

Citizen's Summary of Annual Implementation Report for the year 2022

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 contracted 59 projects. In 2022, the Certifying Authority (CA) certified EUR 12.957.220,53, while EUR 11.009.859,56 was paid to Lead partners. From the beginning of projects' implementation until 31/12/2022, CA paid to the projects cumulative amount of EUR 36.885.145,18.

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 by mid 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 were completed by the end of 2022, while 13 projects will end in the 2023. Regular updates on Programme level are published on the [Programme website](#).

Project highlights

LAB OP

The project aimed to improve the quality of public health services in the cross-border area through infrastructure improvements, enhancing knowledge and expertise in the laboratory diagnostic sector.

Pneumatic tube transport system installed in two hospitals (“Blažo Orlandić” General Hospital Bar in Montenegro and General Hospital Zadar in Croatia) in total amount of EUR 455.280,00 enables faster delivery and lower contamination of the laboratory samples, reducing the time required for patient treatment. Laboratory Information System in Hospital Livno with 5 connected health centres in the surrounding area (in total amount of EUR 115.000,00) standardizes and improves accuracy and speed of the laboratory tests.



Figure 1. new equipment for laboratory testing

New laboratory equipment in Hospital Bar also improves the efficiency of laboratory testing. The project reduces the pressure on the secondary and tertiary health care system which leads to reduction of time needed for patient treatment, improves overall public health and allows access to better health care to larger number of citizens.



SAFE TOGETHER

The main objective of the project is to improve the capability to react to natural disasters through an increase in the level of preparedness and operability of the rescue services in the cross-border area of central Croatia, northern Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro.

The project educated staff (10 people from each partner), founded new Mountain rescue stations/services, and raised awareness of preserving the environment and nature. Also, infrastructure works, in the amount of EUR 514.737,00 performed within the project, resulted in renovated training centers for risk prevention in the cross-border area (Daruvar, Gradiška and Podgorica).



Figure 2. demonstration exercise

By implementing joint trainings for more than 120 participants, project partners are considerably increasing the capability of intervention rescue services to react in the situation of crisis.

Heritage REVIVED

The main objective of the Project is to diversify and promote the tourism offer of cross-border region through revitalisation and sustainable use of neglected cultural heritage.

Three cultural assets: Rižinice (Croatia), Old Town Ljubuški (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Shas (Montenegro) were researched, restored and equipped with the supporting facilities and infrastructure for visitors. The value of all these investments amounts to EUR 1.053.817,00. Project partners are developing and promoting new cultural tourism content – virtual reality (VR)



Figure 3. works on site

reconstruction of three archaeological sites.

VR animations are promoted by local tourist boards, info centers and city museums. The standardization of cultural heritage management is improved by cross-border exchange of ideas and capacity building of heritage and tourism operators.

COOPeR

All over the Programme area, olive growers face similar challenges such as limited access to market, scarce capacity and resources, and insufficient cooperation between SMEs and research and development institutions.

Project COOPeR aims to address these challenges by establishing the cross-border Centre for Olives in Mostar (total value of investment is more than EUR 320.000,00) dedicated to collaborative research and development in the field of olive growing and olive oil production, with a variety of laboratory and diagnostic tests and procedures available, capacity building activities and targeted research programs developed and implemented.



Figure 4. Center for Olives in Mostar

With the aim of securing the long-term sustainability of the Centre, new Cross-border Business Network is developed, facilitating the cooperation among researchers, farmers, advisers, NGOs and public authorities involved in the olive sector.

Education and communication activities

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.

In cooperation with the Directorate for European Integration of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the role of National Authority of Bosnia and Herzegovina organized this year's [EC Day celebration](#) in Neum under the slogan „Youth in cooperation“. The theme of the event held on 30 September 2022 was sports and physical activities, so an interesting programme was prepared for the participants – the students of Neum High School and representatives of Managing Authority, Joint Secretariat and National Authorities, as they all competed in the “Games without borders”. Besides having fun and competitions in sports, children were given the opportunity to gain insight into the possibilities offered Interreg and EU.



Figure 5. EC Day celebration in Neum

The projects CODE, 2 CODE and CROWN participated in the [Interreg Project Slam 2022 finals](#). These projects provide support to young entrepreneurs from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. The Grand Final Event was held as a part of Interreg Annual Event on 27 October 2022 in Brussels.



Figure 6. The Grand Final Event in Brussels

With more than 200 participants who attended the [Launching Conference](#) on site, and more than 530 participants who followed the live broadcast via our official YouTube channel, we celebrated the start of the implementation of the Interreg VI-A IPA Programme Croatia – Serbia and Interreg VI-A IPA Programme Croatia – Bosnia and Herzegovina – Montenegro. The Launching Conference was held in Zagreb on 13 December 2022. The participants were given an insight into the new possibilities for financing through the presentation of the main activities and expected results of the Interreg VI-A IPA Programmes in the new financial perspective 2021-2027. Additionally, the participants had the opportunity to visit the Interreg IPA project fair where they could see interesting exhibits and project results and talk to project partners who successfully implemented their cross-border projects in the financial perspective 2014-2020.



Figure 7. Launching Conference in Zagreb

Project [SmartSchools2](#) won first place of this year’s National Environmental Awards - Green Prix, held on 4 June 2022 in Zagreb, in the category of local and regional self-government.

Centar za djecu i omladinu sa posebnim potrebama „Los Rosales“ from Mostar, became 1 st institution in the area of Herzegovina-Neretva County that will provide Play therapy. A much-needed therapy room was built for children with developmental disabilities, with the help of the Inclusive Play project! Play therapy is one of the psychotherapeutic approaches used in working with children, in which play is a way of communication between the therapist and the child.

Interreg IPA CBC Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Montenegro
25 November 2022

We are proud to be a part of stories like this! 🥳

Centar za djecu i omladinu sa posebnim potrebama „Los Rosales“ from Mostar, became 1st institution in the area of Herzegovina-Neretva County that will provide #Playtherapy. 🎮

A much-needed therapy room was built for children with developmental disabilities, with the help of the #InclusivePlay project! 🙌

#Playtherapy is one of the psychotherapeutic approaches used in working with children, in which play is a way of communication between the therapist and the child. 🧒

With this model, children learn in a stimulating environment, guided by an educated person who knows how to communicate with them in a pleasant and fun way. Playtherapy increases the efficiency of the progress of children with developmental disabilities.

You can find more information as well as photos from the Opening Ceremony in the post below.

Teritorijalna suradnja - HR ME4EU DE1 - Direkcija za evropske integracije
Grad Zadar #DVLatica Grad Mostar Centar za djecu i omladinu sa posebnim potrebama „Los Rosales“

Project FORTITUDE was the organizer of the first edition of [Night of Fortresses](#) event, designed to popularize and promote cultural heritage in cross-border area. This project is an example of a regional project that has contributed to the strengthening of regional cooperation and the branding of cultural heritage, which was recognized by the Forte Cultura and EFFORTS, two large European networks that gather over 150 members, who signed a Letter of Intent on cooperation with the aim of continuing the organization of Night of Fortresses, which will become an integral part of the European Fortress Summer event.

