

# Interreg - IPA CBC Greece - Albania



## State of Play of the Programme Implementation

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

[www.greece-albania.eu](http://www.greece-albania.eu)

[www.interreg.gr](http://www.interreg.gr)

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



8th Joint Monitoring Committee, 04/04/2023

# Programme's State of Play

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## General issues

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- ▶ Twelve (12) **Written Procedures** were launched
- ▶ Thirty six (36) **Technical Meetings** between the Joint Secretariat and beneficiaries
- ▶ **AIR for 2021** approved by the EC on 01/07/2022 without comments
- ▶ **Reward Policy** to support the sound management of the programme and the achievement of programme targets was continued

# Programme's State of Play

## Approved Projects

- ▶ Sixty seven (67) **Approved Projects**
  - Four (4) strategic projects,
  - Fifty nine (59) ordinary projects,
  - Two (2) targeted project,
  - Two (2) TA projects
  
- Twenty eight (28) projects under Priority Axis 1
- Thirty seven (37) projects under Priority Axis 2
- Two (2) projects under Priority Axis 3
  
- ▶ Total budget of approved projects:  
**67.906.876 €**
  
- ▶ The percentage of the **activation** of the Programme, **in terms of the budget of the approved projects**, in relation to the Programme's new budget is **125,58%**

## Programme's State of Play

### Approved Projects

► Forty Four (44) **Projects have finished**

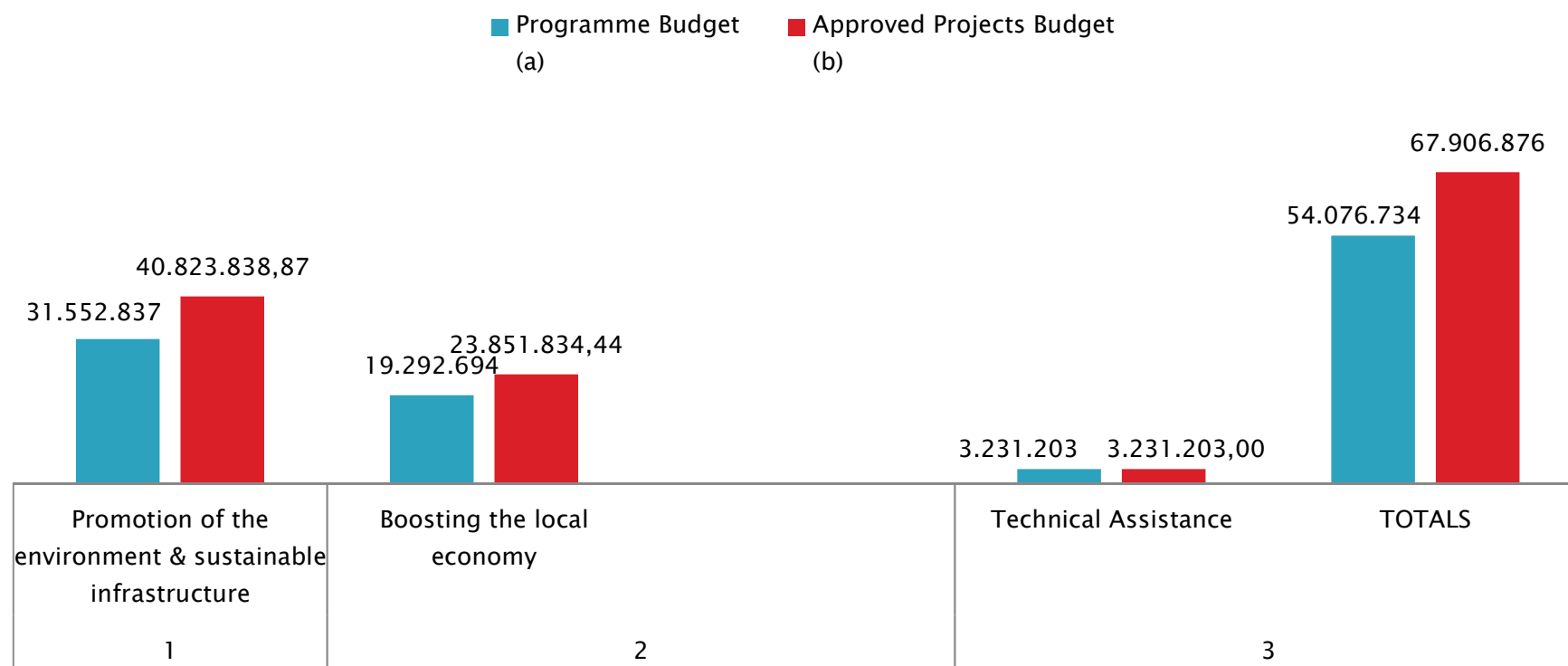
- Sixteen (16) projects under Priority Axis 1 (one strategic) with 10,6M€
- Twenty eight (28) projects under Priority Axis 2 with 15,9m€

## Activation per Priority Axis

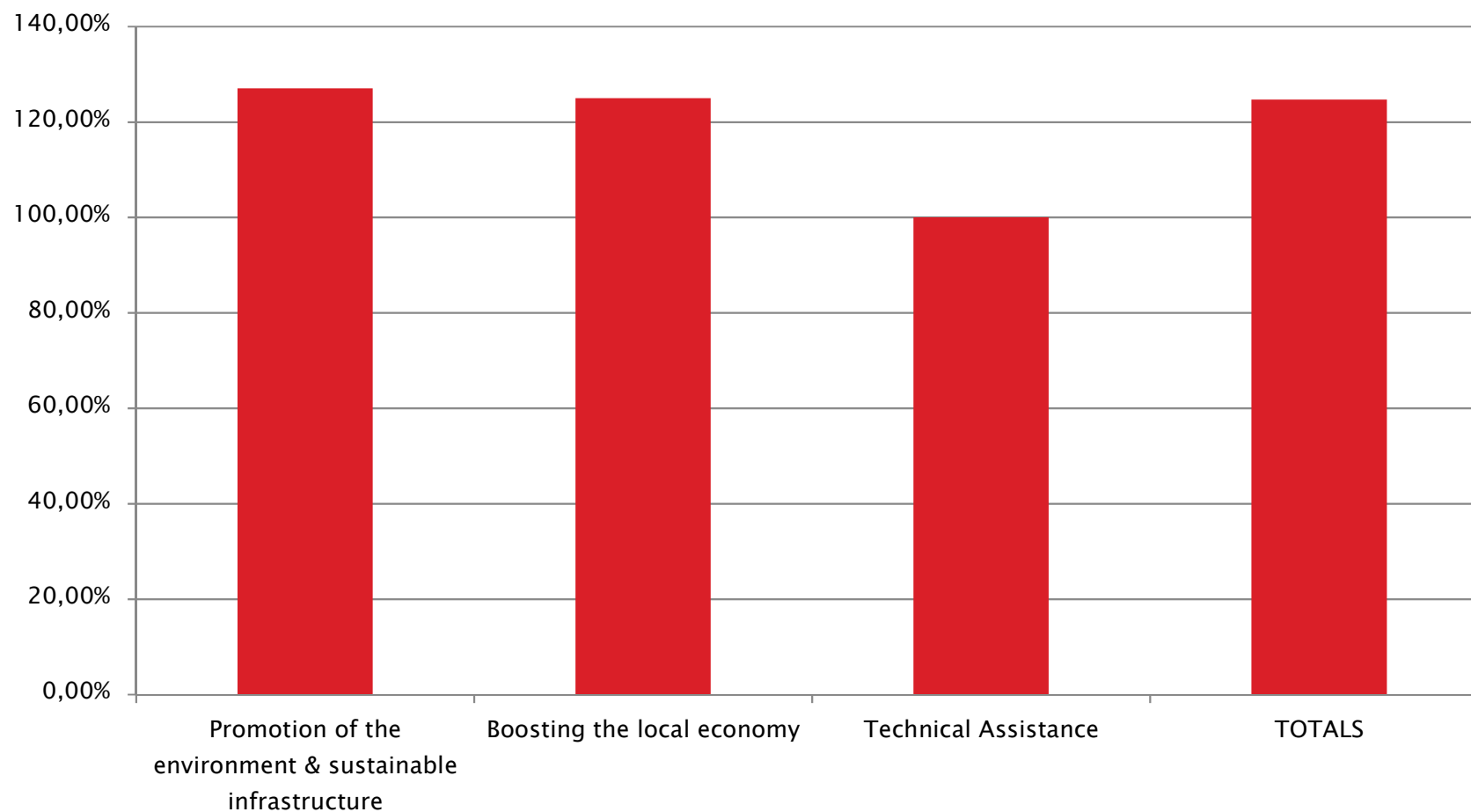
a/a	Priority Axis	Programme Budget (a)	Approved Projects Budget (b)	% of Activation (b/a*100)	Difference (a-b)
1	Promotion of the environment & sustainable infrastructure	31.552.837	40.823.838,87	129,38%	-9.271.001,87
2	Boosting the local economy	19.292.694	23.851.834,44	123,63%	-4.559.140,44
3	Technical Assistance	3.231.203	3.231.203,00	100,00%	0,00
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>54.076.734</b>	<b>67.906.876</b>	<b>125,58%</b>	<b>-13.830.142,31</b>

# Budget Allocation

## Budget Allocation



## Overbooking per Priority Axis (%)



## Overbooking per Specific Objective

a/a	Specific Objective	No of Approved Projects (a)	Approved Projects Budget (b)	Programme Budget (c )	Difference (c-b)	% of Activation (b/c*100)	Over-booking
1	1.1 Increase the capacity of CB infrastructure in transport, water & waste management	12	24.934.888,15	20.829.212,00	-4.105.676,15	119,71%	<b>129,38%</b>
2	1.2 Increase the effectiveness of environmental protection & sustainable use of natural resources	3	1.178.682,18	1.149.200,00	-29.482,18	102,57%	
3	1.3 Increase energy-efficiency and the use of RES	10	11.308.301,91	7.258.824,00	-4.049.477,91	155,79%	
4	1.4 Improve the effectiveness of risk prevention and disaster management with a focus on forest fires	3	3.401.966,63	2.315.601,00	-1.086.365,63	146,92%	
5	2.1 Preserve cultural and natural resources as a prerequisite for tourism development of the cross border area	28	18.695.533,92	14.320.005,00	-4.375.528,92	130,56%	<b>123,63%</b>
6	2.2 Improve cross-border capacity to support entrepreneurship, business survival and competitiveness	9	5.156.300,52	4.972.689,00	-183.611,52	103,69%	
sub-TOTAL	sub-TOTAL	65	64.675.673,31	50.845.531,00	-13.830.142,31	127,20%	<b>127,20%</b>
7	Technical Assistance	2	3.231.203,00	3.231.203,00	0,00	100,00%	<b>100,00%</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>67.906.876,31</b>	<b>54.076.734,00</b>	<b>-13.830.142,31</b>	<b>125,58%</b>	<b>125,58%</b>

## Activation per Intervention Field

Intervention Field	Allocated amounts by the projects	Public allocations of the Programme	Remaining Budget
17: Household waste management, (including minimisation, sorting, recycling measures)	3.122.326,21	2.843.179	-279.147,34
18: Household waste management, (including mechanical biological treatment, thermal treatment, incineration and landfill measures)	5.204.701,66	3.888.782	-1.315.919,24
21: Water management and drinking water conservation (including river basin management, water supply, specific climate change adaptation measures, district and consumer metering, charging systems and leak reduction)	6.001.014,26	5.985.741	-15.272,98
22: Waste water treatment	813.419,36	2.941.177	2.127.757,16
30: Secondary road links to TEN-T road network and nodes (new build)	845.698,05	464.451	-381.247,45
34: Other reconstructed or improved road (motorway, national, regional or local)	8.947.728,61	4.705.882	-4.241.846,18
40: Other seaports	0,00	0	0,00
85: Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, nature protection and green infrastructure	1.178.682,18	1.149.200	-29.482,16

## Activation per Intervention Field

13: Energy efficiency renovation of public infrastructure, demonstration projects and supporting measures	11.308.301,91	7.258.824	-4.049.478,26
88: Risk prevention and management of non-climate related natural risks (i.e. earthquakes) and risks linked to human activities (e.g. technological accidents), including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems and infrastructures	3.401.966,63	2.315.601	-1.086.365,41
94: Protection, development and promotion of public cultural and heritage assets	18.695.533,92	14.320.005	-4.375.528,43
63: Cluster support and business networks primarily benefiting SMEs	0,00	0	0,00
66: Advanced support services for SMEs and groups of SMEs (including management, marketing and design services)	2.129.682,42	2.108.145	-21.537,60
67: SME business development, support to entrepreneurship and incubation (including support to spin offs and spin outs)	3.026.618,10	2.864.544	-162.074,41

## Outputs indicators achievement

Output Indicator	Measurement unit	Target Value (2023)	Achieved until today
Additional solid waste management capacity created	Tonnes/yr	7.000,00	<b>7.379,00</b>
Additional population served by improved water supply	inhabitants	214.637,00	49.300,00
Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment	inhabitants	13.500,00	3.900,00
Kilometers of CB road network studied	km	30,00	4,30
Number of square meters of border crossing buildings studied or constructed	m <sup>2</sup>	250,00	0,00
Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	hectares	72.250,00	<b>72.250,00</b>
Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	Kwh/year	1.100.000,00	279.675,00
People participating in awareness actions	participants	35.000,00	15.580,00
Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	inhabitants	115.000,00	28.400,00
Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	visits	21.000,00	12.430,00
Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	450,00	<b>553,00</b>

## Absorption Rate

a/a	Priority Axis	Programme Budget (€)	Approved Projects Budget (€)	Verifications (€)	Absorption Rate (%)
1	Promotion of the environment & sustainable infrastructure	31.552.837	40.823.838,87	18.778.321,41	59,51
2	Boosting the local economy	19.292.694	23.851.834,44	14.996.474,78	77,73
3	Technical Assistance	3.231.203	3.231.203,00	2.458.854,65	76,10
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>54.076.734</b>	<b>67.906.876</b>	<b>21.360.053,19</b>	<b>67,00</b>

## Problems Encountered 1 / 3

- ▶ Covid-19 crisis
  - The negative impact on timely implementation
  - alternative/substitute options in order to plan and proceed safely in the implementation of several activities
  - Extension of project duration, modification of activities
  
- ▶ Delays in Project Closure

## Problems Encountered 2/3

More specifically for the **Albanian** (in some cases also for the **Greek**) beneficiaries, which are the following:

▶ Lack of commitment

- Significant delays on the procurement procedure
- Significant delays on the implementation, payments, verifications, MIS etc.
- Deadlines are not met

▶ Lack of capacities

- Under-qualified staff or not sufficient in number
- Insufficient knowledge of programme rules and procedures

## Problems Encountered 3/3

More specifically for the **Albanian** (in some cases also for the **Greek**) beneficiaries, which are the following:

- Lack of experience in project implementation
  - Irregularities in tender procedures by the beneficiaries (PRAG rules)
  - Inaccuracies in filling in Programme documents (e.g. timesheets)
  - Incorrect procedure for recruitment of experts
  - Inadequate project documentation folders
  - Delays in uploading all necessary data on MIS
- Financial difficulties (only for Albanian beneficiaries)
  - Limited capacity of beneficiaries to finance by its own sources not even by minimum 15% co-financing amount and 20% VAT
  - Exhaustive financing procedure

## Actions Taken 1 / 2

- Continued to have a close and frequent communication with all beneficiaries.
- Elaborated and implemented online meetings with beneficiaries and projects.
- Elaborated and implemented online meetings with SASPAC.
- Continued the reward policy for beneficiaries that implemented their activities and the target of their projects in time, by increasing their budget/adding new activities.
- Increase of the project budgets, following the EU and national legislation, due to the increase of the market prices.
- ▶ Continued to cooperate with Unit C' of the MA to accelerate the designation procedure

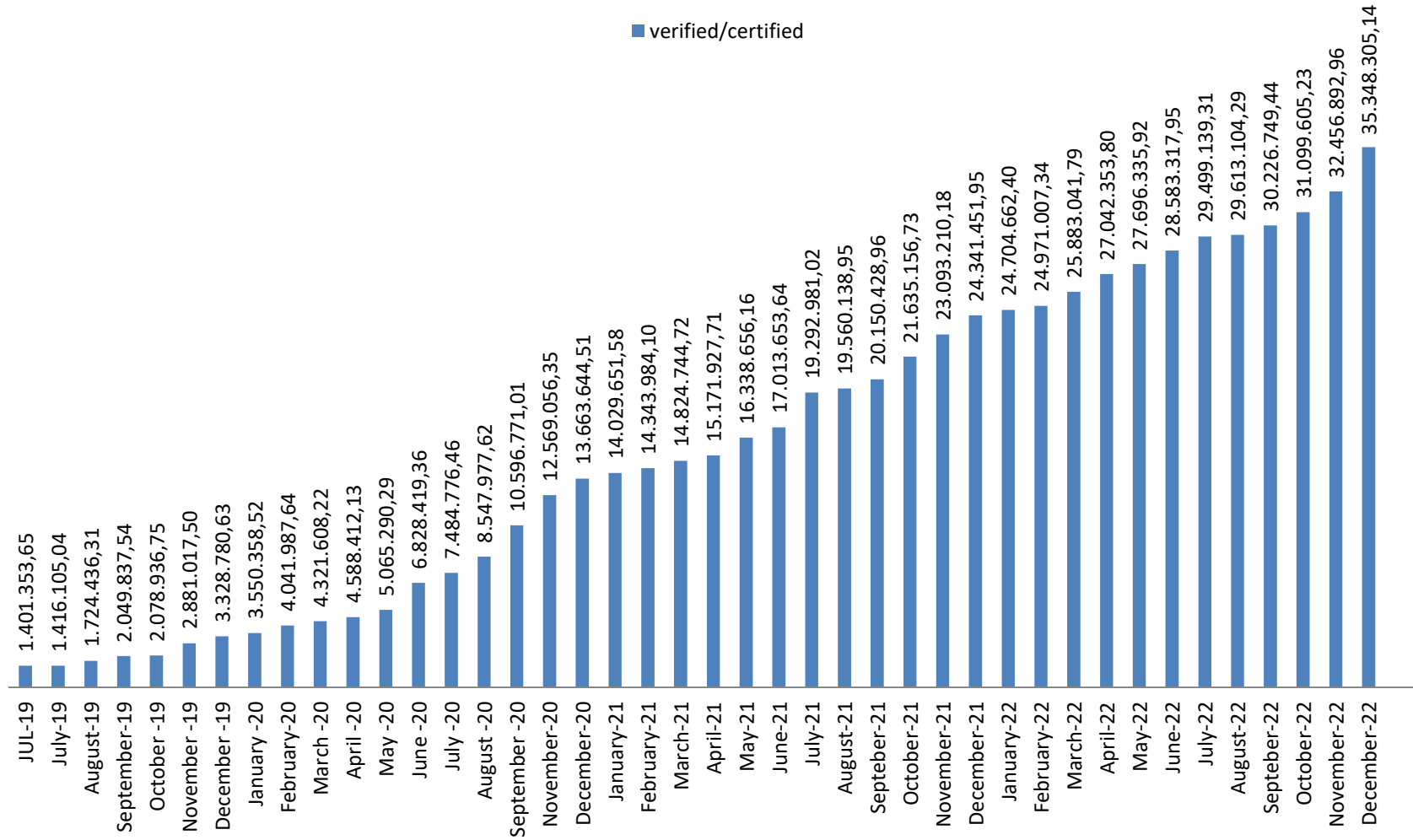
## Actions Taken 2/2

- The transfer of the Antenna Office from Saranda to Korce was decided.
- The FLC Office in Albania was also reinforced with 3 new members of staff, in order to correspond to the upcoming workload.
- A training seminar has been organized by UNIT C at the premises of the Managing Authority Wednesday 12 October 2022. Members of Unit C presented verification procedure and introductory session on Information System. Scope of this training was to facilitate acceleration the expenditure verification.
- SASPAC has set up a financial mechanism for the support of Albanian beneficiaries with limited financial capacity.

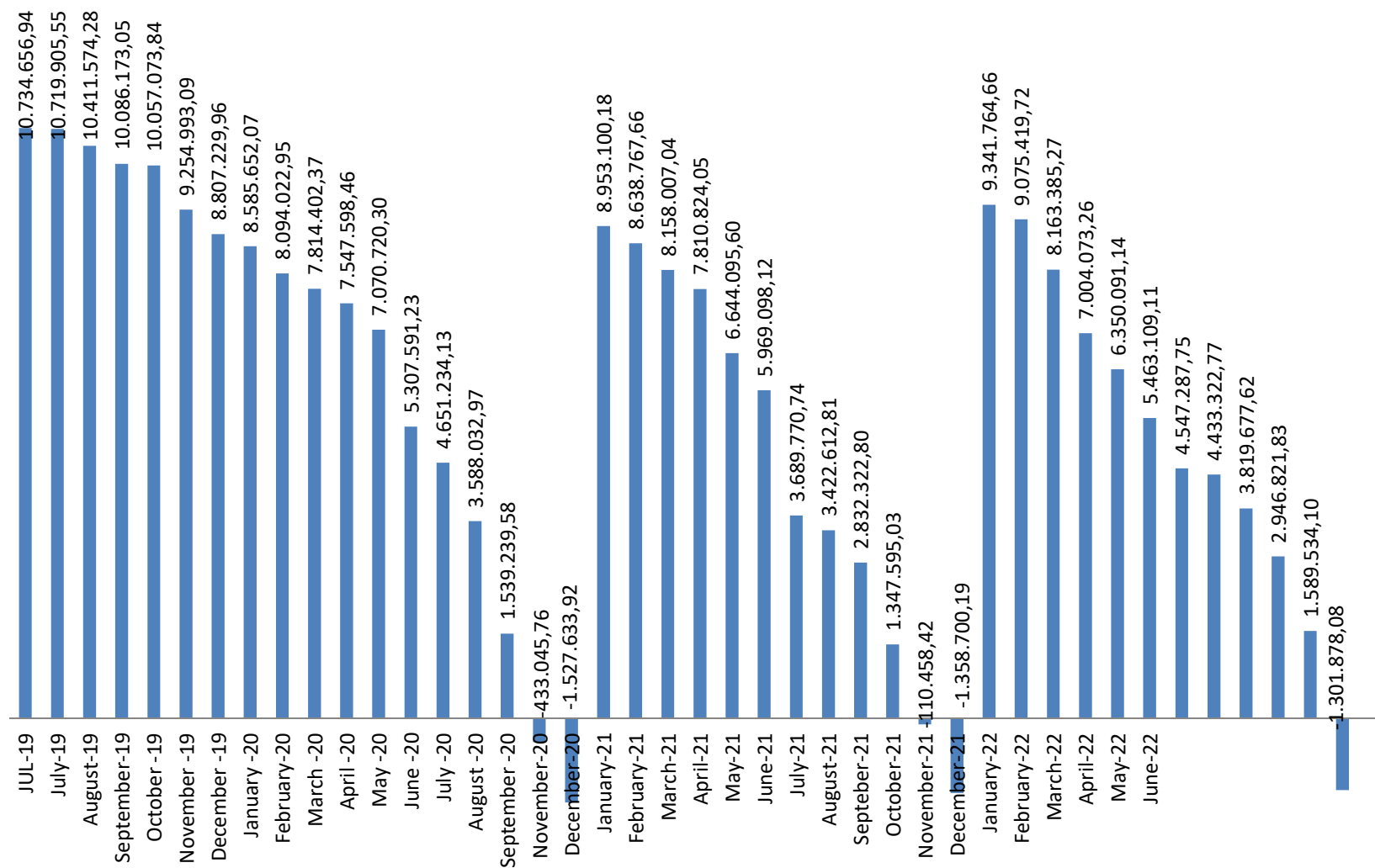
## N+3 Rule for 2022 achievement

Month	verified/certified	Gap from the N+3 target
January-22	24.704.662,40	9.341.764,66
February-22	24.971.007,34	9.075.419,72
March-22	25.883.041,79	8.163.385,27
April-22	27.042.353,80	7.004.073,26
May-22	27.696.335,92	6.350.091,14
June-22	28.583.317,95	5.463.109,11
July-22	29.499.139,31	4.547.287,75
August-22	29.613.104,29	4.433.322,77
September-22	30.226.749,44	3.819.677,62
October-22	31.099.605,23	2.946.821,83
November-22	32.456.892,96	1.589.534,10
<b>December-22</b>	<b>35.348.305,14</b>	<b>-1.301.878,08</b>

# Certified / verified amounts



# Achievement of N+3 rule for 2020-2021-2022



# Programme's State of Play

Pre-tender /  
pre -Contract

checks by the MA

Project Acronym	Beneficiary Name
COMOBILION	EGNATIA ODOS SA
WASTE RREACT	REGION OF IONIAN ISLANDS
AuthentiKK	Municipality of Kastoria
G.A.M.E.S.	Region of Epirus
SAVE – WATER	Municipal Enterprise for Water Supply and Sewerage of Ioannina
ALTTOUR	MINISTRY OF TOURISM

# Programme's State of Play

## Technical Assistance Progress

- ▶ The approved allocation for Priority Axis 3, amounts to 3.231.203€, that is an 5,97% of the total budget of the Programme.

T.A. per Country	Budget	Verified budget	Absorption rate
Greece	1.913.303,00	1.497.270,60	78,26%
Albania	1.317.900,00	961.584,05	72,96%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.231.203,00</b>	<b>2.458.854,65</b>	<b>76,10%</b>

## Programme's State of Play

### Next steps (1) On Programme level

According to the time plan foreseen by the MA/JS, the following are scheduled to be accomplished until 31/12/2023.

- a. Expenditures to be verified to reach the 90% of Programme Budget.
- b. Cooperation with SASPAC for the mobilization and support of the Albanian beneficiaries.
- c. Closure of project according to the guidelines of the closure manual
- d. Initiation of the Interreg VI-A IPA Greece Albania 2021–2027

# Programme's State of Play

## Next steps (2) On Projects level

- e. Monitoring of the approved projects, through the Management Information System and the database of the Joint Secretariat.
- f. Continuous support to the project beneficiaries to speed up and implement their actions in the best possible way.
- g. Changes to the composition or the budget or the activities of the projects to secure smooth and successful implementation.
- h. Closure of the projects – info days
- i. On the spot visits, technical/skype meetings on project implementation for the projects.

# 2021–2027

## Steps followed

- ▶ **Interreg VI-A IPA Greece Albania 2021-2027**
- ▶ The progress of the submission of the Programme Document was
  - 29/12/2021: unofficial submission of the new Program to the EC, for preliminary comments
  - 2/4/2022: first official submission of the new Program to the EC [2021TC16IPCB010, Version 1.0]
  - 09/06/2022: Official comments by the EC [Ref. Ares(2022)4272269 - 09/06/2022]
  - 29/7/2022: second official submission of the new Program to the EC [Version 1.1]
  - 27/9/2022: third official submission of the new Program to the EC, following the incorporation of one last comment [Version 1.2]
- The Programme Document of the 2021-2027 has been approved by the EC on 29/11/2022.

2021–2027

## Main differences

- Eligible cross-border area has expanded
- 38,4% decrease on Programme's total budget (€33.312.503, compared to €54.076.734)
- National contribution increased from 15% to 20%
- Contemporary thematic objectives in the fields of biodiversity, green infrastructure, climate change, circular economy, and health care
- New Regulations (Climate change objectives, “Do No Significant Harm” principle, Small-scale projects, TA reimbursement)

# Interreg - IPA CBC Greece - Albania



Thank you for your attention!