



**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT 2011

for

Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

IPA Cross-border Programme

CCI No: 2007CB16IPO007



**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

Table of Contents

1. Identification.....	3
2. Overview of the implementation of the Programme.....	3
2.1. Achievement and analysis of the progress	5
2.2. Information about compliance with Community law	23
2.3. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them.....	24
2.4 Changes in the context of the programme implementation (if relevant)	27
2.5 Complementarity with other instruments	27
2.6 Monitoring arrangements.....	27
2.7 National performance reserve (where applicable and only for the annual implementation report submitted for 2010).....	32
3. Implementation by priority	32
3.1 Priority Axis 1 Economic development and Social Cohesion	33
3.2 Priority Axis 2 – Improvement the quality of life	38
4. Major projects.....	42
5. Technical Assistance (Priority Axis 3).....	42
6. Information and publicity	46





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

1. Identification

The Annual Implementation Report (AIR) for the Bulgaria–the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia IPA Cross-border Programme CCI No: 2007CB16IPO007 is drawn up in accordance with the provisions under Article 112 of the Commission Regulation № 718/2007.

The current report is the fourth AIR for the Bulgaria - the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia IPA Cross-Border Programme, CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007 and is covering the period from 1st of January 2011 till 31st of December 2011.

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 Republic of Macedonia as National Authority (NA).

Objective concerned:	IPA Cross-border Cooperation	
Programming period:	2007 - 2013	
Programme:	Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia IPA Cross-border Programme	CCI No. 2007CB16IPO007
Eligible area concerned:	On the Bulgarian side (NUTS III): Blagoevgrad district (14 municipalities) and Kystendil district (9 municipalities)	On the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia side (NUTS III): North-East statistical region (6 municipalities), East statistical region (11 municipalities) and South-East statistical region (10 municipalities)
Reporting year:	2011	

Date of approval of Head of MA:	18 th June 2012
Coordinated by National Authority:	8 th June 2012
Date of approval of the annual report by the Joint Monitoring Committee:	26 th June 2012

2. Overview of the implementation of the Programme

- **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**

Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 31st August 2010. The document signed, lays down the general rules for the implementation and financial management of the Programme as well as defines the





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

bodies involved in the management and control and allocation of functions (responsibilities and rights) of the bodies involved into the implementation of the Programme.

The signed MoU entered into force on 15 of March 2011 and published in Bulgarian Official Gazette on 19 of April 2011.

- **Description of the management and control systems**

As it was mentioned in the previous AIR, during 2010 the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works in its capacity of Managing Authority has submitted to DG “Regional Policy” of the European Commission a description of the management and control systems for the Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia IPA CBC Programme, CCI 2007CB16IPO007, together with a report and opinion by the Audit Authority - the Audit of European Union Funds Implementing Agency of the Republic of Bulgaria. The Description of the management and control systems is covering in particular the organisation and procedures of the Managing and Certifying authorities and other bodies involved in the implementation process, as well as the organisation and procedures of Audit authority and any other bodies carrying out audits under its responsibility as referred to in Article 102 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 718/2007.

With letter ref No DG REGIO E1 D(2010), DG Regional Policy of European Commission informed the MA that on the basis of examination carried out by the Commission under Article 119 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 718/2007, it is considerable that the compliance assessment documents submitted by the MA are acceptable and it is therefore satisfied that the management and control system set up for the Programme referred and comply to the provisions of Commission Regulation (EC) No 718/2007.

- **Programme Implementation Manual (PM)**

Programme Implementation Manual (and its annexes and appendixes) describes in detail the specific rules and procedures for implementation of the Programme. The document was developed during 2010 by the MA and its first version was approved by the Head of MA in July 2010 (version 1). During the reporting period in August 2011, the MA issued new version of the Programme Implementation Manual describing established management and control system for the three IPA Programmes in which Bulgaria participated during the current programming period. Along sides some amendments concerning specific rules, procedures, chapters or annexes have been made. The system for revisions, updates, modifications and development of the Programme Manual aims to tackle with amendments in the three IPA Programmes (where applicable), legislative modifications or unexpected socio-economic development, which has a direct impact on the implementation of the Programmes.





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

- **Project Implementation Manual (PIM)**

Project Implementation Manual (and its annexes), describes in details the specific rules and procedures for implementation of the projects funded under the 1st Call for proposals of the IPA Cross-border programme between Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The document was developed within 2010 by the MA and it was approved by the Head of MA in October 2010 (version 1).

During the year 2011 some amendments and clarifications were made to the PIM and its annexes, as reflected into version 1.1 July 2011.

The updated and improved Project implementation manual is available at Programme's web-page:

<http://www.ipa-cbc-007.eu/en/page.php?c=19>

2.1. Achievement and analysis of the progress

First Call for Proposals

- **Tendering phase**

1. Launching the Call and submission of project proposals:

As mentioned in the previous Annual report, the 1st Call for Proposals was launched on 14th September 2009 and the deadline for receiving project proposals was 14th December 2009, 16:00 local time.

Ninety three (93) project proposals have been received within the deadline and one (1) project after the deadline. From the submitted proposals within the deadline, sixty four (64) proposals have been submitted with Bulgarian Lead partner and twenty nine (29) with Lead partner from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

2. Assessment process:

The Assessment Working Group (AWG) for administrative compliance and eligibility check was assigned in 2010 and the Opening session, concerning the preliminary stage of the assessment process was held on 7th July 2010 at the premises of the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) in Kyustendil (Bulgaria).

During the preliminary session, it was found that all project proposals' packages were in good physical condition, sealed, not damaged and with preserved overall integrity and marking. The project proposals were opened in the order of their receiving in JTS office and in the Antennae office. Every project proposal was numbered - from 01 to 93, as the project proposal No 94 submitted after the deadline was not opened by the AWG.

- **Administrative compliance check**

The established AWG performed administrative review of 93 proposals held in three sessions during 2010. On the basis of the results of the administrative check 82 (eighty two) applications were in compliance with the administrative criteria set up in the Applicant's Guide therefore were proceeded for eligibility verification.





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

Based on the administrative check, the Assessment working Group recommended 11 (eleven) applications to be excluded for further assessment.

- Eligibility compliance check

Assessment Working Group performed eligibility verification check of 82 (eighty two) proposals held in two sessions during the year 2010. Based on the eligibility verification, AWG stated that all 82 (eighty two) applications were in compliance with eligibility criteria, set out in the Applicant's Guide and were recommended for technical assessment.

The table below indicates the applications submitted per priority axes and area of intervention and the numbers of the proposals that passed the relevant checks:

Distribution of projects by priority axis and spheres of intervention			Projects received (number)	Projects in compliance with the administrative and eligibility requirements (number)	Amount of projects in compliance with the administrative and eligibility requirements
Priority Axis 1 Economic development and social cohesion	1.1 Economic development	Soft	19	18	1 843 068,58
		Investment + Soft	9	6	1 942 976,26
	1.2 Social cohesion	Soft	12	11	992 954,20
		Investment + Soft	3	3	883 518,31
	1.3 Project preparation	Soft	5	5	248 151,80
Priority Axis 2 Improvement the quality of life	2.1 Utilization of eco resources	Soft	8	7	537 399,68
		Investment + Soft	8	4	1 143 276,27
	2.2 Utilization of cultural resources	Soft	17	17	1 563 163,21
		Investment + Soft	12	11	3 172 065,01
Total			93	82	12 326 573,32

- Technical and Quality Assessment

For the assessment needs under the 1st Call for proposals, an Assessment Working Group (AWG) on technical and quality assessment was established with administrative order ref. No РД-02-14-95/19.01.2011 issued by the Head of Managing Authority. The technical and quality assessment sessions of the AWG took place at the premises of JTS Kyustendil (in the period 24th January – 08th February 2011). According to the





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

AWG rules, each project was assessed by two assessors independently - one from each participating in the programme country. According to the competences of the previously selected assessors, the project proposals were distributed for execution of technical assessment.

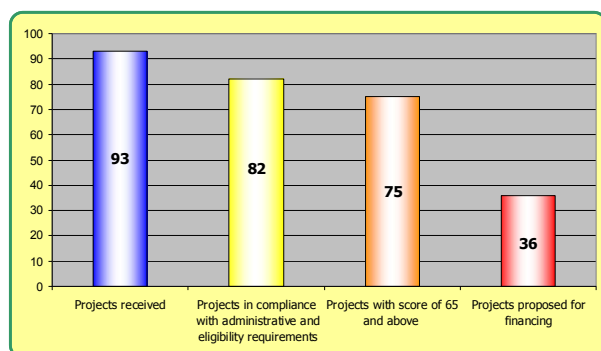
On the basis of the individual evaluation grids filled by each assessor, the information for the technical and quality assessment of all project proposals was summarized. The AWG ultimately drew up a list of proposals obtaining final scores above 65, ranked in descending order, within the limits of the funds available under the 1st Call for proposals. The reserve list was also established following the same approach.

Based on the decision of the Join Monitoring Committee (JMC), 20 project proposals under Priority Axis 1 and 15 project proposals under Priority Axis 2, as well as the reserve list of projects (2 projects for Priority Axis 1 and 5 projects under Priority Axis 2) were provisionally selected for financing under 1st Call for Proposals. Due to large number of projects passed technical and quality assessment, an additional amount of € 2 848 784 (amount of financial allocation for year 2009 of the Programme) had been proposed by the MA for allocation to the projects selected for financing under 1st Call for proposals. The total budget available for the First Call for proposals had been increased to **€ 6 980 436,00**, by JMC approval.

Reallocation under First Call for Proposal

Priority Axes:	Available amount	Increased amount (+available amount 2009)
Priority Axis 1: Economic Development and Social Cohesion	€ 1 836 290	€ 3 102 416
Priority Axis 2: Improvement the Quality of Life:	€ 2 295 362	€ 3 878 020
Total:	€ 4 131 652	€ 6 980 436

Based on the decision of the Join Monitoring Committee (JMC) 36 (thirty-six) project proposals were approved for financing under the 1st Call for proposals.



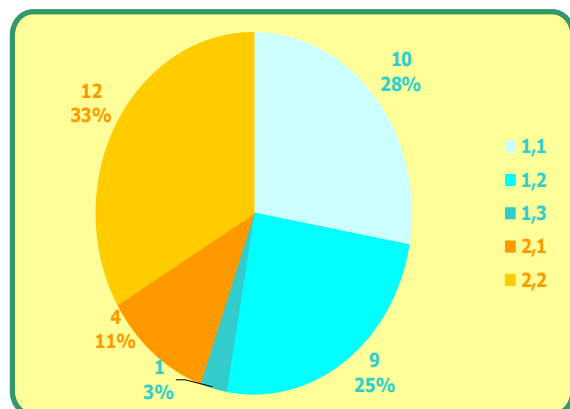
Results after administrative, eligibility and technical evaluation of project proposals



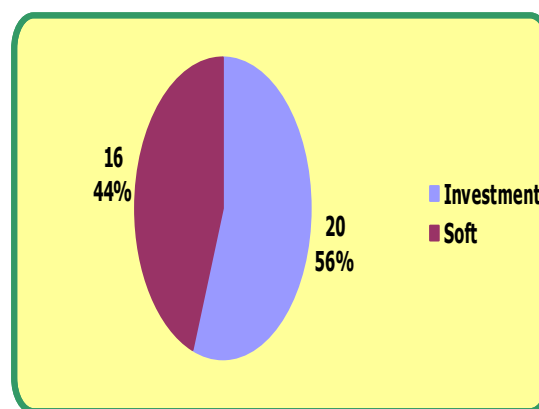


**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

Distribution of projects by spheres of intervention



Distribution of projects by type



- Pre-contracting and contracting phases**

The JMC gave a mandate to the MA, NA and JTS to carry out pre-contracting visits, including negotiations on the budget revisions for the provisionally selected projects for financing under 1st Call for Proposals. Pre-contracting site visits and negotiation procedures were conducted during the period 31st March 2011 – 08th April 2011, where 11 projects from Bulgarian site and 11 projects from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia site were visited in order to be monitored the actual status of the investment sites envisaged to be financed under the First Call for Proposals.

Negotiation procedures with 22 LPs from Republic of Bulgaria and 14 LP from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were held by appointed Negotiation Committee. The purpose of the negotiation procedures was to optimize project partners' budget breakdowns, based on the specific recommendations provided by the external assessors and on the good practices for sound financial management applied by the MA.

As results of the pre-contracting site visits and the negotiation procedures, **thirty four (34) projects have been proposed for conclusion of subsidy contracts** under the First Call for Proposals and **2 (two) projects** (ref.No 2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-65 and ref.No 2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-41) were declined for signature of subsidy contracts. The reasons for elimination of the abovementioned project proposals consist in the fact, that part of the project activities planned by LP of project ref.No 2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-65 and PP2 of project ref.No 2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-41, have been already implemented.

In accordance with administrative order ref.No RD-02-14-1548/20.07.2011 issued by the Head of Managing Authority, a Negotiation Committees were established for conduction of negotiation procedures with potential beneficiaries from the reserve list under 1st Call for proposals. The negotiation procedures were conducted in





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

July 2011, as a result one project was proposed for conclusion of subsidy contract (project ref.No 2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-16), while two projects from the reserve list (projects ref. No 2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-60 and ref.No 2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-23) were declined for signing a subsidy contracts, due to withdrawal by the LPs.

Between May and August 2011 **35 subsidy contracts** were signed under the 1st Call for Proposals of Bulgaria - the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia IPA Cross-border Programme, amounting to **6 367 922, 62** euro, from which:

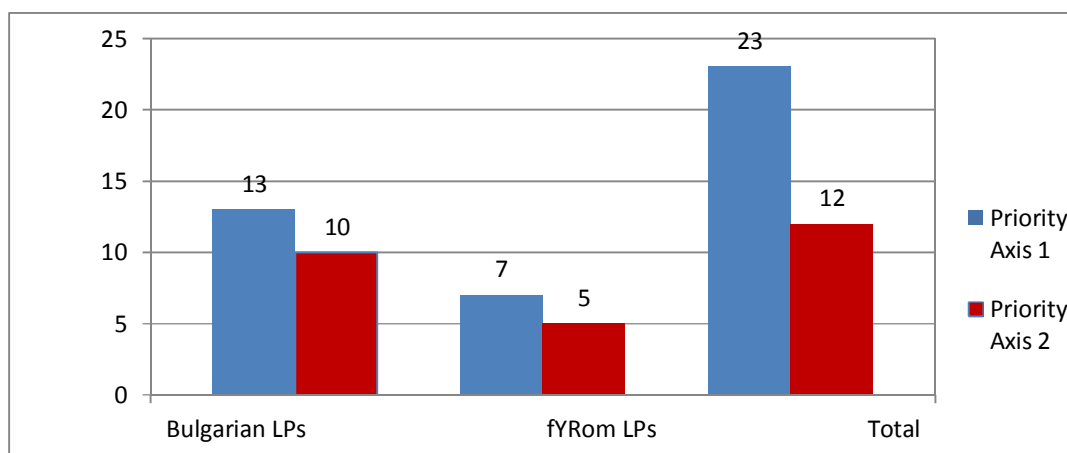
Contracted projects under First Call for Proposals

Priority Axes:	Number of Projects	Amounts
Priority Axis 1: Economic development and social cohesion	20	€ 2 945 023.65
Priority Axis 2: Improvement the quality of life	15	€ 3 422 898.97
Total project contracted under First Call for Proposals:	35	€ 6 367 922, 62

The information of the results from the contracting process under First Call for Proposals could be summarized as follows:

- 57 % of the contracted projects fall under Priority Axis 1 “Economic development and social cohesion” and their total budgets amount is 46% of the total contracted budget.
- 43 % of the contracted projects fall under Priority Axis 2 “Improvement the Quality of Life”. The total budgets of these projects take 54% of the total contracted budget under the Call.

The following graphic and statistic information present the contracted projects divided between the Programme’s Priority axes. Additionally, the share of projects by countries is presented graphically:





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

In 65 % of the contracted projects within Priority Axis 1 “Sustainable Social & Economic Development”, the Lead partners are from the Bulgarian site and in 35 % of the contracted projects - the Lead partners are Macedonian organizations.

In 67 % of the contracted projects within Priority Axis 2 “Improvement the Quality of Life” the Lead partners are from the Bulgarian site and in 33 % of the contracted projects - the Lead partners are Macedonian organizations.

List of awarded projects under the First Call for Proposals is presented in the current report as Annex II.

- **Implementation phase**

Status of implementation of projects for the year 2011:

During 2011, thirty two (32) projects were on-going – amounting to **6 172 803.68** euro. Three (3) contracts (ref. No 2007CB161PO007-2009-1-33, ref. No 2007CB161PO007-2009-1-34 and ref. No 2007CB161PO007-2009-1-76) were terminated, due to withdrawal by the PPs from project implementation (Schools - Vocational Technical School “John Atanasov” in Kustendil and Vocational School of Economics and Management “Yordan Zahariev” in Kustendil).

At the end of year 2011 fourteen (14) “soft measures” projects and eighteen (18) “investment” projects were on-going, from which seventeen (17) projects were at their final stage of implementation (with end date March, April, May and June 2012) – projects ref.No:

Project ref. number	Lead Partner	Duration
2007CB161PO007-2009-1-06	Association of South Western municipalities (BG)	12
2007CB161PO007-2009-1-11	Alliance for Regional and civil initiatives (ARCI) - Blagoevgrad (BG)	12
2007CB161PO007-2009-1-12	Association business information and consulting centre - Sandanski (BG)	12
2007CB161PO007-2009-1-13	Woman's Organization Stip (MK)	12
2007CB161PO007-2009-1-14	Alliance of the Producers of Ecological Energy – SOUTH Blagoevgrad (BG)	12
2007CB161PO007-2009-1-16	Tourist Fund Pirin Foundation - Gotse Delchev (BG)	12
2007CB161PO007-2009-1-19	American University in Bulgaria - Blagoevgrad (BG)	12
2007CB161PO007-2009-1-24	Kyustendil Municipality (BG)	10





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

2007CB161PO007-2009-1-31	"Chance" non-profit association for persons with intellectual disabilities - Razlog (BG)	12
2007CB161PO007-2009-1-39	Dramatic Theatre - Kyustendil (BG)	11
2007CB161PO007-2009-1-44	Institute for Orthodox Values and Cultural Development Foundation – Gotse Delcev (BG)	12
2007CB161PO007-2009-1-49	Center for development of the Third - Northeast planning region - Kumanovo (MK)	12
2007CB161PO007-2009-1-51	Community centre "Georgi Todorov" Belica (BG)	12
2007CB161PO007-2009-1-52	Municipality of Belica (BG)	12
2007CB161PO007-2009-1-73	Association textile and Clothes Branch organization of Southwest Bulgaria – Kyustendil (BG)	12
2007CB161PO007-2009-1-80	Municipality of Delcevo (MK)	12
2007CB161PO007-2009-1-90	Municipality of Konce (MK)	12

During 2011 one (1) Addendum has been signed for change in project partner 3 (NI Institute and Museum - Srtumica (MK) under project with ref.№ 2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-47 with Lead partner Municipality of Dojran (MK).

Request for extensions/modifications:

During the project life-cycle, due to the certain reasons, the following modifications in the Subsidy Contract might be necessary concerning the project implementation:

1. Modifications requested notification to MA;
2. Modifications requested approval by JMC and signature of Addendum.

The requested modifications by the beneficiaries during year 2011 are mainly related to the first type of modifications, requested prior approval by MA, namely:

- Modifications concerning the project's content (Application form) - modifications of the approved Application form related to change of the approved action plan -Section 3.6 Duration and action plan of the Application Form.The approval is received together with approval of the respective Progress Report.
- Budget changes -modification related to Budget reallocation between budget lines/sub-lines in the limit of 10%.Exclusion of VAT in the separate budget line is another budget change approved by MA.





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

- Administrative changes - all modifications concerning the administrative part of the project (change of bank account, contact details, address for communication). Changes of the project team are the most frequently requested modification during project implementation. Great number of project members had been replaced in the beginning and during projects' implementation. To be replaced the newly-proposed project member has to demonstrate the qualifications and competences relevant to the one he/she replaced.

All the aforementioned modifications became effective after written approval by MA.

- **Risk assessment**

In accordance with described procedures within PM, during 2011 Risk Management Group (RMG) was established, including representatives of MA and JTS. The main task of the RMG is to perform risk assessment on programme and project level through determination a baseline categorization of potential risks events and subsequent analysis and assessment. The RMG prioritizes the identified risks and provide Risk response plan to reduce the likelihood or consequences of risk impact.

- *Project Level*

During the reporting period, the initial risks' identification was performed by JTS during the first monitoring visit of the contracted projects. As result of the on the spot visits and projects progress reports, the RMG conducted risk assessment sessions. Based on the periodic evaluations of the risk six (6) projects under the First call for proposal are identified as a high risky, regarding possible delay in implementation of the planned activities and achieving all the project's objectives, namely:

- 2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-24 – Lead partner Municipality of Kustendil (Bulgaria), Project partner 2 Municipality of Stip (MK) and Project partner 3 Municipality of Kriva Palanka (MK);
- 2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-31 - Lead partner "Chance" non-profit association for persons with intellectual disabilities - Razlog (Bulgaria), Project partner 2 Center for support of persons with intellectual disabilities "Poraka" - Kumanovo (MK);
- 2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-44 – Lead partner Institute for Orthodox Values and Cultural Development Foundation – Gotse Delcev (Bulgaria), Project partner 2 Center for development and promotion "Promo Idea" - Strumica (MK)
- 2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-51 – Lead partner Community centre "Georgi Todorov" Belica (Bulgaria), Project partner 2 Municipality of Makedonska Kamenica (MK);
- 2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-53 - Lead partner Municipality of Dupnitsa (Bulgaria), Project partner 2 Municipality of Kriva Palanka (MK);





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

- 2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-84 – Lead partner Municipality of Berovo (MK), Project partner 2 Municipality of Strumyani (Bulgaria).

The most common risk events identified in the projects implementation under First Call for proposals, which could be bringing out are as follows:

- *financial risk* – project partners are not capable to meet expenditures on the projects within the planned time schedule;
- *procurement risk* - beneficiaries faced problems in carrying out procurement procedures under PRAG rules;
- *operational risk* – delays in the implementation, due to non-proper planning and starting of the project activities, poor communication between the project partners, changes in the project teams and/or in the project content, delays in sub-contracting, problems with documentations and language of the programme.

The results of the assessments together with determined options and actions to reduce the likelihood or consequences of risk impact on the project's objectives were summarized in "Summary Project Risk Assessment Report and Response Plan", which was approved by the Head of MA.

In order to mitigate the ascertained risks and untimely completion of the planned project activities, MA and JTS had taken several measures to observe the project progress and to support the beneficiaries. In relation to the Risk Response plan, during 2011 the JTS took the following measures:

- strictly observation of the quality of the project progress report (PPR), and for the projects with financial risks – the quality of the financial part of the PPR;
- observation of the progress of the projects and the respective timetable through strict monitoring of PPR, implementation of the procurement plan, project timetable, and related correspondence.
- observation of the subcontracting management by the PP mainly through consultations, site visits and participation (as observers) in opening sessions of specific procurement procedures.

- *Programme level*

According to the provisions under PM, at the end of each calendar year, the Chairperson of RMG prepared Programme Risk Assessment Report, which presents in detail all high and medium risks that have persistently occurred at project level together with the measures that have been taken for their mitigation, as well as any Programme level risks and weaknesses that can be identified at this stage. For the reporting period the main Programme level risks could be specified as follows:

- The First Level Control system becomes a serious challenge in the terms of the programme implementation. The late appointment of the First Level Controllers (the Controllers were appointed in January, and signed the Contracts with NA in March. They has started working in April 2012) has led to significant delays in verification of expenditures made by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

beneficiaries, and thus to important delays in the payments to the project partners. The delays in designation of the controllers on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia territory for the year 2011, could be classified as a high risk event for the proper programme implementation, where speed up measures should be taken by the NA in order the accumulated delay in the verification process to be overcome;

- The accumulated delays in completing the compliance process, and afterwards, in contracting and paying to the project partners has led to an important de-commitment of funds at the end of 2011, following the n+3 rule, and thus hindered the Programme implementation. The de-commitment situation for the following years, and in particular for 2012, represents a serious risk considering the current level of absorption funds by beneficiaries;

- The existing operational problems of the JTS branch office in Strumitsa could be classified as a risk event in view to ensuring day-to-day efficient support to the project beneficiaries on the territory of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;

- The existing difficulties in communication between MA and NA could be also determined as a risk event, which could hinder the Programme implementation.

The risks events, as well as problems identified at programme level are described in details in the next chapters of the current report.

• Second Call for Proposals

Second Call for Proposals under the Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was launched on 14th of June 2011 with deadline for receiving project proposals on 14th of September 2011, 16:00 local time. The Second call for proposals was announced on the Programme web-page <http://www.ipa-cbc-007.eu/en/page.php?c=4> and in electronic and press media.

Following the launch of the Second Call for Proposals, the JTS in cooperation with Managing Authority and National Authority organized two information campaigns for potential beneficiaries – “Info days”. The Info days were held in Strumica (MK) on 13th July 2011 and in Kyustendil (Bulgaria) on 15th July 2011.

Totally 199 participants had an opportunity to receive a brief information about the results of the First Call and a detailed information on the Second Call of proposals such as topics on guidelines for applicants, eligibility criteria, assessment of proposals and etc. A special training session for potential applicants regarding the application package (application form and annexes) and general requirements for submission of the proposals and a workshop session were also performed within these events.

Additionally, on 29th July 2011 in Sandanski (Bulgaria) the JTS in cooperation with Managing Authority and National Authority organized Partnership forum where more than 82 potential applicants have met all together with representatives from the Programme authorities as well as other economic, social and





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

environmental partners from the both border regions. During the Forum, beneficiaries under the First Call of proposals have shared their partnering experiences and the potential applicants have exchanged information on their partner needs as well as their project ideas within the session.

One hundred twenty two (122) project proposals have been received within the deadline and four (4) projects after the deadline. From the submitted proposals within the deadline, seventy seven (77) proposals have been submitted from Bulgarian Lead partners and forty five (45) from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Lead partners.

For the assessment needs under the 2nd Call for proposals, an Assessment Working Group / AWG / has been established with Administrative order ref. № RD-02-14-1969/28.09.2011, issued by the head of MA. Following the provisions under the amended Programme implementation Manual, the administrative and eligibility checks were performed simultaneously during four (4) assessment sessions, held between the period - 03rd October 2011 – 08th December.2011. Evaluation report for administrative and eligibility check was prepared by the AWG, in which it was reported 94 applications were in compliance with the administrative and eligibility criteria set up in the Applicant's Guide therefore were preceded for technical assessment. The completed administrative and eligibility grids for each of the applications submitted within the deadline were attached also to the Evaluation report.

Distribution of projects by priority axis and spheres of intervention			Projects received (number)	Projects in compliance with the administrative and eligibility requirements (number)	Amount of projects in compliance with the administrative and eligibility requirements
Priority Axis 1 Economic development and social cohesion	1.1 Economic development	Soft	19	16	1 336 969,33
		Investment + Soft	12	11	5 397 807,57
	10.2 Social cohesion	Soft	15	11	1 044 748,24
		Investment + Soft	22	19	8 257 144,41
	1.3 Project preparation	Soft	4	3	149 084,62
Priority Axis 2 Improvement the quality of life	2.1 Utilization of eco resources	Soft	15	12	947 206,53
		Investment + Soft	16	12	5 659 372,54
	2.2 Utilization of cultural resources	Soft	10	7	688 283,60
		Investment + Soft	9	3	792 996,93
Total			122	94	24 273 613,77





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

The technical and quality assessment of the project proposals, which were in compliance with the administrative and eligibility requirements, was held in the first quarter of 2012. More details concerning the results from the technical and quality assessment, will be described in the next Annual implementation report.

- **Audits under the Programme**

Within the year 2011 the Executive Agency “Audit of European Union Funds” of the Republic of Bulgaria, which is designated as Audit Authority for the Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia IPA Cross border programme 2007-2013, has conducted a “Systematic audit for assurance on effective functioning of management and control systems” under the programme and submitted its Final report on 4th of August 2011. Following 4 level scale for formulating the final assessment for the programme, the Audit Authority’s opinion refers to level 2 “Work, but some improvements are needed”.

The preliminary audit report was submitted to the Managing Authority of the programme on 29th of July 2011 and encompasses ten (10) findings of which five (5) were determined with “low level” and five (5) with “medium level” of significance following 3 level scale of classification. The preliminary audit report specific objectives were focused on key requirement 1 “Clear determination and division of functions between and in the framework of the MA” and key requirement 2 “Adequate procedures for selection of operations”. Following the findings formulated within the preliminary audit report the MA adopted roadmap and launched measures to overcome the shortcomings identified by the AA. The general issues underlined by the AA mainly related to indicative timeframe for each stage of assessment process, technical issues related to evaluation grid, procedures for carrying out quality control over First Level Controllers performance, trainings for external assessors, MIS contents, etc. The supplementary activities were undertaken and duly fulfilled by the MA in the 4th quarter of 2011 in accordance with the audit recommendations.

- **Evaluation under the programme**

Multi-annual Evaluation Plan for Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia IPA Cross-Border Programme 2007-2013 was elaborated and approved by JMC in 11th of May 2011. The Evaluation Plan defines and explains the overall coordination arrangements for the on-going evaluation process under the programme. Following the evaluation plan, the Programme is subject to three evaluations, aiming to improve the quality, effectiveness and consistency of the assistance, as well as the strategy and implementation of the Programme.





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

The main purpose of the first evaluation (internal analysis) was examination of the output and result indicators, which are going to be achieved in result of project implementation under First Call for Proposals in order to assess the extent of achievement of the programme's indicators.

As a result of the analysis, a Methodology for output and result indicators under the Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia IPA Cross-Border Programme (CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007) were uploaded to the Programme web-page:

http://www.ipa-cbc-007.eu/upload/docs/Methodology_Programme_Indicators_BG_FYROM_IPA_Programme.pdf

and recommendation for using the methodology during the preparation of the Application Form was incorporated in the Guidelines for applicants under the 2nd Call.

During the year 2011, another internal evaluation related to achievement of objectives set out in the Communication plan was carried out by the MA. The result of the evaluation directs the improvement of the communication plan in the following main points:

- Refining the communication objectives and activities in order to be respected the logic intervention objective-activity-result (indicators).
- Improvement of the indicators (definition and quantities) in order to become accurately SMART.
- Including the result and impact indicators in order to assess the general awareness of the public about the programme.
- The reliable source data for monitoring the indicators to be ensured.

As a result of the evaluation, an Indicative Plan for implementation of the recommendations given by the evaluation has been elaborated and strictly observed by the Communication officer in the JTS. The revised Communication plan is uploaded on the programme web-page:

http://www.ipa-cbc-007.eu/upload/docs/IPA_CBC_BG_MK_Communication_Plan_final_August_2011.pdf

In the year 2012, an external on-going evaluation will be carried out under the Programme. The evaluation will examine the implementation of the Programme, of a broader nature, against the standard criteria of effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, impact and sustainability. It will look towards the following programming period with a view to identifying priorities for funding on the basis of the experiences of implementation of the Programme.

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

The table below presents the result indicators which are used to monitor the progress at programme level. The table contents baselines and indicators achieved during 2011 in compliance with Methodology of Programme output and result indicators assessment elaborated under the Programme. It is aiming more precisely defining of the indicators and their measurement. The achievements on programme level will be reported as soon as the projects under First Call for Proposals complete theirs implementation.





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

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

Programme Result Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
<i>Joint information services established</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	2										
	Baseline*	8										
<i>Increased cross-border movement of people and exchange of goods and services in the region</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	1.5%										
	Baseline*	46										
<i>New Social Economic enterprises created</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	2										
	Baseline*	20										
<i>Improved environment for development of relationships across the border</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	3%										
	Baseline*	18										
<i>Projects actually applied</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	3%										
	Baseline*	1										
<i>Decreased pollution in the region</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	2%										
	Baseline*	1										
<i>Awareness – raising on environmental protection</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	2.5%										
	Baseline*	32										
<i>Increased attractiveness of the region based on preservation of natural resources and cultural heritage</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	2%										
	Baseline*	8										





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

Increased common cultural capital	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	2%										
	Baseline*	37										

* The table above represents data on the grounds of contracted projects level and successfully finalized activities

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

The total value of the IPA CBC Programme Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia the period 2007 - 2013 is € 21 063 157.00 out of which € 17 903 682.00 are European funding and € 3 159 475.00 national co-financing from state budgets by both partnering countries. The division of financial support between priorities 2007-2013 is shown in the table below:

Breakdown of priority axes by source of funding:

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	7 161 473.00	1 263 790.00	8 425 263.00	85:15
Priority Axis 2 Improvement the quality of life	8 951 841.00	1 579 737.00	10 531 578.00	85:15
Priority Axis 3 - Technical Assistance	1 790 368.00	315 948.00	2 106 316.00	85:15
Total	17 903 682.00	3 159 475.00	21 063 157.00	85:15

*The table above represents data for the period 2007-2013 according to the approved by the JMC on 12th of October 2011 amendment related to new financial allocations covering the period 2012 and 2013 of the Bulgaria-the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia IPA Cross border programme which follows the adoption by the EC of the Multi-annual Indicative Financial Framework 2011-2013. There is acknowledgement as of 14th October 2011 for receipt via SFC2007 system of the financial tables covering the period 2012-2013 of the programme. Revision of data is pending due to de-commitment rule proceedings.

- De-commitment of Programme funds (n+3 rule)**

The significant delay in completing the compliance process, and afterwards, in contacting and paying project beneficiaries under 1st Call of Proposals, resulted in an important de-commitment of programme funds at the end of year 2011, following the n+3 rule (pursuant to Article 166 of the Council Regulation No 1605 of 25th June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities). Although the measures taken by the MA for speeding up the verification process the implementation process, (possibility for additional verifications of expenditures, trainings for beneficiaries, individual consultations etc.), the level of absorption of the fund by the project partners during the first





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

quarterly period was unsatisfactory and below the expected target. In addition, it should be noted that some delay in verification process was accumulated on the territory of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, due to the significant delay in designating of the Controllers (January 2012).

Automatic de-commitment was applied to the Programme for 2011 by the EC and the MA was accordingly notified about reducing of the amount of **486 508.22 euro** under the Programme, which should be reflected in the updated financial plan of the Programme.

In the table below it is shown the accomplishment status of n+3 rule by 31st of December 2011:

Programme Payment targets*				EC advance payments 2007-2009	EC reimbursements 2007-2011**	Total advance + reimbursements	Amounts to be included in application for payment in order to avoid N+3Risk		
2008	2009	2010	2011				2012	2013	2014
0.00	0.00	0.00	605 798.00	3 296 316.00	0.00	3 296 316.00	2 690 518.00	2 744 330.00	2 799 216.00

*** Cumulated amounts 2007-2011*

In order to be avoided further de-commitment for year 2012, the Programme has to declare to the EC the reimbursed expenditures amount to 2 690 518.00 euro.

Under the First Call for Proposals, 32 subsidy contracts were on-going on the total amount of 5 246 883.12 euro (IPA contribution) and 20% of the contracted projects budgets (total amount of 1 234 560.73 euro) was granted as advance payments to the beneficiaries. In order to avoid the possible de-commitment for 2012, at least 50 % of the value of the signed contracts should be paid and subsequently certified by the Certifying Authority.

In addition, it is expected that in the middle of 2012, the MA is going to sign contracts under the Second Call for Proposals and it is possible around 10% of the amount of those contracts to be actually verified by the end of 2012.

Due to the fact that no expencies were declared to the Commission for the year 2011, as well as the the de-commitment situation for the following years, and in particular for 2012, it could be considered that more proactive measures should be taken by all Programme bodies, in order to avoid further losses of funds. In that connection, beside all measures taken till now, the MA and JTS are still continuing to provide additional efforts to support the project beneficiaries, including performance of individual consultations, publishing additional guidance and templates of the most frequently used project documents, tender dossiers and day-to-day communication.





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

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

The table below presents actual financial data for year 2011. As it is evident from the presented information for year 2011 the project beneficiaries submitted to the MA requests for payment amount to 148 639.15 euro.

As it is shown in the table below, no expenditures were paid to the beneficiaries under the First Call for proposals, due to the fact that most of the expenses were made by the Bulgarian project partners in the fourth quarter of the year, and the verification process was expected to be completed in the beginning of 2012. Concerning the expenditures made by the project partners from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – no verification was made during the 2011, because of the delays in designating the Controllers.

Priority axes by source of funding (EUR)

	Expenditure paid out by the beneficiaries included in payment claims sent to the MA	Corresponding Community and Public contribution (IPA + National public)	Private expenditure	Expenditure paid by the body responsible for making payments to the beneficiaries	Total payments received from the Commission (excluding adv. payment)
PRIORITY AXIS 1	25 241.47	25 241.47	0	0	0
PRIORITY AXIS 2	2 538.16	2 538.16	0	0	0
PRIORITY AXIS 3	120 859.52	120 859.52	0	0	0
GRAND TOTAL	148 639.15	148 639.15	0	0	0

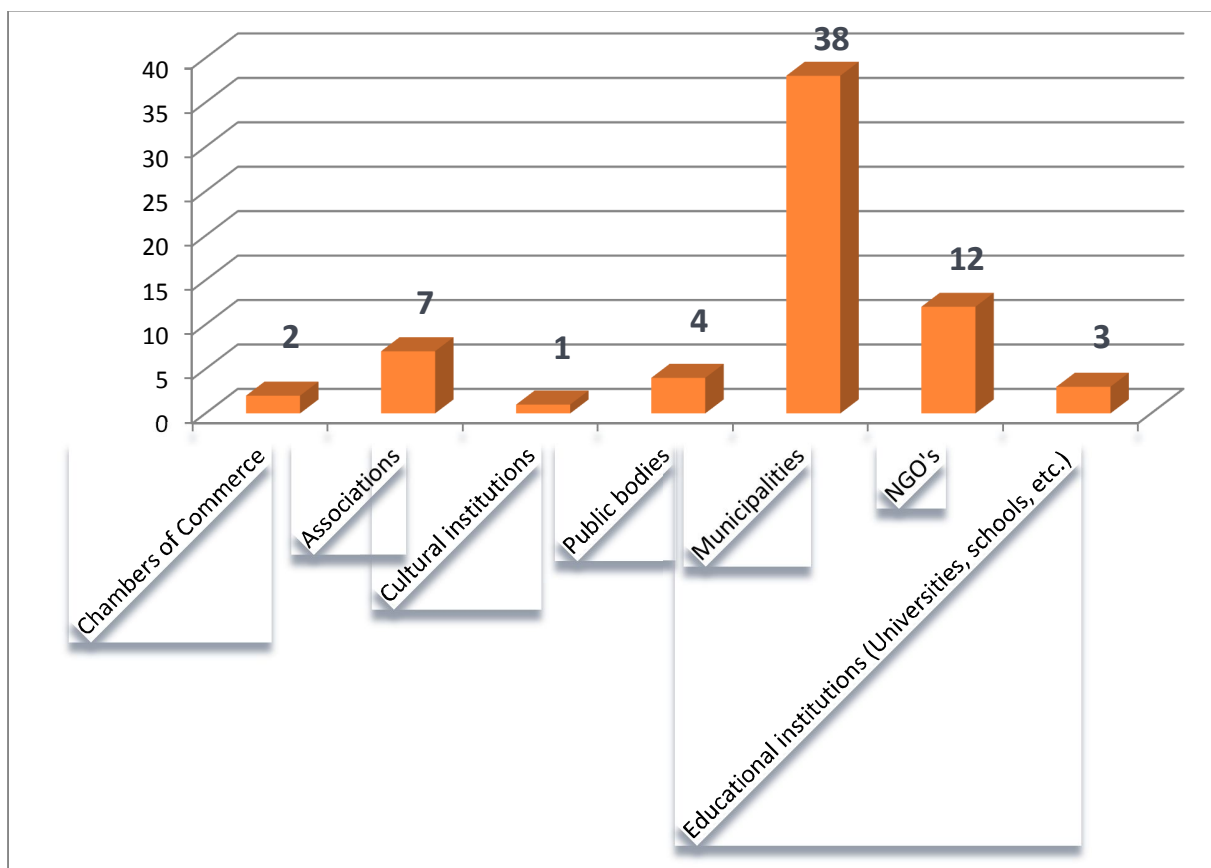
- **Assistance by target groups**

Number of entities implementing projects under the First Call for proposals, classified by target groups (state of play as of 2011) are shown in the next chart:





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**



- **Assistance repaid or re-used**

Not applicable

- **Qualitative analysis**

During 2011, major steps were taken in order the accumulated delay to be overcome and the de-commitment of funds to be avoided. The MA completed the contracting process under the First Call for Proposals and the overall assessment process was carried out according to the indicative time. The pre-contract site visits and negotiation procedures were carried out smoothly, bringing out some minor shortcomings in the guidelines for applicants and technical evaluation (overcome in the Second Call).

In general, the First Calls for Proposal can be considered successful from the point of view that a sufficient number of proposals have been received, indicating a vivid interest to the Cross-border programme. The response on the First Call for proposals, reveals a positive trend in submission of qualitative applications under all spheres of intervention within the Programme. In fact, as it was described in chapter 2.1 the good





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

quality of the applications predetermines additional allocations of fund available to the First Call for proposals. The amount of the allocation for the First Call for proposals was increased with almost 59 %.

The most of the subsidy contracts under the First Call for Proposal were signed in the period May – August 2011. After conclusion of the subsidy contracts under the Programme, were made frequent administrative changes – changes of the team members due to long period between the deadline for submission of project proposals and signed of the subsidy contracts.

Additionally, the legislative requirement for appointment of project staff on labor contracts base, became an obstacle for the proper starting of the projects. In general, the delay in the appointment of the project management staff accumulated delays in the initial phase of implementation of most of the projects. The first implementation trimester for many of the projects finished with the establishing of the projects team and the most of the expenses made in that period, were mainly for the salaries of the project staff. During the second trimester, the beneficiaries have started to overcome the accumulated delay of the project activities, as most of the project partners requested modification of the project's timeframe, in order to catch up the existing delays. Most of the procurement procedures were launched during the second trimester and major part of the planned project activities were successfully implemented.

In order to provide maximum facilitation to the beneficiaries, the MA and the JTS introduced on the Programme web-site relevant information related with the project implementation, such as: **templates** of the most frequently used documents– Project progress reports, Request for payments, Tender dossiers for PRAG procurement procedures, example time sheets etc.

“Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQ) section on the programme web-site were applied and regularly updated.

The horizontal themes are also taken into consideration through the standard format of the application form developed in the context of the Programme. As result, the applicants and beneficiaries are requested to justify how their projects observe the Programme provisions on horizontal themes. During the implementation of the projects in the year 2011, these rules were strictly observed, through reviewing and checking the relevant part of Project progress reports.

2.2. Information about compliance with Community law

The Programme has been prepared in accordance with Community Strategic Guidelines 2007 – 2013 priorities – especially in the area of improving of the attractiveness of the cross-border region and further developing of the human resources.

The Programme is compliant with the main EU strategic documents, notably with the Lisbon and Gothenburg strategies, targeting sustainable development, equal opportunities and cross-border partnership.





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

The overall strategic goal and the priority axes of the Programme are fully compliant with main Bulgarian and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia national strategies and programmes, which are indicated in the Programme document. In order to ensure sound financial management of the Programme, the MA initiated a respective procedure and Decree No 221 of Council of Ministries for eligibility of expenditures was adopted on 11th of September 2009.

There are no problems encountered relating to the compliance with Community law in the implementation of the Programme.

Changes in rules regarding eligibility of the expenditures

With Council of Ministers' Decree № 330 of 5th of December, 2011 (Published in Bulgarian Official Gazette № 98 of 13th of December 2011) amending Council of Ministers' Decree No 62 of 2007 regarding the adoption of National rules on eligibility of expenditure under the operational programmes co-financed by the Structural and Cohesion funds of the European Union, in relation to the 2007-2013 financial framework (Published in State Gazette, № 27 of 2007), a *"Methodology for the determination, payment and reimbursement of expenditure for the remuneration of employees in the administration of central and territorial authorities of the executive power, the administration of local self-government authorities and the administration of the judiciary for the management and implementation of projects and participation in the evaluation of project proposals under operational programmes co-financed from the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund of the European Union"* was adopted. The Council of Ministers' Decree № 330 entered into force on the day of its promulgation in the Bulgarian Official Gazette – on 13th of December 2011.

The subject matter of the approved methodology is the remuneration, which could be paid to the employees (civil servants) of State administration (central and local) and the administrations of municipalities in relation with the performance of activities for managing or implementing projects under operational programmes financed by the Structural and Cohesion Funds of EU. The methodology shall be applied for all Bulgarian partners in the implementation of projects, for which subsidy contracts are signed after the Council of Ministers' Decree entering into force.

2.3. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

The Programme has had important delays in completing the compliance process and afterwards in contracting and paying projects beneficiaries. This situation has hindered its implementation and led to an important de-commitment of funds at the end of 2011, following the n+3 rule (486 508.22 euro should be reduced from the Programme budget). Considering the low amount declared to the Commission for the year 2011, the de-commitment situation for the following years and in particular for 2012, represents a serious challenge considering the level of expenditure to be certified. The target amounts to be included in





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

application for payment for the year 2012, in order to avoid automatic de-commitment of funds, following n+3 rule, are 2 690 518.00 euro. The problem related with the late start of the FLC system on the territory of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, determines a serious risk for non-achievement of the target amounts for the year 2012 and further losses of Programme funds.

In that connection, the MA and the JTS have therefore taken a proactive approach for taking all necessary measures to solve the existing problems, and in particular by providing support to all project partners, as well as a road map for avoiding additional de-commitment of fund was also been discussed among the responsible programme bodies.

During Programme implementation the following main significant problems on Programme level encountered:

- Delay in process of verification expenditures, made by the project partners from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The missing First Level Controll system in 2011 on the territory of the partnering country has led to significant delays in the verification process, and thus in the payments to the beneficiaries. No money has been paid so far to the project partners, although the subsidy contracts were signed in the period May-August 2011;
- Delays in providing the respective National co-financing from the partnering country;
- Problems, related with spending funds on priority axis 3 - Technical Assistance by the National Authority of the Programme;
- Problems related with the salaries paid to the experts employed to run the office in Strumica (MK) and in general with the expenditures related to the operation of the branch office of the JTS, which hindered the supporting process to the beneficiaries;
- Difficulties in the daily communication between the MA and the NA, which are hindering the whole functioning of the Programme.

The following main significant problems on Project level, which encountered during 2011, could be summaries as follows:

- Low rate of absorption of funds under the projects (mainly project partners from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);
- insufficiently active communication between project partners, which generates delays in implementation of planned activities, according to the time schedules in the subsidy contracts;





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

- Difficulties in preparation of tender documentation and specific annexes from the Project implementation manual (difficulties in using the official language of the programme – English, as well as gaps in awareness of the specifics of PRAG);
- Frequent changes in project teams and/or hiring experts with insufficient experience in implementing projects with European funding;
- Discrepancy between financial capacity declared by the project partners in the Application forms and the actual financial situation during the project implementation (lack of sufficient financial resources).

In order the existing problems to overcome, the JTS in cooperation with the MA took the following measures during 2011:

- Active communication and organization of technical meetings with the National Authority, on which were discussed options for improvement of the FLC system and possible ways and abilities for assistance the beneficiaries in project implementation;
- Conducting training sessions to beneficiaries, aimed to the specific requirements and procedures in implementation of the projects under the First Call for proposals;
- Organizing “Open Days” events in the premises of JTS, on which were discussed in details rather questions on technical nature, raised by the project partners from the both sides, as well as possible solutions to deal with different situations and problems;
- Examples of the mostly used documents in the project implementation process have been uploaded on the web-site of the programme (Project Progress Reports, Request for First Level Control and Request for Payment; Time sheets - Reports for the hours worked on the project etc.); Examples of Tender Dossiers for each type of contract (Service, Supply and Works) have been elaborated and they were published on the programme web-site. The MA is responsible for monitoring of the new/updated versions of PRAG and for providing timely instructions and advises to the beneficiaries in accordance with the changes occurred.
- The “FAQ” section on the web-sites of the programmes are being updated permanently in order to acquaint a wider number of beneficiaries with the MA opinion on several issues of technical and financial character (order and method of assigning the responsibilities, calculating and payment of salaries, reporting and acceptance of work, performed by the experts from the Bulgarian project partners teams, procedures for approval of an exception of a Rule on nationality and origin etc...)
- Daily consultations for the members of the project teams on topics, related to the project implementation (tender procedures, preparation of specific annexes and project documents, requests for change in the subsidy contracts, etc.)





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

- Participation of the JTS main office representatives as observers in the Tender Opening Sessions in the sub-tendering procedures; and
- On-the-spot visits, in order to assess the real progress of the project implementation and to advise the project teams when different cases and problems occur.

In general, even though the programme has faced significant delays with the submission of request for payments by the LPs in the course of 2011, it could be noted that the quality of the submitted project related documents - progress reports, request for FLC and payments, correspondence, etc. have been improving. The quality of the prepared tender dossiers and the sub-tender procedures launched, have been improving as well. Despite the lack of interim payments during 2011, on the base of good partnership relations, most of the projects were running on a satisfactory level, with the active participation of the partners from both sides of the border.

2.4 Changes in the context of the programme implementation (if relevant)

After the approval of the Programme by the European Commission, the following facts appeared requiring changes in the text of the Programme:

According to the approved by the JMC on 12th of October 2011 amendment, related to the new financial allocations covering the period 2012 and 2013 of the Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia IPA Cross border programme, the breakdown of priority axes by source of funding has to be updated in the Programme financial tables. Following the adoption by the EC of the Multi-annual Indicative Financial Framework 2012-2013, the acknowledgement for receipt via SFC2007 system of the financial tables covering the period 2012-2013 of the programme has been received on 14th October 2011.

2.5 Complementarity with other instruments

The complementarity of Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia IPA Cross-border Programme with other instruments has been thoroughly analysed already in the programming phase and it is discussed in detail in Chapter 4.7 of the Operational Programme Document.

Complementarity with other financial instruments will be ensured through mechanisms foreseen in the programming document. The coordination of the Programme with other plans / programmes financial instruments will be done by the national coordination structures in both participating countries.

The representatives of national coordination structures participate in JMC sessions. Representatives from ministries managing sectoral programmes also participate as observers in JMC sessions ensuring coordination and avoiding overlapping. Another useful tool for this purpose is the Management Information System of the Programme.

2.6 Monitoring arrangements





IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007

The Description of management and control systems ensures reliable accounting, monitoring and financial reporting system.

- **Programme level**

The Managing Authority and the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) 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.

During the reporting period, one **JMC** meeting was carried out. It took place on 11th of March 2011 in Kyustendil, and was co-chaired by Ms. Lilyana Pavlova, at that time Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works of the Republic of Bulgaria and Head of the MA. The JMC members have discussed the results of the First Call projects evaluation, reallocation of fund for this Call. As a result JMC conditionally approves for financing under the First Call for Proposal: 20 project proposals under Priority Axis 1 and 15 project proposals under Priority Axis 2, as well as the reserve list of projects (2 projects for Priority Axis 1 and 5 projects Priority Axis 2). The JMC also approved the Technical Assistance budget for 2011, JTS annual work plan, increase of the amount available for the First Call for Proposals. After discussion JMC approved an increase of the maximum amount for investment projects from 300 000 euro to 500 000 euro and maximum duration of soft measure projects from 12 months to 18 months.

During 2011, six (6) **JMC written procedures** were carried out with the following main subjects:

- On 11th of May JMC approved the Multi-annual evaluation plan;
- On 3rd of June JMC approved the Application package for 2nd Call for project proposals of Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia IPA Cross-border programme;
- On 29th of June JMC approved the Annual implementation report for 2010 for the Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia IPA Cross-border programme, Financial report for the disbursed resources under Priority Axis 3 – Technical Assistance for 2010, Evaluation on achievement of objectives set out in the Communication plan, Proposal for exclusion of project with reference number 2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-65 from the list of applications to be funded under the First^t Call for Proposals;
- On 12th October 2011 JMC approved the revision of the Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia IPA Cross-border programme – new financial allocation, covering the period 2012-2013;
- On 1st of December JMC approved the revised TA budget for 2011 of the Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

- On 21st of December JMC approved the documents related to the TA budget for 2012, including: Guidelines for Eligibility of Technical Assistance Expenditures, Annual Technical Assistance plan and budget for 2012, updated Communication plan, Annual work plan of the JTS for 2012;

During the period under review one Joint technical meeting was held on 12th of March 2011 in Strumica (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) with participation of representatives from the Europe Commission, MA and JTS (in the absence of representatives from the NA). The main focus of the technical meeting was addressed on the issues related to the operation of the JTS branch office, and in particular on the issues about the salaries to the experts employed to run the office, the need of provision of office equipment (computer configurations with appropriate software) as well as telephone and internet connection. During the meeting it was broadly discussed the issues regarding the projects under the First Call for proposals, such as pre-contracting site visits, monitoring visits during project implementation stage, providing day-to-day support to the beneficiaries and others.

- **Project level**

The overall monitoring at the Projects level is carried out by the JTS for Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia IPA Cross border Programme with main office located in Kyustendil, Bulgaria and a branch office placed in Strumica. The JTS implements the main monitoring tools – on the spot checks and checks of PPR, verifying the proper implementation of the projects in conformity with the provisions of the Subsidy Contract, objectives of the Application form and Programme rules.

Initial visits to projects under the First Call for Proposals have been carried out between 4th of July 2011 to 8th of July 2011 and 32 Lead partners have been visited. The initial visit conducted by JTS and MA experts aimed to assess the level of awareness of the project team about terms and conditions of the Subsidy Contract and the programme implementation rules, and to identify the initial risks for the project implementation. The general conclusions from these visits could be summarized that a large number of projects envisaged changes in the project teams, which caused insignificant delays in the implementation of the project activities, as per the subsidy contract's time-schedules. The insufficient capacity in PRAG sub-tendering procedures, as well as the project partners' capability to meet the current expenditures under the projects implementation, could be perceived as an obstacle for smooth implementation of the projects.

Due to delay in contracting of three (3) projects under the First Call for proposals, the initial visits to the LPs were carried out as follows:

- on 08th of August 2011 at the premises of the Lead partner under the projects No 2007CB16IPO007-2009 - 1- 53 - Municipality of Dupnica;
- 09th of August 2011 at the premises of the Lead partner under the projects No 2007CB16IPO007-2009 - 1- 61 - Municipality of Bansko;





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

- 17th of November 2011 at the premises of the Lead partner under the projects No 2007CB16IPO007-2009 - 1- 16 - Tourist fund PIRIN Foundation – Gotse Delchev.

Ad-hoc (interim) visits were carried out between 19th of October 2011 and 21st of October 2011. Seven on-the-spot visits were performed by experts from the MA, CA and the JTS (7 project partners within 3 projects were subject to check - project ref No 2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-24, ref No 2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-52, ref No 2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-90). The checks were designed to determine the actual progress in implementation of project activities by each project partner; the compliance of the implemented activities with the time-schedules and provisions under the Application form; conformity of the activities carried out with the respective programme rules and procedures etc.

The main conclusion from the ad-hoc monitoring visits could be summarized as follows:

- The projects progress was in line with the time-frame in almost all of the monitored projects and planned deliverables for the respective trimester were achieved. However the absorption of the funds was going slower. The insignificant delays detected in the first trimester were overcome in the next reporting periods.
- General visualization requirements were followed in general;
- The public procurement procedures were carried out according to the project procurement plan and in compliance with the provisions under PRAG;
- There were relevant supporting documents providing the labour input and activities performed. Some problems concerning the appointment of the project team members for projects ref No 2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-24, ref No 2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-52 were detected. The omissions in labour contracts were promptly corrected and the project teams were fully operational.

Additionally, JTS officers have participated as observers at the opening sessions of selected tender procedures, launched by project partners in 2011.

- **Control verification process.**

According to the Management and Control System Description, the MA implemented “quality checks” on the ongoing projects through First level control (FLC) system. The FLC system is developed in accordance with Art. 16 of Regulation (EC) 1080/2006 in order to make possible in the framework of the IPA CBC Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Programme (2007-2013) to verify: (1) the delivery of the products and services co-financed; (2) the soundness of the expenditure declared for operations or parts of operations implemented on the Bulgarian territory; (3) the compliance of respective expenditures and related operations with Community rules and applicable national rules.

The FLC entails the following checks:





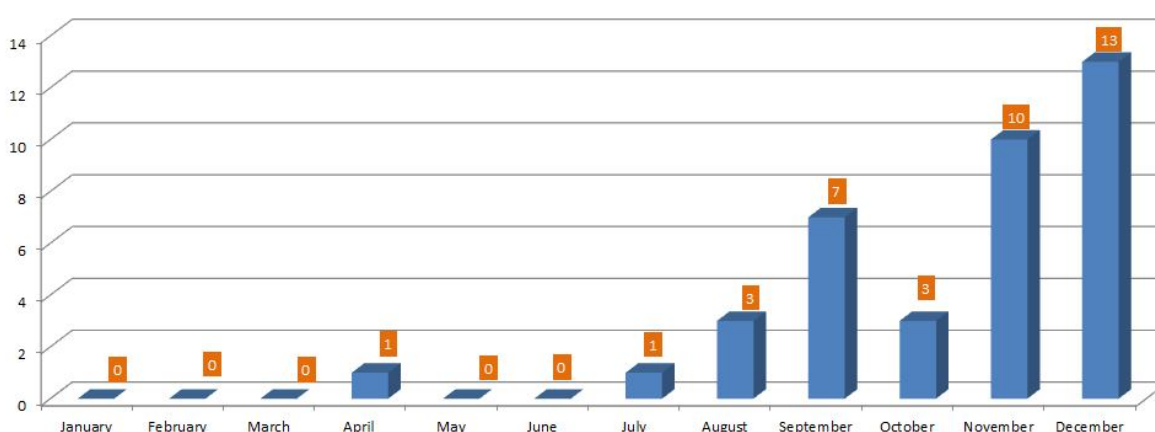
**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

- verification of the delivery of the products and services (as described in the approved Application Form which is the reference point for the approval decision regarding the activities and finance; and/or the project subsidy contract – which sets the legal background for the implementation of the project.);
- verification of the soundness of the expenditure declared;
- verification of the compliance of such expenditure with Programme, EC and national rules.

During the year 2011, the FLC system was duly implemented for the purposes of verification of expenditures for amounts spend by the project partners implementing projects signed under the 1st call for project proposals. The Bulgarian side set up a decentralized FLC system and Macedonian side adopted also decentralized FLC system.

In Bulgaria the First level control is carried out by Controllers selected by the DG “Territorial Cooperation Management” within the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works in accordance with respective national rules from a list of external independent Controllers (established on state level), authorized by the Ministry in its capacity of Managing authority for IPA CBC Bulgaria - the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (2007-2013). Within the year 2011, fourty two (42) requests for First level of control were submitted by project partners. The chart below represents the flow of invitations to First Level Controllers on monthly basis for the Bulgarian side.

Confirmed invitations by first level controllers to carry out FLC for project partners on the Bulgarian side (2011)





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

During 2011, the Bulgarian First Level Controllers encompassed 20 on-the-spot visits on the premises of respective project partners in Bulgaria which represented 19 projects and total verified expenditures amounted to 78 273,25 euro. As it is shown in the chart above, most of the requests were submitted in the last quarter of the year 2011, which reflected to the fact that no amounts were paid to the beneficiaries in the year 2011. The first interim payments to the Bulgarian project partners were performed at the beginning of 2012.

Due to delay in the appointment of the First Level Controllers on the territory of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, during the year 2011, no on-the-spot visits were performed to the respective project partners in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and no expenditures were verified in the reporting year.

- **Management Information System**

In order to facilitate the overall implementation of the Programme, at both programme and project level, the Management Information System is created as practical tool for performing the task of the relevant authorities (Managing Authority, National Authority, Certifying Authority, JTS). The information system is operational and under updating its functionality. The system's scope covers all joint programme and project level tasks as follows:

- *Programme and call for proposals management:* the adequately recorded programme data creates the basis for all sorts of further monitoring activities. Thus programme data like priority structure, budget, indicators etc. are recorded in order to facilitate programme-level monitoring and aggregations.

- *Project module:* functionality of the project section ensures tracking the whole life-cycle of projects including TA projects as the system facilitates the management and monitoring of a great number of project related tasks (contract and modification data, implementation data - management of progress reports and request for FLC, etc.).

- *Financial management:* the financial section is also a crucial part of the system's functionality. It ensures the sound management of Community funds.

- *Reporting:* in addition to the project applications and contracts data, a section for programme reporting and evaluation will be established during the current functionality's updating of the system.

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

Not applicable.

3. Implementation by priority





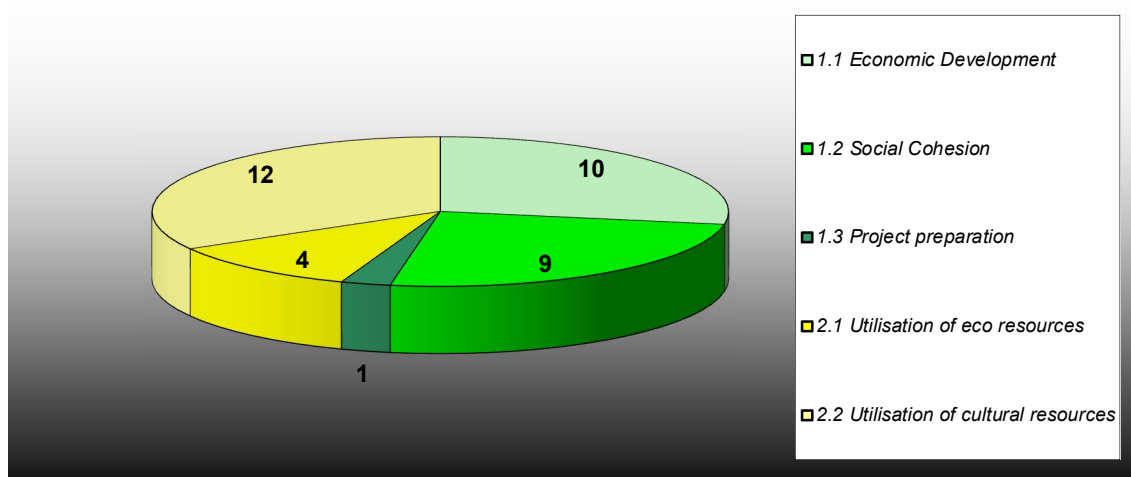
**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

According to the decision made by the JMC on 11th March 2011, thirty six (36) project proposals were approved for financing under the First Call for proposals, divided under priority axis as follows:

Priority Axis 1: Economic development and Social Cohesion – a total of 20 project proposals, 13 of which soft measures and 7 investment projects;

Priority Axis 2: Improvement of quality of life – a total of 16 project proposals, 3 of which soft measures and 13 investment projects.

The following chart presents the approved project proposals to the sphere of interventions under the programme.



3.1 Priority Axis 1 Economic development and Social Cohesion

The overall objective of this Priority axis is to increase the overall competitiveness of the cross border economy and to improve social development and social cohesion.

For the period 2007-2013 approximately 7.2 million Euro Community Funding is available for this priority axis, matched by 1.3 million Euro national contributions.

Under First Call for Proposals 20 projects are financed under Priority Axis 1 “Economic development and social cohesion” shared between the measures as follows:

- Sphere of intervention 1.1 “Economic Development” – 10 projects;
- Sphere of intervention 1.2 “Social Cohesion” - 9 projects;
- Sphere of intervention 1.3 “Project Preparation” – 1 projects





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

The largest number of projects under Sphere of intervention 1.1 covers an implementation period of 12 months, one is for 10 months, one is for 24 months and two are for 18 months.

Under Sphere of intervention 1.2, the largest number covers an implementation period of 12 months, one is with 22 months duration, one is for 24 months.

Under Sphere of intervention 1.3, is one project in implementation for 12 months..

3.1.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress

- **Information on the physical and financial progress of the priority**

Spheres of intervention within Priority axis 1

Sphere of intervention 1.1 Economic development

The objective of this sphere of intervention is to use and mobilize 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 has 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 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:

Programme Output Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Business and educational linkages created	Achievement	0	0	0	0	50						
	Target 2016	15										
	Baseline	9										
Communities & institutions participating in knowledge economy	Achievement	0	0	0	0	1						
	Target 2016	7										
	Baseline	0										
Awareness campaigns of the benefits of ICT and new media	Achievement	0	0	0	0	2						
	Target 2016	20										
	Baseline	9										
ICT training	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

	Target 2016	10										
	Baseline	9										
Access to and usage of new technology	Achievement	0	0	0	0	1						
	Target 2016	10										
	Baseline	0										
SMEs involved/ addressed in CBC projects	Achievement	0	0	0	0	130*						
	Target 2016	7										
	Baseline	50										
Institutions/ bodies benefiting of programme activities	Achievement	0	0	0	0	11						
	Target 2016	50										
	Baseline	194										
New jobs created	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	50										
	Baseline	30										

The table above represents data on the grounds of contracted projects level and successfully finalized activities

*The information is presented by the beneficiaries in PPR. The number consists 130 SMEs included in a business catalog.

Sphere of intervention 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:

Programme Output Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Joint cooperation projects on development of skills and knowledge	Achievement	0	0	0	0	7						
	Target 2016	10										
	Baseline	15										
Training places created	Achievement	0	0	0	0	2						
	Target 2016	3										





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

	Baseline	7										
Management and job-related training courses	Achievement	0	0	0	0	1						
	Target 2016	5										
	Baseline	51										
People participating in training	Achievement	0	0	0	0	26						
	Target 2016	350										
	Baseline	1460										
People with enhanced skills	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	200										
	Baseline	1460										
Business to education linkages	Achievement	0	0	0	0	2						
	Target 2016	10										
	Baseline	3										
People from vulnerable groups trained	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	20										
	Baseline	26										
Scientific exchange and transfer of know-how	Achievement	0	0	0	0	1						
	Target 2016	10										
	Baseline	4										
Networking structures created/ developed	Achievement	0	0	0	0	8						
	Target 2016	3										
	Baseline	11										
Joint plans for cooperation in sphere of human management	Achievement	0	0	0	0	1						
	Target 2016	3										
	Baseline	13										

** The table above represents data on the grounds of contracted projects level and successfully finalized activities*

Sphere of intervention 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:





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

Programme Output Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Feasibility studies	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	5										
	Baseline	0										
Preliminary and detailed design works	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	7										
	Baseline	1										
Project environmental assessments	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	2										
	Baseline	0										

- **Qualitative analysis**

The above tables represent summarized data of the output indicators under Priority axis 1 for the year 2011, achieved by the implementation of projects under the First Call for proposals.

Planned outputs and results of the projects are an integral part of the application form and Subsidy contract. Each applicant of the respective Call for proposal within the Programme has to choose project's output and result indicators relevant to the pre-defined Programme indicators. In the implementation phase of the projects, the Lead partners provide qualitative and quantitative data on the quarterly basis concerning the achievement of outlined projects indicators.

Following the information presented in the tables above, it could be summarized that implementation of the Priority Axis 1 "Economic development and Social Cohesion" is doing satisfactory. Under all spheres of intervention within the Priority axis 1 there is sufficient number of contracted projects under the First Call for Proposals, which could be considered as a good precondition for achievement of planned target values of the Programme indicators. For the three spheres of intervention within the Priority axis 1, there are 21 indicators defined for reporting purposes but at this stage (as of December 2011) for 7 of the indicators still there is no numbers for reporting. There is potential these circumstances to be overcome in the period after 2011 through speeding up launch of next Calls for project proposals, optimizing contracting and implementation processes.

As a good practise for the 2011 it could be reported that for indicator described as "Business and educational linkages created" (within sphere of intervention 1 "Economic development") there are currently reported data for 50 in comparison with envisaged target in 2016 for 15, as well as for the indicator described as "SMEs involved/ addressed in CBC projects" the reported figures for 2011 reached 130 in comparison with envisaged target for 7 in year 2016.





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

Although the accumulated delay in starting of projects activities within Subsidy contracts under First Call for proposals, some of the projects indicators were reported as achieved by the beneficiaries in the year 2011. The data presented above is filled on the grounds of contracted projects level and successfully finalized activities reported by the beneficiaries. The sufficient and relevant data of the actual achieved indicators under First Call for proposals could be presented after projects completion or when at least more than 2/3 of the contracted projects under the First Call are entirely accomplished. A comprehensive analysis of the level of achievement of the Programme indicators will be presented in the next annual report.

3.1.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

No significant problems could be encountered in implementing the priority.

Three (3) of the projects under this Priority axis 1 (project with ref. 2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-33, 2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-34 and № 2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-76) have been terminated due to withdrawal by the PPs from project implementation.

3.2 Priority Axis 2 – Improvement the quality of life

The overall objective of this Priority axis is to stipulate cooperation for protection of nature and specific fields of environment, protection of historical and cultural heritage as well as provision of assistance in emergency cases.

For the period 2007-2013 approximately 9 million euro Community Funding is available for this priority axis, matched by 1.6 million euro national contributions.

Under First Call for Proposals 15 projects are financed under Priority Axis 2 “Improvement of the quality of life” shared between the measures as follows:

- Sphere of intervention 2.1 “Utilisation of eco resources”– 3 projects;
- Sphere of intervention 2.2 “Utilisation of cultural resources” - 12 projects;

Two of the projects under Sphere of intervention 2.1 cover an implementation period of 18 months. One project has duration of 12 months.

Under Sphere of intervention 2.2 one project is for 11 months, three are for 12 months, two for 16 months, four are for 18 months, one is 22 months and one is for 24 months.

The data in the tables above shows the distribution of the projects under Priority Axis 1 and 2 by measures and their duration in months.





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

Priority Axis 1 SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	Number of Subsidy Contracts under First Call for Proposals	Duration of the contracts in months								Total contracted amount /euro/
		9	10	11	12	16	18	22	24	
<i>Sphere of intervention 1.1.</i>	9		1		5		2		1	2 945 023.65
<i>Sphere of intervention 1.2.</i>	10				8			1	1	
<i>Sphere of intervention 1.3.</i>	1				1					
Priority Axis 2 IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE										3 422 898.97
<i>Sphere of intervention 2.1</i>	3				1		2			
<i>Sphere of intervention 2.2</i>	12			1	3	2	4	1	1	
Priority Axis 3 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE										612 513.38
	CBC BG-MK Total for 1st Call /euro/									6 980 436

3.2.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress

Spheres of intervention within priority axis 2

Sphere of intervention 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:





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

Programme Output Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Number of joint environmental friendly projects	Achievement	0	0	0	0	3						
	Target 2016	20										
	Baseline	6										
Joint Eco-itineraries created/ developed	Achievement	0	0	0	0	1						
	Target 2016	10										
	Baseline	8										
Joint tourist services created/ developed	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	10										
	Baseline	7										
Partnerships for cases of natural disasters established	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	2										
	Baseline	1										
Joint environmental management plans	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	2										
	Baseline	15										
Permanent networks for environmental protection and reasonable utilization of resources	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	5										
	Baseline	1										
Environmental awareness campaigns	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	15										
	Baseline	18										

** The table above represents data on the grounds of contracted projects level and successfully finalized activities*





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

Sphere of intervention 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	0	0	12						
	Target 2016	20										
	Baseline	37										
Tourist destinations created/ developed	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	10										
	Baseline	33										
Tourist services created/ developed	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	10										
	Baseline	37										
Surrounding area of cultural spots improved	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	7										
	Baseline	26										
Joint cultural events carried out	Achievement	0	0	0	0	6						
	Target 2016	15										
	Baseline	20										
Events popularizing intangible cultural heritage and traditions	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	15										
	Baseline	21										
Awareness campaigns	Achievement	0	0	0	0	5						
	Target 2016	15										
	Baseline	55										

** The table above represents data on the grounds of contracted projects level and successfully finalized activities*

- Qualitative analysis**

The above tables represent summarized data of the output indicators under Priority axis 2 for the year 2011, achieved by the implementation of the projects.

For the both spheres of intervention (Sphere of intervention 2.1 – “Utilisation of eco resources” and Sphere of intervention 2.2 – “Utilisation of cultural resources”) within the Priority axis 2, there are 14 indicators defined for reporting purposes and at this stage (as of December 2011) for 9 of the indicators still there are no





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

numbers for reporting. There is potential the reported data for output indicators significantly to be improved in the period after 2011 through speeding up launch of calls for project proposals, optimizing contracting and implementation processes.

As a good practice for the 2011 it could be emphasized the reported figures for indicator described as “Number of projects concerning common cultural heritage”, which reaches 12 projects in 2011 and envisaged target is to have at least 20 projects in 2016.

3.1.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

No significant problems could be encountered in implementing the priority.

4. Major projects (if applicable)

Not applicable – no major projects were financed under the Programme during the reported period.

5. Technical Assistance (Priority Axis 3)

The aim of the Technical Assistance (TA) is to ensure an effective programme management and information flow, thus improving the quality of cross-border cooperation and management tools. The Technical Assistance is used only for activities directly related to the Programme management, and it invests in the overall management and promotion of the Programme, awareness raising, pro-active project generation, etc.

For the period 2007-2013 approximately 1.8 million euro Community Funding is available for this Priority axis, matched by 0.3 million euro national contributions.

In order to implement the activities under Priority axis 3 – Technical assistance, an Annual technical assistance plan is prepared by the MA, together with the other structures involved in the Programme implementation. The Annual Technical Assistance Plan is designed to provide detailed information about the Programme related activities envisaged to be carried out by the Managing Authority (MA), the National Authority (NA) and the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) under Priority axis 3 - Technical assistance of Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia IPA Cross-Border Programme and is subject of approval by the JMC.

Total budget forecast for 2011 is amounted to 378 790 euro, from which 259 750,00 euro allocated for MA and 119 040.00 euro for NA. The detailed indicative breakdown of budget for 2011 was approved by JMC on 11th March 2011.

The main activities carried out under Priority Axis 3 during the year 2011 were closely related to activities on the Programme level such as: JMC and technical meetings; assessment and contracting procedures under





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

First Call for Proposals; monitoring arrangements; operational FLC system; announcing the Second Call for Project Proposals; trainings of the MA, NA, JTS staff; public procurement procedures; and information and publicity campaigns, etc.

Quality check by Certifying Authority

Within the 2011 the “National Fund” Directorate at the Ministry of Finance of Republic of Bulgaria, acting as Certifying Authority (CA) for the Bulgaria-the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia IPA Cross border programme 2007-2013 has conducted a regular on the spot check before certification. The examination was conducted between the period 10th October 2011 and 18th October 2011 at the premises of MA and in compliance with the adopted procedures for performing on-spot checks by the CA. The subject of these checks was the verified expenditures under Programme for the period 2007 - October 2011.

Following the findings formulated in the CA On-the spot check report, the MA took the necessary measures to fulfil the recommendations given, including incorporation of additional check in the financial control system (FLC) in relation with detection of possible double financing of the projects' activities.

Based on the results from on-the spot check performed by CA, the amount of 3 386.07 euro was excluded by the CA from the total amount proposed for certification to the EC. Expenditures are mainly travelling costs and accommodation.

Spheres of intervention within Priority Axis 3:

Sphere of intervention 3.1 Overall administration and evaluation of the Programme

The objective of this sphere of intervention ensures:

- Support to the MA and JTS 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 including daily allowances, travel accommodation costs covering the expenses for the participants from both countries (representatives of the MA, JTS, CA, AA, JMC, persons who are not directly involved, for example interpreters, drivers etc.) in events concerning the programme.
- Determine 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. and also staff remuneration costs for the JTS (Main and Branch).

Joint Technical Secretariat team:

The JTS main office was established with two Project Management Experts (Ms Miglena Slavchova and Ms Emilia Stoianova), one Head of the JTS (Mr Nikolai Dochev) and a Communication officer (Mr Dragan Velichkovski). During 2011 a financial expert (Mr. Georgi Drumoharski), who was appointed within the MA





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

structure, has joint to the JTS main office team. In this respect during the reporting period the number of the JTS main office team increased to five persons.

Two project experts were appointed to the Joint Technical Secretariat branch office in Strumica (Ms Tanya Palifrova and Ms Irena Babamova). As it was mentioned above, during 2011 some problems araised mostly related with remuneration of the JTS branch office experts.

Trainings for the Programme staff:

During 2011, MA and JTS staffs attended to several thematic seminars organized by INTERACT and as result 9 persons were trained in different sphere of IPA programme management. In addition, the MA has organized a training seminar “Management and implementation of the European programmes on territorial cooperation”, which were held between 28th and 30th November 2011 in Sofia. Experts from MA and JTS of the France-Wallonie-Bruxelles cross-border Programme have shared their experience and lessons learned.

Trainings for Bulgarian First Level Controllers were held on:

- 4th April 2011 in Sofia. During the training the following main topic were presented: Guidance for First Level Control for CBC Programme Romania – Bulgaria 2007-2013, discussions on the findings in the report of the Executive Agency ‘Audit (key findings and proposals from the audit report (DG ‘TCM’; Frequent issues during the implementation of FLC), Guidance for First Level Control for ETC Programme Greece – Bulgaria 2007 – 2013, ‘Mechanism to penalize and to exclude of the First Level Controllers’ database of the Controllers failed to fulfil their obligation during the implementation of FLC’. The training session was attended by 45 First Level Controllers.
- 12th September 2011 in Sofia. The lectures from MA presented to the participants: general information about the IPA cross-border programmes and the process for verification of the expenditures, information about the independent controlling procedures executed by First Level of Control (with cases and examples), as well as examples of Check procedures for selection of contractor under PRAG and the application of horizontal financial corrections. The mechanism for sanction and removal from the Controllers’ database, when they have lapse in the performance of their imputed duties;
- 7th October 2011 in Sofia. During the training the following main presentations were made: general information about the CBC programs financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the process of verifying the expenditure, independent control procedures applied in the implementation of the First Level of Control (with cases and examples); verification procedures for selecting subcontractors under the Bulgarian National legislation for Public Procurement.

Public procurement procedures:





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

In order to ensure proper administration and publicity of the Programme, the following public procurement procedures have been carried out under the Programme:

- Service procedure for maintenance of MIS and web site for Bulgaria - the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia IPA Cross-border Programme: on 14th June 2011 a competitive negotiated procedure for maintenance of MIS and programme website was launched. As a result of the procedure a contract with STRATEGMA Agency Ltd (Bulgaria) was signed on 26th of September 2011. The contract is amounted on 15 336 Euro and its period of implementation is 36 months, till 27th of September 2014. The main tasks of the Contractor are related with on-going support and maintenance of the MIS and providing upgrade and modifications of the web site of the Programme.

- Supply of IT equipment for the JTS main office (Kyustendil, Bulgaria): on 7th of October 2011, the Managing Authority initiated a competitive negotiated procedure for supply of IT equipment under IPA Cross-border Programmes. On the basis of item 2.4.13 of PRAG, the tender procedure was cancelled due to higher prices offered by the selected tenderer in compare with the amount available for the tender. Consequently, the Managing Authority started negotiation procedure with the tenderer CAD R&D PROGRESS CENTER LTD. Till the end of year 2011, the negotiation procedures was not accomplished. The contracted is expected to be signed in 2012.

- Supply of promotional materials under the Programme: the tender procedure for supply of materials for IPA Cross-border Programmes (managed by the Republic of Bulgaria) was launched on 14th of June 2011. Based on the selection process, it was ascertain that the administrative and technical compliant applicant had offered higher price than the available for the tender. Following the negotiation procedure started on the basis of item 2.4.13 of PRAG, a contract with KUKUDA GROUP Ltd was concluded on 20th of October 2011. The implementation period is 30 days. The contract expired in terms of outstanding contracts' commitments as on 21.11.2011 and within the implementation period the Contractor failed to fulfil the contract's obligations and to deliver the promotional materials subject of the contracts. New procedure for supply of the promotional materials is launched in beginning of 2012.

Sphere of intervention 3.2 Publicity and communication

The objective of this sphere of intervention ensures:

- Preparation, translation and dissemination of the Programme related information and publicity materials including but not limited to the programme website, official Programme documents, procedure manuals, bulletins, brochures, posters, etc.; as well as expenses for consumables as paper, files, folders, cases, diskettes, compact disks, etc.

- Organisation of public events as conferences, seminars, workshops, round table discussions, trainings for beneficiaries, networking and awareness-raising events, partner search forums etc. including





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

rent of halls and equipment (audio-, video-, translation- equipment), expenses for interpreters, lecturers, trainers (should not be persons involved in the programme); expenses for coffee breaks, refreshments, business dinners and lunches for all participants in the events;

- Purchase of advertising materials as CDs, USBs, hats, bags, note books, folders etc. as well as expenses for publications in radio, TV and press.

6. Information and publicity

Detailed Communication plan

The aim of the Communication Plan is to ensure broad dissemination of the information about the programme, to guarantee the transparency of the programme's implementation and to increase the awareness of the local stakeholders about the programme's possibilities. The implementation of the Communication plan is responsibility of the Managing Authority, National Authority and JTS.

Generally, the Communication plan contains the following information:

- the aims and target groups;
- the strategy and content of the information and publicity measures;
- the indicative budget for the implementation;
- the administrative departments / agents responsible for its implementation;
- indication about the evaluation methods which will be used;

The Multi-Annual Evaluation Plan of the IPA Cross-Border Programme Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, envisaged an evaluation related to achievement of objectives set out in the Communication plan to be conducted within 2011.

The evaluation aims to measure the effectiveness and impact of the current implemented communication activities under Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia IPA Cross-Border Programme, CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007 in terms of the objectives, measures, messages and tools; timing and target groups/audiences.

The result of the evaluation directs to improvement of the communication plan in the following main points:

- Refining the communication objectives and activities in order to be respected the logic intervention objective-activity-result (indicators).
- Improvement of the indicators (definition and quantities) in order to become accurately SMART.
- Including the result and impact indicators in order to assess the general awareness of the public about the programme.





IPA Cross-Border Programme CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007

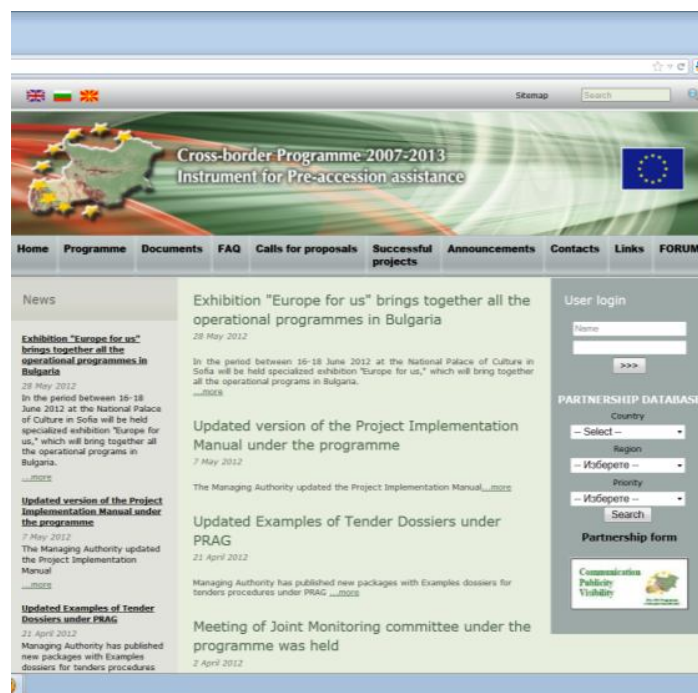
- The reliable source data for monitoring the indicators to be ensured.

After the completion, the Report of the Evaluation of the Communication Plan has been proposed for approval by the JMC (*written procedure was launched in June 2011*). In compliance with the provisions of the Multi-Annual Evaluation Plan, the Evaluation report was presented for consideration to EC in June 2011. Thus, the information and publicity measures carried out in 2011 are presented in the form of the approved revised version of the Communication plan. During the reporting period the most of the communication activities were carried out, as planned and the relevant targets were reached.

Annex I presents a comprehensive list on communication and information activities during 2011.

Website

The Joint Technical Secretariat is responsible for the maintaining and updating of the Programmes web site with the relevant information about the Programme: <http://www.ipa-cbc-007.eu/en/index.php>



During the reported period, the Programme web site was constantly updated with the relevant information of the Programme (events, news, documentation etc.). The web site was updated in several sections: "Frequently asked questions", "User's forum", and "Partner search forum". The newly established section "Partner search forum" contains information about 76 potential partners (organizations and institutions) from Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

The screenshot shows the website interface for the IPA Cross-Border Programme. At the top, there are flags of the United Kingdom, Bulgaria, and North Macedonia, along with a Sitemap and Search bar. The main banner features a map of the region and the text "Cross-border Programme 2007-2013 Instrument for Pre-accession assistance" next to the European Union flag. Below the banner is a navigation menu with links: Home, Programme, Documents, FAQ, Calls for proposals, Successful projects, Announcements, Contacts, Links, and FORUM. The "Announcements" link is highlighted. Below the menu, the breadcrumb trail reads "Home / Partnership database". The main content area is titled "Registration form" with a note "* Required fields". The form includes input fields for Name, Organization, Partner info (a dropdown menu), Country (a dropdown menu with "-- Select --"), Region (a dropdown menu with "-- Select --"), Municipality (a dropdown menu with "-- Select --"), E-mail, and Telephone.

In section "Documents" were uploaded filled in exemplary templates of the most frequently used in the implementation stage documents. One of them is the filled in templates of PRAG tender dossiers for all types of contracts (works, supplies and services). During 2011 the web site was one of the main publicity tools used to promote the Programme and disseminate the relevant information. The "News" section is particularly useful to both general public and the potential beneficiaries since it is continuously updated with information on all the relevant events, trainings, info-days, and news in general.

Additionally, in order to ensure broad publicity of the information, the MA published the essential information concerning the Programme (Programme document, decisions of the JMC, Applicant's Guide etc.) on the web pages of the Bulgarian Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (www.mrrb.government.bg), on the web page of the EU Funds Directorate within the Administration of the Council of Ministers of Bulgaria (www.eufunds.bg), as well as and web site of the National Authority, the Ministry of Local Self Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – www.mls.gov.mk.

The statistical data concerning the Web site activities (including the number of visits on daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly basis) can be accessed here: <https://www.tyxo.bg/d/83478/daily> . The statistical data provided by this tool (See Annex I) shows the unique website visits for 2011 are 29 009, compared to the





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

8731 for 2010 reveals an increase of nearly 332 %. The monthly picture of visits shows that the interest rapidly increases in the period June – July 2011 with the launch of the Second call for proposals, to reach its peak in July 2011 (“Info days” campaign) with 5930 unique website visits – almost as the whole 2010. For all of the planned website activities the planned values were exceeded. This goes especially for the number of unique visits 27 times, the number of e-mails received through website contact details and the number of requests for partnership in the website.

WEBSITE STATISTICS BASED ON THE MONTHLY VISIT FREQUENCY				
MONTH	YEAR 2009	YEAR 2010	YEAR 2011	TOTAL
JANUARY	0	573	877	1450
FEBRUARY	0	722	846	1568
MARCH	0	860	1767	2627
APRIL	0	734	1282	2016
MAY	0	767	1347	2114
JUNE	0	687	3135	3822
JULY	0	578	3940	4518
AUGUST	0	683	3503	4186
SEPTEMBER	1526	715	3486	5727
OCTOBER	2637	812	2226	5675
NOVEMBER	2595	782	3754	7131
DECEMBER	1432	818	2846	5096
TOTAL	8190	8731	29009	45930

** The table presents the overall web-site visits of the Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia IPA Cross-border Programme CCI No. 2007CB16IPO007*

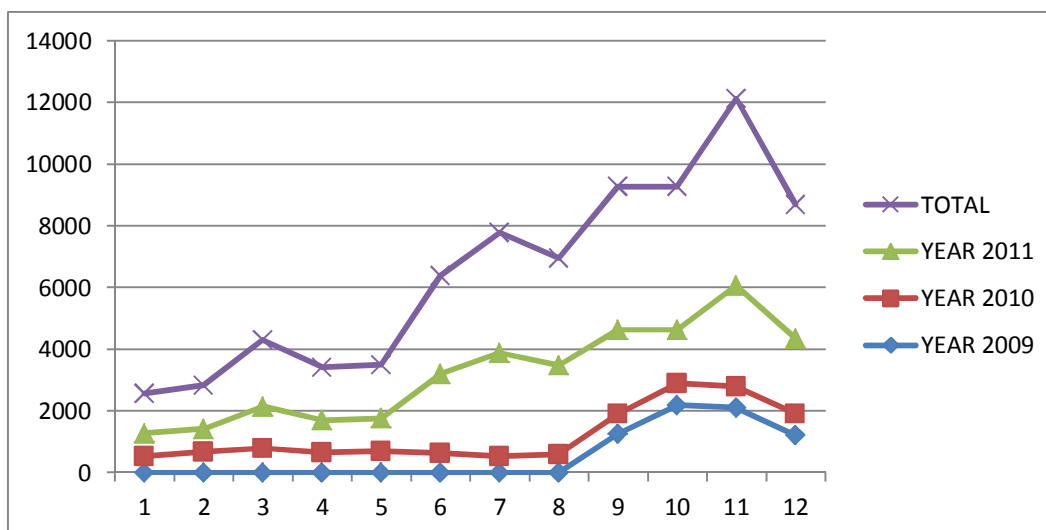




**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

WEBSITE STATISTICS BASED ON THE MONTHLY VISIT FREQUENCY				
MONTH	YEAR 2009	YEAR 2010	YEAR 2011	TOTAL
JANUARY	0	523	757	1280
FEBRUARY	0	664	748	1412
MARCH	0	784	1370	2154
APRIL	0	653	1056	1709
MAY	0	695	1057	1752
JUNE	0	622	2571	3193
JULY	0	528	3359	3887
AUGUST	0	601	2875	3476
SEPTEMBER	1252	646	2739	4637
OCTOBER	2181	702	1749	4632
NOVEMBER	2112	686	3259	6057
DECEMBER	1210	691	2438	4339
TOTAL	6755	7795	23978	38528

* The table presents the unique web-site visits of the Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia IPA Cross-border Programme CCI No. 2007CB16IPO007



* The graphics presents the unique web-site visits of the Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia IPA Cross-border Programme CCI No. 2007CB16IPO007





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

Although the Programme website proved to be a valuable Programme communication and promotion tool, there was a need for improvement in terms of functionality and design. Therefore, on June 2011, a public procurement procedure “Maintenance for MIS and websites for IPA cross-border programmes managed by Republic of Bulgaria” was launched. As a result of this procedure the contract for improvement of the Programme website and the MIS system was attributed to “Strategma Agency”, the contractor. The Communication officer directly communicates with the contractor in the terms of improvement of the Programme web-site.

Promotional materials

During the reporting period of year 2011 no promotional materials were prepared. Previously produced promotional materials, however, were distributed to the potential applicants and beneficiaries via information days and trainings organized and via consultations provided to the partners.

As it was stated above the supply for the promotional materials was failure and lack of promotional materials was compensated on the behalf of materials left from the previous 2009 tender and purchase of materials for each separate event organised under the programme. Nevertheless the lack of promotional materials did not lead to lower quality of the introduced communication activities.

Information days

The Second Call for proposals under the Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was launched on 14th June 2011. Following the launch of the Call, the Joint Technical Secretariat in cooperation with MA and NA have organized two „Info days“ events and one „Partnership forum“ in the border region.

The first „Info day“ event was held in Strumica on 13th July 2011. The second „Info day“ event was held in Kyustendil on 15th July 2011. Totally 199 participants had the opportunity to receive information about the results of the First Call for proposals and detailed information about the Second Call for proposals, such as assessment of submitted proposals, eligibility criteria, guidelines for applicants etc. A special training session for potential beneficiaries were also performed within these events. During this training, the potential beneficiaries were informed about the specificity of preparation of application package (Application form and Annexes) , as well as on the general requirements for submission of the proposals.

Additionally, on 29th July 2011 in Sandanski (Bulgaria), the JTS in cooperation with Managing Authority and National Authority organized “Partnership forum” where more than 82 potential applicants have met all together with representatives from the Programme authorities as well as with other economic, social and environmental partners from the border regions. During the “Partnership forum”, beneficiaries under the First Call of proposals have shared their partnering experiences and the potential applicants have exchanged information on their partner needs as well as their project ideas.





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

Publicity campaign

During the reporting period a media campaign was concentrated on the promotion of the Programme, dissemination of information and news concerning the financing opportunities, availability of the financial assistance and ways to access it, with the purpose of attracting potential beneficiaries towards the more in-depth information sources available.

Before/after the important events and when a valuable information is to disseminated special press releases and press advertisements were sent to the media/press members and also published on the web-site in the "News section". Planned activities and the indicators of the publicity campaign were fulfilled and most of its planned values were exceeded two, three and even four times. For instance while minimum 1 press releases is planned per year, 6 press releases are published.

Two press advertisements were published in national/local newspapers: 1 advertisement on 14.06.2011 in Bulgarian newspaper "Pari" 1 advertisement on 14.06.2011 in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia "Dnevnik", which are promoting the launch of the Second Call for proposals. Additionally news published on electronic media were collected which are related to the Programme events namely Information seminars, Trainings, JMC meetings, open days.

In May 2011, MA and JTS took part in the Annual exhibition "Europe for Us" in Sofia (Bulgaria), organized by the Bulgarian Economic forum in partnership with the Bulgarian Minister on management of EU funds and the EC Representation in Bulgaria.

The expo was gathering at one place all interested parties in the process of implementation of EU programs:

- the Managing Authorities of the Operational Programs;
- the Representation of the European Commission in Bulgaria;
- consultant companies and NGOs;
- beneficiaries;
- banks offering preferential terms for financing of EU funded projects.

The exhibition aimed to encourage contacts between potential partners; to present the opportunities for EU funding, as well as to promote best practices in the absorption of EU funds and other international programmes.

The MA participate in the conference on topic "Lessons learned during the current programming period" organized within the exhibition days.





IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007

Active training

During the reporting period, active **trainings for potential applicants** concerning preparation of the good quality applications before the Second Call for Proposals were organized together with Info Days as a part of their Agendas. Thus, while the activities provided information on the general Programme rules and Guidelines of the Second Call, the training was focused on the Application Pack for Project Proposals and how to fill the Application Form & Annexes. 199 potential applicants attending to Info Days organized under the Second Call for proposals had opportunity to receive such training.

Trainings of the lead partners (LP) were organised by MAVNA and the JTS after the signature of the subsidy contracts under the First Call for Proposals. The first training seminar was held in Kyustendil for the Bulgarian Lead partners on 31th of August 2011 and 32 representatives were trained. The second event took place in Strumitsa on 01st September 2011. It was a project implementation training of the Lead partners from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and over 19 representatives were trained. All lead partners were trained on all the aspects of project implementation.

In order to be analysed the results of the trainings, a questionnaire was distributed to the beneficiaries. After careful examinations of the trainings' results it was concluded that some project partners' teams need additional consultations on the basic project implementation issues. In that connection, the JTS main office, supported by the MA organized an **Open Days for individual consultations for the project partners** in the premises of the JTS Kyustendil, Bulgaria, which was held on 26th - 28th September 2011. The objective of the event was to give further information on launching sub-tendering procedures in the frame of the first and second trimester from the projects implementation.

Totally 14 projects and 60 experts with respective duties from the project partners' teams from both Programme countries had an opportunity to receive answers to their questions mainly concerning the themes of sub-tendering procedures under PRAG rules and project progress reporting issues. Individual consultations have been performed by experts from MA and JTS. Through discussions with beneficiaries, the results of this event will be helpful for the future implementation of the projects and contribute to achieve the goals of the Programme.





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

Indicators achieved in the reporting period

Measure	Operation	Timing	Indicators	Quantity	
				Planned	Achieved
Website	General information	Permanently on the web-site and updated when necessary	<u>Number</u> of web-site visits	min.2000 per year	29009
	Partners' search facility	Permanently on the web-site and updated for every Call for proposals	Number of web-site visits	min. 2000 per year	29009
			Number of new potential PPs in the database	min.20 per Call	20
	Contact details	Permanently on the web-site and updated when necessary	Number of web-site visits	min. 2000 per year	29009
	Information for mass media	After official events	Number of press releases	min.2 per year	6
Promotional materials	Leaflets	During every Call for Proposals (or at other times, as deemed necessary)	<u>Number</u> of leaflets produced	min. 500 per Call	0
			<u>Number</u> of leaflets disseminated	min.80% of the leaflets produced	0 %
	Brochures	For each Call	<u>Number</u> of brochures produced	min. 500	0
			<u>Number</u> of brochure disseminated	min.80% of the brochures produced	0%
	Posters & banners	For official events	<u>Number</u> of official events	min. 2	2





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

	Other promotional materials (gadgets)	Permanently	Number of materials prepared for promotion of the programme	min. 200 per Call	300
			Number of promotional materials disseminated	min.80% of the materials produced	93%
Information seminars	Info-days	Before every Call for Proposals	Number of organizations/bodies represented	min. 40 per Call	110
			Number of persons attended	min.60 per Call	199
			Increase in the number of proposals submitted	min. 3% compared to previous Call	29,7%
	Thematic seminars/ workshops	Minimum 1 per year	Number of organizations / bodies represented	min. 20 per event	74
			Number of people attended	min.40 per event	191
Publicity campaign	Print media campaign	Minimum 1 information material per year	Number of newspapers publishing issue(s) concerning the programme	min. 4 per year	2
	Press conferences	After official events	Number of press conferences held	min. 2 for the duration of the Programme	1
	Press releases	After official events	Number of press releases	min. 1 per year	6
	Press Advertisements	For every Call for proposals	Number of advertisement published	min. 2 per Call	2
	Internet media advertisement	Minimum 2 per year	Number of advertisement / e Banners	min. 2 per year	2
	e Newsletter	Minimum 2 per year	Number of e Newsletters	min. 2 per year	0
	Publications in regional initiatives and fora	Minimum 1 per year	Number of events	min.1 per year	0





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

	TV Campaigns	TV -- upon decision by the MA and the available financial resources	Number of TV advertisement aired	min. 1 for the duration of the programme	0
	Radio Campaigns	During every Call	Number of radio advertisement aired	min. 1 per country for each Call	0
Active training	Training for beneficiaries	After completion of grant awarding procedure	Number of participants	min. 20	105
			Number of trainings	min.1	1
	Training of MANA/JTS staff	Depending on INTERACT events and other initiatives	Number of participants	min. 50 % out of the total staff	16,6 % of JTS staff
	Training for Controllers performing FLC	Annually	Number of participants	min. 30	55
			Number of trainings	min.1	1
	Training for External assessors	Annually	Number of participants	min.10	0
			Number of trainings	min.1	0





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

Indicators for communication and publicity measures

	Activity	Indicator	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Programme website	General Information	Number of web-site visits	0	0	8190	8731	29 009						
		Target 2016	2000 per year										
		Baseline	0										
	Partners' search facility	Number of web-site visits	0	0	8190	8731	29 009						
		Target 2016	2000 per year										
		Baseline	0										
		Number of new potential PPs in the database	0	0	0	0	20						
		Target 2016	20 per call										
		Baseline	0										
	Contact details	Number of web-site visits	0	0	8190	8731	29 009						
		Target 2016	2000 per yer										
		Baseline											
	Information for mass media	Number of press releases	0	0	0	0	6						
		Target 2016	2 per year										
		Baseline	0										
Promotional materials	Leaflets	Number of leaflets produced	0	0	0	0	0						
		Target 2016	500 per call										
		Baseline	0										
		Number of leaflets disseminated	0	0	0	0	0						
		Target 2016	80% of leaflets produced										
		Baseline	0										
	Brochures	Number of brochures produced	0	1000	0	0	0						





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

		Target 2016	500 per year										
		Baseline	0										
		Number of brochures distributed	0	25%	55%	20%	0%						
		Target 2016	80% of brochures produced										
		Baseline	0										
		Number of official events	0	2	0	0	2						
	Posters & Banners	Target 2016	Min. 2										
		Baseline											
		Number of materials prepared for promotion of the programme	0	1050	0	0	300						
	Other promotional materials (gadgets)	Target 2016	200 per call										
		Baseline	0										
		Number of materials distributed	0	60%	0	0	33%						
		Target 2016	80% of the materials produced										
		Baseline	0										
		Number of organizations/bodies represented	0	0	227	0	110						
Information seminars	Info-days	Target 2016	40 per call										
		Baseline	0										
		Number of persons attended	0	0	76	80	199						
		Target 2016	Min.60 per call										
		Baseline	0										
		Increase in the number of proposals submitted	0	0	0	0	29.7%						
		Target 2016	Min.3% compared to previous call										
		Baseline	0										
	Thematic seminars/workshops	Number of organizations/bodies attending	0	0	76	80	74						





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

		Target 2016	20 per event										
		Baseline	0										
Publicity campaign	Print media campaign	Number of newspapers publishing issue(s) concerning the programme	0	1	2	2	2						
		Target 2016	4 per year										
		Baseline	0										
	Press conferences	Number of press conferences held	0	1	2	0	1						
		Target 2016	2 for the duration of the Programme										
		Baseline	0										
	Press releases	Number of press releases	0	1	5	4	6						
		Target 2016	1 per call										
		Baseline	0										
	Press Advertisements	Number of press advertisements published	0	0	16	0	2						
		Target 2016	2 per call										
		Baseline	0										
	Internet media advertisement	Number of advertisements/eBanners	0	0	0	0	2						
		Target 2016	2										
		Baseline	0										
	eNewsletter	Number of eNewsletters	0	0	0	0	0						
		Target 2016	2										
		Baseline	0										
	Publication in regional initiatives and fora	Number of events	0	0	0	0	0						
		Target 2016	1										
		Baseline	0										





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

	TV campaigns	Number of TV advertisements aired	0	0	0	0	0						
		Target 2016	1 for the duration of the Programme										
		Baseline	0										
	Radio campaigns	Number of radio advertisements aired	0	0	0	0	0						
		Target 2016	1 per country for each Call										
		Baseline	0										
Active training	Training for beneficiaries	Number of participants	0	0	0	0	105						
		Target 2016	20										
		Baseline	0										
		Number of trainings	0	0	0	0	1						
		Target 2016	Min 1										
		Baseline											
	Training of the MA/NA/JTS	Number of participants	0	0	0	0	16.6% of the JTS staff						
		Target 2016	min 50% of the total staff										
		Baseline	0										
	Controllers performing FLC trainings	Number of participants	0	0	0	0	55						
		Target 2016	min 30										
		Baseline	0										
		Number of trainings	0	0	0	0	3						
		Target 2016	min 1										
		Baseline	0										





IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007

	External assessors trainings	1) Number of participants	0	0	0	0	0						
		Target 2016	min 10										
		Baseline	0										
		Number of trainings	0	0	0	0	0						
		Target 2016	min 1										
		Baseline	0										





IPA Cross-Border Programme CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007

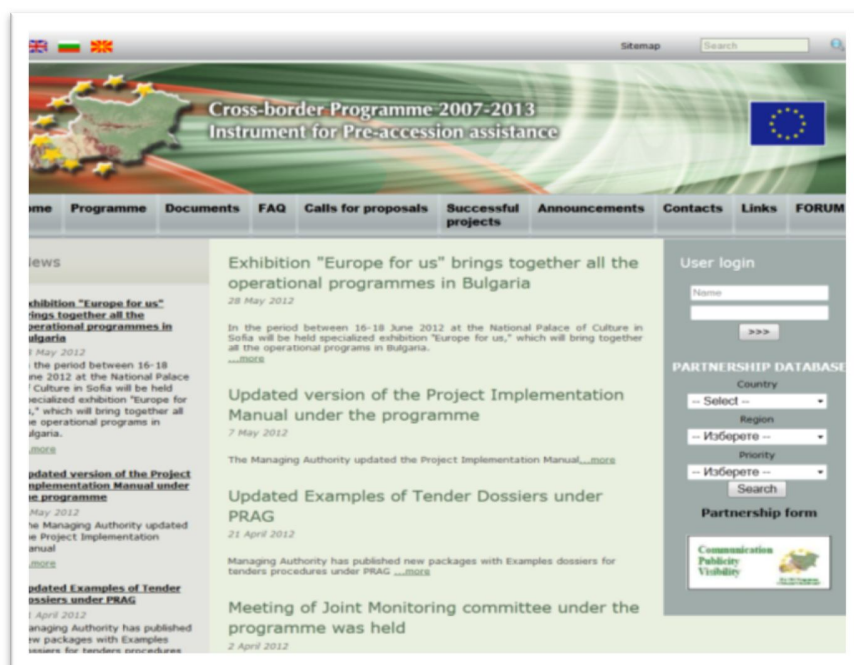
ANNEX I

COMPREHENSIVE LIST with information about publicity, media presence, promotional and training activities carried out in the period 2011

PROGRAMME'S WEB SITE

The Programme' web site was released in September 2009 and currently is accessible at:

<http://www.ipa-cbc-007.eu>



On June 10, 2011 a public procurement procedure "Maintenance for MIS and websites for IPA cross-border programmes managed by Republic of Bulgaria" was launched. As a result of this procedure the contract for improvement of the Programme website and the MIS system was attributed to "Strategma Agency", the contractor. JTS communication officer presented to them a new user-friendly version of the sitemap structure which will allow the users to find the necessary information more easily.

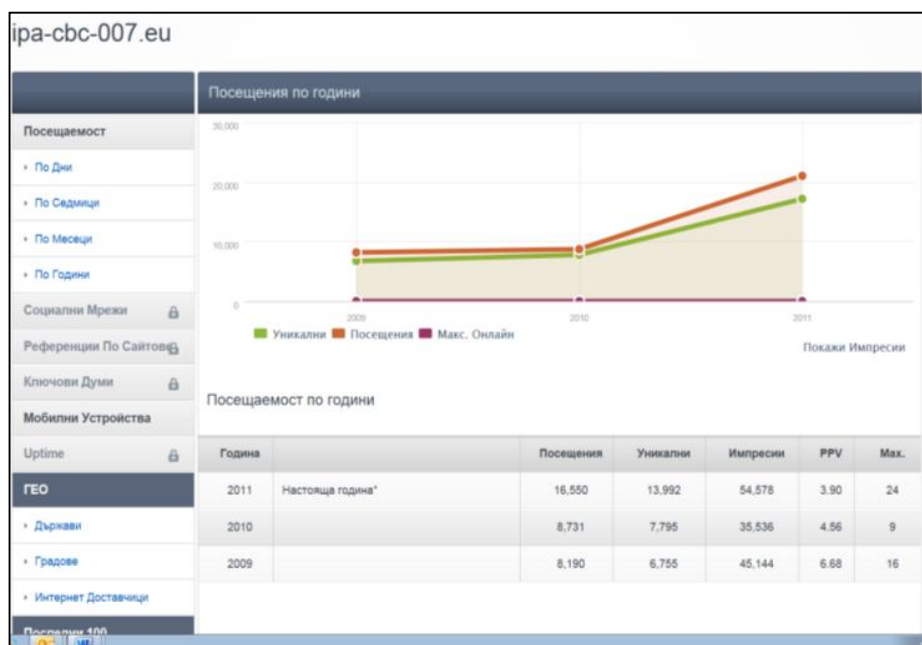




IPA Cross-Border Programme CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007

WEBSITE STATISTICS BASED ON THE MONTHLY VISIT FREQUENCY				
MONTH	YEAR 2009	YEAR 2010	YEAR 2011	TOTAL
JANUARY	0	573	877	1450
FEBRUARY	0	722	846	1568
MARCH	0	860	1767	2627
APRIL	0	734	1282	2016
MAY	0	767	1347	2114
JUNE	0	687	3135	3822
JULY	0	578	3940	4518
AUGUST	0	683	3503	4186
SEPTEMBER	1526	715	3486	5727
OCTOBER	2637	812	2226	5675
NOVEMBER	2595	782	3754	7131
DECEMBER	1432	818	2846	5096
TOTAL	8190	8731	29009	45930

* The table presents the overall web-site visits of the Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia IPA Cross-border Programme CCI No. 2007CB16IPO007





IPA Cross-Border Programme CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

For the purposes of promoting the Programme a variety of promotional materials, which were developed in previous reporting periods, were distributed for the various informational campaign, trainings sessions and seminars:





During the reporting period there were permanently media publications for the activities on programme level and programme progress in whole. Most of the electronic media published previously prepared Press announcements for activities under the programme. Some of them made short stories from crucial events that were organized during 2011, such as: Joint Monitoring Committee meeting in Kyustendil, Award ceremony of subsidy contracts under the First Call for proposals; training sessions; „Info days“ campaign for the Second Call for proposals etc. Additionally most of the media have published news related with official meetings on political level (Ministry or Deputy ministry level) concerning rather Programme issues.

DA RIK / Кюстендил
NEWS

Четвъртък, 31 май 2012 / 15:39

БЪЛГАРИЯ | СВЕТ | СПОРТ | БИЗНЕС | ТЕХНОЛОГИИ | ОБЩЕСТВО | ЛЮБОПИТНО | РЕГИОНИ -

ТЕМИ | ВИДЕО | В СИМКИ | АУДИО

ДОБРЕ ДОШЛИ В КЮСТЕНДИЛ

КЮСТЕНДИЛ

МАЛКИ ОБЯВИ | НОВИНИ | ИНТЕРВЮ | КОМЕНТАР | В СИМКИ | АУДИО | КИНО | ТЕАТЪР | СПРАВЧИЦИ

Начало » Регионални новини » Новини от Кюстендил

Размер на шрифта:

Одобряват 36 проекта за трансгранично сътрудничество между България и Македония

15 март 2011 10:48 | Иво Кировски | 3 Коментирай

Препоръчай (0)



Лиляна Павлова и Фарук Фаруктосов © Иво Кировски. Дарин радио

36 проекта ще бъдат одобрени за финансиране на днешното заседание на Съвместния комитет за наблюдение по програмата за трансгранично сътрудничество между Република България и Република Македония, който се провежда в Кюстендил. Общо подадените проекти са 93. Предложените за финансирание проекти са на стойност около 7 млн. евро.

Vremeto.bg

25° Кюстендил
Ушак си 25°, Вятър: 0 км/час

Кредити за земеделски производители

*bank (*2265)

Fibank
Напълно универсален банък

Анкетни

"За" или "Против" идеята на Свидетели на Йехова да строят Молитвен дом в Кюстендил?

МАЛКИ ОБЯВИ

Добави твоета малка обява в новата ни рубрика

Акценти

Ваканция! Пользанта хове – да пазим децата на пътя. За 20 11





IPA Cross-Border Programme CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007

The screenshot shows the Europe.bg website. The main headline is "ЗАСЕДАНИЕ НА СЪВМЕСТНИЯ КОМИТЕТ ЗА НАБЛЮДЕНИЕ ПО ПРОГРАМАТА ЗА ТРАНСГРАНИЧНО СЪТРУДНИЧЕСТВО МЕЖДУ РЕПУБЛИКА БЪЛГАРИЯ И РЕПУБЛИКА МАКЕДОНИЯ" (Meeting of the Joint Committee for Monitoring the IPA Cross-Border Programme between Bulgaria and Macedonia). The article mentions a meeting on 11.03.2011 in Kustendil, presided over by the Bulgarian Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure, Ljiljana Pavlova, and the Macedonian Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure, Faruk Feratovski. The article also mentions the presence of the European Commissioner for Regional Policy, Neelie Kroes.

Link: <http://www.europe.bg/htmls/page.php?id=35336&category=329>

The screenshot shows the KURIR website. The main headline is "УАКС - Универзитетите каде квалитетот создава успех!" (UAKS - Universities where quality creates success!). The article is titled "Македонско-бугарскиот комитет за прекугранична соработка ќе одржи состанок" (Macedonian-Bulgarian Joint Committee for Cross-Border Cooperation will hold a meeting). The article mentions a meeting on 11 March 2011 in Kustendil, presided over by the Bulgarian Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure, Ljiljana Pavlova, and the Macedonian Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure, Faruk Feratovski. The article also mentions the presence of the European Commissioner for Regional Policy, Neelie Kroes.

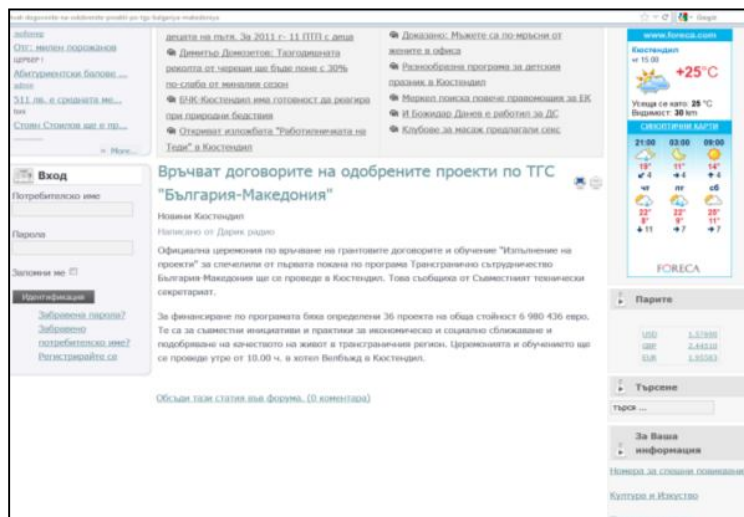
Link: http://kurir.mk/makedonija/vesti/22107-Makedonsko-bugarskiot-komitet-za-prekugranicna-sorabotka-ke-odrzi-sostanok?utm_source=daily.mk



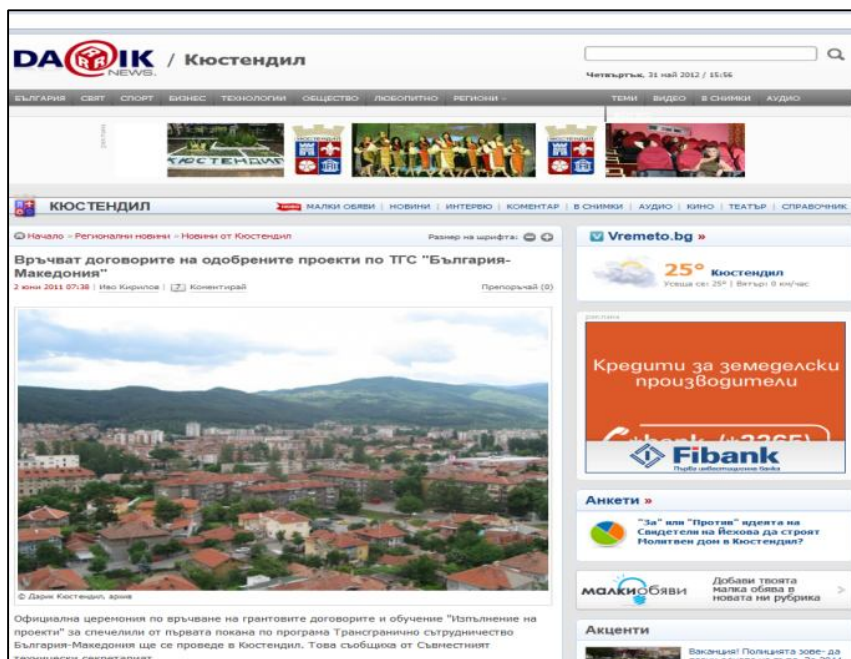


IPA Cross-Border Programme CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007

- ❖ Award ceremony of subsidy contracts and training session “Project implementation” – held in Kjustendil, Bulgaria on 03rd June 2011



Link: <http://www.kustendil.info/novini/8136-vrachvat-dogovorite-na-odobrenite-proekti-po-tgs-balgariya-makedoniya>



Link: http://dariknews.bg/view_article.php?article_id=726028





IPA Cross-Border Programme CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007

❖ Launching the Second Call for proposals – 14th June 2011

Daily newspaper "Pari" – Bulgaria – 14.06.2011

Daily newspaper "Dnevnik" – 14.06.2011 and daily newspaper "Lajm" – 14/06.2011





IPA Cross-Border Programme CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007

„Info days“ campaign for the Second Call for proposals, held in Strumica on 13th July 2011



Link: <http://www.mls.gov.mk/mk/cont/?v=8E6C00B1357E80CF0D302623BA361DCB4E7F4CED>



Link: <http://www.ipa-cbc-007.eu/page.php?c=8&d=248>





IPA Cross-Border Programme CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007

„Info days“ campaign for the Second Call for proposals, held in Kyustendil, Bulgaria on 15th July 2011



Link: http://dariknews.bg/view_article.php?article_id=747004



Link: <http://www.mrrb.government.bg/index.php?lang=bg&do=auction&id=2957>





IPA Cross-Border Programme CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007

❖ Partnership Forum, held in Sandanski, Bulgaria on 29th July 2011

Форум за партньорство организират в Сандански
ПЕΤΥΚ, 22 ЈУЛИ 2011 10:36 [DARKNEWS.BG] НОВИНИ - САНДАНСКИ

Форум за партньорство за потенциални бенефициенти по Втората Рунда за проектни предложения по Инструмента за предприемачествена помощ Програмата за трансгранично сътрудничество между България и Македония ще се проведе на 29-и юли в Сандански.

Експерти от Министерство на регионалното развитие и благоустройството, на Министерство на местното самоуправление и на СТС ще бъдат представени целите на програмата и подробни разяснения по насоките за кандидатстване, подготовката на проектното предложение и попълването на формуляр за кандидатстване.

На 14 юни стартира набирането на проектни предложения по Програма за трансгранично сътрудничество между България и Македония, съфинансирана от Инструмента за предприемачествена помощ. Предвиденият бюджет за проектни предложения възлиза на 5 869 636 евро.

Крайният срок за набиране на проектните предложения е 14 септември 2011 г., информираха от съвместния технически секретариат - Юстендзел.

Гледай си на карти
Виж какво ще предложат картите на Мадан Ленорин за твоето бъдеще
[Google Maps]

ДЕНЯТ В СНИМКИ
137 са опасните сгради в Благоевград и селата
Над 1000 левци и танкдори се надпреварва и надпреварва в Банско
40 ромци се биеха в Петрич
900 000 лева за възстановяване на срутения мост край Петрич
Още издирват ладнал в Струма автомобил

ПОСЛЕДНО ОТ САНДАНСКИ
137 са опасните сгради в Благоевград и селата
Над 1000 левци и танкдори се надпреварва и надпреварва в Банско
40 ромци се биеха в Петрич
900 000 лева за възстановяване на срутения мост край Петрич
Още издирват ладнал в Струма автомобил

ИЗКАЗВАНИЯ
Андрон Тодев е новият кмет на община Сандански
Г-н кметът е нормално според вас, че местни хората мислят

Link: <http://sandanski.org/news/sandanski/846-Форум-за-партньорство-организиран-в-Сандански>

ЧЕТВЪРТОК, 31 МАЙ 2012, 16:11:49

ТИКЕР ФОТО ФВНО ПРЕД В ЧАСА ЗА МИА ПРОДУКЦИЈА

МИА МАКЕДОНСКА ИНФОРМАТИВНА АГЕНЦИЈА
ОПШТИНА НА 18 ФЕВРУАРИ 1992 ГОДИНА ЗА ОБЛАСТНОТО НА РЕПУБЛИКА МАКЕДОНИЈА, ЧЛЕНКА НА АНУС, АННА И БУЛГАРИЈА

НАЛОВИ ВЕСТИ: 009 Министерот Кравев на средби со ректори на повеќе британски университети. 15:07 Јанкулоска: Во

МАКЕДОНИЈА
ВНАТРЕШНА ПОЛИТИКА
НАДВОРЕШНА ПОЛИТИКА
ЕКОНОМИКА
ОДРАНА И БЕЗБЕДНОСТ
ПРАВООУСТРОЈСТВО
ОБРАЗОВАНИЕ И НАУКА
КУЛТУРА
СООБРАЌА И ВРСОВИ
ЗДРАВСТВО
ТРУД И СОЦИЈАЛА
ИНТЕРНЕТ
ЕКОНОМИКА
ЛОКАЛНА САМОУПРАВА
ТРАНСКИ СЕКТОР
РЕЛИГИИ
ПОЛИТИЧКИ ПАРТИИ
ДРУГО

СВЕТ
БРИГНАЛИ ТЕКСТОВИ
БАЛКАН
ЕВРОПА
СВЕТ
ПОТЕРСКИ

ПОТЕРСКИ - НАЈАВА
МИА НАЈАВИ - МАКЕДОНИЈА (ДП)
29 Јули 2011

Скопје - Седна седница на Собранието на Република Македонија. (12:00)

Скопје - Седница на Собранието на Република Македонија. (Собрание на РМ, Сала на Влада / 10:30)

Скопје - Досегашниот вице-премиер задолжен за спроведување на Рамковниот договор Абдулхамид Адеми ќе му ја предаде должноста на новиот вице-премиер Муса Цафери. (Влада на РМ / 10:30)

Скопје - Никола Тодоров ќе му ја предаде функцијата министер за образование и наука на номинируваниот Панче Кравев. (МОН / 10:00)

Скопје - Целалпа Бајрами ќе му ја предаде функцијата министер за труд и социјална политика на новиот министер Спиро Ристовски. (МТСП / 11:00 - изјави за медиумите по принопредавањето)

Скопје - Принопредавање на должноста меѓу досегашниот министер за економија Фатмир Басими и новиот министер Валон Сарачени. (Министерство за економија, испрати / 9:45 - изјави 10:00)

Скопје - Принопредавање на функцијата министер за одбрана од Зоран Кољановски на Фатмир Басими. (Министерство за одбрана / 11:00)

Скопје - Принопредавање на должноста меѓу досегашниот министер за здравство Бујар Османов и новиот министер Никола Тодоров. (Министерство за здравство / 11:00)

Скопје - Работна средба на министерката за внатрешни работи Гордана Јанкулоска и директорот на Бирото за јавна безбедност Љупчо Тодоровски со генералниот секретар на Интерпол Роналд Канет Нобл. (МВР)

Скопје - МЕРСО а.д. ќе презентира Студија за развој на преносната мрежа. (Управна зграда на МЕРСО / 9:30)

ВРЕМЕТО ДЕНЕСКА
Скопје
ТЕМПЕРАТУРА: 20°
ВРЕМЕ: 16:11:49
2:25

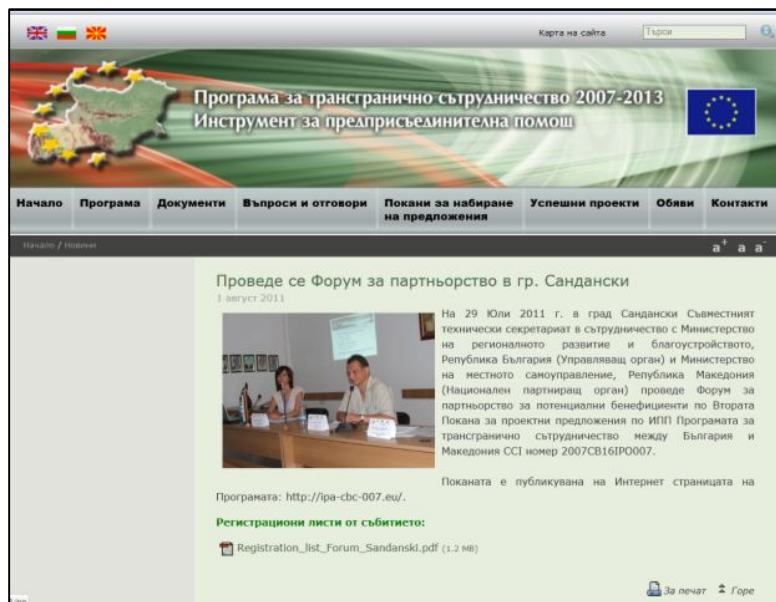
• T • Home •
DW-WORLD.DE
DEUTSCHE WELLE
Roche
We Innovate Healthcare
ERA
СКОПСКИ САОМ
СКОПСКИ САОМ

Link: <http://www.mia.com.mk/default.aspx?vld=85673674&pmId=13&Id=1>



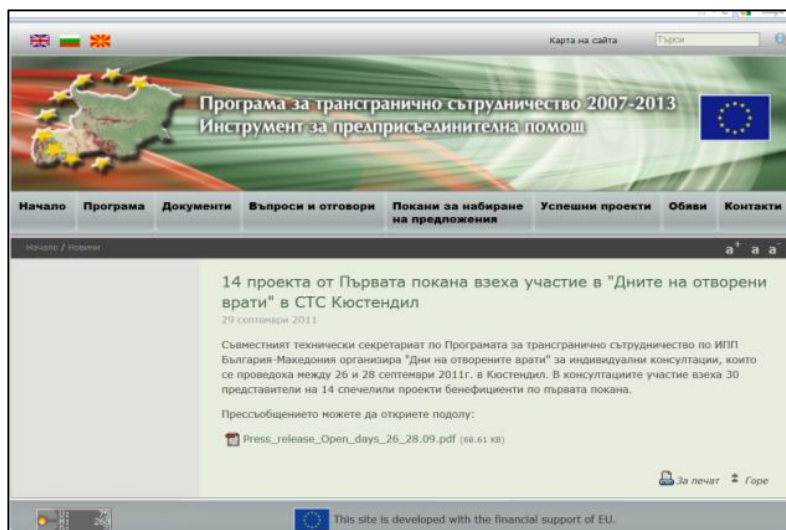


IPA Cross-Border Programme CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007



Link: <http://www.ipa-cbc-007.eu/page.php?c=8&d=255>

- ❖ „Open Days“ campaign – Individual Consultations with beneficiaries, held in Kyustendil, Bulgaria in the period 26th – 28th September 2011



Link: <http://www.ipa-cbc-007.eu/page.php?c=8&d=294>





IPA Cross-Border Programme CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007

PROGRAMME RELATED EVENTS AND TRAINING SESSIONS

During the reporting period MA, NA and JTS organized several events and meetings under the programme:

Date	Event	Location	Participants
11 th March 2011	Joint Monitoring Committee Meeting	Kyustendil, (BG)	47
3 rd June 2011	Award ceremony of subsidy contracts & Training session "Project Implementation"	Kyustendil, (BG)	105
13 th July 2011	Info day	Strumica, (MK)	89
15 th July 2011	Info day	Kyustendil, (BG)	110
27 th July 2011	Partnership forum	Sandanski, (BG)	82
31 st August 2011	Common working meeting with beneficiaries	Kyustendil, (BG)	32
1 st September 2011	Common working meeting with beneficiaries	Strumica (MK)	19
26 th – 28 th September 2011	"Open days" – Individual consultation with beneficiaries	Kyustendil, (BG)	60
Total: participants in information events and training sessions			544





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

ANNEX II SUBSIDY CONTRACTS AWARDED UNDER THE FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS, REF.
NO - 2007CB16IPO007 - 2009 – 1

No	Project №	Lead Partner	Project name	Sphere of intervention	Total value of the project	EU funding	National co-funding	Other Partners
1	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-1	<i>Municipality of Rankovce</i>	Contribution to the Cross-border Fire Protection	2,1	299 413,82	254 501,75	44 912,07	Evro-Slavyanska Obshtnost Association
2	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-4	<i>Municipality of Sandanski</i>	Culture - bridge of cohesion	2,2	276 922,59	235 384,20	41 538,39	Municipality of Novo Selo
3	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-6	<i>Association of South Western municipalities</i>	Establishment of Cross-border Network among the Municipal Experts on Projects and Programmes in the Cross-border Region	1,2	60 325,99	51 277,09	9 048,90	Centre for development of the South-East planning region - Strumitsa
4	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-11	<i>Alliance for Regional and civil initiatives (ARCI) - Blagoevgrad</i>	Electronic challenge for modern education	1,2	76 726,32	65 217,37	11 508,95	Citizen association HANDICAP – support group for people with disabilities - Kriva Palanka
5	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-12	<i>Association business information and consulting centre - Sandanski</i>	Cross-border Business networking for sustainable growth	1,1	86 727,08	73 718,02	13 009,06	Centre for development of the East planning region - Shtip
6	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-13	<i>Woman's Organization Stip</i>	Promotion of rural and mountain hiking/bicycle tourism between Bulgaria and Macedonia	1,1	95 557,89	81 224,21	14 333,68	Chamber of Commerce and Industry - Blagoevgrad





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

7	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-16	<i>Tourist Fund Pirin Foundation - Gotse Delchev</i>	Improving quality of life through promotion and development of cultural resources of the Gotse Delchev and Kratovo region and turn into attractive Art center	2,2	91 970,60	78 175,00	13 795,60	Municipality of Kratovo
8	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-14	<i>Alliance of the Producers of Ecological Energy – SOUTH Blagoevgrad</i>	Cross-border cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency	1,1	87 562,07	74 427,76	13 134,31	Foundation for local and IT Development - Gevgelija
9	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-19	<i>American University in Bulgaria - Blagoevgrad</i>	Bridging universities and business for enhancing employability skills for students	1,2	77 615,79	65 973,42	11 642,37	Goce Delchev University - Stip
10	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-24	<i>Kyustendil Municipality</i>	Tourism without borders	1,1	299 648,42	254 701,16	44 947,26	Stip Municipality; Kriva Palanka Municipality
11	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-31	<i>“Chance” non-profit association for persons with intellectual disabilities - Razlog</i>	Equal Opportunities for People with Intellectual Difficulties	1,2	74 237,89	63 102,21	11 135,68	Center for support of persons with intellectual disabilities “Poraka” - Kumanovo
12	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-32	<i>Municipality of Shtip</i>	Shared knowledge – investment in the future	1,1	289 289,16	245 895,79	43 393,37	Municipality of Kyustendil
13	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-33 *	<i>Municipal Secondary Technical School “Nace Bugjoni” - Kumanovo</i>	Together of the way of understanding	1,2	85 168,42	72 393,16	12 775,26	Vocational Secondary School of Economics and Management “Jordan Zahariev” - Kyustendil; Secondary Municipal School “Pero Nakov” – Kumanovo; Vocational Technical School “John Atanasov” - Kyustendil





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

14	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-34 *	<i>Secondary Municipal School "Pero Nakov" – Kumanovo</i>	Partnership in Knowledge Partnership in Sources	1,1	64 937,89	55 197,21	9 740,68	Vocational Secondary School of Economics and Management "Jordan Zahariev" - Kyustendil
15	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-38	<i>Municipality of Simitli</i>	The tourism-our common future from Struma to Bregalnica	2,2	285 526,64	242 697,64	42 829,00	Municipality of Karbinci
16	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-39	<i>Dramatic Theatre - Kyustendil</i>	Balkan Workshop For Theatre	2,2	69 380,05	58 973,04	10 407,01	Municipality of Stip
17	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-40	<i>Municipality of Nevestino</i>	Cultural Exchange – Sharing Differences Towards United Cultural Development	2,2	299 920,47	254 932,40	44 988,07	Municipality of Dojran
18	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-44	<i>Institute for Orthodox Values and Cultural Development Foundation – Gotse Delcev</i>	Cultural Bridges for Sustainable Regional Development	2,2	94 857,58	80 628,94	14 228,64	Center for development and promotion "Promo Idea" - Strumica
19	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-46	<i>Municipality of Lipkovo</i>	Education, environment, Europe... United Europe	1,2	299 680,37	254 728,31	44 952,06	Municipal secondary school "Goce Delcev" – Kumanovo; Ecological forum Association
20	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-47	<i>Municipality of Dojran</i>	Transforming the lines of division into a point of cohesion	2,2	294 575,81	250 389,44	44 186,37	Municipality of Kyustendil; NI Institute and Museum - Strumica
21	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-49	<i>Center for development of the Third - Northeast planning region - Kumanovo</i>	Fostering capacity for Joint economic cooperation of Kyustendil region / Republic of Bulgaria / and NorthEast planning region / Republic of Macedonia/	1,1	94 520,00	80 342,00	14 178,00	Regional Authority - Kyustendil





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

22	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-51	<i>Community centre "Georgi Todorov" Belica</i>	Raising the quality of life in the municipalities of Belica, Bulgaria and Makedonska Kamenica, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, through the preparation of technical investment projects for socially significant buildings	1,3	45 138,87	38 368,04	6 770,83	Municipality of Makedonska Kamenica
23	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-52	<i>Municipality of Belica</i>	Encouragement of the social cohesion of the municipalities of Belica and Makedonska Kamenica	1,2	256 033,48	217 628,46	38 405,02	Municipality of Makedonska Kamenica
24	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-53	<i>Municipality of Dupnitsa</i>	"Cultural Heritage – d Bridge to Joint Future"	2,2	286 776,23	243 759,79	43 016,44	Municipality of Kriva Palanka
25	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-55	<i>Municipality of Boboshevo</i>	Improvement of Tourist Infrastructure of Boboshevo and Kratovo	2,1	250 063,27	212 553,78	37 509,49	Association for Protection of Environment, Cultural, Historical Sights and Health – Izvor, Kratovo
26	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-61	<i>Municipality of Bansko</i>	"Building cross-border cultural cooperation"	2,2	294 176,15	250 049,73	44 126,42	Municipality of Vinica
27	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-73	<i>Association textile and Clothes Branch organization of Southwest Bulgaria – Kyustendil</i>	The cross-border region Bulgaria – Macedonia – a good place for manufacturing of clothes-today and tomorrow	1,1	82 117,81	69 800,14	12 317,67	Textile trade association - Stip; Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Kyustendil
28	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-76 *	<i>Vocational School of Economics and Management "Yordan Zahariev", Kyustendi</i>	Partners in Knowledge	1,2	45 012,63	38 260,74	6 751,89	Gorce Petrov Secondary School





**IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI Number 2007CB16IPO007**

29	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-77	<i>Municipality of Kriva Palanka</i>	Under the same sky	2,2	296 594,17	252 105,04	44 489,13	Municipality of Dupnica
30	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-78	<i>Municipality of Rila</i>	Identical in cultural differences	2,2	227 525,23	193 396,45	34 128,78	Municipality of Kochani
31	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-79	<i>Municipality of Kocani</i>	Modern infrastructure-successful business	1,1	276 796,33	235 276,88	41 519,45	Municipality of Rila
32	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-80	<i>Municipality of Delcevo</i>	Wise utilization of eco resources on the mountains Golak and Vlaina	2,1	74 663,16	63 463,69	11 199,47	Municipality of Blagoevgrad
33	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-81	<i>Centre for development of the East Planning Region - Shtip</i>	Cross Border Educational Network for Children with Disabilities	1,2	276 079,33	234 667,43	41 411,90	Municipality of Gotse Delcev
34	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-84	<i>Municipality of Berovo</i>	Business Incubator – Economic Development and Visibility of Border Region	1,1	271 847,91	231 070,72	40 777,19	Municipality of Strumyani
35	2007CB16IPO007-2009-1-90	Municipality of Konce	Culture opens doors to enabling development	2,2	280 533,20	238 453,22	42 079,98	Municipality of Yakoruda

* Projects ref. No 2007CB161PO007-2009-1-33, ref. No 2007CB161PO007-2009-1-34 and ref. No 2007CB161PO007-2009-1-76 were terminated, due to withdrawal by the project partners from project implementation (Schools - Vocational Technical School “John Atanasov” in Kustendil and Vocational School of Economics and Management “Yordan Zahariev” in Kustendil).

