



PHOTO CREDIT: PROJECT FAIR – EU COOPERATION DAY - SHKODER

Enhancing Cooperation - Newsletter

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

December 2022

CONTENT

The fifteenth 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. Programmes and project activities are funded by the European Union.

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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Views of the European Union
Kosovo and do not necessarily reflect the

* 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
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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



European Cooperation Day 2022 celebrated in Shkodra

On the occasion of the European Cooperation Day 2022, the State Agency for Strategic Programming and Assistance Coordination (SASPAC), in cooperation with Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro, as well in cooperation with the Municipality of Shkoder and with the technical support of the Joint Technical Secretariat, organised a promotional event in Shkodra on 4th November 2022 aiming to promote projects implemented within IPA CBC Programme Montenegro – Albania.

The event was attended by the Albanian NIPAC, representatives of Albanian and Montenegrin Operating Structures, Mayor of Shkodra Municipality, Prefect of Shkodra, Regional Council of Shkodra, Mayor of Vau Dejes Municipality, JTS, project beneficiaries, final beneficiaries and wide public, who had the opportunity to visit project results and observe the sustainability of respective projects presented at the fair, as well as to visit the *Special Unit of rapid intervention* supported through the project *Disaster do not know borders* and the pitching event of the project *Work4Youth*.



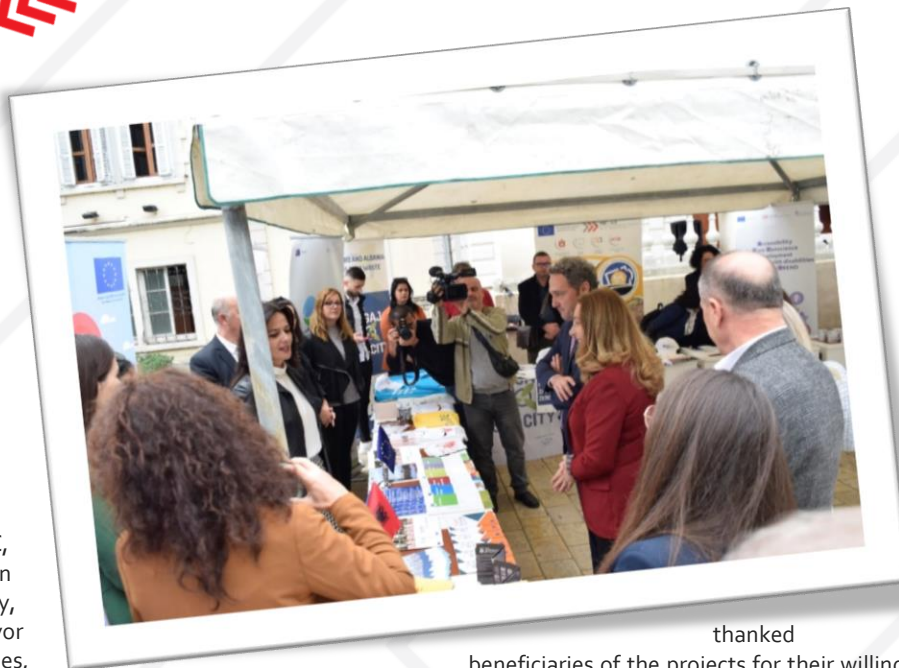
The event was also an opportunity to discuss the results that Albania has achieved through cross-border and transnational cooperation programmes. In his speech, Mayor of Shkodra Municipality **Mr Bardh Spahiu** underlined the importance of the EU programme, which by providing financial and technical support in the field of economic development, social inclusion, protection and promotion of natural and historical heritage and tourism promotion, has enhanced the cross border cooperation between the populations of the neighbouring states.

The National IPA Coordinator, **Mr Ilir Beqaj** during his speech highlighted the importance of such programmes for both countries that intend to become member states of the EU. He added that this activity is also important since Albania in July 2022 initiated the negotiation process for EU Integration. He invited all the potential applicants to use the knowledge from previous experience and to prepare better projects and absorb more funds within IPA III.

Ms Nada Pejovic, from the Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro underlined that now, under IPA II 15 projects with a total value of over 5

million euros are funded in the area of employment, labour mobility and social and cultural inclusion, protection of the environment and tourism.

She



thanked the beneficiaries of the projects for their willingness to take advantage of the opportunity that the European Union provides through this Programme and for the good work that they are doing and that they will do in the future.



During the fair of the projects, where 13 out of 15 contracted projects were presented at the fair stands, all participants had the opportunity to see each of the project outputs and were briefly informed by the project representatives about the activities and results achieved.



During the field visit of the project *Disaster do not know borders* participants had the opportunity to meet the *Special unit forces of rapid*

intervention in case of disasters. The chief in command presented the outputs of the project, purchased equipment such as two boats for long and short distance, engines, new car for the institution of Prefecture, vests, etc.



He also informed the participants on the trainings provided by the project and gave examples on a couple of cases when the team had the duty to use all the knowledge and equipment for intervention to provide support to the people in need, both for national and international disasters.



After this, the participants had the opportunity to visit an ongoing activity Pitching Event within the project *Work4Youth*. New business ideas, prepared under the mentoring of project experts, were being presented at this event, and three of them were selected for financial support. This event was opened by the Minister of State for Protection of Entrepreneurs, **Ms Edona Bilali**, who announced various government programmes and initiatives in support of the entrepreneurship and youth employment, inviting the young entrepreneurs to apply to these supporting mechanisms.



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

40,000 medicinal and aromatic plants planted in Plav

During October 2022, 40,000 medicinal and aromatic plants were planted in Plav with the aim to rehabilitate degraded areas. The planted area will be used as part of current and future educational campaigns.



Within the same project the promotional video *Promoting Sustainable Use of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants for Livelihood Improvement and Biodiversity Conservation* was produced and promoted and can be viewed [here](#).



Activities focused around improving the protection and rescue system

With the support of the European Union within the project *Disasters do not know borders 2*, a two-day conference was held in Budva (Montenegro) during 30th November and 1st December 2022, on the topic of *Improving the protection and rescue system*.



The conference was organised in order to provide recommendations, exchange experiences, opinions, models of good practice and lessons learned related to improving the protection and rescue system, as well

as to inform the population and special target groups about this area. The conference brought together representatives of institutions and services dealing with protection and rescue, CSOs, project partners, etc. from Montenegro and abroad, who presented experiences and case studies related to the organisation of the protection and rescue systems in Montenegro, countries of the regions and of the European Union, as well as recommendations for improving the situation.



Moreover, as part of the project activities meteorological equipment worth 38,000 euros dedicated for the Institute of Hydrometeorology and Seismology of Montenegro was presented on 28th November 2022 in Podgorica, including a meteorological station, a server and computers for numerical weather forecasting and numerical early warning.

Activities of the project *SOLUTION*

On 25th November 2022 partners Centre for Ecotoxicological Research Montenegro, University of Tirana and Association Green Centre as part of activities of the project *Skadar Lake withOut chemical pollution – SOLUTION* organised a presentation of the results of the analysis of water quality of the Skadar/Shkodra Lake. After evaluating the obtained data, it was stated that the results related to the burden of the Skadar/Shkodra ecosystem with chemicals are satisfactory.



Namely, the results of the analysis of the content of polyaromatic hydrocarbons in the sediment showed a certain degree of negative effect, but the extent of this burden should be subject of further research. In addition, even though certain content of mercury, PCBs and organochlorine pesticides has been noted, it was stated that this is significantly below the maximum permitted concentrations, so it can be safely said that carp and eel are safe for consumption.

Moreover, experts in hydrogeology explained that the distribution of chemicals in the lake is much greater from the direction of Montenegro towards Albania, than the other way around. During the presentation it was concluded that the presence of certain pollutants has been determined and should be further monitored. The degree of possible concern will be determined by the end of the project when all results are reviewed and processed.



After the presentation of the results the partners held the third training at the University of Tirana, Faculty of Natural Sciences, where the staff of the Organic Chemistry group, Faculty of Natural Sciences UT, was trained from the experts of the Centre for Ecotoxicological Research, Podgorica, **Mr Vladimir Zirkovic** and **Ms Anja Babic**.

The topics of the training program were the GC-MS techniques, development of analytical methods in the new GC-MS instrument purchased from the *SOLUTION* project for University of Tirana and calibration for a range of organic pollutants as PCBs, Pesticides, mineral oils, PAHs etc.

Cleaning action in Gusinje

As part of activities within the project *Montenegro and Albania towards Zero Waste* during September 2022 citizens and local authorities with the support of EU funds jointly worked towards a cleaner region.



Namely, during a three-day cleaning action more than 1300 kg of waste was collected in the areas surrounding Gusinje. Citizens, high school students, representatives of Gusinje Municipality, Gusinje Utility Company and Tourist Organisation joined the action and contributed to a cleaner environment.



As results, the project is expected to provide conditions for selective waste disposal, processing and recycling.

Work4Youth project finished

On 13th December 2022, the final conference of the project *Work4Youth* was held. The conference gathered representatives of local governments, CSOs and youth. The project partners used this opportunity to present the project result in detail. The most valuable achievement was the fact that after two years of intensive work and support, 32 youngsters with entrepreneurial spirit from Shkodra region, municipalities of Bar, Tuzi and Podgorica are ready to enter the market,



and contribute with their business ideas to employment and local community development.

Check out some of the supported youth enterprises [here](#).

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

Promotional campaign “I can and I want!” continued

Promotional activities continued in both countries as part of the A.C.C.E.N.T. project. The project partners promoted successful stories of employment in both countries and worked on the awareness through promotion of examples of good practices regarding employment of persons with disabilities.

Check out the success story on employment of persons with disabilities and the conversation with the director of the company “Centro Biro” [here](#).



Extensive communication with citizens and promotion of project results in media was done in Shkodra, where the partners of the project made several appearances. Check out one of the interviews [here](#).



Moreover, during October 2022, the project organised the ceremony for the successful completion of the four-day *Active job search* training where 16 young men and women from Shkodra and Lezha received their certification.



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).

Pathways to Career Development project finished

On the 21st December 2022 in Shkodra (Albania) the project partners of the project *Pathways to Career Development* organised the final conference. The final event gathered young beneficiaries from Montenegro and Albania, as well as representatives from the schools, organisations and institutions that enabled the successful implementation of the project.



During the event, success stories of young people who have already started their successful ventures were presented, while the participants also discussed the possibilities of cooperation for the further support and empowerment of youth.



The main project results were the capacity building events that prepared 130 young people from cross-border regions in Shkodra and Ulcinj to be competitive in the local and regional labour market. Moreover, through the project activities 100 young people have explored new business projects/ideas that match the demands of the labor market, 50 internships were organised in local businesses, while 13 best project ideas were funded in order for them to start their small businesses.

Check out the video with the results of the project [here](#).

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

First direct incomes from agriculture for beneficiaries

Within the project *Creating employment in agriculture*, the beneficiaries in Kosovo that cultivated medical plants during 2021-2022 gained their direct incomes from agriculture. Namely, their products are sold to the collection points and exporting companies with whom they have signed 5-year contracts as one of the key project results.

Moreover, the interns who went through the practical work within various companies in order to increase their competencies and knowledge evaluated the internship program as very successful. Namely, out of 22 persons who went through an internship, 13 of them were employed and found job opportunities due to internship schemes.



The project *Creating employment in agriculture* is implemented by the capital City of Podgorica and Initiative for Agricultural Development of Kosovo.

PRAXIS project finished

During October and November 2022, eleven collective guidance sessions have been organised for over 145 unemployed youth from Berane, Petnjica, Plav and Gusinje. Namely, sessions were organised in Berane in the Employment office, Gymnasium "Panto Malisic" and primary school "Vuk Karadzic", as well as in primary school "Dzafer Nikocec" in Gusinje and primary school in Trpezi and "25 May" in Petnjica. In addition, the four Career orientation workshops were organised in Medical school in Berane, with the main accent for demand in medical sector and more than 50 participants attended these capacity building events. Additionally, carrier orientation trainings for trainers were organised for participants from Berane, Gusinje and Petnjica. During November 2022, 5 "Soft skills II - Creative trainings" sessions were organised as five day training and gathered more than 120 pupils and unemployed youth. The five day trainings aimed at making employment of youth much easier and was focused on topics such as teamwork, flexibility, problem solving, time management, communication and presentation skills, creative skills, emotional intelligence and interpersonal skills, business etiquette.



On 16th December 2022, the Professional staff from High Vocational and Medical schools from Berane, had the opportunity to exchange good practices and establish cooperation by visiting management and professional staff of the Center for Professional Education and Counseling "Gjon Nikollë Kazazi", High Technical School "Nexhmedin Nixha", High Medical School "Hysni Zajmi" and Private Enterprise "Veer" Studio Design in Gjakove.



Moreover, during November and December 2022, several job discovery visits were organised in cooperation with stakeholders from Berane, Petinja, Plav and Gusinje. Around 70 youth visited host companies in Berane (LLC "Nikola", Regional Business Center, LLC "Green One", Hotel "Berane" and enterprise "Arte Casa") and had the opportunity to get information on the business performance of these companies, company needs and labour force qualification required for the various positions,

production, technologies, etc. Finally, as a closure event, the final conference of the project was held on 22nd December 2022 in Berane. The conference gathered over 40 participants, representing various stakeholders such as national and local public institutions, educational institutions, NGOs, employment bureaus and services, youth centres, etc. During the conference, the main achieved results and promotional video were presented, while the certificates for *Career guidance and counselling* were delivered to beneficiaries. The participants also discussed the issue of youth employment and had the opportunity to exchange experience, knowledge and ideas, as well as to foster the cooperation among institutions. For more information on the results of the project, please see the promotional video [here](#).



CARES 2 ongoing capacity building and awareness activities

The project CARES 2, as continuation of previous project results of CARES 1, is being successfully implemented by long-lasting partnership between FORS Montenegro and ECMI Kosova. Within this period of project implementation, various awareness-raising activities were organised, as well as preventive examinations and capacity building activities. In addition, the process of procurement of medical equipment is being finalised and the equipment will be delivered to the health institutions in the upcoming period. October as the month against breast cancer was marked in Montenegro and Kosovo, through various press releases, media features, TV show, and articles, setting of billboards and distribution of information and promotional material.



During this period, two cross-border trainings were organised. Namely, trainings on *prevention, diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer* was organised in Bar (Montenegro) on 26-28 October 2022 for medical workers from Montenegro and Kosovo. Moreover, a training on *prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cervical cancer* was organised in Peja (Kosovo) on 22-24 November 2022 for specialists in gynaecology,

oncology, pathology and family medicine doctors from Kosovo and Montenegro. The aim of these trainings was to improve the knowledge and skills of participants related to risk factors, prevention options, incidence, PAP tests, mammography, ultrasound examinations, breast magnetic resonance imaging, treatment of cervical cancer, etc. During these cross-border trainings, medical staff from Montenegro and Kosovo had the opportunity to improve their cross-border cooperation and enable exchange of experiences, lessons learned and good practice models in prevention, treatment and diagnosis of breast cancer and cervical cancer.



Moreover, two round tables were held on the topic *Improving reproductive health and presenting the results achieved within the CARES 2 project*, i.e. one was held in Bar (Montenegro) and one in Peja (Kosovo). The events enabled discussion among stakeholders, as well as exchange of opinions, attitudes, best practices, challenges and lessons learned and how to improve cross-border cooperation in this field of reproductive health. In Kosovo, during September and October 2022, 10 lectures for women on reproductive health were organised and were conducted by doctors – gynaecologists. Special attention is being paid to gather appropriate target groups on the lectures – women from the target area with the emphasis on socially vulnerable groups.



In order to provide education for nurses from the target area from Montenegro and Kosovo, *Pregnancy school* was organised in period 18-21 October 2022 in Bar (Montenegro) as four-day cross-border training. The purpose of the training was to improve capacities and increase the knowledge and competences of nurses from the target region to provide adequate support to pregnant women and conduct pregnancy courses in the target region. During the training various topics, including examples and best practices related to the pregnancy were shared with participants. Finally, one youth camp for high school students was organised as a three-day training in Bar (Montenegro) in the period 19-21 October 2022. The training was delivered by specialists through sensitive counselling presentations adjusted to their age and interests,

aiming to enable the participants to learn about healthy lifestyles, responsible behaviour regarding their own health, the importance of prevention and regular medical examinations, etc.

Transhumance project finished

The promotional expedition (FAM Trip) of the project *Transhumance - new tourism offer of Kosovo and Montenegro* was organized on the 6th and 7th October 2022 with journalists, tourist operators, international participants and interested stakeholders active in the provision of tourism service and development of mountain tourism. The IADK as lead partner led the two-day trip within the Mountains of Istog and Peja. During the trip, the participants stayed one night at one of 56 solar-powered katuns.



The participants enjoyed the impressive landscape and traditional culinary delicacies. Exposure to the ancient tradition of katuns enabled the interested participants to include this in their touristic offer as well as to promote this tradition as much as possible.



The visited trail was established within the project and the visitors now have the opportunity to spend the night in the so-called ten shepherds' huts, have traditional food in nine resting points, or experience nature in five campsites in the most beautiful places of Accursed Mountains.

On the other side, RDA for Bjelasica, Komovi and Prokletije organized similar activity on 6th October 2022. Namely, the promotional trip was organised along the thematic trails *Pester pastures in Montenegro* and visited one katun within the trail. Various travel agencies that already have similar products in their offer, as well as journalists, travel writers, television crews and bloggers, joined the RDA on the promotional trip. The aim of this activity was to increase the promotion of katun as a tourist offer.



Project Culture heritage - Treasure of Cross Border Region finished

As part of the activities of the project *Culture heritage – Treasure of Cross Border Region* the Exhibition of Art Colony was held in the period 24th - 28th October 2022 in Gusinje as a joint initiative between Peja and Gusinje. Within this activity, five artists from Peja and five artists from Gusinje painted 10 heritage sites of Gusinje in order to promote the cultural heritage and share experiences.



Paintings created during Art Colony in Gusinje and those made during the Art Colony in Peja were exhibited on 28th October 2022, aiming to promote the cultural heritage assets of both countries.

The *Familiarization Trip* between tour operators of Peja and Gusinje was organized in the period 27-28 October 2022. The trip was initiated in Peja and continued in Gusinje, during which the participants had the chance to visit the cultural heritage assets along the cultural trail and use the audio guides as a source of information regarding those assets. During the final period of implementation of the project, the digital flip-board was purchased and installed in Peja.

FAST FACTS - Digital flip-board

Digital flip-board is a content-rich interactive platform, easily accessible and has the most advanced software that offers graphic and annotation features (with the possibility to integrate a wide range of media such as videos, interactive content, or 3D models).



The final conference was held in Gusinje on 31st October 2022. During the conference, it was concluded that the successful finalization of the project was achieved by a strong cross-border cooperation aiming to develop sustainable tourism in both countries.



It has also been emphasized that this project will serve as an example of how great the results can be when everyone is determined to achieve the same goal with the same vision and energy.



Discussion Forums organised for project beneficiaries

The Joint Technical Secretariat in cooperation with Operating Structures of the Programmes organised the Discussion forums with project beneficiaries of 2nd Call for Proposals IPA CBC Programmes Montenegro – Albania and Montenegro – Kosovo. Namely, Discussion Forum with project beneficiaries of 2nd Call for Proposals of the IPA CBC Programme Montenegro – Albania 2014-2020 was organised on 9th September 2022 in Shkodra (Albania), while the Discussion forum with project beneficiaries of the 2nd Call for Proposals of CBC Programme Montenegro – Kosovo 2014-2020 was organised on the 16th September 2022 in Prishtina, Kosovo.

The events were organised in order to contribute to the improvement of the impact of the implementation of the projects through exchange of views of grant beneficiaries regarding the ongoing project implementation, current issues, good practices and through fostering inter-project communication.



During the events, project beneficiaries, had the opportunity to hear on the findings from the field that were presented by Joint Technical Secretariat. This was followed by group discussions, questions and answers, examples and practical illustrations from daily work and experience. Moreover, participants were urged to share their specific challenges they face during the implementation phase aiming to make stock of the difficulties and solutions applied by different beneficiaries.



The forums presented a good opportunity to enable the grant beneficiaries of the ongoing project within the 2nd CFP to enhance the cooperation between similar projects, improve communication among partners and similar projects, and identify main challenges and joint ideas to overcome the problems and discuss best practices.

Capacity building activities organised for the staff of the programmes structures

Two capacity building activities were organised during September 2022 for staff of the Operating Structures (Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro, Ministry of finance of Montenegro – Directorate for Finance and Contracting of the EU assistance Funds, Ministry of Local Government Administration of Republic of Kosovo and State Agency for Strategic Programming and Aid Coordination of Republic of Albania) and Joint technical Secretariat of

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

The first training on Evaluation of the Call for Proposals was organised and held on 7th and 8th September in Shkodra (Albania), during which 19 participants had the opportunity to gain knowledge on the evaluation process. The training aimed at achieving an enhanced understanding of the provisions of the Call for Proposals with special emphasis on the selection of concept notes and full applications. Besides the representatives of the Operating structures and JTS, the training was attended by the representatives of the Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro and Delegation of the European Union to Albania. The training was provided by CBIB+ expert, **Mr Enrique Aguado Asenjo**.



The training encompassed theoretical, practical and group work. The participants gained knowledge and information on how to practically address problems encountered by the evaluation committees when handling the Call for Proposals at steps 1 'evaluation of concept notes' and 2 'evaluation of full applications'.

In addition, they were provided with professional advice on how to address sensitive issues on communication with the applicants (i.e. clarifications) and on how to complete the



evaluation grid for concept notes and full applications within these two Programmes.

The second capacity building activity, *Training on Irregularities and risks*, was organised on 14th and 15th September in Prishtina, Kosovo and it was attended by 19 participants.

The *Training on irregularities and risks* was held with the aim to strengthen the capacities of the operating structures and JTS on irregularities and risk management in relation to the EU funded projects within the Programmes in line with the EU rules, standards and procedures. The training was delivered by two experts, i.e. **Ms Mirjana Juric**, Head of AFCOS Service within Ministry of Finance of Croatia and **Ms Ana Srdinic-Kovacic**, Head of Department for Audit of Operations, Agency for Audit of European Union Programmes Implementation System (ARPA) of Croatia.



During the two-day training the participants had the opportunity to gain knowledge and exchange experience and discuss on risk and irregularities management, instruments and methods for detection of irregularities, ways of reporting on irregularities and recovering the caused damage, suspicion of fraud and its detection, conduction of audit, verification and checks. The participants also had the opportunity to obtain information on understanding the concept, functioning and role of AFCOS (Anti-fraud coordination service) and OLAF (European Anti-Fraud Office), as well as to hear the examples from Croatia from the period of pre-accession process and from the period since they became the EU members.

Bilateral meeting held in Tirana

As part of regular activities in the IPA CBC Programme Montenegro – Albania, in Tirana on 31st October 2022 a bilateral meeting between Operating Structures was held. The meeting was organized in order to discuss ongoing programme activities under IPA II and IPA III.



Cross-border workshop for journalists

The Joint Technical Secretariat organised a cross-border workshop for journalists under the IPA CBC Programme Montenegro-Albania with the support of the Operating Structures of the Programme, with the aim to familiarize journalists from Albania and to encourage them to produce stories on the achieved results and interesting stories from the projects funded under this Programme and, in this way, bring closer the projects and their achievements to the citizens.

The workshop was organised on 11th November 2022 and was attended by local and national Albanian media, who had the opportunity to visit projects and their achievements on the field and to discuss with projects stakeholders and final beneficiaries on the importance of these projects, cross-border cooperation and support of EU for local communities.



The workshop started with the visit to the Raspberry Farm of **Mr Kol Shaben** in Bushat, where journalists had the opportunity to visit the investment made by the project *Young Montenegrins and Albanians in raspberry crops*. The owner of the farm explained the benefits of planting raspberries and the financial and technical support provided by the project. Moreover, the project coordinator, **Ms Rozeta Gradeci**, from COSPE underlined the importance of the CBC programmes for such interventions and supporting of rural families. She informed journalists that the project enabled 21 farms in the region to plant for the first time raspberries in this area and that the business, restaurants, etc., are now very interested in buying this product from the producers, that now have concrete benefits.



After the raspberry farm, the group went to visit the meteorological station installed at Ura Bunes (bridge at the Bojana/Buna river) within the project *Disaster do not know borders*. The project coordinator, **Mr Andris Tufi**, explained for the visitors the technical details of using the meteorological station and added the importance of such technology in gathering and elaboration of information. He also informed the journalists that through the first and second phase of this project, there

are 5 stations installed in the region, a lot of materials delivered to the Specialised Unit of Rapid Intervention in case of floods, equipment and materials for the fire station trainings provided for the staff, etc.



Very close to the meteorological station, the group had the opportunity to visit some of the sculptures prepared and installed through the project *Sculpture Symposium* financed within the programme AL-MNE 2007-2013. Moreover, after a short break, the group travelled to the Hot village, Malesi e Madhe to visit the archaeological site of the V century Christian church.



At the site the journalists had the opportunity to meet with the project coordinator **Mr Ormir Shqarri** who introduced in details the intervention provided by the project, excavation locations, remains of the church, protection measures and results achieved as part of the project *Augmenting Cooperation – From Christian Antiquities Towards Enhanced Tourism*.

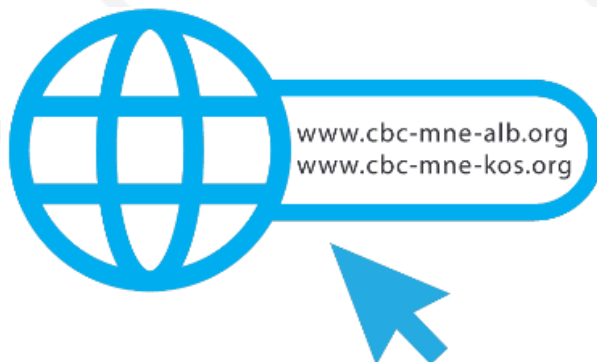
The participants had also the opportunity to use the QR code at the notification plate and see the virtual picture of the old church. **Mr Shqarri** underlined that most valuable artefacts from the archaeological site are located at the premises of the Hoti Church. The conclusions drawn from the conversation were that the EU funds used within the CBC cooperation contribute to the development of the tourism sector in the region.

After this, the participants visited the Hoti Church to see the artefacts discovered by the excavation process.

Following the visit of the location in Hot, the journalists visited the Cross Border Point Grabom of the strategic project *Reconstruction of Hani Hotit – Bozaj CB point and construction of Zatrijebacka Cijevna – Grabom Border point* contracted under IPA CBC Programme AL-MNE 2007-2013. At the border crossing point the group met with **Mr Elvin Bercaj**, representing the Customs Directory. **Mr Bercaj** gave details of the functioning of the



border point and described the importance of providing this service for the citizens of the area.



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



Ministry
of European Affairs



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



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRIE
KRYEMINISTRIA
AGJENCIA SHITËTORE E PROGRAMIMIT STRATEGJIK DHE KOORDINIMIT TË NDËRHËS



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



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