



PHOTO CREDIT: DISASTERS DO NOT KNOW BORDERS

# Enhancing Cooperation - Newsletter

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

## August 2019

### CONTENT

This fifth 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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View of the European Union  
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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.



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



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



## Cross-border cooperation as a tool for regional development and synergy between sectors

The project *Accursed mountains – exquisite outdoor destination* is being currently implemented by the Regional Development Agencies – West (RDA-West) from Kosovo and Regional Development Agency for Bjelasica, Komovi and Prokletije (RDA BKP) and aims to support further development of cross border Prokletije area as outdoor tourism destination. Both RDAs are of the opinion that cross-border programmes are very important as they contribute to the fulfilment of their organisations' vision and objectives, which are the implementation of quality projects that enable a balanced development of the western region of Kosovo and northeast region of Montenegro.



Their partner in the project, the Municipality of Peja/Peć, considers cross-border programmes similarly important in fulfilling the strategic objectives of the municipal administration, by providing opportunity to implement projects which otherwise would not be possible due to the limited resources of the municipal budget. The cross-border cooperation has enabled the creation of a multitude of synergies between the public, private and civil society sectors, members of which have come together to implement joint projects and initiatives that have helped to develop the municipality in many ways. On the other hand, the Tourism Organisation of Plav emphasizes that this project means development of the cross-border offer which is important for economic development of this small municipality, as one of the least developed municipalities in whole country.



Initial activities within the project were conducted in Kosovo. "For all partners in the project it is a great benefit to share information, skills and knowledge with the counterparts in the neighbouring country and this has been a rewarding experience in itself, not just during the development of projects for grant applications but also during its



implementation. This experience sharing has led us to identify many other potential development projects that we will try to implement jointly. Projects carried out previously in the respective countries, could successfully be replicated in the neighbouring country. Conclusively, the opportunity to work together has created a platform for future cooperation that will go beyond the CBC programme." Final beneficiaries consider that the project will have impact on the development of the tourism in the area, and provide growth opportunities for all those working in the field of tourism, adventure sports and outdoor recreation.

*We feel that our inputs are being valued and taken into consideration in the implementation of project activities, even on purchase of equipment and materials that will be used for the project and beyond* says **Nol Krasniqi** from NGO "Marimangat" that promotes and organizes mountain climbing and adventure sports.

*The natural beauty that the mountain areas of the region offers and the shared culture and heritage of the people are an added value for everyone and especially for those that visit the area as tourists* says **Raif Gjokolli** from mountaineering association NGO "Gjeravica".



The very fact that the demand for tourism related services increases, perhaps the cross-border



cooperation

programme could take into consideration, during the development of its grant schemes and CfPs, putting a larger emphasis on sub-granting. This would be very beneficial to small tour operators, hospitality businesses and other associations, as well as families living in the area who are interested in becoming part of the tourism industry.

**Arian Harxhi** from NGO "BSF/BPK" a cyclists and mountain biking association from Kosovo, states that this project has provided an additional incentive for everyone to work together and this sharing of experience and knowledge will ensure that both sides will develop, by creating a network of organisations and individuals that share the same goals and values.

**Virtyt Gacaferri** from Balkan Natural Adventure tour operating company is the opinion that judging from the results achieved so far, he is confident that the project will deliver products and results that will have a considerable impact on the development of tourism in the area, and provide growth opportunities for all those working in the field of tourism, adventure sports and outdoor recreation.





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

### Study visit in South of Albania, educational trainings and Fair Fest 2019 organized

Within the project *The "Feminine side" of Quality* during May 2019, the UET Centre in collaboration with the Municipality of Mirdite, Municipality of Ulcinj and NGO MogUL organized the joint study visit to Albania for the women participating in the project from both countries. The visit took place in Përmet and Gjirokastra, South of Albania, and was related to the local production and promotion of local products.



Also during this month, Monitoring group Ulcinj - MogUL finalized the sessions of the educational training that was tailored for women from rural areas of Ulcinj. On the other side, The UET Centre in collaboration with the Municipality of Mirdite organized another session of the Educational Training with the women of Mirdita Region. During the training the topics on "Food Safety Criteria" and "Financial Performance Assessment" were covered.



Within this project the "Fair Fest 2019" was organized in period 16 – 18 August 2019, during which the women from rural areas of Ulcinj had the opportunity to promote their homemade products and skills obtained during the trainings organized within the project activities. The solemn opening of the Fair of local products "Fair Fest 2019" was held on 16 August 2019, at the Rana (Pristan) promenade in Ulcinj. The opening ceremony was attended and greeting speeches were held by the Mayor of Municipality of Ulcinj Loro Nrekic, Zana Sarvan from Tourism Organisation of Ulcinj, Armend Milla



from the Ministry of Tourism and Almir Čaušević from the JTS. Attendees had the opportunity to enjoy a rich cultural and artistic program, as well as to taste local products prepared by women entrepreneurs. The fair saw the attendance of an estimated 3000 visitors.



### Better working conditions for Utility Companies in Berane and Malesi e Madhe

Within the project *Green Lands*, a new vehicle for waste collection and disposal was procured for the Utility Company in Berane. In Albania, the Utility Company in Malesi e Madhe will also be equipped with a new vehicle for waste collection and disposal in the following months.



In addition, on July 26<sup>th</sup> in Berane the first cross-border lecture on National and EU legislation regarding environment and waste management was organized. The lecture was attended by 32 participants who had the opportunity to improve their knowledge on national and EU legislation related to environment and waste management issues.

The lecture also aimed to encourage the exchange of experience between the two Municipalities and give fundamental information and suggestion on waste management, environmental protection regarding national and EU standards to those employees and institution that are in charge at different levels for the waste collection of their territories. The second cross border lecture will be held in Shkoder in September.



## Increased awareness of the population in the cross-border area on flood protection and rescue

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 conducted majority of the foreseen activities within almost 18 months of implementation. After the trainings, workshops and round tables organized, it is expected that the equipment for protection and rescue will be procured and delivered to the final beneficiaries in the upcoming period. Accordingly, regarding the forecasting and early warning system, as well as the cross-border cooperation within the field, one set of the early warning system equipment was purchased and handed over to the competent authorities in



Montenegro.

Moreover, considering the increased awareness of the population in the cross-border area and target municipalities regarding flood protection and rescue and disaster risk management (DRR), the project partners organized a set of campaigns and produced a certain promotional material. Namely, they held 17 lectures for secondary school students on DRR and organized seven workshops on flood protection in local communities. Besides, the promotional campaign included also press conferences, TV and Radio shows, newspaper articles and website texts, as well as distribution of brochures and leaflets.



## Rural households interior adopted in Montenegro

Within the period May-August 2019, the project partners within the project *Preserving cultural landscape of Albania and Montenegro* conducted fieldwork aiming to distinguish targeted households in appearance and fit them into the cultural landscape of the cross border area. This activity, that envisaged interior decoration of rural households in the spirit of tradition and ambiance in which households are located, included 10 households from municipalities of Berane, Petnjica, Andrijevisa, Plav and Gusinje. The households were located in villages in rural areas such as village Konjuhe and Kralje in municipality of Andrijevisa, Grebaje in Gusinje, etc. Traditional elements, handicrafts and objects made of natural materials were on focus during these activities.



## Raspberry fair held in Petnjica

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 since the beginning of the project a certain number of workshops for local raspberry producers. Namely, nine workshops were organized in Bushat (Vau i Dejes, Albania), while eight workshops were organized in Petnjica (Montenegro). The raspberry production experts that conducted the workshops so far: Nebojša Veličković, Adis Ličina and Ivona Jočić.



The Raspberry fair as the key activity was held on 26 July 2019 in Petnjica and was organized on a plateau in front of the municipality of Petnjica. The representatives of all partner organizations from Montenegro and Albania were present at the fair, while project manager Ismet Latic, director of the professional high school "Ndre Mjeda" from Bushat (Albania) Ruzhdi Kapidanja, and deputy Mayor of Municipality of Petnjica (Montenegro) Muslija Kalic, held the opening speeches.



At the stands, the beneficiaries had the opportunity to present their products. Within the stands, the participants and visitors of the fair had the opportunity to taste the products of the raspberry grower and other farmers from Petnjica and surrounding areas, including the products of some beneficiaries from Albania. Besides, the Petnjica Secondary Vocational School and the local tourism organization of Petnjica presented their products and offers within the stands.

### Children rights to be considered in the decision-making process

The Association for Democratic Prosperity - ZID (ADP- ZID) in cooperation with the Center for Children Today (QFS) from Albania, have previously implemented and held the First Regional Knowledge Exchange Workshop in which the participants had the possibility to obtain more detailed information on planning tourism products, sales, marketing, promotion and local partnerships in the tourism sector. Also, a Networking meeting was organized and brought together experts in the field of tourism, members of tourism organizations, travel agencies, caterers, and members of civil society, with the aim of encouraging the development of cooperation in the region through the development of a joint tourism offer package within the Montenegro - Albania border region. In addition, a set of modular trainings aimed at promoting joint products was held in Montenegro and Albania at the beginning of this year.



The second Regional Workshop within the frame of the project *Child friendly tourism in the cross-border region* was held in Lezha (Albania) in period 21-23 June 2019. At the workshop, participants had the

opportunity to learn about children rights and the importance of considering those rights in the decision-making process. In addition, participants had the opportunity to learn about sustainability innovations in tourism and catering, the characteristics of child-friendly tourism, the market potential of child-friendly tourism, the standards and market demands.

### Gastronomy in the CBC region

Aiming to create a touristic cross-border region offer based on gastronomy, 45 old and traditional recipes were discovered and standardized for utilization in local hotels and restaurants within the project *Local cuisine as tourism offer of cross-border region*. As output of the conducted activities so far, Honey Route and Sweets Route was finalized, while local families included in the gastro route were provided with tailored trainings.

The tasting areas within selected local families households are being set and this activity is still on-going. Moreover, design of the menus and signs for SMEs was completed as part of branding activity, including brand name and logo Mountain Bounty. In the following period, it is also expected that the cookbook will be presented to the wider public.

### Remains of the so-called Tumba city revealed

The first results of the project *Augmenting Cooperation – From Christian Antiquities Towards Enhanced Tourism*, were formally presented through press conference that was held in 4 June 2019 in the Berane village of Donja Ržanica.



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The project team present within the conference that the archaeological excavations in Donja Ržanica near Berane revealed the remains of the so-called Tumba city, with invaluable archaeological treasures. The participants were addressed by Darko Stojanović, Advisor to Berane Municipality President, Violeta Folic, Director of the Museum of Polimlje, Deacon Konstantin Dojić, Head of the Office for International Cooperation, and Sanja Todorović Head of the JTS.



In addition, Predrag Lutovac the archeologist at the Museum of Polimlje introduced the most important activities, while Milija Pantović, the conservationist, spoke about the archeological sites.

So far, two phases of archaeological research have been conducted at this site. In the first phase, an expert team of five members and 15 manual excavators carried out all the preparatory work and carried out part of the archaeological and conservation research. In the second phase of archaeological research, the work continued on the highest plateau of the city. During the conducted archaeological researches many movable archaeological materials were found.

### FAST FACTS – TUMBA CITY

“When conducting archaeological excavations we found a multitude of movable archaeological materials. The largest number of finds consists of three-pointed arrowheads, smaller and larger iron knives and purpose-made decorative tools and a multitude of iron wedges of various dimensions. A special group consists of more luxurious deposits of coins, rings, fibulae and belt buckles that clearly determine the time of rise and fall of this significant urban centre.” – Polimlje Museum



workshops will continue and will be held in kindergartens, elementary schools and high schools. In addition it is expected that the process of the establishing the recycling yard will begin in the following period.

### Workshops on social innovation and online-work organized

Promotional outreach campaign for promoting social innovation concept and online methods as an opportunity for profession has been initiated within the project *Self-employment and Social Entrepreneurship for Youth*.

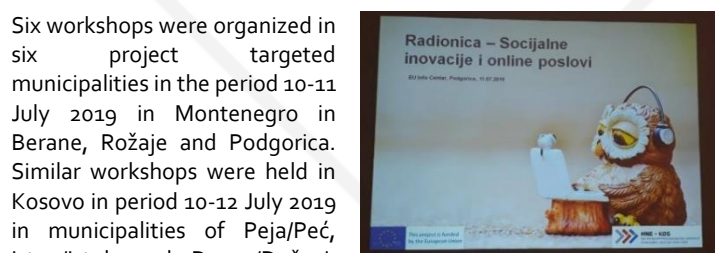
### News from projects financed under the 1<sup>st</sup> CfP IPA CBC Programme Montenegro -Kosovo

#### Workshops on integrated controlled waste management held

The project team of the project *Cross border joint initiatives for better waste management* organized capacity building for the employees of the local public utility companies in targeted areas. The two-day workshop was organized in Plav in period 15 - 16 august 2019 and was attended by 46 employees from two communal companies, representatives of municipalities, municipal police, municipal inspection, police and citizens of Plav, Gusinje and Murino.



The participants had the opportunity to gain knowledge on integrated waste management, i.e. natural selection as a basis for introducing the community into integrated controlled waste management. Similar



Six workshops were organized in six project targeted municipalities in the period 10-11 July 2019 in Montenegro in Berane, Rožaje and Podgorica. Similar workshops were held in Kosovo in period 10-12 July 2019 in municipalities of Peja/Peć, Istog/Istok and Dečan/Dečani. Namely, within this period 76 participants from Montenegro and Kosovo had the opportunity to share their experiences and learn more about tools and practices related to social innovation and online work.





Meanwhile, the workshop also served as a basis on collecting data for the training needs assessment regarding the design of the training, the training curricula and training materials required.

### Mapping of agricultural resources conducted

The project partners of the project "Green jobs for better future of cross-border region of Montenegro and Kosovo", led by Municipality of Andrijevica, conducted the mapping of agricultural resources in the target municipalities in Montenegro and Kosovo. Also, promotion of the employment within the agricultural sector began and will be further promoted, especially in high schools and through local employment agencies in Berane, Andrijevica, Plav and Dečan/Dečani. Moreover, interviews with farmers on this topic were conducted in Montenegro.



### Improvement of health services

Within the project CARES – Cross-border Actions in the Reproductive Health Sector, FORS Montenegro conducted a [Survey on knowledge and habits](#) regarding reproductive health during period May and June 2019. The aim of the survey was gather information from public opinion on knowledge of women on this topic, their awareness on the importance of preventive actions and habits of women in project area. The survey sample included 1.104 participants in municipalities of Bijelo Polje, Berane, Plav, Rožaje, Mojkovac, Kolašin, Andrijevica, Gusinje and Petnjica. The survey showed that the correspondents are quite informed on reproductive health, but 44% of them have never had a preventive examination. As it is confirmed with the survey there is a very high risk to health of this population regarding breast and cervical cancers.

In that regard, in the following period, the October will be marked as Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the campaign of preventive examinations will be organized for the women from the targeted area. The campaign will be 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.



Nadi vremena. Spriječi. Živi.

### 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“. During the initial phase of the project implementation, the capacity building activities were held. Namely, the training "In the wake of the Forest Dwellers" was held from 26 to 28 June 2019, where guides and tourism providers from Montenegro and Kosovo working within the Prokletije area had the opportunity to learn about large mammals, birds and fungus, in order to share the acquired knowledge with tourists and to present this area in terms of biodiversity richness.



The capacity building will continue with the Joint strategic cross-border workshop for developing integrated and coherent cross-border multi-destination Balkan Alps tourism packages. Beside new tourism product, the upcoming period foresaw light infrastructure interventions that will increase safety of tourists. In that regard, by the end of October the update of the hiking trails will be initiated. Also, training for specialized mountaineering guides will be organized in the following period.



## Keep it clean and green - United against pollution project presented

The cross-border project *United Against Pollution - UAP* was presented to the general during the conference that was held in Gjakova on June 27<sup>th</sup> 2019. The conference was attended by the representatives of the project beneficiaries, mayors, municipal officers, CSOs and media representatives.



The speakers during the conference emphasized that this project will aim at empowering communities and partner municipalities to engage more in environmental protection, adaptation and mitigation of climate change, prevention of environmental pollution risk and adequate waste management. During the conference it was also underlined that the projects aims also to increase the awareness of the citizens on pollution, environment and its protection.



During the previous period, dialogue with local authorities, youth, schools, and communities in regards to a cleaner, healthier environment have been initiated and community outreach and stakeholder mapping has been conducted. Besides this, the project team has produced a comprehensive report with a map of illegal landfills identified and including their geographical coordinates, size and composition.

## Accursed mountains - exquisite outdoor destination

Within this project *Accursed mountains- exquisite outdoor destination* the project partners, led by Regional Development Agency for Bjelasica, Komovi and Prokletije from Montenegro, during the initial phase have worked on gathering information about existing trails network, and started developing proposals for new trails that will ensure connectivity of the region. In order to enhance the outdoor tourism offer, a series of meetings were held with relevant stakeholder.

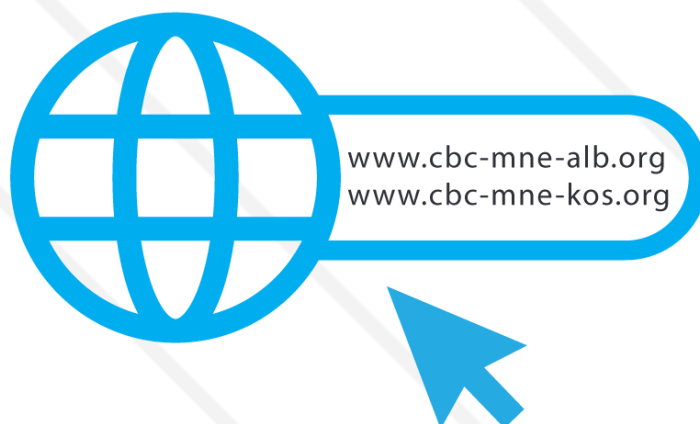
## The 8th Project Steering Committee meeting held in Plav

The eighth meeting of the Project Steering Committee was held on 31 July 2019 in Plav, Montenegro. The meeting was organized in order to discuss further implementation and upcoming activities in the second half of 2019 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 the first half of 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 members of the Project Steering Committee have also visited the project team of the project "Cross border joint initiatives for better waste management" funded within 1<sup>st</sup> CfP of the IPA CBC Programme Montenegro – Kosovo 2014-2020 in Plav. Namely, the project is implemented by the Utility Company Plav and RWC "Çabrat" from Gjakova. During the meeting, the project team presented the conducted and forthcoming activities within the project. Finally, the project team organized also a site visit for members of the Project Steering Committee in order to show the space that will be transformed into a separate waste collection area by the end of the project.





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



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