



PHOTO CREDIT: DINI BEGOLLI - VIA PEAK OF DINARIC ALPS PROJECT

Enhancing Cooperation - Newsletter

of the IPA CBC Programmes MNE-ALB and MNE-KOS 2014-2020

February 2018

CONTENT

Introducing the newsletter for IPA CBCP MNE-ALB and MNE-KOS

This newsletter is developed in order to inform the wider public on activities and events implemented within both IPA Cross-border Cooperation (CBC) Programmes Montenegro – Albania and Montenegro – Kosovo* 2014-2020.

More information on the programmes you can find below.

IPA CBC Programme Montenegro - Albania 2014-2020

The global objective of the programme is to promote/strengthen good neighbourly relations and socioeconomic development of the border region, through valorising its touristic potentials, an environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive economic development, with respect for its common cultural and natural heritage.

Click [here](#) for more information.

IPA CBC Programme Montenegro - Kosovo 2014-2020

The global objective of the programme is to improve the standard and quality of living of the people in the programme area through the environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive economic development of the region, with respect for its common cultural and natural heritage.

Click [here](#) for more information.

This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the Joint Technical Secretariat of the Cross-border Cooperation Programmes Montenegro-Albania and Montenegro-Kosovo and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

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* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

IPA CBC PROGRAMME MONTENEGRO - KOSOVO 2011-2013 CLOSED

On 19th January 2018 in Podgorica, the Final Conference of IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Montenegro-Kosovo 2011-2013 was organized, where the results achieved within this programme were presented.



The opening speech was held by the Minister of European Affairs of Montenegro, Mr Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, who emphasized the main achievements in the framework of the implementation of nine projects, in the total financed amount of 3.7 million euros. These projects have contributed to the achievement of concrete objectives related to economic development, environmental protection and promotion of biodiversity, promotion of common natural resources at the border, such as agriculture, forestry and tourism development.



On behalf of the Operating Structure from Kosovo, the Deputy Minister of Local Government Administration, Beqir Fejzullahu, thanked the Ministry for European Affairs of Montenegro and the



to improve the socio-economic situation within the area by fostering co-operation and joint initiatives in the sectors such as environmental protection, sustainable agriculture and forestry as well as the touristic offers.



On this occasion, participants were addressed by the Head of the Cooperation Section of the Delegation of the European Union in Montenegro, Hermann Spitz, who highly assessed the joint achievements of this programme, as well as achieved cooperation between the two countries through a joint cross-border partnership.

Afterwards, representatives of organizations and institutions who were beneficiaries of this programme participated in the panel discussion and presented the achievements, results and challenges they faced in the process of project implementation. They also evaluated the cooperation with their project partners from Kosovo municipalities throughout activities implemented as highly positive.



The conference was attended by representatives of the Montenegrin and Kosovo ministries, mayors of the municipalities, representatives of local and state institutions, public enterprises, project beneficiaries, representatives of Montenegrin and Kosovo media and the civil society.



Delegation of the European Union and emphasized the importance of this programme through the realization of the overall objective of cross-border cooperation



Working visit of Minister Pejovic to the Joint Technical Secretariat for CBC programmes Montenegro - Albania and Montenegro - Kosovo

The establishment of the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) for Cross-border Cooperation



programmes Montenegro-Kosovo and Montenegro-Albania 2014-2020 based in Podgorica proved to be a significant support to the implementation of these bilateral programmes, it was stated at the working meeting of the Minister of European Affairs of Montenegro **Aleksandar Andrija Pejović** and his associates with the Head of the JTS Sanja Todorović and her team.

The interlocutors agreed that numerous activities of the JTS, which included information events, trainings and partner search forums significantly, strengthened the capacities of beneficiaries and potential applicants, thus contributing to more efficient attraction of available funds and preparation of better quality projects.

Minister Pejović expressed his satisfaction with the support of the successful implementation of two bilateral programmes, in which beneficiaries already have available funds in the amount of approximately 5 million euros within the first calls for proposal. "The joint work of the Ministry of European Affairs, the Ministry of Finance and the JTS has enabled these programs to be the most advanced in the region" said Minister Pejović. He expressed expectation that in the forthcoming period there will be more quality projects in the area

of employment, environmental protection and tourism promotion, which can contribute to the further development of the programme area.

The Head of the JTS, **Sanja Todorović**, reminded that this body was established in January 2016 and is the first such Secretariat for bilateral programmes in the region. Since Montenegro is entrusted to indirectly manage EU funds within these two cross-border cooperation programmes, the Secretariat's function imposes more responsible action in terms of more intensive cooperation with project beneficiaries from three countries, in order to further advance the process of realization of the envisaged activities.

Regional Seminar held in Tirana in the framework of Territorial Cooperation Programs

Under the auspices of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, on 17 January 2018, a Regional Seminar was organized in Tirana in the framework of Territorial Cooperation Programs in order to promote these programs as well as strengthening the role of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs in the field of coordination of EU assistance.

The Regional Seminar entitled "Territorial Cooperation, New Perspectives for Enhancing Integration", was a one-day event and was greeted by various stakeholders from Albania, including the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ditmir Bushati, EU Ambassador in Tirana and many key guests from the region: Montenegro,

Kosovo, Macedonia, Greece and Italy. It was attended by over 250 participants.

The main reason for organizing this activity is the fact that the structures that coordinate the Territorial Cooperation Programs provide very encouraging data / statistics on the participation of Albanian applicants in calls for project proposals, with a satisfactory number of institutions and organization involved. Thus, there is an increased interest of Albanian stakeholders in the EU-funded



programs.

The seminar was structured in two Sessions: High Level part, where key guests emphasized the positive impact that territorial cooperation brings to the expansion of cooperation between the countries of the region with each other, between the countries of the region and the EU member states, thus promoting integration and intensifying exchanges. The second session was devoted to discussion panels where participants were divided into two different working groups (public institutions and CSOs) and discussed the difficulties and challenges facing Albanian partners in this area.

The activity was a very good platform for providing institutional support from Albanian institutions to the partners involved in these projects as well as a useful forum to get their opinions on possible improvements to the legal basis in Albania to facilitate the implementation of these projects in various aspects.



**PROJECTS FUNDED UNDER THE 1ST
CALL FOR PROPOSALS WITHIN THE
IPA CBC PROGRAMME MONTENEGRO
– KOSOVO 2011-2013**

Since November 2015 until August 2017 a series of projects funded under the 1st Call for Proposals within the IPA CBC Programme Montenegro – Kosovo 2011-2013 were implemented. Namely, under three measures covering environment protection, sustainable economic development and social cohesion and people-to-people initiatives a total of 9 projects were funded:

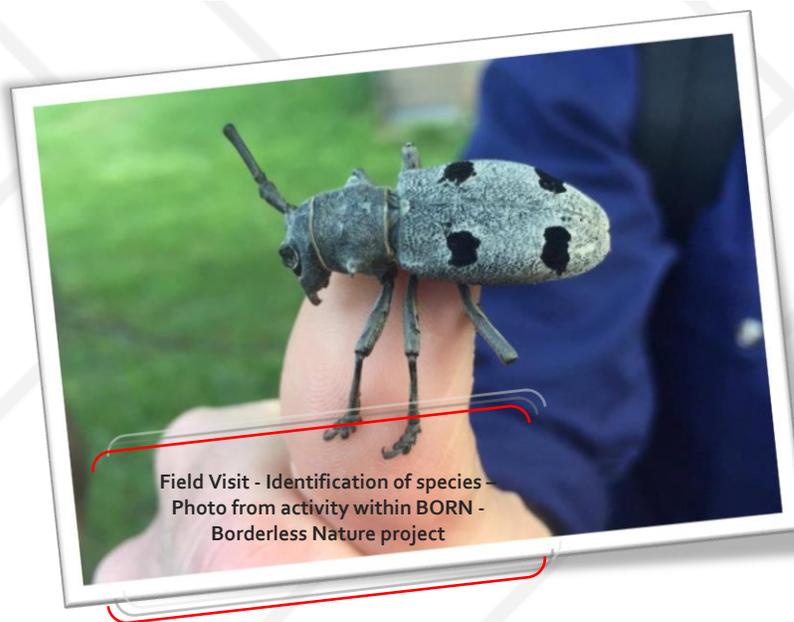
- »» BORN - BORderless Nature;
- »» Building Social Inclusion through Education;
- »» Eco Products Valorization in the Cross-Border Area;
- »» Harnessing innovation and entrepreneurship in cross-border region of KS and MNE;
- »» Improvement of Water Resources Management in Gjakova and Bijelo Polje;
- »» Joint Action for Sustainable Employment;
- »» Revitalisation of local communities for tourism and youth development;
- »» Rural tourism for economic development of cross border area of Kosovo and Montenegro;
- »» Via Peak of Dinaric Alps.

BORN - BORderless Nature

BORN - BORderless Nature - Biodiversity protection and development of Prokletije and Bjeshkët e Nemuna Natural Parks is a project funded by the EU and implemented by the Municipality of Plav and Center for Regional Development Rožaje and Trentino con il Kosovo, Peja and Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency Prishtina.



Joint efforts were put in order to define and deepen the knowledge of flora and fauna in the habitats of the Natural Parks of Prokletije (MN) and Bjeshkët e Nemuna (KS). Moreover, the aim was to identify the management needs for these areas. The Prokletije and Bjeshkët e Nemuna Natural Parks are areas of unique landscape, one of the most important



Field Visit - Identification of species -
Photo from activity within BORN -
Borderless Nature project

region for the protection of biodiversity in the Balkans and the whole Europe.

Throughout the project local stakeholders were supported in developing sustainable development projects related to enhancement of natural resources. Additionally, their capacities were enhanced through the organisation of a study trip to Italy.

A Cross-Border Strategy Paper for the definition of joint policies for the optimal management of the project area and more aware society was created as a tangible output. Additionally, the following activities were implemented: Development and improvement of the main hiking trail; Development of new Rock Climbing Zones; Mountain-bike Trails; Educational workshops and field trips for 6 schools;

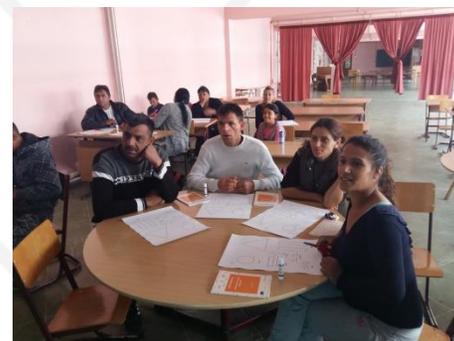
The most important achievement of the project was the creation of the WEBGIS.

For more information click [here](#).

Building Social Inclusion through Education

This project was implemented by the Centre for Democracy and Human Rights – CEDEM, Pedagogical Centre of Montenegro and NGO Enfants from Montenegro and Kosovo Education Centre KEC and Bethany Christians Services- BCS from Kosovo. The objective of the project was to strengthen capacities of CSOs dealing with Roma Ashkali and Egyptians to engage in the dialogue with educational institutions and better respond to the priorities of their constituents in the field of education.

Namely, the project enhanced peer-to-peer learning, knowledge sharing and partnering amongst experienced and grassroots CSOs in the bordering regions, in order to support inclusion efforts in the field of education. During the implementation period a non-formal Network of RAE stakeholders was established.



A training on Project Cycle Management for 21 CSOs was organised as well as training on strengthening parental skills related to education and participation in educational structures. This enabled representatives of local organizations to acquire the skills to work in terms of social inclusion and provide better services to parents RAE children in order to improve their parenting skills and participation in the educational system (school boards and parents' advice). Additionally, trainings for teachers on antidiscrimination policies were held. A series of other activities aimed at capacity building of their target group were implemented: Rulebook on Affirmative action in education for RAE pupils produced; Study visit to foster networking and information exchange; Comprehensive needs assessment; policy

briefs that focus on drop-out management, preschool and school education, etc.

The project created a solid base for possible interventions at policy and institutional level within this area of intervention. Through the project capacity-building support and assistance was offered to community-based CSOs from the cross-border area, through coaching and mentoring.

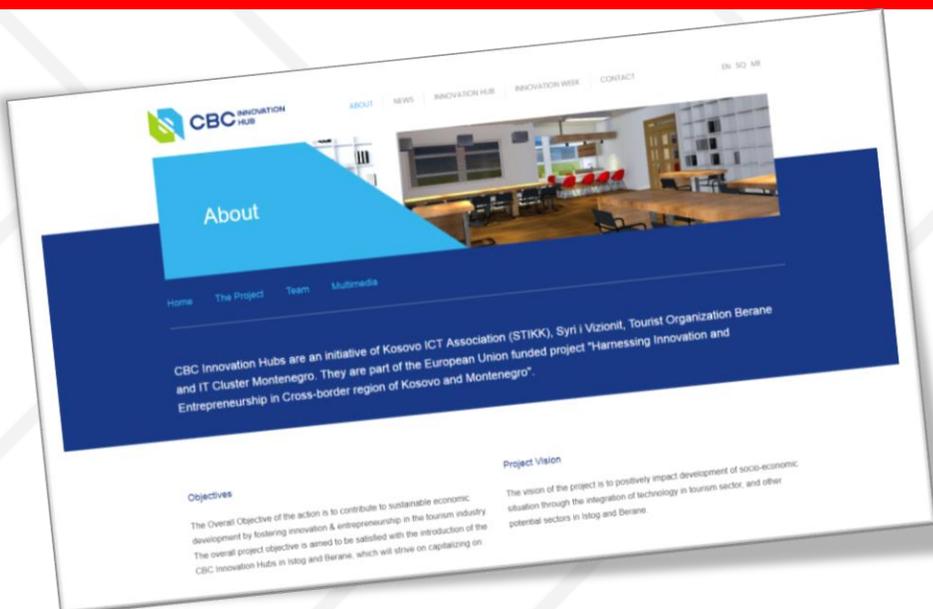
Eco Products Valorization in the Cross-Border Area

The municipality of Bijelo Polje and Local broadcaster Radio Bjelo Polje from Montenegro and Municipality of Decan and Local Action Group Gjeravica from Kosovo implemented the project Eco Products Valorization in the Cross-Border Area. The aim of the project was to support the development and promotion of eco-products in the cross-border area.



This was done through the refurbishment of eco-market infrastructure, procurement of equipment for eco-markets in the (CB) area, installation of solar panels and lighting in the eco-markets in the CBC area, procurement of solid waste bins for the eco-market, mapping of local eco products in the cross-border area, training on producing and gathering eco-products in the CB area, training on marketing and sales skills for local producers of eco-products, promotion of eco-products as alternative economic generation activity in the cross-border area as well as through a competition of best eco products at the eco-markets in the cross-border area.

Both beneficiaries remain committed to the development of eco-production and will continuously implement and finance activities that will support the development of eco products in the cross-border area. In this regard, due to the capacity building activities through the project, the effectiveness of the human resources that deal with these policies is increased and secured.



Harnessing innovation and entrepreneurship in cross-border region of Kosovo and Montenegro

This project was implemented by Tourist Organization Berane and IT Cluster Montenegro from Montenegro and Kosovo ICT Association (STIKK) and Syri i Vizionit (SiV) from Kosovo. The specific objectives of the action were to increase welfare by generating business opportunities and employability as well as to increase opportunities for better utilization of local resources.



Namely, through the project a platform for establishment of CBC Innovation Hubs was created. Consequently, the establishment and functionalization of Innovation Hubs for Kosovo and Montenegro was completed. The CBC Innovation Hubs were opened in Berane and Istok, and they serve as co-working spaces for the youth of the region and other interested parties such as NGOs, businesses as an appropriate environment for implementing various trainings. Through the project support to promotion of regional products/services were provided through the organization of cross-border events and activities. Additionally, competitions for tech

and tourism products/services were organised in order to support the Internationalization of the tourism offers. Trainings on PCM and Digital Promotion Tools (e.g. Airbnb, TripAdvisor, Facebook etc.) were held in July and August 2016. As a result, nine start-up companies have been presented on the wide known tourist sites and portals (TripAdvisor, Airbnb, booking, Montenegro adventures, Montenegro accommodations, etc.). For more information click [here](#).

Improvement of Water Resources Management in Gjakova and Bijelo Polje

Improvement of Water Resources Management in Gjakova and Bijelo Polje was a project implemented by Water Supply Company Vodovod "Bistrica" Bijelo Polje and Water Supply Advancement Association Treatment for Waste Drainage Water of Montenegro from Montenegro and Kosova Development Centre and Regional Water Company "Radoniqi" J.S.C Gjakova from Kosovo.

The objective of the project was to improve the protection and management of natural water resources in Gjakova and Bijelo Polje municipalities. One of the main activities was to conduct feasibility studies for introduction



of GIS (geographic information system) system in water management in Gjakova and Bijelo Polje.

FAST FACTS - GIS

Geographic information system - GIS software is designed to capture, manage, analyse, and display all forms of geographically referenced information.

After this the procurement and implementation of the GIS system and related equipment for water-supply enterprises in Gjakova and Bijelo Polje was done. Employees of Gjakova and Bijelo Polje water enterprises participated in trainings on GIS system management. As a follow-up of the training water supplying systems were recorded and data entered into GIS in Gjakova and Bijelo Polje. Consultations on water loss and charging in water utilities in Gjakova and Bijelo Polje were held. A wide range public awareness campaigns on water utilization was conducted.

With this project the employees of Gjakova and Bijelo Polje water enterprises gained significant experience, increased their human and technical capacities in order to continue with collecting relevant GIS data from the whole water supplying system area, perform leak detection and loss calculation.

Joint Action for Sustainable Employment

This project was implemented by the Employment Agency of Montenegro and NGO Natura from Montenegro and the Employment Promotion Agency and NGO Jeta from Kosovo. The objective of the project was to remove obstacles and provide conditions for employment and human resources development in the cross-border region. Moreover, the aim of the project was to increase the labour force flexibility and ensure better quality of life in the cross-border region.

Main activities encompassed the following: Joint preparation of a single document with recommendations for better ES performance; Organisation and implementation of two 1-day study visits; Organisation and implementation of 2 one-day workshops on exchange of experiences; Preparation and implementation of pilot survey to obtain the needs of employers; Organisation and implementation of 2 cross-border Employment fairs; Organisation and implementation of 2 round tables with

employers to present and discuss survey results; Preparation and dissemination of a joint document on cross-border survey results and preparation and dissemination of other promotion materials. The most important activity was the organisation of a 22 working days training for unemployed in production, processing and commercial promotion of medical herbs and forest-grown products. Additionally, 2 seminars for the unemployed to start own business and to apply for funds/resources to start their business were organised.



Revitalisation of local communities for tourism and youth development

Revitalisation of Local Communities for Tourism and Youth Development was implemented by the Municipality of Andrijevisa and Students Sport Association of Montenegro and Junik Municipality and MDA Foundation from Kosovo. The aim of the project was to foster sustainable development and promotion of tourism in Junik and Andrijevisa municipalities through

the improvement of infrastructure and empowerment of youth. This was achieved by rehabilitating and furnishing of student's hostel in Andrijevisa (click [here](#) for more information), construction of a multi-purpose sport facility at Moronica Park in Junik, provision of sport equipment for mountain/outdoor activities for the multi-purpose sport facility in Junik and students hostel in Andrijevisa and construction of a traditional old water mill "Valavica" in Junik.



Additionally, implementation of joint capacity building activity for the sustainable management of existing and newly-built touristic premises was organised. Moreover, they jointly worked on development of sound and realistic management plan for new facilities, organization of Cross-border Youth Summer camps and development of promotional and interactive website for student's hostel in Andrijevisa.

With this action the infrastructure capacities of municipalities of Andrijevisa and Junik for tourism were increased. With the project outdoor tourism attractions of Junik and Andrijevisa we promoted.



Rural tourism for economic development of cross border area of Kosovo and Montenegro

Rural tourism for economic development of cross border area of Kosovo and Montenegro project was implemented by the Regional Development Agency and the Municipality of Berane from Montenegro and Initiative for Agricultural Development of Kosovo.



The aim of the project was the promotion of economic development of the cross border area through economic valorisation of its tourist and sustainable agriculture and forestry potentials.

The main activities of the project were the creation of the cross border thematic trail, set up of solar panels and milking equipment in katuns, establishment of 10 resting points and 10 camping sites in katuns, installation of 10 feeding places for wild animals, construction of the visitors' information centre, trainings on provision of tourism services in cross-border area, trainings food safety and production technology, set up of info boards in katuns and info boards of the trail, familiarization trip for tour agencies and journalists, development of marketing web platform (<http://www.katunroads.me/en/>) as well as mapping of important flora and fauna in project area.



With this project the infrastructure for tourism development in katuns was improved, capacities for tourism services of rural population in katuns were increased as well as unique values of katuns as drivers for agriculture and tourism development were promoted.

FAST FACTS - KATUN

Katuns are temporary, farmer's settlements in the mountains, at high altitudes, where herders move their livestock to graze in the summer. The tradition of herders moving high into the mountains is a long one, and the nomadic way of life has throughout history developed a special culture and customs unique only to the katuns. At the present time this moving of livestock to katuns is practiced less and less each year, but this tradition is still maintained. As mountain tourism in Montenegro grows and develops, the shepherds in katuns became part of the tourist offer for several reasons.

For more information click [here](#).

Via Peak of Dinaric Alps

This project was implemented by Centre for Sustainable Tourism Initiatives (CSTI), Mountaineering Association of Montenegro (MAM) and Community Development Fund and Orienteering Club Prishtina from Kosovo. The aim of the project was to develop ViP Dinarica, a long-distance trail and tourism package that links mountain communities and tourism stakeholders in target region for valorisation of unique natural wealth and cultural-historic heritage.

The activities of the project were to improve and upgrade small scale tourism infrastructure, mapping and create agreements with existing touristic vendors

and service providers.



Moreover, the aim was to develop the Touristic offer ViP Dinarica. This was done through mapping and GPS tracking of the routes in the cross-border region. Some activities were focused on building capacities of mountaineering clubs in Kosovo and Montenegro.

FAST FACTS – 1ST CFP MNE-KS 2011-2013

78% of the grants awarded as a result of the 1st CfP of the IPA CBC Programme MNE-KS 2011-2013 were within Measure 1.2 - Sustainable economic development.



Best practice - Projects implemented within the IPA CBC Programme Albania - Montenegro 2007-2013

Since January 2009 when Joint Technical Secretariat office and team were made operational within the IPA CBC Programme Albania - Montenegro 2007-2013, until February 2016 when the Closing Conference was organized, 3 Call for Proposals were launched and 24 projects were selected, funded and successfully implemented. Under the 1st CfP launched on 29 June 2009 and closed on 29 September 2009, 26 project proposals were submitted and 6 out of them were funded, covering all three programme measures. The second CfP was launched on 29 June 2010 and closed on 14 October 2010. 42 project proposals were submitted and 11 were funded. The third and the last CfP was launched on 3 September 2012 and closed on 3 December 2012. Within this CfP 70 project proposals were submitted and out of them 7 were selected and funded.

In total, within 3 CfP launched under IPA CBC Programme Albania-Montenegro 2007-2013, 138 project proposals were submitted and 24 were funded, 9 under the first programme measure "Economic development with an emphasis on tourism promotion"; 8 under the second measure "Environmental protection and promotion" and 7 under the third measure "Enhancing social cohesion through people to people actions". Additionally, 1 strategic project, named "Reconstruction of the existing BCP Hani i Hotit – Božaj and construction of the new BCP Grabom – Zatrijebačka Cijevna" was funded.

Four projects were singled out as examples of best practice.

Sculpture Symposium

Sculpture Symposium was a project selected under the 1st CfP of IPA CBC Albania – Montenegro 2007-2013 and implemented by the Municipality of Shkoder, Albania and NGO ART Dulcinium from Montenegro.



It was for the first time ever that sculptor-artists from both sides of the border came together to work for one's city, providing a lasting example of making new art in the new context of cross-border cultural relationship.

The project objective was to contribute in the implementation of an exchange practice between artists from Albania and Montenegro. The Action clearly facilitated this exchange during the implementation period. Main activities of the project were the creation of 20 public sculptures through sculpture symposiums, installation of these public sculptures on Public parks and creation of a sculpture catalogue.



Throughout the elaboration of the sculptures, wide public and artist's community had the possibility to watch even the working process and not just the finished work. This made the symposium a popular attraction for all the days of its duration.

This project created the base for future cultural cooperation among artists. Moreover, sculptures produced are still decorating public parks in Shkodra and Ulcinj. The sculpture symposium" generated positive discussions among artists and there were serious attempts to replicate this action in other Albanian and Montenegrin cities.

Farm-tour: Development of agro tourism in Northern Albania and Eastern Montenegro

This was a project selected under the 2nd CfP of IPA CBC Albania – Montenegro 2007-2013 programme and was implemented by Rural Association Support Programme (RASP) in Albania and Regional Tourist Organisation Bjelasica

and Komovi in Montenegro.

The objective of the project was to develop and promote sustainable tourism through establishing pilot agritourist activities in cross border region of Northern Albania and eastern Montenegro based on use of natural and cultural resources and wide engagement of local governments. 21 farms, (11 in Albania and 10 in Montenegro) were selected assisted and supported to improve production capacities through providing new technology, increase management and accommodation capacity, and improve the quality of local products in accordance with food safety requirements.

Additionally, in order to improve the touristic offer and promote local traditional products, capacity building (trainings) for pilot farms in technology improvement, management, hospitality and marketing was organised, 3 local fairs held and 3 tourist information offices in Margegaj, Fierze and Shishtavec communes were set up.



Throughout the project, local stakeholders were supported to improve and promote their products, exchange experience with their counterparts and better realize their touristic potentialities. Moreover, a network of local producers, accommodation facilities, touristic guides, local and national businesses



and their partners in the other side of the border was created aiming to help and support local economy.

MARUBI: a cooperative model for tourist promotion between Shkodra and Ulcinj

The MARUBI project was selected under the 2nd CfP of IPA CBC Albania - Montenegro 2007-2013 and implemented by municipality of Shkodra and municipality of Ulcinj.

The goal of the project was to enhance the economic development of the Shkodra - Ulcinj cross-border area by building on its tourism potential and emphasizing the common cultural heritage (in particular, the patrimony of the Marubi photographers) and the natural beauty of the area.

In order to promote the area of Shkodra-Ulcinj as a tourist destination, the project aimed to strengthen the cultural offer and to make it more competitive through the development of forms of cooperation between local operators and SME; to develop new tourist practices and to identify new target groups to increase the demand of local cultural tourism. Main activities implemented throughout the project were:

- » Strategic census of Marubi's patrimony;
- » Feasibility plan of the Marubi route;
- » Training course for economic and tourism operators and young people;
- » Territorial cross marketing at local level;
- » Territorial cross marketing at more than 20 European destinations.

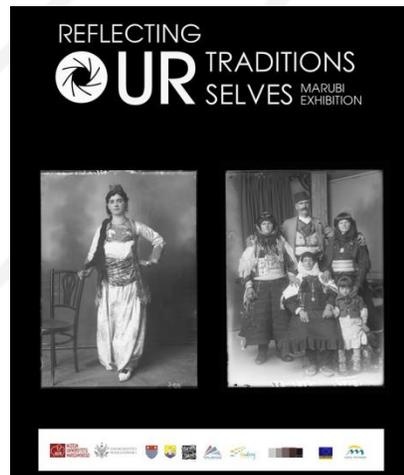
Moreover, the project sought to screen and classifies the patrimony of the Marubi family. As a result the promotional campaign a great number of Marubi photos were collected, among them original glasses.

FAST FACTS - Marubi

Citizens of Shkodra have donated more than 1500 previously unknown photos during the promotional campaign of the project.

The key activity of Marubi Project was the itinerant Exhibition "Reflecting our traditions,

reflecting ourselves" that was firstly opened in the European Parliament in Brussels. The international destinations of the exhibition were Paris, Trieste, Ankara, Warsaw, Geneva, Budapest, Belgrade, Tirana etc.



Additionally, MARUBI Festival was organized in Shkodra and Ulcinj, consisting in photography competition, cultural activities (traditional folk dancing and singing performances) and workshops dedicated to the history of MARUBI dynasty, photograph techniques etc.

"Monteal" - Investing to sustainable human and local economic development through participatory tourism management in cross-border area

"Monteal" - Investing to sustainable human and local economic development through participatory tourism management in cross-border area was selected under the 3rd CfP of IPA CBC Albania – Montenegro 2007-2013 and implemented by Albanian Development Fund in Albania and Regional Tourist Organization Bjelasica and Komovi in Montenegro.

The overall objective of the action was to expand the potentials of growth and prosperity for the regions of Kelmend, Shkrel, Plave, Andrijevice and Berane through diversification of their local economies and

sustainable tourism development. Main activities of the project were the production of cross-border tourism development plan and Cross-border Partnership Board for target cross border area, development of a local tourism product that can feed into and link with the tourist attractions/activities in the targeted cross-border area through infrastructure improvements from both respective areas, development of a documentation base of cultural, historical and natural resources in the target cross border area.

Moreover, a joint tourism offer that connects activities in targeted communities and networks tourism business on both sides of the border was created and promoted. Through project activities local communities, tourist operators and business benefited directly. A total of 8 belvederes for panoramic views were built in Kelmend and Theth, 8 informational boards were built and installed, 10 resting places were built, 96 km of mountain roads were repaired, an Info Centre



was built in Andrijevica and one interactive screen window (touch screen board) was installed in Berane

MONTEAL project attracted the attention of national institutions toward a positive and constructive approach. The project increased the number of visitors in the area, assuring a constant consolidation of links and ties of community and tourism business with the tourism assets identified, promoted and used by visitors.

Additionally, MONTEAL project created and promoted a new map of touristic attraction to be visited in project area and was a positive example for further replication in other neighbouring areas.

Meetings held within the IPA CBC Programmes MNE- ALB and MNE-KOS 2014- 2020

4th bilateral meeting held between Operating Structures of Montenegro and the Republic of Kosovo

The 4th bilateral meeting between Operating Structures of Montenegro and the Republic of Kosovo within the IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Montenegro – Kosovo 2014-2020 was held in Podgorica on the 30 November 2017. The meeting was attended by members of the Operating Structures of Montenegro and the Republic of Kosovo, as well as members of the Joint Technical Secretariat and the Antenna Office of the Programme.



On behalf of the Montenegrin Operating Structure, the meeting was chaired by the Director General for European Funds in the Ministry of European Affairs, Ivana Glisević Đurović, and, on behalf of the Kosovo Operating Structure, by Secretary General at the Ministry of Local Government Administration, Rozafa Ukimeraj.



At the meeting it was assessed that the programme was progressing successfully and

that a large number of activities were carried out after the signing of the Bilateral Arrangement and the Partnership Agreement, and that projects are being evaluated within the framework of the 1st Call for Proposals.

The meeting referred to the activities carried out, the results and the progress in the implementation of the IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Montenegro-Kosovo. Also, the methods of improving the communication and visibility of the Programme and the current results in this field were discussed. Activities were planned for the coming period, as well as the intensification of communication and knowledge exchange between operational structures.

Joint Monitoring Committee of the IPA CBC Programme Montenegro - Albania 2014- 2020 held its 2nd meeting

The 2nd Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) meeting of the IPA CBC MNE-ALB 2014-2020 took place at the premises of Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania, in Tirana on 29 December 2017.



Mrs Daniela Çekani, Chair of the 2nd JMC meeting and Head of Operating Structure of Albania, welcomed all participants and briefly presented the programme, thematic priorities and related activities that have been implemented within the programme, pointing out the large number of received applications and the great interest in the possibilities offered by the programme.

On behalf of Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro Mr Miodrag Račeta welcomed the participants of the meeting. He highlighted the professional performance of the CFCU during the evaluation process and great support of Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) during the implementation of the programme.

The main topic of this meeting was the presentation of the list of operations

selected through the 1st Call for Proposals (CfP) for awarding the grant contract within IPA CBC MNE – ALB 2014-2020 programme as well as the examination and providing of the advisory opinion by the JMC members.

Fifth meeting of the Project Steering Committee held

The fifth Project Steering Committee was held in Podgorica, Montenegro on 31st January 2018 at the premises of the JTS.



Further implementation of Programmes Montenegro – Albania 2014-2020 and Montenegro – Kosovo 2014-2020 were discussed as well as upcoming activities in the first half of 2018. Moreover, implemented activities were discussed and the quality of the project outputs assessed by the members of the Project Steering Committee.

Implementation of the programmes until the end of 2017

Until the end of 2017 a series of activities within both IPA CBC programmes were organized. These events were organized by the Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania and Ministry of Local Government Administration of the Republic of Kosovo, Ministry of Finance Montenegro - Directorate for Finance and Contracting of the EU Assistance Funds and the Joint Technical Secretariat of the IPA CBC Programmes Montenegro - Albania and Montenegro – Kosovo 2014-2020. The graphic below shows achievements of both programmes during 2016-2017.



2016
The Joint Technical Secretariat for IPA CBC Programmes Montenegro - Albania and Montenegro - Kosovo 2014-2020 was established in January



 **MNE-KOS**
IPA CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME
MONTENEGRO-KOSOVO 2014-2020

 **MNE-ALB**
IPA CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME
MONTENEGRO-ALBANIA 2014-2020



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»» Operating structures of the programmes (click on the icon to visit the website)



Ministry of European Affairs



Ministry of finance
Directorate for Finance and Contracting
of the EU Assistance Funds



MINISTRY FOR EUROPE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS



Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova-Republic of Kosovo
Qeveria - Vlada - Government

Ministria e Administrimit të Pushtetit Lokal
Ministarstvo Administracije Lokalne Samouprave
Ministry of Local Government Administration



**JOINT TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT OF THE IPA
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MONTENEGRO – ALBANIA AND MONTENEGRO – KOSOVO 2014–2020**

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