



# **ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT 2008**

**for the  
Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia  
IPA Cross-border Programme**





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## 1. Identification

PROGRAMME	<b>Objective concerned:</b> IPA Cross-border Cooperation
	<b>Eligible area concerned:</b> for Bulgaria - Blagoevgrad and Kyustendil districts (NUTS III) and for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - North-East, East and South-East NUTS III statistical regions
	<b>Programming period:</b> 2007 – 2013 (financial plan 2007-2009)
	<b>Programme number (CCI No):</b> 2007CB16IPO007
	<b>Programme title:</b> Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia IPA Cross-border Programme
ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT	<b>Reporting year:</b> 2008
	<b>Date of approval of the annual report by the Joint Monitoring Committee:</b> .....

## 2. Overview of the implementation of the Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia IPA Cross-border Programme

### 2.1. Achievement and analysis of the progress

- **Information on the physical progress of the Programme:**

This is the first annual implementation report for the Bulgaria-the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia IPA Cross-Border Programme.

The Managing Authority for the Programme is the Bulgarian Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works having as counterpart the Ministry of Local Self-government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Following approval by the European Commission in December 2007(Commission Decision C(2007)6298, December 14, 2007), the Programme did not become operational until after the first Joint Monitoring Committee meeting in March 2008 (approval of the JMC Rules of Procedures, Communication strategy, job profiles for the JTS staff, eligibility TA expenditures) and the second Joint Monitoring Committee meeting in March 2009 (Discussion and approval the Guidelines for Applicants including the criteria for selection of operations). On the second JMC meeting was decided the first call for proposals to be launched on 31 March 2009 with deadline for submission of



project proposals – 30 June 2009. It was expected that the first projects will be approved in October 2009. Because of different interpretation of legislation concerning the eligibility issues under IPA Cross-border Programmes it was necessary to have clarification by the Commission and to postpone the launching of the first call for proposals.

Thus the Programme was still at the planning stage in 2008, with no operational activity throughout the year.

The Financing Agreement between the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Commission of the European Communities concerning the Bulgaria - the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia IPA Cross-border Programme has been signed on October 13, 2008.

The Memorandum of Understanding regulating the functions and relations between the Programme managing bodies has been drafted and circulated among interested parties.

Some activities aiming at promoting the Programme and establishment of necessary structures (JTS) have been pre-financed from the Bulgarian state budget.

The indicators which will be used to monitor the progress at Programme level are shown in the table below:

Programme Result Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
<i>Joint information services established</i>	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	2										
	Baseline	0										
<i>Increased cross-border movement of people and exchange of goods and services in the region</i>	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	1.5%										
	Baseline*	1 project										
<i>New Social Economic enterprises created</i>	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	2										
	Baseline	0										
<i>Improved environment for development of relationships across the border</i>	Achievement	0										
	Target 2016	3%										
	Baseline*	6 projects										
<i>Projects actually applied</i>	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	3%										
	Baseline	As a baseline will be considered the number of financed projects under the sphere of intervention „Project Preparation”										
<i>Decreased pollution in the region</i>	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	2%										
	Baseline*	3 projects										
<i>Awareness –raising on environmental protection</i>	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	2.5%										
	Baseline*	6 projects										
<i>Increased attractiveness of the region based on preservation of natural resources and cultural heritage</i>	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	2%										
	Baseline*	10 projects										
<i>Increased common cultural capital</i>	Achievement	0										
	Target 2016	2%										
	Baseline*	18 projects										

\* The projects implemented in the respective field under the previous Programme are accepted as a baseline.



- **Financial information (All financial data should be expressed in euro)**

During the year 2008, no expenditures were performed from the budget of the Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia IPA Cross-Border Programme. However, the total financial allocation broken down per sources of funding is shown in the table below.

Priority axes by source of funding (EUR) 2007 - 2009

Priority	Community Funding	National Public funding	Total funding	Co-financing rate (%)
	(a)	(b)	c=a+b	a/c*100:b/c*100
Priority Axis 1 Economic development and social cohesion	2 637 053	465 362	3 102 415	85:15
Priority Axis 2 Improvement the quality of life	3 296 316	581 703	3 878 019	85:15
Priority Axis 3 - Technical Assistance	659 263	116 341	775 604	85:15
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 592 632</b>	<b>1 163 406</b>	<b>7 756 038</b>	<b>85:15</b>

- **Information about the breakdown of use of the Funds**

Not applicable

- **Assistance by target groups**

Not applicable

- **Assistance repaid or re-used**

Not applicable

- **Qualitative analysis**

Not applicable

## **2.2. Information about compliance with Community law**

The compliance with Community law has been ensured during the entire programming process. All the relevant European regulations and directives have been taken into account and as mentioned in the programming document.

The compliance with Community and national law is ensured during the drafting of the implementation documents and shall be followed during the entire implementation period.

## **2.3. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them**

No significant problems were encountered during the programming phase.



## ***2.4. Changes in the context of the Programme implementation (if relevant)***

After the approval the Programme by the Commission the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia issued a governmental act concerning a new administrative division of the country. According to that act the two municipalities – Lozovo and Sveti Nikole are excluded from the eligible border region.

## ***2.5. Complementarity with other instruments***

The complementarity with other financial instruments will be ensured through mechanisms foreseen in the programming document.

The coordination of the Programme with other plans / programmes / instruments will be achieved by the national coordination structures in both participating countries. The representatives of national coordination structures participate in JMC sessions. Moreover representatives from ministries managing sectoral programmes will participate as advisors in JMC sessions which will ensure coordination and avoidance of overlapping of activities. Management Information System is a useful tool for this purpose.

## ***2.6. Monitoring arrangements***

Monitoring of the Programme shall ensure the quality of its implementation. The development and implementation of the monitoring system of the Programme is a responsibility of the Managing Authority. The Managing Authority and the Joint Monitoring Committee are responsible for monitoring the Programme implementation in accordance with the principle of sound financial management. The Joint Monitoring Committee observes the monitoring of the Programme implementation and ensures the achievement of the Programme objectives through a rational use of the allocated resources.

## ***2.7. National performance reserve (where applicable and only for the annual implementation report submitted for 2010)***

Not applicable

## **3. Implementation by priority**

### ***3.1 Priority Axis 1 - Economic development and social cohesion***

The objective of the priority axis is to improve the competitiveness and economic growth of the whole region in order to increase the employment and economic and social integration of the region.

For the period 2007-2009 approximately 2.6 million Eur Community Funding is available for this priority axis, matched by 0.5 million Eur national contributions.

#### **Spheres of intervention within Priority Axis 1**

##### **3.1.1. Economic development**



The objective of this sphere of intervention is to use and mobilise all opportunities in the field of economy, to enlarge the field of actions, to increase market possibilities and to create new steady partnerships. This sphere may have a key role for enhancement of the innovative development through development of research and technology, cooperation and marketing.

Creation of networks and clusters as flexible instruments for cooperation among research, development, qualification and other institutions will contribute for the economic growth of the region.

The indicators which will be used to measure the progress of this Sphere of intervention are shown in the table below:

<b>Programme Output Indicators</b>		<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>Total</b>
Business and educational linkages created	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	15										
	Baseline	0										
Communities & institutions participating in knowledge economy	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	7										
	Baseline	0										
Awareness campaigns of the benefits of ICT and new media	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	20										
	Baseline	0										
ICT trainings	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	10										
	Baseline	0										
Access to and usage of new technology	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	10										
	Baseline	0										
SMEs involved/addressed in CBC projects	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	7										
	Baseline	0										
Institutions / bodies benefiting of programme activities	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	50										
	Baseline	0										
New jobs created	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	50										
	Baseline	0										

### 3.1.2. Social cohesion

The objective of this sphere of intervention is to overcome the separating effect of the border and to promote correlations between the two sides. The activities in this sphere are aiming to contribute to the increase of social cooperation growth through strengthening of connections and cooperation between different actors serving as a backbone to various cross-border initiatives.

The indicators which will be used to measure the progress of this Sphere of intervention are shown in the table below:

<b>Programme Output Indicators</b>		<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>Total</b>
Joint cooperation projects on development of skills and knowledge	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	10										
	Baseline	0										
Training places created	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	3										
	Baseline	0										
Management and job-related training courses	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	5										
	Baseline	0										
People participating in training	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	350										
	Baseline	0										
People with enhanced skills	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	200										



	Baseline	0										
Business to education linkages	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	10										
	Baseline	0										
People from vulnerable groups trained	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	20										
	Baseline	0										
Scientific exchange and transfer of know-how	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	10										
	Baseline	0										
Networking structures created/developed	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	3										
	Baseline	0										
Joint plans for cooperation in sphere of human resources management	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	3										
	Baseline	0										

### 3.1.3. Project preparation

The objective of this sphere of intervention is to prepare mature project to apply under other EU and national financial sources.

The indicators which will be used to measure the progress of this Sphere of intervention are shown in the table below:

Programme Output Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Feasibility studies	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	5										
	Baseline	0										
Preliminary and detailed design works	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	7										
	Baseline	0										
Project environmental assessments	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	2										
	Baseline	0										

## 3.2 Priority Axis 2 - Improvement the quality of life

The objective of the priority axis is to enable a simultaneous protection and utilization of natural resources and cultural landscape values

For the period 2007-2009 approximately 3.3 million Eur Community Funding is available for this priority axis, matched by 0.6 million Eur national contributions.

### Spheres of intervention within Priority Axis 2

#### 3.2.1. Utilisation of eco resources

The objective of this sphere of intervention is to contribute to the preservation of natural resources biodiversity by applying environmental friendly approaches in all fields and increasing awareness to secure the sustainable use of resources. On the other hand there is cooperation potential in the field of eco-resources use for the development of the region (eco-, green-, rural-tourism, etc.).

The indicators which will be used to measure the progress of this Sphere of intervention are shown in the table below:

Programme Output Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Number of joint environmental friendly projects	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	20										
	Baseline	0										
Joint Eco-itineraries created/	Achievement	0	0									





developed	Target 2016	10										
	Baseline	0										
Joint tourist services created/ developed	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	10										
	Baseline	0										
Partnerships for cases of natural disasters established	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	2										
	Baseline	0										
Joint environmental management plans	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	2										
	Baseline	0										
Permanent networks for environmental protection and reasonable utilization of resources	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	5										
	Baseline	0										
Environmental awareness campaigns	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	15										
	Baseline	0										

### 3.2.2. Utilisation of cultural resources

The objective of this sphere of intervention is to foster the cross-border cooperation in the field of cultural affairs and thus contribute to the improvement of quality of life in the region. The development of cultural tourism potential will also lead to a reasonable and sustainable use of the opportunities of the region.

The indicators which will be used to measure the progress of this Sphere of intervention are shown in the table below:

Programme Output Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Number of projects concerning common cultural heritage	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	20										
	Baseline	0										
Tourist destinations created/ developed	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	10										
	Baseline	0										
Tourist services created/ developed	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	10										
	Baseline	0										
Surrounding area of cultural spots improved	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	7										
	Baseline	0										
Joint cultural events carried out	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	15										
	Baseline	0										
Events popularizing intangible cultural heritage and traditions	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	15										
	Baseline	0										
Awareness campaigns	Achievement	0	0									
	Target 2016	15										
	Baseline	0										

## 4. Major projects (if applicable)

Not applicable – no major projects will be financed under this programme.

## 5. Technical Assistance

To ensure an effective programme management and information flow the technical assistance goal is to improve the quality of cross-border cooperation and management tools.



The Technical Assistance will be used only for activities directly related to the Programme management. Technical assistance will be invested in the overall management and promotion of the programme, awareness rising, pro-active project generation, etc.

For the period 2007-2009 approximately 0.7 million Eur Community Funding is available for this priority axis, matched by 0.1 million Eur national contributions.

No amounts from TA budget of the programme were spent in 2008, but some activities have been pre-financed from the Bulgarian state budget as remuneration of the JTS staff, preparation and elaboration of promotional materials, elaboration of the web page of the Programme, organisation of technical meetings and JMC meetings, business trips.

### **Spheres of intervention within Technical Assistance Priority Axis:**

#### 5.1. Overall administration and evaluation of the Programme

Support to Managing Authority and Joint Technical Secretariat for tasks related to preparation of the necessary documents, appraisal and selection of projects, monitoring and evaluation of activities, control and audit of the Programme;

Daily allowances, travel accommodation costs covering the expenses for the participants from Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (representatives of MA, JTS, CA, AA, JMC, persons who are not directly involved, for example interpreters, drivers etc.) in events concerning the programme;

Administrative costs concerning the JTS (Main and Branch) including rent of premises, repair works, furniture and equipment, expenditures for electricity, heating, phones, water, consumables etc.

Staff remuneration costs for the JTS (Main and Branch).

#### 5.2. Publicity and communication

The participating countries Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia shall provide information on and publicise Programme and its operations. The information shall be addressed to the citizens and beneficiaries, with the aim of highlighting the role of the Community and ensuring transparency.

The information and publicity measures are presented in the form of a communication plan. (See item 6).

## **6. Information and publicity**

The information and publicity measures are presented in the form of a communication plan approved by the First JMC (March 13, 2008, Kyustendil). Their implementation shall be the responsibility of the respective administrative body responsible for the interventions (MA/JTS in coordination with NA).

The communication plan contains information on

- the aims and target groups;
- the strategy and content of the information and publicity measures;
- an indicative budget for the implementation;
- the administrative departments / agents responsible for its implementation;
- indication of how the information and publicity measures are going to be evaluated.



The Communication Plan for the Programme aims, on one side, disseminating information about the programme and thus increasing the participation into the programme of the potential beneficiaries, resulting into increased absorption capacity and transparency, and on the other side, increasing awareness of the population of the eligible region.

As it was mentioned in the previous item some activities have been pre-financed from the Bulgarian state budget as:

- kick-off event and Press conference before the First JMC meeting
- remuneration of the JTS staff – 3 persons (head and 2 project managers). JTS disseminates information concerning the Programme and supports the managing structures in implementation of publicity and information measures;
- preparation and elaboration of promotional materials:

The following materials have been prepared:

- 500 brochures containing basic Programme information – 250 in each language;
- 500 brochures presenting general summary of PRAG – in English;
- 500 paper bags;
- 500 cardboard files;
- 50 blocks format A4
- 2 movable banners.
- elaboration of the web page of the Programme: [www.ipa-cbc-007.eu](http://www.ipa-cbc-007.eu) . The web page was established and its development is ongoing;
- the main information concerning the Programme (Programme document, information regarding the JMC meetings, etc.) was published on the web pages of the Bulgarian Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works ([www.mrrb.government.bg](http://www.mrrb.government.bg) and [www.bgregio.eu](http://www.bgregio.eu)), as well as on the web page of the Ministry of Local Self-government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – [www.mls.gov.mk](http://www.mls.gov.mk);
- preparation of materials for article for the Panorama 27 magazine.



### Indicators for communication and publicity measures

	Activity	Indicator	2007	2008	2009	210	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total	
Programme Website	General information	Number of web-site visits	0	0									0	
		Target 2016	500 per year											
		Baseline	0											
	Partners' search facility	Number of new partnerships established	0	0									0	
		Target 2016	20											
		Baseline	0											
	Contact details	Number of web-site visits	0	0										0
		Target 2016	500 per year											
		Baseline	0											
Promotional materials	Information for mass media	Public awareness raised	0	0										
		Target 2016	2 %											
		Baseline												
	Leaflets	Number of leaflets produced	0	0									0	
		Target 2016	500 per call											
		Baseline	0											
	Brochures	Number of brochures produced	0	1000										1000
		Target 2016	500 per year											
		Baseline	0											
Seminars	Posters & banners	Number of posters	0	2									2	
		Target 2016	2											
		Baseline	0											
	Other promotional materials (gadgets)	Number of materials prepared	0	1050									1050	
		Target 2016	50 of each kind											
		Baseline	0											
	Info-days	Number of organizations/bodies attending	0	0										0
		Target 2016	40 per call											
		Baseline	0											
Thematic seminars/ workshops	Number of people attending	0	0										0	
	Target 2016	40 per event												
	Baseline	0												



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<b>Publicity campaign</b>	Print media campaign	Number of newspapers publishing issue(s) concerning the Programme	0	1								1	
		Target 2016	4 per year										
		Baseline	0										
	Press conferences	Information concerning decisions concerning the Programme	0	1									1
		Target 2016	1 per call										
		Baseline	0										
	Press releases	Information concerning decisions concerning the Programme	0	1									0
		Target 2016	1 per call										
		Baseline	0										
	Press Advertisements	Information concerning the definite call	0	0									0
		Target 2016	1 per call										
		Baseline	0										