

Exploring synergies among Interreg IPA and IPA-IPA CBC programmes

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Cross Border Institution Building CBIB+4
The IPA Multi-beneficiary programme



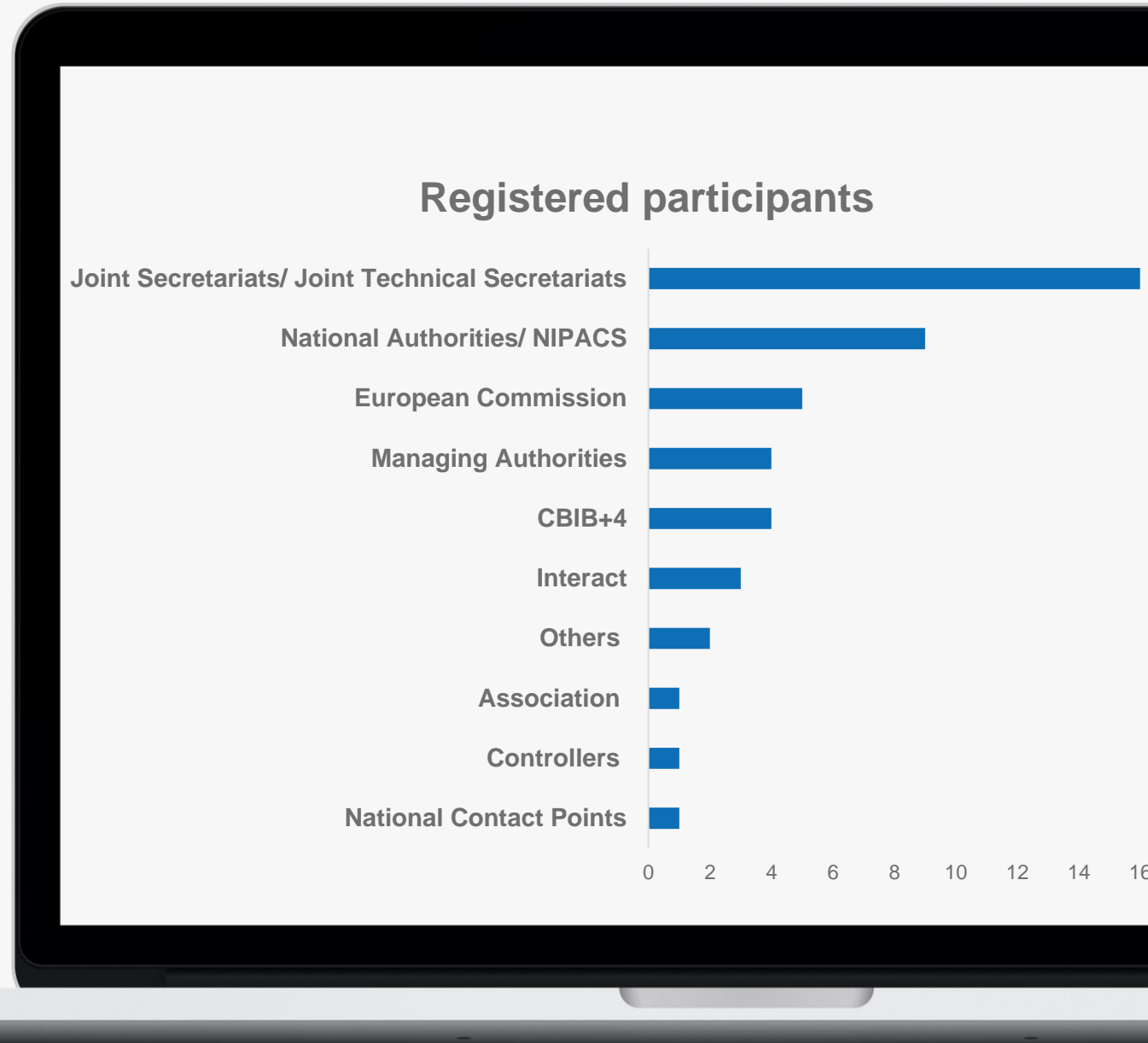
This is a project
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Whom do we have in the room?



Let's get to
know each
other



THIS

THAT



Summer



Winter



Beach



Mountains



Early bird



Night owl



Coffee



Tea

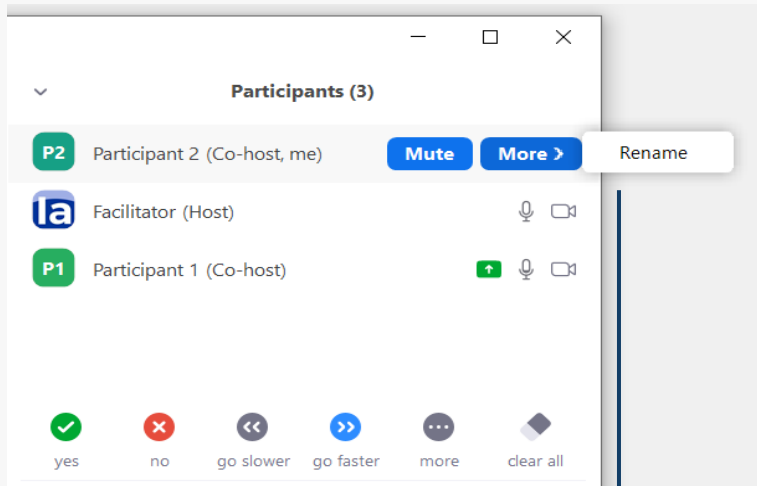


Interreg IPA



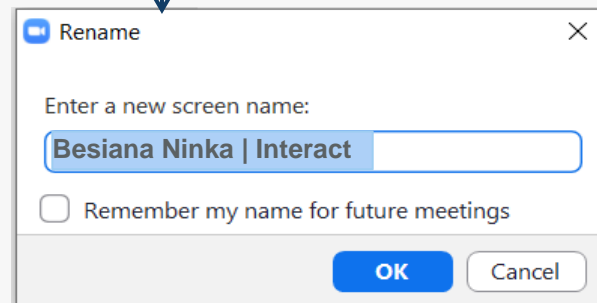
IPA IPA

Zoom – How to rename yourself

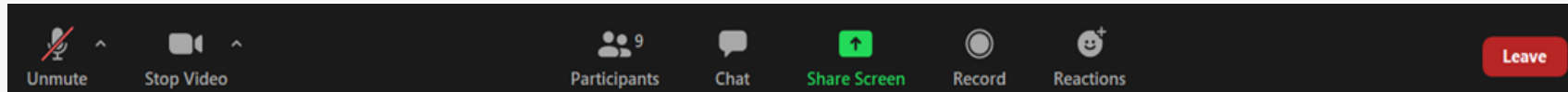


We wish to know who has joined us, therefore, please rename yourself, as shown on the images.

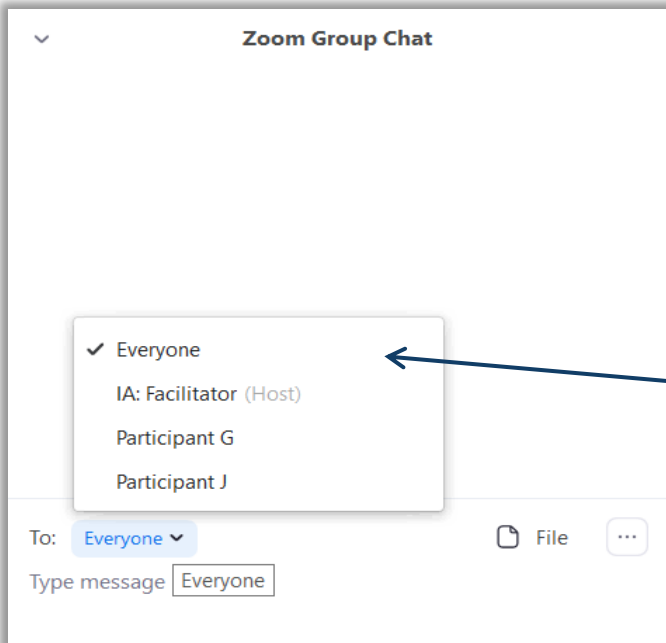
Please write your firstname, lastname and the programme you work for.



Zoom – Chat

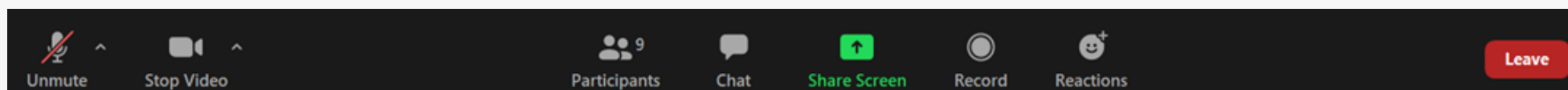


Click here to open chat – a box will open on righthand side.

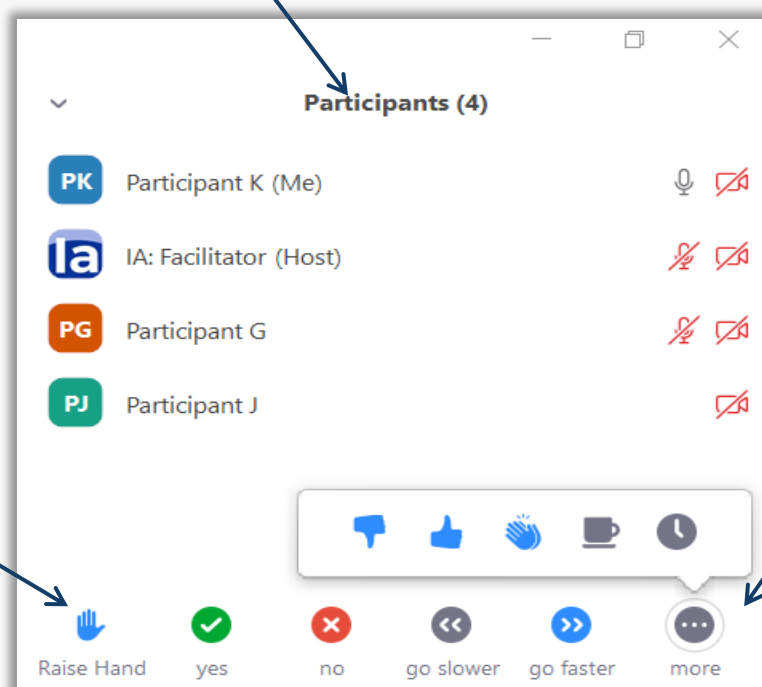


You can chat to everyone or just one user.

Zoom – Quick interactions



Click to raise
your hand
(click again to
lower it)



Click **“more”** for a few
additional icons. Use
the step away (clock)
when you need leave
for a few minutes

Ground rules

- Be active – contribute, ask and share your thoughts and experience;
- This is an open exchange;
- Be curious and patient with the colleagues;
- There is no right or wrong approach; and
- All questions and inputs are relevant for our exchange.



...2 years ago in Tirana

Mr Jean-Pierre Halkin, Macro-regions, Transnational, Interregional, External Cooperation, Enlargement, DG REGIO;

Mr Elbert Krasniqi, Minister of Local Government Administration of Kosovo*;

Mr Mauro di Veroli, IPA planning, reporting and coordination for Western Balkans, DG NEAR;

Mr Massimo Gerli, EU funds National Coordinator, Presidency of the Council of Ministers – Department for Cohesion Policy of Italy;

Ms Stella Arneri, Director-General – Ministry of Regional Development and EU funds of Croatia;

Ms Irena Bošković, Head of the Operating Structure for cross-border cooperation programmes - Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro;

Mr Andi Seferi, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Tirana;

Mr Robert Lichtner, Danube Strategy Point (DSP) Coordinator.

“The role of macroregions as frameworks for synergies”

Mr Ivano Magazzu, Interact programme

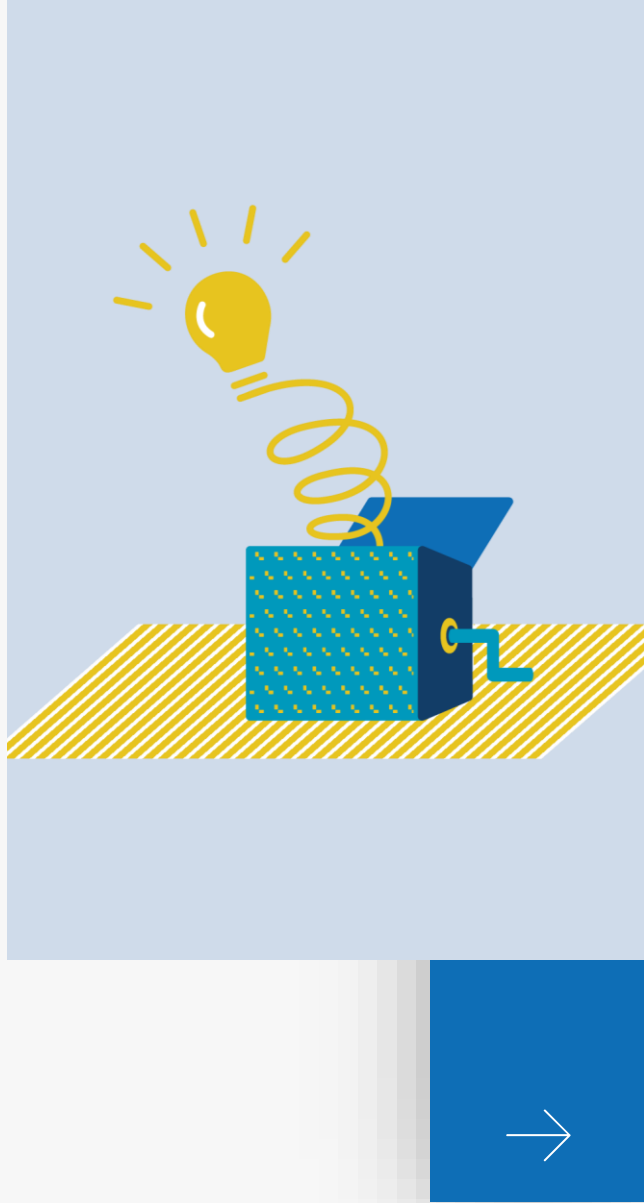
“Strategies for synergies: an Interreg example”

Mr Gilles Kittel, Team Leader - EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region, IPA and enlargement negotiations, DG REGIO

“Prespa area: an example of possible synergies”

Mr Mauro Novello, Head of JS, Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro programme

“How can we create synergies”



Our aim for today's session

- Discuss cross-cutting themes to identify opportunities for collaboration and potential synergies among the programmes;
- Exchange insights on implementation challenges among Interreg IPA and IPA-IPA CBC programmes to foster mutual learning.

Agenda

09:30-12:30

01

Welcome and
introduction

02

Why joining
forces?

03

Addressing
implementation
challenges

04

Wrap-up and
next steps

Let us introduce ourselves

Interact



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**Cooperation can be
complex;
Our job is to make it
easier**



Index

Effective cooperation through
live data exchange

Let us introduce ourselves



CBIB+4
The IPA Multi-beneficiary
programme



**This is a project
funded by the European Union**

CBIB+4 Objective

To support the implementation of IPA II and III CBC programmes in an efficient, effective, harmonized, coordinated and results- based way.

Project expected results

CBC performance monitoring and quality tools

Capacity building assistance

Networking and cross-border management capabilities as well as best practice and sharing of experiences

Communication, visibility products, narratives



Potentials for cooperation



Highest potential **for synergies** **based on** the programme documents



	Albania-Kosovo*	Bosnia and Herzegovina-Montenegro	Kosovo-North Macedonia	Montenegro-Albania	Montenegro-Kosovo	North Macedonia-Albania	Serbia-Bosnia and Herzegovina	Serbia-Montenegro	Serbia - North Macedonia	Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Montenegro	Greece-North Macedonia	Greece-Albania	ADRION	Croatia-Serbia	South Adriatic	Romania - Serbia	Hungary-Serbia	Bulgaria - Serbia	Bulgaria-North Macedonia
Sustainable , nature-and-culture tourism, cultural heritage	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Valorisation, protection, and preservation of environmental resources in the cross-border territory	X		X	X		X					X	X	X		X	X	X		X
Resilience to natural and manmade disasters and climate change challenges		X				X				X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Business support, circular economy			X	X						X	X	X	X		X			X	
Health								X	X	X	X	X	X	X					

From the registration: **What are your suggestions on areas of collaboration?**

**Sustainable
tourism and
culture**

Security

**Disaster
management**

Environment and
environmental
protection

**Tourism and
culture**

Climate change

Culture

Digital and green
transition

Blue growth

From the registration: What are your suggestions on cross-cutting themes of collaboration?

Capacity building

Co-operation between local administration; Capacity building of beneficiaries on how to transfer plans, strategies and challenges into CBC projects; Enhancing the institutional capacity of public authorities, mandated for programmes management, for the implementation of programmes and ensuring synergies in programming and implementation.

Exploring methods to achieve synergies

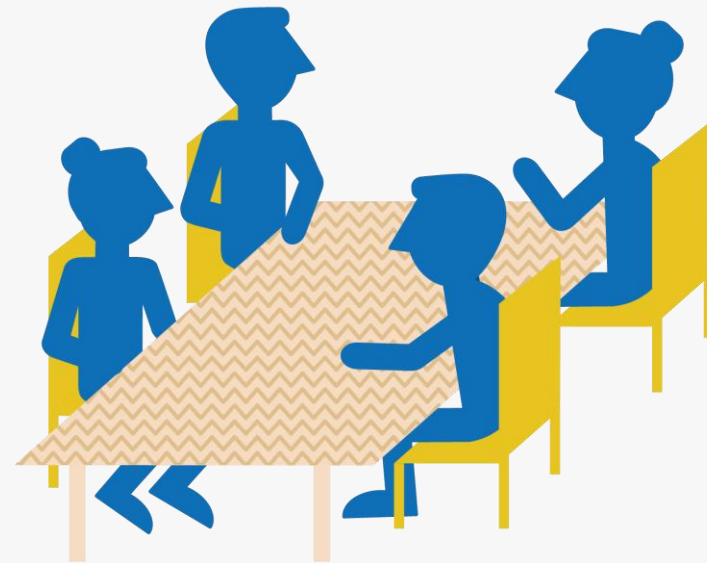
Exploring methods to achieve synergies; Potential multiplayer effect of good practices; Synergies among programmes; Connecting applicants and ideas among programmes

Cross-border cooperation

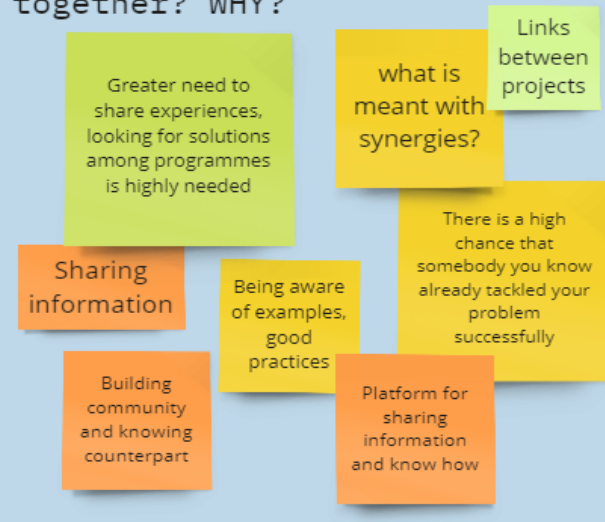
Sustainable development; resilience; broader stakeholder engagement in all stages of programme/project design and implementation

The floor is open for discussion

- How do you see us working together?
- What approach or process would you suggest we adopt to frame our work together?



How do you see us working together? WHY?



What approach or process would you suggest we adopt to frame our work together? HOW?



Collect ideas

WHY

Information sharing is not always working well

Be aware of the projects initiatives in place

HOW?

Outreach/joint events on a regular basis

Address jointly the beneficiaries in the same region and give a possibility for them to exchange and learn

Joint working groups around shared topics

TA (programme level) but also working groups at project level

Interact community

We could collect questions and then jointly prepare FAQ document

Online hub for the support of programme authorities and JTSS

Online HUB for the support of beneficiaries especially for local authorities

A space to be able to share challenges, placing a question at any time. More instant reaction space.

Create groups among potential applicants to support the development of good quality applications

Ideas to be taken forward

What would be the topic you would like to start the cooperation with?

Sustainable tourism

Culture

for future beneficiaries: how to achieve genuine CBC effect with examples

Implementation topics: state aid, procurement

Lessons from the capitalisation of IPA-IPA CBC programmes

Why joining forces?

Identifying cross-cutting themes and opportunities for collaboration

IPA-IPA CBC capitalisation

- Capitalisation exercises since 2020
- Capitalisation Network of stakeholders; analyses by CBIB+ team; questionnaires & meetings
- Pool of completed or advanced projects under major priority topics (environment / resources & tourism / culture)
- Clustering of projects -> Assessment by cluster -> Cross-cutting assessment (success factors, good practice examples, etc) -> Conclusions & Lessons learned
- Draft report (ongoing); supplementary assessments (newer projects; specific sub-topics)

Capitalisation of environment projects (1)

- Topic: “Protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management”
- Subtopics covered:
 - Waste and pollution
 - Management of resources and risks:
 - **Sustainable management of natural resources**
 - **Managing natural and man-made threats, risk and disaster management**
 - **Water management**

Capitalisation of environment projects (2)

- Initial pool of c. 100 projects
- 4 clusters: action-focused vs knowledge-focused projects with predominantly remedial vs managerial outcomes
- Status: main report (5th draft) & supplementary report (Sept 2023)

Capitalisation of tourism projects

- Topic: “Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage”
- Initial pool of c. 100 projects
- 5 clusters: area-wide vs targeted (thematically or territorially) projects, focused on tourism offer vs enabling conditions
- Status: main report (3rd draft) & supplementary report on culture projects (in progress)

Cross-cutting themes of major interest (1)

Sustainability:

1. Ongoing operation (in part or whole)
2. Legacy outcomes (agreements, management plans, etc)
3. Continuation of cross-border cooperation between partners

Long-term impact:

1. General: better cross-border neighbourliness
2. Tourism related: improved economic activity, jobs and incomes
3. Environment related: sustainable use of natural resources, effective management of risks/disasters/waste, reduced pollution
4. General (indirect): multiplier effects, integration in multi-project strategy

Cross-cutting themes of major interest (2)

Genuine cross-border projects:

1. “Joint” project (i.e. joint development, financing, staffing, implementation)
2. Project activities substantially conducted on a cross-border basis (not in parallel)
3. Benefits occurring on both sides

Building Synergies

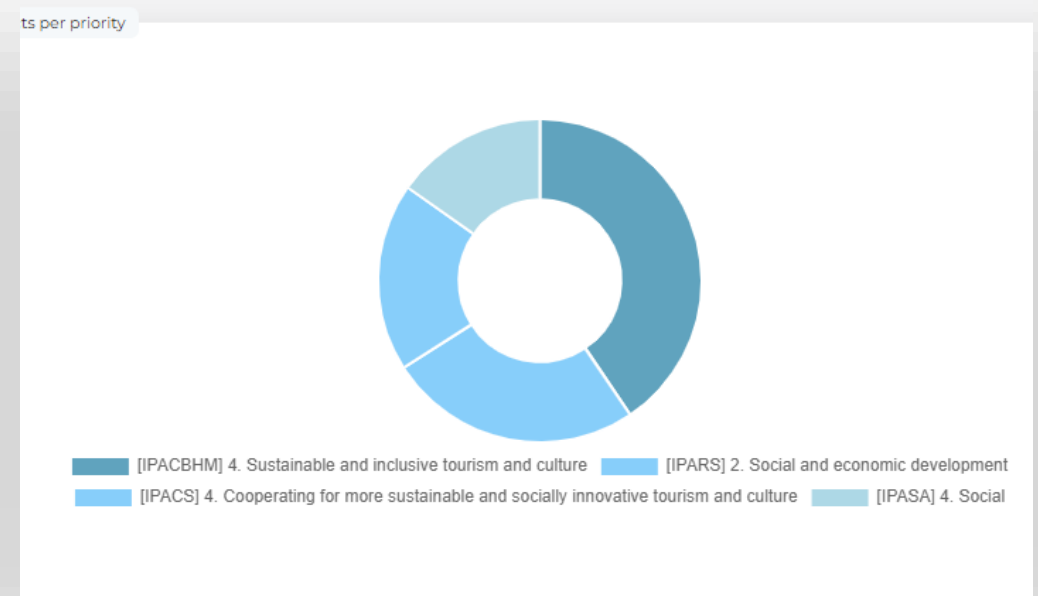
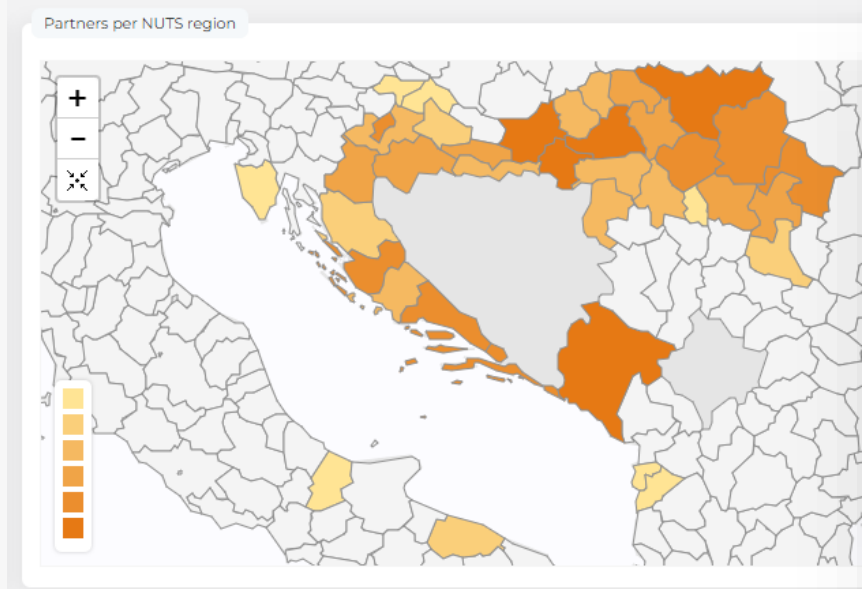
Complementarities and synergies between programmes help to deliver stronger policy impact in the areas, assure better use of resources, enhance programme capacities, help build stronger links between projects for better transfer, scaling up and mainstreaming of results. It also helps to coordinate communication and outreach to stakeholders.



Based on Synergies processes in, e.g., Mediterranean area, interprogramme coordination mechanism on sustainable tourism in Med, Arctic cooperation.

Sharing information accross programmes.

Interact developed a tool allowing automatised data exchange across programmes starting from the application stage called Index. There are currently three pilots implemented, including a cluster of Interreg IPA CBC programmes.



Applications received addressing tourism and culture in four Interreg IPA CBC programmes

Joining forces in Evaluation

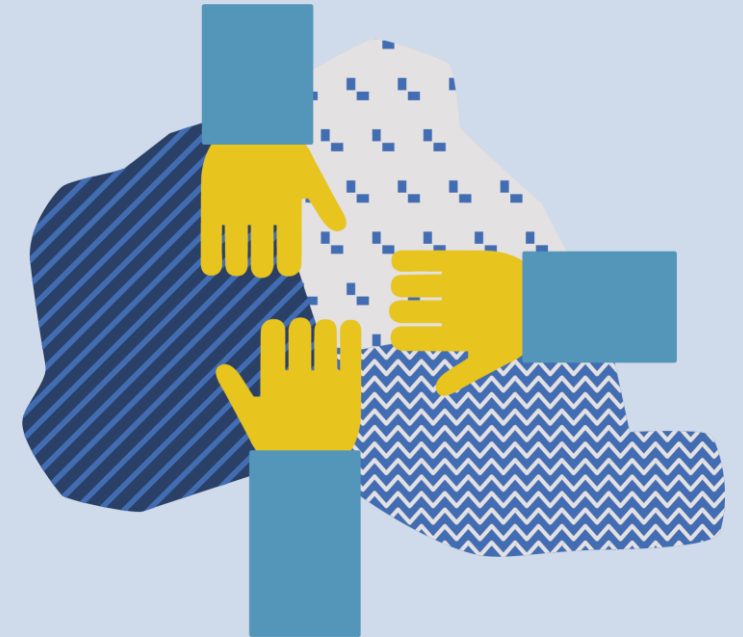
How

- Common aim/objective/outcome;
- Common evaluation questions;
- Common evaluation methodology.

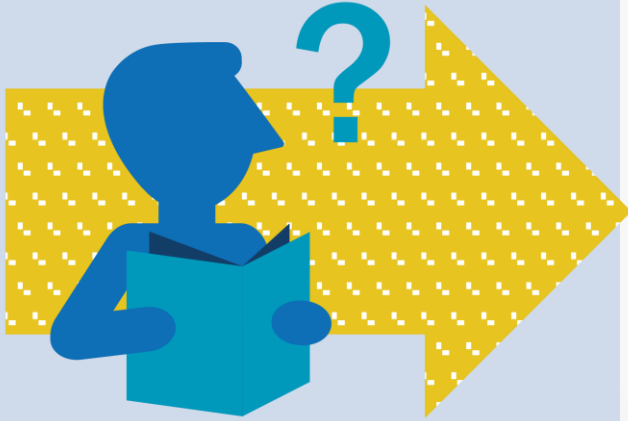
Why

- Enhanced cooperation and synergy;
- Optimised evaluation process;
- Influential contribution to the future.

IPA programmes: Cornerstones for a shared approach to evaluating the contribution to the accession dimension(s)



Comfort Break



Addressing implementation challenges



Which implementation challenges would you like to address?

Guidance for project development	Project assessment approaches	Quality of cooperation	Sustainability
Evaluation	Quality of projects	State aid/de minimis	Project implementation challenges
Capitalisation	Communication	Public procurement	Irregularities, use of financial corrections

Which immediate implementation challenges are most crucial to you?

✓ You can choose up to 3 challenges;

1 – very important

2 – quite important

3 - important

slido

Join at
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#IPA



Which immediate implementation challenges are most crucial to you?

Participants' prioritisation



Group work

Breakout rooms

Exchange and discuss on the following questions:

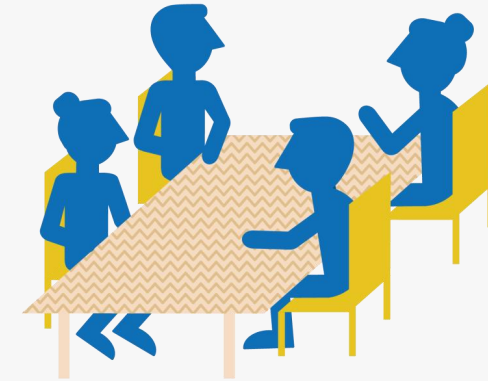
- ✓ What are the most significant obstacles you've encountered so far?
- ✓ Can you share any successful strategies or approaches put in place to overcome this implementation challenge in your programme?
- ✓ What can be some feasible options or new ideas for addressing this challenge more effectively in the future?

Please, select a rapporteur for your group.

The rapporteurs from each group will then present the main discussion points during the plenary session for collective reflection.



Collective reflection



What are the most significant obstacles you've encountered so far?

How to make a good cooperation project?	Real needs of target groups are not always addressed
Application process too complex, too tight deadlines	Capacity building support to assessors
Lack of skills for proposal development	Appeal of IPA-IPA programmes
Lack of new ideas	Absorption capacity
CBC dimension of applications	Information flow between involved institution to help JS develop tailored support measures for applicants
Cooperation within the partnership	

Collective reflection



Can you share any successful strategies or approaches put in place to overcome this implementation challenge in your programme?

Competition helps to boost the overall capacity of applications

Area based hubs – going beyond partner search forums

The discussion on synergies should be detangled from the “fear” of double financing

Two-step application process – allows room for capacity building support during the project development

Outlook and next steps

Your questions and inputs are a precious resource!

Additional workshops to further discuss the identified common implementation challenges and eventually cross-cutting themes will be organised.





"Synergy is better than my way or your way, it is our way".

Irena Bošković

Head of the Operating Structure for cross-border
cooperation programmes - Ministry of European
Affairs of Montenegro

Thank you for being here!

Your opinion matters to us.

Please take a few minutes to provide us with feedback to help us improve our services.



Cooperation works

All materials will be available on:

Interact / Events / Exploring synergies among Interreg IPA and IPA-IPA

CBC programmes