

Interreg - IPA CBC

Greece - Albania



Update of the first evaluation of
implementation and impact of the Programme

**Managing Authority of European Territorial
Cooperation Programmes
Joint Secretariat of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme
“Greece – Albania 2014 – 2020 “**

www.greece-albania.eu

www.interreg.gr

The Programme is co-funded
by the European Union
and by National Funds
of Greece & Albania



**7th Joint Monitoring Committee
Online meeting
October 25th 2021**

Evaluation objectives

Evaluations are carried out to **improve the design and implementation quality of the Programmes**, as well as to assess effectiveness, efficiency and impact.

Task of the specific Evaluation Project:

- ❖ Improve the quality of evaluations through proper planning, including identification and collection of necessary data (Article 54(2) CPR).
- ❖ Enable informed Programme management and policy decisions on the basis of evaluation findings.
- ❖ Provide a framework to plan impact evaluation (Article 56(3) CPR).
- ❖ Ensure that evaluations provide inputs for annual implementation and progress reports.
- ❖ Facilitate the synthesis of findings from different Participating States by the Commission and the exchange of available evidence.

Evaluation Questions

Evaluation questions refer to:

- ❖ Effectiveness of the Cooperation Programme (CP)
- ❖ Performance Framework of the Cooperation Programme
- ❖ Efficiency of the Cooperation Programme
- ❖ Update of Intervention Logic in the framework of the Programme Strategy
- ❖ Review of the Cooperation Programme
- ❖ Preparation of the Impact Evaluation
- ❖ Evaluation of the Communication Strategy

Methodology and Statistical Analysis

- 1) Desk research to the relevant literature thus the interact Terms of References and guidelines, the Management and Control System of the Programme, the MIS and Evaluation studies of other Interreg Programmes
- 2) Online survey by using Google Docs forms (qualitative research)
 - Objective of the online survey: map and analyze the **perceptions, views** and **suggestions** of i) the Programme authorities and ii) the beneficiaries involved in the projects and implementation of the CP.
 - Period of the survey: from 01/04/2021 to 07/05/2021.
 - Response Rate: i) The questionnaire was sent to **32** Greek authorities and **13** Albanian authorities and was answered by **14** Greek and **10** Albanian authorities ii) The questionnaire was sent to **90** Greek and **87** Albanian beneficiaries and answered by **70** Greek beneficiaries and **49** Albanian beneficiaries, sample that corresponds to a number of 66 selected projects.

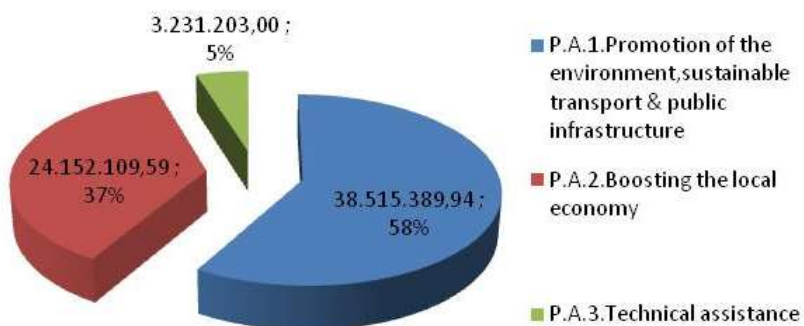
Progress of the programme (1)

Financial data at Priority Axis and Programme level

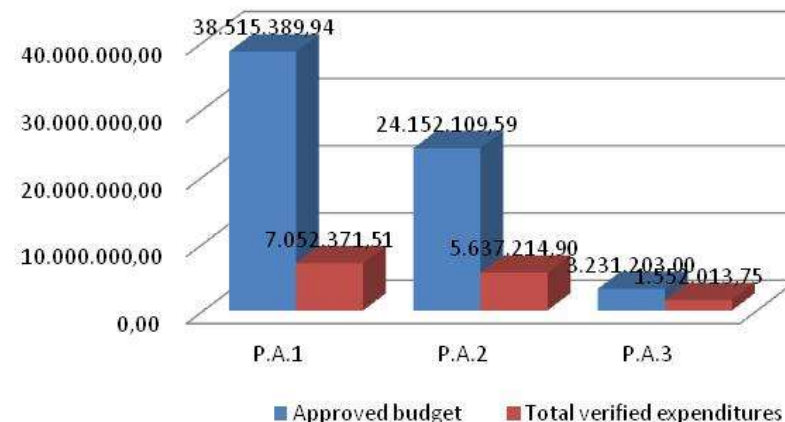
Credits of Priority Axis on the basis of the operational program					
Priority Axis	Fund	District Category	Basis for calculating EU support	Total Funding (in euros)	Funding rate
1	ERDF/IPA	Objective 3	Total Eligible cost	31.152.837,00	85,00%
2	ERDF/IPA	Objective 3	Total Eligible cost	18.692.694,00	85,00%
3	ERDF/IPA	Objective 3	Total Eligible cost	4.231.203,00	85,00%
Total	ERDF/IPA			54.076.734,00	
Overall Total				54.076.734,00	

Progress of the programme (2)

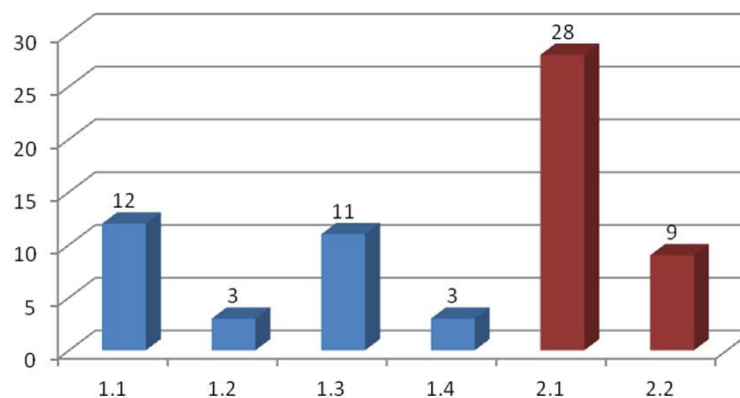
Total approved budget of actions selected per Priority Axis



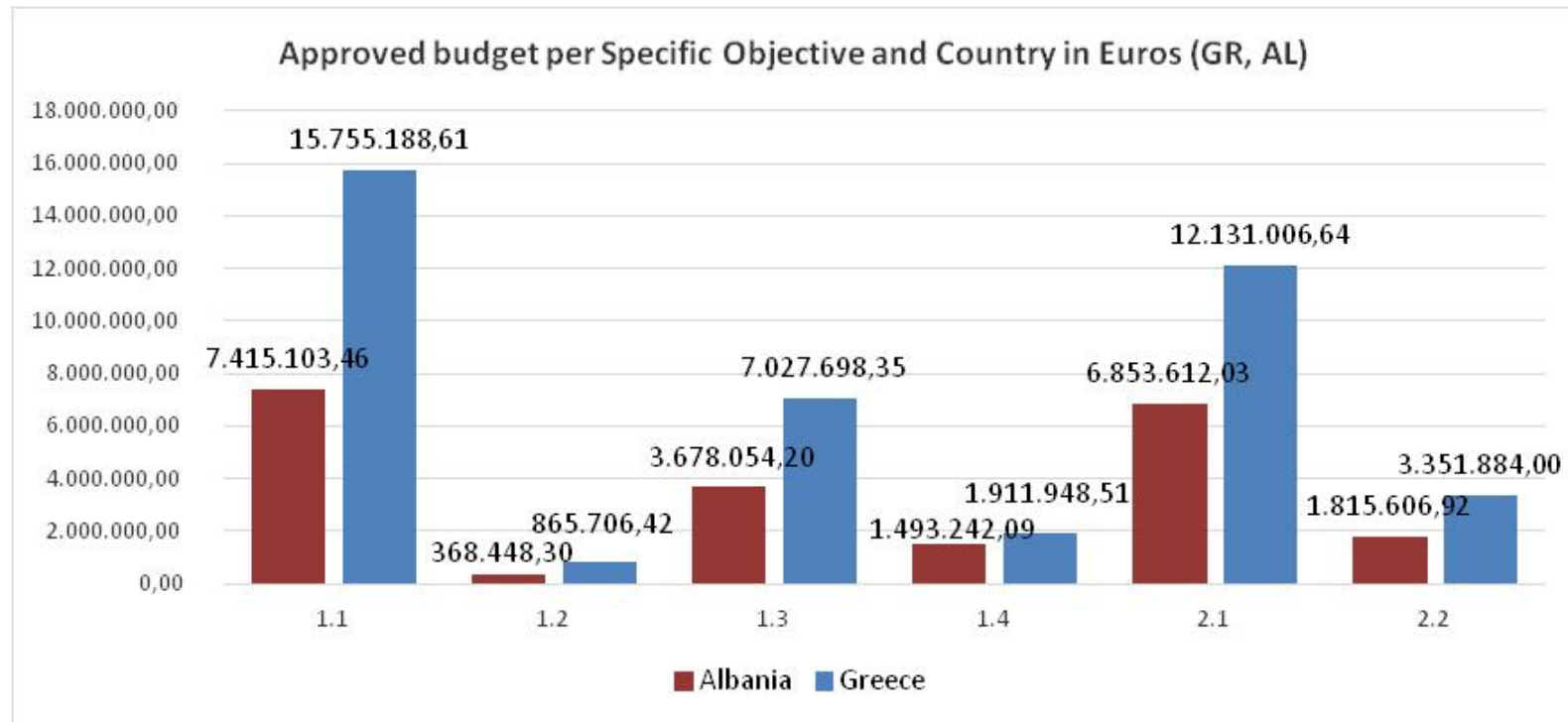
Total approved budget and verified expenditures



Number of approved projects per S.O.

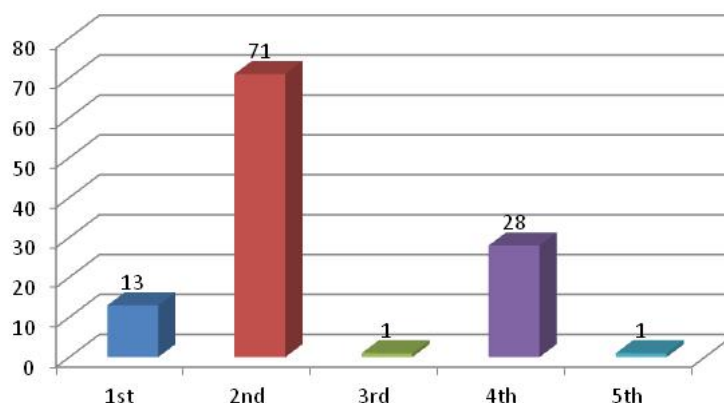


Progress of the programme (3)

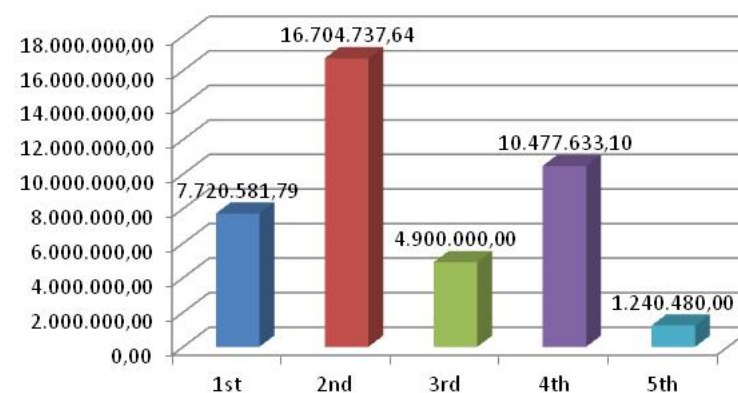


Progress of the programme (4)

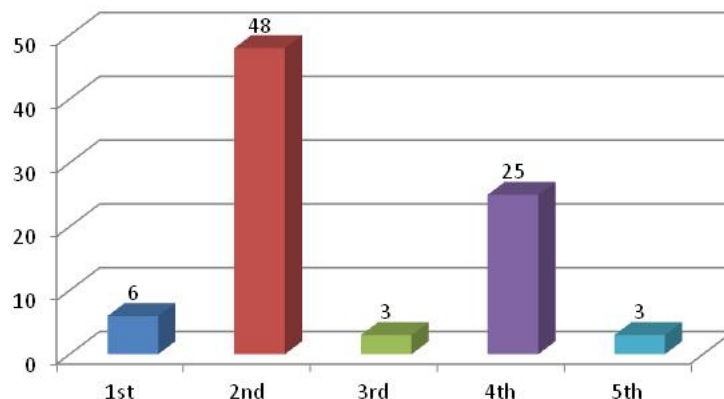
Number of partners per call (GR)



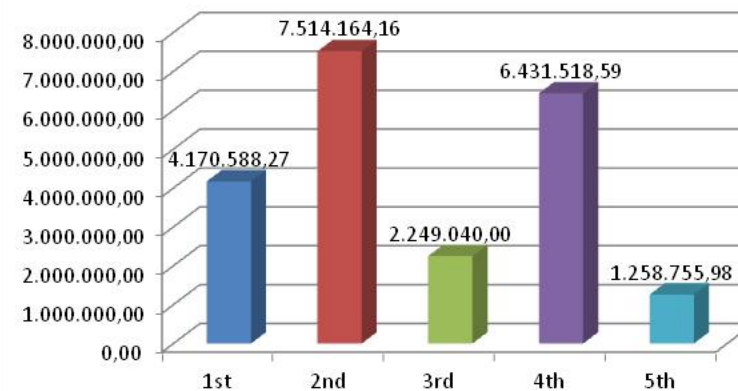
Approved budget per call in Euros (GR)



Number of partners per call (AL)



Approved budget per call in Euros (AL)



Evaluation of output and results indicators

PA 1. Promotion of the environment, sustainable transport and public infrastructure

S.O. 1.1. Increase the capacity of CB infrastructure in transport, water & waste management

Indicator Code	Name of the Indicator	Mesurement Unit	Type of Indicator	Data Source	Baseline Value according to Programme Document	Target Value according to Programme Document	Value until 31/12/2020
1	SFC Volume of urban effluents under secondary treatment	million m3	Result	Greek Ministry of Environment / Albanian Ministry of European Integration - Bi-annually	30,00	41,31	39,49
2	Percentage of solid waste managed sustainably	%	Result	Solid Waste Management Bodies - Bi-annually	75,00	79,00	73,40
3	SFC of crossborder vertical axes to Egnatia motorway either constructed or with sufficient maturity to be constructed	%	Result	Egnatia Odos S.A - Annually	80,41	100,00	0,00
CO20	SFC Additional population served by improved water supply	Inhabitants	Output	Programme Management Information System (MIS) - Annually		214.637	0
CO21	SFC Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	Inhabitants	Output	Programme Management Information System (MIS) - Annually		13.500,00	0,00
CO21b	SFC Additional solid waste management capacity created	Tonnes/yr	Output	Programme Management Information System (MIS) - Annually		7.000,00	991,26
CO21c	SFC Kilometers of CB road network studied	Km	Output	Programme Management Information System (MIS) - Annually		30,00	0,00
CO21d	SFC Number of square meters of border crossing buildings studied or constructed	m2	Output	Programme Management Information System (MIS) - Annually		200,00	0,00

Evaluation of output and results indicators

PA 1. Promotion of the environment, sustainable transport and public infrastructure

S.O. 1.2. Increase the effectiveness of environmental protection & sustainable use of natural resources

Indicator Code	Name of the Indicator	Mesurement Unit	Type of Indicator	Data Source	Baseline Value according to Programme Document	Target Value according to Programme Document	Value until 31/12/2020
5	Level of preservation of the protected natural CB areas	%	Result	Survey bi-annually	72,08	79,29	74,52
CO25	SFC Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	Output	Programme Management Information System (MIS) - Annually		72.250,00	19.000,00

PA 1. Promotion of the environment, sustainable transport and public infrastructure

S.O. 1.3. Increase energy-efficiency and the use of RES

Indicator Code	Name of the Indicator	Mesurement Unit	Type of Indicator	Data Source	Baseline Value according to Programme Document	Target Value according to Programme Document	Value until 31/12/2020
6	Energy Efficiency Awareness Barometer	number , (on a 1-10 scale)	Result	Survey bi-annually	5,94	7,00	7,19
CO34	SFC Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	Kwh/year	Output	Programme Management Information System (MIS) - Annually		1.100.000,00	78.000,00
CO34b	SFC People participating in awareness actions	Participants	Output	Programme Management Information System (MIS) - Annually		35.000	1.853

Evaluation of output and results indicators

PA 1. Promotion of the environment, sustainable transport and public infrastructure

S.O. 1.4. Improve the effectiveness of risk prevention and disaster management with a focus on forest fires

Indicator Code	Name of the Indicator	Mesurement Unit	Type of Indicator	Data Source	Baseline Value according to Programme Document	Target Value according to Programme Document	Value until 31/12/2020
7	SFC Area damaged by forest fires 5yr rolling annual average	Hectares	Result	European Forest Fire Information System - Annually	15.010,89	13.450,00	8.387,00
CO23	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	Inhabitants	Output	Programme Management Information System (MIS) - Annually		115.000	0

Evaluation of output and results indicators

PA 2. Boosting the local economy

S.O. 2.1 Preserve cultural and natural resources as a prerequisite for tourism development of the cross border area

Indicator Code	Name of the Indicator	Mesurement Unit	Type of Indicator	Data Source	Baseline Value according to Programme Document	Target Value according to Programme Document	Value until 31/12/2020
9	SFC Annual overnight tourist stays of the cross border area	Million Annual Stays	Result	EL.STAT / INSTAT - Bi-annually	9,00	9,54	13,30
CO11	SFC Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Visits	Output	Programme Management Information System (MIS) - Annually		21.000	5.675

PA 2. Boosting the local economy

S.O. 2.2 Improve cross-border capacity to support entrepreneurship, business survival and competitiveness

Indicator Code	Name of the Indicator	Mesurement Unit	Type of Indicator	Data Source	Baseline Value according to Programme Document	Target Value according to Programme Document	Value until 31/12/2020
8	SFC Active CB enterprises	Number	Result	Greek Ministry of Economy/ INSTAT - Bi-annually	97.883	100.000	164.702
CO04	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	Output	Programme Management Information System (MIS) - Annually		450	417

Effectiveness of the Cooperation Programme (CBCP)

- ✓ The effectiveness of the programme has been greatly achieved.
- ✓ The high level of cooperation of the beneficiaries with the management structures of the programme (MA / JS, CA, AA) is evident.
- ✓ The approval of additional funding of €10 million was a corrective action, in order to cover the over-financing of the 1st and 2nd call and to strengthen the S.O. 1.3 and 2.1.
- ✓ A negative point is the delays that occurred during the start and the implementation of the projects, and therefore the absorption of the available budget.

Performance Framework of the Cooperation Programme

- ✓ Since the projects are in the implementation stage, the indicators have not been achieved to the desired degree.
- ✓ The goal of output and result indicators is expected to be achieved by the completion of projects by 2023.

Efficiency of the Cooperation Programme

- ✓ The efficiency of the programme until 31/12/2020 is moderate since only 22% of the expenditures of the approved budget have been verified.
- ✓ No problems are identified with budget overruns, efficiency and differentiation of the unit cost of implementation of the interventions in relation to the estimated costs during the design of the Programme.

Update of Intervention Logic in the framework of the Programme Strategy

- ✓ The rapidly changing socio-economic conditions, as well as the new data set in all areas by the COVID-19 pandemic, raise the need to review the rational intervention in the framework of the strategic plan.



Review of the Cooperation Programme

- ✓ Given that the third revision of the Programme is already done, which mainly concerned a more streamlined redistribution of available resources, no further revision is needed.

Preparation for the Impact Evaluation

- ✓ Output and result indicators are the main source of information on the impact of the Programme's projects on the wider macro-economic, social and environmental level.
- ✓ Care should be taken to monitor and document the indicators reported to MIS by the beneficiaries, so that they can be documented by the primary audit, by the JS executives when approving the progress reports, but also during the programme evaluation process.

Evaluation of the Communication Strategy

- ✓ A large percentage has been achieved despite any difficulties due to COVID-19.
- ✓ The information on the Programme and the contribution of EU & ERDF to stakeholders are sufficient.
- ✓ Comprehensive and timely information was provided on the participation of potential beneficiaries in the Programme.
- ✓ The project website and info-days are the main information and communication tools of all involved, in contrast to the social media related to the Programme.

Conclusions

- ✓ The majority of projects don't seem to have had the required level of maturity to implement soon after the signing of the subsidy contracts due to the lack of approved studies, the preparation of tender documents, etc.
- ✓ The pre-financing process was introduced as an innovative and positive element.
- ✓ Taking into account the delay in pre-financing combined with the fact that national funding and VAT are required to be covered by own funds (AL partners), many partners had difficulties in starting implementing and carrying out their projects.

Lessons learnt

- ✓ The organizational capacity and experiences of beneficiaries has to be furtherly taken into account during the evaluation process.
- ✓ In the next Programming Period, the completion of certain maturity actions could be assessed more strictly during the evaluation procedure of project proposals.
- ✓ The achievement of certain milestones could also be set as a prerequisite in the subsidy contracts.
- ✓ Funding should be done in a smoother way, ensuring national resources and VAT reimbursement to start the projects.



Recommendations

- ✓ Set more effective criteria to ensure the required managerial and administrative capacity of the beneficiaries.
- ✓ Continuous training of the beneficiaries through material that will be provided by the website, the info-days, and the social media of the Programme.
- ✓ Find resources to support disadvantaged beneficiaries so that they can carry out the work they undertook.
- ✓ The new programming period should facilitate capitalisation on the 2014-2020 experience.
- ✓ Set a methodological framework for determining the prices of indicators declared in the MIS.

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Thank you for your attention!