# Interreg - IPA CBC **Bulgaria - Turkey**



- Brief description of the Programme;
- Programme preparation activities;
- Info seminars "The opportunities for cross-border cooperation between Bulgaria and Turkey in the new programming period 2014 - 2020";
- Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) meeting;
- Preparation and launch of the 1<sup>st</sup> Call for project proposals;
- Information Days and the Partner Search Forum;
- New Programme website and social media pages.

Full report of activities is available at the Programme website: http://www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu



# THE PROGRAMME



#### Programme area

#### In Bulgaria: 3 districts

District of Burgas , District of Yambol and District of Haskovo

**In Turkey:** 2 provinces Province of Edirne and Province of Kırklareli

Programme budget 29 642 896 EUR

#### **Overall objective**

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**



1.1: Preventing and mitigating the consequences of natural and man-made disasters in the cross-border area;

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

#### Priority axis 2: Sustainable tourism



2.1: Increasing the touristic attractiveness of the cross-border area through better utilization of natural, cultural and historical heritage and related infrastructure;

2.2: Increasing the cross-border tourism potential by developing common destinations;

2.3: Increasing networking for development of sustainable tourism through cross-border cooperation initiatives.



### **PROGRAMME PREPARATION ACTIVITIES**



The programme preparation took place in the period November 2013 -September 2014, ending with the approval of the final version of the programme by the governments of both countries. Three meetings of the Joint Working Group (JWG) were held:

 $\checkmark$  1<sup>st</sup> JWG meeting was held on 26 November 2013 in Sofia, Bulgaria

 $\checkmark$  2<sup>nd</sup> JWG meeting was held on 13 May 2014 in Ankara, Turkey.

✓ 3<sup>rd</sup> (final) JWG meeting was held on 20 August 2014 in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Four Regional public consultations were organized in 2014, attended by more than 200 representatives of local, regional and national administrations, public institutions, NGOs, community centres, socio-economic partners, educational and other bodies.

All consultations were held in respectively Bulgarian or Turkish language (depending on the location).

- ✓ The First regional pubic consultations were held in Haskovo on 19 March 2014 and in Edirne on 20 March 2014. Main focus of the events was on the intervention logic Programme.
- ✓ A second round of public consultations events was organized on 18 and 19 June 2014. The meetings took the form of plenary discussions on thematic priorities, specific objectives, results, target groups, beneficiaries, and indicative activities.





## **INFO SEMINARS**

Two Info seminars on theme "The opportunities for cross-border cooperation between Bulgaria and Turkey in the new programming period 2014 - 2020" for potential beneficiaries have been organized by the Joint secretariat (JS), in cooperation with the Managing Authority (MA), National Authority (NA) and JS Antenna office.

- One of the seminars has been organized on 19 February 2015 in Burgas and was attended by 108 representatives of 97 different organizations.
- The second seminar has been organized in Edirne, Trakya University on 26 May 2015. In this seminar 75 participants from 64 different organizations were present.

During the seminars representatives from the MA, NA and the JS of the programme presented to the participants the mechanism of application and evaluation of the project proposals. Information about eligibility of applicants, activities and expenditures has been provided.





# JOINT MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING

The Programme was approved by the European Commission on 22 July 2016.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Joint Monitoring Committee meeting was held on 27 October 2015, in Sofia, Bulgaria. The Joint Monitoring Committee approved:

- ✓ Internal rules and procedures;
- Guidelines for applicants for the  $1^{st}$  Call for proposals;
- ✓ Multiannual technical assistance plan;
- ✓ Communication strategy.

A decision to launch in November 2015 the  $1^{st}$  Call for proposals was taken.







# FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS

In order to improve the quality receiving feedback the Application package for the first Call for proposals was published in advance on the Programme website for public review. Potential applicants, as well as other interested stakeholders were invited to give their suggestions and comments.

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			ОБЯ	ви		
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Интервюта			предложения по Програмата Интеррег – ИПП за трансгранично сътрудничество България-Турция			
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The Call was open for project proposals under both priority axes and all 5 specific objectives.

- ✓ The First call for project proposals was launched on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2015.
- ✓ The call was opened for 4 months, with deadline on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2016.
- ✓ The total amount allocated to the First Call for proposals is € 11 028 255.

In order to help the potential applicants for all 136 questions asked, answers were published on the website.

The call was promoted in national newspapers in both countries, as well as on the respective websites as follows: <u>www.mrrb.government.bg</u>;

<u>www.ab.gov.tr;</u> <u>www.eufunds.bg</u>

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### **1<sup>ST</sup> CALL FOR PROPOSALS - INFORMATION EVENTS**





Edirne, Turkey

In order to ensure broad visibility and information for the stakeholders, series of events were organized targeting potential beneficiaries from the cross-border region aiming to promote the Call and assist interested potential applicants in project preparation and submission.

Eight sessions for project preparation trainings and one partnership forum were organized for the potential beneficiaries in Edirne and Kırklareli in the period September – October 2015.

In addition, official opening of the information campaign for the 1<sup>st</sup> Call for project proposals was organised on 16 December in Haskovo. More than 230 Turkish and 250 Bulgarian potential applicants took part in the event and had the opportunity to receive detailed information and clarifications on the 1<sup>st</sup> Call.









## NEW PROGRAMME WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES



## http://www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu/

The website was completely redesigned in 2015, featuring modern interactive design, simplified user-friendly interface, and the new visual identity. New features include: "Responsive design", "Featured news", "Beneficiary portal" (under development), and a variety of "Share" options.



In order to ensure better and timely information to relevant stakeholders and the general public in social networks official Facebook and Twitter pages of the Programme were created in August 2015.



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### MEDIA CAMPAIGN AND COVERAGE

