

ANNUAL COMMUNICATION PLAN YEAR: 2017

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Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme "Greece – Albania 2014 – 2020"

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1 INTRODUCTION

This document aims to inform the Programme Authorities on the communication activities planned for 2017. The communication activities of 2016 are also briefly presented for the presentation of the connection and continuation of the communication plan.

This report and plan will be distributed to the programme authorities in annual level, applying the obligation of the ERDF problems, towards a proper and effective information policy.

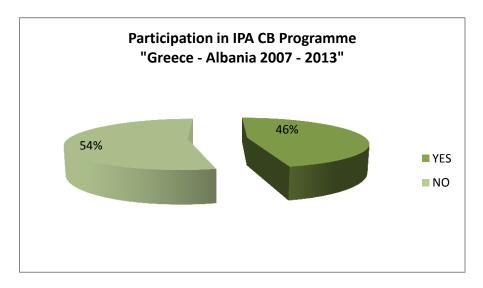
2 COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES: 2016

The year 2016 was a very active year for the Interreg IPA CBC Programme "Greece – Albania 2014 – 2020". This was the year of the actual initiation of the programme through the publication of 2 Calls; one for Strategic Project Proposals and one for Ordinary Project Proposals. As a result, the need for the awareness raising activities towards the potential beneficiaries was very intense and was followed by the necessity to produce respective promotional and administrative material.

2.1 Info - days for the 1st Call for Proposals

The 1st Call for Strategic Project Proposals under Interreg IPA CBC Programme "Greece – Albania 2014 – 2020" was the first opportunity to present the programme and the submission procedures to a targeted audience for the strategic project proposals. The infodays provided with the opportunity to the potential to meet, discuss and form eligible partnerships.

6 info-days were organised for the 1st Call for Strategic Proposals; 3 in Greece (Arta, Kastoria, Lefkada) and 3 in Albania (Gjirokaster, Berat, Korca).



Based on the available statistical data, provided through the electronic registration in the events, at least 65 different organisations participated in the info-days, usually with more than one representative. 46% of the participants represented organisations and bodies that have participated in projects in the previous programming period (IPA CB Programme "Greece – Albania 2007 - 2013"), while the rest represented organisations and bodies new

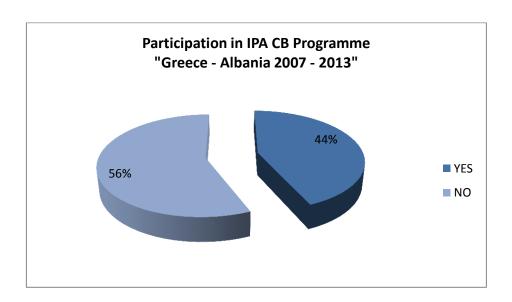
to the programme. The fact that 2 out of the 3 info-days in Greece and 1 out of 3 info-days in Albania were organised in areas that are eligible only in the current programming period has influenced significantly this rate in the representation of the participating organisations.

2.2 Info-days on the 2nd Call for Project Proposals

As soon as the 1st Call for Strategic Project Proposals was officially closed, the 2nd Call for Project Proposals (ordinary) was launched. The target audience in this case was bigger, as the ordinary projects allow for a wider scope on the type of beneficiaries. Again, the infodays provided with the opportunity to the potential to meet, discuss and form eligible partnerships.

5 info-days were organised for the 2nd Call for Project Proposals; 3 in Greece and 2 in Albania. The exact locations were the following:

- Saranda
- Preveza
- Korca
- Florina
- Corfu



Based on the available statistical data, provided through the electronic registration in the events, at least 62 different organisations participated in the info-days, usually with more

than one representative. 44% of the participants represented organisations and bodies that have participated in projects in the previous programming period (IPA CB Programme "Greece – Albania 2007 – 2013"), while the rest represented organisations and bodies new to the programme.

2.3 European Cooperation Day 2016

European Cooperation Day 2016 (EC Day 2016) was organized in cooperation with the IPA CB Programme "Greece – Albania 2007 – 2013" and the Interreg V-B "Balkan – Mediterranean 2014 – 2020". It concerned a running race that started from Krystallopigi (GR) and ended in Bilisht (AL). 64 athletes from both countries participated in the event and a nomination celebration was organized at the end of the race.

2.4 Leaflets/ Brochures

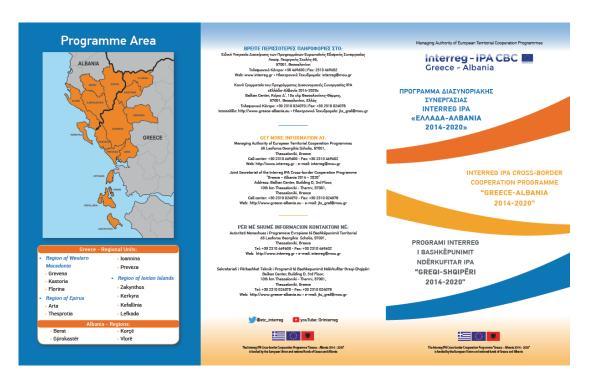
One of the most popular forms of printed marketing solutions is the printed leaflet. Available in many different shapes, sizes and indeed page quantities, leaflets are a great way to promote the Programme to the target audiences, as they permit rapid dissemination of a variety of messages. They are also an effective way of providing the audience with something tangible; something that they can physically take with them to read through at their own leisure.

Moreover, the printed word has a high degree of acceptance, credibility and prestige:

- printed matter is unique in that it can be passed from person to person without distortion;
- it allows for the reinforcing use of photographs and graphic illustrations;
- it is permanent and the message will not change unless it is physically altered;
- it can be disseminated and read or viewed by a larger, widespread target audience;
- it can be reread for reinforcement;
- complex and lengthy material can be explained in detail.

Finally, one element that will be used, as it can really help a leaflet stand out, is the use of images. Images can play a big role in helping the Programme connect with the audience, and this is why they are so powerful and popular in almost any marketing communications. Images have the power to evoke feelings and emotions.

The Interreg IPA CB Programme has already developed an initial 3-fold leaflet with information on the Programme participating areas, priority axis and specific objectives.





3 COMMUNICATION PLAN FOR 2017

3.1 Programme Website

The www.greece-albania.eu website, which is the only official source of information on the Programme, will be re-designed from scratch, in order to better accommodate the needs of the 2014-2020 Programming Period. Although the procurement for the website took place in 2016, the final website will be available early in 2017.



The website will provide information to potential beneficiaries regarding the role IPA, the EU funding opportunities (e.g. Calls for Project Proposals and relevant documentation), important documentation available downloads regarding all aspect of project implementation (including electronic templates

to help beneficiaries respect the EU visibility requirements), questions and answers, information on the approved Projects in a specifically designed pages per Project, etc. An updated list with operations will be published, containing their title, name of beneficiary, operation summary, start and end date, total eligible expenditure, etc. It will also contain sections of news, events, a partner forum and a list of links to useful websites, creating a network.

The main features of the website will be in line with the modern trends in web design. Moreover, they will offer visual harmonisation with the Interreg family (including the Programme logo, which is fully part of Interreg joint branding initiative). Content-wise there will be an effort to move from a technical terminology to a jargon-less content.

The website shall be conformed to the "WCAG, 2.0, Level AA" standards, in order to meet the accessibility needs of persons with disabilities. It may also ensure dissemination and capitalisation of results and outputs at project and Programme level.

Finally, the new website will also keep the information of the current website in a special mini-site location.

3.2 Promotional material

The development and production of the promotional material for the Interreg IPA CBC Programme "Greece – Albania 2014 – 2020" has been initiated in November 2016, but the main material will be produced within 2017.

3.3 Social Media

Social media represents low-cost tools that are used to combine technology and social interaction with the use of words. Social media shall give the Programme a voice and a way to communicate with peers, potential beneficiaries and the general public. It offers the opportunity to reach the widest audience and it is seen as a tool for raising awareness. Social media provide a platform for generating interaction with present and potential beneficiaries as well as with relevant stakeholders, while at the same time it helps to spread the Programme's message in a relaxed and conversational way.

In order to attract the widest audiences possible, ""Greece - Albania" Programme is promoting its operation through the already existing **Twitter** account (https://twitter.com/etc_interreg) Youtube and channel (https://www.youtube.com/user/GrINTERREG) operated by the Managing Authority in Greece. Nevertheless, the programme aims to develop its own independent profiles in the

following platforms/ applications: facebook, twitter, linkedin & Instagram.

3.4 Lead Beneficiary Seminars

The Lead Beneficiary Seminars for the 1st Call for Strategic Project Proposals will take place



in the 1st semester of 2017. The selection of the location and venues will be decided later on. The aim of the seminars will be the familiarization of the beneficiaries with the procedures and the obligations stemming from their participation in a project approved by

the specific programme. The reporting procedures, the modification process, the communication obligations and all other relevant information will be presented in the form of training, in order to facilitate the project implementation.

The beneficiaries will have the opportunity to interact with each other and to resolve any administrative or implementation issues they have faced.

3.5 Posters

Posters provide a logical and cost-effective way of communicating to a particular target audience. When placed correctly, attractive posters can lure nearby people into a specific event and alert them of an upcoming event or service. Posters have the ability to stick in viewers' minds and can be a great tool to use to increase brand awareness.

People who are viewing posters are already actively engaging in their surroundings. Therefore, a clever poster will have a call-to-action phrase that propels the viewer to take action and engage as soon as possible.

The biggest advantage of using posters is that they can be put just about anywhere and seen by almost anyone. However, it should be mentioned that getting your poster seen and read can be something of a lottery – the space and location are decided for you and you may have only a few minutes in which to get your message across.

In order to facilitate the production of the posters and to minimize the costs the Managing Authority in Greece will develop a platform for the design and development of posters to be used by all respective programmes.

3.6 European Cooperation Day 2017



The Programme will actively participate in the 2017 edition of European Cooperation Day (EC Day). The exact form of its participation is still under discussion.

EC Day is a European campaign, organized each year in mid-September, under the auspices of the European Commission, which highlights the role of cooperation across borders in the European Union and with its neighbours —a celebration of all the benefits European Territorial Cooperation brings to people across Europe.

The Interreg IPA CBC Programme "Greece – Albania 2014 – 2020" will follow the experience of the previous programme (IPA CB "Greece – Albania 2007 – 2013") in the organisation of successful event related to sports and alternative tourism activities.

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