



Enhancing Cooperation - Newsletter

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

December 2019

PHOTO CREDIT: PRESERVING CULTURAL LANDSCAPE OF ALBANIA AND MONTENEGRO (RDA BKP)

CONTENT

The sixth 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.

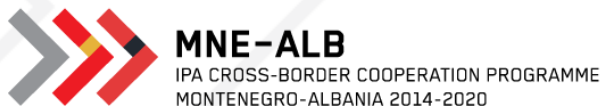
Click [here](#) for more information.

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* 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.





Cross-border cooperation and mutual assistance in response to disasters

Disasters do not know borders is the project implemented by FORS Montenegro, Ministry of Internal Affairs of Montenegro Directorate for Emergency Situations and the Prefecture of Shkodra that will assure impact through improving protection of the people and area from hazards, in the first place floods, through capacity building, awareness raising and cross-border cooperation in disaster risk reduction. In order to have an overview of the impact of the project activities towards the beneficiaries and those implementing the project we asked them about the project, risk reduction and CBC in general. **Tamara Todorović**, from FORS Montenegro commenting on the project and CBC states "Cooperation with neighbours contributes to strengthening good international relations, enables exchange of experiences, know-how and good practice models and brings together people and local communities on both sides of the border. We think that a very good example of this can be seen in implementation of joint projects related to protection from natural and other hazards. Namely, these projects in addition to concrete benefits of capacity building and awareness raising, also lead to improvement of collaboration between people and emergency services who participate in these projects, which eventually results in their readiness to help each other during real emergency situations.



Andris Tufi, the Project Officer in the project from the Prefecture of Shkodra, considers that "By working together, these regions can jointly identify and address the specific challenges and opportunities presented by the border between them". Moreover, he states that "CBC in general leads to better relations between the participating countries and consequently organizations and institutions involved in the CBC Programme. EU funding for such cooperation contributes to stability and prosperity on the Union's borders and fosters people-to-people contacts as well as networks between local communities. In addition, he states that CBC



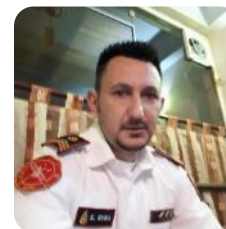
contributes to the establishment of a common border-region identity and facilitates the generation of social capital, trust and mutual understanding among the communities on both sides of the borders".

Ranko Pavičević, from the Protection and Rescue Service Podgorica, as one of the beneficiaries of the project, states that the "knowledge gained during different project activities contributed to more realistic picture of hazards as a reality in the area I live in as well as in the neighbouring countries. During trainings and other activities I met colleagues from the region with whom I would communicate and cooperate, make decisions and act more easily in case of a field work in our or their country. Significant knowledge was gained which can be applied in the service I work in and I have been motivated for further education in the area of rescue." He emphasizes that "In case of bigger hazards and threats to wider areas, no single protection system can fully respond to field challenges, even those in more developed countries with considerable economic growth and therefore strong capacities for response to such occurrences, which in my opinion, makes international cooperation and mutual assistance in this area necessary".



Angel Marčev, from the Institute of Hydrometeorology and Seismology of Montenegro emphasized that the concrete "benefit through the project, is that the Department of Numerical Modelling, Satellite and Radar Meteorology received computer equipment of a high performance – HPE DL360 Geng 8SFF CTO Server. With that equipment, everyday products of operational models are available to all users in two times shorter intervals. The stability of the work of operational models for weather forecast is at a higher level and everyday tasks are completed more quickly and more safely. In addition to that, through trainings organized within the project, we considerably improved our knowledge, skills and competences as well as our collaboration with the colleagues from Albania, which will lead to the improvement of the capacity of our institution, and our more efficient work". According to him, "cross-border projects can assist in strengthening of capacities in IT equipment, training of the employees and continuation of improvement of collaboration with the colleagues from another countries through joint activities".

"The cross-border trainings, were very important for me and my colleagues who participated since we had the opportunity to meet and to work with our colleagues of the neighboring country" says **Edison Suma**, a firefighter from the Municipality of Shkodra. Moreover, he states that they had the opportunity to be trained by very specialized international trainers, from whom, they learned the best rescue practices, that will help them in their daily work. He shares the opinion that "cross-border cooperation partnership take a long time to mature as establishing relevant structures and implementing the programs are a learning processes for all participants". Implementation of new programs requires the joint efforts of all stakeholders and therefore CBC Programs should continue to achieve the full benefits of this intensive collaboration that will materialize only in the coming years.



News from projects financed under the 1st CfP IPA CBC Programme Montenegro -Albania

The „Feminine side of quality“ project finished

Within the project the *Feminine side of quality* implemented by NGO Mogul, Municipality of Ulcinj, UET Centre and Municipality of Mirdita the second Fair Fest was organized in Mirdita as well as the final conference in Ulcinj. These two activities marked the closure of the project. Namely, the Fair of Local Products "Fest-Mirdita 2019" was organized in Abat Doçi square on September 25th 2019 and lasted for two days.



The fair showcased local women's products living and working in Mirdita and the citizens of the area had the opportunity to familiarise themselves with local products and producers from the cross-border area.



In addition, the closing ceremony of the project took place at the Mediteran Hotel in Ulcinj which marked the end of the 18 month project.

After the presentation of the project results and their contribution to the employability of women, especially those from the rural areas, by using agricultural potential of the two countries, the participants had the opportunity to enjoy traditional products prepared by the women of Mirdita and Ulcinj and see some of the results by themselves.



Lectures and meetings with local communities held in Berane and Shkodra

Within the project *Green Lands* two workshops were organised for 64 participants from municipalities, utility companies and communal police. Workshops were held in Shkodra and Berane and were focused on the national and EU legislation related to the environment, specifically on obligations prescribed by law and implementation in practice, responsibilities of waste producers in environment sector and optimization of waste management costs.



Moreover, participants had the opportunity to discuss the importance of local actors in better waste management and problems and concerns in practice and possible solutions.



Meetings with representatives of local communities in Berane (Novo Naselje, Park and Pesca) were held in September and October 2019.

During these meetings, citizens had the opportunity to talk with representatives of the project, Utility Company and Communal Police on wet-dry approach and the pilot project, which will allow waste separation in designated bins.

On the 2nd and 8th June 2019, the project was presented during the annual event on Mountain Tourism Day organized by the Municipality of Malesi e Madhe and VIS Albania and during the Eco-Biodiversity Fair. The events served to raise public awareness on importance of environmental and nature protection and were focused on the benefits of selective waste disposal. Moreover, ecological activities for the cleaning of the environment with the involvement of children and students were organized. These organised events, attended by 100 participants, were used for the promotion of the project and organization of meetings.



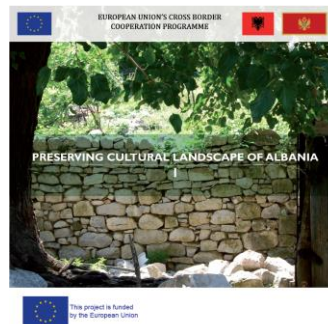
Moreover, within the same project, a series of publications were produced with the aim to preserve the cultural landscape of the CBC region. The produced studies entail some specific, technical and architectural data from the Shkodra region and from the municipalities of Berane, Petnjica, Andrijevica, Plav and Gusinje.

Ongoing activities of the project Preserving cultural landscape of Albania and Montenegro

During November 2019 within the project *Preserving cultural landscape of Albania and Montenegro* the adaptation of the space that will become the Ethno Room has started. The Ethno Room will be located in the courtyard of a school in Lubnice, Berane. The adaptation of the space for the ethno house is done using traditional methods and materials.



Namely, this delicate work is done by craftsman Tatko Raičević, from the village of Pračevac near Berane who is one of two people from these areas that is still working with traditional shingle.



FAST FACTS – WOOD SHINGLE

Shingles are usually made by hand, the board is cleaved, and special grooves must be made with an axe in order for the water to flow successfully from the roof.

Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and Importance of cross-border and Regional Cooperation

Within the project *Disasters do not know borders*, FORS Montenegro in cooperation with, Directorate for Emergency Situations of Ministry of Internal Affairs of Montenegro and Prefecture of Shkodra organized a cross-border conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and Importance of cross-border and Regional Cooperation. The conference was organized in Podgorica on 14th and 15th November 2019 with the aim to enable exchange of experience, opinions, good practice models and lessons learned in the area of disaster risk reduction as well as to contribute to informing the population and specific target groups about DRR and the importance of international cooperation.



The conference gathered representatives of institutions and services dealing with protection and rescue, civil society organisations, national and local authorities, media, project partners, etc. The conference was opened by Mevludin Nuhodžić, the Minister of Interior of Montenegro, Marija Vukčević, Director-General of the Directorate for Finance and Contracting of the EU Assistance Funds of the Ministry of Finance of Montenegro, Ivana Glišević Đurović, Deputy Chief Negotiator - National IPA Coordinator, Office for European Integration of Montenegro, Donata Von-Sigsfeld, Programme Manager for Territorial Cooperation in the EU Delegation to Montenegro, Česk Millja, the Prefect of Shkodra, and Veselin Šturanović, the Executive Director of FORS Montenegro.



FAST FACTS – SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

“The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework) was the first major agreement of the post-2015 UN development agenda and provides Member States with concrete actions to protect development gains from the risk of disaster. It was endorsed by the UN General Assembly and advocates for:

The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.

It recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders.” – United Nations focal point for disaster risk reduction.

During the conference, the participants emphasised the importance of cross-border, regional and international cooperation in disaster risk reduction, continuous improvement of human and technical capacities, implementation of the measures of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, preventive activities, education of the population on risks, passing of adequate strategic documents and plans and their full implementation, active involvement of all relevant institutions, organisations and the citizens themselves, etc. The conclusions of the conference can be viewed [here](#).

Workshops organized in Bushat, Vau Dejes, Albania

The Municipality of Petnjica, National Association of Berries Producers, High School Petnjica, National Professional High School “Ndre Mjeda” and NGO COSPE Albania, as partners within the project *Young Montenegrins and Albanians in Raspberry Crops*, organized workshops for local raspberry producers in Bushat, (Vau Dejes, Albania).

During September and October 2019, 16 workshops were held for participants in Bushat and covered topics such as raspberry protection, works in raspberry crops, raspberry processing, standardization of raspberry fruits, processing raspberries into compotes and juices, organic raspberry production, rulebooks governing the area of production and quality of food, works in raspberry crops (planting) and quality control in food production.



FAST FACTS – RASPBERRIES

Raspberries ripen in late June or 25-30 days from the beginning of flowering. For them to produce fruits they have to be planted between November and March.

Click [here](#) to watch raspberry producers planting their crops in Petnjica, Montenegro.



"Child friendly tourism" promoted

On 25th October 2019, representatives of ADP ZID, together with their partners, representatives of the Children Today Center from Albania, held a meeting to evaluate the activities and progress of the Child Friendly Tourism project.

The first part of the meeting was focused on the progress of the project and all the activities achieved so far, followed by a discussion on the importance, design, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, sustainability of the project and its activities, and finally, the impact it has on the local population across borders.



The meeting concluded with a discussion of potential obstacles and problems regarding the implementation of the final stages of the project, as well as discussing corrective measures related to project management and preparation for the next steps. Moreover, visibility events were organized in order to reach broader public, in ensuring the introduction of innovations in community based tourism in cross border region. Visibility events were organized in Rozaje on 15th August 2019 and in Podgorica on 1st October 2019.



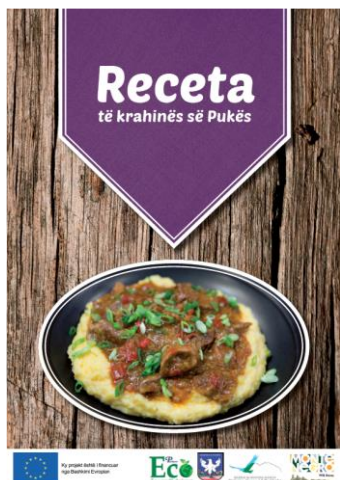
Follow the Child friendly Tourism Facebook page by clicking [here](#).

Recipes collected and published

Aiming to create a touristic cross-border region offer based on gastronomy, traditional recipes were discovered during previous project activities of the project *Local cuisine as tourism offer of cross-border region*. Now, the standardized recipes are ready for utilization in local hotels and restaurants and are available for all interested stakeholders.

You can download the cookbook *Gorska trpeza* [here](#).





You can download Recipes from the region of Pukë [here](#).

1500 years old church excavated in Hoti in Malesia

The project *Augmenting Cooperation – From Christian Antiquities Towards Enhanced Tourism* continued with quality results in the CBC area.

Namely, the second press conference of the project was held on 27th September 2019 in Shkodra, Albania in Christian Basilica Hoti site.



The event was used to present the results of the excavations of the over 1500 years old church in place of Hoti in Malesia. Project coordinator, representing Diocese of Budimlje Niksic, **Rev. Konstatnin Dojic** stated that cultural religious heritage, must be considered in a contemporary context, and the aim of this project is to use archeological discoveries to develop tourism in this area.

Traces of a 5th-century Paleo-Christian church have been discovered in Hoti during the archaeological excavations. Archaeologist **Gezim Hoxha** presented the peculiarities of this church, the symbolic stones that were used 15 centuries ago and the fact that this church is one of the earliest in the Albanian but also in the Balkan territory.



FAST FACTS – CHURCH IN HOTI

Among other things, archeologist **Gezim Hoxha** says that it was the inhabitants of the area as well as the owners of the land where the church is located that in early and difficult times of communism preserved religious relics and roots of Christianity.

News from projects financed under the 1st CFP IPA CBC Programme Montenegro -Kosovo

Workshops on integrated controlled waste management held

The project team of *Cross border joint initiatives for better waste management* organized capacity building for the employees of the local public utility companies in targeted areas. The first workshop in Kosovo, in Đakovica/Gjakova on 11th September 2019.

The participants had the opportunity to hear relevant presentations on integrated waste management. Namely, within this project, a total of 30 workshops will be organized with target groups such as public sector workers, teachers, pupils and high school students.



Self-employment and Social Entrepreneurship for Youth

Within the project implemented by Association for Democratic Prosperity – Zid, NGO Lens, Liberal Democrat Centre and Creative Skills' Center the promotional outreach campaign for promoting social innovation concept and online methods as opportunities for profession is ongoing. Namely, after six workshops that were organized in Berane, Rožaje, Podgorica, Peja/Peć, Istog/Istok and Dečan/Dečani a set of procurements have been published, for training curricula, video materials and the hackerspace rental.



Mapping of agricultural resources conducted

Within the project "*Green jobs for better future of cross-border region of Montenegro and Kosovo*", the project partners, after the mapping of agricultural resources in the target municipalities in Montenegro and Kosovo, drafted and distributed Handbook for start-ups in farming business. In addition, field visits and on-site coaching was provided to the

farmers that were selected to participate in the educational trainings in Montenegro and Kosovo. The promotion of the employment in agriculture is being conducted in high schools and through local employment agencies in Berane, Andrijevica, Plav and Dečan/Dečani.



In Municipality of Dečan/Dečani (Kosovo), the training centre has been established and equipped and will be at disposal for farmers needs as well as for practical exercises during the trainings. In addition,

educational trainings have been conducted in Kosovo.



So far, the participants in Kosovo had the opportunity to increase their theoretical and practical knowledge through the training modules on "Biotechnology", "Reproduction of cattle and artificial insemination" and on "Good feeding practices". In the following period, the training centre will established in Montenegro and training modules for Montenegrin farmers will be held.



Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Within the project *CARES – Cross-border Actions in the Reproductive Health Sector*, FORS Montenegro and ECMI Kosovo – European Center for Minority Issues conducted a series of activities. Namely, promotional TV spots were produced and started with broadcasting and an extensive campaign was completed in the light of marking October as *Breast Cancer Awareness Month*. The promotional campaign aimed at increasing support and drawing the attention of the general public to the importance of early detection and treatment of this disease.

The Montenegrin version can be viewed [here](#).

The Albanian version can be viewed [here](#).

The campaign of preventive examinations was organized for the women from Andrijevica, Berane, Bijelo Polje, Gusinje, Petnjica, Plav, Kolašin, Mojkovac, Rožaje in Montenegro and from Pejë/Peć, Istog/Istok, Klinë/Klina, Deçan/Dečani, Gjakovë/Đakovica in Kosovo. The campaign was implemented jointly with the health centres in close cooperation with other institutions that could help in mobilizing women, such as media, local authorities, companies, CSOs, etc. In addition, Reproductive Health Brochures were produced both in [Montenegrin](#) and [Albanian](#) language.



Eco and Outdoor Tourism Actions of the Balkan Alps

The project *Eco and Outdoor Tourism Actions of the Balkan Alps* 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“. The capacity building activities within the project continued in September 2019. Namely, a joint workshop with local tourism providers on both sides of the border was organized in Plav, Montenegro. The workshop aimed at bringing together stakeholders from the area from Montenegro and Kosovo in order to draw conclusions and jointly identify places and services offered in the area and create a touristic package.

The workshop was led by **Tadeja Levkosek** from Slovenia which has long experience in sustainable tourism in the region. During the workshop she pointed out examples of good practice that could be applied in the CBC area.

Promotional activities within the project are ongoing. For more interesting stories follow the *Accursed Mountains* project Facebook page by clicking [here](#).

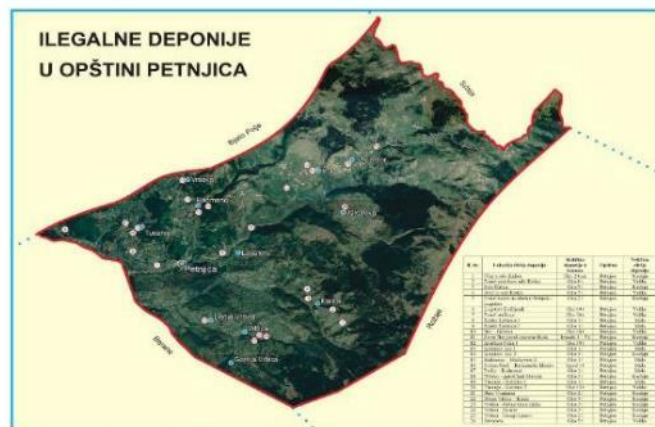


Mapping of landfills completed

The United Against Pollution - UAP project implemented by the Municipality of Petnjica, Municipality of Gjakova, Let's Do It Peja and the Centre for Regional Development – Rozaje continued with the activities in the cross border region.



Namely, in Petnjica during the mapping of landfills, 26 wild landfills of various sizes were identified, with estimated waste amounts exceeding 117 tons in total. Following this, cleaning operations were organized on 29th October 2019 in order to clean Savin Bor illegal landfill (near Primary school) and Illegal landfill Kalica 2 (next to the regional road Petnjica-Rožaje). Moreover, within the same project a round table was organized in Peja, Kosovo on the 7th November 2019 with stakeholders in order to discuss the report of mapping and evaluation of the identified illegal landfills. The participants discussed on issues related to illegal landfills, citizens problems and waste management.



New cross border biking trails

The project *Accursed mountains – exquisite outdoor destination* implemented by RDA-West and Peja Municipality on the Kosovo side, and RDA for Bjelasica, Komovi and Prokletije and the Tourism Organization of Plav on the Montenegrin side started with the promotional campaign and a series of articles and guest appearances on local radio station were completed.

Moreover, during October 2019 a workshop on GPS data collection with representatives of hiking, tourism and cycling organizations from the Peja region was held. The purpose of the workshop was to develop a field action plan related to GPS data collection, and other relevant data on new hiking and cycling paths, foreseen to be developed through the project. The same activity will be done in Montenegro and various GPS data collection teams will work in the field during October to gather all the data needed to develop maps and alerts for new trails.



All of the implemented activities will lead to the new cross border biking trails that will be completed soon.

The 9th Project Steering Committee meeting held in Ulcinj

The ninth meeting of the Project Steering Committee was held on 12 November in Ulcinj, Montenegro. The meeting was organized in order to discuss further implementation and upcoming activities within the IPA CBC Programmes Montenegro – Albania and Montenegro – Kosovo 2014-2020. Moreover, the members of the Project Steering Committee assessed the quality of the implemented activities and project outputs during 2019. The meeting was attended by representatives of the European Integration Office of Montenegro, Ministry of Finance of Montenegro – Directorate for Finance and Contracting of the EU Assistance Funds (CFCU), Delegation of the European Union to 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.

The main focus of this meeting was the approval of the Final Narrative Report of the Technical Assistance Service Contract, discussion on the monitoring system and related project indicators, as well as activities related to 2nd CFP MNE-KOS and 2nd CFP MNE-ALB and preparatory steps for the publication of the 3rd CFPs of the CBCPs MNE-ALB and MNE-KOS.



Four PCM trainings held in the programme area

During October and November 2019 4 PCM trainings were held in Peja (Kosovo), Bijelo Polje and Ulcinj (Montenegro) and in Shkodra (Albania). The trainings were attended by 81 participants in total. The aim of the three-day trainings was to provide to the participants all necessary elements and information needed in order for them to be able to understand the grant preparation process, cross-border partnerships and project development process according to the logical framework approach. The trainings were specifically designed to prepare the potential applicants for the upcoming 3rd CFP within both CBC programmes.



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



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**JOINT TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT OF THE IPA
CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMMES**
MONTENEGRO – ALBANIA AND MONTENEGRO – KOSOVO 2014–2020

Joint Technical Secretariat – **Head Office**
Address: Beogradska 17, 81 000 Podgorica, Montenegro
Phone: + 382 20 240 784; + 382 20 240 631;

Sanja TODOROVIC

Head of Joint Technical Secretariat

E-mail: sanja.todorovic@jts-mne-alb-mne-kos.org

Maja RADOVIC

Financial and Procurement Officer

E-mail: maja.radovic@jts-mne-alb-mne-kos.org

Nikola DJONOVIC

Project Officer

E-mail: nikola.djonovic@jts-mne-alb-mne-kos.org

Almir CAUSEVIC

Project Officer

E-mail: almir.causevic@jts-mne-alb-mne-kos.org

Petar BELADA

Administrative Assistant

E-mail: petar.belada@jts-mne-alb-mne-kos.org

Joint Technical Secretariat – **Antenna Office Shkodra**

Address: Rruga Ndoc Çoba, Nr 1 Shkoder, Albania

Phone: + 355 22 80 20 80;

Andi ÇEKAJ

Antenna Project Officer

E-mail: andi.cekaj@jts-mne-alb-mne-kos.org

Joint Technical Secretariat – **Antenna Office Prishtina**

Address: Agim Ramadani, 36/4, 10 000 Prishtina, Kosovo

Phone: +383 38 222 202;

Gazmir RACI

Antenna Project Officer

E-mail: gazmir.raci@jts-mne-alb-mne-kos.org

www.cbc-mne-alb.org | www.cbc-mne-kos.org



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