

Interreg - IPA CBC



CCI 2014TC16I5CB006

AIR 2016

Citizen's Summary

Environment



Tourism



Competitiveness



www.ipa-cbc-007.eu



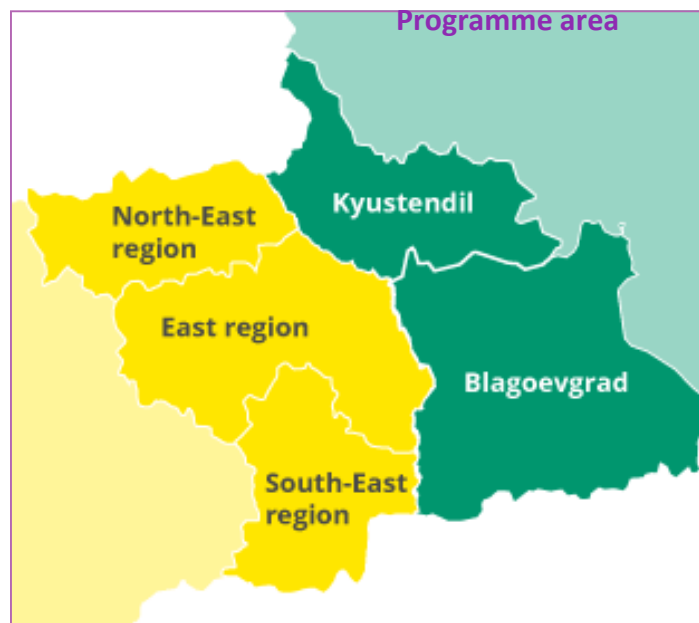
Programme co-funded by the
EUROPEAN UNION

ABOUT THE SUMMARY

The Summary aims to describe in a concise and illustrative way the main achievements of the Interreg-IPA CBC Bulgaria-the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Programme (the Programme) in the year 2016. The complete Annual implementation report for 2016 is now available at the Programme website: www.ipa-cbc-007.eu

Contents:

- Brief Programme description
- 1st Call for proposals results
- Main events in 2016/European Cooperation Day
- Programme website and social media pages
- Public awareness activities



THE PROGRAMME

The **overall objective of the Programme** is to intensify cross-border cooperation between both partnering countries in order to jointly address common challenges and exploit untapped potentials of the border regions.

The Programme supports joint measures for: risk management and mitigation the effects of climate change; conservation and preservation of natural and cultural heritage; sustainable use of natural resources, environmental protection etc.. The Programme also provides possibilities for joint interventions addressing the competitiveness of SMEs and their access to new markets.

Programme Budget

The total Programme budget is **EUR 19 461 690**. The Programme is co-funded by the European Union, from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II).

Priority Axes and specific objectives

Priority Axis 1: Environment



1.1. Environmental protection and sustainable use of the common natural resources of the CBC area.

1.2. Prevention and mitigation the consequences of natural

Priority Axis 2: Tourism



2.1. Enhancing the tourism potential of the region through cooperation initiatives in better preservation and sustainable of natural and cultural heritage.

2.2. Raising the competitiveness of the CBC region's tourist offer.

2.3. Promoting cooperation among regional actors in the area of sustainable tourism.

Priority Axis 3: Competitiveness



3.1. Improving the competitiveness of regional businesses.

LAUNCH OF 1st CALL FOR PROPOSALS

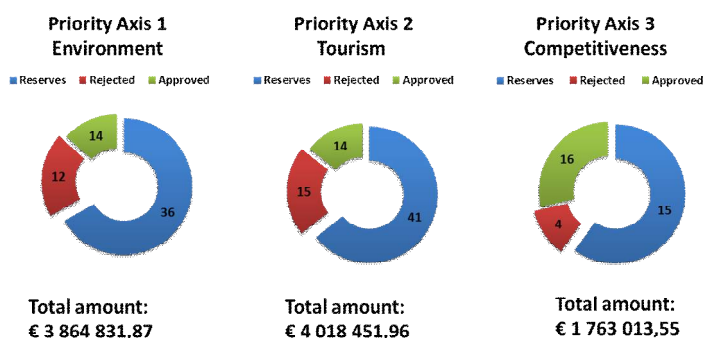
Basic facts about the First Call for project proposals:

- **Duration of the Call** - 4 months- launched on 23 September 2015 with deadline on 25 January 2016;
- **Budget of the Call** - The total amount allocated to the First Call for proposals is EUR 7 240 496;
- **Scope of the Call** - The Call was open to project proposals under all 6 specific objectives under the 3 priority axes;
- **Promotion of the Call** -The Call was promoted in the national newspapers in both countries, as well as on numerous website, through social media, and at 5 public events known as "Info days" and the very popular "Partner Search Forum";
- **Submitted project proposals** - 213 application forms were received within the deadline.
- **134 out of 213** project proposals submitted within the set deadline received at least 65 points on the quality assessment
- Due to the high interest among the stakeholders and the overall good quality of the submitted project proposals, the Monitoring Committee decided to increase the initial budget of the Call (including the 2018 allocation) to the total amount of **EUR 10 134 755**;
- In total 48 project proposals were approved for funding, out of which: **45 subsidy contracts** were concluded in 2016 and **3 more contracts** are expected to be signed in 2017. The list of all projects approved for financing is uploaded on the Programme's website.

Assessment of projects:

- **The Administrative Compliance and Eligibility Check** of all submitted project proposals was performed by the Assessment Working Group, consisting of members of the Managing Authority, the National Authority and the Joint Secretariat, during the period 08 February – 25 March 2016. In total 165 project proposals were found compliant, while 48 were rejected;
- **The Technical and Quality Check** was performed during the period 20 April – 31 May 2016. The assessment of the projects quality was carried out by 20 independent external assessors - 10 from each country;
- **The Assessment process** was conducted online through the Management Information System of the Programme.

Projects proposed for financing by Priority Axes

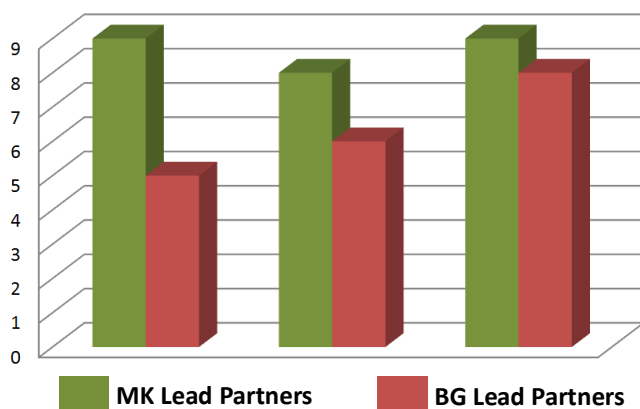


FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS - RESULTS

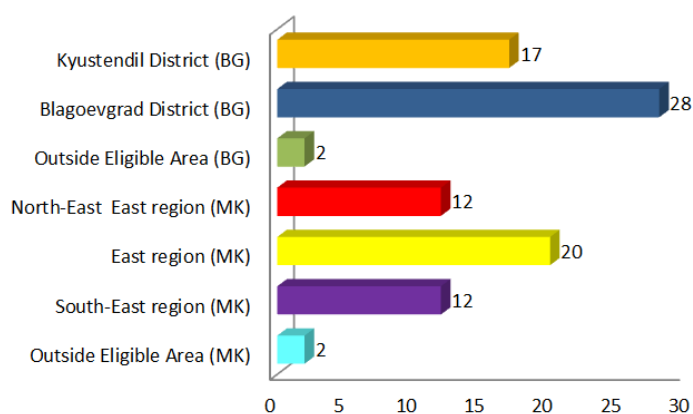
Basic facts about the First Call for project proposals

- The majority of the projects are soft proposals;
- The Lead partners (LPs) of the contracted projects are distributed as follows: 20 LPs from Bulgaria and 25 LPs from Macedonia;
- The most presented partnership organizations are the associations, followed by municipalities, public institutes and government administrations;
- 28 Project Partners from Bulgaria and 21 from Macedonia are participating in the implementation of the projects.

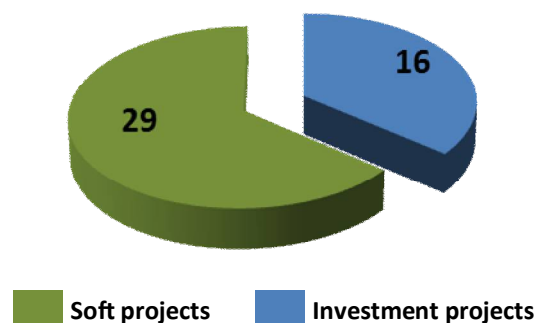
Distribution by Lead Partners



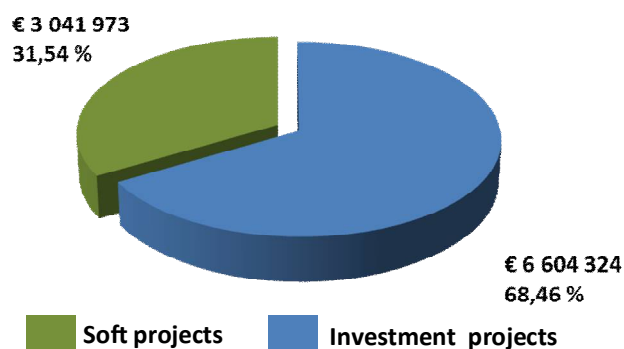
Distribution of Partners by Region



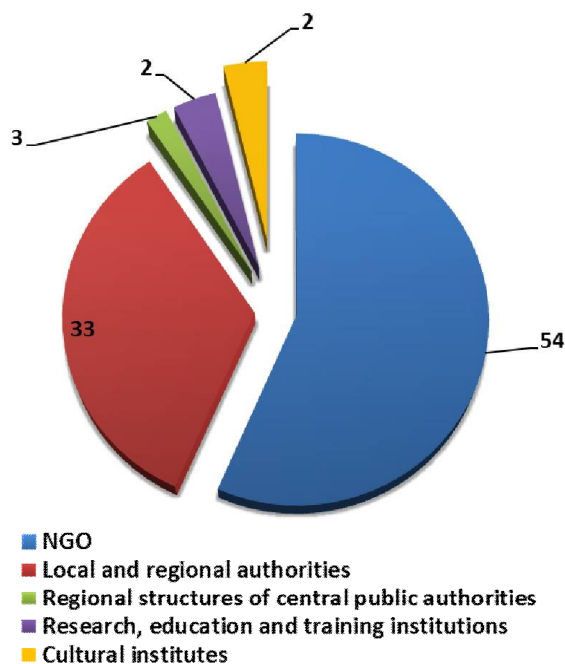
Number of projects by type



Financing of projects by type



Distribution by type of organization



EVENTS ORGANISED IN 2016

The **Second** Joint Monitoring Committee meeting was held on 14 April 2016 in Kumanovo.

On 23 June, 2016 in Kyustendil, Bulgaria the **Third** Joint Monitoring Committee meeting was held on which the first projects to be funded by the Programme were approved.

Due to the increased interest and the significant number of proposals received under the first call, the Joint Monitoring Committee decided to increase the budget of the Call with additional financial resources at the amount of 3 357 419 euro (allocated for 2018).



Under the three priority axes a total of 45 projects were approved for financing at of the amount of 10 134 755 euro.



The **official ceremony** for awarding of the first 45 subsidy contracts under the First Call for proposals was held on 19 October 2016, at the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Training seminars were held respectively on 21 October 2016 in Kyustendil and on 3 November 2016 in Strumica for the beneficiaries of the approved projects under the First Call for proposals.

The training seminars were focused on technical and financial project implementation, including requirements for project, monitoring, verification of expenditure, use of electronic system for and others.



EUROPEAN COOPERATION DAY 2016



For a fifth year the Programme celebrated the **European Cooperation Day**.

The Joint Secretariat, together with the Managing and National Authorities organized a cross border concert on 10 September 2016 in Bansko.

The legendary rock band “Leb i Sol” together with the Orchestra Chamber Opera – Blagoevgrad (conductor Sasha Nikolovski – Gjumar) and the famous Bulgarian pop singer Raffi Bohosyan, presented the Project

“**Leb i Sol Symphony**” to the large audience that attended the open air initiative.

The concert attracted large audience from the CBC region which had the opportunity to enjoy an unique musical performance.

This event was highly estimated by INTERACT as a good example for promotion of the cross-border cooperation.



PROGRAMME WEBSITE and SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

During 2016 the official website of the Programme www.ipa-cbc-007.eu (accessible to people with disabilities as well) was one of the main publicity tools to promote the Programme and to disseminate the relevant information in a user-friendly interface, which allows the necessary information to be found more easily. During the 2016 the Programme website was visited 31 820 times of which 60.2% are new and 39.8% are old visitors.



FACEBOOK & TWITTER

Programme related information has been published on the Facebook and Twitter Programme profiles. By the end of 2016 Facebook reached more than 2800 members. The Facebook and Twitter pages provide

links to the Programme official website and websites of the project beneficiaries, as well as photos from events, implemented projects and the cross-border region as whole. The postings on the Programme Facebook page have got over 120 000 views.



PROGRAMME MEDIA CAMPAIGN AND MEDIA COVERAGE

Two media campaigns were organized: campaign for Training seminar for programme beneficiaries under the 1st Call and campaign for European Cooperation Day 2016. Over 80 different publications related to Programme activities were spreaded among general public through electronic media of both countries (Web portals, local, regional and national newspapers, TV and radio stations).

Press releases were distributed to national, regional and local media before and after the programme events and initiatives.

During the European Cooperation Day 2016 ten boost articles in both languages (video clip, poster of EC Day 2016 and photo event) were uploaded on the Facebook page, having as target groups the local population in the cross-border region.

The collage features several key media coverage elements:

- Top Left:** Bulgarian Television Agency (БТА) website snippet with news categories like 'Новини', 'Снимки', 'Пресклуб', etc.
- Top Center:** 'VEST' (ВЕСТ) website snippet with the headline 'Македонските легенди от „Либ и сол“ свират заедно с Камерна опера-Благоевград на концерт в Банско'.
- Top Right:** 'NOVA MAKEDONIJA' website snippet with a photo of a concert and the headline '„Либ и сол“ на концерт во Банско'.
- Middle Left:** 'STRUMA' website snippet with the headline 'Българо-македонска симфония в Банско'.
- Middle Center:** 'DA'IK' website snippet with the headline 'Още 3 млн. евро и 44 одобрени проекта по първата покана за ТГС България- Македония'.
- Middle Right:** 'BVARA' website snippet with the headline 'Д-р Величка Кадие Управител на „Специализирана болница за реабилитация на белодробна болест...“'.
- Bottom Left:** 'BGP' (БГП) website snippet with the headline 'Благоевградската Камерна опера и известната македонска група „Либ и сол“ представят общия си музикален проект „Либ и сол Symphony“'.
- Bottom Center:** 'Anebnik ONLINE' website snippet with the headline '„ЛИБ И СОЛ“ КЕ СВИРАТ НА ОТВОРЕНА СЦ'.
- Bottom Right:** Facebook post from 'Interreg - ИПП Програмата за трансгранично сътрудничество между България и Македония на 10 септември 2016 г.' with a photo of a concert and the headline 'Ден на европейското сътрудничество 2016 в Банско'.

TOGETHER IS MUCH BETTER



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