

Implementation Report for IPA II Cross-Border PART A

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

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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.

This brief overview refers on the progress made for the INTERREG IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme “Greece – Albania 2014 – 2020”, from 1/1/2019 until 31/12/2019. This year was very significant in terms of both programme and projects’ implementation. Major issues were tackled and very significant challenges were confronted during this period. The foremost actions that were implemented during the year 2019 are the following:

- *Final consultations for the drafting of the 5th Targeted Call for Project Proposals concerning risk management and forest fires. The call was launched in 25 November 2019 with a deadline at the beginning of 2020 (The deadline was extended from “24/01/2020” to “24/02/2020”).*
- *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. Start of using the MIS system for the submission of the Progress Reports.*
- *Albanian beneficiaries continued to receive the 20% of EU funds as pre-financing, following the completion of all the administrative procedures.*
- *The tendering procedures for the Greek beneficiaries ran satisfactorily, as they were given the possibility to follow the national legal framework.*
- *Approval of 19 projects for funding under the 4th Call for Project Proposals by the Joint Monitoring Committee, on 20th & 21st June 2019.*
- *Registration of Greek beneficiaries participating under the 4th Call to the Public Investments Fund.*
- *Consultation and cooperation on FLC issues between the authorities of the two participating countries.*
- *Specification and Implementation of strategies on risk management and anti-fraud.*
- *Continuous support to the project beneficiaries in order to speed up and implement their actions in the best possible way.*
- *Monitoring and granting of approval of projects’ modifications, mainly on the extension of the duration of the projects.*
- *Events in 2019:*
 - *1 Communication Seminar in Ioannina (Greece)*
 - *EC Day 2019 concerning Treasure Hunting - Two treasure Hunts took place in the Programme’s eligible area; one in Greece and one in Albania.*
 - *1 JMC Meeting in Berat, Albania for the approval of projects*
 - *6 Technical Meetings took place concerning smooth project implementation*
- *The External Evaluator of the Programme submitted the 2nd Deliverable: 1st Evaluation Report and 3rd Deliverable: 2nd Evaluation Report and the 4th Deliverable: Final Evaluation Report, in January 2019, and the 5th Deliverable: the Final Evaluation Report, in May 2019. Monitoring of the deliverables of the external expert responsible for the evaluation of the Programme, according to the contract terms.*
- *Extracting of the sample of the tenders and the contracts to be checked for the year 2019 for the Greek beneficiaries. Pre-tendering and pre-contacting checks according to the methodology of the management and control system*
- *Uploading of Programme’s financial data and payment forecasts to the SFC, according to the Regulations.*
- *Five (5) Payment Requests have been submitted during 2019 by the Certifying Authority with a total amount of 2,414,119.02€.*
- *The rate of the total allocation covered with selected projects is 121,81% (+20,20% for PA1 and +29,42% for PA2).*
- *The rate of the expenditures declared by the beneficiaries is 5,46% (+4,02% for PA1, +3,99% for PA2 and 22,57% for PA3).*

- *the main steps taken to address the delays in implementation were:*
 - **pre-financing** of the Albanian beneficiaries
 - *finalisation of the procedure by the Ministry of Finance*
 - *draft a manual with analytical steps to be followed by the Albanian beneficiaries*
 - *info days in order for the beneficiaries to be informed*
 - **liquidity** of the Greek beneficiaries
 - *all Greek beneficiaries have been registered to the (Hellenic) Public Investments Programme*
 - *all administrative procedures for the smooth financing of their activities have taken place.*
 - **unavailability of First Level Controllers in Greece** due to the limitation of the verifications each controller can perform each year according to Ministerial decision
 - *Consultations have taken place and the above limitation is about to be abolished with a relevant Ministerial decision*
 - **change in the structure of the Greek educational system**, where by the Technological Educational Institutions were absorbed by the Universities,
 - *all necessary administrative procedures for the changes in the projects partnerships was concluded.*
 - *all necessary administrative procedures for the smooth financing of the new beneficiaries was concluded.*
 - *Extensive adaptation of the Monitoring Information System (MIS) of the Programme, in order to ensure fulfilment of regulatory requirements and upgraded electronic management on both project and programme level.*
- *The launching of the 5th Targeted Call for proposals was on 25/11/2019 (The deadline was extended from “24/01/2020” to “24/02/2020”). Any delay on the launching of the call was due to the consultation face that took place in Albania regarding the beneficiaries to participate, the actions to be implemented and the finalization of the partnership under this targeted call.*
- *The liquidity / pre-financing issues of the Albanian beneficiaries, despite the fact that the procedure for the implementation of the pre-financing was finalised by the Ministry of Finance of Albania at the beginning of 2019, the procedure itself is very complicated and still causing huge delays.*
- *Unrealistic estimation of the time needed for the preparation and implementation of the **tendering procedures and low quality** of internal partnership coordination, communication and cooperation*
 - - *Info Days on project implementation*
 - *Close contact and cooperation with the beneficiaries by the Managing Authority, Joint Secretariat and the FLCs*
 - *Technical meetings and on the spot visits with the projects.*

(cont. to: 4-Synthesis of the Evaluations)

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

3.1 Overview of the implementation

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
1	Promotion of the environment sustainable transport & public infrastructure	<p>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 22 projects that were approved in this PA in the previous years, six (6) more projects, whose acronyms are: (1)SOLIS - (2)G.A.M.E.S. - (3)GOAL nZEBs – (4)nZCom – (5)SMENSWICT – (6)TARGET, were approved in 2019.</p> <p>The subsidy contracts of these 6 projects have been also signed during 2019 following the incorporation of the conditions recommendations under which these projects have been approved.</p> <p>The new total budget approved under PA1 is 37,445,924.27 €.The rate of the total allocation covered with selected projects under PA1 is 120,20%.</p> <p>The rate of the expenditures declared by the beneficiaries under PA1 is 4,02%.</p> <p>Programme indicators included in Specific Objectives 1.1, 1.2 & 1.3 are expected to be achieved by the projects that are already running, while, the indicator under specific objective 1.4 is expected to be covered by the project to be submitted under the 5th targeted Call.</p> <p>Regarding the pre-financing of the Albanian beneficiaries -who may request up to 20% of their EU contribution-during 2019, in total of fifty nine (59) requests which were made by the Lead Beneficiary of the respective projects for seventeen four (74) Albanian beneficiaries, the amount sums up to 1,727,020.47 € .</p>
2	Boosting the Local Economy	<p>Boosting the Local Economy</p> <p>The second priority axis also includes two thematic priorities:</p> <p>(d) Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage</p> <p>(g) Enhancing competitiveness, the business environment and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, trade and investment through, inter alia, promotion and support to entrepreneurship, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, and development of local cross-border markets and internationalization</p> <p>In addition to the 24 projects that were approved in this PA in the previous years, thirteen (13) more projects, whose acronyms are: (1)MILESTONES III - (2)e-natura - (3)STONE.ART – (4)CheeseCuIt – (5)VirtuaLand – (6)AuthentiKK - (7)ALTTOUR - (8)SMARTiMONY - (9)CLLD-CulTour – (10)i-Thea – (11)Cult2Routes – (12)SMART TOUR – (13)GET, were approved in 2019.</p> <p>The subsidy contracts of these 6 projects have been also signed during 2019 following the incorporation of the conditions recommendations under which these projects have been approved.</p> <p>The new total budget approved under PA2 is 24,192,596.67 €.</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>The rate of the total allocation covered with selected projects under PA2 is 129,42%.</p> <p>The rate of the expenditures declared by the beneficiaries under PA2 is 3,99%.</p> <p>Programme indicators included in Specific Objectives 2.1 & 2.2 are expected to be achieved by the projects that are already running.</p> <p>Regarding the delays and the problems in the pre-financing procedure of the Albanian Beneficiaries, the same apply with what has been aforementioned in the text for PA1.</p>
3	Technical Assistance	<p>Technical assistance</p> <p>The Technical Assistance of the Programme is being implemented in the framework of two (2) projects; one for the Greek part and one for the Albanian part of the budget which is dedicated to the third Priority Axis of the Programme (PA3).</p> <p>The total budget approved under PA3 is 4,231,203.00€.</p> <p>The rate of the total allocation covered with technical Assistance projects under PA3 is 100,00%.</p> <p>The rate of the expenditures declared by the beneficiaries under PA3 is 22,57%.</p> <p>The budget allocated to Technical Assistance supports a range of activities and tools that are instrumental to achieving the specific objective of this axis, which is to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of the management and implementation of the programme. Technical Assistance ensures a sound basis for the implementation of the Programme, comprising actions related to Programme management, implementation, monitoring, control, evaluation and publicity.</p> <p>During 2019, the 1st evaluation study of the Implementation and Impacts of the Programme has been completed and delivered.</p> <p>The MA/JS organized a seminar targeted only to communication managers of all approved projects in March 2019. This seminar provided COM managers of projects with practical tips and advice on how to make their communication a successful and effective tool for reaching the project's overall objectives. The guidance came from the JS and also from guest communication professional.</p> <p>In the framework of the EC Day 2019, a Treasure Hunt in Vikos-Aoos UNESCO Global Geopark was organized.</p> <p>Financial Information</p> <p>As of 31.12.2019, the total certified expenditure for Technical Assistance was 1.031.196,45€. The amount certified under the Greek technical assistance was 587,</p>

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

Priority axes other than technical assistance

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

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 1.c

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2019	Observations
F	CO20	Additional population served by improved water supply	inhabitants	214,637.00	0.00	The operations have not produced any tangible results yet. Three (3) approved projects will report on this indicator.
S	CO20	Additional population served by improved water supply	inhabitants	214,637.00	0.00	The estimated value which was about to be delivered by the selected operations during 2019 is zero. For these projects tangible outputs are expected to be delivered by the end of 2020, beginning of 2021. The forecasted S value in the column TARGET VALUE (2023) TOTAL is: 214.637
F	CO21	Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	inhabitants	13,500.00	0.00	The operation has not produced any tangible results yet. One (1) approved project will report on this indicator.
S	CO21	Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	inhabitants	13,500.00	0.00	The estimated value which was about to be delivered by the selected operation during 2019 is zero For this project tangible outputs are expected to be delivered by the end of 2020, beginning of 2021. The forecasted S value in the column TARGET VALUE (2023) TOTAL is: 3.900
F	CO21b	Additional solid waste management capacity created	Tonnes/yr	7,000.00	291.40	The operations have produced some tangible results Five (5) approved projects are reporting on this indicator.
S	CO21b	Additional solid waste management capacity created	Tonnes/yr	7,000.00	291.40	The estimations of five (5) approved projects are recorded on this indicator. The forecasted S value in the column TARGET VALUE (2023) TOTAL is: 7.040
F	CO21c	Kilometers of CB road network studied	km	30.00	0.00	The operations have not produced any tangible results yet. Two (2) approved projects will report on this indicator.
S	CO21c	Kilometers of CB road network studied	km	30.00	0.00	The estimated value which was about to be delivered by the selected operations during 2019 is zero. For these projects tangible outputs are expected to be delivered by the end of 2020, beginning of 2021. The forecasted S value in the column TARGET VALUE (2023) TOTAL is: 29.30
F	CO21d	Number of square meters of border crossing buildings studied or con-structed	m2	200.00	0.00	The operation has not produced any tangible results yet. One (1) approved project will report on this indicator.
S	CO21d	Number of square meters of border crossing buildings studied or con-structed	m2	200.00	0.00	The estimated value which was about to be delivered by the selected operation during 2019 is zero. For this project tangible outputs are expected to be delivered by the end of 2020, beginning of 2021. The forecasted S value in the column TARGET VALUE (2023) TOTAL is: 784

(1)	ID	Indicator	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO20	Additional population served by improved water supply	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO20	Additional population served by improved water supply	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO21	Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO21	Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO21b	Additional solid waste management capacity created	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO21b	Additional solid waste management capacity created	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO21c	Kilometers of CB road network studied	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO21c	Kilometers of CB road network studied	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO21d	Number of square meters of border crossing buildings studied or con-structed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO21d	Number of square meters of border crossing buildings studied or con-structed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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

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

Table 1: Result indicators - 1.c.1.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	Observations
1	Volume of urban effluents under sec-ondary treatment	million m3	30.00	2014	41.31	39.49		1 approved project is contributing to this indicator. The calculation of the achieved value was the outcome of a desk based research by an external expert. The values for the GR part are partly actual and partly estimated by the Ministry of Environment and Energy (approximately 20% of the Greek CB area WTTPS fail to report annually their effluents to the National Database). The values for the AL part are actual.
2	Percentage of solid waste managed sustainably	%	75.00	2014	79.00	73.30		5 approved projects are contributing to this indicator. The calculation of the achieved value was the outcome of a desk based research by an external expert. Actual values for the GR part and estimated values for the AL part of the CB area.
3	% of cross-border vertical axes to Egnatia motorway either constructed or with sufficient maturity to be con-structed.	%	80.41	2014	100.00	80.41		1 approved projects is contributing to this indicator. The implementation of the relevant studies have already been started by EGNATIA ODOS SA

ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative
1	Volume of urban effluents under sec-ondary treatment	30.00		30.00		30.00		30.00	
2	Percentage of solid waste managed sustainably	75.00		75.00		75.00		75.00	
3	% of cross-border vertical axes to Egnatia motorway either constructed or with sufficient maturity to be con-structed.	80.41		80.41		80.41		80.41	

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1	Volume of urban effluents under sec-ondary treatment	30.00	
2	Percentage of solid waste managed sustainably	75.00	
3	% of cross-border vertical axes to Egnatia motorway either constructed or with sufficient maturity to be con-structed.	80.41	

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

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 1.b

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2019	Observations
F	CO23	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	inhabitants	115,000.00	0.00	The operations have not produced any tangible results yet. Two (2) approved projects will report on this indicator.
S	CO23	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	inhabitants	115,000.00	0.00	The estimated value which was about to be delivered by the selected operations during 2019 is zero.. For these projects tangible outputs are expected to be delivered by the end of 2020, beginning of 2021. The forecasted S value in the column TARGET VALUE (2023) TOTAL is: 57.000.
F	CO25	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	hectares	72,250.00	0.00	The operations have not produced any tangible results yet. Three (3) approved projects will report on this indicator.
S	CO25	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	hectares	72,250.00	0.00	The estimated value which was about to be delivered by the selected operations during 2019 is zero.. For these projects tangible outputs are expected to be delivered by the end of 2020, beginning of 2021. The forecasted S value in the column TARGET VALUE (2023) TOTAL is: 72.250.
F	CO34	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	Kwh/year	1,100,000.00	50,000.00	The operations have produced some tangible results Eleven (11) approved projects are reporting on this indicator.
S	CO34	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	Kwh/year	1,100,000.00	50,000.00	The estimations of eleven (11) approved projects are recorded on this indicator. The forecasted S value in the column TARGET VALUE (2023) TOTAL is: 1.256.946
F	CO34b	People participating in awareness actions	participants	35,000.00	1,630.00	The operations have produced some tangible results Eleven (11) approved projects are reporting on this indicator.
S	CO34b	People participating in awareness actions	participants	35,000.00	1,630.00	The estimations of eleven (11) approved projects are recorded on this indicator. The forecasted S value in the column TARGET VALUE (2023) TOTAL is: 35.400

(I)	ID	Indicator	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO23	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO23	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO25	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO25	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO34	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO34	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO34b	People participating in awareness actions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO34b	People participating in awareness actions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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

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

Table 1: Result indicators - 1.b.1.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	Observations
5	Level of preservation of the protected natural CB areas	%	72.08	2015	79.29	73.00		Three approved Projects are contributing to this indicator. The achieved value of 73,00% derives from the field research for measuring Level of preservation of the protected natural CB areas of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme Greece – Albania 2014-2020.

ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative
5	Level of preservation of the protected natural CB areas	72.08		72.08		72.08		72.08	

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
5	Level of preservation of the protected natural CB areas	0.00	

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

Table 1: Result indicators - 1.b.1.3

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	Observations
6	Energy Efficiency Awareness Barome-ter	number , (on a 1-10 scale)	5.94	2015	7.00	6.95		Eleven approved Projects are contributing to this indicator. The achieved value of 6.95 derives from the field research for measuring the energy efficiency awareness of beneficiaries of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme Greece – Albania 2014-2020

ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative
6	Energy Efficiency Awareness Barome-ter	5.94		5.94		5.94		5.94	

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
6	Energy Efficiency Awareness Barome-ter	0.00	

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

Table 1: Result indicators - 1.b.1.4

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	Observations
7	Area damaged by forest fires (5-yr rolling annual average)	hectares	15,010.89	2014	13,450.00	8,387.00		Two approved Projects are contributing to this indicator. The calculation of the achieved value was the outcome of a desk based research by an external expert. Actual values counted through the MODIS database.

ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative
7	Area damaged by forest fires (5-yr rolling annual average)	15,010.89		15,010.89		15,010.89		15,010.89	

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
7	Area damaged by forest fires (5-yr rolling annual average)	15,010.89	

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 - 2.g

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2019	Observations
F	CO04	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	450.00	61.00	The operations have produced some tangible results. Nine (9) approved projects are contributing to this indicator.
S	CO04	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	450.00	61.00	The estimations of nine (9) approved projects are recorded on this indicator. The forecasted S value in the column TARGET VALUE (2023) TOTAL is: 450

(1)	ID	Indicator	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO04	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO04	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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

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

Table 1: Result indicators - 2.g.2.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	Observations
8	Active CB enterprises	number	97,883.00	2014	100,000.00	164,702.00		Nine approved projects are contributing to this indicator. The calculation of the achieved value was the outcome of a desk based research by an external expert. Actual values both for the GR part and for the AL part of the CB area.

ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative
8	Active CB enterprises	97,883.00		97,883.00		97,883.00		97,883.00	

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
8	Active CB enterprises	97,883.00	

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

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 2.d

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2019	Observations
F	CO11	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	visits	21,000.00	3,760.00	The operations have produced some tangible results. Twenty eight (28) approved projects are contributing to this indicator.
S	CO11	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	visits	21,000.00	3,760.00	The estimations of twenty eight (28) approved projects are recorded on this indicator. The forecasted S value in the column TARGET VALUE (2023) TOTAL is: 36.200

(I)	ID	Indicator	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO11	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO11	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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

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

Table 1: Result indicators - 2.d.2.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	Observations
9	Annual overnight tourist stays of the cross border area	millions	9.00	2014	9.54	13.30		Twenty eight approved projects are contributing to this indicator. The calculation of the achieved value was the outcome of a desk based research by an external expert. Actual values both for the GR part and for the AL part of the CB area.

ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative
9	Annual overnight tourist stays of the cross border area	9.00		9.00		9.00		9.00	

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
9	Annual overnight tourist stays of the cross border area	9.00	

Priority axes for technical assistance

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

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2019	Observations
F	3	Not required	Not applicable		1.00	0.00
S	3	Not required	Not applicable		1.00	0.00

(1)	ID	Indicator	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	3	Not required	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	3	Not required	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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

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

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone for 2018 total	Final target (2023) total	2019	Observations
1	F	F0101	Eligible verified (certified) Expenditure of the Axis	Euro	1,000,000.00	31,152,837.00	1,233,162.16	Please, refer to the analysis provided in section 5 of the document.
1	I	K0101	Approved Projects	Number of projects	15		28.00	Please, refer to the analysis provided in section 5 of the document.
1	O	CO21c	Kilometers of CB road network studied	km	0	30.00	0.00	Please, refer to the analysis provided in section 5 of the document.
1	O	CO34	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	Kwh/year	0	1,100,000.00	1,630.00	Please, refer to the analysis provided in section 5 of the document.
2	F	F0102	Eligible verified (certified) Expenditure of the Axis	Euro	1,000,000.00	18,692,694.00	729,860.79	Please, refer to the analysis provided in section 5 of the document.
2	I	K0102	Approved Projects	Number of projects	10		37.00	Please, refer to the analysis provided in section 5 of the document.
2	O	CO11	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	visits	0	21,000.00	3,760.00	Please, refer to the analysis provided in section 5 of the document.

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
1	F	F0101	Eligible verified (certified) Expenditure of the Axis	Euro	275,791.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1	I	K0101	Approved Projects	Number of projects	22.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1	O	CO21c	Kilometers of CB road network studied	km	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1	O	CO34	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	Kwh/year	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	F	F0102	Eligible verified (certified) Expenditure of the Axis	Euro	212,411.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	I	K0102	Approved Projects	Number of projects	24.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	O	CO11	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	visits	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

3.4. Financial data

Table 4: Financial information at priority axis and programme level

As set out in Table 1 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and table 17 of model for cooperation programmes under IPA.

Priority axis	Calculation basis	Total funding	Co-financing rate	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries	Number of operations selected
1	Public	31,152,837.00	85.00	37,445,924.27	120.20%	37,445,924.27	1,252,282.43	4.02%	28
2	Public	18,692,694.00	85.00	24,226,833.73	129.61%	24,226,833.73	745,976.46	3.99%	37
3	Public	4,231,203.00	85.00	4,231,203.00	100.00%	4,231,203.00	954,902.44	22.57%	2
Total		54,076,734.00	85.00	65,903,961.00	121.87%	65,903,961.00	2,953,161.33	5.46%	67

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.

The Interreg IPA II Cross-border Cooperation Programme “Greece –Albania 2014-2020” is a cross border co-operation Programme co-financed by the European Union under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance II (IPA II).

The Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance for the period from 2014 to 2020 (‘IPA II’) shall support the beneficiaries listed in Annex I of the Regulation (EU) No.231/2014 in adopting and implementing the political, institutional, legal, administrative, social and economic reforms required by those beneficiaries in order to comply with the Union's values and to progressively align to the Union's rules, standards, policies and practices, with a view to Union membership. Through such support, IPA II shall contribute to stability, security and prosperity in the beneficiaries listed in Annex I of the Regulation (EU) No.231/2014.

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

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

Priority axis	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	«r.ir.etc.table5.thempridim»	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by eneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
1	013	01	07	07	b	24	AL	3,939,588.19	3,939,588.19	32,737.38	11
1	013	01	07	07	b	24	EL131	359,750.00	359,750.00	0.00	0
1	013	01	07	07	b	24	EL132	843,940.50	843,940.50	0.00	0
1	013	01	07	07	b	24	EL134	630,434.40	630,434.40	14,193.03	0
1	013	01	07	07	b	24	EL211	1,918,299.80	1,918,299.80	79,387.81	0
1	013	01	07	07	b	24	EL212	711,429.00	711,429.00	0.00	0
1	013	01	07	07	b	24	EL213	1,241,652.18	1,241,652.18	22,464.45	0
1	013	01	07	07	b	24	EL214	1,168,679.60	1,168,679.60	0.00	0
1	013	01	07	07	b	24	EL221	57,705.14	57,705.14	0.00	0
1	013	01	07	07	b	24	EL222	353,000.00	353,000.00	0.00	0
1	017	01	07	07	c	24	AL	1,024,641.69	1,024,641.69	13,608.12	4
1	017	01	07	07	c	24	EL131	211,917.71	211,917.71	0.00	0
1	017	01	07	07	c	24	EL132	431,701.19	431,701.19	103,208.98	0
1	017	01	07	07	c	24	EL134	302,901.83	302,901.83	128,195.42	0
1	017	01	07	07	c	24	EL213	163,527.00	163,527.00	0.00	0
1	017	01	07	07	c	24	EL214	306,871.80	306,871.80	0.00	0
1	017	01	07	07	c	24	EL222	616,740.00	616,740.00	0.00	0
1	018	01	07	07	c	24	AL	1,064,079.07	1,064,079.07	0.00	1
1	018	01	07	07	c	24	EL132	534,120.00	534,120.00	0.00	0
1	018	01	07	07	c	24	EL134	101,049.21	101,049.21	17,324.48	0
1	018	01	07	07	c	24	EL213	1,699,042.75	1,699,042.75	0.00	0
1	018	01	07	07	c	24	EL222	472,020.00	472,020.00	0.00	0
1	021	01	07	07	c	24	AL	2,299,348.22	2,299,348.22	257,422.29	3
1	021	01	07	07	c	24	EL132	257,424.80	257,424.80	46,514.68	0
1	021	01	07	07	c	24	EL134	836,480.00	836,480.00	388,063.84	0
1	021	01	07	07	c	24	EL212	164,215.12	164,215.12	0.00	0
1	021	01	07	07	c	24	EL213	1,151,651.12	1,151,651.12	8,601.74	0
1	021	01	07	07	c	24	EL222	1,220,440.00	1,220,440.00	0.00	0
1	021	01	07	07	c	24	EL223	167,266.00	167,266.00	0.00	0
1	022	01	07	07	c	24	AL	275,588.51	275,588.51	0.00	1
1	022	01	07	07	c	24	EL213	537,830.85	537,830.85	0.00	0
1	030	01	07	07	c	24	AL	287,420.80	287,420.80	15,574.53	1
1	030	01	07	07	c	24	EL132	329,153.60	329,153.60	0.00	0
1	030	01	07	07	c	24	EL134	358,310.85	358,310.85	0.00	0
1	034	01	07	07	c	24	AL	2,486,686.50	2,486,686.50	0.00	2
1	034	01	07	07	c	24	EL211	715,922.50	715,922.50	49,066.80	0
1	034	01	07	07	c	24	EL212	6,051,808.00	6,051,808.00	0.00	0
1	085	01	07	07	b	24	AL	404,125.30	404,125.30	3,169.00	3
1	085	01	07	07	b	24	EL211	115,810.00	115,810.00	0.00	0
1	085	01	07	07	b	24	EL212	82,213.00	82,213.00	53,597.60	0
1	085	01	07	07	b	24	EL213	330,183.42	330,183.42	0.00	0
1	085	01	07	07	b	24	EL221	193,000.00	193,000.00	0.00	0
1	085	01	07	07	b	24	EL222	70,000.00	70,000.00	0.00	0
1	085	01	07	07	b	24	EL223	52,000.00	52,000.00	0.00	0
1	088	01	07	07	b	24	AL	234,486.11	234,486.11	8,938.90	2
1	088	01	07	07	b	24	EL132	51,987.00	51,987.00	0.00	0
1	088	01	07	07	b	24	EL213	378,818.74	378,818.74	0.00	0
1	088	01	07	07	b	24	EL222	240,662.77	240,662.77	10,213.38	0
2	066	01	07	07	g	24	AL	679,879.38	679,879.38	22,176.12	4
2	066	01	07	07	g	24	EL131	279,110.00	279,110.00	115,338.86	0
2	066	01	07	07	g	24	EL132	107,680.00	107,680.00	0.00	0
2	066	01	07	07	g	24	EL134	193,890.11	193,890.11	0.00	0

Priority axis	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	«r.ir.etc.table5.thempridimen»	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by eneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
2	066	01	07	07	g	24	EL211	139,585.00	139,585.00	0.00	0
2	066	01	07	07	g	24	EL213	592,599.66	592,599.66	21,588.58	0
2	066	01	07	07	g	24	EL222	126,514.72	126,514.72	18,194.54	0
2	067	01	07	07	g	24	AL	1,141,573.53	1,141,573.53	130,536.64	5
2	067	01	07	07	g	24	EL132	844,739.27	844,739.27	71,882.13	0
2	067	01	07	07	g	24	EL134	153,181.00	153,181.00	0.00	0
2	067	01	07	07	g	24	EL211	245,946.97	245,946.97	48,431.26	0
2	067	01	07	07	g	24	EL213	444,840.46	444,840.46	0.00	0
2	067	01	07	07	g	24	EL222	196,336.87	196,336.87	0.00	0
2	094	01	07	07	d	24	AL	6,949,950.12	6,949,950.12	83,163.81	28
2	094	01	07	07	d	24	EL131	554,905.50	554,905.50	0.00	0
2	094	01	07	07	d	24	EL132	2,102,943.07	2,102,943.07	39,572.01	0
2	094	01	07	07	d	24	EL134	553,589.14	553,589.14	0.00	0
2	094	01	07	07	d	24	EL211	116,641.20	116,641.20	0.00	0
2	094	01	07	07	d	24	EL212	342,414.46	342,414.46	0.00	0
2	094	01	07	07	d	24	EL213	6,821,990.97	6,821,990.97	122,210.80	0
2	094	01	07	07	d	24	EL214	91,210.00	91,210.00	0.00	0
2	094	01	07	07	d	24	EL221	100,703.10	100,703.10	0.00	0
2	094	01	07	07	d	24	EL222	1,278,318.00	1,278,318.00	72,881.71	0
2	094	01	07	07	d	24	EL223	168,291.20	168,291.20	0.00	0
3	121	01	07	07		24	AL	1,195,700.00	1,195,700.00	453,700.83	1
3	121	01	07	07		24	EL	2,129,903.00	2,129,903.00	400,000.04	1
3	122	01	07	07		24	AL	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00	0
3	122	01	07	07		24	EL	271,000.00	271,000.00	14,150.76	0
3	123	01	07	07		24	AL	107,200.00	107,200.00	27,050.81	0
3	123	01	07	07		24	EL	512,400.00	512,400.00	60,000.00	0

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	0.00		0.00	

(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 purpose of the “first evaluation” of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme “Greece – Albania” 2014-2020 is 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.

Based on the outcomes of the evaluation and the recommendations of the evaluation team, the programme authorities should be able to correct/ improve/ modify/ develop the programme management and implementation in order to be more efficient, effective and capable of reaching the programme’s pursued results and objectives.

In this framework and in order to provide additional data, the External Evaluator, apart from 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, also conducted an online survey by using Google Docs forms (qualitative primary research).

The objective of the online survey was to produce and provide qualitative data about the implementation of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme “Greece - Albania 2014-2020”, by mapping and analyzing the perceptions, views and suggestions of the programme authorities as well as the beneficiaries involved in the projects and implementation of the Cooperation Programme.

It is worth noting that the First evaluation of implementation and impact of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme Greece – Albania 2014-2020 despite the survey took place among Applicants/Beneficiaries of approved and rejected project proposals and JMC Members Programme Authorities, could focus only on a limited set of information, due to the initial stage of the implementation of the selected projects, even if the available data allow the consideration of some future perspectives. Needless to say, the next evaluation reports will provide more information and recommendations.

Regarding the the main **findings** of the **First evaluation of implementation and impact of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme Greece – Albania 2014-2020**, these can be traced at the **Executive Summary of the 5th Deliverable: Final Evaluation Report (May 2019)**.

'It is worth noting that the First evaluation of implementation and impact of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme Greece – Albania 2014-2020 despite the survey took place among Applicants/Beneficiaries of approved and rejected project proposals and JMC Members Programme Authorities, could focus only on a limited set of information, due to the initial stage of the implementation of the selected projects, even if the available data allow the consideration of some future perspectives. Needless to say, the next evaluation reports will provide more information and recommendations.'

Regarding the better structuring and consistency of the applicant's package – tools such as the application form, the following below mentioned three (3) actions were implemented:

1. Electronic submission of the Project Proposals via MIS (instead of hard copies via post/courier)
2. The substitution of a very demanding and difficult to fill in and check excel file of Specification of budget cost, with a friendly user and easy to examine new excel file.
3. The restructuring of the evaluation process; the eligibility check of the potential beneficiaries is being performed only for those that have passed successfully the evaluation phases 1 and 2 of the evaluation process.

Regarding the reduce of the administrative burden for project implementation, the following below mentioned actions were implemented:

1. All the procedures for the monitoring of the implementation as well as the verification of the expenditures is being performed electronically via MIS
2. The use of the SCO has been applied for the Office and Administration category of expenditures
3. The submission of the progress report is on six months based instead of three months based.
4. A decentralized system for the verification of expenditures of the Greek beneficiaries was chosen and is applied via registry of controllers.

Regarding the use of modern communication tools and more modern information days, the following below mentioned actions were implemented:

1. Revised and easy to access programme site
2. The logo of the Programme has been designed according to the Interreg Brand Design Manual.
3. An analytical Information and Publicity guide has been drafted and is available for the beneficiaries on the programme website.
4. The extensive use of social media such as facebook, twitter, Instagram etc for communication purposes with all the stakeholders of the programme
5. Targeted info days for dedicated to the communication officers of the projects
6. The communication toolkit prepared by Interact has been adopted by the Interreg IPA CBC Programme "Greece – Albania 2014 – 2020" for inspiring communication staff working for the projects funded by the European Territorial Cooperation Programmes in handling their daily communication operations.

- (cont. from: 2-Overview)

During this pre-financing procedure, delays and problems still occurred. Difficulties are recorded in the opening of the second level bank accounts for Albanian Beneficiaries, and additional delays in transferring the pre-financing from the Bank of Albania to the Second Level Bank Account for Albanian Beneficiaries. The problematic of opening of bank accounts has already caused serious delays in project implementation for Albanian beneficiaries. The procedures followed by the Ministry of Economy and Finance are bureaucratic and very strict and often beneficiaries have lack of knowledge about the procedures to be followed. The delays are related to the strict procedures of Ministry of Economy and Finance requiring the pre-financing fund to be forecasted under Chapter "2" (Foreign Financing) of the institutional budget of each beneficiary. After the beneficiary has completed the procedure, the Ministry sends the request to Bank of Albania for the transfer of fund to the Second Level Bank Account of the beneficiary. Unfortunately, one asset of the Programme derived from the bilateral agreement which foresees a pre-financing of up to 20% of EU contribution to the Albanian beneficiaries, turned out to be a **great disadvantage**, due to these procedures imposed by the Albanian Ministry of Finance. Almost all Albanian beneficiaries expected the pre-financing before starting the implementation of their project. This procedure takes more than one year with the obvious negative consequences on the project implementation. Albanian Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs is in constant contact with the Albanian Ministry of Economy and Finance in order to coordinate the problematic with beneficiaries. Facilitation of procedures has been proposed several times. Beneficiaries received explanations about the procedures to be followed.

During 2019 both Albanian and Greek beneficiaries faced problems with the unrealistic estimation of the time needed for the preparation and implementation of the tendering procedures, which reflects on delays in the timely delivery of the deliverables, and the consecutive misfire of many beneficiaries to carry out the planned activities and be in line with the application form of the project. Coupled, in some cases, with the insufficient level of co-operation between beneficiaries within the project partnership, led to delays in submitting payment claims. As a natural consequence of the above many modification requests were forwarded by the Lead Beneficiaries of the projects related exclusively to the extension of the projects' duration for a period of 5 to 12 months. The main reasons for the prolongation of the project duration are:

1. Bureaucratic internal procedures, prevented the prompt handling of the procurement and contracting procedures
2. Elections that took place have been, according to some beneficiaries, time-consuming
3. Full functionality -and learning processes- of the new information systems (MIS and e-pde)
4. Demanding administrative procedures in launching of the tenders and contracting
5. Pre-financing issues for the Albanian Beneficiaries, which caused knock-on delays on meeting the activities plan of the project
6. Withdrawal of partners and modification of the composition of the partnership
7. Partial redesign of the project and change in the work packages

All these had implications in the timely implementation of several deliverables and the verification of the expenditures which lagged behind.

- **(cont. from: 5.b-Assessment of whether progress is sufficient)**

Last stumbling block was the elections. 2019 has been an elections year for both Greece and Albania. National and local elections were held in Greece, while municipal elections were held in Albania. As a result, there have been changes in the management of several beneficiaries participating in the Programme's projects. These changes had an appreciable effect in the delay of the projects' implementation.

The 'First evaluation of implementation and impact of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme Greece – Albania 2014-2020' was carried out and concluded by the External Evaluator, according to the framework established by the evaluation plan. Five deliverables were submitted to the MA/JS. It is no coincidence that in the Final Evaluation Report (5th Deliverable) most of the findings tackle the same issues.

Based on the above analytical description and given the steps that the Programme has concluded up to now, it becomes clear that, despite heterogeneous delays, all the necessary actions for the orderly implementation of the projects have been performed by the Programme's authorities. The projects are now running without unpreventable problems, contracts are executed, works and services are being produced, invoices are issued, expenditures are paid out and the verified ones by the FLCs inflow into the Management & Information System of the Programme. The increasing trend of the certified amounts is accelerating and will continue to do so in the coming months.

Name	Fund	From month	From year	To month	To year	Type of evaluation	Thematic priority	Topic	Findings
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5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN

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

The 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 improvement on the Complaints Procedures. The milestones for the year 2018 foresaw a financial and an implementation indicator. 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. Specifically a percentage of 23.45% and 18.55% have been achieved under Priority Axis 1 and 2 respectively.

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€.

Five Calls have been launched already with a total budget of 43.482.817€ (excluding Technical Assistance): the 1st Call for Strategic project proposals (11.000.000€) closed on 16/05/2016; the 2nd Call for Ordinary project proposals (13.782.817€) closed on 14/10/2016; the 3rd Targeted Call for a project proposal (7.200.000€) closed on 01/10/2018; the 4th Call for Ordinary project proposals (9.000.000€) closed on 28/02/2019 and the 5th Targeted Call for a project proposal (2.500.000€) closed on 24/02/2020. The percentage of the activation of the Programme in terms of the budget of the Calls for Proposals, in relation to the Programme’s new budget is 87,24%.

Sixty-five (65) 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’ 28 projects have been approved and on Priority Axis 2 ‘Boosting the local economy’ another 37 projects. Sixty-five (65) subsidy contracts have been signed up to now with the Lead beneficiaries of the approved projects. The percentage of the activation of the Programme in terms of budget of the approved projects, in relation to the Programme’s new budget is approximately 122%. Based on the experience from the previous programming periods, this overbooking is considered sufficient in order to ensure that no funds are lost. In any case, a reserve list from the 4th Call for Ordinary project proposals has been approved by the JMC. Moreover, the 5th Targeted Call for Project Proposal has been launched, in order for the Programme to fulfill its strategic plan regarding the accomplishment of the set results and output indicators.

As far as the liquidity of the beneficiaries is concerned -a matter of utmost importance- all Greek beneficiaries have been registered to the (Hellenic) Public Investments Programme and all administrative procedures for the smooth financing of their activities have taken place. Several Albanian beneficiaries have not received the pre-financing however, due to the heavy procedure imposed by the Albanian Ministry of Finance and Economy. Especially the opening of bank accounts is extremely complicated and time consuming for the public and governed by public law authorities, which happen to be the vast majority of the Programme’s beneficiaries. The Ministry of Finance and Economy, which act as an intermediate authority, requires the opening of two bank accounts (within the National Bank of Albania and a commercial bank) for the transfer of the pre-financing. A five-month delay, in most cases, has been recorded only for the procedure of transferring the pre-financing from the National Bank of Albania to the commercial bank accounts. In most cases the whole procedure may take up

to one year to be completed.

During the second implementation of the Risk Management Tool for the year 2019, 34 risks were identified and analyzed; Four (4) of them were classified as of high level and are the ones that caused persistent delays. The first concerns the unrealistic assessment of the time needed for the preparation and implementation of the tendering procedures, which reflects on delays in the timely delivery of the work packages. The second has to do with the inability of many beneficiaries to keep up and perform the planned activities with the application form of the project. Yet, more significant risk is the lack of liquidity of the Albanian beneficiaries during the implementation of the projects, which have a knock-on effect on the overall progress of the projects. The liquidity for the Greek beneficiaries is secured from the Public Investment Programme via MIS.

Concerning the identified risk on the delay in the signing of the subsidy contracts during 2019 ceased to exist as the whole process from the submission of the project proposals until the signing of the subsidy contracts was concluded in more or less 9 months' time compared to 20 months' time of the 2nd call ordinary projects. This outcome was mainly due to the electronic submission of the project proposals, the restructuring of the evaluation and the budget optimization processes.

The INTERREG IPA CBC Programme "Greece – Albania 2014 – 2020" throughout the first years of implementation has faced a number of problems, which sometimes were out of its direct control. One major problem which caused a lengthy delay –more than two years from the date of approval of the projects under the 1st Call (24/11/2015)- was the legal framework for tendering procedures, which had to be followed by the Greek beneficiaries. As long as the problem was not solved, the commencement of the contracting process for both the strategic projects (1st Call) and ordinary projects (2nd Call) was lagging behind. This hindrance, which had a direct negative operating effect in the starting of the implementation of the projects, ceased to exist after the first months of 2018. The tendering procedures for the Greek beneficiaries ran satisfactorily, as they were given the possibility to follow the national legal framework.

(cont. at 5.b)

(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.

(cont. from 5.a)

During 2019 new and additional problems were encountered in the implementation of the projects with a different level of negative impact.

The most serious problem is the great delay in the opening of the bank accounts by the Albanian beneficiaries and the transferring of the pre-financing to Albanian Beneficiaries. This was due to a very heavy procedure which was imposed by the Albanian Ministry of Economy and Finance, consisting of 3 steps: (a) Opening of a first level bank account, (b) Opening of a second level bank account, and (c) pre-financing procedure. The Ministry of Economy and Finance requires that the pre-financing fund is forecasted under Chapter "2" (Foreign Financing) of the institutional budget of the beneficiary. After the beneficiary has completed the procedure, the Ministry sends the request to the Bank of Albania so as the fund is transferred to the Second Level Bank Account of the beneficiary. Apart from the bureaucratic and strict procedure, in many cases beneficiaries ignored the exact steps to be followed. Thus, further delays were noted. The steps that the Albanian beneficiaries must take in order to create a dedicated bank account for EU-funded projects involve 4 actors, and each step requires a certain amount of time to be completed.

Another trouble was the unavailability of First Level Controllers in Greece. The First Level Control system in Greece is decentralized and the verifications are performed by controllers, who are enrolled in a Register of Controllers established at the Managing Authority, following an Open Call for Expression of Interest to natural persons, Greek or other EU citizens. However, the number of controls made has been limited and certainly not enough, given that the number of verifications each controller may perform each year is restricted by Ministerial decision. In 2019 this issue has not been overcome. Consultations have taken place and the above limitation is about to be abolished with a relevant Ministerial decision.

Another difficulty that was encountered is the poor projects' achievements due to the low quality of internal partnership coordination, communication and cooperation. The problem was tackled by frequent communication with the all beneficiaries, organization of Info Days and other technical meetings. The problem has been dealt with to a certain extent, however it has not been overcome completely. Closely related to this worry were the unexpected changes in the partnerships of specific projects. Certain Albanian beneficiaries decided to leave the partnerships in the course of the projects implementation mainly due to the lack of liquidity. This has put the outputs of certain projects at risk. Moreover, a major change in the structure of the Greek educational system, where by the Technological Educational Institutions were absorbed by the Universities, have resulted to changes in the projects partnerships. The Managing Authority and the Joint Secretariat have tackled the issue and collaborated with the partnerships concerned in order to find a substitute partner in each specific case.

(cont. to: 4-Synthesis of the Evaluations)

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

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

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

8.1. Major projects

Table 7: Major projects

Project	CCI	Status of MP	Total investments	Total eligible costs	Planned notification/submission date	Date of tacit agreement/ approval by Commission	Planned start of implementation	Planned completion date	Priority axis / Thematic priorities	Current state of realisation — financial progress (% of expenditure certified to Commission compared to total eligible cost)	Current state of realisation — physical progress / Main implementation stage of the project	Main outputs	Date of signature of first works contract (1)	Observations
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(1) In the case of operations implemented under PPP structures the signing of the PPP contract between the public body and the private sector body (Article 102(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).

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

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

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8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

No joint action plans are implemented in the Programme.

Table 8: Joint action plans (JAP)

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

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

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

Priority axis	1 - Promotion of the environment sustainable transport & public infrastructure
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Priority axis	2 - Boosting the Local Economy
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Priority axis	3 - Technical Assistance
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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

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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

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

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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

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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

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Status	Name	Fund	Year of finalizing evaluation	Type of evaluation	Thematic priority	Topic	Findings (in case of execution)	Follow up (in case of execution)
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10.2 The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy

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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

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

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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 Danube Region (EUSDR)
- EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)

Pillar(s), topic(s) and/or cross cutting issue(s) that the programme is relevant to:

	Pillar	Topic / Cross cutting issue
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Blue growth	1.1.1 - Blue technologies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Blue growth	1.1.2 - Fisheries and aquaculture
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 - Blue growth	1.1.3 - Maritime and marine governance and services
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Blue growth	1.2.1 - Strengthening R&D, innovation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Blue growth	1.2.2 - SMEs development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Blue growth	1.2.3 - Capacity building
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connecting the region	2.1.1 - Maritime transport
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connecting the region	2.1.2 - Intermodal connections to the hinterland
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connecting the region	2.1.3 - Energy networks
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connecting the region	2.2.1 - Strengthening R&D, innovation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connecting the region	2.2.2 - SMEs development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connecting the region	2.2.3 - Capacity building
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Environmental quality	3.1.1 - The marine environment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Environmental quality	3.1.2 - Transnational terrestrial habitats and biodiversity
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Environmental quality	3.2.1 - Strengthening R&D, innovation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Environmental quality	3.2.2 - SMEs development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Environmental quality	3.2.3 - Capacity building
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Sustainable tourism	4.1.1 - Diversified tourism offer (products and services)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Sustainable tourism	4.1.2 - Sustainable and responsible tourism management (innovation and quality)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Sustainable tourism	4.2.1 - Strengthening R&D, innovation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Sustainable tourism	4.2.2 - SMEs development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Sustainable tourism	4.2.3 - Capacity building

Actions or mechanisms used to better link the programme with the EUSAIR

A. Are macro-regional coordinators (mainly National Coordinators, Pillar Coordinators, or Thematic Steering Group members) participating in the Monitoring Committee of the programme?

Yes No

Name and function

National Coordinator: Mr Ioannis Firbas (firbas@m nec.gr), Head of the National Coordination Authority - Ministry of Development & Investments

B. In selection criteria, have extra points been attributed to specific measures supporting the EUSAIR?

Yes No

a) Are targeted calls for proposals planned in relation to EUSAIR

Yes No

b) How many macro-regional projects/actions are already supported by the programme? (Number)

2

c) Were extra points/bonus given to a project/action with high macro-regional significance or impact? If yes, please elaborate (1 specific sentence)

Content-related Criteria (B.1.1) To what extent will the project contribute to a wider strategy on one or more policy levels [EU (incl. macro-regional)/ national/ regional/ local]; in particular, those concerning the project or Programme area? - At all four levels (5 points)

d) Other actions (e.g. planned strategic projects). Please elaborate (1 specific sentence)

The project CB RAILWAY is already a labelled EUSAIR project. Another project labelled EUSAIR is MOBILITY ON THE IONIAN COAST (COMOBILION).

C. Has the programme invested EU funds in the EUSAIR?

Yes No

Approximate or exact amount in Euro invested in the EUSAIR:

ERDF	
CF	
ESF	
EAFRD	
EMFF	
IPA	6,795,922.59
any other funds	1,199,280.46
name of "any other funds"	National (Public) Funding

D. Obtained results in relation to the EUSAIR (n.a. for 2016)

Given that these two projects are still at their initial phase of implementation, there are no specific tangible

results to report.

E. Does the programme contribute to the objectives and/or targets which are attached to each topic under the Pillars, as stated in the Action Plan? (please specify the objective(s) and target(s))

Priority axis 1 contributes directly to thematic pillars 2 and 3, while Priority axis 2 contributes directly to thematic pillar 4. Analytical information is provided in section 4.3 of the CP.

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

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13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

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

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**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).

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DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
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LATEST VALIDATION RESULTS

Severity	Code	Message
Info		Implementation report version has been validated
Warning	2.48.1	Annual value entered in table 1 is below the baseline value and moving away from the target for priority axis: 1, investment priority: -, specific objective: 1.1, indicator: 2, year: 2019 (73.30 < 75.00). Please check.
Warning	2.48.1	Annual value entered in table 1 is below the baseline value and moving away from the target for priority axis: 1, investment priority: -, specific objective: 1.2, indicator: 5, year: 2014 (0.00 < 72.08). Please check.
Warning	2.48.1	Annual value entered in table 1 is below the baseline value and moving away from the target for priority axis: 1, investment priority: -, specific objective: 1.3, indicator: 6, year: 2014 (0.00 < 5.94). Please check.
Warning	2.49.1	Annual value entered in table 1 exceeds the target value for priority axis: 2, investment priority: -, specific objective: 2.1, indicator: 9, year: 2019 (13.30 > 9.54). Please check.
Warning	2.49.1	Annual value entered in table 1 exceeds the target value for priority axis: 2, investment priority: -, specific objective: 2.2, indicator: 8, year: 2019 (164,702.00 > 100,000.00). Please check.
Warning	2.51.1	Annual value entered in table 1 is below the target value for priority axis: 1, investment priority: -, specific objective: 1.4, indicator: 7, year: 2019 (8,387.00 < 13,450.00). Please check.