

IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme

SERBIA - NORTH MACEDONIA

Good friends, new opportunities



Republic of
Serbia



Republic of
North Macedonia



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

The IPA 2016-2020 CBC Programme Serbia – North Macedonia

Biljana Stanković
Head of Joint Technical Secretariat
CBCP RS- MK



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2016-2020: 1st call for proposals

State of play

2 CfPs planned and published under the CBCP RS-MK 2016-2020

- ✓ 1st CfP: 7 projects were contracted/ 98% of the available budget (€ 1,236,110)
- ✓ All projects finalized in time, 1 addendum for no cost extension signed
- ✓ Programme territory targeted through projects equally covering both countries/municipalities
- ✓ Participation of municipalites/public utility companies/educational institutions/civil society organizations
- ✓ Good practices: Introductory meetings with grant beneficiares (CFCU and JTS), 4 monitoring visits per project, helpdesk available throughout the implementation phase



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2016-2020: 1st call for proposals

State of play

- 1st CfP was published later than planned
- Covid-19 pandemic imposed shift to online work and online events
- The quality of LFM's was deficient in some cases and their revision was carried out with CBIB's support
- Unequal representation of coordinators: 3 out of 7 coordinators were from Belgrade, 1 out of 7 coordinators from North Macedonia



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2016-2020: 2nd call for proposals

State of play

- ✓ The 2nd CfP was published as an open CfP, accompanied with all planned publicity events, including the available online tools (streaming of the kick-off conference and presentation of the projects from the previous CfP)
- ✓ 5 out of 8 projects recommended for financing were contracted so far under 2nd CfP with a total value of € 1,135,203.70
- ✓ It is a very helpful practice to ensure the revision of LFM as well as the budget before signing the contracts
- It would take more JTS involvement and support to GBs to help them start their projects successfully
- The practice of introductory meetings continued but PIM workshop and complete manual are still pending, since 5 projects were signed and started in the 1st quarter of 2023 while the remaining 3 are still to be contracted



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2016-2020: 2nd call for proposals

State of play

		1st CfP	2nd CfP	1st CfP	2nd CfP
Concept notes	CNs received	53	25		
	Opened	51	25		
	<i>Submitted after deadline/ Failed to meet administrative criteria</i>	26	4	49.06%	16.00%
	Concept notes that qualified for further assessment	27	21	50.94%	84.00%
	<i>Rejected after clarification or Failed to reach minimum of 30 required score</i>	11	4	40.74%	19.05%
Full applications	Assessed Full applications	14	17	26.42%	68.00%
	recommended for the award based on the available funding	7	8	50.00%	47.06%
	Reserve list	7	4		
Total No of applications that scored above threshold (contracted and reserve list)		14	12	26.42%	48.00%



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Connecting Pearls

Coordinator:

City of Leskovac, RS

Co-beneficiaries:

Municipality of Kriva Palanka, MK

Centre for the Development of
Jablanica and Pčinja Districts,
Leskovac, RDA RS

Duration: 18 months

Total value:

EUR 236,444.50

EU contribution:

EUR 173,810.35





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Examples of good CBC practice

- Small scale works in tourism infrastructure at site Vučjanka canyon and at Stanecki waterfalls on Kozya river
- Organisation of the Green Weekend promotional event at both sites for the wider public and sports organizations as well as schools in the area
- Mapping and signposting the tourist attractions in the project targeted area
- Presenting these improved tourist attractions to tourism stakeholders and including them into the tour operators' offers
- Preparation of good quality digital materials to reach a wide audience
- Establishing a cross-border partnership that resulted in the project being recommended for financing under the 2nd CfP where the roles of coordinator/co-beneficiary was exchanged in order to further strengthen the capacities within the local self governments for project implementation



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Technical Assistance

- TAGC 2021/428-547, 12 months, EUR 70,000 finished on 30 April 2023
- **Subsequent TAGC is pending**, to be signed upon the signature of the FA
- The JTS project officer sitting at the antenna office is expected to move soon into the recently renovated premises
- JTS staffers in the head office received a new router and better RAM for their desktops so that they are now adequately equipped for online work



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Topics for discussion

- Increasing interest of potential beneficiaries in applying for upcoming calls for proposals
- 2. How to ensure more successful support of the JTS to the:
 - A) potential applicants to write solid proposals
 - B) grant beneficiaries to increase their capacities for implementation and reporting