

5th Monitoring Committee meeting - Brief Minutes

Transnational Cooperation Programme Interreg
Balkan-Mediterranean 2014-2020

CCI 2014TC16M4TN003

Approved by the Monitoring Committee in Skopje, on 03/05/2019

The Monitoring Committee (hereinafter referred to as MC) of the Transnational Interreg Cooperation Programme V-B “Balkan-Mediterranean 2014-2020” assembled for its 5th meeting on 3rd of May 2019 in Skopje, following an invitation by the Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes (hereinafter MA of ETCP), in agreement with the European Commission and the Partner States.

Ms Mjellma Mehmeti, representing the National Authority of the Republic of North Macedonia, as Chair of the Monitoring Committee welcomed the participants and opened the 5th Monitoring Committee meeting, highlighting the role of the Programme in regional development.

Quorum was achieved (four out of five Partner States were present, Bulgaria was absent) and it was identified that no members of the MC present had a conflict of interest. Mr Csaba Hende and Ms Nadine Lakhal, representing the European Commission, were also present.

The Agenda of the meeting was approved unanimously.

The Table attached presents the participation in the 5th meeting of members with and without voting rights.

1. Information on the State of Play of the Programme

Mr Themis Chatzikonstantinou, JS, presented the State of Play of the Programme and the developments since the last Monitoring Committee meeting, focusing especially in the implementation of the projects and the Performance Framework.

The MC acknowledged the content of the presentation and decided to deal with requests for partnership changes on a case by case basis.

2. Evaluation of the Programme

The Programme evaluators (external experts) presented the evaluation of the Programme based on the data gathered so far (Impact Evaluation & Evaluation Report). The evaluators focused on problems encountered during the Programme evaluations, especially regarding the indicators’ system, and suggested recommendations.

The MC acknowledged the content of the presentation.

3. Programme Revision

Ms Nikoletta Tatari, MA of ETCP, presented the revision of the financing tables of the Programme, adjusted according to the previous decision of the Monitoring Committee, regarding the transfer of unused Technical Assistance funds to Priority Axes 1 and 2.

The Programme evaluators presented suggested amendments to the Cooperation Programme, incorporating their recommendations based on the evaluation report.

The European Commission Delegation in Skopje informed the MC on the possibility of allocating to the Programme additional IPA funds -if and when available- in order to be used for specific projects in the Prespas Lakes region. The Delegation will come back to the MC with more concrete proposals at a later stage.

Following a discussion and additional comments, the **MC unanimously approved the revision of the financing tables and delegated the Managing Authority to proceed to any other amendments necessary, based on the evaluation reports. The revised Programme will be submitted to the European Commission at a later stage.**

4. Annual Implementation Report

Mr Chatzikonstantinou presented the outline of the 2018 Annual Implementation Report, as well as its basic points.

The MC decided to approve the Annual Implementation Report through Written Procedure at a later stage.

5. Communication and Capitalisation activities

Ms Bateka, JS, presented the communication activities undertaken by the Programme so far, as well as those planned for the second half of 2019, according to the requirements of EC Regulations.

She also presented the Programme's Capitalisation Plan, to be implemented by the MA/ JS in cooperation with the National Authorities and the BalkanMed projects.

The MC acknowledged the presentations.

6. BalkanMed Best Practices

The projects InnoPlatform and PV-Estia presented their activities in the framework of the BalkanMed Programme, also focusing on the cooperation aspect of their projects and the necessity and usefulness of the BalkanMed Programme.

The MC acknowledged the presentations.

7. Project Implementation Manual

Ms Kouloumpatsani and Ms Matiaki, JS, presented proposed amendments to the Project Implementation Manual.

Following a discussion and additional comments, the **MC unanimously approved the revised document and delegated the Managing Authority to proceed to any other amendments necessary.**

8. Technical Assistance

Ms Bateka, JS, presented proposed revisions to the Technical Assistance Manual and the Technical Assistance Multi-annual Breakdown table. Following a discussion, **the MC unanimously approved the Technical Assistance Manual and the Technical Assistance Annual Breakdown.**

9. BalkanMed post-2020

Mr Alexandros Samaras, Head of Unit B1 of the Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes, presented the prospects of the future implementation of the BalkanMed Programme.

Following a discussion on the necessity of the Programme, **the MC unanimously decided to delegate the Head of Managing Authority to proceed to the necessary discussions with the European Commission and countries interested to join a future BalkanMed Programme. In addition, the BalkanMed participating countries agreed to co-ordinate their efforts to the European Commission regarding the future BalkanMed Programme.**

At the end of the meeting, Brief Minutes and Decisions were drafted by the MA and the Chairperson read them out and all MC members approved them.

Signed

Albanian Delegation

Bulgarian Delegation

Cypriot Delegation

Republic of North Macedonia Delegation

Greek Delegation

Managing Authority

Attached:

1. Participants' List
2. Agenda