

Implementation Report for IPA II Cross-Border PART A

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

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2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Key information on the implementation of the cooperation programme for the year concerned, including on financial instruments, with relation to the financial and indicator data.

During year 2020 all activities concerning implementation of the projects financed under the 2nd Call for proposals (launched in 2018) of the Interreg – IPA II CBC Programme Bulgaria - the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia CCI 2014TC1615CB006 (hereinafter referred as Programme) were ongoing. Therefore, the joint efforts of Managing Authority (MA), National Authority (NA) and Joint Secretariat (JS) were focus on projects implementation together with modification of the Programme related to reallocation of funds and financing of projects from the reserve list under the 2nd Call for Proposals (CfP) and programming of new period 2021-2027.

Modification of the Programme

The subject of the modification of the Programme approved with EC Decision 7882/09.11.2020 is related to amendment of the financial plan for the period 2014-2020 with the corresponding co-financing and breakdown between priorities and adjustment of the financial indicators in the performance framework for the final 2023 target:

1. Reallocation of funds from Priority Axis 3 “Competitiveness” to Priority Axis 1 “Environment” and to Priority axis 2 “Tourism”

The proposed amendment is related to transfer of funds from Priority Axis (PA) 3 “Competitiveness” to PA 1 “Environment” at the total amount of EUR 580 682 and to PA 2 “Tourism” at the total amount of EUR 299 319 in order to ensure financing of additional projects necessary for the achievement of the underachieved OIs under both PAs. Therefore, the Union support (in EUR) of PA 3 is changed as followed:

- PA 1 “Environment” the Union support is changed from EUR 5 789 852 to EUR 6 283 432 and the proportion (%) from 35% to 38% ;
- PA 2 “Tourism” the Union support of is changed from EUR 6 616 974 to EUR 6 871 395 and the proportion (%) from 40% to 41,5%;
- PA 3 “Competitiveness” the Union support is changed from EUR 2 481 365 to EUR 1 733 364 and the proportion (%) from 15% to 10,5% .

2. Adjustment of the financial indicators of the Performance framework

Adjustments in the financial indicators are needed due to the fact that at the time of submission of the Programme, the milestones for 2018 and the final targets for 2023 were set representing only IPA funding without the corresponding national co-financing.

Based on the assessment of the implementation of the Performance framework by 2018, taking into account recommendations by the European Commission and in compliance with Article 5, point 2 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 2015/2014 of March 2014, the target values of the financial indicators for 2023 for each of the three Priority Axes are amended in order to refer to the total amount of eligible expenditure, representing the sum of the EU contribution (IPA II) and the corresponding national co-financing, entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by that authority in accordance with point (c) of Article 126 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

3. Extending the list of potential beneficiaries under Technical Assistance 2014-2020

In the light of the preparation of the strategic direction of the future Programme 2021-2027 the Managing bodies identified the need to extend the list of the potential beneficiaries under PA 4 “Technical Assistance” described in item 2.4.4. in the Programme Document 2014-2020, by including representatives of the regional and central public authorities which have legal competences related to the infrastructure/measures chosen for strategic support within the Future Programme 2021-2027.

Second Call for proposals

By 31 December 2020, 7 (seven) “soft measures” projects successfully completed their implementation under the 2nd Call for proposals. 10 investment projects at the total amount of EUR 4 360 862,08 remained under implementation.

Based on the JMC’s decision from 12 of December 2019 related to modification of the Programme in view of budget reallocation between priority axes, over contracting and financing of projects from the reserves lists under the Second Call for Proposals, eight (8) projects from the ranking lists of the unachieved OIs were provisionally approved for financing – 6 under Priority Axis 1 (PA 1) “Environment” and 2 under Priority Axis 2 (PA 2) ”Tourism”.

MA and NA conducted pre-contracting procedures in April 2020 and prepared Pre-contracting Report was approved with JMC Decision from 25.05.2020. By the end of 31 December 2020, 3 (three) subsidy contracts with projects from the reserve list at the total amount of EUR 893167,10 were concluded, 1 under PO1 and 2 under PO2. Due to the COVID-19 measure one training on project implementation for beneficiaries from Republic of Bulgaria were held online (via ZOOM) in July 2020.

By 31 December 2020, 68 subsidy contracts at a total of EUR 16 405 240 were signed under 3 priority axes of the two calls for project proposals, as well as 6 contracts under PO4 Technical Assistance - total of EUR 1 802 417, which represents 93,56% of the Programme’s budget.

The COVID-19 outbreak was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization on 11 March 2020. By causing a several months of lockdown the COVID-19 health crisis has had significant unfavourable economic and social effects. Restrictions for travel and obligatory quarantine when entering the territory of the partnering countries put implementation of the soft activities under the projects at risk.

On one hand, some projects that faced difficulties in implementation of their activities requested temporary project’ suspension for the period of the restrictions.

On the other hand, some of the soft project activities were implemented by the alternative methods – online meetings, events, trainings, press-conferences etc. As a result 4 projects had extended their implementation due to the temporary suspension of projects’ activities.

Preparation of CBC Programme 2021-2027

In 2020, MA in coordination with NA continued the process of programming for future CBC Programme for programming period 2021-2027 as prepared the Territorial analysis, including SWOT analysis. The prepared Territorial analysis was approved by Joint Working Group (JWG) with Decision No 2 from 13.07.2020 via written procedure with thus was given mandate to MA and NA to elaborate and present proposal for intervention logic based on conclusions of the analysis.

Prepared Intervention Logic of the future CBC Programme was approved by JWG written procedure from 27.10.2020 and was given mandate to MA and NA to elaborate and present proposal for Programme document. Till the end of the year and in connection with approved Intervention logic tender procedure was launched within the scope of Policy Objective 5 „Europe closer to the citizen“ for “Elaboration of a Territorial strategy for integrated measures to be financed under the INTERREG - IPA CB cooperation programmes 2021 -2027 between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of North Macedonia and Turkey”.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

3.1 Overview of the implementation

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
1	Environment	<p>Priority Axis 1 "Environment"- 6 (six) projects were under implementation at the total amount of EUR 2 100 656,64 (without applicants' own co-financing) during 2020</p> <p>Under Specific Objective 1.1 "Environmental protection and sustainable use of the common natural resources of the CBC area" – 1 one "soft" measures" project at the amount of EUR 113 861 successfully completed its implementation;</p> <p>Under Specific Objective 1.2 "Prevention and mitigation the consequences of natural and man-caused disasters of cross-border dimension and impact" – 5 (five) investment projects at total amount of EUR 1 986 795,64 are in process of implementation with duration period 18 months (one project) and 24 months (four projects).</p> <p>No significant request for modifications/changes were submitted by the beneficiaries under Priority axis 1.</p> <p>There were no significant problems observed with the implementation of the Priority 1.</p>
2	Tourism	<p>Priority Axis 2 "Tourism"- 8 (eight) projects were under implementation at the total amount of EUR 2 673 926,38 (without applicants' own co-financing) during 2020.</p> <p>Under Specific Objective 2.1 Enhancing the tourism potential of the region through cooperation initiatives in better preservation and sustainable utilization of natural and cultural heritage – 5 (five) investment projects at the total amount of EUR 2 374 066,44 (without applicant's own co-financing), are in process of implementation. All project are with duration of 24 months;</p> <p>Under Specific Objective 2.3 Promoting cooperation among regional actors in the area of sustainable tourism -- 3 (three) "soft measures" projects at the total amount of EUR 299 859, 94 successfully completed their implementation;</p> <p>No significant request for modifications/changes were submitted by the beneficiaries under Priority axis 2.</p> <p>2 projects were suspended due to unfavourable situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic situation.</p> <p>There were no significant problems observed with the implementation of the Priority 2.</p>
3	Competitiveness	<p>Priority Axis 3: Competitiveness - Under Specific Objective 3.1 Improving the competitiveness of regional businesses – 3 (three) projects "soft" measures at the total amount of EUR 336 023,71 successfully completed their implementation by the end of 2020;</p> <p>No significant request for modifications/changes were submitted by the beneficiaries under Priority axis 3.</p> <p>2 projects were suspended due to unfavourable situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic situation.</p> <p>There were no significant problems observed with the implementation of the Priority 3.</p>
4	Technical assistance	<p>Based on the Multiannual Indicative Budget Forecast 2015 – 2023 under Priority axis 4- Technical assistance, Managing bodies prepared Technical Assistance package for 2020-2023 that includes: Annual Technical Assistance Plan for 2020-2023, Budget breakdown for 2020-2023 and Eligibility of Technical Assistance Expenditures approved with JMC decision No34 from 10.02.2020. The presented TA Plan provides provisional information about the Programme related activities envisaged to be carried out for period 2020-2023 by MA, NA and JS.</p> <p>The expenditures covered under Priority Axis 4 "Technical Assistance" for 2020-2023 amounted at EUR 966 664,17 - divided into two main "operations" – expenditures of the MA and expenditures of the NA.</p>

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
		<p>During the reporting period, Programme management activities were performed that ensured the necessary support related to projects implementation and administrative and operational activities concerning MA, NA, JS and FLC units within the MA (staff remuneration, participation in various events and training seminars, maintenance of office premises, etc.).</p> <p>The Programme activities also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of JMC meetings; • Organization of technical meetings of Programme bodies; • Pre-contracting procedures with projects from the reserve list under 2nd Call; • Online trainings for team members of projects funded under the 2nd Call due to Covid-19 pandemic situation; • Meeting of Joint Working Group (JWG) for preparation of the future CBC Programme 2021-2027; <p>Programme website was constantly updated with news, FAQs and information, social media accounts in Facebook and Twitter were further developed as a step to apply an innovative approach towards the general public.</p>

Not validated

3.2 Common and programme specific indicators (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axes other than technical assistance

Priority axis	1 - Environment
Thematic Priority	b - Protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management through, inter alia: joint actions for environmental protection; promoting sustainable use of natural resources, resource efficiency, renewable energy sources and the shift towards a safe and sustainable low-carbon economy; promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems and emergency preparedness.

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 1.b

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	1.1.1	Number of supported investments for improving the environmental conditions in the programme region	number	22.00	22.00	
S	1.1.1	Number of supported investments for improving the environmental conditions in the programme region	number	22.00	22.00	
F	1.1.2	Number of nature protected areas addressed by supported interventions	number	5.00	2.00	
S	1.1.2	Number of nature protected areas addressed by supported interventions	number	5.00	2.00	
F	1.1.3	Number of supported joint mechanisms for environmental protection, promotion of biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources	number	8.00	9.00	
S	1.1.3	Number of supported joint mechanisms for environmental protection, promotion of biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources	number	8.00	9.00	
F	1.1.4	Number of institutions/organizations involved in environmental related activities	number	145.00	147.00	
S	1.1.4	Number of institutions/organizations involved in environmental related activities	number	145.00	132.00	
F	1.1.5	Number of participants in environmental related trainings and campaigns	number	1,031.00	1,091	
S	1.1.5	Number of participants in environmental related trainings and campaigns	number	1,031.00	1,014.00	
F	1.2.1	Supported investments for improving disaster management and risk prevention	number	7.00	6.00	
S	1.2.1	Supported investments for improving disaster management and risk prevention	number	7.00	8.00	
F	1.2.2	Supported investments for adaptation and mitigation of climate change consequences	number	7.00	1.00	
S	1.2.2	Supported investments for adaptation and mitigation of climate change consequences	number	7.00	11.00	
F	1.2.3	Supported joint mechanisms for disaster management and risk prevention and for promotion of climate change awareness	number	3.00	1.00	
S	1.2.3	Supported joint mechanisms for disaster management and risk prevention and for promotion of climate change awareness	number	3.00	4.00	
F	1.2.4	Number of institutions/organizations involved in initiatives related to risk prevention and management	number	17.00	12.00	
S	1.2.4	Number of institutions/organizations involved in initiatives related to risk prevention and management	number	17.00	30.00	
F	1.2.5	Number of participants in trainings and campaigns in the field of risk prevention, (including marginalized communities and other vulnerable groups)	number	300.00	108.00	
S	1.2.5	Number of participants in trainings and campaigns in the field of risk prevention, (including marginalized communities and other vulnerable groups)	number	300.00	609.00	
F	1.2.6	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	number	350,000.00	255,847.00	
S	1.2.6	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	number	350,000.00	467,666.00	
F	1.2.7	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	number	400,000.00	0.00	
S	1.2.7	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	number	400,000.00	202,474.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	1.1.1	Number of supported investments for improving the environmental conditions in the programme region	22.00	22.00	0.00			
S	1.1.1	Number of supported investments for improving the environmental conditions in the programme region	22.00	22.00	22.00			
F	1.1.2	Number of nature protected areas addressed by supported interventions	0.00	0.00	0.00			
S	1.1.2	Number of nature protected areas addressed by supported interventions	2.00	0.00	0.00			
F	1.1.3	Number of supported joint mechanisms for environmental protection, promotion of biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources	8.00	8.00	0.00			
S	1.1.3	Number of supported joint mechanisms for environmental protection, promotion of biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources	9.00	8.00	8.00			
F	1.1.4	Number of institutions/organizations involved in environmental related activities	145.00	145.00	0.00			
S	1.1.4	Number of institutions/organizations involved in environmental related activities	132.00	130.00	130.00			
F	1.1.5	Number of participants in environmental related trainings and campaigns	1,031.00	1,031.00	0.00			
S	1.1.5	Number of participants in environmental related trainings and campaigns	1014.00	954.00	954.00			
F	1.2.1	Supported investments for improving disaster management and risk prevention	6.00	6.00	0.00			
S	1.2.1	Supported investments for improving disaster management and risk prevention	8.00	6.00	6.00			
F	1.2.2	Supported investments for adaptation and mitigation of climate change consequences	1.00	1.00	0.00			
S	1.2.2	Supported investments for adaptation and mitigation of climate change consequences	9.00	1.00	1.00			
F	1.2.3	Supported joint mechanisms for disaster management and risk prevention and for promotion of climate change awareness	1.00	1.00	0.00			
S	1.2.3	Supported joint mechanisms for disaster management and risk prevention and for promotion of climate change awareness	3.00	1.00	1.00			
F	1.2.4	Number of institutions/organizations involved in initiatives related to risk prevention and management	12.00	12.00	0.00			
S	1.2.4	Number of institutions/organizations involved in initiatives related to risk prevention and management	21.00	6.00	6.00			
F	1.2.5	Number of participants in trainings and campaigns in the field of risk prevention, (including marginalized communities and other vulnerable groups)	108.00	108.00	0.00			
S	1.2.5	Number of participants in trainings and campaigns in the field of risk prevention, (including marginalized communities and other vulnerable groups)	399.00	60.00	60.00			
F	1.2.6	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	255,847.00	255,847.00	0.00			
S	1.2.6	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	432,315.00	255,840.00	255,840.00			
F	1.2.7	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	0.00	0.00	0.00			

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
S	1.2.7	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	104,786.00	0.00	0.00			

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Not validated

Priority axis	1 - Environment
Thematic Priority	b - Protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management through, inter alia: joint actions for environmental protection; promoting sustainable use of natural resources, resource efficiency, renewable energy sources and the shift towards a safe and sustainable low-carbon economy; promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems and emergency preparedness.
Specific objective	1.1 - Environmental protection and sustainable use of the common natural resources of the CBC area

Table 1: Result indicators - 1.b.1.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
1.1.1	Increased level of capacity in environment protection and sustainable use of common natural resources	Scale	2.56	2014	3.00			Frequency of reporting: 2018, 2023

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
1.1.1	Increased level of capacity in environment protection and sustainable use of common natural resources				2.82				

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1.1.1	Increased level of capacity in environment protection and sustainable use of common natural resources				

Priority axis	1 - Environment
Thematic Priority	b - Protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management through, inter alia: joint actions for environmental protection; promoting sustainable use of natural resources, resource efficiency, renewable energy sources and the shift towards a safe and sustainable low-carbon economy; promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems and emergency preparedness.
Specific objective	1.2 - Prevention and mitigation of consequences of natural and man-caused disasters of cross-border dimension and impact

Table 1: Result indicators - 1.b.1.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
1.2.1	Increased joint interventions in the field of risk prevention and management	Percentage	6.00	2014	80.00			Frequency of reporting: 2018, 2023
1.2.2	Increased joint initiatives related to risk prevention and management	percentage	30.00	2014	20.00			Frequency of reporting: 2018, 2023

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
1.2.1	Increased joint interventions in the field of risk prevention and management			100.00					
1.2.2	Increased joint initiatives related to risk prevention and management			27.00					

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1.2.1	Increased joint interventions in the field of risk prevention and management				
1.2.2	Increased joint initiatives related to risk prevention and management				

Priority axis	2 - Tourism
Thematic Priority	d - Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 2.d

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	2.1.1	Number of cultural and historical touristic sites reconstructed / restored / covered by conservation and protection actions	number	16.00	6.00	
S	2.1.1	Number of cultural and historical touristic sites reconstructed / restored / covered by conservation and protection actions	number	16.00	18.00	
F	2.1.2	Length of new or reconstructed or upgraded access roads to natural, cultural and historic tourism sites, cycling routes and walking paths	km	5.00	4.214	
S	2.1.2	Length of new or reconstructed or upgraded access roads to natural, cultural and historic tourism sites, cycling routes and walking paths	km	5.00	12.123	
F	2.1.3	Number of newly built or reconstructed or upgraded tourist related facilities and attractions	number	16.00	15.00	
S	2.1.3	Number of newly built or reconstructed or upgraded tourist related facilities and attractions	number	16.00	17.00	
F	2.1.4	Number of created/reconstructed facilities for disabled people for access to or in the supported touristic sites	number	5.00	4.00	
S	2.1.4	Number of created/reconstructed facilities for disabled people for access to or in the supported touristic sites	number	5.00	5.00	
F	2.2.1	Number of joint touristic products, services, brands, thematic routes	number	20.00	20.00	
S	2.2.1	Number of joint touristic products, services, brands, thematic routes	number	20.00	20.00	
F	2.2.2	Number of actions, tools and initiatives developed and/or implemented for promotion of sustainable tourism potential of the eligible border area	number	19.00	19.00	
S	2.2.2	Number of actions, tools and initiatives developed and/or implemented for promotion of sustainable tourism potential of the eligible border area	number	19.00	19.00	
F	2.2.3	Number of participants in joint training and qualification initiatives in the field of sustainable tourism	number	256.00	256.00	
S	2.2.3	Number of participants in joint training and qualification initiatives in the field of sustainable tourism	number	256.00	240.00	
F	2.3.1	Number of cross-border networks established or strengthened in the field of sustainable tourism	number	5.00	6.00	
S	2.3.1	Number of cross-border networks established or strengthened in the field of sustainable tourism	number	5.00	6.00	
F	2.3.2	Number of cultural events held for promoting the region's cultural identity	number	15.00	15.00	
S	2.3.2	Number of cultural events held for promoting the region's cultural identity	number	15.00	15.00	
F	2.3.3	Number of participants in youth initiatives	number	150.00	240.00	
S	2.3.3	Number of participants in youth initiatives	number	150.00	240.00	

(I)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	2.1.1	Number of cultural and historical touristic sites reconstructed / restored / covered by conservation and protection actions	6.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2.1.1	Number of cultural and historical touristic sites reconstructed / restored / covered by conservation and protection actions	16.00	5.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	2.1.2	Length of new or reconstructed or upgraded access roads to natural, cultural and historic tourism sites, cycling routes and walking paths	4.21	4.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2.1.2	Length of new or reconstructed or upgraded access roads to natural, cultural and historic tourism sites, cycling routes and walking paths	12.12	4.21	4.21	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	2.1.3	Number of newly built or reconstructed or upgraded tourist related facilities and attractions	15.00	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2.1.3	Number of newly built or reconstructed or upgraded tourist related facilities and attractions	17.00	12.00	15.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	2.1.4	Number of created/reconstructed facilities for disabled people for access to or in the supported touristic sites	4.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2.1.4	Number of created/reconstructed facilities for disabled people for access to or in the supported touristic sites	5.00	3.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	2.2.1	Number of joint touristic products, services, brands, thematic routes	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2.2.1	Number of joint touristic products, services, brands, thematic routes	20.00	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	2.2.2	Number of actions, tools and initiatives developed and/or implemented for promotion of sustainable tourism potential of the eligible border area	19.00	18.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2.2.2	Number of actions, tools and initiatives developed and/or implemented for promotion of sustainable tourism potential of the eligible border area	19.00	19.00	19.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	2.2.3	Number of participants in joint training and qualification initiatives in the field of sustainable tourism	256.00	256.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2.2.3	Number of participants in joint training and qualification initiatives in the field of sustainable tourism	240.00	240.00	240.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	2.3.1	Number of cross-border networks established or strengthened in the field of sustainable tourism	3.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2.3.1	Number of cross-border networks established or strengthened in the field of sustainable tourism	6.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	2.3.2	Number of cultural events held for promoting the region's cultural identity	7.00	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2.3.2	Number of cultural events held for promoting the region's cultural identity	15.00	7.00	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	2.3.3	Number of participants in youth initiatives	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2.3.3	Number of participants in youth initiatives	240.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	2 - Tourism
Thematic Priority	d - Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.
Specific objective	2.1 - Enhancing the tourism potential of the region through cooperation initiatives in better preservation and sustainable utilization of natural and cultural heritage

Table 1: Result indicators - 2.d.2.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
2.1.1	Increased nights spent in the cross-border region	percentage	1,618,655.00	2014	1.00			Frequency of reporting: 2018, 2023

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
2.1.1	Increased nights spent in the cross-border region			2,081,914.00					

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.1.1	Increased nights spent in the cross-border region				

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - Tourism
Thematic Priority	d - Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.
Specific objective	2.2 - Raising the competitiveness of the CBC region's tourist offer

Table 1: Result indicators - 2.d.2.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
2.2.1	Increased level of joint and integrated approaches to sustainable tourism development in the border area	scale	2.44	2014	3.00			Frequency of reporting: 2018, 2023

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
2.2.1	Increased level of joint and integrated approaches to sustainable tourism development in the border area				2.69				

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.2.1	Increased level of joint and integrated approaches to sustainable tourism development in the border area				

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - Tourism
Thematic Priority	d - Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.
Specific objective	2.3 - Promoting cooperation among regional actors in the area of sustainable tourism

Table 1: Result indicators - 2.d.2.3

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
2.3.1	Increased public awareness regarding sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage and resources	scale	2.49	2014	3.00			Frequency of reporting: 2018, 2023

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
2.3.1	Increased public awareness regarding sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage and resources				2.73				

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.3.1	Increased public awareness regarding sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage and resources				

Not validated

Priority axis	3 - Competitiveness
Thematic Priority	g - Enhancing competitiveness, the business environment and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, trade and investment through, inter alia, promotion and support to entrepreneurship, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, and development of local cross-border markets and internationalisation.

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 3.g

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	3.1.1	Supported joint start-up and self-employment initiatives	number	11.00	12.00	
S	3.1.1	Supported joint start-up and self-employment initiatives	number	11.00	12.00	
F	3.1.2	Number of participants (split into men and women) in supported training and qualification initiatives	number	1,087.00	1,241.00	
S	3.1.2	Number of participants (split into men and women) in supported training and qualification initiatives	number	1,087.00	1,128.00	
F	3.1.3	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	number	151.00	153.00	
S	3.1.3	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	number	151.00	147.00	
F	3.1.4	Supported initiatives for economic development and investment promotion	number	20.00	24.00	
S	3.1.4	Supported initiatives for economic development and investment promotion	number	20.00	20.00	
F	3.1.5	Number of cooperation networks	number	18.00	19.00	
S	3.1.5	Number of cooperation networks	number	18.00	19.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	3.1.1	Supported joint start-up and self-employment initiatives	11.00	10.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	3.1.1	Supported joint start-up and self-employment initiatives	12.00	11.00	11.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	3.1.2	Number of participants (split into men and women) in supported training and qualification initiatives	1,047.00	682.00	365.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	3.1.2	Number of participants (split into men and women) in supported training and qualification initiatives	1,128.00	1,652.00	1,652.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	3.1.3	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	151.00	148.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	3.1.3	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	147.00	145.00	145.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	3.1.4	Supported initiatives for economic development and investment promotion	19.00	18.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	3.1.4	Supported initiatives for economic development and investment promotion	20.00	15.00	15.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	3.1.5	Number of cooperation networks	18.00	16.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	3.1.5	Number of cooperation networks	19.00	12.00	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	3 - Competitiveness
Thematic Priority	g - Enhancing competitiveness, the business environment and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, trade and investment through, inter alia, promotion and support to entrepreneurship, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, and development of local cross-border markets and internationalisation.
Specific objective	3.1 - Improving the competitiveness of regional businesses

Table 1: Result indicators - 3.g.3.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
3.1.1	Increased cross-border business networks created or extended	percentage	29.00	2014	10.00			Frequency of reporting: 2018, 2023
3.1.2	Increased level of awareness on the business opportunities offered by the region	scale	2.34	2014	3.00			Frequency of reporting: 2018, 2023

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
3.1.1	Increased cross-border business networks created or extended			47.00					
3.1.2	Increased level of awareness on the business opportunities offered by the region				-2.64				

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
3.1.1	Increased cross-border business networks created or extended				
3.1.2	Increased level of awareness on the business opportunities offered by the region				

Priority axes for technical assistance

Priority axis	4 - Technical assistance
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Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 4. Technical assistance

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	4.1.1	Number of performed evaluations of the programme	number	2.00	0.00	The provided information is not cumulative
S	4.1.1	Number of performed evaluations of the programme	number	2.00	0.00	The provided information is not cumulative
F	4.1.2	Updated MIS system	number	1.00	1.00	The provided information is not cumulative
S	4.1.2	Updated MIS system	number	1.00	1.00	The provided information is not cumulative
F	4.1.3	Number of monitoring committee meetings	number	14.00	1.00	The provided information is not cumulative
S	4.1.3	Number of monitoring committee meetings	number	14.00	1.00	The provided information is not cumulative
F	4.1.4	Number of publicity events for beneficiaries	number	10.00	2.00	The provided information is not cumulative
S	4.1.4	Number of publicity events for beneficiaries	number	10.00	2.00	The provided information is not cumulative
F	4.1.5	Number of employees whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	number	8.00	21.00	6 JS experts in Kyustendil, 2 JS experts in Strumitsa branch office, 6 BG FLC controllers and 7 MA experts
S	4.1.5	Number of employees whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	number	8.00	21.00	6 JS experts in Kyustendil, 2 JS experts in Strumitsa branch office, 6 BG FLC controllers and 7 MA experts

(I)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	4.1.1	Number of performed evaluations of the programme	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	4.1.1	Number of performed evaluations of the programme	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	4.1.2	Updated MIS system	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
S	4.1.2	Updated MIS system	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
F	4.1.3	Number of monitoring committee meetings	1.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	0.00
S	4.1.3	Number of monitoring committee meetings	1.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	0.00
F	4.1.4	Number of publicity events for beneficiaries	4.00	7.00	3.00	2.00	6.00	0.00
S	4.1.4	Number of publicity events for beneficiaries	4.00	7.00	3.00	2.00	6.00	0.00
F	4.1.5	Number of employees whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	23.00	17.00	20.00	7.00	5.00	0.00
S	4.1.5	Number of employees whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	23.00	17.00	20.00	7.00	5.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

3.3 Table 3: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone 2018 total	for	Final target (2023) total	2020	Observations
1	F	1	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 1 "Environment"	EUR	419 323*		7,392,274.00	3 758 497,74	Total certified amount (IPA + national funding)
1	I	1.1.1	Number of contracted projects related to investments for improving the environmental conditions in the programme region	number	6		6.00	6.00	Signed contracts
1	I	1.2.1	Number of contracted projects related to investments for improving disaster management and risk prevention	number	3		5.00	5.00	Signed contracts
1	O	1.1.1	Number of supported investments for improving the environmental conditions in the programme region	number	0		22.00	22.00	Based on the project contracted and their duration
1	O	1.2.1	Supported investments for improving disaster management and risk prevention	number	0		7.00	6.00	Based on the project contracted and their duration
2	F	2	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 2 "Tourism"	EUR	479 226*		8,083,995.00	4 343 309,38	Total certified amount (IPA + national funding)
2	I	2.1.3	Number of contracted projects related to newly built or reconstructed or upgraded tourist related facilities and attractions	number	5		8.00	9.00	Signed contracts
2	O	2.1.3	Number of newly built or reconstructed or upgraded tourist related facilities and attractions	number	3		16.00	15.00	Based on the project contracted and their duration
2	O	2.2.1	Number of joint touristic products, services, brands, thematic routes	number	8		20.00	20.00	Based on the project contracted and their duration
3	F	3	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 3 "Competitiveness"	EUR	179 710*		2,039,252.00	1 773 373,91	Total certified amount (IPA + national funding)
3	O	3.1.4	Supported initiatives for economic development and investment promotion	number	8		20.00	24.00	Based on the project contracted and their duration

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
1	F	1	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 1 "Environment"	EUR	3,694,613.26	1,889,181.37	29,983.58	0.00	0.00
1	I	1.1.1	Number of contracted projects related to investments for improving the environmental conditions in the programme region	number	*6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	0.00
1	I	1.2.1	Number of contracted projects related to investments for improving disaster management and risk prevention	number	5.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	0.00
1	O	1.1.1	Number of supported investments for improving the environmental conditions in the programme region	number	22.00	22.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1	O	1.2.1	Supported investments for improving disaster management and risk prevention	number	6.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	F	2	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 2 "Tourism"	EUR	3,643,619.11	1,470,817.78	57,619.03	0.00	0.00
2	I	2.1.3	Number of contracted projects related to newly built or reconstructed or upgraded tourist related facilities and attractions	number	9.00	7.00	7.00	5.00	0.00
2	O	2.1.3	Number of newly built or reconstructed or upgraded tourist related facilities and attractions	number	15.00	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	O	2.2.1	Number of joint touristic products, services, brands, thematic routes	number	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	F	3	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 3 "Competitiveness"	EUR	1,703,227.67	1,190,051.20	93,261.61	0.00	0.00
3	O	3.1.4	Supported initiatives for economic development and investment promotion	number	19.00	18.00	1.00	0.00	0.00

*corrected technical mistake made in the filling of the AIR 2019, due to incorrect counting of a contract concluded on the same priority axis, but without value in the specific indicator.

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2014
1	F	1	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 1 "Environment"	EUR	0.00
1	I	1.1.1	Number of contracted projects related to investments for improving the environmental conditions in the programme region	number	0.00
1	I	1.2.1	Number of contracted projects related to investments for improving disaster management and risk prevention	number	0.00
1	O	1.1.1	Number of supported investments for improving the environmental conditions in the programme region	number	0.00
1	O	1.2.1	Supported investments for improving disaster management and risk prevention	number	0.00
2	F	2	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 2 "Tourism"	EUR	0.00
2	I	2.1.3	Number of contracted projects related to newly built or reconstructed or upgraded tourist related facilities and attractions	number	0.00
2	O	2.1.3	Number of newly built or reconstructed or upgraded tourist related facilities and attractions	number	0.00

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2014
2	O	2.2.1	Number of joint touristic products, services, brands, thematic routes	number	0.00
3	F	3	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 3 "Competitiveness"	EUR	0.00
3	O	3.1.4	Supported initiatives for economic development and investment promotion	number	0.00

Not validated

3.4. Financial data

Table 4: Financial information at priority axis and programme level

As set out in Table 1 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and table 17 of model for cooperation programmes under IPA.

Priority axis	Calculation basis	Total funding	Co-financing rate	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries	Number of operations selected
1	Public	7,392,274.00	85.00	6,466,282.41	87.47%	6,466,282.41	4,003,960.26	54.16%	22
2	Public	8,083,995.00	85.00	7,839,920.22	96.98%	7,839,920.22	5,098,061.94	63.06%	26
3	Public	2,039,252.00	85.00	2,099,037.57	102.93%	2,099,037.57	1,839,004.87	90.18%	20
4	Public	1,946,169.00	85.00	1,802,417.19	92.61%	1,802,417.19	957,879.12	49.22%	11
Total		19,461,690.00	85.00	18,207,657.39	93.56%	18,207,657.39	11,898,906.19	61.14%	79

Not validated

Where applicable, the use of any contribution from third countries participating in the cooperation programme should be provided (for example IPA and ENI, Norway, Switzerland)

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Not validated

Table 5: Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention

As set out in Table 2 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and tables 6-9 of Model for cooperation programmes

Priority axis	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	«r.ir.etc.table5.thempridimen»	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
1	085	01	01	07	b	24	BG413	607,554.09	607,554.09	543,623.59	3
1	085	01	02	07	b	24	BG413	396,861.18	396,861.18	382,711.04	1
1	085	01	02	07	b	24	MK002	795,893.77	795,893.77	397,413.10	2
1	085	01	02	07	b	24	MK004	628,279.70	628,279.70	615,885.77	3
1	085	01	03	07	b	24	BG413	247,339.15	247,339.15	240,729.04	1
1	085	01	03	07	b	24	BG415	366,811.00	366,811.00	328,074.09	1
1	085	01	03	07	b	24	MK002	105,667.84	105,667.84	101,108.46	1
1	085	01	03	07	b	24	MK007	75,387.06	75,387.06	45,417.02	1
1	087	01	02	07	b	24	BG413	1,296,428.50	1,296,428.50	116,382.40	4
1	087	01	02	07	b	24	MK004	382,459.61	382,459.61	373,668.96	1
1	087	01	03	07	b	24	BG413	397,739.11	397,739.11	119,258.58	1
1	087	01	03	07	b	24	MK002	379,150.14	379,150.14	369,377.44	1
1	087	01	03	07	b	24	MK004	395,965.47	395,965.47	49,893.32	1
1	087	01	03	07	b	24	MK007	390,745.79	390,745.79	320,417.45	1
2	075	01	02	07	d	24	MK002	599,328.40	599,328.40	561,312.84	2
2	092	01	01	07	d	24	BG413	202,079.99	202,079.99	155,654.72	2
2	092	01	02	07	d	24	BG415	1,025,831.50	1,025,831.50	979,860.73	3
2	092	01	02	07	d	24	MK004	116,312.00	116,312.00	109,794.23	1
2	092	01	03	07	d	24	MK007	495,476.59	495,476.59	483,423.97	1
2	094	01	01	07	d	24	MK004	602,964.19	602,964.19	168,212.48	2
2	094	01	01	07	d	24	MK007	481,699.61	481,699.61	65,386.22	1
2	094	01	02	07	d	24	BG413	57,940.96	57,940.96	57,191.33	1
2	094	01	02	07	d	24	BG415	94,368.60	94,368.60	63,618.87	1
2	094	01	02	07	d	24	MK002	497,312.89	497,312.89	93,331.99	1
2	094	01	02	07	d	24	MK004	331,685.70	331,685.70	321,082.44	2
2	094	01	02	07	d	24	MK007	458,365.90	458,365.90	0.00	1
2	094	01	03	07	d	24	BG413	406,222.44	406,222.44	142,959.52	1
2	094	01	03	07	d	24	MK002	367,499.96	367,499.96	365,369.42	1
2	094	01	03	07	d	24	MK004	908,727.73	908,727.73	484,701.60	2
2	095	01	03	07	d	24	BG413	118,812.25	118,812.25	116,720.68	1
2	095	01	03	07	d	24	MK002	457,459.54	457,459.54	328,830.64	1
2	095	01	03	07	d	24	MK007	498,301.66	498,301.66	482,464.42	1
2	103	01	02	07	d	24	BG415	119,530.31	119,530.31	118,145.84	1
3	063	01	01	07	g	24	BG411	107,637.46	107,637.46	97,005.57	1
3	063	01	01	07	g	24	BG413	116,925.66	116,925.66	116,085.96	1
3	064	01	02	07	g	24	BG413	113,827.22	113,827.22	113,494.61	1
3	066	01	01	07	g	24	MK008	109,101.24	109,101.24	104,584.71	1
3	066	01	02	07	g	24	BG415	218,625.90	218,625.90	92,445.67	2
3	066	01	02	07	g	24	MK002	97,424.43	97,424.43	95,909.92	1
3	067	01	01	07	g	24	MK004	117,397.81	117,397.81	43,331.53	1
3	067	01	02	07	g	24	BG413	192,600.31	192,600.31	182,761.58	2
3	067	01	02	07	g	24	MK004	119,680.92	119,680.92	118,687.67	1
3	073	01	01	07	g	24	MK007	110,217.35	110,217.35	109,060.91	1
3	103	01	01	07	g	24	BG413	104,049.06	104,049.06	99,623.65	1
3	103	01	01	07	g	24	MK007	110,474.69	110,474.69	108,341.22	1
3	104	01	01	07	g	24	MK007	91,297.89	91,297.89	90,984.99	1
3	104	01	02	07	g	24	BG413	106,801.15	106,801.15	101,131.12	1
3	104	01	02	07	g	24	MK004	114,337.23	114,337.23	113,597.13	1
3	104	01	03	07	g	24	MK007	77,895.41	77,895.41	72,740.03	1
3	109	01	02	07	g	24	BG415	112,917.61	112,917.61	104,247.32	1
3	109	01	02	07	g	24	MK002	77,826.23	77,826.23	74,971.28	1
4	121	01	07	07		24	BG	1,369,347.02	1,369,347.02	747,662.03	6

Priority axis	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	«r.ir.etc.table5.thempridimen»	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by eneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
4	121	01	07	07		24	MK	433,070.17	433,070.17	210,217.09	5

Not validated

Table 6: Cumulative cost of all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area

1. Operation (2)	2. The amount of IPA support(1) envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations	3. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 2/total amount allocated to the support from the IPA at programme level * 100)	4. Eligible expenditure of IPA support incurred in all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority	5. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 4/total amount allocated to the support from the IPA at programme level *100)
All or part of an operation outside the Union part of the programme area	83 931,04	0,51 %	64 109,68	0,39 %

(1) IPA support is the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.

(2) In accordance with and subject to ceilings set out Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

According to the Programme Evaluation Plan (approved on 14.04.2016 by the JMC) the Implementation/mid-term evaluation of the Programme had been launched in June 2018. Tender procedure for Implementation evaluation under Interreg - IPA CBC Programmes, managed by the Republic of Bulgaria, had been completed and service contract with external consultant was signed on 23th of August 2018 with 7 months duration.

The contract ended in March 2019 and the Implementation evaluation report of the Programme 2014-2020 has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Art. 56 (3) of the Regulation (EU) № 1303/2013.

Detailed information about mid-term evaluation of the Programme has been presented in the Annual Implementation report for 2019.

Not validated

Name	Fund	From month	From year	To month	To year	Type of evaluation	Thematic priority	Topic	Findings
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Not validated

5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN

(a) Issues which affect the performance of the programme and the measures taken

On the 20.03.2020 in relation of the COVID-19 pandemic situation as well emergency measures introduced at national and local level, the MA published a guidelines for project implementation in emergency circumstances. A version 2.0 of the guidelines was published on 23.04.2020 in order to improve control and legality of the actions to be taken in case of temporary suspension of projects, it supplements the instructions to the beneficiaries of the Programme. The guidelines includes following measures:

- Analysis of the project activities – the partners were advised to analyze the planned activities taking into consideration any impediments as a consequence of the measures related to COVID-19, as well as the possibilities to implement soft measure activities by alternative means, including digital ones or to postpone at a later date;
- Suspension – the MA allowed a temporary suspension of the deadline for implementation of the subsidy contracts. The suspended contracts should provide to the JS the above-mentioned S analysis of the planned activities. Within this the partners should be presented notification for small content change with updated Duration and action plan or the relevant request for contract modification to the MA.
- Reporting, documentary and on-the-spot checks – The reporting to the JS and the submission of requests for FLC were maintained in the established format - by electronic exchange of documents through the Beneficiary Portal. Documentary checks carried out by the JS and the Controllers of the FLC continued on a regular basis. The on-the-spot checks carried out by the JS and the Controllers of the FLC tailored to the specificities and requirements of the emergency measures in the partner countries. At the discretion of the JS/FLC controllers and after approval by the Managing Authority, "virtual on-the-spot checks" may be carried out for the preparation of which the beneficiaries will be duly instructed.

Furthermore, in order to minimize the negative impact on the work plan implementation the JS conducted regular monitoring for projects and ensure the beneficiaries to carry out remaining project activities/events by alternative means, including digital ones.

In the end of the year due to Covid-19 pandemic situation and the local measures of the health authorities a revised version of Instructions and the amended FLC guidelines v.1.4/22.12.2020 was published on the website of the Programme. Preserving the health of all involved and help in the fight against the pandemic, the MA is temporarily introducing an alternative option for verification - Virtual (online) verification replaced on-the-spot visits and verification for “soft” projects.

(b) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, otherwise it will be included in point 9.1. An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate.

Not applicable.

Not validated

6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

A citizen's summary of the contents of the annual and the final implementation reports shall be made public and uploaded as a separate file in the form of annex to the annual and the final implementation report

You can upload/find the Citizen's summary under General > Documents

Not validated

7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)

Not applicable

Not validated

8. PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (ARTICLE 101(H) AND ARTICLE 111(3) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(B) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

8.1. Major projects

Table 7: Major projects

Project	CCI	Status of MP	Total investments	Total eligible costs	Planned notification/submission date	Date of tacit agreement/ approval by Commission	Planned start of implementation	Planned completion date	Priority axis / Thematic priorities	Current state of realisation — financial progress (% of expenditure certified to Commission compared to total eligible cost)	Current state of realisation — physical progress / Main implementation stage of the project	Main outputs	Date of signature of first works contract (1)	Observations
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(1) In the case of operations implemented under PPP structures the signing of the PPP contract between the public body and the private sector body (Article 102(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).

Significant problems encountered in implementing major projects and measures taken to overcome them

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Any change planned in the list of major projects in the cooperation programme

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Not applicable

Not validated

8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

Not applicable

Not validated

Table 8: Joint action plans (JAP)

Title of the JAP	CCI	Stage of implementation of JAP	Total eligible costs	Total public support	OP contribution to JAP	Priority axis	Type of JAP	[Planned] submission to the Commission	[Planned] start of implementation	[Planned] completion	Main outputs and results	Total eligible expenditure certified to the Commission	Observations
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Not validated

Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

Not applicable

Not validated

9. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

9.1 Information in Part A and achieving the objectives of the programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axis	1 - Environment
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Priority axis	2 - Tourism
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Priority axis	3 - Competitiveness
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Priority axis	4 - Technical assistance
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Not validated

9.2. Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (d) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of specific actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, including accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations

Not applicable

Not validated

9.3.Sustainable development (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on sustainable development, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of the actions taken to promote sustainable development in accordance with that Article

Not applicable

Not validated

9.4. Reporting on support used for climate change objectives (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Not applicable

Not validated

9.5 Role of partners in the implementation of the cooperation programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 1, (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the role of partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, including involvement of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperation programme

Not applicable

Not validated

10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013

10.1 Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations

Not applicable

Not validated

Status	Name	Fund	Year of finalizing evaluation	Type of evaluation	Thematic priority	Topic	Findings (in case of execution)	Follow up (in case of execution)
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Not validated

10.2 The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy

Not applicable

Not validated

11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2 (A), (B), (C) AND (F), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013)

11.1. Progress in the implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including integrated territorial investments, sustainable urban development, and community led local development under the cooperation programme

Not applicable

Not validated

11.2 Progress in implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and to use the IPA

Not applicable

Not validated

11.3 Contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies (where appropriate)

As stipulated by the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, recital 19, article 8(3)(d) on the "Content, adoption and amendment of cooperation programmes" and article 14(4) 2nd subparagraph (c) "Implementation reports", this programme contributes to MRS(s) and/or SBS:

The European Strategy for the Danube Region (Danube strategy) is a macro-regional strategy, adopted by the European Commission in December 2010 and endorsed by the European Council in 2011. It aims at addressing the common challenges by creating synergies and coordination between existing policies and initiatives taking place across the Danube region. Geographically, only the Republic of Bulgaria's part of the border region is within the target area of the Danube Region. At the same time the projects supported under the Programme target cross-border regional development effects. Thus, the Programme contribution to the Danube Region is mainly through establishment of good practices and synergy with the interventions under the Strategy in concern. Six out of the 11 priority areas of the Danube strategy are coherent with the Programme. Priority Axis 1 Environment links to priority areas Sustainable energy, Water quality, Environmental Risks and Biodiversity, landscapes, quality of air and soils. Priority Axis 2 Tourism relates to the priority area of Culture & Tourism while Priority Axis 3 Competitiveness to the priority area of Competitiveness of enterprises. Both Priority Axis 2 and Priority Axis 3 are coherent to the area of People & Skills.

- EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)

Not validated

11.4 Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation

Not applicable

Not validated

13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Information and assessment of the programme contribution to achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

Not applicable

Not validated

**14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN
— PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)**

Where the assessment of progress made with regard to the milestones and targets set out in the performance framework demonstrates that certain milestones and targets have not been achieved, Member States should outline the underlying reasons for failure to achieve these milestones in the report of 2019 (for milestones) and in the final implementation report (for targets).

Not to be reported in AIR for 2020

Not validated

DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
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Not validated

LATEST VALIDATION RESULTS

Severity	Code	Message
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Not validated