

Interreg IPA Cross- border Cooperation Programme Croatia – Serbia 2014-2020

Information session



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Croatia - Serbia



Cooperation Programme

- **Shared management** → overall responsibility = European Commission + Member State (Managing Authority)
- Participating countries coordination: Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds of the Republic of Croatia and EU Integration Office of the Government of the Republic of Serbia



Shared management vs. 2007-2013 management

2014-2020

- Single Managing Authority
- Joint programme bodies (MA, CA, AA, JMC, JS)
- National bodies (NA, CB, GoA)
- Single programme area
- Single pot of money
- 1 project = 1 Subsidy Contract
- Reimbursement of costs based on the reports
- 10% pre-financing
- Co-financing rate applied for all costs (invoices)
- Electronic Monitoring System (eMS) – online submission of documents

2007-2013

- 2 Contracting Authorities
- Joint programme bodies (JMC, JS)
- National authorities (OS, CA)
- Eligible + adjacent area
- Each country = separate allocation
- 1 project = 2 grant contracts
- Approval of costs based on the reports
- 85% pre-financing
- Co-financing through *staff costs* eligible
- Hard copy submission of documents



Programming Cooperation Programme

- Overall coordination of the programming process: Managing Authority
- Negotiations between Croatia and European Commission started in 2012
- Technical Assistance project for programming started in May 2013, completed in July 2014
- Task Force (national + regional level representatives) nominated in July 2013
- IPA CBC programme Croatia – Serbia 2014-2020 confirmed as bilateral programme by EU COM in October 2013

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Cooperation area
25.505 km²

Population
2.322.735

Total IPA II/ERDF
€ 34.293.188

Programming Cooperation Programme

- 10 Task Force meetings/workshops conducted in period December 2013 – November 2014
- Two rounds of public consultations – Osijek and Sombor in April 2014, Novi Sad in September 2014
- Online consultations for draft programme documents: SWOT, logical framework & draft Cooperation Programme (August - September 2014)
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) consultations conducted in both Participating Countries (August 2014 - November 2014)



Programming Cooperation Programme

- Final version of the Cooperation Programme approved by the Task Force in May 2015
- Strategic Environmental Assessment procedure concluded in June 2015
- Managing Authority submitted CP on 2 June 2015
- European Commission approved the Programme by Commission Implementing Decision (C(2015)6026) on 24 August 2015

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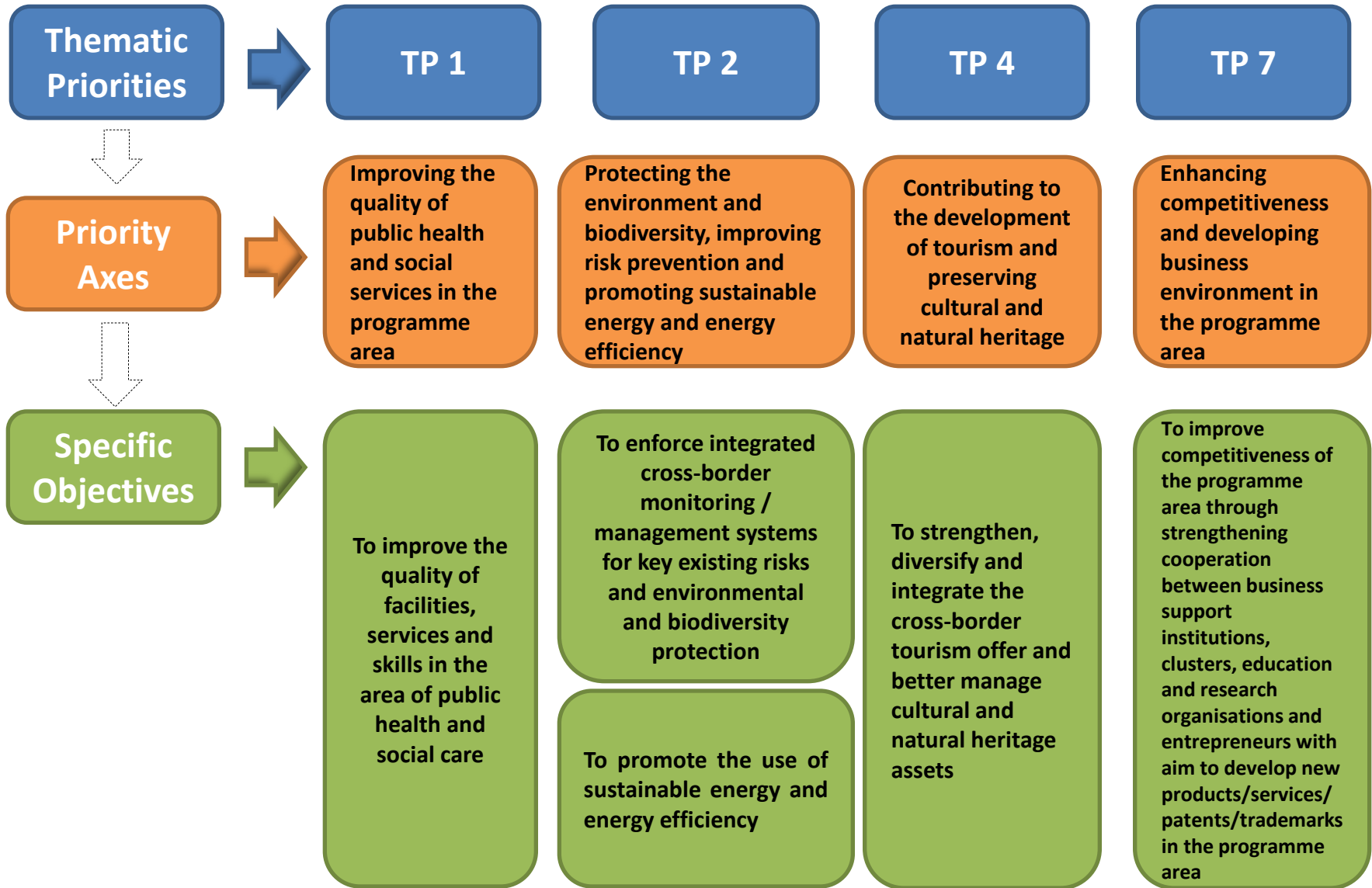


IPA II Commission Implementing Regulation (231/2014):

1. **Employment, labour mobility, social inclusion, health and social care**
2. **Environment, biodiversity, risk prevention, sustainable energy and energy efficiency**
3. Sustainable transport and public infrastructure
4. **Tourism, cultural and natural heritage**
5. Youth and education
6. Local and regional governance, planning and administrative capacity building
7. **Competitiveness and business environment development**
8. Research, technological development, innovation and ICT

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Specific Objective 1.1. To improve the quality of facilities, services and skills in the area of public health and social care

Result indicator

Number of elderly people and children assisted by social services provided through government bodies



Output indicators

- Number of persons related to improving health care services and/or social care services trained
- Number of jointly developed tools and services that enable better quality of social and health care
- Population covered with improved health services and/or social services or facilities

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Priority Axis 1 – types of actions

- Developing and implementing joint cross-border initiatives, tools, services and/or related pilot projects aiming to enhance the quality, improve accessibility to and effectiveness of public health care and social services and institutions (e.g. joint health services delivery, active and healthy aging and disease prevention implementation plan, small infrastructure and/or equipment).
- Implementing local ICT solutions in order to improve public health and social care services.
- Implementing joint cross-border strengthening of health care for vulnerable groups with focus on elderly people, palliative care and persons with disabilities.
- Implementing exchange of experience concerning the identification, transfer and dissemination of good practices and innovative approaches as well support to the sustainability and implementation of the Cross-border Healthcare Directive (2011/24) and European Reference Networks, especially in relation to the aims of territorial cohesion, including territorial aspects and harmonious development of Union territory.
- Developing and implementing joint cross-border lifelong learning/training Programmes aiming to provide Programme area inhabitants the possibility to gain knowledge / experiences / qualifications in the area of health and social care in line with the labour market needs.

Specific Objective 2.1. To enforce integrated cross-border monitoring / management systems for key existing risks and environmental and biodiversity protection

Result indicator

Disaster response capability
in the Programme area



Output indicators

- Number of jointly developed and/or operated monitoring systems
- Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status

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Priority Axis 2 (SO 2.1) – types of actions

- Implementing joint actions in the area of monitoring and management of environmental and/or biodiversity protection that address locally specific cross-border priorities and/or contribute to implementation of higher-level regional initiative such as Danube and Sava River Basin Management Plan and the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.
- Developing and implementing joint plans for protection of endangered species and protection and revitalisation of habitats, including initiatives related to UNESCO Transboundary Biosphere Reserve.
- Joint valorisation and promotion of ecosystems and NATURA 2000 sites in the Programme area.
- Developing and implementing joint awareness raising activities, information campaigns, education and training in relation to environment and/or biodiversity protection.
- Promoting cross-border cooperation between organisations involved in environmental and biodiversity protection and joint management of protected sites and nature.
- Establishing and/or improving green infrastructure and ecosystem services (e.g. implementing measures that protect or expand natural retention of flood plains and/or establish protection forests in flood risk or erosion prone areas, etc).



Priority Axis 2 (SO 2.1) – types of actions

- Developing and implementing integrated risk management initiatives (including ICT tools) addressing key existing and expected risks in the Programme area (floods, flushing of land mines during flood events, droughts, toxic pollution accidents, etc).
- Implementing pilot and demonstration projects applying innovative solutions in the area of risk prevention management related to river Danube and its tributaries Drava, Sava, Vuka and Tisa, including but not limited to activities for improving flood forecasting and warning suited to local and regional needs, developing flood risk and hazards maps in accordance with the EU Floods Directive, harmonizing design criteria and safety regulations along and across border sections, preventing and mitigating pollution of water caused by floods, increasing the capacity and raising the Interreg IPA CBC Programme Croatia-Serbia 2014-2020 45 level of preparedness of the organizations responsible for flood mitigation.
- Promoting cross-border cooperation between organizations dealing with emergency preparedness and improving disaster response capability.
- Developing and implementing pilot and demonstration projects including innovative approaches to risk prevention and mitigation.

Specific Objective 2.2. To promote the use of sustainable energy and energy efficiency

Result indicator

Energy consumption by public buildings in the Programme area



Output indicator

Additional capacity of renewable energy production

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Priority Axis 2 (SO 2.2) – types of actions

- Developing and implementing pilot and demonstration projects on innovative technologies and solutions in the field of sustainable energy and energy efficiency (e.g. use of agricultural waste for energy production, demonstration projects for solar power on roofs or build surfaces, etc.).
- Implementing awareness rising, information campaigns, education, training and capacity building on sustainable energy, utilisation of renewable energy resources and energy efficiency.
- Investing in joint infrastructure on sustainable energy and energy efficiency.
- Developing and implementing actions aiming to increase energy efficiency in public buildings
- Implementing joint incentives in order to improve planning and/or legal framework in the area of renewable energy resources and energy efficiency (e.g. analyses, comparisons, recommendation, local/regional actionplans, etc.).

Specific Objective 3.1. To strengthen, diversify and integrate the cross-border tourism offer and better manage cultural and natural heritage assets

Result indicator

Number of overnights
in the Programme
area



Output indicators

- Number of joint tourism products developed and promoted
- Number of tourism supporting facilities and/or tourism infrastructure developed or improved
- Number of persons educated in quality assurance, standardisation on cultural and natural heritage and destination management
- Increase in expected number of visitors to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage



Priority Axis 3 – types of actions

- Joint development, branding and promotion of tourism niches: e.g. hunting, bird and animal watching, cultural tourism, eco-tourism, sport and cycle-tourism, wine & food tourism, health and wellness, rural tourism, recreation tourism, memorial tourism, nautical tourism, religious tourism, industrial heritage tourism, etc.
- Joint development and diversification of the cross-border tourism offer, services and capacity, inter alia, by using ICT tools: e.g. standardisation of accommodation support, joint mapping the tourism offer, joint creation of destination management platforms and networks.
- Joint development, branding protection and promotion of new tourism products: e.g. development of thematic routes, joint promotion events and materials, site exploitation.
- Improvement of recreational and small-scale tourism infrastructure: e.g. walking paths, cycle routes, equipping visitor centre, information points, networking tourism centres, spatial “beautification”.

Priority Axis 3 – types of actions

- Preparing and developing joint tourism strategies and action plans.
- Implementing training and other activities aiming to develop the tourism capacity and destination management skills.
- Implementing cross-border networking activities, including establishing or improving clusters aiming at developing joint cross-border tourism offer.
- Enabling joint cultural cooperation between youth, artistic and cultural organisations: e.g. art colonies and festivals, artistic manifestations and events, joint theatre performances or joint/traveling exhibitions, etc.
- Developing and implementing joint initiatives on valuation, preservation, restoration and revitalisation of cultural and natural heritage sites.
- Implementing training programs in quality assurance systems and different types of standardisation (e.g. ISO certification, etc.) of cultural and natural heritage.
- Deploying investments in certification including training, equipment supply but also small scale infrastructure on cultural and natural heritage.
- Actions to strengthen, diversify and better integrate tourism offer and to better manage cultural and natural heritage assets.

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

Result indicator

Range of cluster activities enhancing innovation, new technologies and ICT solutions



Output indicators

- Number of cross-border clusters or networks or other collaborative schemes including entrepreneurs established or improved
- Number of laboratories and/or competence centers jointly used by the entrepreneurs developed or improved
- Number of innovative technologies, processes, products and services introduced by the enterprises in the Programme area
- Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions

Priority Axis 4 – types of actions

- Development of training programmes aiming at improving knowledge and skills in entrepreneurship, applying innovation and new technologies in their industry, including cross-border internship, exchange and transfer of knowledge.
- Strengthening capacities of the business support institutions in order to enhance competitiveness of the Programme area through development of e-business and e-trade.
- Establishment of and support to existing and new business related sectorial networks and organisations in developing new products/services/patents/trademarks, standardisation, product protection, marketing and development of cross-border markets.



Priority Axis 4 – types of actions

- Establishing and supporting development agencies, technological and competence centres, laboratories and local ICT infrastructure for common use of the enterprises in the Programme area in order to upgrade the existing and develop new products, services, processes or prototypes.
- Development and strengthening cooperation between public sector, education, research & development organisations and entrepreneurs in order to improve competitiveness by applying business innovativeness based on smart specialization approach.
- Cross-border development, adaptation and exchange of best practices in application of ICT, new technologies, processes, products or services to be directly used by the enterprises between the clusters or groups of business, R&D and education institutions.

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Programme Budget

Priority axis	Union support	National counterpart	Total funding
Priority Axis 1	EUR 5,143,980	EUR 907,762	EUR 6,051,742
Priority Axis 2	EUR 12,002,616	EUR 2,118,109	EUR 14,120,725
Priority Axis 3	EUR 7,544,500	EUR 1,331,383	EUR 8,875,883
Priority Axis 4	EUR 6,172,774	EUR 1,089,314	EUR 7,262,088
Priority Axis 5	EUR 3,429,318	EUR 605,174	EUR 4,034,492
Total	EUR 34,293,188	EUR 6,051,742	EUR 40,344,930



Programme Management Bodies

Joint programme structure

- Managing Authority
- Joint Secretariat
- Certifying Authority
- Audit Authority
- Joint Monitoring Committee

National programme structure

- National Authority
- Control body
- Group of Auditors



Managing Authority

- Directorate for Managing Cooperation Programmes and Regional Development within the Agency for Regional Development of the Republic of Croatia – Head of MA
- Service for Managing Cooperation programmes – Head of Service (head of MA deputy)
- Programme Manager HR-RS - specialist
- Programme Manager HR-BA-ME - specialist
- Legal Officer - coordinator
- IT Manager - coordinator
- Communication Manager - coordinator



Joint Secretariat

- JS headquarters in Zagreb, branch JS office in Serbia
- The Joint Secretariat staff:
- Head of JS
- Project manager – specialist (2 positions, Zagreb, branch office in Serbia)
- Financial manager – specialist (1 position Zagreb)
- Project manager – coordinator (1 position Zagreb)
- Financial manager – coordinator (1 position Zagreb)



Certifying Authority

- Directorate for Finances and IT within the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds

Tasks distributed according to:

- control and verifications of the documentation submitted by JS/MA,
- payments and monitoring financial flows,
- reporting



Audit Authority

- Agency for the Audit of European Union Programmes Implementation System (ARPA) - 5 employees
- Sector for Audit of Structural Instruments
- AA is assisted by Group of Auditors (GoA) - set up within three months of CP approval and chaired by AA
- representatives from responsible audit bodies of each of the participating country
- Audit body in Serbia: Audit Authority Office of EU Funds, Audit Unit for IPA Component II

Joint Monitoring Committee

- responsible for the review of overall effectiveness, quality and coherence of the implementation of all actions towards meeting the Programme objectives
- JMC members represent the participating countries on policy and administrative level thus ensuring a transparent approach in monitoring the Programme implementation
- set up on 24 November 2015 at 1st Joint Monitoring Committee meeting



National Authorities and Control Bodies

- Croatia: Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds of the Republic of Croatia (Service for International Territorial Cooperation)
- Serbia: EU Integration Office of the Government of the Republic of Serbia
- Control body in Croatia: Directorate for Financial Management and Accounting within ARD
- Control body in Serbia: Ministry of Finance, First Level Control Unit



What have we done so far?

- 1st and 2nd JMC meetings conducted
- Programme Communication Strategy prepared and adopted
- Programme Rules on eligibility of expenditures prepared and adopted
- Programme website:

<http://www.interreg-croatia-serbia2014-2020.eu/>

- Programme promotional materials
- 1st Call for Proposals launched on 15 March 2016
- Launching conference held in Vukovar on 16 March 2016
- Information sessions in Novi Sad, Vukovar, Loznica and Osijek

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Interreg joint branding

- harmonised Interreg branding initiative for ETC/CBC programmes in the programming period 2014-2020
- **Project branding will have to be aligned with Programme branding**
- More info: Programme Communication Strategy
- **Interreg branding brings direct benefits to projects in terms of visibility:**
 - increased recognisability within the general public
 - help in attracting relevant stakeholders
 - help in achieving project objectives in a more cost-efficient, effective and visible way.

Where are we now?

First Call for Proposals

- Launching of the 1st CfP: 15 March 2016 – 1 July 2016
- Assessment of project proposals: till end 2016
- Project selection and contracting: 1st quarter of 2017

Compliance assessment

- Finalization of Description of Management and Control System (DMCS)
- AA performs compliance assessment – pre-condition for the designation procedure
- MS designates MA, CA and AA and notifies EU COM on designation

Employment of JS staff

- Employment of staff in JS – on-going (April and May 2016)

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<http://www.interreg-croatia-serbia2014-2020.eu/>

Managing Authority

**Interreg IPA CBC programme Croatia – Serbia
2014-2020**

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