

Citizen's Summary of Annual Implementation Report for the financial year 2019

For multiannual financial framework 2014 - 2020, Interreg IPA Cross-border cooperation programme Croatia-Serbia has at its disposal a total of EUR 40.344.930, of which EUR 34.293.188 comes from the European Regional Development Fund and Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance, with EUR 6.051.742 of national co-financing.

Since the start of the program in 2014, the Managing Authority has published two calls for proposals, the first one in 2016 and the second one in 2018, and has so far contracted 42 projects.

Out of 23 contracted projects within the 1st Call for project proposals with a total value of EUR 18.733.463,73 (EU part EUR 15.620.759,18), the last projects were completed at the beginning of 2020.

The first project to finish its implementation was **TAKE CARE**. The project responded to the care needs of disadvantaged people in rural areas; many with families that have moved away. Hospitals, NGOs, development agencies and care homes combined service improvements with new economic opportunities to encourage migrating citizens to stay. As a result, 32 citizens from Croatia-Serbia border regions were employed as nurses, therapists and psychologists, 40 social care employees were given end-of-life care training and 1,000 people in Vukovar-Srijem County, Croatia, and Srem District, Serbia were supported. A new platform connected hospitals, 7 in-home support teams were mobilised and a new palliative ward for patients in Sremska Mitrovica, Serbia, provided much-needed care.

In 2019 the project was nominated for Regiostars award - Europe's award to EU-funded projects which demonstrate excellence and new approaches in regional development.

To celebrate 30 years of Interreg programme and cooperation in 2020., European Commission Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy published an e-book that displays projects that show European Territorial Cooperation at its best. The project TAKE CARE made it to the selection of projects for the topic Neighbour Cooperation <https://interreg.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Ebook-Interreg-30-years-projects.pdf>





Project R-SOL-E proved local authorities can act as leaders in environment preservation and clean energy production. Three local authorities from Croatia and Serbia joined forces to demonstrate that energy efficiency can be achieved through usage of renewable energy. The project enabled partners to install 6 solar power plants, 100 solar public lighting poles and a station for charging electric cars. SEAP documents were developed and updated, new courses for sustainable development set.



Some other interesting achievements of the projects from the 1st Call for proposals are:

MOS – CROSS - an ICT and mapping tool for mosquito and mosquito-borne diseases surveillance was developed, protocols for surveillance of mosquito presence and emergency protocols for potential epidemic outbreaks were set up.

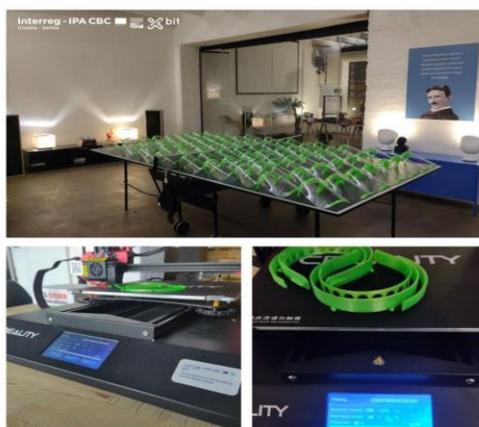


IMPACT ENVI – the project has established a monitoring system which can determine the chemical and ecological status of water, analyse dangerous substances and organic soil pollutants and provide more information on the status of agricultural products, livestock manure, fodder and health of animals in the cross-border area.



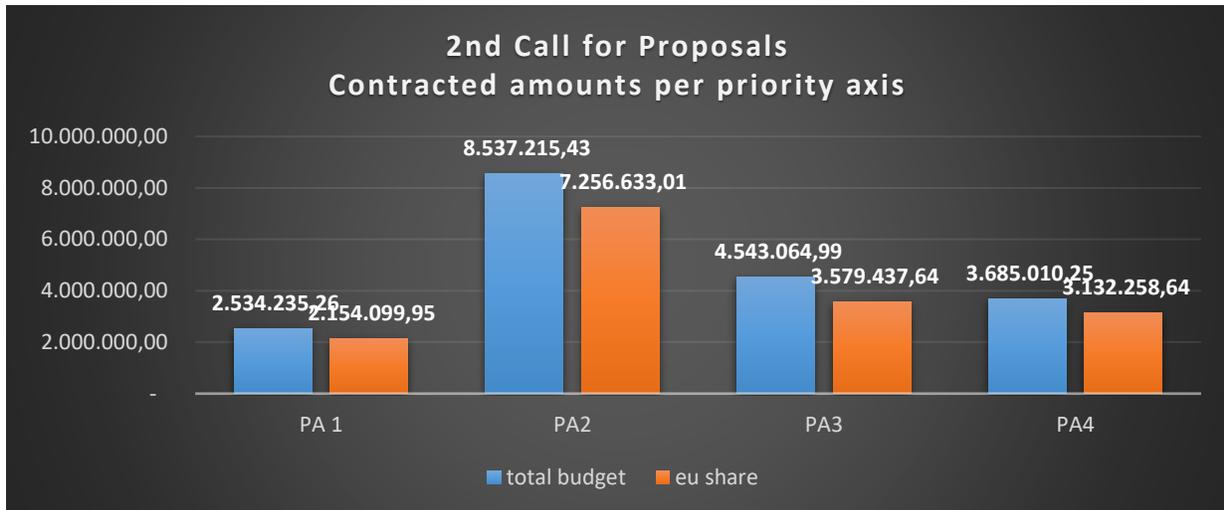
XBIT - project is focused on developing a favorable environment for innovation, IT industry, entrepreneurship, creation of employment opportunities, increasing the retention of talent and increasing the number of skilled young professionals in cross-border area between Croatia and Serbia. The most significant project outputs are: created Cross border network of ICT stakeholders, designed and implemented educational, motivational and networking programmes, established Fab Labs and Mobile Lab.

In 2020 the project made it to the finals for Regiostars 2020 award in category Youth empowerment for cooperation across borders - 30 years of Interreg.



For 2nd Call for proposals, 111 proposals were received via online application system (eMS).

Out of a total of 20 selected projects, 19 projects with a total value of EUR 19.299.525,93 (EU part EUR 16.122.429,24) have been contracted and are in implementation since 2019, while contracting the last project (MOSS CROSS2) is expected by the end of 2020.



Implementation workshops, EC Day, European Week of Regions and Cities

As first projects of the 2nd Call for Proposals started with implementation already in April 2019, the Programme organised two implementation workshops to provide support to beneficiaries in project start-up and implementation. The two-day workshops were held in Novi Sad (Serbia) and Vukovar (Croatia) during July 2019 and both were attended by almost 200 beneficiaries, giving them a great opportunity to further discuss all topics relevant for the implementation of their projects.



As every year, we celebrated the European Cooperation Day: an event which highlights achievements and commemorates benefits of cooperation across borders, but in 2019, it was celebrated in a different way. The slogan of EC Day 2019 was "Europe is you", focusing on bringing more people to actively participate in the celebration. For this purpose, we organized an amateur video competition aiming

primarily to high school and university students to share their thoughts and experiences of being part of the EU and how EU benefits them and the local community. A video made by a team of students at the Nikola Tesla Technical School in Vukovar (Croatia), showing in a creative and original way the importance of the EU in supporting education as well as democratic values among students, won the first place. Programme representatives visited the school and thanked the students for recognizing our EC Day video competition as an opportunity to share their experiences about the EU and awarded a team of 11 students with 'smart' prizes. This opportunity was also seized to visit the Lavoslav Ružička's birth house, where students could watch a hologram of Lavoslav Ružička, installed as a part of our ViCTour project, take part in experiments, and learn more about the importance of new technologies in rediscovering heritage and successful cross-border partnerships in the region.



The Programme also participated at *The European Week of Regions and Cities 2019* as a part of the *Tasting of Regions and Cities* program. Together with presenters from Mediterranean regions, we offered tastings of local and authentic food products from the Programme area with the aim to present the variety of cultural, geographic and gastronomic practices in our cross-border area. The tasting session was very successful and attracted several hundred visitors on the second day of the event.



In addition to the *Tasting of Regions and Cities*, the Programme was presented by the project R-SOL-E, shortened for *Renewable Solar Energy*, which made it to the finals of the REGIOSTARS competition. The project participated at the awards ceremony on the third day of the *European Week of Regions and Cities*, together with 23 other EU-funded projects nominated for their innovativeness in addressing regional challenges.

