

Citizen's Summary of Annual Implementation Report for the financial year 2017

In 2017, the Managing Authority (MA) in corporation with the Joint Secretariat (JS) and other Programme Bodies coordinated and carried out the activities related to the implementation of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Montenegro 2014-2020 namely:

1st Call for Proposals

The Joint Monitoring Committee (hereinafter the JMC) was held in Zagreb on 31 January 2017 with the objective to approve the Report on the assessment and selection process and related annexes within the 1st Call for Proposals (CfP). Out of 164 project proposals submitted, 21 projects with the highest scores were recommended for financing. The JMC approved the Report and the MA notified the Lead Partners on the outcome of the assessment and selection process. Furthermore, the MA started the contracting process for the 21 selected project proposals.

Infographic 1st Call for Proposals in numbers, click on the icon to open it:



The projects were contracted in the period from June 2017 to October 2017 followed by the series of contracting events covered by the media in Lipik, Pleternica, Garešnica, Split, Slavonski Brod, Vinkovci, Dubrovnik, Zagreb and finally in October in Šibenik.

In order to support the project partners and provide guidance, the JS drafted and published the Project Implementation Manual and related implementation tools which were published on Programme's webpage.

Furthermore, the MA and JS held implementation workshops in Orašje, Herceg Novi and Zadar in July 2017 and additionally in Zagreb in October 2017.

In December 2017, additional workshops on reporting and public procurement were held for project beneficiaries in Šibenik, Budva and Banja Luka.

Due to the fact that one selected project has decided to withdraw from funding and due to some savings after the budget optimisation process, there were some funds left under the allocation of the 1st CfP to contract projects from the reserve list and 4 additional projects were contracted in October 2017.

In total, 24 projects were contracted under the 1st CfP of total value **EUR 24.134.478,73** (EU support 20.508.720,76 EUR) with 104 project partners/beneficiaries from the Participating Countries.

Priority Axis 1	Priority Axis 2	Priority Axis 3	Priority Axis 4
Q-Access-HC 592.477,60	SMART SCHOOLS 1.644.127,88	Heritage Route 706.517,08	CODE 883.555,54
PALL NET 776.971,25	RENEW HEAT 698.681,14	Becharac & Ganga 2.307.174,13	competenceNET 670.619,24
SLEEP MEDICINE 480.231,54	PESCAR 601.639,26	ADRIATIC CANYONING 1.879.251,32	Invest in LOG 731.906,95
We CARE 690.623,50	safEarth 974.695,50	Fortress ReInvented 1.310.232,40	BACAR 1.019.843,87
MELAdetect 652.427,90	IRENE 1.915.820,00	RiTour 840.700,03	COMPETE PLAMET 1.603.369,21
NeurNet 865.767,09	Chestnut 589.558,39		STRONGER 979.309,91
	RMPPPI 718.978,00		
EUR 4.058.498,88	EUR 7.143.500,17	EUR 7.043.874,96	EUR 5.888.604,72

Technical Assistance

On 9 May 2017, the MA opened a Call for Proposals for Technical Assistance projects to be submitted by the Programme bodies. The Call was open until 15 June 2017 and 10 project applications were submitted by the Programme bodies via eMS. Total value of Technical Assistance operations (MA, JS, NA HR, CB HR, NA ME, CB ME, NA BA, CB BA, AA and CA) is EUR 6.218.296,28 (EU share is EUR 5.285.551,82).

Set up of the management and control system and designation process

The Memorandum of Understanding was finalised and signed by all stakeholders on 13 November 2017.

During 2017, the designation procedure was taking place. The final version of the Description of the Management and Control System and related annexes was submitted on 20 October 2017 to the Audit Authority (AA) for examination of the compliance with the designation criteria set out in Annex XIII to CPR.

The opinion on the compliance of the MA and the Certifying Authority with the designation criteria was given by the Audit Authority on 30 November 2017. The decision on designation given by the Ministry of Regional Development of the Republic of Croatia in the role of Coordination Body for EU Funds was adopted on 1 December 2017.

Revision of the Cooperation Programme

Following the instruction of the European Commission, all Interreg IPA Cooperation Programmes were obliged to include the performance framework in their Cooperation Programmes, stating the target values for the milestones to be reached by the end of 2018. With that objective, the MA introduced the necessary amendments to the Cooperation

Programme which was subject to the JMC approval via written procedure and the approval of the European Commission Implementing Decision No C(2017)6267 on 14 September 2017.

2nd Call for Proposals

A technical meeting between MA, JS and NAs, where modalities of 2nd CfP were discussed, was held on 24 October 2017 in Zagreb, Croatia. Taking into account that NAs did not achieve final agreement regarding certain CfP conditions, the negotiations were continued the negotiations were continued in Zagreb (Croatia) and Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) in 2018. JS started to draft Application Package for 2nd Call for Proposals in December 2017.

Human Resources

In June 2017, new staff members, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and Communication Officer, joined the Managing Authority. During 2017, four new staff members were hired in the JS out of which two were hired in branch offices in Mostar and Banja Luka. In September 2017 Head of JS has left the JS; Financial Manager from JS took over duties as acting Head of JS. The staff of the MA and JS participated at different trainings, workshops and events related to evaluation and monitoring, communication, public procurement, financial and project management.

Programme Management

The Annual Implementation Report for 2016 was drafted and approved by the JMC on 27 June 2017 and submitted to the European Commission.

The MA and JS prepared the Annual Work Plans for 2018 and Annual Communication Plan for 2018 and submitted them to the JMC for information and approval in December 2017.

Transmission of financial data to the European Commission was carried out in January, July and October 2017.

The Management Declaration and the annual control report were submitted to the European Commission in February 2017.

Information and communication activities

In line with the adopted Programme Communication Strategy and Annual Communication Plan for 2017, the MA implemented different information and communication activities.

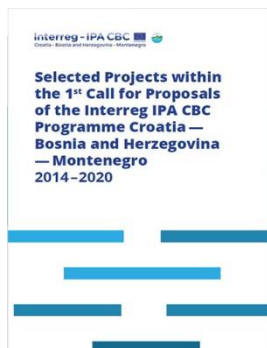
The representatives of the MA and JS attended the EU funds week organised in Zagreb in April 2017 by the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds of the Republic of Croatia and presented the role of the Managing Authority and the Programme.

The MA in cooperation with the Montenegrin Ministry of European Affairs organized 2nd Programme implementation launching conference on 10 July 2017 in Podgorica, which marked the contracting and the beginning of the implementation of projects under the 1st CfP. The conference was organised at the high level, the minister for Regional Development and EU Funds in Croatia and the minister for the European Affairs in Montenegro gave speeches before 100 participants from all three countries participating in the Programme. The event was followed by media.

The MA organized the European Cooperation Day (ECD) celebrating the achievements of cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation in the regions and countries throughout Europe in Šibenik on 7 October 2017. The MA presented the achievements of both Interreg IPA CBC Programmes at the event and signed additional four contracts for projects from the reserve list.

Furthermore, the digital booklet representing projects selected within the 1st Call for Proposals has been published on programme webpage and printed together with other promotional materials that were handed out to the participants during the ECD. The event was attended by 159 participants.

Digital booklet 1st Call for Proposals, click on the icon to open it:



The MA maintained the Programme website and social networks. Around 45 news posts were published on Programme's activities on the Programme web site during 2017. Two newsletters on Programmes' activities and events were sent out to relevant stakeholders.

The Visibility Guidelines which provide advice on communication activities within the Programme to project partners were published on 29 December 2017.

For further information, please contact:

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