Interreg - IPA CBC
EUROPEAN UNION
Greece - Albania

Drafting of the Interreg IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme "Greece-Albania 2021-2027"

2ND PHASE OF CONSULTATION

WORKSHOP ON PRIORITY AXIS 3-

FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE AND INTEGRATED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE CROSS-BORDER AREA

2ⁿᵈ phase of Consultations Workshops

Aim of the 2nd phase of public consultation is to further elaborate the outcomes of the 1st phase of consultation with stakeholders and the proposed Programme Strategy.

The third workshop regards Priority Axis 3- Fostering sustainable and integrated regional development in the cross-border area

Presentation of the Priority Axis-Needs and Challenges of the Programme area

Review of proposed specific objectives per Priority Axis and collection on feedback on indicative interventions, result and output indicators.

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Programme Area

Greece
1.EL531 (Grevena)
2.EL532 (Kastoria)
3.EL533 (Florina)
4.EL531 (Kozani)
5.EL541 (Arta)
6.EL 541 (Preveza)
7.EL542 (Thesprotia)
8.EL543 (Ioannina)
9.EL621 (Zakynthos)
10.EL622 (Kerkyra)
11.EL623 (Kefallinia, Ithaki)
12.EL624 (Lefkada)

Albania
1.AL031 Berat
2. AL033 Gjirokastër
3.AL034 Korcë
4.AL035 Vlorë
5.AL032 Fier

Analyzed on NUTS III Level (2021 classification)

Regional Unit of Kozani and the Region of Fier are the new eligible areas.

Proposed Specific Objective

SO3.1-Fostering the integrated social, economic and environmental local development, cultural heritage and security, including for rural and coastal areas also through community-led local development

- Development of synergies between communities for supporting citizens of remote, isolated areas, islands and rural areas
- Enhancement of tourism product in the cross-border rural and coastal areas
- Development of responsible tourism models and brand building (EUSAIR flagship)
- Coordination for development of structured and harmonized data on cultural tourism of the cross-border area (EUSAIR flagship)
- Regeneration of areas in industrial transition
- Development of networks of creative industries and incorporation of new technology means in cultural creativity

Which are the main objectives of PO 5 of the new Cohesion Policy?

Addresses multi-thematic challenges in a certain territory requiring action not only in one sector, but in an integrated way across sectors

Fostering integrated social, economic and environmental development, cultural heritage and security in all territories

Supporting the innovation and growth potential of urban areas

Strengthening capacities and coordination functions of local authorities and partners.

Integrated development of specifically identified tourism destinations a territory

How can PO5 be supported in Cross-border Cooperation Programmes?

Need for a territorial development strategy with multi-sectoral scope, owned by key territorial partners with strong stakeholders participation.

"A territorial strategy" outlines the clearly identified needs and assets for an identified territory, is multi-sectoral and requires inter-connected projects to be implemented (Art.23 CPR)

The "territorial strategy" is built on multi-level governance involving all relevant and competent levels and stakeholders, and that the strategy is owned by the key territorial partners. (Art.23 CPR)

Existing "territorial strategies" can be used by a CP to use PO5, as long as they fulfil the requirements of Art. 23 CPR

In the CP, if PO 5 aims at an integrated territorial development of local areas one needs to describe and support, with evidence, the areas that form the functional area, and that these are the territories (functional areas) the programme wants to support using PO 5.

How is a territorial strategy developed?

An integrated territorial strategy has to be directly connected to an identified territory, has to come from there, or has to have a very high stake in that territory.

It can be developed by local and regional authorities, intermediaries, or public and private institutions relevant for the topics addressed in the strategy.

The "territorial strategies" are however part of the programme and the MC decides if the strategy fits the programme.

What PO 5 does is add a strategic level, focusing the attention from a project-based perspective to a territorial perspective.

The integrated territorial strategy – as developed by concerned stakeholders in the territory covered – provides the framework for what activities can be supported.

Cultural heritage and tourism under PO5?

Tourism and cultural heritage can be supported under PO5 as multi-sectoral topics linked to a specific territory (=identity), either through history or nature or activities.

It enables the implementation of a number of different types of actions (e.g. in the fields of environment, transport, skills, employment) with the scope to promote tourism.

It can support the implementation of an integrated tourism strategy.

It can support the integrated development of a specifically identified destination in the area.

Tourism-related activities under other PO of the new Cohesion Policy can be supported as long as they promote the objective of that PO. For example PO1 A greener Europe may include actions for promotion of eco-tourism.

Interreg Specific Objective 1- a better cooperation governance can support actions for building institutional capacity for the development and implementation of tourism strategies.
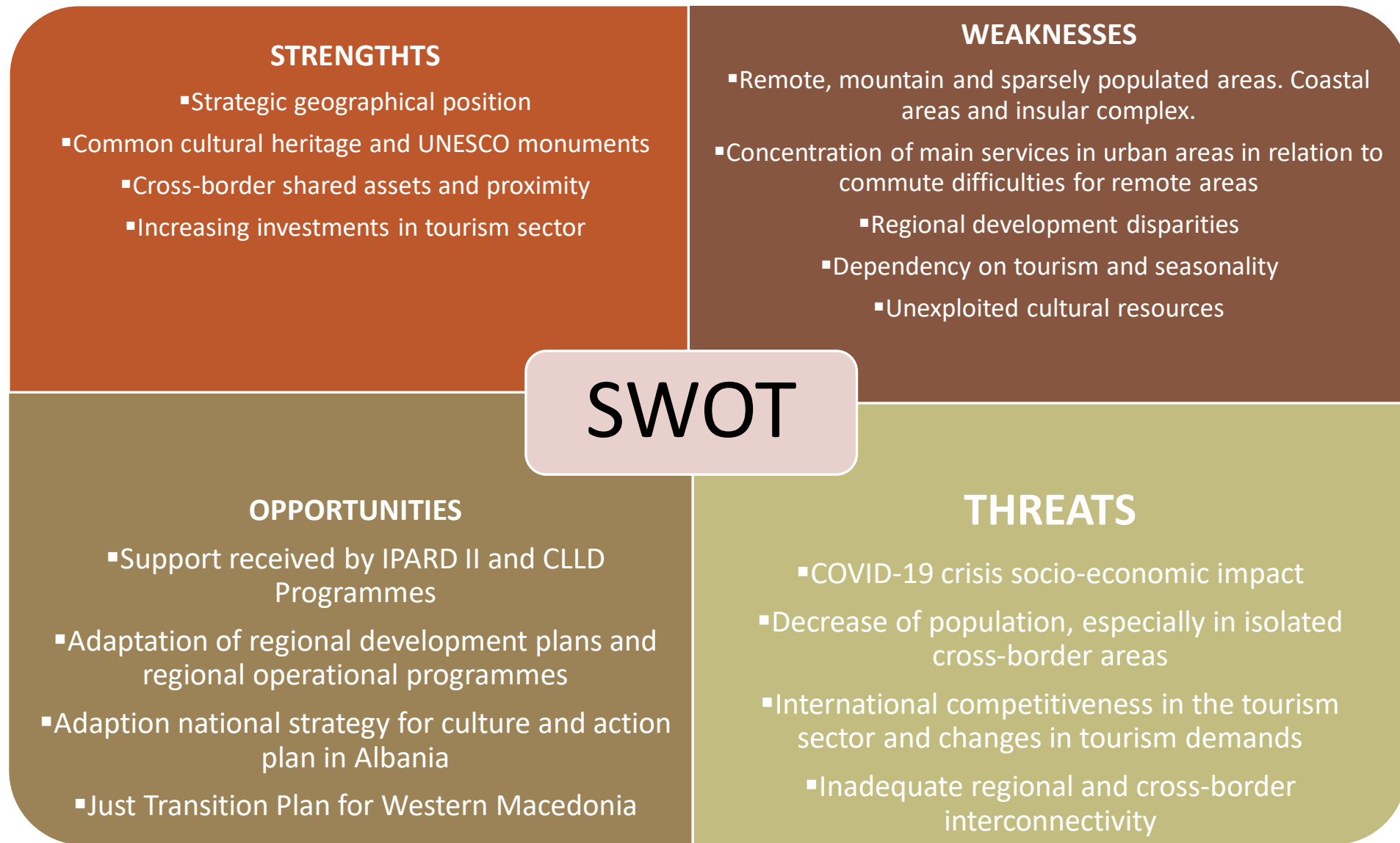
Common Territorial challenges and needs

Coastal areas and insular complex (Ionian Islands) in the Programme area (climate change risks, pressure human activity impact on environment, water management, tourism and seasonality)

Rural, remote and sparsely populated areas in the cross-border regions of Albania and Greece (inadequate connectivity, dependency on urban and sub-urban areas, accessibility in health services, inadequate digital connectivity)

Rich common cultural heritage in the cross-border area. UNESCO monuments (Old Town of Corfu, Historic Centres Of Berat And Gjirokastra, Butrint Archaeological Site, Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region), tentative list monuments (Archaeological site of Nikopolis, area of the Prespa Lakes: Megali and Mikri Prespa, Zagorochoria – North Pindos National Park, Royal Tombs of Selca e Poshtme, The Ancient City of Apollonia)

Impact of tourism in local economic activity and environment (promotion of cross-border tourism destinations, tourism branding and marketing, pressure on environment deriving from intense tourism activity, impact of seasonality in local economies)

STRENGTHTS

- Strategic geographical position
- Common cultural heritage and UNESCO monuments
- Cross-border shared assets and proximity
- Increasing investments in tourism sector

WEAKNESSES

- Remote, mountain and sparsely populated areas. Coastal areas and insular complex.
- Concentration of main services in urban areas in relation to commute difficulties for remote areas
- Regional development disparities
- Dependency on tourism and seasonality
- Unexploited cultural resources

SWOT

OPPORTUNITIES

- Support received by IPARD II and CLLD Programmes
- Adaptation of regional development plans and regional operational programmes
- Adaption national strategy for culture and action plan in Albania
- Just Transition Plan for Western Macedonia

THREATS

- COVID-19 crisis socio-economic impact
- Decrease of population, especially in isolated cross-border areas
- International competitiveness in the tourism sector and changes in tourism demands
- Inadequate regional and cross-border interconnectivity

Needs and Challenges of the Cross-border area?

Can you identify other needs of the cross-border area of higher priority that can be targeted under Priority Axis 3?

Evaluation of proposed Priority Axis

Do you believe that the new Programme Strategy should include specific objectives with multi-sectoral or sectoral thematic?

Multi-sectoral objectives

Sectoral objectives

Indicators in the new Programming Period

- Common output and result indicators are set in the ERDF and CF Regulation, grouped indicatively per policy objective.

- **Expected change is reflected in Result Indicators**: short term effects of the intervention, with reference to direct addressees, population targeted or usage of infrastructure ('direct' results).

- **Output Indicators reflect** specific deliverables of the intervention (products or services produced during implementation.

- The main difference from the 2014-2020 programming period regards the concept of **"Result".**

- In 2021-2027 "Result" is directly connected with the implemented interventions and the data for their achievement will derive from the activities and the projects implemented.

- The set of common indicator is built in a way that data can be collected from projects or directly from the monitoring system of the managing authority. For some of the result indicators (ex: SMEs), there could be also additional options for data sources such as administrative registries, surveys, or other national databased.

Output indicators: Milestones 2024, Targets 2029

- All outputs selected in the programme linked to SO

- Milestones to be achieved by the end of the year 2024 for output indicators

- Targets to be achieved by the end of the year 2029 for output indicators

- Baseline always 0

- The output indicators used for a project should be the most representative for the intervention

Result indicators: Baselines, Targets 2029

- All results selected in the programme linked to SO

- No milestones

- Baseline – 0 or reference value (value before the start of intervention)

- The result indicators should be chose such that they reflect the main objectives of the interventions.

Output Indicators

☐ RCO 76 - Collaborative projects
☐ RCO 77 - Capacity of cultural and tourism infrastructure supported

Result Indicators

☐ RCR 77 - Tourists/ visits to supported sites
☐ RCR 78 - Users benefiting from cultural infrastructure supported

Project idea Form

What is it's scope?

Aim of the project idea form is to identify type of interventions that can be supported under Priority Axis 3 and the respective specific objective. It also contributes in identifying common needs of the programme area and the how cross-border cooperation can achieve expected changes.

Project idea Form

What do you need to fill in?

Participants are asked to:

- Provide a brief description of an intervention that they consider to be important for the Programme area in relation to identified needs and link it to a specific objective of the Priority Axis.
- Specify contribution of suggested intervention to EUSAIR pillars or emblematic priorities.
- Indicate the type of beneficiaries and the type of interventions
- Identify result and output indicators according to the suggested intervention

How and when to submit?

The "Project Idea Form" is available on Google Form and can be submitted electronically until 15/4/2021

https://forms.gle/aGGCxgXiPZNqgqDz8