

## *Citizen's summary for Annual Implementation Report 2017*

In 2017, Monitoring Authority (MA) continued managing the Programme in accordance with the principles of sound financial management. Together with the Joint Secretariat (JS) and other Programme Bodies, MA coordinated and implemented the activities related to the Programme. Key activities in 2017 were as follows:

### **1<sup>st</sup> Call for Proposals – assessment, contracting, implementation and communication activities**

In total, for the 1<sup>st</sup> Call for Proposals (CfP), **127 applications with 501 project partners were received** through Electronic Monitoring System (eMS).

The process of assessment and selection started on 13 September 2016, at first Joint Steering Committee (JSC) meeting, continued through the second JSC meeting on 3 November 2016 and finished on 20 March 2017, at the third Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) meeting, where operations for financing were selected.

At the fourth JCS meeting held in Zagreb on 23 and 24 February 2017, JSC voting members, who jointly performed the reassessment of the project proposals on Priority Axis 2, presented their results. Therefore, at the JMC meeting held on 20 March 2017, 24 projects were approved for financing under the 1<sup>st</sup> Call for Proposals. The ranking lists had been published on the Programme website and the official letters on the results of the assessment and selection process were sent to the Lead Partners. Later on, one Project partner decided to withdraw their project application so that in the end 23 projects were contracted and started with implementation between 15 June and 1 November 2017. The pre-contracting procedure included collection of additional documentation for projects with infrastructure works.

**Total value of the contracted projects within 1<sup>st</sup> CfP is EUR 18.395.163,66 with EU share of EUR 15.635.721,15.**

PA 1	PA 2	PA 3	PA 4
Take care! 939.505,50 EUR	R-SOL-E 1.010.153,37 EUR	ViCTour 924.327,00 EUR	ORGANIC BRIDGE 550.815,13
RealForAll 624.220,25 EUR	IMPACT-ENVI 570.255,17 EUR	VISITUS 353.048,15 EUR	Eco Build 464.582,54
MOS-Cross 982.167,50 EUR	EcoWET 355.013,14 EUR	Central Danube Tour 575.856,20 EUR	CROSS TREE 524.308,95
ReGerNet 526.361,10 EUR	ES – GEES 1.395.189,70 EUR	Explore Cro-Srb 368.110,98 EUR	DRIVE 907.094,82
	X DEGREE 1.696.336,09 EUR	HORIS 1.417.632,24 EUR	ROSIS4H 564.258,22
	SeNs Wetlands 390.820,90 EUR	S.O.S. 1.066.007,64 EUR	XBIT 562.256,63
	FORRET 1.626.842,24 EUR		
<b>EUR 3.072.254,35</b>	<b>EUR 7.044.610,81</b>	<b>EUR 4.704.982,21</b>	<b>EUR 3.573.316,29</b>

### ***Communication activities***

The first official signing of the first two subsidy contracts took place in Vinkovci (Croatia) on 2 June 2017. On 14 June 20, additional six Subsidy Contracts were signed in Osijek (Croatia). On 14 July 2017, MA held the conference marking the beginning of the implementation of contracted projects in Novi Sad (Serbia). At the conference, nine Subsidy Contracts were signed. The events that followed, organized by MA and JS, were Project Implementation Workshops held in July, in Novi Sad and Vinkovci, where key aspects of project implementation were presented to and discussed with the participants.

Next event of signing Subsidy Contracts followed in August, at the premises of the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds of the Republic of Croatia in Zagreb (Croatia).

European Territorial Cooperation Day was celebrated in Šibenik in October 2017. The event gathered about 159 participants.

After the submission of first partner reports from the beneficiaries, MA and JS organized two workshops, in Subotica and Slavonski brod, covering topics of eMS reporting, public procurement and examples of audit findings. The events gathered about 120 participants.

Furthermore, in November 2017, MA organised eMS training for TA beneficiaries in Zagreb. The training gathered 32 participants from all Programme Bodies. In December 2017 MA commenced preparations for 4 workshops on output indicators that were held in Zagreb, in January 2018. MA prepared materials/presentations on output indicators, performance framework and evaluation of the Programme.

Further information on contracted projects are available in the Programme booklet (click on the icon to open the booklet)



### ***Call for proposals for Technical Assistance***

Actions implemented under budget for Technical Assistance (TA) refer to the specific objectives of the Priority Axis 5, as defined by Cooperation Programme, and it is financed by a maximum of 10% of the total amount allocated to the Programme.

Managing Authority (MA), Joint Secretariat (JS), Certifying Authority (CA), Audit Authority (AA), National Authority (NA) and Control Body (CB) are eligible TA beneficiaries.

The TA Call for Proposals was conducted in 2017 and resulted with 6 contracted TA projects (MA, JS, NA HR, NA and CB RS, AA) in total value of EUR 3.963.259,06 (EU share 3.368.770,19)

### **Designation procedure – finalization**

The MA submitted to the Audit Authority (ARPA) the first version of the designation package on 18 November 2016 therefore the audit procedure started on 22 November 2016 with official announcement of the designation procedure to MA and CA. At the meeting with

ARPA, held on 21 April 2017, the identified omissions and shortcomings in the designation package were discussed and agreed. Following review of the designation package, ARPA organized additional meeting with the MA representatives on 30 June 2017 in order to discuss the procedures and the documents. During designation procedure the services of the external expert were used for the assessment of the compliance of eMS system.

In the period from 25 November 2016 to 13 January 2017 the assessment of the compliance of the MCS, established at the NA and CB in Serbia, with the designation criteria was performed by GoA members from Serbia. At the GoA meeting in Belgrade on 24 January 2017 the preliminary results of designation process were presented. Follow up activities of the implementation of audit recommendations were performed by GoA members from 6 to 13 June 2017.

Based on the performed audit activities ARPA concluded that the management and control system was set up adequately by ensuring the implementation of the Programme. Management and control system was designated on 31 July 2017 when Ministry of Regional Development and EU funds as the Coordination Body for EU Funds informed European Commission that Managing and Certifying body are designated.

### **New version of Cooperation Programme – version 2.1 adopted**

On 6 October 2016, the Commission requested from Croatia, by official letter, to submit an amendment to Cooperation Programme (CP) to supplement it in order to introduce a performance framework. The performance framework is a key element to ensure that EU-supported programs are sufficiently focused on the target areas and on the results. On 6 July 2017, MA submitted a request for a modification of the CP. The request was accompanied by a revised CP.

Version 2.1. of the CP, including performance framework, was adopted by Commission Implementing Decision C(2017)6011 on 31 August 2017.

### **Preparation of 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Proposals**

A technical meeting between MA, JS and NAs, where modalities of 2<sup>nd</sup> CfP were agreed, was held on 14 November 2017, in Belgrade, Serbia.

Therefore, in November 2017 MA and JS started preparation activities regarding 2nd CfP that was scheduled for launching for March 2018. Namely, the preparations included work on Application Package and adjustment of eMS in order to adjust it according to the requirements of the 2<sup>nd</sup> CfP. MA and JS finalized the Application Package in February 2018 and it was approved by JMC on 28 March prior to the opening of the Call on 30 March 2018.

### **Regular revisions and update of the procedures/guidelines/manuals**

[Project Implementation Manual](#), together with its annexes, is available since 14 June 2017.

Furthermore, due to the designation process, modifications of the TA Manual were introduced; therefore final version was made available on 29 September 2017.

As for Control Guidelines for INTERREG IPA CBC Programmes, first version was prepared by the MA and put into use since February 2017. The latest updated version is in use since April 2018.

In **August 2017** Croatian Control Body has approved [Guidelines for eligibility of expenditure for Croatian Project Partners](#). This document along with its annexes is used by Croatian Project Partners as one of the tools for reporting. Revised Guidelines are available since September 2017.

[Programme Visibility Guidelines](#) have been adopted and published on the Programme website since 29 December 2017.

### **Human Resources**

In February 2017 EU Integration Office of the Government of the Republic of Serbia (Ministry of European Integration as of 27 June 2017) recruited Project Manager at Branch Office of Joint Secretariat. Furthermore, FLC officer was recruited on a basis of service contract to work under jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance and Ministry of European Integrations in the Republic of Serbia.

In June 2017 Ministry of European Integrations recruited Programme Assistant.

In March/April 2017, Agency for Regional Development of the Republic of Croatia recruited Head of Joint Secretariat, Financial Manager and Project Manager in the Joint Secretariat.

As of 1 September 2017 the Programme Manager post within MA is vacant and recruitment is planned ASAP.

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