

Cross-Border Cooperation 2007-2013

Performance of Impact Evaluation of the IPA Cross-border Programmes 2007-2013 managed by the Republic of Bulgaria

IPA CROSS-BORDER PROGRAMMES 2007-2013



BULGARIA – SERBIA



BULGARIA – THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF
MACEDONIA



BULGARIA – TURKEY

REFERENCE:

CCI Number 2007CB16IPO006

CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007

CCI Number 2007CB16IPO008

In the light of enhanced need for efficiency due to tighter budgets spending policy and more streamlined public attention to the effectiveness of EU policy instruments, the demand for demonstrating the **impact and added value of IPA CBC-supported initiatives** is continuously growing. The most important is the emphasis on a clearer articulation of the policy objectives. This is a precondition of a key importance to implement a result-oriented policy and moving away from an excessive focus on the absorption of funding all by itself.

Impact evaluation purpose

The purpose of this evaluation is:

- ⇒ **To perform an analysis of the level of achievement of the output and result indicators and their compliance with the set targets in the IPA Cross-border Programmes 2007-2013 managed by Bulgaria; as well as a thorough analysis of long-term impacts of programmes' interventions; and comparative analysis of impact of the three programmes.**
- ⇒ **To propose recommendations for more result-oriented programmes / projects for the 2014-2020 period through summarising lessons learned during the implementation 2007-2013 programming period including collecting best practices / examples of successful projects.**

Expected results

The following specific results will be more particularly targeted:

- ⇒ **Elaborated study containing analysis of the programmes' targets achievement, long-term impact evaluation of programmes' interventions and comparative analysis of the estimated impact of the three IPA programmes.**

The evaluation analysis will provide convincing evidence that the estimated IPA CBC programmes' impact is indeed caused by the interventions financed. To guarantee that evaluation results are fully objective and thus ensure their legitimacy, all findings, conclusions and recommendations will be peer reviewed and subject to broad consultations before being finalized.

- ⇒ **Raised awareness on impact evaluation results through elaborated and disseminated materials (handbook) of good practices and recommendations for a better steering the future projects development and programmes implementation.**

Beyond delivering evaluation results, the ultimate goal of the present impact evaluation is to make public policies more effective and improve development outcomes. Only when evaluation results are adequately shared with policy makers and fully used in the decision-making process, the impact evaluation

could be considered that fulfils its ultimate objective of improving the effectiveness of the IPA CBC Programmes.

Evaluation approach

Pursuant to the overall design of this impact evaluation, the Evaluation Team's approach will be evidence-based, consultative and participatory, as well as utilization-focused:

- ⇒ **Evidence-based:** different sources of evidence will be considered at every step of the evaluation process. Though findings will integrate the views and perspectives of key stakeholders, they will also be fact-based on triangular sources of evidence.
- ⇒ **Utilization-focused:** The evaluation will primarily focus on the extent to which the programmes are meeting the foreseen objectives and results, and whether the funded initiatives contribute for creating conditions that will lead to enhanced neighbourly relations, fostering stability, security and prosperity in mutual interest of all participating countries, and encouraging their harmonious, balanced and sustainable development. The role of the Evaluation Team is not merely to identify what works well and what does not, but to highlight, the challenges and

opportunities that the programmes have been facing and draw useful and realistic recommendations.

- ⇒ **Consultative and Participatory:** In order to build a positive attitude for the impact evaluation, create a sense of ownership and foster shared understandings of the study results, the evaluation will maintain strong communication with key programmes' stakeholders, and their views on the performance of the IPA CBC programmes will be consulted on an on-going basis.

Major evaluation activities

To strengthen the validity of the evaluation's findings and conclusions, the Evaluation Team will rely on a mix of data sources and data collection tools, namely:

- ⇒ In-depth desk study and literature review;
- ⇒ Semi-structured interviews;
- ⇒ E-surveys (with key stakeholders, projects' beneficiaries and general public);
- ⇒ Field missions to projects financed under the IPA Cross-border Programmes 2007-2013

Evaluation time-frame

The overall duration of the impact evaluation is 8 (eight) months, and will be finalized **by the end of November 2016**.

