



## The European Union's Cross-Border Cooperation Programme

IPA II

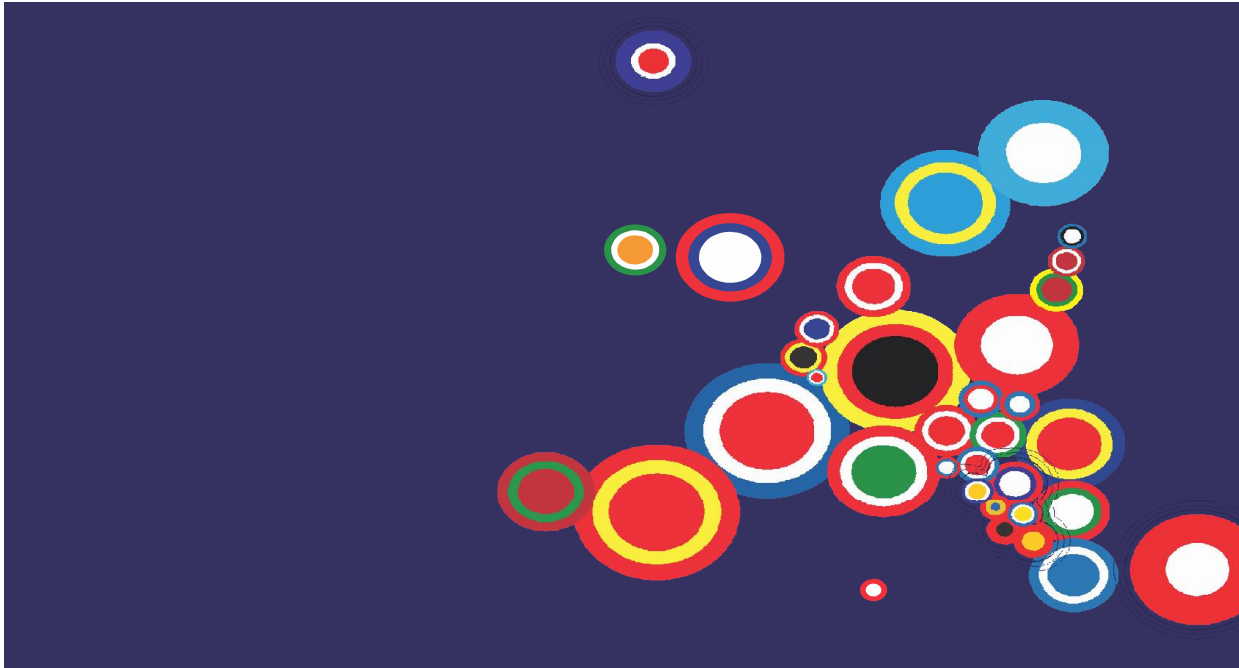
2014-2020

### Creating Common Future

Newsletter

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## IPA II Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020

The 2014-2020 Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) Programme was adopted by the European Commission (EC) on 11/12/2014.

The overall objective of the Programme is to stimulate more balanced, inclusive and sustainable socio economic development of the border Area.

Geographical coverage and size of the eligible Programme Area flows from the previous IPA CBC assistance and covers three NUTS-3 regions with the total size of Cross-Border Area of 19,969 km<sup>2</sup>. The Leading country regions account for 52.5% and the partner country regions make up 47.5% of the size of the CBC Area.

The Programme aims at providing assistance for CBC in the following four thematic priorities:

- Encouraging tourism, culture and natural heritage;
- Enhancing competitiveness, business, trade and investment;
- Protecting environment, promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management;
- Technical Assistance.



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The IPA CBC Programme includes a specific budget allocation for technical assistance operations aiming at supporting the implementation of the entire programme. The amount of IPA II assistance that can be allocated to TA for this CBC programme is limited to 10% of the total amount of the EU contribution.

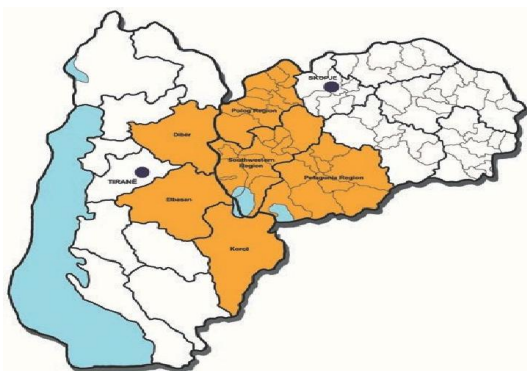
For the IPA II CBC programme 2014-2020, the TA will be implemented through a service contract to be concluded between the Delegation of the European Union in Skopje and the Ministry of Local Self Government.

### The regions in the Leading country are as follow:

- **Pelagonia Region** which includes 9 municipalities: Bitola, Demir Hisar, Dolneni, Krivogastani, Krusevo, Mogila, Novaci, Prilep, and Resen;
- **Polog Region** which includes 9 municipalities: Bogovinje, Brvenica, Gostivar, Jegunovce, Mavrovo and Rostusa, Tearce, Tetovo, Vrapciste and Zelino;
- **Southwest Region** which covers 9 municipalities: Centar Zupa, Debar, Debarca, Kicevo, Makedonski Brod, Ohrid, Plasnica, Struga and Vevcani.

### The regions in the Partner country are as follow:

- **Dibra Region** which includes 4 municipalities: Diber, Bulqize, Mat and Klos;
- **Elbasan Region** includes 7 Municipalities: Elbasan, Cerrik, Belsh, Peqin, Gramsh, Librazhd and Prrenjas;
- **Korca Region** includes 6 Municipalities: Korce, Maliq, Pustec, Kolonje, Devoll, Pogradec.



## PROJECT APPROACH AND OVERALL PLANNING (progress to date)

### Partner search forum

TACSO Offices in both countries together with operating structures of the new IPA CBC Programme 2014-2020 and in cooperation with the DEUs in Skopje and Tirana, on 26.01.2016 in the cross-border village of Tushemisht, organized a cross border cooperation day, partner search forum with participation of CSOs and LGUs from both countries. 115 participants attended the event.



This event contributed to strengthening the relations and capacities in order to embark on the implementation of joint project funded under IPA CBC Programme.

The event contributed to bringing positive experiences from the cross bordering area related with tourism development environmental protection, people to people exchange experiences and establishing new partnerships for the up-coming CfP, preparing the CSOs and LGUs to benefit from such funding opportunities.



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### First JMC Meeting

On 27.01.2016 in hotel "1 May" in Pogradec, the 1<sup>st</sup> JMC meeting was organized for this Programme. The JMC consists of 16 voting members, 8 from each beneficiary country, four observers from the leading country, two observers from the partner country and observers from the DEUs in both countries.

The Rules of procedure document of the JMC, IPA II CBC Programme 2014-2020 with the relevant changes, was approved unanimously by the members of the JMC. The JMC members had also adopted the Work and Communication Plan for 2016, and contribute with their suggestions on the selection of the thematic priorities for the 1<sup>st</sup> CfP, as well as to the preparation of other criteria of the Guidelines for applicants, such as: if some of these documents can be published on the web (communication plan, rules of procedures etc then state the link of the web site)

- Financial allocations 2014 and 2015 will have a total allocation of 2.890.000 euro;
- The principles of co-financing will be EU contributions of 85% and co-financing 15 %;
- The scenario one (1) of the Programme, for launching the call for proposals was decided, by the JMC;
- The list of Potential beneficiaries was suggested;
- Size of grants (EU contribution) was suggested;
- With regard to the Mandatory partnership with certain institution, was suggested to leave it open;
- Lead Applicant must act together with at least one (1) national co-applicant;
- With regard to sub-granting and which amount, was suggested to leave it open;



- With regard to the Project duration, the JMC suggested to be from minimum 12 months to maximum 24 months;
- JMC members decided for a maximum % from the operation/action with regard to the investment in equipment and infrastructure.
- Work and Communication Plan for 2016 document was approved by the JMC unanimously.

### Project Steering Committee (PSC)

PSC consists of supervising the implementation of the service contract, including monitoring the progress of the project's activities, ensuring overall coordination of project implementation and assessing the quality of the project outputs.



The aim of the PSC will be to discuss the progress of the project and issues related to the implementation of the service contract. The PSC is composed of representatives of the OSs, CA (DEU in Skopje, the NIPAC office in Skopje and from the DEU in Tirana up till now there has been organised one PSC meeting 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016 and were approved the following documents:

- Rules of Procedures for the Steering Committee;
- Inception Report for Service Contract.

### Future activities:

- Training for potential applicants;
- Launching 1<sup>st</sup> Call for Proposals;
- Organise 6 info sessions – partner search forums.



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### IPA 2007-2013 Programme

The IPA CBC Programme 2007-2013 has been implemented in both countries under centralised management system since 2008.

The MoLSG was designated as the OS under centralised management in charge for the coordination of all IPA CBC programmes. The MEI is the OS in the partner country responsible for the implementation for this CBC programme on the other side of the border.

During the implementation of the IPA CBC programme 2007-2013, 266 applications were submitted for all three CfPs as following:

- Under the 1<sup>st</sup> CfP were submitted 60 applications;
- Under the 2<sup>nd</sup> CfP were submitted 83 applications;
- Under the 3<sup>rd</sup> CfP were submitted 123 applications.

Grants were awarded to a total of 51 projects with an accumulated value of 7,255,574 EUR.

The following represent some key statistics of events organised under the 2007-2013 IPA TA grant contracts:

- 22 information sessions and partner search forums, on both sides of the border with 996 participants in both countries;
- 17 training events for potential applicants with 353 participants in both countries;
- 13 training workshops for grant beneficiaries in both countries;
- 130 monitoring visits carried out to grant beneficiaries in both countries;
- 13 JMC meetings held in both countries; and
- 4 programme visibility events.



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