

**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 4th 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 2018. The report was prepared by the Hellenic Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes, acting as the Managing Authority (MA) of the Programme, in cooperation with the Joint Secretariat (JS) and the Programme partners. The Monitoring Committee discussed and approved the AIR 2018 via Written Procedure on **21 June 2019**.

Funding of Projects

In 2017, the implementation of the programme ran very actively, as it witnessed the full implementation of the projects selected under the 1st Call for Project Proposals. The majority of projects ran smoothly. Two Payment Request were submitted by the Certifying Authority in December 2018, requesting a total of 1.676.955,40 € (EU contribution, out of which 1.476.427,19 € ERDF and 200.528,21 € IPA), achieving the n+3 rule target.

The main problem was the projects exhaustion of the available IPA funding since the available budget for IPA beneficiaries proved significantly low for their demand. An official letter was sent to the European Commission in December 2017 and again in 2018, asking for an additional 3,000,000.00 € of IPA funding, which would be necessary to cover the current and future financing needs of IPA beneficiaries.

During this period, and in order to help Programme stakeholders on all levels get acquainted with the newly designed MIS system, the MA and JS organised the training on the use of the MIS information system for all beneficiaries and First level Controllers. The MA/ JS organised a training seminar on Communication for LP Communication Managers in 2018. More seminars for all beneficiaries, not only LPs, were organised.

In the course of 2018, the Joint Secretariat with the cooperation of the Managing Authority and other relevant Programme bodies has drafted and uploaded on the Programme’s website a numerous set of manuals and guidelines, in order to facilitate the beneficiaries in the successful implementation of the Projects.

Reserve List

In its 4th meeting, in Tirana on 11/07/2018, the Monitoring Committee decided to fund the seven (7) projects of the 1st Call for Project Proposals placed in a Reserve List. The Joint Secretariat proceeded immediately after the decision to meetings, applying a Budget modification Methodology approved by the MC, with all beneficiaries. However, no Subsidy Contracts were signed within 2018.

The contracting of Reserve List projects will lead to an Overbooking of 115.6% of the total available BalkanMed funds. The financial projections of the Joint Secretariat, based on its past experience and the implementation rate of the first group of 37 projects, 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.

Designation process

On **13 December 2018**, the Programme received the positive opinion on the Description of the Management and Control System.

Joint Secretariat

The Monitoring Committee decided in its July meeting to allocate Technical Assistance funds for the hiring of an additional Project Officers based on the increased needs of the Joint Secretariat and using the previously established ranking list of applicants. Due to bureaucratic reasons the hiring procedure was not completed in 2018.

The Call for the staffing of the BalkanMed Joint Secretariat had been published on 22/08/2016. The recruitment procedure was finalised in April 2017 and the BalkanMed Joint Secretariat is fully staffed and active since July 2017. It is comprised of five members.

Technical Assistance

The Monitoring Committee, based on the proposal of the MA/ JS revised the TA Multi-annual Breakdown table. Significant savings in the TA spending were decided to be re-directed to the financing of the approved Projects. It was also decided that the subsequent revision of the Cooperation Programme could take place at a later stage in 2019.

Work of the Monitoring Committee

The Monitoring Committee convened its 4th meeting in Tirana, Albania on 11/07/2018. During 2018, eight Written Procedures were launched via which respective unanimous decisions, especially regarding the funded projects, were taken.

During 2018 the following developments also took place:

- Coordination with the Service which is responsible for adapting the Monitoring Information System (MIS) of the Programme to the regulatory requirements of the 2014-2020 Programming Period and the Programme/ Project management needs identified by the Managing Authority in cooperation with competent authorities of the cooperating countries. The MIS was operational in 2018, but further adjustments are still needed;
- Development of strategies to reply to demanding regulatory requirements, such as risk management and anti-fraud.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

3.1 Overview of the implementation

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
1	Entrepreneurship & Innovation	<p>The Priority Axis' budget has been fully committed to the funding of 17 projects. The selected operations will contribute to the competitiveness of the area's enterprises mainly through</p> <p>the development of digital tools for improving the integration of the local markets; capacity building of new and existing entrepreneurs in the rural sector; product and process innovations; support of SMEs in remote, peripheral and sparsely populated areas; E-learning platforms entrepreneurial learning programs for the promotion of enterprises' creativity and innovation support to young entrepreneurs in entering in the "green" and/or "blue" economy. At the same time, several education projects contribute to provide up-to-date knowledge in various age groups and a variety of topics in the fields on innovation and entrepreneurship.</p> <p>Outputs foreseen by these projects (according to the data provided in the Project Progress Reports and the verification procedures of the Joint Secretariat) will definitely ensure the fulfilment of the output targets of the priority. Please also see para. 9.1</p>
2	Environment	<p>The Priority Axis' budget has been fully committed to the funding of 20 projects. The selected operations will contribute to topics like</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the protection and management of the water bodies; • integrated marine/maritime planning and coastal management; • environmental friendly technologies implemented regarding climate change prevention and adaptation measures; • environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector and water sector, including the use of renewable energy sources; • capacity building of public authorities on mitigating coastal and marine litter pollution; • data collection from "Natural and Cultural" World Heritage Sites, "NATURA 2000" sites and "Marine Protected Areas" (MPAs); etc. <p>The selected operations will contribute to improved cooperation between national, regional and local environmental authorities, public bodies, environmental NGOs, academia and the public in topics like renewable resources, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage and environmental awareness.</p> <p>Outputs foreseen by these projects (according to the data provided in the Project Progress Reports and the verification procedures of the Joint Secretariat) will definitely ensure the fulfilment of the output targets of the priority.</p>

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
		Please also see para. 9.1
3	Technical Assistance	<p>The Technical Assistance (TA) activities are to finance the preparatory, management, monitoring, evaluation, information and control activities of the BalkanMed Programme, together with activities to reinforce the administrative capacity for implementing the funds. In 2018 within the Technical Assistance the following major activities were implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing of the Joint Secretariat • Activities in connection with implementation, monitoring and inspection of the Programme; • One meeting of the Monitoring Committee; • Communication and publicity actions (Info Days, website, communication tools for beneficiaries, participation in EC Day events etc.) <p>Within 2018 the 2016 expenses, amounting to 44.523,47 €, were certified.</p> <p>At this stage of implementation no significant problems have been identified in the implementation of the PA3 (Technical Assistance), but due to the support beneficiaries require for Project implementation and the complex transnational character of the Programme, it is already seen that capacity and man-power at the level of Joint Secretariat is barely sufficient. The Monitoring Committee, in its 4th meeting in July 2018, endorsed the hiring of an additional JS staff member, but the hiring procedures had not been concluded by the end of 2018.</p>

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 - 1.3a

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2018	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	30.00	23.00	The MIS cannot at the moment verify the achievement of the indicators. However, the JS is trying to ensure that the indicated values are correct. For problems regarding the indicators' system please see para 5a
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	30.00	70.00	The Joint Secretariat and the Managing Authority are currently reviewing the target values of all indicators on Programme and project level with a view of normalising their correlation, as well as the validity of targets indicated by the beneficiaries in the Application Forms in terms of each indicator definition
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	30.00	23.00	The MIS cannot at the moment verify the achievement of the indicators. However, the JS is trying to ensure that the indicated values are correct. For problems regarding the indicators' system please see para 5a
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	30.00	123.00	The Joint Secretariat and the Managing Authority are currently reviewing the target values of all indicators on Programme and project level with a view of normalising their correlation, as well as the validity of targets indicated by the beneficiaries in the Application Forms in terms of each indicator definition
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	1.00	The MIS cannot at the moment verify the achievement of the indicators. However, the JS is trying to ensure that the indicated values are correct. For problems regarding the indicators' system please see para 5a
S	O0601	Business models or jointly developed instruments, tested and implemented including the ones related to the "green", "blue" and social economic sectors	Number	10.00	9.00	The Joint Secretariat and the Managing Authority are currently reviewing the target values of all indicators on Programme and project level with a view of normalising their correlation, as well as the validity of targets indicated by the beneficiaries in the Application Forms in terms of each indicator definition

(1)	ID	Indicator	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	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	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	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]

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 - 1.3a.1.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
R0601	Transnational cooperation business links	Number	4	2014	Increase up to 25%		0	

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R0601	Transnational cooperation business links		0		0		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 - 1.3d

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2018	Observations
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	20.00	57.00	The MIS cannot at the moment bverify the achievement of the indicators. However, the JS is trying to ensure that the indicated values are correct. For problems regarding the indicators' system please see para 5a
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	20.00	183.00	The Joint Secretariat and the Managing Authority are currently reviewing the target values of all indicators on Programme and project level with a view of normalising their correlation, as well as the validity of targets indicated by the beneficiaries in the Application Forms in terms of each indicator definition
F	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	10.00	11.00	The MIS cannot at the moment bverify the achievement of the indicators. However, the JS is trying to ensure that the indicated values are correct. For problems regarding the indicators' system please see para 5a
S	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	10.00	112.00	The Joint Secretariat and the Managing Authority are currently reviewing the target values of all indicators on Programme and project level with a view of normalising their correlation, as well as the validity of targets indicated by the beneficiaries in the Application Forms in terms of each indicator definition

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

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 - 1.3d.1.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
R0602	SMEs introducing product or process innovations	% of the total SMEs	24,94%	2010	Increase up to 1%		0	

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R0602	SMEs introducing product or process innovations		0		0		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 - 1.10a

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2018	Observations
F	CO44	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	Persons	70.00	313.00	The MIS cannot at the moment bverify the achievement of the indicators. However, the JS is trying to ensure that the indicated values are correct. For problems regarding the indicators' system please see para 5a
S	CO44	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	Persons	70.00	750.00	The Joint Secretariat and the Managing Authority are currently reviewing the target values of all indicators on Programme and project level with a view of normalising their correlation, as well as the validity of targets indicated by the beneficiaries in the Application Forms in terms of each indicator definition
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	29.00	The MIS cannot at the moment bverify the achievement of the indicators. However, the JS is trying to ensure that the indicated values are correct. For problems regarding the indicators' system please see para 5a
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	600.00	The Joint Secretariat and the Managing Authority are currently reviewing the target values of all indicators on Programme and project level with a view of normalising their correlation, as well as the validity of targets indicated by the beneficiaries in the Application Forms in terms of each indicator definition

(I)	ID	Indicator	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO44	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	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	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	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	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]

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 - 1.10a.1.3

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
R0603	Entrepreneurial learning cooperation schemes	Number	1	2014	Increase up to 100%		0	

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R0603	Entrepreneurial learning cooperation schemes		0		0		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 - 2.6c

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2018	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	0.00	
S	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Visits/year	300.00	2,000.00	The Joint Secretariat and the Managing Authority are currently reviewing the target values of all indicators on Programme and project level with a view of normalising their correlation, as well as the validity of targets indicated by the beneficiaries in the Application Forms in terms of each indicator definition
F	CO23	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	50,000.00	8,200.00	The MIS cannot at the moment bverify the achievement of the indicators. However, the JS is trying to ensure that the indicated values are correct. For problems regarding the indicators' system please see para 5a
S	CO23	Nature and biodiversity: Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	50,000.00	60,000.00	The Joint Secretariat and the Managing Authority are currently reviewing the target values of all indicators on Programme and project level with a view of normalising their correlation, as well as the validity of targets indicated by the beneficiaries in the Application Forms in terms of each indicator definition
F	O0602	Designated areas addressed (of which Natura 2000 sites)	Number	12.00	4.00	The MIS cannot at the moment bverify the achievement of the indicators. However, the JS is trying to ensure that the indicated values are correct. For problems regarding the indicators' system please see para 5a
S	O0602	Designated areas addressed (of which Natura 2000 sites)	Number	12.00	8.00	The Joint Secretariat and the Managing Authority are currently reviewing the target values of all indicators on Programme and project level with a view of normalising their correlation, as well as the validity of targets indicated by the beneficiaries in the Application Forms in terms of each indicator definition

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

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 - 2.6c.2.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
R0604	Expansion of ecological connectivity and transnational ecosystems' integration of designated areas	Hectares	195.361,06	2013	Increase up to 1%		0	

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	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		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 - 2.6f

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2018	Observations
F	O0603	Number of strategies/ policies/ plans/ models and tools jointly developed and tested	Number	8.00	9.00	The MIS cannot at the moment verify the achievement of the indicators. However, the JS is trying to ensure that the indicated values are correct. For problems regarding the indicators' system please see para 5a
S	O0603	Number of strategies/ policies/ plans/ models and tools jointly developed and tested	Number	8.00	23.00	The Joint Secretariat and the Managing Authority are currently reviewing the target values of all indicators on Programme and project level with a view of normalising their correlation, as well as the validity of targets indicated by the beneficiaries in the Application Forms in terms of each indicator definition
F	O0604	Number of environmental friendly technologies' implementation related to the water/ waste efficient management	Number	3.00	9.00	The MIS cannot at the moment bverify the achievement of the indicators. However, the JS is trying to ensure that the indicated values are correct. For problems regarding the indicators' system please see para 5a
S	O0604	Number of environmental friendly technologies' implementation related to the water/ waste efficient management	Number	3.00	8.00	The Joint Secretariat and the Managing Authority are currently reviewing the target values of all indicators on Programme and project level with a view of normalising their correlation, as well as the validity of targets indicated by the beneficiaries in the Application Forms in terms of each indicator definition
F	O0605	Number of environmental friendly technologies' implementation related to climate change prevention and adaptation measures	Number	4.00	11.00	The MIS cannot at the moment bverify the achievement of the indicators. However, the JS is trying to ensure that the indicated values are correct. For problems regarding the indicators' system please see para 5a
S	O0605	Number of environmental friendly technologies' implementation related to climate change prevention and adaptation measures	Number	4.00	12.00	The Joint Secretariat and the Managing Authority are currently reviewing the target values of all indicators on Programme and project level with a view of normalising their correlation, as well as the validity of targets indicated by the beneficiaries in the Application Forms in terms of each indicator definition

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

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 - 2.6f.2.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 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%		0	

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	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		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 - 2.11a

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2018	Observations
F	O0606	Trained stakeholders	Persons	200.00	279.00	The MIS cannot at the moment verify the achievement of the indicators. However, the JS is trying to ensure that the indicated values are correct. For problems regarding the indicators' system please see para 5a
S	O0606	Trained stakeholders	Persons	200.00	810.00	The Joint Secretariat and the Managing Authority are currently reviewing the target values of all indicators on Programme and project level with a view of normalising their correlation, as well as the validity of targets indicated by the beneficiaries in the Application Forms in terms of each indicator definition
F	O0607	Training programmes' implemented	Number	12.00	25.00	The MIS cannot at the moment bverify the achievement of the indicators. However, the JS is trying to ensure that the indicated values are correct. For problems regarding the indicators' system please see para 5a
S	O0607	Training programmes' implemented	Number	12.00	50.00	The Joint Secretariat and the Managing Authority are currently reviewing the target values of all indicators on Programme and project level with a view of normalising their correlation, as well as the validity of targets indicated by the beneficiaries in the Application Forms in terms of each indicator definition
F	O0608	Number of participants in transnational mobility initiatives (Ref. ERDF - CO43)	Persons	40.00	8.00	The MIS cannot at the moment bverify the achievement of the indicators. However, the JS is trying to ensure that the indicated values are correct. For problems regarding the indicators' system please see para 5a
S	O0608	Number of participants in transnational mobility initiatives (Ref. ERDF - CO43)	Persons	40.00	62.00	The Joint Secretariat and the Managing Authority are currently reviewing the target values of all indicators on Programme and project level with a view of normalising their correlation, as well as the validity of targets indicated by the beneficiaries in the Application Forms in terms of each indicator definition

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

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 - 2.11a.2.3

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2018 Total	2018 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%		0	

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	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		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	2018	Observations
F	O0609	Joint Secretariat Staff	Number	5.00	5.00	The JS staffing has been finalised. The JS is in place and working. It is comprised by five (5) officers, including its co-ordinator.
S	O0609	Joint Secretariat Staff	Number	5.00	5.00	The JS staffing has been finalised. The JS is in place and working. It is comprised by five (5) officers, including its co-ordinator.
F	O0610	Computerised System	Number	1.00	1.00	The MIS was operational in 2018, but further adjustments are still needed
S	O0610	Computerised System	Number	1.00	1.00	The MIS was operational in 2018, but further adjustments are still needed
F	O0611	Monitoring Committee Meetings	Number	9.00	1.00	The Monitoring Committee convened its 4th meeting in Tirana, Albania on 11/07/2018
S	O0611	Monitoring Committee Meetings	Number	9.00	1.00	The Monitoring Committee convened its 4th meeting in Tirana, Albania on 11/07/2018
F	O0612	Lead partner seminars (including financial project management seminars)	Number	8.00	1.00	The MA/ JS organised a training seminar on Communication for LP Communication Managers in 2018. More seminars for all beneficiaries, not only LPs, were organised
S	O0612	Lead partner seminars (including financial project management seminars)	Number	8.00	1.00	The MA/ JS organised a training seminar on Communication for LP Communication Managers in 2018. More seminars for all beneficiaries, not only LPs, were organised

(1)	ID	Indicator	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	O0609	Joint Secretariat Staff	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	O0609	Joint Secretariat Staff	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	O0610	Computerised System	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	O0610	Computerised System	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	O0611	Monitoring Committee Meetings	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
S	O0611	Monitoring Committee Meetings	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
F	O0612	Lead partner seminars (including financial project management seminars)	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	O0612	Lead partner seminars (including financial project management seminars)	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	2018	Observations
1	O	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	15	30.00	23.00	The MIS cannot at the moment verify the achievement of the indicators. However, the JS is trying to ensure that the indicated values are correct. The Joint Secretariat and the Managing Authority are currently reviewing the target values of all indicators on Programme and project level with a view of normalising their correlation, as well as the validity of targets indicated by the beneficiaries in the Application Forms in terms of each indicator definition For problems regarding the indicators' system please see para 5a
1	F	PF061	Eligible certified expenditure verified by the certifying authority	Euro	3,542,427.00	14,169,706.00	2,744,981.49	Regarding the financial targets, there is a discrepancy between the amount relevant to the actions paid out by the beneficiaries and the amounts certified and included in the Payment Requests, which is 2.744.981,89 €. The actual amount paid out by the project beneficiaries until 31/12/2018 was 3.727.652,83 € (105% of the target). The JS has checked that the expenses declared as paid out by the beneficiaries were relevant to the actions funded and the beneficiaries inserted the expenses in the MIS. However, not all of these amounts have been certified yet, mainly due to the slow FLC procedures and to the sometimes limited human resources of specific beneficiaries.
2	F	PF061	Eligible certified expenditure verified by the certifying authority	Euro	5,608,841.00	22,435,364.00	3,347,409.27	Regarding the financial targets, there is a discrepancy between the amount relevant to the actions paid out by the beneficiaries and the amounts certified and included in the Payment Requests, which is 3.347.409,27 €. The actual amount paid out by the project beneficiaries until 31/12/2018 was 5.214.782,96 € (93% of the target). The JS has checked that the expenses declared as paid out by the beneficiaries were relevant to the actions funded and the beneficiaries inserted the expenses in the MIS. However, not all of these amounts have been certified yet, mainly due to the slow FLC procedures and to the sometimes limited human resources of specific beneficiaries.
2	O	O0603	Number of strategies/ policies/ plans/ models and tools jointly developed and tested	Number	4	8.00	9.00	The MIS cannot at the moment verify the achievement of the indicators. However, the JS is trying to ensure that the indicated values are correct. The Joint Secretariat and the Managing Authority are currently reviewing the target values of all indicators on Programme and project level with a view of normalising their correlation, as well as the validity of targets indicated by the beneficiaries in the Application Forms in terms of each indicator definition For problems regarding the indicators' system please see para 5a

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

3.4. Financial data

Table 4: Financial information at priority axis and programme level

As set out in Table 1 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and table 16 of model for cooperation programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal

Priority axis	Fund	Calculation basis	Total funding	Co-financing rate	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries	Number of operations selected	Total eligible expenditure incurred by beneficiaries and paid by 31/12/2018 and certified to the Commission
1	ERDF	Total	11,998,635.00	85.00	10,947,372.49	91.24%	10,775,064.17	790,146.74	6.59%	17	2,744,981.49
1	IPA(e)	Total	2,171,071.00	85.00	3,176,027.85	146.29%	3,004,674.26	167,457.60	7.71%	17	
2	ERDF	Total	18,997,838.00	85.00	18,690,927.57	98.38%	18,547,712.89	893,886.41	4.71%	20	3,347,409.27
2	IPA(e)	Total	3,437,526.00	85.00	3,448,129.97	100.31%	3,363,914.40	82,203.04	2.39%	17	
3	ERDF	Total	2,644,144.00	75.00	2,644,144.00	100.00%	2,644,144.00	44,423.47	1.68%	3	
3	IPA(e)	Total	478,440.00	75.00	478,440.00	100.00%	478,440.00	0.00	0.00%	2	
Total	ERDF		33,640,617.00	84.21	32,282,444.06	95.96%	31,966,921.06	1,728,456.62	5.14%	40	6,092,390.76
Total	IPA(e)		6,087,037.00	84.21	7,102,597.82	116.68%	6,847,028.66	249,660.64	4.10%	36	
Grand total			39,727,654.00	84.21	39,385,041.88	99.14%	38,813,949.72	1,978,117.26	4.98%	76	6,092,390.76

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

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

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

Priority axis	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic objective dimension	ESF secondary theme	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
1	ERDF	063	01	07	07	03		24	BG32	120,118.00	120,118.00	23,141.40	1
1	ERDF	063	01	07	07	03		24	BG41	338,611.00	338,611.00	76,913.25	2
1	ERDF	063	01	07	07	03		24	BG42	111,074.00	111,074.00	3,422.51	1
1	ERDF	063	01	07	07	03		24	CY00	532,650.00	509,230.80	0.00	3
1	ERDF	063	01	07	07	03		24	EL12	104,713.00	104,713.00	0.00	1
1	ERDF	063	01	07	07	03		24	EL23	452,650.00	452,650.00	66,132.68	1
1	ERDF	063	01	07	07	03		24	EL25	172,120.00	172,120.00	0.00	1
1	ERDF	063	01	07	07	03		24	EL30	489,813.00	489,813.00	0.00	2
1	ERDF	067	01	07	07	03		24	BG32	217,610.00	217,610.00	74,246.38	1
1	ERDF	067	01	07	07	03		24	BG33	229,394.00	229,394.00	0.00	1
1	ERDF	067	01	07	07	03		24	CY00	158,638.90	134,843.07	0.00	1
1	ERDF	067	01	07	07	03		24	EL14	141,358.00	141,358.00	30,725.86	1
1	ERDF	067	01	07	07	03		24	EL22	166,797.05	166,797.05	12,767.87	1
1	ERDF	069	01	07	07	03		24	BG31	272,750.94	272,750.94	33,771.73	1
1	ERDF	069	01	07	07	03		24	EL23	354,449.70	354,449.70	0.00	1
1	ERDF	071	01	07	07	03		24	BG41	418,966.60	418,966.60	100,789.92	1
1	ERDF	071	01	07	07	03		24	EL43	100,570.00	100,570.00	0.00	1
1	ERDF	104	01	07	07	03		24	BG33	120,831.00	120,831.00	0.00	1
1	ERDF	104	01	07	07	03		24	BG41	102,815.00	102,815.00	2,001.51	1
1	ERDF	104	01	07	07	03		24	CY00	147,260.00	147,260.00	0.00	1
1	ERDF	104	01	07	07	03		24	EL22	173,642.00	173,642.00	0.00	1
1	ERDF	104	01	07	07	03		24	EL41	244,120.00	244,120.00	0.00	1
1	ERDF	104	01	07	07	10		24	BG41	164,886.15	164,886.15	35,223.16	1
1	ERDF	104	01	07	07	10		24	EL12	125,992.50	125,992.50	26,613.41	1
1	ERDF	106	01	07	07	03		24	BG34	112,896.00	112,896.00	8,395.99	1
1	ERDF	106	01	07	07	03		24	CY00	408,096.15	374,167.63	0.00	2
1	ERDF	106	01	07	07	03		24	EL12	103,117.46	103,117.46	0.00	1
1	ERDF	106	01	07	07	03		24	EL21	237,367.01	237,367.01	0.00	1
1	ERDF	106	01	07	07	03		24	EL23	130,600.00	130,600.00	0.00	1
1	ERDF	106	01	07	07	03		24	EL30	190,219.03	190,219.03	0.00	1
1	ERDF	106	01	07	07	10		24	BG41	451,959.30	451,959.30	167,391.85	2
1	ERDF	106	01	07	07	10		24	CY00	298,534.10	253,753.98	0.00	2
1	ERDF	106	01	07	07	10		24	EL23	176,570.00	176,570.00	64,357.36	1
1	ERDF	106	01	07	07	10		24	EL30	354,936.90	354,936.90	0.00	1
1	ERDF	109	01	07	07	03		24	BG41	232,366.36	232,366.36	0.00	1
1	ERDF	109	01	07	07	03		24	CY00	113,375.81	113,375.81	0.00	1
1	ERDF	109	01	07	07	03		24	EL12	240,775.66	240,775.66	0.00	1
1	ERDF	109	01	07	07	03		24	EL13	231,766.28	231,766.28	0.00	1
1	ERDF	109	01	07	07	10		24	BG34	100,639.00	100,639.00	9,237.70	1
1	ERDF	109	01	07	07	10		24	BG41	260,693.94	260,693.94	18,517.42	2
1	ERDF	109	01	07	07	10		24	CY00	363,573.80	348,515.00	0.00	2
1	ERDF	109	01	07	07	10		24	EL12	430,640.63	430,640.63	0.00	1
1	ERDF	109	01	07	07	10		24	EL21	244,549.30	244,549.30	0.00	1
1	ERDF	109	01	07	07	10		24	EL41	123,300.60	123,300.60	0.00	1
1	ERDF	113	01	07	07	10		24	BG32	105,573.64	105,573.64	11,909.13	1
1	ERDF	113	01	07	07	10		24	BG41	108,320.14	108,320.14	24,587.61	1
1	ERDF	113	01	07	07	10		24	BG42	106,836.64	106,836.64	0.00	1
1	ERDF	113	01	07	07	10		24	CY00	208,839.00	177,513.15	0.00	1
1	ERDF	113	01	07	07	10		24	EL14	149,994.90	149,994.90	0.00	1
1	IPA(e)	063	01	07	07			24	AL	442,731.90	430,312.96	4,862.08	3
1	IPA(e)	067	01	07	07			24	AL	229,820.00	217,493.00	10,742.39	2
1	IPA(e)	067	01	07	07			24	MK	180,034.05	180,034.05	3,017.07	2

Priority axis	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic objective dimension	ESF secondary theme	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by eneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
1	IPA(e)	069	01	07	07			24	AL	239,473.54	203,552.51	0.00	1
1	IPA(e)	071	01	07	07			24	AL	195,061.73	179,719.47	4,691.23	1
1	IPA(e)	071	01	07	07			24	MK	164,905.85	164,905.85	0.00	1
1	IPA(e)	104	01	07	07			24	AL	230,081.04	211,732.40	3,955.28	2
1	IPA(e)	104	01	07	07			24	MK	151,415.28	151,415.28	3,129.50	2
1	IPA(e)	106	01	07	07			24	AL	375,190.58	326,448.60	0.00	4
1	IPA(e)	106	01	07	07			24	MK	347,622.03	347,622.03	132,283.77	3
1	IPA(e)	109	01	07	07			24	AL	172,935.75	157,127.89	0.00	2
1	IPA(e)	109	01	07	07			24	MK	293,209.66	293,209.66	4,776.28	3
1	IPA(e)	113	01	07	07			24	AL	82,972.54	70,526.66	0.00	1
1	IPA(e)	113	01	07	07			24	MK	70,573.90	70,573.90	0.00	1
2	ERDF	086	01	07	07	06		24	BG41	885,203.50	885,203.50	55,251.63	3
2	ERDF	086	01	07	07	06		24	CY00	452,401.00	452,401.00	10,613.23	2
2	ERDF	086	01	07	07	06		24	EL11	170,800.00	170,800.00	0.00	1
2	ERDF	086	01	07	07	06		24	EL12	555,786.24	555,786.24	19,070.34	2
2	ERDF	086	01	07	07	06		24	EL14	100,000.00	100,000.00	0.00	1
2	ERDF	086	01	07	07	06		24	EL30	312,908.00	312,908.00	0.00	2
2	ERDF	086	01	07	07	06		24	EL42	100,000.00	100,000.00	0.00	1
2	ERDF	086	01	07	07	06		24	EL43	356,421.10	356,421.10	0.00	1
2	ERDF	087	01	07	07	06		24	BG32	547,910.06	547,910.06	44,376.66	2
2	ERDF	087	01	07	07	06		24	BG41	1,842,481.30	1,842,481.30	84,793.77	8
2	ERDF	087	01	07	07	06		24	BG42	187,289.00	187,289.00	55,290.86	1
2	ERDF	087	01	07	07	06		24	CY00	3,926,118.47	3,802,172.98	271,089.57	14
2	ERDF	087	01	07	07	06		24	EL11	673,355.86	673,355.86	0.00	2
2	ERDF	087	01	07	07	06		24	EL12	1,695,640.04	1,695,640.04	174,098.63	6
2	ERDF	087	01	07	07	06		24	EL13	360,868.30	360,868.30	0.00	2
2	ERDF	087	01	07	07	06		24	EL14	391,000.00	391,000.00	46,459.91	1
2	ERDF	087	01	07	07	06		24	EL23	1,083,982.39	1,083,982.39	0.00	3
2	ERDF	087	01	07	07	06		24	EL30	1,924,053.65	1,924,053.65	24,391.13	7
2	ERDF	087	01	07	07	06		24	EL41	155,000.00	155,000.00	0.00	1
2	ERDF	087	01	07	07	06		24	EL43	293,671.77	293,671.77	0.00	2
2	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		24	CY00	270,000.00	270,000.00	0.00	1
2	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		24	EL22	116,250.00	116,250.00	0.00	1
2	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		24	EL30	279,320.00	279,320.00	0.00	1
2	ERDF	094	01	07	07	06		24	EL41	116,250.00	116,250.00	0.00	1
2	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		24	BG33	254,176.04	254,176.04	33,648.14	1
2	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		24	BG34	139,961.52	139,961.52	0.00	1
2	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		24	BG41	154,796.51	154,796.51	0.00	1
2	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		24	CY00	424,190.00	404,920.81	26,314.28	2
2	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		24	EL21	195,262.59	195,262.59	0.00	1
2	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		24	EL23	134,641.53	134,641.53	15,896.26	1
2	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		24	EL30	313,015.50	313,015.50	32,592.00	1
2	ERDF	119	01	07	07	11		24	EL41	278,173.20	278,173.20	0.00	2
2	IPA(e)	086	01	07	07			24	AL	348,752.60	348,752.60	0.00	3
2	IPA(e)	086	01	07	07			24	MK	209,253.19	209,253.19	0.00	2
2	IPA(e)	087	01	07	07			24	AL	1,302,398.34	1,234,361.77	0.00	9
2	IPA(e)	087	01	07	07			24	MK	1,144,058.55	1,144,058.55	82,203.04	7
2	IPA(e)	094	01	07	07			24	AL	121,450.00	121,450.00	0.00	1
2	IPA(e)	094	01	07	07			24	MK	121,450.00	121,450.00	0.00	1
2	IPA(e)	119	01	07	07			24	AL	200,767.29	184,588.29	0.00	2
3	ERDF	121	01	07	07			24	BG41	102,400.00	102,400.00	0.00	1
3	ERDF	121	01	07	07			24	CY00	102,400.00	102,400.00	0.00	1
3	ERDF	121	01	07	07			24	EL12	2,011,437.46	2,011,437.46	44,423.47	1
3	ERDF	122	01	07	07			24	EL12	292,421.62	292,421.62	0.00	1
3	ERDF	123	01	07	07			24	EL12	135,484.92	135,484.92	0.00	1
3	IPA(e)	121	01	07	07			24	AL	102,400.00	102,400.00	0.00	1
3	IPA(e)	121	01	07	07			24	MK	102,400.00	102,400.00	0.00	1
3	IPA(e)	122	01	07	07			24	EL12	136,820.00	136,820.00	0.00	1
3	IPA(e)	123	01	07	07			24	EL12	136,820.00	136,820.00	0.00	1

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

1. Operation (2)	2. The amount of ERDF support(1) envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations	3. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 2/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)	4. Eligible expenditure of ERDF support incurred in all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority	5. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 4/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)
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(1) ERDF support is the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.

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

4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

The "First Evaluation of the Implementation Process and Impacts of the Cooperation Programme INTERREG V-B BALKAN – MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020" of the European Territorial Cooperation Objective for the period 2014-2020 started at October 2018 and ends at April 2019.

The evaluation report was mainly based on data extracted by the MIS database, a well-functioning monitoring system providing data by the economic and technical fiches of the approved projects through their regular reporting exercise (progress reports, final reports and project deliverables). The evaluation also made use of the project data that are uploaded at the BMP's web page. External data and evidence deriving from relevant sources, such as public data registers and statistics and query through online questionnaire to beneficiaries were also used in order to review the Programme attributes with the external framework.

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

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

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

The implementation of the Projects officially started at the end of July 2017 and lasted till the end of January 2018. A very positive sign is that in the first semester of implementation (until 30/6/2018) all projects declared expenses according to the beneficiaries. The overall amount of allocation was 10.5% of the approved budget (9% of Programme). This fact supports the opinion that in general the projects started without facing difficulties and both Programme structures and beneficiaries were prepared and able to proceed in the implementation.

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

In terms of physical object implementation, the aggregated stated outputs values of the approved projects, suggest Programme's Target Values for 2023 would be overachieved. Effectiveness however cannot be evaluated without normalising the indicators' values first. The level of overachievement is high. The

target values of the Programme and the projects should be normalised in order to make sure that both (programme and projects) are counting the same outputs with the same way.

This requires two types of actions:

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

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

It must be taking into account that MA had set up An Action Plan for the indicators, despite the fact that eventually did not succeed to be followed in many proposals; this practice should not be rejected but corrected to be more effective. This could be done in the following ways:

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

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

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

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

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

were included.

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

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

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

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

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

The Intervention Logic matrix confirms the irrelevancy of Output Indicator O0608 ‘Participation in transnational mobility initiatives’ as it cannot be connected logically with ‘gains in environmental qualifications’.

Regarding the need for Programme review the evaluator suggests:

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

Implementation Steps

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

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

Since the actual impacts of the projects haven't been observed yet the primary target of the impact evaluation is to address and record the mechanism that will produce impacts.

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

Specific anticipated impacts include:

For priority 1:

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

For priority 2:

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

Name	Fund	From month	From year	To month	To year	Type of evaluation	Thematic objective	Topic	Findings
First Evaluation of the Implementation Process and Impacts of the Cooperation Programme 'Interreg V – B Balkan-Mediterranean 2014-2020'	ERDF IPA(e)	10	2018	6	2019	Mixed	03 06 10 11	Evaluation of implementation procedures and the impacts of the Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of flat rate costs for the calculation of the administrative cost will lighten both the proposal creation and the evaluation procedures. • Adjust target Values both in Programme and Projects Indicators in order to minimize the deviation between them. Examine the methodology used and the admissions that been made for the calculation of every indicator's target value proposed from each project that is exceeding the 200% of the Programme's Target Value. Ensure that projects are using same Standards with those defined in the Indicators Action Plan. • Consider penalties on the evaluation of proposals in case of unjustified and extremely high over-achievements. • Remove Output Indicator O0608 "Number of participants in transnational mobility initiatives (Ref. ERDF - CO43)" from Programme in the Review, as irrelevant. • Review Output Indicators' milestone values after the Target Values revision. • Increase of IPA financial participation will reinforce the territorial character and impacts of BMP. • Simplify SWOT analysis and Intervention Logic by unifying Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to an overall thematic coverage. • In general, it is too early to assess the impact of the Programme. So far, the main impact has been the contribution to strengthening cooperation between a wide range of stakeholders. BMP has already enabled a significant number of organizations to collaborate and work together, which would not be feasible without it.

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

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

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

Project Beneficiaries

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

Uneven Project implementation on partnership level

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

Slow FLC procedures

It is sometimes noted that the verification of expenses is delayed and beneficiaries have a significant amount of paid out but not verified and certified expenditures. This is caused because either the designation procedures of First Level Controllers in non-centralised systems is time-consuming or because the First Level Control Offices in centralized systems are understaffed. However, the delays have an impact on the overall performance of the Programme, while at the same time causing problems with the financial flows of beneficiaries. The Joint Secretariat and the Managing Authority are addressing the issue by providing support to beneficiaries and FLCers (MIS seminars, tailor-made FLC seminars, guidance for the better organization of the FLC work flow etc.)

Indicator system

The indicator system of the BalkanMed Programme shows that there are big deviations between the Programme and the project targets. This is mainly because the Programme might have been quite modest in its programming (i.e. indicators CO46, CO44, O0606, O0607). However, this choice has been justifiable given that this is the first time the Programme has been implemented. Moreover, there also seems that the projects themselves have either overestimated their calculation on indicators achievement or failed to understand the true content of each indicator. Therefore, the true effectiveness of the Programme cannot be evaluated without normalising the indicators' values first. The Joint Secretariat and the Managing Authority -with the help of

external experts- are reviewing the target values of all indicators on Programme and project level with a view of normalising their correlation. This effort will be concluded in 2019.

Exhaustion of IPA funds

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

Financial flows

The progress of payments in 2018 (at the start of the projects) was affected by the inadequate completion of the Monitoring System and the delays that this led to the processing of payment requests. This, in conjunction with the inability in some countries to provide advance payments to the partners, had a negative impact on the absorption of resources. By promoting (at the end of 2018, and still further in early 2019) payment claims, it is now considered that the liquidity gap of the partners has been balanced and the rate of absorption will be normalized and further increased in 2019. This conclusion was supported from field surveys, both questionnaire and interviews.

Joint Secretariat staffing

Due to the support beneficiaries require for Project implementation and the complex transnational character of the Programme, the human resources' capacity at the level of Joint Secretariat is barely sufficient. The Monitoring Committee, in its 4th meeting in July 2018, endorsed the hiring of an additional JS staff member, but the hiring procedures had not been concluded by the end of 2018.

Bureaucracy & National Legislation Requirements on Procurement

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

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

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

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

With the decision to fund the Reserve List projects the Programme has overbooked its funds by approximately 115%. This was a decision financially sound as it would result to the maximum possible absorption of the Programme's budget, abiding by the MC decisions. Moreover, the Reserve List projects refer to all Programme Specific Objectives and their implementation will substantially help in achieving the established goals and milestones, without thus jeopardising the achievement of the Programme's Performance Framework. Therefore, all Programme and Priority Axis targets are expected to be fully achieved. However, it should be noted that the Joint Secretariat and the Managing Authority -with the help of external experts- are reviewing the target values of all indicators on Programme and project level with a view of normalising their correlation.

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

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

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

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

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

8.1. Major projects

Table 7: Major projects

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

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

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 in the BalkanMed Programme (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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Specific Objective 1.1 “Competitive Territories” includes 4 projects of total approved budget € 3.289.585,65. These were approved by the 3rd Monitoring Committee held on March 10, 2017 and the respective Subsidy contracts were signed during the period August- November 2017.

These projects are mainly dealing with:

- Exchange of business information among SMEs, by facilitating the cooperation and technology transfer processes, through the development of digital tools for improving the integration of the local markets
- Capacity building of new and existing entrepreneurs in the rural sector, in order to implement their business ideas or to expand their enterprises
- Development of expertise, tools, and guidelines to strengthen SMEs capacity to introduce product and process innovations; Establishment of a supporting network of Centres of Excellence in Innovations and provision of support to SMEs in introducing innovations;

Until the 31/12/2018, based on the data in the MIS, an average of 21,79% of projects’ budget was paid-out by the beneficiaries.

The targeted indicators are going to be implemented 100% by the end of 2019, or in case of project prolongation, the latest by the end of the 1st semester of 2020.

The results reported on 31/12/2018 in the Progress Reports show achievement of the technical part of average 60%. The main outputs reported on 31/12/2018 are: delivery of platforms, events addressed to SMEs and other enterprises, delivery of needs analysis studies, business models developed and tested etc.

Project beneficiaries reported cash flow difficulties which burdened the payment of more costs, however implementation of the activities was not highly affected.

Specific Objective 1.2 “Innovative Territories” includes 6 projects of total approved budget € 5.292.172,81. These were approved by the 3rd Monitoring Committee held on March 10, 2017 and the respective Subsidy contracts were signed during the period August- December 2017.

These projects are mainly dealing with:

- Development of expertise, tools, and guidelines to strengthen SMEs capacity to introduce product and process innovations; Establishment of supporting networks of Centers of Excellence in Innovations and provision of support to SMEs in introducing innovations;
- Support of SMEs in remote, peripheral and sparsely populated areas to grow in regional, national and international markets and engage in innovation processes in the tourism sector.
- Creation of E-learning platforms

Until the 31/12/2018, based on the data in the MIS, an average of 27,61% of projects' budget was paid-out by the beneficiaries.

The targeted indicators are going to be implemented 100% by the end of 2019, or in case of project prolongation, the latest by the end of the 1st semester of 2020.

The results reported on 31/12/2018 in the Progress Reports show achievement of the technical part of average 50%. The outputs/results reported on 31/12/2018 include: Training packages, virtual hubs, preparation of fixed points of entrepreneurship promotion, workshops, action plans, innovation summits, benchmarking activities, field research, info days, web 2.0 tools, etc.

Specific Objective 1.3 "Territories of Knowledge" Includes 7 projects of total approved budget € 5.397.032. These were approved by the 3rd Monitoring Committee held on March 10, 2017 and the respective Subsidy contracts were signed during the period August- November 2017.

These projects are mainly dealing with:

- Development of entrepreneurial learning programs for the promotion of enterprises' creativity and innovation
- Development of cross transnational Enterprises' Networks
- Establishment of VET oriented social entrepreneurship (SE) training for SME entrepreneurs
- Promoting eco-management and –innovation among existing SMEs and support young entrepreneurs in entering in the "green" and/or "blue" economy.

Until the 31/12/2018, based on the data in the MIS, an average of 30,18% of projects' budget was paid-out by the beneficiaries.

The targeted indicators are going to be implemented 100% by the end of 2019, or in case of project prolongation, the latest by the end of the 1st semester of 2020.

The results reported on 31/12/2018 in the Progress Reports show achievement of the technical part of average 60%. The outputs/results reported on 31/12/2018 include: Development of common methodologies and surveys for need analysis, local and transnational benchmarking events, school curricula and preparation of learning platforms, e-mentoring platforms, capacity building trainings, establishment of info-desks, training curricula, company mentorship models, mentorship trainings, social entrepreneurship training programme (including courses) finalized.

Priority axis

2 - Environment

Under the Specific Objective 2.1. “Biodiversity” four (4) projects are being implemented aiming at enhancing ecosystem, providing significant recreational opportunities and contributing to sustainable growth and employment, as well as conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage. In this context, on-site sampling and data from “Natural and Cultural” World Heritage Sites, “NATURA 2000” sites and “Marine Protected Areas” (MPAs) have been collected. In addition, promotion material and guidelines have been produced and dissemination events have been materialized, in order to disseminate and capitalize the results of the projects.

Under Environmental Axis 2.0, SO 2.2 Sustainable Territories, there have been approved for funding 14 projects of a total budget of 15.490.929,14 €, focusing on environmental protection and climate change resilience, as a prerequisite and a fundamental basis for sustainable development and inclusive growth in the Balkan Mediterranean area. In addition, the activities implemented under SO2.2 concern the implementation of innovative pilot and demonstration projects in the field of energy efficiency, renewable energy, material life cycle, soil protection also from long chemical treatments that consist a continuous threat of environmental balance and resources’ pollution, air pollution, pollution of groundwater, considering among others, alternative and environment-friendly technologies; Joint education and training activities are taking place, as well as capacity building, sharing knowledge and best practices in the field.

Expected outputs & results upon completion focus on:

- transnational cooperation towards more efficient and better coordinated innovation activities;
- research and implementation contributing to environmental awareness raising among political stakeholders and the general public;
- establishment of knowledge platforms;
- capacity-building for local and regional administration;
- best practices promotion;
- integrated marine/maritime planning and coastal management;
- strategies/policies/plans/models & tools jointly developed & tested;
- environmental friendly technologies implemented regarding climate change prevention and adaptation measures;
- joint pilot projects for promotion of innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector and water sector, including the use of renewable energy

sources.

In specific, under SO 2.2, one (1) project (AIRTHINGS) of a total budget of 1.417.322,66€ focuses on combating air pollution, by developing sensors, platforms and monitoring techniques for raising awareness among citizens, combined with suggestions on green transportation alternatives. Until 31.12.2018 research analysis of sensors installation for air pollution measurement has been achieved.

Four (4) projects (BIOWASTE, BAS, SWAN, INVALOR) with a total budget of 4.013.870,47€ develop action plans and data management techniques and procedures on waste management and recycling. Achieved results until 31.12.2018 are data collection for existing network of recyclable and no compostable waste, users' trainings, action plans development, legal framework research.

Coastal sustainable development is addressed by one (1) project (HERMES) of total budget of 1.012.629,69 € providing modeling and data management upgrade at the current level of research and innovation, marine and maritime planning, coupled with coastal zones' management. Until 31.12.2018, assessment of coastal erosion status and development of the socio-economic database for coastal areas has been studied.

Two (2) projects (ZENH & PV ESTIA) deal with Nearly Zero Energy Buildings, in order to enhance the penetration of PV's in public buildings environment, which is endangered due to limitations of the electrical distribution grids. Results are the selection of the experimental pilot locations and research on studies development. Total budget of 2.053.539,08 €.

Water efficiency and management is addressed by two (2) projects (WATENERGY & DOMUS CW), fostering implementation of the Water Framework Directive and increasing the level of implementation of innovative technologies in the area. Total projects budget of 2.204.264,00 € Full Water Cost (FWC) estimation methodology and analysis on a scientific model development has been developed until 31.12.2018.

Meteorological phenomena monitoring and precise farming solutions on agricultural sector are issues also addressed by two (2) projects (BALKAN ROAD & BERTISS) of a total budget of 2.348.664,18€. Results achieved by 31.12.2018 are data collection and analysis and GIS platform development, pilot fields establishment, soil and waste analyses, as well as meteorological station network installation and relevant measurements, including case studies development.

Natural disasters management techniques and fire protection solutions are developed with another two (2) projects (SFEDA & DISARM) of a total budget of 2.440.639,06€. A fire spread model, as well as a thermal camera has been set up and a satellite based algorithm for the detection of forest fires has been developed, resulting at the improvement of the visualization of fire detection products.

All projects until 31.12.2018 have organized stakeholder engagement and dissemination activities, presentations in international conferences, networking, trainings and summer schools.

Under the Specific Objective 2.3. “Delivery on environmental legal framework” two (2) projects focus on the enhancement of the legal framework. More specifically, these projects intend to increase the capacity of public authorities, stakeholders and society at large on mitigating coastal and marine litter pollution. Up to now litter assessments in beach and in sea were carried out, while tools and best practices on local level have been analysed. Workshops and training seminars were organized and beneficiaries participated in several conferences with the aim to communicate the results of their project.

The total budget of two (2) projects is 2.080.884,05€.

Priority axis	3 - Technical Assistance
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The available EU resources are fully bound to TA projects approved by the MC (country-specific TA projects and the core transnational TA project). The selected operations ensure the financing of the core programme institutions as well as National Authorities’s activities on national level.

Output indicators for the technical assistance priority were planned in line with the expected outputs of these TA projects. Therefore, output indicators for the selected operations are reported as fulfilled. Several other outputs of the TA priority are already available, as the implementation of the Programme is moving forward. For Priority Axis 3 there are no result indicators specified in the Cooperation Programme.

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 outmost 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,

- Promotion of the Programme and its activities in a manner that outmost access is safeguarded. The venues selected to host Monitoring Committee meetings and Info days, are accessible based on specific requirements and access needs;
- All Programme communication activities abide to strict rules regarding accessibility;
- The Programme's website is 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. Their main focus is on

- research and implementation contributing to environmental awareness raising among political stakeholders and the general public;
- establishment of knowledge platforms;
- capacity-building for local and regional administration;
- integrated marine/maritime planning and coastal management;
- strategies/policies/plans/models & tools jointly developed & tested;
- environmental friendly technologies implemented regarding climate change prevention and adaptation measures;
- joint pilot projects for promotion of innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector and water sector, including the use of renewable energy sources;
- increase of the capacity of public authorities, stakeholders and society at large on mitigating coastal and marine litter pollution;

on-site sampling and data collection from "Natural and Cultural" World Heritage Sites, "NATURA 2000" sites and "Marine Protected Areas" (MPAs); etc.

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 (%)
1	654,854.28	5.44%
2	12,116,561.73	63.54%
Total	12,771,416.01	38.17%

Thousands kilometers of coastal zone, drought, extreme weather conditions and atmosphere pollution make climate change adaptation a high priority for the BalkanMed programme. Indeed, 20 projects are being implemented aiming at preventing, mitigating and monitoring natural disasters (drought, marine pollution, air pollution etc). In this context, transnational partnerships in the BalkanMed region produce plans, develop tools and methods and act in a challenge-centred way with the aim of tackling issues that go beyond borders and contributing to the European common good.

More specifically, four (4) projects (BIOPROSPECT, IRC-HERMES, RECONNECT, WETMAINAREAS) materialise on-site sampling and collect data from “Natural and Cultural” World Heritage Sites, “NATURA 2000” sites and “Marine Protected Areas” (MPAs) resulting at the enhancement of the ecosystem. Furthermore, three projects (3) (BenefitAsYouSave, Invalor101, S.W.A.N.) focus on the development of methodologies, in order to improve recycle in cities, as well as in coastal and touristic areas. To this respect, IT platforms will separately map and collectively match solid waste sources and flows in the region, while in other cases glass waste recycling will produce building products. Also, three (3) projects (BIOWASTE, WATenERgy, DOMUS) aim at developing a common methodological approach towards efficient & effective transnational water & energy resources and waste management. At the same time, two (2) projects (PVEstia, ZenH Balkan) contribute towards improved energy efficiency in the building sector. More specifically, design guidelines are produced, as well as policy analysis and recommendations are set. In addition, three (3) projects (BeRTISS, SFEDA, DISARM) are dedicated to the development of a system for early detection and monitoring of wildfires and extreme weather events towards protecting the environment and contributing to the climate change resiliency. Also, two (2) projects (ECOPORTIL, MELTEMI) intend to increase the capacity of public authorities, stakeholders and society at large, on mitigating coastal and marine litter pollution. Furthermore, the issues raised by coastal erosion, air pollution and unsustainable resources management are to be overcome through the activities implemented by three (3) projects (HERMES, AIRTHINGS, BALKANROAD). Within these projects, transnational partnerships develop strategies, methodologies and technologies for natural resources conservation, coastal erosion mitigation and beach restoration, as well as for air quality monitoring.

All in all, it is clear that BalkanMed programme is dealing with climate change, as urgent issues are raised in the area that have to be overcome in order to reach development and growth, as well as to build a better place to live for all of us.

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 of the Territorial Cooperation Programme BalkanMed 2014-2020 was approved at the 2nd Monitoring Committee meeting on 25/10/2016. According to the evaluation plan, two evaluations feeding into the respective Annual Implementation Reports are foreseen during the Programming Period. Both of them are focusing at the evaluation of implementation procedures and the impacts of the Programme.

The first mid-term evaluation was set according to the evaluation to be assigned to an external evaluator at the second semester of 2018 until the second semester of 2019. The evaluation Terms of References were specialised by the Managing Authority according to the EYSSA guidance. They were including evaluation questions regarding the Effectiveness, Efficiency, the Performance Framework, the Timeliness of Intervention Logic and the Communication Strategy. It was also included a first investigation of the expected Impacts and the evaluators proposals for Programme Review. The Programme evaluation was assigned in October 2018 and finished at the end of May 2019.

The evaluation was carried out on the basis of desk research, by using an online survey for partners of the submitted projects in the frame of the 1st Call and for other interested parties and interviews of the programme structures. The first results of the evaluation are included in this part of the AIR (chapter 4). The follow-up measures based on findings of the evaluation will be included in the AIR 2019.

Status	Name	Fund	Year of finalizing evaluation	Type of evaluation	Thematic objective	Topic	Findings (in case of execution)	Follow up (in case of execution)
Executed	First Evaluation of the Implementation Process and Impacts of the Cooperation Programme 'Interreg V – B Balkan-Mediterranean 2014-2020'	ERDF IPA(e)	2019	Mixed	03 06 10 11	Efficiency, Effectiveness, Programme Review and Impact Evaluation	<p>The Evaluation started in 2018 and finished in 2019. Findings include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of flat rate costs for the calculation of the administrative cost will lighten both the proposal creation and the evaluation procedures. • Adjust target Values both on Programme and Project level to minimize their deviation. Examine the methodology used made for the calculation of every indicator's target value proposed from each project that is exceeding the 200% of the Programme's Target Value. Ensure that projects are using same Standards with those defined in the Indicators Action Plan. • Consider penalties on the evaluation of proposals in case of unjustified and extremely high over-achievements. • Increase of IPA financial participation will reinforce the territorial character and impacts of BMP. • Simplify SWOT analysis and Intervention Logic by unifying Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to an overall thematic coverage. • A review is necessary in order to proceed with Programme improvements and up-to-date information. Proposals are mainly aiming to improve Programmes performance towards its objectives. • In general, it is too early to assess the impact of the Programme, as outputs and their results have not yet been produced. So far, the main impact has been the contribution to strengthening cooperation between a wide range of 	

							stakeholders. BMP has already enabled a significant number of organizations to collaborate and work together, which would not be feasible without it.	
Executed	First Evaluation of the Implementation Process and Impacts of the Cooperation Programme 'Interreg V – B Balkan-Mediterranean 2014-2020'	ERDF IPA(e)	2019	Mixed	11	Effectiveness of the Programme & Timeliness of Intervention Logic	The Evaluation started in 2018 and finished in 2019. Findings include: Remove Output Indicator O0608 “Number of participants in transnational mobility initiatives (Ref. ERDF - CO43)” from Programme in the Review, as irrelevant.	
Executed	First Evaluation of the Implementation Process and Impacts of the Cooperation Programme 'Interreg V – B Balkan-Mediterranean 2014-2020'	ERDF IPA(e)	2019	Mixed	03 06	Performance Framework	The Evaluation started in 2018 and finished in 2019. Findings include: Review Output Indicators' milestone values after the Target Values revision.	

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

The Communication Strategy was implemented in a way guided by the need for Programme activation and acceleration. Given that the Projects were just starting to be implemented by the end of 2017, the implementation of the Communication Strategy could be deemed very satisfactory.

In that sense, the first implementation stage of the Communication Strategy has been fully implemented, while the second implementation stage is still ongoing, even though the bulk of it has been implemented.

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/ JS 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 MA has already taken the necessary steps in order to activate and incorporate them in its communication activities, by giving specific and tailor-made guidelines on communication, tracking –and intervening by means of advice, whenever needed- the Projects’ activities and publishing a very detailed “Integrated Communication Guide for Projects”.

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 Plan.

Conclusion

The MA/ JS of the transnational Cooperation Programme Interreg V-B “Balkan-Mediterranean 2014-2020” opted for an in house “Assessment of Information and Publicity Measures” of the Programme, in order to self-assess the implementation of the Communication Strategy. The goal was not only to track the implementation of communication activities, but also to highlight weaknesses, identify the steps needed for the future and accelerate the solution of the problems identified. The evaluation was proportional to the degree of activation and implementation of the Programme.

The Assessment concluded that the Communication Strategy is being implemented in a way guided by the need for Programme activation and acceleration. The implementation of the Communication Strategy could be analogically deemed very satisfactory, as the first implementation stage of the Communication Plan (General information about the Programme and its actions, inaugural event) has been fully implemented, while the second implementation stage (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) is still ongoing, even though the bulk of it has been implemented. In general, 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. However, a number of weaknesses have been identified and the MA/ JS is already moving towards their solution, by taking on board the key steps suggested in this document.

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

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 2018 all members of the Joint Secretariat and the Managing Authority representatives participated in a number of events organised by EC, Interact and national bodies reinforcing capacity on capitalisation of projects results, communication networks, dimensions of cooperation, Keep.eu information platform, indicators post 2020, AIR and Performance Framework, public procurements, etc.

During 2018 the following was done to enhance the capacity of the project beneficiaries:

- Two MIS seminars in Athens and Thessaloniki;
- Communication seminar, specifically designed for project communication officers;
- Tailor-made meetings on project level and with specific beneficiaries in order to address specific implementation issues;

· All documents including guidance materials (i.e. MIS users' manuals) were made available for project beneficiaries' use on the web-site of the Programme in a separate section 'Library' as soon as approved by the relevant authorities.

The Joint Secretariat and Managing Authority competent staff provided guidance to the project beneficiaries on a daily basis at technical meetings, by electronic and phone communication on project implementation procedures, reporting, funds allocations, MIS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

	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)

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:

	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 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

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.

The Programme directly addresses the EU2020 objectives for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. All implementing projects are positive towards these and involve specific actions contributing to the all in one growth of the region.

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).

For the overall problems encountered please see para. 5a.

The Programme is well on track to achieving the Performance Framework milestones both regarding to the financial and the output targets.

As far as the financial targets are concerned, there is a discrepancy between the amount relevant to the actions paid out by the beneficiaries and the amounts certified and included in the Payment Requests.

Overall, the amount certified and included in Payment Requests in Priority Axes 1 and 2 is 6.092.390,76 €. The actual amount paid out by the project beneficiaries in both Priority Axes until 31/12/2018 was 8.942.435,79 € (98% of the target).

The JS has checked that the expenses declared as paid out by the beneficiaries were relevant to the actions funded and the beneficiaries inserted the expenses in the MIS. However, not all of these amounts have been certified yet, mainly due to the slow FLC procedures and to the sometimes limited human resources of specific beneficiaries.