



M-r. Lirim Shabani  
Minister of Local Self Government

Respected,  
Ministry of Local Self Government with the support of the European Union manages implementation of the Cross-border cooperation Programmes including the cross-border cooperation with Albania as a key instrument for development of the cross-border region.

Programme implementation so far counts several successful stories of total 51 contracting joint projects between partners of the two countries with total budget of more than 7.2 million Euro financed under the three Call for Proposals.

I express my gratitude to the European Delegation, which constantly gives strong support with concrete knowledge and experience in the development, management and implementation of IPA CBC. As a result of this support, we have established a real cross-border cooper-

ation between partners, and achieved excellent and fruitful results in past years.

The operating structures of both countries the Ministry of Local Government of the Republic of Macedonia and the Ministry of Integration of the Republic of Albania responsible for implementation for this CBC programme have successfully completed the programming process of the new IPA cross-border cooperation between Macedonia and Albania, 2014-2020, which has been approved by the EU end of the previous year December 2014. Ministry of Local Government will continue in the future to fully commit to the successful implementation of the Programme and to strengthen good neighborly relations by stimulating cooperation across the border.

This publication presents the enthusiasm in implementation of the joint projects with the partners from Albania with the support of the EU Delegation and the Ministry of Local Self Government.

Thank you to all who have shown interest in getting involved in activities carried out under this program, for helping us to successfully accomplish our mission. For everyone involved in implementation of this Programme wish a successful work and collaboration.

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## FACTS AND FIGURES

### Year 2009

- The 1st Call for Proposals was launched on 2nd June 2009 and closed on 4th August 2009 at 16.30 hours.
  - 7 Information sessions were organized with 333 participants in both countries;
  - 13 training events for potential applicants were organized with 271 participants in both countries;
  - 60 applications were received in the JTS Struga within the submission deadline;
- 2 JMC meetings were organised.

### Year 2010

- The 2nd Call for Proposals was launched on 19th April 2010 and closed on 19th July 2010 at 16.30 hours.
  - 9 Information sessions were organized with 495 participants;
  - 83 applications were received in the JTS Struga within the submission deadline;
- 1 JMC meetings organised.

### Year 2011

- Under the 1st Call for Proposals, of the IPA CBC Programme Macedonia - Albania, 17 grants for the applicants from both sides of the border, were awarded by DEUs, in total amount of: 1. 098.409, 87 Euro.
  - In the Republic of Macedonia were awarded 14 grants for the applicants, out of which 12 grants for the applicants which projects will be implemented on both side of the border and 2 grants for the applicants which projects will be implemented only on the Macedonian side of the border, in total amount of 571.270,46 Euro, and
  - In the Republic of Albania were awarded 15 grants for the applicants, out of which 12 grants for the applicants which projects will be implemented on both side of the border and 3 grants for the applicants which projects will be implemented only on the Albanian side of the border, in total amount of 527.139,41 Euro.
- 2nd Call for Proposals was in the process of evaluation.
- The 3rd Call for Proposal was launched on 9th November 2011 and closed on 23rd February 2012 at 16.30 hours.
  - 6 Information sessions and partner search forums, on both side of the border were organized with 168 participants;
  - 4 training events for potential applicants were organized;
  - 2 training for grant beneficiaries were organized;
- 2 JMC meetings organised.

### Year 2012

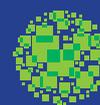
- Under the 2nd Call for Proposals, of the IPA CBC Programme MK-AL, 16 grants for the applicants from both sides of the border, were awarded by EU Delegations, in total amount of: 1.252.024,97 Euro.
  - In the Republic of Macedonia were awarded 8 grants for the applicants, out of which 7 grants for the applicants which projects were implemented on both side of the border and 1 grant for the applicant which project was implemented only on the Macedonian side of the border, in total amount of 662.447,46 Euro, and
  - In the Republic of Albania were awarded 8 grants for the applicants, out of which 7 grants for the applicants which projects were implemented on both side of the border and 1 grant for the applicant which project was implemented only on the Albanian side of the border, in total amount of 694.660.20 Euro.
- 123 Applications were received under the 3rd CFP within the deadline. The final evaluation report for the submitted applications under the 3rd Call for Proposals has finished.
  - 2 training for grant beneficiaries were organized;
- 2 JMC meetings organised.
- 42 monitoring visits carried out.

### Year 2013

- Under the 3rd Call for Proposals, of the IPA CBC Programme Macedonia - Albania, in total 25 projects were awarded out of which 16 have been implemented with partners on Albanian side.
  - 2 trainings on project implementation for grant beneficiaries were organized;
- 2 JMC meetings organised.
- 40 monitoring visits carried out.
- 3 Joint Task force meetings for IPA 2 were organised.
- 1 visibility event organized.

### Year 2014

- After finishing the contracting process under the 3rd CFP the total amount of contracted projects in Macedonia is 2.680.203 EUR and in Albania 2.262.095,00 EUR.
  - 3 trainings on project implementation, VAT and reporting for grant beneficiaries were organized;
- 2 JMC meetings organised.
- 2 Team building trainings for OS and JTS/Antenna.
- 44 monitoring visits carried out.
- 1 visibility event organized.





## IPA Cross Border Cooperation Programme Macedonia-Albania 2007-2013

### CELEBRATION OF THE EUROPEAN COOPERATION DAY

#### Painting competition

Ministry of Local Self Government in Macedonia and the Ministry of European Integration in Albania as operation structures and implementing body of the IPA CBC Macedonia-Albania 2007-2013, to mark the "**European Day of Cooperation**" organized a painting competition for children aged 6 to 18 years from schools in the Republic of Macedonia and Republic of Albania on the themes "Border without Borders" and "Let's work together for a better future".

In this competition were gathered more than 300 paintings in total from both countries and were presented 70 paintings. In the event were present the EU Ambassador in Macedonia Mr.Aivo Orav, the Minister of Local Self Government Mr.Tahir Hani, the Mayor of Struga Mr.Ziadin Sela and the vice minister of the Ministry of Integration in Albania, Mr.Majlind Lazimi.



The event for announcement of the winners of the painting competition was held on **October 22, 2013 in hotel "Inex Drim" Struga**. In this event were presented the submitted drawings from the painting competition and awards were given to the first three places.

#### Fair of the grant beneficiaries awarded under the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Call for Proposals



"Our two countries share the common aspiration to join the EU, and, in this respect, cross-border cooperation programs are an added value to the membership process because promote regional integration and cooperation," said Minister of European Integration, Mrs. Klajda Gjosh.

Director of Regional Programmes Unit in the Directorate of the European Commission Enlargement, Mr. Yngve Engstrom attended the meeting, stressed that the European Union supports and promotes cooperation among all Western Balkan countries.

This event is organized with aim to present the results of so far implemented projects under the IPA Cross border programme in front of the JMC members, Delegations of the European Union, operating structures of both countries responsible for implementation of this programme and other representatives from other stakeholders from both beneficiary countries (Municipalities, Local government bodies in the area of program, Chambers of Commerce, Regional centers, Universities, representatives of NGOs, etc).

The Ministry of European Integration, Albania and the Ministry of Local Government, Macedonia as operating structures and in the same time implementing bodies responsible for the implementation of the IPA CBC MK-AL 2007-2013, in order to promote the Programme and grant beneficiaries under this programme, organized *Fair of the grant beneficiaries awarded under the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Call for Proposals* under the cross border Programme in Tirana Albania on 23rd of September 2014. At the opening ceremony of the fair, attended the Minister of Local Self Government of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Lirim Shabani, European Integration Minister, Ms. Klajda Gjosh and Director of Regional Programmes Unit in the Department of the European Commission Enlargement, Mr. Yngve Engstrom.

Minister of Local Self Government of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Lirim Shabani noted in his speech, that good relations regional and friendly atmosphere between our countries is good throughout the region. Programs of this kind are a good way to intensify these relations.





## Monitoring activities (on the field visits, on spot support of Grant Beneficiaries)

Monitoring activities such as on the field visits, on the spot check support have been one of the main JTS (Antenna) responsibilities during the implementation of the programme in order to repair, conduct and report on monitoring visits to the funded projects as a one of the most important phases of the project cycle management and a key element in the process of their implementation.

In addition, the successful applicants also have submitted outputs/reports to the JTS Struga, giving an overview of the project activities and achievements of the both sides of the border and their coordination according to the indicators defined in the joint project proposal. JTS Struga together with the EUD representative will conduct monitoring on the field activities of the awarded applicants.

On-the-spot-check visits were realized during the regular monitoring visits, where were reviewed and assessed periodically the progress in the implementation of the project activities and the produced outputs. On-the-spot-check visits secured constant collection of data and information related to the work done and expenditure, checking of technical and financial documentation, observing tender procedures etc, as well as providing support to the project management for smooth implementation of the planned activities, in compliance with the project objectives and the signed contract.

## “Integrated Sustainable Environmental Management with Decision Support System implementation”

Functional Lead Partner: Institute for New Technologies, Innovations and Knowledge Transfer, Carl Friedrich Gauss – Bitola, Republic of Macedonia

Lead Partner: NEHEMIA Foundation, Republic Albania

Overall objective of the project: The aim of the project was to improve the sustainable natural resources management (SNRM) in cross border region between Republic of Macedonia and Albania, by using Decision Support System (DSS) based on information and communication technology. Duration of the project 12 months.

Achieved results:

- Promotion materials - leaflet and poster about project.
- TV Show, Radio Show and Newspaper articles about project.
- Manual for Natural Resources.
- Manual for Decision Support Systems and Process of Their Implementation.
- Questionnaires for surveying status on natural resources.
- Software WEB-SPO – Decision Support System for Sustainable Management of Natural Resources.
- User Guide for the WEB-SPO.
- Model for decision-making in WEB-SPO.
- Natural Resources Inventory for micro-region Bitola-Resen.
- Survey about status of natural resources in micro-region Bitola-Resen. Priority list of problems and actions related to natural resources.



Coordinative Meeting in Korca - Republic of Albania



Workshop in Bitola - Republic of Macedonia

## “Empowerment of women in touristic areas through handcrafting production”

Functional Lead Partner: Association for Women with Social Problems, Republic of Albania

Lead Partner: Women Association “Aureola”, Republic of Macedonia

Overall objective of the project: To contribute to the promotion of sustainable economic growth and attractiveness of the Korca Region and Struga Region so as to make better use of their socio-economic and cultural potentials in pursuing regional development and facilitating cross border cooperation. Duration of the project 18 months.

## Creating Common Future

### Achieved results:

- Three cross regional fairs delivered;
- Two round tables delivered;
- Two (two days) training session delivered respectively in Voskopoja and Tushemisht;
- One day training session delivered in Voskopoja and Tushemisht;
- One day training session delivered in Tushemisht and in Voskopoje targeting various categories of local recipients from public, private and civil society on tourism development and cultural marketing;
- Regional Cultural Marketing Strategy – 400 copies;
- Newsletter articles, five editions – 650 copies;
- Regional Touristic Guide – 750 copies;
- Action's Leaflets – 4000 copies;
- In Tushemisht and Voskopoja the AWSP organized symbolic ceremonies for the certification of 60 women beneficiaries of the project

### For project activities follow the links:

<http://www.durreslajm.com/kultura/turizmi-voskopoja-dhe-tushemishti-me-strategji-mbi-marketimin-kulturor>

<http://www.balkanweb.com/kultur%C3%AB/2691/tushemisht-grate-artizane-rrethojne-teto-ollgen-146005.html>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lqe6ixf3H5U#t=17>



Head of Tushemisht Commune visiting the fair



Gastronomic dishes in Voskopoja Fair

### “The use of art where is hard to talk”

Functional Lead Partner: Association of Artist Cultural Centre Media Artes, Republic of Macedonia

Lead Partner: Refraction Association, Republic of Albania

Overall objective of the project: To create a Network of civil society cultural organizations, local institutions, community based groups and artists working with vulnerable groups using art activities in both sides of the border between the programme countries. Duration of the project 12 months.

### Achieved results::

- The establishment of a Network of civil society cultural organizations and artists working with vulnerable groups using art activities;
- Enhanced professional capacities of artists and raised capacity building of cultural organizations to work with vulnerable people through structural trainings on social sculpture;
- Developing and delivering publications and organizing pilot activities with trained artists in each partner country;
- Enhanced exchange, knowledge and dialogue between cultural organizations and artists in AL and MK with EU countries such as Sweden.
- More information exchanged between partner countries and raised awareness of artists, cultural organizations, students of art or social sciences about using art and its impacts on addressing crime and violence, gender inequalities, social exclusion and stigma.



Clothes workshop, a training workshop within the project: “The use of art where is hard to talk - Art network of social sculpture”

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