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ANNEX I

"ANNEX I

**The cross-border cooperation programme "Interreg-IPA CBC  
Greece – Albania 2014-2020"**

## Cross-border cooperation programme under the IPA instrument

CCI	2014TC16I5CB010
Title	Interreg IPA II Cross-Border Cooperation programme Greece – Albania 2014-2020
Version	3.1
First year	2014
Last year	2020
Eligible from	01-Jan-2014
Eligible to	31-Dec-2023
Major amendment (requiring EC approval - cf. Art. 96 CPR)	✓
Approved by monitoring committee	✓
Justification for amendment	The 2nd modification of the Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme “Greece – Albania 2014 – 2020” concerns the additional funding of €10.000.000 European Union contribution.
EC decision number	
EC decision date	
NUTS regions covered by the cooperation programme	AL - ALBANIA EL131 - Γρεβενά (Grevena) EL132 - Καστοριά (Kastoria) EL134 - Φλώρινα (Florina) EL211 - Άρτα (Arta) EL212 - Θεσπρωτία (Thesprotia) EL213 - Ιωάννινα (Ioannina) EL214 - Πρέβεζα (Preveza) EL221 - Ζάκυνθος (Zakynthos) EL222 - Κέρκυρα (Kerkyra) EL223 - Κεφαλληνία (Kefallinia) EL224 - Λευκάδα (Lefkada)

**SECTION 1 STRATEGY FOR THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME'S CONTRIBUTION TO ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT, WITH THE VIEW OF SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE SELECTED THEMATIC PRIORITIES AND THE RELEVANT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT AND COUNTRY STRATEGIC PAPER(S)**

[Reference: Article 2, Regulation 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 Article 34 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447./2014 of 2 May 2014 on the specific rules for implementing Regulation (EU) 231/2014 of 11 March 2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA II)]

**1.1 Strategy for the cooperation programme’s contribution to the selected thematic priorities and, for the Member States, the relevant Partnership Agreement and, for IPA beneficiary(ies), Country Strategic Paper(s)**

1.1.1. Description of the cooperation programme’s strategy for contributing to the selected thematic priorities and the relevant Partnership Agreement and Country Strategic Paper(s)

**The overall strategy of Interreg IPA II cross-border cooperation programme Greece - Albania 2014-2020 is:**

*“to find the balance between sustainable regional development and enhancement of cross-border cooperation among local population & regional institutions, in accordance with EU & national policies, in order to address common challenges through joint interventions”*

1.1.2. Justification for the choice of thematic priorities, based on an analysis of the needs within the programme area as a whole and the strategy chosen in response to such needs, addressing, where appropriate, missing links in cross-border infrastructure, taking into account the results of the ex-ante evaluation

**Table 1: Justification for the selection of thematic priorities**

Selected thematic priority	Justification for selection
b - Protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation	This relates directly to one of the indicative priorities for the Greece-Albania cross border area as defined in the

Selected thematic priority	Justification for selection
<p>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.</p>	<p>Greek Partnership Agreement. Environmental protection is also a major priority for Albanian EU accession.</p> <p>The eligible cross border area is rich in natural resources and both countries face similar problems: the potential of renewable energy sources have not been fully exploited, there are common cross-border water management issues (surface and groundwater), wastewater pollution impacts are felt at great distances and across the border, natural risks can quickly become cross border issues (e.g. forest wildfires) prevention.</p> <p>The adoption of environmental policies is also key for the long-term economic development of the cross border area as it largely depends on the quality of its environment (tourism). Energy efficiency and clean renewable energy also improve the quality of environment.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>The eligible cross border area is characterized by low quality and density of infrastructure in the fields of transport, information and communications technology (especially in the Albanian area), and environmental infrastructure (mainly in the Albanian area).</p> <p>At the same time, environmental issues are of significant cross-border importance and impact (e.g. wastewater management and water quality monitoring) and require joint action in order to be resolved. Coordinated improvements in transport can benefit all participating regions by both promoting exchanges of goods and people and the proliferation of other economic activity forms (e.g. e-business), thus contributing to thematic priorities d and g (see below).</p>
<p>d - Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.</p>	<p>The cross border area is rich in unique and diverse cultural and natural resources which could be used for the expansion of tourist economic activity thus decreasing unemployment. This potential has not been sufficiently exploited in the past.</p> <p>Currently, tourist activity is concentrated on the coastal and island areas, and mainly on the Greek cross border area, while the potential for alternative forms of tourism – which would prolong the tourist season and tap new markets – is not sufficiently developed yet.</p>

Selected thematic priority	Justification for selection
<p>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.</p>	<p>The cross border area suffers from high unemployment: in the Albanian side due to long-standing inadequate economic activity, and in the Greek side due to the recent recession caused by the global economic and the Greek fiscal crisis.</p> <p>Unemployment in turn causes many social problems such as poverty, social exclusion, public health deterioration, etc. Prerequisite for the alleviation of these problems is the “re-start” of the local economy.</p>

## 1.2 Justification for the financial allocation

Justification for the financial allocation (i.e. Union support) to each thematic priority in accordance with the thematic concentration requirements (taking into account the ex-ante evaluation).

The estimated budget allocation corresponds to the importance of each thematic priority for the cross border area, as it was adjusted in order to account for the varying cost of typical interventions under each specific objective. More specifically:

### Priority axis 1. Promotion of the environment, sustainable transport and public infrastructure (thematic priority c & thematic priority b)

57,61% of the programme total budget is allocated to this priority axis which contributed both to sustainable growth (directly) and to smart growth (indirectly through the development/upgrade of transport and information and communications technology applications): 38,52% to infrastructure in the fields of transport, information and communications technology and environment (Infrastructure interventions tend to gather a larger share of resources due to the higher unit cost of interventions) and 19,09% is devoted to environmental protection soft actions.

### Priority axis 2. Boosting the local economy (thematic priority d & thematic priority g)

34,57% of the programme total budget is allocated to this priority axis which is entirely focused on economic development and smart growth: 25,37% is concentrated to the promotion of tourism - especially through the preservation/promotion of natural and cultural heritage – as this sector presents a comparative advantage for the cross-border area and 9,20% is devoted to across-the-board improvements in entrepreneurship (such as hosting facilities, business services, clusters, etc).

### Priority axis 3. Technical assistance

7,82% of the programme total budget is allocated to technical assistance as per regulations.

Shared management imposes increased needs on the Albanian side in setting up appropriate procedures and developing implementation knowhow. Moreover the MA will need external support in conducting studies regarding the Programme Implementation, independent evaluation and surveys (especially for the 2 survey-based indicators).

**Table 2: Overview of the investment strategy of the cooperation programme**

Priority axis	Union support (€)	Proportion (%) of the total Union support for the cooperation programme	Thematic priorities	Result indicators corresponding to the thematic priority
1	26,479,911.00	57.61%	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	5, 6, 7, 1, 2, 3
2	15,888,789.00	34.57%	<p>d - Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.</p> <p>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.</p>	9, 8
3	3,596,522.00	7.82%		

## SECTION 2. PRIORITY AXES

(Reference: points (b) and (c) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

### 2.1 Description of the priority axes other than technical assistance

(Reference: point (b) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

#### 2.1.1 Priority axis

<b>ID of the priority axis</b>	1
<b>Title of the priority axis</b>	Promotion of the environment sustainable transport & public infrastructure

- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through community-led local development

#### 2.1.2 Fund, calculation basis for Union support and justification of the calculation basis choice

<b>Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or public eligible expenditure)</b>	Public
<b>Justification of the calculation basis choice</b>	In order to promote and equally finance the non-public eligible sector



### 2.1.3 Thematic priority

(Reference: points (b)(i) and (ii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

<b>ID of the thematic priority</b>	b
<b>Title of the 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.

### 2.1.4 The specific objectives of the thematic priority and expected results

(Reference: Article 34(2) of IPA II Implementing Regulation)

<b>ID</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>The results that the partner States seeks to achieve with union support</b>
1.2	Increase the effectiveness of environmental protection & sustainable use of natural resources	Better management of natural-protected sites. Improved institutional capacity and coordinated policies in environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources.
1.3	Increase energy-efficiency and the use of RES.	Reduced overall energy consumption in the public sector. Increased share of energy from RES in the

<b>ID</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>The results that the partner States seeks to achieve with union support</b>
		<p>public sector.</p> <p>Increased population awareness regarding energy efficiency.</p>
1.4	<p>Improve the effectiveness of risk prevention and disaster management with a focus on forest fires</p>	<p>Improved cross border preparedness for effective management of natural disasters.</p> <p>Coordinated decision making tools and early warning systems.</p> <p>Reduction of damages from forest fires.</p> <p>Improved Civil Protection – Better Informed Public.</p>

## 2.1.5. Actions to be supported under the thematic priority

### *2.1.5.1. A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries*

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

1. Joint initiatives for environmental protection (planning and small-scale investment);
2.  Actions for the restoration, protection and efficient management of natural protected areas (e.g. Natura sites), with a focus on marine endangered species; planning for adaptation of ecosystems to climate change;;
3.  Joint initiatives for monitoring and preventing air pollution (including initiatives for monitoring and preventing harmful air pollutants such as PM and NO<sub>2</sub> in order to help in reaching or maintaining compliance with current EU air quality legislation), ground pollution, water pollution and usage (as per Directive 2000/60/EC) and marine pollution with a special focus on coordinated maritime plans for prevention of marine pollution and protection of bathing waters;
4. Small scale (pilot) investments in energy efficiency and use of RES in public buildings and public spaces;
5.  Joint public awareness initiatives for energy efficiency and the use of RES in residences and businesses.
6. Investments for increasing disaster resilience/institutional capacity (equipment, vehicles, small infrastructure, etc);
7. Joint early warning and disaster management systems;
8.  Small scale construction works for risk prevention and response to natural hazards and the consequences of climate change (including interventions for risk preventions in natural and cultural heritage sites);
9.  Joint public awareness initiatives (including risk communication, information sharing training, etc) related to natural and man-made disaster management (civil protection) covering all public groups (including vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, etc);
10.  Joint activities for improving the planning, cooperation and response capacity for disaster management (e.g. joint strategies and common civil protection plans, joint risk assessments and mapping, climate adaptation plans, etc) covering all public groups (including vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities);
11.  Software for the prediction and management of: pest outbreaks, epidemics, severe natural phenomena (e.g. hail, waterspouts, etc) and

protocols for their treatment.

### ***2.1.5.2. Guiding principles for the selection of operations***

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

In the environmental/bio-diversity protection and management of protected sites thematic area, funds will be channeled on a priority basis to projects in compliance with the National Priority Action Plans or National Strategies (to the extent they exist) for biodiversity/protection of natural areas, on projects which focus on prevention methods (pro-active) and on projects focusing on endangered species (especially common or migratory species).

In the risk prevention thematic area, funds will be channeled on a priority basis to forest fire prevention and response. Any other actions will be limited and complementary. In the event flood prevention actions are included, coordination within river basin districts should be ensured in order not to support measures that significantly increase flood risks upstream or downstream. Especially for actions that modify the hydromorphological characteristics of a water body causing deterioration in the status, appropriate analysis will be required as per Article 4.7 of the WFD 2000/60 to be carried out as early as possible in the planning process. This would entail the analysis of alternatives (better environmental options), the establishment of the necessary mitigation measures and a justification of the importance of the project for overriding public interest.

All risk prevention projects will be required to be listed in or implied by the National or Regional Civil Protection Plans (to the extent they exist). Projects addressing risks and disaster management at an adequate bio-geographical scale (e.g. at an entire mountainous zone etc) will receive priority over other actions.

In the pollution prevention thematic area, funds will be channeled on a priority basis to projects addressing pollution problems with spill-over effects (on the other side of the border).

In the energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources thematic area, funds will be channeled on a priority basis to pilot projects, and technology transfer capitalizing on the experience of cross-border partners. As a general rule, no biomass projects will be funded. In the unlikely case where biomass actions are included in any specific project, approval will be conditional on strict emission standards and abatement measures reducing emissions. Hydropower projects will not be financed by the Cooperation Programme as they exhibit significant adverse impacts on aquatic systems.

For all thematic areas, projects with broad area impacts/significance will receive priority over projects with localized effects, unless the latter are pilot actions with best practice potential (in this case transferability will have to be demonstrated).

Projects following the principles (as applicable) of equality between men and women, non-discrimination and accessibility to persons with disabilities,

and sustainable development, will receive preference over other equally deserving projects.

All infrastructure and media (including electronic media) projects shall meet the requirements of the General Regulation 1303/2013, article 7 concerning the implementation of the principles of non discrimination and accessibility to persons with disabilities.

**2.1.5.3. Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)**

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

No financial instruments will be used

**2.1.5.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)**

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

No major projects will be implemented



## 2.1.6 Common and programme specific indicators

(Reference: point (b)(ii) and (b)(iv) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 and Article 2(2) of IPA II Implementing Regulation)

### 2.1.6.1 Priority axis result indicators (programme specific)

**Table 3: Programme specific result indicators**

Specific objective		1.2 - Increase the effectiveness of environmental protection & sustainable use of natural resources					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
5	Level of preservation of the protected natural CB areas	%	72.08	2015	79.29	survey	Bi-annually

Specific objective		1.3 - Increase energy-efficiency and the use of RES.					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
6	Energy Efficiency Awareness Barome-ter	number , (on a 1-10 scale)	5.94	2015	7.00	survey	Bi-annually

Specific objective		1.4 - Improve the effectiveness of risk prevention and disaster management with a focus on forest fires					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
7	Area damaged by forest fires (5-yr rolling annual average)	hectares	15,010.89	2014	13,450.00	European Forest Fire Information System	Annually

### 2.1.6.2. Priority axis output indicators (common or programme specific)

**Table 4: Common and programme specific output indicators**

ID of the thematic priority		<b>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.</b>			
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit for indicator	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO25	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	hectares	72,250.00	Programme Management Information System (MIS)	Annual
CO34	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	Kwh/year	1,100,000.00	Programme Management Information System (MIS)	Annual
CO34b	People participating in awareness actions	participants	35,000.00	Programme Management Information System (MIS)	Annual
CO23	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	inhabitants	115,000.00	Programme Management Information System (MIS)	Annual

ID of the thematic priority	c
Title of the thematic priority	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.

### 2.1.4 The specific objectives of the thematic priority and expected results

(Reference: Article 34(2) of IPA II Implementing Regulation)

<b>ID</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>The results that the partner States seeks to achieve with union support</b>
1.1	Increase the capacity of cross border infrastructure in transport, water & waste management	<p>Increased share of water resources used sustainably.</p> <p>Increased capacity for wastewater treatment.</p> <p>Increased share of solid waste managed sustainably.</p> <p>Improved maturity of cross-border accessibility interventions</p>

## 2.1.5. Actions to be supported under the thematic priority

*2.1.5.1. A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries*

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

1. Planning/construction/rehabilitation of water mgmt/supply infrastructure and drinking water quality monitoring systems□
2. Measures to reduce non-revenue water (NRW), i.e. drinking water produced and lost before it reaches the customer (e.g. advanced water metering, unauthorized consumption controls, CADD & GIS, SCADA systems, flow monitoring, leak detection equipment, etc)
3. Planning, construction and rehabilitation of border crossings; planning, construction and rehabilitation of road network;
4. Smart transport systems and ICT applications in the transport and flow of people sector;
5. Monitoring of the emissions from transport activities, such as shipping and the impact on the port cities and other shore areas;
6. Planning, construction and rehabilitation of small wastewater management infrastructure and surface water quality monitoring systems;
7. Planning, construction and supply activities for sustainable solid waste management infrastructure/actions, including recycling and composting.

### ***2.1.5.2. Guiding principles for the selection of operations***

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

For infrastructure in the thematic areas of transport, water, and waste management, funds will be channeled on a priority basis to projects with significant cross-border impacts even if the infrastructure is located on only one side of the border.

Any development and upgrading of transport infrastructure should be embedded in sustainable urban or regional mobility plans which are linked to air quality plans under Directive 2008/50/EC. For all port infrastructure, air quality measures should be taken into account to reduce the negative effects of marine pollution. Also, in the event of actions that modify the hydromorphological characteristics of a water body (e.g. port infrastructure) causing deterioration in the status, appropriate analysis will be required as per Article 4.7 of the WFD 2000/60 to be carried out as early as possible in the planning process. This would entail the analysis of alternatives (better environmental options), the establishment of the necessary mitigation measures and a justification of the importance of the project for overriding public interest.

In the pollution prevention thematic area (e.g. waste-water treatment), funds will be channeled on a priority basis to projects addressing pollution problems with spill-over effects (on the other side of the border).

Priority will be given –wherever possible - to “green infrastructure” over “gray infrastructure” and to “risk-sensitive infrastructure”.

For all thematic areas, projects with broad area impacts/significance will receive priority over projects with localized effects, unless the latter are pilot actions with best practice potential (in this case transferability will have to be demonstrated).

Projects following the principles (as applicable) of equality between men and women, non-discrimination and accessibility to persons with disabilities, and sustainable development, will receive preference over other equally deserving projects.

All infrastructure and media (including electronic media) projects shall meet the requirements of the General Regulation 1303/2013, article 7 concerning the implementation of the principles of non discrimination and accessibility to persons with disabilities.

**2.1.5.3. Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)**

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

No financial instruments will be used

**2.1.5.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)**

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

No major projects will be implemented

## 2.1.6 Common and programme specific indicators

(Reference: point (b)(ii) and (b)(iv) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 and Article 2(2) of IPA II Implementing Regulation)

### 2.1.6.1 Priority axis result indicators (programme specific)

**Table 3: Programme specific result indicators**

Specific objective		1.1 - Increase the capacity of cross border infrastructure in transport, water & waste management					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
1	Volume of urban effluents under sec-ondary treatment	million m3	30.00	2014	41.31	Greek Ministry of Environment / Albanian Ministry of European Integration	Bi-annually
2	Percentage of solid waste managed sustainably	%	75.00	2014	79.00	Solid Waste Management Bodies	Bi-annually
3	% of cross-border vertical axes to Egnatia motorway either constructed or with sufficient maturity to be con-structed.	%	80.41	2014	100.00	Egnatia Odos S.A.	Annually



2.1.6.2. Priority axis output indicators (common or programme specific)

**Table 4: Common and programme specific output indicators**

ID of the 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.			
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit for indicator	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO20	Additional population served by improved water supply	inhabitants	214,637.00	Programme Management Information System (MIS)	Annual
CO21	Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	inhabitants	13,500.00	Programme Management Information System (MIS)	Annual
CO21b	Additional solid waste management capacity created	Tonnes/yr	7,000.00	Programme Management Information System (MIS)	Annual
CO21c	Kilometers of CB road network studied	km	30.00	Programme Management Information System (MIS)	Annual
CO21d	Number of square meters of border crossing buildings studied or con-structed	m2	200.00	Programme Management Information System (MIS)	Annual

## 2.1.7 Performance framework

(Reference: point (b)(v) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 and Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

**Table 5: Performance framework of the priority axis**

ID of the priority axis		1 - Promotion of the environment sustainable transport & public infrastructure					
ID	Type	Key implementation step or indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of the relevance of the indicator
F0101	F	Eligible verified (certified) Expenditure of the Axis	Euro	1,000,000.00	31,152,837.00	Programme Management Information System (MIS)	n+3 = 2015
K0101	I	Approved Projects	Number of projects	15		Programme Management Information System (MIS)	Approved Projects
CO34	O	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	Kwh/year	0	1,100,000.00	Programme Management Information System (MIS)	
CO21c	O	Kilometers of CB road network studied	km	0	30.00	Programme Management Information System (MIS)	

### **Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework (optional)**

The chosen output indicators represent the majority (>50%) of the funds of the priority axis 1.  
The milestone of financial indicator is based on the n+3 rule of 2015 (Financial table 16).  
The key implementation step is identified as no output indicator will be achieved until the end of 2018. The estimated target of 15 approved projects is calculated taking into account the financial data of the 1st and 2nd call of the Programme. Particularly, under the Strategic Call for Proposals, three (3) projects have been approved by the JMC. The 2nd Call for ordinary projects is at the stage of evaluation. Sixty eight (68) projects proposals have been submitted under PA1 and the expected number of projects to be approved is twelve (12).

## 2.1.8 Categories of intervention

(Reference: point (b)(vii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis, based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support

**Table 6: Dimension 1 Intervention field**

Priority axis	1 - Promotion of the environment sustainable transport & public infrastructure	
Dimension	€ Amount	
013 - Energy efficiency renovation of public infrastructure, demonstration projects and supporting measures	6,000,000.00	
017 - Household waste management (including minimisation, sorting, recycling measures)	2,416,702.00	
018 - Household waste management (including mechanical biological treatment, thermal treatment, incineration and landfill measures)	3,305,465.00	
021 - Water management and drinking water conservation (including river basin management, water supply, specific climate change adaptation measures, district and consumer metering, charging systems and leak reduction)	5,087,880.00	
022 - Waste water treatment	2,500,000.00	
030 - Secondary road links to TEN-T road network and nodes (new build)	394,783.00	
034 - Other reconstructed or improved road (motorway, national, regional or local)	4,000,000.00	
085 - Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, nature protection and green infrastructure	976,820.00	

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>1 - Promotion of the environment sustainable transport &amp; public infrastructure</b>	
088 - Risk prevention and management of non-climate related natural risks (i.e. earthquakes) and risks linked to human activities (e.g. technological accidents), including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems and infrastructures		1,798,261.00

**Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance**

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>1 - Promotion of the environment sustainable transport &amp; public infrastructure</b>	
<b>Dimension</b>		<b>€ Amount</b>
01 - Non-repayable grant		26,479,911.00

**Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory type**

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>1 - Promotion of the environment sustainable transport &amp; public infrastructure</b>	
<b>Dimension</b>		<b>€ Amount</b>
07 - Not applicable		26,479,911.00

**Table 9: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms**

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>1 - Promotion of the environment sustainable transport &amp; public infrastructure</b>	
<b>Dimension</b>		<b>€ Amount</b>
07 - Not applicable		26,479,911.00



**2.1.9 A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions for to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate)**

(Reference: point (b)(vi) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>1 - Promotion of the environment sustainable transport &amp; public infrastructure</b>
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### 2.1.1 Priority axis

<b>ID of the priority axis</b>	2
<b>Title of the priority axis</b>	Boosting the Local Economy

- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through community-led local development

### 2.1.2 Fund, calculation basis for Union support and justification of the calculation basis choice

<b>Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or public eligible expenditure)</b>	Public
<b>Justification of the calculation basis choice</b>	In order to promote and equally finance the non-public eligible sector

### 2.1.3 Thematic priority

(Reference: points (b)(i) and (ii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

<b>ID of the thematic priority</b>	d
<b>Title of the thematic priority</b>	Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.

### 2.1.4 The specific objectives of the thematic priority and expected results

(Reference: Article 34(2) of IPA II Implementing Regulation)

<b>ID</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>The results that the partner States seeks to achieve with union support</b>
2.1	Preserve cultural and natural resources as a prerequisite for tourism development of the cross border area.	<p>Contribute to growth in the tourist business sector</p> <p>Improved capacity to sustainably use natural and cultural resources in the cross-border area.</p> <p>Preserved/protected/promoted cultural and natural assets.</p>

## 2.1.5. Actions to be supported under the thematic priority

### 2.1.5.1. A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

1. Collaboration schemes between businesses and non-businesses (e.g. museums) in the tourism/culture area such as:
  1. formal and informal business schemes between accommodation facilities, convention centres, manufacturing businesses, transport facilities, cultural facilities, etc – in order to introduce integrated tourist destinations in the cross-border area;
  2. tourist branding of areas, branding of “green”, and “traditional” products respecting and promoting the cross-border area cultural and natural heritage, etc.
2. *Development of business support services such as information and communications technology systems (e.g. web-platforms, information and communications technology applications for accommodations, virtual tours for archaeological sites, mobile apps for hiking, etc), business consulting, etc to support tourist economic activity.*
3. *Capacity-building actions in the field of cultural preservation such as:*
  1. knowledge transfer and exchange of good practices in the area of preservation of natural and cultural heritage with pilot applications;
  2. joint development and pilot testing of innovative techniques in the area of cultural heritage preservation, including training;
4. *Rehabilitation/protection/promotion of cultural assets of cross-border significance including monuments (such as UNESCO sites), museums and other cultural facilities but mobile assets as well (e.g. art, special collections, etc.); rehabilitation/protection/adaptation/promotion for eco-tourism and tourism-for-all usage of natural assets of cross-border significance.*
5. *Cross-border area-wide cultural initiatives such as:*
  1. promotional events of cultural resources and joint actions promoting common cultural identity;
  2. actions enhancing the awareness of cross-border area cultural heritage;
  3. cross-border exchanges of cultural events (including art and archaeological exhibitions).

### **2.1.5.2. Guiding principles for the selection of operations**

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

*All projects funded under the thematic priority will be required to have a tourist orientation. Preference will be given to projects addressing integrated tourist destinations/products involving sites/partners from both sides of the border.*

Funds will be channeled on a priority basis to projects involving/exploiting cultural/natural assets of a cross border significance, either tangible (e.g. monuments, art articles, etc) or intangible (e.g. traditions).

Projects following the principles (as applicable) of equality between men and women, non-discrimination and accessibility to persons with disabilities principles and sustainable development, will receive priority.

All infrastructure and media (including electronic media) projects shall meet the requirements of the General Regulation 1303/2013, article 7 concerning the implementation of the principles of non discrimination and accessibility to persons with disabilities.

**2.1.5.3. Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)**

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

No financial instruments will be used

**2.1.5.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)**

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

No major projects will be implemented

## 2.1.6 Common and programme specific indicators

(Reference: point (b)(ii) and (b)(iv) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 and Article 2(2) of IPA II Implementing Regulation)

### 2.1.6.1 Priority axis result indicators (programme specific)

**Table 3: Programme specific result indicators**

Specific objective		2.1 - Preserve cultural and natural resources as a prerequisite for tourism development of the cross border area.					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
9	Annual overnight tourist stays of the cross border area	millions	9.00	2014	9.54	EL.STAT / INSTAT	Bi-annually



### 2.1.6.2. Priority axis output indicators (common or programme specific)

**Table 4: Common and programme specific output indicators**

ID of the thematic priority		d - Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.			
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit for indicator	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO11	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	visits	21,000.00	Programme Management Information System (MIS)	Annually

ID of the thematic priority	g
Title of the thematic priority	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.

### 2.1.4 The specific objectives of the thematic priority and expected results

(Reference: Article 34(2) of IPA II Implementing Regulation)

ID	Title	The results that the partner States seeks to achieve with union support
2.2	Improve cross-border capacity to support entrepreneurship, business survival and competitiveness	Improve cross-border capacity to support entrepreneurship, business survival and competitiveness (The inclusion of thematic priority (g) contributes to specific objective 2.1).

<b>ID</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>The results that the partner States seeks to achieve with union support</b>
		<p>Improved capacities of regional actors/facilities to support the development/growth of businesses</p> <p>Improved cross-border business survival</p> <p>Collaborative schemes of businesses.</p> <p>Increase in exports of CB businesses.</p>

## 2.1.5. Actions to be supported under the thematic priority

*2.1.5.1. A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries*

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

### **Specific Objective 2.2: Improve cross-border capacity to support entrepreneurship, business survival and competitiveness.**

#### **Indicative Types of Actions:**

1. *Development of new and improvement/modernization of existing business-hosting facilities such as:*
  - business incubators and
  - business support facilities such as market places, exhibition halls, outlets, depots and logistics centres, laboratories or other technological installations, etc.
2. *Development of business support services such as information and communications technology systems (e.g. web-platforms), business consulting, etc to support cross-border economic activity.*
3. *Development of services fostering productivity such as:*
  - business-specific training programmes for new and existing employees, including on-the-job training and apprenticeships; and
  - actions facilitating the introduction of innovation into the production process (such as transfer of intellectual property rights, and knowledge transfer from research institutes to businesses, introduction of organizational innovation, etc.)
4. *Creation of clusters or other types of “networks” (e.g. “value-chains”) for the achievement of cost-savings, common research and product development, common export promotion, etc. including networking with research institutes.*
5. *Joint or common (horizontal) export support services for cross-border businesses and competitiveness facilitation (e.g. product standards, electronic catalogues, e-tendering, e-invoicing, packaging, labeling, transport identification, merchandise tracking, participation to exhibitions, business-promotion events, common web-sites, etc).*
6. *Cross-border business-plans with pilot applications of cross-border collaborative schemes between individual businesses and/or sectors/sub-sectors targeting:*
  - cross-border trade between area businesses (e.g. trade in locally produced food products);
  - establishment of new cross-border “business organization models” (e.g. contract farming or partnerships between producers and consumers, “modular or chain production networks”, etc)

Priority Sectors:

- agro-food sector, including aquaculture
- ICT development
- Health/wellness-based economy

### 2.1.5.2. Guiding principles for the selection of operations

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

For all actions under this thematic priority funds will be channelled on a priority basis to projects supporting *youth and female entrepreneurship*, incorporation of *research & development* into the productive process and the promotion of “*smart specialization*” sectors of the economy (especially the agro-food sector) in coherence with the research and innovation strategies for Smart specialisation (RIS3) for the Greek regions and the priority sectors identified by Albania.

More specifically, the following productive sectors will be promoted on a priority basis:

- agro-food sector;
- gastronomy/tourism/culture/creative economy;
- blue growth (fisheries, aquaculture, marine tourism);
- ICT development;
- health/wellness-based economy, and
- low – carbon economy.

With respect to business hosting structures, funds will be channelled on a priority basis to facilities that can exhibit a cross-border effect.

With respect to business support services, information and communications technology systems, training actions and transfer of technology, priority will be given to projects covering businesses from both sides of the border in the same sector/subsector.

For clusters, export promotion actions and business plans, funds will be channelled on a priority basis to projects covering either similar businesses from both sides of the border (e.g. furniture producers) or entire value-chains i.e. business producing parts of a finished product (e.g. milk producers and dairy companies), or businesses providing inputs/materials/services to other businesses (e.g. hotels, restaurants, tour operators, etc). All such actions will be required to include businesses from both sides of the border. Especially, with respect to “business plans” priority will be given to projects which promote bilateral trade and/or vertical integration in the production process of businesses from both sides of the border.

Also, where relevant, priority will be given to projects:

- promoting accessibility/use or employment of people with disabilities;
- promoting entrepreneurship or employment of individuals from special groups more at risk of unemployment, poverty and/or exclusion.

- promoting cooperation between research institutions and innovative SMEs located in the programme area focusing on common innovative projects, transfer of knowledge and improvement of existing networks, etc. Competitiveness and trade facilitation in a broad sense can include all such aspects, which help to increase competitiveness, productivity and facilitate trade in relation to e.g. product standards, electronic catalogues, procurement, e-tendering, e-invoicing, customer service, processing methods, process control, business processes, packaging, labelling, storage, transport, identification, tracking and facilitating export and import and transit processes.
- in coherence with the research and innovation strategies for Smart specialisation (RIS3), which is considered as the locomotive of growth in the Greek Regional Cooperation Programme of the eligible areas.

All infrastructure and media (including electronic media) projects shall meet the requirements of the General Regulation 1303/2013, article 7 concerning the implementation of the principles of non discrimination and accessibility to persons with disabilities.

**2.1.5.3. Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)**

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

No financial instruments will be used

**2.1.5.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)**

(Reference: point (b)(iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

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## 2.1.6 Common and programme specific indicators

(Reference: point (b)(ii) and (b)(iv) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 and Article 2(2) of IPA II Implementing Regulation)

### 2.1.6.1 Priority axis result indicators (programme specific)

**Table 3: Programme specific result indicators**

Specific objective		2.2 - Improve cross-border capacity to support entrepreneur-ship, business survival and competitiveness					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
8	Active CB enterprises	number	97,883.00	2014	100,000.00	Greek Ministry of Economy/ INSTAT	Bi-annually

2.1.6.2. *Priority axis output indicators (common or programme specific)*

**Table 4: Common and programme specific output indicators**

ID of the 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.				
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit for indicator	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO04	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	450.00	Programme Management Information System (MIS)	Annually

## 2.1.7 Performance framework

(Reference: point (b)(v) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 and Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

**Table 5: Performance framework of the priority axis**

ID of the priority axis		2 - Boosting the Local Economy					
ID	Type	Key implementation step or indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of the relevance of the indicator
CO11	O	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	visits	0	21,000.00	Programme Management Information System (MIS)	
F0102	F	Eligible verified (certified) Expenditure of the Axis	Euro	1,000,000.00	18,692,694.00	Programme Management Information System (MIS)	n+3 = 2015
K0102	I	Approved Projects	Number of projects	10		Programme Management Information System (MIS)	Approved Projects

### **Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework (optional)**

The chosen output indicators represent the majority (>50%) of the funds of the priority axis 2.

The milestone of financial indicator is based on the n+3 rule of 2015 (Financial table 16).

The key implementation step is identified as no output indicator will be achieved until the end of 2018. The estimated target of 10 approved projects is calculated taking into account the financial data of the 1st and 2nd call of the Programme. Particularly, under the Strategic Call for Proposals, one (1) project has been approved by the JMC. The 2nd Call for ordinary projects is at the stage of evaluation. One hundred thirty two (132) projects proposals have been submitted under PA2 and the expected number of projects to be approved is nine (9).

## 2.1.8 Categories of intervention

(Reference: point (b)(vii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis, based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support

**Table 6: Dimension 1 Intervention field**

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>2 - Boosting the Local Economy</b>	
<b>Dimension</b>		<b>€ Amount</b>
066 - Advanced support services for SMEs and groups of SMEs (including management, marketing and design services)		1,791,923.00
067 - SME business development, support to entrepreneurship and incubation (including support to spin offs and spin outs)		2,434,862.00
094 - Protection, development and promotion of public cultural and heritage assets		11,662,004.00

**Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance**

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>2 - Boosting the Local Economy</b>	
<b>Dimension</b>		<b>€ Amount</b>
01 - Non-repayable grant		15,888,789.00

**Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory type**

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>2 - Boosting the Local Economy</b>	
<b>Dimension</b>		<b>€ Amount</b>
07 - Not applicable		15,888,789.00

**Table 9: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms**

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>2 - Boosting the Local Economy</b>	
<b>Dimension</b>		<b>€ Amount</b>
07 - Not applicable		15,888,789.00



**2.1.9 A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions for to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate)**

(Reference: point (b)(vi) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>2 - Boosting the Local Economy</b>
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## 2.2 Description of the priority axes for technical assistance

(Reference: point (c) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

### 2.2.1 Priority axis

<b>ID of the priority axis</b>	3
<b>Title of the priority axis</b>	Technical Assistance

### 2.2.2 Calculation basis for Union support and justification of the calculation basis

<b>Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or public eligible expenditure)</b>	Public
<b>Justification of the calculation basis choice</b>	

### 2.2.3 The specific objective of the priority axis and the expected results

(Reference: points (c)(i) and (ii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

<b>ID</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Results that the partner States seek to achieve with Union support</b>
3.1	Effective overall management and monitoring of the Programme	Not applicable

## 2.2.5 Programme specific indicators

### 2.2.5.1 Programme specific result indicators

(Reference: point (c)(ii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

**Table 10: Programme specific result indicators**

Priority axis	3 - Technical Assistance						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Total target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting

### 2.2.3 The specific objective of the priority axis and the expected results

(Reference: points (c)(i) and (ii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

ID	Title	Results that the partner States seek to achieve with Union support
3.2	Effective communication and publicity	Not applicable

## 2.2.5 Programme specific indicators

### 2.2.5.1 Programme specific result indicators

(Reference: point (c)(ii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

**Table 10: Programme specific result indicators**

Priority axis	3 - Technical Assistance						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Total target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting

### 2.2.5.2 Programme specific output indicators expected to contribute to results

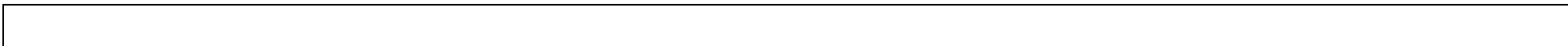
Reference: point (c)(iv) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

**Table 11: Common and programme specific output indicators**

Priority axis		3 - Technical Assistance		
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Total target value (2023)	Source of data
3	Not required	Not applicable	1.00	Not applicable

## 2.2.4 Actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the programme implementation

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>3 - Technical Assistance</b>
<p>The objective of priority axis technical assistance is to provide effective administration and programme management. The specific objectives are analyzed below:</p> <p><b>Specific Objective 3.1:</b> Effective overall management and monitoring of the Programme. The actions related to this objective are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support to managing authority and joint secretariat for the preparation of the relevant documents, selection of projects, monitoring and evaluation, control and audit activities;</li><li>• Joint secretariat staff costs;</li><li>• Support to the functioning of the antenna office (antenna staff costs);</li><li>• Travel costs covering the expenses of both countries' participants (representatives of managing authority, joint secretariat, Joint Monitoring Committee, antenna office, operating structure, etc.) in relevant meetings;</li><li>• Administrative costs concerning the joint secretariat, antenna office (furniture and equipment, electricity, heating, consumables etc);</li><li>• Support to the managing authority, joint secretariat, joint monitoring committee (ad-hoc, mid-term and ex-post evaluations);</li><li>• External expertise for development of programme implementation and monitoring procedures, information system for programme administration, preparation of specific studies and surveys, etc;</li><li>• Technical support to the eligible regions (if and as needed) for development of programme implementation and monitoring procedures, information system for programme administration, preparation of specific studies and surveys, organization of information and outreach events in order to mobilize the regional partners to network and submit applications, training on the implementation provisions, etc;</li><li>• Training for managing authority, operating structure, joint secretariat and Antenna staff.</li></ul> <p><b>Specific Objective 3.2:</b> Effective communication and publicity. The actions related to this objective are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Organization of public events such as conferences, workshops, discussions, etc. including renting of equipment and rooms, catering, experts, interpreters etc.;</li><li>• Preparation and dissemination of information and publicity materials including, procedure manuals, brochures, posters, etc. including expenses for consumables (paper, CD-ROMs, etc.);</li></ul> <p>Purchase of dissemination/promotion materials (CD-ROMs, USBs, folders, pens, etc) including expenses for publicity (mass media and press).</p>	



## 2.2.6 Categories of intervention

(Reference: point (c)(v) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Corresponding categories of intervention based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and an indicative breakdown of Union support.

**Table 12: Dimension 1 Intervention field**

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>3 - Technical Assistance</b>
<b>Dimension</b>	<b>€ Amount</b>
121 - Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection	2,377,217.00
122 - Evaluation and studies	500,000.00
123 - Information and communication	719,305.00



**Table 13: Dimension 2 Form of finance**

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>3 - Technical Assistance</b>	
<b>Dimension</b>		<b>€ Amount</b>
01 - Non-repayable grant		3,596,522.00

**Table 14: Dimension 3 Territory type**

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>3 - Technical Assistance</b>	
<b>Dimension</b>		<b>€ Amount</b>
07 - Not applicable		3,596,522.00

## 2.3 Overview table of indicators per priority axis and thematic priority

**Table 15: Table of common and programme specific output and result indicators**

Priority axis	Thematic priority	Specific objective	Result indicators	Output indicators
1	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	5	CO25, CO34, CO34b, CO23
1	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	6	CO25, CO34, CO34b, CO23
1	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	7	CO25, CO34, CO34b, CO23
1	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	1, 2, 3	CO20, CO21, CO21b, CO21c, CO21d
2	d- Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.	Specific objective 2.1	9	CO11
2	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	8	CO04
3		Specific objective 3.1		3

Priority axis	Thematic priority	Specific objective	Result indicators	Output indicators
3		Specific objective 3.2		3

## SECTION 3. FINANCING PLAN

(Reference: point (d) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

### 3.1 Financial appropriation from the IPA (in €)

(Reference: point (d)(i) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

**Table 16**

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
0.00	2,604,740.00	3,719,732.00	11,424,690.00	9,219,730.00	9,404,124.00	9,592,206.00	45,965,222.00

### 3.2.1 Total financial appropriation from the IPA and national co-financing (in €)

(Reference: point (d)(ii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

1. The financial table sets out the financial plan of the cooperation programme by priority axis.
2. The EIB contribution is presented at the level of the priority axis.

**Table 17: Financing plan**

Priority axis	Basis for calculation of Union support (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union Support (a)	National counterpart (b) = (c) + (d)	Indicative breakdown of the national counterpart		Total funding (e) = (a) + (b) or (a) + (c)	Co-financing rate (f) = (a) / (e)	For information	
				National public funding (c)	National private funding (d)			Contributions from third countries	EIB contributions
1	Public	26,479,911.00	4,672,926.00	4,672,926.00	0.00	31,152,837.00	84.9999985555%		
2	Public	15,888,789.00	2,803,905.00	2,803,905.00	0.00	18,692,694.00	84.9999951853%		
3	Public	3,596,522.00	634,681.00	634,681.00	0.00	4,231,203.00	84.9999870013%		
<b>Total</b>		<b>45,965,222.00</b>	<b>8,111,512.00</b>	<b>8,111,512.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>54,076,734.00</b>	<b>84.9999964865%</b>		

### 3.2.2 Breakdown by priority axis and thematic priority

(Reference: point (d)(ii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

**Table 18**

Priority axis	Thematic priority	Union support	National counterpart	Total funding
1	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.	8,775,081.00	1,548,544.00	10,323,625.00
1	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.	17,704,830.00	3,124,382.00	20,829,212.00
2	d - Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.	11,662,004.00	2,058,001.00	13,720,005.00
2	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.	4,226,785.00	745,904.00	4,972,689.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>42,368,700.00</b>	<b>7,476,831.00</b>	<b>49,845,531.00</b>

**SECTION 4. INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT  
(WHERE APPROPRIATE)**

(Reference: Article 34 (1) of IPA II Implementing Regulation and Article 8(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Description of the integrated approach to territorial development, taking into account the content and objectives of the cooperation programme and the Partnership Agreements of the participating Member States showing how it contributes to the accomplishment of the programme objectives and expected results

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#### **4.1 Community-led local development (where appropriate)**

Approach to the use of community-led local development instruments and principles for identifying the areas where they will be implemented

(Reference: Article 34 (3) of IPA II Implementing Regulation and point (a) of Article 8(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

##### 4.1 Community-led local development (CLLD)

The two countries do not intend to implement territorial strategies under the Community-led local development approach during the implementation of Interreg IPA II cross-border cooperation programme “Greece - Albania 2014-2020”. Therefore, Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) is not applicable for the present programme.

## **4.2 Integrated actions for sustainable urban development (where appropriate)**

Principles for identifying the urban areas where integrated actions for sustainable urban development are to be implemented and the indicative allocation of the IPA support for these actions

(Reference: Article 34 (3) of IPA II Implementing Regulation and point (b) of Article 8(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

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**Table 19: Integrated actions for sustainable urban development – indicative amounts of Union support**

Indicative amount of Union Support (€)

99999999.99

### **4.3 Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) (where appropriate)**

Approach to the use of Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI) (as defined in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) other than in cases covered by 4.2, and their indicative financial allocation from each priority axis

(Reference: Article 34 (3) of IPA II Implementing Regulation and point (c) of Article 8(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

The two countries will not combine investments from several priority axes of Interreg IPA II cross-border cooperation programme “Greece - Albania 2014-2020” or more operational programmes for the purposes of multi-dimensional and cross-sectoral intervention. Therefore integrated territorial investment (ITI) is not applicable for the present programme.

**Table 20: Indicative financial allocation to ITI (aggregate amount)**

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Indicative financial allocation (Union support) (EUR)</b>
1	
2	
3	
<b>Total</b>	0.00

**4.4 Contribution of planned interventions towards macro-regional and sea basin strategies, subject to the needs of the programme area as identified by the relevant partner States and taking into account, where applicable, strategically important projects identified in those strategies (where appropriate)**

**(Where partner States and regions participate in macro-regional and/or sea basin strategies)**

(Reference: point (d) of Article 8(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

The cross-border area participates in the Adriatic and Ionian Macro-regional Strategy (EUSAIR) which targets 4 thematic pillars:

1. 1. driving innovative maritime and marine growth;
2. 2. connecting the region;
3. 3. preserving, protecting and improving the quality of the environment; and
4. 4. increasing regional attractiveness;

and 2 cross-cutting themes:

1. 1. research, innovation and small and medium-sized enterprise development; and
2. 2. capacity Building.

The Interreg IPA II cross-border cooperation programme Greece-Albania 2014-2020 contributes to the above strategy as follows:

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.

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.

More specifically, the cooperation programme contributes to EUSAIR as follows:

1.  To pillar 1 (Blue Growth), Topic 2 (fisheries and aquaculture) by promoting business support services and systems, training, introduction of new production processes (organizational innovation) and new production technologies (technological innovation, including the introduction of new species), by encouraging clusters and other “collaborative schemes” (e.g. contract farming) and through joint/horizontal export support services to all cross-border area businesses and especially to priority sectors such as the agro-food industry, part of which is the fisheries/aquaculture branch.
2.  To pillar 2 (Connecting the Region), Topic 1 (maritime transport) by planning/developing and/or modernizing port infrastructure/superstructure and through the development of smart transport systems (i.e. systems for better inter-port traffic planning, for increasing port management efficiency, and for

improving links with mainland transport systems).

3.  To pillar 2 (Connecting the Region), Topic 2 (intermodal connections to the hinterland) by planning/developing multimodal facilities at cross-border area ports and through the planning/construction/rehabilitation of border crossings.
4.  To pillar 3 (Environmental Quality), Topic 1 (marine environment) by developing wastewater treatment facilities, through water quality management systems, through actions aimed at preserving biodiversity in protected areas (such as the marine Natura 2000 network), and through risk protection/management actions (to the extent they concern the coastal environment, such as erosion prevention) and joint initiatives for the prevention/clean-up of marine pollution.
5.  To pillar 3 (Environmental Quality), Topic 2 (transnational terrestrial habitats and biodiversity) through joint initiatives for environmental protection (including harmonization of legislation and management/monitoring systems), and actions for the protection of the terrestrial Natura 2000 network.
6.  To pillar 4 (Sustainable Tourism), Topic 1 (diversified tourism offer) through the development of integrated tourist destinations, and the support of alternative tourism (ecotourism/tourism-for-all/cultural tourism), through branding of local products, and by protecting/restoring/promoting cross-border area cultural heritage.
7.  To pillar 4 (Sustainable Tourism), Topic 2 (sustainable and responsible tourism management) by encouraging the creation of clusters and value-chains in tourism, and by developing business support systems (e.g. information and communications technology systems) which increase tour operator efficiency and better service delivery.

Both Priority Axes contribute to the second cross-cutting theme:

1.  the first one mainly through planning actions; and
2.  the second one mainly through the creation of business-hosting capacity in the cross border area.

## SECTION 5. IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS FOR THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

### 5.1 Relevant authorities and bodies

(Reference: Article 8(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

**Table 21: Programme authorities**

(Reference: point (a)(i) of Article 8(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Authority/body	Name of authority/body and department or unit	Name of the person responsible for the authority/body (position or post)	Address	Email
Managing authority	Special Service "Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes", Ministry of Economy and Development	Angeliki Bouziani (Ms), Head of the Managing Authority	65 Georgikis Scholis Ave, 57001, Thessaloniki, Greece	interreg@mou.gr
Certifying authority	Special Service «Certifying and Verifications Authority of Co-funded Programmes» - Units, A, B and C, Ministry of Economy and Development	Vasiliki Alesta (Ms), Deputy Head of the Special Service «Certifying and Verifications Authority of Co-funded Programmes»	Navarhou Nikodimou 11 & Voulis 105 57, Athens, Greece	spa@m nec.gr
Audit authority	Financial Control Committee (EDEL) Ministry of Finance – General Accounting Office of the State, Greece	Maravelakis Stylianos (Mr), President of EDEL	Panepistimiou 57 10564, Athens, Greece	gddde@mof-gl k.gr

**The body to which payments will be made by the Commission is:**

(Reference: point (b) of Article 8(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)



- the managing authority
- the certifying authority

**Table 22: Body or bodies carrying out control and audit tasks**

(Reference: points (a)(ii) and (iii) of Article 8(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Authority/body	Name of authority/body and department or unit	Name of the person responsible for the authority/body (position or post)	Address	Email
Body or bodies designated to be responsible for carrying out audit tasks	Financial Control Committee (EDEL) , Ministry of Finance – General Accounting Office of the State	General Director of Management and Control of EU Co-financed programmes	Panepistimiou 57, 10564, Athens, Greece	gdde@mof-gl.k.gr
Body or bodies designated to be responsible for carrying out audit tasks	For Albania: Agency for the Audit of European Union programmes Implementation System (AAPA)	Head of the Audit Agency	Rruga Elbasanit, Godina e ish-trikotazhit kati 4, Tirana, Albania	albana.gjinopulli@financa.gov.al
Body or bodies designated to be responsible for carrying out audit tasks	Special Service «Certifying and Verifications Authority of Co-funded Programmes» - Units, A, B and C	Head of the Special Service «Certifying and Verifications Authority of Co-funded Programmes»	Navarhou Nikodimou 11 & Voulis, 105 57, Athens, Greece	spa@mne.gr
Body or bodies designated to carry out control tasks	First Level Control (FLC) office, Ministry of European Integration, For Albania	Head of First Level Control office		briz.musaraj@integrimi.gov.al
Body or bodies designated to carry out control tasks	Managing authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes, For Greece	Head of the Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programme	65 Georgikis Scholis Ave, 57001, Thessaloniki, Greece	interreg@mou.gr

## 5.2 Joint Monitoring Committee

**Table 23: Indicative list of Joint Monitoring Committee members**

Name of authority/body and department or unit	Role in the programme	Name of the person responsible for the authority/body (position or post)	Address	Email
Ministry of Economy & Development	Voting member	Special Secretary for ERDF & CF Funded Sectoral OPs		sec.erdf_cf@m nec.gr
Operating structure in Albania, Ministry of Integration	Voting member	Secretary General		daniela.cekani@integrimi.gov.al
Region of Berat (Albania)	Voting member	Head of the Region of Berat		fatli.adilaj@hotmail.com
Region of Dytiki Makedonia (Greece)	Voting member	Head of the Region of Dytiki Makedonia		info@pdm.gov.gr
Region of Gjirokaštër (Albania)	Voting member	Head of the Region of Gjirokaštër		armandhilaj@gmail.com
Region of Ionia Nisia (Greece)	Voting member	Head of the Region of Ionia Nisia		pin@pin.gov.gr
Region of Ipeiros (Greece)	Voting member	Head of the Region of Ipeiros		periferiarxis@php.gov.gr
Region of Korçë (Albania)	Voting member	Head of the Region of Korçë		anaverushi59@gmail.com
Region of Vlore (Albania)	Voting member	Head of the Region of Vlore		kryetari@qarkuvlore.gov.al

### 5.3 Procedure for setting up the joint secretariat

(Reference: point (a)(iv) of Article 8(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Having regard:

1. Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 [point (a)(iv) of Article 8(4) and 23(2)]

The managing authority, after consultation with the two countries participating in the Programme, shall set up a joint secretariat to be located near its registered office.

A joint recruitment procedure will be agreed between the two participating countries.

The joint secretariat shall assist the managing authority, the joint monitoring committee and the joint steering committee in carrying out their respective duties and functions. Moreover, it may assist the Audit Authority in organising the meetings of the group of auditors.

The joint secretariat will have an antenna office in Saranda, in Albania.

## 5.4 Summary description of the management and control arrangements

(Reference: point (a)(v) of Article 8(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

### Managing authority

The managing authority shall be responsible for managing and implementing the cross-border cooperation programme in accordance with the principle of sound financial management and carry out the functions set out in Article 37 of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014, Articles 72 and 125 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2014 and Article 23 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2014.

The managing authority of the IPA II cross border cooperation programme shall be responsible for:

- (a) support the work of the joint monitoring committee and provide it with the information it requires to carry out its tasks, in particular data relating to the progress of the IPA II cross-border cooperation programme in achieving its objectives, financial data and data relating to indicators and milestones;
- (b) draw up and, after approval by the joint monitoring committee, submit to the Commission annual and final implementation reports;
- (c) make available to intermediate bodies and beneficiaries information that is relevant to the execution of their tasks and the implementation of operations respectively;
- (d) establish a system to record and store in computerised form data on each operation under the IPA II cross-border cooperation programme necessary for monitoring, evaluation, financial management, verification and audit, including data on individual participants in operations, where applicable;
- (e) ensure that the data referred to in point (d) is collected, entered and stored in the system referred to in point (d), and that data on indicators is broken down by gender.
- (f) ensure that the implementation reports of the IPA II cross-border cooperation programme referred to in Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2014 are carried out in accordance with Article 51(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2014;
- (g) supervise the work of the joint secretariat;
- (h) prepare and submit for approval by the joint monitoring committee a communication strategy (Articles 115 and 116 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2014) of the IPA II cross-border cooperation programme and designate contact persons to be responsible for information and publicity informing the Commission accordingly.
- (i) ensure the establishment of a single website or a single website portal providing information on, and access to, all operational programmes in the participating countries, including information about the timing of implementation of programming and any related public consultation processes;
- (j) inform potential beneficiaries about funding opportunities under the IPA II cross-border cooperation programme;
- (k) Publicise to Union citizens the role and achievements of cohesion policy and of the IPA II cross-border cooperation through information and communication actions on the results of the Programme and operations.
- (l) Maintain a list of operations of the IPA II cross-border cooperation programme in a spreadsheet data format, which allows data to be sorted, searched, extracted, compared and easily published on the internet.

Regarding the selection of operations, the managing authority shall:

- (a) draw up and, once approved by the joint monitoring committee, apply appropriate selection procedures and criteria in accordance with the Union and national rules that:
  - (i) ensure the contribution of operations to the achievement of the specific objectives

and results of the relevant priority;

(ii) are non-discriminatory and transparent;

(iii) take into account the general principles of promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination and sustainable development

(b) ensure that a selected operation falls within the scope of the IPA II and can be attributed to a category of intervention of the IPA II cross-border cooperation programme;

(c) ensure that beneficiaries are informed of the specific conditions concerning the products or services to be delivered under the operation, the financing plan, the time limit for execution and the financial and other information to be kept and communicated;

(d) satisfy itself that the beneficiary has the capacity to fulfil these conditions before the approval decision is taken; ensure that the procedure for evaluating proposals was carried out under the terms of the call for proposals, including the operations selection criteria approved by the Monitoring Committee;

(e) ensure that the lead beneficiary of an operation is provided with a document setting out the conditions for support of the operation, including the specific requirements concerning the products or services to be delivered under the operation, the financing plan, and the time-limit for execution

(f) satisfy itself that the lead beneficiary has the administrative, financial and operational capacity to fulfil the conditions referred to in point (c) before approval of the operation;

(g) satisfy itself that, where the operation has started before the submission of an application for funding to the managing authority, applicable law relevant for the operation has been complied with;

(h) ensure that operations selected for support from the IPA II do not include activities which were part of an operation which has been or should have been subject to a procedure of recovery in accordance with Article 71 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2014 following the relocation of a productive activity outside the programme area;

(i) determine the categories of intervention to which the expenditure of an operation shall be attributed.

Regarding the financial management and control of the IPA II cross-border cooperation programme, the managing authority:

(a) Identifies that each participating country designates the body or person responsible for carrying out such verifications in relation to beneficiaries on its territory (the 'controller(s)'). The managing authority shall satisfy itself that the expenditure of each beneficiary participating in an operation has been verified by a designated controller referred to in Article 23(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 and Article 125 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

(b) ensures that lead beneficiaries involved in the implementation of operations are reimbursed on the basis of eligible costs actually incurred maintain either a separate accounting system or an adequate accounting code for all transactions relating to an operation;

(c) puts in place effective and proportionate anti-fraud measures taking into account the risks identified;

(d) sets up procedures to ensure that all documents regarding expenditure and audits required to ensure an adequate audit trail are held in accordance with the requirements of point (g) of Article 72 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2014;

(e) draws up the management declaration and annual summary referred to in points (a) and (b) of Article 59(5) of the Financial Regulation.

In order to verify the expenditure declared by the beneficiaries, each country participating in the Programme will set up a first level control system making it possible

to verify the delivery of the products and services co-financed, the soundness of the expenditure declared for operations or parts of operations implemented on its territory, and the compliance of such expenditure and of related operations or parts of those operations with Community rules and its national rules.

For this purpose and according to Article 23(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, each country shall designate the controllers responsible for verifying the legality and regularity of the expenditure declared by each beneficiary participating in the operation. The verifications referred to above shall include the following procedures:

- (a) administrative verifications in respect of each application for reimbursement by beneficiaries;
- (b) on-the-spot verifications of operations.

The frequency and coverage of the on-the-spot verifications shall be proportionate to the amount of public support to an operation and to the level of risk identified by such verifications and audits by the audit authority for the management and control system as a whole.

On-the-spot verifications of individual operations may be carried out on a sample basis. Where the managing authority is also a beneficiary under the IPA II cross-border cooperation programme, arrangements for the verifications referred to in point (a) of the first subparagraph of paragraph 4 adequate separation of functions is ensured by a clear division of duties between the different units of the managing authority.

As regards the flow of certified expenditure, the lead beneficiary shall forward all certified expenditure for an operation to the joint secretariat which, after conducting a preliminary check (completeness of data and eligibility of declared expenditure) transmits them, together with comments, to the managing authority. The managing authority shall ensure that all the necessary information is available on the procedures and verifications carried out in relation to expenditure for the purpose of certification. It then transmits them to the Certifying Authority, in order to prepare and submit to the Commission certified statements of expenditure and applications for payment.

Regarding the verification of expenditure Albania shall establish a centralised system. First level control office at the Ministry of European Integration. The office will be staffed originally by the head of the office and two first level controllers. Their main tasks will include:

Activities for verifying the legitimacy and regularity of the expenditure declared by each of the final beneficiaries implementing the operations carried out on the Albanian territory as well as their compliance with the Union and national rules.

- Activities for verifying the documents of all the operations (100%) for which the beneficiaries have prepared their expenditure declaration, in order to verify the expenditure admissibility according to the following principles:

1. principle of effectiveness according to which it is necessary to verify that the expenditure is actually incurred and is linked to the operation co-financed;
2. principle of legitimacy, according to which it is necessary to verify that the expenditure complies with the community and national rules;
3. principle of localization of the operation co-financed, according to which it is necessary to verify that the expenditure incurred is related to the operation made in the eligibility area of the Programme;
4. Principle of documentary evidence: requires that expenditure has been documented with receipted invoices or accounting records of equivalent legal validity.

- they will carry out of the verifications in situ of stratified sampling of the activities by type of operation and by beneficiary.

- implementation of the guidelines for the checks included the related templates for the submission of the accounting and for their verification;

- drawing up of suggestions and advice of their competence;

- keeping the carrying out of the implementing plans, programmes, projects and

management of competence;

- definition of the objectives, organization, direction, coordination and control of the activity of the Albanian first level control office;

- organization and management of the staff assigned to the Albanian first level control office;

The head of the first level control office will be responsible for the relations with the office of the EU and of the International bodies in their relevant subjects.

The first level control office of Albania shall ensure that the expenditure, declared by the beneficiaries located in Albanian eligible area, can be validated within a period of three months from the date of its submission by final beneficiary”.

Following the administrative control of expenditure declarations, that is carried out on the whole expenditure, Albanian first level control office is responsible for the spot-check on operations.

The Albanian first level control office should carry out the administrative control of expenditure declarations before submitting the first level expenditure certified declaration to managing authority.

The verification of expenditure for the Greek partners will be conducted under the responsibility of the Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes of the Ministry of Economy, Infrastructure, Shipping and Tourism where a separate Unit is formed.

#### National IPA Coordinator (NIPAC)

The Ministry of European Integration in Albania cooperates in joint programming, management and implementation of the programme.

In particular the National IPA Coordinator will be responsible for the following tasks:

- participating in joint programming and generation of operations in accordance with the programme objectives and Programme modification;
- ensuring the national co-financing in a timely and proper manner;
- nominating representatives of Albania in the joint monitoring committee;
- organizing a selection procedure for financial controllers and assessors in Albania.
- signing Framework Agreement and Financing Agreement
- sign contracts with the assessors, controllers and first level control office from Albania;
- nominating representative(s) in the group of auditors;
- signing on behalf of Albania the bilateral Memorandum of Understanding;
- ensuring access to information of managing authority, certifying authority and audit authority in order to fulfil their respective tasks;
- ensuring the funds for national co-financing.

#### Certifying authority

Having regard,

- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 447/2012 of 21 March 2012;
- Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of 11 March 2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II);
- Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Article 126, 132) and
- Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 (Article 24)

The certifying authority shall be responsible for eight (8) different tasks:

The Certifying Authority will be the body responsible for making payments to beneficiaries for the IPA II cross-border cooperation programme according to the provisions of Article 21(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 and Article 132 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. The certifying authority shall receive the payments



made by the Commission and shall, as a general rule, make payments to the lead beneficiary. No amount shall be deducted or withheld from payments made to beneficiaries and no subsequent charges shall be levied that would reduce these amounts.

The Certifying Authority transfers the total amount of the contribution from IPA II to the lead beneficiaries of selected operations. The lead beneficiaries shall ensure that the other beneficiaries receive the total amount of the contribution from IPA II as quickly as possible and in full. No amount shall be deducted or withheld and specific charge or other charge with equivalent effect shall be levied that would reduce those amounts for the other beneficiaries.

#### Audit authority

The Audit Authority shall be responsible for verifying the effective functioning of the management and control system of the IPA II cross-border cooperation programme. In this context, the Audit Authority shall be responsible for carrying out the functions envisaged in Article 37 of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014 and Articles 25 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2014 and 127 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2014, and in particular:

1. Ensuring that audits are carried out to verify the effective functioning of the management and control system of the IPA II cross-border cooperation programme,  
2. Ensuring that audits are carried out on operations, on the basis of an appropriate sample, to verify expenditure declared to the Commission and in that respect determine the appropriate sampling method to be used on the basis of the declared expenditure in accordance with the requirements of Article 59(5) of the Financial Regulation. The declared expenditure shall be audited based on a representative sample and, as a general rule on statistical sampling methods. A non- statistical sampling method may be used on the professional judgment of the audit authority, in duly justified cases, in accordance with internationally accepted audit standards and in any case where the number of operations for an accounting year is insufficient to allow the use of a statistical method. In such cases, the size of the sample shall be sufficient to enable the audit authority to draw up a valid audit opinion in accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 59(5) of the Financial Regulation. The non-statistical sample method shall cover a minimum of 5 % of operations for which expenditure has been declared to the Commission during an accounting year and 10 % of the expenditure which has been declared to the Commission during an accounting year.

3. Preparing, in accordance with Article 127(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2014, within eight months of the adoption of the IPA II cross-border cooperation programme, an audit strategy for performance of audits, setting out the audit methodology, the sampling method for audits on operations and the indicative planning of audits to ensure that the main bodies are audited and that audits are spread evenly throughout the programming period; The Audit Authority shall submit the audit strategy to the Commission upon their request,

4. The Audit Authority shall draw up:

control report setting out the main findings of the audits (systems and operations) carried out in accordance with the audit strategy including findings with regard to deficiencies found in the management and control systems, and the proposed and implemented corrective actions.

an audit opinion, in accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 59(5) of the Financial Regulation.

The Audit Authority shall ensure that the audit work takes account of internationally accepted audit standards.

In the course of carrying out its functions, the Audit Authority shall ensure that personal

data and confidential information, received by it and/or audit bodies operating under its control, are protected.

The Financial Audit Committee consists of seven members and is independent of the Managing and Certifying Authorities.

#### Group of Auditors

The Audit Authority of the IPA II cross-border cooperation programme shall be assisted by a group of auditors comprising a representative from each participating country in the IPA II cross-border cooperation programme, carrying out the duties provided for in Article 127 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2014. The group of auditors shall be set up within three months of the decision approving the IPA II cross-border cooperation programme. The group shall draw up its own rules of procedure. The group of auditors shall be chaired by the Audit Authority of the IPA II cross-border cooperation programme (25(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2014). Each participating country shall be responsible for audits carried out on its territory.

Each representative from each participating country in the IPA II cross-border cooperation programme shall be responsible for providing the factual elements relating to expenditure on its territory that are required by the audit authority in order to perform its assessment.

#### Audits carried out by the Audit Authority

In carrying out its functions, the audit authority shall ensure that audits on systems, authorities and intermediate bodies are carried out and assess their reliability.

Audits on operations shall be carried out on-the-spot, on the basis of documentation and records held by the beneficiary. Audits shall verify that the following conditions are fulfilled:

- a. the operation meets the selection criteria for the IPA II cross-border cooperation programme, has been implemented in accordance with the approval decision and fulfils any applicable conditions concerning its functionality and use or the objectives to be attained;
- b. the expenditure declared corresponds to the accounting records and supporting documents held by the beneficiary;
- c. the expenditure declared by the beneficiary is in compliance with Community and national rules;
- d. the total EU/national (public or private) contribution has been paid to the beneficiary in accordance with Article 127 of the Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (as applicable)

In the framework of an audit strategy, audits shall be carried out on the basis of an annual plan approved by the audit authority. Additional audits, not included in the plan, shall also be carried out, whenever required.

When problems detected appear to be systemic in nature and therefore entail a risk for other operations under the IPA II cross-border cooperation programme, the Financial Control Committee shall ensure that further examination is carried out, including additional audits where necessary, to establish the scale of such problems.

Report and Opinion of the Independent Audit Body on the designation of the management structures of the Programme, referred to in Article 124(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

According to Article 47 of the Commission Regulation (EU) No 447/2014, Articles 72, 73, 74 and 124(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 apply. As stipulated in those articles participating countries should adopt adequate measures to guarantee the proper set up and functioning of their management and control systems to give assurance on the legal and regular use of the IPA II funds allocation to the programme.

Participating countries shall also fulfil the management, control and audit obligations, and assume the resulting responsibilities, which are laid down in the rules on shared management set out in the Financial Regulation and the IPA II rules and assume responsibility that the Management and Control System for the programme functions

effectively.

The obligations of the participating countries as regards the management and control systems of programmes, and in relation to the prevention, detection and correction of irregularities and infringements of Union law should therefore be specified.

The designation of the managing authority and certifying authority of the programme shall be based on a report and an opinion of an independent audit body that assesses the fulfilment by the authorities of the criteria relating to the internal control environment, risk management, management and control activities, and monitoring set out in Annex XIII of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. The independent audit body shall be the audit authority of the Programme.

Where the independent audit body concludes that the part of the management and control system, concerning the managing authority or the certifying authority, is essentially the same as for the previous programming period, and that there is evidence, on the basis of audit work done in accordance with the relevant provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 and Council Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006, of their effective functioning during that period, it may conclude that the relevant criteria are fulfilled without carrying out additional audit work.

## Generation and Selection of Operations

### A. Preparation and Publication of Call for Proposals

The joint secretariat shall prepare the material concerning the call for proposals and submit it to the managing authority. The managing authority examines the material and when accepted submits it to the joint monitoring committee for approval.

Then, the managing authority shall launch the call for proposals, informing potential beneficiaries about financing, the particular conditions and requirements applicable to their eligibility under the call, the selection procedures and criteria, the main obligations to be undertaken by beneficiaries in case an operation is selected for funding under the cooperation programme etc.

### B. Submission of Proposals and Selection of Operations

Potential beneficiaries prepare a proposal in cooperation with the lead beneficiary, who submits it to the joint secretariat.

With respect to the launching of the call for proposals, the joint secretariat shall check the proposals and make certain that:

1. proposals are submitted within the deadline;
2. all standard documents required are completed;
3. beneficiaries are eligible.

It shall then carry out an evaluation of proposals based on the operations selection criteria, approved by the joint monitoring committee and submit all the material to the managing authority. After the managing authority makes sure that the procedure for evaluating proposals was carried out in accordance with the terms of the call for proposals and the approved operations selection criteria, it submits to the joint steering committee:

- the project fiches of the submitted project proposals;
- a ranking list of the evaluated project proposals;
- all evaluation forms.

In evaluating proposals, the joint secretariat may be assisted by external experts, selected in agreement with the participating countries.

The joint steering committee conduct the procedure for the selection of the operations to be funded, and report to the Joint Monitoring Committee that has the ultimate responsibility for the selection of operations.

On the basis of the decision of the Joint Monitoring Committee (selected operations), the managing authority shall contract the lead beneficiaries of the selected operations.

With respect to the contracting procedure, the joint secretariat shall:

- Participate in the negotiation procedure of the selected projects
- Receive data from the final beneficiaries and participate in the preparation of the approved projects subsidy contracts;
- Submit the subsidy contracts to the Managing Authority for signing;
- Provide clarifications to the beneficiaries on their obligations stipulated in the subsidy contracts.

With respect to the financial management and audit procedure, the joint secretariat shall:

- Receive the documents from the beneficiaries for the implementation of the projects operations;
- Notify the MA of any irregularities addressed, within the respective deadlines;
- Undertake prevention and monitoring measures;
- Provide all available financial information to the MA for the approved projects;
- Contribute to the facilitation of audit and control activities;
- Assist the MA in the implementation of all recommendations/remarks received by the EC audit and the Audit Authority, according to the deadlines established.

With respect to the monitoring of the programme and the approved projects the joint secretariat shall:

- Monitor the implementation of the operations, the progress reports and the on-the-spot visits results, etc.;
- Draft and submit any documents requested by the MA;
- Collect and update the technical, financial, and statistics data at project level, ensuring the incorporation of these data into the electronic system.

Finally, with respect to the information and publicity procedures, the joint secretariat shall:

- Implement the relevant activities for the Communication Plan;
- Preparing and deliver the informational materials to the beneficiaries supporting the MA;

Update the programmes's official website.

Provisions for Complaints: The Managing Authority is equipped to handle complaints throughout the whole Programme Cycle. Relevant procedures have been put in place and are elaborated in detail in the description of the Management and Control System (MCS). In short, the procedures are as follows:

*Project Selection:* The two participating countries in the Programme shall set up a joint, separate an independent from the JMC, committee for the review of any complaint addressed to the Managing Authority regarding the selection of operations made by the Joint Monitoring Committee under a given call for proposals. This Joint Complaint Committee will be formed by two participants of the Managing Authority and a representative of the NIPAC of Albania. It will evaluate the relevant complaints and give an opinion to the Joint Monitoring Committee that will take the final decision. The Managing Authority will send this decision to the interested parties and inform the applicants about their judicial rights under Greek law.

All relevant procedure will be covered by Greek law since Greece hosts the Managing Authority of the Programme and any case will fall under the jurisdiction of the Greek Courts.

*Project Implementation:* Complaints against decisions of the Programme bodies are covered by the relevant procedures foreseen in the subsidy contract. In cases of complaints between project beneficiaries, Lead Beneficiaries and the Managing Authority, provisions are foreseen in the subsidy contract and the partnership agreement. In the case of a complaint by a tenderer against a beneficiary regarding

public procurement procedures, the national administrative law of the place of location of the beneficiary is applicable, without prejudice to the national judicial procedures that may be launched.

*Project Audits:* Complaints related to First Level Control (FLC), Second Level Audit and other audits have to be filed before the competent national authority according to the applicable national laws. Specifically for FLC, complaints may be launched to the Controller, regarding verifications of expenditure.

Provisions are also in place for complaints, not related to specific projects. In particular, the Managing Authority is responsible to answer complaints against decisions of the Joint Monitoring Committee. The Managing Authority may also be prompted by the European Commission to handle complaints that have been addressed to the European Commission. In such cases, the Managing Authority will investigate the matter and will answer to the complainant. As the Managing Authority is hosted in Greece, all relevant procedures will be covered by Greek national administrative law.

#### Responsibilities of the Lead Beneficiary and of Other Beneficiaries

For each operation, a lead beneficiary shall be appointed by the beneficiaries among themselves (Article 40(1) of the Commission Regulation No 447/2014, Article 13(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013). The lead beneficiary shall:

(i) shall lay down the arrangements with the other beneficiaries participating in the operation in an agreement comprising, inter alia, provisions guaranteeing the sound financial management of the funds allocated to the operation, including the arrangements for recovering amounts unduly paid according to Article 27(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

a. If the lead beneficiary does not succeed in securing repayment from other beneficiaries, the participating country, on whose territory the beneficiary concerned is located, shall reimburse the managing authority any amounts that were unduly paid to that beneficiary;

b. The arrangements co-signed with the other beneficiaries will include and describe the procedures relating to the receipt of the public support by all beneficiaries. The public support from IPA II should be received as quickly as possible and in full.

(ii) shall assume responsibility for ensuring the implementation of the entire operation;

(iii) shall ensure that the expenditure presented by all beneficiaries participating in the operation has been incurred for the purpose of implementing the operation and corresponds to the activities agreed between those beneficiaries and is in accordance with the document provided by the managing authority pursuant to Article 40(6) of the Commission Regulation No 447/2014;

(iv) it shall verify that the expenditure presented by other beneficiaries participating in the operation has been verified by a controller;

Each beneficiary participating in the operation shall assume responsibility in the event of any irregularity in the expenditure which it has declared.

#### Communication Strategy

As stipulated in Article 42(4), Article 21(1) and (3) of the Commission Regulation No 447/2014 and Article 116 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the participating countries and the managing authority for the IPA II cross-border cooperation programme shall draw up a communication strategy for the Programme so as to ensure the required publicity thereof. The information shall be addressed to the European Union citizens and beneficiaries at the aim of highlighting the role of the Community and ensure that assistance from the IPA II is transparent. Implementation of the communication strategy

and the information and publicity requirements is described in Annex XII of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

#### Electronic Exchange of Data

For the purposes of Article 74 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, all official exchanges of information between the managing authority, the participating countries and the Commission shall be carried out using an electronic data exchange system.

According to the provisions of Article 122(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 the managing authority shall ensure that no later than 31 December 2015, all exchanges of information between beneficiaries and itself, the certifying authority, the audit authority and intermediate bodies can be carried out by means of electronic data exchange systems.

The systems referred to above shall facilitate interoperability with national and Union frameworks and allow for the beneficiaries to submit all information referred to in the first subparagraph only once.

#### Programme Monitoring

The MA and the JMC shall ensure the quality of the implementation of the programme in accordance with the principle of sound financial management. The JMC will supervise the Programme implementation and ensure the achievement of its objectives through a rational use of the allocated resources.

The tools used for the monitoring of the programme are the annual reports (and final report) on implementation, as set up in Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

The annual (final) report(s) will be drafted by the JS, verified by the MA and approved by the JMC prior to their submission to the Commission. The reporting, information and communication tasks will be carried out in accordance with Article 42 of Regulation (EC) No 447/2014.

The monitoring of the Programme shall be implemented through the management information system, providing relevant technical and financial information. The reporting shall be provided by the lead beneficiary through periodical and final reporting to the JS. The JS will check the compliance of the reports with the project approved application. The data of the reports will be uploaded in the management information system and relevant data shall be generated, included in the annual implementation reports and submitted to the European Commission.

## 5.5 Apportionment of liabilities among partner States in case of financial corrections imposed by the managing authority or the Commission

(Reference: point (a)(vi) of Article 8(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

According to Article 46(6), Financial management, decommitment, examination and acceptance of accounts, closure and financial corrections, of Commission Implementing regulation (EU) No 447/2014 of 2 May 2014 on the specific rules for implementing Regulation (EU) No 231 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) the following European Structural & Investment Funds (ESIF) rules should be applied:

1.  Articles 85, 122(2) and 143 to 147 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 concerning financial corrections and recoveries
2.  Article 27(2) and (3) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

In particular, the managing authority shall ensure that any amount paid as a result of an irregularity is recovered from the lead or sole beneficiary. Beneficiaries shall repay to the lead beneficiary any amounts unduly paid.

If the lead beneficiary does not succeed in securing repayment from other beneficiaries or if the managing authority does not succeed in securing repayment from the lead beneficiary, the Member State or third country on whose territory the beneficiary concerned is located shall reimburse the managing authority any amounts unduly paid to that beneficiary. The managing authority shall be responsible for reimbursing the amounts concerned to the general budget of the Union, in accordance with the apportionment of liabilities among the participating countries as laid down in the IPA II cross-border cooperation programme.

Each participating country shall establish its own national rules regarding the procedure for the recovery of unduly paid funds to beneficiaries directly linked to financial corrections detected by the appropriate authorities within the operations funded under the IPA II cross-border cooperation programme.

The participating countries shall in the first instance be responsible for investigating irregularities and for making the financial corrections required and pursuing recoveries. In the case of a systemic irregularity, the participating country concerned shall extend its investigation to cover all operations potentially affected.

Participating countries shall make the financial corrections required in connection with individual or systemic irregularities detected in operations or the IPA II cross-border cooperation programme.

In the event of financial corrections imposed by the managing authority or the Commission the apportionment of liabilities among the participating countries and in case liabilities cannot be assigned to a specific partner country, apportionment of liabilities will be made based on the projection of the specific error rate to the population of project beneficiaries per partner country potentially affected.

Financial corrections shall consist of cancelling all or part of the public contribution to an operation or to the IPA II cross-border cooperation programme. Participating countries shall take into account the nature and gravity of the irregularities and the financial loss to the IPA and shall apply a proportionate correction. Financial

corrections shall be recorded in the accounts by the managing authority for the accounting year in which the cancellation is decided.

The contribution from the IPA cancelled in accordance with the above-mentioned provisions may be reused by the Participating countries within the IPA II cross-border cooperation programme concerned, subject to the condition that the contribution cancelled may not be reused for any operation that was the subject of the correction or, where a financial correction is made for a systemic irregularity, for any operation affected by the systemic irregularity.

In any case a financial correction by the Commission shall not prejudice the Member State's obligation to pursue recoveries under Article 143(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and to recover State aid within the meaning of Article 107(1) Treaty on the

Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) and under Article 14 of Council Regulation (EC) No 659/1999.



## 5.6 Use of the Euro (where applicable)

(Reference: Article 28 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Method chosen for the conversion of expenditure incurred in another currency than the Euro

Having regard:

1.  Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, Article 28;
2.  Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, Article 133

any expenditure incurred in a currency other than euro, shall be converted into euro, using the monthly accounting exchange rate of the Commission in the month during which that expenditure was incurred;

The monthly exchange rates of the Commission are published on:

[http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts\\_grants/info\\_contracts/inforeuro/inforeuro\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/inforeuro/inforeuro_en.cfm)

The method chosen shall be applicable to all beneficiaries. The conversion shall be verified by the controller in Albania where the beneficiary is located.

## 5.7 Involvement of partners

(Reference: point (c) of Article 8(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

### **Actions taken to involve the partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 in the preparation of the cooperation programme, and the role of those partners in the preparation and implementation of the cooperation programme, including their involvement in the Joint Monitoring Committee**

#### Involvement of partners during programme preparation

The drafting of the Greece-Albania 2014-2020 IPA II cross-border cooperation programme was organized in compliance with the partnership approach as referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. The European Territorial Cooperation managing authority and joint secretariat of the Programme coordinated the process. A joint programming committee - as the main decision making body - and a Programming Task Force (PTF) - for discussing particular topics and draft proposals - were established in 2013.

In addition three different stakeholder consultation phases were implemented during February – August 2014:

Phase A: Investigation of needs & priorities within a wide target-set of partners.

In early 2014 a survey was conducted using a structured questionnaire. The main aim was to gather as much knowledge about developmental challenges / needs of the cross-border area which have cross-border importance/impact or can be of great value to cross-border cooperation, and gain insight on aspects regarding the implementation of the current programme (good practices to be continued; problems to be corrected/avoided).

Inputs from this consultation were analyzed and systematized by the Technical Consultant supporting the drafting of the IPA II cross-border cooperation programme and were presented to the Task Force as the basis for elaborating the next phase of consultation.

Phase B: Workshops with selected Stakeholders for the formulation of strategy and priorities:

This phase started immediately after the finalization of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats (SWOT) analysis and the consultant's diagnostic report on the cross-border area.

The main aim was to incorporate proposals by the stakeholders regarding the selection of thematic objectives and investment priorities. Four (4) workshops were organized in total: 1 in Greece (Kerkyra) and 3 in Albania (Korce, Gjirokastër and Vlora).

The workshops were structured around specific issues to be analyzed by the participants:

1.  commenting on the diagnostic report;
2.  evaluation of thematic priorities using a multi-criteria approach; and
3.  proposals of intervention types to address identified cross-border area

needs/challenges.

Workshop participants were also offered the opportunity to submit their comments in writing.

Phase C: Wide public consultation through internet.

An earmarked web page was created in order boost stakeholders' involvement and to collect their perspectives on the first IPA II cross-border cooperation programme draft. This web page contained the 1st draft of the IPA II cross-border cooperation programme. It also contained a link to a questionnaire (using google forms), calling stakeholders to express their opinions on the appropriateness of strategy, on the specific objectives and the types of interventions selected, and the appropriateness of the financial allocation. They were also asked to contribute with proposals on appropriate types of interventions to be included in the IPA II cross-border cooperation programme by investment priority.

This phase ended on 31 July 2014, lasting 13 days (from 18 July 2014 till 31 July 2014).

(See: <http://greece-albania.eu/index.php/news/87-3rd-phase-of-the-public-consultation-for-the-preparation-of-the-etc-programme-greece-albania-2014-2020.html>).

How the relevant partners will be involved in the implementation of the IPA II cross-border cooperation programme

The programme aims to take on board the partners' opinions during the implementation and evaluation Interreg IPA II cross-border cooperation Greece-Albania 2014-2020 programme.

As for the involvement in the joint monitoring committee and in view of the proportionality principle, the programme partners will receive both the draft agendas of the joint monitoring committee meetings and a summary of the minutes. This will allow them to send any specific input and to be updated on the latest programme developments. In case specific partners would be interested in sending input to the joint monitoring committee discussions, the partner should contact the national contact, who will gather all inputs from the respective territory. Finally, the managing authority will publish a summary of the relevant decisions of the joint monitoring committee meetings.

As for the involvement in programme implementation, all partners will be given the opportunity to participate at the inception meetings carried out before each call for proposals during which information will be disseminated from the managing authority /joint secretariat to the potential beneficiaries but also input will be gathered from them. Finally, they will be considered for participation in the evaluation process (via targeted surveys).

## SECTION 6. HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

(Reference : Article 8(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

### 6.1 Sustainable development

Description of specific actions to take into account environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster resilience and risk prevention and management, in the selection of operations.

Environmental protection and sustainable development is one of the 2 priority axes of the programme reserving half of the programme's resources. This strategic orientation is also enhanced by selection priorities in the second priority axis which targets the promotion of entrepreneurship. Even though the second axis refers to all economic activities, it concentrates on a priority basis on two sectors which are very important for the cross-border area economy:

- the agro-food industry; and more importantly
- on sustainable tourism, which is supported through 3 different intervention groups.

Furthermore, sustainable development is promoted through the guiding principles for the selection of operations under the second priority axis which include among others:

- contribution to resource efficiency (e.g. energy efficiency, renewable energy use, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, efficient water supply, waste-water treatment and water reuse, waste avoidance and recycling etc.).
- contribution to a sustainable environment (operations under this IPA programme will not harm the environment)
- major infrastructure initiatives will be accompanied by a solid environmental impact analysis.
- contribution to the compliance with air quality legislation and, in particular, air quality measures under Directive 2008/50/EC (e.g. reductions of PM and NO<sub>2</sub>, which, in contrast to carbon dioxide, are directly harmful to the health of citizens, ecosystems, crops and buildings).

## 6.2 Equal opportunities and non-discrimination

Description of the specific actions to promote equal opportunities and prevent any discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation during the preparation, design and implementation of the cooperation programme and, in particular, in relation to access to funding, taking account of the needs of the various target groups at risk of such discrimination, and in particular, the requirements of ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities.

There is no specific priority axis dealing with equal opportunities directly in the OP, even though many interventions under the second axis will benefit social groups more at risk of poverty or social exclusion.

Equal opportunities are addressed by the programme more on the level of the guiding principles for the selection of operations which include:

- For both priority axis 1& 2:
  - All infrastructure and media (including electronic media) projects shall meet the requirements of the General Regulation 1303/2013, article 7 concerning the implementation of the principles of non discrimination and accessibility to persons with disabilities.
  - all infrastructure and construction works funded under this programme – new or existing - will be made accessible to people with disabilities (mobility-impaired, hearing-impaired, and blind) unless the activity which the infrastructure and/or construction works serve is not accessible itself to people with disabilities (e.g. climbing range).
  - all information and communications technology systems funded under this programme – new or existing - will be made accessible to people with disabilities (hearing-impaired, and blind).
  - all training actions funded under this programme – new or existing - will be conducted in facilities accessible to people with disabilities (mobility-impaired, hearing-impaired, and blind) unless they are on-the-job trainings and the business/facility where they are conducted is not itself accessible.
  - all outreach/publicity activities funded under this programme will be made accessible to people with disabilities (mobility-impaired, hearing-impaired, and blind).
- For priority axis 2:
  - individuals from special groups (for example young, females, ethnic groups etc) more at risk of unemployment, poverty and/or exclusion will be given priority for self-employment actions funded under this programme.
  - business owners from special groups (young, females, ethnic groups) more at risk of unemployment, poverty and/or exclusion will be given priority for business support actions funded under this programme.

### 6.3 Equality between men and women

Description of the contribution of the cooperation programme to the promotion of equality between men and women and, where appropriate, the arrangements to ensure the integration of the gender perspective at cooperation programme and operation level.

The programme does not specifically target equality between men and women, even though it does contribute to it indirectly through the promotion of female entrepreneurship in the second priority axis.

It is however sensitive to gender issues in terms of monitoring and evaluation by:

- counting the % of women participating in interventions; and
- calculating the % of support allocated to women – where relevant.

## SECTION 7 SEPARATE ELEMENTS

### 7.1 Major projects to be implemented during the programming period

**Table 24 - List of major projects**

Title	Planned notification /submission date (year, quarter)	Planned start of implementation (year, quarter)	Planned completion date (year, quarter)	Priority Axes / Thematic Priorities
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## 7.2 Performance framework of the cooperation programme

**Table 25 – Performance framework (summary table)**

Priority axis	Indicator or Key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)
1	CO21c - Kilometers of CB road network studied	km	0	30.00
1	CO34 - Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	Kwh/year	0	1,100,000.00
1	F0101 - Eligible verified (certified) Expenditure of the Axis	Euro	1,000,000.00	31,152,837.00
1	K0101 - Approved Projects	Number of projects	15	
2	CO11 - Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	visits	0	21,000.00
2	F0102 - Eligible verified (certified) Expenditure of the Axis	Euro	1,000,000.00	18,692,694.00
2	K0102 - Approved Projects	Number of projects	10	



### 7.3 Relevant partners involved in the preparation of the cooperation programme

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## Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
P.D_Interreg IPA CBC GR AL_2014-2020_v3.1_EComments	Cooperation programme proposal	11-Dec-2017		Ares(2017)6091373	P.D_Interreg IPA CBC GR AL_2014-2020_v3.1_EComments	12-Dec-2017	nlogotge

## Submitted annexes by the Commission implementing regulation laying down the model of the programme

Document title	Document type	Programme version	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Ex ante Evaluation CBC GR-AL 2014-2020.docx (Executive Summary incorporated)	Report of the ex-ante evaluation	1.1	04-May-2015		Ares(2015)2015872	Ex ante CBC GR-AL 2014-2020.docx	12-May-2015	niakdimi
Programme Snapshot of data before send 2014TC16I5CB010 3.1	Snapshot of data before send	3.1	12-Dec-2017		Ares(2017)6091373	Programme Snapshot of data before send 2014TC16I5CB010 3.1 el	12-Dec-2017	nlogotge
PARTNER STATE AGREEMENT - THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC	Confirmation of agreement in writing to the contents of the cooperation programme	1.1	18-Sep-2014		Ares(2015)2015872	Agreement_GR.PDF	12-May-2015	niakdimi
Map of the Eligible Area	A map of the area covered by the cooperation programme	1.1	28-Aug-2014		Ares(2015)2015872	map GR-AL 2014-2020.jpg	12-May-2015	niakdimi

**Latest validation results**

<b>Severity</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Message</b>
Info		Programme version has been validated.

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