



Enhancing Cooperation - Newsletter

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

April
2020

PHOTO CREDIT: ECO AND OUTDOOR TOURISM ACTIONS OF THE BALKAN ALPS (CZIP MONTENEGRO)

CONTENT

The seventh 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.

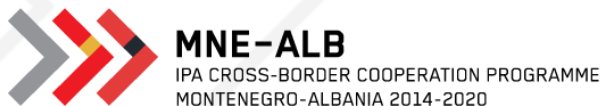
Click [here](#) for more information.

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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 during the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19)

The corona virus pandemic caught the region unready and as a consequence the situation is having repercussions on our daily life, including our work. This is especially relevant when it comes to those that are implementing projects with set deadlines. The Joint Technical Secretariat of the cross-border cooperation Programmes Montenegro – Albania and Montenegro – Kosovo (JTS) cancelled all of its public events until the situation in the region normalizes and until there is no risk for the health of the participants of the events.

However, the JTS remains at the disposal of the potential applicants and grant beneficiaries through its established communication channels considering that the whole staff of the JTS worked continuously from their homes and, more recently, from their offices as usual. In case you need assistance or information related to the cross-border Programmes please [contact](#) us.

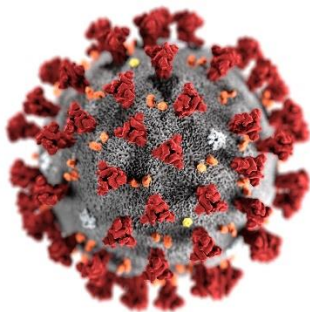


Photo credit: WHO

Work during the pandemic should be adapted to the situation in the field. Please consider the following recommendations in organising your work on running CBC projects (information for **grant beneficiaries**):

- Use video conferencing – communicate with your colleagues using video communication tools such as Webex, Zoom, Skype, etc. and coordinate your activities;
- Instead of events (if applicable) focus on “soft” activities such as publications, reports and reporting, analyses, etc.;
- Organise online conferences or panel discussions (if applicable and necessary);
- Modify your Action Plan according to your needs and notify the Contracting Authority on the changes (if needed);
- Ask for a project extension if it is not possible for the activities to be completed within the envisaged timeframe; and
- Use this time to communicate your activities through social media to wider audiences.

In case you wish to apply for future Call for Proposals (CfPs) (which are not published yet) and if you belong to the category **potential applicants** consider these recommendations:

- Read the Programme documents of the IPA CBC Programme [Montenegro – Albania](#) and [Montenegro – Kosovo](#);

- Check out our Partner Search Tool and find your future partner – partner search for the Programme [Montenegro – Albania](#) and for [Montenegro - Kosovo](#);
- Inform yourself and read on the projects that are being implemented as well as Guidelines of previous CfPs on our websites - www.cbc-mne-alb.org and www.cbc-mne-kos.org;

IMPORTANT: For information on the pandemic in your respective country make sure to use only official websites of the health institutions:

- Institute for Public Health Montenegro - <https://www.ijzcg.me/>
- Institute for Public Health of the Republic of Albania - <http://www.ishp.gov.al/>
- National Institute of Public Health of Kosova - <http://niph-rks.org/>

New Instruction on VAT refund procedure for Albania NGOs entered into force

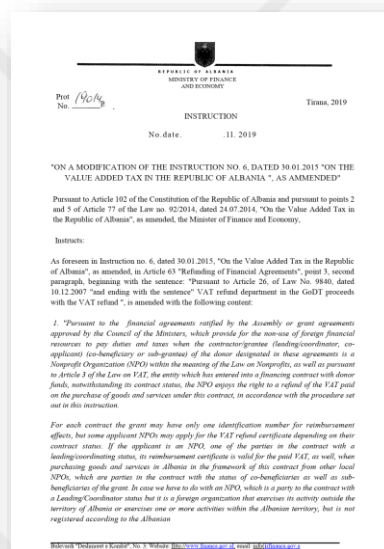
During the implementation of the projects funded under the 1st CfP of the IPA CBC Programme Montenegro – Albania there were certain obstacles in the VAT refund procedure for Albanian NGOs. The problems identified during the implementation of the projects and the concerns raised by the stakeholders in the programme and those dealing with IPA funds made possible the initiation of the process for the review of the rules of VAT refund.

Namely, the new Instruction "ON A MODIFICATION OF THE INSTRUCTION NO. 6, DATED 30.01.2015 "ON THE VALUE ADDED TAX IN THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA" has been published in the Official Gazette No. 169 of the Republic of Albania on the 11 December 2019. The Instruction and unofficial translation can be downloaded [here](#).

The instruction introduced substantial changes in the existing procedure. Namely, when the entity which have entered into a financing contract with donor funds, notwithstanding its contract status, is a Non-profit Organizations (NPOs) it enjoys the right to a refund of the VAT paid on the purchase of goods and services under this contract, in accordance with the procedure set out in this instruction.

The NPO (leading/coordinator or co-beneficiary) part of the grant contract with the donor has to, within 90 calendar days from the final date of expenditures admission, apply to the relevant Regional Tax Directorate (RTD), for the VAT refund registration, in the framework of the contract implementation under Form 6A and the related explanations, which are an integral part of this Instruction.

The 6A form is downloadable at:



- <https://www.tatime.gov.al/c/6/71/tatimi-mbi-vlerene-shtuar;>
- <https://www.tatime.gov.al/c/6/257/262/tatimi-mbi-vleren-e-shtuar;>
- <https://www.tatime.gov.al/d/8/129/209/185/tatimi-mbi-vieren-e-shtuar.>

Upon completion of all the necessary data, the NPO shall formally address the relevant RTD by attaching the following documents:

- Notarized copy of the contract (partnership agreement) between the NPO and the donor or institution/entity officially authorized by it to enter into a financed/co-financed contract for the grant, in the language in which this contract is entered into, together with notarized copies translated into Albanian;
- Notarized copy of the contract in the language in which the contract/agreement is concluded between the leading/coordinator and the co-beneficiary and/or sub-grantee (if applicable), together with notarized copies translated into Albanian;
- The Extract of the NPO from the Court (Documentation proving the non-profit status together with the changes that the NPO may have undergone).

The relevant RTD registers in a special register such NPOs for the purpose of VAT refunds paid under the grant contract and within 10 working days it issues to the NPO the certificate of VAT refund contract registration according to Form 6C part of this Instruction or announces its refusal explaining the reasons for such a refusal. The validity of the certificate lasts from the date of its issuance up to 24 calendar months after the final date of the eligibility/admission of the expenditure. The NPO may request reimbursement of the paid VAT for the purchase of goods and services at any time within the validity of the certificate, but in any case, only for supplies received within the time limits specified in the contract for the eligibility of expenses. In order to obtain the VAT refund in the context of the implementation of the grant contract, the NPO holding the VAT registration refund certificate, subject to the VAT Refund Directorate, at the GDoT, submits the request for the refund of paid VAT in the context of the implementation of the grant contract, according to Form 6R attached to this Instruction as part of it, together with the following documents:

- Copy of the registration certificate for VAT refund purposes;
- Notarized copy or original of all invoices from the purchased goods and services related to the implementation of the project in Albania and the list of VAT purchases made by the NPO within the framework of the implementation of the grant contract (part of 6R form);
- Bank confirmation with the correct data for each bank account included in the refund request;
- Certification/confirmation issued by the donor or the institution/entity formally authorized/delegated by the former, together with the summarizing financial report, a detailed list of expenses, expense verification report and audit report (if applicable), for all expenses for which VAT refund is required.

Within 30 days after receiving the request, the VAT Refund Directorate at the GDoT conducts the verification of the documentation submitted and proceeds with the VAT refund to the bank account of each NPO made available for the refund request.

When the NPO signs a contract with a Government Spending Unit that acts as a Contracting Authority, in the framework of the IPA assistance

projects under the indirect management regime or other specific donor agreement, providing for the non-use of foreign financial resources to pay taxes and VAT, the VAT is reimbursable/refundable by the Contracting Authority to the NPO, which is party to contract. In this case, the NPO does not apply to the tax administration, as the reimbursement is covered by the fund provided as a local cost in the budget of the budgetary institution, whose area of responsibility covers the sector financed or co-financed by the donor."

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

Lectures and equipment for local communities in Berane and Malesi e Madhe

Within the project *Green Lands* the partners Municipality of Berane, VIS Albania, Municipality Malesi e Madhe and CARITAS Montenegro continued with a set of activities in the beginning of the year 2020. Namely, the campaign for separation of dry and wet waste bins continued, while the next local community where this activity has been carried out was the community of Dolac, in which a meeting with the residents of that local community was held on beginning of March. Namely, the municipality of Berane, in cooperation with the Utility Company and the Communal Police, prepared a plan for the distribution of a set of waste bins of 120-ltr volume in one part of Dolac, while the project itself will involve 1000 households.



In addition, on the 26th February 2020 at the High School "Sherif Hoxha" in Koplik - Malesi e Madhe, a workshop was organized with the Students' Council. Namely, during the workshop, 29 students were introduced to the project and its activities and topics on wet-dry selection approach, as well as on the importance of differentiated waste collection. Moreover, the workshop aimed at awareness raising on the proper waste management, reduction, reuse and recycling and on environment protection actions to be taken. To foster student engagement and raise awareness on the importance of reduction, reuse

and recycling, students were involved in creative activities preparing items with recyclable materials.





Awareness raising activities related to importance of preserving traditional architecture in rural areas

Polimski Museum and Regional Development Agency for Bjelasica, Komovi and Prokletije in Montenegro, and Regional Council of Shkodra and Euro Partners from Albania are jointly implementing a CBC project *Preserving Cultural Landscapes of Montenegro and Albania*. So far numerous activities within this project have been implemented – development of studies and recommendations on traditional architecture on both sides of the border, interior decorations of rural households active in tourism, cultural landscaping in 4 communities and set up of ethno rooms. End of December, as part of awareness raising campaign on importance of preserving traditional architecture an exhibition was held in Polimski museum, with approximately 100 participants and many more visitors throughout January 2020.



This exhibition presented the photos from Polimski museum archives of local architecture, as well as photos collected through implementation of this project. Guests of this exhibition were students from primary schools in Berane and in Andrijevica who participated in art project also related to traditional rural architecture, and the best art works have been selected and also exhibited. The exhibition was opened on 20 December

2019, and remained open throughout January 2020. Director of Polimski Museum Ms. Violeta Folic opened this event while the guest speaker was Ms. Sandra Kapetanovic, one of the authors of the study of traditional architecture that was developed through this project.

Round table and seminar on Best EU Practice in Flood Protection

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 round table in Podgorica and a training in Shkodra. Namely, a round table on Best EU Practice in Flood Protection has been organised in Podgorica with the aim to exchange the experiences, good practice models and lessons learned related to this natural hazard. The round table was attended by representatives of the Directorate of Emergency Management, municipal protection and rescue services from Podgorica, Bar and Ulcinj and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. During the round table, the participants discussed about personal and collective protection and rescue equipment, good practice examples in flood management and risk assessment, as well as about the EU Floods Directive.



Moreover, before the round table, a seminar on this topic was organised in Shkodra, Albania on 11 and 12 February during which participants – representatives of the protection and rescue institutions and services – had the opportunity to learn about experiences and good practice models in the activities directed at improvement of protection and rescue from floods from their colleagues from Croatian Mountain and Rescue Service. Namely, the participants from the structures of the two neighbouring countries, Albania and Montenegro, had the opportunity to update and gain knowledge on the best practices of EU search / rescue teams, such as flood management, pre-planning situations, water dynamics and the dangers they derive, search and rescue in rivers and flood situations, etc., from didactic materials and professional assistance of international trainers of the Croatian Mountain Rescue Service "Rescue 3", with many years of experience in the field of coping with civil emergencies and rescue missions, not only in Europe but beyond.



New fruit introduced in local community of 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 numerous activities with the aim to assist new local raspberry producers in Montenegro and Albania.



During March 2020 first results after the plantation are visible and raspberries are finally blooming in Bushat in Vau Dejes Municipality.



FAST FACTS – RASPBERRIES

According to our Grant Beneficiaries, the raspberries were not cultivated in this part of Albania and the fruit represents a novelty and a chance for profit and sustainability of the local community.

"Child friendly tourism" promoted

The Association for Democratic Prosperity - Zid (ADP-Zid) in partnership with the Center "Children Today"(QFS) from Albania within foreseen activities of the project *Child friendly tourism in the cross-border area* organized the third regional workshop that was held in the period 27-29



January 2020 in Podgorica, Montenegro. On the third regional workshop gathered 16 participants from different organizations, including touristic agencies, directors of ethno/eco hotels and villages in Montenegro, National park, as well as representatives of municipality of Lezhe and local resorts in Albania. Namely, on the first day, **Sanda Rakočević**, Director of ADP-Zid addressed the participants of the workshop, presented the project's goals and introduces the lecturers – Professor **Almir Peštek**, from University Sarajevo, and Professor **Goran Ćorluka** from University Split.



The first session was held by Professor Almir Peštek, on the trends in tourism, especially related to habits of families with an emphasis on the importance of making long-term goals for business, and not just to focus on short-term projects, as well as on continuous work on keeping existing customers. Moreover, he informed the participants on the importance of storytelling in the creating of the brand, how to make an offer that is catchy, appealing, and noticeable, how to focus on selling the destination as whole and not just a product.

Professor Goran Ćorluka held a presentation on tourism demand determinants and trends. Moreover, he presented in detail how the behaviour of tourism demand is stimulated and motivated by numerous economic, sociological, psychological, demographic and other factors. Namely, during the first part he was introducing tourism marketing and the 7P concept while the second part of the day was dedicated on the concept focused around child friendly tourism. The participants were provided with examples of existing child friendly offers in the world and continent, the explanation on main goal of tourist propaganda, the value of word of mouth propaganda and why it is important to give to tourist

more than they expect. At the end of the regional workshop the participants concluded that child friendly tourism and offer as a way of improving the existing tourist offer is something that has a strong potential for overall development of tourism in the cross-border area.

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

FAST FACTS – 7P's

The so-called extended marketing mix (7P's) is the combination of seven elements of marketing that aim at working together in order to achieve the set objectives of a marketing strategy. These 7 elements are: product; price; place; promotion; people; process and physical.

From Mountains with Love - a fair of typical mountain products organized on Valentine's Day in Podgorica

On February 14, in Delta City Shopping Mall in Podgorica, Regional Development Agency for Bjelasica, Komovi and Prokletije and partners have organized a fair to present market ready products from family farms in Northern Montenegro and from Albania, as well as mountains traditional cuisine. There were approximately 60 exhibitors at the fair – producers who participated in *Local Cuisine as Tourism Offer of Montenegro and Albania* project - from Puka municipality in Albania and from north-east of Montenegro who participated in packaging and labelling activity within this CBC project funded by EU, and also participants of FAO/EBRD project that is a replication of the CBC project on different territory of Montenegro.



The Grant Beneficiaries emphasize that "Typical mountain products are special for several reasons. First, because the very nature and biodiversity of these areas have defined this list, mountain people harvest, grow and process what they can at high altitudes. Our ancestors have established a way of processing these products, which has been passed down from generation to generation up to the present day, and it has been preserved in our rural families. These are high value products, that have been properly packaged and labelled, and presented at this fair for the first time. Among

producers, several chefs from local hotels and restaurants presented special mountain dishes, and numerous visitors at the fair were able to taste them. This was also an opportunity to disseminate the cookbook of mountain cuisine which has been recently published through the same project."

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

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



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

Recycling yard equipment delivered in Plav and Gjakova

Within the *Cross border joint initiatives for better waste management* project funded under 1st CFP of the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Montenegro-Kosovo, the Recycling yard equipment has been delivered to both utility companies, Plav and Gjakova.



This project is implemented by Limited liability company "Utility company Plav" from Montenegro in partnership with Regional Waste Company "Çabрати" from Gjakova in Kosovo.

The expected results at the end of the project are supposed to contribute to the protection of the environment and economic development of the border area through more efficient waste valorization; establishment of system of selective collection and treatment of communal waste in urban areas of Gjakova and Plav municipalities; creation of technical preconditions for integrated solid waste management established in two municipalities and process of permanent education of key stakeholders in the integrated management of communal waste will be established.



I2 SPACE concept presented

Within the project implemented by Association for Democratic Prosperity – Zid, NGO Lens, Liberal Democrat Centre and Creative Skills' Center a series of activities aiming to promote the i2 SPACE concept were implemented. Namely, a three-day workshop "From Idea to Prototype" was held for participants from the municipalities of Peja, Istog and Deçan.

Participants had the unique opportunity to hear stories about how information technology is continuing to contribute to the creation of successful start-ups and new jobs. The participants, with the help and advice of mentors, have designed their first prototypes, linking social innovation with technology for the benefit of the community.



Moreover, within the same project, by the end of February and in early March a series of presentations were organized in Montenegro in

Podgorica at the Faculty of Architecture and Faculty of Political Science in University of Montenegro and in University of Donja Gorica in order to promote the I2 Space concept. Namely, the founders of the I2 Space are focused on the development of creative businesses, businesses in the field of tourism, as well as on businesses that contribute to community development. The I2 Space offers the opportunity to test and improve knowledge in coding, digital marketing, photography, graphic design, 3D printing, electronics and have advisory and logistical support in order to connect in different areas in developing a joint business idea and to use learning equipment and materials.



FAST FACTS – I2 Space

I2 Space is a socially innovative space, with online expertise, where people share their interest in technology, work on their projects and learn from each other.

Equipment for demo farms purchased and demo fields set-up

Within the project "Green jobs for better future of cross-border region of Montenegro and Kosovo", the project partners are conducting activities in municipalities in Montenegro and Kosovo. Namely, in Montenegro the process of equipping of demo farms and the completion of the training of 25 selected livestock farmers in the municipalities of Andrijevisa, Berane and Plav is ongoing.



The project is especially focused on the education of livestock producers through training centres, in which 25 selected farmers during the project from the territories of these municipalities participate in educational trainings conducted on demo farms and demo fields.

Namely, demo farms are places where farmers learn specific examples from hired experts about the things that are important to them in production such as how to properly keep a cow's fund, how to perform ultrasound examinations for cows, etc.

The training center is run by experts in the field of agriculture and veterinary medicine, as well as by a project team composed of experts from the municipality of Andrijevica and Union of Farmers of Northern Montenegro. In addition, given that the second half of March and whole April is the optimal time for planting corn and alfalfa, during these months, NGO Local Action Group Gjeravica continued to work on increasing of the technical capacities of local farmers. For this purpose, two plots have been planted, with an area of 4 hectares of alfalfa and 3 hectares of corn in the rural area of Decan. These two demonstration areas were used for practical work that was part of the training program and the fields have been planted with procured mechanisms within the same project.



Marking of Cervical Cancer Prevention Week

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, after the production of promotional TV spots, completion of an extensive campaign and after marking October as *Breast Cancer Awareness Month*, the Cervical Cancer Prevention Week was marked. The last week in January is Europe-wide marked as a European Cervical Cancer Prevention Week and thus, this activity was conducted in order to draw attention of women to the importance of prevention in protecting reproductive health. This activity was marked by distribution of the brochures and promotional items, organisation of preventive examinations in cooperation with the health centres and hospitals in the target municipalities and by providing information to citizens through media as well as by broadcasting of the TV spot with the motto: Find the time. Prevent. Live.

FAST FACTS – CERVICAL CANCER

According to the data of the World Health Organisation, around 500,000 women in the world and around 60,000 women in Europe get cervical cancer every year due to insufficient knowledge on this illness, its treatment and prevention measures.



Moreover, a set of lectures were delivered by medical doctors – gynaecologists, Marijana Pešić and Azra Lukač and were attended by around 40 women including representatives of RAE population, who had the opportunity to get more information on risk factors and prevention measures such as regular gynaecological examinations, importance of healthy lifestyles and other measures which contribute to protection of reproductive health.



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“. Within the project, the Mountain Rescue Service of Montenegro, organized the second in a series of trainings for future lifeguards from 09th to 13th March 2020. The second rescue training (initial alpinist course) was organized in Gusinje, with 22 participants attending the training. The lecturers that were in charge of conducting the training were eminent national experts in this field. Mr. Dragutin Lalić, MRS instructor, Mr. Miško Kosić, MRS instructor and Mr. Đorđije Vujičić, mountaineering instructor. In addition, Mr. Željko Lončović, Chief of the Mountain Rescue Service of Montenegro, a long-time mountain rescuer

and MRS instructor contributed to the implementation of the training on a voluntary basis, sharing with the participants his valuable knowledge and experience. The five-day training was organized in the way that every day consisted of a morning and an afternoon session that were implemented in combination of theory with practical exercises (thus applying the method "learning by doing"). At the beginning, the participants were familiarized with the way of work as well as with importance of creating a rescue team in the area of Prokletije.



Within the project, it was planned that at least 25km of the trails from each side of the border will be developed, refined and marked. In the previous project period, the trails on both sides were defined and the final developed map is connecting naturally both countries. Weather conditions allowed the start of the light infrastructure works on one small part of the trail in Kosovo, and further works on trails will be continued as soon as the pandemic situation allows.

Workshops and clean-up actions held

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 order to empower the community to become more engaged in environmental protection, climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and waste management, UAP team organized two workshops in two elementary schools in Gjakova. The workshop on "The importance of water and its protection" was held at primary school "Yll Morina" on February 3, and on February 4 at primary school "Zekeria Rexha" where the total of 40 students participated. The second workshop on "The Soil and its importance" was organised on 11 March and was attended by 20 students.

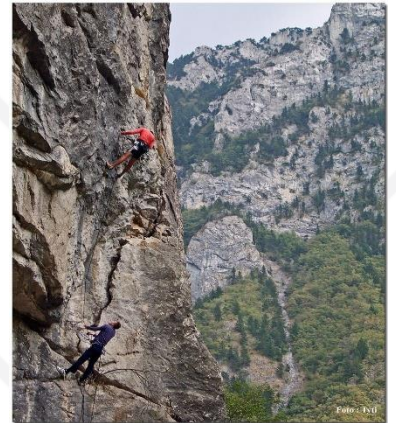


Within the same project a series of clean-up actions and educational workshops with students of the elementary and secondary schools in Gjakova and Petnjica were held during October and November 2019. The educational workshop related to environmental problems and protection was organised in Petnjica municipality in the school in local community Savin Bor on 18th February 2020. During this workshop, students were able to actively participate through interactive games and specially designed workbook and discuss on environmental issues.



New cross border trails

The project *Accursed mountains – exquisite outdoor destination* is 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. During March and April, the research for new climbing tracks and developing the tourist offer at the Rugova gorge was conducted. The project aims to develop at least 300 km of trails that will include diverse thematic itineraries encompassing natural monuments, cultural heritage sites, recreational activities and traditional gastronomy on both sides of the Kosovo and Montenegrin border, which will promote sustainable tourism in this region.



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



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