

EU Neighbours in action: Knowledge across borders

Achieving project quality

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Montenegro
Government of Montenegro
Ministry of European Affairs



Role of the Managing Authority

- NIPAC Office (Annual Action Programmes)
- State administration body (CBC Programmes)
- Relation with NIPAC and NAO
- Supervisory role over IBFM(Intermediate Body for Financial Management)



Evaluation Process

- Public calls for proposals
- Evaluation Commission (public call for assessors)
- Criteria: relevance, sustainability, impact, cross-border value
- Cooperation with IBFM & DEU



Monitoring and Quality Assurance

- On-the-Spot Visits (OTSV)
- ROM missions
- Progress reports
- Audits and quality checks
- Capacity support



Achievements under IPA II

- Serbia – Montenegro: Tourism, environment, social protection and human resources
- Bosnia and Herzegovina – Montenegro: Tourism & heritage
- Montenegro – Albania: Rural tourism & risk management
- Montenegro – Kosovo*: Youth, inclusion, tourism

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.



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Challenges

- Administrative differences
- Limited resources
- Capacity gaps
- Leadership changes

How we overcame them?



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IPA III Priorities

- Environmental protection & climate resilience
- Tourism linked with cultural heritage and with agriculture
- Digitalization
- Youth opportunities
- Social inclusion



Raising the Bar

- Stronger partnerships
- Training & mentoring
- Digital tools
- Community involvement
- Knowledge exchange



Conclusion

- Commitment to citizens and partners
- Building bridges of trust and progress



**Cross-Border
Cooperation**



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Montenegro – Albania

**Cross-Border
Cooperation**



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Montenegro – Kosovo

“EU neighbours in action: Knowledge across borders”

Towards good quality of CBC projects

Sanja Todorović,

Head of JTS of the CBC Programmes Montenegro-Albania and Montenegro-Kosovo* 2021-2027

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Content

- ❖ Steps before the publication of the CfPs
- ❖ Steps during CfPs
- ❖ Steps during the evaluation process
- ❖ Steps after CfPs
- ❖ Key messages
- ❖ IPA II in numbers



Steps before the publication of the CfPs

In order to strengthen the skills and capacities of potential applicants in developing good quality proposals:

- ✓ Organization of 3-day trainings on the preparation of project proposals only for local (and regional) authorities in all countries participating in both Programmes;
- ✓ Organization of 3-day trainings on the preparation of project proposals for target groups other than local and regional authorities.

IPA II Programmes:

- ✓ 16 PCM trainings in three countries
- ✓ 272 participants

IPA III Programmes:

- ✓ 8 PCM trainings in three countries so far
- ✓ 134 participants

Trainings conducted by JTS staff in coordination with the MA/CBC Structure



Steps before the publication of the CfPs

In order to foster the networking of institutions from the partner countries and to stimulate the exchange of quality and relevant project ideas and creation of sustainable cross-border partnerships:

- ✓ Organization of Partner Search Forums (PSFs) before launching CfPs

IPA II Programmes:

- ✓ 8 PSFs in three countries
- ✓ 423 participants

IPA III Programmes:

- ✓ 2 PSFs so far – before launching of 1st CfPs
- ✓ 164 participants

- Help desk for assisting the potential applicants



Steps during CfPs

In order to present the rules and requirements of the each CfP and to provide clarifications on all issues related to the CfP and thus enabling preparation of quality project proposals:

- ✓ Organization of info sessions
- ✓ Sessions organized by IBFM (CFCU Montenegro) with support of JTS and MA/CBC Structure

IPA II Programmes:

- ✓ 28 Info sessions in three countries
- ✓ 1052 participants

IPA III Programmes:

- ✓ 8 Info sessions in three countries so far
- ✓ 304 participants

- Help desk for assisting the potential applicants



Steps during the evaluation process

The Joint Evaluation Committee (JEC) (FFPA Article 76 (4) (a))

- Members from both partner countries — one representative from the lead partner and two representatives from the partner country
- Chairperson and the Secretary of the Committee from IBFM

The independent external experts support JEC in the evaluation process (assessment of Concept Notes and Full Applications)

- ✓ Experts selected through a public call for assessors;
- ✓ Professional expertise in the evaluation process and relevant sectors ensured;
- ✓ Pull of assessors established;
- ✓ Assessors in the pull ranked according to the scores received during the selection process;
- ✓ The training of assessors organized before start of each evaluation process;
- ✓ Guidelines for assessors prepared;
- ✓ Work of assessors managed by the Chairperson and the Secretary of the Committee.



Steps after CfPs

In order to discuss shortcomings of project proposals that were unsuccessful within CfP and provide the advices for improvements

- ✓ Organization of Project Clinics (PC) for unsuccessful applicants

Two methodologies for organization of PC used

- Workshop with all unsuccessful applicants
- Individual consultations with all interested unsuccessful applicants

Individual consultation proven to be more efficient and convenient for applicants

- ✓ 114 participants of PC in all countries (workshops and individual consultations)



Key messages

- Continuous support and interaction with potential applicants of the Programmes;
- Involvement of all Structures engaged in the implementation of the Programmes according to their roles;
- Good cooperation and coordination among the programmes structures;
- Focus on capacity building and transfer of ownership;
- Applying the lessons learned.



IPA II MNE-ALB in numbers

IPA II MNE-ALB in numbers

Contracted projects



Funded by the European Union



MNE-ALB IN CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME (2014-2020) - ALBANIA 2014-2020

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IPA II MNE-ALB in numbers

Implementing partners

Implementing partners per country



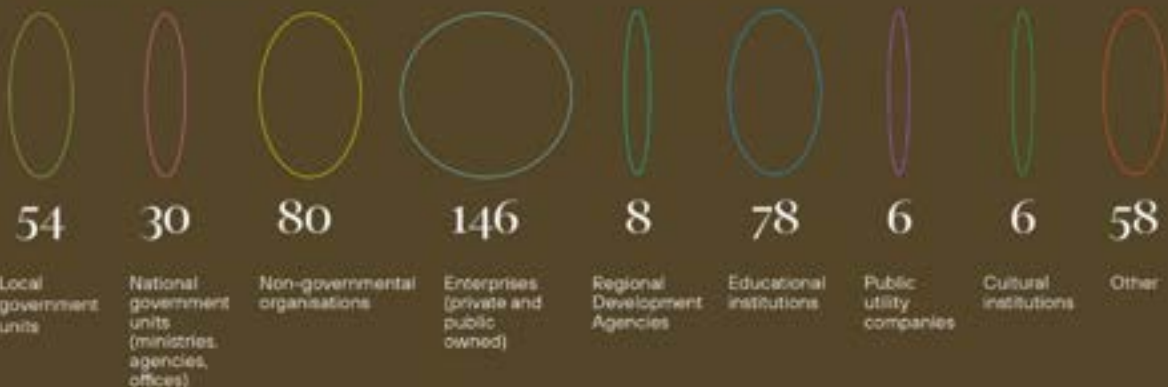
Total:

73

Type of partners



Organisations/institutions involved in project activities



Number of direct beneficiaries involved in projects

100.000+

IPA II MNE-ALB in numbers

Support to programme stakeholders

47 events for Programme beneficiaries

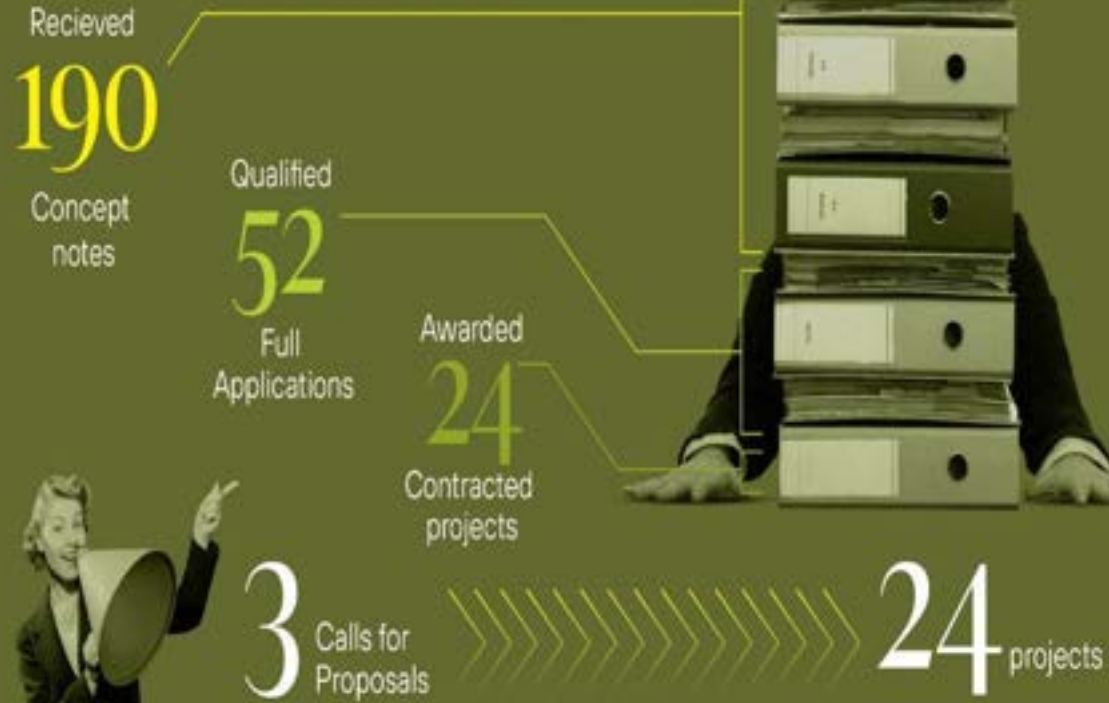


Support provided to potential applicants and grant beneficiaries



IPA II MNE-KOS in numbers

IPA II MNE-KOS in numbers contracted projects



8

Thematic priority 1:
Promoting employment, labour mobility and social and cultural inclusion across the border

Not a priority in IPA III

Thematic priority 2:
Protecting the environment, promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management

11

Thematic priority 3:
Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage

7.560.000 €
Available EU funds:

7.516.671,56 €
Contracted EU funds:

99,4% Percentage of contracted EU funds



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IPA II MNE-KOS in numbers

Implementing partners

Implementing partners per country



Total:

73

Type of partners



Number of organisations/institutions involved in the implementation of projects



Number of direct beneficiaries involved in projects

40.000+

IPA II MNE-KOS in numbers

Support to programme stakeholders

43

events for Programme beneficiaries



Support provided to potential applicants and grant beneficiaries

