

Citizen's Summary of Annual Implementation Report for the financial year 2020

For financial perspective 2014 - 2020, Interreg IPA Cross-border cooperation programme Croatia – Bosnia and Herzegovina - Montenegro has at its disposal a total of EUR 67.241.552,00, of which EUR 57.155.316,00 comes from the European Regional Development Fund and Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance and EUR 10.086.236,00 from national co-financing.

Since the start of the Programme in 2015, the Managing Authority has published two calls for proposals, the first one in 2016 and the second one in 2018 and has so far contracted 59 projects. Programme contracting rate is 102,44%. In 2020, the Certifying Authority (CA) certified EUR 7.086.242,54, while EUR 6.022.136,40 was paid to Lead partners. From the beginning of projects' implementation until 23/12/2020, CA paid to the projects cumulative amount of EUR 19.349.842,27.

Total number of contracted projects per Priority Axis (1st and 2nd Call for Proposals):

Priority Axis 1



Improving the quality of the services in public health and social care sector

17 projects

Priority Axis 2



Protecting the environment and nature, improving risk prevention and promoting sustainable energy and energy efficiency

14 projects

Priority Axis 3



Contributing to the development of tourism and preserving cultural and natural heritage

14 projects

Priority Axis 4



Enhancing competitiveness and developing business environment in the programme area

14 projects

Out of 24 contracted projects within the 1st Call for Proposals, last projects were completed in the middle of 2020. Out of 35 projects contracted within the 2nd Call for Proposals, a total of 31 projects started with the implementation in 2020, while 4 projects were contracted in the beginning of 2021. Most of the projects from 2nd Call for Proposals will be finished by the end of 2022, while 6 projects will end in the beginning of 2023. Regular updates on Programme level are published on the Programme website in the section Programme news (<https://tinyurl.com/23f6jen8>) while project news and achievements can be followed in the section Project news (<https://tinyurl.com/46jmx83k>).

Project highlights

The project **SMART SCHOOLS** is a colourful and well-balanced combination of green investment in 7 school buildings, and active experiential learning & empowerment of youth and other citizens in efficient zero-cost behavioural energy efficiency measures (large-scale energy-saving school competition and Youth Solar Camp as innovative student-education tools, and energy management training for school employees). In parallel, dynamic communication and media activities increased public awareness of win-win socio-economic benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy generation.



Youth Solar Camp

The aim of the project **Becharac & Ganga** was to develop the cultural heritage based on "Becharac and Ganga" – the forms of folk songs protected by UNESCO as an intangible cultural heritage. Within project, a unique Square of Becharac and Museum of Becharac were constructed in Grad Pleternica to promote the cultural heritage of Becharac and other rich immaterial heritage. Also in Tomislavgrad, the Ganga and Hajdučka družina Square was constructed. The Square is the starting point of "Hajdučka družina" walkway that leads to many tourist sites throughout town

and beyond. This project was an excellent foundation for the restoration and preservation of cultural and historical heritage, and an ideal opportunity to develop cross-border tourism and cultural events.



Square of Becharac and Museum of Becharac



Promotion of Ganga

Project **CODE** contributed to the enhancement of business infrastructure and services to support innovations and cluster activities and improve start-up environment in cross-border area. Business support institutions (BSI) were supported to increase their impact on business environment through increasing quality of their service and creating supportive ambient within coworking spaces for enhancing start-up ecosystem. It enabled local BSIs to build their collaboration and created mentorship/coaching programme which helped start-ups to develop their projects. New service covered all stages of life cycle related to business incubation that is replicable in wider area. New business relationships and promotion of cross-border economic development were an added value within the project and opened further possibilities for joint drafting, implementation and financing of cross-border initiatives.



Coaching programmes

Education and communication activities

On 19 and 20 February 2020, the MA and JS organized a two-day Final Project Progress Report workshop for beneficiaries of the 1st Call for Proposals. The aim of the workshop was to present and discuss challenges and requirements of final reporting with the beneficiaries, since this report should present both achievements within last reporting period, and also share cumulative overview of the achievements during entire project implementation.

Since March 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak limited the possibility of organizing further face-to-face workshops and trainings for Programme beneficiaries, as well as communication events. Planned face-to-face events were cancelled or held online. For this reason, in 2020 the Programme has managed to organize the following communication events.

In order to mark the 30 years of INTERREG, the Programme organized 3 local events and planted 10 trees in each country (in Podgorica in Montenegro on 30 September 2020, in Karlovac in Croatia on 6 October 2020 and in Hutovo blato in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 27 October 2020). 30 trees represent 30 years of successful INTERREG cooperation and one of the themes of the celebration (Green Europe).



Planting 10 trees in Podgorica (Montenegro)

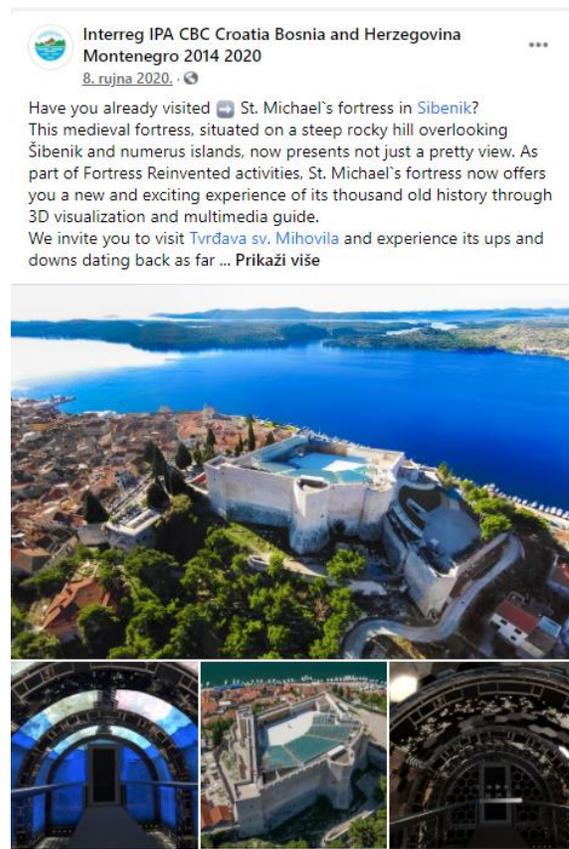
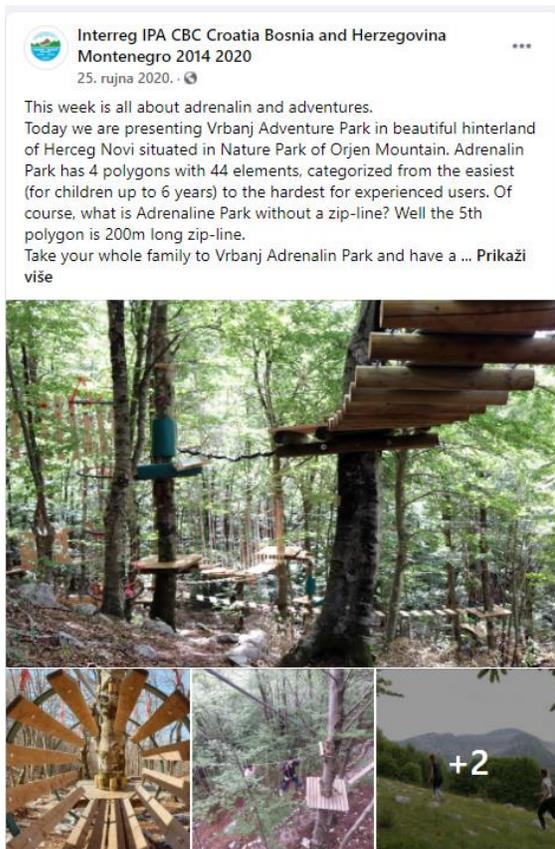


Planting 10 trees in Karlovac (Croatia)



Planting 10 trees in Hutovo blato (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

European Cooperation Day was also promoted through the social media campaign “Discover your neighbourhood” on Facebook. During 4 weeks campaign, interesting touristic routes, sites and events, developed or improved within projects were presented on Programme’s Facebook page and followers were invited to visit or (re) discover them and share their experience by posting their photos and using the dedicated hashtags. Among others, the campaign promoted an adrenalin adventure by project ADRIATIC CANYONING, the cultural heritage of folk songs Becharac and Ganga protected by UNESCO by the project Becharac & Ganga and historic sites by the projects HERITAGE ROUTE, Fortress ReInvented and RiTour.



Facebook promotional campaign „Discover your neighbourhood“ to mark 30 years of INTERREG

Projects SMART SCHOOLS and IRENE, which were contracted under 1st Call for Proposals, were nominated in the final round of prestigious competition „Selection for the best EU project 2020“. Competition was organised by Croatian daily newspapers Jutarnji list, in cooperation with the Croatian Union of Counties, the Office of the European Parliament in Croatia and webpage Župan.hr.

To celebrate 30 years of Interreg Programmes, European Commission Directorate – General for Regional and Urban Policy published an e-book to display projects that represent the best of European Territorial Cooperation. Project PESCAR, contracted under the 1st Call for Proposals, was presented in the [e-book](#), under topic Neighbour Cohesion.

The project SMART SCHOOLS was also featured on the Smart region section of the Euronews web-portal, one of Europe’s leading international news channels where various EU projects are presented in order to show how Cohesion Policy projects are helping people live better lives across the EU.