

IPA II Cross-border Cooperation Programme Bulgaria – Turkey

CCI number 2014TC16I5CB005

Citizens' Summary



The Programme Area

The cross-border area of IPA II Cross-border Cooperation Programme Bulgaria – Turkey is located in South-Eastern Europe, at the Balkan Peninsula and includes the NUTS III districts Burgas, Yambol and Haskovo in Republic of Bulgaria and the NUTS III equivalent provinces Edirne and Kırklareli in the Republic of Turkey. The territory has an extent of about 29.000 km² and the common border of both countries stretches along 288 km (including three operating border crossings) and has a total population of 1,5 Million inhabitants (784.480 inhabitants on the Bulgarian eligible programming area and 742.000 inhabitants on the Turkish eligible programming area. The eligible area in Bulgaria represents 14.99 % of the total territory of the country respectively the eligible area in Turkey represents 1.58 % of total country territory.

Map of IPA II CBC Programme Bulgaria-Turkey



Strategic Policy Context

The IPA II CBC Programme Bulgaria-Turkey is designed in the framework of the European strategy for a smart, inclusive and sustainable growth and the relevant national strategic documents. The main policy framework at European, macro-regional and national level are reflected at the programme are as follow:

- ◆ **The Europe 2020: A European Strategy for Smart, Sustainable, and Inclusive Growth**

The Europe 2020 strategy is shared among the European institutions, the Member States and the social partners in order to be taken the necessary action to help reach the Europe 2020 targets. The strategy puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities – smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. These targets require a mixture of national and EU action, utilising the full range of policies and instruments available.

- ◆ **The European territorial cooperation strategy and the role of the Cross Border Cooperation**

The European territorial agenda 2020 identifies some key challenges and potentials for territorial development. These include increased exposure to globalisation, demographic changes, social and economic exclusion, climate change, and loss of biodiversity, all relevant to the Programme area. It describes the European territorial cooperation (ETC) and CBC Programmes, as “... a key factor in global competition... facilitating better utilisation of development potentials and the protection of natural environment”. These categories provide a starting point for the typology of results of cooperation programmes, which reveals some crucial aspects of the ETC approach, namely: integration, investment and performance related results

Complementary, the **Commission working document “Elements for a Common Strategic Framework 2014 to 2020”** describes a number of other characteristics of cross-border cooperation: 1) Support the joint management and promotion of the shared major geographic features; 2) Achieving economies of scale for more efficient investments in services and infrastructure;

- ◆ **The European Union Civil Protection Legislation¹**

A rising trend in natural and man-made disasters over the past decade has demonstrated that coherent, efficient and effective policies on disaster management are needed now more than ever. The new EU Civil Protection Mechanism came into effect at the beginning of 2014. The new legislation places a much greater emphasis on disaster prevention, risk management, and disaster preparedness, including the organisation of trainings, simulation exercises and the exchange of experts, but also developing new elements, such as a voluntary pool of pre-committed response capacities by the Member States. The revised legislation creates a European Emergency Response Capacity, moving from the current ad hoc arrangement to a more predictable and reliable system that allows for better planning.

- ◆ **Strategic Frameworks for Bulgaria 2014 - 2020: EU Partnership Agreement & Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy & NUTS III Regional Development Strategies**

The Bulgarian Partnership Agreement highlights the central role of the CBC programmes participated by Bulgaria, for the contribution to the EU development strategy. The CBC programmes should also emphasize the importance of promoting employment, improving tourism and promoting cultural heritage, while enhancing the connection between the communities of the border areas. Improvement of the environmental system is also to be promoted.

In terms of building a capacity for preparedness to manage emergency situations in the cross-border area the cooperation program fully corresponds to the key Bulgarian document - Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy 2014 – 2020.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/aid/countries/factsheets/thematic/civil_protection_legislation_en.pdf



In addition, in all three NUTS III Regional Development Strategies 2014 – 2020 of Haskovo, Yambol and Burgas regions in Bulgaria tourism and all aspects of nature protection have been selected as a key areas for development during the next programming period, including in the cross-border aspect.

♦ **Strategic Frameworks for Turkey: Strategy Paper for Turkey 2014-2020 & Trakiya Region Development Plan 2014 - 2023**

The objective of pre-accession assistance will be to promote territorial cooperation with a view to strengthen cross-border, transnational cooperation, foster the socio-economic development of the border regions as well as develop appropriate administrative capacities at local and regional levels through participation of beneficiary countries in cross-border activities: *“A key objective of the Turkey-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Programme is to tackle the lack of competitiveness in the socio-economic development in the relevant area as compared to EU development levels. Another aim is to face common challenges in the environment and nature protection, as well as in relation to cross-border emergency situations.”*

In terms of building a capacity for preparedness to manage emergency situations in the cross-border area the cooperation program will contribute to related policy documents that are under the responsibility of Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency of Turkey (AFAD) and all other policy actors in this sector.

In addition, in line with Trakiya Region Development Plan 2014 – 2023, part of which are both NUTS III Turkish_Provinces Edirne and Kırklareli, tourism as well as all aspects of nature protection have been selected as a key areas for development during the mentioned programming period, including in the cross-border aspect.

Thematic Priorities

In line with Regulation (EU) No 231 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II), the following **Thematic priorities** are considered under this programme:

♦ **Thematic priority (b): Protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management**

The environmental protection/ preservation are issues for geographically limited areas, which are often spreading across national borders; therefore a sustainable risk management and the protection of natural resources is a necessity for the CBC region. TP relates directly to a main priority of EU2020 as well as to both relevant national and regional strategic documents. Over the years both countries have very good traditions in environmental protection in the CBC area. There exist similar environmental risks in both countries, such as floods and forest fires in the CBC area. Environmental issues do not stop in front of borders and need to be addressed regionally and on cross-border level. There exists the need to raise awareness and measures on climate changes as it has major impact on economy and life. The existing nature protected areas and the tradition of their protection is a mean to address relevant initiatives. Joint spatial planning (in particular spatial planning of marine space) is a means to better coordinate and manage both environmental risk minimization and environmental protection.

♦ **Thematic priority (d): Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage**

The cross-border area shows a very high potential of natural, cultural and historical heritage. This is a connecting factor between both countries and resembles to contribute to future cross-border development in the region. Tourism is a thematic part of relevant national and regional strategies documents of both countries. TP was highly ranked during the programming process by the relevant stakeholders and has well established pre-conditions for development of joint touristic products/services during the period 2007-2013. Through a balanced approach and combination of investment and soft measures the overall capacity for development and implementation of diversified touristic products/services so to valorise the natural, cultural and historical



heritage will be obtained. Last but not least, TP illustrates a good area for networking activities.

Programme Strategy

The IPA II CBC Programme Bulgaria-Turkey contributes directly to the EU and national strategic documents in line with the concept for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Smart growth is fostered amongst others through cooperative measure in the field of environment and low-carbon economy, as well as through activities in the field of tourism (measures in the area of natural and cultural heritage); strengthening the region's youth – as backbone for future developments in the area, improving research and competitiveness and promoting R&D to mitigate brain drain – are regarded as cross-cutting issues for synergies with the selected thematic priorities of the Programme. Sustainable growth, sustainable use of resources, is directly tackled by the Programme's priority axis 1 "Environment", covering the preservation of the environment as one of the most important assets of the area as well as disaster management, depicting a typical cross-border issue of major relevance for the area; sustainable development is therefore one of the main principles of the CBC Programme. A strong relation to inclusive growth is visible for priority axis 2 "Sustainable Tourism". This thematic field aims at capitalising the region's natural, cultural and historical heritage. Competitiveness in general is regarded as a cross-cutting basis for regional development in the area. The IPA II CBC Programme Bulgaria-Turkey directly contributes to the flagship initiatives "Youth on the move", "Resource efficient Europe", and "Agenda for new skills and jobs". In line with the programme strategy

The overall aim of the IPA II CBC Programme Bulgaria-Turkey is:

Strengthening the Bulgaria-Turkey cross-border cooperation capacity in the field of nature protection and sustainable tourism, leading to enhancement of European territorial cohesion

Justification for the financial allocation

The financial allocation proposed in the following table aims at achieving the envisaged programme results effectively with the limited resources available for the funding period 2014-2020. The selected thematic priorities and the corresponding specific objectives are aiming at the cross-border cooperation between Bulgaria and Turkey in the following strands: 1) improving and preservation of the environment to foster sustainability and the quality of life; 2) strengthening of the tourism sector by capitalising the cultural and natural heritage in the BG-TR CBC region. In the selection process of thematic priorities (as outlined above), especially the relevance of the different topics regarding CBC were assessed. Especially climate change and risk management – where especially flooding and fire are cross-border and transnational issues – and the protection of the environment (including natural and cultural heritage and common traditions) are regarded as relevant for the area in a cross-border perspective. Based on the major relevance of these two topics regarding cross-border cooperation, 45% of the programme budget will be allocated to each of these priorities; 10% of the budget is foreseen for the technical assistance of the programme. For the environmental priority e.g. an increase in interventions in the field of risk prevention and management and an improved capacity and sustainable use of common natural resources through joint initiatives for nature protection are aimed at. In the field of sustainable tourism especially a higher level of valorisation of natural and cultural heritage in the tourism context and an increased number of cross-border networks operating in the field of sustainable are intended. The given financial weighting is in line with the lessons learned of the current Programme, the needs analysis, as well as the analysis of the expectations and needs of the relevant stakeholders in the CBC-area.



Overview of the investment strategy of the cooperation programme				
Priority axis	Financial support (in EUR)	Proportion (%) of the financial support between Priority axes	Thematic priorities	Result indicators corresponding to the thematic priority
PA 1 “Environment”	13 339 303	45 %	(b): Protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased level of preparedness to manage emergency situations in the cross-border area • Increased capacity level for nature protection, sustainable use and management of common natural resources in the cross-border area
PA 2 “Sustainable tourism”	13 339 303	45 %	(d): Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased nights spent in the cross-border area • Increased level of joint and integrated approaches to sustainable tourism development in the border area • Increased level of awareness initiatives promoting alternative forms of tourism
PA 3 “Technical assistance”	2 964 290	10 %	Technical Assistance	n/a
Total	29 642 896			



Priority Axis 1 “Environment”

This Priority axis aims at an increase in interventions in the field of risk prevention and management and an improved capacity and sustainable use of common natural resources through joint initiatives for nature protection. The given financial weighting is in line with the lessons learned of the current Programme, the needs analysis, as well as the analysis of the expectations and needs of the relevant stakeholders in the CBC-area.

<i>Priority axis</i>	<i>Environment</i>
<i>Thematic Priority</i>	<i>(b): Protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management</i>
<p>Specific Objective 1.1.: Preventing and mitigating the consequences of natural and man-made disasters in the cross-border area</p> <p><u>Possible actions to be supported:</u></p> <p>Early warning and disaster management systems, equipment/fixed assets, small-scale interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Development of early warning and disaster management systems → Investments in supply of equipment/ fixed assets related to disaster resilience: up-to-date ICT solutions in pre-fire, fire and post-fire activities; supply of specialized fire-fighting equipment; and for search and rescue interventions; supply of system for air surveillance of the surface and real time transmission of data and others. → Support of small-scale interventions / investments: restoration of flood plains and wetlands, afforestation, re-meandering, sanitation of river banks; building flood defence (dikes, canals etc.); forestation of non-permanent vulnerable land; cuttings for emergency situations; supply of specialized equipment/ fixed assets for floods’ prevention and others.; <p>Joint initiatives, strategies, trainings, services, awareness raising campaigns, exchange of experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Developing joint strategies / common guidelines for risk prevention and management of natural and man-made disasters (for disaster protection and prevention policies and mechanisms, prevention and firefighting management, prevention of floodings, and others) → Awareness campaigns in the field of efficient risk prevention and management. → Conducting joint theoretical-tactical exercises and field trainings for emergency situations management → Trainings in the use of ICT technologies, including introduction of new methods → Exchange of experience and good practice (study visits, round-tables, conferences, and others); → Enhancement of cooperation in the field of water management and in particular on the issue of flood prevention → Joint trainings, awareness raising campaigns of public service actors, youths, volunteers and other population’s groups for disaster resilience. <p>The natural flood risk management approach (green infrastructure) will be considered as preferable to grey infrastructure projects.</p>	



TARGET GROUPS:

- All levels of Local/Regional authorities;
- Associations of Local/Regional authorities and of other organisations;
- Regional/local offices and structures of central government institutions/ administrations;
- Euro regions and other joint cross border structures and institutions;
- Administrations of protected areas
- Universities and scientific institutions
- Groups of population of the CBC region
- Young people (up to age of 29)

POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES:

- All levels of Local/Regional authorities
- Central and regional offices and structures of relevant national and governmental institutions/administrations
- Regional and sector development agencies

Specific Objective 1.2.: Improving the capacity for nature protection, sustainable use and management of common natural resources through cooperation initiatives in the cross-border area**Possible actions to be supported:****Environmental friendly small-scale investments:**

- Environmental friendly small-scale investments for improving accessibility of / to nature protected sites (e.g. walking paths, cycling routs, small road sections leading to protected areas, etc)
- Environmental friendly small-scale investment in: green infrastructure for coastal engineering, green spaces, green roofs and walls, fresh air corridors, birdwatch facilities, etc.
- Small scale investments in waste recycling, waste collection, waste separation, remediation of illegal dumping sites, etc.;
- Environmental friendly small-scale investment in restoration of habitats for biodiversity and improvement of the delivery of ecosystem services;
- Supply of equipment for protecting/preserving/monitoring the ecosystems and for control of pollution of rivers/sea
- Restoration activities targeting the achievement of favourable conservation status of the species and natural habitats, subject of conservation in the established protected areas in the CBC region.

Joint initiatives and cooperation, exchange of experience and know-how, trainings and capacity building activities:

- Development and implementation of joint management plans/coordinated specific conservation activities for protected areas based on innovative concepts
- Joint initiatives targeting the effective management of protected areas, including marine protected areas;
- Joint initiatives addressing nature protection in the Black Sea and coastal zones, including joint monitoring surveys and identification of joint marine protected areas



- Spatial planning initiatives across borders (especially related to spatial planning of maritime space and protected areas) in order to harmonise the use of the maritime resources and align it with the overall nature protection goals of the Black Sea Strategy.

Joint initiatives addressing water quality and management:

- Capacity building initiatives, trainings, assessment and monitoring, exchange of experience and know-how in the environment-related matters: preservation and improvement of the quality of natural resources (air, soil, water); protection and restoration of ecosystems, endangered /protected flora and fauna species; sustainable use of resources and recycling; waste managements; other related issues
- Awareness raising initiatives related to the possibilities to mainstream air quality in agriculture (e.g. in livestock keeping, handling of manure, using fertiliser, burning of biomass and agricultural waste).
- Cooperation initiatives between local authorities, NGOs and related institutions, education and training institutions, universities and scientific institutions in the field of environment, nature protection, safe and sustainable low-carbon economy
- Cooperation initiatives in the field of marine litter reduction: assessment and monitoring, removal (e.g. beach cleaning or fishing for litter), awareness raising, making available adequate port reception facilities, etc.
- Joint initiatives addressing the sustainable use of common renewable energy sources and integration of renewable electricity in the context of interconnections between Bulgaria and Turkey
- Creating knowledge networks for innovations in the field of sustainable use of common natural resources.
- Development and implementation of joint awareness raising campaigns, in the field of environment & nature protection issues, including eco labelling of local products.

TARGET GROUPS:

- All levels of Local/Regional authorities;
- Associations of Local/Regional authorities and of other organisations;
- Regional/local offices and structures of central government institutions/ administrations;
- Euro regions and other joint cross border structures and institutions;
- Universities and scientific institutions
- Educational and training institutions and organizations;
- Business support institutions and organisations - Chambers of commerce, industry and crafts and others
- Administrations of protected areas
- Youth organizations
- Groups of population of the CBC region

POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES:

- All levels of Local/Regional authorities;
- Associations of Local/Regional authorities and of other organisations;
- Central and regional offices and structures of central government institutions/ administrations;
- Administrations of protected areas
- Euro regions and other joint cross border structures and institutions;
- Universities and scientific institutions



- Educational and training institutions and organizations;
- Business support institutions and organisations - Chambers of commerce, industry and crafts; and others
- NGOs (incl. Local Action Groups – LAGs)
- Youth organizations

Priority axis 2 “Sustainable tourism”

This Priority axis aims at strengthening of the tourism sector by capitalising on the cultural and natural heritage in the Bulgaria-Turkey CBC region. The given financial weighting is in line with the lessons learned of the current Programme, the needs analysis, as well as the analysis of the expectations and needs of the relevant stakeholders in the CBC-area.

Priority axis	“Sustainable tourism”
Thematic Priority	(d): Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage
<p>Specific Objective 2.1.: Increasing the touristic attractiveness of the cross-border area through better utilisation of natural, cultural and historical heritage and related infrastructure</p> <p><u>Possible actions to be supported:</u></p> <p>Small-scale investments and ICT facilities establishment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Small scale investments for improving accessibility to natural, cultural and historic touristic sites including: rehabilitation of access roads, cycling routes, walking paths → Small scale investments for improving conditions of natural, cultural and historical touristic sites including: restoration, maintenance, conservation, protection, as well as providing access to touristic sites for people with disabilities → Upgrade of public utilities (electricity, water-supply, sewerage, etc.) on natural, cultural and historic tourism sites → Small touristic border crossings and related facilities → Establishment/ development/upgrade of ICT touristic facilities including info-centres and/or kiosks to guide potential visitors. <p>In case of support actions related to ICT possible synergies with ICT Innovation vouchers, in line with the Commission’s guidance on ICT Innovation Voucher Schemes could be foreseen.</p> <p>ICT and GIS platforms, touristic transport schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Development of joint GIS platforms → Development of joint platforms for online reservations, payment, etc. → Development of touristic transport schemes and related activities in Black Sea coastal zones 	



TARGET GROUPS:

- All levels of Local/Regional authorities
- Administrations of protected areas
- Touristic organisations and associations
- Residents of the cross-border area and the visitors (tourists)

POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES:

- All levels of regional/local authorities
- Regional and sector development agencies
- Central and regional/local offices and structures of relevant government institutions/ administrations
- Public cultural institutes (museums, libraries, community centres, etc.)
- Registered regional touristic associations
- Business support institutions and organisations - Chambers of commerce, industry and crafts;
- NGOs
- Educational and training institutions and organizations
- Universities and scientific institutions

Specific Objective 2.2.: Increasing the cross-border tourism potential by developing common destinations**Possible actions to be supported:****Sustainable tourism strategies/action plans, marketing and promotional initiatives and tools, training and consultancy:**

- Development and implementation of sustainable tourism strategies/action plans of common tourist destinations based on natural, historical and cultural heritage of the cross-border region
- Common touristic destinations marketing and promotion, organisation and participation of fairs and related public activities (i.e. exhibitions, conferences, seminars, round tables, presentations, exchange of best practices) etc.
- Establishment of multi-lingual on-line touristic platforms and visualisation of local brand/s (3D visualisation, mobile applications, social networks, tailor-made internet platforms) and other innovative tools
- Training and consultancy support for touristic organizations to improve their products, services, performance and staff skills
- Development and promotion of alternative forms of tourism, e.g. “gourmet”, “eco”, “SPA”, “rural” etc.;
- Creating knowledge networks for tourism innovations in the border area.

TARGET GROUPS:

- All levels of Local/Regional authorities
- Central and regional/local offices and structures of relevant government institutions/ administrations



- Administrations of protected areas
- Registered NGOs in the field of tourism
- Business support institutions and organisations - Chambers of commerce, industry and crafts and others
- Tourist boards and associations;
- Youths organizations
- NGOs

POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES:

- All levels of regional / local authorities
- Central and regional/local offices and structures of relevant government institutions/ administrations
- Administrations of protected areas
- Registered NGOs in the field of tourism
- Business support institutions and organisations - Chambers of commerce, industry and crafts and others
- Tourist boards and associations
- Educational and training institutions and organizations
- Universities and scientific institutions
- Public cultural institutes (museums, libraries, community centres, etc.)

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

Possible actions to be supported:

Joint networking and awareness raising events:

- Organisation of networking events, incl. initiatives for strengthening existing and establishing new partnerships in the area of sustainable tourism - trainings, exchange of best practice, researches on the legal framework in the field of tourism, on-line forums, conferences, seminars, round tables, presentations, festivals, exhibitions, performances and others;
- Awareness raising campaigns and local development initiatives on the values of cross-border cultural, natural and historical heritage for related target groups;
- Joint initiatives for promoting alternative forms of tourism related to marine litter reduction (e.g. beach cleaning or fishing for litter) as well as awareness raising.

TARGET GROUPS:

- All levels of Local/Regional authorities
- Associations of Local/Regional authorities and of other organisations;
- Central and regional/local offices and structures of relevant government institutions/ administrations
- Administrations of protected areas
- Registered NGOs in the field of tourism
- Business support institutions and organisations - Chambers of commerce, industry and crafts and others



- Tourist boards and associations;
- Educational and training institutions and organizations;
- Community organisations and institutions involved in development of civil society and/or promotion of education, culture and sports.
- Youths organizations
- Residents of the cross-border area and the visitors (tourists)

POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES:

- All levels of Local/Regional authorities
- Central and regional/local offices and structures of relevant government institutions/ administrations
- Administrations of protected areas
- Registered NGOs
- Business support institutions and organisations - Chambers of commerce, industry and crafts and others
- Tourist boards and associations;
- Educational and training institutions and organizations;
- Universities and scientific organizations
- Community organisations and institutions involved in development of civil society and/or promotion of education, culture and sports.
- Youths organizations

Selection of operations

The selection of operations is to be made *at level of 'specific objectives'*, e.g. at the project level potential beneficiaries should apply with project application focusing on only one specific objective (SO) under particular Priority axis. The operations under cross-border cooperation programmes shall be selected by the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC), in line with respective EU legislation for the programming period 2014 – 2020.

The following general principles will guide the selection of operations: **1) CBC character:** involvement of beneficiaries of the two participating countries; clear identification of cross-border benefit/impact if operation is implemented in a single country; **2) Partnership:** the involved project partners are eligible corresponding to the programme's rules; the involved project partners have the capacity for the project's management; **3) Regional relevance:** the operations are in correspondence to the identified needs and challenges of the CBC area; the operations contribute to economic, territorial and social cohesion (following the EU-2020 Strategy); **4) Strategic relevance:** the operations are in line with the priority axes' specific objectives; the operations are coherent with strategies and concept at the regional and the national level; **5) Operations' quality:** the operations/projects are clear and structured (intervention logic); expenditures of the operations are effective; the projects are based on the concept of sustainability; **6) Horizontal principles.**

Both Priority axes will be implemented through Calls for proposals and/or strategic projects. Calls for proposals refer to the mechanism whereby a selection process is launched to choose candidates on a competitive basis. The potential beneficiaries will be invited to submit project proposals. Calls for proposals are publicly announced. In the Guidelines for Applicants package information will be provided on the type of projects that will be considered for funding and on specific conditions to be met in each Call for Proposals. Only projects that are fully compliant with the selection and award criteria will be financed upon decision of the JMC. *Strategic projects* could be identified for the achievement of the programme objectives and priority specific



objectives. Strategic projects contribute to achievement of a bigger impact through real and strong cross-border impact and long-term results, in respect of the Programme's objectives. Strategic Projects must be effective and answer the territory's needs as envisaged by the Programme and result in a significant and long-lasting change or improvement on the whole or large parts of programme area. The basic principles for the eligibility of a strategic project could be the following: to address key specific objectives that can be achieved only through the involvement of large partnerships and /or of key stakeholders on the two sides of the border; to be based on a larger financial size than ordinary projects, proportionate to the relevance of the objectives and results; to produce lasting effects and catalyse further actions.

Under Priority axis 1 "Environment", a clear demarcation and complementarity of the BG-TR CBC OP 2014-2020 with other programmes is to be ensured. This concerns the articulation with: 1) other ETC strands, (in particular ETC Programme Greece-Bulgaria, Balkan-Mediterranean Programme 2014-2020, Black Sea Basin ENI CBC 2014-2020 Programme); 2) other EU programmes or funds (for Bulgaria: ESIF OP Environment 2014 – 2020, OP Rural development 2014 – 2020; for Turkey: OP Environment 2014-2020) and 3) other programmes/projects with national/regional and other funding of each of the partnering countries. Under Priority axis 2 "Sustainable tourism", a clear demarcation between and complementarity of the BG-TR CBC OP 2014-2020 with other programmes is to be ensured. This concerns the articulation with: 1) other ETC strands, (in particular ETC Programme Greece-Bulgaria); 2) other EU programmes or funds (for Bulgaria: ESIF OP Regions in Growth 2014-2020, OP Rural development 2014 – 2020; for Turkey: OP Regional Development 2014-2020) and 3) other programmes/projects with national/regional funding of each of the partnering countries. In this respect, under both priority axes, functional collaboration across above mentioned programmes should be made possible and largely maintained during each stage of Programme Cycle Management (PCM). A coordination mechanism will be set up in order to detect and avoid possible overlapping and duplication as well as to foster synergies between complementary programmes being implemented in 2014-2020 programming period.

Management Structures

In line with Article 8(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 the management structure's bodies of the Programme are as follow:

Managing authority is represented by Directorate General "Territorial Cooperation Management" Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works of the Republic of Bulgaria. The Managing Authority is responsible for managing and implementing the IPA II CBC Programme in accordance with the principles of sound financial management.

Audit authority is represented by Audit of European Union Funds Executive Agency to the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Bulgaria. The Audit authority shall ensure that audits are carried out on the proper functioning of the management and control system of the Programme and on an appropriate sample of operations on the basis of the declared expenditure. The declared expenditure shall be audited based on a representative sample and, as a general rule, on statistical sampling methods.

Certifying authority is represented by National Fund Directorate at the Ministry Finance of the Republic of Bulgaria. Certifying authority is responsible for receiving funds from the European Commission under the Programme and amongst the other to certify the completeness, accuracy and veracity of the accounts and that the expenditure entered in the accounts complies with applicable law and has been incurred in respect of operations selected for funding in accordance with the criteria applicable to the operational programme and complying with applicable law;

National Authority is represented by Financial Cooperation Directorate of the Ministry for European Union Affairs of the Republic of Turkey. The competencies and responsibilities of the National Authority are to support the Managing authority in the implementation of the Programme.



Joint Monitoring Committee is composed by representatives of Managing Authority (MA), National Authority (NA), the European Commission, the National IPA Coordinator (NIPAC), as well as other relevant national authorities and stakeholders, including civil society and private sector organisations. The composition of the JMC is in line with partnership and multi-level governance.

Joint Secretariat

The JS is a common structure, guaranteeing the impartiality of the Programme implementation. The JS will have a two-fold function (according to Article 23(2) Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013): assisting the MA, NA and the JMC in carrying out their respective functions and providing relevant information on the Programme to the potential beneficiaries.

The full text of IPA II Cross-border Programme Bulgaria – Turkey is available at Programme website:
<http://www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu/bg/>

