



# Citizens' summary

## 3rd Phase of the Public Consultation for the Preparation of the IPA CBC Programme “Greece – the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2014 – 2020”

The 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme “Greece-The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2014 – 2020” is now available for open public consultation. This consultation phase is open to all stakeholders.

The purpose of the consultation is to seek the views of potential participants and interested parties, in order to improve and enrich the content currently proposed.

In this Summary, the Programme challenges and strategy are illustrated. A brief presentation of the funding allocation is also included.

Contributions from all concerned organizations and interested citizens are expected by August 10, 2014.

## **IPA II Cross-border Cooperation Programme “Greece – the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2014 – 2020”**

The IPA II Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2014 - 2020 between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is a successor Programme to the IPA - CBC Programme between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2007-2013. It will be implemented in the same eligible area, located in the west-central of the Balkan Peninsula covering five Nuts III Regions in Greece namely, *Thessaloniki, Pella, Kilkis, Serres, Florina* and four Nuts III Regions in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia namely *Pelagonia, Vardar, Southeast and Southwest*. The total budget is *44,390,000 euro* and the strategy statement is:

***"to enhance territorial cohesion by improving living standards and employment opportunities with respect to the environment and by exploring hidden values in tourism"***

# IPA II Cross-border Cooperation Programme “Greece – the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2014 – 2020”



## Eligible Regions

### Greece

- *Thessaloniki*
- *Pella*
- *Kilkis*
- *Serres*
- *Florina*

### Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

- *Pelagonia*
- *Vardar*
- *Southeast*
- *Southwest*



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**Identified Challenges and Proposed Strategy**

Strategic choice 1:  
Promote Employment

- Support youth and unemployed personnel to create businesses with a comparative advantage in local and international level.
- Networking initiatives, new ideas and supporting employment in regards of opportunities created under other priority axes of the programme are supported.
- Create new opportunities through investment and co-operation in tourism and environment, the adaption of ICT innovation, eco-innovation and attract additional investment and private funding within the border area.



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**Identified Challenges and Proposed Strategy**

Strategic Choice 2:  
Improve Access to Social and Health Care and Promote Social Inclusion  
and Community Development

- Improvement of public and NGO's services and equipment, close-cooperation in order to address the needs of vulnerable groups in preventive health care, family care, advisory services, etc. that will also promote creation of new jobs in the field of social care.
- Increasing the ideas of community development, and awareness for social offering, motivation to support the community, creation of social networks and mobilisation of possible donors is a key challenge for the border area

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**Identified Challenges and Proposed Strategy**

Strategic Choice 3:  
Tourism Development and advanced promotion of Cultural and Natural Heritage

- Promotion of niche tourism development (e.g. eco – religious – winter – gastronomy – wine - tourism) thus valorising the favorable conditions for diversified tourism in the border area
- In order to support the competitiveness and sustainability of tourism (destinations, accommodations, tour operators etc.) the challenge is to create a local cross-border tourism "brand". Supporting measures such as city-branding, clustering and local quality protocols are needed to establish a sustainable and competitive tourism product.



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**Identified Challenges and Proposed Strategy**

**Strategic Choice 4:  
Improve Transport Conditions and Checkpoints**

- Building, enhancing, managing and maintaining transport services, infrastructure and networks to maximize their efficiency, environmental protection, improvement of the safety of journeys.
- Delays due to deficiencies in infrastructure, facilities and control procedures at problematic border crossings can have a negative impact on the living and working conditions as well as on socio-economic progress, crossborder and international trade, tourism and transport.
- Safety should be increased especially on highways. Traffic controls and the diminishing of road accidents is a key issue.



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**Identified Challenges and Proposed Strategy**

**Strategic Choice 5:  
Environmental Protection and Sustainable Management of Natural  
Resources**

- Protect and restore threatened ecosystems, biodiversity and natural resources through sustainable management/rehabilitation measures
- Reduce the pressures and impacts on environment through effective management, recycling and reuse of solid wastes and wastewaters
- Promote sustainable and innovative forms of nature based economy (i.e. tourism, agriculture, forestry, fishing) with minimum environmental impacts and within the carrying capacity of the ecosystems
- Prevent and mitigate natural disasters, risks and hazards with focus on wildfires, floods, and climate change impacts.





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### Priority Axis - Thematic Priority – Funding

Priority axis	Thematic priority	Union support	National Counterpart	Total Funding
1. Development and Support of Local Economy	a	9.432.875	1.664.625	11.097.500
	d	5.659.725	998.775	6.658.500
2. Protection of Environment - Transportation	c	11.319.450	1.997.550	13.317.000
	b	7.546.300	1.331.700	8.878.000
3. Technical Support	-	3.773.150	665.850	4.439.000
<b>TOTAL</b>	-	<b>37.731.500</b>	<b>6.658.500</b>	<b>44.390.000</b>



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**Thank you for your input!**

You are kindly requested to fill in the relevant  
questionnaire  
<http://cbc-ipa2.eu/>