



**INTERREG IPA CBC PROGRAMME
"GREECE - THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
2014-2020"**

2st JOINT MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING

**December 16, 2016
Thessaloniki, Greece**

Brief Minutes & Decisions

The Joint Monitoring Committee (hereinafter referred to as JMC) of the Interreg IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme "Greece-The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2014-2020" convened for its 2nd Joint Monitoring Committee Meeting on December 16th, 2016 in Thessaloniki, Greece, following an invitation by the Hellenic Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes (hereinafter MA of ETCP), in agreement with the co-chairs.

A quorum was achieved. The meeting was attended by twelve (12) members with voting right (from both countries), in line with the list of participants attached. An additional list includes the non voting members and those who participated as observers/experts.

The chair requested from the member of the MC to express their impartiality, confidentiality and lack of conflict of interest. All members declared so.

Ms Aggeliki Bouziani, Ministry of Economy, Development, who substitutes Ms Evgenia Fotoniata Special Secretary of ERDF & CF Funded Sectoral OPs, Ministry of Economy, Development of the Committee, who is chair of the Committee welcomed the participants, wished a fruitful 2nd Joint Monitoring Committee Meeting and asked for the approval of the addition of the complaint committee decision to the Agenda.

The chair then passed the floor to Mrs. Zafirovska, Secretariat for European Affairs, as co chair, she wished strong and fruitful cooperation and expressed the concern about the long lasting procedure for the recruitment of the vacant positions of the JS.

Afterwards, Ms Katsiyanni, Deputy Head of the Managing Authority welcomed the participants. Then she stressed out the already important progress in programme implementation and invited all members to contribute as much a possible with their views and discussions on all issues ask for any assistance by the MA and provide their guidance and approval as needed. Last but not least she emphasised the significant shift from the transitional approach management of the previous Programme to the challenging

integrated approach management of the current Programme. Within this framework, she invited everybody to contribute as positively as possible since the integrated approach can facilitate and guarantee a really joint and co operative approach to programme implementation.

Then, the floor was passed to Mr. Hende Csaba who welcomed all participants.

The presentations were delivered by the Managing Authority and the Joint Technical Secretariat, as foreseen in the Agenda.

Following the presentation of the Evaluation Plan, Ms Katsiyanni asked for the correction of the evaluation Plan regarding the involvement of EYSSA. She informed the MC that the coordination of the planning of evaluations and utilization of their findings, as well as the elaboration of Programme Evaluation Plan is the responsibility of the MA. Within this framework the MA always co-operates closely with EYSSA, the Greek co ordination service as well as with any responsible Authority of the IPA country, as needed.

Then the floor passed to Mr Hende Csaba who commented the following:

- The evaluation Plan should involve internal staff of the MA.
- The budget allocated is rather limited
- The Evaluation Plan should be very focused and not extensive which will be beneficial for quality.
- The Evaluation Plan should Identify per Specific Objective what should be evaluated and how
- The Evaluation Plan should Include in the reporting Exercise features about collecting data that will allow the monitoring of the evolution of results indicators.

Ms Katsiyanni thanked Mr Hende and then added that the limited budget is an indication of cost effective approach for the implementation of the evaluation plan. Referring to the involvement of the MA staff she reminded that the heart of the implementation of the evaluation plan is the Joint

Steering Group (JSG) which guarantees the strong and deep involvement of the internal staff of the MA and the national Authorities of the two countries.

Then Mr Gertsos took the floor and following his presentation about the Revision of the Programme informed all participants that the EC services requested a modification of all IPA Programmes in Europe in order to include a Performance Framework feature and include also other reasons that require modification.

Ms Katsiyanni explained to the MC that the MA had promised to modify the programme regarding the baseline and target values of the Specific Objectives as presented. She confirmed that the modification to include a performance framework is an alignment with the regulation and will be done according the expected guidance by the EC and will be presented for approval in a later stage.

Mr Csamba Hende commented that the inclusion of the performance framework comes from the Regulation and that no extra indicators will be added to the programme. He also confirmed the flexibility of the EC services regarding the issue and that no automatic penalty will be imposed.

Regarding the complaint procedure Mr Samaras, as member of the Complaint Committee presented all thirteen cases with their arguments and the proposal of the Complaint Committee and a discussion with the MC member followed.

Following the necessary discussions, the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) decides unanimously to:

- Approve the Agenda – with the addition of the item of the results of the Complaints Committee of the 1st call of Proposals.
- Approve the Evaluation Plan by taking into account the comments of Mr Hende Csaba and Ms Katsiyanni and authorise the MA to proceed with the final version of the Evaluation Plan and inform the Monitoring Committee
- Approve the baseline and target values of the results indicators of the Specific Objective 1.1, S.O 1.2, S.O 2.1 and submit for approval via

written procedure the modification concerning the Performance Framework feature as requested by the EC for all IPA programmes in Europe.

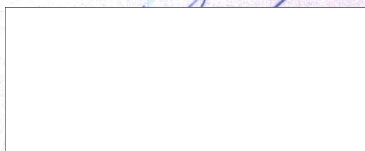
- Approve Multiannual Plan of the Technical Assistance as presented and according to the table attached herewith.
- Approve the Proposal of the Complaint Committee as presented and according to the table attached herewith. As a result, three (3) project proposals are accepted in the 1st phase evaluation. The MC will be informed accordingly.

Finally, the document was signed by the two co-chairpersons.

**The Co-Chairpersons
of the Joint Monitoring Committee**

Chair

Ms. Aggeliki Bouziani



On behalf of Mrs. Evgenia
Fotoniata, Special Secretary of
ERDF & CF Funded Sectoral OPs
Ministry of Economy, Development

Co-chair

Ms. Zafirovska



Secretariat for European Affairs

Attachments:

1. Agenda of the 1st Joint Monitoring Committee Meeting
2. Participants' list of the 1st Joint Monitoring Committee Meeting
3. Multiannual Plan TA
4. Complaints Committee Assessment Table