



PHOTO CREDIT: PROJECT ECO AND OUTDOOR TOURISM ACTIONS OF THE BALKAN ALPS

# Enhancing Cooperation - Newsletter

of the IPA CBC Programmes  
Montenegro-Albania and Montenegro-Kosovo 2014-2020

April  
2019

## CONTENT

### Fourth issue of the newsletter for IPA CBCP Montenegro - Albania and Montenegro - Kosovo

This fourth issue of the newsletter brings you information on activities and events implemented within both IPA Cross-border Cooperation (CBC) Programmes Montenegro - Albania and Montenegro - Kosovo\* 2014-2020.

Please find below more information on the programmes.

#### IPA CBC Programme Montenegro - Albania 2014-2020

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

Click [here](#) for more information.

#### IPA CBC Programme Montenegro - Kosovo 2014-2020

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

Click [here](#) for more information.

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Views of the European Union  
Kosovo and do not necessarily reflect the

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



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



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

## News from projects financed under the 1<sup>st</sup> CfP IPA CBC Programme Montenegro - Albania

### Study visit in Zabljak, Niksic, Kolasin and Podgorica

The project team of the project *The feminine side of quality* organized in April 2019 a joint study tour in Zabljak, Niksic, Kolasin and Podgorica (Montenegro) for women from Ulcinj and Mirdite. In this way, women from both countries participating in the project had the opportunity to familiarize with agricultural production, and especially organic agriculture combined with tradition and innovation.



This study visit will help to expand the participants' knowledge, establish contacts, as well as to adopt similar best practice examples in their households. The project is implemented by the Municipality of Ulcinj, UET Centre, Monitoring Group Ulcinj – MogUL and Municipality of Mirdite.

### Environmental education lectures for primary school children in Malesi e Madhe and Berane

During March 2019, in the premises of the primary schools "Preke Gjoni" in Bajza and "Rifat Nuzi" in Rec (Albania) and „Vuk Karadzic" and „Vukasin Radunovic" in Berane (Montenegro) Over 400 pupils attended the lecture sessions and received leaflets with useful information on how to contribute to separate waste collection. The lecture sessions were held on environmental education and protection with focus on the importance of waste recycling and reduction and waste separate collection. In addition, in Albania, work in groups and cleaning activities in school yards were carried out with the pupils to apply the gained knowledge in practice. **Maja Pesic**, Project Manager states that „*The primary desired outcome of educational activities for pupils is increased eco-literacy. Through a set of interactive workshops, pupils were presented*

*with experiences that encourage the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes that are necessary for ecological responsibility*".

The lectures were part of the activities within the project *Green Lands* implemented by the Municipality of Berane and CARITAS Montenegro in Montenegro and by the Municipality of Malesi e Madhe and VIS Albania in Albania.

### Training and exercise on protection and rescue in case of floods organized in Shkodra

Within the project *Disasters do not know borders* a cross-border demonstration exercise on protection and rescue from floods was organised in Shkodra on 1 April 2019, enabling testing and demonstration of readiness for interventions of 28 participants from Montenegro and Albania on swift waters, in line with the Rescue 3 system.

Before the exercise, a four-day training of rescuers from these two countries on this topic was organised, during which the participants had the opportunity to learn about contemporary methods of protection and rescue on swift waters from the licensed instructors from Mountain Rescue Service of Croatia. Total of 25 training participants who met all the requirements of this training and gained skills, which were assessed by the trainers, received internationally recognised

certificates Rescue 3. The project is implemented by FORS Montenegro in partnership with the Directorate for Emergency Management of the Ministry of Interior of Montenegro and the Prefecture of Shkodra from Albania.



### Workshop on interior decoration for family houses

The workshop on the topic of interior decoration of family houses working in rural tourism was held by the representatives of the association Creative from Berane in April 2019. The workshop was attended by families from Berane, Petnjica, Andrijevica, Plav and Gusinje. Discussions were made about how to manage households that provide services in tourism, in a way that these houses would convey to the guests the spirit of tradition and ambience of the environment of these households. In the next month, fieldwork will



be done in order to distinguish these households in appearance and fit into the cultural landscape of the cross border area. The workshop is part of the activities of the project *Preserving cultural landscape of Albania and Montenegro* implemented by the Museum of Polimje Montenegro in cooperation with the Regional Development Agency for Bjelasica, Komovi and Prokletije, the Regional Council of Shkoder and EuroPartners Development.



### Future Albanian raspberry producers visit Petnjica

A study visit of Albanian raspberry producers to Montenegrin raspberry producers was organized in Petnjica. The purpose of the study tour was to exchange experiences between young raspberry producers within the cross-border region.



The study tour was organized in line with the activities of the project *Montenegrins and Albanians in Raspberry Crops* implemented by Municipality of Petnjica, National Association of Berries Producers, High School Petnjica, National Professional High School "Ndre Mjeda" and NGO COSPE Albania.



The visit was followed by experts in the raspberry production who provided the participants with theoretical and practical advices which will be applied in the forthcoming season.

### Modular trainings held in Albania and Montenegro

Modular trainings were held in Bar and Shkodra for tourism organizations, municipalities, national parks, as well as members of the civil sector. Throughout the discussion and active participation, participants exchanged their opinions and experiences about what is needed to develop products in relation to the characteristics of a destination. Moreover, it was discussed on how tourism and local actors can support product development, which are examples of good practice from the EU as well as the way to develop a cross-border product/cooperation in the areas covered by the project.



The trainings were held within the project *Child friendly tourism in the cross-border region* implemented by the Association for Democratic Prosperity – ZID (ADP-Zid) in cooperation with the organization "Children Today" (NGO) from Albania.

### Recipes collected and put into practice

After capacity building of local chefs in Albania that was reported in the previous edition, within the project *Local cuisine as tourism offer of cross border region* the training for Montenegrin cooks was organized. Moreover, in order to ensure that the knowledge collected and preserved is properly presented to larger audience a cookbook will be produced with recipes.



Namely, the preparation and photo shooting of dishes was done during April 2019. The book will be published with recipes collected



from the region, with insight in the history of those recipes.

### Excavations started in Tumberice

Archeological excavations started in Montenegro in Tumberica Castrum. This location is a Late Roman and Early Byzantine fortified town situated on a southern slope of Berane Valley near the village of Donja Rzanica. Excavations in Albania in Basilica of Hoti in Kastrat (Malesia e Madhe) that is an early Christian Basilica are expected to start by end of May 2019. These activities are being implemented within the project *Augmenting Cooperation – From Christian Antiquities Towards Enhanced Tourism* implemented by the Diocese of Budimlje and Nikšić Serbian Orthodox Church, Museum of Polimlje from Montenegro and by Albania Community Assist and Institute of Archaeology - Centre for Albanian Studies from Albania.



### News from projects financed under the 1<sup>st</sup> CfP IPA CBC Programme Montenegro - Kosovo

#### Dry waste processing for better conditions in Plav and Gjakova

The project team of the project *Cross border joint initiatives for better waste management* presented the activities on 13 March 2019 in Plav (Montenegro). At the presentation, the Director of the Utility Company Plav **Alen Pejcinovic**, pointed out that the significance of the environmental protection sector is becoming more and more visible, especially taking into account the strategic commitment of the Government of Montenegro and Kosovo to join the European Economic Area and become member states of the European Union. He stated *"Inadequate environmental solutions and inadequate management of natural resources, as well as anthropogenic factor, have fostered our project team to recognize this problem in both communities"*.

Director of Regional Waste Management Company "Cabrati" from Gjakova, Berat Hadri, expressed satisfaction that he can cooperate with partners from Plav on this important project for both regions.



Moreover, the Project Manager **Predrag Scekic** presented the activities of the project underlying the procurement of two systems for dry waste processing, education of citizens, education of workers for both municipal utility companies. He pointed out the importance of education the youngest inhabitants of Plav and Djakovica on the area of environment protection, as well as on waste management.

#### Hackerspaces announced

Hackerspaces will be established for the usage of citizens from Peja, Istog, Decan, Podgorica, Rozaje and Berane. The hackerspaces will be part of the project *Self-employment and Social Entrepreneurship for Youth* implemented by Association for Democratic Prosperity – Zid from Montenegro in cooperation with its partners Creative Skills' Center from Montenegro and NGO Lens and Liberal

Democrat Centre from Kosovo. The project will deal with unemployed youth from Montenegro and Kosovo and their parents.

#### FAST FACTS – HACKERSPACE

**"Put simply, a hackerspace (or hackspace) is a shared workspace where you can tackle do-it-yourself projects you wouldn't normally be able to because you don't have the space or materials". – Lifehacker AU**

#### Green jobs for better future of cross border region Montenegro and Kosovo

The project *Green jobs for better future of cross border region Montenegro and Kosovo* started with its project activities. The project is dedicated to generating new job opportunities in agricultural sector in the cross-border region. The aim will be to establish strong coalition with the local farmers in order to jointly work on upgrading of technical capacities and knowledge in this sector. *"We aim to build on available resources, primarily human resources, to enable better living in local communities and we believe that the cooperation we have established will continue to be a good base for the future of rural communities"* says project coordinator

**Miodrag Ivanovic** from Municipality Andrijevica.



### Improvement of health services

During the first two months of the implementation of the project CARES – *Cross-border Actions in the Reproductive Health Sector*, an initial survey on the knowledge and habits of women in the field of reproductive health was prepared, as well as a brochure on the topic of preserving reproductive health. Moreover, a visual identity of the project was prepared, which will be followed by the information campaign, and communication with the representatives of relevant health institutions on issues of procurement of equipment, research and development of brochures, as well as implementation of other project activities.



*Nadi vremena. Spriječi. Živi.*

The project is implemented by FORS Montenegro and ECMI Kosovo – European Center for Minority Issues. The aim of the project is to improve the quality of health services, raising the awareness on the importance of regular preventive examinations and creating a habit of prevention and cross-border cooperation. The project will be carried out in Andrijevica, Berane, Bijelo Polje, Gusinje, Petnjica, Plav, Kolasin, Mojkovac, Rozaje, Peja, Istog, Klina, Decan and Gjakova.

### Eco and Outdoor Tourism Actions of the Balkan Alps

The National Park Prokletije in Montenegro and the National Park Bjeshket e Nemuna in

Kosovo are becoming a favourite destination for an increasing number of tourists, especially nature lovers, mountaineers and alpinists. In order to encourage the promotion of the potential of this area as well as the sustainable development of the cross-border region, through joint tourism potentials based on natural and cultural heritage, the implementation of the project *Eco and Outdoor Tourism Actions of the Balkan Alps* started with its activities. The project team has successfully completed interviews with 55 local tourism providers in order to identify the best tourism development potential in all segments.



The project is implemented by the Centre for Protection and Research of Birds, Kosovo Advocacy and Development Centre – KADC, Mountain Rescue Service of Montenegro and Mountaineering and Alpine Society „PASHTRIKU“.

### Initial meetings held with stakeholder in Gjakova

During January – March 2019 consultative meetings were organized with the Regional Waste Company "CABRATI", Municipal Education Officer in Gjakova, principal of the Economics High School "Kadri Kusari" and principal of the Primary School "Fehmi Agani". The aim of the meetings was for the project team of the "United Against Pollution" to familiarize the stakeholders with activities in the project and to ensure quality cooperation

with primary and secondary schools. The project is implemented by the Municipality of Gjakova, Municipality of Penjica, Let's Do It Peja and the Centre for Regional Development – Rozaje.



### 300 km of cycling trails

The project *Accursed mountains – exquisite outdoor destination* aims to support further development of Prokletije/Bjeshket e Nemuna area as outdoor tourism destination. Preparatory activities within the project have started and are ongoing. The project envisages the installation and development of hiking and cycling trails in the length of 300 km, setting up 10 bicycle parking lots, as well as equipping the outdoors and signing for 30 viewing points, 50 rest areas and 50 water outlets. Therefore, it is envisaged to set up theme trails and climbing platforms for connecting important existing paths on both sides, as well as organizing two cross-border fairs for promotion of tourism in the open with other promotional activities in order to promote the offer of tourism in the open.

The project is being implemented since February 2019 by the Regional Development Agency for Bjelasica, Komovi and Prokletije, Tourism Organisation Plav and Regional Development Agency – West (RDA-West) from Kosovo.

*Photo credit: Eco and Outdoor Tourism Actions of the Balkan Alps: Hrid Lake (Prokletije)*



## IPA CBC Programme MNE-KOS 2014-2020 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Proposals Kick-off ceremony

The Kick-off conference on the announcement of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Proposals (CfP) within the IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Montenegro – Kosovo 2014-2020 was held on 29 January 2019 in Prishtina. At the opening, the Head of the Operating Structure of Kosovo in the Ministry of Local Government Administration of the Republic of Kosovo, **Rozafa Ukmeraj**, welcomed the participants and emphasized that the cooperation between Montenegro and Kosovo started since 2010 and that there are concrete results of this cooperation today.



She thanked the Operating Structures, the Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro, the European Union Office in Kosovo and the Joint Technical Secretariat, who put their efforts to achieve these results. She encouraged all potential applicants to consider establishment of joint projects with municipalities and municipal institutions that are part of the Programme as they guarantee greater sustainability of projects after completion of implementation.

**Vucic Cetkovic**, Head of the Operating Structure of Montenegro, stressed the importance of cross-border cooperation with Kosovo and expressed his satisfaction with the fact that the 2<sup>nd</sup> CfP within the IPA CBC Programme Montenegro – Kosovo 2014-2020 is being promoted. He assessed that good cooperation between these two countries resulted in contracting of seven projects within the 1<sup>st</sup> CfP amounting 2.02 million euro.



He reminded the participants that within the First Call, a total of 75 project proposals were submitted with a request for 10 times more funds than those that were available, which showed the need and interest of potential beneficiaries on both sides of the border to jointly implement projects that will contribute to improving the standards and quality of people's lives in the border area, which is also one of the main objectives of the programme. He informed the participants that this Call is focused on two thematic priorities related to employment, labour mobility and social and cultural inclusion on both sides of the border, as well as the promotion of tourism and cultural and natural heritage, with total available funds of 2.04 million euros, as well as that the deadline for submission of the proposals is 15 April 2019.

On this occasion, **Agron Hoti**, representative of NIPAC office in the Ministry of European Integration of Kosovo, thanked all participants for their interest and expressed his hope that the trend of high interest of potential applicants will continue. He expects that within this call, there will be successful project ideas and projects that will be sustainable and that will bring benefits to the citizens living in the cross-border area.



On behalf of the Office of the European Union in Kosovo, **Luigi Brusa**, head of the Department for Cooperation Section, praised the continuing success of Montenegro in bilateral programmes, as this is already the third published CfP in a row within the new financial perspective. He added that it is particularly praiseworthy progress, bearing in mind that the Ministry of Finance of Montenegro, in cooperation with the European Integration Office, works to contract European funds in indirect management. He stressed that the Ministry of Local Government Administration of the Republic of Kosovo has been proved to be a successful partner and that there is good cooperation between the two countries. He informed the participants that the European Union for the 2014 – 2020 perspective has allocated EUR 8.4 million for support and projects within this Programme for thematic

priorities related to employment, tourism and environmental protection. After introductory speeches, **Sanja Todorovic**, head of the Joint Technical Secretariat, briefly presented objectives, available funds, as well as the general rules for application within the 2<sup>nd</sup> CfP. The conference was attended in total by 119 participants from both side of the border representing Operating structures, municipalities and local and national institutions and enterprises, educational institutions, civil society sector and media.

## IPA CBC Programme MNE-ALB 2014-2020 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Proposals Kick-off ceremony

The Operating structures of the programme, the European Integration Office of Montenegro, Contracting Authority (CFCU Montenegro) and the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania with the support of the Joint Technical Secretariat of the Programme organized on 18 March 2019 the Kick-off conference on the occasion of the launching the 2<sup>nd</sup> CfP under the IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Montenegro – Albania 2014-2020.



The conference was formally opened by the Deputy Chief Negotiator and National IPA Coordinator **Ivana Glisevic Djurovic**, who pointed out that the Second Call will be open until 27 May 2019 for project proposals that should contribute to the protection of natural resources in the lake and mountain areas, and to the strengthening of employability and social inclusion. She assessed that quality cooperation between the two countries resulted in contracting of eight projects worth 3.2 million euros under of the 1<sup>st</sup> CfP, aiming to improve the quality of people's lives in the programme area in the fields of tourism promotion and cultural and natural heritage, environmental protection, as well as employment. **Glisevic Djurovic** reminded the participants that major interest was shown within the 1<sup>st</sup> CfP as 9 times higher requested funds than those that were available, which indicates the need and interest of applicants on both sides of the border to jointly implement projects.



Deputy Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania, **Sokol Dedja** stated that the Programme is being implemented successfully and expressed his belief that future projects will contribute to the achievement of concrete results that are of great importance for the life of citizens in the border area. In addition, he stressed that it is very important to strengthen the partnership between people and institutions in the border area.



On behalf of the Contracting Authority, Acting Director General of the Directorate for Finance and Contracting of the EU Assistance Funds of the Ministry of Finance of Montenegro, **Marija Vukcevic**, emphasized that this is already the fourth call within the framework of the cross-border cooperation programmes within the IPA II financial perspective, implemented through indirect management of the European Union funds. This means that the role of the Contracting Authority is performed by the Directorate for Financing and Contracting of EU Assistance Funds within the Ministry of Finance, and this CFP will be carried out independently by the institutions, in accordance with the rules and procedures prescribed by the European Commission. She also pointed the full readiness to build a partnership with applicants and future beneficiaries in order to better absorb available funds and to contribute to the improvement the living conditions of the population in areas covered by the cross-border cooperation Programme.

**Donata von Sigsfeld**, Programme Manager for Territorial Cooperation in the

Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro, said that regional cooperation is high on the agenda of the European Union and stressed that Montenegro is very successful in managing cross-border cooperation programmes and that it has shown significant capacities in managing the programme which are conducted in indirect management.



After the introductory presentations, the Head of the Joint Technical Secretariat, **Sanja Todorovic**, presented the objectives of the 2<sup>nd</sup> CFP, the available funds, as well as the general rules for the submission of projects by potential beneficiaries. The conference was attended by over 100 participants, among which were the representatives of municipalities, national and local institutions and enterprises, educational institutions, representatives of the civil sector and representatives of the operational structures of the programs from Montenegro and Albania, as well as representatives of the media.

Within the 2<sup>nd</sup> CFP, potential applicants were invited to submit project proposals related to protection of the environment and promotion

of employment. The total funds available for the 2<sup>nd</sup> CFP are 2,890,000.00 EUR.

### Information sessions held within the Programme Montenegro-Kosovo 2014-2020

More than two million euros are available to potential applicants for joint projects of Montenegro and Kosovo in the areas of employment and tourism, as it was announced at the information sessions held in Gjakova, Peja, Kolasin and Ulcinj, organized to present the Second Call for Proposals within the framework of the IPA CBC Programme Montenegro-Kosovo.



*"The total available funds within the 2<sup>nd</sup> CFP, which is open until 15 April 2019, are EUR 2.04 million, and potential beneficiaries can apply with projects within the thematic priorities related to promoting employment, labour mobility and social and cultural inclusion across the border, as well as encouraging of tourism, cultural and natural heritage"* was highlighted in the info sessions.

During the info sessions it was emphasized that the IPA CBC Programme Montenegro-



Kosovo 2014-2020 is a great opportunity for cooperation and exchange of experience, and that good cooperation between the two countries resulted in the contracting of seven projects with a total value of EUR 2.3 million under the 1<sup>st</sup> CfP.

Representatives of the Ministry of Finance, as the Contracting Authority of the Programme, presented the application rules of the Second Call for Proposals to the participants of the info sessions. More than 150 participants attended the info sessions from public institutions, local self-governments, educational institutions, civil society and media.

### Information sessions within the Programme Montenegro-Albania 2014-2020

On the occasion of the publication of the 2<sup>nd</sup> CfP within IPA CBC Programme Montenegro-Albania, the European Integration Office of Montenegro in cooperation with the Directorate for Financing and Contracting EU Assistance from the Ministry of Finance of Montenegro and the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Republic of Albania and with the support of the Joint Technical Secretariat of the Programme organized 4 information sessions during April 2019.



At the information sessions held in Plav, Bar, Shkodra and Lezha, representatives of the Ministry of Finance, as the Contracting Authority of the Programme, presented the application rules of the 2<sup>nd</sup> CfP to the participants of the info sessions. During the Info Sessions, among others, it was emphasized that indicative available funds for this CfP are 2.8 million euro and that potential applicants can apply with the project proposals related to the thematic priorities: protecting the environment, promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management, as well as promoting employment, labour mobility and social and cultural inclusion across the border. The IPA CBC Programme Montenegro-Albania was assessed as a good opportunity for cooperation and exchange of experience, as well as for improvement of the quality and

standard of living conditions in cross-border area. The info sessions were attended by more than 150 participants from public institutions, local self-governments, educational institutions, civil society and media.



### The seventh Project Steering Committee meeting held in Budva

The seventh meeting of the Project Steering Committee was held on 31 January 2019 in Budva, Montenegro. The meeting was attended by representative of the Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro and the Delegation of the European Union to Albania, European Integration Office of Montenegro, Ministry of Local Government Administration of Kosovo, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Republic of Albania and Joint Technical Secretariat for IPA CBC Programmes Montenegro – Albania and Montenegro – Kosovo 2014-2020.



During the meeting further implementation and upcoming activities in the first half of 2019 within the IPA CBC Programmes Montenegro – Albania and Montenegro – Kosovo 2014-2020 were discussed. Members of the Project Steering Committee discussed about the planning and timetable of next steps regarding second CfP within IPA CBC Programme MNE-AL and forthcoming activities in the MNE-KS Programme. Moreover, the quality of the implemented activities and project outputs during the last half of 2018, were assessed during the meeting.

### Info Day and Partner search forum for Potential Applicants

During January 2019 the Joint technical Secretariat for IPA CBC Programmes Montenegro-Albania and Montenegro - Kosovo (JTS) in cooperation with Operating structures of the programme organized a set of activities before the launching of the 2<sup>nd</sup> CfP within IPA CBC Programme Montenegro – Kosovo 2014-2020.



As part of preparatory activities before the publication of the second Call for Proposals within IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Montenegro-Kosovo, the Info Day and Partner search forum was held on 11 January 2019 in Podgorica (Montenegro). In total 35 participants, representing municipalities, non-governmental organizations, educational and other institutions from both countries, attended the event.



The aim of the event was to inform the participants about the IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Montenegro – Kosovo 2014-2020, the principles of cross-border partnership and the overall content of the Application package. Moreover, the participants took part in thematic workshops of particular interest to them, which enabled them to share project ideas, identify possible partners, exchange contact details and create basic foundation for a future possible partnership with potential applicants from the other side of the border.



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



European Integration Office



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Qeveria - Vlada - Government

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Ministry of Local Government Administration



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