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**MNE-ALB**  
IPA CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME  
MONTENEGRO – ALBANIA 2014–2020



**MNE-KOS**  
IPA CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME  
MONTENEGRO-KOSOVO 2014-2020

# **9<sup>th</sup> Regional CBC Consultative Forum**

## **12 May 2023,**

### **Hotel Izgrev, Struga,**

### **North Macedonia**

**Sanja Todorović**

**Head of Joint Technical Secretariat**  
**CBC Programmes ME-AL and ME-KS**



# The IPA 2014-2020 CBC programme(-s)

Montenegro is the lead country for the implementation of 2 IPA CBC programmes under indirect management:

- IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Montenegro - Albania 2014-2020
- IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Montenegro – Kosovo 2014-2020



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# 2014-2020: 2<sup>nd</sup> call for proposals

## State of play – ME-AL

### The main achievements:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> CfP completed (focused on 2 thematic priorities)
- 91.39 % of available funds contracted
- 7 projects contracted (3 environment – 4 employment)
- Out of 7 projects, 3 projects have finalized their activities
- Out of 7 projects, 4 of them requested non-cost extension and are still under implementation

### The main challenges within the 2nd CfP were:

- The situation with COVID-19 pandemic
- Prolonged period of approval of progress and interim narrative reports, including the financial reports
- Prolonged period of approval of non-cost extensions by addendums

# 2014-2020: 2<sup>nd</sup> call for proposals

## State of play – ME-KS

### **The main achievements:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> CfP completed (focused on 2 thematic priorities)
- 98.51 % of available funds contracted
- 6 projects contracted (3 in tourism and 3 in employment)
- Out of 6 projects, 3 projects have finalized their activities
- All projects requested a non-cost extension

### **The main challenges within the 2nd CfP were:**

- The situation with COVID-19 pandemic
- Prolonged period of approval of progress and interim narrative reports, including the financial reports
- Prolonged period of approval of non-cost extensions by addendums

# 2014-2020: 3<sup>rd</sup> call for proposals

## State of play – ME-AL

- Published on 29 June 2021 as a restricted CfP, and was open until 13 September 2021
- 76 concept notes were received by the deadline
- 25 applicants were invited to submit a full application by 25 July 2022
- Only 22 of them submitted a full application by the deadline
- 6 projects (1 in tourism, 3 environment, 2 employment) were contracted in December 2022 for an amount of € 2.1 million
- The projects started their implementation in February – March 2023
- Duration of the projects between 18 and 30 months

# 2014-2020: 3<sup>rd</sup> call for proposals

## Challenges – ME-AL

Two challenges:

- The risk of not contracting the 2018 allocation due to a long-lasting evaluation process was mitigated by the CFCU efforts in communication with the OSs
- As the 3<sup>rd</sup> CfP did not exhaust the budget available in the programme producing a leftover of EUR 2.8 million, a 4<sup>th</sup> open CfP was launched on 17 March 2023. If its evaluation became too long, the risk of non contracting the 2019 allocation would be high.



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**MNE-ALB** 2014-2020

# 2014-2020: 3<sup>rd</sup> call for proposals

## State of play – ME-KS

- Published on 11 May 2021 as restricted CfP, and was open until 25 June 2021
- 50 concept notes were received by the deadline
- 26 applicants were invited to submit a full application by 25 June 2022. All of them did it.
- 10 projects (3 in employment, 3 in environment and 4 in torusim) were contracted in December 2022 for an amount of € 3.2 million
- 3 applications were put in the reserve list and currently one additional project is being contracted
- With the signature of a contract for this last project from the reserve list almost 100% of available funds will be contracted
- Most projects started their period of implementation in January – March 2023
- The expected project duration is between 18 and 24 months

### **The main challenges related to 3<sup>rd</sup> CfP:**

- The risk of contracting the allocation 2018 due to long-lasting evaluation process, but this was mitigated by the CFCU efforts in communication with the OSs



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# Examples of good CBC practice

## ME-AL

- Skadar Lake withOut chemical pollution – SOLUTION
- Implemented by the Centre for Ecotoxicological Research Montenegro (CETI), the University of Tirana and the Association Green Centre from Albania.
- Duration: initially 27 months (1 Jan 2021 - 1 April 2023), but a non-cost extension for 6 months was requested
- Budget: € 467,855.19 (EU grant amount € 397,630.13)
- The project aims to agree common long-term cooperative activities, to perform environmental risk assessment of chemical pollution in the transboundary Skadar/Shkodra and determine pollution hot spots.



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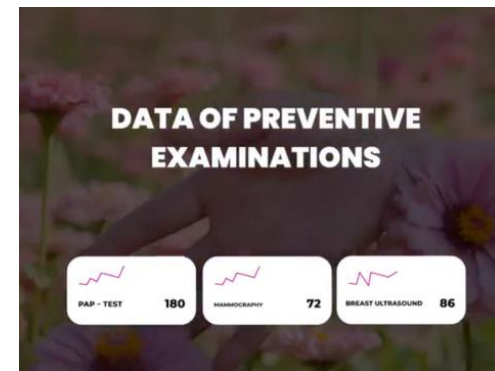
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# Examples of good CBC practice

## ME-KS

- CARES 2 – Cross-border Actions in the REproductive Health Sector 2
- Implemented by FORS Montenegro and ECMI Kosovo.
- Duration: initially 24 months (1 May 2021 – 1 May 2023), but a non-cost extension for 6 months was requested;
- Budget: € 353,046.50 (Total EU grant awarded € 299,990.00).
- The project represents a continuation of the one with the same name funded under 1st CfP;
- The project aims to improve the quality of reproductive health services (preventive examination for breast cervical cancer, including free examinations, capacity building for medical staff, procurement of equipment) and raise the awareness of the female population on protecting their reproductive health in the programme area with the focus on socially vulnerable groups.



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# Technical Assistance

- The Technical Assistance Grant Contract (TAGC) “Technical Assistance for the management of bilateral Cross-Border Programmes Montenegro - Albania and Montenegro - Kosovo” IPA/2019/409–185 ended on 4 April 2023
- Drafting the final narrative and financial reports is on-going
- Almost all envisaged activities were implemented in line with the Action Plan
- The new Technical Assistance Grant Contract (TAGC) “Technical Assistance for the management of bilateral Cross-border Cooperation Programmes Montenegro - Albania and Montenegro – Kosovo 2014-2020 IPA/2021/428-797” started on 5 April 2023 and will last until 4 April 2024

# Technical Assistance

## Challenges:

- COVID 19 pandemic caused delay/modification of way of conducting of the activities foreseen within TAGC
- Changes in the Operating Structures in all 3 countries
- Delay in the evaluation process of the 3<sup>rd</sup> CfPs
- Postponement of the activities foreseen within the TA
- Budget re-allocation within the previous TAGC, and within the present one due to the 4<sup>th</sup> CfP of ME-AL
- Changes in the antenna office in Shkodra

# Topics for discussion

- Availability of the voting members during the 4<sup>th</sup> CfP of ME-AL
- Steps to be undertaken by the CBC structures in view of the implementation of the IPA III CBC programmes
- Functioning of the TA within IPA III programmes, including human resources policy

Thank you  
for your attention!