

Annual Implementation Report 2015

CCI: 2014TC16I5CB010





MAY 2016

PART A - DATA REQUIRED EVERY YEAR ("LIGHT REPORTS") (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL/FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

ССІ	2014TC16I5CB010
Title	Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme "Greece – Albania 2014 – 2020"
Version	1
Reporting year	2014 and 2015
Date of approval of the report by the monitoring committee	

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.

Deliberations on the 2014-2020 Programming Period had already started in 2013, finalized during 2014 and 2015. A dedicated Joint Task Force was established, with the duty to coordinate the preparation of the new Programme. The Joint Task Force was composed of officials from both countries. The Task Force met twice

- on the 26th February 2013 in Thessaloniki and
- on the 3rd March 2015 in Tirana.

A Joint Programming Committee of the Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme "Greece—Albania 2014—2020" was established and it convened its 1st meeting in Kastoria, Greece on the 8th of July 2013. The meeting was attended by its voting members, who are representatives from Greek and Albanian Ministries, Regions and other regional stakeholders, as well as the representative of EC - DG Regional and Urban Policy. The meeting was also attended by staff of the Managing Authority and the Albanian National Authority. The Joint Programming Committee, during this meeting, decided unanimously on its Rules of Procedures.

The 2nd Joint Programming Committee meeting took place in Ioannina, Greece on the 4th of April 2014. During this meeting, the Methodology for the drafting of the new Programme as presented in the meeting was approved.

The 3rd Joint Programming Committee meeting took place in Vlore, Albania on the 8th of July 2014. During this meeting, the Methodology and Diagnostics for the Ex-Ante Evaluation and the Methodology and Diagnostics for the Strategic Environmental Assessment as presented in the meeting, the 1st Draft of the Programme Document, a timetable of certain actions to be taken and the participation of the Programme in the Joint Branding initiative were approved.

The 4th Joint Programming Committee meeting took place in Ioannina, Greece on the 16th of

September 2014. During this meeting, the final Programming Document was approved.

At the same time in the framework of the Public Consultation for the drafting of the New INTERREG IPA II CBC Programme "Greece-Albania 2014-2020", four Policy Development Workshops with stakeholders were organized in Corfu, Greece and in Korce, Gjirokaster and Vlore, Albania.

The 1st draft of the Interreg IPA II Cross-border Cooperation Programme "Greece-Albania 2014–2020" was available for open public consultation on the Managing Authority and the IPA Cross-border Programme "Greece-Albania 2007-2013" websites. A questionnaire was distributed to potential beneficiaries to comment on the Programme strategy, the selected policy themes, the specific objectives, the types of interventions/projects that the Programme would subsidise, the expected results and the financial allocations.

The Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme "Greece–Albania 2014–2020" was submitted to the European Commission for approval on the 22nd of September 2014 via e-mail, having taken into account and incorporated the received comments and the corresponding corrections. After the consultation with the services of EC, the final Programme was resubmitted on the 12th of May 2015 and it was approved by the European Commission on 30-7-2015 by Decision C (2015) 5482

The Programme budget allocated for the period 2014-2020 is 42.312.029€. This amount consists of

- > 35.965.222€ Union support and
- > 6.346.807€ national counterpart

The national co-financing rate for both Greece and Albania is 15%. The Programme is implemented under shared management on the basis of

- Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) and
- > the Commission implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014

The management, monitoring and control structures of the Programme were designated as follows:

- ✓ The Joint Monitoring Committee was established, both countries being equally represented complying with the partnership principle in managing, monitoring and evaluating the operations at all stages of the Programme implementation. The Committee comprises 18 members with voting right and 26 members without voting right.
- ✓ The Managing Authority is an administrative part of the "Special Service for Managing the European Territorial Cooperation Objective Programmes" within the Greek Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism as per Article 5, paragraph 1 (f) of Greek Law 4314/2014.
- ✓ The Joint Secretariat is based in Thessaloniki nearby the Managing Authority according to
 Article 43, paragraph 1 of Greek Law 4314/2014. A new additional position a financial
 officer is provisioned to strengthen the capacity of the structure.
- ✓ The Albanian National Authority is the Ministry of European Integration.
- ✓ Certifying Authority is the Special Service "Certifying and Verifications Authority of Cofunded Programmes" within the Greek Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism.
- ✓ Audit Authority is the Financial Audit Committee (EDEL), which comes under the General Secretariat for Financial Policy of Ministry of Finance, was established by Article 11 of Law

4314/2014 as the single Audit Authority of the Programme. According to the provision of Article 25(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1299/2013, the Audit Authority is assisted by a Group of Auditors.

- ✓ The responsible body for First Level controls in Greece is Unit C "Expenditure Verification" of the Managing Authority within the Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism.
- ✓ The responsible body for First Level Controls in Albania is the 1st Level Control Office within the Ministry of European Integration.

Generally all structures from the previous Programming period maintain their responsibilities for the current Programme. In this way the accumulated knowledge and experience will be providing for continuity and institutional sustainable capacity.

Two opening events took place, one in Thessaloniki during the launching of the 2014-2020 Programming Period of the ETC Programmes (2nd ETC Conference "The Challenge of Synergies" organised by the Managing Authority) on the 22nd and 23rd of June 2015 and one in Vlore, Albania on the 20th November 2015.

The Joint Monitoring Committee convened its 1st meeting in Tirana, Albania on the 10th of November 2015. The meeting was attended by members of the Managing Authority, the Albanian National Authority, the Joint Secretariat, the European Commission - DG REGIO, Greek and Albanian Ministries, the Special Service of Institutional Support, the Single Paying Authority, the Audit Authority and regional stakeholders. During this Joint Monitoring Committee meeting, the two packages for the first two Calls for Project Proposals which had been prepared by the Managing Authority / Joint Secretariat were presented to the members of the Committee. During this meeting the following were approved:

- > the Rules of Procedure of the Joint Monitoring Committee
- > the launching of two written procedures on the application package of the 1st (Strategic) and 2nd Call for Projects Proposals
- ➤ the Communication Plan of the Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme "Greece—Albania 2014—2020"
- ➤ the Technical Assistance Multiannual Budget Plan of the Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme "Greece—Albania 2014—2020"
- ➤ an authorization to the JTS of the "Greece-Albania 2007-2013" to provide the necessary legal and administrative actions for the activation of the Interreg IPA II Cross—border Cooperation Programme "Greece Albania 2014 2020"

In addition, one technical meeting took place at Tirana on the 10th of November 2015 between the Managing Authority, the MEI, as well as representatives from Greek and Albanian Audit Authorities, in order to prepare the establishment of the Group of Auditors, as well as to discuss the status of the Description of Management and Control System documents.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

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	Promotion of the environment, sustainable transport and public infrastructure	The priority axis 1 includes 2 thematic priorities: (b) Promoting sustainable transport, information and communications networks & services and investing in cross-border water, waste & energy systems and facilities (c) Protecting the environment & promoting climate change adaptation & mitigation, risk prevention & management A Call for Strategic project proposals under the thematic priority (b) of this PA is being prepared to be launched in 2016. A Call for ordinary project proposals under both thematic priorities (b) and (c) of this PA is planned to be launched in 2016. Thematic priorities:
2	Boosting the local economy	The priority axis 2 includes 2 thematic priorities: (g) Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage (d) 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 internationalization A Call for Strategic project proposals under one thematic priority (g) of this PA is being prepared to be launched in 2016. A Call for ordinary project proposals under both thematic priorities (g) and (d) of this PA is planned to be launched in 2016.
3	Technical Assistance	There has been no activation of the Technical Assistance budget during 2014 & 2015.

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

Data for common and programme-specific indicators by investment priority transmitted using the tables 1 to 2 below.

TABLE 1: Result indicators (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to technical assistance priority axis

		Automatic fro	om SFC							ANNUAI	VALUE					
ID	Indicator	Measure ment Unit	Baseline Value	Baseli ne Year	Target Value (2023)	2014	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Observations (if necessary)
	Volume of urban effluents under secondary treatment	million m3	30	2014	41,31	0	0									<type='s' maxlength=875 input='M'></type='s'
	Percentage of solid waste managed sustainably	%	75	2014	79	0	0									
	% of cross-border vertical axes to Egnatia motorway either constructed or with sufficient maturity to be constructed	%	80,41	2014	100	0	0									
	Level of preservation of the protected natural CB areas	%	72,08	2015	79,29	0	0									

Energy Efficiency Awareness Barometer	number	5,94 (on a 1-10 scale)	2015	7 (on a 1-10 scale)	0	0					
Area damaged by forest fires (5-yr rolling annual average)	hectares	15010,89	2014	13450	0	0					
Annual overnight tourist stays of the cross border area	Millions	9	2014	9,54	0	0					
Active CB enterprises	Number	97883	2013	100000	0	0					

TABLE 2: Common and programme specific output indicators (by priority axis, investment priority); applies also to technical assistance priority axes).

	ID	Indicator (name of	Measuremen	Target value ¹					CUMULA	TIVE VALU	E				Observations
		indicator)	t unit	(2023)	2014	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	(if necessary)
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]		Additional population			0	0									
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]	CO20	served by improved water supply	inhabitants	50000	0	0									
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]		Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	inhabitants	24000	0	0									
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]	CO21	ueaument			0	0									

Targets are optional for technical assistance priority axes.

1										
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	Additional solid waste			0	0					
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]	management capacity created	Tonnes/yr	4000	0	0					
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	Kilometres of CB road			0	0					
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]	network studied	Km	30	0	0					
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	No of square meters of border crossing	m2	200	0	0					
Fully implemented operations [actual	buildings studied or constructed			0	0					

achievement]											
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]		Surface area of habitats supported in			0	0					
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]	CO25	order to attain a better conservation status	hectares	80000	0	0					
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]		Decrease of annual primary			0	0					
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]	CO34	energy consumption of public buildings	Kwh/year	130000	0	0					
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]		People participating in awareness actions	participants	4300	0	0					

Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					0	0					
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]		Population benefiting			0	0					
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]	CO23	from forest fire protection measures	inhabitants	11500	0	0					
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]		Increase in expected number of visits to supported			0	0					
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]	CO11	sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	visits	13500	0	0			-		
Selected operations [forecast provided by	CO04	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial	Enterprises	160	0	0					

beneficiaries]	support								
Fully									
implemented operations			0	0					
[actual			U	U					
achievement]									

3.3 Milestones and targets defined in the performance framework (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) – submitted in annual implementation reports from 2017 onwards

Reporting on financial indicators, key implementation steps, output and result indicators to act as milestones and targets for the performance framework (submitted starting with the report in 2017).

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

Priorit y Axis	Indicator Type (Key impleme ntation step, financial , output or, where appropri ate result indicator)	ID	Indicator or key implement ation step	Measuremen t unit, where appropriate	Mileston e for 2018	Final target (2023)	2014	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Observations (if necessary)

^{*} Member States submit cumulative values for output indicators. Values for financial indicators are cumulative. Values for the key implementation steps are expressed by a number or percentage. If the achievement is defined in a qualitative way, the table should indicate whether they are completed or not.

3.4. Financial data (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

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 1011/2014² [Model for transmission of financial data]³ and table 16 of model for cooperation programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal

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)

The Programme is financed by the IPA II and national contributions of the participating countries.

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² OJ L 286, 30.9.2014, p. 1.

Structured data required for the report on YEI which is to be submitted in April 2015 in accordance with Article 19(3) and Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013.

TABLE 5: Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention (Article 112(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013) 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

There has been no financial implementation during the reference period.

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

1	2	3	4	5
	The amount of ERDF support* envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations (EUR)		support incurred in all or part of an operation implemented	allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the
All or part of an operation outside the Union part of the programme area ⁴				

^{*} ERDF support is fixed in the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.

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

4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Synthesis of the findings of all evaluations of the programme that have become available during the previous financial year, including the name and reference period of the evaluation reports used.

The Evaluation Plan of the "Cooperation Programme Interreg IPA II Greece-Albania 2014-2020" will be send for approval to the Monitoring Committee until 30.07.2016.

During the preparation of the cooperation programme, the Ex-ante evaluation was drafted and submitted to EC including and SEA. The findings of the Ex-ante Evaluation are available on the website of the Programme as well as in SFC.

No other Programme evaluation was carried out in the years 2014-2015

5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN (ARTICLE 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

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

The Commission will undertake a performance review in cooperation with the Managing Authority, in 2019.

Prior to that, a performance framework will be defined for the Programme, in accordance with Annex II of CPR Regulation. The Performance Framework will monitor the achievement of milestones, which will be set for each priority. This will facilitate the monitoring of the progress towards the attainment of the priorities' relevant objectives and targets.

The first reporting of milestones will be generated for year 2018.

Due to the early stage of the Programme's implementation, no issue has affected the Programme performance yet. The Managing Authority closely monitors all related issues and foresees to commence the establishment of the Performance Framework after the contracting of the projects under the 1st and 2nd Calls for Proposals.

b) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, otherwise it will be included in point 9.1 (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

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 for the 2014&2015 report.

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

7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (Article 46 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Where the managing authority decided to use financial instruments it must send to the Commission a specific report covering the financial instruments operations as an annex to the annual implementation report

8. WHERE APPROPRIATE, 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 1. completed 2. approved 3. submitted 4. planned for notification/submission to Commission	Total inves tmen ts	Total eligible costs	Planned notification/ submission date (if applicable) (year, quarter)	Date of tacit agreement / approval by Commissio n (if applicable)	Planned start of impleme ntation (year, quarter)	Planned completion date (year. quarter)	Priority Axis/Inv estment priorities	Current state of realisatio n – financial progress (% of expendit ure certified to Commiss ion compare d to total eligible cost)	Current state of realisation - physical progress Main implementation stage of the project 1.completed/in operation; 2.advanced construction; 3. construction; 4. procurement; 5. design	Main output s	Date of signatur e of first works contract ⁵ (if applicabl e)	Obse rvatio ns (if neces sary

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	1.
Any change planned in the list of major projects in the cooperation programme	

8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

No JAP are foreseen for the Programme.

TABLE 8: Joint action plans

Title of the JAP	ССІ	Stage of implementati on of JAP 1. completed 2. > 50% implemented 3. Started 4. approved 5. submitted 6. planned	Total eligible costs	Total public support	OP contributio n to JAP	Priority axis	Type of JAP 1. normal 2. pilot 3. YEI	[Planned] submissio n to the Commissio n	[Planned] start of implementati on	[Planned] completion	Main outputs and results	Total eligible expenditur e certified to the Commissio n	Observatio ns (if necessary)

Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

PART B - REPORTING SUBMITTED IN YEARS 2017, 2019 AND FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

- 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)

FOR EACH PRIORITY AXIS - Assessment of the information provided above and progress towards achieving the objectives of the programme, including the contribution of the ERDF to changes in the value of result indicators, when evidence is available from evaluations

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

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

	Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)
Figures	calculated automatically by the SFC2014 based on categorisation data.
Optiona	al: clarification on the given values
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)
referre	ment of the implementation of actions to take into account the role of partners d to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, including involvement of the rs in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperation programme
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
10.2	The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy
AND O (b), (c) 11.1 P including	DITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (Article 14(4), subparagraph 2 (a), and (f), of REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013) Trogress in implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, and sustainable urban development, and community-led local development under the ration programme

Reporting on support used for climate change objectives (Article 50(4) of

9.4.

11.2 Progress in implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and to use the ERDF
11.3 Contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies (where appropriate)
11.4 Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation

12. Financial information at priority axis and programme level (Articles 21(2) and 22(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

For the purpose of assessing progress towards the achievement of milestones and targets set for financial indicators in the years 2018 and 2023, table 4 of Part A of this Annex shall have the following two additional columns:

13	14				
Data for the purpose of the perfor frames					
Only for report submitted in 2019: Total eligible expenditure incurred and paid by beneficiaries and certified to the Commission by 31/12/2018 Article 21(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013	Only for final implementation report: Total eligible expenditure incurred and paid by beneficiaries by 31/12/2023 and certified to the Commission Article 22(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013				

PART C - REPORTING SUBMITTED IN YEAR 2019 AND FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (Article 50(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH
Information and assessment of the programme contribution to achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.
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).