

Citizen's Summary of Annual Implementation Report for the year 2021

For financial perspective 2014 - 2020, Interreg IPA Cross-border cooperation programme Croatia – Bosnia and Herzegovina - Montenegro has at its disposal a total of EUR 67.241.552,00, of which EUR 57.155.316,00 comes from the European Regional Development Fund and Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance and EUR 10.086.236,00 from national co-financing.

Since the start of the Programme in 2015, the Managing Authority has published two calls for proposals, the first one in 2016 and the second one in 2018 and has so far contracted 59 projects. Programme contracting rate is 102,46%. In 2021, the Certifying Authority (CA) certified EUR 7.749.200,76, while EUR 6.585.920,63 was paid to Lead partners. From the beginning of projects' implementation until 31/12/2021, CA paid to the projects cumulative amount of EUR 25.875.285,62.

Total number of contracted projects per Priority Axis (1st and 2nd Call for Proposals):

Priority Axis 1



Improving the quality of the services in public health and social care sector

16 projects (originally 17, 1 was terminated in 2018)

Priority Axis 2



Protecting the environment and nature, improving risk prevention and promoting sustainable energy and energy efficiency

14 projects

Priority Axis 3



Contributing to the development of tourism and preserving cultural and natural heritage

14 projects

Priority Axis 4



Enhancing competitiveness and developing business environment in the programme area

14 projects

Out of 24 contracted projects within the 1st Call for Proposals, last projects were completed in the middle of 2020. Out of 35 projects contracted within the 2nd Call for Proposals, a total of 31 projects started with the implementation in 2020, while 4 projects were contracted in the beginning of 2021. Most of the projects from 2nd Call for Proposals will be finished by the end of 2022, while 6 projects will end in the beginning of 2023. Regular updates on Programme level are published on the Programme website in the section [Programme news](#) while project news and achievements can be followed in the section [Project news](#).

Project highlights

RACE

Main objective of project RACE is to increase the availability and quality of the Emergency medical services (EMS) of 3 project partners in order to provide the framework for innovative and more flexible actions in case of mass accidents. Results of the project are reflected in technical capacity improvement of the EMS with new medical equipment procured in the total amount of EUR 650.000 (7 sanitary vehicles with pre-installed medical equipment, 32 automated external defibrillators AED, ultrasound machine, medical devices and measuring instruments, educational equipment, IT equipment for EMS field offices, education centers and project management team, software for networking of external defibrillators, etc.), trainings of non-medical staff in providing first aid (enabling general population to use defibrillators to save human lives) and training of medical staff to reduce morbidity during prehospital care for traumatized patients.



Figure 1. Demonstration exercise



Figure 2. Demonstration exercise

RESPONSa

Project aims to improve landslide and flash flood risk prevention system by creating an Early warning system (EWS) that enables individuals, communities and organizations threatened by a hazard to prepare and act appropriately and in sufficient time to reduce the possibility of harm or loss. EWS also involves the identification of risk scenarios, emergency plans, societal considerations, public awareness, etc. Project encourages better cooperation between

academic/scientific organizations, civil protection organizations, municipalities and other relevant institutions. Project results include direct implementation of scientific methodologies in practise, data collection from local communities (areas with geological hazards), knowledge transfer between partner institutions, setting up remote sensing laboratory with new equipment, application and development of new technologies, setting up a mobile team for geological hazard prospection and consulting in case of emergency. Web portal “Report a landslide” created during safEarth project was improved during project RESPONSa and available to general public to report landslides in Croatia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina. It serves as a platform for updating landslide information, leading to national landslide inventory in the future. All three project partners procured valuable new geological equipment, in total value of EUR 330.000.



Figure 3. Drone with camera- test flight, Tuhelj (HR)



Figure 4. Downloading data from pluviometer at Kravarsko (HR)

Exchange

The main goal of the project Exchange is to strengthen and diversify the tourist offer in the targeted area through exploring aquatic biodiversity and to enable better management and sustainable use of cultural and natural heritage. Project activities include developing a joint cross-border tourism product called „Blue pass pack“ (containing joint entrance tickets, E-guide, audio guides, interactive kiosks and promo pack) and developing and implementing a training program in standardization of natural heritage. Additionally, the following investments in total amount of EUR 785.440 are being implemented: upgrading the Dubrovnik Aquarium (Croatia), extension of Aquarium Boka in Kotor (Montenegro), upgrading of camp facilities in Hutovo Blato (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and reconstruction of City Bath "Banja" in Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina).



Figure 5. aquarium in Dubrovnik (HR)



Figure 6. aquarium in Dubrovnik (HR)

2CODE

The main objective of 2CODE project is to strengthen the capacity of organizations and to improve services to support the development of the favourable business environment in the cross-border area. The project resulted in established IT clusters in Niksic and Tuzla, formally established network of cooperation among four existing CODE Hubs (Zadar, Mostar, Tuzla, and Nikšić) with the aim of enhancing the competitiveness of the target area, development of Code Hub services for digital nomads and development of a cross-border mentoring network platform, which is created for connecting existing cross-border network of mentors and start-ups and SMEs from the programme area. Capacities of the existing CODE Hubs are also upgraded through purchasing new equipment and developing new services (hackathon for software solution, international tech conference, training for project stakeholders on using ICT solutions, meet-ups to connect local IT community etc). Additional necessary furniture and IT equipment in the amount of EUR 128.356 was purchased in order to improve Code Hub services. Also, one UX Lab in Zadar is established and equipped in the amount of EUR 50.000.



Figure 7. 2CODE hackaton



Figure 8. 2CODE workshop

Education and communication activities



Figure 9. Facebook promotional campaign for poster competition

the students of elementary school Lipovac in Croatia, who were rewarded by valuable prizes.

The Programme continued performing communication activities in this reporting period, aiming to promote the Programme and inform the general public on its goals and achievements., as well as to promote interactive dialogue at all levels. Due to effects of COVID-19 pandemics, in 2021 the jubilee anniversary of **EC day** was celebrated by combining online and live events.

As part of this year's 10th jubilee anniversary of the European Cooperation Day campaign, an online poster competition "European Union for the Future" was organised. The schoolchildren from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro were invited to share their vision of European Union of the future. All received posters were published on [Programme Facebook page](#) and were available for voting 24 - 30/9/2021. The winning design, according to likes of our Facebook followers, was the one made by

In addition, this year's jubilee was marked and celebrated by the Programme with a [local event](#) held on 1/10/2021 in Bar, Montenegro. The all-day event was organized by the National Authority in Montenegro in cooperation with the Managing Authority and it encompassed various activities for the participants. On this occasion, elementary school Mrkojevići near Bar was visited and it received a valuable donation of IT and musical equipment from our Programme. Furthermore, the students were invited to participate in an art workshop at the old olive grove, after which they joined other participants in visiting the locations in Stari Bar fortress, reconstructed and equipped with digital technology within the project FORTITUDE, co-financed by the Programme with over EUR 1.3 million.



Figure 10. Facebook promotional campaign for poster competition

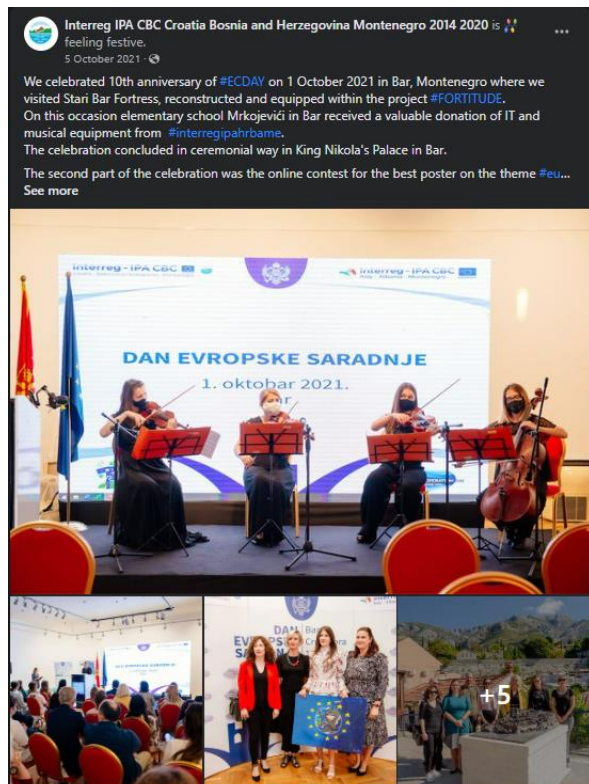


Figure 11. photo gallery from local event in Bar (MNE)

The celebration was concluded with the closing ceremony held in King Nikola's Palace in Bar, which included screening of promotional movie about EU cross-border projects implemented in the Municipality of Bar, as well as the exhibition of students' paintings created for the poster competition "European Union for the Future".

Programme was also promoted on EU level on [REGIOSTARS award 2021](#) and **Interreg Annual Event**, where 2 projects from the 1st Call for Proposals were selected as finalists of the competitions:

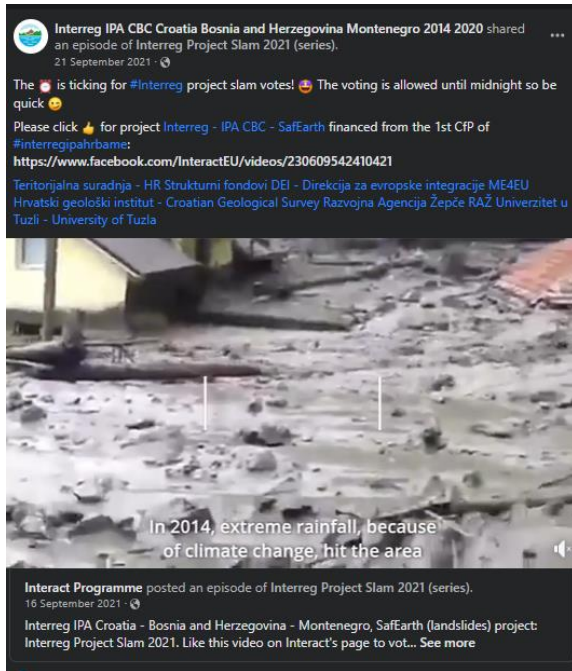


Figure 12. awarded video on Programme Facebook page

- project **SMART SCHOOLS** was selected as one of the 10 finalists in the category GREEN Europe: Green and resilient communities in urban and rural setting of the REGIOSTARS award 2021,

- project safEarth was one of the 10 finalists of Interreg Project Slam 2021 competition for [Social Media Award](#). The [video](#) seized excellent 4th place with 665 collected likes. Same video was also in competition for Interreg [Project Slam 2021](#) Grand Final.

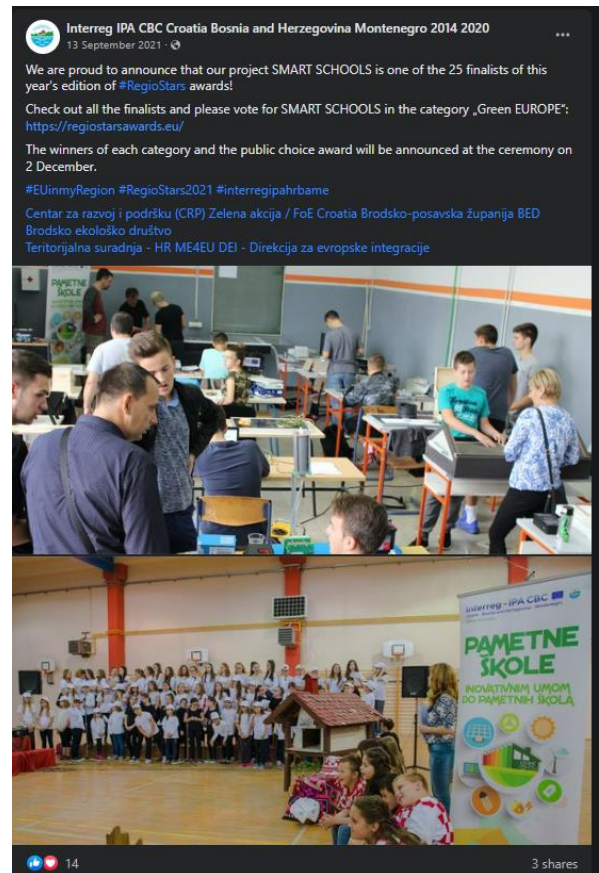


Figure 13. REGIOSTAR finalist