

9th Regional CBC Consultative Forum
12 May 2023,
Hotel Izgrev, Struga,
North Macedonia

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Kosovo- North Macedonia

The 2014-2020 IPA CBC programmes

Kosovo is involved in 3 IPA-IPA CBC programmes:

- **Kosovo - North Macedonia (Lead beneficiary-direct management)**
- Montenegro - Kosovo (Partner beneficiary - indirect management)
- Albania - Kosovo (Partner beneficiary- direct management)

2014-2020 KS-MK: Call for proposals

State of play

- 1st CfP completed (focused on 2 thematic priorities)
8 projects funded
- 2nd CfP completed (2 thematic priorities)
1 project funded
- 3rd CfP completed (2 thematic priorities)
3 projects funded
- 4th CfP completed (2 thematic priorities)
3 projects funded
- **5th and last CfP launched in 2022** (2 thematic priorities)
 - The first step of the evaluation process (opening, administrative check and CNs evaluation) completed/ full applications were submitted by 25 April 2023
 - Amount available EUR 2,280,000 (2019-2020 yearly allocations)

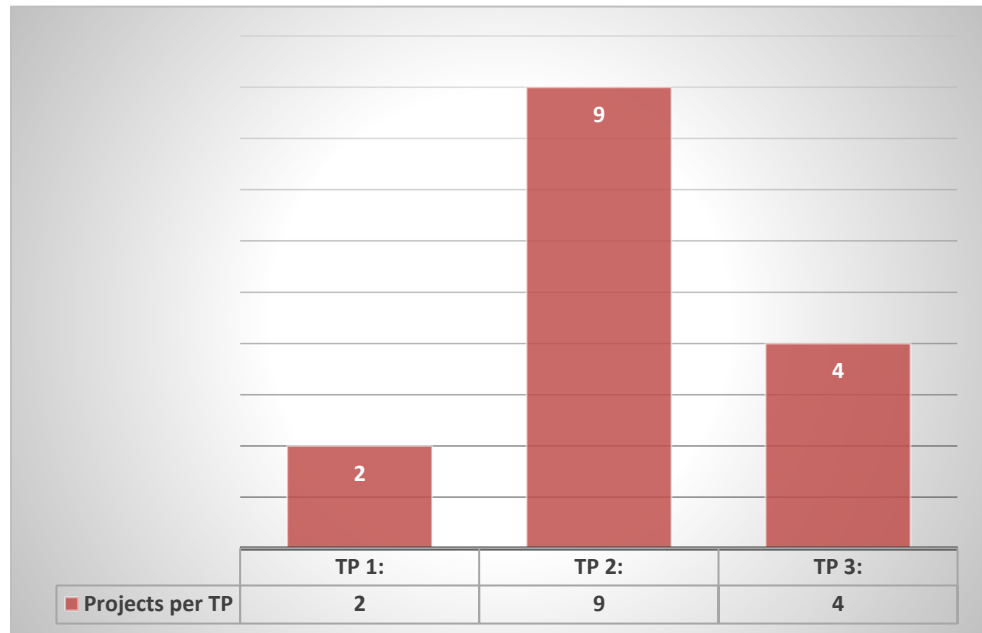
*TP1 (Enhancing competitiveness, business and SME development, trade and investment) was only included in the 1st CfP

* TP2 (Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage) & TP 3 (Protecting the environment, promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management) were targeted in all other calls

KS-MK state of play

15 projects funded so far:

- Under TP1: 2 projects
- Under TP2: 9 projects
- Under TP3: 4 project



- The total amount of the contracted projects as of end of year 2021:
EUR 5,437,440.55 out of which EUR 4,331,356.80 are the EU contribution
[\(5th Call for proposal/available amount is EUR 2,280,000\)](#)

KS-MK state of play

Main challenges:

- The contracting authority without amending the programme document (as required by the Framework Agreement) included additional results under the specific objectives of thematic priorities 2 and 3.
- The revision of the project log frame matrixes was performed after the grant contract signature by CBIB+ and the JTS, but it should have been performed before the signature of these contracts.
- Operations in the reserve list of calls for proposals should have been taken into consideration when possible.
- The discrepancy between the programme financial allocations and commitment of funds so far is more than EUR 1,200,000 (5th CfP is under the evaluation)

Examples of good CBC practice



CBCEcoKid

Implementing Institutions:

Municipality of Ferizaj/Uroševac, Kosovo

Municipality of Čair/Çair, Skopje, North Macedonia

Business Support Centre Kosovo

Duration: 18 Months

Project Value: EUR 423,038.10

EU Contribution: EUR 352,517.65

Co-financing: EUR 70,521

Thematic Priority III: Protecting the environment,
promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk
prevention and management

CBCEcoKid

- 8 mechanisms of photovoltaic systems installed to generate efficient energy, each one in a different educational institution in Ferizaj/Uroševac and Čair/Çair municipalities.
- Replacement of indoor luminaires with a new electronic mechanism of high efficiency in seven education institutions in Ferizaj/Uroševac and Čair/Çair municipalities.

CBCEcoKid in action:



CBC EcoKid launching event:



Backing Regional Tourism Potential

Implementing institutions:

Center for sustainable development ALKA Skopje

Shoqata Aplinistike Marimangat e Pejës - Marimanga – NGO, Kosovo

Shoqata bjeshkatare SHARRI Prizren, Kosovo

Association for Alternative Balkan Tourism Balkanija Skopje,
Macedonia –

Duration: 24 months

Project value: EUR 229,888.90

EU Contribution: EUR 195,400.00

Co-financing: EUR 34,488.90

Thematic Priority 2: Encouraging tourism, cultural and natural heritage

Backing Regional Tourism Potential: outputs

- 1 research paper on the tourism offer in Polog Region and Prizren District
- 20 new touristic routes identified and duly marked, including a database of GPS coordinates, a promotional campaign, 6 video clips and the printing of maps
- An advisory support programme for touristic facilities and households developed
- A manual for touristic guides developed and printed (1,000 copies)
- One website for rural tourism promotion launched

Technical Assistance (I)

- The current technical assistance grant contract started on 6 January 2020 and should conclude on 6 December 2023 (the latest non-cost extension was approved in November 2022) (under the allocation of year 2017).
- The 2020 allocation was lost (the contracting deadline was missed).
- Consequently, a large % of envisaged TA activities could not be implemented for the sake of maintaining the JTS operational and functioning.
- The amount foreseen for TA should be increased. (Domestically, business operation costs increased)

Bridging IPA II with IPA III:

- The steps leading to the conclusion of the first TAGC under the IPA III (2023 allocation) has been initiated. The application will be submitted latest by Sep 2023.

Technical Assistance (II)

The following issues remain to be addressed:

- **Human resources** - Substantial staff turnover at the OS with junior staff moving in and experienced staff going to other ministries once they have been trained.
 - Recommendation: the provision of capacity building for the OS representatives of both Kosovo and North Macedonia should be regular under the IPA III TAGC.
- **JMC** – as per article 74 of the Framework Agreement the Joint Monitoring Committee should take certain decisions but suffered from the limited capacity of its members.
- **Follow up:** The OSs along with CBIB prepared a timetable of capacity building workshops, planned during 2023.
 - Recommendation: The OSs must include specific capacity building activities under IPA III TAGCs.

Topics for discussion

- **Role of the EU Office** - The selection of thematic priorities included in CBC calls is not under the competence of the EU Office, however they fully controlled this selection and determined certain conditions that the applicants had to meet in terms of investments, disregarding the CBC dimension of the operations.
- **Discuss** the modalities of the capacity building for potential applicants (more frequent, smaller groups, working groups, case studies)
- **A pool of independent experts** assisting local authorities in preparation of their applications (brainstorm on modalities, pros and cons).