

Interreg - IPA CBC

Romania - Serbia



REVISED ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

2014-2015

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)

The present document represents the first annual implementation report for the Interreg - IPA CBC Romania - Serbia Programme and covers 2014 and 2015 financial years.

The programming process took place over the year 2014. It has been drafted based on **lessons learned** and **past experiences** from the previous programming periods with an effort to **capitalize the results** of projects financed under different frameworks. Also the identification of the most relevant fields and **focusing the intervention** was the result of the appraisal of relation between **challenges and needs** and objectives for **smart, sustainable and integrative growth**.

The Programme was officially submitted to the European Commission on **26 September 2014** and re-submitted as revised version following the comments received from the EC services on 31 March 2015. The Programme was officially approved on **6 August 2015** under the **Commission Decision no. 5667**.

The programme was officially launched on the **15 September 2015** together with the launching event of first call for proposals. With this occasion a Conference was organized in the eligible area, in order to better promote the funding opportunities under the Programme.

As the documents needed for the start of programme implementation were already drafted before the programme adoption, the **first JMC meeting** was held on **13-14 August 2015** during which the following documents have been approved: the *Rules of Procedure of the JMC*, the *Technical Assistance Multi-Annual Strategy*, the *Communication Strategy*, the *Description of management and control systems*, the *Applicant Guidelines for the first call for proposals*, including for the *strategic projects*, the *procedure for evaluation, selection and contracting of projects*.

Based on the Applicant Guidelines approved by the JMC, the first call for proposals within the Programme was launched on the **15 September 2015** and the information campaign took place until December 2015. The deadline for submission of projects was 1.02.2016 respectively 15.03.2016 for strategic projects.

Before and after the launch of the call for proposals **4 Partner Search Forums** have been organized. These events gathered a number of **397 potential beneficiaries**.

- **26 August 2015** in Vrsac, Serbia dedicated for the identification of partners interested in participating in project within **Priority Axis 1**. This event was attended by **146 potential beneficiaries**;
- **28 August 2015** in DrobetaTurnu Severin, Romania dedicated for the identification of partners interested in participating in project within **Priority Axis 2**. This event was attended by **81 potential beneficiaries**;

- **7 September 2015** in Smederevo, Serbia, dedicated for the identification of partners interested in participating in project within **Priority Axis 3**. This event was attended by **42 potential beneficiaries**;
- **11 September 2015** in Reșița, România dedicated for the identification of partners interested in participating in project within **Priority Axis 4**. This event was attended by **128 potential beneficiaries**;

The Partner Search Forums were followed by **13 info-days** dedicated to the potential beneficiaries. These events gathered a number of **735 potential beneficiaries**.

- The info-day held on **06 October 2015** in Drobeta Turnu Severin, Romania was attended by **77 potential beneficiaries**;
- The info-day held on **08 October 2015** in Negotin, Serbia was attended by **48 potential beneficiaries**;
- The info-day held on **13 October 2015** in Reșița, Romania was attended by **57 potential beneficiaries**;
- The info-day held on **15 October 2015** in Zrenjanin, Serbia was attended by **66 potential beneficiaries**;
- The info-day held on **20 October 2015** in Timișoara, Romania was attended by **87 potential beneficiaries**;
- The info-day held on **22 October 2015** in Pancevo, Serbia was attended by **61 potential beneficiaries**;
- The info-day held on **3 November 2015** in Resita, Romania was attended by **52 potential beneficiaries**;
- The info-day held on **5 November 2015** in Smederevo, Serbia was attended by **41 potential beneficiaries**;
- The info-day held on **10 November 2015** in Timisoara, Romania was attended by **86 potential beneficiaries**;
- The info-day held on **12 November 2015** in Kikinda, Serbia was attended by **64 potential beneficiaries**;
- The info-day held on **17 November 2015** in Drobeta Turnu-Severin was attended by **55 potential beneficiaries**;
- The info-day held on **19 November 2015** in Veliko Gradiste, Serbia was attended by **41 potential beneficiaries**;

The questions and answers from these events have been posted on the programme website.

All these events were organized and held by the Joint Secretariat, Managing Authority and Serbian National Authority.

- The info-day held on **22 December 2015** in Zrenjanin, Serbia was attended by **30 potential beneficiaries**;
- The info-day held on **24 December 2015** in Golubac, Serbia was attended by **35 potential beneficiaries**;

The questions and answers from these events have been posted on the programme website: www.romania-serbia.net.

These events were held by the Joint Secretariat Antenna and Serbian National Authority.

Designation process

The designation process was finalized in 2015 through preparing and approving all working procedures of the programme bodies and through approving the Description of the Management and Control System during the first JMC meeting of the INTERREG IPA CBC Romania-Serbia Programme (14 August 2015). All documents needed for designation audit were submitted to the Audit Authority, including information regarding the electronic system.

E-Cohesion progress and the Programme electronic management system

In order to comply with the e-cohesion requirements, stipulated in art. 122(3) CPR, the programme authorities have put in place, during the end of 2015, the electronic management system developed by INTERACT, in close cooperation with ETC Programmes.

In this context, on September 9, 2015 it was signed the Licence Agreement with the INTERACT Programme - City of Vienna, giving the licensee editing rights on the eMS software and the right to further maintenance and develop the software. In 2015 the Programme bodies adapted the eMS to the programme features and started the configuration process and during the designation process the Programme Audit Authority assessed the system as being functional.

The system allows to collect, record and store in computerised form data on each operation, including, where appropriate, data on individual participants and a breakdown of data on indicators by gender where required, and to ensure that systems security is in line with internationally accepted standards.

The system will be used by all the programme structures and by the programme beneficiaries starting with the next call for proposals.

Technical Assistance Priority Axis implementation

An implementation agreement was signed on 22 May 2015, between the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration and the Regional Office for Cross Border Cooperation Timisoara, hosting the Joint Secretariat (JTS) and the first level control unit (FLCU) for Romanian partners.

One global financing decision for the MA and one financing contract with the ROCBC TM related to technical assistance activities were signed in December 2015.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

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 problems¹
	Priority Axis 1 (TP a) Employment promotion and services for an inclusive growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ On the 15 September 2015 the first call for proposals was launched covering 6,391,029 Euro from the total allocation of this Priority Axis▪ On the 15 September 2015 the first call for

¹ Boxes will be filled as the selection and implementation of projects for each priority axis starting with 2017

		proposals for strategic projects was launched with no separate allocation for the priority axis.
	Priority Axis 2 (TP b): Environmental protection and risk management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On the 15 September 2015 the first call for proposals was launched covering 7,431,442 Euro from the total allocation of this Priority Axis ▪ On the 15 September 2015 the first call for proposals for strategic projects was launched with no separate allocation for the priority axis.
	Priority Axis 3 (TP c): Sustainable mobility and accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On the 15 September 2015 the first call for proposals was launched covering 7,431,442 Euro from the total allocation of this Priority Axis ▪ On the 15 September 2015 the first call for proposals for strategic projects was launched with no separate allocation for the priority axis.
	Priority Axis 4 (TP d) Attractiveness for sustainable tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On the 15 September 2015 the first call for proposals was launched covering 6,613,993 Euro from the total allocation of this Priority Axis ▪ On the 15 September 2015 the first call for proposals for strategic projects was launched with no separate allocation for the priority axis.
	Priority Axis 5: technical assistance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technical Assistance Strategy was approved by JMC; ▪ Global Financing Decision for AM covering 2015-2018 was approved; ▪ Financing contract with ROCBC TM was signed.

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

Table 1

Result indicators (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to technical assistance priority axis

Automatic from SFC						ANNUAL VALUE										Observations (if necessary)
ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023) ²	2014	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
Priority Axis 1																
PA1 - RI1	Active population more satisfied of the access to labour market. (Innovative services assisting job seekers permanently established, information on job opportunities available in marginal areas, disadvantaged groups receiving assistance and information about job opportunities through information points and dedicated tutors.)	Ranking on qualitative scale (1-7)	3.4	2015	4.25											Frequency of reporting: 2017/2018 2020/2021 2023
PA1 -	Population experiencing access to improved basic	Ranking on qualitative	3.28	2015	4.92											Frequency of reporting: 2017/2018

² Target values may be qualitative or quantitative.

RI2	services in health care and education. Innovative, high quality services permanently created and available in marginal areas, preventive care, cultural activities and services, sport activities.	scale (1-7)															2020/2021 2023
PA1 - RI3	Population experiencing lively cultural life in a cross border setting. Population, especially in marginal areas, accessing various opportunities for cultural and social activities, permanently offered in joint initiatives across the border.	Ranking on qualitative scale (1-7)	4.45	2015	5.56												Frequency of reporting: 2017/2018 2020/2021 2023
Priority Axis 2																	
PA2 -RI 1	Awareness on the potential of environmental resources and the benefits of protection. Resident population informed on quality and quantity of environmental resources in the eligible area, and on the benefits	Qualitative indicator on Ordinal scale value (1 -7)	4.09	2015	5.31												Frequency of reporting: 2017/2018 2020/2021 2023

	of protection actions.															
PA2 -R12	Capacity for emergency interventions and management in case of natural disasters and environmental accidents	Qualitative indicator Ordinal scale value (1-7)	3.65	2015	4.74											Frequency of reporting: 2017/2018 2020/2021 2023
PA2 -R13	Potential for cross-border interoperability for environmental protection and emergency interventions, based on shared procedures and technologies	Qualitative indicator Ordinal scale value (1-7)	3.88	2015	5.43											Frequency of reporting: 2017/2018 2020/2021 2023
Priority Axis 3																
PA3 -R11	Population accessing to sustainable and efficient public mobility and transport services. Population having access to improved local transport infrastructures, faster connections to main corridors, efficient border crossing services, transport services using innovative technologies.	Qualitative indicator described on an ordinal scale (1-7)	3.98	2015	5.17											Frequency of reporting: 2017/2018 2020/2021 2023

PA3 - RI2	Vehicles crossing the border. Traffic across the border for social, commercial and touristic activities and exchanges.	Total number of vehicles per day	950	2013	1.187												Frequency of reporting: 2017/2018 2020/2021 2023
PA3 -RI3	Population accessing sustainable and efficient public utilities networks (energy, water, ICT). Access to improved utility services based on innovative technologies, access to efficient and sustainable energy sources, especially in marginal and remote territories.	Percentage of households with access to the utility networks (Index based on arithmetic averages of indicators for the various networks)	57%	2015	82.6%												Frequency of reporting: 2017/2018 2020/2021 2023
Priority Axis 4																	
PA4 -RI1	Number of tourists arrivals in the eligible area. Flows of visitors in the area for all forms of tourism activities and cross border networks.	Units	600.000	2012	810.000												Frequency of reporting: 2017/2018 2020/2021 2023
PA4	Nights spent by tourists in	Units		2012	1.920.0												Frequency of

-R12	the eligible area. Time spent by tourists in the cross border area, for all types of touristic activities		1.600.000		00												reporting: 2017/2018 2020/2021 2023
PA4 -R13	New “touristic products” created as a result of programme actions in the field of promotion and information on integrated touristic networks in the CBC area.	Units	Baseline measure d referring to current and past cross border activities : 17	2015	24.6												Frequency of reporting: 2017/2018 2020/2021 2023
Priority axis Technical Assistance																	
PA5 RI 1	Effective absorption of funds Certified expenditures on planned allocation by the deadlines established	Ratio Percentage %	0	2015	80%												Frequency of reporting: 2017/2020/ 2023

Table 2

Common and programme specific output indicators (by priority axis, investment priority); applies also to technical assistance priority axes

	ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value ³ (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE									Observations (if necessary)	
					2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022		2023
Priority Axis 1	PA1.OI1	Citizens involved in project activities in cultural, social health care services.	Units	at least 3000 ⁴											Frequency of reporting: Annual
	PA1.OI2	Cross border cooperation structures supported in the field of labour market.	Units	at least 20											Frequency of reporting: Annual
	PA1.OI3	Investment in health care and social services infrastructure.	Units	at least 5											Frequency of reporting: Annual
	PA1.OI4	Disadvantaged persons involved in	Units	at least 2000											Frequency of reporting: Annual

³ Targets are optional for technical assistance priority axes.

⁴ To be defined in detail after final decision on financial allocation and project types.

		projects activities.													
	PA10I5	Joint actions targeting vulnerable groups (youth, women, disabled, ethnic minorities) established for the prevention of early school leaving, for cultural inclusion	Units	at least 20											Frequency of reporting: Annual
	PA10I6	Joint actions targeting smart (green) growth opportunities	Units	At least 10											Frequency of reporting: Annual
	COI_1	Population covered by improved health services	Persons	10.000											Frequency of reporting: Annual
	COI_2	Number of participants in projects promoting gender	Persons	2.000											Frequency of reporting: Annual

		equality, equal opportunities and social inclusion across borders													
Priority Axis 2	PA2.OI1	Infrastructure , equipment built/ installed/ modernized in the field of cross border services for environmental protection	Units (No)	at least 10 ⁵											
	PA2.OI2	Participants to project initiatives and events for information and awareness rising	Units (No)	at least 5.000											Frequency of reporting: Annual
	PA2OI3	Studies in the field of environmental protection and emergency management.	Units	at least 5											Frequency of reporting: Annual

⁵ To be defined after final decision on financial allocations

		(technical and scientific studies, researches in the relevant fields)													
	PA2.O14	Participants to capacity building initiatives	units (No)	at least 200											Frequency of reporting: Annual
	PA2.O15	Monitoring systems established/ extended/ modernized in the eligible area in the field of environmental protection and emergency management.	Units	at least 3											Frequency of reporting: Annual
	COI_3	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	Persons	50.000											Frequency of reporting: Annual
Priority Axis 3	PA2.O11	Cross border cooperation structures supported in the field of transport and public	Units (No)	10											Frequency of reporting: Annual

		utilities													
	PA3.OI2	Studies related to the implementation of selected projects or the realisation of actions in the field of transport and mobility infrastructure	Units (No)	5											Frequency of reporting: Annual
	PA3.OI3	Investments in transport and utilities infrastructure , including improvement, enhancement of existing infrastructure	Units (No)	7											Frequency of reporting: Annual
	PA3.OI4	Participants to information/ training/ awareness raising initiatives in the field of transport and public	Units (No)	1000											Frequency of reporting: Annual

		utilities.													
	PA3.O15	Joint initiatives on improvements of public transport and intermodal connections	Units (No)	5											Frequency of reporting: Annual
	PA4.O11	Cross border cooperation structures/ initiatives supported in the field of tourism	Units (No)	At least 20											Frequency of reporting: Annual
	PA4.O12	Studies related to the implementation of selected projects or research and studies in the field of natural and cultural resources	Units (No)	At least 5											Frequency of reporting: Annual
	PA4.O13	Number of participants attending training initiatives	Units (No)	At least 500											Frequency of reporting: Annual

	PA4 OI4	Joint actions and communication instruments created	Units (No)	At least 4											Frequency of reporting: Annual
	PA4 OI5	Partnerships for the exchange of good practices and the promotion of joint initiatives established	Units (No)	At least 10											Frequency of reporting: Annual
Priority axis Technical Assistance	PA5.OI1	Number of meetings of programme bodies	Units (No)	2 per year											Source of data: Monitoring
	PA5.OI2	Number of projects calls implemented	Units (No)	2											Monitoring
	PA5.OI3	Number of interim programme evaluations implemented	Units (No)	2											Source of data Monitoring
	PA5.OI4	Number of events for information and promotion	Units (No)	2 per year											Source of data Monitoring

	PA5.OI5	Number of employees (full time equivalent) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	Units (No)	2												Source of data: Monitoring
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries] ⁶																
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement] ⁷																

3.3 Milestones and targets defined in the performance framework (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) – submitted in annual implementation reports from 2017 onwards

Not applicable.

⁶ Boxes will be filled as the selection and implementation of projects for each priority axis and indicator starting with 2017

⁷ Boxes will be filled as the selection and implementation of projects for each priority axis starting with 2017

3.4. Financial data (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 3

Financial information at priority axis and programme level

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
The financial allocation of the priority axis based on the operational programme [extracted from Table 18a of the operational programme]					Cumulative data on the financial progress of the operational programme						
Priority axis	Fund (1)	Category of region(2)	Basis for the calculation of Union support* (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Total funding (EUR)	Co-financing rate (%)	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations (%) [column 7/ column 5 × 100]	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries (%) [column 10/ column 5 × 100]	Number of operations selected
							Calculation			Calculation	
Priority axis 1	IPA		Total eligible cost	18.188.970	85%						
Priority axis 2	IPA		Total eligible cost	21.150.000	85%						
Priority axis 3	IPA		Total eligible cost	21.150.000	85%						
Priority axis 4	IPA		Total eligible cost	18.823.530	85%						
Priority axis 5	IPA		Total eligible cost	8.812.499	85%						
Total				88.124.999							

Table 16: Financing plan

Priority axis	Basis for calculation of Union support	Union support (a)	National counterpart	Indicative breakdown of the national counterpart		Total funding	Co-financing rate	For information	
	(Total eligible cost)		(b) = (c) + (d)			(e) = (a) + (b)	(f) = (a)/(e) (2)		
				National Public funding (c)	National private funding (d) (1)			Contributions from third countries	EIB contributions
<i>Priority axis 1 - Employment promotion and services for an inclusive growth</i>	18,188,970	15,460,624	2,728,346	2,364,566	363,780	18,188,970	85.00%		
<i>Priority axis 2 - Environmental protection and risk management</i>	21,150,000	17,977,500	3,172,500	2,749,500	423,000	21,150,000	85.00%		
<i>Priority axis 3 - Sustainable mobility and accessibility</i>	21,150,000	17,977,500	3,172,500	2,749,500	423,000	21,150,000	85.00%		
<i>Priority axis 4 - Attractiveness for sustainable tourism</i>	18,823,530	16,000,000	2,823,530	2,447,058	376,472	18,823,530	85.00%		

<i>Priority axis 5</i>	8,812,499	7,490,624	1,321,875	1,321,875	0	8,812,499	85.00%		
Total	88,124,999	74,906,248	13,218,751	11,632,499	1,586,252	88,124,999	85.00%		

(1) To be completed only when priority axes are expressed in total costs.

(2) This rate may be rounded to the nearest whole number in the table. The precise rate used to reimburse payments is the ratio (f).

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

Not applicable.

Table 4

Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention (Article 112(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013) (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)

Dimension 1 Intervention field

Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
Priority axis 1 - Employment promotion and services for an inclusive growth	102 Access to employment for job-seekers and inactive people, including the long-term unemployed and people far from the labour market, also through local employment initiatives and support for labour mobility	3,865,000
	053 Health Infrastructures	7,730,624
	109 Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability	1,546,000
	116 Improving the quality and efficiency of, and access to, tertiary and equivalent education with a view to increasing participation and attainment levels, especially for disadvantaged groups	1,546,000
	113 Promoting social entrepreneurship and vocational integration in social enterprises and the social and solidarity economy in order to facilitate access to employment	773,000
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)

Priority axis 2 - Environmental protection and risk management	085 Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, nature protection and green infrastructure	5,393,500
	087 Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks e.g. erosion, fires, flooding, storms and drought, including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems and infrastructures	5,393,000
	088 Risk prevention and management of non-climate related risks	7,191,000
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
Priority axis 3 - Sustainable mobility and accessibility	021 Water management and drinking water conservation (including river basin management, water supply, specific climate change adaptation measures, district and consumer metering, charging systems and leak reduction)	2,697,000
	022 Waste water treatment	2,696,600
	041 Inland waterways and ports	7,191,000
	044 Intelligent transport systems (including the introduction of demand management, tolling systems, IT monitoring, control and information systems)	4,494,000
	048 ICT: Other types of ICT infrastructure/large-scale computer resources/equipment (including e-infrastructure, data centres and sensors; also where embedded in other infrastructure such as research facilities, environmental and social infrastructure)	898,900

Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
Priority axis 4 - Attractiveness for sustainable tourism	091 Development and promotion of the tourism potential of natural areas	3,200,000
	092 Protection, development and promotion of public tourism assets	4,800,000
	093 Development and promotion of public tourism services	3,200,000
	094 Protection, development and promotion of public cultural and heritage assets	4,800,000
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
PA 5 - Technical assistance	120 (Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection)	5,618,000
	121 (Evaluation and studies)	749,000
	122 (Information and communication)	1,123,624

Table 5: Dimension 2 Form of finance

Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
Priority 1 Priority 2 Priority 3 Priority 4 Priority 5	01 Non Repayable grant	74,906,248

Table 6: Dimension 3 Territory type

Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
Priority 1 Priority 2 Priority 3 Priority 4	07 Not applicable	74,906,248

Priority 5		
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Table 7: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
Priority 1 Priority 2 Priority 3 Priority 4 Priority 5	07 Not applicable	74,906,248

Table 8

Cumulative cost of all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme are

Not applicable for 2015.

1	2	3	4	5
	The amount of ERDF support ⁽⁴⁾ envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations (EUR)	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)	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 (EUR)	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)
All or part of an operation outside the Union part of the	0	0	0	0

programme area (5)				
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4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Synthesis of the findings of all evaluations of the programme that have become available during the previous financial year, including the name and reference period of the evaluation reports used.

The only Programme evaluation Romania-Republic of Serbia IPA CBC Programme undergone was the ex-ante and SEA evaluation implemented during September 2013 and March 2015.

Synthesis of the findings and recommendations:

The Romania-Serbia IPA CBC Programme 2014-20 was considered as well developed and coherent, while being consistent with key strategic directions and regulatory provisions of the EC. The identified needs and challenges of the area targeted by the Cross-border Programme have been reflected in the selected Specific objectives and foreseen measures, maximizing the way in which the limited funding envelope available for such a Programme can be used. Horizontal principles are addressed throughout the Programme Strategy and developed in a separate section.

In order to measure the potential impact that might have the proposed interventions of the Romania - Serbia IPA CBC Programme on the environment an independent strategic environmental assessment report was provided focused on maximising the environmental benefits and reducing potential risks.

Considering the specificities of the programme, the appraisals performed through the ex-ante evaluation revealed the areas of improvement during the Programming Phase, under each major theme. These recommendations were implemented by the Programme Authorities, during subsequent versions of the Programming Document. In addition, the ex-ante evaluation has identified various topics which should be addressed by the Programme Authorities during the implementation of the Programme.

The status of final recommendations is presented below:

Recommendations	Status of implementation
Appraisal of the chosen output and result indicators with regard to their relevance to the Programme Priority axes	
R1. Improve the system of indicators as recommended in Annex 12.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
R2. It is strongly recommended to have "indicator fiches" developed for each indicator, in line with the ones used for national programmes in Romania, to have clear information on data collection methodology needed for these indicators	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
R3. If the hard investments envisaged under PA 2 have a significant budget, a related output indicator should be developed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

R4.	It should be clear in which framework the needed surveys for data collection will be carried out and adequate funding should be made available for these activities (at least three rounds of surveying).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Appraisal of the consistency of the allocation of budgetary resources with the objectives of the Programme		
R5.	Since a substantial share of the priority budget shall be implemented through strategic projects, appropriate measures should be already envisaged, and included in the Programming Document as to ensure the successful implementation of these projects.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Integration of the results of the SEA summarizing the SEA process and outlining how it was taken into account in the programme design		
R6.	Consider adding a new output indicator for PA 1: <i>Joint cross border actions targeting smart (green) growth opportunities</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
R7.	Consider inclusion of new specific output indicator for PA 3: <i>Joint initiatives on improvements of public transport and intermodal connections</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
R8.	Ensure that result Indicator PA4.RI1 covers also eco/agro tourism since it is an emerging sector within tourism industry that should be monitored for possible future support in the post 2020 programming period	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Examination of horizontal aspects relevant for the IPA Programme (e.g. adequacy of the planned measures to promote equal opportunities)		
R9.	The Programmer may clarify what additional provisions are planned to mainstream the principles in implementation (if any) despite those already indicated.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
R10.	Having regards the scope of the Programme it is recommended not to launch calls for a specific disadvantaged groups. However, an explanation of not launching targeted calls should be provided in Section 6.2 and 6.3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
R11.	An overview of the management structure involved in the Programme's lifecycle should be provide by making reference to the tasks and composition of the involved bodies (e.g. Working groups on disadvantaged groups or sustainable development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<p>R12. In order to respect the partnership principle, Section 6.1 focusing on sustainable development could make reference to the stakeholders involved in SEA Working Group and Sections 6.2 and 6.3 could make reference to other actors which were involved or will be involved in the following phases like NGOs in the field of equal opportunities and gender equality or the National Council for Combating Discrimination.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Appraisal of the management capacity	
<p>R13. The Programme should assign a Certifying Authority, or to further detail the relevant provisions if its functions will be fulfilled by the Managing Authority. Additionally, more information regarding the functions of the JTS and the MA should be included in Section 5.4.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN
(article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)
Not applicable.

6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (Article 50(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Annex 2.

7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (Article 46 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Not applicable.

8. WHERE APPROPRIATE, 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

Not applicable.

8.2. Joint action plans

Not applicable.