

# Citizens' Summary of Annual Implementation Report for 2021

For financial perspective 2014 - 2020, Interreg IPA Cross-border cooperation programme Croatia - Serbia has at its disposal a total of EUR 40.344.930, of which EUR 34.293.188 comes from the European Regional Development Fund and Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance and EUR 6.051.742 from national co-financing.

Since the start of the Programme in 2014, the Managing Authority in coordination with the National Authorities has published two calls for proposals, the first one in 2016 and the second one in 2018 and has so far contracted 43 projects. Programme contracting rate is 101,81%. In 2021 EUR 7.419.080,15 was paid to projects, while in total EUR 27.170.257,24 was paid to projects up to now.

## Total number of contracted projects per Priority Axis (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Proposals)



### Priority Axis 1

Improving the quality of public social and health services in the programme area  
**8 projects**



### Priority Axis 2

Protecting the environment and biodiversity, improving risk prevention and promoting sustainable energy and energy efficiency  
**12 projects** (originally 13, 1 was terminated in 2019)



### Priority Axis 3

Contributing to the development of tourism and preserving cultural and natural heritage  
**10 projects**



### Priority Axis 4

Enhancing competitiveness and developing business environment in the programme area  
**12 projects**

Out of 23 contracted projects within the 1<sup>st</sup> Call for Proposals, one project from PA2 was terminated in 2019, whereas last projects were completed at the beginning of 2020. Out of 20 projects contracted within the 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Proposals, a total of 19 projects started with the implementation in 2019, while one project (MOS-Cross2) was contracted in the beginning of 2021. Most of the projects from 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Proposals have already completed their implementation in 2021 while the rest will be finished by the mid of 2022. Regular updates on Programme level are published on the Programme website in the section [Programme news](#) while project news and achievements can be followed in the section [Project news](#).

## Project highlights

### Heart NET

Project partners jointly reached the main objective of the project, which was to establish a compatible cross-border telemedicine network which strengthens mutual cooperation and increases the quality of life among the inhabitants of the Programme area. The telemedicine infrastructure improved medical diagnostics and increased accuracy of treatments, improved communication channels and allowed transfer of knowledge and medical expertise among healthcare units. Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases Vojvodina (Serbia) and National Memorial Hospital Vukovar (Croatia) procured equipment (telemedicine equipment, ultrasonic devices, telemetry, defibrillator, holter EKG and other similar medicine equipment) in the value of more than EUR 939,000.00 and thus increased the quality of life for people living in the cross-border area, especially elderly affected by coronary artery and other cardiac emergencies.

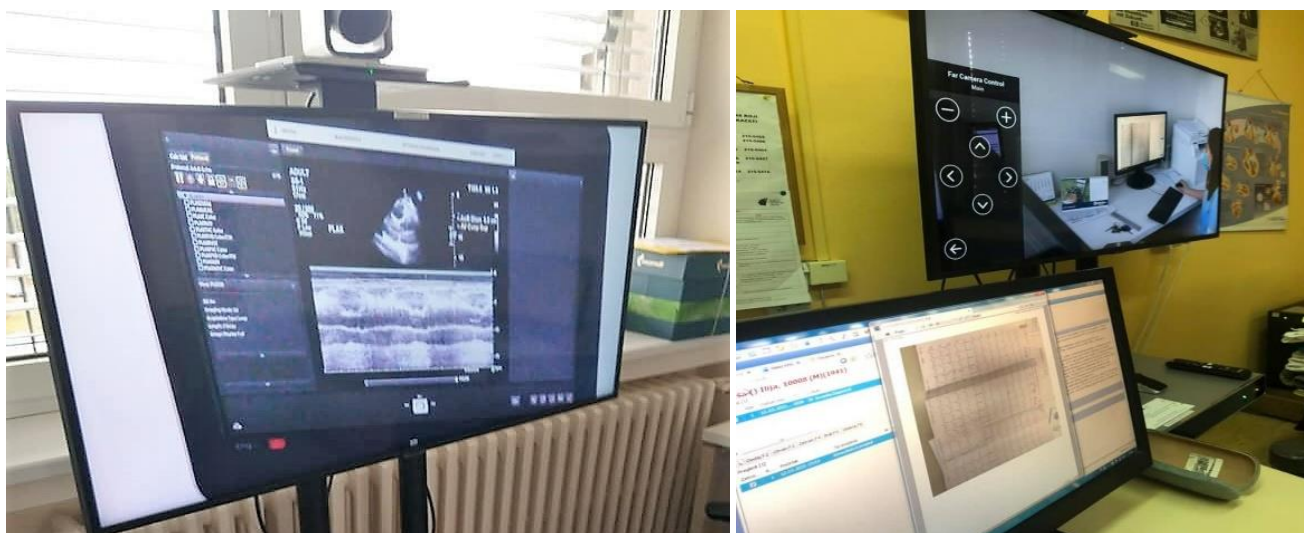


Figure 1. telemedicine equipment / Figure 2. telemedicine equipment in use

### Support life

The project main objective was to improve the availability and quality of health and social care services in rural areas for people with disabilities, elderly, helpless and chronic patients, as well as to improve the basic skills of health and social care workers through continuous professional training, the cooperation of existing partners' and the network expansion of new partners. Project also improved the service delivery mechanism through the transfer of knowledge and experience and inter-sectoral collaboration with the aim of developing services and improving their quality. Health and social services were improved by organizing mobile teams which included psychiatrist, general practitioner, nurses, caregivers, physiotherapists, social workers, geronto-housewives and housekeeper that provided needed care for 640 users. Through the project six vehicles were procured for the mobile teams of the partners Caritas Šabac, Health Center Dr. Draga Ljočić Šabac and Home for elderly and infirm persons Ilok.



Figure 3. purchased vehicle / Figure 4. adapted room for project beneficiaries

## Wetland Restore

Project partners have identified a lack of knowledge about wetland habitats and how to protect them as well as and a lack of cross-sectoral and cross-border cooperation as one of the main reasons for the wetland disappearance. The WetlandRestore project tackled this challenge and demonstrated findings from various EU Directives and conventions for solving contemporary problems of river and wetland ecosystems. Project has set up a cross-border wetland monitoring systems to allow tracking of ecological changes and developed restoration plans for six pilot areas in the cross- border region thus, which attained a better conservation status of an area covering 13,626 ha. In addition, small-scale restoration interventions in two wetlands in Serbia and Croatia were implemented.



Figure 5. Special nature reserve Zasavica Lokvanj / Figure 6. habitat restoration in the pilot area of Čarna

## Panona net

Panona net project gathered five partners from border regions of Croatia and Serbia in a mission to diversify and integrate the tourism offer. Project partners developed tourism paths and itineraries by integrating well-being, active and cultural tourism with complementary tourism niches such as eco-tourism, cycling, hiking, wine, gastro and rural tourism. Those thematic routes connect the sites of important natural and cultural heritage in Subotica and Palić, National Park Papuk, Erdut and Vukovar. The partners organised 2 cross border tourism events, Papuk Land Art Fest (Croatia) and Land Art Fest-Tavankut (Serbia) that together with 5 new murals designed by world renowned street art artists in Vukovar became the part of integrated tourism offer serviced by the Panona Tours, joint destination management travel agency. Besides joint itineraries and events, the project also procured various thematic equipment such as info boards, sheltered wooden picnic area, solar lamps, outdoor e-totem and similar touristic equipment worth approximately 90000 EUR.



Figure 7. One of five new murals in Vukovar / Figure 8. sheltered wooden picnic area

## WBH

The WBH project has influenced the development of companies run by women and created the conditions for the economic empowerment of women in the cross-border region. Women Business HUB in Dalj (Croatia) and the Women Business Center in Novi Sad (Serbia) were established by restoration of business spaces and equipping them with furniture and IT equipment thus creating adequate spaces for holding trainings for basic target groups of women entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs. The value of infrastructure investments is about 100,000.00 EUR and the value of purchased equipment is about 70,000.00 EUR. 80 trainings were held in Women Business Hub in Dalj and Women Business Centre in Novi Sad providing capacity building to more than 40 women entrepreneurs and 40 potential entrepreneurs. Through mentoring and consultancy and motivational trainings, 13 SMEs were established by women, while 440 women from both target groups participated in the international conference Business on High Heels. A total of 730 women entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs participated in the WBH project.



Figure 9. equipped Women Business Hub / Figure 10. WBH conference

## Education and communication activities

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The Programme continued performing communication activities in this reporting period, aiming to promote the Programme and inform the general public on its goals and achievements, as well as to promote interactive dialogue at all levels.

On 21/4/2021 European Commission-DG REGIO and DG NEAR with '1001 valises/Balkan Trafik Festival' organized 'EU4Balkans debate' as part of The Balkan Trafik Festival. As an introduction in debate 'Environment', a short video testimonial of the project WetlandRestore was shown. On behalf of Managing Authority, Ms Jelena Plavetić, participated in the debate on the topic of inclusion in Western Balkan countries, where she shared experience of the Programme and good practices of projects dealing with social and cultural inclusion.

Programme was also promoted on EU level on Interreg Annual Event in Brussels in October 2021, where project from the 2nd Call for Proposals Heart Net was selected as finalist of the competition Interreg project slam.

Due to effects of COVID-19 pandemics, the 10th anniversary of EC Day in Europe was also celebrated by the Programme through online promotional campaign - an art competition for posters on the theme "My vision of a green Europe" for pupils. The idea of this competition was to educate and engage children concerning personal and collective awareness and responsibility for creating and preserving a healthy, green Europe through the creation of a creative and original poster.

All received posters were published on Programme [Facebook page](#) and were available for voting from 21/10 to 1/11/2021. The winning design, according to the number of likes of our Facebook followers, was the one made by Jana Vučković from Croatia. Programme jury awarded the second award to Andjela Pejić from Serbia.

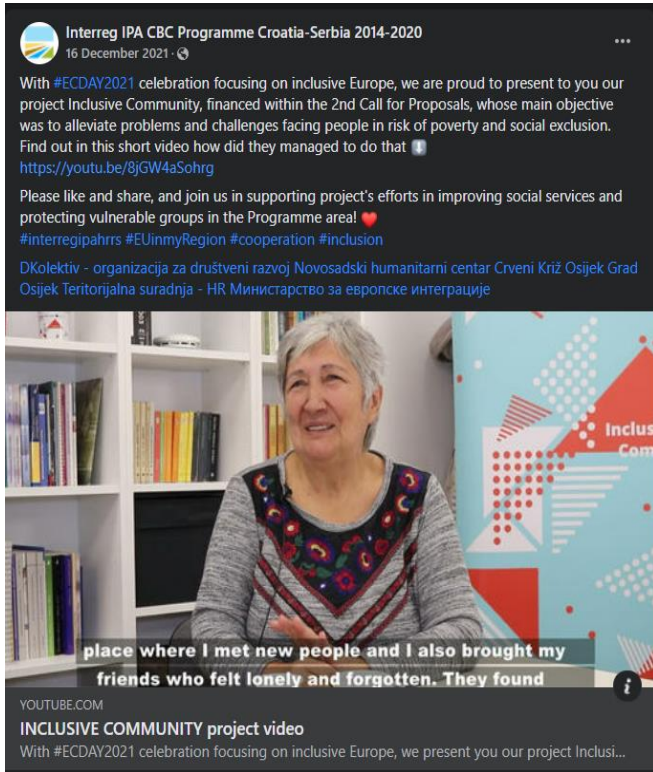


Figure 11. and 12. Facebook promotional campaigns

Two videos for projects [Inclusive Community](#) and [Greenery](#) were presented within the EC DAY campaign. Programme representative and beneficiary of the project **WetlandRestore** participated in the [EU4Balkans debate](#) on the topic of inclusion in Western Balkan countries where they shared experience of the programme and examples of projects dealing with social and cultural inclusion. Among 46 selected projects, project **ReGerNet** was part of Inclusive Growth Postcard [e-book](#), whose aim is to show the best social impact projects.



Figure 13. Inclusive Growth Postcard promotional campaign / Figure 14. EU4Balkans online presentation

Project **FILMharmonia** took part in new Interreg podcast series [“This is Europe”](#). Project **S.O.S.** was in the final round of national contest for [„Best EU project”](#). Programme representatives participated as panelists at [Interreg Annual Event](#). Project **Heart Net** won 3rd place in Interreg [Project Slam 2021](#) competition for Social Media Award and 6th place at the Grand Final Event. It was also presented as a good practice example during the European week of region and cities.