

**IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL  
COOPERATION GOAL  
PART A**

**IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT**

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<b>IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT .....</b>	<b>1</b>
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.....	4
<b>3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS.....</b>	<b>7</b>
3.1 OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION .....	7
3.2 COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC INDICATORS (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013) .....	9
PRIORITY AXES OTHER THAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE .....	9
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS - 1.3A.....	9
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS - 1.3A.1.1 .....	10
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS - 1.3D.....	11
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS - 1.3D.1.2 .....	12
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS - 1.10A.....	13
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS - 1.10A.1.3 .....	14
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS - 2.6C.....	15
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS - 2.6C.2.1.....	16
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS - 2.6F .....	17
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS - 2.6F.2.2 .....	18
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS - 2.11A.....	19
TABLE 1: RESULT INDICATORS - 2.11A.2.3 .....	20
PRIORITY AXES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE .....	21
TABLE 2: COMMON AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTPUT INDICATORS - 3.TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.....	21
3.3 TABLE 3: INFORMATION ON THE MILESTONES AND TARGETS DEFINED IN THE PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK .....	22
3.4. FINANCIAL DATA.....	23
TABLE 4: FINANCIAL INFORMATION AT PRIORITY AXIS AND PROGRAMME LEVEL.....	23
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) .....	24
TABLE 5: BREAKDOWN OF THE CUMULATIVE FINANCIAL DATA BY CATEGORY OF INTERVENTION.....	25
TABLE 6: CUMULATIVE COST OF ALL OR PART OF AN OPERATION IMPLEMENTED OUTSIDE THE UNION PART OF THE PROGRAMME AREA .....	28
(1) ERDF SUPPORT IS THE COMMISSION DECISION ON THE RESPECTIVE COOPERATION PROGRAMME .....	28
<b>4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS.....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN.....</b>	<b>35</b>
(A) ISSUES WHICH AFFECT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND THE MEASURES TAKEN.....	35
(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. ....	37
<b>6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013) .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013) .....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>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).....</b>	<b>40</b>
8.1. MAJOR PROJECTS .....	40
TABLE 7: MAJOR PROJECTS.....	40
SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN IMPLEMENTING MAJOR PROJECTS AND MEASURES TAKEN TO OVERCOME THEM .....	40
ANY CHANGE PLANNED IN THE LIST OF MAJOR PROJECTS IN THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME .....	40
8.2. JOINT ACTION PLANS .....	41
TABLE 8: JOINT ACTION PLANS (JAP) .....	42
SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND MEASURES TAKEN TO OVERCOME THEM .....	43
<b>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).....</b>	<b>44</b>
9.1 INFORMATION IN PART A AND ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013) .....	44
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) .....	45
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).....	46
9.4. REPORTING ON SUPPORT USED FOR CLIMATE CHANGE OBJECTIVES (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013).....	47
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) .....	48
<b>10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013 .....</b>	<b>49</b>
10.1 PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EVALUATION PLAN AND THE FOLLOW-UP GIVEN TO THE FINDINGS OF EVALUATIONS ...	49
10.2 THE RESULTS OF THE INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY MEASURES OF THE FUNDS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY .....	51
<b>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) .....</b>	<b>52</b>
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 .....	52
11.2 PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS TO REINFORCE THE CAPACITY OF AUTHORITIES AND BENEFICIARIES TO ADMINISTER AND TO USE THE ERDF .....	53
11.3 CONTRIBUTION TO MACRO-REGIONAL AND SEA BASIN STRATEGIES (WHERE APPROPRIATE) .....	54
<i>EUSDR</i> .....	55
<i>EUSAIR</i> .....	57
11.4 PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL INNOVATION .....	59
<b>13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH .....</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN — PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013).....</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>DOCUMENTS.....</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>LATEST VALIDATION RESULTS.....</b>	<b>63</b>

## 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.**

This is the 5th Annual Implementation Report (AIR) for the transnational Cooperation Programme Interreg V-B “Balkan-Mediterranean 2014-2020”. It reports on the implementation of the Programme during the calendar year 2019. The report was prepared by the Hellenic Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes, acting as the Managing Authority (MA) of the Programme, in cooperation with the Joint Secretariat (JS) and the Programme partners. The Monitoring Committee discussed and approved the AIR 2019 via Written Procedure on **15th September 2020**.

### **Funding of Projects**

In 2019 the Managing Authority concluded the Subsidy Contracts of six (6) projects –three in Priority Axis 1 and three in Priority Axis 2-, originally placed in a Reserve List, following a relevant decision of the Monitoring Committee to proceed to their funding. A Subsidy Contract was not signed with an extra Reserve List project due to significant delays and managerial problem of the project partnership.

Overall, there are 48 projects (5 of which Technical Assistance projects) being implemented under the BalkanMed Programme with a total budget of 44,444,077.93 €. This means that there is an overbooking of 111,87% of the total available BalkanMed funds. The financial projections of the Joint Secretariat, based on its past experience and the implementation rate of projects so far, show that this was a financially sound move, leading to the maximum possible absorption of the Programme’s budget, abiding by the previous MC decisions.

Six (6) Payment Requests were submitted by the Certifying Authority in 2019, fully achieving the n+3 rule target.

One of the most important problems encountered, however, was the projects exhaustion of the available IPA funding since the available budget for IPA beneficiaries proved significantly low for their demand. The Managing Authority has officially asked the European Commission for extra IPA funds, in order to cover the current and future financing needs of IPA beneficiaries, albeit with no result.

During this period, and in order to help Programme stakeholders on all levels, the MA and JS organised First Level Control seminars. Moreover, in the course of 2019, the Joint Secretariat with the cooperation of the Managing Authority and other relevant Programme bodies has drafted and uploaded on the Programme’s website a numerous set of manuals and guidelines, in order to facilitate the beneficiaries in the successful implementation of the Projects.

### **Technical Assistance**

The Monitoring Committee, based on the proposal of the MA/ JS revised the TA Multi-annual Breakdown table. Significant savings in the TA spending were decided to be re-directed to the financing of the approved Projects. It was also decided that the subsequent revision of the Cooperation Programme could take place at a later stage in 2020.

## **Work of the Monitoring Committee**

The Monitoring Committee convened its 5th meeting in Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia on 03/05/2019. During 2019, 18 Written Procedures were launched via which respective unanimous decisions, especially regarding the funded projects, were taken.

## **Communication**

The major communication activities in 2019 included the following:

### *1st Prespes School Games*

The games took place in Prespes, Greece from 11 to 12 May 2019. Two hundred (200) students from Greece, Albania and North Macedonia, in mixed teams, participated in basketball games and running events. The event contributed to bringing closer young people from the three neighboring countries in the Region and establishing foundation for further cooperation, at the same time avoiding any sense of “national” competition.

### *European Week of Regions and Cities*

The BalkanMed Programme participated in the workshop organized by TNC INTERREG Programmes entitled “The Future of Transnational Cooperation: What Impact in a Changing Europe“, organised within the framework of the European Week of Regions, in October 2019 in Brussels. At this event, the Project Manager of DISARM Project had the opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience with other beneficiaries of TNC Programmes on the results, sustainability and the capitalization of the implemented activities.

### *EC Day 2019*

The Balkan-Mediterranean Programme, in cooperation with the National Authority of the North Macedonia and the AIRTHINGS project celebrated the European Cooperation Day in Ohrid. On this occasion, students from a local school had the opportunity to be part of an interactive educational programme and get acquainted with the European Union, INTERREG and the Transnational Cooperation .

### *Tailor-made meetings on project level and with specific beneficiaries in order to address specific implementation issues*

During 2019, JS organized a lot of meetings with great majority of the Programme beneficiaries in their premises, as well as in the premises of the MA. The JS staff provided further support to partners, monitored the management/ implementation of the approved activities and in some cases had the opportunity to come in touch with the projects’ results. The feedback from both, the JS/MA and the beneficiaries is that this kind of meetings are really helpful as on one hand beneficiaries gain JS/MA’s support and on the other hand the Authority gains a clearer image of the situation/implementation.

## **Evaluation**

Analysing the programme achievements in relation to targets in the operational programme, it became evident already in the early stages of implementation that forecasts on project outputs deliveries were fairly high in relation to target values set by the programme. By the end of 2019, projections showed that all indicators' milestones will be exceeded. Following the guidelines of the evaluation experts, engaged by the Programme, and the MA/ JS offering extensive guidance on how projects should provide robust evidence for their achieved results, most projects re-evaluated their target values. However, the MA is planning a revision of output indicators, to be put forward as a programme change in 2020.

During 2019 the following developments also took place:

- Coordination with the Service, which is responsible for adapting the Monitoring Information System (MIS) of the Programme to the regulatory requirements of the 2014-2020 Programming Period and the Programme/ Project management needs identified by the Managing Authority in cooperation with competent authorities of the cooperating countries. The MIS was fully operational, but further adjustments were still needed;
- Update of strategies to reply to demanding regulatory requirements, such as risk management and anti-fraud.

### 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	Entrepreneurship & Innovation	<p>Priority Axis 1 “Entrepreneurship &amp; Innovation” includes 20 projects of total approved budget € 15,912,802.31 €. These projects are mainly dealing with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of digital tools for improving the integration of the local markets;</li> <li>• Capacity building of new and existing entrepreneurs in the rural sector;</li> <li>• Establishment of a supporting network of Centres of Excellence in Innovations and provision of support to SMEs in introducing innovations,</li> <li>• Support of SMEs in remote, peripheral and sparsely populated areas to grow in regional, national and international markets;</li> <li>• Creation of E-learning platforms.</li> <li>• Development of transnational Enterprises’ Networks;</li> <li>• Establishment of VET oriented social entrepreneurship (SE) training for SME entrepreneurs;</li> <li>• Promoting eco-management and –innovation among existing SMEs and support young entrepreneurs in entering in the "green" and/or "blue" economy.</li> </ul> <p>The output/ results reported on 31/12/2019 include: delivery of platforms, delivery of needs analysis studies, business models developed and tested, training packages, virtual hubs, preparation of fixed points of entrepreneurship promotion, innovation summits, methodologies and surveys for need analysis, local and transnational benchmarking events, school curricula and preparation of learning platforms, e-mentoring platforms, capacity building trainings, company mentorship models, social entrepreneurship training programme (including courses) etc.</p> <p>Some project beneficiaries reported cash flow difficulties which burdened the payment of more costs, however implementation of the activities was not highly affected. Therefore, at this stage of implementation, no significant problems were identified in the implementation of PA1.</p>
2	Environment	<p>Priority Axis 2 “Environment” includes 23 projects of total approved budget € 25,408,690.82. These projects are mainly dealing with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enhancing the ecosystem;</li> <li>• environmental protection and climate change resilience;</li> <li>• implementation of innovative pilot and demonstration projects in the field of energy efficiency, renewable energy, material life cycle, soil protection etc;</li> <li>• Joint education and training activities, capacity building and sharing knowledge;</li> <li>• increasing the capacity of public authorities, stakeholders and society at large on mitigating coastal and marine litter pollution .</li> </ul>

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>The outputs/results reported on 31/12/2019 include: One-stop-shop for the economic valuation of biodiversity services, Mapping and valuation of genetic pool and biodiversity services, Development of environmental friendly technologies for monitoring and mitigation of air pollution, Wide implementation of sustainable management strategies at farm level, Upgrade the capacity related to coastal erosion mitigation and climate change resilience, “Blue growth” innovative techniques for mitigating the land – sea environmental pressures, Water &amp; waste management towards adaptation of circular economy measures, Models for environmentally and sustainable development of ports, Development and adoption of National Action Plan Proposals and Transnational Action Plan Proposal on marine litter etc.</p> <p>At this stage of implementation, no significant problems were identified in the implementation of PA2.</p>
3	Technical Assistance	<p>The Technical Assistance (TA) activities are to finance the preparatory, management, monitoring, evaluation, information and control activities of the BalkanMed Programme, together with activities to reinforce the administrative capacity for implementing the funds. In 2019 within the Technical Assistance the following major activities were implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staffing of the Joint Secretariat</li> <li>• Activities in connection with implementation, monitoring and inspection of the Programme, such as training seminars for beneficiaries and First Level Controllers both in ERDF and IPA countries;</li> <li>• One meeting of the Monitoring Committee;</li> <li>• Communication and publicity actions (Info Days, website, communication tools for beneficiaries, participation in EC Day events etc.)</li> </ul> <p>At this stage of implementation no significant problems have been identified in the implementation of the PA3 (Technical Assistance), but due to the support beneficiaries require for Project implementation and the complex transnational character of the Programme, it is already seen that capacity and man-power at the level of Joint Secretariat is not sufficient enough. At the end of 2019 only four out of the six JS members were operational. Two more JS staff members were expected to be hired in 2020.</p> <p>Reagrding the use of the TA budget please note that National Authorities, as beneficiaries, have spent significant trenches, without however having proceeded to the relevant verifications. This is the reason that the absorption rate is quite low.</p>



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

#### Priority axes other than technical assistance

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>1 - Entrepreneurship &amp; Innovation</b>
Investment priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators

**Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 1.3a**

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2019	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	30.00	406.00	The MIS is fully operational and all Project Reports, including data regarding the indicators, are uploaded and verified on the MIS. A study on the indicator system has been elaborated, as some projects need to re-adjust their indicators' targets. This will be depicted in AIR 2020. See also relevant response letter on the matter.
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	30.00	416.00	The MIS is fully operational and all Project Reports, including data regarding the indicators, are uploaded and verified on the MIS. A study on the indicator system has been elaborated, as some projects need to re-adjust their indicators' targets. This will be depicted in AIR 2020. See also relevant response letter on the matter.
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	30.00	406.00	The MIS is fully operational and all Project Reports, including data regarding the indicators, are uploaded and verified on the MIS. A study on the indicator system has been elaborated, as some projects need to re-adjust their indicators' targets. This will be depicted in AIR 2020. See also relevant response letter on the matter.
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	30.00	426.00	The MIS is fully operational and all Project Reports, including data regarding the indicators, are uploaded and verified on the MIS. A study on the indicator system has been elaborated, as some projects need to re-adjust their indicators' targets. This will be depicted in AIR 2020. See also relevant response letter on the matter.
F	O0601	Business models or jointly developed instruments, tested and implemented including the ones related to the "green", "blue" and social economic sectors	Number	10.00	7.00	The MIS is fully operational and all Project Reports, including data regarding the indicators, are uploaded and verified on the MIS. A study on the indicator system has been elaborated, as some projects need to re-adjust their indicators' targets. This will be depicted in AIR 2020. See also relevant response letter on the matter.
S	O0601	Business models or jointly developed instruments, tested and implemented including the ones related to the "green", "blue" and social economic sectors	Number	10.00	9.00	The MIS is fully operational and all Project Reports, including data regarding the indicators, are uploaded and verified on the MIS. A study on the indicator system has been elaborated, as some projects need to re-adjust their indicators' targets. This will be depicted in AIR 2020. See also relevant response letter on the matter.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	23.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	70.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	23.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	123.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	O0601	Business models or jointly developed instruments, tested and implemented including the ones related to the "green", "blue" and social economic sectors	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	O0601	Business models or jointly developed instruments, tested and implemented including the ones related to the "green", "blue" and social economic sectors	9.00	0.00	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]

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>1 - Entrepreneurship &amp; Innovation</b>
Investment priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators
Specific objective	1.1 - Competitive territories: stimulating business performance and extroversion through transnational linkages, clusters and networks

**Table 1: Result indicators - 1.3a.1.1**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	Observations
R0601	Transnational cooperation business links	Number	4	2014	Increase up to 25%		4	

ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative
R0601	Transnational cooperation business links		0		0		0		0

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R0601	Transnational cooperation business links		0

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>1 - Entrepreneurship &amp; Innovation</b>
Investment priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

**Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 1.3d**

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2019	Observations
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	20.00	57.00	Re-entered the 2018 values as per the instructions of the European Commission
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	20.00	183.00	Re-0entered the 2018 values as per the instructions of the European Commission
F	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	10.00	169.00	The MIS is fully operational and all Project Reports, including data regarding the indicators, are uploaded and verified on the MIS. A study on the indicator system has been elaborated, as some projects need to re-adjust their indicators' targets. This will be depicted in AIR 2020. See also relevant response letter on the matter.
S	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	10.00	392.00	The MIS is fully operational and all Project Reports, including data regarding the indicators, are uploaded and verified on the MIS. A study on the indicator system has been elaborated, as some projects need to re-adjust their indicators' targets. This will be depicted in AIR 2020. See also relevant response letter on the matter.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	57.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	183.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	11.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	112.00	0.00	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]

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>1 - Entrepreneurship &amp; Innovation</b>
Investment priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes
Specific objective	1.2 - Innovative territories: unleashing territorial potential to improve the transnational innovation capacity of the business sector

**Table 1: Result indicators - 1.3d.1.2**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	Observations
R0602	SMEs introducing product or process innovations	% of the total SMEs	24.94%	2010	Increase up to 1%			

ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative
R0602	SMEs introducing product or process innovations		0		0		0		0

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R0602	SMEs introducing product or process innovations		0

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>1 - Entrepreneurship &amp; Innovation</b>
Investment priority	10a - Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructure

**Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 1.10a**

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2019	Observations
F	CO44	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	Persons	70.00	2,286.00	The MIS is fully operational and all Project Reports, including data regarding the indicators, are uploaded and verified on the MIS. A study on the indicator system has been elaborated, as some projects need to re-adjust their indicators' targets. This will be depicted in AIR 2020. See also relevant response letter on the matter.
S	CO44	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	Persons	70.00	2,930.00	The MIS is fully operational and all Project Reports, including data regarding the indicators, are uploaded and verified on the MIS. A study on the indicator system has been elaborated, as some projects need to re-adjust their indicators' targets. This will be depicted in AIR 2020. See also relevant response letter on the matter.
F	CO46	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational education across borders	Persons	90.00	1,151.00	The MIS is fully operational and all Project Reports, including data regarding the indicators, are uploaded and verified on the MIS. A study on the indicator system has been elaborated, as some projects need to re-adjust their indicators' targets. This will be depicted in AIR 2020. See also relevant response letter on the matter.
S	CO46	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational education across borders	Persons	90.00	1,424.00	The MIS is fully operational and all Project Reports, including data regarding the indicators, are uploaded and verified on the MIS. A study on the indicator system has been elaborated, as some projects need to re-adjust their indicators' targets. This will be depicted in AIR 2020. See also relevant response letter on the matter.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO44	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	313.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO44	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	750.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO46	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational education across borders	29.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO46	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational education across borders	600.00	0.00	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]

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>1 - Entrepreneurship &amp; Innovation</b>
Investment priority	10a - Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructure
Specific objective	1.3 - Territories of knowledge: entrepreneurial learning and knowledge transfer for more competitive SMEs

**Table 1: Result indicators - 1.10a.1.3**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	Observations
R0603	Entrepreneurial learning cooperation schemes	Number	1	2014	Increase up to 100%		1	

ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative
R0603	Entrepreneurial learning cooperation schemes		0		0		0		0

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R0603	Entrepreneurial learning cooperation schemes		0

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>2 - Environment</b>
<b>Investment priority</b>	<b>6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage</b>

**Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 2.6c**

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2019	Observations
F	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Visits/year	300.00	8,726.00	The MIS is fully operational and all Project Reports, including data regarding the indicators, are uploaded and verified on the MIS. A study on the indicator system has been elaborated, as some projects need to re-adjust their indicators' targets. This will be depicted in AIR 2020. See also relevant response letter on the matter.
S	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Visits/year	300.00	16,000.00	The MIS is fully operational and all Project Reports, including data regarding the indicators, are uploaded and verified on the MIS. A study on the indicator system has been elaborated, as some projects need to re-adjust their indicators' targets. This will be depicted in AIR 2020. See also relevant response letter on the matter.
F	CO23	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	50,000.00	193,827.00	The MIS is fully operational and all Project Reports, including data regarding the indicators, are uploaded and verified on the MIS. A study on the indicator system has been elaborated, as some projects need to re-adjust their indicators' targets. This will be depicted in AIR 2020. See also relevant response letter on the matter.
S	CO23	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	50,000.00	347,468.00	The MIS is fully operational and all Project Reports, including data regarding the indicators, are uploaded and verified on the MIS. A study on the indicator system has been elaborated, as some projects need to re-adjust their indicators' targets. This will be depicted in AIR 2020. See also relevant response letter on the matter.
F	O0602	Designated areas addressed (of which Natura 2000 sites)	Number	12.00	619.00	The MIS is fully operational and all Project Reports, including data regarding the indicators, are uploaded and verified on the MIS. A study on the indicator system has been elaborated, as some projects need to re-adjust their indicators' targets. This will be depicted in AIR 2020. See also relevant response letter on the matter.
S	O0602	Designated areas addressed (of which Natura 2000 sites)	Number	12.00	812.00	The MIS is fully operational and all Project Reports, including data regarding the indicators, are uploaded and verified on the MIS. A study on the indicator system has been elaborated, as some projects need to re-adjust their indicators' targets. This will be depicted in AIR 2020. See also relevant response letter on the matter.

(I)	ID	Indicator	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO23	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status	8,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO23	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status	60,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	O0602	Designated areas addressed (of which Natura 2000 sites)	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	O0602	Designated areas addressed (of which Natura 2000 sites)	8.00	0.00	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]

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>2 - Environment</b>
Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
Specific objective	2.1 - Biodiversity: taking on the transnational challenge by promoting ecological connectivity and transnational ecosystems' integration

**Table 1: Result indicators - 2.6c.2.1**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	Observations
R0604	Expansion of ecological connectivity and transnational ecosystems' integration of designated areas	Hectares	195.361,06	2013	Increase up to 1%			

ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative
R0604	Expansion of ecological connectivity and transnational ecosystems' integration of designated areas		0		0		0		0

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R0604	Expansion of ecological connectivity and transnational ecosystems' integration of designated areas		0



<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>2 - Environment</b>
<b>Investment priority</b>	<b>6f - Promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector, water sector and with regard to soil, or to reduce air pollution</b>

**Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 2.6f**

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2019	Observations
F	O0603	Number of strategies/ policies/ plans/ models and tools jointly developed and tested	Number	8.00	39.00	The MIS is fully operational and all Project Reports, including data regarding the indicators, are uploaded and verified on the MIS. A study on the indicator system has been elaborated, as some projects need to re-adjust their indicators' targets. This will be depicted in AIR 2020. See also relevant response letter on the matter.
S	O0603	Number of strategies/ policies/ plans/ models and tools jointly developed and tested	Number	8.00	61.00	The MIS is fully operational and all Project Reports, including data regarding the indicators, are uploaded and verified on the MIS. A study on the indicator system has been elaborated, as some projects need to re-adjust their indicators' targets. This will be depicted in AIR 2020. See also relevant response letter on the matter.
F	O0604	Number of environmental friendly technologies' implementation related to the water/ waste efficient management	Number	3.00	13.00	The MIS is fully operational and all Project Reports, including data regarding the indicators, are uploaded and verified on the MIS. A study on the indicator system has been elaborated, as some projects need to re-adjust their indicators' targets. This will be depicted in AIR 2020. See also relevant response letter on the matter.
S	O0604	Number of environmental friendly technologies' implementation related to the water/ waste efficient management	Number	3.00	55.00	The MIS is fully operational and all Project Reports, including data regarding the indicators, are uploaded and verified on the MIS. A study on the indicator system has been elaborated, as some projects need to re-adjust their indicators' targets. This will be depicted in AIR 2020. See also relevant response letter on the matter.
F	O0605	Number of environmental friendly technologies' implementation related to climate change prevention and adaptation measures	Number	4.00	19.00	The MIS is fully operational and all Project Reports, including data regarding the indicators, are uploaded and verified on the MIS. A study on the indicator system has been elaborated, as some projects need to re-adjust their indicators' targets. This will be depicted in AIR 2020. See also relevant response letter on the matter.
S	O0605	Number of environmental friendly technologies' implementation related to climate change prevention and adaptation measures	Number	4.00	28.00	The MIS is fully operational and all Project Reports, including data regarding the indicators, are uploaded and verified on the MIS. A study on the indicator system has been elaborated, as some projects need to re-adjust their indicators' targets. This will be depicted in AIR 2020. See also relevant response letter on the matter.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	O0603	Number of strategies/ policies/ plans/ models and tools jointly developed and tested	9.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	O0603	Number of strategies/ policies/ plans/ models and tools jointly developed and tested	23.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	O0604	Number of environmental friendly technologies' implementation related to the water/ waste efficient management	9.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	O0604	Number of environmental friendly technologies' implementation related to the water/ waste efficient management	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	O0605	Number of environmental friendly technologies' implementation related to climate change prevention and adaptation measures	11.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	O0605	Number of environmental friendly technologies' implementation related to climate change prevention and adaptation measures	12.00	0.00	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]

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>2 - Environment</b>
Investment priority	6f - Promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector, water sector and with regard to soil, or to reduce air pollution
Specific objective	2.2 - Promote cooperation and networking aiming to introduce innovative technologies for efficient management of the waste sector, the soil and the water sector

**Table 1: Result indicators - 2.6f.2.2**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	Observations
R0605	Level of adaptation to resources efficiency and climate change resilience measures in alignment with EU policy	% of surface area of all participating countries	0,07%	2010	Increase up to 1%			

ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative
R0605	Level of adaptation to resources efficiency and climate change resilience measures in alignment with EU policy		0		0		0		0

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R0605	Level of adaptation to resources efficiency and climate change resilience measures in alignment with EU policy		0

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>2 - Environment</b>
<b>Investment priority</b>	11a - Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration through actions to strengthen the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services related to the implementation of the ERDF, and in support of actions under the ESF to strengthen the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration

**Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 2.11a**

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2019	Observations
F	O0606	Trained stakeholders	Persons	200.00	1,330.00	The MIS is fully operational and all Project Reports, including data regarding the indicators, are uploaded and verified on the MIS. A study on the indicator system has been elaborated, as some projects need to re-adjust their indicators' targets. This will be depicted in AIR 2020. See also relevant response letter on the matter.
S	O0606	Trained stakeholders	Persons	200.00	405.00	The MIS is fully operational and all Project Reports, including data regarding the indicators, are uploaded and verified on the MIS. A study on the indicator system has been elaborated, as some projects need to re-adjust their indicators' targets. This will be depicted in AIR 2020. See also relevant response letter on the matter.
F	O0607	Training programmes' implemented	Number	12.00	49.00	The MIS is fully operational and all Project Reports, including data regarding the indicators, are uploaded and verified on the MIS. A study on the indicator system has been elaborated, as some projects need to re-adjust their indicators' targets. This will be depicted in AIR 2020. See also relevant response letter on the matter.
S	O0607	Training programmes' implemented	Number	12.00	50.00	The MIS is fully operational and all Project Reports, including data regarding the indicators, are uploaded and verified on the MIS. A study on the indicator system has been elaborated, as some projects need to re-adjust their indicators' targets. This will be depicted in AIR 2020. See also relevant response letter on the matter.
F	O0608	Number of participants in transnational mobility initiatives (Ref. ERDF - CO43)	Persons	40.00	44.00	The MIS is fully operational and all Project Reports, including data regarding the indicators, are uploaded and verified on the MIS. A study on the indicator system has been elaborated, as some projects need to re-adjust their indicators' targets. This will be depicted in AIR 2020. See also relevant response letter on the matter.
S	O0608	Number of participants in transnational mobility initiatives (Ref. ERDF - CO43)	Persons	40.00	62.00	The MIS is fully operational and all Project Reports, including data regarding the indicators, are uploaded and verified on the MIS. A study on the indicator system has been elaborated, as some projects need to re-adjust their indicators' targets. This will be depicted in AIR 2020. See also relevant response letter on the matter.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	O0606	Trained stakeholders	279.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	O0606	Trained stakeholders	810.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	O0607	Training programmes' implemented	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	O0607	Training programmes' implemented	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	O0608	Number of participants in transnational mobility initiatives (Ref. ERDF - CO43)	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	O0608	Number of participants in transnational mobility initiatives (Ref. ERDF - CO43)	62.00	0.00	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]

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>2 - Environment</b>
Investment priority	11a - Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration through actions to strengthen the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services related to the implementation of the ERDF, and in support of actions under the ESF to strengthen the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration
Specific objective	2.3 - Develop skills for better environmental management and increase governance capacities

**Table 1: Result indicators - 2.11a.2.3**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	Observations
R0606	Capacity of public administration staff (PAS) in environmental legislation content and delivery	Persons: Nr of PAS who gained environmental qualifications	12 (average of five countries)	2014	Increase in the average of the five countries by 50%		30	

ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative
R0606	Capacity of public administration staff (PAS) in environmental legislation content and delivery		0		0		0		0

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R0606	Capacity of public administration staff (PAS) in environmental legislation content and delivery		0

## 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	2019	Observations
F	O0609	Joint Secretariat Staff	Number	5.00	4.00	The JS staffing has been finalised. The JS is in place and working. It is comprised by five (5) officers, including its co-ordinator.
S	O0609	Joint Secretariat Staff	Number	5.00	5.00	The JS staffing has been finalised. The JS is in place and working. It is comprised by five (5) officers, including its co-ordinator.
F	O0610	Computerised System	Number	1.00	1.00	
S	O0610	Computerised System	Number	1.00	1.00	
F	O0611	Monitoring Committee Meetings	Number	9.00	5.00	The Monitoring Committee convened its 5th meeting in Skopje in May 2019
S	O0611	Monitoring Committee Meetings	Number	9.00	9.00	The Monitoring Committee convened its 5th meeting in Skopje in May 2019
F	O0612	Lead partner seminars (including financial project management seminars)	Number	8.00	7.00	
S	O0612	Lead partner seminars (including financial project management seminars)	Number	8.00	7.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	O0609	Joint Secretariat Staff	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	O0609	Joint Secretariat Staff	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	O0610	Computerised System	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	O0610	Computerised System	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	O0611	Monitoring Committee Meetings	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
S	O0611	Monitoring Committee Meetings	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
F	O0612	Lead partner seminars (including financial project management seminars)	1.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	O0612	Lead partner seminars (including financial project management seminars)	1.00	5.00	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]

### 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	2019	Observations
1	O	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	15	30.00	406.00	The MIS cannot at the moment verify the achievement of the indicators. However, the JS is trying to ensure that the indicated values are correct. The Joint Secretariat and the Managing Authority are currently reviewing the target values of all indicators on Programme and project level with a view of normalising their correlation, as well as the validity of targets indicated by the beneficiaries in the Application Forms in terms of each indicator definition. For problems regarding the indicators' system please see para 5a
1	F	PF061	Eligible certified expenditure verified by the certifying authority	Euro	3,542,427.00	14,169,706.00	4,860,610.81	Certified expenditure uploaded on the MIS on 31/12/2019
2	F	PF061	Eligible certified expenditure verified by the certifying authority	Euro	5,608,841.00	22,435,364.00	5,896,956.58	Certified expenditure uploaded on the MIS on 31/12/2019
2	O	O0603	Number of strategies/ policies/ plans/ models and tools jointly developed and tested	Number	4	8.00	39.00	The MIS cannot at the moment verify the achievement of the indicators. However, the JS is trying to ensure that the indicated values are correct. The Joint Secretariat and the Managing Authority are currently reviewing the target values of all indicators on Programme and project level with a view of normalising their correlation, as well as the validity of targets indicated by the beneficiaries in the Application Forms in terms of each indicator definition. For problems regarding the indicators' system please see para 5a

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
1	O	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	23.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1	F	PF061	Eligible certified expenditure verified by the certifying authority	Euro	2,744,981.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	F	PF061	Eligible certified expenditure verified by the certifying authority	Euro	3,347,409.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	O	O0603	Number of strategies/ policies/ plans/ models and tools jointly developed and tested	Number	9.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

### 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 16 of model for cooperation programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal

Priority axis	Fund	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	ERDF	Total	11,998,635.00	85.00	12,416,414.95	103.48%	12,244,163.13	4,011,172.41	33.43%	20
1	IPA(e)	Total	2,171,071.00	85.00	3,496,388.16	161.04%	3,300,817.82	1,034,246.69	47.64%	20
2	ERDF	Total	18,997,838.00	85.00	21,370,118.63	112.49%	21,195,065.54	6,326,373.27	33.30%	23
2	IPA(e)	Total	3,437,526.00	85.00	4,038,572.19	117.48%	3,954,356.62	359,871.81	10.47%	20
3	ERDF	Total	2,644,144.00	75.00	2,644,144.00	100.00%	2,644,144.00	267,088.94	10.10%	3
3	IPA(e)	Total	478,440.00	75.00	478,440.00	100.00%	478,440.00	15,470.78	3.23%	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>ERDF</b>		<b>33,640,617.00</b>	<b>84.21</b>	<b>36,430,677.58</b>	<b>108.29%</b>	<b>36,083,372.67</b>	<b>10,604,634.62</b>	<b>31.52%</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>IPA(e)</b>		<b>6,087,037.00</b>	<b>84.21</b>	<b>8,013,400.35</b>	<b>131.65%</b>	<b>7,733,614.44</b>	<b>1,409,589.28</b>	<b>23.16%</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Grand total</b>			<b>39,727,654.00</b>	<b>84.21</b>	<b>44,444,077.93</b>	<b>111.87%</b>	<b>43,816,987.11</b>	<b>12,014,223.90</b>	<b>30.24%</b>	<b>88</b>

**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 5: Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention**

As set out in Table 2 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and tables 6-9 of Model for cooperation programmes

Priority axis	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic objective dimension	ESF secondary theme	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
1	ERDF	063	01	07	07	03		24	BG32	268,118.00	268,118.00	109,489.74	2
1	ERDF	063	01	07	07	03		24	BG41	338,611.00	338,611.00	252,114.80	2
1	ERDF	063	01	07	07	03		24	BG42	111,074.00	111,074.00	35,129.70	1
1	ERDF	063	01	07	07	03		24	CY00	699,230.00	699,230.80	187,993.18	4
1	ERDF	063	01	07	07	03		24	EL12	104,713.00	104,713.00	0.00	1
1	ERDF	063	01	07	07	03		24	EL23	452,650.00	452,650.00	185,858.79	1
1	ERDF	063	01	07	07	03		24	EL25	172,120.00	172,120.00	0.00	1
1	ERDF	063	01	07	07	03		24	EL30	890,813.00	890,813.00	128,031.17	3
1	ERDF	067	01	07	07	03		24	BG32	217,610.00	217,610.00	204,063.33	1
1	ERDF	067	01	07	07	03		24	BG33	229,394.00	229,394.00	222,113.36	1
1	ERDF	067	01	07	07	03		24	BG41	200,170.00	200,170.00	0.00	1
1	ERDF	067	01	07	07	03		24	BG42	100,328.75	100,328.75	0.00	1
1	ERDF	067	01	07	07	03		24	CY00	158,638.90	134,843.07	79,935.62	1
1	ERDF	067	01	07	07	03		24	EL12	364,305.34	364,305.34	0.00	1
1	ERDF	067	01	07	07	03		24	EL14	141,358.00	141,358.00	129,491.25	1
1	ERDF	067	01	07	07	03		24	EL22	166,797.05	166,797.05	98,446.79	1
1	ERDF	069	01	07	07	03		24	BG31	272,750.94	272,750.94	99,838.99	1
1	ERDF	069	01	07	07	03		24	EL23	354,449.70	354,449.70	51,559.74	1
1	ERDF	071	01	07	07	03		24	BG41	418,966.60	418,966.60	311,088.35	1
1	ERDF	071	01	07	07	03		24	EL43	100,570.00	100,570.00	0.00	1
1	ERDF	104	01	07	07	03		24	BG33	120,831.00	120,831.00	6,926.47	1
1	ERDF	104	01	07	07	03		24	BG41	102,815.00	102,815.00	21,147.04	1
1	ERDF	104	01	07	07	03		24	CY00	147,260.00	147,260.00	0.00	1
1	ERDF	104	01	07	07	03		24	EL22	173,642.00	173,642.00	81,946.07	1
1	ERDF	104	01	07	07	03		24	EL41	244,120.00	244,120.00	65,515.63	1
1	ERDF	104	01	07	07	10		24	BG41	287,310.15	287,310.15	67,607.30	2
1	ERDF	104	01	07	07	10		24	EL12	360,822.50	360,822.50	56,269.34	2
1	ERDF	106	01	07	07	03		24	BG34	112,896.00	112,896.00	79,992.00	1
1	ERDF	106	01	07	07	03		24	CY00	408,096.15	374,167.63	89,048.04	2
1	ERDF	106	01	07	07	03		24	EL12	103,117.46	103,117.46	0.00	1
1	ERDF	106	01	07	07	03		24	EL21	237,367.01	237,367.01	18,651.93	1
1	ERDF	106	01	07	07	03		24	EL23	130,600.00	130,600.00	111,421.24	1
1	ERDF	106	01	07	07	03		24	EL30	190,219.03	190,219.03	0.00	1
1	ERDF	106	01	07	07	10		24	BG41	451,959.30	451,959.30	374,297.72	2
1	ERDF	106	01	07	07	10		24	CY00	298,534.10	253,753.98	191,410.15	2
1	ERDF	106	01	07	07	10		24	EL23	176,570.00	176,570.00	67,266.20	1
1	ERDF	106	01	07	07	10		24	EL30	354,936.90	354,936.90	128,918.79	1
1	ERDF	109	01	07	07	03		24	BG41	225,554.25	225,554.25	49,670.03	1
1	ERDF	109	01	07	07	03		24	CY00	105,575.00	105,575.00	0.00	1
1	ERDF	109	01	07	07	03		24	EL12	216,309.42	216,309.42	55,779.18	1
1	ERDF	109	01	07	07	03		24	EL13	137,772.79	137,772.79	0.00	1
1	ERDF	109	01	07	07	10		24	BG34	100,639.00	100,639.00	12,018.81	1
1	ERDF	109	01	07	07	10		24	BG41	260,693.94	260,693.94	58,763.07	2
1	ERDF	109	01	07	07	10		24	CY00	263,181.80	263,181.80	4,983.93	2
1	ERDF	109	01	07	07	10		24	EL12	372,089.65	357,087.35	87,642.38	1
1	ERDF	109	01	07	07	10		24	EL21	244,549.30	244,549.30	0.00	1
1	ERDF	109	01	07	07	10		24	EL41	123,300.60	123,300.60	0.00	1
1	ERDF	113	01	07	07	10		24	BG32	105,573.64	105,573.64	53,363.02	1
1	ERDF	113	01	07	07	10		24	BG41	108,320.14	108,320.14	83,666.72	1
1	ERDF	113	01	07	07	10		24	BG42	106,836.64	106,836.64	28,789.42	1
1	ERDF	113	01	07	07	10		24	CY00	208,839.00	177,513.15	76,346.28	1
1	ERDF	113	01	07	07	10		24	EL14	149,994.90	149,994.90	44,576.84	1

Priority axis	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic objective dimension	ESF secondary theme	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by eneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
1	IPA(e)	063	01	07	07			24	AL	442,731.90	430,312.96	112,543.60	3
1	IPA(e)	063	01	07	07			24	MK	64,000.00	54,400.00	0.00	1
1	IPA(e)	067	01	07	07			24	AL	372,792.74	360,465.74	72,329.20	2
1	IPA(e)	067	01	07	07			24	MK	153,030.62	153,030.62	150,060.44	2
1	IPA(e)	069	01	07	07			24	AL	239,473.54	203,552.51	30,949.30	1
1	IPA(e)	071	01	07	07			24	AL	195,061.73	187,156.32	54,723.47	1
1	IPA(e)	071	01	07	07			24	MK	164,905.85	164,905.85	56,310.92	1
1	IPA(e)	104	01	07	07			24	AL	375,305.04	334,902.80	55,426.59	3
1	IPA(e)	104	01	07	07			24	MK	151,415.28	151,415.28	41,862.84	2
1	IPA(e)	106	01	07	07			24	AL	375,190.58	326,448.60	47,419.69	4
1	IPA(e)	106	01	07	07			24	MK	347,622.03	347,622.03	254,722.41	3
1	IPA(e)	109	01	07	07			24	AL	172,935.75	157,127.89	30,526.42	2
1	IPA(e)	109	01	07	07			24	MK	288,376.66	288,376.66	57,815.76	3
1	IPA(e)	113	01	07	07			24	AL	82,972.54	70,526.66	41,509.56	1
1	IPA(e)	113	01	07	07			24	MK	70,573.90	70,573.90	28,046.49	1
2	ERDF	086	01	07	07	06		24	BG41	885,203.50	885,203.50	422,238.31	3
2	ERDF	086	01	07	07	06		24	CY00	452,401.00	452,401.00	138,879.51	2
2	ERDF	086	01	07	07	06		24	EL11	170,800.00	170,800.00	53,169.13	1
2	ERDF	086	01	07	07	06		24	EL12	555,786.24	555,786.24	354,415.23	2
2	ERDF	086	01	07	07	06		24	EL14	100,000.00	100,000.00	0.00	1
2	ERDF	086	01	07	07	06		24	EL30	312,908.00	312,908.00	71,933.82	2
2	ERDF	086	01	07	07	06		24	EL42	100,000.00	100,000.00	0.00	1
2	ERDF	086	01	07	07	06		24	EL43	356,421.10	356,421.10	117,418.53	1
2	ERDF	087	01	07	07	06		24	BG32	547,910.06	547,910.06	377,312.28	2
2	ERDF	087	01	07	07	06		24	BG41	1,842,481.30	1,842,481.30	898,336.82	8
2	ERDF	087	01	07	07	06		24	BG42	374,289.00	374,289.00	118,650.50	2
2	ERDF	087	01	07	07	06		24	CY00	4,130,118.48	4,004,042.98	1,352,257.82	15
2	ERDF	087	01	07	07	06		24	EL11	673,355.86	673,355.86	144,108.06	2
2	ERDF	087	01	07	07	06		24	EL12	1,695,640.04	1,695,640.04	478,285.88	6
2	ERDF	087	01	07	07	06		24	EL13	360,868.30	360,868.30	37,034.54	2
2	ERDF	087	01	07	07	06		24	EL14	391,000.00	391,000.00	61,986.25	1
2	ERDF	087	01	07	07	06		24	EL21	306,000.00	306,000.00	0.00	1
2	ERDF	087	01	07	07	06		24	EL23	1,067,732.39	1,067,732.39	251,884.13	3
2	ERDF	087	01	07	07	06		24	EL24	195,500.00	195,500.00	0.00	1
2	ERDF	087	01	07	07	06		24	EL30	1,918,825.05	1,918,825.05	644,393.54	7
2	ERDF	087	01	07	07	06		24	EL41	155,000.00	155,000.00	21,321.12	1
2	ERDF	087	01	07	07	06		24	EL43	293,671.77	293,671.77	63,852.81	2
2	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		24	BG34	236,954.04	236,954.04	0.00	1
2	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		24	CY00	568,056.00	538,347.60	56,068.44	2
2	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		24	EL12	271,020.00	271,020.00	0.00	1
2	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		24	EL22	107,500.00	107,500.00	0.00	1
2	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		24	EL30	549,380.00	549,380.00	39,911.45	2
2	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		24	EL41	112,760.00	112,760.00	0.00	1
2	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		24	EL42	100,000.00	100,000.00	0.00	1
2	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		24	BG33	254,176.04	254,176.04	113,683.96	1
2	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		24	BG34	139,961.52	139,961.52	37,525.30	1
2	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		24	BG41	254,796.51	254,796.51	74,114.79	2
2	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		24	CY00	509,209.75	489,940.56	147,074.93	3
2	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		24	EL12	371,400.00	371,400.00	0.00	1
2	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		24	EL14	102,000.00	102,000.00	0.00	1
2	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		24	EL21	195,262.59	195,262.59	0.00	1
2	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		24	EL23	134,641.53	134,641.53	93,008.83	1
2	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		24	EL30	313,015.50	313,015.50	150,779.21	1
2	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		24	EL41	264,073.06	264,073.06	6,728.08	2
2	IPA(e)	086	01	07	07			24	AL	348,752.60	348,752.60	6,071.67	3
2	IPA(e)	086	01	07	07			24	MK	209,253.19	209,253.19	0.00	2
2	IPA(e)	087	01	07	07			24	AL	1,446,978.34	1,378,941.77	106,830.10	10
2	IPA(e)	087	01	07	07			24	MK	1,144,058.55	1,144,058.55	219,252.07	7
2	IPA(e)	094	01	07	07			24	AL	222,212.22	222,212.22	0.00	2
2	IPA(e)	094	01	07	07			24	MK	121,450.00	121,450.00	0.00	1

Priority axis	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic objective dimension	ESF secondary theme	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by eneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
2	IPA(e)	119	01	07	07			24	AL	439,667.29	423,488.29	27,717.97	3
2	IPA(e)	119	01	07	07			24	MK	106,200.00	106,200.00	0.00	1
3	ERDF	121	01	07	07			24	BG41	102,400.00	102,400.00	27,221.33	1
3	ERDF	121	01	07	07			24	CY00	102,400.00	102,400.00	26,247.50	1
3	ERDF	121	01	07	07			24	EL12	2,011,437.46	2,011,437.46	213,620.11	1
3	ERDF	122	01	07	07			24	EL12	292,421.62	292,421.62	0.00	1
3	ERDF	123	01	07	07			24	EL12	135,484.92	135,484.92	0.00	1
3	IPA(e)	121	01	07	07			24	AL	102,400.00	102,400.00	0.00	1
3	IPA(e)	121	01	07	07			24	MK	102,400.00	102,400.00	15,470.78	1
3	IPA(e)	122	01	07	07			24	EL12	136,820.00	136,820.00	0.00	1
3	IPA(e)	123	01	07	07			24	EL12	136,820.00	136,820.00	0.00	1

**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 ERDF 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 ERDF at programme level *100)	4. Eligible expenditure of ERDF 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 ERDF at programme level *100)
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(1) ERDF 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

The "First Evaluation of the Implementation Process and Impacts of the Cooperation Programme INTERREG V-B BALKAN – MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020" of the European Territorial Cooperation Objective for the period 2014-2020 was concluded in April 2019.

The evaluation report was mainly based on data extracted by the MIS database. The evaluation also made use of the project data that are uploaded at the BMP's web page. External data and evidence deriving from relevant sources, such as public data registers and statistics and query through online questionnaire to beneficiaries were also used in order to review the Programme attributes with the external framework.

##### **What is the Effectiveness of the CP Balkan-Med 2014-2020 implementation course?**

BMP launched its first and only call for project proposals in December 2015, approximately 3 months after its approval. The Call had a budget of € 20.1 mil. (85% of which is covered by EU funds) and was open to both Priorities Axes. Overall, 384 Project Proposals were submitted, 175 in Priority Axis1 "Entrepreneurship & Innovation" and 209 in Priority Axis 2 "Environment". The overall requested budget was approximately 400 million €, 19.52 times higher than the budget available in the Call. In total 1,092 individual entities from the five BalkanMed countries applied for funding under the 1st Call. Finally, the approval decision included 37 projects (9.63% of the proposals), with total budget of € 36,297,272.73, covering approximately 1.8 times the Call's budget.

The process of projects submission and selection of the 1st Call for Projects was relatively long as it lasted for more than two years. This was mainly caused by the high number of proposed projects. Implementation of territorial cooperation programmes can introduce some useful practices to reduce the time of this phase.

The implementation of the Projects officially started at the end of July 2017. In general the projects started without facing difficulties and both Programme structures and beneficiaries were prepared and able to proceed in the implementation.

In terms of financial object the Programme is showing good progress rate. The fact that the 79.5% of the Programme Budget was appointed before the end of the fourth year of implementation and that all the projects are showing economic activity in 2018 provides confidence regarding the success of the desirable implementation progress.

In terms of physical object implementation, the aggregated stated outputs values of the approved projects, suggest Programme's Target Values for 2023 would be overachieved. Effectiveness however cannot be evaluated without normalising the indicators' values first. The level of overachievement is high. The target values of the Programme and the projects should be normalised in order to make sure that both (programme and projects) are counting the same outputs with the same way.

This requires two types of actions:

- The recalculation and correction of the output target values of the Projects from the beneficiaries and the replacement of those values in the MIS. This must be applied in the cases that misinterpretations in the definition and the calculation methodology were noticed (SO.1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2).
- The review of Programme's Target Values of output indicators in cases where at planning phase was not possible to predict with certainty the values and there was underestimation (SO.2.2, 2.3).

Regarding the first category of errors, over-declaration of targeted indicators in project proposals is a common practice - mistake used by potential participants. A strategy to combat this error could be the negative score of extreme and unjustified over-achievements in the proposal accession phase.

It must be taken into account that MA had set up an Action Plan for the indicators, which in some cases was misinterpreted by the Lead Beneficiaries. Possible corrections could be done in the following ways:

- Improvement of the analysis (more detailed) and presentation of the methodology and addition of examples of right or wrong calculation patterns.
- Improvement of communication of the Action Plan and creation of special training events about how to calculate the indicators correctly during the submission of the Programme.
- Enhancement, as stated above, of the importance of proper calculation of the indicators in the evaluation of proposals.
- Re- examination and correction of the Indicators during approval stage in consultation with the Lead Partner of each project.

Regarding output indicators, all seem to be correctly selected and are covering sufficiently the monitoring of the objectives, except one (output indicator O0608). Given the fact that the specific output indicator is considered of moderate importance, the evaluator's recommendation is to remove O0608 from Programme Review, as irrelevant.

### **How much efficient is the CP Balkan-Med 2014-2020 so far?**

The efficiency assessment focused mainly on examining the extent to which the Programme, as planned, adequately met its objectives with regard to its thematic and territorial distribution. Investigation shows that these goals have been achieved despite all the deviations from design.

The territorial distribution of the partners shows pluralism, and apart from one specific target (S.O. 2.3 which contains only two approved projects), in all others SOs, partners from each participating country were included.

Despite the high representation of all countries in the Programme, it appears to be a clear differentiation at the priority level, with Greece and Cyprus showing a similar dynamic in both priorities and Bulgaria, Albania, North Macedonia to show higher potential in priority 1. The interpretation of this behaviour requires further investigation as it may be due to:

- The existence of notable difference in the capacity and skills of partners between countries in a thematic area, which is acting through the competitive process to concentrate projects and resources on the most competent regions,
- differentiating the hierarchy of priorities among countries and therefore differential demand,
- existence of ‘competition’ from alternative sources of funding for different priorities in different countries (National Programs) covering relevant needs or absorbing current planning and implementation capacity.
- impact of external factors such as general economic situation.

One result of this differentiation is the exhaustion of the IPA budget from the projects of the first Call. The limitation of IPA budget is expected to be covered by ERDF resources according to the MC decision in order to reinforce the territorial character and impacts of BMP.

### **Does CP Balkan-Med 2014-2020 remain timely? What does it need to improve?**

The analysis shows that there are no significant differences in the external context of the Programme. Although in some cases the circumstances have changed (either to the most favourable or to the worst) in general the same factors that identified as Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats remain in force. However, the removal of some factors is suggested for consistency purposes. In some cases factors are ambiguous and in that sense do not add substance to the support of the Intervention Logic. For example, reference of a point as ‘strength in some areas’ suggests that there is ‘weakness in some others’. Also, the formulation of the SWOT in four thematic areas, of which only two are included in the thematic objectives of the Programme, is confusing and unnecessary. The evaluator’s recommendation is to simplify SWOT analysis and Intervention Logic by unifying Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats to a single overall analysis.

Regarding the need for Programme review the evaluator suggests:

- Review Indicator System, specially the target values. Proposals are mainly aiming to improve Programme’s performance towards its objectives. It is also recommended to remove output indicator O0608
- Simplification of SWOT analysis
- Review Performance Framework by replacing the output indicators milestones for 2018 with Key Implementation Steps

### **How is the CP Balkan-Med 2014-2020 assessed as to its impacts?**

Impact evaluation (IE) seeks to demonstrate if intended results were created by the programme’s activities (directly or indirectly) by investigating the changes brought about by the interventions (Programme or Project).

Since the actual impacts of the projects haven’t been observed yet the primary target of the impact

evaluation is to address and record the mechanism that will produce impacts.

The general impact of BMP arises from the enhancement of cooperation among a wide range of stakeholders. BMP has already given the opportunity for a significant number of organizations to collaborate and work together, which would not have been possible without it. The mechanisms for the creation of impacts are including the creation of knowledge transfer networks, Business platforms - Electronic tools and database banks, Development of multilingual tools, training and certification activities, installation of monitoring schemes, policy recommendations.

Specific anticipated impacts include:

For priority 1:

- Improve business competitiveness as expressed in terms of turnovers and exports volume.
- Increase of employment, local income and entrepreneur survival rate.
- Expansion of the economy in 'new' – modern types of activities, desertification of local economic base
- More responsible and sustainable business models

For priority 2:

- Minimization of pressures on the environment, healthier and safer livelihoods.
- Improved adaptation of Climate Change, minimization of exposure to Natural Risks
- Support of blue and green economy and entrepreneurship.



Name	Fund	From month	From year	To month	To year	Type of evaluation	Thematic objective	Topic	Findings
First Evaluation of the Implementation Process and Impacts of the Cooperation Programme 'Interreg V – B Balkan-Mediterranean 2014-2020'	ERDF	10	2018	12	2019	Mixed	03 06 10 11	Evaluation of implementation procedures and the impacts of the Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce project proposal submission and evaluation time. The use of flat rate costs for the calculation of the administrative cost will lighten both the proposal creation and the evaluation procedures.</li> <li>• Adjust target Values both in Programme and Projects Indicators in order to minimize the deviation between them. Examine the methodology used and the admissions that been made for the calculation of every indicator's target value proposed from each project that is exceeding the 200% of the Programme's Target Value. Ensure that projects are using same Standards with those defined in the Indicators Action Plan.</li> <li>• Consider penalties on the evaluation of proposals in case of unjustified and extremely high over-achievements.</li> <li>• Remove Output Indicator O0608 "Number of participants in transnational mobility initiatives (Ref. ERDF - CO43)" from Programme in the Review, as irrelevant.</li> <li>• Review Output Indicators' milestone values after the Target Values revision.</li> <li>• Increase of IPA financial participation will reinforce the territorial character and impacts of BMP.</li> <li>• In general, it is too early to assess the impact of the Programme, as outputs and their results have not yet been produced. So far, the main impact has been the contribution to strengthening cooperation between a wide range of stakeholders. BMP has already enabled a significant number of organizations to collaborate and work together, which would not be feasible without it.</li> </ul>



## 5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN

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

The main issues encountered, even though, they do not pose an imminent threat of Programme implementation, are the following:

#### **Project Beneficiaries**

There are cases of insufficient capacity and lack of commitment of project beneficiaries due to the shortage of experience in project management staff with organizations and institutions operating in the Programme area, which leads to Partner replacements within approved projects (completed without major delays). Moreover, the public beneficiaries in both countries face various procedural and financial restrictions. Often a change in the management (legal representative, project team) leads to modification requests, new concepts, and even withdrawal from the project. The Joint Secretariat and the Managing Authority do their best efforts to address this by continuous support through communication, targeted visits, technical meetings, etc.

#### **Uneven Project implementation on partnership level**

Even though all projects are performing well and reach their targets, their efforts are sometimes and in specific cases hindered by the uneven progress of all beneficiaries. This practically means that there are beneficiaries lagging behind both on financial and actual implementation level, which causes the whole partnership to slow down. The Joint Secretariat and the Managing Authority are trying to address the issue by continuous support through communication, targeted visits, technical meetings, etc.

#### **Indicator system**

The indicator system of the BalkanMed Programme shows that there are big deviations between the Programme and the project targets. This is mainly because the Programme might have been quite modest in its programming (i.e. indicators CO46, CO44, O0606, O0607). However, this choice has been justifiable given that this is the first time the Programme has been implemented. Moreover, there also seems that the projects themselves have either overestimated their calculation on indicators achievement or failed to understand the true content of each indicator. The Joint Secretariat and the Managing Authority -with the help of external experts- reviewed the target values of all indicators on Programme and project level with a view of normalising their correlation. This effort was concluded –on project level- in 2019 to be followed by a Programme change in 2020.

## **Exhaustion of IPA funds**

The IPA funds on Programme level have been significantly overbooked, since the available budget for IPA beneficiaries proved significantly low for their demand. Official letters addressing the issue and asking for additional IPA funding, in order to cover the current and future financing needs of IPA beneficiaries, have been sent to the European Commission with no result yet.

## **Bureaucracy & National Legislation Requirements on Procurement**

Bureaucracy and time consuming procedures as well as the complexity of MIS seem to be some of the main reasons of delay but with continuous cooperation among partners, MA and JS all possible matters are overtaken at most appropriate way.

Traditionally the procedures on procurements allowing for appeals caused certain substantial delays in the implementation of projects, i.e. delivering of services, supplies and equipment or small scale infrastructure. Additional delays and/ or modifications led to the necessity of redrafting projects' procurement plans and requests for extension of projects' duration.

The performed pre-tender checks by the Managing Authority on certain substantial procurements of Greek beneficiaries contributed to the correct and efficient launch of the procedures minimising possible appeals and financial corrections due to discrepancies of procurements' provisions.

**(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.**

With the decision to fund the Reserve List projects the Programme has overbooked its funds by approximately 111%. This was a decision financially sound as it would result to the maximum possible absorption of the Programme's budget, abiding by the MC decisions. Moreover, the Reserve List projects refer to all Programme Specific Objectives and their implementation will substantially help in achieving the established goals and milestones, without thus jeopardising the achievement of the Programme's Performance Framework. Therefore, all Programme and Priority Axis targets are expected to be fully achieved. However, it should be noted that the Joint Secretariat and the Managing Authority -with the help of external experts- are reviewing the target values of all indicators on Programme and project level with a view of normalising their correlation.

## **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)**

**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/ Investment 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**

N/A

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

N/A



## 8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

Not applicable (the CP does not foresee implementation of Joint Action Plans).

**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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**Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them**

N/A

**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 - Entrepreneurship & Innovation
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Priority axis	2 - Environment
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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

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**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

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

Calculated amount of support to be used for climate change objectives based on the cumulative financial data by category of intervention in Table 7

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)</b>	<b>Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)</b>
1	654,854.28	5.44%
2	12,856,929.92	67.42%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,511,784.20</b>	<b>40.39%</b>

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**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

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**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**

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Status	Name	Fund	Year of finalizing evaluation	Type of evaluation	Thematic objective	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**

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**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**

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

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### 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:

Macro-regional Strategies represent a new opportunity for comprehensive development of a larger territory, addressing common challenges and potential, and are perceived as a qualitative leap fostering synergies for better territorial governance.

There are two (2) Macro-regional Strategies falling partially under the same geographical area with BalkanMed :

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

Consequently, they have to be taken into consideration as they cover several policies, which are targeted at a "macro-region" level.

#### **Analysis of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)**

Out of the five (5) participating countries of the BalkanMed Programme only one, Bulgaria, participates in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR). Yet, the Programme Priorities took into consideration contribution to implementing the EUSDR, within the areas delineated by the EUSDR Action Plan to make the region environmentally sustainable, prosperous, accessible and attractive, as well as safe and secure.

BalkanMed could support the implementation of the EUSDR by contributing to three (3) of its pillars and to seven (7) of its eleven (11) Priority Areas.

#### **Analysis of the EU Strategy for Adriatic – Ionian Region (EUSAIR)**

EUSAIR is relevant to BalkanMed as complementarities emerge mainly on environment conservation and management. Only two (2) countries, Albania and Greece, are covered by the EUSAIR.

The shared element of the Adriatic-Ionian participating regions is the common sea basin. Consequently, actions will be developed with needs and potentials of sea-related activities proving more emphasis on blue growth. Furthermore integrated marine and coastal management within the Balkan Mediterranean area can boost "blue growth" opportunities anchoring a strong maritime pillar to the programme strategy.

Regarding "research, innovation and SMEs development", actions under the first topic "blue technology" and the second topic "fisheries and aquaculture" both have focus on research and innovation. At programme level, while the "Balkan-Mediterranean 2014- 2020" transnational cooperation programme establish links between competitiveness and training, the programme of Adriatic – Ionian makes a thorough exploration of the priority providing potentials for complementarity and synergies.

- EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)
- EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)
- EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)
- Atlantic Sea Basin Strategy (ATLSBS)

**The pillar(s) and priority area(s) that the programme is relevant to:**

	<b>Pillar</b>	<b>Priority area</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 - Connecting the Danube region	1.1 - Mobility - waterways
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 - Connecting the Danube region	1.2 - Mobility - rail, road & air
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 - Connecting the Danube region	1.3 - Energy
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 - Connecting the Danube region	1.4 - Culture and tourism
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protecting the environment in the Danube region	2.1 - Water quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protecting the environment in the Danube region	2.2 - Environmental risks
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protecting the environment in the Danube region	2.3 - Biodiversity, landscapes, air and soil quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Building prosperity in the Danube region	3.1 - Knowledge society
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Building prosperity in the Danube region	3.2 - Competitiveness
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Building prosperity in the Danube region	3.3 - People & skills
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Strengthening the Danube region	4.1 - Institutional capacity & cooperation
<input type="checkbox"/>	4 - Strengthening the Danube region	4.2 - Security

**Actions or mechanisms used to better link the programme with the EUSDR**

**A. Are macro-regional coordinators (mainly National Coordinators, Priority Area Coordinators or Steering Group members) participating in the Monitoring Committee of the programme?**

Yes  No

**B. In selection criteria, have extra points been attributed to specific measures supporting the EUSDR?**

Yes  No

**a) Are targeted calls for proposals planned in relation to EUSDR**

Yes  No

**b) How many macro-regional projects/actions are already supported by the programme? (Number)**

**c) Were extra points/bonus given to a project/action with high macro-regional significance or impact? If yes, please elaborate (1 specific sentence)**

A specific criterion examining whether a Project makes use of synergies/ complementarities and contributes to macro-regional strategies was assessed, giving extra points compared to Projects serving only national and/ or regional policies.

**d) Other actions (e.g. planned strategic projects). Please elaborate (1 specific sentence)**

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**C. Has the programme invested EU funds in the EUSDR?**

Yes  No

Does your programme plan to invest in the EUSDR in the future? Please elaborate (1 specific sentence)

No specific investments are envisaged, but Projects are urged to support EUSDR

**D. Obtained results in relation to the EUSDR (n.a. for 2016)**

N/A

**E. Does the programme contribute to the targets as validated by the national coordinators and priority area coordinators in 2016 (uploaded on the EUSDR website)? (Please specify the target(s))**

No



**Pillar(s), topic(s) and/or cross cutting issue(s) that the programme is relevant to:**

	<b>Pillar</b>	<b>Topic / Cross cutting issue</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Blue growth	1.1.1 - Blue technologies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Blue growth	1.1.2 - Fisheries and aquaculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Blue growth	1.1.3 - Maritime and marine governance and services
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Blue growth	1.2.1 - Strengthening R&D, innovation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Blue growth	1.2.2 - SMEs development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Blue growth	1.2.3 - Capacity building
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connecting the region	2.1.1 - Maritime transport
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connecting the region	2.1.2 - Intermodal connections to the hinterland
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connecting the region	2.1.3 - Energy networks
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connecting the region	2.2.1 - Strengthening R&D, innovation
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connecting the region	2.2.2 - SMEs development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connecting the region	2.2.3 - Capacity building
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 - Environmental quality	3.1.1 - The marine environment
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 - Environmental quality	3.1.2 - Transnational terrestrial habitats and biodiversity
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 - Environmental quality	3.2.1 - Strengthening R&D, innovation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Environmental quality	3.2.2 - SMEs development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Environmental quality	3.2.3 - Capacity building
<input type="checkbox"/>	4 - Sustainable tourism	4.1.1 - Diversified tourism offer (products and services)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Sustainable tourism	4.1.2 - Sustainable and responsible tourism management (innovation and quality)
<input type="checkbox"/>	4 - Sustainable tourism	4.2.1 - Strengthening R&D, innovation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Sustainable tourism	4.2.2 - SMEs development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Sustainable tourism	4.2.3 - Capacity building

**Actions or mechanisms used to better link the programme with the EUSAIR**

**A. Are macro-regional coordinators (mainly National Coordinators, Pillar Coordinators, or Thematic Steering Group members) participating in the Monitoring Committee of the programme?**

Yes  No

**B. In selection criteria, have extra points been attributed to specific measures supporting the EUSAIR?**

Yes  No

**a) Are targeted calls for proposals planned in relation to EUSAIR**

Yes  No

**b) How many macro-regional projects/actions are already supported by the programme? (Number)**

**c) Were extra points/bonus given to a project/action with high macro-regional significance or impact? If yes, please elaborate (1 specific sentence)**

A specific criterion examining whether a Project makes use of synergies/ complementarities and contributes to macro-regional strategies was assessed, giving extra points compared to Projects serving only national and/ or regional policies.

**d) Other actions (e.g. planned strategic projects). Please elaborate (1 specific sentence)**

**C. Has the programme invested EU funds in the EUSAIR?**

Yes  No

Does your programme plan to invest in the EUSAIR in the future? Please elaborate (1 specific sentence)

No specific investments are envisaged, but Projects are urged to support EUSAIR.

**D. Obtained results in relation to the EUSAIR (n.a. for 2016)**

N/A

**E. Does the programme contribute to the objectives and/or targets which are attached to each topic under the Pillars, as stated in the Action Plan? (please specify the objective(s) and target(s))**

No

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

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**13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH**

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

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**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).

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