Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro

CITIZENS' SUMMARY

of the content of the Annual Implementation Report

Year 2019

(Article 50(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION & COMMUNICATION

2019 was a very busy year, in which the 32 projects approved under the First call for Proposal deployed their full potential and worked on the realization of the expected outputs. Support was given to all beneficiaries through training seminars and direct assistance by the Joint Secretariat. The Mid-term review methodology was also developed and meetings with all First Call projects were organized, in order to monitor the state of activities.

The Targeted Call for Proposals was launched on 4 April 2019 and closed on 20 June 2019. The Call has a budget of more than 13 million euros and finances both "normal" and "small" projects (up to 100.000 euros), the latter subject to an innovative reporting process, characterized by administrative simplification. Support to applicants was provided through guidelines, workshops in Italy, Albania and Montenegro, and Open Days.

113 proposals were submitted on the four priority axes (SMEs competitiveness, tourism and culture, environment and energy, sustainable transports). The meticulous application of quality criteria marked the evaluation of the submitted proposals; projects were assessed on the basis of their innovativeness, strategic value and concrete impact on the territory.

The score grid was approved by the Joint Monitoring Committee on 18 December 2019. The ranking list is open and subject to scrolling, the projects will be financed until the available funds are exhausted. The negotiation period, aimed at budget optimization, and the contracting of projects will be closed in 2020.

In June 2019, after the negotiation phase, 8 Thematic projects - developed with institutional partners - were contracted. They launched their activities, and prepared for project implementation. Programme representatives participated in kick-off meetings and the Joint Secretariat constantly monitored project progress. Support was given to all beneficiaries through Trainings Seminars for Lead Partners, and Training Seminars for First Level Controllers.

The performance framework targets for 2019 were met in terms of key implementation steps and financial indicators and the Programme Management and Control system, including procedures and manuals, was consolidated and further developed.

The Programme Manual was integrated with new Factsheets; more guidelines were provided to beneficiaries for increasing the visibility of funded projects. The Web Editor's Handbook was edited, and video tutorials were produced to assist beneficiaries in content management of project websites.

All relevant documents were published in the programme web portal https://www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu/, and sub-domains dedicated to First Call Projects and Thematic Projects were implemented and updated with contents referring to activities and first results. Web analytics show a growing interest in the web portal and a very high number of visitors from Italy, Albania, Montenegro and other EU and non-EU countries.

The programme Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/italy.albania.montenegro/ provided daily information and direct interaction with stakeholders and beneficiaries. With thousands of followers, daily publication of posts, photos, videos and news, it is one of the most active pages among Interreg Programmes.

The Programme was also promoted through cross-border events, conferences and other initiatives, aimed at meeting institutional representatives, beneficiaries, journalists and local stakeholders.

Two Joint Monitoring Committee Meetings were held, respectively on 14-15 May in Castel del Giudice, Molise (Italy) and on 18-19 December in Tivat (Montenegro), in order to supervise the programme implementation, discuss aspects related to funded projects, and close evaluation procedures for the Targeted Call for Proposals.

Building on all 2019 achievements, the programme is looking forward to 2020 challenges and opportunities, such as: 1) The negotiation phase, the contracting and start-up of the Targeted Call projects; 2) The peak of activities for all Standard and Thematic projects, with related challenges, including second audit of operations; 3) The evaluation of programme implementation, the public consultation and the drafting of the new Italy-Albania-Montenegro 2021-2027 programme.

PROJECTS FUNDED UNDER THE INTERREG IPA CBC ITALY-ALBANIA-MONTENEGRO PROGRAMME

FIRST CALL FOR STANDARD PROJECTS

Here is a list of the 32 First Call projects, and a summary of their main achievements.

PA1 - Competitiveness of SMEs

- **3C4SME –** *Cross-border Cooperation and Competitiveness for SMEs*

  Project activities aimed at facilitating the access to credit for firms in the programme area and check the replicability of the cooperative guarantee instrument successfully tested in Puglia.

- **BRE –** *Business Registry Empowerment*

  Several activities were implemented to simplificate cooperation between enterprises, and support Albania and Montenegro in the adoption of EU standards and electronic company registers.

- **FILA –** *Strengthening and empowering of cross border innovation networks through Fertilization Innovation Labs in Agro-food for improving the connection between research and SMEs (EIP Approach)*

  The efficiency and innovation of agro-food micro and small-medium enterprises in the programme area was improved by creating a fertile cooperation between scientists, institutions and enterprises.

- **HISTEK –** High Specialized Technicians in Kets

  Competitiveness of SMEs in the programme area was promoted by training young people in Key Enabling Technologies (KETs), and creating a culture of innovation.

- **INERRANT –** *INterregional Ecosystem for entRepreneurship, ReseArch and Technology*

  The chances for innovative businesses to grow in the Programme area was improved by providing concrete support and cooperation opportunities.

- **INNOTOURCLUST –** *Innovative Cross Border Tourism SMEs Cluster*

  Activities are in progress, aimed at supplying new services, products and cooperation opportunities, in order to improve the capacity of businesses and institutions in the programme area to attract tourists.

- **INTERACT 4.0 –** *Trilateral EmpoweRment for Change 4.0*

  Innovation in the handicraft sector of the Programme area was supported through joint trainings and innovative business models for handicraft.

PA2 - Tourism & Culture

- **3D IMPACT –** *Virtual reality and 3D experiences to IMProve territorial Attractiveness, Cultural heritage smart management and Touristic development*

  The management of cultural and natural assets inside the programme area was improved, also through the deployment of new 3D technology for tourist destinations.

- **ADNICH –** *ADriatic Network of artistic production for the development and enhancement of Intangible Cultural Heritage*

  The rich cultural heritage inside the programme area was exploited through joint theatre productions, for the benefit of both tourists and local people, and for the economic development of the area.

- **CIRCE –** *Common Initiatives to pRomote CinEma across Italy - Albania - Montenegro*

  Cooperation among the audio and video actors in the programme area was increased through joint productions, to better exploit the great potential of the creative industries. A web series was produced.

- **CO.CO.TOUR –** *Safeguarding, enhancing and promoting the natural and cultural heritage of COastal COmmunities by boosting the eco-museum model aiming at smart and sustainable TOURism management.*

  A cross border ecomuseum and community tourism model was developed, in order to guarantee sustainable growth of the coastal communities in the programme area.

- **COMPLICITIES -** *COntemporary art Modeling Peripheries for LIvable CITIES*

  Activities are in progress, aimed at exploiting the creative potential of the city outskirts in the programme area, by involving local communities in the development of innovative solutions for urban regeneration.

- **CROSS BORDER OL -** *Cross-border cooperation for sustainable development and tourism, through valorization of rural cultural heritage and conservation of natural asset of areas with ancient olive groves*

  The attractiveness of the territories included in the programme area, characterised by ancient olive trees, was enhanced in order to promote smart and sustainable tourism.

- **HAMLET –** *Highlighting Artisanal Manufacturing, cuLture and Eco Tourism*

  Promotion and visibility of the cultural assets of cities and villages inside the programme area was increased, in order to support them in the full expression of their touristic potential.

- **MONET –** *culture in MOtion in Adriatic NETwork of Museums*

  The management of museums inside the programme area was improved in order to fully exploit their cultural and touristic potential. Artists' residencies and art exhibitions were organized.

- **NEST –** *Networking for Smart Tourism Development*

  A strategic "Interreg smart destination" model was created by adopting collaborative and user-driven innovation tools, in order to promote "experience-based" tourism inside the programme area.

- **OPEN TOURISM –** *Cross-border cooperation network for an open-to-innovation tourism*

  Activities are in progress, aimed at developing innovative strategies for sustainable tourism in the programme area and a new approach based on the relationship between visitors and local communities.

- **P.A.S.T.4FUTURE –** *Promoting Accessible and Sustainable Tourism for Future*

  Accessible and sustainable tourism destinations in the programme area were promoted to the benefit of the whole society. Training activities, workshops, and territorial marketing events were organized.

- **REGLPORTS –** *Nautical tourism development and promotion of regional ports*

  Activities are in progress, aimed at developing a broader nautical tourism offer in small and medium-sized ports, in order to promote seasonal adjustment for tourism throughout the year.

- **TOURNEE –** *Theatres for tOURism developmeNt in EuropE*

  The cultural theatre offer for both local and tourists inside the programme area was promoted, and a Cluster of Theatre Institutions was created. An International theatre festival was organized.

- **WISHFUL –** *Ict for Smart Healthcare toUrism*

  Activities are in progress, aimed at developoing new targeted tourist and health care services in the programme area, in order to increase territorial accessibility for tourists with special needs.

PA3 - Water Landscapes & Energy

- **3 WATCH OUT –** *Trilateral model of civil protection: WAys, Tools and CHallenges for Our safety*

  The management of natural risks in the programme area, from risk prevention to cooperation in case of natural disasters was improved through training activities, workshops and awareness campaigns.

- **ADRINET –** *Adriatic Network for Marine Ecosystem*

  The management of the marine resources inside the programme area was improved by combining the efforts of scientists, decision-makers, fishermen and citizens.

- **BLUE LAND** – *Participatory model for the sustainable management of marine and coastal resources and for cross-border habitats, biodiversity and ecosystem services Safeguard*

  New management models were defined, in order to improve the protection of the coastal environment and water landscape in the programme area.

- **FLAT –** *Flood and landslide assistance and training*

  The capacities of the Rescue Services inside the programme area were strenghtened and integrated plans and tools to improve protection and risk management in case of floods and landslides were created.

- **LASPEH –** *Low Adriatic Species and Habitat*

  Common actions to safeguard biodiversity in the low Adriatic Basin were promoted and joint management plans for the cross border habitats and ecosystems were developed.

- **REEHUB –** *Regional Energy Efficiency HUB*

  A network of hubs, enabling the training of building managers on energy-efficiency measures was created, in order to increase of energy efficiency of public buildings inside the programme area.

- **WELCOME –** *WatEr LandsCapes sustainability thrOugh reuse of Marine littEr*

  Sustainable approaches in the resolution of issues related to marine litter and coastal erosion were adopted, to improve the management of the South Adriatic coasts of Italy, Albania and Montenegro.

PA 4 - Sustainable transport

- **#DYNAMOB 2.0 –** *Dynamic MOBILITization 2.0*

  Car and bike sharing, as part of the new mobility culture inside the programme area, was promoted, in order to make cities more sustainable.

- **ON CLOUD NINE –** *cONnecting CLOse and Unexplored Destinations with New INter-Adriatic transport sErvices*

  Activities are in progress, aimed at improving transports inside the programme area, through new direct air links between Italy, Montenegro and Albania.

- **PORTS –** *Partnership for the Observation and study of new Routes and Transnational Sea-highways*

  New sustainable solutions for maritime transport and sustainable mobility networks were developed, in order to improve the transport of passengers and good between Italy, Albania and Montenegro.

- **SAGOV –** *South-Adriatic Connectivity Governance*

  Transport routes coordination among Italy, Albania and Montenegro was improved, for a more efficient transport network addressed to both citizens and businesses.

THEMATIC PROJECTS

These are the 8 Thematic Projects that have started their activities in 2019, and their main goals:

PA1 - Competitiveness of SMEs

- **FOOD4HEALTH** *- Sustainable and innovative Agro food and fisheries value chain for MSME's cross-border market*

  Joint promotion of innovative production techniques and high-quality standards for processing typical and traditional products in the agro-food and fisheries sectors, inside the Programme area.

- **PHASE** *- Promoting eHealth in cross-border Area by Stimulating local Economies*

  Development of the eHealth sector in the programme area, through innovative electronic tools and procedures, efficiently addressing heart-attacks, neurodegenerative and chronic diseases.

- **SMART ADRIA** *- SMART ADRIA Blue Growth*

  Development of a Quadruple-Helix strategy in the programme area, by fostering the innovation transfer from applied research to SMEs, with the support of Policy Makers and civil society.

PA2 - Tourism & Culture

- **3C** *- Cross-border exchange for the development of Cultural and Creative industries*

  Exploitation of the creative potential of the programme area, and support to the creation of stable and efficient cross-border networks, able to produce joint innovative cultural and creative products.

- **DUE MARI -** *"DUE MARI" next generation tourism development*

  Promotion of the unique cultural and natural assets throughout the programme area, by developing a joint web platform and innovative services for new tourist routes and, at the same time, by pushing lesser-known destinations and typical products

PA3 - Water Landscapes & Energy

➢ **TO BE READY** - *The flOod and Big firE foREst, prediction, forecAst anD emergencY management*

Enhancing of prevention and preparedness measures regarding natural and man-made risks inside the programme area, to efficiently address them through joint protocols and standards, as well as operators' training.

➢ **CrossWater** - *Integrated Water Management System in crossborder area*

Promotion of a more effective use of water resources in the programme area, through new infrastructures, technologies, as well as new control and measurement systems, to be jointly developed across the three countries.

PA 4 - Sustainable Transport

➢ **ALMONIT-MTC** - *Albania, Montenegro, Italy, Multimodal Transport Connectivity*

Improvement of connections between both the two sides of the Adriatic Sea (related to the Programme area), and the two sides of Shkodra/Skadar Lake, through multimodal inland water and maritime transport connections.

TARGETED CALL PROJECTS

Projects funded under the Targeted Call for proposals (Normal and Small Projects), will be contracted in 2020. All documents related to the Targeted Call are available at: https://www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu/programme/closed-call-%26-notices

More information about all funded projects is available in the programme web portal https://www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu/ and in project websites: https://www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu/projects.

The list of operations is available at: https://www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu/programme/official-docs/cooperation-programme.