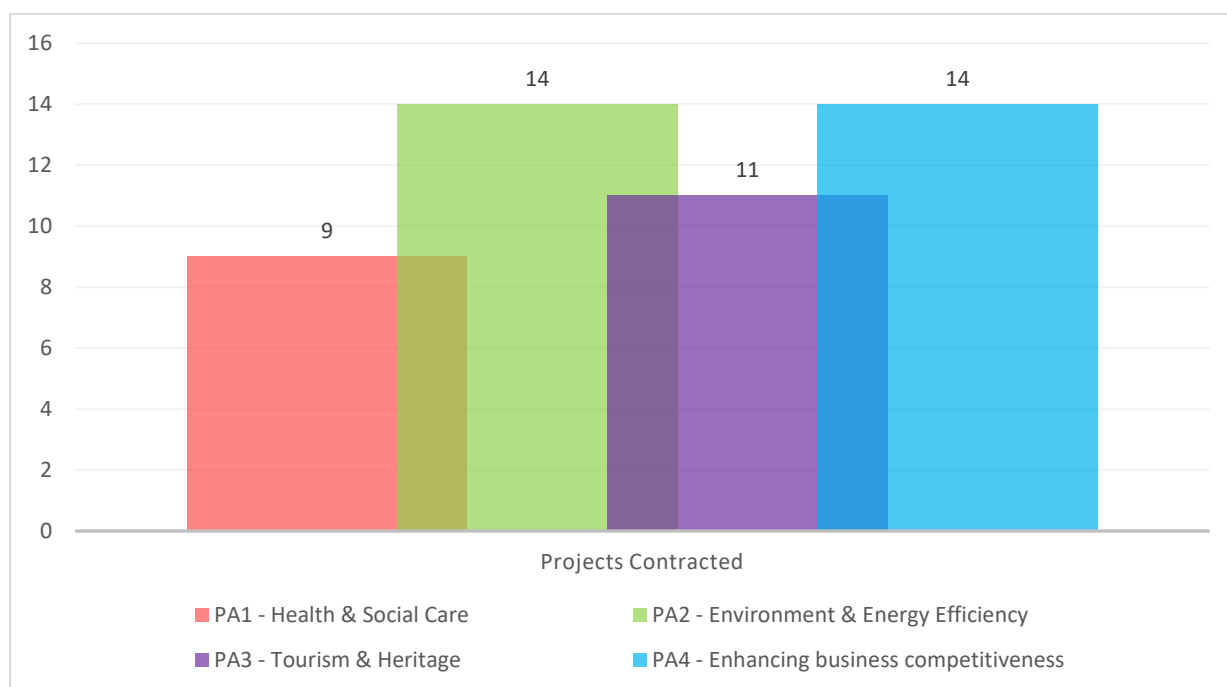


Citizens' Summary of Annual Implementation Report 2022

For the financial perspective 2014 - 2020, Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Croatia - Serbia has at its disposal a total of EUR 40.345.091, of which EUR 34.293.188 comes from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II) and EUR 6.051.903 from national co-financing.

Since the start of the Programme in 2014, the Managing Authority in coordination with the National Authorities, has published two open Calls for Proposals, the first one in 2016 and the second one in 2018, as well as one Restricted Call in 2022. In total, 49 projects were contracted. In 2022, the Certifying Authority (CA) certified a total of EUR 8.301.137,57, while EUR 6.977.274,42 (EU share) was paid to LPs. Cumulatively, by 31 Dec 2022, CA certified a total of EUR 35.471.394,81.

The following graphic shows the distribution of contracted projects per Priority Axes, for all three Calls for Proposals.



Out of 23 contracted projects within the 1st 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 2nd 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. Therefore, 2nd Call for Proposals projects have already completed their implementation, except of MOS-Cross2 which will be finished by August 2023.

In September 2022, the 3rd (Restricted) Call for submission of project concept notes was published. This CfP was focused on the capitalization of existing outputs/results and restricted to those beneficiaries who successfully completed the projects of the 1st/2nd CfP. A total of 24 project concept notes were submitted. After the selection procedure, the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) approved 6 project concept notes for funding. These projects were contracted with the total budget of EUR 1.327.308,61. All 6 of them started their implementation on 1 Feb 2023 and are expected to finish by 31 Oct 2023. Regular updates on Programme level are published on the Programme website in the section [Programme news](#).

Project highlights

Inclusive Community

Inclusive Community project addressed high unemployment rates, high number of people at risk of poverty and deteriorated living conditions for certain social groups in the cross-border area. Project partners linked these unfavourable demographic features to negative effects on the economy of the area that has created the demand for targeted social services and infrastructure investments. Therefore, project aimed to improve social services in Osijek and Novi Sad for social welfare users and people at risk of poverty and exclusion.

Project partners created the social integration programme that ensures learning assistance for children and in-house care for elderly. In addition, the programme encouraged elderly to volunteer, facilitate education and exchanges between volunteers to contribute to intergenerational solidarity and tolerance in the cross-border region. During the project implementation more than 3500 users were covered by social care services or facilities whereas almost 16 tonnes of humanitarian aid and medical equipment were distributed to the vulnerable groups in the cross-border region. Total project budget was 391.478,32 EUR.



Figure 1: Beneficiaries of the integration programmes



Figure 2: Registration desk during the humanitarian action

Together we stand

The Croatian and Serbian cross-border area is a region prone to major floods, which causes damage to nature and communities. Together We Stand project has recognized joint problem of floods and other threats and created a monitoring and early warning system that will shorten the response time in case of natural or man-made disasters and consequently ensure a safer environment.

Together We Stand addressed the management of potential disasters from the preparatory phase to the end of a threat, and finally the environmental rehabilitation phase, i.e. restoration of an affected area. In particular, the project focused on coordinating the work of relevant organizations from both sides of the border involved in disaster management by developing standard operating procedures for joint actions in case of disasters, and on improving information channels that will alert the population on time and enable faster remediation of the affected area. Total project budget was 1,797,040.71 EUR.



Figure 3: Demonstration of joint pilot action



Figure 4: Exercise for public demonstration

Pannonia Gourmet

Project Pannonia Gourmet developed EatPannonia Brand – a tourism product which connects product and service providers of the cross-border region into single, unique EatPannonia partnership. Local production systems are established and project area is branded as a recognizable culinary tourist destination based on resources and regional specificities, cultural heritage and tradition.

The partners gathered authentic food and recipes and disseminated them through two gourmet centres in Vrdnik and Vinkovci. Total value of purchased equipment for Gourmet Center in Vrdnik is more than EUR 300,000.00, while the total value of revitalization and reconstruction of “Šokački stan” in Vinkovci is about EUR 310,000.00. Project set up the Gourmet Academy program and provided thematic knowledge to stakeholders. Local producers, stakeholders and products are presented as part of the Eat Pannonia ICT platform which provides detailed information on gastronomic maps and selling spots. Total project budget was 1,410,837.22 EUR.



Figure 5: “Šokački stan” in Vinkovci

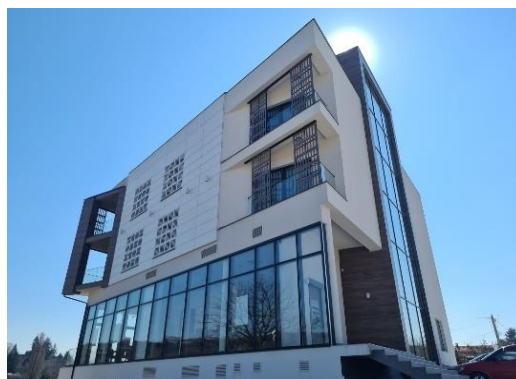


Figure 6: Gourmet Centre in Vrdnik

IT community region

IT Community Region project delivered round-the-clock business solutions for IT professionals in the cross-border area and ensured new opportunities for education, developing IT skills and networking. The main objective of the project was to encourage cooperation of IT professionals from Croatia and Serbia in specializing in the IT sector and contracting business deals through the cluster model. This was achieved through development of new solutions, such as distance learning systems, virtual fairs and eSME support, IT-tailored trainings and education programs. In total, 28 trainings were organised and 495 participants were trained.

Two centers for educational and entrepreneurship support in Vukovar (Croatia) and Subotica (Serbia) were established and equipped with the IT equipment worth EUR 28,000.00. One cross-border Web Knowledge Sharing Platform in a form of web service portal was launched and it currently counts more than 60 IT specialists and enables them to communicate, share knowledge, initiate projects, and cooperate.



Figure 7: One of many IT conferences



Figure 8: IT workshop

Education and information activities

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. The MA/JS organized several online Final Project Progress Report workshops for 12 projects of the 2nd CFP.

In October the Programme celebrated the [EC Day 2022](#) by organizing activities for school pupils from both countries in Nature Park Papuk (HR). Celebration was under the slogan "Youth in Cooperation". This one, the seventh in a row within the Programme, was dedicated to young people growing up in these parts of Croatia and Serbia, with the aim of having a fun way to appreciate the diversity that unites this area. Two "Youth" project stories were nominated for the competition Interreg Project Slam 2022. Inclusive community and joint application from DRIVE, X-bit, CB NET and IT community region.



Figure 9: Celebration of EC DAY 2022 in Nature Park Papuk

On 13th Dec 2022, the [Interreg IPA Launching Conference](#) and IPA project fair were organized in Zagreb (HR), to celebrate the approval of the new 2021-2027 Programme. More than 200 participants attended the Launching Conference on site, and more than 530 participants followed the live broadcast via our official YouTube channel.

In the main part of the Conference, the participants were given an insight into the new possibilities for financing through the presentation of the main activities and expected results of the Interreg VI-A IPA Programmes in the new financial perspective 2021-2027. Additionally, the participants had the opportunity to visit the Interreg IPA project fair where they could see interesting exhibits and project results and talk to project partners who successfully implemented their cross-border projects in the financial perspective 2014-2020.



Figure 10: Interreg IPA Launching Conference in Zagreb