

ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

2020

for the

INTERREG-IPA Bulgaria - Turkey CBC Programme

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Implementation Report for IPA II Cross-Border PART A

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

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IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.....	1
KEY INFORMATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME FOR THE YEAR CONCERNED, INCLUDING ON FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS, WITH RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL AND INDICATOR DATA.....	4
3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS.....	7
3.1 OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION	7
3.2 COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC INDICATORS (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013).....	10
PRIORITY AXES OTHER THAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	10
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS - 1.B.....	10
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS - 1.B.1.1	13
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS - 1.B.1.2	14
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS - 2.D.....	15
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS - 2.D.2.1	18
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS - 2.D.2.2	19
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS - 2.D.2.3	20
PRIORITY AXES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	21
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS - 3.TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.....	21
3.3 TABLE 3: INFORMATION ON THE MILESTONES AND TARGETS DEFINED IN THE PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK.....	23
3.4. FINANCIAL DATA	25
TABLE 4: FINANCIAL INFORMATION AT PRIORITY AXIS AND PROGRAMME LEVEL.....	25
AS SET OUT IN TABLE 1 OF ANNEX II TO COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) No 1011/2014 (MODEL FOR TRANSMISSION OF FINANCIAL DATA) AND TABLE 17 OF MODEL FOR COOPERATION PROGRAMMES UNDER IPA.....	25
WHERE APPLICABLE, THE USE OF ANY CONTRIBUTION FROM THIRD COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME SHOULD BE PROVIDED (FOR EXAMPLE IPA AND ENI, NORWAY, SWITZERLAND)	26
TABLE 5: BREAKDOWN OF THE CUMULATIVE FINANCIAL DATA BY CATEGORY OF INTERVENTION	27
TABLE 6: CUMULATIVE COST OF ALL OR PART OF AN OPERATION IMPLEMENTED OUTSIDE THE UNION PART OF THE PROGRAMME AREA	30
4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS.....	31
5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN	33
(A) ISSUES WHICH AFFECT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND THE MEASURES TAKEN	33
(B) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, OTHERWISE IT WILL BE INCLUDED IN POINT 9.1. AN ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS TARGETS IS SUFFICIENT TO ENSURE THEIR FULFILMENT, INDICATING ANY REMEDIAL ACTIONS TAKEN OR PLANNED, WHERE APPROPRIATE.....	35
6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013).....	36
7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013).....	37
8. PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (ARTICLE 101(H) AND ARTICLE 111(3) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(B) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)	38
8.1. MAJOR PROJECTS	38
TABLE 7: MAJOR PROJECTS	38
SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN IMPLEMENTING MAJOR PROJECTS AND MEASURES TAKEN TO OVERCOME THEM	38
ANY CHANGE PLANNED IN THE LIST OF MAJOR PROJECTS IN THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME.....	38
8.2. JOINT ACTION PLANS.....	39
TABLE 8: JOINT ACTION PLANS (JAP).....	40
SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND MEASURES TAKEN TO OVERCOME THEM.....	41
9. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)	42
9.1 INFORMATION IN PART A AND ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013).....	42
9.2. SPECIFIC ACTIONS TAKEN TO PROMOTE EQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN AND TO PROMOTE NON-DISCRIMINATION, IN PARTICULAR ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, AND THE ARRANGEMENTS IMPLEMENTED TO ENSURE THE INTEGRATION OF THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME AND OPERATIONS (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2, (D) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013).....	43
9.3.SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2, (E) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013).....	44
9.4. REPORTING ON SUPPORT USED FOR CLIMATE CHANGE OBJECTIVES (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013).....	45
9.5 ROLE OF PARTNERS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1, (C) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013)	46

10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013	47
10.1 PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EVALUATION PLAN AND THE FOLLOW-UP GIVEN TO THE FINDINGS OF EVALUATIONS	47
10.2 THE RESULTS OF THE INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY MEASURES OF THE FUNDS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY.....	49
11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2 (A), (B), (C) AND (F), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013).....	50
11.1. PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENTS, SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND COMMUNITY LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME	50
11.2 PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS TO REINFORCE THE CAPACITY OF AUTHORITIES AND BENEFICIARIES TO ADMINISTER AND TO USE THE IPA	51
11.3 CONTRIBUTION TO MACRO-REGIONAL AND SEA BASIN STRATEGIES (WHERE APPROPRIATE).....	52
11.4 PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL INNOVATION	54
13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH	55
14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN — PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013).....	56
DOCUMENTS	57
LATEST VALIDATION RESULTS	58

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2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Key information on the implementation of the cooperation programme for the year concerned, including on financial instruments, with relation to the financial and indicator data.

During year 2020 continue contracting of the projects under the 2nd Call for proposals of the INTERREG-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Bulgaria – Turkey (the Programme). The programme announced and the Restricted Call for Strategic Project Proposal. By the end of 2020 a total of 8 projects, financed under the 2nd Call for proposals were finalized and one contract was terminated. The total verified amount until the end of 2020 for three priority axes is EUR 12 528 863,68 (42,27%% from the programme budget). In the 2020 year 22 new contracts of total amount of 4 391 883,31 EUR under the 2nd Call for proposals were signed as follow:

- PA 1 "Environment"- 1 project at the total amount of EUR 337 136,85;
- PA 2 "Sustainable Tourism" - 21 projects at the total amount of EUR 4 054 746,46.

Thus the total number of the contracts under the 2nd Call of the Programme become 59. 12 of the contracts were signed after approval of the amendment of the Programme (Decision C(2020) 5536 from 7.08.2020).

Based on the Decision of the Joint Monitoring Committee from 12.11.2019 the request for amendment of the Programme was submitted to the European Commission. The amendment was related with modification of financial plan for the period 2014-2020 with the corresponding co-financing and breakdown between priorities and of the financial indicators in the performance framework for final target 2023. The amount of EUR 1 203 833 was transferred from Priority Axis (PA) 1 "Environment" to PA 2 "Sustainable Tourism". Therefore the Union support (in EUR) of PA 1 was changed from EUR 11 338 407 to EUR 10 315 149 and for PA 2 was changed from EUR 11 338 407 to EUR 12 361 665. Amendment of the Programme as well as concern the targets for 2023 for 8 out of 9 output indicators under Priority Axis 1 "Environment" and 10 out of 12 outputs indicators under Priority Axis 2 "Sustainable Tourism". For all the amended outputs indicators the final targets for 2023 were increased based on the real achievement of the targets of the OIs with projects under the 1st Call for proposals and the expected achievement with the projects under the 2nd Call for proposals.

Based on the Decision of the Joint Monitoring Committee from 12.11.2019 in 2020 the Restricted Call for Strategic Project Proposal was launched. The call was open on 13th of May 2020 for specific objective 1.2: Improving the capacity for nature protection, sustainable use and management of common natural resources through cooperation initiatives in the cross-border area under Priority axis 1 "Environment" with a total budget 2 855 247 EUR. The eligible Lead partner for the strategic project Prof. D-r. Asen Zlatarov University of Burgas and Project Partner 2 - Trakya University of Edirne submitted project proposal within the set deadline – 6th of July 2020. After administrative compliance and eligibility check, technical and quality assessment and JMC approval (Decision of written procedure 41 from 18.09.2020) the contract of total amount of 2 855 246,52 EUR was signed. The official award ceremony for the strategic project was

held on-line on 9th of October 2020. In the end of November 2020 the project partners under the strategic project submitted request for inclusion of additional activities and increasing of the project budget. Based on the prepared analysis of the current status of the Financial implementation of the Programme, the JMC approved on the on-line meeting on 14th of December 2020 the proposal for Programme amendment on the transfer of 279 839 EUR from Priority Axis 2 to Priority Axis 1 and inclusion of additional activities and increasing of the budget of project “Cross-border Regions Collaborate for BLUE GROWTH (BLUE GROWTH COLLABs)” to 3 342 273,39 EUR. The approved by the JMC modification of the programme is non-substantial and does not require a decision of the Commission for amendment of the programme. According to the provisions of the Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014, the Commission shall be notified about the revised financing plan.

With signed subsidy contracts in 2020 total 103,06 % of the Programme budget for Priority Axis (PA) 1 “Environment”, PA 2 “Sustainable tourism” and PA 3 “Technical assistance” is contracted.

In 2020 continue started in 2019 process of programming for future CBC Programme for 2021-2027 period. The second meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) for preparation of the future CBC Programme 2021-2027 was held on-line on 24th of September 2020. On the meeting Territorial Analysis and Intervention logic for the Interreg IPA-CBC Programme Republic of Bulgaria - Republic of Turkey 2021-2027 were approved. By the end of the year started preparation of the revised intervention logic for the future programme taking into account the last updated of the draft regulations. Continued consultations related with preparation of the potential strategic project under INTERREG specific objective “a safer and more secure Europe”. Since Policy objective 5 ‘Europe closer to citizens’ was selected for the future programme, the Managing Authority launch a tender procedure in order to support the local stakeholders from the CBC region in the elaboration of a Territorial strategy for integrated measures, with the aim to meet the needs of the INTERREG - IPA CB cooperation programme 2021 -2027 between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey to contribute to a sustainable economic development of the respective region. By the end of the 2020 year the evaluation of the submitted offer was finalized and started preparation of the service contract with the chosen contractor.

The 2020 brought some problems with the implementation of the contracted projects. Due to the pandemic situation related to COVID-19 and imposed restrictions in partnering countries some projects had difficulties in implementation of the activities (mainly soft ones, which require gathering of large group of people or include vulnerable target groups as children). The Managing Authority prepared and published guidelines in relation to the emergency measures introduced on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria as well as the emergency measures on the territories of the partner countries. Nevertheless for 12 of the projects under the second call for proposals the Managing Authority of the Programme decided to suspend temporary the execution of the contracts. The project partners were advised to analyse the planned activities taking into consideration any impediments as a consequence of the measures related to COVID-19, as well as the possibilities to implement soft measure activities by alternative means, including digital ones.

The planned initial visits of the Joint Secretariat under the programme for the newly contracted projects, after imposed restrictions in partnering countries related to COVID-19, were postponed and in relation with the continued pandemic situation were held on-line.

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3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

3.1 Overview of the implementation

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
1	Environment	<p>In 2020 two projects were contracted under the priority axis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under SO 1.1 there are no contracted projects. Under implementation were 3 projects under 2nd Call for proposals of total amount of 1 748 036,64 EUR. Two modifications requested approval by JMC and signature of addendum (extension of implementation period to 24 months) have been approved. • Under SO 1.2 two projects at the total amount of EUR 3 192 383,37 were contracted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 investment project under 2nd Call for proposal at the total amount of EUR 337 136,85; - 1 strategic project under the Restricted Call for Strategic Project Proposal at the total amount of EUR 2 855 246,52. <p>Under implementation were 15 projects under 2nd Call for proposals of total amount of 3 250 488,13 EUR and 1 strategic project under the Restricted Call for Strategic Project Proposal.</p> <p>5 projects under SO 1.2 of the Second Call for Proposals were temporary suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation and imposed restrictions in partnering countries. One project No. CB005.2.12.015 at a total amount EUR 399 915,09 was terminated by request of the lead partner. Two modifications requested approval by JMC and signature of addendum (extension of implementation period to 15 months) have been approved.</p> <p>By the end of 2020, five soft projects under the 2nd Call with duration between 12 and 15 months at a total amount EUR 546 499,84 were successfully completed and contributed to the Programme objectives.</p> <p>The targets of 2 out of 4 OIs under SO 1.1 are achieved by the end of the implementation period of the respective projects under the 1st and 2nd Calls for proposals. For SO 1.2 the targets of 3 out of 5 OIs are achieved by the end of the implementation period of the respective projects.</p>
2	Sustainable tourism	<p>In 2020 21 projects under 2nd Call for proposals at the total amount of EUR 4 054 746,46 were contracted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under SO 2.1 - 7 investment projects at a total amount EUR 2 856 471,70 with duration 24 months were contracted. Under implementation were 20 projects of total amount of 9 051 837,70 EUR.

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
		<p>1 project under SO 2.1 was temporary suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation and imposed restrictions in partnering countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under SO 2.2 – 4 soft projects at the total amount of EUR 371 732,07 were contracted. Under implementation were 5 projects of total amount of 456 506,17 EUR. <p>One modifications requested approval by JMC and signature of addendum (extension of implementation period to 15 months) has been approved.</p> <p>By the end of 2020, one project with duration 15 months at a total amount EUR 84 774,10 were successfully completed and contributed to the Programme objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under SO 2.3 – 9 soft projects at the total amount of EUR 732 111,56 were contracted. Under implementation were 16 projects of total amount of 1 380 162,98 EUR. <p>6 projects under SO 2.3 were temporary suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation and imposed restrictions in partnering countries.</p> <p>Four modifications requested approval by JMC and signature of addendum (one change of the project partner and three extensions of implementation period to 15 months) have been approved.</p> <p>By the end of 2020, two soft projects with duration between 12 and 15 months at a total amount EUR 179 031,29 were successfully completed and contributed to the Programme objectives.</p> <p>The targets of all five OIs under SO 2.2 are achieved and for SO 2.3 the targets for 2 out of 3 OIs are achieved by the end of 2020.</p>
3	Technical assistance	<p>The Technical Assistance budget for year 2020-2023 for MA amounted to EUR 868 470,00 and for 2020 for NA amounted to EUR 147 000,00.</p> <p>During the reporting period, Programme management activities were performed that ensured the necessary support related to projects implementation and administrative and operational activities concerning MA, NA, JS and FLC unit within the MA (staff remuneration, participation in various events and training seminars – mainly on-line, maintenance of office premises, etc.).</p> <p>The Programme activities also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization of JMC on-line meeting;

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of on-line technical meeting of Programme bodies; • The official ceremony for awarding of the subsidy contracts under the Restricted Call for Strategic Project Proposal (on-line); • Trainings for team members of projects funded under the Second call and Restricted Call for Strategic Project Proposal (on-line); • Meeting of Joint Working Group (JWG) for preparation of the future CBC Programme 2021-2027(on-line); • Ongoing upgrading and maintenance of Programme official website and MIS; • Conduction of tender procedure for support of local stakeholders for elaboration of Territorial strategy for integrated measures, with the aim to meet the needs of the INTERREG - IPA CB cooperation programme 2021 -2027 between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey; <p>Organization and conduction in European Cooperation Day 2020 (on-line event).</p>

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3.2 Common and programme specific indicators (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axes other than technical assistance

Priority axis	1 - Environment
Thematic Priority	b - Protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management through, inter alia: joint actions for environmental protection; promoting sustainable use of natural resources, resource efficiency, renewable energy sources and the shift towards a safe and sustainable low-carbon economy; promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems and emergency preparedness.

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 1.b

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	1.1.1	Number of interventions related to risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	number	10.00	8	
S	1.1.1	Number of interventions related to risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	number	10.00	13	
F	1.1.2	Number of joint strategies / common guidelines, trainings, public awareness campaigns, exchange of experience for risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	number	20.00	17	
S	1.1.2	Number of joint strategies / common guidelines, trainings, public awareness campaigns, exchange of experience for risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	number	20.00	28	
F	1.1.3	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	persons	402,749.00	402,749.00	
S	1.1.3	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	persons	402,749.00	530,374.00	
F	1.1.4	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measure	persons	675,662.00	675,662.00	
S	1.1.4	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measure	persons	675,662.00	809,251.00	
F	1.2.1	Number of nature protected areas addressed by interventions	number	17.00	17.00	
S	1.2.1	Number of nature protected areas addressed by interventions	number	17.00	21.00	
F	1.2.2	Number of capacity building / awareness activities related to nature protection, sustainable use and management of common natural resources	number	39.00	42.00	
S	1.2.2	Number of capacity building / awareness activities related to nature protection, sustainable use and management of common natural resources	number	39.00	66.00	
F	1.2.3	Number of people involved in training and capacity building activities in the field of nature protection	number	749.00	720.00	
S	1.2.3	Number of people involved in training and capacity building activities in the field of nature protection	number	749.00	970.00	

(1) ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations	
F	1.2.4	Number of joint initiatives addressing preservation of marine and coastal environment (incl. litter reduction)	number	5.00	3.00	
S	1.2.4	Number of joint initiatives addressing preservation of marine and coastal environment (incl. litter reduction)	number	5.00	13.00	
F	1.2.5	Number of joint management plans/ coordinated specific conservation activities for protected areas	number	4.00	5.00	
S	1.2.5	Number of joint management plans/ coordinated specific conservation activities for protected areas	number	4.00	13.00	

(1) ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	1.1.1	Number of interventions related to risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	8.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1.1.1	Number of interventions related to risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	13.00	8.00	8.00	0.00	0.00
F	1.1.2	Number of joint strategies / common guidelines, trainings, public awareness campaigns, exchange of experience for risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	17.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1.1.2	Number of joint strategies / common guidelines, trainings, public awareness campaigns, exchange of experience for risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	28.00	17.00	17.00	0.00	0.00
F	1.1.3	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	402,749.00	200,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1.1.3	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	530,374.00	402,749.00	402,749.00	0.00	0.00
F	1.1.4	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measure	675,662.00	200,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1.1.4	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measure	809,251.00	661,392.00	661,392.00	0.00	0.00
F	1.2.1	Number of nature protected areas addressed by interventions	12.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1.2.1	Number of nature protected areas addressed by interventions	21.00	11.00	11.00	0.00	0.00
F	1.2.2	Number of capacity building / awareness activities related to nature protection, sustainable use and management of common natural resources	29.00	19.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1.2.2	Number of capacity building / awareness activities related to nature protection, sustainable use and management of common natural resources	60.00	29.00	29.00	0.00	0.00
F	1.2.3	Number of people involved in training and capacity building activities in the field of nature protection	481.00	184.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1.2.3	Number of people involved in training and capacity building activities in the field of nature protection	970.00	422.00	422.00	0.00	0.00

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	1.2.4	Number of joint initiatives addressing preservation of marine and coastal environment (incl. litter reduction)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1.2.4	Number of joint initiatives addressing preservation of marine and coastal environment (incl. litter reduction)	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	1.2.5	Number of joint management plans/ coordinated specific conservation activities for protected areas	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1.2.5	Number of joint management plans/ coordinated specific conservation activities for protected areas	13.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Not validated

Priority axis	1 - Environment
Thematic Priority	b - Protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management through, inter alia: joint actions for environmental protection; promoting sustainable use of natural resources, resource efficiency, renewable energy sources and the shift towards a safe and sustainable low-carbon economy; promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems and emergency preparedness.
Specific objective	1.1 - Preventing and mitigating the consequences of natural and man-made disasters in the cross-border area

Table 1: Result indicators - 1.b.1.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
1.1	Increased level of preparedness to manage emergency situations in the cross-border area (qualitative target)	scale	2.24	2014	2.50		0	Frequency of reporting: 2018 2023

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
1.1	Increased level of preparedness to manage emergency situations in the cross-border area (qualitative target)		0		2.64		0		0

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1.1	Increased level of preparedness to manage emergency situations in the cross-border area (qualitative target)		0		0

Priority axis	1 - Environment
Thematic Priority	b - Protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management through, inter alia: joint actions for environmental protection; promoting sustainable use of natural resources, resource efficiency, renewable energy sources and the shift towards a safe and sustainable low-carbon economy; promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems and emergency preparedness.
Specific objective	1.2 - Improving the capacity for nature protection, sustainable use and management of common natural resources through cooperation initiatives in the cross-border area

Table 1: Result indicators - 1.b.1.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
1.2	Increased capacity level for nature protection, sustainable use and management of common natural resources	scale	2.66	2014	3.00		0	Frequency of reporting: 2018 2023

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
1.2	Increased capacity level for nature protection, sustainable use and management of common natural resources		0		2.82		0		0

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1.2	Increased capacity level for nature protection, sustainable use and management of common natural resources		0		0

Priority axis	2 - Sustainable tourism
Thematic Priority	d - Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 2.d

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	2.1.1	Total length of reconstructed or upgraded access roads to natural, cultural and historic tourism sites	kilometers	7.84	1.0272	
S	2.1.1	Total length of reconstructed or upgraded access roads to natural, cultural and historic tourism sites	kilometers	7.84	7.9160	
F	2.1.2	Total length of newly built, reconstructed or upgraded cycling routes / walking paths	kilometers	9.88	0.746	
S	2.1.2	Total length of newly built, reconstructed or upgraded cycling routes / walking paths	kilometers	9.88	27.191	
F	2.1.3	Number of newly built / reconstructed facilities in / leading to touristic sites	number	19.00	7.00	
S	2.1.3	Number of newly built / reconstructed facilities in / leading to touristic sites	number	19.00	17.00	
F	2.1.4	Number of reconstructed / restored cultural and historical touristic sites	number	15.00	2.00	
S	2.1.4	Number of reconstructed / restored cultural and historical touristic sites	number	15.00	13.00	
F	2.2.1	Number of sustainable tourism strategies/action plans of common tourist destinations	number	5.00	5.00	
S	2.2.1	Number of sustainable tourism strategies/action plans of common tourist destinations	number	5.00	5.00	
F	2.2.2	Number of marketing and promotional initiatives/events, addressing cross-border tourism products & services	number	19.00	21.00	
S	2.2.2	Number of marketing and promotional initiatives/events, addressing cross-border tourism products & services	number	19.00	21.00	
F	2.2.3	Number of tools developed and/or implemented for promotion of sustainable touristic potential	number	17.00	17.00	
S	2.2.3	Number of tools developed and/or implemented for promotion of sustainable touristic potential	number	17.00	17.00	
F	2.2.4	Number of trainings and consultancy services in sustainable use of natural, historical and cultural heritage and resources	number	7.00	8.00	
S	2.2.4	Number of trainings and consultancy services in sustainable use of natural, historical and cultural heritage and resources	number	7.00	8.00	
F	2.2.5	Number of people involved in training and capacity building activities in the field of sustainable tourism	number	200.00	215.00	
S	2.2.5	Number of people involved in training and capacity building activities in the field of sustainable tourism	number	200.00	210.00	
F	2.3.1	Number of networking events	number	23.00	24.00	
S	2.3.1	Number of networking events	number	23.00	32.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	2.3.2	Number of public awareness initiatives promoting sustainable use of natural, historical and cultural heritage and resources	number	25.00	18.00	
S	2.3.2	Number of public awareness initiatives promoting sustainable use of natural, historical and cultural heritage and resources	number	25.00	26.00	
F	2.3.3	Number of public awareness initiatives promoting alternative forms of tourism	number	8.00	10.00	
S	2.3.3	Number of public awareness initiatives promoting alternative forms of tourism	number	8.00	11.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	2.1.1	Total length of reconstructed or upgraded access roads to natural, cultural and historic tourism sites	1.02	0.00	0.00			
S	2.1.1	Total length of reconstructed or upgraded access roads to natural, cultural and historic tourism sites	7.91	1.54	1.54			
F	2.1.2	Total length of newly built, reconstructed or upgraded cycling routes / walking paths	0.74	0.00	0.00			
S	2.1.2	Total length of newly built, reconstructed or upgraded cycling routes / walking paths	27.19	0.75	0.75			
F	2.1.3	Number of newly built / reconstructed facilities in / leading to touristic sites	7.00	0.00	0.00			
S	2.1.3	Number of newly built / reconstructed facilities in / leading to touristic sites	17.00	7.00	7.00			
F	2.1.4	Number of reconstructed / restored cultural and historical touristic sites	2.00	0.00	0.00			
S	2.1.4	Number of reconstructed / restored cultural and historical touristic sites	13.00	2.00	2.00			
F	2.2.1	Number of sustainable tourism strategies/action plans of common tourist destinations	5.00	5.00	0.00			
S	2.2.1	Number of sustainable tourism strategies/action plans of common tourist destinations	5.00	5.00	5.00			
F	2.2.2	Number of marketing and promotional initiatives/events, addressing cross-border tourism products & services	19.00	19.00	19.00			
S	2.2.2	Number of marketing and promotional initiatives/events, addressing cross-border tourism products & services	21.00	19.00	0.00			
F	2.2.3	Number of tools developed and/or implemented for promotion of sustainable touristic potential	17.00	16.00	0.00			
S	2.2.3	Number of tools developed and/or implemented for promotion of sustainable touristic potential	17.00	17.00	17.00			
F	2.2.4	Number of trainings and consultancy services in sustainable use of natural, historical and cultural heritage and resources	7.00	4.00	0.00			
S	2.2.4	Number of trainings and consultancy services in sustainable use of natural, historical and cultural heritage and resources	8.00	7.00	7.00			
F	2.2.5	Number of people involved in training and capacity building activities in the field of sustainable tourism	184.00	120.00	0.00			
S	2.2.5	Number of people involved in training and capacity building activities in the field of sustainable tourism	210.00	180.00	180.00			
F	2.3.1	Number of networking events	20.00	15.00	0.00			
S	2.3.1	Number of networking events	32.00	20.00	20.00			
F	2.3.2	Number of public awareness initiatives promoting sustainable use of natural, historical and cultural heritage and resources	13.00	11.00	0.00			

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
S	2.3.2	Number of public awareness initiatives promoting sustainable use of natural, historical and cultural heritage and resources	26.00	13.00	13.00			
F	2.3.3	Number of public awareness initiatives promoting alternative forms of tourism	8.00	8.00	0.00			
S	2.3.3	Number of public awareness initiatives promoting alternative forms of tourism	11.00	8.00	8.00			

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - Sustainable tourism
Thematic Priority	d - Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.
Specific objective	2.1 - Increasing the touristic attractiveness of the cross-border area through better utilisation of natural, cultural and historical heritage and related infrastructure

Table 1: Result indicators - 2.d.2.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
2.1	Increased nights spent in the cross-border area	percentage	7,721,074.00	2014	1.00	0		Frequency of reporting: 2018 2023

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
2.1	Increased nights spent in the cross-border area	0		10,308,550.00					

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.1	Increased nights spent in the cross-border area				

Priority axis	2 - Sustainable tourism
Thematic Priority	d - Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.
Specific objective	2.2 - Increasing the cross-border tourism potential by developing common destinations

Table 1: Result indicators - 2.d.2.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
2.2	Increased level of joint and integrated approaches to sustainable tourism development in the border area (qualitative target)	scale	2.50	2014	3.00		0	Frequency of reporting: 2018 2023

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
2.2	Increased level of joint and integrated approaches to sustainable tourism development in the border area (qualitative target)		0		2.67				

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.2	Increased level of joint and integrated approaches to sustainable tourism development in the border area (qualitative target)				

Priority axis	2 - Sustainable tourism
Thematic Priority	d - Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.
Specific objective	2.3 - Increasing networking for development of sustainable tourism through cross-border cooperation initiatives

Table 1: Result indicators - 2.d.2.3

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	Observations
2.3	Increased level of awareness about sustainable tourism development in the cross-border area	scale	2.77	2014	3.50		0	Frequency of reporting: 2018 2023

ID	Indicator	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative
2.3	Increased level of awareness about sustainable tourism development in the cross-border area		0		2.99				

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.3	Increased level of awareness about sustainable tourism development in the cross-border area				

Priority axes for technical assistance

Priority axis	3 - Technical assistance
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Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 3.Technical assistance

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2020	Observations
F	3.1	No of performed evaluations of the programme	number	2.00	0	Not cumulative
S	3.1	No of performed evaluations of the programme	number	2.00	0	Not cumulative
F	3.2	Updated MIS system	number	1.00	1	Not cumulative
S	3.2	Updated MIS system	number	1.00	1	Not cumulative
F	3.3	No of Monitoring Committee meetings	number	14.00	1	Not cumulative
S	3.3	No of Monitoring Committee meetings	number	14.00	1	Not cumulative
F	3.4	Number of publicity events for beneficiaries	number	4.00	6	Not cumulative 1 Contract Awarding Ceremony under the Third Call; 4 project implementation trainings within the Second Call and the Third Call for Proposals in Bulgaria and Turkey; EC Day 2020 celebration.
S	3.4	Number of publicity events for beneficiaries	number	4.00	6	Not cumulative 1 Contract Awarding Ceremony under the Third Call; 4 project implementation trainings within the Second Call and the Third Call for Proposals in Bulgaria and Turkey; EC Day 2020 celebration.
F	3.5	Number of employees (full time) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	number	8.00	24	Not cumulative. 6 BG FL controllers, 5 JS experts in Haskovo, 4 JS experts in Edirne branch office and 9 MA experts.
S	3.5	Number of employees (full time) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	number	8.00	25	Not cumulative. 6 BG FL controllers, 6 JS experts in Haskovo, 4 JS experts in Edirne branch office and 9 MA experts.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	3.1	No of performed evaluations of the programme	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
S	3.1	No of performed evaluations of the programme	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
F	3.2	Updated MIS system	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	
S	3.2	Updated MIS system	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	3.3	No of Monitoring Committee meetings	1.00	2.00	0.00	2.00	1.00	
S	3.3	No of Monitoring Committee meetings	1.00	2.00	0.00	2.00	1.00	
F	3.4	Number of publicity events for beneficiaries	6.00	6.00	9.00	4.00	11.00	
S	3.4	Number of publicity events for beneficiaries	5.00	8.00	9.00	4.00	11.00	
F	3.5	Number of employees (full time) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	25.00	20.00	23.00	5.00	5.00	
S	3.5	Number of employees (full time) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	25.00	14.00	23.00	5.00	5.00	

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Not validated

3.3 Table 3: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone for 2018 total	Final target (2023) total	2020	Observations
1	F	1	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 1 "Environment"	EUR	821 171*	12,135,470.00	5 332 966,57	Total certified amount (IPA + national funding)
1	I	1.1.1	Number of contracted projects related to risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	number	3	7.00	9	
1	O	1.1.1	Number of interventions related to risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	number	0	10.00	8	
1	O	1.2.1	Number of nature protected areas addressed by interventions	number	3	17.00	17	
2	F	2	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 2 "Sustainable tourism"	EUR	*821 171	14,543,136.00	4 382 067,73	Total certified amount (IPA + national funding)
2	I	2.1.3	Number of contracted projects addressing OI 2.1.3 "Number of newly built / reconstructed facilities in / leading to touristic sites"	number	4	13.00	14	
2	O	2.1.3	Number of newly built / reconstructed facilities in / leading to touristic sites	number	0	19.00	7	
2	O	2.2.1	Number of sustainable tourism strategies/action plans of common tourist destinations	number	2	5.00	5	

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
1	F	1	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 1 "Environment"	EUR	3,624,932.53	1,261,152.19	0.00		
1	I	1.1.1	Number of contracted projects related to risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	number	9.00	6.00	6.00		

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
1	O	1.1.1	Number of interventions related to risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	number	8.00	2.00	0.00		
1	O	1.2.1	Number of nature protected areas addressed by interventions	number	12.00	10.00	0.00		
2	F	2	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 2 "Sustainable tourism"	EUR	3,050,802.83	1,208,165.59	41,998.34		
2	I	2.1.3	Number of contracted projects addressing OI 2.1.3 "Number of newly built / reconstructed facilities in / leading to touristic sites"	number	11.00	4.00	4.00		
2	O	2.1.3	Number of newly built / reconstructed facilities in / leading to touristic sites	number	7.00	0.00	0.00		
2	O	2.2.1	Number of sustainable tourism strategies/action plans of common tourist destinations	number	5.00	5.00	0.00		

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2014
1	F	1	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 1 "Environment"	EUR	
1	I	1.1.1	Number of contracted projects related to risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	number	
1	O	1.1.1	Number of interventions related to risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	number	
1	O	1.2.1	Number of nature protected areas addressed by interventions	number	
2	F	2	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 2 "Sustainable tourism"	EUR	
2	I	2.1.3	Number of contracted projects addressing OI 2.1.3 "Number of newly built / reconstructed facilities in / leading to touristic sites"	number	
2	O	2.1.3	Number of newly built / reconstructed facilities in / leading to touristic sites	number	
2	O	2.2.1	Number of sustainable tourism strategies/action plans of common tourist destinations	number	

3.4. Financial data

Table 4: Financial information at priority axis and programme level

As set out in Table 1 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and table 17 of model for cooperation programmes under IPA.

Priority axis	Calculation basis	Total funding	Co-financing rate	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries	Number of operations selected
1	Public	12,135,470.00	85.00	12,891,380.75	106.23%	12,891,380.75	6,002,258.26	49.46%	34
2	Public	14,543,136.00	85.00	15,357,062.47	105.60%	15,357,062.47	5,239,291.33	36.03%	67
3	Public	2,964,290.00	85.00	2,302,784.09	77.68%	2,302,784.09	1,287,314.09	43.43%	12
Total		29,642,896.00	85.00	30,551,227.31	103.06%	30,551,227.31	12,528,863.68	42.27%	113

Where applicable, the use of any contribution from third countries participating in the cooperation programme should be provided (for example IPA and ENI, Norway, Switzerland)

Not validated

Table 5: Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention

As set out in Table 2 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and tables 6-9 of Model for cooperation programmes

Priority axis	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	«r.ir.etc.table5.thempr idimen»	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
1	085	01	01	07	b	24	BG341	3,477,663.10	3,477,663.10	512,879.91	4
1	085	01	01	07	b	24	BG343	208,137.38	208,137.38	85,473.18	2
1	085	01	01	07	b	24	TR212	694,869.70	694,869.70	326,316.10	2
1	085	01	01	07	b	24	TR213	215,004.24	215,004.24	107,465.85	2
1	085	01	02	07	b	24	BG341	360,952.20	360,952.20	16,342.22	1
1	085	01	02	07	b	24	TR212	399,470.42	399,470.42	9,658.38	1
1	085	01	02	07	b	24	TR213	358,212.52	358,212.52	9,583.85	1
1	085	01	03	07	b	24	BG343	78,367.03	78,367.03	74,287.44	1
1	085	01	03	07	b	24	BG422	565,959.43	565,959.43	393,044.28	3
1	085	01	03	07	b	24	TR212	250,248.44	250,248.44	23,619.20	1
1	085	01	03	07	b	24	TR213	601,582.57	601,582.57	502,979.84	3
1	087	01	01	07	b	24	BG341	793,143.94	793,143.94	342,975.77	3
1	087	01	01	07	b	24	BG343	273,990.62	273,990.62	128,862.95	1
1	087	01	01	07	b	24	BG422	581,955.11	581,955.11	491,662.41	1
1	087	01	01	07	b	24	TR212	589,017.24	589,017.24	549,790.44	1
1	087	01	01	07	b	24	TR213	568,473.20	568,473.20	504,197.52	1
1	087	01	02	07	b	24	BG422	1,167,208.45	1,167,208.45	597,266.26	2
1	087	01	02	07	b	24	TR212	580,787.03	580,787.03	234,131.74	1
1	087	01	02	07	b	24	TR213	468,915.20	468,915.20	453,140.45	1
1	087	01	03	07	b	24	BG341	112,688.77	112,688.77	105,300.85	1
1	087	01	03	07	b	24	BG422	544,734.16	544,734.16	533,279.62	1
2	075	01	01	07	d	24	BG341	74,771.60	74,771.60	0.00	1
2	075	01	01	07	d	24	BG422	158,006.32	158,006.32	89,155.58	2

Priority axis	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	«r.ir.etc.table5.thempridimen»	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
2	075	01	02	07	d	24	BG341	78,693.27	78,693.27	58,262.84	1
2	075	01	02	07	d	24	TR212	57,740.97	57,740.97	50,499.12	1
2	079	01	01	07	d	24	TR212	475,643.62	475,643.62	0.00	1
2	090	01	02	07	d	24	BG422	398,834.83	398,834.83	0.00	1
2	090	01	03	07	d	24	BG341	450,151.64	450,151.64	42,190.99	1
2	090	01	03	07	d	24	BG422	488,183.00	488,183.00	164,009.35	1
2	090	01	03	07	d	24	TR213	484,864.36	484,864.36	13,082.85	1
2	092	01	01	07	d	24	BG341	106,064.85	106,064.85	95,608.62	1
2	092	01	01	07	d	24	BG343	564,852.14	564,852.14	474,244.31	2
2	092	01	01	07	d	24	TR212	199,399.73	199,399.73	5,157.14	2
2	092	01	01	07	d	24	TR213	438,054.90	438,054.90	406,614.60	1
2	092	01	02	07	d	24	BG341	561,738.38	561,738.38	452,483.18	2
2	092	01	02	07	d	24	BG422	490,774.34	490,774.34	0.00	1
2	092	01	03	07	d	24	BG422	924,099.56	924,099.56	369,298.78	3
2	094	01	01	07	d	24	BG341	1,147,608.89	1,147,608.89	935,541.10	9
2	094	01	01	07	d	24	BG422	188,676.95	188,676.95	91,795.24	2
2	094	01	01	07	d	24	TR212	96,177.77	96,177.77	88,308.72	1
2	094	01	01	07	d	24	TR213	968,866.06	968,866.06	172,856.94	3
2	094	01	02	07	d	24	BG341	2,017,054.72	2,017,054.72	191,457.42	5
2	094	01	02	07	d	24	BG422	1,005,837.04	1,005,837.04	74,132.42	3
2	094	01	02	07	d	24	TR212	919,725.48	919,725.48	279,638.38	2
2	094	01	02	07	d	24	TR213	100,909.24	100,909.24	95,649.59	1
2	094	01	03	07	d	24	BG341	299,337.08	299,337.08	112,759.19	3
2	094	01	03	07	d	24	BG422	607,130.67	607,130.67	137,716.87	3
2	094	01	03	07	d	24	TR212	179,107.70	179,107.70	73,642.89	2
2	094	01	03	07	d	24	TR213	718,835.50	718,835.50	61,349.83	2
2	095	01	01	07	d	24	BG422	261,149.20	261,149.20	74,407.67	3
2	095	01	01	07	d	24	TR212	553,680.33	553,680.33	380,663.84	2

Priority axis	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	«r.ir.etc.table5.thempr idimen»	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
2	095	01	02	07	d	24	BG341	83,118.14	83,118.14	27,345.49	1
2	095	01	02	07	d	24	BG422	91,713.85	91,713.85	64,965.54	1
2	095	01	03	07	d	24	BG422	166,260.34	166,260.34	156,452.84	2
3	121	01					BG	1,628,997.35	1,628,997.35	760,527.35	6
3	121	01					TR	673,786.74	673,786.74	526,786.74	6

Not validated

Table 6: Cumulative cost of all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area

1. Operation (2)	2. The amount of IPA support(1) envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations	3. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 2/total amount allocated to the support from the IPA at programme level * 100)	4. Eligible expenditure of IPA support incurred in all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority	5. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 4/total amount allocated to the support from the IPA at programme level *100)
All or part of an operation outside the Union part of the programme area	28 706,42	0,11 %	21 461,25	0,09 %

(1) IPA support is the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.

(2) In accordance with and subject to ceilings set out Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

According to the Programme Evaluation Plan (approved on 29.06.2016 by the JMC) the Implementation /mid-term evaluation of the Programme had been launched in June 2018. Tender procedure for Implementation evaluation under Interreg - IPA CBC Programmes, managed by the Republic of Bulgaria, had been completed and service contract with external consultant was signed on 28th of August 2018 with 7 months duration. The contract ended in March 2019 and the Implementation evaluation report of the Programme 2014-2020 has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Art. 56 (3) of the Regulation (EU) № 1303/2013. The Report had been submitted and approved by MA and JMC (Decision No28 from 21.06.2019). The contractor provided feedback and recommendations for further improvement of the overall management and implementation of the current Programme progress, which could contribute towards successful achievement of Programme's objectives, results and outputs. The results of the mid-term evaluation of the Programme was reported in AIR for 2019.

Name	Fund	From month	From year	To month	To year	Type of evaluation	Thematic priority	Topic	Findings
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Not validated

5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN

(a) Issues which affect the performance of the programme and the measures taken

In 2020 the programme implementation was marked by COVID-19 world pandemic. In relation to the COVID-19 situation and the introduced emergency measures on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey on 20th of March 2020 the Managing Authority under the programme published guidelines to the project partners and applicants, which was actualized on 23rd of April 2021. In the guidelines were included instructions for the following topics, essential for the applicant and the project partners:

- Contracting – conduction of the pre-contracting procedures in written form or via videoconference. Carried out of the on-the-spot checks in accordance with the specificities and requirements of the emergency measures in the partner countries;
- Project implementation
Analysis of the project activities – the partners were advised to analyze the planned activities taking into consideration any impediments as a consequence of the measures related to COVID-19, as well as the possibilities to implement soft measure activities by alternative means, including digital ones or to postpone at a later date;
Suspension – the MA allowed a temporary suspension of the deadline for implementation of the subsidy contracts. The suspended contracts should provide to the JS the above-mentioned S analysis of the planned activities. Within this the partners should be presented notification for small content change with updated Duration and action plan or the relevant request for contract modification to the MA;
Contracts for the implementation of the project activities - the beneficiaries, which are contracting authorities under PRAG rules may allow changes in the terms of the contract only if the non-fulfillment is due to "force majeure" / "exceptional circumstances";
- Reporting, documentary and on-the-spot check - the reporting to the JS and the submission of requests for FLC were maintained in the established format - by electronic exchange of documents through the Beneficiary Portal. Documentary checks carried out by the JS and the Controllers of the FLC continued on a regular basis. The on-the-spot checks carried out by the JS and the Controllers of the FLC tailored to the specificities and requirements of the emergency measures in the partner countries. At the discretion of the JS/FLC controllers and after approval by the Managing Authority, "virtual on-the-spot checks" may be carried out for the preparation of which the beneficiaries will be duly instructed;
- Requests for payments, decisions for imposing financial corrections, recoveries to MA – the MA continued to process requests for advance, interim and final payments, the irregularities signals

with respect to the partners on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, issuing decisions for imposing financial corrections and preparing letters for financial corrections recovery amounts and unsolicited advance payments..

Furthermore, in order to minimize the negative impact on the work plan implementation the JS conducted regular monitoring for projects and ensure the beneficiaries to carry out remaining project activities/events by alternative means, including digital ones.

In the end of the year due to Covid-19 pandemic situation and the local measures of the health authorities a revised version of Instructions and the amended FLC guidelines was published on the web-site of the programme. Preserving the health of all involved and help in the fight against the pandemic, the MA is temporarily introducing an alternative option for verification - Virtual (online) verification replaced on-the-spot visits and verification for “soft” projects.

Not validated

(b) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, otherwise it will be included in point 9.1. An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate.

N/A

Not validated

6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

A citizen's summary of the contents of the annual and the final implementation reports shall be made public and uploaded as a separate file in the form of annex to the annual and the final implementation report

You can upload/find the Citizen's summary under General > Documents

Not validated

7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)

N/A

Not validated

8. PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (ARTICLE 101(H) AND ARTICLE 111(3) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(B) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

8.1. Major projects

Table 7: Major projects

Project	CCI	Status of MP	Total investments	Total eligible costs	Planned notification/submission date	Date of tacit agreement/ approval by Commission	Planned start of implementation	Planned completion date	Priority axis / Thematic priorities	Current state of realisation — financial progress (% of expenditure certified to Commission compared to total eligible cost)	Current state of realisation — physical progress / Main implementation stage of the project	Main outputs	Date of signature of first works contract (1)	Observations
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(1) In the case of operations implemented under PPP structures the signing of the PPP contract between the public body and the private sector body (Article 102(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).

Significant problems encountered in implementing major projects and measures taken to overcome them

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Any change planned in the list of major projects in the cooperation programme

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N/A

8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

N/A

Not validated

Table 8: Joint action plans (JAP)

Title of the JAP	CCI	Stage of implementation of JAP	Total eligible costs	Total public support	OP contribution to JAP	Priority axis	Type of JAP	[Planned] submission to the Commission	[Planned] start of implementation	[Planned] completion	Main outputs and results	Total eligible expenditure certified to the Commission	Observations
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N/A

Not validated

Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

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Not validated

9. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

9.1 Information in Part A and achieving the objectives of the programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axis	1 - Environment
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Priority axis	2 - Sustainable tourism
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Priority axis	3 - Technical assistance
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Not validated

9.2. Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (d) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of specific actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, including accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations

N/A

Not validated

9.3.Sustainable development (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on sustainable development, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of the actions taken to promote sustainable development in accordance with that Article

N/A

Not validated

9.4. Reporting on support used for climate change objectives (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

N/A

Not validated

9.5 Role of partners in the implementation of the cooperation programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 1, (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the role of partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, including involvement of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperation programme

N/A

Not validated

10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013

10.1 Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations

N/A

Not validated

Status	Name	Fund	Year of finalizing evaluation	Type of evaluation	Thematic priority	Topic	Findings (in case of execution)	Follow up (in case of execution)
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Not validated

10.2 The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy

N/A

Not validated

11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2 (A), (B), (C) AND (F), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013)

11.1. Progress in the implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including integrated territorial investments, sustainable urban development, and community led local development under the cooperation programme

N/A

Not validated

11.2 Progress in implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and to use the IPA

N/A

Not validated

11.3 Contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies (where appropriate)

As stipulated by the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, recital 19, article 8(3)(d) on the "Content, adoption and amendment of cooperation programmes" and article 14(4) 2nd subparagraph (c) "Implementation reports", this programme contributes to MRS(s) and/or SBS:

Blue Growth Strategy is a long term strategy adopted by the European Commission in 2012 with main focus to support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors as a whole. The objective of the Blue Growth strategy is to promote smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and employment opportunities in Europe's maritime economy. Both PA of the Programme has strong contribution to actions supported by the strategy. The Programme area covers parts of the Black sea area and supports partnership activities for preservation of marine and coastal environment (incl. litter reduction). PA 2 "Sustainable tourism" supports the development of coastal and maritime tourism. Some of the projects financed under the Second call for proposals and financed under the restricted call strategic project have direct contribution to the Strategy as they have activities addressing preservation of marine and coastal environment.

The Partnership Agreement between Bulgaria and the EU sets the frames of the assistance to be received from the EU structural and investment funds in the period 2014-2020. The Partnership agreement sets four priorities for the implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy. Also it exclusively states that the preferred priority areas for cooperation in the Programme between Bulgaria and the Turkey are in the field of environmental protection, promotion and development of natural and cultural heritage. Consequently, the Programme fully addresses these priority areas.

The Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy 2014 – 2020 for Bulgaria aims to outline a coherent framework for identification of the strategic priorities for action to reduce the risk of disasters and to support the priorities measures implementation at national, district, municipal and field level. The strategy has 4 main priorities and PA 1 Environment is relevant to the last three priorities of the strategy.

The three NUTS III regions in Bulgaria that are covered by the Programme (Burgas, Yambol and Haskovo) have Regional Development Strategies for 2014 – 2020. In all of them the sustainable tourism development and the adaptation to the climate changes and protection of environment are defined as leading priorities. The CBC Programme supports exactly the same activities.

The Indicative Strategy Paper for Turkey (the Strategy Paper) sets out the priorities for EU financial assistance for the period 2014-20 to support Turkey on its path to accession. The Strategy paper sets the two main pillars for the pre-accession assistance in the period 2014 – 2020: "Democracy and rule of law" and "Competitiveness and growth". These two main pillars are further developed in seven priority sectors. The Programme contributes directly to the territorial and regional cooperation priority.

The Programme also provides strong contribution to the Environment, and climate action and energy sector. Turkey is located in one of the areas most vulnerable to climate change impacts. Therefore the projects funded under PA 1 Environment address these challenges.

Trakya Region Development Plan 2014 - 2023 focus at twenty-one priorities and ninety-four policies. PA 1 Environment contributes to the implementation of Initiative 10 related to protection of floods and earthquakes and PA 2 Sustainable Tourism supports Initiative 18 focused on development the tourism in Trakya region.

- EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)

Not validated

11.4 Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation

N/A

Not validated

13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Information and assessment of the programme contribution to achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

N/A

Not validated

**14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN
— PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)**

Where the assessment of progress made with regard to the milestones and targets set out in the performance framework demonstrates that certain milestones and targets have not been achieved, Member States should outline the underlying reasons for failure to achieve these milestones in the report of 2019 (for milestones) and in the final implementation report (for targets).

N/A

Not validated

DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
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Not validated

LATEST VALIDATION RESULTS

Severity	Code	Message
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