



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

August 2021

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

CONTENT

Please find below more information on the programmes.

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.

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.

- »»» The 3rd Call for Proposals within the IPA CBC Programme
Montenegro - Albania 2014-2020 2
- »»» News on projects financed under the 1st Cfp IPA CBC Programme
Montenegro – Albania..... 3
- »»» News on projects financed under the 1st Cfp IPA CBC Programme
Montenegro – Kosovo..... 4
- »»» News on projects financed under the 2nd Cfp IPA CBC
Programme Montenegro – Albania..... 5
- »»» News on projects financed under the 2nd Cfp IPA CBC
Programme Montenegro – Kosovo 7
- »»» The Grant Award Ceremony for the 2nd Cfp for the IPA CBC
Programme Montenegro – Albania organised 9

This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the Joint Technical Secretariat of the Cross-border Cooperation Programmes Montenegro-Albania and Montenegro-Kosovo and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

* 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.



This project is funded by the European Union



MNE-ALB

IPA CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME
MONTENEGRO-ALBANIA 2014-2020

MNE-KOS

IPA CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME
MONTENEGRO-KOSOVO 2014-2020



The 3rd Call for Proposals within the IPA Cross- border Cooperation Programme Montenegro- Albania 2014-2020

The Government of Montenegro – European Integration Office and the Directorate for Finance and Contracting of EU Assistance in the Ministry of Finance and Social Welfare, in cooperation with the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania, on 29th June 2021 have published the Third Call for Proposals within the IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Montenegro-Albania 2014-2020.

The overall objective of this call 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.

Funds in the amount of 4.9 million EUR are available under this call and are committed to the following thematic priorities (TP):

- TP1: Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage;
- TP2: Protecting the environment, promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management;
- TP3: Promoting employment, labour mobility and social and cultural inclusion across the border.



The call was open to legal persons and non-profit organizations established in Montenegro and Albania and belonging to the following categories: Local governments and their institutions, Tourism and cultural organizations, Associations of municipalities, Development agencies, Local business support organizations, NGOs, Public and private bodies supporting the workforce, Vocational and technical training institutions, Bodies and organization for nature protection, Public bodies responsible for water management, Fire/emergency services, Schools, colleges, universities and research centres including vocations and technical training institutions.



The deadline for submitting project proposals was **September 13th, 2021**.

More information on the Call for Proposals can be found [here](#).

The publication of the Call for Proposals was promoted extensively through social and traditional media.



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

Cookbook Gorska trpeza has won two prizes in the competition of the best culinary publication in the world

The cookbook *Gorska trpeza* produced within the project *Local cuisine as tourism offer of cross-border region* has won the 1st place in the category of "Gastro Tourism" and the 2nd place in the category "Best among the best in the world" in the competition for the best culinary publication in the world. In light of the pandemic there was a huge competition but nonetheless the cookbook has won two prizes and obtained the right to use the Best in the World certificate. From the Regional Development Agency for Bjelasica, Komovi and Prokletije they stated "Thanks to our partners and donors who supported this endeavour, the EU through CBC Programme Montenegro-Albania, as well as the EBRD/FAO for the Durmitor region, and for the co-financing that came from the Ministry of Public Administration. We especially thank all the

women who assisted us and who contributed to the fact that this publication from our small corner of the world attracted the attention and deserved the respect of world gastronomic experts!"



Find out more about the project and visit the websites <http://www.gastro-puka.com/en> and <http://montegastro.me/>.

Academic symposium on early Christian archaeological heritage held

On 4th August the scientific symposium was organised in the scope of the project Augmenting Cooperation – From Christian Antiquities Towards Enhanced Tourism. The symposium was held in Berane and brought together experts from archaeology, history and other related fields.



Violeta Folic from the Museum of Polimlje Montenegro informed the participants that the Museum of Polimlje located in Berane is the only institution in the north of Montenegro that has a certificate for archaeological excavations.

She stated that during the project, in addition to professional connections and improving cooperation, they also developed friendly relations, which they consider particularly important for the success of the project. "This guarantees the continuation of cooperation in the following period, when the opportunity for the team arises again" she said.

On behalf of the Diocese of Budimlje and Nikšić, Archdeacon **Konstantin Dojic** spoke about the importance of the project and informed the participants that through this project, two sites, one in Berane and one in Shkodra, have been excavated, preserved, protected, promoted and equipped with signalization and that the facilities will be integrated into the local tourist offer.



Holta Koci, from the Albania Community Assist said that it is very important to adequately present the cultural heritage, especially to youth. Apart from the fact that the project connected experts in this field, it enabled also the citizens to be better informed. She concluded that it is necessary to work on the promotion of these sites.

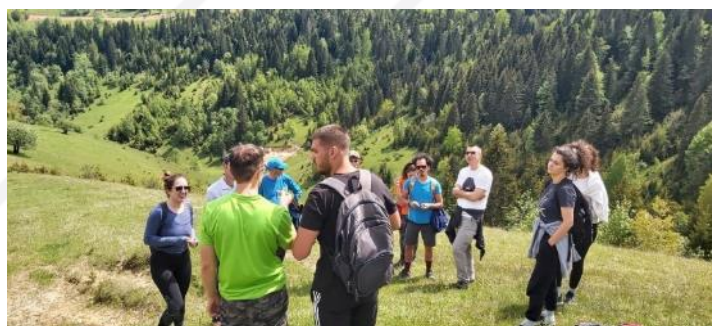
The participants of the symposium concluded that after almost two millennia of Christianity in the cross-border area, the archaeological heritage represents a significant tourist resource and the common cultural heritage of the two countries needs to be nurtured, promoted and used.

News on projects financed under the 1st CfP IPA CBC Programme Montenegro - Kosovo

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 a tour of the most attractive locations for journalists was organized. This was an ideal opportunity for them to experience the Balkan Alps from the point of view of tourists, and then convey their impressions through the media.

Moreover, during June a training on vegetation, medicinal plants and mushrooms was held in Prokletije/Bjeshket e Nemuna.



Within the same project a professional training was held in Gusinje for Mountain Guides in cooperation with the Mountain Rescue Service of Montenegro. The training was attended by members from many member associations of the Mountaineering Federation of Kosovo. Participants were provided with knowledge about the rules of mountaineering guidance during climbing, safety rules, outdoor orientation, reading maps, necessary equipment, food, etc.



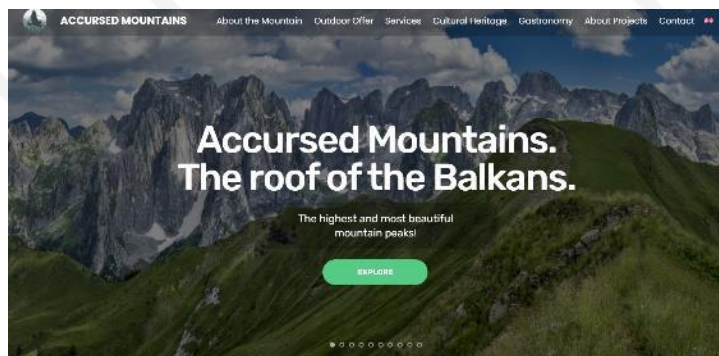
Moreover, in Prishtina on 25 June a press conference was held in order to present the tourist potential of the Accursed Mountains and opportunities for sustainable development based on the inexhaustible natural and cultural heritage of this region.

Finally, within the same project and in order to make tourists and visitors safer in Prokletije, during the implementation of the project, 68 kilometres of cross-border hiking trails were renovated, valuable equipment for rescuers and a valuable drone with a thermal camera were procured to facilitate the search for lost people in the mountain, mountain guides were trained and the Rescue Centre was adapted.



Project Accursed mountains - exquisite outdoor destination finished

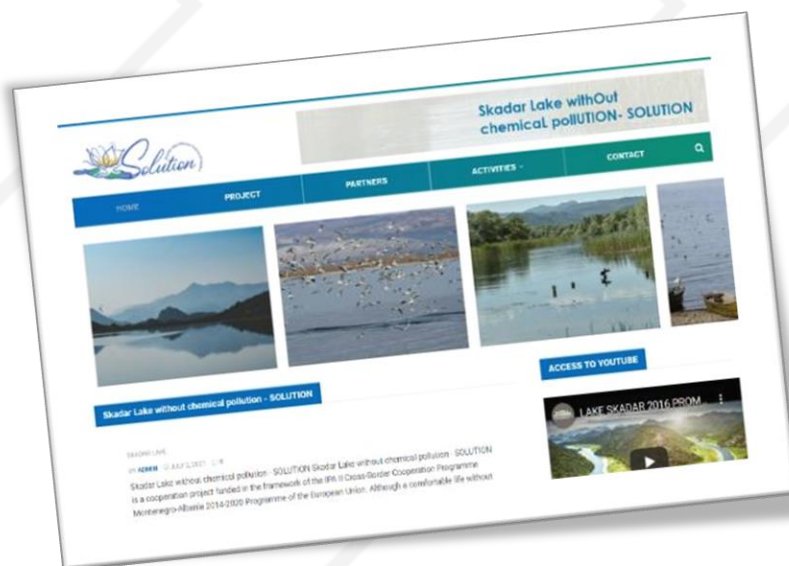
The project *Accursed mountains – exquisite outdoor destination* implemented by the Regional Development Agency for Bjelasica, Komovi and Prokletije, Tourism Organisation Plav, Regional Development Agency – West (RDA-West) and Municipality of Peja finished with its activities. One of the key outputs of the project is the web portal that was created that promotes the CBC region. The portal contains all the information about the offer when it comes to active holidays, with locations, places, information, contacts, maps, etc. Moreover, also an Android and iOS application were created as well containing the same data. For more information visit <http://accursed-mountains.me/>.



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

As part of the project activities of *Green jobs for better future of cross-border region of Montenegro and Kosovo* implemented by the Municipality Andrijevisa, NGO Local Action Group Gjeravica and Union of Farmers of Northern Montenegro a short documentary on the activities was produced.

Check out the documentary [here](#).



News on projects financed under the 2nd CFP IPA CBC Programme Montenegro - Albania

Skadar Lake withOut chemical pollution - SOLUTION

The project *Skadar Lake withOut chemical pollution - SOLUTION* is implemented by the Centre for Eco toxicological Research Montenegro, University of Tirana and Association Green Centre from Albania. The project aims to agree common long-term cooperative activities, to perform environmental risk assessment of chemical pollution in the trans-boundary Skadar Lake and determine pollution hot spots.



The project team is actively promoting the project and the impact that is planned to be achieved. As part of the project activities a webpage that contains all the key information was created and can be accessed on <http://solutionmne-al.eu/>.

In addition, the project and the 3rd CFP within the IPA CBC Programme Montenegro – Albania were promoted in a TV interview. The whole TV interview can be viewed [here](#).

Kick-off and Boot Camps organised within the project Work4Youth

The project *Work4Youth* is implemented by the Partners Albania for Change and Development, Association for Democratic Prosperity – Zid (Montenegro) and NGO Youth Intellectuals – Hope. The project organised its kick-off conference on 11 June 2021 in Shkodra.



The project aims to improve youth abilities for developing their own business ideas based on innovative skills, new competences and knowledge, to increase opportunities for support to start-up businesses of young people involved in the project and to increase support to young entrepreneurs and self-employment through local policies and incentives.

During July 2021 an Innovation Boot Camp was held in Shkodra. The Boot Camp was designed to develop practical skills of young people with ideas to engage in entrepreneurial and business activities through the use of innovative approaches and technologies.



In addition, during the same month the Summer Boot Camp was held in Ulcinj. During the camp participants had the opportunity to prepare a business plans that can be supported through the project in the form of a *start-up*. This was done through the mentorship of experts in the field of business development and management.



A.C.C.E.N.T.- Accessibility, Civic Conscience, Employment for Persons with Disabilities, as a New TREND

The project *A.C.C.E.N.T.- Accessibility, Civic Conscience, Employment for Persons with Disabilities, as a New TREND* is implemented by the Caritas of Bar's Archdiocese (Montenegro), Caritas Albania, NGO Project Hope (Albania) and Association of Paraplegics Bar (Montenegro). The project aims to increase employability of PWDs and train 30 PWDs through 2000 hours of mentorship, as well as to offer new employment opportunities for PWDs. The project team is actively promoting the project activities and reaching out to their target group. The coordinator of the project **Marko Djelovic** gave an interview for the local TV station.



Check out the video from the interview [here](#).

Pathways to Career Development (PCD): Preparing Albanian and Montenegrin Youth for Career Opportunities in the Tourism Sector

The project *Pathways to Career Development (PCD): Preparing Albanian and Montenegrin Youth for Career Opportunities in the Tourism Sector* is implemented by World Vision Albania, NGO New Horizon (Montenegro), High School "Bratstvo Jedinstvo" (Montenegro) and Professional school "Hamdi Bushati" (Albania). The project will equip youth from Shkoder and Ulcinj with the right skills in order for them to become "job ready".



On 20th June 2021 the "Youth Fair: Ways of career development in the tourism sector" was opened in Shkodra. Young people from the vocational schools "Hamdi Bushati" in Shkodra and "Vëllazërim Bashkim" in Ulcinj presented some of the products and works made by them. The aim of the fair was for youth to unveil their entrepreneurial skills and ideas for promoting the tourist areas of Shkodra and Ulcinj. Throughout the fair, young people had the opportunity to establish the first contacts with the present businesses and travel agencies that visited the fair. **Eriseldi**, 18 years old participant from Shkodra commented on the fair and said "This fair was a new experience and a further step towards the development of my career. My suggestion for all young people is to attend vocational training and follow their dreams".



As part of the promotion, one tourist catalogue was produced for the fair and it presents the touristic places of Ulcinj. The Montenegrin version is valuable [here](#) and the Albanian [here](#).



News on projects financed under the 2nd CfP IPA CBC Programme Montenegro - Kosovo

Creating employment in agriculture

The project *Creating employment in agriculture* is implemented by the Capital City Podgorica – Department for Entrepreneurship and the Initiative for Agriculture Development of Kosovo-IADK.



As part of project activities and in order to facilitate the cultivation of the land and especially the management of pastures in the plots planted with medicinal and aromatic plants, the project partners on 9th August 2021 distributed motor cultivators to 20 beneficiaries of grants for cultivation in the municipalities of Peja and Istog.

PRAXIS

PRAXIS project is implemented by Caritas Kosovo, Caritas Montenegro, QAKP Gjon Nikolle Kazazi – Gjakove and Municipality of Berane. The project aims to support pupils and students and unemployed youth through career guidance and counselling sessions.

On 24 June 2021 the project partners organised the first *Cross-Border Net Working Job Fair* in Gjakova and gathered citizens, more than 40 exhibitors from the area and youth. The event aimed at connecting employers and youth in the CBC region.

More information on the event is available [here](#).



Tourism hubs for better tourism offer in less advantaged mountainous areas

The project *Tourism hubs for better tourism offer in less advantaged mountainous areas* is implemented by the Municipality of Andrijevica, Municipality of Decan and the Mountaineers Association "Shkelzen Haradinaj".

During July the project partners contracted the company in charge for the works in constructing the mountain lodge in Decan. The company has started with the preparatory works and works on the field.



In addition, as part of capacity building activities, the project partners on 6th August 2021 organised a training on the basics of mountaineering development in the mountains of Decan.





Transhumance - new tourism offer of Kosovo and Montenegro

Transhumance – new tourism offer of Kosovo and Montenegro is implemented by the Initiative for Agriculture Development of Kosovo - IADK, Regional Development Agency Bjelasica, Komovi and Prokletije and Istog municipality.

The project aims to mobilise katuns for provision of services in tourism, to develop tourism products and services and to promote the cultural, natural and agricultural values of katuns. On 22nd July 2021 as part of project activities the project partners organised a ceremonial event for the support of families living in the katuns. Namely, a total of 15 families were supported with solar panels, 6 of which are high capacity and 9 of them with low capacity.



During the event the project partners stated that the support is crucial and should assist the beneficiaries in providing better services, especially in tourism. They emphasized the importance of motivation of the beneficiaries to be continuously committed to the preservation of tradition and to deal as much as possible with tourist services and meeting the requirements of local and foreign tourists.

Culture heritage - Treasure of Cross Border Region

The Municipality of Peja and Municipality of Gusinje are implementing the project *Culture heritage – Treasure of Cross Border Region* that aims at supporting economic development of project area that is based on valorisation of rich cultural heritage in targeted region.

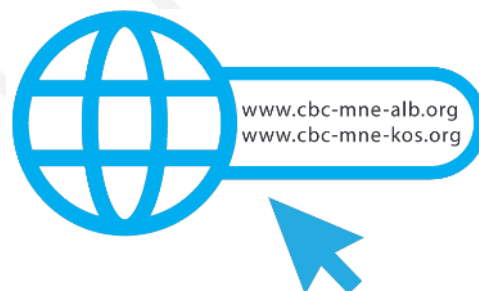


The kick off ceremony of the project *Culture heritage - Treasure of cross border region* was held in Peja on 16th July 2021. The ceremony was attended by MLGA deputy Minister, **Avdullah Djesevic**, the mayor of Peja municipality, **Gazmend Muhaxheri**, and the mayor of Gusinje municipality, **Anela Cekic**, as well as **Gazmir Raci** from the JTS and other project collaborators.



It was concluded that these types of projects represent joint efforts of cross-border cooperation in order to improve the socioeconomic status and promote the natural and cultural heritage assets in Peja and Gusinje.

Follow the project activities in the dedicated [Facebook page](#).



The Grant Award Ceremony for the 2nd CfP for the IPA CBC Programme Montenegro - Albania organised

The Grant Award Ceremony for projects contacted under 2nd CfP within IPA CBCP MNE-ALB was organized on 18th June 2021 in Podgorica.



At the beginning of the implementation of the projects contracted through the Second CfP within the IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Montenegro-Albania 2014-2020 it was underlined that valuable cross-border initiatives that Montenegro and the Republic of Albania have been jointly implementing since 2008, through the Programme funded by the European Union, indicate the success of the overall concept of cross-border cooperation, which is an essential stimulus to the European integration process.

During the awarding of certificates to the beneficiaries of the 2nd CfP, Advisor to the Chief Negotiator **Bojan Vujovic** pointed out that cooperation between Montenegro and Albania is especially important in



the context of the accession process where we can exchange experiences and knowledge in areas of importance and mutual interest. He reminded that through this Call, a large number of partner organizations and institutions applied with a

total of 53 project proposals for two thematic priorities, the value of which was 6 times higher than the available funds.

Aleksandar Markovic, Contracting Manager in the Directorate for Finance and Contracting of the EU assistance Funds in the Ministry of Finance and Social Welfare of Montenegro, reminded that the total value of allocated funds through the Second Call is over 2.6 million euros, which means that over 93% of allocated funds have been contracted.



Markovic pointed out that "at the Program level, over 5 million euros of non-refundable support has been awarded so far for projects in the areas of employment and social inclusion, environmental protection and promotion of tourism, cultural and natural



heritage". He also announced the publication of the Third Call for Proposals under this Programme, which is planned to be launched by the end of June, in the total amount of 4.9 million euros.

Deputy Head of the Sector for Cooperation in the Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro **Audrone Urbonaviciute** emphasized that through this EU programme, the European Union is currently financing the cross-border cooperation between Montenegro and Albania with funds in the amount of 10.7 million euros, of which 2.6 million euros are committed today for seven new projects. In the past period, we have carefully monitored the impact that EU-funded projects have on local communities, and we expect that new projects will make an additional contribution in this regard. Even though it is challenging, the process of protecting the environment, tackling climate change and socio-economic problems brings long-term progress. It is truly encouraging that visible progress has been made over the last few months despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.



The Secretary General of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, **Armand Skapi**, reminded that the operating structures cooperated together, in the spirit of cross-border cooperation, in the preparation of the programme, project selection, as well as ensuring the smooth implementation of the Programme. "Our efforts are now focused on projects, and it is up to the grant beneficiaries to achieve what was promised in order to enable the achievement of Programme goals and indicators, and ultimately have a positive impact on the daily life of communities" said Skapi.



reducing the risk of disasters in the program area, worth 2.4 million euros.

Project activities are aimed at empowering young people, encouraging social inclusion, improving employment opportunities for people with disabilities, protecting the environment and sustainable use of natural resources, and

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



European Integration Office



Ministry of finance
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This project is funded by
the European Union