



Enhancing Cooperation - Newsletter

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

December 2021

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CONTENT

The twelfth 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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ΑΝΕΞΑΡΤΗΤΑ ΑΠΟ ΤΗΝ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗ ΕΝΩΣΗ
ΚΑΙ ΔΕΝ ΑΝΤΑΠΟΚΡΙΝΟΝΤΑΙ ΤΙΣ ΑΠΟΨΕΙΣ ΤΗΣ

* 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.



CBC ZOOM

European Cooperation Day - 2021

On the occasion of the European Cooperation Day 2021 the event *Results and Values of European Cooperation Presentation for EU MS ambassadors in Montenegro* was organised on 24th September 2021 where results of all projects financed within both programmes and implemented in this region were presented.

The European Cooperation Day was organised in form of a visit to Vujov katun that was upgraded through the project *Rural Tourism for the Economic Development of the Border Region* implemented within previous IPA perspective Montenegro – Kosovo, and a light hiking tour along the mountain trails in Cakor. The event was attended by the representatives of NIPAC office, European integration office, EU Delegation to Montenegro, embassies of the EU countries and countries participating in the programmes, JTS, Operating Structure Kosovo, project beneficiaries and representatives of organisations implementing projects in the area and beneficiaries of the programme.



The aim of the event was to promote projects that were and are being conducted within the IPA II CBC Programmes Montenegro-Albania and Montenegro-Kosovo focusing on the territory around municipality of Berane, Plav, Petnjica and Gusinje. The event was also an opportunity to discuss the results that countries have achieved through cross-border and transnational cooperation programmes.



The chief negotiator and national IPA coordinator, **Zorka Kordic** during visit to Vujov katun in Cakor addressed the participants and thanked them for joining the celebration of the European Cooperation day and pointed out that Vujov katun testifies that the results of European territorial cooperation are tangible even in remote rural areas, i.e. that cross-border cooperation programmes provide us with the opportunity to fully valorise the potential of our natural heritage.



At the venue in Cakor, **Jelena Krivcevic** from RDA - Regional Development Agency for Bjelasica, Komovi and Prokletije, as project beneficiary that implemented projects within both Programmes, provided information on the area and on results that derived from the projects from the 1st CFP within IPA CBCP Montenegro-Kosovo *Accursed mountains – exquisite outdoor destination* and *Eco and Outdoor Tourism Actions of the Balkan Alps* that as a synergy established touristic offer and route *Accursed Mountains*.

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

Raspberry production continued

The family Ramdedovic, as final beneficiaries of the project Young Montenegrins and Albanians in Raspberry Crops are enjoying the fruits of their work and raspberry crops that were provided through the project. In a recent TV interview **Samir Ramdedovic** says that they received significant support through the provided crops and equipment, but also through the mentoring process. He added that he is very happy with the fruits this year and stated that he managed to sell raspberries in 2021 at a price of 3,30 EUR per kilogram.



Check out the video [here](#).

The final conference of the Augmenting Cooperation held

On December 9, 2021 the Polimski Museum hosted the final conference of the project *Augmenting Cooperation – From Christian Antiquities Towards Enhanced Tourism*. The aim of the project was to contribute to the development of tourism through the joint valorisation and promotion of archaeological and cultural heritage of the cross-border area of Montenegro and Albania.



The director of the Polimski Museum **Violeta Folic** stated that the results that they achieved are beyond their expectations. She pointed out that the locations of the excavations are exquisite and that in Berane, a basilica with an annex building was discovered as well as auxiliary buildings and two house walls. She thanked **Konstantin Dojic** of the Diocese of Budimlje and Niksic, the Albanian partners, the inhabitants of the village of Rzanica and the municipality of Berane for their quality cooperation in this project.



The Vice President of the Municipality of Berane, **Darko Stojanovic**, thanked the involved partners for their successful implementation of the European project. He added that cooperation with Albanian partners is at a high level and that he expects that this type of projects extends to the benefit of all citizens and to the culture.

Mr. **Dojic** pointed out the significance of the cross-border cooperation and that this is the fourth project that the Diocese of Budimlje and Niksic is implementing. He added that they have extensive cooperation with the Polimski Museum and that the results of the project are remarkable.



Holta Koci from the organization Albania Community Assist thanked her colleagues from the Polimski Museum for their hospitality and cooperation and stated that during the project there were challenges and issues and that mutual cooperation assisted in completion of all activities. She added that cooperation between the partners will continue and she hopes that more exchange programmes for students will be developed. She concluded with the statement that the best result of this project is the established friendship of the partners.

The participants were addressed also by **Predrag Lutovac**, archaeologist at the Polimski Museum. He stated that the Polimski Museum was the first to record all the archaeological sites and on the basis of the content, they chose the location for excavation in order to complete the collection of the museum. He also stated that this is a long-term and successful cooperation that will not be interrupted, but will continue over time through various activities, with the desire to continue to visit the Shkodra region and Albanian friends and for them to come to Montenegro.

During the project, two main archaeological sites in Montenegro and Albania, Tumbarice Kastrum near Berane and Christian Basilica Hoti in Kastrat, were excavated, preserved, protected, promoted and equipped with signage and facilities and also integrated into the local tourist offer.



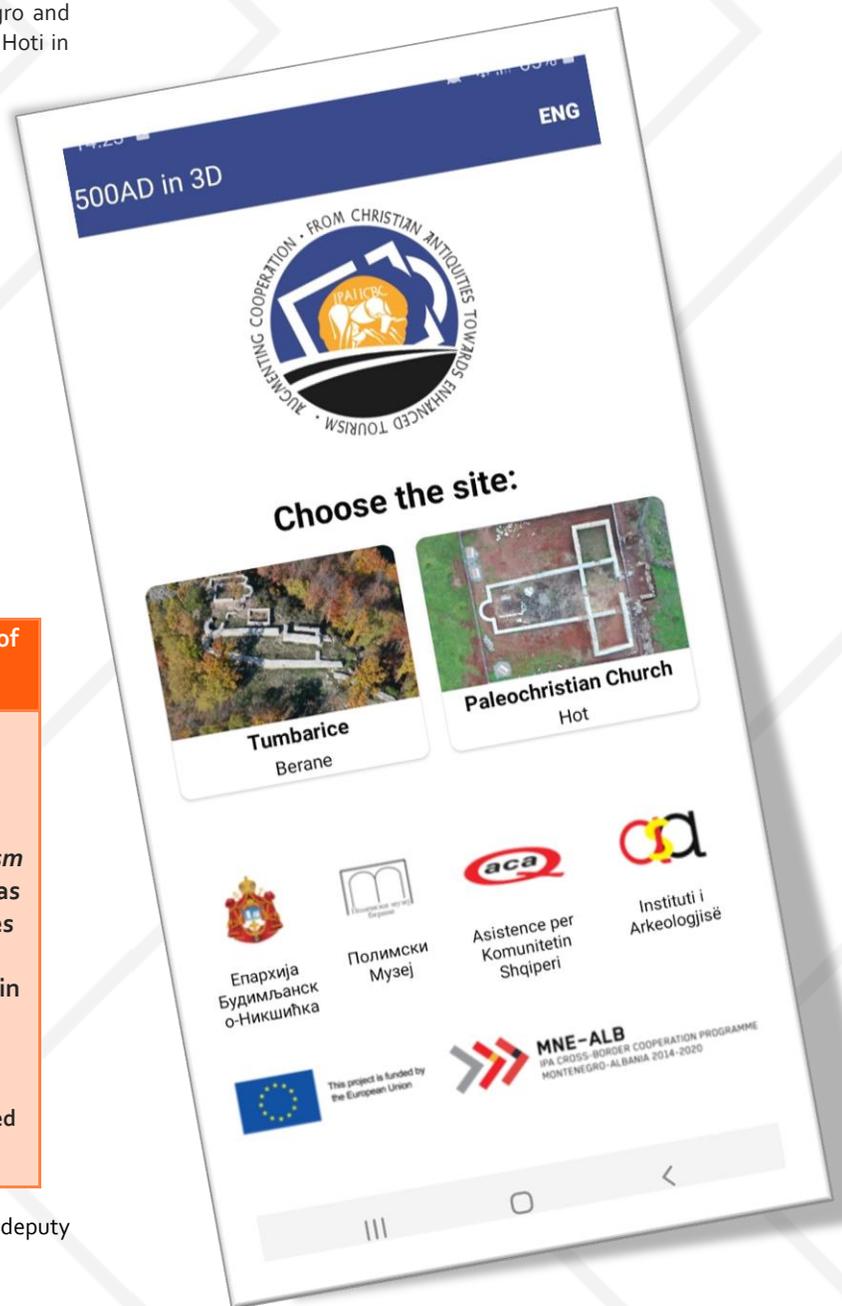
In addition, in order to present the results of the project, in Hot – Malesi e Madhe on October 28th 2021 a press conference was held regarding the increase of cross-border cooperation for Christian antiquities and in order to expand tourism. The location that is part of the project *Augmenting Cooperation – From Christian Antiquities Towards Enhanced Tourism* was also visited by students of archaeology from Montenegro and Albania.

The project results and the project cooperation was presented by Kosta Dojic, from Diocese of Budimlje, Montenegro, the representative for Albania in the project, Ormir Shqarri and deputy mayor Sytki Ndreca.

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

FAST FACTS - 500 years of AD in 3D

As a final result of the project *Augmenting Cooperation – From Christian Antiquities Towards Enhanced Tourism* an Android application has been created and enables to see how the fortifications looked like in 500 AD, in a three-dimensional view. The application can be downloaded [here](#) and used on site as a guide.



Hot, Malësi e Madhe : Konferencë për Shtyp : " Rritja e Bashkëpunimit-aktivitetet e krishtera në funksion të zhvillimit të turizmit"

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

ECO and outdoor tourism

The project *Eco and outdoor tourism in Balkan Alps* closed its activities with the final conference held in Podgorica during which the main results of the project were presented. The project resulted in improved outdoor tourism infrastructure and increased safety for tourists, as well as created and promoted new cross-border touristic offer and trails.

The Rescue Center in Grebaja Valley has been renovated, adapted and equipped with technical, medical, personal equipment, radio communication system and drone with thermal camera. Besides, winter and summer rescue training courses were provided to the rescuers. As a key project result, after the implementation, the Rescue Mountain Service was established in Kosovo for the first time.

New touristic package **Accursed Mountain experience "Itineraries - how to spend 7, 4 or 1 day on Prokletije"** was promoted during the whole project. The website (and iOS and Android application) <http://accursed-mountains.me/> represents a joint initiative of the two CBC projects - Eco and Outdoor Tourism Actions of the Balkan Alps and Accursed mountains – exquisite outdoor destination. In addition, 68 km of trail have been adapted, made safer for tourist and were digitalized.

Digitalized trails are available [here](#).



FAST FACTS - Accursed Mountain experience touristic package

How to spend 7 days in Prokletije:

DAY 1: Arrival in Plav, Visit to Kula Redzepagica, Walk around Plav lake, Traditional, home-made dinner at rural household Savis.

DAY 2: Visit to the Botanical Garden Velemun, Hiking through the Peaks of Prokletije glacier, Spending a night in katun.

DAY 3: Morning hike to Hrid Lake, Visit to Ali Pasha Springs.

DAY 4: Arrival to Grebaje Valley, Walking around nature beauties of the valley.

DAY 5: Departure to Kosovo (recommended through Hajla), Visit to Deçani / Decani Monastery, Lunch in kulla in Drenoc.

DAY 6: Exploring Mountains around Deçani / Decani Valley.

DAY 7: Visit of Peja / Pec major attractions, Departure to Gjakovë / Đakovica, Walk through the Gjakovë / Đakovica old town

More info [here](#).

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

Herbarium of medicinal and aromatic plants of Prokletije donated to the Natural History Museum

On October 28th 2021, the representative of the Municipality of Plav donated an herbarium of medicinal and aromatic plants to the Natural History Museum of Montenegro.

The plants that make up this herbarium were collected during the implementation of the EU funded project *Promoting Sustainable Use of*

Medicinal and Aromatic Plants for Livelihood Improvement and Biodiversity Conservation.



Namely, with this project, the population of the cross-border area of the municipalities of Tropoja and Plav will be trained on the types of medicinal and aromatic plants in this area, ways of their proper and sustainable collection, as well as capacities of public institutions strengthened to enable proper monitoring of populations of medicinal and aromatic species in these municipalities.

The herbarium will be kept within the Collection of Flowers and Ferns, and will be promoted within one of the next exhibitions of the Natural History Museum of Montenegro.

The project *Promoting Sustainable Use of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants for Livelihood Improvement and Biodiversity Conservation* is implemented by the Municipality of Plav, Municipality of Tropoja, NGO Democratic Integration and Development Center and NGO Albanian Alps.

Skadar Lake withOut chemical pollution - SOLUTION

The project *Skadar Lake withOut chemical pollution – SOLUTION* is implemented by the Centre for Ecotoxicological 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.

As part of their activities the project partners started with the research activities in the Skadar Lake on October 2021. Namely, the project team is actively working on the assessment of the environmental risk of chemical pollution in the Skadar Lake.

FAST FACTS - Solution

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/>.



Cross-border Forum for Future Cooperation held

On 16th November 2021 the Cross-border Forum for Future Cooperation was organized within Work4Youth project activities. The event served to increase cohesion, exchange, networking and partnership opportunities between young entrepreneurs from Podgorica, Bar, Tuzi and Shkodra region. This was done through networking events, work in small groups, feedback of experts accompanied with recommendations and suggestions for further improvement of their ideas, supporting opportunities in their area such as loans, crowdfunding and platforms.



The project partners stated that the interaction among youngsters was increased and that this led to establishment of new connections for potential partnerships for the development of their business ideas with an impact in the socio-economic development of the cross-border area.



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). During the last quarter of 2021, the project partners were active in promoting the project and publishing a series of calls for interest for trainers and employers that will be working in capacity building, support and mentorship of PWDs.



Zero waste Gusinje

The project *Montenegro and Albania towards Zero Waste* is implemented by the Regional Development Agency for Bjelasica, Komovi and Prokletije, Zero Waste Montenegro and Albanian Local Capacity Development Foundation. The project aims to create a platform for guiding local communities towards *Zero Waste* towns and to encourage and support reducing, recycling and reusing of waste in local communities and to ensure the sustainability of *Zero Waste* practices.

Within their activities, the NGO Zero Waste Montenegro included information on Gusinje as part of the Zero Waste Cities programme for the first time. Read more in the Zero Waste Europe - [The State of Zero Waste Municipalities Report 2021](#) or check out the excerpt from the report [here](#).



Pathways to Career Development

Throughout its activities, the project team of the project *Pathways to Career Development* involved young people in various capacity building workshops. Namely, ideas for employment, entrepreneurship and shared experiences for cooperation around these ideas were part of the topics discussed by 50 young people from vocational schools from Shkodra and Ulcinj. Check out the promotional video of the project [here](#).



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

Creating employment in agriculture

The capital City of Podgorica and Initiative for Agricultural Development of Kosovo are implementing the project *Creating employment in agriculture*. During the last quarter of 2021 the project partners supported farmers with trainings, mentoring and grants, as well as internships for youth/students has been made possible in Kosovo. Check out the promotional video [here](#).



During this period, in order to facilitate contacts with buyers of aromatic and medicinal plants and the producers of these products, IADK has helped in signing five-year contracts for the placement of products of 20 project beneficiaries in the market.



Moreover, 20 students had the opportunity to participate in internships in the companies that deal with aromatic and medical plants and in that regard increase their professional capacities and find employment.

Transhumance - new tourism offer of Kosovo and Montenegro

This project is led by Initiative for Agricultural Development of Kosovo (IADK) in partnership with Regional Development Agency for Prokletije, Bjelasica and Komovi. Within the project, katuns and households that practice the tradition of transhumance have been supported with renewable energy through solar systems, which will affect the development of rural-tourism in the mountains in the cross-border area. In addition, in Kosovo, solar system beneficiaries are now trained in providing the highest quality services to tourists visiting their katuns and the stunning mountains of Peja and Istog.

Moreover, the project so far contributed to the enrichment of the tourist offer of the mountains of Istog and Peja, by supporting katun families with four (4) camps. In the mountains of Istog and Peja, visitors can set up their tents and light a fire in one of the four camps set up, namely in the mountain of Corrovode, Mokna and Shoshan (municipality of Istog), or in in the mountain of Milishec in the municipality of Peja. In addition, the instalment of eight resting points in the mountains surrounding Istog and Peja was completed.



Moreover, web portal for [Katun tourism](#) was updated, providing thorough information on katuns and katuns trails of project targeted zones.



CARES 2 - Cross-border Actions in the Reproductive Health Sector 2

After successful completion of project CARES within 1st Call for Proposals, the project partners FORS Montenegro and ECMI Kosovo continue to provide support in increase of quality, accessibility and awareness raising in the field of reproductive health through new project CARES 2 – *Cross-border Actions in the Reproductive Health Sector 2*. The project foresees the procurement of medical equipment for hospital and health centres, while the preventive examinations on breast and cervical cancer are continuing.

FAST FACTS - Recommendations for prevention of cervical cancer

- Regular annual gynecological examinations should begin no later than 3 years after the onset of sexual intercourse.
- Perform a PAPA test and colposcopic examination at least once a year.
- Use adequate protection during sexual intercourse.
- A woman between the ages of 25 and 69 should have a regular gynecological examination at least once a year.

Project focuses on youth, and thus 600 young people from the programme area will be directly familiarized with responsible behaviour as regards their reproductive health through youth camps. Besides this, the new project introduced the pregnancy school that will be established as pilot initiative during the project, aiming to include around 2000 pregnant women.

The project partners marked October as the month of the fight against breast cancer through publication of informative articles on breast cancer. As a promotional campaign, various articles were published and shows organised, while the project partners used the brochure and TV spot produced within the previous CARES project to promote the importance of preventive examinations.

FAST FACTS - Recommendations for breast cancer prevention

- Every woman from the age 20 should have a breast self-examination every month.
- From the age of 30 up to 40, a clinical medical examination is mandatory once a year.
- On the recommendation of a doctor, do an ultrasound examination
- At the age of 40 and over, a mammogram is mandatory once every two years.

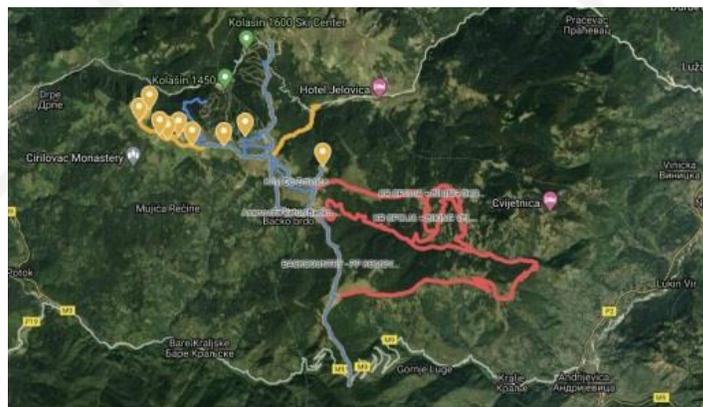
Tourism hubs for better tourism offer in less advantaged mountainous areas

The Municipality of Andrijevica, in cooperation with Municipality of Decan and MAA „Shkelzen Haradinaj“ from Kosovo, are implementing the project *Tourism hubs for better tourism offer in less advantaged mountainous areas* focused on the rural tourism development which will result in establishment of two touristic hubs in both countries along with establishment of katun routes that will engage households in provision of tourism services.

The project partners are actively working in adaptation and construction of mountain lodges in Krivi do (Montenegro) and Bjeshket e Belegut (Kosovo). The works are being conducted and it is expected two mountain lodges (one in each country) constructed, equipped and fully operational with management plans developed by the end of the project.



Besides this, project partners are actively working on development of network of trails to connect two hubs with other important trails in vicinity. On the Montenegrin side, the team reviewed existing trails for hiking and biking, but also snowshoeing and backcountry skiing, as well as thematic trails. As a result, 3 trail proposals were developed: 1 for hiking (yellow) 16.50 km long, 1 for biking (red) 40 km long and 1 for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing (blue) 26 km long.



On Kosovo side, partners have gone to the mountainous terrain through the mountains of Decan and have made measurements with GPS, for planning and signalling of hiking trails in all the mountains of Decan that are connected to the Mountaineering House in Beleg.

PRAXIS

The project team consortium, led by Caritas Kosovo in cooperation with Caritas Montenegro, QAKP Gjon Nikolle Kazazi – Gjakove and Municipality of Berane are implementing project *PRAXIS* that aims to foster employment of youth from the targeted areas in the cross-border region and is expected to result in increased capacities for employability and employment opportunities for pupils, students and unemployed youth.



During this period, approximately 500 young unemployed pupils/students in Kosovo and Montenegro received collective career guidance sessions, while 37 mentors were trained in both countries. Moreover, 10 trainings on soft skills and 5 trainings on job search techniques were delivered to over 350 students and unemployed youth. In addition, 1 job fair was organized to create connections between formal and non-formal education institutions, employers, youngsters and their families, bringing together 22 companies and 300 individuals.



On the end of November 2021, PRAXIS project team, together with management staff of the Employment Office in Gjakove and QAKP "Gjon Nikolle Kazazi" in Gjakove, organized job discovery visits to Industrial Company "KoBa" in Gjakove, Paper production and Gastronomy supply Company "Eko Pak" in Kline and L.L.C "AULONA". The visits were carefully prepared based on the interest of three groups of unemployed youth.

Culture heritage - Treasure of Cross Border Region

Twining municipalities, Municipality of Peja and Municipality of Gusinje, with joint forces are implementing the project *Culture heritage – Treasure of Cross Border Region*. The project aim is to contribute to valorisation of cultural heritage Prokletije region by establishing new cultural routes and trails as new touristic product and offer in the targeted area.



During this period, the project team conducted a set of activities in order to provide information on heritage assets, representative cultural and natural heritage values and need assessment for the owners of old houses, rural families along the cultural routes and tourism organisations.



Through the project, audio devices were procured, which will be used to present the tourist offer of Gusinje through the prepared audio content, and visitors will choose points on the cultural route according to their own wishes and interests. In addition, tour guides were procured, the purpose of which is to enable guides at a certain tourist site to work easier and more comfortably, and to give visitors good audibility and a complete experience. The project also provided an interactive display that will be available to all tourists visiting Gusinje, and will contain the necessary information about the tourist potential of the municipality and services. As a key result, through the project the set up of a tourist info point will be done, where tourists will be able to get all the information related to the tourist offer of Gusinje. Construction works are in progress, and the facility will be handed over to the Tourist Organization for use upon completion of the works.

In order to improve the conditions of heritage sites along the cultural route and provide better services to tourists, the audio guides in Peja were also purchased. Moreover, the information boards are setup in three main entries of Peja in order to share information regarding the culture heritage assets of the city, as well as signalization signs in front of the heritage assets in Peja and resting chairs.



In Peja, training on capacity building and awareness raising for cultural heritage, the value, importance of preservation and how to interpret cultural heritage was held. Cultural tourism, key stakeholders in the tourism chain and value and standards on the cultural path were the three main topics discussed. In addition, field studies regarding the light interventions in the Ethnological Museum in Peja as a tangible heritage asset took place during his period. Also, conceptual design of the future info kiosk for the needs of the tourist organization, and the current appearance of the constructed facility in Gusinje was designed.

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

Team building event for the programme structures organised

A team building event was organised on 7th and 8th December 2021. The aim of the event was a joint discussion on the achievements of the projects funded under the IPA CBC Programme Montenegro – Albania and Montenegro – Kosovo, as well as the Technical Assistance for these two programmes. Moreover, there was an open discussion on setting the stage for IPA III and the capitalization of IPA CBC Programmes Montenegro – Albania and Montenegro – Kosovo. As part of the event, a visit to the King Nicholas Museum, Ethnographic Museum and Art Museum in Cetinje was organised.



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



European Integration Office



Ministry of finance
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of the EU Assistance Funds



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
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