

**IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN
TERRITORIAL COOPERATION GOAL
PART A**

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL/FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

CCI	2014TC16I5CB010
Title	Interreg IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme "Greece-Albania 2014-2020"
Version	2018.0
Date of approval of the report by the monitoring committee	Joint Monitoring Committee meeting on 20/06/2019

Not validated

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL/FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT	1
KEY INFORMATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME FOR THE YEAR CONCERNED, INCLUDING ON FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS, WITH RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL AND INDICATOR DATA	4
3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS	6
3.1 OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION	6
3.2 COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC INDICATORS (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013).....	9
PRIORITY AXES OTHER THAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	9
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS – PRIORITY AXIS 1.SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES 2, 3 AND 4	9
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS – PRIORITY AXIS 1. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2	10
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS – PRIORITY AXIS 1. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3	10
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS – PRIORITY AXIS 1. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4	11
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS – PRIORITY AXIS 1.SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.....	11
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS – PRIORITY AXIS 1.SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.....	13
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS – PRIORITY AXIS 2.SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES 1 AND 2	14
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS – PRIORITY AXIS 2. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2	15
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS – PRIORITY AXIS 2. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1	15
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS - 2. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.....	16
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS – N+1.1.1	17
3.3 TABLE 3: INFORMATION ON THE MILESTONES AND TARGETS DEFINED IN THE PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK.....	18
3.4. FINANCIAL DATA	19
TABLE 4: FINANCIAL INFORMATION AT PRIORITY AXIS AND PROGRAMME LEVEL	19
WHERE APPLICABLE, THE USE OF ANY CONTRIBUTION FROM THIRD COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME SHOULD BE PROVIDED (FOR EXAMPLE IPA AND ENI, NORWAY, SWITZERLAND)	20
TABLE 5: BREAKDOWN OF THE CUMULATIVE FINANCIAL DATA BY CATEGORY OF INTERVENTION	21
TABLE 6: CUMULATIVE COST OF ALL OR PART OF AN OPERATION IMPLEMENTED OUTSIDE THE UNION PART OF THE PROGRAMME AREA	23
(1) IPA SUPPORT IS THE COMMISSION DECISION ON THE RESPECTIVE COOPERATION PROGRAMME.	23
4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS	24
5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN	25
(A) ISSUES WHICH AFFECT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND THE MEASURES TAKEN.....	25
(B) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, OTHERWISE IT WILL BE INCLUDED IN POINT 9.1. AN ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS TARGETS IS SUFFICIENT TO ENSURE THEIR FULFILMENT, INDICATING ANY REMEDIAL ACTIONS TAKEN OR PLANNED, WHERE APPROPRIATE.	28
6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)	29
7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)	30
8. PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (ARTICLE 101(H) AND ARTICLE 111(3) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(B) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)	31
8.1. MAJOR PROJECTS.....	31
TABLE 7: MAJOR PROJECTS	31
SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN IMPLEMENTING MAJOR PROJECTS AND MEASURES TAKEN TO OVERCOME THEM	31
ANY CHANGE PLANNED IN THE LIST OF MAJOR PROJECTS IN THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME	31
8.2. JOINT ACTION PLANS.....	32
TABLE 8: JOINT ACTION PLANS (JAP).....	33
SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND MEASURES TAKEN TO OVERCOME THEM.....	34
9. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)	35
9.1 INFORMATION IN PART A AND ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)	35
9.2. SPECIFIC ACTIONS TAKEN TO PROMOTE EQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN AND TO PROMOTE NON-DISCRIMINATION, IN PARTICULAR ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, AND THE ARRANGEMENTS IMPLEMENTED TO ENSURE THE INTEGRATION OF THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME AND OPERATIONS (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2, (D) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013).....	36
9.3.SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2, (E) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)	38
9.4. REPORTING ON SUPPORT USED FOR CLIMATE CHANGE OBJECTIVES (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)	39
9.5 ROLE OF PARTNERS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1, (C) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)	40

10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013	41
10.1 PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EVALUATION PLAN AND THE FOLLOW-UP GIVEN TO THE FINDINGS OF EVALUATIONS	41
10.2 THE RESULTS OF THE INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY MEASURES OF THE FUNDS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY	44
11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2 (A), (B), (C) AND (F), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)	49
11.1. PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENTS, SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND COMMUNITY LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME	49
11.2 PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS TO REINFORCE THE CAPACITY OF AUTHORITIES AND BENEFICIARIES TO ADMINISTER AND TO USE THE IPA.....	50
11.3 CONTRIBUTION TO MACRO-REGIONAL AND SEA BASIN STRATEGIES (WHERE APPROPRIATE)	51
11.4 PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL INNOVATION	52
13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH	53
14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN — PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)	54
DOCUMENTS	55
LATEST VALIDATION RESULTS.....	56

Not validated

2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Key information on the implementation of the cooperation programme for the year concerned, including on financial instruments, with relation to the financial and indicator data.

The year 2018 was very significant, in terms of the initiation of the projects, since the projects were able to proceed with the contracting and, thus, with programme implementation. The major issues that were widely discussed were related to the pre-financing of the beneficiaries from Albania, as well as the tendering procedures for the Greek beneficiaries.

More specifically, the actions/ challenges that were confronted during 2018 were the following:

- *Launch of the 3rd Targeted Call for Project Proposals. One project was submitted and approved under this Call with acronym COMOBILION and a budget of 7.149.505,00€.*
- *Launch of the 4th Call for Project Proposals. The call was launched in October 2018 with a deadline at the beginning of 2019.*
- *Consultations for the drafting of 5th targeted call regarding risk management and forest fires.*
- *Coordination with the service that is responsible for adapting the Monitoring Information System (MIS) of the Programme to the regulatory requirements of the 2014 – 2020 period and the programme/ project needs, as identified by the Managing Authority in cooperation with the competent authorities of the cooperating countries. Start of using the system.*
- *Ensuring extensive adaptation of the Monitoring Information System (MIS) of the Programme, in order to ensure fulfilment of regulatory requirements and upgraded electronic management on both project and programme level.*
- *Albanian beneficiaries began to receive the 20% of EU financing by the end of 2018 following the completion of all the administrative procedures.*
- *Regarding the tendering procedures for the Greek beneficiaries in the beginning of 2018 the problem ceased to exist, as the Greek beneficiaries were given the possibility to follow the national legal framework.*
- *Registration of Greek beneficiaries to the Public Investment Fund.*
- *Consultation with competent authorities of the two cooperating countries, including extensive cooperation on the FLC level.*
- *Implementation of strategies on risk management and anti-fraud.*
- *Contracting of 46 projects. Continuous support to the project beneficiaries in order to speed up and implement their actions in the best possible way. Monitoring of projects' modifications.*
- *Antenna Officer for the Antenna Office in Saranda (AL) and a Manager for the Technical Assistance (Albanian part) were recruited in 2018.*
- *The completion of the recruitment procedure for the additional staff of the Joint Secretariat; one Project Officer and one Financial Officer. The new staff members started working for the JS on the 2nd July 2018.*
- *New call for the recruitment of Coordinator for the Joint Secretariat; was published at the end of 2018 and the interviews and selection of the staff is programmed for the spring of 2019.*
- *Events in 2018:*
 - *4 Info-days on Project Implementation; 2 in Greece (Florina, Igoumenitsa) and 2 in Albania (Korca, Gjirokastra)*
 - *EC Day 2018 in Konitsa (GR) entitled "For world full of colours"*

- 1 JMC Meeting in Preveza (GR) for the decision upon future calls.
 - 3 Info-days on the 4th Call for Project Proposals; 1 in Greece (Arta) and 2 in Albania (Vlora, Korca)
 - 7 Technical Meetings took place during 2018, concerning the smooth programme implementation other issues regarding the 3rd and 4th Calls for Project Proposals.
 - The new website of the project was finalised, delivered and was put in operation. The web address remains the same (www.greece-albania.eu) but the design has been completely restructured changed.
 - Contracting of the External Evaluator of the Programme. The external expert that will support the MA/JS with the 1st evaluation of the Programme, has signed the contract on the 27 of August 2018
- Implementation and monitoring of the deliverables of the external expert, responsible for the 1st evaluation of the Programme, according to the contract terms.*
- Approval of the 2nd amendment -by Decision C(2018)559 of 14.02.2018- concerning the incorporation of an additional funding of €10.000.000 EU contribution.

The inflow of these extra funds:

- a. covered the over-booking created with the approval of the 1st and 2nd call projects.
 - b. strengthened Specific Objective 1.3 "Increase energy-efficiency and the use of RES", by approximately 4.000.000€.
 - c. strengthened Specific Objective 2.1 "Preserve cultural and natural resources as a prerequisite for tourism development of the cross border area", by approximately 3.000.000€.
 - Conclusion of the extracting of the sample of the tenders and the contracts to be checked (pre-tender & pre-contacting check).
- The Managing Authority, according to article 6 of Annex 8.1 of the Management and Control System, concluded with the sample of tenders and contracts to be checked. The pre-tender check takes place before the publication of the call for tender as well as before the signing of the respective contract, on tender documentation and draft awards of public works contracts, public supply contracts and public service contracts. This procedure is applicable only to Greek beneficiaries and is performed prior the tendering procedure in all the project categories which are implemented with public procurement contracts.*
- Uploading of Programme's financial data and payment forecasts to the SFC, according to the Regulations.
 - Two (2) Payment Requests have been submitted during 2018 by the Certifying Authority with a total amount of 423.454,11€.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

3.1 Overview of the implementation

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
1	Priority axis 1	<p>Promotion of the environment sustainable transport & public infrastructure</p> <p>The first priority axis includes two thematic priorities:</p> <p>(c) Promoting sustainable transport, information and communications networks & services and investing in cross-border water, waste & energy systems and facilities</p> <p>(b) Protecting the environment & promoting climate change adaptation & mitigation, risk prevention & management</p> <p>In addition to the 21 projects that were approved in this Priority Axis in the previous years, one project was approved in 2018; COMOBILION. The subsidy contracts of these 22 projects have been signed during 2018.</p> <p>The total budget approved under this priority axis is 27.560.341,02 €</p> <p>Technical meetings on the final approval and contracting of the COMOBILION project took place on 2018.</p> <p>Programme indicators included in Specific Objective 1.3 are expected to be achieved by the projects that are going to be approved under the 4th Call for project proposals.</p> <p>The indicators regarding waste water treatment under specific objective 1.1 and Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures under specific objective 1.4 are expected to be covered by future calls.</p> <p>According to Article 4 (IPA II pre-financing), par.2, of the Bilateral Agreement of the Programme and taking into account the availability of the IPA II funds, Albanian beneficiaries may request up to 20% of their EU contribution. During year 2018, in total twenty (20) requests were made by the Lead Beneficiary of the respective projects summing up to the amount of 483.264,39 € .</p> <p>During this pre-financing procedure, delays and problems occurred. Difficulties occurred mainly for the Albanian beneficiaries regarding opening a Bank account in Albania and addressing properly the request to the MA/JS. In order to support Albanian beneficiaries to overcome difficulties the MA/JS staff cooperated closely with the MEI Staff and the beneficiary themselves, so that proper guidance is given. In addition JS/MA staff cooperated closely with the Certifying Authority in order to facilitate the transfer of EU contribution to the Lead Beneficiaries of the respective projects.</p> <p>Regarding the project monitoring mechanisms and in the framework of the e-cohesion principle the Greek integrated Management Information System (MIS) has been developed. The system was finalized during 2018. In order to support the beneficiaries, the Managing Authority of ETC Programmes and the MIS Special Service, organized two seminars on Management Information System (MIS), which took place in Athens and in Thessaloniki. Participants invited were National Authorities, beneficiaries, controllers and the</p>

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
		<p>response was immense, as a significant number of potential users where not familiar with MIS. In addition MA/JS provided necessary guidance to the project beneficiaries through daily communication as well as through issuing MIS manuals that provided clarification and instructions.</p> <p>During 2018 Greek beneficiaries had the additional obligation to register in the electronic system of the Public Investment Programme. Greek beneficiaries faced problems in order to register and get familiar with the new electronic system. In order to support and accelerate this procedure the MA/JS published a guide. In addition information was provided during Info-Days and guidance though daily communication.</p>
2	Priority axis 2	<p>Boosting the Local Economy</p> <p>The second priority axis also includes two thematic priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (d) Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage (g) Enhancing competitiveness, the business environment and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, trade and investment through, inter alia, promotion and support to entrepreneurship, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, and development of local cross-border markets and internationalization <p>24 projects were approved under this Priority Axis. The subsidy contracts of these 24 projects have been signed during 2018.</p> <p>The total budget approved under this priority axis is 15.921.369,57 €</p> <p>Programme indicators included in Specific Objective 2.1 are expected to be achieved by the projects that are going to be approved under the 4th Call for project proposals.</p> <p>During this pre-financing procedure, delays and problems occurred. Difficulties occurred mainly for the Albanian beneficiaries regarding opening a Bank account in Albania and addressing properly the request to the MA/JS. In order to support Albanian beneficiaries to overcome difficulties the MA/JS staff cooperated closely with the MEI Staff and the beneficiary themselves, so that proper guidance is given. In addition JS/MA staff cooperated closely with the Certifying Authority in order to facilitate the transfer of EU contribution to the Lead Beneficiaries of the respective projects.</p> <p>Regarding the project monitoring mechanisms and in the framework of the e-cohesion principle the Greek integrated Management Information System (MIS) has been developed. The system was finalized during 2018. In order to support the beneficiaries, the Managing Authority of ETC Programmes and the MIS Special Service, organized two seminars on Management Information System (MIS), which took place in Athens and in Thessaloniki. Participants invited were National Authorities, beneficiaries, controllers and the response was immense, as a significant number of potential users where not familiar with MIS. In addition MA/JS provided necessary guidance to the project beneficiaries through daily communication as well as through issuing MIS manuals that provided clarification and instructions.</p>

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
		<p>During 2018 Greek beneficiaries had the additional obligation to register in the electronic system of the Public Investment Programme. Greek beneficiaries faced problems in order to register and get familiar with the new electronic system. In order to support and accelerate this procedure the MA/JS published a guide. In addition information was provided during Info-Days and guidance through daily communication.</p>
3	Priority axis 3	<p>Technical assistance</p> <p>The Technical Assistance of the Programme will be implemented in the framework of two “projects”; one for the Greek part of the budget and one for the Albanian part.</p> <p>In general:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 info-days on Project Implementation; 2 in Greece (Florina, Igoumenitsa) and 2 in Albania (Korca, Gjirokastra) • EC Day 2018 in Konitsa (GR), entitled “For a world full of colours” • 1 JMC Meeting was organised in Preveza on 06/10/2018 for the issues concerning the future calls for project proposals. • 3 Info-days on the 4th Call for Project Proposals; 1 in Greece (Arta) and 2 in Albania (Vlora, Korca) • 7 Technical Meetings took place within 2018.

3.2 Common and programme specific indicators (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axes other than technical assistance

Priority axis	Priority axis 1 Promotion of the environment sustainable transport & public infrastructure
Thematic priority	b - Protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management through, inter alia: joint actions for environmental protection; promoting sustainable use of natural resources, resource efficiency, renewable energy sources and the shift towards a safe and sustainable low-carbon economy; promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems and emergency preparedness.

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators – Priority axis 1. Specific Objectives 2, 3 and 4

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2018	Observations
F	CO21	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	inhabitants	115.000	0	Project has not produced any results. Target Values have been redefined and approved under the 2 nd modification of the Programme.
S	CO21	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	inhabitants	57.000	0	Project has not produced any results. Target Values have been redefined and approved under the 2 nd modification of the Programme.
F	CO23	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	hectares	72.250,00	0	Project has not produced any results. Target Values have been redefined and approved under the 2 nd modification of the Programme.
S	CO23	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	hectares	72.250,00	0	Project has not produced any results. Target Values have been redefined and approved under the 2 nd modification of the Programme.
F	CO32	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	Kwh/year	1.100.000	0	Project has not produced any results. Target Values have been redefined and approved under the 2 nd modification of the Programme.
S	CO32	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	Kwh/year	463.963	0	Project has not produced any results. Target Values have been redefined and approved under the 2 nd modification of the Programme.
F	CO34b	People participating in awareness actions	participants	35.000	0	Project has not produced any results. Target Values have been redefined and approved under the 2 nd modification of the Programme.
S	CO34b	People participating in awareness actions	participants	12.500	0	Project has not produced any results. Target Values have been redefined and approved under the 2 nd modification of the Programme.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO21	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	0	0	0	0
S	CO21	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	0	0	0	0
F	CO23	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	0	0	0	0
S	CO23	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	0	0	0	0
F	CO32	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	0	0	0	0
S	CO32	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	0	0	0	0
F	CO34b	People participating in awareness actions	0	0	0	0
S	CO34b	People participating in awareness actions	0	0	0	0

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	Priority axis 1 Promotion of the environment sustainable transport & public infrastructure
Investment priority	b - Protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management through, inter alia: joint actions for environmental protection; promoting sustainable use of natural resources, resource efficiency, renewable energy sources and the shift towards a safe and sustainable low-carbon economy; promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems and emergency preparedness.
Specific objective	1.2 - Increase the effectiveness of environmental protection & sustainable use of natural resources

Table 1: Result indicators – Priority axis 1. Specific objective 2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
5	Level of preservation of the protected natural CB areas	%	72.08	2015	79,29	0	0	

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
5	Level of preservation of the protected natural CB areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Priority axis	Priority axis 1 Promotion of the environment sustainable transport & public infrastructure
Investment priority	b - Protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management through, inter alia: joint actions for environmental protection; promoting sustainable use of natural resources, resource efficiency, renewable energy sources and the shift towards a safe and sustainable low-carbon economy; promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems and emergency preparedness.
Specific objective	1.3 - Increase energy-efficiency and the use of RES.

Table 1: Result indicators – Priority axis 1. Specific objective 3

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
6	Energy Efficiency Awareness Barome-ter	number , (on a 1-10 scale)	5.94	2015	7	0	0	

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
6	Energy Efficiency Awareness Barometer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Priority axis	Priority axis 1 Promotion of the environment sustainable transport & public infrastructure
Investment priority	b - Protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management through, inter alia: joint actions for environmental protection; promoting sustainable use of natural resources, resource efficiency, renewable energy sources and the shift towards a safe and sustainable low-carbon economy; promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems and emergency preparedness.
Specific objective	1.4 - Improve the effectiveness of risk prevention and disaster management with a focus on forest fires

Table 1: Result indicators – Priority axis 1. Specific objective 4

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
7	Area damaged by forest fires (5-yr rolling annual average)	hectares	15,010.89	2014	13.450	0	0	

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
7	Area damaged by forest fires (5-yr rolling annual average)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators – Priority axis 1. Specific Objective 1

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2018	Observations
F	CO20	Additional population served by improved water supply	inhabitants	214.637,00	0	Project has not produced any results. Target Values have been redefined and approved under the 2 nd modification of the Programme.
S	CO20	Additional population served by improved water supply	inhabitants	214,637.00	0	Project has not produced any results. Target Values have been redefined and approved under the 2 nd modification of the Programme.
F	CO21	Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	inhabitants	13.500,00	0	Project has not produced any results. Target Values have been redefined and approved under the 2 nd modification of the Programme.
S	CO21	Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	inhabitants	3.900,00	0	Project has not produced any results. Target Values have been redefined and approved under the 2 nd modification of the Programme.
F	CO21b	Additional solid waste management capacity created	Tonnes/yr	7,000.00	0	Project has not produced any results. Target Values have been redefined and approved under the 2 nd modification of the Programme.

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2018	Observations
S	CO21b	Additional solid waste management capacity created	Tonnes/yr	7,040.00	0	Project has not produced any results. Target Values have been redefined and approved under the 2 nd modification of the Programme.
F	CO21c	Kilometers of CB road network studied	km	30.00	0	Project has not produced any results. Target Values have been redefined and approved under the 2 nd modification of the Programme.
S	CO21c	Kilometers of CB road network studied	km	29.30	0	Project has not produced any results. Target Values have been redefined and approved under the 2 nd modification of the Programme.
F	CO21d	Number of square meters of border crossing buildings studied or con-structed	m2	200.00	0	Project has not produced any results. Target Values have been redefined and approved under the 2 nd modification of the Programme.
S	CO21d	Number of square meters of border crossing buildings studied or con-structed	m2	784.00	0	Project has not produced any results. Target Values have been redefined and approved under the 2 nd modification of the Programme.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO20	Additional population served by improved water supply	0	0	0	0
S	CO20	Additional population served by improved water supply	0	0	0	0
F	CO21	Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	0	0	0	0
S	CO21	Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	0	0	0	0
F	CO21b	Additional solid waste management capacity created	0	0	0	0
S	CO21b	Additional solid waste management capacity created	0	0	0	0
F	CO21c	Kilometers of CB road network studied	0	0	0	0
S	CO21c	Kilometers of CB road network studied	0	0	0	0
F	CO21d	Number of square meters of border crossing buildings studied or con-structed	0	0	0	0
S	CO21d	Number of square meters of border crossing buildings studied or con-structed	0	0	0	0

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	Priority axis 1 Promotion of the environment sustainable transport & public infrastructure
Investment priority	c - Promoting sustainable transport and improving public infrastructures by, inter alia, reducing isolation through improved access to transport, information and communication networks and services and investing in cross-border water, waste and energy systems and facilities.
Specific objective	1.1 - Increase the capacity of cross border infrastructure in transport, water & waste management

Table 1: Result indicators – Priority axis 1.Specific objective 1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
1	Volume of urban effluents under sec-ondary treatment	million m3	30.00	2014	41,31	0	0	
2	Percentage of solid waste managed sustainably	%	75.00	2014	79	0	0	
3	% of cross-border vertical axes to Egnatia motorway either constructed or with sufficient maturity to be con-structed.	%	80.41	2014	100	0	0	

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1	Volume of urban effluents under sec-ondary treatment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Percentage of solid waste managed sustainably	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	% of cross-border vertical axes to Egnatia motorway either constructed or with sufficient maturity to be con-structed.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Priority axis	Priority axis 2 Boosting the Local Economy
Thematic priority	g - Enhancing competitiveness, the business environment and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, trade and investment through, inter alia, promotion and support to entrepreneurship, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, and development of local cross-border markets and internationalisation.

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators – Priority axis 2.Specific Objectives 1 and 2

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2018	Observations
F	CO04	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	450	0	Project has not produced any results. Target Values have been redefined and approved under the 2 nd modification of the Programme.
S	CO04	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	450	0	Project has not produced any results. Target Values have been redefined and approved under the 2 nd modification of the Programme.
F	CO09	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	visits	21.000	0	Project has not produced any results. Target Values have been redefined and approved under the 2 nd modification of the Programme.
S	CO09	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	visits	19.700	0	Project has not produced any results. Target Values have been redefined and approved under the 2 nd modification of the Programme.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO04	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	0	0	0	0
S	CO04	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	0	0	0	0
F	CO09	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	0	0	0	0
S	CO09	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	0	0	0	0

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	Priority axis 2 Boosting the Local Economy
Investment priority	g - Enhancing competitiveness, the business environment and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, trade and investment through, inter alia, promotion and support to entrepreneurship, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, and development of local cross-border markets and internationalisation.
Specific objective	2.2 - Improve cross-border capacity to support entrepreneurship, business survival and competitiveness

Table 1: Result indicators – Priority axis 2. Specific objective 2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
8	Active CB enterprises	%	72.08	2015	79,29	0	0	

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
8	Active CB enterprises	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Priority axis	Priority axis 2 Boosting the Local Economy
Investment priority	d - Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.
Specific objective	2.1 - Preserve cultural and natural resources as a prerequisite for tourism development of the cross border area

Table 1: Result indicators – Priority axis 2. Specific objective 1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
9	Annual overnight tourist stays of the cross border area	millions	9.00	2014	9,54	0	0	

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
9	Annual overnight tourist stays of the cross border area	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Priority axes for technical assistance

Priority axis	3. Technical Assistance
---------------	-------------------------

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 2. Technical Assistance

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2018	Observations
F	3	Not applicable	Not required	1	0	
S	3	Not applicable	Not required	1	0	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	3	Not applicable				
S	3	Not applicable				

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	3. Technical Assistance
Specific objective	3.1 – Effective implementation of the cooperation programme

Table 1: Result indicators – N+1.1.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
0	not applicable	no	0.00	0	0.00			

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
0	not applicable								

Not validated

3.3 Table 3: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone for 2018 total	Final target (2023) total	2018	Observations
1	O	K0101	Approved Projects	Number of projects	15		22	
1	O	CO34	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	Kwh/year	0	1,100,000.00	0	
1	O	CO21c	Kilometers of CB road network studied	km	0	30.00	0	
1	O	F0101	Eligible verified (certified) Expenditure of the Axis	Euro	1,000,000.00	31,152,837.00	275,791.92	The actual paid out expenditures until 31/12/2018 is 506,887.35 €
2	O	CO11	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	visits	0	21,000.00	0	
2	O	K0102	Approved Projects	Number of projects	10		24	
2	O	F0102	Eligible verified (certified) Expenditure of the Axis	Euro	1,000,000.00	18,692,694.00	212,411.42	The actual paid out expenditures until 31/12/2018 is 505,017.82 €

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2017	2016	2015	2014
1	O	K0101	Approved Projects	Number of projects	18	3	0	0
1	O	CO34	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	Kwh/year	0	0	0	0
1	O	CO21c	Kilometers of CB road network studied	km	0	0	0	0
1	O	F0101	Eligible verified (certified) Expenditure of the Axis	Euro	0	0	0	0
2	O	CO11	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	visits	0	0	0	0
2	O	K0102	Approved Projects	Number of projects	23	1	0	0
2	O	F0102	Eligible verified (certified) Expenditure of the Axis	Euro	0	0	0	0

3.4. Financial data

Table 4: Financial information at priority axis and programme level

As set out in Table 1 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and table 16 of model for cooperation programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal

Priority axis	Fund	Calculation basis	Total funding	Co-financing rate	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries	Number of operations selected	Total eligible expenditure incurred by beneficiaries and paid by 31/12/2018 and certified to the Commission
1	IPA	Public	31,152,837	85.00	27,560,341.02	88.47%	27,560,341.02	275,791.92	1.0%	22	275,791.92
2	IPA	Public	18,692,694	85.00	15,921,369.57	85.17%	15,921,369.57	212,411.42	1.33%	24	212,411.42
3	IPA	Public	4,231,203	85.00	4,231,203.00	100.00%	4,231,203.00	591,404.01	13.97%	2	591,404.01
Total	IPA		54,076,734	85.00	47,712,913.59	88.23%	47,712,913.59	1,079,607.35	2.26%	48	1,079,607.35
Grand total			54,076,734	85.00	47,712,913.59	88.23%	47,712,913.59	1,079,607.35	2.26%	48	1,079,607.35

Where applicable, the use of any contribution from third countries participating in the cooperation programme should be provided (for example IPA and ENI, Norway, Switzerland)

The Programme is financed by the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II) and national contributions of the participating countries.

Not validated

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

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

Priority axis	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic objective dimension	ESF secondary theme	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
1													
1	IPA	013	01	07	07	b		24	AL	736,672.69	736,672.69	9,950.62	5
1	IPA	013	01	07	07	b		24	EL132	357,222.50	357,222.50	11,431.64	
1	IPA	013	01	07	07	b		24	EL134	296,853.00	296,853.00	20,943.03	
1	IPA	013	01	07	07	b		24	EL211	182,259.65	182,259.65	0.00	
1	IPA	013	01	07	07	b		24	EL213	399,256.18	399,256.18	22,464.45	
1	IPA	013	01	07	07	b		24	EL214	236,921.60	236,921.60	0.00	
1	IPA	013	01	07	07	b		24	EL221	57,705.14	57,705.14	0.00	
1	IPA	013	01	07	07	b		24	EL222	353,000.00	353,000.00	0.00	
1	IPA	017	01	07	07	c		24	AL	1,024,641.69	1,024,641.69	6,946.28	4
1	IPA	017	01	07	07	c		24	EL131	211,917.71	211,917.71	5,643.97	
1	IPA	017	01	07	07	c		24	EL132	431,701.19	431,701.19	67,604.13	
1	IPA	017	01	07	07	c		24	EL134	302,901.83	302,901.83	48,179.44	
1	IPA	017	01	07	07	c		24	EL213	163,527.00	163,527.00	0.00	
1	IPA	017	01	07	07	c		24	EL214	306,871.80	306,871.80	0.00	
1	IPA	017	01	07	07	c		24	EL222	616,740.00	616,740.00	17,471.66	
1	IPA	018	01	07	07	c		24	AL	1,064,079.07	1,064,079.07	0.00	1
1	IPA	018	01	07	07	c		24	EL132	534,120.00	534,120.00	941.56	
1	IPA	018	01	07	07	c		24	EL134	101,049.21	101,049.21	11,553.46	
1	IPA	018	01	07	07	c		24	EL213	1,699,042.75	1,699,042.75	0.00	
1	IPA	018	01	07	07	c		24	EL222	472,020.00	472,020.00	0.00	
1	IPA	021	01	07	07	c		24	AL	2,299,348.22	2,299,348.22	59,260.40	3
1	IPA	021	01	07	07	c		24	EL132	257,424.80	257,424.80	46,514.68	
1	IPA	021	01	07	07	c		24	EL134	836,480.00	836,480.00	68,997.99	
1	IPA	021	01	07	07	c		24	EL212	164,215.12	164,215.12	0.00	
1	IPA	021	01	07	07	c		24	EL213	1,151,651.12	1,151,651.12	8,601.74	
1	IPA	021	01	07	07	c		24	EL222	1,220,440.00	1,220,440.00	12,631.55	
1	IPA	021	01	07	07	c		24	EL223	167,266	167,266	0.00	
1	IPA	022	01	07	07	c		24	AL	275,588.51	275,588.51	0.00	1
1	IPA	022	01	07	07	c		24	EL213	537,830.85	537,830.85	386.90	
1	IPA	030	01	07	07	c		24	AL	287,420.80	287,420.80	0.00	1
1	IPA	030	01	07	07	c		24	EL132	267,286.40	267,286.40	945.89	
1	IPA	030	01	07	07	c		24	EL134	290,990.85	290,990.85	700.00	
1	IPA	034	01	07	07	c		24	AL	2,486,686.50	2,486,686.50	0.00	2
1	IPA	034	01	07	07	c		24	EL211	715,922.50	715,922.50	11,532.00	
1	IPA	034	01	07	07	c		24	EL212	4,900,000.00	4,900,000.00	0.00	

Priority axis	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic objective dimension	ESF secondary theme	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
1	IPA	085	01	07	07	b		24	AL	404,125.30	404,125.30	15,458.72	3
1	IPA	085	01	07	07	b		24	EL211	115,810.00	115,810.00	0.00	
1	IPA	085	01	07	07	b		24	EL212	82,213.00	82,213.00	24,781.06	
1	IPA	085	01	07	07	b		24	EL213	330,183.42	330,183.42	0.00	
1	IPA	085	01	07	07	b		24	EL221	193,000.00	193,000.00	8,739.50	
1	IPA	085	01	07	07	b		24	EL222	70,000.00	70,000.00	0.00	
1	IPA	085	01	07	07	b		24	EL223	52,000.00	52,000.00	0.00	
1	IPA	088	01	07	07	b		24	AL	234,486.11	234,486.11	8,190.61	2
1	IPA	088	01	07	07	b		24	EL134	51,987.00	51,987.00	1,442.70	
1	IPA	088	01	07	07	b		24	EL213	378,818.74	378,818.74	13,767.37	
1	IPA	088	01	07	07	b		24	EL222	240,662.77	240,662.77	16,228.66	
2													
2	IPA	066	01	07	07	d		24	EL222	126,514.72	126,514.72		
2	IPA	066	01	07	07	g		24	AL	679,879.39	679,879.39	8,038.92	4
2	IPA	066	01	07	07	g		24	EL131	279,110.00	279,110.00	37,996.81	
2	IPA	066	01	07	07	g		24	EL132	107,680.00	107,680.00	2,588.76	
2	IPA	066	01	07	07	g		24	EL134	193,890.11	193,890.11	0.00	
2	IPA	066	01	07	07	g		24	EL213	732,184.66	732,184.66	23,493.22	
2	IPA	067	01	07	07	g		24	AL	1,141,573.53	1,141,573.53	72,994.37	5
2	IPA	067	01	07	07	g		24	EL132	844,739.27	844,739.27	45,032.74	
2	IPA	067	01	07	07	g		24	EL211	245,946.97	245,946.97	5,084.48	
2	IPA	067	01	07	07	g		24	EL213	444,840.46	444,840.46	1,025.90	
2	IPA	067	01	07	07	g		24	EL222	196,336.87	196,336.87	31,895.13	
2	IPA	094	01	07	07	d		24	AL	3,582,254.25	3,582,254.25	179,736.78	15
2	IPA	094	01	07	07	d		24	EL131	554,905.50	554,905.50	0.00	
2	IPA	094	01	07	07	d		24	EL132	1,407,343.07	1,407,343.07	4,591.76	
2	IPA	094	01	07	07	d		24	EL134	137,119.14	137,119.14	0.00	
2	IPA	094	01	07	07	d		24	EL213	3,710,942.08	3,710,942.08	60,113.81	
2	IPA	094	01	07	07	d		24	EL221	100,703.10	100,703.10	0.00	
2	IPA	094	01	07	07	d		24	EL222	1,184,750.00	1,184,750.00	9,617.00	
2	IPA	094	01	07	07	d		24	EL223	168,291.20	168,291.20	0.00	
3													
3	IPA	121	01	07	07			24	AL	1,270,700.00	1,270,700.00	236,409.44	1
3	IPA	121	01	07	07			24	EL	2,369,903.00	2,369,903.00	260,331.10	
3	IPA	122	01	07	07			24	AL	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	IPA	122	01	07	07			24	EL	271,000.00	271,000.00	8,729.45	
3	IPA	123	01	07	07			24	AL	47,200.00	47,200.00	27,050.81	
3	IPA	123	01	07	07			24	EL	272,400.00	272,400.00	58,883.19	

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

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

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

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

4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

The evaluation report of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme Greece – Albania 2014-2020 was carried out for the period from 31/12/2017 till 31/12/2018, by an External Evaluator according to the framework established by the evaluation plan. Five deliverables were submitted to the MA/JS.

The first deliverable was concerning the Evaluation Methodology. The second and third deliverables were concerning the 1st and 2nd Evaluation Report. Finally the fourth deliverable was the Final Evaluation report and the fifth was the updated Final Evaluation report.

The purpose of the evaluation report was to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the programme management system, as well as to set the ground for the future direction of the impact evaluations to be carried out after 2018.

In this framework and in order to provide additional data, the External Evaluator performed the desk research to the relevant literature i.e. the Interact Terms of References and guidelines, the Management and Control System of the Programme, the MIS and Evaluation studies of other Interreg Programmes, but also proceeded to qualitative primary research by conducting an online survey by using Google Docs forms.

The objective of the online survey was to produce and provide qualitative data about the implementation of the Programme by mapping and analyzing the perceptions, views and suggestions of the programme authorities as well as the beneficiaries involved in the actions and implementation of the Cooperation Programme.

For the purposes of the online Survey tailored semi-structured questionnaires were developed through the “Google Docs Forms” online tool. The questionnaire addressed different groups of respondents i.e. (a) Applicants/Beneficiaries of approved and rejected project proposals of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme “Greece – Albania 2014-2020” and (b) Programme Authorities/JMC Members. The link for the online survey for group (a) was sent electronically to 162 Beneficiaries and potential Beneficiaries from which 104 are based in Greece and 58 are based in Albania. The link for the online survey for group (b) was sent electronically to 45 Programme Authorities and JMC Members from which 32 Greek and 13 Albanian.

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

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

An overview on the current status of the INTERREG IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme “Greece – Albania 2014 – 2020” and the progress made the last 12 months, could help us understand the accumulated momentum of the Programme towards reaching its set objectives.

The INTERREG IPA CBC Programme “Greece – Albania 2014 – 2020” has been amended twice, since its primary approval on 30/07/2015 by EC’s Decision C(2015)5482. The 1st amendment -approved by Decision C(2017)6809 of 12.10.2017- concerned the adoption and the incorporation of the “Performance Framework” in the programming document, plus some further elaboration on the Complaints Procedures. With its 2nd amendment - approved by Decision C(2018)559 of 14.02.2018- which concerned the incorporation of an additional funding of €10.000.000 EU contribution, the total new Budget of the Programme reached the amount of 54.076.734€, while the initially approved was 42.312.029€.

Four (4) Calls have already been launched: one Call for Strategic project proposals, closed on 16/05/2016; one Call for Ordinary project proposals, closed on 14/10/2016; one Targeted Call for project proposal, closed on 01/10/2018 and one Call for Ordinary project proposals, launched on 17/10/2018.

The percentage of the activation of the Programme, in terms of the launched budget of the Calls for Proposals, in relation to the Programme’s new budget is about 82,22%.

Forty-six (46) projects have been approved by the JMC of the Programme congregating in the two Priority Axes (excluding Technical Assistance) in a balanced manner. On Priority Axis 1 ‘Promotion of the environment sustainable transport & public infrastructure’ 22 projects have been approved and on Priority Axis 2 ‘Boosting the local economy’ another 24 projects.

The percentage of the activation of the Programme, in terms of the budget of the approved projects, in relation to the Programme’s new budget is around 87,38%.

Technical meetings with all the beneficiaries of the 46 approved projects have taken place for the finalization of the project documents. Following the submission of the final documents by the Lead Beneficiaries, the respective subsidy contracts have been signed during 2018. Four (4) Info-days on Project Implementation have been organized. All projects have now entered their implementation phase. In the meantime, their kick-off meetings have already taken place.

All Greek beneficiaries have been registered to the Public Investments Programme and all administrative procedures for the smooth financing of their activities have taken place. The Albanian beneficiaries have already submitted their requests for the payment of the pre-financing amount, and are receiving the relative amounts via their Lead Beneficiaries.

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

Prior to that, a performance framework has been defined for the Programme, in accordance with Annex II of CPR Regulation. The Performance Framework monitors the achievement of milestones, which has been set for each priority. This facilitates the monitoring of the progress towards the attainment of the priorities’ relevant objectives and targets.

The 1st amendment of the Programme adopted and incorporated the “Performance Framework” in the programming document. The Performance Framework sets different kind of targets, such as output indicators, approved projects and verified expenditures, in two time points during the lifetime of the Programme; 2018 and 2023, for the first two priority axes.

The milestones for the year 2018 foresee a financial indicator and an implementation indicator.

The first reporting of milestones was generated for the current year.

Regarding the implementation indicator (Number of approved projects) the set target has been achieved and

exceeded in both axes.

Regarding the financial indicator (Eligible verified Expenditure of the Axis) the set target has not been achieved in neither axes. The target of the performance framework was not reached due to following reasons:

1. The most important factor was the delay of signing of subsidy contracts due to the issues regarding the adaptation and implementation of the Practical Guide to Contract Procedures for EU External Actions (PRAG) by Greek Beneficiaries. Once a decision was reached the implementation of the projects was accelerated.
2. Another reason was the delay in the development of the Programme's MIS. With regards to the e-cohesion monitoring tool, the full version of the Monitoring Tool was released on Q2/2018, leveraging the complete e-cohesion requirements fulfilment.
3. Finally, another reason was the delay of the opening of the bank accounts by the Albanian beneficiaries. Following the close cooperation between the Albanian authorities, the problem was overcome by the end of 2018.

Implementation of the Programme for the year 2018:

4th Call for Project Proposals: The 4th call for project proposals is open for both Priority Axis and for two (2) related Specific Objectives of the programme, namely: 1.3 Increase energy-efficiency and the use of RES & 2.1 Preserve cultural and natural resources as a prerequisite for tourism development of the cross border area

The total available budget for the 4th call is 9.000.000,00 €.

Seven (7) Technical Meetings were organized during 2018:

Three (3) Technical Meetings concerned the **3rd Targeted Call** for Project Proposals. They involved the project beneficiaries, MA and JS and the major issue was the finalization and launching of the call and the final budget of the project (after approval).

One (1) Technical Meeting concerned the **evaluation plan and expert**. It involved the expert contracted, MA and JS and the main issue was the description and analysis of the evaluation plan and procedure.

One (1) Technical Meeting concerned the **First Level Control**. It involved the people involved in both procedures from MA, JS and Albania. The major issue concerned the description of the procedures to be followed in each case for the proper implementation of the programme.

One (1) Technical Meeting was between JS, MA and National Authorities of the Programme, in order to discuss the launching of the **5th call** for project proposals.

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

In terms of **communication activities**, the Programme participated in the celebration of the **European Cooperation Day (EC-DAY)** for 2018. The activity implemented was titled "For a world full of colours" and was in line with the theme adopted by Interact on "Painting our Future Together". The activity involved the pupils of Konitsa and took place at the Central Municipal Library of Konitsa. The pupils were informed about what EU does and the benefits of EU and the Programme in their area. More than 100 pupils participated in the event. Cotton Bags and drawing material were distributed to the participants, as part of the effort.

'E-Cohesion'

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

1. on the electronic exchange of information between beneficiaries and management and control bodies (i.e. enabling reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries)
2. on the facilitation of interoperability between National and Union legal frameworks, while allowing

beneficiaries to submit once all information related to the electronic data exchange (i.e. enabling electronic data exchange on programme implementation level)

The Managing Authority was in close cooperation with the Special Service of MIS, and finalized the electronic system that fulfills the requirements concerning “E-Cohesion” in relation to all European territorial cooperation (INTERREG) Programmes.

Within 2018, all necessary actions have been taken in order to ensure that MIS is covers specific features of INTERREG Programmes 2014-2020. At present the Management Information System (MIS) supports the performance of all the procedures including electronic data exchange among the relevant Authorities / bodies (Beneficiaries , Managing Authority / Joint Secretariat, National Authorities, Certifying Authority, Audit Authority, European Commission). The MIS for European Territorial Cooperation Programmes is considered adequate and in place.

Not validated

(b) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, otherwise it will be included in point 9.1. An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate.

--

Not validated

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

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

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

Not validated

Not validated

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

8.1. Major projects

No major projects are implemented in the Programme.

Table 7: Major projects

Project	CCI	Status of MP	Total investments	Total eligible costs	Planned notification/submission date	Date of tacit agreement/ approval by Commission	Planned start of implementation	Planned completion date	Priority Axis/ Investment priorities	Current state of realisation — financial progress (% of expenditure certified to Commission compared to total eligible cost)	Current state of realisation — physical progress Main implementation stage of the project	Main outputs	Date of signature of first works contract (1)	Observations

(1) In the case of operations implemented under PPP structures the signing of the PPP contract between the public body and the private sector body (Article 102(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).

Significant problems encountered in implementing major projects and measures taken to overcome them

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

8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

No joint action plans are implemented in this Programme.
--

Not validated

Table 8: Joint action plans (JAP)

Title of the JAP	CCI	Stage of implementation of JAP	Total eligible costs	Total public support	OP contribution to JAP	Priority axis	Type of JAP	[Planned] submission to the Commission	[Planned] start of implementation	[Planned] completion	Main outputs and results	Total eligible expenditure certified to the Commission	Observations

Not validated

Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

--

Not validated

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

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

Priority axis	1 - Promotion of the environment sustainable transport & public infrastructure
---------------	--

During 2018, nineteen (19) projects signed the respective contracts and were officially able to start with project implementation. Taking into consideration the delays in the funding / pre-funding and the procurement procedures, project results are still not available, hence the respective indicators are not yet achieved. Nonetheless, given the size and the character of the approved projects, it is obvious that project outputs and results will certainly contribute to the indicators and objectives of the Programme.

Priority axis	2 - Boosting the Local Economy
---------------	--------------------------------

During 2018, twenty three (23) projects signed the respective contracts and were officially able to start with project implementation. Taking into consideration the delays in the funding/ pre-funding and the procurement procedures, project results are still not available, hence the respective indicators are not yet achieved. Nonetheless, given the size and the character of the approved projects, it is obvious that project outputs and results will certainly contribute to the indicators and objectives of the Programme.

Priority axis	3 – Technical Assistance
---------------	--------------------------

Technical Assistance has started implementation, but there are no respective indicators required.

9.2. Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (d) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of specific actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, including accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations

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

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

- Programme actions/ Information and Publicity:

First of all the Programme's Communication Overall Strategy has been finalized after consultations with the National Federation for Disabled Persons (GR), in order to be proactive and to insist on the respect and application of the conditions foreseen. As stated in the strategy "The Member States will ensure that equality between men and women and the integration of the gender perspective is promoted during the various stages of implementation of the Funds and any discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation will be avoided. Special attention will be given to providing women as well as people with disabilities living in the eligible border region with equal opportunity to access to information. The Programme's web site to be established will include special features to support people whose eyesight is damaged. In case of organising publicity events – information session, seminars, workshops, and conferences - the venue of the event will be chosen in a way that direct access to people in wheelchairs will be possible, in order to enable their participation. In some cases special services may be needed to enable people with disabilities to access to information. For example deaf people may require interpretation, while blind or physically handicapped people may require personal assistance during events. The invitation for these events will include a question whether the participant needs any assistance and if yes, what kind of. Assistance to disabled people during information events will be organised and such support services will be financed under the TA budget".

The revised Communication Strategy of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme "Greece – Albania 2014 – 2020" was approved during the 2nd JMC Meeting in Igoumenitsa, Greece (11/2016). No additional revisions were made in 2018.

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

*All the events of the programme for the year 2018 were organized in locations/ buildings that allowed for un-prohibited access to people with disabilities.

*Through the implementation Information and Publicity Guide, the project beneficiaries will be obliged to respect the conditions not only on the accessibility of disabled persons, but also the respect of

equality between men and women and non-discrimination on all aspects of project implementation; information and publicity actions, but also procurements, recruitment procedures, etc. All these obligations are explicitly stated in the 'Information and Publicity Guide' which states clearly: "The objective of non-discrimination refers to the prohibition of any discrimination based on any ground such as sex, race, color, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation. Article 19 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU provides the legal base for EU legislation combating discrimination. Moreover, Article 7 of Regulation 1303/2013 refers to the promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination. Besides the legal obligations, there is a strong economic argument, also linked to the achievement of the Europe 2020 targets, to work towards a more equal and diverse society as demonstrated by a wide range of studies, including by the OECD. Hence, mainstreaming gender and non-discrimination on project level and particularly in communication strategy is a key factor in successful dissemination of project results.

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

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

Examples of promoting accessible and inclusive communication at project level:

- Accessibility of venues: Make sure that any conference/seminar/meeting rooms or other venues are accessible and reachable.
- Accessibility of information material: Some audiences may need alternate formats in order to benefit from the information to be shared, such as larger print, tactile or oral formats for people who are blind or visually impaired. Others may need a modification of the content in order to make use of the information. People with cognitive and developmental disabilities present a widely varied audience whose individual members may benefit from modified content, as well as alternate formats.
- Accessibility of information on the Web: Many of the suggestions presented to make printed materials more readable and comprehensible can also be applied to documents that are presented on the World Wide Web. Multi-media files on the Web can help reinforce the printed words. For example, an audio version can be provided, where the words are read aloud.

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

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

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

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

Not validated

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

Calculated amount of support to be used for climate change objectives based on the cumulative financial data by category of intervention in Table 7

Priority axis	Amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)	Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)
Total	5.081.604,22	9,26

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

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

Since these projects are still at their initial phase of implementation, there are no specific results to report.

9.5 Role of partners in the implementation of the cooperation programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 1, (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the role of partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, including involvement of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperation programme

During 2018, project beneficiaries participated in the info-days organised to inform them on the issues of project implementation. They also signed the contracts and other related documents.

Since the evaluation of the Programme was also initiated in 2018, project beneficiaries had the opportunity to evaluate the Programme itself and express their view and comments. They filled in a targeted questionnaire and the results will be soon available.

Finally, the potential beneficiaries had the opportunity to participate in the info-days organised for the promotion and raise-awareness of the 4th Call for Project Proposals, which was launched in November 2018.

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

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

In the framework of the evaluation plan five deliverables were submitted.

The 1st deliverable regards the evaluation methodology. The purpose of the evaluation methodology was to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the programme implementation with the main focus on the baselines of 31/12/2017 and 31/12/2018.

Indicative evaluation questions that the methodology addressed were:

- How efficient and effective are the programme structures?
- How efficient and effective are the programme procedures?
- At what level has the simplification and harmonisation been achieved?
- What is the progress of the programme towards achieving Programme result and output indicators?
- What is the progress made in the implementation of the communication strategy?

In addition the following features linked to the first implementation period of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme Greece – Albania 2014-2020 were assessed:

- Programme management
- progress of Programme implementation
- results of the first and second call for strategic and ordinary projects
- communication strategy
- integrated Territorial Investments

The 2nd, 3rd and 4th deliverable was the evaluation report of the Programme. Main conclusions are the following:

1. The vast majority of beneficiaries participated in the survey expressed their satisfaction with the submission procedures and forms, although there was a small percentage declared that there is still some room for improvement. Regarding the project cycle - as far as project application and selection procedures are concerned –there had been no major programme implementation problems.

2. MA and JS are fully functional and staffed. All units within MA/JS are operational and cooperative. Also, they have specialized experience and know-how to successfully manage the Programme. MA/JS and its experienced staff have close and supporting working relations with all programme levels and authorities.

3. Risk Assessment and Management tool is in place and used by the MA taking into consideration all the factors that arise from the interior and exterior environment. Risk Assessment and Management guidelines adopt the respective findings/results so as to be in line with the Anti – Fraud Strategy.

4. The decision-making process within the JMC is considered clear and transparent however, some it has to be mentioned – while most of the JMC members are satisfied - there was just one JMC member declared its dissatisfaction.

5. As far as the communication actions are concerned, beneficiaries underlined the ineffective presence of

the Programme in the social media and referred the “info-days” and the “FAQs” as the most common method of communication during the call for proposals.

6. Also, positive can be considered the overlook on policy sectors targeted by the selected projects and types of participants, in term of coherence and consistency with the Programme priorities and with the common and Programme specific results and outputs indicators. Furthermore, the selected projects seem to match with the integration and multi-perspective approach to the local development overall approach of the Cooperation Programme.

The fifth (5th) deliverable was the updated evaluation report of the Programme. Apart from the above additional findings are the following:

- Concerning the effectiveness and the efficiency of submission procedures and forms, it should be mentioned that as a result of the survey, the almost 70% of group (a) respondents declared their satisfaction while almost an 8% declared as extremely satisfied.
- The document on Project Selection Criteria, gave a clear picture of the selection procedure, bodies involved, selection rules and selection criteria, so that beneficiaries were kept well informed about the assessment process and transparency was ensured.
- The Management Information System (MIS) supports the performance of all the procedures including electronic data exchange among the relevant Authorities / bodies (Beneficiaries, Managing Authority / Joint Secretariat, National Authorities, Certifying Authority, Audit Authority, European Commission). It is considered adequate and in place. The decision-making process within the JMC is considered clear and transparent by almost the 81% of group (b) respondents.
- The vast majority of respondents to the survey expressed their satisfaction with their cooperation with MA / JS executives. This is supported by the fact that all the Authorities are sufficiently staffed and also, they have specialized experience and expertise to successfully manage the Programme.
- Assessing communication strategy activities implemented so far, it seems that a positive effort has been made. As far as the communication actions are concerned, we should mention a contradiction between the quantitative data reviewed from the social media pages followers and traffic – which seemed to have been increased within 2018 - and the fact that the majority of the sample of group (a) prefers to be informed by the Programme’s website and referred the “info-days” and the “FAQs” as the most common method of communication during the call for proposals.
- Given the size and the character of the approved projects, it is obvious that project outputs and results certainly contribute to the indicators and the objectives of the Programme.

In this frame it seems necessary to consider thoroughly the way of projects implementation and to identify possible bottlenecks, through the following **recommendations**.

- Better structuring and consistency of the applicant’s package – tools such as the application form and the Specification of Budget form¹.
- Reducing the administrative burden for project implementation - There are a number of suggestions for improvement, for example, with extensive administrative verifications (first level control) to be replaced by risk-based verifications on beneficiary’s expenditure.

¹ It should be mentioned that at the time of the drafting the present report the comments and proposals on the design of these tools/forms has been taken into account, as the submission procedure is done now through online through the MIS.

- Harmonization of eligibility rules should be further strengthened.
- Needs and benefits to use modern communication tools (e.g. Skype, Webinar software) should be further explored, live Webinars to better advise applicants on a daily basis in a resource-efficient manner. Concerning social media, an analysis of target groups could be done in order to understand their most preferred social media tools to keep informed.
- The MA/JS should organise Info Days more often in accordance with the recognised needs to efficiently and effectively address identified issues also in the programme implementation.

Not validated

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

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

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

No revision of the Communication Strategy was made during 2018.

This report covers the year 2018, which was a rather active year in terms of communication activities.

The total number of the projects approved under the calls previously launched and evaluated was 41.

A set of info-days was organised in June 2018, in order to inform the beneficiaries of the approved projects on the obligations, rights and responsibilities that stem from the participation in a project and are required for the fruitful project implementation.

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

Output indicators:

INDICATOR	IND. TARGET VALUE	VALUE ACHIEVED BY 31/12/2018	COMMENTS
Number of events		8	EC Day 2018 4 Info-days on Proj. Implementation 3 Info-days on 4 th Call
Number of participants		432	EC Day 2018: 100 4 info-days on Proj. Implementation: 215 3 info-days on 4 th Call: 117
Number of articles Website		61	Articles/ News: 50 Events: 11 (including those organised by the MA)
Number of Social Media Posts		160	Facebook: - Posts: 47 - Followers: 348 -People reached (average): 500 Twitter: - Posts: 93 - Followers: 150 Linked in:

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Posts: 20 - Followers: 166 - Connections: 158 <p>More than 100 % improvement.</p>
Types of Communication Material Produced		11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laser Pen: 50 USB: 80 USB Hub: 100 Pen: 500 Post-it booklet: 80 Raincoat ball: 250 Non-woven bags: 250 Wireless mouse: 80 Notepads: 300 Power bank: 80 Buff: 250

Result Indicators:

INDICATOR	IND. TARGET VALUE	VALUE ACHIEVED BY 31/12/2018	COMMENTS
Raised awareness about the programme and its funding opportunities among potential beneficiaries		+50%	This reflects the average raise in the users/followers of all our electronic material. Unfortunately, the people informed by the participants in the events cannot be measured.
Raised awareness about project outputs and programme results		+20%	Through the EC Day, a significant community was informed through children, who are considered as the best multiplier.
Improved knowledge about procedures for applying/ claiming funding		332 (+ 100% before these were the first in this programming period)	Through the participation in the programme's info-days. If we consider the fact that usually one person represents a body, the number might be higher considering the multiplier effect. In addition, we have to consider also the seminars organised by the MA on Funding, MIS

			(apply) and procurement procedures and tools.
Increased Capacity for effective project implementation		117 (+ 100% before these were the first in this programming period)	Through the participation in the programme's info-days. If we consider the fact that usually one person represents a body, the number might be higher considering the multiplier effect. In addition, we have to consider also the seminars organised by the MA on Funding, MIS (apply) and procurement procedures and tools.
Raised Satisfaction with the information provided within Programme among potential beneficiaries			

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

- 1st stage (2015-2016): General Information about the Programme (inaugural event) → achieved with the organisation of the Programme's launching event in 2015.

- 2nd stage (2016 – 2020): Creation of an opinion about the Programme and its actions among the various target audiences, easy access to particular actions and to the opportunities that it offers, creation of a disposition to participate in the financing opportunities → this stage is ongoing. Several events contribute to this stage: Info-days and EC Day

More analytically:

- Hoisting of the EU Flag on May 9
- Implementation of/ Participation in annual activities (EC Day, TenTDays)
- Widespread use of the Internet
- Publication and distribution of special information guides
- Systematic Organisation of thematic meetings and seminars with the potential beneficiaries (info-days for the application procedure and documents for the 2 calls for proposals)
- Utilisation of available information networks to approach potential beneficiaries (the events were announced in the website and local/ regional newspapers)

The goals of the 2nd stage have been achieved mainly during the organisation of the EC-Day for 2017. It is important to stress though, that this stage is on-going, as the Programme's resources have not been fully activated yet.

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

- 3rd stage (2020-2023): Dissemination of the results and benefits achieved → this stage has not started

yet, because the projects are not fully implemented, thus no results are produced yet. Nevertheless, it is estimated to start earlier through the participation in thematic events and future EC Day events.

Specific quality issues on the implementation of information and publicity measures

Corporate identity and key visuals

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

Target audience: beneficiaries vs other target groups

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

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

Appropriate, coherent and effective communication tools

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

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

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

Is the Programme's media outreach satisfactory?

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

Key steps for the future:

- Annual Communication Plan: the annual information on communication activities provided to the members of the JMC has evolved into a detailed Annual Operational Communication

Plan, including an annual budget for communication. This could help the Communication Officer of the JS to question the impact of the previous year's activities and to adapt the strategy according to the changing needs.

- Extend communication to "external" target groups: Media and press, mainly at local and regional level, opinion formers, decision makers, beneficiaries of other EU Programmes and European Institutions and the wider public should be reached in a more "aggressive" way.
- Avoid the use of acronyms and specialized terminology in the publications, news or website.
- Incorporate messages throughout the Programme's communications; in introductions, subheadings, quotes and in newsletters, brochures, publications, and website. The Programme should take advantage of the impact delivered by the constant repetition of key words and slogans.
- Exploitation of local media: Initiate a series of featured stories by local journalists, which could be uploaded in the Programme's website and social media profiles. Stories should be written in the local language and translated in English, creating a pool of features on the Programme's impact. Articles could highlight the contribution of the EU to the regions development.
- Territory evokes place and cooperation evokes people: choose visual elements that convey a message.
- Storytelling creates and identity of the Programme and conveys the message that this is what territorial cooperation is about: working on the ground, improving real people's lives and environment.
- Closer networking with beneficiaries from a communication perspective: Clear information and publicity rules & guidelines for beneficiaries are already published. Additionally, all communication tools that can be of interest to an external audience can be promoted on the websites of the national, regional and local authorities that participate to the Programme.
- Social media represent low-cost tools that are used to combine technology and social interaction with the use of words. Social media shall give the Programme a voice and a way to communicate with peers, potential beneficiaries and the general public. They offer the opportunity to reach the widest audience and they are seen as a tool for raising awareness. Social media provide a platform for generating interaction with present and potential beneficiaries as well as with relevant stakeholders, while at the same time they contribute to the efforts to spread the Programme's message in a relaxed and conversational way. The Programme's social media profiles are active since January 2017 active in Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram.

Conclusion

The assessment concluded that the Communication Strategy is being implemented in a way guided by the need for Programme activation and acceleration. The implementation of the Communication Strategy could be respectively characterized as very satisfactory, since the first implementation stage has been fully implemented and the second implementation stage is still ongoing, though implemented in its biggest part. The third stage is estimated to start earlier than initially considered.

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

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

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

--

Not validated

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

--

Not validated

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

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

The Interreg IPA CBC Programme "Greece-Albania 2014-2020" conforms to the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR). More specifically, it contributes to the above strategy as follows:

PA1 contributes directly to the thematic pillars 2 and 3 by creating transport, water and waste management infrastructure and by supporting actions for the protection of the environment and for risk prevention.

PA2 contributes directly to the 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 directly to the 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. 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 and development in the productive process.

The project CB RAILWAY, approved under the 2nd Call for Project Proposals, is already a labelled EUSAIR project. CB RAILWAY corresponds to Pillar 2 - Connecting the Region and topic 2 "Intermodal Connections". Another project labelled EUSAIR is MOBILITY ON THE IONIAN COAST (COMOBILION). COMOBILION corresponds to topic Pillar 2 - Connecting the Region.

- EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)
- EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)
- EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)
- Atlantic Sea Basin Strategy (ATLSBS)

11.4 Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation

--

Not validated

13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

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

Project implementation is initiated, but the projects have not reached any results yet. Consequently, no achievement on smart, sustainable and inclusive growth has been defined.

Nevertheless, there are projects allocated to the respective Capitalisation Network of Interact, related to this issue:

- Business Clubs
- 4ALL
- 4PLUS

Not validated

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

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

The performance framework of the programme sets 4 milestones in total; two per each Priority Axis:

- Number of approved Projects
The total number of approved projects is forty five 48 along with the technical assistance
- Certified Expenditures
Certified expenditures within 2018 sums up to 488.203,34 € (WITHOUT INCLUDING THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ECERTIFIED EXPENSES)

The target of the performance framework was not reached due to important reasons.

One important factor is the delay of signing of subsidy contracts. The delay was due to the issues regarding the adaptation and implementation of the Practical Guide to Contract Procedures for EU External Actions (PRAG) by Greek Beneficiaries. Once a decision was reached the implementation of the projects was accelerated.

More specifically, the most important hazard was the legal framework for tendering procedures -which has to be followed by Greek partners- which had not been finalized and was pending for roughly a year. This obstruction was reflected in two risks, and had a direct negative operating effect in the starting of the implementation of the strategic projects. As long as the problem was not solved, the commencement of the contracting process for both the 1st (strategic projects) and 2nd (common projects) Calls was lagging behind. This risk ceased to exist only after the first months of 2018.

Another reason is the mandatory use of two new electronic platforms MIS and E-PDE (for Greek beneficiaries only). These two platforms are considered as a prerequisite for implementation. Nevertheless both were considered operational within 2018.

The delay in the development of the Programme's MIS was a horizontal issue. With regards to the e-cohesion monitoring tool, the full version of the Monitoring Tool was released on Q2/2018, leveraging the complete e-cohesion requirements fulfilment.

Finally, another reason is the delay of the opening of the bank accounts by the Albanian beneficiaries in order to be able to submit the relevant requests and to receive the pre-financing. It is important to be mentioned that only 67,695.20€ was received by the Albanian beneficiaries by the end of 2018 (end of December) as a pre-financing.

Last but not least, another significant reason, which was a consequence of the above three risks, was the delay in the financing of the beneficiaries of the projects.

Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
----------------	---------------	---------------	-----------------	----------------------	-------	-----------	---------

Not validated

Latest validation results

Severity	Code	Message
----------	------	---------

Not validated