

Implementation Report for IPA II Cross-Border

PART A

IDENTIFICATION OF THE FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

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2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Key information on the implementation of the cooperation programme for the year concerned, including on financial instruments, with relation to the financial and indicator data.

The Managing Authority (MA) with the support of Joint Secretariat (JS) and in cooperation with other Programme authorities (NAs, CA, FLCs, AA and JMC), implemented the Programme in accordance with the principle of sound financial management. By the end of Programme implementation, a total of EUR **40.223.124,71** of eligible expenditure was CA certified (incl. TA). The CA made the payments to projects in the amount of EUR **33.956.678,84** (EU share, incl. TA). Total amount of public expenditure certified to the EC by the Programme (IPA II part paid to the beneficiary by the CA and national public amount paid by the beneficiaries) was EUR 39.941.894,62.

The following main activities were performed:

Calls for Proposals

The MA with the support of JS and in cooperation with the NAs launched and closed **3** Calls for Proposals and a total of **48** projects were successfully implemented.

1st Cfp

The 1st (Open) Call for Proposals was launched in 2016. A total of 127 project proposals were received, and 23 projects were contracted. One project had to be terminated (FORRET in 2019). The remaining 22 project finished their implementation by the end of 2020. Total CA certified: EUR **15.934.207,23**.

2nd Cfp

The 2nd (Open) Call for Proposals was launched in 2018. A total of 111 project proposals were received, and 20 projects were contracted. One additional project (MOS-Cross2) was contracted in 2021. All projects finished their implementation by Aug 2023. Due to COVID-19, a total of 16 projects required an extension of duration, but were successfully completed. Total CA certified: EUR **19.041.267,57**.

3rd (Restricted) Cfp

The 3rd (Restricted) Call for submission of project concept notes was launched in 2022, to capitalize on existing outputs and maximise the absorption of leftover funds/savings from implemented projects. The Call was restricted to the 1st and/or 2nd Cfp projects. A total of 24 project concept notes were received and 6 projects were selected. Their implementation started on 1 Feb 2023 and finished on 31 Oct 2023. Total CA certified: EUR **1.275.225,22**.

Information and communication activities

During Programme implementation, the MA/JS with the support of NAs organized 4 Programme conferences and more than 20 workshops for beneficiaries. A total of 9 European/Interreg Cooperation Days were celebrated with strong involvement of stakeholders/target groups. The projects also received wider recognition

in the Interreg community and beyond. In 2023, project UPDATE won two main awards in the storytelling competition Interreg Project Slam. The Programme was promoted on social media, and all news were published on the Programme website.

Programme bodies activities

During Programme implementation, the following meetings were held:

- 11 Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) Meetings,
- 4 FLC Networking Meetings
- 9 Programming Task Force Meetings (for the preparation of the 2021/2027 Programme)
- 13 Technical meetings (MA/JS/NAs)
- 2 Programme Bodies Meetings (in 2018 and 2022)

During the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions in 2020/2021, most meetings were held online.

Programme evaluation

The Programme was subject to an ex-ante evaluation performed by independent experts, whose recommendations were taken into account during the drafting of the Programme in 2015. In line with the Evaluation Plan from 2016, two evaluations of the Programme were performed by independent experts: Evaluation of the Programme's efficiency and effectiveness in 2019 ("operational") and Impact evaluation in 2021. Recommendations were followed and taken into account during the drafting of the new IP. More details on evaluations are in Chapter 4.

CP modifications

The CP was amended a total of 3 times during implementation. More details on each of these CP modifications can be found in Chapter 5.

Programming for 2021 – 2027 period

The first Programming Task Force (PTF) meeting for the preparation of the IP 21-27 was held in Dec 2019. A total of 9 PTF meetings were held. In 2020, external experts were contracted for the preparation of Territorial and socio-economic analysis. Stakeholder survey, interviews and focus groups were organized in Dec 2020. In 2021, POs and SOs of the IP were selected. The SEA procedure was launched in Nov 2021 and finalized in Apr 2022. The first draft of the new IP was sent to the EC in Mar 2022, followed by a round of EC recommendations. The new version was sent for approval in Jul 2022 and approved by the EC on 3 Nov 2022.

Audits

In Nov 2016, the MA submitted to the Audit Authority (AA) the first version of the designation package. The MCS was designated in Jul 2017.

During implementation, the Programme was subject to:

- System audits and follow-ups (MA, JS and JS BO, CA, CBs and NAs audited for corresponding KRAs)
- Audits of operations (in 1 or 2 phases for each acc. year)
- Audits of Accounts (once for each acc. year before the submission of Accounts)

Open findings from system audits were successfully closed in follow-ups. The overall conclusion was Category 2 (*System works. Some improvements needed*) by 2021, and from then on Category 1 (*System works well. No, or only minor improvements needed*). Regarding the audit of operations, appropriate steps were performed by the MA. Only once during Programme implementation the error rate exceeded the threshold of 2%, and the extrapolated financial correction on Programme level was applied in the amount of EUR 162.271,02, handled directly in the Accounts for the 5th acc. year. Audits of Accounts were concluded each acc. year with no findings.

N+3

The Programme successfully met all annual and cumulative N+3 targets and was not in risk of automatic decommitment during the whole Programme implementation period.

Indicator Performance

All output indicators (PA1-PA5) have been achieved and most of them surpassed the target values, as stated in Chapter 3.2. The status of result indicators is also described in the same Chapter.

TA

Technical Assistance activities were implemented by the authorities involved in the management of the Programme: MA, JS, NAs, FLCs, CA and AA. TA activities, output indicators and budget absorption were closely monitored by the MA/JS. During the last year of Programme implementation, the MA performed several steps to maximise the use of TA funds which led to the final absorption rate of 98% of available TA funds.

Human Resources

The Programme predicted to finance the following positions within the JS and MA: 100% of salaries of JS staff (Head of JS, 2 Project Managers and 2 Finance Managers) and MA staff as follows: Head of Sector (45%), Head of Service (50%), 2 Heads of Departments (each 50%), Programme Manager (100%), TA Manager (50%), Monitoring, evaluation and reporting Officer (50%), eMS Manager (50%), Communication Officer (50%) and Legal Officer (50%). Staff turnover affected the full-time equivalents, reported in AIRs (PA5 indicator 5.16). The final value is reported in Chapter 3.2.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

3.1 Overview of the implementation

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
PA1	Improving the quality of public health and social services in the programme area	<p>On PA1, four projects were contracted within the 1st CfP in 2017, and finished by the end of 2020 (Take care!, RealForAll, MOS-Cross and ReGerNet). Three projects (Inclusive community, Heart Net, and Support life) were contracted within the 2nd CfP in 2019 and finished in 2021.</p> <p>In Dec 2020, Programme amendment was carried out, resulting in reallocation of the saved amounts from PA2 and PA4 to PA1 (approx. EUR 259.592,00). Reallocated amount, and remaining funds on PA1, were used to contract an additional project of the 2nd CfP reserve list (MOS-Cross2) in Mar 2021, which finished in Aug 2023.</p> <p>In May 2021, JMC approved a redistribution of funds still available on PA1 (EUR 90.325,69), to all four 2nd CfP projects which were still in implementation (Inclusive community, Heart Net, Support life and MOS-Cross2). These additional funds represented a specific measure of the Programme to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. These four projects were also prolonged due to COVID-19, but were successfully completed.</p> <p>Two projects on PA1 (Take Care! and Support Life) experienced a change in partnership, with one PP exiting the project and the remaining partners taking over the budget/activities of the withdrawing partner. Both projects were successfully completed.</p> <p>Within the 3rd (Restricted) Call in 2022, the JMC approved 1 additional project (MOS-Cross3) on PA1, which finished on 31 Oct 2023.</p> <p>In total, there were 9 projects selected for support within PA1. By 31 Dec 2023, total eligible cost of these projects was EUR 6.744.570,62. Commitment rate of PA1: 102,20%. Total CA certified expenditure on PA1: EUR 6.519.705,19, which is 98,79% of the PA1 allocation.</p>
PA2	Protecting the environment and biodiversity, improving risk prevention and promoting sustainable energy and energy efficiency	<p>On PA2, seven projects were contracted within the 1st CfP in 2017 (R-SOL-E, IMPACT-ENVI, EcoWET, ES-GEES, SeNs Wetlands, X DEGREE, and FORRET). Due to serious shortcomings in project management and breaches of Subsidy Contract HR-RS164 FORRET, MA terminated the project on 10 May 2019. Details provided in Chapter 5(a) of AIR2019 and FIR. All six remaining projects finished their implementation by the end of 2020.</p> <p>Six projects were contracted within the 2nd CfP in 2019 (RESCUE, GReENERGY, BIOSOL,</p>

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
		<p>WetlandRestore, E2P2, and Together We Stand). Projects RESCUE, WetlandRestore and BIOSOL finished their implementation in 2021, while projects E2P2, GReENERGY, and Together we stand finished in 2022.</p> <p>In Dec 2020, the Programme amendment was carried out, resulting in reallocation of the saved amounts from PA2 and PA4 to PA1.</p> <p>Due to the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic and its reflection on project implementation, four projects of the 2nd CfP within PA2 (RESCUE, BIOSOL, E2P2, Together We Stand) extended their implementation period. These projects were successfully completed.</p> <p>Within the 3rd (Restricted) Call in 2022, the JMC approved 2 additional projects (GReENERGY 2.0 and BIOSOL+) on PA2, which finished on 31 Oct 2023.</p> <p>In total, there were 15 projects selected for support within PA2 (including also the terminated project FORRET). By 31 Dec 2023, total eligible cost of these projects was EUR 16.189.401,23 (incl. FORRET). Commitment rate of PA2: 118,17% (incl. FORRET). Total CA certified expenditure on PA2: EUR 13.646.637,73, which is 99.61% of the PA2 allocation.</p>
PA3	Contributing to the development of tourism and preserving cultural and natural heritage.	<p>On PA3, six projects were contracted within the 1st CfP in 2017 and finished their implementation in 2019 (VicTour, Central Danube Tour, EXPLORE CRO-SRB, VISITUS, S.O.S., and HORIS).</p> <p>Four projects were contracted within 2nd CfP in 2019 (Wild Danube Tour, FILMharmonia, Panona net, and Pannonia Gourmet). Project FILMharmonia finished in 2020, projects Wild Danube Tour and Panona Net in 2021, and Pannonia Gourmet in 2022.</p> <p>In Dec 2020, the Programme amendment was carried out, resulting in reallocation of the saved amounts from PA2 and PA4 to PA1. Remaining savings from PA3 were used to increase the Programme co-financing of the 2nd CfP project Pannonia Gourmet (from 65% to 74%).</p> <p>Due to the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic and its reflection on implementation of projects, three projects within PA3 extended their implementation period (Wild Danube Tour, Panona Net and Pannonia Gourmet). These projects were successfully completed.</p> <p>Within the 3rd (Restricted) Call in 2022, the JMC approved 1 additional project (Pannex Reload) on PA3, which finished on 31 Oct 2023.</p>

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
		<p>In total, there were 11 projects selected for support within PA3. By 31 Dec 2023, total eligible cost of these projects was EUR 9.488.045,86. Commitment rate of PA3: 106,90%. Total CA certified expenditure on PA3: EUR 8.973.951,33, which is 101,10% of the PA3 allocation.</p>
PA4	Enhancing competitiveness and developing business environment in the programme area.	<p>On PA4, six projects were contracted within the 1st CfP in 2017 and finished their implementation by the end of 2020 (ORGANIC BRIDGE, Eco build, CROSS TREE, DRIVE, ROSIS4H, and XBIT).</p> <p>Six projects were contracted within 2nd CfP in 2019 (COMMON, FED CCNET, IT community region, CBC Clusters, WBH, and CB NET). These projects finished their implementation in 2021, except for project CB NET, which ended in 2022.</p> <p>In December 2020, the Programme amendment was carried out, resulting in reallocation of the saved amounts from PA2 and PA4 to PA1.</p> <p>Due to the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic and its reflection on project implementation, five projects (COMMON, IT community region, CBC Clusters, WBH, and CB NET) extended their implementation period. The projects were successfully completed.</p> <p>Within the 3rd (Restricted) Call in 2022, the JMC approved 2 additional projects (UPDATE and SASFRU) on PA4, which finished on 31 Oct 2023.</p> <p>In total, there were 14 projects selected for support within PA4. By 31 Dec 2023, total eligible cost of these projects was EUR 7.572.584,31. Commitment rate of PA4: 106,12%. Total CA certified expenditure on PA4: EUR 7.110.405,77, which is 99,65% of the PA4 allocation.</p>
PA5	Technical Assistance	<p>The total available funds dedicated to Technical Assistance were EUR 4.034.492,00 (EU share: EUR 3.429.318,00). Six projects were contracted within the Call for Proposals for Technical Assistance (TA) in 2017. In 2018, TA projects of MA and JS merged into a single TA project, therefore there were five TA projects contracted by the end of Programme implementation. The TA beneficiaries: 1.) Managing Authority and Joint Secretariat, 2.) National Authority in Croatia, 3.) National Authority in Serbia (including Control Body in Serbia), 4.) Control body in Croatia, and 5.) Audit Authority.</p> <p>By 31 Dec 2023, total eligible cost of TA projects was EUR 4.034.492,00. Commitment rate of PA5: 100%. Total CA certified expenditure on PA5: EUR 3.972.424,69, which is 98,46% of the PA5 allocation.</p>

3.2 Common and programme specific indicators (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axes other than technical assistance

Priority axis	PA1 - Improving the quality of public health and social services in the programme area
Thematic Priority	a - Promoting employment, labour mobility and social and cultural inclusion across borders through, inter alia: integrating cross-border labour markets, including cross-border mobility; joint local employment initiatives; information and advisory services and joint training; gender equality; equal opportunities; integration of immigrants' communities and vulnerable groups; investment in public employment services; and supporting investment in public health and social services.

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - PA1.a

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2023	Observations
F	CO36	Health: Population covered by improved health services	Persons	100,000.00	134,272.00	By the end of 2023, as a result of implemented projects: - 2.652 elderly, infirm and palliative persons received health and social services - 10.878 persons were covered by the platform for real-time measurement and forecast for common allergens - 108.707 persons were covered with mosquito abatement services - 3.971 persons received improved social services (humanitarian aid, social inclusion, in-house care, senior volunteering) - 8.064 persons received improved health services (using telemedicine)
S	CO36	Health: Population covered by improved health services	Persons	100,000.00	126,975.00	Four projects contracted within the 1st CFP planned to cover 45 600 persons with improved health/social services. All four projects managed to provide these services to more persons than they have initially envisaged. Additional four projects contracted within the 2nd CFP planned to cover 80.175 persons with newly developed and/or improved health/social care services. One project contracted within the 3rd CFP planned to cover additional 1.200 persons with improved health/social care services. Programme estimation of funds needed for achieving this indicator during the programming period was slightly stricter, whereas contracted projects predicted that a higher value can be achieved for the planned amount of funds. Furthermore, additional funds (i.e. savings from other PAs) have been reallocated to PA1 as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
F	PA1	Number of persons related to improving health care services and/or social care services trained	Number	437.00	803.00	By the end of 2023, implementation of projects resulted in: - 40 health/social workers certified in palliative care - 234 persons trained in caregiving/palliative/social care - 243 public health and medical professionals trained on mosquito-borne diseases and mosquito-surveillance methods - 116 persons educated on allergens - 113 persons trained on volunteering and other social services - 57 health workers trained in telemedicine techniques
S	PA1	Number of persons related to improving health care services and/or social care services trained	Number	437.00	630.00	Four projects contracted within the 1st CFP planned to train 280 persons in the area related to improving health care/social care services, while four projects contracted within the 2nd CFP planned to contribute with trainings for 310 persons. One project contracted within the 3rd CFP planned to train additional 40 persons on mosquito surveillance methods. Most projects managed to provide training and education to more persons than they have initially envisaged. Programme estimation of funds needed for achieving this indicator while setting a target value was stricter, whereas contracted projects predicted that a higher value can be achieved for the same amount of funds.
F	PA1b	Number of jointly developed tools and services that enable better quality of social and health care	Number	9.00	14.00	By the end of 2023, implementation of projects resulted in: - cross-border network for recording and monitoring palliative patients - 3 gerontology clubs for vulnerable groups - accredited training for caregivers - 6 tools and services related to mosquito surveillance, abatement treatments, and mosquito-borne diseases - joint eHealth platform delivering real-time measurement and forecast for birch, grass and ragweed pollen - telemedicine network/service for cardiovascular diseases - programme for social integration of different marginalized and vulnerable groups
S	PA1b	Number of jointly developed tools and services that enable better quality of social and health care	Number	9.00	14.00	Four projects contracted within the 1st CFP planned to develop 12 tools and services that enable better quality of social and health care, while two projects contracted within the 2nd CFP planned to develop 2 additional tools and/or services. Programme estimation of funds needed for achieving this indicator while setting a target value was stricter, whereas contracted projects foreseen that a higher value can be achieved for the same amount of funds.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO36	Health: Population covered by improved health services	90,179.00	56,962.00	54,314.00	12,392.00	1,668.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO36	Health: Population covered by improved health services	126,975.00	125,775.00	123,782.00	57,819.00	45,600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	PA1	Number of persons related to improving health care services and/or social care services trained	676.00	619.00	524.00	176.00	97.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PA1	Number of persons related to improving health care services and/or social care services trained	630.00	590.00	565.00	485.00	280.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	PA1b	Number of jointly developed tools and services that enable better quality of social and health care	14.00	14.00	12.00	7.00	7.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PA1b	Number of jointly developed tools and services that enable better quality of social and health care	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	12.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	PA1 - Improving the quality of public health and social services in the programme area
Thematic Priority	a - Promoting employment, labour mobility and social and cultural inclusion across borders through, inter alia: integrating cross-border labour markets, including cross-border mobility; joint local employment initiatives; information and advisory services and joint training; gender equality; equal opportunities; integration of immigrants' communities and vulnerable groups; investment in public employment services; and supporting investment in public health and social services.
Specific objective	1.1 - To improve the quality of facilities, services and skills in the area of public health and social care

Table 1: Result indicators - PA1.a.1.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2023 Total	2023 Qualitative	Observations
PA1	Number of elderly people and children assisted by social services provided through government bodies	Number	82,672.00	2014	76,885.00	63,210.00		In 2023, a decrease trend that has been observed since 2018 has continued. The target value has been reached and even more improved than planned. There are various reasons for such a development, but the following reasons seem to be the most significant: the impact of the projects that were financed by the Programme, the recovery of the economy of the region after the end of the COVID-19 crisis, but also the emigration of the population from the region. Explanation of SFC warning 2.51.1: Value for 2014 is 0 because the Programme was approved in 2015 and did not have baseline values for 2014.

ID	Indicator	2022 Total	2022 Qualitative	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative
PA1	Number of elderly people and children assisted by social services provided through government bodies	98,298.00		98,298.00		98,298.00		111,069.00	

ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative
PA1	Number of elderly people and children assisted by social services provided through government bodies	111,069.00							

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
PA1	Number of elderly people and children assisted by social services provided through government bodies	0.00	

Priority axis	PA2 - Protecting the environment and biodiversity, improving risk prevention and promoting sustainable energy and energy efficiency
Thematic Priority	b - Protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management through, inter alia: joint actions for environmental protection; promoting sustainable use of natural resources, resource efficiency, renewable energy sources and the shift towards a safe and sustainable low-carbon economy; promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems and emergency preparedness.

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - PA2.b

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2023	Observations
F	PA2a	Number of jointly developed and/or operated monitoring systems	Number	5.00	5.00	By the end of 2023, implementation of projects resulted in developing: - monitoring network system for data acquisition, processing and presentation (DAPP) of surface water, groundwater and wastewater in cross-border area - pilot project of mapping and assessing ecosystem services (available as a GIS database) in cross-border pilot areas - sustainable agricultural production management framework plan in cross-border area - indicator system enabling efficient monitoring of conservation status of wetland habitats and changes in their ecological character - system consisting of standard operating procedures for joint action in case of floods and disasters involving dangerous chemicals and gases
S	PA2a	Number of jointly developed and/or operated monitoring systems	Number	5.00	5.00	Three projects contracted within the 1st CIP planned to develop 3 monitoring systems to improve environment protection in the cross-border area, while two projects contracted within the 2nd CIP planned to develop additional 2 monitoring systems.
F	PA2b	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	ha	69,792.00	88,511.99	By the end of 2023, implementation of projects resulted in: - 5.000 ha covered by ecosystem processor for purification of waste/river water - 69.343,89 ha covered by assessing ecosystem, collecting data and producing maps of 3 pilot areas - 540 ha covered by a multifunctional vegetation strip at Zobatnica lake (RS) - 13.626 ha of habitats covered by restoration plans in CB wetland area - 2,10 ha of habitats revitalized in 2 pilot wetland areas - in Zasavica (RS) and Čarna (HR)
S	PA2b	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	ha	69,792.00	82,280.10	Three projects contracted within the 1st CIP planned to cover 68.652 ha of habitats with conservation measures. Out of that, 38.000 ha was planned to be supported within project FORRET which had to be terminated in March 2019. One project (EcoWET) managed to cover more than double the area that it had initially envisaged, which managed to offset the underachievement of FORRET. One project contracted within the 2nd CIP planned to support 13.628,10 ha of habitats to improve their conservation status (13.627,5 ha planned in the initial Application and additional 0,60 ha introduced through project modification). Programme estimation of funds needed for achieving this indicator while setting a target value was stricter, whereas contracted projects predicted that a higher value can be achieved for the same amount of funds.
F	PA2c	Additional capacity of renewable energy production	MW	3.60	5.38	By the end of 2023, implementation of projects resulted in producing: - 4.48 MW of additional capacity of energy production by installing solar power plants and photo-voltaic systems - 0.86 MW of additional capacity by reconstructing biogas production plant and installing biogas cogeneration plant producing electrical and heat power - 0.04 MW of additional capacity by installing circular economy pilot process based on wooden pellet production and photovoltaic hybrid power plant pilot
S	PA2c	Additional capacity of renewable energy production	MW	3.60	6.27	Three projects contracted within the 1st CIP planned to produce 2,43 MW of additional capacity of renewable energy. However, one project (ES – GEES) failed to achieve a part of forecasted value (0,99 MW), i.e. delivered outputs were not in line with Programme rules and could not be counted. Four projects contracted within the 2nd CIP planned the production of additional 3,43 MW. Two projects contracted within the 3rd CIP planned an additional 0,41 MW. Therefore, the achieved value for this indicator is slightly lower than the planned value in project applications, but still higher than the final Programme target value. Programme estimation of funds needed for achieving this indicator while setting a target value was stricter, whereas contracted projects predicted that a higher value can be achieved for the same amount of funds.

(I)	ID	Indicator	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	PA2a	Number of jointly developed and/or operated monitoring systems	5.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PA2a	Number of jointly developed and/or operated monitoring systems	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	PA2b	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	88,511.99	88,511.39	74,883.89	74,343.89	60,380.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PA2b	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	82,280.10	82,280.10	82,279.50	82,279.50	68,652.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	PA2c	Additional capacity of renewable energy production	3.89	1.71	1.44	1.02	0.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PA2c	Additional capacity of renewable energy production	6.21	5.86	5.81	5.81	2.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	PA2 - Protecting the environment and biodiversity, improving risk prevention and promoting sustainable energy and energy efficiency
Thematic Priority	b - Protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management through, inter alia: joint actions for environmental protection; promoting sustainable use of natural resources, resource efficiency, renewable energy sources and the shift towards a safe and sustainable low-carbon economy; promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems and emergency preparedness.
Specific objective	2.1 - To enforce integrated cross-border monitoring/ management systems for key existing risks and environmental and biodiversity protection

Table 1: Result indicators - PA2.b.2.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2023 Total	2023 Qualitative	Observations
PA2.1	Disaster response capability in the programme area	Percentage	42.00	2015	89.00	78.88		The percentage describing the level of disaster response capability in the Programme area has continuously increased since 2015, reflecting the improvements made in this sector. Although this result indicator did not reach the target value of 89%, the positive trend achieved in the sector is obvious. Several projects financed by the Programme improved the preparedness of the area to respond to disasters and it is expected that these projects will provide a lasting, durable impact and provide an incentive for further enhancement of the capacities in the future. Explanation of SFC warning 2.48.1: Value for 2014 is 0 because the Programme was approved in 2015.

ID	Indicator	2022 Total	2022 Qualitative	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative
PA2.1	Disaster response capability in the programme area	71.04		71.04		71.04		69.00	

ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative
PA2.1	Disaster response capability in the programme area	69.00						42.00	

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
PA2.1	Disaster response capability in the programme area	0.00	

Priority axis	PA2 - Protecting the environment and biodiversity, improving risk prevention and promoting sustainable energy and energy efficiency
Thematic Priority	b - Protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management through, inter alia: joint actions for environmental protection; promoting sustainable use of natural resources, resource efficiency, renewable energy sources and the shift towards a safe and sustainable low-carbon economy; promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems and emergency preparedness.
Specific objective	2.2 - To promote the use of sustainable energy and energy efficiency

Table 1: Result indicators - PA2.b.2.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2023 Total	2023 Qualitative	Observations
PA2.2	Energy consumption by public buildings in the programme area	kWh	119,982,318.29	2014	111,583,556.01	278,029,900.66		It needs to be taken into account that the relevant database in Croatia for 2023 includes a significantly higher number of public buildings than those in 2014. Therefore, the reported value is constantly increasing in comparison to the baseline. The recording system has been decentralized in Serbia, which hindered the possibility of reliable data aggregation. That said, several projects financed by the Programme noted positive changes in energy consumption on the public buildings where EE measures were undertaken. Explanation of SFC warning 2.50.1: When determining the baseline value, the data was obtained from available sources in Croatia and Serbia in 2014. However, not all public buildings were registered in related databases at the time.

ID	Indicator	2022 Total	2022 Qualitative	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative
PA2.2	Energy consumption by public buildings in the programme area	254,129,088.68		254,129,088.68		254,129,088.68			

ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative
PA2.2	Energy consumption by public buildings in the programme area								

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
PA2.2	Energy consumption by public buildings in the programme area	119,982,318.29	

Priority axis	PA3 - Contributing to the development of tourism and preserving cultural and natural heritage.
Thematic Priority	d - Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - PA3.d

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2023	Observations
F	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Visits/year	1,000.00	8,886.00	By the end of 2023, implementation of projects resulted in: - 2.222 new visitors to Srijem/Srem region through innovative touristic offer - 1.554 new visitors to new secession route - 1.426 new visitors to cultural/natural heritage of Central Danube - 116 new visitors to CB region through new tourism offer for the blind/visually impaired - 438 new visitors to new thematic paths established in CB area - 600 new visitors to events held at Gourmet centres in Vrđnik (RS) and Vinkovci (HR) - 2.530 new visitors to eco visitor centres in CB area
S	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Visits/year	1,000.00	8,151.00	Four projects contracted within the 1st CIP planned to increase the number of visitors to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage in the programme area by 4.551. Three projects contracted within the 2nd CIP planned to increase the number of visitors to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage by 3.500. One project contracted within the 3rd CIP planned to increase the number of visitors by additional 100 persons. Most projects managed to increase the number of visitors to supported sites more than they have initially foreseen. Programme estimation of funds needed for achieving this indicator while setting a target value was stricter, whereas contracted projects predicted that a higher value can be achieved for the same amount of funds.
F	PA3a	Number of joint tourism products developed and promoted	Number	13.00	20.00	By the end of 2023, projects developed: - CB ecotourism/gastro route in Central Danube - 2 specialized gastro/cultural tools for blind/visually impaired - new visual identity of Srijem/Srem tourism offer - 3 CB routes (gastro/recreation/ecotourism) - secession route Subotica (RS) - Osijek (HR) - repertoire of silent films with live philharmonic music - 2 new tourism events in Papuk (HR) and Tavankut (RS) - CB map of tourist products in active/cultural tourism - new tourism service for CB tours (9 itineraries) - 2 new joint tourism products: «Eat Pannonia» brand and Gourmet Fair for promotion of local products - new CB service with 4 programs (ecotourism/wildlife watching/photography) - 4 new digital tools for the promotion of CB gastro offer
S	PA3a	Number of joint tourism products developed and promoted	Number	13.00	20.00	Five projects contracted within the 1st CIP planned to develop and promote 8 different tourism products for the cross-border area, while four projects contracted within the 2nd CIP planned to develop and promote 8 joint tourism products. One project contracted within the 3rd CIP planned to jointly develop and promote additional 4 tourism products. Programme estimation of funds needed for achieving this indicator while setting a target value was stricter, whereas contracted projects predicted that a higher value can be achieved for the same amount of funds.
F	PA3b	Number of persons educated in quality assurance, standardisation on cultural and natural heritage and destination management.	Number	370.00	1,024.00	By the end of 2023, implementation of projects resulted in: - 53 thematic tourist guides trained (e.g. ecotourism, wildlife watching and photography) - 233 persons trained on the use of digital technology in tourism - 64 persons trained on providing specialized tourism services to disabled/blind/visually impaired people - 44 persons trained in quality assurance and management - 630 persons trained in destination management, creative and gastro tourism, cultural/recreational/equestrian tourism and improving the quality of tourism services
S	PA3b	Number of persons educated in quality assurance, standardisation on cultural and natural heritage and destination management.	Number	370.00	490.00	Six projects contracted within the 1st CIP planned to educate 276 persons in quality assurance, standardisation on cultural and natural heritage and destination management. All projects managed to provide education and training in these fields to more persons than they have initially planned. Four projects contracted within the 2nd CIP planned to provide education for additional 214 persons. Due to high interest, projects educated more persons than planned. Programme estimation of funds needed for achieving this indicator while setting a target value was stricter, whereas contracted projects foresee that a higher value can be achieved for the same amount of funds.
F	PA3d	Number of tourism supporting facilities and/or tourism infrastructure developed or improved	Number	11.00	24.00	By the end of 2023, implementation of projects resulted in: - 5 equestrian tourism supporting facilities developed - secession Sakuntala park in Osijek (HR) revitalised - tourism valorisation plan of Subotica's City Hall (RS) developed - tourism/cultural supporting facility in Novi Sad (RS) improved - 5 photo hides and 1 bird feeding station in Zasavica (RS) constructed - multimedia centre for the promotion of wildlife watching in Bilje (HR) improved - traditional space in Vinkovci (HR) renovated and equipped - 2 new cultural events sites in Erdut and Papuk etno-village (HR) equipped - 6 new thematic paths in CB area developed
S	PA3d	Number of tourism supporting facilities and/or tourism infrastructure developed or improved	Number	11.00	24.00	Two projects contracted within the 1st CIP planned to develop and/or improve 7 tourism supporting facilities and/or tourism infrastructure by the end of their implementation, while four projects contracted within the 2nd CIP planned to contribute with 17 additional tourism supporting facilities and/or tourism infrastructure. Programme estimation of funds needed for achieving this indicator while setting a target value was stricter, whereas contracted projects predicted that a higher value can be achieved for the same amount of funds.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	6,256.00	5,318.00	5,318.00	2,342.00	750.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	8,151.00	8,051.00	8,051.00	7,551.00	4,551.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	PA3a	Number of joint tourism products developed and promoted	15.00	12.00	8.00	8.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PA3a	Number of joint tourism products developed and promoted	20.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	PA3b	Number of persons educated in quality assurance, standardisation on cultural and natural heritage and destination management.	985.00	905.00	818.00	756.00	329.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PA3b	Number of persons educated in quality assurance, standardisation on cultural and natural heritage and destination management.	490.00	490.00	490.00	490.00	276.00	56.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	PA3d	Number of tourism supporting facilities and/or tourism infrastructure developed or improved	23.00	22.00	9.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

(1)	ID	Indicator	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
S	PA3d	Number of tourism supporting facilities and/or tourism infrastructure developed or improved	24.00	24.00	25.00	28.00	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	PA3 - Contributing to the development of tourism and preserving cultural and natural heritage.
Thematic Priority	d - Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.
Specific objective	3.1 - To strengthen, diversify and integrate the cross-border tourism offer and better manage cultural and natural heritage assets

Table 1: Result indicators - PA3.d.3.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2023 Total	2023 Qualitative	Observations
PA3	Number of overnights in the programme area	Number	1,037,837.00	2014	1,041,358.00	2,463,597.00		After a significant decrease of the indicator value in the timespan from 2018 to 2020, due to the negative impact of the COVID-19 crisis, the value increased significantly in 2023. The target value has been reached and exceeded by almost 250 %, which can partly be attributed to the positive effects of the projects financed by the Programme, but also to other factors, such as the increase of public and private investment in tourism and infrastructure and the increasing variety of the tourism offer. Explanation of SFC warning 2.49.1: In 2018 and 2019 (prior to COVID-19 pandemic), tourism related to both natural and cultural heritage was in rise in the Programming area which led to overachievement of previously set target values.

ID	Indicator	2022 Total	2022 Qualitative	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative
PA3	Number of overnights in the programme area	908,051.00		908,051.00		908,051.00		1,487,792.00	

ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative
PA3	Number of overnights in the programme area	1,487,792.00							

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
PA3	Number of overnights in the programme area	1,037,837.00	

Priority axis	PA4 - Enhancing competitiveness and developing business environment in the programme area.
Thematic Priority	g - Enhancing competitiveness, the business environment and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, trade and investment through, inter alia, promotion and support to entrepreneurship, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, and development of local cross-border markets and internationalisation.

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - PA4.g

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2023	Observations
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	9.00	26.00	By the end of 2023, implementation of projects resulted in cooperation of: - 5 enterprises and RI on the possibilities of biomass ash usage in civil engineering products - 6 enterprises and RI on soil analysis, fruit and herb production - 3 enterprises and RI on computer systems and IT in the domain of automotive industry - 2 enterprises and RI on joint research for innovation in corporate and traditional business - 10 enterprises and RI on joint laboratory analyses and biotechnological research
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	9.00	23.00	Four projects contracted within the 1st CFP planned to establish cooperation between 13 enterprises and research institutions. One additional project contracted within the 2nd CFP selected this indicator and planned to establish cooperation between 10 enterprises and research institutions. Two projects managed to establish cooperation between more enterprises and research institutions than they initially planned. Programme estimation of funds needed for achieving this indicator while setting a target value was stricter, whereas contracted projects predicted that a higher value can be achieved for the same amount of funds.
F	PA4a	Number of innovative technologies, processes, products and services introduced by the enterprises in the programme area	Number	7.00	21.00	By the end of 2023, implementation of projects resulted in introduction of: - 4 innovative products made with biomass ashes, which can be used as building material - graduate school curriculum for automotive software engineering - education curriculum for entrepreneurship and IT - Open Innovation Lab for cooperation in business innovation - 5 new different types of nursery trees - Blue economy programme for cultivation of cellulose mushrooms - 2 IT solutions for B2B and facilitation of renewable resources usage - educational programme for SMEs in the creative/gaming industry of the cross-border area - 2 new training programmes in experimental fields of agricultural institutes in HR and RS - optimal spraying mobile app for fruit growers and farmers - 2 courses with mentoring sessions for start-ups (on the topics of AI application and Internet of Everything)
S	PA4a	Number of innovative technologies, processes, products and services introduced by the enterprises in the programme area	Number	7.00	23.00	Five projects contracted within the 1st CFP planned to introduce 15 innovative technologies, processes, products and/or services in the programme area. However, project XBIT failed to achieve a part of what was planned (2 services), i.e. delivered outputs were not in line with the definition of the programme output indicator and therefore could not be considered as a contribution. Two projects contracted within the 2nd CFP planned to introduce 3 additional innovative processes/services. Two projects contracted within the 3rd CFP planned to contribute with 5 innovative processes/services. Programme estimation of funds needed for achieving this indicator while setting a target value was stricter, whereas contracted projects predicted that a higher value can be achieved for the same amount of funds.
F	PA4c	Number of cross-border clusters or networks or other collaborative schemes including entrepreneurs established or improved	Number	7.00	10.00	By the end of 2023, implementation of projects resulted in: - e-platform for horticultural sector - network of organic producers in CB area - IT network for competitiveness, innovation and entrepreneurship - network for women entrepreneurs - network on enhancing the business environment - cluster in the field of agriculture, focusing on renewable energy from harvest residues - cluster in the field of paper industry, mechanical engineering and energetics - web-platform for cooperation/knowledge exchange in ICT - online platform for increasing employment opportunities - CB network for increasing competitiveness in ICT
S	PA4c	Number of cross-border clusters or networks or other collaborative schemes including entrepreneurs established or improved	Number	7.00	11.00	Four projects contracted within the 1st CFP planned to establish 4 cross-border clusters, networks or other collaborative schemes in the programme area. However, project Eco build failed to achieve planned output (1), i.e. delivered output was not in line with the definition of programme output indicator and therefore could not be considered as a contribution. Six projects contracted within the 2nd CFP planned to establish additional 7 cross-border collaborative schemes. Programme estimation of funds needed for achieving this indicator while setting a target value was stricter, whereas contracted projects predicted that a higher value can be achieved for the same amount of funds.
F	PA4d	Number of laboratories and/or competence centres jointly used by entrepreneurs developed or improved	Number	12.00	22.00	By the end of 2023, implementation of projects resulted in: - establishing Centre for coordination/transfer of applied research in eco-farming - establishing Centre for organic production - equipping 4 laboratories for IT/automotive industry - 3 innovation/fabrication laboratories - 1 mobile laboratory for digital fabrication - 5 in-field horticultural laboratories - 2 agro-business competence offices - laboratory for ICT in horticulture - improving 2 competence centres for horticulture production - 1 CB business competence centre - improvement of water laboratory at agricultural institute
S	PA4d	Number of laboratories and/or competence centres jointly used by entrepreneurs developed or improved	Number	12.00	22.00	Five projects contracted within the 1st CFP planned to develop or improve 20 laboratories and/or competence centres in the programme area, while only one project contracted within the 2nd CFP selected this indicator and planned to develop one business competence centre. One project contracted within the 3rd CFP planned to improve one existing laboratory. Programme estimation of funds needed for achieving this indicator while setting a target value was stricter, whereas contracted projects predicted that a higher value can be achieved for the same amount of funds.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	26.00	26.00	16.00	12.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	13.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

(1)	ID	Indicator	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	PA4a	Number of innovative technologies, processes, products and services introduced by the enterprises in the programme area	16.00	15.00	13.00	8.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PA4a	Number of innovative technologies, processes, products and services introduced by the enterprises in the programme area	23.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	15.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	PA4c	Number of cross-border clusters or networks or other collaborative schemes including entrepreneurs established or improved	10.00	8.00	4.00	4.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PA4c	Number of cross-border clusters or networks or other collaborative schemes including entrepreneurs established or improved	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	PA4d	Number of laboratories and/or competence centres jointly used by entrepreneurs developed or improved	21.00	21.00	20.00	15.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PA4d	Number of laboratories and/or competence centres jointly used by entrepreneurs developed or improved	22.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	PA4 - Enhancing competitiveness and developing business environment in the programme area.
Thematic Priority	g - Enhancing competitiveness, the business environment and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, trade and investment through, inter alia, promotion and support to entrepreneurship, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, and development of local cross-border markets and internationalisation.
Specific objective	4.1 - To improve competitiveness of the programme area through strengthening cooperation between business support institutions, clusters, education and research organisations and entrepreneurs with aim to develop new products/services/patents/trademarks in the programme area

Table 1: Result indicators - PA4.g.4.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2023 Total	2023 Qualitative	Observations
PA4	Range of cluster activities enhancing innovation, new technologies and ICT solutions	Number	13.00	2015	18.00	9.00		The reported value for 2023 is lower than the baseline value of 2015, but significantly higher than 2020. During this time, several clusters ceased to exist and perform their activities, partially due to low interest of members, and partially due to decreased funding possibilities. Nevertheless, based on the positive trend and on the information acquired from the relevant authorities, it is expected that the cluster activities enhancing innovation, new technologies and ICT solutions will increase in the following years, considering recent developments in the ICT industry in the area. Explanation of SFC warning 2.48.1: Value for 2014 is 0 because the CP was approved in 2015 and did not have values for 2014.

ID	Indicator	2022 Total	2022 Qualitative	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative
PA4	Range of cluster activities enhancing innovation, new technologies and ICT solutions	3.00		3.00		3.00			

ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative
PA4	Range of cluster activities enhancing innovation, new technologies and ICT solutions							13.00	

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
PA4	Range of cluster activities enhancing innovation, new technologies and ICT solutions	0.00	

Priority axes for technical assistance

Priority axis	PA5 - Technical Assistance
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Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - PA5.Technical Assistance

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2023	Observations
F	5.1	Joint secretariat established	Number	1.00	1.00	Joint Secretariat was established in 2015.
S	5.1	Joint secretariat established	Number	1.00	1.00	Joint Secretariat was established in 2015.
F	5.10	Network of controllers established	Number	1.00	1.00	Network of controllers was established in 2016.
S	5.10	Network of controllers established	Number	1.00	1.00	Network of controllers was established in 2016.
F	5.16	Number of employees (Full Time Equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	Number	18.00	18.83	In 2023, a total of 18,83 full-time equivalent staff's salaries were co-financed by the Technical Assistance (in different percentages of working time). Per Programme bodies, during 2023, full-time equivalents were as follows: MA/JS – 8.95, Croatian FLC: 3.38 (on average during the year), AA: 0.5, Croatian NA: 2, Serbian NA (including Control Body in Serbia): 4. Due to staff turnover and Programme needs, the final full time equivalent is slightly higher than initially planned.
S	5.16	Number of employees (Full Time Equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	Number	18.00	17.80	In June 2020, the Programme target value of this indicator was increased to 18 in CP modification (CP ver. 3.0). In TA applications the full-time equivalent target amounts to 17,80.
F	5.5	Joint Monitoring Committee meetings held	Number	9.00	11.00	By the end of 2023, a total of 11 JMC Meetings were held. Some of these meetings were held online during 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions, while on-site meetings followed a rotational principle between Croatia and Serbia. Due to higher needs of Programme's implementation, more JMC meetings were held than initially planned.
S	5.5	Joint Monitoring Committee meetings held	Number	9.00	9.00	In accordance with Article 38 (8) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014 and JMC Rules of Procedures, JMC shall meet at least once a year. Therefore, the total planned target value was 9 JMC meetings.
F	5.7	Programme communication strategy developed and implemented	Number	1.00	1.00	Programme communication strategy was implemented as planned throughout Programme implementation.
S	5.7	Programme communication strategy developed and implemented	Number	1.00	1.00	Programme communication strategy was developed in 2015.
F	5.8	Independent programme evaluations implemented (ex-ante and during programme implementation)	Number	2.00	2.00	Two programme evaluations were performed by external experts: Evaluation of the Programme efficiency and effectiveness (operational evaluation) in October 2019, and the Programme Impact evaluation in 2021. Details on evaluations are provided in Chapter 4.
S	5.8	Independent programme evaluations implemented (ex-ante and during programme implementation)	Number	2.00	2.00	Two programme evaluations were predicted by the Evaluation Plan: operational evaluation and impact evaluation (Ex-ante Evaluation performed as part of the Programme drafting process is not counted within this indicator).
F	5.9	Programme e-Monitoring System developed, implemented and used	Number	1.00	1.00	e-Monitoring System (eMS) for the Programme has been used during entire Programme implementation period.
S	5.9	Programme e-Monitoring System developed, implemented and used	Number	1.00	1.00	e-Monitoring System (eMS) for the Programme was developed, implemented, set-up and ready for use since 2016.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	5.1	Joint secretariat established	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
S	5.1	Joint secretariat established	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
F	5.10	Network of controllers established	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
S	5.10	Network of controllers established	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
F	5.16	Number of employees (Full Time Equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	17.56	17.30	15.10	14.80	17.05	13.83	6.33	5.33	5.33
S	5.16	Number of employees (Full Time Equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	12.00	13.83	6.33	5.33	5.33
F	5.5	Joint Monitoring Committee meetings held	10.00	8.00	7.00	6.00	4.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
S	5.5	Joint Monitoring Committee meetings held	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
F	5.7	Programme communication strategy developed and implemented	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
S	5.7	Programme communication strategy developed and implemented	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
F	5.8	Independent programme evaluations implemented (ex-ante and during programme implementation)	2.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	5.8	Independent programme evaluations implemented (ex-ante and during programme implementation)	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	5.9	Programme e-Monitoring System developed, implemented and used	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
S	5.9	Programme e-Monitoring System developed, implemented and used	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00

3.3 Table 3: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone for 2018 total	Final target (2023) total	2023	Observations
PA1	F	PA1	Improving the quality of public health and social services in the programme area	EUR	700,000.00	5,609,512.00	5,541,594.19	By the end of 2023, CA made payments in the amount of EUR 5.541.594,19 (EU share) to projects contracted under PA1.
PA1	O	PA1	Number of persons related to improving health care services and/or social care services trained	Number	75	437.00	803.00	By the end of 2023, implementation of projects resulted in: - 40 health/social workers certified in palliative care, - 234 persons trained in caregiving/palliative/social care, - 243 public health and medical professionals trained on mosquito-borne diseases and mosquito-surveillance methods, - 116 persons educated on allergens, - 113 persons trained on volunteering and other social services, - 57 health workers trained in telemedicine techniques. Programme estimation when setting the target value was stricter, while projects predicted that a higher number of persons (630) can be trained for the same amount of funds. Furthermore, due to higher interest of participants, most projects managed to train even more persons than planned.
PA1	O	PA1b	Number of jointly developed tools and services that enable better quality of social and health care	Number	2	9.00	14.00	By the end of 2023, implementation of projects resulted in: - cross-border network for recording and monitoring palliative patients, - 3 gerontology clubs for vulnerable groups, - accredited training for caregivers, - 6 tools and services related to mosquito surveillance, abatement treatments, and mosquito-borne diseases, - joint eHealth platform delivering real-time measurement and forecast for birch, grass and ragweed pollen, - telemedicine network/service for cardiovascular diseases, - programme for social integration of different marginalized and vulnerable groups. Programme estimation when setting the target value was stricter, while projects predicted that a higher number of tools and services (14) can be developed for the same amount of funds.
PA2	F	PA2	Protecting the environment and biodiversity, improving risk prevention and promoting sustainable energy and energy efficiency	EUR	1.200,000.00	11,644,543.00	11,531,851.36	By the end of 2023, CA made payments in the amount of EUR 11.531.851,36 (EU share) to projects contracted under PA2.
PA2	O	PA2a	Number of jointly developed and/or operated monitoring systems	Number	1	5.00	5.00	By the end of 2023, implementation of projects resulted in developing: - monitoring network system for data acquisition, processing and presentation (DAPP) of surface water, groundwater and wastewater in cross-border area, - pilot project of mapping and assessing ecosystem services (available as a GIS database) in cross-border pilot areas, - sustainable agricultural production management framework plan in cross-border area, - indicator system enabling efficient monitoring of conservation status of wetland habitats and changes in their ecological character, - system consisting of standard operating procedures for joint action in case of floods and disasters involving dangerous chemicals and gasses.
PA2	O	PA2b	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	ha	100	69,792.00	88,511.99	By the end of 2023, implementation of projects resulted in: - 5.000 ha covered by ecosystem processor for purification of waste/river water, - 69.343,89 ha covered by assessing ecosystem, collecting data and producing maps of 3 pilot areas, - 540 ha covered by a multifunctional vegetation strip at Zobatnica lake (RS), - 13.626 ha of habitats covered by restoration plans in CB wetland area, - 2,10 ha of habitats revitalized in 2 pilot wetland areas - in Zasavica (RS) and Čarna (HR). Programme estimation when setting the target value was stricter, while projects predicted that a higher number of hectares (82.280,10) can be supported for the same amount of funds. Furthermore, some of the projects managed to support an even larger habitat surface than initially planned.

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone for 2018 total	Final target (2023) total	2023	Observations
PA3	O	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Visits/year	20	1,000.00	8,886.00	By the end of 2023, implementation of projects resulted in: - 2.222 new visitors to Srijem/Srem region through innovative touristic offer, - 1.554 new visitors to new secession route, - 1.426 new visitors to cultural/natural heritage of Central Danube, - 116 new visitors to CB region through new tourism offer for the blind/visually impaired, - 438 new visitors to new thematic paths established in CB area, - 600 new visitors to events held at Gourmet centres in Vrdnik (RS) and Vinkovci (HR), - 2.530 new visitors to eco visitor centres in CB area. Programme estimation when setting the target value was stricter, while projects predicted that a higher number of visitors (8.151) can be attracted to the sites for the same amount of funds. Furthermore, some of the projects managed to increase the number of visitors more than planned.
PA3	F	PA3	Contributing to the development of tourism and preserving cultural and natural heritage	EUR	800,000.00	7,544,500.00	7,472,618.48	By the end of 2023, CA made payments in the amount of EUR 7.472.618,48 (EU share) to projects contracted under PA3.
PA3	I	PA3	Projects contracted	Number	6	10.00	11.00	Six projects (VicTour, Central Danube Tour, EXPLORE CRO-SRB, VISITUS, S.O.S., and HORIS) were contracted within the 1st CfP in 2017, whereas four more projects (Wild Danube Tour, FILMharmonia, Panona net, and Pannonia Gourmet) were contracted within 2nd CfP in 2019. One project (PannEx Reload) was contracted within the 3rd CfP in 2022. The Programme managed to contract more projects than initially planned, with the same amount of funds available.
PA3	O	PA3a	Number of joint tourism products developed and promoted	Number	3	13.00	20.00	By the end of 2023, projects developed: - CB ecotourism/gastro route in Central Danube, - 2 gastro/cultural tools for blind/visually impaired, - new visual identity of Srijem tourism, - 3 CB routes (gastro/recreation/ecotourism), - secession route Subotica (RS) - Osijek (HR), - repertoire of silent films with live philharmonic music, - 2 new tourism events in Papuk (HR) and Tavankut (RS), - CB map of active/cultural tourism products, - new tourism service for CB tours, - new CB brand and Gourmet Fair for promotion of local products, - new CB service with 4 programs (ecotourism/wildlife watching), - 4 new digital tools for the promotion of CB gastro offer. Programme estimation when setting the target value was stricter, while projects predicted that a higher number of joint tourism products (20) can be developed and promoted for the same amount of funds.
PA3	O	PA3b	Number of persons educated in quality assurance, standardisation on cultural and natural heritage and destination management.	Number	50	370.00	1,024.00	By the end of 2023, implementation of projects resulted in: - 53 thematic tourist guides trained (e.g. ecotourism and wildlife watching and photography), - 233 persons trained on the use of digital technology in tourism, - 64 persons trained on providing specialized tourism services to disabled/blind/visually impaired people, - 44 persons trained in quality assurance and management, - 630 persons trained in destination management, creative and gastro tourism, cultural/recreational/equestrian tourism and improving the quality of tourism services. Programme estimation when setting the target value was stricter, while projects predicted that a higher number of persons (490) can be educated for the same amount of funds. Furthermore, due to higher interest of participants, some of the projects managed to educate more persons than planned.
PA3	O	PA3d	Number of tourism supporting facilities and/or tourism infrastructure developed or improved	Number	0	11.00	24.00	By the end of 2023, implementation of projects resulted in: - 5 equestrian tourism supporting facilities developed, - secession Sakuntala park in Osijek (HR) revitalised, - tourism valorisation plan of Subotica's City Hall (RS) developed, - tourism/cultural supporting facility in Novi Sad (RS) improved, - 5 photo hides and 1 bird feeding station in Zasavica (RS) constructed, - multimedia centre for the promotion of wildlife watching in Bilje (HR) improved, - traditional space in Vinkovci (HR) renovated and equipped, - 2 new cultural events sites in Erdut and Papuk etno-village (HR) equipped,

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone for 2018 total	Final target (2023) total	2023	Observations
								- 6 new thematic paths in CB area developed. Programme estimation when setting the target value was stricter, while projects predicted that a higher number of tourism infrastructures (24) can be supported for the same amount of funds.
PA4	O	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	2	9.00	26.00	By the end of 2023, implementation of projects resulted in cooperation of: - 5 enterprises and RI on the possibilities of biomass ash usage in civil engineering products, - 6 enterprises and RI on soil analysis, fruit and herb production, - 3 enterprises and RI on computer systems and IT in the domain of automotive industry, - 2 enterprises and RI on joint research for innovation in corporate and traditional business, - 10 enterprises and RI on joint laboratory analyses and biotechnological research. Programme estimation when setting the target value was stricter, while projects predicted that a higher number of enterprises (23) can establish cooperation with research institutions for the same amount of funds. Furthermore, due to higher interest, some of the projects managed to foster the cooperation for more enterprises than planned.
PA4	F	PA4	Enhancing competitiveness and developing business environment in the programme area	EUR	650,000.00	6,065,315.00	6,034,054.02	By the end of 2023, CA made payments in the amount of EUR 6.034.054,02 (EU share) to projects contracted under PA4.
PA4	I	PA4	Projects contracted	Number	6	10.00	14.00	Six projects (ORGANIC BRIDGE, Eco build, CROSS TREE, DRIVE, ROSIS4H, and XBIT) were contracted within the 1st CfP in 2017, whereas six more projects (COMMON, FED CCNET, IT community region, CBC Clusters, WBH, and CB NET) were contracted within the 2nd CfP in 2019. Two additional projects (UPDATE and SASFRU) were contracted within the 3rd CfP in 2022. The Programme managed to contract more projects than initially planned, with the same amount of funds available.
PA4	O	PA4a	Number of innovative technologies, processes, products and services introduced by the enterprises in the programme area	Number	1	7.00	21.00	By the end of 2023, implementation of projects resulted in introduction of: - 4 innovative products made with biomass ashes - curriculum for automotive software engineering, - curriculum for entrepreneurship/IT, - Open Innovation Lab, - 5 new different types of nursery trees, - blue economy programme for cultivation of cellulose mushrooms, - 2 IT solutions for B2B and facilitation of RES usage, - education for SMEs in the creative/gaming industry, - 2 training programmes in agricultural institutes, - optimal spraying mobile app for fruit growers and farmers, - 2 courses for start-ups (AI and IoE). Programme estimation when setting the target value was stricter, while projects predicted that a higher number of innovative services (23) can be introduced for the same amount of funds, however ultimately the projects managed to achieve 21.
PA4	O	PA4c	Number of cross-border clusters or networks or other collaborative schemes including entrepreneurs established or improved	Number	0	7.00	10.00	By the end of 2023, implementation of projects resulted in: - e-platform for horticultural sector, - network of organic producers in CB area, - IT network for competitiveness, innovation and entrepreneurship, - network for women entrepreneurs, - network on enhancing the business environment, - cluster in the field of agriculture, focusing on renewable energy from harvest residues, - cluster in the field of paper industry, mechanical engineering and energetics, - web-platform for cooperation/knowledge exchange in ICT, - online platform for increasing employment opportunities, - CB network for increasing competitiveness in ICT. Programme estimation when setting the target value was stricter, while projects predicted that a higher number of networks/clusters (11) can be established/improved for the same amount of funds, but in the end achieved 10.

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
PA1	F	PA1	Improving the quality of public health and social services in the programme area	EUR	5,080,922.79	4,526,266.82	2,535,529.89	2,535,529.89	1,624,811.58
PA1	O	PA1	Number of persons related to improving health care services and/or social care services trained	Number	676.00	619.00	176.00	176.00	97.00
PA1	O	PA1b	Number of jointly developed tools and services that enable better quality of social and health care	Number	14.00	14.00	7.00	7.00	7.00
PA2	F	PA2	Protecting the environment and biodiversity, improving risk prevention and promoting sustainable energy and energy efficiency	EUR	10,149,710.84	8,306,516.03	4,425,184.71	4,425,184.71	1,756,140.72
PA2	O	PA2a	Number of jointly developed and/or operated monitoring systems	Number	5.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	1.00
PA2	O	PA2b	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	ha	88,511.99	88,511.39	74,343.89	74,343.89	60,380.00
PA3	O	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Visits/year	6,256.00	5,318.00	2,342.00	2,342.00	750.00
PA3	F	PA3	Contributing to the development of tourism and preserving cultural and natural heritage	EUR	6,615,196.83	6,851,970.34	2,668,852.39	2,668,852.39	1,000,888.92
PA3	I	PA3	Projects contracted	Number	11.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	6.00
PA3	O	PA3a	Number of joint tourism products developed and promoted	Number	15.00	12.00	8.00	8.00	3.00
PA3	O	PA3b	Number of persons educated in quality assurance, standardisation on cultural and natural heritage and destination management.	Number	985.00	905.00	756.00	756.00	329.00
PA3	O	PA3d	Number of tourism supporting facilities and/or tourism infrastructure developed or improved	Number	23.00	22.00	2.00	2.00	0.00
PA4	O	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	26.00	26.00	12.00	12.00	4.00
PA4	F	PA4	Enhancing competitiveness and developing business environment in the programme area	EUR	5,783,050.79	5,352,894.95	2,805,496.80	2,805,496.80	1,642,611.41
PA4	I	PA4	Projects contracted	Number	14.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	6.00
PA4	O	PA4a	Number of innovative technologies, processes, products and services introduced by the enterprises in the programme area	Number	16.00	15.00	8.00	8.00	1.00
PA4	O	PA4c	Number of cross-border clusters or networks or other collaborative schemes including entrepreneurs established or improved	Number	10.00	8.00	4.00	4.00	4.00

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2017	2016	2015	2014
PA1	F	PA1	Improving the quality of public health and social services in the programme area	EUR	12,750.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA1	O	PA1	Number of persons related to improving health care services and/or social care services trained	Number	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA1	O	PA1b	Number of jointly developed tools and services that enable better quality of social and health care	Number	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA2	F	PA2	Protecting the environment and biodiversity, improving risk prevention and promoting sustainable energy and energy efficiency	EUR	12,750.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA2	O	PA2a	Number of jointly developed and/or operated monitoring systems	Number	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA2	O	PA2b	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	ha	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA3	O	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Visits/year	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA3	F	PA3	Contributing to the development of tourism and preserving cultural and natural heritage	EUR	11,900.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA3	I	PA3	Projects contracted	Number	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA3	O	PA3a	Number of joint tourism products developed and promoted	Number	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA3	O	PA3b	Number of persons educated in quality assurance, standardisation on cultural and natural heritage and destination management.	Number	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA3	O	PA3d	Number of tourism supporting facilities and/or tourism infrastructure developed or improved	Number	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA4	O	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA4	F	PA4	Enhancing competitiveness and developing business environment in the programme area	EUR	17,373.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA4	I	PA4	Projects contracted	Number	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA4	O	PA4a	Number of innovative technologies, processes, products and services introduced by the enterprises in the programme area	Number	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA4	O	PA4c	Number of cross-border clusters or networks or other collaborative schemes including entrepreneurs established or improved	Number	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

3.4. Financial data

Table 4: Financial information at priority axis and programme level

As set out in Table 1 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and table 17 of model for cooperation programmes under IPA.

Priority axis	Calculation basis	Total funding	Co-financing rate	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries	Number of operations selected	Total eligible expenditure incurred by beneficiaries and paid by 31/12/2023 and certified to the Commission
PA1	Public	6,599,427.00	85.00	6,744,570.62	102.20%	5,732,717.29	6,519,705.19	98.79%	9	5,541,594.19
PA2	Public	13,699,623.00	85.00	16,189,401.23	118.17%	13,692,840.85	13,646,637.73	99.61%	15	11,531,851.36
PA3	Public	8,875,883.00	85.00	9,488,045.86	106.90%	7,909,646.69	8,973,951.33	101.10%	11	7,472,618.48
PA4	Public	7,135,666.00	85.00	7,572,584.31	106.12%	6,426,829.43	7,110,405.77	99.65%	14	6,034,054.02
PA5	Public	4,034,492.00	85.00	4,034,492.00	100.00%	3,429,318.00	3,972,424.69	98.46%	6	
Total		40,345,091.00	85.00	44,029,094.02	109.13%	37,191,352.26	40,223,124.71	99.70%	55	30,580,118.05

Where applicable, the use of any contribution from third countries participating in the cooperation programme should be provided (for example IPA and ENI, Norway, Switzerland)

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Table 5: Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention

As set out in Table 2 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and tables 6-9 of Model for cooperation programmes

Priority axis	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	«r.ir.etc.table5.thempridimen»	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by eneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
PA1	080	01	07	07	a	20	HR04	130,492.77	110,918.85	117,440.54	1
PA1	081	01	07	07	a	20	HR04	1,527,907.57	1,298,665.53	1,475,936.66	4
PA1	107	01	07	07	a	20	HR04	175,453.70	149,079.77	164,042.27	1
PA1	111	01	07	07	a	20	HR04	460,854.74	391,726.52	452,015.75	1
PA1	112	01	07	07	a	20	HR04	4,449,861.84	3,782,326.62	4,310,269.97	8
PA2	009	01	07	07	b	10	HR04	645,663.23	548,813.74	610,367.71	1
PA2	010	01	07	07	b	10	HR04	3,344,595.92	2,842,906.49	3,100,766.67	6
PA2	010	01	07	07	b	22	HR04	666,205.27	498,124.53	664,087.01	2
PA2	011	01	07	07	b	10	HR04	565,448.65	480,631.34	534,514.60	1
PA2	011	01	07	07	b	22	HR04	327,205.34	278,124.53	326,437.09	1
PA2	012	01	07	07	b	10	HR04	465,063.23	395,303.75	432,053.32	1
PA2	013	01	07	07	b	10	HR04	3,344,595.92	2,842,906.50	3,100,766.68	6
PA2	013	01	07	07	b	22	HR04	327,205.34	278,124.53	326,437.10	1
PA2	014	01	07	07	b	10	HR04	781,601.71	664,361.44	756,795.66	2
PA2	085	01	07	07	b	22	HR04	1,059,251.71	900,363.91	957,684.54	3
PA2	086	01	07	07	b	22	HR04	668,430.84	568,166.20	592,143.74	2
PA2	087	01	07	07	b	11	HR04	2,525,362.58	2,146,558.14	848,343.14	2
PA2	087	01	07	07	b	19	HR04	285,125.58	242,356.74	273,948.67	1
PA2	088	01	07	07	b	11	HR04	898,520.33	763,742.28	848,343.13	1
PA2	088	01	07	07	b	19	HR04	285,125.58	242,356.73	273,948.67	1
PA3	090	01	07	07	d	15	HR04	540,421.27	459,358.06	506,472.53	3
PA3	091	01	07	07	d	15	HR04	2,252,660.11	1,863,030.33	2,172,307.81	8
PA3	092	01	07	07	d	15	HR04	1,072,609.36	911,717.94	1,032,811.91	3
PA3	093	01	07	07	d	15	HR04	3,251,138.08	2,711,736.62	3,030,430.96	9
PA3	094	01	07	07	d	15	HR04	1,213,052.00	979,363.46	1,131,931.24	4
PA3	095	01	07	07	d	15	HR04	1,158,165.04	984,440.28	1,099,996.88	6
PA4	063	01	07	07	g	01	HR04	1,001,055.68	850,897.30	949,512.51	3
PA4	063	01	07	07	g	07	HR04	783,524.14	665,995.51	744,400.59	2
PA4	063	01	07	07	g	13	HR04	579,213.00	492,331.03	513,783.05	2
PA4	066	01	07	07	g	01	HR04	614,691.55	512,620.74	593,315.17	3
PA4	066	01	07	07	g	07	HR04	232,291.25	197,447.56	226,802.29	1
PA4	066	01	07	07	g	17	HR04	360,829.20	306,704.82	353,022.13	1
PA4	066	01	07	07	g	19	HR04	177,415.98	150,803.58	177,014.57	1
PA4	073	01	07	07	g	07	HR04	551,232.89	468,547.95	517,598.31	1
PA4	073	01	07	07	g	17	HR04	360,829.20	306,704.82	353,022.12	1
PA4	075	01	07	07	g	13	HR04	201,220.31	171,037.26	161,694.49	1
PA4	077	01	07	07	g	19	HR04	177,415.98	150,803.58	177,014.58	1
PA4	082	01	07	07	g	01	HR04	188,086.06	159,873.14	174,397.65	1
PA4	082	01	07	07	g	06	HR04	907,094.81	771,030.58	905,935.82	1
PA4	082	01	07	07	g	13	HR04	725,613.74	616,771.65	606,167.77	2
PA4	082	01	07	07	g	19	HR04	712,070.52	605,259.91	656,724.72	2
PA5	121	01	07	07				2,761,484.07	2,347,261.27	2,727,507.22	4
PA5	122	01	07	07				118,590.14	100,801.62	116,986.08	1
PA5	123	01	07	07				1,154,417.79	981,255.11	1,127,931.39	3

Table 6: Cumulative cost of all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area

1. Operation (2)	2. The amount of IPA support(1) envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations	3. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 2/total amount allocated to the support from the IPA at programme level * 100)	4. Eligible expenditure of IPA support incurred in all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority	5. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 4/total amount allocated to the support from the IPA at programme level *100)
DRIVE; VISITUS; Take Care!; R-SOL-E; Central Danube Tour; ORGANIC BRIDGE; CROSS TREE; ROSIS4H; XBIT; EXPLORE CRO-SRB; HORIS; SeNs Wetlands; RealForAll	1,490,948.49	4.35%	131,603.66	0.38%

(1) IPA support is the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.

(2) In accordance with and subject to ceilings set out Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

Programme evaluations are carried out in order to assess the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme Croatia-Serbia 2014-2020 (the Programme). The Programme has been subject to an ex-ante evaluation of independent evaluators with the aim to improve programme quality and to optimise the allocation of available funding. The recommendations of this evaluation have been taken into account during the drafting of the Programme as described in ex-ante report.

In accordance with Article 56 of the Regulation No 1303/2013, the Managing Authority (MA) prepared the Evaluation plan approved by the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) on 7 Sep 2016. All evaluations, recommendations and follow-up actions have been approved by the JMC.

In line with the Evaluation plan, Programme specific needs and the available financial resources, during the Programme implementation two evaluations were carried out:

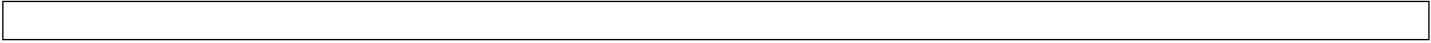
Evaluation of the Programme efficiency and effectiveness

The Evaluation of Programme's efficiency and effectiveness was carried out during 2019. The evaluation methodology combined desk reviews of Programme documents, a web-survey answered by beneficiaries and applicants, a set of interviews with Programme representatives and a case study analysis. The evaluation focused on Programme management, Programme implementation and the Programme Communication Strategy. The evaluation was carried out halfway through the implementation of the Programme, in order to showcase mid-term achievements and results in the cross-border area. The Final Evaluation Report was issued on 7 Oct 2019 and was approved by the JMC on 24 Oct 2019. The report revealed that the Programme was performing well in meeting the overall Programme goal. Detailed information on the results of the performed Evaluation of Programme's efficiency and effectiveness, together with synthesis of the findings from 2019, were presented in Annual Implementation Report (AIR) for 2019. The Final Evaluation Report is available on the Programme website (<https://bit.ly/419Kzsk>).

Impact evaluation

In Apr 2021, the Programme contracted experts to carry out the Impact evaluation of the Programme's achievements during the implementation. The objective of this evaluation was to illustrate the impact and sustainability of the achieved results and effects, to assess the impact of projects on cross-border population, project partners and target groups, as well as the effects of communication in relation to the planned objectives. The evaluation methodology combined desk reviews of Programme documents, a web-survey disseminated among beneficiaries and applicants, and a case study analysis, which consisted of interviews with project partners and the analysis of project documents. The evaluation findings also show what improvements are needed to be pursued during programming for the new financial perspective (2021-2027), as well as the tools for improving the quality of the future Programme's implementation. The report was approved by the JMC on 12 October 2021. Detailed information on the results of the performed Impact evaluation, together with synthesis of the findings, were presented in Annual Implementation Report (AIR) for 2021. The final evaluation report is available on the Programme website (<https://bit.ly/416IT3T>).

Findings of both evaluations carried out as well as follow-up actions are described in the chapter 10.1.



Name	Fund	From month	From year	To month	To year	Type of evaluation	Thematic priority	Topic	Findings
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5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN

(a) Issues which affect the performance of the programme and the measures taken

By the end of its implementation period, the Programme managed to achieve and even surpass all set targets for the Programme Output Indicators, and to reach 99% absorption rate.

During the implementation, the Programme experienced various issues affecting the performance, which impacted and postponed some of the targeted achievements. Thanks to close monitoring of the MA and swift coordinated mitigation actions of all Programme bodies, the Programme has successfully reached the targeted performance.

Some of the main issues affecting the performance of the Programme and the measures taken were as follows:

Institutional change

As of January 2019, the Programme roles and responsibilities of MA, JS and FLC in Croatia have been transferred from Croatian Agency for Regional Development to the Ministry of Regional Development and EU funds, due to the merging of the two institutions. The merger was challenging in terms of availability of human resources, therefore the MA had to monitor the certification process closely and take measures to ensure its continuity.

Main activities impacted by COVID-19 pandemic and measures taken

The worldwide emergency linked to the COVID-19 brought the need for the implementation of urgent measures on the Programme level as of March 2020. Main mitigation measures undertaken to reduce the negative effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on project activities, and to facilitate and harmonize reporting on achievement of project outputs in time of the pandemic were as follows:

- In accordance with preventive measures regarding the spreading of COVID-19, the MA and JS were first working remotely from home since March 2020, and later in shifts on a weekly basis (one team from home, the other from the office) depending on the evolving public health situation
- In March 2020, the MA has published Programme measures related to the eligibility of expenditures. The measures allow an exception regarding the eligibility of costs which were already incurred for the organization of meetings and events, which were ultimately cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions (in case it was not possible to acquire a refund).
- In March 2020, MA also issued instructions regarding on-the-spot (OTS) checks/Programme bodies meetings, to replace it with other appropriate tools during the pandemic (virtual OTS checks/online meetings etc.).
- Due to health authorities' advice on preventing the COVID-19 spreading, several Programme events and trainings for beneficiaries were cancelled/postponed or replaced with online content made available at the Programme website (e.g. reporting workshops for 2nd CfP projects were cancelled and materials were made available online <https://bit.ly/2OSRzio>; online workshops for final reporting for the beneficiaries of the 2nd CfP etc.).
- Due to the reflection of rapidly changing epidemiological situation on implementation of project activities and public procurements, 16 out of 20 projects have been approved an extension of the implementation period
- Savings generated during the implementation of the projects contracted under 1 CfP were redirected for PA1 projects dealing with health care in 2021 and used for activities/equipment to combat COVID-19,

as one of mitigation measures in response to the pandemic.

In order to facilitate and harmonize reporting on achievement of project outputs in time of COVID-19 outbreak, the Annex 5 of PIM was revised. Changes for reporting on project outputs related to educational and training activities, which project partners may decide to carry out remotely, have been introduced in the document.

Programme amendments

Cooperation Programme was officially approved by Commission Implementing Decision C(2015) 6026 of 24 August 2015.

The first amendment was carried out in order to introduce performance framework, as requested by the EC. Updated version (2.1) of Programme was submitted to the EC for approval on 21 July 2017 and it was approved by Commission Implementing Decision C(2017) 6011 of 31 August 2017.

The second amendment of the was carried out to implement the recommendations resulting from the evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Programme and findings from the contracting process for the 2nd Call for Proposals (CfP), as well as to include other minor updates and adjustments. The version 3.0 of Cooperation Programme was submitted for approval to the EC on 18 May 2020 and it was approved by Commission Implementing Decision C(2020) 4269 of 22 June 2020.

In December 2020, with JMC approval, and in accordance with Article 3(2) of CPR 2020/891, MA transferred savings from the 1st CfP implementation, for contracting a project (Mos-Cross 2, HR-RS253) from 2nd CfP PA1 reserve list, and to increase the co-financing rate of the project Pannonia Gourmet, HR-RS299, contracted within PA3, from 65 to 74% of ERDF/IPA II funds. This reallocation of funds was done in line with the provisions of COVID 19 Regulation, without an official modification of the Programme.

Project implementation

In order to capitalize and further maximize the effectiveness of outputs and results of projects that have been supported within 1st and/or 2nd CfP and finalized by 30 June 2022, 3rd Restricted Call for submission of concept notes was launched in September 2022. With the available financial allocation of EUR 970.000,00 (EU share) the Programme contracted 6 projects which aimed certain types of actions/activities and Programme results.

All contracted projects, but one (HR-RS164 FORRET), successfully finished their implementation. Due to serious shortcomings in project management of the operation HR-RS164 FORRET, the MA was obliged

to take measures of financial corrections in 2019 to prevent that poor project implementation affects the overall performance of the Programme. After the MA issued the official notification on reduction of the total project budget on 1 February 2019, the LP sent an official request for termination of the project, received on 21 March 2019. In line with Article 20 of the Subsidy Contract 2017HR-RS164, on 10 May 2019 the MA delivered official notification of the termination of the Contract together with the Request for recovery of all paid funds. The MA reallocated the funds from project HR-RS164 FORRET to projects contracted within 2nd CfP.

Programme evaluation

In 2021, the Programme contracted an international consortium of experts to carry out an impact evaluation of the Programme in order to assess achieved results and impacts of the Programme and their sustainability, communication towards planned objectives and assessment of the impact on cross-border population, project partners and other target groups. Mid-term evaluation reveals that the Programme worked well towards achieving its overall goal: strengthening the social, economic and territorial development of the cross-border area. More information on the main points of the report is available at Chapters 4 and 10.1. of this Final Implementation Report.

(b) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, otherwise it will be included in point 9.1. An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate.

The Programme successfully met all annual and cumulative N+3 targets for appropriate years and was not in risk of automatic decommitment during the Programme implementation period. All targets defined in the performance framework are reached and some even surpassed.

By the end of Programme implementation, a total of EUR **40.223.124,71** of eligible expenditure was CA certified (incl. TA). The CA made the corresponding payments to projects in the amount of EUR **33.956.678,84** (EU share, incl. TA).

Total amount of public expenditure certified to the EC by the Programme (IPA II part paid to the beneficiary by the CA and national public amount paid by the beneficiaries) was EUR 39.941.894,62.

6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

A citizen's summary of the contents of the annual and the final implementation reports shall be made public and uploaded as a separate file in the form of annex to the annual and the final implementation report

You can upload/find the Citizen's summary under General > Documents

7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)

8. PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (ARTICLE 101(H) AND ARTICLE 111(3) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(B) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013)

8.1. Major projects

Table 7: Major projects

Project	CCI	Status of MP	Total investments	Total eligible costs	Planned notification/submission date	Date of tacit agreement/ approval by Commission	Planned start of implementation	Planned completion date	Priority axis / Thematic priorities	Current state of realisation — financial progress (% of expenditure certified to Commission compared to total eligible cost)	Current state of realisation — physical progress / Main implementation stage of the project	Main outputs	Date of signature of first works contract (1)	Observations
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(1) In the case of operations implemented under PPP structures the signing of the PPP contract between the public body and the private sector body (Article 102(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).

Significant problems encountered in implementing major projects and measures taken to overcome them

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Any change planned in the list of major projects in the cooperation programme

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8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

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Table 8: Joint action plans (JAP)

Title of the JAP	CCI	Stage of implementation of JAP	Total eligible costs	Total public support	OP contribution to JAP	Priority axis	Type of JAP	[Planned] submission to the Commission	[Planned] start of implementation	[Planned] completion	Main outputs and results	Total eligible expenditure certified to the Commission	Observations
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Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

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9. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

9.1 Information in Part A and achieving the objectives of the programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axis	PA1 - Improving the quality of public health and social services in the programme area
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SO 1.1.

Under this SO, the Programme aimed to improve the quality and the delivery of health and social care services, especially to vulnerable groups in the Programme area (social welfare users, people at the risk of poverty, elderly/disabled people and children). One of the objectives of the Programme under this SO was to address the capacities of institutions and organizations in both sectors by improving their facilities, services and skills.

Projects contracted within the 1st Call for Proposals focused on delivering improved health and social services to vulnerable groups through setting up mobile teams for palliative patient care, adapting the facilities of gerontology clubs, introducing real-time monitoring of airborne allergens, and improving mosquito surveillance methods, as well as providing specialised training for health and social workers. Projects contracted within the 2nd Call for Proposals focused on further improving the availability of social services for welfare users, providing learning assistance to children, encouraging elders to volunteer, training health workers and improving medical diagnostics using state-of-the-art telemedicine equipment. One project contracted within the 3rd Call for Proposals capitalized on the existing results of two previously implemented projects by further enhancing the public health care protocols in case of the outbreak of mosquito-borne diseases.

Data from the Impact Evaluation of the Programme indicates that new services in the public health and social care sectors have been introduced in the Programme area, mostly thanks to the interventions of the supported projects, such as: developing, testing or adopting cross-border initiatives, tools and services aiming to enhance quality, improve accessibility and effectiveness of public health care and social services, as well as the competences and skills of key stakeholder institutions. This suggests that the availability of services in the public health and social care sectors in the cross-border area improved to a certain extent as a result of activities financed by the Programme.

Priority axis	PA2 - Protecting the environment and biodiversity, improving risk prevention and promoting sustainable energy and energy efficiency
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SO 2.1.

Under this SO, the Programme aimed to strengthen the environmental management and biodiversity protection as well as the cross-border coordination on monitoring and management of protected and NATURA 2000 areas. Furthermore, the Programme aimed to encourage joint awareness raising activities and information campaigns on the importance of environmental and biodiversity protection. The Programme also aimed to tackle the disaster response capability of the cross-border area, by supporting joint cross-border actions and initiatives focused on key existing and expected risks, e.g., major floods, droughts and pollution.

Projects contracted within the 1st Call for Proposals focused on promoting the sustainable use of water and soil in cross-border region by implementing new approach to conservation planning based on mapped and assessed ecosystem services, developing an ecosystem water purification processor, setting-up a cross-border water quality monitoring system, as well as increasing knowledge and raising awareness on the importance of environment and biodiversity protection. Projects contracted within the 2nd Call for Proposals focused on setting up a cross-border wetland monitoring system to allow tracking of ecological changes, developing restoration plans to attain a better conservation status of habitats and implementing small-scale restoration interventions in pilot wetland areas. Additionally, the projects developed standard operating procedures which ensure the coordination of emergency teams from both sides of the border in case of major natural or man-made disasters in the cross-border area (e.g. floods and disasters involving dangerous chemicals or gases).

Data from the Impact Evaluation of the Programme indicates a positive impact of the implemented projects on strengthening the risk management systems, which was achieved mostly through: conducting studies and research in the field of nature and biodiversity protection and risk prevention, financing small scale infrastructure interventions, improving the competencies and skills of relevant stakeholders as well as through the development and implementation of new, cross-border tools and solutions. The evaluators also noted that the projects positively impacted the awareness of the population of the Programme area on the importance of environmental and biodiversity protection.

SO.2.2.

Under this SO, the Programme aimed to address the need for increasing the share of energy produced from renewable sources and improving the energy efficiency in public buildings by implementing smart energy saving solutions. The Programme aimed to improve the related planning activities and support joint awareness raising and promotional activities as an important tool in the policy of increasing energy efficiency in the Programme area.

Projects contracted within the 1st Call for Proposals focused on promoting and increasing the use of renewable energy sources (RES) by implementing energy efficiency (EE) measures on public buildings, installing solar power plants and solar public lightning, developing innovative solutions in the production of biogas from biomass, as well as increasing the knowledge and public awareness on the significance of EE and RES. Projects contracted within the 2nd Call for Proposals further enhanced the capacities for renewable energy production, for the most part through the installation of photovoltaic (solar) energy plants and related RES storage capacities. Additionally, the project partners have undertaken numerous EE measures on public buildings (e.g. insulation improvements, renovation of facades and roofs etc.). Energy production and consumption were closely monitored using innovative and smart solutions. Projects contracted within the 3rd Call for Proposals capitalized on the existing results of the previously implemented projects and installed additional capacities of renewable energy production and added new functionalities to the energy monitoring solutions already in place.

Data from the Impact Evaluation of the Programme indicates that the cross-border area has experienced an increase in EE and use of RES. Furthermore, implemented project activities led to better governance in energy planning (tools, regulatory frameworks, standards), increased awareness of the benefits coming from the use of EE measures and improvement of policy makers' capacity in sustainable energy planning. Additionally, the evaluators noted that the implementation of projects led to an improvement in the

competences and skills of key stakeholders and served as an incentive for positive changes in user behaviour when it comes to rational energy use in the Programme area.

Priority axis	PA3 - Contributing to the development of tourism and preserving cultural and natural heritage.
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SO3.1.

Under this SO, the Programme aimed to strengthen the cooperation between actors in the tourism sector to enhance the cross-border tourism offer with new joint tourism products, especially in various niche types of tourism, rooted in the Programme area's rich ethnic, natural and cultural diversity.

Projects contracted within the 1st Call for Proposals focused on the promotion of the cross-border tourism offer through innovative use of marketing activities, digitalization of attractions (virtual platforms and mobile applications) as well as development of specialised tourism products based on traditional/cultural heritage (e.g. secession thematic route, active tourism based on horseback riding, etc.). One project contracted within the 1st Call for Proposals focused on the inclusion of people with disabilities (blind and visually impaired persons) in the newly designed tourism offer, which was specifically tailored for their needs. Projects contracted within the 2nd Call for Proposals further enhanced the Programme area's tourism offer by organizing cross-border cultural events (e.g. performance of silent films with philharmonic music), developing and equipping different visitor centres and facilities (focused on gastronomy, local culture, wildlife and birdwatching), and establishing new cross-border tourism routes and itineraries. Projects also organized various workshops for tourism stakeholders on the topic of destination management and quality assurance in tourism. One project contracted within the 3rd Call for Proposals capitalized on the existing results from the 2nd Call for Proposals and further promoted their joint brand of local products. The project partners also organized new local cuisine events at the gastronomic centres developed through the previous project.

Data from the Impact Evaluation of the Programme indicates that the interventions of the Programme had a notable impact on the improvement and diversity of the tourist offer, which is evidenced by the results of several projects that managed to create new touristic content and make it more accessible and attractive for visitors in the Programme area. Results of surveys performed by experts during the Impact Evaluation indicate that the management of cultural and natural heritage was significantly improved, mostly through training sessions and seminars for relevant stakeholders. The overall tourism activity in the Programme area was somewhat hindered during the time of COVID-19 restrictions but is showing signs of recovery.

Priority axis	PA4 - Enhancing competitiveness and developing business environment in the programme area.
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SO4.1.

Under this SO, the Programme aimed to improve the competitiveness of the Programme area through strengthening the cooperation between entrepreneurs and business support organizations, clusters, and education/research institutions. The Programme also supported actions towards the establishment or improvement of laboratories/competence centres to be used by entrepreneurs to improve their knowledge and skills and apply new technologies in their business processes in the Programme area.

Projects contracted within the 1st Call for Proposals focused on enhancing institutional infrastructure and services thus encouraging the development and competitiveness of the cross-border business environment by setting up and equipping laboratories (e.g. for IT in automotive industry, horticulture and fruit production), creating networks of different industries (e.g. for organic producers, cooperation between agricultural subjects and construction industry) and development of related technologies, processes, products and services. Projects contracted within the 2nd Call for Proposals focused on fostering growth in the creative and gaming industry, establishing cross-border clusters in agriculture and paper industry, developing educational and mentoring programmes for young entrepreneurs and the unemployed, equipping business competence centres, and providing support for start-ups of women entrepreneurs.

Data from the Impact Evaluation of the Programme indicates that the institutional infrastructure and services in the business environment improved in the following sectors: green economy, sustainable agriculture and automotive industry. The projects contributed to encouraging the exchange of best practices in the application of ICT, new technologies, processes, products or services to be directly used by the enterprises. Programme interventions positively affected the development of innovations, new technologies and ICT solutions in the Programme area.

Priority axis	PA5 - Technical Assistance
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SO5.1.

Under this SO, the Programme aimed to ensure an adequate management and control system, safeguarding that all Programme implementation steps (including launching of calls, contracting, monitoring of operations and programme achievements, reimbursement of expenditure, etc.) are timely executed.

In line with Article 59 of the CPR, actions within Specific Objective 5.1. included the preparation, management, monitoring, evaluation, information and communication, networking, complaint resolution, and control and audit tasks of the Programme.

Specific tasks under this SO successfully performed during Programme implementation:

- Setting up and managing of a Joint Secretariat supporting the Managing Authority and assisting the Joint Monitoring Committee in the implementation and day-to-day management of the Programme,
- Preparing and implementing Calls for Proposals, including the development of guidance documents setting out the conditions for the support of operations and procedures for project selection (engaging external experts when necessary),
- Setting up and implementing procedures for monitoring and control of operations implemented,
- Collecting data concerning the progress of the Programme in achieving its objectives, as well as financial data and data relating to indicators and targets, reporting to the European Commission and informing the Joint Monitoring Committee,
- Drafting the Programme communication strategy and implementing communication and dissemination activities,
- Ensuring timely execution of independent Programme evaluations, in line with the Evaluation plan and addressing evaluation findings,
- Coordinating appropriate procedures during performed audits (system audits, audits of operations,

- audits of accounts and follow-ups),
- Setting up, running and maintaining a computerised system to record and store data on each operation (eMS system), contributing to the reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries,
- Setting up a network of financial controllers, and organizing networking meetings with the purpose of exchanging information and best practices at Programme level,
- Ensuring trainings and capacity building of the Programme management structures to contribute to the successful implementation of the Programme,
- Preparing 2021-2027 Programme, including the related ex-ante evaluation and SEA procedure.

SO5.2.

Under this SO, the Programme addressed the need to further build the capacity of applicants and beneficiaries to participate in operations and to take up results.

In line with Article 59 of the CPR, actions within specific objective 5.2 include the reinforcement of capacity of applicants and beneficiaries as well as strengthening of the involvement of relevant partners (including the exchange of good practices among partners).

Specific tasks under this SO successfully performed during Programme implementation:

- Drafting of information documents for applicants and beneficiaries to guide them in the preparation of applications and the implementation of approved operations,
- Organising consultation, information, training and exchange events to strengthen the capacity of applicants to develop applications which are directly contributing to the Programme specific objectives and expected results,
- Organising trainings on specific implementation issues such as project and financial management, reporting, public procurement, and communication to strengthen the capacity of beneficiaries to implement the approved operations,
- Developing information, networking and exchange tools and organising cross-border and national events to strengthen the involvement of relevant partners in the implementation of the Programme,

Technical Assistance activities were implemented by the authorities involved in the management of the Programme: MA, JS, NAs, FLCs, CA and AA. Technical Assistance activities, output indicators and budget absorption were closely monitored by the MA/JS through periodic progress reports.

Within the MA structure, a position was dedicated to monitoring Technical Assistance (TA Manager).

During the last year of Programme implementation, the MA performed several steps to ensure adequate TA absorption – the prolongation of TA projects until the final date of eligibility of expenditure (31 Dec 2023) and reallocations of TA funds between TA beneficiaries. This led to the final absorption rate of 98% of available funds on PA5. Specific details on achieved values of Programme level PA5 indicators are listed in Chapter 3.2. (Table 2 for Priority Axis Technical Assistance).

9.2. Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (d) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of specific actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, including accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations

In the Guidelines for Applicants for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd CfPs, it was stated that the Programme horizontal themes shall be observed by all applicants during the development and implementation of their operations. This included activities related to promoting equality between men and women and, where appropriate, arrangements to ensure the integration of the gender perspective at the operation level. Additionally, equal opportunities and prevention of discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age, or sexual orientation were prioritized, especially in relation to access to funding, while considering the needs of various at-risk target groups, particularly ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities.

During the assessment and evaluation process, project proposals were evaluated, inter alia, based on their contribution to the horizontal principles. Compliance with and contribution to these principles were monitored by MA/JS/FLC through the Project Progress Reports and on-the-spot checks.

Contracted projects demonstrated significant efforts in promoting equal opportunities and ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities. For instance, under PA1, the Take Care! project improved the availability of health and social services for vulnerable groups in the cross-border area. Seven mobile teams for elderly, infirm people, and persons with disabilities were established, while 40 employees in the social and healthcare sector were trained in palliative care. Additionally, a Take Care! online network platform facilitated knowledge transfer between medical institutions in Croatia and Serbia, ultimately benefiting almost 1.000 residents in need within the Vukovar-Srijem County and Srem District. The ReGerNet project, improved and equipped three gerontology clubs and provided specialized training for caregivers in elderly care. Within PA3, the VISITUS project addressed barriers faced by blind and visually impaired (BVI) persons by developing accessible tourism solutions, including 50 Braille guides, 8 tactile map-equipped interactive boards, and a multilingual mobile application. Furthermore, 50 tourist guides were trained to accommodate BVI persons, ensuring a more inclusive tourism experience. Inclusive Community project (PA1) supported persons with disabilities through tailored training/mentorship programs and organized the distribution of medical supplies for disabled persons. The project also implemented various innovative forms of volunteering such as senior volunteering, in-home care and helping children with learning disabilities.

Projects also addressed gender equality by challenging traditional gender roles. For example, the HORIS project (PA3) promoted women's participation in horseback riding through educational activities targeting women's associations, while the XBIT project (PA4) fostered inclusivity in the traditionally male-dominated IT sector by organizing panel discussions on "Women in IT." Project WBH (PA4) organized various education, mentoring and consultation sessions to encourage women, especially the unemployed to start their own business.

Across all CfPs, the Programme succeeded in integrating horizontal principles by addressing the specific

needs of vulnerable groups, fostering gender equality, and ensuring accessibility, while equipping stakeholders with tools and knowledge to sustain these practices beyond the Programme's implementation period.

9.3.Sustainable development (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on sustainable development, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of the actions taken to promote sustainable development in accordance with that Article

The objectives of the Programme are pursued in line with the principle of sustainable development and with the Union's promotion of the aim of preserving, protecting and improving the quality of the environment. Sustainable development is one of the key issues for the programme area as it is described in the Programme's strategy. The Programme with its territory rich in natural and cultural resources has a vast potential to improve the cross-border environmental protection, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster resilience and risk prevention and management. The strong need for this improvement has been identified in the situation analysis and SWOT. Given the programme area's valuable ecosystems and natural heritage, sustainability was central to all Priority Axes - PA2 was most focused on enhancing environmental sustainability, while PA1 aimed to improve the quality of public social and health services in the programme area following "green business" principles (where applicable). PA3 and PA4 addressed challenges in preservation of heritage and enhancing competitiveness aiming to equip individuals and institutions with the skills needed for sustainable development.

The Programme aimed to ensure that environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, disaster resilience, and risk prevention and management are promoted in contracted projects within *PA2 Protecting the environment and biodiversity, improving risk prevention and promoting sustainable energy and energy efficiency*.

The largest share of the budget (over 33%) is reserved for Priority Axis 2, which is completely focused on sustainable development and support to climate change objectives. Priority 2 is not only focusing on the biodiversity and environmental protection, risk prevention and risk management, but also on energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Under SO 2.2., the Programme focused on increasing renewable energy use and improving energy efficiency in public buildings through smart solutions. It supported planning activities and joint awareness campaigns to promote energy efficiency in the Programme area.

Impact Evaluation data shows a rise in energy efficiency (EE) and renewable energy sources (RES), improved governance in energy planning, and increased awareness of EE benefits. It also enhanced policymakers' capacity for sustainable energy planning and encouraged better user behaviour in energy consumption.

Under SO 2.1., the Programme aimed to strengthen environmental management, biodiversity protection, and cross-border coordination in managing protected areas, including NATURA 2000 sites. It also focused on disaster response capabilities by supporting joint initiatives for risks like floods, droughts, and pollution.

Evaluation results show positive impacts on risk management systems, achieved through studies, small infrastructure projects, capacity-building, and cross-border solutions. The projects raised awareness of environmental and biodiversity protection among local populations.

As a general horizontal principle, applied across all priorities, the Programme is committed to sustainable development.

9.4. Reporting on support used for climate change objectives (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

The Programme area increasingly suffers from extreme weather conditions caused by climate change. In recent years, the region has become vulnerable to various types of disastrous events that occur more frequently and intensively: extreme heat waves, prolonged droughts, extreme precipitation events, pluvial and river floods, and strong storms, and the consequences are already being felt throughout the cross-border region.

Therefore, to tackle this territorial challenge, the Programme provided support to projects dealing with climate change adaptation measures and restoration of habitats endangered by climate change (such as wetland areas), improving the emergency preparedness in cases of natural disasters and reducing the use of fossil fuels and other energy sources with negative impact on the environment.

The cross-border area between Croatia and Serbia is a specific wetland and floodplain ecosystem with several rare and protected species. Although ecosystems like wetlands and floodplains benefit society by purifying water, reducing floods, contributing to food production and ecotourism, they are subject to anthropogenic pressures, including uncontrolled land use, unsuitable agriculture, urbanization, illegal waste disposals, and water exploitation. As a result, 70% of wetland and floodplains have disappeared in the last 50 years causing both biodiversity loss and loss of benefits for local communities.

Therefore, the Programme supported several projects fostering wetland areas. Project ECOWET focused on reducing environmental degradation of wetland areas by developing an eco-system based processor for water purification. Project Sens Wetlands developed a measuring application to track record of air temperatures, wind strength, air humidity, concentration of NO³ and other indicators in the wetland area. Project WetlandRestore developed a cross-border wetland monitoring systems to allow tracking of ecological changes. The project also developed restoration plans for six pilot wetland areas and performed small-scale restoration interventions in two wetlands in Serbia and Croatia. Project IMPACT-ENVI dealt with the impacts of climate changes on the ecological status of water and soil and demonstrated new, sustainable practices to be used in agriculture in the cross-border area.

The Programme area's abundance of water resources, once considered a great asset, now faces unprecedented strain due to the impacts of climate change. The region is increasingly prone to catastrophic floods. Project Together We Stand recognized these threats and developed a monitoring and early warning system that will shorten the response time for disasters and consequently ensure a safer environment, including the environmental rehabilitation phase, i.e. restoration of an affected area after a major flood.

Based on the cumulative financial data by category of intervention stated in Table 5, the amount of support which projects financed under the specific objective 2.1. used for climate change objectives by the end of 2023 is EUR 2.672.120,09 (total eligible expenditure on categories of intervention 085, 086 and 087).

In addition, several projects financed under the specific objective 2.2. dealt with the promotion of renewable energy sources (solar, wind, biogas, etc.), reducing the carbon footprint and the need for using fossil fuels for energy production.

9.5 Role of partners in the implementation of the cooperation programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 1, (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the role of partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, including involvement of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperation programme

In compliance with section 5.7 of the Programme, measures taken to involve partners were focused on supporting and maintaining Programme ownership among relevant partners and stakeholders, as well as ensuring coordination with other ESI funds and funding instruments. The main measures in this respect included:

Participation of relevant partners and stakeholders in JMC meetings, primarily regarding the adoption of Guidelines for Applicants (GfA) for the 1st, 2nd, and restricted 3rd CfPs, project selection and approval, and adoption of Programme documents. Partners and stakeholders composing the JMC included institutions/authorities such as Vukovar-Srijem, Osijek-Baranja, Brod-Posavina, and Požega-Slavonia Counties (HR); various Croatian ministries (e.g., Health, Tourism, Economy, Environment and Energy); the University of Osijek (HR); and civil society representatives, among others. On the Serbian side, partners included ministries such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy, and Ministry of Environmental Protection, as well as AP Vojvodina, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia, and the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities.

Involvement of beneficiaries and target groups in projects contracted across the three CfPs, categorized by priority axis (PA):

PA 1: Regional/local public authorities, NGOs, organizations providing social and health services, public/non-profit organizations, development agencies, and healthcare institutions (e.g., elderly homes).

PA 2: Sectoral agencies, higher education and research institutions, local/regional authorities, NGOs, public utility companies, and institutions responsible for environment and nature.

PA 3: Local/regional public authorities, NGOs, development agencies, tourist boards, and organizations managing cultural and natural heritage.

PA 4: Business support organizations, local public authorities, NGOs, clusters, development agencies, and business institutions.

Strengthening participation through capacity-building activities: Numerous training sessions, workshops, and awareness-raising initiatives were organized for applicants and beneficiaries. These activities aimed to enhance understanding of the Programme's requirements and opportunities, particularly emphasizing capacity-building in the restricted 3rd CfP, which focused on specific thematic areas and targeted pre-selected beneficiaries.

Awareness-raising efforts: Awareness among stakeholders and partners about the Programme's opportunities and results was raised through various means, including participation in events, bilateral meetings, targeted mailings, and presentations. These efforts contributed to a broader engagement of

stakeholders in Programme implementation and monitoring.

Through these actions, the Programme effectively ensured the involvement of partners and stakeholders in its implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, fostering ownership and coordination at both the Programme and project levels. These efforts resulted in strengthened cooperation and improved capacity to achieve Programme goals across the cross-border area.

10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013

10.1 Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations

In line with the Evaluation plan, approved by the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) on 7 September 2016, Programme specific needs and the available financial resources, two evaluations have been done during the implementation of the Programme:

1. Evaluation of the Programme efficiency and effectiveness ('operational' evaluation), carried out in 2019, focusing on the evaluation of the quality and effectiveness of the Programme management and implementation (management structure, coordination between bodies, monitoring system, etc.) and evaluation of the quality and effectiveness of the Programme communication strategy. The evaluation methodology combined desk reviews of Programme documents, a web survey answered by the beneficiaries and applicants, a set of interviews with Programme representatives and a case study analysis.
2. Impact evaluation, carried out in 2021, focusing on the assessment of Programme results and their sustainability as regards to each specific objective, assessment of the impact of communication according to the planned goals and assessment of the impact of the Programme and projects financed within the Programme on the Programme area, cross-border population, project partners and other target groups. The evaluation also aimed at identifying which are the key challenges and which improvements are necessary for the programming period 2021-2027. The evaluation methodology combined desk reviews of Programme documents, a web survey for beneficiaries, and a case study analysis, which consisted of interviews with project partners and the analysis of project documents.

Overall budget for the evaluation of the Programme efficiency and effectiveness was ca. 26.500 EUR, whereas the budget for the Programme impact evaluation was ca. 31.500 EUR. The evaluations above were done jointly with the same evaluations carried out for Interreg IPA CBC Programme Croatia – Bosnia and Herzegovina - Montenegro.

Results of both evaluations have been presented to the JMC members and published on Programme website.

Both evaluations analysed the achievements and contribution to the set Programme output and result indicators.

Findings of the 'operational' evaluation, carried out in 2019, showed that the tangible outputs had been produced and that the targets set for 2023 for the output indicators are reachable. As regards the result indicators, it was found that there is a progress towards the achievement of the targeted values for some result indicators, whereas others should be carefully monitored since there were difficulties in collecting relevant data from the institutions in both countries. It was recommended to take profit of the impact evaluation to assess the direct contribution of the Programme to the result indicators, especially since the 'operational' evaluation was carried out early in the implementation of the Programme and the progresses captured by the result indicators could be due to the factors external to the Programme. Furthermore, the main focus of this evaluation was not on the achievements of the Programme output and result indicators, rather on the capacities of Programme bodies and procedures set for Programme management and implementation, as well as on the assessment of quality and effectiveness of the Programme communication strategy.

Impact evaluation, envisaged for the second part of Programme implementation period, i.e., when the results of the completed projects from the 1st Call for Proposals (CfP) could be clearly observed and evaluated, should have made a more in-depth analysis and assessment of achieved outputs and results. Having this in mind, the evaluation questions suggested for the impact evaluation process were formed in a way that they do not capture only the assessment of overall Programme achievement of the planned objectives and results, but also focus separately on each priority axis and specific objective and corresponding output and results indicators, as well as to provide recommendations for the future Programme.

Impact evaluation was carried out in 2021. Unfortunately, the results of the finalised evaluation were below expectations in terms of concrete findings, conclusions and recommendations to the Programme. Findings and conclusions were mainly based on Programme documents (Annual implementation reports) and a web-survey done by beneficiaries. In that respect, findings related to the achievement (or progress to the achievement) of set target values for output indicators have not offered any new information or perspective that could not be concluded from the continuous monitoring of the implementation of the projects and achievement of Programme output indicators. Programme contribution to the result indicators was assessed and evaluated positively in general terms, with no further findings.

Since MA was performing its function for the first time in the period 2014-2020, it based its expectations for the Impact evaluation on the good experience and positive feedback regarding the previously conducted ‘operational’ evaluation. However, after the evaluations were done, it was clear that for the Impact evaluation, certain technical aspects should have been approached differently, such as:

- timing of the evaluation – so that it corresponds even more with the project implementation, as well as with the availability of beneficiaries and target groups during the evaluation process,
- duration of the evaluation process – so that the evaluators have more time to allocate on a more thorough and in-depth analysis and assessment of Programme results and their impact,
- higher budget – in order to attract a larger number of quality evaluators.

Those aspects are main lessons learned from the evaluations done and they will surely be taken into account during the planning and conducting of the future evaluations.

Based on the exchange of experiences with other programmes and evaluation units, it can be concluded that the problem of attracting and contracting the good-quality evaluators is shared between many programmes and MAs but there is a limited impact of the measures that could be taken in that respect. However, other aspects such as timing and duration of the evaluation can be more flexible and adjustable to the implementation process of each programme.

Since this Impact evaluation was carried out after the projects from the 1st CfP ended, when the projects contracted within the 2nd CfP were at the initial stage of its implementation, their achievements and results have not been captured by the evaluation. Additionally, in 2022, the Programme launched the 3rd (restricted) CfP, within which 5 more projects will be contracted and implemented in 2023. In that respect, they would not have been captured by another evaluation for the period 2014-2020, therefore it will be considered to include their achievements in the Impact evaluation for the period 2021-2027, especially if there will also be some capitalisation projects contracted and implemented.

Status	Name	Fund	Year of finalizing evaluation	Type of evaluation	Thematic priority	Topic	Findings (in case of execution)	Follow up (in case of execution)
Executed	Evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme Croatia - Serbia 2014 - 2020	IPA(e)	2019	Process	a b d g	Interreg IPA Programme communication strategy: Monitoring procedures regarding the achievement of communication strategy objectives	The Programme has already implemented a large part of the planned activities. The only weakness concerns the use of the social networks, in particular Twitter: (the Twitter account of the Programme is almost unused). It was recommended reinforcing the communication activities targeting the wider public. The objective should be to inform citizens and stakeholders about the benefits that the Programme is bringing in the territories. The communication activities have ensured a good coverage of all territories: almost all counties involved in the Programme area have hosted at least one Programme event.	The Programme has accounts on Facebook, X (former Twitter) and LinkedIn, as well as on YouTube. Although it has been shown that the social network X (Twitter) is less popular social network in comparison to Facebook and LinkedIn, the Programme increased the frequency of use of the social networks and it continually and regularly publishes all relevant news, both from the Programme side (such as news on Call for proposals, workshops for applicants and beneficiaries, documents and guides for project partners etc.) as well as on project activities and achieved results benefiting the Programme area, on all social media accounts as well as on Programme website.
Executed	Evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme Croatia - Serbia 2014 - 2020	IPA(e)	2019	Process	a b d g	Implementation of Interreg IPA Programme - Progress in achieving the target values in the performance framework	The Programme is overperforming compared to the initial milestones, both at the level of financial progress (i.e. certified expenditure) and at the level of progress of the output indicators. All four axes have certified more expenditures than expected, with two axes (PA1 and 4)	As stated already in the findings, in the 2nd Call for Proposals, the applications contributing to the (at the time) underachieved indicators were awarded with additional points. The

						<p>having certified more than double of the expenditures initially planned. The targets for 2023 appear reachable. This is confirmed both by the analysis of the data presented in the AIR and by the perception of the beneficiaries (i.e. data from the survey).</p> <p>- three indicators have already achieved the targets for 2023 and two others have already achieved more than half than what was planned; - six indicators are between the 20% and 50% of the final targets; - three indicators below the threshold of 20% with respect to the final target.</p> <p>It was recommended to monitor the progress of the underachieved indicators. When selecting new projects, as already done during the 2nd Call for Proposals, it is recommended to reward applications contributing to the underachieved indicators.</p> <p>Data from the survey show that beneficiaries consider that support provided by the Programme authorities is very helpful.</p>	<p>progress to the indicators was closely monitored during the whole programme implementation and all programme indicator targets were successfully reached.</p>	
Executed	Evaluation (Impact assessment) of Interreg IPA Cross-border cooperation Programme Croatia-Serbia 2014-2020	IPA(e)	2021	Impact	a b d g	<p>Conclusions for future interventions</p> <p>- EQ11: What are the links between activities and/or programme achievements and the overall EU framework for the post-2020 period?</p>	<p>EQ11: Looking to the key results achieved under 2014-2020 the most relevant SO for the future programming period are:</p> <p>- PO 1 SO (i) Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies</p>	<p>Out of the six SO-s highlighted as the most relevant for the future programming period, four SO-s were selected by the programming task force for the Interreg programme 2021-2027, namely: PO 1 SO (i) Developing and enhancing</p>

							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PO 1 SO (iv) Developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship - PO 2 SO (iv) Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience - PO 2 SO (i) Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions - PO 4 SO (v) Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care - PO 4 SO (vi) Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation 	<p>research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies, PO 2 SO (iv) Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, PO 4 SO (v) Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and PO 4 SO (vi) Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation. One additional SO was selected - PO 2 SO (ii) Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001[1], including the sustainability criteria set out therein.</p>
Executed	Evaluation (Impact assessment) of Interreg IPA Cross-border cooperation Programme Croatia-Serbia 2014-2020	IPA(e)	2021	Impact	a b d g	<p>Conclusions for future interventions</p> <p>EQ 12: Is there a gap between the realized and remaining/new needs of the programme area? What</p>	<p>The analysis shows that, during the 2014-2020 period, the funds provided by the Programme played a key role in responding to the needs of the territory. Data also indicate that the capacity of beneficiaries to mobilize other funds is</p>	<p>The programme in 2021-2027 period supports creation of new monitoring and evaluation systems at cross-border level, as well as development and</p>

						are the conclusions and recommendations for the post-2020 period?	limited. All in all, the analysis suggests that the territory still has needs in terms of funding, for which the future programme is called to play a crucial role. The analysis of the cross-border added value and of the possible capitalization activities suggests that the future programme shall pay particular attention to supporting actions aimed at improving the policy instruments of the area, e.g. creation of new policy instruments (plans, agreements) integrated across borders; introduction of new monitoring and evaluation systems on a local or regional scale; introduction of new monitoring and evaluation systems at cross-border level. Moreover, the future programme should pay particular attention to the difficulties in ensuring the financial sustainability of the projects since the application phase. This can help in guiding future project partners since the very initial steps of the application phase, in planning specific actions for ensuring synergies with other policy instruments and for consequently increasing the capacity of the projects to mobilise other funds.	implementation of policy instruments across borders. In order to financially support the projects since the initial stage of implementation, in the new financial period, the Programme increased the lump sum envisaged for preparatory costs from the total amount of 3,000.00 EUR to the total amount of 5,500.00 EUR.
Executed	Evaluation (Impact assessment) of Interreg IPA Cross-border cooperation Programme Croatia-Serbia 2014-2020	IPA(e)	2021	Impact	a b d g	Conclusions for future interventions EQ 13: Is there a more cost-effective and/or simple way to achieve the programme specific objectives? (This	The analysis of the financial absorption (i.e., total amount of expenditures certified by MA and CA out of the total budget of the project) and of the delays with respect to the project deadline initially established (i.e., difference between the initial end date and the new	No follow up was needed.

						evaluation question aimed to investigate the efficiency and effectiveness of projects according to their partnership size, i.e. to verify if the presence of a larger partnership represents an added value or a risk in terms of achievement of the intended objectives (at project and programme level))	end date agreed with the MA/JS) of the projects financed under the first call shows no evidence about possible correlations between the size of the partnership and delays in the implementation of projects.	
Executed	Evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme Croatia - Serbia 2014 - 2020	IPA(e)	2019	Process	a b d g	Implementation of Interreg IPA Programme - Contribution to the objectives of Europe 2020 Strategy and to macro-regional strategies	The information collected from the case studies confirm the potential of the Programme to in particular, reduce emissions, increase the production of energy from renewable sources and increase the energy efficiency. The information collected from the case studies confirm the potential of the Programme to contribute to priority areas 2, 3, 7 and 9 of EUSDR and to pillars 2 and 4 of EUSAIR.	No follow up was needed.
Executed	Evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme Croatia - Serbia 2014 - 2020	IPA(e)	2019	Process	a b d g	Implementation of Interreg IPA Programme - Procedures for monitoring the implementation of the Programme	The indicator system is coherent with the regulatory framework which means that the Programme has indicators measuring the projects outputs and the results of the Programme (at SO level). But there are no indicators measuring the direct results of the projects. From the perspective of the preparation of the new Programme it is recommendable to start to elaborate a possible set of “direct results indicators”.	As set of indicators (output and result) was changed for the period 2021-2027, there was no need to further elaborate indicators. In 2021-2027, the Programme uses only Interreg-specific and ERDF indicators, no Programme-specific

							<p>The impact evaluation could be used to start to reflect on the future monitoring system.</p> <p>Beneficiaries consider that the process of handling and delivery the progress reports is efficient.</p>	<p>indicators were defined.</p>
Executed	Evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme Croatia - Serbia 2014 - 2020	IPA(e)	2019	Process	a b d g	<p>Implementation of Interreg IPA Programme - Progress in achieving the objectives and results of the Programme</p>	<p>Result indicators: The Programme is progressing towards the achievement of the targeted results. In particular, under PA 2.1 and PA 3 the targeted changes have been already achieved. In the case of PA 2.1 and PA4 result indicator values were not reported in the AIR 2018 due to the impossibility to collect data for 2018. It is recommended to reflect on possible solutions to solve the problems related to the monitoring of result indicators for PA 2.1 and PA 4. Moreover, it was recommended that the Programme takes profit of the impact evaluation to assess the direct contribution of the Programme.</p> <p>Output indicators: Progress made at the level of the output indicators shows that the Programme is already producing tangible outputs.</p> <p>- Population covered with improved health services and/or social services or facilities. At the current stage the Programme is underperforming. It could be recommendable to formally revise the CP by reducing the target.</p> <p>- Additional capacity of renewable</p>	<p>Regarding Programme output indicator Population covered with improved health services and/or social services or facilities and potential reduction of its target, after additional analysis and finalised contracting of projects selected within the 2nd Call for proposals, the Programme estimated that initially set target value was reachable by the end of Programme implementation.</p> <p>Target value of output indicator Additional capacity of renewable energy production was corrected within the Programme modification done in 2020.</p> <p>As regards output indicator Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status, after the target values reported by the beneficiaries</p>

						<p>energy production. The target value (32 MW) does not correspond to the correct application of the formula provided in the methodological document (annex 19). We recommend modifying/correcting the target according to the methodology presented in annex 19.</p> <p>- Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status. We recommend to further check the values declared by beneficiaries.</p> <p>The distribution of financial resources per axis substantially reflects what was initially programmed.</p>	<p>were reviewed, it was concluded that the Programme estimation of funds needed for achieving this output while setting a target value was stricter, whereas contracted projects managed to achieve a higher value for the same amount of funds. In that respect, the target value was increased within the Programme modification in 2020.</p>	
Executed	Evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme Croatia - Serbia 2014 - 2020	IPA(e)	2019	Process	a b d g	<p>Managing the Programme and Programme procedures</p> <p>- Project implementation monitoring procedures</p>	<p>The procedures for managing payments and certification are generally effective. All exchanges between the beneficiaries and the control bodies are made via eMS; moreover the Programme is in line with the requirements of the Omnibus regulation in terms of use of SCO. The control process is sometimes slow due to the different legal frameworks among the country partners, but these problems have not affected the capacity of the Programme to absorb the available resources. In view of the new programming period it was recommended to already start to reflect on the possible use of additional SCO. The reporting of TA is made on an annual basis. In order to avoid possible</p>	<p>In the new programming period, new SCO options are used, namely flat-rate for office and administration costs, travel and accommodation, as well as optionally for staff costs.</p> <p>As regards reporting of TA expenses, only for National Authority in Serbia as the TA beneficiary, the reporting periods were changed to six months, in order to avoid possible risk of temporary lack of funds, whereas other TA beneficiaries estimated</p>

							<p>risks of temporary lack of funds for financing TA activities it was recommended to report the TA expenses every six months.</p> <p>Data from the survey indicate that the Programme effectively supports the beneficiaries during the project implementation. They appreciate the quality of the Programme manual and also the approach for managing the payment claims.</p> <p>The electronic monitoring system used by the Programme responds to the regulatory requirements and is generally efficient. There are some weaknesses in aggregating data and reporting them in useful formats, but they have been solved by using additional tools.</p>	<p>that they can manage reporting on TA expenses once a year.</p>
Executed	Evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme Croatia - Serbia 2014 - 2020	IPA(e)	2019	Process	a b d g	<p>Managing the Programme and Programme procedures - Management structures including human resources</p>	<p>There is a clear and efficient definition and assignment of functions, responsibilities and tasks among the Programme bodies.</p> <p>Programme uses adequate human resources of MA and JS to ensure the efficient implementation of all Programme activities. Some interviewees raised attention to the fact that the reduction of the staff (which followed the merging of the Agency for Regional Development of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Regional Development and EU funds) could limit the capacity of the Croatian control body to carry out controls on the 100% of the expenditures declared, as well as</p>	<p>The Programme has monitored the activity of controllers during the whole implementation period. It has regularly organised network meetings and workshops for the control bodies from both Croatia and Serbia, as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. These events were organized for controllers to discuss different documents and tools, share experiences and best practices, and ensure the same approach and treatment in verifying expenditures in all</p>

							<p>Managing Authority. It was recommended that the Programme bodies monitor the activity of controllers (both on Croatian and Serbian side) in order to verify their capacity to carry out controls consistently with the rules established in the Control Guidelines.</p> <p>The set-up of the Programme bodies lasted two years.</p>	<p>countries. Furthermore, the overview of the proper functioning of Control bodies has been reported once a year to the Managing Authority, whereas more detailed report on verifications carried out and conclusions drawn from these controls, including errors identified and corrective measures implemented, has been submitted to the Managing Authority twice a year.</p>
Executed	Evaluation (Impact assessment) of Interreg IPA Cross-border cooperation Programme Croatia-Serbia 2014-2020	IPA(e)	2021	Impact	b	<p>SO 2.2: Promote the use of sustainable energy and energy efficiency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EQ22: Did the projects develop new energy solutions? - EQ 23: Can changes in public awareness be recognised as a result of the promotion of sustainable energy sources? - EQ 24: How much did the implemented project activities contribute to the reduction of electricity consumption in public 	<p>Under the specific objective 2.2. three interventions have been implemented within the 1st Call for Proposals (finalisation of projects: one project ended at the beginning of 2019, while two projects ended at the beginning of 2020). The outputs and results of these projects suggest that the cross-border area has experienced an increase in energy efficiency and use of renewable energy resources. The contribution to the PA2 indicator Additional capacity of renewable energy production consists of 1,44 MW renewable energy produced by the 3 implemented projects. Furthermore, implemented project activities led</p>	<p>No follow up was needed.</p>

						buildings in the programme area?	to better governance in energy planning (tools, regulatory frameworks, standards), increased awareness of the benefits coming from the use of energy efficiency measures, increased capacity of policy makers in the sustainable energy planning and reduction of energy consumption.	
Executed	Evaluation (Impact assessment) of Interreg IPA Cross-border cooperation Programme Croatia-Serbia 2014-2020	IPA(e)	2021	Impact	b	<p>SO2.1:Enforce integrated cross-border monitoring/management systems for key existing risks and environmental and biodiversity protection</p> <p>-EQ19:How much has risk management been strengthened and improved through activities financed by the Programme?</p> <p>-EQ20:How did interventions of the programme affect the environment and biodiversity in the area?</p> <p>-EQ21:Have the activities related to the importance of nature conservation been implemented, and enhanced understanding among the local population/visitors?</p>	<p>Within projects in the scope of SO 2.1. activities were conducted that exerted a positive impact and strengthened risk management systems. Concerning the goal of improving or strengthening risk management systems, survey respondents tackled the aforementioned issue most noticeably by conducting studies and research in the field of nature protection and risk prevention.</p> <p>Simultaneously, their impact was the weakest on the development of policy instruments for improving cross-border governance in the field. Likewise, the respondents stated that results in the area were achieved through financing small scale infrastructural interventions, improving the competencies and skills of relevant stakeholders as well as through the development and implementation of new solutions. All of the respondents stated they had a positive impact on increasing knowledge/skills/capacities of key stakeholders in the field of nature protection and risk prevention and creating conditions for better</p>	No follow up was needed.

							protection of biodiversity.	
Executed	Evaluation (Impact assessment) of Interreg IPA Cross-border cooperation Programme Croatia-Serbia 2014-2020	IPA(e)	2021	Impact	g	<p>SO4.1</p> <p>- EQ 28:How much has institutional infrastructure and services in the business environment improved?</p> <p>- EQ29:Did the interventions of the programme strengthen competitiveness and the business environment in the programme area?</p> <p>- EQ30:Did programme interventions affect the development of innovations, new technologies and ICT solutions in the programming area?</p>	<p>SO 4.1.:Improve competitiveness of the Programme area through strengthening cooperation between business support institutions, clusters, education and research organisations and entrepreneurs with aim to develop new products/services/patents/trademarks in the Programme area</p> <p>Institutional infrastructure and services in the business environment improved in the following sectors: green economy, sustainable agriculture and automotive industry. All projects contributed to encouraging the exchange of best practices in the application of ICT, new technologies, processes, products or services to be directly used by the enterprises. Programme interventions affected the development of innovations, new technologies and ICT solutions in the programming area, which was seen in project Eco Build where the activities of the project included innovating and developing new standardised products, services and patents with agricultural biomass as their main feature. The Programme area experienced significant problems due to the low level of ICT solutions and lack of new technologies. Thus, the interventions under PA 4 and SO 4.1. addressed the main challenges and needs as regards enhancing competitiveness and the development of a business environment in the</p>	No follow up was needed.

							Programme area.	
Executed	Evaluation (Impact assessment) of Interreg IPA Cross-border cooperation Programme Croatia-Serbia 2014-2020	IPA(e)	2021	Impact	d	<p>SO3.1: Strengthen, diversify and integrate the cross-border tourism offer and better manage cultural and natural heritage assets</p> <p>- EQ25: Did the interventions of the programme contribute to the improvement and diversity of the tourist offer in the programme area?</p> <p>- EQ26: How much has programme interventions enabled better management of cultural and natural heritage?</p> <p>- EQ27: How much did the projects contribute to increasing the number of visitors and/or overnight stays in the programme area?</p>	<p>Interventions of the programme had notable impact on the improvement and diversity of the tourist offer, which is evidenced by the results of several projects that managed to create new touristic content and make it more accessible and attractive for visitors in the programme area. Results of project activities indicate that the management of cultural and natural heritage was significantly improved, mostly through training sessions and seminars with relevant stakeholders. Even though some of the projects recorded increased numbers of visitors and/or overnight stays in those project areas, the overall figures for the whole programme area are below the target value, whose fulfilment was further hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	No follow up was needed.
Executed	Evaluation (Impact assessment) of Interreg IPA Cross-border cooperation Programme Croatia-Serbia 2014-2020	IPA(e)	2021	Impact	a b d g	<p>Linkages between financed interventions and results</p> <p>- EQ 6: What changes have been made in the programme area in terms of the needs and challenges of the programme area?</p> <p>- EQ 7: What programme interventions can be considered particularly successful in contributing</p>	<p>- EQ6: Expectations from Programme approach, structure and strategy, vary among beneficiaries. Adjustments, especially in use of new technologies, innovation and modernisation, are required.</p> <p>- EQ7: Analysed projects point towards a positive trend in reaching Programme goals. The projects clearly contribute to</p>	The Programme is continuously supporting projects and beneficiaries in increasing their capacities. Other than implementation workshops organised regularly at the beginning of the project implementation period, various other workshops have been organised to support

					<p>to positive developments in the programme area? - EQ 8: What are the conclusions given the project results and their expected impact? What are the key elements for achieving long-term cross-border impact?</p>	<p>the development of Programme area in improving skills of caregivers (health services), ecosystem services' implementation models, preservation of nature, fostering cross-border tourism development and introducing new products in business environment.</p> <p>- EQ8: Although projects have had a positive impact, sustainability of their activities is difficult to achieve due to lack of key elements for achieving long-term cross-border impact (e.g. other funding opportunities and uncertain circumstances as a result of Covid-19 pandemic). In this sense, future Programme shall increase the attention paid to the capacity of future projects to ensure the sustainability. Case studies also resulted with recommendations that future Programme shall pay attention to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting key stakeholders (e.g. Universities in Serbia) in identifying projects partners with adequate skills and capacities and in their relations with the local/regional/national public authorities; • enhancing the support provided to beneficiaries (in particular beneficiaries from Serbia) in relation to public procurement procedures. 	<p>beneficiaries and improve their capacities, on topics such as: partner and project reporting, preparation of final project report, enhancing visibility of project activities and results, as well on public procurement procedures. More specifically, in an effort to mitigate the risk of violating public procurement rules, the MA and JS, in cooperation with CBs, organized an educational workshop for Serbian beneficiaries of the 2nd Call of Proposals, focused on single tender procedure.</p> <p>As regards supporting stakeholders in identifying project partners, other than organizing information days in at least two cities in each country for every Call for proposals launched, which also serve as a networking event for potential applicants and project partners, a section "Find a partner" is available on the Programme website, where interested applicants can search the existing database or register and leave relevant information such as topics in which they are</p>
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								interested, short summary of potential project idea, as well as contact information so that other interested partners can contact them.
Executed	Evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme Croatia - Serbia 2014 - 2020	IPA(e)	2019	Process	a b d g	Managing the Programme and Programme procedures - Programme procedures and decision-making processes	The management structures are generally coherent with what was planned by the Programme strategy. The only differences concern: (1) the merging of the Agency for Regional Development of the Republic of Croatia (initially established as MA) with the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds. According to the information collected this merging has slightly reduced the staff involved in the management of the Programme but has not affected the overall efficiency of the management structures; (2) The hiring of branch office staff by the national authorities (and not directly by the JS). Also in this case, the change has not affected the overall quality, or the efficiency of the support provided by the JS branch offices. The implementation of the Programme implies the constant interaction between different Programme bodies. The analysis of the decision-making processes and the opinion of the interviewees indicate that the decision-making process is generally efficient.	No follow up was needed.
Executed	Evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness	IPA(e)	2019	Process	a b d g	Interreg IPA Programme communication strategy - Inclusion of partners and	Different tools and activities are foreseen to reach all different categories. In this sense it is possible to affirm that the	Programme regularly uses its Programme website and its social media accounts not

	of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme Croatia - Serbia 2014 - 2020				relevant stakeholders	<p>Programme foresees mechanisms to effectively address and involve the relevant target groups. However, the level of implementation of the activities targeting the wider public is limited compared to the activities targeting the beneficiaries and the potential beneficiaries. It was recommended reinforcing the communication activities targeting the wider public. The objective should be to inform citizens and stakeholders about the benefits that the Programme is bringing to the territories. The Programme attracted a significant number of projects proposals (approximately five times more than the projects approved) and all Programme axes are equally effective in attracting project ideas. Information collected from the case studies indicate that projects partners are organising interesting activities to communicate to their groups the outputs and results produced by the projects. It is reasonable to assume that as the projects approach the final stage, the intensity of the communication activities to the wider public will increase, as well as their capacity to involve their target groups. The perception of the capacity to mobilise the target groups is shared by the beneficiaries.</p>	<p>only for sharing information and news from the Programme level directed primarily to the (potential) applicants and beneficiaries, but also for promoting project activities and results benefiting the wider public and the Programme area. Until 2019, when the evaluation was completed, not a lot of projects have reached its final stage and produced results that could be widely promoted. However, as more projects started delivering results and benefits to the area, the communication activities on social media accounts significantly increased. Un-official procedure was set-up between project partners and Programme bodies (MA/JS) in which the projects inform MA/JS on all important steps/results/events so that the Programme can share the news from its side 'in real time' and not after the project report is officially submitted.</p> <p>Additionally, projects are regularly invited to present their results to other projects and to the wider public during</p>
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							<p>the celebration of EC day, which is organized every year in different parts of Programme area (on rotation basis between Croatia and Serbia). Certain projects also received wider recognition in the Interreg community and beyond by competing in the storytelling competition Interreg Project Slam and REGIO STARS.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Programme created booklets describing implemented projects and their main results and achievements, which have been distributed during different Programme events (launching conference, closure conference, EC day celebration, etc.).</p>	
Executed	Evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme Croatia - Serbia 2014 - 2020	IPA(e)	2019	Process	a b d g	Implementation of Interreg IPA Programme - Respecting horizontal principles	<p>Horizontal principles are integrated in all phases of the Programme management: programming phase, selection of operations, monitoring and control of operations.</p> <p>Case studies reveal the presence of project activities contributing both to the sustainable development principles and to equal opportunities, non-discrimination and equality.</p>	No follow up was needed.

Executed	Evaluation (Impact assessment) of Interreg IPA Cross-border cooperation Programme Croatia-Serbia 2014-2020	IPA(e)	2021	Impact	a b d g	<p>Horizontal issues</p> <p>EQ 14: Did the planned measures/projects successfully contribute to the horizontal programme principles?</p> <p>EQ15: How much has the Programme contributed to the relevant macroregional strategies?</p> <p>EQ16: Have the established communication goals been achieved and how have the target groups accepted the Programme?</p>	<p>EQ14: The analysis based on the review of project application forms points to the overwhelmingly positive contribution to horizontal programme principles. Simultaneously, survey results – conducted after the projects were finalized – confirm that the projects had a positive net impact, albeit a more modest one.</p> <p>EQ15: A considerable share of analysed projects was aligned with some of EUSAIR's and EUSDR's Pillars. On the basis of self-assessment, their perceived contribution to the two strategies can be deemed as varying between average to high.</p> <p>EQ16: Programme communication goals have been achieved, such as the goal to ensure successful external communication towards other relevant programmes and benefits of cross-border cooperation by disseminating the results to different stakeholder groups within project and/or Programme area, and/or to the general public. Target groups gained new knowledge and improved their capacities which were the initially expected impacts of the projects.</p>	No follow up was needed.
Executed	Evaluation (Impact assessment) of Interreg IPA	IPA(e)	2021	Impact	a	SO 1.1: Improving the quality of the facilities, services and skills in the	Data from the survey indicate that new services and skills in the public health and social care sectors have been	No follow up was needed.

	Cross-border cooperation Programme Croatia-Serbia 2014-2020					<p>area of public health and social care</p> <p>- EQ 17: Have new services and skills in the public health and social care sectors been introduced thanks to the interventions of the Programme?</p> <p>- EQ18: To what extent has the availability of services in the public health and social care sectors improved thanks to activities financed by the Programme?</p>	<p>introduced mostly thanks to the interventions of the Programme, such as by developing, testing or adopting cross-border initiatives, tools, services and/or related pilot projects aiming to enhance quality, improve accessibility (increased number of service users) and effectiveness of public health care, social services and institutions and by improving competences/skills of key stakeholders. This suggests that the availability of services in the public health and social care sectors improved thanks to activities financed by the Programme.</p>	
Executed	Evaluation (Impact assessment) of Interreg IPA Cross-border cooperation Programme Croatia-Serbia 2014-2020	IPA(e)	2021	Impact	a b d g	<p>Programme's achievement of planned objectives</p> <p>- EQ 2: Is the programme structure (e.g. priority axes and specific objectives, examples of activities, etc.) in line with the requirements and needs of potential beneficiaries?</p> <p>- EQ 3: Are the financial resources allocated for each priority axis in accordance with the requested funds of applicants for project proposals?</p> <p>- EQ 4: How successful</p>	<p>EQ 2: Based on the feedback provided within the survey it can be summarised that the programme structure, priorities and specific objectives, meet the needs of potential applicants in the targeted Programme area</p> <p>EQ 3: The interest of the public/project applicants was higher than the programme was able to cover. Only 22% of all project proposals were chosen for financing. If we look at each individual priority axis, Priority axis (PA) 1 has the highest percentage of approved budget (22%), PA2 has the lowest percentage of projects chosen for financing (18%) and PA3 has the lowest percentage of approved budget (16%), but the highest</p>	No follow up was needed.

						and efficient is the implementation of the project?	percentage of projects chosen for financing (29%) EQ 4: PA 4 is most likely the first Axis to reach all Programme targets for 2023, having three fully achieved indicators and one indicator with a level of achievement higher than 50% (57%). Almost the same situation is with PA 1, where two indicators are fully achieved, and one has a level of achievement higher than 50% (54%). PA 2 is the least likely to reach all Programme targets for 2023 due to low percentages of achievement in one indicator (40%). Regarding the financial progress, PA3 has the best results reaching almost 70% of the target value, while PA2 seems to be the slowest in financial progress, reaching close to only half of the final target. As for the progress in absorbing the available financial resources on a Programme level, the performance of the Programme is above the average (49%).	
Executed	Evaluation (Impact assessment) of Interreg IPA Cross-border cooperation Programme Croatia-Serbia 2014-2020	IPA(e)	2021	Impact	a b d g	Programme strategy's consistency with emerging results - EQ 1: Do the programme effects and results cover the relevant project outcomes and achievements? - EQ 5: What objectives of the programme have been undoubtedly achieved? - EQ 9: Are there any	The results of the web survey show that regarding all specific objectives (SO) all of the included projects have achieved expected programme results, except for one project under SO3.1 (ViCTour), while some produced results that had not been initially planned. Project ViCTour during its implementation experienced several deviations including delays from the work plan. Some of the activities did not follow the dynamic plan adopted at the very beginning of the implementation	No follow up was needed.

						<p>changes in the programme area resulting from programme interventions that were not defined and foreseen by the Programme?</p> <p>- EQ 10: Did the projects achieve the expected programme results?</p>	<p>phase. The main reasons behind these dysfunctionalities were of administrative nature, specifically, issues related to public procurement. It can be concluded that SOs 2.2 and 3.1 have been undoubtedly achieved as projects under these two SOs reached all planned results. One of the projects under SO3.1 (S.O.S.) had a big impact on the Programme area. Joint thematic cultural heritage product - Secession route connecting sister cities of Osijek and Subotica has been created. Joint secession heritage database, containing information on secession buildings, sites, cultural institutions and organisations in the project area has also been developed. Osijek Secession Park has been revitalized, preconditions have been created for the reconstruction of the City Hall in Subotica as an important building from the Secession period, a new local cross-border thematic tourist route/product has been created, the visibility of the market for common tourism products has increased as well as the capacity of cultural heritage.</p>	
Executed	Evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme Croatia - Serbia 2014 - 2020	IPA(e)	2019	Process	a b d g	<p>Interreg IPA Programme communication strategy - Evaluating the achievement of communication strategy objectives</p>	<p>Analysis of the communication activities as well as inputs from the case studies indicate that information and support provided were harmonized and consistent across all the territories. Opinion from applicants and beneficiaries involved in the survey indicates that the support of the</p>	<p>Project beneficiaries regularly organise project closure conference where they present the achievements and results of the implemented projects. Such events and results achieved are also published on Programme</p>

						<p>Programme was good (89% of the respondents declared not having any difficulties in meeting the communication requirements). In 2019 only some of the projects from 1st Call completed the project implementation which explains the momentary lack of specific capitalisation activities. According to the information collected from the interviews, EC Day and other events (e.g. Regio stars awards in Brussels) are some of the specific capitalization activities that will take place during the last part of 2019. It was recommended defining specific activities to offer beneficiaries the possibility to present to other beneficiaries and to the wider public the results of the projects. Impact evaluation could support capitalisation processes by offering to Programme bodies and projects the opportunity to reflect on the direct results produced by the projects (which are not monitored by the indicators).</p>	<p>website and social media accounts. Projects are also invited to present their results to the wider public during the different communication events (e.g. EC day celebration, Interreg project slam etc.).</p> <p>Regarding suggestion that the impact evaluation could support capitalisation processes and insight to the direct results produced by the projects, it was envisaged that the impact evaluation covers also this aspect, however, the results of the finalised impact evaluation were below expectations since its conclusions were mainly based on Programme documents and a web-survey done by beneficiaries, without identifying specific direct results of the implemented projects (that are not monitored by the Programme indicators).</p>	
Executed	Evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Interreg IPA CBC Programme Croatia -	IPA(e)	2019	Process	a b d g	Managing the Programme and Programme procedures - Procedures for publishing calls and selecting projects	Data from the monitoring system and data from the survey highlight the capacity of the Programme to reach a relevant number of applicants including stakeholders with no previous experience	Since there was only one restricted Call launched in 2022, and no more regular Calls for Proposals launched after the evaluation was done,

	Serbia 2014 - 2020						<p>as project partners. The analysis of the Programme documents indicates an efficient organization of the application process. The information indicate an efficient organization of the selection process. Between the two calls procedures have been adjusted in order to ensure higher consistency in the approach adopted by external assessors. The absence of a minimum threshold level for assessing the relevance of the applications implies the risk of accepting projects with low relevance to the Programme objectives. It was recommended to establish a minimum threshold at the level of the relevance criterion.</p>	<p>the Managing Authority implemented this recommendation and set a minimum threshold for the relevance criterion in the assessment and selection process in the Calls for Proposals launched in the 2021-2027 period.</p>
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10.2 The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy

All communication activities implemented throughout the 2014-2020 period were based on the COMMUNICATION STRATEGY of the Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation programme Croatia – Serbia 2014-2020 adopted on 24 November 2015 by the Joint Monitoring Committee, as well as the Annual Communication Plans that elaborated communication activities in a more detailed way.

The Communication Strategy for the Interreg IPA Programme Croatia-Serbia 2014-2020 aimed to enhance collaboration, awareness, and effective implementation, aligning with EU regulations. By building on the achievements of the 2007-2013 programme, it further strengthened cross-border partnerships. Strategy ensured effective communication among programme bodies, stakeholders, and related programmes. It focused on improving cross-border cooperation projects by enhancing communication, raising awareness of funding opportunities, and supporting beneficiaries. Additionally, it aimed to increase awareness and the programme's impact by engaging stakeholders, sharing results, and coordinating with other relevant programmes.

A crucial aspect of the strategy was raising awareness by engaging stakeholders and the public to promote programme objectives and results. Projects were required to develop communication plans detailing their activities, use the Programme logo and other branding features in all communication materials, and create a project-specific website as the main source of information for potential beneficiaries, relevant stakeholders, and the general public.

The official Programme website was launched in December 2015 (<http://www.interreg-croatia-serbia2014-2020.eu/>), and the Programme's visual identity, including the official logotype, was finalised in November 2015.

The Programme's opening conference was held on 16 March 2016 in Vukovar, Croatia, marking the launch of the 1st Call for Proposals and the beginning of the Programme's implementation, with over 200 stakeholders from both countries attending. The final conference took place on 23 October 2024 in Osijek, Croatia, where the results of the 2014-2020 period were presented, coinciding with the launch of the 2nd Call for Proposals of the 2021-2027 Programme. During the conference project beneficiaries shared their experiences in implementing cross-border projects during a panel discussion on “The Importance of Interreg Projects for the Local Community”.

Both the programme and its projects had a continuing presence in the local and regional media via the implementation of communication activities of the projects, with the programme results also being widely shared via the Newsletter, web page and social media.

As part of its publication activities, the Managing Authority published two booklets—one for the first and one for the second Call for Proposals. Each booklet provided detailed information on the contracted projects, summarized project activities, and highlighted key achievements. These booklets were distributed at all public events, including the European/Interreg Cooperation Day.

The European/Interreg Cooperation Day was celebrated by the programme highlighting the achievements of cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation in the regions and countries throughout Europe. Locations included Skradin (HR, 2016), Šibenik (HR, 2017), Sombor (RS, 2018), Vukovar (HR, 2019), Zasavica (RS) and Zlatna Greda (HR, 2020), virtual due to Covid crisis (2021), Nature Park Papuk (HR, 2022), Novi Sad (RS, 2023) and Osijek (HR, 2024).

Among the many implemented activities celebrating European territorial cooperation, some included T-shirt colouring, painting canvases, and creating a wall mural with children from SOS Children's Villages in Croatia and Serbia. Additionally, an amateur video competition was held, along with concerts by the Zagreb Philharmonic and the Association of Music Youth Novi Sad, featuring a magical fusion of Charlie Chaplin movies and classical music. Other initiatives included tree planting and an art competition for posters on the theme "My Vision of a Green Europe" to educate and engage children in fostering personal and collective responsibility for a healthy, green Europe.

The Programme participated in various competitions aiming to expand its communication outreach. Some of the most recognised achievements were at the 2019 European Week of Regions and Cities, the R-SOL-E project reached the finals of the REGIOSTARS 2019 competition, where its innovation was recognized. In 2020 the XBIT project made it to the finals for the REGIOSTARS 2020 award in the category Youth empowerment for cooperation across borders - 30 years of Interreg. Project Heart Net won 3rd place in the Interreg Project Slam 2021 competition for the Social Media Award and 6th place at the Grand Final Event. These recognitions highlighted the strong cross-border collaboration between Croatian and Serbian partners. Additionally, the UPDATE project won two awards at the Interreg Annual Event 2023 in Santiago de Compostela: the Social Media Award and Best Project at the Grand Finals. These successes provided valuable visibility, demonstrated the importance of communication with the public, and highlighted the role of effective communication.

Among the smaller events, it is worth mentioning the information days of the two open Calls for Proposals, implementation workshops, project clinics, thematic workshops and promotional events. A launching conference marking the opening of the 1st CfP was held in Vukovar in March 2016 and the launching conference marking the opening of the 2nd CfP was held in Subotica in April 2018 and gathered more than 100 participants.

The COVID-19 pandemic required the programme to adjust many of its communication activities, shifting primarily to virtual formats. This included increased reliance on the website and social media channels (such as Facebook and Twitter posts, video content, and online meetings). To address the absence of in-person interactions programme staff embraced new technology to enhance communication. In many cases, internal communication and participation in project events and meetings were conducted through online platforms when no alternative solutions were possible.

During the 2016 – 2023 period, numerous articles were published on both the programme and individual project websites as well as the Programme's social media accounts. Approximately 300 posts were shared on the Programme's website, covering a range of topics such as general activities, project news, and

updates about the Programme, including notifications, documents, and materials.

11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2 (A), (B), (C) AND (F), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013)

11.1. Progress in the implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including integrated territorial investments, sustainable urban development, and community led local development under the cooperation programme

No integrated territorial development tools (CLLDs, ITIs etc) are used by the Programme.

11.2 Progress in implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and to use the IPA

By organizing trainings, workshops, info sessions, providing online tools and documents, and ensuring day-to-day support (via e-mail, telephone, and social media communication), the Programme bodies have significantly contributed to strengthening the capacities of applicants, potential applicants, and beneficiaries throughout the project cycle. These activities covered essential topics, such as financial management and public procurement, reporting and the use of eMS. Consequently, these efforts enhanced the beneficiaries' ability to manage ERDF and IPA II funds more effectively. Details of these activities have been described in section 9.5.

In addition to project-level activities, the Programme focused on building capacities of the Programme bodies as well. Specific actions included specialized trainings for TA beneficiaries, meetings of the Group of Auditors (GoA) to address audit procedures, FLC network meetings for reporting and public procurement, and Programme management sessions involving the MA, NAs, and other stakeholders. Representatives of Programme bodies also attended INTERACT events, enabling them to exchange best practices with other programmes and apply these insights within the Programme.

The restricted 3rd CfP further demonstrated the Programme's capacity-building efforts, ensuring efficient administration and implementation of allocated funds. This capitalization Call enhanced the sustainability, durability and transferability of previously developed outputs and results. This approach not only streamlined the application process but also encouraged the development of highly relevant and impactful projects within the cross-border area.

As a result of these comprehensive activities, the capacities of both project beneficiaries and Programme bodies have been significantly improved. Beneficiaries acquired specific skills to implement their projects more effectively, while Programme bodies enhanced their ability to manage the Programme efficiently. This progress was verified through the number of applications received within three CfPs (including the restricted 3rd CfP), the accomplishments of performance framework milestones, and the successful absorption of Programme funds.

11.3 Contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies (where appropriate)

As stipulated by the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, recital 19, article 8(3)(d) on the "Content, adoption and amendment of cooperation programmes" and article 14(4) 2nd subparagraph (c) "Implementation reports", this programme contributes to MRS(s) and/or SBS:

The Programme shares the Programme area with the territories covered by two EU Strategies: the Danube Strategy (EUSDR) and the Adriatic-Ionian Strategy (EUSAIR). Its strategy aligns with the objectives of these macro-regional strategies by addressing shared challenges and needs through cross-border cooperation.

Challenges affecting the Danube and Adriatic-Ionian regions are addressed by correlating the Programme's objectives with EUSDR Priority Areas and EUSAIR pillars. Project outputs and results achieved through implementation positively impact these areas.

For instance, EUSDR challenges related to sustainable energy, environmental risk management, and biodiversity preservation, as well as the EUSAIR pillar focusing on environmental quality, were addressed by projects within PA2 during the 1st and 2nd CfPs. These include additional renewable energy capacities from projects "R-SOL-E" and "X-DEGREE," monitoring wetlands and water quality through "SeNs Wetlands," and promoting sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation via "IMPACT-ENVI." Similar themes were emphasized in the restricted 3rd CfP, with projects specifically targeting environmental innovation and energy efficiency (GReENERGY 2.0).

EUSDR priorities promoting culture and tourism, alongside the EUSAIR pillar on regional attractiveness through sustainable tourism and cultural heritage preservation, were tackled under PA3. Notable examples include the "S.O.S." project, which revitalized the Osijek Secession Park and Subotica City Hall, the "HORIS" project, focusing on traditional horseback riding heritage, and "Central Danube Tour" and "ViCTour," which expanded and enhanced tourism offers in the Danube region. Projects selected within the 2nd and 3rd CfP continued to enhance cultural and tourism potentials, focusing on niche cultural heritage and tourism products ("Pannonia Gourmet" and "PannEx Reload").

EUSDR challenges related to enterprise competitiveness and cluster development, and EUSAIR's focus on research, innovation, and SME development, were addressed under PA4. Examples include the "DRIVE" and "FED CCNET" projects, which supported new laboratories and trainings; "EcoBuild," fostering cooperation between agriculture and the construction industry; and "ORGANIC BRIDGE" and "ROSIS4H," which improved the competitiveness of organic agriculture. Projects from the restricted 3rd CfP supported innovation and SME development through tailored activities addressing regional challenges ("UPDATE").

Capacity-building aspects were reinforced across all PAs through projects from all three CfPs. Trainings and education addressed diverse areas such as palliative care, elderly care, mosquito-borne disease surveillance, environmental protection, sustainable tourism, cultural management, organic food

production, and advanced technologies like 3D printing and virtual reality. The restricted 3rd CfP further contributed by delivering targeted capacity-building actions in niche sectors to enhance expertise in Programme-specific priorities.

This comprehensive alignment with EUSDR and EUSAIR priorities demonstrates the Programme's commitment to fostering cooperation and sustainable development in the cross-border region.

- EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)

The pillar(s) and priority area(s) that the programme is relevant to:

	Pillar	Priority area
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 - Connecting the Danube region	1.1 - Mobility - waterways
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 - Connecting the Danube region	1.2 - Mobility - rail, road & air
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Connecting the Danube region	1.3 - Energy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Connecting the Danube region	1.4 - Culture and tourism
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protecting the environment in the Danube region	2.1 - Water quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protecting the environment in the Danube region	2.2 - Environmental risks
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protecting the environment in the Danube region	2.3 - Biodiversity, landscapes, air and soil quality
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 - Building prosperity in the Danube region	3.1 - Knowledge society
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Building prosperity in the Danube region	3.2 - Competitiveness
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Building prosperity in the Danube region	3.3 - People & skills
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Strengthening the Danube region	4.1 - Institutional capacity & cooperation
<input type="checkbox"/>	4 - Strengthening the Danube region	4.2 - Security

Actions or mechanisms used to better link the programme with the EUSDR

A. Are macro-regional coordinators (mainly National Coordinators, Priority Area Coordinators or Steering Group members) participating in the Monitoring Committee of the programme?

Yes No

B. In selection criteria, have extra points been attributed to specific measures supporting the EUSDR?

Yes No

a) Are targeted calls for proposals planned in relation to EUSDR

Yes No

b) How many macro-regional projects/actions are already supported by the programme? (Number)

0

c) Were extra points/bonus given to a project/action with high macro-regional significance or impact? If yes, please elaborate (1 specific sentence)

Within the 1st and 2nd CfP, projects were able to receive max. 3 points for clear contribution to at least one macro-regional strategy, but since the projects selected under the 3rd CfP are capitalizing these previously selected projects, no additional points were attributed in the selection of projects within the 3rd CfP.

d) Other actions (e.g. planned strategic projects). Please elaborate (1 specific sentence)

No additional actions / strategic projects were implemented.

C. Has the programme invested EU funds in the EUSDR?

Yes No

Does your programme plan to invest in the EUSDR in the future? Please elaborate (1 specific sentence)

The programme indirectly invests in the EUSDR through cofinancing projects that are contributing to EUSDR pillars.

D. Obtained results in relation to the EUSDR (n.a. for 2016)

Projects implemented within the 1st/2nd CfP, which are further capitalized by the projects selected within the 3rd CfP in 2022, have contributed to EUSDR with the following results: - an early-warning system and preparedness protocol for possible outbreak of mosquito-borne diseases, - additional capacities of producing renewable energy through solar power plants and other RES systems, - "green" walls and roofs on public buildings, - tourism valorisation of intangible cultural heritage (local gastronomy), - a cross-border network for increasing the competitiveness, innovation and business skills of IT entrepreneurs, - innovations in organic farming contributing to conserving biodiversity and minimizing the use of pesticides, affecting the quality of air, water and soil.

E. Does the programme contribute to the targets as validated by the national coordinators and priority area coordinators in 2016 (uploaded on the EUSDR website)? (Please specify the target(s))

The Programme contributes to the following EUSDR targets: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.

Pillar(s), topic(s) and/or cross cutting issue(s) that the programme is relevant to:

	Pillar	Topic / Cross cutting issue
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 - Blue growth	1.1.1 - Blue technologies
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 - Blue growth	1.1.2 - Fisheries and aquaculture
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 - Blue growth	1.1.3 - Maritime and marine governance and services
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 - Blue growth	1.2.1 - Strengthening R&D, innovation
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 - Blue growth	1.2.2 - SMEs development
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 - Blue growth	1.2.3 - Capacity building
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connecting the region	2.1.1 - Maritime transport
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connecting the region	2.1.2 - Intermodal connections to the hinterland
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connecting the region	2.1.3 - Energy networks
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connecting the region	2.2.1 - Strengthening R&D, innovation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connecting the region	2.2.2 - SMEs development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connecting the region	2.2.3 - Capacity building
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 - Environmental quality	3.1.1 - The marine environment
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 - Environmental quality	3.1.2 - Transnational terrestrial habitats and biodiversity
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Environmental quality	3.2.1 - Strengthening R&D, innovation
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 - Environmental quality	3.2.2 - SMEs development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Environmental quality	3.2.3 - Capacity building
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Sustainable tourism	4.1.1 - Diversified tourism offer (products and services)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Sustainable tourism	4.1.2 - Sustainable and responsible tourism management (innovation and quality)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Sustainable tourism	4.2.1 - Strengthening R&D, innovation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Sustainable tourism	4.2.2 - SMEs development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Sustainable tourism	4.2.3 - Capacity building

Actions or mechanisms used to better link the programme with the EUSAIR

A. Are macro-regional coordinators (mainly National Coordinators, Pillar Coordinators, or Thematic Steering Group members) participating in the Monitoring Committee of the programme?

Yes No

B. In selection criteria, have extra points been attributed to specific measures supporting the EUSAIR?

Yes No

a) Are targeted calls for proposals planned in relation to EUSAIR

Yes No

b) How many macro-regional projects/actions are already supported by the programme? (Number)

0

c) Were extra points/bonus given to a project/action with high macro-regional significance or impact? If yes, please elaborate (1 specific sentence)

Within the 1st and 2nd CfP, projects were able to receive max. 3 points for clear contribution to at least one macro-regional strategy, but since the projects selected under the 3rd CfP are capitalizing these previously selected projects, no additional points were attributed in the selection of projects within the 3rd CfP.

d) Other actions (e.g. planned strategic projects). Please elaborate (1 specific sentence)

No additional actions / strategic projects were implemented.

C. Has the programme invested EU funds in the EUSAIR?

Yes No

Does your programme plan to invest in the EUSAIR in the future? Please elaborate (1 specific sentence)

The programme indirectly invests in the EUSAIR through cofinancing projects that are contributing EUSAIR pillars.

D. Obtained results in relation to the EUSAIR (n.a. for 2016)

Projects implemented within the 1st/2nd CFP, which are further capitalized by the projects selected within the 3rd CFP in 2022, have contributed to EUSAIR with the following results: - an early-warning system and preparedness protocol for possible outbreak of mosquito-borne diseases, - additional capacities of producing renewable energy through solar power plants and other RES systems, - "green" walls and roofs on public buildings, - tourism valorisation of intangible cultural heritage (local gastronomy), - a cross-border network for increasing the competitiveness, innovation and business skills of IT entrepreneurs, - innovations in organic farming contributing to conserving biodiversity and minimizing the use of pesticides, affecting the quality of air, water and soil.

E. Does the programme contribute to the objectives and/or targets which are attached to each topic under the Pillars, as stated in the Action Plan? (please specify the objective(s) and target(s))

Pillar 3: topic 2; Pillar 4: topic 1 & 2

11.4 Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation

By implementing social innovation actions through the contracted projects, the Programme aimed to ensure that the solutions proposed are not just short-term fixes, but transformative strategies/products/processes that can create sustainable, meaningful change in the lives of the inhabitants of the Programme area. This focus on social innovation maximizes impact, strengthens community resilience, and aligns with broader societal goals.

During the implementation period, the main project actions implemented in the field of social innovation, can be summarized into following overall actions/goals:

Enhancing Health and Well-being

Goal: Improve public health outcomes through innovative healthcare delivery models, preventive health programs.

Examples:

- - Creating mobile palliative health units to reach underserved populations in remote regions. (projects TAKE CARE and SUPPORT LIFE)
 - Introducing telemedicine in cardiology units in hospitals to increase timely response in critical situations (project HEARTNET)

Fostering Economic Inclusion

Goal: Reduce poverty and unemployment through training and entrepreneurship programs

Examples:

- - Offering training programs for unemployed to equip them with marketable skills (projects COMMON, WOMAN BUSINESS HUB, FED CCNET)
 - Creating incubators for minority-owned small businesses (project WOMAN BUSINESS HUB)

Promoting Environmental Sustainability

Goal: Tackle climate change and promote sustainability through innovative approaches to energy use, waste management, and resource conservation.

Examples:

- - Designing renewable energy solutions to reduce dependence on non-renewable resources (projects GREENERGY and RESCUE)
 - Use of biomass and solar energy as renewable sources for sustainable and efficient energy for stand-alone complexes with a social purpose (project BIOSOL)

Promoting Gender Equality

Goal: Address gender disparities and empower women and girls through education, workforce participation, and leadership development.

Example:

- - Implementing mentorship programs for young women aspiring to leadership roles. (project WOMAN BUSINESS HUB)

13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Information and assessment of the programme contribution to achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

The **Interreg Programmes** are one of the EU's key instruments for fostering regional cooperation, and they play a crucial role in achieving the EU's strategy for **smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth**. Programme IPA CBC Croatia – Serbia aims to enhance cooperation addressing common challenges and improving overall regional development. It does this by supporting projects and initiatives that promote economic, social, and environmental development, while fostering innovation, sustainability, and inclusion across borders.

The Programme contributed to the EU2020 goals through the following measures:

- **Smart Growth:** Promoted SME cooperation, facilitated partnerships with local higher education institutions, and encouraged the use of ICT technologies in collaborative efforts.
- **Sustainable Growth:** Supported the preservation and sustainable use of the region's natural heritage and strengthened valuable ecosystems. Environmental sustainability and resource efficiency were integrated as cross-cutting priorities in all programme measures.
- **Inclusive Growth:** Strengthened the institutional framework for future collaboration and fostered positive attitudes toward cooperation by promoting joint educational and training programmes.

1. Smart Growth:

Smart growth focuses on fostering innovation, digital transformation, and the development of a knowledge-based economy. The Programme supported this goal by funding projects that focus on:

- **Innovation and R&D:** by supporting projects that encourage research, technological development, and the commercialization of new products and services. By bringing together knowledge from different regions, the program helps improve innovation ecosystems and facilitates access to new markets.
- **Digital Transformation:** helps embrace digital technologies, particularly in areas like smart cities, digital infrastructures, and the digitalization of SMEs.
- **Knowledge Exchange and Capacity Building:** by promoting cooperation, creating opportunities for regions to learn from each other's experiences, increasing their capacity to implement innovative practices in sectors such as education, health, and industry.

2. Sustainable Growth:

Sustainable growth within the EU strategy focuses on reducing environmental impact, promoting the efficient use of resources, and addressing climate change. The Programme contributes to **sustainable growth** by:

- **Environmental Protection and Biodiversity:** The Programme supports projects aimed at protecting natural resources, preserving biodiversity, and promoting sustainable land use. For instance, several projects address the sustainable management of water, energy, and ecosystems.
- **Green Technologies and Energy Transition:** Many projects focus on advancing green technologies, including renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and the transition to a low-carbon economy by promoting sustainable practices and green technologies.
- **Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation:** implemented projects promote cooperation on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, enabling regions to develop strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change and build resilience.

3. Inclusive Growth:

Inclusive growth in the Europe 2020 strategy aims to reduce poverty, enhance social inclusion, and ensure that growth benefits are widely distributed across society. Programme's contribution to this goal includes:

- **Social Cohesion and Inclusion:** The Programme supported projects that address social inclusion by focusing on vulnerable groups, including youth, and marginalized communities. For example, projects aimed to improve access to education, employment, and healthcare services for disadvantaged groups.
- **Employment and Skills Development:** The program also supports initiatives to enhance regional employment opportunities, particularly in disadvantaged areas by promoting entrepreneurship and skills development.

14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN — PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

Where the assessment of progress made with regard to the milestones and targets set out in the performance framework demonstrates that certain milestones and targets have not been achieved, Member States should outline the underlying reasons for failure to achieve these milestones in the report of 2019 (for milestones) and in the final implementation report (for targets).

The targets set out in the performance framework are all achieved and are mostly surpassed.

The issues affecting the performance of the Programme and measures taken are described in Chapter 5.

Annex I. List of all operations phased from 2014-2020 into 2021-2027

Priority	Operation reference	Operation title	Date (and number) of tacit agreement/approval by commission (if major project)	Phased operation under article 118	Phased operation under article 118a	Total cost of operation (in EUR) - Total (for both phases, final or estimated)	Total cost of operation (in EUR) - For the second phase (final or estimated)	Total certified expenditure for the first phase (in EUR)	Public contribution for the first phase (in EUR)	Planned/final completion date of the second phase (year, quarter)	2021-2027 Programme under which the operation will be/was completed
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Annex II. List of non-functioning operations

Priority	Operation reference	Operation title	Name of the beneficiary / recipient	Total cost of the operation (in EUR)	Total Certified Expenditure (in EUR)	Public contribution (in EUR)
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1. ANNEX III. LIST OF OPERATIONS AFFECTED BY ONGOING NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS / SUSPENDED BY A LEGAL PROCEEDING OR BY AN ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL HAVING SUSPENSORY EFFECT

Priority	Operation reference	Operation title	Name of the beneficiary / recipient	Total Certified Expenditure affected (in EUR)	Public contribution affected (in EUR)	Operation affected by ongoing national investigations	Operation suspended by a legal proceeding or by an administrative appeal having suspensory effect
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DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Citizens' summary	Citizens' summary	27-Mar-2025		Ares(2025)2569749	Citizens' Summary	31-Mar-2025	n008u76v

Severity	Code	Message
Warning	2.54.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered for "F" (implemented) is 201.02% of the annual total value entered for "S" (forecast from selected) for priority axis: PA3, investment priority: -, indicator: PA3b, year: 2022. Please check.
Warning	2.54.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered for "F" (implemented) is 208.98% of the annual total value entered for "S" (forecast from selected) for priority axis: PA3, investment priority: -, indicator: PA3b, year: 2023. Please check.