

Citizens' Summary of the 2014-2015 BalkanMed Annual Implementation Report

Transnational Cooperation Programme Interreg V-B
Balkan-Mediterranean 2014-2020

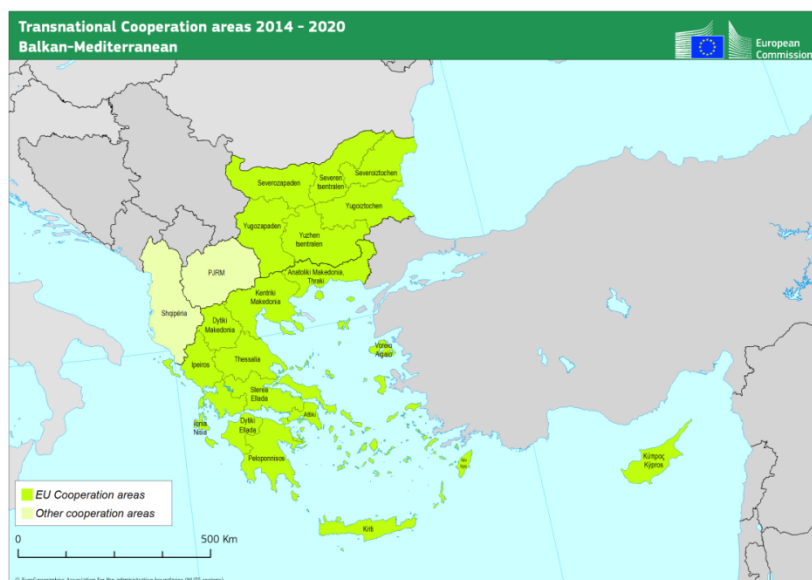
CCI 2014TC16M4TN003

23/05/2016

What is the BalkanMed Programme about?

The European Union cohesion policy has made substantial amounts of financial support available in the 2014-2020 Programming Period, most of which is used to finance national and regional Programmes under the Investment for Growth and Jobs goal. In addition, a smaller amount is available for the second goal of the cohesion policy; namely, European Territorial Cooperation (ETC, also called Interreg). Interreg is a key instrument in addressing the common challenges and obstacles existing at border regions and transnational cooperation areas, in sharing experiences, and in elaborating common development strategies within the EU cohesion policy. The transnational Cooperation Programme Interreg V-B "Balkan-Mediterranean 2014-2020" (BalkanMed) is one of these Interreg Programmes.

Compared to mainstream national or regional Programmes, Interreg Programmes operate in a more complex multi-national environment. BalkanMed brings together five (5) countries, three (3) EU member states (Bulgaria, Cyprus and Greece) and two (2) candidate countries, Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. It is the first time ever that the European cooperation addresses the Balkan Peninsula and the Eastern Mediterranean Sea together, in a joint effort across maritime and terrestrial borders, to contribute to the "EU 2020" strategy, for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.



The BalkanMed Programme is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) with 28,330,108.00 Euros. The total support from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) fund accounts for 5,126,138.00 Euros. Therefore,

the total budget of the Programme, including national contribution, is 39,727,654.00 Euros. The official language of the Programme is English.

Taking into consideration the territorial analysis, the main needs and challenges shared by the Programme actors can be grouped to the following headings: socioeconomic development and demography, environment and climate change, natural and cultural heritage. However, limited funding compelled for tougher choices. In response to all regulatory requirements, a strong thematic focus has been promoted to address two key challenges: territorial competitiveness and environment. Accordingly, the Programme is built upon the following two priority axes:

- Priority Axis 1: "Entrepreneurship & Innovation"
- Priority Axis 2: "Environment"

For more information, please consult the citizen's summary of the Programme (<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbnpbnRlcnJlZ2JhbGthbm1lZDxneDoxZTM4MjgyZmE1NGM1ZTg4>).

What activities were carried out in 2014-2015?

BalkanMed was officially adopted by the European Commission on 25/09/2015. The 1st Call for Project Proposals was officially launched on 16/12/2015. Eligible partnerships should include partners from at least three participating countries. The Call had a budget of € 20.1 mil. (85% of which is covered by EU funds) and was open to both Programme Priority Axes. The final date for the submission of Project Proposals was on 26/04/2016.

As the actual implementation of the BalkanMed Cooperation Programme started only in late December 2015, no other activities were carried out in the years 2014 and 2015.

What about spending?

No expenditure was incurred under the BalkanMed Programme in the years 2014-2015.

Do you need further information?

Should you need further information about BalkanMed, please don't hesitate to visit our websites (<https://sites.google.com/site/interregbalkanmed> and www.interreg.gr).