



ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT 2011

**for the
Bulgaria - Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme
CCI No. 2007CB16IPO008**





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1. Identification

The Annual implementation report (AIR) is drawn up following the requirements under Article 112 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 718/2007.

The current report is the fourth annual implementation report for the Bulgaria - Turkey IPA Cross-Border Programme, CCI Number 2007CB16IPO008 and is covering the reporting period from 1st of January 2011 till 31st of December 2011.

The Managing Authority for the Programme is the Bulgarian Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (MRDPW) having as counterpart the Turkish Ministry for EU Affairs, as the National Authority (NA).

Objective concerned:	IPA Cross-border Cooperation	
Programming period:	2007 – 2013	
Programme:	Bulgaria – Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme	CCI No. 2007CB16IPO008
Eligible area concerned:	On the Bulgarian side - Burgas district (13 municipalities); - Yambol district (5 municipalities) and - Haskovo district (11 municipalities)	On the Turkish side - province Edirne and - province Kırklareli
Reporting year:	2011	

Date of approval of Head of MA:	31 st May 2012
Date of approval of the annual report by the Joint Monitoring Committee:	22 nd June 2012

2. Overview of the implementation of the Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 11th October 2010. The document signed, lays down the general rules for the implementation and financial management of the Programme as well as defines the bodies involved in the management and control and allocation of functions (responsibilities and rights) within each body involved into the implementation of the Programme.





Description of the management and control systems

In 2010, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works in its behalf of Managing Authority (MA) has submitted in Directorate General "Regional Policy" of European Commission, a Description of the management and control systems for the Bulgaria – Turkey IPA Cross-Border Programme, CCI 2007CB16IPO008, in accordance with Article 115 and 116 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 718/2007, together with a report and opinion by the Audit Authority - the Audit of European Union Funds Implementing Agency of the Republic of Bulgaria, on their compliance with Article 101 to 105 of the Commission Regulation (EC) No 718/2007.

On December 2010, European Commission issued the letter with positive assessment on the Description of management and control systems on Bulgaria-Turkey IPA CBC Programme. Obtained positive assessment is a guarantee that the established management and control system by the MA are reliable enough for effective utilization and management of EU funds. With approval of the management and control systems by EC, the MA is entitled to proceed with financial allocation of the Community funding to beneficiaries under the Programme

Programme Implementation Manual (PM)

A Programme Implementation Manual (and its annexes and appendixes), describing in detail the specific rules and procedures for implementation of the Programme, has been developed by the MA, NA and Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) and its first version was approved by the Head of MA in August 2010. During 2011, in August, the MA issued new version of the Programme Implementation Manual describing established management and control system for the three IPA Programmes in which Bulgaria participated during this programming period. Along sides, some amendments concerning specific rules, procedures, chapters or annexes have been made. The system for revisions, updates, modifications and development of the Programme Manual aims to tackle with amendments in the IPA Programmes (where applicable), legislative modifications or unexpected socio-economic development, which has a direct impact on the implementation of the Programme.

Project Implementation Manual (PIM)

A Project Implementation Manual (and its annexes) describing programme rules and procedures for projects implementation by beneficiaries under the Programme has been developed during the reporting period and its first version was approved by Head of MA in April 2011. During the year 2011 some amendments and clarifications were made to the PIM and its annexes, as reflected into version 1.1 July 2011. The updated and improved Project implementation manual is available at Programme's web-page: <http://www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu/eng/page/documents/others>





2.1. Achievement and analysis of the progress

1st Calls for Proposals

- **Tendering phase**

First Call for Proposals under the Programme was launched on 28th September 2009 and lasted for three months. The deadline for receiving project proposals was 28th December 2009, 16:00 local time. One hundred and eleven (111) project proposals were received within the deadline, 55 of them with Bulgarian Lead partner and the rest 56 with Turkish Lead partner. The total budget of € **6 293 611** had been announced for this Call.

Due to delay in submission of the Description of the management and control systems for the Bulgaria – Turkey IPA Cross-Border Programme (in accordance with Article 115 and 116 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 718/2007) and its respective approval, the assessment process of the project proposals under First Call for proposals had been starting in 2010. The administrative and the eligibility assessment have been accomplished at the end of 2010 and as a result 79 projects from 111 submitted project proposals had been proposed for next step. On 21st February 2011, the technical and quality assessment have been finalised and a list of provisionally selected project proposals and a reserve list of project proposals have been drawn up. The final results of the assessment procedure confirmed that the majority of the project proposals were well prepared and only 14 applications were rejected after the technical and quality assessment. The reserve list of project proposals consist of 11 applications under Priority Axis 1 “Sustainable Social & Economic Development” and 4 applications under Priority Axis 2: Improvement the Quality of Life.

Applications recommended for provisional selection

Priority Axes:	Number of Projects	Amounts
Priority Axis 1: Sustainable Social & Economic Development:	29	€ 4 599 399,00
Priority Axis 2: Improvement the Quality of Life:	21	€ 5 804 232,91
Total:	50	€ 10 403 631,91

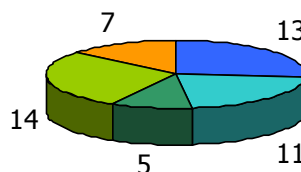




Priority Axis 1: Sustainable social & economic development – Total of 29 project proposals, 21 of which soft measures and 5 investment projects;

Priority axis 2: Improvement of the quality of life – Total of 21 project proposals, 13 of which soft measures and 8 investment projects.

The chart presents the approved project proposals towards the areas of interventions under the programme.



- 1.1 Improvement of the social development and social cohesion links
- 1.2 Economy Competitiveness increasing
- 1.3 Infrastructural support for the improvement of the economic potential of the co-operation area
- 2.1 Protection of environment, nature and historical and cultural heritage
- 2.2 Capacity building for sustainable use of natural resources, cultural and historical heritage

Based on the decision of the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC), 50 recommended applications on the amount of € 10 403 631,91 were provisionally selected for financing under First Call for Proposals. Due to large number of projects passed technical and quality assessment, an additional amount of € 4 339 461 (amount of financial allocation for year 2009 of the Programme) had been proposed by the MA for allocation to this Call. The total budget available for the First Call for proposals had been increased to € **10 633 072**, by JMC approval.

Reallocation under First Call for Proposal

Priority Axes:	Available amount (2007,2008)	Increased amount (+available amount 2009)
Priority Axis 1: Sustainable Social & Economic Development:	€ 2 797 160	€ 4 725 809
Priority Axis 2: Improvement the Quality of Life:	€ 3 496 451	€ 5 907 263
Total:	€ 6 293 611	€ 10 633 072

• Pre-contracting and contracting phases

The JMC gave a mandate to the MA, NA and JTS to carry out pre-contracting visits, including negotiations on the budget revision for the provisionally selected projects for financing under First Call for Proposals. Pre-contracting site visits and negotiation procedures were conducted during the period 11th April – 19th April 2011, where 16 projects from Bulgarian site and 14 projects from Turkish site were visited in order to be monitored the actual status of the investment sites envisaged to be financed under the First Call for Proposals.

Negotiation procedures with 12 LP from Republic of Bulgaria and 6 LP from Republic of Turkey were held by appointed Negotiation Committee. The purpose of the negotiation procedures was to optimize project partners'





budget breakdowns, based on both the specific recommendations provided by the external assessors and the good practices for sound financial management applied by the MA.

As results of the pre-contracting site visits and the negotiation procedures, 48 projects have been proposed for proposal for conclusion of subsidy contracts under the First Call for Proposals and two projects (ref.№ 2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-77 and ref.№ 2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-101) were declined for signature of Subsidy contracts, due to detected overwrapping of activities in project proposal with ref.№ 2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-77 and problems with investment documents in project proposal ref.№ 2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-101.

Between June and October 2011 the **48 subsidy contracts on the amount of 9 600 957.93 euro have been concluded under the First Call for Proposals** of Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme.

Contracted projects under First Call for Proposals

Priority Axes:	Number of Projects	Amounts
Priority Axis 1: Sustainable Social & Economic Development:	29	€ 4 580 194,81
Priority Axis 2: Improvement the Quality of Life:	19	€ 5 020 763,12
Total project contracted under First Call for Proposals:	48	€ 9 600 957,93

List of awarded projects under the First Call for Proposals is presented in the current report as Annex I.

The statistic information of the results from the contracting process under First Call for Proposals could be summarized as follows:

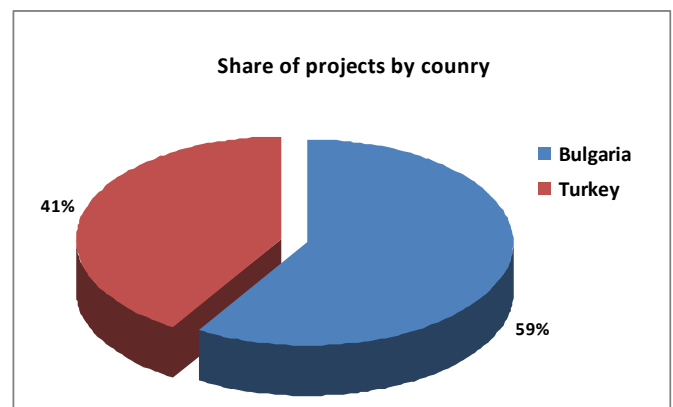
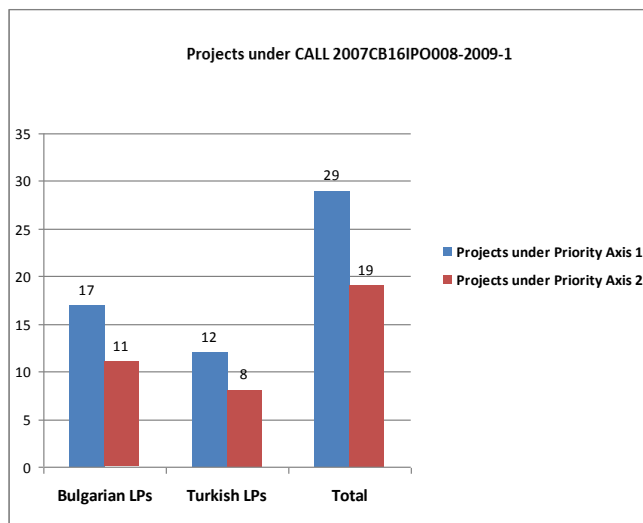
- 60% of the contracted projects fall under Priority Axis 1 “Sustainable Social & Economic Development” and their total budgets amount is 48% of the total contracted budget.
- 40% of the contracted projects fall under Priority Axis 2 “Improvement the Quality of Life”. The total budgets of these projects take 52% of the total contracted budget under the Call.

The following graphic and statistic information present the balanced share of the contracted projects between the Programme’s Priority Axes. Additionally, the share of projects by countries is presented graphically:





- In 59% of the contracted projects within Priority Axis 1 “Sustainable Social & Economic Development”, the Lead partners are from the Bulgarian site and in 41% of the contracted projects - the Lead partners are Turkish organizations.
- In 58% of the contracted projects within Priority Axis 2 “Improvement the Quality of Life”, the Lead partners are from the Bulgarian site and in 42% of the contracted projects - the Lead partners are Turkish organizations.



• Implementation phase

Currently 47 contracts are under implementation and one contract (ref.№ 2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-40) has been terminated, due to withdrawal by the project partners.

At the end of year 2011, thirty six (36) “soft measures” projects and eleven (11) “investment” projects were on-going, from which 5 “soft measures” projects were at their final stage of implementation (end date March-April 2012) - projects with ref.№ 2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-15; 2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-16; 2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-45; 2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-51; 2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-82).

Request for extensions/modifications

During the project lifecycle the Lead partners could request justified modifications of the Subsidy contracts related to changes in partnership, project content, project management team, budget reallocations and extension of project’s implementation period. The detailed procedures for Subsidy contracts’ modifications are additionally described in PM and PIM.

During the reporting period majority of the modifications were connected with projects team changes, which were perceived as obstacles for proper implementation of the projects. In that connection, some changes in





project content (time schedule of the project implementation) were submitted in the initial phase of the projects implementations.

Additionally, modifications related to budget allocations, and in particular usages of contingency reserve in the projects, were requested within 2011. Mainly the requests for usages of contingency reserve in the projects were connected with the expenditures for visas of the Turkish partners.

One project has provided a justified request for extension of project implementation and addendum to the subsidy contract for the project with ref.№ 2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-22 has been signed. The project implementation periods was extended from 12 months to 15 months (deadline September 2012)

Risk assessment

In accordance with described procedures within PM, during 2011 Risk Management Group (RMG) was established, including representatives of MA and JTS. The main task of the RMG is to perform risk assessment on programme and project level through determination a baseline categorization of potential risks events and subsequent analysis and assessment. The RMG prioritizes the identified risks and provide Risk response plan to reduce the likelihood or consequences of risk impact.

- *Project level*

During the reporting period, the initial risks' identification was performed by JTS during the first monitoring visit of the contracted projects. Based on the result of the on the spot visits and projects progress reports, the RMG conducted risk assessment sessions. As a result, two (2) of projects under the First Call are identified as high risk in terms of implementation of planned activities and objectives: project with ref.№ 2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-30 with Lead partner – Pinarhisar Municipality Administration (Turkey) and project partner – Municipality of Lyubimets (Bulgaria), and project with ref.№ 2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-55 with Lead partner – Trakya University in Edirne (Turkey) and project partner - Technical College in Yambol (Bulgaria). These projects faced insuperable problems in implementation of the project, due to poor partnership relations. Withdrawal by the project partners from projects implementation is foreseen in 2012.

Seven projects were identified as risky in relation to procurement and team capacity, and were invited to individual consultations with MA and JTS experts on 14th September 2011.

The results of the assessments together with determined options and actions to reduce the likelihood or consequences of risk impact on the project's objectives were summarized in "Summary Project Risk Assessment Report and Response Plan", which was approved by the Head of MA on 12th December 2011. Within 9 (nine) project some delay the implementation of project activities were found.

The most common risk events identified in the projects implementation under First Call for Proposal, which could be bringing out are as follows:





- *financial risk* – project partners are not capable to meet expenditures on the projects within the planned timeschedule;
- *procurement risk* - beneficiaries faced problems in carrying out procurement procedures under PRAG rules;
- *operational risk* – delays in the implementation, due to non proper planning and starting of the project activities, poor communication between the project partners, changes in the project teams and/or in the project content, delays in sub-contracting, problems with documentations and language of the programme.

Project partners as schools, universities and non-government organizations (NGOs) mainly faced problems about the financial resources and procurement capacity, while municipal administrations mainly faced problems with institutional capacity and proper planning of project activities (operational risk of delays).

In order to mitigate the ascertained risks and untimely completion of the planned project activities, JTS and MA had taken several measures to observe the project progress and to support the beneficiaries. In relation to the Risk Response plan, concerning all risky projects the JTS took the following measures:

- The JTS strictly observed during the period under review the quality of the project progress report (PPR), and for the projects with financial risks – the quality of the financial part of the PPR;
- The JTS observed the progress of the projects and the respective timetable through strict monitoring of PPR, implementation of the procurement plan, project timetable, and related correspondence.
- The JTS observed the subcontracting management by the PP mainly through consultations, site visits and observation of a procurement procedures;

- *Programme level*

The RMG is responsible to review and monitor risks throughout the programme to keep on top of them as they may transform or new ones might come up. According to the provisions under PM, at the end of each calendar year, the Chairperson of RMG prepared Programme Risk Assessment Report, which presents in detail all high and medium risks that have persistently occurred at project level together with the measures that have been taken for their mitigation, as well as any Programme level risks and weaknesses that can be identified at this stage. For the reporting period the main Programme level risks could be specified as follows:

- The de-commitment situation for the following years, and in particular for 2012, represents a serious risk considering the current level of absorption funds by beneficiaries;
- The First Level Control system becomes a serious challenge in the terms of the programme implementation. Some obstacles in the FLC process were determined in 2011, which could be identified as a risk event for the further programme implementation. Although the slight delay in the verification procedures





observed in the partnering country, the NA has been taking necessary measures to overcome the accumulated delay in the following periods. . .

The risks events, as well as problems identified at programme level are described in detail in the next chapters of the current report.

2nd Call for Proposals

The **Second Call for proposals** under the Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme was launched on 8th September 2011 with deadline for submission of project proposals on 8th December 2011. As a result of submitted requests for extension of the deadline by the BG partners justified with forthcoming local election in Bulgaria, the JMC took a decision to prolong the deadline for submission of project proposals to 16th January 2012. The Second call for proposals was announced on the Programme web-page (<http://www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu/eng/calls/view/2/invitation>), on the Single information web-portal: <http://www.eufunds.bg> and in electronic and press media.

The Information campaign concerning the Second Call for project proposals of the Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme has been launched on the 4th October 2011 in Haskovo, where more than 60 potential applicants attended. Following the launch of the Second Call, four Info Days and one Partnership Forum for potential beneficiaries have been organized in the cross-border region. The Information campaign under Second Call for Proposals contributes to the increased interest in the cross-border region and as a result more than 200 organizations and public entities took part in these events. More information for the campaign is provided in section "Information and publicity".

Audits

Within the 2011 the Executive Agency "Audit of European Union Funds" of the Republic of Bulgaria, which is an Audit Authority for the Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross border programme 2007-2013 has conducted a "Systematic audit for assurance on effective functioning of management and control systems" under the programme and submitted its Final report on 24th November 2011. Following 4 level scale for formulating the final assessment for the programme the Audit Authority's opinion refers to level 2 "Work, but some improvements are needed". The preliminary audit report was submitted to the Managing Authority of the programme on 28th September 2011 and encompasses twelve findings of which seven were determined with "low level", four with "medium level" and one with "high level" of significance. The preliminary audit report specific objectives were focused on key requirement 1 "Clear determination and division of functions between and in the framework of the MA" and key requirement 2 "Adequate procedures for selection of operations". Following the findings formulated within the preliminary audit report the MA adopted roadmap and launched measures to overcome the shortcomings identified by the AA. The general issues underlined by the AA have mainly an administrative character and related to timeframes, technical issues related to evaluation grid, etc. Within the final audit report nine of the findings from the preliminary report are closed, for two findings there is





determination that adequate measures are adopted and for three of the findings the AA defines that supplementary activities are required. The required supplementary activities are undertaken and duly fulfilled by the MA in December 2011 in accordance with findings related to the requirement that indicative timeframe for each stage of assessment process shall be specified in administrative order for appointment of the Assessment working groups (AWG), requirement related to technical adjustment of evaluation grid, etc.

In the revised version of PM, additional clarifications and requirements concerning the specific tasks of the AWG and external assessors were provided. Special attention was given to confidentiality of the assessment process, reflected in administrative procedures of the AWG and external assessors. Additionally, instruction for the quality of the external assessors work and their recommendations were provided in the PM. All these improvements in the procedures will enhance the transparency and quality of the assessment process for the next Calls for proposals.

Evaluation under the programme

Multi-annual Evaluation Plan for Bulgaria – Turkey IPA Cross-Border Programme 2007-2013 was elaborated and approved by JMC on 23rd March 2011. The Evaluation Plan defines and explains the overall coordination arrangements for the ongoing evaluation process under the programme. Following the evaluation plan, the Programme is subject to three evaluations aiming to improve the quality, effectiveness and consistency of the assistance and the strategy and implementation of the Programme.

The first evaluation was carried out in May 2011 by MA experts. The main purpose of the internal analysis was **examination of the output and result indicators**, which are going to be achieved in result of project implementation under First Call for Proposals in order to assess the extent of achievement of the programme's indicators. It was assumed that:

- Deliverables under the projects approved for financing within the First Call for Proposals, concerning key areas of intervention 1.1 "Improvement of the social development and social cohesion links" and 1.2 "Economy Competitiveness increasing" will closely achieve the targets values.
- The targets of the output and result indicators for key areas of intervention 2.1 "Protection of environment, nature and historical and cultural heritage" and 2.2 "Capacity building for sustainable use of natural resources, cultural and historical heritage" will be fully achieved after implementation of project under 2nd Call for proposals.
- The special attention is paid to the project proposals concerning small-scale infrastructures under key areas of intervention 1.3 "Infrastructural support for the improvement of the economic potential of the co-operation area" of the Programme priority axis 1.

As a result of the analysis, a Methodology for output and result indicators under the Bulgaria – Turkey IPA Cross-Border Programme (CCI Number 2007CB16IPO008) were uploaded to the Programme web-page





(<http://www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu/eng/page/documents/others>) and recommendation for using the methodology during the preparation of the Application Form was incorporated in the Guidelines for applicants under the 2nd Call.

During 2011, an internal evaluation related to **achievement of objectives set out in the Communication plan** has been carried out by MA experts. The result of the evaluation directs to improvement of the communication plan in the following main points:

- Refining the communication objectives and activities in order to be respected the logic intervention objective-activity-result (indicators).
- Improvement of the indicators (definition and quantities) in order to become accurately SMART.
- Including the result and impact indicators in order to assess the general awareness of the public about the programme.
- The reliable source data for monitoring the indicators to be ensured.

As a result of the evaluation, an Indicative Plan for implementation of the recommendations given by the evaluation has been elaborated and strictly observed by the Communication officer in the JTS. The revised Communication plan is uploaded on the programme web-page (<http://www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu/eng/page/documents/others>)

In 2012 an external on-going evaluation will be carried out under the Programme. The evaluation will examine the implementation of the Programme, of a broader nature, against the standard criteria of effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, impact and sustainability. It will look towards the following programming period with a view to identifying priorities for funding on the basis of the experiences of implementation of the Programme.

• **Information on the physical progress of the Programme:**

The table below presents the result indicators which are used to monitor the progress at programme level. The table contents baselines and indicators achieved during 2011 in compliance with Methodology of Programme output and result indicators assessment elaborated under the Programme. It is aiming more precisely defining of the indicators and their measurement. The achievements on programme level will be reported as soon as the projects under First Call for Proposals complete their implementation.

The indicators which will be used to monitor the progress at Programme level are shown in the table below:

Programme Result Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Increased number of social and cohesion links	Achievement	0	0	0	0	33						
	Target 2016	4 %										
	Baseline*	201										



Programme Result Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Improved environment for development of relationships across the border	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	4 %										
	Baseline*	50										
Number of Joint information services established	Achievement	0	0	0	0	190						
	Target 2016	3										
	Baseline	10										
Increased cross-border movement of people and exchange of goods and services in the region	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	2.5 %										
	Baseline*	9										
Increased common cultural capital	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	3 %										
	Baseline*	9										
Improved small-scale infrastructure	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	3 %										
	Baseline*	17										
Projects actually applied	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	3 %										
	Baseline	8										
Decreased pollution in the region	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	2 %										
	Baseline*	1										
Increased attractiveness of the region based on preservation of natural resources and historical / cultural heritage	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	2 %										
	Baseline*	20										
Increased sustainable utilisation of natural and historical/cultural resources	Achievement	0	0	0	0	6,25						
	Target 2016	2 %										
	Baseline*	16										

* The table above represents data on the grounds of contracted projects level and successfully finalized activities



- **Financial information (All financial data should be expressed in euro)**

The total value of the IPA CBC Programme Bulgaria - Turkey for the period 2007 - 2013 is € 32 084 823 out of which € 27 272 100 are European funding and € 4 812 723 national co-financing from state budgets by both partnering countries. The division of financial support between priorities 2007-2013 is shown in the table below:

Breakdown of priority axes by source of funding:

Priority Axes:	Community Funding	National Public funding	Total funding	Co-financing rate (%)
	(a)	(b)	c=a+b	a/c*100:b/c*100
Priority Axis 1: Sustainable Social & Economic Development:	10 908 840	1 925 089	12 833 929	85 :15
Priority Axis 2: Improvement the Quality of Life:	13 636 050	2 406 362	16 042 412	85 :15
Priority Axis 3: Technical Assistance	2 727 210	481 272	3 208 482	85 :15
Total	27 272 100	4 812 723	32 084 823	85 :15

**The table above represents data for the period 2007-2013 according to the approved by the JMC on 23rd August 2011 amendment related to new financial allocations covering the period 2012 and 2013 of the Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross border programme which follows the adoption by the EC of the Multi-annual Indicative Financial Framework 2011-2013. There is acknowledgement as of 14th October 2011 for receipt via SFC2007 system of the financial tables covering the period 2012-2013 of the programme. Revision of data is pending due to de-commitment rule proceedings.*

N+3 Rule (pursuant to Article 166 of the Council Regulation №1605 of 25th of June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities)

The IPA-Programme Bulgaria-Turkey has unfortunately had important delays in process, and afterwards, in contracting and paying project beneficiaries. This situation has completing the compliance hindered its implementation and led to an important de-commitment of funds, following the n+3 rule (pursuant to Article 166 of the general budget of the European Commission).

Although the measures taken by the MA for speeding up the verification process (possibility for additional verifications of expenditures, trainings for beneficiaries, individual consultations etc.) the level of absorption of the fund by the project partners during the first quarterly period was unsatisfactory and below the expected target. In addition, it should be noted that some delay in verification process was accumulated on the Turkish territory due to the late start of the FLC system.





Automatic de-commitment was applied to the Programme for 2011 by the EC and the MA was accordingly notified about reducing of the obligation of EC for the amount of **825 585.28 euro** under the Programme. The MA should submit to the EC an updated financial plan till 22nd May 2012.

Joint technical meetings between representative from the MA, NA and JTS were held during the reporting period, on which the identified problems and possible solutions were discussed, as well as a decision for preparation of draft document – a Road Map for avoiding de-commitment in the future, was taken. A meeting for broad discussion of these issues between MA and NA is foreseen to be held in 2012 and concrete proposals and further steps for avoiding future de-commitment to be found. For the preparation of the concrete steps needed for elaboration of this Road Map, the MA and NA will take into account also the previous experience base on provided consultations, additional guidance and the day-to-day support to the beneficiaries. Additionally, the expectations are that the lessons learned and the experience gained from the current programming period, will ensure the future success in the new one.

Accomplishment status of N+ 3 rules by 31st of December 2011:

Programme Payment targets*				EC advance payments 2007-2009	EC reimbursements 2007-2011**	Total advance + reimbursements	Amounts to be included in application for payment in order to avoid N+3Risk		
2008	2009	2010	2011				2012	2013	2014
0.00	0.00	0.00	922 793.00	5 021 173.00	0.00	5 021 173.00	4 098 380.00	4 180 348.00	4 263 954.00

** Cumulated amounts 2007-2011

In order to be avoided further de-commitment for year 2012, the Programme has to declare to the EC the reimbursed expenditures amount to € 4 098 380,00.

Under the First Call for Proposals, 50 contracts were signed on the total amount of € 8 077 192,14 (IPA contribution) and 20% of the contracted projects budgets (total amount of **1 900 515,82 euro**) was granted as advance payments to the beneficiaries. In order to avoid the possible de-commitment for 2012, at least 50 % of the value of the signed contracts should be paid and subsequently certified by the Certifying Authority.

In addition, it is expected that in the middle of 2012, the MA is going to sign contracts under the Second Call for Proposals and it is possible around 10% of the amount of those contracts to be actually verified by the end of 2012.

Considering the low amount declared to the Commission for 2011, the de-commitment situation for the following years, and in particular for 2012, represents a serious challenge considering that the level of expenditure to be certified is extremely high in relation to the rhythm of absorption and reporting of the projects





that hitherto has been experienced. The MA and JTS have therefore taken a proactive approach and beside of being active by providing consultations, additional guidance and day-to-day support to the project partners.

Beside measures taken till now, the MA is continuing to provide additional efforts in order to increase the quality level of the submitted documents by the project partners as well to ensure proper implementation of the projects.

- **Information about the breakdown of use of the Funds**

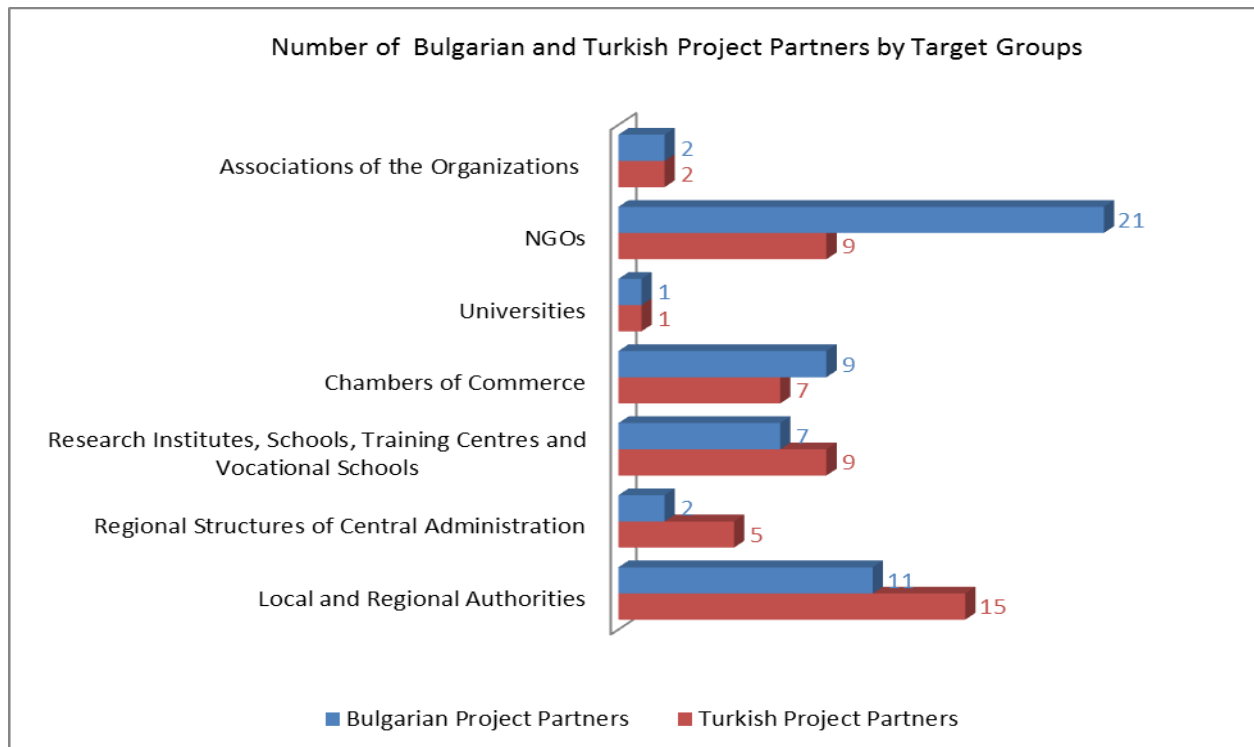
The table below presents actual financial data for year 2011. As it is evident from the presented information for year 2011 the project beneficiaries submitted to the MA requests for payment amount to 146 797.93 euro from which 58 259.11 euro were paid by the MA.

Priority axes by source of funding (EUR)

	Expenditure paid out by the beneficiaries included in payment claims sent to the MA	Corresponding Public contribution	Private expenditure	Expenditure paid by the body responsible for making payments to the beneficiaries	Total payments received from the Commission
PRIORITY AXIS 1	27 104.95	27 104.95	0	0	0
PRIORITY AXIS 2	1 462.62	1 462.62	0	0	0
PRIORITY AXIS 3	118 230.36	118 230.36	0	58 259.11	0
GRAND TOTAL	146 797.93	146 797.93	0	58 259.11	0

- **Assistance by target groups**

The following chart presents information about distribution of the assistance by target groups on the basis of contracted projects under First Call for Proposals.



- **Assistance repaid or re-used**

Not applicable.

- **Qualitative analysis**

From a programme management point of view, during 2011 the efforts were concentrated on ensuring a sufficient speed in the implementation of the programme in order to avoid de-commitment and to forward the dissemination activities.

The significant delay in starting of Bulgaria – Turkey IPA Cross-Border Programme affects into absorption of the fund and the current financial status shows slow progress of the programme. The absorption of funds from the projects side increased, but additional efforts are still required concerning the FLC in partnering country and quality of the request for payment submitted by beneficiaries. The close cooperation with NA and consultations to the beneficiaries will continued in order to support the very demanding tasks in meeting formalities in relation to Programme's requirements.

During 2011, major steps were taken in order the accumulated delay to be overcome and the de-commitment to be avoided. The MA completed the contracting process under the First Call for Proposals and the overall assessment process was carried out according to the indicative time frame. The pre-contract site visits and



negotiation procedures were carried out smoothly, bringing out some minor shortcomings in the guidelines for applicants and technical evaluation (overcome in the Second Call).

In general, the First Calls for Proposals can be considered successful from the point of view that a sufficient number of proposals have been received, indicating a vivid interest to the Cross-border programme. The response on the First Call reveals a positive trend in submission of qualitative applications under all measures within the Programme. In fact, as it was described in chapter 2.1 the good quality of the applications predetermines additional allocations of fund available to First Call. The amount of the Call was increased with almost 60%.

The greater part of the subsidy contracts under First Call for Proposals was signed between 29th June and 1st July 2011. In the implementation phase, due to the long period between the deadline for submission of project proposals (28th December 2009) and the signature of the subsidy contracts, administrative changes were required by beneficiaries in the project management teams. Additionally, the requirement projects staff to be contracted on labour contract bases became an obstacle for the proper starting of the projects. In general, the delay in the appointment of the project management staff accumulated delay in initial phase of implementation of some projects. The first implementation trimester for most of the projects finished with the formation of the project team and the expenses made for the project were mainly for the salaries of the staff. During the second trimester the beneficiaries started to overcome the delay of the activities. Most of the procurement procedures were launched during the second trimester and a lot of the planned project activities were implemented.

In order to facilitate the beneficiaries, MA and JTS introduced an innovative and beneficial for the project partners practice of publishing on the website of the Programme filled in examples of the PRAG tender dossiers (works, supplies and services) for most frequently used procedures. In addition, training and consultation tools, and section "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQ) on the programme's webpage were applied.

The horizontal themes are also taken into consideration through the standard format of the application form developed in the context of the Programme. As result, the applicants and beneficiaries are requested to justify how their projects observe the Programme provisions on horizontal themes. During the implementation of the projects project, these rules are observed, since such a provision is inserted in the progress project report.

As a whole, the contracted under the First Call for Proposals were ones with balanced activities, balanced project management and balanced budgets between the Turkish and the Bulgarian project partners. Most of the projects are run smoothly with the active participation of the partners from both sides of the border. The principle of the LP is strictly obeyed. Some of the partnerships were established before the implementation of the current projects and are showing good characteristics of sustainability.





2.2. Information about compliance with Community law

There were no problems encountered relating to the compliance with Community law in the implementation of the Programme.

2.2.1 Changes in Bulgarian legislation affecting the Programme implementation

Changes in rules regarding eligibility of the expenditures

With Council of Ministers' Decree No 330 of 5th December, 2011 (Published in State Gazette No 98 of 13th December 2011) amending Council of Ministers' Decree No 62 of 2007 regarding the adoption of National rules on eligibility of expenditure under the operational programmes co-financed by the Structural and Cohesion funds of the European Union, in relation to the 2007-2013 financial framework (Published in State Gazette, No 27 of 2007) a "Methodology for the determination, payment and reimbursement of expenditure for the remuneration of employees in the administration of central and territorial authorities of the executive power, the administration of local self-government authorities and the administration of the judiciary for the management and implementation of projects and participation in the evaluation of project proposals under operational programmes co-financed from the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund of the European Union" was adopted. The Council of Ministers' Decree № 330 entered into force on the day of its promulgation in the State Gazette – 13th December 2011.

The subject matter of the approved methodology is the remuneration, which could be paid to the employees (civil servants) of State administration (central and local) and the administrations of municipalities in relation with the performance of activities for managing or implementing projects under operational programmes financed by the Structural and Cohesion Funds of EU and will be applied for all Bulgarian partners in projects for which subsidy contracts are signed after its entering into force.

2.3 Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

Within the programme implementation, the following significant problems were encountered:

- The Programme has had important delays in completing the compliance process and afterwards in contracting and paying projects beneficiaries. This situation has hindered its implementation and led to an important de-commitment of funds at the end of 2011, following the N+3 rule (825 585.28 euro should be reduced from the Programme budget). Considering the low amount declared to the Commission for the year 2011, the de-commitment situation for the following years and in particular for 2012, represents a serious challenge considering the level of expenditure to be certified. The MA and NA have therefore taken a proactive approach and beside of being active by providing information, additional guidance not only to LPs but also directly to Project Partners and to the First Level Controller, as well as a road map for avoiding fund de-commitment has also been discussed among the responsible programme parties.





- The accumulated delays in implementation of the Subsidy contracts and the low level of financial absorption by the project partners were crucial for the low level of programme financial commitment in 2011. The delays are partly related to problems inside the project partnership and/or complexity in using the specific tender documents under PRAG (also difficulties with English language). Another negative effect on the proper project implementation is failure of the verification process to comply with the given deadlines and a lack of experience in some of the project partners. Frequent changes of project team members and/or recruitment of experts with insufficient experience in cross-border projects additionally impede the successful project implementation as a whole. Besides administrative issues during the projects implementation period, some problems with pre-financing of the projects' activities were identified in several Turkish partners (NGOs and municipalities). In order to avoid delays in projects implementations, all Lead partners were strongly recommended to prepare (jointly with all projects partners) cash flow chart as a precondition for timely completion of the projects activities. Furthermore, during 2011 MA provided an opportunity to all beneficiaries who had made expenditures over 2000€ to request for FLC and reimbursements of funds on a monthly basis..

- The experience of 2011 showed that particular attention needed to be given to the correct and timely functioning of the First Level Control system. There was a need to find ways to cope with the delays within the process of costs verification of the project partners, as well as to be improved the quality of the submitted documents from the less experienced beneficiaries and controllers. These kinds of problems have led to important delays in the verifications of expenditures on Turkish side, and in the payment process to the beneficiaries as a whole. As measures to overcome these obstacles, the MA and NA continued active correspondence regarding problems arisen in the implementation phase (especially FLC system) and concrete solutions were proposed. During 2011, several Joint technical meetings were held, where possible options/ways for improving of the First Level Control system, as well as possibilities for assistance to the beneficiaries in project implementation were broadly discussed.

- Another problem area is the spending of funds under Priority Axis 3 "Technical assistance" by the NA, related to the specific national legislation rules of the Republic of Turkey. The NA faced difficulties to spent in advance own resources for the needs of the programme implementation due to legislation obstacles for recovery amounts from the Technical Assistance budget. In this regard during 2011, the MA continued correspondence with the NA concerning this issue and considered that the NA would take all necessary measures for solving the existing problem in spending funds under the Technical Assistance budget.

Special attention was paid to the difficulties from the side of the project partners in the preparation of tender documentation and specific annexes of PIM (difficulties in using the official programme language – English; lack of PRAG knowledge). In that connection MA and JTS took practical measures to support to the beneficiaries in several manners, as:





- Providing trainings for the beneficiaries concerning the requirements and the specifics in programme project implementation;
- Organizing “Open days” in the JTS, on which in details technical questions with the project partners from both sides, as well as the possible solutions how to deal with different cases and problems are discussed;
- Examples of the mostly used documents in the project implementation process have been uploaded on the web-site of the programme (Project Progress Reports, Request for First Level Control and Request for Payment; Time sheets - Reports for the hours worked on the project etc.); Examples of Tender Dossiers for each type of contract (Service, Supply and Works) have been elaborated and they were published on the programme web-site. The MA is responsible for monitoring of the new/updated versions of PRAG and for providing timely instructions and advises to the beneficiaries in accordance with the changes occurred.
- The “FAQ” section on the web-sites of the programmes are being updated permanently in order to acquaint a wider number of beneficiaries with the MA opinion on several issues of technical and financial character (order and method of assigning the responsibilities, calculating and payment of salaries, reporting and acceptance of work, performed by the experts from the Bulgarian project partners teams, procedures for approval of an exception of a Rule on nationality and origin etc...)
- Daily consultations for the members of the project teams on topics, related to the project implementation (tender procedures, preparation of specific annexes and project documents, requests for change in the subsidy contracts, etc.)
- Participation of the JTS`s representatives as observers in the Tender Opening Sessions in the sub-tendering procedures; and
- On-the-spot visits, in order to assess the real progress of the project implementation and to advice the project teams when different cases and problems occur.

In general, even though the programme has faced delays with the submission of request for payments from Bulgarian LPs in the course of 2011, it could be noted that the quality of the submitted project related documents - progress reports, request for FLC and payments, correspondence, etc. have been improving. The quality of the prepared tender dossiers and the sub-tender procedures launched, have been improving as well. On the base of good partnership relations, most of the projects are running smoothly with the active participation of the partners from both sides of the border. Some of the partnerships were established even before the implementation of the current projects and thus it is a good prerequisite for project sustainability. Additionally, a lot of good examples for good partnerships relations could be outlined, in cases where more experienced partners support the less experience ones with expertise and practical assistance.





2.4 Changes in the context of the programme implementation (if relevant)

After the approval of the Programme by the Commission, the following facts appeared requiring changes in the text of the Programme:

- According to the approved by the JMC on 23rd August 2011 amendment related to new financial allocations covering the period 2012 and 2013 of the Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross border programme, the Breakdown of priority axes by source of funding has to be updated in the Programme. Following the adoption by the EC of the Multi-annual Indicative Financial Framework 2011-2013, the acknowledgement for receipt via SFC2007 system of the financial tables covering the period 2012-2013 of the programme has been received on 14th October 2011.

2.5 Complementarity with other instruments

The complementarity of the Bulgaria – Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme with other instruments has been thoroughly analysed already in the programming phase and it is discussed in detail in Chapter 7 of the Operational Programme Document.

Complementarity with other financial instruments will be ensured through mechanisms foreseen in the programming document. The coordination of the Programme with other plans/programmes financial instruments will be done by the national coordination structures in both participating countries.

The representatives of national coordination structures participate in JMC sessions. Representatives from ministries managing sectoral programmes also participate as observers in JMC sessions ensuring coordination and avoiding overlapping. Another useful tool for this purpose is the Management Information System of the Programme.

2.6 Monitoring arrangements

The Description of management and control systems ensures reliable accounting, monitoring and financial reporting system.

Programme level

The Managing Authority and the Joint Monitoring Committee are responsible for monitoring the Programme implementation in accordance with the principle of sound financial management. The Joint Monitoring Committee observes the monitoring of the Programme implementation and ensures the achievement of the Programme objectives through a rational use of the allocated resources.

During the reporting period, one **Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) meeting** was carried out. It took place on 23rd March 2011 in Haskovo and was co-chaired by Ms. Lilyana Pavlova, at that time Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works of the Republic of Bulgaria and Head of the MA. The Joint Monitoring Committee members have discussed the results of the First call projects evaluation, reallocation of





fund for this Call. As a result JMC conditionally approves for financing under the First Call for Proposal: 29 project proposals under Priority Axis 1 and 21 project proposals under Priority Axis 2, as well as the reserve list of projects (11 projects for Priority Axis 1 and 4 projects for Priority Axis 2). The JMC also approved the JTS Annual Work Plan for 2011, the revised Rules of procedures for the JMC meetings, the Communication Plan of the Programme and the Evaluation Plan of the Programme for 2007 – 2013.

During 2011, the seven **JMC written procedures** were carried out with the following main subjects:

- On 07.06.2011 a written procedure was launched regarding the approval of Annual report for implementation of Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme for 2010 and approval of evaluation report related to Communication plan under the Programme. The Minutes of JMC decisions were signed on 28th June 2011.
- On 26.07.2011 a written procedure was launched (and the Decisions were signed on 23.08.2011) the regarding JMC approval of the amendments of Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme 2007 – 2013.
- On 18.08.2011 a written procedure was launched for approval of the Guidelines for applicants for the Second Call for Proposals of the Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme. The Decisions were signed on 07.09.2011.
- On 26.09.2011 a written procedure was carried out and the Decisions were signed on 30.09.2011) for revision of indicative Technical Assistance Budget for year 2011, Eligibility of Expenditure Rules for the Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme and Budget TA forecast 2012 – 2016.
- On 01.11.2011 a written procedure was launched (and the Decisions were signed on 11.11.2011) regarding the JMC approval of ANNEX 1 to JMC Decision from 07/09/2011 - Corrigendum No 1 to the Guidelines for Applicants, containing extension of the deadline for submission of proposals under the second call for project proposals of the Bulgaria – Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme 2007CB16IPO008-2011-2 until 16th January 2012, 17:30 o'clock.
- On 06.12.2011 a written procedure was launched (and the Decisions were signed on 12.12.2011) regarding the JMC approval of the Annual Technical Assistance Plan for 2012 under Bulgaria – Turkey IPA CBC Programme with its annexes (Annual Work Plan of the Joint Technical Secretariat for 2012 and Indicative Technical Assistance Budget for 2012);

During the period under review two joint **technical meetings** were organized with representatives from the MA, the NA and the JTS. The technical meeting were held on 22nd March 2011 in Haskovo (Bulgaria) and on 12th July 2011 in Edirne (Turkey), where the focus was on:

- JMC issues - composition of JMC; working language of JMC; improvement of the communication during the session of the JMC; decision making procedure amendment.





- Assessment process under First Call for Proposals - problems faced during the project evaluation process and possible solutions; problems with double financing of projects and their solutions on Turkish side; rejected project under First Call for Proposals.
- FLC issues - number of FL Controllers necessary to perform control of all partners and deadlines; increasing number of Turkish first level controllers and choosing the assessors with technical education.
- Implementation issues – monitoring visits;
- Payment issues - payment to beneficiaries and providing of NA contribution; timing of the verification process and payments to beneficiaries;
- Technical assistant (TA) issues - problems of the NA to spend TA budget in advance; travel arrangements, etc.;
- Administrative issues – JTS annual plan status of the communication officer in Haskovo, amendment of Job Profile for the Project Manager in JTS Antenna;
- Details of the Second Call for Proposals;
- Next developments in programme implementation;

Project level

The overall monitoring at the Projects level is carried out by the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) for Bulgaria–Turkey IPA Cross border Programme with main office located in Haskovo, Bulgaria and a branch office placed in Edirne, Turkey. The JTS implement the main monitoring tools – on the spot checks and checks of PPR, verifying the proper implementation of the projects in conformity with the provisions of the Subsidy Contract, objectives of the Application form and Programme rules.

Initial visits to project under First Call for Proposals have been carried out between 25th July 2011 to 12th August 2011 and 47 Lead partners have been visited. The initial visit conducted by JTS and MA experts aims to assess the level of awareness of the project team about terms and conditions of the Subsidy Contract and the programme implementation rules, and to identify the initial risks for the project implementation. The general conclusions from these visits could be summarized that a lot of projects envisaged changes in the project teams and a delay in the implementation is foreseen due to this administrative changes. It was perceived that insufficient capacity by the project partners in sub-tendering procedures under PRAG rules and the project partners' capability for meet the current expenditures under the projects implementation will be obstacle for smooth implementation of the projects.

Ad hoc (interim) visits were carried out between 5th December 2011 and 8th December 2011. The JTS and the JTS Antenna experts have carried out 12 interim monitoring visits. The general conclusions from these





visits could be summarized as follows:

- The projects progress is in line with the time-frame in almost all of the monitored projects and planned deliverables are achieved. Delays from first trimester are overcome in most projects.
- General visualization requirements are followed in general;
- The public procurement procedures are carried out according to the regulations;
- The beneficiaries present confidence in the sub-tendering procedure under PRAG procurement rules after consultation campaign provided by MA and JTS;
- There are relevant supporting documents providing the labour input and activities performed. Labour contracts are prepared in national languages. Time sheets are presented where applicable;
- FLC has been carried out, but the absorption of the EU funds is going slower.

Additionally, JTS officers have participated as observers at the opening sessions of 6 selected tender procedures. In 2011, also on-the-spot visits have been carried out by MA and Certifying Authority to selected projects under implementation within First Call for Proposals

Control verification process

According to the Management and Control System Description, the MA implemented “quality checks” on the ongoing projects through first level control system. The first level of control (FLC) system is developed in accordance with Art. 16 of Regulation (EC) 1080/2006 in order to make possible in the framework of the IPA CBC Bulgaria-Turkey Programme (2007-2013) to verify: (1) the delivery of the products and services co-financed; (2) the soundness of the expenditure declared for operations or parts of operations implemented on the Bulgarian territory; (3) the compliance of respective expenditures and related operations with Community rules and applicable national rules.

The FLC entails the following checks:

- verification of the delivery of the products and services (as described in the approved Application Form which is the reference point for the approval decision regarding the activities and finance; and/or the project subsidy contract – which sets the legal background for the implementation of the project.);
- verification of the soundness of the expenditure declared;
- verification of the compliance of such expenditure with Programme, EC and national rules.

During the 2011 year FLC was duly implemented for the purposes of verification of expenditures for amounts spent by the project partners implementing projects signed under the First Call for Proposal. The Bulgarian side set up a **decentralized FLC system** and Turkish side adopted also decentralized FLC system.





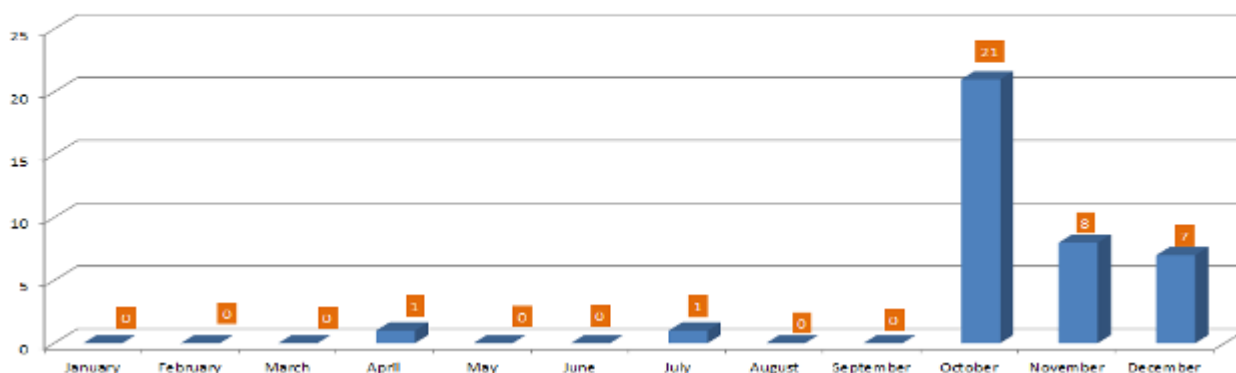
In Bulgaria the FLC is carried out by controllers selected by the DG "Territorial Cooperation Management" within the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works in accordance with respective national rules from a list of external independent controllers (established on state level), authorized by the Ministry in its capacity of Managing authority for IPA CBC Bulgaria-Turkey (2007-2013).

The partnering country established a list with external of controllers based on the approved internal methodology. Recruitment procedure for FLC Officers has been carried out according to the national procedure for selection of candidates. The procedure includes: assessment based on the submitted CVs and supplementary documents; conduction of interview with candidates successfully passed previous step.

Within the year 2011, 44 Lead partners submitted requests for first level of control under the programme.

The chart below represents the flow of invitations to First Level Controllers on monthly basis for the Bulgarian side.

Confirmed invitations by first level controllers to carry out FLC for project partners on the Bulgarian side (2011)



premises of respective project partners in Bulgaria which represents 25 projects and total verified expenditures amounted to 189 101,71 euro.

The Turkish First Level Control for 2011 under the programme encompasses 21 (twenty one) on-the-spot visits on the premises of respective project partners in the Turkish area which represents 20 (twenty) projects and total verified expenditures amounted to 66,493.91 euro. However, no requests for reimbursement of funds have been submitted by Turkish partners during year 2011, due to extended period for performance of quality and on the spot checks by the NA, which were finalized in the beginning of 2012.

Management Information System

In order to facilitate the overall implementation of the Programme, at both programme and project level, the Management Information System is created as practical tool for performing the task of the relevant authorities (Managing Authority, National Authority, Certifying Authority, JTS). The information system is operational and



under updating its functionality. The system's scope covers all joint programme and project level tasks as follows:

- *Programme and call for proposals management:* the adequately recorded programme data creates the basis for all sorts of further monitoring activities. Thus programme data like priority structure, budget, indicators etc. are recorded in order to facilitate programme-level monitoring and aggregations.

- *Project module:* functionality of the project section ensures tracking the whole life-cycle of projects including TA projects as the system facilitates the management and monitoring of a great number of project related tasks (contract and modification data, implementation data - management of progress reports and request for FLC, etc.).

- *Financial management:* the financial section is also a crucial part of the system's functionality. It ensures the sound management of Community funds.

- *Reporting:* in addition to the project applications and contracts data, a section for programme reporting and evaluation will be established during the current functionality's updating of the system.

As from 10.06.2011 a document, containing requirements description, entitled "Module for management of the Operational programmes for cross-border cooperation" is into force. A procedure for electronic data exchange between MIS and UMIS was launched and the MIS-system is being day-to-day maintained and managed in order to ensure the proper information exchange. With the improvement of MIS-system, the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works will provide up-to-date information about the three IPA-Programmes – status of partners, projects, signed contracts etc.

3. Implementation by priority

3.1 Priority Axis 1 "Sustainable Social & Economic Development"

The overall objective of this Priority axis is to increase the overall competitiveness of the cross border economy and to improve social development and social cohesion.

For the period 2007-2013 approximately 10.9 million Euro Community Funding is available for this priority axis, matched by 1.9 million Euro national contributions.

Under First Call for Proposals 29 projects are financed under Priority Axis 1 "Sustainable social & economic development" shared between the measures as follows:

- Measure 1.1 "Improvement of the social development and social cohesion links" – 13 projects;
- Measure 1.2 "Economy Competitiveness increasing" - 11 projects;
- Measure 1.3 "Infrastructural support for the improvement of the economic potential of the co-operation area" – 5 projects





The largest number of projects under Measure 1.1 covers an implementation period of 12 months and one is for 10 months.

Under Measure 1.2 “Economy Competitiveness increasing”, the largest number covers an implementation period of 12 months and 3 are with 9 months duration.

Under Measure 1.3 “Infrastructural support for the improvement of the economic potential of the co-operation area” 4 projects are in implementation distributed as follows: 2 projects for 18 months, one – for 24 months and 1 (project with ref. № 2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-012) has extended time for implementation of the project for 16 months.

The data in the tables above shows the distribution of the projects under Priority Axis 1 by measures and their duration in months.

PRIORITY AXIS 1 SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Measures:	Number of Projects	Duration
Measure 1.1 “Improvement of the social development and social cohesion links”	1 project	10 months
	12 projects	12 months
Measure 1.2 “Economy Competitiveness increasing”	3 projects	9 months
	8 projects	12 months
Measure 1.3 “Infrastructural support for the improvement of the economic potential of the co-operation area”	1 project	12 months
	1 project	16 months
	2 projects	18 months
	1 project	24 months
Total:	29 project under Priority Axis 1	

3.1.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress

- **Information on the physical and financial progress of the priority**

Spheres of intervention within Priority Axis 1

Measure 1.1 “Improvement of the social development and social cohesion links”

The indicative activities under this sphere of intervention are:





- Human resources development in the context of meeting the goals of the Renewed Lisbon Strategy - promotion of the European Lifelong Learning Concept through a variety of joint cross border social initiatives and links such as development of joint training products and implementation of joint training and educational activities; targeted activities for improvement of skills of vulnerable groups so as to match the labour market demands and requirements; transfer of know-how; development of networking channels between relevant institutions; and others;

- People-to-people collaboration projects: pilot actions and networking activities among local organisations and institutions by implementation of joint training and capacity-building in order to reinforce social and culture links, including actions to promote good practice in the less developed areas of the eligible co-operation area.

The indicators which will be used to measure the progress of this Sphere of intervention are shown in the table below:

Table 1

Programme Output Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Joint cooperation projects on development of skills and knowledge	Achievement	0	0	0	0	1						
	Target 2016	15										
	Baseline	0										
Training places created	Achievement	0	0	0	0	4						
	Target 2016	4										
	Baseline	0										
People participating in training	Achievement	0	0	0	0	202						
	Target 2016	500										
	Baseline	0										
People with enhanced skills	Achievement	0	0	0	0	102						
	Target 2016	300										
	Baseline	0										
Management and job-related training courses	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	10										
	Baseline	0										
Networking structures created/developed	Achievement	0	0	0	0	21						
	Target 2016	5										
	Baseline	0										

People from vulnerable groups trained	Achievement	0	0	0	0	200						
	Target 2016	10										
	Baseline	0										
Number of people to people collaboration projects	Achievement	0	0	0	0	12						
	Target 2016	35										
	Baseline	0										
Number of institutions reached	Achievement	0	0	0	0	63						
	Target 2016	250										
	Baseline	0										
Number of people involved	Achievement	0	0	0	0	1198						
	Target 2016	700										
	Baseline	0										

* The table above represents data on the grounds of contracted projects level and successfully finalized activities

Measure 1.2 "Economy Competitiveness increasing"

The indicative activities under this sphere of intervention are:

- Support schemes to facilitate cross border business development initiatives, economic contacts and entrepreneurship by improving the co-operation opportunities of mutual interest across the programming area. Such actions should focus but are not limited to the following key areas: partner-search, general business advice and training, PR activities and awareness raising about market development and conditions across the border, clustering opportunities, etc;

- Development and/or diversification of cross-border tourism and cultural, natural and historical heritage initiatives in order to promote the programming area as a unique destination; etc.

The indicators which will be used to measure the progress of this Sphere of intervention are shown in the table below:

Table 2

Programme Output Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Business and educational linkages created	Achievement	0	0	0	0	6						
	Target 2016	20										
	Baseline	0										
Communities & institutions participating in knowledge economy	Achievement	0	0	0	0	10						
	Target 2016	10										

PARTNERSHIP

	Baseline	0										
Access to and usage of new technology	Achievement	0	0	0	0	17						
	Target 2016	15										
	Baseline	0										
SMEs involved/ addressed in CBC projects	Achievement	0	0	0	0	1461 ¹						
	Target 2016	15										
	Baseline	0										
New jobs created	Achievement	0	0	0	0	27						
	Target 2016	60										
	Baseline	0										
Number of projects concerning common cultural heritage	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	30										
	Baseline	0										
Tourist destinations created/ developed	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	15										
	Baseline	0										
Tourist services created/ developed	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	15										
	Baseline	0										
Surrounding area of cultural spots improved	Achievement	0	0	0	0	7						
	Target 2016	10										
	Baseline	0										
Joint cultural events carried out	Achievement	0	0	0	0	3						
	Target 2016	30										
	Baseline	0										
Institutions / bodies reached by programme activities	Achievement	0	0	0	0	42						
	Target 2016	500										
	Baseline	0										
Awareness campaigns	Achievement	0	0	0	0	17						
	Target 2016	25										
	Baseline	0										

¹ The information is presented by the beneficiaries in PPR. The number consists 1200 SMEs included in a catalog.



Measure 1.3 “Infrastructural support for the improvement of the economic potential of the co-operation area”

The indicative activities under this sphere of intervention are:

- Investments in improvement of small scale infrastructure;
- Elaboration of joint feasibility studies and performing of other preparatory work including elaboration of necessary documentation for investment activities with a cross border impact to apply for funding under different sources.

The indicators which will be used to measure the progress of this Sphere of intervention are shown in the table below:

Table 3

Programme Output Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Number of small-scale infrastructural projects	Achievement	0	0	0	0	5						
	Target 2016	15										
	Baseline	0										
Feasibility studies prepared	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	5										
	Baseline	0										
Preliminary and detailed design works	Achievement	0	0	0	0	2						
	Target 2016	10										
	Baseline	0										
Project environmental assessments	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	2										
	Baseline	0										

* The table above represents data on the grounds of contracted projects level and successfully finalized activities

• **Qualitative analysis**

Following the information presented in the tables above, it could be summarized that implementation of the Priority Axis 1 “Sustainable social & economic development” is doing in the good track. Under all measures within the Priority Axis there is sufficient number of contracted projects under the First Call for Proposals, which could be considered as a good precondition for achievement of planed target values of the Programme indicators.

Planned outputs and results of the projects are an integral part of the application form and Subsidy contract. Each applicant of the respective Call for proposal within the Programme has to choose project's output and result indicators relevant to the pre-defined Programme indicators. In the implementation phase of the





projects, the Lead partners provide qualitative and quantitative data on the quarterly basis concerning the achievement of outlined projects indicators.

Although the accumulated delay in starting of projects activities within Subsidy contracts under First Call for proposals, some of the projects indicators were reported as achieved by the beneficiaries in the year 2011. The data presented above is filled on the grounds of contracted projects level and successfully finalized activities reported by the beneficiaries. The sufficient and relevant data of the actual achieved indicators under First Call for proposals could be presented after projects completion or when at least more than 2/3 of the contracted projects under the First Call are entirely accomplished. A comprehensive analysis of the level of achievement of the Programme indicators will be presented in the next annual report.

3.1.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

No significant problems could be encountered in implementing the priority.

One of the projects under this priority axis (project with ref. № 2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-055) has been identified as project with high risk in terms of implementation of planned activities and objectives. The problem with the implementation of project with ref. № 2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-055 has arisen after change of one of the Project partners. MA and JTS has made several written attempts to contact with the Turkish project partner and organized meetings in order to try to recover the communication between the partners, which were unsuccessful. In this case, there was a lack of communication between the partners, which is object of the partnership agreement. It is out of the competence of the programme bodies to obligate the project partners to cooperate and communicate with each other. This project faced insuperable problems in its implementation, due to poor partnership relations and withdrawal by the project partners from projects implementation is foreseen in 2012.

3.2 Priority Axis 2 “Improvement of the quality of life”

The overall objective of this Priority axis is to stipulate cooperation for protection of nature and specific fields of environment, protection of historical and cultural heritage as well as provision of assistance in emergency cases.

For the period 2007-2013 approximately 13.6 million euro Community Funding is available for this priority axis, matched by 2.4 million Euro national contributions.

Under First Call for Proposals 18 projects are financed under Priority Axis 2 “Improvement of the quality of life” shared between the measures as follows:

- Measures 2.1 “Protection of environment, nature and historical and cultural heritage” – 11 projects;
- Measure 2.2 “Capacity building for sustainable use of natural resources, cultural and historical heritage” - 7 projects





The largest number of projects under Measure 2.1 covers an implementation period of 12 months. Three have duration 24 months and the other are distributed as follows: 2 projects are foreseen to be implemented for 18 months, one project has duration 16 months and 1 project (project with ref. № 2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-016) is with prolongation of the implementation time for 11 months.

Under Measure 2.2 six project for the reporting period are with duration for project implementation of 12 months and one has an extended project implementation period – namely from 12 to 15 months (project with ref. № 2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-022).

The data in the tables above shows the distribution of the projects under Priority Axis 1 by measures and their duration in months.

PRIORITY AXIS 2 IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE

Measures:	Number of Projects	Duration
Measure 2.1 "Protection of environment, nature and historical and cultural heritage"	1 project	11 months
	4 projects	12 months
	1 project	16 months
	2 projects	18 months
	3 projects	24 months
Measure 2.2 "Capacity building for sustainable use of natural resources, cultural and historical heritage"	6 projects	12 months
	1 project	15 months
Total:	18 project under Priority Axis 2	

3.2.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress

- **Information on the physical and financial progress of the priority**

Spheres of intervention within Priority Axis 2

Measure 2.1 "Protection of environment, nature and historical and cultural heritage"

The indicative activities under this sphere of intervention are:

- Development of feasibility studies and other preparatory work including elaboration of necessary documentation for investment activities with clear cross border impact. A special focus will be given to preparation of projects related to improvement of environment and nature, emergency readiness, protection of historical and cultural heritage, for development of waste water treatment plants and solid waste infrastructure,





cross border collaboration and joint activities and cooperative schemes for early warning and prevention of floods as well as water resources management;

- Investments in development of small-scale infrastructure with a clear cross-border effect for protection of natural, cultural and historical heritage, as well as for risk prevention;

- Restoration activities: Restoration of historical buildings and other forms of constructions; including survey, preparation of projects and construction.

The indicators which will be used to measure the progress of this Sphere of intervention are shown in the table below:

Table 4

Programme Output Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Number of joint environmental friendly projects	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	30										
	Baseline	0										
Joint Eco-itineraries created/ developed	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	15										
	Baseline	0										
Partnerships for cases of natural disasters established	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	2										
	Baseline	0										
Environmental management plans	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	2										
	Baseline	0										
Networks for environmental and cultural/historical heritage protection and reasonable utilization of resources	Achievement	0	0	0	0	1						
	Target 2016	6										
	Baseline	0										
Number of small-scale infrastructural projects concerning environmental and cultural heritage protection	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	15										
	Baseline	0										
Feasibility studies prepared	Achievement	0	0	0	0	1						
	Target 2016	5										
	Baseline	0										
Preliminary and detailed design works	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						



	Target 2016	10										
	Baseline	0										
Project environmental assessments	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0						
	Target 2016	2										
	Baseline	0										

* The table above represents data on the grounds of contracted projects level and successfully finalized activities

Measure 2.2 “Capacity building for sustainable use of natural resources, cultural and historical heritage”

The indicative activities under this sphere of intervention are:

- Development and implementation of joint activities including information and awareness campaigns and exchange of know-how in the fields of environmental & nature protection, emergency readiness, protection of cultural and historical heritage

The indicators which will be used to measure the progress of this Sphere of intervention are shown in the table below:

Table 5

Programme Output Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Number of awareness campaigns carried	Achievement	0	0	0	0	3						
	Target 2016	15										
	Baseline	0										
Number of institutions involved in joint activities and exchange of know-how;	Achievement	0	0	0	0	3						
	Target 2016	30										
	Baseline	0										
Number of people reached by joint information and awareness campaigns	Achievement	0	0	0	0	251 000 ²						
	Target 2016	500										
	Baseline	0										

• **Qualitative analysis**

Following the information presented in the tables above, it could be summarized that implementation of the Priority Axis 2 “Improvement of the quality of life” is doing in the good track. Under all measures within the

* The table above represents data on the grounds of contracted projects level and successfully finalized activities

² The information is reported by the beneficiaries in PPR. The value for the indicators represents the number of newspapers' copies distributed on regional level.



Priority Axis there is contracted sufficient number of projects under the First Call for Proposals, which could be considered as a good precondition for achievement of the Programme indicators.

The data reported by the beneficiaries are presented in the tables above, where some output values exceed the expected target value for programme indicators 2016. In this respect, it should be underlined that the analysis of the actual level of achievement of the programme indicators will be performed after projects completion or when at least more than 2/3 of the contracted projects under the First Call are entirely accomplished and will be presented in the next annual report.

3.2.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

No significant problems could be encountered in implementing the priority.

One of the projects under this priority axis (project with ref. № 2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-030) has been identified as project with high risk in terms of implementation of planned activities and objectives. The MA and JTS provide consultations and meetings with the project partners. Anyway, after analyzing their capabilities, the both partners decided to withdraw from the project due to failure in achieving the targets set in the project.

4. Major projects (if applicable)

Not applicable – no major projects were financed under the Programme during the reported period.

5. Technical Assistance

The aim of the Technical assistance (TA) is to ensure an effective programme management and information flow, thus improving the quality of cross-border cooperation and management tools. The Technical Assistance is used only for activities directly related to the Programme management, and it invest in the overall management and promotion of the Programme, awareness raising, pro-active project generation, etc.

For the period 2007-2013 approximately 2.7 million euro Community Funding is available for this priority axis, matched by 0.4 million euro national contributions.

In order to implement the activities under Priority axis 3 – Technical assistance, an annual technical assistance plan is prepared by the MA, together with the other structures involved in the Programme implementation. The Annual Technical Assistance Plan is designed to provide detailed information about the Programme related activities envisaged to be carried out by Managing Authority (MA), National Authority (NA) and Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) under Priority axis 3 - Technical assistance of Bulgaria – Turkey IPA Cross-Border Programme and is subject of approval by the JMC.

Total budget forecast for 2011 is amounted to 544 555,00 euro, from which 367 555,00 euro allocated for MA and 177 000.00 euro for NA. The detailed indicative breakdown of budget for 2011 was approved by JMC on 23rd March 2011.





The main activities carried out under Priority Axis III during the year 2011 were closely related to activities on the Programme level such as: JMC and technical meetings; assessment and contracting procedures under First Call for Proposals; monitoring arrangements; operational FLC system; announcing the Second Call for Project Proposals; trainings of the MA, NA, JTS staff; public procurement procedures; and information and publicity campaigns, etc.

Quality check by Certifying Authority

Within the 2011 the "National Fund" Directorate at the Ministry of Finance of Republic of Bulgaria, acting as Certifying Authority (CA) for the Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross border programme 2007-2013 has conducted a regular on the spot check before certification. The examination was conducted in between 24th October 2011 and 27th October 2011 in the premises of the MA, and in compliance with the adopted procedures for performing on-spot checks by the CA. The subject of these checks was the verified expenditures under Priority axis 3 – Technical assistance for the period 2007 - October 2011.

Following the findings in the on-the spot check report, prepared by the CA, the MA took the necessary measures to fulfil the recommendations given including incorporation of additional check in the financial control system (FLC) in relation with detection of possible double financing of the projects' activities.

Based on the results from on-the spot check performed by CA, the amount of 3 867,20 euro was excluded by the CA from the total amount proposed for certification to the EC, due to the following:

- Financial correction on the amount of 2 462,50 euro was imposed in relation with tender procedure "Supply of the promotional materials" carried out in the period 2007-2010.
- Financial correction on the amount of 475,00 euro was imposed in relation with tender procedure "Service procedure for maintenance of MIS and web site for Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme" carried out in 2011.
- Expenditures for travel and accommodation, and participation in exhibition on the total amount of 929,70 euro were been considered as not eligible.

Spheres of intervention within Priority Axis 3:

3.1 Overall administration and evaluation of the Programme

The objective of this sphere of intervention ensures:

- Support to the Managing Authority and Joint Technical Secretariat for tasks related to preparation of the necessary documents, appraisal and selection of projects, monitoring and evaluation of activities, control and audit of the Programme including daily allowances, travel accommodation costs covering the expenses for the participants from Bulgaria and Turkey (representatives of the MA, JTS, CA, AA, JMC, persons who are not directly involved, for example interpreters, drivers etc.) in events concerning the programme.





On the other hand contributes to:

- Determinate administrative costs concerning the JTS (Main and Branch) including rent of premises, repair works furniture and equipment, expenditures for electricity, heating, phones, water, consumables etc and also staff remuneration costs for the JTS (Main and Branch).

JTS team

The JTS main office was established on 01.04.2010 with the two Project Management Experts and one Head of the JTS. During 2011, a Communication officer and financial expert were appointed, namely: Ms. Tamara Sabinova was assigned as a Communication officer to the JTS on 21.03.2011, and Ms. Tanya Karagyozova was assigned as a financial expert to the JTS on 18.07.2011. In this respect during the reporting period the number of the JTS main office team increased to five persons.

Two Project Management Experts (Ms. Cigdem Donertas and Mr. Semih Seyhan) were appointed to the JTS Antenna office in Edirne. In the end of July 2011 Mr. Semih Seyhan was retired and the position wasn't occupied till the end of the reporting period.

Trainings for the Programme staff

During 2011, MA and JTS staffs attended to several thematic seminars organized by INTERACT and as result 9 persons were trained different sphere of IPA programme management. In December 2011, the JTS Antenna expert was trained by the NA on financial issues and procurement procedures.

In addition, the MA has organized a training seminar "Management and implementation of the European programmes on territorial cooperation", which were held between 28th and 30th November 2011 in Sofia. Experts from MA and JTS of the France-Wallonie-Bruxelles cross-border Programme have shared their experience and lessons learned.

Trainings for FLControllers

As a continuation of the training process from 2010, during 2011 the following trainings were performed by the MA, NA and JTS:

- Training for Bulgarian first level of controllers was held on 4th April 2011 in the building of the MRDPW, Sofia. During the training the following main topic were presented: Guidance for First Level Control for CBC Programme Romania – Bulgaria 2007-2013, discussions on the findings in the report of the Executive Agency 'Audit (key findings and proposals from the audit report (DG 'TCM'; Frequent issues during the implementation of FLC), Guidance for First Level Control for ETC Programme Greece – Bulgaria 2007 – 2013, 'Mechanism to penalize and to exclude of the first level controllers' database of the controllers failed to fulfil their obligation during the implementation of FLC'. The training session was attended by 45 controllers.





- Training for Bulgarian first level of controllers was held on 12th September 2011 in Dedeman Princess Hotel, Sofia. The lectures from MRDPW presented to the participants: general information about the IPA cross-border programmes and the process for verification of the expenditures, information about the independent controlling procedures executed by First Level of Control (with cases and examples), as well as examples of Check procedures for selection of contractor under PRAG and the application of horizontal financial corrections. The mechanism for sanction and removal from the controllers' database, when they have lapse in the performance of their imputed duties. The training session was attended by 33 controllers

- Training for Bulgarian first level of controllers was held on 7th October 2011 in the building of the MRDPW, Sofia. During the training the following main presentations were made: general info about the CBC programs financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the process of verifying the expenditure, independent control procedures applied in the implementation of the First Level of Control (with cases and examples), Verification procedures for selecting subcontractors under Public Procurement Law (PPL), RSPP and CoM Decree 55/2007. The training session was attended by 22 controllers.

- Training for four (4) Turkish controllers was conducted by MA and NA on 24th February 2011 in Ankara, Turkey. The lectures from MA and NA presented general information about the Bulgaria-Turkey IPA cross-border programme and the process for verification of the expenditures, information about the independent controlling procedures executed by First Level of Control (with cases and examples).

Public procurement procedures

In order to ensure proper administration and publicity of the Programme, the following public procurement procedures have been carried out under the Programme:

- Service procedure for maintenance of MIS and web site for Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme. On 10th June 2011 a competitive negotiated procedure for maintenance of MIS and programme website was launched. As a result of the procedure a contract with STRATEGMA Agency Ltd (Bulgaria) was signed on 30th September 2011. The contract is amounted on 15 336 Euro and its period of implementation is 36 months, till 1st October 2014. The main tasks of the Contractor are related with ongoing support and maintenance of the MIS and providing upgrade and modifications of the web site of the Programme.

- Supply of IT equipment for the JTS main office (Haskovo, Bulgaria). On 7th of October 2011, the Managing Authority initiated a competitive negotiated procedure for supply of IT equipment under IPA Cross-border Programmes. On the basis of item 2.4.13 of PRAG, the tender procedure was cancelled due to higher prices offered by the selected tenderer in compare with the amount available for the tender. Consequently, the Managing Authority started negotiation procedure with the tenderer CAD R&D PROGRESS CENTER LTD. Till the end of year 2011, the negotiation procedures was not accomplished. The contracted is expected to be signed in 2012.





▪ Supply of promotional materials under the Programme. The tender procedure for supply of materials for IPA Cross-border Programmes (managed by the Republic of Bulgaria) was launched on 14th of June 2011. Based on the selection process, it was ascertain that the administrative and technical compliant applicant had offered higher price than the available for the tender. Following the negotiation procedure started on the basis of item 2.4.13 of PRAG, a contract with KUKUDA GROUP Ltd was concluded on 20th October 2011. The contract amount is 9 951,17 Euro and with implementation period of 30 days. The contract expired in terms of outstanding contracts' commitments as on 21.11.2011 and within the implementation period the Contractor failed to fulfil the contract's obligations and to deliver the promotional materials subject of the contracts. New procedure for supply of the promotional materials is launched in beginning of 2012.

3.2 Publicity and communication

The objective of this sphere of intervention ensures:

- Preparation, translation and dissemination of the Programme related information and publicity materials including but not limited to the programme website, official Programme documents, procedure manuals, bulletins, brochures, posters, etc.; as well as expenses for consumables as paper, files, folders, cases, diskettes, compact disks, etc.
- Organisation of public events as conferences, seminars, workshops, round table discussions, trainings for beneficiaries, networking and awareness-raising events, partner search forums etc. including rent of halls and equipment (audio-, video-, translation- equipment), expenses for interpreters, lecturers, trainers (should not be persons involved in the programme); expenses for coffee breaks, refreshments, business diners and lunches for all participants in the events;
- Purchase of advertising materials as CDs, USBs, hats, bags, note books, folders etc. as well as expenses for publications in radio, TV and press.

6. Information and publicity

Detailed Communication Plan

An evaluation related to achievement of objectives set out in the Communication plan was conducted in 2011. The evaluation aimed to measure the effectiveness and impact of the current implemented communication activities under Bulgaria – Turkey IPA Cross-Border Programme in terms of the objectives, measures, messages and tools; timing and target groups/audiences.

The result of the evaluation directed to improvement of the communication plan in the following main points:

- Refining the communication objectives and activities in order to be respected the logic intervention objective-activity-result (indicators).
- Improvement of the indicators (definition and quantities) in order to become accurately SMART.





- Including the result and impact indicators in order to assess the general awareness of the public about the programme.
- The reliable source data for monitoring the indicators to be ensured.

The report of the Evaluation of the Communication Plan has been proposed for approval by the JMC (*WP No: 99-02-2-1122/ 07/06/2011*) and presented to EC with Annual programme report for 2010. Thus, the information and publicity measures are presented in the form of the approved communication plan for the year 2011.

The main activities performed within the Communication plan framework contributes for maintaining a unified visual identity of the Bulgaria – Turkey IPA Cross-Border Programme, ensuring:

- transparency and raising awareness of positive contributions by the European Union in the context of regional development and sustainability;
- easy access to information related to the programme is assured;
- awareness of interested parties and both target groups: primary and secondary is enhanced;
- unified visual identity is maintained;
- reliable information about the program and opportunities to implement projects in the region is available.

In this respect, the **Visual Identity Guidelines** (VIG) for the Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme of the Programme was prepared and published (<http://www.ipacbc-bqtr.eu/eng/page/documents/others>) together with the visualization templates and official programme logos, by the Communication officer in order to contribute towards building a coherent image of the programme and to help achieving the awareness and transparency goals. The manual provides guidance for developing various communication materials such as: business cards, power point presentations, posters, publications, advertising announcements, audio video productions, websites, press releases and other informative materials (including CDs and DVDs).

The programme management bodies under Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-Border Programme and the beneficiaries of the programme are responsible for promoting the visual identity of the programme in accordance to the provisions of the PM, PIM and VIG.

The Communication Plan for the Programme aims, on one side, disseminating information about the programme and thus increasing the participation of the potential beneficiaries into the programme of the potential beneficiaries, resulting into increased absorption capacity and transparency, and on the other side, increasing awareness of the population of the eligible region.





The Communication plan for year 2011 was structured in three major priorities: website, promotional materials and events. The latter consisted of Information seminars, Active training and Publicity campaign. During the reporting period the most of the Communication activities were carried out, as planned and the relevant targets were reached. *Annex II presents a comprehensive list on communication and information activities during 2011.*

Website

Communication officer is responsible for the maintaining and updating of the Programme website www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu with the relevant information about the Programme. In 2011 the Programme web pages in three languages (English, Bulgarian and Turkish) was constantly updated with the relevant information of the Programme (events, news, documentation etc.). The website was also updated with new elements like frequently asked questions, regular press releases, technical support, partner search information and etc. A new project partners' database was created in the website of the programme containing data about 85 potential beneficiaries under the Second call for proposals (this database contains the data of the registered users of the website). Another list of potential beneficiaries under the Second call was created by the JTS containing data of 246 participants, who attended in the info days and the partnership forum and a list containing data about 54 potential project partners (who gave us permission to share their contact details) was published on the program's web site <http://www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu/eng/news/view/81>.

During the reporting period some improvements were introduced in terms of the functionality and accessibility to the documentation related to the project implementation. In the section "Other" documents all documents used for project implementation were systemised by chapters and published. As a result, the all important project related documents are easily accessible for the web site visitors. Additionally, during 2011, the MA introduced an innovative and helpful for the beneficiaries approach to publish on the website of the Programme filled in templates of the documents related to project implementation stage, including PRAG tender dossiers for most frequently types of tender procedures (works, supplies and services).

In 2011 the web site was one of the main publicity tools used to promote the Programme and disseminate the relevant information. The "News" section is particularly useful to both general public and the potential beneficiaries since it is continuously updated with information on all the relevant events, trainings, info-days, and news in general. Additionally, in order to ensure broad publicity of the information, JTS also published updated information and important announcements (programme documents, information regarding the JMC meetings, events and etc.) on the web pages of the Bulgarian Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (www.mrrb.government.bg) as well as and web site of the National Authority, Republic of Turkey- Ministry for EU Affairs (<http://www.ab.gov.tr/>).

The statistical data concerning the Web site activities (including the number of visits on daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly basis) can be accessed here: <https://www.tyxo.bg/d/85129/monthly?page=1> . The statistical data





provided by this tool (See Annex A) shows the unique website visits for 2011 are 27 300, compared to the 6 096 for 2010 reveals an increase of nearly 450%. The monthly picture of visits shows that the interest rapidly increases in March 2011 with the start of the pre-contracting activities for the First call and again in September 2011 with the launch of the Second call for proposals, to reach its peak in November 2011 with 6 533 unique website visits - more than for the whole 2010. For all of the planned website activities the planned values were exceeded. This goes especially for the number of unique visits 27 times, the number of e-mails received through website contact details – more than 10 times and the number of requests for partnership in the website nearly 14 times.

Only 2 indicators were not fully achieved and they were connected with the e-newspaper. During the reporting period, one e-newspaper edition was published by MA in September 2011, covering news for activities under territorial cooperation programmes, in which the Republic of Bulgaria participates.

Although the Programme website proved to be a valuable Programme communication and promotion tool, there was a need for improvement in terms of functionality and design. Therefore, on 10th of June 2011, a public procurement procedure “Maintenance for MIS and websites for IPA cross-border programmes managed by Republic of Bulgaria” was launched. As a result of this procedure the contract for improvement of the Programme website and the MIS system was attributed to “Strategma Agency”, the contractor. The Communication officer directly communicates with the contractor in the terms of improvement of the Programme web-site.

A new user-friendly version of the sitemap structure, which will allow the users to find the necessary information more easily is under construction. One of the most important improvements on the demo of the new website, which is integrated with the MIS system is the Project Database established for funded projects (displaying an interactive region map of the Programme) and which will ensure the transparency and will be raising awareness of positive contributions by the European Union. A special access tools for the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) members from the website for sharing documents and information is also established, as well as a new calendar on the main page sorting the events on monthly basis and the special banners such as “Alerts on Irregularities” and a “flash banner for the upcoming Third Call for proposals”.

Promotional materials

During the reporting period of year 2011 no promotional materials were prepared. Previously produced promotional materials, however, were distributed to the potential applicants and beneficiaries via information days and trainings organized and via consultations provided to the partners.

As it was stated above the supply for the promotional materials was failure and lack of promotional materials was compensated on the behalf of materials left from the previous 2009 tender and purchase of materials for





each separate event organised under the programme. Nevertheless the lack of promotional materials did not lead to lower quality of the introduced communication activities.

Information seminars

The Second Call for proposals under the Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme was launched on 8th of September 2011. Following the launch of the call, JTS have organized four Info Days and one Partnership Forum in the border region.

JTS in cooperation with the Managing Authority have organized two Info Days in Bulgaria, which were held in Haskovo on 4th of October 2011 and on 6th of October 2011 in Burgas, for potential applicants under the Second Call for proposals. Totally 130 participants had an opportunity to receive a brief information about the results of the First Call and a detailed information on the Second Call such as topics on guidelines for applicants, eligibility criteria, assessment of proposals and etc. A special training session for potential applicants regarding the application pack (application form and annexes) and general requirements for submission of the proposals and a workshop session were also performed within these events.

JTS, in cooperation with the National Authority, have organized an "Info Day" under the Second Call in Kirklareli, Turkey. 109 Turkish potential applicants have attended to the event held on 11th of October; receiving detailed information on the guidelines for applicants and participating to a special training session for potential applicants regarding the application pack (application form and annexes) and general requirements for submission of the proposals.

On 13th October 2011, following an Info Day in Kirklareli, a Partnership Forum under the Second Call was held in Balkan Congress Centre of Trakya University in Edirne where more than 200 potential applicants have met all together with representatives from the Programme authorities as well as other economic, social and environmental partners from the both border regions. In the Forum, beneficiaries under the First Call have shared their partnering experiences and the potential applicants have exchanged information on their partner needs as well as their project ideas within the 'meet and greet' session. Following the networking activities, in the afternoon session, round table discussions (area of interventions as focal points) and partnering meetings were performed where potential applicants had an opportunity to establish new contacts as well as new partnerships within their projects.

Publicity campaign

During the reporting period a media campaign was concentrated on the promotion of the Programme, dissemination of information and news concerning the financing opportunities, availability of the financial assistance and ways to access it, with the purpose of attracting potential beneficiaries towards the more in-depth information sources available.





Before/after the important events and when a valuable information is to disseminated special press releases and press advertisements were sent to the media/press members and also published on the web-site under the separate heading of "Press Gallery" under the "Others" part of documents. Planned activities and the indicators of the publicity campaign were fulfilled and most of its planned values were exceeded two, three and even four times. For instance while minimum 2 press releases are planned per year, 6 press releases and 3 press announcements were prepared.

Five press advertisements were published in national/local newspapers: 2 advertisements on 05.10.2011 in Turkey's "Sabah" and "Edirne Hudut" newspapers and 3 advertisements on 08.09.2011 in Bulgaria's "Dnevnik", "Alo.bg" and "Haskovska Maritsa" which are promoting the launch of the Second Call for proposals. Additionally 55 newspaper publishing issues (press clipping) and news published on electronic media were collected which are related to the Programme events namely Information seminars, Trainings, JMC meetings, open days.

In May 2011, MA and JTS took part in the Annual exhibition "Europe for Us" in Sofia (Bulgaria), organized by the Bulgarian Economic forum in partnership with the Bulgarian Minister on management of EU funds and the EC Representation in Bulgaria.

The expo was gathering at one place all interested parties in the process of implementation of EU programs:

- the Managing Authorities of the Operational Programs;
- the Representation of the European Commission in Bulgaria;
- consultant companies and NGOs;
- beneficiaries;
- banks offering preferential terms for financing of EU funded projects.

The exhibition aimed to encourage contacts between potential partners; to present the opportunities for EU funding, as well as to promote best practices in the absorption of EU funds and other international programmes.

The MA participate in the conference on topic "Lessons learned during the current programming period" organized within the exhibition days.

Active Training

During the reporting period, active **trainings for potential applicants** concerning preparation of the good quality applications before the Second Call for Proposals were organized together with Info Days as a part of their Agendas. Thus, while the activities provided information on the general Programme rules and Guidelines of the Second Call, the training was focused on the Application Pack for Project Proposals and how to fill the





Application Form & Annexes. 349 potential applicants attending to Info Days organized under the Second Call for proposals had opportunity to receive such training.

Trainings of the lead partners (LP) were organised by MA/NA and the JTS after the signature of the subsidy contracts under the First Call for Proposals. The first training seminar was held in Haskovo for the Bulgarian lead partners on 4th of August 2011 and was attended by 52 representatives of 30 different partners. The second event took place in Edirne on 13th August 2011. It was a project implementation training of the Turkish LPs attended by 66 representatives of 18 separate partners. All lead partners were trained on all the aspects of project implementation.

In order to be analysed the results of the trainings, a questionnaire was distributed to the beneficiaries. After careful examinations of the trainings' results it was concluded that some project partners' teams need additional consultations on the basic project implementation issues. In that connection, the JTS main office, supported by the MA organized an **Open Days for individual consultations for the project partners** in the JTS Haskovo, Bulgaria, which was held on 14th and 15th September 2011. The objective of the event was to give further information on launching sub-tendering procedures in the frame of the first and second trimester from the projects implementation.

Totally 23 projects and 45 experts with respective duties from the project partners' teams from both Programme countries had an opportunity to receive answers to their questions mainly concerning the themes of sub-tendering procedures under PRAG rules and project progress reporting issues. Individual consultations have been performed by experts from Managing Authority (MA) and Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS). Through discussions with beneficiaries, the results of this event will be helpful for the future implementation of the projects and contribute to achieve the goals of the Programme.

The JTS branch office in Edirne, in cooperation with the National Authority, organized an additional event called "**Project Implementation**" Event for the Turkish beneficiaries under the 1st Call for Proposals on 22nd December 2011 in Edirne, Turkey. The event was attended by 124 beneficiaries, which have had an opportunity to receive detailed information about project implementation, tender procedures, control process according to Programme rules and Turkish national legislation. Additionally, initially received questions were answered by NA/JTS officials and there was also a Q&A session covering solely implementation issues.



Indicators achieved in the reporting period

	Activity	Timing	Indicators	Quantity	
				Planned	Achieved
Website	General awareness of the public about the programme	Permanently on the web-site and updated when necessary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of unique web-site visits No. of e-newspapers published/distributed No. of e-newspapers' recipients 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> min. 1000 per year min. 2 per year min. 200 per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 27300 1 100
	Partners' search facility	Permanently on the web-site and updated when necessary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of request for partnerships in web-site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> min. 10 per call 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 139
	Contact details	Permanently on the web-site and updated when necessary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of e-mails received through web-site contact form No. of e-mails received through web-site contract details 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> min. 2 per year min. 100 per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 1050
	Information for mass media	After official events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of news/information for mass media No. of press packs distributed No. of press reports published 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> min. 2 per year min. 10 per year min. 5 per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 6 6
Promotional materials	Leaflets	Before every Call for Proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of leaflets produced No. of leaflets distributed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> min. 500 per call min. 500 per call 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0 250
	Brochures	Before every Call for Proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of brochures produced No. of brochures distributed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> min. 500 per call min. 500 per call 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0 300
	Posters & banners	Before every Call for Proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of posters No. of banners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> min. 100 min. 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0 0
	Other promotional materials(gadgets)	Permanently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of materials prepared No. of materials distributed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> min. 100 of each kind min. 100 of each kind 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0 813
Information seminars	Info-days	Before every Call for Proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of info-days conducted No. of organizations/bodies invited No. of organizations/bodies attending No. of journalists invited No. of journalists attended Percentage of participant that subsequently submit applications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> min. 2 min. 40 per info day min. 20 per info day min. 10 per info day min. 5 per info day min. 10% per call 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 382 215 48 12 37 %

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Publicity campaign	Print media campaign	Minimum 1 information material per year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of newspapers publishing issue(s) concerning the programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> min. 4 per campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 55
	Press conferences	After official events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of press conferences No. of journalists invited No. of journalists attended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> min. 2 per year min. 10 per event min. 5 per event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0 0 0
	Press releases	After official events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of press releases prepared No. of press releases distributed No. of press releases published 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> min. 2 per year min. 2 per event min. 2 per event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 6 6
	Press Advertisements	For every Call for proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of Advertisements published Percentage of recipients that subsequently call the JTS Percentage of recipients that subsequently submit applications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> min. 1 per call min. 5 % per call min. 2 % per call 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 10 % 5 %
	TV or Radio Campaign	Permanently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of TV or Radio campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> min 1 per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0
Active Training	For Potential Applicants concerns preparation of the good quality applications	Before every Call for Proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of the trainings organized No. of people invited No. of participants No. of speakers No. of topics covered No. of documents distributed No. of completed questionnaires Percentage of participant that subsequently submit applications Percentage of good quality applications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> min. 1 before subm. min. 40 per training min. 30 per training min. 2 per training min. 2 per training min. 30 per training min. 30 per training min. 10% of the participant from training min. 5% per training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 382 349 12 4 349 61 35 % N.A.
	For Beneficiaries concerns project implementation issues	After signing the contracts under a Call for Proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of the trainings organized No. of people invited No. of participants No. of speakers No. of topics covered No. of documents distributed No. of completed questionnaires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> min. 2 within a Call min. 40 per training min. 30 per training min. 2 per training min. 2 per training min. 30 per training min. 30 per training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 172 175 15 4 175 26



Indicators for communication and publicity measures

	Activity	Indicator	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Programme Website	General awareness of the public about the programme	▪ No. of unique web-site visits	0	0	6300	7071	27300						
		Target 2016	1000 per year										
		Baseline	0										
		▪ No. of e-newspapers published/distributed	0	0	0	0	1						
		Target 2016	2 per year										
		Baseline	0										
		▪ No. of e-newspapers' recipients	0	0	0	0	100						
		Target 2016	200 per year										
		Baseline	0										
	Partners' search facility	▪ No. of request for partnerships in web-site	0	0	53	0	139						
		Target 2016	10										
		Baseline	0										
	Contact details	▪ No. of e-mails received through web-site contact form	0	0	0	0	15						
		Target 2016	2 per year										
		Baseline	0										
		▪ No. of e-mails received through web-site contract details	0	0	0	0	1050						
		Target 2016	100 per year										
		Baseline	0										
	Information for mass media	▪ No. of news/information for mass	0	0	0	0	6						

	Activity	Indicator	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
		media											
		Target 2016	2 per year										
		Baseline	0										
		▪ No. of press packs distributed	0	0	0	0	6						
		Target 2016	10										
		Baseline	0										
		▪ No. of press reports published	0	0	0	0	6						
		Target 2016	5										
		Baseline	0										
Promotional Materials	Leaflets	▪ Number of leaflets produced	0	0	0	0	0						
		Target 2016	500 per call										
		Baseline	0										
		▪ No. of leaflets distributed	0	0	0	0	250						
		Target 2016	500 per call										
		Baseline	0										
	Brochures	▪ Number of brochures produced	0	0	750	0	0						
		Target 2016	500 per call										
		Baseline	0										
		▪ Number of brochures distributed	0	0	300	150	300						
		Target 2016	500 per call										
		Baseline	0										
	Posters & banners	▪ Number of posters	0	0	2	0	0						
		Target 2016	100										



	Activity	Indicator	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
		Baseline	0										
		▪ Number of banners	0	0	0	0	0						
		Target 2016	2										
		Baseline	0										
	Other promotional materials (gadgets)	▪ Number of materials prepared	0	0	2350	0	0						
		Target 2016	100 of each kind										
		Baseline	0										
		▪ Number of materials distributed	0	0	1000	500	813						
		Target 2016	100 of each kind										
		Baseline	0										
		Target 2016	2										
		Baseline	0										
Seminars	Info-days	▪ No. of info-days conducted	0	0	0	0	4						
		Target 2016	2										
		Baseline	0										
		▪ No. of organizations/bodies invited	0	0	200	0	150						
		Target 2016	40 per info day										
		Baseline	0										
		▪ Number of organizations/bodies attending	0	0	126	150	215						
		Target 2016	20 per info day										
		Baseline	0										
		▪ No. of journalists invited	0	0	0	0	48						
		Target 2016	10 per info day										
		Baseline	0										

	Activity	Indicator	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Publicity campaign		▪ No. of journalists attended	0	0	0	0	12						
		Target 2016	5 per info day										
		Baseline	0										
		▪ Percentage of participants that subsequently submit applications	0	0	0	0	37						
		Target 2016	10% per call										
		Baseline	0										
	Print media campaign	▪ Number of newspapers publishing issue(s) concerning the programme	0	0	5	0	55						
		Target 2016	4 per campaign										
		Baseline	0										
	Press conferences	▪ No. of press conferences	0	0	0	0	0						
		Target 2016	2 per year										
		Baseline	0										
		▪ No. of journalists invited	0	0	0	0	0						
		Target 2016	10 per event										
		Baseline	0										
		▪ No. of journalists attended	0	0	0	0	0						
		Target 2016	5 per event										
		Baseline	0										
	Press releases	▪ No. of press releases prepared	0	0	0	0	6						
		Target 2016	2 per year										
		Baseline											
		▪ No. of press releases distributed	0	0	0	0	6						



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	Activity	Indicator	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
		Target 2016	2 per event										
		Baseline											
		▪ No. of press releases published	0	0	0	0	6						
		Target 2016	2 per event										
	Press Advertisements	Baseline	0										
		▪ No. of Advertisements published	0	0	0	0	5						
		Target 2016	1 per call										
		Baseline	0										
		▪ Percentage of recipients that subsequently call the JTS	0	0	0	0	10						
		Target 2016	5% per call										
		Baseline	0										
		▪ Percentage of recipients that subsequently submit applications	0	0	0	0	5						
	TV or Radio Campaign	Target 2016	2% per call										
		Baseline	0										
		▪ No. of TV or Radio campaign	0	0	0	0	0						
		Target 2016	1 per year										
Active Training	For Potential Applicants concerns preparation of the good quality applications	Baseline	0										
		▪ No. of the trainings organized	0	0	4	0	4						
		Target 2016	1 before subm.										
		Baseline	0										
		▪ No. of people invited	0	0	100	0	382						
		Target 2016	40 per training										



PARTNERSHIP

	Activity	Indicator	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
		Baseline	0										
		▪ No. of participants	0	0	150	0	349						
		Target 2016	30 per training										
		Baseline	0										
		▪ No. of speakers	0	0	6	0	12						
		Target 2016	2 per training										
		Baseline	0										
		▪ No. of topics covered	0	0	4	0	4						
		Target 2016	2 per training										
		Baseline	0										
		▪ No. of documents distributed	0	0	150	0	349						
		Target 2016	30 per training										
		Baseline	0										
		▪ No. of completed questionnaires	0	0	0	0	61						
		Target 2016	30 per training										
		Baseline	0										
		▪ Percentage of participant that subsequently submit applications	0	0	30	0	35						
		Target 2016	10% of the participant from training										
		Baseline	0										
		▪ Percentage of good quality applications	0	0	0	0	0						
		Target 2016	5% per training										



	Activity	Indicator	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
		Baseline	0										
	For Beneficiaries concerns project implementation issues	▪ No. of the trainings organized	0	0	2	0	4						
		Target 2016	2 within a Call										
		Baseline	0										
		▪ No. of people invited	0	0	0	0	172						
		Target 2016	40 per training										
		Baseline	0										
		▪ No. of participants	0	0	0	0	175						
		Target 2016	30 per training										
		Baseline	0										
		▪ No. of speakers	0	0	0	0	15						
		Target 2016	2 per training										
		Baseline	0										
		▪ No. of topics covered	0	0	0	0	4						
		Target 2016	2 per training										
		Baseline	0										
		▪ No. of documents distributed	0	0	0	0	175						
		Target 2016	30 per training										
		Baseline	0										
		▪ No. of completed questionnaires	0	0	0	0	26						
		Target 2016	30 per training										
		Baseline	0										



ANNEX I

SUBSIDY CONTRACTS AWARDED UNDER THE FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS, REF. NO - 2007CB16IPO008 - 2009 – 1

№	Project Reference №	Project Title	Lead Partner	Other Partners	Mesures	Duration (months)	Total value of the project (EUR)
1	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-005	"INNOVATRANS – innovation transfer between people and enterprises for economic prosperity of the region Yambol – Babaeski"	Yambol Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Babaeski Trade Exchange	1.2.	12	88865,68
2	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-006	THE CROSS-BORDER WOMEN WOLRD	EUROCLUB WOMEN	1. EDIRNE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY; 2. YAMBOL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY	1.1.	12	67983,68
3	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-007	EURO FARMER - Prosperity trough contemporary and modern European agriculture in cross-border region	BABAESKI TRADE EXCHANGE	YAMBOL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY	1.2.	12	98583,79
4	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-009	"GATE 2 TOUR: Integral development of cultural-historical tourism in Yambol – Strandja – Edirne regions"	REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION – YAMBOL	Young Businessmen Association of Edirne	2.1.	12	98004,93
5	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-010	Two differing practices - One joint purpose	Municipal School and Kindergarten Trustees in Bolyarovo municipality	1. Municipality of Kofçaz; 2. Bolyarovo municipality	1.1.	12	86571,05
6	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-012	Friendship across borders for a common European future	Municipality of Stambolovo	Municipality of Ahmetbey	1.3.	16	449076,22
7	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-015	Stimulation of entrepreneurship in the Food and Drink sector of the BG-TR cross border area	Chamber of Commerce and Industry - Bourgas	Kirklareli Chamber of Commerce and Industry	1.2.	9	63940,84



No	Project Reference No	Project Title	Lead Partner	Other Partners	Mesures	Duration (months)	Total value of the project (EUR)
8	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-016	We are living our common culture	Atakoy Primary Educational School	High School Prof.Dr. Asen Zlatarov	2.1.	11	58000
9	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-019	Strandja Mountain - To Learn and Protect It Together	Yenice Primary School	High School "Vasil Levski"	2.2.	12	60000
10	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-022	Encouraging the eco-friendly business in the cross-border region Topolograd - Buyukkaristiran	"Topolovgrad" Non-Government Organization (CHЦ Тополовград)	Municipality of Buyukkaristiran	2.2.	15	99734,7
11	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-026	2010 - New start for cross-border heritages' promotion	Union for providing of services to the villages, Kırklareli	District Administration Bourgas	2.1.	12	92000
12	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-030	Common step for clear environment	Pınarhisar Municipality Administration	Lyubimets Municipality Administration	2.1.	12	99073,68
13	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-034	"Regional Bulgarian – Turkish Business Council "Trakya" – measure for increasing the economic competitiveness of the cross-border region Haskovo - Edirne	HASKOVO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (ХАСКОВСКА ТЪРГОВСКО-ПРОМИШЛЕНА ПАЛАТА)	Edirne Chamber of Commerce and Industry	1.2.	12	81968,42
14	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-039	CROSS BORDER TOURISM INTEGRATION	EDIRNE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY	BOURGAS REGIONAL TOURISM AGENCY	1.2.	12	84157,89



No	Project Reference No	Project Title	Lead Partner	Other Partners	Mesures	Duration (months)	Total value of the project (EUR)
15	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-040	FRIENDSHIP WITHOUT BORDERS	Foreign Language School "Prof.D-r Asen Zlatarov"	Edirne Yildirim Beyazit Anatolian High School	1.1.	12	98378,95
16	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-041	"Journey through the rich cultural diversity of the border region Yambol-Edirne"	Municipality of Yambol	Secretariat General of Special Administration of Province in Edirne	2.1.	16	528370,89
17	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-045	CAPACITY BUILDING FOR BORDER MUNICIPALITIES ABOUT STRATEGIC PLANNING	Union of Meric Municipalities	Regional Municipalities Association "Maritza"	1.1.	10	75056,86
18	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-049	Cover History Without Boundary	Uzunkopru Municipality	1. Municipal Association of Small and Medium sized Business - Haskovo; 2. European Integration Agency	2.2.	12	99789,47
19	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-051	South-Eastern European Network on Balkans-Cross-Border Region Bulgaria-Turkey	National Association of Small and Medium Business (NASMB) - branch Yambol	1. Municipality Luleburgaz; 2. LIAD Luleburgaz Businessman Company	1.2.	9	90694,74
20	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-053	"Green Corridors" - promotion of cultural, natural and historical heritage in the border region of Burgas and Kırklareli	Municipality of Burgas	Municipality of Kırklareli	2.1.	12	98401,49
21	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-054	"Mobile cross border agri-center for innovative practices, sustainable development and risks prevention"	Bourgas Chamber of Commerce and Industry	1. Agrounivers 2006 - Bourgas; 2. Kırklareli Chamber of Commerce and Industry; 3. Headquarters Of The Kırklareli Chamber Of Agriculture	1.2.	12	99542,11



No	Project Reference No	Project Title	Lead Partner	Other Partners	Mesures	Duration (months)	Total value of the project (EUR)
22	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-055	Open Dialog Network for interprofessional Education and Training	Trakya University - Edirne (TUE)	Technical College - Yambol (TCY)	1.1.	12	99126,74
23	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-056	Strandja-Yildiz Mountain: Development of Small-scale Infrastructure for Protection of Natural and Cultural Heritage in the CBC Area	MUNICIPALITY OF SREDETS	MUNICIPALITY OF VIZE	2.1.	24	592266,18
24	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-057	Common Culture Beyond Boundaries	Vize Municipality	Sredets Municipality	2.2.	12	99378,95
25	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-064	STRALDZHA AND SULOGLU - CROS-BORDER TRAVELLING	STRALDZHA MUNICIPALITY	Suloglu Municipality	2.1.	18	592072,37
26	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-065	The cultural heritage of two neighbor nations – open door through the millenniums	Trakya Development Association (TRAKAB)	Sozopol Foundation	2.1.	24	599291,88
27	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-066	Creating of Conditions of Relaxation, Sports and Tourism in Edirne and Elhovo	The Union of Edirne Province Centre and Villages Ministration	Municipality of Elhovo	2.1.	18	592294,63
28	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-069	CRAFTS DEMONSTRATION CENTER IN NESSEBAR AND EDIRNE	NESSEBAR MUNICIPALITY	1. BOURGAS REGIONAL TOURIST ASSOCIATION; 2. Union of the Edirne Tradesmen and Craftsmen Chambers; 3. SECRETARIAT GENERAL TO SPECIAL ADMINISTRATION OF PROVINCE IN EDIRNE	1.3.	24	598878,42



No	Project Reference No	Project Title	Lead Partner	Other Partners	Mesures	Duration (months)	Total value of the project (EUR)
29	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-070	Equal employment opportunities	Alliance for regional and civil initiatives	Union of Merich Municipalities	1.1.	12	82081,05
30	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-071	CROSS-BORDER EURO MARKET – CHANCE FOR BUSINESSMEN AND TRADERS	LIAD LÜLEBURGAZ BUSINESSMAN COMPANY	YAMBOL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY	1.2.	12	78024,21
31	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-073	TURKEY-BULGARIA CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION TO IMPROVE THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL EDUCATION	Luleburgaz Technical High School and Industrial Vocational High School	Professional High School of Mechanics and Electric Technology	1.3.	12	537525,79
32	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-075	Advanced QUALity of life Through Investment activities for improvement of the Cross-border management of floods	Svilengrad municipality, Bulgaria (община Свиленград, България)	Uzunkopru municipality	2.1.	24	599582,1
33	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-076	Strong, Knowing, Intelligent, Labouring and Leading Schoolfellows	Civic Association "Together for Svilengrad"	1. Language High School with teaching profile – Edirne; 2. Municipality of Svilengrad	1.1.	12	82457,75
34	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-081	Improved Agriculture Improved Social Links	Municipality of Kircasalih	1. Municipal Association of Small and Middle Scale Business Haskovo; 2. European Integration agency	1.1.	12	99993,68
35	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-082	Improving Trade Capacity of Uzunköprü and Haskovo Project	UZUNKÖPRÜ CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND, EDİRNE	HASKOVO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY	1.2.	9	41421,05



№	Project Reference №	Project Title	Lead Partner	Other Partners	Mesures	Duration (months)	Total value of the project (EUR)
36	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-084	Teenager Bridges	Uzunkopru Muzaffer Atasay Anatolian High School	GREENER BOURGAS FOUNDATION	1.1.	12	99421,05
37	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-085	Investments in the promotion of the cultural, historical and Natural heritage in The cross-border region	Municipality of Tundja (Община Тунджа)	Trakya Development Association (TRAKAB)	2.1.	15	459153,53
38	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-086	Improving Skills Towards Stronger Links	Uzunkopru Union of Milk Producers	1. Municipal Association of small and medium sized business-Haskovo; 2. European Integration agency	1.1.	12	97500
39	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-087	"Turning the cross-border region Bulgaria - Turkey into an attractive tourist destination"	NGO "High tech business incubator" ЧИЦ "Високо технологичен бизнес инкубатор"	Trakya Development Association (TRAKAB)	2.2.	12	54949,47
40	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-088	MUTUAL AID KEEPS ENERGY	Neofit Rilski High-school (Гимназия "Неофит Рилски")	Edirne Vocational and Technical Education High School	1.1.	12	99444,97
41	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-089	"Mathematics - Key of Good Neighbourhood"	"Nikola Yonkov Vaptsarov" High School	1. "Radical" Club at High School in Mathematics "Acad. N. Obreshkov" – the town of Burgas; 2. Pinarhisar Anatolian High School	1.1.	12	99415,74
42	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-091	Improvement of quality of life in the cross-border region through promotion of environmental friendly agriculture	"EUROPE AND WE" ASSOCIATION	Pinarhisar Chamber of Agriculture	2.2.	12	98410,95



No	Project Reference No	Project Title	Lead Partner	Other Partners	Mesures	Duration (months)	Total value of the project (EUR)
43	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-095	Efficient, Sustainable and Ecological Practices in the Cross-Border Region	INSTITUTE FOR REGIONAL STRATEGIES	1. EUROPEAN INSTITUT FOUNDATION; 2. Producer of Dairy and Agriculture Products of Edirne Province Centre Association (ESUTUB)	2.2.	12	99987,9
44	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-097	Sustainable agriculture development through capacity building and business promotion tools	Business Center - Elhovo	Ipsala District rice commission	1.2.	12	94380
45	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-104	Raising the quality of life in the Municipalities of Bolyarovo and Alpulu and provision of possibilities for recreation and sports	"Ravnovesie" Association	1. Municipality Alpulu; 2. Municipality of Bolyarovo	1.3.	18	599503,15
46	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-106	Consultacy Network for Business Support and Investment Promotion	Municipality of Mineralni Bani	Municipality of Suloglu	1.2.	12	99542,11
47	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-107	"Raising the capacity of border municipalities for provision of social services and application EU policy in the social sphere"	"Demetra" Association	1. Municipality Alpulu; 2. Sozopol Municipality	1.3.	18	320526,24
48	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-110	Cross Border Youth Culture Programme	Spiritual Mirror Association - Branch Brodilovo	1. Democracy Primary School; 2. Vasil Levski Secondary School	1.1.	12	66132,63



ANNEX II

COMPREHENSIVE LIST on Communication and information activities during 2011

PROGRAMME WEB SITE

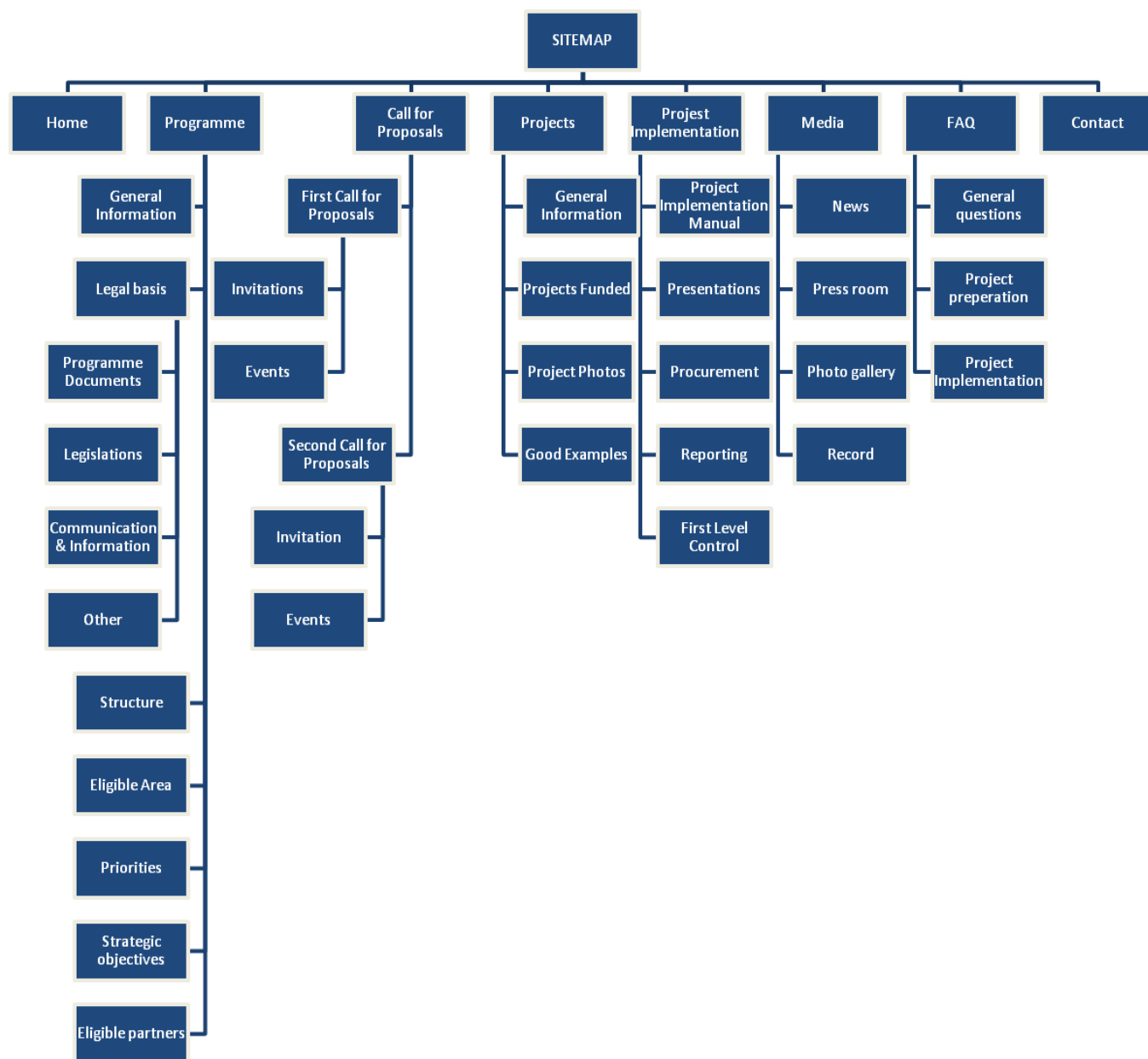
The Programme' web site has been released in 2009 and currently is accessible at: <http://www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu/>



On June 10, 2011 a public procurement procedure "Maintenance for MIS and websites for IPA cross-border programmes managed by Republic of Bulgaria" was launched. As a result of this procedure the contract for improvement of the Programme website and the MIS system was attributed to "Strategma Agency", the contractor. JTS communication officer presented to them a new user-friendly version of the sitemap structure which will allow the users to find the necessary information more easily.



MAIN MENU STRUCTURE OF THE NEW PROGRAMME WEBSITE

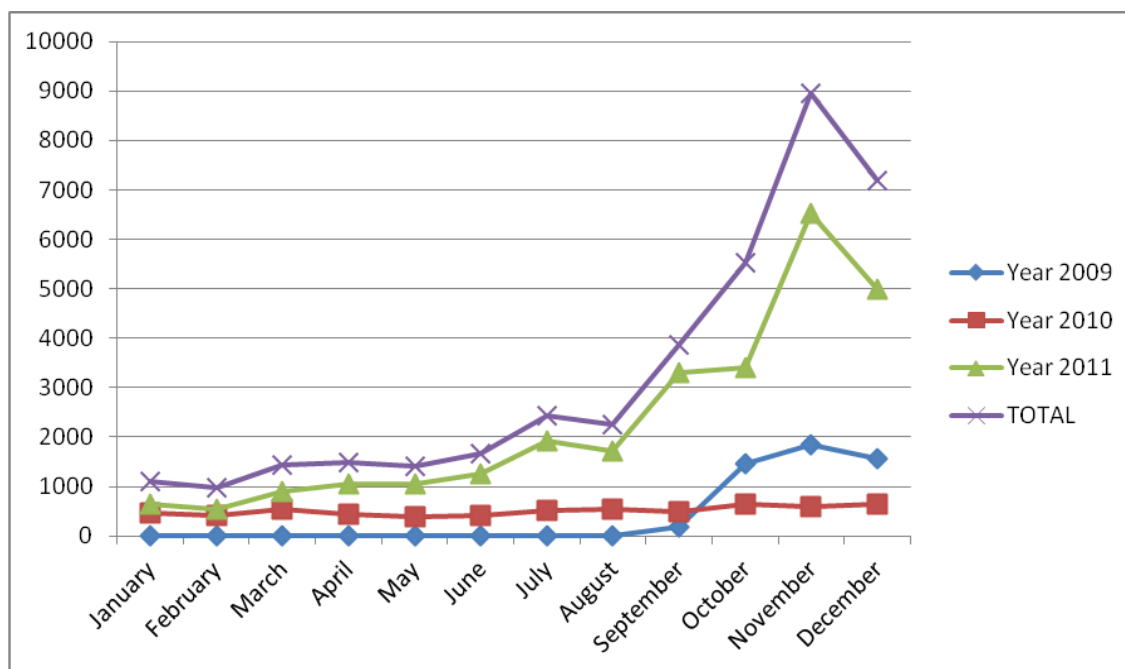





According to the statistical data the Programme's web site has generated 5 455 visits (unique visits) in 2010 and 27 300 during 2011.

PRPGRAMME WEBSITE STATISTICS BASED ON THE MONTHLY VISIT FREQUENCY

MONTH	YEAR 2009	YEAR 2010	YEAR 2011	TOTAL
JANUARY	0	463	637	1100
FEBRUARY	0	423	552	975
MARCH	0	533	900	1433
APRIL	0	449	1042	1491
MAY	0	378	1042	1420
JUNE	0	415	1260	1675
JULY	0	522	1917	2439
AUGUST	0	529	1717	2246
SEPTEMBER	172	496	3304	3972
OCTOBER	1472	652	3415	5539
NOVEMBER	1837	595	6533	8965
DECEMBER	1572	641	4981	7194
TOTAL	5053	5455	27300	




NEW WEB-SITE DESIGN DRAFT AND A DEMO VERSION




Bulgaria - Turkey
IPA Cross-Border Programme

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[languages: English](#)
[Bulgarian](#)
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Projects without borders

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First Call
Invitation
Events

Second Call
Invitation
Events



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FLASH BANNER NEW CALL

12 Dec 2012 | NEWS
The updated version of the "Questions and Answers" related to the Second Call for proposals

The updated version of the "Questions and Answers" related to the Second Call for proposals can be found
[Read More](#)

PROJECTS FUNDED

EVENT CALENDAR
January 2012

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

NEWSLETTER

To subscribe for the latest news from the programme, please enter your e-mail.

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ALLERTS ON IRREGULARITIES

12 Apr 2012 | NEWS
Updated version of the PRAG manual

Are seeking for project proposals for the promotion of cross border cooperation between Bulgaria and Turkey with financial assistance from the Bulgaria - Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme. Under present Call for Proposals an Project proposals would have to target one of the following priority areas: Sustainable Social &Economic development Improvement the Quality of Life

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12 Apr 2012 | NEWS
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Priority
All


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Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-Border Programme
CCI No: 2007CB16IPO008

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Home



PROJECTS FUNDED

JOINT MONITORING COMMITTEE

CALENDAR

May 2012

mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat	sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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NEWSLETTER

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ALERTS FOR IRREGULARITY

27.04.12 | NEWS

Updated version of the Project Implementation Manual under the Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme

To the attention of the Beneficiaries with subsidy contracts under the Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme:
The Managing Authority updated the **Project Implementation Manual, version 2.1 April 2012**. The changes concern mainly heading "Subcontracting" (with the reference to the changes of PRAG from January 2012), as well as the addition to the Manual with the Procedure for derogation to the rule of origin of supplies. All annexes to the Manual remain unchanged.

Photography Contest "Sharing Borders, Growing Closer" for the Projects under the First Call has been launched

Start date: 22.04.12
End date: 27.06.12

The Joint Technical Secretariat in cooperation with GD "Territorial Cooperation Management", Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, Republic of Bulgaria (Managing Authority) and "Financial Cooperation..."

[More](#)

23.04.12 | NEWS

Updated Examples of Tender Dossiers under PRAG

The Managing Authority has prepared examples dossier for public procurements under PRAG, based on the new templates for this type of procurement procedures under PRAG (standard tender dossier), in order to help the beneficiaries in preparation of the public procurement procedures for their projects. The beneficiaries should organize the appropriate type of procurement procedures according to the specifics of the projects and, consequently, the dossier could be expanded and/or modified.

03.04.12 | NEWS

To the Attention of Turkish Beneficiaries under the First Call for Proposals: (Announcement about Per-Diem)

National Authority (NA) announced that the per-diem for the beneficiaries implementing projects under Bulgaria-Turkey IPA CBC Programme shall not be paid on overnight basis. The per-diem shall be paid according to the number of days of travel as it...

[More](#)

22.03.12 | GENERAL QUESTIONS

Questions and Answers concerning the Tender for Supply of materials for popularization of the IPA Cross-border Programmes, managed by the Republic of Bulgaria

sitemap language Bulgaria English Türkçe

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Country
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Region
- Choose -

Priority
- Choose -

Find

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PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

For the purposes of promoting the Programme a variety of promotional materials which were developed in previous reporting periods were used for the various training activities and seminars:





PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN

Press announcements/releases have been regularly sent to National and Local media, when newsworthy information exists. At local level the JTS coordinated with the assistance of the Communication officer the regular feeding of local press with newsworthy information. The samples are in the following:

<http://www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu/eng/news/view/85>

<http://www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu/eng/news/view/72>



IPA Cross-Border Programme CCI No: 2007CB16IPO008

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

**PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION TRAINING UNDER THE 1ST CALL FOR PROPOSALS &
PROJECT PREPARATION EVENT FOR THE 2ND CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

The Joint Technical Secretariat-Branche Office in Edirne, in cooperation with "Financial Cooperation Directorate", Ministry for European Union Affairs, Republic of Turkey (National Authority) organizes "Project Implementation" Training for the Turkish beneficiaries under the 1st Call for Proposals and "Project Preparation" Event for the potential Turkish Beneficiaries under the 2nd Call for Proposals under Bulgaria – Turkey IPA Cross-Border Programme on **December 22, 2011 in Edirne, Turkey**.

"Project Preparation" Event is open for all potential Turkish beneficiaries from the cross-border region under the 2nd Call for Proposals. This event will provide detailed information to the potential beneficiaries about preparation of their project proposal packages as well as information about the things to be taken into account under this specific Call.

"Project Implementation" Training is open only for Turkish beneficiaries, specifically for the project management teams of all projects under the 1st Call for Proposals. This training aims at sharing information with the beneficiaries, especially on problems encountered during the implementation and on the points to take into consideration.

Terms of application, registration forms and agendas of these events are published on the official web site of the Programme (<http://www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu/en/>).

For further information, please contact:

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www.mfa.gov.tr



IPA Cross-Border Programme CCI No: 2007CB16IPO008

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

INFO DAYS & PARTNERSHIP FORUM UNDER THE 2ND CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Joint Technical Secretariat in cooperation with General Directorate "Territorial Cooperation Management", Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works of the Republic of Bulgaria (Managing Authority) and Ministry for EU Affairs of the Republic of Turkey (National Authority) is organizing three Info Days and a Partnership Forum for the second Call for proposals under Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross Border Programme.

Info Days will take place at the date of 04.10.2011 in Haskovo (Bulgaria), at 06.10.2011 in Bourgas (Bulgaria); and at the date of 11.10.2011 in Kerkireli (Turkey) in three different sessions in their native languages. All potential applicant organizations have been invited to attend the sessions.

Following info days, a Partnership Forum for the second Call for Proposals under the Bulgaria – Turkey IPA Cross-Border Programme will be organized at the date of 13.10.2011 in Edirne (Turkey). The forum will bring all potential applicants from both sides of the cross-border region together.

For further information, please contact:

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www.mfa.gov.tr

ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT 2011
Bulgaria - Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme CCI No. 2007CB16IPO008



<http://www.ipabc-bgtr.eu/eng/news/view/66>

<http://www.ipabc-bgtr.eu/eng/news/view/79>



IPA Cross-Border Programme CCI No: 2007CB16IPO008

Press Release

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

23 Projects under the 1st call for proposals attended to the "Open Days" in Haskovo.
(16.09.2011)

The Joint Technical Secretariat of the Bulgaria - Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme organized an "Open Days" for individual consultations in the JTS Haskovo, Bulgaria, which was held on 14 and 15 September 2011. The objective of the event was to give further information on launching sub-tendering procedures in the frame of the first and second time-slot from the projects implementation.





Totally 23 projects and 45 experts with respective duties from the project partner teams from both Programme countries had an opportunity to receive answers to their questions mainly concerning the themes of sub-tendering procedures under PRAO rules and project progress reporting issues. Individual consultations have been performed by experts from Managing Authority (MA) and Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS).

Through discussions with beneficiaries, the results of this event will be helpful for the future implementation of the projects and contribute to achieve the goals of the Programme.

As a result of the consultations carried out during the "Open days", the JTS will publish a list of FAQ on the official web-site of the Programme.



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IPA Cross-Border Programme CCI No: 2007CB16IPO008

Press Release

PROJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS

Turkey stage of Info Days under the 2nd Call for proposals in Kırklareli and the Partnership Forum in Edirne have been accomplished
(14.10.2011)

The Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) of the Bulgaria - Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme in cooperation with the National Authority have organized an "Info Day" under the Second Call in Culture Center of Kırklareli University in Kırklareli, Turkey.

109 Turkish potential applicants have attended to the event held on 11th of October, 2011 in Kırklareli, receiving detailed information on the guidelines for applicants and participating to a special training session for potential applicants regarding the application pack (application form and annexes) and general requirements for submission of the proposals.





On 13th October, 2011, following an Info Day in Kırklareli, a Partnership Forum under the Second Call was held in Balkan Congress Center of Trakya University in Edirne where more than 200 potential applicants have met off together with representatives from the Programme authorities as well as other economic, social and environmental partners from the both border regions.

In the Forum, beneficiaries under the First Call have shared their partnering experiences and the potential applicants have exchanged information on their partner needs as well as their project ideas within the meet and greet session. Following the networking activities, in the afternoon session, round table discussions (series of interventions as focal points) and partnering meetings were performed where potential applicants had an opportunity to establish new contacts as well as new partnerships within their projects.



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Press Advertisements for the second call for proposals were also advertised at central/local press. The samples are in the the following.

Published in Haskovska Maritsa-08.09.2011/ Local Newspaper

септември 2011 г.
сряда

ПОРТРЕТ

Сопутен отличник е новият четен гражданин на Хасково



Владимир Дамьянов

Адвокат Владимир Дамьянов вече 50 г. е влюбен в професията си, повече от 60- в съпругата си

СКИМЕРА
ат Влади-
амьянов
поче-
на Ха-
ше му
на офи-
на в те-
предпо-
накста
што пред-
нов е бил

се интелектуално след като той каже "да". Днес смятам, че тези присъди била справедлив, тъй като ставаше въпрос за жестоки престъпления. В такива случаи имаше чувството, че потъваше заедно с осъдените. Проектната беше

Законът си е закон и трябва да се изпълнява. Преди 10 ноември 1989 г. обаче правото бе някак си по-лесно, тъй като законите била по-постоянни. Сега непрекъснато се променят, не мога да премина за добро или лошо, казва още

той. Дамьянов е специалист в бракоразводните дела и за тях твърди, че от правна гледна точка са много лесни. От човешка обаче са страшни. Преди да да отнеме детето на родителя. Възрастните продължа-

из човек в не по-малко от 10 години си живот. Има щастлив 60-годишен брак със съпругата си Величка Дамьянова, която е акушер-гинеколог.

Из 20 000 водени а, най-тежка е тата на убийци, гвърди той

листата във Висши адвокатски съвет. Не е правил статистика, но е водил поне 15-20 000 дела. Законът е единственият критерий. Ако той е на наша страна, делото ще бъде спечелено. Най-тежко е защитата на докато убийци. Имал съм 3-4 дела, в които клиентите ми била осъдени на смърт в ония времена. Тогава, за да бъде изпълнена смъртната присъда, трябвало да мине през Първи Тодор Живков и

Програма за трансгранично сътрудничество между България и Турция, съфинансирана от Инструмента за предприсъединителна помощ (CCI 2007CB16IP0008)

PARTNERSHIP

Министерство на регионалното развитие и благоустройство, Република България (Управляващ орган) в сътрудничество с Министерство на европейските въпроси, Република Турция (Национален партньорски орган)

Съгласно изискванията на програмата за трансгранично сътрудничество между България и Турция, съфинансирана от Инструмента за предприсъединителна помощ.

Параграфен бюджет за настоящата Пакет за подпомагане на данни сътрудничеството е в размер на 8 941 020 Екв.

Проектите подлежат на избор и на одобрение от двете правителства:

1. Устойчиво социално и икономическо развитие
2. Подобряване на качеството на живот

Крайният срок на програмата е да се намери кандидат на местното и регионално ниво, неправителствени организации и бизнес асоциации, образователни и културни институции и др. в разрабтаните и изпълнените на съвместен проект в държавна граница регион, който е включен от Програмата като регион за България (административно име на NUTS III) - област Бургас, Хасково и Ямбол за Турция (административно име на NUTS III) - провинция Орден и Хайрканли.

Пълният пакет от документи, включително в Наското за кандидатстване, се намери в моят да бъдат изпратени от следните Интернет страници: www.ipasb-bulg.eu, www.mrdp.gov.bg и www.mrdp.gov.tr

Крайният срок за подаване на проектите е 17:30 часа местно време на 09 декември 2011 г. на адрес посочен в Наското за кандидатстване на източната Пакет за кандидатстване на проектите. С цел разяснение и подпомагане на кандидатите бенефицирите ще бъдат организирани информационни семинари на българско и на турски език.

Конкретни данни и места за провеждане на информационните семинари ще бъдат известени на Интернет страниците: www.ipasb-bulg.eu, www.mrdp.gov.tr и <http://www.mrdp.gov.tr>

Контакти за допълнителна информация:
Съвместен технически секретариат (CTS) - Хасково,
тел.: +359 38 66 38 88; CTS Антена - Одрин, тел.: +90 284 213 18 53

Bulgaria - Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme (CCI 2007CB16IP0008)

PARTNERSHIP

Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works of the Republic of Bulgaria (Managing Authority) in cooperation with Republic of Turkey Ministry for EU Affairs (National Authority)

are seeking for project proposals for the promotion of cross border cooperation between Bulgaria and Turkey with financial assistance from the Bulgaria - Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme. Under present call for Proposals an indicative amount of EUR 8,941,020 is available for the project proposals from both participating countries. Project proposals would have to target one of the following priority areas:

1. Sustainable Social & Economic Development
2. Improvement of the Quality of Life

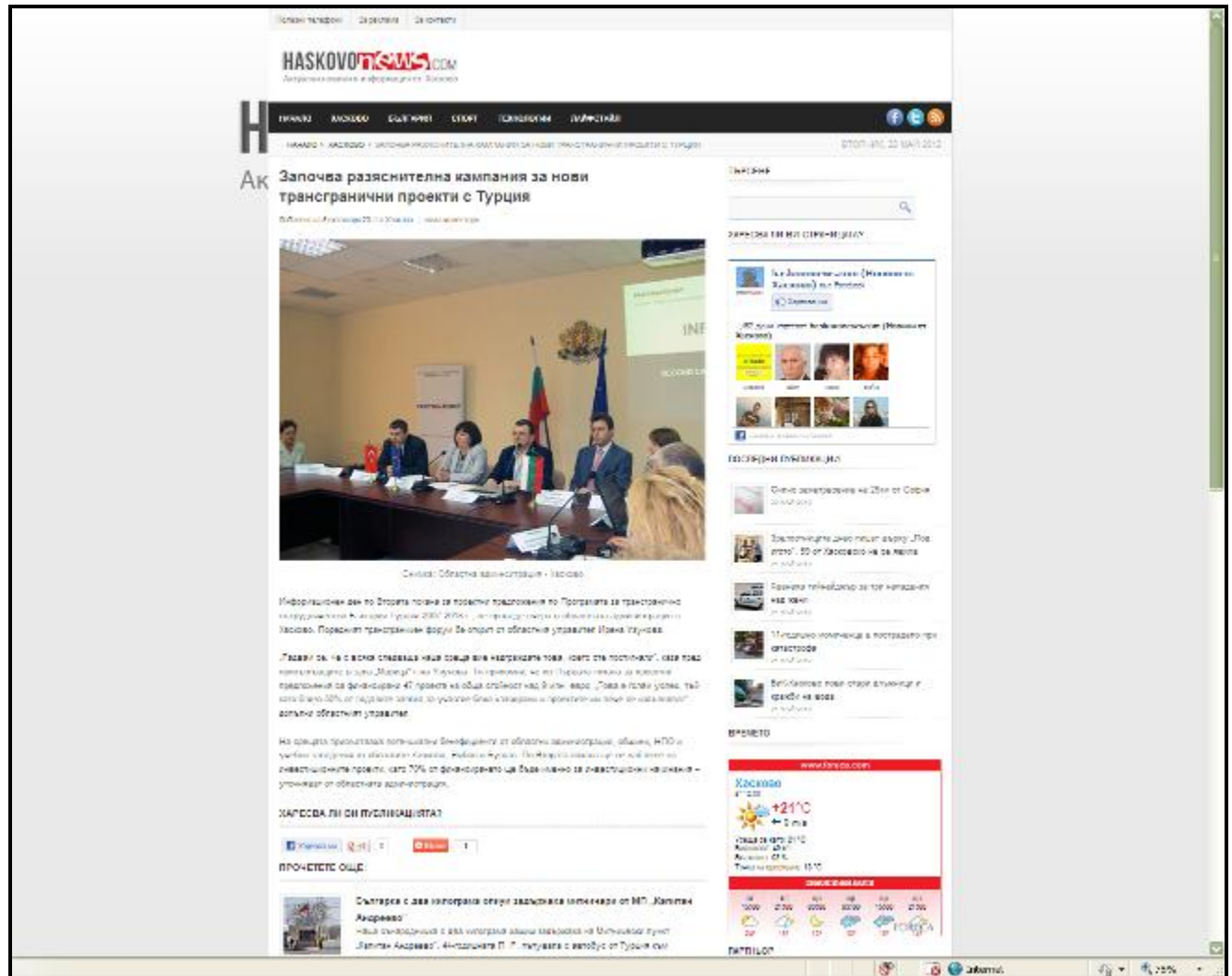
The ultimate objective will be to enhance the capability of the local and regional authorities, non-governmental organizations and business associations, cultural and educational institutions, etc. to develop and implement joint projects within the border region in the following Bulgarian NUTS III level territorial units: Burgas, Yambol, Haskovo and Turkish Provinces Ordu and Karamanli.

The full Guidelines for Applicants and Application Package are available for download on the following web page addresses: www.ipasb-bulg.eu, www.mrdp.gov.tr and <http://www.mrdp.gov.tr>

The deadline for submission of proposals is 09 December 2011, 5:30 p.m. local time in the address indicated in the Guidelines for Applicants for the present Call for proposals. Information sessions on this call for proposals will be held in Bulgaria and Turkey. The dates and location of these sessions will be announced on the web sites www.ipasb-bulg.eu, www.mrdp.gov.tr and <http://www.mrdp.gov.tr>

Contact for additional information: Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) - Haskovo: +359 38 663 888, JTS Branch Office - Edirne: +90 284 213 18 53


<http://haskovonews.com/6797>



The Communication officer also arranged interviews at regional/local level with the participation of MA/NA/JTS representatives during the Information Seminars and Partnership Forum under the Second call for proposals:

- News on "Partnership Forum"- 13.10.2011-Edirne TV/ Local- (4 minutes on PT)
- News on "Info Days"- 06.10.2011- Skat TV Burgas/ Regional- (2 minutes on PT).

In September 2011, the following e-bulletin was published in order to present current information about the implementation of the territorial cooperation programmes in Republic of Bulgaria to a wider number of stakeholders.

	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Бюлетин за програмите за териториално сътрудничество</h2>	<p>Главна дирекция "Управление на териториалното сътрудничество" към Министерството на регионалното развитие и благоустройството</p> <hr/> <p>Година I, Брой 1 1 септември 2011 г.</p>																
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 65%;"> <h3>Защо започваме работа по този бюлетин?</h3> <p>След успешно приключване на процедурите по оценка на съответствието на секторните оперативни програми, администрирани от България, благодарение на служителите в Главна дирекция "Управление на териториалното сътрудничество", на Съвместните технически секретариати, на колегите от Сертифициращия и Одитиращия орган, както и на партниращите институции в съседните страни в края на 2010 г. и през настоящата 2011 г. бяха получени положителни оценки за съответствие по програмите за трансгранично, транснационално и междурегионално сътрудничество, съфинансирани от Европейския фонд за регионално развитие, Инструмента за предприсъединителна помощ и Европейския инструмент за добро съседство и партньорство.</p> <p>Програмите за териториално сътрудничество отразяват в най-голяма степен духа и принципите на Обединена Европа, но поради ниските си бюджети и факта, че се изпълняват и управляват съвместно с други страни, се считат за високорискови.</p> <p>Допълнителна пречка пред потенциалните бенефициенти е задължителното за програмите използване на английски език. Проблем представлява както подготовката на качествено проектно предложение, така и отчитането на техническото и финансово изпълнение на дейностите по сключените договори.</p> <p>Въпреки всичко изброено програмите предоставят възможност за реално сътрудничество с местните власти, неправителствените организации и образователните институции от съседните страни, както и с голяма част от страните в Европейския съюз. Те са специфичен инструмент за трансфер на знания, умения и добри практики при подготовката, управлението и изпълнението на проекти.</p> </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> <h3>В този брой:</h3> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="padding-bottom: 5px;">Стартирана базовите по програмите за трансгранично сътрудничество финансиращи от ИПП</td> <td style="text-align: right; vertical-align: bottom;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-bottom: 5px;">Предстои обявление на новонаемите контролери по програмите за трансгранично сътрудничество, финансиращи от Инструмента за предприсъединителна помощ</td> <td style="text-align: right; vertical-align: bottom;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-bottom: 5px;">Очаквайте обявяването на две нови покани за набиране на проектни предложения на проектни предложения по ОП за ТТС България—Турция и България—Сърбия</td> <td style="text-align: right; vertical-align: bottom;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-bottom: 5px;">Предстои обявление на базовите за предоставяне на национално съфинансирание по СОП за ТТС Черноморски басейн 2007—2013</td> <td style="text-align: right; vertical-align: bottom;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-bottom: 5px;">44 съвместни проекта по Програмата за ТТС България—Сърбия са вече на етап изпълнение</td> <td style="text-align: right; vertical-align: bottom;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-bottom: 5px;">Координати за контакт на Главна дирекция "Управление на териториалното сътрудничество" и Съвместните технически секретариати</td> <td style="text-align: right; vertical-align: bottom;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-bottom: 5px;">Очаквайте в следващия брой</td> <td style="text-align: right; vertical-align: bottom;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-bottom: 5px;">Къде намираме принципите на добрите партньорства?</td> <td style="text-align: right; vertical-align: bottom;">4</td> </tr> </table> </div> </div> <div style="margin-top: 20px;"> <h3>Ратифициран е Меморандум за разбирателство за изпълнение на Оперативната програма за териториално сътрудничество Гърция — България 2007-2013</h3> <div style="display: flex;"> <div style="width: 33%;"> <p>На 27 юли 2011 г. бе ратифициран Меморандумът за разбирателство между Република Гърция и Република България относно изпълнението на Оперативната програма за европейско териториално сътрудничество Гърция — България.</p> <p>Законът за ратификация е публикуван в Държавен вестник, бр.61 от 6 август 2011 г.</p> </div> <div style="width: 33%;"> <p>Съгласно изискванията на меморандума Министерството на регионалното развитие и благоустройството ще трансферира средствата от националното съфинансирание за българските партньори на Сертифициращия орган - Министерството на регионалното развитие, конкурентоспособността и корабоплаването на Гърция, което от своя страна ще ги преведе</p> </div> <div style="width: 33%;"> <p>в сметките на водещите партньори по проектите.</p> <p>Размерът на националното съфинансирание по първата покана е 3 618 855,05 евро. Към 1 септември 2011 г. са сключени 65 договора по първата покана на обща стойност над 64 млн. евро. Резултатите по втората покана се очакват в края на месец септември, а подписването на договори през октомври 2011 г.</p> </div> </div> </div>			Стартирана базовите по програмите за трансгранично сътрудничество финансиращи от ИПП	2	Предстои обявление на новонаемите контролери по програмите за трансгранично сътрудничество, финансиращи от Инструмента за предприсъединителна помощ	2	Очаквайте обявяването на две нови покани за набиране на проектни предложения на проектни предложения по ОП за ТТС България—Турция и България—Сърбия	3	Предстои обявление на базовите за предоставяне на национално съфинансирание по СОП за ТТС Черноморски басейн 2007—2013	3	44 съвместни проекта по Програмата за ТТС България—Сърбия са вече на етап изпълнение	3	Координати за контакт на Главна дирекция "Управление на териториалното сътрудничество" и Съвместните технически секретариати	4	Очаквайте в следващия брой	4	Къде намираме принципите на добрите партньорства?	4
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Очаквайте в следващия брой	4																	
Къде намираме принципите на добрите партньорства?	4																	

Събития през месец септември 2011 г.

- 12 септември 2011 г. — обучение на контролери
- 15 септември 2011 г. — изтича крайният срок за кандидатстване по ОП за ТТС България—Македония
- Септември 2011 г. — обявяване на втората покана за набиране на предложения по ОП за ТТС България—Турция
- Септември 2011 г. — обявяване на втората покана за набиране на предложения по ОП за ТТС България—Сърбия
- 30 септември 2011 г. — краен срок за кандидатстване по СОП в Черноморския басейн



INFORMATION SEMINARS AND ACTIVE TRAINING

Information Seminars under the Second Call as well as active trainings under the First Call for proposals were organized targeting respective groups under the programme. In the reporting period totally 885 participants attended to the information events and training sessions organized under the BG-TR IPA CBC Programme.



Training Seminar/ Edirne-13.07.2011



Training Seminar/ Haskovo-04.07.2011



Info Day/ Burgas- 06.10.2011



Partnership Forum/ Edirne- 13.10.2011



EVENTS TABLE

Event	Target Group	Location	Date	Attendance
OFFICIAL CEREMONY FOR AWARD OF SUBSIDY CONTRACTS	Grant beneficiaries under the First Call	Bulgaria-Haskovo-Maritza Hall	04.07.2011	85
TRAINING SEMINAR "PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION"	Grant beneficiaries under the First Call (LPs)	Bulgaria-Haskovo-Maritza Hall	04.07.2011	52
TRAINING SEMINAR "PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION"	Grant beneficiaries under the First Call (LPs)	Turkey-Edirne-Vocational Education Center Hall	13.07.2011	66
OPEN DAYS	Grant beneficiaries under the First Call (Project Management Teams)	Bulgaria-Haskovo-JTS Premises	14-15/09.2011	48
INFO DAY	Bulgarian Potential Beneficiaries under the Second Call	Bulgaria-Haskovo-Maritza Hall	04.11.2011	65
INFO DAY	Bulgarian Potential Beneficiaries under the Second Call	Bulgaria-Burgas- Hotel Bulgaria Compass Hall	06.10.2011	52
INFO DAY	Turkish Potential Beneficiaries under the Second Call	Turkey-Kirklareli-Kirklareli University Conference Hall	11.10.2011	108
PARTNERSHIP FORUM	Potential Beneficiaries under the Second Call	Turkey-Edirne-Balkan Congress Center Hall	13.10.2011	198
"PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION TRAINING"	Turkish Grant Beneficiaries under the First Call (LPs and other PPs)	Turkey-Edirne-Vocational Training Center Hall	22.12.2012	57
"PROJECT PREPARATION" EVENT	Turkish Potential Beneficiaries under the Second Call	Turkey-Edirne-Vocational Training Center Hall	22.12.2012	124
<i>TOTAL: 885 participants</i>				