

# Interreg - IPA CBC



CCI 2014TC16I5CB006



EUROPEAN UNION

## AIR 2017 Citizen's Summary

Environment



Tourism



Competitiveness



[www.ipa-cbc-007.eu](http://www.ipa-cbc-007.eu)



Programme co-funded by the  
EUROPEAN UNION

## ABOUT THE SUMMARY

The Summary aims to describe in a concise and illustrative way the main achievements of the Interreg- IPA CBC Bulgaria-the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Programme (the Programme) in the year 2017. The complete Annual implementation report for 2017 is now available at the Programme website: [www.ipa-cbc-007.eu](http://www.ipa-cbc-007.eu)

### Content:

- Brief Programme description;
- First Call for proposals—implementation
- Main events in 2017/European Cooperation Day
- Publicity

## THE PROGRAMME

The **overall objective of the Programme** is to intensify cross-border cooperation between both partnering countries in order to jointly address common challenges and exploit untapped potentials of the border regions.

### Priority Axes and specific objectives



#### Priority Axis 1: Environment

- Environmental protection and sustainable use of the common natural resources of the CBC area;
- Prevention and mitigation of consequences of natural and man-caused disasters of cross-border dimension and impact.



#### Priority Axis 2: Tourism

- Enhancing the tourism potential of the region through cooperation initiatives in better preservation and sustainable utilization of natural and cultural heritage;
- Raising the competitiveness of the CBC region's tourist offer;
- Promoting cooperation among regional actors in the area of sustainable tourism.



#### Priority Axis 3: Competitiveness

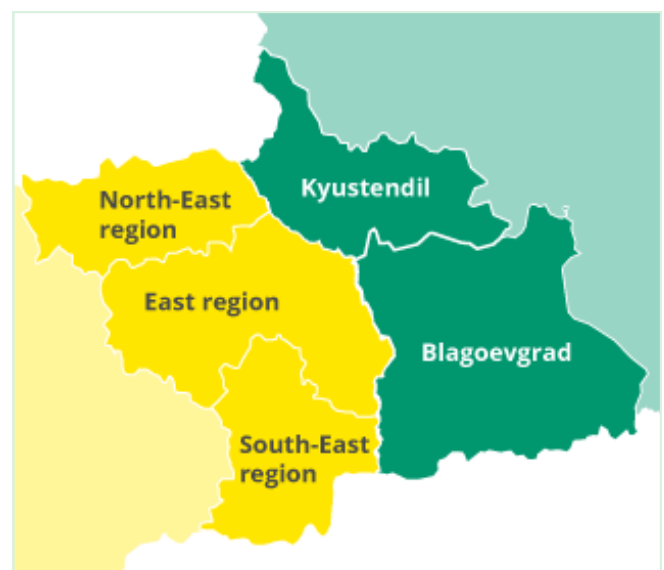
- Improving the competitiveness of regional businesses.

### Programme Budget

The total Programme budget is **EUR 19 461 690**.

The Programme is co-funded by the European Union, from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance II (IPA II).

### Programme area



## FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS - IMPLEMENTATION

### Basics facts about the First Call for project proposals

- **In total 48 project** proposals were contracted, out of which: 45 subsidy contracts were concluded in 2016 and 3 more contracts were signed in 2017. The list of all projects approved for financing is uploaded on the Programme's website.
- With financed additional projects, placed highest on the reserves lists of the respective Priority Axis, the total budget for the 1st Call for proposals reached **EUR 10 335 473**.

Priority Axis	Total number of funded proposals	Contracted amount (€)
PA 1 - Environment	14	3 864 831
PA 2 - Tourism	17	4 707 628
PA 3 - Competitiveness	17	1 763 014
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>10 335 473</b>

- **5 projects were successfully Implemented** at the end of 2017.
- On the basis of the performed analysis prepared in 2017 a forecast can be made that more than half of the planned Programme outputs are expected to be achieved by the projects under the First Call
- The progress of implementation for the projects was promoted through **social media**, as well as **on numerous websites** and **two trainings** for beneficiaries focused on all aspects for the implementation of projects.
- **MIS and the Beneficiary Portal** had led to improved communication between the beneficiaries and all Programme authorities.



45 contracts awarded in late 2016



3 more projects funded in 2017



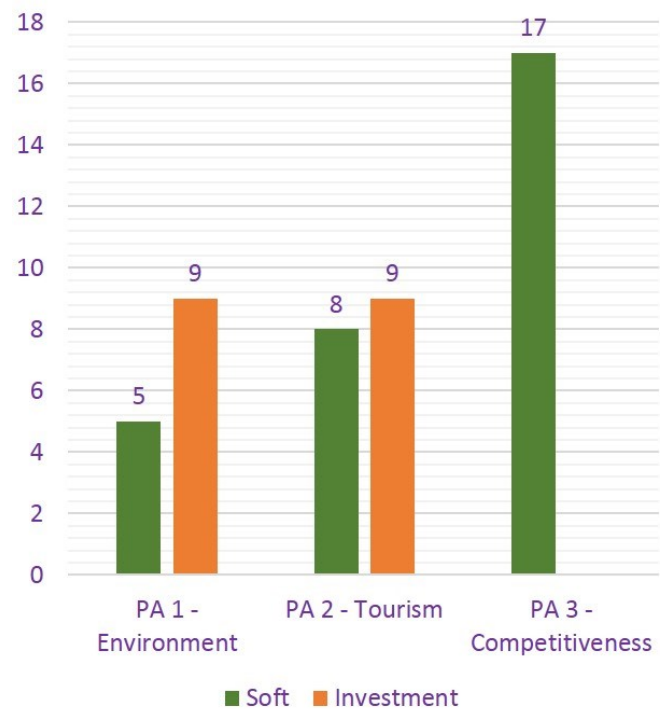
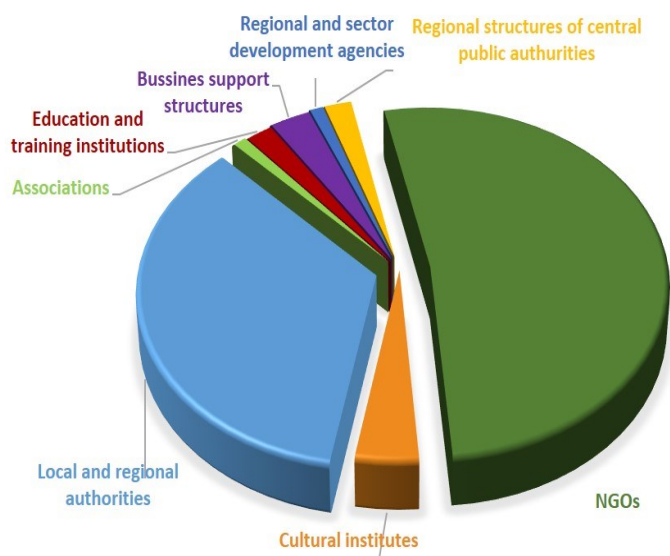
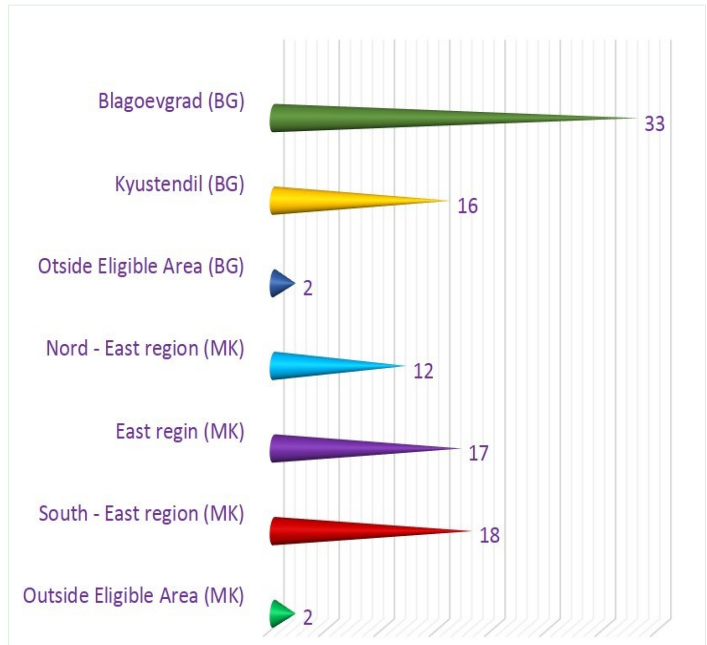
5 projects implemented to the end of 2017



FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS - IMPLEMENTATION

Basics facts after financing the additional projects

- The majority of the projects are soft;
- The Lead partners (LPs) of the contracted projects are distributed as follows: 21 LPs from Bulgaria and 27 LPs from Macedonia;
- The most presented partnership organisations are the NGOs, followed by Local and regional authorities and cultural institutions;
- 51 Project Partners from Bulgaria and 49 from Macedonia are participating in the implementation of the projects.



## EVENTS ORGANISED IN 2017

**The 4th Joint Monitoring Committee meeting** was held on 30 May 2017, in Berovo, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The JMC members were informed of the progress of implementation of the Interreg-IPA CBC Programme Bulgaria - the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2014-2020 and the state of play under the Closure process of programming period 2007-2013.

The participants were discussing the concept, key elements and timeline for the Second Call for proposals.

During the meeting the JMC members reviewed and approved the 2016 Annual Implementation Report of the Interreg-IPA CBC Programme Bulgaria - the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2014-2020 and Citizen's Summary to the year 2016.



### Two trainings for beneficiaries under the First Call for project proposals were held in Kyustendil

Training session **The most common mistakes by the beneficiaries in implementation and reporting of contracts** under the First call - on 23 March 2017 where the representatives of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works and the Joint Secretariat at attendees beneficiaries presented their most common mistakes when implementing common projects and reviewed ways of solving them.

**Training for beneficiary** whose projects are additionally funded under the First call for proposals - on 27 June 2017 in Kyustendil, focused on the implementation of projects, including project's progress reporting, procurement under the PRAG, financial reporting, visualization and other relevant issues.





## EUROPEAN COOPERATION DAY 2017

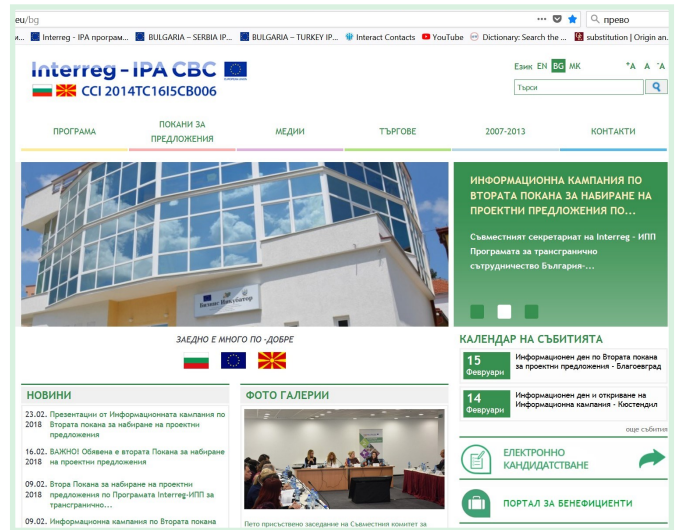
For a sixth consecutive year the cross-border region celebrated the **European Cooperation day**. The celebration was held on 27 September 2017 in "Arena Petrich" sports hall in Petrich, Bulgaria. This year the event included sports competitions of young people from the schools in Petrich and Strumica, who participated in basketball, volleyball and football matches, between teams composed of young players from both municipalities.





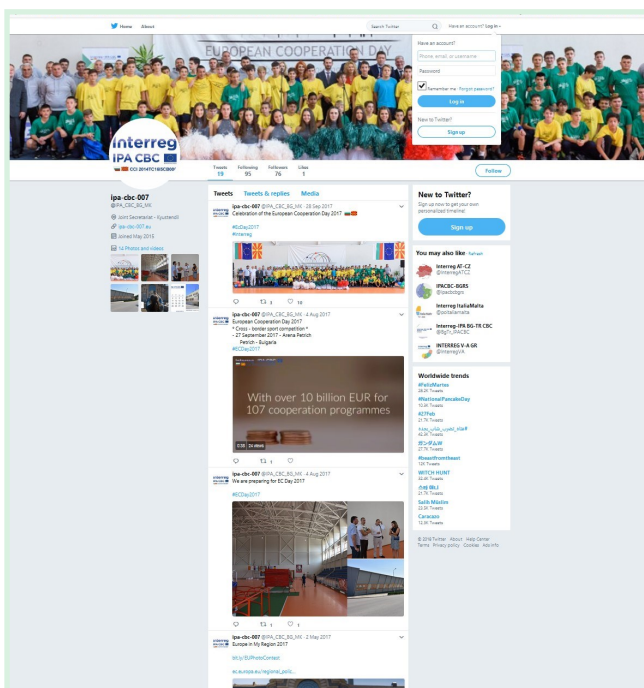
## PROGRAMME WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

During 2017 the official website of the Programme [www.ipa-cbc-007.eu](http://www.ipa-cbc-007.eu) (accessible to people with disabilities as well) was one of the main publicity tools to promote the Programme and to disseminate the relevant information in a user-friendly interface, which allows the necessary information to be found more easily. During the 2017 the Programme website was visited 35 125 times of which 79 % are new and 21 % are old visitors. About 10 % more visitors than the previous year, and 18,8 % more new visitors.



## FACEBOOK & TWITTER

Programme related information has been published on the Facebook and Twitter Programme profiles. By the end of 2017 Facebook reached more than 3100 members. The Facebook and Twitter pages provide links to the Programme official website and websites of the project beneficiaries, as well as photos from events, implemented projects and the cross-border region as whole.

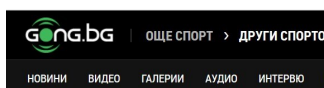


## PROGRAMME MEDIA CAMPAIGN AND MEDIA COVERAGE

Two media campaigns were organized: campaign for Training seminar for Programme beneficiaries “The most common mistakes by the beneficiaries in implementation and reporting of contracts” and campaign for European Cooperation Day 2017.

Over 80 different publications related to Programme activities were spreaded among general public through electronic media of both countries (Web portals, local, regional and national newspapers, TV and radio stations).

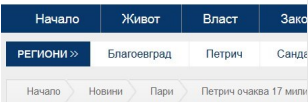
Press releases were distributed to national, regional and local media before and after the programme events and initiatives. During the European Cooperation Day 2017 eight boost articles in both languages (video clip, poster of EC Day 2017 and photo event) were uploaded on the Facebook page, having as target groups the local population in the cross-border region.



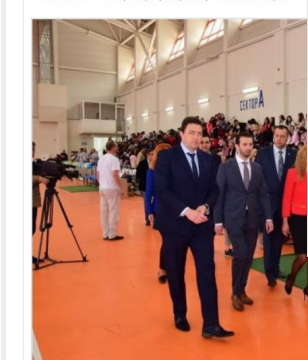
### Празник в Петрич за сътрудничество



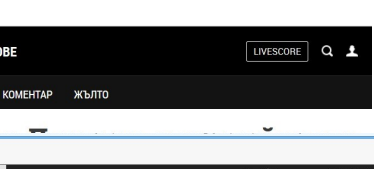
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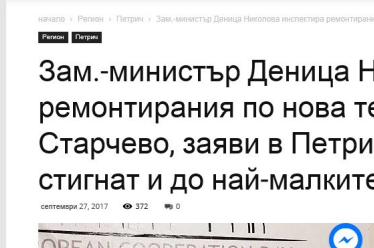
### Петрич очаква 17 милиона лева



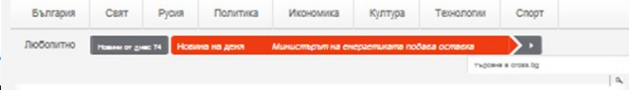
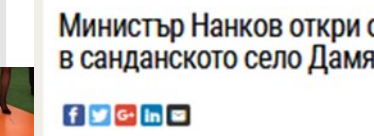
Заместник-министър Деница Николова представи в Петрич председателството на България на Съвета на Европейския съюз. Малко над 17 000 000 лева идват в община Петрич по година, от тях близо 6 000 000 лева са за образователни проекти, 4 500 учащи се, обяви кметът Димитър Бръчков. Заместник-министър Николова и градоначалникът Бръчков са в дейности на пътя Първомай - Старчево, който се рехабилитира с помощта на европейски средства. Това е най-мощният ремонт на третоколесния репу



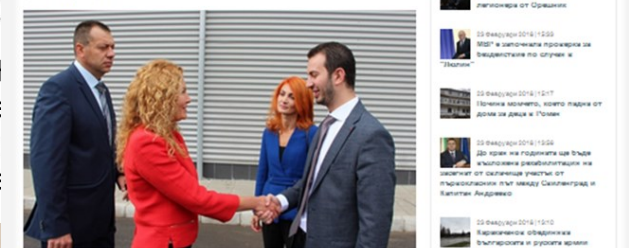
### Зам.-министър Деница Николова: Ще търсим възможност за увеличаване на средствата от ЕС за съвместни проекти със Западните Балкани



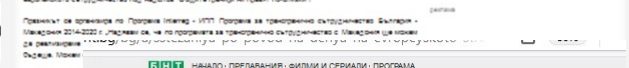
### Министър Нанков откри обнове в санданското село Дамяница



### Деница Николова: Ще търсим възможност за увеличаване на средствата от ЕС за съвместни проекти със Западните Балкани

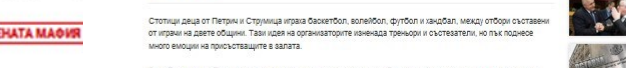


Министър Нанков откри обнове в санданското село Дамяница. Това е най-мощният ремонт на третоколесния репу



### Състезания по повод на Деня на европейското сътрудничество

В спортната зала на град Петрич се проведоха състезания в няколко различни вида спорт, в които участваха ученици от южния град и македонския Струмица. Поводът бе Денят на европейското сътрудничество, който се отбелязва за шеста поредна година.



Целта на кампанията, координирана от Европейската комисия и подкрепена от Комитета на регионите и Европейския парламент, е да се предоставят на широката общественост постиженията на сътрудничеството между европейските държави и региони.





TOGETHER IS MUCH BETTER



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