

Citizen's Summary of Annual Implementation Report for the financial year 2020

For financial perspective 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 and EUR 6.051.742 from national co-financing.

Since the start of the Programme in 2014, the Managing Authority in coordination with the National Authorities has published two calls for proposals, the first one in 2016 and the second one in 2018 and has so far contracted 43 projects. Programme contracting rate is 101,14%. In 2020 EUR 5.367.189,84 was paid to projects, while in total EUR 16.768.065,93 was paid to projects up to now.

Total number of contracted projects per Priority Axis (1st and 2nd Call for Proposals)

Priority Axis 1



Improving the quality of public social and health services in the programme area

8 projects

Priority Axis 2



Protecting the environment and biodiversity, improving risk prevention and promoting sustainable energy and energy efficiency

13 projects

Priority Axis 3



Contributing to the development of tourism and preserving cultural and natural heritage

10 projects

Priority Axis 4



Enhancing competitiveness and developing business environment in the programme area

12 projects

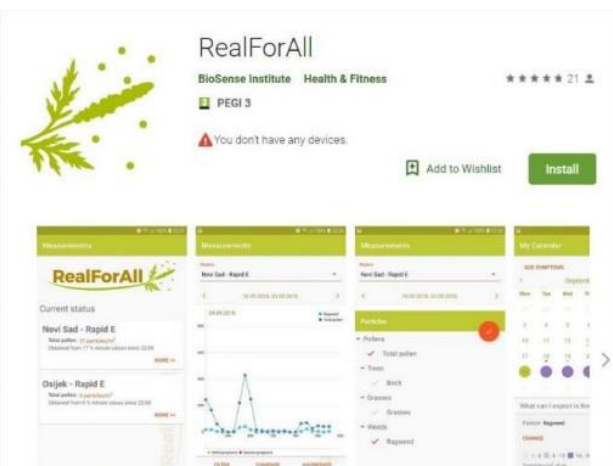
Out of 23 contracted projects within the 1st Call for Proposals, last projects were completed at the beginning of 2020. Out of 20 projects contracted within the 2nd Call for Proposals, a total of 19 projects started with the implementation in 2019, while one project (MOS-Cross2) was contracted in the beginning of 2021. Some of the projects from 2nd Call for Proposals have already completed their implementation in 2020 (FILMharmonia on November 30/11/2020) while most projects will be finished by the end of 2021. Regular updates on Programme level are published on the Programme website in the section [Programme news](#) while project news and achievements can be followed in the section [Project news](#).

Project highlights

The project **RealForAll** modernized public health service and notably enhanced the quality and applicative value of the information they provide in cross-border area: by introducing real time monitoring of airborne allergens, by developing models for prediction exposure and by creating a joint platform for instantaneous dissemination of these information. In addition, the project made an effort to educate end users on the benefits of using information for prevention and management of allergy symptoms based on the information public health services will provide following the implementation of this project. Two real-time airborne pollen monitors enabling real-time measurement of airborne aerobiological particles (i.e. pollen, fungal spores), were purchased including all necessary parts for continuous outdoor monitoring of airborne pollen.

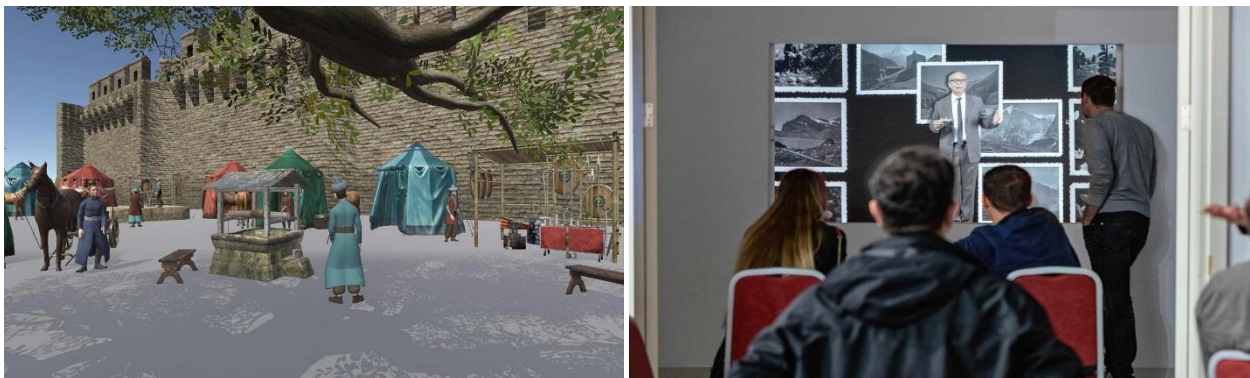


Real-time bioaerosol monitor in Osijek



Print screen of the smartphone application

Virtual and Cultural Tourism (**ViCTour**) project developed attractive and competitive tourism promotion in order to increase the attractiveness of cross-border regions by using information and communication technologies such as augmented and virtual reality, interactive totems, holograms, multimedia guide, and e-book. With augmented reality tools and interactive totems, the ViCTour project brought together the traditional and contemporary of the Srijem / Srem region. Trainings about thematic tour guides, certification of tour guides and education of stakeholders in tourism for the use of digital technologies in promotion of destination were held during project implementation. The added value of the project is reflected in the contribution to the further development of common strategies and synergies in the management of a sustainable tourism environment.



Augmented and virtual reality tools created within the ViCTour project

EcoWet project contributed to the protection and sustainable use of wetland ecosystems in the Danube floodplain of the Croatia – Serbia cross-border region. Main outputs of the project were Guidelines on ecosystems mapping and assessment tested on pilot areas in the cross-border area, educational events and the ecosystem processors for wastewater purification. EcoWet researched wetland areas of the Croatian and Serbian border regions, including river Bosut, Kopački rit, Spačva and Zasavica.



River Bosut, Croatia



River Zasavica, Serbia

Ecosystems services in pilot areas were assessed based on developed methodology: biodiversity, wild goods, cultural goods, flood protection, climate regulation, nature based recreation and tourism, cultural services. Stakeholders, in particular protected areas managers, sectoral agencies and CSOs, were trained to use the methodology for ES mapping, assessment and action planning. Two constructed wetlands take advantages of main wetland ecosystem service – water purification – to purify waste water and polluted river water.



Stakeholders training in Zasavica, Serbia



Ecosystem processor in Zasavica, Serbia

The project **ORGANIC BRIDGE** improved competences of organic producers in Osijek-Baranja County and South and North Bačka District by providing trainings and counseling services through established competence centers. More than 200 organic producers and potential organic producers were trained and/or used counseling services on the topics of organic production control and certification, additional processing in organic production, innovation in production, marketing etc. By establishing a cross border network of organic producers the region's organic production potential is interconnected and increased.

The **S.O.S.** project addressed the legacy of Osijek's and Subotica's secession period. The main objective of the project was to valorise and revitalize the joint cultural heritage shared by the cities of Osijek and Subotica. The project developed a new tourism product by creating thematic routes based on secession architecture, developed plan for the reconstruction of Subotica City Hall and revitalized Osijek's Sakuntala park, a well-known secession park dating from the 19th century.



Revitalized Osijek's Sakuntala Park

Education and communication activities

On 13 and 14 February 2020, the MA and JS organized a two-day Final Project Progress Report workshop for beneficiaries of the 1st Call for Proposals. The aim of the workshop was to present and discuss challenges and requirements of final reporting with the beneficiaries, since this report should present both achievements within last reporting period, and also share cumulative overview of the achievements during entire project implementation.

Since March 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak limited the possibility of organizing further face-to-face workshops and trainings for Programme beneficiaries, as well as communication events. Planned face-to-face events were cancelled or held online. For this reason, in 2020 the Programme has managed to organize the following communication events.

In order to mark the 30 years of INTERREG, the Programme organized 2 local events and planted 15 trees in each country (in Sremska Mitrovica in Serbia on 23 September 2020 and in Zlatna Greda in Croatia on 25 September 2020). 30 trees represent 30 years of successful INTERREG cooperation and one of the themes of the celebration (Green Europe).



Planting 15 trees in Čarna (Croatia)



Planting 15 trees in Zasavica (Serbia)

European Cooperation Day was also promoted through the social media campaign “Discover your neighbourhood” on Facebook. During 4 weeks campaign, interesting touristic routes, sites and events, developed or improved within projects were presented on Programme’s Facebook page and followers were invited to visit or (re) discover them and share their experience by posting their photos and using the dedicated hashtags. Among others, the campaign promoted a concert organized by project FILMharmonija, a secession route in Subotica and Osijek by the project S.O.S. and nature routes by the projects HORIS and VISITUS.



Facebook promotional campaign „Discover your neighbourhood“ to mark 30 years of INTERREG

Project XBIT, which was contracted under 1st Call for Proposals, was nominated as one of 25 finalists of the [2020 RegioStars competition](#) for the best EU cohesion policy projects in 5 categories. Project XBIT was in the category “Empowering young people for cross-border cooperation” and competed with 4 more projects from Europe for the votes of the audience and the jury award, but in the end was not the winner for this category.

To celebrate 30 years of Interreg Programmes, European Commission Directorate – General for Regional and Urban Policy published an e-book to display projects that represent the best of European Territorial Cooperation. Project Take Care contracted under the 1st Call for Proposals was presented in the [e-book](#), under topic Neighbour Cohesion.