



**ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT**

**2016**

## IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

CCI	2014TC1615CB002
Title	Interreg - IPA CBC Romania - Serbia
Version	1
Reporting year	2016
Date of approval of the report by the joint monitoring committee	27.06.2017

### 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 second annual implementation report for the **Interreg - IPA CBC Romania - Serbia Programme** and covers **2016 financial year**.

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/ 06.08.2015**.

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*.

During the period March 7<sup>th</sup> - May 6<sup>th</sup> 2016 a compliance assessment audit of the management and control system for the Programme, with the designation criteria set in Annex XIII to Regulation (EC) 1303/2013, has been carried out by the Audit Authority. As a result of this assessment, a report and an unqualified opinion have been issued by the Audit Authority on July 17<sup>th</sup> 2016

#### Call for strategic project proposals

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 the submission of projects was 1.02.2016 respectively 15.03.2016 for strategic projects.

Within the **Call for strategic project proposals** a number of **17 strategic projects proposals** have been submitted, out of which **one** has been submitted after the deadline set in the Applicant's Guide.

From the 17 projects proposals, 8 strategic projects proposals have been submitted within the deadline for **Priority Axis 1 - *Employment promotion and basic services strengthening for an inclusive growth***, 4 strategic projects proposals have been submitted for **Priority Axis 2 - *Environmental protection and risk management***, 3 strategic projects proposals have been submitted for **Priority Axis 3 - *Sustainable mobility and accessibility*** and 2 strategic projects proposals have been submitted for **Priority Axis 4 - *Attractiveness for sustainable tourism***.

The assessment of the strategic projects has consisted of two stages:

1. Administrative compliance and eligibility check
2. Technical and financial evaluation and state aid assessment

Following the administrative compliance and eligibility check:

- **Priority Axis 1:** 3 strategic projects proposals have been declared accepted and 5 strategic projects proposals were rejected;
- **Priority Axis 2:** 2 strategic projects proposals have been declared accepted and 2 strategic projects proposals were rejected;
- **Priority Axis 3:** all three strategic projects proposals have been declared accepted;
- **Priority Axis 4:** one strategic project proposal has been declared accepted and one strategic project proposal was rejected.

After the technical and financial evaluation and state aid assessment, 3 strategic projects proposals have been declared accepted, **one project proposal** for Priority Axis 1 and **2 projects proposal** for Priority Axis 3 and 6 strategic projects proposals were rejected.

Following the finalisation of the evaluation process, the strategic projects proposals were selected through JMC Decision no.43 by the Joint Monitoring Committee of the Programme on **5<sup>th</sup> of October 2016** in Timisoara, Romania.

In accordance with the scores received during the technical and financial evaluation and the available financial allocations, 2 strategic projects were proposed for financing for Priority Axis 3. The other strategic project for Priority Axis 1 that passed the evaluation was included on the reserve list.

### **First call for proposals**

For the **First call for proposals** a number of **194** projects proposals have been submitted, out of which **8** have been submitted after the deadline set in the Applicant's Guide.

The **194 projects proposals**, requesting 149.445.445,52 Euro (IPA), were split on the four priority axes as follows:

- **98** application forms have been submitted for **Priority Axis 1 - *Employment promotion and basic services strengthening for an inclusive growth***, requesting for 71.195.186,31 Euro (IPA);
- **46** application forms have been submitted for **Priority Axis 2 - *Environmental protection and risk management*** requesting for 40.039.154,32 Euro (IPA),
- **9** application forms have been submitted for **Priority Axis 3 - *Sustainable mobility and accessibility*** requesting for 14.605.236,52 Euro (IPA)
- **41** application forms have been submitted for **Priority Axis 4 - *Attractiveness for sustainable tourism***, requesting for 23.605.868,37 Euro (IPA)

The assessment of the projects has consisted of two stages:

1. Administrative compliance and eligibility check
2. Technical and financial evaluation and state aid assessment

For **Priority Axis 1**, following the Administrative compliance and eligibility check, 77 projects have been declared accepted and 21 projects have been rejected. For the second

assessment step, 31 projects were rejected during the technical and financial evaluation and 2 projects were rejected during state aid incidence assessment. After the finalisation of the evaluation process, a total of 44 projects, requesting 32.407.266,06 Euro IPA have been declared accepted.

For **Priority Axis 2**, following the Administrative compliance and eligibility check, 33 projects have been declared accepted and 13 projects have been rejected. For the second assessment step, 7 projects were rejected during the technical and financial evaluation. After the finalisation of the evaluation process, a total of 26 projects, requesting 23.640.108,58 Euro IPA have been declared accepted.

For **Priority Axis 3**, following the Administrative compliance and eligibility check, 8 projects have been declared accepted and one project has been rejected. For the second assessment step, 3 projects were rejected during the technical and financial evaluation. After the finalisation of the evaluation process, a total of 5 projects, requesting 8.529.695,49 Euro IPA have been declared accepted.

For **Priority Axis 4**, following the Administrative compliance and eligibility check, 33 projects have been declared accepted and 8 projects have been rejected. For the second assessment step, 10 projects were rejected during the technical and financial evaluation and 1 project was rejected during state aid incidence assessment. After the finalisation of the evaluation process, a total of 22 projects, requesting 12.784.629,69 Euro IPA have been declared accepted.

After the finalisation of the evaluation process, **97 project proposals** have been declared accepted, **44 project proposal** for Priority Axis 1, **26 project proposal** for Priority Axis 2, **5 project proposal** for Priority Axis 3 and **22 project proposal** for Priority Axis 4.

Following the finalisation of the evaluation process, the projects proposals were selected by the Joint Monitoring Committee of the Programme on **13<sup>th</sup> of December 2016** in Kikinda, Republic of Serbia through JMC Decision no.47.

In accordance with the scores received during the technical and financial evaluation and the available financial allocations, 32 projects proposals were proposed for financing and 65 projects proposals were included on the reserve list, as follows:

- for Priority Axis 1, **11** projects proposals were proposed for financing (requesting 6.197.819,51 Euro IPA) and 330 projects proposals were included on the reserve list;
- for Priority Axis 2, **6** projects proposals were proposed for financing (requesting 5.920.774,02 Euro IPA) and 20 projects proposals were included on the reserve list;
- for Priority Axis 3, **4** projects proposals were proposed for financing (requesting 6.944.145,15 Euro IPA) and 1 project proposal was included on the reserve list;
- for Priority Axis 4, **11** projects proposals were proposed for financing (requesting 6.191.927,94 Euro IPA) and 11 projects proposals were included on the reserve list.

After the approval of the projects selected for financing both for the first call for proposals and for the call for strategic projects proposals, the Joint Secretariat will start the pre-contracting process in accordance with the provisions of the evaluation, selection and contracting procedure. During the pre-contracting process, the JS will perform on-site visits to the beneficiaries, verify and correct the project budgets and documents and prepare and send the contracting documentation to the Managing Authority for check and approval.

### **Joint Monitoring Committee**

The Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) supervises the implementation of the Programme.

In fulfilling its role, the JMC shall have the following task:

- (1) Strategic - with long-term strategic implications on programme implementation

- (2) Financial - with impact on the programme budget (allocations, re-allocations, use of funds)
- (3) Regulatory - establishing rules for programme implementation
- (4) Formal - mainly examination of reports and other information sources, other current decisions regarding programme implementation

The JMC takes decisions during its meetings or through written procedures. During 2016, JMC met twice, mainly for the selection of the projects to be financed under the first call for proposals and call for strategic projects.

**I. Second meeting of the Joint Monitoring Committee for the Romania-Serbia Interreg - IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme, 05.10.2016, Timisoara, Romania**

The **Agenda** for the second JMC meeting:

- 1. Strategic projects selection (Decision)
- 2. E-Cohesion Progress Report
- 3. One page summary of the Final Implementation Report
- 4. Final conferences of Romania- Republic of Serbia IPA CBC Programme
- 5. Activity report of the JS

During the 2nd meeting, the Joint Monitoring Committee adopted the following decision:

- 1. DECISION no. 43 of 05.10.2016 approving the projects to be financed under the first call for strategic project proposals and the project to be placed on the reserve list.

***Second JMC Meeting, 05.10.2016, Timisoara, Romania***



**II. Third meeting of the Joint Monitoring Committee for the Romania-Serbia Interreg - IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme, 13.12.2016, Kikinda, Republic of Serbia**

The **Agenda** for the third JMC meeting:

- 1. Revised Rules of Procedure of the JMC (Decision)
- 2. Selection of projects (Decision)
- 3. Revised Communication Strategy (Decision)

4. Revised TA Strategy - Annexes: Communication Plan, NA Financing request, MA Financing request, MA TA budget (Decision)
5. Annual information regarding the progress of Communication Strategy and planned activities for next year for JMC members (JS presentation);
6. Information on the status of pre-contracting process of the strategic projects (JS presentation);

During the 3rd meeting, the Joint Monitoring Committee adopted the following decisions:

1. DECISION no. 46 of 13.12.2016 approving the revised Rules of Procedure of the Joint Monitoring Committee of the Interreg-IPA CBC Romania-Serbia Programme.
2. DECISION no. 47 of 13.12.2016 approving the projects to be financed under the first call for projects proposals and the projects to be placed on the reserve list.
3. DECISION no. 48 of 13.12.2016 approving the Communication Strategy of the Interreg-IPA CBC Romania-Serbia Programme, revision 1.
4. DECISION no. 49 of 13.12.2016 approving the 5th revision of the Multi-Annual TA Strategy 2014-2020 for Interreg-IPA CBC Romania-Serbia



*Third JMC Meeting, 13.12.2016, Kikinda, Republic of Serbia*

### III. JMC Written Procedures

In 2016, JMC had 21 written procedures:

1. Decision no 24/ 01.02.2016 approving the 2nd revision of Multi-Annual TA Strategy 2014-2020 for Interreg-IPA CBC Romania-Serbia Programme
2. Decision no 25/ 01.02.2016 approving the Evaluation, Selection and Contracting Procedure for the Interreg-IPA CBC Romania-Serbia Programme
3. Decision no 26/ 04.02.2016 approving the Visual Identity Manual for the Interreg-IPA CBC Romania-Serbia Programme
4. Decision no 27/ 15.02.2016 approving the Terms of Reference for the contracting of external assessors for the technical and financial evaluation and state aid incidence assessment of the project proposals submitted for the first call of proposals and for the call for proposals for strategic projects, INTERREG-IPA CBC Romania-Serbia Programme
5. Decision no 28/ 15.02.2016 approving the Approval of projects to be financed from the reserve list of the second call for proposals within Romania-Republic of Serbia IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme (fifth set of projects): 1283, 1341
6. Decision no 29/ 29.03.2016 approving the Public Procurement Procedures for Beneficiaries on INTERREG IPA CBC Romania-Serbia Programme
7. Decision no 30/ 04.04.2016 approving the Description of Management and Control System for Interreg-IPA CBC Romania-Serbia, revised version March 2016
8. Decision no 31/ 12.04.2016 approving the Evaluation Plan for Interreg-IPA CBC Romania-Serbia Programme
9. Decision no 32/ 15.04.2016 approving the First Level Control Guide for Interreg-IPA CBC Romania-Serbia Programme
10. Decision no 33/ 21.04.2016 approving the Anti-Fraud Strategy for Interreg-IPA CBC Romania-Serbia Programme
11. Decision no 34/ 23.05.2016 approving the Description of Management and Control System for Interreg-IPA CBC Romania-Serbia, revised version May 2016
12. Decision no 35/ 31.05.2016 approving the Annual Implementation Report 2014-2015 for the Interreg-IPA CBC Romania-Serbia Programme
13. Decision no 36/ 09.06.2016 approving the Addendum no. 2 to the subsidy contract no. 99295/04.12.2013 and Co-financing contracts 99296/04.12.2013 and 99297/04.12.2013;
14. Decision no 37/ 17.06.2016 approving the Annual Implementation Report 2015 for the Romania - Republic of Serbia IPA Cross - Border Cooperation Programme
15. Decision no 38/ 28.06.2016 approving the Description of Management and Control System for Interreg-IPA CBC Romania-Serbia, revised version June 2016
16. Decision no 39/ 13.07.2016 approving the 3rd revision of the Multi-Annual TA Strategy 2014-2020 for Interreg-IPA CBC Romania-Serbia
17. Decision no 40/ 28.07.2016 approving the 4th revision of the Multi-Annual TA Strategy 2014-2020 for Interreg-IPA CBC Romania-Serbia
18. Decision no 41/ 16.08.2016 approving the Addendum no. 1 to the Subsidy contract no. 32260/30.03.2016 and Co-financing Contract no. 32262/30.03.2016 for project MIS ETC 1283
19. Decision no 42/ 17.08.2016 approving the First revision of the Annual Implementation Report 2014-2015 for Interreg IPA CBC Romania-Serbia Programme
20. Decision no 44/ 19.10.2016 approving the The Public Procurement Procedures for Beneficiaries on Interreg IPA CBC Romania-Serbia Programme, revision no 1
21. Decision no 45/ 01.11.2016 approving the Subsidy Contract template and annexes for Interreg-IPA CBC Romania-Serbia Programme

## European Cooperation Day 2016 in Drobeta Turnu Severin, Romania, 21-23.10.2016

The European Cooperation day is organized yearly, beginning with 2012 by the Joint Secretariat within the Regional Office for Cross-border Cooperation Timisoara in partnership with the Managing Authority (M.R.D.P.A.E.F. from Romania) and the National Authority (S.E.I.O. from Serbia), for the promotion of results obtained under Romania-Republic of Serbia IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme (2007-2013) and the new operational programme **Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Romania-Serbia Programme (2014-2020)**.

The event falls within the communication initiative conducted in all EU countries and neighbouring countries, benefiting from territorial cooperation programmes to promote cooperation between local communities in the border areas.

Regional Office for Cross-border Cooperation Timisoara, with the support of Drobeta-Turnu Severin City Hall and Mehedinti County Council, organized the 2016 European Cooperation Day. The fifth anniversary of the European Cooperation Day organized in Dr.Tr. Severin between 21 and 23 September 2016 proposed to the citizens from the Romanian-Serbian cross-border area 3 different events to discover what cross-border cooperation means.

During the first day, Programme representatives, local and regional public authorities, beneficiaries and journalists, joined a **conference** to celebrate the Romanian - Serbian cross-border cooperation and the fifth anniversary of European Cooperation Day. We presented the positive experiences gained between 2012 and 2015 organizing these celebration events in Timișoara (2012), Vrșac (2013), Reșița (2014) and Veliko Gradište (2015). Also, the discussion focused on the results of the Romanian - Serbian cross-border cooperation projects. The event was held on 21 September 2016, in “Virgil Ogasanu” Hall within the Palace of Culture “Theodor Costescu” from Drobeta Turnu Severin.

On the second day, we invited the citizens to discover projects, people, ideas, stories, cross-border challenges and, last but not least, the results of forty Romanian-Serbian cross-border projects implemented under the Romania-Republic of Serbia IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme through a photo journey. This photo exhibition called “Together we grow” showed interesting stories about people who live along the border. Some of them are doctors, researchers or students, other people fight to improve the environment or to give a better life to children. They come from both countries and their stories were discovered in the **photo exhibition** opened for four days between the 22nd and the 25th of September in the Palace of Culture “Theodor Costescu” from Drobeta Turnu Severin.

On the third day, we invited cross-border citizens to join a concert which brought on stage beautiful music from Romania and Serbia. On 23 September 2016, in Crihala Park from Drobeta Turnu Severin we organized a **music concert** with Vrelo band from Serbia, Pragu de Sus band from Romania and some artistic moments offered by the Children`s Palace from Drobeta Turnu Severin.

The various events offered to approximately **500 participants** the possibility to celebrate the success of cross-border cooperation between Romania and Serbia financed through EU funds.

In order to promote the European Cooperation Day, the Joint Secretariat organized a communication campaign in social media using Facebook. According with Facebook insights, within this campaign more than 3000 individuals saw the advertisement message regarding the event.



**INSIGHTS**

**3.8k Reached**   
+0 this week

**317 Viewed**   
+0 this week

**66 Responded**   
+0 this week

Since 08/09/2016 **See More**

#ECDay

**Interreg - IPA CBC**

România - Serbia

**Ziua Cooperării Europene**

**DROBETA TURNU SEVERIN**

**ZIUA COOPERĂRII EUROPENE**  
*La granițe, ne dezvoltăm împreună*

21.09.2016: Conferință Palatul Cultural Th. Costescu

SEPT 21

**Ziua Cooperării Europene** 16:00

22.09.2016: Concert

23.09.2016: Concert

**PRAGU' DE SUS**

**VRELO VRELO**

Public · Hosted by Interreg IPA CBC Romania-Serbia Programme ✓ Going ▾ | ✉ Invite | ✎ Edit | ⋮

**21 September - 23 September**  
21 September at 16:00 to 23 September at 22:30

**Parcul de Agrement Crihala**

**About**

Discussion

Write Post | Add Photo/Video | Create Poll

Write something...

**Details**

In 2016, Ziua Cooperării Europene va aduce o sărbătoare de 3 zile la Drobeta-Turnu Severin.

21.09.2016: În prima zi, reprezentanții ai Programului, autorități publice, beneficiari și jurnaliști se vor întâlni în cadrul unei conferințe pentru a sărbători cooperarea româno-sârbă și cea de a cincea aniversare a Zilei Cooperării Europene.

22.09.2016: În cea de a doua zi, vă invităm să descoperiți proiectele,

**EVENT TIPS** Next tip

**Create new event**

Have another event by Interreg IPA CBC Romania-Serbi... coming up? Create an event to let people know about it.

**Create**

Dana, Ilie and 15 other friends went

29  
interested

29  
went

972  
shared with

**INSIGHTS**

**3.8k Reached**   
+0 this week

The communication campaign targeted to inform the citizens from the eligible area of the Programme about organizing the 2016 European Cooperation Day.

In order to do this, the JS elaborated a promotional campaign that included:

- ❖ personalising, printing and distributing in the eligible area of *Romania* and *Serbia* of **1000 double-sided coloured leaflets**,



- ❖ personalising, printing and distributing in the eligible area of *Romania* and *Serbia* of **50 coloured posters, A3 size**.

Interreg - IPA CBC  
România - Serbia

together we grow

ZIUA COOPERĂRII EUROPENE  
La granițe, ne dezvoltăm împreună

# Ziua Cooperării Europene

**Vernisaj fotografie**      **Muzică live**

Expoziție fotografică de prezentare a proiectelor implementate în cadrul Programului IPA de Cooperare Transfrontalieră România - Republica Serbia.

**PRAGU' DE SUS**      **VRELO ВРЕЛО**

**22.09.2016:** Parcul Prefecturii - ora 16.00      **23.09.2016:** Pădurea Crihala - ora 19.30

## **DROBETA-TURNU SEVERIN**

Dan Evropske Saradnje      European Cooperation Day

**ROMÂNIA**      **SERBIA**

Zajedno      Заједно      Србија      Together

Împreună      Румунија      Rumunija

**Ziua Cooperării Europene**

2012      5 ani      2016

SĂRBĂTORIM ÎMPREUNĂ  
Ziua Cooperării Europene

PRIMĂRIA DROBETA-TURNU SEVERIN      Consiliul Județean Mehedinți

Republica Serbia      GUVERNUL ROMÂNIEI      MINISTERUL DEZVOLTĂRII REGIONALE ȘI ADMINISTRAȚIEI PUBLICE

Interreg - IPA CBC România - Serbia este finanțat de Uniunea Europeană prin Programul de Cooperare Transfrontalieră IPA de Cooperare Transfrontalieră România - Serbia (IPA CBC ROM-SR) în cadrul Programului de Cooperare Transfrontalieră Interreg România - Serbia 2014-2020. Pentru mai multe informații despre proiecte și activități, vizitați site-ul www.romania-serbia.net

- ❖ personalising and printing 2 coloured roll-ups promoting the Interreg-IPA CBC Romania-Serbia Programme,

**Interreg - IPA CBC**   
**Romania - Serbia**





**Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Romania-Serbia Programme**

-  **Priority Axis 1:**  
Employment promotion and basic services strengthening for an inclusive growth
-  **Priority Axis 2:**  
Environmental protection and risk management
-  **Priority Axis 3:**  
Sustainable mobility and accessibility
-  **Priority axis 4:**  
Attractiveness for sustainable tourism

**Cooperation beyond borders.**

Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Romania-Serbia Programme is financed by the European Union under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) and co-financed by the partner states in the Programme.

Programme implementator: Institutul Național de Dezvoltare Regională (INDR) - Institutul Național de Dezvoltare Regională și Cooperare Transfrontaliară (INDR-ITC) - Institutul Național de Dezvoltare Regională și Cooperare Transfrontaliară (INDR-ITC) - Institutul Național de Dezvoltare Regională și Cooperare Transfrontaliară (INDR-ITC) - Institutul Național de Dezvoltare Regională și Cooperare Transfrontaliară (INDR-ITC)

[www.romania-serbia.net](http://www.romania-serbia.net)

❖ personalising of 80 coloured T-shirts;



❖ media coverage for the European Cooperation Day Event.

Interreg - IPA CBC   
România - Serbia

**Ziua Cooperării Europene**

#ECDay

ZIUA COOPERĂRII EUROPENE  
La granițe, ne dezvoltăm împreună

**DROBETA TURNU SEVERIN**

21.09.2016: Conferință      Palatul Cultural Th. Costescu  
22.09.2016: Vernisaj fotografie      Parcul Prefecturii 16:00  
23.09.2016: Concert      Pădurea Crihala 19:30

**PRAGU' DE SUS**

**VRELO BRELO**

### **Human resources at the level of RO CBC Timisoara**

By the end of 2016, RO CBC Timisoara employed a number of 29 people for the implementation of the Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Romania-Serbia Programme, formed by:

- Joint Secretariat staff: 13
- First Level Control staff: 8
- Support staff: 8

RO CBC Timisoara regards highly the management and the development of its staff, the employees are considered to be the most valuable resource in achieving the performance objectives established in order to efficiently manage the Programme.

Throughout the year, a number of 28 employees were provided with 8 training sessions that covered both hard and soft skills, with subjects ranging from multimedia tools in communication to public procurement and audit.

To ensure the coverage of attributions required to implement the Programme at RO CBC Timisoara level, a number of 9 recruitment competitions were launched in 2016. RO CBC Timisoara succeeded in employing 4 people to fill in the positions of:

- Project manager Consultant RS (JS) - 2
- Controller TM (FLC) - 1
- Accountant (support staff) - 1

In order to properly carry out activities under the implementation of the Framework Agreement concluded between the RO CBC Timisoara and the Managing Authority, the newly hired personnel in the office went through the induction period, an internal training system meant to familiarize them with the procedures, the institutional objectives and what is required of them to do for the Programme.

## **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.

During the period March 7<sup>th</sup> - May 6<sup>th</sup> 2016 a compliance assessment audit of the management and control system for the Programme, with the designation criteria set in Annex XIII to Regulation (EC) 1303/2013, has been carried out by the Audit Authority. As a result of this assessment, a report and an unqualified opinion have been issued by the Audit Authority on July 17<sup>th</sup> 2016.

## **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.

During 2016, the eMS has been fully operational in the production environment and configured for the INTERREG IPA CBC Romania-Serbia Programme.

Having in mind the fact that two Calls for project proposals have been launched in 2015 and ended at the beginning of 2016, the data regarding these calls, project proposals received and evaluation process has started to be inserted in the eMS, in order to have the project implementation performed through the electronic system.

## **Technical Assistance Priority Axis implementation**

During 2016, the Multi-Annual Technical Assistance Strategy was modified and approved as follows:

1. JMC Decision no 24/ 01.02.2016;
2. JMC Decision no 39/ 13.07.2016;
3. JMC Decision no 40/ 28.07.2016;
4. JMC Decision no. 49/ 13.12.2016.

One financing contract was signed between the Managing Authority and the National Authority, for the implementation on TA activities.

Following the modification of the Multi-Annual Technical Assistance Strategy, the Global Financing Decision of the MA and the financing contract with ROCBC Timișoara (concluded in 2015) were modified through addenda.

In 2016, three reimbursement requests were submitted to the Managing Authority, with a total of 590.558,35 euro.

### 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 problems <sup>1</sup>
	<p><b>Priority Axis 1 (TP a) Employment promotion and services for an inclusive growth</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ During the first call for proposals 194 projects proposals have been submitted, out of which 98 projects proposals have been submitted for Priority Axis 1.</li> <li>▪ After the finalisation of the evaluation process, 97 projects proposals have been declared accepted, out of which 44 project proposal for Priority Axis 1.</li> <li>▪ Following the JMC meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2016, 11 project proposals from Priority Axis 1 requesting 6.376.691,30 Euro (IPA funds) were selected for financing and 33 were selected on the reserve list.</li> <li>▪ During the first call for proposals for strategic projects 17 strategic projects proposals have been submitted, out of which 8 strategic projects proposals have been submitted for Priority Axis 1.</li> <li>▪ After the JMC meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2016, 1 strategic project proposal from Priority Axis 1 requesting 11.345.506, 68 Euro (IPA funds) was considered approved and placed on the reserve list.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Priority Axis 2 (TP b): Environmental protection and risk management</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ During the first call for proposals 194 projects proposals have been submitted, out of which 46 projects proposals have been submitted for Priority Axis 2.</li> <li>▪ After the finalisation of the evaluation process, 97 projects proposals have been declared accepted, out of which 26 project proposal for Priority Axis 2.</li> <li>▪ Following the JMC meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2016, 6 project proposals from Priority Axis 2 requesting 5.920.774,02 Euro (IPA funds) were selected for financing and 20 were selected on the reserve list.</li> </ul> <p>During the first call for proposals for strategic projects 17 strategic projects proposals have been submitted, out of which 4 strategic projects proposals have been submitted for Priority Axis 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All strategic projects proposals were rejected after technical and financial evaluation and state aid assessment.</li> </ul>

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



	<p><b>Priority Axis 3 (TP c): Sustainable mobility and accessibility</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ During the first call for proposals 194 projects proposals have been submitted, out of which 9 projects proposals have been submitted for Priority Axis 3.</li> <li>▪ After the finalisation of the evaluation process, 97 projects proposals have been declared accepted, out of which 5 project proposal for Priority Axis 3.</li> <li>▪ Following the JMC meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2016, 4 project proposals from Priority Axis 3 requesting 6.944.145,15 Euro (IPA funds) were selected for financing and 1 was selected on the reserve list.</li> </ul> <p>During the first call for proposals for strategic projects 17 strategic projects proposals have been submitted, out of which 3 strategic projects proposals have been submitted for Priority Axis 3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ During the JMC meeting held on 5th of October 2016, 2 strategic project proposal from Priority Axis 3 requesting 21 mil. Euro (IPA funds) were selected for financing.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Priority Axis 4 (TP d) Attractiveness for sustainable tourism</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ During the first call for proposals 194 projects proposals have been submitted, out of which 41 projects proposals have been submitted for Priority Axis 4.</li> <li>▪ After the finalisation of the evaluation process, 97 projects proposals have been declared accepted, out of which 22 project proposal for Priority Axis 4.</li> <li>▪ Following the JMC meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2016, 11 project proposals from Priority Axis 4 requesting 6.191.927,94 Euro (IPA funds) were selected for financing and 11 were selected on the reserve list.</li> <li>▪ During the first call for proposals for strategic projects 17 strategic projects proposals have been submitted, out of which 2 strategic projects proposals have been submitted for Priority Axis 4.</li> <li>▪ All strategic projects proposals were rejected after technical and financial evaluation and state aid assessment.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Priority Axis 5: technical assistance</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Multiannual Technical Assistance Strategy was modified;</li> <li>▪ Global Financing Decision for MA covering 2015-2018 was modified;</li> <li>▪ Financing contract with ROCBC TM was modified;</li> <li>▪ Financing contract with NA was signed;</li> <li>▪ 3 reimbursement requests, with a total of 590.558,35 euro, were submitted.</li> </ul>

### 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) <sup>2</sup>	2014	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
<b>Priority Axis 1</b>																
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 - RI2	Population experiencing access to improved basic services in health care and education.	Ranking on qualitative scale (1-7)	3.28	2015	4.92											Frequency of reporting: 2017/2018 2020/2021 2023

<sup>2</sup> Target values may be qualitative or quantitative.

	Innovative, high quality services permanently created and available in marginal areas, preventive care, cultural activities and services, sport activities.															
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
<b>Priority Axis 2</b>																
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 of protection actions.	Qualitative indicator on Ordinal scale value (1 -7)	4.09	2015	5.31											Frequency of reporting: 2017/2018 2020/2021 2023
PA2 -RI2	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 -RI3	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
<b>Priority Axis 3</b>																		
PA3 -RI1	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

<b>PA3 - RI2</b>	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
<b>PA3 -RI3</b>	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
<b>Priority Axis 4</b>																	
<b>PA4 -RI1</b>	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
<b>PA4 -RI2</b>	Nights spent by tourists in the eligible area. Time spent by tourists in the cross border area, for	Units	1.600.000	2012	1.920.000												Frequency of reporting: 2017/2018 2020/2021 2023

	all types of touristic activities															
PA4-RI3	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 measured referring to current and past cross border activities : 17	2015	24.6											Frequency of reporting: 2017/2018 2020/2021 2023
<b>Priority axis Technical Assistance</b>																
PA5 RI 1	Effective absorption of funds Certified expenditures on planned allocation by the deadlines established	Ratio Percentage %	0	2015	80%	0	0	0								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 <sup>3</sup> (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 <sup>4</sup>	0	0	0									Frequency of reporting: Annual
	PA1.OI2	Cross border cooperation structures supported in the field of labour market.	Units	at least 20	0	0	0									Frequency of reporting: Annual
	PA1.OI3	Investment in health care and social services infrastructure .	Units	at least 5	0	0	0									Frequency of reporting: Annual
	PA1 OI4	Disadvantaged persons involved in	Units	at least 2000	0	0	0									Frequency of reporting: Annual

<sup>3</sup> Targets are optional for technical assistance priority axes.

<sup>4</sup> 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	0	0	0								Frequency of reporting: Annual
	PA10I6	Joint actions targeting smart (green) growth opportunities	Units	At least 10	0	0	0								Frequency of reporting: Annual
	COI_1	Population covered by improved health services	Persons	10.000	0	0	0								Frequency of reporting: Annual
	COI_2	Number of participants in projects promoting gender	Persons	2.000	0	0	0								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 <sup>5</sup>	0	0	0								
	PA2.OI2	Participants to project initiatives and events for information and awareness rising	Units (No)	at least 5.000	0	0	0								Frequency of reporting: Annual
	PA2.OI3	Studies in the field of environmental protection and emergency management.	Units	at least 5	0	0	0								Frequency of reporting: Annual

<sup>5</sup> To be defined after final decision on financial allocations

		(technical and scientific studies, researches in the relevant fields)													
	PA2.OI4	Participants to capacity building initiatives	units (No)	at least 200	0	0	0								Frequency of reporting: Annual
	PA2.OI5	Monitoring systems established/ extended/ modernized in the eligible area in the field of environmental protection and emergency management.	Units	at least 3	0	0	0								Frequency of reporting: Annual
	COI_3	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	Persons	50.000	0	0	0								Frequency of reporting: Annual
<b>Priority Axis 3</b>	PA2.OI1	Cross border cooperation structures supported in the field of transport and	Units (No)	10	0	0	0								Frequency of reporting: Annual

		public 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	0	0	0								Frequency of reporting: Annual
	PA3.OI3	Investments in transport and utilities infrastructure , including improvement, enhancement of existing infrastructure	Units (No)	7	0	0	0								Frequency of reporting: Annual
	PA3.OI4	Participants to information/ training/ awareness raising initiatives in the field of transport and	Units (No)	1000	0	0	0								Frequency of reporting: Annual

		public utilities.													
	PA3.O15	Joint initiatives on improvements of public transport and intermodal connections	Units (No)	5	0	0	0								Frequency of reporting: Annual
	PA4.O11	Cross border cooperation structures/ initiatives supported in the field of tourism	Units (No)	At least 20	0	0	0								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	0	0	0								Frequency of reporting: Annual
	PA4.O13	Number of participants attending training initiatives	Units (No)	At least 500	0	0	0								Frequency of reporting: Annual

	PA4.014	Joint actions and communication instruments created	Units (No)	At least 4	0	0	0								Frequency of reporting: Annual
	PA4.015	Partnerships for the exchange of good practices and the promotion of joint initiatives established	Units (No)	At least 10	0	0	0								Frequency of reporting: Annual
<b>Priority axis Technical Assistance</b>	PA5.011	Number of meetings of programme bodies	Units (No)	2 per year	0	1	3								Source of data: Monitoring
	PA5.012	Number of projects calls implemented	Units (No)	2	0	2	2								Monitoring
	PA5.013	Number of interim programme evaluations implemented	Units (No)	2	0	0	0								Source of data Monitoring
	PA5.014	Number of events for information and promotion	Units (No)	2 per year	0	19	20								Source of data Monitoring

	PA5.OI5	Number of employees (full time equivalent) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	Units (No)	2	0	34	36								Source of data: Monitoring	
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries] <sup>6</sup>					0	0	0									
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement] <sup>7</sup>					0	0	0									

### 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

Reporting on financial indicators, key implementation steps, output and result indicators to act as milestones and targets for the performance framework (submitted starting with the report in 2017).

The Performance Framework introduced in the Programme document at the request of the European Commission was approved by the JMC Decision no. 55/ 13.06.2017. According to national legislation, the revised Programme document is subject to Government approval prior to its submission to the Commission. The revised OP containing the Performance Framework will be submitted to the European Commission in 2017.

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

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

Table 3

Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

Priorit y Axis	Indicator Type (Key implementatio n step, financial, output or, where appropriate result indicator)	I D	Indicator or key implementatio n step	Measuremen t unit, where appropriate	Mileston e for 2018	Final target (2023)	20 14	1 5	1 6	1 7	1 8	1 9	2 0	2 1	22	23	Observations (if necessary)
1	Output indicator	PA1. OI1	Citizens involved in project activities in cultural, social health care services.	Units	500  (Based on an estimation of the contracted projects, according to the provisions of art. 5(3) of the 215/2014 Implementi ng Regulation)	3.000	0	0	0								

1	Financial indicator	1F1	Financial execution for PA1	EUR	1.119.719,59	15.460.624	0	0	0								
2	Output indicator	COI_3	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	Persons	1.000 (Based on an estimation of the contracted projects, according to the provisions of art. 5(3) of the 215/2014 Implementing Regulation)	50.000	0	0	0								
2	Financial indicator	2F1	Financial execution for PA2	EUR	1.301.999,52	17.977.500	0	0	0								
3	Output indicator	PA3.OI3	Investments in transport and utilities infrastructure, including improvement, enhancement of	Units	0	5	0	0	0								



			existing infrastructure														
3	Key implementation step	KIS	Number of investments projects contracted	Units	1	-	0	0	0								
3	Financial indicator	3F1	Financial execution for PA3	EUR	1.301.999,52	17.977.500	0	0	0								
4	Output	PA4.OI1.	Cross-border cooperation structures /initiatives supported in the field of tourism	units	5	20	0	0	0								
					(Based on an estimation of the contracted projects, according to the provisions of art. 5(3) of the 215/2014 Implementing Regulation)												
4	Output	PA4.OI3	Number of participants attending training initiatives	units	100	500	0	0	0								
					(Based on an estimation of the												

					contracted projects, according to the provisions of art. 5(3) of the 215/2014 Implementing Regulation)												
4	Financial indicator	4F1	Financial execution for PA4	EUR	1.158.779,57	16.000.000	0	0	0								

\*Member States submit cumulative values for output indicators. Values for financial indicators are cumulative. Values for the key implementation steps are cumulative if the key implementation steps are expressed by a number or percentage. If the achievement is defined in a qualitative way, the table should indicate whether they are completed or not.

### 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)	Cofinancing 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%	7,501,989	41,2%	7,351,949	0	0	11
Priority axis 2	IPA		Total eligible cost	21,150,000	85%	6,965,616	32,9%	6,826,303	0	0	6
Priority axis 3	IPA		Total eligible cost	21,150,000	85%	32,996,047	156%	32,336,126	0	0	6
Priority axis 4	IPA		Total eligible cost	18,823,530	85%	7,284,620	38,7%	7,138,927	0	0	11
Priority axis 5	IPA		Total eligible cost	8,812,499	85%	4,400,374	50%	4,400,374	590,558	13,4	3
<b>Total</b>				<b>88.124.999</b>		<b>59,148,646</b>	<b>67,1%</b>				<b>37</b>

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%		
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(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
<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (EUR)</b>
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 2016.

1	2	3	4	5
	The amount of ERDF support <sup>(4)</sup> 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 <a href="#">(5)</a>				
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#### **4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

The Evaluation Plan of the Programme, approved by the Monitoring Committee in April 2016 and sent to the European Commission via SFC, states that “having regard to the size and scope of the programme, as well as to the need of sufficient physical progress to serve as basis for evaluation, no evaluations are planned before 2018” and that “therefore there will be no progress on the implementation of the evaluation plan to be reported in the annual implementation report to be submitted in 2017 regarding the implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations.”

Consequently, according to the plan, no evaluations were carried out during 2016 regarding the implementation of this programme.

However, in order to prepare the future evaluation work, the staff of MA’s Evaluation Unit participated both in the works of the Performance Assessment Functional Working Group established in Romania as part of the coordination mechanism for managing ESI Funds (meetings on Terms of Reference, assessment criteria, statistical data and indicators) and in the evaluation-related events organised by the Interact Programme (impact evaluation - methods and Terms of Reference).

#### **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)**

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

Please see Annex II - Citizen's summary, 2016 - 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.

## 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)

FOR EACH PRIORITY AXIS – Assessment of the information provided above and progress towards achieving the objectives of the programme, including the contribution of the ERDF to changes in the value of result indicators, when evidence is available from evaluations

*Not applicable*

### 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)

The programme management structures and the beneficiaries ensured the promotion of equal opportunities and non-discrimination, equality between men and women when performing their activities (setting up the programme monitoring committee, hiring the staff/team projects, organizing the events, developing the procurement procedures etc.).

The Programme structures have created the framework for ensuring the compliance with this principle by including the programme documents references to promote non-discrimination. Thus, within the documents of the calls for proposals, the programme management structures included specific requirements regarding the equality between men and women and to promotion of non-discrimination that must be observed by applicants when developing their applications. During the evaluation process, the assessors had analyzed and properly scored the applications contribution to this principle, namely the specific measures proposed for promotion of equal opportunities and non-discrimination, including promotion of equality (3 points was granted for applications that included at least one specific measure).

Special attention regarding these issues is also given during monitoring process of the project implementation. Thus, the project's reports regarding the progress of the activities must include (according within the Project Monitoring Procedure and e-MS system) specific reporting information regarding the equality between men and women and promotion of non-discrimination. Each year, JS will elaborate a consolidated report on this issues with information submitted by projects previous year and will submit it to the MA in order to be used for Annual Implementation Report. For beneficiaries support, during the workshops, JS staff provides clear examples of measures on how the equal opportunities and non-discrimination equality between men and women can be ensured during the project implementation.

Final reports that will be submitted by the beneficiaries after the end of the project implementation period will have to include consolidated information regarding these issues.

### 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)

The core element of the programme strategy is to bring together the cross-border communities as the first step towards sustainable cooperation and to promote their common actions to overcome the physical and socio-cultural barriers, and to better exploit the opportunities offered by the development of the cross-border area for a mid-long-term sustainable growth.

Efforts to cope with the impacts of climate change and attempts to promote sustainable development share common goals and determinants, therefore these subjects were viewed as high importance factors for the implementation of the Programme and important measures were taken in order to ensure that these aspects are treated with maximum importance by each and every project. In this regard, express requirements were included within the applicant's guide for calls for proposals and also properly assessed during the assessment and selection process.

Thus, the applications that propose specific measures to contribute to the promotion of sustainable development are receiving 1 point and for green solution, additional 1 point can be awarded.

Also, for the infrastructure projects, the environmental agreement, environmental impact report and study are mandatory in the application phase, according to the national legislation. For the projects where a study containing data on the estimated impact on the environment of the investment project is required by the national legislation, this will be presented during the pre-contractual phase.

The projects selected under PA 2 are tackling aspects related to natural disasters as flood and fire. The impact will become evident in the next years as the projects will be implemented (the list of contracted projects is here [http://www.romania-serbia.net/?s=list+of+operations&submit=Search&lang=en\\_GB](http://www.romania-serbia.net/?s=list+of+operations&submit=Search&lang=en_GB))

Also, special instruments were created for the purpose of monitoring these aspects, starting with the reports of the project's progress, on the spot monitoring visits, special reports to be submitted by the beneficiaries together with the final report (mentioned within the project and programme monitoring manuals). For beneficiaries support, during the workshops, JS staff provides clear examples of measures for sustainable development as: green public procurement/buy green, online meetings, car sharing, and using means of transport friendly with the environment.

In the same time the representatives of the national environmental authorities are members in the Monitoring Committee being involved in the process of setting the rules of the calls for proposals and in the selection process of the projects.

#### **9.4. Reporting on support used for climate change objectives (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

Figures calculated automatically by the SFC2014 based on the categorization data.

#### **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)**

The Joint Monitoring Committee is composed of 28 members (12 from Romania and 16 from Serbia) and 11 observers (9 from Romania and 2 from Serbia). They are representing the national/regional/local public authorities, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, etc. from the region. When setting the composition of the JMC, the

programme structures ensured the participation of all relevant partners according the EU provisions.

Through Decision no. 1/13.08.2015, during the first meeting, the JMC members have approved the Rules of Procedure of the Joint Monitoring Committee which have established the responsibilities of the participants, based on the functions and attributions which are fulfilled by the JMC. The rules of procedure included provisions in order to prevent conflict of interest, to ensure confidentiality and application of the rules for protection of data. The composition of the JMC is posted on the Programme website and updated in case any modifications occur.

The JMC has been established in 2015 and the JMC members have been involved in the process of drafting programme documents, including the applicant 'guidelines for the two calls for proposals launched in 2015, the implementation documents for the beneficiaries (Visual Implementation Manual), etc.

The Guidelines for applicants were submitted for public consultation, thus every entity had the opportunity to submit its opinion. The suggestions were taken into consideration when finalizing the documents.

## **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**

No evaluation was performed for Interreg- IPA CBC Romania-Serbia Programme.

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

The Programme Communication Strategy was approved by the JMC through Decision no. 3/13.08.2015 and in accordance with it, the Annual Communication Plan was elaborated and approved through JMC Decision no. 2/13.08.2015. Both documents were revised by the JMC through Decision no. 48 and 49 on 13.12.2016. The scope of this revision was to transfer part of communication budget from MA to JS for carrying out with best results the planning communication activities.

The specific objectives of the Communication Strategy consisted of:

- **To ensure the good use of the IPA II funds**, by conveying information on the domains financed and the financing conditions to all target groups;
- **To clearly explain all the requirements, eligibility conditions and procedures** that potential beneficiaries need to follow in order to obtain financing;
- **To ensure that all potential beneficiaries know and include the horizontal principles** in the projects submitted for financing: sustainable development, promoting equality between men and women and non-discrimination, accessibility, addressing demographic changes, climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- **To inform and train the implementing bodies;**
- **To ensure the visibility of the programme**, at local and national level:
  - **create the visual identity of the Programme** and make sure all information and publicity activities of the direct beneficiaries comply to the Visual Identity Manual;
  - **identify and disseminate success projects and good practices** examples;

- **To develop and maintain effective press relations**, in order to ensure the dissemination of the programme requirements, estimated impact and transparency;
- **To develop cooperation and partnership relations** with the implementing authorities and all relevant institutions, at national and European level, in order to realise the objectives included in the strategy;
- **To ensure the visibility of the MA** as the managing body of the Programme;
- **To ensure the visibility of the NA** as the counterpart for the Managing Authority with the coordination role on the territory of Republic of Serbia
- **To report to the general public, and annually to the Joint Monitoring Committee;**
- **To ensure exchange of knowledge and good practices in communication**, by actively participating in the network of the national communicators group (coordinated by Romanian Ministry of European Funds) and INTERREG communicators group (coordinated by Interact).

**The target groups of the Communication Strategy** are potential and direct beneficiaries, governmental/ non-governmental actors, European Union's institutions and bodies, national/ regional/local media from both countries, general public (citizens), staff of the management bodies of the Programme, other communication support groups and networks.

**Activities undertaken in order to implement the information and publicity measures:**

A new website [www.romania-serbia.net](http://www.romania-serbia.net) is dedicated to the Interreg IPA CBC Ro - RS Programme, being functional since 2015. The website has a flexible, user-friendly structure, is accessible to people from eligible area ( information being provided on 3 languages : Romanian, Serbian and English) and being constantly updated with general information regarding the programme, the opportunities for financing, contact details of the Programmes' managing structures, list with contracted projects drafted in accordance with the provisions of the art. 115 (2) and Annex XII from the EU Regulation 1303/2013, details on the composition of the Joint Monitoring Committee, lists of Q&A, calendar of the events organised within the Programme, modifications occurred within the national legislation of the two countries, information regarding tender procedures, procedures and instructions useful for beneficiaries, transparency section with public information etc. As well, on line campaigns to promote the calls of proposals and European Cooperation Day were organized on the website and the Facebook page of the Programme.

In order to promote the Programme and the submission of projects proposals launching of the Applicant's Packs for the two calls for proposals were posted on the website of the Programme and relevant information were sent, on the request, to the potential applicants/ beneficiaries in Romania and Serbia.

**The Visual Identity Manual**, useful instrument for Beneficiaries regarding the implementation of the information and publicity measures, included within the financing contracts within the Interreg IPA CBC Ro - RS Programme, was approved through JMC Decision no. 26/4.02.2016.

**The Target group** was informed periodically about the Programme implementation status via e-mail.

**The Electronic Newsletter** elaborated within the Programme with the results of the Programme is proposed to be published on the website of the Programme and sent to the potential beneficiaries/beneficiaries, representatives of the mass media, Programmes' network of information multipliers, etc. in 2017 because in the first part of 2016 both calls of proposals were closed and JS and MA were involved mainly in projects proposals selection and evaluation activities.

Written and online media campaign was carried out through posting the news regarding the organisation of events on the Programmes' website, Facebook profile, via e-mail, by sending the relevant information towards the media representatives and through 179 journalistic materials published. From the statistical analysis, the most press articles were published in the first part of 2016 when both calls of proposals were closed and projects proposals submitted and September 2016 when ECD 2016 was organized.

**The Annual Conference** regarding the progress registered in the implementation of the Interreg IPA CBC Ro - RS was included in the Final Conferences presenting the results of the Romania - Republic of Serbia Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013 organized on 10.10. 2016 in Reșița and 12.10.2016 in Vršac, Republic of Serbia and were attended by Romanian, Serbian officials from eligible area and EU Delegation to Serbia representative.

**Monitoring of the press articles** in the central and local media as well as those with online coverage is done constantly, for both Romania and Serbia.

The European Cooperation Day organized in Dr.Tr. Severin, Romania between 21 and 23 September 2016 proposed to the citizens from the Romanian-Serbian cross-border area 3 different events to discover what cross-border cooperation means.

During the first day, Programme representatives, local and regional public authorities, beneficiaries and journalists, joined a **conference** to celebrate the Romanian - Serbian cross-border cooperation and the fifth anniversary of European Cooperation Day. We presented the positive experiences gained between 2012 and 2015 organizing these celebration events in Timișoara (2012), Vršac (2013), Reșița (2014) and Veliko Gradište (2015). Also, the discussion focused on the results of the Romanian - Serbian cross-border cooperation projects. The event was held on 21 September 2016, in "Virgil Ogasanu" Hall within the Palace of Culture "Theodor Costescu" from Drobeta Turnu Severin.

On the second day, the citizens were invited to discover projects, people, ideas, stories, cross-border challenges and, last but not least, the results of forty Romanian-Serbian cross-border projects implemented under the Romania-Republic of Serbia IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme through a photo journey. This photo exhibition called "Together we grow" showed interesting stories about people who live along the border. Some of them are doctors, researchers or students, other people fight to improve the environment or to give a better life to children. They come from both countries and their stories were discovered in the **photo exhibition** opened for four days between the 22nd and the 25th of September in the Palace of Culture "Theodor Costescu" from Drobeta Turnu Severin.

On the third day, general public from cross-border area was invited to join a concert which brought on stage beautiful music from Romania and Serbia. On 23 September 2016, in Crihala Park from Drobeta Turnu Severin was organized a **music concert** with Vrelo band from Serbia, Pragu de Sus band from Romania and some artistic moments offered by the Children`s Palace from Drobeta Turnu Severin.

The various events offered to approximately **500 participants** the possibility to celebrate the success of cross-border cooperation between Romania and Serbia financed through EU funds.

In order to promote the European Cooperation Day, the Joint Secretariat organized a communication campaign in social media using Facebook. According with Facebook insights, within this campaign more than 3000 individuals saw the advertisement message regarding the event.

**The Promotion of the calls for proposals** was carried out by organizing „Info Days” in the eligible counties in Romania and districts in Serbia during the 2015 and for 2016 it was not necessary to organize these type of events because both calls of proposals were closed.

**Meetings with potential applicants** were held both at the headquarters of the Joint Secretariat and at their locations in order to present the information referring to the calls for proposals launched under the Programme

**Information and promotion materials for the Interreg IPA CBC Ro - RS Programme** were elaborated and inscribed with the Programme and the EU logos and distributed to potential beneficiaries, general public during the events organised under the European Cooperation Day.

#### **11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (Article 14(4), subparagraph 2 (a), (b), (c) and (f), of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)**

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

*Not applicable*

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

*Not applicable*

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

*See the questionnaire on EUSDR, Annex III to the Annual Implementation Report*

**11.4 Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation**

*Not applicable*