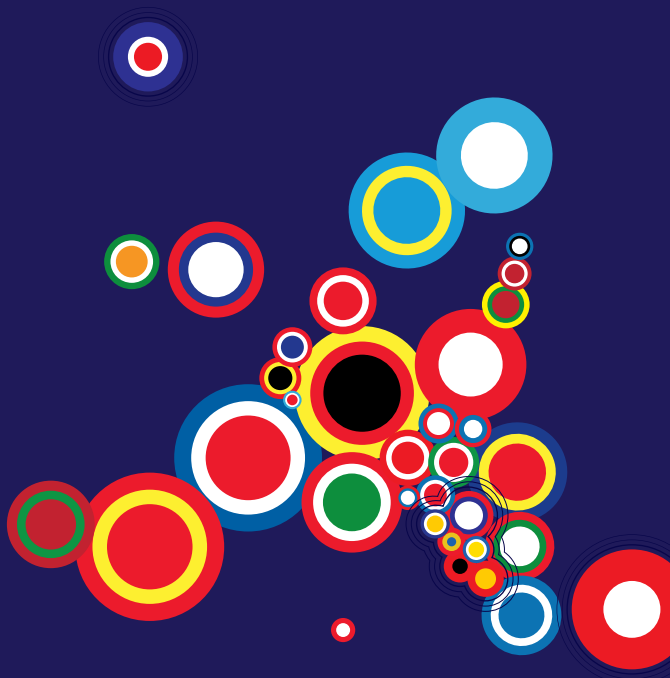




REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
Ministry for Local Self Government



CREATING COMMON FUTURE



IPA CBC PROGRAMME

REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA - REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
2014 - 2020

This project is funded by the European Union



Dr. Shiret Elezi
Minister of Local Self
Government

Respected,

Good – neighborly relations are vital for the countries to make progress towards the EU accession and therefore Macedonia has been committed to regular advancing of the relation with the neighbors and the cooperation with the countries in the region.

In regard to this it is my pleasure, through this publication to present the opportunity that the new programme IPA II 2014-2020 serves. The Ministry of Local Self Government and the Ministry of European Integration are in the closing phase of the IPA Cross Border Cooperation 2007-2013 and have managed successfully to support 51 projects awarded with grant with more than 7,2 million Euros, contracted funds for the grant beneficiaries in both countries.

Representatives of both national authorities and joint management structures had the chance to be part on the programming process and present the outcomes of the previous programme, as well as the challenges and outcomes from the consultation processes for the new programme. This resulted with efficient conclude of programming process and approval of the new programme document by the EU on December 2014.

It is envisaged that in the period 2014-2020, this programme will contribute to the promotion of employment, labour, mobility and social and cultural inclusion across the border. Moreover, the thematic priorities that both countries agreed on are:

1. Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage (opportunity-driven);
2. Enhancing competitiveness, business, trade and investment (needs and opportunity-driven) and
3. Protecting the environment, promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management (needs driven).

The EU integration is top priority of each western Balkan country, not only because they belong to Europe in terms of geography, but also because Europe has been playing significant role by supporting the on-going reforms for transformation of their societies strengthening the democratic basis and economic progress.

Wish a successful work and future collaboration.

Faithfully yours,
Dr. Shiret Elezi



Klajda Gjoshja

Minister of European
Integration

Dear participants,

Republic of Albania, strongly support the idea that despite difficulties faced by EU in the last years, the coexistence among countries is in the core of its philosophy, thus together we can successfully succeed in facing the difficulties based on our mutual cooperation.

Considering the fact that this CBC Programme represents one of the most important programmes in which Albania participates and, that the good neighbourly relations are vital for both countries to make progress towards the EU accession, Albania has been committed to advancing the relations with the neighbours and the cooperation with the countries in the region.

Albania's objective of EU membership makes it necessary to enhance cooperation between our two countries, where the coordination of common policies and mutual support for fulfilling our objectives and priority programmes towards EU integration is an important process. We are committed to working with the government, local authorities, civil society and stakeholders, to ensure that our future cooperation serves the people of the eligible programme area in all their diversity.

With regard to the new CBC programme, the representatives of both national authorities and joint management structures were part on the programming process and presented the outcomes of the previous programme, as well as the challenges and outcomes from the consultation processes for the new programme. The result was the conclusion of the programming process and approval of the new programme document by the European Union Commission on December 2014.

Our citizens in both countries, despite where they live, wish to have a safer social environment, where equal opportunities will be granted to everyone. In this regard, the new CBC programme overall objective is to stimulate more balanced, inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development of the Border Area.

It is envisaged that in the period 2014-2020, this programme will contribute to the promotion of employment, labour, social and cultural inclusion across the border based on the thematic priorities that both countries has already agreed such as encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage, enhancing competitiveness, business, trade and investment and protecting the environment.

This is a great opportunity for all of us to be part of the joint future collaboration. Thank you for being part of this initiative,

Best wishes,

Klajda Gjoshja



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Acronyms

CBC	Cross-Border Co-operation
CBIB +	Cross-border Institution Building
DG	Directorate General
EU	European Union
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
INSTAT	Statistical Institute of the Republic of Macedonia
IPA	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance
JTF	Joint Task Force
JTS	Joint Technical Secretariat
NIPAC	National IPA Co-ordinator
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics
OS	Operating Structure
SME	Small and medium enterprise, including micro fi rms
SWOT	Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats analysis
TP	Thematic Priority



Section 1: Summary of Programme

The programme for Cross-border cooperation between Republic of Macedonia and Republic of Albania will be implemented under the framework of the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II). IPA II supports Cross-border cooperation with a view to promoting good neighbourly relations, fostering union integration and promoting socio-economic development. The legal provisions for its implementation are stipulated in the following pieces of legislation:

- Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II);
- Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action and
- Commission Implementing Regulation EU no 447/2014 of 2 May 2014 on the specific rules for implementing the IPA II regulation.

1.1 Summary of the Programme

This Cross Border Co-operation Programme covers the period 2014-2020 and relates to the New Financial Perspective of the European Community. It has been designed on the basis of a detailed analysis of the situation in the programme area.

Republic of Macedonia-Republic of Albania border area features one of the most impoverished areas and one of the least favourable socio-economic development opportunities and conditions in the entire European continent due to rural, mountainous and remote character of the CBC Area. In addition, the present development situation of the Programme Area derives from a set of historically, demographically, politically, geographically and economically driven factors, which cannot be overcome in a short period of time.

The proposed intervention and activities stem from 'problem tree' combined with strategic balance sheet analysis and limited resource of the Programme. It aims to address the most important problem nodes and strategic opportunity identified through socio-economic and SWOT analysis, namely: i) low levels of economic activity along with mismatch of supply and demand in the labour market, ii) underdeveloped and obsolete environment infrastructure and iii) potential in tourism development and cultural exchange.



Realistically the **Programme Area** cannot expect to grow fast though it **looks forward to a more balanced, inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development** through testing new instruments and solution, learning from other regions and mobilisation and exploitation of endogenous potential. This could lead to higher standards of living, self-confidence and social security.

The Programme concentrates on three IPA II Regulation thematic priorities deriving from needs-opportunity analysis. These are, namely:

1. Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage (opportunity-driven);
2. Enhancing competitiveness, business, trade and investment (needs and opportunity-driven) and
3. Protecting the environment, promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management (needs driven).

The CBC Programme includes also a Technical Assistance Priority.

1.2 Preparation of the programme and involvement of the partners

The process of programming of this IPA II CBC Programme for Republic of Macedonia-Republic of Albania commenced in July 2013. The entire programming course was based on common experience of the process that had taken place for the period 2007-2013.

The development of this Programme Document was steered by the Joint Task Force comprising of representatives of the two Operating Structures, delegates of NIPAC office in the two countries, representatives of the Programme Area NUTS-3 regions and some self-government units. The work of the JTF was facilitated and supported through CBIB+ Technical Assistance Project, funded by the EU that brought international best practice into the process.

Working sessions of the OSs and JTF were held throughout the whole programming phase in order to ensure effective communication leading to the identification of the Thematic Priorities to be addressed for the development Strategy of the Programme Area and setting up the appropriate implementing and monitoring structures. In addition to that consultations between the both OS's took place within the framework of learning and networking facility under the auspicious of the CBIB+ Project.



Section 2: Programme Area

Geographical coverage and size of the eligible Programme Area flows from the previous IPA CBC assistance for Republic of Macedonia and Republic of Albania and covers three NUTS-3 regions in each of the countries. These are listed below.

Republic of Macedonia Regions	Programme Area Size (km ²)	Programme Area as % of Country Size
Pelagonia	4,717	18.3
Southwest	3,340	13.0
Polog	2,416	9.4
TOTAL	10,473	40.7

Republic of Albania Regions	Programme Area Size (km ²)	Programme Area as % of Country Size
Korce	3,711	12.9
Diber	2,586	9.0
Elbasan	3,199	11.1
TOTAL	9,496	33.0

Source: Statistical Office of Republic of Macedonia, INSTAT

The total size of Cross-Border Area in the two countries is 19,969 km². Republic of Macedonia's regions account for 52.5% and Republic of Albania's regions make up 47.5% of the size of the CBC Area.

The six regions that comprise the Programme Area have a population of 1,427,675 of which Republic of Macedonia accounts for 54% of that number and Republic of Albania- for 46%.¹

The eligible regions on the territory of Republic of Macedonia include 27 municipalities and there are 12 districts (with 17 municipalities) on the territory of Republic of Albania that fit in the Programme Area. These are listed below (in alphabetical order).

In Republic of Macedonia:

- **Pelagonia region** includes 9 municipalities: Bitola, Demir Hisar, Dolneni, Krivogastani, Krusevo, Mogila, Novaci, Prilep, and Resen;
- **Polog region** includes 9 municipalities: Bogovinje, Brvenica, Gostivar, Jegunovce, Mavrovo and Rostusa, Tearce, Tetovo, Vrapciste and Zelino;

¹ As of end of 2012; source: INSTAT and Republic of Macedonia State Statistical Office



- **Southwest region** covers 9 municipalities: CentarZupa, Debar, Debarca, Kicevo, Makedonski Brod, Ohrid, Plasnica, Struga and Vevcani.

In Republic of Albania:

- **Dibra Region** includes: Bulqiza, Burreli and Diber districts;
- **Elbasan Region** covers: Cerriku, Elbasan, Gramshi, Librazhdi and Peqini districts;
- **Korca Region** includes the districts of Devolli, Korça, Kolonja and Pogradec.





Section 3: Programme Strategy

The Strategy acknowledges priorities communicated by Programme stakeholders (Section 2.2) which have been subsequently filtered and screened by the CBC Operating Structures and Joint Task Force in charge of the programming effort thus applying **coordination** principle. Strategic choices were made considering the following overarching principles:

Coherence - Thematic Priorities were not altered and are those that are communicated in the Annex III to IPA II Regulation and respectively to the Multi-country Strategy Paper;

Partnership - appropriate Priorities are selected based on feedback from organisations representing regional, local, urban and other public authorities, economic and social partners as well as civil society, environmental partners, non-governmental organisations and organisations responsible for promoting equality;

Concentration - Strategy provides a relevant and efficient focus of **limited resources** and intervention based on the social and economic specifics of the Programme Area that focuses on selected themes, and on objectives and measures of fundamental significance from the socio-economic cohesion and desired development perspective;

Complementarity with the National Programme – the programme complements and enhances the national strategies as set out in the Country Strategy Papers by supporting regional and territorial cooperation.

3.1 Rationale - Justification of the selected intervention strategy

The proposed Strategy content flows from:

1. Situation and SWOT analysis;
2. Identified problem nodes and strategic opportunity; and
3. Ranking of Thematic Priorities according to their importance for the Programme Area: Encouraging tourism and cultural and natural heritage, Enhancing competitiveness, business, trade and investment and Protecting environment, promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management.



A more balanced, inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development in the Border Area is stimulated is the Programme main strapline and its Overall Objective, given the medium term perspective if the proposed intervention.

The Programme seeks synergies with **Specific Objectives of IPA II** and **Country Strategy Papers** with regard to: support for the development of civil society and social dialogue, fostering employment and developing human capital, social and economic inclusion and territorial co-operation.

Table 1: Synthetic overview of the justification for selection of thematic priorities

Selected thematic priorities	Justification for selection
Encouraging tourism, culture and natural heritage (TP4IPA II Regulation)	Builds on identified strategic opportunities related to the increasing importance of tourism as an economic opportunity while fostering cultural exchange and promotion of natural heritage will sustain people-to-people and civil society dialogue between institutions.
Enhancing competitiveness, business, trade and investment (TP7IPA II Regulation)	Seeks to address low employment levels in the Programme Area. This will be tackled through the improvement of access to markets, increased use of ICT tools, including e-commerce, and more efficient exploitation of value chain opportunities in the Border Area.
Protecting environment, promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management (TP2IPA II Regulation)	Aims to respond to specific needs of one of the most neglected policy sectors. In CBC context this will address issues of the promotion of cleaner and greener economy, more responsible and sustainable use of natural resources, climate resilience small-scale support infrastructure (against flooding and wildfires) and soil erosion in the mountainous border area.

Technical Assistance will ensure sound Programme management throughout its entire lifecycle and capacity development of relevant Programme stakeholders. The financial allocation towards this Priority is 10% of the Programme budget.



Indicative budget allocation across Thematic Priorities is a consensus between **concentration** principle combined with balanced distribution of funds. Consideration is also given to capital intensity of likely projects and the actual Thematic Priority ranking where tourism, cultural and natural heritage were the most preferred topics for support.

Priority	Budget Distribution (%)
1. Encouraging tourism, culture and natural heritage (TP4)	31.5
2. Enhancing competitiveness, business, trade and investment (TP7)	31.5
3. Protecting environment, promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management (TP2)	27.0
0. Technical Assistance	10.0
TOTAL	100

The principle of **smart, sustainable and inclusive growth is recognised as a cross-cutting issue** and is applied to all Programme Thematic Priorities and their objectives.

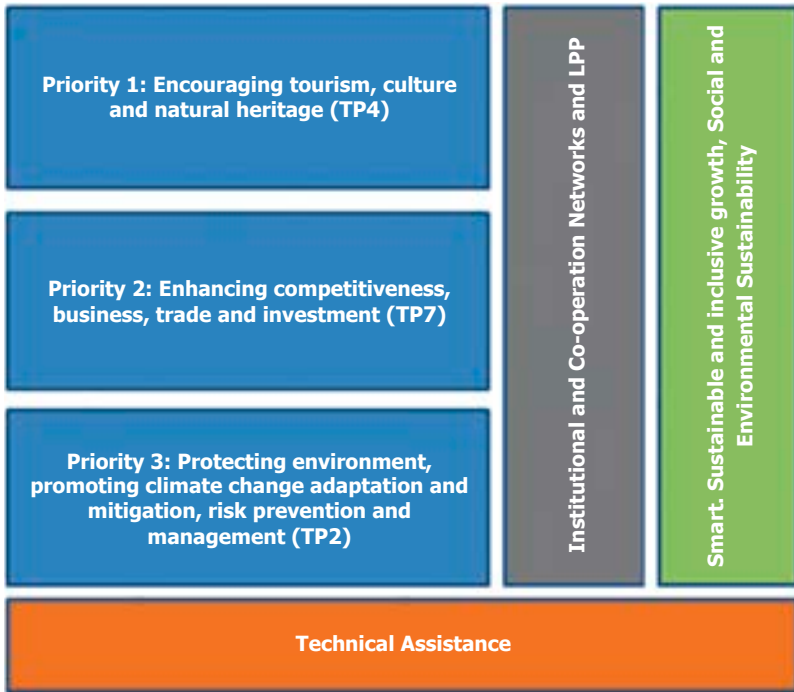
The proposed Strategy also **builds on key findings and recommendations of the draft CBC Republic of Macedonia-Republic of Albania evaluation report** for the years 2007-2013.

3.2 Description of Programme Thematic Priorities

The description of each Thematic Priority (TP) is arranged in the form of Priority Data Sheet with contents and structure alike per each priority while Technical Assistance Priority has a distinct composition.

The Programme Thematic Priority numbering is sequenced according to the TP importance ranking computed in the course of the programming exercise with reference to specific TP numbering identified in the IPA II Regulation.

The figure below outlines that Programme intervention logic and intersection of individual Priority with cross-cutting and horizontal issues.



Since the programming perspective 2014-2020 is more result-oriented than the IPA 2007-2013 framework all result indicators outlined in the data sheets below are intended to inform the selection of operations and projects to be supported. These shall directly contribute to the indicators defined for the Programme.

The content of intervention outlined below considers observations and constructive comments produced during public consultation events held in the Programme Area in the period December 2013-March 2014.

Thematic Priority 1: Encouraging tourism, culture and natural heritage (TP4)

Thematic Priority Outline and Strategic Reference

Europe is the world's no. 1 tourism destination with cultural tourism and a large number of major sites and a strong flow of international and domestic visitors. Tourism policies will need to adapt to these trends and develop a



quality offer promoting local cultures and traditions and paying attention to sustainable aspects: preservation of the heritage, of the landscape and of the local culture. The Programme Area aims to tap into strategic opportunities arising from the broader potential of the entire continent, which is in line with the concept of sustainable and cultural tourism promoted by DG Enterprise and Industry.

Tourism has been recognised as one of the priority economic opportunities that are of interest of the CBC population. Although hospitality industry is unevenly distributed in the Programme Area, the industry in both countries is growing. At present, tourism related activities are the main source of income for the population in the Ohrid and Prespa regions in summer months but there is underutilised potential for the development of cultural, adventure and more sustainable tourism across the CBC region.

Cooperation between different institutions and organisation in the CBC region is increasing but yet there is a virtual absence of sustainable joint initiatives on a larger scale. The activities encompassed in this Thematic Priority will also support cooperation between institutions based on valorisation of the heterogeneous offer and potential of different cultures and traditions present in the area and people-to-people actions. These should contribute to address challenges like: preservation of natural and cultural resources, promoting the wellbeing of local communities, improving the quality of tourism jobs, limiting environmental impact of tourism related transport, etc.

Specific Objective

This Thematic Priority's Specific Objective seeks **to develop the potential of tourism by promoting cultural heritage and values** (SO 1.1).

The Thematic Priority will encourage diversification of the supply of tourist services and products. By supporting projects promoting sustainable thematic tourism products the Programme will strengthen trans-national cooperation with regard to sustainable tourism, encourage a higher involvement of small and micro enterprises and local authorities and stimulate competitiveness of the tourism industry by means of an enhanced focus on the diversification of sustainable thematic and cultural tourism products. The Thematic Priority also seeks to uplift skills of staff engaged in hospitality industry, including vocational training to address deficiency of skills for diversified tourism offer, e.g. for tourist guides and trainers specialised in winter sports, mountain sports, rural and adventure tourism, hotel services staff, etc.



Expected Results

This Thematic Priority aims to achieve the following results:

- 1.1.1 Business opportunities for local service providers and operators in the field of tourism are increased and
- 1.1.2 Mutual co-operation, understanding and respect of cultural heritage and values are furthered.

Thematic Priority 2: Enhancing competitiveness, business, trade and investment (TP7)

Thematic Priority Outline and Strategic Reference

High unemployment, low levels of employment and value added in the Programme Area economy is an issue of serious concern. Thus, promotion, sustaining and creation of jobs and alternative sources of income appear as one of the main targets of socio-economic development policy in the CBC region in these circumstances.

The Thematic Priority will seek to support access to markets of economic operators in all key sectors of the Programme Area economy, increase the use of ICT tools and technologies and tap into unexploited value chain opportunities, including those in rural economy. These are expected to contribute to the increased competitiveness, development of trade and new investments in the Programme Area.

The Activities of this Thematic Priority aim to address limited number of strategic opportunities related to competitiveness, which remains one of the key pillars of the Europe 2020 Strategy. The scope of the proposed intervention is fully consistent with IPA II sector approach: Policy Area A – Transition process and Institution Building, sector: Private Sector Development and Thematic Objective 3 of Structural Funds intervention: Competitiveness of SMEs.

Specific Objective

This Thematic Priority concentrates on **the strengthening of the SME productive capacity and access to markets** (SO 2.1).

The intervention will focus on the improvement and awareness raising of opportunities deriving from existing economic value chain openings, support towards product and process quality certification required in international markets and ampler use of modern sales techniques, including e-commerce. In order to boost rural economy and its strategic opportunities a campaign to open/develop organised fresh produce markets will be provided.



Expected Results

The expected result associated with the Thematic Priority's Specific Objective is:

- 1.1.1 The SMEs and start-ups awareness and capacity to tap into new markets and value chains are enhanced.

Thematic Priority 3: Protecting environment, promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management (TP2)

Thematic Priority Outline and Strategic Reference

The Programme Area is characterised by rich and diversified environment and nature and is recognised as a clean and green territory in general. The region however lacks environment protection infrastructure, strategies and practices for early risk recognition, prevention and management. The border area is prone to adverse weather and climatic phenomena, especially heavy storms and rainfalls resulting in local flooding and landslides damaging roads, private properties and agricultural land. In a dry season wildfires compromise rural economy and crops production. Climate resilience is thus one of the issues to be addressed through this Thematic Priority.

In addition to that improvements in deficient solid waste collection, waste management and treatment and soil erosion preventive practices are considered as a priority intervention areas in the CBC region.

“Living well, within the limits of our planet” is the main strapline of a new Environment Action Programme by 2020 to be proposed by the Commission. This CBC Programme Thematic Priority builds on that heading and is consistent with IPA II Policy Area B: Regional Development, Sector: Environment and Climate Change and Thematic Objectives 5 & 6 of Structural Funds intervention: Climate change promotion, adaptation, risk prevention and management & Protection of environment and promotion of resource efficiency.

The Thematic Priority Activities encompass both, “soft projects” aiming at improvement of the awareness and promotion of more sustainable use of resources, greener economy, as well as supporting small scale investments in environmental protection infrastructure that is considered to have a significant CBC impact and produce demonstration effect. The intervention also seeks to address low financial and institutional capacity of public utility companies and promotion of sustainable farming practices and agriculture production methods.



Specific Objective

The awareness of a greener economy, cleaner environment and climate change is enhanced remains the headline Specific Objective of this Thematic Priority (SO 3.1).

The Thematic Priority has clearly a spatial dimension requiring place-based approach as certain border territories are distinctive, and will concentrate on building of awareness and knowledge, integration of communities and target groups and implementation of real measures to address the issues contemplated in the section above. **Specific focus will be directed towards timber forest product processing and water supply.**

Expected Results

This Thematic Priority shall achieve the following results:

- 1.1.1 Awareness and knowledge of sustainable use of natural resources and environment is fostered;
- 1.1.2 Public infrastructure vulnerable to floods, soil erosion and wildfire is upgraded.

Technical Assistance

The specific objective of the technical assistance is to ensure the efficient, effective, transparent and timely implementation of the cross-border cooperation programme as well as to raise awareness of the programme amongst national, regional and local communities and, in general, the population in the eligible programme area. It also supports awareness-raising activities at country level in order to inform citizens in both IPA II beneficiaries. Moreover, as experience has shown under the programming cycle 2007-2013, this priority will also reinforce the administrative capacity of the authorities and beneficiaries implementing the programme with a view to improve ownership and suitability of the programme and projects' results.

The technical assistance allocation will be used to support the work of the national Operating Structures (OS) and of the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) in ensuring the efficient set-up, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programmes as well as an optimal use of resources. This will be achieved through the establishment and operation of a Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) based on the territory of Republic of Macedonia and an Antenna Office on



Republic of Albania. The JTS will be in charge of the day-to-day management of the programme and will be reporting to the OS and JMC.

Intended results:

The administrative support to the Operating Structures (OS) and Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) of the programme is enhanced.

This priority will secure a smooth programme implementation during all its phases. It includes the availability of the financial means and the deployment of qualified staff in charge of assisting the Operating Structures and the Joint Monitoring Committee, as well as establishing and enforcing management, monitoring and control mechanisms and procedures. If required, it will also contribute to the preparation of the successive financial cycle (2021-2027).

Section 4: Financial Plan

Table 1 shows the indicative annual amount of Union contribution to the cross-border cooperation programme in millions of euro for the period 2014-2020. Table 2 provides an indicative distribution of the allocations per thematic priority in millions of euro as well as an indication on the maximum amount of Union co-financing.

Year	IPA II CBC programme Republic of Macedonia - Albania							Total (EUR)
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2014-2020
CBC Operations (all thematic priorities)	1190000	1700000	1700000	1190000	1700000	1700000	1530000	10710000
Technical Assistance	510000	0.00	0.00	510000	0.00	0.00	170000	1190000
Total (EUR)	1700000	1700000	1700000	1700000	1700000	1700000	1700000	11900000

Table 1: Indicative financial allocations per year for the 2014-2020 cross-border cooperation programme



PRIORITIES	IPA II CBC Republic of Macedonia - Albania 2014-2020			
	Union contribution	Beneficiaries co-financing	Total funding	Rate of Union contribution
	(a)	(b)	(c) = (a)+(b)	(d) = (a)/(c)
1 Thematic Priority 1 Encouraging tourism, culture and natural heritage	3750000.00	661764.71	4411764.71	85%
2 Thematic Priority 2 Enhancing competitiveness, business, trade and investment	3750000.00	661764.71	4411764.71	85%
3 Thematic Priority 3 Protecting environment, promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management	3210000.00	566470.58	3776470.58	85%
4-Technical Assistance	1190000.00	0.00	1190000.00	100%
GRAND TOTAL	11900000.00	1890000.00	13790000.00	

Table 2: Indicative financial allocations per priority over the 2014-2020 period and rate of Union contribution

The Union contribution has been calculated in relation to the eligible expenditure, which is based on the total eligible expenditure including public and private expenditure. The Union co-financing rate at the level of each thematic priority shall not be less than 20% and not higher than 85% of the eligible expenditure.

The co-financing of the thematic priorities will be provided by the grant beneficiaries. Grant beneficiaries should contribute with a minimum of 15% of the total eligible expenditure.

The amount dedicated to technical assistance shall be limited to 10% of the total amount allocated to the programme. The Union co-financing rate shall be 100%.

Funds for the thematic priorities will be committed through Commission Implementing Decisions covering one to three years allocations, as appropriate. Funds for technical assistance will be committed through a separate Commission Implementing Decision.



Section 5: Programme Management Structures

5.1 Organisational Structures at national level

The NIPACs of the participating countries are jointly responsible for ensuring that the objectives set out in the proposed cross-border cooperation programmes are consistent with the objectives in the IPA II strategy papers.

In Republic of Macedonia, the Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs is designated as the National IPA Coordinator, who acts as the representative of the country vis-à-vis the Commission. National IPA Coordinator has designated Ms.Mjellma Mehmeti Petersen as the Cross border cooperation Coordinator. In Albania the National IPA Coordinator is the Minister of European Integration (MoEI).

5.2 Operating Structures

Operating structure(s) shall be established within the administration of each participating country to prepare, implement and manage the cross-border cooperation programmes. These are:

Republic of Macedonia
Ministry of Local Self Government

Republic of Albania
Ministry of European Integration

5.3 Contracting Authority

European Union in the Republic of Macedonia will be the Contracting Authority.

Republic of Macedonia
Delegation of the European Union

5.4 Joint Monitoring Committee

The JMC is the cross-border programme's decision making body which shall satisfy itself as to the effectiveness and quality of the implementation of the Programme. The JMC shall be composed of representatives of, the NIPACs or the territorial cooperation coordinators as appropriate, and representatives of the participating countries (national, regional, local authorities) including the cross-border cooperation operating structures, and where relevant other stakeholders such as civil society organisations. The Commission shall participate in the work of the JMC in an advisory capacity.



5.5 Joint Technical Secretariat/Antenna

The Joint Technical Secretariat –Struga (JTS) assist the Commission, the operating structures and the JMC. The JTS is jointly managed by both OSs.

The location of the JTS is in Struga, Republic of Macedonia. It has an Antenna in Elbasan, Albania.

The Joint Technical Secretariat is the administrative body of the programme responsible for its day-to-day management.



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Skopje, September 2016