

INTERREG IPA CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME "GREECE – ALBANIA 2014-2020"

2nd JOINT MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING

**24th November 2016
Municipality of Igoumenitsa
Igoumenitsa , Greece**

Brief Minutes & Decisions

The Joint Monitoring Committee (hereinafter referred to as JMC) of the Interreg IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme "Greece-Albania 2014-2020" convened for its 2nd Joint Monitoring Committee Meeting on November 24th, 2016 in Igoumenitsa, Greece, following an invitation by the Hellenic Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes (hereinafter MA of ETCP), in agreement with the co-chairs.

Ms Dominic Zaralidou, Legal Advisor to the Special Secretary of ERDF & CF funded sectoral Ops, Ministry of Economy & Development, who substitutes Ms Evgenia Fotoniata Special Secretary of ERDF & CF funded sectoral Ops, Ministry of Economy & Development, who is Chair of the Committee, welcomed the participants, wished a fruitful 2nd Joint Monitoring Committee Meeting and briefly mentioned the state of play of the Programme, as regards the 1st and 2nd Call for Project Proposals.

The Chair then passed the floor to Mrs Daniela Cekani, Secretary General of the Ministry of European Integration (MEI), who is Co-Chair of the Committee, who welcomed the participants and wished a successful meeting. Ms Cekani informed the members that the bilateral agreement was signed on 17/11/2016.

The floor was then passed to Ms Eleni Katsigianni, Deputy Head of the MA of ETCP, who welcomed the members, thanked the Municipality of Igoumenitsa for the hospitality and wished a successful meeting.

The floor was then passed to Mr Lolos, Mayor of Igoumenitsa, who addressed a welcome speech.

The chair confirmed that quorum was achieved, requested that the draft agenda is adopted and opened the 2nd Joint Monitoring Committee Meeting.

The chair asked all members of the Joint Monitoring Committee to sign a Declaration of Impartiality and Confidentiality.

The Chair then passed the floor to Ms Katerina Tsamouri, Project Officer of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme "Greece-Albania 2014-2020", who presented the Programme's State of Play.

The floor was then passed to Ms Anna Koktsidou, Project Officer of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme "Greece-Albania 2014-2020", who presented the revised Communication Strategy, the Annual Communication Plan for 2017 of the Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme "Greece-Albania 2014-2020", as well as the European Cooperation Day event, which took place on 24/09/2016. A relevant video of the marathon organized at the Kristalopigi border area was presented to the members.

Ms Koktsidou proceeded with the presentation of the Information & Publicity Guide of the Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme "Greece-Albania 2014-2020".

The Chair then passed the floor to Ms Katerina Tsamouri, who presented the Progress Report of projects, which will be approved for funding under the Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme "Greece-Albania 2014-2020".

The floor was then passed to Ms Victoria Sterjo, Project Officer of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme "Greece-Albania 2014-2020", who presented the Subsidy Contract & the Partnership Agreement templates for the projects, which will be approved for funding under the Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme "Greece-Albania 2014-2020".

The floor was then passed to Mr Vassilis Charitantis from Unit B2 of the MA, who presented the Evaluation Plan of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme 'Greece-Albania 2014-2020'.

Mr Charitantis proceeded with the presentation of the established Joint Complaint Committee and its Internal Rules of Procedure. Some questions were posed and one addition in Article 2, paragraph 5 of the Rules of Procedure was suggested: *"In any case the final decision on the Complaint lies with the Joint Monitoring Committee"*.

The floor was then passed to Ms Koktsidou and Ms Tsamouri, who presented the six project proposals, which were submitted under the 1st Call for Strategic Project Proposals and they were evaluated.

The Chair then passed the floor to Mr George Papadopoulos, Joint Secretariat Coordinator of the Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme "Greece-Albania 2014-2020", who presented the results of the evaluation of the 1st Call for Strategic Project Proposals.

Mr. Xhaxhiu pointed out that the indicative budget of the Call even after reductions exceeds by around 0.5 Mln EUR the initial budget of the Call.

Extensive discussion took place on the issue of the final budget of the approved projects.

Following the discussions, the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) decides unanimously to approve as presented by the MA/JS:

- The Revised Communication Strategy
- The Annual Communication Plan for 2017
- The Information & Publicity Guide of the projects
- The Progress Report

- The Subsidy Contract & the Partnership Agreement
- The Evaluation Plan
- The Establishment of the Joint Complaint Committee and its Rules of Procedure with an addition in Article 2, paragraph 5, as follows: "In any case the final decision of the Complaint lies with the Joint Monitoring Committee".
- The results of the 1st phase evaluation of the 1st Call for Strategic Project Proposals
- The results of the 2nd phase evaluation of the 1st Call for Strategic Project Proposals
- The increase of the 1st Call for Strategic project proposals budget, amounts 555.107,00€ under Priority Axis 1, Specific Objective 1.1.
- The reallocation of 1.528.917,00 € of the 1st Call budget from Priority Axis 2 to Priority Axis 1
- The budget of the projects is approved with the reductions as proposed by the MA/JS, in line with the approved budget reduction methodology.
- The funding of four (4) Project Proposals submitted under the 1st Call for Strategic Project Proposals, as follows:
The Joint Monitoring Committee approves
 - ✓ three (3) project proposals to be financed, under Priority Axis 1, Specific Objective 1.1 according to the ranking list and
 - ✓ one (1) project proposal to be financed, under Priority Axis 2, Specific Objective 2.1 according to the ranking list.

The approved project proposals are:

Specific Objective	Acronym	Lead Beneficiary (LB)	Country (GR/AL)	Submitted Budget (€)	Approved Budget (€)
1.1	WASTE RREACT	Region of Epirus	GR	4.000.000	3.888.782
1.1	SAVE_WATER	Region of Ionian Islands	GR	3.500.000	3.482.822

1.1	AquaNEX	Albanian Ministry of Environment	AL	1.800.000	1.712.420
2.1	TACTICAL TOURISM	Regional Council of Gjirokaster	AL	2.500.000	2.471.083

At the end of JMC meeting, Brief Minutes and Decisions were drafted by the MA/JTS and the Chairperson read them out to all JMC members to comment.

Finally, the document was signed by the two co-chairpersons.

**The Co-Chairpersons
of the Joint Monitoring Committee**

Chair

Ms Dominic Zaralidou

Co-Chair

Ms Daniela Cekani

Legal Advisor to the Special
Secretary for ERDF & CF
Hellenic Ministry of Economy &
Development

Secretary General
Albanian Ministry of European
Integration

Attachments:

1. Agenda of the 2nd Joint Monitoring Committee Meeting
2. Participant's list of the 2nd Joint Monitoring Committee Meeting