



# Enhancing Cooperation - Newsletter

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

April  
2022

PHOTO CREDIT: CULTURE HERITAGE – TREASURE OF CROSS BORDER REGION - ENTRANCE OF THE PEJA MUSEUM

## CONTENT

The thirteenth 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.

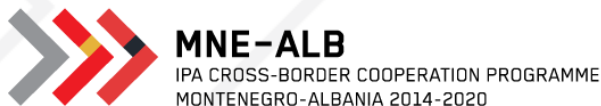
Click [here](#) for more information.

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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.





## Accursed Mountains - personalised experience

The cross-border region of the *Accursed Mountains* was extensively promoted by two projects: *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 and *Eco and Outdoor Tourism Actions of the Balkan Alps* 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“. Both projects implemented a set of activities in the area of the Accursed Mountains and contributed to improving the overall tourism offer and increasing of the safety of tourists in the region.

One of the key outputs of the projects and example of synergy of these two projects is the web portal that was created and that promotes this region. The joint web portal is designed to bring all the available information related to this region in one place.



The portal contains information about the tourism offer when it comes to active holidays, with locations, places, information, contacts, maps, etc. Moreover, Android and iOS applications were created and they contain all the relevant data for tourists/visitors presented in a user-friendly interface. Before you plan your trip, make sure to check out the portal [here](#).



The portal offers information on outdoor activities such as hiking where different options, from the popular *Via Dinarica* and *Peaks of the Balkans*



trails can be chosen or some less demanding, as well as the new hiking trails developed by these two projects. In addition, a series of biking trails with spectacular landscapes are available from more challenging ones, to those that are easier.



There is also information on locations that offer climbing possibilities. In order to increase the safety of tourists and considering that some of these mountain trails go through a cross border area, mountaineers who plan to cross the border here have to inform border police in advance and the portal provides clear instructions and [procedures](#) that need to be followed.



## News on projects financed under the 2<sup>nd</sup> CFP IPA CBC Programme Montenegro - Albania

### Conference on medicinal and aromatic plants held in Plav

The first conference on the EU funded project *Promoting Sustainable Use of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants for Livelihood Improvement and Biodiversity Conservation* was held in Plav on April 28, 2022, which the Municipality of Plav is implementing together with Municipality of Tropoja, NGO Democratic Integration and Development Center and NGO Albanian Alps.



The project aims at increasing the capacities of the population of cross-border areas of Tropoja and Plav municipalities on usage of medicinal and aromatic plants in this area, ways of their proper and sustainable collection, and to strengthen the capacities of public institutions in order to enable them to properly monitor medical and aromatic species populations in these municipalities.



### Workshops held for students

As part of the awareness-raising campaign of the project *Disasters do not know borders 2*, the Prefecture of Shkodra County, in cooperation with the Regional Directorate of Education and the respective school directorates, on 22 and 23 of February 2022, has conducted 12 informative-awareness workshops and lectures with 133 students and pedagogical staff of the schools located in the areas endangered by floods and fires in Shkodra Region. The purpose of these sessions was to share and to inform the students about the actions they can take and that can help them and their families stay safe in case of natural

disasters, and awareness raising on disasters risk reduction, with an emphasis on floods and fires.



### 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 continued with promotional activities. Namely, information on the upcoming project activities were shared with the Montenegrin media.



**Vidoje Petric**, executive director of CETI, thanked the European Union and the CBC programme MNE-ALB for the opportunity to implement this important project. *"In order to protect the biodiversity of Skadar Lake, it is necessary to establish close and continuous cooperation between people on both sides of the border. Exactly such cooperation started through the realization of this project. Cooperation is crucial, taking into account the knowledge about potential pollution that has been insufficiently investigated."*

The project aims to agree common long-term cooperation 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 working on the assessment of the environmental risk of chemical pollution in the Skadar Lake.

**Danijela Sukovic**, the project manager from CETI stated *"On our side, we are talking about 10 points, while on the Albanian side four points. So, a total of 14 points is quite enough for representativeness, and with their help we will give an adequate picture of the situation after examinations and analyses. This project has a lot of research notes, and it is not just classical*

research”.

### 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/>.

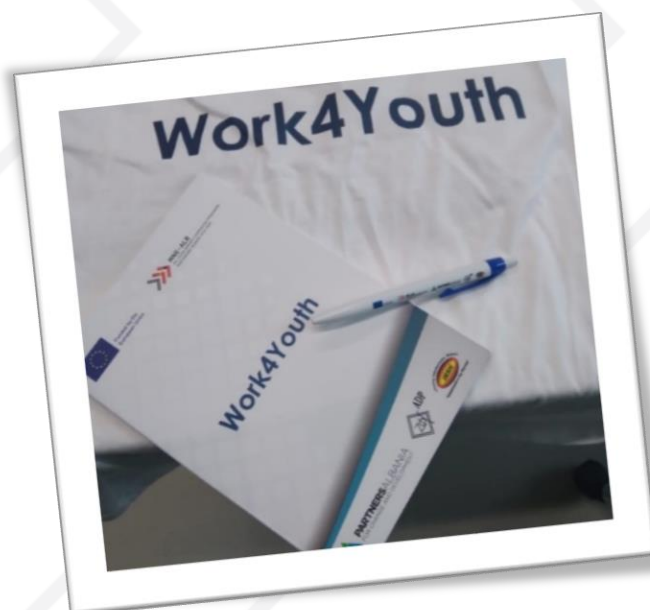
### Work4Youth: Innovation Boot Camps held in Becici and Shkodra

In the framework of the “Innovation Boot Camps” program, part of the “Work4Youth” project, during March, six information sessions were held, aiming to encourage young people to participate in the program.



Info-sessions were held in the municipalities of Shkodra, Vau i Dejes, Puka, Tuzi and Podgorica, as well as online, where over 100 youngsters from cross-border municipalities learned more about the program, its activities and the application process.

After the informative campaign two innovation boot camps were organized in Becici and in Shkodra. The boot camps were organized as intensive programs for acquiring practical skills, where selected individuals and teams were provided with the necessary knowledge and skills necessary for the development of entrepreneurial skills and their own business ideas based on the needs and capabilities of the local community.



The project *Work4Youth* is implemented by the Partners Albania for Change and Development, Association for Democratic Prosperity – Zid (Montenegro) and NGO Youth Intellectuals – Hope.

### Training for mentors held within the A.C.C.E.N.T. project

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). As part of the cross-border project A.C.C.E.N.T, through which the Mentoring Program was developed, a three-day training for mentors was held at the Avala Hotel in Budva. The training, led by coach **Danka Cetkovic**, gathered 11 mentors, who will work together with persons with disabilities in the upcoming period on their capacities.



The purpose of the training was to acquire basic mentoring skills for working with persons with disabilities, where participants had the opportunity to learn more about adjusting work and the workplace, then all the steps in mentoring, as well as the characteristics of successful mentors. In addition, through practical examples and exercises, participants were introduced to the concept and model of disability, as

well as adequate terminology related to people with disabilities. The training was also attended by the coordinator of activities of Caritas of Bar's Archdiocese, **Marko Djelovic**, as well as the director of the Association of Paraplegics of Bar, **Slavko Vucicevic**.



### Montenegro and Albania towards Zero Waste

During the first quarter of 2022, Zero Waste project team has continued with awareness raising activities and education meetings with representatives of local communities and schools in Margegaj and Gusinje. The aim was to disseminate key messages of the project and educate local population on the principles of Zero Waste philosophy.



The process has been supported by Mr. **Enzo Favoino**, Scientific Coordinator from Zero Waste Europe, who has been transferring the knowledge and experiences from similar towns in EU that apply Zero Waste practices in waste management. The campaign has been supported by the members of the Zero Waste Advisory Boards who have also defined the next steps in implementation, some of which are waste separation measures and clean up events.



### Pathways to Career Development

Throughout its activities, the project team of the project *Pathways to Career Development* involved young people in various project activities. A study visit was organised for 50 young people from Ulcinj to the University "Donja Gorica" (UDG) in Podgorica. Young people from Ulcinj had the opportunity to be acquainted with a special business philosophy and career building that this university promotes. At the centre of this visit was the "Entrepreneurship Nest" that operates within this institution, to encourage young people creative energy and skills to produce successful business ideas.



In addition, within the project activities in February 2022, 3 professional courses for 50 young people were held where they had the opportunity to choose between three courses offered, *digital skills for PR/marketing in the field of tourism*, *courses where the principles of cultural heritage and hospitality in the tourism sector are intertwined* and *tourist guide*.



The courses were selected based on the data of the research conducted in advance by the young people themselves, the results of which showed that the employers were interested in employees who possessed knowledge on the above courses. In addition, on March 3, 2022 in Ulcinj, a training session was held with young people and a special cycle of professional courses is being organized in the fields of *digital marketing*, *sector manager* and *travel companion*.



## News on projects financed under the 2<sup>nd</sup> CfP IPA CBC Programme Montenegro - Kosovo

### 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. After a series of activities aiming at supporting the local population with equipment and capacity building, the project partners are promoting the project results.



As part of the campaign the new touristic offer in Istog and Peja is being promoted through simple and authentic shepherds hut and contact details of the people offering this type of service. Check out the new touristic offer [here](#).



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

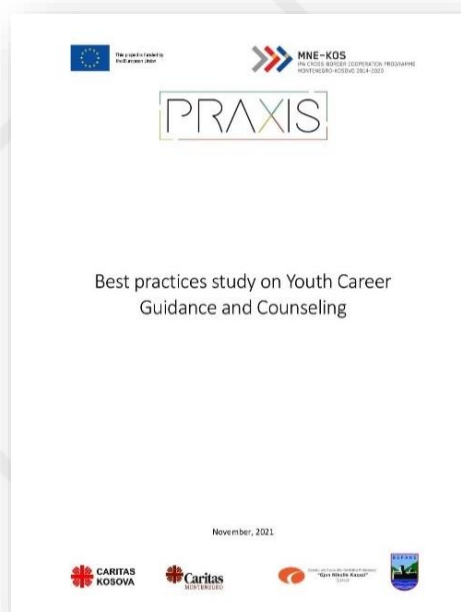
The project CARES 2 – Cross-border Actions in the Reproductive Health Sector 2 implemented by FORS Montenegro and ECMI Kosovo continued with its activities. During the week of January 17-23, 2022, the project marked the week dedicated to the prevention of cervical cancer. In their announcements it was underlined that data at the international level indicate that this disease is in the second place of prevalence when it comes to malignant diseases of women, right after breast cancer. *It most often occurs to women between the ages of 40 and 45, but the limit when it comes to the disease is moving lower and lower.* According to the International Agency for Research on Cancer, 113 women became ill with this disease in Montenegro in 2020, they announced.

## Ključ je u redovnim pregledima



They underlined that it is estimated that 30 to 40 percent of cervical cancers can be prevented by reducing exposure to these risk factors. They added that it is particularly encouraging when it comes to this type of cancer that it can be detected early through organized screening programs aimed at its early detection and timely treatment. In addition to nurturing healthy lifestyles, regular check-ups are the best preventive weapon. More information available [here](#).

## 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 the 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, the project team developed the publication [Best practices study on Youth Career Guidance and Counseling" in the cross-border region MNE-KOS](#). The publication provides key information related to the situation in career guidance and counselling in Montenegro and Kosovo. Moreover, the publication provides an overview of best practices in the region and information on support to pupils, students and teachers.

## 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.

Aiming to improve the conditions of heritage sites and provide better

services to tourists, the

project team in Peja has finalized small scale infrastructure interventions within cultural sites along the trail. Minor interventions had taken place such as setting up decorative benches, instalments of pano in Llozhan and totem in the Old Bazaar, both of them containing the historical descriptions of these heritage assets. Moreover, the Old Bazaar is also enriched with inventory and information board at the entrance of the Peja Museum.

The old stones from Gradine (ancient city of Peja) that represent the antiquity of Peja, are now emplaced on the concrete slab coated with ceramic tiles. Furthermore, the small-scale infrastructure interventions envisaged to be done in Gusinje will take place as soon as weather conditions improve.



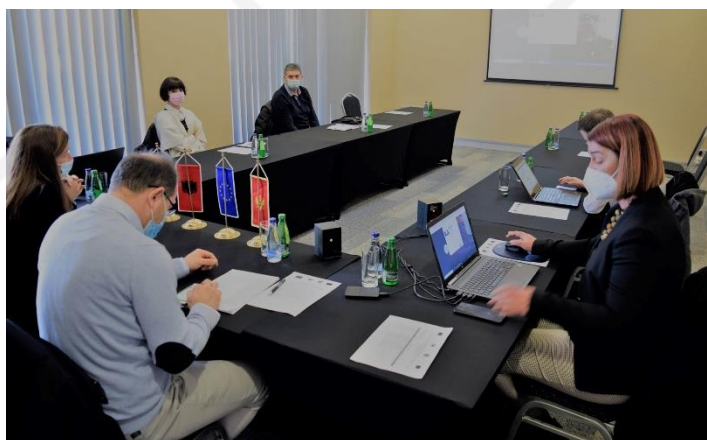
In addition, as part of the project activities, the project team of the municipality of Gusinje, on February 28, 2022 organized a seminar in which more than 15 representatives of the tourism sector took part in. The aim of the seminar was to point out the importance of promoting tourist potentials through the rich cultural heritage of the municipality of Gusinje and participants had the opportunity to learn about best practices from the region when it comes to cultural tourism.

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



## Second Project Steering Committee meeting held

The second meeting of the Project Steering Committee of the Technical Assistance for both CBC Programmes MNE-ALB and MNE-KOS was held in Podgorica on 27 January 2022 and representatives of the Operating Structures of Montenegro, Albania and Kosovo were able to meet and discuss. Namely, the meeting was organised to discuss the implemented activities in 2021 and upcoming plans for 2022 and to present, discuss and approve the Second Interim Report of the project "Technical Assistance for the management of bilateral Cross-Border Cooperation Programmes Montenegro – Albania and Montenegro – Kosovo".



## Institutional changes in Montenegro and Albania

Following the process of establishment of the 43rd Montenegrin Government, changes in institutional setup took place at the beginning of May 2022. In particular, the European Integration Office has become the **Ministry of European Affairs** and will coordinate Montenegro's EU accession process and coordination of EU funds, including both IPA CBC Programmes MNE-ALB and MNE-KOS.

In Albania, following the restructuring process, the implementation of all EU Assistance in the Republic of Albania will be coordinated by the **State Agency for Strategic Planning and Aid Coordination (SASPAC)** in the Prime Minister's Office. This will include also the coordination of activities related to the IPA CBC Programme MNE-ALB, that in the previous period were implemented by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

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



**Montenegro**  
Ministry of European Affairs



**Montenegro**  
Ministry of Finance  
Directorate for Finance and Contracting  
of the EU Assistance Funds



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË  
KRYEMINISTRIA  
AGJENCIA SHITËTORE E PROGRAMIMIT STRATEGJIK DHE KOORDINIMIT TË NDHËMËS



**Republika e Kosovës**  
Republika Kosova-Republic of Kosovo  
Qeveria - Vlada - Government  
Ministria e Pushtetit Lokal  
Ministarstvo lokalne samouprave  
Ministry of Local Government



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