



Minutes of a Joint Monitoring Committee meeting
in the framework of the
Interreg-IPA CBC Bulgaria-Serbia Programme, CCI Number: 2014TC16I5CB007

No. 1 / Date: 08.11.2019

Date:	08.11.2019
Place:	MRDPW, Sofia, Bulgaria
Title of the event:	Joint Monitoring Committee meeting
Initiator of the meeting:	Managing Authority of the Interreg-IPA CBC Bulgaria-Serbia Programme
Participants:	<p><u>For Republic of Bulgaria</u></p> <p>JMC members:</p> <p>Denitsa Nikolova, Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Public Works of Bulgaria (MRDPW), Co-chair of the JMC;</p> <p>Desislava Georgieva, Director of TCM Directorate, MRDPW, Head of the Managing Authority;</p> <p>Apostol Milev, Council of Ministers;</p> <p>Anzhelo Metodiev, Vidin District Administration;</p> <p>Galya Donova Ivanova, Montana District Administration;</p> <p>Galya Georgieva, Sofia District administration;</p> <p>Gergana Vladimirova, Vidin District administration;</p> <p>Irena Sokolova, Pernik District administration;</p> <p>Marin Kolev, Ministry of Interior;</p> <p>Tsvetana Ivanova, NGO in social sphere - Association "Hope for us - 2008".</p> <p><u>For Republic of Serbia</u></p> <p>JMC members:</p> <p>Valentina Vidović, Ministry of European Integration, Co-chair of the JMC;</p> <p>Andrijana Petković, Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government;</p> <p>Dijana Stojković, Ministry of Economy;</p> <p>Ivana Dedijer, Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications;</p> <p>Sanja Zlatković, Pčinja District;</p> <p>Srdjan Popović, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia.</p> <p>Vladica Božić, Ministry of Environmental Protection;</p> <p>Ms. Valentina Vidović was authorised by the official representatives of</p>



	<p>districts Bor (Vladimir Stanković), Jablanica (Miloš Ćirić), Nisava (Jelena Trifunović) and Pirot (Dragana Tončić) to represent them in the authority of voting member.</p> <p><u>Other participants:</u></p> <p>Stoyan Kanatov, Head of the Joint Secretariat;</p> <p>Ana Petronijević, Monitoring and Financial Expert, Joint Secretariat.</p> <p>Ivana Baćović, Communication Officer, Joint Secretariat;</p> <p>Maja Jovanović, Project Management Expert, Joint Secretariat;</p> <p>Milena Novčić, Project Management Expert, Joint Secretariat;</p> <p>Rumyana Slavovska, Project Management Expert, Joint Secretariat;</p> <p>Stanka Dimitrova, Head of INTERREG-IPA CBC Programmes Department, TCM Directorate, MRDPW;</p> <p>Maya Lashova, Chief expert in Interreg-IPA CBC Programmes Dept, TCM Directorate, MRDPW;</p> <p><u>Observers:</u></p> <p>Magali Lenoel, European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy.</p>
<p>Agenda of the event / meeting / consultation:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Opening, welcome speeches, and adoption of agenda;2. General presentation of the progress of implementation of the Interreg-IPA CBC Programme Bulgaria - Serbia 2014-2020;3. Action plan for implementation of the recommendations elaborated within the Final Evaluation Report for “Implementation evaluation of Interreg - IPA CBC Programmes 2014-2020, managed by the Republic of Bulgaria”;4. Information regarding the programming 2021-2027 progress;5. Other issues.
<p>1. Opening and welcome speeches by the co-chairpersons of the JMC. Adoption of the agenda of the meeting.</p>	<p>Ms. Denitsa Nikolova, co-chairperson from the Bulgarian side, welcomed all participants, presented all guests, and thanked everyone for their participation.</p> <p>She gave a brief overview of the fulfilment of the Programme and financial indicators in 2018. She reminded of projects financed under the First Call, and gave an overview of the current status of the Second Call, with 28 project financed of the total of 36 approved projects, to a total value of almost EUR 7.45 million. Ms. Nikolova said that in view of the achievement of the indicators under the Programme by 2023 and the available resources, the Managing Authority and the National Authority are currently conducting pre-contractual procedures with an additional 26 project proposals, which will also guarantee the full absorption of funds under the Programme by the end of the programming period. She informed the participants that earlier that day, JWG Meeting for the next programming period was held. Based on the</p>



experience gained, the Programme authorities came to the idea to implement a more strategic model, based on the potential and specific needs of border regions and geared to the objectives set out in the new regulations. This programming approach could increase the effectiveness of cohesion policy and contribute to closer links with the territorial dimension of national sectoral policies.

Ms. Nikolova then gave the floor to Ms. Valentina Vidovic.

Ms. Valentina Vidovic, co-chairperson from the Serbian side, Ministry of European Integration, welcomed the committee. She thanked to all present representatives for participating, emphasized the importance of good programme management and thanked the Managing Authority for such. Ms. Vidovic also thanked the Managing Authority for the performed analysis and suggestion that has been made accordingly.

Ms. Nikolova thanked Ms. Vidovic and then gave the floor to the representative of the European Commission, Ms. Magali Lenoel.

Ms. Magali Lenoel expressed her pleasure for being at the meeting, and said that in terms of implementations, the Programme is doing well, and that most of the projects are implemented. She praised the very good progress of contracting and thanked to the Joint Secretariat for the very interesting visits organized the day before. Two projects were visited, one in Botevgrad, "We invest in sport for career development of young people – the motive power of smart growth and cohesion between the Municipalities of Botevgrad and Leskovac", and other in Pravets, "Development of tourism in the border region of Bulgaria and Serbia by creating tourist attractions and exhibition of representative cultural and historical sites of the municipalities Surdulica and Pravets". Ms. Magali said that she was impressed with both projects in terms of sustainability. First project that is focused on youth development and basketball included 400 youngsters has a very good visibility and activities set up within the project are still undergoing. The project in Pravets was focused on reconstruction and revitalization of old school and old inn in Vidrare village. She raised a concern of the dependency of the project beneficiary on the Programme funding, and pointed that another means of funding could be made aware off.

Ms. Nikolova thanked Ms. Lenoel and said that we have a high hopes that even more quality projects will be implemented in future.

Ms. Nikolova invited everyone to make their comments on the proposed draft agenda. No comments were received, and the committee **approved the agenda of the meeting**.

2. General presentation of the progress of implementation of the Interreg- IPA CBC Programme Bulgaria -

Mr. Stoyan Kanatov, Head of Joint Secretariat, presented implementation milestones under the Programme in 2019. He also gave an overview about both Calls for proposals, including the data on projects' distribution, beneficiaries, financial progress and progress of implementation under the three Priority axes. He also reviewed current and expected level of



<p>Serbia 2014 – 2020</p>	<p>achievement of the Output indicators.</p> <p>Mr. Kanatov briefly explained the activities under the Technical Assistance, and the main information and publicity measures conducted and tools utilized. He also spoke about the general challenges in the implementation of the Programme, and the measures taken. He concluded by introducing the main steps of further implementation in 2019 and early 2020.</p> <p>Since there were no comments, neither questions raised, on the presented, Ms. Nikolova suggested to move to the next item on the Agenda.</p>
<p>3. Presentation of the Action plan for implementation of the recommendations elaborated within the Final Evaluation Report for “Implementation evaluation of Interreg - IPA CBC Programmes 2014-2020, managed by the Republic of Bulgaria”;</p>	<p>Ms. Maya Lashova, Chief Expert of Territorial Cooperation Management Directorate, MRDPW – Managing Authority, presented the Action plan for implementation of the recommendations elaborated within the Final Evaluation Report for “Implementation evaluation of Interreg - IPA CBC Programmes 2014-2020, managed by the Republic of Bulgaria”.</p> <p>First, general information about the specific rules for implementing Regulation were presented, followed by presenting the aspects of the evaluation. Ms. Lashova explained findings and recommendations, in terms of Effectiveness and efficiency of the Programme, Effectiveness and efficiency of the Programme management system, Relevance, consistency and complementarity of the objectives of the Programme, Effectiveness and efficiency of the Communication strategy.</p> <p>Ms. Nikolova thanked to Ms. Lashova and stressed the importance of recapitulation, importance planning and implementation in the next programming period.</p> <p>Mr. Kanatov invited everyone to sign Declarations of impartiality and confidentiality.</p> <p>Since there were no comments, neither questions raised, on the presented, Ms. Nikolova suggested to move to the next item on the Agenda.</p>
<p>4. Presentation of the Information regarding the programming 2021-2027 progress</p>	<p><i>(Information regarding the programming 2021-2027 progress was presented earlier that day during the JWG meeting).</i></p> <p>Ms. Nikolova pointed out that one of the agenda items are information regarding the next programming period and expressed the opinion that there is a high degree of preparedness and readiness for the Joint Working Group (JWG), social-economic analysis has been performed, it is planned for the next JWG meeting it is planned for the strategy to be presented, Joint work in the following months will lead to a good programme management in the next period and approval of the European commission.</p> <p>Since there were no comments, neither questions raised, on the presented, Ms. Nikolova suggested to close the meeting.</p>
<p>5. Other issues</p>	<p>There were no other issues raised, neither addressed.</p>
<p>6. Closing of the meeting</p>	<p>Closing speech: Ms. Denitsa Nikolova – Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, Republic of Bulgaria – thanked everyone for participation,</p>




and stressed the importance of this programme and projects to the region;

Closing speech: Ms. Valentina Vidović – Ministry of European Integration, Republic of Serbia - thanked everyone for participation and constructive work, stressing out the importance of insight in the state at the field, thanked the Managing Authority for the satisfactory Programme management.

Closing speech: Ms. Magali Lenoel – European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy – thanked everyone, thanked for presenting the state and progress, expressed appreciation for enthusiasm shown, and stated that it is beneficial that some of the JMC members are also the member of the JWG, providing them with the specific insight into the situation and the opinion of such members is worth hearing.

Ms. Denitsa Nikolova – thanked everyone for participation and wished success.

Signatures

<i>Prepared by:</i>	<i>JS Communication Officer</i>	Ivana Bacovic	Date <i>02.12.2019</i>	Signature 
<i>Coordinated with:</i>	<i>Head of JS</i>	Stoyan Kanatov	Date <i>02.11.2019</i>	Signature 