

Annual Implementation Report 2021 for IPA II Cross-Border Programme

CCI2014TC16I5CB006

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 2021 all activities concerning implementation of the projects financed from the reserve list under the 2nd Call for Proposals (CfP) (launched in 2018) of the Interreg – IPA II CBC Programme 2014-2020 CCI 2014TC16I5CB006 (hereinafter referred as Programme) were ongoing. Therefore, the joint efforts of Managing Authority (MA), National Authority (NA) and Joint Secretariat (JS) were focus on monitoring of projects implementation together with programming of new period 2021-2027.

Projects implementation in 2021

By 31 December 2020, 7 (seven) “soft measures” projects successfully completed their implementation under the 2nd Call for proposals and 10 investment projects at the total amount of EUR 4 360 862,08 remained under implementation in 2021.

In the period January-March 2021 additional 5 (five) subsidy contracts with projects from the reserve list under PA 1 “Environment” of the Second Call for Proposals were signed at the total amount of 1 801 673,97 EUR- 1 “soft” measures project and 4 investment projects.

By 31 December 2021, 79 contracts under 2 Calls were signed under the Programme, of which 73 subsidy contracts (26 contracts under PA 1 "Environment", 27 contracts under PA 2 "Tourism" and 20 contracts under PA 3 "Competitiveness") at the total amount of EUR 18 140 921 and 6 contracts under PA 4 Technical Assistance at the total amount of EUR 1 802 417, which represents 102.47% of the total Programme budget including over-contracting; As result by 31 December 2021 64 subsidy contracts had been successfully completed and 9 projects remained under implementation in 2022.

During 2021 the following 9 projects completed their implementation:

PA 1 “Environment” – 4 projects at the total amount of 1 778 539 EUR

PA 2 "Tourism" - 5 projects at the total amount of 2 439 107 EUR

While in 2020 the projects which had difficulties in implementation of the activities are mainly soft ones, which require gathering of large group of people or include vulnerable target groups as children, in 2021 the crisis affected and investment projects. The response mechanism by the MA, NA and JS includes variety of measures: suspension/extension of subsidy contracts, small content change and reorganization to online events, as well as close monitoring of project implementation, online on-the-spot checks.

Two additional agreements (addenda) to the subsidy contracts were concluded and 1 budget change of a project was approved in 2021. Three reports for the assessment of the risk at the project level had been prepared and approved by Head of MA as the respective recommendations/corrective measures to overcome the risk had been taken into account by the beneficiaries.

In 2021 Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) continued to perform its functions for monitoring of the implementation and evaluation of the Programme. In addition 3 written procedures were carried out by JMC as well as 1 on-line meeting in November 2021 related to the approval of the amendment in the Eligibility of expenditures under PA4 Technical Assistance.

During 2021 the official website of the Programme 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 2021 the Programme website was visited 43 174 times by 23 874 visitors. Programme related information has been published on the Facebook and Twitter Programme profiles. By the end of 2021, Facebook reached more than 4100 members. Programme video materials has been published of the Programme YouTube channel at: www.youtube.com/channel/UCfTIC_6bQtxckm72ZrQSSJQ

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: www.facebook.com/interregipacbcbgnmk and https://twitter.com/IPA_CBC_BG_MK

Programming 2021-2027

In 2021, MA in coordination with NA continued the process of programming of the future Interreg-IPA Programme for programming period 2021-2027. The following activities related were conducted:

- February 2021- revised version of the Programme's Intervention logic, updated according to the latest amendments in the draft Regulations, had been approved on online meeting of Joint Working Group (JWG) on 11 February 2021.
- March 2021- a Task Force on the elaboration of the Integrated Territorial Strategy 2021-2027 was established representing all relevant regional and local authorities, as well as other local stakeholders related to the preparation and implementation of the strategy (pursuant to Art. 29 of the CPR). The main responsibility of the TF is to collaborate with the Consultant during the elaboration of the Territorial strategy under PO 5 "Europe closer to citizens" and to feed in results of dialogues with relevant stakeholders, databases, expert positions etc. The first draft of the Strategy has been published for consultations on April 14, 2021 as received comments from local stakeholders had been incorporated in the revised version of the document.
- October 2021 - written procedure of the JWG for approval of the first draft of the IPA III Bulgaria North Macedonia programme 2021-2027 (sections related to the program strategy - territorial needs and potentials, objectives and priorities of the programs, indicative activities, communication measures);
- November- December 2021 – launched campaign for collecting project ideas in the context of the Integrated Territorial Strategy of IPA programme Bulgaria North Macedonia 2021-2027- several public consultations were held on the territory of both partnering countries;
- As a part of preparation of the Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) of the Programme and of the Integrated territorial strategy for the CBC region two rounds of public consultations were held in both partnering countries. The first consultations were organized in July 2021 (in Bulgaria) and August (in North Macedonia) 2021 on Scoping Report for determination of the scope and content of the EAR. The second round consultations were conducted in the period November – December 2021 (in Bulgaria) on the Environmental assessment report. The received comments from all institutions and stakeholders will be reflected in the respective documents.
- December 2021- Draft Decision of Council of Ministers (DCM) prepared for approval of the composition of the Bulgarian part of the Joint Expert Committee under Art. 4 of the Agreement of 14.06.1999 between the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, and a draft DMC for determining the beneficiary / contracting authority in connection with the construction of a new border checkpoint (BCCP) between Strumyani, Bulgaria and Berovo, North Macedonia;

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"- 9 (nine) projects was under implementation at the total amount of EUR 2 971 017,52 without applicant's own co-financing, or the total amount EUR 3 162 653,52 with applicant's own co-financing during 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Under Specific Objective 1.1 "Environmental protection and sustainable use of the common natural resources of the CBC area"</u> was concluded one Subsidy contract at the total amount of EUR 96 670,39 (no applicants' own co-financing), respectively 1(one) "soft" project is in process of implementation with duration period 15 months. • <u>Under Specific Objective 1.2 "Prevention and mitigation of consequences of natural and man-caused disasters of cross-border dimension and impact"</u> - 7 (seven) investment projects with 24 months implementation period and 1(one) soft project with 15 months implementation period at the total amount of EUR 2 874 347,13 (without applicant's own co-financing), or the total amount EUR 3 065 983,13 (with applicant's own co-financing) are in process of implementation. One investment project is suspended until the final court decision or decision on preliminary execution on case No 3575/2021 is issued. <p>No significant request for modifications/changes were submitted by the beneficiaries under Priority axis 1. 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 2 914 920,37 without applicants' own co-financing, or the total amount EUR 3 256 034,93 (with applicant's own co-financing) during 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>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"</u> – 6 (six) investment projects with 24 months implementation period at the total amount of EUR 2 709 429,03 without applicant's own co-financing, or the total amount EUR 3 050 543,59 (with applicant's own co-financing), are in process of implementation. • <u>Under Specific Objective 2.2 "Raising the competitiveness of the CBC region's tourist offer"</u> – no projects under implementation during 2021. • <u>Under Specific Objective 2.3 "Promoting cooperation among regional actors in the area of sustainable tourism"</u> – 2 (two) "soft measures" projects with 15 months implementation period at the total amount of EUR 205 491,34; <p>No significant request for modifications/changes were submitted by the beneficiaries under Priority axis 2. There were no significant problems observed with the implementation of the Priority 2.</p>
3	Competitiveness	<p>Priority Axis 3: Competitiveness, Specific Objective 3.1 Improving the competitiveness of regional businesses – <i>no projects measures in implementation during 2021.</i></p>
4	Technical assistance	<p>During 2021, Programme management activities were performed related to projects implementation and administrative activities concerning MA, NA, JS and FLC unit (staff remuneration, participation in various events and training seminars, maintenance of office premises, etc.).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of online JMC and technical meetings of Programme bodies; • Online meetings of JWG for preparation of the IPA Programme 2021-2027;

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
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online meetings of Task Force for preparation of the Territorial Strategy for the Programme 2021 -2027; • Conducted service contract for elaboration of EAR for Interreg - IPA programme 2021 -2027 between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of North Macedonia and for Integrated Territorial Strategy” - EUR 29 400 (VAT incl.); • Conducted service contract for elaboration of two Territorial strategies for integrated measures to be financed under the Interreg - IPA programmes 2021 -2027 between the Republic of Bulgaria and respectively the Republic of North Macedonia and the Republic of Turkey” - EUR 118 800 (VAT incl.). • Conducted service contract for upgrade and maintenance of MIS, beneficiary portal and web-site for 2021 for the Programme; • Conducted public consultation on a draft of the Environmental Assessment Scoping report and EAR under the Programme; • Conducted of public consultations on a draft ITS under the Programme 2021-2027; • Launch of a campaign for collecting project ideas that will be implemented under the ITS; • Organisation of online event for EC day 2021 “EC Day Documentary Film Festival 2021” - promotional multimedia published on social media. A photo contest was held for photos related to the implementation of projects under the programme and the winners were awarded under EC day 2021;

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

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2021	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	8.00	
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	12.00	
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	172.00	
F	1.1.5	Number of participants in environmental related trainings and campaigns	number	1,031.00	1,091.00	
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	8.00	
S	1.2.1	Supported investments for improving disaster management and risk prevention	number	7.00	10.00	
F	1.2.2	Supported investments for adaptation and mitigation of climate change consequences	number	7.00	7.00	
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	3.00	
S	1.2.3	Supported joint mechanisms for disaster management and risk prevention and for promotion of climate change awareness	number	3.00	6.00	
F	1.2.4	Number of institutions/organizations involved in initiatives related to risk prevention and management	number	17.00	25.00	
S	1.2.4	Number of institutions/organizations involved in initiatives related to risk prevention and management	number	17.00	60.00	
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	416.00	
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	693.00	
F	1.2.6	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	number	350,000.00	330,866.00	
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	878,737.00	

(I)	ID	Indicator	2020	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	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	22.00			
F	1.1.2	Number of nature protected areas addressed by supported interventions	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
S	1.1.2	Number of nature protected areas addressed by supported interventions	2.00	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	9.00	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	9.00	8.00	8.00			
F	1.1.4	Number of institutions/organizations involved in environmental related activities	147.00	145.00	145.00	0.00			
S	1.1.4	Number of institutions/organizations involved in environmental related activities	132.00	132.00	130.00	130.00			
F	1.1.5	Number of participants in environmental related trainings and campaigns	1,091.00	1,031.00	1,031.00	0.00			
S	1.1.5	Number of participants in environmental related trainings and campaigns	1,014.00	101.00	954.00	954.00			
F	1.2.1	Supported investments for improving disaster management and risk prevention	6.00	6.00	6.00	0.00			
S	1.2.1	Supported investments for improving disaster management and risk prevention	8.00	8.00	6.00	6.00			
F	1.2.2	Supported investments for adaptation and mitigation of climate change consequences	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00			
S	1.2.2	Supported investments for adaptation and mitigation of climate change consequences	11.00	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	1.00	0.00			
S	1.2.3	Supported joint mechanisms for disaster management and risk prevention and for promotion of climate change awareness	4.00	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	12.00	0.00			
S	1.2.4	Number of institutions/organizations involved in initiatives related to risk prevention and management	30.00	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	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)	609.00	399.00	60.00	60.00			
F	1.2.6	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	255,847.00	255,847.00	255,847.00	0.00			
S	1.2.6	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	467,666.00	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	0.00			

(1)	ID	Indicator	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
S	1.2.7	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	202,474.00	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]

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	2021 Total	2021 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	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative
1.1.1	Increased level of capacity in environment protection and sustainable use of common natural resources						2.82		

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	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	2021 Total	2021 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	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 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	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	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

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2021	Observations
F	2.1.1	Number of cultural and historical touristic sites reconstructed / restored / covered by conservation and protection actions	number	16.00	15.00	
S	2.1.1	Number of cultural and historical touristic sites reconstructed / restored / covered by conservation and protection actions	number	16.00	19.00	
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	12,123.00	
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	km	5.00	13,008.00	
F	2.1.3	Number of newly built or reconstructed or upgraded tourist related facilities and attractions	number	16.00	17.00	
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	5.00	
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	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2020	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	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	18.00	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	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	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	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	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	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	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	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	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	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	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	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	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	6.00	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	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	15.00	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	15.00	7.00	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	2.3.3	Number of participants in youth initiatives	240.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2.3.3	Number of participants in youth initiatives	240.00	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	2021 Total	2021 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	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative
2.1.1	Increased nights spent in the cross-border region					2,081,914.00			

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.1.1	Increased nights spent in the cross-border region						

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	2021 Total	2021 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	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative
2.2.1	Increased level of joint and integrated approaches to sustainable tourism development in the border area						2.69		

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	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						

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	2021 Total	2021 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	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative
2.3.1	Increased public awareness regarding sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage and resources						2.73		

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.3.1	Increased public awareness regarding sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage and resources						

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	2021	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	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	3.1.1	Supported joint start-up and self-employment initiatives	12.00	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	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	1,241.00	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	1,128.00	1,652.00	1,652.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	3.1.3	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	153.00	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	147.00	145.00	145.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	3.1.4	Supported initiatives for economic development and investment promotion	24.00	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	20.00	15.00	15.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	3.1.5	Number of cooperation networks	19.00	18.00	16.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	3.1.5	Number of cooperation networks	19.00	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	2021 Total	2021 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	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 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	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	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

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2021	Observations
F	4.1.1	Number of performed evaluations of the programme	number	2.00	0	The provided information is not cumulative
S	4.1.1	Number of performed evaluations of the programme	number	2.00	0	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	27.00	6 JS experts in Kyustendil, 2 JS experts in Strumitsa branch office, 11 BG FLC controllers, 7 MA experts and 1 NA financial expert
S	4.1.5	Number of employees whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	number	8.00	27.00	6 JS experts in Kyustendil, 2 JS experts in Strumitsa branch office, 11 BG FLC controllers, 7 MA experts and 1 NA financial expert

(1)	ID	Indicator	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	4.1.1	Number of performed evaluations of the programme	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	4.1.1	Number of performed evaluations of the programme	0.00	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	1.00	0.00	0.00
S	4.1.2	Updated MIS system	1.00	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	1.00	2.00	1.00	0.00
S	4.1.3	Number of monitoring committee meetings	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	0.00
F	4.1.4	Number of publicity events for beneficiaries	2.00	4.00	7.00	3.00	2.00	6.00	0.00
S	4.1.4	Number of publicity events for beneficiaries	2.00	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	21.00	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	21.00	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	Final target (2023) total	2021	Observations
1	F	1	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 1 "Environment "	EUR	419 323*	7,392,274.00	4,447,198.91	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	6.00	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	8.00	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	5,773,114.06	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	17.00	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	1,886,106.11	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	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
1	F	1	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 1 "Environment "	EUR	3,758,497.74	3,694,613.26	1,889,181.37	29,983.58	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	7.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
1	I	1.2.1	Number of contracted projects related to investments for improving disaster management and risk prevention	number	5.00	5.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
1	O	1.1.1	Number of supported investments for improving the environmental conditions in the programme region	number	22.00	22.00	22.00	0.00	0.00
1	O	1.2.1	Supported investments for improving disaster management and risk prevention	number	6.00	6.00	6.00	0.00	0.00
2	F	2	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 2 "Tourism "	EUR	4,343,309.38	3,643,619.11	1,470,817.78	57,619.03	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	9.00	7.00	7.00	5.00
2	O	2.1.3	Number of newly built or reconstructed or upgraded tourist related facilities and attractions	number	15.00	15.00	12.00	0.00	0.00
2	O	2.2.1	Number of joint touristic products, services, brands, thematic routes	number	20.00	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
3	F	3	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 3 "Competitiveness "	EUR	1,773,373.91	1,703,227.67	1,190,051.20	93,261.61	0.00
3	O	3.1.4	Supported initiatives for economic development and investment promotion	number	24.00	19.00	18.00	1.00	0.00

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2015	2014
1	F	1	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 1 "Environment "	EUR	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	0.00	0.00
1	I	1.2.1	Number of contracted projects related to investments for improving disaster management and risk prevention	number	0.00	0.00
1	O	1.1.1	Number of supported investments for improving the environmental conditions in the programme region	number	0.00	0.00
1	O	1.2.1	Supported investments for improving disaster management and risk prevention	number	0.00	0.00
2	F	2	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 2 "Tourism "	EUR	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	0.00	0.00
2	O	2.1.3	Number of newly built or reconstructed or upgraded tourist related facilities and attractions	number	0.00	0.00
2	O	2.2.1	Number of joint touristic products, services, brands, thematic routes	number	0.00	0.00

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2015	2014
3	F	3	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 3 "Competitiveness "	EUR	0.00	0.00
3	O	3.1.4	Supported initiatives for economic development and investment promotion	number	0.00	0.00

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	7,742,527.73	104.74%	7,742,527.73	4,703,266.10	63.62%	26
2	Public	8,083,995.00	85.00	8,299,355.24	102.66%	8,299,355.24	6,202,167.19	76.72%	27
3	Public	2,039,252.00	85.00	2,099,037.57	102.93%	2,099,037.57	1,915,723.36	93.94%	20
4	Public	1,946,169.00	85.00	1,802,417.19	92.61%	1,802,417.19	1,099,381.79	56.49%	11
Total		19,461,690.00	85.00	19,943,337.73	102.47%	19,943,337.73	13,920,538.44	71.53%	84

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

(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.

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	94 641,55	0,57%	68 702,98	0,42%

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. The recommendations from the evaluation were accepted and taken into account in the process of preparation of the Interreg-VI-A IPA Bulgaria – North Macedonia Programme for the programming period 2021-2027.

Name	Fund	From month	From year	To month	To year	Type of evaluation	Thematic priority	Topic	Findings
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5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN

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

In 2021 the programme implementation was still marked by the COVID-19 world pandemic. The published by MA guidelines in relation to the emergency measures related to COVID-19 were updated in April 2021. Due to the pandemic situation and the local measures of the health authorities a revised version of Instructions and the amended FLC guidelines was published on the web-site of the programme including the following topics, essential for the applicant and the project partners:

- ✓ Contracting – conduction of the pre-contracting procedures in written form or via videoconference. Carrying out of the on-the-spot checks in accordance with the specificities and requirements of the emergency measures in the partner countries;
- ✓ Project implementation

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 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;

Contracts for the implementation of the project activities - the beneficiaries, which are contracting authorities under PRAG rules may allow changes in the terms of the contract only if the non-fulfillment is due to "force majeure" / "exceptional circumstances";

- ✓ Reporting, documentary and on-the-spot check - 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;
- ✓ Requests for payments, decisions for imposing financial corrections, recoveries to MA – the MA continued to process requests for advance, interim and final payments, the irregularities signals with respect to the partners on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, issuing decisions for imposing financial corrections and preparing letters for financial corrections recovery amounts and unsolicited advance payments.

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

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic situation and the local measures of the health authorities a revised version of Instructions and the amended FLC guidelines was published on the web-site 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.

n/a

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

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

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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n/a

8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

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n/a

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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n/a

Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

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N/A

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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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

n/a

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

n/a

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

n/a

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

n/a

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

n/a

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

n/a

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

n/a

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

n/a

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 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)

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

n/a

13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

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

n/a

**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).

n/a

DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
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LATEST VALIDATION RESULTS

Severity	Code	Message
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