

Interreg - IPA CBC
Bulgaria - Turkey



PARTNERSHIP

CITIZEN'S SUMMARY 2020





The Summary aims to describe in a concise and informal language the main achievements of the Interreg-IPA CBC Bulgaria-Turkey Programme 2014 – 2020 in year 2020

THE PROGRAMME GOAL

The overall objective of the Programme is strengthening the Bulgaria-Turkey cross-border cooperation capacity in the field of nature protection and sustainable tourism, leading to enhancement of European territorial cohesion.



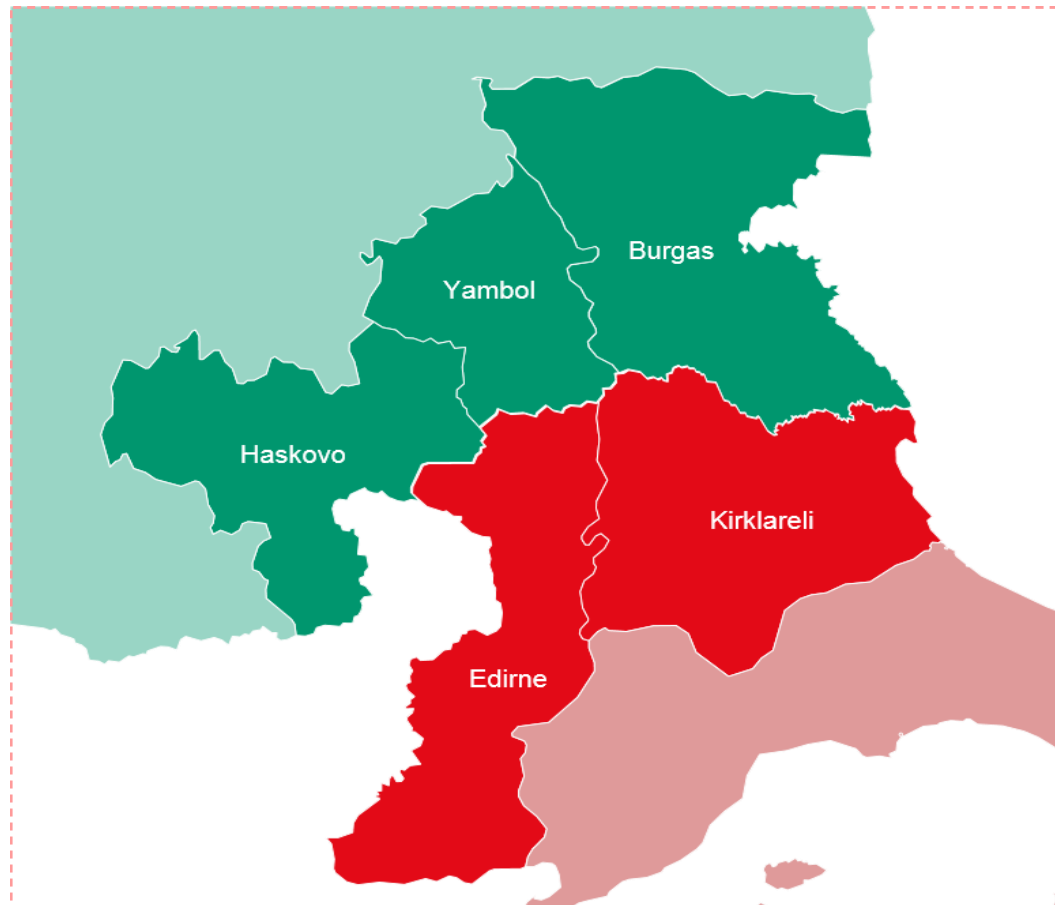
Priority Axis 1: Environment

Preventing the consequences of natural and man-made disasters, improving the capacity for nature protection and sustainable use of common natural resources



Priority Axis 2: Sustainable Tourism

Increasing touristic attractiveness, tourism potential and networking for development of sustainable tourism



The Programme area

Focus of the Summary

- ◇ Brief Programme description
- ◇ Programme Amendment
- ◇ Implementation of the Second Call
- ◇ Launch of the Restricted Call
- ◇ Main events in 2020
- ◇ European Cooperation Day
- ◇ Publicity measures

The total Programme Budget

is

EUR 29 642 896



SECOND CALL FOR PROPOSALS - AMENDMENT OF THE PROGRAMME in 2020

AMENDMENT OF THE INTERREG – IPA CBC BULGARIA – TURKEY PROGRAMME 2014 – 2020

During the year 2020 the amendment of the INTERREG-IPA CBC Bulgaria – Turkey Programme 2014-2020 has been approved with **European Commission's Implementing Decision C(2020)5536/07.08.2020**, amending Implementing Decision C(2015) 5280 approving the cross-border cooperation Programme "Interreg-IPA CBC Bulgaria - Turkey" for the years 2014-2020 under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II).

REALLOCATED FUNDS

from PA 1 "Environment" to PA2 "Sustainable Tourism" in the Programme.



PA 1 ENVIRONMENT



PA 2 SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

<p>Total amount of the CONTRACTED PROJECTS under the 2nd Call for proposals: 15 487 116,53 €</p>

Priority Axis	Total number of funded proposals	Contracted amount (€)
PA 1 - Environment	17*	4 598 609,68*
PA 2 - Sustainable Tourism	41	10 888 506,85
Total	58	15 487 116,53

*One of the Subsidy contracts implemented under the PA "Environment" of the Second for Proposals signed in year 2019 for the amount of EUR 399 915,09 has been terminated during the year 2020. The project is not included in the listed above data.



SECOND CALL FOR PROPOSALS - PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION in 2020

After approval of the Programme Amendment on 2020 the Managing Authority proceeded with the signature of subsidy contracts of the **14 projects** approved for funding from the reserve list under the Second Call for Proposals Interreg-IPA CBC Bulgaria - Turkey Programme 2014-2020. During the last trimester of 2020, 8 of the “soft” projects have been successfully finalized.

Financed projects under the Second Call | 59

Investment		41
Soft		17

Terminated in 2020		1
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Finalized by the end of 2020		8
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PA 1. Environment

17 projects

4 598 609,68 €



PA2. Sustainable Tourism

41 projects

10 888 506,85 €

COVID-19 PANDEMIC MEASURES TAKEN IN 2020

During 2020 significant challenges for the Programme implementation have been faced related with the undertaken COVID-19 pandemic health measures in both countries - Republic of Bulgaria and Republic of Turkey. Immediately after the undertaking of the measures **the Managing Authority provided Guidelines to the beneficiaries** for the period until the end of the emergency restrictions:

- ◆ **Analysis of the planned activities taking** into consideration any impediments as a consequence of the measures related to COVID-19 were presented by all projects under implementation and were duly assessed by the JS and the other management bodies of the Programme;
- ◆ COVID-19 related **requests for modifications** of the **duration and action plans and the content** of the project activities were submitted by the beneficiaries and approved by the JS, as well as requests for **extension of the project duration** submitted to the JMC and request for **budget modification** submitted to the MA;
- ◆ Some of the projects were under **COVID-19 related temporarily suspension** following approved by the MA guidelines to the beneficiaries and the JS has provided consultations and monitoring regarding the process of suspensions of all sub-contracts concluded under the mentioned projects;
- ◆ During the period of emergency restrictions **regular phone consultations were provided by the JS** and duly documented to all project partners of the implemented subsidy contracts regarding the COVID-19 challenges and appropriate measures that are to be taken.



SECOND CALL FOR PROPOSALS - IMPLEMENTATION in 2020



Budget of contracts:

15 487 116,53 €

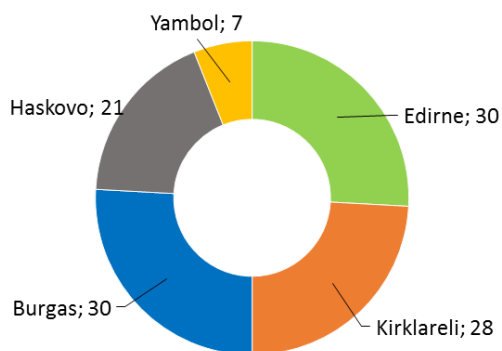
- Total projects under implementation in 2020: **58**
- 8 of the implemented projects have been finalized by the end of 2020.

Lead Partners

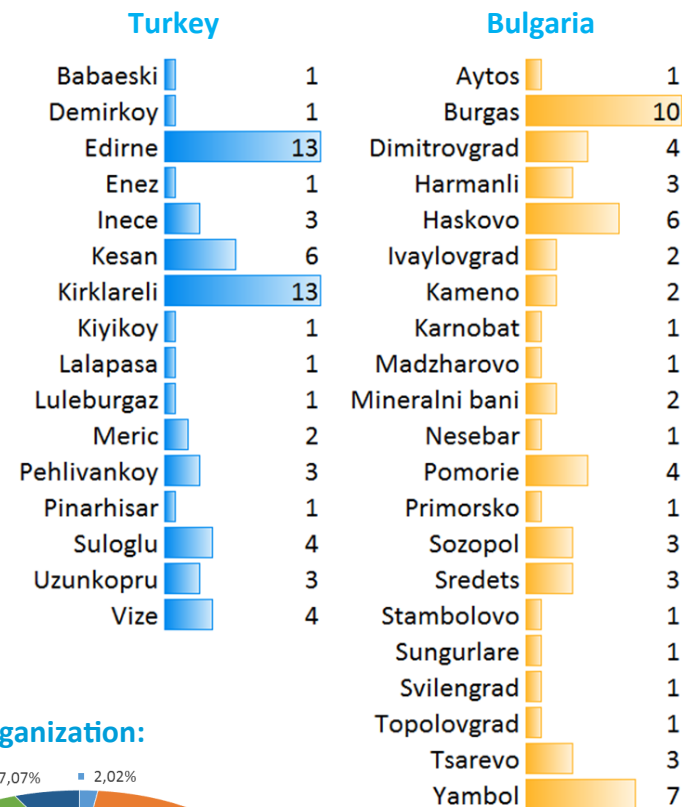


From Bulgaria **37**
From Turkey **21**

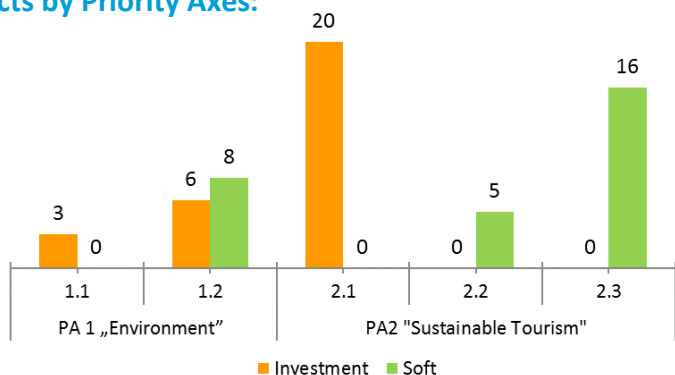
Projects by districts/provinces:



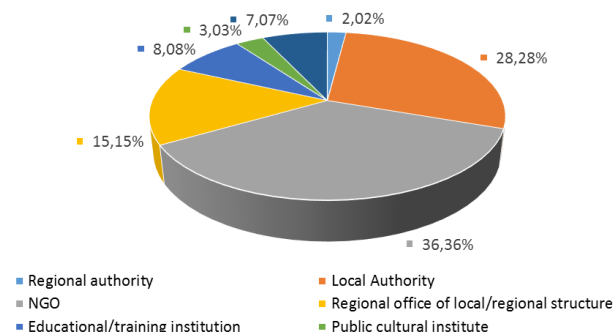
Projects by municipalities:



Projects by Priority Axes:



Project partners by type of organization:





FOCUS OF THE SECOND CALL PROJECTS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION



OUTPUTS TO BE DELIVERED BY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECTS UNDER THE SECOND CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Priority Axis 1 ENVIRONMENT

Interventions related to risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	5
Joint strategies, common guidelines, trainings, public awareness campaigns and exchange of experience for risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	11
Population benefiting from flood and forest fire protection measures	275 484
Nature protected areas addressed by interventions	12
Capacity building and awareness activities related to nature protection, sustainable use and management of common natural resources	32
People involved in training and capacity building activities in the field of nature protection	548
Joint initiatives for litter reduction and preservation of marine and coastal environment	8
Joint management plans and coordinated specific conservation activities for protected areas	12

Priority Axis 2 SUSTAINABLE TOURISM



Reconstructed and upgraded access roads to natural, cultural and historic tourism sites	12 719 m.
Newly built, reconstructed or upgraded cycling routes and walking paths	27 400 m.
Restored cultural and historical touristic sites and newly built or reconstructed facilities into the touristic sites or leading to them	27
Sustainable tourism strategies and action plans of common tourist destinations	2
Marketing and promotional initiatives and events, addressing cross-border tourism products and services	8
Tools developed for promotion of sustainable touristic potential	5
People involved in training and capacity building activities in the field of sustainable tourism	170
Networking events, trainings, consultancy services and public awareness initiatives promoting sustainable use of natural, historical, cultural heritage or alternative forms of tourism	77

Completion of 8 of the Subsidy contracts under the Second call for proposals by the end of 2020 resulted in ACHIEVEMENT OF THE FOLLOWING OUTPUT INDICATORS:

- ⇒ O.I. 1.2.1 Number of nature protected areas addressed by interventions — 5 ;
- ⇒ O.I. 1.2.2 Number of capacity building / awareness activities related to nature protection, sustainable use and management of common natural resources — 13 ;
- ⇒ O.I. 1.2.3 Number of people involved in training and capacity building activities in the field of nature protection — 239;
- ⇒ O.I. 1.2.4 Number of joint initiatives addressing preservation of marine and coastal environment (incl. litter reduction) — 3;
- ⇒ O.I. 1.2.5 Number of joint management plans/ coordinated specific conservation activities for protected areas — 4.

- ⇒ O.I. 2.2.2 Number of marketing and promotional initiatives/events, addressing cross-border tourism products & services — 2;
- ⇒ O.I. 2.2.4 Number of trainings and consultancy services in sustainable use of natural, historical and cultural heritage and resources — 1;
- ⇒ O.I. 2.2.5 Number of people involved in training and capacity building activities in the field of sustainable tourism — 31;
- ⇒ O.I. 2.3.1 Number of networking events (Number) — 4;
- ⇒ O.I. 2.3.2 Number of public awareness initiatives promoting sustainable use of natural, historical and cultural heritage and resources (Number) — 5;
- ⇒ O.I. 2.3.3 Number of public awareness initiatives promoting alternative forms of tourism — 2.



RESTRICTED CALL FOR PROPOSALS - LAUNCHING AND START OF IMPLEMENTATION in 2020

The **Restricted Call for Strategic Project Proposal** under the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Bulgaria-Turkey Programme has been launched on 13.05.2020 and the subsidy contract has been concluded on 09.10.2020. The main aim of the Strategic project is establishment of two Blue Growth Research Centres in the cross-border region to set the ground for scientists, researchers, local institutions and communities to collaborate, develop common approaches, methodologies and models for responsible use of natural resources.

- ⇒ **Lead Partner:** "Prof. D-r Asen Zlatarov" University of Burgas
- ⇒ **Second Project Partner:** Trakya University of Edirne
- ⇒ **Third Project Partner:** Professional School of Chemical Technology "Acad. N. D. Zelinskii" of Burgas
- ⇒ **Fourth Project Partner:** High School of Edirne



Total amount of the subsidy contract:

2 855 146,52 €

Duration: **24 months**

Type of project: **Investment**

OUTPUTS AND RESULTS TO BE DELIVERED UNDER THE STRATEGIC PROJECT

"CROSS-BORDER REGIONS COLLABORATE FOR BLUE GROWTH (BLUE GROWTH COLLABS)"

1. Equipment and creation of infrastructure for **establishing Blue Growth Research Centers** at "Prof. D-r Asen Zlatarov" University of Burgas and Trakya University of Edirne.

3. **Improvement of collaboration between educational systems** in the regions **for promoting Blue growth education** and training among young people.

2. **Development and implementation of common methodologies and pilot aquatic ecosystems studies** in Burgas and Edirne regions.

4. **Local actions for regional capacity**



PA 1. Environment

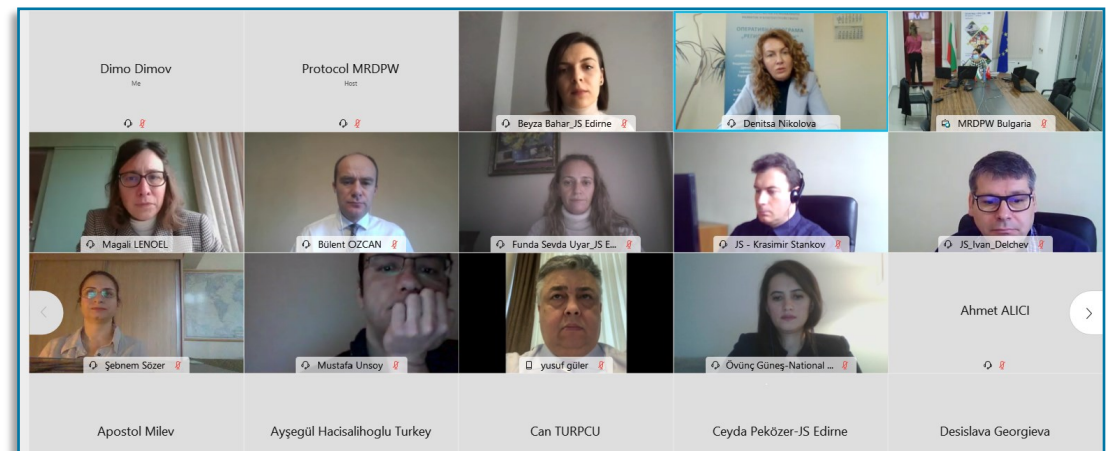
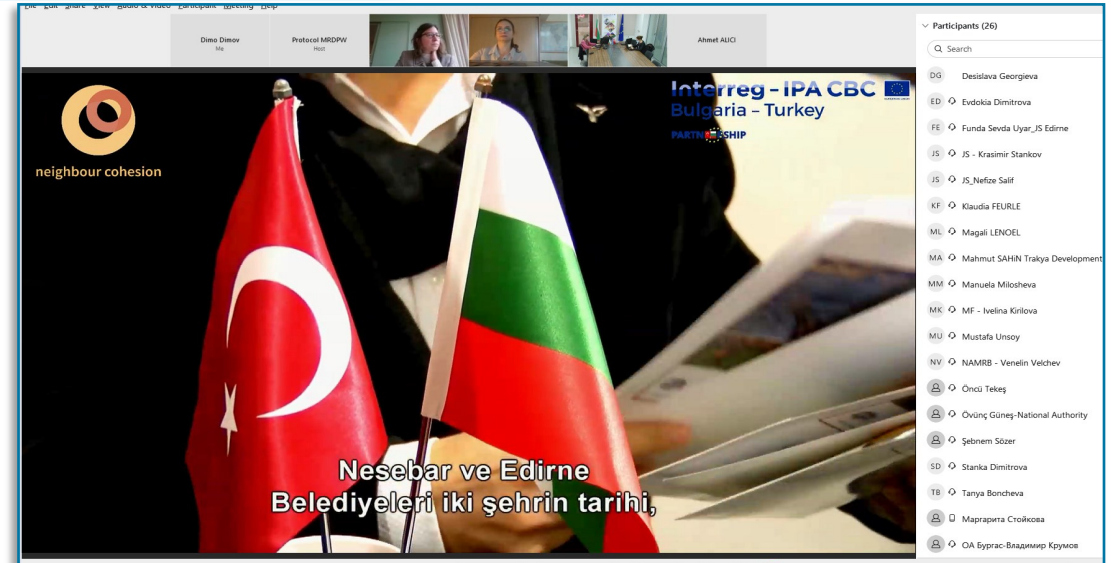
SO 1.2. Improving the capacity for nature protection, sustainable use and management of common natural resources through cooperation initiatives in the cross-border area

EVENTS ORGANISED IN 2020

Online Joint Monitoring Committee meeting

Decisions taken by the Joint Monitoring Committee on the **7th JMC online meeting held on 14 December 2020 through online video conferencing in Webex :**

1. The JMC approved the financial analysis concerning the absorption of funds under the INTERREG IPA Cross-border Programme Bulgaria-Turkey 2014-2020 and proposal for Programme amendment on the transfer of 279 839 Euro from Priority Axis 2 to Priority Axis 1;
2. The JMC approved Request for modification No 1/25.11.2020 of project "Cross-border Regions Collaborate for BLUE GROWTH (BLUE GROWTH COLLABs)" with ref. No CB005.3.12.001;
3. The JMC gave mandate to the Managing Authority to notify the European Commission on the amendment of the financial plan of the Programme;
4. The JMC approved amendment of the Technical Assistance Budget for 2020-2023 for the Managing Authority (MA) and amendment of the Eligibility of Technical Assistance Expenditures for 2020-2023;
5. The JMC approved the Technical Assistance plan for 2021 for the National Authority (NA) and Technical Assistance budget for 2021 for NA.





EVENTS ORGANISED IN 2020

Online Joint Working Group meeting

The meeting of the Joint Working Group for preparation of CBC Programme between Republic of Bulgaria and Republic of Turkey 2021-2027 was conducted on 24th of September 2020, through video conferencing in Webex, for the following topics:

⇒ Approving the Territorial Analysis for Republic of Bulgaria - Republic of Turkey Cross-border Area (including SWOT analysis and conclusions). The Territorial Analysis for Republic of Bulgaria - Republic of Turkey Cross-border Area is a strategic document that provides an extensive analysis of the border area, focusing on the needs, challenges, potential and opportunities. Based on the findings and conclusions of this analysis, the future 2021-2027 Bulgaria-Turkey CBC Programme shall be drafted.

⇒ Approving the intervention logic for Republic of Bulgaria and Republic of Turkey Cross-border Area. The intervention logic is based on the conclusions of the Territorial analysis, lessons learnt from the previous programming periods, conducted regional consultations and questionnaires / interviews, the restrictions set by the regulations related to the thematic concentration and taking into account the limited budgetary resources.

The screenshot shows a Webex meeting interface. The main slide is titled "SECOND MEETING OF THE JOINT WORKING GROUP" and is for the "Strategic Planning and Programming for INTERREG-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme between Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey 2021-2027". The date is 24 September 2020. The slide content is as follows:

Structure of the analysis

- Description and Geographical characteristics of the programme area
- Demographic features
- Economic development
- Social development and Labour market
- Environment and Climate change
- Infrastructure and Digital connectivity
- Cultural and Natural heritage
- Concluding section - SWOT analysis and possible strategic approach and spheres of intervention

The strategic outlook of the IL

OVERALL OBJECTIVE: To strengthen territorial cohesion of the Bulgaria-Turkey Cross-border region

The flowchart shows the following structure:

- Policy Objective 1: A smarter Europe
 - Priority 1: More competitive cross-border region
 - Specific objective 1.1: Enhancing growth and competitiveness of SMEs
- Policy Objective 5: A Europe closer to citizens
 - Priority 2: Integrated development of the cross-border region
 - Specific objective 2.1: A Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories
- ISO 2: A safer and more secure Europe
 - Priority 3: More secure cross-border region
 - Specific objective 3.1: Support EU policies on integrated border management so as to strengthen security of EU external borders and to protect supply chains
 - Priority: Technical Assistance



PHOTOS OF EVENTS ORGANISED IN 2020

European Cooperation Day celebration & 30 years of INTERREG

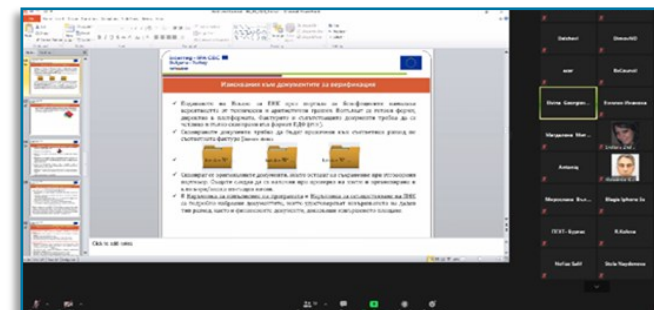
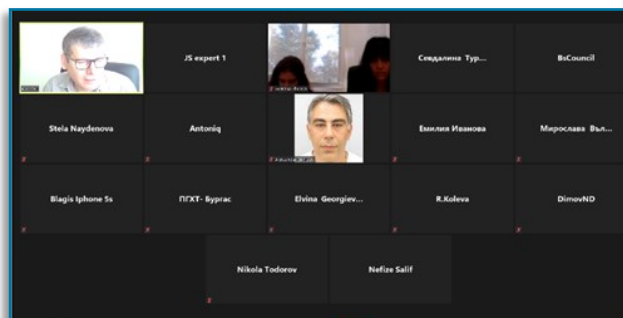
The event was live broadcast on our fan page on Facebook on 21 September 2020.



Our Programme together with Interreg - IPA CBC Programme Bulgaria - Serbia and Interreg - IPA CBC Programme Bulgaria - North Macedonia presented achieved results so far and several successfully implemented projects.

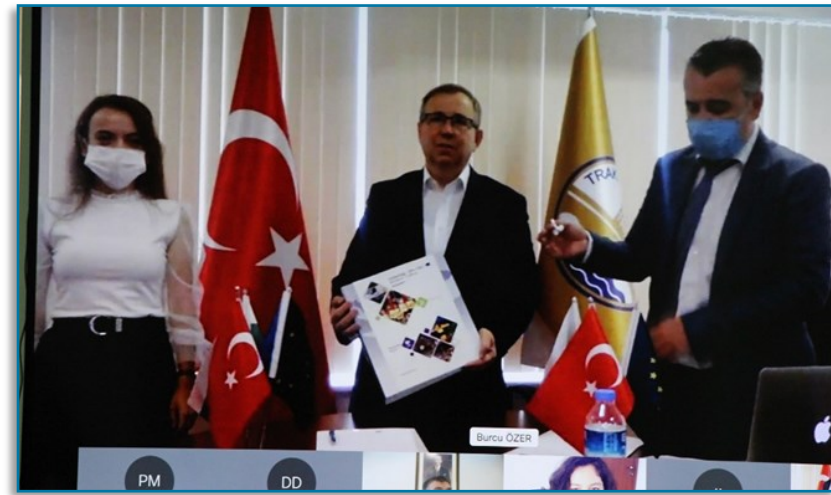
Four Online Training seminars "Project Implementation"

- ⇒ Conducted online training for Bulgarian project partners under the Second Call for Proposals on 4 August 2020. The Joint Secretariat with the support of the Managing Authority carried out online training for the beneficiaries, representatives of Bulgarian project partners on 14 contracts approved for funding;
- ⇒ Conducted online Second Project Implementation Training in Edirne on 16-17 September 2020 for the beneficiaries who already signed award contracts and the beneficiaries who were invited to sign the award contracts under the Second Call for Proposals;
- ⇒ Conducted online training for representatives of the Bulgarian project partners of the Strategic project under the Third Restricted Call on 30 September 2020;
- ⇒ Conducted online Project Implementation Training for the Turkish beneficiaries of the awarded contract under the Third Restricted Call for Strategic Project Proposal on 22 October 2020.



Contract Awarding Ceremony of the Restricted Call for Strategic Project Proposal in 2020

The Online Contract Awarding Ceremony under the Third Restricted Call for Strategic Project Proposal took place on 9 October 2020 as a partially online event combined with parallel joint attended ceremonies for contract awarding in Sofia for the Bulgarian partners of the project and in Edirne for the partners from the Republic of Turkey.



INTERREG—Inspiring Projects Examples under the 2nd call

Increasing the capacity for nature protection, sustainable use and management of common natural resources



CB005.2.11.113
"FLOOD RESILIENCE"



PA 1 ENVIRONMENT



CB005.2.12.016
"Forest Health"



CB005.2.12.116 "Joint nature protection"

INTERREG—Inspiring Projects Examples under the 2nd call

Improved and newly constructed tourist infrastructure for increasing the touristic attractiveness of the cross-border area



CB005.2.21.052
“Joint Actions to Regain
ATTRACTIVENess in the CBC Area
(More Attractive)”



PA 2 SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

CB005.2.22.093
“Increasing the cross-
border tourism potential
between Haskovo and
Edirne (CrossTour)”



CB005.2.21.046

“ROADS to the Sustainable Tourism”

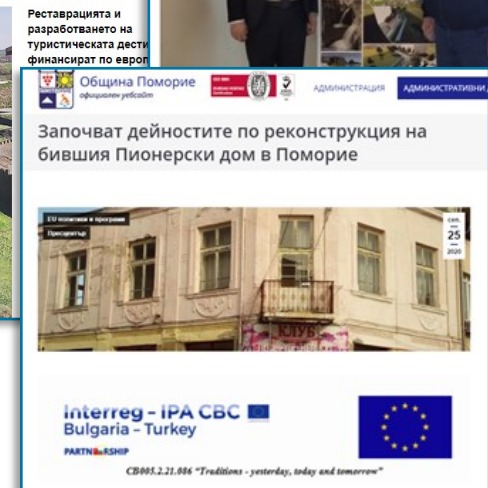
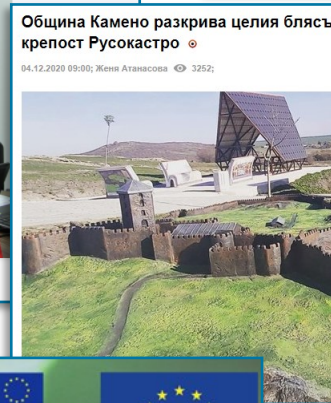
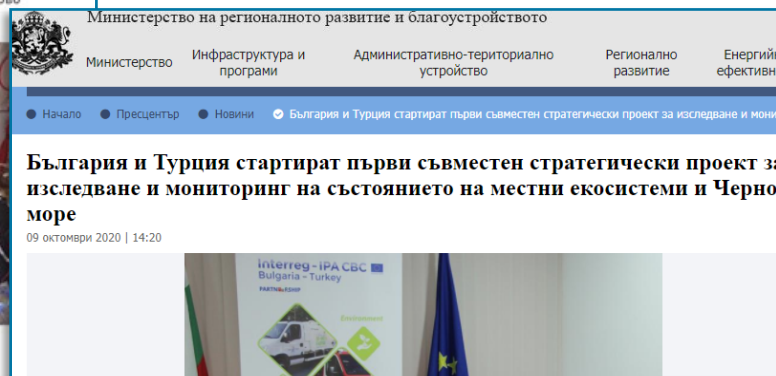
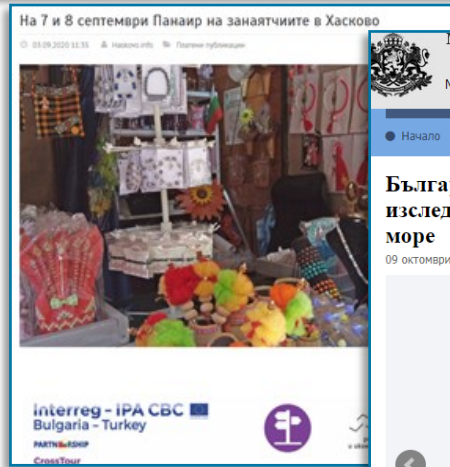


PUBLICITY

Mass Media Campaign was organized for the purposes of informing general public and potential beneficiaries of the results under the Second call for project proposals events and the concluded subsidy contract under the Restricted call for proposals. Press releases were distributed to local and national media with topics related to the overall Programme achievements.



Website of the Programme:
www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu





Interreg - IPA CBC 
Bulgaria - Turkey

PARTNERSHIP

