

## Citizen's Summary of Annual Implementation Report for the financial year 2018

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The Interreg IPA Cross-border cooperation programme Croatia-Serbia 2014-2020 is a financing instrument of the European Territorial Cooperation, better known as Interreg. This instrument covers one of the goals of the European Union Cohesion policy and in this way provides neighboring regions of Croatia and Serbia a chance to work together across borders.

Using resources of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance II (IPA II), the Programme is dedicated to strengthening the social, economic and territorial development of the cross-border area. In doing so, our goal is to achieve a better quality of life for people living in border regions. The abovementioned Funds provide co-financing of EUR 34.293.188 for project implementation under the following 4 priorities:



health and social care services



environment, biodiversity, risk prevention, sustainable energy and energy efficiency



tourism and cultural and natural heritage



competitiveness and business environment development

How are these funds used? The Programme, implemented by the Managing Authority and Joint Secretariat as two of the Programme bodies that are involved in everyday implementation, works by launching Call for Proposals and inviting partners to submit their project ideas. So far, two Calls for Proposals were launched. Within the 1<sup>st</sup> Call for Proposals a total of 23 projects were contracted and a total of EUR 12.758.338 was allocated to partners from Croatia's and Serbia's border area to contribute to better public health and social care; protect the region's environment and biodiversity, promote sustainable energy; nurture the cultural and natural heritage and enable a better business environment.

What has been done in 2018?

As projects of the 1<sup>st</sup> Call for Proposals started in 2017, during 2018 they reached their most important phases of implementation. For example, the Take Care! project spent the year supporting residents in need of Vukovar-Srijem County and Srem District with Mobile Palliative Care teams that have been set up as part of the project. Take Care! also employed 32 people from the cross-border area as nurses, therapists and psychologists, that went on with providing palliative care.



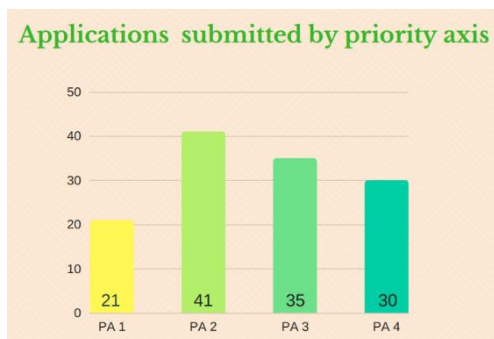
The year 2018 was essential for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Proposals as well. On 30 March 2018, the Managing Authority launched the 2<sup>nd</sup> CFP and closed it on 6 July 2018. With the total budget of more than EUR 17 million available for this Call, the Managing Authority and Joint Secretariat, in cooperation with Serbian National Authority, organized a series of info sessions, project clinics, thematic workshops and promotional events. A launching conference marking the opening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> CFP was held in Subotica during April 2018 and gathered more than 100 participants.



Info days and project clinics, organized in the Programme area were organized to help applicants in drafting quality project proposals that directly respond to needs of the cross-border area, covering all priorities and providing added value to the residents of the cross-border area.



A total of 111 innovative applications that gathered 440 project partners from Croatia and Serbia were received within the 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Proposals. Next steps of the Call involved the Joint Monitoring Committee and Joint Steering Committee: bodies established to ensure quality and coherence in implementing the Programme and consisting of representatives of both countries. Both the JMC and JSC ensured that the selection process was handled transparently and with equal treatment for all applicants. The selection process continued and was completed in the following year.



As we were getting closer to the end of the year, we started preparations for the European Cooperation Day: an event which highlights achievements of regions working across borders. The 2018 EC Day theme was 'Painting our future together', so we gathered children from SOS Children's Village Ladimirevci from Croatia and Home for Children Miroslav Mika Antić Sombor from Serbia. Our idea was to organize a cross-border art project, with activities such as coloring of T-shirts, painting canvases and making a wall mural, and it proved to be a great way to tell the story of cooperation between Croatia and Serbia.

