

Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro

CITIZENS' SUMMARY

of the content of the Annual Implementation Report

Year 2020

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

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION & COMMUNICATION

2020 was a year marked by the Covid-19 pandemic, which deeply affected the performance of project and programme activities and at the same time produced important changes. Most initiatives involving travel and participation of people were carried out online, and online tools were increasingly adopted for management and communication. To maintain a high level of commitment and follow the progress of activities, the Managing Authority and the Joint Secretariat provided constant support to beneficiaries through online meetings and direct assistance. Adaptation measures to new Covid-19 circumstances were also adopted. Local communities and stakeholders were regularly informed about the project achievements through digital communication channels.

Despite restrictions, 2020 was a very busy year, in which 32 new projects were approved under the Targeted Call for Proposals, while the 32 projects funded under the First Call worked at full speed to finalize the realization of their outputs, in view of the project closure, expected by June 2021. According to the assessment of the JS, a total of 191 project outputs were implemented in 2020, and a total of 11 significant project results, contributing to programme results, were achieved.

On the other hand, the 8 Thematic Projects consolidated the management of their activities, redefining them where possible, to contribute to the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. Some First Call projects also implemented actions to protect local communities (e.g. disinfection of roads, production of protective equipment for medical staff, etc.).

In June 2020, after the negotiation phase, 32 Targeted Projects (17 Small Scale project + 15 Normal) were contracted. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, many of them – especially Small Scale Projects, based on the organizations of meetings and events – were compelled to postpone activities. The Joint Secretary actively monitored projects' progress and gave support to all beneficiaries through Training Seminars for Lead Partners, and Training Seminars for First Level Controllers.

The performance framework and de-commitment targets for 2020 were met in spite of the delays due to the pandemics and the Programme Management and Control system was consolidated and further developed.

The Programme Manual was integrated with new factsheets and more guidelines were provided to beneficiaries for project management and communication. All documents were published in the programme web portal <https://www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu/>. Websites dedicated to First Call Projects and Thematic Projects were updated with contents referring to activities and first results. Websites dedicated to Targeted Projects are being implemented. 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, and daily publication of posts, it is one of the most active pages among Interreg Programmes.

Two Joint Monitoring Committee meetings were regularly held online on 11 May and 8 September 2020, to supervise the programme implementation, and discuss aspects related to funded projects.

Building on all 2020 achievements, the programme is looking forward to 2021 challenges and opportunities, such as: closure of 1st Call standard projects by June-July 2021, to be evaluated, promoted & capitalised during 2021; implementation by thematic projects of most of their activities, including major investments; implementation by targeted projects of the main part of their activities and closure of Small-Scale projects by the end of 2021, provided that pandemics circumstances allow meetings; possibility of financing further projects on top of the score grid of the targeted call through the savings from standard projects; programme evaluation work will lead to the first significant deliverables, and programme communication will gain momentum of the results of the projects; finally, the 2021-2027 Programme will have to be submitted to the EU Commission, legal and administrative arrangements will have to be made and some preparatory activities for 2021-2027 projects may be kicked off already during 2021.

PROJECTS FUNDED IN 2020 UNDER THE TARGETED CALL FOR PROPOSAL

Here is a list of the 32 projects approved in 2020 under the Targeted Call for Proposals, and their main objectives.

PA2 - Tourism & Culture

➤ **AIDA - Adriatic Identity through Development of Arts**

Creation of an Adriatic Identity Model based on memory awareness of the communities with a social innovation approach: abandoned places as symbol of the lost memory of cities and citizens.

➤ **EA rPieCe - Encoding and Analysing Popular music**

Creation of a cross-border musical network through integration of knowledge and traditions of local communities, neuroscience analysis of popular music to create an Adriatic identity.

➤ **INTERFIDE-CRT - Fostering Interfaith Dialogue and Enhancing Cross-border Religious Tourism**

Enhancement of the touristic potential of inter-religious experiences in the programme area, supporting valuable cooperation between sectorial stakeholders and religious authorities.

PA3 - Water Landscapes & Energy

➤ **BioTourS - Biodiversity and Tourism Strategy to protect cetaceans**

Creation of best practices in sustainable cross-border tourism, tackling new challenges in environmental and marine safeguard, and raising awareness on cetacean conservation.

➤ **CO-CLEAN - CO-designed and implementation of loCal sustainable energy action**

Increase of energy efficiency and use of renewable energies in the programme area through the implementation of innovative actions, training and awareness-raising activities.

➤ **EFFECTS - EFFective Planning of schools buildings for Environment and ClimaTe changes**

Development of strategies for Energy Efficiency in school buildings of the programme area, to reduce negative impacts on the environment and climate change, and to improve indoor comfort.

➤ **LEC - civic energy future: sustainable Local Energy Communities**

Improvement of energy efficiency and renewable energy usage through the development of “local community of active energy consumers” (LEC)

➤ **REEHUB PLUS - Regional Energy Efficiency HUB PLUS**

Strengthening the role of HUBs created within the REEHUB project, aimed at increasing Energy Efficiency awareness and boosting renewable energy policies in the programme area

➤ **SMARTPORT - Smart and Sustainable Energy Port**

Intervention strategy for the optimization of energy saving, aimed at increasing energy efficiency in port sites of the programme area

PA 4 - Sustainable Transport

➤ **CRISIS - Cross-border RISK management of hazardous material transPortation**

Improvement of transport activities in the programme area, support to cross-border management of hazardous materials from risk prevention to cooperation in case of disaster.

➤ **EFINTIS - Enhancing efficiency of the INTermodal transport flows by Improved ict Systems**

Increase of the intermodal efficiency flow inside port areas through the update of the information management systems used by the actors involved, and the improvement of commercial operations.

➤ **ISACC - Innovative Systems to enhance Antifraud Customs Controls**

Development of informative methodologies, models, processes and structures for a simplified, harmonized and innovative approach to inspection and antifraud control in the programme area.

➤ **SuMo - Sustainable Mobility in the Port Cities of the Southern Adriatic Area**

Creation of a common transport connection system in port sites of the programme area, and support to the development of sustainable and efficient intermodality services.

SMALL SCALE PROJECTS

PA1 - Competitiveness of SMEs

➤ **LONETA - Local Opportunities for Negative Emission Technologies and their Applications**

Enhancement of the administrative, industrial and technical framework conditions for the development of new cross-border green market niches, by fostering pilot investments on NETs.

PA2 - Tourism & Culture

➤ **CASTER - Cycling And Sailing Tourism's Enhancement Roller**

Implementation of actions geared to innovating sustainable sport tourism – especially cycling and sailing - by boosting the attractiveness of natural and cultural assets in the Programme area

➤ **CAVES - Speleological Tourism Development in the Southern Adriatic Area**

Enhancement of the speleological tourism sector in the Programme area, promotion of show caves and creation of a cross-border network to exchange experiences, skills and good practices.

➤ **EXCELLENT - Cross-Border Experience for a Sustainable Tourism Development in the Programme Area**

Enhancement of cross-border cooperation in sustainable tourism management, by valorizing cultural heritage and natural resources of less developed areas in Italy, Albania, and Montenegro.

➤ **EXTRA - Strengthen EXchanges of experiences to enhance quality products and services for sustainable development of Tourism in South Adriatic Region**

Enhancement of targeted tourism sectors (enogastronomic, green, sports) and creation of a shared space between the involved actors, offering the opportunity to meet and exchange knowledge.

➤ **FRIENDS4FAMILY - Alliance between rural areas for family-friendly tourist hospitality**

Creation of a quality territorial touristic offer based on rural values for family-friendly tourist hospitality in the Region of Vlora (Albania) and the Salento area in Puglia (Italy).

➤ **Netfolk - New Cross-Border Network about Folk Music in the Southern Adriatic Region**

Strengthening of the cultural relationship between Puglia and Albania through a cross-border network of folk music associations, sharing creative products, and creating bonds between peoples.

➤ **REMOTE - places of uRban mEMOry for Tourism dEvelopment**

Promotion of dissonant heritage in the Programme area and creation of a network that could redefine the idea of urban memory thanks to the direct connection with the lives of citizens.

➤ **ROOTS - Route Of Origins and Troubles**

Enhancement of a new experiential tourism format based on the discovery of common traditions and culture of places located in Italy and Albania, to be lived as residents, together with the locals.

PA3 - Water Landscapes & Energy

➤ **DE-RESS - Dissemination of the European measures for Renewable Energy Shared and Sustainable: analysis of a practical case**

Promotion of common efficiency and sustainable energy plans in order to reduce carbon emissions and improve energy efficiency in the private and public sector of the Programme area.

➤ **ENEA - ENergy Efficiency living lAb**

Enhancement of research commercialization and technology transfer in the field of Energy Efficiency in Buildings, through strategic collaborations interacting in Living Lab environment.

➤ **Re-resources - Renewable Energy for the Optimization of Resources in Industrial Areas**

Dissemination of knowledge and awareness raising on renewable energy, and resources optimization in the industry sector of the programme area.

➤ **SESC - Smart Energy Community for Smart City**

Development of a community relying on smart energy, through training programmes for researchers and students, and awareness raising on smart energy trends in schools and institutions.

PA 4 - Sustainable Transport

➤ **ECSYT - Enhancing Cooperation and Synergies of Transport in the Southern Adriatic Ports**

Strengthening of cooperation in the transport sector in southern Adriatic ports of Italy, Albania and Montenegro, in order to create better conditions to guarantee and promote sustainable transport.

➤ **PORTS 4.0 - Partnership for the prOMotion of a maRiTIme cross-border Strategy**

Building of a network of public / private stakeholders in the field of logistics and maritime transport for smart and sustainable development in the Programme area, based on 4.0 industry technologies.

➤ **SkEye - Strengthening Key aErospace technoloGY for smart transport monitoring systems**

Strengthening of collaboration among R&D, industries, SMEs and policy makers in order to exploit the existing technologies and maximise the innovation potential of future aerospace technologies

➤ **TRADAM - TRansport Assets DAta Management**

Creation of a network of expertise between industrial and scientific actors, to raise awareness on the transport system assets' value and promote cooperative management and integration of data.

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

The list of operations, with data about all funded projects, is available at: <https://www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu/programme/official-docs/cooperation-programme>.