

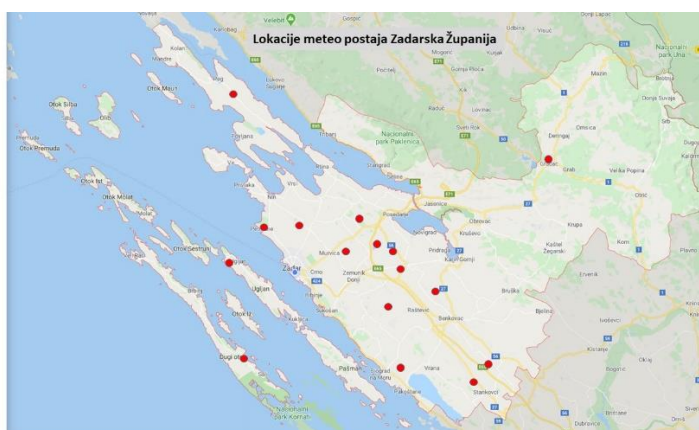
Citizen's Summary of Annual Implementation Report for the financial year 2019

For multiannual financial framework 2014 - 2020, Interreg IPA Cross-border cooperation programme Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina- Montenegro has at its disposal a total of EUR 67.241.552, of which EUR 57.155.316 comes from the European Regional Development Fund and Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance.

Since the start of the program in 2014, the Managing Authority has published two calls for proposals, the first one in 2016 and the second one in 2018.

Out of 24 projects contracted within the 1st Call for Proposals with the total value of EUR 24.134.478, 64, 18 projects finished its implementation in 2019, and 4 projects in 2020. 1 project finished its implementation in 2018 and 1 project was terminated. Among first of the implemented projects was PESCAR co-funded with EUR 511.393,35 from the ERDF and IPA II funds within Priority Axis 2: *protecting the environment and nature, improving risk prevention and promoting sustainable energy and energy efficiency*. The project responded to sever degradation of environment, which affects both food and human health by uncontrollable and excess usage of pesticides in regions in the Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina cross-border area (Zadar County and Herzegovina-Neretva and Western-Herzegovina counties). PESCAR partnership main objectives was a setup of a joint pest and disease forecasting system (usage of meteorological machines and visual-control stations).

This project was recognized as valuable one by European Commission Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy and was listed in the e-book that displays projects that show best practice examples within European Territorial Cooperation. This e-book was published in the first half of this year in order to mark the celebration of 30 years of Interreg programme and cooperation. The project PESCAR made it to the top selected projects for the topic Green connections <https://interreg.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Ebook-Interreg-30-years-projects.pdf>



Also one of the projects within 1st Call for Proposals that was listed as a positive example of modern culture management is project Fotress ReInvented (Priority Axis 3: *Contributing to the development of tourism and preserving cultural and natural heritage*) by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia.

This project introduced new, digital content to 4 fortress: St. Michael's Fortress in Šibenik and Klis Fortress in Klis (Croatia), Vranduk Fortress in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kanli Kula in Herceg Novi (Montenegro). All four fortress was equipped with technologies that offers innovative approach and new digital content in historical sites: 3D visualisations, AR glasses, medieval Balkans music, etc.



Project **MELAdetect** (Priority Axis 1: *Improving the quality of the services in public health and social care sector*) recognized the need to raise public awareness of melanoma, namely for early detection of ocular, skin and mucosal melanoma. Namely, in many cases in Croatian, Bosnia and Herzegovinian and Montenegrin part of the Programme area, there was not enough information on how and when to detect melanoma or how to treat it using modern means. Therefore, the project organized informative days and awareness campaigns, and it set up a network of health experts and an e-health platform in cross border area to educate professionals on new methods of treatment and modern insights on treating melanoma.



Project **STRONGER** (Priority Axis 4: *Enhancing competitiveness and developing business environment in the Programme area*) in overcoming the lack of organized businesses and clusters, lack of specific knowledge for the herb-related industry sector and missing specialised laboratories or information centres, focused on education and advisory activities. It set up a cross-border cluster e-platform for B2B and e-learning, 2 laboratories for research, product testing and standardisation purposes of herbs and plants and educated more than 20 SMEs and 4 business support institutions in order to empower standardisation of product, marketing and branding, etc.



European Week of Regions and Cities

In 2019, the Programme participated at *European Week of Regions and Cities* at the *Tasting of Regions and Cities* session, where we presented the gastronomy of counties, municipalities and districts included in our Programme. Together with presenters from Mediterranean regions, we offered tastings of local and authentic food products from the Programme area with the aim to present the variety of cultural, geographic and gastronomic practices in our cross-border area. The tasting session was very successful and attracted several hundred visitors on the second day of the event.



In addition to the *Tasting of Regions and Cities*, the Programme was presented by the project safEarth, that participated in a discussion titled *Cities and regions: Leaders in addressing climate change*, organized on the final day of the *European Week of Regions and Cities*. The representative of safEarth shared experiences from the project's mission to tackle the issue of landslide hazards in the cross-border region, in order to illustrate how cities and regions address climate change.



European Cooperation Day

As every year, we celebrated the European Cooperation Day: an event dedicated to promoting territorial cooperation in Europe. In 2019, the celebration took place on 14 October in Banja Luka (Bosnia and

Herzegovina). With the EC Day 2019 theme titled "Europe is you", we wanted to highlight the role of citizens and the local community in the European Union and see how the European Union benefits citizens of Europe. For that purpose, we prepared many interactive activities, welcoming several hundred visitors to join and participate:

- ✚ **interactive exhibition** about Interreg, our Programme, and collages and paintings made as part of the EC Day 2018. Visitors were invited to express their thoughts about the EU and think of possibilities that it offers to citizens, giving citizens not only a participating role but also a role of designers of the exhibition.
- ✚ a **project fair** presenting different innovative ways of cooperation between projects and local communities as well as achievements of our projects MELAdetect, Smart Schools and Fortress ReInvented;
- ✚ a **cycle cinema** inviting visitors to cycle and in this way power generators that showed video clips about our projects, Interreg and past EC Days. A power-generating competition was also organized, in which prizes were given to cyclists producing the most energy.

