

**ANNEX X**

**Model for the implementation reports for the European territorial cooperation goal**

**PART A - DATA REQUIRED EVERY YEAR ("LIGHT REPORTS") (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

**1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL/FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT**

CCI	<b>2014TC16I5CB009</b>
Title	INTERREG IPA Cross Border Cooperation Programme "Greece - the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2014-2020"
Version	<i>1</i>
Reporting year	2016
Date of approval of the report by the monitoring committee	

**2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(A) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)**

Key information on the implementation of the cooperation programme for the year concerned, including on financial instruments, with relation to the financial and indicator data.

As the **first Call for Proposals** was launched in December 2015, the Programme was fully activated during 2016. The Call was open initially until 31.3.2016, to both Priorities, with the following indicative budget allocation:

<u>Priority axis</u>	<u>Thematic priority</u>	<u>Total budget (€)</u>
1. Development and Support of Local Economy	a	5.683.757,5
	d	3.410.256,5
2. Protection of Environment - Transportation	c	6.820.510
	b	4.547.006
<u>Total</u>		<u>20.461.530</u>

The MA sought to maximum publicity for the new Programme. Two information days were held: The first event took place in Serres on 27.1.2016 and the second in Bitola, on 9.2.2016. The selected locations ensured maximum attendance from both countries' potential beneficiaries. The networking and partners search was encouraged both during the events and throughout the Call's duration.

Overall, a total of 149 project proposals were submitted, with a total requested Budget in excess of € 140 mil.

The first phase of the evaluation (administrative and eligibility check) was carried out by the Secretariat. It was concluded by a detailed evaluation Report, which was endorsed by the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) via written Procedure. More decisions were adopted by the JMC via written procedure, as follows:

- The Call was extended until 22/04/2016 to accommodate the increased number of applications
- The Project Manual was revised
- The 2nd version of the Technical Assistance Manual was approved
- The first Annual Implementation Report of the Programme was approved

In addition, the JMC convened on 16.12.2016 in Thessaloniki. The Committee approved: a) the Programme's Evaluation Plan and b) the Multiannual Technical Assistance Financial Plan.

### **Management and Control System (MCS)**

Although not completed during 2016, the description of the MCS has been largely elaborated.

As part of the MCS, a Complaints Committee has been set up. During the reference period of the report, the Committee examined complaints of potential beneficiaries regarding the first Call for Projects Proposals.

Further, as part of the partial restructuring of the First Level Control (FLC) System in Greece, a relevant Registrar of External Controllers was set up, within the FLC Unit of the Managing Authority.

### **Information and Publicity**

As the most important element of the year was the Programme activation - through the 1. CfP - communication activities were predominantly targeted towards potential beneficiaries of the Call. Nonetheless, the Programme received widespread attention, as part of a campaign for all the Programmes under the umbrella of the Greek Managing Authority. The campaign was structured in the framework of the Annual International Fair

of Thessaloniki.

Finally, the MA/JS continued to manage the ‘e-presence’ of the Programme, via the Twitter account and dedicated website.

### **3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)**

#### **3.1. Overview of the implementation**

<b>ID</b>	<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems</b>
1	Development and Support of Local Economy	<p>The core element of the implementation was the first Call for Proposals. Although no operations were selected during the year, the Call had a massive appeal and its budget was 7 times oversubscribed.</p> <p>87 applications have been submitted under Priority Axis 1, with a total requested budget of € 73,603,000 €. The Priority’s published budget was € 9,094,014.</p>
2	Protection of Environment - Transportation	<p>The core element of the implementation was the first Call for Proposals. Although no operations were selected during the year, the Call had a massive appeal and its budget was 7 times oversubscribed.</p> <p>62 applications have been submitted under Priority Axis 2, with a total requested budget of € 67,156,000. The Priority’s published budget was € 11,367,516 .</p>
3	Technical Assistance	<p>Zero expenditure has been certified, as the MCS has not been finalized during the year. Nonetheless, several activities have been implemented during the year, namely: official Programme meetings (e.g. Monitoring Committee), Information sessions and the development of Communication material. The relevant expenditure has been recorded and will be officially charged to the TA budget, once the MCS is put in place.</p> <p>It is noted that the expenditures of the Secretariat’s salaries for 2016, following a relevant decision of the JMC have been charged to the TA budget of the preceding Programme (Greece – The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2007-2013).</p>

### 3.2. Common and programme specific indicators (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Data for common and programme-specific indicators by investment priority transmitted using the tables 1 to 2 below.

**TABLE 1a: Result indicators (Priority axis 1)**

<i>Automatic from SFC</i>						ANNUAL VALUE										Observations (if necessary)
ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023)	2014	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
R0101	Highly educated in employment, including self employment 6 months upon leaving the project/intervention	Persons	47	2015	52	0	0	0								
R0102	Population having access to health services	Persons living close to health centers	1,808,707.00	2015	1,826,794.00	0	0	0								
R0103	Population having access to social services	Persons living close to social services providers	1,260,163.00	2015	1,272,765.00	0	0	0								
R0104	Jobs created in the tourism sector	Persons	3.250	2015	3.285	0	0	0								

**TABLE 2a: Common and programme specific output indicators (Priority axis 1)**

	ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value <sup>1</sup> (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE									Observations (if necessary)	
					2014	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		23
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	O0101	Nr of participants in joint local crossborder employment initiatives	Persons	350	0	0	0								
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					0	0	0								
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	CO36	Population covered by improved health services	Persons	1.500	0	0	0								
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					0	0	0								

<sup>1</sup> Targets are optional for technical assistance priority axes.

Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	00103	Population covered by improved social services	Persons	500	0	0	0								
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					0	0	0								
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	00104	Number of enterprises participating in cross-border joint projects	Number of Enterprises	30	0	0	0								
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					0	0	0								

**TABLE 1b: Result indicators (Priority axis 2)**

<i>Automatic from SFC</i>						ANNUAL VALUE										Observations (if necessary)
ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023)	2014	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
R0201	Reduced travel time	Minutes	10,81 min/10 km	2015	10% improvement over 2015 value	0	0	0								
R0202	Average border crossing travelling time	Minutes	101	2015	20% improvement over 2015 value	0	0	0								
R0203	Energy efficiency awareness barometer	Value in a scale of 100	61.77	2015	20% improvement over 2015 value	0	0	0								
R0204	Population served by improved waste management or recycling	Persons	17.885	2015	25.097	0	0	0								
R0205	Surface area of ecosystems or habitats with improved protection and conservation status	Hectars	1.369.578	2015	1.557.578	0	0	0								
R0206	Population benefiting from risk / hazards prevention and natural disaster	Persons	1.150.000	2015	1.620.200	0	0	0								

EN

EN

	management measures																
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**TABLE 2b: Common and programme specific output indicators (Priority axis 2)**

	ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measure ment unit	Target value <sup>2</sup> (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE										Observations  (if necessary)
					2014	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	O0201	Surface of improved cross-border road and infrastructure	Square meters	12.000	0	0	0								
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					0	0	0								
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	CO34	Estimated annual decrease of GHG	Metric Tons of CO2 equivalent/ year	0.106	0	0	0								
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					0	0	0								
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	CO32	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public	Kwh/year	150.000	0	0	0								
Fully implemented					0	0	0								

<sup>2</sup> Targets are optional for technical assistance priority axes.

operations [actual achievement]		buildings													
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	O0204	Volume of solid wastes under improved management or recycling	Tonnes/ year	1.725	0	0	0								
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					0	0	0								
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	O0205	Volume of liquid wastes under improved management or recycling	Cubic meters/ year	158.775	0	0	0								
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					0	0	0								
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	C023	surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	Hectars	50.000	0	0	0								
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					0	0	0								
Selected operations	O0207	Surface area	Hectars	188.000	0	0	0								

[forecast provided by beneficiaries]		of rehabilitated or with improved management ecosystems													
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					0	0	0								
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	CO20	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	Persons	200.000	0	0	0								
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					0	0	0								
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	CO21	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	Persons	270.000	0	0	0								
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					0	0	0								

Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	O0210	Number of participants in prevention actions	Persons	200	0	0	0								
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					0	0	0								





### 3.4. Financial data (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

**TABLE 4: Financial information at priority axis and programme level** as set out in Table 1 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014<sup>3</sup> [Model for transmission of financial data]<sup>4</sup> and table 16 of model for cooperation programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal

Where applicable, the use of any contribution from third countries participating in the cooperation programme should be provided (for example IPA and ENI, Norway, Switzerland)

The Programme is financed by the IPA and national contributions from the participating countries.

**TABLE 5: Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention (Article 112(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013** and Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013) as set out in Table 2 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 [Model for transmission of financial data] and tables 6-9 of Model for cooperation programmes

Zero financial implementation during the reference period.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 286, 30.9.2014, p. 1.

<sup>4</sup> Structured data required for the report on YEI (Youth Employment Initiative) which is to be submitted in April 2015 in accordance with Article 19(3) and Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013.

**TABLE 6: Cumulative cost of all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area**

1	2	3	4	5
	<p>The amount of ERDF support* envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations (EUR)</p>	<p>Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 2/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)</p>	<p>Eligible expenditure of ERDF support incurred in all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority (EUR)</p>	<p>Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 4/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)</p>
<p>All or part of an operation outside the Union part of the programme area<sup>5</sup></p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>

\* ERDF support is fixed in the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.

<sup>5</sup> In accordance with and subject to ceilings set out Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.



#### **4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

Synthesis of the findings of all evaluations of the programme that have become available during the previous financial year, including the name and reference period of the evaluation reports used.

No evaluations were carried out during the reference period.

#### **5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN (ARTICLE 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

a) Issues which affect the performance of the programme and the measures taken

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##### **E-Cohesion**

The Greek integrated Management Information System (MIS) has been developed to support (initially) the mainstream Operational Programmes 2014-2020, ensuring full electronic management of data and procedures on both Programme and project level. More specifically, the MIS covers the specific requirements as set out in EU 1011/2014 (Article 9 prg1 & Article 10 prg1 & prg4) and EU 821/2014 (Article 8 prg1) focusing particularly:

- on the electronic exchange of information between beneficiaries and management and control bodies (i.e. enabling reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries)
- on the facilitation of interoperability between National and Union legal frameworks, while allowing beneficiaries to submit once all information related to the electronic data exchange (i.e. enabling electronic data exchange on programme implementation level)

The Managing Authority is in close cooperation with the Special Service of MIS, in order to finalize the electronic system that is going to fulfill the requirements concerning “E-Cohesion” in relation to all European territorial cooperation (INTERREG) programmes, under the responsibility of the MA. During the reference period, the focus has been on project management issues, in cooperation with competent authorities of the IPA beneficiary country. Full adaptation of the MIS is estimated in 2017. An Electronic Submission of Applications module of the MIS was developed during the 2016 and is fully functional and available for the forthcoming Calls of Proposals.

## **Programme Monitoring**

The Managing Authority ensured that arrangements are in place for the monitoring of Programme implementation and achievement of specific milestones: Surveys have been carried to determine the baseline figures and target values of Programme indicators. Necessary steps were taken for the elaboration of the Programme's Performance Framework and will be incorporated in the Programming Document through a revision procedure in first semester of the 2017. To this end, the MA participated in a working group with the European Commission, Interact Programme and authorities from several countries. The purpose of the group was the integration of Performance Frameworks in IPA Interreg Programmes.

## **Programme Structures & Management and Control System**

To ensure a smooth implementation of the Programme, The Joint Monitoring Committee had decided to maintain the Secretariat structure in place (from the previous programming period). During the year, an Open Call for the vacant positions of the JS was prepared - and budgeted as Technical Assistance expenditure – and is expected that the JS will be fully staffed during the 2017.

Several Programme bodies had already been set up in 2015. Although not completed during 2016, the structured description of the MCS and relevant designation procedure has been largely elaborated with the aid of external experts and a dedicated team comprising MA officers from several Units. The overall procedure included, among others, the following:

- Consultations with competent authorities of the two cooperating countries, including extensive cooperation on the FLC level.
- Taking on board some re-structuring and/or set up of services in both countries, including FLC.
- Development of strategies to reply to demanding regulatory requirements, such as risk management and anti-fraud.

Despite the absence of verification and certification of expenditure during the year, Technical Assistance activities were successfully implemented, as planned, and the relevant expenditure has been recorded.

In addition, important developments took place during the year, namely:

- The elaboration of a guidance paper on simplified cost option and procurement for beneficiaries, including methodology and practical examples.
- The elaboration of a guidance paper on state aid issues for both the Joint Secretariat and the beneficiaries, including criteria and practical examples.

b) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, otherwise it will be included in point 9.1 (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate

Not applicable.

## **6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (Article 50(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

A citizen's summary of the contents of the annual and the final implementation reports shall be made public and uploaded as a separate file in the form of annex to the annual and the final implementation report

## **7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (Article 46 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

Where the managing authority decided to use financial instruments it must send to the Commission a specific report covering the financial instruments operations as an annex to the annual implementation report

Not applicable. No use of financial instruments was planned for the Cooperation Programme.

**8. WHERE APPROPRIATE, PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (Article 101(h) and Article 111(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(3)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)**

**8.1. Major projects**

**TABLE 7: Major projects**

Project	CC I	Status of MP 1. completed 2. approved 3. submitted 4. planned for notification/submission to Commission	Total investments	Total eligible costs	Planned notification/submission date (if applicable) (year, quarter)	Date of tacit agreement / approval by Commission (if applicable)	Planned start of implementation (year, quarter)	Planned completion date (year, quarter)	Priority Axis/Investment priorities	Current state of realisation – financial progress (% of expenditure certified to Commission compared to total eligible cost)	Current state of realisation - physical progress Main implementation stage of the project 1. completed/in operation; 2. advanced construction; 3. construction; 4. procurement; 5. design	Main outputs	Date of signature of first works contract <sup>6</sup> (if applicable)	Observations (if necessary)

No major projects are foreseen for the Programme.

<sup>6</sup> In the case of operations implemented under PPP structures the signing of the PPP contract between the public body and the private sector body (Article 102(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).

Significant problems encountered in implementing major projects and measures taken to overcome them.

Any change planned in the list of major projects in the cooperation programme

## **8.2. Joint action plans**

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

No JAP are foreseen for the Programme.

**TABLE 8: Joint action plans**

<b>Title of the JAP</b>	<b>CCI</b>	<b>Stage of implementation of JAP</b> 1. completed 2. > 50% implemented 3. Started 4. approved 5. submitted 6. planned	<b>Total eligible costs</b>	<b>Total public support</b>	<b>OP contribution to JAP</b>	<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Type of JAP</b> 1. normal 2. pilot 3. YEI	<b>[Planned] submission to the Commission</b>	<b>[Planned] start of implementation</b>	<b>[Planned] completion</b>	<b>Main outputs and results</b>	<b>Total eligible expenditure certified to the Commission</b>	<b>Observations (if necessary)</b>

Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

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**PART B - REPORTING SUBMITTED IN YEARS 2017, 2019 AND FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)**

**9. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)**

**9.1 Information in Part A and achieving the objectives of the programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

FOR EACH PRIORITY AXIS - Assessment of the information provided above and progress towards achieving the objectives of the programme, including the contribution of the ERDF to changes in the value of result indicators, when evidence is available from evaluations

Priority axis	1 & 2
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The 1st Call for Project Proposals was launched in December 2015. During 2016 the evaluation of the 149 Project Proposals submitted took place and the projects were expected to be approved in early 2017.

Given that there was no actual project implementation during the reference period, no specific values for indicators are available. This has been accounted for in the elaboration of the Performance Framework, with the provision of the relevant 'Key Implementation Steps'.

Priority axis	3 - Technical Assistance
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The Technical Assistance Projects have been approved and are being smoothly implemented. TA expenses were not be verified due to the fact that the Management and Control System has not been approved yet. However, this does not hinder the actual implementation and the supportive role of the Priority.

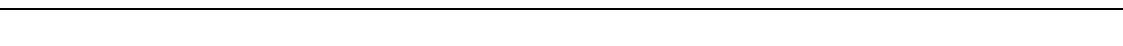
It is reminded that no Technical Assistance indicators have been set.

**9.2. Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (d) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)**

An assessment of the implementation of specific actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, including accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations

The application of the equal opportunities principle is a strategic choice for the Programme. The measures being taken include: i) the necessary measures for the promotion of the Programme and its activities in a manner that maximum outreach is safeguarded, ii) the use of specialized criteria for equality and accessibility during the evaluation and project selection procedures, where only proposals covering these requirements could be approved for funding, iii) special training seminar was organized by the M.A. in cooperation with the Greek National Confederation of Disabled People for the staff of M.A. and J.S. The purpose of the seminar was to train the Programme's officers on regulatory framework regarding the disabled people, how to apply specific criteria and how to enlighten and support the projects' beneficiaries on these specific issues.

Additionally, all Programme communication activities have to abide to strict rules regarding accessibility. The Programme's website will be WCAG 2.0 compliant (<https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/>) on AA level, which means that the new site will be accessible and usable by a wider range of users, including users with disabilities.



### **9.3. Sustainable development (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)**

An assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on sustainable development, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of the actions taken to promote sustainable development in accordance with that Article

#### Programme Structure

One of the two Programme Priorities covers the protection of the environment, providing funding for actions dealing with environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, biodiversity and disaster resilience.



### Project selection

Sustainable development was a part of an obligatory evaluation criterion for all Project Proposals submitted under the 1st call for Project proposals, while all proposals were also assessed in terms of their expected environmental consequences, based on the Programme's Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). It is noted, that environment protection authorities at national, regional and local level participate as project beneficiaries in several proposals.

### Programme Monitoring

The elevated importance attached to sustainable development is reflected in the selection of Programme indicators within the Performance Framework: Both indicators under Priority 2 are relevant and complementary to each other: One indicator covers the preventive nature of activities, while the other captures the sustainability / management side of interventions.

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#### **9.4. Reporting on support used for climate change objectives (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)</b>	<b>Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

#### **9.5 Role of partners in the implementation of the cooperation programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 1, (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)**

Assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the role of partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, including involvement of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperation programme

Before the launch of the 1st Call for Project Proposals, the Managing Authority invited stakeholders to discuss current trends and issues relevant to the Programme Area. Additionally, several hundreds of potential beneficiaries from a wide range of different backgrounds participated in the Info Days organized during the 1st Call, expressed their ideas and submitted queries. Further questions were submitted

electronically and were answered by the Managing Authority / Joint Secretariat in Q+A sessions.

The members of the Monitoring Committee are selected in accordance with the requirements of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The appointment of the member of M.C. was based on a principle that a wide pool of active stakeholders should be formulated, representing as many social partners as possible. For this reason regarding Greece, the Regions and the Union of Municipalities were invited to represent the Local Self Government, as well as representatives from civil society organizations such as the National Federation of Disabled People, the Social and Economic Committee (representing the employees), the Association of Greek Enterprises & Industries, the National Federation of NGO's and the Central Union of Chambers in Greece. Moreover Ministries associated with the Thematic Objectives of the Programme participate without voting rights.

Regarding representatives from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in order to respect the main principles of partnership, coordination and multilevel governance, representatives of national, regional and local institutions and social-economic partners, whose responsibilities and activities concern the Programme eligible area, are included in the Monitoring Committee.

## **10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013**

### **10.1 Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations**

During 2016 the Evaluation Plan of the Programme was drafted. It was adopted by the Joint Monitoring Committee on December 2016.

The Evaluation Plan's Objectives will assess whether the Programme succeeds in achieving the objectives of each priority and its contribution to the IPA II objectives.

The scope of the Plan covers its Evaluation Strategy and considers lessons learnt from the previous Programming Period. Two types of evaluation will be carried out:

1. Evaluation of effectiveness and efficiency of the Programme implementation and evaluation of the relevant bodies, structures and overall Programme management arrangements.

2. Evaluation of the Programme implementation's impact to the cross border regional development and analysis of the factors responsible for the impact.

As for the methodology employed, it is foreseen that theory-based methods will be used for the evaluations. The evaluations will be carried out by external experts. Experts will also be contracted for relevant data collection. These arrangements will guarantee the functional independence of the MA / Joint Secretariat. Nonetheless, the MA will have a coordinating role in the Joint Steering Group (JSG). The JSG will oversee the process of the evaluation. Members of the JSG will be drawn from the MA, representatives of partner countries, important stakeholders or experts.

The first external evaluation is foreseen to be carried out by the end of 2018, with an update by mid 2021 and a final evaluation by mid 2024.

## **10.2 The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy**

Beyond the challenge of raising awareness among the general public, the strategy is complementing and supporting communication activities that are integral to the core objectives of the Programme. The Strategy clearly provides that the information and publicity actions are clearly linked to the achievement of the goals of the Communication Strategy.

As the total budget of Priority 3 is less than € 15 mil., no Output or Result indicators were set in relation to Communication (or other Technical Assistance) activities. Nonetheless, the great participation and expression of interest in the Programme related events and in the 1st Call for Project Proposals (149 Proposals submitted, with 400+ participants), as well as the publications about the Programme in the media proves that all directly interested parties and –to a good extent- the wider public have been informed on the Programme.

Additionally, the production and distribution of information material on the Programme, as well as the interest of the media in the Programme shows that the general public is being at least constantly informed on the Programme's activities and its goals.

The following specific activities marked the reference period:

Two information days were held: The first event took place in Serres on 27.1.2016 and the second in Bitola, on 9.2.2016. Although the events were organized in the framework of the open Call for Proposals, they also served as a platform for the Programme's goals. Examples of good practices from the previous Programming Period were highlighted and relevant printed material was made available.

On September 2016, the Greek Managing Authority (MA) participated in the Annual International Fair of Thessaloniki. All Programmes under the umbrella of the MA were individually promoted, with the Programme-specific material (Folders, pens, notepads, brochures, ecological bags and jigsaw puzzles highlighting the geographical area of the Programme).

Throughout the year, the MA/JS continued to manage the ‘e-presence’ of the Programme. The website was regularly updated and its activity monitored. The Programme’s Twitter account was actively managed.

**11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (Article 14(4), subparagraph 2 (a), (b), (c) and (f), of REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013)**

11.1 Progress in implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including sustainable urban development, and community-led local development under the cooperation programme

Not applicable.

11.2 Progress in implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and to use the ERDF

During 2016 and upon the publication of the 1st Call for Project Proposals Info Days and partner search forums were organized in co-operation with the National Authorities- in both participating countries to help potential applicants to develop their projects and to search for partners. A great many participants attended these events, which gave way to discuss project ideas, management and implementation issues, to meet potential applicants and to facilitate partner search.

As the enhancement of the beneficiaries’ capacity is a focal point of the IPA Regulation, the MA / JTS have planned several training sessions for potential beneficiaries. Further, the resort to external expertise for the projects is constantly monitored. The goal is twofold:

- to avoid over reliance to external expertise and, in the case where external providers are necessary,
- to acquire know – how and good practices from the external experts.

11.3 Contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies (where appropriate)

Not applicable.

11.4 Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation

Not applicable.

**12. Financial information at priority axis and programme level (Articles 21(2) and 22(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

For the purpose of assessing progress towards the achievement of milestones and targets set for financial indicators in the years 2018 and 2023, table 4 of Part A of this Annex shall have the following two additional columns:

13	14
<b>Data for the purpose of the performance review and performance framework</b>	
<b>Only for report submitted in 2019:</b>	<b>Only for final implementation report:</b>
<b>Total eligible expenditure incurred and paid by beneficiaries and certified to the Commission by 31/12/2018</b>	<b>Total eligible expenditure incurred and paid by beneficiaries by 31/12/2023 and certified to the Commission</b>
Article 21(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013	Article 22(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

**PART C - REPORTING SUBMITTED IN YEAR 2019 AND FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (Article 50(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

**13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH**

Information and assessment of the programme contribution to achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

**14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN – PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

Where the assessment of progress made with regard to the milestones and targets set out in the performance framework demonstrates that certain milestones and targets have not been achieved, Member States should outline the underlying reasons for failure to achieve these milestones in the report of 2019 (for milestones) and in the final implementation report (for targets).

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