

# Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Croatia - Bosnia and Herzegovina - Montenegro 2014-2020

## Annex 4: Citizens summary

### 1. Background

The Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Croatia - Bosnia and Herzegovina - Montenegro 2014-2020 will support cross-border cooperation between the participating countries in the upcoming programming period 2014-2020. The programme was prepared in 2013 and 2014 during which period key variables of the programme have been agreed between the participating countries through 7 Task Force meetings and workshops, 2 rounds of public consultations with the relevant stakeholders and partners and online consultations as well as programme area shared challenges were identified and measures to address them. This paper summarises the Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Croatia - Bosnia and Herzegovina - Montenegro 2014-2020 in order to provide a brief overview on the strategic orientation of the programme.

The programme area covers 12 counties on the Croatian side, Brčko District and 109 municipalities on the side of Bosnia and Herzegovina and 10 municipalities on the Montenegrin side. This amounts to total of 87,453,95 km<sup>2</sup> of the programme area with 5,587,836 inhabitants.

On the Croatian side the programme territory includes following counties: Zagreb County, Sisak-Moslavina County, Karlovac County, Bjelovar-Bilogora County, Lika-Senj County, Požega-Slavonia County, Brod-Posavina County, Zadar County, Šibenik-Knin County, Vukovar-Srijem County, Split-Dalmatia County and Dubrovnik-Neretva County.

On the side of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the programme territory includes Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the following municipalities: Bijeljina, Teočak, Ugljevik, Lopare, Tuzla, Lukavac, Čelić, Srebrenik, Petrovo, Gračanica, Doboj Istok, Gradačac, Pelagićevo, Donji Žabar, Orašje, Domaljevac-Šamac, Šamac, Modriča, Vukosavlje, Odžak, Brod, Srebrenica, Bratunac, Milići, Han-Pijesak, Vlasenica, Kladanj, Šekovići, Kalesija, Osmaci, Zvornik, Banovići, Živinice, Sapna, Prnjavor, Srbac, Laktaši, Čelinac, Kotor Varoš, Kneževo, Dobretići, Šipovo, Jajce, Jezero, Mrkonjić Grad, Banja Luka, Gradiška, Kozarska Dubica, Prijedor, Oštra Luka, Sanski Most, Ključ, Ribnik, Glamoč, Bosansko Grahovo, Drvar, Istočni Drvar, Petrovac, Bosanski Petrovac, Bosanska Krupa, Krupa na Uni, Novi Grad, Kostajnica, Bužim, Velika Kladuša, Cazin, Bihać, Doboj, Derventa, Prozor/Rama, Konjic, Nevesinje, Gacko, Bileća, Trebinje, Ravno, Ljubinje, Berkovići, Mostar, Jablanica, Kupres, Kupres (RS), Tomislavgrad, Posušje, Široki Brijeg, Čitluk, Stolac, Neum, Čapljina, Ljubuški, Grude, Livno, Istočni Mostar, Doboj Jug, Kakanj, Maglaj, Tešanj, Usora, Zavidovići, Zenica, Žepče, Bugojno, Busovača, Donji Vakuf, Gornji Vakuf-Uskoplje, Novi Travnik, Travnik, Vitez and Teslić.

On the Montenegrin side the programme territory includes municipalities as follows: Herceg Novi, Kotor, Tivat, Budva, Bar, Ulcinj, Cetinje, Nikšić, Podgorica and Danilovgrad.

The programme area has a large number of assets but also faces numerous challenges in various fields affecting regional development, which have all been thoroughly analyzed before concentrating the programme on four thematic priorities. Results expected from the programme will directly contribute to reaching goals of Europe 2020 Strategy as well as South East Europe 2020 strategy. The programme will also make use of the existing cross-border cooperation established within relevant 2007-2013 programmes (Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia-Montenegro) in order to further strengthen and extend the scope of cooperation.

## 2. Priority axes and specific objectives

The overall objective of the Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Croatia - Bosnia and Herzegovina - Montenegro 2014-2020 is to strengthen the social, economic and territorial development of the cross-border area through the implementation of joint projects and activities to be supported within four thematic priorities:

TP1 - Public health and social care sector

TP2 - Environment, nature, risk prevention, sustainable energy and energy efficiency

TP4 - Tourism and cultural and natural heritage

TP7 - Competitiveness and business environment development.

The selected thematic priorities have been translated into four priority axes which will enable the programme to become the tool for implementing smart solutions that answer to the programme area needs and challenges.

Within four priority axes, six specific objectives indicate specific changes that the Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Croatia - Bosnia and Herzegovina - Montenegro 2014-2020 anticipates to achieve through implementation of specific actions and realization of related outputs.

### ***Priority Axis 1 “Improving the quality of the services in public health and social care sector”***

Priority axis 1 aims to contribute to enhancing public health and social care especially through development of capacities and skills of the related labour force and through improvement of services in both sectors.

More concretely, the programme will support actions with aim of enhancing accessibility to and effectiveness of the related health and social services, developing and implementing related lifelong learning programmes, developing and implementing programmes for increasing skills of health and social care workers to better adapt to the real needs of the beneficiaries, implementing actions for improving quality, scope and delivery mechanism of social services provided to users in vulnerable positions as well as support networking activities with aim of enhancing health care and social services and facilities. In addition, the actions that will be supported under this priority axis will be those with the aim of developing schemes and using ICT tools for establishing networking structures for the purpose of common disaster response across the borders. Therefore, this priority axis is to address common challenges through cross-border cooperation in order to enhance the common opportunities and improve the potentials by searching common cross-border solutions.

The financial allocation to this priority axis amounts to 15% of total programme EU funding (about EUR 8,5 million). Projects to be funded under this priority will have to tackle the following specific objective (SO):

#### **SO 1.1. To improve the quality of the services in public health and social care sector across the borders**

This specific objective will be achieved through cross-border cooperation implementing the following indicative list of actions:

- Providing support to public health and social care institutions in improving accessibility and effectiveness (e.g. small infrastructure and equipment), including related pilot projects.

- Developing and implementing joint activities on enhancing the quality of health care and social care services (e.g. joint health services delivery, promoting healthy lifestyles and active and healthy aging, disease prevention implementation plan, palliative care, etc.)
- Developing and implementing joint lifelong learning, education and training programmes addressing skills and capacity strengthening needs in the area of health and social care.
- Implementing ICT solutions in order to improve public health and social care services.
- Developing schemes and using ICT tools for establishing networking structures for the purpose of common disaster response across the borders.
- Joint strengthening of health and social care for vulnerable groups with focus on elderly, including palliative care and children, disabled, people receiving social care and long-term unemployed older women.
- Awareness rising activities in promotion of different types of services available for vulnerable groups.
- Networking of organisations (e.g. health care and social care institutions, family centers, education institutions, etc.) in order to create joint activities for enhancing accessibility to health and social services.
- Implementing exchange of experience concerning the identification, transfer and dissemination of good practices and innovative approaches as well support to the sustainability and implementation of the Cross-border Healthcare Directive (2011/24) and European Reference Networks, especially in relation to the aims of territorial cohesion, including territorial aspects and harmonious development of Union territory.

***Priority Axis 2 “Protecting the environment and nature, improving risk prevention and promoting sustainable energy and energy efficiency”***

Priority axis 2 directly responds to the environment and nature protection, risk prevention improvement and aims at strengthening the usage of renewable energies thus improving energy efficiency.

Developing and implementing joint environmental management initiatives, improving protection systems (from fires, floods, draughts), supporting measures and tools for reducing the risk of natural disasters shall be supported in order to tackle the challenges that the programme area is facing in the area of environment, nature and natural resources protection and management systems for risk prevention. In addition, actions that will be supported under this priority axis are those with the aim of developing and implementing joint pilot and demonstration projects on innovative technologies and solutions in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy resources, and those with the aim of joint investing in public infrastructure on sustainable energy production and energy efficiency. The change that is to be sought is the increased capacities and improved infrastructure for utilisation of renewable energy resources and application of energy efficiency in the programme area. Therefore, this priority axis is to address common challenges through cross-border cooperation in order to enhance the common opportunities and improve the potentials by searching common cross-border solutions.

The financial allocation to this priority amounts to 25% of total programme EU funding (about EUR 14 million). Projects to be funded under this priority will have to tackle one of the two specific objectives (SO):

**SO 2.1. To promote and improve environment and nature protection and management systems for risk prevention**

This specific objective will be achieved through cross-border cooperation implementing the following indicative list of actions:

- Developing and implementing joint management initiatives in the area of environment and nature protection (e.g. monitoring and exchange of data, biodiversity and geo-diversity maps, management plans for nature protected areas of cross-border interest, marine protected areas, maritime spatial planning and integrated coastal management for cross-border areas, etc.) Implementing joint actions in the area of monitoring and managing environmental protection addressing locally specific cross-border priorities and/or contributing to implementation of higher-level regional initiatives such as Sava River Basin Management Plan and the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region.
- Implementing joint initiatives for designation and preservation of cross-border habitats (including large carnivore habitats) and ecosystems with high biodiversity value, including protection and restoration of coastal wetland areas and karst fields relevant for the Adriatic Flyway
- Implementing awareness raising activities, information campaigns and education and training concerning environmental and nature protection.
- Improving emergency preparedness and risk prevention systems that addresses existing as well as expected cross-border hazards (fires, floods, draughts, hazardous pollution events, including trans boundary air and water pollution and other natural disasters) through, for example: adopting comprehensive multi-hazard framework to risk management and communication, harmonizing information about risks using internationally accepted definitions and guidelines, addressing priority gaps and needs for exchanging available data, developing and/or implementing plans that specify standard operating procedures on local level (who, what, when, how and with whom) based on higher level initiatives for disaster management).
- Cross-border measures and tools for reducing or mitigating environmental problems and risks, including small-scale infrastructure and equipment.
- Implementing joint interventions in case of accidents and natural disasters and establishment of strong cooperation between the emergency centers, including small-scale infrastructure and equipment.

## **SO 2.2. To promote utilization of renewable energy resources and energy efficiency**

This specific objective will be achieved through cross-border cooperation implementing the following indicative list of actions:

- Developing and implementing joint pilot and demonstration projects on innovative technologies and solutions in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy resources.
- Joint investing in public infrastructure on sustainable energy and energy efficiency.
- Joint incentives in order to improve planning and regulatory framework in the area of renewable energy resources and energy efficiency (e.g. analyses, comparisons, recommendation, local/regional action plans etc.).
- Implementing transfer of knowledge (awareness rising), dissemination of experience, exchange of good practice and capacity building on the utilization of renewable energy resources and energy efficiency.
- Elaboration of joint studies and documentation on (the utilization of) renewable energy resources and energy efficiency.

### ***Priority Axis 3 “Contributing to the development of tourism and preserving cultural and natural heritage”***

Priority axis 3 aims at further development and diversification of existing tourism potential as well as and at protecting and using the natural and cultural heritage in a sustainable way.

The priority targets the strengthening of existing potentials by including other sectors and complementary services in tourist offer, by supporting to introducing (international) certifications and standards in the tourist products, developing and improving small-scale tourism infrastructure and supporting capacity building in tourism sector. Furthermore, this priority aims to valorising cultural and natural potentials of the programme area in order to integrate culture, nature and leisure activities into tourism offer. All the mentioned targets of this priority axis will help to strengthen and diversify the tourist offer in whole programme area. Therefore, this priority axis is to address common challenges of the programme area through cross-border cooperation in order to enhance the common opportunities and improve the potentials by searching common cross-border solutions.

The financial allocation to this priority amounts to 30% of total programme EU funding (about EUR 17 million). Projects to be funded under this priority will have to tackle one of the two specific objectives (SO):

**SO 3.1. To strengthen and diversify the tourism offer through cross border approaches and to enable a better management and sustainable use of cultural and natural heritage**

This specific objective will be achieved through cross-border cooperation implementing the following indicative list of actions:

- Developing, promoting and branding of joint tourism niches, services and products including the development and diversification of joint tourism activities and sustainable tourism offer, inter alia, by including other relevant sectors e.g. agriculture, organic food supply, handicrafts and other local products, culture, sustainable transport, etc.) in order to develop projects in ecotourism, hunting, rural, mountain, excursion, cultural, adventure, religious, nautical, conference, health, wellness and spa tourism.
- Developing complementary services in tourist offer.
- Promoting and introducing (international) certifications and standards, in order to improve the quality of tourism providers and their services.
- Supporting development and improvement of destination management capacity building in tourism sector (e.g. by developing destination management skills) and focusing on enhancing quality (e.g. standardisation) and integration of cross-borders offers, development of tourist destination, management, marketing and promotion).
- Implementing cross-border networking of institutions and dissemination of good practices and innovative approaches in tourism sector, including support to establishment and development of clusters.
- Developing the cross-border tourism offer including the development of innovative products and services and across the borders using ICT and other technologies (e.g. GPS routes, booking systems).
- Developing and improving small-scale cross-border tourism infrastructure such as: walking paths, cycling routes, hiking, riding trails, signposting, visitor centres, etc. Implementing joint incentives of integrating culture, nature and leisure activities into sustainable tourism offer in the programme area taking care of preservation of nature and cultural protected areas (e.g. marine and coastal environment, historical and cultural sites, etc).
- Valuating, preserving, restoring and reviving (e.g. animation of site) cultural, historical and natural heritage assets (e.g. UNESCO and other historical and cultural sites and landscapes), including enabling or improving access to them, but at the same time preserving marine and coastal environment.
- Enabling joint cultural cooperation initiatives including creation of joint cultural events such as cultural festivals, cultural exchanges, joint theatre performances or joint/traveling exhibitions.
- Developing and implementing training programs in quality assurance systems and different types of standardisation (e.g. ISO certification, etc.) on cultural and natural heritage.

- Implementing investments in certification including training, equipment supply but also small scale infrastructure on cultural and natural heritage.
- Developing and promoting public cultural and heritage services.

***Priority Axis 4 “Enhancing competitiveness and developing business environment in the programme area”***

Priority axis 4 addresses the main challenges and needs related to the enhancing competitiveness and development of business environment in the programme area.

Developing and supporting existing business support institutions, existing business clusters and networks of SMEs, improving capacities in the area of entrepreneurs and supporting to development of innovative products and services shall be supported in order for SMEs to have better chance to increase turnover, internationalise their products and create more jobs. These targets of priority axis will help to accelerate development of business environment and overall, the competitiveness of the programme area. Therefore, this priority axis is to address common challenges through cross-border cooperation in order to enhance the common opportunities and improve the potentials by searching common cross-border solutions.

The financial allocation to this priority amounts to 20% of total programme EU funding (about EUR 11.5 million). Projects to be funded under this priority will have to tackle the following specific objective (SO):

**SO 4.1. To enhance innovation, new technologies and ICT in order to accelerate the competitiveness and development of business environment in the programme area**

This specific objective will be achieved through cross-border cooperation implementing the following indicative list of actions:

- Supporting business support institutions and establishment of and support to existing and new business related sectorial networks and organisations in order to enhance standardisation, product protection, marketing and development of cross-border markets.
- Developing and supporting existing business clusters and/or networks of SMEs in applying ICT, innovation and new technologies in order to develop and promote common products for local cross-border and international markets.
- Implementing actions aiming at networking, dissemination of good practices and innovative approaches and cooperation business support institutions, clusters and SMEs at national, regional and local level in the programme area.
- Supporting business support institutions and clusters in improving the capacity of entrepreneurs including micro entrepreneurs such as family farms/households regarding marketing, branding, market research, e-business, competitiveness and education and training in entrepreneurship skills.
- Increasing cooperation between research institutions, businesses, public sector & development organisations to stimulate innovation and entrepreneurship aiming at improvement of business innovativeness and technology based on smart specialization approach.
- Promoting and introducing (international) certifications and standards of existing and new products and services.
- Implementing joint research and development activities involving the research and educational centres in the programme area in order to increase competitiveness.
- Implementing cross-border development, adaptation and exchange of best practices in application of ICT, new technologies, processes, products or services to be directly used by the enterprises between the clusters or groups of business, R&D and education institutions.

- Establishing and supporting development agencies, technological and competence centres, laboratories and local ICT infrastructure for common use of the enterprises in the programme area in order to upgrade the existing and develop new products, services, processes or prototypes.

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