of the Republic of Serbia and Ms. Denitsa Nikolova, Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Public Works of the Republic of Bulgaria.

The Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia in the Republic of Bulgaria, H.E. Mr. Vladimir Ćurgus was the guest at the ceremony.

Twenty subsidy contracts were awarded at the ceremony, and additional 9 contracts were awarded after the ceremony, 1 more is to be awarded.

More than 40 people, including representatives of a variety of organizations such as municipalities, public companies, cultural and educational institutions, NGOs, etc. from both Bulgaria and Serbia, attended the ceremony.



## JMC Meeting

On 8 November 2019, in Sofia, the Seventh Joint Monitoring Committee meeting under the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Bulgaria-Serbia Programme 2014-2020 was held.

For the representative of the European Commission, Ms. Lenoel, two project visits were organized. Ms. Lenoel expressed her contentment with the results achieved within the two projects, describing it as good examples of sustainability and focus on people.

During the meeting the progress of implementation of the Interreg-IPA CBC Bulgaria - Serbia Programme 2014-2020 was presented, as well as the Action plan for implementation of the recommendations elaborated within the Final Evaluation Report for "Implementation evaluation of Interreg - IPA CBC Programmes 2014-2020.

Implementation milestones in the previous year were presented, analysis of the First Call projects and beneficiaries per type and per region, number of projects per call and per priority axis, achievement of indicators, information and publicity measures, as well the financial progress per priority axis.

Performance assessment and identified ways for improvement of activities under Interreg-IPA CBC programmes have been presented, as well as findings and recommendations related to the effectiveness and efficiency of the Programme, the Programme management system, relevance, consistency and complementarity of the objectives of the Programme, effectiveness and efficiency of the Communication strategy.



# Trainings for beneficiaries

Four trainings on Beneficiary portal for the management team members of projects funded under the Second call of Interreg-IPA Cross-border cooperation Programme Bulgaria – Serbia, two in Bulgaria, in Sofia on 4 June and in Montana on 6 June, with the participation of 56 people and two in Serbia, in Nis on 26 June and in Bor on 27 June, with 75 participants. Lecturers in the trainings were representatives of the Joint secretariat and the First level control of the Programme.

Trainings topics were:

- Technical and financial project implementation;
- Financial Management and FLC process;
- Public procurement;
- Communication and Visibility;
- Beneficiary portal practical training.



Trainings for beneficiaries:

1) Sofia, 04.06.2019; 2) Bor, 27.06.2019; 3) Montana, 06.06.2019; 3) Niš, 26.06.2019.

# Regional consultations for the next programming period

The Managing Authority of the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Bulgaria-Serbia Programme started the development of the CBC Programme between the two countries for the programming period 2021 – 2027 with a regional consultation meeting organized on 30 September in Botevgrad, with more than 40 participants, followed with the consultation meeting on 01 October 2019 in Montana, attended by more than 30 people.

Two regional consultation meetings for Serbian stakeholder representatives, in Bor on 02 October with 59 participants and in Nis on 3 October 2019, with more than 90 participants was organized.

Participants were representatives of Bulgarian and Serbian stakeholders - local and regional authorities, educational institutions, branch organizations, non-governmental organizations from the target regions of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Serbia. Participants were presented with the new elements for the next programming period, such as N+2 rule, extended application of flat rates and simplified costs, strategic projects and small project fund and discussed their needs and expectations for the new programming period.



Regional consultations for the programming period 2021-2027:

- 1) Niš, 03.10.2019;
- 2) Montana, 01.10.2019;
- 3) Bor, 02.10.2019;
- 4) Botevgrad, 30.09.2019.

# EUROPEAN COOPERATION DAY 2019

This years European Cooperation Day was organised under the slogan EUROPE IS YOU.

This time, we have decided to make a video promotion of the common European values within EC Day.

We have promoted European Cooperation Day with video clips of our successful projects aired during our four public events in September and October - regional public consultations for the next programming period.

The chosen form of promotion of the values of the cross-border cooperation and the EC Day is expected to provide high level of publicity and efficiency.



PROGRAMME

CALLS FOR

home > media > video gallery

## Video gallery

### Project CB007.1.21.066 We invest in sport for career development of young people - the



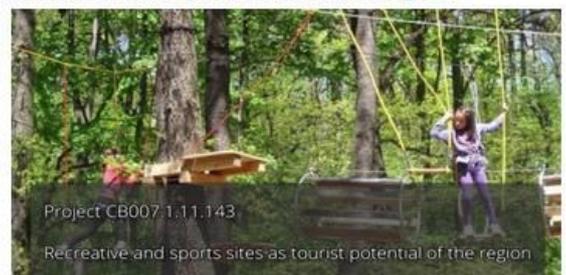
19.12.2019

### Project CB007.1.11.124 Conservation, revitalization and exhibition of Early Christian



19.12.2019

### Project CB007.1.11.143 Recreative and sports sites as tourist potential of the region



17.12.2019

### Project CB007.1.21.288 Prevention of the demographic collapse in the cross-border



17.12.2019

# 2019 Milestones



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MANAGING AUTHORITY (MA)  
**Ministry of Regional Development  
and Public Works**  
Directorate of Territorial Cooperation  
Management  
9 Stefan Karadzha St.  
Sofia 1000, Bulgaria

NATIONAL AUTHORITY (NA)  
**Ministry of European Integration**  
Department for cross-border and  
transnational cooperation  
programmes and cooperation with  
local and regional authorities and  
organizations for more efficient use  
of funds  
34 Nemanjina St.  
Belgrade 11000, Serbia

JOINT SECRETARIAT (JS)  
Ministry of Regional Development  
and Public Works  
9 Stefan Karadzha St.  
Offices 3 and 3A, floor 1  
Sofia 1000, Bulgaria

JOINT SECRETARIAT - branch  
office  
Business Commercial Centre "Kalca"  
Obrenovica St. bb  
II floor, lamella "C", local "C-67"  
Nis 18000, Serbia

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**Bulgaria - Serbia**



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