

Republic of Bulgaria

ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT 2014

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



MAY 2015

ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

for the

Bulgaria – Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme

CCI Number 2007CB16IPO008

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GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

AIR	Annual Implementation Report
AA	Audit Authority
AEUFEA	Executive Agency of Audit of European Union Funds
CA	Certifying Authority
CBC	Cross-border Cooperation
EU	European Union
FLC	First level control
IPA	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance
IPA II	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance 2014-2020
JMC	Joint Monitoring Committee
JTS	Joint Technical Secretariat
JWG	Joint Working Group for preparation of the IPA II CBC Programme Bulgaria-Turkey
MA	Managing Authority
NA	National Authority
PA	Priority Axis
TA	Technical Assistance

1. Identification

The Annual Implementation Report (AIR) is drawn up in accordance with the provisions under Article 112 of the Commission Regulation № 718/2007.

This is the sixth Annual implementation report for the IPA Cross-border Programme Bulgaria - Turkey 2007-2013, covering the period 1 January 2014 - 31 December 2014.

The Managing Authority (MA) for the Programme is the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (MRDPW) of Bulgaria having as counterpart the Ministry for European Union Affairs of Turkey, acting as the Programme's National Authority (NA).

Community Instrument	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) Component II “Cross-Border Cooperation”	
Area of intervention	On the Bulgarian side -Burgas district (13 municipalities) -Yambol district (5 municipalities) -Haskovo district (11 municipalities)	On the Turkish side -province Edirne and -province Kırklareli
Denomination of the Programme	Bulgaria – Turkey IPA Cross-Border Programme	
Number CCI	2007CB16IPO008	
Period of Programming:	2007 – 2013 (Reg. EC 718/2007 as amended by Reg. EC 80/2010)	
Duration of Programme	01/01/2007 – 31/12/2013	
Reporting year	01/01/2014 – 31/12/2014	

Date of approval by the Head of MA:	22 May 2015
Date of approval of the Annual report by the JMC:	



2. Overview of the implementation of the Programme

The Bulgaria - Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme (2007-2013) was approved by the European Commission with Decision C (2007) 6477 on 20 December 2007, amended with Decision C (2010) 3777 on 22 June 2010, Decision C (2012) 4940 on 13 July 2012, Decision C (2012) 8372 on 16 November 2012 and Decision C (2014) 1661 on 14 March 2014. The description of management and control systems was approved by the Commission with letter ref. No DG REGIO E1 D (2010).

The overall budget of the Programme for the programming period 2007-2013 is EUR 29 504 775. Within the period until December 2014 three Calls for proposals were launched under the Programme which attracted over 370 applications. The gained until the end of 2014 experience shows growing number of project proposals for a wide range of topics, such as: development of small-scale infrastructure, investments in education, cultural exchange, social and economic development and others. Despite the fact that as a general rule the implementation of cross-border programmes is challenging for most beneficiaries, the data from this period show increasing interest for participation among stakeholders. The analysis of the implementation of the projects under the three Calls for proposals shows that out of 130 subsidy contracts (signature of 48 subsidy contracts under first Call for proposals, 47 under the second Call and 35 under the third Call for proposals), only 4% (5 projects) were not successfully finalized due to withdrawal of project partners.

The contracted amount of all subsidy contracts under the three Calls for proposals is EUR 30 259 206 or 103% of the available Programme budget.



2.1. Achievement and analysis of the progress

Given that the Programme is now at the final stage of its implementation with an important part of the IPA funding committed to projects, it is appropriate to continue the reflection process initiated through the programme mid-term evaluation by giving answer to the following questions:

What was the Programme initially to achieve?

The **Overall Strategic Goal** of Bulgaria-Turkey IPA CBC Programme 2007-2013 aims to achieve balanced sustainable development build upon the key strengths of the Bulgaria-Turkey cross-border co-operation area in contribution to stronger European co-operation and integrity.

The Programme three strategic objectives: 1) To boost sustainable economic development in co-operation area build on the comparative advantages; 2) To improve the overall social development and promote social cohesion among people and communities; 3) To improve the quality of life by efficiently use of common natural resources as well as protection of natural, cultural and historical heritage values were jointly elaborated by the two partnering countries on the basis of territorial and SWOT analyses, regional consultations and lessons learned from the cross-border activities implemented until 2006.

The programme strategy and its objectives fit the relevant EU and national cohesion policy promoting good neighbourhood relations fostering stability, security and prosperity in the mutual interest of both countries.

With the implementation of different projects the Programme aims to reach an impact, related to the different potentials of the cross-border area, namely:

Social impact: Improvement of standard of living and Decrease in the unemployment;

Economic impact: Contribution to local economies and Stimulation of infrastructure investment;

Environmental impact: Preservation of common natural, cultural and historical heritage.

Taking into consideration the limited budget (EUR 29 504 775) and nature of the Programme, it intended to complement the strategies and measures at national level. Mainly small-scale projects were foreseen to be financed for the benefit of a larger number of applicants in different spheres of intervention.

In addition, the Programme strategy and its objectives fit the relevant EU and national cohesion policy promoting good neighbourhood relations fostering stability, security and prosperity in the mutual interest of both countries.



Is it still on track for the achievement of these objectives and where do efforts need to be refocused?

The Mid-term evaluation of the Programme finalized in September 2013 came to the conclusion that the Programme had remained relevant to the needs of the target region and even at that particular moment most of the results were achieved. The Programme was considered as being in line and consistent with the policy context of 2014 in terms of objectives and priorities. Until 31 December 2014, the majority of Programme result indicators' targets set for 2016 were overachieved, which is proof that the Programme is on a good track for achieving the objectives initially set and there is no need for the programme to be refocused. In addition, the foreseen values of the Programme result indicators for 2015 and 2016 show that after finalisation of the second and third Call projects, all targets are going to be met.

Last but not least, the conclusions from the mid-term evaluation were that the CBC Programme was also contributing to safeguarding and enhancing the balance concerning horizontal principles respected by all parties.

What has changed in the programme area and for the people living there as a result of the programme's interventions?

The main results of the Programme achieved at the current stage of its implementation are:

- *Increased number of social and cohesion links* through establishment of new partnerships and relations between counterparts across the border and through implementation of joint cooperation projects in different thematic fields - 16 training places created, 51 joint cultural events carried out, 78 awareness-raising campaigns organised and 1 328 people participating in training events among which 231 are from vulnerable groups.
- *Better preserved natural resources and biodiversity* as well as decreased level of pollution in the region – more than 20 networks for environment protection and reasonable utilisation of resources set up, 23 joint environmental management plans developed, etc.
- *Enhanced sustainable economic development* of the border region and increased competitiveness of SME's by establishing joint information services and encouraging contacts across the border - 253 business and educational linkages created, improved access to and usage of new technology, 905 SMEs involved/addressed in cross-border projects, 74 new jobs created, of which 35 are for young people, 16 management and job-related training courses carried out, etc.

- *Increased attractiveness of the region* based on preservation of historical and cultural heritage - 25 tourist destinations developed, 17 tourist services created, 10 surrounding areas of cultural spots improved, 14 joint eco-itineraries created, etc.
- *Developed/improved early warning and risk management systems* with 8 new partnerships for cases of natural disasters established.

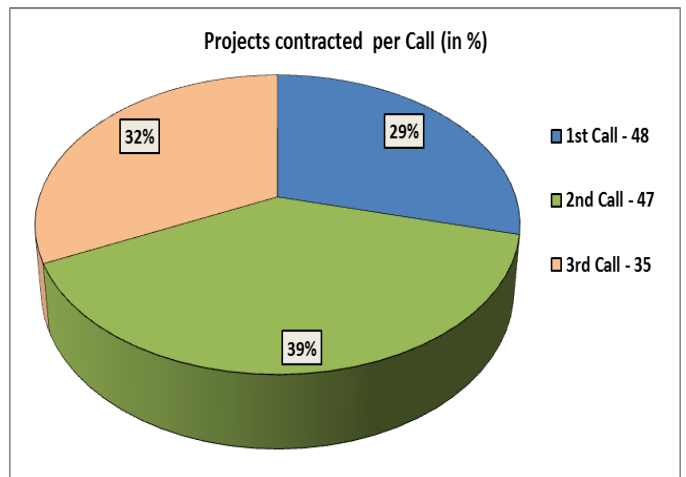
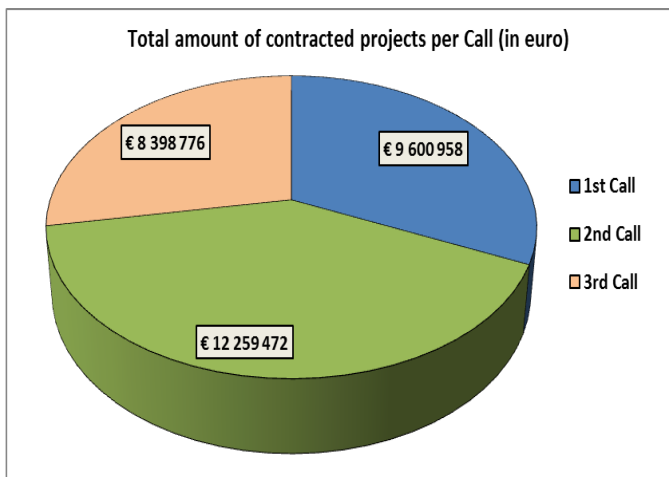
More details on successful projects could be found in Annex III and at: <http://www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu/page.php?c=71>.

In addition, until the end of 2015 the Managing Authority is going to award a Programme’s impact assessment so as to analyse the long-term impact of the Programme and assess the compliance with the objectives set.

2.1.1. Information on the physical progress of the Programme:

Under the first Call for proposals of the Programme, 48 subsidy contracts were signed in 2011. The second Call for proposals under the Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme was launched in the last quarter of 2011. The third Call for proposals was launched on 11.02.2013. Thirty-five subsidy contracts were signed under this last Call under the Programme and were implemented during 2014.

The interest in submission of project proposals within the three Calls for proposals under the Programme is presented in the graphics below.



The year 2014 features continuous acceleration of the contracting and verification processes. The figures show that the number of the contracted projects under all three Calls for proposals under the Programme is balanced and the available budget for each Call was allocated in an appropriate manner.

1. Status of the projects as of 2014

First Call for proposals		No. 2007CB16IPO008-2009-1
	Launched on 28th September 2009	Budget: EUR 10 633 072 (with approved reallocation for year 2009)
	111 project proposals received within the deadline	
	Assessment	July 2010 – February 2011
	Contracting	June 2011 – October 2011
	48 project financed	Total amount EUR 9 600 957.93

Under the first Call for proposals of the Bulgaria - Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme 48 projects were financed in 2011 on the total amount of EUR 9 600 957.93, out of which 3 Subsidy contracts (with ref.№2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-30, ref.№ 2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-40 and ref.№ 2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-55) were terminated due to withdrawal of project partners from project implementation.

Consequently, all fourthly five (45) projects funded under the first Call for proposals were successfully finalized.

List of finalized projects under the first Call for proposals is presented in Part A of the Annex I attached to the current report.

Some general information about the financial implementation of the projects under first Call for proposals as of 31 December 2014 (in EUR) is presented in the table below:

Priority axis	Contracts	Total contracts amount	Advance payments	Interim and final payments	Total payments
		<i>(IPA + national co-financing)</i>	<i>(IPA + national co-financing)</i>	<i>(IPA + national co-financing)</i>	<i>(IPA + national co-financing)</i>
PA 1	27	4 382 689	876 538	2 636 529	3 513 067
PA 2	18	4 921 689	1 004 152	2 864 509	3 868 661
TOTAL	45	9 304 378	1 880 690	5 501 038	7 381 728

Second Call for proposals	No. 2007CB16IPO008-2011-2
Launched on 8th September 2011	Budget: EUR 14 000 642 (with approved reallocation for year 2012 and savings from projects under the first Call, after de-commitment)
141 project proposals received within the deadline	
Assessment	February 2012 – July 2012
Contracting	Started in December 2012
47 applications approved	Total amount EUR 12 259 472.34
47 project contracted (until the end of 2014)	Total amount EUR 12 259 472.34

The second Call for proposals under the Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme was launched on 8 September 2011. Within the deadline, 141 applications were received, out of which 124 applications were assessed as compliant with the administrative and eligibility criteria set up in the Applicant's Guide.

One new subsidy contract (with ref. № 2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-087) was signed and two subsidy contracts (with ref. № 2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-005 and 2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-011) were terminated in 2014.

List of financed projects under the second Call for proposals until the end of year 2014 is presented in Part B of the Annex I attached to the current report.



In relation with the financial implementation of the projects under second Call for proposals, some general information as of 31 December 2014 (in EUR) is presented in the table below:

Priority axis	Contracts	Total contracts amount	Advance payments	Interim and final payments	Total payments
		(IPA + national co-financing)	(IPA + national co-financing)	(IPA + national co-financing)	(IPA + national co-financing)
PA 1	23	5 677 643	1 135 149	2 824 331	3 959 480
PA 2	22	6 341 042	1 258 202	2 610 415	3 868 617
TOTAL	45	12 018 685	2 393 351	5 434 746	7 828 097

Third Call for Proposals	No. 2007CB16IPO008-2013-3
Launched on 11th February 2013	Budget: EUR 4 697 172 (with approved reallocation for year 2012 and savings from projects under the first Call, after de-commitment – EUR 6 927 799)
122 project proposals received within the deadline	
Assessment	07.05.2013 - 22.08.2013
Contracting	Started in January 2014
42 applications approved	Total amount EUR 10 090 285.78
35 project contracted (until the end of 2014)	Total amount EUR 8 398 776

The third Call for proposals under the Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme was launched on 11 February 2013 with deadline for submission of project proposals on 29 April 2013. Within the deadline, 123 applications were received, one of which was received after the deadline.

Seven (7) new projects are approved for financing until 31 December 2014. They will be contracted only after receiving positive statement from the EC on the transfer of amounts from the first to the

second Priority Axis. List of awarded projects under the third Call for proposals (until the end of 2014) is presented in Part C of the Annex I attached to the current Report.

Until 31 December 2014 there are no finished projects under the third Call for proposals.

In relation with the financial implementation of the projects under third Call for proposals, some general information as of 31 December 2014 (in EUR) is presented in the table below:

Priority axis	Contracts	Total contracts amount	Advance payments	Interim and final payments	Total payments
		(IPA + national co-financing)	(IPA + national co-financing)	(IPA + national co-financing)	(IPA + national co-financing)
PA 1	18	4 163 278	709 018	271 122	980 140
PA 2	17	4 235 498	757 543	327 346	1 084 889
TOTAL	35	8 398 776	1 466 561	598 468	2 065 029

Modifications of the subsidy contracts

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 Programme Manual and Project Implementation Manual. According to the procedures for approval of contract modifications, the following types of modifications apply:

1. Modifications requesting notification to the MA and approval by the JTC;
2. Modifications requesting approval by the MA;
3. Modifications requesting approval by the JMC and signature of Addendum.

The requested minor modifications by the beneficiaries during year 2014 (related to prior notification to MA and approval by the JTS) were connected with changes concerning the project's content (modifications of the approved Application form related to change of the project action plan as well as minor changes in activities). The approval was given together with approval of the respective

Progress Report.

Modifications concerning the administrative part of the project (change of bank account, contact details, address for communication) was made by notification to MA.

The requested modifications by the beneficiaries during year 2014 related to prior approval by MA were:

- Budget changes - modification related to budget reallocation between budget lines in the limit of 10% and modification related to budget reallocation between budget sub-lines. Inclusion of VAT in the separate budget line is another budget change approved by MA.
- Changes of the project team are the most frequently requested modification during project implementation. Great number of project members were replaced in the beginning and during projects' implementation. In order to meet the criteria for replacement, the newly-proposed project members had to demonstrate the qualifications and competences relevant to the ones the members proposed for replacement had.
- Additionally, requests for use of contingency reserve in the budgets were requested within year 2014. They were mainly connected with the expenditures for additional unforeseen works for building works or for visas of the Turkish partners.

Substantial changes of the Subsidy contracts were subject to approval by the Joint Monitoring Committee and signature of addenda. The following types of modifications were conducted in 2014:

- Modifications concerning the extension of the implementation period - addendums for extension of implementation period of two projects under the second Call for proposals was concluded with prior approval by JMC. The request for extension of implementation period of one of the project is related to cancellation of one LOT of international open procedure for supply and need of re-launch of the tender. For the other project the request is connected with impossibility of the one of the partners to accomplish the delivery and instalment of equipment, before the restoration works of the building, implemented under another project, were finished.

Modifications related to budget re-allocations – addendum for budget re-allocation of two projects (one under second Call for proposals and one under the third Call for proposals) were conducted with prior approval by JMC. The request for re-allocation for one of the projects is related to use of new technologies for popularizations of the project. For the second project, the re-allocation is connected with necessity to be purchased licensed software.

2.1.2. Indicators:

The table below presents the result indicators which are used to monitor the progress at programme level. The table contains baseline values and quantities of result indicators, which were achieved during 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014.

The indicators 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 expected	2016 expected	Total
Increased number of social and cohesion links	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	296	15	11	137	0	459
	Target 2016	4 %										
	Baseline*	201										
Improved environment for development of relationships across the border	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	18	7	11	13	4	53
	Target 2016	4 %										
	Baseline*	50										
Number of Joint information services established	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	35	28	12	10	0	85
	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	11	3	3	4	0	21
	Target 2016	2.5 %										
	Baseline*	9										
Increased common cultural capital	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	12	12	9	13	2	48
	Target 2016	3 %										
	Baseline*	9										
Improved small-scale infrastructure	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	4	6	3	10	11	34
	Target 2016	3 %										
	Baseline*	17										
Projects actually applied	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	6	9	3	22
	Target 2016	3 %										
	Baseline	8										

Programme Result Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 expected	2016 expected	Total
Decreased pollution in the region	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	8	2	15
	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	5	9	5	17	2	33
	Target 2016	2 %										
	Baseline*	20										
Increased sustainable utilisation of natural and historical/cultural resources	Achievement	0	0	0	0	6,25	10	4	4	0	0	18
	Target 2016	2 %										
	Baseline*	16										

The above table represents summarized data for the achievement of the result indicators for the years 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014, achieved by the implementation of the projects. During 2014 there were no more contracts signed within the first Call for proposals in implementation stage (38 projects under the first Call were successfully finalized till the end of 2012, and 7 project were finalized in 2013). Seven contracts within Priority Axis 1, funded under the second Call for proposals were finished in 2013 (periods of implementation have expired during that year). Eleven contracts from the second Call for proposals were finished until the end of 2014.

The information regarding the implementation of the Programme indicators for the years 2011, 2012 and 2013 is based on the data received from the Interim and Final project progress reports of the successfully finalized projects until the end of 2013. Data for these three years was accounted for on the basis of outputs/results gained during the calendar year. Data for 2014 was compiled in accordance with the recommendations in Letter ARES(2015) 424874 from the Director-General for Regional and Urban Policy at the European Commission. Data for expected achievement for 2015 and 2016 is based on the concluded and not finalized contracts under the third Call for proposals.

From the data in the table it is apparent that most of the result indicators have reached achievement close to or above 100% by the end of 2014 after finalization of the projects from the first Call for proposals and most of those from the second Call. The expectations are that most of the Programme

indicators to be reached after full implementation of the second and third Call for proposals under the Programme.

Until 31 December 2014 the achievement of six out of eight result indicators' targets for 2016 was nearly 100% or even overachieved. The accumulated values of two result indicators (RI 5: Increased common cultural capital and RI 6: Improved small-scale infrastructure) for the reporting period are below the targets set for 2016. However, it should be noted that the Programme is still on track and the forecast is that after finalization of all projects under second and third Call for proposals, all eight result indicators will reach and overachieve the targets set. All related to the achieved results could be found in the database of the MIS of the Programme (details <http://mis-008.mrrb.government.bg>). The information is also available in the relevant project progress reports.

2.1.3. Financial information

The total value of the IPA CBC Programme Bulgaria – Turkey the period 2007 - 2013 is EUR 29 504 775 out of which EUR 25 079 059 are European funding and EUR 4 425 716 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 (EUR):

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:	10 264 859	1 811 446	12 076 304	85 : 15
Priority Axis 2: Improvement the Quality of Life:	12 306 294	2 171 699	14 477 993	85 : 15
Priority Axis 3: Technical Assistance	2 507 906	442 571	2 950 478	85 : 15
Total	25 079 059	4 425 716	29 504 775	85 : 15

**The table above represents data for the period 2007-2013 according to the approved by the JMC on 23 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 2012-2013 and approved Programme amendment related to the de-commitment procedure for 2011 (Decision C (2012) 8372 on 16 November 2012).*



Achievement of Programme payment targets

During 2014 MA, NA and JTS continued to follow proactive approach by providing consultations, additional guidance and day-to-day support to the project partners. Thus shortcomings are overcome and the overall proceedings were accelerated, which had as result no occurrence of de-commitment and an achievement of the goal for 2014.

The amount of funds to be certified in 2014 under the Bulgaria-Turkey IPA CBC Programme 2007-2013 amounted to EUR 4 263 954 (IPA co-financing). The total amount of certified IPA funds in 2014 had exceeded the target and therefore there is no decommitment for year 2014.

The accomplishment status of Programme payment targets achieved by 31 December 2014

Programme Payment targets*						EC advance payments 2007-2009	EC reimbursements 2007-2014**	Total advance + reimbursements	Amounts to be included in application for payment in order to avoid n+3/decommitment Risk	
2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014				2015	2016
0	0	922 793	4 098 380	4 180 348	4 263 954	5 021 173	11 466 003	16 487 176	4 349 234	4 436 218

** Accumulated amounts 2007-2014

In addition, besides the existing measures for monitoring the projects progress (progress reports, monitoring visits), quarterly analyses of the projects implementation were introduced. These quarterly analyses encompass detailed analysis for each contract and relevant conclusions categorised in three main categories – (1) contracts without identified problems, (2) contracts with insignificant problems (for instance changes in the schedule of activities which has not a negative impact on project implementation) and (3) contracts with significant problems in the process of implementation. The subsidy contracts covered by category 3 are subject to regular meetings and there are elaborated concrete steps which could be undertaken in compliance with approved Action plan.

In order to avoid further losses of funds the MA, NA and JTS are still continuing to provide additional efforts for supporting the project beneficiaries, including performance of individual

consultations, publishing additional guidance and templates of the most frequently used project documents, tender dossiers and day-to-day communication.

The above mentioned measures resulted in more intensive contracting process under the third Call for proposals and enhanced absorption of funds. The range of measures is undertaken in order to increase the quality level of the submitted documents by the project partners, to reduce the duration for processing of requests for payments (by simplifying of procedures by appropriate amendments in Programme manual, flexibility in terms of reporting periods, simplifying coordination and duration of process through conducting procedures within one unit/department), to enhance awareness (for instance about possibility the municipalities to use the Fund for local authorities and governments - FLAG), to ensure proper implementation of the projects and to have early identification of problems and timely launch of appropriate corrective measures.

Beside measures taken till now, the MA and NA will continue with the efforts for increasing the quality level of the submitted documents by the project partners as well as for ensuring proper implementation of the projects.

Data from quality check performed by the Certifying Authority

Within the 2014 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. As a result of the common efforts of the joint management structures – Managing Authority, National Authority and Joint Technical Secretariat four certification report were submitted to CA in 2014 amounting at EUR 4 137 910 (IPA funding). Based on the results from on-the spot checks, desk-based checks of the submitted MA’s reports on certification, as well as on assessment of other available information by the Certifying Authority, EUR 2 569 (IPA funding) were excluded from the total amount proposed for certification to the EC by the CA. The total amount of certifying expenditures for 2014 is EUR 4 135 341(IPA funding). Beside measures taken till now, the MA and NA are continuing its 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.



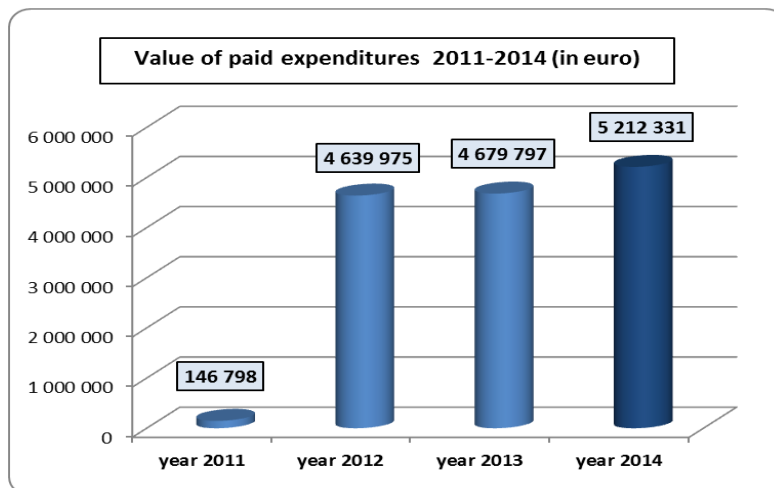
2.1.4. Information about the breakdown of use of the Funds

The table below presents actual financial data for year 2014. As it is evident from the presented information for year 2014 the project beneficiaries submitted to the MA requests for interim and final payments for EUR 6 764 534 (without these for Priority Axis 3 “Technical Assistance”).

Priority axes by source of funding (EUR)

	Amount of the payment claims to the MA	Amount of IPA and National contribution	Amount of contribution by the beneficiaries	Amount of payments made by the MA	Total certified amount by CA
PRIORITY AXIS 1	3 546 569	3 545 137	1 432	3 282 499	2 105 867
PRIORITY AXIS 2	3 217 965	3 204 041	13 924	3 406 389	2 591 640
PRIORITY AXIS 3	311 151	311 151	0	281 080	181 105
GRAND TOTAL	7 075 685	7 060 329	15 356	6 969 968	4 878 612

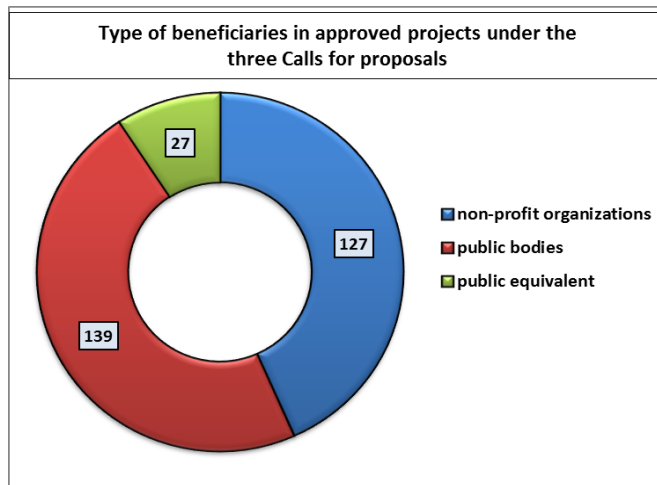
The financial figure below is reflecting the expenditure paid out by the beneficiaries (included in payment claims) and sent to the Managing authority during 2014.



As it is visible from the graphic above, during 2014 the positive trend was kept and the value of paid expenditures for year 2014 exceed these from the previous years.

2.1.5. Assistance by target groups

Wide range of target groups are involved in implementation of subsidy contracts funded within the Programme. The graphic below is presenting the distribution of entities implementing projects under the Programme, classified by target groups (state of play as of 2014). It clearly shows that with the implementation of 130 projects under the three Calls for proposals, wide range of stakeholders (more than 293 entities) are actively involved.



2.1.6. Assistance repaid or re-used

Not applicable.

2.1.7. Qualitative analysis

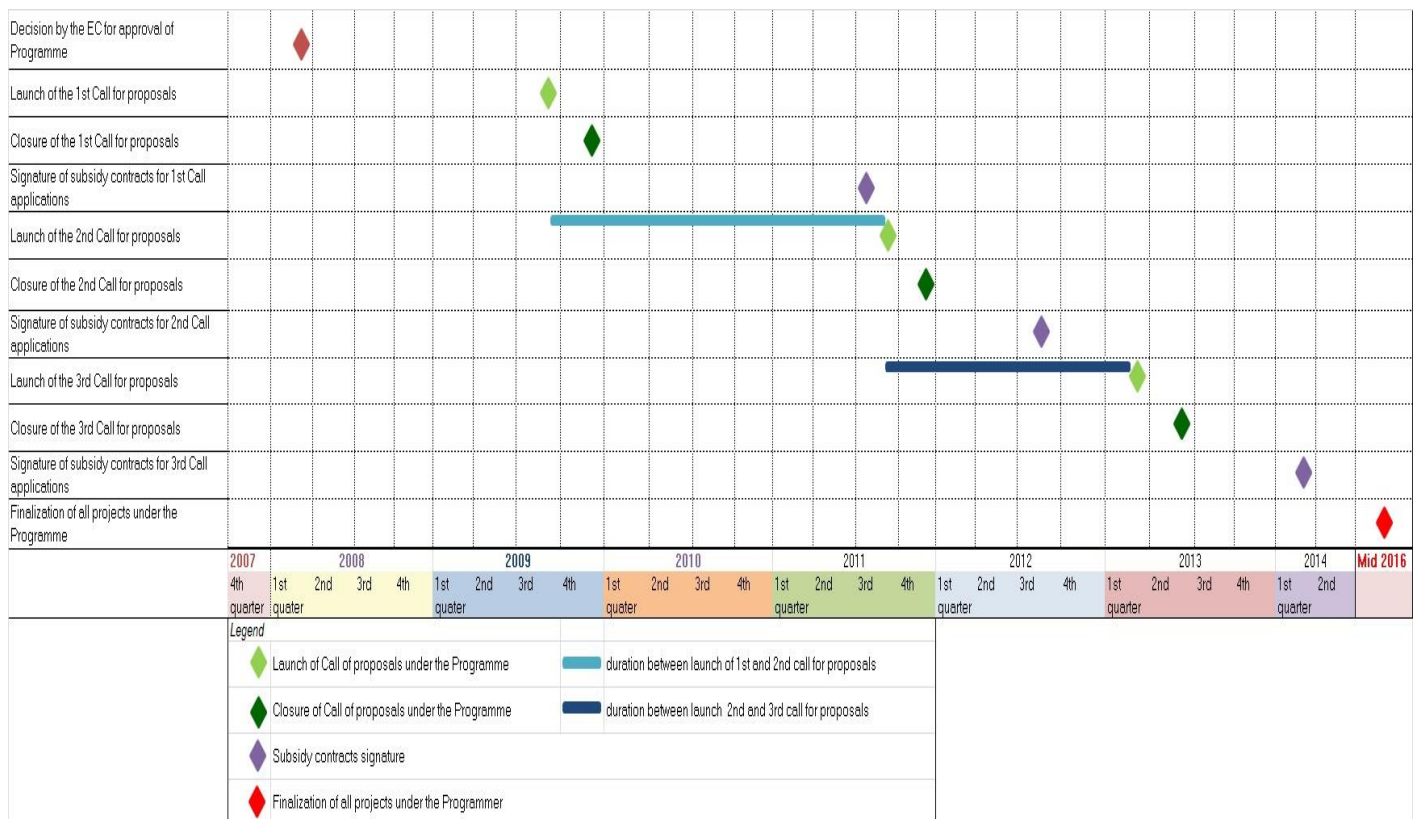
From a Programme management point of view, during 2014 the efforts of the Programme bodies were concentrated mainly on ensuring a sufficient speed in the implementation of the Programme in order to avoid de-commitment and to forward the dissemination activities. At present 130 projects for cooperation between the institutions and organizations of the two countries are contracted under the Programme (under the three Calls for proposals) for the amount of EUR 29 721 839 (101% of the available Programme budget).

The delay in starting of Bulgaria – Turkey IPA CBC Programme was successfully overcome with significant progress in the contracting rate and the good financial results gathered in absorption of the Programme’s funds. For year 2014, the total certified amount of the IPA funds exceeded the



Programme’s payment targets, thus till the end of 2014, the overall amount certified was EUR 11 466 002 or nearly 46% of the Programme budget (IPA funding) for the period 2007-2013.

The figure below is illustrating the time framework and key milestones within the Programme implementation. It clearly shows that the lag between the launch of the first Call for proposals under the Programme and the signature of the subsidy contracts was successfully overcome under the second and third Calls for proposals. In addition, from it is evident that the process for launching the third Call for proposals was speeded up and there is no lag between the closure of the abovementioned Call for proposal and the time for signature of the subsidy contracts. The cycle “launch of Call - closure of Call - signature of subsidy contracts“ between the second and the third Calls for proposals evolves in time in an identical manner and a kind of positive trend towards speeding up the process was created. It is expected all projects under the last (third) Call for proposals under the Programme to be successfully finalized until the middle of year 2016.



The level of absorption of funds was apparently increased in 2014 based on the optimization of the financial control process and the improvement of the First level control (FLC) systems on the territories of the both countries. Based on the audit findings and recommendations given by the ongoing evaluators, the MA has elaborated pool for the free-lance controllers in Bulgaria in accordance with their specialization by financing Instrument (IPA or ERDF). Additionally, the MA has adopted procedure for appointment of the controllers for the project's lifetime with regularly updated checks. As a result of the improvement of the control procedures, the process from the submission of a request for FLC verification until the reimbursement of the payment claim was accelerated and the period for its execution was shortened up to 90 days. Thus the financial control process could be assessed as efficient considering the overall duration of the process.

The projects under Programme Priority Axes are selected by two open Calls for proposals and one Call for proposals open to restricted number of supported activities, to which public bodies and non-profit organisations from the border region can apply. Towards the end of the reporting year, most of the projects in implementation are running 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. There are a lot of good examples where more experience partners are helping the less experience ones with expertise and other practical forms of support.

During 2014, no significant problems were encountered for the Programme implementation and no risks events were identified for the Programme performance.

The cross-cutting issues are also taken into consideration through the standard format of the application form developed in the context of the Programme. The environmental horizontal priority is integrated within Priority Axis 1 projects through investments for environmental protection and tourism development and in Priority Axis 2 for awareness rising in regards to EU environmental policies and sustainable tourism development. The projects also comply with the gender equality and non-discrimination principles although they are not directly targeting through the Programme priorities.



When measuring the progress in terms of Programme indicators at the end of December 2014, it results that output indicators showcase a good degree of achievement. For both output and result indicators there are numerous cases of substantial overachievement of the target values, attributable on one side to the possible misunderstanding of some of the applicants about the essence of the indicators and on the other hand, as a result of gaps in the programming process that resulted in lower target values and absence of clear baseline values. The conclusions from the analyses for the output and result indicators are taken into consideration for the preparation of the IPA II Cross-border Cooperation Programme Bulgaria - Turkey.

2.2. Information about compliance with Community law

There are no problems encountered relating to the compliance with Community law in the implementation of the Programme. Detailed information about the compliance of the Programme with the Community law could be found in 2013 Annual Implementation Report of the Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme.

2.3. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

No significant problems for the programme implementation were encountered during 2014.

Exhausted reserve list with project proposals under second Call for proposals threatened the successful financial implementation of the Programme. At the JMC meeting on 18.06.2014 in Edirne, Turkey transfer of funds from first to second Priority Axis was agreed. The request was sent to the EC for approval. No decision on this issue was received so far.

The risk of de-commitment was successfully avoided in 2014 and the financial targets were overachieved on the base of the joint efforts made by the MA, NA and JTS for speeding up the programme implementation and the relevant procedures. The measures taken by for avoiding de-commitment are related to:

- ✓ *Effective coordination between the Programme authorities as regular meetings and close cooperation;*
- ✓ *Scenario for achieving the financial targets and programmes objectives discussed regularly between Programme authorities;*
- ✓ *Overcontracting of the accumulated savings under the Programme.*



- ✓ *Improvement of the relevant monitoring, verification and control procedures in order to be reduced the administrative burden;*
- ✓ *Quarterly based risk assessment for identification of projects and themes/situations at risk;*
- ✓ *Action plan in regards to the recommendations given by the on-going evaluation;*
- ✓ *Facilitation of the beneficiaries in successful financial implementation by the JTS through variety of actions as trainings, open days, day-to-day consultations, close monitoring during the project lifetime and guidance for programme procedures and PRAG rules.*
- ✓ *On a quarterly basis a procedure for analyzing the implementation of projects and measures to reduce the risk of failure of projects with identified serious problems is set.*

2.4. Changes in the context of the Programme implementation (if relevant)

The **Programme document** drafted jointly by the two countries through a large partnership with national, regional and local stakeholders was approved by the European Commission with Decision C (2007) 6477 on 20 December 2007, amended with Decision C (2010) 3777 on 22 June 2010, Decision C (2012) 4940 on 13 July 2012, Decision C (2012) 8372 on 16 November 2012. It sets out the general framework of intervention of IPA in the Programme cross-border area.

Based on Article 93, para 1, letter “e” of Commission Regulation (EC) No 718/2007 of 12 June 2007 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 establishing an instrument for pre-accession assistance (IPA), in 2014 the Managing Authority has started the procedure for amendment of the Programme document. Revised financial plan and amended Bulgaria – Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme were prepared in relation to transfer of EUR 1 735 819 from Priority Axis 2 “Improvement of the Quality of Life” to Priority Axis 1 „Sustainable Social & Economic Development”.

2.5. Complementarity with other instruments

Complementarity of the Bulgaria – Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme 2007-2013 with other instruments was thoroughly analysed during the programming phase and it is described in details in Chapter 7 of the Programme Document and in the Annual Implementation Report for year 2013.

Complementarity with other financial instruments is ensured through various mechanisms foreseen in the Programme, inter alia through national coordination procedures with other Programmes/plans/



financial instruments, conducted in both participating countries. Representatives of national coordination structures participate in JMC sessions as observers. In addition representatives from the national institutions, which manage the mainstream/sectoral Programmes also take part in JMC sessions as observers and ensure the coordination between the instruments and the avoidance of possible overlapping of funding. Another useful tool for this purpose is the Management Information System of the current Programme, where detailed information on the submitted project applications is available in transparent manner.

Coherence of the Programme with the EU Strategy for Blue Growth

Black Sea coastal regions in Bulgaria Turkey (including Burgas and Kırklareli as NUTS level III regions) are covered by the EU Strategy for Blue Growth and by the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution (referred to as "Bucharest Convention").

The Bucharest Convention is the basic agreement ratified in 1994 by all six legislative assemblies of the Black Sea countries, which encompasses three specific areas, namely: control of land-based sources of pollution; dumping of waste and joint actions in the case of accidents (such as oil spills).

The Blue Growth Strategy was developed within the framework of the European Union's (EU's) Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP). It seeks to provide a more coherent approach to maritime issues by increasing coordination among different policy areas in order to enhance the cooperation between coastal EU Member States and EU candidate and potential candidate countries (including the Republic of Turkey).

In addition being part of EU Green Belt Initiative (Initiative), both countries have a solid ground for cooperation in the field of nature protection and sustainable use common natural resources. The analysis of the progress of the current Programme shows that some of the joint cooperation projects, implemented on the territory of Burgas (Bulgaria) and Kırklareli (Turkey) include coastal and marine economic activities, as well as activities to promote the environmental protection of the coastal areas. These projects can be assessed as coherent to the objectives of the EU Strategy for Blue Growth and the Bucharest Convention. Their implementation has had an added value for indirectly supporting the sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sector. In addition, these projects can be considered a specific tool developing the cross-cutting horizontal actions that are necessary to underpin the



sustainable and balanced long-term growth of maritime economic activities, and thus to foster the cooperation between the Black Sea Basin countries.

2.6. Monitoring arrangements

Monitoring of the Programme is focused on ensuring quality of implementation and compliance with applicable rules and procedures. The Description of management and control systems is ensuring reliable accounting, monitoring and financial reporting system.

Implementation manuals and Management Information System (MIS)

➤ Programme Implementation Manual (PM)

The legal basis for elaboration of the PM is, as a general rule, the EC regulations and decisions implementing the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance and the programming documents concerning the Programme. The PIM and its annexes and appendixes describe in detail the specific rules and procedures for implementation of the Programme, was developed by the MA, NA and Joint Technical Secretariat.

In order to improve the consistency and to facilitate the implementation of management and control procedures, the Managing Authority has elaborated a common manual (IPA CBC Manual) for three IPA CBC Programmes, managed by the Bulgarian side for the cross-border areas with Serbia, FYROM and Turkey.

Alongside some amendments concerning specific rules, procedures, chapters or annexes was made. The system for revisions, updates, modifications and development of the Programme Manual aims to tackle with amendments in the three IPA Programmes (where applicable), legislative modifications or unexpected socio-economic development, which has a direct impact on the implementation of the Programmes. Amendment to the IPA CBC Manual was approved in December 2014 related to optimization of the checklist for monitoring site visit report.

➤ Project Implementation Manual (PIM)

The Project implementation manual (PIM) is a guiding tool prepared by the MA, NA and JTS to help the beneficiaries in the process of project management and implementation. PIM is prepared as a guidebook, which consists of several main topics, as: Legal and Institutional Framework, Contracting



and contract's modifications, Project's implementation, Procurement, Financial Management and Control, Information and Publicity, Monitoring and audit of the project, etc.

During the year 2014, PIM for the projects funded under the third Call for proposals was published. Some amendments and clarifications were made to the PIM for the projects funded under the second and under the third Call for proposals and their annexes, as reflected respectively into version 5/June 2014 and version 2/June 2014. The amendments were connected with changes of tender publication requirements for public procurement procedures.

The updated and improved Project implementation manuals are available at Programme's web-page:

For the second Call for proposals

<http://www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu/page.php?c=66>

For the third Call for proposals

<http://www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu/page.php?c=75>

➤ **Management information system (MIS)**

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, Joint Technical Secretariat). 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.

Additionally in 2014 the following changes were implemented:

Patch 1.4.05111014 – Additional functionality was added for financial report management in regards to the work of the first level controllers in partnering country. Additional groups were added and control mechanics were placed to ensure proper distribution of the information flows between the parties in FLC.

Monitoring measures and risk assessment procedure

➤ 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 period under review one Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) meeting was carried out. It took place on 18 June 2014 in Edirne, Republic of Turkey. On the meeting, the Joint Monitoring Committee members approved:

- the 2013 Annual Implementation Report of the Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme;



- the amounts of EUR 1 363 036 (for Priority Axis 1) and EUR 1 735 819 (for Priority Axis 2) to be used for purposes of over-contracting of additional projects from the reserve list under the third Call for Proposals until full exhaustion of the abovementioned funds;
- the expected savings of EUR 1 735 819 under Priority Axis 2 to be transferred to Priority Axis 1, since the reserve list under Priority Axis 2 was exhausted. Thus the approved amount for over-contracting projects in the reserve list under Priority Axis 1 was established at EUR 3 098 855 ;
- contracting additional projects from the reserve list under the third Call for proposals;
- gave mandate to MA for conducting negotiations and contracting (on condition of approval of Negotiation report by the JMC) additional projects from the reserve list until full exhaustion of the funds approved for over-contracting.

During the period under review, the following 10 (ten) JMC written procedures were carried out:

Written procedure No. 1, date: 16.01.2014. The JMC approved 1) The Annual Technical Assistance Plan for 2014 under Bulgaria – Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme with its annexes (Annual Work Plan of the Joint Technical Secretariat for 2014 and Indicative Technical Assistance Budget for 2014); 2) Revision of the Eligibility of Technical Assistance Expenditures.

Written procedure No. 2, date: 20.02.2014. The JMC approved budget modification under project “Preservation of Cultural and Historical Heritage of Lyubimets and Luleburgaz” (Reference No2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-095, Subsidy contract No RD-02-29-178/18.04.2013).

Written procedure No. 3, date: 06.03.2014. The JMC approved extension with 4 months of implementation period of project No 2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-056 – “A Cleaner Future”, Subsidy Contract No RD-02-29-343/13.12.2012 with Lead Partner Kırklareli The Union for Provision of Services to Villages, Turkey and Project Partner Municipality of Tsarevo, Bulgaria, financed under the second Call for proposals Bulgaria – Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme. The Implementation period of the project became 20 months.



Written procedure No. 4, date: 04.04.2014. The JMC approved Negotiation Report from conducted pre-contracting site visits and negotiations with project proposals from the reserve list under third Call for project proposals of the Bulgaria – Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme.

Written procedure No. 5, date: 23.04.2014. The JMC approved Negotiation Report, dated 04.04.2014, from conducted negotiations for project proposal “Tundja and sOIUglu- gReen FUTURE” (reference No 2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-087) from the reserve list under second Call for project proposals under the Bulgaria – Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme.

Written procedure No. 6, date: 13.05.2014. The JMC approved extension with 3 months of implementation period of project with Ref.No 2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-095 – “Preservation of Cultural and Historic Heritage of Lyubimets and Luleburgaz”, Subsidy Contract No RD-02-29-178/18.04.2013. The Implementation period of the project became 17 months.

Written procedure No. 7, date: 16.05.2014. The JMC approved budget modification under the project “The Spirit of traditions” with reference No 2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-075, subsidy contract No RD-02-29-26/06.02.2014, as follows: within the budget of the Lead Partner is created a new sub-line “Licensed products for Sony Vegas and Photoshop” as part of Budget line 6 – “Investment”, sub-line “Supply”. The amount of EUR 1 080 from Budget line 5 – “External expertise and audit”, sub-line “Teachers in web design, Sony Vegas, Photoshop” was transferred to the newly created sub-line. The amount of Budget line 5 was reduced from EUR 7 440 to EUR 6 360, and the amount of Budget line 6 was increased from EUR 10 800 to EUR 11 880.

Written procedure No. 8, date: 29.08.2014. The JMC approved Negotiation Report from conducted pre-contracting site visits and negotiations with project proposals from the reserve list under third Call for project proposals of the Bulgaria – Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme.

Written procedure No. 9, date: 29.10.2014. The JMC approved the following modifications of project “Economic Development through Creation of Social Infrastructure for Education Aim” (reference № 2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-099) under the third Call for project proposals of the Bulgaria – Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme: 1) modifications of the investment object in Kırklareli of PP2 Kırklareli Special Provincial Administration, 2) shortening the duration of the



project from 24 months to 20 months; 3) corrected total project budget of EUR 323 744.47 (Negotiation and Verification Protocol with LP - Madzharovo Municipality, dated 13.10.2014)

Written procedure No. 10, date: 22.12.2014. The JMC approved extension of 3 months of the implementation period of project with Ref.No 2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-051 – “For a Better Life”, Subsidy Contract No RD-02-29-276/19.07.2013 and using by both project partners the unspent amounts of money in the related budget lines (BLs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6) during the extended period. The Implementation period of the project becomes 21 months.

In order to be discussed issues related to Programme implementation, during the period under review joint technical meetings between MA and NA were organized by JTS. The first one was held on 18 June 2014 in Edirne, Republic of Turkey. The most notable issues discussed during the meeting were: provisional schedule for meetings with the beneficiaries, pre-contracting visits and budget negotiations; FLC and payment status of the projects under the second and third Call for proposals; measures for speeding up the process of spending and declaring funds by the Turkish partners and to describe the progress of the FLC on the Turkish side; organising future practical training on project implementation with focus on discussions and examination of particular real cases; measures to avoid withdrawals of partners from projects in the future. JTS presented on the meeting the progress of the projects funded under the second and third Call for proposals including results from the updated risk assessment of the ongoing projects. The second meeting was organized on 11.12.2014 in MRDPW, Sofia. The notes of the European Commission about the Bulgaria – Turkey Cross-Border Programme 2014 -2020 were discussed, as well as some irregularity issues.

Conducting technical meetings between the representatives of MA, NA and JTS became the most practical way of forming common position on controversial matters, as well as solving cases and problems on project and Programme level.

➤ **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. The JTS implements 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.

During the reporting period (year 2014), **61 monitoring visits** of the projects under second Call for proposals was carried out by JTS Haskovo. On the basis of the risk assessment analysis and risk response plan **19 ad-hoc monitoring visits** of the projects under second Call for proposals was performed by JTS experts. The subject of the monitoring visit is the progress of the project to be checked in compliance with the terms and conditions set out in the implementation plan and the physical check to be performed of the investment activities and services delivered.

On the basis of the approved Annual Working Plan for Monitoring visits, **39 final monitoring visits** of the projects under second Call for proposals were performed to verify the actual state of the project results as compared to the activities approved within the Subsidy contract.

In the period March – December 2014, **3 initial** monitoring visits of the projects under second Call and **30 initial visit** of projects under the third Call for proposals were performed in order to assess the level of awareness of the project team about terms and conditions of the Subsidy Contract, the Programme implementation rules and of the specific features of the project - tender procedures rules, visualization requirements, reporting and audit, LPs capacity for management the IPA CBC project, PPs availability of financial resources for project implementation and the initial risks for the project implementation - early identification of potential risks which could endanger the proper and successful project implementation.

➤ **Risk assessment**

Risk assessment is a continuous, forward-looking process and should address issues that could endanger achievement of the planned objectives. A continuous risk management approach is applied to effectively anticipate and mitigate the risks that have critical impact on each project, as well as the cumulative effect of all risks on Programme level.

The risk assessment under the Programme is carried out by a Risk Management Group (RMG) consisting of MA and JTS representatives. The main task of the RMG is to perform risk assessment through determination a baseline categorization of potential risks events and subsequent analysis and assessment. The RMG prioritizes the identified risks and provide a Risk response plan to reduce the likelihood or consequences of the risk impact. In June 2013, the composition of the RMG was



defined by Order No RD-02-14-566/18.06.2013. It comprised of Chairperson – senior expert from DG “TCM”, 2 members – 1 expert from JTS Haskovo, one expert from the financial department of the MA and 1 reserve member - expert from JTS Haskovo.

The Scope of the assessment covers the following main aspects:

- Institutional Risks. Assessment of the project partners’ technical capacity to manage the project (incl. leadership, structures, human resources, formal and informal management systems, contractual commitments, assignment of responsibilities, quality of work product, communications between the partners, etc.);
- Operational Risks. Review and assessment of whether the performance characteristics (i.e. planning and organization of project activities; implementation procedures, methods, standards and systems; measurable estimates of project outcomes; coordination of activities between groups; documenting the project, etc.) are in line with accepted project management practice;
- Procurement Risks. Assessment of the risks related with subcontracting management, i.e. whether subcontracting was well defined and planned; whether the procurement processes were documented properly and the selection process was carried out objectively; and whether the procurement rules were well understood and strictly applied;
- Financial Risks. Assessment of the financial liabilities associated with the project, including operational and maintenance costs, PPs’ own contribution, financial reporting, etc.

Based on the results from the monitoring site visits carried out and the information provided in the quarterly projects progress reports, during the reporting period, the RMG has conducted **5 (five)** risk assessment sessions for the projects under second and third Call for proposals, as a result of which there were approved 5 Summary Risk Assessment Reports by the Head of the MA.

The most common risk events identified as a constant in the projects implementation cycle, are as follows:

- Operational risks related to:



- Possibilities for or expected contract modifications. These risks were spotted during observance of project progress reports, during requests for consultations by beneficiaries or by the requests for contract modifications sent to the MA/JTS.
- Project Implementation and reporting issues. Usually these risks were caused by low level of the presented reports and reporting documentation.
- Delays in implementation, due to non-proper planning and starting of the project activities, sub-tendering problems, poor communication between the project partners, changes in the project teams and/or in the project content.
 - Sub-tendering risks. These risks were related mainly to delays in sub-tendering or improper planning of the value of the respective works/supplies.
 - Financial risk. This risk was related mainly to low or poor financial implementation of projects at a very advanced stage of the project.

The common risk event identified in the beginning of the project implementation is usually the procurement risk, which is related to beneficiaries without experience in procurement procedures under PRAG rules. Another common risk event in the beginning of the projects is the institutional risk related to the overall project management and coordination by the LP, caused usually by the change of the whole project team from one partner or impossibility to substitute a team member due to inequivalent characteristics of the newly proposed persons. The risks related to unexpected partnership changes which could become serious obstacles for the projects implementations also existed, though in separate occasions.

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

- Ad-hoc monitoring visits were performed targeted at the risks identified in each specific high risky project and also at observance of implementation of time schedule, progress of

activities, project records and visibility requirements. 19 ad-hoc visits were done in relation to the risk response plan;

- The JTS strictly observed during the period under review the quality of the 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;
- The JTS kept timely correspondence with the Lead Partners in the subject of early warning about substantial delays in project implementation or other risky situations;
- The JTS organized individual consultation on its office with partners of very risky project for mitigating the consequences of improper partner relations and discussing opportunities for project completion.

The results of the mitigation measures were assessed during the final monitoring visits and reviewed final project progress reports. It showed that the projects completed in 2014 have duly performed their activities and achieved the planned results and outputs.

First level control system

According to the Description of the Management and Control System, the MA implements control on the ongoing projects through FLC system. The FLC system is developed in accordance with Art. 16 of Regulation (EC) 1080/2006 in order to make possible in the framework of the Bulgaria – Turkey IPA CBC Programme (2007-2013) to verify 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.);
- Soundness of the expenditure declared;



- Compliance of such expenditure with Programme, EC and national rules.

The Bulgarian side set up a decentralized FLC system and the same approach was adopted by the partnering country. 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, authorized by the Ministry in its capacity of Managing Authority for Bulgaria - Turkey IPA CBC Programme (2007-2013).

According to the Description of the Management and Control System, control over performance of the controllers is carried out at two levels:

- 100% formal cross-check of the documents presented by controllers;
- Quality control on a “sample basis” in percentage of the number of the controllers who have executed FLC within quarterly period. The controllers covered by the sample are subject to documentary and/or on-the-spot quality checks. The quality control over performance of the controllers is carried out by documentary check, on-the-spot checks on a sample basis and checks in result of received notice/signal for potential irregularity and/or appeals from project partners.

During the year 2014, the FLC system was duly implemented for the purposes of verification of expenditures for amounts spend by the project partners implementing projects signed under the first and the second Call for proposals. Within the reporting period, the MA took measures for improvement of the system, based on the audit findings and in order to enhance effectiveness of the FLC controllers performing verifications for Bulgarian project partners. Within the established pool of external independent controllers’ separation depending on the type of territorial cooperation Programmes for which FLC is carried out was introduced, consequently a list of “IPA specialised” controllers was established in order to enhance performance and facilitate them in operating with single set of rules, procurement requirements, reporting templates, etc. The possibility to avoid rotation of controllers who carry out verifications for single subsidy contract was considered in order to enhance effectiveness taking into account that the controller who is aware with the contract performing first on-the-spot visit will be in position to perform more efficient verifications on the same subsidy contract than another controller who need to get aware with the project at later stage of implementation. Consequently, the controllers included in the list for IPA Programmes, were

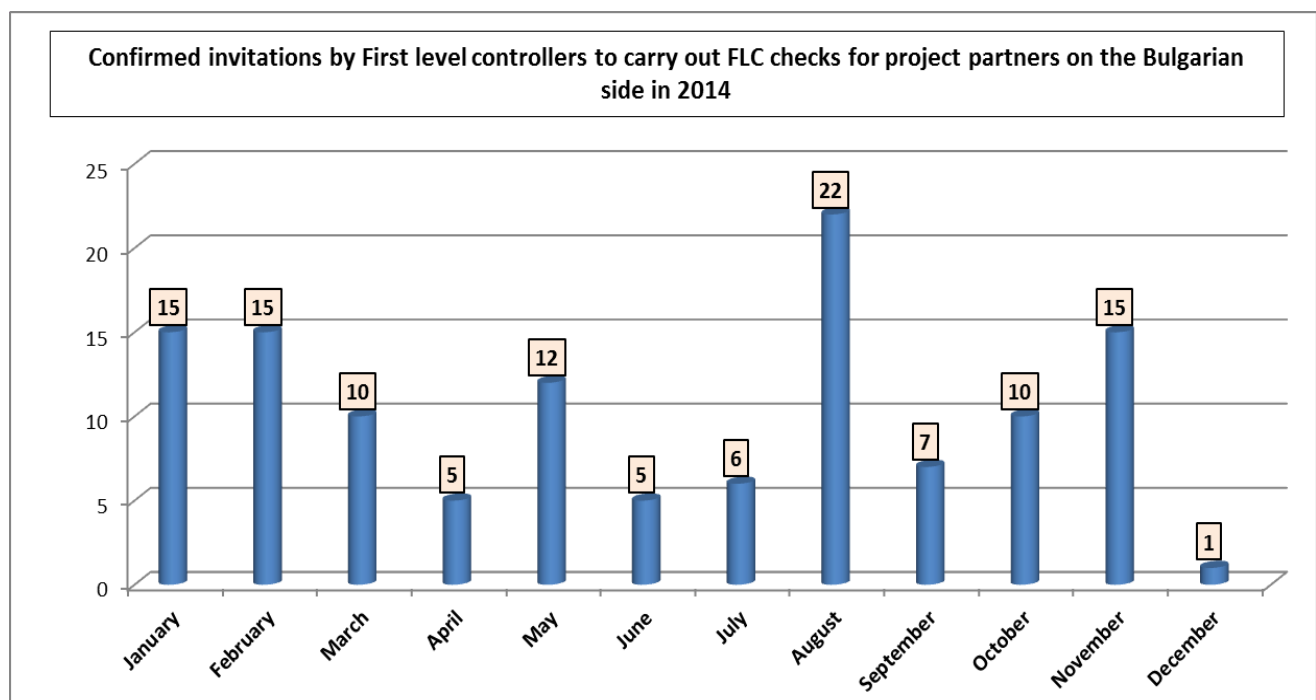


assigned to perform all verifications under the same project. In order to optimise the efficient use of resources, for the subsidy contracts under the second and third Call for proposals the FLC is performed on six months periods with an option a request for FLC to be allowed on three months basis depending on the spent amounts.

The partnering country established a list with external of controllers based on the approved internal methodology. Recruitment procedure for FLC was 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, if required.

Within the year 2014, 68 Lead partners submitted 106 requests for FLC under the Programme.

The chart below represents the flow of invitations to controllers on monthly basis for the Bulgarian side for 2014.

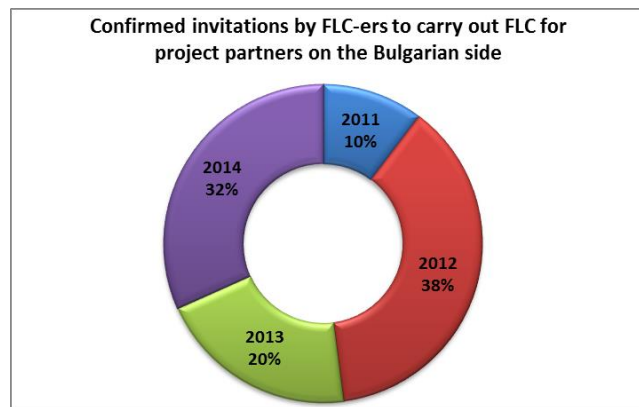


The Bulgarian FLC for 2014 under the Programme encompasses 123 on-the-spot visits on the premises of respective project partners in Bulgaria which represents 68 projects.

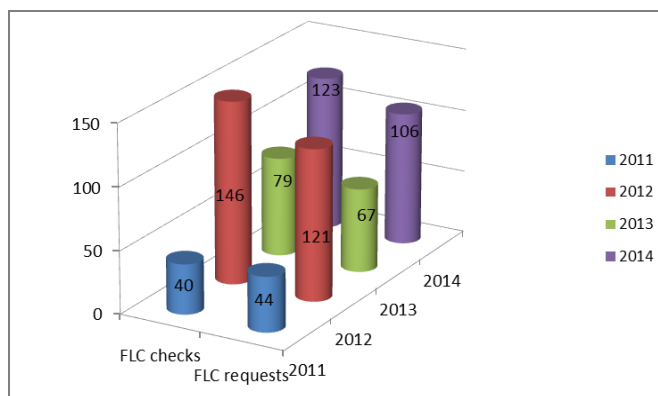
During the year of 2014 Turkish controllers verified the expenditures of 85 project beneficiaries amounting to EUR 2 242 135.99. For all of the controls the Turkish controllers paid on the spot visits to the projects.

Comparison related to intensity of the FLC workload

The summarized data (presented in the graphics below) related to the carried out FLC on Bulgarian and Turkish project partners under the Programme show dominated share for years 2014 and 2012 in comparison with 2011 and 2013.



In terms of sufficient increase of workload the development is positive, but regarding the rhythm of financial absorption on quarterly basis there is no sufficient level of predictability regarding the number of submitted requests for FLC on behalf of the respective lead partners implementing subsidy contracts.



In terms of sufficient increase of workload the trend is positive but regarding the rhythm of financial absorption on quarterly basis, there is no sufficient level of predictability regarding the number of



submitted requests for FLC on behalf of the respective lead partners implementing subsidy contracts.

Audits under the Programme

➤ **System audit**

In accordance with the Annual audit plan of Audit of EU Funds Executive Agency (AEUFEA), the AA performed the fourth system audit under the Programme in the period 2 December – 31 December 2014. The system audit objective was to obtain reasonable assurance about the effective functioning of the management and control systems of the Managing Authority, National Authority, FLC system and JTS under the Programme in accordance with the requirements of Regulation (EC) 718/2007 and Regulation (EC) 1828/2006. The audit was carried out at the Managing Authority – General Directorate “Territorial Cooperation Management” at the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works of the Republic of Bulgaria and in the National Authority - Ministry of EU Affairs in the Republic of Turkey.

The audit activities were performed by auditors from AEUFEA and Audit body - Board of Treasury Controllers - for the checks on the territory of Republic of Turkey. The scope of the audit includes all seven key requirements to the management and control systems. The scope of the audit includes the key requirement 7 „Necessary preventive and corrective action where systemic errors are detected by the audit“, as well as follow-up of the corrective measures undertaken on the recommendations given within the third system audit and the second audit of operations. The audit team examined the respective control activities undertaken by the MA and NA during the period from 1 January 2014 to 1 November 2014.

The preliminary results of the checks of the NA, FLC system and JTS Antenna on the territory of Republic of Turkey were communicated with NA’s management and sent to the Audit authority (AA) on 15 December 2014. According to the preliminary results of the checks of the Audit body there are no open findings and the undertaken corrective measures by the NA are effectively implemented.

Based on the overall analyzes carried out the assessment of the AA regarding the scope of the audit assignment is „Works well, only minor improvements are needed“ (grade 1).

➤ **Audit of operations**

Within the 2014 the AEUFEA has conducted audit of operations for assurance that the certified expenditures are correct and the underlying transactions are legal and regular. During the audit mission expenditures certified in the period 01.01.2013 - 31.12.2013 were checked. The AA has underlined three findings with financial impact, amounted to EUR 1 796.43, for which the relevant corrective measures were undertaken by MA.

Evaluations under the Programme

Multi-annual Evaluation Plan for Bulgaria – Turkey IPA Cross-Border Programme 2007 - 2013 was elaborated and approved by JMC on 23 March 2011. The Evaluation Plan defines and explains the overall coordination arrangements for the on-going 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, taking due attention to sustainable development issues and horizontal objectives.

➤ **Evaluation of the communication plan**

The first Programme evaluation was performed in 2011 and aimed at examination of the level of achievement of the objectives set out in the Communication plan for the period of 2007 - 2010. Detailed information about the findings and recommendation from the internal analysis was presented in Annual implementation report for 2013.

➤ **Examination of output and results indicators which are going to be achieved in result of project implementation under first and second Call for proposals**

As result from the internal analyses of the output and result indicators in 2011, 2012 2013 and 2014 performed by the MA, several measures were implemented in view of improving Programme performance:

- Risk assessment on a quarterly basis was carried out in order to take timely and adequate measures to mitigate and overcome any shortcomings during implementation of the subsidy contracts.

- In the Guidelines for Applicants for the third Call for proposals there is an exhaustive list of eligible activities, to achieve concentration of resources to priorities, which were not sufficiently well addressed by the projects, funded under the first two Calls for proposals. The list of eligible activities is targeted according to indicators that were identified as underachieved, for example: eligible projects under the third Call for proposals will be with focus on ICT and knowledge economy under Priority Axis 1 and with focus on protection and management of environment – under Priority Axis 2.

2.7. National performance reserve *(where applicable and only for the annual implementation report submitted for 2010)*

Not applicable.

3. Implementation by priority

3.1. Priority Axis 1 “Sustainable Social & Economic Development”

Objective

To increase the overall competitiveness of the cross-border economy and to improve social development and social cohesion

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

Measure 1.2 “Economy Competitiveness increasing”

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

3.1.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress

Information on the physical and financial progress of the priority

First, second and third Call projects under Priority Axis 1 were selected in open Calls for proposals, to which public bodies and non-profit organisations from the border region could apply.

During 2014 there were no project funded under the first Call for proposals in implementation stage. Eleven projects funded by the second Call were being **implemented and finished** under Priority Axis 1. Five of them were under Measure 1.1. “Improvement of the social development and social



cohesion links”, three of them were under Measure 1.2. “Economy Competitiveness increasing” and three were under Measure 1.3 “Infrastructural support for the improvement of the economic potential of the co-operation area”. The value of those projects was EUR 2 879 697.05 (there is no own contribution claimed by these projects).

In 2014, four projects under PA 1, funded by the second Call for proposals were still not finished. These were investment project with long periods of implementation, and one of them was suspended for 3 months. The total contracted amount of these projects was EUR 1 964 434.57 (there is no own contribution claimed by these projects).

During the reporting year under implementation were also 18 project under PA 1, funded by the third Call for proposals, whose contracted amounts were worth EUR 4 163 278.45 (there is no own contribution claimed by these projects).

Financial progress of projects under Priority Axis 1, as of 31st of December 2014 (EUR):

Call for Proposals	Contracts	Total contracts amount	Advance payments	Interim and final payments	Total payments
		(IPA + national co-financing)	(IPA + national co-financing)	(IPA + national co-financing)	(IPA + national co-financing)
first Call for proposals	27	4 382 689	876 538	2 636 529	3 513 067
second Call for proposals	23	5 677 643	1 135 149	2 824 331	3 959 480
third Call for proposals	18	4 163 278	709 018	271 122	980 140
TOTAL	68	14 223 610	2 720 705	5 731 982	8 452 687

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 are used to measure the progress of this Sphere of intervention are shown in the tables below. Data for years 2011, 2012 and 2013 was accounted on the basis of outputs/results gained during the calendar year. Data for year 2014 was compiled in accordance with the recommendations in Letter ARES(2015)424874 from the Director-General for Regional and Urban Policy at the European Commission . Data for expected achievement for 2015 and 2016 is based on the concluded and not finalized contracts under the third Call for proposals.

Programme Output Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 expected	2016 expected	Total
Joint cooperation projects on development of skills and knowledge	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	13	3	6	8	0	30
	Target 2016	15										
	Baseline	7										
Training places created	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	9	3	4	10	0	26
	Target 2016	4										
	Baseline	1										
People participating in training	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	883	194	251	726	0	2054
	Target 2016	500										
	Baseline	905										
People with enhanced skills	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	657	200	251	966	0	2074
	Target 2016	300										
	Baseline	30										
Management and job-related training courses	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	13	1	4	19	0	37
	Target 2016	10										
	Baseline	4										
Networking	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	10	2	5	9	0	26

structures created/developed	Target 2016	5										
	Baseline	8										
People from vulnerable groups trained	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	59	14	158	44	0	275
	Target 2016	10										
	Baseline	20										
Number of people to people collaboration projects	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	7	3	3	106	0	119
	Target 2016	35										
	Baseline	35										
Number of institutions reached	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	149	43	1445	255	0	1892
	Target 2016	250										
	Baseline	644										
Number of people involved	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	2456	480	723	3240	0	6899
	Target 2016	700										
	Baseline	2148										

* 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; 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 are used to measure the progress of this Sphere of intervention are shown in the table below:

Programme Output Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 expected	2016 expected	Total
Business and educational linkages created	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	164	79	10	25	0	278
	Target 2016	20										
	Baseline	9										
Communities & institutions participating in knowledge economy	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	39	11	25	7	0	82
	Target 2016	10										
	Baseline	0										
Access to and usage of new technology	Achievement	100	0	0	0	0	40	27	66	20	0	153
	Target 2016	150										
	Baseline	100										
SMEs involved/ addressed in CBC projects	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	568	186	151	70	0	975
	Target 2016	15										
	Baseline	106										
New jobs created	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	58	9	7	0	0	74
	Target 2016	60										
	Baseline	0										
Number of projects concerning common cultural heritage	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	10	12	9	12	2	45
	Target 2016	30										
	Baseline	9										
Tourist destinations created/ developed	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	0	2	0	27
	Target 2016	15										
	Baseline	0										
Tourist services created/ developed	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	11	4	2	12	1	30
	Target 2016	15										
	Baseline	5										
Surrounding area of cultural spots improved	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	2	8	0	0	0	10
	Target 2016	10										

	Baseline	0										
Joint cultural events carried out	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	12	24	15	0	0	51
	Target 2016	30										
	Baseline	21										
Institutions / bodies reached by Programme activities	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	439	33	280	23	0	775
	Target 2016	500										
	Baseline	25										
Awareness campaigns	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	46	9	29	8	0	92
	Target 2016	25										
	Baseline	19										

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 are used to measure the progress of this Sphere of intervention are shown in the table below:

Programme Output Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 expected	2016 expected	Total
Number of small-scale infrastructural projects	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	4	7	9	26
	Target 2016	15										
	Baseline	5										
Feasibility studies prepared	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	2	2	9
	Target 2016	5										
	Baseline	1										
Preliminary and detailed	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	2	8	9	25

design works	Target 2016	10										
	Baseline	6										
Project environmental assessments	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	5	7	14
	Target 2016	2										
	Baseline	0										

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

Qualitative analysis

Based on the opinion of the external consultant conducted the “On-going evaluation of Bulgaria-Turkey IPA CBC Programme 2007-2013”, it could be concluded that the majority of projects were based on balanced and adequate partnerships and demonstrated clear link between activities and results. Irrespective of their delayed start, which led to multiple project changes (project staff, budget or duration), majority of the projects were successfully implemented and the planned outputs were delivered.

Measures under Priority Axis 1 support activities in the field of sustainable social and economic development. The priority was attracted by 227 applicants, from which 54 projects with the highest score after assessment and the best quality were financed on the total amount of EUR 11 759 734. The actually contracting amount exceeds the Programme amount for the Priority Axis, due to procedure for overcontracting started in 2013.

The output indicators shows a good degree of achievements, however both for the outputs and Programme results indicators there are numerous cases of substantial overachievement of the target values presented in the Programme, attributable on one side to the possible misunderstanding of some of the applicants about the essence of the indicators and on the other hand, as a result of gaps in the programming process that resulted in lower target values and absence of clear baseline values.

As per the data available for the reporting period (on the basis of monitoring visits and received by the beneficiaries in Application forms), some conclusions for the achievement of Programme indicators under Priority Axis 1 (PA1) could be made, namely:

Concerning output indicators:

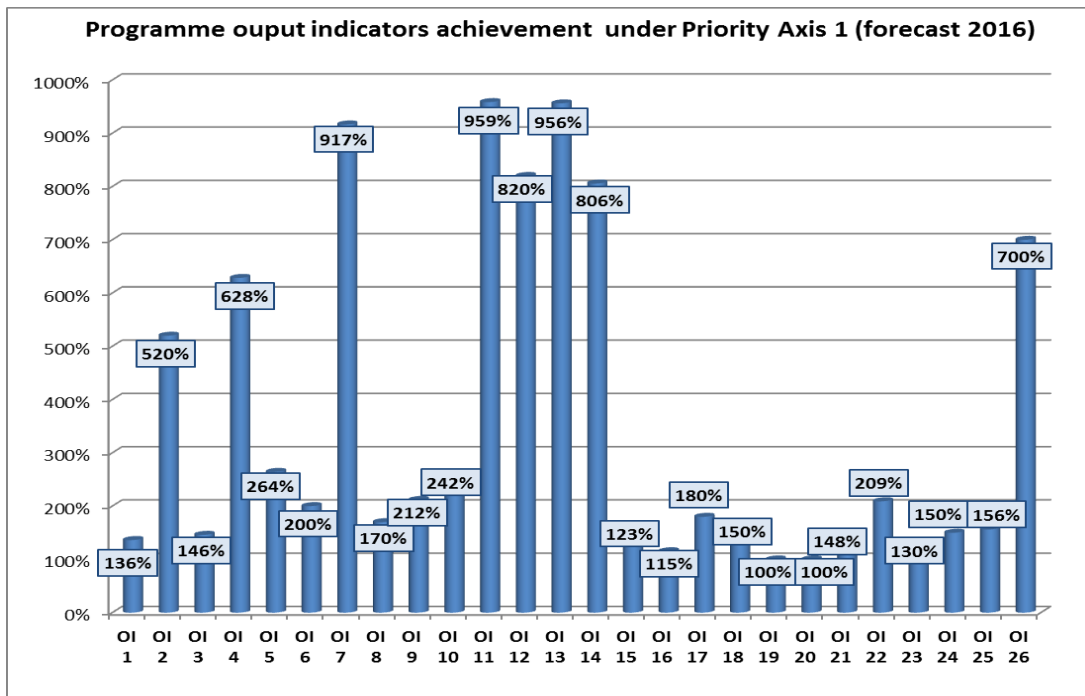
- 4 out of 26 indicators are not reaching 100% implementation until the end of 2014 (app. 15% of output indicators under PA1)
- 22 out of 26 indicators are reaching or have significant overachievement until the end of 2014 (app. 85% of all output indicators under PA1)

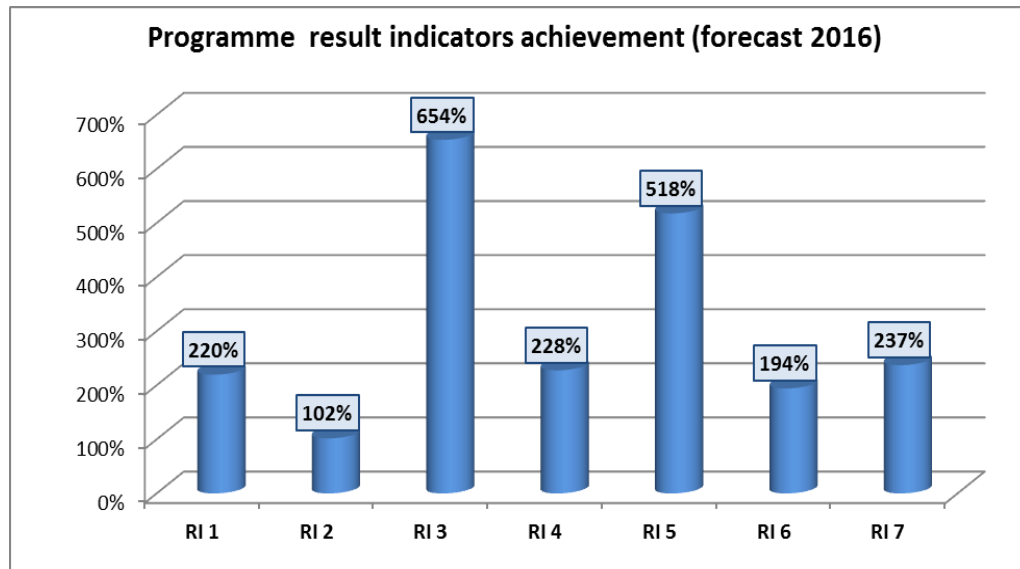
Concerning result indicators:

- 3 out of 7 result indicators are not reaching 100% implementation until the end of 2014 (app. 43% of result indicators under PA1)
- 4 out of 7 indicators will have significant overachievement until the end of 2014 (app. 57% of all result indicators).

It should be noted, that the non-achievement of 100% of all indicators under PA1 for year 2014 is due to the fact that the analysis of the indicators until the end of year 2014 is extracted only for finalized projects, e.g. is including data only for projects under first Call for proposals and part of the projects implemented under second Call for proposals.

In addition, the foreseen values of the Programme result indicators for 2015 and 2016 show that after finalisation of the second and third Call projects, all targets are going to be met/overachieved (see graphics below).





All details related to the achieved outputs and results could be found in the database of the MIS of the Programme (<https://mis-008.mrrb.government.bg>). All details related to the successfully achieved projects could be found on the Programme web-site (<http://www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu/>).

3.1.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

No significant problems could be encountered in implementing the priority.

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

Objective 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.

	Measures 2.1 “Protection of environment, nature and historical and cultural heritage”
	Measure 2.2 “Capacity building for sustainable use of natural resources, cultural and historical heritage”

3.2.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress

Information on the physical and financial progress of the priority

Following the financial plan for the period 2007-2013 the funds available for the Priority Axis 2 amounted to EUR 16 042 412 (incl. EUR 13 636 050 Community funding and EUR 2 406 362 national funding).

The projects under the Priority Axis 2 are also selected by open Calls for proposals, to which public bodies and non-profit organisations from the border region can apply.

Priority Axis 2 attracted a smaller number of good quality applications - 19 projects were financed under the first Call, 22 projects under the second and 17 under the third Call.

During 2014, 22 project funded by the second Call were being implemented and finished under Priority Axis 2. Out of them 14 were under Measure 2.1 “Protection of environment, nature and historical and cultural heritage” and 8 under Measure 2.2 “Capacity building for sustainable use of natural resources, cultural and historical heritage”. The total contracted value of those projects amounted to EUR 6 336 000. From them, 18 were completed until the end of 2014, on the total contracted amount of EUR 2 650 000.

During 2014, 17 project funded by the third Call were being implemented under Priority Axis 2. All of them were under Measure 2.1 “Protection of environment, nature and historical and cultural heritage”. The total contracted value of those projects amounted to EUR 4 186 000.

Financial progress of projects under Priority Axis 2, as of 31 December 2014 (EUR):

Call for Proposals	Contracts	Total contracts amount	Advance payments	Interim and final payments	Total payments
		(IPA + national co-financing)	(IPA + national co-financing)	(IPA + national co-financing)	(IPA + national co-financing)
first Call for proposals	18	4 921 689	1 004 152	2 864 509	3 868 661
second Call for proposals	22	6 341 042	1 258 202	2 610 415	3 868 617
third Call for proposals	17	4 235 498	757 543	327 346	1 084 889
TOTAL	57	15 498 229	3 019 897	5 802 270	8 822 167

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 is 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 and represents data on the grounds of successfully finalized projects and additional data of expected indicators values based on projects under implementation (but not finalized) during 2014 (in accordance with the recommendations in Letter ARES(2015)424874 from the Director-General for Regional and Urban Policy at the European Commission)

Programme Output Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 expected	2016	Total
Number of joint environmental friendly projects	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	9	6	7	12	2	36
	Target 2016	30										
	Baseline	3										
Joint Eco-itineraries created/ developed	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	7	6	0	20
	Target 2016	15										
	Baseline	5										
Partnerships for cases of natural disasters established	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	7	0	8
	Target 2016	2										
	Baseline	1										
Environmental management plans	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	0	5	0	28
	Target 2016	2										
	Baseline	2										

Networks for environmental and cultural/historical heritage protection and reasonable utilization of resources	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	5	9	6	18	2	40
	Target 2016	6										
	Baseline	12										
Number of small-scale infrastructural projects concerning environmental and cultural heritage protection	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	4	21	5	41
	Target 2016	15										
	Baseline	3										
Feasibility studies prepared	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	8	7	0	21
	Target 2016	5										
	Baseline	8										
Preliminary and detailed design works	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	4	14	1	12	2	33
	Target 2016	10										
	Baseline	1										
Project environmental assessments	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	6	0	11
	Target 2016	2										
	Baseline	1										

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:

Programme Output Indicators		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Number of awareness campaigns carried	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	26	13	39	0	0	78
	Target 2016	15										
	Baseline	13										

Number of institutions involved in joint activities and exchange of know-how;	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	74	65	49	0	0	188
	Target 2016	30										
	Baseline	13										
Number of people reached by joint information and awareness campaigns	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	2586	1327	4351	0	0	8264
	Target 2016	500										
	Baseline	952										

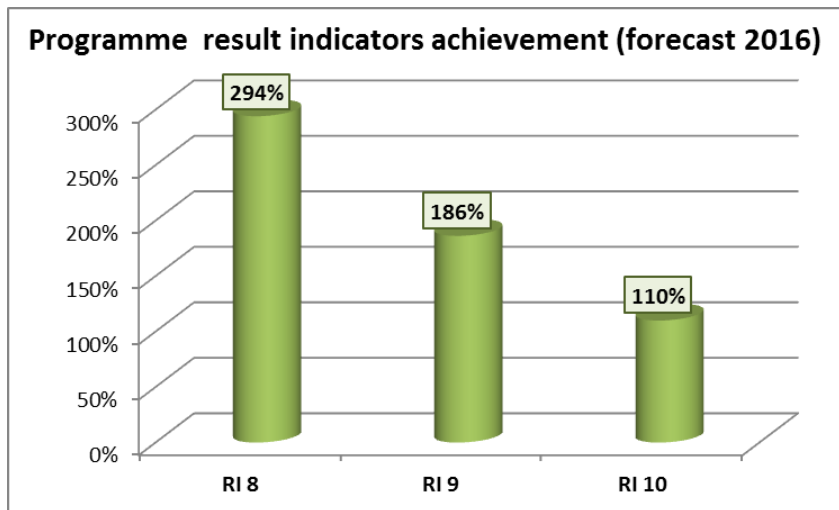
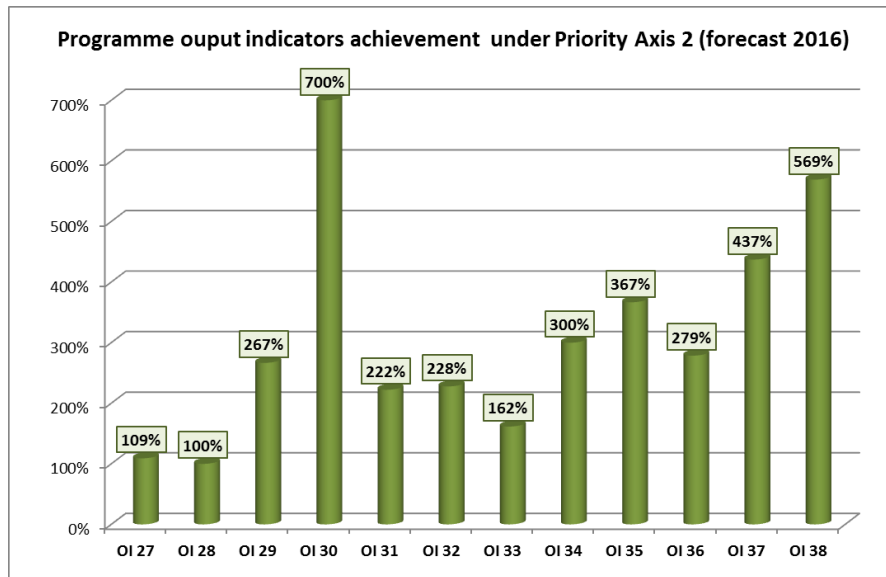
Qualitative analysis

The conclusions after finalization of the “On-going evaluation of Bulgaria-Turkey IPA CBC Programme 2007-2013” are that the majority of projects implemented under this Priority Axis were also based on balanced and adequate partnerships and demonstrated clear link between activities and results.

The analysis of the outputs shows similar results to the ones from the analysis of Priority Axis 1. As a whole the Programme is reaching the output objectives for Priority Axis 2. The target values of 3 of the output indicators have not yet been reached, but similar to the analysis of the indicators under Priority Axis 1, the forecast for years 2015 and 2016 shows that all targets will be easily reached and overachieved.

There were no identified risks as concerns the 100% achievement of the target values of the 3 result indicators for Priority Axis 2. Detailed analysis of the real achievement of the output and result indicators is only possible after the finalization of all projects implemented under the three Calls for proposals.

As stated before, the foreseen values of the Programme result indicators for years 2015 and 2016 show that after successful finalisation of the projects under second and third Call for proposals, all targets are going to be reached and overachieved (see graphics below).



All details related to the achieved outputs and results could be found in the database of the MIS of the Programme (<https://mis-008.mrrb.government.bg>). The information is also available in the relevant project progress reports.

3.2.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

No significant problems could be encountered in implementing the priority.

4. Major projects

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 Priority Axis “Technical Assistance” finances the preparatory, management, monitoring, evaluation, information and control activities of the Programme as well as activities to reinforce the administrative capacity for implementing the Programme, promotion of the Programme, awareness raising, pro-active project generation, etc. For the period 2007-2013 amount of EUR 2 507 906 Community funding is available for Priority Axis “Technical Assistance”.

➤ Sphere of intervention 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.

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

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 the Managing Authority (MA), the National Authority (NA) and the 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 2014 is amounted to EUR 764 281, from which EUR 402 556 allocated for MA and EUR 361 725 for NA. The detailed indicative breakdown of budget for 2014 was approved by JMC on 16.01.2014.

The TA budget encompasses administrative expenditures, travel and accommodation expenditures, meetings, trainings, promotional events, information and publicity, external expertise, supply, maintenance of equipment and other expenditures.

Summarized information concerning the functioning of the Joint Technical Secretariat in Haskovo:

The JTS main office`s creation and its development since 2010 was described in details in the Annual Implementation Report for the year 2012.

Until the end of 2013 the JTS Antenna office was not functional. The tasks of JTS Antenna Office were fulfilled by NA and JTS main office. In December 2013 the work of the JTS branch office was resumed by appointing three experts: one project management expert, one assistant project management expert and one monitoring and financial expert. These experts received their introductory training in December in Ankara.

In January 2014 the Antenna experts received initial practical training in all aspects of technical and financial monitoring of projects financed under the Programme. Through the reporting period they were involved in all stages of project monitoring like approval of procurement plans, approval of progress reports, monitoring site visit performance and observation of procurement procedures launched by the beneficiaries.

➤ **Sphere of intervention 3.2 Publicity and communication**

The objective of this sphere of intervention encompasses:

- 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, Info days, 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 dinners 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.

The 2014 TA budget encompasses administrative expenditures, travel and accommodation expenditures, meetings, trainings, promotional events, information and publicity, external expertise, supply, maintenance of equipment and other expenditures.

The main activities carried out under Priority Axis “Technical assistance” within 2014 are as follows:

✓ **Trainings for the Programme staff**

During 2014, MA, NA and JTS staff attended to various thematic seminars and training events organized by INTERACT in order to acquire practical knowledge and information, to share their experience with colleagues from other European territorial cooperation Programmes in the field of management techniques, financial issues, European regulations, communication, strategic orientation, policy development, project reporting and monitoring, facilitation skills, project management specificities in the ETC context, etc.

✓ **Trainings for controllers**

Two trainings for the controllers took place in Sofia, Bulgaria during 2014:

- On 31 January 2014 in Sofia, Bulgaria, premises of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works: Training sessions encompass two main modules related to findings in the audit reports relating to the verification of expenditure by controllers and practical cases and questions;
- On 12 September 2014 in Sofia, Bulgaria, premises of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works: Training sessions encompass three main modules, related to the most common errors in the procurement of beneficiaries identified by the Managing Authority, consequences of violations in the procurement of beneficiaries - the detection of irregularities, financial corrections; weaknesses/errors in the procurement identified of the audit by the Executive Agency "Audit of EU Funds"; shortcomings and faults in verification of costs.

✓ **Regarding expenditures for external expertise**



Throughout 2014 the Technical assistance budget was used for remuneration of external independent controllers, for maintenance and upgrade of the Programme website and maintenance of MIS.

The main activities for preparation of IPA II Cross-border Programme Bulgaria - Turkey were implemented in 2014. The Programme preparation was supported by the planning team of the Project Planning and Management Consortium under service contract financed by the Technical Assistance Priority Axis with duration of seven months. The contract was concluded between the Managing authority and PPM Consortium on 28.11.2013 and was extended by two months with an addendum signed on 31 May 2014. The total contract's amount remained unchanged – EUR 78 500, and the final payment of EUR 31 400 was made in 2014 after the successful project's accomplishment.

In May 2014 a service contract for Ex-ante evaluation and Strategic Environmental Assessment of the IPA II CBC Programme Bulgaria – Turkey was concluded between the Managing authority and Lattanzio e Associati S.p.A., Italy. The project's duration was four months and its main objectives were: to improve the quality of programme design and to ensure that the draft IPA II CBC Programme clearly articulates the intervention logic and that it contributes to the Europe 2020 strategy and the relevant macro-regional strategies; to perform Strategic Environmental Assessment of the draft Programme and to ensure that the environmental considerations were taken into account in the final draft of the Programme before its submission to the EC for approval. As per the service contract, the contract's amount of EUR 49 900 was transferred to the Contractor in two instalments – an advance payment of 40% and a final payment of 60% of the contract's budget.

Another service contract with subject “Development of methodological guidelines for baseline and indicative target values establishment of qualitative result indicators under IPA II CBC Programmes 2014-2020 between Republic of Bulgaria and EU External Borders’ Partnering Countries” was concluded between the Managing Authority and Sigma Hat Ltd., Bulgaria, on 12 September 2014. Initially, the contract's duration was four months but after the draft IPA II CBC Programme's submission (in September 2014) it was extended to twelve months. The reason of this extension was that the negotiations with the EC were likely to lead to certain changes in the Programme intervention logic, hence – they would influence the Programme result indicators as well. The project purpose is to elaborate methodological guidelines for baseline and target values establishment concerning qualitative result indicators under IPA II CBC Programmes between Republic of Bulgaria and EU External Borders’ Partnering Countries – Turkey, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia. Methodological guidelines on how to use the tools to measure result indicator's baselines and values will be provided by the Contractor and training sessions for the Managing authority and the three Joint secretariats will be organised after the Programme approval.

✓ Programming for the period 2014-2020

The drafting of the IPA II Cross-border Co-operation Programme Bulgaria – Turkey was organised in compliance with the partnership approach as referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. "Territorial cooperation management" Directorate General at the Ministry of Regional



Development and Public Works of the Republic of Bulgaria, designated as Programme's managing Authority, co-ordinated the process together with Joint Secretariat support.

Maintaining a broad partnership was a guiding principle during the entire programming process. The Joint Working Group (JWG), established in November 2013 continued working in partnership and kept on preserving the balanced representation of the public authorities (national, regional and local), economic and social partners, relevant bodies representing civil society, including environmental partners, non-governmental organisations, and bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, gender equality and non-discrimination as rules of conduct guiding the Programme development process and was approving the main stages of Programme elaboration. A Task Force (TF) for discussing particular topics and draft proposals, also established in November 2013, stayed operational.

The Cooperation Programme was developed in an iterative, consultative process and the involvement of stakeholders was organised in several stages:

- An on-line survey among national and regional stakeholders was conducted in February 2014 with 209 respondents as a first step in the programming consultative process. The survey aimed also at gathering the respondents' expectations related to the scope, the content and other important aspects of the programme, as well as their preferences for thematic priorities for co-operation for the 2014-2020 period. It helped to identify specific demands and expectations towards the new programme among potential target groups.

- Two rounds of regional consultative forums were organised: first round was held in February – March 2014 and second – in May 2014 in Edirne (Turkey) and Haskovo (Bulgaria) with total 194 participants. Findings of the SWOT and the territorial analysis were presented and discussed, and the expectations related to the Programme under elaboration were explored under the first round of regional consultations. During the second joint regional consultative forum, the draft investment strategy of the Programme within the selected by the JWG thematic priorities was presented. The stakeholders gave their input in terms of specific objectives, results, examples of activities as well as the prospective types of beneficiaries. The result of the two rounds of the regional consultative forums are:

- Reports from the on-line survey and the two rounds of regional consultations were published on the Programme website and also communicated to the JWG members.

- Relevant draft programme documents and publications as well as information on the programming process was published regularly on the Programme's website.

- The draft Programme and the Strategic Environmental Assessment report were made available for public consultations on the Programme website, the websites of the Managing and National Authorities, the environmental authorities in Bulgaria and Turkey and considerable feedback was received and integrated into the draft Programme where appropriate.

The final draft Programme was elaborated according to inputs from the Joint Working Group and from regional and local stakeholders, including environmental authorities, thus ensuring the ownership of planned interventions by stakeholders and building on the experience and know-how of relevant actors.

Two JWG meetings (in Sofia and in Ankara) were held in 2014 with the financial support from the TA budget.

The draft final IPA II Cross-border Co-operation Programme Bulgaria – Turkey was approved by the governments of the two partnering countries and the JWG, and was sent to the European Commission on 19 September 2014 for approval.

A technical meeting with the participation of the Managing Authority, National Authority and the Joint Technical Secretariat was held on 11 December 2014 in Sofia, where the management and control system and the first draft of the Memorandum of Understanding for the period 2014-2020 were presented. Issues related to the new programming period were discussed, as well as the status of projects' implementation under the programming period 2007-2013 was presented.

After EC official comments were received on 3 February 2015, the revised draft (version 2.0 as of February 2015) of the Programme was re-submitted for approval to the Commission on 24 February 2015.

6. Information and publicity

The focus of the information and publicity strategy is centred on increasing the awareness and promoting the positive work of the Programme. For the purposes of implementation of the information and publicity strategy, a detailed Communication Plan is elaborated and approved simultaneously with programme approval. The aim of the Communication Plan is to ensure broad dissemination of the information about the programme, to guarantee the transparency of the programme's implementation and to increase the awareness of the local stakeholders about the programme's possibilities. The implementation of the Communication plan is responsibility of the Managing Authority, National Authority and JTS.

The Communication plan for year 2014 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 2014.

➤ Programme Website





The Programme website www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu is functioning as of August 2009 and it was the most useful and economic tool for promoting the Programme and to disseminate information to the beneficiaries (active and potential) and the public in general. The website includes comprehensive information on the Programme and its Priority axes, accompanied by all documents concerning Programme implementation. The website has been regularly updated with relevant information on the Programme (events, news, documentation etc.). The website also includes a tool for partners search with project partner database, thereby facilitating the integration among actors and promoting joint activities and ideas. The website was improved with new functions added over the previous years.

During 2014 the official website of the Programme was one of the main publicity tools used to promote the Programme and disseminate the relevant information. The unique website visits for 2014 are 25 034, compared to the 36 986 for 2013. High number of visitors in 2013 was due to the Call for proposals opened during the year while during 2014 there were no Calls for proposals opened. The monthly picture of visits shows that during the first 3 months of 2014 the interest in the programme website was high with number of unique visitors ranging between 2000 and 2250 (2039, 2258, 2145 respectively). This is particularly due to the training events which took place in the beginning of the month. Visitors who were interested in information regarding the event, its contents, news and follow

up documentation showed interest in the website during these first 3 months. The interest remains at around 2000 visits per month during the rest of the year as all Calls for the 2007 – 2013 period were closed, grants were awarded and the info posted would be relevant only for those who were in contracting phase.

As in the previous years, also in 2014 the targeted values for website activities were exceeded. This goes especially for the number of unique visits 38 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 12 times.

In order to ensure broad publicity, information on the Programme was also disseminated through regional and national websites as well as on the websites at the European level:

- www.mrrb.government.bg - Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works of the Republic of Bulgaria

- www.ab.gov.tr - Ministry for EU Affairs of the Republic of Turkey

- www.eufunds.bg – EU Structural Funds website

➤ **Promotional materials**

During the reporting period of year 2014 the procedure for acquisition of promotional materials was finalized. As a result of the acquisition, following items were acquired:

Brochures: 450 pieces

Business Cards: 2000

Folders: 200

Binders: 200

Table Calendars: 175

Wall Calendars: 100

Pocket Calendars: 250

Folded Hand Maps: 100



Agenda Organizers: 120

Plastic Pens: 700

Metal Pens: 250

USB Flash Drives: 25

Post it, Sticky notes, Cube pad: 50

T-shirts: 150

Bags: 175

Backpacks: 35

Umbrellas: 50

Business card holders: 50

Business card binders: 25

Conference Business Folders: 25

➤ **Information seminars**

No information seminar was held in 2014 as the third Call for proposals was the last one foreseen under the 2007-2013 Programming Period.

➤ **Publicity campaign**

In addition to the promotion through the Programme website and the websites of the official institutions directly related to the Programme, both the Programme and the projects funded were popularized through specific Programme press-releases (in all the three languages), online publications (other than on the Programme website), radio advertisements, video and television clips, publicities in local and national newspapers.

Planned activities and the indicators of the publicity campaign were fulfilled and most of its planned values were overachieved.

During 2014, at least 50 appearances on the local and regional, print and online media were achieved before and after the Programme events.



➤ **Active Training**

- Three training seminars on "**Project implementation**" for the beneficiaries of the projects within the Programme were organized during 2014.

The Training seminar for Bulgarian beneficiaries was organised by the JTS, in cooperation with the Managing Authority and took place on 25 February 2014 in Haskovo and it was attended by 46 representatives of 28 different organisations. The project partners were trained on all the aspects of project implementation, following the structure of the Project Implementation Manual for beneficiaries under Bulgaria – Turkey IPA Cross-Border Programme and main points in the project implementation cycle. Participants were informed about the specific implementation rules such as procurement rules, project management, reporting, visibility requirements etc. During the training the participants were also provided the chance to realise consultations with their project managers and meet and discuss with other project partners/beneficiaries.

Two (2) Training seminars for "**Project implementation**" for Turkish beneficiaries were organised by the JTS, in cooperation with the National Authority and JTS Antenna Office in Edirne. One of the training was organized on 13 March 2014 in Edirne, Trakya University. 75 participants were present at this training from 68 different organisations. The other training was also organized in Edirne, in 27 November 2014. 106 participants were present in this training from 87 different organisations.

Several meetings with all risky projects under the first and second Call for proposals were conducted by JTS experts, consulting the beneficiaries for resolving of detected problems on smoothly project implementation.

During 2014, variety of activities included in the Communication plan were organized and performed accordingly: various types of promotional materials were disseminated to the target audience, the Programme Web site was redesigned and maintained, and trainings for beneficiaries were successfully organized. Visibility measures and the participation in different events greatly contributed to the successful promotion of Programme and the Call for proposals. The Programme's visual identity and graphics standards were maintained and widely disseminated to all the Programme's stakeholders.



More information about the communication and information activities during 2014 could be found in Annex II to this report.



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	38190	36956	22145			137962	
		Target 2016	1000 per year											
		Baseline	0											
		▪ No. of e-newspapers published/distributed	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	2				9
		Target 2016	2 per year											
		Baseline	0											
	Partners' search facility	Contact details	▪ No. of e-newspapers' recipients	0	0	0	0	100	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	118	.....	0			310
			Target 2016	10										
			Baseline	0										
	Information for mass media	Contact details	▪ No. of e-mails received through web-site contact form	0	0	0	0	15	17	20	18			70
			Target 2016	2 per year										
			Baseline	0										
		Information for mass media	▪ No. of e-mails received through web-site contract details	0	0	0	0	1050	1028	.....	1020			3098
			Target 2016	100 per year										
			Baseline	0										
	Information for mass media	Information for mass media	▪ No. of news/information for mass media	0	0	0	0	6	3	8	10			27
			Target 2016	2 per year										
			Baseline	0										
Information for mass media		▪ No. of press packs distributed	0	0	0	0	6	5	.....	5			16	
		Target 2016	10											
		Baseline	0											
Information for mass media	▪ No. of press reports published	0	0	0	0	6	3	.....	0			9		
	Target 2016	5												
	Baseline	0												

	Activity	Indicator	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total	
Promotional Materials	Leaflets	▪ Number of leaflets produced	0	0	0	0	0	1000	0	0			1000	
		Target 2016	500 per Call											
		Baseline	0											
		▪ No. of leaflets distributed	0	0	0	0	250	900	100	50				1300
		Target 2016	500 per Call											
		Baseline	0											
	Brochures	▪ Number of brochures produced	0	0	750	0	0	1000	0	450				2200
		Target 2016	500 per Call											
		Baseline	0											
		▪ Number of brochures distributed	0	0	300	150	300	850	150	250				2000
		Target 2016	500 per Call											
		Baseline	0											
	Posters & banners	▪ Number of posters	0	0	2	0	0	1000	0	0				1002
		Target 2016	100											
		Baseline	0											
▪ Number of banners		0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2				4	
Target 2016		2												
Baseline		0												
Other promotional materials (gadgets)	▪ Number of materials prepared	0	0	2350	0	0	6000	0	4730				13080	
	Target 2016	100 of each kind												
	Baseline	0												
	▪ Number of materials distributed	0	0	1000	500	813	5000	500	1500				9313	
	Target 2016	100 of each kind												
	Baseline	0												
Seminars	Info-days	▪ No. of info-days conducted	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	0			8	
		Target 2016	2											
		Baseline	0											
	▪ No. of organizations/bodies invited	0	0	200	0	150	0	180	0				530	
		Target 2016	40 per info day											
		Baseline	0											
▪ Number of organizations/bodies attending	0	0	126	150	215	0	220	0				711		
	Target 2016	20 per info day												
	Baseline	0												

	Activity	Indicator	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total			
		▪ No. of journalists invited	0	0	0	0	48	0	50	0			98			
		Target 2016	10 per info day													
		Baseline	0													
		▪ No. of journalists attended	0	0	0	0	12	0	15	0				27		
		Target 2016	5 per info day													
		Baseline	0													
			▪ Percentage of participants that subsequently submit applications	0	0	0	0	37	0	29	0			66		
			Target 2016	10% per Call												
			Baseline	0												
			Publicity campaign	Print media campaign	▪ Number of newspapers publishing issue(s) concerning the Programme	0	0	5	0	55	55	20			135
					Target 2016	4 per compaign										
					Baseline	0										
Press conferences	▪ No. of press conferences			0	0	0	0	0	3	4	2			9		
		Target 2016		2 per year												
		Baseline		0												
	▪ No. of journalists invited		0	0	0	0	0	20	30	15				65		
		Target 2016	10 per event													
		Baseline	0													
Press releases	▪ No. of journalists attended		0	0	0	0	0	11	15	10			36			
		Target 2016	5 per event													
		Baseline	0													
	Press releases	▪ No. of press releases prepared		0	0	0	0	6	3	8	2			19		
			Target 2016	2 per year												
			Baseline	0												
▪ No. of press releases distributed			0	0	0	0	6	3	8	2				19		
		Target 2016	2 per event													
		Baseline	0													
Press Advertisements	▪ No. of press releases published		0	0	0	0	6	3	8	2			19			
		Target 2016	2 pe revent													
		Baseline	0													
	Press Advertisements	▪ No. of Advertisements published		0	0	0	0	5	0	5	0			10		
			Target 2016	1 per Call												
			Baseline	0												

	Activity	Indicator	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total		
		Baseline	0												
		▪ Percentage of recipients that subsequently Call the JTS	0	0	0	0	10	0	0				10	
		Target 2016	5% per Call												
		Baseline	0												
		▪ Percentage of recipients that subsequently submit applications	0	0	0	0	5	0	...	0				5	
		Target 2016	2% per Call												
	TV or Radio Campaign		Baseline	0											
			▪ No. of TV or Radio campaign	0	0	0	0	0	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	0	4	0				12
			Target 2016	1 before subm.											
			Baseline	0											
			▪ No. of people invited	0	0	100	0	382	0	450	0				932
Target 2016			40 per training												
Baseline			0												
▪ No. of participants			0	0	150	0	349	0	424	0				923	
Target 2016			30 per training												
Baseline			0												
▪ No. of speakers			0	0	6	0	12	0	9	0				27	
Target 2016			2 per training												
Baseline			0												
▪ No. of topics covered			0	0	4	0	4	0	4	0				12	
Target 2016	2 per training														
Baseline	0														
▪ No. of documents distributed	0	0	150	0	349	0	424	0				923			
Target 2016	30 per training														
Baseline	0														
▪ No. of completed questionnaires	0	0	0	0	61	0	121	0				182			
Target 2016	30 per training														
Baseline	0														
▪ Percentage of participant that subsequently submit applications	0	0	30	0	35	0	29	0				94			

	Activity	Indicator	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total	
		Target 2016	10% of the participant from training											
		Baseline	0											
		▪ Percentage of good quality applications	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	0			90	
		Target 2016	5% per training											
		Baseline	0											
	For Beneficiaries concerns project implementation issues	▪ No. of the trainings organized	0	0	2	0	4	1	2	3			12	
		Target 2016	2 within a Call											
		Baseline	0											
		▪ No. of people invited	0	0	0	0	172	46	150	350				718
		Target 2016	40 per training											
		Baseline	0											
		▪ No. of participants	0	0	0	0	175	51	105	227				558
		Target 2016	30 per training											
		Baseline	0											
		▪ No. of speakers	0	0	0	0	15	3	10	22				50
		Target 2016	2 per training											
		Baseline	0											
		▪ No. of topics covered	0	0	0	0	4	6	7	7				24
		Target 2016	2 per training											
		Baseline	0											
		▪ No. of documents distributed	0	0	0	0	175	51	128	250 (sets)				604
		Target 2016	30 per training											
	Baseline	0												
	▪ No. of completed questionnaires	0	0	0	0	26	33	39	45				143	
	Target 2016	30 per training												
	Baseline	0												

ANNEXES

to the Annual Implementation Report 2014

of Bulgaria-Turkey IPA CBC Programme 2007-2013



✓ **ANNEX I:**

Part A: List of projects under first Call for project proposals of IPA CBC Programme Bulgaria - Turkey finalized until 31 December 2014

Part B: List of projects funded under second Call for proposals under the Bulgaria-Turkey IPA CBC Programme until 31 December 2014

Part C: List of projects under third Call for project proposals of IPA CBC Programme Bulgaria - Turkey, approved for financing until 31 December 2014

✓ **ANNEX II:**

Review of the most popular project activities financed under the IPA CBC Bulgaria – Turkey Programme and related successful projects

✓ **ANNEX III:**

The annex encompasses a comprehensive list on communication and information activities during 2014, including:

- Promotional materials
- Programme web site
- Programme trainings in 2014
- Technical meetings and JMC meeting in 2014
- Publicity/Media campaigns
- Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme events in 2014
- Media



LIST OF PROJECTS FINALIZED BY 31.12.2014
PROJECTS FUNDED UNDER FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS

No.	Project number	Project Title	Lead Partner	Project Partners	Budget (EUR)	Duration (months)
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	88 865.68	12
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	67 983.68	12
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	98 583.79	12
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	98 004.93	14
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	86 571.05	12
6.	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-012	Friendship across borders for a common European future	Municipality of Stambolovo	Municipality of Ahmetbey	449 076.22	16



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	63 940.84	9
8.	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-016	We are living our common culture	Atakoy Primary Educational School	High School Prof.Dr. Asen Zlatarov	58 000.00	11
9.	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-019	Strandja Mountain - To Learn and Protect It Together	Yenice Primary School	High School "Vasil Levski"	60 000.00	12
10.	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-022	Encouraging the eco-friendly business in the cross-border region Topolograd - Buyukkaristiran	"Topolograd" Non-Government Organization	Municipality of Buyukkaristiran	99 734.70	15
11.	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-026	2010 - New start for cross-border heritages' promotion	Union for providing of services to the villages. Kirklareli	District Administration Bourgas	92 000.00	12
12.	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-030	Common step for clear environment	Pinarhisar Municipality Administration	Lyubimets Municipality Administration	Terminated	12
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	Edirne Chamber of Commerce and Industry	81 968.42	12
14.	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-039	CROSS BORDER TOURISM INTEGRATION	Edirne Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Bourgas Regional Tourism Agency	84 157.89	15
15.	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-040	FRIENDSHIP WITHOUT BORDERS	Foreign Language School "Prof.D-r Asen Zlatarov"	Edirne Yildirim Beyazit Anatolian High School	Terminated	12



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	528 370.89	16
17.	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-045	CAPACITY BUILDING FOR BORDER MUNICIPALITIES ABOUT STRATEGIC PLANNING	Union of Meric Municipalities	Regional Municipalities Association "Maritza"	75 056.86	10
18.	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-049	Cover History Without Boundary	Uzunkopru Municipality	1. Municipal Association of Small and Medium sized Business - Haskovo;	99 789.47	12
				2. European Integration Agency		
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;	90 694.74	9
				2. LIAD Lüleburgaz Businessman Company		
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	98 401.49	12
21.	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-054	"Mobile cross border agri-center for innovative practices, sustainable development and risks prevention"	Burgas Chamber of Commerce and Industry	1. Agrounivers 2006 - Burgas;	99 542.11	12
				2. Kırklareli Chamber of Commerce and Industry;		

				3. Headquarters Of The Kırklareli Chamber Of Agriculture		
22.	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-055	Open Dialog Network for interprofessional Education and Training	Trakya University - Edirne (TUE)	Technical College - Yambol (TCY)	Terminated	12
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	592 266.18	24
24.	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-057	Common Culture Beyond Boundaries	Vize Municipality	Sredets Municipality	99 378.95	12
25.	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-064	STRALDZHA AND SULOGLU - CROS-BORDER TRAVELLING	Straldzha Municipality	Suloglu Municipality	592 072.37	21
26.	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-065	The cultural heritage of two neighbor nations – open door through the millenniums	Trakya Development Association (TRAKAB)	Sozopol Foundation	599 291.88	24
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	592 294.63	18
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;	598 878.42	24

					3. Secretariat General to Special Administration of Province in Edirne	
29.	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-070	Equal employment opportunities	Alliance for regional and civil initiatives	Union of Merich Municipalities	82 081.05	12
30.	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-071	CROSS-BORDER EURO MARKET – CHANCE FOR BUSINESSMEN AND TRADERS	Liad Lüleburgaz Businessman Company	Yambol Chamber of Commerce and Industry	78 024.21	12
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	537 525.79	12
32.	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-075	Advanced QUALITY of life Through Investment activities for improvement of the Cross-border management of floods	Svilengrad municipality, Bulgaria	Uzunkopru municipality	599 582.10	24
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;	82 457.75	12
				2. Municipality of Svilengrad		
34.	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-081	Improved Agriculture Improved Social Links	Municipality of Kircasalih	1. Municipal Association of Small and Middle Scale Business Haskovo;	99 993.68	12
				2. European Integration agency		

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	41 421.05	9
36.	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-084	Teenager Bridges	Uzunkopru Muzaffer Atasay Anatolian High School	GREENER BOURGAS FOUNDATION	99 421.05	12
37.	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-085	Investments in the promotion of the cultural, historical and Natural heritage in The cross-border region	Municipality of Tundja	Trakya Development Association (TRAKAB)	459 153.53	15
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;	97 500.00	12
				2.European Integration agency		
39.	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-087	"Turning the cross-border region Bulgaria - Turkey into an attractive tourist destination"	NGO "High tech business incubator"	Trakya Development Association (TRAKAB)	54 949.47	14
40.	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-088	MUTUAL AID KEEPS ENERGY	Neofit Rilski High-school	Edirne Vocational and Technical Education High School	99 444.97	12
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;	99 415.74	12
				2. Pınarhisar Anatolian High School		
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	Pınarhisar Chamber of Agriculture	98 410.95	12



43.	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-095	Efficient, Sustainable and Ecological Practices in the Cross-Border Region	Institute for Regional Strategies	1. European Institut Foundation;	99 987.90	12
				2. Producer of Dairy and Agriculture Products of Edirne Province Centre Association (ESUTUB)		
44.	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-097	Sustainable agriculture development through capacity building and business promotion tools	Business Center - Elhovo	Ipsala District rice commission	94 380.00	12
45.	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-104	Raising the quality of life in the Municipalities of Bolyarovo and Alpullu and provision of possibilities for recreation and sports"	"Ravnovesie" Association	1. Municipality Alpullu;	599 503.15	18
				2. Municipality of Bolyarovo		
46.	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-106	Consultacy Network for Business Support and Investment Promotion	Municipality of Mineralni Bani	Municipality of Suloglu	99 542.11	12
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 Alpullu;	320 526.24	21,5
				2. Sozopol Municipality		
48.	2007CB16IPO008-2009-1-110	Cross Border Youth Culture Programme	Spiritual Mirror Association - Branch Brodilovo	1. Democracy Primary School;	66 132.63	12
				2. Vasil Levski Secondary School		

PROJECTS FUNDED UNDER SECOND CALL FOR PROPOSALS


No.	Project ID	Project title	Lead Partner	Project Partners	Budget (EUR)	Duration (months)
1	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-001	Cross Border Collaboration Between Bulgaria and Turkey Identifying Entrepreneurs and Ideas and Supporting Technology Transfer and Commercialisation	Greener Bourgas Foundation	Uzunköprü Commodity Exchange	112 658.52	12
2	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-003	Cross-border learning and education strategies with focus on the use of ICT	Kladara	Kırklareli Provincial Directorate for National Education	89 013.16	12
3	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-005	Turkish-Bulgarian Cooperation for Promotion of Participatory Democracy Through Improvement of Decision-Making Processes in Local Governments	Uzunköprü Association of Headmen of Villages and Neighbourhoods	Greener Bourgas Foundation	93 620.05	12
4	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-006	Culture and friends	Municipality Bouykkaristiran	Chitalishte "St.St. Kiril and Methodius- 1894"	116 640.15	12
5	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-011	Youths - volunteers in society's favour	The Governor of Havsa District	Fire Safety and Civil Protection Directorate General- Ministry of the Interior Search And Rescue Association of Edirne	128 129.16	12
6	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-012	CB PHOTO FOCUS: The beauty of Yambol and Edirne through the eyes of photography	Regional Administration Yambol	Provincial directorate of culture and tourism	90 050.75	12
7	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-014	Women Entrepreneurs Cross Border Cooperation – Together in business	Edirne Chamber of Certified Public Accountants	National Association of Small and Medium Business - Yambol Branch	105 333.09	12



8	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-016	The sport - a model for reinforcement of social links in the cross-border region Burgas - Kırklareli	Vasil Aporilov primary School	Ahmet Yener" Primary School "Kladara" Foundation	115 726.36	12
9	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-021	Food as a Mutual Cultural Heritage in Thrace Region	DAYKO-Foundation of Protection of the Natural Life	Municipality Tsarevo Vize Municipality	110 388.34	12
10	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-022	Cultural heritage - asset for cross-border cohesion and prosperity	Alliance for regional and civil initiatives ARCI - Haskovo branch	Vize Municipality	138 778.95	12
11	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-023	Enhancing the Respect for Gender Equality in BG-TR cross-border area	Chamber of commerce Bourgas	Kırklareli Chamber of Commerce and Industry	88 124.21	12
12	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-025	Tell us about thracians	Union of the Edirne Tradesmen and Craftsmen Chambers (EDESÖB)	Bourgas regional tourist association	92 297.29	12
13	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-028	Traditional Craft Professions and their Adaptation to the Economy in the Cross-Border Area	Bourgas Regional Chamber of Skilled Crafts	Kırklareli Chamber of Tradesmen and Craftsmen European Integration & Regional Competitiveness Foundation	72 470.63	12
14	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-031	Cross-border cooperation in favor of the unique nature and access to the historical heritage of the Lyubimets region	Municipality of Lyubimets	Municipality of Babaeski	130 968.42	12
15	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-033	Good partners - healthy future	Primary and Secondary School "Nikola Vapzarov" Primorsko	Ataturk Primary School Municipality Primorsko	424 835.85	24
16	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-036	Economic eco energy strategy-economic development for energy and environmental prosperity	Yambol Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Babaeski Trade Exchange	106 089.68	12

17	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-037	European women entrepreneurship academy	Euroclub woman	District Governorship of Suloglu Yambol Chamber of Commerce and Industry	120 711.21	12
18	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-040	Look at the future, save heritage	District Administration Burgas	Kirkalreli Culture and Tourism Directorate	149 240.00	12
19	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-043	Clean energy for lighting in public places in Straldzha and Kavakli	Straldzha municipality	Kavakli Municipality	674 908.42	17
20	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-045	Mutual interchange of nation's values of culture and arts	Luleburgas Culture arts and Sports Club Association	Project Management Institute Foundation	99 039.58	12
21	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-056	A cleaner future	Kırklareli The Union for Provision of Services to Villages	Municipality Tsarevo	565 441.24	16
22	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-057	Partnership for Increasing Employability and Social Development of Disabled People	Kırklareli Branch of Turkey Handicap Association	Association "Club of the disabled with physical disabilities"	124 960.64	12
23	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-061	Learning in honey production	Union of Beekeepers, Pınarhisar	Municipality Tsarevo	85 164.23	9
24	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-063	Joint Eco Forces of Small and Medium Enterprises of Cross-Border Region	Haskovo Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Uzunkopru Chamber of Commerce and Industry	109 402.11	12
25	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-066	Cross-Border Cooperation Against Industrial Disasters	Kırklareli Provincial Disaster and Emergency Management Directorate	Fire Safety and Civil Protection Directorate General- Ministry of the Interior	668 609.80	24

26	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-078	Creation of a cultural network - consolidator of two neighbouring nations	Young Businessmen Association of Edirne	Sozopol Foundation	138 715.79	12
27	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-080	More trade relations – better economic development in the CBC region	Eurointegra Association / (Eurointegra Association - Haskovo branch)	Chamber of Edirne Confectionery, Kebab and Restaurants Tradesmen Chamber of Kesan Restaurants Cafes and Hotels	124 594.93	12
28	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-085	Capacity building for biodegradable waste management in the cross-border region of Burgas and Kırklareli.	Association for Waste management	Headquarters Of The Kırklareli Chamber Of Agriculture	126 812.58	12
29	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-086	Common solutions to common problems C.O.M.M.O.N	“Vassil Levski” Primary School of Bourgas	Zubeyde Hanim Nursery School	100 358.93	12
30	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-088	Energy Friendly Rural Development	Local Action Group Tundja	Trakya Development Association (TRAKAB) Municipality of Tundja	69 680.84	12
31	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-089	Cross-border cooperation for capacity development in the field of archaeological heritage	Centre for Underwater Archaeology	Kırklareli Cultural Assets Association	127 309.77	12
32	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-094	Hand to Hand on the way to the traditions	Kırklareli municipality	Ruen Municipality	121 904.63	12
33	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-095	Preservation of cultural and historical heritage	Bratolyubie National Community Center	Lubimets Municipality Luleburgaz Municipality	626 770.88	14

34	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-098	Active tourism in Strandja and Sakar	Business Center Elhovo	Edirne Nature Sports Club Association - EDOSK	144 626.74	12
35	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-101	Cross-Border Cultural Center for Children	Municipality of Sredets	Municipality of Vize	799 379.47	24
36	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-108	Raising the sustainable and economic development of border municipalities through provision of accessible infrastructure and improvement of settlements	Municipality of Malko Tarnovo	Municipality of Alpullu	722 325.08	24
37	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-127	Preserving the natural heritage - a challenge beyond borders	Foundation Arbitra	Babaeski municipality Reconstruction and Development Union	124 330.32	12
38	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-130	Traditions with a future	Association Business Information Centre Straldja	Ipsala Union of Services for Rural Areas Center for Transfer of Innovative Practices-branch East	101 680.42	12
39	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-139	Initiation of Partnerships for Valorization of Local Natural Assets and Cultural Heritage	Municipal School and Kindergarten Trustees in Bolyarovo	Bolyarovo Municipality Municipality Of Kofchaz	95 441.45	12
40	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-140	Elaboration of A Detailed Project Design of The Cross Border Road Connection between The Villages of Malkoclar and Strandzha	Kofchaz Municipality	Bolyarovo Municipality	107 850.95	12

PART B
LIST OF PROJECTS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION BY 31.12.2014
PROJECTS UNDED UNDER SECOND CALL FOR PROPOSALS

No.	Project ID	Project title	Lead Partner	Project Partners	Budget (EUR)	Duration
1	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-038	Joint mobile agro laboratory and educational cross-border center for sustainable agri business	Babaeski Trade Exchange	Yambol Chamber of Commerce and Industry	518 081.81	18
2	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-044	Alternative tourism in Madzharovo and Alpullu - together we can do more	Madzharovo Municipality	Alpullu Municipality	550 521.51	24
3	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-051	For a better life	Kavaklı Municipality	Straldzha Municipality	686 371.90	18
4	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-053	United cross border activities for the improvement of the economic potential of the Bulgaria–Turkey area	Municipality Dimitrovgrad	Uzunkopru Municipality	560 277.28	24
5	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-084	Healthy mind in a healthy body	Vocational School of Electronics and Electrical Engineering” Konstantin Fotinov”	Edirne Provincial Directorate for National Education Regional Inspectorate of education - Burgas	461 239.63	18
6	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-087	Tundja and sOIUglu - gReen FUTURE	Municipality of Tundja	Suloglu Union for Delivering Services to Villages	691 101.92	18
7	2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-132	Interlaced Culture without Borders between Friends and Neighbours	National Chitalishte Prosveta-1870 Svilengrad	Municipality of Kırklareli	647 493.67	24

PROJECTS FUNDED UNDER THIRD CALL FOR PROPOSALS

No.	Project ID	Project title	Lead Partner	Project Partners	Budget (EUR)	Duration
1	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-004	Cross –border collaboration in development of CAD/CAM vocational training system	Vocational Technical school of Mechano-electrotechnics and electronics - Burgas	Kirklareli Technical and Vocational High School	141 629.49	12
2	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-008	Joint promotion of agriculture waste composting	Europe and We Association	Pinarhisar Chamber of Agriculture	105 359.90	12
3	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-012	Life Long Learning Network for exchange of experience and social services in vocational training, career development of the people and the labor market	Yambol chamber of Commerce and Industry	Babaeski Trade Exchange	94 371.00	12
4	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-014	I&IBM-Information and Investment BUSINESS MATRIX for transfer of practices, organisational and expert capacity in the economic development and tourism in the cross-border region	Babaeski Trade Exchange	Yambol Chamber of Commerce and Industry	136 911.60	12
5	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-016	friendship without borders - hand in hand	Municipality of Stambolovo	Municipality of Ahmetbey	399 953.76	16
6	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-017	Strandja / Yildiz the mountain is without fires	Regional Forest Directorate Bourgas	State Forestry - Kirklareli	139 671.47	12
7	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-018	Sport as a culture and a healthy way of life	First Elementary School "Ivan Vazov" - Svilengrad	Martyr Teacher Adnan Tunca Hearing-Impaired Primary School, Edirne	270 858.90	15
8	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-025	Joint study on anthropogenic air pollution in the Burgas-Kirklareli cross border region ...	National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology - Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (NIMH - BAS)	Headquarters of the Kirklareli Chamber of Agriculture	135 177.79	12



9	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-029	Investments in protection of natural and cultural heritage of the municipalities of Malko Tarnovo and Byuyukmandira	Municipality of Buyukmandira	Municipality of Malko Tarnovo	394 156.12	18
10	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-030	The treasures of the wild Tunja - an unforgettable experience	Business Centre Elhovo	Edirne Nature Sports Club Association - EDOSK	141 787.61	12
11	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-035	Preservation of intangible cultural heritage in the region of Elhovo and Lalapasa through construction of infrastructure for conducting traditional events	Elhovo Municipality	District Governorate of Lalapasa Union for Delivering Services to Villages	384 930.81	15
12	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-036	Quality Life With Recycling	Edirne Milk Producer's Association of Central District and Suloglu District	Local Action Group Tundja	97 628.34	12
13	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-039	Investments in protection of natural and cultural heritage of the municipalities of Malko Tarnovo and Byuyukmandira	Svilengrad Municipality	Uzunkopru Municipality	354 142.40	24
14	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-040	Festival of Generations	Association "Platform AGORA – Branch Burgas"	Lüleburgaz High School; Secondary School "Konstantin Preslavski" - Burgas	114 085.89	12
15	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-041	Joint Istranca Region protection for sustainable development	DAYKO - Foundation of Protection of the Natural Life	"Europe and We" Association Green Balkans - Pomorie branch	111 903.29	12
16	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-044	CROSS-BORDER YOUTH ZONE	Vize Municipality	Municipality of Sredets	393 222.72	24
17	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-045	TO Borderless Equality	Municipality of Sredets	Vize Municipality	463 880.62	24
18	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-051	Transboundary Cooperation for Agrochemistry and Pest Control Education	Uzunkopru Commodity Exchange	University "Prof. Asen Zlatarov" Bourgas	97 474.05	12

19	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-055	Protection of cultural and historical heritage - common european objective	Sozopol Municipality	Edirne Directorate of Museum	124 719.63	12
20	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-056	The Meeting Sea/ Pond and Natural of Tourism	Union for providing of services to the villages in Lüleburgaz	Tsarevo Municipality	395 323.29	24
21	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-059	Origin – Exploration and promotion of cultural heritage of Sungurlare municipality, Bulgaria and Allpulu municipality, Turkey	Alpullu Municipality	Municipality of Sungurlare	118 990.59	12
22	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-065	Internet Business Information System	Luleburgaz Businessmen Association	Municipal Association of Small and Medium sized Business - Haskovo Alliance for regional and civil initiatives ARCI - Haskovo branch	126 315.08	12
23	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-067	CBC to improve the Socio&Educational Infrastructure in Nesebar and Kırklareli	Municipality of Nesebar	Municipality of Kırklareli	398 663.40	24
24	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-075	The Spirit of Tradition	Vocational School of Electronics and Electrical Engineering "Konstantin Fotinov", Burgas	Havsa Sehit Öğretmen Mehmet Birol Girls Vocational and Technical High School	106 699.35	12
25	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-076	Enhancement of the Cultural Cooperation between Üsküp and Bolyarovo Municipalities through Development of Cultural Infrastructure	Üsküp Municipality	Municipality of Bolyarovo	396 890.94	24
26	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-088	Sakar-Yildiz Trans-European Hiking Route	Tourist Association "Vishegrad"	DAYKO - Foundation of Protection of the Natural Life	108 803.28	12
27	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-092	Better Education Through Sport	Municipality of Lyubimets	Luleburgas Municipality	394 601.74	24
28	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-093	WOMAN IS A WOMAN EVERYWHERE	"Bratolyubie" Community Center	Edirne Social Aid and Solidarity Foundation	114 429.85	12



29	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-099	Economic Development Through Creation of Social Infrastructure for Education Aim	Municipality of Madzharovo	Kirklareli Special Provincial Administration	323 744.47	20
30	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-101	Developing IT Management of Women Entrepreneurs in SMEs and Accountants Through Crossborder: More IT Applications More Productive SMEs	Edirne Chamber of Certified Public Accountants	National association of small and medium business - Yambol	101 472.00	12
31	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-103	Cross-Border Cooperation for Revitalization of Archaeological Heritage	Centre for Underwater Archaeology	Kirklareli Cultural Assets Association	153 592.33	12
32	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-105	Common Identity Common History	Regional Historical Museum of Haskovo	Kirklareli District Directorate of Culture and Tourism	397 951.11	18
33	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-115	The Voice of the Rock	The Governorship of Enez	Lyubimets Municipality Administration Rhodopica Foundation	398 460.18	18
34	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-118	Better future for the children from the municipalities of Ruen and Evrensekiz	Ruen Municipality	Evrensekiz municipality	386 884.35	12
35	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-119	Creating An Enviro - Cultural Vision Beyond The Borders - Exposition of Two different Practices About Enviro-Cultural potentials of the Cross-Border region	Kirklareli Municipality	Ruen Municipality	373 951.50	24

LIST OF PROJECTS APPROVED FOR FINANCING BY DECEMBER 31.12.2014

No.	Project ID	Project title	Lead Partner	Project Partners	Budget (EUR)	Duration (months)
1	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-009	Rec.Area Evolution at Loc. Gov., Rec. Ser. Plan. At Loc. Gov. And Cross Bord. Good Impl.	Ipsala Municipality	Stambolovo Municipality	392 245.03	16
2	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-019	From Black sea to Aegean sea - new opportunities for tourism and accompanying business	Burgas Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Kesan Chamber of Commerce and Industry	99 776.10	12
3	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-054	Bulgarian-Turkish children bridge for revival of traditions	Bratia Miladinovi Primary School, Bourgas	Edirne Uzunkopru Kadripasa Primary School	138 688.58	12
4	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-062	Golden Creative Bridges between Turkish and Bulgarian Towns Uzunköprü and Burgas	Uzunköprü Special Education Center (School)	Association " Social Center Burgas"	143 202.96	12
5	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-069	Towards the opportunities and CHALLENGES OF Sustainable Cross-Border TOURISM	Haskovo Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Uzunköprü Chamber of Commerce and Industry	130 425.52	12
6	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-091	Improvement and Sustainable Development of the Social Infrastructure in Municipality of Ivaylovgrad and Municipality of Ipsala-Kaymakamlak	Municipality of Ivaylovgrad	Union of Village Delivery Service of Ipsala District	399 883.83	15
7	2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-096	Improving the quality of life of the citizens of Kırklareli and Mineralni Bani	Kırklareli The Union for Provision of Services to Villages	Mineralni Bani Municipality	387 424.91	24



ANNEX II Review of the most popular project activities financed under the IPA CBC Bulgaria – Turkey Programme and related successful projects

Priority Axis 1 – Sustainable Social & Economic Development

Key Area of Intervention 1.1 – Improvement of the Social Development and Social Cohesion Links - soft measures

The most popular type of activity, financed under 18 projects so far under the current area of intervention was: Networking activities among organizations or institutions for implementation of trainings and capacity building initiatives aimed to reinforce social and cultural links; seminars, conferences, training events, targeting transfer of know-how and cultural exchange.

It brings undisputable added value for the future of the cross border region, by establishing partnership mainly between schools and educational institutions.

Some of the best examples of successfully implemented projects were:

- 2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-045, “Mutual interchange of nation's values of culture and arts”, implemented by: Luleburgaz Culture arts and Sports Club Association and Project management institute Foundation;

Budget: EUR 99 039.58

Description: Conduction of joint trainings of Bulgarian and Turkish dance groups for presentation of authentic folklore customs and dances and held joint cultural performances in Bulgaria and Turkey. Young people learned dances and customs of other ethnics and religions and developed tolerance and respect to the diversity.

The project was successfully completed in December 2013.



Key Area of Intervention 1.3 – Infrastructural Support for the Improvement of the Economic Potential of the Co-operation Area – investment measures

The most popular type of activity, financed under the current area of intervention was: reconstruction of social infrastructure (educational, health care, child care, etc.) including small-scale infrastructure ensuring equal opportunity access to main facilities; more than 24 sites - parks, playgrounds, school sport halls. This is to point out ones again the importance of supporting youth and education not only by soft networking activities but by investing in relevant modern infrastructure for its development as well:

Some of the best examples of successfully implemented projects were:

- 2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-084, “Healthy mind in a healthy body”, implemented by: Vocational School of Electronics and Electrical Engineering” K. Fotinov” Burgas, Edirne Directorate for National Education and Regional Inspectorate of education - Burgas;

Budget: EUR 461 239.63

Description: Repair and reconstruction of multi-functional sports playground, Supply of uniforms and equipment, Supply of musical instruments and Suits. The project is under implementation in 2014. The end date of contract is in January 2015.



- 2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-033, “Good partners - healthy future”, implemented by: "Nikola Vaptzarov" school, Ataturk primary school Kırklareli and Primorsko municipality,
- 2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-108, “Raising the sustainable and economic development of border municipalities through provision of accessible infrastructure and improvement of settlements”, implemented by: Malko Tarnovo municipality and Alpullu municipality - 30 000 sq.m. sidewalks renewal;

Another popular type of activity, funded under the current area of intervention was supply of specialized equipment, saving its importance in the next programming period within the priority protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management.

- 2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-066, “Cross-Border Cooperation Against Industrial Disasters”, implemented by: Kırklareli Provincial Disaster and Emergency Management Directorate and Fire Safety and Civil Protection Directorate General - Ministry of the Interior;

Budget: EUR 668 609.78

Description: Supplied in both sides of the border specialized rescue vehicles equipped for protection against industrial chemical accidents and accidents during transportation of hazardous substances. The project is successfully accomplished in December 2014.



Key Area of Intervention 2.1 – Protection of environment, nature and historical and cultural heritage

Soft measures



The most popular type of activity, financed under the current area of intervention was: Cultural cooperation through development of joint traditional and new festivals, exhibitions, cultural events. This activity is a central one for 7 projects so far, marking in this respect the need to implement it during the next period under the approved priority for encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.

Some of the best examples of successfully implemented projects were:

- 2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-021, “Food as a Mutual Cultural Heritage in Thrace Region”, implemented by: DAYKO-Foundation, Tsarevo Municipality and Vize municipality;
- 2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-094, “Hand to Hand on the way to the traditions”, implemented by: Kırklareli municipality and Ruen municipality;

Budget: EUR 121 904.63

Description: “Tradition and Culture” Workshop and Galanty Show , Crafts and Mummers Games , Ritual Cuisine Workshop , “Hand To Hand – Crafts and Culture” Joint Festival, Cultural Maps and Cultural Guides for both municipalities. The project is successfully accomplished in December 2013.



- 2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-075, “The Spirit of Tradition”, implemented by: Vocational School of Electronics and Electrical Engineering "Konstantin Fotinov" and Havsa Sehit Öğretmen Mehmet Birol Girls Vocational and Technical High School;

Budget: EUR 106 699.35

Description: Conduction of joint school celebration concerts in Bourgas and Havsa and cultural events such as photo and thematic exhibitions, workshops and creation of models of digitalized objects of cultural heritage; study of folk dances, customs, and traditions.



Another very popular type of activity, financed under the current area of intervention was: Development of detailed plans, detailed project designs, architectural and engineering designs as another soft activity financed under 6 projects so far, saving its importance in the next programming period within the priority for protecting the environment, climate change, risk prevention and management.

Some of the best examples of successfully implemented projects were:

- 2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-040, “Look at the future, save heritage”, implemented by: District administration Burgas and Kırklareli Culture and Tourism Directorate;
- 2007CB16IPO008-2013-3-017, “STRandja/ Yildiz thE mountAin iS withoUt fiREs”, implemented by Regional Forest Directorate Bourgas and State Forestry – Kırklareli;

Budget: EUR 139 671.47

Description: Protection of Strandja Yildiz Mountain from forest fires through development of common Strategy for forest fire prevention and fighting in the cross-border region; designing of a map of the cross-border region with included marked woodlands by classes of fire risk, type of ownership, existing and necessary infrastructure, providing the fastest access to forest areas, availability



and location of water resources, of fire-fighting equipment, bars, forest barriers and mineralized belts, helipads, important phone numbers.



**Key Area of Intervention 2.1 – Protection of environment, nature and historical and cultural heritage
Investment measures**

The most popular type of activity, financed under the current area of intervention was: Development and construction of small-scale infrastructure related to cultural sites; Reconstruction of cultural centres or sites and adjacent small infrastructure. 7 Cultural centres were renewed and equipped.

Some of the best examples of successfully implemented projects were:

- 2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-101, “Cross-Border Cultural Center for Children”, implemented by Municipality of Sredets and Municipality of Vize;

Budget: EUR 799 379.47

Description: Reconstruction of cross-border CHILDREN’S CULTURAL CENTER in Sredets and public works in the area around “GHAZI SULEYMAN PASHA MOSQUE” in Vize; preparation of Joint cultural and historical research.



Another popular type of activity, funded under the current area of intervention was supply of specialized equipment and technologies related to the nature protection, saving its importance in the next programming period within the priority protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management.

- 2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-056, “A Cleaner Future”, implemented by: Kırklareli The Union for Provision of Services to Villages and Municipality of Tsarevo;

Budget: EUR 565 441.21

Description: Supplied in both sides of the border specialized vehicles for refuse collection and for cleaning of streets and channels and delivered wheelie bins in 22 villages; opened “Green Lines (24-hours customer help service)” in both municipalities for signals from the local citizens for violations of environmental standards and for information and consultation on environmental protection issues. The project is successfully accomplished in August 2014.



Priority Axis 2 – Improvement of the Quality of Life

Key Area of Intervention 2.2 – Protection of environment, nature and historical and cultural heritage

The most popular type of activity, financed under the current area of intervention was: Joint cross-border public awareness campaigns focused on environmental protection and nature-friendly behaviour, sustainable use of natural resources and encouraging of friendly environmental economic activities. This is the core activity of 8 projects financed under the programme aimed mainly at development of modern waste treatment and other innovative environmental actions. This is the reason for choosing the environmental protection as a priority for the next programming period.

Some of the best examples of successfully implemented projects were:

- 2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-127, “Preserving the natural heritage – a challenge beyond borders”, implemented by: “Arbitra” Foundation, Reconstruction and Development Union and Babaeski municipality.

Budget: EUR 124 330.32

Description: Pilot development of a management plan of “Defileto” protected site Establishment of an Eco-centre and Youth nature conservation club in Babaeski municipality. The project is successfully accomplished in December 2013.



- 2007CB16IPO008-2011-2-085, “Capacity building for biodegradable waste management in the cross-border region of Burgas and Kırklareli”, implemented by: Association for Waste management Burgas and Kırklareli Chamber of Agriculture;

Budget: EUR 126 812.58

Description: Conducted baseline studies about the opportunities for introduction of households composting system in Burgas and Kırklareli; households in selected pilot towns and villages were supplied with composters and were trained in how to do home composting; supplied shredder for shredding of largesized green waste.

The project was successfully completed in March 2014



ANNEX III

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS, PROGRAMME WEB SITE, PROGRAMME TRAININGS IN 2014, TECHNICAL MEETINGS AND JMC MEETING IN 2014, PUBLICITY/MEDIA CAMPAIGNS, ETC.

Promotional materials 2014

During the reporting period of year 2014 the procedure for acquisition of promotional materials was finalized. As a result of the acquisition, following items were acquired:

Item / Pieces

Brochures: 450

Business Cards: 2000

Folders: 200

Binders: 200

Table Calendars: 175

Wall Calendars: 100

Pocket Calendars: 250

Large Wall Maps: 10

Folded Hand Maps: 100

Agenda Organizers: 120

Plastic Pens: 700

Metal Pens: 250

USB Flash Drives: 25

Post it, Sticky notes, Cube pad: 50

T-shirts: 150

Bags: 175

Backpacks: 35

Umbrellas: 50

Business card holders: 50

Business card binders: 25

Conference Business Folders: 25



The promotional materials were distributed during the various occasions in both Turkey and Bulgaria (JMC meetings, technical meetings, training seminars etc.) to the Programme implementation stakeholders, potential applicants, beneficiaries and the general public.

Programme website – 2014

The official Programme website was effectively released in the end of August 2009 with address:

<http://www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu/>

The website includes comprehensive information on the Programme and its Priority axes, accompanied by all documents concerning Programme implementation. The website is regularly updated with relevant Programme information (events, news, documentation etc.). The website also includes a tool for partners search with project partner database and thus facilitates the integration among actors and promoting joint activities and ideas.

During 2014 the website was one of the main publicity tools used to promote the Programme and disseminate the relevant information was published in Bulgarian, English and Turkish language.



Although the Programme website proved to be a valuable Programme communication and promotion tool, still improvement is needed in terms of functionality and design. In 2013, three new sections were added to the website, namely “**Successes**” section containing information on the successful projects, “**2014 – 2020**” section containing information on the new programming period and “**Procurement procedure**” section containing announcements for public tenders under the Programme.

During 2014 the Programme website was constantly updated with news, announcements and relevant documentation.

In order to ensure broad publicity, information on the Programme was also disseminated through regional and national websites as well as on the websites at the European level:

www.mrrb.government.bg - Bulgarian Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (Managing Authority),

www.eufunds.bg – EU Structural Funds website,

www.ab.gov.tr – Ministry for European Union Affairs, Republic of Turkey (National Authority).

The unique website visits for 2014 are 22 145, compared to the 36 986 for 2013. High number of visitors in 2013 was due to the Call for proposals opened during the year while during 2014 there were no Calls for proposals opened.

As it can be seen from the table below, during the years during which a Call for proposals was opened (2012, 2013) the website attracted over 35 000 visitors. Even though during 2014 there was no Call opened, the number of visitors to the website remains high compared to other years during which no Call was opened.

Number of visits to the Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme website on yearly basis:

Year	Total Visits	Unique visits
2014	25 034	22 145
2013	43 049	36 956
2012	45 387	38 190
2011	17 278	13 726
2010	7 071	6 096
2009	6 330	5 053

Number of visits to the Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme website on monthly basis from the launching of the web-site until the end of 2014:

Month	Year 2009	Year 2010	Year 2011	Year 2012	Year 2013	Year 2014
January	0	527	747	6 817	3 217	2384
February	0	470	627	4 096	5 695	2579
March	0	589	1 144	4 426	7 610	2422
April	0	506	1 289	3 589	5 747	2093
May	0	420	1 323	4 457	3 244	2136
June	0	485	1 564	3 076	2 502	2058
July	0	611	2 487	4 938	2 329	2137
August	0	586	2 229	3 578	2 250	1857
Month	Year 2009	Year 2010	Year 2011	Year 2012	Year 2013	Year 2014
September	200	575	4 173	3 195	2 641	1981
October	1 797	788	4 210	2 407	3 257	1923
November	2 332	723	7 761	2 112	2 825	1910
December	2 001	791	5 892	2 696	1 732	1554

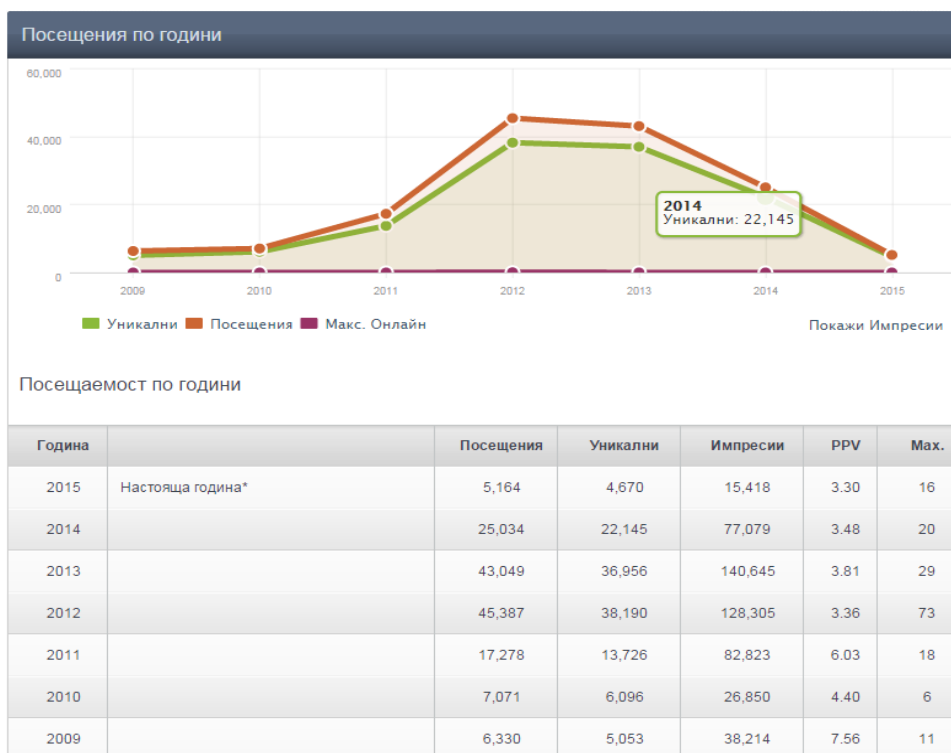
The number of visits during 2013 and 2012 to the Programme website is stable and is showing that the promotion of the Programme has a tangible effect and still attracts public attention. The high number of visits to the website during 2013 can be partially explained by the fact that the third Call for proposals was open in the beginning of February 2013 and all the relevant information concerning the Information events, the evaluation was regularly published on the website in three languages and Programme’s website address was advised to be visited for relevant stakeholders in every information and training activity.

The interest in the website remains still high as of the first quarter of 2014, due to ongoing contracting process for the awarded projects. The monthly picture of visits shows that during the first 3 months of 2014 the interest in the programme website was high with number



of unique visitors ranging between 2000 and 2250 (2039, 2258, 2145 respectively). This is particularly due to the training events which took place in the beginning of the month. Visitors who were interested in information regarding the event, its contents, news and follow up documentation showed interest in the website during these first 3 months. The interest remains at around 2000 visits per month during the rest of the year as all Calls for the 2007 – 2013 period were closed, grants were awarded and the info posted would be relevant only for those who were in contracting phase.

The increase in the number of visits to the Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme website during the period 2009 – 2014 is presented in the following caption:



Detailed statistics concerning the number of visits to the Programme website can be found here: <http://www.tyxo.bg/d/85129/daily>



Programme Trainings in 2014

Three training seminars on "**Project implementation**" for the beneficiaries of the projects within the Programme were organized during 2014.

The Training seminar for Bulgarian beneficiaries was organised by the JTS, in cooperation with the Managing Authority and took place on 25 February 2014 in Haskovo and it was attended by 46 representatives of 28 different organisations. The project partners were trained on all the aspects of project implementation, following the structure of the Project Implementation Manual for beneficiaries under Bulgaria – Turkey IPA Cross-Border Programme and main points in the project implementation cycle. Participants were informed about the specific implementation rules such as procurement rules, project management, reporting , visibility requirements etc. During the training the participants were also provided the chance to realise consultations with their project managers and meet and discuss with other project partners/beneficiaries.

Two (2) Training seminars for "**Project implementation**" for Turkish beneficiaries were organised by the JTS, in cooperation with the National Authority and JTS Antenna Office in Edirne. One of the training was organized on 13 March 2014 in Edirne, Trakya University. 75 participants were present at this training from 68 different organisations. The other training was also organized in Edirne, in 27 November 2014. In this training 106 participants from 87 different organisations were present.

Training in Haskovo, 25 February 2014



Training in Edirne, 13 March 2014



Training in Edirne, 27 November 2014



Technical meetings and JMC meeting in 2014

Technical Meetings:

Various type of technical meetings were organised during 2014, for the preparation of the new programming period, namely the Public Participation Meeting for the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Joint Working Group meetings.

Public Participation Meeting for the Strategic Environmental Assessment

A public participation meeting took place in Turkey, Edirne, on 8 January 2015 for the Strategic Environmental Assessment that was conducted within the context of preparations for the 2014-2020 period of Bulgaria – Turkey IPA Crossborder Programme. Stakeholders such as potential project beneficiaries, environmental bodies and related civil society organizations took part in this meeting.

Joint Working Group Meetings

Second meeting of the Joint Working Group for the preparation of the Programme 2014-2020 was held on 13th May 2014 in Ankara, Turkey. Representatives from the Managing Authority, National Authority, European Commission, JTS, Ministry of Development of Turkey, representatives of Kirklareli and Edirne governorships and municipalities and development agency attended the meeting from Turkish side. Representatives from various ministries, local authorities from Haskovo, Yambol and Bourgas and several non-governmental organizations also attended the meeting from Bulgarian side.

During the meeting the participants got acquainted on the latest developments of IPA II Legal framework and the development of the preparation of the future IPA CBC programme between Republic of Bulgaria and Republic of Turkey. After extensive discussion and after presentation of various options and proposals, the final decision of the JWG members was to have two priorities in the new programming period. In addition, a decision was taken, where possible and because of its exceptional importance, activities targeting youth, education and the promotion of competitiveness to be included as cross-cutting themes into the two main priorities. Regarding the decision for the location of the future Joint Secretariat, both Managing and National Authority presented their positions on the positive and negative aspects related to changing location of the Secretariat. After discussion the JWG took the decision the Secretariat to preserve its location in Haskovo (main office) and in Edirne (branch office) for programming period 2014-2020.

Third and final meeting of “Joint Working Group” was held on 20 August 2014 in Sofia, Bulgaria. Turkish Ambassador in Sofia, representatives from the Ministry for European Union Affairs and Ministry of Development of Turkey, representatives of Kirklareli and Edirne governorships and municipalities and Trakya Development Agency attended the meeting from Turkish side. Representatives of related ministries along with the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works of Bulgaria as the Managing



Authority, local authorities from Haskovo, Yambol and Bourgas, several non-governmental organizations also attended the meeting from Bulgarian side.

The Operational Programming Document was adopted in the meeting which constitutes the basis of the Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-Border Programme in 2014-2020.

Second Round Regional consultation for preparation of the new Programme

A second round of public consultations event was organised on **18 and 19 June 2014**. The meetings took the form of *plenary discussions* in the cross-border area with the aim to present the Programme’s thematic priorities, specific objectives, results, target groups, beneficiaries, indicative activities. Two simultaneous consultation events were organised: One in Edirne, Turkey on 18 June 2014 and one in Haskovo on 19 June 2014, Bulgaria.

JMC Meeting

The Joint Technical Secretariat, in cooperation with the Managing Authority and the National Authority, organized a Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) meeting. It was held on 18 June 2014 in Edirne, Turkey.

The Joint Monitoring Committee members discussed the following subjects: 2013 Annual Implementation Report, the financial implementation of the Programme, Proposal for contracting additional projects from the reserve list under the third Call for proposals, Proposal for a work plan for the closing process of the Programme



Photos: Joint Monitoring Committee Meeting

Publicity/Media campaign

JTS's experts continuously supported the beneficiaries under the first and second Call for proposals in the efforts to implement and promote their respective projects. The Programme promotional and visibility activities during 2014 can be best analysed by looking at the following specific categories: "Media", "Events", and "News". All the recordings of the audio and video materials collected as well as the original newspaper publications are available at the JTS main office premises.

Visual Identity Guidelines (VIG)

VIG was issued by the JTS in 2011 and kept being a very useful tool for the beneficiaries in terms of obeying the visualisation rules of the Programme and easing them in the process of preparing their promotional materials. During 2014 beneficiaries continued to use the VIG in preparation of their visibility materials.

Participation in other forums (European Cooperation Day)

For third consecutive year on 21 September 2014 the European Cooperation Day was celebrated under the Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-border Programme. Joint event under the motto "**Together in the New Programming Period**" was organized in the city of Edirne, Turkey by the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (Managing Authority of the Programme) and the National Authority with the assistance of the Joint Technical Secretariat in Haskovo and its Antenna office in Edirne.

All events as part of the celebration were organized in places constructed, reconstructed or equipped under projects funded by the IPA CBC Programme Bulgaria - Turkey. All activities were performed using means and equipment supplied under projects funded by the Programme. By promoting the achievements of the projects in the current programming period, it was decided to emphasize on the priorities and horizontal themes of the Programme proposed for funding in the next period (2014 - 2020).

The opening ceremony took place on the outdoor stage built in the Edirne city park on the Maritsa River, under a project funded by the Programme. The celebration was attended by the officials with high administration rank from both partner countries - Bulgaria and Turkey.

More than ninety people gathered at the opening. They were welcomed by the Mayor of Edirne Mr. Recep Gurkan, the Deputy Governor of Haskovo Mr Y. Gyudzhenov and the representative of the Ministry for EU Affairs of the Republic of Turkey Mrs. Beyza Turan.

The first of the events to celebrate the ECD was a bike tour starting from the lanes in the City park of Edirne. The bicycle lanes with a total length of 1,800 meters are built under the already mentioned project of our Programme. The ride involved students from two schools in Edirne and Svilengrad and also Programme beneficiaries and representatives of sports clubs from Haskovo, Elhovo and

Edirne. Partner organizations from Elhovo (Bulgaria) and Edirne (Turkey) kindly provided the bikes and protective gears. The equipment is delivered under a project also funded by our Programme.

The Bicycle tour ran along the picturesque river banks, the old railway station, the historic bridges over the rivers Maritsa and Tunja and ended at a settled gathering point.

The gathering point mentioned above was also an endpoint of the launched at the same time regatta in Tunzha River. The boats provided for the regatta were acquired within a project funded by the Bulgaria – Turkey IPA CBC Programme.

At the gathering point the participants received bags, gloves and other appropriate means for cleaning, which marked the beginning of the next event within the programme for celebration of ECD - cleaning the bank of Tundzha River and the river itself from pollution caused by human activities. Students from the both schools took part most diligently in the cleaning activities.

The collected waste was loaded and transported by a machine for waste collection and transportation purchased under a project funded by the Bulgaria-Turkey IPA CBC Programme.

The official closing ceremony of the ECD event took place at Cultural Center “Ekmekcizade Ahmed Pasa Caravansary”, Edirne (also furnished and equipped under our Programme) with closing speeches by Ms. Yordanka Chobanova, Deputy Minister of Regional Development of Bulgaria and Mr. Dursun Ali Sahin – the Governor of Province of Edirne. During the closing ceremony each of the students were awarded with certificates and promotional materials of Bulgaria - Turkey IPA CBC Programme.

Media

Internet and newspapers

During 2014, at least 50 appearances on the local, regional and national print and online media were achieved before and after the Programme events:

- During project implementation trainings in Turkey (2 trainings) and Bulgaria (1 training), in total at least 13 appearances (8 in Turkish media + 5 in Bulgarian media) took place.
- Before and after JMC meeting in Edirne, 5 appearances in the media were achieved (3 in Bulgaria, 2 in Turkey)
- Before and after European Cooperation Day local event in Edirne, an untrackably high number of news were published on national and local Turkish media, as well as Bulgarian media.



Screen captions from EC Day news published on Turkish national news channels:

www.dha.com.tr/edirnede-avrupa-is-birligi-gunu-kutlandi_761967.html

DHA
DOĞAN HABER AJANSI
DOGAN NEWS AGENCY

DHA
2013 BASIN
ÖZGÜRLÜĞÜ
ÖDÜLÜ

ANA SAYFA | YURT | İSTANBUL | POLİTİKA | SPOR | DÜNYA | EKONOMİ | Y

f t g+ You Tube RSS English Videolar

21.09.2014 19:06

EDİRNE'DE AVRUPA İŞ BİRLİĞİ GÜNÜ KUTLANDI

Paylaş

Ali Can ZERAY/EDİRNE,(DHA)- EDİRNE'de 21 Eylül Avrupa İşbirliği Günü düzenlenen çeşitli etkinliklerle kutlandı. Bulgaristan-Türkiye sınır ötesi İşbirliği programı çerçevesinde bu yıl 3'ncüsü düzenlenen kutlamalarda 2 ülkenin öğrencileri Tunca Nehri'nde kano keyfi yaparak, sahilde çöp topladı.

Bulgaristan-Türkiye IPA Sınır Ötesi İşbirliği Programının Ortak Teknik Sekreteryası, Bulgaristan Bölgesel Kalkınma Bakanlığı ve Türkiye Cumhuriyeti Avrupa Birliği Bakanlığı işbi...

Anasayfa için tıklayınız...

Abone olmak için dhaabone@dha.com.tr adresine mesaj atınız

Ali Can ZERAY - DHA



AB Haber

Brüksel



Haberler

Özel Haberler

Medya

Hakkımızda

Yasal Uyarı

Arşiv

Künye

İlet

Buradasınız: AB Haber » Özel Haberler » 21 Eylül:Avrupa İşbirliği Günü

21 Eylül:Avrupa İşbirliği Günü

Haber Tarihi: 21 Eylül 2014 Bu haberi yazdır

Avrupa İşbirliği Günü Avrupa ülkeleri ve komşu ülkelerce geleneksel olarak 21 Eylül 2014'te üçüncü kez kutlanıyor. Avrupa Komisyonu, Avrupa Parlamentosu ve Bölgeler Komitesi tarafından desteklenen etkinliğin amacı Avrupa'daki bölgeler ve ülkeler arasında işbirliğinin getirdiği kazanımları kutlamak.

Bulgaristan-Türkiye IPA Sınır Ötesi İşbirliği Programının Ortak Teknik Sekreteryası, Bulgaristan Bölgesel Kalkınma Bakanlığı (Yönetim Makamı) ve Türkiye Cumhuriyeti Avrupa Birliği Bakanlığı (Ulusal Otorite) işbirliği ile 21 Eylül 2014 tarihinde Edirne'de Avrupa İşbirliği Günü kapsamında "Yeni Dönemde, Yeniden, Birlikte" etkinliği düzenlenmektedir. Etkinliğe Program yararlanıcıları, sınır ötesi işbirliği bölgesindeki yerel idare temsilcileri, öğrenciler, gazeteciler ve vatandaşlar tarafından katılım sağlanabilecek.

Bu seneki etkinliklerin amacı Bulgaristan-Türkiye IPA Sınır Ötesi İşbirliği Programının 2014-2020 dönemindeki ana önceliklerine katkı sağlamaktır. Bu öncelikler doğanın korunması, sürdürülebilir turizm, gençlerin sosyal içermesinin sağlanması ve girişimciliğin desteklenmesidir. Nehir suyunun ve civardaki alanın temizlenmesi amacıyla etkinlik kapsamında bisiklet turu ve kano gezisi düzenlenecektir. Bu etkinliklerden sonra Türkiye ve Bulgaristan'dan resmi görevlilerin de katılım sağlayacağı bir kutlama toplantısında bir araya gelinecek ve yukarıdaki etkinliklere aktif katılım sağlayan öğrencilere ödülleri verilecektir. Katılımcılar için akşam düzenlenecek olan bir eğlence ile kutlama etkinlikleri sona erecek.

