

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

5th JOINT MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING

20th & 21st June 2019

**Venue: Hotel Tomori
Berat, Albania**

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 5th Joint Monitoring Committee Meeting on June 20th and 21st, 2019 in Berat, Albania, following an invitation by the Hellenic Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes (hereinafter MA of ETCP), in agreement with the co-chairs.

Mrs Daniela Cekani, Director of the Department for EU Funds of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, who is Chair of the Committee, welcomed the participants, wished a fruitful 5th Joint Monitoring Committee Meeting.

The Chair then passed the floor to 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, who is co-Chair of the Committee, welcomed the participants and wished a fruitful 5th Joint Monitoring Committee Meeting.

The floor was then passed to Ms Nadine Lakhall, Programme Manager of the European Commission, who welcomed the members and wished a successful meeting.

A different order on the topics of the agenda was proposed by the chair and adopted by the members of the JMC. The chair confirmed that quorum was achieved, asked all members of the Joint Monitoring Committee to sign a Declaration of Impartiality and Confidentiality, requested that the draft agenda is adopted and opened the 5th Joint Monitoring Committee Meeting.

The Chair then passed the floor to Ms Katia Sagona, Head of Unit B2 of the Managing Authority, who presented the Programme's State of Play.

Mrs Mavria underlined the fact that the closing procedures have been initiated and the respective guidelines are expected to be completed.

She also mentioned the potential of a future Programme modification should take place, since the end of 2020 is the last year for such a procedure according to the Regulation.

According to the proposal by MA/ JS, such a modification is not necessary, as justified by the presentation and included in the State of Play document. The MA asked the representative of the European Commission, Mrs Lakhall for an official reply on the issue.

Mrs Lakhall stated that she will reply after consultation with the European Commission. The respective request will be sent to Mrs Lakhall by the MA, in order to receive an official written reply.

The Chair passed the floor to Ms Popi Evgenidou, Financial Officer of the Joint Secretariat, who presented the evaluation procedure of the 4th Call for project proposals, the Concept Note and the outcome of the assessment.

Extensive discussion took place on the 4th Call evaluation results.

Ms Kalogirou, Officer of the Executive Unit for the Partnership Agreement for the Development Framework 2014-2020 of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports asked that some conditions at the file condition - recommendation for the projects AUTHENTIKK, i-THEA and MILESTONES III are added. Regarding the project i-THEA all the necessary licences and approvals by the competent archaeological service should be requested before signing the subsidy contracts and it should be ensured that there is no overlap with any other similar project financed by the ROP of Epirus. Regarding the projects AUTHENTIKK and MILESTONES III, all the necessary licences and approvals by the competent archaeological service should be requested before signing the subsidy contracts.

Mr Papadopoulos mentioned that these requirements will be included in the file "Conditions-Recommendations" of the specific projects.

Mr Mourouzis, Representative of National Confederation of People with Disabilities asked for statistics and input on how the projects approached the criterion on the accessibility. Mr Papadopoulos replied that all projects were found compatible with the respective criterion during the first phase evaluation of the proposals.

Mr Xhaxhiu, Head of the Territorial Cooperation Programming Unit of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs proposed more projects to be included under SO2.1 arguing the importance of tourism projects in the eligible area of the Programme. The proposal was supported by Mrs Zaralidou and the JMC agreed that two (2) more projects will be included in the list of the projects to be funded, SMARTOUR & GET.

Mrs Kalogianni, Representative of the ENPE, suggested horizontal budget reduction of 30% in SO2.1 in order more projects from the reserve list to be included for funding. Discussion took place and finally this proposal was not accepted.

Mr Papadopoulos underlined that the eligibility check for the project beneficiaries will take place after the JMC meeting. In case of ineligible beneficiaries, the project will be rejected in total and the reserve list will be activated respectively.

The Chair then passed the floor to Mr Prodromos Vadratsikas, private consultant responsible for the First Evaluation of the implementation and impact of the Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme "Greece-Albania 2014-2020", who presented the Final Evaluation Report.

The MA asked the confirmation by the JMC members for the participation on the continuation of the meeting on the 21st of June 2019, in order for the

quorum to be achieved for the approval of the AIR, Capitalisation Strategy and the Modification of the TA Multiannual Plan.

At this point the JMC meeting was ceased for the day.

The meeting continued on 21st June 2019.

The Chair confirmed the quorum and the meeting was initiated.

The floor was then passed to Mr Vasilis Charitantis, Officer of the Managing Authority Unit B2, who presented the Annual Implementation Report for 2018. Following the approval by the JMC, the AIR will be submitted via SFC to the EC.

Mrs Lakhali informed the JMC members on the special exercise of this year's Performance Framework.

The Chair then passed the floor to Ms A. Koktsidou, JS Communication Officer, who presented the Capitalization Strategy of the Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme "Greece-Albania 2014-2020".

Mr Xhaxhiu requested for targeted and analytical presentation on Capitalisation issues and JMC members agreed.

Ms Koktsidou also presented the Modification of the Technical Assistance Multiannual Plan. Following the approval by the JMC, the Albanian beneficiary of the Technical Assistance will submit to the Joint Secretariat via the MIS the modified Application Form.

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

- the Capitalization Strategy
- the Modification of the Technical Assistance Multiannual Plan
- The Annual Implementation Report for 2018
- The projects for funding under the 4th Call for Project Proposals are:
 - 6 projects under SO1.3
 - 13 projects under SO2.1
- A reserve list of 9 projects under SO2.1
- The overbooking of the Programme's budget as it will be finalised after the signing of the Subsidy Contracts.

- The indicator regarding SO1.4 will be covered through the 5th targeted call with a budget of 2,5 million euro.

The JMC authorises the JS to proceed with the budget clearing for the 2 additional projects that were included for funding.

Following the approval of the projects, the Complaint procedure will be initiated. The closing of the Complaint procedure will be followed by the Beneficiaries' eligibility check. The list of the project proposals approved for funding will be finalised after the completion of both aforementioned procedures.

The list of the approved projects under each Specific Objective, the list of reserve list under Specific Objective 2.1 and the list of rejected projects are presented in the annex, which is an integral part of the 5th Joint Monitoring Committee meeting decision.

At the end of JMC meeting, Brief Minutes and Decisions were drafted by the MA/JS 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 Daniela Cekani

Director of the Department for EU
Funds
Albanian Ministry for Europe and
Foreign Affairs

Co-Chair

Ms Dominic Zaralidou

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

Attachments:

1. Agenda of the 5th Joint Monitoring Committee Meeting
2. Participant's list of the 5th Joint Monitoring Committee Meeting

Annex

1. Projects for funding, projects under reserve list and rejected projects.

ANNEX

Specific Objective 1.3 pre-approved projects

Project acronym	Rank quality (Total score)	Recommendations/Conditions	Lead Beneficiary	Country	MAXIMUM APPROVED BUDGET
SOLIS	87,5	YES	Municipality of Preveza	GREECE	1.936.926,23
G.A.M.E.S.	85,5	YES	Region of Epirus	GREECE	1.538.847,00
GOAL nZEBs	80,5	YES	Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving	GREECE	1.114.070,00
nZCom	78,0	YES	SPECIAL ACCOUNT FOR EDUCATION & RESEARCH FUNDS OF T.E.I. OF WESTERN MACEDONIA - Department of Electrical Engineering	GREECE	1.166.649,40
SMENSWICT	78,0	YES	Chamber of Arta	GREECE	1.705.466,42
TARGET	73,0	YES	Municipality of Igoumenitsa	GREECE	1.148.679,00

Specific Objective 1.3 rejected projects

Project acronym	Rank quality (Total score)	Recommendations/Conditions	Lead Beneficiary	Country	APPROVED BUDGET
Safe Gas	61,5	NO	Chamber of Kastoria	GREECE	0,00

Specific Objective 2.1 pre-approved projects

Project acronym	Rank quality (Total score)	Conditions/Recommendations	Lead Beneficiary	Country	MAXIMUM APPROVED BUDGET
MILESTONES III	94,0	YES	Municipality of Dodoni	GREECE	938.170,00
e-natura	91,0	YES	SPECIAL ACCOUNT FOR EDUCATION & RESEARCH FUNDS OF T.E.I. OF WESTERN MACEDONIA -Department of Computer Science and Information Technology	GREECE	510.700,00
STONE.ART	90,0	YES	Municipality of Konitsa	GREECE	708.048,00
CheeseCulT	82,5	YES	UNIVERSITY OF IOANNINA-RESEARCH COMMITTEE/ DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	GREECE	551.759,40
VirtualLand	76,5	YES	UNIVERSITY OF IOANNINA-RESEARCH COMMITTEE/ DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING	GREECE	579.904,80
AuthentiKK	76,0	YES	MUNICIPALITY OF KORCA	ALBANIA	801.163,00
ALTTOUR	75,0	YES	Albanian Ministry of Tourism and Environment	ALBANIA	662.280,88
SMARTIMONY	75,0	YES	UNIVERSITY OF IOANNINA - RESEARCH COMMITTEE - Department of Informatics & Telecommunications	GREECE	695.846,42
CLLD-CulTour	73,0	YES	MUNICIPALITY OF ZITSA	GREECE	685.825,00
i-Thea	67,0	YES	EPIRUS SA - DEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES	GREECE	524.261,50
Cult2Routes	67,0	YES	MUNICIPALITY OF NESTORIO	GREECE	657.600,00
SMART TOUR	66,0	To be prepared by the Joint Secretariat	UNIVERSITY OF IOANNINA - RESEARCH COMMITTEE/Dept. of Computer Science & Engineering	GREECE	to be concluded by the Joint Secretariat
GET	66,0	To be prepared by the Joint Secretariat	INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE POLICIES	ALBANIA	to be concluded by the Joint Secretariat

Specific Objective 2.1 reserve list projects

Project acronym	Rank quality (Total score)	Lead Beneficiary	Country
SusAnFAgr	65,5	Hellenic Agricultural Organization DEMETER	GREECE
FOODTOUR	65,0	CHAMBER OF KEFALLONIA AND ITHACA	GREECE
TECHNARTET	64,5	Municipality of Metsovo	GREECE
RTC4LD	64,5	Adriapol Institute for Smart and Creative Development	ALBANIA
CULTURAL EXPER-TOUR	64,0	Cultural Organisation of Florina for Cultural Activities at Prespas	GREECE
PLANELAND	63,5	DECENTRALIZED ADMINISTRATION OF EPIRUS AND WEST MACEDONIA	GREECE
CONSERVE	63,0	UNIVERSITY OF IOANNINA - RESEARCH COMMITTEE - DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATICS	GREECE
INCULTURE	62,5	MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH TZOUMERKA	GREECE
Folk Fests	62,5	THREE THIRDS SOCIETY	GREECE

Specific Objective 2.1 rejected projects

Project acronym	Rank quality (Total score)	Lead Beneficiary	Country
APHeTes	61,5	CENTER CREATIVE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS	ALBANIA
UNERGA	60,5	Regional Union of Municipalities of Ionian Island	GREECE
RES_PUBLICA	56,5	University of Ionnina - Reseach Committee - DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS AND ART SCIENCES	GREECE