

IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION GOAL

PART A

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL/FINAL 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.

2016 was a significant year for preparing and ensuring successful implementation of the Programme in the years to come, as the way to the selection of the first BalkanMed Projects was paved.

The 1st Call for Project Proposals was officially launched on 16/12/2015 with the note that it would be open until 15/04/2016. Eligible partnerships included partners from at least three participating countries. The deadline was extended until 26/04/2016, following a relevant decision of the Monitoring Committee. The Call had a budget of € 20.1 mil. (85% of which is covered by EU funds) and was open to both Priorities Axes.

Upon the publication of the 1st Call for Project Proposals Info Days and partner search forums were organised in all participating countries to help potential applicants to develop their projects and to search for partners. Info Days were organised in all participating countries in co-operation with the National Authorities. More than 1,000 participants attended these events, which gave way to discuss project ideas, management and implementation issues, to meet potential applicants and to facilitate partner search.

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 1092 individual entities from the five BalkanMed countries applied for funding under the 1st Call.

Given that the Programme’s Joint Secretariat was not yet staffed, the quality assessment was performed by a Joint Group of Internal Assessors, following a relevant decision of the Monitoring Committee. This Group was comprised by fifteen (15) independent experts appointed by each BalkanMed country (three per country). The experts proceeded to the quality assessment, following the 1st Call’s Selection Criteria and relevant Guide, previously approved by the Monitoring Committee during its 1st meeting in 2015, as well as clear guidelines regarding the procedure to be followed, also approved by the Monitoring Committee in Sofia. The Joint Group of Internal Assessors met in Thessaloniki on 21-23/11/2016.

The Quality Assessment, including a State Aid exercise was finalised in the first trimester of 2017.

During 2016 the following developments also took place:

- Launch of an open Call for the staffing of the BalkanMed Joint Secretariat on 22/08/2016. An overall of 98 applications for the staffing of the five vacancies were submitted by the set deadline on 23/09/2016. The interviews were scheduled for the autumn of 2017;
- Approval of the Programme’s Evaluation Plan by the Monitoring Committee and

submission to the European Commission;

- 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. Full adaptation of the MIS is estimated in 2017;
- The description of the Management and Control System (MCS) in relation to the designation process of the MA and the CA of the Programme, which has been complex and long as regulatory requirements for programme management remain quite heavy.
- The whole procedure included necessarily, among other issues:
- Consultations with competent authorities of the five cooperating countries, including extensive cooperation on the FLC level.
- Taking on board some re-structuring and/or set up of services in all five countries, including FLC.
- Ensuring extensive adaptation of the Monitoring Information System (MIS) of the Programme, in order to ensure fulfilment of regulatory requirements and upgraded electronic management on both project and programme level.
- Development of strategies to reply to demanding regulatory requirements, such as risk management and anti-fraud.

Communication activities

In terms of communication activities, apart from the Info Days, BalkanMed in the framework of the celebration of European Cooperation Day 2016 organised –in cooperation with the Interreg IPA CBC Programme “Greece – Albania”- a Running Race from Kristallopigi in Greece to Billisht in Albania on Sunday, 25th September 2016. Approximately 100 athletes participated, covering a total distance of 11 km, passing through the Greek-Albanian borders. BalkanMed also actively supported blood donation events in the Programmes’ eligible areas. The BalkanMed Programme participated, in cooperation with local authorities and voluntary organisations, in the events organized in Xanthi, Greece (21/09/2016), Smolyan, Bulgaria (27/09/2016), Mesotopos Lesvou, Greece (25/09/2016), Arta, Greece (30/09/2016), Laimos and Lefkonas, Greece (06/09/2016), promoting awareness on blood donation, while at the same time promoting the BalkanMed Programme and territorial cooperation. Overall more than 200 blood units were collected and are available at local hospitals. The main rationale behind this choice is the blood donation is, among others, an act of cooperation that brings together peoples and societies, it is an act of cooperation for life.

The Programme website (www.interreg-balkanmed.eu) was launched in early 2016. Its restructuring was also initiated in 2016 and will be finalized in 2017.

The programme also was actively, via the Managing Authority’s participation, to the International Fair of Thessaloniki (10-18/9/2016).

Additionally, most of the promotional material was developed in 2016 and included pens, notepads, folders, ecological bags, jigsaw puzzles for kids and brochures in an easy to understand, jargon-less language.

Work of the Monitoring Committee

The Monitoring Committee convened its 2nd meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria on 24-25/10/2016. During 2016, six Written Procedures were launched via which respective decisions, especially regarding the evaluation of the Projects submitted under the 1st Call for Project Proposals were taken.

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	As the implementation of this Priority Axes started with the publication of the 1st Call for Project Proposals, no operations were selected and no activities were financed by BalkanMed in 2016. However, it should be noted that under the 1st Call a total of 175 Project Proposals were submitted and the budget requested was 151.717.726,27 € (available budget in the Call: 7.793.338,00 €). 124 proposals passed to the Quality Assessment phase.
2	Environment	As the implementation of this Priority Axes started with the publication of the 1st Call for Project Proposals, no operations were selected and no activities were financed by BalkanMed in 2016. However, it should be noted that under the 1st Call a total of 209 Project Proposals were submitted and the budget requested was 241.198.955,29 € (available budget in the Call: 12.339.450,00 €). 152 proposals passed to the Quality Assessment phase.
3	Technical Assistance	On 22/08/2016 the Managing Authority launched an open Call for the staffing of the BalkanMed Joint Secretariat. An overall of 98 applications for the staffing of the five vacancies were submitted by the set deadline on 23/09/2016. The interviews were scheduled for the autumn of 2017.

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

Priority axes other than technical assistance

Priority axis	1 - Entrepreneurship & Innovation
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)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	30.00		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	30.00		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	30.00		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	30.00		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet
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		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet
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		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	0.00	0.00
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	0.00	0.00
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	0.00	0.00
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises	0.00	0.00

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
		receiving non-financial support		
F	O0601	Business models or jointly developed instruments, tested and implemented including the ones related to the "green", "blue" and social economic sectors	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	0.00	0.00

Priority axis	1 - Entrepreneurship & Innovation
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

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
R0601	Transnational cooperation business links	Number	To be defined by survey	2014	Increase up to 2%			The baseline value has been defined by a survey and the revised Programme has been approved by the Monitoring Committee and submitted to the European Commission via SFC. No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R0601	Transnational cooperation business links		0		0

Priority axis	1 - Entrepreneurship & Innovation
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)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	20.00		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	20.00		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet
F	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	10.00		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet
S	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	10.00		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	0.00	0.00
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	0.00	0.00
F	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	0.00	0.00
S	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	0.00	0.00

Priority axis	1 - Entrepreneurship & Innovation
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

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
R0602	SMEs introducing product or process innovations	% of the total SMEs	24,94%	2010	Increase up to 1%			No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet

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

Priority axis	1 - Entrepreneurship & Innovation
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

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	CO44	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	Persons	70.00		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet
S	CO44	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	Persons	70.00		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet
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		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet
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		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet

(I)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	CO44	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	0.00	0.00
S	CO44	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	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	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	0.00	0.00

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
		vocational education across borders		

Priority axis	1 - Entrepreneurship & Innovation
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

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
R0603	Entrepreneurial learning cooperation schemes	Number	To be defined by survey	2014	Increase up to 5%			The baseline value has been defined by a survey and the revised Programme has been approved by the Monitoring Committee and submitted to the European Commission via SFC. No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet

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

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

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	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		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet
S	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Visits/year	300.00		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet
F	CO23	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	50,000.00		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet
S	CO23	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	50,000.00		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet
F	O0602	Designated areas addressed (of which Natura 2000 sites)	Number	12.00		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet
S	O0602	Designated areas addressed (of which Natura 2000 sites)	Number	12.00		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet

(1)	ID	Indicator	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
S	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	0.00	0.00
F	CO23	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status	0.00	0.00
S	CO23	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status	0.00	0.00

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	O0602	Designated areas addressed (of which Natura 2000 sites)	0.00	0.00
S	O0602	Designated areas addressed (of which Natura 2000 sites)	0.00	0.00

Priority axis	2 - Environment
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

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
R0604	Expansion of ecological connectivity and transnational ecosystems' integration of designated areas	Hectares	195.361,06	2013	Increase up to 1%			No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet

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

Priority axis	2 - Environment
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

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	O0603	Number of strategies/ policies/ plans/ models and tools jointly developed and tested	Number	8.00		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet
S	O0603	Number of strategies/ policies/ plans/ models and tools jointly developed and tested	Number	8.00		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet
F	O0604	Number of environmental friendly technologies' implementation related to the water/ waste efficient management	Number	3.00		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet
S	O0604	Number of environmental friendly technologies' implementation related to the water/ waste efficient management	Number	3.00		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet
F	O0605	Number of environmental friendly technologies' implementation related to climate change prevention and adaptation measures	Number	4.00		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet
S	O0605	Number of environmental friendly technologies' implementation related to climate change prevention and adaptation measures	Number	4.00		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	O0603	Number of strategies/ policies/ plans/ models and tools jointly developed and tested	0.00	0.00
S	O0603	Number of strategies/ policies/ plans/ models and tools jointly developed and tested	0.00	0.00
F	O0604	Number of environmental friendly technologies' implementation related to the water/ waste efficient management	0.00	0.00
S	O0604	Number of environmental friendly technologies' implementation related to the water/ waste efficient management	0.00	0.00

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	O0605	Number of environmental friendly technologies' implementation related to climate change prevention and adaptation measures	0.00	0.00
S	O0605	Number of environmental friendly technologies' implementation related to climate change prevention and adaptation measures	0.00	0.00

Priority axis	2 - Environment
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

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 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%			No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet

ID	Indicator	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

Priority axis	2 - Environment
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

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	O0606	Trained stakeholders	Persons	200.00		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet
S	O0606	Trained stakeholders	Persons	200.00		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet
F	O0607	Training programmes' implemented	Number	12.00		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet
S	O0607	Training programmes' implemented	Number	12.00		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet
F	O0608	Number of participants in transnational mobility initiatives (Ref. ERDF - CO43)	Persons	40.00		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet
S	O0608	Number of participants in transnational mobility initiatives (Ref. ERDF - CO43)	Persons	40.00		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	O0606	Trained stakeholders	0.00	0.00
S	O0606	Trained stakeholders	0.00	0.00
F	O0607	Training programmes' implemented	0.00	0.00
S	O0607	Training programmes' implemented	0.00	0.00
F	O0608	Number of participants in transnational mobility initiatives (Ref. ERDF - CO43)	0.00	0.00
S	O0608	Number of participants in transnational mobility initiatives (Ref. ERDF - CO43)	0.00	0.00

Priority axis	2 - Environment
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

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 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%			No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R0606	Capacity of public administration staff (PAS) in environmental legislation content and delivery		0		0

Priority axes for technical assistance

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

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	O0609	Joint Secretariat Staff	Number	5.00	0.00	The JS staffing procedure is on-going
S	O0609	Joint Secretariat Staff	Number	5.00	0.00	
F	O0610	Computerised System	Number	1.00	0.00	The MIS system is in finalisation phase
S	O0610	Computerised System	Number	1.00	0.00	
F	O0611	Monitoring Committee Meetings	Number	9.00	1.00	
S	O0611	Monitoring Committee Meetings	Number	9.00	1.00	
F	O0612	Lead partner seminars (including financial project management seminars)	Number	8.00	0.00	
S	O0612	Lead partner seminars (including financial project management seminars)	Number	8.00	0.00	

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

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	2016 Final target (2023) total	2016	Observations
1	F	PF061	Eligible certified expenditure verified by the certifying authority	Euro	3,542,427.00	14,169,706.00		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet
1	O	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	15	30.00		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet
2	F	PF061	Eligible certified expenditure verified by the certifying authority	Euro	5,608,841.00	22,435,364.00		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet
2	O	O0603	Number of strategies/ policies/ plans/ models and tools jointly developed and tested	Number	4	8.00		No activities have been funded by BalkanMed yet

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

3.4. Financial data

Table 4: Financial information at priority axis and programme level

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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	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0
1	IPA(e)	Total	2,171,071.00	85.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0
2	ERDF	Total	18,997,838.00	85.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0
2	IPA(e)	Total	3,437,526.00	85.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0
3	ERDF	Total	2,644,144.00	75.00	2,644,144.00	100.00%	2,644,144.00	0.00	0.00%	5
3	IPA(e)	Total	478,440.00	75.00	478,440.00	100.00%	478,440.00	0.00	0.00%	0
Total	ERDF		33,640,617.00	84.21	2,644,144.00	7.86%	2,644,144.00	0.00	0.00%	5
Total	IPA(e)		6,087,037.00	84.21	478,440.00	7.86%	478,440.00	0.00	0.00%	0
Grand total			39,727,654.00	84.21	3,122,584.00	7.86%	3,122,584.00	0.00	0.00%	5

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)

Not applicable in the BalkanMed Programme

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												
1	IPA(e)												
2	ERDF												
2	IPA(e)												
3	ERDF	121	01	07						2,216,237.46	2,216,237.46		5
3	ERDF	122	01	07						292,421.62	292,421.62		
3	ERDF	123	01	07						135,484.92	135,484.92		
3	IPA(e)	121	01	07						401,013.20	401,013.20		
3	IPA(e)	122	01	07						52,911.72	52,911.72		
3	IPA(e)	123	01	07						24,515.08	24,515.08		

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

In accordance with Articles 56 and 114 of the Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the Managing Authority has drafted the Evaluation Plan. The Evaluation Plan was approved by the Monitoring Committee and submitted to the European Commission (EC) through the SFC portal. The Evaluation Plan as well as the outcomes of the evaluations will be published on the Programme website.

In line with the approved Evaluation Plan, no evaluation on the implementation of the Programme have been performed during the reporting period 2016, which was the first year of implementation for the Programme. Therefore no evaluation findings can be reported.

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

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

During the whole 2016 period the Joint Secretariat had not been staffed. However, its workload was undertaken by the Managing Authority's staff and with the cooperation of the National Authorities and the support of the Joint Group of Internal Assessors there were no significant delays in Programme's work plan.

(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	Ma
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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

Not applicable in the BalkanMed Programme.

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

Not applicable in the BalkanMed Programme.

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

Not applicable in the BalkanMed Programme.

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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The 1st Call for Project Proposals was launched in Decemnrber 2015. During 2016 the evaluation of the 384 Project Proposals submitted took place and the projects were expected to be approved in early 2017. Given that there was no actual project implementation, no specific values for indicators are available. Nonetheless, given the initial data from the assessed projects, as well as their size and character, it is estimated that Programme output and result indicators will be reached with the contribution of the Projects.

The first two phases of the selection procedure (Phase 1: Administrative check & Phase 2: Eligibility check) were performed by the Managing Authority with the support of the National Authorities. The Monitoring Committee in its 2nd Meeting, held in Sofia on 24-25/10/2016, unanimously approved the list of Project Proposals to pass to the Phase 3: Quality Assessment. In total 276 proposals passed to the 3rd phase, 124 in Priority Axis 1.

Following the Monitoring Committee's decision, the results were officially announced to the Lead Partners, along with information on the complaint submission procedure. Complaints were submitted by 21 Projects, 14 of which in PA1. The complaints were registered, collected and examined by the appointed members of the Complaints' Committee, which, in turn, submitted their opinion to the Monitoring Committee for its approval. The Monitoring Committee acknowledged the right of the claim of three Projects (two of which in PA1) and delegated the Managing Authority to include them in the list of Projects to be examined in terms of their quality.

Priority axis	2 - Environment
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The 1st Call for Project Proposals was launched in Decemnrber 2015. During 2016 the evaluation of the 384 Project Proposals submitted took place and the projects were expected to be approved in early 2017. Given that there was no actual project implementation, no specific values for indicators are available. Nonetheless, given the initial data from the assessed projects, as well as their size and character, it is estimated that Programme output and result indicators will be reached with the contribution of the Projects.

The first two phases of the selection procedure (Phase 1: Administrative check & Phase 2: Eligibility check) were performed by the Managing Authorities with the support of the National Authorities. The Monitoring Committee in its 2nd Meeting, held in Sofia

on 24-25/10/2016, unanimously approved the list of Project Proposals to pass to the Phase 3: Quality Assessment. In total 276 proposals passed to the 3rd phase, out of which 152 in priority Axis 2.

Following the Monitoring Committee's decision, the results were officially announced to the Leap Partners, along with information on the complaint submission procedure. A complaint was submitted by 21 Projects, 7 of which in PA2. The complaints were registered, collected and examined by the appointed members of the Complaints' Committee, which, in turn, submitted their opinion to the Monitoring Committee for its approval. The Monitoring Committee acknowledged the right of the claim of three Projects (one in PA2) and delegated the Managing Authority to include them in the list of Projects to be examined in terms of their quality.

Priority axis	3 - Technical Assistance
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The Technical Assistance Projects have been approved and are being smoothly implemented. TA expenses have not been verified. However, this does not hinder the actual implementation and the Managing Authority estimates that all indicator targets will be met.

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

The application of the equal opportunities principle is a strategic choice for the BalkanMed Programme. The measures being taken include: i) the necessary measures for the promotion of the Programme and its activities in a manner that utmost access is safeguarded, and ii) the use of specialized criteria for equality and accessibility during the evaluation and project selection procedures, where only proposals covering these requirements could be approved for funding.

Additionally, all Programme communication activities have to abide to strict rules regarding accessibility. The Programme's website will be WCAG 2.0 compliant (<https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/>) on AA level, which means that the new site will be accessible and usable by a wider range of users, including users with disabilities.

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

One of the two Priority Axes of the BalkanMed Programme is to protect the environment, providing funding for actions dealing with environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, disaster resilience.

Sustainable development was part of an obligatory evaluation criterion for all Project Proposals submitted under the 1st call for Project proposals, while all proposals were also assessed in terms of their expected environmental consequences, based on the Programme's Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

Environment authorities from all participating countries may be invited to participate in the Monitoring Committee's discussions, if required.

Moreover, numerous environment protection authorities at national, regional and local level participate as project beneficiaries in several proposals.

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

Priority axis	Amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)	Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)
Total	0.00	0.00%

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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

Before the launch of the 1st Call for Project Proposals, the Managing Authority initiated an information campaign publicizing the draft Call documents and urging potential beneficiaries to submit questions and ideas, most of which were taken on board and actively shaped the eventual nature of the Call. Additionally, more than 1,000 potential beneficiaries from a wide range of different backgrounds participated in the Info Days organized during the 1st Call, expressed their ideas and submitted queries. Another 200 questions submitted electronically were answered by the Managing Authority during this phase. This strong interest was confirmed by the submission of 384 Project Proposals.

The members of the Monitoring Committee are selected in accordance with the requirements of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council. Members come from the national level (ministries) and regional level (regions) depending on the nomination of their country. The Monitoring Committee meets at least once a year and discusses in detail activities implemented by the Programme, and is also very deeply involved in the preparation of the planned activities, events and tools.

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

The Evaluation Plan was approved by the Monitoring Committee during its 2nd meeting, held in Sofia on 24-25/10/2016. The plan sets out the evaluation strategy for the entire implementation period of the Programme, taking into account lessons learned from evaluations made in previous programming periods and the budgetary framework. It sets out the framework to properly plan and implement quality Programme evaluations with the aim to secure the Programme's effectiveness, efficiency and impact.

In line with the approved Evaluation Plan, no evaluation on the implementation of the Programme have been performed during the reporting period 2016, which was the first year of implementation for the Programme. Therefore no evaluation findings can be reported.

The preparation of the procedures for contracting evaluators have started but no contact for outsourcing the actual evaluation work was signed during 2016.

10.2 The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy

The assessment of Information and Publicity measures is intended to assess the implementation of the Programme's Communication Strategy and related activities. Beyond the challenge of raising awareness among the general public, the strategy is complementing and supporting communication activities that are integral to the core objectives of the Programme. The Strategy clearly provides that the evaluation of the information and publicity actions "takes place based on the contribution of the actions to the achievement of the goals of the Communication Strategy and in accordance with qualitative and quantitative objectives according to the nature of the actions". In particular, indicators for evaluation are broken down into **Output** and **Result Indicators**, which record the result of the actions.

Output Indicators

Indicator

Number of events (info-days, conferences, seminars, fairs, Programme annual events etc.)

Indicative target value

30

Value achieved by 31/12/2016

9 (1 Launching Event, 6 Info-days on the 1st Call for Project Proposals, 2 EC Day Events (2015 - collection and donation of drugs and medical supplies to support refugees & 2016 -Running Marathon co-organised with the Interreg IPA "Greece-Albania" Programme. BalkanMed also supported six other EC Day Events in 2016 – Blood donation)

Indicator

Number of participants per event for potential beneficiaries and Project Partners

Indicative target value

100

Value achieved by 31/12/2016

Target surpassed in all events

Indicator

Number of news articles published on the internet

Indicative target value

>500

Value achieved by 31/12/2016

Target surpassed (More than 2,000 articles on the BalkanMed Programme, and its 1st Call for Project Proposals were found on the internet. The target value of the indicator needs re-definition)

Indicator

Number of social media posts

Indicative target value

150

Value achieved by 31/12/2016

30 (The number refers to the post in the official BalkanMed social media accounts - Twitter, LinkedIn)

Indicator

Website statistics

Indicative target value

50,000 hits

Value achieved by 31/12/2016

95,809. The number refers to the total number (not individual) of hits on the Programme's website (www.interreg-balkanmed.eu), as well as on the news item related to the BalkanMed Programme in the Managing Authority's website (www.interreg.gr)

Indicator

Types of communication material produced

Indicative target value

7

Value achieved by 31/12/2016

6 (Folders, pens, notepads, brochure, ecological bags, jigsaw puzzles)

As far as the result indicators are concerned, an online research is been conducted and

the results look very positive. However, the indicators should be better quantified at a later stage.

The Communication Strategy was implemented in a way guided by the need for Programme activation and acceleration. Given that the Programme did not have any Projects approved by the end of 2016, the implementation of the Communication Strategy could be deemed very satisfactory.

According to the Communication Strategy, the first stage (General information about the Operational Programme and its actions, inaugural event) concerns the development “vision” for the countries participating in the Programme. During this first stage, the objective is to inform the target audiences about the Programme and the basic content (general objectives, axes, strategic projects, expected results). During this stage, which begins after the approval of the Programme by the European Commission, the Managing Authority has taken care to spread the information in a simple and understandable way.

Almost all activities envisaged in the first stage of the Communication Strategy have been undertaken and fully implemented. The goal of this first stage has been achieved both through the Launching Event, the Info-days and the widespread of information dissemination online. The great participation and expression of interest in the events and in the 1st Call for Project Proposals (384 Proposals submitted), both before and after their organisation (more than 450 participants), as well as the publications about the Programme in the media proves that all directly interested parties and –to a good extent– the wider public have been informed on the Programme.

The second stage of communication concerns the Creation of an opinion about the Programme and its actions among the various target audiences, easy access to particular actions and to the opportunities that it offers, creation of a disposition to participate in the financing opportunities. During this stage the objective is to motivate the target audiences, either in order for them to participate in the Programme or in order to function as multipliers of information. This stage is characterized by the provision of more specialized knowledge about the content and the evolution of the Programme, the criteria and the procedures for the integration of actions, the management and monitoring of the actions of the Programme, with the goal of preparing and activating the potential beneficiaries, in order for them to have access to the financing opportunities of the Programme. In addition, a goal of the present stage is to inform the general public in a simple and understandable way about the evolution of the Programme's interventions as well.

The MA is at the moment adequately implementing this phase of communication activities. Implementation is considered satisfactory, as the goal of the second stage of communication has been achieved both through the training Info-days and the publicity given to the 1st Call for Project Proposals. The high number and the quality of proposals submitted prove that the message has been delivered to the relevant stakeholders. Additionally, the production and distribution of information material on the Programme, as well as the interest of the media in the Programme shows that the general public is being at least constantly informed on the Programme's activities and its goals. However, it has to be pointed out that this stage of communication is still on-going, as the Programme's resources have not been fully activated yet.

It should also be noted that the three stages for communication, foreseen in the Communication Strategy, are of a graduated nature. This means that each stage

constitutes a continuation, complement, and specialized definition of the previous stage, occasionally overlapping time-wise. Moreover, the successful implementation of the Communication Strategy relies on the BalkanMed Projects themselves, which need to be involved in the communication process, by promoting their activities and results and thus, the Programme. The Projects are not being implemented yet, but the MA has already taken the necessary steps in order to activate and incorporate them in its communication activities.

Therefore, as far as the communication is concerned, the Programme is on the right track and that the communication goals will be fully achieved within the timeframe indicated in the Communication Strategy.

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 implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including sustainable urban development, and community-led local development under the cooperation programme

Not applicable in the BalkanMed Programme.

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

During 2016 and upon the publication of the 1st Call for Project Proposals Info Days and partner search forums were organised -in co-operation with the National Authorities- in all participating countries to help potential applicants to develop their projects and to search for partners. More than 1,000 participants attended these events, which gave way to discuss project ideas, management and implementation issues, to meet potential applicants and to facilitate partner search.

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)

EUSDR

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

	Pillar	Priority area
<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)

0

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)

N/A

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)

BalkanMed shall contribute to the EUSDR indirectly via transnational operations, part of which may be implemented in Bulgaria. No specific investments are envisaged.

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

EUSAIR

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

	Pillar	Topic / Cross cutting issue
<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 type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connecting the region	2.2.3 - Capacity building
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Environmental quality	3.1.1 - The marine environment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Environmental quality	3.1.2 - Transnational terrestrial habitats and biodiversity
<input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/>	4 - Sustainable tourism	4.2.2 - SMEs development
<input 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)

0

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)

N/A

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)

BalkanMed shall contribute to the EUSAIR indirectly via transnational operations, part of which may be implemented in Greece and Albania. No specific investments are

envisaged.

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

Not applicable in the BalkanMed programme.

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 of the 2016 BalkanMed Annual Implementation Report	Citizens' summary	21-Jun-2017		Ares(2017)32466 96	Citizens' Summary of the 2016 BalkanMed Annual Implementation Report	28-Jun-2017	nlogotge