

Implementation Report for IPA II Cross-Border

PART A

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL/FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

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Not validated

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.

The year 2017 was very significant, in terms of the initiation of the projects, hence programme implementation. The major issue that was widely discussed, before reaching an agreement, was related to the adaptation and implementation of the PRAGUE Rules for the beneficiaries of the involved countries.

More specifically, the actions/ challenges that were confronted during 2017 were the following:

- New call for the recruitment of additional staff for the Joint Secretariat; one Project Officer and one Financial Officer. The call for interest was published during the summer of 2017 and the interviews and selection of the staff is programmed for the beginning of 2018.
- Adaptation of First Level Control Procedures for both countries:
 - The FLC System in Greece is decentralised. FLC will operate within the Managing Authority (Unit C) with the support of external auditors. A list of available and qualified auditors has been created for the beneficiaries to select.
 - The FLC System in Albania is centralised. The respective FLC Unit is staffed and is operating.
- Coordination with the service that is responsible for adapting the Monitoring Information System (MIS) of the Programme to the regulatory requirements of the 2014 – 2020 period and the programme/ project needs, as identified by the Managing Authority in cooperation with the competent authorities of the cooperating countries. Pilot use of the system was initiated in 2017, while the final system will be fully operational in 2018.
- Ensuring extensive adaptation of the Monitoring Information System (MIS) of the Programme, in order to ensure fulfilment of regulatory requirements and upgraded electronic management on both project and programme level.
- The description of the Management and Control System MCS was delivered by the external experts and came into force.
- Consultation with competent authorities of the two cooperating countries, including extensive cooperation on the FLC level.
- Taking on board some restructuring and/or set up of services in both countries, including FLC.
- Development of strategies to reply to demanding regulatory requirements, such as risk management and anti-fraud.
- Evaluation of projects under the 2nd Call for Ordinary Project Proposals. 41 Projects were approved during the 3rd Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) Meeting, on 14/07/2017 in Korçe.
- One event was organised during 2017, concerning the celebration of the European

Cooperation Day (EC-DAY) on the 05/09/2017 in Argostoli, Kefalonia (GR).

- 28 Technical Meetings took place during 2017, concerning the smooth programme implementation and the negotiation of the budget of the approved projects of both calls.
- The new website of the project was finalised, delivered and was put in operation. The web address remains the same (www.greece-albania.eu) but the design has been completely changed.

The MCS description was submitted to the Audit Authority (EDEL) via Protocol No. 300936/YD 1972 on the 24/05/2017. Following the AA's comments and recommendations, the MA proceeded with consultations with competent authorities of the two cooperating countries, including cooperation on the FLC level and taking on board any relevant new information. An updated description, which addressed both comments and recommendations, was elaborated and resubmitted to the Audit Authority a couple of months later. A Qualified (positive) Opinion of the AA was issued on October 3rd, 2017 and the European Commission was informed during the same day via the SFC.

As the Qualified Opinion was based on specific designation criteria, the MA set out first to discuss all issues with the AA in order to ensure a common understanding as much as possible. At the same time, the MA has reinforced cooperation with the Albanian national authority on the recommendations of the AA. In May 2018, the MA and the Albanian NA, together with the First Level Control service in Albania and the Albanian members of the Group of Auditors, met in Tirana and discussed thoroughly all designation of authorities' issues which are related to the Albanian authorities. Overall, the MA has also been trying to ensure that the MCS description is further updated with necessary information provided by the Albanian authorities, as well as with information on the MIS upgrading works and a revised description of the MA's supervision on the First Level Control Systems of the cooperating countries. The updated version of the MCS description, aiming to close all AA recommendations, shall be submitted by the end of May 2018..

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	Promotion of the environment sustainable transport & public infrastructure	<p>The first priority axis includes two thematic priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (c) Promoting sustainable transport, information and communications networks & services and investing in cross-border water, waste & energy systems and facilities (b) Protecting the environment & promoting climate change adaptation & mitigation, risk prevention & management <p>In addition to the three (3) Strategic Projects, already approved in 2016, eighteen (18) projects were approved in this Priority Axis, following the 2nd Call for Ordinary Project Proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ SaveSafeWater ➤ Less Waste II ➤ CB Railway ➤ Green Point MOB ➤ Internet of Bins ➤ PHAREM ➤ BlueCoast ➤ ECO-FISH ➤ RIVER 2 RIVER

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"> ➤ NETMETERING ➤ HCU Energy Optimisation ➤ GREAT SUN ➤ i-ALARMS ➤ E-HORECA WANET ➤ LED ➤ G.A.T.E. ➤ 4 PLUS ➤ EXTROVERT ROADS <p>The total budget submitted under the 2nd call for proposals was 31.566.897,56 €. The budget of the approved projects has not been finalised, the respective subsidy contracts have not been signed and the implementation of the projects has not started yet.</p> <p>Technical Meetings with part of the approved projects took place at the end of 2017.</p>
2	Boosting the Local Economy	<p>The second priority axis also includes two thematic priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (d) Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage (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 internationalization <p>In addition to the Strategic Project that was approved in 2016, twenty-three (23) projects were approved in this Priority Axis, following the 2nd Call for Ordinary Project Proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ MILESTONESS II

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"> ➤ PROSFORA ➤ EXPLORAL ➤ CBTB ➤ POLYPHONIA ➤ RHYTHM ➤ EXTRO-CULT ➤ 4 ALL ➤ CULTURE PLUS ➤ CULTURAL LANDS ➤ IT CULTURE ➤ THEMA ➤ CULTURE LANDS ➤ EX.TOUR ➤ IN-ECO ➤ HERBINNO ➤ IDEA ➤ OLIVE_CULTURE ➤ ACCEL ➤ BUSINESS CLUBS ➤ INCLUST ➤ COMPLETE ➤ WINCOME <p>The total budget submitted under the 2nd call for proposals was 60.700.665,27 €. The budget of the approved projects has not been finalised, the respective subsidy contracts have not been signed and the implementation of the projects has not started yet.</p> <p>Technical Meetings with part of the approved projects took place at the end of 2017.</p>

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
3	Technical Assistance	<p>The Technical Assistance of the Programme will be implemented in the framework of two “projects”; one for the Greek part of the budget and one for the Albanian part.</p> <p>In general:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 communication/ publicity event was organised during 2017, concerning the celebration of the European Cooperation Day (EC-DAY) on the 05/09/2018 in Kefalonia, Greece. • 1 JMC Meeting was organised in Korca on 14/07/2018 for the approval of the projects submitted under the 2nd Call for Ordinary Project Proposals. • The website of the programme was finalised and is now operational. • 28 Technical Meetings took place within 2017.

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 - Promotion of the environment sustainable transport & public infrastructure
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)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2017	Observations
F	CO23	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	inhabitants	11,500.00	0	Project implementation has not started yet.
S	CO23	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	inhabitants	57,000.00	0	Project implementation has not started yet.
F	CO25	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	hectares	80,000.00	0	Project implementation has not started yet.
S	CO25	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	hectares	72,250.00	0	Project implementation has not started yet.
F	CO34	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	Kwh/year	130,000.00	0	Project implementation has not started yet.
S	CO34	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	Kwh/year	463,963.00	0	Project implementation has not started yet.

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2017	Observations
F	CO34b	People participating in awareness actions	participants	4,300.00		Project implementation has not started yet.
S	CO34b	People participating in awareness actions	participants	12,500.00		Project implementation has not started yet.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016	2015	2014
F	CO23	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	0	0	0
S	CO23	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	0	0	0
F	CO25	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	0	0	0
S	CO25	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	0	0	0
F	CO34	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	0	0	0
S	CO34	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	0	0	0
F	CO34b	People participating in awareness actions	0	0	0
S	CO34b	People participating in awareness actions	0	0	0

(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 - Promotion of the environment sustainable transport & public infrastructure
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 - Increase the effectiveness of environmental protection & sustainable use of natural resources

Table 1: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
5	Level of preservation of the protected natural CB areas	%	72.08	2015	79.29	0	0	Baseline values have been calculated in 2014, during the drafting of the CP, with specific methods for each result indicator. The calculation method will be replicated in early 2019, to measure the progress of the indicators at the end of 2018. For this reason, target values for 2017 remain the same as 2014. Revised values will be available in the 2019 Annual Report..

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
5	Level of preservation of the protected natural CB areas	0	0	0	0	0	0

Priority axis	1 - Promotion of the environment sustainable transport & public infrastructure
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	1.3 - Increase energy-efficiency and the use of RES.

Table 1: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
6	Energy Efficiency Awareness Barometer	number , (on a 1-10 scale)	5.94	2015	7.00	0	0	Baseline values have been calculated in 2014, during the drafting of the CP, with specific methods for each result indicator. The calculation method will be replicated in early 2019, to measure the progress of the indicators at the end of 2018. For this reason, target values for 2017 remain the same as 2014. Revised values will be available in the 2019 Annual Report.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
6	Energy Efficiency Awareness Barometer	0	0	0	0	0	0

Priority axis	1 - Promotion of the environment sustainable transport & public infrastructure
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	1.4 - Improve the effectiveness of risk prevention and disaster management with a focus on forest fires

Table 1: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
7	Area damaged by forest fires (5-yr rolling annual average)	hectares	15,010.89	2014	13,450.00	0	0	Project implementation has not started yet.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
7	Area damaged by forest fires (5-yr rolling annual average)	0	0	0	0	0	0

Priority axis	1 - Promotion of the environment sustainable transport & public infrastructure
Thematic Priority	c - Promoting sustainable transport and improving public infrastructures by, inter alia, reducing isolation through improved access to transport, information and communication networks and services and investing in cross-border water, waste and energy systems and facilities.

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2017	Observations
F	CO20	Additional population served by improved water supply	inhabitants	50,000.00	0	Project implementation has not started yet.
S	CO20	Additional population served by improved water supply	inhabitants	214,637.00	0	Project implementation has not started yet.
F	CO21	Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	inhabitants	24,000.00	0	Project implementation has not started yet.
S	CO21	Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	inhabitants	3,900.00	0	Project implementation has not started yet.
F	CO21b	Additional solid waste management capacity created	Tonnes/yr	4,000.00	0	Project implementation has not started yet.
S	CO21b	Additional solid waste management capacity created	Tonnes/yr	7,040.00	0	Project implementation has not started yet.
F	CO21c	Kilometers of CB road network studied	km	30.00	0	Project implementation has not started yet.
S	CO21c	Kilometers of CB road network studied	km	0.00	0	Project implementation has not started yet.
F	CO21d	Number of square meters of border crossing buildings studied or con-structed	m2	200.00	0	Project implementation has not started yet.
S	CO21d	Number of square meters of border crossing buildings studied or con-structed	m2	0.00	0	Project implementation has not started yet.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016	2015	2014
F	CO20	Additional population served by improved water supply	0	0	0
S	CO20	Additional population served by improved water supply	0	0	0
F	CO21	Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	0	0	0
S	CO21	Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	0	0	0
F	CO21b	Additional solid waste management capacity created	0	0	0
S	CO21b	Additional solid waste management capacity created	0	0	0
F	CO21c	Kilometers of CB road network studied	0	0	0
S	CO21c	Kilometers of CB road network studied	0	0	0
F	CO21d	Number of square meters of border crossing buildings studied or con-structed	0	0	0
S	CO21d	Number of square meters of border crossing buildings studied or con-structed	0	0	0

(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 - Promotion of the environment sustainable transport & public infrastructure
Thematic Priority	c - Promoting sustainable transport and improving public infrastructures by, inter alia, reducing isolation through improved access to transport, information and communication networks and services and investing in cross-border water, waste and energy systems and facilities.
Specific objective	1.1 - Increase the capacity of cross border infrastructure in transport, water & waste management

Table 1: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
1	Volume of urban effluents under secondary treatment	million m3	30.00	2014	41.31	0	0	Baseline values have been calculated in 2014, during the drafting of the CP, with specific methods for each result indicator. The calculation method will be replicated in early 2019, to measure the progress of the indicators at the end of 2018. For this reason, target values for 2017 remain the same as 2014. Revised values will be available in the 2019 Annual Report.
2	Percentage of solid waste managed sustainably	%	75.00	2014	79.00	0	0	Baseline values have been calculated in 2014, during the drafting of the CP, with specific methods for each result indicator. The calculation method will be replicated in early 2019, to measure the progress of the indicators at the end of 2018. For this reason, target values for 2017 remain the same as 2014. Revised values will be available in the 2019 Annual Report.
3	% of cross-border vertical axes to Egnatia motorway either constructed or with sufficient maturity to be constructed.	%	80.41	2014	100.00	0	0	Project implementation has not started yet.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1	Volume of urban effluents under secondary treatment	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Percentage of solid waste managed sustainably	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	% of cross-border vertical axes to Egnatia motorway either constructed or with sufficient maturity to be constructed.	0	0	0	0	0	0

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - Boosting the Local Economy
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

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2017	Observations
F	CO04	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	160.00	0	Project implementation has not started yet.
S	CO04	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	450.00	0	Project implementation has not started yet.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016	2015	2014
F	CO04	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	0	0	0
S	CO04	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	0	0	0

(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 - Boosting the Local Economy
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	2.2 - Improve cross-border capacity to support entrepreneur-ship, business survival and competitiveness

Table 1: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
8	Active enterprises CB	number	97,883.00	2014	100,000.00	0	0	Baseline values have been calculated in 2014, during the drafting of the CP, with specific methods for each result indicator. The calculation method will be replicated in early 2019, to measure the progress of the indicators at the end of 2018. For this reason, target values for 2017 remain the same as 2014. Revised values will be available in the 2019 Annual Report.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
8	Active enterprises CB	0	0	0	0	0	0

Priority axis	2 - Boosting the Local Economy
Thematic Priority	d - Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2017	Observations
F	CO11	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	visits	13,500.00	0	Project implementation has not started yet.
S	CO11	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	visits	18,700.00	0	Project implementation has not started yet.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016	2015	2014
F	CO11	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	0	0	0
S	CO11	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	0	0	0

(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 - Boosting the Local Economy
Thematic Priority	d - Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.
Specific objective	2.1 - Preserve cultural and natural resources as a prerequisite for tourism development of the cross border area.

Table 1: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
9	Annual overnight tourist stays of the cross border area	millions	9.00	2014	9.54	0	0	Baseline values have been calculated in 2014, during the drafting of the CP, with specific methods for each result indicator. The calculation method will be replicated in early 2019, to measure the progress of the indicators at the end of 2018. For this reason, target values for 2017 remain the same as 2014. Revised values will be available in the 2019 Annual Report.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
9	Annual overnight tourist stays of the cross border area	0	0	0	0	0	0

Priority axes for technical assistance

Priority axis	3 - Technical Assistance
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Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2017	Observations
F	3	Not required	Not applicable	1.00		
S	3	Not required	Not applicable	1.00		

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016	2015	2014
F	3	Not required			
S	3	Not required			

(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

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
F0101	Eligible verified (certified) Expenditure of the Axis	Euro			31,152,837.00	0	0	Priority Axis 1
K0101	Approved Projects	Number of projects				0	0	Priority Axis 1
CO34	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	Kwh/year			1,100,000.00	0	0	Priority Axis 1
CO21c	Kilometers of CB road network studied	km			30.00	0	0	Priority Axis 1
CO11	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	visits			21,000.00	0	0	Priority Axis 2
F0102	Eligible verified (certified) Expenditure of the Axis	Euro			18,692,694.00	0	0	Priority Axis 2
K0102	Approved Projects	Number of projects						Priority Axis 2

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
F0101	Eligible verified (certified) Expenditure of the Axis	0	0	0	0	0	0
K0101	Approved Projects	0	0	0	0	0	0
CO34	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0
CO21c	Kilometers of CB road network studied	0	0	0	0	0	0
CO11	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	0	0	0	0	0	0
F0102	Eligible verified (certified) Expenditure of the Axis	0	0	0	0	0	0
K0102	Approved Projects	0	0	0	0	0	0

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	21,156,014.00	85.00	21,424,509.13	101.27%	21,424,509.13	0.00	0.00%	21
2	Public	16,924,812.00	85.00	17,671,819.11	104.41%	17,671,819.11	0.00	0.00%	24
3	Public	4,231,203.00	85.00	4,231,203.00	100.00%	4,231,203.00	34,342.56	0.81%	2
Total		42,312,029.00	85.00	43,327,531.24	102.40%	43,327,531.24	34,342.56	0.08%	47

*The budget presented concerns the amounts submitted /not the once finally approved

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 Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II) and national contributions of the participating countries.

Not validated

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

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

Priority axis	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	«r.ir.etc.table5.t hempridimen»	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support*	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support*	The total eligible expenditure declared by eneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
1											
1	013	01	07	07	b	24	AL	863,045.64	863,045.64		5
1	013	01	07	07	b	24	EL132	384,340.00	384,340.00		0
1	013	01	07	07	b	24	EL134	344,500.00	344,500.00		0
1	013	01	07	07	b	24	EL211	193,915.18	193,915.18		0
1	013	01	07	07	b	24	EL213	400,000.00	400,000.00		0
1	013	01	07	07	b	24	EL214	252,803.40	252,803.40		0
1	013	01	07	07	b	24	EL221	72,000.00	72,000.00		0
1	013	01	07	07	b	24	EL222	377,500.00	377,500.00		0
1	017	01	07	07	c	24	AL	1,217,531.06	1,217,531.06		4
1	017	01	07	07	c	24	EL131	212,000.00	212,000.00		0
1	017	01	07	07	c	24	EL132	450,380.39	450,380.39		0
1	017	01	07	07	c	24	EL134	324,100.55	324,100.55		0
1	017	01	07	07	c	24	EL213	179,868.50	179,868.50		0

Priority axis	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	«r.ir.etc.table5.t hempridimen»	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support*	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support*	The total eligible expenditure declared by eneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
1	017	01	07	07	c	24	EL214	321,035.74	321,035.74		0
1	017	01	07	07	c	24	EL222	640,000.02	640,000.02		0
1	018	01	07	07	c	24	AL	1,064,079.07	1,064,079.07		1
1	018	01	07	07	c	24	EL132	534,120.00	534,120.00		0
1	018	01	07	07	c	24	EL134	101,049.21	101,049.21		0
1	018	01	07	07	c	24	EL213	1,699,042.75	1,699,042.75		0
1	018	01	07	07	c	24	EL222	472,020.00	472,020.00		0
1	021	01	07	07	c	24	AL	2,311,397.20	2,311,397.20		3
1	021	01	07	07	c	24	EL132	257,424.80	257,424.80		0
1	021	01	07	07	c	24	EL134	836,480.00	836,480.00		0
1	021	01	07	07	c	24	EL212	165,000.00	165,000.00		0
1	021	01	07	07	c	24	EL213	1,169,500.00	1,169,500.00		0
1	021	01	07	07	c	24	EL222	1,220,440.00	1,220,440.00		0
1	021	01	07	07	c	24	EL223	165,000.00	165,000.00		0
1	022	01	07	07	c	24	AL	311,070.20	311,070.20		1
1	022	01	07	07	c	24	EL213	545,870.20	545,870.20		0
1	030	01	07	07	c	24	AL	350,700.00	350,700.00		1
1	030	01	07	07	c	24	EL132	326,100.00	326,100.00		0
1	030	01	07	07	c	24	EL134	321,800.00	321,800.00		0

Priority axis	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	«r.ir.etc.table5.t hempridimen»	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support*	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support*	The total eligible expenditure declared by eneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
1	034	01	07	07	c	24	AL	255,911.00	255,911.00		1
1	034	01	07	07	c	24	EL211	734,745.00	734,745.00		0
1	085	01	07	07	b	24	AL	490,000.00	490,000.00		3
1	085	01	07	07	b	24	EL211	113,500.00	113,500.00		0
1	085	01	07	07	b	24	EL212	83,500.00	83,500.00		0
1	085	01	07	07	b	24	EL213	350,000.00	350,000.00		0
1	085	01	07	07	b	24	EL221	193,000.00	193,000.00		0
1	085	01	07	07	b	24	EL222	70,000.00	70,000.00		0
1	085	01	07	07	b	24	EL223	52,000.00	52,000.00		0
1	088	01	07	07	b	24	AL	294,559.95	294,559.95		2
1	088	01	07	07	b	24	EL132	52,000.00	52,000.00		0
1	088	01	07	07	b	24	EL213	384,679.00	384,679.00		0
1	088	01	07	07	b	24	EL222	266,500.27	266,500.27		0
2											
2	066	01	07	07	d	24	EL222	127,500.00	127,500.00		0
2	066	01	07	07	g	24	AL	898,673.37	898,673.37		4
2	066	01	07	07	g	24	EL131	293,000.00	293,000.00		0
2	066	01	07	07	g	24	EL132	120,000.00	120,000.00		0
2	066	01	07	07	g	24	EL134	209,024.26	209,024.26		0

Priority axis	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	«r.ir.etc.table5.t hempridimen»	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support*	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support*	The total eligible expenditure declared by eneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
2	066	01	07	07	g	24	EL213	828,972.56	828,972.56		0
2	067	01	07	07	g	24	AL	1,321,239.10	1,321,239.10		5
2	067	01	07	07	g	24	EL132	1,058,425.97	1,058,425.97		0
2	067	01	07	07	g	24	EL211	154,000.00	154,000.00		0
2	067	01	07	07	g	24	EL213	638,886.00	638,886.00		0
2	067	01	07	07	g	24	EL222	206,500.00	206,500.00		0
2	094	01	07	07	d	24	AL	4,118,673.12	4,118,673.12		15
2	094	01	07	07	d	24	EL131	688,005.50	688,005.50		0
2	094	01	07	07	d	24	EL132	1,484,110.11	1,484,110.11		0
2	094	01	07	07	d	24	EL134	183,009.14	183,009.14		0
2	094	01	07	07	d	24	EL213	3,832,835.68	3,832,835.68		0
2	094	01	07	07	d	24	EL221	136,323.10	136,323.10		0
2	094	01	07	07	d	24	EL222	1,224,430.00	1,224,430.00		0
2	094	01	07	07	d	24	EL223	148,211.20	148,211.20		0
3											
3	121	01	07	07		24	AL	1,270,700.00	1,270,700.00		1
3	121	01	07	07		24	EL	2,369,903.00	2,369,903.00	28,763.80	1
3	122	01	07	07		24	AL	0.00	0.00		0
3	122	01	07	07		24	EL	271,000.00	271,000.00		0

Priority axis	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	«r.ir.etc.table5.t hempridimen»	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support*	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support*	The total eligible expenditure declared by eneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
3	123	01	07	07		24	AL	47,200.00	47,200.00		0
3	123	01	07	07		24	EL	272,400.00	272,400.00	5,578.76	0

*The budget presented concerns the amounts submitted /not the once finally approved

Not validated

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

1. Operation (2)	2. The amount of IPA support(1) envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations	3. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 2/total amount allocated to the support from the IPA at programme level * 100)	4. Eligible expenditure of IPA support incurred in all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority	5. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 4/total amount allocated to the support from the IPA at programme level *100)
	Relevant data will be provided during the implementation of the projects	Relevant data will be provided during the implementation of the projects	Relevant data will be provided during the implementation of the projects	Relevant data will be provided during the implementation of the projects

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

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

4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

The Evaluation Plan was approved by the JMC during the 2nd meeting in Igoumenitsa (Greece) on the 24/11/2016 and it submitted via SFC to EC on 13/06/2017.

According to the evaluation plan of the programme, two types of evaluations will take place: an effectiveness and efficiency (implementation) evaluation and an impact evaluation.

The respective procurement will take place within 2018

Not validated

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

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

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

Prior to that, a performance framework has been defined for the Programme, in accordance with Annex II of CPR Regulation. The Performance Framework monitors the achievement of milestones, which has been set for each priority. This facilitates 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.

Implementation of the Programme for the year 2017:

2nd Call for Ordinary Project Proposals: High interest was shown by the potential beneficiaries and a total number of 200 project proposals were submitted.

The total budget of the submitted project proposals reached more than 92 million €. The evaluation procedure was initiated at the end of 2016, but was be finalised in the first semester of 2017.

41 Projects were approved under the 2nd Call:

4ALL	2nd	2.1
4PlusCitizens	2nd	1.4
ACCEL	2nd	2.2
BlueCoast	2nd	1.2
Business Clubs	2nd	2.2
CB Railway	2nd	1.1
CBTB	2nd	2.1
COMPLETE	2nd	2.2
CULTURAL LANDS	2nd	2.1
CULTURE LANDS	2nd	2.1
CULTURE PLUS	2nd	2.1
ECO-FISH	2nd	1.2
E-HORECA WANET	2nd	1.1
EX.TOUR	2nd	2.1
EXPLORAL	2nd	2.1
EXTRO-CULT	2nd	2.1
EXTROVERT ROADS	2nd	1.1

G.A.T.E.	2nd	1.3
GREAT SUN	2nd	1.3
GREENPOINT-MOB	2nd	1.1
HCU Energy Optimization	2nd	1.3
HERBINNO	2nd	2.2
i-ALARMS	2nd	1.4
IDEA	2nd	2.2
IN ECO	2nd	2.2
InClust	2nd	2.2
INTERNET OF BINS	2nd	1.1
IT CULTURE	2nd	2.1
LED	2nd	1.3
LESS-WASTE-II	2nd	1.1
MileSTONES II	2nd	2.1
NET METERING	2nd	1.3
OLIVE_CULTURE	2nd	2.2
PhaRem	2nd	1.1
POLYPHONIA	2nd	2.1
PROSFORA	2nd	2.1
RIVER 2 RIVER	2nd	1.2
RYTHM	2nd	2.1
SaveSafeWater	2nd	1.1
THEMA	2nd	2.1
WINCOME	2nd	2.2

Technical meetings with the beneficiaries of some of the approved projects for the finalization of their budget and activities took place at the end of 2017.

Twenty-eight (28) Technical Meetings were organized during 2017:

Three (3) Technical Meetings concerned the approved **Strategic Projects**. They involved the project beneficiaries, MA and JS and the major issue was the finalization of the project budget.

Twenty-one (21) Technical Meetings concerned the approved **Ordinary Projects**. They involved the project beneficiaries, MA and JS and the major issue was the finalization of the project budget.

One (1) two-day Technical Meeting concerned the **evaluation procedure** for the 2nd Phase for the projects submitted under the 2nd Call for Ordinary Project Proposals. It involved the selected evaluators, MA and JS and the main issue was the description and analysis of the evaluation procedure and criteria.

One (1) two-day Technical Meeting concerned the **Technical Assistance and First Level**

Control. It involved the people involved in both procedures from MA, JS and Albania. The major issue concerned the description of the procedures to be followed in each case for the proper implementation of the programme.

One (1) Technical Meeting was between JS, MA and National Authorities of the Programme, in order to discuss problems encountered during the **implementation of the programme** and next steps to be taken.

One (1) Technical Meeting was between the JS and potential beneficiaries in order to provide information for **funding opportunities** and support for the preparation of project proposals.

In terms of **communication activities**, the Programme participated in the celebration of the **European Cooperation Day (EC-DAY)** for 2017. The activity implemented was titled “No Plastic Challenge? Let’s go for it TOGETHER!” More than 400 people, visitors and citizens of Kefalonia, were informed on the effort to reduce single-use plastic items and the damage they cause to the environment. Cotton Bags and multiuse metallic glasses were distributed to the participants, as part of the effort.

The new website of the programme was finalized and operational within 2017.

‘E-Cohesion’

The Greek integrated Management Information System (MIS) has been developed to support (initially) the mainstream Operational Programmes 2014-2020, ensuring full electronic management of data and procedures on both Programme and project level. More specifically, the MIS covers the specific requirements as set out in EU 1011/2014 (Article 9 prg1 & Article 10 prg1 & prg4) and EU 821/2014 (Article 8 prg1) focusing particularly:

1. on the electronic exchange of information between beneficiaries and management and control bodies (i.e. enabling reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries)
2. on the facilitation of interoperability between National and Union legal frameworks, while allowing beneficiaries to submit once all information related to the electronic data exchange (i.e. enabling electronic data exchange on programme implementation level)

The Managing Authority is in close cooperation with the Special Service of MIS, in order to finalize the electronic system that is going to fulfill the requirements concerning “E-Cohesion” in relation to all European territorial cooperation (INTERREG) programmes, under the responsibility of the MA.

As such, the above MIS is currently undergoing some necessary adaption to ensure coverage of the specific features of INTERREG Programmes 2014-2020. Full adaptation of the MIS is estimated in 2018.

(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.

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Not validated

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

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

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

Not validated

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

N/A

Not validated

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

8.1. Major projects

Table 7: Major projects

Project	CCI	Status of MP	Total investments	Total costs eligible	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	Ma
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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

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

Not validated

Not validated

8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

No Joint Action Plans are foreseen by the Programme.

Not validated

Table 8: Joint action plans (JAP)

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

Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

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Not validated

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

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

Priority axis	1 - Promotion of the environment sustainable transport & public infrastructure
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During 2017, the evaluation of the project proposals submitted under the 2nd Call for Ordinary Project Proposals was completed. Eighteen (18) were finally approved under this Specific Objective (Plus 3 Strategic Projects). Given that none of the approved projects has started their implementation, no specific values for indicators are available. Nonetheless, given the size and the character of the approved projects, it is obvious that project outputs and results will certainly contribute to the indicators and objectives of the Programme.

Priority axis	2 - Boosting the Local Economy
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During 2017, the evaluation of the project proposals submitted under the 2nd Call for Ordinary Project Proposals was completed. Twenty-three (23) were finally approved under this Specific Objective (Plus 1 Strategic Project). Given that none of the approved projects has started their implementation, no specific values for indicators are available. Nonetheless, given the size and the character of the approved projects, it is obvious that project outputs and results will certainly contribute to the indicators and objectives of the Programme.

Priority axis	3 - Technical Assistance
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Technical Assistance has started implementation, but there are no respective indicators required.

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

The issues of equality between men and women and non-discrimination (including accessibility for persons with disabilities) are very important for the Programme. This is justified through the following actions:

- Projects: There is a distinctive field where the applicants have to state and justify the contribution of their projects towards these issues, for each case separately. This field is evaluated in the 1st phase of project evaluation and is an on-off criterion. This means that projects failing to justify how their projects will contribute to or respect the European Horizontal Principles, will be rejected and not further evaluated.

- Programme actions/ Information and Publicity:

*First of all the Programme's Communication Overall Strategy has been finalized after consultations with the National Federation for Disabled Persons (GR), in order to be proactive and to insist on the respect and application of the conditions foreseen. As stated in the strategy "The Member States will ensure that equality between men and women and the integration of the gender perspective is promoted during the various stages of implementation of the Funds and any discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation will be avoided. Special attention will be given to providing women as well as people with disabilities living in the eligible border region with equal opportunity to access to information. The Programme's web site to be established will include special features to support people whose eyesight is damaged. In case of organising publicity events – information session, seminars, workshops, and conferences - the venue of the event will be chosen in a way that direct access to people in wheelchairs will be possible, in order to enable their participation. In some cases special services may be needed to enable people with disabilities to access to information. For example deaf people may require interpretation, while blind or physically handicapped people may require personal assistance during events. The invitation for these events will include a question whether the participant needs any assistance and if yes, what kind of. Assistance to disabled people during information events will be organised and such support services will be financed under the TA budget". The revised Communication Strategy of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme "Greece – Albania 2014 – 2020" was approved during the 2nd JMC Meeting in Igoumenitsa, Greece (11/2016). No additional revisions were made in 2017.

*The website is finalized and operational and the external developer provided the JS/MA with proof on the application of the required protocols.

*The EC-Day event took place in the port area of Argostoli, which is fully accessible for disabled persons.

*Through the implementation Information and Publicity Guide, the project beneficiaries will be obliged to respect the conditions not only on the accessibility of disabled persons, but also the respect of equality between men and women and non-discrimination on all aspects of project implementation; information and publicity actions, but also procurements, recruitment procedures, etc. All these obligations are explicitly stated in the 'Information and Publicity Guide' which states clearly: "The objective of non-discrimination refers to the prohibition of any discrimination based on any ground such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation. Article 19 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU provides the legal base for EU legislation combating discrimination. Moreover, Article 7 of Regulation 1303/2013 refers to the promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination. Besides the legal obligations, there is a strong economic argument, also linked to the achievement of the Europe 2020 targets, to work towards a more equal and diverse society as demonstrated by a wide range of studies, including by the OECD. Hence, mainstreaming gender and non-discrimination on project level and particularly in communication strategy is a key factor in successful dissemination of project results.

In particular, accessibility is ensuring that disabled people can access the communication channels (website, promotional material, venues etc.) and that there are no barriers that prevent this. In other words, making something accessible means providing alternative means (formats or options) to access what's on offer if the "standard" offer is not accessible.

The best way to embed inclusive communications across the project lifecycle is to develop an inclusive communication policy that clearly sets out a commitment to inclusion. The length and complexity of this policy will be determined by many factors, ie. nature of project, profile of main target groups, size of partnership, scope of beneficiary institutions, budget resources, human resources, etc.

Examples of promoting accessible and inclusive communication at project level:

- Accessibility of venues: Make sure that any conference/seminar/meeting rooms or other venues are accessible and reachable.

- Accessibility of information material: Some audiences may need alternate formats in order to benefit from the information to be shared, such as larger print, tactile or oral formats for people who are blind or visually impaired. Others may need a modification of the content in order to make use of the information. People with cognitive and developmental disabilities present a widely varied audience whose individual members may benefit from modified content, as well as alternate formats.

- Accessibility of information on the Web: Many of the suggestions presented to make printed materials more readable and comprehensible can also be applied to documents that are presented on the World Wide Web. Multi-media files on the Web can help reinforce the printed words. For example, an audio version can be provided, where the

words are read aloud.

Beneficiaries need to keep the project website simple and clear. It is advised that the website is accessible according to Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) guidelines of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). To help with navigation, use simple icons/colors to identify elements of the site or pages to be accessed. Keep navigation tools in the same place on each page. Consistency in design will guide the visitor”.

Not validated

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

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

Necessary steps have been taken to ensure that environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, disaster resilience. One of the main priorities of the INTERREG IPA Cross Border Cooperation Programme “Greece-Albania 2014-2020” is to protect the environment. Based on this priority the overall strategy of the cross border area was set and the corresponding priority axes and thematic priorities were selected.

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

The Programme participates in the thematic group of Interact “Climate Change and Risk”. This group was established as part of the capitalisation strategy of Interact. The Programme has identified specific projects activated in this field:

- SO 1.1
 - o AQUANEX
 - o SaveSafeWater
- SO 1.3
 - o G.A.T.E.
 - o Great Sun
 - o LED
 - o NetMetering

These projects have not started the implementation yet, hence there are no specific results to report.

Priority axis	Amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)	Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)
1	5,081,604.22	9,26

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

During 2017, partners/ beneficiaries participated in the technical meetings of the projects, in order to finalise budget and to initiate the project implementation.

There is yet no contribution of the partners to the evaluation of the Programme.

Not validated

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

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

The tender procedure for the external expert is on-going and it has not been completed yet.

Not validated

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

This report covers the year 2017, which was not a very active year in terms of communication activities. Following the launching of two calls in the previous year, and the respective info-days that followed, 2017 was the year of evaluation. In this regard, the JS and MA opted for an in-house evaluation, aiming to self-assess the implementation of the Communication Strategy and to decide on the steps that will have to be taken.

According to the EC Regulation no 1303/2013, the JS/MA shall inform the JMC on the following:

- *The Communication Strategy progress and implementation status
- *Information and publicity measures carried out
- *The means of communication used

No revision of the Communication Strategy was made during 2017.

The JS/ MA evaluate the information and publicity actions that are expected to be organized in the framework of the Programme. The evaluation of these actions takes place based on their contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Communication Strategy and in accordance with qualitative and quantitative objectives, based on the nature of the actions.

Output indicators:

Indicator	Indicative target value ¹	Value achieved by 31/12/2017	Comments/ explanations
Number of events (info-days, conferences, seminars, fairs, Programme annual events etc.)		One (1)	2017 –EC-DAY “No Plastic Challenge”, co-organised with the ‘Balkan – Mediterranean 2014-2020’ Transnational Programme.
Number of participants per event		400	EC-Day 2017: 400 participants

¹ Indicative target values have not been define for the Interreg IPA CBC Programme “Greece – Albania 2014 – 2020”

<p>Number of news articles (including Programme's website, articles developed for other media, press releases, press conferences, etc)</p>		<p>14</p>	<p>Website: 13 News 1 Events Article sent to newspapers/ news sites: 0</p>
<p>Number of social media posts</p>		<p>51</p>	<p>Facebook: 33/ followers 137/ people reached (average) 220 Twitter: 27 tweets/ followers 102 LinkedIn: 85 connections</p>
<p>Website statistics</p>		<p>www.greece-albania.eu Approximately 8000 single users have visited the new website of the programme. 60% from Greece, 30% from Albania and 10% from other countries. 82% of the users viewed the website from</p>	<p>The number refers to the total number (not individual) of hits on the Programme's website (www.greece-albania.eu), as well as on the news item related to the Programme in the Managing Authority's website (www.interreg.gr)</p>

		desktop computers. The part of the website most visited is “Library”.	
Types of communication material produced		2	Cotton bags, metallic re-usable glasses

Result indicators:

Indicator	Baseline value ²	Indicative target value ³	Value achieved by 31/12/2016 ⁴	Comments/ explanation
Raised awareness about the Programme and its funding opportunities among potential beneficiaries				
Raised awareness about project outputs and Programme results				
Improved knowledge				

² Baseline values have not been defined for the Interreg IPA CBC Programme “Greece – Albania 2014 – 2020”

³ Indicative target values have not been defined for the Interreg IPA CBC Programme “Greece – Albania 2014 – 2020”

⁴ After the definition of the baseline and target values, the Interreg IPA CBC Programme “Greece – Albania 2014 – 2020” will initiate an online and physical (during events) research to define the values achieved per year.

about procedures for applying/ claiming funding				
Increased Capacity for effective project implementation (LP seminars, guidance, etc)				
Raised satisfaction with the information provided within the Balkan-Mediterranean Programme among potential beneficiaries				

According to the schedule for the implementation of Communication Actions, there are 3 stages of Communication:

1st stage (2015 – 2016): General Information about the Programme (inaugural event) → achieved

2nd Stage (2016 – 2020): Creation of an opinion about the Programme and its actions among the various target audiences, easy access to particular actions and to the opportunities that it offers, creation of a disposition to participate in the financing opportunities → EC-Day 2017

3rd Stage (2020 – 2023): Dissemination of the results and benefits achieved

The Programme has successfully completed the 1st stage with the organization of the Programme's launching event during 2015.

Towards the achievements set for the 2nd stage, most of the envisaged activities have been implemented:

- Hoisting of the EU Flag on May 09
- Implementation of annual activities (EC-Day)
- Widespread use of the Internet (electronic registration, promotion of events, dissemination of presentations, etc)
- Publication and distribution of special information guides (Programme and Project Manual, Information and Publicity Guide)

- Systematic Organisation of thematic meetings and seminars with the potential beneficiaries (info-days for the application procedure and documents for the 2 calls for proposals)
- Utilisation of available information networks to approach potential beneficiaries (the events were announced in the website and local/ regional newspapers)

The goals of the 2nd stage have been achieved mainly during the organisation of the EC-Day for 2017.

It is important to stress though, that this stage is on-going, as the Programme's resources have not been fully activated yet.

The successful implementation of the Communication relies also in the projects themselves. Since the project implementation is not yet initiated, major achievements are still expected.

Specific quality issues on the implementation of information and publicity measures

Corporate identity and key visuals

The Programme has opted to join the Joint Branding Initiative of Interreg Programmes under one single brand name and one single logo. The Programme's logo and visual identity is aligned to the one commonly applied throughout Europe. The initiative has been extended to projects as well, as all projects will be required to follow the same branding instructions, thus creating an homogenized visual identity.

Target audience: beneficiaries vs other target groups

This year the Programme has successfully reached the "external" target audiences, through the organisation of an open event for the EC-Day 2017. More than 400 people were informed about the Programme through the selected activity.

However, the JS/MA acknowledge that the Programme has not yet been as successful in approaching other target groups listed in the Communication Plan, such as local, regional, national, European, but also specialized mass media and lesser the general public. These audiences have been reached but not extensively. The most important tool for the approach of the general public is the EC-Day; through popular publicity events, citizens are informed about the Programme and projects implemented in the area. A clear communication product is expected in the near future, especially with the support of the projects as the bulk of the Programme's promotion will be channeled through their communication activities.

Appropriate, coherent and effective communication tools

Special focus has been placed on the Programme's website, being the main communication channel, as in all ETC Programmes across Europe. The website hosts very substantial content and frequent updates. In terms of information, networking and communicating opportunities, the website is clearly a very useful resource for project and potential beneficiaries, as well as the media and the general public.

The website of the Programme is currently operational, newly designed and mobile friendly. It provides information to potential beneficiaries regarding the Programme, IPA, the EU finding opportunities (Calls and respective documents), important documentation available as downloads regarding all aspects of project implementation, FAQs, information on the approved projects, list of beneficiaries. An updated list with operations will be published. Each approved project will have its own page on the Programme's website. The website also contains sections of news, events, partner search facility.

The main features of the website are in line with the modern trends in web design. Moreover, it offers visual harmonization with the Interreg family (including the Programme logo). Content-wise, there will be an effort to move from a technical terminology to jargon-less content.

Is the Programme's media outreach satisfactory?

Mass-media and press at local, regional and national level have been identified as "external" target groups and information multipliers by the Programme's Communication Strategy. In practice the media outreach has been based on press releases, which are widely disseminated and published, but were not part of a wider campaign, which, in turn, could have substantial impact on the Programme's outreach to the wider public.

Key steps for the future:

- Annual Communication Plan: the annual information on communication activities provided to the members of the JMC could evolve into a detailed Annual Operational Communication Plan, including an annual budget for communication. This could help the Communication Officer of the JS to question the impact of the previous year's activities and to adapt the strategy according to the changing needs. The Annual Communication Plan for 2017 was already approved in 2016.
- Extend communication to "external" target groups: Media and press, mainly at local and regional level, opinion formers, decision makers, beneficiaries of other EU Programmes and European Institutions and the wider public should be reached in a more "aggressive" way.
- Avoid the use of acronyms and specialized terminology in the publications, news or website.
- Incorporate messages throughout the Programme's communications; in introductions, subheadings, quotes and in newsletters, brochures, publications, and website. The Programme should take advantage of the impact delivered by the constant repetition of key words and slogans.
- Exploitation of local media: Initiate a series of featured stories by local journalists, which could be uploaded in the Programme's website and social media profiles. Stories should be written in the local language and translated in English, creating a pool of features on the Programme's impact. Articles could highlight the contribution of the EU to the regions development.
- Territory evokes place and cooperation evokes people: choose visual elements that convey a message.
- Storytelling creates and identity of the Programme and conveys the message that this is what territorial cooperation is about: working on the ground, improving real people's lives and environment.
- Closer networking with beneficiaries from a communication perspective: Clear information and publicity rules & guidelines for beneficiaries are already published. Additionally, all communication tools that can be of interest to an external audience can be promoted on the websites of the national, regional and local authorities that participate to the Programme.
- Social media represent 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. They offer the opportunity to reach the widest audience and they are 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 they contribute to the efforts to spread the Programme's message in a relaxed and conversational way. The Programme's social media profiles are active since January 2017 active in Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram.

Conclusion

The assessment concluded that the Communication Strategy is being implemented in a way guided by the need for Programme activation and acceleration. The implementation of the

Communication Strategy could be respectively characterized as very satisfactory, since the first implementation stage has been fully implemented and the second implementation stage is still ongoing, though implemented in its biggest part.

In general, as far as the communication is concerned, the Programme is on the right track and the communication goals will be fully achieved within the timeframe indicated in the Communication Strategy. However, a number of weaknesses and delays have been identified (values of the indicators, survey for result indicators, etc) and the JS/ MA is already moving towards their solution, by taking on board the key steps suggested in this document.

Not validated

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

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

N/A

Not validated

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

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Not validated

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

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

<p>The Interreg IPA CBC Programme "Greece-Albania 2014-2020" conforms with EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR). More specifically contributes to the above strategy as follows:</p> <p>Priority axis 1 contributes directly to thematic pillars 2 and 3 by creating transport, water & waste management infrastructure and by supporting actions for the protection of the environment, and for risk prevention.</p> <p>Priority axis 2 contributes directly to thematic pillar 4 by protecting and promoting cultural and natural assets and by promoting the tourist potential of the cross border area, while it also contributes indirectly to thematic pillar 1, by supporting entrepreneurship especially in the agro-food sector, and to the extent that projects concerning fishing/aquaculture and other marine productive activities are included during implementation. It also contributes to the first cross-cutting theme directly through the support of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the promotion of actions targeting the incorporation of research & development in the productive process.</p> <p>One approved project with acronym CBRailway is already a labelled EUSAIR project. CBRailway respond to topic 2 "INTERMODAL CONNECTIONS".</p>

- 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

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Not validated

13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

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

The projects implementation has not started yet and consequently no achievement on smart, sustainable and inclusive growth has been performed yet.

Not validated

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

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

The performance framework of the programme sets in total 4 milestones, two per each Priority Axis. Milestones regarding the number of approved projects have already achieved. Milestones regarding the certified expenditures are also expected to be achieved.

Not validated

Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
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Latest validation results

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