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for the

INTERREG-IPA Bulgaria - Turkey CBC Programme

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Implementation Report for IPA II Cross-Border

PART A

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

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2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Key information on the implementation of the cooperation programme for the year concerned, including on financial instruments, with relation to the financial and indicator data.

In 2021 continue implementation of projects, financed under the 2nd Call for Proposals, as well as strategic project under the Restricted Call for Strategic Project Proposal of the INTERREG-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Bulgaria – Turkey (the Programme).

By the end of 2021 a total of 46 projects, financed under the 2nd Call for proposals were finalized, 36 of them completed their implementation during 2021. Under implementation by the 31.12.2021 were 12 projects from the 2nd Call, as follow:

- PA 1 "Environment"- 1 investment project of total amount of EUR 337 136,85;
- PA 2 "Sustainable Tourism" - 11 projects (10 investment and one soft) at the total amount of EUR 4 361 370,05.

In 2021 continued implementation of the financed under Priority Axis 1, Specific objective 1.2 "Improving the capacity for nature protection, sustainable use and management of common natural resources through cooperation initiatives in the cross-border area" strategic project "Cross-border Regions Collaborate for BLUE GROWTH (BLUE GROWTH COLLABs)". Based on decision of the JMC from 14th of December 2020 notification to the European Commission for non-substantial modification of the Programme was submitted on 16th of March 2021 (amendment of the financing plan of the programme – transfer of 279 839 EUR from Priority Axis 2 to Priority Axis 1). The notification was accepted by EC on 6th of April 2021 and addendum to the subsidy contract of the strategic project was concluded for inclusion of additional activities and increasing of the project budget to 3 342 273,39 EUR. During the year second addendum for the strategic project was concluded – related to amendment of the activities and connected to it budget change.

The total verified amount until the end of 2021 for three priority axes is EUR 18 380 616,10 (62,01% from the programme budget)

The problems with the implementation of the contracted projects related to pandemic situation of COVID-19 and imposed restrictions in partnering countries continued in 2021. While in 2020 the projects which had difficulties in implementation of the activities are mainly soft ones, which require gathering of large group of people or include vulnerable target groups as children, in 2021 the crisis affected and investment projects. The difficulties of the beneficiaries are related with disturbed global supply chains and resulting therefrom problems in supplies (delays of delivery or lack of offers in tender procedures) and related with it increase of prices. For nine of the projects under the second call for proposals the Managing Authority of the Programme decided to suspend temporary the execution of the contracts in 2021. The project partners were advised to analyse the planned activities taking into consideration any impediments as a consequence of the measures related to COVID-19, as well as the possibilities to implement soft measure activities by alternative means, including digital ones.

The published by MA guidelines in relation to the emergency measures related to COVID-19 were actualized in April 2021. Due to the pandemic situation and the local measures of the health authorities a revised version of Instructions and the amended FLC guidelines was published on the web-site of the programme. Preserving the health of all involved and help in the fight against the pandemic, the MA is temporarily introducing an alternative option for verification - Virtual (online) verification replaced on-the-spot visits and verification for "soft" projects.

In 2021 continue the process of programming for future INTERREG VI-A IPA Bulgaria – Turkey 2021-2027 period. On 24th of February 2021 via written procedure the Joint Working Group (JWG) for programming approved the revised Intervention Logic of the programme (following the interinstitutional agreement at the end of 2020 on the draft cohesion policy regulations, including the draft Interreg regulation and its requirements on the thematic concentration). First draft of the Interreg-IPA Programme Bulgaria - Turkey 2021-2027 – sections related with programme strategy - territorial needs and potentials, objectives and priorities of the

programme, indicative actions, communication measures have been approved on the online meeting of the JWG on 14th of September 2021.

The Managing Authority and National authority, supported the local stakeholders for the elaboration of a territorial strategy for integrated measures, necessary for implementation of PO 5 “Europe closer to citizens”. A Task Force (TF) was established representing all relevant regional and local authorities and bodies, as well as other local stakeholders related to the preparation and implementation of the strategy. Responsibility of the TF is to collaborate with the selected Consultant during the elaboration of the Integrated Territorial strategy under PO5 “Europe closer to citizens” and to feed in results of dialogues with relevant stakeholders, databases, expert positions etc. The first draft of the Strategy has been published for consultations on April 14, 2021 as received comments from local stakeholders had been incorporated in the revised version of the document. Campaign for collection of project ideas that build the list of operations, part of the Territorial Strategy, was launched in November- December 2021 on both sides of the border. Over 140 organizations from Bulgaria and Turkey participated in four webinars of the campaign as the collected project ideas were gathered in group of interventions that formed the long and short list of operations contributing to the goals of the Integrated Territorial Strategy.

The Managing Authority launch a tender procedure for elaboration of environmental assessment report for INTERREG - IPA programme and for Integrated Territorial strategy to be financed under the INTERREG - IPA programme 2021 -2027 Bulgaria – Turkey and the service contract was signed in April 2021. Scoping report was prepared and public consultation on it was held in a period July-August 2021. The first draft of the Environmental Assessment Report was prepared and public consultation in the report started in December 2021.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

3.1 Overview of the implementation

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
1	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under SO 1.1. there are no contracted projects. Under implementation were 9 projects (CB005.2.12.011; CB005.2.12.019; CB005.2.11.035; CB005.2.11.067; CB005.2.12.073; CB005.2.12.088; CB005.2.12.112; CB005.2.11.113; CB005.2.12.116) under 2nd Call for proposals of total amount of 3 728 048 EUR and 1 (CB005.3.12.001) strategic project under the Restricted Call for Strategic Project Proposal. • Under SO 1.2. there are no contracted projects. One project (CB005.2.12.075) under the Second Call for Proposals was temporary suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation and imposed restrictions in partnering countries. Three modifications requested approval by JMC and signature of addendums (CB005.2.12.011, CB005.2.12.075, CB005.2.12.112 – extension of implementation period) have been approved. <p>By the end of 2021, 8 investment projects under the 2nd Call at a total amount EUR 3 390 910,84 were successfully completed and contributed to the Programme objectives.</p> <p>The targets of all 4 OIs under SO 1.1 are achieved by the end of the implementation period of the respective projects under the 1st and 2nd Calls for proposals. For SO 1.2 the targets of 4 out of 5 OIs are achieved by the end of the implementation period of the respective projects.</p>
2	Sustainable tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under SO 2.1. there are no contracted projects. Under implementation were 20 projects of total amount of 9 051 837,70 EUR. Five projects under SO 2.1 were temporary suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation and imposed restrictions in partnering countries (CB005.2.21.001; CB005.2.21.071; CB005.2.21.074; CB005.2.21.103; CB005.2.21.123); Two modifications requested approval by JMC and signature of addendum have been approved (CB005.2.21.059 – extension of implementation period; CB005.2.21.084 – budget change). • Under SO 2.2. there are no contracted projects. Under implementation were 4 projects of total amount of 371 732,07 EUR (CB005.2.22.010, CB005.2.22.044, CB005.2.22.058, CB005.2.22.098). By the end of 2021, 4 soft projects with duration between 12 and 15 months were successfully completed and contributed to the Programme objectives. • Under SO 2.3. there are no contracted projects. Under implementation were 11 projects of total amount of 913 944,41 EUR. Five projects were temporary suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation and imposed restrictions in partnering countries (CB005.2.23.007, CB005.2.23.030, CB005.2.23.038, CB005.2.23.056, CB005.2.23.070). Three modifications requested approval by JMC and signature of addendum have been approved (CB005.2.23.007, CB005.2.23.030, CB005.2.23.070 - extension of implementation period).

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
		<p>By the end of 2021, twelve soft projects at a total amount EUR 1 054 467,94 were successfully completed and contributed to the Programme objectives.</p> <p>The targets of all five OIs under SO 2.2 and all three OIs under SO 2.3 are achieved by the end of 2021.</p>
3	Technical assistance	<p>The Technical Assistance budget for year 2020-2023 for MA amounted to EUR 1 014 424,00 and for 2021 for NA amounted to EUR 227 350,00.</p> <p>During the reporting period, the performed Programme management activities provided the necessary support related to projects implementation and administrative and operational activities concerning MA, NA, JS and FLC unit within the MA, such as staff remuneration, participation in various events and training seminars, including the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of JMC on-line meeting; • Organization of on-line technical meeting of Programme bodies; • Meeting of Joint Working Group (JWG) for preparation of the future Programme 2021-2027(on-line); • Conduction of tender procedures for environmental assessment report of the draft INTERREG VI-A IPA Bulgaria – Turkey program and draft Territorial Strategy for Integrated Measures; organization and conduction of public consultations on a draft of the Environmental Assessment Scoping report and Environmental Assessment Report under the Programme; • Signed contract for support of the local stakeholders in the process of elaboration of a Territorial Strategy for Integrated Measures (TSIM) with the aim to meet the needs of the INTERREG VI-A IPA Bulgaria – Turkey programme; organisation and conduction of public consultations on the draft strategy, as well as four on-line webinars under the campaign for collecting project ideas for the TSIM; • Organization and conduction of European Cooperation Day 2021.

3.2 Common and programme specific indicators (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axes other than technical assistance

Priority axis	1 - Environment
Thematic Priority	b - Protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management through, inter alia: joint actions for environmental protection; promoting sustainable use of natural resources, resource efficiency, renewable energy sources and the shift towards a safe and sustainable low-carbon economy; promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems and emergency preparedness.

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 1.b

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2021	Observations
F	1.1.1	Number of interventions related to risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	number	10.00	13	
S	1.1.1	Number of interventions related to risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	number	10.00	13	
F	1.1.2	Number of joint strategies / common guidelines, trainings, public awareness campaigns, exchange of experience for risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	number	20.00	28	
S	1.1.2	Number of joint strategies / common guidelines, trainings, public awareness campaigns, exchange of experience for risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	number	20.00	28	
F	1.1.3	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	persons	402,749.00	530 374	
S	1.1.3	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	persons	402,749.00	530 374	
F	1.1.4	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measure	persons	675,662.00	823 572	
S	1.1.4	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measure	persons	675,662.00	809 251	
F	1.2.1	Number of nature protected areas addressed by interventions	number	17.00	20	
S	1.2.1	Number of nature protected areas addressed by interventions	number	17.00	21	
F	1.2.2	Number of capacity building / awareness activities related to nature protection, sustainable use and management of common natural resources	number	39.00	54	
S	1.2.2	Number of capacity building / awareness activities related to nature protection, sustainable use and management of common natural resources	number	39.00	66	
F	1.2.3	Number of people involved in training and capacity building activities in the field of nature protection	number	749.00	938	
S	1.2.3	Number of people involved in training and capacity building activities in the field of nature protection	number	749.00	970	
F	1.2.4	Number of joint initiatives addressing preservation of marine and coastal environment (incl. litter reduction)	number	5.00	3	
S	1.2.4	Number of joint initiatives addressing preservation of marine and coastal environment (incl. litter reduction)	number	5.00	13	
F	1.2.5	Number of joint management plans/ coordinated specific conservation activities for protected areas	number	4.00	12	
S	1.2.5	Number of joint management plans/ coordinated specific conservation activities for protected areas	number	4.00	13	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	1.1.1	Number of interventions related to risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	8.00	8.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1.1.1	Number of interventions related to risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	13.00	13.00	8.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	1.1.2	Number of joint strategies / common guidelines, trainings, public awareness campaigns, exchange of experience for risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	17.00	17.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

(1)	ID	Indicator	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
S	1.1.2	Number of joint strategies / common guidelines, trainings, public awareness campaigns, exchange of experience for risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	28.00	28.00	17.00	17.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	1.1.3	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	402,749.00	402,749.00	200,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1.1.3	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	530,374.00	530,374.00	402,749.00	402,749.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	1.1.4	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measure	675,662.00	675,662.00	200,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1.1.4	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measure	809,251.00	809,251.00	661,392.00	661,392.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	1.2.1	Number of nature protected areas addressed by interventions	17.00	12.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1.2.1	Number of nature protected areas addressed by interventions	21.00	21.00	11.00	11.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	1.2.2	Number of capacity building / awareness activities related to nature protection, sustainable use and management of common natural resources	42.00	29.00	19.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1.2.2	Number of capacity building / awareness activities related to nature protection, sustainable use and management of common natural resources	66.00	60.00	29.00	29.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	1.2.3	Number of people involved in training and capacity building activities in the field of nature protection	720.00	481.00	184.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1.2.3	Number of people involved in training and capacity building activities in the field of nature protection	970.00	970.00	422.00	422.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	1.2.4	Number of joint initiatives addressing preservation of marine and coastal environment (incl. litter reduction)	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1.2.4	Number of joint initiatives addressing preservation of marine and coastal environment (incl. litter reduction)	13.00	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	1.2.5	Number of joint management plans/ coordinated specific conservation activities for protected areas	5.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1.2.5	Number of joint management plans/ coordinated specific conservation activities for protected areas	13.00	13.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	1 - Environment
Thematic Priority	b - Protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management through, inter alia: joint actions for environmental protection; promoting sustainable use of natural resources, resource efficiency, renewable energy sources and the shift towards a safe and sustainable low-carbon economy; promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems and emergency preparedness.
Specific objective	1.1 - Preventing and mitigating the consequences of natural and man-made disasters in the cross-border area

Table 1: Result indicators - 1.b.1.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	Observations
1.1	Increased level of preparedness to manage emergency situations in the cross-border area (qualitative target)	scale	2.24	2014	2.50			Frequency of reporting: 2018 2023

ID	Indicator	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative
1.1	Increased level of preparedness to manage emergency situations in the cross-border area (qualitative target)				2.64		2.64		0

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1.1	Increased level of preparedness to manage emergency situations in the cross-border area (qualitative target)		0		0		0

Priority axis	1 - Environment
Thematic Priority	b - Protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management through, inter alia: joint actions for environmental protection; promoting sustainable use of natural resources, resource efficiency, renewable energy sources and the shift towards a safe and sustainable low-carbon economy; promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems and emergency preparedness.
Specific objective	1.2 - Improving the capacity for nature protection, sustainable use and management of common natural resources through cooperation initiatives in the cross-border area

Table 1: Result indicators - 1.b.1.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	Observations
1.2	Increased capacity level for nature protection, sustainable use and management of common natural resources	scale	2.66	2014	3.00			Frequency of reporting: 2018 2023

ID	Indicator	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative
1.2	Increased capacity level for nature protection, sustainable use and management of common natural resources				2.82		2.82		0

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1.2	Increased capacity level for nature protection, sustainable use and management of common natural resources		0		0		0

Priority axis	2 - Sustainable tourism
Thematic Priority	d - Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 2.d

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2021	Observations
F	2.1.1	Total length of reconstructed or upgraded access roads to natural, cultural and historic tourism sites	kilometers	7.84	2.510	
S	2.1.1	Total length of reconstructed or upgraded access roads to natural, cultural and historic tourism sites	kilometers	7.84	7.916	
F	2.1.2	Total length of newly built, reconstructed or upgraded cycling routes / walking paths	kilometers	9.88	2.986	
S	2.1.2	Total length of newly built, reconstructed or upgraded cycling routes / walking paths	kilometers	9.88	27.191	
F	2.1.3	Number of newly built / reconstructed facilities in / leading to touristic sites	number	19.00	10	
S	2.1.3	Number of newly built / reconstructed facilities in / leading to touristic sites	number	19.00	17	
F	2.1.4	Number of reconstructed / restored cultural and historical touristic sites	number	15.00	5	
S	2.1.4	Number of reconstructed / restored cultural and historical touristic sites	number	15.00	13	
F	2.2.1	Number of sustainable tourism strategies/action plans of common tourist destinations	number	5.00	7	
S	2.2.1	Number of sustainable tourism strategies/action plans of common tourist destinations	number	5.00	7	
F	2.2.2	Number of marketing and promotional initiatives/events, addressing cross-border tourism products & services	number	19.00	27	
S	2.2.2	Number of marketing and promotional initiatives/events, addressing cross-border tourism products & services	number	19.00	27	
F	2.2.3	Number of tools developed and/or implemented for promotion of sustainable touristic potential	number	17.00	22	
S	2.2.3	Number of tools developed and/or implemented for promotion of sustainable touristic potential	number	17.00	22	
F	2.2.4	Number of trainings and consultancy services in sustainable use of natural, historical and cultural heritage and resources	number	7.00	10	
S	2.2.4	Number of trainings and consultancy services in sustainable use of natural, historical and cultural heritage and resources	number	7.00	10	
F	2.2.5	Number of people involved in training and capacity building activities in the field of sustainable tourism	number	200.00	379	
S	2.2.5	Number of people involved in training and capacity building activities in the field of sustainable tourism	number	200.00	350	
F	2.3.1	Number of networking events	number	23.00	37	
S	2.3.1	Number of networking events	number	23.00	43	
F	2.3.2	Number of public awareness initiatives promoting sustainable use of natural, historical and cultural heritage and resources	number	25.00	33	
S	2.3.2	Number of public awareness initiatives promoting sustainable use of natural, historical and cultural heritage and resources	number	25.00	58	
F	2.3.3	Number of public awareness initiatives promoting alternative forms of tourism	number	8.00	14	
S	2.3.3	Number of public awareness initiatives promoting alternative forms of tourism	number	8.00	14	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	2.1.1	Total length of reconstructed or upgraded access roads to natural, cultural and historic tourism sites	1.03	1.02	0.00	0.00			
S	2.1.1	Total length of reconstructed or upgraded access roads to natural, cultural and historic tourism sites	7.92	7.91	1.54	1.54			
F	2.1.2	Total length of newly built, reconstructed or upgraded cycling routes / walking paths	0.75	0.74	0.00	0.00			
S	2.1.2	Total length of newly built, reconstructed or upgraded cycling routes / walking paths	27.19	27.19	0.75	0.75			
F	2.1.3	Number of newly built / reconstructed facilities in / leading to touristic sites	7.00	7.00	0.00	0.00			
S	2.1.3	Number of newly built / reconstructed facilities in / leading to touristic sites	17.00	17.00	7.00	7.00			
F	2.1.4	Number of reconstructed / restored cultural and historical touristic sites	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00			
S	2.1.4	Number of reconstructed / restored cultural and historical touristic sites	13.00	13.00	2.00	2.00			

(1)	ID	Indicator	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	2.2.1	Number of sustainable tourism strategies/action plans of common tourist destinations	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.00			
S	2.2.1	Number of sustainable tourism strategies/action plans of common tourist destinations	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00			
F	2.2.2	Number of marketing and promotional initiatives/events, addressing cross-border tourism products & services	21.00	19.00	19.00	19.00			
S	2.2.2	Number of marketing and promotional initiatives/events, addressing cross-border tourism products & services	21.00	21.00	19.00	0.00			
F	2.2.3	Number of tools developed and/or implemented for promotion of sustainable touristic potential	17.00	17.00	16.00	0.00			
S	2.2.3	Number of tools developed and/or implemented for promotion of sustainable touristic potential	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00			
F	2.2.4	Number of trainings and consultancy services in sustainable use of natural, historical and cultural heritage and resources	8.00	7.00	4.00	0.00			
S	2.2.4	Number of trainings and consultancy services in sustainable use of natural, historical and cultural heritage and resources	8.00	8.00	7.00	7.00			
F	2.2.5	Number of people involved in training and capacity building activities in the field of sustainable tourism	215.00	184.00	120.00	0.00			
S	2.2.5	Number of people involved in training and capacity building activities in the field of sustainable tourism	210.00	210.00	180.00	180.00			
F	2.3.1	Number of networking events	24.00	20.00	15.00	0.00			
S	2.3.1	Number of networking events	32.00	32.00	20.00	20.00			
F	2.3.2	Number of public awareness initiatives promoting sustainable use of natural, historical and cultural heritage and resources	18.00	13.00	11.00	0.00			
S	2.3.2	Number of public awareness initiatives promoting sustainable use of natural, historical and cultural heritage and resources	26.00	26.00	13.00	13.00			
F	2.3.3	Number of public awareness initiatives promoting alternative forms of tourism	10.00	8.00	8.00	0.00			
S	2.3.3	Number of public awareness initiatives promoting alternative forms of tourism	11.00	11.00	8.00	8.00			

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	2 - Sustainable tourism
Thematic Priority	d - Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.
Specific objective	2.1 - Increasing the touristic attractiveness of the cross-border area through better utilisation of natural, cultural and historical heritage and related infrastructure

Table 1: Result indicators - 2.d.2.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	Observations
2.1	Increased nights spent in the cross-border area	percentage	7,721,074.00	2014	1.00			Frequency of reporting: 2018 2023

ID	Indicator	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative
2.1	Increased nights spent in the cross-border area					10,308,550.00			

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.1	Increased nights spent in the cross-border area						

Priority axis	2 - Sustainable tourism
Thematic Priority	d - Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.
Specific objective	2.2 - Increasing the cross-border tourism potential by developing common destinations

Table 1: Result indicators - 2.d.2.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	Observations
2.2	Increased level of joint and integrated approaches to sustainable tourism development in the border area (qualitative target)	scale	2.50	2014	3.00			Frequency of reporting: 2018 2023

ID	Indicator	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative
2.2	Increased level of joint and integrated approaches to sustainable tourism development in the border area (qualitative target)						2.67		

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.2	Increased level of joint and integrated approaches to sustainable tourism development in the border area (qualitative target)						

Priority axis	2 - Sustainable tourism
Thematic Priority	d - Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.
Specific objective	2.3 - Increasing networking for development of sustainable tourism through cross-border cooperation initiatives

Table 1: Result indicators - 2.d.2.3

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	Observations
2.3	Increased level of awareness about sustainable tourism development in the cross-border area	scale	2.77	2014	3.50			Frequency of reporting: 2018 2023

ID	Indicator	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative
2.3	Increased level of awareness about sustainable tourism development in the cross-border area						2.99		

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.3	Increased level of awareness about sustainable tourism development in the cross-border area						

Priority axes for technical assistance

Priority axis	3 - Technical assistance
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Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 3.Technical assistance

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2021	Observations
F	3.1	No of performed evaluations of the programme	number	2.00	0	Not cumulative
S	3.1	No of performed evaluations of the programme	number	2.00	0	Not cumulative
F	3.2	Updated MIS system	number	1.00	0	Not cumulative
S	3.2	Updated MIS system	number	1.00	0	Not cumulative
F	3.3	No of Monitoring Committee meetings	number	14.00	1	Not cumulative
S	3.3	No of Monitoring Committee meetings	number	14.00	1	Not cumulative
F	3.4	Number of publicity events for beneficiaries	number	4.00	1	Not cumulative EC Day 2021 celebration.
S	3.4	Number of publicity events for beneficiaries	number	4.00	1	Not cumulative EC Day 2021 celebration.
F	3.5	Number of employees (full time) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	number	8.00	29	Not cumulative. 11 BG FL controllers, 5 JS experts in Haskovo, 4 JS experts in Edirne branch office and 9 MA experts.
S	3.5	Number of employees (full time) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	number	8.00	30	Not cumulative. 11 BG FL controllers, 6 JS experts in Haskovo, 4 JS experts in Edirne branch office and 9 MA experts.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	3.1	No of performed evaluations of the programme	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
S	3.1	No of performed evaluations of the programme	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
F	3.2	Updated MIS system	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	
S	3.2	Updated MIS system	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	
F	3.3	No of Monitoring Committee meetings	1.00	1.00	2.00	0.00	2.00	1.00	
S	3.3	No of Monitoring Committee meetings	1.00	1.00	2.00	0.00	2.00	1.00	
F	3.4	Number of publicity events for beneficiaries	6.00	6.00	6.00	9.00	4.00	11.00	
S	3.4	Number of publicity events for beneficiaries	6.00	5.00	8.00	9.00	4.00	11.00	
F	3.5	Number of employees (full time) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	24.00	25.00	20.00	23.00	5.00	5.00	
S	3.5	Number of employees (full time) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	25.00	25.00	14.00	23.00	5.00	5.00	

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

3.3 Table 3: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone for 2018 total	Final target (2023) total	2021	Observations
1	F	1	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 1 "Environment"	EUR	821 171*	12,135,470.00	7,337,992.33	
1	I	1.1.1	Number of contracted projects related to risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	number	3	7.00	9	
1	O	1.1.1	Number of interventions related to risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	number	0	10.00	13	
1	O	1.2.1	Number of nature protected areas addressed by interventions	number	3	17.00	20	
2	F	2	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 2 "Sustainable tourism"	EUR	*821 171	14,543,136.00	7,443,367.25	
2	I	2.1.3	Number of contracted projects addressing OI 2.1.3 "Number of newly built / reconstructed facilities in / leading to touristic sites"	number	4	13.00	14	
2	O	2.1.3	Number of newly built / reconstructed facilities in / leading to touristic sites	number	0	19.00	10	
2	O	2.2.1	Number of sustainable tourism strategies/action plans of common tourist destinations	number	2	5.00	7	

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
1	F	1	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 1 "Environment"	EUR	5,332,966.57	3,624,932.53	1,261,152.19	0.00	
1	I	1.1.1	Number of contracted projects related to risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	number	9.00	9.00	6.00	6.00	
1	O	1.1.1	Number of interventions related to risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	number	8.00	8.00	2.00	0.00	
1	O	1.2.1	Number of nature protected areas addressed by interventions	number	17.00	12.00	10.00	0.00	
2	F	2	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 2 "Sustainable tourism"	EUR	4,382,067.73	3,050,802.83	1,208,165.59	41,998.34	
2	I	2.1.3	Number of contracted projects addressing OI 2.1.3 "Number of newly built / reconstructed facilities in / leading to touristic sites"	number	14.00	11.00	4.00	4.00	
2	O	2.1.3	Number of newly built / reconstructed facilities in / leading to touristic sites	number	7.00	7.00	0.00	0.00	
2	O	2.2.1	Number of sustainable tourism strategies/action plans of common tourist destinations	number	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.00	

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2015	2014
1	F	1	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 1 "Environment"	EUR		
1	I	1.1.1	Number of contracted projects related to risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	number		
1	O	1.1.1	Number of interventions related to risk prevention and management of natural and man-made hazards and disasters	number		
1	O	1.2.1	Number of nature protected areas addressed by interventions	number		
2	F	2	Eligible certified expenditure of the priority axis 2 "Sustainable tourism"	EUR		

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2015	2014
2	I	2.1.3	Number of contracted projects addressing OI 2.1.3 "Number of newly built / reconstructed facilities in / leading to touristic sites"	number		
2	O	2.1.3	Number of newly built / reconstructed facilities in / leading to touristic sites	number		
2	O	2.2.1	Number of sustainable tourism strategies/action plans of common tourist destinations	number		

3.4. Financial data

Table 4: Financial information at priority axis and programme level

As set out in Table 1 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and table 17 of model for cooperation programmes under IPA.

Priority axis	Calculation basis	Total funding	Co-financing rate	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries	Number of operations selected
1	Public	12,415,309.00	85.00	13,378,407.62	107.76%	13,378,407.62	7,979,815.39	64.27%	34
2	Public	14,263,297.00	85.00	15,355,344.14	107.66%	15,355,344.14	8,799,540.16	61.69%	67
3	Public	2,964,290.00	85.00	2,676,088.80	90.28%	2,676,088.80	1,601,260.55	54.02%	12
Total		29,642,896.00	85.00	31,409,840.56	105.96%	31,409,840.56	18,380,616.10	62.01%	113

Where applicable, the use of any contribution from third countries participating in the cooperation programme should be provided (for example IPA and ENI, Norway, Switzerland)

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Table 6: Cumulative cost of all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area

1. Operation (2)	2. The amount of IPA support(1) envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations	3. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 2/total amount allocated to the support from the IPA at programme level * 100)	4. Eligible expenditure of IPA support incurred in all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority	5. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 4/total amount allocated to the support from the IPA at programme level *100)
	28 706,42	0,11%	24 129,78	0,10%

(1) IPA support is the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.

(2) In accordance with and subject to ceilings set out Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

According to the Programme Evaluation Plan (approved on 29.06.2016 by the JMC) the Implementation /mid-term evaluation of the Programme had been launched in June 2018. Tender procedure for Implementation evaluation under Interreg - IPA CBC Programmes, managed by the Republic of Bulgaria, had been completed and service contract with external consultant was signed on 28th of August 2018 with 7 months duration. The contract ended in March 2019 and the Implementation evaluation report of the Programme 2014-2020 has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Art. 56 (3) of the Regulation (EU) № 1303/2013. The Report had been submitted and approved by MA and JMC (Decision No28 from 21.06.2019). The contractor provided feedback and recommendations for further improvement of the overall management and implementation of the current Programme progress, which could contribute towards successful achievement of Programme's objectives, results and outputs. The results of the mid-term evaluation of the Programme were reported in AIR for 2019.

Name	Fund	From month	From year	To month	To year	Type of evaluation	Thematic priority	Topic	Findings
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5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN

(a) Issues which affect the performance of the programme and the measures taken

In 2021 the programme implementation was still marked by the COVID-19 world pandemic. In relation to the situation and the introduced emergency measures on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey on 20th of March 2020 the Managing Authority under the programme published guidelines to the project partners and applicants, which were actualized on 23rd of April 2021. In the guidelines instructions were included for the following topics, essential for the applicant and the project partners:

- Contracting – conduction of the pre-contracting procedures in written form or via videoconference. Carrying out of the on-the-spot checks in accordance with the specificities and requirements of the emergency measures in the partner countries;
- Project implementation
- Analysis of the project activities – the partners were advised to analyse the planned activities taking into consideration any impediments as a consequence of the measures related to COVID-19, as well as the possibilities to implement soft measure activities by alternative means, including digital ones or to postpone at a later date;
- Suspension – the MA allowed a temporary suspension of the deadline for implementation of the subsidy contracts. The suspended contracts should provide to the JS the above-mentioned analysis of the planned activities. Within this the partners should be presented notification for small content change with updated duration and action plan or the relevant request for contract modification to the MA;
- Contracts for the implementation of the project activities - the beneficiaries, which are contracting authorities under PRAG rules may allow changes in the terms of the contract only if the non-fulfilment is due to "force majeure" / "exceptional circumstances";
- Reporting, documentary and on-the-spot check - the reporting to the JS and the submission of requests for FLC were maintained in the established format - by electronic exchange of documents through the Beneficiary Portal. Documentary checks carried out by the JS and the Controllers of the FLC continued on a regular basis. The on-the-spot checks carried out by the JS and the Controllers of the FLC tailored to the specificities and requirements of the emergency measures in the partner countries. At the discretion of the JS/FLC controllers and after approval by the Managing Authority, "virtual on-the-spot checks" may be carried out for the preparation of which the beneficiaries will be duly instructed;
- Requests for payments, decisions for imposing financial corrections, recoveries to MA – the MA continued to process requests for advance, interim and final payments, the irregularities signals with respect to the partners on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, issuing decisions for imposing financial corrections and preparing letters for financial corrections recovery amounts and unsolicited advance payments.

Furthermore, in order to minimize the negative impact on the work plan implementation the JS conducted regular monitoring for projects and ensured the beneficiaries to carry out remaining project activities/events by alternative means, including digital ones.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic situation and the local measures of the health authorities a revised version of Instructions and the amended FLC guidelines was published on the web-site of the programme. Preserving the health of all involved and help in the fight against the pandemic, the MA is temporarily introducing an alternative option for verification - Virtual (online) verification replaced on-the-spot visits and verification for “soft” projects.

(b) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, otherwise it will be included in point 9.1. An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate.

N/A

6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

A citizen's summary of the contents of the annual and the final implementation reports shall be made public and uploaded as a separate file in the form of annex to the annual and the final implementation report

You can upload/find the Citizen's summary under General > Documents

7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)

N/A

8. PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (ARTICLE 101(H) AND ARTICLE 111(3) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(B) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013)

8.1. Major projects

Table 7: Major projects

Project	CCI	Status of MP	Total investments	Total eligible costs	Planned notification/submission date	Date of tacit agreement/ approval by Commission	Planned start of implementation	Planned completion date	Priority axis / Thematic priorities	Current state of realisation — financial progress (% of expenditure certified to Commission compared to total eligible cost)	Current state of realisation — physical progress / Main implementation stage of the project	Main outputs	Date of signature of first works contract (1)	Observations
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(1) In the case of operations implemented under PPP structures the signing of the PPP contract between the public body and the private sector body (Article 102(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).

Significant problems encountered in implementing major projects and measures taken to overcome them

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Any change planned in the list of major projects in the cooperation programme

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N/A

8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

N/A

Table 8: Joint action plans (JAP)

Title of the JAP	CCI	Stage of implementation of JAP	Total eligible costs	Total public support	OP contribution to JAP	Priority axis	Type of JAP	[Planned] submission to the Commission	[Planned] start of implementation	[Planned] completion	Main outputs and results	Total eligible expenditure certified to the Commission	Observations
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N/A

Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

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9. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

9.1 Information in Part A and achieving the objectives of the programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axis	1 - Environment
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Priority axis	2 - Sustainable tourism
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Priority axis	3 - Technical assistance
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9.2. Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (d) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of specific actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, including accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations

n/a

9.3.Sustainable development (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on sustainable development, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of the actions taken to promote sustainable development in accordance with that Article

n/a

9.4. Reporting on support used for climate change objectives (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

n/a

9.5 Role of partners in the implementation of the cooperation programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 1, (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the role of partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, including involvement of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperation programme

n/a

10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013

10.1 Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations

n/a

Status	Name	Fund	Year of finalizing evaluation	Type of evaluation	Thematic priority	Topic	Findings (in case of execution)	Follow up (in case of execution)
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10.2 The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy

n/a

11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2 (A), (B), (C) AND (F), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013)

11.1. Progress in the implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including integrated territorial investments, sustainable urban development, and community led local development under the cooperation programme

n/a

11.2 Progress in implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and to use the IPA

n/a

11.3 Contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies (where appropriate)

As stipulated by the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, recital 19, article 8(3)(d) on the "Content, adoption and amendment of cooperation programmes" and article 14(4) 2nd subparagraph (c) "Implementation reports", this programme contributes to MRS(s) and/or SBS:

Blue Growth Strategy is a long term strategy adopted by the European Commission in 2012 with a main focus to support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors as a whole. The objective of the Blue Growth strategy is to promote smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and employment opportunities in Europe's maritime economy. Both PA of the Programme have strong contribution to actions supported by the strategy. The Programme area covers parts of the Black sea area and supports partnership activities for preservation of marine and coastal environment (incl. litter reduction). PA 2 "Sustainable tourism" supports the development of coastal and maritime tourism. Some of the projects financed under the Second call for proposals and financed under the restricted call strategic project have direct contribution to the Strategy as they have activities addressing preservation of marine and coastal environment.

The Partnership Agreement between Bulgaria and the EU sets the frames of the assistance to be received from the EU structural and investment funds. The Partnership agreement sets four priorities for the implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy. Also it exclusively states that the preferred priority areas for cooperation in the Programme between Bulgaria and Turkey are in the field of environmental protection, promotion and development of natural and cultural heritage. Consequently, the Programme fully addresses these priority areas. The Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy for Bulgaria aims to outline a coherent framework for identification of the strategic priorities for action to reduce the risk of disasters and to support the priority measures implementation at national, district, municipal and field level. The strategy has 4 main priorities and PA 1 Environment is relevant to the last three priorities of the strategy.

The three NUTS III regions in Bulgaria that are covered by the Programme (Burgas, Yambol and Haskovo) have Regional Development Strategies for 2012 – 2022. In all of them the sustainable tourism development and the adaptation to the climate changes and protection of environment are defined as leading priorities. The CBC Programme supports exactly the same activities.

The Indicative Strategy Paper for Turkey (the Strategy Paper) sets out the priorities for EU financial assistance to support Turkey on its path to accession. The Strategy paper sets the two main pillar for the pre-accession assistance: "Democracy and rule of law" and "Competitiveness and growth". These two main pillars are further developed in seven priority sectors. The Programme contributes directly to the territorial and regional cooperation priority.

The Programme also provides strong contribution to the Environment, and climate action and energy sector. Turkey is located in one of the areas most vulnerable to climate change impacts. Therefore the projects funded under PA 1 Environment address these challenges.

Trakya Region Development Plan 2014 - 2023 focus at twenty-one priorities and ninety-four policies. PA 1 Environment contributes to the implementation of Initiative 10 related to protection of floods and earthquakes and PA 2 Sustainable Tourism supports Initiative 18 focused on development the tourism in Trakya region.

- EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)

11.4 Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation

n/a

13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Information and assessment of the programme contribution to achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

n/a

**14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN
— PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)**

Where the assessment of progress made with regard to the milestones and targets set out in the performance framework demonstrates that certain milestones and targets have not been achieved, Member States should outline the underlying reasons for failure to achieve these milestones in the report of 2019 (for milestones) and in the final implementation report (for targets).

N/a

DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
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