

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

**IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT**

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

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

This is the 7th 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 2021. The Monitoring Committee discussed and approved the AIR 2021 via Written Procedure on **24 May 2022**.

2021 was a crucial year for the Programme, as several challenges incurred and had to be addressed in order to secure the efficient and uninterrupted Programme implementation. On the one hand, the need to further adjust to the conditions set by the pandemic crisis, affecting the daily workflow of the Programme and certain aspects of the projects. On the other hand, the need to keep an eye on the timely closure of the Programme.

### **Funding of Projects**

The most important development was the launch on 10/06/2021 of the **Restricted Call for Strategic Project Proposals**, with the aim of approving one strategic project in Priority Axis 2: Environment. The Call with an initial budget of 4,5 m. € aimed to re-direct the remaining unused Programme funds towards digital convergence and renewable energy sources, with the ability to absorb a large part of the budget for pilot actions.

The European Commission has put the green and digital transformation very high in its agenda. Those two parallel transitions shall be seen together. EU is promoting the creation of interoperable data spaces in all strategic sectors. Such European-wide data spaces require the creation of extended networks, large-scale infrastructures and highly available cloud services. This digital transformation shall be based on energy-efficient practices, shall promote the circular economy and reduce the environmental footprint of human activity.

In that framework, the Call's focus was to promote a common architecture and framework for the implementation of green digitalization through the adoption of relevant policies, practices and technologies and the exploitation of the combined know-how of experts from the green/digital fields. The Call was addressed to specific national, regional and scientific entities of the five BalkanMed countries with the proven capacity to bridge and combine the green and digital transformation.

On 15/09/2021 the Monitoring Committee unanimously decided to fund the project “Computing Power Goes Green – GO\_GREEN”, in which seven BalkanMed beneficiaries participate. The relevant Subsidy Contract was signed on 01/10/2021.

With the inclusion of the GO\_GREEN project there are 49 projects (5 of which Technical Assistance projects) being implemented with a total budget of 49.253.643,48 €. This means that there is an overbooking of 123,98% 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.

Four Payment Requests were submitted by the Certifying Authority in 2021, fully achieving the n+3 rule target, but also fully achieving n+3 rule target for 2022 as well, thus proving once more the successful implementation

of the BalkanMed Programme.

### **Closure of the projects**

During 2021 five more projects reached their final implementation date, bringing the overall number of projects the finished their actual on the field work to 37. However, this does not mean that these projects can formally “close” as there is still work to be done by the beneficiaries logistically and bureaucratically.

At the same time, the MA/ JS have tried to fine-tune the project closure procedure with the Certifying Authority, MIS Service and the national authorities. The JS has issued and constantly updates whenever needed a set of comprehensive guidelines on –among others payments and reporting-, in order to help beneficiaries better organise and co-ordinate their closure activities.

### **Work of the Monitoring Committee**

The Monitoring Committee convened its 7th meeting online on 15/09/2021. The Monitoring Committee was informed on the State of Play of the Programme while the main decision taken was the funding of the strategic project under the Restricted Call.

During 2021, seven Written Procedures were launched via which respective unanimous decisions, especially regarding the funded projects and procedural issues, were taken.

### **Communication**

The major communication activities in 2021 included the following:

#### *BalkanRoad project is a REGIOSTARS awards winner*

The BalkanROAD project won the "Public's favorite" award in the category SMART Europe: "Increasing the competitiveness of local businesses in a digital world", in the context of REGIOSTARS Awards 2021.

#### *Green Deal joint articles*

On the initiative of the Transnational Communication Network, BalkanMed has conducted a series of articles dedicated to EU Green Deal and more specifically to “EU Adaptation Strategy”. The main aim of these articles was to show the active role of Interreg transnational Programmes in realizing the current European agenda, addressing pressing challenges across Europe and demonstrating how Interreg helps implement the European Green Deal policies. Three (3) BalkanMed projects (DISARM, WetMainAreas and BalkanRoad) were presented in this series of articles.

#### *Social Media campaign*

BalkanMed launched its Instagram initiative “44 BalkanMed Stories about Solidarity and Cooperation” with

the purpose to contribute to the dissemination of the achievements of each of the Programme's projects and the impact they have on the regions. This collection of stories was also transmitted through the BalkanMed accounts on Twitter and LinkedIn.

### EU Green Week 2021 partner event

In the context of the EU Green Week 2021: ZERO POLLUTION FOR HEALTHIER PEOPLE AND PLANET, the JS along with the project WetMainAreas organized the "2nd Balkan-Mediterranean Wetland Living Lab: Promoting ecosystem connectivity in and between protected areas to securing biodiversity and well-being". The online event was organized in collaboration with the MedWet Initiative and Interreg MED Programme's Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community.

### Individual project achievements

A large number of BalkanMed projects have been selected and presented as best practices in their distinctive fields. It is worth mentioning, for example, that in 2021 the HERMES Project has been hosted to the European Environment Agency report as one of the 11 best example cases of nature based solutions in Europe.

At the same time the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation and the International Academy of Sciences, Ecology Engineering and Pedagogy of Kazakhstan have selected the BalkanMed project INNOVENTER as one of the best practices and the finest example of innovation in vocational education and training (VET). The project was presented to educators of Russia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine as part of their training on innovation and digitalization of VET education.

### 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>By December 2021, 17 out of 20 projects from 1st call of proposals ended.</p> <p>Under PA1, and more specifically, in the context of SO “Competitive territories”, 417 enterprises received support and they contributed to the development of 9 business models or jointly developed instruments, tested and implemented including the ones related to the “green”, “blue” and social economic sectors. These practices resulted in the creation of 5 Transnational cooperation business links.</p> <p>In the context of SO “Innovative territories”, 457 enterprises cooperated with research institutions, while 215 enterprises were supported to introduce new to the firm products.</p> <p>Moreover, in the context of SO “Territories of knowledge”, the development of 28 entrepreneurial learning cooperation schemes allowed 3323 participants to attend joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational education across border and 968 participants to attend joint local employment initiatives and joint training.</p> <p>The global and national restrictions due to the Pandemic COVID-19 imposed to project beneficiaries inevitably extended their effect in the implementation of some deliverables (live events, seminars, on-the-spot visits) this reporting period as well. Though, thanks to technology the great majority of these practices were implemented online, after further prolongation of the project’s ending date.</p>
2	Environment	<p>By December 2021, totally 19 out of 23 projects from the 1st Call for proposals ended (2 in 2021), while a new strategic project was contracted, under the Restricted Call for Strategic Project Proposals.</p> <p>Regarding the 1st Call projects, the results obtained helped over-achieve the Programme indicators; more specifically, in the context of SO 2.1 about 4M hectares of habitats has been supported, in order to attain a better conservation status.</p> <p>In the context of the SO 2.2 “Sustainable territories”, projects developed over 60 strategies/ policies/ plans/ models/ tools (20% more as compared to 2020) and 19 environmental friendly technologies about monitoring and mitigation of air pollution/wildfires/severe weather phenomena due to climate change/ Farms with zero carbon-, waste- and water-footprint specialized in the BalkanMed agricultural sector/ Coastal erosion mitigation/ Water &amp; waste management towards adaptation of circular economy measures.</p> <p>In S.O. 2.3 “Delivery on environmental legal framework”, 130 training programmes were implemented for approximately 2500 stakeholders on environmentally and sustainable development of ports, as well as mitigating marine litter pollution. In addition, 92 persons participated in transnational mobility initiatives.</p> <p>The strategic project entitled “GO_GREEN” was contracted on 01/10/2021 and is financed under S.O. 2.2 “Sustainable territories”. The project, through its activities, seeks adoption of an integrated approach and framework for the creation of combined green and digital transformation initiatives at the national and transnational level that will lead to a “greener” functioning of digital infrastructures and data centers. This theme represents the main challenge identified</p>
3	Technical Assistance	The Technical Assistance (TA) Programme Priority Axis 3 was implemented through the activities performed by the MA, the

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>Joint Secretariat and the five National Authorities Its 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 2021 within the Technical Assistance the following major activities were implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities in connection with implementation and monitoring of the Programme;</li> <li>• One online Monitoring Committee meeting;</li> <li>• Training seminars and technical meetings with beneficiaries, in particular in relation to the implementation of their projects; Information seminars and events on the Restricted Call for Strategic Project Proposals, as well on the BalkanMed Programm in general (it is worth mentioning that the Ministry of Regional Development of Kosovo has asked the BalkanMed JS to train its executives on the concept of Interreg as well as on the implementation practicalities of an Interreg Programme);</li> <li>• Communication and publicity actions (website, communication tools for beneficiaries, participation in EC Day, European Green Week events, etc.)</li> </ul> <p>Due to the COVID 19 Pandemics all the meetings/events that took place in 2021 were online.</p> <p>At this stage of implementation no significant problems have been identified in the implementation of the PA3 (Technical Assistance), except of the slow rate of absorption especially in the IPA countries.</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	2021	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	30.00	417.00	
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	30.00	716.00	
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	30.00	478.00	
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	30.00	716.00	
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	9.00	
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	13.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	416.00	406.00	23.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	716.00	416.00	70.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	459.00	406.00	23.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	726.00	426.00	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	8.00	7.00	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	14.00	9.00	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	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	Observations
R0601	Transnational cooperation business links	Number	4	2014	Increase up to 25%		9	According to the Projects' calculation. A thorough assessment will be performed by the Programme as part of the evaluation envisaged for 2022.

ID	Indicator	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative
R0601	Transnational cooperation business links		5		4		0		0

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R0601	Transnational cooperation business links		0		0		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	2021	Observations
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	20.00	457.00	
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	20.00	482.00	
F	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	10.00	215.00	
S	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	10.00	264.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	457.00	57.00	57.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	482.00	183.00	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	215.00	169.00	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	267.00	392.00	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	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	Observations
R0602	SMEs introducing product or process innovations	% of the total SMEs	24,94%	2010	Increase up to 1%		2.72	According to the Projects' calculation. A thorough assessment will be performed by the Programme as part of the evaluation envisaged for 2022.

ID	Indicator	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative
R0602	SMEs introducing product or process innovations		2.32				0		0

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R0602	SMEs introducing product or process innovations		0		0		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**

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2021	Observations
F	CO44	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	Persons	70.00	1,968.00	
S	CO44	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	Persons	70.00	1,924.00	
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	Persons	90.00	3,323.00	
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	Persons	90.00	3,030.00	

(I)	ID	Indicator	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO44	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	1,968.00	2,286.00	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	1,924.00	2,930.00	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	3,323.00	1,151.00	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	3,030.00	1,424.00	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	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	Observations
R0603	Entrepreneurial learning cooperation schemes	Number	1	2014	Increase up to 100%		28	According to the Projects' calculation. A thorough assessment will be performed by the Programme as part of the evaluation envisaged for 2022.

ID	Indicator	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative
R0603	Entrepreneurial learning cooperation schemes		28		1		0		0

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R0603	Entrepreneurial learning cooperation schemes		0		0		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**

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2021	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	10,926.00	
S	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Visits/year	300.00	3,600.00	
F	CO23	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	50,000.00	507,897.00	
S	CO23	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	50,000.00	348,291.00	
F	O0602	Designated areas addressed (of which Natura 2000 sites)	Number	12.00	31.00	
S	O0602	Designated areas addressed (of which Natura 2000 sites)	Number	12.00	19.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2020	2019	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	9,526.00	8,726.00	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	3,600.00	16,000.00	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	506,242.00	193,827.00	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	348,291.00	347,468.00	60,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	O0602	Designated areas addressed (of which Natura 2000 sites)	31.00	619.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	O0602	Designated areas addressed (of which Natura 2000 sites)	19.00	812.00	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	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	Observations
R0604	Expansion of ecological connectivity and transnational ecosystems' integration of designated areas	Hectares	195.361,06	2013	Increase up to 1%		4007158	According to the Projects' calculation. A thorough assessment will be performed by the Programme as part of the evaluation envisaged for 2022.

ID	Indicator	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative
R0604	Expansion of ecological connectivity and transnational ecosystems' integration of designated areas		4001458				0		0

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R0604	Expansion of ecological connectivity and transnational ecosystems' integration of designated areas		0		0		0



<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

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

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2021	Observations
F	O0603	Number of strategies/ policies/ plans/ models and tools jointly developed and tested	Number	8.00	61.00	
S	O0603	Number of strategies/ policies/ plans/ models and tools jointly developed and tested	Number	8.00	71.00	
F	O0604	Number of environmental friendly technologies' implementation related to the water/ waste efficient management	Number	3.00	19.00	
S	O0604	Number of environmental friendly technologies' implementation related to the water/ waste efficient management	Number	3.00	19.00	
F	O0605	Number of environmental friendly technologies' implementation related to climate change prevention and adaptation measures	Number	4.00	29.00	
S	O0605	Number of environmental friendly technologies' implementation related to climate change prevention and adaptation measures	Number	4.00	37.00	

(I)	ID	Indicator	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	O0603	Number of strategies/ policies/ plans/ models and tools jointly developed and tested	61.00	39.00	9.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	O0603	Number of strategies/ policies/ plans/ models and tools jointly developed and tested	66.00	61.00	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	18.00	13.00	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	19.00	55.00	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	28.00	19.00	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	31.00	28.00	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	2021 Total	2021 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%		8.19	According to the Projects' calculation. A thorough assessment will be performed by the Programme as part of the evaluation envisaged for 2022.

ID	Indicator	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative
R0605	Level of adaptation to resources efficiency and climate change resilience measures in alignment with EU policy		8.19				0		0

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R0605	Level of adaptation to resources efficiency and climate change resilience measures in alignment with EU policy		0		0		0

<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

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

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2021	Observations
F	O0606	Trained stakeholders	Persons	200.00	2,576.00	
S	O0606	Trained stakeholders	Persons	200.00	910.00	
F	O0607	Training programmes' implemented	Number	12.00	130.00	
S	O0607	Training programmes' implemented	Number	12.00	54.00	
F	O0608	Number of participants in transnational mobility initiatives (Ref. ERDF - CO43)	Persons	40.00	92.00	
S	O0608	Number of participants in transnational mobility initiatives (Ref. ERDF - CO43)	Persons	40.00	62.00	

(I)	ID	Indicator	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	O0606	Trained stakeholders	1,746.00	1,330.00	279.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	O0606	Trained stakeholders	910.00	405.00	810.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	O0607	Training programmes' implemented	67.00	49.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	O0607	Training programmes' implemented	54.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	O0608	Number of participants in transnational mobility initiatives (Ref. ERDF - CO43)	63.00	44.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	O0608	Number of participants in transnational mobility initiatives (Ref. ERDF - CO43)	62.00	62.00	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	2021 Total	2021 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%		183	According to the Projects' calculation. A thorough assessment will be performed by the Programme as part of the evaluation envisaged for 2022.

ID	Indicator	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative
R0606	Capacity of public administration staff (PAS) in environmental legislation content and delivery		111		30		0		0

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R0606	Capacity of public administration staff (PAS) in environmental legislation content and delivery		0		0		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	2021	Observations
F	O0609	Joint Secretariat Staff	Number	5.00	5.00	
S	O0609	Joint Secretariat Staff	Number	5.00	5.00	
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	7.00	The Monitoring Committee convened its 7th meeting online on 15/09/2021.
S	O0611	Monitoring Committee Meetings	Number	9.00	9.00	The Monitoring Committee convened its 7th meeting online on 15/09/2021.
F	O0612	Lead partner seminars (including financial project management seminars)	Number	8.00	8.00	
S	O0612	Lead partner seminars (including financial project management seminars)	Number	8.00	8.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	O0609	Joint Secretariat Staff	6.00	4.00	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	O0609	Joint Secretariat Staff	6.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	O0610	Computerised System	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	O0610	Computerised System	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	O0611	Monitoring Committee Meetings	6.00	5.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
S	O0611	Monitoring Committee Meetings	9.00	9.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
F	O0612	Lead partner seminars (including financial project management seminars)	7.00	7.00	1.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	O0612	Lead partner seminars (including financial project management seminars)	7.00	7.00	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	2021	Observations
1	O	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	15	30.00	478.00	
1	F	PF061	Eligible certified expenditure verified by the certifying authority	Euro	3,542,427.00	14,169,706.00	11,265,735.46	
2	F	PF061	Eligible certified expenditure verified by the certifying authority	Euro	5,608,841.00	22,435,364.00	18,210,640.05	
2	O	O0603	Number of strategies/ policies/ plans/ models and tools jointly developed and tested	Number	4	8.00	61.00	

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
1	O	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	459.00	406.00	23.00	0.00	0.00
1	F	PF061	Eligible certified expenditure verified by the certifying authority	Euro	8,042,156.54	4,860,610.81	2,744,981.49	0.00	0.00
2	F	PF061	Eligible certified expenditure verified by the certifying authority	Euro	10,831,676.95	5,896,956.58	3,347,409.27	0.00	0.00
2	O	O0603	Number of strategies/ policies/ plans/ models and tools jointly developed and tested	Number	61.00	39.00	9.00	0.00	0.00

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2015	2014
1	O	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	0.00	0.00
1	F	PF061	Eligible certified expenditure verified by the certifying authority	Euro	0.00	0.00
2	F	PF061	Eligible certified expenditure verified by the certifying authority	Euro	0.00	0.00
2	O	O0603	Number of strategies/ policies/ plans/ models and tools jointly developed and tested	Number	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	12,399,592.68	103.34%	12,227,340.45	8,637,122.40	71.98%	20
1	IPA(e)	Total	2,171,071.00	85.00	3,365,740.45	155.03%	3,168,313.52	2,628,613.06	121.07%	20
2	ERDF	Total	18,997,838.00	85.00	25,523,948.36	134.35%	25,277,269.43	15,542,921.57	81.81%	24
2	IPA(e)	Total	3,437,526.00	85.00	4,841,777.99	140.85%	4,757,562.42	2,667,718.48	77.61%	21
3	ERDF	Total	2,644,144.00	75.00	2,644,144.00	100.00%	2,644,144.00	759,160.35	28.71%	3
3	IPA(e)	Total	478,440.00	75.00	478,440.00	100.00%	478,440.00	24,365.00	5.09%	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>ERDF</b>		<b>33,640,617.00</b>	<b>84.21</b>	<b>40,567,685.04</b>	<b>120.59%</b>	<b>40,148,753.88</b>	<b>24,939,204.32</b>	<b>74.13%</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>IPA(e)</b>		<b>6,087,037.00</b>	<b>84.21</b>	<b>8,685,958.44</b>	<b>142.70%</b>	<b>8,404,315.94</b>	<b>5,320,696.54</b>	<b>87.41%</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Grand total</b>			<b>39,727,654.00</b>	<b>84.21</b>	<b>49,253,643.48</b>	<b>123.98%</b>	<b>48,553,069.82</b>	<b>30,259,900.86</b>	<b>76.17%</b>	<b>90</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 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 Programme took place in 2018. No evaluation was conducted in 2021. The results of the next Programme assessment will be presented in AIR 2022, according to the evaluation procedure described in the Programme's Evaluation Plan (the reference period is 2nd semester of 2021 - 2nd semester of 2022). Part of this evaluation will also be the calculation of the achievements of the Results Indicators, which are directly linked to the effectiveness of the BalkanMed programme.

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

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

#### Exhaustion of IPA funds

During the execution of the 1st interim Payment Request of the 8th Accounting Year (29/07/2021) the approved Union contribution of Priority Axis 1 to the IPA Fund was exceeded. The Union contribution of the certified expenditure included in the payment request exceeded the approved Union contribution by 94.586,34 € of the Axis as the total of the approved Union assistance of 1.845.410,00 euros had been reimbursed to the beneficiaries through previous Payment Requests. Therefore, no Union assistance was available for the costs of the PA1 IPA beneficiaries.

In order to address the issue, the Certifying Authority and the Managing Authority, adhering to the previous relevant Monitoring Committee decision, had to activate article 20 of Regulation (EC) No 1299/2013, which stipulates that ERDF funds can be used outside the Union area of the Programme as long as the total amount allocated does not exceed 20% of ERDF support for the Programme.

However, in order for that solution to be implemented, an adaptation of the Programme MIS was needed, as it had emerged during the communication with the European Commission. The necessary adaption was discussed and implemented.

The adjustment was completed and the 3rd Payment Request, submitted on 19/04/2022, included the exorbitant costs of 231.852,78 € (EU contribution at the amount of 197.074,86 €) for IPA beneficiaries, which was covered by ERDF.

#### Volatile External Factors / Force Majeure.

The pandemic outbreak continued affecting all the significant aspects of the Programme implementation. On a project basis, the pandemic has posed significant obstacles as the implementation of certain deliverables (especially of those that involved public participation) was halted for safety reasons. The approach adopted by the Programme Bodies was to give the beneficiaries the flexibility to develop their own responses towards the situation, with safety being the top priority. From their part, the beneficiaries had to opt for a rolling wave planning approach, with the project proceeding and crucial details becoming clearer at a later stage. Each case was examined separately per project and beneficiary. In that extent, there were cases where deliverables had to be postponed for the future, other cases where the description of a deliverable and the standards had to be modified (a classic example here is the replacement of events that required physical presence by events that are taking place on-line), and even cases where some deliverables were completely cancelled – without however affecting the overall character and functionality of the project. As a result, extra administrative burden was created for both the beneficiaries and the Programme Bodies that unavoidably affected the performance of the Programme.

Moreover, the unstable macroeconomic environment must also be recorded. Especially during the last quarter

of 2021, the inflation of the prices started to affect negatively the implementation of certain projects.

***Exemption of payments and non-reimbursement***

Due to some Audit Authorities' controls, which have not been concluded yet and/ or other reasons, some beneficiaries face an exemption of payments; therefore their reimbursement cannot be finalized unless the exemption is raised. This means that despite they had their costs verified and certified, they have not received the respective funds, which has affected their liquidity and cash flow. In some cases, final payments cannot be made due to such lack of cash flow, preventing projects from closing.

**(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.**

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## **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	16,387,685.13	85.93%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,042,539.41</b>	<b>50.94%</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. Three (3) countries, Albania, Greece and North Macedonia, 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)**

**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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## DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
CITIZENS' SUMMARY - INTERREG V-B "BALKLAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020"	Citizens' summary	13-May-2022		Ares(2022)4005812	BMP_CitizensSummary	30-May-2022	nlogotge

## LATEST VALIDATION RESULTS

Severity	Code	Message
Info		Implementation report version has been validated
Warning	2.40	In Section 'Macro-regional and sea basin strategies' when the answer to question B is Yes, questions a) and b) should not be empty for strategy EUSAIR
Warning	2.40	In Section 'Macro-regional and sea basin strategies' when the answer to question B is Yes, questions a) and b) should not be empty for strategy EUSDR
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 1,071.43% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 10a, indicator: CO44, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 1,120.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 3d, indicator: CO29, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 1,200.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 2, investment priority: 6c, indicator: CO09, year: 2020. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 1,200.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 2, investment priority: 6c, indicator: CO09, year: 2021. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 1,386.67% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 3a, indicator: CO01, year: 2019. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 1,420.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 3a, indicator: CO04, year: 2019. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 1,582.22% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 10a, indicator: CO46, year: 2019. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 1,833.33% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 2, investment priority: 6f, indicator: O0604, year: 2019. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 120.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 2, investment priority: 6c, indicator: CO23, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 120.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 3, investment priority: -, indicator: O0609, year: 2020. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 130.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 3a, indicator: O0601, year: 2021. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 140.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 3a, indicator: O0601, year: 2020. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 155.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 2, investment priority: 11a, indicator: O0608, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 155.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 2, investment priority: 11a, indicator: O0608, year: 2019. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 155.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 2, investment priority: 11a, indicator: O0608, year: 2020. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 155.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 2, investment priority: 11a, indicator: O0608, year: 2021. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 158.33% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 2, investment priority: 6c, indicator: O0602, year: 2020. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 158.33% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 2, investment priority: 6c, indicator: O0602, year: 2021. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 2,386.67% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 3a, indicator: CO01, year: 2020. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 2,386.67% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 3a, indicator: CO01, year: 2021. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 2,386.67% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 3a, indicator: CO04, year: 2021. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 2,410.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 3d, indicator: CO26, year: 2020. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 2,410.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 3d, indicator: CO26, year: 2021. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 2,420.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 3a, indicator: CO04, year: 2020. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 2,640.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 3d, indicator: CO29, year: 2021. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 2,670.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 3d, indicator: CO29, year: 2020. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 2,748.57% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 10a, indicator: CO44, year: 2020. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 2,748.57% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 10a, indicator: CO44, year: 2021. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 202.50% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 2, investment priority: 11a, indicator: O0606, year: 2019. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 233.33% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 3a, indicator: CO01, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 266.67% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 2, investment priority: 6f, indicator: O0604, year: 2018. Please check.









Severity	Code	Message
		Please check.
Warning	2.54.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered for "F" (implemented) is 240.74% of the annual total value entered for "S" (forecast from selected) for priority axis: 2, investment priority: 11a, indicator: O0607, year: 2021. Please check.
Warning	2.54.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered for "F" (implemented) is 264.61% of the annual total value entered for "S" (forecast from selected) for priority axis: 2, investment priority: 6c, indicator: CO09, year: 2020. Please check.
Warning	2.54.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered for "F" (implemented) is 283.08% of the annual total value entered for "S" (forecast from selected) for priority axis: 2, investment priority: 11a, indicator: O0606, year: 2021. Please check.
Warning	2.54.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered for "F" (implemented) is 303.50% of the annual total value entered for "S" (forecast from selected) for priority axis: 2, investment priority: 6c, indicator: CO09, year: 2021. Please check.
Warning	2.54.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered for "F" (implemented) is 328.40% of the annual total value entered for "S" (forecast from selected) for priority axis: 2, investment priority: 11a, indicator: O0606, year: 2019. Please check.