

## Citizens' Summary of Annual Implementation Report for the Financial Year 2018

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The Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Montenegro 2014-2020 is a financing instrument of the European Territorial Cooperation, better known as Interreg. This instrument covers one of the goals of the European Union Cohesion policy and in this way provides neighboring regions of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro a chance to work together across borders.

Using resources of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance II (IPA II), the Programme is dedicated to strengthening the social, economic and territorial development of the cross-border area. In doing so, our goal is to achieve a better quality of life for people living in border regions. The abovementioned Funds provide co-financing of 57.155.316 EUR for project implementation under the following 4 priorities:



health and social care services



environment, biodiversity, risk prevention, sustainable energy and energy efficiency



tourism and cultural and natural heritage



competitiveness and business environment development

How are these funds used? The Programme, implemented by the Managing Authority and Joint Secretariat as two of the Programme Bodies that are involved in everyday implementation, works by launching a Call for Proposals and inviting potential applicants to submit their project ideas. So far, two Calls for Proposals were launched. Within the 1<sup>st</sup> Call for Proposals a total of 24 projects were contracted and a total of 21.263.897 EUR was allocated to partners from Croatia's, Bosnia and Herzegovina's and Montenegro's border area to contribute to better public health and social care; protect environment and biodiversity in the cross-border area, promote sustainable energy, nurture the cultural and natural heritage and create a favorable business environment.

What has been done in 2018? As projects of the 1<sup>st</sup> Call for Proposals started in 2017, during 2018 they reached some of important phases of their implementation. For example, in the framework of the Adriatic Canyoning project, a huge adventure park was opened in Vrbanj (Montenegro). The Park, which covers an area of 7200 m<sup>2</sup>, is considered one of the most modern adventure parks in the region and includes 44 devices, including 720 m of zip lines. Together with other planned investments in tourist infrastructure in Croatia (Obrovac and Drniš) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (Grude and Široki Brijeg), the project is making a significant contribution to tourist offer in the targeted cross-border region.



The year 2018 was essential for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Proposals as well. On 19 September 2018, the Managing Authority launched the 2<sup>nd</sup> CfP and closed it on 21 December 2018. With the total budget of almost 26 mil. EUR available for this Call, the Managing Authority and Joint Secretariat organized a series of info sessions, project clinics, thematic workshops and promotional events. A launching conference marking the opening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> CfP was held in Trebinje (Bosnia and Herzegovina) on 21 September 2018 and gathered more than 200 participants.





A total of 161 innovative applications that gathered 663 project partners from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro were received within the 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Proposals. The next steps of the Call, such as meetings of the Joint Steering Committee – a body consisting of representatives of all three countries whose responsibility is to ensure that the selection process is handled transparently and with equal treatment for all applicants – will take place in the following year.



As we were getting closer to the end of the year, we started preparations for the European Cooperation Day: an event which highlights achievements of regions working across borders. The 2018 EC Day theme was 'Painting our future together', so we gathered children from three homes for children from Dubrovnik (Croatia), Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Bijela (Montenegro). Our idea was to organize a cross-border art project, with activities such as coloring of T-shirts, painting canvases and making a wall mural, and it proved to be a great way to tell the story of cooperation between Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro.

