

# Implementation Report for IPA II Cross-Border PART A

## IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

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## 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.**

The significant progress in Programme implementation, which was documented since 2020, reached its peak in 2022.

40 Projects being implemented, approved by the 1st Call

22 Projects being implemented, approved by the 2nd Call

1 Project being implemented, approved by the 3rd Call

Following the activation of the reserve list projects of Axis 1 [1.1 and 1.3] and the activation of the project BorPres approved under the 3rd Call for Strategic Projects, an overbooking request was initially approved by the Joint Monitoring Committee. The activation of the reserve list projects of Axis 2 [2.4] was also approved at a later stage by the JMC.

Therefore, the committed funds have risen to € 59 mil., implying an ‘overbooking’ rate of 30%. The Programme Management Authorities foresee that by Programme closure, a balance will be achieved and the Programme will satisfactorily absorb its EU funding allocation.

#### Financial targets

The following figures represent the EU component (i.e. 85%) of the total expenditure.

Cumulative financial allocations to be claimed by 2022: € 30.941.804 (N+3 target)

Cumulative amount of the pre-financing: € 7.988.371

EU contribution needed to reach the N+3 target: €22.953.433

Cumulative amount of declared expenditure as of 31.12.2022 : € 29,529,547 (EU : € 25,100,115)

The significant overachievement of the financial targets is proof of the maturity of the projects and the prudent financial management of the Programme Authorities.

## Information & Publicity

The Programme achieved its visibility objectives in 2022, in line with the Communication Strategy. The general objective of transparency is fulfilled through a multidimensional approach.

As determined by the Programme Evaluation, the Programme's COM strategy highlights the vital role of effective and efficient communication in its activities. The Programme uses a wide variety of communication tools and approaches and has increasingly taken efforts to improve its brand and visual identity.

The website at <http://www.ipa-cbc-programme.eu> is dedicated solely to the Programme and attracts strong interest. The following Google Analytics information depict the profile of the website traffic during 2022 and in comparison with the year 2021;

The total number of pages viewed was 41,406 compared to 43,392 in 2021 (4.57% annual decrease). The users in 2022 were 11,164 compared to 12,458 in 2021 (10.39% decrease compared to 2021). The new users in 2022 counted to 11,079 (9.14% decrease compared to 2021), out of which 1,485 were returning visitors (13.4 %). The pageviews decrease can be explained basically by the fact that there was not any active (open) Call for common projects in 2022. Moreover, 1st Call projects had contractually ended and 2nd Call beneficiaries had already started to use the website after July 2021, ie. signature of the first Subsidy contract in 2nd Cfp.

The Programme's followers' base grew on social media. The focus has been put on **LinkedIn** (961 connections) and **Twitter** (320 followers). The Programme is also channelling messages through the Managing Authority's Twitter account (841 followers).

The Programme is adequately presented in KEEP and Interreg.eu databases.

Notable activities in 2022 include:

- Organization of the 2nd webinar on Project Implementation for 2nd and 3rd Call beneficiaries (May 16| 127 participants)
- Publication of 3 e-newsletters by the National Authority
- Information module session organized by the National Authority (Apr. 15)
- Launch of the 3rd Call for strategic project proposal (submission period: 10.01.2022 - 04.02.2022)
- Four Programme-funded projects (ENPOL-EE, HEART SAFE CITIES, Health Info and In4Child) are presented in the INFOREGIO database as exemplary projects
- On the occasion of the European Year of Youth (2022), INTERACT organized the 07-08/11/2022 *Youth Road Show* in Southeast Europe, one of the 4 areas in Europe with the most youth-related projects financed by Interreg during 2014-2020. Four youth projects of four different Interreg Programmes welcomed at their premises in Thessaloniki and Serres (GR), *a group of representatives from the European Commission, the European Parliament, the local and regional authorities and the Managing Authorities of the Programmes*, highlighting the benefits that the young people of the area and the local community have gained from the implementation of the projects. The project that was visited from the Programme "Greece- Republic of North Macedonia" was EMPLOYOUTH. The project was about training and entrepreneurship opportunities for young people. It aimed to create employment opportunities for young graduates in the cross-border area, through the implementation of a comprehensive package of actions that resulted in the employment of highly educated people. The event

was organized at the Chamber of Commerce of Serres (Lead beneficiary).

- The Managing Authority participated in the 86th Thessaloniki International Fair (10-18 Sept., 2022). The visitors were informed about the Programme, its projects and results and future funding opportunities. Promotional material was distributed.
- In late Nov. 2022, the JS welcomed an IVY volunteer to work in its team until May 2023, in order to carry out specific activities, such as developing content for the social media platforms and support regarding the organization of events meetings, committees, etc.
- *Third parties' support:* On the occasion of World Environment Day (June 5, 2022), the Mayors of the three Municipalities from the countries that share Megali Prespa, took the initiative to organize clean-ups at all shores of the lake.  
Hundreds of volunteers from all three countries covered more than 100km of coastline. The clean-up actions were supported by Interreg IPA CBC Programme "Greece -Republic of North Macedonia" and Interreg IPA CBC "Greece – Albania" with the distribution of promotional material (T- shirts and hats).
- Participation in COM-related online seminars organized by INTERACT
- The project HOLY WATER and especially the deliverable of virtual and augmented reality of the Basilica of St. Achillios in Prespa gained significant interest from the media and press.

### **Approval of the new Programme**

The Programme Authorities together with the dedicated bilateral Joint Programming Committee intensified their efforts during 2022.

The Managing Authority had several exchanges with the European Commission, regarding the draft version of the 2021-2027 Programme. The Programme was officially submitted on August 2022 and was approved on 23 November 2022.

Elevated visibility of the new Programme was ensured via the following:

- Public Consultation of the Programme
- Public consultation for the Programme's Strategic Environmental Assessment
- Production and distribution of promotional material: 350 notebooks, 400 pens and 300 wireless earphones with the Programme logo imprinted

Preparation actions for the development of the Programme 2021-2027 website.

### 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

#### 3.1 Overview of the implementation

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
1	Development and Support of Local Economy	<p>Overview of implementation            Budget of Priority: € 18,188,028.00            Total expenditure (as of 31.12.2022): € 12,664,517.52            Expenditure Absorption rate: 69,63%</p> <p>The total committed funds of the Priority amount to € 25.7 million. This figure includes the approval of eight projects on the reserve list with a combined budget in excess of € 4 mil. The implied overbooking rate (at 41.5%), will be balanced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The budget optimisation and contracting of the projects</li> <li>- The real expenditure level, which is lower than the projected expenditure</li> <li>- The reallocation of funds between the Priorities.</li> </ul>
2	Protection of Environment - Transportation	<p>Overview of implementation            Budget of Priority: € 22,735,032.00            Total expenditure (as of 31.12.2022): € 14,893,427.78            Expenditure Absorption rate: 65,51%</p> <p>The total committed funds of the Priority amount to € 29.2 million. This figure includes the approval of three projects of the reserve list with a combined budget in excess of € 3 mil. The implied overbooking rate (at 28.3%), will be balanced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The budget optimisation and contracting of the projects</li> <li>- The real expenditure level, which is lower than the projected expenditure</li> <li>- The reallocation of funds between the Priorities.</li> </ul>
3	Technical Assistance	<p>A significant amount of funds originally allocated to Priority 3 will not be used. The unused T.A. funds result from savings in expenditure, which in turn are indirectly related to the Covid pandemic effects. On the one hand, restrictions in mobility (imposed due to the pandemic) resulted in cost savings. On the other hand, revisions of the Programme implementation (to adjust to the Pandemic environment) resulted in cost efficiency (e.g. delivery of online meetings, the substitution of planned open events (with physical presence) with virtual platforms).</p> <p>The unused TA funds do not have a detrimental effect on Programme management and support to Programme Bodies. In fact, the Programme bodies have budgeted their needs and have proposed a Programme budget revision.</p> <p>When the revision is completed, funds of approximately € 1.6 million (€ 1.461.180 from the part of Greece ; € 172.429 from the part of North Macedonia) will be reallocated to Priorities 1 and 2.</p> <p>During 2022, the main cost drivers for TA budget were:            Staff management and operation of Managing Authority and JS. The Antenna office in Bitola is also covered.</p>

<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>
		External expertise services, notably costs related to the drafting of the new 2021-2027 Programme , the update of the Evaluation of the current 2014-2020 programme, translation services, etc. Expenses for FLC and supervision procedures in North Macedonia.



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

#### Priority axes other than technical assistance

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>1 - Development and Support of Local Economy</b>
<b>Thematic Priority</b>	a - Promoting employment, labour mobility and social and cultural inclusion across borders through, inter alia: integrating cross-border labour markets, including cross-border mobility; joint local employment initiatives; information and advisory services and joint training; gender equality; equal opportunities; integration of immigrants' communities and vulnerable groups; investment in public employment services; and supporting investment in public health and social services.

**Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 1.a**

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2022	Observations
F	CO36	Health: Population covered by improved health services	Persons	1,500.00	41,379.00	The high value reflects the larger than planned geographical coverage. Initially, interventions were planned only for the rural cross-border areas. Further, a large number of projects was approved (as compared with forecasts). Some of the projects concern the deployment of Scan equipment, which has served the population multiple times.
S	CO36	Health: Population covered by improved health services	Persons	1,500.00	41,379.00	The estimate is based on projections that capture the whole Programme, and also cover the large urban area of Thessaloniki. Initially, interventions were planned only for the rural cross-border areas.
F	O0101	Number of participants in joint local cross-border employment activities	Persons	350.00	375.00	
S	O0101	Number of participants in joint local cross-border employment activities	Persons	350.00	1,000.00	Since activities are now planned online, a larger outreach can be expected.
F	O0103	Population covered by improved social services	Persons	500.00	24,300.00	The high value reflects the larger than planned geographical coverage and the larger than planned number of projects (see below)
S	O0103	Population covered by improved social services	Persons	500.00	24,300.00	The high projection reflects the relatively large number of approved projects (eight), which will report on this indicator. The estimate is based on projections that cover the whole eligible area, including the large metropolitan area of Thessaloniki.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO36	Health: Population covered by improved health services	39,406.00	32,464.00	1,157.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO36	Health: Population covered by improved health services	74,700.00	74,700.00	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	O0101	Number of participants in joint local cross-border employment activities	350.00	350.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	O0101	Number of participants in joint local cross-border employment activities	650.00	600.00	330.00	330.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	O0103	Population covered by improved social services	24,257.00	2,409.00	403.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	O0103	Population covered by improved social services	29,000.00	18,300.00	18,300.00	18,300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>1 - Development and Support of Local Economy</b>
<b>Thematic Priority</b>	a - Promoting employment, labour mobility and social and cultural inclusion across borders through, inter alia: integrating cross-border labour markets, including cross-border mobility; joint local employment initiatives; information and advisory services and joint training; gender equality; equal opportunities; integration of immigrants' communities and vulnerable groups; investment in public employment services; and supporting investment in public health and social services.
<b>Specific objective</b>	1.1 - Create employment opportunities for educated graduates by exploiting comparative advantages of the crossborder area, preferably with the use of innovative tools and practices

**Table 1: Result indicators - 1.a.1.1**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2022 Total	2022 Qualitative	Observations
R0101	Highly educated in employment, including self employment 6 months upon leaving the project/intervention	Persons	47.00	2015	52.00	77.00		

ID	Indicator	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative
R0101	Highly educated in employment, including self employment 6 months upon leaving the project/intervention	74.00		67.00		67.00		47.00	

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R0101	Highly educated in employment, including self employment 6 months upon leaving the project/intervention	47.00		47.00		47.00		47.00	

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>1 - Development and Support of Local Economy</b>
<b>Thematic Priority</b>	a - Promoting employment, labour mobility and social and cultural inclusion across borders through, inter alia: integrating cross-border labour markets, including cross-border mobility; joint local employment initiatives; information and advisory services and joint training; gender equality; equal opportunities; integration of immigrants' communities and vulnerable groups; investment in public employment services; and supporting investment in public health and social services.
<b>Specific objective</b>	1.2 - Improvement of preventive health care and social services of children and elderly population

**Table 1: Result indicators - 1.a.1.2**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2022 Total	2022 Qualitative	Observations
R0102	Population having access to health services	Persons living close to health centers	1,808,707.00	2015	1,826,794.00	2,384,049.00		
R0103	Population having access to social services	Persons living close to social services providers	1,260,163.00	2015	1,272,765.00	1,497,159.00		

ID	Indicator	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative
R0102	Population having access to health services	2,384,049.00		2,102,315.00		1,872,428.00		1,808,707.00	
R0103	Population having access to social services	1,497,159.00		1,312,751.00		1,283,001.00		1,260,163.00	

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R0102	Population having access to health services	1,808,707.00		1,808,707.00		1,808,707.00		1,808,707.00	
R0103	Population having access to social services	1,260,163.00		1,260,163.00		1,260,163.00		1,260,163.00	

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>1 - Development and Support of Local Economy</b>
Thematic Priority	d - Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.

**Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 1.d**

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2022	Observations
F	O0104	Number of enterprises participating in cross-border joint projects	Number of Enterprises	30.00	361.00	When the Programme was drafted, the indicator was meant to measure the participation of individual entities. The high forecast reflects the engagement of clusters and incubators, which are expected to capture multiple individual entities.
S	O0104	Number of enterprises participating in cross-border joint projects	Number of Enterprises	30.00	500.00	Further to the above, the high projection reflects the relatively high number of approved projects (as compared to initial forecasts).

(1)	ID	Indicator	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	O0104	Number of enterprises participating in cross-border joint projects	110.00	95.00	52.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	O0104	Number of enterprises participating in cross-border joint projects	150.00	150.00	52.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>1 - Development and Support of Local Economy</b>
Thematic Priority	d - Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage.
Specific objective	1.3 - Improve the attractiveness and promote tourism in the cross-border area to enhance employment in tourism

**Table 1: Result indicators - 1.d.1.3**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2022 Total	2022 Qualitative	Observations
R0104	Jobs created in the tourism sector	Persons	3,250.00	2015	3,285.00	3,295.00		

ID	Indicator	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative
R0104	Jobs created in the tourism sector	3,283.00		3,277.00		3,276.00		3,250.00	

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R0104	Jobs created in the tourism sector	3,250.00		3,250.00		3,250.00		3,250.00	

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>2 - Protection of Environment - Transportation</b>
<b>Thematic Priority</b>	<b>c - Promoting sustainable transport and improving public infrastructures by, inter alia, reducing isolation through improved access to transport, information and communication networks and services and investing in cross-border water, waste and energy systems and facilities.</b>

**Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 2.c**

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2022	Observations
F	CO32	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	Kwh/year	150,000.00	286,825.00	Small upgrades in existing buildings (e.g. change of light bulbs) have a significant effect when undertaken on a large scale. These upgrades tend to deliver significant savings over long periods of time. Annual Figures are based on a 7 year period. Total figures as of 31.12.2022: 2.007.774
S	CO32	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	Kwh/year	150,000.00	288,000.00	
F	CO34	Estimated annual decrease of GHG	Kilograms of CO2 equivalent/year	106.00	200.00	As with CO32, the indicator value (per year savings) is based on a perceived 7-year period. The actual per-year savings (based on the duration of the projects) is higher.
S	CO34	Estimated annual decrease of GHG	Kilograms of CO2 equivalent/year	106.00	223.00	The target value is based on average energy savings over a 7 year period
F	O0201	Surface of improved cross-border road and infrastructure	Square meters	1,200.00	3,500.00	The usable service in facilities is measured at 10.154 sq.m. This is the total surface affected, in the three border stations (Ezvoni, Bogorodica, Doiran), by the projects concerned. The indicator value is calculated with a coefficient of 30%
S	O0201	Surface of improved cross-border road and infrastructure	Square meters	1,200.00	3,650.00	
F	O0204	Volume of solid wastes under improved management or recycling	Tonnes / year	1,725.00	15,190.00	
S	O0204	Volume of solid wastes under improved management or recycling	Tonnes / year	1,725.00	16,000.00	
F	O0205	Volume of liquid wastes under improved management or recycling	Cubic meters / year	158,775.00	202,459.00	The values are derived from two projects, close to completion (status: May 2022). They are based on average volumes over a 7 year period.
S	O0205	Volume of liquid wastes under improved management or recycling	Cubic meters / year	158,775.00	220,000.00	The estimate is based on the incremental values of all three contributing projects.

(I)	ID	Indicator	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO32	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	286,825.00	269,253.00	98,780.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO32	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	288,000.00	481,660.00	481,660.00	481,660.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO34	Estimated annual decrease of GHG	200.00	149.00	33.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO34	Estimated annual decrease of GHG	250.00	250.00	149.00	149.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	O0201	Surface of improved cross-border road and infrastructure	350.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	O0201	Surface of improved cross-border road and infrastructure	700.00	700.00	700.00	700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	O0204	Volume of solid wastes under improved management or recycling	15,076.00	343.00	343.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	O0204	Volume of solid wastes under improved management or recycling	16,000.00	8,325.00	8,325.00	8,325.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	O0205	Volume of liquid wastes under improved management or recycling	202,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	O0205	Volume of liquid wastes under improved management or recycling	220,000.00	200,200.00	200,200.00	200,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>2 - Protection of Environment - Transportation</b>
<b>Thematic Priority</b>	c - Promoting sustainable transport and improving public infrastructures by, inter alia, reducing isolation through improved access to transport, information and communication networks and services and investing in cross-border water, waste and energy systems and facilities.
<b>Specific objective</b>	2.1 - Upgrade public infrastructure to improve road travel time, safe border crossing and promote energy efficiency towards green transport

**Table 1: Result indicators - 2.c.2.1**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2022 Total	2022 Qualitative	Observations
R0201	Reduced travel time	Minutes	10,81 min/10 km	2015	10% improvement over 2015 value		9 min/10 km	Two projects of the 1. Call contribute to indicators R201 and R202. One of the two projects is completed. The achievement of both indicators target values can be deemed successful by the completed project alone. The strategic project - under the 3rd targeted Call - will also contribute to R201.
R0202	Average border crossing travelling time	Minutes	101		20% improvement over 2015 value		80	Two projects of the 1. Call contribute to indicators R201 and R202. One of the two projects is completed. The achievement of both indicators target values can be deemed successful by the completed project alone.
R0203	Energy efficiency awareness barometer	Value in a scale of 100	61.77	2015	20% improvement over 2015 value		75	Two of the five projects contributing to the indicator have been completed. The achievement of the indicator target value can be deemed successful by the completed projects alone. One project's core deliverables are energy efficiency measures in public buildings (successfully delivered). It also involves awareness activities to civil servants. The other project involves awareness activities in the domain of climate change, in schools and other educational establishments. They were delivered successfully.

ID	Indicator	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative
R0201	Reduced travel time		9 min/10 km		10,81 min/10km		10,81 min/10km		10,81 min/10km
R0202	Average border crossing travelling time		80		101		101		101
R0203	Energy efficiency awareness barometer		75		61.77		61.77		61.77

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R0201	Reduced travel time		10,81 min/10km		10,81 min/10km		10,81 min/10 km		10,81 min/10km
R0202	Average border crossing travelling time		101		101		101		101
R0203	Energy efficiency awareness barometer		61.77		61.77		61.77		61.77

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>2 - Protection of Environment - Transportation</b>
Thematic Priority	c - Promoting sustainable transport and improving public infrastructures by, inter alia, reducing isolation through improved access to transport, information and communication networks and services and investing in cross-border water, waste and energy systems and facilities.
Specific objective	2.2 - Sustainable management and recycling of biowastes

**Table 1: Result indicators - 2.c.2.2**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2022 Total	2022 Qualitative	Observations
R0204	Population served by improved waste management or recycling	Persons	17,885.00	2015	25,097.00	431,978.00		Six projects contribute to the indicator, that cover a wide geographical area. The baseline was set too low, It was envisaged that only a limited part of the Programme Area would be captured.

ID	Indicator	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative
R0204	Population served by improved waste management or recycling	358,839.00		351,645.00		145,966.00		17,885.00	

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R0204	Population served by improved waste management or recycling	17,885.00		17,885.00		17,885.00		17,885.00	



<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>2 - Protection of Environment - Transportation</b>
<b>Thematic Priority</b>	b - Protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management through, inter alia: joint actions for environmental protection; promoting sustainable use of natural resources, resource efficiency, renewable energy sources and the shift towards a safe and sustainable low-carbon economy; promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems and emergency preparedness.

**Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 2.b**

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2022	Observations
F	CO20	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	Persons	200,000.00	125,150.00	A flagship project captures an extended cross border area, which covers Serres, Yevgelika and Strumica. The project is completed satisfactorily.
S	CO20	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	Persons	200,000.00	250,000.00	The value includes the achieved values of the completed project and the incremental values of the three contributing projects (total projects: 4)
F	CO21	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	Persons	270,000.00	95,150.00	A flagship project captures an extended cross border area, which covers Serres, Yevgelika and Strumica. The project is completed satisfactorily.
S	CO21	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	Persons	270,000.00	250,000.00	A flagship project captures an extended cross border area, which covers Serres, Yevgelika and Strumica. The project is completed satisfactorily.
F	CO23	surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	Hectars	50,000.00	479,799.00	The value is derived from the same flagship project, which contributes to indicator O0207.
S	CO23	surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	Hectars	50,000.00	500,000.00	The target is derived from the achieved value and the incremental targets of the other contributing projects (total number of projects: 7)
F	O0207	Surface area of rehabilitated or with improved management ecosystems	Hectars	188,000.00	345,091.00	Two projects have been completed. One flagship project captures an extended cross border area. The flagship project is completed successfully.
S	O0207	Surface area of rehabilitated or with improved management ecosystems	Hectars	188,000.00	346,000.00	The value includes the achieved values of the completed project and the incremental values of the three contributing projects (total projects: 7)
F	O0210	Number of participants in prevention actions	Persons	200.00	2,100.00	A flagship project had significant outreach activities. Joint actions were carried out in 4 days. People from the entire South East Region (RoNM) and Serres Municipality attended. In addition, the Greek Ministry of Interior delivered awareness activities in Thessaloniki.
S	O0210	Number of participants in prevention actions	Persons	200.00	3,690.00	

(I)	ID	Indicator	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO20	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	125,150.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO20	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	250,000.00	200,000.00	200,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO21	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	95,150.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO21	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	250,000.00	200,000.00	200,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO23	surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	457,268.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO23	surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	462,000.00	40,422.00	40,422.00	323,955.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	O0207	Surface area of rehabilitated or with improved management ecosystems	320,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	O0207	Surface area of rehabilitated or with improved management ecosystems	330,000.00	124,827.00	5,850.00	124,827.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	O0210	Number of participants in prevention actions	2,100.00	304.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	O0210	Number of participants in prevention actions	3,690.00	304.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>2 - Protection of Environment - Transportation</b>
<b>Thematic Priority</b>	b - Protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management through, inter alia: joint actions for environmental protection; promoting sustainable use of natural resources, resource efficiency, renewable energy sources and the shift towards a safe and sustainable low-carbon economy; promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems and emergency preparedness.
<b>Specific objective</b>	2.3 - Sustainable management of protected areas, ecosystems and biodiversity

**Table 1: Result indicators - 2.b.2.3**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2022 Total	2022 Qualitative	Observations
R0205	Surface area of ecosystems or habitats with improved protection and conservation status	Hectars	1,369,578.00	2015	1,557,578.00	1,863,405.00		

ID	Indicator	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative
R0205	Surface area of ecosystems or habitats with improved protection and conservation status	1,859,055.00		1,757,328.12		1,439,446.12		1,369,578.00	

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R0205	Surface area of ecosystems or habitats with improved protection and conservation status	1,369,578.00		1,369,578.00		1,369,578.00		1,369,578.00	

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>2 - Protection of Environment - Transportation</b>
<b>Thematic Priority</b>	b - Protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management through, inter alia: joint actions for environmental protection; promoting sustainable use of natural resources, resource efficiency, renewable energy sources and the shift towards a safe and sustainable low-carbon economy; promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems and emergency preparedness.
<b>Specific objective</b>	2.4 - Prevention, mitigation and management of natural disasters, risks and hazards

**Table 1: Result indicators - 2.b.2.4**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2022 Total	2022 Qualitative	Observations
R0206	Population benefiting from risk / hazards prevention and natural disaster management measures	Persons	1,150,000.00	2015	1,620,200.00	2,777,000.00		

ID	Indicator	2021 Total	2021 Qualitative	2020 Total	2020 Qualitative	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative
R0206	Population benefiting from risk / hazards prevention and natural disaster management measures	2,410,000.00		2,410,000.00		1,280,000.00		1,150,000.00	

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
R0206	Population benefiting from risk / hazards prevention and natural disaster management measures	1,150,000.00		1,150,000.00		1,150,000.00		1,150,000.00	

## Priority axes for technical assistance

### 3.3 Table 3: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone for 2018 total	Final target (2023) total	2022	Observations
1	O	CO36	Health: Population covered by improved health services	Persons	0	1,500.00	41,379.00	
1	F	F011	Eligible verified (certified) Expenditure of the Axis	Euro	1400000	18,188,028.00	12,664,517.52	
1	I	K0101	Contracted Projects	Number of Projects	13		34.00	
2	F	F0102	Eligible verified (certified) Expenditure of the Axis	Euro	2000000	22,735,032.00	14,893,427.78	
2	I	K0102	Contracted Projects	Number of Projects	16		29.00	
2	O	O0207	Surface area of rehabilitated or with improved management ecosystems	Hectars	0	188,000.00	345,091.00	
2	O	O0210	Number of participants in prevention actions	Persons	0	200.00	2,100.00	

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
1	O	CO36	Health: Population covered by improved health services	Persons	39,406.00	32,464.00	1,157.00	0.00	0.00
1	F	F011	Eligible verified (certified) Expenditure of the Axis	Euro	9,181,765.44	4,673,262.33	680,992.96	355,875.13	0.00
1	I	K0101	Contracted Projects	Number of Projects	18.00	18.00	18.00	16.00	0.00
2	F	F0102	Eligible verified (certified) Expenditure of the Axis	Euro	12,036,786.24	6,825,217.81	1,754,401.38	542,994.58	0.00
2	I	K0102	Contracted Projects	Number of Projects	22.00	22.00	22.00	21.00	0.00
2	O	O0207	Surface area of rehabilitated or with improved management ecosystems	Hectars	320,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	O	O0210	Number of participants in prevention actions	Persons	2,100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2016	2015	2014
1	O	CO36	Health: Population covered by improved health services	Persons	0.00	0.00	0.00
1	F	F011	Eligible verified (certified) Expenditure of the Axis	Euro	0.00	0.00	0.00
1	I	K0101	Contracted Projects	Number of Projects	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	F	F0102	Eligible verified (certified) Expenditure of the Axis	Euro	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	I	K0102	Contracted Projects	Number of Projects	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	O	O0207	Surface area of rehabilitated or with improved management ecosystems	Hectars	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	O	O0210	Number of participants in prevention actions	Persons	0.00	0.00	0.00

### 3.4. Financial data

**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 (Model for transmission of financial data) and table 17 of model for cooperation programmes under IPA.**

Priority axis	Calculation basis	Total funding	Co-financing rate	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries	Number of operations selected
1	Public	18,188,028.00	85.00	25,719,913.37	141.41%	25,719,913.37	12,664,517.52	69.63%	34
2	Public	22,735,032.00	85.00	29,173,103.31	128.32%	29,173,103.31	14,893,427.78	65.51%	29
3	Public	4,547,006.00	85.00	4,547,006.00	100.00%	4,547,006.00	1,971,602.11	43.36%	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>45,470,066.00</b>	<b>85.00</b>	<b>59,440,022.68</b>	<b>130.72%</b>	<b>59,440,022.68</b>	<b>29,529,547.41</b>	<b>64.94%</b>	<b>65</b>

**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)**

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

1. Operation (2)	2. The amount of IPA support(1) envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations	3. 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 IPA at programme level * 100)	4. Eligible expenditure of IPA 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	5. 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 IPA at programme level *100)
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(1) IPA support is the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.

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

#### 4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

No evaluation was carried out during 2022.

Previously, a Programme evaluation was structured in 4 distinct deliverables, to capture the ongoing implementation and impact. The first deliverable dealt with the evaluation methodology. The second deliverable examined the progress in implementation until 31.12.2020 and the progress of the Communication strategy.

In line with the evaluation Plan, the third and fourth deliverables updated the Programme evaluation until mid-2021. More specifically, the progress of the Output Indicators was assessed, and the relevance of the intervention logic to the Programme's Strategy was appraised. The effectiveness of the communication strategy was also addressed.

With reference to Impact, a preliminary analysis was conducted with the third deliverable. The progress in the achievement of result indicators at different stages of Programme implementation was measured and compared with the baseline values. This approach was deemed appropriate, as only a few projects were finished by 30.6.2021. Further, an impact assessment of the EU 2020 general objective was conducted under the fourth deliverable. It identified an indirect positive link, by means of alignment with smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

As part of the 4th deliverable, a dissemination plan of the evaluation results was conducted. The plan was used by the Managing Authority and Joint Monitoring Committee as a tool in the planning and specification of communication activities of beneficiaries under the new 2021-27 Programme.

Further, the following recommendations of the evaluation for the 2021-27 Programme have been accounted for:

- Use of common (instead of Programme specific) indicators. This will minimize the burden on data collection and will facilitate Programme benchmarking.

The MA used Common indicators, with the exception of one indicator related to the planned border crossing in Prespa.

- Uptake of the use of digital communication

Digital and Social media communication is an important communication tool for reaching a wider audience or targeting existing audiences to raise awareness, increase the impact or disseminate the project results and other activities. This has been emphasized by the COVID-19 pandemic, which made face-to-face events impossible for some while. The CP is active in the field of digital and social media communication and is also monitoring the current trends, emerging technologies, and user expectations. The new Programme foresees an elevated role for digital media.



- In the 2021-2027 Programme, complementarities to other EU Programmes must be exploited.

This has been considered, as part of the Regulatory requirements. The Programme is aligned with various EU strategies and will seek to explore synergies with Interreg and National Programmes.

- In the 2021-2027 Programme, the organizations that are directly responsible for the planning and strategy setting must also be involved throughout the life-cycle of the Programme and also as project partners.

Again, the Programme Authorities have paid utmost respect to the Partnership principle, bringing on board a large selection of pertinent stakeholders. This has been reflected in the Joint Programming Committee, the Public Consultation, and the Joint Monitoring Committee. Further, the provision of the Small Project Fund will require the direct involvement of Regions in Programme Management. Finally, Regional Authorities and other pertinent stakeholders are eligible and trustworthy beneficiaries, often with the role of Lead Partner in projects.

Name	Fund	From month	From year	To month	To year	Type of evaluation	Thematic priority	Topic	Findings
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## 5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN

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

#### Follow up on improvements in Programme and project management in the Republic of North Macedonia

The digitalization of administrative processes continued to bear fruit, as reflected in the high numbers of completed FLC verifications, accelerated time spans for the relevant procedures and overall success stories of the projects.

More specifically, the FLC function was strengthened considerably by:

The 'recruitment' of new independent controllers. The relevant pool now measures 15 First Level controllers.

Pieces of training delivered to the new Controllers. They included both modules on Expenditure verification and procedures of the Information module system and the online MIS system.

As a result, during 2022 a total of 57 First Level Controls and expenditure verifications were carried out. Their combined value was circa € 2.2 million.

Supervisions were also promptly carried out in two projects.

The above developments, along with the excellent cooperation with the Managing Authority, resulted in improved management of the Annual Accounts preparation and final submission to the European Commission.

Elevated support to IPA project beneficiaries

The digital administration has significant direct benefits for beneficiaries: The national co-financing is also processed electronically. Therefore, the payment requests and actual disbursements are executed more swiftly.

Finally, the National Authority and Antenna office has continued to support beneficiaries on day-to-day project implementation and on practical aspects related to the use of digital modules.

**(b) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, otherwise it will be included in point 9.1. An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate.**

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## **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

You can upload/find the Citizen's summary under General > Documents

**7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)**

**8. 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	CCI	Status of MP	Total investments	Total eligible costs	Planned notification/submission date	Date of tacit agreement/ approval by Commission	Planned start of implementation	Planned completion date	Priority axis / Thematic 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	Main outputs	Date of signature of first works contract (1)	Observations
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(1) 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**

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

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## 8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

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**Table 8: Joint action plans (JAP)**

Title of the JAP	CCI	Stage of implementation of JAP	Total eligible costs	Total public support	OP contribution to JAP	Priority axis	Type of JAP	[Planned] submission to the Commission	[Planned] start of implementation	[Planned] completion	Main outputs and results	Total eligible expenditure certified to the Commission	Observations
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**Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them**

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**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)**

Priority axis	1 - Development and Support of Local Economy
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Priority axis	2 - Protection of Environment - Transportation
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Priority axis	3 - Technical Assistance
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**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

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**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

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

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**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

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**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**

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Status	Name	Fund	Year of finalizing evaluation	Type of evaluation	Thematic priority	Topic	Findings (in case of execution)	Follow up (in case of execution)
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## 10.2 The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy

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**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 the implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including integrated territorial investments, sustainable urban development, and community led local development under the cooperation programme**

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

As stipulated by the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, recital 19, article 8(3)(d) on the "Content, adoption and amendment of cooperation programmes" and article 14(4) 2nd subparagraph (c) "Implementation reports", this programme contributes to MRS(s) and/or SBS:

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- EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)

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

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### 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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