



# Enhancing Cooperation - Newsletter

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

## April 2023

**PHOTO CREDIT: PROJECT PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE USE OF MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANTS FOR LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION**

### CONTENT

The sixteenth 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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\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.



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**MNE-ALB**

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



**MNE-KOS**

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



## 4th Call for Proposals for Montenegro - Albania programme launched

The Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro and the Directorate for Finance and Contracting of EU Assistance in the Ministry of Finance Montenegro, in cooperation with the State Agency for Strategic Programming and Assistance Coordination – SASPAC of the Republic of Albania, on 17 March 2023 published the 4<sup>th</sup> Call for Proposals within the IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Montenegro-Albania 2014-2020.

The global objective of this call for proposals 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."*

As part of this call, projects that aim at promoting tourism and cultural and natural heritage worth up to **900,000 euros** will be supported, as well as projects worth up to **450,000 euros** aimed at encouraging employment, workforce mobility and social and cultural inclusion on both sides of the border.

The duration of projects is limited to **36 months** for projects in the field of tourism and cultural and natural heritage, and for projects in the field of employment **to 24 months**, while the total budget of this call is **2.8 million euros**, of which up to 85% of the funds are provided by the EU.

The programme area in Montenegro includes the municipalities: Andrijevica, Berane, Plav, Gusinje, Petnjica, Rožaje, Podgorica, Tuzi, Zeta, Cetinje, Danilovgrad, Budva, Bar, Ulcinj, and in Albania the municipalities: Malesi e Madhe, Shkoder, Vau i Dejes, Puke, Fush-Arrez, Lezhe, Mirdite, Kurbin and Tropoje.

All information about the 4<sup>th</sup> Call for Proposals is available at the following [link](#).

**The deadline for submitting full applications is 30 June, 2023.**



In addition, on 23 March 2023, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro, in cooperation with the Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro, organized a press conference, and officially presented the 4<sup>th</sup> Call for Project Proposals, worth 2.8 million euros, to the Montenegrin media.



In order to promote the 4<sup>th</sup> Call for Proposals, during March and April 2023, 4 information sessions were organised in Shkodra, Lezha, Berane and Podgorica. During the events, the representatives of the Ministry of Finance presented the opportunities and rules for participation in the 4<sup>th</sup> call and provided answers to the potential beneficiaries.





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

### Websites on aromatic plants up and running

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. After a series of activities implemented in the North of Montenegro and Albania, maps on locations of aromatic and medicinal plants are available online. For more information visit <https://aromaticmedicine-plants.me/> and <https://didc-map-tropoje.al/>.



### Activities focused around improving the protection and rescue system

With the support of the European Union, as part of the project *Disasters do not know borders 2*, a three-day training for representatives of hydrometeorological services from Montenegro and Albania on the topic of Forecasting and Early Warning System was organised in Podgorica. The training was attended by 27 participants who had the opportunity to improve their knowledge in the field of extreme weather events in the context of climate change, measures of adaptation and adaptation and strengthening the community's resistance to extreme weather events, satellite products and their applications, forecasting extreme weather events through high-resolution models, use of meteorological forecasts for sectoral risk assessments, etc.

The training was held by trainers with extensive experience in this field – **Mrs. Natasa Strelec Mahovic** PhD from the European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT) and **Mr. Vladimir Djurdjevic** PhD, professor at the meteorology group of the Faculty of Physics, University of Belgrade.



In addition, workshops on reducing the risk of floods and fires were held in the past period in order to educate students about the activities that need to be undertaken in case of disasters, which can help them to stay safe together with their families. Lectures were organized by FORS Montenegro in cooperation with schools and regional units of the Directorate for Protection and Rescue of the Ministry of Interior of Montenegro. A total of 25 lectures were held in primary and secondary schools in Andrijevica, Gusinje, Petnjica and Berane, which were attended by over 500 students. On that occasion, the students received specific instructions and guidelines from experts on preventive measures as well as those activities that should be undertaken during floods and fires in order to reduce their harmful consequences.

### Activities of the project SOLUTION

The 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* are continuing with cooperation in the capacity building activities. Training programmes include 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.



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

### Projects funded under the programme Montenegro - Kosovo promoted in the international tourism fair

The projects *Accursed mountains – exquisite outdoor destination* and *Culture heritage - Treasure of cross border region* that were implemented in the framework of the IPA II Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Montenegro – Kosovo, were promoted as part of the International Tourism Fair Kosova - 2023 that was held from 16-18 March, 2023 in Prishtina.



### Key achievement of the PRAXIS project presented

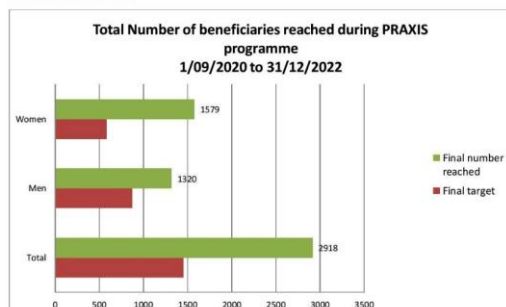
The project team consortium, led by Caritas Kosovo in cooperation with Caritas Montenegro, QAKP Gjon Nikolle Kazazi – Gjakove and Municipality of Berane, implemented the project *PRAXIS* that aimed at fostering employment of youth from the targeted areas in the cross-border region and that resulted in increased capacities for employability and employment opportunities for pupils, students and unemployed youth. The project team published the detailed results of the *PRAXIS* project on the achieved indicators. You can view the analysis and data [here](#).

#### PRAXIS Programme

##### Final Report on Indicators: 1-09-2020 to 31-12-2022

The MEAL System has been set up in one Excel table named "Dashboard" (annex A). It has allowed us to follow up all the proposed indicators in the PRAXIS Logframe on a monthly basis. During the 28 months project implementation, mostly "quantitative" indicators have been followed up. Here under you can read the level of indicators' achievement after 28 months implementation of activities for the General Objective, the Specific Objective and the 4 expected results.

##### General Objective Indicator:



## CARES 2 ongoing capacity building and awareness activities

The project *CARES 2*, which builds on previous results achieved within the *CARES 1* project, 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 April 2023, as part of the project activities, valuable equipment was donated to the "Bogdan Vujošević" Health Center in Ulcinj. The procured equipment and instruments for the gynecological clinic of the Ulcinj Health Center, will be used for organizing preventive examinations of women of reproductive age related to cervical cancer. Namely, an ultrasound machine, a radio-surgical knife and other instruments were purchased for a total value of 32,360 euros.



### 2.1 million euros for new projects of the IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Montenegro-Albania

The implementation of **six projects** funded by the European Union under the 3<sup>rd</sup> Call for Proposals was marked on 2 March 2023 in Shkodra, Albania. Namely, these projects, worth 2.1 million euros will be implemented in the upcoming period in the area of employment, tourism and environment. A total of 19 partner organizations and institutions from the territory of Montenegro and Albania will participate in the implementation of the projects.



During the awarding of certificates to the beneficiaries of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Call for Proposals, the National IPA Coordinator of Albania/General Director of



State Agency for Strategic Programming and Aid Coordination **Mr. Ilir Beqaj**, addressed the participants at the beginning and stated that it is a very important moment to express deep recognition toward the European taxpayers whose contribution funds this programme and to confirm also both our countries commitment toward the European Integration path. **Mr. Beqaj**, especially emphasized the importance of the addressing of nowadays challenges such as biological, cyber or environmental ones, where the support of EU is crucial and much needed.



After this, the Head of the Operating Structure of Montenegro in the Ministry of European Affairs in Montenegro **Mr. Bojan Vujovic** addressed the participants and pointed out that cooperation between Montenegro and Albania is particularly important in the context of the accession process, where it is possible to exchange experience and knowledge through the joint implementation of projects, in areas of importance and mutual interest. He reminded of the cooperation between these two countries, which started 15 years ago, and the fact that within the framework of IPA II, 21 projects with a total value of 7 million euros are financed in the fields of employment, workforce mobility and social and cultural inclusion, environmental protection and tourism.



Following this, **Ms. Ana Raicevic**, the National Authorising Officer in the Ministry of Finance of Montenegro, addressed the participants and emphasized that the advantages of the cross-border cooperation programme are reflected in the creation of a common vision for a more prosperous future for the citizens of the two countries, supporting good neighbourly relations, encouraging integration into the EU and



promoting socio-economic development, and as she assessed, the Montenegrin IPA structure will take advantage all its available capacities. *"The Montenegrin IPA structure is ready for cooperation and support with awarded grants, bearing in mind the common goal – the successful absorption of available EU funds and the improvement of the European path"* she added.

#### FAST FACTS - Projects of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Call for Proposals MNE-ALB

**No Borders for Work!** – implemented by the Old Royal Capital Cetinje, ProAct Hub, Institute for Sustainable Policies and Fushe Arrez Municipality;

**Joint Environmental Protection Action – JEPA** - implemented by Municipality of Gusinje and Municipality of Puke;

**Skills for Jobs Albania – Montenegro** - implemented by Foundation Business Start-Up Centre Bar, Chamber of Economy of Montenegro and Albanian Investment Development Agency;

**New Reality of the Heritage Sites** - implemented by Municipality of Bar, Municipality of Tropoje and Foundation for Local Autonomy and Governance (FLAG);

**Building Smart Forests** - implemented by FLAG, Municipality of Shkoder and Municipality of Bar;

**Skadar/Shkoder Lake Watershed - a Transboundary Biosphere Reserve** - implemented by Development, Education and Networking (EDEN centre), Environment Programme - EnvPro, National agency of protected areas in Albania and Public enterprise National Parks of Montenegro.

The Head of Sustainable Economic and Social Development in the Delegation of European Union in Albania **Mr. Andrea Vera**, while addressing the participants, said that there is an increased quality of projects of applicants and beneficiaries of the EU funds. He added that cross-border cooperation has even bigger objectives such as the mutual coordination of both countries' paths toward EU and deeper and stronger collaboration, once they will be a future part of EU. *"Since 2012, EU has contributed with more than 8 million euro for the cross-border*

cooperation between Montenegro and Albania, and now we are all together working on the last preparations of IPA III with a budget of about 12 million of euros", Mr Vera concluded his word.

After the opening speeches, the Project Officer in the JTS **Mr. Nikola Djonovic** presented in brief the whole process of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Call for Proposals starting from its publication. He informed the audience about the whole timeline of activities that have been undertaken by the structures of the Programme aiming the information, capacity development of the potential applicants before and after publication of the Call. In the last session, the beneficiaries presented shortly their projects to the participants. The supported projects aim at empowering young people, encouraging social inclusion, improving employment opportunities, protecting the environment and sustainable use of natural resources, and reducing the risk of disasters in the programme area.



### 3.2 million euros of European Union support for 10 cross-border projects for the programme between Montenegro and Kosovo

The Grant Award Ceremony of the projects contracted under the 3<sup>rd</sup> Call for Proposals of IPA CBC MNE - KOS programme 2014-2020 was organized in Peja by the Ministry for Local Government Administration of Republic of Kosovo in close cooperation with the Operating Structure of Montenegro, where the selected projects under the 3<sup>rd</sup> CfP were presented and promoted. The audience had the opportunity to get informed about 10 projects that have been contracted, as well as about the statistics of the evaluation process.



The Minister of the Ministry of Local Government Administration of the Republic of Kosovo, **Mr. Elbert Krasniqi**, welcomed all participants of the event and expressed his satisfaction that Kosovo and Montenegro are jointly finalizing a successful process of the IPA Cross-Border cooperation Programme which is moving towards the closing phase. He emphasized that good neighborly relations and regional cooperation constitute the main preconditions for accession, while the strengthening

of interstate and cross-border cooperation constitutes the main premise of social and economic development.



He stated that cooperation between the Republic of Kosovo and Montenegro within the IPA funds started in 2011 and that two countries worked together within IPA II towards increasing employment, protecting the environment, promoting tourism and cultural and natural heritage. He thanked the colleagues from Ministry of Local Government Administration, the Operating Structure of Montenegro, the Contracting Authority within the Ministry of Finance in Montenegro, the staff of the Joint Technical Secretariat of the programme and the representatives of the EU for their work, assistance and provided support in achieving the objectives of this Programme. He said that 10 projects worth 3,2 million euro are contracted within the 3<sup>rd</sup> CfP within IPA CBC Programme Montenegro –Kosovo and wished the project beneficiaries successful implementation of their projects.



**Mr. Miodrag Rasovic**, acting secretary of the Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro, greeted the participants on behalf of the Ministry of European Affairs and the Operating Structure of Montenegro. He emphasized that the successful work on this Programme so far would not have been possible without the good and high-quality cooperation of the Ministry of European Affairs and the Ministry of Finance of Montenegro and the Operating Structure of Kosovo, the Ministry of Local Self-Government Administration of the Republic of Kosovo, the Delegation of the European Union and the Joint Technical Secretariat.

He expressed his satisfaction to announce the commencement of the new projects, stating that 29 partner organizations and institutions from Montenegro and Kosovo will implement their activities in 19 municipalities of the Programme area. He stated that successful cross-border cooperation between the two countries began in 2011 during the IPA 2011-2013 financial perspective, where 9 projects with a total value of almost 1.6 million euros were successfully implemented and that



within the IPA II program 23 projects with a total value of over 7 million euros in the areas of employment, workforce mobility and social and cultural inclusion, environmental protection and tourism were contracted so far. He added that one more project from the reserve list will be contracted, which will increase the contracting percentage to almost 100%. Finally, he said that in the coming period, additional funds of over 8 million will be available for beneficiaries within the IPA III programme.



**Mrs. Jelena Davidovic**, acting Head of the Directorate for Finance and Contracting of the EU Assistance Funds (CFCU) in the Ministry of Finance of Montenegro, announced that selected projects contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Programme under this call, and that their realization involves joint engagement of numerous institutions and organizations.

She emphasized the importance of cross-border funds of the European Union that contribute to a better quality of life of citizens living in the programme area. She also pointed out that there was a lot of interest from applicants for this Cfp and that 10 projects worth 3.2 million euros were contracted while one more project is expected to be contracted. In addition, she congratulated all the beneficiaries of the projects and wished them a successful implementation of the projects.



Deputy Head of Cooperation Section, European Union Office in Kosovo, **Mr. Alessandro Biancardi** stated that cross-border actions have always been crucial in supporting the development efforts of the local population correcting imbalances and tackling territorial inequities. He praised the cooperation between Montenegro and Kosovo and stated that this cross-border Programme aims to find common solutions to shared challenges, in a sustainable manner.

He stated that 10 contracted projects will contribute to the EU and countries priorities such as green transition, employment and social inclusion, and development of tourism and cultural heritage. He pointed out that the EC monitors the impact of cross-border projects on the

development of the cross-border region and the improvement of the living standards of the population in the programme area.

In the second part of the ceremony, after the opening speeches, Head of JTS, **Mrs. Sanja Todorović** presented in brief whole process of the 3rd

### FAST FACTS - Projects of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Call for Proposals MNE-KOS

**Culture heritage – Act SMART, save water!** – implemented by Kosovo Development Centre – KDC, Water Supply Company Vodovod "Bistrica", LLC Bijelo Polje and Regional Water Company "Hidrodrini" – JSC Peja;

**New Environment Revitalization Approach – NERA** - implemented by Municipality of Tuzi and Municipality of Peja;

**Young NEETs: new opportunities for work and increased employability – "UNEETED"** - implemented by Institute for Strategic Studies and Prognoses, Institute for Development Policy (INDEP), Chamber of Economy of Montenegro and Municipality of Mojkovac;

**Skills for Sustainable Employment in the Cross-Border Region of Montenegro and the Republic of Kosovo – No Borders!** - implemented by Chamber of Economy of Montenegro, Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of Kosovo, Regional Business Centre Berane and Education, Training and Research Institute –ETRI;

**The Cultural Renaissance from Skadar Lake to Kosovo – TIME TRAVEL** - implemented by Community Development Fund (CDF), Centre for Sustainable Tourism Initiatives, Municipality of Klina and National Tourism Organization of Montenegro;

**Cross-border Green Deal** - implemented by FORS Montenegro, European Center for Minority Issues Kosovo and Municipality of Berane/Opština Berane;

**Evocation and Attraction of Cultural Heritage – Christian Antiquity and Turkish Bath for Cultural Tourism** - implemented by J.U. Polimski muzej Berane and Shoqata Alpinistike Marimangat e Pejës;

**C.L.O.S.E.R. – Culture-Led Opportunities for Sustainable Economic Revitalisation** - implemented by Kosovo Foundation for Cultural Heritage Without Borders and Municipality of Bar;

**Turning our villages into tourism destinations** - implemented by Peja Municipality, Regional Development Agency West and Regional Development Agency for Bjelasica, Komovi and Prokletije;

**In Employment, Education, Training – IN EET** - implemented by NGO Juventas and Labyrinth.

Call for Proposals starting from its publication and informed the audience about the whole timeline of activities that have been undertaken by the structures of the Programme aiming the information, capacity development of the potential applicants before and after publication of the Call.



Within the third part of the ceremony, the selected projects of the 3rd Call for Proposals of IPA CBC MNE - KOS programme 2014-2020 were presented by the project beneficiaries. At the end of the ceremony the promotional short documentary film named "Eco-tourism promotion on the territory of Montenegro, Albania and Kosovo" was screened for the first time in Peja.



## Bilateral and JMC meeting held in Prishtina

As part of regular activities in the IPA CBC Programme Montenegro – Kosovo, a bilateral meeting between Operating Structures was held in Prishtina on 13 February 2023. The meeting was organized in order to discuss ongoing programme activities under IPA II and IPA III. On the same day the meeting of the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) was held with the aim to discuss further steps in relation to the IPA III and future tasks.



## Cross-border workshop for journalists organized in Kosovo

The Joint Technical Secretariat organised a cross-border workshop for journalists under the IPA CBC Programme Montenegro-Kosovo with the support of the Operating Structures of the Programme, tending to familiarise journalists from Kosovo 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 held on 28 March 2023 and included the visit to projects that were/are being implemented in municipalities of Gjakova, Decan, Peja and Klina. The journalists, during the promotional event, were accompanied by Gazmir Raci, JTS Antenna Officer in Prishtina and Fatmire Berisha, CBC National Officer from Ministry of Local Government Administration of the Republic of Kosovo.



In the Municipality of Gjakova, the team of journalists had the opportunity to visit the Waste Transfer Station established within the project "United Against Pollution – UAP" funded under 1<sup>st</sup> CfP and to obtain detailed information from project beneficiaries on the project activities and on how the Public Utility Company "Çabradi" installed equipment for separation and recycling and placed controlling container within the facility.



After the visit to Gjakova, the team of journalists travelled to Decani. First reception was led by the Mayor of the Municipality **Mr. Bashkim Ramosaj** in the municipality building and then the visit was directed to the of Mountain centre in Bjeshket Belegut. The representatives of Mountaineers association "Shkelzen Haradinaj" from Decan were also present. As it was explained to the participants, within the



implementation of the project *"Tourism hubs for better tourism offer in less advantaged mountainous areas"* the expected results foresee establishment of two Tourism hubs in both Montenegro and Kosovo, development of summer and winter tourism products and services as well as marking and joint promotion of new zones.



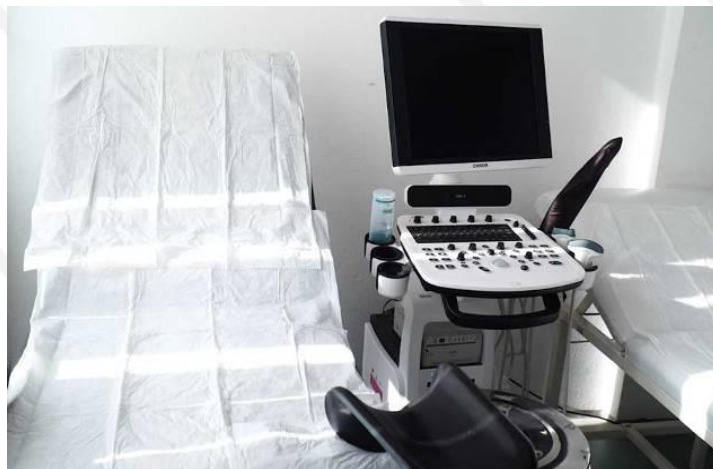
After that, the team of journalists travelled to Peja in the centre of the city and visited the investments made in the frame of the marking of the cultural heritage road that connects the city of Peja in Kosovo with Gusinje in Montenegro.



In the City Museum in Peja, they were welcomed by the leader of the tourism sector in the Municipality of Peja, **Mr. Virtyt Morina**, as well as **Mr. Sokol Luta**, head of RDA West which implemented the project "Accursed mountains – exquisite outdoor destination" and **Mr. Nermin Kastrati**, who has been the manager of the "Culture heritage - Treasure of Cross Border Region", the cross-border project that has been led by the Municipality of Peja. At the end of this one-day visit to the projects implemented in the IPA II CBC Montenegro –Kosovo programme, the team with the journalists visited the Center of Family Medicine in Peja. This centre has been the beneficiary of some very necessary and required equipment for the health of the mother and the



child in the framework of two projects that have been implemented in Kosovo by the NGO ECMI Kosova, "CARES - Cross-border Actions in the REproductive Health Sector" & "CARES 2 - Cross-border Actions in the Reproductive Health Sector 2". **Dr. Gazmend Bojaj**, who is also the acting head of this family medicine center, together with two medical sisters, spoke about the importance and impact behind these two projects, for which at first they were sceptical, but now they are very satisfied and expressed interest in the future involvement in CBC projects.





## Meeting of two National IPA coordinators in Podgorica

In April 2023, two National IPA coordinators of Montenegro and Albania met to discuss joint EU-funded projects in order to strengthen cross-border cooperation between Montenegro and Albania. *"It is necessary to achieve the highest quality cooperation in the field of projects of mutual interest and work together to improve the standards and quality of life of people in the border region of Montenegro and Albania,"* said State Secretary in the Ministry of European Affairs and national IPA coordinator **Ms. Milena Zizic**. Together with her associates, she met the director of the State Agency for Strategic Programming and Aid Coordination (SASPAC) and the national IPA coordinator **Mr. Ilir Beqaj** to discuss cross-border and territorial cooperation programmes in which both countries participate.



**Mrs. Zizic** pointed to the fact that these two countries have established cooperation and that it is necessary to focus on the implementation of projects of mutual interest in the coming period, both within the current IPA and within IPA III, which offers a large number of opportunities for important projects.

**Mr. Beqaj** welcomed the efforts of the Ministry of European Affairs in managing the programme, and pointed to the results that the Republic of Albania, as part of the operational structure of the programme, implemented in order to facilitate the implementation of projects for beneficiaries from Albania. **Mr. Beqaj** emphasized the importance of focusing energy towards strategic projects for the cross-border area as a response to current needs but also to those needs that the future imposes.



Acting Director General of the Directorate for European Funds and Head of the Operational Structure in the Ministry of European Affairs **Mr. Bojan Vujović** emphasized the importance of the meeting of national IPA coordinators and indicated the necessity of a strategic approach and focus on concrete priorities in the upcoming period. He added that there is great interest in European funds and that within the framework of IPA II, organizations and institutions from Montenegro participate in over 280 projects from various programmes of territorial cooperation.

The interlocutors also exchanged opinions regarding current obligations within the cross-border and territorial cooperation programme and agreed on a set of steps to be undertaken in the upcoming period for projects of common interest.

## Capacity building for project beneficiaries of both programmes

During the period February – March 2023 Operating Structures with the support of the JTS organised a series of capacity building events for beneficiaries of both programmes.

Four events for beneficiaries of the 3<sup>rd</sup> CfP of the Programme Montenegro – Kosovo were organised during February-March 2023. Namely, the JTS provided administrative and technical assistance to the CFCU for the Training on secondary procurement and Implementation Seminar that took place in Podgorica. The training focused on EU secondary procurement rules and the requirements of the Grant Contract's Annex IV, as well as on project planning and management and internal monitoring.



The Training on Reporting and on Publicity and visibility for the beneficiaries were held in Istog, Kosovo. The JTS delivered the trainings where detailed instructions on filling out the Interim or Final report were given to the beneficiaries, as well as information on proper methods and techniques for publicity and visibility in line with EU rules.





Using the same approach, four events were also organised for the beneficiaries of the 3<sup>rd</sup> CfP for the Programme Montenegro-Albania during February – March 2023. Namely, CFCU Montenegro delivered the Training on secondary procurement and Implementation Seminar that took place in Podgorica, covering the same topics that were related to .EU secondary procurement, monitoring and project management.



The JTS delivered the Training on Reporting and on the Publicity and visibility for the beneficiaries that were held in Lezha, Albania.



## Capacity building activities organised for the staff of programme structures

In order to raise the capacities of programme structures training events related to procurement and communication were organised.



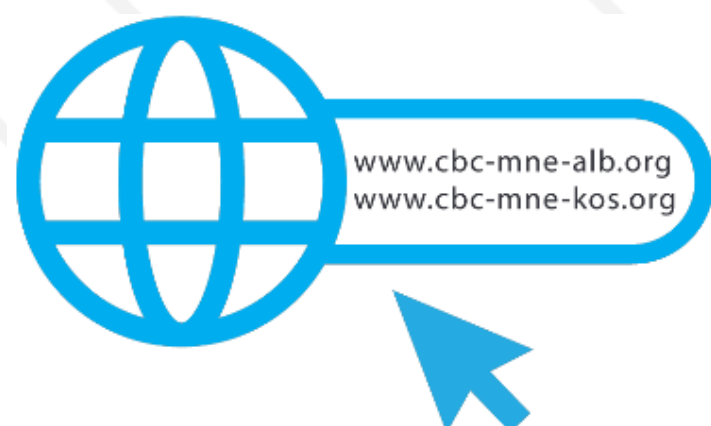
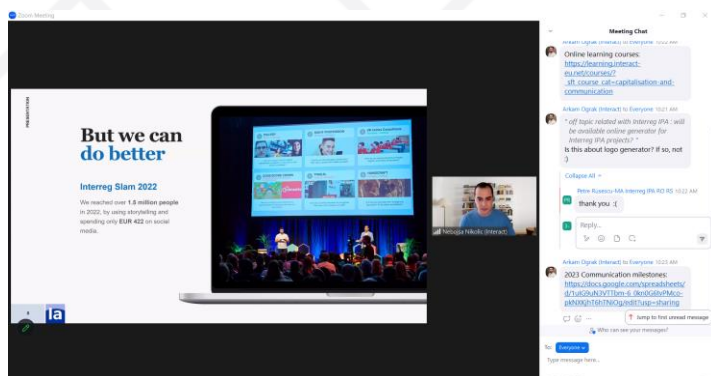
The first event, held on 3 February, 2023, focused on training the OSs and JTS on the procurement of works. The objective was to enhance capacities in line with PRAG rules (Practical Guide to Contract Procedures for EC External Actions) and improve their understanding of

procurement processes. The event was followed by a total of 25 participants.

The second event, a webinar titled "**Communication under IPA CBC – Storytelling**" took place online on 7 March 2023. It was organized by the Interact Programme following a request from MEA, SASPAC and MLGA with the support of the JTS.



The main aim of the webinar was to gather representatives from various stakeholders, including the Operating Structures of Montenegro, Albania, and Kosovo, to discuss effective techniques for transforming project descriptions into engaging texts. The event was well-received, with 42 participants attending, and it raised attention from all relevant IPA Programmes.



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



**JOINT TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT OF THE IPA  
CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMMES**  
MONTENEGRO - ALBANIA AND MONTENEGRO - KOSOVO 2014-2020

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