

**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	2020.0
Date of approval of the report by the monitoring committee	70 <sup>th</sup> Joint Monitoring Committee written procedure on 24.05.2020

<b>IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL/FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT</b>	<b>1</b>
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
<b>3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1 OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION .....	5
3.2 COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC INDICATORS (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013).....	7
PRIORITY AXES OTHER THAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE .....	7
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS—PRIORITY AXIS 1.SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES 2, 3 AND 4.....	7
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS—PRIORITY AXIS 1.SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2 .....	8
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS – PRIORITY AXIS 1.SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3.....	9
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS – PRIORITY AXIS 1.SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4.....	9
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS – PRIORITY AXIS 1.SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.....	10
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS – PRIORITY AXIS 1.SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.....	11
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS – PRIORITY AXIS 2.SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES 1 AND 2 .....	12
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS – PRIORITY AXIS 2.SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.....	12
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS – PRIORITY AXIS 2.SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.....	13
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS - 2.TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE .....	14
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS—N+1.1.1.....	15
3.4. FINANCIAL DATA .....	16
TABLE 4: FINANCIAL INFORMATION AT PRIORITY AXIS AND PROGRAMME LEVEL .....	16
WHERE APPLICABLE, THE USE OF ANY CONTRIBUTION FROM THIRD COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME SHOULD BE PROVIDED .....	17
(FOR EXAMPLE IPA AND ENI, NORWAY, SWITZERLAND) .....	17
TABLE 5: BREAKDOWN OF THE CUMULATIVE FINANCIAL DATA BY CATEGORY OF INTERVENTION .....	18
TABLE 6: CUMULATIVE COST OF ALL OR PART OF AN OPERATION IMPLEMENTED OUTSIDE THE UNION PART OF THE PROGRAMME AREA .....	22
(1) IPA SUPPORT IS THE COMMISSION DECISION ON THE RESPECTIVE COOPERATION PROGRAMME. ....	22
<b>4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN</b>	<b>25</b>
(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
<b>6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>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)</b>	<b>31</b>
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
<b>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)</b>	<b>35</b>
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).....	37
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) .....	39
9.4. REPORTING ON SUPPORT USED FOR CLIMATE CHANGE OBJECTIVES (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013).....	40
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) .....	41

<b>10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013</b>	<b>43</b>
10.1 PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EVALUATION PLAN AND THE FOLLOW-UP GIVEN TO THE FINDINGS OF EVALUATIONS .....	43
10.2 THE RESULTS OF THE INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY MEASURES OF THE FUNDS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY .....	45
<b>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)</b>	<b>46</b>
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 .....	47
11.2 PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS TO REINFORCE THE CAPACITY OF AUTHORITIES AND BENEFICIARIES TO ADMINISTER AND TO USE THE IPA.....	48
11.3 CONTRIBUTION TO MACRO-REGIONAL AND SEA BASIN STRATEGIES (WHERE APPROPRIATE) .....	49
11.4 PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL INNOVATION .....	50
<b>13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN — PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)</b>	<b>52</b>
DOCUMENTS .....	53
LATEST VALIDATION RESULTS.....	54

## 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 1/1/2020 until 31/12/2020. 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 2020 are the following:*

- *The 5th Targeted call –which was launched in 25 November 2019- had its deadline extended until 24/02/2020. One targeted project proposal was approved.*
- *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, remain very complicated and still causing serious delays.*
- *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 2020:*
  - *1 JMC online Meeting via webex on 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2020, for the approval of the 3rd Programme Revision, the Technical Assistance Multiannual Budget Plan and the Annual Communication Plan for 2021*
  - *1 Technical Meeting took place concerning the 5th Targeted Call, 2 Technical Meetings concerning smooth projects implementation*
  - *On the spot targeted visits in cooperation with the Albanian National Authority in Albania, and on the spot visits in Greece*
  - *Online meetings with beneficiaries (via skype, webex, etc.)*
  - *Three (3) info-days for project implementation (4<sup>th</sup> Call projects)*
  - *The Strategic Project WASTE RREACT was nominated to participate in the Green Trip campaign.*
- *The tender procedure for the assignment of the External Evaluator of the Programme was conducted during 2020.*
- *Pre-tendering and pre-contacting checks according to the methodology of the management and control system, for the Greek beneficiaries.*
- *Five (5) Payment Requests have been submitted during 2020 by the Certifying Authority with a total amount of 10.782.627,00€.*
- *The rate of the total allocation covered with selected projects is 123,83% (127,12% for PA1, 129,10% for PA2, and 100,00% for PA3).*
- *The rate of expenditures declared by the beneficiaries is 25,72% (22,65% for PA1, 28,47% for PA2, and 36,12% for PA3).*

### 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><b>Promotion of the environment sustainable transport &amp; public infrastructure</b></p> <p>The first priority axis includes two thematic priorities: (c) Promoting sustainable transport, information and communications networks &amp; services and investing in cross-border water, waste &amp; energy systems and facilities, &amp; (b) Protecting the environment &amp; promoting climate change adaptation &amp; mitigation, risk prevention &amp; management</p> <p>28 projects that were approved in this PA in the previous years, one (1) more project, whose acronym is: (1) FIRE-PREP, was approved in 2020.</p> <p>The subsidy contract of this 1 project has been signed during 2020 following the incorporation of the conditions under which this project has been approved.</p> <p>The contract of the “HCU Energy Optimization” project was terminated with no implementation and the JMC members were informed on 07/9/2020.</p> <p>Taking into consideration all the above, the total number of approved and under implementation projects of the programme under PA1 are twenty eight (28).</p> <p>The new total budget approved under PA1 is 39,601,914.67€. <i>The rate of the total allocation covered with selected projects under PA1 is 127,12%.</i></p> <p><i>The rate of the expenditures declared by the beneficiaries under PA1 is 22,65%.</i></p> <p>Programme indicators included in Specific Objectives 1.1, 1.2 &amp; 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 submitted under the 5<sup>th</sup> targeted Call.</p> <p>Regarding the pre-financing of the Albanian beneficiaries -who may request up to 20% of their EU contribution- during 2020, in total of thirty three (33) requests which were made by the Lead Beneficiary of the respective projects for (25) Albanian beneficiaries, the amount sums up to 1,358,087.71€ .</p>
2	Priority axis 2	<p><b>Boosting the Local Economy</b></p> <p>The second priority axis also includes two thematic priorities: (d) Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage, &amp; (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>

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>37 projects were approved in this PA in the previous years, The new total budget approved under PA2 is 24,131,396.17€.</p> <p><i>The rate of the total allocation covered with selected projects under PA2 is 129,10%.</i></p> <p><i>The rate of the expenditures declared by the beneficiaries under PA2 is 28,47%.</i></p> <p>Programme indicators included in Specific Objectives 2.1 &amp; 2.2 are expected to be achieved by the projects that are already running.</p>
3	Priority axis 3	<p>Technical assistance: 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. The total budget approved under PA3 is 3,231,203.00€.</p> <p><i>The rate of the total allocation covered with technical Assistance projects under PA3 is 76,37%.</i></p> <p><i>The rate of the expenditures declared by the beneficiaries under PA3 is 36,12%.</i></p> <p>Based on the Programme's financial structuring, and always aiming to ensure the smooth implementation of the Programme and the best administration of the Programme's resources, it was necessary to proceed to some adaptations on the Programme's investment strategy, its subsequent financial appropriations and the related categories of intervention. For this reason, during 2020, the 3rd modification of the "Interreg IPA CBC Greece – Albania 2014-2020" Programme has been approved by the JMC at its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting on 12/11/2020, which concerns the shifting of the excess amount of 1.000.000 € (total funding) from the 3rd priority axis (Technical Assistance) of the Programme to the other two priority axes. The total budget of the Programme remains unchanged. The surplus amount of 1.000.000 € from the Technical Assistance priority axis (P.A.3) was distributed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 200.000 € to priority axis 1 (P.A.1) and Specific Objective 1.3 (S.O. 1.3 - Increase energy-efficiency and the use of RES).</li> <li>▪ 200.000 € to priority axis 1 (P.A.1) and Specific Objective 1.4 (S.O. 1.4 - Improve the effectiveness of risk prevention and disaster management with a focus on forest fires).</li> <li>▪ 600.000 € to priority axis 2 (P.A.2) and Specific Objective 2.1 (S.O. 2.1 - Preserve cultural and natural resources as a prerequisite for tourism development of the cross border area).</li> </ul> <p>As of 31.12.2020, the total certified expenditure for Technical Assistance was 1,528,437.52€. The amount certified under the Greek technical assistance was 934,671.77€, while the amount certified under the Albanian technical assistance was 593,765.75€.</p> <p>The main cost driver was the staffing of the Joint Secretariat, the First Level Control in Albania and the personnel responsible for the technical assistance in the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.</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	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**  
(coding has altered - codes of common indicators were adopted)

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	CO21	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	inhabitants	115.000	0	Project has not produced any results. 3 approved projects will report on this indicator.
S	CO21	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	inhabitants	177.000	0	Project has not produced any results. 3 approved projects will report on this indicator. The projects have not produced any outputs during 2020. For these projects tangible outputs are estimated to be delivered within 2021
F	CO23	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	hectares	72.250,00	19.000	One out of three projects has produced results
S	CO23	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	hectares	72.250,00	19.000	One out of three projects has produced results. For the other two projects tangible outputs are estimated to be produced within 2021
F	CO32	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	Kwh/year	1.100.000	78.000	One project has produced results. 10 approved projects will report on this indicator.
S	CO32	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	Kwh/year	1.109.288	78.000	One project has produced results. 10 approved projects will report on this indicator. One project has ended without any implementation.
F	CO34b	People participating in awareness actions	participants	35.000	1853	Two projects have produced results. 10 approved projects will report on this indicator.
S	CO34b	People participating in awareness actions	participants	32.100	1853	Two project have produced results. 10 approved projects will report on this indicator. One project has ended without any implementation

(I)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO21	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	0	0	0	0	0	0
S	CO21	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	0	0	0	0	0	0
F	CO23	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	0	0	0	0	0	0
S	CO23	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	0	0	0	0	0	0
F	CO32	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	50.000	0	0	0	0	0
S	CO32	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	50.000	0	0	0	0	0
F	CO34b	People participating in awareness actions	1.630	0	0	0	0	0
S	CO34b	People participating in awareness actions	1.630	0	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]

<b>Priority axis</b>	Priority axis 1 Promotion of the environment sustainable transport & public infrastructure
<b>Thematic priority</b>	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.
<b>Specific objective</b>	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	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
5	Level of preservation of the protected natural CB areas	%	72.08	2015	79,29	74,52	74,52	Three approved Projects are contributing to this indicator. The attained value has been calculated after the conclusion of the bi-annual field survey conducted. The value of the indicator has been calculated at 74,52 which is shows a 2,08% progress in the last two years since the value for 2018 was calculated at 73,00

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2014-2015 Total	2014-2015 Qualitative
5	Level of preservation of the protected natural CB areas	73,00	73.00	72.08	0	72.08	0	72.08	0	72.08	0

<b>Priority axis</b>	Priority axis 1 Promotion of the environment sustainable transport & public infrastructure
<b>Thematic priority</b>	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.
<b>Specific objective</b>	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	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
6	Energy Efficiency Awareness Barome-ter	number , (on a 1-10 scale)	5.94	2015	7	7.19	7.19	Ten (10) approved Projects are contributing to this indicator. The indicator has shown significant progress from the baseline value and has exceeded to target value by 2,71%. The attained value has been calculated after a filed survey conducted during the current update of the Programme’s evaluation.

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2014-2015 Total	2014-2015 Qualitative
6	Energy Efficiency Awareness Barome-ter	6,95	6,95	5.94	0	5.94	0	5.94	0	5.94	0

<b>Priority axis</b>	Priority axis 1 Promotion of the environment sustainable transport & public infrastructure
<b>Thematic priority</b>	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.
<b>Specific objective</b>	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	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
7	Area damaged by forest fires (5-yr rolling annual average)	hectares	15,010.89	2014	13.450	8.387	8.387	Three 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	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2014-2015 Total	2014-2015 Qualitative
7	Area damaged by forest fires (5-yr rolling annual average)	8.387	8.387	15,010.89	0	15,010.89	0	15,010.89	0	15,010.89	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 (coding has altered - codes of common indicators were adopted)**

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	CO18	Additional population served by improved water supply	inhabitants	214,637,00	0	Project has not produced any results. 3 approved projects will report on this indicator.
S	CO18	Additional population served by improved water supply	inhabitants	214,637,00	0	Project has not produced any results. 3 approved projects will report on this indicator. All three (3) projects have not produced any outputs during 2020. For these projects tangible outputs are estimated to be delivered within 2021.
F	CO19	Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	inhabitants	13,500,00	0	Project has not produced any results. 1 approved project will report on this indicator.
S	CO19	Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	inhabitants	3,900,00	0	Project has not produced any results. 1 approved project will report on this indicator. The project has not produced any outputs during 2020. For this project tangible outputs are estimated to be delivered within 2021
F	CO21b	Additional solid waste management capacity created	Tonnes/yr	7,000.00	991,26	Three projects have produced results. 5 approved projects will report on this indicator.
S	CO21b	Additional solid waste management capacity created	Tonnes/yr	6,651.00	991,26	Three projects have produces results. 5 approved projects will report on this indicator.
F	CO21c	Kilometers of CB road network studied	km	30.00	0	Project has not produced any results. 2 approved projects will report on this indicator.
S	CO21c	Kilometers of CB road network studied	km	29.30	0	Project has not produced any results. 2 approved projects will report on this indicator. All projects have not produced any outputs during 2020. For one project tangible outputs are estimated to be delivered within 2021
F	CO21d	Number of square meters of border crossing buildings studied or con-structed	m2	200.00	0	Project has not produced any results. 1 approved project will report on this indicator.
S	CO21d	Number of square meters of border crossing buildings studied or con-structed	m2	784.00	0	Project has not produced any results. 1 approved project will report on this indicator. The project has not produced any outputs during 2020. For this project tangible outputs are estimated to be delivered within 2021

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO18	Additional population served by improved water supply	0	0	0	0	0	0
S	CO18	Additional population served by improved water supply	0	0	0	0	0	0
F	CO19	Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	0	0	0	0	0	0
S	CO19	Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	0	0	0	0	0	0
F	CO21b	Additional solid waste management capacity created	291.40	0	0	0	0	0
S	CO21b	Additional solid waste management capacity created	291.40	0	0	0	0	0
F	CO21c	Kilometers of CB road network studied	0	0	0	0	0	0
S	CO21c	Kilometers of CB road network studied	0	0	0	0	0	0
F	CO21d	Number of square meters of border crossing buildings studied or con-structed	0	0	0	0	0	0
S	CO21d	Number of square meters of border crossing buildings studied or con-structed	0	0	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]

<b>Priority axis</b>	Priority axis 1 Promotion of the environment sustainable transport & public infrastructure
<b>Thematic priority</b>	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.
<b>Specific objective</b>	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	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
1	Volume of urban effluents under sec-ondary treatment	million m3	30.00	2014	41,31	39,49	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	73.30	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	80.41	0	1 approved projects is contributing to this indicator. The implementation of the relevant studies have already been started by EGNATIA ODOS SA

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2014-2015 Total	2014-2015 Qualitative
1	Volume of urban effluents under sec-ondary treatment	39,49	39,49	30.00	0	30.00	0	30.00	0	30.00	0
2	Percentage of solid waste managed sustainably	73,30	73,30	75.00	0	75.00	0	75.00	0	75.00	0
3	% of cross-border vertical axes to Egnatia motorway either constructed or with sufficient maturity to be con-structed.	80,41	0	80.41	0	80.41	0	80.41	0	80.41	0

Priority axis	Priority axis 2 Boosting the Local Economy
Thematic priorities	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 internationalisation.

**Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators – Priority axis 2. Specific Objectives 1 and 2 (codes of common indicators were adopted)**

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	CO04	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	450	417	5 projects have produced results. Nine approved projects are contributing to this indicator.
S	CO04	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	590	417	5 projects have produced results. Nine approved projects are contributing to this indicator. The target value has been increased due to the increase to the physical content of one project
F	CO09	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	visits	21.000	5.675	6 projects have produced results. Twenty eight approved projects are contributing to this indicator.
S	CO09	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	visits	36.700	5.675	6 projects have produced results. Twenty eight approved projects are contributing to this indicator.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO04	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	61	0	0	0	0	0
S	CO04	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	61	0	0	0	0	0
F	CO09	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	3.760	0	0	0	0	0
S	CO09	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	3.760	0	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
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 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	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
8	Active CB enterprises	number	97.883	2014	100.000	164.702	164.702	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	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2014-2015 Total	2014-2015 Qualitative
8	Active CB enterprises	164.702	164.702	97.883	0	97.883	0	97.883	0	97.883	0

<b>Priority axis</b>	Priority axis 2 Boosting the Local Economy
<b>Thematic priority</b>	d- Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.
<b>Specific objective</b>	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	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
9	Annual overnight tourist stays of the cross border area	millions	9.00	2014	9,54	13,3	13,3	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	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2014-2015 Total	2014-2015 Qualitative
9	Annual overnight tourist stays of the cross border area	13,3	13,3	9.00	0	9.00	0	9.00	0	9.00	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	2020	Observations
F	3	Not applicable	Not required	1	0	
S	3	Not applicable	Not required	1	0	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	3	Not applicable	0					
S	3	Not applicable	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	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	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
0	not applicable	no	0.00	0	0.00			

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2014-2015 Total	2014-2015 Qualitative
0	not applicable			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 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 31/12/2020 and certified to the Commission
1	IPA	Public	31,152,837	85.00	39.601.914,67	127,12%	39.601.914,67	7,055,657.67	22,65%	28	7,055,657.67
2	IPA	Public	18,692,694	85.00	24.131.396.17	129.10%	24.131.396.17	5,322,486.11.	28,47%	37	5,322,486.11
3	IPA	Public	4,231,203	85.00	3.231.203,00	76,37%	3.231.203,00	1,528,437.52	36,12%	2	1,528,437.52
<b>Total</b>	<b>IPA</b>		<b>54,076,734</b>	<b>85.00</b>	<b>66,964,513.84</b>	<b>123,83%</b>	<b>66,964,513.84</b>	<b>13,906,581.30</b>	<b>25,72%</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>13,906,581.30</b>
<b>Grand total</b>			<b>54,076,734</b>	<b>85.00</b>	<b>66,964,513.84</b>	<b>123,83%</b>	<b>66,964,513.84</b>	<b>13,906,581.30</b>	<b>25,72%</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>13,906,581.30</b>



**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	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic objective dimension	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	13	1	7	7	b	24	AL	3.678.054,20	3.678.054,20	208.699,97	10
1	IPA	13	1	7	7	b	24	EL131	359.750,00	359.750,00	0,00	1
1	IPA	13	1	7	7	b	24	EL132	843.940,50	843.940,50	130.321,43	2
1	IPA	13	1	7	7	b	24	EL134	705.434,40	705.434,40	94.629,88	2
1	IPA	13	1	7	7	b	24	EL211	1.878.504,22	1.878.504,22	119.909,95	3
1	IPA	13	1	7	7	b	24	EL212	711.429,00	711.429,00	0,00	1
1	IPA	13	1	7	7	b	24	EL213	1.422.399,18	1.422.399,18	126.305,86	3
1	IPA	13	1	7	7	b	24	EL214	1.106.241,05	1.106.241,05	79.204,40	2
1	IPA	13	1	7	7	b	24	EL221	0,00	0,00	0,00	0
1	IPA	13	1	7	7	b	24	EL222	0,00	0,00	0,00	0
1	IPA	17	1	7	7	c	24	AL	1.024.641,69	1.024.641,69	192.453,29	4
1	IPA	17	1	7	7	c	24	EL131	211.917,71	211.917,71	155.302,36	1
1	IPA	17	1	7	7	c	24	EL132	431.701,19	431.701,19	359.513,73	2
1	IPA	17	1	7	7	c	24	EL134	302.901,83	302.901,83	227.182,90	1
1	IPA	17	1	7	7	c	24	EL213	163.527,00	163.527,00	42.324,29	1
1	IPA	17	1	7	7	c	24	EL214	306.871,80	306.871,80	264.800,00	1
1	IPA	17	1	7	7	c	24	EL222	616.740,00	616.740,00	142.792,39	1
1	IPA	18	1	7	7	c	24	AL	1.064.079,07	1.064.079,07	56.570,19	1
1	IPA	18	1	7	7	c	24	EL132	888.654,03	888.654,03	349.906,54	1

Priority axis	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic objective dimension	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	18	1	7	7	c	24	EL134	101.049,21	101.049,21	27.089,31	1
1	IPA	18	1	7	7	c	24	EL213	1.699.042,75	1.699.042,75	24.208,86	1
1	IPA	18	1	7	7	c	24	EL222	472.020,00	472.020,00	17.563,80	1
1	IPA	21	1	7	7	c	24	AL	2.299.348,22	2.299.348,22	1.123.273,08	3
1	IPA	21	1	7	7	c	24	EL132	257.424,80	257.424,80	176.943,42	1
1	IPA	21	1	7	7	c	24	EL134	836.480,00	836.480,00	558.810,83	2
1	IPA	21	1	7	7	c	24	EL212	164.215,12	164.215,12	110.968,39	1
1	IPA	21	1	7	7	c	24	EL213	1.151.651,12	1.151.651,12	182.698,64	3
1	IPA	21	1	7	7	c	24	EL222	1.220.440,00	1.220.440,00	139.040,99	2
1	IPA	21	1	7	7	c	24	EL223	167.266,00	167.266,00	141.750,07	1
1	IPA	22	1	7	7	c	24	AL	275.588,51	275.588,51	26.415,22	1
1	IPA	22	1	7	7	c	24	EL213	537.830,85	537.830,85	340.745,07	1
1	IPA	30	1	7	7	c	24	AL	287.420,80	287.420,80	27.373,69	1
1	IPA	30	1	7	7	c	24	EL132	329.153,60	329.153,60	0,00	1
1	IPA	30	1	7	7	c	24	EL134	358.310,85	358.310,85	96.893,34	1
1	IPA	34	1	7	7	c	24	AL	2.474.670,37	2.474.670,37	134.239,04	2
1	IPA	34	1	7	7	c	24	EL211	548.885,28	548.885,28	435.253,79	1
1	IPA	34	1	7	7	c	24	EL212	6.051.808,00	6.051.808,00	65.419,28	1
1	IPA	85	1	7	7	b	24	AL	404.125,30	404.125,30	52.913,54	3
1	IPA	85	1	7	7	b	24	EL211	115.810,00	115.810,00	91.085,89	1
1	IPA	85	1	7	7	b	24	EL212	82.213,00	82.213,00	78.245,28	1
1	IPA	85	1	7	7	b	24	EL213	330.183,42	330.183,42	96.368,81	1
1	IPA	85	1	7	7	b	24	EL221	193.000,00	193.000,00	85.284,40	1

Priority axis	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic objective dimension	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	85	1	7	7	b	24	EL222	70.000,00	70.000,00	48.161,06	1
1	IPA	85	1	7	7	b	24	EL223	52.000,00	52.000,00	46.254,72	1
1	IPA	88	1	7	7	b	24	AL	1.493.242,09	1.493.242,09	92.672,73	3
1	IPA	88	1	7	7	b	24	EL134	51.987,00	51.987,00	37.447,10	1
1	IPA	88	1	7	7	b	24	EL213	1.619.298,74	1.619.298,74	124.960,74	3
1	IPA	88	1	7	7	b	24	EL222	240.662,77	240.662,77	123.659,40	2
2	IPA	66	1	7	7	g	24	AL	679.879,38	679.879,38	117.937,10	4
2	IPA	66	1	7	7	g	24	EL131	279.110,00	279.110,00	256.295,16	1
2	IPA	66	1	7	7	g	24	EL132	107.680,00	107.680,00	0,00	1
2	IPA	66	1	7	7	g	24	EL211	139.585,00	139.585,00	65.662,10	1
2	IPA	66	1	7	7	g	24	EL134	193.890,11	193.890,11	0,00	1
2	IPA	66	1	7	7	g	24	EL213	592.599,66	592.599,66	238.493,33	3
2	IPA	66	1	7	7	g	24	EL222	126.514,72	126.514,72	93.409,45	1
2	IPA	67	1	7	7	g	24	AL	1.141.573,53	1.141.573,53	388.451,71	5
2	IPA	67	1	7	7	g	24	EL132	844.739,27	844.739,27	346.604,06	3
2	IPA	67	1	7	7	g	24	EL134	153.181,00	153.181,00	121.617,96	1
2	IPA	67	1	7	7	g	24	EL211	245.946,97	245.946,97	72.479,26	2
2	IPA	67	1	7	7	g	24	EL213	444.840,46	444.840,46	255.523,45	3
2	IPA	67	1	7	7	g	24	EL222	196.336,87	196.336,87	32.206,79	1
2	IPA	94	1	7	7	d	24	AL	6.854.512,56	6.854.512,56	595.090,42	28
2	IPA	94	1	7	7	d	24	EL131	554.905,50	554.905,50	246.898,06	2
2	IPA	94	1	7	7	d	24	EL132	2.102.943,07	2.102.943,07	511.839,15	6
2	IPA	94	1	7	7	d	24	EL134	553.589,14	553.589,14	134.777,11	2
2	IPA	94	1	7	7	d	24	EL 211	116.641,20	116.641,20	16.405,94	1

Priority axis	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic objective dimension	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
2	IPA	94	1	7	7	d	24	EL 212	342.414,46	342.414,46	25.235,36	2
2	IPA	94	1	7	7	d	24	EL213	6.821.990,97	6.821.990,97	1.324.795,98	19
2	IPA	94	1	7	7	d	24	EL 214	91.210,00	91.210,00	0,00	1
2	IPA	94	1	7	7	d	24	EL 221	100.703,10	100.703,10	29.774,17	1
2	IPA	94	1	7	7	d	24	EL 222	1.278.318,00	1.278.318,00	394.467,76	4
2	IPA	94	1	7	7	d	24	EL 223	168.291,20	168.291,20	54.521,79	1
3	IPA	121	1	7	7		24	AL	1.132.700,00	1.132.700,00	533.236,56	1
3	IPA	122	1	7	7		24	AL	15.000,00	15.000,00	12.209,67	1
3	IPA	123	1	7	7		24	AL	170.200,00	170.200,00	48.319,52	1
3	IPA	121	1	7	7		24	EL	1.574.995,14	1.574.995,14	779.603,46	1
3	IPA	122	1	7	7		24	EL	178.288,52	178.288,52	48.139,96	1
3	IPA	123	1	7	7		24	EL	160.019,34	160.019,34	106.928,35	1
<b>TOTAL</b>									66.964.513,84	66.964.513,84	13.906.581,30	180

**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

Until today a first evaluation of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme “Greece – Albania” 2014-2020 was carried out, as well as an update of the first evaluation (second or mid-term evaluation).

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

Following the first evaluation, an update of the first evaluation (second evaluation) was carried out during the period from the launching of the Programme till 31/12/2020. The contract with the External Evaluator was signed at the beginning of 2021. The 2nd evaluation report has been submitted and the conclusions are incorporated in the current annual report.

The progress for the programme can be summarized as follows:

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.

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 123,83%. Based on the experience from the previous programming periods, this overbooking is considered sufficient in order to ensure that no funds are lost.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Call for Targeted Proposals was launched on 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2019 and the deadline was the 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2020. An extension of the deadline was taken by the Joint Monitoring Committee of the INTERREG IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme "Greece Albania 2014-2020", via the 44<sup>th</sup> Written Procedure moving the deadline to the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 2020. The total budget of this call was 2.500.000 € The 5<sup>th</sup> Call for Project Proposals was a Targeted Call and it was open only for Specific Objective 1.4 under the Priority Axis 1. One targeted project proposal was approved with a total budget of €2.499.23,98.

The following table provides an overview of launched calls.

<b>Calls for Project Proposals Overview</b>						
<b>Call</b>	<b>Procedure</b>	<b>Submission period</b>	<b>No. of applicants</b>	<b>Selected projects</b>	<b>Timeframe of Selection</b>	<b>Max. project duration</b>
1st Call for Strategic Proposals	1st step Website application	12/02/2016 - 15/05/2016	6	4	~ 6 months (JMC decision for approval: 24/11/2016)	36 months
2nd Call for Ordinary Project Proposals	1st step Website application	17/5/2016 - 14/10/2016	200	41	9 months JMC decision for approval: 14/7/2017)	24 months

3rd Call for Targeted Project Proposals	1st step Website application	2/8/2018 - 1/10/2018	1	1	~ 0,5 month (JMC decision for approval: 05/10/2018)	30 months
4th Call for Ordinary Project Proposals	1st step Website application	17/10/2018 - 28/02/2019	52	19	~ 4 months (JMC decision for approval: 21/06/2019)	24 months
5th Call for Targeted Project Proposals	1st step Website application	25/11/2019 - 24/02/2020	1	1	~ 1,5 month (JMC decision for approval: 13/04/2020)	30 months



## 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 key factors affecting the performance of the INTERREG IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme “Greece – Albania 2014 – 2020” in the context of the overall progression that has been achieved so far towards reaching the Programme’s set objectives, is presented below:

During 2020, the major problem which caused a lengthy delay is the unexpected covid-19 crisis. 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:

- a) Bureaucratic internal procedures, prevented the prompt handling of the procurement and contracting procedures
- b) Full functionality -and learning processes- of the information systems (MIS and e-pde)
- c) Demanding administrative procedures in launching of the tenders and contracting
- d) Pre-financing issues for the Albanian Beneficiaries, which caused knock-on delays on meeting the activities plan of the project
- e) Withdrawal and/or substitution of partners and modification of the composition of the partnership
- f) Partial redesign of the project and change in the work packages.
- g) Modification of activities affected by Covid-19 (mainly communication activities, meetings, workshops, trainings etc). Alternative options were adopted.

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

Regarding the delays and the problems in the pre-financing procedure of the Albanian Beneficiaries, 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, which takes more than one year to be completed, 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. The Joint Secretariat with the cooperation of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs proceeded with the creation of a relevant manual, and all the steps that the beneficiaries needed to undertake were indicated in detail. Additionally, the procedure was presented in detail during Info Days for project implementation that took place at the beginning of 2020.

During the concerned period many (38) risks were identified and analyzed; with the existing control measures, the overall level of net risk impact and the occurrence of the estimated risks fluctuates at an acceptable level as it decreases significantly, and therefore no additional measures were required to be taken. Five (5) risks continue to be classified as of high level and one (1) more is still regarded as extremely high risk. The latter concerns the Covid-19 outbreak in both Programme countries and many other affected countries where the virus is impacting GR-AL beneficiaries and third parties. The first out of the high risk hazards concerns the high budget projects which have direct correlation with the achievement of specific objectives and might lead to the slow down of the overall verified expenditures and the non achievement of certain indicators. The second is about the insufficient level of internal partnership coordination and collaboration in some projects. The next risk focuses on the lack of experience on the tendering procedures which might lead to delays and non achievement of the milestones of the projects. The fourth risk arises from the inability of many beneficiaries to carry out the planned activities and be in line with the approved application form of the project. The last high risk is about the already or expected delays regarding the financial Object (Budget) execution according to the timetable, Lack of beneficiary's' liquidity can lead to a halt in the project implementation.

All the above mentioned risks, in combination with the rest lower and medium level risks, cause a knock-on effect of negative implications throughout the project implementation cycle and aggravate further the achievement of the N + 3 rule for the year 2021.

The main steps taken to address the delays in implementation were:

- o Covid-19 crisis
- Many of the beneficiaries submitted modification requests in order to implement specific actions (e.g. workshop, seminars, and meetings) through means that do not put to risk the public health. The MA/JS also selected virtual meetings (via skype/webex) as an alternative option for monitoring of the approved projects. When technical meetings with physical presence were necessary, all health measures were taken.

- Most of the project Lead beneficiaries submitted requests for the extension of the project duration. The prolongations were considered crucial and necessary for the completion of projects' deliverables, the smooth implementation of the contracts and the procurements.
- o Pre-financing of the Albanian beneficiaries
- info days in order for the beneficiaries to be informed
- close contact with beneficiaries
- o 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.
- o Tendering procedures by Albanian beneficiaries:
- Delays due to the difficulty of applying national and PRAG rules.
- o The problem was tackled to a certain extent after communication between the Joint Secretariat and the First Level Control in Albania
- o Cooperation with Unit C' in order to accelerate the designation procedure of controllers.
- o 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.
- o Adoption of a reward policy for beneficiaries that implemented their activities and the target of their projects in time, by increasing their budget/adding new activities.

**(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.**

--

## **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**

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 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

**Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them**

--

## 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 2020, twenty-eight (28) projects are being implemented. Taking into consideration that project results are available, the respective outputs and results indicators are starting to be achieved.

Regarding the output indicators, the outcomes are based on the information provided by the submitted progress reports of the beneficiaries (on the MIS). In particular:

- The achievement of the output indicator “Additional solid waste management capacity created” is reported by three (3) projects, with MIS codes 5030885, 5032629 and 5032723.
- The achievement of the output indicator “People participating in awareness actions” is reported by two (2) projects, with MIS codes 5030785 and 5030836.
- The achievement of the output indicator “Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings” is reported by one (1) project, with MIS code 5030836.
- The achievement of the output indicator “Surface area of the habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status is reported by one (1) project, with MIS code 5030943

Regarding the result indicators, there are two modifications recorded in comparison to the previous Annual Implementation Report. The data derived are based on a relevant survey, conducted by the external expert.

One result indicator concerns the ‘Level of preservation of the protected natural CB areas’. The attained value has been calculated at 74,52 after the conclusion of the bi-annual field survey conducted. It shows a 2,08% progress in the last two years since the value for 2018 was calculated at 73,00

The other result indicator concerns the ‘Energy Efficiency Awareness Barometer’. According to a field survey conducted during the current update of the Programme’s evaluation, the indicator has shown significant progress from the baseline value and has exceeded to target value by 2,71%.

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

During 2020 thirty-seven (37) projects are being implemented. Taking into consideration that project results are available, the respective outputs and results indicators are starting to be achieved.

Regarding the output indicators, the outcomes are based on the information provided by the submitted progress reports of the beneficiaries (on the MIS). In particular:

- The achievement of the output indicator “Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions” is reported by six (6) projects, with MIS codes 5031667, 5031849, 5031774, 5032862, 5031760 and 5032754.
- The achievement of the output indicator “Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support” is reported by five (5) projects, with MIS codes 5032974, 5030796, 5031027, 5031772, 5031901

- Regarding the result indicators, there are not any modifications recorded. Any related data will be stated at the next Annual Implementation Report, based on a relevant survey.

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

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).

No respective indicators are required to be recorded.

## 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:

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.

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 since then.

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 are 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'.

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/colours 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

The overall strategy of Interreg IPA Cross-border cooperation programme “Greece - Albania 2014-2020” is: “to find the balance between sustainable regional development and enhancement of cross-border cooperation among local population & regional institutions, in accordance with EU & national policies, in order to address common challenges through joint interventions”.

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.

In particular, Priority Axis 1 is implemented via two thematic priorities focusing on:

1. Thematic Priority (c): Promoting sustainable transport, information and communication networks and services and investing in cross-border water, waste and energy systems and facilities
2. Thematic Priority (b): Protecting the environment & promoting climate change adaptation & mitigation, risk prevention & management

Necessary steps have been taken to ensure environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity and disaster resilience.

#### 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 (%)
<b>Total</b>	4,715,167.76	8,7

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:

- Specific Objective1.1
  - o AQUANEX, SaveSafeWater
- Specific Objective1.3
  - o G.A.T.E. , Great Sun , LED , NetMetering

Since these projects are still in the middle of the projects’ life cycle, 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

According to the programme evaluation plan, an updated external evaluation on the efficiency, effectiveness and an impact evaluation of the programme were taken place. Project beneficiaries had the opportunity to evaluate the Programme itself and express their view and comments with an online survey that was conducted.

According to the final report the lessons learnt from the implementation of the Programme until the end of 2020 can be summed up at the following:

- Lack of experiences and organizational capacity of the Albanian partners seems to result in problems and delays in the implementation of projects.
- The lack of maturity in the early stages of the approved projects, also seems to lead in further delays in the implementation of the projects. The maturity issues concern the lack of approved studies (preliminary studies, environmental assessment studies, feasibility studies, etc.), the preparation of tender documents, the preapproval of certain administrative actions
- Despite the fact that the pre-financing process was introduced as an innovative and positive element for the Albanian partners, it created many obstacles during the implementation of their projects.
- The delay in pre-financing combined with the fact that national funding and VAT has to be covered by partners' own funds, results in great difficulties for the vast majority of Albanian partners in beginning their projects and their activities. Concerning the tender procedures, a significant delay was observed in whether the PRAG rules or the national legislation should be followed by the beneficiaries.

Covid-19 pandemic had a negative impact at the smooth implementation of the programme and caused delays.

The Joint Secretariat/Managing Authority proceeded to specific actions aiming to overcome all the above problems, to increase the implementation rate and the verification of the project beneficiaries' expenditures. These actions are the following:

- The Joint Secretariat in cooperation with the Albanian Ministry for Europe & Foreign Affairs engaged in the mobilization and support of the Albanian beneficiaries. The Joint Secretariat provided a list of Albanian beneficiaries to be supported and pressed, in order to accelerate the implementation of their activities.
- Continue to have a close and frequent communication with all beneficiaries.
- Elaborated and implemented targeted visits and skype meetings with beneficiaries and projects.
- Cooperated with Unit C' of the MA in order to accelerate the designation procedure.
- Adopted a reward policy for beneficiaries that implemented their activities and the target of their projects in time, by increasing their budget/adding new activities. Specific conditions have to be met:
  - The beneficiary implemented the activities in accordance with the timetable of the project.
  - The proposed modification contributes to the target of the project, as well as of the Programme.
  - The new activities expand the intervention area.

- The new activities are in accordance with beneficiary's Management Plan.
- The maturity of the proposed activities reach 100% (Maturity of the project)
- The additional activities have a positive impact on the results and the outputs of the project.

Under this reward policy of our programme rewarded the project WasteRreact. More specifically on February 2020, the 1st Modification Request for the WASTE RREACT project is was approved, regarding the addition of new activities for the Waste Management of Western Macedonia S.A. (PB3) leading to the increase of the project budget (354.534,03€).

The reallocation of budget and the addition of new activities (increase of physical and economical object) include:

1. Purchase of two (2) commercial vehicles
2. Purchase of a commercial van for the transport of large-scale materials
3. Construction of reuse infrastructures, and in particular three (3) hoppers of different types of recycling-reuse materials in the Aminteo Municipal Waste Management Unit.
4. Networking of reuse centers with the development of an e-platform and an application for the citizens to know at any time the points of interest (reuse centers) to have access to them to find out if they are interested in any of the materials to get.
5. Local Waste Management Unit of Grevena – Recovery and recycling infrastructure.

All information and related documents is accessible to potential and financed beneficiaries, and are available on the Programme's website at [www.greece-albania.eu](http://www.greece-albania.eu), on the Managing Authority's website at <http://www.interreg.gr> and on the website of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania <http://www.punetejashtme.gov.al/>.

## **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 total, 66 projects have been approved under the five (5) Calls of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme Greece – Albania 2014 – 2020. The vast majority of the approved projects are implemented under S.O. 2.1 (28 projects), S.O. 1.1 (12 projects) and S.O. 1.3 (11 projects). Fifteen (15) projects are implemented under the rest S.O. (S.O.1.2: 3 projects, S.O.1.4: 3 projects and S.O. 2.2: 9 projects). Finally, 1 project under S.O. 1.3 isn't being implemented.

Concerning the financial implementation of the programme, Priority Axis 1 has been allocated with the largest amount (58%) for funding by the Programme followed by Priority Axis 2 (37%). Both Axes show a very small rate in verified expenditures until 31.12.2020 (18% for PA1 and 23% for PA2), while PA3 has 48% of verified expenditures in relation to the approved budget.

Regarding the progress of the indicators selected during the approval of the Programme, it seems that the result indicators have shown high progress from the baseline values that have been set in the Programme Document. However, the output show minor progress, according to the progress reports. However, having in mind that all projects are under the main phase of implementation at this phase and that the main activities are planned to take place in the current and following year, the target values are expected to be achieved by the end of 2023.

The lessons learnt from the implementation of the Programme until the end of 2020 can be summed up at the following:

1. The lack of experience and organizational capacity of the Albanian partners seems that it was not at the required level resulting in problems and delays in the implementation of the projects. So, the organizational capacity and experiences of beneficiaries has to be furtherly taken into account during the evaluation process.

2. Also, regarding the issue of delays observed in the beginning of projects, it has to be noted that the vast majority of projects don't seem to have the required level of maturity, in order to implement soon after the signing of the subsidy contracts. The maturity issues concern the lack of approved studies (preliminary studies, environmental assessment studies, feasibility studies, etc.), the preparation of tender documents, the preapproval of certain administrative actions. In the next Programming Period, the completion of certain maturity actions could be assessed more positively during the evaluation procedure of project proposals. Also, during the first implementation period of projects, the achievement of certain milestones (e.g. regarding the conclusion of tender procedures) could be set as a prerequisite in the subsidy contracts.

3. Although the pre-financing process was introduced as an innovative and positive element, it turned out that for the Albanian partners it created many obstacles during the implementation of their projects. In particular, a number of procedures are foreseen and decided for the receipt of pre-financing grants, resulting in serious delays in the start of the projects' implementation for the Albanian partners. Therefore, funding should either be done in a smoother way, ensuring e.g. national resources to start the projects or to ensure that the partners have the financial capacity to start their projects and then receive EU funding. In addition, the framework of procedures decided can be considered as quite bureaucratic and time consuming.

4. Taking into account the delay in pre-financing combined with the fact that national funding and VAT (which can be calculated at about 35% of the partner's budget) are required to be covered by own funds of the Albanian partner. This is the case, even when the partners do not have sufficient resources to

begin. This results in making the vast majority of partners incapable of starting implementing and carrying out their projects. The exceptions of this phenomenon include a few NGOs and some Ministries, which have the financial capacity to finance their first activities before the receipt of any grants.

5. Finally, regarding the tender procedures, a significant delay was observed in whether the PRAG rules or the national legislation should be followed by the beneficiaries. In the next Programming Period, the procurement rules should be clear at the beginning of the Programme, in order to avoid such delays in the assignments of external services and tenders.

## 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 2020. The following communication activities have been implemented

The website of the Programme and the Social media profiles has been upgraded to be more user-friendly tools and they are being updated on a regular basis.

1. Three (3) Info-days on the 4<sup>th</sup> Call implementation took place as follows:
  - a. Ioannina, 18/02/2020
  - b. Gjirokaster, 25/02/2020
  - c. Korça, 26/02/2020

Other than that, year 2020 has been a special year as the pandemic restricted all events since March 2020.

All technical meetings took place on-line. The 6th Joint Monitoring Committee Meeting took place Online meeting via Webex, on **November 12<sup>th</sup> 2020**

One significant communication activity was the production, supply and distribution of protective face masks with the logo of the programme

At project level one significant success is that the Strategic Project WASTE RREACT was nominated to participate in the Green Trip campaign which involves journeys and green challenges by local online influencers visiting green EU-funded projects. The virtual trip took place in November 2020. More specifically and on 17th November 2020, DIADYMA SA, project beneficiary, participated in the "Green Trip Project - Greenpoint Mob: Local Waste Management Unit of Kastoria/Green point infrastructure - Greece Route 2" with subject "Nothing goes to waste". One employee of the beneficiary, discussed via Instagram live with the influencer. Due to COVID 19 restrictions a virtual tour took place in the reuse center, explaining to the influencer Alexandra and the audience of Instagram live, activities on waste management.

The main topics were:

- Information about Waste Rreact project
- Explaining the Integrated System of Waste Management of Western Macedonia
- How the Local Waste Management Units work
- Tips about recycling
- The importance of reuse

*Events in 2020:*

- *1 JMC online Meeting via webex on 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2020, for the approval of the 3rd Programme Revision, the Technical Assistance Multiannual Budget Plan and the Annual Communication Plan for 2021.*
- *1 Technical Meeting took place concerning the 5th Targeted Call, 2 Technical Meetings concerning smooth projects implementation*
- *On the spot targeted visits in cooperation with the Albanian National Authority in Albania, at the premises of:*
  - *National Coastline Agency, Tirana. Acceleration of implementation of projects: CBTB, Bluecoast.*

- *Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, Tirana. Start-up of implementation of project: CB Railway.*
- *Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, Tirana. Acceleration of implementation of project: GOAL nZEBs, G.A.T.E.*
- *State Police /General Directorate of Police. Acceleration of implementation of project: COMOBILION.*
- *On the spot visits in Greece, at the premises of:*
  - *Egnatia Odos SA, Thessaloniki. Acceleration of implementation of project: COMOBILLION.*
  - *Ioannina University. Monitoring of the approved projects: Pharem, Smart Tour, Solis, Virtualand, Exploral, CheeseCult, Eco-fish, Olive Culture, Smartimony, Herbinno, I-Thea, StoneArt, Idea, River2river, Prosfora, I-Alarms.*
  - *Municipal Enterprise for Water Supply and Sewerage of Ioannina, Monitoring of the approved project SAVE WATER.*
  - *Region of Epirus. Monitoring of the approved projects: Waste Rreact, Save Water, G.A.T.E., Prosfora, Ex.Tour, G.A.M.E.S.*
  - *University of Ionian Islands, Corfu. Monitoring of the approved projects: Blue Coast, E-Horeca Wanet, Olive culture, In-Clust, Save Water.*
  - *Municipality of Central Corfu. Monitoring of the approved projects: E-HORECA WANET and i-ALARMS.*
  - *Region of Ionian Islands. Monitoring of the approved projects: Waste Rreact, Save Water, In-Clust & Tactical Tourism.*
  - *Municipality of Prespes. Monitoring of the approved projects: Green Point Mob, Net Metering, nZECOM*
- *Online meetings with beneficiaries (via skype, webex, etc.)*
- *Three (3) info-days for project implementation (4<sup>th</sup> Call projects)*
- *The Strategic Project WASTE RREACT was nominated to participate in the Green Trip campaign which involves journeys and green challenges by local online influencers visiting green EU-funded projects. The campaign is initiated by the European Commission's Regional and Urban Policy Directorate-General (DG REGIO). It was supposed to be a live meeting, but due to Covid and the lock down, a virtual tour took place in the reuse center, explaining to the influencer and the audience of Instagram live, the activities on waste management.*

**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**

--

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

--



### 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:

7

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

--

### 13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

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

Environmental protection and sustainable development is one of the 2 priority axes of the programme reserving more than half of the programme's resources. This strategic orientation is also enhanced by selection priorities in the second priority axis which targets the promotion of entrepreneurship. Even though the second axis refers to all economic activities, it concentrates on a priority basis on two sectors which are very important for the cross-border area economy:

- the agro-food industry; and more importantly
- on sustainable tourism, which is supported through 3 different intervention groups.

Furthermore, sustainable development is promoted through the guiding principles for the selection of operations under the second priority axis which include among others:

- contribution to resource efficiency (e.g. energy efficiency, renewable energy use, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, efficient water supply, waste-water treatment and water reuse, waste avoidance and recycling etc.).
- contribution to a sustainable environment (operations under this IPA programme will not harm the environment)
- major infrastructure initiatives will be accompanied by a solid environmental impact analysis.
- contribution to the compliance with air quality legislation and, in particular, air quality measures under Directive 2008/50/EC (e.g. reductions of PM and NO<sub>2</sub>, which, in contrast to carbon dioxide, are directly harmful to the health of citizens, ecosystems, crops and buildings).

On the grounds of the achieved results, as the outcome of the projects implementation, achievement on smart, sustainable and inclusive growth has been already identified. It derives from the analysis presented at the relevant fields of the output and result indicators.

Nevertheless, there are projects allocated to the Capitalisation Network of Interact, related to the inclusive growth issue:

- Business Clubs
- 4ALL
- 4PLUS

#### **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 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.

As far as the N+3 targets of the programme is concerned, all annual targets have been achieved.

## Documents

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

## Latest validation results

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